



ASIA-PACIFIC RESEARCH AND TRAINING NETWORK ON TRADE ARTNeT DATABASES

The **Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT)** is an open regional network composed of leading trade research institutions across the Asia-Pacific region. ARTNeT has developed several databases to facilitate access to trade-related data for both policymakers and researchers. The key databases are:

1. Interactive Gravity Modeling Database

The gravity model is a popular tool used by trade economists to analyse trade-related policies. By linking trade flows directly with economic size and inversely with trade costs proxied by distance, the model captures some regularities in the pattern of international trade of help to policymakers when considering trade policy changes. As part of the Gravity Modeling Initiative, ARTNeT has created a basic gravity panel dataset which covers data from 1994 to 2012 for 70 countries to use for estimation of trade potentials. To assist trade facilitation analysis, ARTNeT has also combined the gravity data and the “behind the border” indicators into a separate dataset.

2. ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database

The ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database features bilateral comprehensive international trade costs calculated using a common standard methodology developed by ESCAP and the World Bank in 2012. The database aims at providing the research and policy community with a global reference on the cost of trade between countries, allowing in particular calculation and analysis of intra- and inter-regional trade costs. Trade cost is broadly defined and includes: transportation and logistics costs, tariffs, as well as the direct and indirect costs associated with completing trade documentation and procedures and other non-tariff barriers. Trade cost estimates for both the agricultural and manufacturing sectors are available from 1995 to 2012 for over 180 countries.

3. ESCAP International Supply Chain Connectivity (ISCC) Index

The ESCAP ISCC Index provides a measurement on the overall trade facilitation performance of a country along the international supply chain. In a regional and global production network context, trade facilitation performance depends on: (1) ease of importing parts and components and moving them from port to factory for further processing; (2) ease of exporting processed goods and moving them from factory to port; and (3) how well connected the port is to other ports around the world. The ISCC captures these three elements in one index in an effort to promote a more holistic and integrated approach to trade facilitation. It is based on the trading across border (TAB) indicators from the World Bank Doing Business Report and the Liner Shipping Connectivity Index (LSCI) of UNCTAD. Data is available from 2006 to 2014 for 179 countries.

4. Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Agreements Database (APTIAD)

APTIAD provides detailed descriptive, and regularly updated, information on the provisions of regional trade agreements (RTAs) and bilateral trade agreements (BTAs). Coverage includes agreements involving one or more members from the Asia-Pacific region that are either signed, in force or under negotiation. By April 2015 there were over 230 such agreements, including those agreements that have not been notified to the WTO, and also those agreements under negotiation for which there has been at least a first formal negotiation round.

For more information on all the databases, please visit: <http://artnet.unescap.org/databases.html#first>