Extended Supply-and-Use Tables for Belgium: where do we stand? An overview of achievements and outstanding issues

Topic: Globalisation and some effects on SUT compilation relevant for users
Author: Bernhard MICHEL
Co-Authors: Bart HERTVELDT, Caroline HambÃ¿e

In supply-and-use and input-output tables, firms are traditionally grouped into industries according to the type of goods and services they produce. Within these industries defined in terms of product similarity, technological homogeneity has been taken for granted. However, as value chains have become increasingly fragmented and global, within-industry patterns of specialisation have developed, which do not depend on the types of products delivered by firms but are related to other firm characteristics such as size, ownership or exporter status. This has been largely documented in empirical research on firm heterogeneity (e.g. Bernard, Jensen and Schott, 2009). The aim of so-called extended supply-and-use and input-output tables is to take such heterogeneity into account by developing tables in which industries are disaggregated according to these firm characteristics.
Recently, there has been growing interest for such extended tables and the OECD and Eurostat have encouraged NSOs to start producing them. In this context, the aim of this contribution is to take stock of work that has been done on extended supply-and-use and input-output tables for Belgium both in terms of statistical methodologies for constructing such tables and in terms of their use for analysis. We will briefly cover past work on export heterogeneity in manufacturing based on 2010 tables (Michel et al., 2018) and then focus on ongoing work regarding the extension to employment indicators. Moreover, we will inform on where we stand in terms of producing extended supply-and-use tables for Belgium for 2015 with extra disaggregations in terms of ownership and size. To conclude, we will provide an overview of outstanding methodological issues, such as the extension to service industries, row splits, exports through wholesale traders or proportionality in vector construction, and we will indicate possible solutions.