

**Regional Workshop on the Compilation of Trade in Services Statistics, WTO, AMF,
UNSD and UN ESCWA, 25-28 January 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

Main Findings 4

Data Dissemination

- Encourage countries to submit to international agencies what they publish at national level to allow for consistency checks and comparisons by using public and private publishing systems;

**Regional Workshop on the Compilation of Trade in Services Statistics, WTO, AMF,
UNSD and UN ESCWA, 25-28 January 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

Main Findings 5

Technical Assistance/Capacity Building

- Coordinate technical assistance at the national and regional levels, and have targets to be evaluated and followed up periodically;
- Convene a regional workshop after a couple of years to take stock of advances;
- Adhere to standard public or private data dissemination (according to the contribution of each country);
- Ensure transparency in the publication by adhering to the dates of publication;
- Coordinate with GCC-Stat & other international organizations;
- Organize study visits/exchange programs to share experience between countries, and establish online data & metadata (among Arab countries);
- International-regional integration and consistency on published data on corresponding websites;
- Promote networking between participants. Establish a forum /QA on BOP/IIP best practices for Arab countries, in addition to promoting pilot projects of different countries and the e-learning courses;
- Disseminate at least the data supplied to international bodies at the national level;
- Use regional bodies for facilitating the development of specific statistical domains such as FATS.

Recommendations of the ESCWA Statistical Commission on its twelfth session Beirut, 4-5 April 2017

For member Countries

- *Strengthen coordination between statistical offices, ministries of finance, central banks and other government agencies to allow the use of financial reports in particular as data sources for economic statistics and national accounts within the framework of confidentiality requirements;*
- *Developing the infrastructure of economic statistics through the use of information technology, application of international economic classifications, use of business statistical records, updating of economic survey frameworks and linking them to other surveys to ensure consistency among them and ensure their compatibility with the 2008 SNA*

For UNESCWA

- *Supporting Member States' efforts in developing the infrastructure of economic statistics through the application of economic classifications, the collection of international trade statistics in services, the use of statistical records of institutions and the implementation of targeted activities in this field.*

ESCWA's Activities

- [Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics Implementation of IMTS 2010 and MSITS 2010 and follow-up to the Global Forum 12– 14 June 2012, Amman, Jordan](#)
- [Regional Workshop on the Compilation of Trade in Services Statistics, WTO, AMF, UNSD and UN ESCWA, 25-28 January 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.](#)
- [Regional Workshop on the Compilation of Trade in Services Statistics 20-23 Nov Abu Dhabi, UAE. ورشة العمل الإقليمية حول إحصاءات التجارة الدولية في الخدمات 20-23 تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر 2017 أبوظبي، الإمارات العربية المتحدة](#)

Future of the Sector at the Global level

- Classical view that industrialization is the prime engine of growth in economic development.
- Services currently constitute 25% of world trade.
- Exports of services are gaining strong momentum and catching up with exports of goods in many countries, they also trigger a new wave of trade globalization.
- Structural transformation, resilience, labor reallocation, and income distribution
- ICT enabled services are typically called modern services. Many other services, called traditional services, still require proximity of buyer and seller.
- Source: IMF 2017. Working paper 17-17. World Trade in Services: Evidence from A New Dataset* Prepared by Prakash Loungani et al.

Page 9

© Copyright 2014 ESCWA. All rights reserved. No part of this presentation in all its property may be used or reproduced in any form without a written permission

Potential in Arab Countries

- The services sector contributes significantly to the economies of most Arab countries in terms of share of GDP (17%) , exports and employment.
- Despite the barriers that still constrain trade in services, it has become the backbone of the economies of many Arab countries, which are allowing the entry of Arab and foreign investors and facilitating competition between national and foreign companies operating in certain sectors. Ref: UNESCWA 2014. [Arab Integration A 21st Century Development Imperative](#)

would consist Implementing the regional initiative to liberalise services trade, including identifying a number of services sectors for early regional liberalisation (e.g., trade facilitation and transport, banking and finance, and communication and information) is important for Completing the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area (PAFTA) (Chauffour (2011), "[Trade Integration as a Way Forward for the Arab World: A Regional Agenda](#)", World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 5581.).

