

## STATISTICAL DATA AND METADATA EXCHANGE (SDMX) INITIATIVE

### Overview of the Metadata Common Vocabulary Project

Report prepared by OECD

#### **Introduction**

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide CCSA members with a brief description of the SDMX Metadata Common Vocabulary (MCV) project which is one of the four projects currently being conducted under the umbrella of SDMX. More detailed information about the other projects is available at the SDMX website ([www.sdmx.org](http://www.sdmx.org))
2. There are several different types of metadata covering the statistical production cycle, from data collection through to data dissemination; but there is no universally accepted definition of either metadata or metadata models that outline the different types of metadata. Although there is some commonality between the metadata models developed by national agencies and international organisations, each has a slightly different objective and each describes different methodological issues and stages of the statistical production cycle. Given the diverse requirements of different national agencies and international organisations, reaching agreement on a common metadata model is an almost impossible task. Effective agreement is even harder to achieve if the exercise is conducted in terms of broad metadata items, especially where the item used (e.g. "methodology", or "coverage") in turn also comprises more detailed metadata elements (e.g. "geographical coverage", "activity coverage", "unit coverage", etc). In this case, agreement on a highly aggregated item might hide a serious misunderstanding of the basic metadata components, if a clear definition is not provided.
3. The focus of the SDMX project is the exchange of statistical information (data and metadata) in the field of socio-economic data "by taking advantage of existing exchange protocols (...) and dissemination formats (...) through emerging e-standards such as XML"<sup>1</sup>. This statement implies a common understanding of the nature of what we should be able to exchange.
4. As metadata represent *knowledge* about statistical data, exchanging metadata means, in conceptual terms, exchanging knowledge between organisations. XML provides a standard format for information exchange, based on a specific syntax and on a set of tools developed in computer science. In XML, information is enclosed in *tags*. Except for some syntactical rules, there are no guidelines on how those tags must be structured - or rules regarding their content - to ensure consistent use by different metadata authors. Without agreement on a common

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<sup>1</sup> SDMX, Common Statement by Participating Institutions, available at <http://www.sdmx.org/General/AboutSDMX.htm>.

terminology, the risk is that we will not be able to understand the information that we are going to exchange. In other words, the exchange of metadata can only be meaningful if it is based on a common terminology.

5. A common terminology for the exchange of statistical information has to take into account developments on two fronts: (a) on “content” issues, relating to the statistical meaning of metadata items (e.g. definitions, how statistical data are collected, compiled, processed and disseminated), and (b) on technical means of managing and transferring the information, i.e. IT tools and related models of metadata flows. The two aspects are both essential for a complete solution to the problem.

6. For the sake of terminological consistency, there is an urgent need to take into account existing metadata models and associated terminology: general metamodels (such as ISO/IEC 11179 revised) and specific subject-matter models or formats (such as Gesmes/CB and SDDS). Otherwise, the reader runs the risk to get lost among definitions concerning different metadata levels and covering distinct areas, such as IT information flows, generic statistical methodology and subject matter methods.

7. The focus of the SDMX Metadata Common Vocabulary project is not on building another metadata model. The need expressed by SDMX organisations is simply to establish a core set of standard definitions of metadata items for: a) improving the standardisation of metadata for the purposes of data exchange; b) promoting the preparation by authors in different agencies/countries of “standard” metadata, thus helping international comparability of statistical data.

8. Therefore, the present Vocabulary is only concerned with the elaboration of some terminological “building blocks” based on statistical international standards or best practices, easily understandable and re-usable. Agreement on a common set of terms that can be used to describe the collection, processing and dissemination of data would still provide the flexibility for each organisation to manipulate these elements to derive a variety of metadata models and specific dissemination outputs according to its own needs. An agreed-to list of basic metadata elements would simply provide a common unambiguous vocabulary. Although the original structure originated from a reflection of SDDS and similar dissemination formats for economic statistics, the present version includes several other items. A list of terms included in the current version of the MCV is provided in Attachment 2 of this paper.

9. The Glossary (several pages of which are attached at the end of this paper) presents the following “fields”: *term*, *definition*, *source*, *related terms* and *context*. The “context” field is used extensively throughout the glossary, sometimes for providing additional explanations, other times for highlighting peculiarities in how a certain definition is applied within a certain domain or geographic context. In some cases (for instance with regard to “quality”) the authors have deliberately presented more than one definition, always quoting the respective source, in order to show their logical similarity.

