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SDMX CONTENT-ORIENTED GUIDELINES:

METADATA COMMON VOCABULARY

(DRAFT MARCH 2006)

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492 **1. SCOPE OF THE CONTENT-ORIENTED GUIDELINES**

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This is the first draft release of the SDMX Content-Oriented Guidelines, consisting of:

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- *SDMX Content-Oriented Guidelines: Cross-Domain Concepts;*
- *SDMX Content-Oriented Guidelines: Statistical Subject-Matter Domains;*
- *SDMX Content-Oriented Guidelines: Metadata Common Vocabulary.*

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It is the intent of these guidelines to establish practices in the use of terminology, the structuring of data and metadata sets, and the classification of data and metadata to support the exchange of data and metadata. The content guidelines are designed to work within the specified SDMX technical framework to produce maximum interoperability in the exchange of data and metadata.

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The intent of the SDMX content-oriented guidelines is to encourage reuse where possible across statistical domains in the following areas:

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1. Concepts - as described in the "Cross-Domain Concepts" guideline
2. Classifications - as described in the "Statistical Subject-Matter Domains" guideline
3. Terminology - as described in the "Metadata Common Vocabulary" (MCV) guideline

513 **2. METADATA COMMON VOCABULARY**

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The Metadata Common Vocabulary (MCV) is an SDMX repository which contains concepts* (and related definitions) to which terminology used in structural and reference metadata of international organisations and national data producing agencies may be mapped.

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The MCV covers a selected range of metadata concepts:

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(1) General metadata concepts, mostly derived from ISO, UNECE and UN documents, useful for providing a general context to metadata management;

(2) Metadata terms describing statistical methodologies (frequency, reference period, data collection, source, adjustment, etc.);

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(3) Metadata for assessing quality (accuracy, timeliness, etc.), and

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(4) Terms referring specifically to data and metadata exchange (terminology from the SDMX information model and from existing data structure definitions, etc.).

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More specifically, the MCV provides:

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- ISO/IEC 11179-compliant definitions for a wide range of statistical metadata terms, which may be used directly, or against which other terminology systems may be

* Note that the term "concept" is used throughout this section in a broad sense, rather than with the narrow definition provided in the SDMX technical standards.

537 mapped. This set of terms is inclusive of the terminology used within the SDMX
538 Technical Standards;

539

540 • definitions for terms on which the SDMX cross-domain metadata concepts work is
541 built. It plays an important role in providing a repository for the common set of
542 metadata terms and their associated definitions that can be used to describe the
543 collection, processing and dissemination of data; and

544

545 • other terminology used within the SDMX initiative.

546

547 The MCV is not intended to cover the whole range of statistical terminology, as this
548 area is already covered by other general and domain-specific glossaries. The focus of
549 the MCV is largely those terms that are normally used for building and understanding
550 metadata systems. A metadata glossary is necessarily linked to a series of other
551 subject-specific glossaries (on classifications, on data editing, on subject-matter
552 statistical areas) or to more universal statistical glossaries such as Eurostat's CODED
553 or the *OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms*. These more extensive glossaries also
554 contain numerous terms and definitions relevant to specific statistical domains (such as
555 prices, national accounts, external trade, etc.). The insertion within the MCV of some
556 definitions derived from other glossaries should not be seen as a redundancy, but as a
557 means of resolving the complex and interdisciplinary nature of metadata.

558

559 Agreement on and updates to the content-oriented guidelines containing and defining
560 SDMX cross-domain metadata concepts imply updating the MCV to reflect the SDMX
561 standards. In addition, since the cross-domain metadata concepts will be subject to
562 revision and supplementation, the MCV will never be considered as complete or final
563 as the need to include new terms, refine existing definitions and provide more context
564 information will always arise.

565

566 A value added of the MCV is in the opportunity of having one single entry point for
567 accessing a variety of terms, sometimes not available or hard to find on the Internet. In
568 some cases, the MCV deliberately presents one definition and several context
569 explanations for the same term, always quoting the respective source, sometimes
570 providing additional explanations, other times highlighting peculiarities in how a certain
571 definition is applied within a certain domain or geographical context. Users can live with
572 different metadata models, as long as each concept is well identified and transparent to
573 users. In other words, transparency is a pre-requisite for a correct interpretation (and
574 for convergence) of the different statistical frameworks.

575

576 **2.1. Point of departure and current status**

577

578 The MCV project built on work already undertaken by several organisations, rather
579 than confusing the situation by the development of a whole new set of definitions.
580 Where possible, definitions have been drawn from existing international standards or
581 from recommended statistical practices. Where standard definitions were not available
582 or not satisfactory, suitable national definitions have been considered or new definitions
583 formulated.

584

585 The MCV glossary is also available on the web through extensive statistical glossary
586 databases such as CODED (Eurostat concepts and definitions database, section
587 "Metadata terminology") or the OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms. Extractions will be
588 available in suitable formats, such as HTML and XML.

589

590

591 The present MCV draft consists of about 380 terms. It presents the following "fields":

592

593

- term

594

- definition

595

- source

596

- related terms

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- context

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599 As mentioned above, the "context" field is used extensively throughout the glossary,

600 sometimes providing additional explanations, other times highlighting peculiarities in

601 how a certain definition is applied within a certain domain or geographical context.

602

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605

3. GLOSSARY

606
607

608 **Accessibility**

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

610 **Source**

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

613 **Context**

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

616 Accessibility includes the ease with which the existence of information can be ascertained, as
617 well as the suitability of the form or medium through which the information can be accessed.

618 The cost of the information may also be an aspect of accessibility for some users. (Statistics
619 Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition)

620 In SDMX, "Accessibility of Documentation" refers to the availability of documentation of various
621 aspects of the data (sources and methods documents) and the content of such documentation.

622 **Hyperlink**

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

624 **Related terms**

625 Clarity

626 Integrity

627 Quality

628 Simultaneous release

629

630 **Accounting basis**

631 See "Accounting conventions"

632

633 **Accounting conventions**

634 Term capturing the practical aspects and conventions used when compiling data from diverse
635 sources under a common methodological framework.

636 **Source**

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

639 **Context**

640 In SDMX, "Accounting Conventions" (also referred to as accounting "basis") refers to
641 descriptions of the types of prices used to value flows and stocks, or other units of
642 measurements used for recording the phenomena being observed; the time of recording of the
643 flows and stocks or the time of recording of other phenomena that are measured, including the
644 reference period employed; and the grossing/netting procedures that are used.

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

650 **Hyperlink**

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

652 **Related terms**

653 Recording of transactions

654 Reference period

655 SDMX
656 Time of recording
657 Valuation
658

659 **Accuracy**

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

662 **Source**

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

665 **Context**

666 In SDMX, "Accuracy" refers to the provision of either measures of accuracy or precision
667 (numerical results of the methods/processes for assessing the accuracy or precision of data) or
668 qualitative assessment indicators. It may also be described in terms of the major sources of
669 error that potentially cause inaccuracy. It includes providing the results of the assessment of
670 source data for coverage, sampling error, response error and non-sampling error.

671 The accuracy of statistical information is the degree to which the information correctly describes
672 the phenomena it was designed to measure. It is usually characterized in terms of error in
673 statistical estimates and is traditionally decomposed into bias (systematic error) and variance
674 (random error) components. It may also be described in terms of the major sources of error that
675 potentially cause inaccuracy (e.g., coverage, sampling, non response, response). (Statistics
676 Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003, page 6-7, available
677 at <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>)

678 Accuracy is the second quality component in the Eurostat Definition.

679 **Hyperlink**

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

681 **Related terms**

682 Error of estimation

683 Precision

684 Quality (Eurostat context)

685 Quality (IMF context)

686 Reliability

687 SDMX

688 Statistical error

689

690 **Adjustment**

691 The set of procedures employed to improve coverage/classification/timing/valuation of the data
692 or to conform to an accounting/recording basis or address data quality differences in compiling
693 specific data sets.

694 **Source**

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

697 **Context**

698 Items covered may include changes in positions during the reference period associated with
699 transactions, exchange rate changes, price changes, seasonal adjustment and other
700 adjustments.

701 **Hyperlink**

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

703 **Related terms**

704 Compilation practices

705 Revision policy

706 Seasonal adjustment

707 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

708

709
710
711

Adjustment Methods

See "Adjustment"

712

Administered item

713

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

714

Source

715

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

716

March 2004

717

Context

718

Administered item "classification" is the relationship where an Administered Item is classified

719

based on a specified Classification Scheme.

720

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

721

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

722

"Administrative note" is any general note about the Administered item.

723

"Origin" is the source (document, project, discipline or model) for the Administered item.

724

(ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 3:

725

Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003)

726

Hyperlink

727

728

Related terms

729

Administration record

730

Context

731

Creation date

732

Data identifier

733

Date of last change

734

Effective date

735

ISO/IEC 11179

736

Metadata registry

737

Origin

738

Registration

739

Registry item

740

Stewardship

741

Submission

742

743

Administration record

744

Collection of administrative information for an administered item.

745

Source

746

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

747

March 2004

748

Context

749

750

Hyperlink

751

752

Related terms

753

Administered item

754

ISO/IEC 11179

755

756

Administrative data

757

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

758 **Source**
759 OECD, IMF, ILO, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States,
760 "Measuring the Non-Observed Economy: A Handbook", Second Draft, Annex 2, Glossary,
761 Paris, 2002
762 **Context**
763
764 **Hyperlink**
765 www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf
766 **Related terms**
767 Administrative data collection
768 Administrative source
769 Data source
770

771 **Administrative data collection**

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

775 **Source**
776 OECD, IMF, ILO, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States,
777 "Measuring the Non-Observed Economy: A Handbook", Second Draft, Annex 2, Glossary,
778 Paris, 2002

779 **Context**
780 In this context, the administrative source is the register of units and data associated with an
781 administrative regulation (or group of regulations) viewed as a source of statistical data.

782 **Hyperlink**
783 www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf

784 **Related terms**
785 Administrative data
786 Data collection
787 Data source
788

789 **Administrative source**

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

793 **Source**
794 OECD, IMF, ILO, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States,
795 "Measuring the Non-Observed Economy: A Handbook", Second Draft, Annex 2, Glossary,
796 Paris, 2002

797 **Context**
798

799 **Hyperlink**
800 www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf

801 **Related terms**
802 Accident at work
803 Administrative data
804 Data source
805

806 **Agency**

807 See Organisation
808

809

Aggregation

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

Source

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

Context

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

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

Hyperlink

827 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm

Related terms

829 Compilation practices

830 Data set

831 Disaggregation

832 Grossing/Netting

833 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

834

835

Aggregation Equation

836 See "Aggregation"

837

838

Analytical framework

839 An analytical framework describes the conceptual system of definitions and classifications of the
840 related data.

Source

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

Context

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

846 1. International / Supranational guidelines: identifies the standardized system of definitions and
847 classifications applied for analytical purposes with regard to the conceptual framework and
848 organization of the related transactions data. (e.g., national accounts System of National
849 Accounts, U.N. 1993; government operations A Manual on Government Finance Statistics, IMF,
850 2001, balance of payments Balance of Payments Manual, IMF, 1993).

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

Hyperlink

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

Related terms

857 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

858

859

Analytical unit

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

861 **Source**
862 Eurostat, CODED database

863 **Context**
864 Analytical units are created by statisticians, often by splitting or combining observation units with
865 the help of estimations and imputations in order to compile more detailed and more
866 homogeneous statistics than is possible using data on observation units (United Nations,
867 Introduction to ISIC Rev. 3 (International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic
868 Activities, Revision 3), para. 63).
869 Analytical units can correspond therefore for example to enterprises, local units, kind-of-activity
870 units (KAU), local kind-of-activity units (local KAU) as well as to units of homogeneous
871 production (UHP) and local units of homogeneous production (local UHP).

872 **Hyperlink**
873

874 **Related terms**
875 Classification
876 Observation unit
877 Statistical unit
878

879 **Area sampling**

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

884 **Source**
885 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
886 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

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

890 **Hyperlink**
891

892 **Related terms**
893 Frame
894 Sampling
895

896 **Attachment level**

897 A property of attributes in Gesmes/TS.

898 **Source**
899 GESMES/TS User Guide, Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

900 **Context**
901 For each attribute specified in a key family, it is defined whether this attribute takes:
902 - an independent value for each observation in the data set
903 - an independent value for each time series in the data set
904 - an independent value for each sibling group in the data set
905 - a single value for the entire data set.

906 **Hyperlink**
907 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf

908 **Related terms**
909 Attribute [Gesmes terminology]
910 GESMES/TS
911

912

Attribute

913 A characteristic of an object or entity.

Source

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

Context

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

923 Within SDMX, a data or metadata attribute is a statistical concept providing qualitative
924 information about a specific statistical object such as a data set, observation, data provider, or
925 dataflow. Concepts such as units, magnitude, currency of denomination, titles and
926 methodological comments can be used as attributes in the context of an agreed data exchange.
927 A conditional attribute is permitted to take empty values. A mandatory attribute is an attribute
928 which must take a value, otherwise the corresponding observation, which it refers to, is not
929 considered as meaningful enough, e.g. with regard to the "status" of an observation or the units
930 in which a whole time series is expressed. Within the SDMX information model, attribute value
931 is the value of an attribute, such as the instance of a coded or uncoded attribute in the context
932 of a data structure.

Hyperlink

934

Related terms

936 Attachment level

937 Basic attribute

938 Class

939 Data exchange

940 Data structure definition

941 Entity

942 ISO/IEC 11179

943

944 Metadata item

945 Object

946 Statistical concept

947 Value domain

948

949

Availability

950 See "Accessibility"

951

952

Base period

953 The period of time data used as the base of an index number.

Source

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

Context

958 This period is frequently one year (e.g. 1995=100) but it may be as short as one day or as long
959 as the average of a group of years.

960 Under the SDDS, this refers to the period when the published index = 100, or the reference
961 period to which the average level and/or constant price series data refer.

Hyperlink

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

Related terms

965 Base weight

966 Compilation practices
967 Reference period
968 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
969 Weight period
970

971 **Base weight**

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

974 **Source**

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

977 **Context**

978

979 **Hyperlink**

980

981 **Related terms**

982 Base period

983 Weight

984

985 **Base year**

986 See "Base period"

987

988 **Basic attribute**

989 An attribute of a metadata item commonly needed in its specification.

990 **Source**

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

993 **Context**

994 Categories of basic attributes:

995 - Identifying are attributes that are applicable for the identification of a data element.

996 - Definitional are attributes that describe the semantic aspects of a data element. These
997 attributes may be derived by inheritance from characteristics of data element concepts, objects
998 or entities.

999 - Relational are attributes that describe associations among data elements and/or associations
1000 between data elements and classification schemes, data element concepts, objects, entities.

1001 - Representational are attributes that describe representational aspects of a data element.

1002 - Administrative are attributes that describe management and control aspects of a data element.

1003 A basic attribute that is applicable to all types of metadata item is a common attribute. (ISO/IEC
1004 International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology-Metadata registries (MDR)-Part 3:
1005 Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003)

1006 **Hyperlink**

1007

1008 **Related terms**

1009 Attribute

1010 ISO/IEC 11179

1011

1012 **Benchmark**

1013 In the quality improvement lexicon, a benchmark is a best in class achievement. This
1014 achievement then becomes the reference point or recognized standard of excellence against
1015 which similar processes are measured.

1016 **Source**
1017 United States Bureau of Census, "Glossary of Selected Abbreviations and Acronyms";
1018 unpublished on paper

1019 **Context**
1020

1021 **Hyperlink**
1022 <http://eire.census.gov/cgi-bin/ssd/Glossary>
1023

Benchmarking

1024
1025 Benchmarking refers to the case where there are two sources of data for the same target
1026 variable, with different frequencies, and is concerned with correcting inconsistencies between
1027 the different estimates, e.g. quarterly and annual estimates of value-added from different
1028 sources.

1029 **Source**
1030 Maitland-Smith, F, "Use of Benchmark Data to Align or Derive Quarterly/Monthly Estimates",
1031 paper presented at the June 2002 meeting of the OECD Short-term Economic Statistics Expert
1032 Group, Paris

1033 **Context**
1034 Benchmarking is generally done retrospectively as annual benchmark data are available some
1035 time after quarterly data. Benchmarking does have a forward-looking element however, in that
1036 the relationship between benchmark and indicator data (benchmark: indicator ratio) is
1037 extrapolated forward to improve quarterly estimates for the most recent periods for which
1038 benchmark data are not yet available.

1039 **Hyperlink**
1040 www.oecd.org/std/meeting-papers

1041 **Related terms**
1042 Interpolation
1043

Bias

1044
1045 An effect which deprives a statistical result of representativeness by systematically distorting it,
1046 as distinct from a random error which may distort on any one occasion but balances out on the
1047 average.

1048 **Source**
1049 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
1050 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

1051 **Context**
1052 The bias of an estimator is the difference between its mathematical expectation and the true
1053 value it estimates. In the case it is zero, the estimator is said to be unbiased.

1054 **Hyperlink**
1055

Bilateral exchange

1056
1057 Exchange of data and/or metadata between a sending organisation and a receiving organisation
1058 where all aspects of the exchange process are agreed between counterparties, including the
1059 mechanism for exchange of data and metadata, the formats, the frequency or schedule, and the
1060 mode used for communications regarding the exchange.

1061 **Source**
1062 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
1063 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1064 **Context**
1065 Apart from bilateral exchange, the SDMX initiative identifies two other basic forms of exchange
1066 of statistics and metadata between organisations, i.e. multilateral exchange and data-sharing
1067 exchange.

1068 **Hyperlink**
1069 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
1070 **Related terms**
1071 Data exchange
1072 Data sharing exchange
1073 Multilateral exchange
1074

1075 **Break**
1076 See "Time series break"
1077

1078 **Category**
1079 Generic term for items at any level within a classification, typically tabulation categories,
1080 sections, subsections, divisions, subdivisions, groups, subgroups, classes and subclasses (UN
1081 Glossary Classification Terms):
1082 **Source**
1083 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International
1084 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper
1085 **Context**
1086 Classification categories are usually identified by codes (alphabetical or numerical) which
1087 provide both a unique identifier for each category and denote their place within the hierarchy.
1088 They contain elements which are subsets of the classification to which they belong, such as
1089 activities, products, types of occupations, types of education, etc.
1090 **Hyperlink**
1091 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm
1092 **Related terms**
1093 Category Scheme
1094 Structure
1095

1096 **Category Scheme**
1097 The descriptive information for an arrangement or division of categories into groups based on
1098 characteristics, which the objects have in common.
1099 **Source**
1100 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
1101 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
1102 **Context**
1103 The category scheme is an artefact for organising categories which themselves link to dataflow
1104 definition or metadataflow definition
1105 **Hyperlink**
1106 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
1107 **Related terms**
1108 Category
1109 Characteristic
1110

1111 **Census**
1112 A census is a survey conducted on the full set of observation objects belonging to a given
1113 population or universe.
1114 **Source**
1115 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
1116 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
1117 Geneva, 2000

1118 **Context**
1119 A census is the complete enumeration of a population or groups at a point in time with respect
1120 to well defined characteristics: for example, Population, Production, Traffic on particular roads.
1121 In some connection the term is associated with the data collected rather than the extent of the
1122 collection so that the term sample census has a distinct meaning. The partial enumeration
1123 resulting from a failure to cover the whole population, as distinct from a designed sample
1124 enquiry, may be referred to as an "incomplete census". (The International Statistical Institute,
1125 "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press,
1126 2003).

1127 **Hyperlink**
1128 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

1129 **Related terms**
1130 Data collection
1131 Statistical population
1132

1133 **Chain index**

1134 An index number in which the value of any given period is related to a base in the previous
1135 period, as distinct from one which is related to a fixed base.

1136 **Source**
1137 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
1138 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

1139 **Context**
1140 The comparison of non-adjacent periods is usually made by multiplying consecutive values of
1141 the index numbers, which, as it were, form a chain from one period to another.
1142 In practice chain index numbers are usually formed from weighted average of link-relatives,
1143 namely the values of magnitudes for a given period divided by the corresponding values in the
1144 previous period.

1145 **Hyperlink**
1146

1147 **Related terms**
1148 Index number
1149

1150 **Characteristic**

1151 An abstraction of a property of an object or of a set of objects.

1152 **Source**
1153 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
1154 March 2004

1155 **Context**
1156 Essential characteristic is a characteristic which is indispensable to understanding a concept
1157 [ISO 1087-1:2000,

1158 **Hyperlink**
1159

1160 **Related terms**
1161 Category Scheme
1162 Concept
1163 Concept Scheme
1164 Data
1165 ISO/IEC 11179
1166 Object
1167 Statistical concept
1168 Statistical subject-matter domain
1169 Time series
1170 Variable
1171

1172

Clarity

1173 Clarity refers to the data's information environment: whether data are accompanied with
1174 appropriate metadata, illustrations such as graphs and maps, whether information on their
1175 quality is also available (including limitation in use) and the extent to which additional assistance
1176 is provided by National Statistical Institutes.

1177 Source

1178 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
1179 2003

1180 Context

1181 The fourth quality component in the Eurostat Definition of quality is "accessibility and clarity".

1182 Hyperlink

1183

1184 Related terms

1185 Accessibility

1186 Quality (Eurostat context)

1187

1188

Class

1189 A description of a set of objects that share the same attributes, operations, methods,
1190 relationships, and semantics [ISO/IEC 19501-1:2001, 2.5.2.9]

1191 Source

1192 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
1193 March 2004

1194 Context

1195 An association is a semantic relationship between two classes. An association is a type of
1196 relationship. [Adapted from ISO/IEC 19501-1:2001, 2.5.2.3]

1197 An association class is an association that is also a class. It not only connects a set of classes,
1198 but also defines a set of features that belong to the relationship itself.

1199 [Adapted from ISO/IEC 19501-1:2001, 2.5.2.4] (ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3
1200 "Information technology-Metadata registries (MDR) - Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic
1201 attributes", February 2003)

1202 Hyperlink

1203

1204 Related terms

1205 Attribute

1206 ISO/IEC 11179

1207 Object

1208

1209

Classification

1210 A set of discrete, exhaustive and mutually exclusive observations, which can be assigned to one
1211 or more variables to be measured in the collation and/or presentation of data.

1212 Source

1213 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International
1214 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

1215 Context

1216 In SDMX, "Classification Systems" refer to a description of the classification systems being used
1217 and how they conform with internationally accepted standards guidelines, or good practices. It
1218 also refers to the description of deviations of classification systems compared to accepted
1219 statistical standards, guidelines, or good practices, when relevant.

1220 The terms "classification" and "nomenclature" are often used interchangeably, despite the
1221 definition of a "nomenclature" being narrower than that of a "classification".

1222 The structure of classification can be either hierarchical or flat. Hierarchical classifications range
1223 from the broadest level (e.g. division) to the detailed level (e.g. class). Flat classifications (e.g.
1224 sex classification) are not hierarchical.

1225 Examples of classification are NACE Rev. 1 (Statistical Classification Of Economic Activities),
 1226 NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for statistics), and ISCO-88 (International Standard
 1227 Classification of Occupations). ISIC is the United Nations International Standard Industrial
 1228 Classification of All Economic Activities.
 1229 Version 2.0 of the Neuchâtel terminology model states that the term classification is normally
 1230 used to denote one of the following concepts:
 1231 a. The general idea of assigning statistical units to categories representing the values of a
 1232 certain variable.
 1233 b. The general concept of a structured list of mutually exclusive categories, each of which
 1234 describes a possible value of the classification variable. Such a structured list may be linear or
 1235 hierarchically structured. A linear classification is a list of categories, which are all at one and
 1236 the same level (e.g. the ISO 3166 country code list, or a classification of marital status). In a
 1237 hierarchical classification the categories are arranged in a tree-structure with two or more levels,
 1238 where each level contains a set of mutually exclusive categories. The items of each level but the
 1239 highest (most aggregated) are aggregated to the nearest higher level. In common usage the
 1240 term classification often implies a hierarchical classification.
 1241 c. One particular structured list of mutually exclusive categories, which is named, has a certain
 1242 stability and normative status, and is valid for a given period of time (e.g. ISIC Rev. 1).
 1243 d. One particular named set of several structured lists of mutually exclusive categories, which
 1244 are consecutive over time and describe the possible values of the same variable (e.g. ISIC).
 1245 The distinction between concepts c. and d. above, although seldom made explicit, is particularly
 1246 crucial in any systematic register of classifications or in the development of a classification
 1247 database. (Neuchâtel Group, "Neuchâtel Terminology: Classification database object types and
 1248 their attributes - Version 2", September 2002).

1249 **Hyperlink**

1250 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm

1251 **Related terms**

1252 Analytical unit
 1253 Classification changes
 1254 Classification scheme
 1255 Classification unit
 1256 Disaggregation
 1257 Maintenance Agency
 1258
 1259 Nomenclature
 1260 Observation
 1261 Observation unit
 1262 SDMX
 1263 Standard Classification
 1264 Statistical unit
 1265 Taxonomy
 1266

1267 **Classification changes**

1268 A new version of a classification differs in essential ways from the previous version. Essential
 1269 changes are changes that alter the borders between categories, i.e. a statistical unit may belong
 1270 to different categories in the new and the older version. Border changes may be caused by
 1271 creating or deleting categories, or moving a part of a category to another category.

1272 **Source**

1273 Neuchâtel Group, "Neuchâtel Terminology: Classification database object types and their
 1274 attributes - Version 2", September 2002

1275 **Context**

1276 Changes in classifications and structure comprise changes in sector classification and structure
 1277 of institutional units and changes in classification of assets and liabilities (Eurostat, "European
 1278 System of Accounts - ESA 1995", Office for Official Publications of the European Communities,
 1279 Luxembourg, 1996, par.6.29).

1280 **Hyperlink**

1281

1282 **Related terms**
1283 Classification
1284 Institutional unit
1285

1286 **Classification scheme**

1287 Information for an arrangement or division of objects into groups based on characteristics, which
1288 the objects have in common.

1289 **Source**

1290 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
1291 March 2004

1292 **Context**

1293 Attributes of Classification scheme:

1294 "Classification scheme type name" is the name of the type of Classification scheme

1295 "Classification scheme administration record" is the Administration record for a Classification
1296 scheme.

1297 "Classification scheme item" is an item of content in a classification scheme. This may be a
1298 node in

1299 a taxonomy or ontology, a term in a thesaurus, etc.

1300 Attributes of Classification scheme item:

1301 Classification scheme item type name is the name of the type of the Classification scheme item

1302 Classification scheme item value an instance of a Classification scheme item.

1303 Classification scheme item relationship is the relationship among items within a Classification
1304 scheme. Such relations serve to assist navigation through a large number of Classification
1305 Scheme Items.

1306 Classification scheme item relationship type description is a description of the type of
1307 relationship between

1308 a Classification scheme item and one or more other Classification scheme items in a
1309 Classification scheme.

1310 Classification scheme membership is the relationship of a Classification scheme with its items.

1311 (ISO/IEC 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries-Part 3: Registry metamodel and
1312 basic attributes", February 2003)

1313 **Hyperlink**

1314

1315 **Related terms**

1316 Classification

1317 ISO/IEC 11179

1318

1319 **Classification unit**

1320 The basic unit to be classified in the classification (e.g. in an activity classification this would be
1321 the establishment or enterprise, in an occupational classification it will be the job).

1322 **Source**

1323 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International
1324 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

1325 **Context**

1326

1327 **Hyperlink**

1328 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm

1329 **Related terms**

1330 Classification

1331

1332 **Co-ordination of samples**

1333 Increasing the sample overlap for some surveys rather than drawing the samples independently
1334 is known as positive coordination. A positive coordination is often searched in repeated surveys

1335 over time (panels) in order to obtain a better accuracy of statistics depending on correlated
1336 variables from two surveys. Reducing the overlap between samples for different surveys is
1337 known as negative coordination. A negative coordination is used in order to share more equally
1338 the response burden among responding units when statistics from surveys are not used
1339 together or are not correlated.

1340 **Source**

1341 Lessler, J.T. and Kalsbeek, W.D. (1992), "Non Sampling Error in Survey", New York: John
1342 Wiley or US department of Commerce (1978), "Glossary of Non Sampling Error Terms: An
1343 Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistics", Statistical Policy Working Paper 4, Office of
1344 Federal Statistical Policy Standards, 1978

1345 **Context**

1346

1347 **Hyperlink**

1348

1349 **Related terms**

1350 Sample

1351

1352 **Code**

1353 A language-independent set of letters, numbers or symbols that represent a concept whose
1354 meaning is described in a natural language.

1355 **Source**

1356 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
1357 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1358 **Context**

1359 A code normally consists of one or more alphabetic, numeric or alpha/numeric characters.

1360 **Hyperlink**

1361 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1362 **Related terms**

1363 Code list

1364 Coding

1365

1366 **Code list**

1367 A predefined list from which some statistical coded concepts take their values.

1368 **Source**

1369 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International
1370 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
1371 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

1372 **Context**

1373 Each code list has the following properties: a) identifier (it provides a unique identification within
1374 the set of code lists specified by a structural definitions maintenance agency); b) name (also
1375 unique); c) description (a description of the purpose of the code list); and d) code value length
1376 (either an exact or a maximum number of characters and a type, i.e. numeric or alphanumeric).

