

# Chapter 18 Metadata

18.1. Chapter 18 describes the concept and structure of metadata (or data that define and describe other data and processes)<sup>[1]</sup> for use within the statistical framework for describing the international supply of services, as well as good metadata compilation practices. It underscores that metadata are relevant for the correct understanding of the content, coverage and limitations of the data, and should guide users on their correct interpretation. The chapter contains the following sections: a summary of good practices (section A); an overview of the basic concepts, definitions and role of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) (section B); an indicative list of metadata items (section C); metadata standards of international and regional organizations (section D); and country practices (section E).

## In this chapter:

- A. Summary of good practices (Chapter 18)
- B. Metadata: basic concepts and definitions and the role of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange
- C. Indicative lists of metadata items
  - C.1. Structural metadata: Balance of Payments-Data Structure Definition
  - C.2. Example of a trade in services time series key, coded according to the Balance of Payments-Data Structure Definition
  - C.3. Reference metadata
- D. Metadata standards of international and regional organizations
  - D.1. Special Data Dissemination Standard and General Data Dissemination System metadata of the International Monetary Fund
  - D.2. The Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange content-oriented guidelines on metadata of Eurostat
  - D.3. Ensuring the consistency of metadata and data reported to international organizations
- E. Country experience: Italy

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[1] See International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part1: Framework", March 2004. Available from <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso-iec:11179-1:ed-2:v1:en>.