

## 4.1b IMF's Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) in the National Accounts context

Tim Jones  
SIAP consultant/lecturer

### Overview

After this session, participants will be aware of:

- The main headings of the DQAF
- Its structure
- Examples of issues and key points
- Reports on Observance of Standards and Codes
- Questions to consider

# DQAF main headings

- **0 Prerequisites of Quality**
  - legal basis, resources, relevance, quality management
- **1 Assurances of Integrity**
  - professionalism, transparency, ethics
- **2 Methodological Soundness**
  - concepts, scope, classifications, recording basis
- **3 Accuracy and Reliability**
  - source data, data assessment, compilation techniques, validation, revision studies
- **4 Serviceability**
  - periodicity, timeliness, consistency, revisions policy
- **5 Accessibility**
  - data & metadata accessibility, assistance to users

3

## Structure of the DQAF for national accounts

- 6 dimensions
- 22 elements
- 50 indicators
- 90 focus issues
- Over 300 key points and sub-points

Data sources and compilation methods  
have 90 key points

4

## Some issues

- National accounts (and balance of payments) unlike other types of statistics
- Assessing quality (especially accuracy) very hard to do
  - Estimation processes are often not transparent
- DQAF(NA) ok for very large economies, not designed for small ones
- Many issues/key points not very important

5

## Examples of issues & points - 1

**3.1.1. Source data are collected from comprehensive data collection programs that take into account country-specific conditions.**

*ii. Annual enterprise/establishment statistics are collected through a regular survey program.*

- A comprehensive and up-to-date register provides the basis for sample surveys of enterprises/establishments.
- Register maintenance procedures are adequate (including adding new units, deleting dead units...)

6

## Examples of issues & points - 2

### *iii. Household surveys are conducted on a regular basis.*

- Household income and expenditure surveys are conducted on a regular basis and at least once every five years.
- Geographic coverage is comprehensive. The entire country is covered, or if not, exclusions are clearly identified and do not lessen the representativeness and usefulness of survey outcomes. (2 of 11 key points)

7

## Examples of issues & points - 3

### **3.3.2 Other statistical procedures (e.g., data adjustments and transformations, and statistical analysis) employ sound statistical techniques.**

#### *v. Proper techniques are used to address specific issues of GDP compilation.*

- Method for calculating FISIM is per *2008 SNA*. FISIM is calculated separately for loans and deposits using a reference rate
- The following are treated as work-in-progress:
  - growing crops;
  - ...

8

## Examples of issues & points – 4

2.4.3 Grossing/netting procedures are broadly consistent with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.

*i. The grossing/netting procedures are in accordance with the 2008 SNA.*

- Transactions between establishments within the same enterprise are recorded on a gross basis.
- Deviations from the above recording are kept under review (see also 5.2.1).

9

## Examples of issues & points - 5

3.3.2 Other statistical procedures (continued)

*vi. Proper procedures are followed for compiling volume measures of GDP.*

■ **Measurement of volume change:**

- GDP volume change is measured using annual chain indices;
- if not, the base year is changed at least on a five-year basis.

**A surprising omission:** no mention of a benchmark **Supply-Use Table**

10

# ROSC costs and benefits

- Possible costs:
  - Preparation of evidence time-consuming
  - Risk of highlighting non-critical issues
- Possible benefits:
  - Could help to get resources to fix known problems
  - Could highlight some key shortcomings

Dependent on the quality of the examiners

11

# Questions to consider

- If you have not had a ROSC before
  - Would a ROSC be useful in your country?
- If you have already had a ROSC
  - Would another ROSC be useful?
- Is the national accounts DQAF fit for purpose?
  - If not, how could it be adapted for use in Asia?

12