Updating Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables from the perspective of the revised UN Handbook of IO Analysis and Compilation

Topic: Supply, Use and IO Tables: Methodology and Comparability
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The key problem in projecting Supply and Use Tables (SUTs) is that of incomplete data. The missing elements in SUTs may be due to a variety of reasons: timeliness, use of different data sources and/or conflicting external information, revisions of benchmark SUTs, estimations of multi-country SUTs and suppression of confidential information. The new draft chapter on Updating SUTs and Input-Output tables of the forthcoming UN Handbook of IO Compilation and Analysis identifies in the literature three different ways to approach this underdetermined problem where usually unknowns (e.g. elements of the interior tables) outnumber external constraints, e.g. in the form of row and column totals, namely: proportional scaling methods, constrained optimisation methods and modelling based methods. This chapter provides a tour around the most relevant literature with a focus on the issues that are more relevant to the scope and context of the Handbook (SNA). Besides, it summarises the various assessments of methods provided in the literature and presents three numerical examples.