

Sri Lanka (LXX)

SDDS - DQAF View

Category: Central government operations

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- To show navigation tree in the side pane, select the menu: View -> Documentmap
- Click [here](#) to complete Contact Person(s) information
- Click [here](#) to go to Table of Contents

H.Header data

H.0.1 National Descriptor

[National Descriptor]

Sri Lanka

H.0.7 Data category notes

[Data category notes]

Central government operations

0. Prerequisites

0.1 Legal environment

0.1.1 Responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics

[Laws and administrative arrangements specifying the responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics]

- The Ministry of Finance (MOF) produces and disseminates fiscal statistics mainly under the provisions of the Financial Regulations (FR) and Fiscal Management (Responsibility) Act No. 3 of 2003.
- The control of Parliament over public finance is governed by articles 148 to 154 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
- The MOF is given the power to collect monthly accounts of all the departments by Section 426 of the FR
- According to the FR 410, the MOF/Treasury incorporates, in its books, all the transactions of government departments effected either in Sri Lanka or abroad.
- The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) also produces and disseminates statistics under the provisions of the Section 35 of the Monetary Law Act (MLA), which requires the CBSL to submit to the Minister in charge of Finance and to publish in an annual report a range of economic statistics. The Annual Report of the CBSL must present, as a minimum, the principal data on government receipts and expenditures and on the state of the public debt, both domestic and foreign, in addition to the data relevant to other sectors of the economy.

0.1.2 Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies

[Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies are adequate.]

- The MOF compiles and disseminates fiscal data encompassing the general government sector including Provincial Councils and Local Authorities.
- Formal arrangements and procedures have been established between the MOF and data producing agencies, including all Spending Agencies (Ministries, Departments and District Secretariats) as well as CBSL to ensure effective and timely flow of source data.
- There is a sufficient coordination and a system of sharing data among the data producing agencies

0.1.3 Confidentiality of individual reporters' data

[Measures ensuring individual reporters' data are kept confidential and used for statistical purposes only.]

- Specific processes under various statutes/guidelines, including Financial Regulations, are followed at every level within the respective institutions to ensure the confidentiality of the data.

0.1.4 Ensuring statistical reporting

[Legal mandates and/or measures to require or encourage statistical reporting.]

- The Section 4, 5, 6,10,13,14 and 15 of the Fiscal Management (Responsibility) Act No. 3 of 2003 requires the Minister of Finance to release Mid-Year Fiscal Position Report by the last day of June of the year, Fiscal Strategy Statement and Budget Economic and Fiscal Position Report on the day of the second reading of the appropriation bill in Parliament and Final Budget Position Report or Annual Report to the public on the updated information of the government's fiscal performance pertaining to the relevant financial year, to enable an evaluation of the same against the government's fiscal strategy, within five months after the end of each financial year.
- Financial Regulations also requires preparing accounts on the government operations and sending them to MOF
- In line with this, the MOF, through official correspondence, makes requests for data reporting and cooperation from the relevant data producing agencies.
- In addition, the MOF regularly explains the importance of providing source data for the compilation of GFS.

0.2 Resources

0.2.1 Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing

[Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing for statistical programs currently available as well as what would be required for programmed statistical outputs.]

- Well functional Department of State Accounts and Department of Fiscal Policy with sufficient number of staff for the GFS compilation work with post graduate training and the exposure to both IMF sponsored training in GFS & Financial Programming etc., and internally conducted/coordinated training programmes by the MOF.
- Staff is provided with adequate facilities, including computers as well as Computerized Integrated Government Accounting System, Intranet facilities to perform their tasks.
- As they are government employees, the job security is assured and welfare benefits are provided, which has made government sector employment is attractive.
- Continuous human resource development programs are also being carried out.
- The activities are financed through the National Budget.

0.2.2 Ensuring efficient use of resources

[Measures implemented to ensure efficient use of resources.]

- The MOF emphasizes the effective and efficient performance of staff
- Hence, resources are being used efficiently to achieve a better performance
- Proper allocation of staff and continuous training and knowledge enhancing measures are undertaken.
- Strict monitoring of the expenditure is also being done to ensure efficient use of resources.

0.3 Relevance

0.3.1 Monitoring user requirements

[How the relevance and practical utility of existing statistics in meeting users' needs are monitored.]

- The MOF disseminates fiscal data in its website (<http://www.treasury.gov.lk>), which includes the contact details of the relevant officials to send the comments/needs.
- Hence, user requirements are monitored based on their feedback.