10. Of course a glossary, by its very nature, will never be considered as “complete”, especially when it deals with a relatively new topic. But the need for such work is evident if one only considers how many times the same metadata items are referred to by different names or, conversely, how many times the same name actually refers to different concepts. Even the term “metadata” still seems to need some standardisation, despite many years of debate.

11. An issue to be resolved is just how broad or narrow, or how generic a metadata glossary should be. A tentative framework (such as the one presented in Attachment 1) is merely a tool for identifying these discrete elements and is not intended as a “standard” in its own right. For the purpose of the SDMX project, care is being taken to ensure that the content of terms included in the MCV are relevant to the IMF SDDS metadata model. However, it should again be emphasised that in its final form, the Vocabulary is intended to be of use to other metadata models developed or being developed by other international organisations and national statistical agencies.

12. Finally, any metadata glossary such as the MCV must be linked to a series of other subject-specific glossaries (on classifications, on data editing, on quality assessment, on subject-matter statistical areas) or more universal statistical glossary such as Eurostat’s CODED or OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms. The insertion of some definitions derived from other glossaries should not be seen as a redundancy, but as a means of resolving the complex and interdisciplinary nature of metadata.

### **Feedback required**

13. Both the Metadata Common Vocabulary Structure and Metadata Common Vocabulary Glossary presented below in this document are intended as preliminary versions. Feedback and suggestions are sought by the authors, particularly in the following areas:

- Adequacy of the definitions provided in the Glossary (is further context information required for any particular definitions? Specific text would be welcomed).
- Relevance of any term included in the Vocabulary (is any term to be removed from the Glossary because it is unrelated to the subject?).
- Availability of more appropriate definitions. Where possible, these should be from existing international statistical guidelines and recommendations, though suitable national definitions would be considered. Where new definitions are provided please provide detailed source information.
- Suggestions for definitions covering terms and concepts included in the Vocabulary Structure but where the authors have not to date been able to identify an appropriate definition.
- Suggestions for additional metadata element items that should be included in the Metadata Common Vocabulary structure. If possible, these should be accompanied by appropriate definitions.

Requests for further clarification on any aspect of this project should be forwarded to Marco Pellegrino, Eurostat (at [marco.pellegrino@cec.eu.int](mailto:marco.pellegrino@cec.eu.int)) and Denis Ward, OECD (at [denis.ward@oecd.org](mailto:denis.ward@oecd.org)).



## TENTATIVE STRUCTURE OF METADATA ITEMS

### 1. Administration

	Metadata element item
Contact	<p>Primary and Secondary source for data and metadata (description: name, primary purpose, legal status, agency responsible for management, list of administrative information available)</p> <p>Organisation (organisation name, mail address)</p> <p>Contact attributes (function, name, title, mail address, e-mail address, phone number, fax number)</p>
Data dissemination	<p>Periodicity (frequency of data in published source)</p> <p>Table of contents (statistical breakdown)</p> <p>Classifications used (breakdowns available), dimensions</p> <p>Length of time series in available data</p> <p>Missing data in time series</p> <p>Breaks in time series</p> <p>Timeliness (transmission delay, publication delay)</p> <p>Access conditions (confidentiality, copyright, subscription policy, pricing policy, access by public, internal access before release)</p> <p>Revision policy</p> <p>Update procedures</p> <p>Release media (e.g. paper publication, CD-ROM, diskette, internet) and formats</p> <p>Release calendar</p> <p>Last change date (date of last data update, date of last metadata update: content or verification)</p> <p>Official comments (press release, institutional commentaries)</p>
Institutional framework	Legal framework
Reference documents	<p>By type of dissemination media (publication, database, Internet, etc.)</p> <p>By type of document (summary or detailed methodology, information on major changes)</p> <p>Reference document language</p>
Symbols	<p>List of flags (codes added to data)</p> <p>List of special values (codes replacing the data)</p>

## 2. Concepts and Coverage

	Metadata element item
Definition	Statistical indicators
Coverage	Reference period – period to which the indicator relates Geographic coverage Classification scheme, i.e. items in a national/international classification, e.g. activity, occupation, sector Statistical population – reference population covered by the statistics, e.g. statistical units Specific exclusions
Statistical units	Analytical units Observation units Reporting units Departures from international definitions of statistical units

## 3. Standards

	Metadata element item
Statistical standard	International/national statistical standards for compiling the data
Classification	Classifications used – national/international standard classification (name, version number); specific departures from international standards – see also Part 5 (comparability)

