GUIDE FOR PARTICIPANTS AND USERS

THE GENERAL DATA DISSEMINATION SYSTEM

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

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Contents

Foreword v

Preface vii

Abbreviations ix

Chapter 1. Introduction to the General Data Dissemination System 1

Background 1
Nature of the GDDS 3
Objectives of the GDDS 3
Role of the GDDS 4
Participation in the GDDS 4

Chapter 2. Overview of the General Data Dissemination System 6

Purposes and Framework of the GDDS 6
Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness of Data 6
Access by the Public 7
Integrity 7
Quality 8

Chapter 3. Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness: General Considerations 10

Chapter 4. Real Sector: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness 18

National Accounts 18
Production Index/Indices 18
Labor Market 19
Price Indices 20

Chapter 5. Fiscal Sector: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness 21

Overview 21
General Government Cash Flow/Operations 21
Central Government Cash Flow/Operations 22
Central Government Debt 23

Chapter 6. Financial Sector: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness 28

Depository Corporations Survey 28
Central Bank Survey 28
Interest Rates 29
Stock Market–Share Price Index 29

Chapter 7. External Sector: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness 30

Balance of Payments 30

External Debt and Debt Service Schedule 30
Official Reserve Assets 30
Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity 31
Merchandise Trade 31
International Investment Position 31
Exchange Rates 32

Chapter 8. Sociodemographic Data 40

Population 40
Education 40
Health 41
Poverty 41

Chapter 9. Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board 43

Chapter 10. Reviews and Withdrawal 44

Appendixes

1 List of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Indicators 45
2 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics 49
3 Role of National GDDS Coordinators 51
4 Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)—Generic Framework 52

Tables

3.1 The General Data Dissemination System: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness 10
5.1 Fiscal Sector: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness 24
5.2 Statement of Sources and Uses of Cash 24
5.3 Statement of Government Operations 25
5.4 Government Gross Debt by Maturity, by Residency, and by Instrument 26
5.5 Statement of Other Economic Flows and Balance Sheet 27
7.1 Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity 32
7.2 Gross External Debt Position by Sector 38
A1.1 Millennium Development Goals Indicators 45
A4.1 Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)—Generic Framework (May 2012) 52

Index 57

Foreword

The purpose of this *Guide* is to explain the nature and objectives of the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS), to describe its operation, and to provide practical guidance to International Monetary Fund (IMF) member countries on participation in the system. The GDDS provides members with a basic framework for a broader national statistical development strategy. It covers a set of statistics recognized to be essential for all countries for policy making and analysis in an environment that increasingly requires relevant, comprehensive, accurate, and timely statistics available to the general public. The GDDS addresses the full range of issues critical for compiling and disseminating data and making explicit plans for improvement to align national procedures with best practices.

This version of the *Guide* supersedes the version of June 2007. It takes on board the decisions made by the IMF's Executive Board at the time of the *Seventh Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives* in December 2008 to align the GDDS and Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) data categories. At that time, the Executive Board also decided to further enhance the GDDS to focus more on data dissemination, both to provide immediate benefit to a country's policy makers and to facilitate a country's graduation to the SDDS. In February 2012, at the time of the *Eighth Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives*, the Executive Board decided to leverage the plans for improvement by focusing further and prioritizing the delivery of technical assistance in statistics. The *Guide* is expected to continue to be updated as the GDDS evolves.

Since establishing the GDDS in December 1997, the IMF's Statistics Department has worked closely with member countries and with other international organizations on the GDDS. For participating member countries, the GDDS has provided a management tool and a framework to foster sound statistical methodology, professional data compilation, and data dissemination. The IMF has worked to further develop and implement the GDDS guidelines with other international organizations, such as the World Bank, and with the participating countries. In this regard, it is important to highlight the valuable contribution of the World Bank in articulating the sociodemographic component of the GDDS.

Although more emphasis is placed on data dissemination, the main purpose of the GDDS remains to assist member countries to develop their statistical systems and to guide countries that wish to move toward subscribing to the SDDS. The GDDS supports the data-producing agencies to take control of their statistical development programs in a structured manner and to coordinate effectively among producing agencies, users, and the international community. The IMF supports these efforts by providing technical assistance and by catalyzing support from other sources.

As the GDDS continues to change, this *Guide* is especially important for countries that are already participating. Participating countries should update and revise their metadata to describe how their data compilation and dissemination activities are evolving toward best statistical practices.

Member countries that are interested in participating in the GDDS and those actively involved in preparing for participation are urged to consult the GDDS section of the IMF's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) on the Internet at: http://dsbb.imf.org/gddsindex.htm. The site contains an extensive body of information on the statistical practices and statistical development plans of countries that participate in the GDDS.

The *GDDS Guide* was prepared by the staff of the Data Dissemination and Review Division of the IMF's Statistics Department, under the general direction of the division chief.

Louis Marc Ducharme
Director
Statistics Department
International Monetary Fund

Preface

The IMF launched the Data Standards Initiatives to enhance member countries' data transparency and to promote their development of sound statistical systems. The need for data standards was highlighted by the financial crises of the mid-1990s, in which information deficiencies were seen to play a role. Under the Data Standards Initiatives, the IMF established the SDDS in 1996 to provide guidance to countries that have or seek access to capital markets to disseminate key data so that users in general, and financial market participants in particular, have adequate information to assess the economic situations of individual countries. In 1997, the IMF introduced the GDDS to provide a framework for countries that aim to develop their statistical systems, within which they can work toward disseminating comprehensive and reliable data that, among other things, meet SDDS requirements. In late 2012, the IMF established a third tier of the data standards initiatives with the creation of the SDDS Plus, which builds on the SDDS to guide member countries on the provision of economic and financial data to the public in support of domestic and international financial stability.

As part of the Data Standards Initiatives, and in support of ready access by the public to information on countries' dissemination practices, the IMF established an electronic bulletin board, called the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB), on the IMF website (http://dsbb.imf.org). The DSBB posts information that GDDS countries make available to the IMF on their statistical practices and offers direct links to the economic, financial, and sociodemographic data that countries disseminate on their websites. The DSBB also displays information that SDDS subscribers provide to the IMF on their dissemination practices and offers direct links to the economic and financial data that countries disseminate under the SDDS.

Member countries' subscription to the SDDS, participation in the GDDS, or adherence to the SDDS Plus is voluntary. Countries subscribing to the SDDS or adhering to the SDDS Plus must observe certain good dissemination practices, however, and the IMF monitors such observance. Those participating in the GDDS also have to develop plans to improve their statistics.

Empirical studies suggest that subscription to the SDDS or participation in the GDDS, to varying extents, can help reduce borrowing costs in international capital markets. A number of GDDS countries have graduated to become SDDS subscribers using the GDDS process as a stepping stone. In addition, enhanced data transparency and data quality in member countries have been important to the IMF's work on surveillance and crisis prevention.

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Abbreviations

ARC	Advance release calendar
BIS	Bank for International Settlements
BPM5	*Balance of Payments Manual*, fifth edition
BPM6	*Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual*, sixth edition
CBS	Central bank survey
CGD	Central government debt
CGO	Central government operations
CPI	Consumer Price Index
DCS	Depository corporations survey
DQAF	Data Quality Assessment Framework
DSBB	Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
ESA 1995	*European System of Accounts 1995*
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
GFS	Government finance statistics
GFSM 1986	*A Manual on Government Finance Statistics 1986*
GFSM 2001	*Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001*
GGO	General government operations
IIP	International investment position
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF (or Fund)	International Monetary Fund
ISIC	*International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (UN)*
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MFSCG	*Monetary and Financial Statistics Compilation Guide*
MFSM	*Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual*
NPISHs	Nonprofit institutions serving households
NSDP	National Summary Data Page
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECD/DAC	OECD/Development Assistance Committee
PPI	Producer Price Index
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PRSPs	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
PSO	Public sector operations
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard
SDDS Plus	Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus
1993 SNA	*System of National Accounts 1993*

2008 SNA	*System of National Accounts 2008*
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WHO	World Health Organization
WPI	Wholesale price index

1 Introduction to the General Data Dissemination System

Background

1.1 In the aftermath of the 1994–95 international financial crisis, there was a recognition that the ready availability to the public of comprehensive and timely economic and financial data could facilitate the formulation and implementation of sound macroeconomic policies and investment decisions. These, in turn, could reduce the frequency and moderate the severity of future episodes of unusual turbulence in financial markets.

1.2 Accordingly, in April 1995 the Interim Committee of the IMF's Board of Governors (since renamed the International Monetary and Financial Committee) requested the IMF's Executive Board to focus on the development of standards to guide member countries in the provision of economic and financial data to the public. In October 1995, the Interim Committee endorsed the establishment of a two-tier standard, comprising a special standard to guide countries that have, or might seek, access to international capital markets and a general standard to guide all member countries.

1.3 The first tier, named the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), was approved by the IMF's Executive Board on March 29, 1996. Proposals for the other tier, named the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS), were considered by the IMF's Executive Board in March 1997, and the formal decision to approve the establishment of the GDDS was taken on December 19, 1997. Since then, the following developments have taken place.

- In January 1998, a document entitled *The General Data Dissemination System*, referred to as the "GDDS Document," was issued. It constitutes the primary reference source on what the GDDS is and how it should be implemented. This document is updated regularly to reflect changes in the GDDS.
- On February 6, 1998, the managing director of the IMF invited member countries that had not subscribed to the SDDS to designate a country coordinator who could serve as an interlocutor for IMF staff on all issues relating to the GDDS.
- In June 1998, the preliminary version of this *Guide* to the GDDS was distributed to member countries.
- During 1998–2000, the IMF organized nine regional seminars/workshops that were funded by the Japanese government and served as forums in which the GDDS was discussed and explained to officials representing the statistical agencies of the 131 IMF member countries that attended.
- On March 29, 2000, the IMF's Executive Board decided to include public and publicly guaranteed external debt, and the associated debt service schedule, which had hitherto been an encouraged extension of the GDDS, as a core indicator within the external sector data category.[1]
- In May 2000, the IMF launched a GDDS site (http://dsbb.imf.org/Pages/GDDS/Home.aspx) on the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) that informs the public of each GDDS participating member country, its current statistical practices, and its plans for development of the statistical system within the GDDS framework.
- On July 23, 2001, as part of the Fourth Review of the IMF's Data Standards Initiatives, the Executive Board reviewed the GDDS, including the newly articulated sociodemographic data categories.[2]

[1] See Public Information Notice 00/31 at www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2000/PN0031.htm.
[2] See Public Information Notice 01/101 at www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2001/pn01101.htm

- On November 6, 2003, as part of the Fifth Review of the IMF's Data Standards Initiatives the Executive Board of the IMF approved a further amendment to the GDDS to give explicit recognition to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) indicators.[3]
- On November 2, 2005, at the time of the Sixth Review of the IMF's Data Standards Initiatives, the Executive Board of the IMF approved the further integration of the GDDS into the Fund's Data Quality Program by reformatting countries' metadata according to the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF).[4] The directors agreed that using a common metadata structure will increase both the effectiveness and the efficiency of the staff's work on the GDDS and technical assistance in the area of statistics. The directors noted the usefulness of the GDDS in effecting statistical reforms as part of poverty reduction strategies. The directors also supported encouraging and assisting countries to integrate the GDDS into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), to take account of statistical reforms more systematically in their PRSP's public expenditure plan. Further, the directors broadly endorsed the suggestion that GDDS participants should be encouraged to provide additional metadata on oil and gas activities and products under the existing data categories of the GDDS. They noted this initiative would promote public knowledge and understanding of how countries incorporate oil market information when compiling macroeconomic indicators.
- On December 10, 2008, the Executive Board of the IMF supported recasting the GDDS to emphasize data dissemination and facilitate graduation to the SDDS, including through closer conformity to SDDS specifications, especially the National Summary Data Page (NSDP) and the Advance Release Calendar (ARC). At the same time, the directors recognized that greater emphasis on data dissemination should not detract attention from the developmental aspects of the GDDS, and will need to be supported by ongoing technical assistance, including externally financed assistance. As part of their GDDS practices, countries should make a good faith commitment to achieving these dissemination objectives, although it is not proposed that the GDDS become a monitored standard like the SDDS. The Executive Board also approved aligning the data categories of the GDDS more closely with those of the SDDS, thereby bringing the GDDS data categories into conformity with those of the SDDS, including the Reserves Template, albeit with less demanding requirements for periodicity and timeliness.[5]
- On February 22, 2012, as part of the Eighth Review of the IMF's Data Standards Initiatives, the Executive Board of the IMF agreed with the proposal to better leverage plans for focusing further and prioritizing the delivery of technical assistance in statistics.
- In late 2012, the IMF established a third tier of the Data Standards Initiatives with the creation of the SDDS Plus, which builds on the SDDS to guide member countries on the provision of economic and financial data to the public in support of domestic and international financial stability.

1.4 The pace of change in the needs of users of statistics in recent years, coupled with uncertainties about the direction, manner, and rate at which these needs will evolve, poses special challenges for the development of statistical systems, especially in situations in which tight resource constraints prevail. Existing international cooperative arrangements, while effective, often focus on specific statistical areas (national accounts and balance of payments, for example) rather than on the overall development of statistical systems.

1.5 As the user community finds its analytic practices being shaped to an ever greater extent by the globalization of the world's economies, those charged with the responsibility for statistical systems must in turn find new and innovative ways to accomplish their

[3] See United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Millennium Development Indicators Database at http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx (Appendix 1).

[4] The DQAF provides a methodology that covers every aspect of the data compilation and dissemination cycle. It captures key aspects of this cycle by focusing on the quality-related features of the governance of statistical systems, their core statistical processes, and their statistical products. Rooted in the *United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*, it is the product of an intensive consultation with national and international statistical authorities and data users inside and outside the Fund.

[5] See the IMF Executive Board's Seventh Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiative (www.imf.org/external/pp/longres.aspx?id=4305).

mission of serving user needs. It was against this background that the GDDS was established, so as to assist countries in placing the development of their overall statistical systems in the broader context of emerging trends in the international statistical community and to share their own experience with other interested countries and the international user community.

Nature of the GDDS

1.6 The GDDS is a structured process through which IMF member countries commit voluntarily to improving the quality of the data compiled and disseminated by their statistical systems over the long run in order to meet the needs of macroeconomic analysis and monitoring. Member countries that participate in the system determine themselves the priorities they will pursue in a set of statistical development plans that reflect the migration toward full realization of the objectives of the GDDS as well as recognition of the resource and other constraints that determine the pace of the migration. The IMF supports these efforts by providing technical assistance in areas in which it has expertise and by catalyzing assistance from other sources.

1.7 The GDDS recognizes that participating member countries differ in their stages of statistical development and in their capacity to improve their statistical systems over time. Therefore, reflecting its emphasis on long-term development of statistical systems, the GDDS is *not prescriptive* and provides for flexibility in the pace of implementation within and across countries.

1.8 While the GDDS provides for development of statistical systems in a manner that reflects the realities of participating countries, it does so in a structured way. The system (i) contains objectives that are designed to promote orderly development of statistical systems; (ii) provides tools to diagnose areas of the statistical system that require priority attention; and (iii) supports the formulation and implementation of short- and long-run development plans, with flexibility in adapting them to changing circumstances.

