



National **Quality** Assurance Frameworks

**Regional Training Course on Agricultural Cost of
Production Statistics
21– 25 November 2016, Daejeon , Republic of Korea**

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National Quality Assurance Frameworks (NQAF) - Outline -

- I. Background: NQAF and Expert Group
- II. The generic NQAF Template
- III. NQAF Guidelines (section 3 examples)

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I. BACKGROUND – 2009-2010

- UN Statistical Commission: Quality on the agenda for the 1st time
- Programme review report for the 2010 Commission prepared by Statistics Canada; 1st draft underwent a global consultation
- Final Statistics Canada report presented to the 2010 Statistical Commission

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I. BACKGROUND - 2010

- Statistical Commission decision, based on Canada's reports' recommendations, supported the:
 - development of a **generic NQAF template**** with **guidelines**. The template should: focus on national statistical systems; use existing frameworks; and be flexible so as to take national circumstances into consideration.
(*generic template rather than a framework *per se* in recognition that a one-size-fits-all framework was not feasible)
 - establishment of an **expert group** to take on the work (template, guidelines, common glossary, mapping, website with links to quality assurance tools and guidelines, and guidance and training)
- Expert Group work began Sept. 2010; 17 countries invited to be members; Eurostat, IMF, WB, regional commissions (chair: South Africa)

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I. BACKGROUND

- All work (template, guidelines, mapping, glossary, references & website) carried out entirely via e-mail exchanges 1st year
- Sept. 2011 - EGM in NY to discuss pending issues
- Nov. 2011 - global consultation; feedback & suggestions from NSOs; taken into account in the final StatComm report & guideline document (guideline doc submitted as a background doc)

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II. The generic national quality assurance framework (NQAF) **template**



The framework template is: (page 4 of the Guidelines document)

- Arranged in five sections
 - (1) quality context
 - (2) **quality concepts and frameworks**
 - (3) **quality assurance guidelines**
 - (4) quality assessment and reporting
 - (5) quality & other management frameworks
- Has been based on the 3 proposals Statistics Canada had made in its report to the 2010 StatCommission
 - The resulting NQAF template is a combination with some additions

Main focus of the work of the Expert Group

“Fitness for use” / “Fitness for purpose”

Quality is all about providing goods & services that meet the needs of users

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II. The generic national quality assurance framework (NQAF) template



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1. Quality context

- 1a. Circumstances and key issues driving the need for quality management
- 1b. Benefits and challenges
- 1c. Relationship to other statistical agency policies, strategies and frameworks and evolution over time

2. Quality concepts and frameworks

- 2a. Concepts and terminology
- 2b. Mapping to existing frameworks

3. Quality assurance guidelines

3a. Managing the statistical system

- [NQAF 1] Coordinating the national statistical system
- [NQAF 2] Managing relationships with data users and data providers
- [NQAF 3] Managing statistical standards

3b. Managing the institutional environment

- [NQAF 4] Assuring professional independence
- [NQAF 5] Assuring impartiality and objectivity
- [NQAF 6] Assuring transparency
- [NQAF 7] Assuring statistical confidentiality and security
- [NQAF 8] Assuring the quality commitment
- [NQAF 9] Assuring adequacy of resources

3c. Managing statistical processes

- [NQAF 10] Assuring methodological soundness
- [NQAF 11] Assuring cost-effectiveness
- [NQAF 12] Assuring soundness of implementation
- [NQAF 13] Managing the respondent burden

3d. Managing statistical outputs

- [NQAF 14] Assuring relevance
- [NQAF 15] Assuring accuracy and reliability
- [NQAF 16] Assuring timeliness and punctuality
- [NQAF 17] Assuring accessibility and clarity
- [NQAF 18] Assuring coherence and comparability
- [NQAF 19] Managing metadata

4. Quality assessment and reporting

- 4a. Measuring product and process quality - use of quality indicators, quality targets and process variables and descriptions
- 4b. Communicating about quality – quality reports
- 4c. Obtaining feedback from users
- 4d. Conducting assessments; labelling and certification
- 4e. Assuring continuous quality improvement

5. Quality and other management frameworks

- 5a. Performance management
- 5b. Resource management
- 5c. Ethical standards
- 5d. Continuous improvement
- 5e. Governance

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II. The generic NQAF template:

