



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EUROSTAT

Organisation for Economic
Cooperation and Development (OECD)



Technical Arrangement for cooperation between Eurostat and the OECD in the area of national accounts

Specification of agreed data exchange and data validation arrangements

1. This Technical Arrangement for cooperation ('the Technical Arrangement') describes (in the Annex) procedures agreed for exchanging and validating data between the Statistical Authority of the European Union (Eurostat) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the area of national accounts. National accounts means annual and quarterly national accounts, government finance statistics, non-financial and financial sector accounts and supply and use tables. Eurostat and the OECD are hereafter jointly referred to as 'the Sides' or separately as a 'Side'.
2. This document is a technical arrangement concluded under the Administrative Arrangement on cooperation in the field of statistics signed by the Sides on 21 June 2022 ('the AA'). The AA sets out the general principles for the exchange of statistical data between the Sides and refers explicitly to further bilateral arrangements in specific fields. Accordingly, this Technical Arrangement sets out certain working procedures to be applied in the area of national accounts. These procedures are to be considered as practical and organisational arrangements. As such, they are subordinate to, and have no impact on, the general mandates of the Sides.
3. The Technical Arrangement will apply from the date of signature, or the date of the last signature in case the technical arrangement is not signed by the Sides on the same day. It will remain valid until terminated by either Side. This may be done at any time by providing prior written notice of three months to the other Side by registered letter. That other Side should acknowledge receipt of the notice. If necessary, an update of the Annex to this Technical Arrangement can be mutually agreed by exchange of letters. This Technical Arrangement supersedes the previous Technical Arrangement for cooperation between the Sides in the area of national accounts, which was signed on 12 June 2013.
4. For the purposes of signature Eurostat is represented by Ms Mariana Kotzeva, Director General of Eurostat, and the OECD is represented by Mr Paul Schreyer, Chief Statistician and Director of the OECD Statistics and Data Directorate.
5. Done in English and signed electronically.

Contractor signatory
Mariana Kotzeva
Director-General of Eurostat

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Paul Schreyer

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ANNEX:

Specification of agreed data exchange and data validation arrangements in the area of national accounts

1. Agreement on constituencies and the coordination of new data and metadata requests

As a general principle, one Side should have the primary responsibility for the data of any given country¹ (i.e. be the primary international data validator) so that it can focus on collecting, validating and disseminating data for countries in its ‘constituency’. In the case of national accounts data, Eurostat would generally be responsible for data transmitted under the European System of Accounts (ESA) Transmission Programme² and related EU legislation, in respect of EU Member States, EU enlargement countries³, European Free Trade Area States and countries under EU Association Agreements. The OECD would be responsible for data of other OECD Members, non-EU OECD accession candidate countries and OECD Key Partner countries, and non-EU members of the G20⁴.

If additional requirements arise (e.g. as a result of international policy initiatives), the Sides will coordinate their response to streamline the collection of data and metadata from national authorities by agreeing on their respective responsibilities and ensuring efficient data-sharing arrangements. The principles outlined above apply by default, i.e. Eurostat is the primary validator for the EU Member States, EU enlargement countries, European Free Trade Area States and countries under EU Association Agreements; and the OECD is the primary validator for other OECD Members, non-EU OECD accession candidate countries,⁵ OECD Key Partner countries, and non-EU members of the G20.

2. Validation of data using agreed minimum checking rules

The validation process should be based on rules and procedures which have been commonly identified as good practice in the area of national accounts. Agreed minimum checking rules to validate national accounts data are set out in Table 1. They include basic checks on format, structure, encoding and content, which are essential for automatic processing. They also include revision checks and consistency checks within and between transmitted national accounts datasets, which are essential for users’ perception of the quality of national accounts data⁶. Further checks (e.g. statistical and economic plausibility checks or cross-checks against related data) are also considered useful for detecting problems in the transmission or comparability of data and should be run occasionally or systematically, depending on the dataset in question. Focusing on checks that can be processed and interpreted in a relatively automatised way will help to ensure that data fulfilling minimum quality requirements can be published in a timely way. But it is important that

¹ Except in cases where responsibility is explicitly shared under this Technical Arrangement.

