

Hi Gwlithyn,

Just getting back to you with regards to your query on how to backcast country level series given the backcasted total.

The underlying assumption here is that the contribution from all countries is the same (say in \$ terms). For example (which may not necessarily apply to your situation), we're assuming that the total value of imports from China is the same as from the Maldives. We know this is non-sense.

In a nutshell, we equally apportion the impact magnitude at Dec'05 from the total series amongst all countries. So, for the i^{th} country, the new value at the impact date (still Dec'05) can be computed from:

$$new_i = \left(\frac{new_T - old_T}{N} \right) + old_i$$

where:

new_T = new (post-backcasted) value in 'total' series at Dec'05

old_T = old (original or pre-backcasted) value in 'total' series at Dec'05

old_i = old (original) value for country i at Dec'05

N = total number of countries contributing to the total

In percentage terms, the impact factor for country i is given by:

$$100 \left[\left(\frac{new_i}{old_i} \right) - 1 \right] \%$$

I presume you have set up your backcasting spreadsheet/program such that it can take as input the new_i values for each country i .

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Cheers,
Frank

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