The NQAF template's section 3 has been based on Statistics Canada's 2010 Statistical Commission report's 3 proposals (cols 1, 3)



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Quality Assurance Procedures

European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP)*	International Monetary Fund's Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)*	Statistics Canada Quality Assurance Framework (StatCan)*	Latin America & the Caribbean Regional Code of Good Statistical Practice (LAC proposal)
Institutional environment CoP.1 Professional independence CoP.2 Mandate for data collection CoP.3 Adequacy of resources CoP.4 Commitment to quality CoP.5 Statistical confidentiality CoP.6 Impartiality and objectivity Statistical processes CoP.7 Sound methodology CoP.8 Appropriate statistical procedures CoP.9 Non-excessive burden on respondents CoP.10 Cost effectiveness Statistical outputs CoP.11 Relevance CoP.12 Accuracy and reliability CoP.13 Timeliness and punctuality CoP.14 Coherence and comparability CoP.15 Accessibility and clarity	DQAF 0 Prerequisites of quality DQAF 0.1 Legal and institutional environment DQAF 0.2 Resources DQAF 0.3 Relevance DQAF 0.4 Other quality management DQAF 1 Assurances of integrity DQAF 1.1 Professionalism DQAF 1.2 Transparency DQAF 1.3 Ethical standards DQAF 2 Methodological soundness DQAF 2.1 Concepts and definitions DQAF 2.2 Scope DQAF 2.3 Classification and sectorization DQAF 2.4 Basis for recording DQAF 3 Accuracy and reliability DQAF 3.1 Data sources DQAF 3.2 Assessment of Source Data DQAF 3.3 Statistical techniques DQAF 3.4 Assessment & validation of intermediate data & statistical outputs DQAF 3.5 Revision studies DQAF 4 Serviceability DQAF 4.1 Periodicity and timeliness DQAF 4.2 Consistency DQAF 4.3 Revision policy and practice DQAF 5 Accessibility DQAF 5.1 Data accessibility DQAF 5.2 Metadata accessibility DQAF 5.3 Assistance to users	CAN.1 Managing user and stakeholder relationships – user satisfaction surveys, feedback mechanisms, councils. CAN.2 Coordinating the national statistical system – protocols, standards. CAN.3 Managing RELEVANCE – program review, planning process, data analysis. CAN.4 Managing ACCURACY – design, accuracy assessment, quality control, revision policy. CAN.5 Managing TIMELINESS AND PUNCTUALITY – advanced release dates, preliminary/final releases. CAN.6 Managing ACCESSIBILITY – product definition, dissemination practices, search facilities. CAN.7 Managing INTERPRETABILITY/CLARITY – concepts, sources, methods, informing users of quality. CAN.8 Managing COHERENCE AND COMPARABILITY – standards, harmonized concepts and methods. CAN.9 Managing OUTPUT QUALITY TRADEOFFS – especially relevance, accuracy and timeliness. CAN.10 Managing PROVIDER RELATIONSHIPS – response burden measurement and reduction, response rate maintenance. CAN.11 Managing STATISTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE – standards, registers, policies CAN.12 Managing INSTITUTIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE – confidentiality, security, transparency, professional independence, impartiality, objectivity CAN.13 Managing METADATA – relating to quality.	A. Institutional environment and coordination: LAC 1. Professional independence LAC 2. Coordination of the national statistical system LAC 3. Statistical mandate for data Collection LAC 4. Statistical confidentiality LAC 5. Adequacy of resources LAC 6. Quality commitment LAC 7. Impartiality and objectivity LAC 8. International cooperation and participation B. The statistical process LAC 9. Sound methodology LAC 10. Appropriate statistical procedures LAC 11. Non-excessive burden on respondents LAC 12. Cost effectiveness C. Statistical output LAC 13. Relevance LAC 14. Accuracy and reliability LAC 15. Timeliness and punctuality LAC 16. Coherence and Comparability LAC 17. Accessibility and clarity

*Based on Annex 1 of Statistics Canada's Programme Review on National Quality Assurance Frameworks (E/CN.3/2010/2 - 10 December 2009)



II. The generic NQAF **template** - and **mapping** to existing frameworks



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• So as not to “re-invent the wheel”, the EG drew heavily upon the work of Eurostat, IMF and StatCan