## 4. Data collection, manipulation/accounting conventions, etc

	Metadata element item
Data source	Administrative source, household survey, Enterprise/establishment survey
Reporting units	Statistical units which report information, e.g. enterprise, establishment, household, individuals
Valuation principles	Time of recording (e.g. price observations) Types of prices – e.g. basic, producers, sellers Valuation principles

Data collection	<p>Periodicity (e.g. weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually, longitudinal, ad hoc)</p> <p>Data collection method – e.g. Self enumeration (postal/mail, drop-off mailback/drop-off pickup, electronic form), personal interview (face to face, CAPI), telephone (telephone interview, CATI)</p> <p>Type of enumeration – Census (complete enumeration), sample survey, use of cut-off thresholds, etc</p> <p>Communication with data providers</p> <p>Data editing and correction of data at collection time</p> <p>Non-response rate</p> <p>Follow-up action</p> <p>Provider load</p>
Frame	<p>Type – area, list (business register)</p> <p>Source of information – births, deaths, amendment/changes to existing entries</p> <p>Frame maintenance procedures</p> <p>Frame maintenance issues – missing units, out of scope units, duplications, deaths, nils</p> <p>Dimensions of a time series</p>
Sampling	<p>Sample design</p> <p>Sampling frame</p> <p>Sampling unit</p> <p>Sample size</p> <p>Sampling techniques – non-probability sample (quota sampling, convenience or haphazard sampling, judgement or purposive sampling), probability sample</p> <p>Stratification</p> <p>Sampling weights</p> <p>Frequency of weight update</p>
Survey design, Survey development	<p>User groups</p> <p>Identification of user needs</p> <p>Questionnaire design</p> <p>Testing/pilot surveys</p>

Data processing	<p>Data capture – EDI, scanning, OCR</p> <p>Coding</p> <p>Data editing systems – micro-editing, macro-editing</p> <p>Editing techniques (graphical, etc)</p> <p>Edit types - validation, missing data, logical, consistency (reconciliation), range</p> <p>Imputation – non-response (item, complete)</p> <p>Disclosure analysis - direct disclosure, inadvertent disclosure, residual disclosure, disclosure from external information</p> <p>Processing system</p> <p>Processing site</p> <p>Derived data element</p> <p>Data reconciliation</p> <p>Benchmarking/Interpolation</p>
Manipulation	<p>Aggregation method – how data are aggregated from elementary cell levels</p> <p>Grossing up – how estimates of the population are made from the sample (number-raised estimation, ratio estimation)</p> <p>Weights used for aggregation</p> <p>Seasonal adjustment – system used (e.g. TRAMO/SEATS, X-11, X-12 ARIMA)</p> <p>Derived data elements</p> <p>Estimation of sampling error</p> <p>Index compilation – item selection, base year, type of weights, period of current weights, frequency of weight revision, aggregation structure, compilation formula</p> <p>Adjustments for quality differences</p>
Presentation of data	<p>Levels</p> <p>Indices</p> <p>Quarterly (monthly) data expressed at annual (or quarterly) levels</p> <p>Period average</p> <p>End-of-period</p> <p>Annual growth rates</p> <p>Growth over previous period</p> <p>Same period previous year</p> <p>Annualised growth rates</p> <p>Year to date data</p>

## 5. Quality and performance metadata

	Metadata element item
Relevance	Users User's needs Relevance of statistical concepts (statistical measure, target population, reference period)
Accuracy	Sampling error (standard error, variance, relative standard error, confidence interval) Non-sampling error (coverage errors, measurement errors, processing errors, non-response errors, model assumption errors) Missing data
Timeliness and punctuality	With respect to reference period With respect to date of publication by member country With respect to date of publication in the database With respect to last change date of domain in database With respect to date on which user consults the database
Accessibility and clarity	Information on the dissemination process Accessibility of statistical metadata
Comparability	Comparability over time Geographical comparability (international comparability, departures from international statistical standards) Comparability between statistical domains of study
Coherence	Coherence between provisional and final statistics Coherence of annual and short-term statistics Coherence of statistics in the same socio-economic domain Comparability of statistics with national accounts Consistency over time Spatial consistency Consistency with related series Continuity Additivity
Completeness	Available statistics, comparison with user needs

