

Myanmar

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1. Introduction

This document briefly describes a new social accounting matrix (SAM) for Myanmar, constructed to be consistent with 2005 macroeconomic structure and with the sectoring scheme of the GTAP data base. This table was estimated by the author from a combination of official and third-party data resources. As such, it does not represent official information or any governmental or other institutional decisions or actions based on component data.

2. Source Material

The current table was estimated from three primary sources:

1. Official macroeconomic and trade statistics for Myanmar over the period 2000-2005 (a macro SAM)
2. A detailed 1996 Input-Output table for Viet Nam
3. Official third party (IMF, World Bank) statistics

The 2005 tables for Myanmar can best be described as preliminary. A variety of data that would facilitate more complete accounting for economic activity in this country are not officially available, including detailed input-output accounts and information on a significant component of cross border transactions. Many individual and even aggregate fiscal and household data are also of uncertain accuracy, and attempts to corroborate them with indirect and secondary estimation have been of limited success. While tariff schedules are published for the country, for example, actual collection rate are unknown but widely considered to bear little resemblance to nominal rates. In some cases, domestic price differences from CIF include high costs for storage, administrative facilitation expenses, and informal scarcity premia. In others, informal trade or administrative exceptions obviate the application of duties. Indirect taxes are likewise virtually impossible to estimate with any accuracy. While they are an important source of revenue to the government, their application is made by a variety of means, including administered price differentials in state trading, informal excise, and rents from the exercise of monopoly power by state enterprises across many sectors and in various stages of supply chains.

All this being said, the current submission reflects the best available public information on this economy. It is hoped that including Myanmar as an individual economy in the GTAP database will stimulate further improvements in data availability and reliability. GTAP's consistency framework will doubtless elucidate structural aspects of Myanmar's transboundary economic linkages, while individual treatment of the economy will raise awareness of the value of better information on this challenging economy.

3. Sectoral Classification

There being no recent publically available input-output accounts for Myanmar, we relied on a 1996 table from Viet Nam. At that time, Viet Nam's economic structure much more closely resembled Myanmar's than it does today, including a large, rice oriented subsistence sector, significant state presence in most sectors of the economy, and limited, resource intensive, international trade. This table was coupled with Myanmar data on macroeconomic components of supply, value added, and demand, and a detailed SAM was estimated by cross-entropy methods. The resulting table accounted for 98 activities/commodities, labor, capital, land, and households. This table was then aggregated/disaggregated to make it consistent with GTAP accounting conventions. Detailed concordances for this are provided in the spreadsheet accompanying the data submission. Nonsurvey methods were also used to impute the allocation of imported commodities across demand sources.

References

- CSO. 1990-2007. "National Economic Accounts", Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Union of Myanmar, Yangon.
- GSO. 2000. "1996 Input-output Table for the Socialist Republic of Vietnam State Budget", electronic data, Government Statistical Office, Ha Noi.