The template is aligned with (mapped to) the other well-known quality frameworks

- European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP)
- International Monetary Fund’s Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)
- Statistics Canada’s quality assurance framework

- (and the newer) Proposal for the Structure of a Regional Code of Good Statistical Practice for Latin America and the Caribbean



II. The generic NQAF **template** - and **mapping** to existing frameworks



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Correspondence between the Generic National Quality Assurance Framework Template and the CoP, DQAF, LAC proposal and StatCan

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/docs-nqaf/MAPPING%20OF%20THE%20NQAF%20.xls>

Generic National Quality Assurance Framework Template (NQAF)	European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP)	International Monetary Fund’s Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)	Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Code of Good Statistical Practice (LAC)	Statistics Canada Quality Assurance Framework (StatCan)
3a. Managing the statistical system				
NQAF1. Coordinating the national statistical system	CoP. 2.1 CoP. 2.2 CoP. 2.3 CoP. 3.3 CoP. 3.4	DQAF. 0.1.1 DQAF. 0.1.2	LAC. 2.1 LAC. 2.2 LAC. 2.3 LAC. 2.4 LAC. 3.1 LAC. 3.2 LAC. 3.3	CAN 2
NQAF2. Managing relationships with data users and data providers	CoP. 2.3 CoP. 7.7 CoP. 9.1 CoP. 9.2 CoP. 9.3 CoP. 9.4 CoP. 9.5 CoP. 9.6 CoP. 11.1 CoP. 11.2 CoP. 11.3 CoP. 15.6 CoP. 15.7	DQAF. 5.3.1	LAC 2.4 LAC 3.3	CAN 1



II. The generic national quality assurance framework (NQAF) **template**



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- **Voluntary, not mandatory**
- **Flexible** to permit national circumstances to be taken into consideration; application of ALL components of the template not necessarily expected; not prescriptive
- A starting point on which to build/modify as necessary
- A useful **organizing framework**
- A framework created **by** the national agency **for** the national agency

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III. NQAF template **GUIDELINES**



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- **Guidelines** – a kind of checklist, focusing on section 3, the numbered “NQAF lines” (other sections intentionally briefer, more general)
- For each numbered NQAF line (1-19):
 - Description (what? “... agencies should minimize delays in making data available...”)
 - Elements to be assured (which?)
(roughly ordered by levels or stages)
 - Supporting mechanisms (how?)
 - Selected references (where?)

Some repetition across different NQAFs - underscores the multi-dimensional aspect of quality and allows users to use parts of the framework independently. (e.g. use of sample surveys instead of censuses, when possible & appropriate – in cost-effectiveness (11) and managing respondent burden (13))
- **Helpful to:**
 - Data providers in designing a statistical collection or product or reviewing existing ones
 - Data users in making informed decisions about the statistics produced

Are the data fit for the purpose they are intended to be used?

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Quality assurance guidelines

(click on hyperlinks for details and examples for selected NQAFs, i.e. 3,7,8,11,13,16)

3a. Managing the statistical system

[NQAF 1] Coordinating the national statistical system

[NQAF 2] Managing relationships with data users and data providers

[\[NQAF 3\] Managing statistical standards](#)

3b. Managing the institutional environment

[NQAF 4] Assuring professional independence

[NQAF 5] Assuring impartiality and objectivity

[NQAF 6] Assuring transparency

[\[NQAF 7\] Assuring statistical confidentiality and security](#)

[\[NQAF 8\] Assuring the quality commitment](#)

[NQAF 9] Assuring adequacy of resources

3c. Managing statistical processes

[NQAF 10] Assuring methodological soundness

[\[NQAF 11\] Assuring cost-effectiveness](#)

[NQAF 12] Assuring soundness of implementation

[\[NQAF 13\] Managing the respondent burden](#)

3d. Managing statistical outputs

[NQAF14] Assuring relevance

[NQAF15] Assuring accuracy and reliability

[\[NQAF16\] Assuring timeliness and punctuality](#)

[NQAF17] Assuring accessibility and clarity

[NQAF18] Assuring coherence and comparability

[NQAF19] Managing metadata

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NQAF 3: Managing statistical standards



Description:

Standards:

- a comprehensive set of statistical concepts and definitions used to achieve uniform treatment of statistical issues - within a survey or across surveys, and across time and space
- assist in maximising the effectiveness of statistical outputs and the efficiency of the production process in terms of inter-temporal, national and international comparability and coherence (i.e. the capacity for integration) of the statistics.

