

**SDMX CONTENT-ORIENTED GUIDELINES**

**ANNEX 4:**

**METADATA**

**COMMON**

**VOCABULARY**

**DRAFT - FEBRUARY 2008**

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## SDMX Cross-Domain Concepts and Metadata Common Vocabulary

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(February 2008)

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CONCEPT NAME	
1.	<a href="#">Accuracy</a>
2.	<a href="#">Accuracy – overall</a>
3.	<a href="#">Adjustment</a>
4.	<a href="#">Adjustment - coded</a>
5.	<a href="#">Adjustment - detail</a>
6.	<a href="#">Advance notice of major changes in methodology</a>
7.	<a href="#">Age</a>
8.	<a href="#">Base period</a>
9.	<a href="#">Civil Status</a>
10.	<a href="#">Classification system</a>
11.	<a href="#">Coherence</a>
12.	<a href="#">Coherence - cross domain</a>
13.	<a href="#">Coherence - internal</a>
14.	<a href="#">Comment</a>
15.	<a href="#">Comparability</a>
16.	<a href="#">Comparability - over time</a>
17.	<a href="#">Comparability - geographical</a>
18.	<a href="#">Comparability between domains</a>
19.	<a href="#">Confidentiality</a>
20.	<a href="#">Confidentiality - data treatment</a>
21.	<a href="#">Confidentiality - policy</a>
22.	<a href="#">Confidentiality - status</a>
23.	<a href="#">Contact</a>
24.	<a href="#">Contact email address</a>
25.	<a href="#">Contact fax number</a>
26.	<a href="#">Contact mail address</a>
27.	<a href="#">Contact name</a>
28.	<a href="#">Contact organisation</a>
29.	<a href="#">Contact organisation unit</a>
30.	<a href="#">Contact person job title</a>

31.	<a href="#"><u>Contact phone number</u></a>
32.	<a href="#"><u>Cost and Burden</u></a>
33.	<a href="#"><u>Cost and Burden - efficiency management</u></a>
34.	<a href="#"><u>Cost and Burden - resources</u></a>
35.	<a href="#"><u>Counterpart reference area</u></a>
36.	<a href="#"><u>Coverage</u></a>
37.	<a href="#"><u>Coverage - sector</u></a>
38.	<a href="#"><u>Coverage - time</u></a>
39.	<a href="#"><u>Currency</u></a>
40.	<a href="#"><u>Data collection method</u></a>
41.	<a href="#"><u>Data compilation</u></a>
42.	<a href="#"><u>Data compiling agency</u></a>
43.	<a href="#"><u>Data dissemination agency</u></a>
44.	<a href="#"><u>Data presentation</u></a>
45.	<a href="#"><u>Data presentation - disseminated detail</u></a>
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51.	<a href="#"><u>Data update</u></a>
52.	<a href="#"><u>Data validation</u></a>
53.	<a href="#"><u>Data validation - intermediate</u></a>
54.	<a href="#"><u>Data validation - output</u></a>
55.	<a href="#"><u>Data validation - source</u></a>
56.	<a href="#"><u>Decimals</u></a>
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58.	<a href="#"><u>Dissemination format - micro-data access</u></a>
59.	<a href="#"><u>Dissemination format - news release</u></a>
60.	<a href="#"><u>Dissemination format - on-line database</u></a>
61.	<a href="#"><u>Dissemination format - other</u></a>
62.	<a href="#"><u>Dissemination format - publications</u></a>
63.	<a href="#"><u>Documentation on methodology</u></a>
64.	<a href="#"><u>Education level</u></a>

65.	<a href="#"><u>Embargo time</u></a>
66.	<a href="#"><u>Frequency</u></a>
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74.	<a href="#"><u>Institutional mandate - legal acts and other agreements</u></a>
75.	<a href="#"><u>Institutional mandate - respondent relations</u></a>
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78.	<a href="#"><u>Metadata update - last certified</u></a>
79.	<a href="#"><u>Metadata update - last posted</u></a>
80.	<a href="#"><u>Metadata update - last update</u></a>
81.	<a href="#"><u>Observation pre-break Value</u></a>
82.	<a href="#"><u>Observation status</u></a>
83.	<a href="#"><u>Observation value</u></a>
84.	<a href="#"><u>Occupation</u></a>
85.	<a href="#"><u>Originator data identifier</u></a>
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87.	<a href="#"><u>Professionalism – code of conduct</u></a>
88.	<a href="#"><u>Professionalism - impartiality</u></a>
89.	<a href="#"><u>Professionalism - methodology</u></a>
90.	<a href="#"><u>Professionalism - statistical commentary</u></a>
91.	<a href="#"><u>Punctuality</u></a>
92.	<a href="#"><u>Quality management</u></a>
93.	<a href="#"><u>Quality management - assessment</u></a>
94.	<a href="#"><u>Quality management - documentation</u></a>
95.	<a href="#"><u>Quality management - guidelines</u></a>
96.	<a href="#"><u>Quality management - planning</u></a>
97.	<a href="#"><u>Recording basis</u></a>
98.	<a href="#"><u>Reference area</u></a>

99.	<a href="#">Reference period</a>
100.	<a href="#">Reference period - collection</a>
101.	<a href="#">Reference period - target</a>
102.	<a href="#">Reference period - weights</a>
103.	<a href="#">Release policy</a>
104.	<a href="#">Release policy - legal acts and other agreements</a>
105.	<a href="#">Release policy - policy commentary</a>
106.	<a href="#">Release policy - release calendar</a>
107.	<a href="#">Release policy - release calendar access</a>
108.	<a href="#">Release policy - transparency</a>
109.	<a href="#">Release policy - user access</a>
110.	<a href="#">Relevance</a>
111.	<a href="#">Relevance - completeness</a>
112.	<a href="#">Relevance - user needs</a>
113.	<a href="#">Relevance - user satisfaction</a>
114.	<a href="#">Reporting agency</a>
115.	<a href="#">Sampling</a>
116.	<a href="#">Sex</a>
117.	<a href="#">Statistical concepts and definitions</a>
118.	<a href="#">Statistical unit</a>
119.	<a href="#">Supplementary data</a>
120.	<a href="#">Time format</a>
121.	<a href="#">Time period</a>
122.	<a href="#">Timeliness</a>
123.	<a href="#">Timeliness - output</a>
124.	<a href="#">Timeliness - source data</a>
125.	<a href="#">Title</a>
126.	<a href="#">Type of source data</a>
127.	<a href="#">Unit multiplier</a>
128.	<a href="#">Unit of measure</a>
129.	<a href="#">Unit of measure detail</a>
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## GLOSSARY

### Accessibility

The ease and the conditions with which statistical information can be obtained.

#### **Context**

Accessibility refers to the availability of statistical information to the user (International Monetary Fund, "Data Quality Assessment Framework - DQAF - Glossary").

Accessibility includes the ease with which the existence of information can be ascertained, as well as the suitability of the form or medium through which the information can be accessed. The cost of the information may also be an aspect of accessibility for some users. (Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition)

#### **Source**

Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

#### **Hyperlink**

<http://www.sdmx.org/>

#### **Related terms**

Clarity

Integrity

Quality

Simultaneous release

### Accounting conventions

The practical aspects and conventions used when compiling data from diverse sources under a common methodological framework.

#### **Context**

In the SDDS framework, accounting conventions refers to descriptions of the types of prices used to value flows and stocks, or other units of measurements used for recording the phenomena being observed; the time of recording of the flows and stocks or the time of recording of other phenomena that are measured, including the reference period employed; and the grossing/netting procedures that are used.

Accounting conventions may refer to whether the data are recorded on a cash/accrual or mixed accounting basis, the time of their recording and the reference period (fiscal or calendar year) employed. The description could also include how consistent the practices used are with internationally accepted standards - such as the Balance of Payments 5<sup>th</sup> Manual or SNA93 - or good practices.

#### **Source**

Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

#### **Hyperlink**

<http://www.sdmx.org/>

#### **Related terms**

Recording of transactions

Reference period

Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

Time of recording

Valuation

### Accuracy (SDMX cross-domain concept)

Closeness of computations or estimates to the exact or true values that the statistics were intended to measure.

## 540 **Context**

541 The accuracy of statistical information is the degree to which the information correctly describes  
542 the phenomena. It is usually characterized in terms of error in statistical estimates and is often  
543 decomposed into bias (systematic error) and variance (random error) components. In SDMX,  
544 "Accuracy" can contain either measures of accuracy (numerical results of the methods for  
545 assessing the accuracy or precision of data) or qualitative assessment indicators. It may also be  
546 described in terms of the major sources of error that potentially cause inaccuracy (e.g.,  
547 coverage, sampling, non response, response error).

548 Narrower term: Accuracy – overall.

549 In SDMX, **Accuracy overall** refers to the results of the overall assessment of accuracy,  
550 summarising the various components into one single measure linked to a certain data set or  
551 domain.

## 552 **Source**

553 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
554 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

## 555 **Hyperlink**

556 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

## 557 **Related terms**

558 Error of estimation

559 Precision

560 Quality

561 Reliability

562 Statistical error

563

## 564 **Adjustment (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

565 The set of procedures employed to modify statistical data to enable it to conform to national or  
566 international standards or to address data quality differences when compiling specific data sets.

## 567 **Context**

568 Adjustments may be associated with changes in definitions, exchange rate changes, price  
569 changes, seasonal adjustment and other factors. Adjustments are in particular applied to  
570 compile consistent time series, but the concept is also used for describing adjustments related  
571 to other types of data as well.

572 Narrower terms: Adjustment – coded; Adjustment – detail

573 **Adjustment – coded** refers to the type of adjustment used, represented by a code.

574 **Adjustment – detail** refers to the textual description of the type of adjustment used.

## 575 **Source**

576 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
577 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

## 578 **Hyperlink**

579 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

## 580 **Related terms**

581 Compilation practices

582 Revision policy

583 Seasonal adjustment

584 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

585

## 586 **Administered item**

587 Registry item for which administrative information is recorded in an administration record.

## 588 **Context**

589 In the ISO/IEC 11179 standard:

590 Administered item "classification" is the relationship where an Administered Item is classified  
591 based on a specified Classification Scheme.

592 Administered item "context" is the relationship that provides a Context for an Administered Item.

593 Administered item "identifier" is an identifier for an administered item.

594 "Administrative note" is any general note about the Administered item.  
 595 "Origin" is the source (document, project, discipline or model) for the Administered item.  
 596 (ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 3:  
 597 Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003)

598 **Source**

599 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
 600 September 2004

601 **Hyperlink**

602

603 **Related terms**

604 Administration record

605 Context

606 Creation date

607 Data identifier

608 Date of last change

609 Effective date

610 ISO/IEC 11179

611 Metadata registry

612 Origin

613 Registration

614 Registry item

615 Stewardship

616 Submission

617

618 **Administration record**

619 Collection of administrative information for an administered item.

620 **Context**

621

622 **Source**

623 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
 624 September 2004

625 **Hyperlink**

626

627 **Related terms**

628 Administered item

629 ISO/IEC 11179

630

631 **Administrative data**

632 The set of units and data derived from an administrative source.

633 **Context**

634

635 **Source**

636 OECD, IMF, ILO, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States,  
 637 "Measuring the Non-Observed Economy: A Handbook", Second Draft, Annex 2, Glossary,  
 638 Paris, 2002

639 **Hyperlink**

640 [www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf)

641 **Related terms**

642 Administrative data collection

643 Administrative source

644 Data source

645

## 646 **Administrative data collection**

647 The set of activities involved in the collection, processing, storage and dissemination of  
648 statistical data from one or more administrative sources. The equivalent of a survey but with the  
649 source of data being administrative records rather than direct contact with respondents.

### 650 **Context**

651 In this context, the administrative source is the register of units and data associated with an  
652 administrative regulation (or group of regulations) viewed as a source of statistical data.

### 653 **Source**

654 OECD, IMF, ILO, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States,  
655 "Measuring the Non-Observed Economy: A Handbook", Second Draft, Annex 2, Glossary,  
656 Paris, 2002

### 657 **Hyperlink**

658 [www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf)

### 659 **Related terms**

660 Administrative data

661 Data collection

662 Data source

663

## 664 **Administrative source**

665 The organisational unit responsible for implementing an administrative regulation (or group of  
666 regulations) for which the corresponding register of units and the transactions are viewed as a  
667 source of statistical data.

### 668 **Context**

669

### 670 **Source**

671 OECD, IMF, ILO, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States,  
672 "Measuring the Non-Observed Economy: A Handbook", Second Draft, Annex 2, Glossary,  
673 Paris, 2002

### 674 **Hyperlink**

675 [www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf)

### 676 **Related terms**

677 Administrative data

678 Data source

679

## 680 **Age (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

681 The length of time that a person has lived or a thing has existed.

### 682 **Context**

683 Age can be expressed as a number, e.g. 25 years old, or as a range, e.g. "between 25 and 29  
684 years" or "6 to 11 months".

### 685 **Source**

686 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
687 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 688 **Hyperlink**

689 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 690 **Related terms**

691

## 692 **Agency**

693 See Organisation

694

## 695 **Aggregation**

696 The combination of related categories, usually within a common branch of a hierarchy, to  
697 provide information at a broader level to that at which detailed observations are taken.

### 698 **Context**

699 With standard hierarchical classifications, statistics for related categories can be grouped or  
700 collated (aggregated) to provide a broader picture, or categories can be split (disaggregated)  
701 when finer details are required and made possible by the codes given to primary observations  
702 ("United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms"; prepared by the Expert Group on  
703 International Economic and Social Classifications).

704 Aggregation denotes the compounding of primary data into an aggregate, usually for the  
705 purpose of expressing them in a summary form. For example, national income and price index  
706 numbers are aggregative, as contrasted with the income of an individual or the price of a single  
707 commodity (The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms",  
708 edited by Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003).

### 709 **Source**

710 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International  
711 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

### 712 **Hyperlink**

713 [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary\\_short.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm)

### 714 **Related terms**

715 Compilation practices

716 Data set

717 Disaggregation

718 Grossing/Netting

719 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

720

## 721 **Analytical framework**

722 The conceptual system of definitions and classifications of the related data.

### 723 **Context**

724 In the context of SDDS, "analytical framework" consists of the following components:

725 1. International / Supranational guidelines: identifies the standardized system of definitions and  
726 classifications applied for analytical purposes with regard to the conceptual framework and  
727 organisation of the related transactions data. (e.g., national accounts System of National  
728 Accounts, U.N. 1993; government operations A Manual on Government Finance Statistics, IMF,  
729 2001, balance of payments Balance of Payments Manual, IMF, 1993).

730 2. Specificities of national practice: describes how concepts, definitions, and classifications for  
731 the national data aggregates disseminated deviate from those contained in relevant  
732 international or regional standards and/or guidelines.

### 733 **Source**

734 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
735 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 736 **Hyperlink**

737 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 738 **Related terms**

739 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

740

## 741 **Analytical unit**

742 Real or artificially constructed units, for which statistics are compiled.

### 743 **Context**

744 Analytical units are created by statisticians, often by splitting or combining observation units with  
745 the help of estimations and imputations in order to compile more detailed and more  
746 homogeneous statistics than is possible using data on observation units (United Nations,

747 Introduction to ISIC Rev. 3 (International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic  
748 Activities, Revision 3), para. 63).  
749 Analytical units can correspond therefore for example to enterprises, local units, kind-of-activity  
750 units (KAU), local kind-of-activity units (local KAU) as well as to units of homogeneous  
751 production (UHP) and local units of homogeneous production (local UHP).

752 **Source**

753 Eurostat, CODED database

754 **Hyperlink**

755

756 **Related terms**

757 Classification

758 Observation unit

759 Statistical unit

760

761 **Area sampling**

762 A method of sampling used when no complete frame of reference is available. The total area  
763 under investigation is divided into small sub-areas which are sampled at random or by some  
764 restricted random process. Each of the chosen sub-areas is then fully inspected and  
765 enumerated, and may form a frame for further sampling if desired.

766 **Context**

767 The term may also be used (but is not recommended) as meaning the sampling of a domain to  
768 determine area, e.g. under a crop.

769 **Source**

770 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
771 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

772 **Hyperlink**

773

774 **Related terms**

775 Frame

776 Sampling

777

778 **Attachment level**

779 A property of attributes.

780 **Context**

781 In Gesmes/TS, for each attribute specified in a key family, it is defined whether this attribute  
782 takes:

- 783 - an independent value for each observation in the data set
- 784 - an independent value for each time series in the data set
- 785 - an independent value for each sibling group in the data set
- 786 - a single value for the entire data set.

787 **Source**

788 GESMES/TS User Guide, Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

789 **Hyperlink**

790 <http://www.ecb.int/stats/services/gesmes/html/index.en.html>

791 **Related terms**

792 Attribute

793 GESMES/TS

794

795 **Attribute**

796 A characteristic of an object or entity.

797 **Context**

798 An entity is any concrete or abstract thing of interest, including associations among things. A  
799 composite attribute is an attribute whose datatype is non-atomic. An attribute instance is a  
800 specific instance of an attribute. An attribute value is the value associated with an attribute  
801 instance (ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries  
802 (MDR)-Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003).

803 A data or metadata attribute is a statistical concept providing qualitative information about a  
804 specific statistical object such as a data set, observation, data provider, or dataflow. Concepts  
805 such as units, magnitude, currency of denomination, titles and methodological comments can  
806 be used as attributes in the context of an agreed data exchange.

807 A conditional attribute is permitted to take empty values. A mandatory attribute is an attribute  
808 which must take a value, otherwise the corresponding observation, which it refers to, is not  
809 considered as meaningful enough, e.g. with regard to the "status" of an observation or the units  
810 in which a whole time series is expressed.

811 **Hyperlink**

812

813 **Related terms**

814 Attachment level

815 Basic attribute

816 Class

817 Data exchange

818 Data structure definition

819 Entity

820 ISO/IEC 11179

821 Metadata item

822 Object

823 Statistical concept

824 Value domain

825

826 **Base period (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

827 The period of time used as the base of an index number, or to which a constant price series  
828 refers.

829 **Context**

830 Base period normally refers to the period when the published index is 100, or to which weights  
831 or base prices refer to. It can be one single year (e.g. 1995=100) but it may be as short as one  
832 day or as long as the average of a number of years. "Base period" may include an indication of  
833 the value of the series in the base period (usually 1 or 100).

834 **Source**

835 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
836 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

837 **Hyperlink**

838 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

839 **Related terms**

840 Base weight

841 Compilation practices

842 Reference period

843 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

844 Weight period

845

846 **Base weight**

847 The weights of a weighting system for an index number computed according to the information  
848 relating to the base period instead, for example, of the current period.

849 **Context**

850

851	<b><u>Source</u></b>
852	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
853	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
854	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
855	<a href="http://www.sdmx.org/">http://www.sdmx.org/</a>
856	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
857	Base period
858	Weight
859	
860	<b>Base year</b>
861	See "Base period"
862	
863	<b>Basic attribute</b>
864	An attribute of a metadata item commonly needed in its specification.
865	<b><u>Context</u></b>
866	Categories of basic attributes:
867	- Identifying are attributes that are applicable for the identification of a data element.
868	- Definitional are attributes that describe the semantic aspects of a data element. These
869	attributes may be derived by inheritance from characteristics of data element concepts, objects
870	or entities.
871	- Relational are attributes that describe associations among data elements and/or associations
872	between data elements and classification schemes, data element concepts, objects, entities.
873	- Representational are attributes that describe representational aspects of a data element.
874	- Administrative are attributes that describe management and control aspects of a data element.
875	A basic attribute that is applicable to all types of metadata item is a common attribute. (ISO/IEC
876	International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology-Metadata registries (MDR)-Part 3:
877	Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003)
878	<b><u>Source</u></b>
879	ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
880	September 2004
881	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
882	
883	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
884	Attribute
885	ISO/IEC 11179
886	
887	<b>Benchmark</b>
888	A recognised standard that forms the basis for comparison.
889	<b><u>Context</u></b>
890	In the quality improvement lexicon, a benchmark is a best in class achievement. This
891	achievement then becomes the reference point or recognized standard of excellence against
892	which similar processes are measured.
893	<b><u>Source</u></b>
894	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
895	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
896	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
897	<a href="http://www.sdmx.org/">http://www.sdmx.org/</a>
898	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
899	Quality
900	

## 901 **Benchmarking**

902 The process of comparing data or other statistical information against a recognised standard.

### 903 **Context**

904 Benchmarking refers to the case where there are two sources of data for the same target  
905 variable, with different frequencies, and is concerned with correcting inconsistencies between  
906 the different estimates, e.g. quarterly and annual estimates of value-added from different  
907 sources.

908 Benchmarking is generally done retrospectively as annual benchmark data are available some  
909 time after quarterly data. Benchmarking does have a forward-looking element however, in that  
910 the relationship between benchmark and indicator data (benchmark: indicator ratio) is  
911 extrapolated forward to improve quarterly estimates for the most recent periods for which  
912 benchmark data are not yet available. (Maitland-Smith, F, "Use of Benchmark Data to Align or  
913 Derive Quarterly/Monthly Estimates", paper presented at the June 2002 meeting of the OECD  
914 Short-term Economic Statistics Expert Group, Paris)

### 915 **Source**

916 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
917 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 918 **Hyperlink**

919 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 920 **Related terms**

921 Interpolation

922 Quality

923

## 924 **Bias**

925 An effect which deprives a statistical result of representativeness by systematically distorting it,  
926 as distinct from a random error which may distort on any one occasion but balances out on the  
927 average.

### 928 **Context**

929 The bias of an estimator is the difference between its mathematical expectation and the true  
930 value it estimates. In the case it is zero, the estimator is said to be unbiased.

### 931 **Source**

932 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
933 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

### 934 **Hyperlink**

935

### 936 **Related terms**

937 Quality

938

## 939 **Bilateral exchange**

940 Exchange of data and/or metadata between a sending organisation and a receiving  
941 organisation where all aspects of the exchange process are agreed between counterparties,  
942 including the mechanism for exchange of data and metadata, the formats, the frequency or  
943 schedule, and the mode used for communications regarding the exchange.

### 944 **Context**

945 Apart from bilateral exchange, the SDMX initiative identifies two other basic forms of exchange  
946 of statistics and metadata between organisations, i.e. multilateral exchange and data-sharing  
947 exchange.

### 948 **Source**

949 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
950 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 951 **Hyperlink**

952 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

953 **Related terms**  
 954 Data exchange  
 955 Data sharing exchange  
 956 Multilateral exchange  
 957

## 958 Break

959 See "Time series break"  
 960

## 961 Category

962 The generic term for items at any level within a classification.

### 963 **Context**

964 Typical classification levels are: tabulation categories, sections, subsections, divisions,  
 965 subdivisions, groups, subgroups, classes and subclasses (UN Glossary Classification Terms):  
 966 Classification categories are usually identified by codes (alphabetical or numerical) which  
 967 provide both a unique identifier for each category and denote their place within the hierarchy.  
 968 They contain elements which are subsets of the classification to which they belong, such as  
 969 activities, products, types of occupations, types of education, etc.

### 970 **Source**

971 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International  
 972 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

### 973 **Hyperlink**

974 [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary\\_short.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm)

### 975 **Related terms**

976 Category Scheme  
 977 Structure  
 978 Classification  
 979 Nomenclature  
 980

## 981 Category Scheme

982 The descriptive information for an arrangement or division of categories into groups based on  
 983 characteristics, which the objects have in common.

### 984 **Context**

985 The category scheme is an artefact for organising categories which themselves link to dataflow  
 986 definition or metadataflow definition

### 987 **Source**

988 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
 989 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 990 **Hyperlink**

991 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 992 **Related terms**

993 Category  
 994 Characteristic  
 995

## 996 Census

997 A survey conducted on the full set of observation objects belonging to a given population or  
 998 universe.

### 999 **Context**

1000 A census is the complete enumeration of a population or groups at a point in time with respect  
 1001 to well defined characteristics: for example, Population, Production, Traffic on particular roads.  
 1002 In some connection the term is associated with the data collected rather than the extent of the  
 1003 collection so that the term sample census has a distinct meaning. The partial enumeration

1004 resulting from a failure to cover the whole population, as distinct from a designed sample  
1005 enquiry, may be referred to as an "incomplete census". (The International Statistical Institute,  
1006 "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press,  
1007 2003).

1008 **Source**

1009 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
1010 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
1011 Geneva, 2000

1012 **Hyperlink**

1013 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

1014 **Related terms**

1015 Data collection  
1016 Statistical population  
1017 Coverage  
1018 Combined survey  
1019

1020 **Chain index**

1021 An index number in which the value of any given period is related to a base in the previous  
1022 period, as distinct from one which is related to a fixed base.

1023 **Context**

1024 The comparison of non-adjacent periods is usually made by multiplying consecutive values of  
1025 the index numbers, which, as it were, form a chain from one period to another.  
1026 In practice chain index numbers are usually formed from weighted average of link-relatives,  
1027 namely the values of magnitudes for a given period divided by the corresponding values in the  
1028 previous period.

1029 **Source**

1030 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
1031 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

1032 **Hyperlink**

1033

1034 **Related terms**

1035 Index number  
1036

1037 **Characteristic**

1038 An abstraction of a property of an object or of a set of objects.

1039 **Context**

1040 Essential characteristic is a characteristic which is indispensable to understanding a concept  
1041 [ISO 1087-1:2000]

1042 **Source**

1043 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
1044 September 2004

1045 **Hyperlink**

1046

1047 **Related terms**

1048 Category Scheme  
1049 Concept  
1050 Concept Scheme  
1051 Data  
1052 ISO/IEC 11179  
1053 Object  
1054 Statistical concept  
1055 Statistical subject-matter domain  
1056 Time series

1057 Variable  
1058

## 1059 **Civil status (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

1060 Legal, conjugal status of each individual in relation to the marriage laws or customs of the  
1061 country.

### 1062 **Context**

1063 Commonly referred to as marital status and represented through the codes of the respective  
1064 code list.

### 1065 **Source**

1066 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1067 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 1068 **Hyperlink**

1069 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 1070 **Related terms**

1071

## 1072 **Clarity**

1073 Aspect of quality that provides the information whether and to which extent metadata is free  
1074 from obscurity and easily comprehensible.

### 1075 **Context**

1076 Clarity refers to the data information environment: whether data are accompanied with  
1077 appropriate metadata, illustrations such as graphs and maps, whether information on their  
1078 quality is also available (including limitation in use) and the extent to which additional assistance  
1079 is provided by National Statistical Institutes.

1080 In the Eurostat Definition of quality, clarity is strictly associated to accessibility to form one single  
1081 quality criteria: "accessibility and clarity".

### 1082 **Source**

1083 Eurostat.

### 1084 **Hyperlink**

1085

### 1086 **Related terms**

1087 Accessibility

1088 Quality

1089

## 1090 **Class**

1091 A description of a set of objects that share the same attributes, operations, methods,  
1092 relationships, and semantics.

### 1093 **Context**

1094 An association is a semantic relationship between two classes. An association class is an  
1095 association that is also a class. It not only connects a set of classes, but also defines a set of  
1096 features that belong to the relationship itself.

1097 [Adapted from ISO/IEC 19501-1:2001, 2.5.2.3. and 2.5.2.4] (ISO/IEC International Standard  
1098 11179-3 "Information technology-Metadata registries (MDR) - Part 3: Registry metamodel and  
1099 basic attributes", February 2003)

### 1100 **Source**

1101 [ISO/IEC 19501-1:2001, 2.5.2.9] in ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata  
1102 registries - Part 1: Framework", September 2004

### 1103 **Hyperlink**

1104 <http://metadata-standards.org/11179/#11179-1>

### 1105 **Related terms**

1106 Attribute

1107 ISO/IEC 11179

1108 Object

1109

## 1110 **Classification**

1111 A set of discrete, exhaustive and mutually exclusive observations, which can be assigned to  
1112 one or more variables to be measured in the collation and/or presentation of data.

### 1113 **Context**

1114 The terms "classification" and "nomenclature" are often used interchangeably, despite the  
1115 definition of a "nomenclature" being narrower than that of a "classification".

1116 The structure of classification can be either hierarchical or flat. Hierarchical classifications range  
1117 from the broadest level (e.g. division) to the detailed level (e.g. class). Flat classifications (e.g.  
1118 sex classification) are not hierarchical.

1119 Version 2.0 of the Neuchâtel terminology model states that the term classification is normally  
1120 used to denote one of the following concepts:

1121 a. The general idea of assigning statistical units to categories representing the values of a  
1122 certain variable.

1123 b. The general concept of a structured list of mutually exclusive categories, each of which  
1124 describes a possible value of the classification variable. Such a structured list may be linear or  
1125 hierarchically structured. A linear classification is a list of categories, which are all at one and  
1126 the same level (e.g. the ISO 3166 country code list, or a classification of marital status). In a  
1127 hierarchical classification the categories are arranged in a tree-structure with two or more levels,  
1128 where each level contains a set of mutually exclusive categories. The items of each level but  
1129 the highest (most aggregated) are aggregated to the nearest higher level. In common usage the  
1130 term classification often implies a hierarchical classification.

1131 c. One particular structured list of mutually exclusive categories, which is named, has a certain  
1132 stability and normative status, and is valid for a given period of time (e.g. ISIC Rev. 1).

1133 d. One particular named set of several structured lists of mutually exclusive categories, which  
1134 are consecutive over time and describe the possible values of the same variable (e.g. ISIC).

1135 The distinction between concepts c. and d. above, although seldom made explicit, is particularly  
1136 crucial in any systematic register of classifications or in the development of a classification  
1137 database. (Neuchâtel Group, "Neuchâtel Terminology: Classification database object types and  
1138 their attributes - Version 2", September 2002).

### 1139 **Source**

1140 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International  
1141 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

### 1142 **Hyperlink**

1143 [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary\\_short.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm)

### 1144 **Related terms**

1145 Analytical unit

1146 Classification changes

1147 Classification scheme

1148 Classification system

1149 Classification unit

1150 Disaggregation

1151 Maintenance Agency

1152 Nomenclature

1153 Observation

1154 Observation unit

1155 SDMX

1156 Standard Classification

1157 Statistical unit

1158 Taxonomy

1159 Category

1160

## 1161 **Classification changes**

1162 A new version of a classification differs in essential ways from the previous version. Essential  
1163 changes are changes that alter the borders between categories, i.e. a statistical unit may belong

1164 to different categories in the new and the older version. Border changes may be caused by  
1165 creating or deleting categories, or moving a part of a category to another category.

1166 **Context**

1167 Changes in classifications and structure comprise changes in sector classification and structure  
1168 of institutional units and changes in classification of assets and liabilities (Eurostat, "European  
1169 System of Accounts - ESA 1995", Office for Official Publications of the European Communities,  
1170 Luxembourg, 1996, par.6.29).

1171 **Source**

1172 Neuchâtel Group, "Neuchâtel Terminology: Classification database object types and their  
1173 attributes - Version 2", September 2002

1174 **Hyperlink**

1175

1176 **Related terms**

1177 Classification

1178 Institutional unit

1179

1180 **Classification scheme**

1181 Information for an arrangement or division of objects into groups based on characteristics,  
1182 which the objects have in common.

1183 **Context**

1184 Attributes of Classification scheme:

1185 "Classification scheme type name" is the name of the type of Classification scheme

1186 "Classification scheme administration record" is the Administration record for a Classification  
1187 scheme.

1188 "Classification scheme item" is an item of content in a classification scheme. This may be a  
1189 node in

1190 a taxonomy or ontology, a term in a thesaurus, etc.

1191 Attributes of Classification scheme item:

1192 Classification scheme item type name is the name of the type of the Classification scheme item

1193 Classification scheme item value an instance of a Classification scheme item.

1194 Classification scheme item relationship is the relationship among items within a Classification  
1195 scheme. Such relations serve to assist navigation through a large number of Classification  
1196 Scheme Items.

1197 Classification scheme item relationship type description is a description of the type of  
1198 relationship between

1199 a Classification scheme item and one or more other Classification scheme items in a  
1200 Classification scheme.

1201 Classification scheme membership is the relationship of a Classification scheme with its items.

1202 (ISO/IEC 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries-Part 3: Registry metamodel and  
1203 basic attributes", February 2003)

1204 **Source**

1205 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
1206 September 2004

1207 **Hyperlink**

1208

1209 **Related terms**

1210 Classification

1211 ISO/IEC 11179

1212

1213 **Classification system (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

1214 Arrangement or division of objects into groups based on characteristics which the objects have  
1215 in common.

1216 **Context**

1217 Classification system refers to a description of the classification being used and how it conforms

1218 to internationally agreed standards, guidelines, or good practices, when relevant. It also refers  
1219 to the description of deviations of classification systems used compared to agreed statistical  
1220 standards, guidelines, or good practices.  
1221 Examples of classification are NACE Rev. 1 (Statistical Classification Of Economic Activities),  
1222 NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for statistics), and ISCO-88 (International Standard  
1223 Classification of Occupations). ISIC is the United Nations International Standard Industrial  
1224 Classification of All Economic Activities.

1225 **Source**

1226 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1227 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1228 **Hyperlink**

1229 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1230 **Related terms**

1231 Classification

1232

1233 **Classification unit**

1234 The basic unit to be classified in the classification (e.g. in an activity classification this would be  
1235 the establishment or enterprise, in an occupational classification it will be the job).

1236 **Context**

1237

1238 **Source**

1239 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International  
1240 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

1241 **Hyperlink**

1242 [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary\\_short.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm)

1243 **Related terms**

1244 Classification

1245

1246 **Co-ordination of samples**

1247 Increasing the sample overlap for some surveys rather than drawing the samples independently  
1248 is known as positive coordination. A positive coordination is often searched in repeated surveys  
1249 over time (panels) in order to obtain a better accuracy of statistics depending on correlated  
1250 variables from two surveys. Reducing the overlap between samples for different surveys is  
1251 known as negative coordination. A negative coordination is used in order to share more equally  
1252 the response burden among responding units when statistics from surveys are not used  
1253 together or are not correlated.

1254 **Context**

1255

1256 **Source**

1257 Lessler, J.T. and Kalsbeek, W.D. (1992), "Non Sampling Error in Survey", New York: John  
1258 Wiley or US department of Commerce (1978), "Glossary of Non Sampling Error Terms: An  
1259 Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistics", Statistical Policy Working Paper 4, Office of  
1260 Federal Statistical Policy Standards, 1978

1261 **Hyperlink**

1262

1263 **Related terms**

1264 Sample

1265

1266 **Code**

1267 A language-independent set of letters, numbers or symbols that represent a concept whose  
1268 meaning is described in a natural language.