Page 10

© Copyright 2014 ESCWA. All rights reserved. No part of this presentation in all its property may be used or reproduced in any form without a written permission

ITS and NA

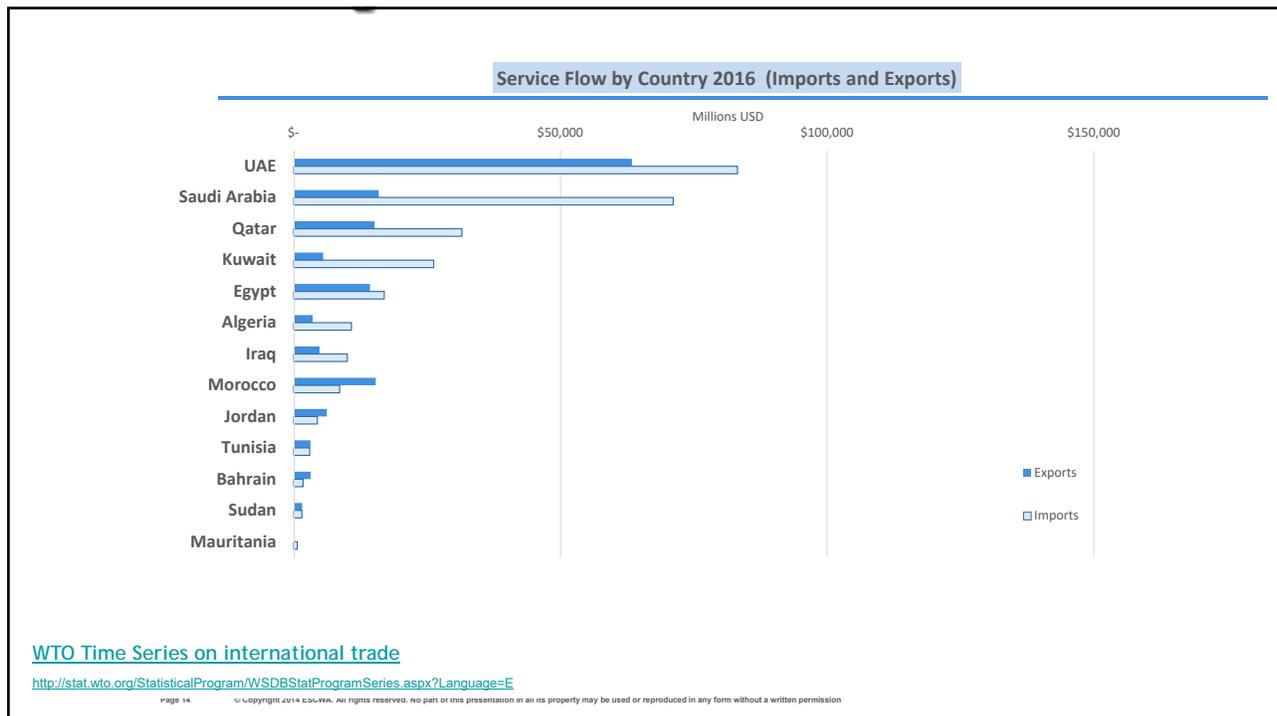
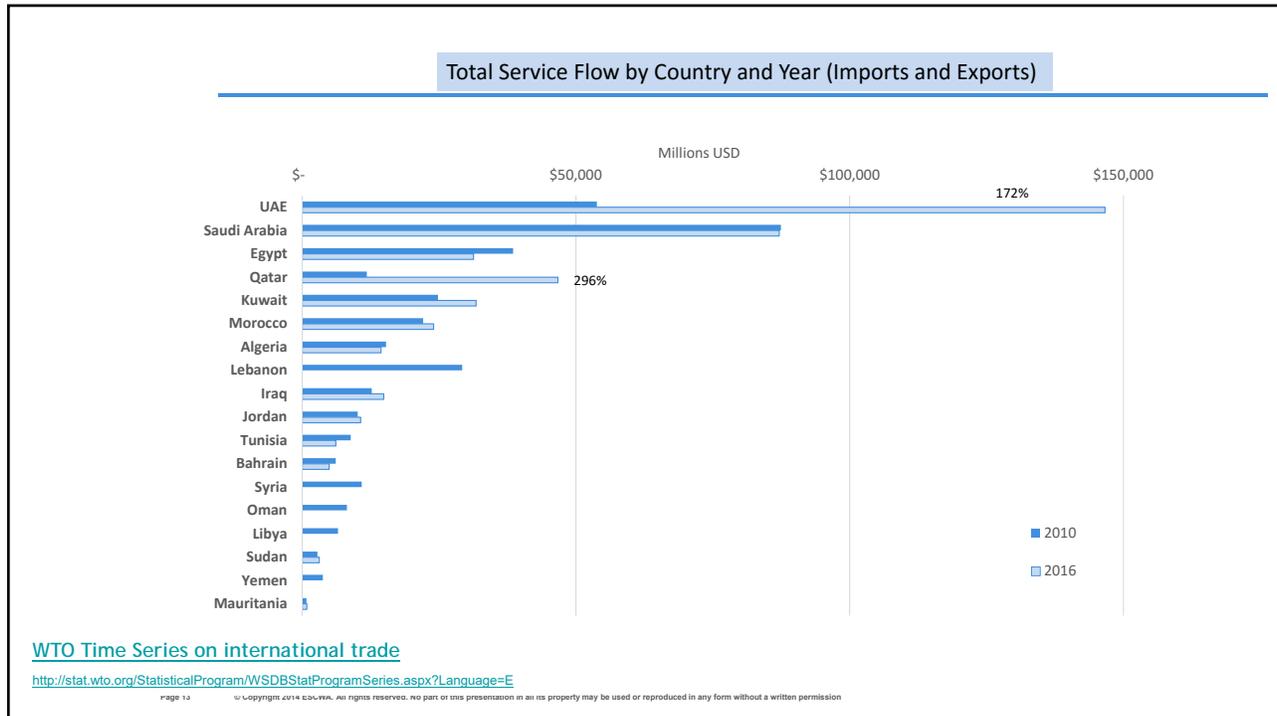
1. The increasing proportion of enterprises running their business on an international scale and the growing cross-border movement of people, financial capital, goods and services pose specific problems to compilers of national statistics, in particular national accounts.
2. Re-design economic and business surveys i.e the trade in services surveys, to expand coverage of the survey including questions on international trade
3. The link of the trade in services surveys to the business register to upgrade methodology and avoid potential duplication
4. Coverage of inter-company trade in services supplemented with the use of administrative records (i.e corporate income tax data)
5. Improving bilateral trade statistics
6. Satellite accounts (Tourism)