While comparability and coherence are important for any dataset, they are particularly important where data are obtained from multiple sources and have to be combined or where outputs are used in a wide variety of contexts. The use of standard collection units (families, households, businesses, etc.) helps the compilation, comparison and dissemination of statistics for these standardised units.

Statistical agencies should aim to use consistent names and definitions for populations, statistical units, concepts, variables, and classifications in their statistical programmes/domains.

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NQAF 3: Managing statistical standards



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Elements to be assured:

Agency works towards developing statistical standards
Collaboration: with other agencies in developing, reviewing, promoting & implementing statistical standards
Person(s) responsible: for leading development of standards & supporting programmes to develop new or updated ones; staff assigned responsibility has the appropriate level of authority
Monitoring: extent that statistical standards are used by the programmes; senior management is given periodic reports
Informing staff and users: about statistical standards & changes made to them
Collaboration: data users & data providers & the agency's own statistical programmes are involved in creating, developing & approving statistical standards
Inclusion of (in standards): a statement of conformity to corresponding international or national standards
Divergences: from the corresponding international or national statistical standards are documented & explained
Detailed concordances to corresponding int'l & national standards
Detailed concordances to previous standards

Mechanisms/examples:

- Central organizational units or senior level groups responsible to lead & coordinate the development, implementation, maintenance & use of statistical standards
- [Active participation with other national & international organizations](#) in the development, review, promotion & implementation of statistical standards (e.g. employees attend workshops, conferences & seminars at the national and international levels) *(hyperlink to examples: UNSD and Mexico)*
- [Notice of introduction of a new aggregation structure for the classification of imports and exports of goods](#) *(hyperlink to example: Canada)*
- Active participation of both data users & providers in the development & approval of statistical standards
- [Correspondence tables for classifications](#) exist and are kept up-to-date & made available to the public with explanatory information *(hyperlink to example: UNSD)*



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NQAF 3: Managing statistical standards



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Elements to be assured:

Conceptual frameworks used: e.g. SNA , that provide a basis for consolidating statistical information about certain sectors or geographical entities <i>(hyperlink to example: UNSD)</i>
Integrated statistics programmes are developed that require statistical standards
Compliance with required application: programmes are held accountable to apply the standards
Non-compliance with required application: programmes have to obtain exemptions from standards if they do not apply them
Informing statistical programmes/domains: plans (and deadlines) for the development & application of new statistical standards are communicated well in advance
Level of information: to provide maximum flexibility in aggregation & to facilitate retrospective reclassification, statistical programmes collect & retain information at the fundamental or most detailed level of each standard classification, to the extent possible
Informing users and the public: all potential data users & the public
Review and revision: standards are regularly reviewed & revised, if necessary, to ensure their quality, notably their relevance, coherence & clarity

Mechanisms/examples:

- Statistical programmes based on conceptual frameworks or [data integration frameworks](#) that rely heavily on statistical standards *(hyperlink to example: Australia)*
- [Upcoming Reviews](#) *(hyperlink to example: Australia)*
- [Documentation:](#) on the statistical standards used is included in statistical products or explicitly referred to and is readily accessible *(hyperlink to example: Canada)*



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NQAF 3: Managing statistical standards

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Examples: *Statistics Canada* (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/concepts/consult-napcs-scpn-eng.htm>)

Notice of introduction of a new aggregation structure for the classification of imports and exports of goods

Statistics Canada will introduce a new classification structure to organize and present import and export statistics in various programs. The new structure will replace the classification structures known as the summary import groups (SIG) and the summary export groups (SEG) that have been in use for several decades.

The new structure builds a bridge between the [Canadian Export Classification \(CEC\)](#), [Customs Tariff \(CT\)](#) and the Input-output commodity classification (IOCC). The main objectives of the new system are to better integrate import and export statistics in the System of National Accounts and update the presentation of import and export statistics.

The links below provide a description of the current practices regarding the classification of goods in the Canadian statistical system, of the new aggregation structure, of the advantages and limitations of the new system and, the implementation schedule.