1.9 The GDDS fosters sound statistical practices with respect to both the compilation and the dissemination of economic, financial, and sociodemographic statistics. It identifies data sets that are of particular relevance for economic analysis and for monitoring social and demographic developments, and sets out objectives and recommendations relating to the development, compilation, and dissemination of statistics. Particular attention is paid to the needs of users, which are addressed through guidelines relating to the quality and integrity of the data and access by the public to the data. The objectives and recommendations of the GDDS in these areas are fully consistent with the United Nation's *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*.[6]

Objectives of the GDDS

1.10 As a structured process, the GDDS aims to address statistical needs. The increasing integration of economic and financial activity across countries has intensified demand for a wide range of economic and other data to underpin the task of macroeconomic management, which itself has become far more complex over time.

1.11 Accordingly, the GDDS addresses three key areas—the quality of data, development plans for statistical systems, and data dissemination. Together, these three priority areas constitute a solid basis on which to formulate long-run policies for statistical development.

- **Quality** is used in the GDDS in two different settings: as a primary goal of the system (referred to as *data quality*) and as a specific dimension of the system (referred to simply as *quality* and discussed in Chapter 2 of this Guide). The primary objective of the system relates to the first meaning, which is an attribute of statistical data. The primary goal of the GDDS is to ensure data quality in statistical systems, developed and maintained in ways that permit statistics to be compiled and disseminated in accordance with principles and practices that ensure high standards

[6] The *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics* can be accessed on the Internet at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/goodprac/bpabout.asp; the document is reproduced in Appendix 2. The UNSD has also established a website (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/gpintro.aspx) on good practices in official statistics. The site provides reference material on the *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*. It elaborates on the essential elements behind each of these principles and provides examples of policies and practices followed by various countries for implementing the various elements of the *Principles* (including hypertext links to the relevant statistical agency websites).

of excellence. Thus, the system is grounded on the application of sound methodological principles, the adoption of rigorous compilation practices, and the use of procedures that ensure professionalism and objectivity as well as adequate dissemination of statistics. The GDDS is not intended to address cases where timeliness is the main focus; rather it concentrates on building the capacity to disseminate quality statistics, which is an appropriate long-term goal for all statistical systems. Moreover, the attainment of this goal should ensure that, in the future, timeliness can become a main priority. It is in this broad context of data quality that the Statistics Department of the IMF has developed the DQAF. Information on the DQAF can be found on the Data Quality Reference Site at http://dsbb.imf.org/Pages/DQRS/DQAF.aspx.

- **Development plans** in the GDDS focus on viewing the statistical system in its entirety. In this way, the task of establishing priorities is simplified, and resource allocation becomes more efficient. The development plans in the GDDS cover (i) a diagnosis of the current situation and the formulation of a strategic vision of future directions; (ii) the elaboration of a detailed action plan that identifies all the resources that are required to achieve the desired objectives; and (iii) the tracking of progress under these plans.
- **Data dissemination** is the ultimate objective of any statistical system. Accordingly, the GDDS attaches special importance to the procedures used to disseminate data. A major area of emphasis is the choice of appropriate and impartial methods of dissemination.

Role of the GDDS

1.12 The role of the GDDS is to facilitate the development of statistical systems of IMF member countries. One way in which it fulfills this role is by providing a framework for channeling technical assistance resources in an optimal fashion and in a way that complements initiatives taken at the national level. By combining in a focused way the resources and technical knowledge of the international statistical community with those available at the domestic level, the pace of statistical development can be accelerated, and priorities appropriately identified and modified as needed.

1.13 Another way in which the GDDS facilitates the development of statistical systems is through the dissemination of information (metadata) on the statistical practices and development plans of participating countries via the DSBB. Such information, which would be difficult for users to obtain through other means, enables countries that are contemplating changes in their statistical systems to learn from the experiences that other countries in similar circumstances have already documented. From the perspective of the user community, the DSBB, as a centralized location for these metadata, provides a valuable body of information regarding the state of statistical development in IMF member countries and the plans that have been adopted for future improvements. The GDDS also allows closer communication between users and compilers of statistics.

1.14 The GDDS also promotes closer contact and coordination among the various agencies engaged in statistical activities in a participating country. In addition, GDDS metadata stimulate closer contact of statistical compilers across countries.

Participation in the GDDS

1.15 Participation in the GDDS by IMF member countries is *voluntary*. It requires that a country undertake three actions relative to the system, and participation depends on completion of these actions. These actions involve the following:

- Commitment to using the GDDS as a framework for the development of national systems for the compilation and dissemination of economic, financial, and sociodemographic data
- Designation of a country coordinator to work with IMF staff (Appendix 3)
- Preparation of metadata,[7] using the DQAF format (Appendix 4), to be disseminated by the IMF on the DSBB, on (i) current statistical compilation and dissemination practices; and

[7] Preparation of metadata includes the periodic update of metadata as changes and improvements take place.

(ii) plans for short- and medium-term improvements in each of the four dimensions of the system

1.16 Participation in the GDDS is publicly recognized by the IMF through the posting of the member country's metadata on the DSBB. Member countries that wish to participate in the GDDS should indicate their intention in writing to the director of the Statistics Department of the IMF. This communication should be from a government official who is in a position to commit the member country to the actions required for participation.

2 Overview of the General Data Dissemination System

Purposes and Framework of the GDDS

2.1 The purposes of the GDDS are to: (i) encourage member countries to improve data quality; (ii) guide member countries in the provision to the public of comprehensive, timely, accessible, and reliable economic, financial, and sociodemographic statistics; and (iii) provide a framework for evaluating needs for data improvement and dissemination as well as for setting statistical priorities. The GDDS framework comprises four dimensions described in detail ahead: (1) coverage, periodicity, and timeliness of data; (2) access by the public; (3) integrity of the disseminated data; and (4) quality of the disseminated data. For each of the four dimensions, the GDDS describes good practices to serve as objectives in the development of national systems of data production and dissemination.

Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness of Data

2.2 The dissemination of reliable, comprehensive, and timely economic, financial, and sociodemographic data is essential to the transparency of macroeconomic performance and policy. The GDDS includes the following definitions and general considerations:

Coverage

2.3 The GDDS focuses on the data that are most important in evaluating performance and policy in four macroeconomic sectors—**real, fiscal, financial, and external**—as well as complementary sociodemographic data that shed light on economic development and structural change. The sociodemographic data specified under the GDDS are closely aligned with the majority of the indicators used to monitor progress toward the MDGs.[1] The GDDS also covers most of the indicators used to monitor progress on national poverty reduction strategies. Table 1 in Chapter 3 shows the GDDS recommended data categories, including comprehensive statistical frameworks, tracking categories, and other relevant data, as appropriate, and highlights the main GDDS components and encouraged extensions.

Periodicity and Timeliness

2.4 The GDDS recognizes the importance of production and dissemination of data that are of appropriately high periodicity and timeliness.

2.5 Periodicity refers to the **frequency of compilation** of the data (i.e., the relevant period covered by a data observation, e.g., annual, quarterly, monthly, weekly, daily, etc.). The periodicity of a particular data category reflects several factors, including the ease of data collection and compilation, and the needs of analysis. The GDDS should be viewed as encouraging improvements over time in periodicity of data dissemination (i.e., it encourages higher frequency) that are consistent with improvements in data quality.

2.6 Timeliness refers to the **speed of dissemination** of the data, which refers to the lapse of time between a reference date (or close of a reference period) and dissemination of the data. It reflects many factors, including institutional arrangements, such as the preparation of accompanying commentary. Dissemination of statistics takes several forms, including the following:

- Formal publications, such as news releases (perhaps presenting only summary statistics), periodicals such as monthly bulletins, or one-time volumes
- Announcement of availability of statistics on request (but not necessarily without charge), including through electronic databases

[1] See UNSD, Millennium Development Indicators Database at http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx (Appendix 1).

- The Internet, diskettes, tapes, or DVD/CD-ROM of a formal publication or a database
- Recorded brief telephone messages, e-mail and fax services, especially in the case of data categories justifying high-frequency distribution

2.7 The objectives for timeliness that are presented in Table 1 in Chapter 3 are set out in terms of ranges of time in recognition of the diversity of relevant country practices and circumstances. The short end of the timeliness range generally corresponds to the SDDS timeliness requirement for a given indicator while the high end of the range relates to good practice across a broad group of countries.

Access by the Public

2.8 Dissemination of official statistics is an essential feature of statistics as a public good. Ready and equal access is a principal need for the public, including market participants. To support ready and equal access, the GDDS recommends the following:

Advance Dissemination of Release Calendars

2.9 ARCs[2] highlight sound management and transparency of statistical compilation and provide data users with information needed to take a more active and organized approach to acquiring the inputs for their work. The objective may be met by the dissemination of calendars showing release dates for the current month and for the following three months. Agencies are recommended to make widely known the name and address of an office or a person who could provide the latest information about the ARC, including release of data for which periodicity and timeliness are irregular, and newly disseminated data.

Simultaneous Release to All Interested Parties

2.10 To recognize that data are valuable commodities and in the interest of equity, the GDDS recommends the release of data to all interested parties at the same time. Release is not intended to refer to access only by government agencies, including those other than the producing agency; prerelease access is governed by conditions set out in the description of integrity (see paragraph 2.15). The act of release may consist of providing summary data, to be accompanied, perhaps later, by provision of detail. The objective may be met by providing at least one publicly identified and accessible location where data are available to all on an equal basis once they are released.

2.11 Therefore, given the ongoing global integration and increased reliance on the Internet and electronic data transmission, the GDDS recommends releasing data simultaneously to the public through a NSDP[3] that is published on the website of one of the statistics compiling agencies (see paragraph 9.2).

2.12 In order to further enhance the access by the public to the data, the data categories on the NSDP may be hyperlinked to a database where data are:

- Freely available in a variety of standard, editable, and machine-readable electronic file formats, interfaces, and bulk forms
- Freely available under a license that permits use, reuse, and redistribution for commercial and noncommercial purposes with the requirement of proper attribution

Integrity

2.13 To fulfill the purpose of providing the public with information, official statistics must have the confidence of their users. In turn, confidence in the statistics ultimately becomes a matter of confidence in the objectivity and professionalism of the agency producing the statistics. Transparency of its practices and procedures is a key factor in creating this confidence. To assist users of the data disseminated under the GDDS in assessing their integrity, the GDDS recommends the following:

(1) Dissemination of the terms and conditions under which official statistics are produced, including those relating to the confidentiality of individually identifiable information

2.14 This practice, which was embodied in the *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics* adopted in 1994 by the United Nations Statistical Commission, is indirect, but nevertheless fundamental to fostering

[2] ARCs are required under the SDDS.

[3] NSDPs are required under the SDDS.

confidence in the objectivity and professionalism of official statistics. The terms and conditions under which statistical agencies operate may take various forms, including statistics laws, charters, and codes of conduct. Accordingly, a first step toward this objective would be to put such laws, charters, and codes in place. The terms and conditions incorporated in them may refer to matters such as the relationship of the statistical unit to a larger department or ministry of which it is part (if relevant), the legal authority to collect data, the requirement to publish data it has collected, the terms of reference for the chief statistician/director, and procedures and processes related to confidentiality of individual responses. Dissemination of this information may take a variety of forms, including annual reports of the producers of statistics, abstracts in key publications, and statements of relevant passages referring to confidentiality of survey forms. Statistics producers may find it convenient to use logos and other insignia to remind users of the terms under which statistics carrying the logo are produced. These terms and conditions should be kept up-to-date.

(2) Identification of internal government access to data before release

2.15 In the interest of transparency about possible undue influence on the data before release, the GDDS calls for listing the persons/positions within the government, but outside the agency producing the data, who have prerelease access. Such identification—that is, statements of who knows what—may take a variety of forms, including brief notices to the public and annual reports of the producer of statistics. This practice is addressed mainly to situations in which the data are sensitive for policy or other reasons, and the objective may be met, at a minimum, by following this practice for the most sensitive data categories and indicators.

(3) Identification of ministerial commentary on the occasion of statistical releases

2.16 Ministerial commentary is not necessarily expected to maintain the same degree of objectivity or freedom from political judgment as would be expected of good practice for a producer of official statistics. Therefore, a good practice is to identify such commentary so that its source will be transparent to the public. The identification of ministerial commentary on the occasion of statistical release may take several forms, including separate statements by the minister (or other policy or political official) or, alternatively, identification of a statistical agency's material in a release that contains both ministerial commentary and data. The agency's material may include data, explanatory text (e.g., of an unusual event affecting the data), and objective analysis; the identification of an agency's material may be made in various ways, including the use of source lines in tables and of the producer's logos or other insignia. This practice is addressed mainly to situations in which the data are sensitive for policy or other reasons, and the objective may be met, at a minimum, by following this practice for the most sensitive data categories and indicators.

(4) Provision of information about revision and advance notice of major changes in methodology

2.17 In the interest of transparency about the data producers' practices, the GDDS calls for the provision of information about past revisions and about major prospective sources of revision. Relevant information about revisions in data may include statements about the policy followed (e.g., a policy of revising monthly data when an annual, more comprehensive survey becomes available or a policy of no revision) and data about the size of past revisions; both policies and data on revisions may have to be developed before they can be disseminated. Changes in methodology (e.g., changes in base year, major expansions of sample size, introduction of alternative data sources, reclassification of transactions or industries) are to be expected in developing statistical systems. The advance notices may take a variety of forms, including, at a minimum, a short statement in the last presentation of unrevised data or on a stand-alone basis. These statements would identify the kinds of changes to be made and give a source for additional information, such as a paper available on request or the name and address of a person able to explain the upcoming change. Participants are encouraged, as well, to provide easy access to this type of information explaining revisions after they are released.

Quality

2.18 Data quality must have a high priority. Data users should be provided with information to assess quality and quality improvements. GDDS participants

are encouraged to adopt and implement internationally accepted statistical methodologies for the data categories covered by the GDDS and are encouraged to indicate where statistical practices deviate from these methodologies (a specified list of these methodologies is posted on the DSBB; see http://dsbb.imf.org/pages/SDDS/statmethod.aspx). Although quality is difficult to judge, monitorable proxies, designed to focus on information the user needs to judge quality, can be useful. To assist users of the data disseminated under the GDDS in assessing their quality, the GDDS recommends the following:

(1) Dissemination of documentation on methodology and sources used in preparing statistics

2.19 The availability of documentation on methodology and sources underlying statistics is key to users' awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of the data. In addition to information on the DSBB, the participant's documentation may take several forms, including summary notes accompanying release of the data, separate publications, and papers available on request from the producers. GDDS participants are encouraged to prepare and disseminate statements about important features of quality (e.g., the kinds of errors to which the data are subject, sources of noncomparability over time, and measures of coverage for census data or sample error for survey data).[4]

(2) Dissemination of component detail, reconciliations with related data, and statistical frameworks that support statistical cross-checks and provide assurance of reasonableness

2.20 To support and encourage users' checks and verification of data, this element provides for dissemination of components underlying aggregate series, dissemination within a statistical framework, and/or dissemination of comparisons and reconciliations with related data. Component detail should be at a level that does not conflict with other desirable characteristics, such as the confidentiality of individually identifiable information or statistical reliability. Statistical frameworks include accounting identities and statistical relationships (such as matching stocks with flows). Comparisons and reconciliations include those that cut across frameworks, such as exports and imports as part of the national accounts and as part of the balance of payments.

[4]The size of past revisions, which is an important aspect of quality, also is included under integrity, drawing on its role as an indicator of the transparency of conditions under which data are produced.

3 Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness: General Considerations

3.1 The GDDS objectives for coverage, periodicity, and timeliness are summarized in Table 1. Recommended coverage features of the GDDS are listed under the "Components" column. However, some data categories or components are designated "as relevant." This designation recognizes that the relevance of a specific data category or component to an economy should be taken into account in the development of the statistical system. Where the periodicity, timeliness, or coverage components are designated as "encouraged," countries are encouraged to develop and disseminate such data categories with the indicated periodicity and timeliness, but only after the main recommended components are regularly disseminated.

