

## **Asymmetries in bilateral trade statistics: challenges in harmonising trade in goods and services for linking national I-O tables**

Topic: Supply, Use and IO Tables: Different approaches to reconcile world trade asymmetries (II)

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We describe current and persistent asymmetries in reported international trade statistics and summarise methodologies we use to harmonise bilateral trade statistics with statistics reported under National Accounts / SUT frameworks. We explore the challenges involved in producing coherent bilateral trade estimates for the construction of an Inter-Country Input-Output (ICIO) model at a global level. We reconfirm that some of the sources of trade asymmetries that need to be considered include the treatment of confidential, unallocated, second hand and recycling products and that re-exporting and off-shoring trading activities can have a significant impact on the coherence of reported trade between partners. Important conceptual differences such as price valuation and non-residents' expenditures are also addressed.