

A world map composed of a grid of small dots, with the dots being slightly darker in the areas representing landmasses.

SNA Metadata Review: Current Availability and Findings*

*Joint session with the Task Team on Data Quality Assurance



OUTLINE

- **Why ICP Metadata Matter**
- **Main Sources**
- **Key Findings**
- **Detailed SNA Metadata (.pdf)**
- **Discussion**

Why ICP Metadata Matter

To support data validation, and ahead of receiving country responses to the “ICP National Accounts Country Practices Questionnaire”, we examined key available metadata on GDP compilation practices in 217 economies along:

- SNA vintage (1968, 1993, 2008)
- Availability of GDP by expenditure data
- Methodological revisions (transition to SNA 1993 or 2008)
- Benchmark/base year updates

The national accounts metadata were compiled from published sources:

- United Nations Statistics Division’s [National Accounts Official Country Data](#)
- World Bank’s [World Development Indicators](#) databases

We then cross-referenced with:

- IMF’s [Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board \(DSBB\)](#)
- IMF’s World Economic Outlook Country Data Documentation
- [National statistical office websites](#) as a last resort.

Metadata Defined

A guiding principle of the ICP data access policy is that ICP data releases “should be accompanied by the appropriate metadata, including metadata that describe the quality limitations of the data.”

Metadata is a set of data that gives information about other statistical data. It describes how and when and by whom a particular set of data was collected, created, or used.

Metadata enables the transformation of data into information, actionable insight, and quality assessments. Further, metadata allows and promotes competing perspectives of the same underlying data without necessitating changes to that data.

Key Findings: GDP Compilation (EXP)

GDP by expenditure data are widely available across ICP regions, so MORES and ICP national accounts country practices questionnaire will assist in their quality assessment.

| Region | GDP Expenditures (Current prices) | GDP Expenditures (Constant prices) |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| AFR (50) ¹ | 48 | 42 |
| ASI (23) | 21 | 19 |
| CIS (10) | 10 | 10 |
| LAC (37) | 33 | 23 |
| WAS (12) ² | 11 | 6 |
| EUO (52) | 52 | 52 |

Note: (1) = Includes Egypt, Sudan and Morocco; but excludes Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan

(2) = Excludes Iran and Libya

Key Findings: GDP Compilation (VA)

GDP compiled using the production approach is available for even more economies.

| Region | Value Added GDP (Current) | Value Added GDP (Constant) |
|----------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| AFR (50) | 50 | 44 |
| ASI (23) | 22 | 21 |
| CIS (10) | 10 | 10 |
| LAC (37) | 33 | 28 |
| WAS (12) | 12 | 11 |
| EUO (52) | 52 | 52 |

Key Findings: SNA Revisions

Adoption of SNA 2008 is on the rise; some countries have yet to transition from SNA 1968

| Region | SNA 1968 | SNA 1993 | SNA 2008 (ESA 2010) |
|----------|----------|----------|------------------------|
| AFR (50) | 3 | 37 | 10 |
| ASI (23) | 1 | 5 | 17 |
| CIS (10) | – | 6 | 4 |
| LAC (37) | 1 | 23 | 13 |
| WAS (12) | 3 | 8 | 1 |
| EUO (52) | – | 5 | 47 |

Key Findings: Age of Benchmark Year (IMF)

| Region | 1 – 10 years | 11 -15 years | Older than 15 years |
|----------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| AFR (50) | 17 | 25 | 8 |
| ASI (23) | 12 | 4 | 7 |
| CIS (10) | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| LAC (37) | 6 | 24 | 10 |
| WAS (12) | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| EUO (52) | 46 | 4 | 2 |

“Updating the benchmark year can have a large impact on both the level and growth rate of GDP, particularly if prices and volumes have changed significantly. The update may show an increase or decrease depending on the developments in the economy since the previous benchmarking exercise, the robustness of the compilation method, and the quality of the source data.” (IMF WP 18/37)

Conclusion and Discussion: Towards More and Better ICP Metadata

To increase **trust and acceptance of ICP results** and to enable ICP data consumers to use the key statistics and index numbers produced during a given ICP cycle effectively, we need to provide them meaningful metadata, including documenting methodology of compiling national accounts in participating economies.

RIAs play crucial role in ensuring countries document the sources and methods used for the compilation of ICP price data, national accounts and auxiliary data.

To do so, NIAs should thoroughly complete and RIAs should review:

- Basic metadata provided in ICP data submission forms (mandatory)
- ICP national accounts country practices questionnaire (mandatory)
- MORES, if used within the region (optional)

References

Francien Berry, Massimiliano Iommi, Michael Stanger, and Louis Venter. 2018. "The Status of GDP Compilation Practices in 189 Economies and the Relevance for Policy Analysis" IMF Working Paper No. 18/37.

International Monetary Fund. [Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board \(DSBB\)](http://dsbb.imf.org/). <http://dsbb.imf.org/>.

International Monetary Fund. World Economic Outlook Country Data Documentation (April 2018).

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2018/04/weodata/co.pdf>

National Statistical Office links: https://unstats.un.org/home/nso_sites/

United Nations Statistics Division. 2017. *National Accounts Official Country Data*. <http://data.un.org/Explorer.aspx?d=SNA>

World Bank. *World Development Indicators (WDI)*.

<https://data.worldbank.org/products/wdi>



THANK YOU