STATISTICS

IMF Perspective on Global Initiative for Unique Business Identifiers

JANUARY 18, 2024

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Outline:

- Overview of IMF Statistics Capacity Development

- Some examples where a Global Business Identifiers can benefit National Statistics Systems

  - National Accounts Benchmark Updates

  - High Frequency Indicators

  - Addressing Data Gaps

IMF Statistics Capacity Development: What and How

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

TRAINING

HOW DO WE DELIVER?

Country focused work
456 technical assistance missions to 130 countries in FY23.

(581 technical assistance missions planned for FY24)

Timely interventions
Short ad hoc support provided to 57 countries in FY23 to address immediate operational needs.

Multi-country support
116 regional training events in FY23.

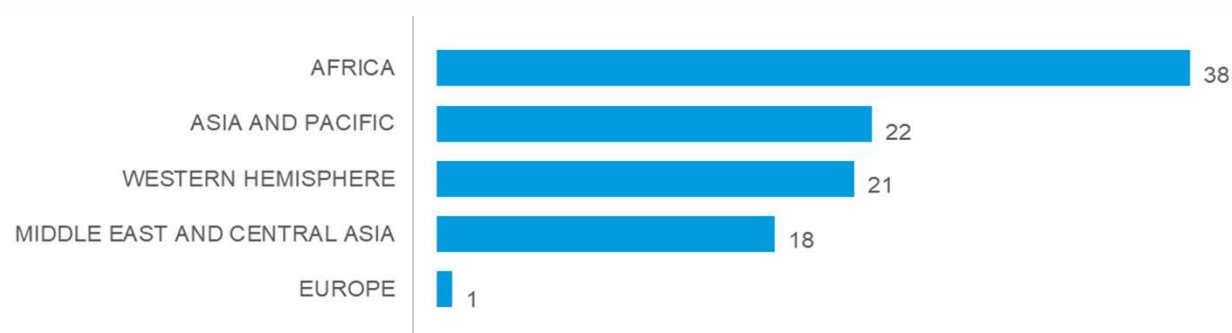*(147 regional training missions planned for FY24)*

Online Learning
Over 11,000 participants attended IMF online courses on macroeconomic statistics since 2019.
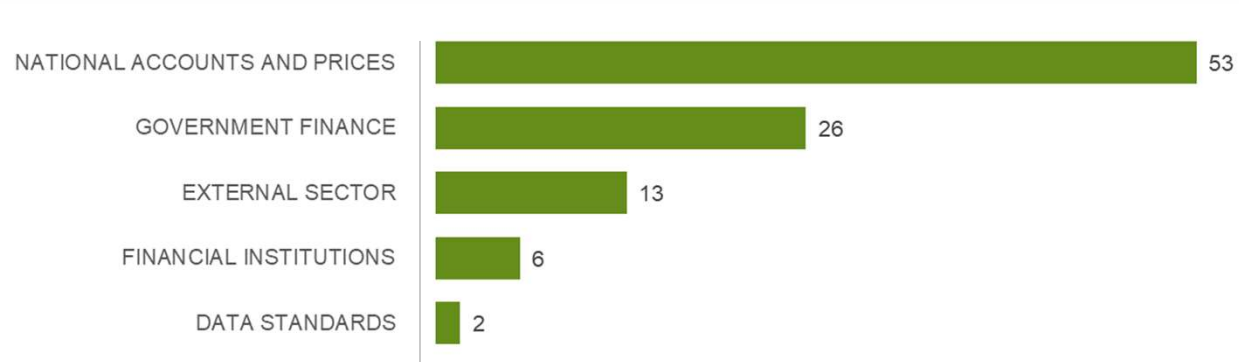
TA Delivery: Beneficiary Regions and Core Areas

In FY23, **456** technical assistance missions were delivered

TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE
DELIVERY BY

REGION

FY 2023
(percentage of total)

AFRICA	38
ASIA AND PACIFIC	22
WESTERN HEMISPHERE	21
MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA	18
EUROPE	1

TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE
DELIVERY BY

CORE AREAS

FY 2023
(percentage of total)

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND PRICES	53
GOVERNMENT FINANCE	26
EXTERNAL SECTOR	13
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	6
DATA STANDARDS	2

