



RESEARCH DATA CENTER

REX - Remote Execution / Sistema di elaborazione a distanza

***Survey on cross-border transactions in services by  
non-financial and insurance firms  
(Direct Reporting)***

**Description of the Database**



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## 1. General overview

**The database contains information on cross-border transactions in services reported by non-financial firms and insurance companies, obtained through the questionnaire on quarterly non-financial transactions ([TTN, Transazioni Trimestrali Non finanziarie](#) – only in Italian), which is part of the broader ‘direct reporting’ survey.**

The information available in the database is annual and is obtained as the sum of the quarterly data.

Each firm is assigned a unique code that identifies it univocally. This code is randomly generated and cannot be selected or viewed.

**The user cannot access in any way the individual firm data** but will be able to acquire data related to at least three firms, so as to preserve the confidentiality of the information provided.

The database does not contain all the transaction types listed in the TTN questionnaire but only a subset, i.e. those relating to the ‘other services’ component of the balance of payments (that is, services other than ‘travel’ and ‘transport’), as explained in detail in Table 1.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 1**

<b>Types of transaction available in the database</b>
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES
INSURANCE PREMIUMS
INSURANCE CLAIMS
AUXILIARY INSURANCE SERVICES
FINANCIAL SERVICES
COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SERVICES
CHARGES FOR THE USE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
TRADE-RELATED AND OPERATIONAL LEASING SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTING SERVICES
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
SCIENCE-RELATED, ARCHITECTURAL, AND OTHER TECHNICAL SERVICES
WASTE TREATMENT AND DEPOLLUTION, AGRICULTURAL, AND MINING SERVICES
OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES
PERSONAL, CULTURAL, AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES
GOVERNMENT SERVICES

<sup>2</sup> It excludes cross-border transactions in construction, intangible assets, unilateral transfers, wages and salaries.

## 2. Update of the database

The database is updated annually with information reported by firms through the TTN questionnaire.

Each time data are updated to incorporate any revisions made by firms.

The data are available from 2013 onwards.

The database for the year  $t$  is made available to users in October of the year  $t+1$ .

## 3. Variables present in the TTN questionnaire but clustered in groups in the database

The following variables are grouped by class size: total assets, turnover, net assets and number of workers (see Section 4). These variables appear in the 'Financial Statement Data' section of the TTN Questionnaire.

The municipality where the firm has its registered office is not available in the database. Rather, firms are classified according to the geographical macro-area to which they belong (North-East, North-West, Centre, South and Islands).

## 4. Variables present in the database

Table 2 lists the variable present in the database.

**Table 2**

<b>Variables present in the database</b>	
<b>NAME OF VARIABLE</b>	<b>TYPE OF VARIABLE</b>
ENTE	Numeric (8)
ANNO	Numeric (5)
CAUSALE	Numeric (3)
SETTORE	Numeric (4)
ATECO	Alphanumeric (2)
CREDEB	Alphanumeric (1)
STATO	Alphanumeric (13)
AREA_GEO	Alphanumeric (2)
CLA_ADDETTI	Numeric (3)
CLA_FATTURATO	Numeric (3)
CLA_ATTIVO	Numeric (3)
CLA_PATRIMNETTO	Numeric (3)
IMPORTO	Numeric (18)
IMPORTO_ESP	Numeric (18)

The ENTE field returns the code that univocally identifies each reporting firm. However, as already said in Section 1, users cannot select or view the code and data can only be provided as the aggregation of at least three firms.

The ANNO field indicates the year of reporting.

The CAUSALE field indicates the type of transaction, according to the list in Table 3.

**Table 3**

<b>Types of transaction present in the database</b>		
<b>CODE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TYPE OF TRANSACTION (V00020)</b>
1	COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	2015, 2030
2	INSURANCE PREMIUMS*	2060, 2075, 2080, 2100, 2120
3	INSURANCE CLAIMS*	2070, 2076, 2090, 2110, 2130
4	AUXILIARY INSURANCE SERVICES	2140
5	FINANCIAL SERVICES	2150
6	COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SERVICES	2160, 2170, 2180
7	CHARGES FOR THE USE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	2195
8	TRADE-RELATED AND OPERATIONAL LEASING SERVICES	2250, 2290
9	PROFESSIONAL AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTING SERVICES	2300, 2310, 2320, 2330
10	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	2341, 2342, 2343
11	SCIENCE-RELATED, ARCHITECTURAL, AND OTHER TECHNICAL SERVICES	2351, 2352, 2353
12	WASTE TREATMENT AND DEPOLLUTION, AGRICULTURAL, AND MINING SERVICES	2360, 2370, 2380
13	OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES	2390, 2400
14	PERSONAL, CULTURAL, AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES	2410, 2420, 2430, 2441, 2442
15	GOVERNMENT SERVICES	2450, 2460, 2470

\* Please note that these items are not services *per se*, but are used to estimate insurance services, together with data from an Istat survey on the balance sheets of insurance companies.

The table also shows the type of transactions included in each CAUSALE (CODE) (for the list of cross-border transaction codes, see "[Code list: CAUSALI table](#)" – only in Italian).

The SETTORE field indicates the institutional sector to which the reporting firm belongs (e.g. manufacturing firms, insurance companies and pension funds). For a list of the codes and what they stand for, see "[Code list: SETTORI table](#)" – only in Italian.

The ATECO field indicates the branch of economic activity (e.g. 'manufacture of furniture', 'mining of iron ores', etc.) of the reporting firm as per the ATECO 2007<sup>3</sup> classification; in the database its length was two digits. For a list of these codes and what they stand for, see "[Code list: ATECO table](#)" – only in Italian.

