Regional Social Accounting Matrices for the EU27 (SAMNUTS2)

Motivation

**General**: demand for model-based policy impact assessment of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and general Rural Development policies in a multi-sector context is increasing to capture the effects on all branches of the regional economies and to allow a better regional scaling of policies.

**Project context**: the project “Common Agricultural Policy Regionalised Impact - The Rural Development Dimension” (CAPRI-RD)\(^1\) develops an integrated tool for policy assessment, combining the agro-economic CAPRI modeling system\(^2\) with regional Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models building on RegFin\(^3\).

The SAMNUTS2 Project hosted at the European Commission’s Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS)\(^4\) provides the database for the regional CGE models (see Figure 1).

Challenges

**Structure**:
- Consistency with CAPRI database for the agricultural sector
- Interregional trade flows, taxes, and institutions in line with regional CGE requirements
- The database distinguishes 19 economic branches (see Table 1) for 271 NUTS2 regions

**Data**:
- Regional employment data often only available for aggregate branches, data on regional consumption, taxes, and trade in general scarce
- Exploitation and combination of several, structurally and definitionally different data sources
- Compilation procedure has to permit inclusion of superior information whenever it becomes available

Used datasets

**EuroStat (ESTAT)**: Regional branch accounts and national input-output tables

**National Statistical Organizations (NSO)**: regional branch accounts obtained from NSO provided additional information compared to ESTAT. In general, an improvement of the database was achieved, but due to definitional differences, informational gains result in a rather mixed picture. The informational gain never reached a level above 0.92 (with 1.00 defined as full information, see Figure 2).

Compilation of prior database

1. **Generation of national and regional core production accounts**: Include employment, compensation of employees, operating surplus, total output, total intermediate demand. Information on regional branch aggregates were split into target branches (Table 1) based on national shares (comparison of thus derived figures and recorded data for Spain and Italy shown in Figure 3). Additional employment data were collected for critical branches with regional concentration.

2. **Generation of regional total transaction matrices**: Based on national input-output coefficients and core accounts (if no regional IOTs were available).

3. **Generation of detailed transaction matrices**: Intermediate and final demand from regional origin based on Location Quotients (Flegg et al., 1995; Bonfiglio and Chelli, 2008). Domestic and imported origins derived from national shares.

Balancing/estimation procedure

**Follows in general the prior compilation**: balancing of national core production accounts, then regional core accounts, national transaction matrices, regional total transaction matrices, regional detailed transaction matrices (see Figure 4). Results from previous steps were used as constraints in subsequent steps.

**Estimation**: deviations between prior and final data were penalized by a Highest Posterior Density (HPD) criterion (Heckelei et al., 2008; Witzke and Britz, 2005), subject to accounting constraints. In a SAM context, the HPD estimator is similar to a Stone-Byron procedure (Byron 1978).

**Implementation**: the HPD estimator was implemented in GAMS as an NLP and solved with CONOPT. Data were stored throughout in gdx containers. (Figure 4)

Further links

1) [http://www.irl.uni-bonn.de/aggo/rsrch/capri-rd/caprird_e.htm](http://www.irl.uni-bonn.de/aggo/rsrch/capri-rd/caprird_e.htm)
2) [www.capri-model.org](http://www.capri-model.org)
3) [http://www.helsinki.fi/ruralia/research/regfin.htm](http://www.helsinki.fi/ruralia/research/regfin.htm)

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