The OECD-WTO Trade in Value Added initiative has developed a wide range of indicators that provide improved insights into the participation of countries and industries within Global Value Chains, compared to traditional trade statistics. The database has helped shape a strong narrative on the implications of GVCs for trade policy and, to a lesser extent, on the upgrading process. However, its current application in other areas remains limited, notably with respect to the trade and investment nexus, and the integration of SMEs within value chains.

Many statistical offices typically produce data that provide insights in parts of these areas, for example in their statistics on Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (including breakdowns by firm size) and Foreign Affiliate Trade Statistics, as well as in other more experimental datasets based on linked microdata. However, such stand-alone datasets tell only part of the GVC story, and coherence across the different datasets remains an important problem.

This paper describes on-going work that is being conducted at the OECD that responds to these policy drivers, through the development of an integrated economic accounting framework that links existing microdata across these various statistics; providing the basis for a range of new indicators. These include the indirect integration of SMEs in GVCs as upstream suppliers to larger firms, and the upstream domestic effects (value-added and jobs) generated by foreign-controlled enterprises. The paper also illustrates how this work significantly improves the quality of current TiVA estimates and the quality of national statistical information systems.