

# Satellite Accounting



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STATISTICS CANADA

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND COUNTING

May 2018



Statistics  
Canada

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# SNA and satellite accounting



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- **“Type 1”** - One type of satellite accounts involves a rearrangement of the classifications, presentation and possible addition of complimentary information not found in the existing core accounts. (e.g. more detail, alternative aggregations).
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- **“Type 2”** - The second type of satellite accounts seeks to change the underlying concepts, boundaries of the core system and/or testing new methods.



# A few observations

➤ The number of countries and the range of satellite accounts is increasing:

- Household Satellite Account (Finland)
- Tourism Satellite Account (Hungary)
- Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (US)
- NPISH (Armenia)
- Education Satellite Account
- Digital Economy Satellite Account
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# A few observations



- In most cases there is a ‘sponsor’?
- International ‘standards’ are used when they are available but flexibilities are used.
- In general the accounts are annual, are intermittent, and make extensive use of non-traditional data (e.g. time-use information or special surveys).

# A few questions

- Why are we seeing a proliferation in the number of satellite accounts?
  - Is it a sign that there is a problem with the core national accounts?
  - Is it a sign that our data sources and methods are becoming increasingly sophisticated permitting national accountants to extend the core to address emerging socio-economic issues.

# A few questions

- Was there pressure from the sponsor to increase 'the size of the GDP'?
- How much of the work was data development and how much of the work was a change in presentation and terminology?
- Is there a third type of Satellite Account emerging – distributions (eSUT, household distributions etc..)



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# A few questions - In-depth review



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- The UNECE will be leading an in-depth review of satellite accounts in 2018.
  - What do you feel the review should focus on?
  - What type of support are you looking for from the international community?

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