1269 **Context**

1270 A code normally consists of one or more alphabetic, numeric or alpha/numeric characters.

1271 **Source**

1272 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1273 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1274 **Hyperlink**

1275 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1276 **Related terms**

1277 Code list

1278 Coding

1279

1280 **Code list**

1281 A predefined list from which some statistical coded concepts take their values.

1282 **Context**

1283 Each code list has the following properties: a) identifier (it provides a unique identification within  
1284 the set of code lists specified by a structural definitions maintenance agency); b) name (also  
1285 unique); c) description (a description of the purpose of the code list); and d) code value length  
1286 (either an exact or a maximum number of characters and a type, i.e. numeric or alphanumeric).

1287 **Source**

1288 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International  
1289 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),  
1290 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

1291 **Hyperlink**

1292 [http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS\\_rel3.pdf](http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf)

1293 **Related terms**

1294 Code

1295 Coding

1296 Dimension

1297 GESMES/TS

1298 Statistical concept

1299 Structural definition

1300

1301 **Coding**

1302 A technical procedure for converting verbal information into numbers or other symbols which  
1303 can be more easily counted and tabulated.

1304 **Context**

1305

1306 **Source**

1307 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October  
1308 2003

1309 **Hyperlink**

1310

1311 **Related terms**

1312 Code

1313 Code list

1314 Coding error

1315

1316 **Coding error**

1317 The assignment of an incorrect code to a survey response.

1318 **Context**

1319

1320	<b><u>Source</u></b>
1321	Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
1322	2003
1323	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
1324	
1325	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
1326	Coding
1327	
1328	<b>Coherence (SDMX cross-domain concept)</b>
1329	Coherence of statistics is their adequacy to be reliably combined in different ways and for
1330	various uses.
1331	<b><u>Context</u></b>
1332	When originating from different sources, and in particular from statistical surveys using different
1333	methodology, statistics are often not completely identical, but show differences in results due to
1334	different approaches, classifications and methodological standards. The concept of coherence is
1335	closely related to the concept of comparability between statistical domains. Comparability
1336	between domains refers to comparisons between statistics based on usually unrelated target
1337	populations, while coherence refers to comparisons between statistics for the same or largely
1338	similar target populations. Narrower terms: Coherence – internal; Coherence - cross domain
1339	“ <b>Coherence – cross domain</b> ” refers to the extent to which statistics are reconcilable with those
1340	obtained through other data sources or statistical domains. Differences in the statistical results
1341	calculated on the basis of different statistical domains, or surveys based on different
1342	methodologies (e.g. between annual and short-term statistics or in comparison with national
1343	accounts) should be described.
1344	“ <b>Coherence – internal</b> ” refers to the extent to which statistics are consistent within a given data
1345	set. Differences in the statistical results calculated for the same statistical domain, based on
1346	stable or changing methodology (e.g. between provisional and final statistics or between
1347	different reference years showing break in series), should be described.
1348	<b><u>Source</u></b>
1349	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
1350	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
1351	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
1352	<a href="http://www.sdmx.org/">http://www.sdmx.org/</a>
1353	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
1354	Comparability
1355	Data confrontation
1356	Quality
1357	Consistency
1358	
1359	<b>Comment (SDMX cross-domain concept)</b>
1360	Supplementary descriptive text.
1361	<b><u>Context</u></b>
1362	A comment contains a descriptive text which can be attached to an agency, provision
1363	agreement, dataflow, data set, group, time series, observation as "time series comment",
1364	"observation comment", "Group comment", etc.
1365	<b><u>Source</u></b>
1366	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
1367	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
1368	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
1369	<a href="http://www.sdmx.org/">http://www.sdmx.org/</a>
1370	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
1371	

## 1372 **Collection**

1373 See "Data collection"

1374

## 1375 **Comparability (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

1376 The extent to which differences between statistics can be attributed to differences between the  
1377 true values of the statistical characteristics.

### 1378 **Context**

1379 Comparability aims at measuring the impact of methodological differences on the comparison of  
1380 statistics between geographical areas, over time or across statistical domains.

1381 The following types of comparability may be distinguished:

1382 (a) Comparability - geographical: it refers to the degree of comparability between similar survey  
1383 results that measure the same phenomenon, conducted by different statistical agencies.

1384 (b) Comparability over time: it refers to the degree of comparability between the results of two or  
1385 several surveys related to the same domain, carried out by the same statistical agency.

1386 (c) Comparability between domains: it refers to the comparability between different survey  
1387 results which target similar characteristics in different statistical domains.

1388 Narrower terms: Comparability - geographical; comparability over time; comparability between  
1389 domains

1390 "**Comparability – between domains**" is the extent to which statistics are comparable between  
1391 different statistical domains. Comparability between domains refers to the comparability  
1392 between different statistics which target similar characteristics in different statistical domains.  
1393 Users frequently compare statistics from different domains which are produced on the basis of  
1394 different methodologies. The difference in methodologies used for the estimation of the statistics  
1395 should be reported. This concerns mainly the definition of statistical characteristics, the  
1396 reference period, the definition of the statistical unit and the statistical measure.

1397 "**Comparability – geographical**" is the extent to which statistics are comparable between  
1398 geographical areas. Geographical comparability refers to the degree of comparability between  
1399 similar survey results measuring the same phenomenon across geographical areas or regions.  
1400 The surveys are in general conducted by different statistical agencies, referring to populations in  
1401 different geographical areas, sometimes based on a harmonised methodology.

1402 "**Comparability – over time**" is the extent to which statistics are comparable or reconcilable  
1403 over time. It refers to the degree of comparability between the results of two or several surveys  
1404 related to the same domain, carried out by the same statistical agency.

### 1405 **Source**

1406 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1407 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 1408 **Hyperlink**

1409 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 1410 **Related terms**

1411 Coherence

1412 Quality

1413 SDMX

1414

## 1415 **Compilation**

1416 See "Data compilation"

1417

## 1418 **Compilation practices**

1419 See "Data compilation"

1420

## 1421 **Compiling Agency**

1422 Agency that compiled the data being reported.

1423 **Context**

1424 The dimension is needed as two agencies might be compiling the exact same data but using  
1425 different sources or concepts (the latter would be partially captured by the dimensions). The  
1426 provider ID is not sufficient, as one provider could disseminate the data compiled by different  
1427 compiling agencies.

1428 **Source**

1429 Status Report on the BIS-IMF-OECD-World Bank Joint External Debt Hub: Prepared by the  
1430 SDMX Pilot Project Team, May 2005

1431 **Hyperlink**

1432

1433 **Related terms**

1434 Concept

1435 Dimension

1436

1437 **Completeness**

1438 See "Relevance"

1439

1440 **Computation of lowest level indices**

1441 Methods used to combine the basic price observations to obtain the first level index (ratio of  
1442 average prices, average of price relatives or geometric mean; long-term relative from base  
1443 period vs. short-term relative; weighted or unweighted arithmetic or geometric average).

1444 **Context**

1445 Under the SDDS, in the context of labour market this would entail, e.g., weighted or unweighted  
1446 ratio of average labour service prices, weighted or unweighted arithmetic or geometric average  
1447 of labour service price relatives, long-term relative from base period versus short-term relative.

1448 **Source**

1449 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1450 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1451 **Hyperlink**

1452 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1453 **Related terms**

1454 Compilation practices

1455 Index number

1456 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

1457

1458 **Computer Assisted Interviewing, CAI**

1459 The use of the computer during interviewing.

1460 **Context**

1461 Any contradictory data can be flagged by edit routines and the resultant data can be  
1462 immediately adjusted by information from the respondent. An added benefit is that data capture  
1463 (key-entry) is occurring at interview time. CAI assists the interview in the wording of questions  
1464 and tailors succeeding questions based on previous responses. CAI has been mainly used in  
1465 "Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviews" (CATI) or "Computer-Assisted Personal  
1466 Interviewing" (CAPI).

1467 **Source**

1468 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on  
1469 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,  
1470 Geneva, 2000

1471 **Hyperlink**

1472

1473 **Related terms**

1474

## 1475 **Concept**

1476 A unit of knowledge created by a unique combination of characteristics [ISO 1087-1:2000, 3.2.1]

### 1477 **Context**

1478 Concepts are abstract summaries, general notions, knowledge, etc., of a whole set of  
1479 behaviours, attitudes or characteristics which are seen as having something in common.  
1480 Concepts are used to assist in presenting/conveying precise meaning, categorising,  
1481 interpreting, structuring and making sense of phenomena (such as classifications) ("United  
1482 Nations Glossary of Classification Terms" prepared by the Expert Group on International  
1483 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper, available at:  
1484 [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary\\_short.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm)).

1485 A semantic link among two or more concepts is a concept relationship.

1486 A description of the type of relationship among two or more concepts is a concept relationship  
1487 type description. (ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology-Metadata  
1488 registries (MDR)-Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003).

### 1489 **Source**

1490 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
1491 September 2004

### 1492 **Hyperlink**

1493 [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary\\_short.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm)

### 1494 **Related terms**

1495 Characteristic  
1496 Compiling Agency  
1497 Data element concept  
1498 Definition  
1499 Dimension  
1500 ISO/IEC 11179  
1501 Key family  
1502 Metadata Structure Definition  
1503 Ontology  
1504 Statistical concept  
1505 Statistical subject-matter domain  
1506 Structural definition  
1507 Terminological system  
1508

## 1509 **Concept Scheme**

1510 The descriptive information for an arrangement or division of concepts into groups based on  
1511 characteristics, which the objects have in common

### 1512 **Context**

1513 Within SDMX, a concept scheme is a maintained list of concepts that are used in key family and  
1514 metadata structure definitions. There can be many such concept schemes. A core  
1515 representation of the concept can be specified (e.g. a code list, or other representation such as  
1516 date).

### 1517 **Source**

1518 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1519 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 1520 **Hyperlink**

1521 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 1522 **Related terms**

1523 Characteristic  
1524 Object  
1525

## 1526 **Conceptual data model**

1527 A data model that represents an abstract view of the real world. A conceptual model represents  
1528 the human understanding of a system.

1529 **Context**

1530

1531 **Source**

1532 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
1533 September 2004

1534 **Hyperlink**

1535

1536 **Related terms**

1537 Data model

1538 ISO/IEC 11179

1539

1540 **Conceptual domain**

1541 A set of valid value meanings.

1542 **Context**

1543 The value meanings in a conceptual domain may either be enumerated or expressed via a  
1544 description. Enumerated conceptual domain is a conceptual domain that is specified by a list of  
1545 all its value meanings.

1546 Non-enumerated conceptual is a conceptual domain that is not specified by a list of all valid  
1547 value meanings.

1548 Non-enumerated conceptual domain description is a description or specification of a rule,  
1549 reference, or range for a set of all Value Meanings for the Conceptual.

1550 Conceptual domain relationship is a relationship among two or more Conceptual domains.

1551 Conceptual domain relationship type description is a description of the type of relationship  
1552 among two or more Conceptual domains.

1553 Conceptual domain representation is a relationship between a Conceptual domain and a Value  
1554 domain. (ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries-  
1555 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003)

1556 **Source**

1557 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
1558 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

1559 **Hyperlink**

1560

1561 **Related terms**

1562 Data model

1563 ISO/IEC 11179

1564 Permissible value

1565 Unit of measure

1566 Value meaning

1567

1568 **Confidential data**

1569 Data which are subject to confidentiality clauses.

1570 **Context**

1571 The data collected by many national statistical agencies are subject to national rules regarding  
1572 confidentiality.

1573 The two main reasons for declaring data to be primary confidential are: a) too few units in a cell;  
1574 b) dominance of one or two units in a cell. The limits of what constitutes "too few" or  
1575 "dominance" vary between statistical domains.

1576 In the European Union, confidential data is defined in Article 13 of Council Regulation No  
1577 322/97, as:

1578 1. Data used by the national authorities and the Community authority for the production of  
1579 Community statistics shall be considered confidential when they allow statistical units to be  
1580 identified, either directly or indirectly, thereby disclosing individual information.

1581 To determine whether a statistical unit is identifiable, account shall be taken of all the means  
1582 that might reasonably be used by a third party to identify the said statistical unit.

1583 2. By derogation from paragraph 1, data taken from sources which are available to the public  
1584 and remain available to the public at the national authorities according to national legislation,  
1585 shall not be considered confidential.

1586 **Source**

1587 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1588 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1589 **Hyperlink**

1590 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1591 **Related terms**

1592 Confidentiality

1593

1594 **Confidentiality (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

1595 A property of data indicating the extent to which their unauthorised disclosure could be  
1596 prejudicial or harmful to the interest of the source or other relevant parties.

1597 **Context**

1598 Confidentiality (or "sensitivity") refer to a property of data with respect to whether, for example,  
1599 they are public or their disclosure is subject to restrictions. For instance, data allowing  
1600 identifying a physical or legal person either directly or indirectly are characterised as  
1601 confidential. Unauthorised disclosure of data that are restricted or confidential is not permitted  
1602 and even legislative measures or other formal provisions may be used to prevent disclosure.  
1603 Often, there are procedures in place to prevent disclosure of restricted or confidential data,  
1604 including rules applying to staff, aggregation rules when disseminating data, provision of unit  
1605 records, etc. Sensitivity (of information) is a synonym to confidentiality.

1606 Narrower terms: Confidentiality - policy; Confidentiality - status; Confidentiality - data  
1607 treatment.

1608 **Confidentiality – data treatment** refers to the rules applied for treating the data set to ensure  
1609 statistical confidentiality and prevent unauthorised disclosure.

1610 The rules applied when treating the data with regard to statistical confidentiality should be  
1611 explained (e.g. aggregation rules when disseminating data, provision of unit records, etc.).

1612 **Confidentiality – policy** refers to the legislative measures or other formal procedures which  
1613 prevent unauthorised disclosure of data that identify a person or economic entity either directly  
1614 or indirectly.

1615 Textual description and references to legislation or other rules related to statistical  
1616 confidentiality.

1617 **Confidentiality – status** refers to the information about the confidentiality status of the object to  
1618 which this attribute is attached.

1619 This concept is related to data and determines the exact status of the value. i.e. if a specific  
1620 value is confidential or not.

1621 **Source**

1622 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1623 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1624 **Hyperlink**

1625 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1626 **Related terms**

1627 Confidential data

1628 SDMX

1629

1630 **Consistency**

1631 Consistency refers to logical and numerical coherence.

1632 **Context**

1633 An estimator is called consistent if it converges in probability to its estimand as sample  
1634 increases (The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms",  
1635 edited by Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003).

1636 Consistency over time, within datasets and across datasets (often referred to as inter-sectoral  
 1637 consistency) are major aspects of consistency. In each, consistency in a looser sense carries  
 1638 the notion of "at least reconcilable." For example, if two series purporting to cover the same  
 1639 phenomena differ, the differences in time of recording, valuation, and coverage should be  
 1640 identified so that the series can be reconciled. Inconsistency over time refers to revisions that  
 1641 lead to breaks in series stemming from, for example, changes in concepts, definitions, and  
 1642 methodology. Inconsistency within datasets may exist, for example, when two sides of an  
 1643 implied balancing statement-assets and liabilities or inflows and outflows-do not balance.  
 1644 Inconsistency across datasets may exist when, for example, exports and imports in the national  
 1645 accounts do not reconcile with exports and imports within the balance or payments.  
 1646 Within the IMF definition of quality, "consistency" is one of the elements of "serviceability".

1647 **Source**

1648 International Monetary Fund, "Data Quality Assessment Framework - DQAF - Glossary",  
 1649 unpublished

1650 **Hyperlink**

1651

1652 **Related terms**

1653 Quality

1654 Serviceability

1655 Coherence

1656

1657 **Consolidation**

1658 The process that takes data from different systems, entities (and possibly formats) and  
 1659 combines that information to create a unified view.

1660 **Context**

1661

1662 **Source**

1663 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
 1664 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1665 **Hyperlink**

1666 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1667 **Related terms**

1668 Consolidation (national accounts)

1669

1670 **Consolidation (national accounts)**

1671 The elimination, both from uses and resources, of transactions which occur between units when  
 1672 the latter are grouped and to the elimination of reciprocal financial assets and liabilities

1673 **Context**

1674 Under the SDDS, in the context of fiscal sector data an indication of the methods used to  
 1675 combine data from separate central government accounts and funds to derive statistics for  
 1676 transactions between the entire central government and any other sector, exclusive of  
 1677 transactions between units within the same coverage of central government, as defined in the  
 1678 Government Finance Statistics Manual.: 1) whether all transactions between units of general  
 1679 government have been eliminated in consolidation is requested; 2) debt issues of one unit of  
 1680 central government that are held by another unit are reported on a consolidated or  
 1681 unconsolidated basis (e.g., central government securities held by the social security fund) are  
 1682 also specified.

1683 **Source**

1684 United Nations, "System of National Account (SNA) 1993"

1685 **Hyperlink**

1686 <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/sna1993/introduction.asp>

1687 **Related terms**

1688

## 1689 **Constraint**

1690 Specification of what may be contained in a data or metadata set in terms of the content or, for  
1691 data only, in terms of the set of key combinations to which specific attributes (defined by the  
1692 data structure) may be attached.

### 1693 **Context**

1694 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1695 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 1696 **Source**

1697

### 1698 **Hyperlink**

1699 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 1700 **Related terms**

1701 Attribute

1702 Data set

1703 Key

1704 Metadata set

1705 Data structure definition

1706

## 1707 **Contact (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

1708 Individual or organisational contact points for the data or metadata, including information on  
1709 how to reach the contact points.

### 1710 **Context**

1711 In SDMX, the contact element can be detailed in a series of sub-elements:

1712 Contact email address: E-mail address of the contact points for the data or metadata.

1713 Contact Fax number: Fax number of the contact points for the data or metadata.

1714 Contact mail address: The postal address of of the contact points for the data or metadata.

1715 Contact name: The name of the contact points for the data or metadata.

1716 Contact organisation: The name of the organisation of the contact points for the data or  
1717 metadata.

1718 Contact organisation unit. An addressable subdivision of an organisation.

1719 Contact person job title: The title of the a person which is related to his/her job.

1720 Contact phone number: The telephone number of the contact points for the data or metadata.

1721 Further breakdown of some of these elements might be needed for the purpose of storing the  
1722 information into a database

### 1723 **Source**

1724 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1725 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 1726 **Hyperlink**

1727 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1728 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 1729 **Related terms**

1730 ISO/IEC 11179

1731 SDMX

1732 Stewardship

1733 Submission

1734

## 1735 **Context**

1736 Circumstance, purpose, and perspective under which an object is defined or used.

### 1737 **Context**

1738 A context description language is the identifier of the language used in the context description  
1739 (ISO/IEC FCD 11179-3, "Registry Metamodel, Final Committee Draft", 2001).

1740 The administration record for a context is a context administration record.

1741 The textual description of the context is a context description.

1742 The identifier of the language used in the context description is a context description language  
1743 identifier (ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries  
1744 (MDR) - Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003).

1745 **Source**

1746 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
1747 March 2004

1748 **Hyperlink**

1749

1750 **Related terms**

1751 Administered item

1752 ISO/IEC 11179

1753

1754 **Cost and burden (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

1755 Costs associated with a statistical product and burden on respondents.

1756 **Context**

1757 The concept of "cost and burden" is an important issue related to data quality. The cost is  
1758 associated with a statistical product, while the burden is often measured as a response burden  
1759 caused to statistical respondents.

1760 Narrower terms: Cost and burden - efficiency; Cost and burden - resources.

1761 **Cost and Burden – Efficiency management** refers to the cost benefit analysis, effectiveness  
1762 of execution of medium term statistical programs, and ensuring efficient use of resources.

1763 **Cost and Burden – Resources** refers to the staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing  
1764 to undertake statistical production. It may include the contribution of respondent time in  
1765 supplying information (burden) as a distinct subject under this heading.

1766 **Source**

1767 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1768 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1769 **Hyperlink**

1770 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1771 **Related terms**

1772

1773 **Counterpart reference idea (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

1774 The secondary area (as opposed to "reference area") to which the measured data is in  
1775 relation.

1776 **Context**

1777 The "counterpart area" is related to statistics on foreign trade, migration or other domains. It  
1778 determines, from the point of view of the reporting country, the corresponding area to which the  
1779 economic or other flows are related to (for instance, in statistics on imports the counterpart  
1780 reference area is the area of origin of the goods).

1781 **Source**

1782 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1783 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1784 **Hyperlink**

1785 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1786 **Related terms**

1787 Reference area

1788

1789 **Country identifier**

1790 An identifier further specifying the geopolitical area associated with the language.

1791 **Context**

1792 1 Metamodel construct is: Attribute of Language Identification.

1793 2 Use of three digit numeric codes from ISO 3166-1, with extensions if required, is  
1794 recommended by ISO.

1795 **Source**

1796 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology-Metadata registries (MDR)-  
1797 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

1798 **Hyperlink**

1799 <http://www.sdmx.org/>  
1800

1801 **Related terms**

1802 Identifier

1803 ISO/IEC 11179  
1804

1805 **Coverage (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

1806 The definition of the population that statistics aim to cover.

1807 **Context**

1808 The term "coverage" encompasses the descriptions of key dimensions delimiting the statistics  
1809 produced, e.g. geographical (which geographical areas are included in the data), institutional,  
1810 product, economic sector, occupation, transaction, etc., as well as relevant exceptions and  
1811 exclusions.

1812 In SDMX, the term Coverage describes the scope the data compiled, rather than the  
1813 characteristics of the survey.

1814 Narrower terms: Coverage - sector; Coverage - time.

1815 **Coverage – sector** (sector coverage) refers to the main economic or other sectors covered by  
1816 the statistics. it delimits the statistical results with regard to the main sectors covered. These  
1817 sectors can be institutional sectors, economic or other sectors (e.g. local government sector, or  
1818 agriculture, forestry and fishing).

1819 **Coverage – time** (time coverage) refers to the length of time for which data are available. The  
1820 time period covered can be indicated as a time interval, e.g. "1985 to 2006" for annual time  
1821 series data, or as several intervals or values of time.

1822 **Source**

1823 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1824 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1825 **Hyperlink**

1826 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1827 **Related terms**

1828 Coverage errors

1829 Coverage ratio

1830 Data

1831 Scope

1832 SDMX

1833 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)  
1834

1835 **Coverage errors**

1836 Errors caused by a failure to cover adequately all components of the population being studied,  
1837 which results in differences between the target population and the sampling frame.

1838 **Context**

1839 Coverage errors include over-coverage, under-coverage and misclassification. Incomplete  
1840 sampling frames often result in coverage errors.

1841 **Source**

1842 Statistical Office of the United Nations, "Handbook of Household Surveys, Revised Edition",  
1843 (para. 8.3), Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 31, United Nations, New York, 1984

1844 **Hyperlink**

1845

1846 **Related terms**

1847 Coverage

1848 Statistical population

1849

1850 **Coverage ratio**

1851 A measure of the extent to which observations designated as primary to a particular category  
1852 are undertaken by units primarily involved with the observations related to that category.

1853 **Context**

1854 In industry statistics, the coverage ratio is the output of goods and services characteristic of a  
1855 particular industry in proportion to the total output of the same goods and services by the  
1856 economy as a whole.

1857 **Source**

1858 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International  
1859 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

1860 **Hyperlink**

1861 [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary\\_short.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm)

1862 **Related terms**

1863 Coverage

1864 Observation

1865

1866 **Creation date**

1867 The date the Administered item was created.

1868 **Context**

1869

1870 **Source**

1871 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
1872 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

1873 **Hyperlink**

1874

1875 **Related terms**

1876 Administered item

1877 Date

1878 Date of last change

1879 ISO/IEC 11179

1880

1881 **Cross-domain Concepts**

1882 List of standard concepts covering structural and reference metadata, which should be used  
1883 wherever possible to enhance possibilities of the exchange of data and metadata between  
1884 organisations.

1885 **Context**

1886 Within SDMX, cross-domain concepts are envisaged to cover various aspects of the statistical  
1887 data, including data quality. When exchanging statistics, institutions can select from a standard  
1888 set of content-oriented concepts. The list of concepts and their definitions reflects good  
1889 practices and can be the basis for mapping between internal systems when data and metadata  
1890 are exchanged or shared between and among institutions.

1891 **Source**

1892 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
1893 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1894 **Hyperlink**

1895 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1896 **Related terms**

1897 Reference metadata

1898 SDMX

1899 Structural metadata

1900

1901 **Currency (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

1902 Monetary denomination of the object being measured.

1903 **Context**

1904 The currency, normally inserted in a data structure definition, is represented through a code.

1905 **Source**

1906 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and

1907 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1908 **Hyperlink**

1909 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1910 **Related terms**

1911

1912 **Cut-off survey**

1913 A survey in which all the entities falling below the cut-off threshold are excluded.

1914 **Context**

1915

1916 **Source**

1917 OECD, IMF, ILO, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

1918 "Measuring the Non-Observed Economy: A Handbook", Second Draft, Annex 2, Glossary,

1919 Paris, 2002

1920 **Hyperlink**

1921 [www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf)

1922 **Related terms**

1923 Cut-off threshold

1924 Survey

1925

1926 **Cut-off threshold**

1927 A threshold used, mainly for cost or burden reasons, to exclude from the target population

1928 (hence from the frame) units contributing very little to the requested statistics, small businesses

1929 for instance.

1930 **Context**

1931

1932 **Source**

1933 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October

1934 2003

1935 **Hyperlink**

1936

1937 **Related terms**

1938 Cut-off survey

1939 Statistical population

1940 Target population

1941

1942 **Data**

1943 Characteristics or information, usually numerical, that are collected through observation.

1944 **Context**

1945 Data is the physical representation of information in a manner suitable for communication,  
1946 interpretation, or processing by human beings or by automatic means (Economic Commission  
1947 for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical Metadata", Conference  
1948 of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53, Geneva, 2000).  
1949 Statistical data refers to data from a survey or administrative source used to produce statistics.  
1950 (OECD, IMF, ILO, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States,  
1951 "Measuring the Non-Observed Economy: A Handbook", Annex 2, Glossary, Paris, 2002,  
1952 available at  
1953 <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf>)

1954 **Source**

1955 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
1956 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

1957 **Hyperlink**

1958 <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf>

1959 **Related terms**

1960 Characteristic  
1961 Coverage  
1962 Data presentation  
1963 Metadata  
1964 Periodicity  
1965 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)  
1966 Timeliness  
1967

1968 **Data analysis**

1969 The process of transforming raw data into usable information, often presented in the form of a  
1970 published analytical article, in order to add value to the statistical output.

1971 **Source**

1972 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003, page 70

1973 **Context**

1974

1975 **Hyperlink**

1976 <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/12-539-XIE/12-539-XIE03001.pdf>.

1977 **Related terms**

1978

1979 **Data attribute**

1980 See "Attribute"

1981

1982 **Data capture**

1983 Process by which collected data are put in a machine-readable form.

1984 **Source**

1985 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on  
1986 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,  
1987 Geneva, 2000

1988 **Context**

1989 Elementary edit checks are often performed in sub-modules of the software that does data  
1990 capture.

1991 **Hyperlink**

1992

1993 **Data checking**

1994 Activity through which the correctness conditions of the data are verified.

1995	<b>Source</b>
1996	Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on
1997	Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,
1998	Geneva, 2000
1999	<b>Context</b>
2000	It also includes the specification of the type of the error or condition not met, and the
2001	qualification of the data and its division into the "error free" and "erroneous data". Data checking
2002	may be aimed at detecting error-free data or at detecting erroneous data.
2003	<b>Hyperlink</b>
2004	
2005	<b>Related terms</b>
2006	Data reconciliation
2007	Validation
2008	
2009	<b>Data collection</b>
2010	The process of gathering data.
2011	<b>Context</b>
2012	Data collection encompasses such concepts as: the type(s) of interview used for data collection
2013	(e.g. personal or by telephone, paper and pencil, facsimile, computer-aided personal or
2014	telephone interview (CAPI/CATI), or mailed questionnaires); the duration of the field work
2015	(specify the dates); the period used for data collection; whether a permanent survey
2016	organisation exists or personnel for each survey round are recruited, etc. Data may be
2017	observed, measured, or collected by means of questioning, as in survey or census response.
2018	<b>Data collection method</b> refers to the main process used in gathering statistical data. Data
2019	collection methods are commonly classified into survey data collection and administrative data
2020	collection. Each of these broad types may be further broken down on the basis of some
2021	characteristic, e.g. the nature of the data provider (enterprise / household) or exhaustiveness
2022	(sample survey, complete enumeration census). The description of data collection methods also
2023	encompasses issues such as the type of interview used for data collection (e.g. personal or by
2024	telephone, paper and pencil, fax, computer-aided personal or telephone interview CAPI/CATI,
2025	or mailed questionnaires), the duration of the field work, the period used for data collection,
2026	whether a permanent survey organisation exists or personnel for each survey round are
2027	recruited, etc.
2028	<b>Source</b>
2029	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2030	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
2031	<b>Hyperlink</b>
2032	<a href="http://www.sdmx.org/">http://www.sdmx.org/</a>
2033	<b>Related terms</b>
2034	Administrative data collection
2035	Census
2036	Compilation practices
2037	Observation
2038	Organisation Role
2039	Period
2040	Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
2041	Survey
2042	Survey data collection
2043	Type of data collection
2044	
2045	<b>Data compilation (SDMX cross-domain concept)</b>
2046	Operations performed on data to derive new information according to a given set of rules.
2047	<b>Context</b>
2048	Data compilation refers to the description of statistical procedures to deal with intermediate data

2049 and final statistical outputs (e.g., data adjustments and transformation, and statistical analysis).  
 2050 The items covered include, inter alia, weighting schemes, methods for imputing missing values  
 2051 or source data, statistical adjustment, and balancing/cross-checking techniques and relevant  
 2052 characteristics of the specific methods applied.

2053 **Source**

2054 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
 2055 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2056 **Hyperlink**

2057 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2058 **Related terms**

2059

2060 **Data compiling agency (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

2061 The administrative unit compiling the data.

2062 **Context**

2063

2064 **Source**

2065 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
 2066 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2067 **Hyperlink**

2068 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2069 **Related terms**

2070

2071 **Data confrontation**

2072 The process of comparing data that has generally been derived from different surveys or other  
 2073 sources, especially those of different frequencies, in order to assess and possibly improve their  
 2074 coherency and the reasons for any differences identified.

2075 **Context**

2076 Data confrontation may also take place between statistics produced in different countries. Such  
 2077 processes may or may not attempt to quantify the impact of any differences identified.

2078 Data may not be coherent for a number of reasons, including the use of different data item  
 2079 definitions, classifications, scope, reference period, etc.

2080 **Source**

2081 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
 2082 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2083 **Hyperlink**

2084 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2085 **Related terms**

2086 Coherence

2087 Data reconciliation

2088 Consistency

2089

2090 **Data consumer**

2091 Organisation which uses data as input for further processing

2092 **Source**

2093 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
 2094 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2095 **Context**

2096 An Organisation can play a number of Organisation roles. In the SDMX information model, three  
 2097 roles are identified at present: Data Provider; Data Consumer; Maintenance Agency.

2098 Data Consumer also embraces the activity of metadata provision.

2099 **Hyperlink**  
2100 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2101 **Related terms**  
2102 Organisation Role  
2103

## 2104 **Data dissemination**

2105 Distribution or transmission of statistical data to users

2106 **Context**  
2107 Data dissemination consists of distributing or transmitting statistical data to users. Various  
2108 release media are possible; for example: electronic format including the internet, CD-ROM,  
2109 paper publications, files available to authorised users or for public use; fax response to a special  
2110 request, public speeches, press releases.  
2111 In SDMX, "Supplementary Data" refers to a description of data not routinely disseminated that  
2112 are made available to users upon request. It may include customized tabulations that can be  
2113 provided (perhaps for a fee) to meet specific requests. Also include information on procedures  
2114 for obtaining these supplementary data.

2115 **Source**  
2116 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

2117 **Hyperlink**  
2118

2119 **Related terms**  
2120 Data Dissemination Standards  
2121 Data presentation  
2122 Dissemination format  
2123 Public disclosure  
2124 SDMX  
2125 Accessibility  
2126 Release calendar  
2127

## 2128 **Data dissemination agency (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

2129 The administrative unit that disseminates the data.

2130 **Context**  
2131

2132 **Source**  
2133 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2134 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2135 **Hyperlink**  
2136 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2137 **Related terms**  
2138

## 2139 **Data dissemination standards**

2140 Standards to guide members of the International Monetary Fund in the dissemination to the  
2141 public of their economic and financial data.

2142 **Context**  
2143

2144 **Source**  
2145 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Guide to the Data Dissemination Standards, Module 1: The  
2146 Special Data Dissemination Standard", Washington, May 1996

2147 **Hyperlink**  
2148 <http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/gdds/gddsguidelangs/>

2149 **Related terms**

2150 Data dissemination  
2151 General Data Dissemination System (GDDS)  
2152 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)  
2153

2154 **Data editing**

2155 Activity aimed at detecting and correcting errors (logical inconsistencies) in data.

2156 **Context**

2157 Editing techniques refers to a range of procedures and processes used for detecting and  
2158 handling errors in data. Examples of different techniques include the different approaches to  
2159 editing such as micro-editing/ macro-editing, input/output editing, or to the various tools  
2160 available for editing such as graphical editing, interactive editing, etc.  
2161 Edit types refer to the actual nature of edits applied to data during input or output processing.  
2162 These include:  
2163 - validation edits - to check the validity of basic identification of classificatory items in unit data;  
2164 - logical edits - ensure that two or more data items do not have contradictory values;  
2165 - consistency edits - check to ensure that precise and correct arithmetic relationships exists  
2166 between two or more data items;  
2167 - range edits - identify whether or not a data item value falls inside a determined acceptable  
2168 range;  
2169 - variance edits - involve looking for suspiciously high variances at the output edit stage.  
2170 Edit types may also refer to whether these edits are fatal or query type, i.e. whether they detect  
2171 errors with certainty or point to suspicious data items.  
2172 Micro-editing and macro-editing may be distinguished in order to calculate rate of edits.

2173 **Source**

2174 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on  
2175 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,  
2176 Geneva, 2000

2177 **Hyperlink**

2178

2179 **Related terms**

2180 Graphical data editing  
2181 Macro editing  
2182 Micro editing  
2183

2184 **Data element**

2185 A unit of data for which the definition, identification, representation, and permissible values are  
2186 specified by means of a set of attributes.