The CREDEB field can take two values: C for CREDIT and D for DEBIT. The value C indicates that the reporting firm supplied a service to non-resident entities and accordingly generated a revenue through the export of that service. In the TTN questionnaire this corresponds to the '*32400000001001 Ricavi per esportazioni*' variable. The value D indicates that the reporting firm purchased a service from non-resident entities and accordingly bore a cost for the import of that service. In the TTN questionnaire this corresponds to the '*32400000002001 Costi per importazioni*' variable.

The STATO field corresponds to the country of residence of the non-resident entity or the international organization, which is the counterpart of the reporting firm in the transaction in services. Information on the country of origin/destination of the flow is based on the geographical breakdowns (Geo 4) as defined in the statistical guidelines issued by the European Central Bank.<sup>4</sup> Details are provided for all the basic countries listed in Geo 4 but not for country aggregations (e.g. World, EU28). The list of countries is shown in Table 4. The PAESI BALTICI aggregate comprises Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The ALTRI aggregate includes all the countries not listed in Table 4.

**Table 4**

<b>List of countries present in the database</b>	
<b>CODE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
AT	AUSTRIA
BE	BELGIUM
BG	BULGARIA
BR	BRAZIL
CA	CANADA
CH	SWITZERLAND
CN	CHINA (PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF)
CY	CYPRUS
CZ	CZECH REPUBLIC
DE	GERMANY
DK	DENMARK
ES	SPAIN
FI	FINLAND
FR	FRANCE
GB	UNITED KINGDOM
GR	GREECE
HK	HONG KONG
HR	CROATIA
HU	HUNGARY

<sup>3</sup> Starting from 1 January 2008 Istat adopted the ATECO 2007 classification of economic activities, which is the Italian version of the European classification NACE Rev. 2 published on the Official Journal on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2006 (Regulation n. 1893/2006).

<sup>4</sup> Guideline of the European Central Bank of 9 December 2011 on the statistical reporting requirements of the European Central Bank in the field of external statistics (ECB/2011/23), Annex II (see [https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/legal/pdf/l\\_06520120303en00010044.pdf](https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/legal/pdf/l_06520120303en00010044.pdf)).

**Table 4**

IE	IRELAND
IN	INDIA
JP	JAPAN
LU	LUXEMBOURG
MT	MALTA
NL	NETHERLANDS
PAESI BALTICI	ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA
PL	POLAND
PT	PORTUGAL
RO	ROMANIA
RU	RUSSIA
SE	SWEDEN
SI	SLOVENIA
SK	SLOVAKIA
US	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ALTRI	OTHER COUNTRIES

The AREA\_GEO field represents the geographical macro-area where the firm has its registered address; the macro-area is assigned based on the municipality where the firm is registered. The AREA-GEO variable can take the four values listed in Table 5.

**Table 5**

<b>Geographical macro-area</b>	
<b>CODE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
C	CENTRE
NE	NORTH-EAST
NO	NORTH-WEST
S	SOUTH AND ISLANDS

The CLA\_ADDETTI field classifies reporting firms based on the number of workers they employ, as reported in the 'Firm organization and balance sheet data' section of the TTN questionnaire ('V01103 Numero occupati' variable). The class sizes used in the database are listed in Table 6.

**Table 6**

<b>Size classes by number of workers</b>	
<b>CODE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1	Number of workers <20
2	Number of workers 20-49
3	Number of workers 50-99
4	Number of workers 100-199
5	Number of workers 200-499
6	Number of workers 500-999
7	Number of workers >= 1000

The CLA\_FATTURATO field provides a classification of reporting firms based on their turnover, as reported in the 'Firm organization and balance sheet data' section of the TTN questionnaire ('V01098 Fatturato' variable). The class sizes used in the database are listed in Table 7.

**Table 7**

<b>Size classes by turnover</b>	
<b>CODE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1	Turnover <€50 million
2	Turnover >= €50 million and < €100 million
3	Turnover >= €100 million and < €250 million
4	Turnover >= €250 million

The CLA\_ATTIVO field classifies reporting firms based on their total assets, as reported in the 'Firm organization and balance sheet data' section of the TTN questionnaire ('V01085 Attivo di bilancio' variable). The following size classes are defined.

**Table 8**

<b>Size classes by total assets</b>	
<b>CODE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1	Total assets < €50 million
2	Total assets >= €50 million and < €100 million
3	Total assets >= €100 million and < €250 million
4	Total assets >= €250 million

The CLA\_PATRIMNETTO field classifies reporting firms based on their net assets, as reported in the 'Firm organization and balance sheet data' section of the TTN questionnaire ('V01104 Patrimonio netto' variable). The following table shows the classification used.

**Table 9**

<b>Size classes by net assets</b>	
<b>CODE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1	Net assets <€15 million
2	Net assets >= €15 million and < €30 million
3	Net assets >= €30 million and < €80 million
4	Net assets >= €80 million

The IMPORTO field gives the value of the export revenues or import costs reported by firms for the reference year. The information is in units of euros and corresponds to the 'V01076 Importo' variable of the TTN questionnaire.



The IMPORTO\_ESP field gives the grossed-up value of the figure provided in the IMPORTO field. This variable is not included in the TTN questionnaire but is calculated by applying sample weights to the IMPORTO field in order to gross up to the whole population of firms the sample value of the services supplied and received<sup>5</sup>.

Weights are not available in the database but their approximate value can be obtained as a ratio between IMPORTO\_ESP and IMPORTO.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> For details on the sampling methodology and the estimates, see the ['Methodological Note'](#).

<sup>6</sup> It should be noted that data are collected quarterly while the information available in the database represents the annual aggregation of the reports.