

Benchmark Descriptions for Data-related indicators

0. Prerequisites of Quality			
0.1 Collection of information and preservation of confidentiality guaranteed by law and effective			
<i>Level 4</i>	<i>Level 3</i>	<i>Level 2</i>	<i>Level 1</i>
<p>(i) There is effective access in practice to information (collection of basic information required and access to public sector administrative information) as provided for by the statistical legislation.</p> <p>(ii) The legislation gives the data-producing agencies full responsibility to compile and disseminate a range of statistics.</p> <p>(iii) The legislation provides that all individual source data must be used for statistical purposes only and remain confidential (unless the respondent consents to release).</p> <p>(iv) There are prescribed penalties for breach of confidentiality that act as an effective deterrent to non-compliance. The current judicial system ensures that statistical legislation can be enforced.</p>	<p>(i) There is limited effective access in practice to the information (collection of basic information required and access to public sector administrative information) even if such access is provided for by the statistical legislation.</p> <p>(ii) The legislation gives the data-producing agencies responsibility to compile and disseminate a range of statistics</p> <p>(iii) The legislation provides that all individual source data be used for statistical purposes only and remain confidential (unless the respondent consents to release).</p> <p>(iv) The penalties for disclosure of confidential information are somewhat inadequate as a deterrent to non-compliance. The current judicial system is sufficiently developed to ensure broad enforcement of statistical legislation.</p>	<p>(i) There is no effective access in practice to the information (collection of basic information required and access to public sector administrative information) even if such access is provided for by the statistical legislation.</p> <p>(ii) The legislation does not specify the responsibility to compile and disseminate a range of statistics.</p> <p>(iii) There is no clear statement about the confidentiality of individual data.</p> <p>(iv) There are no penalties for disclosure of individual data. The current judicial system cannot adequately ensure enforcement of statistical legislation.</p>	<p>(i) Statistical legislation is non-existent, gives no access to public sector administrative information.</p> <p>(ii) No responsibility is specified by law to compile and disseminate the statistics.</p> <p>(iii) There is no preservation of the confidentiality of individual data.</p> <p>(iv) There are no penalties for disclosure of individual data. The current judicial system cannot ensure enforcement of statistical legislation.</p>
0.2 Effective coordination of statistics			
<p>(i) Legal or other formal arrangements/procedures clearly specify the responsibilities for coordination of statistical work and promotion of statistical standards, and this is implemented effectively through:</p> <p>(ii) Development of a coordinated national program of statistical activities; identification of data gaps in meeting users' needs; elimination of duplication of statistical effort, including joint</p>	<p>(i) Legal or other formal arrangements/procedures allocate responsibility for coordination of statistical work, but this is not fully effective in practice.</p> <p>(ii) There is some (but not significant) data gaps and/or duplication of statistical effort.</p> <p>(iii) Standard frameworks, etc.</p>	<p>(i) Legal or other formal arrangements/procedures do not allocate responsibility for coordination of statistical work, and coordination does not occur.</p> <p>(ii) There is significant data gaps in certain areas and/or duplication of statistical effort (statistical outputs produced by different agencies may lack consistency and coherence).</p>	<p>(i) There is no legal or other formal arrangements/ procedures that specify responsibility for coordination of statistical work.</p> <p>(ii) There is significant data gaps and duplication of statistical effort.</p> <p>(iii) Standard frameworks, etc. are not promoted and are generally</p>

statistical collection activities and/or data sharing as needed. (iii) Promotion of standard frameworks, concepts, classifications, and methodologies throughout the data-producing agencies.	are promoted but there are some instances of non-compliance.	(iii) Standard frameworks etc. are not actively promoted and there is significant non-compliance.	not observed. Data-producing agencies may produce and use statistical outputs that are in conflict with those produced by others.