1377 **Hyperlink**

1378 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf

1379 **Related terms**

1380 Code

1381 Coding

1382 Dimension

1383 GESMES/TS

1384 Statistical concept

1385 Structural definition

1386

1387	Coding
1388	A technical procedure for converting verbal information into numbers or other symbols which can be more easily counted and tabulated.
1389	
1390	Source
1391	Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October 2003
1392	
1393	Context
1394	
1395	Hyperlink
1396	
1397	Related terms
1398	Code
1399	Code list
1400	Coding error
1401	
1402	Coding error
1403	The assignment of an incorrect code to a survey response.
1404	Source
1405	Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October 2003
1406	
1407	Context
1408	
1409	Hyperlink
1410	
1411	Related terms
1412	Coding
1413	
1414	Coherence
1415	Coherence of statistics is their adequacy to be reliably combined in different ways and for various uses.
1416	
1417	Source
1418	Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October 2003
1419	
1420	Context
1421	The coherence of statistical information reflects the degree to which it can be successfully brought together with other statistical information within a broad analytic framework and over time. The use of standard concepts, classifications and target populations promotes coherence, as does the use of common methodology across surveys. Coherence does not necessarily imply full numerical consistency. (Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003, page 7, http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1).
1422	
1423	
1424	
1425	
1426	
1427	
1428	Coherence is the sixth quality component in the Eurostat definition.
1429	Hyperlink
1430	http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1)
1431	Related terms
1432	Comparability
1433	Data confrontation
1434	Quality
1435	SDMX
1436	
1437	Collection
1438	See "Data collection"

1439

1440 **Comparability**

1441 The extent to which differences between statistics from different geographical areas, non-
1442 geographical domains, or over time, can be attributed to differences between the true values of
1443 the statistics.

1444 **Source**

1445 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
1446 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1447 **Context**

1448 In SDMX, "Comparability" is closely associated with "Coherence", which is the adequacy of
1449 statistics to be reliably combined in different ways and for various uses. The use of standard
1450 concepts, classifications and target populations promotes coherence, as does the use of
1451 common methodology across surveys. Coherence does not necessarily imply full numerical
1452 consistency.

1453 The comparability of statistics within and across statistical frameworks - and the ability to
1454 perform cross-checks and reconciliations - requires the dissemination of components underlying
1455 aggregate series, dissemination within a statistical framework, and/or the dissemination of
1456 related data that support and encourage users' ability to check and verify the quality of data.

1457 The sources of distortion of comparability in statistics, increasing or reducing it, are mainly
1458 twofold:

1459 - use of different concepts/definitions, or

1460 - use of different measuring tools, compilation and presentation practices

1461 **Hyperlink**

1462

1463 **Related terms**

1464 Coherence

1465 Quality

1466 SDMX

1467 **Compilation**

1468 See "Statistical processing"

1469

1470 **Compilation practices**

1471 See "Statistical processing"

1472

1473 **Compiling Agency**

1474 Agency that compiled the data being reported.

1475 **Source**

1476 Status Report on the BIS-IMF-OECD-World Bank Joint External Debt Hub: Prepared by the
1477 SDMX Pilot Project Team, May 2005

1478 **Context**

1479 The dimension is needed as two agencies might be compiling the exact same data but using
1480 different sources or concepts (the latter would be partially captured by the dimensions). The
1481 provider ID is not sufficient, as one provider could disseminate the data compiled by different
1482 compiling agencies.

1483 **Hyperlink**

1484

1485 **Related terms**

1486 Concept

1487 Dimension

1488

1489	Completeness
1490	The extent to which all statistics that are needed are available
1491	Source
1492	Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
1493	2003
1494	Context
1495	In the European context, completeness is the availability of statistics to meet the requirements
1496	of the European Statistical System.
1497	Hyperlink
1498	
1499	Related terms
1500	Quality (Eurostat context)
1501	
1502	Computation of lowest level indices
1503	Methods used to combine the basic price observations to obtain the first level index (ratio of
1504	average prices, average of price relatives or geometric mean; long-term relative from base
1505	period vs. short-term relative; weighted or unweighted arithmetic or geometric average).
1506	Source
1507	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
1508	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
1509	Context
1510	Under the SDDS, in the context of labour market this would entail, e.g., weighted or unweighted
1511	ratio of average labour service prices, weighted or unweighted arithmetic or geometric average
1512	of labour service price relatives, long-term relative from base period versus short-term relative.
1513	Hyperlink
1514	http://www.sdmx.org/
1515	Related terms
1516	Compilation practices
1517	Index number
1518	Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
1519	
1520	Computer Assisted Interviewing, CAI
1521	The use of the computer during interviewing.
1522	Source
1523	Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on
1524	Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,
1525	Geneva, 2000
1526	Context
1527	Any contradictory data can be flagged by edit routines and the resultant data can be
1528	immediately adjusted by information from the respondent. An added benefit is that data capture
1529	(key-entry) is occurring at interview time. CAI assists the interview in the wording of questions
1530	and tailors succeeding questions based on previous responses. CAI has been mainly used in
1531	"Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviews" (CATI) or "Computer-Assisted Personal
1532	Interviewing" (CAPI).
1533	Hyperlink
1534	http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm
1535	
1536	Concept
1537	A unit of knowledge created by a unique combination of characteristics [ISO 1087-1:2000, 3.2.1]
1538	Source
1539	ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
1540	March 2004

1541 **Context**
 1542 Concepts are abstract summaries, general notions, knowledge, etc., of a whole set of
 1543 behaviours, attitudes or characteristics which are seen as having something in common.
 1544 Concepts are used to assist in presenting/conveying precise meaning, categorising, interpreting,
 1545 structuring and making sense of phenomena (such as classifications) ("United Nations Glossary
 1546 of Classification Terms" prepared by the Expert Group on International Economic and Social
 1547 Classifications, unpublished on paper, available at:
 1548 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm).
 1549 A semantic link among two or more concepts is a concept relationship.
 1550 A description of the type of relationship among two or more concepts is a concept relationship
 1551 type description. (ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology-Metadata
 1552 registries (MDR)-Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003).

1553 **Hyperlink**
 1554 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm

1555 **Related terms**
 1556 Characteristic
 1557 Compiling Agency
 1558 Data element concept
 1559 Definition
 1560 Dimension
 1561 ISO/IEC 11179
 1562 Key family
 1563 Metadata Structure Definition
 1564 Ontology
 1565 Statistical concept
 1566 Statistical subject-matter domain
 1567 Structural definition
 1568 Terminological system
 1569

Concept Scheme

1570
 1571 The descriptive information for an arrangement or division of concepts into groups based on
 1572 characteristics, which the objects have in common

1573 **Source**
 1574 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
 1575 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1576 **Context**
 1577 Within SDMX, a concept scheme is a maintained list of concepts that are used in key family and
 1578 metadata structure definitions. There can be many such concept schemes. A core
 1579 representation of the concept can be specified (e.g. a code list, or other representation such as
 1580 date).

1581 **Hyperlink**
 1582 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1583 **Related terms**
 1584 Characteristic [ISO terminology]
 1585 Object
 1586

Conceptual data model

1587
 1588 A data model that represents an abstract view of the real world. A conceptual model represents
 1589 the human understanding of a system.

1590 **Source**
 1591 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
 1592 March 2004

1593 **Context**
 1594

1595 **Hyperlink**
1596
1597 **Related terms**
1598 Data model
1599 ISO/IEC 11179
1600

1601 **Conceptual domain**

1602 A set of valid value meanings.

1603 **Source**

1604 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
1605 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

1606 **Context**

1607 The value meanings in a conceptual domain may either be enumerated or expressed via a
1608 description. Enumerated conceptual domain is a conceptual domain that is specified by a list of
1609 all its value meanings.

1610 Non-enumerated conceptual is a conceptual domain that is not specified by a list of all valid
1611 value meanings.

1612 Non-enumerated conceptual domain description is a description or specification of a rule,
1613 reference, or range for a set of all Value Meanings for the Conceptual.

1614 Conceptual domain relationship is a relationship among two or more Conceptual domains.

1615 Conceptual domain relationship type description is a description of the type of relationship
1616 among two or more Conceptual domains.

1617 Conceptual domain representation is a relationship between a Conceptual domain and a Value
1618 domain. (ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries-
1619 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003)

1620 **Hyperlink**

1621

1622 **Related terms**

1623 Data model
1624 ISO/IEC 11179
1625 Permissible value
1626 Unit of measure
1627 Value meaning
1628

1629 **Confidential data**

1630 Data which are subject to confidentiality clauses.

1631 **Source**

1632 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
1633 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1634 **Context**

1635 The data collected by many national statistical agencies are subject to national rules regarding
1636 confidentiality.

1637 The two main reasons for declaring data to be primary confidential are: a) too few units in a cell;
1638 b) dominance of one or two units in a cell. The limits of what constitutes "too few" or
1639 "dominance" vary between statistical domains.

1640 In the European Union, confidential data is defined in Article 13 of Council Regulation No
1641 322/97, as:

1642 1. Data used by the national authorities and the Community authority for the production of
1643 Community statistics shall be considered confidential when they allow statistical units to be
1644 identified, either directly or indirectly, thereby disclosing individual information.

1645 To determine whether a statistical unit is identifiable, account shall be taken of all the means
1646 that might reasonably be used by a third party to identify the said statistical unit.

1647 2. By derogation from paragraph 1, data taken from sources which are available to the public
1648 and remain available to the public at the national authorities according to national legislation,
1649 shall not be considered confidential.

1650 **Hyperlink**
1651 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
1652 **Related terms**
1653 Confidentiality
1654

1655 **Confidentiality**

1656 A property of data, usually resulting from legislative measures, which prevents it from
1657 unauthorised disclosure.

1658 **Source**
1659 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
1660 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
1661 Geneva, 2000

1662 **Context**
1663 In SDMX, "Confidentiality" refers to the legislative measures or other formal provision which
1664 prevent unauthorised disclosure of data that identify a moral or physical person either directly or
1665 indirectly. Also refers to the procedures in place to prevent disclosure of confidential data,
1666 including rules applying to staff, aggregation rules when disseminating data, provision of unit
1667 records, etc.

1668 **Hyperlink**
1669 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

1670 **Related terms**
1671 Confidential data
1672 SDMX
1673

1674 **Consistency**

1675 Consistency refers to logical and numerical coherence.

1676 **Source**
1677 International Monetary Fund, "Data Quality Assessment Framework - DQAF - Glossary",
1678 unpublished

1679 **Context**
1680 An estimator is called consistent if it converges in probability to its estimand as sample
1681 increases (The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms",
1682 edited by Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003).
1683 Consistency over time, within datasets and across datasets (often referred to as inter-sectoral
1684 consistency) are major aspects of consistency. In each, consistency in a looser sense carries
1685 the notion of "at least reconcilable." For example, if two series purporting to cover the same
1686 phenomena differ, the differences in time of recording, valuation, and coverage should be
1687 identified so that the series can be reconciled. Inconsistency over time refers to revisions that
1688 lead to breaks in series stemming from, for example, changes in concepts, definitions, and
1689 methodology. Inconsistency within datasets may exist, for example, when two sides of an
1690 implied balancing statement-assets and liabilities or inflows and outflows-do not balance.
1691 Inconsistency across datasets may exist when, for example, exports and imports in the national
1692 accounts do not reconcile with exports and imports within the balance or payments.
1693 Within the IMF definition of quality, "consistency" is one of the elements of "serviceability".

1694 **Hyperlink**
1695

1696 **Related terms**
1697 Quality
1698 Serviceability
1699

1700 **Consolidation**

1701 The process that takes data from different systems, entities (and possibly formats) and
1702 combines that information to create a unified view.

1703 **Source**
1704 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
1705 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1706 **Context**
1707

1708 **Hyperlink**
1709 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1710 **Related terms**
1711 Consolidation (national accounts)
1712

1713 **Consolidation (national accounts)**

1714 The elimination, both from uses and resources, of transactions which occur between units when
1715 the latter are grouped and to the elimination of reciprocal financial assets and liabilities

1716 **Context**
1717 Under the SDDS, in the context of fiscal sector data an indication of the methods used to
1718 combine data from separate central government accounts and funds to derive statistics for
1719 transactions between the entire central government and any other sector, exclusive of
1720 transactions between units within the same coverage of central government, as defined in the
1721 Government Finance Statistics Manual.: 1) whether all transactions between units of general
1722 government have been eliminated in consolidation is requested; 2) debt issues of one unit of
1723 central government that are held by another unit are reported on a consolidated or
1724 unconsolidated basis (e.g., central government securities held by the social security fund) are
1725 also specified.

1726 **Source**
1727 United Nations, "System of National Account (SNA) 1993"

1728 **Hyperlink**
1729 <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/sna1993/introduction.asp>

1730 **Related terms**
1731 Consolidation
1732

1733 **Constraint**

1734 Specification of what may be contained in a data or metadata set in terms of the content or, for
1735 data only, in terms of the set of key combinations to which specific attributes (defined by the
1736 data structure) may be attached.

1737 **Source**
1738 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
1739 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1740 **Context**
1741

1742 **Hyperlink**
1743 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1744 **Related terms**
1745 Attribute
1746 Data set
1747 Key
1748 Metadata set
1749 Data structure definition
1750

1751 **Contact**

1752 An instance of a role of an individual or an organization (or organization part or organization
1753 person) to whom an information item(s), a material object(s) and/or person(s) can be sent to or
1754 from in a specified context.

- 1755 **Source**
 1756 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
 1757 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003
- 1758 **Context**
 1759 In SDMX, "Contact" describes contact points for the data or metadata, including how to reach
 1760 the contact points
 1761 Attributes of "contacts" (from ISO 11179) are:
 1762 Contact mail address: The mailing address of the Contact.
 1763 Contact name: The name of the Contact.
 1764 Contact title: The name of the position held by the Contact.
 1765 Electronic mail address: An e-mail address for correspondence with the Contact.
 1766 Phone number: A telephone number for spoken correspondence with the Contact.
 1767 Fax number: A facsimile number for correspondence with the Contact.
 1768 Contact information is the information that enables a Contact to be located or communicated
 1769 with.
- 1770 **Hyperlink**
 1771
- 1772 **Related terms**
 1773 ISO/IEC 11179
 1774 SDMX
 1775 Stewardship
 1776 Submission
 1777

- 1778 **Context**
- 1779 The context is the circumstances, purpose, and perspective under which an object is defined or
 1780 used.
- 1781 **Source**
 1782 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
 1783 March 2004
- 1784 **Context**
 1785 A context description language is the identifier of the language used in the context description
 1786 (ISO/IEC FCD 11179-3, "Registry Metamodel, Final Committee Draft", 2001).
 1787 The administration record for a context is a context administration record.
 1788 The textual description of the context is a context description.
 1789 The identifier of the language used in the context description is a context description language
 1790 identifier (ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries
 1791 (MDR) - Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003).
- 1792 **Hyperlink**
 1793
- 1794 **Related terms**
 1795 Administered item
 1796 ISO/IEC 11179
 1797

- 1798 **Country identifier**
- 1799 An identifier further specifying the geopolitical area associated with the language.
- 1800 **Source**
 1801 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology-Metadata registries (MDR)-
 1802 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003
- 1803 **Context**
 1804 1 Metamodel construct is: Attribute of Language Identification.
 1805 2 Use of three digit numeric codes from ISO 3166-1, with extensions if required, is
 1806 recommended by ISO.
- 1807 **Related terms**
 1808 Identifier

1809 ISO/IEC 11179
1810

1811 Coverage

1812 The population from which observations for a particular topic can be drawn.

1813 Source

1814 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms prepared by the Expert Group on International
1815 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper.

1816 Context

1817 An understanding of coverage is required to facilitate the comparison of data. Coverage issues
1818 are often explained through the use of tables showing linkages (e.g. part or full correspondence)
1819 and can also be used to explain the ratio of coverage. The rules and conventions of coverage
1820 are largely determined by concept definitions, scope rules, information requirements and, in the
1821 case of statistical collections and classifications, collection and counting units and the collection
1822 methodology (United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms).

1823 Coverage is a term used in sampling in two senses: (1) to denote the scope of the material
1824 collected from the sample members (as distinct from the extent of the survey, which refers to
1825 the number of units included); (2) to mean the extent or area covered by the sampling as in
1826 expressions such as "50% coverage", which means that one-half of the population under
1827 discussion have been examined (The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of
1828 Statistical Terms", edited by Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003).

1829 Under the SDDS and in SDMX, the term "Coverage" encompasses the key features of the
1830 scope of the data disseminated (e.g., geographic, institutional, product, industry sector,
1831 occupation, transaction, etc. as well as relevant exceptions and exclusions), which a user must
1832 be aware of in order to use and interpret the data appropriately.

1833 Hyperlink

1834 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm

1835 Related terms

1836 Coverage errors

1837 Coverage ratio

1838 Data

1839 Scope

1840 SDMX

1841 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

1842

1843 Coverage errors

1844 Coverage errors arise from failure to cover adequately all components of the population being
1845 studied. Incomplete sampling frames often result in coverage errors.

1846 Source

1847 Statistical Office of the United Nations, "Handbook of Household Surveys, Revised Edition",
1848 (para. 8.3), Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 31, United Nations, New York, 1984

1849 Context

1850 Coverage errors are due to divergences between the target population and the frame. Coverage
1851 errors include over-coverage, under-coverage and misclassification.

1852 Hyperlink

1853

1854 Related terms

1855 Coverage

1856 Statistical population

1857

1858 Coverage ratio

1859 The coverage ratio measures the extent to which observations designated as primary to a
1860 particular category are undertaken by units primarily involved with the observations related to
1861 that category. In industry statistics, the coverage ratio is the output of goods and services

1862 characteristic of a particular industry in proportion to the total output of the same goods and
1863 services by the economy as a whole.

1864 **Source**

1865 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International
1866 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

1867 **Context**

1868

1869 **Hyperlink**

1870 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm

1871 **Related terms**

1872 Coverage

1873 Observation

1874

1875 **Creation date**

1876 The date the Administered item was created.

1877 **Source**

1878 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
1879 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

1880 **Context**

1881

1882 **Hyperlink**

1883

1884 **Related terms**

1885 Administered item

1886 Date

1887 Date of last change

1888 ISO/IEC 11179

1889

1890 **Cross-domain Concepts**

1891 List of standard concepts covering structural and reference metadata, which should be used
1892 wherever possible to enhance possibilities of the exchange of data and metadata between
1893 organisations.

1894 **Source**

1895 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
1896 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

1897 **Context**

1898 Within SDMX, cross-domain "metadata" concepts are envisaged to cover various aspects of the
1899 statistical data, including data quality. When exchanging statistics, institutions can select from a
1900 standard set of content-oriented concepts. The list of concepts and their definitions reflects good
1901 practices and can be the basis for mapping between internal systems when data and metadata
1902 are exchanged or shared between and among institutions.

1903 Examples of common concepts are data source used, periodicity, population coverage and
1904 seasonal adjustments.

1905 **Hyperlink**

1906 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

1907 **Related terms**

1908 Reference metadata

1909 SDMX

1910 Structural metadata

1911

1912 **Cut-off survey**

1913 A survey is a survey in which the sample excludes all units that are less than a specified size.

1914 **Source**
 1915 OECD, IMF, ILO, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States,
 1916 "Measuring the Non-Observed Economy: A Handbook", Second Draft, Annex 2, Glossary,
 1917 Paris, 2002
 1918 **Context**
 1919
 1920 **Hyperlink**
 1921 www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf
 1922 **Related terms**
 1923 Cut-off threshold
 1924 Survey
 1925

Cut-off threshold

1926
 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 **Source**
 1931 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
 1932 2003
 1933 **Context**
 1934
 1935 **Hyperlink**
 1936
 1937 **Related terms**
 1938 Cut-off survey
 1939 Statistical population
 1940 Target population
 1941

Data

1942
 1943 Characteristics or information, usually numerical, that are collected through observation.
 1944 **Source**
 1945 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
 1946 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003
 1947 **Context**
 1948 Data is the physical representation of information in a manner suitable for communication,
 1949 interpretation, or processing by human beings or by automatic means (Economic Commission
 1950 for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical Metadata", Conference
 1951 of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53, Geneva, 2000).
 1952 Statistical data refers to data from a survey or administrative source used to produce statistics.
 1953 (OECD, IMF, ILO, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States,
 1954 "Measuring the Non-Observed Economy: A Handbook", Annex 2, Glossary, Paris, 2002,
 1955 available at
 1956 <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/20/1963116.pdf>)
 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 published analytical article, in order to add value to the statistical output.
1970	
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:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1
1977	
1978	Data attribute
1979	See "Attribute"
1980	
1981	Data capture
1982	The process by which collected data are put in a machine-readable form.
1983	Source
1984	Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material, Geneva, 2000
1985	
1986	
1987	Context
1988	Elementary edit checks are often performed in sub-modules of the software that does data capture.
1989	
1990	Hyperlink
1991	http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm
1992	
1993	Data checking
1994	Activity through which the correctness conditions of the data are verified.
1995	Source
1996	Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material, Geneva, 2000
1997	
1998	
1999	Context
2000	It also includes the specification of the type of the error or condition not met, and the qualification of the data and its division into the "error free" and "erroneous data". Data checking may be aimed at detecting error-free data or at detecting erroneous data.
2001	
2002	
2003	Hyperlink
2004	http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm
2005	Related terms
2006	Data reconciliation
2007	
2008	Data collection
2009	The process of gathering data.
2010	Source
2011	Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material, Geneva, 2000
2012	
2013	
2014	Context
2015	Data collection encompasses such concepts as: the type(s) of interview used for data collection (e.g. personal or by telephone, paper and pencil, facsimile, computer-aided personal or telephone interview (CAPI/CATI), or mailed questionnaires); the duration of the field work
2016	
2017	

2018 (specify the dates); the period used for data collection; whether a permanent survey
2019 organisation exists or personnel for each survey round are recruited, etc. Data may be
2020 observed, measured, or collected by means of questioning, as in survey or census response.

2021 **Hyperlink**

2022 <http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm>

2023 **Related terms**

2024 Administrative data collection

2025 Census

2026 Compilation practices

2027 Observation

2028 Organisation Role

2029 Period

2030 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

2031 Survey

2032 Survey data collection

2033 Type of data collection

2034

2035 **Data confrontation**

2036 The process of comparing data that has generally been derived from different surveys or other
2037 sources, especially those of different frequencies, in order to assess their coherency and the
2038 reasons for any differences identified. Data confrontation may also take place between statistics
2039 produced in different countries. Such processes may or may not attempt to quantify the impact
2040 of any differences identified.

2041 **Source**

2042 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2043 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2044 **Context**

2045 Such data may not be coherent for a number of reasons including the use of different data item
2046 definitions, classifications, scope, reference period, etc.

2047 **Hyperlink**

2048 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2049 **Related terms**

2050 Coherence

2051 Data reconciliation

2052

2053 **Data consumer**

2054 Organisation using data as input for further processing

2055 **Source**

2056 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2057 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2058 **Context**

2059 An Organisation can play a number of Organisation roles. In the SDMX information model, three
2060 roles are identified at present: Data Provider; Data Consumer; Maintenance Agency.

2061 Data Consumer also embraces the activity of metadata provision.

2062 **Hyperlink**

2063 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2064 **Related terms**

2065 Organisation Role

2066

2067 **Data dissemination**

2068 Dissemination is the release to users of information obtained through a statistical activity.

2069 **Source**
2070 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 1998/2003, page
2071 67

2072 **Context**
2073 Data dissemination consists of distributing or transmitting statistical data to users. Various
2074 release media are possible; for example: electronic format including the internet, CD-ROM,
2075 paper publications, files available to authorised users or for public use; fax response to a special
2076 request, public speeches, press releases.
2077 In SDMX, "Supplementary Data" refers to a description of data not routinely disseminated that
2078 are made available to users upon request. It may include customized tabulations that can be
2079 provided (perhaps for a fee) to meet specific requests. Also include information on procedures
2080 for obtaining these supplementary data.

2081 **Hyperlink**
2082 <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>

2083 **Related terms**
2084 Data Dissemination Standards
2085 Data presentation
2086 Dissemination format
2087 Public disclosure
2088 SDMX
2089

2090 **Data dissemination standards**

2091 Standards to guide members of the International Monetary Fund in the dissemination to the
2092 public of their economic and financial data.

2093 **Source**
2094 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Guide to the Data Dissemination Standards, Module 1: The
2095 Special Data Dissemination Standard", Washington, May 1996

2096 **Context**
2097

2098 **Hyperlink**
2099 <http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/gdds/gddsguidelangs/>

2100 **Related terms**
2101 Data dissemination
2102 General Data Dissemination System (GDDS)
2103 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
2104

2105 **Data editing**

2106 Activity aimed at detecting and correcting errors (logical inconsistencies) in data.

2107 **Source**
2108 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on
2109 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,
2110 Geneva, 2000

2111 **Context**
2112 Editing techniques refers to a range of procedures and processes used for detecting and
2113 handling errors in data. Examples of different techniques include the different approaches to
2114 editing such as micro-editing/ macro-editing, input/output editing, or to the various tools
2115 available for editing such as graphical editing, interactive editing, etc.
2116 Edit types refer to the actual nature of edits applied to data during input or output processing.
2117 These include:
2118 - validation edits - to check the validity of basic identification of classificatory items in unit data;
2119 - logical edits - ensure that two or more data items do not have contradictory values;
2120 - consistency edits - check to ensure that precise and correct arithmetic relationships exists
2121 between two or more data items;
2122 - range edits - identify whether or not a data item value falls inside a determined acceptable
2123 range;

2124 - variance edits - involve looking for suspiciously high variances at the output edit stage.
2125 Edit types may also refer to whether these edits are fatal or query type, i.e. whether they detect
2126 errors with certainty or point to suspicious data items.
2127 Micro-editing and macro-editing may be distinguished in order to calculate rate of edits.
2128 **Hyperlink**
2129 <http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm>
2130 **Related terms**
2131 Graphical data editing
2132 Macro editing
2133 Micro editing
2134

2135 **Data element**

2136 A unit of data for which the definition, identification, representation, and permissible values are
2137 specified by means of a set of attributes.

2138 **Source**

2139 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
2140 March 2004

2141 **Context**

2142 Data element administration record is the Administration record for a Data element.

2143 Data element precision is the degree of specificity for a Data element.

2144 Data element representation is the relationship between a Data element and its Value domain.

2145 Data element representation class is the class of representation of a Data element. (ISO/IEC
2146 International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries-Part 3: Registry
2147 metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003)

2148 **Hyperlink**

2149

2150 **Related terms**

2151 Data element concept

2152 Derivation input

2153 Derivation output

2154 Derivation rule

2155 ISO/IEC 11179

2156 Keyword

2157 Related data reference

2158 Thesaurus

2159

2160 **Data element concept**

2161 A concept that can be represented in the form of a data element, described independently of
2162 any particular representation.

2163 **Source**

2164 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
2165 March 2004

2166 **Context**

2167 Data element concept administration record is the Administration record for a Data element
2168 concept.

2169 Data element concept object class is the designation of an Object class for a Data element
2170 concept.

2171 Object class qualifier is a qualifier of the Data element concept object class.

2172 Data element concept property is the designation of a Property for a Data element concept.

2173 Data element concept conceptual domain relationship is the relationship between a Data
2174 element concept and its Conceptual domain.

2175 Data element concept expression is the relationship between a Data element and a Data
2176 element concept.

2177 Data element concept relationship is the relationship among two or more Data element
2178 concepts.

2179 (ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries-Part 3:
2180 Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003)

2181 **Hyperlink**

2182

2183 **Related terms**

2184 Concept

2185 Data element

2186 ISO/IEC 11179

2187

2188 **Data element derivation**

2189 Relationship among a data element which is derived, the rule controlling its derivation, and the
2190 data element(s) from which it is derived.

2191 **Source**

2192 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
2193 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

2194 **Context**

2195

2196 **Hyperlink**

2197

2198 **Related terms**

2199 Derivation input

2200 Derivation output

2201 Derivation rule

2202 ISO/IEC 11179

2203

2204 **Data exchange**

2205 The process of sending and receiving data in such a manner that the information content or
2206 meaning assigned to the data is not altered during the transmission.

2207 **Source**

2208 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2209 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2210 **Context**

2211 Data exchange context is the framework in which two or more partners agree to: exchange one
2212 or more identified sets of data and related attributes (Exchanged time series, ETS) use one or
2213 more key families to serve this requirement, possibly, on some business and implementation
2214 agreements. Exchanged time series (ETS) is a collection of data sets (European Central Bank
2215 (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International Monetary Fund (IMF),
2216 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "GESMES/TS User Guide",
2217 Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper, available at
2218 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf)

2219 **Hyperlink**

2220 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2221 **Related terms**

2222 Attribute [Gesmes terminology]

2223 Bilateral exchange

2224 Data exchange context

2225 Data sharing exchange

2226 Electronic data interchange (EDI)

2227 GESMES/TS

2228 Key family

2229 Multilateral exchange

2230 Statistical message

2231

2232

Data exchange context

2233 The framework in which two or more partners agree to: exchange one or more identified sets of
2234 data and related attributes (exchanged time series; ETS), and use one or more data structure
2235 definitions (key families) to serve this requirement, possibly, on some business and
2236 implementation agreements.

2237 **Source**

2238 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2239 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2240 **Context**

2241

2242 **Hyperlink**

2243 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf

2244 **Related terms**

2245 Attribute

2246 Data exchange

2247 Key family

2248

2249

Data flow definition

2250 A structure which describes, categorises and constrains the allowable content of a data set that
2251 providers will supply for different reference periods.

2252 **Source**

2253 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2254 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2255 **Context**

2256 In SDMX, data sets are reported or disseminated according to a data flow definition. The data
2257 flow definition identifies the data structure definition (key family) and may be associated with
2258 one or more subject matter domains; this facilitates the search for data according to organised
2259 category schemes. A “data flow”, in this context, is an abstract concept of the data sets, i.e. a
2260 structure without any data.