Table 3.1 The General Data Dissemination System: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness Macroeconomic and Financial Sectors and Sociodemographic Dat

Data Categories[1]	Components	Encouraged Extension(s)	Periodicity	Timeliness
Real sector				
National accounts (GDP)*	GDP in current prices and GDP volume by production approach, with disaggregated components; or GDP in current prices and GDP volume by expenditure approach, with disaggregated components	Gross national income, capital formation, saving	Annual (quarterly encouraged)	6–9 months
Production index/ indices**	Manufacturing or industrial, primary commodity, or sector coverage as relevant		Monthly (as relevant)	6–12 weeks
Labor market	Employment, unemployment, wages/earnings, as relevant	Disaggregation by age, sex, employment status, occupation, and industry as appropriate	Annual	6–9 months
Price indices	Consumer price index	Producer price index	Monthly	1–2 months
Fiscal sector				
General government cash flow and/or operations		General government or public sector operations data,[2] where subnational levels of government or public enterprise operation are of analytical or policy importance	Annual	6–9 months

Table 3.1 The General Data Dissemination System: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness Macroeconomic and Financial Sectors and Sociodemographic Data (*continued*)

Data Categories[1]	Components	Encouraged Extension(s)	Periodicity	Timeliness
Central government cash flow and/or operations*	For participants using the *GFSM 1986* framework: Revenue Expenditure Balance (deficit/surplus) Aggregate financing, disaggregated by: Domestic financing (bank, nonbank) Foreign financing If disaggregation by domestic (bank, nonbank) and foreign financing is not feasible, disaggregated by: Maturity, and either Instrument, or Currency of issue	Interest payments, indicated separately as a component of expenditure	Quarterly (monthly encouraged)	1 quarter (1 month encouraged)
Central government cash flow and/or operations*	For participants using the *GFSM 2001* framework (see for example Tables 4.1 or 4.2 of the *GFSM 2001*): Statement of sources and uses of cash or cash flow (for cash-based data) Cash receipts from operating activities Cash payments for operating activities Net cash inflow from operating activities Net cash outflow from investments in nonfinancial assets Cash surplus (+) / deficit (–) Net acquisition of financial assets, excluding cash Net incurrence of liabilities Net cash inflow, financing activities Net change in stock of cash Statistical discrepancy Total cash expenditure (memorandum item); or	Interest payments, indicated separately as a component of expenditure	Quarterly (monthly encouraged)	1 quarter (1 month encouraged)

Table 3.1 The General Data Dissemination System: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness Macroeconomic and Financial Sectors and Sociodemographic Data (*continued*)

Data Categories[1]	Components	Encouraged Extension(s)	Periodicity	Timeliness
	Statement of government operations (for accrual-based data)[3] Revenue Of which taxes Expense Gross operating balance Net operating balance Net acquisition of nonfinancial assets Net lending (+) / borrowing (–) Net acquisition of financial assets: (1) Domestic (2) Foreign Net incurrence of liabilities: (1) domestic (2) Foreign Statistical discrepancy Total expenditure (memorandum item)			
Central government debt	Domestic and foreign gross debt, as relevant, with appropriate breakdowns (maturity, currency, residence of creditor, instrument), as relevant	Government guaranteed debt	Quarterly	1–2 quarters
Financial sector				
Depository corporations survey*	Broad money (for example, M3)[4] Domestic claims: (1a) Net claims on government; or (1b) Claims on nonfinancial public sector (if public sector operations represent the comprehensive framework for the fiscal sector); and (2) Claims on other resident sectors Net foreign assets	Narrower (lower-ordered) monetary aggregates (such as M1 and M2)[3]	Monthly	1–3 months
Central bank survey**	Monetary base		Monthly	1–2 months
Interest rates	Short and long-term government security rates, policy-oriented rate	Money market or interbank rates and a range of deposit and lending rates	Monthly	

Table 3.1 The General Data Dissemination System: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness Macroeconomic and Financial Sectors and Sociodemographic Data (*continued*)

Data Categories[1]	Components	Encouraged Extension(s)	Periodicity	Timeliness
Stock market		Share price index, as relevant	Monthly	
External sector				
Balance of payments*	Current account: (1) Goods (2) Services (3) Income (4) Current transfers Capital account Financial account: (1) Direct investment (2) Portfolio investment (3) Other investment (4) Reserve assets Net errors and omissions	Disaggregation according to the standard components of the IMF *Balance of Payments Manual* (fifth edition)[5] Under financial account, separately report data on financial derivatives; assets and liabilities	Annual (quarterly strongly encouraged)	6 months
External debt and debt service schedule**	Public and publicly guaranteed external debt, broken down by maturity	Public and publicly guaranteed external debt by instrument breakdown	Quarterly	3–6 months
	Public and publicly guaranteed external debt service schedule	Public and publicly guaranteed external debt service schedule disaggregated by: Principal Interest	Semiannual Schedule covering the next 4 quarters and then 2 subsequent semesters	1–2 quarters
	Private external debt not publicly guaranteed	Private external debt service schedule	Annual	6–9 months
Official reserve assets**	Gross official reserve assets	Reserve-related liabilities[6]	Monthly	1–4 weeks (1 week encouraged)
		Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity[7]	Monthly	1–3 months (1 month encouraged)
Merchandise trade**	Total exports and total imports	Major commodity breakdowns with longer time lapse	Monthly	8–12 weeks
International investment position (IIP)*[4]	Assets and liabilities, disaggregated by: Direct investment Portfolio investment: Disaggregated by equity securities and debt securities Other investment Reserve assets (included only in assets)	Disaggregation of assets and liabilities according to the standard components of the latest edition of the IMF *Balance of Payments Manual* Under financial account, separately report data on financial derivatives; assets and liabilities	Annual	6–9 months
Exchange rates	Spot rates		Daily	

Table 3.1 The General Data Dissemination System: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness Macroeconomic and Financial Sectors and Sociodemographic Data (*continued*)

Data Categories[1]	Basic Components	Encouraged Extension(s)	Related Indicators of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)[8]	Periodicity	Timeliness
Population	Population characteristics: Size and composition of the population, derived from census, surveys, or vital registration system	Disaggregation of population and vital statistics data by age, sex, and region, as appropriate		Annual (census every 10 years)	3–6 months for annual updates 9–12 months for census
	Dynamics of growth: Vital statistics—for example, births, deaths, and migration	Reporting of mortality rates, crude birth rate, fertility rate, and life expectancy	Under-five mortality rate Infant mortality rate Adolescent birth rate		
Education	Inputs: Measures of current financial, human, and physical resources available to public and private (if significant) educational institutions, recorded by level of education or type of program	Disaggregation of data by region recommended for all data categories Characteristics of teaching staff, including training, experience, and terms of employment (full or part time) Expenditures by households on education (including fees and other expenses for public or private education)		Annual	6–12 months following beginning of school year
	Process: Measures of student progress through school, such as enrollments, dropouts, and repetitions, recorded by level of education, age, and sex of students	Calculation of gross and net enrollment rates (by grade and sex)	Net enrollment ratio in primary education Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last year of primary education Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary, and tertiary education		
	Outcomes: Educational attainment measured by progress through school, graduations, and completions by level; literacy rates of adults and youth	Disaggregation by age and sex; graduation and completion rates Scores on standardized achievement exams	Literacy rate of 15–24-year-olds Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of nonorphans ages 10–14 years		

Table 3.1 The General Data Dissemination System: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness Macroeconomic and Financial Sectors and Sociodemographic Data (*continued*)

Data Categories[1]	Basic Components	Encouraged Extension(s)	Related Indicators of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)[8]	Periodicity	Timeliness
Health	Inputs: Measures of current financial, human, and physical resources available to public and private (if significant) health system, including public expenditures on health services; capacity of health care facilities by location and type of facility, and the number of trained personnel by location and certification	Private (household) expenditures on health services; disaggregation of data by region		Annual (outbreaks of contagious diseases should be reported at higher frequency and with greater timeliness)	3–6 months following end of reference period
	Process (service delivery): Measures describing the number of clients served and type of care provided by public and private care providers, including inpatient, outpatient, and preventative care; population served by public health services such as immunizations, sanitation services, and improved water supply	Measures of the responsiveness of the health system to nonhealth aspects of service delivery; disaggregation of data by region	Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel Prenatal care coverage (at least one visit) Condom use (at least high-risk sex) Proportion of population ages 15–24 years with comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS Proportion of children under age five sleeping under insecticide-treated bed net Proportion of children under age five who are treated with appropriate antimalarial drugs Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly		

Table 3.1 The General Data Dissemination System: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness Macroeconomic and Financial Sectors and Sociodemographic Data (*continued*)

Data Categories[1]	Basic Components	Encouraged Extension(s)	Related Indicators of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)[8]	Periodicity	Timeliness
			observed treatment short course Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs Proportion of population using an improved water source, urban and rural Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility		
	Outcomes: Statistics on mortality and morbidity, including mortality by cause and the incidence of disease by age, sex, region, and other patient characteristics		Maternal mortality ratio Contraceptive prevalence rate Unmet need for family planning Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age Maternal mortality ratio HIV prevalence among population 15–24 years Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria Incidence, prevalence, and death rates associated with tuberculosis		
Poverty	Income poverty: Number and proportion of people or households with less than minimum standard of income or consumption;	Measures of the distribution of household or per capita income or consumption, and incidence of low consumption; separate poverty estimates	Proportion of population below $1 (PPP) per day Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty)	3–5 years	6–12 months following the survey

Table 3.1 The General Data Dissemination System: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness Macroeconomic and Financial Sectors and Sociodemographic Data (*concluded*)

Data Categories[1]	Basic Components	Encouraged Extension(s)	Related Indicators of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)[8]	Periodicity	Timeliness
	valuation of minimum consumption bundle	for urban and rural populations or for major regions, states, or provinces	Share of poorest quintile in national consumption		
	Other poverty measures: Measures of deprivation or insecurity used to identify the population living in poverty, such as evidence of malnutrition or undernourishment, endemic diseases, educational achievement, and lack of access to basic services	Disaggregation of data by region or age and sex, where appropriate	Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption		

Source: IMF Statistics Department.

[1](*) Denotes comprehensive statistical frameworks; (**) denotes tracking categories.

[2]See Central Government Operations for component details.

[3]Accrual including all noncash basis, such as modified cash and modified accrual basis.

[4]The measures of broad and narrow money vary from country to country. M2 is broad money for countries that do not have M3. However, M2 is a narrower measure of money for countries that have M3 or a broader measure of money.

[5]Or subsequent editions.

[6]As a first step toward the full Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity.

[7]See Table 2 of the Special Data Dissemination Standard legal text (www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2012/090712.pdf).

[8]As documented (and numbered) in the Millennium Development Goals Indicators Database of the United Nations Statistics Division (see http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx).

4 Real Sector: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness

4.1 This chapter elaborates on the data coverage, periodicity, and timeliness for the real sector. It covers the national accounts, production index/indices, labor market indicators (including employment, unemployment, and wages/earnings), price indices, and population.

National Accounts

4.2 The comprehensive statistical framework for the real sector is the System of National Accounts (SNA). The GDDS recommends that data on national accounts are to be disseminated on an annual basis with a 2–3 quarter lag.

4.3 The GDDS recommends that participating countries release GDP compiled by major expenditure category or by productive sectors (industry);[1] and it encourages the dissemination of both. The disaggregation of GDP by major expenditure categories or by productive sectors is recommended. Although countries can use their own classifications in the expenditure/productive sector approaches, classification of data according to the latest edition of the SNA is strongly encouraged.[2] The SNA provides useful guidance on best practices for compilation of the national accounts. A participating country can refer to these guidelines in preparing its metadata for the national accounts and note its differences from the guidelines, if any, in the metadata, which are posted on the DSBB.

4.4 The GDDS recommends the dissemination of national accounts data in current prices and in volume terms (constant prices), together with associated implicit price deflators/price indices. Dissemination of saving, capital formation, and gross national income (formerly GNP) is encouraged.

4.5 The GDDS further encourages the compilation of quarterly national accounts data with a timeliness of one quarter.

Production Index/Indices

4.6 The GDDS recommends a production index and, where appropriate, several production indices, to track GDP on a more timely basis than annual or quarterly national accounts releases permit. Ideally, the coverage of the production index mirrors the coverage of productive activities in GDP and reflects a country's economic structure. However, the limited availability of timely, high-frequency data sources may narrow the scope of the production index to a country's key productive activities—indices for industrial production are useful indicators for GDP in some countries, commodity production indices (for example, petroleum) in others, and indices on agricultural production or other key economic activities in still others. The index or indices selected for dissemination should be the one(s) most useful as indicators for the country's production or value-added. The coverage of the index and its other characteristics should be noted in the country's metadata for posting on the DSBB. An industrial production index, for example, is to cover the output of establishments in extractive activities, manufacturing, electricity, and

[1] In the national accounts, and consistent with the United Nations' International Standard Industrial Classifications (ISIC) of All Economic Activities, the term "industry" covers various economic activities, including agriculture; mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, and water supply; construction; wholesale and retail trade; hotels and restaurants; transport, storage, and communications; financial intermediation; real estate, renting, and business activities; public administration and defense; education; health and social work; and other community, social and personal services.

[2] Countries that have not adopted the latest SNA may use the classifications shown in the previous edition of the SNA.

gas and water supply.[3] To be useful, the tracking indicator should be based on a sound methodology.[4]

4.7 For developments in GDP, the GDDS recommends monthly periodicity for the production index (or indices). However, an "as relevant" condition is provided to recognize that in some countries, such as those where seasonal crop production is important, production may not be well represented by a monthly index.

4.8 Timeliness of dissemination is specified as within 6–12 weeks after the reference period.

Labor Market

4.9 The GDDS recommends employment, unemployment, and wages/earnings on an "as relevant" basis. If any of these three components is not deemed relevant, reasons are to be provided.

4.10 These data on the labor market are recommended to be disseminated on an annual basis and with a lag of within 6–9 months after the end of the reference quarter. Distinct metadata should be provided on each component to be posted on the DSBB.

Employment

4.11 Some countries compile several measures of employment, which may be based on sample surveys of households or individuals, establishment surveys, or social insurance records. The recommended measure to be disseminated should be the one that is most widely used in the country. The metadata for the DSBB should note the statistical characteristics of the measure.

4.12 The GDDS does not recommend a definition of employment or its components; however, it notes as best practice the concepts, definitions, and classifications of employment and unemployment provided by the International Labour Organization (ILO).[5] A country's metadata for this data category should note differences between the country's practices and the international guidelines.

Unemployment

4.13 Some countries prepare several measures of unemployment—for example, based on sample surveys of households or individuals, social insurance records, or employment office statistics. The recommended measure to be disseminated should be the one that is most widely used in the country. The metadata for the DSBB should note the statistical characteristics of the measure.

4.14 The measure may be expressed in terms of the number of unemployed or the unemployed as a percent of the labor force.

4.15 The GDDS does not recommend a definition of unemployment or its components; however, it notes as best practices concepts, definitions, and classifications of employment and unemployment the ILO provides.[6] A country's metadata for this data category should note differences between the country's practices and the international guidelines.

Wages/Earnings

4.16 In the context of labor statistics, "wages" data comprise direct wages and salaries for time worked or work done, while "earnings" data (in cash and in kind) are broader, covering in addition remuneration for time not worked, bonuses, gratuities, and housing and family allowances paid by the employer to the employee. The recommended series to be disseminated should be the series most widely used within the country. The series may show average earnings or time rates of wages (preferably accompanied by hours of work data consistent with the earnings/wages data). The scope of the series may differ from country to country. The metadata for the DSBB should describe the statistical characteristics of the measure, including its coverage.