## LIST OF TERMS CURRENTLY INCLUDED IN THE MCV

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Accessibility                                  | 39. Classified component                |
| 2. Accounting conventions                         | 40. Code list                           |
| 3. Accuracy                                       | 41. Coding                              |
| 4. Activity                                       | 42. Coding error                        |
| 5. Additivity (SDMX)                              | 43. Coefficient of variation            |
| 6. Adjustments to data (adjustment methods)       | 44. Coherence                           |
| 7. Administered item                              | 45. Comments                            |
| 8. Administration record                          | 46. Comparability                       |
| 9. Administrative data                            | 47. Compilation practices               |
| 10. Administrative source                         | 48. Completeness                        |
| 11. Administrative status                         | 49. Computation of lowest level indices |
| 12. Aggregation/disaggregation                    | 50. Computer-Assisted Interviewing, CAI |
| 13. Analytical framework                          | 51. Concept                             |
| 14. Annualised data                               | 52. Conceptual data model               |
| 15. Area sampling                                 | 53. Conceptual domain                   |
| 16. Attribute                                     | 54. Confidential data - SDMX            |
| 17. Attribute instance                            | 55. Confidentiality, data               |
| 18. Attribute value                               | 56. Consistency (quality)               |
| 19. Base period                                   | 57. Contact                             |
| 20. Base weight                                   | 58. Context                             |
| 21. Basic attributes                              | 59. Continuity                          |
| 22. Basic data, Nature of the                     | 60. Co-ordination of samples            |
| 23. Basic statistical data                        | 61. Country identifier                  |
| 24. Benchmark                                     | 62. Coverage                            |
| 25. Benchmarking                                  | 63. Coverage errors                     |
| 26. Bias  | 64. Coverage ratio                      |
| 27. Census  | 65. Cut-off survey                      |
| 28. Certified data element                        | 66. Cut-off Threshold                   |
| 29. Chained index weighting                       | 67. Data                                |
| 30. Changes in classifications and structure Sdmx | 68. Data analysis                       |
| 31. Characteristic                                | 69. Data capture                        |
| 32. Clarity                                       | 70. Data checking                       |
| 33. Class (ISO)                                   | 71. Data collection                     |
| 34. Classification                                | 72. Data collection, administrative     |
| 35. Classification scheme                         | 73. Data collection, survey             |
| 36. Classification scheme item                    | 74. Data confrontation                  |
| 37. Classification unit                           | 75. Data dictionary                     |
| 38. Classification, standard                      | 76. Data dissemination                  |
|   | 77. Data Dissemination Standards, IMF   |
|   | 78. Data editing                        |

- 79. Data editing, graphical
- 80. Data element
- 81. Data element concept
- 82. Data element dictionary
- 83. Data element facet
- 84. Data element name
- 85. Data element registry
- 86. Data element value
- 87. Data element, derived
- 88. Data exchange
- 89. Data identifier
- 90. Data interchange
- 91. Data item
- 92. Data model
- 93. Data processing
- 94. Data reconciliation
- 95. Data set
- 96. Data source
- 97. Data source, types of
- 98. Data steward
- 99. Data value
- 100. Datatype
- 101. Datatype of data element values
- 102. Date
- 103. Date of last change
- 104. Definition
- 105. Definition, Structural  
(GESMES/TS)
- 106. Delineation
- 107. Derived statistics
- 108. Dimension (dimensionality)
- 109. Disaggregation
- 110. Disclosure analysis
- 111. Dissemination, data
- 112. Documentation
- 113. Domain - ISO
- 114. Domain - Quality
- 115. Domain of study, statistical
- 116. EDIFACT
- 117. Editing
- 118. Electronic data interchange (EDI )
- 119. Entity
- 120. Error - in Survey
- 121. Error - Quality
- 122. Error, statistical
- 123. Estimate
- 124. Estimation
- 125. Estimator
- 126. Expected value
- 127. Flag
- 128. Flow series/data
- 129. Follow-up
- 130. Footnote
- 131. Form of representation
- 132. Frame
- 133. Frame error
- 134. Gateway
- 135. General Data Dissemination  
System (GDDS)
- 136. GESMES
- 137. GESMES/CB
- 138. GESMES/TS
- 139. Glossary
- 140. Growth over previous period
- 141. Growth rates, annual
- 142. Growth rates, annualised
- 143. Hierarchy
- 144. Identifier
- 145. Imputation
- 146. Index number
- 147. Indicator, statistical
- 148. Industry (activity)
- 149. Information
- 150. Information system
- 151. Inlier
- 152. Institutional framework
- 153. Integrity
- 154. Internal access
- 155. International registration data  
identifier (IRDI)
- 156. Interpolation
- 157. Interviewer error
- 158. IRDI
- 159. Item response rate
- 160. Key family
- 161. key structure
- 162. Keyword
- 163. Language
- 164. Levels of data
- 165. Lexical
- 166. Longitudinal data
- 167. Macrodata, statistical