2261 A Data structure definition (Key Family) defines the dimensions, attributes, measures, and
2262 associated representation that comprise the valid structure of data and related metadata
2263 contained in a data set. The Dataflow Definition associates a Key Family with one or more
2264 category. This gives a system the ability to state which data sets are to be reported for a given
2265 category, and which data sets can be reported using the Key Family definition. The Dataflow
2266 Definition may also have additional metadata attached, defining qualitative information and
2267 constraints on the use of the Key Family, in terms of reporting periodicity or specifying the
2268 subset of codes to be used in a dimension.

2269 **Hyperlink**

2270

2271 **Related terms**

2272 Attribute

2273 Category

2274 Code

2275 Data flow

2276 Data set

2277 Data structure definition

2278 Definition

2279 Dimension

2280 Measure

2281 Metadata flow definition

2282

2283

Data identifier

2284 The unique identifier for an administered item within a registration authority.

2285 **Source**
2286 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
2287 March 2004

2288 **Context**
2289

2290 **Hyperlink**
2291

2292 **Related terms**
2293 Administered item
2294 Data set identifier
2295 Identifier
2296 ISO/IEC 11179
2297

2298 **Data interchange**

2299 See "Data exchange"
2300

2301 **Data item**

2302 An occurrence of a data element.

2303 **Source**
2304 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179, Part 1, Framework for the specification and
2305 standardization of data elements, 1999

2306 **Context**
2307 A data item is a specific sub-component of a data record. For instance, in a population census,
2308 specific data items might be last name, first name, sex, and age (Economic Commission for
2309 Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on Statistical Data Editing",
2310 Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material, Geneva, 2000).

2311 **Hyperlink**
2312

2313 **Related terms**
2314 Data element
2315 ISO/IEC 11179
2316 Variable
2317

2318 **Data model**

2319 A graphical and/or lexical representation of data, specifying their properties, structure and inter-
2320 relationships.

2321 **Source**
2322 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
2323 March 2004

2324 **Context**
2325 The UN defines a data model as a user's conceptual design of a data set that describes the
2326 database entities and their relations to one another (United Nations Department of Economic
2327 and Social Affairs, "Handbook on Geographic Information Systems and Digital Mapping",
2328 Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 79, Annex VI - Glossary, New York, 2000)

2329 **Hyperlink**
2330

2331 **Related terms**
2332 Conceptual data model
2333 Conceptual domain
2334 GESMES/TS data model
2335 ISO/IEC 11179
2336 Metamodel

2337

2338 **Data presentation**

2339 Description of the way the data are presented.

2340 **Source**

2341 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2342 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2343 **Context**

2344 In SDMX, "Data Presentation" includes the description of the table contents, with their data
2345 breakdowns. It should also include summary information on units of measurement, time span
2346 covered, adjustments to data (e.g., seasonal adjustments for time series) and availability of
2347 textual analysis of current-period development with the dissemination of the data.

2348 **Hyperlink**

2349

2350 **Related terms**

2351 Data

2352 Data set

2353 Data dissemination

2354 SDMX

2355

2356 **Data processing**

2357 The operation performed on data in order to derive new information according to a given set of
2358 rules.

2359 **Source**

2360 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
2361 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
2362 Geneva, 2000

2363 **Context**

2364 The processing site refers to the organisation, institute, agency, etc, responsible for undertaking
2365 the collection, tabulation, manipulation and preparation of data and metadata output. The
2366 processing site may or may not also refer to the physical location(s) at which such activities are
2367 carried out.

2368 A processing system embodies both manual and automated systems used by agencies to
2369 despatch questionnaires, collect, compile, manipulate, analyse and disseminate data and
2370 metadata output. Such systems therefore cover all stages of the statistical processing cycle.

2371

2372 **Hyperlink**

2373 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

2374 **Related terms**

2375 Compilation practices

2376 Processing error

2377

2378 **Data provider**

2379 Organisation which produces data or metadata.

2380 **Source**

2381 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2382 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2383 **Context**

2384

2385 **Hyperlink**

2386

2387 **Related terms**

2388 Data

2389 Data provider series key
2390 Metadata
2391 Data source
2392

2393 **Data provider series key**

2394 Identifier used by the data providers systems

2395 **Source**

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

2398 **Context**

2399

2400 **Hyperlink**

2401 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2402 **Related terms**

2403 Data provider

2404 Identifier

2405 Key (time series or sibling group)

2406 Time series

2407

2408 **Data reconciliation**

2409 Frequently used as a synonym for Data confrontation. In the more active sense, the term
2410 implies the process of adjusting data derived from two different sources to remove or at least
2411 reduce the impact of differences identified in the process of data confrontation.

2412 **Source**

2413 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2414 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2415 **Context**

2416 Editing and reconciliation may involve fixing errors or adopting alternative sources and methods
2417 that are aimed at improving the process of reviewing or understanding data.

2418 (International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Quarterly National Accounts Manual", Washington D.C.,
2419 2001, available at:<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/qna/2000/textbook>)

2420 Under the SDDS, this may entail-according to the data category under consideration-the
2421 reconciliation of stocks and transactions data; reconciliation of reported data with money and
2422 banking statistics, custodian data; differences with partner data or preshipment inspection data;
2423 the treatment of differences between GDP compiled for the production approach and GDP
2424 compiled from the expenditure approach. It is a special kind of editing done after initial
2425 compilation.

2426 **Hyperlink**

2427 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2428 **Related terms**

2429 Compilation practices

2430 Data checking

2431 Data confrontation

2432 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

2433

2434 **Data security**

2435 The measures taken to prevent unauthorized access or use of data.

2436 **Source**

2437 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
2438 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
2439 Geneva, 2000

2440 **Context**

2441

2442 **Hyperlink**
2443 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>
2444

2445 **Data set**

2446 Any organised collection of data.

2447 **Source**

2448 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on
2449 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,
2450 Geneva, 2000

2451 **Context**

2452 Within SDMX, a data set can be understood as a collection of similar data, sharing a structure,
2453 which covers a fixed period of time.

2454 A data set is any permanently stored collection of information usually containing either case
2455 level data, aggregation of case level data, or statistical manipulations of either the case level or
2456 aggregated survey data, for multiple survey instances (United States Bureau of the Census,
2457 Software and Standards Management Branch, Systems Support Division, "Survey Design and
2458 Statistical Methodology Metadata", Washington D.C., August 1998, Section 3.3.7, page 14).

2459 The terms database and data set are often used interchangeably.

2460 A logical collection of values or database objects relating to a single subject (United Nations
2461 Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Handbook on Geographic Information Systems
2462 and Digital Mapping", Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 79, Annex VI - Glossary, New York,
2463 2000).

2464 **Hyperlink**

2465 <http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm>

2466 **Related terms**

2467 Aggregation

2468 Data presentation

2469 GESMES/CB

2470 Key family

2471 Measure

2472 Sibling group

2473 Time series

2474

2475 **Data set identifier**

2476 See "Data identifier"

2477

2478 **Data sharing exchange**

2479 Exchange of data and/or metadata in a situation involving the use of open, freely available data
2480 formats and where process patterns are known and standard.

2481 **Source**

2482 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2483 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2484 **Context**

2485 Apart from the data-sharing exchange, the SDMX initiative identifies two other basic forms of
2486 exchange of statistics and metadata between organisations, i.e. bilateral exchange and
2487 multilateral exchange.

2488 Any organization or individual can use any counterparty's data and metadata (assuming they
2489 are permitted access to it). This model requires no bilateral agreement, but only requires that
2490 data and metadata providers and consumers adhere to the standards.

2491 **Hyperlink**

2492 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2493 **Related terms**

2494 Bilateral exchange

2495 Data exchange
2496 Multilateral exchange
2497

2498 **Data source**

2499 A specific data set, metadata set, database or metadata repository from where data or metadata
2500 are available.

2501 **Source**

2502 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2503 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2504 **Context**

2505 The source of data is often used as a synonym for the term "data provider" However, in the
2506 context of SDMX the latter term refers to the organisation or individual from where statistics are
2507 obtained. The term "data source" refers to the characteristics and components of the raw
2508 statistical data used for compiling statistical aggregates. Sources can be distinguished,
2509 according to the modality of data collection, in: a) administrative (for data coming from
2510 administrative records); b) survey (for data coming from surveys for a specific sector or
2511 institutional unit).

2512 **Hyperlink**

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

2514 **Related terms**

2515 Administrative data
2516 Administrative data collection
2517 Administrative source
2518 Data provider
2519 Organisation
2520 Primary source of statistical data
2521 Provision Agreement
2522 Revision policy
2523 Secondary source of statistical data
2524 Survey data collection
2525

2526 **Data status upon release**

2527 Whether the data initially disseminated to the public are final data or preliminary and therefore
2528 subject to revision.

2529 **Source**

2530 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2531 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2532 **Context**

2533 Under the SDDS the data identified as meeting the standard may be preliminary and subject to
2534 revision and designated as such. On the other hand, estimates that are not based on data
2535 collected for the given reference period would not be considered preliminary and would not be in
2536 line with the SDDS specifications.

2537 **Hyperlink**

2538 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2539 **Related terms**

2540 Revision policy
2541 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
2542

2543 **Data structure definition**

2544 Set of structural metadata associated to a data set, which include information about how
2545 concepts are associated with the measures, dimensions, and attributes of a data cube, along
2546 with information about the representation of data and related descriptive metadata.

2547 **Source**
 2548 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
 2549 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2550 **Context**
 2551 In order to exchange statistical information, a central institution has to agree with its partners
 2552 about which statistical concepts are necessary for identifying the series (and for use as
 2553 dimensions) and which statistical concepts are to be used as attributes. These definitions form
 2554 the data structure definition (also called "key family" in Gesmes/TS).
 2555 The coded statistical concepts assigned as dimensions in a key structure are called the
 2556 dimensions of the key family. In addition to the dimensions, each data structure definition
 2557 assigns a set of statistical concepts that may qualify the statistical information at data set, sibling
 2558 group, time series or observation level. The statistical concepts used in this way are called
 2559 "attributes".
 2560 Each data structure definition has the following properties: a) identifier (providing a unique
 2561 identification within an exchanged time series); b) name (also unique); and c) description (a
 2562 description of the purpose and domain covered).

2563 **Hyperlink**
 2564 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf

2565 **Related terms**
 2566 Attribute
 2567 Concept
 2568 Data exchange
 2569 Data exchange context
 2570 Data set
 2571 Dimension
 2572 GESMES/TS
 2573 Key (time series or sibling group)
 2574 Key family
 2575 Maintenance Agency
 2576 Measure
 2577 Statistical concept
 2578 Structural definition
 2579 Structural metadata
 2580

2581 **Datatype**

2582 Datatype is set of distinct values, characterized by properties of those values and by operations
 2583 on those values. [ISO/IEC 11404:1996, 4.11]

2584 **Source**
 2585 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
 2586 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

2587 **Context**
 2588 Datatype annotation is the specifying information to further define the Datatype.
 2589 Datatype description descriptive information to further clarify the Datatype.
 2590 Datatype name is a designation for the Datatype.
 2591 Datatype scheme reference is a reference identifying the source of the Datatype specification.

2592 **Hyperlink**
 2593

2594 **Related terms**
 2595 ISO/IEC 11179
 2596

2597 **Date**

2598 A time reference.

2599 **Source**
 2600 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
 2601 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2602 **Context**
2603
2604 **Hyperlink**
2605 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
2606 **Related terms**
2607 Creation date
2608 Date of last change
2609 Effective date
2610

2611 **Date of last change**

2612 The date the administered item was last changed.

2613 **Source**
2614 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
2615 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

2616 **Context**
2617 In SDMX, "Date of Update" refers to the date on which the metadata element was inserted or
2618 modified in the database. It can be further detailed in: a) last update of content; b) last certified
2619 without update; c) last posted on web site.
2620 In more general terms, this refers to the date on which either data or metadata were inserted or
2621 modified in the database.

2622 **Hyperlink**

2623
2624 **Related terms**
2625 Administered item
2626 Creation date
2627 Date
2628 Effective date
2629 ISO/IEC 11179
2630 SDMX
2631 Time of recording
2632

2633 **Definition**

2634 A statement of the precise meaning of something.

2635 **Source**
2636 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International
2637 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

2638 **Context**
2639 In classifications, this item refers to the explanation of the concepts encompassed in category
2640 description and often includes specific examples of what is and is not included in particular
2641 categories.

2642 According to ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata
2643 registries-Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003, a definition is a
2644 "representation of a concept by a descriptive statement which serves to differentiate it from
2645 related concepts [ISO 1087-1:2000, 3.3.1]".

2646 Definition (of Administered Item) is the definition of an Administered item within a Context.

2647 Definition source reference is a reference to the source from which the Definition is taken.

2648 Definition text is the text of the Definition.

2649 **Hyperlink**

2650 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm

2651 **Related terms**

2652 Concept
2653 ISO/IEC 11179
2654

2655

Derivation input

2656 Relationship specifying the source Data element(s) for a Data element derivation.

2657 **Source**

2658 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
2659 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

2660 **Context**

2661

2662 **Hyperlink**

2663

2664 **Related terms**

2665 Data element

2666 Data element derivation

2667 ISO/IEC 11179

2668

2669

Derivation output

2670 Relationship denoting the result of a Data element.

2671 **Source**

2672 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
2673 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

2674 **Context**

2675

2676 **Hyperlink**

2677

2678 **Related terms**

2679 Data element

2680 Data element derivation

2681 ISO/IEC 11179

2682

2683

Derivation rule

2684 Derivation rule is the logical, mathematical, and/or other operations specifying derivation.

2685 **Source**

2686 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
2687 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

2688 **Context**

2689 Derivation rule administration record is the Administration record for a Derivation rule.

2690 Derivation rule application is the relationship specifying the Derivation rule for a Data element
2691 derivation.

2692 Derivation rule specification is the text of a specification of Data element derivation.

2693 **Hyperlink**

2694

2695 **Related terms**

2696 Data element

2697 Data element derivation

2698 ISO/IEC 11179

2699

2700

Derived data element

2701 A data element derived from other data elements using a mathematical, logical, or other type of
2702 transformation, e.g. arithmetic formula, composition, and aggregation.

2703 **Source**
2704 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
2705 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
2706 Geneva, 2000
2707 **Context**
2708
2709 **Hyperlink**
2710 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>
2711

Derived statistic

2712
2713 A derived statistic is obtained by an arithmetical observation from the primary observations. In
2714 this sense, almost every statistic is "derived". The term is mainly used to denote descriptive
2715 statistical quantities obtained from data which are primary in the sense of being mere
2716 summaries of observations, e.g. population figures are primary and so are geographical areas,
2717 but population-per-square-mile is a derived quantity.
2718 **Source**
2719 Marriott, F.H.C for the ISI, "A Dictionary of Statistical Terms", 5th edition, Longman Scientific &
2720 Technical, New York, 1990
2721 **Context**
2722
2723 **Hyperlink**
2724
2725 **Related terms**
2726 Observation
2727

Dimension

2728
2729 A statistical concept used, in combination with other statistical concepts, to identify a statistical
2730 series or single observations.
2731 **Source**
2732 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2733 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
2734 **Context**
2735 The equivalence between two units of measure is determined by the existence of an invertible
2736 transformation of one set of units to the other. This means that two units of measure have the
2737 same dimensionality if there is a function that maps values in one unit of measure to values in
2738 the other and the inverse of the function maps values in the second units back to values in the
2739 first.
2740 In the GESMES/TS context, "dimension" is a coded statistical concept used (most probably
2741 together with other coded statistical concepts) to identify a time series, e.g. a statistical concept
2742 indicating a certain economic activity or a geographical reference area. (European Central Bank
2743 (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International Monetary Fund (IMF),
2744 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "GESMES/TS User Guide",
2745 Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper)
2746 **Hyperlink**
2747 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf
2748 **Related terms**
2749 Code list
2750 Compiling Agency
2751 Concept
2752 Cube
2753 Dimensionality
2754 GESMES/TS
2755 Key (time series or sibling group)
2756 Key family

2757 Key structure
2758 Statistical concept
2759 Time series
2760 Unit of measure
2761

2762 Dimensionality

2763 An expression of measurement without units.

2764 Source

2765 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
2766 March 2004

2767 Context

2768 A quantity is a value with an associated unit of measure. 32 Fahrenheit, 0 Celsius, \$100 USD,
2769 and 10 reams (of paper) are quantities. Equivalence between two units of measure is
2770 determined by the existence of a quantity preserving one-to-one correspondence between
2771 values measured in one unit of measure and values measured in the other unit of measure,
2772 independent of context, and where characterizing operations are the same. Equivalent units of
2773 measure in this sense have the same dimensionality. The equivalence defined here forms an
2774 equivalence relation on the set of all units of measure. Each equivalence class corresponds to
2775 a dimensionality. The units of measure "temperature in degrees Fahrenheit" and "temperature
2776 in degrees Celsius" have the same dimensionality, because for each value measured in
2777 degrees Fahrenheit there is a value measured in degrees Celsius with the same quantity, and
2778 vice-versa. The same operations may be performed on quantities in each unit of measure.
2779 Quantity preserving one-to-one correspondences are the well-known equations $C = (5/9)*(F -$
2780 $32)$ and $F = (9/5)*(C) + 32$.

2781 Hyperlink

2782

2783 Related terms

2784 Dimension
2785 ISO/IEC 11179
2786 Unit of measure
2787

2788 Disaggregation

2789 The breakdown of observations, usually within a common branch of a hierarchy, to a more
2790 detailed level to that at which detailed observations are taken.

2791 Source

2792 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International
2793 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

2794 Context

2795 With standard hierarchical classifications, statistics for related categories can be grouped or
2796 collated (aggregated) to provide a broader picture, or categories can be split (disaggregated)
2797 when finer details are required and made possible by the codes given to primary observations
2798 ("United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms"; prepared by the Expert Group on
2799 International Economic and Social Classifications).

2800 Hyperlink

2801 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm

2802 Related terms

2803 Aggregation
2804 Classification
2805 Compilation practices
2806 Observation
2807

2808

Disclosure analysis

2809 The process of protecting the confidentiality of data. It involves limiting the amount of detailed
2810 information disseminated and/or masking data via noise addition, data swapping, generation of
2811 simulated or synthetic data, etc.

2812 Source

2813 United States Bureau of the Census, Software and Standards Management Branch, Systems
2814 Support Division, "Survey Design and Statistical Methodology Metadata", Washington D.C.,
2815 August 1998, Section 3.3.17, page 28

2816 Context

2817

2818 Hyperlink

2819 <http://www.census.gov/srd/www/metadata/metada18.pdf>
2820

2821

Dissemination format

2822 Media by which statistical data and /or metadata are disseminated to users.

2823 Source

2824 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2825 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2826 Context

2827 In SDMX, "Dissemination Formats" refers to the various means of dissemination used for
2828 making the data available to the public. It would include a description of the various formats
2829 available, including where and how to get the information (for instance paper, electronic
2830 publications, on-line databases).

2831 Under the SDDS, the concept of dissemination formats is divided into two categories:
2832 "hardcopy" and "electronic" publications, which detail the reference documents through which
2833 users may access the data described in the metadata and, where relevant, detailed components
2834 beyond the minimum prescribed.

2835 Hyperlink

2836 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

2837 Related terms

2838 Data dissemination

2839 SDMX
2840

2841

Documentation

2842 Descriptive text used to define or describe an object, design, specification, instructions or
2843 procedure.

2844 Source

2845 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
2846 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
2847 Geneva, 2000

2848 Context

2849

2850 Hyperlink

2851 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>
2852

2853

Domain groups

2854 A domain group comprises international organisations and/or national agencies working,
2855 formally or informally, towards the development of international guidelines and
2856 recommendations relevant to one or more statistical subject matter domains.

2857 Source

2858 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
2859 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

2860 **Context**
2861
2862 **Hyperlink**
2863 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
2864 **Related terms**
2865 Statistical subject-matter domain
2866

2867 **Dublin Core**

2868 The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative is an open forum engaged in the development of
2869 interoperable online metadata standards that support a broad range of purposes and business
2870 models.

2871 **Source**
2872 Dublin Core

2873 **Context**
2874

2875 **Hyperlink**
2876 <http://www.dublincore.org>

2877 **Related terms**
2878 Glossary
2879

2880 **EDIFACT**

2881 Electronic Data Interchange for administration, commerce and transport. EDIFACT was
2882 prepared by UN/ECE Trade Division and adopted by ISO/TC 154. The UN/ECE has also
2883 prepared Message Design Guidelines which are included in the UN/ECE Trade Data
2884 Interchange Directory. The standard was published in 1988 and amended with very small
2885 changes in 1990.

2886 **Source**
2887 ISO International Standard 9735:1988 Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce
2888 and transport (EDIFACT) Application level syntax rules, September 1996

2889 **Context**
2890

2891 **Hyperlink**
2892 <http://www.nls.fi/ptk/standardisation/2.html>

2893 **Related terms**
2894 EDI
2895 Electronic data interchange (EDI)
2896 GESMES
2897 SDMX-EDI
2898

2899 **Electronic data interchange (EDI)**

2900 Electronic exchange of data usually in forms that are compatible so that software or a
2901 combination of individuals and software can put in a compatible form at the receiving end if
2902 necessary.

2903 **Source**
2904 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on
2905 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,
2906 Geneva, 2000

2907 **Context**
2908 EDI offers businesses the opportunity to retrieve information electronically from their internal
2909 systems and to forward that information to trade partners/suppliers/customers/government
2910 through a communications network. An example might be pulling data of one type of data base
2911 management system into a sequential format and then transferring the data to a second location

2912 where the data are stored in a format different from the originating data base management
2913 system.

2914 **Hyperlink**

2915 <http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm>

2916 **Related terms**

2917 Data exchange

2918 EDIFACT

2919 GESMES

2920

2921 **Entity**

2922 A concrete or abstract thing including associations among these things e.g. a person, object,
2923 event, idea, process, etc.

2924 **Source**

2925 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
2926 March 2004

2927 **Context**

2928 An entity exists whether data about it are available or not. [ISO/IEC 2382-17:1999, 17.02.05]

2929 **Hyperlink**

2930

2931 **Related terms**

2932 Attribute

2933 ISO/IEC 11179

2934 Observation unit

2935 Ontology

2936

2937 **Error of estimation**

2938 The difference between an estimated value and the true value of a parameter or, sometimes, of
2939 a value to be predicted.

2940 **Source**

2941 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
2942 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

2943 **Context**

2944 It is immediately associated with accuracy since accuracy is used to mean "the inverse of the
2945 total error, including bias and variance" (Kish L., "Survey Sampling", 1965). The larger the error,
2946 the lower the accuracy.

2947 **Hyperlink**

2948

2949 **Related terms**

2950 Accuracy

2951 Estimate

2952

2953 **Error of observation**

2954 An error arising from imperfections in the method of observing a quantity, whether due to
2955 instrumental or to human factors.

2956 **Source**

2957 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
2958 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

2959 **Context**

2960

2961 **Hyperlink**

2962

2963 **Related terms**
2964

2965 **Estimate**

2966 The particular value yielded by an estimator in a given set of circumstances.

2967 **Source**

2968 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
2969 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

2970 **Context**

2971 The expression is widely used to denote the rule by which such particular values are calculated.
2972 It seems preferable to use the word estimator for the rule of procedure, and estimate for the
2973 values to which it leads in particular cases.

2974 **Hyperlink**

2975

2976 **Related terms**

2977 Error of estimation

2978 Estimator

2979 Non-sampling error

2980 Reliability [Quality reports]

2981 Trend estimates

2982

2983 **Estimation**

2984 Estimation is concerned with inference about the numerical value of unknown population values
2985 from incomplete data such as a sample. If a single figure is calculated for each unknown
2986 parameter the process is called "point estimation". If an interval is calculated within which the
2987 parameter is likely, in some sense, to lie, the process is called "interval estimation".

2988 **Source**

2989 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
2990 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

2991 **Context**

2992 Sample survey data only relates to the units in the sample. Therefore the sample estimates
2993 need to be inflated to represent the whole population of interest. Estimation is the means by
2994 which this inflation occurs. The estimation process is also referred to as "grossing up".

2995 Under the SDDS, estimation is of particular relevance to deriving missing data in the compilation
2996 of national accounts and consumer and producer aggregates (e.g., extrapolation of annual
2997 benchmark using value or volume changes from industrial surveys, use of fixed input/output
2998 ratios, etc, for current price for national accounts, and price imputations for consumer and
2999 producer prices) and the techniques applied in updating the ancillary information used in the
3000 estimation process.

3001 **Hyperlink**

3002

3003 **Related terms**

3004 Compilation practices

3005 Estimator

3006 Number raised estimation

3007 Precision Ratio estimation

3008 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

3009

3010 **Estimator**

3011 A rule or method of estimating a parameter of a population.

3012 **Source**

3013 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
3014 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

3015 **Context**
3016 An estimator is usually expressed as a function of sample values and hence is a variable whose
3017 distribution is of great importance in assessing the reliability of the estimate to which it leads.
3018 **Hyperlink**
3019
3020 **Related terms**
3021 Estimate
3022 Estimation
3023

3024 **Expected value**
3025 The hypothetical average from the conceived replicates of the survey all conducted under the
3026 same essential conditions.
3027 **Source**
3028 Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, "Glossary of Nonsampling Error Terms: An
3029 Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistic", Statistical Policy Working Paper, December,
3030 1978
3031 **Context**
3032
3033 **Hyperlink**
3034
3035 **Related terms**
3036

3037 **Expression Node**
3038 A node in a transformation scheme that is part of a hierarchy of nodes that together define or
3039 document an expression.
3040 **Source**
3041 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
3042 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
3043 **Context**
3044
3045 **Hyperlink**
3046 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
3047 **Related terms**
3048

3049 **Flag**
3050 An attribute of a cell in a data set representing qualitative information on the value of that cell.
3051 **Source**
3052 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
3053 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
3054 **Context**
3055 Examples of qualitative information that can be exchanged via a flag are: "provisional value",
3056 "estimated value", "revised value", "forecast", "unreliable or uncertain data (see explanatory
3057 texts)", "break in series (see explanatory texts)", "more information in...".
3058 **Hyperlink**
3059 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
3060 **Related terms**
3061 Footnote
3062 Quantitative data
3063

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Flow data series

Statistical series presented as flow data series are cumulated during the reference period, for example, passenger car registrations, where the figure for the reference period is the sum of daily registrations.

Source

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "Main Economic Indicators"

Context

Hyperlink

Related terms

Statistical metadata repository
Stock data series

3078
3079
3080
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3091

Follow-up

A further attempt to obtain information from an individual in a survey or field experiment because the initial attempt has failed or later information is available.

Source

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

Context

Hyperlink

Related terms

Non-response
Non-response error

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Footnote

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

Source

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

Context

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

Hyperlink

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

Related terms

Flag

3109
3110
3111
3112
3113
3114

Frame

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

Source

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

3115 **Context**
3116 The frame consists of previously available descriptions of the objects or material related to the
3117 physical field in the form of maps, lists, directories, etc., from which sampling units may be
3118 constructed and a set of sampling units selected (Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics:
3119 Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October 2003).
3120 The frame may or may not contain information about the size or other supplementary
3121 information of the units, but should have enough details so that a unit, if included in the sample,
3122 may be located and taken up for inquiry. The nature of the frame exerts a considerable
3123 influence over the structure of a sample survey. It is rarely perfect, and may be inaccurate,
3124 incomplete, inadequately described, out of date or subject to some degree of duplication.
3125 Reasonable reliability in the frame is a desirable condition for the reliability of a sample survey
3126 based on it.
3127 **Hyperlink**
3128
3129 **Related terms**
3130 Area sampling
3131 Frame error
3132 Under-coverage
3133

3134 **Frame error**

3135 Frame error may be caused by the inherent limitations of input data, or by delays and errors in
3136 data acquisition and processing.

3137 **Source**

3138 Lessler, J.T. and Kalsbeek, W.D. (1992), "Non Sampling Error in Survey", New York: John
3139 Wiley or US department of Commerce (1978), "Glossary of Non Sampling Error Terms: An
3140 Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistics", Statistical Policy Working Paper 4, Office of
3141 Federal Statistical Policy Standards, 1978

3142 **Context**

3143 Frame errors cover:

- 3144 - coverage errors - erroneous inclusions, omissions and duplications;
- 3145 - classification errors - units not classified, or misclassified by industry, geography or size;
- 3146 - contact errors - units with incomplete or incorrect contact data.

3147 **Hyperlink**

3148

3149 **Related terms**

3150 Frame
3151

3152 **Frequency**

3153 The rate at which something happens or is repeated.

3154 **Source**

3155 The Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary, Oxford University Press

3156 **Context**

3157 If a time series has a constant time interval between its observations, this interval determines
3158 the frequency of the time series (e.g. monthly, quarterly, yearly).

3159 In GESMES/TS, frequency is a dimension of the time series key. Frequency must be assigned
3160 as a dimension in every key family and it has to be the first dimension. ("GESMES/TS User
3161 Guide", Release 3)

3162 In SDMX, "Frequency" is closely associated with "Periodicity" to form a single entity, named
3163 "frequency and periodicity". While frequency refers to the time interval between the observations
3164 of a time series. periodicity refers to the frequency of compilation of the data (e.g., a time series
3165 could be available at annual frequency but the underlying data are compiled monthly, thus have
3166 a monthly periodicity).

3167 **Hyperlink**

3168

3169 **Related terms**
3170 Periodicity
3171 SDMX
3172

3173 **Gateway**

3174 An interface between some external source of information and a World Wide Web server. In this
3175 instance a gateway is a web enabled search mechanism which allows users to search a
3176 distributed network of directory nodes.

3177 **Source**

3178 Office for National Statistics (ONS), "National statistics, methods and quality report: Glossary of
3179 terms"; unpublished on paper

3180 **Context**

3181

3182 **Hyperlink**

3183 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/data_annex.asp

3184 **Related terms**

3185

3186 **Gateway exchange**

3187 An organized set of bilateral exchanges, in which several data and metadata sending
3188 organizations or individuals agree to exchange the collected information with each other in a
3189 single, known format, and according to a single, known process.