[3] See International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division Office, Series M, No. 90 (2008), and International Recommendations for Distributive Trade Statistics, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division, Series M, No. 89 (2008).1 (1983). As noted in the text, production indices could cover all output as defined by the latest SNA, comprising goods and services from privately and publicly controlled enterprises.

[4] A monthly production index should be produced in the form of a consistent time series, normalized to 100 for reference to a fixed reference period.

[5] *Current International Recommendations on Labour Statistics* (Geneva: ILO, 2000). See also *Surveys of Economically Active Population, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment* (Geneva: ILO, 1990).

[6] ILO, *ibid.*

Price Indices

4.17 The GDDS recommends consumer price indices and encourages producer price indices to be disseminated on a monthly periodicity with a lag of within 1–2 months. The data are disseminated as indices. To be meaningful, each of the indices should be presented in a form normalized to a reference period,[7] for which the normalized index assumes the value 100.[8] The two indices are based on different source data and they can be disseminated with differing periodicity and timeliness. Distinct metadata, including base/reference periods, should be prepared for each of the two price indices for posting on the DSBB.

Consumer Price Index

4.18 A consumer price index (CPI) measures the variation over time in the prices of goods and services that households acquire, pay for, or use for purposes of consumption. Countries may prepare several indices, differing, for example, with respect to geographic coverage (e.g., urban versus rural), reference population (e.g., whole population or a group such as industrial workers), and item coverage. If there is more than one CPI, the index to be tracked should be the most widely used in the country. The metadata should note the statistical characteristics of the index, including its scope and limitations and whether they conform with international best or generally accepted practice.[9]

Producer or Wholesale Price Indexes

4.19 A producer price index (PPI) measures the variation over time in the prices of the outputs of market and market-valued goods and services. A wholesale price index (WPI) measures the variation over time in the prices of items at the first important commercial transaction and, as such, its concept broadly overlaps but is not identical to the concept of an intermediate consumption (input) price index. PPIs and WPIs differ across countries, for example, with respect to coverage of the economy (e.g., whether inclusive of mining, construction, and services) and valuation (e.g., whether inclusive of taxes net of subsidies on products, such as an input price index for intermediate consumption, or exclusive of net taxes on products, such as an output price index). If there is more than one PPI, the index tracked should be that most widely used in the country. The metadata for this data category should note the statistical characteristics of the index and whether they conform to international best or generally accepted practice.[10]

[7] Which should not be adjusted frequently.

[8] Although the normalized index assumes the value 100 in the reference period, the index may comprise a chain of periodically reweighted and rebased series fragments.

[9] *Consumer Price Index Manual, Theory and Practice* (Geneva: ILO, 2004). See also IMF's DQAF at dsbb.imf.org for guidance in describing how the CPI is compiled.

[10] *Producer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice* (Washington, DC: IMF, 2004). See also IMF's DQAF at dsbb.imf.org for guidance in describing how the PPI is compiled.

5 Fiscal Sector: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness

5.1 This chapter first provides an overview of the data coverage, periodicity, and timeliness of the fiscal sector. This is followed by discussions on the recommended and encouraged data to be disseminated on general government operations (GGO), central government operations (CGO), and central government debt (CGD).

Overview

5.2 The GDDS encourages countries to disseminate data on general government cash flow (statement of sources and uses of cash) and/or operations on an annual basis within 6–9 months after the end of the reference year. The GDDS also recommends that data on the central government cash flow and/or operations be released to the public on a quarterly basis within one quarter after the end of the reference quarter. The GDDS further encourages countries to disseminate monthly CGO data within one month after the end of the reference month. The GDDS recommends also that CGD be published on a quarterly basis and released within 1–2 quarters. The GDDS further encourages countries to disseminate quarterly data on government guarantees within one quarter after the end of the reference quarter.

5.3 The GDDS recommends the classification of fiscal data using the *Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001* (*GFSM 2001*) for government finance statistics (GFS), whether the data are compiled on an accrual or cash basis.

General Government Cash Flow/ Operations

5.4 The comprehensive statistical framework for the fiscal sector can be either the general government cash flow/operations or the public sector cash flow/operations (PSO). The GGO covers operations of all governmental units (including social security funds) whether operating at the central level, state/provincial/regional level, or local level. The PSO institutional unit covers operations of the general government, public nonfinancial corporations, and public financial corporations (e.g., development banks); however, for a picture of financing requirements, the public nonfinancial sector, comprising the general government and public nonfinancial corporations, is the preferred concept.

5.5 In countries where the public sector is the focus of analysis and policy—for example, where the public sector borrowing requirement is an important policy variable—the PSO could be the comprehensive framework; in others, the GGO could be used. The institutional coverage of the chosen concept should be as broad as possible, including units at all levels of GGO and, for PSO, all important public corporations. The GDDS metadata are to describe the institutional units and the legal and economic nature of government activities covered by the data. Key institutional units and significant government activities and accounts excluded by the data should be disclosed in the metadata.

5.6 As indicated earlier, the GDDS encourages countries to disseminate data on GGO or PSO with an annual periodicity and within 6–9 months after the end of the reference period. The data disseminated should be actual data or preliminary actual data, and not data based on projections.

5.7 For participants following the methodology of the *Manual on Government Finance Statistics 1986* (*GFSM 1986*), the GDDS encourages the dissemination of the following components of the GGO:

- Revenue
- Expenditure

- Deficit/surplus (balance)
- Aggregate financing with appropriate disaggregated components (described later).

5.8 Where feasible, financing could be disaggregated by domestic and foreign financing, with the domestic and foreign distinctions determined by the residency of the creditor. Domestic financing could be further disaggregated into financing provided by the banking system (the depository corporations) and the nonbank sector (i.e., other domestic sectors). If disaggregation by domestic and foreign financing is not feasible, the GDDS recommends that financing be classified by (i) maturity and (ii) either instrument or currency of issue.

5.9 Based on the *GFSM 2001* framework,[1] the encouraged GGO components are shown in Tables 2, 3, and 4.[2] Table 2 shows the encouraged components for countries that apply the classifications on a cash basis, as well as those for countries that apply the framework under the accrual basis. The operation statement uses either accrual basis, cash basis adjusted for some accrual transactions, or accrual basis with some exceptions for transactions available only on a cash basis. Table 3 shows the statement of sources and uses of cash with various components, including ones covering domestic and foreign acquisition of assets or incurrence of liabilities disaggregated by instrument. Table 4 presents the statement of government operations with various components, including ones covering domestic and foreign acquisition of assets or incurrence of liabilities disaggregated by instrument.

5.10 Participants that use the latest available GFS framework to present their cash-based data are encouraged to disseminate the statement of sources and uses of cash as shown in Table 3 on an annual basis. Countries that use the GFS framework to present their data that are compiled on an accrual basis (as defined earlier) are encouraged to disseminate the statement of government operations as shown in Table 4 on an annual basis. Countries are also encouraged to disseminate, on an annual basis, the statement of sources and uses of cash, the statement of other economic flows, and the financial balance sheet (see Table 6).

5.11 The GDDS metadata should specify the concepts, definitions, and classifications used in the data compilation; the metadata should highlight any differences between national practices and international or regional guidelines.

Central Government Cash Flow/ Operations

5.12 CGO data serve as a tracking category, providing a more frequent and timely indicator of the fiscal stance than is usual with GGO/PSO. CGO data should cover, in addition to budgetary accounts, as wide a range of central government units as feasible (i.e., social security and extrabudgetary units and accounts). The GDDS metadata should describe the institutional units covered by the CGO data disseminated.

5.13 The GDDS recommends the dissemination of quarterly data on CGO within one quarter after the end of the reference quarter. The data disseminated should be actual data or preliminary actual data and not data based on projections. The dissemination of monthly CGO data within one month of the reference month is encouraged.

5.14 For participants following the methodology of the *GFSM 1986*, the GDDS recommends the dissemination of the following components:

- Revenue
- Expenditure
- Deficit/surplus (balance)
- Aggregate financing with appropriate disaggregations (described ahead).

5.15 The GDDS encourages the dissemination of the total interest payments as a separate component of expenditure.

5.16 Where feasible, financing could be disaggregated by domestic and foreign financing, with these distinctions determined by the residency of the creditor. Domestic financing can further be disaggregated into financing provided by the banking system (depository corporations) and the nonbank sector (that is, other domestic sectors). Where the disaggregation by domestic and foreign financing is not feasible, financing can be classified by maturity and either by

[1] http://www.dsbb.imf.org/Pages/SDDS/StatMethod.aspx

[2] For countries that follow the *European System of Accounts 1995* (1995 ESA) or more up-to-date versions, these guidelines also apply.

type of instrument or by currency of issue (and/or other relevant characteristics—e.g., by whether the debt is indexed and the nature of the indexing). The classification of aggregate financing should be consistent with that on CGD.

5.17 Based on the *GFSM 2001* framework, the recommended CGO components, as well as encouraged ones, are shown in Tables 2, 3, and 4.[3] Table 2 shows the recommended and encouraged components for countries that apply the GFS classifications under the cash basis, as well as those for countries that apply the framework under the accrual basis. The accrual basis covers all full accrual, cash basis adjusted for some accrual transactions, or accrual basis with some exceptions for transactions available only on a cash basis. Table 3 shows the statement of sources and uses of cash with various components, including ones covering domestic and foreign acquisition of assets or incurrence of liabilities disaggregated by instrument. Table 4 presents the statement of government operations with various components, including ones covering domestic and foreign acquisition of assets or incurrence of liabilities disaggregated by instrument.

5.18 Participants that use the latest GFS framework to present their cash-based data are recommended to disseminate the statement of sources and uses of cash as shown in Table 3 on a monthly basis covering central government units. In addition, the presentation of interest as a distinct item of expense in this statement is encouraged. Participants that use the GFS framework to present their data that are compiled on an accrual basis (as defined earlier) are recommended to disseminate the statement of government operations as shown in Table 4 on a quarterly basis covering the budgetary central government units. The dissemination of such statements covering all central government units on a quarterly basis is encouraged.[4]

5.19 Also encouraged on a monthly basis is the dissemination of the statement of sources and uses of cash with a lag of one month. In addition, presenting interest as a distinct item of expense in this statement is encouraged.

[3] For countries that follow the 1995 ESA or more up-to-date versions, these guidelines also apply.
[4] Including extrabudgetary units and social security funds as relevant.

5.20 The GDDS metadata should specify the concepts, definitions, and classifications used in data compilation; the metadata should highlight any differences between national practices and international or regional guidelines.

Central Government Debt

5.21 The GDDS recommends the dissemination of quarterly data on CGD within 1–2 quarters after the end of the reference quarter.

5.22 Broad institutional coverage is encouraged for the CGD, including obligations incurred by the central government as a result of its bearing the ultimate risks of operations of public-private partnerships. The GDDS metadata should indicate whether the coverage of CGD is identical to that of CGO and, if applicable, how the coverage differs. The GDDS metadata should also describe any exclusion of liabilities of central government units and any special characteristics of debt instruments.

5.23 The CGD recommends that total gross outstanding debt of the central government be classified as short and long term. "Short term" is defined as original maturity within one year; "long term" is defined as original maturity over one year that is disaggregated into "payment due within one year" and "payment due over one year."

5.24 Furthermore, where feasible, the CGD can be disaggregated by foreign and domestic components according to the residency of the creditor; this is normally possible for debt in the form of loans. Where this is not feasible, as in the case of debt in the form of certain securities, other disaggregation of the CGD is recommended, such as classification by instrument, by currency of issue, or by other characteristics (e.g., by indexing).

5.25 All gross debt guaranteed by the government is encouraged.

5.26 For participants using the *Public Sector Debt Statistics Guide for Compilers and Users* (*PSDSG*), the recommended components for central government gross debt are shown in Tables 2 and 5. Note that the *GFSM 2001* methodology uses the concept "liabilities," which covers gross debt, shares and other equity, and financial derivatives liabilities. Consistent with the concept of government gross debt, Table 5 shows components of liabilities, excluding shares and other equity and financial derivatives liabilities.

Table 5.1 Fiscal Sector: GDDS Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness

	Prescribed Institutional Coverage ("encouraged" coverage as noted)	Periodicity	Basis of Recording[1]	Recommended	Encouraged
GGO	General government or public sector	Annual			
CGO	Central government units	Quarterly (Monthly encouraged)	Cash	Statement of sources and uses of cash (CFS) (see also Table 3)	Interest as a separate item of expense (see also Table 3)
	Central government budgetary units (central government units, including extrabudgetary units and social security funds, are encouraged)		Accrual*	Statement of government operations (see also Table 4)	Interest as a separate item of expense. CFS (see also Table 4)
Central government debt	Central government (central or general government)	Quarterly	Face (Nominal value** or current market value are encouraged)	See Table 5	Debt guaranteed by the central government

Sources: IMF Statistics Department; *GFSM 2001*.

[1](*) Accrual including cash basis adjusted for some accrual transactions or accrual basis with some exceptions for transactions available only on a cash basis. (**) The nominal value is the amount that the debtor owes to the creditor at any moment, which is equal to the required future payments of principal and interest discounted at the existing contractual interest rate.

Table 5.2 Statement of Sources and Uses of Cash

	GFS Code
Cash receipts from operating activities	1
Cash payments for operating activities	2
Interest (encouraged)	24
Net cash inflow from operating activities [1–2]	CIO
Net cash outflow from investments in nonfinancial assets	31
Cash surplus (+) / deficit (–) [1–2–31 = CSD]	CSD
Net acquisition of financial assets, excl. cash	32x
Domestic	321x
Foreign	322x
Monetary gold and SDRs	323
Net incurrence of financial liabilities	33
Domestic	331
Currency and deposits	3312
Securities other than shares	3313
Loans	3314

Table 5.2 Statement of Sources and Uses of Cash (*concluded*)

	GFS Code
Shares and other equity	3315
Insurance technical reserves	3316
Financial derivatives	3317
Other accounts payable	3318
Foreign	332
Currency and deposits	3322
Securities other than shares	3323
Loans	3324
Shares and other equity	3325
Insurance technical reserves	3326
Financial derivatives	3327
Other accounts payable	3328
Net cash inflow, financing activities [–32x+33]	NFB
Net change in the stock of cash [=3212+3222]	NCB
Statistical discrepancy [CSD–32x+33–NCB]	CSDz

Sources: IMF Statistics Department; *GFSM 2001*.

Table 5.3 Statement of Government Operations

	GFS Code
Revenue	1
Expense	2
Interest (encouraged)	24
Net operating balance [1–2]	NOB
Gross operating balance [1–2+23]	GOB
Net acquisition of nonfinancial assets	31
Net lending (+) / borrowing (–) [1–2–31 = NLB]	NLB
Net acquisition of financial assets	32
Domestic	321
Foreign	322
Monetary gold and SDRs	323
Net incurrence of financial liabilities	33
Domestic	331
Currency and deposits	3312
Securities other than shares	3313
Loans	3314
Shares and other equity	3315
Insurance technical reserves	3316
Financial derivatives	3317
Other accounts payable	3318
Foreign	332
Currency and deposits	3322
Securities other than shares	3323

Table 5.3 Statement of Government Operations (*concluded*)	
	GFS Code
Loans	3324
Shares and other equity	3325
Insurance technical reserves	3326
Financial derivatives	3327
Other accounts payable	3328
Statistical discrepancy [NLB–32+33]	NLBz

Sources: IMF Statistics Department; *GFSM 2001*.

