SDG indicator metadata

(Harmonized metadata template - format version 1.1)

0. Indicator information (SDG_INDICATOR_INFO)

0.a. Goal (SDG_GOAL)

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

0.b. Target (SDG_TARGET)

Target 17.11: Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020

0.c. Indicator (SDG_INDICATOR)

Indicator 17.11.1: Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports

0.d. Series (SDG_SERIES_DESCR)

TX_EXP_GBMRCH - Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global merchandise exports [17.11.1]

TX_EXP_GBSVR - Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global services exports [17.11.1]

TX_IMP_GBMRCH - Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global merchandise imports [17.11.1]

TX_IMP_GBSVR - Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global services imports [17.11.1]

0.e. Metadata update (META_LAST_UPDATE)

2025-04-23

0.f. Related indicators (SDG_RELATED_INDICATORS)

2.b.1 Agricultural export subsidies

8.a.1 Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements

10.a.1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff

17.10.1 Worldwide weighted tariff-average

17.12.1 Weighted average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States

0.g. International organisations(s) responsible for global monitoring (SDG_CUSTODIAN_AGENCIES)

International Trade Centre (ITC)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

The World Trade Organization (WTO)

1. Data reporter (CONTACT)

1.a. Organisation (CONTACT_ORGANISATION)

International Trade Centre (ITC)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
The World Trade Organization (WTO)

2. Definition, concepts, and classifications (IND_DEF_CON_CLASS)
2.a. Definition and concepts (STAT_CONC_DEF)

Definition:
The indicator is calculated as the ratio of the value of exports of developing countries and of LDCs, respectively, to the value of global exports. This ratio is calculated separately for merchandise exports and services exports.

Concepts:
International merchandise trade statistics records all goods which add or subtract from the stock of material resources of an economy by entering or leaving its territory. Goods are generally defined as physical, produced objects for which a demand exists, over which ownership rights can be established and whose ownership can be transferred from one institutional unit to another by engaging in transactions on markets.

Services are understood as the result of a production activity that changes the conditions of the consuming units, or facilitates the exchange of products or financial assets, as defined in the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010*, in accordance with the concepts of the balance of payments and of the national accounts. They can be differentiated into change-effecting services and margin services. Change-effecting services are outputs produced to order and typically result in changes in the condition of the consuming units, such as haircuts or education. Margin services are charges for the facilitation of change in ownership of goods, services, knowledge-capturing products, or financial assets. The production of services is generally simultaneous with their consumption.

International trade in services takes place when a service is supplied in any of the following modes: 1) from one economy to another (services cross the border); 2) within an economy to a service consumer of another economy (consumer crosses the border); 3) by establishing affiliates in another economy (suppling company establishes a commercial presence abroad); 4) through the presence of natural persons of one economy in another economy (supplier crosses the border).

2.b. Unit of measure (UNIT_MEASURE)

United States dollars

2.c. Classifications (CLASS_SYSTEM)

Countries and territories are defined based on the UNCTADstat classification of economies which is almost identical to the M49 Classification with a few exceptions or deviations marked with footnotes where needed. Regions and country groups, including the groups of the developing and developed countries, are classified in accordance with the regional classification established in the data request from the UNSD SDG Team.

3. Data source type and data collection method (SRC_TYPE_COLL_METHOD)
3.a. Data sources (SOURCE_TYPE)

The input data are collected from datasets published by national agencies, international and regional organizations, as well as a private data provider.

