



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Statistics Division

**Assessment of the capacity of Bangladesh Statistical
System to produce the core set of economic statistics**

July 2011

DRAFT REPORT

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Foreword

The assessment of the capacity of Bangladesh to produce the core set of economic statistics was a joint effort by the ESCAP Statistics Division and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). The assessment was conducted under the leadership of Ms Fu, Chief of the ESCAP Statistics Division, Ms Riti Ibrahim, Secretary, Statistics Division, Ministry of Planning and Md. Shahjahan Ali Mollah, Director General, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

ESCAP Statistic Division and BBS are grateful to all the staff interviewed during the assessment mission from 7 to 10 January 2011 for their openness and support; this included staff from:

- National Accounting Wing, BBS
- Agriculture Wing, BBS
- Industry & Labour Wing, BBS
- Statistics Department of the Bangladesh Bank
- Finance Division, Ministry of Finance

We also thank all the participants to the National consultative meeting on the status of core economic statistics in Bangladesh, 11 January 2011 for their contribution to the assessment.

Ms Margarita Guerrero, Regional Adviser on Statistics and Mr Artur Andrysiak, Statistician, from ESCAP; and Ziauddin Ahmed, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, were responsible for organising the assessment and generating this report.

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List of abbreviations and acronyms

A - Annual
ADB - Asian Development Bank
BB - Bangladesh Bank (Central Bank of Bangladesh)
BBS - Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BOP - Balance of payments
BPM - Balance of Payments Manual
BSS - Bangladesh Statistical System
CIF - Cost, Insurance and Freight
COICOP - Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose
CPI - Consumer price index
ESCAP - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FOB - Free On Board
GDDS - General Data Dissemination System
GDI - Gross Domestic Income
GDP - Gross Domestic Product
GDP(E) – GDP expenditure
GDP(I) – GDP income
GDP(P) - GDP production
GFS - Government Finance Statistics
GNI- Gross national income
GNP - Gross National Product
HIES - Household Income and Expenditure Survey
ICLS - International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ICP - International Comparison Program
IIP - International Investment Position
ILO - International Labour Organization
IMF - International Monetary Fund
M - Monthly
MOA - Bangladesh Ministry of Agriculture
MOF – Bangladesh Ministry of Finance
NBR - National Board of Revenues
OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPI - Producer price index
PPPs - Purchasing power parities
Q - Quarterly
ROSC - Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes
SDDS - Special Data Dissemination Standard
SIAP - Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SNA - System of National Accounts
STI - Short term indicators/statistics
UN - United Nations
W - Weekly

Executive summary

1. The assessment of the capacity of Bangladesh to produce the core set of economic statistics¹ was conducted to ensure relevance and guide identification of priorities for the ESCAP regional programme on economic statistics and as a tool for Bangladesh for furthering the national strategy on economic statistics. The assessment aimed to cover all aspects of Bangladesh Statistical System (BSS) involved in the production of the core set of economic statistics; including collection and processing of data; compilation, analysis and dissemination of core set of economic statistics; statistical infrastructure (classifications, standards, frameworks, registers, IT infrastructure); human resources; and relationships between data providers and producers. The assessment identified constraints limiting the capacity of BSS to produce the core set of economic statistics and needs for capacity development.
2. The development of this assessment consisted of 4 components: pre-mission analysis; in-country interviews; national consultative meeting; and research and reporting. The assessment focused on the three main parts of the BSS including: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Bangladesh Bank (BB), and Bangladesh Ministry of Finance (MOF). The interviews were conducted on January 7-10, 2011 and the national consultative meeting was on 11 January 2011.
3. The assessment found that the BSS is currently able to produce 30 out of 32 of the statistics within the core set with the majority (20) meeting the core set recommendations on frequency. The assessment further found that although the BSS has the basic capacity to produce most of the statistics within the core set, it has limited capacity to produce many of these statistics in accordance with relevant international standards and good practices.
4. The assessment found that the capacity of BSS to produce the core set of economic statistics was constrained by statistical mandate, financial and human resources including access to training, data sources, business registers, statistical information systems, quality assurance frameworks and data editing techniques, as follows:
 - The current legal mandate of the BBS is limited and does not comprehensively and clearly specify the role of the BBS including its role in the coordination of statistical activities in the country, limiting its ability to fully fulfil its function.
 - The current limited financial and staff resources place a constraint on the BBS and in particular the BBS by limiting its capacity to collect survey data on sub-annual basis in a timely manner, compile economic statistics with recommended frequency and in accordance with latest international standards and good practices.

¹ E/ESCAP/CST(2)/4 “Proposed core set of economic statistics”, available at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-4E.pdf>.

- The current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff and results in significant number of unfilled positions further limiting the capacity of BSS to fulfil its function.
- The limited training opportunities at the national level, limit the ability of BSS to effectively and efficiently develop the statistical skills of its new staff as well as improve the skills of existing staff.
- The lack of necessary survey data an in particular sub-annual data and limited access to administrative data affect the frequency and quality of economic statistics.
- The BBS business register is in the early stages of development and at present is not sufficient to be used for all economic surveys.
- The BSS statistical information systems (and in particular those of BBS) are in need of modernization as the existing systems inhibit transfer of data and efficient compilation and dissemination of statistics.
- The lack of use of quality assurance framework and modern data editing techniques affects the quality and timeliness of statistics.

5. Bangladesh is currently in the process of strengthening its national statistical system to ensure that it has the capacity to produce the necessary statistics including economic statistics. A number of ongoing and planed initiatives aimed at improving the national statistical system will address some of the constraints identified in the assessment.

6. Although the BSS has a plan for addressing some of the constraints identified above, it could benefit substantially from the activities planned under the Regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific². The Regional Programme has a number of components, including components aimed at improving human resources, business registers, quality assessment frameworks, metadata repositories and other through capacity building activities, technical assistance and facilitating sharing of knowledge. The regional programme could assist the BSS in overcoming the existing constraints and would complement ongoing and planed national activities.

² E/ESCAP/CST(2)/5 “Proposed regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific”, available at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-5E.pdf>.

I. Background

7. Many developing countries in the region lack the capacity to produce and disseminate relevant economic statistics for short and long-term economic analysis and decision-making by government and non-governmental agencies and organizations. The recent global financial and economic crises further highlighted the importance of timely, reliable, and comparable economic statistics for monitoring financial and economic changes. Recognizing that economic statistics are fundamental for managing economic development and that there is an urgent need to improve economic statistics in the Asia-Pacific region, the Committee on Statistics³ at its second session in December 2010 made a number of strategic decisions⁴.

8. The Committee endorsed a core set of economic statistics⁵ as a guideline for developing the capacity of national statistical systems. The Committee recommended that the core set be used as a framework to focus regional efforts, coordinate training and mobilize donor support for capacity-building.

9. The Committee also endorsed a proposed regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific⁶. The programme will serve as a roadmap until 2020 for the region to address the constraints related to producing the core set of economic statistics. The programme will facilitate the provision of technical assistance and advice in critical technical areas and will serve as an advocacy platform for national statistical systems to make a strong case for improving the fundamentals of economic statistics. The Committee encouraged ESCAP member States and development partners to actively support its implementation.

10. ESCAP is developing a detailed implementation plan for the regional programme in close consultation with member states and development partners. The implementation plan will be based, among others, on the results of a 2009 region-wide assessment⁷ of the capacity of member States to produce basic economic statistics and detailed country assessments. Detailed country assessments of national statistical systems in the region (including the Bangladesh assessment) will serve as additional input for better understanding the statistical process and the specific obstacles that countries are facing with respect to the core set.

³ More information about the Committee on Statistics is available at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/index.asp>

⁴ Decisions of the Committee are contained in the report of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics on its second session, which is available at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/index.asp>.

⁵ E/ESCAP/CST(2)/4 “Proposed core set of economic statistics”, available at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-4E.pdf>.

⁶ E/ESCAP/CST(2)/5 “Proposed regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific”, available at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-5E.pdf>.

⁷ E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/9 “Report on the ESCAP region-wide assessment of the capacity of national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific to produce basic economic statistics”, available at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-INF9.pdf>.

II. Objective of the assessment

11. The objective of the assessment is to assess the capacity of Bangladesh to produce the core set of economic statistics.

12. The assessment of BSS will provide the ESCAP Secretariat, the ESCAP Committee on Statistics (and its Bureau), the ESCAP Steering Group on Economic Statistics, and other international and regional partners with input for the further development of the implementation plan for the regional programme on economic statistics.

13. The assessment will further the Bangladesh national strategy for economic statistics, by helping to focus capacity building assistance which is coordinated across international organizations to meet specific gaps in the compilation of the core set.

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III. Methodology

A. Scope

14. The assessment aimed to cover all aspects of Bangladesh Statistical System (BSS) involved in the collection and processing of data for, and compilation, analysis and dissemination of the core set of economic statistics.

15. In practice and due to time constraints, the assessment focused on the three main parts of the BSS including:

- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)
- Bangladesh Bank (BB)
- Bangladesh Ministry of Finance (MOF)

16. The assessment looked at all stages of production of the core set from main data providers to those responsible for compilation and dissemination of the economic statistics within the core set; users of economic statistics; and statistics development partners. The assessment also looked at human resources and the relevant statistical infrastructure including: classifications, standards, frameworks and registers.

B. Structure

17. The Bangladesh assessment consisted of four components:

1) Pre-mission assessment

18. Prior to the in-country interviews BBS validated and send back to ESCAP an assessment questionnaire which was pre-completed using the results of the 2009 *ESCAP region-wide assessment of the capacity of national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific to produce basic economic statistics*⁸. The assessment questionnaire provided an overview of BSS and basic information about key economic statistics, sources and infrastructures.

2) In-country interviews

19. The in-country interviews were conducted during the period 7 to 10 January 2010. Using the results of the pre-mission assessment and working closely with the national statisticians, ESCAP conducted a detailed study of the capacity of the BSS to produce the core set of economic statistics, including assessment of:

⁸ More information available from document E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/9 at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-INF9.pdf>

- Current availability of the core set of economic statistics;
- Availability of data sources and relationships with data providers;
- Current collection, compilation and dissemination practices;
- Capacity of the staff to produce the core set of economic statistics and training needs;
- State of infrastructure and the needs required to produce the core set of economic statistics.

20. The in-country interviews focused on the following key components of the BSS:

- Overview of the BSS
- National Accounting Wing, BBS
- Agriculture Wing, BBS
- Industry & Labour Wing, BBS
- Director General, BBS
- Secretary, Statistics Division, Ministry of Planning
- Statistics Department of the Bangladesh Bank
- Finance Division, Ministry of Finance

3) National consultative meeting on the capacity of BSS to collect data, compile and disseminate the core economic statistics:

21. The meeting was organised by the BBS on 11 January 2011, following the in-country interviews. The meeting was attended by representatives of units/organizations involved in the various stages of the production of the core set from main data providers to those responsible for compilation and dissemination of the economic statistics within the core set. The meeting was also attended by the main users of economic statistics. These participants included representatives of (in alphabetical order):

- Agriculture, Resources & Environment Department
- Bangladesh Bank
- Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
- Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
- Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation
- Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- Forest Department
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Planning
- National Board of Revenue

22. The meeting provided key inputs for a strategy (set of recommendations) for the improvement of the BSS capacity to produce the core set that considers perspectives of

both producers and users of basic economic statistics. During the meeting the participants:

- Discussed the preliminary results of the in-country interviews;
- Identified the main issues and constraints faced by the BSS in producing the core set from the data providers' and users' perspective;
- Agreed on key priorities, commitments and recommendations on a strategy to be supported by BSS stakeholders in improving core economic statistics.

4) Review of statistical publications, websites and other relevant information

23. The review of BSS statistical publications, websites, and other relevant information was conducted after the completion of the in-country assessment. The main objective of this review was to obtain a more complete/detailed information about the current availability of economic statistics, and BSS methods and practices. The review covered the following:

- Selected BSS statistical publications (see References for the complete list);
Websites of BBS, BB, MOF, Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and other relevant organizations.

C. Information used

24. The principal sources of information for the report were the four key components of the assessment listed in the previous section. Additional information was obtained through websites and publications of BBS, BB and MOF. Furthermore past assessments conducted by other organizations such as (IMF's "Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes: Bangladesh", December 2005, IMF Country Report No. 05/425) and information available from other international organizations were also used.

D. Limitations of the assessment

25. A fully, comprehensive understanding of the BSS would require more than four days of interviews, a national consultative meeting and a review of available published documents. The in-country interviews focused mostly on the BBS, with a very limited amount of time dedicated to BB and MOF. Likewise the pre-mission assessment was principally focused on the BBS. Additionally, none of the Upazilla/Thana offices were interviewed. Thus the assessment is limited both in scope and detail and only focuses on the main aspects of the BSS.

IV. Assessment findings – Capacity of the BSS to produce the core set of economic statistics

26. This section describes the BSS with respect to the core set of economic statistics. An overview of the statistical system is provided in Annex I, the national priority economic statistics are presented in Annex II, while the improvements planned by the BSS are presented in Annex III. The core set of economic statistics as approved by the Committee on Statistics is presented in Annex IV.

27. The BSS compiles most of the economic statistics within the core set, however very few short-term (quarterly or monthly) indicators are currently produced. Below is an assessment of the capacity of BSS to produce each of the statistics within the core set of economic statistics

A. Prices and costs

28. The BSS has the capacity to produce all the prices and costs statistics recommended by the core set, however it appears that it has limited capacity to produce many of these statistics at the recommended frequency and in accordance with current international standards and good practices.

29. A detailed assessment of prices statistics is provided below.

1. Consumer price index

Responsible agency: National Accounts Wing of BBS		
Frequency: M	Recommended frequency: Q	Meets recommended frequency: Y
Timeliness: 10 days after the reference period		
Statistics available:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National, all urban and all rural • Eight commodity groups (1. food, beverage and tobacco; 2. clothing and footwear; 3. rent, fuel, and lighting; 4. furniture, furnishings, household equipment, and operation; 5. medical care and health expenses; 6. transport and communications; 7. recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services; and 8. miscellaneous goods and services) 		
Methodological notes⁹:		
<i>Scope</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national CPI is calculated by combining the urban and rural indices using as weights the country-wide urban and rural household expenditure multiplied by the total number of urban/rural households as available from population census data 		
<i>Compliance</i>		

⁹ Source: IMF's GDDS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laspeyres index compiled in accordance with the <i>Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice (ILO, 2004)</i> <p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collected from a total of 143 outlays of which 64 from rural and 79 from urban outlays The base year is 1995-96 and the basket and weights were determined on the basis of the 1995-96 Household Income and Expenditure Survey, which covered a sample of 7420 households Published on-line and in paper publications in English. 	
<p>Quality issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacking component indexes covering major expenditure groups. The number of prices collected appears to be limited, as is the detail that is being published Compiled using baskets of goods/weights which have been determined over 15 years ago. The basket/weights do not reflect the current realities (including consumption patterns), providing a misleading picture No regional CPI statistics are published The classification used is not harmonized with COICOP (Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose) 	
<p>Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:</p>	
<p>Human resource skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of mid and long-term statistical training – only on job training currently available Limited training opportunities for staff at Upazilla/Thana offices – most staff lack basic statistical training Significant number of vacancies especially at the Upazilla/Thana offices – the current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff 	<p>Statistical infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weights and basket of goods are outdated and do not reflect current realities and consumption patterns Number of prices collected appears to be limited Classification not harmonized with COICOP Computer system in need of modernization (Excel used for compilation, data sometimes transmitted on paper)
<p>Methodological transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The available GDDS metadata appears to be outdated A release calendar is not available to public 	<p>Statistical advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy efforts so far have not secured financial and staff resources needed to update the base year and make other necessary improvements
<p>Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The basket and weights are updated using the 2005/06 HIES and the base year will be shifted from 95-96 to 2005-06 within very short time. Staff numbers to increase across the organization and double at the Upazilla/Thana offices BBS has plans to modernize the statistical systems 	
<p>Overall assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BBS has the basic capacity to produce the CPI statistics on regular basis and in a timely manner. However BBS appears to have limited capacity to make the necessary improvements to the CPI to ensure that these statistics provide the necessary information for the decision-makers. 	

2. *Producer price index/Commodity price index*

Responsible agency: See information in the brackets		
Frequency: See information in the brackets	Recommended frequency: Q	Meets recommended frequency: Partially
Timeliness: WPI and the PPI are disseminated within one month of the end of the reference month. The remaining statistics are published a couple of months after the reference period.		
Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producer's Price Index for Manufactured Goods (PPI) (Q, BBS) • Wholesale Price Index of Agricultural and Manufacturing Commodities (WPI) (M, BBS) • Monthly Average Wholesale Price of Selected Consumer Goods (M, BBS) • Monthly Average Wholesale Price Of Selected Building Materials At Principal Towns (M, BBS) • Construction Cost Index (Building) Bangladesh (M, BBS) • Industrial Cost Statistics by Major Industry Groups (2 years, BBS) • Harvest Time Market Price of Agricultural Crops (A, MOA) • Average Prices of Selected Commodities (M, BBS) 		
Methodological notes¹⁰: <p>Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPI for Manufactured Goods is a Laspeyres index which measures ex-factory prices of domestically produced industrial goods. The index covers 155 industrial items from both public and private industrial establishments. The commodities are taken from the basket for the Quantum Index of Industrial Production (QIP) and are divided into three groups: (i) consumer goods (including milk, fruit, fish, flour, sugar, oil, tea, medicine, clothing, furniture, newspapers; (ii) capital goods (machinery, transport equipment, and other capital goods); and (iii) intermediate goods. The weights of the index have been based on the 1988-89 Census of Manufacturing Industries and the base year is 1988-89. The index is used as a deflator for constant price estimates of gross value added of the manufacturing sector. • The WPI of Agricultural and Manufacturing Commodities is a Laspeyres index, which measures price changes over time at the wholesale market that are not due to changes in the quality of goods, term of delivery, etc. The index cover 86 items of which 41 are agricultural and 45 are industrial. Items sold in domestic markets, export items up to the customs frontiers, and domestic products are covered. The index has a base year of 1969-70. <p>Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information is available about guidelines/standards used <p>Source</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPI statistics are collected from a total of 143 outlays of which 64 from rural and 79 from urban outlays. The PPI basket is based on the basket for the Quantum Index of Industrial Production with weights based on the 1988-89 Census of Manufacturing Industries. • All of the above statistics are published on-line and in paper publications in English . 		
Quality issues:		

¹⁰ Source: IMF's GDDS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PPI are only compiled for manufactured goods and outdated WPI is being compiled. • Compiled using baskets of goods/weights which have been determined over 20 years ago. The basket/weights do not reflect the current realities, providing a misleading picture • The number of prices collected appears to be limited, as is the detail that is being published. • Does not at present cover sufficiently intermediate goods, services and fixed assets. • Not sufficient to monitoring of inflation at different stages of the product supply chain. • Not sufficient for the deflation of national accounts variables, both industry outputs/inputs and final demand categories. 	
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:	
Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of training and technical assistance on compilation of PPI that covers all stages of product supply chain, and is necessary for deflation of national accounts variables, both industry outputs/inputs and final demand categories. • Lack of mid and long-term statistical training – only on job training currently available • Limited training opportunities for staff at Upazilla/Thana offices – most staff lack basic statistical training • Significant number of vacancies especially at the Upazilla/Thana offices – the current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weights are outdated and do not reflect current realities • Number of prices collected appears to be limited • No regular data collections necessary to support quarterly compilation of PPI of sufficient coverage and detail • IT infrastructure not sufficient for timely and easy compilation of PPI statistics
Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available GDDS metadata appears to be outdated • A release calendar is not available to public 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy efforts so far have not secured financial and staff resources necessary to develop a comprehensive and timely PPI sufficient to monitor inflation at all stages of product supply chain; and deflation of national accounts variables, both industry outputs/inputs and final demand categories. • Financial and staff resources not sufficient to update the base year and make other necessary improvements • Advocacy required to obtain data from non-government data providers (such as Bangladesh Association of Construction Industry) • Data sharing arrangements between government departments not formalized
Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff numbers to increase across the organization and double at the Upazilla/Thana offices • BBS has plans to modernize the statistical systems 	

<p>Overall assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSS and BBS in particular have limited capacity to produce the necessary PPI and other commodity price indices. BBS appears to have limited capacity to develop and collect a comprehensive and timely PPI sufficient to monitor inflation at all stages of product supply chain; and deflation of national accounts variables, both industry outputs/inputs and final demand categories.

