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**STATISTICS DIRECTORATE
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Working Party on National Accounts

THE SITUATION OF ANNUAL NATIONAL ACCOUNTS DATA AND METADATA

TRANSMISSION TO THE OECD AND NAWWE PROGRESS REPORT

**To be held on 3-5 October 2007
Tour Europe - Paris la Défense
Beginning at 9:30 a.m. on the first day**

This document has been prepared by E. Bolton and R. Penlington, Statistics Directorate and C. Nicq, Economics Department - OECD and will be presented under item 15 of the draft agenda

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THE SITUATION OF ANNUAL NATIONAL ACCOUNTS DATA AND METADATA

TRANSMISSION TO THE OECD AND NAWWE PROGRESS REPORT

1. The objective of this paper is to inform experts participating in the 2007 OECD national accounts meeting of the situation regarding the collection and dissemination of annual national accounts data and metadata in the OECD and also to inform them of progress with NAWWE (National Accounts World-Wide Exchange). Besides being a forum on national accounts issues, one of the missions of the OECD Statistics Directorate is to collect and disseminate national accounts data, both on a country basis and on a geographically aggregated “area” basis. OECD is proud to be one of the best sources of international data, through its public databases and its publications.

2. It has long been the case that all Member national statistical offices and other partner organisations have had access to most of the national accounts held by the OECD Secretariat on OLISnet. A new dissemination system, OECD.STAT is now available to those users via OLISnet. This system provides access to nearly all OECD data, spanning many subjects, in one integrated system. In addition, a sub-set of these data, including all the main national accounts aggregates, is available to anyone for free via the OECD’s Statistics Portal. More detailed information about OECD.STAT is given below.

I. The situation of the annual national accounts database

3. This database contains a large set of consistent and comparable SNA 93 annual data, using common classifications, for all OECD Member countries, with the exception of Turkey which is still using the SNA 68. Priority has been given to full comparability, but slight inconsistencies may appear with the headline national presentation of data if the country does not apply SNA 93 to the full extent or does not use the same classifications. The data are less timely than national data, due to the time it takes for countries to transmit the data and the time it takes for the data to be validated. The annual national accounts service is highly relevant to the work of many users both within and outside the OECD. The production of some key OECD outputs (e.g. country analyses and forecasts) is dependent on the national accounts data that the annual national accounts service provides. This is particularly the case for the OECD Economics Department, which is regarded as the main client.

4. A joint OECD-Eurostat national accounts questionnaire is used to collect the data. This questionnaire is sent by Eurostat to European countries and by the OECD to non-European Member countries of the OECD. More detailed information about the new questionnaire is given below.

1 Transmission of data

5. Transmission of national accounts data to the OECD is based on this common questionnaire and it should be sent to sna.contact@oecd.org. For European Member countries, the questionnaire is strictly identical to the questionnaire to be transmitted to Eurostat. It is highly recommended that data transmission to the OECD is made the very same day as the data are published by the national statistical office. Release

dates are closely followed by our desk-economists who expect to access the data on the OECD database when they are available in the databases of Member countries. European countries are therefore asked to send their questionnaire tables to the OECD by email as soon as they send them to Eurostat using Edamis or Stadium.

2 *Availability of data*

6. The OECD database covers the tables 0101 to 0119, 0200, 0301 to 0303, 0501, 0502, 06, 07, 0800, 0900, 1100, 1400 and 2000 of the national accounts questionnaire. Table 1, below, shows the situation of countries regarding the questionnaire tables transmitted to the OECD and the data coverage. This table is used as the input for the regular “Data transmission report” submitted to the OECD Committee on Statistics, which comprises heads of statistical offices of OECD countries. Country representatives should therefore closely analyse its content.

Tables 06 (Financial accounts by sector) and tables 07 (Balance sheets for financial assets and liabilities by sector) are not covered in this overview because they are addressed in a separate report to be discussed at the OECD Working Party on Financial Statistics held on 2-3 October 2007.

7. Since last year’s report, improvements have been achieved in terms of completeness, timeliness and, to a certain extent, in length of times series. Nevertheless, there is still a significant lack of data for the tables 1400 Fixed assets, and 2000 Cross classification of fixed assets. In particular, among the G-7 countries, data on stocks of fixed assets are missing for Canada and the United Kingdom. It should be stressed that these data are of great interest to OECD economists and other users. It is clear from the table that European countries are generally quicker in their data supply to the OECD than non-European member countries, although account must be undertaken of more demanding conversion processes, for example from national classification to those requested by the OECD. Also, there has been an improvement of timeliness over the past years.

