

PROS AND CONS OF TRADE DATA

| Area of transformation | Data sources | Pros | Cons | Uses |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Basic trade data | UN COMTRADE | Detailed data provided by over 200 reporting countries, many since 1962 | Max. HS 6-digit level, some DFID focus countries are not reporters | Analysis of top export/import products and markets/suppliers , changes over time, number of products traded and number of markets/suppliers over time, revealed comparative advantage |
| | ITC Trade Map | Detailed data (from UN COMTRADE in most cases), available at national tariff line level for many countries, mirror data compiled for non-reporting countries | Covers 2001 onwards only | Analysis of top export/import products and markets/suppliers , changes over time, number of products traded and number of markets/suppliers over time |
| | Atlas of Economic Complexity | Trade data and complexity visualisations for c. 125 countries over time | | Export/import visualisations |
| | Observatory of Economic Complexity | Trade data and complexity visualisations for c. 145 countries over time | | Export/import visualisations |
| Trade diversification | DFID–IMF Diversification Toolkit Export Quality Database. | | | Indices of export quality and diversification |
| Trade in value added | World Input-Output Model | High quality data | Few developing countries, 40 countries included | Contribution of domestic value addition in gross exports |
| | Global Trade and Analysis Project (GTAP) | Input – output tables for 129 countries and 57 industries | Not an official data set, basis not fully clear, limited years over time | Trade analysis |
| | EORA | Disaggregated into 189 countries, historical time series over 1990-2011. It includes tables of basic prices, as well as two margins (taxes on products and subsidies on products); | Eora's MRIO tables were modelled based on existing sources – national accounts data, Comtrade import and export data, among others – when national input-output or supply-use tables were not available. Other limitations go beyond just Eora and affect all MRIO tables. E.g. they are not able to accurately assess the services. They are subject to two assumptions: all products (for export and domestic use) have the same import content (proportionality assumption and they assume uniform use of inputs among all firms in sector | Contribution of domestic value addition in gross exports (used by UNCTAD, World Bank and other users) |