

## A message from the Director-General

Roberto Azevêdo

Policy makers depend on reliable statistics so that they can base their analysis on facts. This is just as true for trade policy as it is for other areas of policy-making.

As part of the WTO's commitment to increasing the usefulness of trade statistics, we have added to this year's *International Trade Statistics* a new chapter on trade in global value chains. This new data allows the exact contribution of each country to international trade to be measured more precisely. The new chapter draws on the collaborative work of the WTO and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and in particular on the new OECD-WTO database on trade in value-added terms, which was launched earlier this year. The new data provides new perspectives on the role of trade in intermediate goods and services and recalculates bilateral trade balances according to the domestic content of each country's exports.

This progress in providing more accurate and analytical information results from coordinated efforts with a number of other international organizations, national agencies, business and academia. We are convinced that measuring trade in value-added terms contributes significantly to the quality of trade-related information and we will make every effort to continue to expand this data. Our aim is to provide the most relevant statistical information to allow policy makers to address the economic challenges facing the international community both now and in the future.

Another recent expansion in the WTO's publication of trade data was the launch earlier this year of the Integrated Trade Intelligence Portal (I-TIP). This new portal – available through the WTO website – provides up-to-date data on both tariff and non-tariff measures undertaken by WTO members. Containing information on over 25,000 trade-related policy measures, I-TIP covers measures affecting trade in goods and services as well as commitments in regional trade agreements and the accession commitments of WTO members. Its aim is to serve the needs of those seeking detailed information on trade policy measures as well as those looking for summary information.

Finally, I am pleased to announce a further extension to our statistical publications. This year, we are publishing for the first time a new publication on the services trade of WTO members. Complementing our three other annual reports on trade statistics - *International Trade Statistics*, *World Tariff Profiles* and *Trade Profiles - Services Profiles* will provide data on transportation, telecommunications, finance and insurance sectors. The information on each sector will include data on investment, market size, production and trade. We hope that you will find this a useful addition to our statistical output.

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