Table 1 - DATA AVAILABILITY AND COVERAGE (mid September 2007)

Quest. Table	Questionnaire SNA93/ESA95	AUS	AUT	BEL	CAN	CZE	DNK	FIN	FRA	DEU	DEW	GRC	HUN	ISL	IRL	ITA	JPN
0101	Gross value added at basic prices and gross domestic product	89-05	76-06	80-06	70-03	90-05	66-06	75-06	59-06	91-06	70-91	95-06	91-06	73-05	90-04	70-06	80-05
0102	Gross domestic product identity from the expenditure side	59-05	76-06	80-06	70-05	90-05	66-06	75-06	59-06	91-06	70-91	60-06	91-06	70-06	95-05	70-06	80-05
0103	Gross domestic product identity from the income side	59-05	76-06	80-06	70-05	92-05	66-06	75-06	59-06	91-06	70-91	95-06	91-05	70-06	90-05	70-06	80-05
0104	Final consumption	59-05	76-06	80-06	70-05	90-05	66-06	75-06	59-06	91-06	70-91	60-06	91-06	90-06	95-05	70-06	80-05
0105	Gross capital formation	59-05	76-06	95-99	70-05	90-05	66-06	75-06	59-06	91-06	70-91	60-06	91-06	80-06	90-05	70-06	80-05
0106	Exports and imports of goods (fob) and services	59-05	76-06	80-06	70-05	90-05	88-06	75-06	59-06	91-06	70-91	95-06	91-06	70-06	90-05	70-06	80-05
0107	Disposable income	59-05	76-06	80-06	70-05	92-05	66-06	75-06	59-06	91-06	70-91	60-06	95-05	70-06	90-05	70-06	80-05
0108	Saving and net lending/borrowing	59-05	76-06	80-06	70-05	92-05	66-06	75-06	59-06	91-06	70-91	60-06	..	70-06	90-05	70-06	80-05
0109	Real disposable income	59-05	76-06	80-06	71-05	95-05	88-06	75-06	59-06	91-06	70-91	95-04	..	70-06	90-05	70-06	80-05
0110	Population and Employment	85-05	76-06	83-06	70-05	93-05	88-06	75-06	78-06	91-06	70-91	95-06	92-05	70-06	95-05	82-06	70-05
0111	Employment and full time equivalents by industry	85-03	76-06	81-06	61-05	95-05	88-06	75-06	78-06	91-06	70-91	95-04	92-06	70-97	95-05	70-06	80-05
0112	Compensation of employees by industry	89-05	76-06	80-06	70-03	92-05	88-06	75-06	59-06	91-06	70-91	95-06	95-05	73-05	90-05	70-06	90-05
0113	Gross value added by industry (A17)	89-05	.. t 03	.. t 03	81-03	90-05	.. t 03	.. t 03	78-06	.. t 03	.. t 03	95-05	95-05	73-05	90-05	70-06	80-05
0114	Employment by industry (A17)	70-03	.. t 03	.. t 03	61-05	95-05	.. t 03	.. t 03	90-05	91-06	.. t 03	95-05	95-06	70-97	95-05	70-06	80-04
0115	Compensation of employees by industry (A17)	89-05	.. t 03	.. t 03	70-03	92-05	.. t 03	.. t 03	78-06	.. t 03	.. t 03	95-05	95-05	73-05	90-05	70-06	90-05
0116	Final consumption expenditure of households by purpose (COICOP)	59-05	.. t 05	.. t 05	70-05	95-05	.. t 05	.. t 05	59-06	.. t 05	.. t 05	60-05	95-06	90-06	95-05	70-06	80-05
0117	Final consumption of households by durability	59-05	..	..	70-05	95-05	..	..	59-06	..	..	95-05	95-06	90-06	95-05	70-06	80-05
0118	Gross operating surplus by industry (A17)	89-05	.. t 03	.. t 03	70-05	92-05	.. t 03	.. t 03	78-06	.. t 03	.. t 03	95-05	95-05	73-05	90-05	.. t 03	90-05
0119	Simplified non-financial accounts by institutional sector	59-05	.. t 08	85-04	70-05	92-05	.. t 08	.. t 08	59-06	91-06	.. t 08	95-05	95-01	..	.. t 08	.. t 08	90-05
0200	Main aggregates of General Government	59-05	76-06	70-06	70-05	92-06	71-06	75-06	78-06	91-06	70-91	88-06	95-06	90-06	90-06	80-06	90-05
0301	Value added and its components, by industry (A31)	..	76-06	95-05	70-03	90-05	66-05	75-06	78-06	91-05	70-91	95-05	95-05	90-05	95-05	70-06	90-05
0302	Capital formation by industry (A31)	..	76-06	95-05	70-01	95-05	93-05	75-06	95-06	91-05	70-91	95-05	95-05	97-05	95-05	70-06	..
0303	Labour input by industry (A31)	70-03	76-06	95-05	61-05	95-05	66-05	75-06	78-06	91-05	70-91	95-05	95-06	70-97	95-05	70-06	80-04
0501	Final consumption expenditure of households by purpose	59-05	76-06	95-05	70-05	95-05	66-05	75-06	59-06	91-05	80-91	95-05	95-06	90-06	95-05	70-06	80-05
0502	Final consumption expenditure of households (nc, dc)	59-05	76-06	95-05	70-05	95-05	66-05	75-06	59-06	91-05	80-91	95-05	95-06	90-06	95-05	70-06	80-05
0800	Non-financial accounts by institutional sector (detailed)	..	95-06	85-05	..	92-05	81-05	75-06	59-06	91-05	80-90	95-05	04-04	..	02-05	80-06	80-05
0900	Detailed tax and social contribution receipts by type and by subsector	98-02	88-05	70-05	70-05	95-05	95-06	95-06	78-06	91-05	..	95-05	90-05	90-05	95-05	90-05	90-05
1100	Expenditure of General Government by function	98-02	95-05	90-05	98-04	95-05	90-06	90-05	95-05	91-05	..	90-05	90-05	90-05	90-05	90-05	90-05
1400	Fixed assets for total economy by industry (A17) and by product (Pi3)	120	95-05	95-05	..	..	..	75-06	78-06	91-06	..	..	00-05	..	..	80-04	95-05
2000	Cross classification of fixed assets by industry (A31) and by product (Pi3)	59-05	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

