

ICE

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COMPETITIVENESS AND INTERNATIONALIZATION OF SERVICES IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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BAÑEGIL PALACIOS, Tomás and CHAMORRO MERA, Antonio

World trade and ecolabelling: Adverse implications and measures adopted

Abstract: With the proliferation of ecolabels as instruments for environmental protection, certain bodies have alerted to the adverse implications their use may have on international free trade. The first part of this paper contains a theoretical discussion of the chief ways that ecolabels may discriminate against foreign products, leaving the analysis of possible beneficial effects for future surveys. In the second, a description is provided of the analysis of the 30 ecolabelling programmes identified world-wide, conducted to ascertain whether their design is suitable to avoid such discrimination. Lastly, the progress made in international co-operation among these programmes is reviewed.

Key words: international trade, neoprotectionism, environmental policy, WTO.

JEL Classification: F10, F13, M31.

BARCENILLA VISÚS, Sara

Service exports: Empirical evidence for European Union countries

Abstract: The recent publication of European Union service sector statistics with comparable data for the member countries has made it possible to conduct this study on an issue of growing interest: the determining factors in the increasingly relevant international trade of services. Specifically, a service export demand function is estimated for 15 of the European Union nations in the period 1976-2000. The error correction mechanism model proposed includes income and price-based competitiveness variables as explanatory factors. The results of the estimate reveal that non-price factors indisputably afford a better explanation of service export flows.

Key words: services, trade, cointegration, European Union, 1976-2000.

JEL Classification: C22, F14.

DÍAZ DE LA GUARDIA BUENO, Carlos and ZAYAS MOLERO, José

The international competitiveness of the service sector in European countries. A proposed taxonomy

Abstract: This paper contains an attempt to develop a methodology for measuring international competitiveness in the service sector. This entailed combining international demand with market shares, export structures and degree of specialization in the various countries to build a typology for ranking the various export sectors by their competitive position. The importance of the forward or backward link-ups deriving from service exports

and, consequently, the macroeconomic effects in terms of growth and productivity performance must differ with their technological content.

Key words: international trade, services, competitiveness.

JEL Classification: F14, L80.

DÍAZ ROLDÁN, Carmen

Economic policy in monetary union: Independence or co-ordination?

Abstract: The author addresses the ways that interdependent economies may be affected by monetary, real and supply-side shocks, to then evaluate the scope of the monetary, fiscal and supply-side policies implemented to deal with such shocks. This involves building a three-country, three-stage model to compare the results for a two-country universe and for a small and a large monetary union. The channel over which the shocks are transmitted is found to be a determinant.

Key words: economic policy, monetary union, asymmetric shock, policy coordination.

JEL Classification: E32, E61, E62, F42.

GUERRIERI, Paolo and MELICIANI, Valentina

Technology and international competitiveness: the interdependence between manufacturing and producer services

Abstract: The present article analyzes how countries specialize in specific producer services, and more particularly, financial, communications and business services. The authors sustain that a country's capacity to build a competitive service economy depends on the structure of its manufacturing industry, inasmuch as some enterprises in this industry make very intensive use of such services. They likewise identify a virtuous circle stemming from the fact that service providers are also intensive producer-service users. Lastly, information and communication technologies have a significant impact on trade in such producer services.

Key words: services, competitiveness, new technologies, manufacturing.

JEL Classification: F10, L80, O33.

LI, Xiaoying; GREENAWAY, David and HINE, Robert C.

Imports of services and economic growth: A dynamic panel approach

Abstract: Both theoretical studies and empirical research show the importance of technology to attain long-term sustained growth. International technology transfer

therefore constitutes an essential determining factor for growth and inter-country convergence. Nonetheless, research has focused nearly exclusively on the international transfer of technology through the trade of goods. The purpose of the present paper is to fill a gap in this area, introducing empirical research on the relationship between imports and economic growth in connection with both goods and services. The results suggest that service imports have a sizeable beneficial effect in developed countries, whereas their impact in developing countries tends to be insignificant.

Key words: international trade, services, imports, economic growth, dynamic model, model with panel data.

JEL Classification: C23, F13, O47.