2187 **Context**

2188 Data element administration record is the Administration record for a Data element.  
2189 Data element precision is the degree of specificity for a Data element.  
2190 Data element representation is the relationship between a Data element and its Value domain.  
2191 Data element representation class is the class of representation of a Data element. (ISO/IEC  
2192 International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries-Part 3: Registry  
2193 metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003)

2194 **Source**

2195 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
2196 September 2004

2197 **Hyperlink**

2198

2199 **Related terms**

2200 Data element concept  
2201 Derivation input  
2202 Derivation output

2203 Derivation rule  
2204 ISO/IEC 11179  
2205 Keyword  
2206 Related data reference  
2207 Thesaurus  
2208

## 2209 Data element concept

2210 A concept that can be represented in the form of a data element, described independently of  
2211 any particular representation.

### 2212 Context

2213 Data element concept administration record is the Administration record for a Data element  
2214 concept.

2215 Data element concept object class is the designation of an Object class for a Data element  
2216 concept.

2217 Object class qualifier is a qualifier of the Data element concept object class.

2218 Data element concept property is the designation of a Property for a Data element concept.

2219 Data element concept conceptual domain relationship is the relationship between a Data  
2220 element concept and its Conceptual domain.

2221 Data element concept expression is the relationship between a Data element and a Data  
2222 element concept.

2223 Data element concept relationship is the relationship among two or more Data element  
2224 concepts.

2225 (ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries-Part 3:  
2226 Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003)

### 2227 Source

2228 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
2229 September 2004

### 2230 Hyperlink

2231

### 2232 Related terms

2233 Concept

2234 Data element

2235 ISO/IEC 11179

2236

## 2237 Data element derivation

2238 Relationship among a data element which is derived, the rule controlling its derivation, and the  
2239 data element(s) from which it is derived.

### 2240 Context

2241

### 2242 Source

2243 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
2244 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

### 2245 Hyperlink

2246

### 2247 Related terms

2248 Derivation input

2249 Derivation output

2250 Derivation rule

2251 ISO/IEC 11179

2252

## 2253 Data exchange

2254 The process of sending and receiving data in such a manner that the information content or  
2255 meaning assigned to the data is not altered during the transmission.

2256 **Context**

2257 Data exchange context is the framework in which two or more partners agree to: exchange one  
2258 or more identified sets of data and related attributes (Exchanged time series, ETS) use one or  
2259 more key families to serve this requirement, possibly, on some business and implementation  
2260 agreements. Exchanged time series (ETS) is a collection of data sets (European Central Bank  
2261 (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International Monetary Fund (IMF),  
2262 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "GESMES/TS User Guide",  
2263 Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper, available at  
2264 [http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS\\_rel3.pdf](http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf))

2265 **Source**

2266 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2267 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2268 **Hyperlink**

2269 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2270 **Related terms**

2271 Attribute [Gesmes terminology]  
2272 Bilateral exchange  
2273 Data exchange context  
2274 Data sharing exchange  
2275 Electronic data interchange (EDI)  
2276 GESMES/TS  
2277 Key family  
2278 Multilateral exchange  
2279 Statistical message  
2280

2281 **Data exchange context**

2282 The framework in which two or more partners agree to exchange one or more identified sets of  
2283 data and related attributes (exchanged time series; ETS), and use one or more data structure  
2284 definitions (key families) to serve this requirement, possibly, on some business and  
2285 implementation agreements.

2286 **Context**

2287

2288 **Source**

2289 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2290 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2291 **Hyperlink**

2292 [http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS\\_rel3.pdf](http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf)

2293 **Related terms**

2294 Attribute  
2295 Data exchange  
2296 Key family  
2297

2298 **Data flow definition**

2299 A structure which describes, categorises and constrains the allowable content of a data set that  
2300 providers will supply for different reference periods.

2301 **Context**

2302 In SDMX, data sets are reported or disseminated according to a data flow definition. The data  
2303 flow definition identifies the data structure definition (key family) and may be associated with  
2304 one or more subject matter domains; this facilitates the search for data according to organised  
2305 category schemes. A "data flow", in this context, is an abstract concept of the data sets, i.e. a  
2306 structure without any data.

2307 A Data structure definition (Key Family) defines the dimensions, attributes, measures, and  
2308 associated representation that comprise the valid structure of data and related metadata  
2309 contained in a data set. The Dataflow Definition associates a Key Family with one or more

2310 category. This gives a system the ability to state which data sets are to be reported for a given  
2311 category, and which data sets can be reported using the Key Family definition. The Dataflow  
2312 Definition may also have additional metadata attached, defining qualitative information and  
2313 constraints on the use of the Key Family, in terms of reporting periodicity or specifying the  
2314 subset of codes to be used in a dimension.

2315 **Source**

2316 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2317 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2318 **Hyperlink**

2319

2320 **Related terms**

2321 Attribute

2322 Category

2323 Code

2324 Data flow

2325 Data set

2326 Data structure definition

2327 Definition

2328 Dimension

2329 Measure

2330 Metadata flow definition

2331

2332 **Data identifier**

2333 See "Originator Data identifier"

2334

2335 **Data interchange**

2336 See "Data exchange"

2337

2338 **Data item**

2339 An occurrence of a data element.

2340 **Context**

2341 A data item is a specific sub-component of a data record. For instance, in a population census,  
2342 specific data items might be last name, first name, sex, and age (Economic Commission for  
2343 Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on Statistical Data Editing",  
2344 Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material, Geneva, 2000).

2345 **Source**

2346 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179, Part 1, Framework for the specification and  
2347 standardisation of data elements, 1999

2348 **Hyperlink**

2349

2350 **Related terms**

2351 Data element

2352 ISO/IEC 11179

2353 Variable

2354

2355 **Data model**

2356 A graphical and/or lexical representation of data, specifying their properties, structure and inter-  
2357 relationships.

2358 **Context**

2359 The UN defines a data model as a user's conceptual design of a data set that describes the  
2360 database entities and their relations to one another (United Nations Department of Economic

2361 and Social Affairs, "Handbook on Geographic Information Systems and Digital Mapping",  
2362 Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 79, Annex VI - Glossary, New York, 2000)

2363 **Source**

2364 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
2365 September 2004

2366 **Hyperlink**

2367

2368 **Related terms**

2369 Conceptual data model

2370 Conceptual domain

2371 GESMES/TS data model

2372 ISO/IEC 11179

2373 Metamodel

2374

2375 **Data presentation (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

2376 Description of the disseminated data.

2377 **Context**

2378 Data presentation includes the description of the dataset disseminated with the main variables  
2379 covered, the classifications and breakdowns used, the reference area, a summary information  
2380 on the time period covered and, if applicable, the base period used.

2381 Narrower terms: Data presentation - short description; Data presentation - disseminated detail.

2382 "Data presentation – short description" refers to the main characteristics of the data set  
2383 described in an easily understandable manner, referring to the data and indicators  
2384 disseminated.

2385 This short description should provide an immediate understanding of the data to users (also  
2386 to those which do not have a broader technical knowledge of the data set in question).

2387 "Data presentation – disseminated detail" refers to the disseminated subdomain, measure,  
2388 and time period breakdowns of statistics in the dataset.

2389 Description of data disseminated or available on request by, for example: time period  
2390 covered, geographical coverage, coverage of breakdowns by geographical entities, target  
2391 population and its breakdowns, coverage of variables measured from units in the target  
2392 population. Also the standards (e.g., classification systems) employed in the breakdowns  
2393 provided should be described, so that datasets in different domains can be related through  
2394 an appropriate set of common concepts.

2395 **Source**

2396 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2397 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2398 **Hyperlink**

2399 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2400 **Related terms**

2401 Data

2402 Data set

2403 Data dissemination

2404 SDMX

2405

2406 **Data processing**

2407 The operation performed on data in order to derive new information according to a given set of  
2408 rules.

2409 **Context**

2410 The processing site refers to the organisation, institute, agency, etc, responsible for undertaking  
2411 the collection, tabulation, manipulation and preparation of data and metadata output. The  
2412 processing site may or may not also refer to the physical location(s) at which such activities are  
2413 carried out.

2414 A processing system embodies both manual and automated systems used by agencies to  
2415 despatch questionnaires, collect, compile, manipulate, analyse and disseminate data and  
2416 metadata output. Such systems therefore cover all stages of the statistical processing cycle.

2417 **Source**

2418 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
2419 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
2420 Geneva, 2000

2421 **Hyperlink**

2422 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

2423 **Related terms**

2424 Compilation practices

2425 Processing error

2426

2427 **Data provider**

2428 Organisation which produces data or metadata.

2429 **Context**

2430

2431 **Source**

2432 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2433 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2434 **Hyperlink**

2435

2436 **Related terms**

2437 Data

2438 Data provider series key

2439 Metadata

2440 Data source

2441

2442 **Data provider series key**

2443 Identifier used by the data providers systems

2444 **Context**

2445

2446 **Source**

2447 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2448 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2449 **Hyperlink**

2450 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2451 **Related terms**

2452 Data provider

2453 Identifier

2454 Key (time series or sibling group)

2455 Time series

2456

2457 **Data reconciliation**

2458 Frequently used as a synonym for Data confrontation. In the more active sense, the term  
2459 implies the process of adjusting data derived from two different sources to remove or at least  
2460 reduce the impact of differences identified in the process of data confrontation.

2461 **Context**

2462 Editing and reconciliation may involve fixing errors or adopting alternative sources and methods  
2463 that are aimed at improving the process of reviewing or understanding data.

2464 (International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Quarterly National Accounts Manual", Washington D.C.,  
2465 2001, available at: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/qna/2000/textbook>)

2466 Under the SDDS, this may entail-according to the data category under consideration-the  
2467 reconciliation of stocks and transactions data; reconciliation of reported data with money and  
2468 banking statistics, custodian data; differences with partner data or preshipment inspection data;  
2469 the treatment of differences between GDP compiled for the production approach and GDP  
2470 compiled from the expenditure approach. It is a special kind of editing done after initial  
2471 compilation.

2472 **Source**

2473 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2474 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2475 **Hyperlink**

2476 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2477 **Related terms**

2478 Compilation practices

2479 Data checking

2480 Data confrontation

2481 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

2482

2483 **Data revision (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

2484 Any change in a value of a statistic released to the public by an official statistical agency.

2485 **Context**

2486 Preliminary data are revised when more and better source data become available. In SDMX,  
2487 "Data revision" describes the policy and practice for identifying the revision status of the data, as  
2488 well as the availability of revision studies and analyses.

2489 Narrower terms: Data revision - policy; Data revision - practice; Data revision - studies.

2490 **Data revision – policy** refers to the policy aimed at ensuring the transparency of disseminated  
2491 data, whereby preliminary data are compiled that are later revised when more and better source  
2492 data become available.

2493 The general guidelines for handling data revisions applied by a data providing agency  
2494 should be described.

2495 **Data revision – practice** refers to the information on the data revision practice.

2496 Documentation regarding the source data used and the way they are adjusted, in order to give  
2497 compilers the possibility of incorporating new and more accurate information into estimates,  
2498 thus improving their accuracy without introducing breaks in the time series. It also describes the  
2499 revision status of available data.

2500 Data may also be subject to regular or ad hoc revisions as a result of the introduction of new  
2501 classifications, compilation frameworks and methodologies which result in the compilation of  
2502 historical data that replaces previously released data. Whether or not such changes constitute  
2503 an actual "revision" or the compilation of a "new" series is a matter of judgment on the part of  
2504 the statistical agency.

2505 **Data revision – studies** refers to the information about data revision studies and analyses.

2506 Description of periodic studies related to data revisions. These studies can contain mean  
2507 revision and revision variance in estimates or other quantitative measures of the effects of  
2508 revisions.

2509 **Source**

2510 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2511 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2512 **Hyperlink**

2513 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2514 **Related terms**

2515 Adjustment Methods

2516 Compilation practices

2517 Data source

2518 Data status (upon release)

2519 Time series breaks

2520

## 2521 **Data security**

2522 The measures taken to prevent unauthorized access or use of data.

### 2523 **Context**

2524

### 2525 **Source**

2526 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
2527 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
2528 Geneva, 2000

### 2529 **Hyperlink**

2530 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

### 2531 **Related terms**

2532 Confidentiality

2533

## 2534 **Data set**

2535 Any organised collection of data.

### 2536 **Context**

2537 Within SDMX, a data set can be understood as a collection of similar data, sharing a structure,  
2538 which covers a fixed period of time.

2539 A data set is any permanently stored collection of information usually containing either case  
2540 level data, aggregation of case level data, or statistical manipulations of either the case level or  
2541 aggregated survey data, for multiple survey instances (United States Bureau of the Census,  
2542 Software and Standards Management Branch, Systems Support Division, "Survey Design and  
2543 Statistical Methodology Metadata", Washington D.C., August 1998, Section 3.3.7, page 14).  
2544 The terms database and data set are often used interchangeably.

2545 A logical collection of values or database objects relating to a single subject (United Nations  
2546 Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Handbook on Geographic Information Systems  
2547 and Digital Mapping", Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 79, Annex VI - Glossary, New York,  
2548 2000).

### 2549 **Source**

2550 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on  
2551 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,  
2552 Geneva, 2000

### 2553 **Hyperlink**

2554

### 2555 **Related terms**

2556 Aggregation

2557 Data presentation

2558 GESMES/CB

2559 Key family

2560 Measure

2561 Sibling group

2562 Time series

2563

## 2564 **Data set identifier**

2565 See "Data identifier"

2566

## 2567 **Data sharing exchange**

2568 Exchange of data and/or metadata in a situation involving the use of open, freely available data  
2569 formats and where process patterns are known and standard.

2570 **Context**

2571 Apart from the data-sharing exchange, the SDMX initiative identifies two other basic forms of  
2572 exchange of statistics and metadata between organisations, i.e. bilateral exchange and  
2573 multilateral exchange.

2574 Any organisation or individual can use any counterparty's data and metadata (assuming they  
2575 are permitted access to it). This model requires no bilateral agreement, but only requires that  
2576 data and metadata providers and consumers adhere to the standards.

2577 **Source**

2578 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2579 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2580 **Hyperlink**

2581 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2582 **Related terms**

2583 Bilateral exchange

2584 Data exchange

2585 Multilateral exchange

2586

2587 **Data source**

2588 A specific data set, metadata set, database or metadata repository from where data or  
2589 metadata are available.

2590 **Context**

2591 The source of data is often used as a synonym for the term "data provider" However, in the  
2592 context of SDMX the latter term refers to the organisation or individual from where statistics are  
2593 obtained. The term "data source" refers to the characteristics and components of the raw  
2594 statistical data used for compiling statistical aggregates. Sources can be distinguished,  
2595 according to the modality of data collection, in: a) administrative (for data coming from  
2596 administrative records); b) survey (for data coming from surveys for a specific sector or  
2597 institutional unit).

2598 **Source**

2599 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2600 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2601 **Hyperlink**

2602 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2603 **Related terms**

2604 Administrative data

2605 Administrative data collection

2606 Administrative source

2607 Data provider

2608 Organisation

2609 Primary source of statistical data

2610 Provision Agreement

2611 Revision policy

2612 Secondary source of statistical data

2613 Survey data collection

2614

2615 **Data status upon release**

2616 Whether the data initially disseminated to the public are final data or preliminary and therefore  
2617 subject to revision.

2618 **Context**

2619 Under the SDDS the data identified as meeting the standard may be preliminary and subject to  
2620 revision and designated as such. On the other hand, estimates that are not based on data  
2621 collected for the given reference period would not be considered preliminary and would not be  
2622 in line with the SDDS specifications.

2623 **Source**

2624 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2625 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2626 **Hyperlink**

2627 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2628 **Related terms**

2629 Revision policy

2630 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

2631

2632 **Data structure definition**

2633 Set of structural metadata associated to a data set, which include information about how  
2634 concepts are associated with the measures, dimensions, and attributes of a data cube, along  
2635 with information about the representation of data and related descriptive metadata.

2636 **Context**

2637 In order to exchange statistical information, a central institution has to agree with its partners  
2638 about which statistical concepts are necessary for identifying the series (and for use as  
2639 dimensions) and which statistical concepts are to be used as attributes. These definitions form  
2640 the data structure definition (also called “key family” in Gesmes/TS).

2641 The coded statistical concepts assigned as dimensions in a key structure are called the  
2642 dimensions of the key family. In addition to the dimensions, each data structure definition  
2643 assigns a set of statistical concepts that may qualify the statistical information at data set,  
2644 sibling group, time series or observation level. The statistical concepts used in this way are  
2645 called “attributes”.

2646 Each data structure definition has the following properties: a) identifier (providing a unique  
2647 identification within an exchanged time series); b) name (also unique); and c) description (a  
2648 description of the purpose and domain covered).

2649 **Source**

2650 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2651 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2652 **Hyperlink**

2653 [http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS\\_rel3.pdf](http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf)

2654 **Related terms**

2655 Attribute

2656 Concept

2657 Data exchange

2658 Data exchange context

2659 Data set

2660 Dimension

2661 GESMES/TS

2662 Key (time series or sibling group)

2663 Key family

2664 Maintenance Agency

2665 Measure

2666 Statistical concept

2667 Structural definition

2668 Structural metadata

2669

2670 **Data type**

2671 Datatype is set of distinct values, characterized by properties of those values and by operations  
2672 on those values. [ISO/IEC 11404:1996, 4.11]

2673 **Context**

2674 Datatype annotation is the specifying information to further define the Datatype.

2675 Datatype description descriptive information to further clarify the Datatype.

2676 Datatype name is a designation for the Datatype.

2677 Datatype scheme reference is a reference identifying the source of the Datatype specification.

2678	<b>Source</b>
2679	ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
2680	Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003
2681	<b>Hyperlink</b>
2682	
2683	<b>Related terms</b>
2684	ISO/IEC 11179
2685	
2686	<b>Data update (SDMX cross-domain concept)</b>
2687	The last date on which the data element was inserted or modified in the database.
2688	<b>Context</b>
2689	This date can relate to both the date registered in the production or the dissemination
2690	database of a data compiling agency.
2691	<b>Source</b>
2692	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2693	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
2694	<b>Hyperlink</b>
2695	<a href="http://www.sdmx.org/">http://www.sdmx.org/</a>
2696	<b>Related terms</b>
2697	
2698	<b>Data validation (SDMX cross-domain concept)</b>
2699	Process of monitoring the results of data compilation.
2700	<b>Context</b>
2701	Data validation describes methods and processes for assessing statistical data, including
2702	censuses, sample surveys, and administrative records, and how the results of the assessments
2703	are monitored and made available to guide statistical processes.
2704	All the controls made in terms of quality of the data to be published or already published are
2705	included in the validation process. Validation also takes into account the results of studies and
2706	analysis of revisions and how they are used to inform the statistical processes. In this process,
2707	two dimensions can be distinguished: (i) validation before publication of the figures and (ii)
2708	validation after publication.
2709	Narrower terms: Data validation - intermediate; Data validation - output; Data validation -
2710	source.
2711	<b>Data validation – intermediate</b> refers to the validation that intermediate calculations leading to
2712	statistical outputs have been correctly done. It contains the description of how intermediate
2713	results are checked or compared with other information where applicable, and how statistical
2714	differences in intermediate data are assessed and investigated.
2715	<b>Data validation – output</b> refers to the assessment of discrepancies and other problems in
2716	statistical outputs. It describes how statistical discrepancies in intermediate data are assessed
2717	and investigated and how other potential indicators or problems in statistical outputs are
2718	investigated. The assessment can be done before or after publication of the data. Broader
2719	term: Data validation.
2720	<b>Data validation – source</b> refers to the assessment of discrepancies and other problems related
2721	to source data. It describes the assessment of source data – including censuses, sample
2722	surveys, and administrative records – and how the results of the assessments are monitored
2723	and made available to guide statistical processes.
2724	<b>Source</b>
2725	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2726	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
2727	<b>Hyperlink</b>
2728	<a href="http://www.sdmx.org/">http://www.sdmx.org/</a>
2729	<b>Related terms</b>
2730	

2731	<b>Date</b>
2732	A time reference.
2733	<b><u>Context</u></b>
2734	
2735	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
2736	<a href="http://www.sdmx.org/">http://www.sdmx.org/</a>
2737	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
2738	Creation date
2739	Date of last change
2740	Effective date
2741	
2742	<b>Date of last change</b>
2743	The date the administered item was last changed.
2744	<b><u>Context</u></b>
2745	
2746	<b><u>Source</u></b>
2747	ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
2748	Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003
2749	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
2750	
2751	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
2752	Administered item
2753	Creation date
2754	Date
2755	Effective date
2756	ISO/IEC 11179
2757	
2758	<b>Decimals (SDMX cross-domain concept)</b>
2759	The number of digits of an observation to the right of a decimal point.
2760	<b><u>Context</u></b>
2761	
2762	<b><u>Source</u></b>
2763	ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
2764	Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003
2765	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
2766	<a href="http://www.sdmx.org/">http://www.sdmx.org/</a>
2767	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
2768	
2769	<b>Definition</b>
2770	A statement of the precise meaning of something.
2771	<b><u>Context</u></b>
2772	In classifications, this item refers to the explanation of the concepts encompassed in category
2773	description and often includes specific examples of what is and is not included in particular
2774	categories.
2775	According to ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata
2776	registries-Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003, a definition is a
2777	"representation of a concept by a descriptive statement which serves to differentiate it from
2778	related concepts [ISO 1087-1:2000, 3.3.1]".
2779	Definition (of Administered Item) is the definition of an Administered item within a Context.
2780	Definition source reference is a reference to the source from which the Definition is taken.
2781	Definition text is the text of the Definition.

- 2782 **Source**  
2783 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International  
2784 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper
- 2785 **Hyperlink**  
2786 [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary\\_short.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm)
- 2787 **Related terms**  
2788 Concept  
2789 ISO/IEC 11179  
2790
- 2791 **Derivation input**
- 2792 Relationship specifying the source Data element(s) for a Data element derivation.
- 2793 **Context**  
2794
- 2795 **Source**  
2796 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
2797 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003
- 2798 **Hyperlink**  
2799
- 2800 **Related terms**  
2801 Data element  
2802 Data element derivation  
2803 ISO/IEC 11179  
2804
- 2805 **Derivation output**
- 2806 Relationship denoting the result of a Data element.
- 2807 **Context**  
2808
- 2809 **Source**  
2810 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
2811 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003
- 2812 **Hyperlink**  
2813
- 2814 **Related terms**  
2815 Data element  
2816 Data element derivation  
2817 ISO/IEC 11179  
2818
- 2819 **Derivation rule**
- 2820 Derivation rule is the logical, mathematical, and/or other operations specifying derivation.
- 2821 **Context**  
2822 Derivation rule administration record is the Administration record for a Derivation rule.  
2823 Derivation rule application is the relationship specifying the Derivation rule for a Data element  
2824 derivation.  
2825 Derivation rule specification is the text of a specification of Data element derivation.
- 2826 **Source**  
2827 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
2828 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003
- 2829 **Hyperlink**  
2830
- 2831 **Related terms**  
2832 Data element

2833 Data element derivation  
2834 ISO/IEC 11179  
2835

## 2836 **Derived data element**

2837 A data element derived from other data elements using a mathematical, logical, or other type of  
2838 transformation, e.g. arithmetic formula, composition, and aggregation.

### 2839 **Context**

2840

### 2841 **Source**

2842 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
2843 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
2844 Geneva, 2000

### 2845 **Hyperlink**

2846 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

### 2847 **Related terms**

2848

## 2849 **Derived statistic**

2850 A statistic which is obtained by an arithmetical observation from the primary observations

### 2851 **Context**

2852 In this sense, almost every statistic is "derived". The term is mainly used to denote descriptive  
2853 statistical quantities obtained from data which are primary in the sense of being mere  
2854 summaries of observations, e.g. population figures are primary and so are geographical areas,  
2855 but population-per-square-mile is a derived quantity.

### 2856 **Source**

2857 Marriott, F.H.C for the ISI, "A Dictionary of Statistical Terms", 5th edition, Longman Scientific &  
2858 Technical, New York, 1990

### 2859 **Hyperlink**

2860

### 2861 **Related terms**

2862 Observation

2863

## 2864 **Dimension**

2865 A statistical concept used, in combination with other statistical concepts, to identify a statistical  
2866 series or single observations.

### 2867 **Context**

2868 The equivalence between two units of measure is determined by the existence of an invertible  
2869 transformation of one set of units to the other. This means that two units of measure have the  
2870 same dimensionality if there is a function that maps values in one unit of measure to values in  
2871 the other and the inverse of the function maps values in the second units back to values in the  
2872 first.

2873 In the GESMES/TS context, "dimension" is a coded statistical concept used (most probably  
2874 together with other coded statistical concepts) to identify a time series, e.g. a statistical concept  
2875 indicating a certain economic activity or a geographical reference area. (European Central Bank  
2876 (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International Monetary Fund (IMF),  
2877 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "GESMES/TS User Guide",  
2878 Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper)

### 2879 **Source**

2880 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2881 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 2882 **Hyperlink**

2883 [http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS\\_rel3.pdf](http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf)

2884 **Related terms**

2885 Code list  
2886 Compiling Agency  
2887 Concept  
2888 Cube  
2889 Dimensionality  
2890 GESMES/TS  
2891 Key (time series or sibling group)  
2892 Key family  
2893 Key structure  
2894 Statistical concept  
2895 Time series  
2896 Unit of measure  
2897

2898 **Dimensionality**

2899 An expression of measurement without units.

2900 **Context**

2901 A quantity is a value with an associated unit of measure. 32 Fahrenheit, 0 Celsius, \$100 USD,  
2902 and 10 reams (of paper) are quantities. Equivalence between two units of measure is  
2903 determined by the existence of a quantity preserving one-to-one correspondence between  
2904 values measured in one unit of measure and values measured in the other unit of measure,  
2905 independent of context, and where characterizing operations are the same. Equivalent units of  
2906 measure in this sense have the same dimensionality. The equivalence defined here forms an  
2907 equivalence relation on the set of all units of measure. Each equivalence class corresponds to  
2908 a dimensionality. The units of measure "temperature in degrees Fahrenheit" and "temperature  
2909 in degrees Celsius" have the same dimensionality, because for each value measured in  
2910 degrees Fahrenheit there is a value measured in degrees Celsius with the same quantity, and  
2911 vice-versa. The same operations may be performed on quantities in each unit of measure.  
2912 Quantity preserving one-to-one correspondences are the well-known equations  $C = (5/9)(F - 32)$  and  $F = (9/5)(C) + 32$ .  
2913

2914 **Hyperlink**

2915

2916 **Source**

2917 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
2918 September 2004

2919 **Related terms**

2920 Dimension  
2921 ISO/IEC 11179  
2922 Unit of measure  
2923

2924 **Disaggregation**

2925 The breakdown of observations, usually within a common branch of a hierarchy, to a more  
2926 detailed level to that at which detailed observations are taken.

2927 **Context**

2928 With standard hierarchical classifications, statistics for related categories can be grouped or  
2929 collated (aggregated) to provide a broader picture, or categories can be split (disaggregated)  
2930 when finer details are required and made possible by the codes given to primary observations  
2931 ("United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms"; prepared by the Expert Group on  
2932 International Economic and Social Classifications).

2933 **Source**

2934 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International  
2935 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

2936 **Hyperlink**

2937 [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary\\_short.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm)

2938 **Related terms**

2939 Aggregation  
2940 Classification  
2941 Compilation practices  
2942 Observation  
2943 Category  
2944

2945 **Disclosure analysis**

2946 The process of protecting the confidentiality of data. It involves limiting the amount of detailed  
2947 information disseminated and/or masking data via noise addition, data swapping, generation of  
2948 simulated or synthetic data, etc.

2949 **Context**

2950

2951 **Source**

2952 United States Bureau of the Census, Software and Standards Management Branch, Systems  
2953 Support Division, "Survey Design and Statistical Methodology Metadata", Washington D.C.,  
2954 August 1998, Section 3.3.17, page 28

2955 **Hyperlink**

2956 <http://www.census.gov/srd/www/metadata/metadata18.pdf>

2957 **Related terms**

2958 Data security  
2959

2960 **Dissemination format (SDMX cross-related concept)**

2961 Media by which statistical data and metadata are disseminated.

2962 **Context**

2963 Dissemination formats refers to the various means of dissemination used for making the data  
2964 available to the public. It includes a description of the various formats available, including where  
2965 and how to get the information (for instance paper, electronic publications, on-line databases).

2966 Narrower terms: Dissemination format - Microdata access; Dissemination format - News  
2967 release; Dissemination format - Online database; Dissemination format - Publications;  
2968 Dissemination format - Other.

2969 **Dissemination format – Micro-data** access refers to the information on whether micro-data  
2970 are also disseminated.

2971 It should be stated if micro-data are also disseminated, e.g. to researchers. Access conditions  
2972 should be described in short.

2973 **Dissemination format – News release** refers to the regular or ad-hoc press releases linked to  
2974 the data.

2975 This concept covers press releases or other kind of similar releases linked to data or metadata.

2976 **Dissemination format – On-line database** refers to the Information about an on-line database  
2977 in which the disseminated data can be accessed.

2978 Link to the on-line database where the data are available, with a summary identification of  
2979 domain names as released on the website, as well as the related access conditions.

2980 **Dissemination format – other** refers to the references to the most important other data  
2981 dissemination done.

2982 Examples of other dissemination formats are analytical publications edited by policy users, etc.

2983 **Dissemination format – Publications** refers to the regular or ad-hoc publications in which the  
2984 data are made available to the public.

2985 References to the most important data dissemination done through paper or on-line  
2986 publications, including a summary identification and information on availability of the publication  
2987 means.

2988 **Source**

2989 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
2990 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2991 **Hyperlink**

2992 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2993 **Related terms**

2994 Data dissemination

2995 SDMX

2996 Accessibility

2997

2998 **Documentation**

2999 Descriptive text used to define or describe an object, design, specification, instructions or  
3000 procedure.

3001 **Context**

3002

3003 **Source**

3004 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
3005 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
3006 Geneva, 2000

3007 **Hyperlink**

3008 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

3009 **Related terms**

3010

3011 **Documentation on methodology (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

3012 Descriptive text and references to methodological documents available.

3013 **Context**

3014 Documentation on methodology refers to the availability of documentation related to various  
3015 aspects of the data, such as methodological documents, summary notes or papers covering  
3016 concepts, scope, classifications and statistical techniques.

3017 **Source**

3018 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
3019 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

3020 **Hyperlink**

3021 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

3022 **Related terms**

3023 Methodology

3024

3025 **Domain groups**

3026 Groups comprised of international organisations and/or national agencies working, formally or  
3027 informally, towards the development of international guidelines and recommendations relevant  
3028 to one or more statistical subject matter domains.

3029 **Context**

3030

3031 **Source**

3032 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
3033 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

3034 **Hyperlink**

3035 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

3036 **Related terms**

3037 Statistical subject-matter domain

3038

3039 **Dublin Core**

3040 The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative is an open forum engaged in the development of  
3041 interoperable online metadata standards that support a broad range of purposes and business  
3042 models.

3043 **Context**

3044

3045 **Source**

3046 Dublin Core

3047 **Hyperlink**

3048 <http://www.dublincore.org>

3049 **Related terms**

3050 Glossary

3051

3052 **EDIFACT**

3053 Electronic Data Interchange for administration, commerce and transport.

3054 **Context**

3055 EDIFACT was prepared by UN/ECE Trade Division and adopted by ISO/TC 154. The UN/ECE  
3056 has also prepared Message Design Guidelines which are included in the UN/ECE Trade Data  
3057 Interchange Directory. The standard was published in 1988 and amended with very small  
3058 changes in 1990.

3059 **Source**

3060 ISO International Standard 9735:1988, Electronic data interchange for administration,  
3061 commerce and transport (EDIFACT) Application level syntax rules, September 1996

3062 **Hyperlink**

3063 <http://www.nls.fi/ptk/standardisation/2.html>

3064 **Related terms**

3065 EDI

3066 Electronic data interchange (EDI)

3067 GESMES

3068 SDMX-EDI

3069

3070 **Education level (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

3071 The highest level of an educational programme the person has successfully completed.

3072 **Context**

3073 The highest level of an educational programme the person has successfully completed is  
3074 also called "educational attainment of a person". At international level, the ISCED 1997 is  
3075 the standard classification of educational attainment: - No education completed - Primary or  
3076 lower secondary education - Upper secondary or post-secondary education - Tertiary  
3077 education.

3078 **Source**

3079 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
3080 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

3081 **Hyperlink**

3082 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

3083 **Related terms**

3084

3085 **Electronic data interchange (EDI)**

3086 Electronic exchange of data usually in forms that are compatible so that software or a  
3087 combination of individuals and software can put in a compatible form at the receiving end if  
3088 necessary.

3089 **Context**

3090 EDI offers businesses the opportunity to retrieve information electronically from their internal  
3091 systems and to forward that information to trade partners/suppliers/customers/government  
3092 through a communications network. An example might be pulling data of one type of data base  
3093 management system into a sequential format and then transferring the data to a second

3094 location where the data are stored in a format different from the originating data base  
3095 management system.

3096 **Source**

3097 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on  
3098 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,  
3099 Geneva, 2000

3100 **Hyperlink**

3101

3102 **Related terms**

3103 Data exchange

3104 EDIFACT

3105 GESMES

3106

3107 **Embargo time (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

3108 The exact time at which the data could be made available to the public.

3109 **Context**

3110 Usually, there is a time span between the finalisation of the production process of statistical  
3111 data and the moment when the data produced is released and made available to the users. This  
3112 time span is called "embargo time".

3113 **Source**

3114 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
3115 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

3116 **Hyperlink**

3117 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

3118 **Related terms**

3119

3120 **Entity**

3121 A concrete or abstract thing including associations among these things e.g. a person, object,  
3122 event, idea, process, etc.

3123 **Context**

3124 An entity exists whether data about it are available or not. [ISO/IEC 2382-17:1999, 17.02.05]

3125 **Source**

3126 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
3127 September 2004

3128 **Hyperlink**

3129

3130 **Related terms**

3131 Attribute

3132 ISO/IEC 11179

3133 Observation unit

3134 Ontology

3135

3136 **Error of estimation**

3137 The difference between an estimated value and the true value of a parameter or, sometimes, of  
3138 a value to be predicted.

3139 **Context**

3140 It is immediately associated with accuracy since accuracy is used to mean "the inverse of the  
3141 total error, including bias and variance" (Kish L., "Survey Sampling", 1965). The larger the error,  
3142 the lower the accuracy.