0.4 Quality management

0.4.1 Quality policy

[Processes in place to focus on quality.]

- The GFS compilers in the MOF recognize the importance of data quality and hence they always strive for producing data that meet all the dimensions related to data quality.
- The data are compiled and disseminated according to the *GFSM 1986*.
- Strict legal and other requirements are followed when collecting, processing and disseminating data to ensure the quality of data.

0.4.2 Quality monitoring

[Processes in place to monitor the quality of the statistical program.]

- A number of measures are in place to monitor the data quality under GFS system;
 - (i) data is reviewed/monitored to ensure adequate coverage
 - (ii) external and internal (MOF) users provide feedback and comments on data quality on a formal and informal basis
 - (iii) IMF technical assistance has been received in GFS to improve the data quality.
- The involvement of Sri Lanka Accounting Standards, GFS Manual, Financial Regulations, Auditor General as well as the use of various computer programs also has enabled the monitoring of data quality effectively

0.4.3 Quality planning

[Processes in place to deal with quality considerations in planning the statistical program.]

- MOF and Central Bank of Sri Lanka are in the process of upgrading existing data compilation methodology in terms of the guidelines in Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001 (GFSM 2001), which will help improve the quality and the coverage of the data.
- Migrating to Accrual Accounting over the medium term, asset valuation & GFS Asset Coding System are also to be introduced in the future, which will enhance the quality and coverage.
- An Integrated Treasury Management Information System (ITMIS) is to be established to ensure the real time fiscal data, which will be fully functional within next 2-3 years.

1. Integrity

1.1 Professionalism

1.1.1 Impartiality of statistics

[Measures to promote impartiality in production of statistics.]

- GFS compilers in the MOF are committed to compile data according to the GFS methodology and adhering to accepted guidelines.
- They have obtained the necessary training by attending courses in GFS organized mainly by the IMF both internationally and locally.
- The general culture of professionalism is continuously promoted in the MOF through various seminars, workshops, training programmes etc.

1.1.2 Selection of sources, methodology, and modes of dissemination

[Selection of sources, methodology, and modes of dissemination.]

- The compiling methodology and data dissemination practices are based solely on the international standards, such as the *GFS 1986*.
- Data Sources: GFS source data are obtained from various sources such as State Accounts Department, Central bank of Sri Lanka, Department of census and Statistics, Commonwealth Secretariat Debt Recording and Management System (CS-DRMS) at External Resources Department of MOF.
- Methodology: Economic classification is in line with IMF Methodology (GFSM 1986) and accounting classification is presented according to the General Classification of Accounting, Chart of Accounts and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and International Best Practices.
- Mode of Distribution: MOF website, Fiscal Management Report, Annual Report, Budget Estimates, Budget Speech, Debt Statistics Papers.

1.1.3 Commenting on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics

[Entitlement to, opportunity for, and historical frequency of, comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics by the appropriate statistical entity.]

- The MOF is fully prepared to provide further comments and/or explanations to the users in a case where GFS data are used incorrectly, misinterpreted or commented adversely.

1.2 Transparency

1.2.1 Disclosure of terms and conditions for statistical collection, processing, and dissemination

[Disclosure of terms and conditions for statistical collection, processing, and dissemination.]

- There is no law that explicitly establishes responsibility for the collection, processing and dissemination of Government Finance Statistics (GFS).
- In terms of Section 426 of Financial Regulations (FR), all the departments should submit their monthly accounts to the Treasury before the specified date.
- According to the FR.410, the Treasury incorporates in its books all the transactions of government departments effected either in Sri Lanka or abroad.
- The Department of Census and Statistics performs data collection and dissemination under the terms of Census Ordinance and Gazette Notifications issued by the Minister of Finance as and when required.
- Appropriation Bill is passed by the Parliament complying with the Section 78 of the Constitution of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Standing Orders of the Parliament.

1.2.2 Internal governmental access to statistics prior to release

[Disclosure of Internal governmental access to statistics prior to their release.]

- There is no prior access to data outside officials of the MOF.

1.2.3 Attribution of statistical products

[Identification of statistical agencies/units producing disseminated statistics.]

- There is no ministerial commentary accompanying the release of the data.
- Major dissemination of fiscal data includes the Mid-Year Fiscal Position Report, Fiscal Management Report and Annual Report.
- Weekly/Monthly indicators and statistical bulletins of the Central Bank also publish fiscal data.

