

The paper will present ongoing efforts at the OECD to develop statistics for analysing the direct and indirect contribution of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to global production processes and trade. Generating information by size class of businesses is key to account for the heterogeneity of the SME population within and across countries, and thus to allow addressing policy issues on globalisation of businesses with more pertinence.

The work conducted involves the linking of different international databases maintained by the OECD, including those on Structural and Demographic Business Statistics (SDBS), Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC), Intercountry Input-Output Trade in Value Added (ICIO/TiVA), and Foreign Affiliate Trade Statistics (FATS).

The purpose of the paper will be twofold: to explain the approach, methodology and steps for the development of statistics on SME direct and indirect internationalisation; and to illustrate, with examples, the type of insights that can be derived from the new statistics, and their relevance for analysis and policy.