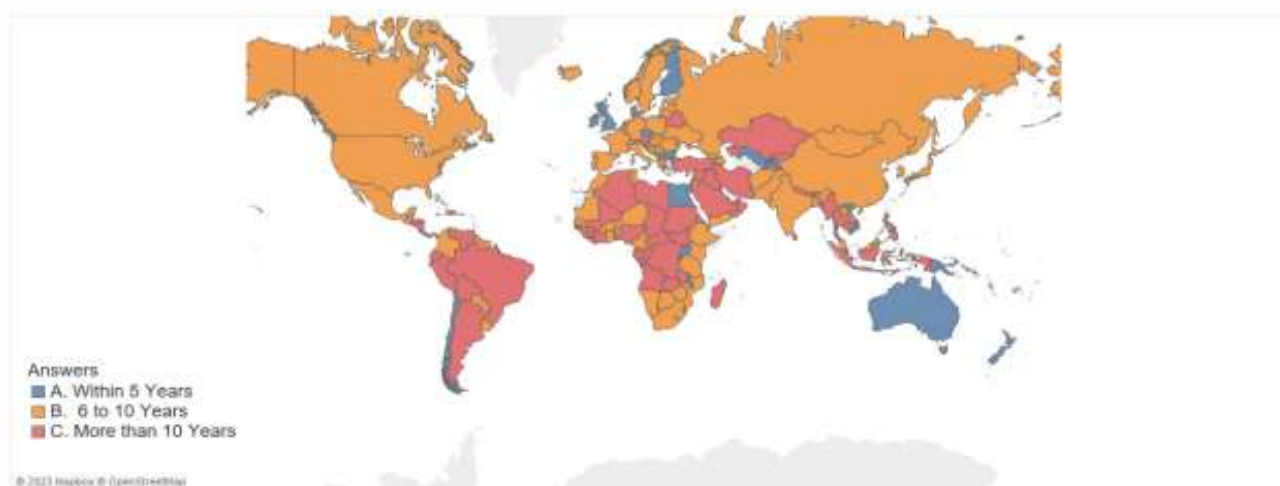# IMF Survey on National Accounts Compilation Practices

As of end 2021, the benchmark reference year for national accounts was more than 10 years old in a plurality of emerging and developing economies

Key reason is the lack of basic business and household source data surveys – such as an establishment/enterprise census or household expenditure survey

Table 2. Time Lag of National Account Benchmarks

	2018			2021		
	Within 5 Years	6 to 10 Years	More than 10 Years	Within 5 Years	6 to 10 Years	More than 10 Years
World	**4**	**88**	**97**	**25**	**88**	**76**
Advanced Economies	1	34	2	8	23	6
Emerging and Developing Economies	3	54	95	17	65	70
MENA, Afghanistan, and Pakistan	1	8	13	2	8	12
Emerging and Developing Europe	1	9	2	2	8	2
Sub-Saharan Africa	1	15	29	3	20	22
Latin America and the Caribbean	0	4	28	6	11	15
Commonwealth of Independent States	0	6	5	2	6	3
Emerging and Developing Asia	0	12	18	2	12	16

Source: 2018 and 2021 - IMF staff based on the Annual Global Survey on the SNA Statistical Programs.

Answers
- A. Within 5 Years
- B. 6 to 10 Years
- C. More than 10 Years

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Source Data to Improve Macroeconomic Statistics

We support countries with improving source data for national accounts, price statistics, balance of payments statistics and government finance statistics when requested:

- Processing and coding administrative data
- Establishing and maintaining statistical business registers
- Collecting and processing business surveys or Economic Census
- Developing memorandums of understanding to ensure NSO access to administrative data

- Support has been provided to Malawi, eSwatini, and Zambia in recent years

Source Data to Improve National Accounts

✓ With survey response declining and resources for data collection declining, administrative data sources are often the first and preferred data source when available

✓ NSOs that can access business registration records and link them to other data sources such as tax records have an advantage in compiling and updating the data needed for national accounts

✓ Adopting unique business identifiers key to unlocking the potential of these data

High Frequency Indicators

✓ Another focus area of recent IMF Statistics TA is development of high-frequency indicators, particularly monthly indicators of economic growth

✓ Support has been provided to Maldives, Uganda, Togo, and Mauritania in last year

Economic growth is one indicator of an economy's health; however…

… in many cases, economic growth estimates are available only annually or quarterly, with significant **lags**;

… economic monitoring and policy decision making are carried out **more frequently** than quarterly.