3. External merchandise trade price indexes

Responsible agency: Foreign Trade Section of BBS		
Frequency: A	Recommended frequency: M	Meets recommended frequency: N
Timeliness: unknown		
<p>Statistics available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Price Index of Exports (UPIE) • Unit Price Index of Imports (UPII) • Commodity terms of trade (obtained by dividing UPIE by UPII and multiplied by 100) 		
<p>Methodological notes¹¹:</p> <p><i>Scope</i></p> <p><i>Compliance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merchandise exports are on FOB basis. • Merchandise imports are on CIF (cost, insurance, and freight) basis. <p><i>Sources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customs-based data on merchandise exports are compiled and disseminated by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) and are based on customs reports from the 6 national customs centers. • Customs-based data on merchandise imports are compiled and disseminated by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and are based on total customs returns. • Data on total imports and exports on a payments basis are compiled and disseminated by the Bangladesh Bank and are based on detailed reports of authorized exchange dealers. For imports, exchange records data are supplemented by data on imports under loans and grants provided by the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance. • Published on-line and in paper publications in English 		
<p>Quality issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are coverage and quality issues with the data provided by Customs with data different by around 8% from realization • The cost of freight and insurance can not be separately identified and at present a fixed proportion (10%) is being used to derive the cost of freight and insurance (which is then allocated 90% to transport services and 10% to insurance) 		
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:		
<p>Human resource skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff and results in 	<p>Statistical infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customs data appears to have problems with quality and in particular the information on value 	

¹¹ Source: IMF's GDDS

significant number of unfilled positions	<p>and quantity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different estimates of merchandise trade are produced by different organizations, need to ensure that users are fully aware of the methodological differences when comparing statistics. • Differences between the Customs and authorized exchange dealers data need to be analyzed and fully understood • Data transmitted via CD-Rom
<p>Methodological transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited metadata is available • A release calendar is not available to public 	<p>Statistical advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy efforts so far have not secured the necessary resources to improve the quality of customs data • Data sharing arrangements between different government agencies are not formalized • Need for better coordination of work to avoid any possible duplication
<p>Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BB is planning to strengthen the merchandise import statistics by using the custom declarations • BB is planning to improve the estimates of cost of freight and insurance through the establishment of necessary survey 	
<p>Overall assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BBS capacity to produce the external merchandise trade price indexes on regular basis and in a timely manner appears to be limited. 	

4. Wages / Earnings data/Labour costs index / Wage index

Responsible agency: BBS		
Frequency: M/Ad hoc	Recommended frequency: Q	Meets recommended frequency: Partially
Timeliness: Statistics A: 2 months after the reference period; Statistics B: 6 to 12 months after the reference period		
<p>Statistics available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics A: Wages and wage rate index (1969/70 = 100) of agricultural, industrial and construction workers (M) • Statistics B: Average daily wage rates of day laborers and monthly income of self- employed (Ad-hoc, usually every 3 years) 		
<p>Methodological notes¹²:</p> <p>Statistics A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compiled monthly on the basis of data collected monthly from labor centers and selected 		

¹² Source: IMF's GDDS

<p>establishments nationwide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaggregated by sex and urban-rural. <p>Statistics B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derived from a nationwide Labor Force Survey (LFS) conducted at irregular intervals. The survey covers 1500 primary sampling unit of about 43945 households. • Disaggregated by type of industry, and skilled-unskilled; etc • All statistics published on-line and in paper publications in English 	
<p>Quality issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LFS based statistics are currently published with a time lag of 1 to 2 years. The LFS is conducted every 5 years and although plans exist to increase its frequency to every 3 years, the increase in the frequency will do little to address the need for timely, comprehensive, annual (or higher frequency) statistics. • The monthly statistics based on administrative data do not cover all sectors (selected industries only) and lack detailed information. • No information about hourly or weekly wages/earning. • Detailed information such breakdowns by occupation, etc only available based on the LFS . 	
<p>Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:</p>	
<p>Human resource skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant number of vacancies especially at the Upazilla/Thana offices – the current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff • Lack of mid and long-term statistical training – only on job training currently available • Limited training opportunities for staff at Upazilla/Thana offices – most staff lack basic statistical training 	<p>Statistical infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LFS is only compiled every 5 years, no regular high frequency data collections available • Access to administrative data sources is limited • IT infrastructure not sufficient for timely compilation of Wages / Earnings data/Labour costs index / Wage index • Data editing techniques currently used are very time consuming and contribute to significant time lag in production of statistics
<p>Methodological transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available metadata appears to be outdated • A release calendar is not available to public 	<p>Statistical advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy efforts so far have not secured resources and political support necessary to ensure that LFS can be compiled on monthly or quarterly basis • Limited register based information available
<p>Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LFS to be collected every 3 years instead of 5 years currently • Wages and wage rate index are to be improved to cover other industries and type of occupation. 	
<p>Overall assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BBS capacity to produce the Wages / Earnings data/Labour costs index / Wage index on regular basis and in a timely manner appears to be very limited. Furthermore BBS appears to have very limited capacity to make the necessary improvements including among others updating of the base year, improving the coverage and frequency of data sources. 	

5. Exchange rates

Responsible agency: BB		
Frequency: Daily	Recommended frequency: D	Meets recommended frequency: Y
Timeliness: 1 day after the reference period (on-line)		
Statistics available:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange rates (Taka per) available for US dollar, Euro, Chinese Yuan and 32 other currencies • Daily exchange rates; Monthly and annual period average and end of period exchange rates • Appreciation/depreciation of selected currencies against US dollar 		
Methodological notes ¹³ :		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official spot rates expressed as the midpoint between buying and selling rates for selected currencies • Cross rates are used for calculating exchange rates between the Taka and currencies other than the US dollar • The Effective Exchange Rate (EER), both nominal and real, is calculated daily in relation to a basket trade-weighted currencies • All statistics published on-line and in paper publications in English and Bangla 		
Quality issues:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:		
Human resource skills:	Statistical infrastructure:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff and results in high number of vacancies limiting available staff resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
Methodological transparency:	Statistical advocacy:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available metadata appears to be outdated • A release calendar is not available to public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
Overall assessment:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no major constraints limiting the capacity of BB to produce these statistics. 		

6. Purchasing power parities

Responsible agency: BBS		
Frequency: Ad-hoc	Recommended frequency: Ad-hoc	Meets recommended frequency: Y
Timeliness:		
Statistics available:		

¹³ Source: IMF's GDDS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing power parities (International Comparison Programme 1985, 1993 and 2005) • Purchasing power parities based on the International Comparison Programme 2011 will become available in due course 	
Methodological notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladesh has taken part in the 3 rounds of the ICP and 2011 round ICP is going on. 	
Quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply-Use tables on experimental basis has completed for the first time for the year 2005-06 under the assistance of Asian Development Bank • GDP expenditure is based on limited and outdated sources (National accounts provide values on which the real expenditures are based and the weights to combine PPPs at the most detailed level to broader aggregates (including GDP)) 	
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:	
Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited training opportunities for staff at Upazilla/Thana offices – most staff lack basic statistical training • Significant number of vacancies especially at the Upazilla/Thana offices – the current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply-Use tables need to be compiled on regular basis • GDP E needs to be strengthen through improvement in the availability of data sources and improvement in compilation practices
Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available metadata appears to be outdated • A release calendar is not available to public 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy efforts so far have not secured resources necessary for compilation of comprehensive SU Tables and high quality GDP E
Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Overall assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The constraints limiting the capacity of BBS to produce purchasing power parities statistics are mostly related to the constraints limiting the capacity of BBS to compile the SU Tables (structural statistics) and high quality GDP E and are discussed under those topics. 	

B. Demand and output

30. Not all statistics recommended within the demand and output domain are currently compiled by the BBS. Furthermore the assessment found that BBS has a very limited capacity to produce sub-annual statistics in a timely manner.

31. A detailed assessment of demand and output statistics is provided below.

1. *Gross Domestic Product production nominal and real/GDP expenditure nominal and real (including implicit price indexes for GDP (E) and components)*

Responsible agency: National Accounts Wing of BBS		
Frequency: A	Recommended frequency: Q	Meets recommended frequency: N
Timeliness: Preliminary and final estimates of GDP are prepared and published in the month of April/May in each financial year. Thus final estimate of GDP is released after 10 months of the reference period (previous financial year ending in June). On the other hand, preliminary estimate of GDP is published after 10 months from beginning of the current year (Fiscal year July-June).		
Statistics available:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDP is compiled at current market prices and constant prices (base year 1995-96) by production and expenditure approach for the economic territory of the country. • GDP by production approach is compiled by 15 major industrial activities (in accordance with ISIC Rev 3) and 17 sub-activities. • GDP by expenditure approach includes the following categories: Private final consumption expenditure, Public (general government) final consumption expenditure, Private investment (gross capital formation), Public (general government) investment (gross capital formation), Exports of goods and services, and imports of goods and services. • Estimates are produced for gross national Income (GNI), gross disposable income (GDI), gross domestic saving, and gross national saving. Fixed capital formation includes construction, machinery and equipment, and transport equipment. • • Supply-Use tables are compiled on an experimental basis only with the assistance of the ADB for the year 2005-06. • Informal sector is included; Bangladesh has participated in an ADB project aimed at collecting information using the 1-2 survey approach on informal sector and informal employment; however, findings of this survey are not yet published. 		
Methodological notes¹⁴:		
Compliance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national accounts are compiled mostly in accordance with the 1993 SNA. • The accounts cover the entire territory and the residence criterion meets the 1993 SNA requirements. 		

¹⁴ Source: IMF's GDDS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The production boundary is in accordance with the 1993 SNA. • The asset boundary does not fully align with the 1993 SNA. Among the key ones, defense related assets and agricultural work-in-progress are not covered. • Most transactions are recorded on accrual basis however government and financial sector transactions are largely recorded on a cash basis. • Both single (not recommended by 1993 SNA) deflation methods and quantity extrapolations are used for estimation of GDP at constant prices. Double deflation (recommended) is currently not used. <p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDP by production approach is based on data derived from a variety of sources such as annual or periodic censuses and surveys and administrative records. Ad hoc surveys or special studies are also used for benchmark estimates or for deriving parameters for indirect estimation. • Compilation of GDP by production approach is done by direct and indirect methods as dictated by the availability of basic data for compilation. Government final consumption expenditure, public sector capital formation, and export and imports and part of change in inventory are estimated directly from source data; private gross fixed capital formation and most of the estimate of change in inventory are derived indirectly by commodity flow and extrapolation; private consumption expenditure is estimated residually. • GDP at constant prices is derived using a range of data as deflators including: PPI (manufacturing), WPI (agriculture; wholesale and retail), CPI (GFCF transportation equipment; electricity, gas and water; financial intermediation, public administration and defense), building materials price index (construction, GFCF construction), export and import unit value indices (exports and imports). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All statistics published on-line and in paper publications in English 	
<p>Quality issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quarterly national accounts are not compiled. • The annual statistics are published with an 10 months time lag. • The SNA 1993 has not been fully implemented. • The scope of the national accounts needs improvement. Important national accounts components are currently not available, including: GDP by income approach; sector account for households and business enterprises including financial accounts and balance sheets. • The current data sources are not sufficient. Many components of the national accounts are not estimated due to lack of any data or compiled using outdated data. The completed number of surveys and studies identified as required for compilation of Bangladesh National accounts are presented in section Annex II. • Constant price estimates are derived using deflators and methods (single deflation) that are not always most appropriate. 	
<p>Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:</p>	
<p>Human resource skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of knowledge of 2008 SNA • Lack of training on 2008 SNA, regional and quarterly accounts • Lack of staff to update the old time series and make necessary improvements (base year, classifications, frameworks) • Economic statistics training provided in an ad 	<p>Statistical infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Register is in early stages of development, though contains all ISIC sectors(Agriculture, manufacturing establishments and service sectors) and at present is not sufficient for national accounts purposes. • Insufficient survey data, the current surveys do not meet the requirements of national accounts,

<p>hoc/irregular manner, with most training delivered on job</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited training opportunities for staff at Upazilla/Thana offices – most staff lack basic statistical training • Significant number of vacancies especially at the Upazilla/Thana offices – the current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff • Lack of mid and long-term training 	<p>many of the existing surveys are conducted on infrequent or irregular basis and often suffer from poor response rates, BBS has identified a number of new surveys that are required in addition to increasing the frequency, coverage and quality of existing surveys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative data between government departments shared based on personal rather than formal arrangements • Administrative data from non-government sources is difficult to access • Base year needs updating • Quality assurance frameworks are currently not used • Time intensive editing techniques used – need for modern editing techniques • Computer system not sufficient (excel used for compilation, data sometimes transmitted on paper)
<p>Methodological transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available metadata appears to be outdated • A release calendar is not available to public 	<p>Statistical advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy efforts so far have not secured resources and staff needed to be able to compile: quarterly GDP, regional GDP as well as necessary accounts • Resources and staff not sufficient to conduct the necessary surveys and access the necessary administrative data • Statistical law needs to be enacted to ensure that the BBS has the necessary authority to collect/access the necessary data • Data sharing between government departments based on informal arrangements • Poor response rate to surveys and limited access to non-government administrative data sources, such as construction associations affects quality of statistics
<p>Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision and rebasing of GDP and other aggregates; • Compilation of regional GDP and other national accounts aggregates; • Compilation of quarterly accounts; • Compilation of SUT (Supply and Use Tables); • Compilation of major institutional sector accounts; • Updating of national accounts deflators and technical coefficients; and • Compilation of commodity-wise export and import price indices etc. • Implementation of the 2008 SNA in 2013. However inadequate data sources, lack of staff to update 	

the old time series and lack of knowledge of 2008 SNA have been identified as the main obstacles to 2008 SNA implementation.

- Implementations of ISIC rev 4 during 2011.
- Staff numbers to increase across the organization and double at the Upazilla/Thana offices
- BBS has plans to modernize the statistical systems
- The following have been identified as high priority

Overall assessment

- The BBS does not have the capacity to produce the Gross Domestic Product production nominal and real/GDP expenditure nominal and real (including implicit price indexes for GDP (E) and components) on sub-annual basis, in a timely manner and of sufficient quality. The BBS currently produces no quarterly statistics, **the annual statistics are published with 10 months time** lag and are compiled based on limited (often out-dated) information, with significant data gaps. The BBS also lacks the capacity to make the necessary improvements including fully implementing 1993 SNA and eventually 2008 SNA, improving scope of the national accounts, improving constant price estimates, and expanding the data sources to improve the frequency, coverage and timeliness.

2. External trade – merchandise

Responsible agency: BBS/BB/Export Promotion Bureau/National Board of Revenue		
Frequency: M	Recommended frequency: M	Meets recommended frequency: Y
Timeliness: 6 weeks after the reference period (BB); 20 days (EPB); 15 days (NBR)		
Statistics available:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merchandise imports, detailed breakdowns by commodity, classified according to the Harmonized System, and by destination of exports (customs based data) • Merchandise exports, detailed breakdowns by commodity, classified according to the Harmonized System, and by destination of exports (customs based data) • Import payments by commodity, classified according to the Harmonized System, and country (payments-based data collected from Authorized Dealers) • Export payments by commodity, classified according to the Harmonized System, and country (payments-based data collected from Authorized Dealers) 		
Methodological notes¹⁵:		
<i>Scope</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Except military hardware, bullion, currency notes, coins and goods in transit, merchandise trade statistics include all other commodities which pass through the boundary of customs territory. • Merchandise trade statistics also cover the commodities imported for and exported from Export Processing Zones (EPZ). • All exports and imports by various routes such as sea, air, land and postal parcels are included. 		
<i>Organizations involved and sources</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBS produces merchandise trade statistics based on the data from National Board of Revenue collected from various customs stations such as sea, land and air ports. 		

¹⁵ Source: IMF's GDDS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customs-based data on merchandise exports are compiled and disseminated by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) and are based on customs reports from the 6 national customs centers. • Customs-based data on merchandise imports are compiled and disseminated by the NBR and are based on total customs returns. • Data on total imports and exports on a payments basis are compiled and disseminated by the Bangladesh Bank and are based on detailed reports of authorized exchange dealers. For imports, exchange records data are supplemented by data on imports under loans and grants provided by the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance. <p>Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merchandise exports are on FOB basis. • Merchandise imports are on C&F (cost and freight) and CIF (cost, insurance, and freight) basis. • Imports are recorded by country of consignment and exports by country of the last known destination. <p>Classifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonized commodity description and coding system (HS code) at 2 to 8-digit level • Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All statistics published on-line and in paper publications in English 	
<p>Quality issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are coverage and quality issues with the data provided by Customs with data different by around 8% from realization • The cost of freight and insurance can not be separately identified and at present a fixed proportion (10%) is being used to derive the cost of freight and insurance (which is then allocated 90% to transport services and 10% to insurance) 	
<p>Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:</p>	
<p>Human resource skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff and results in significant number of unfilled positions 	<p>Statistical infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences between the Customs and authorized exchange dealers data need to be analyzed and fully understood • Data transmitted via CD-Rom • Data about import quantities is difficult to obtain • Volume data is problematic
<p>Methodological transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited metadata is available • A release calendar is not available to public 	<p>Statistical advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data shared between different government agencies based on informal rather than formal arrangements • Coordination of work to avoid any possible duplication • Significant number of organizations collecting, compiling and publishing the merchandise trade statistics • Different organizations publish merchandise trade statistics derived using different sources (BBS uses customs data for imports, while BB uses reports of authorized exchange dealers) and methodologies

<p>Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BB is planning to strengthen the merchandise import statistics by using the custom declarations • BB is planning to improve the estimates of cost of freight and insurance through the establishment of necessary survey
<p>Overall assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agencies involved in the production of merchandise statistics have the basic capacity to produce the external merchandise trade statistics.