Table 5.4 Government Gross Debt by Maturity,* by Residency,** and by Instrument***	
63A0	**Government gross debt (liabilities excluding shares and other equity)**
63A01	Short term
63A02	Long term
	Payment due in one year
	Payment due over one year
63A1	**Domestic**
63A11	Short term
63A112	Currency and deposits
63A113	Securities other than shares
63A114	Loans
63A116	Insurance technical reserves
63A118	Other accounts payable
63A12	Long term
63A122	Currency and deposits
63A123	Securities other than shares
63A124	Loans
63A126	Insurance technical reserves
63A128	Other accounts payable
63A2	**Foreign**
63A21	Short term
63A212	Currency and deposits
63A213	Securities other than shares
63A214	Loans
63A216	Insurance technical reserves
63A218	Other accounts payable
63A22	Long term
63A222	Currency and deposits
63A223	Securities other than shares
63A224	Loans
63A226	Insurance technical reserves
63A228	Other accounts payable

Sources: IMF Statistics Department; *GFSM 2001* and *PSDSG*.

*Original maturity

**Or by currency

***Or by sector

Table 5.5 Statement of Other Economic Flows and Balance Sheet[1]

	Statement of Other Economic Flows		Balance Sheet
	Classification of holding gains in assets and liabilities	Classification of other changes in the volume of assets and liabilities	Classification of the stocks of assets and liabilities
Financial assets	**42**	**52**	**62**
Domestic	**421**	**521**	**621**
Currency and deposits	4212	5212	6212
Securities other than shares	4213	5213	6213
Loans	4214	5214	6214
Shares and other equity	4215	5215	6215
Insurance technical reserves	4216	5216	6216
Financial derivatives	4217	5217	6217
Other accounts receivable	4218	5218	6218
Foreign	**422**	**522**	**622**
Currency and deposits	4222	5222	6222
Securities other than shares	4223	5223	6223
Loans	4224	5224	6224
Shares and other equity	4225	5225	6225
Insurance technical reserves	4226	5226	6226
Financial derivatives	4227	5227	6227
Other accounts receivable	4228	5228	6228
Monetary gold and SDRs	**423**	**523**	**623**
Liabilities	**43**	**53**	**63**
Domestic	**431**	**531**	**631**
Currency and deposits	4312	5312	6312
Securities other than shares	4313	5313	6313
Loans	4314	5314	6314
Shares and other equity (public corporations only)[2]	4315	5315	6315
Insurance technical reserves[3]	4316	5316	6316
Financial derivatives[2]	4317	5317	6317
Other accounts payable	4318	5318	6318
Foreign	**432**	**532**	**632**
Currency and deposits	4322	5322	6322
Securities other than shares	4323	5323	6323
Loans	4324	5324	6324
Shares and other equity (public corporations only)	4325	5325	6325
Insurance technical reserves[3]	4326	5326	6326
Financial derivatives[2]	4327	5327	6327
Other accounts payable	4328	5328	6328

Sources: IMF Statistics Department; *GFSM 2001*.

[1]Numbers shown in the table refer to the *GFSM 2001* codes for the different items.

[2]Not debt liabilities; see also Table 5.

[3]GFS indicates that this item has the same name but different coverage in the *1993 SNA*.

6 Financial Sector: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness

6.1 In discussing the GDDS data coverage, periodicity, and timeliness of the financial sector, this chapter covers the depository corporations survey (DCS), the central bank survey (CBS), interest rates, and the stock market–share price index.

Depository Corporations Survey

(previously Analytical Accounts of the Banking Sector)

6.2 The GDDS-recommended comprehensive statistical framework for the financial sector was designated as the "analytical accounts of the banking sector." In the *Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual* (*MFSM*) published in 2000, the framework is presented as the DCS. The DCS covers depository corporations, which include the central bank and other depository corporations (ODCs). The ODCs, in turn, cover resident financial corporations and quasi-corporations that mainly engage in financial intermediation and issue liabilities included in the national definition of money.

6.3 The *MFSM* and the *Monetary and Financial Statistics Compilation Guide* (*MFSCG* 2008) provide an analytical framework and guidelines for the compilation of monetary and financial statistics.[1] The GDDS recommends full institutional coverage, as recommended in the *MFSM*, as the best practice. A participating country's metadata for this data category should describe the coverage of its DCS and related characteristics.

6.4 Data on the DCS are to be compiled on a monthly basis and disseminated within 1–3 months after the end of the reference month.

6.5 The GDDS recommends that components to be disseminated should include, at a minimum, the following:

- Monetary aggregates (broad money, which is a high-ordered monetary aggregate, and narrow money, which is a lower-ordered aggregate, are encouraged, if relevant)
- Domestic credit disaggregated into (i) net claims on the general government or claims on the nonfinancial public sector (depending on whether general government or public-sector operations represent the comprehensive framework for the fiscal sector) and (ii) claims on the other resident sectors
- Foreign assets and foreign liabilities of the depository corporations, presented as net foreign assets (total foreign assets minus total foreign liabilities),[2] or as total foreign assets and total foreign liabilities

6.6 According to the *MFSM*, the broad money components in the DCS correspond to depository corporations' liabilities to money-holdings sectors, which usually consist of (i) other financial corporations, (ii) state and local governments, (iii) public nonfinancial corporations, (iv) other nonfinancial corporations, and (v) other resident sectors (households and nonprofit institutions serving households, NPISHs).

Central Bank Survey

(previously analytical accounts of the Central Bank)

6.7 The GDDS recommends the dissemination of monthly data for the central bank survey (CBS), previously designated as the analytical accounts of the

[1] The *MFSM* is consistent with the *1993 SNA* in defining the depository corporations subsector to include the central bank and ODCs.

[2] The balance of payment concept of "residency" applies in distinguishing foreign and domestic assets and liabilities.

central bank, within 1–2 months after the end of the reference month.

6.8 The *MFSM* and *MFSCG* provide an analytical framework and guidelines for the compilation of the CBS.

Interest Rates

6.9 The GDDS recommends that interest rates should be available on a monthly basis. However, it does not recommend a specific timeliness.

6.10 The GDDS recommends that interest rates on short-term and long-term government securities be disseminated. A three- or six-month treasury bill rate and a 10-year government bond yield are common examples of representative rates. A country may not have a short- or long-term government security rate, for use as a representative rate; for example, under continuing fiscal surpluses, there may be no issuance of government securities, or under conditions of high inflation, there may be no issuance of long-term government securities. These facts need to be noted in the metadata for the DSBB.

6.11 The GDDS also recommends the dissemination of a policy-oriented interest rate such as a central bank lending or discount rate. This interest rate should be described in the metadata for posting on the DSBB (e.g., the policy-oriented interest rate is the rate at which the central bank lends to other depository corporations).

6.12 The GDDS encourages the dissemination of money market or interbank rates and a range of deposit and lending rates.

Stock Market–Share Price Index

6.13 The GDDS encourages participating countries to disseminate stock market data in the form of a share price index, if available, on a monthly basis. No specific timeliness, however, is recommended.

6.14 In countries where no substantial stock market exists, this data category will not be relevant.

7 External Sector: Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness

7.1 This chapter discusses the coverage, periodicity, and timeliness of data of the external sector. It covers the balance of payments, external debt and debt service schedule, international reserves, the data template on international reserves and foreign currency liquidity, merchandise trade, international investment position, and exchange rates.

Balance of Payments

7.2 The balance of payments and the international investment position represent the two interrelated comprehensive statistical frameworks for the external sector, with the former covering external transactions over a specific period of time (flows) and the latter presenting external positions at a point in time (stocks). The IMF's latest available *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual* (sixth edition) provides the internationally accepted guidelines for the compilation of these data.

7.3 For the balance of payments, the GDDS recommends the dissemination of annual data within two quarters after the end of the reference year. However, quarterly data are strongly encouraged, within two quarters after the end of the reference quarter.

External Debt and Debt Service Schedule

7.4 The latest available *External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users* provides the internationally accepted guidelines for the compilation of external debt statistics.

7.5 The GDDS recommends that the data cover: (i) the public and publicly guaranteed external debt, broken down by maturity; a breakdown by instrument is encouraged; (ii) public and publicly guaranteed external debt service schedule; the service schedule disaggregated by principal and interest is encouraged; and (iii) private external debt not publicly guaranteed; a private external debt service schedule is encouraged.

7.6 The GDDS recommends the dissemination of public and publicly guaranteed external debt data on a quarterly basis with a lag of 1–2 quarters. A semiannual periodicity with a lag of 1–2 quarters is recommended for a public and publicly guaranteed external debt service schedule. The GDDS recommends the dissemination of private external debt not publicly guaranteed data on an annual basis with a lag of 2–3 quarters.

7.7 Table 8, the external debt template, at the end of this chapter presents a framework for the presentation of the data based on the presentation shown in Table 4.1 of the latest available *Debt Guide.*

Official Reserve Assets

7.8 For countries with fixed exchange rates or less than fully flexible exchange rates, international reserves can serve as a tracking category, providing a more frequent and timely indicator of external sector developments than the comprehensive framework of balance of payments.

7.9 The GDDS recommends the dissemination of data on official reserve assets on a monthly basis within one to four weeks after the end of the reference month. Unlike balance of payments statistics, which are flow data covering transactions over a reference period, official reserves assets are stock data, referring to holdings of such assets at a point in time—for example, on the last day of a calendar month, or on the last day of a week, or on any given day.

7.10 The data are to cover foreign currency reserve assets, gold, reserve position in the IMF, SDRs, and other reserve assets. The definition of official reserve assets is provided in the latest available *Balance of Payments Manual* and is amplified in the IMF's latest

available *International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity, Guidelines for a Data Template* (*Reserves Template Guidelines*). Presenting data in U.S. dollars or other SDR-basket currencies (euros, yen, and sterling) facilitates international comparisons.

7.11 If relevant, countries are encouraged to disseminate reserve-related liabilities to permit calculation of a net international reserves measure. Reserve-related liabilities refer to short-term foreign currency liabilities of the monetary authorities. They are also stock data referring to liabilities outstanding at a given point in time. To be useful for analysis, the stock data should refer to the same point in time as that for official reserve assets.

7.12 The coverage of reserve assets—and reserve-related liabilities, if relevant—is to be described in the metadata, with reference to the latest available *Balance of Payments Manual* and the *Reserves Template Guidelines*, noting differences between a country's practices and the international guidelines.

Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity

7.13 The data template, an encouraged extension of official reserve assets, is to be disseminated on a monthly basis with no more than a three-month lag.

7.14 There are four integral sections of the data template:

(1) Official reserve assets and other foreign currency assets

(2) Predetermined short-term net drains on foreign currency assets

(3) Contingent short-term net drains on foreign currency assets

(4) Memo items

7.15 Dissemination of the data template requires that all of its four sections be released; the disclosure of nonactivity in certain items is as informative as the reporting of certain activities. The four sections of the template together are intended to provide a comprehensive picture of a country's foreign currency liquidity position, facilitating assessments of a country's external vulnerability, especially its risks to foreign currency shocks. Guidelines for reporting the template data are provided in the IMF's latest available *Reserves Template Guidelines.*[1]

7.16 Table 7 at the end of this chapter presents the Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity. Participants are strongly encouraged to submit the data template to the IMF for redissemination on the IMF database at http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/ir/index.htm. That database is maintained by the IMF's Statistics Department; it presents historical data on countries' data templates and allows users to view, print, and download the information.

Merchandise Trade

7.17 Merchandise trade serves as yet another tracking category for the balance of payments, providing a more frequent and timely indicator of developments in the current account of the balance of payments.

7.18 The GDDS recommends that data for merchandise trade on a monthly basis be disseminated within 2–3 months after the end of the reference month.

7.19 The GDDS recommends that both total merchandise imports and total merchandise exports be disseminated within the indicated timeliness. Dissemination of disaggregated components of imports and those of exports by major categories, even with a slightly longer lag if needed, is encouraged.

International Investment Position

7.20 The IIP shows a country's financial claims on, and liabilities to, the rest of the world at a point in time.[2] The GDDS recommends the dissemination of annual IIP data within 2–3 quarters after the end of the reference year. Data presented in the IIP are stock data. The IMF's latest available *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual* provides guidance on the compilation of IIP data.[3]

[1] An electronic version of this publication is available at http://dsbb.imf.org/pages/sdds/sddsguide.aspx.

[2] Note that monetary gold and SDRs, as components of reserve assets, are covered under the IIP.

[3] An electronic version of the IMF's *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual* (sixth edition) can be found on the IMF's website: http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/bop/2007/pdf/bpm6.pdf.

7.21 Key components of the IIP (corresponding to the major components of the financial account of the balance of payments) are shown ahead;[4] assets and liabilities are to be separately shown accordingly:

- Direct investment
- Portfolio investment, disaggregated into equity securities and debt securities
- Other investment
- Reserve assets (included only in assets)

[4]The components are in accordance with *BPM5* categories. Data on financial derivatives assets and liabilities (or on net financial derivatives) are encouraged extensions. *BPM6* basis data should be presented in equivalent detail.

7.22 The GDDS strongly recommends a disaggregation of assets and liabilities by sector (monetary authorities or central bank, general government, other depository corporations, and other sectors).

Exchange Rates

7.23 The GDDS recommends dissemination of exchange rates daily. The GDDS recognizes that exchange rates are widely available from private sources and dissemination by official producers is therefore not time-sensitive. The metadata should indicate the principal nongovernmental primary sources, if any, of exchange rates. Official producers are, nevertheless, encouraged to redisseminate information on exchange rates.