For the merchandise export share, the data sources comprise:
- UN DESA Statistics Division: *International Trade Statistics Yearbook*; *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics; UN Comtrade*
- WTO: *Statistics Database*
- IMF: *International Financial Statistics*; *Direction of Trade Statistics*; *Balance of Payments Statistics*
- Eurostat: *online database*
- World Bank: *World Development Indicators*
- OECD: *OECD.Stat*
- OPEC: *Annual Statistical Bulletin*
- AfDB: *African Development Bank*
- ASEAN: *Association of South-East Asian Nations*
- BEAC: *Bank of Central African States*
- BCEAO: *Central Bank of West African States*
- CIS: *Commonwealth of Independent States Statcommittee Online database*
- ECCB: *Eastern Caribbean Central Bank*
- AFRISTAT: *Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa*
- PRISM: *Secretariat of Pacific Community database*
- UNECE: *Statistical Database: Labor Force & Wages*
- *national customs*
- national statistical offices
- national central banks
- national ministries
- *Trade Data Monitor*

For the services export share, the data sources comprise:
- Eurostat: *online database*
- IMF: *Balance of Payments Statistics, Article iv staff reports, World Economic Outlook*
- OECD: *OECD.Stat*
- BEAC: *Bank of Central African States*
- BCEAO: *Central Bank of West African States*
- ECCB: *Eastern Caribbean Central Bank*
- national statistical offices
- national central banks
- national ministries

In selected cases, estimates from the Economist Intelligence Unit ("*Country Data")* are used for both the merchandise and services export shares.*

3.b. Data collection method (COLL_METHOD)

The input data are collected from different published sources (see above) and, if necessary, converted from national currencies into United States dollars and/or aggregated from monthly or quarterly to annual frequency. The values collected from the primary source, established for the individual economy, are cross-validated with the values collected from other sources. In cases of significant deviations from international standards, identified by analysing the metadata and consulting the data providers, the values from the primary source are adjusted or substituted with imputed values from other sources.

3.c. Data collection calendar (FREQ_COLL)

Data on merchandise exports and imports up to year t-1 are collected in a first collection round in February and March, and in a second collection round in July and August of year t.

Data on services exports and imports up to year t-1 are collected in April to June of year t.

3.d. Data release calendar (REL_CAL_POLICY)

For merchandise exports, a first version of the data up to year t-1 is released on the UNCTADstat Data Centre and the WTO data portal in April of year t. The final version of these data is released in September of year t.

For services exports, preliminary data (based on previously published quarterly values) up to year t-1 are released on the UNCTADstat Data Centre and the WTO data portal (see above) in April of year t. The final data are published in July of year t.

3.e. Data providers (DATA_SOURCE)

Already answered above in 3.a Data sources.

3.f. Data compilers (COMPILING_ORG)

Name:
International Trade Centre (ITC), World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Description:
ITC, WTO and UNCTAD jointly report on this indicator to UNSD.

3.g. Institutional mandate (INST_MANDATE)

International Trade Centre (ITC), World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) have a mandate to organise for the collection, processing, and dissemination of statistics for this indicator. Respective areas of work and related mandates support joint co-custodianship of the indicator, ensuring effective use of resources and managing response burdens of the reporting countries.

4. Other methodological considerations (OTHER_METHOD)

4.a. Rationale (RATIONALE)

The indicator proposed allows tracking the increase of exports from developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs) prescribed by target 17.11. Increasing export shares indicate a growing integration into world trade. This is considered as an important means for raising a country's economic output and welfare.

4.b. Comment and limitations (REC_USE_LIM)

While the aggregation of economies to groups of economies follows in general the M49 standard, slight deviations had to be made in cases where an M49 country is covered by the territory of the economy for which data have been collected. For example, the exports of the French overseas territories are included in the exports of France and the exports of the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are included in the exports of the United States of America. They are therefore not counted in the calculation of the developing countries' export share. These cases are flagged in the dataset by a comment.

By definition, international merchandise trade does not include: goods transported through a country; goods temporarily admitted or dispatched; goods for repair and maintenance; monetary gold, issued banknotes, securities and coins in circulation; goods consigned to and from the territorial enclaves; non-financial assets, ownership of which has been transferred from residents to non-residents without crossing borders; goods treated as part of trade in services, such as goods acquired by travellers, embassies and international organizations; goods under merchanting or operational lease; goods which got lost or destroyed on international transport; satellites moved to and launched from another country without change of ownership; goods functioning as means of transport; content delivered electronically; waste and scrap; goods entering or leaving the economic territory of a country illegally.

