Importance of compiling, disseminating and reporting national accounts data from an international perspective

Side Event
49th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission
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Outline

- Importance of national accounts data
  - Economic policy analysis
  - Macro-economic forecasting
  - Analysis of structural reforms
    - 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
    - Budgetary contributions
    - Identification of Least Developed Countries

- UNSD data collection of national accounts
  - How do we collect data?
  - What is the progress in data collection?
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- 17 Goals
- 169 Targets
- About 244 indicators

- National Accounts data play a role in about 46 indicators

SDG Report 2017
National Accounts data are used for the assessment of the apportionment of the expenses of the Organization among Members States.

“The scale of assessments, when once fixed by the General Assembly, shall not be subject to a general revision for at least three years…” rule 160 of the Rules of Procedure of the UN General Assembly (A/520/Rev.18).
Every three years, the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) reviews the list of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to make recommendations on the inclusion and graduation of eligible countries.

LDCs have exclusive access to certain international support measures in particular in the areas of development assistance and trade.

3 criteria used:

- Income
- Human Assets
- Economic vulnerability

National Accounts data are used in the review.
- Sent annually to all Member States in all UN official languages
- Excel-based

- UNSD, Eurostat and OECD have agreed on a harmonized national accounts questionnaire.
- UNSD cooperates with UNECE and CARICOM to collect national accounts data.
- The UNSD NAQ is the basis for the evaluation of the reporting of national accounts data to the UN Statistical Commission.
Transactions

Production
Value added/GDP

Income distribution
Use of income

Saving
+ Capital transfers

Other flows

Revaluation
Other volume changes

Opening balance sheet
Non-financial asset

Capital formation
Net lending

Financial transactions

Closing balance sheet
Non-financial asset

Financial Assets and liabilities

Stocks

UN National Accounts Questionnaire
National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables (MADT) database

National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates (AMA) database


Timeline of data collection and dissemination

- Prefilled NAQ sent to Member States
- MADT Data validation
- AMA Data validation
- Responses from Member States
- Finalization of MADT
- Finalization of AMA
Annual responses to the National Accounts Questionnaire

Number of Member States

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Historical overview of responses

United Nations Statistics Division

Submitted in all previous 5 NAQ cycles
Submitted at least once in previous 5 NAQ cycles
No submission in the previous 5 NAQ cycles

Number of Member States

Year


Submitted in all previous 5 NAQ cycles
Submitted at least once in previous 5 NAQ cycles
No submission in the previous 5 NAQ cycles

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Number of Member States

2007: 29
2008: 22
2009: 90
2010: 84
2011: 15
2012: 15
2013: 11
2014: 11
2015: 10
2016: 10
2017: 9

Legend:
- Blue: Submitted in all previous 5 NAQ cycles
- Green: Submitted at least once in previous 5 NAQ cycles
- Yellow: No submission in the previous 5 NAQ cycles
Improvement in the scope of national accounts data submitted between 2007 and 2017

- Member States submitting 7 tables of the MRDS in 2007: 50
- Member States submitting 7 tables of the MRDS in 2017: 102
- Member States who do not submit 7 tables of the MRDS in 2017: 91

Improvement in the timeliness of national accounts data submitted between 2007 and 2017

- Member States submitting 2006 data in 2007: 69
- Member States submitting 2016 data in 2017: 112
- Member States unable to submit 2016 data in 2017: 71
Historical implementation of SNA among UN Member States

Data collection cycle
- 2008 SNA implemented
- 1993 SNA implemented
- 1968 SNA implemented

Number of Member States
- 2005: 102
- 2006: 95
- 2007: 80
- 2008: 57
- 2009: 53
- 2010: 43
- 2011: 36
- 2012: 30
- 2013: 28
- 2014: 23
- 2015: 18
- 2016: 13

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Challenges

Compilation and dissemination of National Accounts

- Lack of basic economic statistics
- High staff turnover
- IT resources
- Need of compilation guidance
- ...

Data reporting

- It takes too long to fill the questionnaire
- The NAQ timeline differs from the national release calendar
- NAQ not reaching the correct focal point
- ..
Thank you