3. External trade – services

Responsible agency: BB	
Frequency: M	Recommended frequency: M
Meets recommended frequency: Y	
Timeliness: 6 weeks after the reference period	
<p>Statistics available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation (1.1 passengers, 1.2 freight, 1.3 other); 2. Travel (2.1 business, 2.1 personal); 3. Communication; 4. Construction; 5. Insurance; 6. Financial; 7. Computer and information; 8. Royalties and license fees; 9. Other business services; 10. Entertainment, cultural and recreational services; and 11. Government services n.i.e. 	
<p>Methodological notes¹⁶:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services data are obtained from exchange control records. • Services also include the 10 percent of the c.i.f. value of imports, 90 percent of which is allocated to transport and 10 percent to insurance. • All statistics published on-line and in paper publications in English and Bangla 	
<p>Quality issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No surveys are conducted to compile the services. • The detail is limited • There is no information on the cost of freight and insurance 	
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:	
<p>Human resource skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff and results in significant number of unfilled positions 	<p>Statistical infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data sources are limited • No surveys are currently conducted, there is a need to establish a number of surveys
<p>Methodological transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited metadata is available • A release calendar is not available to public 	<p>Statistical advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy efforts so far have not secured the necessary resources to strengthen the services statistics by establishing necessary surveys, including travel and transport services
<p>Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the services statistics by establishing necessary surveys, including travel and transport; 	
<p>Overall assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BSS has the basic capacity to produce the external trade in services statistics at recommended frequency, however it has limited capacity to establish the necessary surveys, including surveys on 	

¹⁶ Source: IMF's GDDS

travel and transport.

4. Short term indicator (STI) - industry output

Responsible agency: National Accounts Wing of the BBS	
Frequency: M/A	Recommended frequency: M
Meets recommended frequency: Y	
Timeliness: 6 weeks after the reference period	
Statistics available:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantum Index of all industries (Manufacturing, Mining and Electricity) (M) • Quantum Index of Medium and Large-Scale Manufacturing Industry by Major Industry Group (2-Digit Level) (M) • Quantum Index of industrial production (manufacturing) by industrial groups (M) • Production Of Major Industrial Commodities (M) • Quantum index of small scale manufacturing (Q) • Agricultural production index (A) 	
Methodological notes ¹⁷ :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The industry output statistics are currently compiled in accordance with the International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics (IRIS) 1953. • BSIC is currently used for classification of industrial activities. • The quantum index of small scale manufacturing is based on a sample of 669 establishments that represent industries that account for about 85% of value added of small scale industries. • The quantum index of medium and large-scale manufacturing industries is based on sample of 807 establishments and covers 57 industrial items that account for about 87 percent of value added in manufacturing. • Quantum indices are currently published with a base year of 1988-89 	
Quality issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monthly indices continue to be published using the 1988-89 base year. The significant changes in the composition of the industrial sector which have taken place during the last 20 years are not reflected in the composition of the monthly statistics. • There are currently no plans for the implementation of the IRIS 2008 and International Recommendations for the Index of Industrial Production (IRIIP) 2010. • Service industry is not covered • Lack of developed/functional business register. 	
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:	
Human resource skills:	Statistical infrastructure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of training on recent international standards including IRIS 2008, IRIIP 2010 as well as new classifications such as ISIC Rev 4. • Lack of mid and long-term statistical training – only on job training currently available • Significant number of vacancies especially at the Upazilla/Thana offices – the current 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBS prepared a comprehensive Business Register in 2009 for the first time. Though it contains all ISIC sectors(Agriculture, manufacturing establishments and service sectors), there might be some scopes for further improvement in terms of coverage, mode of presentation of data etc. of the said register.

¹⁷ Source: IMF's GDDS

recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer system not sufficient (excel used for compilation, data sometimes transmitted on paper)
Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available GDDS metadata appears to be outdated • A release calendar is not available to public 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPI statistics not compiled in accordance with the relevant international manuals and in a timely manner
Planned improvements (as per interviews): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the implementation of ISIC rev 4 will be initiated in 2011, so that the classification can be introduced at the same time as SNA2008. 	
Overall assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BBS has the basic capacity to produce the IPI statistics on regular basis and in a timely manner. However BBS appears to have limited capacity to make the necessary improvements to the IPI to ensure that these statistics provide the necessary information for the decision-makers, including updating the base, compiling statistics in accordance with recent guidelines, moving to the next version of ISIC classification and improving the coverage. 	

5. Short term indicator - consumer demand

Responsible agency: Not compiled		
Frequency:	Recommended frequency: M	Meets recommended frequency: N
Timeliness:		
Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not compiled 		
Methodological notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
Quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:		
Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of training and technical assistance on compilation of retail trade statistics. • Significant number of vacancies especially at the Upazilla/Thana offices – the current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No regular data collections necessary for compilation of retail sales volumes indicators • 	
Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy efforts so far have not secured financial and staff resources needed to develop a comprehensive and timely retail sales volume indicator 	
Planned improvements (as per interviews): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
Overall assessment		

- BBS provides the retail trade statistics under Annual Establishment and Institutional Survey(AEIS) which was conducted in 2002-03 on adhoc basis. **Recently wholesale and retail trade survey has conducted but not yet published.**

6. Short term indicator - fixed investment

Responsible agency: Industry and Labour Wing of the BBS	
Frequency: Irregular	Recommended frequency: M
Meets recommended frequency: N	
Timeliness:	
Statistics available:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed Assets Statistics By Major Industry Groups 	
Methodological notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These statistics are compiled based on the Census of Manufacturing Industries (CMI) which covers all manufacturing establishments with 10 or more employees (both registered and unregistered establishments are covered). • The CMI is conducted on an irregular basis (prior to 2005-06 the CMI was conducted on a biennial basis), with the last CMI conducted for reference period 2005-06, based on the Economic Census 2001 & 2003. • Statistics are available by manufacturing sector activities following the Bangladesh Standard Industrial Classification (BSIC) at 3-digit level. 	
Quality issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covers only manufacturing establishments with 10 or more employees • Does not cover all key components of gross fixed capital formation • Statistics are compiled on the basis of the CMI and suffer from the same quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CMI is conducted on an irregular basis (prior to 2005-06 the CMI was conducted on an annual basis), with the last CMI conducted for reference period 2005-06, based on the Economic Census 2001 & 2003. • Statistics based on the CMI are published 4 to 5 years after the reference period with statistics for 2005-2006 published recently. • The CMI suffers from a very poor response rate which is only improved following very intensive establishment visits. • Fixed assets statistics by major industry groups are available every 2 years. • No sub-annual indicators providing information about fixed assets which are key components of the gross fixed capital formation including building construction 	
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:	
Human resource skills:	Statistical infrastructure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant number of vacancies especially at the Upazilla/Thana offices – the current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBS prepared a comprehensive Business Register in 2009 for the first time. Though it contains all ISIC sectors(Agriculture, manufacturing establishments and service sectors), there might be some scopes for further improvement in terms of coverage, mode of presentation of data etc. of the said register. • Current data sources are not sufficient for

	compilation of sub-annual data • Computer system not sufficient for compilation of timely statistics (excel used for compilation, data sometimes transmitted on paper)
Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available GDDS metadata appears to be outdated • A release calendar is not available to public 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy efforts so far have not secured the resources and political support needed to develop more frequent indicator (ideally quarterly) which will provide information about fixed assets which are key components of the gross fixed capital formation including building construction • Changes in inventory statistics are not compiled, inventory statistics covering all major raw material and finished goods inventories not available
Planned improvements (as per interviews): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Overall assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBS has limited capacity to produce the necessary fixed investment statistics. 	

7. Short term indicator - inventories

Responsible agency:		
Frequency:	Recommended frequency: M	Meets recommended frequency: N
Timeliness:		
Statistics available:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not compiled 		
Methodological notes:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
Quality issues:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:		
Human resource skills:		Statistical infrastructure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for training and technical assistance on compilation of changes in inventories statistics • Lack of mid and long-term statistical training – only on job training currently available • Significant number of vacancies especially at the Upazilla/Thana offices – the current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No regular data collections necessary for compilation of changes in inventories statistics •
Methodological transparency:		Statistical advocacy:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy efforts so far have not secured the financial and staff resources needed to develop a

	comprehensive and timely statistics about inventories.
Planned improvements (as per interviews):	
•	
Overall assessment	
• The BBS yet has not taken any initiatives to measure to changes in inventories. However, BBS has planned to conduct a national survey on change in inventories in this year.	

8. Economy structure statistics

Responsible agency: Industry and Labour Wing of the BBS, National Accounts Wing of BBS		
Frequency: 5 yearly/Irregular	Recommended frequency: 5 yearly or regular intervals	Meets recommended frequency: Y
Timeliness: Time lag of 4-5 years		
Statistics available:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial Survey • Gross Value of Industrial Production Statistics By Major Industry Groups • Gross Value Added Statistics By Major Industrial Groups • Supply-Use tables being developed (National Accounts Wing of BBS) 		
Methodological notes ¹⁸ :		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These statistics are compiled based on the Census of Manufacturing Industries (CMI) which covers all manufacturing establishments with 10 or more employees (both registered and unregistered establishments are covered). • The CMI is conducted on an irregular basis (prior to 2005-06 the CMI was conducted on a biennial basis), with the last CMI conducted for reference period 2005-06, based on the Economic Census 2001 & 2003. • Statistics are available by manufacturing sector activities following the Bangladesh Standard Industrial Classification (BSIC) at 3-digit level. 		
Quality issues:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only available for manufacturing (covers only manufacturing establishments with 10 or more employees) • Statistics are compiled on the basis of the CMI and suffer from the same quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CMI is conducted on an irregular basis (prior to 2005-06 the CMI was conducted on an annual basis), with the last CMI conducted for reference period 2005-06, based on the Economic Census 2001 & 2003. • Statistics based on the CMI are published 4 to 5 years after the reference period with statistics for 2005-2006 still not available in January 2011. • The CMI suffers from a very poor response rate which is only improved following very intensive establishment visits. • Industry value added by component series necessary for benchmarking the GDP not available for all sectors of the economy. • Detailed financial (sales, cost, profits, investment, assets and liabilities) and non-financial data needed 		

¹⁸ Source: IMF's GDDS

for analysis and monitoring of the performance of different sectors of economic are not available.

- SU tables are currently only compiled on an experimental basis.

Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:

<p>Human resource skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic statistics training provided in an ad hoc/irregular manner, with most training delivered on job • Limited training opportunities for staff at Upazilla/Thana offices – most staff lack basic statistical training • Significant number of vacancies especially at the Upazilla/Thana offices – the current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff 	<p>Statistical infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBS prepared a comprehensive Business Register in 2009 for the first time. Though it contains all ISIC sectors(Agriculture, manufacturing establishments and service sectors), there might be some scopes for further improvement in terms of coverage, mode of presentation of data etc. of the said register • Data collection (survey or administrative) not sufficient to ensure that industry value added by component series necessary for benchmarking the GDP are available for all sectors of the economy. Efforts should also be made to ensure that detailed financial (sales, cost, profits, investment, assets and liabilities) and non-financial data needed for analysis and monitoring of the performance of different sectors of economic is also available. • Computer system not sufficient to permit timely compilation of statistics (excel used for compilation, data sometimes transmitted on paper) • Quality assurance frameworks are currently not used • Data editing takes significant amount of time and contributes to the significant time lag with which these statistics are published
<p>Methodological transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available GDDS metadata appears to be outdated • There is no clear schedule for publication of structural statistics 	<p>Statistical advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy efforts so far have not secured the necessary resources to produce comprehensive economy structure statistics in a timely manner • BBS has limited authority to collect/access the necessary data • Data sharing between government departments depends on informal rather than formal arrangements • Poor response rate to surveys and limited access to non-government administrative data sources, such as construction associations
<p>Planned improvements (as per interviews):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
<p>Overall assessment</p>	

- The BBS does not have the capacity to produce the economy structure statistics of sufficient coverage, quality and in a timely manner. The key structural statistics are currently published with a lag of 4 to 5 years with data from CMI for 2005-06 recently published. They only cover manufacturing and agricultural sectors and are not sufficient for benchmarking of the GDP. SU tables are currently only compiled on an experimental basis.

9. Productivity

Responsible agency: Industry and Labour Wing of the BBS, National Accounts Wing of BBS	
Frequency: Irregular	Recommended frequency: A
Meets recommended frequency: N	
Timeliness:	
Statistics available:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productivity Indices Of Industrial Workers In Selected Industries 	
Methodological notes ¹⁹ :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These statistics are compiled based on the Census of Manufacturing Industries (CMI) which covers all manufacturing establishments with 10 or more employees (both registered and unregistered establishments are covered). • The CMI is conducted on an irregular basis (prior to 2005-06 the CMI was conducted on a biennial basis), with the last CMI conducted for reference period 2005-06, based on the Economic Census 2001 & 2003. • Statistics are available by manufacturing sector activities following the Bangladesh Standard Industrial Classification (BSIC) at 3-digit level. 	
Quality issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covers only manufacturing establishments with 10 or more employees • Statistics are compiled on the basis of the CMI and suffer from the same quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CMI is conducted on an irregular basis (prior to 2005-06 the CMI was conducted on an annual basis), with the last CMI conducted for reference period 2005-06, based on the Economic Census 2001 & 2003. • Statistics based on the CMI are published 4 to 5 years after the reference period with statistics for 2005-2006 still not available in January 2011. • The CMI suffers from a poor response rate which is only improved following very intensive establishment visits. 	
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:	
Human resource skills:	Statistical infrastructure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic statistics training provided in an ad hoc/irregular manner, with most training delivered on job • Lack of mid and long-term training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBS prepared a comprehensive Business Register in 2009 for the first time. Though it contains all ISIC sectors(Agriculture, manufacturing establishments and service sectors), there might be some scopes for further improvement in terms of coverage, mode of presentation of data etc. of the said register

¹⁹ Source: IMF's GDDS

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer system not sufficient to permit timely compilation of statistics (excel used for compilation, data sometimes transmitted on paper)
Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The available metadata appears to be outdated• A release calendar is not available to public	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocacy efforts so far have not secured the necessary resources to produce comprehensive economy structure statistics in a timely manner• BBS has limited authority to collect/access the necessary data• Data sharing between government departments depends on informal rather than formal arrangements• Poor response rate to surveys and limited access to non-government administrative data sources, such as construction associations
Planned improvements (as per interviews): <ul style="list-style-type: none">•	
Overall assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BBS has limited capacity to produce the necessary productivity statistics.	

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C. Income and wealth

32. The majority of statistics under income and wealth are currently compiled, with all the statistics that are compiled meeting the recommended frequency. However the BSS and BBS in particular appear to have limited capacity to compile some of these statistics in a timely manner and in accordance with recent international standards/guidelines/methods and good practices.

33. A detailed assessment of income and wealth statistics is provided below.

1. *Integrated national accounts for the total economy/ Institutional sector accounts*

Responsible agency: National Accounts Wing of BBS		
Frequency: A	Recommended frequency: Q	Meets recommended frequency: N
Timeliness: Preliminary national accounts are published in the month of April/May of the current fiscal year. Final estimates are published 10 months after the reference period		
Statistics available:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDP is compiled at current market prices and constant prices (base year 1995-96) by production and expenditure approach for the economic territory of the country. • GDP by production approach is compiled by 15 major industrial activities (in accordance with ISIC Rev 3) and 17 sub-activities. • GDP by expenditure approach includes the following categories: Private final consumption expenditure, Public (general government) final consumption expenditure, Private investment (gross capital formation), Public (general government) investment (gross capital formation), Exports of goods and services, and imports of goods and services. • Estimates are produced for gross national Income (GNI), gross disposable income (GDI), gross domestic saving, and gross national saving. Fixed capital formation includes construction, machinery and equipment, and transport equipment. • Institutional sector accounts are compiled for government only. • GDP estimates were also compiled on adhoc basis for 23 regions and divisions using the production approach at current and constant prices following the same industrial classification of GDP for the total economy. This regional estimates were done for the last time in the year from 95-96 to 99-2000 • Supply-Use tables are compiled on an experimental basis only with the assistance of the ADB. • Informal sector is included however at present indirect methods are used to estimate the value of unrecorded output. 		
Methodological notes²⁰:		
Compliance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national accounts are compiled mostly in accordance with the 1993 SNA. • The accounts cover the entire territory and the residence criterion meets the 1993 SNA requirements. 		

