Chapter 7

Supplementary data: time series trade data

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The GTAP data package includes, besides the data for the reference year, a set of annual time-series trade data. These trade data are accessed through a viewer program called TS. The data were developed by Mark Gehlhar, and TS by Karl Gudmunds, both of the Economic Research Service, Department of Agriculture, USA.

The data cover world merchandise trade for the period 1964 to 1993. They show bilateral trade flows, disaggregated according to the GTAP regional and sectoral classifications. Trade flows are measured as money values, in US dollars, at current fob prices.

The time series trade data derive mainly from the United Nations COMTRADE data. They have been extensively processed to eliminate the serious gaps and inconsistencies in the source data (see chapter 11).

The trade data are stored as binary files, accessible through the TS program. With TS, users can select time series or commodity or country cross-sections from the stored data. They can rescale the data, fit trend lines, project trends, and obtain descriptive statistics such as maxima, minima, averages and standard deviations. They can display the results on the screen as tables or graphs, and save them as binary or text files.