1.2.4 Advance notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.

[Advance notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.]

- Major changes in methodology are usually mentioned in the MOF circulars, notices and website and these changes are accompanied by detailed methodological commentary.

1.3 Ethical standards

1.3.1 Guidelines for staff behavior

[Measures implementing and enforcing guidelines for staff behavior.]

- Staff of the MOF is guided by the provisions in Establishment Code for public servants, Oath of Government Servants, Administrative Regulations and Financial Regulations, which are known to GFS compilers.

2. Methodology

2.1 Concepts and definitions

2.1.1 Concepts and definitions

[Degree to which the overall structure of concepts and definitions follows internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.]

- Parliament has the full control over public finance and the funds of the republic are collected to and expenses are charged on the Consolidated Fund.
- Government revenue and expenditure are recorded in the Republic Account complying with generally accepted standards and guidelines.
- Public sector accounting standards and Sri Lanka Accounting Standards (SLAS) specify the complete framework, concepts, and definitions in accounting.
- The GFS data are compiled in accordance with the methodology set out in the IMF's Government Finance Statistics Manual, 1986 (GFSM 1986).
- The core analytic framework applied for the analysis of the government sector consists of the following five fiscal data statements:
 - Economic Classification of Government Fiscal Operations
 - Economic Classification of Government Revenue
 - Economic Classification of Government Expenditure and Lending Minus Repayments
 - Functional Classification of Government Expenditure
 - Net Financing of the Government Budget
- These statements reflect three key fiscal balances; Overall Fiscal Balance, Revenue Account Balance and Primary Balance, which correspond to the definitions in the GFSM 1986 of the IMF.

2.2 Scope

2.2.1 Scope

2.2.1.1 Scope of the data

[Scope of the data.]

- The data cover the operation of Budgetary Government which includes Special spending units, all Ministries, Departments and District Secretariats and transfers to Provincial Councils from the government.

2.2.1.2 Exceptions to coverage

[Exceptions to coverage.]

- Only the transfers from the government Budget to government institutions are included and other operations of government institutions are not included.

2.2.1.3 Unrecorded activity

[Unrecorded activity.]

- Not Applicable

2.3 Classification/sectorization

2.3.1 Classification/sectorization

[Broad consistency of classification/sectorization systems used with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.]

- The five fiscal data statements, prepared and published following the GFSM 1986, provide the detailed classification of government revenue by type, government expenditure and net lending by economic type, government expenditure and lending by functions, and deficit financing by the sources.

2.4 Basis for recording

2.4.1 Valuation

[Types of prices (market, historical, administrative, basic, purchasers', producer, etc.) used to value flows and stocks.]

- Revenue is recorded when cheques or cash is received.
- Expenditure is recorded when cheques are issued by the Consolidated Fund and cash is disbursed.
- Local currency loans and debt are recorded using the actual values in which the loans are floated.
- Foreign currency loans (flows) are recorded using the prevailing exchange rate of the transaction date
- Foreign currency debts (stocks) are recorded by using end month/year exchange rates
- Grants in kind are recorded in principle when the goods are received and the value assigned to expenditure and grants is usually the value stated by the donor.
- Delays in obtaining valuation statements often result in grants being recorded in a period after the goods are received.

2.4.2 Recording basis

[Degree to which recording meets requirements for accrual accounting.]

- Government and Provincial Councils data are recorded on cash basis.
- Local governments follow accrual basis.

2.4.3 Grossing/netting procedures

[Broad consistency of grossing/netting procedures with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.]

- Grossing/netting procedures are consistent with the *GFSM 1986*.
- All transactions of the government are recorded on a cash basis and tax revenue is recorded net of refunds.
-

3. Accuracy and reliability

3.1 Source data

3.1.1 Source data collection programs

[Comprehensiveness of source data from administrative and survey data collection programs, and appropriateness of the collection modality for country-specific conditions.]

- For the government operations, data compiled by MOF and audited by Auditor General are used.

3.1.2 Source data definitions, scope, classifications, valuation, and time of recording

[Degree to which source data approximate the definitions, scope, classifications, valuation, and time of recording required (as described in 2.1.1-2.4.3).]

- The source data reasonably approximate the definitions, scope, classifications, valuation and time of recording required by the *GFSM 1986*.
- For all central government units, the source data follows the respective charts of accounts, which are based on the Sri Lanka Accounting Standards (SLAS).
- The source data provides sufficient information to allow detailed classifications of government operations according to the *GFSM 1986*.