.. Table not transmitted / data not available

.. t 03 Table not transmitted but derived from table 03

95-04 No detailed breakdown

Table 1 - DATA AVAILABILITY AND COVERAGE (mid September 2007) (ctd)

Quest. Table	Questionnaire SNA93/ESA95	TUR														
		KOR	LUX	MEX	NLD	NZL	NOR	POL	PRT	SVK	ESP	SWE	CHE	sna6	GBR	USA
0101	Gross value added at basic prices and gross domestic product	70-06	85-06	88-04	69-06	86-03	70-06	95-06	88-06	93-06	80-06	80-06	90-06	70-06	50-06	87-05
0102	Gross domestic product identity from the expenditure side	70-06	85-06	88-04	69-06	86-05	70-06	95-06	88-06	93-06	80-06	80-06	90-06	70-06	50-06	70-06
0103	Gross domestic product identity from the income side	70-06	85-06	88-04	69-06	86-05	70-06	95-06	95-04	93-06	80-06	80-06	90-06	87-05	50-06	70-06
0104	Final consumption	70-06	85-06	88-05	69-06	86-05	70-06	95-06	88-06	93-06	80-06	80-06	90-06	70-06	50-06	70-06
0105	Gross capital formation	70-06	85-06	88-04	69-06	86-05	70-06	95-06	88-06	93-06	80-06	80-06	90-06	70-06	50-06	70-06
0106	Exports and imports of goods (fob) and services	70-06	85-06	88-04	87-06	86-05	70-06	95-06	88-06	93-06	80-06	80-06	90-06	70-06	50-06	70-06
0107	Disposable income	70-06	85-05	88-04	69-06	86-05	70-06	95-06	88-06	93-06	95-06	80-06	90-06	70-05	50-06	70-06
0108	Saving and net lending/borrowing	70-06	85-04	88-04	69-06	86-05	70-06	95-06	88-06	93-06	95-06	80-06	90-05	70-05	50-06	70-06
0109	Real disposable income	70-06	..	88-04	69-06	87-05	..	..	..	93-06	95-06	80-06	91-05	..	70-06	70-06
0110	Population and Employment	70-06	85-06	88-06	87-06	85-06	70-06	92-06	95-06	94-06	95-06	93-06	91-05	70-05	88-06	70-06
0111	Employment and full time equivalents by industry	80-06	85-06	95-06	69-06	85-06	70-06	92-06	.. t 03	94-06	80-06	93-06	91-05	..	78-06	70-06
0112	Compensation of employees by industry	70-06	85-06	88-04	69-06	86-03	70-06	95-06	.. t 03	93-06	80-06	93-06	..	87-05	50-06	70-06
0113	Gross value added by industry (A17)	70-05	85-05	88-04	.. t 03	86-02	70-06	95-06	.. t 03	93-06	95-05	.. t 03	90-06	70-05	.. t 03	87-05
0114	Employment by industry (A17)	92-06	85-05	88-04	.. t 03	85-06	70-06	92-06	.. t 03	94-06	95-05	.. t 03	91-05	..	.. t 03	70-06
0115	Compensation of employees by industry (A17)	70-06	.. t 03	88-04	.. t 03	86-01	70-06	95-06	.. t 03	93-06	95-05	.. t 03	..	87-05	.. t 03	70-06
0116	Final consumption expenditure of households by purpose (COICOP)	70-06	.. t 05	88-04	.. t 05	87-05	91-04	95-04	.. t 05	96-06	95-05	.. t 05	90-06	..	70-06	70-06
0117	Final consumption of households by durability	70-06	..	88-04	87-06	87-05	..	95-04	..	96-06	..	..	..	87-05	70-01	70-06
0118	Gross operating surplus by industry (A17)	70-06	.. t 03	88-04	.. t 03	86-02	70-06	95-06	.. t 03	93-06	95-05	.. t 03	..	..	..	87-05
0119	Simplified non-financial accounts by institutional sector	75-06	.. t 08	93-04	80-06	86-00	.. t 08	95-06	.. t 08	.. t 08	95-06	.. t 08	90-04	..	87-05	70-06
0200	Main aggregates of General Government	70-05	90-06	93-04	69-06	86-05	78-06	95-06	77-06	92-06	95-06	93-06	90-04	..	70-06	70-06
0301	Value added and its components, by industry (A31)	70-06	85-05	88-04	69-06	86-96	70-06	95-05	95-04	93-05	95-05	93-04	..	..	70-05	87-05
0302	Capital formation by industry (A31)	70-05	..	93-99	69-06	86-02	70-06	92-05	95-04	92-05	95-04	93-04	..	..	70-04	70-05
0303	Labour input by industry (A31)	70-06	85-05	..	69-06	89-06	70-06	92-06	95-04	94-05	95-05	93-04	..	..	79-05	70-06
0501	Final consumption expenditure of households by purpose	70-06	85-05	88-04	87-06	.. t 01	80-04	95-05	88-04	96-05	95-05	95-05	..	..	70-05	70-06
0502	Final consumption expenditure of households (nc, dc)	70-06	85-05	88-04	87-05	.. t 01	70-06	95-05	88-04	96-05	95-05	95-05	90-06	..	70-05	70-06
0800	Non-financial accounts by institutional sector (detailed)	70-06	90-05	93-04	80-06	..	78-03	95-05	95-05	95-05	95-05	93-05	90-04	..	87-06	..
0900	Detailed tax and social contribution receipts by type and by subsector	75-05	70-06	93-04	95-06	97-05	95-06	95-05	95-05	93-05	95-05	93-06	90-04	..	70-05	70-06
1100	Expenditure of General Government by function	70-05	90-06	93-04	95-05	97-05	90-05	90-05	90-05	03-05	95-05	95-06	..	..	90-05	70-05
1400	Fixed assets for total economy by industry (A17) and by product (Pi3)	77,87, ..	..	95-06	..	..	.. t 20	..	..	..	..	95-01	90-04	..	..	70-05
2000	Cross classification of fixed assets by industry (A31) and by product (Pi3)	..	..	..	..	..	80-02	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70-05