² Currently, Regulation (EC) No 1392/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 with respect to the transmission of national accounts data.

³ EU enlargement countries include candidate and potential candidate EU enlargement countries.

⁴ Following the signature of this Technical Arrangement, the Sides will maintain a list of the countries referred to in Paragraph 1 that is updated annually in January. A Side should inform the other as quickly as possible in the event of any change to the list.

⁵ OECD accession candidate countries include countries being engaged in the process for accession. Becoming a Member of the OECD is not a simple formality but is the result of a rigorous review process. The OECD governing body (the Council), which comprises all the Members of the Organisation, decides whether to open accession discussions with a country and fixes the terms, conditions and process for accession.

⁶ An ECB-Eurostat-OECD technical working group analysed data validation and exchange procedures in 2012 to identify agreed minimum checking rules and propose practical improvements.

data specificities that affect validation checks are clarified with national authorities and documented as metadata.

3. Data/metadata exchange, release and confidentiality requirements

Following the validation process, which should generally be completed within agreed time limits (see Tables 2 and 3), validated datasets and related metadata will be transmitted (or made available) to the other Side using standard tools or procedures. As an exception, non-validated supply, use, and input-output data sent to Eurostat by countries are automatically forwarded to the OECD. However, this exception is temporary and, as soon as technical issues are solved, transmission of validated datasets will apply to all data, including supply, use, and input-output data.

If data are needed more quickly (e.g. for internal analytical purposes), non-validated national accounts data for OECD Members and OECD accession candidate countries may continue to be transmitted. In the case of confidential data, this must be subject to agreed confidentiality requirements and the agreement of the country in question⁷. Where there is a significant delay (beyond agreed deadlines) in the provision of (validated) data, the receiving Side will be informed so that an alternative solution can be agreed. The Sides generally agree to publish only the data validated by the primary validating Side (i.e. by the organisation responsible for the data). In particular, a Side should ensure that data which have not been published by national authorities are not disseminated before they are validated and officially released by the primary validating Side. This is particularly important in the case of government finance statistics and related data. In any event the Sides should ensure that the confidentiality of data provided by national authorities is strictly respected.

4. Communication with data originators via responsible institution

Any subsequent questions about the correctness of national data (e.g. in relation to validation checks) should generally be handled by the same primary validating Side, which should investigate the issue or forward the question to its national counterpart for clarification. The primary validating Side should endeavour to increase the quality and quantity of published metadata so that the Sides can use each others' data and reduce the need for individual countries to transmit data to more than one Side. Until there is an agreement on the quality and quantity of metadata to be exchanged, including the mode of exchange, the primary validating Side will keep the receiving Side informed of issues requiring clarifications or changes to data in line with the usual practices, except for the exchange of particularly sensitive or confidential content.

However, this principle should not prevent specific questions being clarified directly between the OECD and the national authorities of OECD Members which are EU Member States; nor the OECD having regular contacts with its EU delegates. It should also not prevent Eurostat from contacting any non-EU OECD Members when both Sides agree this is the best way to address specific issues. In these cases, the primary validating Side should be informed by the other Side of any issues that lead to changes to data, since it will have to process data and metadata corrections.

5. Role of national authorities and respect of subsidiarity principle

The Sides will streamline the international exchange of data and metadata and foster quality by cross-checking national accounts data upon reception. However, it would be desirable for the expected level of quality to be reached before this stage by national authorities carrying out

⁷ Countries would be asked for agreement only in some specific cases (e.g. those involving a significant change of an existing transmission or proposals for new data-sharing arrangements). In the event that a country asks to change the transmission arrangement in place between it and one of the institutions, the issue will be resolved bilaterally between that country and that institution without impacting on the country's transmission arrangement with the other institution.

appropriate checks. It is therefore important to inform and consult with national authorities on validation issues, so that validation checks can be progressively improved and expanded. It would be preferable for national authorities to communicate wherever possible with one counterpart that specialises in its data and metadata transmissions and collects information to help users understand certain data characteristics. This information should also be transmitted to, or be accessible to, the other Side so that it can be published as metadata if appropriate.