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|------|-------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|
| 168. | Macro-editing                       | 213. | Over-coverage                        |
| 169. | Maximum size of data element values | 214. | Period                               |
| 170. | Mean-square error                   | 215. | Periodicity                          |
| 171. | Measurement error                   | 216. | Permissible data element values      |
| 172. | Metadata - ISO                      | 217. | Permissible value                    |
| 173. | Metadata dimension (SDDS)           | 218. | Population, statistical              |
| 174. | Metadata item                       | 219. | Prices, types of                     |
| 175. | Metadata layer                      | 220. | Primary source                       |
| 176. | Metadata object                     | 221. | Primary source (of statistical data) |
| 177. | Metadata registry                   | 222. | Probability sample                   |
| 178. | Metadata set                        | 223. | Processing error                     |
| 179. | Metadata system, statistical        | 224. | Property                             |
| 180. | Metadata, statistical               | 225. | Provider load                        |
| 181. | Metainformation system, statistical | 226. | Publicly disclosed                   |
| 182. | Metainformation, statistical        | 227. | Punctuality                          |
| 183. | Metamodel                           | 228. | Qualifier                            |
| 184. | Methodological soundness            | 229. | Qualifier term                       |
| 185. | Methodology                         | 230. | Qualitative data                     |
| 186. | Methodology, statistical            | 231. | Quality - Eurostat                   |
| 187. | Microdata, statistical              | 232. | Quality - IMF                        |
| 188. | Micro-editing                       | 233. | Quality - ISO                        |
| 189. | Ministerial commentary              | 234. | Quality - OECD                       |
| 190. | Misclassification                   | 235. | Quality control survey               |
| 191. | Model assumption error              | 236. | Quality differences                  |
| 192. | Name                                | 237. | Quality index                        |
| 193. | Nomenclature                        | 238. | Quality of life - UN                 |
| 194. | Non-probability sample              | 239. | Quality, prerequisites of            |
| 195. | Non-response                        | 240. | Quantitative data                    |
| 196. | Non-response bias                   | 241. | Questionnaire                        |
| 197. | Non-response error                  | 242. | Questionnaire design                 |
| 198. | Non-response rate                   | 243. | Ratio estimation                     |
| 199. | Non-sampling error                  | 244. | Record check                         |
| 200. | Not seasonally adjusted             | 245. | Recorded data element                |
| 201. | Number raised estimation            | 246. | Recording of transactions            |
| 202. | Object                              | 247. | Record-keeping error                 |
| 203. | Object class                        | 248. | Reference document                   |
| 204. | Object class term                   | 249. | Reference period                     |
| 205. | Objectives                          | 250. | Reference time                       |
| 206. | Observation                         | 251. | Refusal rate                         |
| 207. | Observation unit                    | 252. | Register                             |
| 208. | Organization                        | 253. | Registration                         |
| 209. | Organization identifier             | 254. | Registration applicant               |
| 210. | Organization, responsible           | 255. | Registration authority               |
| 211. | Outliers                            | 256. | Registration authority identifier    |
| 212. | Out-of-scope units                  | 257. | Registration status                  |
|      |                                     | 258. | Registry item                        |

- 259. Registry metamode
- 260. Registry metamodel
- 261. Related data reference
- 262. Related metadata reference
- 263. Release calendar
- 264. Release calendar, advance dissemination of
- 265. Relevance
- 266. Reliability (quality)
- 267. Reporting unit
- 268. Representation
- 269. Representation category
- 270. Representation term
- 271. Response errors
- 272. Response rate, item
- 273. Revision policy
- 274. Reweighting
- 275. Sample
- 276. Sample design
- 277. Sample size
- 278. Sample survey
- 279. Sampling
- 280. Sampling error
- 281. Sampling fraction
- 282. Sampling frame
- 283. Sampling techniques
- 284. Sampling unit
- 285. Scope
- 286. Seasonal adjustment
- 287. Secondary sources (of statistical data)
- 288. Sector, institutional
- 289. Security, data
- 290. Semantics
- 291. Separator
- 292. Serviceability
- 293. Shareable data
- 294. sibling group
- 295. Simultaneous release
- 296. Source
- 297. Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
- 298. Special language
- 299. Standard error
- 300. Standard error, relative
- 301. Standardised data element
- 302. Standards, international statistical
- 303. Statistical characteristics
- 304. Statistical concept
- 305. Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX)
- 306. Statistical measure
- 307. Statistical message
- 308. Statistical metadata - UN
- 309. Statistical metadata repository
- 310. Statistical production
- 311. Statistical standard
- 312. Stewardship (of metadata)
- 313. Stock series/data
- 314. Stratification
- 315. Structural metadata
- 316. Structure set
- 317. Study Domain
- 318. Subject field
- 319. Submitting organization
- 320. Survey
- 321. Survey design
- 322. Synonymous name
- 323. Syntax
- 324. Target characteristics
- 325. Target population
- 326. Taxonomy
- 327. Term - ISO
- 328. Term - UN
- 329. Terminology
- 330. Thesaurus
- 331. Time of recording (accounting basis)
- 332. Time of recording (date)
- 333. Time series
- 334. Time series breaks
- 335. Timeliness
- 336. Trend
- 337. Trend estimates
- 338. True value
- 339. Type of relationship
- 340. Under-coverage
- 341. Unit non-response
- 342. Unit of measure
- 343. Unit of measure precision
- 344. Unit response rate
- 345. Unit value