3190 **Source**

3191 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
3192 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

3193 **Context**

3194 This pattern has the effect of reducing the burden of managing multiple bilateral exchanges (in
3195 data and metadata collection) across the sharing organizations/individuals. This is also a very
3196 common process pattern in the statistical area, where communities of institutions agree on ways
3197 to gain efficiencies within the scope of their collective responsibilities.

3198 **Hyperlink**

3199 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

3200 **Related terms**

3201

3202 **General Data Dissemination System (GDDS)**

3203 The GDDS is a structured process through which Fund member countries commit voluntarily to
3204 improving the quality of the data produced and disseminated by their statistical systems over the
3205 long run to meet the needs of macroeconomic analysis.

3206 **Source**

3207 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Guide to the General Data Dissemination System", 2002

3208 **Context**

3209

3210 **Hyperlink**

3211 <http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/gdds/gddsguidelangs/>

3212 **Related terms**

3213 Data Dissemination Standards

3214 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

3215

3216 **Geographical coverage**

3217 The country or geographic area which is related to the measured economic phenomenon.

3218 **Source**
3219 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
3220 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
3221 **Context**
3222 This entity is also commonly called reporter.
3223 **Hyperlink**
3224 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
3225 **Related terms**
3226 Coverage
3227 Reference area
3228

3229 **GESMES**

3230 GESMES (Generic Statistical Message) is a United Nations standard (EDIFACT message)
3231 allowing partner institutions to exchange statistical multidimensional arrays in a generic but
3232 standardised way. It has been designed by Expert Group 6 (Statistics) of the European Board
3233 for EDI Standardisation.

3234 **Source**
3235 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International
3236 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
3237 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

3238 **Context**
3239

3240 **Hyperlink**
3241 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf

3242 **Related terms**
3243 Attribute
3244 EDIFACT [ISO terminology]
3245 Electronic data interchange (EDI)
3246 GESMES/CB
3247 GESMES/TS
3248 Statistical message
3249

3250 **GESMES/CB**

3251 Message profile for data exchange used by the central banking community.

3252 **Source**
3253 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International
3254 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
3255 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

3256 **Context**
3257 The message has been renamed from GESMES/CB to GESMES/TS in 2003

3258 **Hyperlink**
3259 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf

3260 **Related terms**
3261 Data set
3262 GESMES
3263 GESMES/TS
3264

3265 **GESMES/TS**

3266 GESMES Time Series data exchange message. It is a message (a GESMES profile) allowing
3267 the exchange of statistical time series, related attributes and structural definitions using a
3268 standardised format.

3269 **Source**
 3270 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International
 3271 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
 3272 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

3273 **Context**
 3274 The message has been renamed from GESMES/CB to GESMES/TS in 2003, reflecting also the
 3275 adoption of the message by a large statistical community, including the BIS, the ECB, Eurostat,
 3276 the IMF and OECD.

3277 **Hyperlink**
 3278 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf

3279 **Related terms**
 3280 Attachment level
 3281 Attribute
 3282 Code list
 3283 Data exchange
 3284 Dimension
 3285 GESMES
 3286 GESMES/CB
 3287 GESMES/TS data model
 3288 Key family
 3289 Maintenance Agency
 3290 Sibling group
 3291 Statistical concept
 3292 Structural definition
 3293 Structural metadata
 3294

3295 **GESMES/TS data model**

3296 A time-series data exchange model which allows to exchange and identify time series through a
 3297 multidimensional key and various associated metadata.

3298 **Source**
 3299 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International
 3300 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
 3301 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

3302 **Context**
 3303

3304 **Hyperlink**
 3305 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf

3306 **Related terms**
 3307 Data item
 3308 Data model
 3309 GESMES/TS
 3310 Key (time series or sibling group)
 3311

3312 **Glossary**

3313 An alphabetized list of terms with definitions often created by an organization to reflect its
 3314 needs. Normally lacks hierarchical arrangement or cross references. Also known as a term list.

3315 **Source**
 3316 Dublin Core

3317 **Context**
 3318 A glossary also commonly contains an explanation of words, concepts or terms that are usually
 3319 listed in alphabetical order (Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE),
 3320 "Terminology on Statistical Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical
 3321 Standards and Studies, No. 53, Geneva, 2000, available at:
 3322 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>). Examples of statistical
 3323 glossary databases are Eurostat's CODED Glossary (available at

3324 <http://forum.europa.eu.int/irc/dsis/coded/info/data/coded/en.htm>) and the OECD Glossary of
3325 Statistical Terms (available at <http://cs3-hq.oecd.org/scripts/stats/glossary/index.htm>).
3326 **Hyperlink**
3327 <http://www.dublincore.org>
3328 **Related terms**
3329 Dublin Core
3330 Maintenance Agency
3331

Graphical data editing

3332 Use of graphs to identify anomalies in data.
3333
3334 **Source**
3335 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on
3336 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,
3337 Geneva, 2000
3338 **Context**
3339 While such graphical methods can employ paper, the more sophisticated use powerful
3340 interactive methods that interconnect groups of graphs automatically and retrieve detailed
3341 records for manual review and editing.
3342 **Hyperlink**
3343 <http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm>
3344 **Related terms**
3345 Data editing
3346

Grossing/Netting

3347 Combinations in which all elementary items are shown for their full values are called gross
3348 recordings. Combinations whereby the values of some elementary items are offset against
3349 items on the other side of the account or which have an opposite sign are called net recordings.
3350
3351 **Source**
3352 United Nations, "System of National Account (SNA) 1993"
3353 **Context**
3354 Individual units or sectors may have the same kind of transactions both as a use and as a
3355 resource (e.g., they both pay and receive interest) and the same kind of financial instrument as
3356 an asset and as a liability.
3357 **Hyperlink**
3358 <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/sna1993/introduction.asp>
3359 **Related terms**
3360 Aggregation
3361 Consolidation
3362

Guidelines

3363 Directions or principles used in the development, maintenance and application of rules.
3364
3365 **Source**
3366 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
3367 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
3368 **Context**
3369 Guidelines are not necessarily mandatory, but are provided as an aid to interpretation and use
3370 of rules.
3371 **Hyperlink**
3372 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
3373

3374

Hierarchy

3375 Classification structure arranged in levels of detail from the broadest to the most detailed level.
3376 Each level of the classification is defined in terms of the categories at the next lower level of the
3377 classification.

3378 **Source**

3379 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International
3380 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

3381 **Context**

3382 In SDMX, this is known as a level based hierarchy. SDMX also has the concept of the value
3383 based hierarchy where the hierarchy of categories is not organised into formal levels.

3384 **Hyperlink**

3385 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm

3386 **Related terms**

3387 Structure
3388

3389

Identifier

3390 A sequence of characters, capable of uniquely identifying that with which it is associated, within
3391 a specified context.

3392 **Source**

3393 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
3394 March 2004

3395 **Context**

3396 A name should not be used as an identifier because it is not linguistically neutral.

3397 **Hyperlink**

3398

3399 **Related terms**

3400 Country identifier

3401 Data identifier

3402 Data Provider Series Key

3403 ISO/IEC 11179

3404 Organisation identifier
3405

3406

Imputation

3407 Imputation is a procedure for entering a value for a specific data item where the response is
3408 missing or unusable.

3409 **Source**

3410 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on
3411 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,
3412 Geneva, 2000

3413 **Context**

3414 Imputation is the process used to determine and assign replacement values for missing,
3415 invalid or inconsistent data that have failed edits. This is done by changing some of the
3416 responses or assigning values when they are missing on the record being edited to ensure
3417 that estimates are of high quality and that a plausible, internally consistent record is
3418 created. (Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003,
3419 page 41, available at: [http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-
3420 X&CHROPG=1](http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1))

3421 **Hyperlink**

3422 <http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm>

3423 **Related terms**

3424 Missing data
3425

3426

Index number

3427 A quantity which shows by its variations the changes of a magnitude over time or space.

3428 Source

3429 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
3430 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

3431 Context

3432 Index type refers to any of the various indices (e.g., Laspeyres, modified Laspeyres, Paasche,
3433 Value-Added, Fisher, Tornqvist, etc.) used in the statistical production process.

3434 Important features in the construction of an index number are its coverage, base period,
3435 weighting system and method of averaging observations. A price index reflects an average of
3436 the proportionate changes in the prices of a specified set of goods and services between two
3437 periods of time (United Nations, "System of National Account (SNA) 1993", 16.14, available at
3438 <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/sna1993/introduction.asp>).

3439 Hyperlink

3440 Related terms

3441 Chain index

3442 Compilation practices

3443 Computation of lowest level indices

3444 Weight period

3445

3446

Information

3447 Information is knowledge concerning any objects such as facts, events, things, processes or
3448 ideas including concepts that within a certain context have a particular meaning.

3449 Source

3450 ISO/IEC 2382-1; 1992 - Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE),
3451 "Terminology on Statistical Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical
3452 Standards and Studies, No. 53, Geneva, 2000

3453 Context

3454

3455 Hyperlink

3456 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

3457

3458

Information system

3459 A system which supports decision-making concerning some piece of reality, the object system
3460 by giving the decision makers access to information concerning relevant aspects of the object
3461 system and its environment.

3462 Source

3463 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
3464 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
3465 Geneva, 2000

3466 Context

3467 A "statistical information system" is the information system oriented towards the collection,
3468 storage, transformation and distribution of statistical information.

3469 Hyperlink

3470 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

3471

3472

Inlier

3473 A data value that lies in the interior of a statistical distribution and is in error. Because inliers are
3474 difficult to distinguish from good data values they are sometimes difficult to find and correct.

3475 **Source**
3476 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on
3477 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,
3478 Geneva, 2000
3479 **Context**
3480 A simple example of an inlier might be a value in a record reported in the wrong units, say
3481 degrees Fahrenheit instead of degrees Celsius.
3482 **Hyperlink**
3483 <http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm>
3484 **Related terms**
3485 Outliers
3486

3487 **Institutional framework**

3488 A set of rules used as the basis for producing statistics.

3489 **Source**
3490 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
3491 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

3492 **Context**
3493 In SDMX, "Institutional Framework" refers to a law or other formal provision that assign primary
3494 responsibility as well as the authority to an agency for the collection, processing, and
3495 dissemination of the statistics; it also includes arrangements or procedures to facilitate data
3496 sharing and coordination between data producing agencies ("reporting requirements").
3497 In detail, the institutional framework for statistics may include information on:
3498 - The legislation within which the statistical agency operates. Typically it is proclaimed in one or
3499 more statistics acts and in accompanying or supplementary government regulations covering a
3500 number of issues including the right to collect data; ensuring confidentiality of data collected,
3501 etc.
3502 - The organisational structure of the statistical agency. Such structures include economic data
3503 collection, processing and analysis; social data collection, processing and analysis; national
3504 accounts, balance of payments and economic analysis.
3505 - Planning framework under which major initiatives and statistical outputs envisaged for the
3506 future are envisaged.
3507 - Quality consciousness and organisational culture
3508

3509 **Hyperlink**
3510 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

3511 **Related terms**
3512 Integrity
3513 Internal access
3514 Ministerial commentary
3515 SDMX
3516

3517 **Institutional sector**

3518 An aggregation of institutional units on the basis of the type of producer and depending on their
3519 principal activity and function, which are considered to be indicative of their economic
3520 behaviour. A sector is divided into sub-sectors according to the criteria relevant to that sector;
3521 this permits a more precise description of the economic behaviour of the units.

3522 **Source**
3523 Eurostat, "European System of Accounts - ESA 1995", Office for Official Publications of the
3524 European Communities, Luxembourg, 1996, 2.17-2.18

3525 **Context**
3526

3527 **Hyperlink**
3528

3529 **Related terms**
3530 Activity
3531 Institutional unit
3532

3533 **Institutional unit**

3534 The elementary economic decision-making centre characterised by uniformity of behaviour and
3535 decision-making autonomy in the exercise of its principal function. A resident unit is regarded as
3536 constituting an institutional unit if it has decision-making autonomy in respect of its principal
3537 function and either keeps a complete set of accounts or it would be possible and meaningful,
3538 from both an economic and legal viewpoint, to compile a complete set of accounts if they were
3539 required.

3540 **Source**

3541 Eurostat, "European System of Accounts - ESA 1995", Office for Official Publications of the
3542 European Communities, Luxembourg, 1996, 2.12

3543 **Context**

3544 The need for aggregation means that it is impossible to consider individual institutional units
3545 separately; they must be combined into groups called institutional sectors or simply sectors,
3546 some of which are divided into sub-sectors (Eurostat, "European System of Accounts - ESA
3547 1995", Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg, 1996, 2.12).

3548 The System of National Accounts 1993 states that "Institutional units are grouped together to
3549 form institutional sectors, on the basis of their principal functions, behaviour, and objectives".
3550 (United Nations, "System of National Account (SNA) 1993", par. 2.20)

3551 **Hyperlink**

3552

3553 **Related terms**

3554 Classification changes

3555 Institutional sector

3556

3557 **Integrity**

3558 Values and related practices that maintain confidence in the eyes of users in the agency
3559 producing statistics and ultimately in the statistical product.

3560 **Source**

3561 International Monetary Fund, "Data Quality Assessment Framework - DQAF - Glossary",
3562 unpublished

3563 **Context**

3564 In SDMX, "Transparency" describes the policy on the availability of the terms and conditions
3565 under which statistics are collected, processed, and disseminated. It also describes the policy of
3566 providing advanced notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical
3567 techniques; the policy on internal governmental access to statistics prior to their release; the
3568 policy on statistical products' identification

3569 Confidence by users is built over time. One important aspect is the trust in the objectivity of
3570 statistics. It implies that professionalism should guide policies and practices and it is supported
3571 by ethical standards and by transparency of policies and practices.

3572 Under the SDDS, "integrity" is the third of four dimensions of the standard (i.e., data, access,
3573 integrity, and quality) for which evidence of a subscribing member's observance of the standard
3574 can be obtained.

3575 **Hyperlink**

3576

3577 **Related terms**

3578 Accessibility

3579 Institutional framework

3580 Internal access

3581 Ministerial commentary

3582 Quality

3583 Professionalism

3584 Revision policy
3585 SDMX
3586 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
3587

3588 **Internal access**

3589 Internal access refers to giving full transparency to any necessary pre-release access within
3590 government-as deemed appropriate by the government.

3591 **Source**

3592 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
3593 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

3594 **Context**

3595 Under the SDDS, this entails the listing of persons or officials holding designated positions
3596 within the government, but outside the agency producing the data, who have pre-release access
3597 to the data and the reporting of the schedule according to which they receive access.

3598 **Hyperlink**

3599 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

3600 **Related terms**

3601 Institutional framework
3602 Integrity
3603 Ministerial commentary
3604 Revision policy
3605 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
3606

3607 **International code designator**

3608 An identifier of an organization identification scheme. [ISO/IEC 6523-1:1998, 3.8]

3609 **Source**

3610 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
3611 March 2004

3612 **Context**

3613

3614 **Hyperlink**

3615

3616 **Related terms**

3617 ISO/IEC 11179
3618

3619 **International statistical standard**

3620 The comprehensive body of international statistical guidelines and recommendations that have
3621 been developed by international organisations working with national agencies.

3622 **Source**

3623 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
3624 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

3625 **Context**

3626 The formulation of international statistical standards necessarily entails an extensive process of
3627 consultation and discussion between international organisations and between international
3628 organisations and their member countries. The standards cover almost every field of statistical
3629 endeavour from data collection, processing and dissemination and almost every statistical
3630 subject. Such standards also include international statistical classifications

3631 The most comprehensive database of existing international statistical guidelines and
3632 recommendations is maintained on the United Nations Statistical Division website, the
3633 Methodological publications in statistics. This database also lists standards currently being
3634 developed by international organisations.

3635 **Hyperlink**
3636 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
3637 **Related terms**
3638 Statistical concept
3639 Statistical standard
3640

3641 **Interpolation**

3642 The use of a formula to estimate an intermediate data value.

3643 **Source**

3644 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
3645 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

3646 **Context**

3647 A common example is the quarterly estimation of output of non-profit institutions serving
3648 households (NPISH) from annual national accounts. A quarterly pattern for interpolation may be
3649 derived:

- 3650 - from previous (discontinued) survey data;
- 3651 - from proxy variables;
- 3652 - as a smooth mathematical function.

3653 **Hyperlink**

3654

3655 **Related terms**

3656 Benchmarking

3657

3658 **Interviewer error**

3659 Effects on respondents' answers stemming from the different ways that interviewers administer
3660 the same survey.

3661 **Source**

3662 Paul P. Biemer, Robert M.Groves, Lars E. Lyberg, Nancy A.Mathiowetz, Seymour Sudman,
3663 "Measurement errors in survey", John Wiley & Sons, 1991

3664 **Context**

3665 Examples of these errors include the failure to read the question correctly (leading to response
3666 errors by the respondent), delivery of the question with an intonation that influences the
3667 respondent's choice of answer, and failure to record the respondent's answer correctly.

3668 **Hyperlink**

3669

3670 **Related terms**

3671

3672 **ISO/IEC 11179**

3673 The International Standard ISO/IEC 11179 on metadata registries addresses the semantics of
3674 data, the representation of data, and the registration of the descriptions of data. ISO/IEC 11179
3675 specifies the kind and quality of metadata necessary to describe data, and it specifies the
3676 management and administration of that metadata in a metadata registry (MDR).

3677 **Source**

3678 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
3679 March 2004

3680 **Context**

3681 The purposes of the ISO/IEC 11179 standard are to promote the following:

- 3682 - standard description of data
- 3683 - common understanding of data across organizational elements and between organizations
- 3684 - re-use and standardization of data over time, space, and applications
- 3685 - harmonization and standardization of data within an organization and across organizations
- 3686 - management of the components of data

3687 - re-use of the components of data
 3688 ISO/IEC 11179 is six part standard:
 3689 Part 1 - Framework - Contains an overview of the standard and describes the basic concepts
 3690 Part 2 - Classification - Describes how to manage a classification scheme in a metadata registry
 3691 Part 3 - Registry metamodel and basic attributes - Provides the basic conceptual model,
 3692 including the basic attributes and relationships, for a metadata registry
 3693 Part 4 - Formulation of data definitions - Rules and guidelines for forming quality definitions for
 3694 data elements and their components
 3695 Part 5 - Naming and identification principles - Describes how to form conventions for naming
 3696 data elements and their components
 3697 Part 6 - Registration - Specifies the roles and requirements for the registration process in an
 3698 ISO/IEC 11179 metadata registry

3699 **Hyperlink**

3700

3701 **Related terms**

3702 Administered item
 3703 Administration record
 3704 Attribute
 3705 Basic attribute
 3706 Characteristic
 3707 Class
 3708 Classification scheme
 3709 Concept
 3710 Conceptual data model
 3711 Conceptual domain
 3712 Contact
 3713 Context
 3714 Country identifier
 3715 Creation date
 3716 Data element
 3717 Data element concept
 3718 Data element derivation
 3719 Data identifier
 3720 Data item
 3721 Data model
 3722 Datatype
 3723 Date of last change
 3724 Definition
 3725 Derivation input
 3726 Derivation output
 3727 Derivation rule
 3728 Dimensionality
 3729 Effective date
 3730 Entity
 3731 Identifier
 3732 International code designator
 3733 Keyword
 3734 Language
 3735 Metadata
 3736 Metadata item
 3737 Metadata object
 3738 Metadata registry
 3739 Metadata set
 3740 Metamodel
 3741 Name
 3742 Object
 3743 Object class
 3744 Object class term
 3745 Organisation
 3746 Organisation identifier

3747 Permissible value
3748 Permitted value
3749 Preferred definition
3750 Property
3751 Reference document
3752 Register
3753 Registrar
3754 Registration
3755 Registration authority
3756 Registry item
3757 Registry metamodel
3758 Related data reference
3759 Related metadata reference
3760 Relationship
3761 Responsible organization
3762 Semantics
3763 Special language
3764 Stewardship
3765 Submission
3766 Submitting organization
3767 Syntax
3768 Taxonomy
3769 Terminological entry
3770 Terminological system
3771 Thesaurus
3772 Unit of measure
3773 Value domain
3774 Value item
3775 Value meaning
3776

3777 **Item response rate**

3778 The ratio of the number of eligible units responding to an item to the number of responding units
3779 eligible to have responded to the item.

3780 **Source**

3781 Madow, W., Nisselson, H., and Olkin, I., "Incomplete Data in Sample Surveys", Academic
3782 Press, New York, 1983

3783 **Context**

3784

3785 **Hyperlink**

3786

3787 **Related terms**

3788 Non-response rate

3789 Refusal rate

3790 Response rate

3791

3792 **Key (time series or sibling group)**

3793 The key uniquely defines a time series or sibling group within a data set.

3794 **Source**

3795 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International
3796 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
3797 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

3798 **Context**

3799 Every time series takes a value for every dimension of the key family to which the series
3800 belongs. The meaning attached to the value of one dimension is not permitted to depend upon
3801 the values of any other dimensions.

3802 **Hyperlink**
3803 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf
3804 **Related terms**
3805 Data Provider Series Key
3806 Dimension
3807 GESMES/TS data model
3808 Key family
3809 Sibling group
3810 Time series
3811

3812 **Key family**
3813 See "Data Structure Definition"
3814

3815 **Key structure**
3816 An ordered set of coded statistical concepts whose combination of values (dimension values)
3817 uniquely identifies each time series within a data set.
3818 **Source**
3819 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International
3820 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
3821 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper
3822 **Context**
3823
3824 **Hyperlink**
3825 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf
3826 **Related terms**
3827 Dimension
3828 Statistical concept
3829

3830 **Keyword**
3831 One or more significant words used for retrieval of data elements.
3832 **Source**
3833 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179, Part 1, Framework for the specification and
3834 standardization of data elements, 1999
3835 **Context**
3836
3837 **Hyperlink**
3838
3839 **Related terms**
3840 Data element
3841 ISO/IEC 11179
3842

3843 **Language**
3844 A system of signs for communication, usually consisting of a vocabulary and rules [ISO
3845 5127:2001, 1.1.2.01]
3846 **Source**
3847 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
3848 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003
3849 **Context**
3850

3851 **Hyperlink**

3852

3853 **Related terms**

3854 ISO/IEC 11179

3855 Special language

3856

3857 **Level**

3858 A group of codes which are characterised by homogeneous coding, and where the parent of
3859 each code in the group is at the same higher level of the Hierarchy

3860 **Source**

3861 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
3862 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary (adapted from the Neuchâtel terminology)

3863 **Context**

3864

3865 **Related terms**

3866 Code

3867 Hierarchy

3868

3869 **Levels of data**

3870 Data expressed as levels are expressed in absolute terms (values, numbers, units) for a given
3871 period (month, quarter, year).

3872 **Source**

3873 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "Main Economic Indicators"

3874 **Context**

3875 Flow data for annual and quarterly levels may be presented as either the:

3876 - sum of the component quarters or months, or

3877 - average of the component months or quarters.

3878 Stock data by definition only have one value for each frequency (i.e. year, quarter, month).

3879 **Hyperlink**

3880

3881 **Related terms**

3882

3883 **Longitudinal data**

3884 Data in which many units are observed over multiple time periods.

3885 **Source**

3886 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Glossary", unpublished on paper

3887 **Context**

3888

3889 **Hyperlink**

3890 <http://stats.bls.gov/bls/glossary.htm>

3891 **Related terms**

3892 Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC)

3893

3894 **Macro editing**

3895 A procedure for tracking suspicious data by checking aggregates or applying statistical methods
3896 on all records or on a subset of them.

3897 **Source**

3898 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, May
3899 2002

3900 **Context**
3901 A macro-edit detects individual errors by:
3902 1) checks on aggregated data, or
3903 2) checks applied to the whole body of records.
3904 The checks are typically based on the models, either graphical or numerical formula based, that
3905 determine the impact of specific fields in individual records on the aggregate estimates.
3906 (Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on
3907 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,
3908 Geneva, 2000, available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/editingglossary.pdf>
3909 **Hyperlink**
3910 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/editingglossary.pdf>
3911 **Related terms**
3912 Data editing
3913 Micro editing
3914

3915 **Maintenance Agency**
3916 Organisation responsible for maintaining or updating artefacts such as statistical classifications,
3917 glossaries, data structure definitions (key families) and metadata structure definitions
3918 **Source**
3919 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
3920 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
3921 **Context**
3922
3923 **Hyperlink**
3924 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
3925 **Related terms**
3926 Classification
3927 Data structure definition
3928 GESMES/TS
3929 Glossary
3930 Key family
3931 Structural definition
3932

3933 **Measure**
3934 The phenomenon or phenomena to be measured in a data set.
3935 **Source**
3936 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
3937 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
3938 **Context**
3939 In a data set, the instance of a measure is often called an observation
3940 **Hyperlink**
3941 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
3942 **Related terms**
3943 Data set
3944 Key family
3945 Observation
3946

3947 **Measurement error**
3948 Measurement errors occur when the response provided differs from the real value; such errors
3949 may be attributable to the respondent, the interviewer, the questionnaire, the collection method
3950 or the respondent's record-keeping system. Such errors may be random or they may result in a
3951 systematic bias if they are not random.

3952 **Source**
3953 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003, page 59
3954 **Context**
3955 Measurement error includes the error in a survey response as a result of respondent confusion,
3956 ignorance, carelessness, or dishonesty; the error attributable to the interviewer, perhaps as a
3957 consequence of poor or inadequate training, prior expectations regarding respondents'
3958 responses, or deliberate errors; and error attributable to the wording of the questions in the
3959 questionnaire, the order or context in which the questions are presented, and the method used
3960 to obtain the responses.
3961 **Hyperlink**
3962 <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>
3963 **Related terms**
3964

3965 **Metadata**

3966 Data that defines and describes other data.

3967 **Source**
3968 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
3969 March 2004

3970 **Context**
3971 For the ISO standard, metadata is defined as data that defines and describes other data and
3972 processes. This means that metadata are data that describe other data, and data become
3973 metadata when they are used in this way. This happens under particular circumstances and for
3974 particular purposes, as no data are always metadata. The set of circumstances and purposes
3975 (or perspective) for which some data are used as metadata is called the context. So, metadata
3976 are data about data in some context.

3977 **Hyperlink**

3978

3979 **Related terms**

3980 Data

3981 ISO/IEC 11179

3982 Metadata layer

3983 Metadata registry

3984 Statistical metadata

3985 Statistical metadata system

3986

3987 **Metadata Attribute**

3988 See attribute

3989

3990 **Metadata dimension**

3991 The higher level of the metadata structure (e.g., data, access, integrity and quality in the SDDS
3992 format), which, combined with elements (e.g., coverage, periodicity, and timeliness) forms the
3993 basic framework under which data are described.

3994 **Source**

3995 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
3996 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

3997 **Context**

3998 The SDDS prescribes that subscribing members provide a summary description of methodology
3999 for each data category, including statements of major differences from international guidelines.
4000 The term "methodology" is used in the SDDS in a broad sense to cover the aspects of analytical
4001 framework, concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting conventions, sources of data, and
4002 compilation practices.

4003 **Hyperlink**

4004 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

4005 **Related terms**
4006 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
4007

4008 **Metadataflow definition**

4009 A structure which describes, categorises and constrains the allowable content of a metadata set
4010 that providers will supply for different reference periods.

4011 **Source**
4012 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
4013 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

4014 **Context**
4015 A "metadata flow", in this context, is an abstract concept of the metadata sets, i.e. a structure
4016 without any actual metadata. A Metadataflow definition associates a Metadata structure
4017 definition with one or more category (possibly from different category schemes). This gives a
4018 system the ability to state which metadata sets are to be reported/disseminated for a given
4019 category, and which metadata sets can be reported using the Metadata structure definition.

4020 **Hyperlink**

4021

4022 **Related terms**

4023 Category
4024 Data flow definition
4025 Definition
4026 Metadata
4027 Metadata set
4028

4029 **Metadata item**

4030 An instance of a metadata object.

4031 **Source**
4032 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
4033 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

4034 **Context**
4035 A metadata item has associated attributes, as appropriate for the metadata object it instantiates.
4036 Each metadata item can have a distinct status: mandatory (always required), conditional
4037 (understood as required under certain specified conditions) and optional (permitted but not
4038 required).

4039 **Hyperlink**

4040

4041 **Related terms**

4042 Attribute
4043 ISO/IEC 11179
4044 Metadata object
4045 Registry
4046 Registry item
4047 Related metadata reference
4048

4049 **Metadata layer**

4050 A layer in the reference model for standardisation in statistics used to denote the set of
4051 attributes related to statistical metainformation.

4052 **Source**
4053 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
4054 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
4055 Geneva, 2000

4056 **Context**

4057

4058 **Hyperlink**
4059 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

4060 **Related terms**
4061 Metadata
4062 Metadata registry
4063 Statistical metadata
4064 Statistical metadata system
4065 Statistical metainformation
4066

4067 **Metadata object**

4068 An object type defined by a metamodel.

4069 **Source**
4070 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
4071 March 2004

4072 **Context**
4073

4074 **Hyperlink**
4075

4076 **Related terms**
4077 ISO/IEC 11179
4078 Metadata item
4079 Metamodel
4080 Object
4081

4082 **Metadata registry**

4083 Information system for registering metadata.

4084 **Source**
4085 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
4086 Part 1: Framework, March 2004.