3.1.3 Source data timeliness

[Source data timeliness relative to what is required for producing statistical outputs whose timeliness meets applicable data standard (SDDS requirements or GDDS recommendations).]

- Government : Quarterly data with 5-6 weeks lag
Annual data with 3-4 months lag

3.2 Assessment of source data

3.2.1 Source data assessment

[Routine assessment of source data—including censuses, sample surveys, and administrative records (e.g., for coverage, sample error, response error, and nonsampling error); whether assessment results are monitored; how results are used to guide statistical processes.]

- To the greatest extent possible, the final source data are based on audited accounts of all the general government units. The trade-off between timeliness and accuracy is well recognized and balanced.
- The strategy adopted is to compile and publish preliminary data as soon as the reasonably completed data are available and once final data become available, preliminary data are replaced by the revised final data after audited accounts have been produced.
- The source data are routinely assessed and reconciled with the relevant organizations (ministries/departments)
- During the current year, revisions are made on an ongoing basis, as necessary. Before the publication of this data, all tables are checked for internal consistency.
- The MOF undertakes internal checks to verify the consistency of the data.

3.3 Statistical techniques

3.3.1 Source data statistical techniques

[Statistical techniques in data compilation to deal with data sources (e.g., to align them with target concepts from 2.1.1).]

- Currently, GFS compilation is done using MS Excel spreadsheets which have built-in formulas to verify internal consistency using horizontal as well as vertical checks.
- Once the ITMIS is fully functional, the GFS compilation will largely be automated for the government data.

3.3.2 Other statistical procedures

[Statistical techniques employed in other statistical procedures (e.g., data adjustments and transformations, and statistical analysis).]

3.4 Data validation

3.4.1 Validation of intermediate results

[Assessment and investigation of statistical discrepancies in intermediate data.]

- The MOF and CBSL review the consistency of fiscal data through regular meetings and dialogues.
- The final results, particularly the deficit financing data, are cross checked with the Central Bank, which is acting as the agent for the government in public debt management.

3.4.2 Assessment of intermediate data

[Assessment and investigation of statistical discrepancies in intermediate data.]

- Data are checked against corresponding data of other institutions such as, ministries and Departments.
- The comparison with previous years' data is carried out on the data reported by the various entities.
- Different categories of expenditure and revenue are compared. Direct contacts with counterparts of reporting entities are made, as and when necessary.

3.4.3 Assessment of discrepancies and other problems in statistical outputs

[Investigation of statistical discrepancies and other potential indicators of problems in statistical outputs.]

- The MOF reconciles data by cross checking the outcomes. Total financing is equal to the difference between revenue and grants, and the total expenditure and net lending.

3.5 Revision studies

3.5.1 Revision studies and analyses

[Periodicity with which studies and analyses of revisions are carried out; whether and how they are used internally to inform statistical processes (see also 4.3.3).]

- The reasons for revisions are accounted for and analyzed. However, revisions are minimal due to the extensive use of accounting data as the source for compiling results, even at the preliminary stages.

4. Serviceability

4.1 Periodicity and timeliness

4.1.1 Periodicity

[Periodicity of statistical outputs relative to applicable dissemination standard (SDDS requirement or GDDS recommendation).]

- Quarterly

Sri Lanka is availing itself of a regular SDDS flexibility option for the periodicity of the central government operations data category and will continue to compile it on a quarterly basis.

4.1.2 Timeliness

[Timeliness of statistical outputs relative to applicable dissemination standard (SDDS requirement or GDDS recommendation).]

- One quarter

Sri Lanka is availing itself of a regular SDDS flexibility option for the timeliness of the central government operations data category and will continue to disseminate within one quarter of the reference period.

4.2 Consistency

4.2.1 Internal consistency

[Consistency of statistics within the dataset.]

- Internal consistency is fully observed when data is prepared.
- Preliminary annual data are prepared by summing quarterly data.
- Preliminary annual data are revised once the final, audited annual data are available.
- The quarterly data, particularly for the final quarter, are also adjusted to ensure consistency between the quarterly and annual data.
- The identical GFS concepts, definitions, and classifications are used for the compilation of the quarterly and annual data.
- As there are vertical and horizontal checks, any discrepancy could be identified easily, which are however minimal and corrected by revisiting the original data sources.