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0. Prerequisite of Quality			
0.3 Staff level and expertise adequacy			
<i>Level 4</i>	<i>Level 3</i>	<i>Level 2</i>	<i>Level 1</i>
<p>(i) The number of staff is sufficient to handle ongoing statistical activities and to develop the outputs to meet priority emerging needs.</p> <p>(ii) Salary levels and work conditions are adequate for the nature of the work and competitive with public administration conditions in the country.</p> <p>(iii) Staff turnover is manageable.</p> <p>(iv) Most, if not all, staff is educated to the levels required.</p> <p>(v) Most staff has adequate competencies for the tasks required (leadership/ management; methodology; statistical standards; survey design and methods; questionnaire design; information and communications technology; data dissemination; writing and presentation; etc.) and are used effectively (that is skills are used continuously and so are maintained and developed).</p> <p>(vi) A high degree of skills transfer has occurred as a result of technical assistance provided to the country.</p> <p>(vii) There is freedom to directly recruit staff with the required educational background and skills (within the budget available), and education institutions provide a good supply of suitable qualified personnel.</p> <p>(viii) The allocation of resources between projects within the agency/unit, and between head/regional offices is consistent with workloads and user priorities.</p>	<p>(i) The number of staff is barely sufficient to handle ongoing statistical activities, and insufficient to develop outputs to meet priority emerging needs.</p> <p>(ii) Salary levels and work conditions are somewhat inadequate for the nature of the work and barely competitive with public administration conditions in the country.</p> <p>(iii) Staff turnover sometimes poses difficulties.</p> <p>(iv) A high proportion of the staff is educated to the levels needed, but there is not a critical mass of resource for all of the specialist skills specified in Level 4 (v).</p> <p>(v) Existing staff in some instances may not be used effectively (insufficient level of activity to use their skills regularly).</p> <p>(vi) A limited amount of skills transfer has occurred as a result of technical assistance provided to the country.</p> <p>(vii) There is freedom to directly recruit staff with the required educational background and skills (within the budget available), and there is a reasonable supply of suitably qualified personnel.</p> <p>(viii) Allocation of resources between projects within the agency/unit, and between head/regional offices, is reasonable but not optimal.</p>	<p>(i) The number of staff is clearly insufficient to handle ongoing statistical activities.</p> <p>(ii) Salary levels and work conditions are inadequate for the nature of the work and not competitive with public administration conditions in the country.</p> <p>(iii) The loss of skilled staff is a significant problem.</p> <p>(iv) A significant proportion of staff does not have the levels of general education needed or there is an absence of some of the specialist skills needed.</p> <p>(v) Staff perform tasks that may be below (such as clerical work by specialists) or beyond their skills (such as specialist work that would better be undertaken by specialists).</p> <p>(vi) Little or no skills transfer has occurred as a result of technical assistance provided to the country.</p> <p>(vii) Staff recruitment may be determined by civil service-wide processes and may not result in staff with the skills needed for the statistical work. There may also be an inadequate supply of suitable qualified personnel.</p> <p>(viii) Allocation of resources between projects within the agency/unit, and between head/regional offices, is generally not consistent with workloads and user priorities.</p>	<p>(i) The number of staff is clearly inadequate to handle ongoing statistical activities.</p> <p>(ii) Salary levels and work conditions are inadequate for the nature of the work and not competitive with public administration conditions in the country.</p> <p>(iii) The loss of skilled staff is a major problem.</p> <p>(iv) A substantial proportion of staff does not have the levels of general education required and there is an absence of staff with the specialist skills needed.</p> <p>(v) Staff perform tasks that are below (such as clerical work by specialists) or beyond their skills (such as specialist work that would better be undertaken by specialists).</p> <p>(vi) Virtually no skills transfer has occurred as a result of technical assistance provided to the country.</p> <p>(vii) Recruitment is determined by civil service-wide practices and results in appointments of staff lacking the education and skills required.</p> <p>(viii) There are significant cases where the allocation of resources between projects within the agency/unit, and between head/regional offices, is totally inconsistent with workloads and user priorities.</p>

0. Prerequisite of Quality			
0.4 Buildings, equipment and internet support adequacy			