4087 **Context**
4088 Within ISO/IEC International standard 11179, a metadata registry is a database of metadata
4089 that supports the functionality of registration. Registration accomplishes three main goals:
4090 identification, provenance, and monitoring quality.
4091 Identification is accomplished by assigning a unique identifier (within the registry) to each object
4092 registered there. Provenance addresses the source of the metadata and the object described.
4093 Monitoring quality ensures that the metadata does the job it is designed to do.
4094 A metadata registry manages the semantics of data. Understanding data is fundamental to its
4095 design, harmonization, standardization, use, re-use, and interchange. The underlying model is
4096 designed to capture all the basic components of the semantics of data, independent of any
4097 application or subject matter area. Registration also allows two or more administered items
4098 describing identical objects to be identified, and it will identify situations where similar or
4099 identical names are in use for administered items that are significantly different in one or more
4100 respects.

4101 **Hyperlink**
4102

4103 **Related terms**
4104 Administered item
4105 ISO/IEC 11179
4106 Metadata
4107 Metadata layer
4108 Registry
4109 Registry item
4110 Registry metamodel
4111 SDMX registry
4112 Statistical metadata

4113 Submitting organization
4114

4115 **Metadata set**

4116 A collection of metadata.

4117 **Source**

4118 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
4119 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

4120 **Context**

4121

4122 **Hyperlink**

4123

4124 **Related terms**

4125 ISO/IEC 11179

4126

4127 **Metadata Structure Definition**

4128 A collection of metadata concepts, structure and usage when used to collect or disseminate
4129 reference metadata.

4130 **Source**

4131 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
4132 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

4133 **Context**

4134 A reference metadata set also has a set of structural metadata which describes how it is
4135 organized. This metadata identifies what reference metadata concepts are being reported, how
4136 these concepts relate to each other (typically as hierarchies), what their presentational structure
4137 is, how they may be represented (as free text, as coded values, etc.), and with which formal
4138 object types they are associated.

4139 **Hyperlink**

4140 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

4141 **Related terms**

4142 Concept

4143 Maintenance Agency

4144 Reference metadata

4145 Structural metadata

4146 Structure

4147

4148 **Metamodel**

4149 A data model that specifies one or more other data models.

4150 **Source**

4151 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
4152 March 2004

4153 **Context**

4154 The metamodel provides a framework for understanding the important metadata that needs to
4155 be captured when describing data.

4156 **Hyperlink**

4157

4158 **Related terms**

4159 Data model

4160 ISO/IEC 11179

4161 Metadata object

4162 Registry metamodel

4163

4164	Methodological soundness
4165	Methodological soundness refers to constructs and principles of accounting that are basic
4166	building blocks of macroeconomic data.
4167	Source
4168	International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) Glossary"
4169	Context
4170	
4171	Hyperlink
4172	
4173	Related terms
4174	Quality (IMF context)
4175	
4176	Methodology
4177	A structured approach to solve a problem.
4178	Source
4179	Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
4180	Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
4181	Geneva, 2000
4182	Context
4183	A set of research methods and techniques applied to a particular field of study (Statistics
4184	Canada, Glossary, available at: http://www.statcan.ca/english/edu/power/glossary/gloss.htm).
4185	Hyperlink
4186	http://www.statcan.ca/english/edu/power/glossary/gloss.htm
4187	Related terms
4188	Statistical methodology
4189	Statistical subject-matter domain
4190	
4191	Micro editing
4192	An exhaustive check to find errors by inspecting each individual observation.
4193	Source
4194	Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, May
4195	2002
4196	Context
4197	Editing done at the record, or questionnaire level.
4198	Hyperlink
4199	
4200	Related terms
4201	Data editing
4202	Macro editing
4203	
4204	Ministerial commentary
4205	Internal access refers to the practice of giving full transparency to any necessary pre-release
4206	access within government-as deemed appropriate by the government.
4207	Source
4208	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
4209	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
4210	Context
4211	Under the SDDS, this entails the identification of any such commentary so as to maintain the
4212	objectivity or freedom from political judgement of the official statistical data being disseminated.
4213	Hyperlink
4214	http://www.sdmx.org/

4215 **Related terms**
4216 Institutional framework
4217 Integrity
4218 Internal access
4219 Revision policy
4220 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
4221

4222 **Misclassification**

4223 When a subject is falsely classified into a category in which the subject does not belong. It may
4224 result from misreporting by study subjects, from the use of less than optimal measurement
4225 devices, or from random error.

4226 **Source**

4227 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
4228 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

4229 **Context**

4230

4231 **Hyperlink**

4232

4233 **Missing data**

4234 Observations which were planned and are missing.

4235 **Source**

4236 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
4237 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

4238 **Context**

4239 Missing data in a survey may occur when there are no data whatsoever for a respondent (non-
4240 response) or when some variables for a respondent are unknown (item non-response) because
4241 of refusal to provide or failure to collect the response (ISI).

4242 **Hyperlink**

4243

4244 **Related terms**

4245 Imputation
4246 Non-response
4247 Observation
4248

4249 **Model assumption error**

4250 Model assumption errors occur with the use of methods, such as calibration, generalised
4251 regression estimator, calculation based on full scope or constant scope, benchmarking,
4252 seasonal adjustment and other models not included in the preceding accuracy components, in
4253 order to calculate statistics or indexes.

4254 **Source**

4255 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
4256 2003

4257 **Context**

4258

4259 **Hyperlink**

4260

4261 **Multilateral exchange**

4262 The exchange of statistics and / or metadata between a sending and several receiving
4263 organisations for a specific data flow where all parties agree on all aspects of the exchange
4264 (including the mechanism for exchange, the formats, the frequency or schedule, mode used for

4265 communications and the actual content of the exchange). This exchange process is also known
4266 as gateway exchange.

4267 **Source**

4268 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
4269 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

4270 **Context**

4271 This exchange process has the effect of reducing the burden of a sending organisation of
4272 managing multiple unique bilateral exchanges of statistics and / or metadata with several
4273 receiving organisations. This is also a very common exchange process in the statistical area,
4274 where communities of national and international institutes agree on ways to gain efficiencies
4275 within the scope of their collective responsibilities. Apart from Multilateral exchange, the SDMX
4276 initiative identifies two other basic forms of exchange of statistics and metadata between
4277 organisations, i.e. bilateral exchange and data-sharing exchange.

4278 **Hyperlink**

4279 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

4280 **Related terms**

4281 Bilateral exchange

4282 Data exchange

4283 Data sharing exchange

4284

4285 **Name**

4286 The designation of an object by a linguistic expression

4287 **Source**

4288 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
4289 March 2004

4290 **Context**

4291

4292 **Hyperlink**

4293

4294 **Related terms**

4295 ISO/IEC 11179

4296

4297 **Nature of the basic data**

4298 See "Source data"

4299

4300 **Nomenclature**

4301 A systematic naming of things or a system of names or terms for things. In classification,
4302 nomenclature involves a systemic naming of categories or items.

4303 **Source**

4304 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International
4305 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

4306 **Context**

4307 The terms "classification" and "nomenclature" are often used interchangeably, despite the
4308 definition of a "classification" being broader than that of a "nomenclature". A nomenclature is
4309 essentially a convention for describing observations, whereas a classification structures and
4310 codifies the observations as well.

4311 **Hyperlink**

4312 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm

4313 **Related terms**

4314 Classification

4315

4316 **Non-probability sample**

4317 A sample in which the selection of units is based in factors other than random chance, e.g.

4318 convenience, prior experience or the judgement of a researcher.

4319 **Source**

4320 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October

4321 2003

4322 **Context**

4323

4324 **Hyperlink**

4325

4326 **Related terms**

4327 Probability sample

4328

4329 **Non-response**

4330 A form of non observation present in most surveys. Non response means failure to obtain a

4331 measurement on one or more study variables for one or more elements k selected for the

4332 survey. The term encompasses a wide variety of reasons for non observation: "impossible to

4333 contact", "not at home", "unable to answer", "incapacity", "hard core refusal", "inaccessible",

4334 "unreturned questionnaire", and others. In the first two cases contact with the selected element

4335 is never established.

4336 **Source**

4337 Sarndal C.E., Swensson B., Wretman J., "Model assisted survey sampling", Springer - Verlag,

4338 New York, 1992

4339 **Context**

4340 Non-response leads to an increase in variance as a result of a reduction in the actual size of the

4341 sample and the recourse to imputation. This produces a bias if the non-respondents have

4342 characteristics of interest that are different from those of the respondents. Furthermore, there is

4343 a risk of significantly underestimating the sampling error, if imputed data are treated as though

4344 they were observed data. (Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition,

4345 October 2003, page 59, available at <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>)

4346

4347 There are two types of non-response:

4348 First, a sampled unit that is contacted may fail to respond. This represents "unit non-response".

4349 Second, the unit may respond to the questionnaire incompletely. This is referred to as "item

4350 non-response".

4351 **Hyperlink**

4352 <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>

4353 **Related terms**

4354 Follow-up

4355 Missing data

4356 Non-response error

4357 Non-response rate

4358 Observation

4359 Refusal rate

4360 Survey

4361 Weight

4362

4363 **Non-response bias**

4364 See "Non-response error"

4365

4366 **Non-response error**

4367 Non-response errors occur when the survey fails to get a response to one, or possibly all, of the

4368 questions.

4369 **Source**
 4370 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 3rd edition, October 1998.

4371 **Context**
 4372 Non-response errors result from a failure to collect complete information on all units in the
 4373 selected sample. These are known as "unit non-response" and "item non-response".
 4374 Non-response errors affect survey results in two ways.
 4375 First, the decrease in sample size or in the amount of information collected in response to a
 4376 particular question results in larger standard errors. Second, and perhaps more important, a
 4377 bias is introduced to the extent that non-respondents differ from respondents within a selected
 4378 sample.
 4379 Non-response errors are determined by collecting any or all of the following: unit response rate,
 4380 weighted unit response rate, item response rate, item coverage rate, refusal rate, distribution of
 4381 reason for non response, comparison of data across contacts, link to administrative data for
 4382 non-respondents, estimate of non-response bias (Statistical Policy Working Paper 15: Quality
 4383 in Establishment Surveys, Office of Management and Budget, Washington D.C., July 1988,
 4384 page 68).
 4385

4386 **Hyperlink**
 4387 <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/12-539-XIE/12-539-XIE.pdf>

4388 **Related terms**
 4389 Follow-up
 4390 Non-response
 4391 Weight
 4392

4393 **Non-response rate**

4394 In sample surveys, the failure to obtain information from a designated individual for any reason
 4395 (death, absence or refusal to reply) is often called a non-response and the proportion of such
 4396 individuals of the sample aimed at is called the non-response rate.

4397 **Source**
 4398 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
 4399 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

4400 **Context**
 4401 It would be better, however, to call this a "failure" rate or "non-achievement" rate and to confine
 4402 "non-response" to those cases where the individual concerned is contacted but refuses to reply
 4403 or is unable to do so for reasons such as deafness or illness.
 4404 Non-availability of information in other situations, e.g. arrival of the investigator for crop cutting
 4405 experiments after harvesting, may also be termed non-response, or better, non-achievement.
 4406 When several items of information are to be collected for the same sample unit, it may so
 4407 happen that information is not available for some of the items but available for others. The term
 4408 non-response is usually not applied in such a situation; but incomplete response or incomplete
 4409 achievement may be used.

4410 **Hyperlink**

4411

4412 **Related terms**
 4413 Item response rate
 4414 Non-response
 4415 Refusal rate
 4416 Response rate
 4417 Sample
 4418

4419 **Non-sampling error**

4420 An error in sample estimates which cannot be attributed to sampling fluctuations.

4421 **Source**
 4422 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
 4423 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

4424 **Context**
4425 Non-sampling errors may arise from many different sources such as defects in the frame, faulty
4426 demarcation of sample units, defects in the selection of sample units, mistakes in the collection
4427 of data due to personal variations or misunderstanding or bias or negligence or dishonesty on
4428 the part of the investigator or of the interviewer, mistakes at the stage of the processing of the
4429 data, etc.

4430 **Hyperlink**
4431

4432 **Related terms**
4433 Estimate
4434 Sampling error
4435

4436 **Not seasonally adjusted series**

4437 Data series not subject to the seasonal adjustment process. In other words, the effects of
4438 regular, or seasonal, patterns have not been removed from these series.

4439 **Source**
4440 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Glossary", unpublished on paper

4441 **Context**
4442

4443 **Hyperlink**
4444 <http://stats.bls.gov/bls/glossary.htm>

4445 **Related terms**
4446 Seasonal adjustment
4447

4448 **Number raised estimation**

4449 The application of weights to the individual survey records. Number-raised weights are given by
4450 N/n (where N is the total number of units in the population for the stratum, and n is the number
4451 of responding units in the sample for that stratum). The weight assigned to each survey unit
4452 indicates the number of units in the target population that the survey unit is meant to represent.
4453 For example, a survey unit with a weight of 100 represents 100 units in the population. Using
4454 number-raised weights, each survey unit in a stratum is given the same weight. Number-raised
4455 weights can only be used to weight simple random samples.

4456 **Source**
4457 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Concepts Library, "Labour Statistics: Concepts,
4458 Sources and Methods", Chapter 16 - Overview of Survey Methods, Canberra, 2001

4459 **Context**
4460 The advantages of number-raised estimation are: it does not require auxiliary data; it is
4461 unbiased; and the accuracy of the estimates can be calculated relatively simply. However,
4462 number-raised estimation is not as accurate as some other methods.

4463 **Hyperlink**
4464 <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/7884593a92027766ca2568b5007b8617/93a0165bdf598509ca256aa000036c90!OpenDocument>

4466 **Related terms**
4467 Estimation
4468

4469 **Object**

4470 Anything perceivable or conceivable

4471 **Source**
4472 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
4473 March 2004

4474 **Context**
4475 Objects may be material (e.g. an engine, a sheet of paper, a diamond), immaterial (e.g. a
4476 conversion ratio, a project plan), or imagined [Adapted from ISO 1087-1:2000]
4477 In object-oriented design or programming, an object is a concrete realisation of a class that
4478 consists of data and the operations associated with that data. An item that a user can
4479 manipulate as a single unit to perform a task.

4480 **Hyperlink**
4481

4482 **Related terms**
4483 Attribute
4484 Characteristic [ISO terminology]
4485 Class
4486 Concept Scheme
4487 ISO/IEC 11179
4488 Metadata object
4489 Object class
4490 Ontology
4491 Property
4492

4493 **Object class**

4494 A set of ideas, abstractions, or things in the real world that can be identified with explicit
4495 boundaries and meaning and whose properties and behaviour follow the same rules.

4496 **Source**
4497 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
4498 March 2004

4499 **Context**
4500 Object class administration record is the Administration record for an Object class

4501 **Hyperlink**
4502

4503 **Related terms**
4504 ISO/IEC 11179
4505 Object
4506 Property
4507

4508 **Objectives**

4509 The purposes for which information is required, stated within the context of the program,
4510 research problem or hypotheses that gave rise to the need for information.

4511 **Source**
4512 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003, page 11

4513 **Context**
4514

4515 **Hyperlink**
4516 <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>

4517 **Related terms**
4518

4519 **Observation**

4520 The value, at a particular period, of a particular variable.

4521 **Source**
4522 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
4523 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

4524 **Context**
4525

4526 **Hyperlink**
4527 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
4528 **Related terms**
4529 Classification
4530 Coverage ratio
4531 Data collection
4532 Derived statistic
4533 Disaggregation
4534 Measure
4535 Missing data
4536 Non-response
4537 Observation unit
4538 Pre-Break Value
4539 Statistical concept
4540 Time series
4541 Variable
4542

4543 **Observation confidentiality**

4544 See "Confidentiality"
4545

4546 **Observation unit**

4547 Those entities on which information is received and statistics are compiled.

4548 **Source**

4549 Statistical Office of the United Nations, "International Standard Industrial Classification of all
4550 Economic Activities, Third Revision", Statistical Papers Series M No. 4, Rev. 3, United Nations,
4551 New York, 1990, para. 63

4552 **Context**

4553 During the collection of data, this is the unit for which data is recorded. It should be noted that
4554 this may, or may not be, the same as the reporting unit.

4555 **Hyperlink**

4556

4557 **Related terms**

4558 Analytical unit
4559 Classification
4560 Entity
4561 Observation
4562 Statistical unit
4563

4564 **Observation value**

4565 See "Observation"
4566

4567 **Ontology**

4568 A formal specification of a conceptualization; i.e. the objects, concepts and other entities that
4569 are assumed to exist in some area of interest and the relationships that hold among them.

4570 **Source**

4571 United Nations Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe
4572 Conference of European Statisticians, Statistical Standards and Studies - No. 53, "Terminology
4573 on Statistical Metadata", United Nations, Geneva, 2000

4574 **Context**

4575 Ontology it is a branch of metaphysics concerned with the nature and relations of being.
4576 In its general meaning, ontology is the study or concern about what kinds of things exist - what
4577 entities there are in the universe. It derives from the Greek onto (being) and logia (written or

4578 spoken discourse). In artificial intelligence, ontology is, according to Tom Gruber, "the
4579 specification of conceptualizations, used to help programs and humans share knowledge." In
4580 this usage, an ontology is a set of concepts - such as things, events, and relations - that are
4581 specified in some way in order to create an agreed-upon vocabulary for exchanging information
4582 (<http://www-ksl.stanford.edu/kst/what-is-an-ontology.html>).

4583 **Hyperlink**

4584 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

4585 **Related terms**

4586 Concept

4587 Entity

4588 Object

4589 Taxonomy

4590

4591 **Organisation**

4592 A unique framework of authority within which a person or persons act, or are designated to act,
4593 towards some purpose

4594 **Source**

4595 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
4596 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

4597 **Context**

4598 International organisations are entities established by formal political agreements between their
4599 members that have the status of international treaties; their existence is recognised by law in
4600 their member countries; they are not treated as resident institutional units of the countries in
4601 which they are located (United Nations, "System of National Account (SNA) 1993", par.4.164).
4602 An organization name is a designation for the Organization

4603 **Hyperlink**

4604

4605 **Related terms**

4606 Agency

4607 Data source

4608 ISO/IEC 11179

4609 Organisation identifier

4610 Organisation Role

4611 Responsible organization

4612 Stewardship

4613

4614 **Organisation identifier**

4615 The identifier assigned to an organization within an organization identification scheme, and
4616 unique within that scheme.

4617 **Source**

4618 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
4619 March 2004

4620 **Context**

4621

4622 **Hyperlink**

4623

4624 **Related terms**

4625 Identifier

4626 ISO/IEC 11179

4627 Organisation

4628

4629	Organisation Role
4630	The function or activities of an organisation, in statistical processes such as collection,
4631	processing and dissemination
4632	Source
4633	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
4634	UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
4635	Context
4636	
4637	Hyperlink
4638	http://www.sdmx.org/
4639	Related terms
4640	Data collection
4641	Data Consumer
4642	Dissemination
4643	Organisation
4644	
4645	Origin
4646	The source (document, project, discipline or model) for the Administered item.
4647	Source
4648	ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
4649	Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003
4650	Context
4651	
4652	Hyperlink
4653	
4654	Related terms
4655	Administered item
4656	
4657	Out-of-scope units
4658	Units are units that should not be included in the sampling frame because they do not belong to
4659	the target population in the reference period. If enumerated, they cause over-coverage.
4660	Source
4661	Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
4662	2003
4663	Context
4664	
4665	Hyperlink
4666	
4667	Related terms
4668	Over-coverage
4669	Scope
4670	
4671	Outliers
4672	A data value that lies in the tail of the statistical distribution of a set of data values.
4673	Source
4674	Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on
4675	Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,
4676	Geneva, 2000
4677	Context
4678	The intuition is that outliers in the distribution of uncorrected (raw) data are more likely to be
4679	incorrect. Examples of outliers are data values that lie in the tails of the distributions of ratios of

4680 two fields (ratio edits), weighted sums of fields (linear inequality edits), and Mahalanobis
4681 distributions (multivariate normal) or outlying points to point clouds of graphs.
4682 **Hyperlink**
4683 <http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm>
4684 **Related terms**
4685 Inlier
4686

Over-coverage

4687
4688 Errors which occur due to the inclusion in the sample of elements that do not belong there.
4689 **Source**
4690 United States Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, "Statistical Policy Working Paper
4691 4 - Glossary of Non-sampling Error Terms: An Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistics",
4692 1978
4693 **Context**
4694 Over-coverage arises from the presence in the frame of units not belonging to the target
4695 population and of units belonging to the target population that appear in the frame more than
4696 once (Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg,
4697 October 2003).
4698 **Hyperlink**
4699 <http://www.fcs.gov/working-papers/sw4.html>
4700 **Related terms**
4701 Out-of-scope units
4702 Under-coverage
4703

Period

4704
4705 The time interval of single repetition of a varying quantity of a motion or phenomenon which
4706 repeats itself regularly.
4707 **Source**
4708 McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology
4709 **Context**
4710 The period is the reciprocal of the frequency. More loosely, the expression is used to denote the
4711 time interval or average interval between identifiable points of recurrence, e.g. between peaks
4712 or troughs of the series (month, quarter, year,).
4713 In GESMES/TS, a period is a time reference. (GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3)
4714 **Hyperlink**
4715
4716 **Related terms**
4717 Data collection
4718 Reference period
4719 Weight period
4720

Periodicity

4721
4722 Frequency of compilation of the data.
4723 **Source**
4724 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Guide to the Data Dissemination Standards, Module 1: The
4725 Special Data Dissemination Standard", Washington, May 1996
4726 **Context**
4727 In SDMX, "Periodicity" is closely associated with "Frequency" to form a single entity, named
4728 "Frequency and Periodicity". While frequency refers to the time interval between the
4729 observations of a time series. periodicity refers to the frequency of compilation of the data (e.g.,
4730 a time series could be available at annual frequency but the underlying data are compiled
4731 monthly, thus have a monthly periodicity). The periodicity of a particular data category is

4732 determined by several factors, including the ease of observation or compilation and the needs of
4733 analysis. Periodicity is usually expressed in terms of divisions of the calendar (e.g. monthly,
4734 quarterly).

4735 Periodicity of original data refers to the frequency of compilation of data by the source agency,
4736 i.e. the national agency or international organisation that provided the information. This agency
4737 may or may not be the agency responsible for the original collection of the data from respondent
4738 or administrative sources.

4739 **Hyperlink**

4740 <http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/gdds/gddsguidelangs/>

4741 **Related terms**

4742 Data

4743 Frequency

4744 Release calendar

4745 SDMX

4746

4747 **Permissible value**

4748 An expression of a value meaning allowed in a specific value domain.

4749 **Source**

4750 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
4751 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

4752 **Context**

4753 Permissible value meaning is the relationship of a Value meaning from an Enumerated
4754 conceptual domain with a Permissible value from an Enumerated value domain.

4755 Permissible value set is the set of Permissible values for an Enumerated value domain.

4756 Attributes of Permissible value:

4757 Permissible value begin date is the date this value became/becomes allowed in the Value
4758 domain. A Registration authority may determine whether this date is the date the value
4759 becomes valid in a registry or the date the value becomes part of the source domain or some
4760 other date

4761 Permissible value end date is the date this value became/becomes no longer allowed in the
4762 Value domain. A Registration authority may determine whether this date is the date the value
4763 becomes no longer valid in a registry or the date the value becomes no longer part of the source
4764 domain or some other date.

4765 **Hyperlink**

4766

4767 **Related terms**

4768 Conceptual domain

4769 ISO/IEC 11179

4770 Permitted value

4771 Registration authority

4772 Value domain

4773 Value meaning

4774

4775 **Permitted value**

4776 The use of a value as a Permissible Value in an Enumerated Value Domain.

4777 **Source**

4778 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
4779 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

4780 **Context**

4781

4782 **Hyperlink**

4783

4784 **Related terms**

4785 ISO/IEC 11179

4786 Permissible value
4787 Value domain
4788

4789 **Pre-break observation**

4790 See Pre-break value
4791

4792 **Pre-Break Value**

4793 The observation, at a time series break period, that was calculated using the "old" methodology,
4794 with the "observation" being calculated following the "new" methodology.

4795 **Source**

4796 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
4797 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

4798 **Context**

4799 SDMX allows for a pre-break value in the case of a series break (where you would use the
4800 observation value to show the post-break value)

4801 **Hyperlink**

4802 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

4803 **Related terms**

4804 Observation
4805 Time series
4806 Time series breaks
4807

4808 **Precision**

4809 The property of the set of measurements of being very reproducible or of an estimate of having
4810 small random error of estimation.

4811 **Source**

4812 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
4813 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

4814 **Context**

4815 Precision is to be contrasted with accuracy, which is the property of being close to some target
4816 or true value.

4817 **Hyperlink**

4818

4819 **Related terms**

4820 Accuracy
4821 Estimation
4822

4823 **Preferred definition**

4824 Preferred definition is an indicator that the definition text is a preferred definition for an
4825 Administered Item within a language.

4826 **Source**

4827 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
4828 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

4829 **Context**

4830

4831 **Hyperlink**

4832

4833 **Related terms**

4834 ISO/IEC 11179
4835

4836

Prerequisites of quality

4837 Prerequisites of Quality refer to overarching institutional conditions for the pursuit of data quality.

4838 **Source**

4839 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) Glossary"

4840 **Context**

4841 These elements and indicators are identified to reinforce the idea that data users, who often
4842 cannot replicate or otherwise verify data, must place their trust in the institutions that produce
4843 statistics and the people who staff them. Typically, these pointers refer to the larger institution
4844 (called the "umbrella institution" in the DQAF) of which the compiling unit, such as a national
4845 accounts division or a balance of payments department, is a part. Further, these prerequisites
4846 typically influence more than one of the five dimensions in the DQAF.

4847 The DQAF groups the indicators of this kind into three elements: legal and institutional
4848 environment, resources, and quality awareness.

4849 **Hyperlink**

4850

4851 **Related terms**

4852 Quality (IMF context)

4853

4854

Primary data

4855 The most important inputs from among the universe of institutional, administrative, sample
4856 survey and/or census based information used in compiling statistical aggregates.

4857 **Source**

4858 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
4859 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

4860 **Context**

4861

4862 **Hyperlink**

4863 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

4864

4865 **Related terms**

4865 Basic statistical data

4866 Secondary source of statistical data

4867 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

4868

4869

Primary source of statistical data

4870 The organisation or individual responsible for the collection and aggregation of data from their.

4871 **Source**

4872 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
4873 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

4874 **Context**

4875 For information derived from surveys or censuses such data comprises unit record information
4876 about individual entities. For administrative data the primary source is the agency responsible
4877 for the compilation of data from individual persons or organisations to meet administrative or
4878 regulatory requirements.

4879 **Hyperlink**

4880 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

4881

4882 **Related terms**

4882 Data source

4883 Secondary source of statistical data

4884

4885

Probability sample

4886 A sample selected by a method based on the theory of probability (random process), that is, by
4887 a method involving knowledge of the likelihood of any unit being selected.

4888 **Source**
4889 United Nations Statistics Division, "Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods, Volume
4890 1: Legal, Organisational and Technical Aspects", Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 35, United
4891 Nations, New York, 1991

4892 **Context**
4893

4894 **Hyperlink**
4895

4896 **Related terms**
4897 Non-probability sample
4898 Sample
4899

4900 **Processing error**

4901 The error in final survey results arising from the faulty implementation of correctly planned
4902 implementation methods.

4903 **Source**
4904 United States Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, "Statistical Policy Working Paper
4905 15: Quality in Establishment Surveys", Washington D.C., July 1988, page 79

4906 **Context**
4907 Processing errors include all post-collection operations, as well as the printing of questionnaires.
4908 Most processing errors occur in data for individual units, although errors can also be introduced
4909 in the implementation of systems and estimates.
4910 In survey data, for example, processing errors may include errors of transcription, errors of
4911 coding, errors of data entry and errors of arithmetic in tabulation (The International Statistical
4912 Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by Yadolah Dodge, Oxford
4913 University Press, 2003).

4914 **Hyperlink**
4915 <http://www.fcs.gov/working-papers/wp15.html>

4916 **Related terms**
4917 Data processing
4918 Survey
4919

4920 **Product**

4921 The representative groups of goods and/or services - and the varieties within them - used to
4922 compile the basic statistical data from which an index is derived.

4923 **Source**
4924 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
4925 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

4926 **Context**
4927 Under the SDDS, this point should include information on the approach used to select items,
4928 replace them when they become permanently unavailable, and introduce new products in the
4929 item structure prior to the next official weight update.

4930 **Hyperlink**
4931 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

4932 **Related terms**
4933

4934 **Professionalism**

4935 The standard, skill and ability suitable for producing statistics of good quality.

4936 **Source**
4937 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
4938 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

4939 **Context**
4940 In SDMX, "Professionalism and Ethical Standards" describes the elements providing
4941 assurances that statistics are produced on an impartial basis; elements providing assurances
4942 that the choices of sources and statistical techniques as well as decisions about dissemination
4943 are informed solely by statistical considerations; elements providing assurances that the
4944 recruitment and promotion of staff based are based on relevant aptitude; elements providing
4945 assurances that the statistical entity is entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and
4946 misuse of statistics, guidelines for staff behaviour and procedures used to make these
4947 guidelines known to staff; other practices that provide assurances of the independence,
4948 integrity, and accountability of the statistical agency.

4949 **Hyperlink**
4950 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

4951 **Related terms**
4952 Quality
4953 SDMX
4954

4955 **Property**

4956 A characteristic common to all members of an object class.

4957 **Source**
4958 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
4959 March 2004

4960 **Context**
4961 A property qualifier is a qualifier of the element concept property. Property administration record
4962 is the Administration record for a property.
4963 Within SDMX, an "attribute property" allows ad hoc simple metadata concepts, such as URL, to
4964 be specified for a metadata attribute, within the context of a metadata structure definition.