.. Table not transmitted / data not available

.. t 03 Table not transmitted but derived from table 03

95-04 No detailed breakdown

90-05 available only for general government

3 Dissemination of data

8. Annual national accounts of OECD countries are published in three separate volumes: Two are dedicated to national accounts, while the third (called Volume IV though) relates to General Government annual data. An electronic version, which is updated daily, is available free of charge to all Member national statistical offices and other partner organisations via OLISnet, in OECD.STAT.

- a. Volume I “Main aggregates” provides the main aggregates of national accounts: GDP by expenditure, GDP by output, GDP by income, disposable income, saving and net lending, population and employment. It also includes comparative tables based on exchange rates and comparative tables based on purchasing power parities (PPPs), expressed in US dollars and indices. The content of Volume I corresponds to tables 0101 to 0112 of the national accounts questionnaire. It is available in paper and CD-ROM versions in January of each year. The latest edition, January 2007, covers the period 1994-2005.

CONTENTS of National Accounts of OECD Countries, Volume I

The paper publication is divided in the following four parts:

1. Main aggregates

- Table 1.** Gross domestic product: expenditure approach, current prices and 2000 prices.
- Table 2.** Gross domestic product: output approach, current prices and 2000 prices.
- Table 3.** Gross domestic product: income approach.
- Table 4.** Disposable income, saving and net lending.
- Table 5.** Population and employment in persons, national concept.
- Table 6.** Employment in persons and in full-time equivalents by industry, domestic concept.

2. Comparative tables based on exchange rates

- **Gross domestic product** – US dollars and indices
- **Household final consumption expenditure** – US dollars and indices

3. Comparative tables based on PPPs (purchasing power parities).

- **Gross domestic product** – US dollars and indices
- **Household final consumption expenditure** – US dollars and indices

4. Exchange rates, PPPs (Purchasing power parities), Population

- b. Volume II “Detailed tables” provides, in addition to the main aggregates, the following subjects: value added, compensation of employees, net taxes on production and imports, gross operating surplus, gross fixed capital formation and employment by industry; detailed final consumption expenditures (current and constant prices), simplified accounts for three main sectors (general government, corporations and households and non-profit institutions serving households). The content of Volume II corresponds to tables 0101 to 0119, 0200, 0301 to 0303, 0501 and 0502. It is available in paper and CD-ROM versions in July of each year. The latest edition, July 2007, covers the period 1994-2005 and includes provisional data for 2006. The CD-ROM covers, in addition, detailed non-financial accounts by institutional sectors (corresponding to table 0800 of the questionnaire): non-financial corporations, financial corporations, general government, central government, state government, local government, social security funds, households and non-profit institutions serving households and the rest of the world.

CONTENTS of National Accounts of OECD Countries, Volume II

This paper publication is divided into the following 14 tables:

Detailed tables

- Table 1. Gross domestic product: expenditure approach, current prices and 2000 prices.**
- Table 2. Gross domestic product: output approach, current prices and 2000 prices.**
- Table 3. Gross domestic product: income approach.**
- Table 4. Disposable income, saving and net lending.**
- Table 5. Population and employment in persons, national concept.**
- Table 6. Employment in persons and in full-time equivalents by industry, domestic concept.**
- Table 7. Gross value added at basic prices by industry (A31) at current prices and year 2000 prices.**
- Table 8. Components of value added by industry, in 31 industries:**
 - Compensation of employees,
 - Wages and salaries,
 - Gross operating surplus and gross mixed income,
 - Other taxes less other subsidies on production.
- Table 9a. Employment by industry, in 31 industries, in persons.**
- Table 9b. Employment by industry, in 31 industries, in full-time equivalents.**
- Table 10. Gross fixed capital formation by industry, in 31 industries, current and 2000 prices.**
- Table 11. Final consumption expenditure of households, current and 2000 prices.**
- Table 12. Simplified general government accounts.**
- Table 13. Simplified accounts for households and NIPSH and for corporations.**

Supplementary tables: Non-financial accounts by institutional sectors.