<i>Level 4</i>	<i>Level 3</i>	<i>Level 2</i>	<i>Level 1</i>
<p>(i) Office buildings for data-producing agencies are structurally sound and provide good physical security, including access only by approved persons, and fully protected computer facilities and procedures.</p> <p>(ii) The accommodation is adequate in size and is well serviced (lighting, power, heat, cooling, communications).</p> <p>(iii) Office furniture and equipment (desks, chairs, filing cabinets, computers and related equipment, software, telephones, etc.) are adequate to perform required tasks.</p>	<p>(i) Office buildings for data-producing agencies are structurally sound and provide adequate physical security, although there is some scope for improvement in restricting access to approved persons, and/or providing fully protected computer facilities and procedures.</p> <p>(ii) The accommodation is somewhat deficient in space or services (lighting, power, heat, cooling, communications).</p> <p>(iii) Office furniture and equipment are reasonably adequate to perform required tasks.</p>	<p>(i) Office buildings for data-producing agencies are reasonably sound structurally, but some aspects of physical security and protection of computer facilities are inadequate.</p> <p>(ii) The accommodation is deficient in space, or services (lighting, power, heat, cooling, communications) involve intermittent failure.</p> <p>(iii) Office furniture and equipment are inadequate to the point of having a significant impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of the statistical activities.</p>	<p>(i) Office buildings for data-producing agencies are structurally unsound and physical security issues are not addressed (e.g., in terms of restricting access to approved persons, and fully protected computer facilities and procedures).</p> <p>(ii) The accommodation is seriously inadequate in space, or services (lighting, power, heat, cooling, communications) are irregular and suffer intermittent serious failure.</p> <p>(iii) Office equipment is seriously inadequate to the point of hampering statistical activities.</p>
0.5 Planning, monitoring and evaluating measures implemented			
<p>(i) Management information systems are <i>all</i> used regularly for all of the 7 areas listed below.</p> <p>(ii) In response to changing priorities, management has flexibility to redirect resources between statistical projects within the agency, and between head/ regional offices.</p> <p>(iii) Evaluations of statistical activities are conducted periodically by the data-producing agency.</p> <p>(iv) Evaluation of project activities by external funding agencies are well integrated with the monitoring process of the data-producing agency</p>	<p>(i) Management information systems are used regularly for <i>at least five</i> of the 7 areas listed below.</p> <p>(ii) In response to changing priorities, management has some limited flexibility to redirect resources between statistical projects within the agency or between head/regional offices.</p> <p>(iii) Very occasional evaluations of statistical activities are conducted by the data-producing agency.</p> <p>(iv) They are generally no integration of the evaluation of project activities by external funding agencies with the monitoring process of the data producing agency</p>	<p>(i) Management information systems are used regularly to cover <i>only two to four</i> of the 7 areas listed below.</p> <p>(ii) Management cannot respond to changing priorities due to considerable limits on the flexibility to redirect resources between statistical projects within the agency or between head/regional offices (e.g. budgetary funds not disbursed when required).</p> <p>(iii) No significant evaluations of statistical activities by the data-producing agency have been conducted.</p> <p>(iv) Evaluation of project activities by external funding agencies conducted independently of the processing activities of the data-producing agency.</p>	<p>(i) Management information systems are not used for regularly monitoring the performance of the data producing agency in any of the 7 areas listed below.</p> <p>(ii) Management has little or no flexibility to redirect resources and to get access to budgetary funds.</p> <p>(iii) No evaluations of statistical activities have been conducted by the data-producing agency.</p> <p>(iv) No evaluations of project activities by external funding agencies have been conducted</p>
<p>1) <i>Strategic (or corporate) plans that articulate vision, goals, and strategies.</i></p> <p>2) <i>Annual work programs for the data- producing agency and its major components.</i></p> <p>3) <i>Establishing and monitoring budget expenditures and revenues.</i></p>	<p>4) <i>Performance of major projects in terms of costs, staff numbers and product sale.</i></p> <p>5) <i>Costs of particular inputs; e.g., cost of processing a population census schedule, and an economic census questionnaire.</i></p>	<p>6) <i>Records of staff participation in internal and external training, including international/ regional seminars, courses, etc.</i></p> <p>7) <i>Individual staff performance and feedback.</i></p>	