6. Cooperation in relation to the use of OECD data

The principles outlined above relate primarily to countries that are members (or enlargement or accession candidate countries) of both the European Union and the OECD. However, cooperation between the Sides also extends to sharing data for non-EU OECD Members, in which the European Commission has a special interest, for the purpose of analysing EU performance against other major world economies. This mainly concerns Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Arrangements similar to those for EU Member States under this Technical Arrangement will be agreed upon by the Sides for the validation and exchange of data and metadata for these countries. However, an exception should be made for communication arrangements with the countries in question. As they are not members of the European Union, Eurostat cannot be copied in on their exchanges with the OECD. Nevertheless, to the extent feasible under confidentiality requirements, the OECD will keep Eurostat informed about data characteristics relevant for the interpretation of the results.

Table 3 shows the agreed deadlines for the validation of data for Japan, the United Kingdom and the USA. If necessary, similar arrangements for other countries can be mutually agreed by the Sides.

In principle, data and metadata should be exchanged via SDMX (global DSDs for National Accounts) and enabling automatic exchanges.

Table 1: Overview of proposed minimum validation checks

Type of check	Target	Requirement	Minimum check	Implications for validation process
Preliminary checks on data reception, conversion, loading	Sender, formats, codes, etc.	Full respect of transmission and encoding conventions	Essential	(Automatic) correction or back to sender
Identification of key data characteristics	ESA table number, unit, frequency, time span, series	Consistency of data specifications	Essential	(Automatic) correction or back to sender
Checks on dubious values	Empty, zero or negative values, etc.	Respect of coding conventions and expected range of values	Essential	(Automatic) correction or back to sender
Intra-file/table checks on the consistency of totals and breakdowns	Various types of possible breakdowns (indicator, industry, sector/subsectors, etc.)	Sum of breakdowns should be equal to respective total (for additive series)	Essential	Misalignments can lead to refusal of dataset
Other types of intra-file/table consistency check	Current prices/volumes, raw/adjusted data, annual/quarterly data, assets/liabilities, uses/resources, etc.	Specific relations between some series are expected	Essential	Misalignments can lead to refusal of dataset
Revision checks	Comparison with previous transmissions	Significant revisions not arising from regular updates should be explained(metadata)	Essential	Unexplained major revisions can lead to refusal of the dataset
Extra-file/table consistency checks	Variables transmitted via different files/tables	Series should be coherent (except for vintages)	Essential	Unexplained major discrepancies can lead to refusal of dataset
Statistic plausibility checks	Standard deviation, etc.	Significant deviations may indicate errors	Useful	Possible follow-up questions
Economic plausibility checks	Economic ratios, growth rates, etc.	Significant deviations may indicate errors	Useful	Possible follow-up questions
Consistency checks against other statistics	Related statistics (possible conceptual differences)	Significant deviations may indicate errors	Useful	Possible follow-up questions
Consistency checks against data published by other institutions	Same series published by other institutions	Significant deviations may indicate errors	Useful	Possible follow-up questions

Table 2: Overview of (planned) data validation and exchange conventions for data transmitted to Eurostat under the ESA transmission programme

