

Chapter 16

Bilateral Time-Series Trade Data

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This chapter provides information on the availability of data and the procedure for constructing the bilateral time-series trade dataset. The difficulty in assembling bilateral time-series trade data is in maintaining consistency across all historical years for the GTAP regions and sectors. Time-series trade data for the GTAP 7 Data Base were expanded from previous version to 2006¹.

16.1 Commodity Classification Systems

A major advantage of the Harmonized System (HS) classification is the level of commodity detail providing consistent aggregates with GTAP sectors. However, the HS classification was not widely used by countries until after 1995 (tables 16.1 and 16.2). The SITC classification provides better time-series in terms of country coverage than the HS system. As with previous versions of time-series trade data for GTAP, historical trade data is based on the SITC classification.

16.2 Re-exports in Time-Series Data

The treatment of re-exports for the time-series data was handled in the same way as re-exports data for the base year (see chapter 9.B). Both Singapore and the Netherlands exports in the time-series are exports excluding re-exports. Import flows include only imports not destined for further re-exports in these countries. There are also some re-exports (non-zero intra-country trade flows) in China for the years 2003, 2005 and 2006. These have been removed in the time-series data that comes with GTAP 7.1 Data Base.

In all other aspects, methodology in the time-series dataset for the GTAP 7 Data Base remains the same as that for GTAP 6 Data Base².

¹ Editor's note: This chapter documents time-series trade data for 1992-2006 provided by the author for the 113 regions in the GTAP 7 Data Base. Unlike in version 6, we do not attempt to fill in the gaps by using the dataset from version 5 to extend the time series back to 1965.

² Refer Gehlhar(2006), available online at:
https://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/resources/res_display.asp?RecordID=1866

Table 16.1 Time-Series Trade Data, Country Availability by Classification Systems for Selected Year

Year	SITC Rev1	SITC Rev3 (number of countries)	HS92
1965	87	0	0
1975	131	0	0
1985	111	0	0
1990	113	68	31
1992	112	90	55
1995	133	123	116
1997	143	137	135
2001	151	151	148

Table 16.2 Time-Series Trade Data, Availability by Classification Systems

Year	SITC Rev1	SITC Rev3 (millions of records)	HS92
1965	2.5	0	0
1975	3.9	0	0
1985	4.3	0	0
1990	5.1	7.5	4.1
1992	5.5	9.7	6.8
1995	6.6	11.9	12.7
1997	7.4	13.3	14.7
2001	8.3	15.7	16.7