To overcome this need, the international community has developed a series of **higher-frequency, timely estimates of economic activity.**

Unique IDs allow these records to be linked – making it possible to create monthly indicator

National Statistical Office

- **Short-term surveys by economic activity**
  - ✓ Industrial production
  - ✓ Sales/Turnover
  - ✓ Retail trade
  - ✓ Labor force

- **… and on prices**
  - ✓ Consumer prices
  - ✓ Production prices
  - ✓ Agricultural prices
 - ✓ Export and import prices (or unit value indices)

Administrative data

- **Regulatory data**
  - ✓ Agriculture commodity prices
  - ✓ Forestry permits
  - ✓ Fish catch
  - ✓ Mining production
  - ✓ Building permits
  - ✓ Vehicle registration
  - ✓ Tourist arrivals

- **Customs and tax data**
  - ✓ Formal exports and imports
  - ✓ VAT data (turnover/inputs)
  - ✓ Excise, turnover, VAT taxes
  - ✓ Import duties

- **Social security system**
  - ✓ Wages/salaries
  - ✓ Contributions

Other data sources

- **Government**
  - ✓ Budget data (revenues/ expenditures)

- **Central Bank**
  - ✓ Financial intermediation
  - ✓ Insurance

- **Large corporations or business associations**
  - ✓ Oil
  - ✓ Electricity
 - ✓ Communication
  - ✓ Transportation

Addressing Data Gaps – A fundamental change in the way we produce official statistics

The process of the 1980s, 1990s, 2000s

| Question | Design | Collect | Analyze | Answer |
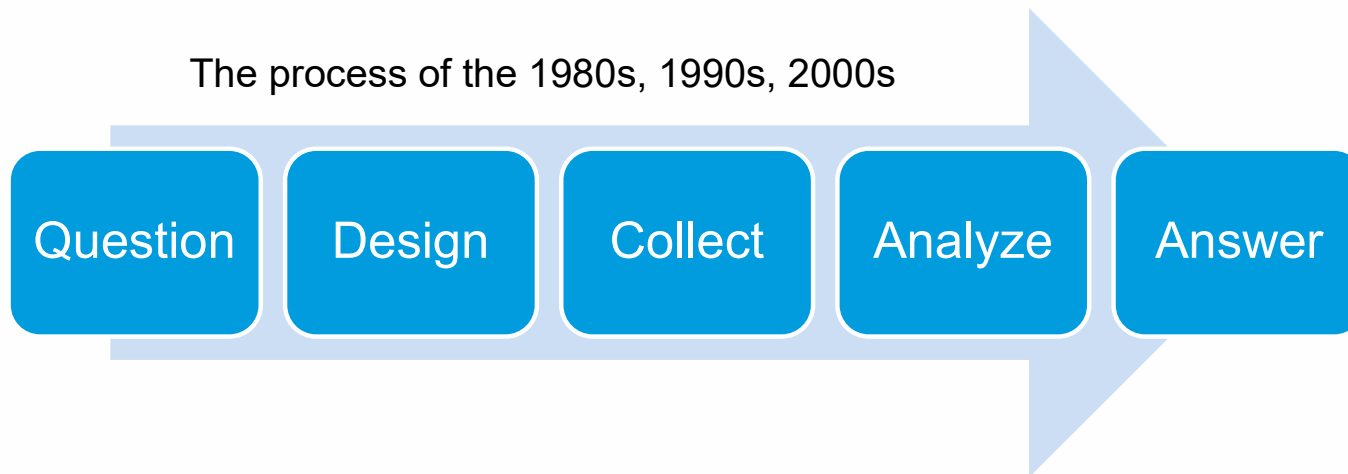
✓ The statistical process of the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s was very linear.

✓ Statisticians would meticulously design the process (e.g. determine sample sizes, develop questionnaires, set up robust collection systems).

✓ Data would be collected (often supported by legal frameworks that compelled response) and analyzed. Conclusions would be drawn. Record linkage was not really required because everything that was needed was collected using a single instrument.

Addressing Data Gaps – We need to learn to work differently.

✓ The statistical process is no longer linear – it is iterative.

✓ The process often starts with the data and data analysis in order to determine the question(s) that can be posed.

✓ The design is constrained to the variables acquired.

✓ Techniques such as **record linkage**, **automatic coding** take on an increased importance.