4965 **Hyperlink**
4966

4967 **Related terms**
4968 ISO/IEC 11179
4969 Object
4970 Object class
4971

4972 **Provider load**

4973 The effort, in terms of time and cost, required for respondents to provide satisfactory answers to
4974 a survey.

4975 **Source**
4976 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Service Industries Statistics, "Glossary of Terms"; unpublished
4977 on paper

4978 **Context**
4979 This burden can lead to providers experiencing annoyance, anger, frustration, etc., at being
4980 requested to participate, with escalation of these feelings generated by the complexity, length
4981 and/or frequency of surveys. The terms "respondent burden" and "respondent load" are also
4982 used to describe provider load.

4983 **Hyperlink**
4984 <http://www.abs.gov.au/CA25670D007E9EA1/0/DB35F160E9383A1FCA256B650006C3D0?Open&Highlight=0,Glossary>
4985

4986 **Related terms**
4987

4988 **Provision Agreement**

4989 Arrangement within which the provider supplies data or metadata.

4990 **Source**
4991 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
4992 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
4993 **Context**
4994 The agreement may define the scope of the data or metadata that can be provided
4995 **Hyperlink**
4996 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
4997 **Related terms**
4998 Data source
4999

5000 **Public disclosure**

5001 The act of making information or data readily accessible and available to all interested
5002 individuals and institutions. Some examples of the different forms that public disclosure may
5003 take include: verbal or written statements released to a public forum, to the news media, or to
5004 the general public; publication in an official bulletin, gazette, report, or stand-alone document;
5005 and information posted on a website.
5006 **Source**
5007 Code of Good Practices on Transparency in Monetary and Financial Policies, Part 1-
5008 Introduction; approved by the IMF Executive Board on July 24, 2000
5009 **Context**
5010
5011 **Hyperlink**
5012 http://www.imf.org/external/np/mae/mft/sup/part1.htm#appendix_III
5013 **Related terms**
5014 Data dissemination
5015

5016 **Punctuality**

5017 Punctuality refers to the possible time lag existing between the actual delivery date of data and
5018 the target date when it should have been delivered, for instance, with reference to dates
5019 announced in some official release calendar or previously agreed among partners.
5020 **Source**
5021 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
5022 2003
5023 **Context**
5024 In SDMX, "Timeliness and Punctuality" is a single entity. While timeliness refers to the lapse of
5025 time between the end of a reference period (or a reference date) and dissemination of the data,
5026 punctuality refers to the possible time lag existing between the actual delivery date of data and
5027 the target date when it should have been delivered, for instance, with reference to dates
5028 announced in some official release calendar or previously agreed among partners.
5029 **Hyperlink**
5030
5031 **Related terms**
5032 Quality
5033 SDMX
5034 Timeliness
5035

5036 **Qualitative data**

5037 Data describing the attributes or properties that an object possesses. The properties are
5038 categorized into classes that may be assigned numeric values. However, there is no
5039 significance to the data values themselves; they simply represent attributes of the object
5040 concerned.

5041 **Source**
5042 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on
5043 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,
5044 Geneva, 2000

5045 **Context**
5046

5047 **Hyperlink**
5048 <http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm>

5049 **Related terms**
5050 Quantitative data
5051

5052 **Quality**

5053 The totality of features and characteristics of a product or service that bear on its ability to
5054 satisfy stated or implied needs.

5055 **Source**
5056 ISO 8402:1994 Quality management and quality assurance Vocabulary, withdrawn and revised
5057 by ISO 9000:2000 Quality management systems -- Fundamentals and vocabulary, March 2004

5058 **Context**
5059 Several statistical organisations have developed complementary definitions of quality, outlining
5060 the various dimensions of quality (e.g. accuracy, timeliness, etc) and the quality of statistical
5061 processes.

5062 In SDMX, "Quality Management" refers to processes in place to focus on quality, to monitor the
5063 quality of the statistical programs, to deal with quality considerations in planning the statistical
5064 programs. It also includes how well the resources meet the requirements of the program, and
5065 measures to ensure efficient use of resources (staffing, facilities, computing resources, and
5066 financing of statistical programs).

5067 **Hyperlink**
5068

5069 **Related terms**
5070 Quality (Eurostat context)
5071 Quality (IMF context)
5072 Quality (OECD context)
5073 Quality differences
5074 SDMX
5075

5076 **Quality (Eurostat context)**

5077 Eurostat defines the quality of statistics with reference to six criteria:
5078 1. Relevance: an inquiry is relevant if it meets users' needs. The identification of users and their
5079 expectations is therefore necessary. In the European context, domains for which statistics are
5080 available should reflect the needs and priorities expressed by the users of the European
5081 Statistical System (completeness).
5082 2. Accuracy: accuracy is defined as the closeness between the estimated value and the
5083 (unknown) true value.
5084 3. Timeliness and punctuality in disseminating results: most users want up-to-date figures which
5085 are published frequently and on time at pre-established dates.
5086 4. Accessibility and clarity of the information: statistical data have most value when they are
5087 easily accessible by users, are available in the forms users desire and are adequately
5088 documented.
5089 5. Comparability: statistics for a given characteristic have the greatest usefulness when they
5090 enable reliable comparisons of values taken by the characteristic across space and time. The
5091 comparability component stresses the comparison of the same statistics between countries in
5092 order to evaluate the meaning of aggregated statistics at the European level.
5093 6. Coherence: when originating from a single source, statistics are coherent in that elementary
5094 concepts can be combined reliably in more complex ways. When originating from different
5095 sources, and in particular from statistical surveys of different frequencies, statistics are coherent

5096 in so far as they are based on common definitions, classifications and methodological
5097 standards.

5098 **Source**

5099 Eurostat, "Assessment of quality in statistics - Definition of Quality in Statistics", Working Group,
5100 Luxembourg, October 2003

5101 **Context**

5102

5103 **Hyperlink**

5104

5105 **Related terms**

5106 Accessibility

5107 Accuracy

5108 Clarity

5109 Coherence

5110 Comparability

5111 Completeness

5112 Punctuality

5113 Quality

5114 Quality (IMF context)

5115 Quality (OECD context)

5116 Relevance

5117 Timeliness

5118

5119 **Quality (IMF context)**

5120 The dimensions of the IMF definition of "data quality" are:

5121 - integrity;

5122 - methodological soundness;

5123 - accuracy and reliability;

5124 - serviceability;

5125 - accessibility.

5126 There are a number of prerequisites for quality. These comprise:

5127 - legal and institutional environment;

5128 - resources;

5129 - quality awareness.

5130 **Source**

5131 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) Glossary"

5132 **Context**

5133 Under the SDDS, "quality" is the fourth of the four dimensions that comprise the standard (i.e.,
5134 data, access, integrity, and quality) for which evidence of a subscribing member's observance
5135 can be judged through monitorable proxies (the dissemination of documentation on the
5136 methodology and sources used and the dissemination of data that supports statistical cross-
5137 checks)

5138 **Hyperlink**

5139

5140 **Related terms**

5141 Accessibility

5142 Accuracy

5143 Consistency

5144 Integrity

5145 Methodological soundness

5146 Prerequisites of quality

5147 Quality

5148 Quality (Eurostat context)

5149 Quality (OECD context)

5150 Reliability

5151 Serviceability

5152 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

5153

5154 **Quality (OECD context)**

5155 Quality is viewed as a multi-faceted concept. The quality characteristics of most importance
5156 depend on user perspectives, needs and priorities, which vary across groups of users. Given
5157 the work already done in the area of quality by several organisations, notably, Eurostat, IMF and
5158 Statistics Canada, the OECD was able to draw on their work and adapt it to the OECD. Thus
5159 quality is viewed in terms of seven dimensions, namely:

5160 - relevance

5161 - accuracy

5162 - credibility

5163 - timeliness and punctuality

5164 - accessibility

5165 - interpretability

5166 - coherence.

5167 **Source**

5168 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "Quality Framework for
5169 OECD Statistics", Paris, June 2002

5170 **Context**

5171

5172 **Hyperlink**

5173 http://www.oecd.org/document/43/0,2340,en_2649_34257_21571947_119820_1_1_1,00.html

5174 **Related terms**

5175 Quality

5176 Quality (Eurostat context)

5177 Quality (IMF context)

5178

5179 **Quality control survey**

5180 A replicated survey carried out on a small scale by very experienced staff in order to obtain
5181 some "zero-default" results with which the actual results of the survey can be compared.

5182 **Source**

5183 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
5184 2003

5185 **Context**

5186

5187 **Hyperlink**

5188

5189 **Related terms**

5190

5191 **Quality differences**

5192 Differences in the various dimensions of data quality promulgated by international organisations
5193 and national agencies. Comparisons of these dimensions may be made for data between
5194 countries, for the same series over time or between the same series compiled by different
5195 agencies in the same country.

5196 **Source**

5197 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
5198 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5199 **Context**

5200

5201 **Hyperlink**

5202 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5203 **Related terms**

5204 Quality

5205

5206 **Quality index**

5207 One-dimension synthetical information on quality, possibly calculated as a weighted mean of all
5208 available quality indicators.

5209 **Source**

5210 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
5211 2003

5212 **Context**

5213

5214 **Hyperlink**

5215

5216 **Related terms**

5217

5218 **Quantitative data**

5219 Data expressing a certain quantity, amount or range. Usually, there are measurement units
5220 associated with the data, e.g. meters, in the case of the height of a person. It makes sense to
5221 set boundary limits to such data, and it is also meaningful to apply arithmetic operations to the
5222 data.

5223 **Source**

5224 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Glossary of Terms on
5225 Statistical Data Editing", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological material,
5226 Geneva, 2000

5227 **Context**

5228

5229 **Hyperlink**

5230 <http://amrads.jrc.cec.eu.int/k-base/glossary/glossALL.htm>

5231 **Related terms**

5232 Flag

5233 Qualitative data

5234

5235 **Questionnaire**

5236 A group or sequence of questions designed to elicit information upon a subject, or sequence of
5237 subjects, from an informant.

5238 **Source**

5239 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
5240 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

5241 **Context**

5242

5243 **Hyperlink**

5244

5245 **Related terms**

5246 Questionnaire design

5247 Schedule

5248 Survey

5249

5250 **Questionnaire design**

5251 The design (text, order, and conditions for skipping) of the questions used to obtain the data
5252 needed for the survey.

5253 **Source**
5254 United States Bureau of the Census, Software and Standards Management Branch, Systems
5255 Support Division, "Survey Design and Statistical Methodology Metadata", Washington D.C.,
5256 August 1998, Section 3.3.17, page 26

5257 **Context**
5258

5259 **Hyperlink**
5260 <http://www.census.gov/srd/www/metadata/metada18.pdf>

5261 **Related terms**
5262 Questionnaire
5263 Survey design
5264

5265 **Ratio estimation**

5266 Ratio estimation involves the use of known population totals for auxiliary variables to improve
5267 the weighting from sample values to population estimates. It operates by comparing the survey
5268 sample estimate for an auxiliary variable with the known population total for the same variable
5269 on the frame. The ratio of the sample estimate of the auxiliary variable to its population total on
5270 the frame is used to adjust the sample estimate for the variable of interest.

5271 **Source**
5272 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Concepts Library, "Labour Statistics: Concepts,
5273 Sources and Methods", Chapter 16 - Overview of Survey Methods, Canberra, 2001

5274 **Context**
5275 The ratio weights are given by X/x (where X is the known population total for the auxiliary
5276 variable, and x is the corresponding estimate of the total based on all responding units in the
5277 sample). These weights assume that the population total for the variable of interest will be
5278 estimated by the sample equally as well (or poorly) as the population total for the auxiliary
5279 variable is estimated by the sample.
5280 Ratio estimation can be more accurate than number-raised estimation if the auxiliary variable is
5281 highly correlated with the variable of interest. However it is slightly biased, with the bias
5282 increasing for smaller sample sizes and where there is lower correlation between the auxiliary
5283 variable and the variable of interest.

5284 **Hyperlink**
5285 <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/7884593a92027766ca2568b5007b8617/93a0165bdf598509ca256aa000036c90!OpenDocument>

5287 **Related terms**
5288 Estimation
5289 Weight
5290

5291 **Recommended use of data**

5292 The recommended use(s) of statistical data refers to text that is intended to provide users with
5293 explicit information on the appropriate use(s) of the statistics within the limitations imposed by
5294 the definition or main concepts, scope and coverage, collection methodology, etc.

5295 **Source**
5296 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
5297 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5298 **Context**
5299

5300 **Hyperlink**
5301 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5302 **Related terms**
5303

5304

Record check

5305 A study in which data on individual units obtained by one method of data collection are checked
5306 against data for the same units from available records obtained by a different method of data
5307 collection (for example, comparison of ages as reported in censuses with information on ages
5308 from birth certificates).

5309 **Source**

5310 Lessler, J.T. and Kalsbeek, W.D. (1992), "Non Sampling Error in Survey", New York: John
5311 Wiley or US department of Commerce (1978), "Glossary of Non Sampling Error Terms: An
5312 Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistics", Statistical Policy Working Paper 4, Office of
5313 Federal Statistical Policy Standards, 1978

5314 **Context**

5315

5316 **Hyperlink**

5317

5318 **Related terms**

5319

5320

Record-keeping error

5321 An error which arises from inaccuracy in the records used for responses.

5322 **Source**

5323 Lessler, J.T. and Kalsbeek, W.D. (1992), "Non Sampling Error in Survey", New York: John
5324 Wiley or US department of Commerce (1978), "Glossary of Non Sampling Error Terms: An
5325 Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistics", Statistical Policy Working Paper 4, Office of
5326 Federal Statistical Policy Standards, 1978

5327 **Context**

5328

5329 **Hyperlink**

5330

5331 **Related terms**

5332

5333

Recording of transactions

5334 The recording of transactions pertains to a broad range of processes and standards employed
5335 in calculating statistical aggregates. The conventions include types of valuation, prices,
5336 conversion rates, the accounting basis, units of measurement used in data collection, etc.

5337 **Source**

5338 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
5339 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5340 **Context**

5341

5342 **Hyperlink**

5343 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5344 **Related terms**

5345 Accounting basis

5346 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

5347

5348

Reference document

5349 A document that provides pertinent details for consultation about a subject.

5350 **Source**

5351 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
5352 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

5353 **Context**

5354 Attributes of Reference document:

5355 Reference document identifier is an identifier for the Reference document
 5356 Reference document language identifier is the identifier of the natural or special language used
 5357 in the Reference document
 5358 Reference document title is the title of the Reference document
 5359 Reference document type description is a description of the type of Reference document.
 5360 Reference documents can be publications (hardcopy, electronic), other databases (internal,
 5361 external), Internet (Internet addresses), methodological references (for instance to summary
 5362 metadata, detailed metadata, information on major changes).
 5363 **Hyperlink**
 5364
 5365 **Related terms**
 5366 ISO/IEC 11179
 5367

Reference metadata

5368
 5369 Metadata describing the contents and the quality of the statistical data.
 5370 **Source**
 5371 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
 5372 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
 5373 **Context**
 5374 Preferably, reference metadata should include all of the following: a) "conceptual" metadata,
 5375 describing the concepts used and their practical implementation, allowing users to understand
 5376 what the statistics are measuring and, thus, their fitness for use; b) "methodological" metadata,
 5377 describing methods used for the generation of the data (e.g. sampling, collection methods,
 5378 editing processes); c) "quality" metadata, describing the different quality dimensions of the
 5379 resulting statistics (e.g. timeliness, accuracy).
 5380 **Hyperlink**
 5381 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
 5382 **Related terms**
 5383 Common Metadata Concepts
 5384 Metadata Structure Definition
 5385 Statistical metadata
 5386 Structural metadata
 5387

Reference period

5388
 5389 The time period to which a variable refers.
 5390 **Source**
 5391 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
 5392 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003
 5393 **Context**
 5394 Statistical variables refer to specific times, which may be limited to a reference time point (e.g. a
 5395 specific day) or a period (e.g. a month, calendar year or fiscal year).
 5396 (Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg,
 5397 October 2003)
 5398 **Hyperlink**
 5399
 5400 **Related terms**
 5401 Accounting basis
 5402 Base period
 5403 Compilation practices
 5404 Period
 5405

Reference time

5406
 5407 See "Reference period"

5408

5409 **Refusal rate**

5410 In the sampling of human populations, the proportion of individuals who, though successfully
5411 contacted, refuse to give the information sought. The proportion is usually and preferably
5412 calculated by dividing the number of refusals by the total number of the sample which was
5413 originally desired to achieve.

5414 **Source**

5415 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
5416 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

5417 **Context**

5418

5419 **Hyperlink**

5420

5421 **Related terms**

5422 Item response rate

5423 Non-response

5424 Non-response rate

5425 Response rate

5426

5427 **Register**

5428 A set of files (paper, electronic, or a combination) containing the assigned data elements and
5429 the associated information.

5430 **Source**

5431 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179, Part 1, Framework for the specification and
5432 standardization of data elements, 1999

5433 **Context**

5434 A register is a written and complete record containing regular entries of items and details on
5435 particular set of objects (Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE),
5436 "Terminology on Statistical Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical
5437 Standards and Studies, No. 53, Geneva, 2000,
5438 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>).

5439 **Hyperlink**

5440

5441 **Related terms**

5442 ISO/IEC 11179

5443 Registration authority

5444

5445 **Registrar**

5446 A representative of a Registration authority.

5447 **Source**

5448 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
5449 March 2004

5450 **Context**

5451 Registrar contact is the contact information associated with a Registrar.

5452 Registrar identifier is an identifier for the Registrar.

5453 **Hyperlink**

5454

5455 **Related terms**

5456 ISO/IEC 11179

5457 Registration authority

5458

5459

Registration

5460 The relationship between an administered item and the registration authority.

5461 **Source**

5462 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
5463 March 2004

5464 **Context**

5465

5466 **Hyperlink**

5467

5468 **Related terms**

5469 Administered item

5470 ISO/IEC 11179

5471 Registration authority

5472 Registry

5473

5474

Registration authority

5475 Organization responsible for maintaining a register.

5476 **Source**

5477 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
5478 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

5479 **Context**

5480 Registration authority identifier is an identifier assigned to a registration authority. Registration
5481 authority registrar is the relationship between a Registration Authority and a Registrar. A
5482 registration status is a designation of the status in the registration life-cycle of an administered
5483 item.

5484 **Hyperlink**

5485

5486 **Related terms**

5487 ISO/IEC 11179

5488 Permissible value

5489 Register

5490 Registrar

5491 Registration

5492

5493

Registry item

5494 Metadata item recorded in a Metadata Registry.

5495 **Source**

5496 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
5497 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

5498 **Context**

5499

5500 **Hyperlink**

5501

5502 **Related terms**

5503 Administered item

5504 ISO/IEC 11179

5505 Metadata item

5506 Metadata registry

5507

5508

Registry metamodel

5509 A metamodel specifying a metadata registry.

5510 **Source**
5511 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
5512 March 2004
5513 **Context**
5514
5515 **Hyperlink**
5516
5517 **Related terms**
5518 ISO/IEC 11179
5519 Metadata registry
5520 Metamodel
5521

5522 **Related data reference**

5523 A reference between a data element and any related data.

5524 **Source**
5525 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179, Part 1, Framework for the specification and
5526 standardization of data elements, 1999

5527 **Context**
5528

5529 **Hyperlink**
5530

5531 **Related terms**
5532 Data element
5533 ISO/IEC 11179
5534

5535 **Related metadata reference**

5536 A reference from one metadata item to another.

5537 **Source**
5538 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
5539 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

5540 **Context**
5541 A Registration Authority could choose to use a Reference Document, an administrative note or
5542 an explanatory comment to record a related metadata reference.

5543 **Hyperlink**
5544

5545 **Related terms**
5546 ISO/IEC 11179
5547 Metadata item
5548

5549 **Relationship**

5550 A connection among model elements. [ISO/IEC 19501-1:2001,2.5.2.36]

5551 **Source**
5552 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
5553 March 2004

5554 **Context**
5555 In ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries-Part 3:
5556 Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003 a relationship is either an association
5557 or a generalization. [ISO/IEC 19501-1:2001, 2.5.2.36]
5558 Association is a semantic relationship between two classes. [ISO/IEC 19501-1:2001, 2.5.2.3]
5559 Generalization is a relationship between a more general class (the parent) and a more specific
5560 class (the child)

5561 that is fully consistent with the first class (i.e. it has all of its attributes and relationships) and that
5562 adds
5563 additional information. [ISO/IEC 19501-1:2001, 2.5.2.24]
5564 A relationship between a Data element example and its Data element is called an
5565 exemplification.
5566 **Hyperlink**
5567
5568 **Related terms**
5569 ISO/IEC 11179
5570

5571 **Relative Standard error**

5572 See "Coefficient of variation"
5573

5574 **Release calendar**

5575 A statement on the schedule of release of data in terms of periodicity and timeliness
5576 **Source**
5577 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
5578 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
5579 **Context**
5580 An advance release calendar provides a general statement on the schedule of release of data,
5581 which is publicly disseminated so as to provide prior notice of the precise release dates on
5582 which a national statistical agency, other national agency, or international organization
5583 undertakes to release specified statistical information to the public. Such information may be
5584 provided for statistical releases in the coming week, month, quarter or year.
5585 In SDMX, "Release Calendar" describes the policy regarding the release of statistics according
5586 to a preannounced schedule and its availability. It also contains the release calendar
5587 information.
5588 Advance release calendar information is one of the requirements of the Special Data
5589 Dissemination Standards (SDDS). Such information is disseminated on the Internet on the
5590 IMF's Data Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) or on national websites
5591 **Hyperlink**
5592 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
5593 **Related terms**
5594 Periodicity
5595 SDMX
5596 Simultaneous release
5597 Timeliness
5598

5599 **Relevance**

5600 The degree to which statistical information meets the real needs of clients.
5601 **Source**
5602 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003, page 64
5603 **Context**
5604 In SDMX, "Relevance" refers to the processes for monitoring the relevance and practical utility
5605 of existing statistics in meeting users' needs and how these processes inform the development
5606 of statistical programs.
5607 Relevance is concerned with whether the available information sheds light on the issues that
5608 are important to users. Assessing relevance is subjective and depends upon the varying needs
5609 of users. The Agency's challenge is to weigh and balance the conflicting needs of current and
5610 potential users to produce a program that goes as far as possible in satisfying the most
5611 important needs within given resource constraints (Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality
5612 Guidelines). In assessing relevance, one approach is to gauge relevance directly, by polling
5613 users about the data. Indirect evidence of relevance may be found by ascertaining where there

5614 are processes in place to determine the uses of data and the views of their users or to use the
5615 data in-house for research and other analysis. The uses and users of a given dataset may
5616 change over time, and new needs may arise that require new data; thus, the best processes
5617 have a dynamic nature (International Monetary Found, "Data Quality Assessment Framework
5618 (DQAF) Glossary").

5619 **Hyperlink**

5620 <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>

5621 **Related terms**

5622 Quality

5623 SDMX

5624 Serviceability

5625

5626 **Reliability**

5627 Closeness of the initial estimated value(s) to the subsequent estimated value(s).

5628 **Source**

5629 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) Glossary"

5630 **Context**

5631 The third element of the IMF definition of quality is "accuracy and reliability".

5632 **Hyperlink**

5633

5634 **Related terms**

5635 Accuracy

5636 Estimate

5637 Quality

5638

5639 **Reporting unit**

5640 A reporting unit is a unit that supplies the data for a given survey instance.

5641 **Source**

5642 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
5643 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
5644 Geneva, 2000

5645 **Context**

5646 When, for a specific survey, the book keeping office completes questionnaires for each of the
5647 locations of a business, these locations are the reporting units (Statistics Netherlands,
5648 "Reference manual on Design and Implementation of Business Surveys", March 1995, page
5649 16).

5650 **Hyperlink**

5651 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

5652 **Related terms**

5653 Survey

5654

5655 **Respondent burden**

5656 See "Provider load"

5657

5658 **Respondent load**

5659 See "Provider load"

5660

5661

Response errors

5662 Errors arising from the interviewing process. Such errors can result from a number of
5663 circumstances, such as the following:

5664 - inadequate concepts or questions;

5665 - inadequate training;

5666 - interviewer failures;

5667 - respondent failures.

5668 Source

5669 Statistical Office of the United Nations, "Handbook of Household Surveys, Revised Edition",
5670 (para. 8.6), Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 31, United Nations, New York, 1984

5671 Context

5672 Response error may result from the failure of the respondent to report the correct value
5673 (respondent error), the failure of the interviewer to record the value reported correctly
5674 (interviewer error), or the failure of the instrument to measure the value correctly (instrument
5675 error). (United States Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, "Statistical Policy Working
5676 Paper 15: Quality in Establishment Surveys", Washington D.C., July 1988, page 57)

5677 Hyperlink

5678

5679 Related terms

5680

5681

Response rate

5682 The number of respondents who complete a questionnaire compared to the number assigned,
5683 usually expressed as a percentage. The response rate can also apply to individual questions.

5684 Source

5685 Australian Government Initiative, Statistical Clearing House, "Glossary"

5686 Context

5687

5688 Hyperlink

5689 <http://www.sch.abs.gov.au/SCH/A1610103.NSF/Glossary?OpenView>

5690 Related terms

5691 Item response rate

5692 Non-response rate

5693 Refusal rate

5694

5695

Responsible organization

5696 The organization or unit within an organization that is responsible for the contents of the
5697 mandatory attributes by which the data element is specified.

5698 Source

5699 ISO/IEC FCD 11179-6 Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 6: Registration,
5700 January 2004

5701 Context

5702

5703 Hyperlink

5704

5705 Related terms

5706 ISO/IEC 11179

5707 Organisation

5708

5709

Revision policy

5710 A policy or set of policies, aimed at ensuring the transparency of disseminated data whereby
5711 preliminary data are compiled that are later revised when more and better source data become
5712 available.

5713 **Source**
5714 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Quarterly National Accounts Manual", Washington D.C.,
5715 2001

5716 **Context**
5717 In SDMX, "Revision Policy and Practice" describes the data revision policy, the policy and
5718 practice for identifying the revision status of available data, as well as the availability of revision
5719 studies and analyses.

5720 Providing users with documentation regarding the source data used and the way they are
5721 adjusted gives compilers with the possibility to incorporate new and more accurate information
5722 into estimates, thus improving their accuracy without introducing breaks in the time series.

5723 Data may also be subject to ad hoc revisions as a result of the introduction of new
5724 classifications, compilation frameworks and methodologies which result in the compilation of
5725 historical data that replaces previously released data. Whether or not such changes constitute
5726 an actual "revision" or the compilation of a "new" series is a matter of judgment on the part of
5727 the statistical agency.

5728 Under the requirements of the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), an organisation's
5729 revision policy for specific statistics is disseminated on the Internet on the IMF's Dissemination
5730 Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB).

5731 **Hyperlink**
5732 <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/qna/2000/textbook/>

5733 **Related terms**
5734 Adjustment Methods
5735 Compilation practices
5736 Data source
5737 Data status (upon release)
5738 Integrity
5739 Internal access
5740 Ministerial commentary
5741 SDMX
5742 Time series breaks
5743

5744 **Sample**

5745 A subset of a frame where elements are selected based on a randomised process with a known
5746 probability of selection.

5747 **Source**
5748 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
5749 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
5750 Geneva, 2000

5751 **Context**
5752

5753 **Hyperlink**
5754 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

5755 **Related terms**
5756 Co-ordination of samples
5757 Non-response rate
5758 Probability sample
5759 Sample design
5760 Sample size
5761 Sample survey
5762 Sampling
5763 Sampling fraction
5764 Sampling technique
5765 Sampling unit
5766 Schedule
5767 Stratification
5768

5769

Sample design

5770 The sample design provides information on the target and final sample sizes, strata definitions
5771 and the sample selection methodology.

5772 **Source**

5773 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, May
5774 2002

5775 **Context**

5776 The usage is not uniform as regards the precise meaning of this and similar terms like "sample
5777 plan", "survey design", "sampling plan" or "sampling design". These cover one or more parts
5778 constituting the entire planning of a sample survey inclusive of processing, etc. The term
5779 "sampling plan" may be restricted to mean all steps taken in selecting the sample; the term
5780 "sample design" cover in addition the method of estimation; and "survey design" may cover also
5781 other aspects of the survey, e.g. choice and training of interviewers, tabulation plans, etc.
5782 "Sample design" is sometimes used in a clearly defined sense, with reference to a given frame,
5783 as the set of rules or specifications for the drawing of a sample in an unequivocal manner (The
5784 International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by Yadolah
5785 Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003)

5786 **Hyperlink**

5787

5788 **Related terms**

5789 Sample

5790 Survey design

5791

5792

Sample size

5793 The number of sampling units which are to be included in the sample. In the case of a multi-
5794 stage sample this number refers to the number of units at the final stage in the sampling.

5795 **Source**

5796 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
5797 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

5798 **Context**

5799

5800 **Hyperlink**

5801

5802 **Related terms**

5803 Sample

5804 Sampling

5805 Sampling fraction

5806 Sampling unit

5807

5808

Sample survey

5809 A survey which is carried out using a sampling method, i.e. in which a portion only, and not the
5810 whole population is surveyed.

5811 **Source**

5812 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
5813 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

5814 **Context**

5815

5816 **Hyperlink**

5817

5818 **Related terms**

5819 Sample

5820 Survey

5821

5822

Sampling

5823 The process of selecting a number of cases from all the cases in a particular group or universe.

5824 **Source**

5825 United Nations Statistics Division, "Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods, Volume
5826 1: Legal, Organisational and Technical Aspects", Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 35, United
5827 Nations, New York, 1991

5828 **Context**

5829

5830 **Hyperlink**

5831

5832 **Related terms**

5833 Area sampling

5834 Sample

5835 Sample size

5836

5837

Sampling error

5838 That part of the difference between a population value and an estimate, derived from a random
5839 sample, which is due to the fact that only a sample of values is observed; as distinct from errors
5840 due to imperfect selection, bias in response or estimation, errors of observation and recording,
5841 etc. The totality of sampling errors in all possible samples of the same size generates the
5842 sampling distribution of the statistic which is being used to estimate the parent value.

