

entire extractive group is indexed by mining alone, implicitly assuming that quarrying moved exactly like mining. Ask yourself how you would estimate quarrying production in its own right, and set yourself to the task: would you ever assume it moved like the mining sector, which operates in an essentially unrelated market? Would you not infer its movements from construction activity, whose materials quarrying provides, working back through the production sequence exactly as above (§2.2)? One wonders why that reasonable procedure is not normally applied across sectors as it is within them: it is as if quantitative economic historians were mesmerized by the Statistical Bureaus' partitioning of the economy into different sectors, like deer caught in the headlights of a fast-approaching car, and with equally gruesome results.

The procedure's second step is to take the path of the sum of the (partly) documented sectors to represent the aggregate, that is, to attribute to the (totally) undocumented sectors, together, the path of the (partly) documented sectors, together; and similar considerations apply, in spades. Some industries, typically those processing tropical products, were documented as noted by the general statistics on international trade; but direct evidence of production was gathered first and foremost where it was of particular interest, and relatively easy to obtain. On both counts, the sources tend generally to document the new factory industries far more than the traditional, much smaller-scale and far more dispersed, artisanal sectors: in general, the better-documented sectors were growing at the expense of the less-documented ones, the assumption that artisanal production grew as factory production did could not be, again, more palpably wrong-headed. There may be practical reasons that demand an immediate aggregate estimate, that warrant resort to guesswork rather than research; but nothing can justify *mindless* guesswork, the standard guess that defines the path of the undocumented sectors without so much as considering what those were, and how they differed from the documented ones.¹⁴

¹⁴ Contrast Fenoaltea (1972), p. 349: because documented manufacturing seemed essentially to cover new/factory industry and in particular the cyclical investment-goods sector, undocumented manufacturing was identified with the artisanal production of consumer goods, and attributed a simple (demographic) trend.