Progress on Data Availability of Arab Countries to WTO

	2010	latest Detailed	2016
Algeria	27	2015	Aggregated
Bahrain	14	2014	Aggregated
Egypt	21	2015	Aggregated T T Gov
Iraq	24	2015	Aggregated
Jordan	8		14
Kuwait	17		17
Lebanon	29	2015	
Libya	10	2013	
Mauritania	3 (tran)	2015 (15)	3
Morocco	27		29
Oman	14	2015 (13)	
Qatar	9	2015	10
Saudi Arabia	19	2015(11)	
Sudan	12	2015(22)	
Syria	22	2011	
Tunisia	21	2015	
UAE	7	2015(15)	
Yemen	13	2015	

[WTO Time Series on international trade](http://stat.wto.org/StatisticalProgram/WSD/StatProgramSeries.aspx?Language=E)

<http://stat.wto.org/StatisticalProgram/WSD/StatProgramSeries.aspx?Language=E> is reserved. No part of this presentation in all its property may be used or reproduced in any form without a written permission



More is needed

1. Arab countries Members of WTO committed to trade negotiations to liberalize trade in services requires better information on sectors, flows and transactions, actors at stake to enable them negotiate in favor of their economies, people and environment,
2. Significant contribution of national services sector in many of the economies of the Arab region (especially non-oil producers) requires good knowledge of benefits and costs of protecting or opening the services sector,
3. Penetration of foreign service providers to local markets, especially in the countries of the region (oil exporters and diversified economies)