

## ***STES Timeliness Framework: Guidelines for the submission of documentation***

The Short-Term Economic Statistics (*STES*) *Timeliness Framework* is a structured collection of documentation on a range of *good practices* currently used by national statistical organisations for improving timeliness, reducing costs or improving accuracy<sup>1</sup> in the production of STES (see Attachment 1 for the list of in scope STES).

The documentation contained within the current version of the *STES Timeliness Framework*, available on the OECD website at: [www.oecd.org/std/research/timeliness](http://www.oecd.org/std/research/timeliness), is sourced from 18 OECD countries. The submission of new documentation is now invited for inclusion in forthcoming updates of the framework. Contributing to the *STES Timeliness Framework* provides national statistical organisations with the opportunity to:

- gain wider recognition for their work;
- access information about other countries practices extremely relevant to their daily work which would otherwise be very difficult to obtain, as this type of information is rarely published in journals etc.;
- closely examine good practises in countries most likely to be similar to their own;
- quickly evaluate different options for implementing new methods to improve the timeliness of their short-term economic statistics with greater certainty of the likely outcomes.

### **Guidelines for the submission of documentation**

Documentation included in the *STES Timeliness Framework* must have a practical focus. In general, documentation should describe techniques already implemented within statistical organisations which enable STES to be produced in a very timely manner, or have enabled recent improvements in timeliness or reduced costs of production to be achieved. For example, relevant documents may include internal documentation on methods or final project proposals for the implementation of new methods, as well as other relevant papers describing processes.

The current structure of the *STES Timeliness Framework* ([www.oecd.org/std/research/timeliness](http://www.oecd.org/std/research/timeliness)) clearly shows the statistical processes for which documentation is sought, with each link providing further information on the content relating to the short titles used in the main reference table. Documents can also cover several of the statistical processes included in the framework within the one paper. Documents can be provided in national language, but must include a short abstract in English, and also have a contact name.

The submission of documentation for assessment for inclusion in the framework, and any relevant queries, should be sent to [richard.mckenzie@oecd.org](mailto:richard.mckenzie@oecd.org)

Users can also register to receive all future updates to the framework by emailing [std.timeliness@oecd.org](mailto:std.timeliness@oecd.org)

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<sup>1</sup> The STES Timeliness Framework only covers practices for improving accuracy if it is clear that the method to improve accuracy could be traded off to either improve timeliness and / or reduce costs of production.

## Attachment 1 Short-term economic statistics in scope of the *STES Timeliness Framework*

The *STES Timeliness Framework* only intends to cover processes for the important short-term economic statistics listed in the table below, which are produced from business surveys and/or administrative records of businesses.

Indicator	Common periodicity
Industrial production index	Monthly
Manufacturing output / sales	Monthly/quarterly
Construction production / output / sales	Monthly/quarterly
Retail trade	
Current price	Monthly
Volume	Monthly
Turnover for other service industries	Quarterly
Unemployment rate (not from household labour force survey)	Monthly
Total employment (not from household labour force survey)	Monthly/quarterly
Job vacancy rate	Monthly/quarterly
Hourly / weekly / monthly wages	Monthly / Quarterly
Labour costs / prices	Quarterly

### Extended definition of important short-term economic statistics covered by the framework

The text below gives a more detailed definition of each of the 10 important short-term economic statistics listed in the above table, for which methods of improving timeliness are covered in the *STES Timeliness Framework*.

#### Industrial production index

The majority of countries produce indices of industrial production. The data may come from a variety of business survey and or administrative sources. Generally the scope of these indices concerns production in industry excluding construction. This would therefore cover production in the Mining & Quarrying, Manufacturing, and Electricity Gas and Water supply industries (ISIC industries C, D & E), which is measured in a variety of ways across countries (i.e. in terms of the variables collected, with the common goal of measuring production).

#### Manufacturing output / sales

This indicator relates to the output of the Manufacturing industry, measured through business surveys of the Manufacturing industry or appropriate administrative data. The types of variables measured can differ between countries, but common types are: sales of goods manufactured; total turnover; stocks; new orders. Estimates are usually in the form on an index or as national currency levels.

#### Construction production / output / sales

This indicator relates to the output of the Construction industry. This may commonly be measured through business surveys of the Construction industry or appropriate administrative data. The variables measured can differ significantly between countries but common types include: building permits issued; value of work completed; work in place; work started. Note also that some variables may be measured in either monetary terms or physical quantities (e.g. number of buildings or surface area).

### Retail trade: Current price; Volume

Almost all countries produce monthly estimates of sales / turnover in the Retail Trade industry, derived from business surveys of the Retail Trade industry or appropriate administrative data. *Current price* relates to the total value of sales (in index form or national currency level), whereas *volume* relates to data at constant prices – usually obtained by deflating the total value of sales estimate by relevant parts of the consumer price index.

### Turnover for other service industries

This indicator relates to the output of other service industries such as ISIC industries G, H, I & K (i.e. Wholesale Trade; Hotels and Restaurants; Transport, Storage and Communication; Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities). This may commonly be measured through business surveys of these industries or appropriate administrative data. The variable generally collected is total turnover or sales.

### Unemployment rate (not from household labour force survey)

This indicator relates to unemployment rate estimates derived from business surveys and / or administrative data. This indicator may exist only for a limited number of countries.

### Total employment (not from household labour force survey)

This indicator relates to employment estimates derived from business surveys and / or administrative data. Many countries produce these estimates to provide reliable employment estimates by industry.

### Job vacancy rate

This indicator relates to estimates of job vacancies / job vacancy rates / unfilled vacancies from business surveys and / or administrative data. This indicator may not exist for all countries.

### Hourly / weekly / monthly wages

The majority of countries produce estimates of wage rates (i.e. hourly rates, weekly averages, monthly averages). These estimates usually come from specific business surveys or appropriate sources of administrative data. Data is usually estimated as an index or in national currency and for most countries will cover the majority of industries.

### Labour costs / prices

Some countries have developed specific business surveys to measure a labour cost index / labour price index / employment cost index. The concept is to measure the total cost to employers for employing staff in the form of an index. Many countries compile this indicator as an extension to their estimate of wage rates, by combining this with other appropriate survey or administrative data.