Norwegian Units involved in Global Manufacturing: Some Practical and Principal Problems

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SNA 2008 and BPM6 provide new guidelines to record processing and merchanting activities. The new key is change of economic ownership instead of physical movement of commodities. Being a small, open economy, Norway has many enterprises involved in global manufacturing. In the last years there has been an opportunity to mark national enterprises involved in global manufacturing in the Central Business Register, however this opportunity has not yet given an overview of all such enterprises. A project was initiated in 2011 to look into practical and principal problems due to how to capture national production, value added, export and import from national units involved in global manufacturing. Analysing the economic behaviour of a few concrete enterprises and putting up some simple data examples, the project seeks to outline what kind of extra data is needed to implement the principles due to valuation of production, export and import in SNA 2008 and BPM6.

As we see it, the new guidelines makes it easier to measure national production due to these national global manufactures, however extra data are needed to implement the guidelines due to export and import. We also see some practical problems in how to distinguish between traders (merchanting activities), manufactures (processing) and even holding companies (production in daughter companies abroad).