Data → Analyze → Question → Design → Analyze → Answer → Data
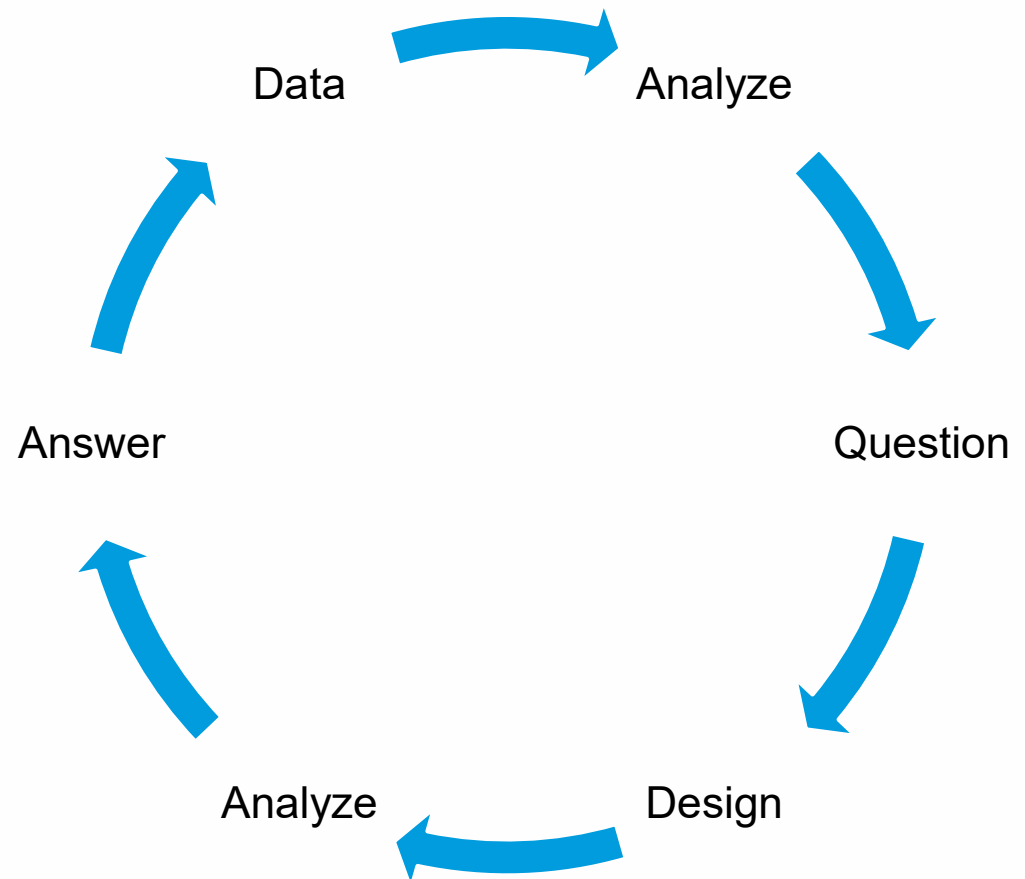
Addressing Data Gaps – G20 Data Gaps Initiative

Two recommendations focus on data access (13) and data sharing (14)

Key objectives including:

✓ Improving access by national statistical systems to private sector and administrative data.

✓ Develop secure, efficient, privacy protecting data sharing mechanisms for sharing information.

Data Owner

Data Access Tools

Statistics Producer
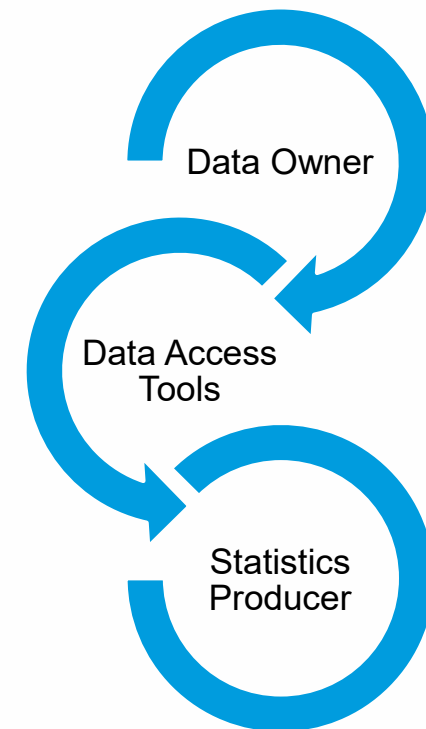
Addressing Data Gaps – G20 Data Gaps Initiative

Most of the private sector and administrative datasets only contain "one dimension of information" – e.g. tax revenue, social security payments, education attainment.

Most research questions are 'multi-dimensional' – e.g What impact do environmental subsidies have on firm emissions?

To maximize the use of the private sector and administrative data, one of the tools that needs to be developed are record linkage tools.

A unique global business identifier would greatly enhance this work.

Subsidies   Emissions

Employment   International Trade

What impact do environmental subsidies have on firm level emissions, employment and international trade in goods and services?