Table 7.1 Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity

(Information to be disclosed by the monetary authorities and other central government, excluding social security)[1,2,3]	
I. Official reserve assets and other foreign currency assets (approximate market value)[4]	
A. Official reserve assets	
(1) Foreign currency reserves (in convertible foreign currencies)	
(a) Securities	
of which: issuer headquartered in reporting country but located abroad	
(b) Total currency and deposits with:	
(i) other national central banks, BIS and IMF	
(ii) banks headquartered in the reporting country	
of which: located abroad	
(iii) banks headquartered outside the reporting country	
of which: located in the reporting country	
(2) IMF reserve position	
(3) SDRs	
(4) Gold (including gold deposits and, if appropriate, gold swapped)[5]	
—volume in fine troy ounces	
(5) Other reserve assets (specify)	
—financial derivatives	
—loans to nonbank nonresidents	
—other	
B. Other foreign currency assets (specify)	
—securities not included in official reserve assets	
—deposits not included in official reserve assets	
—loans not included in official reserve assets	
—financial derivatives not included in official reserve assets	
—gold not included in official reserve assets	
—other	

Table 7.1 Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity (*continued*)

II. Predetermined short-term net drains on foreign currency assets (nominal value)

			Maturity breakdown (residual maturity)		
		Total	Up to 1 month	More than 1 month and up to 3 months	More than 3 months and up to 1 year
1. Foreign currency loans, securities, and deposits[6]					
—outflows (–)	Principal				
	Interest				
—inflows (+)	Principal				
	Interest				
2. Aggregate short and long positions in forwards and futures in foreign currencies vis-à-vis the domestic currency (including the forward leg of currency swaps)[7]					
(a) Short positions (–)					
(b) Long positions (+)					
3. Other (specify)					
—outflows related to repos (–)					
—inflows related to reverse repos (+)					
—trade credit (–)					
—trade credit (+)					
—other accounts payable (–)					
—other accounts receivable (+)					

Table 7.1 Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity (*continued*)

III. Contingent short-term net drains on foreign currency assets (nominal value)

		Maturity breakdown (residual maturity)		
	Total	Up to 1 month	More than 1 month and up to 3 months	More than 3 months and up to 1 year
1. Contingent liabilities in foreign currency				
(a) Collateral guarantees on debt falling due within 1 year				
(b) Other contingent liabilities				
2. Foreign currency securities issued with embedded options (puttable bonds)[8]				
3. Undrawn, unconditional credit lines[9] provided by:				
(a) other national monetary authorities, BIS, IMF, and other international organizations				
—other national monetary authorities (+)				
—BIS (+)				
—IMF (+)				
(b) banks and other financial institutions headquartered in the reporting country (+)				
(c) banks and other financial institutions headquartered outside the reporting country (+)				
Undrawn, unconditional credit lines provided to:				
(a) other national monetary authorities, BIS, IMF, and other international organizations				
—other national monetary authorities (–)				
—BIS (–)				
—IMF (–)				
(b) banks and other financial institutions headquartered in reporting country (–)				
(c) banks and other financial institutions headquartered outside the reporting country (–)				
4. Aggregate short and long positions of options in foreign currencies vis-à-vis the domestic currency[10]				
(a) Short positions				
(i) Bought puts				
(ii) Written calls				
(b) Long positions				
(i) Bought calls				
(ii) Written puts				

Table 7.1 Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity (*continued*)

III. Contingent short-term net drains on foreign currency assets (nominal value) (*continued*)

		Maturity breakdown (residual maturity)		
	Total	Up to 1 month	More than 1 month and up to 3 months	More than 3 months and up to 1 year
PRO MEMORIA: In-the-money options[11]				
(1) At current exchange rates				
(a) Short position				
(b) Long position				
(2) +5% (depreciation of 5%)				
(a) Short position				
(b) Long position				
(3) –5% (appreciation of 5%)				
(a) Short position				
(b) Long position				
(4) +10% (depreciation of 10%)				
(a) Short position				
(b) Long position				
(5) –10% (appreciation of 10%)				
(a) Short position				
(b) Long position				
(6) Other (specify)				
(a) Short position				
(b) Long position				

Table 7.1 Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity (*continued*)	
IV. Memo items	
(1) To be reported with standard periodicity and timeliness:[12]	
(a) short-term domestic currency debt indexed to the exchange rate	
(b) financial instruments denominated in foreign currency and settled by other means (e.g., in domestic currency)[13]	
—nondeliverable forwards	
—short positions	
—long positions	
—other instruments	
(c) pledged assets[14]	
—included in reserve assets	
—included in other foreign currency assets	
(d) securities lent and on repo[15]	
—lent or repoed and included in Section I	
—lent or repoed but not included in Section I	
—borrowed or acquired and included in Section I	
—borrowed or acquired but not included in Section I	
(e) financial derivative assets (net, marked to market)[16]	
—forwards	
—futures	
—swaps	
—options	
—other	
(f) derivatives (forward, futures, or options contracts) that have a residual maturity of greater than one year, which are subject to margin calls	
—aggregate short and long positions in forwards and futures in foreign currencies vis-à-vis the domestic currency (including the forward leg of currency swaps)	
(a) short positions (–)	
(b) long positions (+)	
—aggregate short and long positions of options in foreign currencies vis-à-vis the domestic currency	
(a) short positions	
(i) bought puts	
(ii) written calls	
(b) long positions	
(i) bought calls	
(ii) written puts	
(2) To be disclosed at least once a year:	
(a) currency composition of reserves (by groups of currencies)	
—currencies in SDR basket	
—currencies not in SDR basket	
—by individual currencies (optional)	

Table 7.1 Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity (*concluded*)

Footnotes

[1]In principle, only instruments denominated and settled in foreign currency (or those whose valuation is directly dependent on the exchange rate and that are settled in foreign currency) are to be included in categories I, II, and III of the template. Financial instruments denominated in foreign currency and settled in other ways (e.g., in domestic currency or commodities) are included as memo items under Section IV.

[2]Netting of positions is allowed only if they have the same maturity, are against the same counterparty, and a master netting agreement is in place. Positions on organized exchanges could also be netted.

[3]Monetary authorities defined according to the IMF *Balance of Payments Manual*.

[4]In cases of large positions vis-à-vis institutions headquartered in the reporting country, in instruments other than deposits or securities, they should be reported as separate items.

[5]The valuation basis for gold assets should be disclosed; ideally this would be done by showing the volume and price.

[6]Including interest payments due within the corresponding time horizons. Foreign currency deposits held by nonresidents with central banks should also be included here. Securities referred to are those issued by the monetary authorities and the central government (excluding social security).

[7]In the event that there are forward or futures positions with a residual maturity greater than one year, which could be subject to margin calls, these should be reported separately under Section IV.

[8]Only bonds with a residual maturity greater than one year should be reported under this item, as those with shorter maturities will already be included in Section II.

[9]Reporters should distinguish potential inflows and potential outflows resulting from contingent lines of credit and report them separately in the specified format.

[10]In the event that there are options positions with a residual maturity greater than one year, which could be subject to margin calls, these should be reported separately under Section IV.

[11]These "stress tests" are an encouraged, rather than a prescribed, category of information in the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). Results of the stress tests could be disclosed in the form of a graph. As a rule, notional value should be reported. However, in the case of cash-settled options, the estimated future inflow/outflow should be disclosed. Positions are "in the money" or would be, under the assumed values.

[12]Distinguish between assets and liabilities, where applicable.

[13]Identify types of instruments; the valuation principles should be the same as in Sections I–III. Where applicable, the notional value of nondeliverable forward positions should be shown in the same format as for the nominal value of deliverable forwards/futures in Section II.

[14] Only assets included in Section I that are pledged should be reported here.

[15] Assets that are lent or repoed should be reported here, regardless of whether they have been included in Section I of the template, along with any associated liabilities (in Section II). However, these should be reported in two separate categories, depending on whether they have been included in Section I. Similarly, securities that are borrowed or acquired under repo agreements should be reported as a separate item and treated symmetrically. Market values should be reported and the accounting treatment disclosed.

[16] Identify types of instruments. The main characteristics of internal models used to calculate the market value should be disclosed.

Source: IMF, *International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity, Guidelines for a Data Template*, 2013.

Table 7.2 Gross External Debt Position by Sector***	
Gross External Debt Position	**End Period**
General Government	
Short term	
Money market instruments	
Loans	
Trade credits	
Other debt liabilities*	
Long term	
Bonds and notes	
Loans	
Trade credits	
Other debt liabilities*	
Monetary Authorities	
Short term	
Money market instruments	
Loans	
Currency and deposits**	
Other debt liabilities*	
Long term	
Bonds and notes	
Loans	
Currency and deposits**	
Other debt liabilities*	
Banks	
Short term	
Money market instruments	
Loans	
Currency and deposits**	
Other debt liabilities*	
Long term	
Bonds and notes	
Loans	
Currency and deposits**	
Other debt liabilities*	
Other Sectors	
Short term	
Money market instruments	
Loans	
Currency and deposits**	
Trade credits	
Other debt liabilities*	
Long term	
Bonds and notes	
Loans	

Table 7.2 Gross External Debt Position by Sector* (*concluded*)**

Gross External Debt Position	End Period
Currency and deposits**	
Trade credits	
Other debt liabilities*	
Direct Investment: Intercompany Lending	
Debt liabilities to direct investment enterprises or fellow enterprises abroad	
Debt liabilities to direct investors	
Gross External Debt	

Source: SDDS legal text published at www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2012/090712.pdf.

Note: * Other debt liabilities are other liabilities in the IIP statement.

** It is recommended that all currency and deposits be included in the short-term category unless detailed information is available to make the short-term/long-term attribution.

*** Based on *BPM5* categories; *BPM6* basis data should be presented in equivalent detail.

8 Sociodemographic Data

Population

8.1 The GDDS recommends data on population as an addendum; although population data do not fit into the groupings of data categories by sector, they are useful as a scaling factor—for example, as in GDP per capita. Some countries maintain more than one set of population data; the one to be disseminated should be the series most widely used in the country. The metadata should describe the characteristics of the series, including its scope—such as whether the series represents all persons physically present (de facto population) or all usual residents (de jure population). Concepts, distributions, and characteristics have been elaborated by the United Nations (UN) in *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*,[1] which participants may use as a point of reference in preparing the metadata. The metadata for the DSBB should note differences from international guidelines, if any.

8.2 The data category refers to the total size of the population. The GDDS does not prescribe component detail but encourages the dissemination of key distributions by age and sex, for example. Such distributions provide the link to an array of social statistics.

8.3 The GDDS recommends dissemination of annual data and the conducting of a census every 10 years. For annually updated population data, the GDDS encourages dissemination with a timeliness of 3–6 months. Census data should be disseminated within 9–12 months of completing the census.

Education

8.4 Education statistics are generally produced and disseminated by the agencies that oversee public education services, including those that accredit education facilities and train or license teachers, as well as schools, colleges, and universities that provide education. Responsibility for data collection and reporting may be centralized in one agency or scattered among many.

8.5 In practice, data are obtained primarily from administrative reporting systems of the education ministry and national surveys, but statistical reports may also be compiled and disseminated by another agency, such as the national statistical office. The metadata should record the work of the agencies responsible for the primary production of education statistics and their first public release. The internal process of collecting administrative data is not of concern to the GDDS, except insofar as it affects the coverage, quality, or integrity of the resulting statistics.

8.6 Data are organized in three subcategories: inputs, which measure the physical and financial resources available to the education system; process, which records the flow of students through the system; and outcomes, which measure attainment and learning achievement.

8.7 The education sector comprises all levels of the formal education system: primary, secondary, and tertiary, along with preprimary and vocational training if possible. The use of the International Standard Classification of Education is recommended for international reporting of data. Disaggregation by age, gender, grade or level of education, and type of educational program, along with the disaggregation of data by subnational or regional units, as appropriate, is encouraged. If adult literacy and nonformal training programs are significant, data on these activities should also be reported, along with measures of literacy and numeracy in the population.

8.8 In nearly all countries, the government is the predominant supplier of education, and published statistics may record only the activities of public education programs. But in many countries private, religious, or military schools also play an important role.

[1] See also *Supplementary Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (New York: UN, 1990).

As far as possible, data should be collected from such entities and included in statistical reports.

Health

8.9 Health statistics are generally produced by the agencies that oversee public health services, including those that accredit health facilities and train and license health workers, as well as those that provide primary health care. Responsibility for data collection and reporting may be centralized in one agency or scattered among many. The primary sources of health statistics are administrative systems, including hospital records and national health surveys. Like education statistics, health statistics are organized in three subcategories: inputs, process, and outcomes. Process measures are further divided into preventative and curative. These are analytically useful, but they may not reflect the actual structure of reporting used in a country.

8.10 Inputs include the financial resources used by the public health system, the number and capacity of facilities, and the personnel employed in providing services. A complete system of health accounts would also record private expenditures, but in practice these data are difficult to obtain. However, the number and capacity of private facilities and the number of trained personnel in private practice should be available. Information on personal behaviors that affect health status, such as the use of contraceptives or the consumption of cigarettes and alcohol, may be obtained from surveys or estimated indirectly from aggregate consumption data.

8.11 Process or service delivery measures should record the type of service provided and characteristics of the population served. Among the most important categories of preventative services provided are immunizations, mother and child health outpatient care, and reproductive health services. Other services, such as sewerage, solid waste management, water supply, and sanitary protection of the food supply, may not be considered part of the formal health care system, but all have important effects on public health. Information on the scale and scope of these services, including measures of accessibility, is important for diagnosing sources of illness and identifying unmet needs. Curative services are those whose purpose is to treat specific diseases.

8.12 Reporting systems should track inpatient admission rates and outpatient visits to health providers. It is also useful to monitor the nonhealth aspects of service delivery—for example, waiting time for service, quality of facilities, and client perceptions of the quality of service.

8.13 Outcomes record the incidence of disease and causes of death. Disaggregation by age, gender, location, and the calculation of age-specific mortality rates by cause is encouraged. Data on contagious diseases, which can be used to identify and isolate outbreaks and direct treatment programs, should be compiled with higher frequency and greater timeliness than routine administrative statistics.

Poverty

8.14 Poverty is a complex phenomenon and cannot be measured along a single dimension. "Money-metric" methods, based on the income or consumption of households or individuals, are commonly used to establish a "poverty line" and measure the number of poor and the depth of poverty. However, many statistics discussed in other categories, such as educational attainment, health status, and employment status, are useful for diagnosing poverty, especially when they are collected at a sufficiently disaggregated level.

8.15 Because poverty is fundamentally an affliction of individuals and a reflection of the unequal distribution of wealth, income, education, health, and access to public and private resources, the measurement of poverty requires microlevel data. These data are commonly produced through household surveys.

8.16 Consumption is a better measure of welfare than income. Consumption by individuals, accompanied by information on the characteristics of the household and of individual household members, is the preferred basis for assessing money-metric poverty. Because real income and therefore consumption may vary according to the time of the year and price levels, it is important to adjust for seasonal effects and regional price differences when compiling income and expenditure data.

8.17 A poverty line provides a standard way of classifying the population as poor and nonpoor. It is usually based on an estimate of the minimum level of income or consumption needed to sustain a person at a minimally acceptable level. While a poverty line

may be based in part on objective standards, such as the cost of a minimum calorie budget, poverty lines are generally not comparable across countries because of differences in the cost of living and cultural perceptions of poverty.

8.18 The MDG-recommended poverty line—the proportion of the population living on less than US$1 a day—and the poverty gap ratio are calculated by the World Bank, using purchasing power parity (PPP). They therefore do not need to be covered in this section. However, if countries use US$1 a day, or a similar measure, as their national poverty line, the methodology and related metadata should be noted. However, since 2008 the poverty line employed by the World Bank for measuring extreme poverty and reported as part of the MDGs has been set at $1.25 a day in 2005 prices. Information on availability of income or consumption distribution should be noted, along with periodicity and timeliness.

8.19 Household income and expenditure surveys should collect information on the size and structure of the household, household assets, sources of income, and types of consumption expenditures. They may also record characteristics of individual household members. The more detailed the data collection and the closer it comes to measuring the resources and expenditures of individuals, the more useful it will be for identifying the poor, diagnosing the causes of poverty, and designing programs to eradicate it. However, household surveys are costly to administer, and large, complex data sets are likewise costly to analyze.

8.20 Access measures, which record the availability of important public services and use of these services, may be derived from household surveys or from the administrative records of service providers. They are most useful when recorded on a sufficiently small scale to provide some indication of the distribution and use of services. Mapping and geographic information systems, which record the proximity of people to service facilities, have proven to be a useful means of recording access information.

9 Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board

9.1 The IMF, as a service to its members, has established and maintains an electronic DSBB on the Internet, a system to store and disseminate the metadata provided by participants. The DSBB identifies the members participating in the GDDS and provides easy access to the members' respective metadata.[1] The responsibility for the accuracy of the metadata and of the economic, financial, and sociodemographic statistics underlying the metadata rests with the member countries. Although participants are expected to review and update their metadata on either a "best-effort" or "when-merited" basis, participants are expected to update their plans for improvement on an annual basis.

9.2 It is recommended that GDDS participants establish an NSDP on the Internet, which could be linked to the DSBB electronically through hyperlinks on the latter. It is recommended that a participant's NSDP contain the most recent observations for data categories included in the GDDS that are available as well as the previous observation. Where possible these data categories should be linked through hyperlinks to additional information. Responsibility for the data on an NSDP rests with the participant. Furthermore, it is recommended that participants disseminate on the Internet an ARC, which could be linked to the DSBB electronically through hyperlinks on the latter, showing the release dates of these data for the current month and for the following three months. NSDPs and ARCs are part of the SDDS (and also the SDDS Plus). GDDS participants are encouraged to apply these tools to their data and metadata, taking into account each country's own circumstances. Nevertheless, standardized formats for NSDPs and ARCs are advised for all GDDS participants.[2]

[1] The DSBB also serves the needs of the SDDS and the SDDS Plus.