5843 **Source**

5844 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
5845 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

5846 **Context**

5847

5848 **Hyperlink**

5849

5850 **Related terms**

5851 Non-sampling error

5852

5853

Sampling fraction

5854 The ratio of the sample size to the population size.

5855 **Source**

5856 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003, page 23

5857 **Context**

5858

5859 **Hyperlink**

5860 <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>

5861 **Related terms**

5862 Sample

5863 Sample size

5864

5865

Sampling frame

5866 See Frame

5867

5868

Sampling technique

5869 The name or other identification of the specific process by which the entities of the sample have
5870 been selected.

5871 **Source**
5872 United States Bureau of the Census, Software and Standards Management Branch, Systems
5873 Support Division, "Survey Design and Statistical Methodology Metadata", Washington D.C.,
5874 August 1998, Section 3.3.23, page 32

5875 **Context**
5876

5877 **Hyperlink**
5878 <http://www.census.gov/srd/www/metadata/metada18.pdf>

5879 **Related terms**
5880 Sample
5881

5882 **Sampling unit**

5883 One of the units into which an aggregate is divided for the purpose of sampling, each unit being
5884 regarded as individual and indivisible when the selection is made.

5885 **Source**
5886 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
5887 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

5888 **Context**
5889 The definition of unit may be made on some natural basis, e.g., household, persons, units of
5890 product, tickets, etc., or upon some arbitrary basis, e.g., areas defined by grid co-ordinates on a
5891 map.

5892 **Hyperlink**
5893

5894 **Related terms**
5895 Sample
5896 Sample size
5897

5898 **Schedule**

5899 In the theory of sample surveys, schedule is synonymous with questionnaire.

5900 **Source**
5901 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
5902 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

5903 **Context**
5904 A schedule occurs in the specialized sense of a group, or sequence, of questions designed to
5905 elicit information upon a subject. Usually, it is completed by an investigator on the basis of
5906 information supplied by the particular member of the population chosen for inclusion in the
5907 sample, but sometimes it is completed by that member him- or herself, as in postal enquiries.

5908 **Hyperlink**
5909

5910 **Related terms**
5911 Questionnaire
5912 Sample
5913 Survey
5914

5915 **Scope**

5916 The coverage or sphere of what is to be observed. It is the total membership or population of a
5917 defined set of people, object or events.

5918 **Source**
5919 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International
5920 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

5921 **Context**
5922 In SDMX, "Scope/Coverage" describes the coverage of the statistics and how consistent this is
5923 with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices. The scope/coverage
5924 includes a description of target population, and geographic, sector, institutional, item,
5925 population, product, and other coverage.

5926 **Hyperlink**
5927 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm

5928 **Related terms**
5929 Coverage
5930 Out-of-scope units
5931 SDMX
5932 Statistical population
5933

5934 **SDMX-EDI**

5935 EDIFACT format for exchange of SDMX-structured data and metadata.

5936 **Source**
5937 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
5938 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5939 **Context**
5940 The SDMX-EDI format is drawn from the GESMES/TS version 3.0 implementation guide, as
5941 published as a standard of the SDMX initiative. (source, p. 10)
5942 SDMX-EDI is a message designed for the exchange of statistical information between
5943 organisations in a platform independent manner. The message implements a data exchange
5944 model (SDMX INFORMATION Model) which provides for the exchange of time series identified
5945 through a multi-dimensional key and a variety of associated metadata. It employs an
5946 appropriate GESMES profile and, for the version described in this Guide, the EDIFACT syntax.
5947 Though GESMES is a generic statistical data model which affords sufficient flexibility to
5948 describe syntactically virtually any statistical data model, SDMX-EDI has a fixed syntax. This
5949 allows partner institutions to design and to build the applications needed to "read" and "write"
5950 SDMX-EDI messages, avoiding intermediate files and special translators; the design of the
5951 read/write applications is further simplified by eliminating genericity which is not needed when
5952 exchanging time series data. Due to the fixed syntax, in most cases, the rules used in SDMX-
5953 EDI are stronger and more restrictive than those in generic GESMES. However, the current
5954 design allows the possibility of future enhancements and progressive generalisation, if this is
5955 needed, upon agreement of the parties involved.

5956 **Hyperlink**
5957 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5958 **Related terms**
5959 EDIFACT
5960 SDMX
5961 SDMX-ML
5962

5963 **SDMX-ML**

5964 XML format for the exchange of SDMX-structured data and metadata.

5965 **Source**
5966 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
5967 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5968 **Context**
5969 The SDMX package contains normative sections describing the use of the XML syntax in SDMX
5970 messages, and is accompanied by a set of XML schemas and sample XML document
5971 instances.

5972 **Hyperlink**
5973 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

5974 **Related terms**
5975 SDMX
5976 SDMX-EDI
5977

5978 **SDMX Registry**

5979 An application which stores metadata for querying, and which can be used by any other
5980 application in the network with sufficient access privileges.

5981 **Source**

5982 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
5983 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

5984 **Context**

5985 The SDMX model of statistical exchange is based on a set of registry services which are not
5986 concerned with the storage of data or reference metadata, under the assumption that data and
5987 metadata live on the sites of data providers.

5988 A registry can be understood as an index of data or metadata repositories of all the data
5989 providers within a statistical community, distributed across the Internet or similar networks. The
5990 registry services concern themselves with providing visibility to the data and reference
5991 metadata, and information needed for the access.

5992 The SDMX registry provides the following services:

5993 Querying: The registry has interfaces for querying the metadata it contains, so that applications
5994 and users can discover the existence of data sets and reference metadata sets, structural
5995 metadata, the providers/agencies associated with those objects, and the provider agreements
5996 which describe how the data and metadata are made available, and how they are categorized.

5997 Subscription/Notification: It is possible to subscribe to specific objects in the registry, so that a
5998 notification will be sent to all subscribers whenever the registry objects are updated.

5999 Registration (structural metadata submission): A registry service which allows users to inform
6000 the registry that data sets, reference metadata sets, structural metadata, or data provisioning
6001 information.

6002 **Hyperlink**

6003 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

6004 **Related terms**

6005 Reference metadata

6006 Structural metadata

6007 Provider

6008 Metadata registry

6009 Registration

6010 SDMX

6011

6012 **Seasonal adjustment**

6013 A statistical technique to remove the effects of seasonal calendar influences operating on a
6014 series. Seasonal effects usually reflect the influence of the seasons themselves either directly or
6015 through production series related to them, or social conventions. Other types of calendar
6016 variation occur as a result of influences such as number of days in the calendar period, the
6017 accounting or recording practices adopted or the incidence of moving holidays (such as Easter).

6018 **Source**

6019 Australian Bureau of Statistics, "An Analytical Framework for Price Indexes in Australia:
6020 Glossary and References", Canberra, 1997

6021 **Context**

6022 Series are adjusted for seasonal variations and in some cases for calendar working days
6023 variations. When available, seasonally adjusted data are taken directly from national statistical
6024 sources; otherwise, the method used for de-seasonalisation is the standard X-11 ARIMA which
6025 was developed by the US Bureau of Census and incorporates general smoothing techniques
6026 and spectral analyses. (Further details may be found in Technical Paper No. 15 of the Bureau of
6027 the Census.). Where appropriate, series are also corrected for calendar variations (e.g.
6028 workdays per month) and constrained for annual coherency. (Organisation for Economic Co-

6029 operation and Development (OECD), "The OECD Economic Outlook: Sources and Methods",
6030 available at www.oecd.org/eco/sources-and-methods)
6031 Seasonal adjustment is normally done using off-the-shelf programs - most commonly worldwide
6032 by one of the programs in the X-11 family. Other programs in common use include the TRAMO-
6033 SEATS package developed by Bank of Spain and promoted by Eurostat and the German BV4
6034 program (International Monetary Fund (IMF)," Quarterly National Accounts Manual",
6035 Washington D.C., 2001, para. 8.13).
6036 Under the SDDS this entails the availability, publication, and level at which seasonal adjustment
6037 takes place, the methods used and an indication regarding which data series the methods are
6038 applied to (e.g. aggregate series derived from lower-level seasonally-adjusted series versus
6039 independently adjusted; adjusted at 1-digit SITC level using X-11 method and aggregated to
6040 totals; seasonal adjustment is conducted on four components of final expenditures (after annual
6041 balancing) and then aggregated to total GDP), and on consumer and producer price indexes.

6042 **Hyperlink**
6043 [http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/66f306f503e529a5ca25697e0017661f/ff4de83064a](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/66f306f503e529a5ca25697e0017661f/ff4de83064a2e425ca25697e0018fd44!OpenDocument)
6044 [2e425ca25697e0018fd44!OpenDocument](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/66f306f503e529a5ca25697e0017661f/ff4de83064a2e425ca25697e0018fd44!OpenDocument)

6045 **Related terms**
6046 Adjustment Methods
6047 Compilation practices
6048 Not seasonally adjusted series
6049 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
6050

6051 **Secondary source of statistical data**

6052 The organisation or individual other than those responsible for the collection and aggregation of
6053 data from their initial source. Secondary sources may redistribute information received from the
6054 primary source either in their initial form or after some transformation including further
6055 aggregation, reclassification or other manipulation such as seasonal adjustment.

6056 **Source**
6057 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
6058 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

6059 **Context**
6060

6061 **Hyperlink**
6062 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

6063 **Related terms**
6064 Data source
6065 Primary data
6066 Primary source of statistical data
6067

6068 **Semantics**

6069 The branch of linguistic science which deals with the meaning of words.

6070 **Source**
6071 ISO/IEC CD 11179-5 "Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) - Part 5: Naming and
6072 identification principles", January 2003

6073 **Context**
6074

6075 **Hyperlink**
6076

6077 **Related terms**
6078 ISO/IEC 11179
6079 Syntax
6080

6081

Serviceability

6082 Serviceability refers to the practical aspects of how well the available data meet users' needs.

Source

6084 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) Glossary"

Context

6086 Serviceability is a term that captures the practical aspects of usability of data. The emphasis on
6087 "use" thus assumes that data are available. Thus, key aspects of usability are relevance,
6088 timeliness and frequency, consistency, and revision policy and practices.

Hyperlink

6089

6090

Related terms

6092 Consistency

6093 Quality (IMF context)

6094 Relevance

6095

6096

Sibling group

6097 A set of time series whose keys differ only in the value taken by the frequency dimension.

Source

6099 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International
6100 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
6101 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

Context

6103 Within an ETS (exchanged time series), a sibling group is uniquely identified by a data set
6104 identifier combined with the sibling group key.

Hyperlink

6106 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf

Related terms

6108 Data set

6109 GESMES/TS

6110 Key (time series or sibling group)

6111 Time series

6112

6113

Simultaneous release

6114 The dissemination of statistical data to all interested parties at the same time.

Source

6116 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
6117 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

Context

6119 In SDMX, "Simultaneous Release" describes the policy for release of the data to the public, how
6120 the public is informed that the data are being released, and whether the policy provides for the
6121 dissemination of statistical data to all interested parties at the same time. It also describes the
6122 policy for briefing the press in advance of the release of the data.

6123 Simultaneous release (to all interested parties) is an element of the principle of ready and equal
6124 access to official statistics by the public that strengthens transparency in data dissemination
6125 practices.

Hyperlink

6127 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

Related terms

6129 Accessibility

6130 Release calendar

6131 SDMXSDMX

6132

6133
6134
6135

Source

See "Data source"

6136

Source data

6137 Data collected on a regular basis (by survey from respondents, or from administrative sources)
6138 by survey statisticians in the national statistical system to be edited, imputed, aggregated and/or
6139 used in the compilation and production of official statistics.

6140 Source

6141 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
6142 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

6143 Context

6144 IN SDMX, "Source Data" refers to a description of the data collection programs and their
6145 adequacy for the production of statistics, including meeting the requirements for methodological
6146 frameworks, scope, classifications systems, and basis for recording.

6147 In the context of the SDDS, "nature of the basic data" includes whether data are compiled from
6148 administrative records (e.g., monetary and government data), surveys, censuses, or any
6149 combination of these. It should also briefly describe the means of data collection. In cases
6150 where sampling techniques are used, the sampling procedures should be briefly described.

6151 Hyperlink

6152 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

6153 Related terms

6154 Classification system

6155 Data collection

6156 Primary data

6157 Scope

6158 SDMX

6159 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

6160

6161

Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

6162 "Special Data Dissemination Standard". The SDDS was established by the International
6163 Monetary Fund (IMF) to guide members that have, or that might seek, access to international
6164 capital markets in the provision of their economic and financial data to the public. Subscription
6165 to the SDDS was opened in early April 1996.

6166 Source

6167 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Guide to the Data Dissemination Standards, Module 1: The
6168 Special Data Dissemination Standard", Washington, May 1996

6169 Context

6170

6171 Hyperlink

6172

6173 Related terms

6174 Accounting basis

6175 Adjustment Methods

6176 Aggregation

6177 Analytical framework

6178 Base period

6179 Basic statistical data

6180 Comparability

6181 Compilation practices

6182 Computation of lowest level indices

6183 Coverage

6184 Data

6185 Data collection

6186 Data Dissemination Standards

6187 Data item
 6188 Data reconciliation
 6189 Data status (upon release)
 6190 Estimation
 6191 General Data Dissemination System (GDDS)
 6192 Integrity
 6193 Internal access
 6194 Metadata dimension (SDDS)
 6195 Ministerial commentary
 6196 Primary data
 6197 Quality (IMF context)
 6198 Recording of transactions
 6199 Seasonal adjustment
 6200 Simultaneous release
 6201 Standard Classification
 6202 Types of prices
 6203 Valuation
 6204 Verification
 6205

6206 **Special language**

6207 A language used in a subject field and characterized by the use of specific linguistic means of
 6208 expression.

6209 **Source**

6210 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
 6211 March 2004

6212 **Context**

6213 The specific linguistic means of expression always include subject-specific terminology and
 6214 phraseology and also may cover stylistic or syntactic features. [ISO 1087-1:2000, 3.1.3]

6215 **Hyperlink**

6216

6217 **Related terms**

6218 ISO/IEC 11179

6219 Language

6220 Terminology

6221

6222 **Standard Classification**

6223 Classifications that follow prescribed rules and are generally recommended and accepted. They
 6224 aim to ensure that information is classified consistently regardless of the collection, source,
 6225 point of time etc.

6226 **Source**

6227 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International
 6228 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

6229 **Context**

6230 In the international context, standard classifications include ISIC Rev. 3, ISCO, CPC, NACE Rev
 6231 1, etc. Many national statistical systems also have their own versions of standard classifications,
 6232 which in the main are consistent with international standard classifications, though modified to
 6233 meet national circumstances. Many of the international and national standard classifications are
 6234 listed in the RAMON database of classifications, available at
 6235 <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/ramon>

6236 In the SDDS context, the criteria used to classify major economic transactions, industrial
 6237 activities, commodities and services, consumption, data components, international transactions
 6238 or the sectorization of accounts for collection and/or dissemination and whether these criteria
 6239 are consistent with relevant international or regional standard classifications and/or guidelines
 6240 and at what level. (e.g. revenue consists of tax and nontax revenue classified according to the
 6241 GFSM; Expenditure by function is classified according to the SNA classification of the functions

6242 of government (COFOG), consumption of products classified according to CPC and aggregation
6243 by COICOP or other standard system, etc.

6244 **Hyperlink**

6245 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm

6246 **Related terms**

6247 Classification

6248 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

6249

Standard error

6251 The positive square root of the variance of the sampling distribution of a statistic.

6252 **Source**

6253 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
6254 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

6255 **Context**

6256 It includes the precision with which the statistics estimates the relevant parameter as contrasted
6257 with the standard deviation that describes the variability of primary observations.

6258 **Hyperlink**

6259

Statistical concept

6261 A statistical characteristic of a time series or an observation.

6262 **Source**

6263 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International
6264 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
6265 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

6266 **Context**

6267 In SDMX, "Concepts and Definitions" refer to the internationally accepted statistical standards,
6268 guidelines, or good practices on which the concepts and definitions that are used for compiling
6269 the statistics are based. It also refers to the description of deviations of the concepts and
6270 definitions from accepted statistical standards, guidelines, or good practices, when relevant.
6271 This should define the statistical concept under measure and the organisation of data, i.e. the
6272 type of variables included in the domain of study

6273 Each statistical concept is either coded or uncoded. A coded statistical concept takes values
6274 from a code list of valid values. For example, a coded statistical concept called "reporting
6275 country" might be created, taking its values from the ISO list of country codes. A code list may
6276 supply the values of more than one statistical concept. An uncoded statistical concept takes its
6277 values as free form text (e.g. time series title).

6278 **Hyperlink**

6279 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf

6280 **Related terms**

6281 Attribute

6282 Characteristic

6283 Code list

6284 Concept

6285 Dimension

6286 GESMES/TS

6287 International statistical standard

6288 Key family

6289 Key structure

6290 Observation

6291 SDMX

6292 Structural definition

6293

6294

Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX)

6295 A task force sponsored by BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, UN and World Bank to address
6296 standardization of the exchange of statistical information.

6297 **Source**

6298 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
6299 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

6300 **Context**

6301

6302 **Hyperlink**

6303 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
6304

6305

Statistical error

6306 The (unknown) difference between the retained value and the true value.

6307 **Source**

6308 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
6309 2003

6310 **Context**

6311 It is immediately associated with accuracy since accuracy is used to mean "the inverse of the
6312 total error, including bias and variance" (Kish L., "Survey Sampling", John Wiley, New York
6313 1965). The larger the error, the lower the accuracy.

6314 **Hyperlink**

6315

6316 **Related terms**

6317 Accuracy
6318

6319

Statistical indicator

6320 A data element that represents statistical data for a specified time, place, and other
6321 characteristics.

6322 **Source**

6323 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
6324 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
6325 Geneva, 2000

6326 **Context**

6327

6328 **Hyperlink**

6329 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>
6330

6331 **Related terms**

6331

6332

Statistical macrodata

6333 An observation data gained by a purposeful aggregation of statistical microdata conforming to
6334 statistical methodology.

6335 **Source**

6336 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
6337 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
6338 Geneva, 2000

6339 **Context**

6340 Macrodata is data derived from microdata by statistics on groups or aggregates, such as
6341 counts, means, or frequencies. (United States Bureau of the Census, Software and Standards
6342 Management Branch, Systems Support Division, "Survey Design and Statistical Methodology
6343 Metadata", Washington D.C., August 1998, Section 3.4.4, page 39).

6344 **Hyperlink**
6345 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

6346 **Related terms**
6347 Statistical microdata
6348

6349 **Statistical measure**

6350 A summary (means, mode, total, index, etc.) of the individual quantitative variable values for the
6351 statistical units in a specific group (study domains).

6352 **Source**
6353 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
6354 2003

6355 **Context**
6356

6357 **Hyperlink**
6358

6359 **Related terms**
6360

6361 **Statistical message**

6362 A message carrying statistical data.

6363 **Source**
6364 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
6365 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
6366 Geneva, 2000

6367 **Context**
6368 In the context of GESMES/TS, a statistical message is a predefined and agreed way of
6369 representing syntactically sets of statistical data, attributes and structural definitions which need
6370 to be exchanged between partners (European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International
6371 Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-
6372 operation and Development (OECD), "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February,
6373 2003; unpublished on paper, available at http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf).

6374 **Hyperlink**
6375 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

6376 **Related terms**
6377 Data exchange
6378 GESMES
6379

6380 **Statistical metadata**

6381 Data about statistical data.

6382 **Source**
6383 United Nations Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe of the United
6384 Nations (UNECE), "Guidelines for the Modeling of Statistical Data and Metadata", Conference
6385 of European Statisticians, Methodological material, United Nations, Geneva, 1995

6386 **Context**
6387 Metadata comprises data and other documentation that describes objects in a formalised way
6388 (Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
6389 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
6390 Geneva, 2000, <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>)
6391 Metadata provide information on data and about processes of producing and using data.
6392 Metadata describe statistical data and - to some extent - processes and tools involved in the
6393 production and usage of statistical data (UNECE, "Guidelines for the Modeling of Statistical
6394 Data and Metadata", 1995).

6395 **Hyperlink**
6396 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/metadatamodeling.pdf>

6397 **Related terms**

6398 Metadata
6399 Metadata layer
6400 Metadata registry
6401 Reference metadata
6402 Statistical metadata system
6403 Statistical metainformation
6404 Structural metadata
6405

6406 **Statistical metadata repository**

6407 A logically central statistical metadata repository that allows for the query, editing, and
6408 managing of metadata. Such a system provides a mechanism for looking up information about
6409 statistical products as well as their design, development, and analysis.

6410 **Source**

6411 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "Main Economic
6412 Indicators", monthly

6413 **Context**

6414 Too often metadata is scattered, incomplete or missing. Many times the only source for some
6415 information is from subject matter experts. The effective and efficient management of statistical
6416 metadata greatly increases the usefulness of statistical data. Since metadata is data, it can be
6417 stored and retrieved in a repository just as the data it describes is stored and retrieved in a
6418 database.

6419 There are many functions for which statistical metadata repositories are designed. Primarily, it is
6420 a standard tool for researchers and analysts to locate data and descriptions of surveys. Data
6421 dictionaries, record layouts, questionnaires, sample designs, and standard errors are the types
6422 of information that are directly available in such a repository. Less obviously, users can
6423 compare designs of different surveys and find common information collected by different
6424 surveys (United States Bureau of the Census, Software and Standards Management Branch,
6425 Systems Support Division, "Survey Design and Statistical Methodology Metadata", Washington
6426 D.C., August 1998, Section 3.4.5, pages 53, 54).

6427 **Hyperlink**

6428

6429 **Related terms**

6430 Data series flow

6431

6432 **Statistical metadata system**

6433 A data processing system that uses, stores and produces statistical metadata.

6434 **Source**

6435 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
6436 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
6437 Geneva, 2000

6438 **Context**

6439

6440 **Hyperlink**

6441 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

6442 **Related terms**

6443 Metadata
6444 Metadata layer
6445 Statistical metadata
6446 Statistical metainformation
6447

6448

Statistical metainformation

6449 Knowledge of objects described by statistical metadata

6450 **Source**

6451 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
6452 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
6453 Geneva, 2000

6454 **Context**

6455

6456 **Hyperlink**

6457 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

6458 **Related terms**

6459 Metadata layer

6460 Statistical metadata

6461 Statistical metadata system

6462 Statistical metainformation system

6463

6464

Statistical metainformation system

6465 A system is a system which uses and produces statistical metadata, informing about statistical
6466 data, and which fulfils its tasks by means of functions like "statistical metadata collection",
6467 "statistical metadata processing", "statistical metadata storage", and "statistical metadata
6468 dissemination".

6469 **Source**

6470 United Nations Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe of the United
6471 Nations (UNECE), "Guidelines for the Modeling of Statistical Data and Metadata", Conference
6472 of European Statisticians, Methodological material, United Nations, Geneva, 1995

6473 **Context**

6474 An alternative definition of a statistical metainformation system is an information system for
6475 which the object is the statistical information system (Economic Commission for Europe of the
6476 United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical Metadata", Conference of European
6477 Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53, Geneva, 2000,

6478 A metainformation system may be active or passive. An active metainformation system is
6479 physically integrated with the information system containing the data that the metadata in the
6480 metainformation system informs about. A passive metainformation system contains only
6481 references to data, not the data themselves (United Nations Economic Commission for
6482 Europe/United Nation Statistical Commission (UNECE/UNSC), "Guidelines for the Modelling of
6483 Statistical Data and Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Methodological Material,
6484 Geneva, 1995, p. 4).

6485 **Hyperlink**

6486

6487 **Related terms**

6488 Statistical metainformation

6489

6490

Statistical methodology

6491 Theory and methods of data collection, processing and analysis.

6492 **Source**

6493 Statistics Canada, Integrated Metadata Base, "Glossary", unpublished on paper

6494 **Context**

6495

6496 **Hyperlink**

6497 <http://www.statcan.ca/english/edu/power/toc/contents.htm>

6498 **Related terms**

6499 Methodology

6500

6501

Statistical microdata

6502 An observation data collected on an individual object - statistical unit.

6503 **Source**

6504 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
6505 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
6506 Geneva, 2000

6507 **Context**

6508 Microdata are data on the characteristics of units of a population, such as individuals,
6509 households, or establishments, collected by a census, survey, or experiment. (United States
6510 Bureau of the Census, Software and Standards Management Branch, Systems Support
6511 Division, "Survey Design and Statistical Methodology Metadata", Washington D.C., August
6512 1998, Section 3.4.4, page 39, at <http://www.census.gov/srd/www/metadata/metada18.pdf>).

6513 **Hyperlink**

6514 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

6515 **Related terms**

6516 Statistical macrodata

6517

6518

Statistical population

6519 The total membership or population or "universe" of a defined class of people, objects or events.

6520 **Source**

6521 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International
6522 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

6523 **Context**

6524 There are two types of population, viz., target population and survey population.

6525 A target population is the population outlined in the survey objects about which information is to
6526 be sought and a survey population is the population from which information can be obtained in
6527 the survey.

6528 The target population is also known as the scope of the survey and the survey population [...] as
6529 the coverage of the survey. For administrative records the corresponding populations are: the
6530 "target" population as defined by the relevant legislation and regulations, and the actual "client
6531 population" ("United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms" prepared by the Expert Group on
6532 International Economic and Social Classifications).

6533 **Hyperlink**

6534 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm

6535 **Related terms**

6536 Census

6537 Coverage errors

6538 Cut-off threshold

6539 Scope

6540 Stratification

6541 True value

6542

6543

Statistical processing

6544 The processes for manipulating or classifying statistical data into various categories with the
6545 object of producing statistics.

6546 **Source**

6547 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
6548 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

6549 **Context**

6550 In SDMX, "Statistical Processing" refers to a description of the data compilation and other
6551 statistical procedures to deal with intermediate data and statistical outputs (e.g., data
6552 adjustments and transformation, and statistical analysis). The items covered include, inter alia,
6553 weighting schemes, methods for imputing missing values or source data, statistical adjustment,

6554 and balancing/cross-checking techniques and relevant characteristics of the specific
6555 approach/approaches applied.

6556 **Hyperlink**

6557 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

6558 **Related terms**

6559 Adjustment Methods
6560 Aggregation
6561 Compilation practices
6562 Computation of lowest level indices
6563 Consolidation
6564 Data collection
6565 Data processing
6566 Data reconciliation
6567 Disaggregation
6568 Estimation
6569 Index number
6570 Reference period
6571 Revision policy
6572 SDMX
6573 Seasonal adjustment
6574 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
6575 Verification
6576

6577 **Statistical production**

6578 The activity that is carried out within statistical information system and aimed at producing of
6579 statistics.

6580 **Source**

6581 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
6582 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
6583 Geneva, 2000

6584 **Context**

6585

6586 **Hyperlink**

6587 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

6588 **Related terms**

6589

6590 **Statistical standard**

6591 A comprehensive set of guidelines for surveys and administrative sources collecting information
6592 on a particular topic.

6593 **Source**

6594 Statistics New Zealand, "Classifications and Standards"; unpublished on paper

6595 **Context**

6596 Components of a standard include:

- 6597 - definition(s)
- 6598 - statistical units
- 6599 - classification(s)
- 6600 - coding process(es)
- 6601 - questionnaire module(s)
- 6602 - output categories

6603 The use of statistical standards permits the repeated collection of statistics on a consistent
6604 basis. They also enable the integration of data over time and across different data sources,
6605 allowing the use of data beyond the immediate purpose for which it was produced. Standards
6606 also reduce the resource requirements associated with many aspects of survey development
6607 and maintenance.

6608 **Hyperlink**
6609 http://www.stats.govt.nz/domino/external/web/prod_serv.nsf/092edeb76ed5aa6bcc256afe0081d84e/35b11e7066c13db1cc256ca5006f44e4?OpenDocument

6611 **Related terms**
6612 International statistical standard
6613

6614 **Statistical subject-matter domain**

6615 A statistical activity that has common characteristics with respect to concepts and
6616 methodologies for data collection, manipulation and transformation.

6617 **Source**
6618 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
6619 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

6620 **Context**
6621 Within SDMX, the list of Statistical Subject-Matter Domains (aligned to the UN/CES
6622 Classification of International Statistical Activities) is a standard reference list against which the
6623 categorisation schemes of various participants in exchange arrangements can be mapped to
6624 facilitate data and metadata exchange. This allows the identification of subject matter domain
6625 groups involved in the development of guidelines and recommendations relevant to one or more
6626 statistical domains. Each of these groups could define domain-specific data structure definitions,
6627 concepts, etc.

6628 **Hyperlink**
6629 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

6630 **Related terms**
6631 Characteristic
6632 Concept
6633 Domain
6634 Domain groups
6635 Methodology
6636

6637 **Statistical unit**

6638 An object of statistical survey and the bearer of statistical characteristics. The statistical unit is
6639 the basic unit of statistical observation within a statistical survey.

6640 **Source**
6641 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
6642 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
6643 Geneva, 2000

6644 **Context**
6645 Statistical units are the entities for which information is sought and for which statistics are
6646 ultimately compiled. These units can, in turn, be divided into observation units and analytical
6647 units. The statistical units in ISIC Rev. 3 comprise the:

- 6648 - enterprise;
- 6649 - enterprise group;
- 6650 - kind-of-activity unit (KAU);
- 6651 - local unit;
- 6652 - establishment;
- 6653 - homogeneous unit of production.