- 3143 **Source**  
 3144 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
 3145 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003
- 3146 **Hyperlink**  
 3147
- 3148 **Related terms**  
 3149 Accuracy  
 3150 Estimate  
 3151 Reliability  
 3152
- 3153 **Error of observation**
- 3154 An error arising from imperfections in the method of observing a quantity, whether due to  
 3155 instrumental or to human factors.
- 3156 **Context**  
 3157
- 3158 **Source**  
 3159 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
 3160 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003
- 3161 **Hyperlink**  
 3162
- 3163 **Related terms**  
 3164 Measurement error  
 3165
- 3166 **Estimate**
- 3167 The particular value yielded by an estimator in a given set of circumstances.
- 3168 **Context**  
 3169 The expression is widely used to denote the rule by which such particular values are calculated.  
 3170 It seems preferable to use the word estimator for the rule of procedure, and estimate for the  
 3171 values to which it leads in particular cases.
- 3172 **Source**  
 3173 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
 3174 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003
- 3175 **Hyperlink**  
 3176
- 3177 **Related terms**  
 3178 Error of estimation  
 3179 Estimator  
 3180 Non-sampling error  
 3181 Reliability [Quality reports]  
 3182 Trend estimates  
 3183
- 3184 **Estimation**
- 3185 The process of providing a numerical value for a population parameter on the basis of  
 3186 information collected from sample.
- 3187 **Context**  
 3188 Estimation is concerned with inference about the numerical value of unknown population values  
 3189 from incomplete data such as a sample. If a single figure is calculated for each unknown  
 3190 parameter the process is called "point estimation". If an interval is calculated within which the  
 3191 parameter is likely, in some sense, to lie, the process is called "interval estimation".  
 3192 Sample survey data only relates to the units in the sample. Therefore the sample estimates  
 3193 need to be inflated to represent the whole population of interest. Estimation is the means by  
 3194 which this inflation occurs. The estimation process is also referred to as "grossing up".

3195 Estimation is of particular relevance to deriving missing data in the compilation of national  
3196 accounts and consumer and producer aggregates (e.g., extrapolation of annual benchmark  
3197 using value or volume changes from industrial surveys, use of fixed input/output ratios, etc, for  
3198 current price for national accounts, and price imputations for consumer and producer prices)  
3199 and the techniques applied in updating the ancillary information used in the estimation process.

3200 **Source**

3201 The Cambridge Dictionary of Statistics, B.S. Everitt, Cambridge University Press, 1998

3202 **Hyperlink**

3203

3204 **Related terms**

3205 Compilation practices

3206 Estimator

3207 Number raised estimation

3208 Precision Ratio estimation

3209 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

3210 Compilation practices

3211 Aggregation

3212

3213 **Estimator**

3214 A rule or method of estimating a parameter of a population.

3215 **Context**

3216 An estimator is usually expressed as a function of sample values and hence is a variable whose  
3217 distribution is of great importance in assessing the reliability of the estimate to which it leads.

3218 **Source**

3219 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
3220 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

3221 **Hyperlink**

3222

3223 **Related terms**

3224 Estimate

3225 Estimation

3226

3227 **Expected value**

3228 The hypothetical average from the conceived replicates of the survey all conducted under the  
3229 same essential conditions.

3230 **Context**

3231

3232 **Source**

3233 Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, "Glossary of Nonsampling Error Terms: An  
3234 Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistic", Statistical Policy Working Paper, December,  
3235 1978

3236 **Hyperlink**

3237

3238 **Related terms**

3239

3240 **Expression Node**

3241 A node in a transformation scheme that is part of a hierarchy of nodes that together define or  
3242 document an expression.

3243 **Context**

3244

3245	<b>Source</b>
3246	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
3247	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
3248	<b>Hyperlink</b>
3249	<a href="http://www.sdmx.org/">http://www.sdmx.org/</a>
3250	<b>Related terms</b>
3251	
3252	<b>Flag</b>
3253	An attribute of a cell in a data set representing qualitative information on the value of that cell.
3254	<b>Context</b>
3255	Examples of qualitative information that can be exchanged via a flag are: "provisional value",
3256	"estimated value", "revised value", "forecast", "unreliable or uncertain data (see explanatory
3257	texts)", "break in series (see explanatory texts)", "more information in..."
3258	<b>Source</b>
3259	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
3260	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
3261	<b>Hyperlink</b>
3262	<a href="http://www.sdmx.org/">http://www.sdmx.org/</a>
3263	<b>Related terms</b>
3264	Footnote
3265	Quantitative data
3266	
3267	<b>Flow data series</b>
3268	Statistical series presented as flow data series are cumulated during the reference period, for
3269	example, passenger car registrations, where the figure for the reference period is the sum of
3270	daily registrations.
3271	<b>Context</b>
3272	
3273	<b>Source</b>
3274	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "Main Economic Indicators"
3275	<b>Hyperlink</b>
3276	
3277	<b>Related terms</b>
3278	Statistical metadata repository
3279	Stock data series
3280	
3281	<b>Follow-up</b>
3282	A further attempt to obtain information from an individual in a survey or field experiment
3283	because the initial attempt has failed or later information is available.
3284	<b>Context</b>
3285	
3286	<b>Source</b>
3287	The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
3288	Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003
3289	<b>Hyperlink</b>
3290	
3291	<b>Related terms</b>
3292	Non-response
3293	Non-response error
3294	

## 3295 Footnote

3296 A note or other text located at the bottom of a page of text, manuscript, book or statistical  
3297 tabulation that provides comment on or cites a reference for a designated part of the text or  
3298 table.

### 3299 Context

3300 Attention is drawn to the footnote by means of a number, mark, etc, in the main body of the text.  
3301 A footnote generally contains information that is related to but of lesser importance than the  
3302 larger work in the main body of the text or statistical table. An endnote serves the same purpose  
3303 as a footnote but is generally located at the end of the text or following the last statistical table.

### 3304 Source

3305 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
3306 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 3307 Hyperlink

3308 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 3309 Related terms

3310 Flag

3311

## 3312 Frame

3313 A list, map or other specification of the units which define a population to be completely  
3314 enumerated or sampled.

### 3315 Context

3316 The frame consists of previously available descriptions of the objects or material related to the  
3317 physical field in the form of maps, lists, directories, etc., from which sampling units may be  
3318 constructed and a set of sampling units selected (Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics:  
3319 Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October 2003).

3320 The frame may or may not contain information about the size or other supplementary  
3321 information of the units, but should have enough details so that a unit, if included in the sample,  
3322 may be located and taken up for inquiry. The nature of the frame exerts a considerable  
3323 influence over the structure of a sample survey. It is rarely perfect, and may be inaccurate,  
3324 incomplete, inadequately described, out of date or subject to some degree of duplication.  
3325 Reasonable reliability in the frame is a desirable condition for the reliability of a sample survey  
3326 based on it.

### 3327 Source

3328 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
3329 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

### 3330 Hyperlink

3331

### 3332 Related terms

3333 Area sampling

3334 Frame error

3335 Under-coverage

3336

## 3337 Frame error

3338 Frame error may be caused by the inherent limitations of input data, or by delays and errors in  
3339 data acquisition and processing.

### 3340 Context

3341 Frame errors cover:

- 3342 - coverage errors - erroneous inclusions, omissions and duplications;
- 3343 - classification errors - units not classified, or misclassified by industry, geography or size;
- 3344 - contact errors - units with incomplete or incorrect contact data.

### 3345 Source

3346 Lessler, J.T. and Kalsbeek, W.D. (1992), "Non Sampling Error in Survey", New York: John  
3347 Wiley or US department of Commerce (1978), "Glossary of Non Sampling Error Terms: An

3348 Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistics", Statistical Policy Working Paper 4, Office of  
3349 Federal Statistical Policy Standards, 1978

3350 **Hyperlink**

3351

3352 **Related terms**

3353 Frame

3354

3355 **Frequency (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

3356 The time interval at which observations occur over a given time period.

3357 **Context**

3358 If a time series has a constant time interval between its observations, this interval determines  
3359 the frequency of the time series (e.g. monthly, quarterly, yearly). In GESMES/TS, frequency  
3360 must be assigned as the first dimension in every data structure. In SDMX, "Frequency" – also  
3361 called "periodicity" – may refer to several stages in the production cycle, e.g. data collection,  
3362 data compilation or data dissemination. (e.g., a time series could be available at annual  
3363 frequency but the underlying data are compiled monthly).

3364 The frequencies with which the source data are collected and produced could be different: a  
3365 time series could be collected from the respondents at quarterly frequency but the data  
3366 production may have a monthly frequency. The frequency of data collection should therefore be  
3367 described.

3368 In SDMX, **Frequency detail** refers to the further specification of the frequency to include more  
3369 detailed information about the type of frequency and frequencies not commonly used.

3370 For data structure definitions, the concept of "frequency" is represented through codes. Any  
3371 additional detail needed must be inserted as free text within "frequency detail".

3372 **Frequency of data collection** refers to the frequency with which the source data are collected.

3373 **Frequency of dissemination** refers to the The time interval at which the statistics are  
3374 disseminated over a given time period.

3375 Compared to the frequency of data collection, the frequency of data production or data  
3376 dissemination might be different. In this case, the frequency of data dissemination should be  
3377 identified.

3378 **Source**

3379 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
3380 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

3381 **Hyperlink**

3382 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

3383 **Related terms**

3384 Periodicity

3385 SDMX

3386 Compilation practices

3387 Aggregation

3388

3389 **Gateway**

3390 An interface between some external source of information and a World Wide Web server. In this  
3391 instance a gateway is a web enabled search mechanism which allows users to search a  
3392 distributed network of directory nodes.

3393 **Context**

3394

3395 **Source**

3396 Office for National Statistics (ONS), "National statistics, methods and quality report: Glossary of  
3397 terms"; unpublished on paper

3398 **Hyperlink**

3399 [http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods\\_quality/data\\_annex.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/data_annex.asp)

3400 **Related terms**

3401

## 3402 Gateway exchange

3403 An organized set of bilateral exchanges, in which several data and metadata sending  
3404 organisations or individuals agree to exchange the collected information with each other in a  
3405 single, known format, and according to a single, known process.

### 3406 Context

3407 This pattern has the effect of reducing the burden of managing multiple bilateral exchanges (in  
3408 data and metadata collection) across the sharing organisations/individuals. This is also a very  
3409 common process pattern in the statistical area, where communities of institutions agree on ways  
3410 to gain efficiencies within the scope of their collective responsibilities.

### 3411 Source

3412 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
3413 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 3414 Hyperlink

3415 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 3416 Related terms

3417 Data exchange  
3418

## 3419 General Data Dissemination System (GDDS)

3420 A structured process through which Fund member countries commit voluntarily to improving the  
3421 quality of the data produced and disseminated by their statistical systems over the long run to  
3422 meet the needs of macroeconomic analysis.

### 3423 Context

3424

### 3425 Source

3426 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Guide to the General Data Dissemination System", 2002

### 3427 Hyperlink

3428 <http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/gdds/gddsguidelangs/>

### 3429 Related terms

3430 Data Dissemination Standards  
3431 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)  
3432

## 3433 Geographical coverage

3434 The country or geographic area which is related to the measured economic phenomenon.

### 3435 Context

3436 This entity is also commonly called reporter.

### 3437 Source

3438 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
3439 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 3440 Hyperlink

3441 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 3442 Related terms

3443 Coverage  
3444 Reference area  
3445

## 3446 GESMES

3447 GESMES (Generic Statistical Message) is a United Nations standard (EDIFACT message) that  
3448 allows partner institutions to exchange statistical multidimensional arrays in a generic but  
3449 standardised way. It has been designed by Expert Group 6 (Statistics) of the European Board  
3450 for EDI Standardisation.

### 3451 Context

3452

3453 **Source**  
3454 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International  
3455 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),  
3456 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

3457 **Hyperlink**  
3458 <http://www.sdmx.org>  
3459 [http://www.unece.org/trade/untddid/d99b/trmd/gesmes\\_c.htm](http://www.unece.org/trade/untddid/d99b/trmd/gesmes_c.htm)

3460 **Related terms**  
3461 Attribute  
3462 EDIFACT [ISO terminology]  
3463 Electronic data interchange (EDI)  
3464 GESMES/CB  
3465 GESMES/TS  
3466 Statistical message  
3467

## 3468 **GESMES/CB**

3469 Message profile for data exchange used by the central banking community.

3470 **Context**  
3471 GESMES/CB was developed within the central banking community to facilitate exchange of  
3472 time-series data in an EDIFACT-syntax format. It was updated to support non-central-banking  
3473 applications and revised, as GESMES/TS in 2003.

3474 **Source**  
3475 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International  
3476 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),  
3477 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

3478 **Hyperlink**  
3479 <http://www.ecb.int/stats/services/gesmes/html/index.en.html>

3480 **Related terms**  
3481 Data set  
3482 GESMES  
3483 GESMES/TS  
3484

## 3485 **GESMES/TS**

3486 GESMES Time Series data exchange message. It is a message (a GESMES profile) allowing  
3487 the exchange of statistical time series, related attributes and structural definitions using a  
3488 standardised format.

3489 **Context**  
3490 The message has been renamed from GESMES/CB to GESMES/TS in 2003, reflecting also the  
3491 adoption of the message by a large statistical community, including the BIS, the ECB, Eurostat,  
3492 the IMF and OECD.

3493 **Source**  
3494 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International  
3495 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),  
3496 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

3497 **Hyperlink**  
3498

3499 **Related terms**  
3500 Attachment level  
3501 Attribute  
3502 Code list  
3503 Data exchange  
3504 Dimension  
3505 GESMES  
3506 GESMES/CB

3507 GESMES/TS data model  
3508 Key family  
3509 Maintenance Agency  
3510 Sibling group  
3511 Statistical concept  
3512 Structural definition  
3513 Structural metadata  
3514

## 3515 **GESMES/TS data model**

3516 A time-series data exchange model which allows to exchange and identify time series through a  
3517 multidimensional key and various associated metadata.

### 3518 **Context**

3519

### 3520 **Source**

3521 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International  
3522 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),  
3523 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

### 3524 **Hyperlink**

3525

### 3526 **Related terms**

3527 Data item  
3528 Data model  
3529 GESMES/TS  
3530 Key (time series or sibling group)  
3531

## 3532 **Glossary**

3533 An alphabetized list of terms with definitions often created by an organization to reflect its  
3534 needs.

### 3535 **Context**

3536 A glossary normally lacks hierarchical arrangement or cross references, and it is also known as  
3537 a "term list".

3538 A glossary also commonly contains an explanation of words, concepts or terms that are usually  
3539 listed in alphabetical order (Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE),  
3540 "Terminology on Statistical Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical  
3541 Standards and Studies, No. 53, Geneva, 2000, available at:  
3542 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadateterminology.pdf> ).

3543 Examples of statistical glossary databases are Eurostat's CODED Glossary and the OECD  
3544 Glossary of Statistical Terms.

### 3545 **Source**

3546 Dublin Core

### 3547 **Hyperlink**

3548 <http://www.dublincore.org>

### 3549 **Related terms**

3550 Dublin Core  
3551 Maintenance Agency  
3552

## 3553 **Graphical data editing**

3554 Use of graphs to identify anomalies in data.

### 3555 **Context**

3556 While such graphical methods can employ paper, the more sophisticated use powerful  
3557 interactive methods that interconnect groups of graphs automatically and retrieve detailed  
3558 records for manual review and editing.

- 3559 **Source**  
 3560 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on  
 3561 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,  
 3562 Geneva, 2000
- 3563 **Hyperlink**  
 3564
- 3565 **Related terms**  
 3566 Data editing  
 3567 Data checking  
 3568
- 3569 **Grossing/Netting (SDMX cross-domain concept)**
- 3570 Combinations in which all elementary items are shown for their full values are called gross  
 3571 recordings. Combinations whereby the values of some elementary items are offset against  
 3572 items on the other side of the account or which have an opposite sign are called net recordings.
- 3573 **Context**  
 3574 Individual units or sectors may have the same kind of transactions both as a use and as a  
 3575 resource (e.g., they both pay and receive interest) and the same kind of financial instrument as  
 3576 an asset and as a liability.
- 3577 **Source**  
 3578 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
 3579 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
- 3580 **Hyperlink**  
 3581 <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/sna1993/introduction.asp>
- 3582 **Related terms**  
 3583 Aggregation  
 3584 Consolidation  
 3585 Compilation practices  
 3586
- 3587 **Guidelines**
- 3588 Directions or principles used in the development, maintenance and application of rules.
- 3589 **Context**  
 3590 Guidelines may or may not be mandatory and are provided as an aid to interpretation and use  
 3591 of rules.
- 3592 **Source**  
 3593 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
 3594 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
- 3595 **Hyperlink**  
 3596 <http://www.sdmx.org/>  
 3597
- 3598 **Hierarchy**
- 3599 Classification structure arranged in levels of detail from the broadest to the most detailed level.  
 3600 Each level of the classification is defined in terms of the categories at the next lower level of the  
 3601 classification.
- 3602 **Context**  
 3603 In SDMX, this is known as a level based hierarchy. SDMX also has the concept of the value  
 3604 based hierarchy where the hierarchy of categories is not organised into formal levels.
- 3605 **Source**  
 3606 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International  
 3607 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper
- 3608 **Hyperlink**  
 3609 [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary\\_short.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm)

3610 **Related terms**

3611 Structure

3612

3613 **Identifier**

3614 A sequence of characters, capable of uniquely identifying that with which it is associated, within  
3615 a specified context.

3616 **Context**

3617 A name should not be used as an identifier because it is not linguistically neutral.

3618 **Source**

3619 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
3620 September 2004

3621 **Hyperlink**

3622

3623 **Related terms**

3624 Country identifier

3625 Data identifier

3626 Data Provider Series Key

3627 ISO/IEC 11179

3628 Organisation identifier

3629

3630 **Imputation**

3631 Procedure for entering a value for a specific data item where the response is missing or  
3632 unusable.

3633 **Context**

3634 Imputation is the process used to determine and assign replacement values for missing,  
3635 invalid or inconsistent data. This can be done by changing some of the  
3636 responses or assigning values when they are missing on the record being edited to ensure  
3637 that estimates are of high quality and that a plausible, internally consistent record is  
3638 created. (Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003,  
3639 page 41, available at: [http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-](http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1)  
3640 [X&CHROPG=1](http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1))

3641 **Source**

3642 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on  
3643 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,  
3644 Geneva, 2000

3645 **Hyperlink**

3646 <http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm>

3647 **Related terms**

3648 Missing data

3649

3650 **Index number**

3651 See "Index type"

3652

3653 **Index type (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

3654 A quantity which shows by its variations the changes of a magnitude over time or space.

3655 **Context**

3656 Index type refers to any of the various indices (e.g., Laspeyres, modified Laspeyres, Paasche,  
3657 Value-Added, Fisher, Tornqvist, etc.) used in the statistical production process.

3658 Important features in the construction of an index number are its coverage, base period,  
3659 weighting system and method of averaging observations. A price index reflects an average of  
3660 the proportionate changes in the prices of a specified set of goods and services between two

3661 periods of time (United Nations, "System of National Account (SNA) 1993", 16.14, available at  
3662 <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/sna1993/introduction.asp>).

3663 **Source**

3664 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
3665 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

3666 **Hyperlink**

3667

3668 **Related terms**

3669 Chain index

3670 Compilation practices

3671 Computation of lowest level indices

3672 Weight period

3673

3674 **Information**

3675 Knowledge concerning any objects such as facts, events, things, processes or ideas including  
3676 concepts that within a certain context have a particular meaning.

3677 **Context**

3678

3679 **Source**

3680 ISO/IEC 2382-1; 1992 - Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE),  
3681 "Terminology on Statistical Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical  
3682 Standards and Studies, No. 53, Geneva, 2000

3683 **Hyperlink**

3684 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

3685

3686 **Information system**

3687 A system which supports decision-making concerning some piece of reality, the object system  
3688 by giving the decision makers access to information concerning relevant aspects of the object  
3689 system and its environment.

3690 **Context**

3691 A "statistical information system" is the information system oriented towards the collection,  
3692 storage, transformation and distribution of statistical information.

3693 **Source**

3694 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
3695 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
3696 Geneva, 2000

3697 **Hyperlink**

3698 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

3699

3699 **Related terms**

3700

3701 **Inlier**

3702 A data value that lies in the interior of a statistical distribution and is in error. Because inliers are  
3703 difficult to distinguish from good data values they are sometimes difficult to find and correct.

3704 **Context**

3705 A simple example of an inlier might be a value in a record reported in the wrong units, say  
3706 degrees Fahrenheit instead of degrees Celsius.

3707 **Source**

3708 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on  
3709 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,  
3710 Geneva, 2000

3711 **Hyperlink**  
3712 <http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm>

3713 **Related terms**  
3714 Outliers  
3715

## 3716 **Institutional framework**

3717 A set of rules used as the basis for producing statistics.

### 3718 **Context**

3719 In SDMX, "Institutional Framework" refers to a law or other formal provision that assign primary  
3720 responsibility as well as the authority to an agency for the collection, processing, and  
3721 dissemination of the statistics; it also includes arrangements or procedures to facilitate data  
3722 sharing and coordination between data producing agencies ("reporting requirements").

3723 In detail, the institutional framework for statistics may include information on:

- 3724 - The legislation within which the statistical agency operates. Typically it is proclaimed in one or  
3725 more statistics acts and in accompanying or supplementary government regulations covering a  
3726 number of issues including the right to collect data; ensuring confidentiality of data collected,  
3727 etc.
- 3728 - The organisational structure of the statistical agency. Such structures include economic data  
3729 collection, processing and analysis; social data collection, processing and analysis; national  
3730 accounts, balance of payments and economic analysis.
- 3731 - Planning framework under which major initiatives and statistical outputs envisaged for the  
3732 future are envisaged.
- 3733 - Quality consciousness and organisational culture

### 3734 **Source**

3735 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
3736 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 3737 **Hyperlink**

3738 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 3739 **Related terms**

3740 Integrity  
3741 Internal access  
3742 Ministerial commentary  
3743 SDMX  
3744 Guidelines  
3745 Regulation  
3746

## 3747 **Institutional mandate (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

3748 Set of rules or other formal set of instructions that assign responsibility as well as the authority  
3749 to an agency for the collection, processing, and dissemination of statistics.

### 3750 **Context**

3751 It also includes arrangements or procedures to facilitate data sharing and coordination between  
3752 data producing agencies.

3753 Narrower terms: Institutional mandate - data sharing; Institutional mandate - legal acts and other  
3754 agreements; Institutional mandate - respondent relations.

3755 **Institutional mandate – data sharing** refers to the arrangements or procedures for data  
3756 sharing and coordination between data producing agencies.

3757 **Institutional mandate – legal acts and other agreements** refers to the legal acts or other  
3758 formal or informal agreements that assign responsibility as well as the authority to an agency for  
3759 the collection, processing, and dissemination of statistics.

3760 **Institutional mandate – respondent relations** refers to the measures to encourage statistical  
3761 reporting and/or to sanction non-reporting.

### 3762 **Source**

3763 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
3764 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

3765 **Hyperlink**  
3766 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

3767 **Related terms**  
3768

## 3769 **Institutional sector**

3770 An aggregation of institutional units on the basis of the type of producer and depending on their  
3771 principal activity and function, which are considered to be indicative of their economic  
3772 behaviour. A sector is divided into sub-sectors according to the criteria relevant to that sector;  
3773 this permits a more precise description of the economic behaviour of the units.

3774 **Context**  
3775

3776 **Source**  
3777 Eurostat, "European System of Accounts - ESA 1995", Office for Official Publications of the  
3778 European Communities, Luxembourg, 1996, 2.17-2.18

3779 **Hyperlink**  
3780

3781 **Related terms**  
3782 Activity  
3783 Institutional unit  
3784

## 3785 **Institutional unit**

3786 The elementary economic decision-making centre characterised by uniformity of behaviour and  
3787 decision-making autonomy in the exercise of its principal function. A resident unit is regarded as  
3788 constituting an institutional unit if it has decision-making autonomy in respect of its principal  
3789 function and either keeps a complete set of accounts or it would be possible and meaningful,  
3790 from both an economic and legal viewpoint, to compile a complete set of accounts if they were  
3791 required.

3792 **Context**  
3793 The need for aggregation means that it is impossible to consider individual institutional units  
3794 separately; they must be combined into groups called institutional sectors or simply sectors,  
3795 some of which are divided into sub-sectors (Eurostat, "European System of Accounts - ESA  
3796 1995", Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg, 1996, 2.12).  
3797 The System of National Accounts 1993 states that "Institutional units are grouped together to  
3798 form institutional sectors, on the basis of their principal functions, behaviour, and objectives".  
3799 (United Nations, "System of National Account (SNA) 1993", par. 2.20)

3800 **Source**  
3801 Eurostat, "European System of Accounts - ESA 1995", Office for Official Publications of the  
3802 European Communities, Luxembourg, 1996, 2.12

3803 **Hyperlink**  
3804

3805 **Related terms**  
3806 Classification changes  
3807 Institutional sector  
3808

## 3809 **Integrity**

3810 Values and related practices that maintain confidence in the eyes of users in the agency  
3811 producing statistics and ultimately in the statistical product.

3812 **Context**  
3813 Under the SDDS, "integrity" is the third of four dimensions of the standard (i.e., data, access,  
3814 integrity, and quality) for which evidence of a subscribing member's observance of the standard  
3815 can be obtained.

3816 Integrity refers to the description of the policy on the availability of the terms and conditions  
3817 under which statistics are collected, processed, and disseminated. It also describes the policy of  
3818 providing advanced notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical  
3819 techniques; the policy on internal governmental access to statistics prior to their release; the  
3820 policy on statistical products' identification  
3821 Confidence by users is built over time. One important aspect is the trust in the objectivity of  
3822 statistics. It implies that professionalism should guide policies and practices and it is supported  
3823 by ethical standards and by transparency of policies and practices.

3824 **Source**

3825 International Monetary Fund, "Data Quality Assessment Framework - DQAF - Glossary",  
3826 unpublished

3827 **Hyperlink**

3828

3829 **Related terms**

3830 Accessibility  
3831 Institutional framework  
3832 Internal access  
3833 Ministerial commentary  
3834 Quality  
3835 Professionalism  
3836 Revision policy  
3837 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)  
3838

3839 **Internal access**

3840 Internal access refers to giving full transparency to any necessary pre-release access within  
3841 government-as deemed appropriate by the government.

3842 **Context**

3843 Under the SDDS, this entails the listing of persons or officials holding designated positions  
3844 within the government, but outside the agency producing the data, who have pre-release  
3845 access to the data and the reporting of the schedule according to which they receive access.

3846 **Source**

3847 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
3848 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

3849 **Hyperlink**

3850 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

3851 **Related terms**

3852 Institutional framework  
3853 Integrity  
3854 Ministerial commentary  
3855 Revision policy  
3856 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)  
3857

3858 **International code designator**

3859 An identifier of an organization identification scheme. [ISO/IEC 6523-1:1998, 3.8]

3860 **Context**

3861

3862 **Source**

3863 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
3864 September 2004

3865 **Hyperlink**

3866

3867 **Related terms**

3868 ISO/IEC 11179

3869

## 3870 **International statistical standard**

3871 The comprehensive body of international statistical guidelines and recommendations that have  
3872 been developed by international organisations working with national agencies.

### 3873 **Context**

3874 The formulation of international statistical standards necessarily entails an extensive process of  
3875 consultation and discussion between international organisations and between international  
3876 organisations and their member countries. The standards cover almost every field of statistical  
3877 endeavour from data collection, processing and dissemination and almost every statistical  
3878 subject. Such standards also include international statistical classifications

3879 The most comprehensive database of existing international statistical guidelines and  
3880 recommendations is maintained on the United Nations Statistical Division website, the  
3881 Methodological publications in statistics. This database also lists standards currently being  
3882 developed by international organisations.

### 3883 **Source**

3884 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
3885 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 3886 **Hyperlink**

3887 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 3888 **Related terms**

3889 Statistical concept  
3890 Statistical standard  
3891

## 3892 **Interpolation**

3893 The use of a formula to estimate an intermediate data value.

### 3894 **Context**

3895 A common example is the quarterly estimation of output of non-profit institutions serving  
3896 households (NPISH) from annual national accounts. A quarterly pattern for interpolation may be  
3897 derived:

- 3898 - from previous (discontinued) survey data;
- 3899 - from proxy variables;
- 3900 - as a smooth mathematical function.

### 3901 **Source**

3902 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
3903 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

### 3904 **Hyperlink**

3905

### 3906 **Related terms**

3907 Benchmarking  
3908

## 3909 **Interviewer error**

3910 Effects on respondents' answers stemming from the different ways that interviewers administer  
3911 the same survey.

### 3912 **Context**

3913 Examples of these errors include the failure to read the question correctly (leading to response  
3914 errors by the respondent), delivery of the question with an intonation that influences the  
3915 respondent's choice of answer, and failure to record the respondent's answer correctly.

### 3916 **Source**

3917 Paul P. Biemer, Robert M. Groves, Lars E. Lyberg, Nancy A. Mathiowetz, Seymour Sudman,  
3918 "Measurement errors in survey", John Wiley & Sons, 1991

### 3919 **Hyperlink**

3920

3921 **Related terms**

3922

3923 **ISO/IEC 11179**

3924 The International Standard ISO/IEC 11179 on metadata registries addresses the semantics of  
3925 data, the representation of data, and the registration of the descriptions of data. ISO/IEC 11179  
3926 specifies the kind and quality of metadata necessary to describe data, and it specifies the  
3927 management and administration of that metadata in a metadata registry (MDR).

3928 **Context**

3929 The purposes of the ISO/IEC 11179 standard are to promote the following:

- 3930 - standard description of data
- 3931 - common understanding of data across organizational elements and between organizations
- 3932 - re-use and standardization of data over time, space, and applications
- 3933 - harmonization and standardization of data within an organization and across organizations
- 3934 - management of the components of data
- 3935 - re-use of the components of data
- 3936 ISO/IEC 11179 is six part standard:
- 3937 Part 1 - Framework - Contains an overview of the standard and describes the basic concepts
- 3938 Part 2 - Classification - Describes how to manage a classification scheme in a metadata registry
- 3939 Part 3 - Registry metamodel and basic attributes - Provides the basic conceptual model,  
3940 including the basic attributes and relationships, for a metadata registry
- 3941 Part 4 - Formulation of data definitions - Rules and guidelines for forming quality definitions for  
3942 data elements and their components
- 3943 Part 5 - Naming and identification principles - Describes how to form conventions for naming  
3944 data elements and their components
- 3945 Part 6 - Registration - Specifies the roles and requirements for the registration process in an  
3946 ISO/IEC 11179 metadata registry

3947 **Source**

3948 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
3949 September 2004

3950 **Hyperlink**

3951

3952 **Related terms**

3953 Administered item  
3954 Administration record  
3955 Attribute  
3956 Basic attribute  
3957 Characteristic  
3958 Class  
3959 Classification scheme  
3960 Concept  
3961 Conceptual data model  
3962 Conceptual domain  
3963 Contact  
3964 Context  
3965 Country identifier  
3966 Creation date  
3967 Data element  
3968 Data element concept  
3969 Data element derivation  
3970 Data identifier  
3971 Data item  
3972 Data model  
3973 Datatype  
3974 Date of last change  
3975 Definition  
3976 Derivation input  
3977 Derivation output

3978 Derivation rule  
 3979 Dimensionality  
 3980 Effective date  
 3981 Entity  
 3982 Identifier  
 3983 International code designator  
 3984 Keyword  
 3985 Language  
 3986 Metadata  
 3987 Metadata item  
 3988 Metadata object  
 3989 Metadata registry  
 3990 Metadata set  
 3991 Metamodel  
 3992 Name  
 3993 Object  
 3994 Object class  
 3995 Object class term  
 3996 Organisation  
 3997 Organisation identifier  
 3998 Permissible value  
 3999 Permitted value  
 4000 Preferred definition  
 4001 Property  
 4002 Reference document  
 4003 Register  
 4004 Registrar  
 4005 Registration  
 4006 Registration authority  
 4007 Registry item  
 4008 Registry metamodel  
 4009 Related data reference  
 4010 Related metadata reference  
 4011 Relationship  
 4012 Responsible organization  
 4013 Semantics  
 4014 Special language  
 4015 Stewardship  
 4016 Submission  
 4017 Submitting organization  
 4018 Syntax  
 4019 Taxonomy  
 4020 Terminological entry  
 4021 Terminological system  
 4022 Thesaurus  
 4023 Unit of measure  
 4024 Value domain  
 4025 Value item  
 4026 Value meaning  
 4027

## 4028 **Item response rate**

4029 The ratio of the number of eligible units responding to an item to the number of responding units  
 4030 eligible to have responded to the item.

## 4031 **Context**

4032

## 4033 **Source**

4034 Madow, W., Nisselson, H., and Olkin, I., "Incomplete Data in Sample Surveys", Academic  
 4035 Press, New York, 1983

4036 **Hyperlink**

4037

4038 **Related terms**

4039 Non-response rate

4040 Refusal rate

4041 Response rate

4042

4043 **Key (time series or sibling group)**

4044 **Unique identification of a time series or sibling group within a data set.**

4045 **Context**

4046 Every time series takes a value for every dimension of the key family to which the series belongs. The meaning attached to the value of one dimension is not permitted to depend upon the values of any other dimensions.

4049 **Source**

4050 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

4053 **Hyperlink**

4054

4055 **Related terms**

4056 Data Provider Series Key

4057 Dimension

4058 GESMES/TS data model

4059 Key family

4060 Sibling group

4061 Time series

4062

4063 **Key family**

4064 See "Data Structure Definition"

4065

4066 **Key structure**

4067 An ordered set of coded statistical concepts whose combination of values (dimension values) uniquely identifies each time series within a data set.