- [The current situation](#)
- [The new classification system](#)
- [The nomenclature](#)
- [The advantages and limitations of the new system](#)
- [Implementation schedule](#)

The advantages and limitations of the new system

The new system has the following advantages:

- Promotes better integration of statistics on goods;
- Promotes the publication of more coherent data on goods;
- Facilitates data interpretation for users;
- Facilitates the harmonization of the classification revision cycle for all programs that use the classification system.

The new system also has limits.

The most important is that its implementation depends on the integration of classifications that were developed independently from one another and do not always use the same criteria to distinguish products - the [Annual Survey of Manufactures \(ASM\) - List of Goods](#), the [Canadian Export Classification \(CEC\)](#) and the [Customs Tariff \(CT\)](#). As a consequence, the concordances between the CEC and the standard classes and between the CT and the standard classes are less than perfect. This limitation cannot be entirely eliminated since the use of the CEC and CT is prescribed by administrative agreements and legal obligations.

However, the new system makes it possible to eliminate several inconsistencies between the basic classifications at the more aggregated levels.

Finally, it is important to note that the system presented here is not complete since it covers neither services, nor tangible or intangible assets. These components will be added in NAPCS Canada 2012.



NQAF 3: Managing statistical standards

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Examples: *Global Inventory of Statistical Standards* - - **UNDER DEVELOPMENT**



Global Inventory of Statistical Standards

Search the wiki

Navigation

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[Classification of International Statistical Activities](#)

[List of Statistical Standards](#)

[List of International Organizations](#)

Languages

[عربي](#)

[中文](#)

[English](#)

[Français](#)

Welcome

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At the international level, principle No. 9, ("International Co-ordination") of the "Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics" of the United Nations establishes that: *"The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels".*

Under this framework, the **Global Inventory of Statistical Standards** is developed:

- To compile standards recommended by the main International Organizations, in one database, systematized by types of standard and by statistical or geographical themes and subthemes of national interest.
- To provide basic information about the standard, such as; objective, the international organization that recommends it, version, description of the standard and the URL to the original information source from which the standard is obtained (see: Metadata Model).
- To make clear the network of international organizations involved in the development and dissemination of statistical standards.



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Version: Februar 2012



NQAF 3: Managing statistical standards

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Examples: *INEGI's Inventory on International Statistical Standards*

(<http://mapserver.inegi.org.mx/estandares/Index1.cfm>)

INEGI INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA Y GEOGRAFÍA México Inicio | Contacto | English

INVENTORY ON INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL STANDARDS (ISS)

Objectives:

- To compile a database of ISS by type of standard:
 - Concepts and Definitions
 - Classifications
 - Methods and Procedures
 - Data Sources
 - Indicators
- To use a metadata model to organize the ISS and to present their information in a unified way.
- To build a web-portal covering different statistical themes that facilitates access to the ISS's information resources.

Considerations:

- Compilation of ISS is still in progress.
- ISS are continuously developed and/or updated by international organizations. The Database does not contain all the ISS nor always have the latest version
- The internet links to the information sources, included in the Database, could not be working correctly due to changes in the web sites of international organizations.
- ISS were originally translated into Spanish language and updated continuously as possible.
- The English version corresponds to the 2008 inventory. For this reason, the information available in Spanish and English might be slightly different.

[English](#)

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Examples:

Available correspondences

Click in the table to go to the complete correspondence table in the selected language.

Correspondence	Language
BEC - SITC Rev.3	English
BEC - HS 1996	English
BEC - HS 2002	English
BEC - HS 2007	English
COICOP - CPC Ver.1.0	English
CPC Ver.1.0 - CPC Ver.1.1	English Français Español
CPC Ver.1.0 - CPCprov	English
CPC Ver.1.1 - ISIC Rev.3	English
CPC Ver.1.0 - HS 1996	English
CPC Ver.1.0 - COICOP	English
CPC Ver.1.1 - CPC Ver.2	English
CPC Ver.1.1 - CPC Ver.1.0	English Français Español
CPC Ver.1.1 - CPCprov	English Français Español
CPC Ver.1.1 - ISIC Rev.3.1	English
CPC Ver.1.1 - HS 2002	English
CPC Ver.1.1 - PRODCOM 2002	English
CPC Ver.2 - CPC Ver.1.1	English
CPC Ver.2 - ISIC Rev.4	English
CPC Ver.2 - HS 2007	English
CPC Ver.2 - SITC Rev.4	English
CPCprov - CPC Ver.1.1	English Français Español
CPCprov - CPC Ver.1.0	English
CPCprov - ISIC Rev.3	English
CPCprov - HS 1988	English

Correspondence between SITC Rev.3 and SITC Rev.4

The following table shows the links between the selected classifications. In case of a partial link, the detail column specifies the portion of the second classification. An icon in the last column signifies comments, such as changes after the original publication. Clicking on the codes of either classification links to the definition of that particular category.