- Available only on CD-ROM.

- Table S11. Accounts for non-financial corporations.**
- Table S12. Accounts for financial corporations.**
- Table S13. Accounts for general government.**
- Table S1311. Accounts for central government.**
- Table S1312. Accounts for state government.**
- Table S1313. Accounts for local government.**
- Table S1314. Accounts for social security funds.**
- Table S14-S15. Accounts for households and non-profit institutions serving households.**
- Table S14. Accounts for households .**
- Table S15. Accounts for non-profit institutions serving households.**
- Table S2. Accounts for the rest of the world (external transactions accounts).**

- c. Volume IV “General Government Accounts” is dedicated to government finance, but is based on SNA93 concepts and definitions. It includes tables showing government aggregates and balances for the production, income and financial accounts as well as detailed tax and social contribution receipts and a breakdown of expenditure of general government by function, according to the harmonized classification, COFOG. Detailed accounts are available for the general government sector. Data also cover the following sub-sectors, according to availability: central government, state government, local government and social security funds. The contents of Volume IV correspond to tables 0200, 0900, 1100 and the government sectors of tables 06 and 07. It is available on paper and CD-ROM usually in December of each year. The latest edition, January 2007, covers the period 1994 to 2005. The CD-ROM covers, in addition, detailed accounts for general government sub-sectors whenever available.

CONTENTS of National Accounts of OECD Countries, Volume IV

This paper publication is divided in the following tables:

- I. Summary of general government aggregates and balances**
- II General government accounts (SNA 1993, simplified presentation)**
 - II.1 General government**
 - II.2 Central government**
 - II.3 State government**
 - II.4 Local government**
 - II.5 Social security funds**
- III. Detailed taxes and social contribution receipts.**
 - III.1 General government**
 - III.2 Central government**
 - III.3 State government**
 - III.4 Local government**
 - III.5 Social security funds**
- IV. Expenditure by function**
 - IV.1 General government**
 - IV.2 Central government**
 - IV.3 State government**
 - IV.4 Local government**
 - IV.5 Social security funds**

4 Methodological changes

9. In 2005 and 2006, most European countries introduced the allocation of FISIM to user sectors/industries. This is one of the two major recent methodological changes made by many OECD countries; the other being the introduction of chained volume measures.

10. At the middle of September 2007 the situation among OECD Member countries with regard to sending data to the OECD is:

- Countries that have already sent allocated FISIM: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland and the USA.
- Countries that plan to send allocated FISIM next year: United Kingdom.
- Countries which do not yet allocate FISIM in the data they send to the OECD: Japan (testing phase), Mexico, New Zealand, and Turkey.

The Secretariat is interested to know if Mexico and New Zealand have plans to supply the OECD with data in which FISIM is allocated to user sectors/industries.

The Secretariat would also be interested to know when Turkey plans to move from SNA68 to SNA93, including the allocation of FISIM.

II. New features of the joint OECD-Eurostat national accounts questionnaire

11. Following the implementation of SNA93/ESA95, the OECD and Eurostat developed a common questionnaire for quarterly and annual national accounts in 1999. After three years of experience with the questionnaire, a review was begun in 2002. The general principles underlying the subsequent revision were harmonisation of both the concepts used in different tables and the coherence between different tables. It was also decided to simplify as much as possible the structure of the questionnaire by merging tables referring to the same aggregates and by reducing the total number of tables to be transmitted.

12. The purpose of this note is to inform Member countries of the new and official questionnaire and the modifications that have occurred between the draft version sent in April to non-EU countries and the last and official version (August-September version). Regarding COFOG tables, more detailed information is given below in part VI.

13. The OECD has taken several steps to inform non EU Member countries of the new questionnaire's development and to allow them to prepare themselves for it.

The first step was to send the new questionnaire in its almost final version with the old codes to non-EU countries in April 2007, knowing that minor changes would happen in the coming months.

The second step was undertaken by Eurostat in August 2007: the "final" version of the new questionnaire, including the new codes (key family), was sent to EU countries for comment. Small changes have been made to the "April draft" version, including: a new transaction has been added to table 0117: P312N (Final consumption of expenditure of households, other), transactions have been added to the table 0800: these are D12REC (Employers' social contributions), B2G (Gross operating Surplus) and B4G (Gross entrepreneurial income). A new breakdown has been adopted in table 1100: instead of tables 1101 and 1102, table 1100 is broken down by sectors and sub-sectors at COFOG level 2.

A third step took place a few weeks ago: non-EU countries were sent the latest version of the revised questionnaire. It includes the new codes (key family), the added series in tables 0117 and 0800, the COFOG 2 level in table 1100, and for tables 0301, 0302, 0303, 2000 and 2200 an A31 breakdown has been added to the A17 and A60 breakdowns.