0. Prerequisite of Quality			
0.6 Organizational focus on quality			
<i>Level 4</i>	<i>Level 3</i>	<i>Level 2</i>	<i>Level 1</i>
<p>(i) Management promotes a strong focus on quality.</p> <p>(ii) The various aspects of quality are monitored, problems and suggestions for improvements acted upon, quality reviews conducted periodically, and innovation is actively promoted.</p> <p>(iii) These activities lead to significant improvements in specific aspects of quality, such as timeliness.</p> <p>(iv) This is supported by practical policy and procedure manuals for collection, processing, and dissemination, which are kept up-to-date, and regularly utilized by staff.</p>	<p>(i) Management emphasizes quality.</p> <p>(ii) Problems and suggestions for improvements are logged and acted upon where appropriate, but there is no systematic process of review of quality.</p> <p>(iii) Innovation leads sporadically to some improvements in aspects of quality, such as timeliness.</p> <p>(iv) Practical policy and procedure manuals for collection, processing, and dissemination are maintained, but may be used irregularly by staff.</p>	<p>(i) Management does not specially emphasize quality.</p> <p>(ii) Logging of problems and suggestions for improvements are limited, and there is no systematic process to improve upon existing activities.</p> <p>(iii) There is not a strong focus on innovation.</p> <p>(iv) A limited number of practical policy and procedure manuals for collection, processing, and dissemination may exist for some areas and they are rarely used by staff.</p>	<p>(i) Management does not refer to quality.</p> <p>(ii) Established processes for logging of problems and suggestions for improvements do not exist,</p> <p>(iii) There is no focus on innovation.</p> <p>(iv) No practical policy and procedure manuals for collection, processing, and dissemination exist.</p>
1. Integrity			
1.1. Independence of the statistical operations			
<p>(i) A strong and well-established culture of professional independence exists, often protected by legal or institutional provisions and/or statistical traditions (e.g., the choice and tenure of senior management, reporting arrangements of the agencies and a body providing high level policy guidance and protection from political interference).</p> <p>(ii) Choices of sources and statistical guidelines and techniques, and the content and timing of statistical releases, are based solely on statistical considerations, without any outside interference. Senior staff can and do make public comments on statistical issues, including in response to criticisms of statistics and statistical methods.</p>	<p>(i) The culture of professional independence is largely established.</p> <p>(ii) However, some of the statistical activities listed in Level 4 (e.g., the content and timing of statistical release) are subject to formal or informal clearance by ministers or senior policy officials.</p>	<p>(i) There is professional independence in some respects.</p> <p>(ii) However, a number of statistical activities are subject to formal or informal clearance by ministers or senior policy officials.</p>	<p>(i) Professional independence is not recognized as necessary for statistical operations.</p> <p>(ii) Any aspect of the statistical function could be subject to formal or informal approval by ministers or senior policy officials.</p>

1. Integrity			
1.2 Culture of professional and ethical standards			
<i>Level 4</i>	<i>Level 3</i>	<i>Level 2</i>	<i>Level 1</i>
<p>(i) A strong and well-established culture of professional and ethical practice provides the climate in which daily work takes place.</p> <p>(ii) It covers the absolute preservation of confidentiality, scientific objectivity, developing and maintaining professional competencies (through training or seminars), impartiality of release and access, user consultation and serving all users.</p> <p>(iii) It is supported by policies and clear guidelines on staff behavior, as well as by transparency about the statistical process.</p> <p>(iv) Transparency entails disseminating the terms and conditions of the statistical process, inclusive of access to data before their release, giving advance notice of changes in processes, and publication of an annual report on activities.</p>	<p>(i) The need for strong professional practice is acknowledged.</p> <p>(ii) In practice there may be instances where individual data may be used for non-statistical purposes where staff professional development and training are not actively promoted, or where users are not consulted/served.</p> <p>(iii) Corporate policies and practices do not specifically reinforce professionalism and integrity.</p> <p>(iv) The public is provided with some information on the terms and conditions of the statistical process. Explanations of major changes are published at the time the statistical outputs are disseminated, but not in advance.</p>	<p>(i) The need for strong professional practice is not acknowledged.