6654 (Statistical Office of the United Nations, "International Standard Industrial Classification of all
6655 Economic Activities, Third Revision", Statistical Papers Series M No. 4, Rev. 3, United Nations,
6656 New York, 1990, para. 63, 76).

6657 Statistical units are defined on the basis of three criteria:

- 6658 - Legal, accounting or organisational criteria;
- 6659 - Geographical criteria;
- 6660 - Activity criteria.

6661 **Hyperlink**
6662 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

6663 **Related terms**
6664 Analytical unit
6665 Classification
6666 Observation unit
6667

6668 **Stewardship**

6669 Stewardship (of metadata) is the responsibility for the maintenance of Administration Records
6670 applicable to one or more Administered Items.

6671 **Source**
6672 ISO/IEC 11179-3 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 3: Registry metamodel
6673 and basic attributes", February 2003

6674 **Context**
6675 The responsibility for the registration of metadata may be different from the responsibility for
6676 stewardship of metadata.
6677 Stewardship contact is the contact information associated with a Stewardship.

6678 **Hyperlink**
6679

6680 **Related terms**
6681 Administered item
6682 Contact
6683 ISO/IEC 11179
6684 Organisation
6685 Submission
6686

6687 **Stratification**

6688 Stratification consists of dividing the population into subsets (called strata) within each of which
6689 an independent sample is selected.

6690 **Source**
6691 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 1998/2003, page
6692 21

6693 **Context**
6694 The division of a population into parts is known as strata, especially for the purpose of drawing a
6695 sample, an assigned proportion of the sample then being selected from each stratum. The
6696 process of stratification may be undertaken on a geographical basis, e.g. by dividing up the
6697 sampled area into sub-areas on a map; or by reference to some other quality of the population,
6698 e.g. by dividing the persons in a town into strata according to sex or into three strata according
6699 to whether they belong to upper, middle or lower income groups.

6700 The term stratum is sometimes used to denote any division of the population for which a
6701 separate estimate is desired, i.e. in the sense of a domain of study. It is also used sometimes to
6702 denote any division of the population for which neither separate estimates nor actual separate
6703 sample selection is made. (The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of
6704 Statistical Terms", edited by Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003).

6705 **Hyperlink**
6706 <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>http

6707 **Related terms**
6708 Sample
6709 Statistical population
6710

6711 **Structural definition**

6712 Statistical concepts, key families and code lists defined by a centre institution, (usually for the
6713 exchange of statistical information with its partners).

6714 **Source**
6715 European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International
6716 Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
6717 "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February, 2003; unpublished on paper

6718 **Context**
6719

6720 **Hyperlink**
6721 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf

6722 **Related terms**
6723 Code list
6724 Concept
6725 GESMES/TS
6726 Key family
6727 Maintenance Agency
6728 Statistical concept
6729 Structural metadata
6730

6731 **Structural metadata**

6732 Metadata that act as identifiers and descriptors of the data.

6733 **Source**
6734 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
6735 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

6736 **Context**
6737 Structural metadata are needed to identify, use, and process data matrixes and data cubes, e.g.
6738 names of columns or dimensions of statistical cubes. Structural metadata must be associated
6739 with the statistical data, otherwise it becomes impossible to identify, retrieve and navigate the
6740 data.

6741 **Hyperlink**
6742 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

6743 **Related terms**
6744 Common Metadata Concepts
6745 GESMES/TS
6746 Key family
6747 Metadata Structure Definition
6748 Reference metadata
6749 Statistical metadata
6750 Structural definition
6751

6752 **Structure**

6753 It provides the means for identifying relationships, usually hierarchical, between categories.

6754 **Source**
6755 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International
6756 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

6757 **Context**
6758 A hierarchical classification is based on a tree structure where each set of its detailed categories
6759 are subsets of categories at the level about the one in which they contained.

6760 **Hyperlink**
6761

6762 **Related terms**
6763 Category
6764 Hierarchy
6765 Data structure definition
6766 Metadata structure definition
6767

6768

Study domain

6769

A major segment of the population for which separate statistics are needed.

6770

A study domain could consist of a geographical area such as a region or major population centre. It could also comprise a specified population category, such as a major national or ethnic group. The number of domains has an important bearing on the size and distribution of the sample.

6774

Source

6775

Statistical Office of the United Nations, "Handbook of Household Surveys, Revised Edition", (paras. 4.6, 4.7), Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 31, United Nations, New York, 1984

6776

6777

Context

6778

Normally statistics are presented for different sub-groups of the population, so called study domains. These study domains can be geographical as well as non-geographical. Often these sub-groups are according to some classification (e.g. territorial units, economic activity etc.) (Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October 2003).

6779

6780

6781

6782

6783

In the course of tabulation, data may actually be provided for many population segments; however, a study domain would be a segment identified in the overall statistical plan as one for which a certain level of detail and certain data reliability were required. The study domains chosen may coincide with the strata adopted for stratified sampling or may cut across them.

6784

6785

6786

6787

Hyperlink

6788

6789

Related terms

6790

Statistical subject-matter domain

6791

6792

Submission

6793

Submission (of an administered Item) is the relationship of an Administered item, a Contact, and an Organization involved in a submission of metadata.

6794

6795

Source

6796

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

6797

6798

Context

6799

Submission contact is the contact information associated with a submission.

6800

Hyperlink

6801

6802

Related terms

6803

Administered item

6804

Contact

6805

ISO/IEC 11179

6806

Stewardship

6807

Submitting organization

6808

6809

Submitting organization

6810

The submitting organization is responsible for requesting that a new metadata item be registered in the registry.

6811

6812

Source

6813

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

6814

6815

Context

6816

6817

Hyperlink

6818

6819

Related terms

6820

ISO/IEC 11179

6821 Metadata registry
6822 Submission
6823

6824 **Supplementary data**

6825 See "Data dissemination"
6826

6827 **Survey**

6828 A investigation about the characteristics of a given population by means of collecting data from
6829 a sample of that population and estimating their characteristics through the systematic use of
6830 statistical methodology.

6831 **Source**

6832 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
6833 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
6834 Geneva, 2000

6835 **Context**

6836 The term survey covers any activity that collects or acquires statistical data. Included are
6837 censuses, sample surveys, the collection of data from administrative records and derived
6838 statistical activities. (Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition,
6839 October 2003, page 7, available at <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>)
6840

6841 **Hyperlink**

6842 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

6843 **Related terms**

6844 Cut-off survey
6845 Data collection
6846 Non-response
6847 Processing error
6848 Questionnaire
6849 Reporting unit
6850 Sample survey
6851 Schedule
6852 Survey design
6853

6854 **Survey data collection**

6855 An activity of the survey life cycle for gathering data from respondents and recording it for
6856 further processing.

6857 **Source**

6858 Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE), "Terminology on Statistical
6859 Metadata", Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53,
6860 Geneva, 2000

6861 **Context**

6862

6863 **Hyperlink**

6864 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

6865 **Related terms**

6866 Data collection
6867 Data source
6868

6869 **Survey design**

6870 Survey design covers the delineation of all aspects of a survey from the establishment of a need
6871 for data to the production of final outputs (the microdata file, statistical series, and analysis).

6872 **Source**
6873 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003, page 8

6874 **Context**

6875 The survey design addresses the following issues: what statistics are produced, for which
6876 population, when, and with what accuracy; what data are to be collected for which units of the
6877 population of interest, and what are the methods by which those data are to be collected and
6878 processed to produce the required statistics. Operational, organisational and administrative
6879 issues are usually addressed (Lessler, J.T. and Kalsbeek, W.D., "Non Sampling Error in
6880 Survey", John Wiley, New York, 1992 or US Department of Commerce, "Glossary of Non
6881 Sampling Error Terms: An Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistics", Statistical Policy
6882 Working Paper 4, Office of Federal Statistical Policy Standards, 1978).

6883 **Hyperlink**

6884 <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>

6885 **Related terms**

6886 Questionnaire design

6887 Sample design

6888 Survey

6889

6890 **Syntax**

6891 The relationships among characters or groups of characters, independent of their meanings or
6892 the manner of their interpretation and use; the structure of expressions in a language, and the
6893 rules governing the structure of a language.

6894 **Source**

6895 ISO/IEC CD 11179-5 "Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) - Part 5: Naming and
6896 identification principles", January 2003

6897 **Context**

6898

6899 **Hyperlink**

6900

6901 **Related terms**

6902 ISO/IEC 11179

6903 Semantics

6904

6905 **Target population**

6906 The set of elements about which information is wanted and estimates are required. Practical
6907 considerations may dictate that some units are excluded (e.g., institutionalized individuals, the
6908 homeless, or those that are not be possible to access without incurring excessive cost).

6909 **Source**

6910 Statistics Canada, "Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines", 4th edition, October 2003, page 17

6911 **Context**

6912

6913 **Hyperlink**

6914 <http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1>

6915 **Related terms**

6916 Cut-off threshold

6917 Under-coverage

6918

6919 **Taxonomy**

6920 The classification according to presumed natural relationships among types and their subtypes.

6921 **Source**

6922 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179, Part 1, Framework for the specification and
6923 standardization of data elements, 1999

6924 **Context**
6925 Within SDMX, a "reporting taxonomy" is a scheme which defines the composition structure of a
6926 data report where each component is described by an independent data flow definition

6927 **Hyperlink**
6928

6929 **Related terms**
6930 Classification
6931 ISO/IEC 11179
6932 Ontology
6933

6934 **Term**

6935 A designation of a defined concept in a special language by a linguistic expression.

6936 **Source**
6937 ISO International Standard 1087-1:2000 Terminology work -- Vocabulary -- Part 1: Theory and
6938 application, November 2004

6939 **Context**
6940 A term is a word or phrase used to designate a concept (Terminology on Statistical Metadata,
6941 Conference of European Statisticians Statistical Standards and Studies, No. 53, UNECE,
6942 Geneva 2000, <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>).

6943 **Hyperlink**
6944 <http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/53metadaterminology.pdf>

6945 **Related terms**
6946 Terminology
6947 Thesaurus
6948

6949 **Terminological entry**

6950 An entry containing information on terminological units for a specific Administered item within a
6951 Context (subject field).

6952 **Source**
6953 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
6954 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

6955 **Context**
6956

6957 **Hyperlink**
6958

6959 **Related terms**
6960 ISO/IEC 11179
6961

6962 **Terminological system**

6963 A concept system with designations for each concept.

6964 **Source**
6965 ISO/IEC FDIS 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registries - Part 1: Framework",
6966 March 2004

6967 **Context**
6968

6969 **Hyperlink**
6970

6971 **Related terms**
6972 Concept
6973 ISO/IEC 11179
6974

6975

Terminology

6976

A set of terms.

6977

Source

6978

6979

6980

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

6981

Context

6982

6983

Hyperlink

6984

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

6985

Related terms

6986

Special language

6987

Term

6988

6989

Thesaurus

6990

A tool that associates related terms, and thesaurus terms assist in locating an existing data element.

6991

6992

Source

6993

6994

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

6995

Context

6996

6997

Hyperlink

6998

6999

Related terms

7000

Data element

7001

ISO/IEC 11179

7002

Term

7003

7004

Time coverage

7005

The length of time, e.g. years, for which data are collected.

7006

Source

7007

7008

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

7009

Context

7010

7011

Hyperlink

7012

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

7013

Related terms

7014

7015

Time of recording

7016

The date the item was recorded in a dissemination medium. This may be the date the item was first recorded or the date an existing item was amended.

7017

7018

Source

7019

7020

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

7021

Context

7022

7023

7024

7025

In National Accounts, time of recording pertains to the issues involved in deciding whether to record a transaction with regard to when the claim arises (accrual) or when it is to be paid (cash). See: United Nations, "System of National Accounts (SNA) 1993" and International Monetary Found, "Balance of Payments Manual (BPM)", Washington D.C., 1993.

7026 The time of recording for a transaction is governed by the principle of accrual accounting.

7027 **Hyperlink**

7028 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7029 **Related terms**

7030 Accounting basis

7031 Date of last change

7032

7033 **Time Period**

7034 See "Period"

7035

7036 **Time series**

7037 A set of ordered observations on a quantitative characteristic of an individual or collective
7038 phenomenon taken at different points of time.

7039 **Source**

7040 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
7041 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

7042 **Context**

7043 Although it is not essential, it is common for these points to be equidistant in time. The essential
7044 quality of the series is the order of the observations according to the time variable, as distinct
7045 from those which are not ordered at all, e.g. in a random sample chosen simultaneously or are
7046 ordered to their internal properties, e.g. a set arranged in order of magnitude.

7047 In GESMES/TS, a time series is a time-ordered vector of observations. A time series is uniquely
7048 defined, within a data set, by its key. (European Central Bank (ECB), Bank for International
7049 Settlement (BIS), Eurostat, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-
7050 operation and Development (OECD), "GESMES/TS User Guide", Release 3.00, February,
7051 2003; unpublished on paper available at http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf)

7052 **Hyperlink**

7053 http://www.sdmx.org/Data/GesmesTS_rel3.pdf

7054 **Related terms**

7055 Characteristic

7056 Data Provider Series Key

7057 Data set

7058 Dimension

7059 Key (time series or sibling group)

7060 Observation

7061 Pre-Break Value

7062 Sibling group

7063 Time series breaks

7064 Trend

7065

7066 **Time series breaks**

7067 Breaks occurred when there is a change in the standards for defining and observing a variable
7068 over time. Such changes may be the result of a single change or the combination of multiple
7069 changes at any one point in time of observation of the variable.

7070 **Source**

7071 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
7072 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7073 **Context**

7074 The specific causes of breaks in a statistical time series include changes in: classifications
7075 used, definitions of the variable, coverage; etc.

7076 Statistical agencies and users of time series data for economic research to analyse and
7077 interpret economic and social events and conditions attach very high importance to the
7078 continuity and consistency of data over time. However, it should be emphasised that the

7079 occurrence of time series break may not necessarily jeopardise the reliability of a time series.
7080 Statistical agencies frequently apply a number of techniques to ensure the continuity of a time
7081 series.
7082 Finally, the impact of a time series break is often a matter of judgement on the part of the user
7083 and depends on the use(s) to which the data are put.

7084 **Hyperlink**

7085 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7086 **Related terms**

7087 Pre-Break Value

7088 Revision policy

7089 Time series

7090

7091 **Timeliness**

7092 Speed of dissemination of the data - i.e., the lapse of time between the end of a reference
7093 period (or a reference date) and dissemination of the data.

7094 **Source**

7095 International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Guide to the Data Dissemination Standards, Module 1: The
7096 Special Data Dissemination Standard", Washington, May 1996

7097 **Context**

7098 In SDMX, "Timeliness and Punctuality" is a single entity. Timeliness refers to the speed of
7099 dissemination of the data - i.e., the lapse of time between the end of a reference period (or a
7100 reference date) and dissemination of the data. It reflects many factors, including some that are
7101 related to institutional arrangements, such as the preparation of accompanying commentary and
7102 printing. Punctuality refers to the possible time lag existing between the actual delivery date of
7103 data and the target date when it should have been delivered, for instance, with reference to
7104 dates announced in some official release calendar or previously agreed among partners.

7105

7106 **Hyperlink**

7107

7108 **Related terms**

7109 Data

7110 Punctuality

7111 Quality

7112 Release calendar

7113 SDMX

7114

7115 **Transparency**

7116 See "Integrity"

7117

7118 **Trend**

7119 A long-term movement in an ordered series, which may be regarded, together with the
7120 oscillation and random component, as generating the observed values.

7121 **Source**

7122 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
7123 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

7124 **Context**

7125 In time series analysis, a given time series can be decomposed into: a) a cyclical component; b)
7126 a trend component; c) a seasonal component; d) an irregular component.

7127 **Hyperlink**

7128

7129 **Related terms**

7130 Time series

7131 Trend estimates

7132

7133 **Trend estimates**

7134 Estimates derived from seasonally adjusted estimates via an averaging process which attempts
7135 to remove the irregular component of the time series. This allows the underlying direction of a
7136 time series to be identified.

7137 **Source**

7138 Australian Bureau of Statistics, "An Analytical Framework for Price Indexes in Australia:
7139 Glossary and References", Canberra, 1997

7140 **Context**

7141

7142 **Hyperlink**

7143 [http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/66f306f503e529a5ca25697e0017661f/ff4de83064a](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/66f306f503e529a5ca25697e0017661f/ff4de83064a2e425ca25697e0018fd44!OpenDocument)
7144 [2e425ca25697e0018fd44!OpenDocument](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/66f306f503e529a5ca25697e0017661f/ff4de83064a2e425ca25697e0018fd44!OpenDocument)

7145 **Related terms**

7146 Estimate

7147 Trend

7148

7149 **True value**

7150 The actual population value that would be obtained with perfect measuring instruments and
7151 without committing any error of any type, both in collecting the primary data and in carrying out
7152 mathematical operations.

7153 **Source**

7154 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
7155 2003

7156 **Context**

7157

7158 **Hyperlink**

7159

7160 **Related terms**

7161 Statistical population

7162

7163 **Type of data collection**

7164 The type of data collection refers to the main process used in the collection of statistical data by
7165 the primary source of the data, those commonly used being survey data collection and
7166 administrative data collection. Each of these broad types may be further broken down on the
7167 basis of some characteristic, e.g. the nature of the data provider (enterprise / household) or
7168 exhaustiveness (sample survey, complete enumeration census).

7169 **Source**

7170 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
7171 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7172 **Context**

7173

7174 **Hyperlink**

7175 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7176 **Related terms**

7177 Data collection

7178

7179 **Under-coverage**

7180 Under-coverage results from the omission from the frame of units belonging to the target
7181 population.

7182 **Source**
7183 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
7184 2003

7185 **Context**
7186

7187 **Hyperlink**
7188

7189 **Related terms**
7190 Frame
7191 Over-coverage
7192 Target population
7193

7194 **Unit non-response**

7195 See "Non-response error"
7196

7197 **Unit of measure**

7198 The actual unit in which the associated values are measured.

7199 **Source**
7200 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
7201 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003

7202 **Context**
7203 The dimensionality of the associated conceptual domain must be appropriate for the specified
7204 unit of measure.
7205 ISO 31-0:1982 specifies a system of physical measurement (the International System of Units,
7206 SI). Physical
7207 measurement is only one type of measurement. Value measurement is another type of
7208 measurement. ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 allows the use of any appropriate
7209 system of measurement.
7210 Attributes of a unit of measure:
7211 Unit of measure name is the name of a unit of measure.
7212 Unit of measure precision is the degree of specificity for a unit of measure. Expressed as a
7213 number of decimal places to be used in any associated data element values. To be used as a
7214 default if no precision is specified on the data element itself.

7215 **Hyperlink**
7216

7217 **Related terms**
7218 Conceptual domain
7219 Dimension
7220 Dimensionality
7221 ISO/IEC 11179
7222

7223 **Unit response rate**

7224 The ratio, expressed in percentage of the number of interviews to the number of eligible units in
7225 the sample.

7226 **Source**
7227 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
7228 2003

7229 **Context**
7230 The weighted response rate calculates the ratio using the inverse probability of inclusion in the
7231 sample as a weight for each unit. In some occasions a value that reflects the importance of the
7232 unit is also used as a weighting factor (like size of workforce for establishment).

7233 **Hyperlink**
7234

7235

Unit value

7236 Expenditures or value of production of an item is divided by the quantity.

7237 **Source**

7238 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development - Statistical Division,
7239 Handbook of the International Comparison Programme, Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 62,
7240 New York, 1992, Glossary

7241 **Context**

7242

7243 **Hyperlink**

7244

7245 **Related terms**

7246 Unit value index

7247

7248

Unit value index

7249 The percentage of an eligible sample for which information is obtained.

7250 **Source**

7251 Lessler, J.T. and Kalsbeek, W.D. (1992), "Non Sampling Error in Survey", New York: John
7252 Wiley or US department of Commerce (1978), "Glossary of Non Sampling Error Terms: An
7253 Illustration of a Semantic Problem in Statistics", Statistical Policy Working Paper 4, Office of
7254 Federal Statistical Policy Standards, 1978

7255 **Context**

7256 For an interview survey, the numerator of the formula is the number of interviews. The
7257 denominator is the total sample size minus non-eligible respondents, i.e. minus those not
7258 meeting the criteria for a potential respondent as defined for that particular study. Weighted
7259 response rate is more useful. In addition to this, another non-response rate using the following
7260 weights may be computed: the sampling weights times any existing important variable from the
7261 sampling frame (turnover or size). The latter figure illustrates an impact of non-response.

7262 **Hyperlink**

7263

7264 **Related terms**

7265 Unit value

7266

7267

User needs (for statistics)

7268 User needs refer to the data and metadata requirements of persons or organisations to meet a
7269 particular use or set of uses. Such needs may be specified in terms of the quality dimensions
7270 promulgated by international organisations or national agencies.

7271 **Source**

7272 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
7273 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7274 **Context**

7275

7276 **Hyperlink**

7277 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7278

7279 **Related terms**

7279

7280

User satisfaction survey

7281 A statistical survey aiming to assess the satisfaction of users of statistics.

7282 **Source**

7283 Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics: Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October
7284 2003

7285 **Context**
7286
7287 **Hyperlink**
7288
7289 **Related terms**
7290

7291 **Validation**

7292 A continuous monitoring of the process of compilation and of the results of this process.

7293 **Source**

7294 Eurostat, "Handbook on Quarterly National Accounts", Luxembourg, 1999

7295 **Context**

7296 In SDMX, "Validation" describes methods and processes for routinely assessing source data –
7297 including censuses, sample surveys, and administrative records – and how the results of the
7298 assessments are monitored and made available to guide statistical processes. It also describes
7299 how intermediate results are validated against other information where applicable, how
7300 statistical discrepancies in intermediate data are assessed and investigated and how statistical
7301 discrepancies and other potential indicators or problems in statistical outputs are investigated.
7302 All the controls made in terms of quality of the data to be published or already published are
7303 included in the validation process. Validation also includes the results of studies and analysis of
7304 revisions and how they are used to inform the statistical processes. In this process, two
7305 dimensions can be distinguished: (i) validation before publication of the figures and (ii) validation
7306 after publication.

7307 **Hyperlink**

7308

7309 **Related terms**

7310 SDMX

7311

7312 **Valuation**

7313 Under the SDDS, valuation refers to such items as: 1) the exchange rates or conversion factors
7314 used to convert foreign-currency-denominated assets and liabilities into the national currency
7315 equivalent. 2) whether transactions are recorded at market prices, face or nominal value vs.
7316 issue or discounted prices; 3) adjustments to convert CIF imports to an FOB basis; 4)
7317 adjustments to align data with balance of payments concepts as well as the frequency of any
7318 revaluation (e.g., daily, monthly, quarterly, yearly).

7319 **Source**

7320 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
7321 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7322 **Context**

7323

7324 **Hyperlink**

7325 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7326 **Related terms**

7327 Accounting basis

7328 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

7329

7330 **Value domain**

7331 A value domain is a set of permissible values.

7332 **Source**

7333 ISO/IEC FCD 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registers - Part 1: Framework", May
7334 2003

- 7335 **Context**
 7336 In the context of ISO 11179, a domain is the set of possible data values of an attribute. A "data
 7337 value" is an element of a value domain. "Enumerated value domain" is a value domain that is
 7338 specified by a list of all its permissible values.
 7339 The value domain provides representation, but has no implication as to what data element
 7340 concept the values may be associated with, or what the values mean. The permissible values
 7341 may either be enumerated or expressed via a description.
 7342 Non-enumerated value domain is a value domain that is specified by a description rather than a
 7343 list of all Permissible values.
 7344 Non-enumerated value domain description is a description or specification of a rule, reference,
 7345 or range for a set of all permissible values for the value domain.
 7346 Value domain representation class is the class of representation of a value domain.
 7347 Attributes of value domain:
 7348 Value domain administration record is the administration record for a value domain.
 7349 Value domain datatype is the datatype used in a value domain.
 7350 Value domain format is a template for the structure of the presentation of the Value(s) e.g. -
 7351 YYYY-MM-DD for a date.
 7352 Value domain maximum character quantity is the maximum number of characters to represent
 7353 the Data Element value and is applicable only to character datatypes.
 7354 Value domain relationship is a relationship among two or more Value domains.
 7355 Value domain unit of measure is the unit of measure used in a value domain. (ISO/IEC 11179-3
 7356 "Information technology - Metadata registries-Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes",
 7357 February 2003)
 7358 **Hyperlink**
 7359
 7360 **Related terms**
 7361 Attribute
 7362 ISO/IEC 11179
 7363 Permissible value
 7364 Permitted value
 7365 Value item
 7366

- 7367 **Value item**
 7368 A representation of a value meaning in a specific value domain - the actual value.
 7369 **Source**
 7370 ISO/IEC International Standard 11179-3 - Information technology - Metadata registries (MDR) -
 7371 Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes", February 2003
 7372 **Context**
 7373
 7374 **Hyperlink**
 7375
 7376 **Related terms**
 7377 ISO/IEC 11179
 7378 Value domain
 7379 Value meaning
 7380

- 7381 **Value meaning**
 7382 The meaning or semantic content of a value.
 7383 **Source**
 7384 ISO/IEC FCD 11179-1 "Information technology - Metadata registers - Part 1: Framework", May
 7385 2003
 7386 **Context**
 7387 Given a permissible value, representation of its value meaning shall be independent of (and
 7388 shall not constrain) the representation of its corresponding value.

7389 The representation of value meanings in a registry shall be independent of (and shall not
 7390 constrain) their representation in any corresponding value domain.
 7391 Value meaning set is the relationship between a conceptual domain and a set of value
 7392 meanings.
 7393 Attributes of value meaning:
 7394 Value meaning begin date is the effective date of this value meaning in the conceptual domain.
 7395 A registration authority may determine whether this date is the date the value meaning becomes
 7396 valid in a registry or the date the value meaning becomes part of the source domain or some
 7397 other date.
 7398 Value meaning description is a description of a value meaning.
 7399 Value meaning end date is the date this value meaning became/becomes invalid. A registration
 7400 authority may determine whether this date is the date the value meaning becomes no longer
 7401 valid in a registry or the date the value meaning becomes no longer part of the source domain
 7402 or some other date.
 7403 Value meaning identifier is the unique identifier for a value meaning.
 7404 **Hyperlink**
 7405
 7406 **Related terms**
 7407 Conceptual domain
 7408 ISO/IEC 11179
 7409 Permissible value
 7410 Value item
 7411

7412 **Variable**

7413 A characteristic of a unit being observed that may assume more than one of a set of values to
 7414 which a numerical measure or a category from a classification can be assigned (e.g. income,
 7415 age, weight, etc. and "occupation", "industry", "disease" etc).

7416 **Source**

7417 United Nations Glossary of Classification Terms; prepared by the Expert Group on International
 7418 Economic and Social Classifications, unpublished on paper

7419 **Context**

7420 A variable in the mathematical sense, i.e. a quantity which may take any one of specified set of
 7421 values. It is convenient to apply the same word to denote non-measurable characteristics, e.g.,
 7422 'sex' is a variable in this sense since any human individual may take one of two 'values', male or
 7423 female. It is useful, but far from being the general practice, to distinguish between a variable as
 7424 so defined and a random variable (The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary
 7425 of Statistical Terms", edited by Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003).

7426 **Hyperlink**

7427 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.htm

7428 **Related terms**

7429 Characteristic
 7430 Data item
 7431 Observation
 7432

7433 **Verification**

7434 Principal methods to review, audit, or verify the accuracy of the disseminated data (e.g., internal
 7435 review, statistical confidence tests, internal audit, audit by outside accountants, cross-checks
 7436 with other macroeconomic accounts, etc.).

7437 **Source**

7438 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
 7439 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7440 **Context**

7441 Under the SDDS, this may entail-according to the data category under consideration-the
 7442 reconciliation of stocks and transactions data; reconciliation of reported data with money and
 7443 banking statistics, custodian data; differences with partner data or preshipment inspection data;

7444 the treatment of differences between GDP compiled for the production approach and GDP
7445 compiled from the expenditure approach.

7446 **Hyperlink**

7447 <http://www.sdmx.org/>

7448 **Related terms**

7449 Compilation practices

7450 Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

7451

7452 **Weight**

7453 The importance of an object in relation to a set of objects to which it belongs; a numerical
7454 coefficient attached to an observation, frequently by multiplication, in order that it shall assume a
7455 desired degree of importance in a function of all the observations of the set.

7456 **Source**

7457 The International Statistical Institute, "The Oxford Dictionary of Statistical Terms", edited by
7458 Yadolah Dodge, Oxford University Press, 2003

7459 **Context**

7460 Reweighting consists of raising the original weights for the respondent values when estimates
7461 are computed. Reweighting concerns mainly unit non-response. It may also be used to increase
7462 precision through the use of auxiliary information. Standard methods include post-stratification,
7463 calibration and response propensity modelling (Eurostat, "Assessment of Quality in Statistics:
7464 Glossary", Working Group, Luxembourg, October 2003).

7465 **Hyperlink**

7466

7467 **Related terms**

7468 Base weight

7469 Non-response

7470 Non-response error

7471 Ratio estimation

7472 Weight period

7473

7474 **Weight period**

7475 The period that provides the weights for an index number.

7476 **Source**

7477 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
7478 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary

7479 **Context**

7480

7481 **Hyperlink**

7482

7483 **Related terms**

7484 Base period

7485 Index number

7486 Period

7487 Weight

7488

7489 **XML**

7490 eXtensible Mark-up Language

7491

7492 **Year-to-date data**

7493 Data expressed in cumulative terms from the beginning of the year; sometimes referred to as
7494 cumulative data.

7495 **Source**
7496 Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) - BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IBRD, IMF, OECD and
7497 UNSD - Metadata Common Vocabulary
7498 **Context**
7499
7500 **Hyperlink**
7501 <http://www.sdmx.org/>
7502 **Related terms**
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