[2] Further information on NSDPs and ARCs can be found in *The Special Data Dissemination Standard: Guide for Subscribers and Users* at http://dsbb.imf.org/Pages/SDDS/Home.aspx.

10 Reviews and Withdrawal

10.1 Reviews of the GDDS content and implementation procedures will be conducted by the IMF at intervals determined by the Executive Board. The views of both producers and users of data will be sought. At the completion of these reviews, revisions of the GDDS framework may be adopted. Reviews of the Fund's Data Standards' Initiatives are available on the DSBB (www.imf.org/external/np/sta/dsbb/list.htm).

10.2 Members may withdraw their participation at any time. They may do so by sending an appropriate communication to the director of the Statistics Department. The relevant metadata would be removed promptly from the DSBB.

APPENDIX

1 List of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Indicators

Table A1.1 Millennium Development Goals Indicators

Indicator[1]		Included in GDDS	Sector
Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger			
Target 1.A Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than US$1 a day			
1.1	Proportion of population below US$1 (PPP) per day[2]	√*	Poverty
1.2	Poverty gap ratio	√*	Poverty
1.3	Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	√	Poverty
Target 1.B Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people			
1.4	Growth rate of GDP per person employed		Poverty
1.5	Employment-to-population ratio	√	Real
1.6	Proportion of employed people living below US$1 (PPP) per day		Poverty
1.7	Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment		Poverty
Target 1.C Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger			
1.8	Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age	√	Health
1.9	Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption		Health
Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education			
Target 2.A Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling			
2.1	Net enrollment ratio in primary education	√	Education
2.2	Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary	√	Education
2.3	Literacy rate of 15- to 24-year-olds, women and men	√	Education
Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women			
Target 3.A Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015			
3.1	Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary, and tertiary education	√	Education
3.2	Share of women in wage employment in the nonagricultural sector	√	Real
3.3	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament		
Goal 4. Reduce child mortality			
Target 4.A Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate			
4.1	Under-five mortality rate	√	Population
4.2	Infant mortality rate	√	Population
4.3	Proportion of one-year-old children immunized against measles	√	Health

Table A1.1 Millennium Development Goals Indicators (*continued*)

Indicator		Included in GDDS	Sector
Goal 5. Improve maternal health			
Target 5.A Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate			
5.1	Maternal mortality ratio	√	Health
5.2	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	√	Health
Target 5.B Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health			
5.3	Contraceptive prevalence rate		Health
5.4	Adolescent birth rate		Health
5.5	Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)		Health
5.6	Unmet need for family planning		Health
Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases			
Target 6.A Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS			
6.1	HIV prevalence among population aged 15- to 24-years	√	Health
6.2	Condom use at last high-risk sex	√	Health
6.3	Proportion of population aged 15–24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS	√	Health
6.4	Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10–14 years	√	Health
Target 6.B Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it			
6.5	Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs		Health
Target 6.C Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases			
6.6	Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria	√	Health
6.7	Proportion of population under 5 sleeping under insecticide treated bednets		Health
6.8	Proportion of population under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs		Health
6.9	Incidence, prevalence, and death rates associated with tuberculosis	√	Health
6.10	Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course	√	Health
Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability			
Target 7.A Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources			
Target 7.B Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss			
7.1	Proportion of land area covered by forest		
7.2	CO2 emissions, total, per capita and per $1 GDP (PPP)		
7.3	Consumption of ozone-depleting substances		
7.4	Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits		
7.5	Proportion of total water resources used		
7.6	Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected		
7.7	Proportion of species threatened with extinction		

Table A1.1 Millennium Development Goals Indicators (*continued*)

Indicator		Included in GDDS	Sector
Target 7.C Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation			
7.8	Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source	√	Health
7.9	Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility	√	Health
Target 7.D By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers			
7.10	Proportion of urban population living in slums[3]		
Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development			
Indicators for targets 8.A–8.D are given here in a combined list.			
Target 8.A Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, nondiscriminatory trading and financial system *Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction—both nationally and internationally*			
Target 8.B Address the special needs of the least developed countries *Includes tariff and quota-free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced program of debt relief for HIPCs (heavily indebted poor countries), and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance (ODA) for countries committed to poverty reduction*			
Target 8.C Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the 22nd special session of the General Assembly)			
Target 8.D Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term			
Some indicators listed here are monitored separately for least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states (SIDS).			
Official Development Assistance (ODA)			
8.1	Net ODA, total and to LDCs, as percentage of OECD/Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors' gross national income (GNI)		
8.2	Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)		
8.3	Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied		
8.4	ODA received in landlocked countries as proportion of their GNIs		
8.5	ODA received in small island developing states as proportion of their GNIs		
Market access			
8.6	Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and from LDCs, admitted free of duties		
8.7	Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries		
8.8	Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as percentage of their GDP		
8.9	Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity		

Table A1.1 Millennium Development Goals Indicators (*concluded*)

Indicator		Included in GDDS	Sector
	Debt sustainability		
8.10	Total number of countries that have reached their Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)		
8.11	Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives		
8.12	Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services		
Target 8.E In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries			
8.13	Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis		
Target 8.F In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications			
8.14	Fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants		
8.15	Mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants		
8.16	Internet users per 100 inhabitants		

*As explained in footnote (2), for monitoring poverty at the country level, national poverty line, instead of $1 (PPP) a day poverty line, should be used to calculate the poverty headcount ratio and the poverty gap ratio. PPP = purchasing power parity.

[1]Based upon the *Official list of MDG indicators*, effective 15 January 2008, available at http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx.

[2]For monitoring country poverty trends, indicators based on national poverty lines should be used, where available.

[3]The actual proportion of people living in slums is measured by a proxy, represented by the urban population living in households with at least one of the four characteristics: (a) a lack of access to improved water supply; (b) lack of access to improved sanitation; (c) overcrowding (3 or more persons per room); and (d) dwellings made of non-durable material.

APPENDIX

2 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Statistical Commission[1]

1.1 *Bearing in mind* that official statistical information is an essential basis for development in the economic, demographic, social, and environmental fields and for mutual knowledge and trade among the States and peoples of the world,

1.2 *Bearing in mind* that the essential trust of the public in official statistical information depends to a large extent on respect for the fundamental values and principles, which are the basis of any democratic society, which seeks to understand itself and to respect the rights of its members,

1.3 *Bearing in mind* that the quality of official statistics, and thus the quality of the information available to the Government, the economy, and public depends largely on the cooperation of citizens, enterprises, and other respondents in providing appropriate and reliable data needed for necessary statistical compilations and on the cooperation between users and producers of statistics to meet users' needs,

1.4 *Recalling* the efforts of governmental and nongovernmental organizations active in statistics to establish standards and concepts to allow comparisons among countries,

1.5 R*ecalling also* the International Statistical Institute Declaration of Professional Ethics,

1.6 *Having expressed* the opinion that resolution C (47), adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe on April 15, 1992, is of universal significance,

1.7 *Noting that,* at its eighth session held at Bangkok in November 1993, the Working Group of Statistical Experts, assigned by the Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to examine the Fundamental Principles, had agreed in principle to the ECE version and had emphasized that those principles were applicable to all nations,

1.8 *Noting also that,* at its eighth session held in Addis Ababa in March 1994, the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demography considered that the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics are of universal significance,

1.9 *Adopts* the present principles of official statistics:

(i) Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of democratic society, serving the government, the economy, and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social, and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens' entitlement to public information.

(ii) To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional consideration, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage, and presentation of statistical data.

(iii) To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods, and procedures of the statistics.

(iv) The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.

(v) Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical

[1] United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), 1994, *Report of the Special Session of the Statistical Commission*, E/1994/29 (New York, April 11–15, 1994).

agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs, and the burden on respondents.

(vi) Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

(vii) The laws, regulations, and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.

(viii) Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

(ix) The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications, and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

(x) Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

APPENDIX

3 Role of National GDDS Coordinators

1. By participating in the GDDS, the country accepts the use of the GDDS as a framework for improving its statistical system. The national statistical agencies are expected to use the GDDS as their management tool to set a strategy for the improvement of statistics, identify strengths and weaknesses of the current system, develop plans for improvement, set priorities for improvement, and allocate appropriate resources to do so. An effective national GDDS coordinator plays a critical role in promoting the GDDS as a pivotal tool in a national statistical system.

2. This appendix describes the role and responsibilities of the GDDS coordinator and the tasks he/she is expected to accomplish on a regular basis.

Communication with the IMF

3. Main contact person. The coordinator is the main contact person for all issues related to the GDDS. Thus, for any GDDS-related issues, the IMF staff will normally communicate directly with the coordinator, who will then be responsible for coordinating the national response. With regard to specific metadata issues, the IMF staff may communicate with officials in the relevant agencies, but the coordinator will always be informed of these communications.

4. Authority. The coordinator must have sufficient authority to obtain the cooperation of all national agencies involved in the compilation and dissemination of the data categories covered by the GDDS. In some cases, the official coordinator is a relatively senior staff member, and he/she delegates day-to-day operational work to his/her staff. The coordination among statistical agencies may also take place through a GDDS committee that meets regularly (and at least once a year in connection with the annual review of metadata). Such a committee has proven to be an effective forum to enhance collaboration across statistical agencies.

Metadata Confirmation

5. Frequency of confirmation. To ensure the accuracy of metadata, participants are advised to confirm the accuracy of all the metadata posted on the DSBB on either a "best-effort" or "when-merited" basis; however, plans for improvement should be updated at least annually. Thus, at least once a year, the coordinator should forward metadata to the relevant contact persons for each data category and component posted on the DSBB and ask them to confirm the currentness and correctness of the information and to provide any updates if necessary.

6. Metadata update. If the metadata need to be updated, the coordinator will provide the IMF with the proposed revisions as soon as possible (recommended) or attach the proposed revisions to the annual confirmation. The IMF staff will review the proposed revisions and, if there are no issues to be raised, will post them on the DSBB. The date on which the correctness of the metadata was last confirmed by the participant will also be posted on the DSBB.

7. Improvements to metadata. At any time, the IMF staff may take the initiative of contacting the coordinator to suggest or request improvements to the metadata, particularly when the GDDS has been updated. The coordinator should then communicate with the relevant national agencies to provide requested improvements or determine if they agree with the IMF's proposed changes. Once the GDDS coordinator and the IMF staff have agreed on a new text for the metadata, it will be posted on the DSBB.

APPENDIX

4 Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)—Generic Framework (May 2012)

Table A4.1

Quality Dimensions	Elements	Indicators
0. Prerequisites of quality	0.1 Legal and institutional environment—*The environment is supportive of statistics*.	0.1.1 The responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating the statistics is clearly specified.
		0.1.2 Data sharing and coordination among data-producing agencies are adequate.
		0.1.3 Individual reporters' data are 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—*Resources are commensurate with needs of statistical programs*.	0.2.1 Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing are commensurate with statistical programs.
		0.2.2 Measures to ensure efficient use of resources are implemented.
	0.3 Relevance—*Statistics cover relevant information on the subject field*.	0.3.1 The relevance and practical utility of existing statistics in meeting users' needs are monitored.
	0.4 Other quality management—*Quality is a cornerstone of statistical work*.	0.4.1 Processes are in place to focus on quality.
		0.4.2 Processes are in place to monitor quality during the planning and implementation of the statistical program.
1. Assurances of integrity *The principle of objectivity in the collection, processing, and dissemination of statistics is firmly adhered to*.	1.1 Institutional integrity—*Statistical policies and practices are guided by professional principles*.	1.1.1 Statistics are produced on an impartial basis.
		1.1.2 Choices of data sources and statistical techniques as well as decisions about dissemination 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—*Statistical policies and practices are transparent*.	1.2.1 The terms and conditions under which statistics are collected, processed, and disseminated are available to the public.

Table A4.1 (*continued*)

Quality Dimensions	Elements	Indicators
		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—*Policies and practices are guided by ethical standards*.	1.3.1 Guidelines for staff behavior are in place and are well known to the staff.
2. Methodological soundness *The methodological basis for the statistics follows internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices*.	2.1 Concepts and definitions—*Concepts and definitions used are in accord with internationally accepted statistical frameworks*.	2.1.1 The overall structure in terms of concepts and definitions follows internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.
	2.2 Scope—*The scope is in accord with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices*.	2.2.1 The scope is broadly consistent with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.
	2.3 Sectorization and classification—*Sectorization and classification systems are in accord with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices*.	2.3.1 Sectorization and classification systems used are broadly consistent with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.
	2.4 Basis for recording—*Flows and stocks are valued and recorded according to internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices*.	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 internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.
3. Accuracy and reliability *Source data and statistical techniques are sound, and statistical outputs sufficiently portray reality*.	3.1 Source data—*Source data available provide an adequate basis to compile statistics*.	3.1.1 Source data are obtained from comprehensive data collection programs that take into account country-specific conditions.
		3.1.2 Source data reasonably approximate the definitions, scope, sectorization, classifications, valuation, and time of recording required.
		3.1.3 Source data are timely.
	3.2 Assessment of source data—*Source data are regularly assessed*.	3.2.1 Source data—including censuses, sample surveys, and administrative records—are routinely assessed—for example, for coverage, sample error, response error, and nonsampling error; the results of the assessments are monitored and made available to guide statistical processes.

Table A4.1 (*continued*)

Quality Dimensions	Elements	Indicators
	3.3 Statistical techniques—*Statistical techniques employed conform to sound statistical procedures*.	3.3.1 Data compilation employs sound statistical techniques to deal with data sources.
		3.3.2 Other statistical procedures (e.g., data adjustments and transformations, and statistical analysis) employ sound statistical techniques.
	3.4 Assessment and validation of intermediate data and statistical outputs—*Intermediate results and statistical outputs are regularly assessed and validated*.	3.4.1 Intermediate results 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 or problems in statistical outputs are investigated.
	3.5 Revision studies—*Revisions, as a gauge of reliability, are tracked and mined for the information they may provide*.	3.5.1 Studies and analyses of revisions and/or updates are carried out and used internally to inform statistical processes (see also 4.3.3).
4. Serviceability *Statistics, with adequate periodicity and timeliness, are consistent and follow a predictable revisions policy*.	4.1 Periodicity and timeliness—*Periodicity and timeliness follow internationally accepted dissemination standards*.	4.1.1 Periodicity follows dissemination standards.
		4.1.2 Timeliness follows dissemination standards.
	4.2 Consistency—*Statistics are consistent within the dataset, over time, and with major data sets*.	4.2.1 Statistics are consistent within the data set.
		4.2.2 Statistics are consistent or reconcilable over a reasonable period of time.
		4.2.3 Statistics are consistent or reconcilable with those obtained through other data sources and/or statistical frameworks.
	4.3 Revision policy and practice—*Data revisions follow a regular and publicized procedure*.	4.3.1 Revisions and/or updates follow a regular and transparent schedule.
		4.3.2 Preliminary and/or revised/updated data are clearly identified.
		4.3.3 Studies and analyses of revisions are made public (see also 3.5.1).
5. Accessibility *Data and metadata are easily available, and assistance to users is adequate*.	5.1 Data accessibility—*Statistics are presented in a clear and understandable manner, forms of dissemination are adequate, and statistics are made available on an impartial basis*.	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 format are adequate.
		5.1.3 Statistics are released on a preannounced schedule.
		5.1.4 Statistics are made available to all users at the same time.
		5.1.5 Statistics not routinely disseminated are made available upon request.