</p> <p>(ii) Some aspects of professional practice are effectively neglected in day-to-day work practices.</p> <p>(iii) Policies and written practices are non-existent concerning the professional and ethical aspects of staff behavior.</p> <p>(iv) The public is not informed of the terms and conditions of the statistical process.</p>	<p>(i) There is effectively no established culture of professional practice.</p> <p>(ii) Aspects of professional practice are so neglected that many aspects of professional practice have no impact on daily work.</p> <p>(iii) Policies and written practices are non-existent concerning the professional and ethical aspects of staff behavior.</p> <p>(iv) The public is not informed about the terms and conditions of the statistical process.</p>
2. Methodological Soundness			
2.1 International / regional standards implemented			
<p>(i) Current internationally accepted (and, where appropriate, regional) concepts are used and adjusted to national needs where appropriate.</p> <p>(ii) The scope of the statistical output(s) is broadly consistent with current internationally accepted standards.</p> <p>(iii) A large variety of international classifications and correspondence tables is used to link macro aggregates with micro data and they are applied at a very detailed level of breakdown.</p> <p>(iv) International statistical frameworks ensuring harmonization across concepts are used to a very large extent.</p>	<p>(i) Current internationally accepted (and, where appropriate, regional) concepts are largely used although there are some statistical areas of non-compliance that have <i>moderate</i> impact on the comparability of the statistical outputs.</p> <p>(ii) The scope of the statistical outputs is more limited than current internationally accepted standards.</p> <p>(iii) A limited number of international classifications and correspondence tables is used to link macro aggregates with micro data and they are applied to moderately detailed level of breakdowns</p> <p>(iv) International statistical frameworks ensuring compatibility of concepts are used to some extent.</p>	<p>(i) Current internationally accepted (and, where appropriate, regional) concepts are used to some extent, but there are substantial areas of non-compliance that have a <i>substantial</i> effect on the comparability of the statistical outputs.</p> <p>(ii) The scope of statistical outputs is very limited compared to current internally accepted standards.</p> <p>(iii) Only one or more basic international classifications are used (e.g., ISIC) to link macro aggregates with micro data and no use is made of correspondence tables.</p> <p>(iv) International statistical frameworks introducing compatibility of concepts are not used.</p>	<p>(i) Current internationally accepted (and, where appropriate, regional) concepts are not used, leading to a lack of comparability of the statistical outputs.</p> <p>(ii) The scope of the statistical outputs cannot be related to current internationally accepted standards.</p> <p>(iii) The classifications differ across statistical outputs and no use is made of correspondence tables.</p> <p>(iv) Statistical frameworks are effectively not used.</p>

3. Accuracy and Reliability			
3.1 Adequacy of source data			
<i>Level 4</i>	<i>Level 3</i>	<i>Level 2</i>	<i>Level 1</i>
<p>(i) The source data are of high quality for statistical purposes and relate to the entire target population.</p> <p>(ii) For information collected, survey design is sound in capturing the required information; it is regularly reviewed and revised as required, and so is the sample selection.</p> <p>(iii) The business register and population frames are of high quality and serve as common infrastructure to support a mix of core surveys and supplementary data collection.</p> <p>(iv) For administrative sources, the definitions and concepts used for the administrative purpose provide a good approximation to those required for statistical purposes, with little adjustment needed to exploit the detailed administrative information for statistical purposes.</p>	<p>(i) The source data are generally suitable for the statistical purpose. The target population may be incomplete but this deficiency does not seriously invalidate use of the data.</p> <p>(ii) Survey design is generally soundly based for capturing the required information; however, survey design, and also sample selection, may not be reviewed and revised as required.</p> <p>(iii) The business register and population frame are generally suitable for the statistical purposes.</p> <p>(iv) For administrative sources, the definitions and concepts used may not be ideal for statistical purposes but provide a close approximation to those required. The deficiencies are understood and do not seriously invalidate the main statistical purposes.</p>	<p>(i) The source data have appreciable deficiencies in terms of the target population, allowing only a partial statistical picture to be derived.</p> <p>(ii) This limits the effectiveness of survey design and sample selection for information collected.