14. Delegates should be aware that OECD has adapted its database to the new questionnaire, and we are pleased to inform countries that we are in a position to update our database with the new questionnaire features and concepts.

15. New Zealand, Korea and the United States have sent their data using the new questionnaire, and the Korean data have been loaded in our database.

III. Co-operation between Eurostat and OECD

16. We are pleased to announce that closer co-operation has been established between Eurostat and OECD in two ways. First, correspondence with European countries is shared by the two organisations. This means that when problems with country data are encountered by the OECD, Eurostat is consistently copied into the ensuing correspondence, and vice versa. This saves the two organisations time in editing the data and avoids duplicating queries with countries. Second, the OECD has stopped editing the data for table 8 received from European countries, and instead takes the amended data from Eurostat. The OECD is considering doing the same thing for some other tables that are costly to edit and are not so time critical.

17. Another manifestation of the closer co-operation between the OECD and Eurostat was a recent joint mission to the UK ONS to discuss ways of improving data transmission. The mission and the preparation prior to it also served to improve the working relationship between the OECD and Eurostat teams and for each to gain a better appreciation of how each goes about its work. Close co-operation between the two organisations will be critical during the introduction of the new questionnaire.

IV. Metadata

18. Two metadata questionnaires were launched by Eurostat and the OECD in 2005/2006. The first one concerned general government accounts metadata and the other concerned employment metadata. The results are readily available in OECD.Stat. OECD.Stat is the central repository or “intelligence warehouse” where validated statistical data and metadata are stored. The OECD.Stat warehouse has been designed to preserve the decentralised nature of OECD directorates’ statistical activities, while making their data and metadata part of a coherent corporate system. It will in due course become the sole coherent source of statistical data and related metadata for the organisation’s statistical publications, whether in print or electronic form.

19. The employment metadata questionnaire was sent by Eurostat to EU countries at the beginning of 2006 and by the OECD to non-EU countries during spring 2006. Based on the responses to the questionnaire, Eurostat and the OECD prepared draft metadata that were sent to countries for agreement and comment in July 2006, and then subsequently finalised. The general government accounts metadata questionnaire was sent by the OECD to countries at the end of 2005, with twenty-four countries answering. A similar process to that of employment was then followed to finalise the metadata.

20. All the metadata are accessible on OECD.Stat. The general government metadata can be accessed by clicking on the red “i” following the country name on the table headings. Employment metadata can be accessed in same way for those tables dealing with employment subjects: “Population and employment by main activities” and “Labour input by activity”.

21. The metadata for both employment and general government have recently been updated. Please let us know if they need to be amended.

V. Access to OECD.stat via OLIS for officials and governments

22. National statistical offices and governments have free access to the entire contents of OECD databases (metadata and data) via OECD.Stat, which should be accessed via OLIS. To access OLIS, you need a username and a password. Your administration might already have a generic account (username and password available for the entire administration) or you might have your personal username and password. If not, then you can contact OLIS staff at olissupport@oecd.org or register online at the following address:

<http://webdomino1.oecd.org/olis/oliswebsub.nsf/oliseng?OpenForm&www.oecd.org>. Once you have an account you simply go to the URL address <https://www.oecd.int/olis>.

23. Once in OLIS, choose 'statistics' in the upper menu. A new window will open up and then, select OECD.Stat, OECD's New Online Statistical Data Warehouse. You will be directed to OECD.Stat in a new window. You now can choose in the left menu browse themes "National Accounts". To access metadata on employment, select "Main Aggregates" in the Annual National Accounts sub-theme. Then select subject "3-Population and employment by main activity", click on the 'open' button. Then the metadata can be viewed by clicking on the red **i**, standing for 'information' attached to country names. The metadata will appear on the right of the screen. Likewise, general government accounts metadata can be viewed in the General Government Accounts sub-theme, by selecting subject "10-Taxes and social contributions receipts" or "11-Government expenditure by function" or "12-Main aggregates of general government". Given the volume of these metadata, a useful tool can be used to see the metadata in a convenient way: the very last icon on the top right of the metadata part of the screen 'open in stand alone window'. There is also a print icon right next to it which could be useful too. For more detailed information, a user guide is available at the top right of the OECD.Stat web page.

24. Data can also be viewed in OECD.Stat: On the left menu "Browse Themes" select "National Accounts". In the Annual National Accounts sub-theme, choose one of the sub-theme and subject proposed, for instance "Main Aggregates" and then "1 Gross Domestic Product". Click on the "open" button below and start your query by selecting the country/ies; the measure, the transactions and the time period. Once you have determined your query you may visualise the data on the screen and this selection can be exported in Excel, or text files format. The presentation of the data (axis of x and y) on the screen is processed by OECD.Stat, but it can be adapted to the users' needs: the 'drag and drop' option is very useful, as it allows you to change the variables on the x and y axis. It can be done by clicking on the variable and dragging it from one axis to the other and then dropping it at the chosen place. The selection and presentation can be saved in a query in the 'Multi Dataset Query' by clicking the 'add to MDQ' button. For further details, please contact the OECD.Stat team, by using the 'contact us' option at the top left of the screen.

