

Annex 5

IMF DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT – GENERIC FRAMEWORK

(Draft as of July 2001)

Quality dimensions	Elements	Indicators
0. Prerequisites of quality <i>(The elements and indicators included here bring together the “pointers to quality” that are applicable across the five identified dimensions of data quality.)</i>	0.1. Legal and institutional environment – <i>The environment is supportive of statistics.</i>	0.1.1. The responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics is clearly specified. 0.1.2. Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies are adequate. 0.1.3. Respondents' data are to be kept confidential and used for statistical purposes only. 0.1.4. Statistical reporting is ensured through legal mandate and/or measures to encourage response.
	0.2. Resources – <i>Resources are commensurate with needs of statistical programs.</i>	0.2.1. Staff, financial, and computing resources are commensurate with institutional programs. 0.2.2. Measures to ensure efficient use of resources are implemented.
	0.3. Quality awareness – <i>Quality is a cornerstone of statistical work.</i>	0.3.1. Processes are in place to focus on quality. 0.3.2. Processes are in place to monitor the quality of the collection, processing, and dissemination of statistics. 0.3.3. Processes are in place to deal with quality considerations, including tradeoffs within quality, and to guide planning for existing and emerging needs.
1. Integrity <i>The principle of objectivity in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics is firmly adhered to.</i>	1.1. Professionalism – <i>Statistical policies and practices are guided by professional principles.</i>	1.1.1. Statistics are compiled on an impartial basis. 1.1.2. Choices of sources and statistical techniques are informed solely by statistical considerations. 1.1.3. The appropriate statistical entity is entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.
	1.2. Transparency – <i>Statistical policies and practices are transparent.</i>	1.2.1. The terms and conditions under which statistics are collected, processed, and disseminated are available to the public. 1.2.2. Internal governmental access to statistics prior to their release is publicly identified. 1.2.3. Products of statistical agencies/units are clearly identified as such. 1.2.4. Advance notice is given of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.
	1.3. Ethical standards – <i>Policies and practices are guided by ethical standards.</i>	1.3.1. Guidelines for staff behavior are in place and are well known to the staff.

Quality dimensions	Elements	Indicators
2. Methodological soundness <i>The methodological basis for the statistics follows internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.</i>	2.1. Concepts and definitions – <i>Concepts and definitions used are in accord with standard statistical frameworks.</i>	2.1.1. The overall structure in terms of concepts and definitions follows international standards, guidelines, or good practices: see dataset-specific framework.
	2.2. Scope – <i>The scope is in accord with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.</i>	2.2.1. The scope is broadly consistent with international standards, guidelines, or good practices: see dataset-specific framework.
	2.3. Classification/sectorization – <i>Classification and sectorization systems are in accord with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.</i>	2.3.1. Classification/ sectorization systems used are broadly consistent with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices: see dataset-specific framework.
	2.4. Basis for recording – <i>Flows and stocks are valued and recorded according to internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.</i>	2.4.1. Market prices are used to value flows and stocks. 2.4.2. Recording is done on an accrual basis. 2.4.3. Grossing/netting procedures are broadly consistent with international standards, guidelines, or good practices.
3. Accuracy and reliability <i>Source data and statistical techniques are sound and output data sufficiently portray reality.</i>	3.1. Source data – <i>Source data available provide an adequate basis to compile statistics.</i>	3.1.1. Source data are collected from comprehensive data collection programs that take into account country-specific conditions. 3.1.2. Source data reasonably approximate the definitions, scope, classifications, valuation, and time of recording required. 3.1.3. Source data are timely.
	3.2. Statistical techniques – <i>Statistical techniques employed conform with sound statistical procedures.</i>	3.2.1. Data compilation employs sound statistical techniques. 3.2.2. Other statistical procedures (<i>e.g.</i> data adjustments and transformations, and statistical analysis) employ sound statistical techniques.
	3.3. Assessment and validation – <i>Source data are regularly assessed and validated.</i>	3.3.1. Source data—including censuses, sample surveys and administrative records—are routinely assessed, <i>e.g.</i> for coverage, sample error, response error, and non-sampling error; the results of the assessments are monitored and made available to guide planning.
	3.4. Assessment and validation of intermediate data and statistical outputs. – <i>Intermediate results and statistical outputs are regularly assessed and validated.</i>	3.4.1. Main intermediate data are validated against other information where applicable. 3.4.2. Statistical discrepancies in intermediate data are assessed and investigated. 3.4.3. Statistical discrepancies and other potential indicators of problems in statistical outputs are investigated.
	3.5. Revision studies – <i>Revisions, as a gauge of reliability, are tracked and mined for the information they may provide.</i>	3.5.1. Studies and analyses of revisions are carried out routinely and used to inform statistical processes.

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4. Serviceability Statistics are relevant, timely, consistent, and follow a predictable revisions policy.	4.1. Relevance – <i>Statistics cover relevant information on the subject field.</i>	4.1.1. The relevance and practical utility of existing statistics in meeting users' needs are monitored.
	4.2. Timeliness and periodicity – <i>Timeliness and periodicity follow internationally accepted dissemination standards.</i>	4.2.1. Timeliness follows dissemination standards. 4.2.2. Periodicity follows dissemination standards
	4.3. Consistency – <i>Statistics are consistent over time, internally, and with major datasets.</i>	4.3.1. Statistics are consistent within the dataset (<i>e.g.</i> accounting identities observed). 4.3.2. Statistics are consistent or reconcilable over a reasonable period of time. 4.3.3. Statistics are consistent or reconcilable with those obtained through other data sources and/or statistical frameworks.
	4.4. Revision policy and practice – <i>Data revisions follow a regular and publicized procedure.</i>	4.4.1. Revisions follow a regular, well-established and transparent schedule. 4.4.2. Preliminary data are clearly identified. 4.4.3. Studies and analyses of revisions are made public.
5. Accessibility <i>Data and metadata are easily available and assistance to users is adequate.</i>	5.1. Data accessibility – <i>Statistics are presented in a clear and understandable manner, forms of dissemination are adequate, and statistics are made available on an impartial basis.</i>	5.1.1. Statistics are presented in a way that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons (layout and clarity of text, tables, and charts). 5.1.2. Dissemination media and formats are adequate. 5.1.3. Statistics are released on a pre-announced schedule. 5.1.4. Statistics are made available to all users at the same time. 5.1.5. Non-published (but non-confidential) sub-aggregates are made available upon request.
	5.2. Metadata accessibility – <i>Up-to-date and pertinent metadata are made available.</i>	5.2.1. Documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques is available, and differences from international standards are annotated. 5.2.2. Levels of detail are adapted to the needs of the intended audience.
	5.3. Assistance to users – <i>Prompt and knowledgeable support service is available.</i>	5.3.1. Contact person for each subject field is publicized. 5.3.2. Catalogues of publications, documents, and other services, including information on any charges, are widely available.