</p> <p>(iii) The business register and population frame have appreciable deficiencies for statistical purposes</p> <p>(iv) For administrative sources, the definitions and concepts used for the administrative purpose deviate significantly from the primary purposes for which the statistics are required, and/or effectively inhibits use for statistical purposes.</p>	<p>(i) The source data have serious deficiencies for statistical purposes, and important parts of the target population are missing or severely underrepresented.</p> <p>(ii) Survey design may be seriously inadequate, omitting important geographical or other sections of the population, in the information collected.</p> <p>(iii) The business register and population frame have serious deficiencies for statistical purposes</p> <p>(iv) Administrative sources have important discrepancies from those ideally required, undermining their use.</p>
3.2 Response monitoring			
<p>(i) Response rates to surveys and censuses are consistently monitored (e.g., field checks), reported, and reviewed.</p> <p>(ii) There is an active program of understanding variation of response rates across different types of respondents and an ongoing practice of research and initiative taking (through pilot tests if appropriate) to achieve improvements.</p> <p>(iii) Statistically valid methods are used for imputing and adjusting for non-response in order to minimize bias arising from non-response.</p>	<p>(i) Reasonable attempts are made to monitor, report and review response rates to surveys and censuses.</p> <p>(ii) There is some attempt to understand variation in response rates across different types of respondents, with at least one attempt to achieve improvements in the last three years.</p> <p>(iii) There is some use of statistically valid methods to impute and adjust for non-response in order to minimize bias arising from non-response.</p>	<p>(i) Limited attempts are made to monitor, report and review response rates to surveys and censuses, but</p> <p>(ii) There is no active process to use this information to promote accuracy improvements.</p> <p>(iii) There is little if any use of statistically valid methods to impute and adjust for non-response in order to minimize bias arising from non-response.</p>	<p>(i) Response rates are generally not monitored (e.g., no field checks) and reported.</p> <p>(ii) -</p> <p>(iii) There is no attempt to impute and adjust for non-response to surveys and censuses in order to minimize bias arising from non-response.</p>

3. Accuracy and Reliability			
3.3 Validation of administrative data			
<i>Level 4</i>	<i>Level 3</i>	<i>Level 2</i>	<i>Level 1</i>
<p>(i) Effective continuing contact is maintained with the administrative authority that provides the source data. Opportunities for use of additional administrative data are actively pursued.</p> <p>(ii) Administrative data are frequently used for statistical purposes. An active process is in place to evaluate the accuracy of the administrative data for statistical purposes, to compare their aggregate value with aggregates obtained from other sources, and to check their comparability and internal consistency with individual survey results, if available (identifying, investigating, reconciling differences, and amending where necessary).</p> <p>(iii) Changes to administrative processes that may affect data relevance or accuracy (e.g., coverage, definitions, classifications) are discussed before they occur.</p> <p>(iv) The opportunity to improve statistical functionality when the administrative system is upgraded is readily available.</p>	<p>(i) Regular contact is maintained with the administrative authority that provides source data. Opportunities for use of additional administrative data are not actively pursued.</p> <p>(ii) There is only limited use of administrative records for statistical purposes. The processes in place to check their accuracy for statistical purposes are limited.</p> <p>(iii) Changes to the administrative processes or systems are identified in advance.</p> <p>(iv) There is some opportunity to influence changes to take account of statistical purposes, albeit with difficulty.</p>	<p>(i) Irregular contact is maintained with the administrative authority and there is no attempt to extend the use of administrative data for statistical purposes.</p> <p>(ii) There is only ad-hoc use of administrative records for statistical purposes.</p> <p>(iii) Changes to the administrative processes or systems are known only when they occur, leading to discontinuities to the statistical series.</p> <p>(iv) There is effectively no possibility to influence the planned changes for statistical purposes</p>	<p>(i) Access to the administrative source is difficult or denied, and therefore</p> <p>(ii) Administrative data are practically not used for statistical purposes.</p> <p>(iii) If administrative data were used for statistical purposes, data accuracy would be unsatisfactory.</p> <p>(iv) Changes to the administrative data occur with no notice to the statistical staff.</p>