VI. The COFOG2 project

25. Measuring public spending efficiency and drawing cross-country comparisons have become an important issue for both Member States and the OECD Secretariat. Three years ago, the EU Financial Accounts Working Group and the EU Working Group on short-term finance statistics approved the creation of a dedicated Task Force on COFOG in order to extend data collection on the functional classification of general government spending to the second digit level. This was an essential step forward to improve the quality and availability of public finance statistics and to meet user needs. The third meeting of the Task Force took place last February, and another meeting is scheduled for February 2008.

26. Transmission of COFOG level 2 (COFOG2) data is on a voluntary basis, yet as of August 2007, 12 EU OECD member countries (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Spain and Sweden) and Norway had transmitted a COFOG2 breakdown of general government expenditure data to Eurostat and OECD. According to countries' plans, the first transmission of COFOG2 data should be provided by France (partial set), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Ireland (partial set) by the end of 2007. Austria postponed its first transmission until to 2008.

27. Some countries have already delivered COFOG2 data by government sub-sector, and many countries have acknowledged the fact that they could do so easily since most of the work it entails has

already been done. Therefore, Eurostat is replacing the recent 1101 and 1102 tables with new tables (one for each sub-sector) that will allow the transmission of these data when they are available.

28. COFOG2 data have already been released by Eurostat for Greece, Poland, Portugal and Spain and should be published by the end of 2007 for Finland, Hungary and Sweden. All other countries that deliver COFOG2 data with the status “not publishable” were asked to consider their publication as soon as possible.

29. While by mid-2008 19 EU-OECD countries will have transmitted COFOG2 data, there has been no progress with data transmission from the non-EU OECD countries. Last year the Secretariat sent a questionnaire to eight non-EU countries. The result of this consultation left little hope of getting COFOG2 data, except for the United States and Australia. But no data have been forthcoming from these countries either.

30. However, two new features could allow non-EU OECD countries to progress towards producing COFOG2 data without requiring too many resources.

31. First, by the end of 2007, Eurostat will publish a manual on sources and methods for the compilation of COFOG statistics, which hopefully will prove to be a useful tool for all national accountants. It is structured in five main sections:

- Background and purpose
- Introduction to COFOG statistics
- Methodological guidance
- Links with other international statistics
- Individual compilation practices.

32. Second, in order to get as quickly as possible comparative data at the COFOG2 level for as many countries as possible, Eurostat is considering focusing on a few functions namely health, education and social protection, that are highly relevant for the assessment of the Lisbon competitiveness agenda and represent a large part of total public expenditure (over 60% in 2005). Eurostat is considering the possibility of collecting the item “total expenditure” for these variables on a mandatory basis from EU countries.

33. Delegates from non-EU OECD countries are asked to consider providing second-digit level of COFOG data for at least the three functions mentioned above: health, education and social protection. Extending coverage of COFOG data to these three functions would represent a big step forward.

VII. The NAWWE project: National Accounts World Wide Exchange

34. Objective: The primary objective of the NAWWE project is to use a web based mechanism for collecting national accounts data based on internationally agreed national accounts standards. Furthermore, users, in particular international organisations, will be able to access validated national accounts data from a single web application. If all the involved international organisations agree to use this mechanism, it will reduce the reporting burden on Member countries and improve the quality and timeliness of the data.

35. Benefits: The expected benefits from the country's viewpoint are:

- One Data Structure Definition (key family) and one operation for reporting national accounts data.
- Automated generation of data from national source databases, thus saving resources.
- Validation tools when submitting data.

Benefits from OECD's and other international organizations' viewpoint:

- Timely reporting.
- Complete reporting.
- No code misinterpretations.

36. Data content: NAWWE is based on the common questionnaire agreed by the OECD and Eurostat for the collection of national accounts data. The questionnaire comprises a very detailed set of national accounts variables, as specified by the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA93) and agreed by the two international agencies. These variables have been identified in an extensive set of Excel spreadsheets by means of a common code and specific presentation format.

37. The pilot project: A pilot project was carried out in 2004-2005. The pilot project started from a set of Excel tables which reflected exactly the Eurostat/OECD standard questionnaire. These tables are already produced in many countries as a GESMES file by national agencies for transmitting annual national accounts data to international organisations. The files were transformed into XML files, conforming as closely as possible¹ with the SDMX-ML 1.0² specification. The business model entailed countries posting their files on the web in the agreed XML format; the OECD and Eurostat (and possibly other organizations needing these data) were to extract their data from these files.