²⁰ Source: IMF's GDDS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The production boundary is in accordance with the 1993 SNA. • The asset boundary does not fully align with the 1993 SNA. Among the key ones, defense related assets and agricultural work-in-progress are not covered. • Most transactions are recorded on accrual basis however government and financial sector transactions are largely recorded on a cash basis. • Both single (not recommended by 1993 SNA) deflation methods and quantity extrapolations are used for estimation of GDP at constant prices. Double deflation (recommended) is currently not used. <p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDP by production approach is based on data derived from a variety of sources such as annual or periodic censuses and surveys and administrative records. Ad hoc surveys or special studies are also used for benchmark estimates or for deriving parameters for indirect estimation. • Compilation of GDP by production approach is done by direct and indirect methods as dictated by the availability of basic data for compilation. Government final consumption expenditure, public sector capital formation, and export and imports and part of change in inventory are estimated directly from source data; private gross fixed capital formation and most of the estimate of change in inventory are derived indirectly by commodity flow and extrapolation; private consumption expenditure is estimated residually. • GDP at constant prices is derived using a range of data as deflators including: PPI (manufacturing), WPI (agriculture; wholesale and retail), CPI (GFCF transportation equipment; electricity, gas and water; financial intermediation, public administration and defense), building materials price index (construction, GFCF construction), export and import unit value indices (exports and imports). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All statistics published on-line and in paper publications in English 	
<p>Quality issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDP by income approach is not compiled. • Institutional sector accounts are not compiled for households and business enterprises. • Financial accounts and balance sheets along with supporting revaluation and other volume change accounts are not compiled. • The current data sources are not sufficient. Many components of the national accounts are estimated due to lack of any data or compiled using outdated data. The completed number of surveys and studies identified as required for compilation of Bangladesh National accounts are presented in section Annex I. • Constant price estimates are derived using deflators and methods (single deflation) that are not always most appropriate. • The scope of the national accounts is not comprehensive. Important national accounts components are currently not available, including: GDP by income approach; sector account for households and business enterprises including financial accounts and balance sheets. • Bangladesh has participated in an ADB project aimed at collecting information using the 1-2 survey approach on informal sector and informal employment; however, at present these estimates are not used. 	
<p>Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:</p>	
<p>Human resource skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of knowledge of 2008 SNA, • Lack of training on 2008 SNA, regional and quarterly accounts 	<p>Statistical infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBS prepared a comprehensive Business Register in 2009 for the first time. Though it contains all ISIC sectors(Agriculture, manufacturing

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of staff to update the old time series and make necessary improvements (base year, classifications, frameworks) • Economic statistics training provided in an ad hoc/irregular manner, with most training delivered on job • Limited training opportunities for staff at Upazilla/Thana offices – most staff lack basic statistical training • Significant number of vacancies especially at the Upazilla/Thana offices – the current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff • Lack of mid and long-term training 	<p>establishments and service sectors), there might be some scopes for further improvement in terms of coverage, mode of presentation of data etc. of the said register</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient survey data, the current surveys do not meet the requirements of national accounts, many of the existing surveys are conducted on infrequent or irregular basis and often suffer from poor response rates, BBS has identified a number of new surveys that are required in addition to increasing the frequency, coverage and quality of existing surveys • Administrative data between government departments shared based on personal rather than formal arrangements • Administrative data from non-government sources is difficult to access • Base year needs updating • Quality assurance frameworks are currently not used • Time intensive editing techniques used – need for modern editing techniques • Computer system not sufficient (excel used for compilation, data sometimes transmitted on paper)
<p>Methodological transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available GDDS metadata appears to be outdated • A release calendar is not available to public 	<p>Statistical advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy efforts so far have not secured resources and staff needed to be able to compile: quarterly GDP, regional GDP as well as necessary accounts • Resources and staff not sufficient to conduct the necessary surveys and access the necessary administrative data • Statistical law needs to be enacted to ensure that the BBS has the necessary authority to collect/access the necessary data • Data sharing between government departments based on informal arrangements • Poor response rate to surveys and limited access to non-government administrative data sources, such as construction associations affects quality of statistics
<p>Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision and rebasing of GDP and other aggregates; Currently BBS is rebasing GDP from 95-96 to 2005-06 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation of regional GDP and other national accounts aggregates; • Compilation of quarterly accounts; • Compilation of SUT (Supply and Use Tables); BBS already compiled SUT for the year 2005-06 under the assistance of ADB • Compilation of major institutional sector accounts; • Updating of national accounts deflators and technical coefficients; and • Compilation of commodity-wise export and import price indices etc. • Implementation of the 2008 SNA in 2013. However inadequate data sources, lack of staff to update the old time series and lack of knowledge of 2008 SNA have been identified as the main obstacles to 2008 SNA implementation. • Implementation of ISIC rev 4 during 2011. • Staff numbers to increase across the organization and double at the Upazilla/Thana offices • BBS has plans to modernize the statistical systems • The following have been identified as high priority
<p>Overall assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BBS has limited capacity to produce comprehensive national accounts in a timely manner and in accordance with recent international standards and frameworks. Furthermore, BBS has limited capacity to make the necessary improvements including: fully adopting the 1993 SNA and eventually migrating to 2008 SNA, improving the constant price statistics, compiling GDP by income approach, as well as compiling full set of accounts including among others institutional sector accounts, and updating of the base year. BBS also appears to have a limited capacity to collect/access the data necessary for comprehensive high quality national accounts

2. Balance of payments

Responsible agency: Statistics Department of BB		
Frequency: M	Recommended frequency: Q	Meets recommended frequency: Y
Timeliness: 5 weeks after the end of the reference month, quarter, or year and disseminated no later than 6 weeks after the end of the reference period.		
Statistics available:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All components of BOP are compiled including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current account: goods, services, income, and current transfers • Capital account • Financial account including direct investment, portfolio investment and the reserve assets and liabilities • Net errors and omissions • BOP, regional BOP statistics are compiled in respect of the following selected countries/regions/groupings: United Kingdom; USA; Canada; Japan; European Union; other European countries; member countries of the Organization of Islamic Conference; member countries of ASEAN; other Asian countries; and the rest of the world. • BOP statistics are currently compiled and published as actual only and are not seasonally adjusted. 		

Methodological notes²¹:

Scope

- Cover the full range of activities of the Bangladesh economy with the rest of the world, including in principle all current, capital and financial transactions. Non-trade transactions of enterprises operating in the EPZ's are however currently not included.

Compliance

- Compiled and organized in accordance with the fifth edition of the IMF "Balance of Payments Manual" till June 2011. Now BB has started compiling BOP as per 6th edition of IMF balance of payment manual from July 2011.
- The classification follows the recommendations of the BPM6. Institutional units are attributed to the relevant sector.
- Exports are valued on an f.o.b. basis; imports are valued on a c.i.f. basis, but adjusted to an f.o.b. basis by excluding 10 percent (due to lack of specific survey data) of the c.i.f. valuation. Of that 10 percent, 90 percent is allocated to transport services and 10 percent to insurance.²²
- Transactions are recorded on the change-of-ownership basis.
- Merchandise exports are recorded on an accrual (shipment) basis. Most other entries are recorded on a cash basis as banking and exchange control records are the primary source of data.
- Double-entry system is applied, financial account provides information on assets and liabilities and foreign direct investment is recorded using the directional principle.
- Monthly, quarterly and annually data are quite summarized, quarterly data contain debits and credits for all major accounts, and annual data present a detailed classification that meet the requirements of a comprehensive framework. Annual data are disseminated for the global balance of payments as also for regional balance of payments.

Sources

- The primary source of data used to compile the BOP is the banking transaction records collected through the foreign exchange transactions reporting system (exchange control records).
- Data on merchandise exports (valued f.o.b.) are provided by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) based on customs declarations. Data on capital equipment and machinery are collected from the office of the Chief Controller of Import and Export. Other data on imports (valued c.i.f.) are obtained from NBR as per custom declarations.
- Services data are obtained from exchange control records.
- Income transactions for compensation of employees are derived from surveys of foreign embassies and those on investment income are derived from exchange control records. These data are supplemented by data on interest payments on loans furnished by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance and data on interest received by the BB. Data on reinvested earnings and undistributed branch profits (components of direct investment income) are also available.
- Data on current transfers in the form of cash are obtained from exchange control records while detailed data on external assistance are furnished by the Economic Relations Division. ERD data are based on internal accounting procedures as well as reports from donors.
- Capital transfers consist mainly of official project grants and Japan Debt Relief Grants details of which are provided by ERD.
- Financial account transactions are derived based on the foreign direct investment and portfolio investment surveys. Data from exchange records and from ERD reports for multilateral loans and

²¹ Source: IMF's GDDS

²² IMF GDDS

foreign direct are also used.

- Data on reserve assets are obtained from the BB, supplemented by information from the IMF on Reserve Position in the Fund.
- Revisions are made when new data becomes available and are communicated to the public through notes in the monthly, quarterly and annual publications.

Quality issues:

- Coverage and quality issues with the data provided by Customs with imports data different by around 8% from realization
- The cost of freight and insurance can not be separately identified and at present a fixed proportion (10%) is being used to derive the cost of freight and insurance (which is then allocated 90% to transport services and 10% to insurance)
- No surveys are conducted to collect information on services.
- Remittances statistics need diversity.
- Information on foreign entities requires to be sufficient.

Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:

Human resource skills:

- The current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff and results in significant number of unfilled positions

Statistical infrastructure:

- Number of surveys to be conducted to increase the quality of of BOP data.
- Differences between the Customs and authorized exchange dealers data need to be analyzed and fully understood
- Data transmitted via CD-Rom afterwards it will be transmitted through Enerprises data wearhouse(EDW).
- Data about import quantities is difficult to obtain
- Volume data is problematic
- Computer system not sufficient (excel used for compilation, data sometimes transmitted on paper)

Methodological transparency:

- The available GDDS metadata appears to be outdated
- A release calendar is not available to public

Statistical advocacy:

- Statistics Division not represented on the BB Executive Board which hampers its ability to contribute to the strategic planning and management

Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):

- BB is planning to strengthen the merchandise import statistics by using the custom declarations
- BB is planning to improve the estimates of cost of freight and insurance through the establishment of necessary survey
- Strengthening the services statistics by establishing necessary surveys, including travel and transport;
- Improved collection of data on exports of goods;
- Improved collection of data on remittances;
- Improved collection of data on foreign entities.
- No concrete date has been set for migration to the BPM6, however lack of manpower and problems with data sources have been identified as the main constraints preventing migration to BPM6.

Overall assessment

- The BB has the basic capacity to produce the BOP statistics, however it appears to have limited capacity to improve current data sources including establishment of necessary services surveys.

3. International Investment Position

Responsible agency: BB	
Frequency: A	Recommended frequency: A
Meets recommended frequency: Y	
Timeliness: disseminated no later than 9 weeks after the end of the reference period.	
Statistics available:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics are presented by assets (Bangladesh investment abroad) and liabilities (foreign investment in Bangladesh) • All components of IIP are compiled including: direct investment, portfolio investment, other investment and reserve assets. 	
Methodological notes ²³ :	
<i>Compliance</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compiled and organized in accordance with the fifth edition of the IMF "Balance of Payments Manual" using the classification by functional category or type of investment (direct investment, portfolio investment, other investment and reserve assets). 	
<i>Sources</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derived based on the Foreign Direct Investment (semi-annual, covering around 740 enterprises, with average response rate of 70 – 80 %); External Debt Management (quarterly) and Portfolio Investment (annual) surveys. Data from exchange records and from ERD reports for multilateral loans and foreign direct investment are also used. • Data on reserve assets are obtained from the BB, supplemented by information from the IMF on Reserve Position in the Fund. • Revision are made when new data becomes available and are communicated to the public through notes in the monthly, quarterly and annual publications. 	
Quality issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on foreign entities not sufficient 	
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:	
Human resource skills:	Statistical infrastructure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff and results in significant number of unfilled positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer system not sufficient (excel used for compilation, data sometimes transmitted on paper)
Methodological transparency:	Statistical advocacy:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available GDDS metadata appears to be outdated • A release calendar is not available to public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics Division not represented on the BB Executive Board which hampers its ability to contribute to the strategic planning and management
Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved collection of data on foreign entities. 	

²³ Source: IMF's GDDS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No concrete date has been set for migration to the BPM6, however lack of manpower and problems with data sources have been identified as the main constraints preventing migration to BPM6.
Overall assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BB has the basic capacity to produce the IIP statistics.

4. External debt

Responsible agency: BB	
Frequency: Q	Recommended frequency: Q
Meets recommended frequency: Y	
Timeliness:	
Statistics available:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed data on the outstanding external debt of central government, which cover the direct liabilities of the central government including borrowing on behalf of all non-financial public enterprises. Private sector external debt. 	
Methodological notes²⁴:	
<i>Compliance</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compiled and organized in accordance with the fifth edition of the IMF "Balance of Payments Manual". 	
<i>Sources</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government debt derived based on data on interest payments on loans furnished by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance. Private sector debt derived based on the Foreign Direct Investment (semi-annual, covering around 740 enterprises, with average response rate of 70 – 80 %) survey and data collected from exchange records and from ERD reports for multilateral loans and foreign direct investment are also used. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision are made when new data becomes available and are communicated to the public through notes in the monthly, quarterly and annual publications. 	
Quality issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing additional detail on private sector obligations 	
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:	
Human resource skills:	Statistical infrastructure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of manpower High number of vacancies which take significant amount of time to fill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer system not sufficient (excel used for compilation, data sometimes transmitted on paper)
Methodological transparency:	Statistical advocacy:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The available GDDS metadata appears to be outdated A release calendar is not available to public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistics Division not represented on the BB Executive Board which hampers its ability to contribute to the strategic planning and management
Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not available 	
Overall assessment	

²⁴ Source: IMF's GDDS

- The BB has the basic capacity to produce the external debt statistics.

5. Income distribution

Responsible agency: BBS		
Frequency: 5 yearly	Recommended frequency: 5 yearly	Meets recommended frequency: Y
Timeliness:		
Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage Distribution of Income Accruing to Households in Groups and Gini Coefficients • Distribution of Households, Average Number of Members, Earners and Monthly Income Per Household by Monthly Household Income Groups • Distribution of Households, Average Number of Members, Earners, Monthly Income and Expenditure Per Household by Monthly Per Capita Income Group 		
Methodological notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on 2005 Household Income and Expenditure Survey which covered a sample of 10080 households across 504 primary sampling units (PSU). 		
Quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only basic information available, other useful information such as statistics by participation in the formal/informal economy not available 		
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:		
Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of mid and long-term statistical training – only on job training currently available • Limited training opportunities for staff at Upazilla/Thana offices – most staff lack basic statistical training • Significant number of vacancies especially at the Upazilla/Thana offices – the current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff 		Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT infrastructure not sufficient for timely processing of survey results and compilation of statistics
Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No metadata available 		Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not available 		
Overall assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BBS has the basic capacity to produce the income distribution statistics on regular basis and in a timely manner. 		

D. Monetary and Financial Statistics

34. The money and banking statistics produced by the BSS mostly meet the recommendations of the core set. The BB appears to have the capacity to produce these statistics in a timely manner and in accordance with international standards, methods and good practices.

35. A detailed assessment of money and banking statistics is provided below.

1. Assets/liabilities of depository corporations

Responsible agency: Statistics Department of BB		
Frequency: M	Recommended frequency: M	Meets recommended frequency: Y
Timeliness: Compiled within 5 weeks and disseminated within six weeks after the end of the reference month.		
Statistics available:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claims on Resident Sector by Depository Corporations • Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) • Assets And Liabilities Of Banks 		
Methodological notes²⁵:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classification and methodology used are consistent with the IMF's 2000 "Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual" • Net foreign assets are presented as the net positions of Bangladesh Bank and deposit money banks (other depository corporations). Net domestic assets are classified by sector and include claims on central government (net), claims on other public sector, and claims on the private sector. • The analytical framework is the monetary survey, which equates broad money to net domestic assets plus net foreign assets. • Monetary survey data are based entirely on administrative records-i.e., the accounts of Bangladesh Bank and other depository corporations. No surveys are used in compiling monetary survey data. Bangladesh Bank accounts are produced by the Accounts & Budgeting Department, Forex Reserve & Treasury Management Department and Department of Currency Management & Payment Systems on a monthly basis. Complete accounts are generally available about four weeks after the end of the reference month. • Other depository corporations report their monthly assets and liabilities to Bangladesh Bank on a detailed report form called a sectorized balance sheet (SBS- returns for commercial banks and NBDC returns for non bank depository institutions). Banks transform their basic accounting data to the classification of the SBS based on instructions provided by Bangladesh Bank. All bank branches (about 6,654 in number) report their monthly positions to their head offices within 10 days of the end of the reference month. Head offices must report their consolidated position to Bangladesh Bank within 25 days of the end of the reference month. Banks also provide, on a quarterly basis, detailed classification of deposits and classification of advances (loans). Reporting banks are required to 		

²⁵ Source: IMF's GDDS

<p>certify to Bangladesh Bank that their monthly returns include reports from all branches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic monetary and financial statistics are published on a monthly basis. More detailed unconsolidated monthly statistics on the accounts of Bangladesh Bank and deposit money banks are published on quarterly basis. 	
<p>Quality issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
<p>Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:</p>	
<p>Human resource skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of manpower • High number of vacancies which take significant amount of time to fill • Limited foreign training opportunities for staff of Statistics department 	<p>Statistical infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer system not sufficient (excel used for compilation, data sometimes transmitted on paper)
<p>Methodological transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available GDDS metadata appears to be outdated • A release calendar is not available to public 	<p>Statistical advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics Division not represented on the BB Executive Board which hampers its ability to contribute to the strategic planning and management
<p>Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics Department of BB has plan for migration to the MFSM2008 by 2012. 	
<p>Overall assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BB has the basic capacity to produce the external assets/liabilities of depository corporations statistics. 	

2. Broad money and credit aggregates

<p>Responsible agency: BB</p>		
<p>Frequency: M</p>	<p>Recommended frequency: M</p>	<p>Meets recommended frequency: Y</p>
<p>Timeliness: Compiled within 4 weeks and disseminated within 5 weeks after the end of the reference month.</p>		
<p>Statistics available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad Money Supply (M2) • Narrow Money Supply (M1) • Reserve Money [M] • Total Domestic Credit [M] 		
<p>Methodological notes²⁶:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classification and methodology used are consistent with the IMF's 2000 "Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual" • The analytical framework is the monetary survey, which equates broad money to net domestic assets plus net foreign assets. • Monetary survey data are based entirely on administrative records-i.e., the accounts of Bangladesh Bank and other depository corporations. No surveys are used in compiling monetary survey data. 		

²⁶ Source: IMF's GDDS

<p>Bangladesh Bank accounts are produced by the Accounts & Budgeting Department, Forex Reserve & Treasury Management Department and Department of Currency Management & Payment Systems on a monthly basis. Complete accounts are generally available about four weeks after the end of the reference month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other depository corporations report their monthly assets and liabilities to Bangladesh Bank on a detailed report form called a sectorized balance sheet (SBS- returns for commercial banks and NBDC returns for non bank depository institutions). Banks transform their basic accounting data to the classification of the SBS based on instructions provided by Bangladesh Bank. All bank branches (about 6,654 in number) report their monthly positions to their head offices within 10 days of the end of the reference month. Head offices must report their consolidated position to Bangladesh Bank within 25 days of the end of the reference month. Banks also provide, on a quarterly basis, detailed classification of deposits and classification of advances (loans). Reporting banks are required to certify to Bangladesh Bank that their monthly returns include reports from all branches. • Basic monetary and financial statistics are published on a monthly basis. More detailed unconsolidated monthly statistics on the accounts of Bangladesh Bank and deposit money banks are published on quarterly basis. 	
<p>Quality issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
<p>Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:</p>	
<p>Human resource skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of manpower • High number of vacancies which take significant amount of time to fill 	<p>Statistical infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer system not sufficient (excel used for compilation, data sometimes transmitted on paper)
<p>Methodological transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available GDDS metadata appears to be outdated • A release calendar is not available to public 	<p>Statistical advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics Division not represented on the BB Executive Board which hampers its ability to contribute to the strategic planning and management
<p>Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present no concrete date has been set for migration to the MFSM2008. 	
<p>Overall assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BB has the basic capacity to produce the external broad money and credit aggregates statistics, however this capacity is affected by: limited financial and human resources with the human resources significantly affected by the current hiring policy, and poor IT infrastructure which inhibits easy data sharing and compilation of statistics 	

3. Interest rate statistics

<p>Responsible agency: BB</p>		
<p>Frequency: M</p>	<p>Recommended frequency: M</p>	<p>Meets recommended frequency: Y</p>
<p>Timeliness: 2 to 4 weeks after the end of the reference month.</p>		
<p>Statistics available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank Rate; • 91/182/364 days Treasury Bill Rates; 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/3/5/10/15/20 years Treasury Bond Rates; • Call Money Market's Weighted Average Interest Rate Borrowing / Lending; • Schedule Banks' Weighted Average Interest Rate Deposits / Advances; • Rates on savings deposits; • Short-term and long-term fixed deposit rates ranging from three months to three years and three years and above maturities; • Lending rates (agriculture, exports and other commercial lending, and for small and medium scale industries); • Rates on construction loans provided by the House Building Finance Corporation. • Rates of Repo and Reverse Repo with BB and Inter-bank Repos. 	
Methodological notes²⁷: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classification and methodology used are consistent with the IMF's 2000 "Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual" 	
Quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:	
Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of manpower • High number of vacancies which take significant amount of time to fill 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to improve the IT infrastructure
Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available GDDS metadata appears to be outdated • A release calendar is not available to public 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics Division not represented on the BB Executive Board which hampers its ability to contribute to the strategic planning and management
Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics Department of BB has plan for migration to the MFSM2008 by 2012. 	
Overall assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BB has the basic capacity to produce the external interest rate statistics 	

²⁷ Source: IMF's GDDS

E. Government

36. The majority of statistics under government are currently compiled. However the MOF appears to have limited capacity to produce these statistics at the recommended frequency and in accordance with latest international standards..