3.4 Validation of data sources and of intermediate and final outputs			
<p>(i) An active process is in place to check the comparability and internal consistency of data from individual survey and census questionnaires.</p> <p>(ii) Comparison is made of aggregates derived from those with related datasets of earlier years, and with data from other data sources based on surveys and administrative data (identifying, investigating, reconciling differences, and amending where necessary).</p> <p>(iii) Assessment and validation of intermediate data and statistical outputs are carried out, including investigating statistical discrepancies.</p> <p>(iv) Revision studies are undertaken regularly to assess the reliability of preliminary data, and to improve upon the production of subsequent preliminary estimates.</p>	<p>(i) Some processes are in place to check the internal consistency of data from individual survey and census questionnaires.</p> <p>(ii) Some comparisons are made of aggregates derived from those with related datasets of earlier years with data from other data sources based on surveys and administrative records. However,</p> <p>(iii) Intermediate data and statistical outputs are not validated against other data.</p> <p>(iv) Some form of revision studies may be conducted to assess the reliability of preliminary data, but the findings are not used to improve the production of subsequent preliminary estimates.</p>	<p>(i) Limited processes are in place to check the internal consistency of data from individual survey and census questionnaires.</p> <p>(ii) Few, if any, comparisons are made with related datasets of earlier years and with data from other data sources based surveys and administrative records, and</p> <p>(iii) Intermediate data and statistical outputs are not validated against other data.</p> <p>(iv) No revision studies are conducted.</p>	<p>(i) No effective internal consistency checks are made for individual questionnaires.</p> <p>(ii) No effective comparisons are made with related datasets of earlier years and with data from other data sources based surveys and administrative records.</p> <p>(iii) Intermediate data and statistical outputs are not validated against other data.</p> <p>(iv) No revision studies are conducted.</p>

4. Serviceability			
4.1 User consultation			
<i>Level 4</i>	<i>Level 3</i>	<i>Level 2</i>	<i>Level 1</i>
<p>(i) A strong culture of systematically consulting users and other experts from within and outside government is actively promoted. These consultations, both formal and informal, cover relevance of current statistical outputs (how accuracy and reliability are perceived, usefulness of outputs including presentation and interpretation), data gaps, emerging needs, priorities, and user perceptions of professionalism and integrity.</p> <p>(ii) These consultations are built into the corporate processes and influence decisions on the work program and developments.</p> <p>(iii) The data-producing agency is generally regarded by others as a professional, independent, objective, and valued organization.</p>	<p>(i) Users are consulted on all or almost all of the items listed in level 4 (i).</p> <p>(ii) The process is not fully embedded within decision-making processes and some user constituencies may be neglected.</p> <p>(iii) The data-producing agency is generally regarded by others as professional, independent, objective and valued.</p>	<p>(i) There is some contact with users but this is unsystematic (substantial proportion of the items listed in level 4 (i) are not covered), and this may be due, inter alia, to location of statistical office far away from key users.</p> <p>(ii) The consultative process is not related to internal decision-making processes. Some important user groups may not be involved.</p> <p>(iii) The data-producing agency is not particularly well regarded by others in terms of its professionalism, independence, objectivity and value to the community.</p>	<p>(i) There is no effective contact with users (except perhaps key ministries) and what user contact occurs covers only a small fraction of the items listed in level 4 (i) (e.g., location of statistical office far away from key users).</p> <p>(ii) There is no follow-up on contact with users.</p> <p>(iii) The data-producing agency is not well regarded by others in terms of its professionalism, independence, objectivity and value to the community.</p>
4.2 Timeliness of statistical output			
The statistical outputs are released well ahead of the time limits of the relevant GDDS recommendations (and approach or are within the SDDS for macroeconomic datasets).	The statistical outputs are released within the time limits of the relevant GDDS recommendations.	The time to release the statistical outputs is within 1.5 times the time limits of the relevant GDDS recommendations.	The time to release the statistical outputs is more than 1.5 times the time limits of the relevant GDDS recommendations, or there is no regular program for release of the statistical outputs.