LLORCA RODRÍGUEZ, Carmen M.^a and CUENCA GARCÍA, Eduardo

EU-ACP trade relations

Abstract: In connection with the future adaptation of the EU-ACP economic partnership agreements to the WTO standards laid down in the Cotonou Agreement (2000), this article studies the results obtained with the non-reciprocal preferences instituted under the first Lomé Convention (1975) that remain in effect. Specifically, the patterns of the resulting flows are examined, together with their geographic and product diversification. In addition, the ACP Group's export specialization is compared to that of other origins of Community purchases and the EU's specialization in imports to find an explanation for the downturn in their share of extra-Community trade.

Key words: international trade relations, trade agreements, Common Commercial Policy, EU, ACP countries.

JEL Classification: F13, F14.

MOLERO ZAYAS, José and VALADEZ SÁNCHEZ, Patricia

Determining factors in service competitiveness: The importance of innovation

Abstract: A first approach to the empirical analysis of factors explaining service competitiveness is attempted in the present article. In keeping with the recent focus of international trade, the emphasis is on factors associated with knowledge creation and transfer. The survey is divided into a number of stages: first, the problems involved with measuring international service trade and statistical limitations are discussed. Second, world-wide service trade patterns are analyzed and the competitive positions of the various countries are estimated. Lastly, a regression exercise is performed for three

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service activities (transport and communications, business services and tourism) for a group of 42 countries with different levels of development.

Key words: services, competitiveness, new technologies.

JEL Classification: F41, L80, O32.

RUBACALCABA BERMEJO, Luis; GAGO SALDAÑA, David and MAROTO SÁNCHEZ, Andrés

Relationship between globalization and services: Competitive advantages of European and Spanish services in international trade

Abstract: Service competitiveness can be defined in terms of the relationships between globalization and services. The fact that services are contributing actively to global change processes and at the same time are themselves adapting to new challenges drive the search for new competitive strategies and advantages. In the suite of flows representing service internationalization, international trade stands out as a decisive reality, as evinced by the ongoing growth in service offshoring. The empirical part of the paper draws from all the available statistics to analyze Europe's and Spain's competitive advantages in the international service trade.

Key words: services, economy internationalisation, globalization, competitiveness, Europe, Spain.

JEL Classification: F02, L80.

SASTRE JIMÉNEZ, Luis

Simultaneity, exports and imports, J-curve and Marshall-Lerner condition in Spain

Abstract: The present paper contains a re-estimation of the model for Spain's balance of trade given in Sastre (2005). The results are used to explain export, import and trade deficit patterns in the period 1976-2003, and to simulate the impact that alterations in the exchange rate, investment or consumption may have on the trade deficit. The model proposed serves to reformulate the Marshall-Lerner condition for open economies.

Key words: trade balance, J-curve, Marshall-Lerner condition, Spain, 1968-2003.

JEL Classification: F11, F14.

TAMAMES GÓMEZ, Ramón

Don Quixote and Sancho: the Economics of Golden Age society

Abstract: True to its title, this interesting essay analyzes both the Ingenious nobleman's financial status and the economy of his times. The article discusses the knight's extreme

poverty in the context of his compulsory inactivity as a member of the gentry. Don Quixote's travels in the company of his squire are an opportunity to portray the characters and society of the time (merchants, slaves, gypsies, Moors, and especially rogues), all from an economic vantage. The author sustains, moreover, that the economic decadence of the Empire «on which the sun never set» can be traced back to the period portrayed.

Key words: economic history, living conditions, social stratum, Spain.

JEL Classification: B10.

VENCE DEZA, Xavier and GONZÁLEZ LÓPEZ, Manuel

Specialization and growth of knowledge-intensive services in Europe

Abstract: The disparities and trends towards tertiary specialization in the EU-15, by countries and regions, are analyzed, distinguishing six service industries for their knowledge intensiveness. The analysis likewise relates the levels of specialization in each of these industries and their variation throughout the period to the economic growth of countries and regions.

Key words: services, regional specialization, regional growth, regional disparities, European Union.

JEL Classification: L80, R53.

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