- 346. Unit value index
- 347. Unit, analytical
- 348. Unit, institutional
- 349. Unit, statistical
- 350. User needs (for statistics)
- 351. User satisfaction survey
- 352. Validation
- 353. Valuation
- 354. Value - ISO
- 355. Value domain
- 356. Value meaning
- 357. Variable
- 358. Variance
- 359. Variance estimation
- 360. Verification
- 361. Version
- 362. Version identifier
- 363. Weight
- 364. Year-to-date data

## **SDMX Metadata Common Vocabulary Draft (24 July 2003)**

### **Accessibility**

- Def:** 1. Accessibility refers to the physical conditions in which users can access statistics (Eurostat).  
2. Accessibility refers to the availability of statistical information to the user (IMF).

**Src:** Eurostat, "Quality Glossary". International Monetary Found (IMF), "Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) Glossary"

### **Hyperlinks:**

**Context:** Accessibility reflects the availability of information from the holdings of the agency, also taking into account the suitability of the form in which the information is available, the media of dissemination, the availability of metadata, and whether the user has reasonable opportunity to know it is available and how to access it. The affordability of that information to users in relation to its value to them is also an aspect of this characteristic (Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 3rd edition, October 1998, page 5).

The fourth component in the Eurostat Definition of quality is "accessibility and clarity".

### **Domain:**

A3 - Reference data bases - Estat Unit A3  
Statistical Terminology

### **Related term:**

Clarity  
Quality - Eurostat  
Quality - IMF  
Integrity  
Simultaneous release

### **Accounting conventions**

**Def:** Accounting conventions refer to a broad range of processes and standards employed in calculating statistical aggregates. The conventions include types of valuation, prices, conversion rates, accounting basis, units of measurement used in data collection, etc. Accounting conventions also refers to reference period and frequency, timing of price observation and time of recording.

**Src:** SDMX

### **Hyperlinks:**

**Context:** In the context of the IMF's SDDS (Special Data Dissemination Standards), "accounting conventions" is one of the dimensions in the Summary methodology. Accounting conventions is a term that captures the practical aspects of processing data from diverse sources under a common methodological framework, e.g., cash/accrual accounting basis.

**Domain:**

Statistical Terminology

**Related term:**

Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

Time of recording (accounting basis)

Recording of transactions

Valuation

Time of recording (date)

**Accuracy**

**Def:** Accuracy is the closeness between the value finally retained (after collection, editing, imputation, estimation, etc) and the true, but unknown, population value (Eurostat).

Accuracy refers to the closeness between the estimated value and the (unknown) true value that the statistics were intended to measure (IMF).

The second quality component in the Eurostat Definition.

**Src:** Eurostat, "Quality Glossary". International Monetary Found (IMF), "Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) Glossary"

**Hyperlinks:**

**Context:** Accuracy of data or statistical information is the degree to which those data correctly estimate or describe the quantities or characteristics that the statistical activity was designed to measure. Accuracy has many attributes, and in practical terms there is no single aggregate or overall measure of it. Of necessity these attributes are typically measured or described in terms of error, or the potential significance of error, introduced through individual major sources of error, e.g. coverage, sampling, non-response, response, processing and dissemination (Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 3rd edition, October 1998, page 4).

The third element of the IMF definition of quality is "accuracy and reliability".

**Domain:**

Statistical Terminology

**Related term:**

Quality - Eurostat

Quality - IMF

Error, statistical

Reliability (quality)