37. A detailed assessment of government statistics is provided below.

1. General government operations

Responsible agency: MOF/ National Board of Revenue		
Frequency: M/A	Recommended frequency: Q	Meets recommended frequency: N
Timeliness: Annual fiscal data are published with a lag of one year after the end of the fiscal year. Monthly Report on Fiscal Position is published 2 months after the reference period.		
Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated Receipts And Expenditures Of The Government Of Bangladesh [MOF, Annual) • Tax Revenue (National Board of Revenue, Monthly) 		
Methodological notes²⁸:		
Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government Finance Statistics (GFS) cover the budgetary and accounting operations of the central government and profits and losses of public enterprises including Railways, the Post Office, and the Telephone and Telegraph (these public enterprises should be excluded from the GFS). The statistics cover all budgetary government units, including ministries, departments and their subordinate agencies. The GFS do not fully cover local government operations, lacking information about local government revenue. • The statistics comprise revenue receipts, expenditure, overall deficit, and financing broken down into foreign and domestic financing. Both domestic and foreign financing are classified by type of debt instrument and type of debt holder. Revenue is broken down into tax and non-tax revenue. Expenditure includes both non-development expenditure (recurrent expenditure plus capital expenditure) and development expenditure. • Finance Accounts contain actual amounts of receipts and expenditures while Appropriation Accounts contain actual amounts of expenditure by function and economic type vis-à-vis amount of allocation. 		
Compliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bangladesh GFS are compiled in accordance with Government Finance Statistics Manual (GFSM) 1986 rather than the recommended GFSM 2001. • Government budgetary transactions are recorded on a cash basis. • The prices used to value transactions reflect actual or imputed cash payments. The value of debt liabilities are recorded at face value rather than current market value. • Revenue is classified into taxes and non-taxes, using definitions which appear to be broadly consistent with the GFSM methodology. Expenditure is classified in separate statements by both function and 		

²⁸ Source: IMF's GDDS

economic type. The functional classification, used for revenue (recurrent) expenditure does not follow the international Classification of Functions of Government (COFOG), but is presented in sufficient detail to permit the data to be easily reclassified into the 14 categories of the COFOG system.

- The classification system used for foreign financing is different from that used for domestic financing for which GFSM classification is not used.

Source

- The GFS are compiled on the basis of accounting and transaction records of the central government maintained by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) and accounts offices under it.
- The debt statistics are compiled based on data on outstanding external debt maintained by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the MOF, which is reconciled with information provided by development partners on loan disbursements. Non-bank borrowing part of domestic debt is primarily compiled by the National Savings Directorate. The Bangladesh Bank compiles statistics on the bank-borrowing component of domestic debt using information from a database on issues and redemptions of Treasury bills created for cash management purposes, Treasury bill auctions to banks, and the National Savings Certificate Program, as well as on any issues of long-term bonds to banks or other domestic lenders.

Quality issues:

- The Bangladesh GFS are compiled in accordance with Government Finance Statistics Manual (GFSM) 1986 rather than the recommended GFSM 2001.
- Government budgetary transactions are recorded on a cash basis.
- The functional classification, used for revenue (recurrent) expenditure does not follow the international Classification of Functions of Government (COFOG), but is presented in sufficient detail to permit the data to be easily reclassified into the 14 categories of the COFOG system.
- The classification system used for foreign financing is different from that used for domestic financing for which GFSM classification is not used.

Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:

<p>Human resource skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of manpower • High number of vacancies which take significant amount of time to fill 	<p>Statistical infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accrual basis currently not followed • The current classifications used are not internationally harmonized
<p>Methodological transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available metadata appears to be outdated • A release calendar is not available to public 	<p>Statistical advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compiled in accordance with GFSM 1986 rather than the recommended GFSM 2001

Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):

- At present no concrete date has been set for migration to the GFSM 2001.

Overall assessment

- The MOF has the basic capacity to produce the general government operations statistics. However MOF appears to have limited capacity to make the necessary improvements to these statistics to ensure that they are produced in accordance with more recent international standards and on sub-annual basis.

2. General government debt

Responsible agency: MOF/ BB		
Frequency: M/A	Recommended frequency: Q	Meets recommended frequency: N
Timeliness: Annual fiscal data are published with a lag of one year after the end of the fiscal year. Monthly Report on Fiscal Position is published 2 months after the reference period.		
Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated Receipts And Expenditures Of The Government Of Bangladesh [MOF, Annual) • Tax Revenue (National Board of Revenue, Monthly) 		
Methodological notes²⁹: <p><i>Scope</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt statistics are not part of the GFS and are instead published separately. • The annual external debt statistics of the Government of Bangladesh include debt incurred on behalf of the non-financial public enterprises such as the Railways, the Post Office, and various autonomous bodies. For domestic debt, the data cover debt of the government and of the Railways, the Post Office, and the T&T. • Detailed statistics on the outstanding external debt of central government, which cover the direct liabilities of the central government including borrowing on behalf of all non-financial public enterprises, are disseminated. <p><i>Compliance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bangladesh GFS are compiled in accordance with Government Finance Statistics Manual (GFSM) 1986 rather than the recommended GFSM 2001. • The classification system used for foreign financing is different from that used for domestic financing for which GFSM classification is not used. <p><i>Source</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The debt statistics are compiled based on data on outstanding external debt maintained by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the MOF, which is reconciled with information provided by development partners on loan disbursements. Non-bank borrowing part of domestic debt is primarily compiled by the National Savings Directorate. The Bangladesh Bank compiles statistics on the bank-borrowing component of domestic debt using information from a database on issues and redemptions of Treasury bills created for cash management purposes, Treasury bill auctions to banks, and the National Savings Certificate Program, as well as on any issues of long-term bonds to banks or other domestic lenders. 		
Quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bangladesh GFS are compiled in accordance with Government Finance Statistics Manual (GFSM) 1986 rather than the recommended GFSM 2001. • Government budgetary transactions are recorded on a cash basis. • The value of debt liabilities are recorded at face value rather than current market value. • The classification system used for foreign financing is different from that used for domestic financing for which GFSM classification is not used. 		
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:		

²⁹ Source: IMF's GDDS

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Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of manpower• High number of vacancies which take significant amount of time to fill	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accrual basis currently not followed• The current classifications used are not internationally harmonized
Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The available metadata appears to be outdated• A release calendar is not available to public	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compiled in accordance with GFSM 1986 rather than the recommended GFSM 2001
Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At present no concrete date has been set for migration to the MFSM2008.	
Overall assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The MOF has the basic capacity to produce the general government debt statistics. However MOF appears to have limited capacity to make the necessary improvements to these statistics to ensure that they are produced in accordance with more recent international standards and on sub-annual basis.	

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F. Labour market

38. Although the labour supply and demand statistics are currently compiled, the BBS appears to have limited capacity to produce these statistics at the recommended frequency, in a timely manner and in accordance with latest international standards and methods.

39. A detailed assessment of labour market statistics is provided below.

1. Labour supply and demand/Hours worked

Responsible agency: Industry and Labour Wing of the BBS		
Frequency: see brackets below	Recommended frequency: A/Q	Meets recommended frequency: N
Timeliness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LFS employment statistics are available between 1 and 2 years after the end of the reference period. The survey itself is only compiled every 5 years, with the last LFS compiled in 2010. • Employment indices are published with a lag of one month. • Statistics on public sector employment are published with a time lag of 2 years. 		
Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civilian Labour Force By Sex And Residence [3-5yrs] • Employment Trends In Major Economic Sectors [3-5yrs] • Employment In Major Occupation [3-5yrs] • Unemployment rate By Sex and Residence [3-5yrs] • Unemployment Rates By Level of Education, Residence And Sex [3-5yrs] • Economically Active Persons Aged 15 Years And Over By Labour Force Participation Rates Sex Division And Zila [Ad hoc] • Indices of employment in manufacturing (M) • Government employment (Annually) 		
Methodological notes³⁰: <p><i>Scope</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics based on the Labor Force Survey (LFS) are published as the number and as the percentage of total economically active population (labor force) with the reference period being the previous week, and covering all persons 15 years old and over. Statistics are published by age groups, sex and residence, economic activity, level of education, major occupation, major industry, and status of employment. • Employment indices with 1988-89 as the base year are published for production workers and all employees. • Data on number of employees in government derived from the records of the Ministry of 		

³⁰ Source: IMF's GDDS

Establishment are also published.

Compliance

- The statistics are compiled in accordance with ILO guidelines and definitions.
- National classifications are harmonized with international ISCO 1988.

Sources

- The main source of labour statistics is LFS, which is currently conducted every 5 years (with BBS planning to increase its frequency to every 3 years), with the last one (including an informal sector component) conducted in 2010. The reference period for the survey is the previous week, and reference population - all persons 15 years old and over. The survey covers 1500 primary sampling units of about 43945 households.
- Employment indices are based on a sample survey of about 800 establishments. The data are shown for production workers and all employees.
- Statistics on the number of employees in government are derived from the records of the Ministry of Establishment.

Quality issues:

- The LFS based statistics are currently published with a time lag of 1 to 2 years. The LFS is conducted every 5 years and although plans exist to increase its frequency to every 3 years, the increase in the frequency will do little to address the need for timely, comprehensive, annual (or higher frequency) statistics.
- The monthly statistics based on administrative data do not cover all sectors (selected industries only) and lack detailed information.
-

Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:

Human resource skills:

- Economic statistics training provided in an ad hoc/irregular manner, with most training delivered on job
- Significant number of vacancies especially at the Upazilla/Thana offices – the current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff
- Lack of mid and long-term statistical training – only on job training currently available
- Limited training opportunities for staff at Upazilla/Thana offices – most staff lack basic statistical training

Statistical infrastructure:

- LFS is only compiled every 5 years, no regular high frequency data collections available
- Access to administrative data sources is limited
- IT infrastructure not sufficient for timely compilation of Wages / Earnings data/Labour costs index / Wage index
- Data editing techniques currently used are very time consuming and contribute to significant time lag in production of statistics

Methodological transparency:

- The available GDDS metadata appears to be outdated
- A release calendar is not available to public

Statistical advocacy:

- Advocacy efforts so far have not secured resources and political support necessary to ensure that LFS can be compiled on monthly or quarterly basis
- Limited register based information available

Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):

-

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBS in planning to increase the frequency of LFS from 5 yearly to 3 yearly
Overall assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BBS has very limited capacity to produce the labour supply and demand/Hours worked on regular basis and in a timely manner. Furthermore BBS appears to have a very limited capacity to make the necessary improvements including among others updating of the base year, improving the coverage and frequency of data sources.

G. Natural resources and the environment

40. Limited natural resources and the environment statistics are currently compiled by the BBS. Provided below is a brief overview of currently produced statistics with respect to the core set of economic statistics.

1. Natural resources

Responsible agency: MOA	
Frequency: Ad hoc	Recommended frequency: A
Meets recommended frequency: N	
Timeliness:	
Statistics available:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Losses Of Fertility Of Soil By Intensified Crop Cultivation from 1967-1968 to 1997-1998 	
Methodological notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Quality issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not available 	
Regional programme of economic statistics four pillars of capacity development assessment:	
Human resource skills:	Statistical infrastructure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not available
Methodological transparency:	Statistical advocacy:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No metadata available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not available
Planned improvements (as per NSDS or interviews):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Overall assessment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not available 	

V. Constraints, needs for capacity development and recommendations

41. The BSS is currently able to produce 30 out of 32 of the statistics within the core set with the majority (20) meeting the core set recommendations on frequency. The assessment further found that BSS has limited capacity to produce national accounts, structural statistics, PPI, labour supply and demand, and short-term indicators on demand and output at the recommended frequency and in accordance with relevant international standards and good practices. The assessment also found that BSS and BBS in particular have limited capacity to make the necessary improvements.

42. Presented below are constraints that have been identified as limiting the capacity of the BSS to produce economic statistics and make the necessary improvements. Detailed overview of the current situation with respect to each of the areas discussed is presented in Annex I.

43. Presented below are also needs for capacity development and some recommendations in this regard that would assist the BSS in overcoming the constraints identified in the assessment.

A. Institutional agreements and coordination

44. There appears to be a high level of cooperation and coordination between the different government organizations involved in the production of economic statistics (BBS, MOF, BB, MOA) with good working relationship between all the organizations involved. As per current practice, though not supported by law BBS is responsible for coordinator of the statistical system, including effective coordination of the work of all organizations involved in the production of statistics.

45. The data sharing arrangements between different government agencies are currently not formalized limiting the BBS access to the necessary administrative data in a timely and efficient manner. BBS depends on informal arrangements and good will for accessing administrative data from other government departments. Furthermore BBS has no input in structuring administrative data collections, limiting their use to the statistical system.

46. There is no survey clearing house that is responsible for ensuring that all statistical surveys are conducted in a coordinated manner, meet common standards and minimize duplication and responded burden

47. Significant amount of data sharing is done using hard copy publications, via email or using CDs. Data sharing between different organizations needs to be streamlined to increase its timeliness and avoid unnecessary duplication of work. Furthermore a number of publications produced by the BB, MOF and BBS appear to have a significant overlap.

Room exists for rationalizing the overall dissemination practices to reduce the amount of duplication between various publications.

48. The new statistical law is expected to address many of the constraints identified above including clarifying the role of the BBS within the BSS. Nevertheless the BSS could benefit from sharing of experiences with other national statistical offices on the role of the national statistical offices within the national statistical systems. BBS needs to clearly establish itself as a statistical coordinator for Bangladesh and understanding the roles of other national statistical offices could assist BBS in clarifying the relationship with other government agencies and formalizing the data sharing and exchange arrangements.

B. Statistical mandate and advocacy

49. The current legal mandate of the BBS is limited and does not comprehensively and clearly specify the role of the BBS limiting its ability to fully fulfill its function.

50. The legal basis for BBS to conduct surveys is limited. BBS does not have a clear legal mandate to collect all the necessary survey data, including a legal provision to (if absolutely necessary) penalize non respondents.

51. This lack of necessary legal mandate is further amplified by the lack of awareness of respondents that all provided data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual unit records will be shared with other government departments and in particular the revenue office.

52. It is expected that the new statistical law should address most of these issues, however it is also evident that strengthening the BSS will also require a significant amount of advocacy.

53. Policy-makers need to understand the importance of timely, high quality economic statistics and ensure sufficient resources are made available to the BSS. To achieve this, the BSS will need to take a more pro-active role in raising the awareness of policy-makers and data users of the importance of economic statistics. The BSS could benefit from training and other assistance in developing advocacy tools to raise the awareness among the policy-makers of importance of investing in the improvement of economic statistics.

54. The BBS will also need to take a more active role in raising the awareness of data providers, to improve overall response rate/access to data and its accuracy through increasing their awareness of the importance of statistics. The BBS could benefit from training, exchange of experiences with other national statistical offices and possibly technical assistance in raising the awareness of the importance of statistics including economic statistics. Providers, users and general public need to understand that BBS is

fully independent and any information shared with it or other parts of BSS will be treated with care and confidentiality and will not be shared with the revenue office.

C. Human resources

55. There is a clear need for a long-term, sustainable human resources policy, which is endorsed by policymakers and relevant government agencies. The present high level of vacancies and limited capacity building activities place a severe constraint on the BSS and in particular the BBS. Steps need to be taken to ensure that over the coming years the huge number of vacancies is filled. BSS could benefit from assistance in development of a long-term strategy for improvement of human resources.

56. At the same time the significant number of new staff that is expected to join the BSS and in particular BBS will require a clear national capacity building programme. There is a need to strengthen the BBS Training Academy to ensure that new staff, in the central offices as well as staff at the regional and subregional level and other ministries (including MOF) have the necessary basic skills to collect data for, compile and disseminate economic statistics. A range of training courses including training of trainers are required to address these significant capacity building needs. To guide a staff skills development a skills framework could be adopted such as SIAP's Core Skills Framework³¹.

57. BSS could benefit from assistance in developing a long-term plan for capacity building programme including a plan for strengthening the BBS Training Academy. Learning from other statistical systems in the region, could assist BSS in developing a strategy for sustainable national training programme. BSS could also benefit from access to training materials of other national and international training organizations.

58. In addition to addressing the basic statistical training needs of new staff, a policy is needed to address the mid and high level training needs including specific training on new international standards and methods (SNA 2008, IRIS2008 and IRIP2010, quarterly GDP, regional accounts, etc). BBS could benefit from a combination of national and international training programmes as well as staff exchanges with other countries to address these needs. International training that is provided in these areas should be attended by staff working in related fields. At the same time given the size of the BSS and the limited number of international training programmes, the impact of these training courses could be increased through the provision of training by staff attending the international programmes to other parts of the BSS.

59. The BSS could also significantly benefit from staff exchanges with other statistical offices from the SAARC sub-region as well as the rest of the Asian and the Pacific region. Much could be learned from other developed as well as developing statistical systems and in particular those that have recently undergone similar

³¹ More information on SIAP Core Skills Framework is available at http://www.unsiap.or.jp/about_siap/coreskill.php

improvements. At the same time other statistical systems could learn a lot from the BSS about their positive experiences with economic statistics.

D. Statistical infrastructure

1. Modern statistical information systems

60. The BSS (and in particular BBS) is in need of modernization of its statistical information/computer systems. At present most of data collection and entry is done manually and takes a significant amount of time (with some surveys and censuses such as CMI taking years to process) and resources. Most of the statistics compilation is currently done in Excel with no integrated systems for compilation and storage of statistics. The data sharing between different parts of the BSS and within organizations is often done using hard copy material, requiring the receiver to re-enter the information.

61. There is a clear need for an improvement of the statistical information/computer systems. Given the significant costs involved in these sorts of improvements, BSS could benefit from sharing of experiences with other national statistical systems in the region and beyond. BBS could also evaluate systems used in other developing statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific, as it could be possible to adopt components of those systems to the Bangladesh environment.

2. Business registers

62. The BBS business register contains information on the basis of ISIC sectors (Agriculture, manufacturing and service establishment) employing 10 or more persons. It is not updated on a regular basis which need special attention..

63. Given the central role that business register plays in ensuring that all relevant surveys are conducted in a coherent and consistent manner there is a clear and urgent need for an improvement of the Bangladesh business register. The business register needs to be improved to ensure that it contains up-to-date information on all the establishments (and ideally enterprises) involved in the economic activity in Bangladesh. Available administrative data sources need to be utilized to ensure that the information in the business register is up-to-date. The BBS could benefit from technical assistance and international training in the area of business registers. Additionally BBS could benefit from study tours or staff exchanges with other national statistical offices to allow it staff to learn good practices and methods followed by other organizations. BBS staff could also benefit from learning from other national statistical offices on the use and maintains of business register.

3. Modern statistical data editing techniques

64. The BSS does extensive data validation/editing when processing survey/census results. Both BBS and BB work hard to ensure that survey/census data are of high quality.

65. The BBS survey/census responses are checked/edited at a number of stages including at sub-regional/regional level and Central Data Processing Unit of BBS. Significant efforts are made to manually validate the questionnaires at the sub-regional/regional level (where relevant), following which additional manual and automated checks are conducted at the central office. Likewise the BB also uses both manual and automated checks to ensure high quality of responses. The current editing process takes significant amount of time and affects timeliness of survey data in turn affecting the timeliness of derived statistics.