4.3 Periodicity of statistical output			
The frequency of the statistical outputs exceeds the relevant GDDS recommendations (and approaches or is within the SDDS for macroeconomic datasets).	The frequency of the statistical outputs meets the relevant GDDS recommendations.	The frequency of the statistical outputs does not meet the relevant GDDS recommendations.	There is no regular program for release of the statistical output and the timing of future editions is uncertain.

5. Accessibility			
5.1 Effectiveness of dissemination			
<i>Level 4</i>	<i>Level 3</i>	<i>Level 2</i>	<i>Level 1</i>
<p>(i) Statistical outputs are released simultaneously to all users and are produced in various media (e.g., publications, CD-ROM, diskettes, web sites, email, media releases, libraries).</p> <p>(ii) Statistical outputs are well designed and clear to follow, and charts and graphs are used to convey understanding.</p> <p>(iii) Text identifies key aspects of the release for users and provides impartial interpretation. Detailed data (e.g., by geographic areas, or kinds of units) are presented to support users needs.</p> <p>(iv) Seasonal and other analytical series are provided where appropriate.</p> <p>(v) Preliminary data and revised data are clearly identified, and explanations on revisions provided periodically; the revision policy is well publicized.</p> <p>(vi) Advance release calendars inform the public of planned release dates for products.</p> <p>(vii) Products are released in accord with advance release calendars.</p>	<p>(i) Statistical outputs may be released to users at different times and are produced in only some of the available media.</p> <p>(ii) The statistical outputs are mainly in short text and tables.</p> <p>(iii) There is some interpretation of key findings (but little beyond stating that a value has risen or fallen). Graphs or charts are used rarely and add relatively little value. Detailed data are available in only some topics.</p> <p>(iv) There are few analytical series.</p> <p>(v) Preliminary data and revised data are not always clearly identified, and the revision policy is not publicized.</p> <p>(vi) Advance release calendars inform the public of planned release dates for products.</p> <p>(vii) Products are generally released in accord with advance release calendars.</p>	<p>(i) Statistical outputs may be released to users at different times and are produced in only limited media.</p> <p>(ii) Statistical outputs consist largely of tables that are difficult to digest and with minimal amount of explanatory text. Charts and graphs not produced.</p> <p>(iii) Key findings are not identified.</p> <p>(iv) There are no analytical series.</p> <p>(v) Preliminary data and revised data are not identified, nor is the revision policy publicized.</p> <p>(vi) Advance release calendars are released.</p> <p>(vii) Products are generally not released in accord with advance release calendars.</p>	<p>(i) Statistical outputs are produced only as part of other data.</p> <p>(ii) Statistical outputs consist of a few key figures and little else.</p> <p>(iii) There is no interpretation of the statistical outputs.</p> <p>(iv) There are no analytical series.</p> <p>(v) Statistical outputs are not revised.</p> <p>(vi) There are no advance release calendars.</p> <p>(vii) The timing of release of the statistical outputs varies at various periods.</p>
5.2 Updated metadata			
<p>(i) A full range of information on underlying concepts, definitions, classifications, methodology, data sources, accuracy, etc. is documented, available and freely accessible to users and kept up to date.</p> <p>(ii) Catalogs of data products are widely available and updated regularly.</p> <p>(iii) Specific measures, such as on data accuracy, are made available at the time of release of the outputs.</p>	<p>(i) Most information is available but there are some deficiencies-either in the completeness, or in how up-to-date it is. For example, descriptions, definitions and standards may not describe the current version; latest measures of accuracy may not be automatically added when the latest release occurs, or</p> <p>(ii) Partial catalogs, or sample lists of products, are available, but may not be widely available and may not be updated regularly.</p> <p>(iii) Some information on data accuracy is made available.</p>	<p>(i) Some parts of the documentation are available but there are significant gaps and,</p> <p>(ii) Catalogs or lists of products are not readily available and they are dated.</p> <p>(iii) No information on data accuracy is made available.</p>	<p>(i) Very little information is documented and is effectively inaccessible to users.</p> <p>(ii) No catalog or list of products is available.</p> <p>(iii) No information on data accuracy is made available.</p>