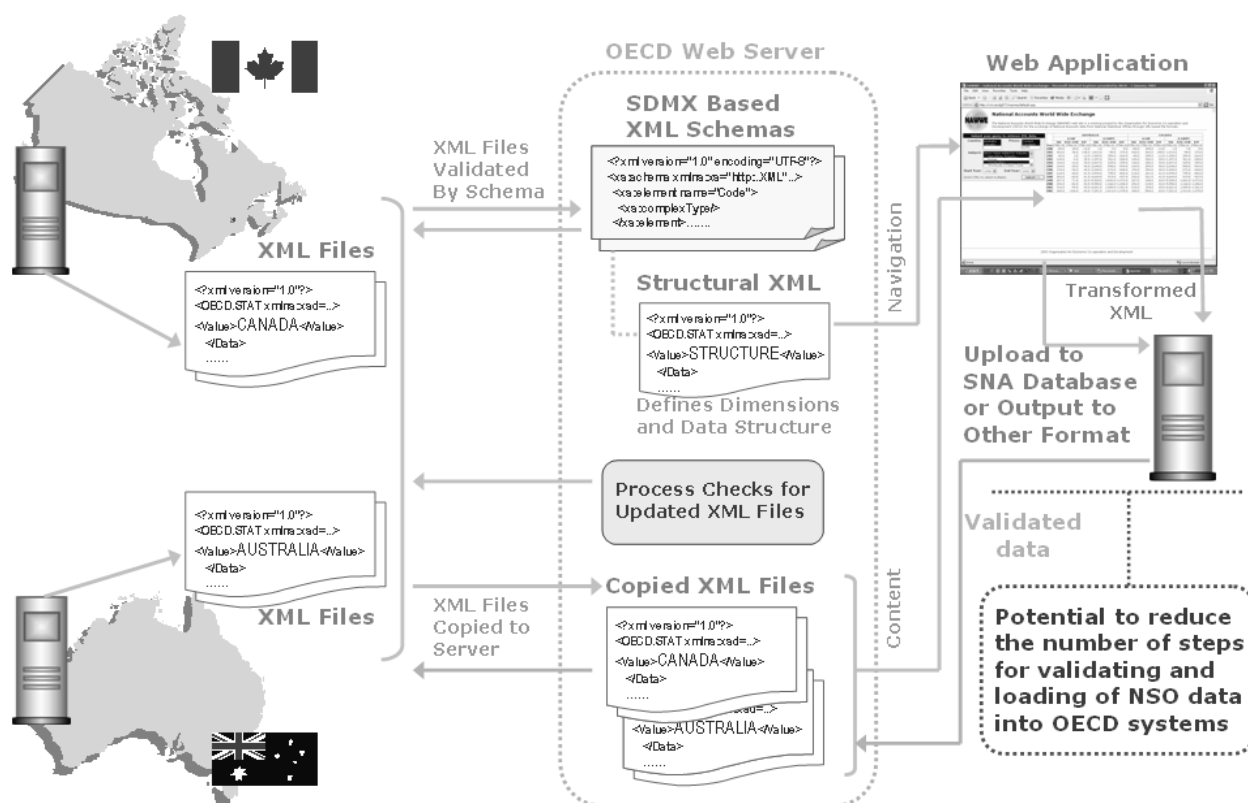
Eventually it was envisaged that NSOs would make the XML files available directly from their on-line databases as soon as the data was released.

In the short term, it was proposed to use NAWWE for annual data, but OECD intends to extend it to quarterly national accounts later.

The OECD has set up a demonstration model of this kind of data extraction with three pilot member countries, Australia, Canada, and France using SDMX-ML version 1.0. For reference see <http://stats.oecd.org/nawwe/>. The architecture of the pilot project is summarised in this picture:

¹ It was necessary to add to the SDMX-ML v1.0, as the standard did not yet allow for hierarchical variable (dimensions). Utilising hierarchical dimensions allows for full verification of data to be transmitted.

² Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) is a standardisation initiative sponsored by 7 international organisations, aiming at easing the exchange of such data among countries and international organisations. The SDMX-ML is a XML standard format for exchange of statistical data and metadata which was agreed and published on 30 September 2004. See www.sdmx.org where version 1.0 of the standard is published



38. NAWWE 2006-2007: NAWWE will start production with the new version of the joint questionnaire and use SDMX-ML version 2.0 in order to benefit from enhancements made to the SDMX standards (such as hierarchical dimension structures and inclusion of reference metadata) that were absent from the SDMX-ML version 1.0 standards. The OECD has specified SDMX-ML for tables within the joint questionnaire on this basis.

The NAWWE web site at <http://stats.oecd.org/nawwe/> provides further information, documentation and a registry for countries to register SDMX-ML URLs to data and metadata.

Regarding the participation of other international organizations, the IMF indicated in March 2006 its interest in participating in this project. This implies that IMF will also get their national accounts data from the same NAWWE SDMX-ML content files posted by the countries.

Regarding country participation, in March 2006 the US Bureau of Economic Analysis committed to participate along with existing pilot countries: Australia, Japan, Canada, Mexico and New Zealand.

In August 2007 the final version of the new national accounts collection questionnaire was agreed by Eurostat. This has paved the way for a full rollout of the NAWWE initiative.

The aim is now to collect data going forward from the participating countries.

Recommendations

- **Countries are asked to undertake a special effort to supply the following tables;**
 - **fixed assets by industry and by asset type (2000),**
 - **gross fixed capital formation (2200),**
- **The non-EU countries are asked to consider providing the OECD Secretariat in the very near future with data for the second-digit level of the COFOG classification for at least three functions: health, education and social expenditure**
- **Data should be transmitted to the OECD on the day the data are released by the Member country.**
- **European countries are asked to send their questionnaire tables to the OECD by email as soon as they send them to Eurostat using Edamis or Stadium.**