4.2.2 Temporal consistency

[Consistency or reconcilability of statistics over a reasonable period of time.]

4.2.3 Intersectoral and cross-domain consistency

[Consistency or reconcilability of statistics with those obtained through other data sources and/or statistical frameworks.]

- The GFS data are largely consistent with the national accounts, balance of payments, and monetary and financial statistics.

4.3 Revision

4.3.1 Revision schedule

[Transparency and regularity of revision schedule.]

- The data become final (actual) within the 15 months of the reference fiscal year.

4.3.2 Identification of preliminary and/or revised data

[Identification of preliminary and/or revised data.]

- Preliminary data are identified and collected at the source. Revised data are disseminated after reconciling the preliminary data considering details and comparing other source of data.
- The preliminary data is available on the MOF/Treasury website <http://www.treasury.gov.lk>

4.3.3 Dissemination of revision studies and analyses

[Dissemination of revision studies and analyses (see also 3.5.1).]

- The revisions primarily involve replacing preliminary data with final data, which, if significant, will be explained in footnotes.

5. Accessibility

5.1 Data

5.1.1 Statistical presentation

[Statistics are presented in a way that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons (layout and clarity of text, tables, and charts).]

- Data are disseminated in millions of Rupees.
- Data are disseminated by including the components of Tax revenue, Non tax revenue, Grants, Recurrent expenditure, Capital expenditure and net lending and domestic and foreign financing.
- Key balances of the disseminated data comprise of;
 - Overall fiscal balance
 - Current account balance
 - Primary balance

5.1.2 Dissemination media and format

5.1.2.1 Hard copy - New release

[Hard copy - New release.]

- Not applicable

5.1.2.2 Hard copy - Weekly bulletin

[Hard copy - Weekly bulletin.]

- Not applicable

5.1.2.3 Hard copy - Monthly Bulletin

[Hard copy - Monthly Bulletin.]

- Not applicable

5.1.2.4 Hard copy - Quarterly bulletin

[Hard copy - Quarterly bulletin.]

- Not applicable

5.1.2.5 Hard copy - Other

[Hard copy - Other.]

- Final Budget Position Report (Annual Report), MOF
- Annual Report, CBSL
- Mid Year Fiscal Position Report, MOF
- Fiscal Management Report, MOF
- Annual Budget Speech, MOF
- Recent Economic Developments and Prospects, CBSL

5.1.2.6 Electronic - On-line bulletin or data

[Electronic - On-line bulletin or data.]

- Data are available at the websites of MOF, www.treasury.gov.lk and CBSL, www.cbsl.gov.lk

5.1.2.7 Electronic - Other

[Electronic - Other.]

5.1.3 Advance release calendar

[Pre-announcement of the release schedule for statistics.]

- Quarter-ahead precise release dates are disseminated in the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board.

5.1.3.1 ARC Note

[ARC Note.]

- Sri Lanka is availing itself of a regular SDDS flexibility option for the periodicity and timeliness of the central government operations data category and will continue to compile it on a quarterly basis and disseminate within one quarter of the reference period.

5.1.4 Simultaneous release

[Degree to which statistics are made available to all users at the same time, and modalities used to achieve this.]

- Relevant data are released simultaneously to the general public through news releases or publications.
- A greater use of data is being observed of simultaneous release through posting on the internet websites of MOF, www.treasury.gov.lk and CBSL www.cbsl.gov.lk

5.1.5 Dissemination on request

[Dissemination on request of unpublished but non-confidential statistics.]

- Non-published (but non-confidential) data are made available on request. The availability and terms and conditions are published on the CBSL and Treasury web sites.

5.2 Metadata

5.2.1 Dissemination of documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques

[Dissemination of documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques, including annotation of differences from internationally accepted standards, guidelines.]

- Data sources are provided under the statistical table.
- Concepts, classifications, basis of recording, statistical techniques are explained where necessary.

5.2.2 Disseminated level of detail

[Customization of detail and format of tables for the target groups of users.]

- The MOF is ready to provide any explanations or clarifications on the methodology used in preparing fiscal data under GFSM 1986.

5.3 Assistance to users

5.3.1 Dissemination of information on contact points

[Dissemination of information on contact points for each subject field.]

- The MOF website includes complete contact information on where to seek further information, including the name, telephone number and e-mail address of the person to contact
- In addition, individual queries can be directed to the MOF by phone or by email. Assistance to users is monitored and reviewed periodically.