SITC Rev.3	SITC Rev.4	Part	Detail
001.11	001.11		
001.19	001.19		
001.21	001.21		
001.22	001.22		
001.31	001.31		
001.39	001.39		
001.41	001.41		
001.49	001.49		
001.51	001.5	**	
001.52	001.5	**	
001.9	001.9		
011.11	011.11		
011.12	011.12		
011.21	011.21		
011.22	011.22		
012.11	012.11		
012.12	012.12		
012.13	012.13		
012.21	012.21		
012.22	012.22		
012.31	012.31		
012.32	012.32		
012.33	012.33		
012.34	012.34		
012.35	012.35	**	
012.36	012.35	**	

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Examples: **Statistics Canada Policy on standards**

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/about-apercu/policy-politique/standards-normes-eng.htm>

Policy on standards (revised July 14, 2004)

[Introduction](#)

[Policy](#)

[Scope](#)

[Guidelines for the development and documentation of standards](#)

Introduction

Statistics Canada aims to ensure that the information it produces provides a consistent and coherent picture of the Canadian economy, society and environment, and that its various datasets can be analyzed together and in combination with information from other sources.

To this end, the Agency pursues three strategic goals:

1. The use of conceptual frameworks, such as the System of National Accounts, that provide a basis for consolidating statistical information about certain sectors or dimensions of the Canadian scene;
2. The use of standard names and definitions for populations, statistical units, concepts, variables and classifications in statistical programs;
3. The use of consistent collection and processing methods for the production of statistical data across surveys.

This Policy deals with the second of these strategic goals. It provides a framework for reviewing, documenting, authorizing, and monitoring the use of standard names and definitions for populations, statistical units, concepts, variables and classifications used in Statistics Canada's programs. Standards for specific subject-matter areas will be issued from time to time under this Policy as required.



Examples: **System of National Accounts 2008 - 2008 SNA**

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/sna2008.asp>

System of National Accounts 2008 - 2008 SNA

About the 2008 SNA

The *System of National Accounts 2008* (2008 SNA) is the latest version of the international statistical standard for the national accounts, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC).

The 2008 SNA is an update of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* (1993 SNA). The update was in 2003 entrusted to the *Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts* (ISWGNA) to address issues brought about by changes in the economic environment, advances in methodological research and the needs of users.

The first seventeen chapters of the 2008 SNA comprising the accounting rules, the accounts and tables, and their integration were adopted by the UNSC in 2008; chapters 18 to 29, comprising the interpretations and extensions of the accounts and tables of the System, were adopted by the UNSC in 2009.

The 2008 SNA is the result of a process that was notable for its transparency and the wide involvement of the international statistical community, both of which were made possible by the innovative use of the project's website *Towards 2008 SNA* as a communication tool. In its adoption of the 2008 SNA the UNSC encouraged Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations to implement its recommendations and use it for the national and international reporting of national accounts statistics.

Being a conceptual framework, the 2008 SNA does not attempt to provide comprehensive compilation guidance on how to make estimates nor is it descriptive in setting priorities which accounts and tables should be implemented or expresses norms on the frequency and format of their presentation. For practical compilation guidance, international agencies have developed separate handbooks like the *handbooks of national accounting* prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division.

A number of research issues have emerged during the update of the 1993 SNA, but where more extensive consideration is needed than what was possible in the course of the update process. These issues are listed in Annex 4 of the 2008. More information on these and emerging research issues and recommendations on the outcome of the research can be found at under the *Research agenda*.