Limitations of the trade-in-services statistics arise from difficulties to statistically capture certain service categories. Services are intangible products and activities, such as international property charges or audio-visual products. Services can be embedded in goods in varying degrees and not easily distinguishable from goods, like software. Furthermore, services provided by foreign affiliates within the economy in which the affiliates are established (services supplied by mode 3) are not covered by the balance-of-payments framework. They are therefore not measured by indicator 17.11.1. Intra-corporate services transactions represent another category difficult to seize.

4.c. Method of computation (DATA_COMP)

Share of global trade is intended of a particular group of country fraction of total trade.

While for merchandise trade data are consistent through he time series (2000-current), for services trade there might be difficulties related to lack of harmonization for data previous to 2005. Before 2005 data are reported according the 5th Balance of Payments Manual. After 2005, data have been converted according to the categories and principles established by the 6th edition of the Balance of Payments Manual.

4.d. Validation (DATA_VALIDATION)

Validation is performed for each series observing the reported values using outlier detection and validation with additional sources; and using aggregations (for regional aggregates) to ensure quality of the reported statistics. Data are collected primarily from national and international sources with integrated quality assurance and management processed, hence no further dedicated steps are taken in compilation of this indicator's statistics.

4.e. Adjustments (ADJUSTMENT)

Adjustments to the country classifications are marked with footnotes. No further adjustments are processed.

4.f. Treatment of missing values (i) at country level and (ii) at regional level (IMPUTATION)

- At country level

  Previous year is used when latest year is not available. Alternatively mirror statistics can be used. Mirror statistics is the term used to define statistics that are calculated using partner country information when data for the analysed country are not available. For instance, the export of a country X could be recalculated using mirror statistics through the imports from country X of all its partners. It has to be kept in mind however imports are often reported CIF (i.e. including the cost of freight and insurance) while export FoB (i.e. free on board). The difference between these two reporting systems should be taken into account when using import data to estimate exports.

- At regional and global levels

  Answered above (in At country level section).

4.g. Regional aggregations (REG_AGG)

Country exports at the 6 digit level of the Harmonized System (HS) classification are summed together at the regional level and then divided by the total amount of exports.

4.h. Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level (DOC_METHOD)

Not applicable

4.i. Quality management (QUALITY_MGMNT)

Provided above in section 4.d Validation.

4.j Quality assurance (QUALITY_ASSURE)

Provided above in section 4.d Validation.

4.k Quality assessment (QUALITY_ASSMNT)

Not applicable

5. Data availability and disaggregation (COVERAGE)

Data availability:
Asia and Pacific: 40
Africa: 36
Latin America and the Caribbean: 29
Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan: 31

Time series:
Yearly data from 2000 to latest year

Disaggregation:
Disaggregation is available by product sector (e.g. Agriculture, Textile, Environmental goods), level of goods processing, geographical region and country income level (e.g. Developed, Developing, LDCs).

6. Comparability / deviation from international standards (COMPARABILITY)

Sources of discrepancies:
Not applicable to this indicator. Global data are calculated uniquely by international agencies. At the national level, the data used are the same provided by national authorities and statistical offices.

7. References and Documentation (OTHER_DOC)

URL:

https://intracen.org/; www.wto.org; https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html

References:

The calculation of trade in goods statistics is based on well-established international and national practices.

For trade in goods refer to the manual on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imts/methodology.asp

For trade in services, refer to the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/msits2010.htm

Fifth Edition of the Balance of Payments Manual:
https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Books/Issues/2016/12/30/Balance-of-Payments-Manual-157

Sixth Edition of the IMF's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6):
https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/bop/2007/bopman6.htm

System of national account (SNA) 2008: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/docs/sna2008.pdf

UNCTAD classifications page: https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Classifications.html