4069 **Context**

4070

4071 **Source**

4072 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

4075 **Hyperlink**

4076 [http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS\\_rel3.pdf](http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf)

4077 **Related terms**

4078 Dimension

4079 Statistical concept

4080

4081 **Keyword**

4082 A word used for retrieval of data elements.

4083 **Context**

4084 In general terms, a keyword is a word used for linking to certain classified objects (Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations, "Terminology on Statistical Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53, Geneva, 2000)

4087	<b><u>Source</u></b>
4088	ISO/IEC International Standard 11179, Part 1, Framework for the specification and
4089	standardization of data elements, 1999.
4090	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
4091	
4092	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
4093	Data element
4094	ISO/IEC 11179
4095	Code list
4096	Glossary
4097	
4098	<b>Language</b>
4099	A system of signs for communication, usually consisting of a vocabulary and rules [ISO
4100	5127:2001, 1.1.2.01]
4101	<b><u>Context</u></b>
4102	
4103	<b><u>Source</u></b>
4104	ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
4105	Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003
4106	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
4107	
4108	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
4109	ISO/IEC 11179
4110	Special language
4111	
4112	<b>Level</b>
4113	A group of codes which is characterised by homogeneous coding, and where the parent of each
4114	code in the group is at the same higher level of the Hierarchy
4115	<b><u>Context</u></b>
4116	
4117	<b><u>Source</u></b>
4118	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
4119	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary (adapted from the Neuchâtel terminology)
4120	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
4121	Code
4122	Hierarchy
4123	
4124	<b>Levels of data</b>
4125	<u>Data expressed in absolute terms (values, numbers, units) for a given period of time.</u>
4126	<b><u>Context</u></b>
4127	Flow data for annual and quarterly levels may be presented as either the:
4128	- sum of the component quarters or months, or
4129	- average of the component months or quarters.
4130	Stock data by definition only have one value for each frequency (i.e. year, quarter, month).
4131	<b><u>Source</u></b>
4132	Adjusted from the OECD "Data and Metadata Reporting and Presentation Handbook", Paris,
4133	2007.
4134	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
4135	
4136	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
4137	

## 4138 Longitudinal data

4139 Data in which many units are observed over multiple time periods.

### 4140 Context

4141

### 4142 Source

4143 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Glossary", unpublished on paper

### 4144 Hyperlink

4145 <http://stats.bls.gov/bls/glossary.htm>

### 4146 Related terms

4147 Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC)

4148

## 4149 Macro editing

4150 A procedure for tracking suspicious data by checking aggregates or applying statistical methods  
4151 on all records or on a subset of them.

### 4152 Context

4153 A macro-edit detects individual errors by:

- 4154 1) checks on aggregated data, or
- 4155 2) checks applied to the whole body of records.

4156 The checks are typically based on the models, either graphical or numerical formula based, that  
4157 determine the impact of specific fields in individual records on the aggregate estimates.  
4158 (Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on  
4159 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,  
4160 Geneva, 2000, available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/editingglossary.pdf>

### 4161 Source

4162 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, May  
4163 2002

### 4164 Hyperlink

4165 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/editingglossary.pdf>

### 4166 Related terms

4167 Data editing  
4168 Micro editing  
4169 Data checking

4170

## 4171 Maintenance Agency (SDMX cross-domain concept)

4172 The agency that maintains domain-specific data structure and metadata structure.

### 4173 Context

4174 In SDMX, one statistical agency is responsible for maintaining a data or metadata structure  
4175 definition linked to a particular statistical domain.

### 4176 Source

4177 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
4178 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 4179 Hyperlink

4180 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 4181 Related terms

4182 Classification  
4183 Data structure definition  
4184 GESMES/TS  
4185 Glossary  
4186 Key family  
4187 Structural definition

4188

## 4189 **Measure**

4190 The phenomenon or phenomena to be measured in a data set.

### 4191 **Context**

4192 In a data set, the instance of a measure is often called an observation

### 4193 **Source**

4194 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
4195 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 4196 **Hyperlink**

4197 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 4198 **Related terms**

4199 Data set

4200 Key family

4201 Observation

4202

## 4203 **Measurement error**

4204 Error in reading, calculating or recording numerical value.

### 4205 **Context**

4206 Measurement errors occur when the response provided differs from the real value; such errors  
4207 may be attributable to the respondent, the interviewer, the questionnaire, the collection method  
4208 or the respondent's record-keeping system. Such errors may be random or they may result in a  
4209 systematic bias if they are not random.

4210 Measurement error in a survey response may result from respondents' confusion, ignorance,  
4211 carelessness or dishonesty; error attributable to the interviewer, may be a consequence of poor  
4212 or inadequate training, prior expectations regarding respondents' responses, or deliberate  
4213 errors; and error attributable to the wording of the questions in the questionnaire, the order or  
4214 context in which the questions are presented, and the method used to obtain the responses.  
4215 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003, page 5)

### 4216 **Source**

4217 The Cambridge Dictionary of Statistics, B.S. Everitt, Cambridge University Press, 1998

### 4218 **Hyperlink**

4219

### 4220 **Related terms**

4221 Error of observation

4222

## 4223 **Metadata**

4224 Data that defines and describes other data.

### 4225 **Context**

4226 For the ISO standard, metadata is defined as data that defines and describes other data and  
4227 processes. This means that metadata are data that describe other data, and data become  
4228 metadata when they are used in this way. This happens under particular circumstances and for  
4229 particular purposes, as no data are always metadata. The set of circumstances and purposes  
4230 (or perspective) for which some data are used as metadata is called the context. So, metadata  
4231 are data about data in some context.

### 4232 **Source**

4233 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
4234 September 2004

### 4235 **Hyperlink**

4236

### 4237 **Related terms**

4238 Data

4239 ISO/IEC 11179

4240 Metadata layer

4241 Metadata registry  
4242 Statistical metadata  
4243 Statistical metadata system  
4244

## 4245 **Metadata Attribute**

4246 See Attribute  
4247

## 4248 **Metadata dimension**

4249 The higher level of the metadata structure (e.g., data, access, integrity and quality in the SDDS  
4250 format), which, combined with elements (e.g., coverage, periodicity, and timeliness) forms the  
4251 basic framework under which data are described.

### 4252 **Context**

4253 The SDDS prescribes that subscribing members provide a summary description of methodology  
4254 for each data category, including statements of major differences from international guidelines.  
4255 The term "methodology" is used in the SDDS in a broad sense to cover the aspects of analytical  
4256 framework, concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting conventions, sources of data, and  
4257 compilation practices.

### 4258 **Source**

4259 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
4260 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 4261 **Hyperlink**

4262 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 4263 **Related terms**

4264 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)  
4265

## 4266 **Metadataflow definition**

4267 A structure which describes, categorises and constrains the allowable content of a metadata set  
4268 that providers will supply for different reference periods.

### 4269 **Source**

4270 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
4271 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 4272 **Context**

4273 A "metadata flow", in this context, is an abstract concept of the metadata sets, i.e. a structure  
4274 without any actual metadata. A Metadataflow definition associates a Metadata structure  
4275 definition with one or more category (possibly from different category schemes). This gives a  
4276 system the ability to state which metadata sets are to be reported/disseminated for a given  
4277 category, and which metadata sets can be reported using the Metadata structure definition.

### 4278 **Hyperlink**

4279

### 4280 **Related terms**

4281 Category  
4282 Data flow definition  
4283 Definition  
4284 Metadata  
4285 Metadata set  
4286

## 4287 **Metadata item**

4288 An instance of a metadata object.

### 4289 **Context**

4290 A metadata item has associated attributes, as appropriate for the metadata object it instantiates.

4291 Each metadata item can have a distinct status: mandatory (always required), conditional  
4292 (understood as required under certain specified conditions) and optional (permitted but not  
4293 required).

4294 **Source**

4295 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
4296 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

4297 **Hyperlink**

4298

4299 **Related terms**

4300 Attribute

4301 ISO/IEC 11179

4302 Metadata object

4303 Registry

4304 Registry item

4305 Related metadata reference

4306

4307 **Metadata layer**

4308 A layer in the reference model for standardisation in statistics used to denote the set of  
4309 attributes related to statistical metainformation.

4310 **Context**

4311

4312 **Source**

4313 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
4314 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
4315 Geneva, 2000

4316 **Hyperlink**

4317 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

4318 **Related terms**

4319 Metadata

4320 Metadata registry

4321 Statistical metadata

4322 Statistical metadata system

4323 Statistical metainformation

4324

4325 **Metadata object**

4326 An object type defined by a metamodel.

4327 **Context**

4328

4329 **Source**

4330 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
4331 September 2004

4332 **Hyperlink**

4333

4334 **Related terms**

4335 ISO/IEC 11179

4336 Metadata item

4337 Metamodel

4338 Object

4339

4340 **Metadata registry**

4341 Information system for registering metadata.

4342 **Context**

4343 Within ISO/IEC International standard 11179, a metadata registry is a database of metadata  
4344 that supports the functionality of registration. Registration accomplishes three main goals:  
4345 identification, provenance, and monitoring quality.

4346 Identification is accomplished by assigning a unique identifier (within the registry) to each object  
4347 registered there. Provenance addresses the source of the metadata and the object described.  
4348 Monitoring quality ensures that the metadata does the job it is designed to do.

4349 A metadata registry manages the semantics of data. Understanding data is fundamental to its  
4350 design, harmonization, standardization, use, re-use, and interchange. The underlying model is  
4351 designed to capture all the basic components of the semantics of data, independent of any  
4352 application or subject matter area. Registration also allows two or more administered items  
4353 describing identical objects to be identified, and it will identify situations where similar or  
4354 identical names are in use for administered items that are significantly different in one or more  
4355 respects.

4356 **Source**

4357 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
4358 Part 1: Framework, September 2004.

4359 **Hyperlink**

4360

4361 **Related terms**

4362 Administered item  
4363 ISO/IEC 11179  
4364 Metadata  
4365 Metadata layer  
4366 Registry  
4367 Registry item  
4368 Registry metamodel  
4369 SDMX registry  
4370 Statistical metadata  
4371 Submitting organization  
4372

4373 **Metadata set**

4374 A collection of metadata.

4375 **Context**

4376

4377 **Source**

4378 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
4379 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

4380 **Hyperlink**

4381

4382 **Related terms**

4383 ISO/IEC 11179  
4384

4385 **Metadata Structure Definition**

4386 A collection of metadata concepts, structure and usage when used to collect or disseminate  
4387 reference metadata.

4388 **Context**

4389 A reference metadata set also has a set of structural metadata which describes how it is  
4390 organized. This metadata identifies what reference metadata concepts are being reported, how  
4391 these concepts relate to each other (typically as hierarchies), what their presentational structure  
4392 is, how they may be represented (as free text, as coded values, etc.), and with which formal  
4393 object types they are associated.

- 4394 **Source**  
4395 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
4396 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
- 4397 **Hyperlink**  
4398 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
- 4399 **Related terms**  
4400 Concept  
4401 Maintenance Agency  
4402 Reference metadata  
4403 Structural metadata  
4404 Structure  
4405
- 4406 **Metadata update (SDMX cross-domain concept)**
- 4407 The date on which the metadata element was inserted or modified in the database.
- 4408 **Context**  
4409 The date of the metadata update may refer to the update of a whole metadata set or to the  
4410 update of any single metadata item. It can be further detailed in: a) last update of the metadata  
4411 content; b) latest certification of the metadata file without update of content; c) last posted on  
4412 the web.  
4413 Narrower terms: Metadata update - last update; Metadata update - last certified; Metadata  
4414 update - last posted.  
4415 **Metadata update - last certified** refers to the date of the latest certification provided by the  
4416 domain manager to confirm that the metadata posted are still up-to-date, even if the content has  
4417 not been amended.  
4418 **Metadata update - last posted** refers to the date of the latest dissemination of the metadata.  
4419 **Metadata update - last update** refers to the date of last update of the content of the metadata.
- 4420 **Source**  
4421 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
4422 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
- 4423 **Hyperlink**  
4424 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
- 4425 **Related terms**  
4426
- 4427 **Metamodel**
- 4428 A data model that specifies one or more other data models.
- 4429 **Context**  
4430 The metamodel provides a framework for understanding the important metadata that needs to  
4431 be captured when describing data.
- 4432 **Source**  
4433 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
4434 September 2004
- 4435 **Hyperlink**  
4436
- 4437 **Related terms**  
4438 Data model  
4439 ISO/IEC 11179  
4440 Metadata object  
4441 Registry metamodel  
4442
- 4443 **Methodological soundness**
- 4444 Methodological soundness refers to constructs and principles of accounting that are basic  
4445 building blocks of macroeconomic data.

4446 **Context**

4447

4448 **Source**

4449 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) Glossary"

4450 **Hyperlink**

4451

4452 **Related terms**

4453 Quality

4454

4455 **Methodology**

4456 A structured approach to solve a problem.

4457 **Context**

4458 A set of research methods and techniques applied to a particular field of study (Statistics Canada, Glossary, available at: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/edu/power/glossary/gloss.htm>).

4459 **Advance notice in major changes in methodology**, in SDMX, refers to the policy on notifying the public of changes in methodology, indicating whether the public is notified before a methodological change affects disseminated data and, if so, how long before.  
4462 (<http://www.sdmx.org/>)

4464 **Source**

4465 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53, Geneva, 2000

4468 **Hyperlink**

4469

4470 **Related terms**

4471 SDMX

4472 Statistical methodology

4473 Statistical subject-matter domain

4474

4475 **Micro editing**

4476 An exhaustive check to find errors by inspecting each individual observation.

4477 **Context**

4478 Editing done at the record, or questionnaire level.

4479 **Source**

4480 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, May 2002

4482 **Hyperlink**

4483

4484 **Related terms**

4485 Data editing

4486 Macro editing

4487

4488 **Ministerial commentary**

4489 Commentary on the released data provide by the governmental authority.

4490 **Context**

4491 Under the SDDS, this entails the identification of any such commentary so as to maintain the objectivity or freedom from political judgement of the official statistical data being disseminated.

4493 **Source**

4494 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
4495 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

4496 **Hyperlink**

4497 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

4498 **Related terms**

4499 Institutional framework

4500 Integrity

4501 Internal access

4502 Revision policy

4503 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

4504

4505 **Misclassification**

4506 Erroneous classification of a subject into a category in which the subject does not belong.

4507 **Context**

4508 Missclassification may result from misreporting by study subjects, from the use of less than  
4509 optimal measurement devices, or from random error.

4510 **Source**

4511 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
4512 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003 OECD uses the same definition

4513 **Hyperlink**

4514

4515 **Related terms**

4516

4517 **Missing data**

4518 Observations which were planned and are missing.

4519 **Context**

4520 Missing data in a survey may occur when there are no data whatsoever for a respondent (non-  
4521 response) or when some variables for a respondent are unknown (item non-response) because  
4522 of refusal to provide or failure to collect the response (ISI).

4523 **Source**

4524 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
4525 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

4526 **Hyperlink**

4527

4528 **Related terms**

4529 Imputation

4530 Non-response

4531 Observation

4532

4533 **Model assumption error**

4534 Model assumption errors occur with the use of methods, such as calibration, generalised  
4535 regression estimator, calculation based on full scope or constant scope, benchmarking,  
4536 seasonal adjustment and other models not included in the preceding accuracy components, in  
4537 order to calculate statistics or indexes.

4538 **Context**

4539

4540 **Source**

4541 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October  
4542 2003

4543 **Hyperlink**

4544

4545 **Related terms**

4546

## 4547 **Multilateral exchange**

4548 The exchange of statistics and / or metadata between a sending and several receiving  
4549 organisations for a specific data flow where all parties agree on all aspects of the exchange  
4550 (including the mechanism for exchange, the formats, the frequency or schedule, mode used for  
4551 communications and the actual content of the exchange).

### 4552 **Context**

4553 This exchange process is also known as gateway exchange. This exchange process has the  
4554 effect of reducing the burden of a sending organisation of managing multiple unique bilateral  
4555 exchanges of statistics and / or metadata with several receiving organisations. This is also a  
4556 very common exchange process in the statistical area, where communities of national and  
4557 international institutes agree on ways to gain efficiencies within the scope of their collective  
4558 responsibilities. Apart from Multilateral exchange, the SDMX initiative identifies two other basic  
4559 forms of exchange of statistics and metadata between organisations, i.e. bilateral exchange and  
4560 data-sharing exchange.

### 4561 **Source**

4562 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
4563 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 4564 **Hyperlink**

4565 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 4566 **Related terms**

4567 Bilateral exchange  
4568 Data exchange  
4569 Data sharing exchange  
4570 Gateway exchange  
4571

## 4572 **Name**

4573 The designation of an object by a linguistic expression

### 4574 **Context**

4575

### 4576 **Source**

4577 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
4578 September 2004

### 4579 **Hyperlink**

4580

### 4581 **Related terms**

4582 ISO/IEC 11179  
4583

## 4584 **Nature of the basic data**

4585 See "Source data"  
4586

## 4587 **Nomenclature**

4588 A systematic naming of things or a system of names or terms for things. In classification,  
4589 nomenclature involves a systemic naming of categories or items.

### 4590 **Context**

4591 The terms "classification" and "nomenclature" are often used interchangeably, despite the  
4592 definition of a "classification" being broader than that of a "nomenclature". A nomenclature is  
4593 essentially a convention for describing observations, whereas a classification structures and  
4594 codifies the observations as well.

### 4595 **Source**

4596 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International  
4597 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

4598 **Hyperlink**  
4599 [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary\\_short.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm)

4600 **Related terms**  
4601 Classification  
4602

## 4603 **Non-probability sample**

4604 A sample in which the selection of units is based in factors other than random chance, e.g.  
4605 convenience, prior experience or the judgement of a researcher.

4606 **Context**  
4607

4608 **Source**

4609 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October  
4610 2003

4611 **Hyperlink**  
4612

4613 **Related terms**

4614 Probability sample  
4615

## 4616 **Non-response**

4617 A form of non observation present in most surveys. Non response means failure to obtain a  
4618 measurement on one or more study variables for one or more elements k selected for the  
4619 survey. The term encompasses a wide variety of reasons for non observation: "impossible to  
4620 contact", "not at home", "unable to answer", "incapacity", "hard core refusal", "inaccessible",  
4621 "unreturned questionnaire", and others. In the first two cases contact with the selected element  
4622 is never established.

4623 **Context**

4624 Non-response leads to an increase in variance as a result of a reduction in the actual size of the  
4625 sample and the recourse to imputation. This produces a bias if the non-respondents have  
4626 characteristics of interest that are different from those of the respondents. Furthermore, there is  
4627 a risk of significantly underestimating the sampling error, if imputed data are treated as though  
4628 they were observed data. (Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition,  
4629 October 2003, page 59, available at <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>)  
4630

4631 There are two types of non-response:

4632 First, a sampled unit that is contacted may fail to respond. This represents "unit non-response".  
4633 Second, the unit may respond to the questionnaire incompletely. This is referred to as "item  
4634 non-response".

4635 **Source**

4636 Sarndal C.E., Swensson B., Wretman J., "Model assisted survey sampling", Springer - Verlag,  
4637 New York, 1992

4638 **Hyperlink**

4639 <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>

4640 **Related terms**

4641 Follow-up  
4642 Missing data  
4643 Non-response error  
4644 Non-response rate  
4645 Observation  
4646 Refusal rate  
4647 Survey  
4648 Weight  
4649

## 4650 **Non-response bias**

4651 See "Non-response error"

4652

## 4653 **Non-response error**

4654 Error occurring when the survey fails to get a response to one, or possibly all, of the questions.

### 4655 **Context**

4656 Non-response errors result from a failure to collect complete information on all units in the  
4657 selected sample. These are known as "unit non- response" and "item non-response".

4658 Non-response errors affect survey results in two ways.

4659 First, the decrease in sample size or in the amount of information collected in response to a  
4660 particular question results in larger standard errors. Second, and perhaps more important, a  
4661 bias is introduced to the extent that non-respondents differ from respondents within a selected  
4662 sample.

4663 Non-response errors are determined by collecting any or all of the following: unit response rate,  
4664 weighted unit response rate, item response rate, item coverage rate, refusal rate, distribution of  
4665 reason for non response, comparison of data across contacts, link to administrative data for  
4666 non- respondents, estimate of non-response bias (Statistical Policy Working Paper 15: Quality  
4667 in Establishment Surveys, Office of Management and Budget, Washington D.C., July 1988,  
4668 page 68).

### 4669 **Source**

4670 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 3rd edition, October 1998.

### 4671 **Hyperlink**

4672 <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/12-539-XIE/12-539-XIE.pdf>

### 4673 **Related terms**

4674 Follow-up

4675 Non-response

4676 Weight

4677

## 4678 **Non-response rate**

4679 In sample surveys, the failure to obtain information from a designated individual for any reason  
4680 (death, absence or refusal to reply) is often called a non-response and the proportion of such  
4681 individuals of the sample aimed at is called the non-response rate.

### 4682 **Context**

4683 It would be better, however, to call this a "failure" rate or "non-achievement" rate and to confine  
4684 "non-response" to those cases where the individual concerned is contacted but refuses to reply  
4685 or is unable to do so for reasons such as deafness or illness.

4686 Non-availability of information in other situations, e.g. arrival of the investigator for crop cutting  
4687 experiments after harvesting, may also be termed non-response, or better, non-achievement.

4688 When several items of information are to be collected for the same sample unit, it may so  
4689 happen that information is not available for some of the items but available for others. The term  
4690 non-response is usually not applied in such a situation; but incomplete response or incomplete  
4691 achievement may be used.

### 4692 **Source**

4693 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
4694 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

### 4695 **Hyperlink**

4696

### 4697 **Related terms**

4698 Item response rate

4699 Non-response

4700 Refusal rate

4701 Response rate

4702 Sample

4703

## 4704 **Non-sampling error**

4705 An error in sample estimates which cannot be attributed to sampling fluctuations.

### 4706 **Context**

4707 Non-sampling errors may arise from many different sources such as defects in the frame, faulty  
4708 demarcation of sample units, defects in the selection of sample units, mistakes in the collection  
4709 of data due to personal variations or misunderstanding or bias or negligence or dishonesty on  
4710 the part of the investigator or of the interviewer, mistakes at the stage of the processing of the  
4711 data, etc.

### 4712 **Source**

4713 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
4714 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

### 4715 **Hyperlink**

4716

### 4717 **Related terms**

4718 Estimate

4719 Sampling error

4720

## 4721 **Not seasonally adjusted series**

4722 Data series not subject to the seasonal adjustment process. In other words, the effects of  
4723 regular, or seasonal, patterns have not been removed from these series.

### 4724 **Context**

4725

### 4726 **Source**

4727 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Glossary", unpublished on paper

### 4728 **Hyperlink**

4729 <http://stats.bls.gov/bls/glossary.htm>

### 4730 **Related terms**

4731 Seasonal adjustment

4732

## 4733 **Number raised estimation**

4734 The application of weights to the individual survey records. .

### 4735 **Context**

4736 Number-raised weights are given by  $N/n$  (where  $N$  is the total number of units in the population  
4737 for the stratum, and  $n$  is the number of responding units in the sample for that stratum). The  
4738 weight assigned to each survey unit indicates the number of units in the target population that  
4739 the survey unit is meant to represent.

4740 For example, a survey unit with a weight of 100 represents 100 units in the population. Using  
4741 number-raised weights, each survey unit in a stratum is given the same weight. Number-raised  
4742 weights can only be used to weight simple random samples. The advantages of number-raised  
4743 estimation are: it does not require auxiliary data; it is unbiased; and the accuracy of the  
4744 estimates can be calculated relatively simply. However, number-raised estimation is not as  
4745 accurate as some other methods.

### 4746 **Source**

4747 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Concepts Library, "Labour Statistics: Concepts,  
4748 Sources and Methods", Chapter 16 - Overview of Survey Methods, Canberra, 2001

### 4749 **Hyperlink**

4750 <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/7884593a92027766ca2568b5007b8617/93a0165bdf598509ca256aa000036c90!OpenDocument>

### 4752 **Related terms**

4753 Estimation

4754

## 4755 **Object**

4756 Anything perceivable or conceivable

### 4757 **Context**

4758 Objects may be material (e.g. an engine, a sheet of paper, a diamond), immaterial (e.g. a conversion ratio, a project plan), or imagined [Adapted from ISO 1087-1:2000]

4760 In object-oriented design or programming, an object is a concrete realisation of a class that consists of data and the operations associated with that data. An item that a user can manipulate as a single unit to perform a task.

### 4763 **Source**

4764 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
4765 September 2004

### 4766 **Hyperlink**

4767

### 4768 **Related terms**

4769 Attribute

4770 Characteristic [ISO terminology]

4771 Class

4772 Concept Scheme

4773 ISO/IEC 11179

4774 Metadata object

4775 Object class

4776 Ontology

4777 Property

4778

## 4779 **Object class**

4780 A set of ideas, abstractions, or things in the real world that can be identified with explicit boundaries and meaning and whose properties and behaviour follow the same rules.

### 4782 **Context**

4783 Object class administration record is the Administration record for an Object class

### 4784 **Source**

4785 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
4786 September 2004

### 4787 **Hyperlink**

4788

### 4789 **Related terms**

4790 ISO/IEC 11179

4791 Object

4792 Property

4793

## 4794 **Objectives**

4795 The purposes for which information is required, stated within the context of the program,  
4796 research problem or hypotheses that gave rise to the need for information.

### 4797 **Context**

4798

### 4799 **Source**

4800 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003, page 11

### 4801 **Hyperlink**

4802 <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>

### 4803 **Related terms**

4804

## 4805 **Observation**

4806 The value, at a particular period, of a particular variable.

### 4807 **Context**

4808

### 4809 **Source**

4810 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
4811 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 4812 **Hyperlink**

4813 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 4814 **Related terms**

4815 Classification  
4816 Coverage ratio  
4817 Data collection  
4818 Derived statistic  
4819 Disaggregation  
4820 Measure  
4821 Missing data  
4822 Non-response  
4823 Observation unit  
4824 Pre-Break Value  
4825 Statistical concept  
4826 Time series  
4827 Variable  
4828

## 4829 **Observation confidentiality**

4830 See "Confidentiality"

4831

## 4832 **Observation Pre-break Value (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

4833 The observation, at a time series break period, that was calculated using the "old" methodology,  
4834 with the "observation" being calculated following the "new" methodology.

### 4835 **Context**

4836 At a time series break period, two observations may be recorded: the pre-break value produced  
4837 on the basis of the "old" methodology and the post-break value, as measured by the "new"  
4838 methodology. SDMX allows for a pre-break value in the case of a series break (where one  
4839 would use the observation value to show the post-break value).

### 4840 **Source**

4841 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
4842 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 4843 **Hyperlink**

4844 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 4845 **Related terms**

4846 Observation  
4847 Time series  
4848 Time series breaks  
4849

## 4850 **Observation status (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

4851 Information on the quality of a value or an unusual or missing value.

### 4852 **Context**

4853 The observation value is the field which holds the exchanged (or provided) data.

### 4854 **Source**

4855 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
4856 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

4857 **Hyperlink**  
4858 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

4859 **Related terms**  
4860

## 4861 **Observation unit**

4862 Those entities on which information is received and statistics are compiled.

4863 **Context**  
4864 During the collection of data, this is the unit for which data is recorded. It should be noted that  
4865 this may, or may not be, the same as the reporting unit.

4866 **Hyperlink**  
4867

4868 **Source**  
4869 Statistical Office of the United Nations, "International Standard Industrial Classification of all  
4870 Economic Activities, Third Revision", Statistical Papers Series M No. 4, Rev. 3, United Nations,  
4871 New York, 1990, para. 63

4872 **Related terms**  
4873 Analytical unit  
4874 Classification  
4875 Entity  
4876 Observation  
4877 Statistical unit  
4878

## 4879 **Observation value (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

4880 The value, at a particular period, of a particular variable.

4881 **Context**  
4882 The observation value is the field which holds the exchanged (or provided) data.

4883 **Source**  
4884 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
4885 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

4886 **Hyperlink**  
4887 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

4888 **Related terms**  
4889 Observation  
4890

## 4891 **Occupation (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

4892 Job or position held by an individual who performs a set of tasks and duties.

4893 **Context**  
4894 Occupation refers to the type of work done during the reference period by the person employed  
4895 (or the type of work done previously, if the person is unemployed), irrespective of the industry or  
4896 the status in employment in which the person should be classified.  
4897 Occupation is defined in terms of jobs or posts. "Job" is defined by the International Labour  
4898 Organisation (ILO) as a set of tasks and duties executed, or meant to be executed, by one  
4899 person. A set of jobs whose main tasks and duties are characterised by a high degree of  
4900 similarity constitutes an occupation. Persons are classified by occupation through their  
4901 relationship to a past, present or future job. The international standard for classification of  
4902 occupations is the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88, International  
4903 Labour Office, Geneva, 1990).

4904 **Source**  
4905 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
4906 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

4907 **Hyperlink**  
4908 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

4909 **Related terms**

4910

4911 **Ontology**

4912 A formal specification of a conceptualization; i.e. the objects, concepts and other entities that  
4913 are assumed to exist in some area of interest and the relationships that hold among them.

4914 **Context**

4915 Ontology it is a branch of metaphysics concerned with the nature and relations of being.  
4916 In its general meaning, ontology is the study or concern about what kinds of things exist - what  
4917 entities there are in the universe. It derives from the Greek onto (being) and logia (written or  
4918 spoken discourse). In artificial intelligence, ontology is, according to Tom Gruber, "the  
4919 specification of conceptualizations, used to help programs and humans share knowledge." In  
4920 this usage, an ontology is a set of concepts - such as things, events, and relations - that are  
4921 specified in some way in order to create an agreed-upon vocabulary for exchanging information  
4922 (<http://www-ksl.stanford.edu/kst/what-is-an-ontology.html>).

4923 **Source**

4924 United Nations Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe  
4925 Conference of European Statisticians, Statistical Standards and Studies - No. 53, "Terminology  
4926 on Statistical Metadata", United Nations, Geneva, 2000

4927 **Hyperlink**

4928 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

4929 **Related terms**

4930 Concept  
4931 Entity  
4932 Object  
4933 Taxonomy  
4934

4935 **Organisation**

4936 A unique framework of authority within which a person or persons act, or are designated to act,  
4937 towards some purpose

4938 **Context**

4939 International organisations are entities established by formal political agreements between their  
4940 members that have the status of international treaties; their existence is recognised by law in  
4941 their member countries; they are not treated as resident institutional units of the countries in  
4942 which they are located (United Nations, "System of National Account (SNA) 1993", par.4.164).  
4943 An organization name is a designation for the Organization

4944 **Source**

4945 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
4946 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

4947 **Hyperlink**

4948

4949 **Related terms**

4950 Agency  
4951 Data source  
4952 ISO/IEC 11179  
4953 Organisation identifier  
4954 Organisation Role  
4955 Responsible organization  
4956 Stewardship  
4957

4958 **Organisation identifier**

4959 The identifier assigned to an organization within an organization identification scheme, and  
4960 unique within that scheme.

4961 **Context**

4962

4963 **Source**

4964 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
4965 September 2004

4966 **Hyperlink**

4967

4968 **Related terms**

4969 Identifier

4970 ISO/IEC 11179

4971 Organisation

4972

4973 **Organisation Role**

4974 The function or activities of an organisation, in statistical processes such as collection,  
4975 processing and dissemination

4976 **Context**

4977

4978 **Source**

4979 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
4980 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

4981 **Hyperlink**

4982 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

4983 **Related terms**

4984 Data collection

4985 Data Consumer

4986 Dissemination

4987 Organisation

4988

4989 **Origin**

4990 The source (document, project, discipline or model) for the Administered item.

4991 **Context**

4992

4993 **Source**

4994 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
4995 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

4996 **Hyperlink**

4997

4998 **Related terms**

4999 Administered item

5000

5001 **Originator data identifier (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

5002 The data identifier as found in the originating database.

5003 **Context**

5004 A unique identifier should enable data producers to recognise the database where the data  
5005 were stored.

5006 **Source**

5007 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
5008 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5009 **Hyperlink**

5010 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5011 **Related terms**

5012 Administered item  
5013 Data set identifier  
5014 Identifier  
5015 ISO/IEC 11179  
5016

5017 **Out-of-scope units**

5018 Units that should not be included in the sampling frame because they do not belong to the  
5019 target population in the reference period.

5020 **Context**

5021 If enumerated, out of scope units cause over-coverage.

5022 **Source**

5023 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October  
5024 2003

5025 **Hyperlink**

5026

5027 **Related terms**

5028 Over-coverage  
5029 Scope  
5030

5031 **Outliers**

5032 A data value that lies in the tail of the statistical distribution of a set of data values.

5033 **Context**

5034 The intuition is that outliers in the distribution of uncorrected (raw) data are more likely to be  
5035 incorrect. Examples of outliers are data values that lie in the tails of the distributions of ratios of  
5036 two fields (ratio edits), weighted sums of fields (linear inequality edits), and Mahalanobis  
5037 distributions (multivariate normal) or outlying points to point clouds of graphs.

5038 **Source**

5039 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on  
5040 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,  
5041 Geneva, 2000

5042 **Hyperlink**

5043 <http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm>

5044 **Related terms**

5045 Inlier  
5046

5047 **Over-coverage**

5048 Errors which occur due to the inclusion in the sample of elements that do not belong there.

5049 **Context**

5050 Over-coverage arises from the presence in the frame of units not belonging to the target  
5051 population and of units belonging to the target population that appear in the frame more than  
5052 once (Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg,  
5053 October 2003).

5054 **Source**

5055 United States Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, "Statistical Policy Working Paper  
5056 4 - Glossary of Non-sampling Error Terms: An Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistics",  
5057 1978

5058 **Hyperlink**

5059 <http://www.fcsfm.gov/working-papers/sw4.html>

5060 **Related terms**

5061 Out-of-scope units  
5062 Under-coverage

5063

## 5064 **Period**

5065 The time interval of single repetition of a varying quantity of a motion or phenomenon which  
5066 repeats itself regularly.

### 5067 **Context**

5068 The period is the reciprocal of the frequency. More loosely, the expression is used to denote the  
5069 time interval or average interval between identifiable points of recurrence, e.g. between peaks  
5070 or troughs of the series (month, quarter, year,).

5071 In GESMES/TS, a period is a time reference. (GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3)

### 5072 **Source**

5073 McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology

### 5074 **Hyperlink**

5075

### 5076 **Related terms**

5077 Data collection

5078 Reference period

5079 Weight period

5080

## 5081 **Periodicity**

5082 Frequency of compilation of the data.

### 5083 **Context**

5084 In the SDDS, "periodicity" is closely associated with the compilation of the data (e.g., a time  
5085 series could be available at annual frequency but the underlying data are compiled monthly,  
5086 thus have a monthly periodicity). The periodicity of a particular data category is determined by  
5087 several factors, including the ease of observation or compilation and the needs of analysis.  
5088 Periodicity is usually expressed in terms of divisions of the calendar (e.g. monthly, quarterly).  
5089 Periodicity of original data refers to the frequency of compilation of data by the source agency,  
5090 i.e. the national agency or international organisation that provided the information. This agency  
5091 may or may not be the agency responsible for the original collection of the data from respondent  
5092 or administrative sources.