Table A4.1 (*concluded*)

Quality Dimensions	Elements	Indicators
	5.2 Metadata accessibility—*Up-to-date and pertinent metadata are made available*.	5.2.1 Documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques is available, and differences from internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices are annotated.
		5.2.2 Levels of detail are adapted to the needs of the intended audience.
	5.3 Assistance to users—*Prompt and knowledgeable support service is available*.	5.3.1 Contact points are publicized.
		5.3.2 Publications, documents, and other services, including information on any charges, are widely available.

Source: IMF staff.

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Index

Numbers in references refer to paragraphs in chapters, boxes, tables, or Appendixes.

A

Access to the data
  advance release calendars, 2.9, 9.2
  importance of, 2.8
  internal governments, 2.15
  public, 8–2.12
  simultaneous release to all interested parties, 2.10–2.11
  through a National Summary Data Page, 2.11–2.12
Advance release calendars
  description, 2.9
  linked to the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board, 9.2

B

Balance of payments
  description, 7.2
  internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18, 7.2
  periodicity, 7.3, Table 3.1
  timeliness, 7.3, Table 3.1
Board of Governors
  two-tier standards development, 1.2

C

Central government debt
  breakdown by maturity, 5.23
  classification by residency, 5.24
  data for, 3.41–3.42
  internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18, 5.26
  metadata, 5.22
  periodicity, 5.21, Table 3.1
  timeliness, 5.21, Table 3.1
Central government operations
  classification by residency, 5.16
  metadata, 5.12, 5.20
  periodicity, 5.13, Table 3.1
  recommended components, 5.14, 5.17
  timeliness, 5.13, Table 3.1
  units to be included, 5.12
Changes to the data
  dissemination of information on, 2.17
Comprehensive frameworks
  encouraged extensions, 2.3, Table 3.1
  external sector, 7.2, Table 3.1
  financial sector, 6.2, Table 3.1
  fiscal sector, 5.4, Table 3.1
  real sector, 4.2, Table 3.1
Confidentiality
  of information, 2.14
Consumer price index
  Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice, 4.18
  description, 4.18
  guidelines for, 4.18
  metadata, 4.18
  periodicity, 4.17, Table 3.1
  preparation of several indices, 4.18
  timeliness, 4.17, Table 3.1
Country coordinators
  metadata confirmation, App. 3
  communication with the IMF, App. 3
  designation of, 1.15
  role of, App. 3
  selection criteria, App. 3
Coverage of data
  macroeconomic sectors, 2.3, Table 3.1
  data categories, 2.3, Table 3.1
  encouraged extensions, 2.3, Table 3.1
  sociodemographic data, 2.3, Table 3.1
Cross-checks and reasonableness of data, 2.20
Current International Recommendations on Labor Statistics, 4.12
See also Consumer price index; Producer price index; Wholesale price index

D

Data
  coverage, 2.3, Table 3.1
  dissemination formats, 2.6
  electronic dissemination, 2.6
  e-mail transmission, 2.6
  fax system transmission, 2.6
  internationally accepted statistical methodologies 2.18
  periodicity, 2.5, Table 3.1
  priority on improvements in quality over timeliness, 1.11
  timeliness, 2.6, Table 3.1
Data quality. *See also* Quality dimension of the data.
  dimension of the GDDS, 1.11, 2.18–2.20
  as a primary goal, 1.11
Data Quality Assessment Framework
  accessibility, App. 4
  accuracy and reliability, App. 4
  assurances of integrity, App. 4
  Data Quality Reference Web site, 1.11
  dimensions of, App. 4
  metadata presentation, 1.3, 1.15
  methodological soundness, App. 4
  prerequisites of quality, App. 4
  serviceability, App. 4
Data sources
  documentation of, 2.19

Data Standards Initiatives
Executive Board reviews of the GDDS, 1.3
Data template on international reserves and foreign currency liquidity
guidelines for reporting, 7.10, 7.15
integral sections, 7.14
periodicity, 7.13, Table 3.1
timeliness, 7.13, Table 3.1
Debt-service schedules
guidelines for compilation, 7.4
inclusion of data on, 1.3
periodicity, 7.6, Table 3.1
private debt not publicly guaranteed, 7.5
timeliness, 7.6, Table 3.1
Definitions of terms, 3.2
Depository corporations survey
broad money components, 6.6
definition, 6.2
GDDS coverage, 6.3
metadata, 6.3
periodicity, 6.4, Table 3.1
timeliness, 6.4, Table 3.1
Development plans
focus of, 1.11
metadata on, 1.13, 1.15
short- and medium-term plans, 1.15
Dimensions of the GDDS
data, 2.2–2.7, Table 3.1
data quality, 1.11
definition, 2.1
integrity, 2.13–2.17
public access, 2.8–2.12
quality, 2.18–2.20
Dissemination of data
choice of appropriate and impartial methods of, 1.11
Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board
advance release calendars, 9.2
description, 9.1
GDDS web site, 1.3
National Summary Data Page, 9.2
The General Data Dissemination System document, 1.3
posting of metadata, 1.13, 9.1
DQAF. *See* Data Quality Assessment Framework
DSBB. *See* Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board

E

Earnings. *See* Wages and earnings
Education
disaggregation of the data, 8.7
internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18
International Standard Classification of Education, 8.7
levels of, 8.7
metadata, 8.5
role of private, religious, or military schools, 8.8
statistics sources, 8.4–8.5
subcategories, 8.6, Table 3.1
Electronic dissemination of data, 2.6
Employment
"as relevant" basis for data, 4.9
compilation measures, 4.11
metadata, 4.11– 4.12
ESA 1995. *See European System of Accounts 1995*
European System of Accounts 1995, 3.27, App. II
Exchange rates
metadata, 7.23
Executive Board
Data Quality Assessment Framework format for presentation of GDDS metadata, 1.3
GDDS approval, 1.3
GDDS reviews, 1.3
Special Data Dissemination Standard approval, 1.3
United Nations Millennium Development Goals and, 1.3
External debt
debt-service schedules and, 7.5
guidelines for compilation, 3.116
inclusion of data on, 1.3
internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18, 7.4
periodicity, 7.6, Table 3.1
private debt not publicly guaranteed, 7.5
public and publicly guaranteed, 7.5
timeliness, 7.6
External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users
external debt and debt-service schedule compilation, 7.4
External sector
balance of payments, 7.2–7.3
Data template on international reserves and foreign currency liquidity, 7.13–7.16
exchange rates, 7.23
external debt and debt-service schedules, 7.4–7.7
international investment position, 7.20–7.22
merchandise trade, 7.17–7.19
official reserve assets, 7.8–7.12

F

Fax system transmission of data, 2.6
Financial sector
depository corporations survey, 6.2–6.6
interest rates, 6.9–6.12
narrow money, 6.5
stock market, 6.13–6.14
Fiscal sector
central government debt, 5.21–5.26
central government operations, 5.12–5.20
general government operations, 5.4–5.11
government guaranteed debt, 5.25
public sector operations, 5.4–5.5
Framework for statistical development
commitment to use the GDDS as, 1.15
Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
best practices, 2.14
internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18
objectives and recommendations of the GDDS and, 1.9
text of, App. 2

G

GDDS. *See* General Data Dissemination System
General Data Dissemination System
actions relative to, 1.15
background, 1.1–1.5
challenges for the development of statistical systems, 1.4
coordination among agencies, 1.14
country coordinators, 1.3, 2.2, App. 3
data dissemination, 1.11
data quality, 1.11

Data Quality Assessment Framework and, 1.3
description, 1.3
development plans, 1.11
dimensions of, 2.1
dimensions of statistical systems, 2.1
emphasis on long-run development, 1.7
Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and, 1.9
IMF technical assistance, 1.6
indication of intention to participate, 1.15
metadata, 1.13
nature of, 1.6–1.9
objectives, 1.10–1.11
overview, 2.1–2.22
regional seminars/workshops for discussion of, 1.3
role of, 1.12–1.14
structure of, 1.6–1.9
United Nations Millennium Development Goals and, 1.3
user needs, 1.5, 1.9, 1.14
voluntary participation, 1.15
web site, 1.3
General government operations
analytical framework and classifications for data, 5.4
data for, 5.7–5.10
internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18, 5.3
metadata, 5.5, 5.11
periodicity, 5.6, Table 3.1
timeliness, 5.6, Table 3.1
units included, 5.4–5.5
GFSM 1986. *See A Manual on Government Finance Statistics*
GFSM 2001. *See Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001*
Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001, 5.3, 5.9, 5.17, 5.26
Government guaranteed debt, 5.25

H

Health
inputs, 8.9, 8.10
internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18
outcomes, 8.9, 8.13
process or delivery measures, 8.9, 8.11
reporting systems, 8.12
statistics sources, 8.9
subcategories, 8.9–8.13

I

IIP. *See* International investment position
ILO. *See* International Labor Organization
Integrity of the data
annual reports, 2.14
confidentiality, 2.14
examples of dissemination, 2.14
internal government access, 2.15
ministerial commentary, 2.16
prerelease access to data, 2.15
publication of data, 2.14
revisions and changes to the data, 2.17
terms and conditions under which official statistics are produced, 2.14
transparency of practices and procedures, 2.13
undue influence and, 2.15
use of logos and insignia, 2.14
Interagency coordination, 1.14
Interest payments, 5.15
Interest rates
deposit and lending rates, 6.12
metadata, 6.10–6.11
money market or interbank market rates, 6.12
periodicity, 6.9, Table 3.1
policy variable rate, 6.11
short-term and long-term government securities, 6.10
timeliness, 6.9, Table 3.1
Internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18
International investment position
BPM6 guidance, 7.2
Internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18, 7.20
periodicity, 7.2, Table 3.1
timeliness, 7.2, Table 3.1
International Labor Organization
employment and unemployment, 4.12, 4.15
periodicity and timeliness of labor market data, 4.10, Table 3.1
International reserves
in U.S. dollars or other SDR-basket currencies, 7.10
internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18, 7.10
metadata, 7.12
periodicity, 7.9, Table 3.1
timeliness, 7.9, Table 3.1
International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity: Guidelines for a Data Template, 7.10
See also Data template on international reserves and foreign currency liquidity

J

Japan
GDDS regional seminar/workshop funding, 1.3

L

Labor market
concepts and definitions of employment and unemployment, 4.12, 4.15
employment, 4.11
internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18
metadata, 4.10
periodicity, 4.10
timeliness, 4.10
unemployment, 4.13–4.14
wages and earnings, 4.16

M

Macroeconomic data. *See* External sector; Financial sector; Fiscal sector; Real sector
Managing Director
designation of country coordinators, 1.3
Manual on Government Finance Statistics
central government operations, 5.14
general government operations, 5.17
MDGs. *See* Millennium Development Goals
Merchandise trade
disaggregated components of imports and exports, 7.19
Internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18
periodicity, 7.18, Table 3.1
timeliness, 7.18, Table 3.1
Metadata
central government debt, 5.22

central government operations, 5.12, 5.20
consumer price index, 4.18
coordination among agencies, 1.14
country coordinator role, App. 3
Data Quality Assessment Framework presentation, 1.3, 1.15
Depository corporations survey, 6.3
Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board, 1.13, 1.16, 9.1, 9.2
education, 8.5
employment, 4.11–4.12
exchange rates, 7.23
general government operations, 5.5, 5.11
interest rates, 6.10–6.11
international reserves, 7.12
labor market, 4.10
national accounts, 4.3
population, 8.1
poverty, 8.18
price indices, 4.17
production index/indices, 4.6
producer price index, 4.19
unemployment, 4.13, 4.15
wages/earnings, 4.16
withdrawal from GDDS participation, 10.2
Methodology
advance notice of changes in, 2.17
documentation of, 2.19
MFSM. *See Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual*
Millennium Development Goals
GDDS recognition of, 1.3
list of indicators, App. 1
poverty line measurement, 8.18
Ministerial commentary, 2.16
Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual, 6.2, 6.8

N

Narrow money, 6.5
National accounts
disaggregation of GDP, 4.3
internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18, 4.3
metadata, 4.3
periodicity, 4.2
timeliness, 4.2
quarterly data, 4.5
National Summary Data Page, 1.3, 2.11, 2.12, 9.2
NSDP. *See* National Summary Data Page
Periodicity of data, Table 3.1. *See also* Timeliness of data
balance of payments, 3.61
definition, 2.5

P

Plans for improvement, 9.1, App. 3
Policy variable rates, 6.11
Population census, 8.3
internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18, 8.1
metadata, 8.1
Poverty
access to public services and, 8.2
consumption *versus* income and, 8.16
household income and expenditure surveys, 8.19
internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18
mapping and geographic information systems and, 8.2
metadata, 8.18
micro-level data, 8.15
Millennium Development Goals and, 8.18
"money-metric" methods and, 8.14
poverty line, 8.14, 8.17–8.18
Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, 1.3
PPI. *See* Producer price index
PPP. *See* Purchasing power parity
Price indices
Internationally accepted statistical methodologies, 2.18
See also Consumer price index; Producer price index; Wholesale price index
Producer price index
description, 4.19
guidelines for, 4.19
metadata, 4.19
periodicity, 4.17
timeliness, 4.17
wholesale price index, 4.19
Production index/indices
description, 4.6
metadata, 4.6
periodicity, 4.7
selection criteria, 4.6
timeliness, 4.8
PSRPs. *See* Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
Public access. *See* Access to the data
Public Sector Debt Statistics Guide, 5.26
Public sector operations
data for, 5.5
definition, 5.4
metadata, 5.5, 5.11
periodicity, 5.6
timeliness, 5.6
Purchasing power parities
calculation of poverty indicators and, 8.18

Q

Quality dimension of the data
component detail, 2.20
cross-checks and reasonableness, 2.20
description, 1.11, 2.18–2.20
methodology and data source documentation, 2.19
See also data quality

R

Real sector
labor market, 4.9–4.10
national accounts, 4.2–4.5
price indices, 4.17–4.19
production indices, 4.6–4.8
Reasonableness of data, 2.20
Recorded brief telephone messages, 2.6
Retail price index. *See* Consumer price index.
Revisions of the data
dissemination of information on, 2.17
Role
of country coordinators, App. 3
of the GDDS, 1.12–1.14

S

SDDS. *See* Special Data Dissemination Standard
SDDS Plus. *See* Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus
Share price index, 6.13–6.14

Simultaneous release of data to users
description, 2.10
"simultaneous" definition, 2.10
through a National Summary Data Page, 2.11–2.12
Sociodemographic sector
education, 8.4–8.8
health, 8.9–8.13
Millennium Development Goals, 1.3, 2.3
population, 8.1–8.3
poverty, 8.14–8.20
Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, 1.3
Special Data Dissemination Standard
Executive Board approval of, 1.3
Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus
establishment of third tier, 1.3
Statistical cross-checks and reasonableness, 2.20
Stock market
share price index, 6.13–6.14

T

Timeliness of data, Table 3.1
definition, 2.6
factors in, 2.6
ranges for, 2.7
See also Periodicity of data

U

Unemployment
"as relevant" basis for data, 4.9
compilation measures, 4.13
metadata, 4.13, 4.15
UNSD 1994, 1.3
See also Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
United Nations
Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, 2.14
See also Millennium Development Goals

W

Wages and earnings
"as relevant" basis for data, 4.9
description, 4.16
metadata, 4.16
Withdrawal from GDDS participation, 10.2
Wholesale price index
description, 4.19
World Bank
calculation of poverty indicators, 8.18
WPI. *See* Wholesale price index

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