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# Geneva Trade Data Day 2015

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015, WTO

*Event jointly organized by*  
**WTO**  
**ITC**  
**UNCTAD**  
*World Bank Group and*



International  
Trade  
Centre



WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION



WORLD BANK



# Geneva Trade Data Day 2015


## Introduction

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015, WTO

Ralf Peters,  
UNCTAD

## Increasing Need for Trade Data

- Trade increased in recent decades and influences more areas of our life
  - Higher share of trade/GDP
- Trade becomes more complex
  - Fragmentation of production increases
- Services trade importance increases
  - Highly complex, e.g. different modes of supply, ...
- Trade Policy frontiers have shifted
  - Difference between narrowly defined trade policy and domestic measures increasingly blurred

 Rising demand for high quality Trade and Trade Policy Data



# Progress has been made – many challenges and opportunities remain

## OUTLINE

- Trade data
  - Merchandise trade
  - Services data
  - Trade in value added
- Trade policy measures
  - Tariffs
  - Non-tariff measures
  - Services trade restrictiveness
- Dissemination tools
- Cooperation among agencies
- Opportunities ahead



## Major Developments in Trade Data

- Trade data information in merchandise trade has been good for some time
  - Broad coverage (e.g. Comtrade 200 countries/areas)
  - Improvements:
    - Coverage and frequency has increased
    - Accuracy (many use EDI rules)
    - Degree of harmonization
  - Major improvement: availability of monthly merchandise trade data
- Services data remains a big challenge
  - No bilateral trade data for majority of countries
  - Not modes of supply

— ...

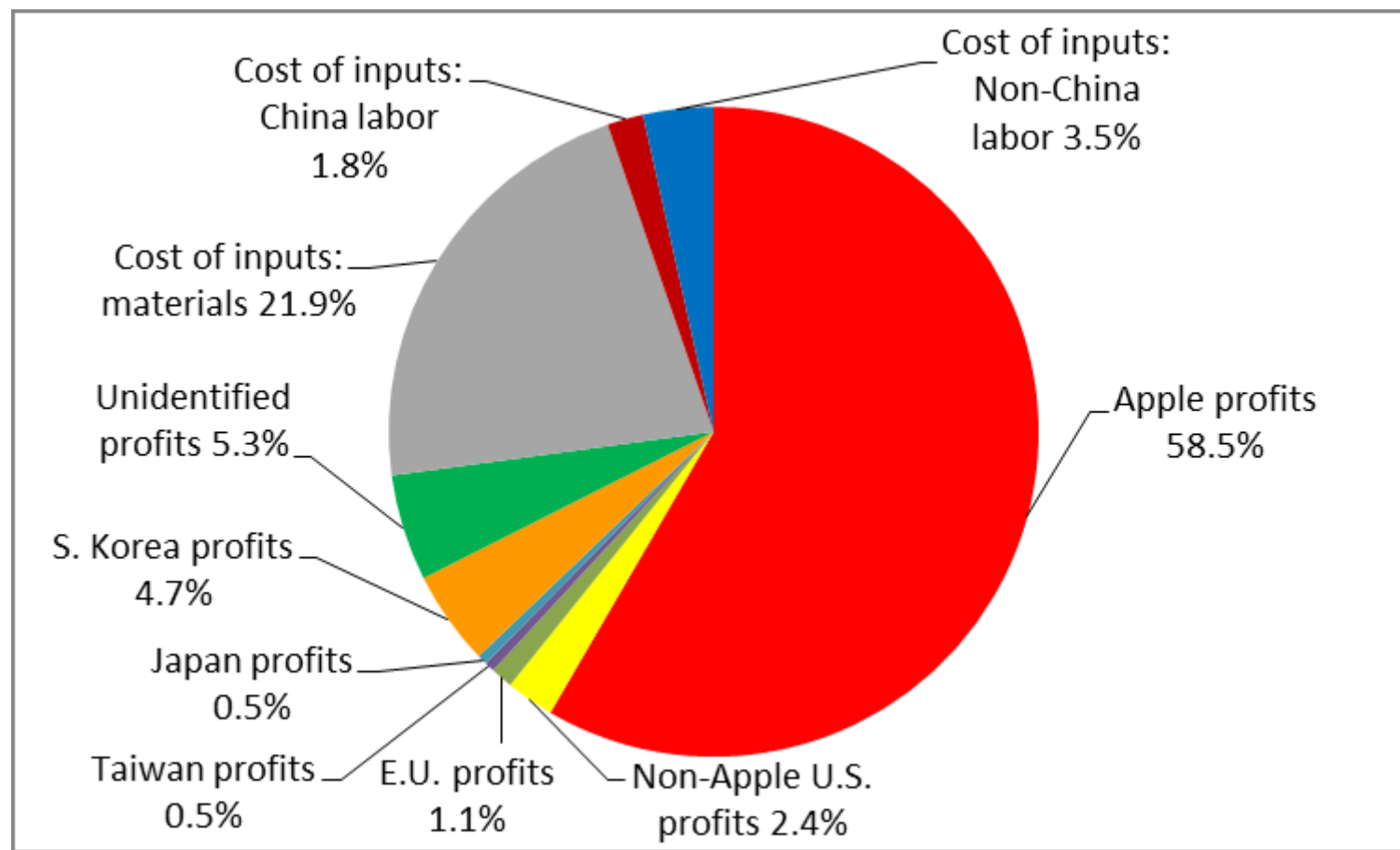


## More Major Developments in Trade Data

- New development is the Trade in Value Added work
  - Increasing fragmentation of production / Increasing regional and global value chains
  - «Do gross trade data adequately reflect a country's contribution to the exported products ?»
  - TiVA project by WTO and OECD for some 60 countries
  - UNCTAD estimated trade in value added for developing countries
  - A lot going on: UN Statistical Division tries to coordinate and created the «Internationalization Group»
- Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC, rather future)



## iPhone value capture



# Trade Policy Data Developments

- Tariffs
  - Broader coverage (in World Tariff Profile 148 countries counting EU as one)
  - Preferential data and information about utilization
- Non-tariff measures in goods
  - Huge progress in recent 10 years
    - Classification «The common language»
    - Notification (e.g. anti-dumping)
    - Data collection of official data
    - Survey data
- Services Trade Restrictiveness Data
  - Huge progress





## Dissemination of Information

- Several platforms exist for different needs
  - WTO i-TIP platform where notifications are easily accessible; [tariffdata.wto.org](http://tariffdata.wto.org)
  - ITC TradeMap, MacMap (tariffs and NTMs) and StandardMap (voluntary standards)
  - World Bank in cooperation with UNCTAD WITS tool providing access to trade and trade policy databases
  - UNCTADstat for Trade Matrix, Trends in trade and trade policy, FDI, Maritime connectivity, ...
- Not exhaustive list



## International Cooperation has been Critical for Success

- Each agency has its own specialized expertise and mandate
- All four agencies are working in the area of trade
- Cooperate closely
  - Make use of each agencies expertise
  - Avoid duplication
  - Use (very limited) resources most effectively
- Four agencies cooperate in different combinations and also with other partners such as UNSD, OECD, IMF, ...





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Transparency in Trade  
[www.tntdata.org](http://www.tntdata.org)

- OBJECTIVE
  - Provide free access to the trade and trade policy data
    - Increase transparency
    - Facilitate research and analysis
    - Improve awareness
    - Build capacity and incentivize self sustaining data reporting
- Work very closely with WTO

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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## Opportunities and Challenges ahead

- Invite donors to contribute to our work
- Last session ....



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