### 5093 **Source**

5094 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Guide to the Data Dissemination Standards, Module 1: The  
5095 Special Data Dissemination Standard", Washington, May 1996

### 5096 **Hyperlink**

5097 <http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/gdds/gddsguidelangs>

### 5098 **Related terms**

5099 Data

5100 Frequency

5101 Release calendar

5102 SDDS

5103

## 5104 **Permissible value**

5105 An expression of a value meaning allowed in a specific value domain.

### 5106 **Context**

5107 Permissible value meaning is the relationship of a Value meaning from an Enumerated  
5108 conceptual domain with a Permissible value from an Enumerated value domain.

5109 Permissible value set is the set of Permissible values for an Enumerated value domain.

5110 Attributes of Permissible value:

5111 Permissible value begin date is the date this value became/becomes allowed in the Value  
5112 domain. A Registration authority may determine whether this date is the date the value  
5113 becomes valid in a registry or the date the value becomes part of the source domain or some  
5114 other date

5115 Permissible value end date is the date this value became/becomes no longer allowed in the  
5116 Value domain. A Registration authority may determine whether this date is the date the value  
5117 becomes no longer valid in a registry or the date the value becomes no longer part of the  
5118 source domain or some other date.

5119 **Source**

5120 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
5121 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

5122 **Hyperlink**

5123

5124 **Related terms**

5125 Conceptual domain

5126 ISO/IEC 11179

5127 Permitted value

5128 Registration authority

5129 Value domain

5130 Value meaning

5131

5132 **Permitted value**

5133 The use of a value as a Permissible Value in an Enumerated Value Domain.

5134 **Context**

5135

5136 **Source**

5137 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
5138 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

5139 **Hyperlink**

5140

5141 **Related terms**

5142 ISO/IEC 11179

5143 Permissible value

5144 Value domain

5145

5146 **Pre-break observation**

5147 See [Observation Pre-break value](#)

5148

5149 **Pre-Break Value**

5150 See [Observation Pre-break value](#)

5151

5152 **Precision**

5153 The property of the set of measurements of being very reproducible or of an estimate of having  
5154 small random error of estimation.

5155 **Context**

5156 Precision is to be contrasted with accuracy, which is the property of being close to some target  
5157 or true value.

5158 **Hyperlink**

5159

5160 **Source**

5161 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
5162 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

5163 **Related terms**

5164 Accuracy

5165 Estimation

5166

## 5167 Preferred definition

5168 Preferred definition is an indicator that the definition text is a preferred definition for an  
5169 Administered Item within a language.

### 5170 Context

5171

### 5172 Source

5173 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
5174 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

### 5175 Hyperlink

5176

### 5177 Related terms

5178 ISO/IEC 11179

5179

## 5180 Prerequisites of quality

5181 Institutional conditions for the pursuit of data quality.

### 5182 Context

5183 These elements and indicators are identified to reinforce the idea that data users, who often  
5184 cannot replicate or otherwise verify data, must place their trust in the institutions that produce  
5185 statistics and the people who staff them. Typically, these pointers refer to the larger institution  
5186 (called the "umbrella institution" in the DQAF) of which the compiling unit, such as a national  
5187 accounts division or a balance of payments department, is a part. Further, these prerequisites  
5188 typically influence more than one of the five dimensions in the DQAF.

5189 The DQAF groups the indicators of this kind into three elements: legal and institutional  
5190 environment, resources, and quality awareness.

### 5191 Source

5192 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) Glossary".

### 5193 Hyperlink

5194

### 5195 Related terms

5196 Quality (IMF context)

5197

## 5198 Primary data

5199 The most important inputs from among the universe of institutional, administrative, sample  
5200 survey and/or census based information used in compiling statistical aggregates.

### 5201 Context

5202

### 5203 Source

5204 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
5205 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 5206 Hyperlink

5207 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 5208 Related terms

5209 Basic statistical data

5210 Secondary source of statistical data

5211

## 5212 Primary source of statistical data

5213 The organisation or individual responsible for the collection and aggregation of data from their.

5214 **Context**

5215 For information derived from surveys or censuses such data comprises unit record information  
5216 about individual entities. For administrative data the primary source is the agency responsible  
5217 for the compilation of data from individual persons or organisations to meet administrative or  
5218 regulatory requirements.

5219 **Source**

5220 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
5221 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5222 **Hyperlink**

5223 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5224 **Related terms**

5225 Data source

5226 Secondary source of statistical data

5227

5228 **Probability sample**

5229 A sample selected by a method based on the theory of probability (random process), that is, by  
5230 a method involving knowledge of the likelihood of any unit being selected.

5231 **Context**

5232

5233 **Source**

5234 United Nations Statistics Division, "Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods, Volume  
5235 1: Legal, Organisational and Technical Aspects", Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 35, United  
5236 Nations, New York, 1991

5237 **Hyperlink**

5238

5239 **Related terms**

5240 Non-probability sample

5241 Sample

5242

5243 **Processing error**

5244 The error in final survey results arising from the faulty implementation of correctly planned  
5245 implementation methods.

5246 **Context**

5247 Processing errors include all post-collection operations, as well as the printing of  
5248 questionnaires. Most processing errors occur in data for individual units, although errors can  
5249 also be introduced in the implementation of systems and estimates.

5250 In survey data, for example, processing errors may include errors of transcription, errors of  
5251 coding, errors of data entry and errors of arithmetic in tabulation (The International Statistical  
5252 Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by Yadolah Dodge, Oxford  
5253 University Press, 2003).

5254 **Source**

5255 United States Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, "Statistical Policy Working Paper  
5256 15: Quality in Establishment Surveys", Washington D.C., July 1988, page 79

5257 **Hyperlink**

5258 <http://www.fcsml.gov/working-papers/wp15.html>

5259 **Related terms**

5260 Data processing

5261 Survey

5262

5263 **Product**

5264 The representative groups of goods and/or services - and the varieties within them - used to  
5265 compile the basic statistical data from which an index is derived.

5266	<b>Context</b>
5267	Under the SDDS, this point should include information on the approach used to select items,
5268	replace them when they become permanently unavailable, and introduce new products in the
5269	item structure prior to the next official weight update.
5270	<b>Source</b>
5271	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
5272	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
5273	<b>Hyperlink</b>
5274	<a href="http://www.sdmx.org/">http://www.sdmx.org/</a>
5275	<b>Related terms</b>
5276	
5277	<b>Professionalism (SDMX cross-domain concept)</b>
5278	The standard, skill and ability suitable for producing statistics of good quality.
5279	<b>Context</b>
5280	"Professionalism", refers to assurances that: statistics are produced on an impartial basis;
5281	elements providing assurances that the choices of sources and statistical techniques as well as
5282	decisions about dissemination are informed solely by statistical considerations; elements
5283	providing assurances that the recruitment and promotion of staff are based on relevant aptitude;
5284	elements providing assurances that the statistical entity is entitled to comment on erroneous
5285	interpretation and misuse of statistics, guidelines for staff behaviour and procedures used to
5286	make these guidelines known to staff; other practices that provide assurances of the
5287	independence, integrity, and accountability of the statistical agency.
5288	Narrower terms: Professionalism – code of conduct; Professionalism – impartiality;
5289	Professionalism – methodology; Professionalism – Statistical commentary.
5290	<b>Professionalism – code of conduct</b> refers to the provision for assuring the qualifications of
5291	staff and allowing staff to perform their functions without intervention motivated by non-statistical
5292	objectives.
5293	<b>Professionalism – impartiality</b> refers to the description of the elements providing assurances
5294	that statistics are produced on an impartial basis.
5295	<b>Professionalism – methodology</b> refers to the description of the elements providing assurances
5296	that the choices of sources and statistical techniques as well as decisions about dissemination
5297	are informed solely by statistical considerations.
5298	<b>Professionalism – statistical commentary</b> refers to the description of the elements providing
5299	assurances that the statistical entity is entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and
5300	misuse of statistics.
5301	<b>Source</b>
5302	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
5303	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
5304	<b>Hyperlink</b>
5305	<a href="http://www.sdmx.org/">http://www.sdmx.org/</a>
5306	<b>Related terms</b>
5307	Quality
5308	SDMX
5309	
5310	<b>Property</b>
5311	A characteristic common to all members of an object class.
5312	<b>Context</b>
5313	A property qualifier is a qualifier of the element concept property. Property administration record
5314	is the Administration record for a property.
5315	Within SDMX, an "attribute property" allows ad hoc simple metadata concepts, such as URL, to
5316	be specified for a metadata attribute, within the context of a metadata structure definition.
5317	<b>Source</b>
5318	ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
5319	September 2004

5320 **Hyperlink**

5321

5322 **Related terms**

5323 ISO/IEC 11179

5324 Object

5325 Object class

5326

5327 **Provider load**

5328 The effort, in terms of time and cost, required for respondents to provide satisfactory answers to  
5329 a survey.

5330 **Context**

5331 This burden can lead to providers experiencing annoyance, anger, frustration, etc., at being  
5332 requested to participate, with escalation of these feelings generated by the complexity, length  
5333 and/or frequency of surveys. The terms "respondent burden" and "respondent load" are also  
5334 used to describe provider load.

5335 **Source**

5336 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Service Industries Statistics, "Glossary of Terms"; unpublished  
5337 on paper

5338 **Hyperlink**

5339 <http://www.abs.gov.au/CA25670D007E9EA1/0/DB35F160E9383A1FCA256B650006C3D0?Open&Highlight=0.Glossary>

5340 **Related terms**

5341

5342

5343 **Provision Agreement**

5344 Arrangement within which the provider supplies data or metadata.

5345 **Context**

5346 The agreement may define the scope of the data or metadata that can be provided

5347 **Source**

5348 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
5349 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5350 **Hyperlink**

5351 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5352 **Related terms**

5353 Data source

5354

5355 **Public disclosure**

5356 The act of making information or data readily accessible and available to all interested  
5357 individuals and institutions.

5358 **Context**

5359 Some examples of the different forms that public disclosure may take include: verbal or written  
5360 statements released to a public forum, to the news media, or to the general public; publication in  
5361 an official bulletin, gazette, report, or stand-alone document; and information posted on a  
5362 website.

5363 **Source**

5364 Code of Good Practices on Transparency in Monetary and Financial Policies, Part 1-  
5365 Introduction; approved by the IMF Executive Board on July 24, 2000

5366 **Hyperlink**

5367 [http://www.imf.org/external/np/mae/mft/sup/part1.htm#appendix\\_III](http://www.imf.org/external/np/mae/mft/sup/part1.htm#appendix_III)

5368 **Related terms**

5369 Data dissemination

5370

## 5371 Punctuality (SDMX cross-domain concept)

5372 Time lag between the actual delivery of the data and the target date when it should have been  
5373 delivered.

### 5374 Context

5375 Punctuality may be calculated, for instance, with reference to target dates announced in an  
5376 official release calendar, laid down by regulations or previously agreed among partners.

### 5377 Source

5378 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October  
5379 2003

### 5380 Hyperlink

5381

### 5382 Related terms

5383 Release policy - release calendar

5384 Quality

5385 Timeliness

5386 SDMX

5387

## 5388 Qualitative data

5389 Data describing the attributes or properties that an object possesses.

### 5390 Context

5391 The properties are categorized into classes that may be assigned numeric values. However,  
5392 there is no significance to the data values themselves; they simply represent attributes of the  
5393 object concerned.

### 5394 Source

5395 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on  
5396 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,  
5397 Geneva, 2000

### 5398 Hyperlink

5399 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/editingglossary.pdf>

### 5400 Related terms

5401 Quantitative data

5402

## 5403 Quality

5404 The totality of features and characteristics of a product or service that bear on its ability to  
5405 satisfy stated or implied needs.

### 5406 Context

5407 Quality is viewed as a multi-faceted concept. The quality characteristics of most importance  
5408 depend on user perspectives, needs and priorities, which vary across groups of users.

5409 Several statistical organisations have developed complementary definitions of quality, outlining  
5410 the various dimensions (e.g. accuracy, timeliness, etc) and the quality of statistical processes.

5411

5412 **Eurostat** defines the quality of statistics with reference to six criteria: Relevance, Accuracy,  
5413 Timeliness and punctuality in disseminating results, Accessibility and clarity of the information,  
5414 Comparability and Coherence

5415 Eurostat defines the quality of statistics with reference to six criteria:

5416 1. Relevance: an inquiry is relevant if it meets users' needs. The identification of users and their  
5417 expectations is therefore necessary. In the European context, domains for which statistics are  
5418 available should reflect the needs and priorities expressed by the users of the European  
5419 Statistical System (completeness).

5420 2. Accuracy: accuracy is defined as the closeness between the estimated value and the  
5421 (unknown) true value.

5422 3. Timeliness and punctuality in disseminating results: most users want up-to-date figures which  
5423 are published frequently and on time at pre-established dates.

5424 4. Accessibility and clarity of the information: statistical data have most value when they are  
5425 easily accessible by users, are available in the forms users desire and are adequately  
5426 documented.  
5427 5. Comparability: statistics for a given characteristic have the greatest usefulness when they  
5428 enable reliable comparisons of values taken by the characteristic across space and time. The  
5429 comparability component stresses the comparison of the same statistics between countries in  
5430 order to evaluate the meaning of aggregated statistics at the European level.  
5431 6. Coherence: when originating from a single source, statistics are coherent in that elementary  
5432 concepts can be combined reliably in more complex ways. When originating from different  
5433 sources, and in particular from statistical surveys of different frequencies, statistics are coherent  
5434 in so far as they are based on common definitions, classifications and methodological  
5435 standards. (Eurostat, "Assessment of quality in statistics - Definition of Quality in Statistics",  
5436 Working Group, Luxembourg, October 2003).

5437  
5438 The dimensions of the **IMF** definition of "data quality" are:

- 5439 - integrity;
- 5440 - methodological soundness;
- 5441 - accuracy and reliability;
- 5442 - serviceability;
- 5443 - accessibility.

5444 There are a number of prerequisites for quality. These comprise:

- 5445 - legal and institutional environment;
- 5446 - resources;
- 5447 - quality awareness.

5448 Under the SDDS, "quality" is the fourth of the four dimensions that comprise the standard (i.e.,  
5449 data, access, integrity, and quality) for which evidence of a subscribing member's observance  
5450 can be judged through monitorable proxies (the dissemination of documentation on the  
5451 methodology and sources used and the dissemination of data that supports statistical cross-  
5452 checks).

5453  
5454 At **OECD**, quality is viewed in terms of seven dimensions, namely:

- 5455 - relevance
- 5456 - accuracy
- 5457 - credibility
- 5458 - timeliness and punctuality
- 5459 - accessibility
- 5460 - interpretability
- 5461 - coherence.

5462 OECD, "Quality Framework for OECD Statistics", Paris, June 2002  
5463 ([http://www.oecd.org/document/43/0,2340,en\\_2649\\_34257\\_21571947\\_119820\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/43/0,2340,en_2649_34257_21571947_119820_1_1_1,00.html))

5464

#### 5465 **Source**

5466 ISO 8402:1994 Quality management and quality assurance Vocabulary, withdrawn and revised  
5467 by ISO 9000:2000 Quality management systems -- Fundamentals and vocabulary, September  
5468 2004

#### 5469 **Hyperlink**

5470

#### 5471 **Related terms**

5472 Quality differences  
5473 Quality management

5474

### 5475 **Quality control survey**

5476 A replicated survey carried out on a small scale by very experienced staff in order to obtain  
5477 some "zero-default" results with which the actual results of the survey can be compared.

#### 5478 **Context**

5479

5480 **Source**  
5481 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October  
5482 2003

5483 **Hyperlink**

5484

5485 **Related terms**

5486

## 5487 **Quality differences**

5488 Differences in the various dimensions of data quality promulgated by international organisations  
5489 and national agencies.

5490 **Context**

5491 Comparisons of these dimensions may be made for data between countries, for the same  
5492 series over time or between the same series compiled by different agencies in the same  
5493 country.

5494 **Source**

5495 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
5496 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5497 **Hyperlink**

5498 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5499 **Related terms**

5500 Quality

5501

## 5502 **Quality index**

5503 One-dimension synthetical information on quality, possibly calculated as a weighted mean of all  
5504 available quality indicators.

5505 **Context**

5506

5507 **Source**

5508 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October  
5509 2003

5510 **Hyperlink**

5511

5512 **Related terms**

5513

## 5514 **Quality management (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

5515 Processes in place within an organisation to maintain or improve the quality of the statistical  
5516 output.

5517 **Context**

5518 In SDMX, "quality management" (also known as "quality assurance") describes the processes in  
5519 place to focus on quality, to monitor the quality of the statistical programs, and to deal with  
5520 quality considerations in planning the statistical programs. It also includes quality monitoring,  
5521 the overall assessment of data quality and quality considerations in planning the statistical  
5522 programs. It also includes how well the resources meet the requirement.

5523 Narrower terms: Quality management - assessment; Quality management - documentation;  
5524 Quality management - guidelines; Quality management - planning.

5525 **Quality management – assessment** refers to the overall assessment of data quality, based on  
5526 standard quality criteria such as relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality,  
5527 accessibility and clarity, comparability and coherence.

5528 **Quality management – documentation** refers to the documentation on procedures applied for  
5529 quality management and quality assessment.

5530 **Quality management – guidelines** refers to the guidelines focusing on quality in general and  
5531 dealing with quality of statistical programmes, including measures for ensuring the efficient use  
5532 of resources.

5533 **Quality management – planning** refers to the planning methodologies employed for quality  
5534 management.

5535 **Source**

5536 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
5537 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5538 **Hyperlink**

5539 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5540 **Related terms**

5541 Quality

5542

5543 **Quantitative data**

5544 Data expressing a certain quantity, amount or range.

5545 **Context**

5546

5547 **Source**

5548 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on  
5549 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,  
5550 Geneva, 2000

5551 **Hyperlink**

5552 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/editingglossary.pdf>

5553 **Related terms**

5554 Flag

5555 Qualitative data

5556

5557 **Questionnaire**

5558 A group or sequence of questions designed to elicit information upon a subject, or sequence of  
5559 subjects, from an informant.

5560 **Context**

5561

5562 **Source**

5563 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
5564 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

5565 **Hyperlink**

5566

5567 **Related terms**

5568 Questionnaire design

5569 Schedule

5570 Survey

5571

5572 **Questionnaire design**

5573 The design (text, order, and conditions for skipping) of the questions used to obtain the data  
5574 needed for the survey.

5575 **Context**

5576

5577 **Source**

5578 United States Bureau of the Census, Software and Standards Management Branch, Systems  
5579 Support Division, "Survey Design and Statistical Methodology Metadata", Washington D.C.,  
5580 August 1998, Section 3.3.17, page 26

5581 **Hyperlink**  
5582 <http://www.census.gov/srd/www/metadata/metada18.pdf>

5583 **Related terms**

5584 Questionnaire  
5585 Survey design  
5586

5587 **Ratio estimation**

5588 The use of known population totals for auxiliary variables to improve the weighting from sample  
5589 values to population estimates.

5590 **Context**

5591 Ratio estimation operates by comparing the survey sample estimate for an auxiliary variable  
5592 with the known population total for the same variable on the frame. The ratio of the sample  
5593 estimate of the auxiliary variable to its population total on the frame is used to adjust the sample  
5594 estimate for the variable of interest. The ratio weights are given by  $X/x$  (where  $X$  is the known  
5595 population total for the auxiliary variable, and  $x$  is the corresponding estimate of the total based  
5596 on all responding units in the sample). These weights assume that the population total for the  
5597 variable of interest will be estimated by the sample equally as well (or poorly) as the population  
5598 total for the auxiliary variable is estimated by the sample.

5599 Ratio estimation can be more accurate than number-raised estimation if the auxiliary variable is  
5600 highly correlated with the variable of interest. However it is slightly biased, with the bias  
5601 increasing for smaller sample sizes and where there is lower correlation between the auxiliary  
5602 variable and the variable of interest.

5603 **Source**

5604 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Concepts Library, "Labour Statistics: Concepts,  
5605 Sources and Methods", Chapter 16 - Overview of Survey Methods, Canberra, 2001

5606 **Hyperlink**

5607 <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/7884593a92027766ca2568b5007b8617/93a0165bdf598509ca256aa000036c90!OpenDocument>  
5608

5609 **Related terms**

5610 Estimation  
5611 Weight  
5612

5613 **Recommended use of data**

5614 The recommended use(s) of statistical data refers to text that is intended to provide users with  
5615 explicit information on the appropriate use(s) of the statistics within the limitations imposed by  
5616 the definition or main concepts, scope and coverage, collection methodology, etc.

5617 **Context**

5618

5619 **Source**

5620 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
5621 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5622 **Hyperlink**

5623 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5624 **Related terms**

5625

5626 **Record check**

5627 A study in which data on individual units obtained by one method of data collection are checked  
5628 against data for the same units from available records obtained by a different method of data  
5629 collection (for example, comparison of ages as reported in censuses with information on ages  
5630 from birth certificates).

5631 **Context**

5632

5633 **Source**

5634 Lessler, J.T. and Kalsbeek, W.D. (1992), "Non Sampling Error in Survey", New York: John  
5635 Wiley or US department of Commerce (1978), "Glossary of Non Sampling Error Terms: An  
5636 Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistics", Statistical Policy Working Paper 4, Office of  
5637 Federal Statistical Policy Standards, 1978

5638 **Hyperlink**

5639

5640 **Related terms**

5641

5642 **Recording basis (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

5643 Processes and standards employed in calculating statistical aggregates.

5644 **Context**

5645 The recording of transactions covers a broad range of processes and accounting conventions,  
5646 including types of valuation, prices, conversion rates, the accounting basis, units of  
5647 measurement used in data collection, etc. It also refers to descriptions of the time of recording  
5648 (e.g. cash or accrual basis) employed. The description may also include how consistent the  
5649 practices used are with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.

5650 **Source**

5651 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
5652 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5653 **Hyperlink**

5654 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5655 **Related terms**

5656

5657 **Record-keeping error**

5658 An error which arises from inaccuracy in the records used for responses.

5659 **Context**

5660

5661 **Source**

5662 Lessler, J.T. and Kalsbeek, W.D. (1992), "Non Sampling Error in Survey", New York: John  
5663 Wiley or US department of Commerce (1978), "Glossary of Non Sampling Error Terms: An  
5664 Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistics", Statistical Policy Working Paper 4, Office of  
5665 Federal Statistical Policy Standards, 1978

5666 **Hyperlink**

5667

5668 **Related terms**

5669

5670 **Recording of transactions**

5671 The recording of transactions pertains to a broad range of processes and standards employed  
5672 in calculating statistical aggregates.

5673 **Context**

5674 The conventions include types of valuation, prices, conversion rates, the accounting basis, units  
5675 of measurement used in data collection, etc.

5676 **Source**

5677 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
5678 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5679 **Hyperlink**

5680 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5681 **Related terms**

5682 Accounting basis

5683

5684

5685 **Reference area (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

5686 The country or geographic area to which the measured statistical phenomenon relates.

5687 **Context**

5688 The country, geographical/political group of countries or geographical/political region within a  
5689 country that the measured phenomenon relates to. The concept is subject to a variety of  
5690 hierarchies.

5691 **Source**

5692 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
5693 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5694 **Hyperlink**

5695 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5696 **Related terms**

5697

5698 **Reference document**

5699 A document that provides pertinent details for consultation about a subject.

5700 **Context**

5701 Attributes of Reference document:

5702 Reference document identifier is an identifier for the Reference document

5703 Reference document language identifier is the identifier of the natural or special language used  
5704 in the Reference document

5705 Reference document title is the title of the Reference document

5706 Reference document type description is a description of the type of Reference document.

5707 Reference documents can be publications (hardcopy, electronic), other databases (internal,  
5708 external), Internet (Internet addresses), methodological references (for instance to summary  
5709 metadata, detailed metadata, information on major changes).

5710 **Source**

5711 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
5712 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

5713 **Hyperlink**

5714

5715 **Related terms**

5716 ISO/IEC 11179

5717

5718 **Reference metadata**

5719 Metadata describing the contents and the quality of the statistical data.

5720 **Context**

5721 Preferably, reference metadata should include all of the following: a) "conceptual" metadata,  
5722 describing the concepts used and their practical implementation, allowing users to understand  
5723 what the statistics are measuring and, thus, their fitness for use; b) "methodological" metadata,  
5724 describing methods used for the generation of the data (e.g. sampling, collection methods,  
5725 editing processes); c) "quality" metadata, describing the different quality dimensions of the  
5726 resulting statistics (e.g. timeliness, accuracy).

5727 **Source**

5728 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
5729 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5730 **Hyperlink**

5731 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5732 **Related terms**

5733 Common Metadata Concepts

5734 Metadata Structure Definition

5735 Statistical metadata

5736 Structural metadata  
5737

## 5738 **Reference period (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

5739 Textual description of the time period to which the main variables refer to.

### 5740 **Context**

5741 Statistical variables refer to specific times, which may be limited to a reference time point (e.g. a day) or a time period (e.g. a month, a fiscal year, a calendar year or several calendar years).

5742 Narrower terms: Reference period - collection; Reference period - target; Reference period - weights.

5743 In SDMX, **Reference period – Collection** refers to the dates or periods during which observations have been collected (such as middle, average or end of period) to compile the indicator for the target reference period.

5744 **Reference Period – Target** refers to the period that the data is designed to represent.

5745 **Reference Period – Weights** refers to the dates or periods to which the observations used to compile the weights refer.

### 5751 **Source**

5752 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
5753 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 5754 **Hyperlink**

5755 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 5756 **Related terms**

5757 Accounting basis

5758 Base period

5759 Compilation practices

5760 Period

5761

## 5762 **Reference time**

5763 See "Reference period"

5764

## 5765 **Refusal rate**

5766 In the sampling of human populations, the proportion of individuals who, though successfully  
5767 contacted, refuse to give the information sought.

### 5768 **Context**

5769 The proportion is usually and preferably calculated by dividing the number of refusals by the  
5770 total number of the sample which was originally desired to achieve.

### 5771 **Source**

5772 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
5773 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

### 5774 **Hyperlink**

5775

### 5776 **Related terms**

5777 Item response rate

5778 Non-response

5779 Non-response rate

5780 Response rate

5781

## 5782 **Register**

5783 A set of files (paper, electronic, or a combination) containing the assigned data elements and  
5784 the associated information.

### 5785 **Context**

5786 A register is a written and complete record containing regular entries of items and details on  
5787 particular set of objects (Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE),

5788 "Terminology on Statistical Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical  
5789 Standards and Studies, No. 53, Geneva, 2000,  
5790 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>).

5791 **Source**

5792 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179, Part 1, Framework for the specification and  
5793 standardization of data elements, 1999

5794 **Hyperlink**

5795

5796 **Related terms**

5797 ISO/IEC 11179

5798 Registration authority

5799

5800 **Registrar**

5801 A representative of a Registration authority.

5802 **Context**

5803 Registrar contact is the contact information associated with a Registrar.

5804 Registrar identifier is an identifier for the Registrar.

5805 **Source**

5806 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
5807 September 2004

5808 **Hyperlink**

5809

5810 **Related terms**

5811 ISO/IEC 11179

5812 Registration authority

5813

5814 **Registration**

5815 The relationship between an administered item and the registration authority.

5816 **Context**

5817

5818 **Hyperlink**

5819

5820 **Source**

5821 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
5822 September 2004

5823 **Related terms**

5824 Administered item

5825 ISO/IEC 11179

5826 Registration authority

5827 Registry

5828

5829 **Registration authority**

5830 Organization responsible for maintaining a register.

5831 **Context**

5832 Registration authority identifier is an identifier assigned to a registration authority. Registration  
5833 authority registrar is the relationship between a Registration Authority and a Registrar. A  
5834 registration status is a designation of the status in the registration life-cycle of an administered  
5835 item.

5836 **Source**

5837 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
5838 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

5839 **Hyperlink**

5840

5841 **Related terms**

5842 ISO/IEC 11179

5843 Permissible value

5844 Register

5845 Registrar

5846 Registration

5847

5848 **Registry item**

5849 Metadata item recorded in a Metadata Registry.

5850 **Context**

5851

5852 **Source**

5853 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -

5854 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

5855 **Hyperlink**

5856

5857 **Related terms**

5858 Administered item

5859 ISO/IEC 11179

5860 Metadata item

5861 Metadata registry

5862

5863 **Registry metamodel**

5864 A metamodel specifying a metadata registry.

5865 **Context**

5866

5867 **Source**

5868 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",

5869 September 2004

5870 **Hyperlink**

5871

5872 **Related terms**

5873 ISO/IEC 11179

5874 Metadata registry

5875 Metamodel

5876

5877 **Related data reference**

5878 A reference between a data element and any related data.

5879 **Context**

5880

5881 **Source**

5882 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179, Part 1, Framework for the specification and

5883 standardization of data elements, 1999

5884 **Hyperlink**

5885

5886 **Related terms**

5887 Data element

5888 ISO/IEC 11179

5889

## 5890 **Related metadata reference**

5891 A reference from one metadata item to another.

### 5892 **Context**

5893 A Registration Authority could choose to use a Reference Document, an administrative note or  
5894 an explanatory comment to record a related metadata reference.

### 5895 **Source**

5896 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
5897 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

### 5898 **Hyperlink**

5899

### 5900 **Related terms**

5901 ISO/IEC 11179

5902 Metadata item

5903

## 5904 **Relationship**

5905 A connection among model elements.

### 5906 **Context**

5907 In ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries-Part 3:  
5908 Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003 a relationship is either an association  
5909 or a generalization. [ISO/IEC 19501-1:2001, 2.5.2.36]

5910 Association is a semantic relationship between two classes. [ISO/IEC 19501-1:2001, 2.5.2.3]

5911 Generalization is a relationship between a more general class (the parent) and a more specific  
5912 class (the child)

5913 that is fully consistent with the first class (i.e. it has all of its attributes and relationships) and that  
5914 adds

5915 additional information. [ISO/IEC 19501-1:2001, 2.5.2.24]

5916 A relationship between a Data element example and its Data element is called an  
5917 exemplification.

### 5918 **Source**

5919 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
5920 September 2004

### 5921 **Hyperlink**

5922

### 5923 **Related terms**

5924 ISO/IEC 11179

5925

## 5926 **Release policy (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

5927 Rules for disseminating statistical data to interested parties.

### 5928 **Context**

5929 Describes the policy for release of the data to the public, how the public is informed that the  
5930 data are being released, and whether the data are disseminated to all interested parties at the  
5931 same time.

5932 Narrower terms: Release policy - legal acts and other agreements; Release policy - policy  
5933 commentary; Release policy - release calendar; Release policy - release calendar access;  
5934 Release policy - transparency; Release policy - user access.

5935 In SDMX, **Release policy – legal acts and other agreements** refers to the legal acts and other  
5936 agreements pertaining to data access. It involves the description of the legal and institutional  
5937 framework defining which users have access to what data, on what conditions, and on what  
5938 time schedule.

5939 **Release policy – policy commentary** refers to the fact whether or not ministerial commentary  
5940 is provided on the occasion of statistical release. This concept relates to policy commentary that  
5941 other authorities might add to the data released to the public.

5942 **Release policy – release calendar** refers to the schedule of statistical release dates.

5943 An advance release calendar is the schedule for release of data, which is publicly disseminated  
5944 so as to provide prior notice of the precise release dates on which a national statistical agency,  
5945 other national agency, or international organisation undertakes to release specified statistical  
5946 information to the public.

5947 **Release policy – release calendar access** refers to the access to the release calendar  
5948 information (how the calendar can be accessed).

5949 **Release policy – transparency** refers to the dissemination of the release policy to the public. It  
5950 concerns whether the description of the release policy is disseminated to the public and by what  
5951 modality, but not the description of the release policy itself.

5952 **Release policy – user access** refers to the policy for release of the data to users, the scope of  
5953 dissemination (eg, to the public, to selected users), how users are informed that the data are  
5954 being released, and whether the policy provides for the dissemination of statistical data to all  
5955 users at the same time. It also describes the policy for briefing the press in advance of the  
5956 release of the data.

#### 5957 **Source**

5958 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
5959 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

#### 5960 **Hyperlink**

5961 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

#### 5962 **Related terms**

5963

### 5964 **Relevance (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

5965 The degree to which statistical information meets the real needs of clients.

#### 5966 **Context**

5967 Relevance is concerned with whether the available information sheds light on the issues that  
5968 are important to users. Assessing relevance is subjective and depends upon the varying needs  
5969 of users. The Agency's challenge is to weigh and balance the conflicting needs of current and  
5970 potential users to produce statistics that satisfy the most important needs within given resource  
5971 constraints. In assessing relevance, one approach is to gauge relevance directly, by polling  
5972 users about the data. Indirect evidence of relevance may be found by ascertaining where there  
5973 are processes in place to determine the uses of data and the views of their users or to use the  
5974 data in-house for research and other analysis. In SDMX, "Relevance" refers to the processes for  
5975 monitoring the relevance and practical usefulness of existing statistics in meeting users' needs  
5976 and how these processes inform the development of statistical programs.

5977 Narrower concepts: Relevance - completeness; Relevance - user needs; Relevance - user  
5978 satisfaction.

5979 **Relevance – Completeness** refers to the the extent to which all statistics that are needed are  
5980 available. The measurement of the availability of the necessary statistics normally refers to data  
5981 sets and compares the required data set to the available one.

5982 **Relevance – User Needs** refers to the description of users and their respective needs with  
5983 respect to the statistical data. The main users (e.g. official authorities, the public or others) and  
5984 user needs should be stated, e.g. official authorities with the needs for policy indicators, national  
5985 users, etc.

5986 **Relevance – User Satisfaction** refers to the measure to determine user satisfaction. This  
5987 concerns how well the disseminated statistics meet the expressed user needs. If user  
5988 satisfaction surveys have been conducted, the domain manager should mention them.  
5989 Otherwise, any other indication or measure to determine user satisfaction might be used.

