

Abstract: In order to properly understand international trade and the impact on developing countries, data on a truly global scale must be collected and compiled. These data are complex and not always easy to digest or understand. UNCTAD produces a range of trade related indicators that are designed to highlight how regions and sectors grow and contract and illustrate key messages for policy makers. This paper introduces some of these indicators and explains, from a global perspective, what they mean and also discusses some of the challenges in compiling them.