5.3.2 Availability of documents and services catalogs

[Dissemination of catalogs of publications, documents, and other services, including information on any charges.]

- The MOF and CBSL maintain comprehensive catalogues of its publications, which includes GFS data detailing how to obtain the publication or service and its price if there is a charge.
- Many of these publications could be downloaded from internet website.

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[Go to Top](#)

Table Of Contents

Sri Lanka (LXX)	1
H.Header data	1
H.0.1 National Descriptor	1
H.0.7 Data category notes	1
0. Prerequisites	1
0.1 Legal environment	1
0.1.1 Responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics	1
0.1.2 Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies	2
0.1.3 Confidentiality of individual reporters' data	2
0.1.4 Ensuring statistical reporting	2
0.2 Resources	2
0.2.1 Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing	2
0.2.2 Ensuring efficient use of resources	3
0.3 Relevance	3
0.3.1 Monitoring user requirements	3
0.4 Quality management	3
0.4.1 Quality policy	3
0.4.2 Quality monitoring	3
0.4.3 Quality planning	3
1. Integrity	4
1.1 Professionalism	4
1.1.1 Impartiality of statistics	4
1.1.2 Selection of sources, methodology, and modes of dissemination	4
1.1.3 Commenting on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics	4
1.2 Transparency	4
1.2.1 Disclosure of terms and conditions for statistical collection, processing, and dissemination	4
1.2.2 Internal governmental access to statistics prior to release	5
1.2.3 Attribution of statistical products	5
1.2.4 Advance notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.	5
1.3 Ethical standards	5
1.3.1 Guidelines for staff behavior	5
2. Methodology	5
2.1 Concepts and definitions	5
2.1.1 Concepts and definitions	5
2.2 Scope	6
2.2.1 Scope	6
2.2.1.1 Scope of the data	6
2.2.1.2 Exceptions to coverage	6
2.2.1.3 Unrecorded activity	6
2.3 Classification/sectorization	6
2.3.1 Classification/sectorization	6
2.4 Basis for recording	6
2.4.1 Valuation	6
2.4.2 Recording basis	7

2.4.3 Grossing/netting procedures	7
3. Accuracy and reliability	7
3.1 Source data	7
3.1.1 Source data collection programs	7
3.1.2 Source data definitions, scope, classifications, valuation, and time of recording	7
3.1.3 Source data timeliness	8
3.2 Assessment of source data	8
3.2.1 Source data assessment.....	8
3.3 Statistical techniques	8
3.3.1 Source data statistical techniques	8
3.3.2 Other statistical procedures.....	8
3.4 Data validation.....	8
3.4.1 Validation of intermediate results.....	8
3.4.2 Assessment of intermediate data	9
3.4.3 Assessment of discrepancies and other problems in statistical outputs	9
3.5 Revision studies.....	9
3.5.1 Revision studies and analyses.....	9
4. Serviceability.....	9
4.1 Periodicity and timeliness.....	9
4.1.1 Periodicity.....	9
4.1.2 Timeliness.....	9
4.2 Consistency.....	10
4.2.1 Internal consistency	10
4.2.2 Temporal consistency	10
4.2.3 Intersectoral and cross-domain consistency	10
4.3 Revision.....	10
4.3.1 Revision schedule	10
4.3.2 Identification of preliminary and/or revised data.....	11
4.3.3 Dissemination of revision studies and analyses.....	11
5. Accessibility	11
5.1 Data	11
5.1.1 Statistical presentation	11
5.1.2 Dissemination media and format	11
5.1.2.1 Hard copy - New release.....	11
5.1.2.2 Hard copy - Weekly bulletin.....	11
5.1.2.3 Hard copy - Monthly Bulletin.....	12
5.1.2.4 Hard copy - Quarterly bulletin.....	12
5.1.2.5 Hard copy - Other	12
5.1.2.6 Electronic - On-line bulletin or data	12
5.1.2.7 Electronic - Other	12
5.1.3 Advance release calendar	12
5.1.3.1 ARC Note	13
5.1.4 Simultaneous release	13
5.1.5 Dissemination on request.....	13
5.2 Metadata	13
5.2.1 Dissemination of documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques	14
5.2.2 Disseminated level of detail.....	14
5.3 Assistance to users.....	14
5.3.1 Dissemination of information on contact points	14
5.3.2 Availability of documents and services catalogs	14
Contact Person(s):	14