#### 5990 **Source**

5991 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
5992 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

#### 5993 **Hyperlink**

5994 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

#### 5995 **Related terms**

5996 Quality

5997 SDMX

5998 Serviceability

5999

## 6000 **Reliability**

6001 Closeness of the initial estimated value(s) to the subsequent estimated value(s).

### 6002 **Context**

6003 The third element of the IMF definition of quality is "accuracy and reliability".

### 6004 **Source**

6005 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) Glossary"

### 6006 **Hyperlink**

6007

### 6008 **Related terms**

6009 Accuracy

6010 Estimate

6011 Quality

6012

## 6013 **Reporting agency (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

6014 The administrative unit that supplies the data for a given instance of the statistics.

### 6015 **Context**

6016

### 6017 **Source**

6018 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
6019 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 6020 **Hyperlink**

6021 <http://www.sdmx.org>

### 6022 **Related terms**

6023 Reporting unit

6024

## 6025 **Reporting unit**

6026 A reporting unit is a unit that supplies the data for a given survey instance.

### 6027 **Context**

6028 When, for a specific survey, the book keeping office completes questionnaires for each of the  
6029 locations of a business, these locations are the reporting units (Statistics Netherlands,  
6030 "Reference manual on Design and Implementation of Business Surveys", March 1995, page  
6031 16).

### 6032 **Source**

6033 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
6034 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
6035 Geneva, 2000

### 6036 **Hyperlink**

6037 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

### 6038 **Related terms**

6039 Survey

6040

## 6041 **Respondent burden**

6042 See "[Provider load](#)"

6043

## 6044 **Respondent load**

6045 See "[Provider load](#)"

6046

## 6047 **Response errors**

6048 Errors arising from the interviewing process.

### 6049 **Context**

6050 Such errors can result from a number of circumstances, such as the following:

- 6051 - inadequate concepts or questions;
- 6052 - inadequate training;
- 6053 - interviewer failures;
- 6054 - respondent failures.

6055 Response error may result from the failure of the respondent to report the correct value  
 6056 (respondent error), the failure of the interviewer to record the value reported correctly  
 6057 (interviewer error), or the failure of the instrument to measure the value correctly (instrument  
 6058 error). (United States Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, "Statistical Policy Working  
 6059 Paper 15: Quality in Establishment Surveys", Washington D.C., July 1988, page 57)

### 6060 **Source**

6061 Statistical Office of the United Nations, "Handbook of Household Surveys, Revised Edition",  
 6062 (para. 8.6), Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 31, United Nations, New York, 1984

### 6063 **Hyperlink**

6064

### 6065 **Related terms**

6066

## 6067 **Response rate**

6068 The number of respondents who complete a questionnaire compared to the number assigned.,

### 6069 **Context**

6070 Usually response rate is expressed as a percentage. The response rate can also apply to  
 6071 individual questions.

### 6072 **Source**

6073 Australian Government Initiative, Statistical Clearing House, "Glossary"

### 6074 **Hyperlink**

6075 <http://www.sch.abs.gov.au/SCH/A1610103.NSF/Glossary?OpenView>

### 6076 **Related terms**

- 6077 Item response rate
- 6078 Non-response rate
- 6079 Refusal rate

6080

## 6081 **Responsible organization**

6082 The organization or unit within an organization that is responsible for the contents of the  
 6083 mandatory attributes by which the data element is specified.

### 6084 **Context**

6085

### 6086 **Source**

6087 ISO/IEC FCD 11179-6 Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 6: Registration,  
 6088 January 2004

### 6089 **Hyperlink**

6090

### 6091 **Related terms**

- 6092 ISO/IEC 11179
- 6093 Organisation

6094

## 6095 **Revision policy**

6096 See "[Data revision](#)"

6097

## 6098 **Sample**

6099 A subset of a frame where elements are selected based on a randomised process with a known  
6100 probability of selection.

### 6101 **Context**

6102

### 6103 **Source**

6104 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
6105 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
6106 Geneva, 2000

### 6107 **Hyperlink**

6108 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

### 6109 **Related terms**

6110 Co-ordination of samples

6111 Non-response rate

6112 Probability sample

6113 Sample design

6114 Sample size

6115 Sample survey

6116 Sampling

6117 Sampling fraction

6118 Sampling technique

6119 Sampling unit

6120 Schedule

6121 Stratification

6122

## 6123 **Sample design**

6124 Design that provides information on the target and final sample sizes, strata definitions and the  
6125 sample selection methodology.

### 6126 **Context**

6127 The usage is not uniform as regards the precise meaning of this and similar terms like "sample  
6128 plan", "survey design", "sampling plan" or "sampling design". These cover one or more parts  
6129 constituting the entire planning of a sample survey inclusive of processing, etc. The term  
6130 "sampling plan" may be restricted to mean all steps taken in selecting the sample; the term  
6131 "sample design" cover in addition the method of estimation; and "survey design" may cover also  
6132 other aspects of the survey, e.g. choice and training of interviewers, tabulation plans, etc.  
6133 "Sample design" is sometimes used in a clearly defined sense, with reference to a given frame,  
6134 as the set of rules or specifications for the drawing of a sample in an unequivocal manner (The  
6135 International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by Yadolah  
6136 Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003)

### 6137 **Source**

6138 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, May  
6139 2002

### 6140 **Hyperlink**

6141

### 6142 **Related terms**

6143 Sample

6144 Survey design

6145

## 6146 **Sample size**

6147 The number of sampling units which are to be included in the sample..

### 6148 **Context**

6149 In the case of a multi-stage sample this number refers to the number of units at the final stage in  
6150 the sampling

6151 **Source**  
6152 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
6153 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

6154 **Hyperlink**

6155

6156 **Related terms**

6157 Sample

6158 Sampling

6159 Sampling fraction

6160 Sampling unit

6161

## 6162 **Sample survey**

6163 A survey which is carried out using a sampling method.

6164 **Context**

6165 In sample survey only a portion, and not the whole population is surveyed.

6166 **Source**

6167 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
6168 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

6169 **Hyperlink**

6170

6171 **Related terms**

6172 Sample

6173 Survey

6174

## 6175 **Sampling (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

6176 The process of selecting a number of cases from all the cases in a particular group or universe.

6177 **Context**

6178 Refers to information on sample design, sample size, sample frame, sample updating, etc.

6179 **Source**

6180 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
6181 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

6182 **Hyperlink**

6183 <http://www.sdmx.org>

6184 **Related terms**

6185 Area sampling

6186 Sample

6187 Sample size

6188 Sampling error

6189

## 6190 **Sampling error**

6191 That part of the difference between a population value and an estimate

6192 **Context**

6193 The estimates are derived from a random sample, which is due to the fact that only a sample of  
6194 values is observed; as distinct from errors due to imperfect selection, bias in response or  
6195 estimation, errors of observation and recording, etc. The totality of sampling errors in all  
6196 possible samples of the same size generates the sampling distribution of the statistic which is  
6197 being used to estimate the parent value.

6198 **Source**

6199 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
6200 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

6201 **Hyperlink**

6202

6203 **Related terms**

6204 Sampling

6205 Non-sampling error

6206

6207 **Sampling fraction**

6208 The ratio of the sample size to the population size.

6209 **Context**

6210

6211 **Source**

6212 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003, page 23

6213 **Hyperlink**

6214 <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>

6215 **Related terms**

6216 Sample

6217 Sample size

6218

6219 **Sampling frame**

6220 See "[Frame](#)"

6221

6222 **Sampling technique**

6223 The name or other identification of the specific process by which the entities of the sample have  
6224 been selected.

6225 **Context**

6226

6227 **Source**

6228 United States Bureau of the Census, Software and Standards Management Branch, Systems  
6229 Support Division, "Survey Design and Statistical Methodology Metadata", Washington D.C.,  
6230 August 1998, Section 3.3.23, page 32

6231 **Hyperlink**

6232 <http://www.census.gov/srd/www/metadata/metada18.pdf>

6233 **Related terms**

6234 Sample

6235

6236 **Sampling unit**

6237 One of the units into which an aggregate is divided for the purpose of sampling, each unit being  
6238 regarded as individual and indivisible when the selection is made.

6239 **Context**

6240 The definition of unit may be made on some natural basis, e.g., household, persons, units of  
6241 product, tickets, etc., or upon some arbitrary basis, e.g., areas defined by grid co-ordinates on a  
6242 map.

6243 **Source**

6244 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
6245 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

6246 **Hyperlink**

6247

6248 **Related terms**

6249 Sample

6250 Sample size

6251

## 6252 **Schedule**

6253 In the theory of sample surveys, schedule is synonymous with questionnaire.

### 6254 **Context**

6255 A schedule occurs in the specialized sense of a group, or sequence, of questions designed to  
6256 elicit information upon a subject. Usually, it is completed by an investigator on the basis of  
6257 information supplied by the particular member of the population chosen for inclusion in the  
6258 sample, but sometimes it is completed by that member him- or herself, as in postal enquiries.

### 6259 **Source**

6260 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
6261 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

### 6262 **Hyperlink**

6263

### 6264 **Related terms**

6265 Questionnaire

6266 Sample

6267 Survey

6268

## 6269 **Scope**

6270 The coverage or sphere of what is to be observed. It is the total membership or population of a  
6271 defined set of people, object or events.

### 6272 **Context**

6273 Scope describes the coverage of the statistics and how consistent this is with internationally  
6274 accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices. The scope includes a description of target  
6275 population, and geographic, sector, institutional, item, population, product, and other coverage.

### 6276 **Source**

6277 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International  
6278 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

### 6279 **Hyperlink**

6280 [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary\\_short.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm)

### 6281 **Related terms**

6282 Coverage

6283 Out-of-scope units

6284 Statistical population

6285

## 6286 **SDMX-EDI**

6287 EDIFACT format for exchange of SDMX-structured data and metadata.

### 6288 **Context**

6289 The SDMX-EDI format is drawn from the GESMES/TS version 3.0 implementation guide, as  
6290 published as a standard of the SDMX initiative. (source, p. 10)

6291 SDMX-EDI is a message designed for the exchange of statistical information between  
6292 organisations in a platform independent manner. The message implements a data exchange  
6293 model (SDMX INFORMATION Model) which provides for the exchange of time series identified  
6294 through a multi-dimensional key and a variety of associated metadata. It employs an  
6295 appropriate GESMES profile and, for the version described in this Guide, the EDIFACT syntax.  
6296 Though GESMES is a generic statistical data model which affords sufficient flexibility to  
6297 describe syntactically virtually any statistical data model, SDMX-EDI has a fixed syntax. This  
6298 allows partner institutions to design and to build the applications needed to "read" and "write"  
6299 SDMX-EDI messages, avoiding intermediate files and special translators; the design of the  
6300 read/write applications is further simplified by eliminating genericity which is not needed when  
6301 exchanging time series data. Due to the fixed syntax, in most cases, the rules used in SDMX-  
6302 EDI are stronger and more restrictive than those in generic GESMES. However, the current

6303 design allows the possibility of future enhancements and progressive generalisation, if this is  
6304 needed, upon agreement of the parties involved.

6305 **Source**

6306 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
6307 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

6308 **Hyperlink**

6309 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

6310 **Related terms**

6311 EDIFACT

6312 SDMX

6313 SDMX-ML

6314

6315 **SDMX-ML**

6316 XML format for the exchange of SDMX-structured data and metadata.

6317 **Context**

6318 The SDMX package contains normative sections describing the use of the XML syntax in SDMX  
6319 messages, and is accompanied by a set of XML schemas and sample XML document  
6320 instances.

6321 **Source**

6322 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
6323 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

6324 **Hyperlink**

6325 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

6326 **Related terms**

6327 XML

6328 SDMX

6329 SDMX-EDI

6330

6331 **SDMX Registry**

6332 An application which stores metadata for querying, and which can be used by any other  
6333 application in the network with sufficient access privileges.

6334 **Context**

6335 The SDMX model of statistical exchange is based on a set of registry services which are not  
6336 concerned with the storage of data or reference metadata, under the assumption that data and  
6337 metadata live on the sites of data providers.

6338 A registry can be understood as an index of data or metadata repositories of all the data  
6339 providers within a statistical community, distributed across the Internet or similar networks. The  
6340 registry services concern themselves with providing visibility to the data and reference  
6341 metadata, and information needed for the access.

6342 The SDMX registry provides the following services:

6343 Querying: The registry has interfaces for querying the metadata it contains, so that applications  
6344 and users can discover the existence of data sets and reference metadata sets, structural  
6345 metadata, the providers/agencies associated with those objects, and the provider agreements  
6346 which describe how the data and metadata are made available, and how they are categorized.

6347 Subscription/Notification: It is possible to subscribe to specific objects in the registry, so that a  
6348 notification will be sent to all subscribers whenever the registry objects are updated.

6349 Registration (structural metadata submission): A registry service which allows users to inform  
6350 the registry that data sets, reference metadata sets, structural metadata, or data provisioning  
6351 information.

6352 **Source**

6353 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
6354 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

6355 **Hyperlink**

6356 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

6357 **Related terms**

6358 Reference metadata  
6359 Structural metadata  
6360 Provider  
6361 Metadata registry  
6362 Registration  
6363 SDMX  
6364

6365 **Seasonal adjustment**

6366 A statistical technique to remove the effects of seasonal calendar influences operating on a  
6367 series.

6368 **Context**

6369 Seasonal effects usually reflect the influence of the seasons themselves either directly or  
6370 through production series related to them, or social conventions. Other types of calendar  
6371 variation occur as a result of influences such as number of days in the calendar period, the  
6372 accounting or recording practices adopted or the incidence of moving holidays (such as Easter).  
6373 Series are adjusted for seasonal variations and in some cases for calendar working days  
6374 variations. When available, seasonally adjusted data are taken directly from national statistical  
6375 sources; otherwise, the method used for de-seasonalisation is the standard X-11 ARIMA which  
6376 was developed by the US Bureau of Census and incorporates general smoothing techniques  
6377 and spectral analyses. (Further details may be found in Technical Paper No. 15 of the Bureau of  
6378 the Census.). Where appropriate, series are also corrected for calendar variations (e.g.  
6379 workdays per month) and constrained for annual coherency. (Organisation for Economic Co-  
6380 operation and Development (OECD), "The OECD Economic Outlook: Sources and Methods",  
6381 available at [www.oecd.org/eco/sources-and-methods](http://www.oecd.org/eco/sources-and-methods))

6382 Seasonal adjustment is normally done using off-the-shelf programs - most commonly worldwide  
6383 by one of the programs in the X-11 family. Other programs in common use include the TRAMO-  
6384 SEATS package developed by Bank of Spain and promoted by Eurostat and the German BV4  
6385 program (International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Quarterly National Accounts Manual",  
6386 Washington D.C., 2001, para. 8.13).

6387 Under the SDDS this entails the availability, publication, and level at which seasonal adjustment  
6388 takes place, the methods used and an indication regarding which data series the methods are  
6389 applied to (e.g. aggregate series derived from lower-level seasonally-adjusted series versus  
6390 independently adjusted; adjusted at 1-digit SITC level using X-11 method and aggregated to  
6391 totals; seasonal adjustment is conducted on four components of final expenditures (after annual  
6392 balancing) and then aggregated to total GDP), and on consumer and producer price indexes.

6393 **Source**

6394 Australian Bureau of Statistics, "An Analytical Framework for Price Indexes in Australia:  
6395 Glossary and References", Canberra, 1997

6396 **Hyperlink**

6397 <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/66f306f503e529a5ca25697e0017661f/ff4de83064a2e425ca25697e0018fd44!OpenDocument>  
6398

6399 **Related terms**

6400 Adjustment  
6401 Compilation practices  
6402 Not seasonally adjusted series  
6403

6404 **Secondary source of statistical data**

6405 The organisation or individual other than those responsible for the collection and aggregation of  
6406 data from their initial source.

6407 **Context**

6408 Secondary sources may redistribute information received from the primary source either in their  
6409 initial form or after some transformation including further aggregation, reclassification or other  
6410 manipulation such as seasonal adjustment.

- 6411 **Source**  
6412 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
6413 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
- 6414 **Hyperlink**  
6415 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
- 6416 **Related terms**  
6417 Data source  
6418 Primary data  
6419 Primary source of statistical data  
6420
- 6421 **Semantics**
- 6422 The branch of linguistic science which deals with the meaning of words.
- 6423 **Context**  
6424
- 6425 **Source**  
6426 ISO/IEC CD 11179-5 "Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) - Part 5: Naming and  
6427 identification principles", January 2003
- 6428 **Hyperlink**  
6429
- 6430 **Related terms**  
6431 ISO/IEC 11179  
6432 Syntax  
6433
- 6434 **Serviceability**
- 6435 Practical aspects of how well the available data meet users' needs.
- 6436 **Context**  
6437 Serviceability is a term that captures the practical aspects of usability of data. The emphasis on  
6438 "use" thus assumes that data are available. Thus, key aspects of usability are relevance,  
6439 timeliness and frequency, consistency, and revision policy and practices.
- 6440 **Source**  
6441 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) Glossary"
- 6442 **Hyperlink**  
6443
- 6444 **Related terms**  
6445 Consistency  
6446 Quality (IMF context)  
6447 Relevance  
6448
- 6449 **Sex (SDMX cross-domain concept)**
- 6450 The state of being male or female.
- 6451 **Context**  
6452 This concept is applied if data needs to be categorised by sex. In SDMX the concept is in  
6453 general coded, i.e. represented through a code list.
- 6454 **Source**  
6455 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
6456 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
- 6457 **Hyperlink**  
6458 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
- 6459 **Related terms**  
6460

## 6461 Sibling group

6462 A set of time series whose keys differ only in the value taken by the frequency dimension.

### 6463 Context

6464 Within an ETS (exchanged time series), a sibling group is uniquely identified by a data set  
6465 identifier combined with the sibling group key.

### 6466 Source

6467 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International  
6468 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),  
6469 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

### 6470 Hyperlink

6471 <http://www.sdmx.org>

### 6472 Related terms

6473 Data set  
6474 GESMES/TS  
6475 Key (time series or sibling group)  
6476 Time series  
6477

## 6478 Simultaneous release

6479 The dissemination of statistical data to all interested parties at the same time.

### 6480 Context

6481 Simultaneous release describes the policy for release of the data to the public, how the public is  
6482 informed that the data are being released, and whether the policy provides for the dissemination  
6483 of statistical data to all interested parties at the same time. It also describes the policy for  
6484 briefing the press in advance of the release of the data.

6485 Simultaneous release (to all interested parties) is an element of the principle of ready and equal  
6486 access to official statistics by the public that strengthens transparency in data dissemination  
6487 practices.

### 6488 Source

6489 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
6490 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 6491 Hyperlink

6492 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 6493 Related terms

6494 Accessibility  
6495 Release calendar  
6496 SDMX  
6497

## 6498 Source

6499 See "[Data source](#)"  
6500

## 6501 Source data

6502 Data collected on a regular basis (by survey from respondents, or from administrative sources)  
6503 by survey statisticians in the national statistical system to be edited, imputed, aggregated and/or  
6504 used in the compilation and production of official statistics.

### 6505 Source

6506 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
6507 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 6508 Context

6509 In SDMX, **Type of source data** refers to the characteristics and components of the raw  
6510 statistical data used for compiling statistical aggregates. The following types of data sources  
6511 can be distinguished: a) administrative (data coming from administrative records); b) survey  
6512 related (data coming from surveys done with a defined number of respondents for a specific

6513 sector or institutional unit). Surveys can be sample surveys or can cover all respondents  
6514 (census). Some characteristics of the type of data source should also be mentioned (e.g. the  
6515 sample size).

6516 **Hyperlink**

6517 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

6518 **Related terms**

6519

6520 **Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)**

6521 The Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) was established by the International  
6522 Monetary Fund (IMF) to guide members that have, or that might seek, access to international  
6523 capital markets in the provision of their economic and financial data to the public.

6524 **Context**

6525 Subscription to the SDDS was opened in early April 1996.

6526 **Source**

6527 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Guide to the Data Dissemination Standards, Module 1: The  
6528 Special Data Dissemination Standard", Washington, May 1996

6529 **Hyperlink**

6530

6531 **Related terms**

6532 Accounting basis

6533 Adjustment Methods

6534 Aggregation

6535 Analytical framework

6536 Base period

6537 Basic statistical data

6538 Comparability

6539 Compilation practices

6540 Computation of lowest level indices

6541 Coverage

6542 Data

6543 Data collection

6544 Data Dissemination Standards

6545 Data item

6546 Data reconciliation

6547 Data status (upon release)

6548 Estimation

6549 General Data Dissemination System (GDDS)

6550 Integrity

6551 Internal access

6552 Metadata dimension (SDDS)

6553 Ministerial commentary

6554 Primary data

6555 Recording of transactions

6556 Seasonal adjustment

6557 Simultaneous release

6558 Standard Classification

6559 Types of prices

6560 Valuation

6561 Verification

6562

6563 **Special language**

6564 A language used in a subject field and characterized by the use of specific linguistic means of  
6565 expression.

6566	<b>Context</b>
6567	The specific linguistic means of expression always include subject-specific terminology and
6568	phraseology and also may cover stylistic or syntactic features. [ISO 1087-1:2000, 3.1.3]
6569	<b>Source</b>
6570	ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
6571	September 2004
6572	<b>Hyperlink</b>
6573	
6574	<b>Related terms</b>
6575	ISO/IEC 11179
6576	Language
6577	Terminology
6578	
6579	<b>Standard Classification</b>
6580	Classifications that follow prescribed rules and are generally recommended and accepted.
6581	<b>Context</b>
6582	They aim to ensure that information is classified consistently regardless of the collection,
6583	source, point of time etc.
6584	In the international context, standard classifications include ISIC Rev. 3, ISCO, CPC, NACE Rev
6585	1, etc. Many national statistical systems also have their own versions of standard classifications,
6586	which in the main are consistent with international standard classifications, though modified to
6587	meet national circumstances. Many of the international and national standard classifications are
6588	listed in the RAMON database of classifications, available at
6589	<a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/ramon">http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/ramon</a>
6590	In the SDDS context, the criteria used to classify major economic transactions, industrial
6591	activities, commodities and services, consumption, data components, international transactions
6592	or the sectorization of accounts for collection and/or dissemination and whether these criteria
6593	are consistent with relevant international or regional standard classifications and/or guidelines
6594	and at what level. (e.g. revenue consists of tax and nontax revenue classified according to the
6595	GFSM; Expenditure by function is classified according to the SNA classification of the functions
6596	of government (COFOG), consumption of products classified according to CPC and aggregation
6597	by COICOP or other standard system, etc.
6598	<b>Source</b>
6599	United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International
6600	Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper
6601	<b>Hyperlink</b>
6602	<a href="http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm">http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm</a>
6603	<b>Related terms</b>
6604	Classification
6605	Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
6606	
6607	<b>Standard error</b>
6608	The positive square root of the variance of the sampling distribution of a statistic.
6609	<b>Context</b>
6610	It includes the precision with which the statistics estimates the relevant parameter as contrasted
6611	with the standard deviation that describes the variability of primary observations.
6612	<b>Source</b>
6613	The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
6614	Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003
6615	<b>Hyperlink</b>
6616	

## 6617 **Statistical concept**

6618 A statistical characteristic of a time series or an observation.

### 6619 **Source**

6620 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International  
6621 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),  
6622 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

### 6623 **Context**

6624 In SDMX, **Statistical concepts and definitions** refer to the internationally accepted statistical  
6625 standards, guidelines, or good practices on which the concepts and definitions that are used for  
6626 compiling the statistics are based. It also refers to the description of deviations of the concepts  
6627 and definitions from accepted statistical standards, guidelines, or good practices, when relevant.  
6628 This should define the statistical concept under measure and the organisation of data, i.e. the  
6629 type of variables included in the domain of study.

6630 A statistical concept is either coded or uncoded. A coded statistical concept takes values from a  
6631 code list of valid values. For example, a coded statistical concept called "reporting country"  
6632 might be created, taking its values from the ISO list of country codes. A code list may supply the  
6633 values of more than one statistical concept. An uncoded statistical concept takes its values as  
6634 free form text (e.g. time series title).

### 6635 **Hyperlink**

6636

### 6637 **Related terms**

6638 Attribute  
6639 Characteristic  
6640 Code list  
6641 Concept  
6642 Dimension  
6643 GESMES/TS  
6644 International statistical standard  
6645 Key family  
6646 Key structure  
6647 Observation  
6648 SDMX  
6649 Structural definition  
6650

## 6651 **Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX)**

6652 A task force sponsored by BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, UN and World Bank to address  
6653 standardisation of the exchange of statistical information.

### 6654 **Context**

6655

### 6656 **Source**

6657 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
6658 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 6659 **Hyperlink**

6660 <http://www.sdmx.org/>  
6661

## 6662 **Statistical error**

6663 The (unknown) difference between the retained value and the true value.

### 6664 **Context**

6665 It is immediately associated with accuracy since accuracy is used to mean "the inverse of the  
6666 total error, including bias and variance" (Kish L., "Survey Sampling", John Wiley, New York  
6667 1965). The larger the error, the lower the accuracy.

6668	<b><u>Source</u></b>
6669	Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
6670	2003
6671	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
6672	
6673	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
6674	Accuracy
6675	
6676	<b>Statistical indicator</b>
6677	A data element that represents statistical data for a specified time, place, and other
6678	characteristics.
6679	<b><u>Context</u></b>
6680	
6681	<b><u>Source</u></b>
6682	Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
6683	Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
6684	Geneva, 2000
6685	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
6686	<a href="http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf">http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf</a>
6687	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
6688	
6689	<b>Statistical macrodata</b>
6690	An observation data gained by a purposeful aggregation of statistical microdata conforming to
6691	statistical methodology.
6692	<b><u>Context</u></b>
6693	Macrodata is data derived from microdata by statistics on groups or aggregates, such as
6694	counts, means, or frequencies. (United States Bureau of the Census, Software and Standards
6695	Management Branch, Systems Support Division, "Survey Design and Statistical Methodology
6696	Metadata", Washington D.C., August 1998, Section 3.4.4, page 39).
6697	<b><u>Source</u></b>
6698	Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
6699	Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
6700	Geneva, 2000
6701	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
6702	<a href="http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf">http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf</a>
6703	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
6704	Statistical microdata
6705	
6706	<b>Statistical measure</b>
6707	A summary (means, mode, total, index, etc.) of the individual quantitative variable values for the
6708	statistical units in a specific group (study domains).
6709	<b><u>Context</u></b>
6710	
6711	<b><u>Source</u></b>
6712	Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
6713	2003
6714	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
6715	
6716	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
6717	

## 6718 **Statistical message**

6719 A message carrying statistical data.

### 6720 **Context**

6721 In the context of GESMES/TS, a statistical message is a predefined and agreed way of  
6722 representing syntactically sets of statistical data, attributes and structural definitions which need  
6723 to be exchanged between partners (European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International  
6724 Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-  
6725 operation and Development (OECD), "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February,  
6726 2003; unpublished on paper.).

### 6727 **Source**

6728 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
6729 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
6730 Geneva, 2000

### 6731 **Hyperlink**

6732 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

### 6733 **Related terms**

6734 Data exchange

6735 GESMES

6736

## 6737 **Statistical metadata**

6738 Data about statistical data.

### 6739 **Context**

6740 Metadata comprises data and other documentation that describes objects in a formalised way  
6741 (Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
6742 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
6743 Geneva, 2000, <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>)  
6744 Metadata provide information on data and about processes of producing and using data.  
6745 Metadata describe statistical data and - to some extent - processes and tools involved in the  
6746 production and usage of statistical data (UNECE, "Guidelines for the Modeling of Statistical  
6747 Data and Metadata", 1995).

### 6748 **Source**

6749 United Nations Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe of the United  
6750 Nations (UNECE), "Guidelines for the Modeling of Statistical Data and Metadata", Conference  
6751 of European Statisticians, Methodological material, United Nations, Geneva, 1995

### 6752 **Hyperlink**

6753 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/metadatamodeling.pdf>

### 6754 **Related terms**

6755 Metadata

6756 Metadata layer

6757 Metadata registry

6758 Reference metadata

6759 Statistical metadata system

6760 Statistical metainformation

6761 Structural metadata

6762

## 6763 **Statistical metadata repository**

6764 A logically central statistical metadata repository that allows for the query, editing, and  
6765 managing of metadata.

### 6766 **Context**

6767 Such a system provides a mechanism for looking up information about statistical products as  
6768 well as their design, development, and analysis.

6769 Too often metadata is scattered, incomplete or missing. Many times the only source for some  
6770 information is from subject matter experts. The effective and efficient management of statistical  
6771 metadata greatly increases the usefulness of statistical data. Since metadata is data, it can be

6772 stored and retrieved in a repository just as the data it describes is stored and retrieved in a  
6773 database.

6774 There are many functions for which statistical metadata repositories are designed. Primarily, it is  
6775 a standard tool for researchers and analysts to locate data and descriptions of surveys. Data  
6776 dictionaries, record layouts, questionnaires, sample designs, and standard errors are the types  
6777 of information that are directly available in such a repository. Less obviously, users can  
6778 compare designs of different surveys and find common information collected by different  
6779 surveys (United States Bureau of the Census, Software and Standards Management Branch,  
6780 Systems Support Division, "Survey Design and Statistical Methodology Metadata", Washington  
6781 D.C., August 1998, Section 3.4.5, pages 53, 54).

6782 **Source**

6783 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "Main Economic  
6784 Indicators", monthly

6785 **Hyperlink**

6786

6787 **Related terms**

6788 Data series flow

6789

6790 **Statistical metadata system**

6791 A data processing system that uses, stores and produces statistical metadata.

6792 **Context**

6793

6794 **Source**

6795 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
6796 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
6797 Geneva, 2000

6798 **Hyperlink**

6799 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

6800 **Related terms**

6801 Metadata

6802 Metadata layer

6803 Statistical metadata

6804 Statistical metainformation

6805

6806 **Statistical metainformation**

6807 Knowledge of objects described by statistical metadata

6808 **Context**

6809

6810 **Source**

6811 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
6812 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
6813 Geneva, 2000

6814 **Hyperlink**

6815 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

6816 **Related terms**

6817 Metadata layer

6818 Statistical metadata

6819 Statistical metadata system

6820 Statistical metainformation system

6821

## 6822 Statistical metainformation system

6823 A system which uses and produces statistical metadata, informing about statistical data, and  
6824 which fulfils its tasks by means of functions like "statistical metadata collection", "statistical  
6825 metadata processing", "statistical metadata storage", and "statistical metadata dissemination".

### 6826 Context

6827 An alternative definition of a statistical metainformation system is an information system for  
6828 which the object is the statistical information system (Economic Commission for Europe of the  
6829 United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical Metadata", Conference of European  
6830 Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53, Geneva, 2000,

6831 A metainformation system may be active or passive. An active metainformation system is  
6832 physically integrated with the information system containing the data that the metadata in the  
6833 metainformation system informs about. A passive metainformation system contains only  
6834 references to data, not the data themselves (United Nations Economic Commission for  
6835 Europe/United Nations Statistical Commission (UNECE/UNSC), "Guidelines for the Modelling of  
6836 Statistical Data and Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological Material,  
6837 Geneva, 1995, p. 4).

### 6838 Source

6839 United Nations Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe of the United  
6840 Nations (UNECE), "Guidelines for the Modeling of Statistical Data and Metadata", Conference  
6841 of European Statisticians, Methodological material, United Nations, Geneva, 1995

### 6842 Hyperlink

6843

### 6844 Related terms

6845 Statistical metainformation

6846

## 6847 Statistical methodology

6848 Theory and methods of data collection, processing and analysis.

### 6849 Context

6850

### 6851 Source

6852 Statistics Canada, Integrated Metadata Base, "Glossary", unpublished on paper

### 6853 Hyperlink

6854 <http://www.statcan.ca/english/edu/power/toc/contents.htm>

### 6855 Related terms

6856 Methodology

6857

## 6858 Statistical microdata

6859 An observation data collected on an individual object - statistical unit.

### 6860 Context

6861 Microdata are data on the characteristics of units of a population, such as individuals,  
6862 households, or establishments, collected by a census, survey, or experiment. (United States  
6863 Bureau of the Census, Software and Standards Management Branch, Systems Support  
6864 Division, "Survey Design and Statistical Methodology Metadata", Washington D.C., August  
6865 1998, Section 3.4.4, page 39, at <http://www.census.gov/srd/www/metadata/metadata18.pdf>).

### 6866 Source

6867 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
6868 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
6869 Geneva, 2000

### 6870 Hyperlink

6871 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

### 6872 Related terms

6873 Statistical macrodata

6874

## 6875 **Statistical population**

6876 The total membership or population or "universe" of a defined class of people, objects or events.

### 6877 **Context**

6878 There are two types of population, viz., target population and survey population.

6879 A target population is the population outlined in the survey objects about which information is to be sought and a survey population is the population from which information can be obtained in the survey.

6882 The target population is also known as the scope of the survey and the survey population [...] as the coverage of the survey. For administrative records the corresponding populations are: the "target" population as defined by the relevant legislation and regulations, and the actual "client population" ("United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms" prepared by the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications).

### 6887 **Source**

6888 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

### 6890 **Hyperlink**

6891 [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary\\_short.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm)

### 6892 **Related terms**

6893 Census

6894 Coverage errors

6895 Cut-off threshold

6896 Scope

6897 Stratification

6898 True value

6899

## 6900 **Statistical processing**

6901 The processes for manipulating or classifying statistical data into various categories with the object of producing statistics.

### 6903 **Context**

6904 In SDMX, "Statistical Processing" refers to a description of the data compilation and other statistical procedures to deal with intermediate data and statistical outputs (e.g., data adjustments and transformation, and statistical analysis). The items covered include, inter alia, weighting schemes, methods for imputing missing values or source data, statistical adjustment, and balancing/cross-checking techniques and relevant characteristics of the specific approach/approaches applied.

### 6910 **Source**

6911 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
6912 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 6913 **Hyperlink**

6914 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 6915 **Related terms**

6916 Adjustment Methods

6917 Aggregation

6918 Compilation practices

6919 Computation of lowest level indices

6920 Consolidation

6921 Data collection

6922 Data processing

6923 Data reconciliation

6924 Disaggregation

6925 Estimation

6926 Index number

6927 Reference period

6928 Revision policy

6929 SDMX  
6930 Seasonal adjustment  
6931 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)  
6932 Verification  
6933

## 6934 Statistical production

6935 The activity that is carried out within statistical information system and aimed at producing of  
6936 statistics.  
6937 ", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53, Geneva,  
6938 2000

### 6939 Context

6940

### 6941 Source

6942 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
6943 Metadata

### 6944 Hyperlink

6945 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

### 6946 Related terms

6947

## 6948 Statistical standard

6949 A comprehensive set of guidelines for surveys and administrative sources collecting information  
6950 on a particular topic.

### 6951 Context

6952 Components of a standard include:

- 6953 - definition(s)
- 6954 - statistical units
- 6955 - classification(s)
- 6956 - coding process(es)
- 6957 - questionnaire module(s)
- 6958 - output categories

6959 The use of statistical standards permits the repeated collection of statistics on a consistent  
6960 basis. They also enable the integration of data over time and across different data sources,  
6961 allowing the use of data beyond the immediate purpose for which it was produced. Standards  
6962 also reduce the resource requirements associated with many aspects of survey development  
6963 and maintenance.