The System of National Accounts 2008

English

- Printed version of the System of National Accounts 2008 - [Order](#)
- System of National Accounts 2008 in searchable PDF format

عربى (Arabic)

- Printed version of the System of National Accounts 2008 - [Forthcoming](#) - [Reserve a copy](#)

中文 (Chinese)

- Printed version of the System of National Accounts 2008 - [Forthcoming](#) - [Reserve a copy](#)
- White-cover version of the System of National Accounts 2008 in searchable PDF format

Français (French)

- Printed version of the System of National Accounts 2008 - [Forthcoming](#) - [Reserve a copy](#)
- Glossaire (Glossary)
- Annexe 3 (Annex 3)

Русский (Russian)

- Printed version of the System of National Accounts 2008 - [Forthcoming](#) - [Reserve a copy](#)
- White-cover version of the System of National Accounts 2008 in searchable PDF format
- Глоссарий (Glossary)

Español (Spanish)

- Printed version of the System of National Accounts 2008 - [Forthcoming](#) - [Reserve a copy](#)

Relevant Links

- Handbooks of national accounting
- Towards the 2008 SNA
- ISWGNA
- SNA News and Notes



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Examples: *Australian Bureau of Statistics Upcoming Reviews*

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Upcoming+Reviews>

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Rate the ABS website

Upcoming Reviews

STATISTICAL STANDARDS

A statistical standard is a set of components which produce consistent and high quality statistical output across collections and over time. It includes components such as;

- the standard name of the variable
- the standard definition of the variable
- the standard question(s)
- the standard classification
- standard coding procedures and standard output categories.

These specify the approved rules applied by the ABS in the development, collection, processing and dissemination of official statistics.

The standards listed on the following page are referred to as approved standards. Occasionally ABS surveys use 'departures' from approved standards where a survey area is given approval to amend a particular component of the standard. As a result, some survey questions may deviate from the guidelines specified in the standard.

Reviews of standards need to be conducted on a regular basis to maintain the relevance of statistics. The ABS has outlined a proposed schedule of reviews for social standards for the next three years. While we aim to complete these reviews within the timeframes specified, the schedule is tentative and will be reviewed annually.

Interested users of statistics are invited to provide comments on the review schedule by emailing standards@abs.gov.au

[Link to the entire Review Schedule](#)

See below for links to the Review Schedule by section

LINK TO SCHEDULE BY TITLE OF STANDARD:

[Country \(SACC\) Related Standards](#)
[Cultural and Ethnic Group \(ASCEG\) Related Standard](#)
[Demographic Standards](#)
[Demographic Related Standard](#)
[Demographic Standards Related to Families](#)
[Disability Standards](#)
[Education Standards](#)
[Family Standards](#)
[Household Standards](#)
[Housing Related Standards](#)
[Income Standards](#)
[Labour Force Standards](#)
[Language \(ASCL\) Related Standards](#)
[Occupation Standards](#)
[Religion \(ASCRG\) Related Standard](#)

LINK TO SCHEDULE BY YEAR OF REVIEW:

[1 July 2011 - 30 June 2012](#)
[1 July 2012- 30 June 2013](#)
[1 July 2013 - 30 June 2014](#)

This page first published 30 September 2011

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Examples: *ABS National Statistical Service (NSS) Handbook*

<http://www.nss.gov.au/nss/home.nsf/NSS/35BFD39E0E2A8597CA25763F000B622C?opendocument#10.2.1>

10.3 INTEGRATION

Frameworks exist for integrating and presenting data in many fields. The use of standards and classifications in frameworks greatly reduces the effort required for integration and reconciliation of data.

The potential benefits of statistical integration include:

- more coherent data - statistics from different collections can be compared through the use of common data items, classifications, and terminology.
- more efficient systems - use of common systems such as statistical standards and classifications can avoid duplication or reduce resources required to develop concepts and processing systems.
- reduced provider load - for example, a person may supply employment status data to three different surveys, but if a standard definition for employment status was used the data supplied to one survey could be used for the purpose of the three surveys

Example

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has developed a framework for Integrated Economic Statistics under which most of its business surveys are conducted. This framework requires that the statistical structure of each business entity is based on a standard units model, and an industry code is allocated based on predominant activity. A key component of the framework is a centralised Business Register which stores this information about each business and which is used to produce population frames for collections of economic statistics, based on the industry code. A set of standard classifications is used to describe characteristics of businesses, such as their industry, number of employees, and type of legal organisation. The classification used is the Standard Institutional Sector Classification of Australia (SISCA). In addition, standard data item definitions have been developed, and these are accompanied by the use of standard questions in questionnaires.

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