66. The BSS and BBS could potentially benefit from modernizing its statistical data editing techniques. Significant amount of time and resources is currently being used for entering/editing survey/census responses. Adoption of modern techniques could potentially reduce both the resources and time required to process the results.

67. BSS and BBS could benefit from training in the use of modern statistical data editing techniques in the processing of raw economic census and survey data and the resulting quality of the edited data. Such training programmes should ideally include components on concepts, techniques and good practices currently used by other national statistical offices. The BSS could also benefit from technical assistance in this area to facilitate migration to the modern statistical data editing techniques.

4. Quality assessment frameworks

68. The BSS does not at present use quality assessment frameworks to ensure the overall quality of statistics produced. Although every effort is being made to ensure very high quality of statistics, the BSS could benefit from adopting internationally accepted quality assessment frameworks such as IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF). BBS could benefit from training in this area as well as exchange of experiences with other national statistical offices permitting its staff to learn how such frameworks are currently used by other countries to ensure quality of statistics.

5. Metadata

69. As a subscriber to the GDDS, the BSS makes available a significant amount of metadata on the IMF's website, providing users with a wealth of information, including information about methods, practices and data sources. Additionally, both BBS and BB publish additional metadata on their websites and in some of their publications.

70. Most of the metadata (covering statistics produced by MOF, BBS and BB) currently available on the IMF website as well as some of the information available from the other sources mentioned above appears to be outdated (possibly even by a number of years).

71. To ensure transparency of methods and practices and inform users of the current limitations of statistics, the BSS needs to ensure that the metadata available both from national and international websites and other sources is up-to-date and easily accessible.

E. Source data

72. The issues related to the source data are discussed in detail in Annex I. The limited availability of source data is one of the main constraints affecting the capacity of the BSS to produce the core set of economic statistics of sufficient frequency and quality. The assessment found that availability of source data present a particular challenge to the BBS and to much lesser degree BB. MOF does not at present experience significant problems in this area.

1. Surveys

73. The lack of high frequency timely survey data presents a very significant challenge to the BBS. The overall quality and timeliness of statistics is significantly affected by lack of, or poor frequency and timelines of necessary survey data. Many of the key surveys such as LFS are compiled on an infrequent basis (every 5 years with plans to move to 3 years) and take a significant time to process (CMI results are published 4-5 years after the reference period). More importantly no survey information is currently available on many of the important dimensions of the economy.

74. There is a need for a long-term strategy for establishing the necessary data collections, ensuring that their frequency (at least in the longer-term) permits also compilation of sub-annual statistics. To achieve this, careful review the current survey and censuses processes and practices is required to identify the main factors contributing to the significant time required for their processing.

75. The BSS could benefit from training and other assistance in developing advocacy tools to raise the awareness among the policy-makers of importance of investing in the improvement of economic statistics to secure the necessary human and financial resources for the necessary surveys.

2. Administrative data

76. As with survey data, access to administrative data sources from both non-government and to much lesser degree government sources appears to be a key constraint limiting the capacity of BBS to produce economic statistics.

77. Through the new statistical law, the BBS should ensure that it has a clear mandate to collect administrative data from all relevant government departments. The access to government data needs to be fully mandated and should not depend on personal relationships. Furthermore, efforts should be made to ensure in the future BBS is able to influence (where possible, through training, advocacy, advice, etc) administrative data collections, so that the data collected by various government departments is of sufficient quality and suits the statistical needs of the BBS.

78. Key non-government organizations such as trade associations (and in particular the Bangladesh Association of Construction Industry) and others should be persuaded (through advocacy) to allow BBS to access their administrative data. There is a need to raise the awareness of these providers of the importance of their data and assure them of the strict confidentiality with which this data will be treated. If possible, legal means/provisions should also be provided to the BBS to collect such key administrative data.

79. The BBS could benefit from training, exchange of experiences with other national statistical offices and possibly technical assistance in developing tools to raise the awareness providers of data that BBS is fully independent and any information shared with it or other parts of BSS will be treated with care and confidentiality and will not be shared with the revenue office.

3. Utilization of administrative data

80. Many of the plans for improvement of the BSS include introduction of new surveys and extension of existing surveys. There is a need for careful assessment of the existing and possible administrative data sources. All available and suitable administrative data should be utilized. When suitable high quality administrative data sources exist, then a need for any survey collecting similar data should be carefully evaluated.

81. BBS could benefit from training and exchange of experiences with other national statistical offices on the effective use of administrative data.

F. Release calendars

82. All of the statistics currently published by the BSS are published on the availability basis with most of them following rough internal guidelines as to when/on what date these statistics should be published.

Strict release calendars for all BSS's statistical publications (including censuses and survey based publications) need to be develop to improving transparency of statistics, and provide a clear target for all statistics compilers.

G. Strategic planning

83. There is a clear need for the BSS to develop a long-term strategy that will secure the government commitment to statistics and address the constraints outlined in this assessment. With assistance from Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), the BSS is currently in the process of designing the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS).

VI. Conclusion

84. The BSS is a centralized statistical system. The collection of data for, compilation and dissemination of the core set of economic statistics are the responsibility of three main parts of the BSS: BBS, BB and MOF. In addition to the three principal organizations, the MOA is responsible for collection of data for and compilation and dissemination of selected agricultural statistics such as commodity prices.

85. The assessment found that the BSS is currently able to produce 30 out of 32 of the statistics within the core set with the majority (20) meeting the core set recommendations on frequency. The assessment further found that although the BSS has the basic capacity to produce most of the statistics within the core set, it has limited capacity to produce many of these statistics at the recommended frequency and in accordance with relevant international standards and good practices.

86. Based on the interviews with statistics providers and users and the discussions during the consultative meeting the assessment found that improving the capacity of the BSS to produce: national accounts, structural statistics, PPI, labour supply and demand, and short-term indicators on demand and output was a national priority.

87. Addressing these priorities will depend on BBS ability to address some of the constraints identified in the assessment including: statistical mandate, financial and human resources including access to training, data sources, business registers, statistical information systems, quality assurance frameworks and data editing techniques.

88. The current statistical mandate of the BBS is limited and does not comprehensively and clearly specify the role of the BBS including its role in coordination of statistical activities in the country, limiting its ability to fully fulfill its function. The legal basis for BBS to conduct surveys is limited and significantly affects BBS ability to collect all the necessary survey data. This lack of necessary legal mandate is further amplified by the lack of awareness of respondents that all provided data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual unit records will be shared with other government departments and in particular the revenue office. BBS is currently trying to get the new statistical law enacted. It is expected that the new statistical law will address most of these issues, although significant amount of advocacy will still be required.

89. The current limited financial and staff resources place a constraint on the BSS and in particular the BBS by limiting its capacity to collect and process necessary survey data in a timely manner, compile the recommended statistics of sufficient quality and frequency and make necessary improvements. The current recruitment policy affects the ability to hire new staff and results in significant number of unfilled positions further limiting the capacity of BSS to fulfill its function. The limited training opportunities at the national level, limit the ability of BSS to effectively and efficiently develop the statistical skills of its new staff as well as improve the skills of existing staff.

90. The limited availability of source data is one of the main constraints affecting the capacity of the BSS to produce the core set of economic statistics of sufficient frequency and quality. The assessment found that availability of source data presents a particular challenge to the BSS and to much lesser degree BB. The overall quality and timeliness of statistics is significantly affected by lack of, or poor frequency and timelines of necessary survey data. Many of the key surveys such as LFS are compiled on an infrequent basis (every 5 years with plans to move to 3 years) and take a significant time to process data on Industrial Statistics. More importantly no survey information is currently available on many of the important dimensions of the economy.

91. As with survey data, access to administrative data sources from both non-government and to much lesser degree government sources appears to be a key constraint limiting the capacity of BSS to produce economic statistics. There is a need for a long-term strategy for establishing the necessary data collections, ensuring that their frequency (at least in the longer-term) permits also compilation of sub-annual statistics.

92. The BSS business register is in the early stages of development and at present is not sufficient to be used for all economic surveys. The business register contains information only on manufacturing businesses. Given the central role that business register plays in ensuring that all relevant surveys are conducted in a coherent and consistent manner there is a clear and urgent need for an improvement of the Bangladesh business register.

93. The BSS statistical information systems (and in particular those of BBS) are in need of modernization as the existing systems inhibit transfer of data and efficient compilation and dissemination of statistics. At present most of data collection and entry is done manually and takes a significant amount of time (with some surveys and censuses taking years to process) and resources. Most of the statistics compilation is currently done in Excel with no integrated systems for compilation and storage of statistics. The data sharing between different parts of the BSS and within organizations is often done using hard copy material.

94. The BSS does not at present use quality assessment frameworks to ensure the overall quality of statistics produced. Although every effort is being made to ensure very high quality of statistics, there is a need to adopt internationally accepted quality assessment frameworks such as IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF).

95. The extensive manual and automated check currently performed on the survey/census results, affect the timeliness of statistics. Given the time and resources currently used on data editing there is a need adopt modern data editing techniques.

96. Bangladesh is currently in the process of strengthening its national statistical system to ensure that it has the capacity to produce the necessary statistics including economic statistics. A number of ongoing and planned initiatives are aimed at improving the national statistical system and will address some of the constraints identified in the

assessment and include: new statistical law; identifying core activities of the BBS; drafting of a National Strategy for Statistics Development; increasing the overall number of staff and filling in a significant number of vacancies; providing more technical training to staff; modernizing existing data collection, processes and statistics production systems; developing business register; significantly increasing the number of surveys as well as frequency of existing surveys, and strengthening the data sources necessary for the compilation of national accounts.

97. Although the BSS has a clear plan for addressing some of the constraints identified above, it could substantially benefit from the activities planned under the *Regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific*. The Regional Programme has a number of components, including components aimed at improving human resources, business registers, quality assessment frameworks, metadata repositories and other through capacity building activities, technical assistance and facilitating sharing of knowledge. The regional programme could assist the BSS in overcoming the existing constraints and would complement ongoing and planned national activities. At the same time, BSS staff have much to offer the rest of the region and could share with other countries through the activities under the Regional Programme some of their valuable experience and knowledge in the area of economic statistics.

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Annex I. Overview of the statistical system

A. Institutional arrangements

98. The BSS has a long history of producing economic statistics. The assessment found that the collection of data for, compilation and dissemination of the core set of economic statistics are the responsibility of three main parts of the BSS:

- o Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)
- o Bangladesh Bank (BB)
- o Bangladesh Ministry of Finance (MOF)

99. In addition to the three principal organizations listed above, the Bangladesh Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) is responsible for collection of data for and compilation and dissemination of selected agricultural statistics such as commodity prices.

100. Annex I shows the availability of the core set of economic statistics in Bangladesh and the organizations responsible for these statistics.

B. Statistical law

101. The three organizations which are a part of the BSS and are responsible for economic statistics operate under a different legal mandate. While both Bangladesh Bank and MOF operate under a strong legal mandate, there is currently no statistical law giving the necessary authority to the BBS.

1. BBS

102. The BBS operates under a limited legal provision with the *Schedule 1 of Rules of Business, 1996* being the only legal mandate it currently has. The *Rules of Business* clarify the allocation of business among ministries, and give the BBS (which operates under the Ministry of Planning) limited statistical authority to collect special surveys and censuses (including population, agricultural and manufacturing censuses and household income and expenditure survey³²). The Rules of Business also stipulate that BBS is responsible for compilation and dissemination of national accounts.

103. The lack of clear statistical law significantly hampers the BBS's ability to collect data for, compile and disseminate economic statistics. The response rate to many of its surveys are low and accuracy of reported data can be questioned as some respondents are concerned (wrongly) that the information provided will be shared with the revenue office. Furthermore access to administrative data appears to be limited and very much dependent on personal relationship rather than clear legal obligations.

³² Source: IMF's ROSC

104. The BBS has recognized the need for statistical law to clearly define its role as the national statistical office and main coordinator of statistical activities in Bangladesh as well as strengthen its mandate to collect data for, compile and disseminate a range of population, social, economic and environmental statistics. The statistical law has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by the government before being submitted for endorsement by the parliament.

2. BB

105. The Bangladesh Bank operates under the *Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972*, which gives it a clear authority to collect data from relevant banking institutions and other entities. The law also assumes the confidentiality of respondents.

3. MOF

106. The MOF operates under three separate legal provisions³³: *Article 127 of Bangladesh Constitution, Additional Function Act 1974 and Rules of Business 1996*. These legal provisions give the MOF a clear mandate to collect and publish government finance statistics.

C. Coordination and data sharing between different parts of BSS

107. Bangladesh has a semi-centralized statistical system with the responsibility for collection of data for, compilation and dissemination of economic statistics spread among three organizations: BBS, BB and MOF with some agricultural statistics provided by Ministry of Agriculture.

1. BBS

108. At present there is no statistical law giving the BBS a clear mandate to coordinate the compilation of economic statistics. Nevertheless there is a high level of coordination between the organizations involved in the compilation of economic statistics, which mostly depends on an informal understanding rather than a legal mandate.

109. The BBS cooperates with many government agencies including MOF, BB, MOA and other organizations involved in the production of economic statistics. On a regular basis the BBS exchanges statistics with the MOF, BB and MOA.

³³ Source: IMF's ROSC

2. BB

110. The BB cooperates closely with a number of government bodies. Together with MOF, Ministry of Commerce, Planning Commission, Bangladesh Export Processing Authority, Export Promotion Bureau and Bangladesh Garments and Manufactures Association of Exporters the BB organizes twice a year meetings of the Balance of Payments Projections Committee during which issues related to BOP are discussed³⁴. The BB also cooperates with BBS and other government bodies. The BB has a very strong link with commercial banks/authorized dealers in foreign exchange, and other deposit-taking institutions which is significantly strengthened through strong legal reporting requirements and regular training provided to these bodies through the BB Training Academy.

3. MOF

111. The MOF has access to most of the government transactions data and has a good relationship with responsible ministries and agencies including BB, NBR and other. Furthermore there are legal provisions giving the MOF the authority to collect/request data from other government bodies. Cooperation and sharing of fiscal data is further ensured by the Reduction and Growth Facility Monitoring Committee which meets regularly, consists of MOF, BB, BBS, NBR and National Savings Directorate and External Relations Divisions and aims to address data issues between agencies³⁵.

D. Strategic planning

112. The assessment only looked at the strategic planning by the BBS and in much less detail by the BB.

1. BBS

113. With assistance from Paris 21, the BBS is currently in the process of designing the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS). The BBS has a number of clear priorities for its improvement, including, among others modernization of statistical systems and processes, establishment of a number of new surveys, improvement of national accounts and in particular introduction of quarterly national accounts and other.

114. In addition to the areas mentioned above, there is a clear need for BBS to address some of the structural constraints affecting its ability to produce economic statistics. Many of these are discussed in other sections, but nevertheless the long-term strategic planning must ensure that chronic staff shortages are addressed, the staff are trained and

³⁴ Source: IMF's ROSC

³⁵ Source: IMF's ROSC

equipped to collect data for and produce statistics using modern methods and practices and a strong legal basis is established for conducting surveys and timely access to administrative data.

2. BB

115. The BB has a clear long term strategy, including a strategy for improvement of statistics. However, hampering the effectiveness of the Statistics Department of the BB to contribute to the strategic planning and management is the fact that the Statistics Department is the only Department within the BB which is not represented on the BB Executive Board. This means that Statistics Department has limited ability to contribute to the overall strategic planning and its voice and views are not always taken into account when important strategic decisions are taken.

E. Staff resources

116. The BSS has a highly experienced and qualified staff, however the overall system and the BBS in particular appear to be severely affected by staff shortages.

1. BBS

117. The overall numbers of staff working for BBS could be only described as inadequate. As of January 2011, the BBS had around 4100 positions nationwide with only 2800 of these being filled and plans to fill further 500 during 2011. The high level of vacancies (in the central, 23 regional and 489 Upazilla/Thana offices) can be attributed to a very time consuming and bureaucratic recruitment process, which is conducted by another government department and a low/not competitive level of salaries. The high level of vacant posts puts a significant constraint on the BBS to effectively fulfill its role. In particular the ability to conduct surveys and collect data by the 23 regional and 489 Upazilla/Thana offices is affected by their very low staff levels.

118. The central office of the BBS consists of 7 wings, with three of these (National Accounts; Agriculture; and Industry and Labour) directly involved in the collection of data for, compilation and dissemination of economic statistics. As of January 2011, each of these wings had 100 staff, limiting their ability to effectively fulfill their role. The National Accounts Wing for example with its 100 staff was responsible for: Gross Domestic Product and other related macro aggregates; Price Statistics and related deflators; Wage Rate Statistics; Quantum Index of Industrial Production; experimental Quarterly National Accounts; Foreign Trade Statistics; International Comparison Programme; providing inputs to General data dissemination system of IMF; and Publications. The large number of statistics produced by the National Accounting Wing combined with inefficient processes and systems means that the current number of staff is not sufficient to fulfill its role.

2. BB

119. As of January 2011, the Statistics Department of the BB consisted of 60 staff with a number of positions vacant. The assessment did not look closely at the human resources of the BB and MOF, nevertheless it would be safe to assume that staff numbers and high level of vacancies would also negatively affect their ability to compile and disseminate statistics.

F. Training including international assistance and cooperation

120. The assessment only looked at the training practices of BBS and in much less detail those of BB.

1. BBS

121. At present BBS does not have a mid and long-term plan for raising the capability of its staff though on job training and higher academic education. Although, the BBS has a Statistical Staff Training Institute whose role is to provide training to BBS personnel as well as personnel of other ministries and divisions to enable them to compile and interpret statistics more efficiently in the standard format for regular publications of BBS and for building skills on sampling methodology, survey and other related subjects, it appears that the institute has a relatively low profile and to date has not been able to effectively address the mid and long-term training needs of the organization.

122. Most economic statistics training appears to be provided in an ad-hoc/informal manner by staff working in the National Accounts, Agriculture, and Industry and Labour wings. The BBS regional offices staff are trained through irregular training provided in the central office while those working Upazilla/Thana (subregional) offices receive their training from regional office staff.

123. Although BBS staff participate in economic statistics training courses provided by international organizations, including ESCAP, SIAP, FAO, IMF, etc, there appears to be very limited opportunities for regular staff exchanges between the BBS and other countries in the Asian and Pacific region. So necessary steps might be taken to enhance the staff exchange between BBS and other countries/ organisation in the Asian and Pacific region.

2. BB

124. The BB relies on a Bangladesh Bank Training Academy for its training needs. The Academy provides courses/workshop/seminar on the request of different department/

offices of Bangladesh Bank and outside organizations. The Academy provides Foundation Training Course for the newly recruited Assistant Directors of BB and regular training to BB employees/officers, as well as scheduled Bank/Financial institution/Non banking financial institution/NGO personnel. The training provided by the Academy in combination with the on-job training appears to be meeting the basic needs of the Statistics Department.