### 6964 Source

6965 Statistics New Zealand, "Classifications and Standards"; unpublished on paper

### 6966 Hyperlink

6967 [http://www.stats.govt.nz/domino/external/web/prod\\_serv.nsf/092edeb76ed5aa6bcc256afe0081d84e/35b11e7066c13db1cc256ca5006f44e4?OpenDocument](http://www.stats.govt.nz/domino/external/web/prod_serv.nsf/092edeb76ed5aa6bcc256afe0081d84e/35b11e7066c13db1cc256ca5006f44e4?OpenDocument)

### 6968 Related terms

6969 International statistical standard

6970  
6971

## 6972 Statistical subject-matter domain

6973 A statistical activity that has common characteristics with respect to concepts and  
6974 methodologies for data collection, manipulation and transformation.

### 6975 Context

6976 Within SDMX, the list of Statistical Subject-Matter Domains (aligned to the UN/CES  
6977 Classification of International Statistical Activities) is a standard reference list against which the  
6978 categorisation schemes of various participants in exchange arrangements can be mapped to  
6979 facilitate data and metadata exchange. This allows the identification of subject matter domain  
6980 groups involved in the development of guidelines and recommendations relevant to one or more

6981 statistical domains. Each of these groups could define domain-specific data structure  
6982 definitions, concepts, etc.

6983 **Source**

6984 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
6985 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

6986 **Hyperlink**

6987 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

6988 **Related terms**

6989 Characteristic

6990 Concept

6991 Domain

6992 Domain groups

6993 Methodology

6994

6995 **Statistical unit (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

6996 Entity for which information is sought and for which statistics are ultimately compiled.

6997 **Context**

6998 The statistical unit is the object of a statistical survey and the bearer of statistical characteristics.

6999 These units can, in turn, be divided into observation units and analytical units.

7000 Statistical units are defined on the basis of three criteria:

7001 - Legal, accounting or organisational criteria;

7002 - Geographical criteria;

7003 - Activity criteria.

7004 The statistical units in ISIC Rev. 3 comprise the:

7005 - enterprise;

7006 - enterprise group;

7007 - kind-of-activity unit (KAU);

7008 - local unit;

7009 - establishment;

7010 - homogeneous unit of production.

7011 **Source**

7012 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and

7013 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7014 **Hyperlink**

7015 [http://www.sdmx.org](http://www.sdmx.org/)

7016 **Related terms**

7017

7018 **Stewardship**

7019 Responsibility for the maintenance of Administration Records applicable to one or more  
7020 Administered Items.

7021 **Context**

7022 The responsibility for the registration of metadata may be different from the responsibility for  
7023 stewardship of metadata.

7024 Stewardship contact is the contact information associated with a Stewardship.

7025 **Source**

7026 ISO/IEC 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 3: Registry metamodel  
7027 and basic attributes", February 2003

7028 **Hyperlink**

7029

7030 **Related terms**

7031 Administered item

7032 Contact

7033 ISO/IEC 11179

7034 Organisation  
7035 Submission  
7036

## 7037 **Stratification**

7038 A sampling procedure in which the population is divided into homogeneous subgroups or strata  
7039 and the selection of samples is done independently in each stratum.

### 7040 **Context**

7041 The division of a population into parts is known as strata, especially for the purpose of drawing  
7042 a sample, an assigned proportion of the sample then being selected from each stratum. The  
7043 process of stratification may be undertaken on a geographical basis, e.g. by dividing up the  
7044 sampled area into sub-areas on a map; or by reference to some other quality of the population,  
7045 e.g. by dividing the persons in a town into strata according to sex or into three strata according  
7046 to whether they belong to upper, middle or lower income groups.

7047 The term stratum is sometimes used to denote any division of the population for which a  
7048 separate estimate is desired, i.e. in the sense of a domain of study. It is also used sometimes to  
7049 denote any division of the population for which neither separate estimates nor actual separate  
7050 sample selection is made. (The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of  
7051 Statistical Terms", edited by Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003).

### 7052 **Source**

7053 Statistics Canada, Canada's National Statistical Agency, online glossary of statistical terms and  
7054 definitions

### 7055 **Hyperlink**

7056 <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/81-004-XIE/def/stratdef.htm>

### 7057 **Related terms**

7058 Sample  
7059 Statistical population  
7060

## 7061 **Structural definition**

7062 Statistical concepts, key families and code lists defined by a centre institution, usually for the  
7063 exchange of statistical information with its partners.

### 7064 **Context**

7065

### 7066 **Source**

7067 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International  
7068 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),  
7069 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

### 7070 **Hyperlink**

7071 <http://www.ecb.int/stats/services/gesmes/html/index.en.html>

### 7072 **Related terms**

7073 Code list  
7074 Concept  
7075 GESMES/TS  
7076 Key family  
7077 Maintenance Agency  
7078 Statistical concept  
7079 Structural metadata  
7080

## 7081 **Structural metadata**

7082 Metadata that act as identifiers and descriptors of the data.

### 7083 **Context**

7084 Structural metadata are needed to identify, use, and process data matrixes and data cubes, e.g.  
7085 names of columns or dimensions of statistical cubes. Structural metadata must be associated

7086 with the statistical data, otherwise it becomes impossible to identify, retrieve and navigate the  
7087 data.

7088 **Source**

7089 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7090 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7091 **Hyperlink**

7092 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7093 **Related terms**

7094 GESMES/TS

7095 Key family

7096 Data Structure Definition

7097 Statistical metadata

7098

7099 Structural definition

7100 **Structure**

7101 A hierarchical classification for identifying relationships between categories.

7102 **Context**

7103 A hierarchical classification is based on a tree structure where each set of its detailed  
7104 categories are subsets of categories at the level about the one in which they contained.

7105 **Source**

7106 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International  
7107 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

7108 **Hyperlink**

7109

7110 **Related terms**

7111 Category

7112 Hierarchy

7113 Data structure definition

7114 Metadata structure definition

7115

7116 **Study domain**

7117 A segment of the population for which separate statistics are needed.

7118 **Context**

7119 A study domain could consist of a geographical area such as a region or major population  
7120 centre. It could also comprise a specified population category, such as a major national or  
7121 ethnic group. The number of domains has an important bearing on the size and distribution of  
7122 the sample.

7123 Normally statistics are presented for different sub-groups of the population, so called study  
7124 domains. These study domains can be geographical as well as non-geographical. Often these  
7125 sub-groups are according to some classification (e.g. territorial units, economic activity etc.)  
7126 (Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg,  
7127 October 2003).

7128 In the course of tabulation, data may actually be provided for many population segments;  
7129 however, a study domain would be a segment identified in the overall statistical plan as one for  
7130 which a certain level of detail and certain data reliability were required. The study domains  
7131 chosen may coincide with the strata adopted for stratified sampling or may cut across them.

7132 **Source**

7133 Statistical Office of the United Nations, "Handbook of Household Surveys, Revised Edition",  
7134 (paras. 4.6, 4.7), Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 31, United Nations, New York, 1984

7135 **Hyperlink**

7136

7137 **Related terms**

7138 Statistical subject-matter domain

7139

## 7140 **Submission**

7141 The relationship of an Administered item, a Contact, and an Organization involved in a  
7142 submission of metadata.

### 7143 **Context**

7144 Submission contact is the contact information associated with a submission.

### 7145 **Source**

7146 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
7147 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

### 7148 **Hyperlink**

7149

### 7150 **Related terms**

7151 Administered item

7152 Contact

7153 ISO/IEC 11179

7154 Stewardship

7155 Submitting organization

7156

## 7157 **Submitting organization**

7158 The organization responsible for requesting that a new metadata item be registered in the  
7159 registry.

### 7160 **Context**

7161

### 7162 **Source**

7163 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
7164 September 2004

### 7165 **Hyperlink**

7166

### 7167 **Related terms**

7168 ISO/IEC 11179

7169 Metadata registry

7170 Submission

7171

## 7172 **Supplementary data (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

7173 Data not routinely disseminated that are made available to users upon request.

### 7174 **Context**

7175 In SDMX, "Supplementary Data" may include customized tabulations that can be provided to  
7176 meet specific requests. This concept also includes information on procedures for obtaining  
7177 access to these supplementary data.

### 7178 **Source**

7179 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7180 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 7181 **Hyperlink**

7182 <http://www.sdmx.org>

### 7183 **Related terms**

7184 Release policy

7185

## 7186 **Survey**

7187 A investigation about the characteristics of a given population by means of collecting data from  
7188 a sample of that population and estimating their characteristics through the systematic use of  
7189 statistical methodology.

7190 **Context**

7191 The term survey covers any activity that collects or acquires statistical data. Included are  
7192 censuses, sample surveys, the collection of data from administrative records and derived  
7193 statistical activities. (Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition,  
7194 October 2003, page 7, available at <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>)  
7195

7196 **Source**

7197 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
7198 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
7199 Geneva, 2000

7200 **Hyperlink**

7201 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

7202 **Related terms**

7203 Cut-off survey  
7204 Data collection  
7205 Non-response  
7206 Processing error  
7207 Questionnaire  
7208 Reporting unit  
7209 Sample survey  
7210 Schedule  
7211 Survey design  
7212

7213 **Survey data collection**

7214 An activity of the survey life cycle for gathering data from respondents and recording it for  
7215 further processing.

7216 **Context**

7217

7218 **Source**

7219 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical  
7220 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,  
7221 Geneva, 2000

7222 **Hyperlink**

7223 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

7224 **Related terms**

7225 Data collection  
7226 Data source  
7227

7228 **Survey design**

7229 All the aspects of a survey from the establishment of a need for data to the production of final  
7230 outputs.

7231 **Context**

7232 The survey design addresses the following issues: what statistics are produced, for which  
7233 population, when, and with what accuracy; what data are to be collected for which units of the  
7234 population of interest, and what are the methods by which those data are to be collected and  
7235 processed to produce the required statistics. Operational, organisational and administrative  
7236 issues are usually addressed (Lessler, J.T. and Kalsbeek, W.D., "Non Sampling Error in  
7237 Survey", John Wiley, New York, 1992 or US Department of Commerce, "Glossary of Non  
7238 Sampling Error Terms: An Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistics", Statistical Policy  
7239 Working Paper 4, Office of Federal Statistical Policy Standards, 1978).

7240 **Source**

7241 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003, page 8

7242 **Hyperlink**

7243 <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>

7244 **Related terms**

7245 Questionnaire design

7246 Sample design

7247 Survey

7248

7249 **Syntax**

7250 The relationships among characters or groups of characters, independent of their meanings or  
7251 the manner of their interpretation and use; the structure of expressions in a language, and the  
7252 rules governing the structure of a language.

7253 **Context**

7254

7255 **Source**

7256 ISO/IEC CD 11179-5 "Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) - Part 5: Naming and  
7257 identification principles", January 2003

7258 **Hyperlink**

7259

7260 **Related terms**

7261 ISO/IEC 11179

7262 Semantics

7263

7264 **Target population**

7265 The set of elements about which information is wanted and estimates are required. Practical  
7266 considerations may dictate that some units are excluded (e.g., institutionalized individuals, the  
7267 homeless, or those that are not be possible to access without incurring excessive cost).

7268 **Context**

7269

7270 **Source**

7271 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003, page 17

7272 **Hyperlink**

7273 <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>

7274 **Related terms**

7275 Cut-off threshold

7276 Under-coverage

7277

7278 **Taxonomy**

7279 The classification according to presumed natural relationships among types and their subtypes.

7280 **Context**

7281 Within SDMX, a "reporting taxonomy" is a scheme which defines the composition structure of a  
7282 data report where each component is described by an independent data flow definition.

7283 **Source**

7284 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179, Part 1, Framework for the specification and  
7285 standardization of data elements, 1999

7286 **Hyperlink**

7287

7288 **Related terms**

7289 Classification

7290 ISO/IEC 11179

7291 Ontology

7292

7293	<b>Term</b>
7294	A designation of a defined concept in a special language by a linguistic expression.
7295	<b><u>Context</u></b>
7296	A term is a word or phrase used to designate a concept (Terminology on Statistical Metadata, Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53, UNECE, Geneva 2000, <a href="http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf">http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf</a> ).
7299	<b><u>Source</u></b>
7300	ISO International Standard 1087-1:2000 Terminology work -- Vocabulary -- Part 1: Theory and application, November 2004
7302	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
7303	<a href="http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf">http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf</a>
7304	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
7305	Terminology
7306	Thesaurus
7307	
7308	<b>Terminological entry</b>
7309	An entry containing information on terminological units for a specific Administered item within a Context (subject field).
7310	
7311	<b><u>Context</u></b>
7312	
7313	<b><u>Source</u></b>
7314	ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) - Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003
7315	
7316	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
7317	
7318	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
7319	ISO/IEC 11179
7320	
7321	<b>Terminological system</b>
7322	A concept system with designations for each concept.
7323	<b><u>Context</u></b>
7324	
7325	<b><u>Source</u></b>
7326	ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework", September 2004
7327	
7328	<b><u>Hyperlink</u></b>
7329	
7330	<b><u>Related terms</u></b>
7331	Concept
7332	ISO/IEC 11179
7333	
7334	<b>Terminology</b>
7335	A set of terms.
7336	<b><u>Context</u></b>
7337	
7338	<b><u>Source</u></b>
7339	Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53, Geneva, 2000
7340	
7341	

7342 **Hyperlink**

7343 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

7344 **Related terms**

7345 Special language

7346 Term

7347

7348 **Thesaurus**

7349 A tool that associates related terms, and thesaurus terms assist in locating an existing data  
7350 element.

7351 **Context**

7352

7353 **Source**

7354 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",  
7355 September 2004

7356 **Hyperlink**

7357

7358 **Related terms**

7359 Data element

7360 ISO/IEC 11179

7361 Term

7362

7363 **Time coverage**

7364 The length of time, e.g. years, for which data are collected.

7365 **Source**

7366 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7367 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7368 **Context**

7369

7370 **Hyperlink**

7371 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7372 **Related terms**

7373

7374 **Time format (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

7375 Technical format in which time is represented for the measured phenomenon.

7376 **Context**

7377 The technical time format and its related code list are part of the technical standards for SDMX-  
7378 EDI and SDMX-XML.

7379 **Source**

7380 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7381 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7382 **Hyperlink**

7383 <http://www.sdmx.org>

7384 **Related terms**

7385

7386 **Time of recording**

7387 The date the item was recorded in a dissemination medium.

7388 **Context**

7389 The time of recording may be the date the item was first recorded or the date an existing item  
7390 was amended. In National Accounts, time of recording pertains to the issues involved in  
7391 deciding whether to record a transaction with regard to when the claim arises (accrual) or when

7392 it is to be paid (cash). See: United Nations, "System of National Accounts (SNA) 1993" and  
7393 International Monetary Found, "Balance of Payments Manual (BPM)", Washington D.C., 1993.  
7394 The time of recording for a transaction is governed by the principle of accrual accounting.

7395 **Source**

7396 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7397 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7398 **Hyperlink**

7399 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7400 **Related terms**

7401 Accounting basis

7402 Date of last change

7403

7404 **Time Period (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

7405 The period of time or point in time to which the measured observation refers.

7406 **Context**

7407 The measurement represented by each observation corresponds to a reference time point (e.g.  
7408 a specific day) or a period (e.g. a month, a fiscal year, or a calendar year.

7409 A concretely specified period can also be indicated as the "time reference", which is of particular  
7410 importance for time series data.

7411 The terms "time period" and "time reference" can be used as synonyms.

7412 **Source**

7413 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7414 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7415 **Hyperlink**

7416 [http://www.sdmx.org](http://www.sdmx.org/)

7417 **Related terms**

7418

7419 **Time series**

7420 A set of ordered observations on a quantitative characteristic of an individual or collective  
7421 phenomenon taken at different points of time.

7422 **Context**

7423 Although it is not essential, it is common for these points to be equidistant in time. The essential  
7424 quality of the series is the order of the observations according to the time variable, as distinct  
7425 from those which are not ordered at all, e.g. in a random sample chosen simultaneously or are  
7426 ordered to their internal properties, e.g. a set arranged in order of magnitude.

7427 In GESMES/TS, a time series is a time-ordered vector of observations. A time series is uniquely  
7428 defined, within a data set, by its key. (European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International  
7429 Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-  
7430 operation and Development (OECD), "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February,  
7431 2003; unpublished on paper available at [http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS\\_rel3.pdf](http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf))

7432 **Source**

7433 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
7434 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

7435 **Hyperlink**

7436

7437 **Related terms**

7438 Characteristic

7439 Data Provider Series Key

7440 Data set

7441 Dimension

7442 Key (time series or sibling group)

7443 Observation

7444 Pre-Break Value

7445 Sibling group  
7446 Time series breaks  
7447 Trend  
7448

## 7449 Time series breaks

7450 Breaks occurred when there is a change in the standards for defining and observing a variable  
7451 over time.

### 7452 Context

7453 A break may be the result of a single change or the combination of multiple changes at any one  
7454 point in time of observation of the variable. The specific causes of breaks in a statistical time  
7455 series include changes in: classifications used, definitions of the variable, coverage; etc.

7456 Statistical agencies and users of time series data for economic research to analyse and  
7457 interpret economic and social events and conditions attach very high importance to the  
7458 continuity and consistency of data over time. However, it should be emphasised that the  
7459 occurrence of time series break may not necessarily jeopardise the reliability of a time series.  
7460 Statistical agencies frequently apply a number of techniques to ensure the continuity of a time  
7461 series.

7462 Finally, the impact of a time series break is often a matter of judgement on the part of the user  
7463 and depends on the use(s) to which the data are put.

### 7464 Source

7465 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7466 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 7467 Hyperlink

7468 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 7469 Related terms

7470 Pre-Break Value  
7471 Revision policy  
7472 Time series  
7473

## 7474 Timeliness (SDMX cross-domain concept)

7475 The lapse of time between the end of a reference period and availability of the data.

### 7476 Context

7477 Timeliness refers to data availability, whether for dissemination or for further processing. It is  
7478 measured with respect to the time lag between the end of the reference period and the release  
7479 of final data, or the release of the first provisional results. Timeliness is a crucial element of data  
7480 quality: adequate timeliness corresponds to a situation where policy-makers can take decisions  
7481 in time to achieve the targeted results.

7482 Narrower terms: Timeliness - output, Timeliness - source data.

7483 **Timeliness – output** refers to the the lapse of time between the end of a reference period (or a  
7484 reference date) and dissemination of the data.

7485 Timeliness of statistical outputs is the time lag between the end of the reference period and the  
7486 release of a version of the data: provisional, preliminary, or final results. "Timeliness - output"  
7487 reflects many factors, including some that are related to institutional arrangements, such as the  
7488 preparation of accompanying commentary and printing. Usually, data are not released  
7489 immediately at the end of the period they refer to, since data collection, data processing and  
7490 data dissemination work needs to be performed

7491 **Timeliness – source data** refers to the time between the end of a reference period (or a  
7492 reference date) and actual receipt of the data by the compiling agency.

7493 Compared to the parent concept - timeliness - this concept only covers the time period between  
7494 the end of the reference period and the receipt of the data by the data compiling agency. This  
7495 time period is determined by factors such as delays accomodating the institutional  
7496 arrangements for data transmission.

### 7497 Source

7498 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7499 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7500 **Hyperlink**

7501 <http://www.sdmx.org>

7502 **Related terms**

7503 Data

7504 Punctuality

7505 Quality

7506 Release policy

7507

7508 **Title (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

7509 Textual label used as identification of a statistical object.

7510 **Context**

7511 In SDMX, "title" is a short name describing and identifying a statistical object it is attached to.

7512 It can be attached, for example, to a time series as a "time series title", or to a group as a "group title".

7513

7514 **Source**

7515 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and

7516 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7517 **Hyperlink**

7518 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7519 **Related terms**

7520

7521 **Transparency**

7522 See "[Integrity](#)"

7523

7524 **Trend**

7525 A long-term movement in an ordered series, which may be regarded, together with the  
7526 oscillation and random component, as generating the observed values.

7527 **Context**

7528 In time series analysis, a given time series can be decomposed into: a) a cyclical component; b)  
7529 a trend component; c) a seasonal component; d) an irregular component.

7530 **Source**

7531 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
7532 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

7533 **Hyperlink**

7534

7535 **Related terms**

7536 Time series

7537 Trend estimates

7538

7539 **Trend estimates**

7540 Estimates derived from seasonally adjusted estimates via an averaging process which attempts  
7541 to remove the irregular component of the time series.

7542 **Context**

7543 This allows the underlying direction of a time series to be identified.

7544 **Source**

7545 Australian Bureau of Statistics, "An Analytical Framework for Price Indexes in Australia:  
7546 Glossary and References", Canberra, 1997

7547 **Hyperlink**

7548 <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/66f306f503e529a5ca25697e0017661f/ff4de83064a2e425ca25697e0018fd44!OpenDocument>

7549

7550 **Related terms**

7551 Estimate

7552 Trend

7553

7554 **True value**

7555 The actual population value that would be obtained with perfect measuring instruments and  
7556 without committing any error of any type, both in collecting the primary data and in carrying out  
7557 mathematical operations.

7558 **Context**

7559

7560 **Source**

7561 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October  
7562 2003

7563 **Hyperlink**

7564

7565 **Related terms**

7566 Statistical population

7567

7568 **Type of data collection**

7569 Main process used in the collection of statistical data by the primary source of the data.

7570 **Context**

7571 The type of data collection refers to the main process used in the collection of statistical data by  
7572 the primary source of the data, those commonly used being survey data collection and  
7573 administrative data collection. Each of these broad types may be further broken down on the  
7574 basis of some characteristic, e.g. the nature of the data provider (enterprise / household) or  
7575 exhaustiveness (sample survey, complete enumeration census).

7576 **Source**

7577 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7578 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7579 **Hyperlink**

7580 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7581 **Related terms**

7582 Data collection

7583

7584 **Type of source data (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

7585 Characteristics and components of the raw statistical data used for compiling statistical  
7586 aggregates.

7587 **Context**

7588 In SDMX, the term "data source" refers to the characteristics and components of the raw  
7589 statistical data used for compiling statistical aggregates. The following types of data sources  
7590 can be distinguished: a) administrative (data coming from administrative records); b) survey  
7591 related (data coming from surveys done with a defined number of respondents for a specific  
7592 sector or institutional unit).

7593 Surveys can be sample surveys or can cover all respondents (census). Some characteristics of  
7594 the type of data source should also be mentioned (e.g. the sample size).

7595 **Source**

7596 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7597 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7598 **Hyperlink**

7599 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7600 **Related terms**

7601 Data source

7602

## 7603 **Under-coverage**

7604 Failure to include required units in the frame, which results in .the absence of information for  
7605 those units.

### 7606 **Context**

7607 Under-coverage should not be confused with non-response.

### 7608 **Source**

7609 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7610 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 7611 **Hyperlink**

7612 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 7613 **Related terms**

7614 Frame

7615 Over-coverage

7616 Target population

7617

## 7618 **Unit multiplier (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

7619 Exponent in base 10 specified so that multiplying the observation numeric values by  
7620  $10^{\text{UNIT\_MULT}}$  gives a value expressed in the UNIT.

### 7621 **Context**

7622 In some data bases, it is referred to as SCALE, MAGNITUDE or POWER., e.g. "UM=6" means  
7623 that observations are in millions.

### 7624 **Source**

7625 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7626 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 7627 **Hyperlink**

7628 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 7629 **Related terms**

7630

## 7631 **Unit non-response**

7632 See "[Non-response error](#)"

7633

## 7634 **Unit of measure (SDMX cross-domain concept)**

7635 The unit in which the data values are measured.

### 7636 **Context**

7637 The unit of measure is a quantity or increment by which something is counted or described,  
7638 such as kg, mm, °C, °F, monetary units such as Euro or US dollar, simple number counts or  
7639 index numbers. The unit of measure has a type (e.g. currency) and, in connection with the unit  
7640 multiplier, provides the level of detail for the value of the variable (e.g. Euro, 1000 Euro).

7641 Attributes of a unit of measure are the unit of measure name (the name of a unit of measure)  
7642 and the unit of measure precision (the degree of specificity for a unit of measure, expressed as  
7643 a number of decimal places to be used in any associated data element values).

7644 Narrower term: Unit of measure detail

7645 In SDMX, **Unit of measure detail** refers to additional textual information on the unit of measure.

### 7646 **Source**

7647 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7648 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

### 7649 **Hyperlink**

7650 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

### 7651 **Related terms**

7652 Conceptual domain

7653 Dimension  
7654 Dimensionality  
7655 ISO/IEC 11179  
7656

## 7657 **Unit response rate**

7658 The ratio, expressed in percentage of the number of interviews to the number of eligible units in  
7659 the sample.

### 7660 **Context**

7661 The weighted response rate calculates the ratio using the inverse probability of inclusion in the  
7662 sample as a weight for each unit. In some occasions a value that reflects the importance of the  
7663 unit is also used as a weighting factor (like size of workforce for establishment).

### 7664 **Source**

7665 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October  
7666 2003

### 7667 **Hyperlink**

7668

### 7669 **Related terms**

7670

## 7671 **Unit value**

7672 Expenditures or value of production of an item is divided by the quantity.

7673

### 7674 **Context**

7675

### 7676 **Source**

7677 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development - Statistical Division,  
7678 Handbook of the International Comparison Programme, Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 62,  
7679 New York, 1992, Glossary

### 7680 **Hyperlink**

7681

### 7682 **Related terms**

7683 Unit value index

7684

## 7685 **Unit value index**

7686 The percentage of an eligible sample for which information is obtained.

7687

### 7688 **Context**

7689 For an interview survey, the numerator of the formula is the number of interviews. The  
7690 denominator is the total sample size minus non-eligible respondents, i.e. minus those not  
7691 meeting the criteria for a potential respondent as defined for that particular study. Weighted  
7692 response rate is more useful. In addition to this, another non-response rate using the following  
7693 weights may be computed: the sampling weights times any existing important variable from the  
7694 sampling frame (turnover or size). The latter figure illustrates an impact of non-response.

### 7695 **Source**

7696 Lessler, J.T. and Kalsbeek, W.D. (1992), "Non Sampling Error in Survey", New York: John  
7697 Wiley or US department of Commerce (1978), "Glossary of Non Sampling Error Terms: An  
7698 Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistics", Statistical Policy Working Paper 4, Office of  
7699 Federal Statistical Policy Standards, 1978

### 7700 **Hyperlink**

7701

### 7702 **Related terms**

7703 Unit value

7704

- 7705 **User needs (for statistics)**
- 7706 Data and metadata requirements of persons or organisations to meet a particular use or set of  
7707 uses.
- 7708 **Context**  
7709 User needs may be specified in terms of the quality dimensions promulgated by international  
7710 organisations or national agencies.
- 7711 **Source**  
7712 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7713 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
- 7714 **Hyperlink**  
7715 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
- 7716 **Related terms**  
7717
- 7718 **User satisfaction survey**
- 7719 A statistical survey aiming to assess the satisfaction of users of statistics.
- 7720 **Context**  
7721
- 7722 **Source**  
7723 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October  
7724 2003
- 7725 **Hyperlink**  
7726
- 7727 **Related terms**  
7728
- 7729 **Validation**
- 7730 See [Data Validation](#)  
7731
- 7732 **Valuation (SDMX cross-domain concept)**
- 7733 The definition of the price per unit, for goods and services flows and asset stocks.
- 7734 **Context**  
7735 Standard national accounts valuations include the basic price (what the seller receives) and the  
7736 purchaser's price (what the purchaser pays). The purchaser's price is the basic price, plus taxes  
7737 less subsidies on products, plus invoiced transportation and insurance services, plus distribution  
7738 margin. Other valuation bases may be used in other contexts. International trade in goods  
7739 considers the free on board (fob) price and cost-insurance-freight price, among others.
- 7740 The concept refers to valuation rules used for recording flows and stocks, including how  
7741 consistent the practices used are with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good  
7742 practices
- 7743 **Source**  
7744 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7745 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
- 7746 **Hyperlink**  
7747 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
- 7748 **Related terms**  
7749 Accounting basis  
7750
- 7751 **Value domain**
- 7752 A set of permissible values.

7753 **Context**

7754 In the context of ISO 11179, a domain is the set of possible data values of an attribute. A "data  
7755 value" is an element of a value domain. "Enumerated value domain" is a value domain that is  
7756 specified by a list of all its permissible values.

7757 The value domain provides representation, but has no implication as to what data element  
7758 concept the values may be associated with, or what the values mean. The permissible values  
7759 may either be enumerated or expressed via a description.

7760 Non-enumerated value domain is a value domain that is specified by a description rather than a  
7761 list of all Permissible values.

7762 Non-enumerated value domain description is a description or specification of a rule, reference,  
7763 or range for a set of all permissible values for the value domain.

7764 Value domain representation class is the class of representation of a value domain.

7765 Attributes of value domain:

7766 Value domain administration record is the administration record for a value domain.

7767 Value domain datatype is the datatype used in a value domain.

7768 Value domain format is a template for the structure of the presentation of the Value(s) e.g. -  
7769 YYYY-MM-DD for a date.

7770 Value domain maximum character quantity is the maximum number of characters to represent  
7771 the Data Element value and is applicable only to character datatypes.

7772 Value domain relationship is a relationship among two or more Value domains.

7773 Value domain unit of measure is the unit of measure used in a value domain. (ISO/IEC 11179-3  
7774 "Information technology - Metadata registries-Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes",  
7775 February 2003)

7776 **Source**

7777 ISO/IEC FCD 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registers - Part 1: Framework", May  
7778 2003

7779 **Hyperlink**

7780

7781 **Related terms**

7782 Attribute

7783 ISO/IEC 11179

7784 Permissible value

7785 Permitted value

7786 Value item

7787

7788 **Value item**

7789 A representation of a value meaning in a specific value domain - the actual value.

7790 **Context**

7791

7792 **Source**

7793 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -  
7794 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

7795 **Hyperlink**

7796

7797 **Related terms**

7798 ISO/IEC 11179

7799 Value domain

7800 Value meaning

7801

7802 **Value meaning**

7803 The meaning or semantic content of a value.

7804

7805 **Context**

7806 Given a permissible value, representation of its value meaning shall be independent of (and  
7807 shall not constrain) the representation of its corresponding value.

7808 The representation of value meanings in a registry shall be independent of (and shall not  
7809 constrain) their representation in any corresponding value domain.

7810 Value meaning set is the relationship between a conceptual domain and a set of value  
7811 meanings.

7812 Attributes of value meaning:

7813 Value meaning begin date is the effective date of this value meaning in the conceptual domain.

7814 A registration authority may determine whether this date is the date the value meaning becomes  
7815 valid in a registry or the date the value meaning becomes part of the source domain or some  
7816 other date.

7817 Value meaning description is a description of a value meaning.

7818 Value meaning end date is the date this value meaning became/becomes invalid. A registration  
7819 authority may determine whether this date is the date the value meaning becomes no longer  
7820 valid in a registry or the date the value meaning becomes no longer part of the source domain  
7821 or some other date.

7822 Value meaning identifier is the unique identifier for a value meaning.

7823 **Source**

7824 ISO/IEC FCD 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registers - Part 1: Framework", May  
7825 2003

7826 **Hyperlink**

7827

7828 **Related terms**

7829 Conceptual domain

7830 ISO/IEC 11179

7831 Permissible value

7832 Value item

7833

7834 **Variable**

7835 A characteristic of a unit being observed that may assume more than one of a set of values..

7836 **Context**

7837 A variable in the mathematical sense, i.e. a quantity which may take any one of specified set of  
7838 values. It is convenient to apply the same word to denote non-measurable characteristics, e.g.,  
7839 'sex' is a variable in this sense since any human individual may take one of two 'values', male or  
7840 female. It is useful, but far from being the general practice, to distinguish between a variable as  
7841 so defined and a random variable (The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary  
7842 of Statistical Terms", edited by Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003).

7843 **Source**

7844 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International  
7845 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

7846 **Hyperlink**

7847 [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary\\_short.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm)

7848 **Related terms**

7849 Characteristic

7850 Data item

7851 Observation

7852

7853 **Verification**

7854 Principal methods to review, audit, or verify the accuracy of the disseminated data.

7855 **Context**

7856 Verification methods (e.g., internal review, statistical confidence tests, internal audit, audit by  
7857 outside accountants, cross-checks with other macroeconomic accounts, etc.) may entail the  
7858 reconciliation of stocks and transactions data, reconciliation of reported data with money and

7859 banking statistics, custodian data, differences with partner data or preshipment inspection data,  
7860 the treatment of differences between GDP compiled for the production approach and GDP  
7861 compiled from the expenditure approach.

7862 **Source**

7863 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7864 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7865 **Hyperlink**

7866 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7867 **Related terms**

7868 Compilation practices  
7869

7870 **Weight**

7871 The importance of an object in relation to a set of objects to which it belongs.

7872 **Context**

7873 A weight is represented as a numerical coefficient attached to an observation, frequently by  
7874 multiplication, in order that it shall assume a desired degree of importance in a function of all the  
7875 observations of the set.

7876 Reweighting consists of raising the original weights for the respondent values when estimates  
7877 are computed. Reweighting concerns mainly unit non-response. It may also be used to increase  
7878 precision through the use of auxiliary information. Standard methods include post-stratification,  
7879 calibration and response propensity modelling (Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics:  
7880 Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October 2003).

7881 **Source**

7882 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by  
7883 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

7884 **Hyperlink**

7885

7886 **Related terms**

7887 Base weight

7888 Non-response

7889 Non-response error

7890 Ratio estimation

7891 Weight period

7892

7893 **Weight period**

7894 The period that provides the weights for an index number.

7895 **Context**

7896

7897 **Source**

7898 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7899 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7900 **Hyperlink**

7901

7902 **Related terms**

7903 Base period

7904 Index number

7905 Period

7906 Weight

7907

7908 **XML**

7909 eXtensible Mark-up Language

7910 **Context**

7911

7912 **Source**

7913

7914 **Hyperlink**

7915 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7916 **Related terms**

7917

7918 **Year-to-date data**

7919 Data expressed in cumulative terms from the beginning of the year.

7920 **Context**

7921 Sometimes referred to as “cumulative data”.

7922 **Source**

7923 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and  
7924 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7925 **Hyperlink**

7926 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7927 **Related terms**

7928

7929

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