

SADC Workshop on Trade in Services Statistics

International Transaction Reporting System (ITRS) and Enterprise Surveys

**Johannesburg, South Africa
10-12 February 2016**



Collecting Data on Trade in Services is difficult...

Heterogeneous
services sectors

Transport

Travel

Business
services

Financial
services

etc...

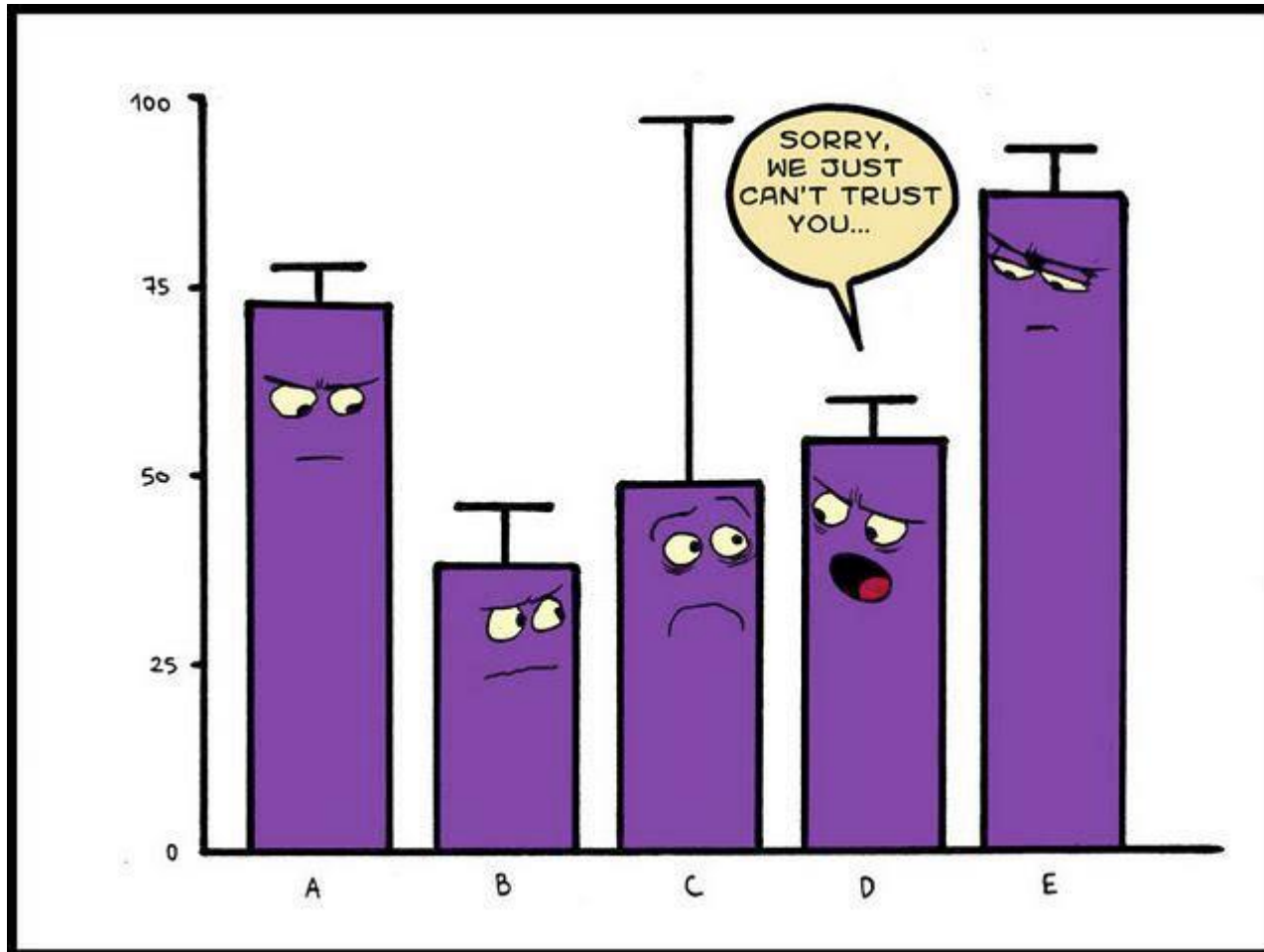
**Services can be delivered
in different ways (modes)**

**Traditional *cross border of
supply of service*
(transport, telecom, etc.)**

**...The consumer moves to the
country of the supplier (travel)**

...the supplier moves to the country of the
consumer (computer services, business services...²)

Unlike trade in goods, **several (reliable!) data sources** may be required!





Role of trade in services data compiler

is to identify (or develop!)
the best source/sources of data
for different service categories

Identify and prioritise user needs

Review existing BOP data sources

Review other possible
sources of data

Labour surveys

Household Surveys

Immigration records

Other....

Develop a **cost effective**
data collection strategy

balancing user needs with
cost of collection.



Evaluating different data sources

**International Transaction
Reporting System
(ITRS)**

**Enterprise/Establishment
surveys**

**Administrative
records**

International Transaction Reporting System (ITRS)

Advantages

- Timely data compilation and high frequency facilitating compilation.
- Comprehensiveness (new reporting entities easily covered).
- Limited number and stability of respondents (the banks report on behalf of their clients).
- Reporting is often mandatory.
- Reporting and compiling is not heavy once it is implemented.



Limitations

- Use of thresholds with effect on accuracy (small transactions not covered).
- Authorities might oblige to use foreign exchange rates fixed by the government rather than market rates.
- Misclassifications of the services items for detailed EBOPS 2010 items.
- Growing share of inter-company transactions with netting practices.
- Geographical breakdown (country of settlements can be different from country of transaction).



Enterprise/establishment surveys

Advantages

- Information of a better quality as a result of direct contact.
- Can target specific sectors (i.e., manufacturing, transport..) even at detailed EBOPS 2010.
- Can provide information on the modes of service supply.
- Certain sectors can be measured through a single BOP/FATS/FDI survey (construction)
- Relate to the whole transaction, however they are settled.
- Real partner data.

Limitations

- General surveys can be a burden on enterprises.
- Expensive.
- Sufficient time provided to train compilers and especially respondents.
- Timeliness – especially for quarterly data.



**Many economies are moving away
from ITRS to EES**

To get detailed data by EBOPS 2010!