125. The Statistics Department of BB also benefits from regular training in the area of Balance of Payments and Monetary Statistics provided by the International Monetary Fund. The BB however still requires international training in the areas of International Investment Position, External Debt and Foreign Direct Investment. Like the BBS the BB does not benefit from regular staff exchanges with similar organizations in the Asian and the Pacific region.

G. Source data

126. The limited availability of source data is one of the main constraints affecting the capacity of the BSS to produce the core set of economic statistics of sufficient quality. This constraint appears to be of a particular concern the BBS and to a much lesser degree BB and MOF. There are multiple factors which contribute to the different accesses to source data between the three different entities, including among other: their different data needs, different legal statuses and different approach to data providers.

1. BBS

127. The capacity of BBS to compile the core set of economic statistics is significantly affected by the availability and timelines of the necessary source data. The BBS conducts population, agricultural and manufacturing/economic censuses every 10 years. Although this practice is not different from many other national statistical systems, the time required to process these results which ranges anywhere between 1 and 5 years significantly reduces to usefulness of their findings. The manual coding and processing of all the census questionnaires/responses is the main factor contributing to the significant time lag in the availability of the census results.

128. The poor timelines, frequency or in some cases irregularity of key surveys significantly affects the capacity of the BBS to produce the core set of economic statistics and in particular the national accounts. Due to significant resource constraints, many of the key surveys are conducted on an in-frequent basis with some of them conducted on irregular/ad-hoc basis only. For example Labour Force Survey is conducted every 3 years while Household Income and Expenditure Survey is conducted every 5 years. Contributing further to the problem is the fact that as with the census data, the survey questionnaires/responses are coded and processed manually; for example results of the Manufacturing survey are available with 4 years lag. The BBS has recognized this issues

as one of the priorities for improvement, identifying the following survey as need to be conducted on more frequent basis:

- Household income and expenditure survey
- Price and wage rate survey
- Local Govt. budget collection survey
- Survey on Current Industrial Production
- Labour Force Survey including informal sector
- Survey of Manufacturing Industries
- Agriculture crop production survey including crop input

129. Furthermore the following surveys which are compiled on irregular/ad-hoc basis have been identified as needed to be conducted on more regular basis:

- Hotel and restaurant survey
- Survey on wholesale and retail trade

130. In addition to the issues outlined above, the lack of key data has been identified as the main factor limiting the capacity of BBS to produce national accounts including quarterly and regional accounts of sufficient coverage and quality. The following surveys and studies have been identified by the BBS as top priority:

- For estimating Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
 - Survey on Nursery and Horticulture and Private Forestry
 - Survey on Input Cost for Fishing
 - Survey on Selected Large and Medium Scale and cottage Industries
 - Survey on Micro and Small Scale Industries
 - Survey on Electricity (Captive power generation and Solar system)
 - Survey on Construction Covering all Classification
 - Survey on Automobile Workshop (Repairing motor vehicles and motor cycles)
 - Survey on Cold Storage and Other Support Activities
 - Survey on Internet Service Provider, Mobile Phone Companies, Cable Operator and Courier Service etc.
 - Survey on Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities, Security Service Provider and Cleaning Activities
 - Survey on Tourism (Travel Agency, Tour Operator, Reservation Services)
 - Survey on Professional, Scientific, Technical Activities and Other Service Activities
 - Survey on Activities of Households as Employers – Domestic Personnel
 - Case study on Crude Salt Production

- Case study on Office for Organization of Student Exchange Program, Special Education for Handicap, Automobile Driving School, Flying School etc.
- Case study on Social Work Activities (Ambulance Service; Orphanage and Child Care; Disaster Victims, Refugees etc.)
- Case study on Waste Collection/Management
- For estimating Gross Domestic Expenditure (GDE)
 - Survey on Fixed Asset (Capital Formation) and Change in Inventories by Sectors
 - Survey on Food Consumption by Institutional HH, Guest House, Mobile Restaurant etc.
 - Survey on Expenditure Incurred by the Residents Visited Outside Bangladesh (e.g. Health, Education, Tourism) and Non-residents Visited in Bangladesh (e.g. Tourism)
- Special requirement
 - Collect of detail break up of Annual Development expenditure (Actual) by economic code from IMED

131. The lack of, poor frequency and timeliness of key surveys and censuses is further compounded by the inability (due to sufficient legal backing) of BBS to force the respondents to complete the questionnaires, with some surveys getting initial response rates of around 30%. Furthermore due to the lack of branding and education of the respondents a perception exists (wrongly) that the responses to BBS surveys might be shared with the tax authorities, further affecting the quality of data.

132. At present BBS uses a range of administrative data, mostly coming from other government ministries and agencies. As mentioned previously due to lack of strong legal backing, most of the data sharing arrangements exist based on personal rather than formal agreements. Administrative data is sourced from many government bodies including among others: Customs, Agricultural Ministry, MOF, BB, tax authority and other.

133. Access to administrative data sources from non-government sources appears to be extremely limited, with key bodies such as associations, trade organizations and other refusing to share their valuable data with BBS. For example the Bangladesh Association of Construction Industry gathers data which would be of great use for estimating construction industry and other components of national accounts, yet despite a number of attempts by BBS, no data is being provided. In addition to some of the factors mentioned previously, lack of training/advocacy of the importance/benefits of data sharing, provided by BBS to its potential data providers further affects BBS's ability to access these key data sources.

2. BB

134. The availability of, frequency and timeliness of the survey data and access to administrative data is not as much of a constraint for BB as it is for BBS.

135. The BB has a strong legal mandate which gives it the authority to collect data from a range of providers, including the right to impose penalties on non-respondents. Through its Training Academy, BB provides scheduled training to Bank/Financial institution/Non banking financial institution/NGO personnel which among others ensures that the staff of these organizations understand the importance of providing data to BB and report accurately. These factors combined with a better resource situation means that BB has a significantly better data base for compilation of its statistics.

136. At present BB conducts a number of surveys and collects a range of administrative data. The main providers of data/respondents are: Commercial Banks, Authorized Dealers, Customs, other financial institutions and joint-venture companies. The three main surveys conducted by the BB are:

- Foreign Direct Investment (semi-annual)
- External Debt Management (quarterly)
- Portfolio Investment (annual)

137. The overall response rate to BB surveys is satisfactory with for example Foreign Direct Investment survey having an average response rate of 80%. The quality of the responses appears to be also satisfactory.

138. Data on services is collected from Authorized Dealers while data on exports and imports of goods comes from Authorized Dealers and Customs. At present there are coverage and quality issues with the data provided by Customs with data different by around 8% from realization.

139. Some of the key areas in terms of availability of, frequency and timeliness of the survey data and access to administrative data, that have been identified as in need of improvement include:

- Establishment of a survey on freight;
- Improved collection of data on exports of goods;
- Improved collection of data on remittances;
- Improved collection of data on foreign entities.

3. MOF

140. The access to source data is not as much of a constraint for MOF as it is for BBS, hence it does not significantly affects the capacity of MOF to produced Government Finance Statistics.

141. The MOF has operational control of all government transactions³⁶ and has a strong legal mandate obligating other government entities including among others BB to

³⁶ Source: IMF's ROSC

provide their data to MOF. Budget data on revenue, expenditure and net lending is available on a monthly basis usually within 30 days of the reference period.

H. Business register

142. The information about business register was only available for BBS.

At present BBS is in the process of developing its business register through a project funded by the World Bank. Under this project, a business register was established in June 2009. The business register contains information on all sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture and service. This was an establishment based survey with employing 10 or more persons.

143. The business register is updated on an annual basis, using limited administrative data from other government entities (including revenue office). Large and complex enterprises are currently not profiled, nor does the register contain information on enterprise groups. Information about principal and secondary activities is also not maintained.

144. Although the business register has been established, at present many surveys conducted by different statistical wings continue to be done using their own listings of establishments. As with the business register, many of those listing rely on outdated census information, negatively affecting the quality of the survey results.

I. Systems and processes

145. The BSS computer systems are in need of modernization. Although most staff have access to computers, the overall computer systems do not appear to be well connected with the collection of data for, compilation and dissemination of economic statistics, involving many manual steps and separate computer systems. In many instances questionnaires are coded and processed manually, the survey results are often transmitted on paper or through other means. Likewise, administrative data is often received on paper, CD or through other means. Compilation of statistics often involves many manual steps. Excel spreadsheets are often the most common way of compiling statistics, presenting the risks of file corruption and incorrect links.

146. The overall state of the systems and processes used by BSS means that different parts of BSS are not connected to each other and valuable time is used on manual data entry and transmitting information. The overall fragility of BSS is a major constraint reducing the capacity of BSS to produce high a quality, timely core set of economic statistics.

147. The computing resources of BBS in particular can be described as inadequate. The overall computer systems are in need of significant improvement and the processes followed are often outdated and involve many manual steps.

148. The BBS is planning to modernize the systems required for coding and processing of all the census and survey responses as well as introduce a more integrated software environment for the compilation of national accounts and other statistics.

J. Quality Assurance

149. The BBS and MOF do not at present use quality assessment frameworks to ensure the overall quality of statistics they produce. Although every effort is being made to ensure a very high quality of statistics, there are currently no systemized processes used for ensuring the overall quality of statistics.

K. Release calendars and revisions

150. All of the statistics currently published by the BBS are published on the availability basis in accordance with rough internal guidelines as to when/on what date these statistics should be published. Different organizations within the BBS have a different policy concerning the release date for their publication.

151. Revisions are generally applied in accordance with strict revision policy.

1. BBS

152. The BBS has a relatively loose policy concerning when the statistics should be published. In most of the instances there are rough guidelines as to how many weeks/months/years after the reference period the statistics should be published within. However these guidelines are secondary in terms of consideration, giving priority to the actual time used for the production of statistics. This in turn means that any delays in compilation of statistics simply result in postponement of the publication date. As there is no release calendar available to the public, the statistics are published when they become available.

The BBS has a strict internal revision policy, stating when preliminary and final estimates are published. No advance notice is being given to users of revisions.

2. BB

153. The BB has a relatively strict policy as to when the statistics should be published. There are clear internal guidelines as to how many weeks/months after the reference period the statistics should be published within. However at present no information is available from the website specifying the exact time and date of publication.

154. The BB has a strict internal revision policy, stating when preliminary and final estimates are published. No advance notice is being given to users of revisions.

3. MOF

155. The MOF has a relatively strict policy as to when the statistics should be published which is driven by the government approval process. MOF must ensure that statistics are available for government approvals by the specified time. However as with the other organizations this information is not disseminated to the public.

156. The MOF has a strict internal revision policy, stating when preliminary and final estimates are published. As the government statistics are approved by the government, no revisions are made by MOF once the statistics have been audited/approved.

L. Metadata repositories

157. As a subscriber to the GDDS, the BSS makes available a significant amount of metadata on the IMF's website, providing users with a wealth of information, including information about methods, practices and data sources. Additionally, both BBS and BB publish additional metadata on their websites and in some of their publications.

158. Most of the metadata (covering statistics produced by MOF, BBS and BB) currently available on the IMF website as well as some of the information available from the other sources mentioned above appears to be out-of-date (possibly even by a number of years). This significantly affects the usability and quality of statistics, as users can not access up-to-date information about data sources, methods and practices.

M. Data editing techniques

159. The BSS does extensive data validation/editing when processing survey/census results. Both BBS and BB work hard to ensure that survey/census data are of high quality.

160. The BBS survey/census responses are checked/edited at a number of stages including at sub-regional/regional level and Central Data Processing Unit of BBS. Significant efforts are made to manually validate the questionnaires at the sub-regional/regional level (where relevant), following which additional manual and automated checks are conducted at the central office. Likewise the BB also uses both manual and automated checks to ensure high quality of responses.

Annex II. National priority economic statistics

161. Based on the interviews with statistics providers and users and the discussion during the consultative meeting, the following areas of economic statistics have been identified as the highest priority for development/improvement: national accounts, structural statistics, PPI, labour supply and demand, and short-term indicators on demand and output.

A. National accounts

162. The improvement of national accounts has been recognized as a top priority. The stakeholders have agreed that the current national accounts statistics do not fully meet the needs of the policymakers. The following aspects of national accounts have been agreed as the top areas for improvement:

- Quarterly national accounts – currently no quarterly national accounts are published. It has been agreed that timely quarterly national accounts are very important for monitoring and policymaking.
- Regional accounts – currently limited regional accounts are published. As with the quarterly national accounts, it has been agreed that having comprehensive regional accounts is essential for monitoring the economic performance of different regions of Bangladesh and effective policymaking.
- Rebasing of national accounts – the constant prices estimates of the GDP are currently published with the base year 1995-96. Revised and rebasing of GDP is going on from 95-96 to 2005-06.
- Improving the Implicit Price Deflators (IPDs) - both single (not recommended by 1993 SNA) deflation methods and quantity extrapolations are used for estimation of GDP at constant prices. The main reason for the current deflation methods is a lack of appropriate IPDs. It has been agreed that there is an urgent need to produce PPI and start collecting other necessary price information for deflation of national accounts. Export and import price indices have all been recognized as urgently needed.
- Compilation of institutional sector accounts – currently institutional sector accounts are compiled for government only. As with the other areas of national accounts mentioned above there is a need for an improvement in this area.
- Implementing the 2008 SNA and ISIC rev 4 – the national accounts are currently compiled mostly in accordance with 1993 SNA. It has been agreed that both 2008 SNA and ISIC rev 4 should be implemented during the next couple of years.

163. The above improvements of national accounts will depend on BBS ability to address some of the constraints outlined in detail in Annex I. In particular the source data (including lack of necessary surveys and poor timelines and frequency of existing surveys) and limited human resources capacity are the main constraints that need to be addressed before the above improvements can be implemented.

B. Structural statistics

164. The improvement of structural statistics has also been recognized as a very high priority. The key structural statistics are currently published with a lag of 4 to 5 years with data from CMI for 2005-06 still not available. The following aspects of structural statistics have been agreed as the top areas for improvement:

- Coverage of structural statistics – at present structural statistics are only available for manufacturing and agricultural sectors. There is a demand for comprehensive data collection (survey or administrative) to ensure that industry value added by component series necessary for benchmarking the GDP are available for all sectors of the economy. Detailed financial (sales, cost, profits, investment, assets and liabilities) and non-financial data are also needed for analysis and monitoring of the performance of different sectors of economic is also available.
- Timelines and frequency of structural statistics – the current time lag of 4-5 years for publication of some structural statistics makes these statistics usefulness for any monitoring and policymaking significantly questionable. In order to provide value to users, these statistics should be published with a time lag of no more than 1 year.
- Compilation of Supply-Use tables – the SU tables are currently only compiled on an experimental basis. Given their importance, including for benchmarking of national accounts there is a need for SU tables to be compiled on regular basis and at the very least every 5 years (but ideally on annual basis).

C. Produce price index

165. The improvement of PPI and related commodity prices has been recognized as very high priority. The following areas have been agreed as a priority for improvement:

- Scope of PPI – at present the PPI is only limited to manufacturing commodities. Additionally some other commodity prices statistics are also available about agricultural prices. The scope of the PPI should be extended to ensure that it covers all relevant intermediate and final goods and services including fixed assets.
- Export and import price indices – price changes of key export and import commodities also should be covered.

- Deflation of national accounts – currently there is a lack of price information necessary for deflation of national accounts, significantly affecting the quality of constant price estimates. To address this, price information on industry outputs/inputs and final demand categories should be compiled.

D. Labour supply and demand

166. Improvement in the quality, frequency and timeliness of the labour supply and demand statistics has been recognized as very high priority. With the exception of the employment indices (which cover government sector only), labour supply and demand statistics are only produced every 5 years (with plans to move to 3 years) with a time lag of 1 to 2 years. The following areas have been agreed as priority for improvement:

- Frequency and timeliness of the labour supply and demand statistics – the current frequency and timeliness of labour supply and demand statistics makes these statistics usefulness for any monitoring and policymaking significantly questionable. There is a need for comprehensive labour supply and demand statistics, which are compiled and published in a timely manner with at least annual frequency (preferably quarterly).
- Register based statistics – given the limited resources available for surveys, consideration should be given to evaluate suitability of existing administrative data sources for compilation of register based statistics.

E. Short-term indicators on demand and output

167. Improvement in the availability, timeliness and frequency of key short-term indicators (STI) on demand and output has been also recognized as a high priority. At present only IPI is produced with a sub-annual frequency. The following areas have been agreed as priority for improvement:

- STI consumer demand – at present no retail trade statistics are compiled. Given the importance of the retail sector to the overall economy, there is a need to produce statistics about the retail sales. When developing this important indicator, consideration may also be given to developing an indicator capturing household expenditure on services.
- STI fixed investment – at present fixed assets statistics by major industry groups are available every 2 years. Consideration should be given to developing a more frequent indicator (ideally quarterly) which will provide information about fixed assets which are key components of the gross fixed capital formation including building construction.
- STI inventories – at present there are no statistics measuring changes in inventory levels. Consideration should be given to developing an indicator providing information about changes in inventory levels. The indicator

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should ideally cover all major raw materials and finished goods inventories.

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Annex III. Planned improvements of the Bangladesh economic statistics

168. Bangladesh is currently in the process of strengthening its national statistical system to ensure that it has the capacity to produce the necessary statistics including economic statistics. A number of ongoing and planned initiatives are aimed at improving the national statistical system and will address some of the constraints outlined in the assessment. The key initiatives were outlined during the consultative meeting and during the interviews with senior management. Some of these key initiatives are presented below.

A. Statistical law

169. The BBS has drafted a statistical law. The law is currently in being reviewed by the government before being submitted for endorsement by the parliament. The law will clearly define the role of the BBS as the national statistical office and main coordinator of statistical activities in Bangladesh. It is also hoped that the law will strengthen the BBS mandate to collect data for, compile and disseminate a range of population, social, economic and environmental statistics.

B. Role of the BBS

170. An expert committee has been formed to identify the core activities of the BBS. The committee is working to identify the core activities of BBS for improvement of National Statistical System to meet the need of the users at home and abroad.

C. Strategic master plan

171. With the assistance from PARIS21 the BBS is currently in the process of drafting of a National Strategy for Statistics Development. It is expected that the NSDS will provide a strategy for development of national statistical system including a strategy for improvement of the BSS to collect data for, compile and disseminate economic statistics.

D. Number of subregional offices and staff

172. The BBS is planning to significantly increase the overall number of staff and fill in a significant number of vacancies. During the 2011, 500 new staff will be employed, with more staff employed in the coming years. The numbers of staff working at the regional and subregional levels are being strengthened to ensure increased capacity to collect data and conduct surveys. At present there are 23 regional and 489 Upazilla/Thana offices. Plans are to increase the number of regional offices to 64 district offices and increase the number of staff working at the Upazilla/Thana offices from 4 to 8 per office.

173. The BBS also plans to work towards updating the current recruitment rules to ensure that they meet its needs.

E. Capacity building

174. BBS plans to provide more technical training for its staff. Furthermore steps are being undertaken to develop university degrees for different fields of statistics as well as encourage staff to attend similar degrees overseas.

F. Modernization of the statistical systems

175. The BBS has extensive plans to modernize its existing data collection, processing and statistics production systems. In the longer-term the BBS is planning to introduce handheld devices to collect survey data and be able to communicate this data directly to the data processing center, significantly reducing the survey processing time. In the shorter-term the BBS is planning to use scanners to process all the questionnaires, and therefore reduce the time required for data entry.

176. Plans also exist to develop a more integrated computer system (possibly including a data warehouse) for production of statistics including national accounts, which would permit the organization to move away from using Excel.

G. Business Register

177. With the assistance from the World Bank the BBS is in the process of developing its business register. It is hoped that in the future the business register will provide a comprehensive source of information for all economic surveys.

H. Source data

178. The BBS is planning to significantly increase the number of surveys as well as frequency of existing surveys. Plans also exist for conducting a number of ad-hoc studies to provide a basis for compilation of national accounts and other key economic statistics. More details about planned surveys are presented in Chapter V Section G – Source data.

I. National Accounts

179. In addition to strengthening the data sources necessary for the compilation of national accounts, the following areas related to national have been identified as top areas for improvement by the BBS:

- Revision and rebasing of GDP and other aggregates;
- Compilation of regional GDP and other national accounts aggregates;
- Compilation of quarterly accounts;
- Compilation of SUT (Supply and Use Tables);
- Compilation of major institutional sector accounts;
- Updating of national accounts deflators and technical co-efficients; and
- Compilation of commodity-wise export and import price indices etc.

J. Data dissemination

180. BBS is planning to start publishing data release calendar for the major publications.

181. Furthermore BBS plans to establish a statistical standard and research unit to supply data to users.

Annex IV. Proposed core set of economic statistics

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
Prices and costs				
Consumer price index (CPI)	Q	Y	The scope of the regimen should cover the goods and services that private households acquire. The index should, as far as possible, measure price movements that are representative for the whole country, ie the geographic coverage and reference population should be as wide as possible. However, practical (and utility) considerations may limit coverage to specified regions and population groups, eg private urban households. Component indexes covering major expenditure groups are recommended, and the wider uses of the CPI subindexes for deflation of national accounts flows should be considered in the CPI design. International Comparison Program (ICP) requirements should also be considered in CPI design.	ILO Resolution concerning CPI (17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2003); Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice (ILO, 2004); Practical Guide to Producing Consumer Price Indices. A Supplementary handbook to the Consumer Price Index Manual (UNECE 2009) [Knowledge Base]
Producer price index (PPI)	Q	Y	The PPIs – and related commodity price indexes – can differ across countries in terms of industry and/or commodity coverage, and valuation point. What are required are indexes that track the prices of a wide range of market goods over	Producer Price Index Manual – 2004 [Knowledge Base]

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			<p>time. Such indexes will cover intermediate and final goods and services, including fixed assets, and will facilitate;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the monitoring of inflation at different stages of the product supply chain; ii) price changes of key export and import commodities; and iii) the deflation of national accounts variables, both industry outputs/inputs and final demand categories. <p>The range of industry / commodity indexes chosen will be country specific, but their scope should cover the above uses. Efforts should be made to ensure that at the very least key services are covered.</p> <p>Consideration should also be given to producing residential and commercial property indexes given the key role such assets have in influencing investment and saving behaviour.</p>	
Commodity price index	M	N	Covered above. Only required for key commodities in the production process (inputs and outputs) and only if similar indexes are not already included in the PPI.	

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
External merchandise trade price indexes	M	Y	<p>The price indexes of goods and materials imported and exported complement the PPIs and their uses noted above. The total scope should match that of merchandise trade itself, although the range of commodity subindexes produced is country specific.</p> <p>The external merchandise trade price indexes are used to calculate the terms of trade index, which is derived as the export price index / import price index. A terms of trade index shows the relationship between the prices at which a country sells its exports and the prices it pays for its imports. If the prices of a country's exports rise relative to the prices of its imports, its terms of trade are said to have moved in a favourable direction, because, in effect, it now receives more imports for each unit it exports. The terms of trade index is a useful summary statistic for those country's vulnerable to changes that are occurring in its trading environment.</p>	Export and Import Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice, 2009 (IMF)
Wages / Earnings data	Q	Y	Nominal wages and/or earnings data for a specified time period, allowing average hourly or weekly series to be derived. Industry, occupation or gender breakdowns to be determined by country.	ILO Resolution concerning an integrated system of wages statistics (12 th ICLS, 1973)
Labour costs index / Wage index	Q	Y	The cost pressure arising from paid employment is measured by a labour cost or wage index. While the labour cost index will have a wider scope, covering all items in compensation of employees, an index confined to wages may suffice. As with the wages data itself, industry breakdowns can be	Resolution concerning the measurement of employment-related income (17 th ICLS, 1998) ILO Resolution concerning

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			determined by country need.	statistics of labour cost (11 th ICLS, 1966)
Exchange rates	D	Y	<p>The daily exchange rates data should cover both spot and forward exchange rates for major currencies with respect to the national currency. For monitoring purposes, exchange rates based on monthly averages and end-month rates should be calculated.</p> <p>In addition, nominal and real effective exchange rates should be calculated monthly. A nominal effective exchange rate is the exchange rate of the domestic currency vis-à-vis other currencies weighted by their share in the country's international trade. Real effective exchange rates take account of price level differences between trading partners. Movements in real effective exchange rates provide an indication of the evolution of a country's aggregate external price competitiveness.</p>	
Purchasing power parities (PPPs)	Ad hoc	N	<p>While PPPs are not produced directly by NSOs, it is strongly recommended that countries join the ICP programme. The tasks of providing price and expenditure data for the ICP programme may be reduced if these requirements are considered at the same time that related domestic statistical outputs are designed.</p> <p>PPPs statistics are also needed for deriving Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p>	International Comparison Program - Methodological Handbook 2005 [Knowledge Base]

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
Demand and output				
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (production) (P) nominal and real	Q	Y	The national accounts provide the comprehensive statistical framework to study the relationships between key macroeconomic variables.	System of National Accounts 1993 [Knowledge Base]
GDP (expenditure) (E) nominal and real (including implicit price indexes for GDP(E) and components)	Q	Y	<p>Included here is quarterly GDP in nominal and volume terms, disaggregated by :</p> <p>i) Major expenditure components; and</p> <p>ii) By industry. The level of industry detail is not prescribed and is country specific.</p> <p>In place of a nominal GDP(P) by industry series, or in addition to it, countries are encouraged to produce quarterly value-added by income component, along with quarterly GNI and Saving series.</p> <p>The production of GDP(E) and its components in nominal and volume terms allows the calculation of the associated implicit price deflators.</p> <p>ICP requirements should be taken into account when determining the expenditure components of GDP to be produced.</p>	<p>System of National Accounts 2008</p> <p>Quarterly National Accounts Manual: Concepts, data Sources and Compilation, 2001 (IMF)</p>
External trade – merchandise	M	Y	Exports and imports of goods, in nominal values (national currency) and in volume terms (ie volume indexes). Commodity detail is country specific. The values, volume	International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions, Revision 2

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			<p>indexes and price indexes (refer above)/unit value indices for merchandise trade are to have consistent coverage and presentation, facilitating a comprehensive analysis of external trade.</p> <p>The merchandise trade data also provide a more timely indicator of developments in the current account of the balance of payments.</p>	(1998) [Knowledge Base]
External trade - services	Q	N	<p>Exports and imports of services analysed by product, in nominal values (national currency). While these aggregate series are required to compile the quarterly Balance of Payments, if trade-in-services are important for the quarterly monitoring of an economy, it is recommended that detailed series be compiled. Product detail is country specific.</p> <p>[Also refer to the Short term indicator section below.]</p>	Manual on Statistics of international trade in services (2002) [Knowledge Base]
Short term indicator (STI) - industry output	Q	Y	<p>STI can cover a wide range of statistics, in terms of both their coverage (industry, product) and their statistical form (current or constant dollars, volume indexes). The purpose of the STI is to provide an important insight into a specific aspect of the real or financial economy. They complement GDP by being more timely and, although less comprehensive in coverage, STI serve as leading indicators of GDP. Accordingly, STI need to be produced ahead of quarterly GDP itself, preferably monthly. However, for the core set, a quarterly frequency is specified.</p>	<p>International Recommendations for the Index of Industrial Production, 2010 (UNSD)</p> <p>Manual for an Index of Services Production, 2007 (OECD)</p>
STI - consumer demand	Q	N		
STI - fixed investment	Q	N		
STI - inventories	Q	N		

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			<p>The STI included here are mainly backward-looking, ie they record events that have already happened. This does not rule out the production of forward-looking STI such as new orders or investment intentions, although these would be additional to the core set recommendations.</p> <p>The choice of indicator depends on a country's economic structure. Recommended in the core set are STI that cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry production, which may take an industry or product dimension. The key industries / products to be covered are country specific and may need to distinguish between industries / products that respond differently to changes in internal or external demand. Monitoring key export industries and/or products may be critical. The term "industry" is used broadly and embraces primary and secondary goods producing industries and services industries. Efforts should be made to ensure that at the very least key services are covered. • Consumer demand. Retail sales volumes indicators are traditionally produced, but with services making up a significant and growing proportion of household spending, additional STI for expenditure on services may be required. For countries with important tourism industries, STI covering inbound tourist numbers, accommodation occupancy rates etc. may be needed. • Investment, both in fixed assets and inventories. The 	<p>International Recommendations for Distributive Trade Statistics 2008 (Statistical papers, Series M, No. 89) [Knowledge Base]</p> <p>Short Term Economic Statistics Timeliness framework (OECD)</p>

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			<p>fixed asset STI should cover the key components of gross fixed capital formation, especially building construction. Changes in inventory levels can be a useful leading indicator of economic fluctuations at both national and industry level. The STI for inventories should cover all major raw material and finished goods inventories.</p>	
Economy structure statistics	5-yearly or at regular intervals	N	<p>Periodic industry censuses / surveys provide the detailed structural data needed for a wide range of economic statistical outputs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry value-added by component series needed to benchmark GDP. • Supply-Use Tables and Industry / product weights for producer price indexes (assuming product breakdowns of gross output and intermediate consumption are also collected). • Detailed financial data needed to analyse and monitor the economic performance of key or complex industries. <p>Included in this category are censuses / surveys that collect either financial data (sales, costs, profits, investment, assets and liabilities) or non-financial data (such as surveys of agriculture production, forestry and fishing activity, mining etc.).</p> <p>The conduct of the census/survey requires an up-to-date Business Frame of business enterprises, appropriately</p>	International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics (IRIS) 2008

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			<p>classified.</p> <p>The coverage, frequency and type of census/survey is not specified in the core set and will be country specific. Obtaining the economic data required for the above indicative uses can be obtained in a number of different ways using a range of collection vehicles, eg full census or sample survey; economy wide coverage or key industries only; annual, periodic or irregular frequency; collection of data via a questionnaire, use of administrative data or a combination of both; etc.</p>	
Productivity	A	N	<p>Included are labour productivity measures only. While Multifactor Productivity (MFP) measures are desired, they are not included in the core set recommendations.</p> <p>For an economy-wide labour productivity measure, GDP per hour worked is recommended, although, if hours worked data is not available, then GDP per full-time equivalent employed person or job is an alternative.</p> <p>While economy-wide measures are recommended, it is accepted that non-market measurement issues may need to restrict the scope to market industries and/or the business sector.</p> <p>Needed for deriving Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p>	<p>ICLS Resolution concerning the measurement of working time, 2008</p> <p>Measuring Capital – OECD Manual</p> <p>Measuring Productivity – OECD Manual</p>

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
Income and Wealth				
Integrated national accounts for the total economy	A	N	<p>Included here is the sequence of accounts for the total economy excluding the Financial Account and Balance Sheet, but including a Rest of the World Account.</p> <p>This is the minimum set of accounts needed to measure GNI, saving and net lending with the rest of the world. These accounts also provide an annual GDP(I) measure to cross-check with the GDP(P) and GDP(E) series, for those countries not yet producing quarterly series of nominal value-added by income component.</p> <p>Needed for deriving Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p>	<p>System of National Accounts 1993 [Knowledge Base]</p> <p>System of National Accounts 2008</p>
Institutional sector accounts	A	N	<p>The same range of accounts listed above for the total economy but for the key institutional sectors.</p> <p>The sectors should, at a minimum, separately identify business enterprises, general government and households.</p> <p>For the sector accounts, it is highly recommended that financial accounts and balance sheets, along with the supporting revaluation and other volume change accounts, are also produced.</p>	
Balance of payments (BOP)	Q	Y	The BOP and the IIP represent the comprehensive statistical frameworks for the external sector. They enable the monitoring of a country's international economic	Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual - Sixth

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
International Investment Position (IIP)	A	Y	<p>performance, exchange rate policy, reserves and external debt management.</p> <p>Included in the BOP are the external transaction covering: goods and services; incomes; transfers; capital and financial account items; and reserves. The detail provided on these items is country specific although it is highly recommended that the breakdowns set out in the SDDS be adopted as a minimum.</p>	Edition (BPM6) [Knowledge Base]
External debt	Q	Y	<p>The IIP shows a country's financial claims on, and liabilities to, the rest of the world. In line with the SDDS, an annual IIP is recommended although quarterly series are encouraged. As with the BOP statement, the SDDS IIP breakdowns by major component (foreign direct investment, portfolio investment, reserve assets) further disaggregated by instrument and sector, are recommended.</p> <p>In addition to the IIP statement, separate statistics on the external debt are included in the core set. For analytical purposes, gross external debt is shown by sector (government, monetary authorities, banks and other) and by maturity. Supplementary statistics on the debt-servicing payments schedule are recommended.</p> <p>BOP and external debts statistics are needed for deriving Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p>	External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users (IMF)

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
Income distribution	5 yearly	N	<p>Measuring the distribution of material well-being is important, and distribution statistics are included in the core set recommendations. Specifically, periodic statistics on the income distribution of individuals / households, distinguishing between key groups of households as required for country-specific studies (eg between urban / rural households, by households grouped by source of income or by participation in the formal / informal economy).</p> <p>Alternative distribution studies that may include wealth along with income, and/or focus on consumption levels, may also be considered.</p> <p>More frequent income distribution studies are recommended, but it is recognised that, in most cases, they need to be tied in to the frequency of source data, such as a periodic Household Income and Expenditure Survey.</p> <p>Needed for deriving Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p>	<p>ICLS Resolution concerning household income and expenditure statistics, 2003</p> <p>ICLS Resolution concerning the measurement of employment-related income, 1998</p> <p>Expert Group on Household Income Statistics, Final Report and Recommendations of the Canberra Group, 2001</p>
Money and Banking				
Assets/liabilities of depository corporations	M	Y	<p>Statistics on the financial assets and liabilities of depository corporations, including the central bank, provide the money and credit aggregates needed for both monetary and other macroeconomic policies. The balance sheet format shows the broad-money liabilities of the depository corporations and</p>	<p>Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual 2008 (IMF) [Knowledge Base]</p>
Broad money and credit	M	Y		

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
aggregates			<p>the domestic and foreign asset counterparts of those liabilities. It is recommended that the sector breakdown of claims “encouraged” in the SDDS be adopted.</p> <p>The monetary aggregates produced should be the broadest measure used by countries, allowing narrower measures to be compiled if relevant.</p>	
Interest rate statistics	M	Y	It is recommended that a range of representative interest rates be produced. For example, monthly averages of day-to-day money market interest rates, short and long-term deposit and lending rates, short and long term government security rates, the central bank lending rate etc.	
Government				
General government operations	Q	Y	<p>Financial statistics on government operations enable analysts to study and monitor the financial performance, financial position and liquidity situation of general government. The statistics should be presented within the GFS framework, and should cover revenue, expenses, investment, borrowing and lending. The transaction detail is country specific, although that set out in the SDDS is recommended.</p> <p>Central government statistics should be produced quarterly. Statistics on the financial operations of other levels of government (state, regional or local) are produced annually, along with consolidated General Government statistics.</p>	Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001 [Knowledge Base]

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			However, if lower levels of government are significant, a quarterly frequency for all series is strongly recommended.	
General government debt	Q	Y	<p>It is recommended that quarterly statistics on central government debt are produced. These should detail all debt liabilities, in the form of securities, loans and deposits, and be further classified by domestic / foreign currency, instrument and maturity. Statistics on non-central government debt guaranteed by central government should also be produced.</p> <p>Debt statistics for other levels of government should be produced annually. Any debt breakdown by sector of lender, maturity etc. is country specific.</p>	
Labour Market				
Labour supply and demand	A / Q	Y (part)	<p>Labour market statistics meet a wide range of economic and social policy needs. The core set focuses on labour utilisation statistics, and includes short term indicators and annual structural statistics, covering both labour supply and labour demand perspectives.</p> <p>Labour force statistics provide information on the supply of labour. Statistics that measure changes in the working age population and its characteristics, and its partition into those employed, unemployed or not in the labour force are recommended. Relevant characteristics include age, gender,</p>	<p>ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment, 1982</p> <p>Survey of economically active population, employment and underemployment: An ILO manual on concepts and</p>

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			<p>occupation or skill level, education, geographical area, residency status etc. For many countries, the measurement of under-employment may be important, as might labour migration, ie the number of international migrant workers.</p> <p>Labour demand statistics provide further information on employment and vacancies, and may refer to persons or jobs depending on the source data. Summary statistics should be broken down by relevant characteristics such as status in employment, branch of economic activity, geographical area, full-time or part-time status, gender etc. For some countries, employment analysed by the formal/informal and/or rural/non-rural sectors may be important.</p> <p>Aggregate statistics on the working age population and labour force (employment, unemployment) are required quarterly, while the detailed structural statistics may need to be compiled less frequently.</p> <p>Labour market statistics are also needed for deriving Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p>	<p>methods, ILO 1990</p> <p>Resolution concerning the measurement of underemployment and inadequate employment situations (16th ICLS, 1998)</p> <p>Resolution concerning statistics of employment in the informal sector (15th ICLS, 1993)</p> <p>ILO Guidelines concerning a statistical definition of informal employment (17th ICLS, 2003)</p>
Hours worked	Q	N	Hours worked statistics complement employment counts and provide a more precise measure of labour input. The data should preferably be collected with earnings data, allowing consistent statistics on labour input costs/earnings and volumes to be produced. The hours worked breakdowns that are needed are similar to those given above for employment.	ICLS Resolution concerning the measurement of working time, 2008

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			Hours worked statistics are a key input for labour productivity measures.	
Natural Resources and the Environment				
Natural resources	A	N	<p>Statistics that measure the economy – environment interrelationships are beyond the scope of the core set. However, the growing concerns about the sustainability of economic growth indicate that the core set needs to include a limited range of statistics that begin to address this issue. Accordingly, it is recommended that the core set include statistics that measure the discovery, depletion and degradation of those natural resources that fall within the SNA asset boundary. The SNA records these changes in the “Other changes in assets” account and while they affect net wealth positions they do not affect GDP. Producing these statistics is consistent with the SNA coverage, yet also allows users to derive alternative GDP measures that may be considered to better account for depletion and discovery.</p> <p>The choice of natural assets to be covered will be determined by individual countries, but it is expected that key resources at risk will be included. Annual statistics on the volume and value of stock levels and the additions /deductions from stock levels are recommended.</p>	<p>Handbook of National Accounting: Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts (SEEA)</p> <p>System of National Accounts 1993 [Knowledge Base]</p> <p>System of National Accounts 2008</p>

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