ESA-TP Table (1)	Specification	Domain (2)	ESA-TP deadline (3)	Validation within/by (4)
No publication of non-validated data and respect of confidentiality flags (5)				
Table 1 (Q)	National accounts main aggregates – quarterly	MA	T+2 months	1-3 days (6)
Table 1 (A)	National accounts main aggregates – annual	MA	T+2/9 months	1 week at the latest
Table 2	Main aggregates of general government and its subsectors – annual	GFS	T+3/9 months	About 22 days (7)
Table 3	Main aggregates by economic activity – annual	MA	T+9/21 months	1-2 weeks
Table 5	Household final consumption expenditure by purpose – annual	MA	T+9 months	1-2 weeks
Table 6	Financial accounts by sector (transactions) – annual	FA	T+9 (and T+4 from 2024) months (8)	3 days (9)
Table 7	Balance sheets for financial assets and liabilities by sector – annual	FA	T+9 (and T+4 from 2024) months (8)	3 days (9)
Table SB720R	Non-bank financial intermediation	FA	T+9 months, on a voluntary basis	2 weeks
Table 8	Non-financial accounts by sector – annual	SA	T+9 months	1 month
Table 801	Non-financial accounts by sector – quarterly – non-adjusted	SA	T+85 days/3 months T+85 days (from September 2024)	1-4 weeks (10)
Table 801SA	Non-financial accounts by sector – quarterly – seasonally and calendar adjusted data	SA	T+3 months+3 working days T+85 days+3 working days (from September 2024)	1-4 weeks (10)
Table 9	Detailed tax and social contribution revenue, including the list of taxes and social contributions according to national classification – annual	GFS	T+9 months	Around end of October (11)
Table 11	General Government Expenditure by function (COFOG) – annual	GFS	T+12 (T+11 from 2024) months	Around end of February (from 2025, end of January) (12)
Table 15	Supply table at basic prices, including a transformation into purchasers' prices	SU	T+36 months	1 month
Table 16	Use tables at purchasers' prices	SU	T+36 months	1 month
Tables 1610, 1611 and 1612	Use table at basic prices, use table for domestic output at basic prices, use table for imports at basic prices	SU	T+36 months Compulsory for reference years ending with '0' and '5'	1 month

Tables 1620 and 1630 to 1634	Table of trade and transport margins, tables on taxes less subsidies on products	SU	T+36 months Compulsory for reference years ending with '0' and '5'	1 month
Tables 1700 and 1750	Symmetric input-output tables at basic prices (product by product, industry by industry)	SU	T+36 months Compulsory for reference years ending with '0' and '5'	1 month
Tables 1800 and 1850	Symmetric input-output tables for domestic output at basic prices (product by product, industry by industry)	SU	T+36 months Compulsory for reference years ending with '0' and '5'	1 month
Tables 1900 and 1950	Symmetric input-output tables for imports at basic prices (product by product, industry by industry)	SU	T+36 months Compulsory for reference years ending with '0' and '5'	1 month
Table 20	Fixed assets by economic activity and by asset (stocks) – annual	MA	T+24 months	1-2 weeks
Table 22	Gross fixed capital formation by economic activity and by asset (transactions) – annual	MA	T+9/24 months	1-2 weeks
Table 25	Non-financial accounts of general government – quarterly	GFS	T+3 months	About 22 days (7)
Table 26	Balance sheets for non-financial assets – annual	MA	T+24 months	1-2 weeks
Table 27	Financial accounts and balance sheets of general government – quarterly	GFS	T+3 months (finalised data)	About 22 days (7)
Table 28	General government gross debt (Maastricht debt) – quarterly	GFS	T+3 months	About 22 days (7)
Table 28A	General government gross debt (Maastricht debt) structure – annual	GFS	T+100/T+283 days	About 1 month
Table 29	Accrued-to-date pension entitlements in social insurance – three- yearly	PENS	T+24 months (3 yearly)	2 months

Footnotes:

- (1) Regional accounts (ESA TP Tables 10, 12 and 13) are beyond the (current) scope of data exchange with the OECD.
- (2) Acronyms stand for the following national accounts data (and Eurostat units): MA: main GDP aggregates (Eurostat C2); GFS: government finance statistics (Eurostat D1); FA: financial accounts (Eurostat C1); SA: annual and quarterly sector accounts (Eurostat C2); PENS: social insurance pension schemes (Eurostat C1); SU: supply, use and input-output tables (Eurostat C5).
- (3) This indicates official transmission deadlines according to the ESA transmission programme, but the validation deadline refers to reception of national accounts data by Eurostat. This is because Member States mostly release national accounts data before the official deadline, following national calendars, and then transmit them to Eurostat.
- (4) Timescales can be longer if the issue cannot be resolved rapidly with national authorities. In cases of significant delay (beyond agreed deadlines) in the provision of (validated) data, the other Side will be informed so that an alternative solution can be agreed upon.
- (5) In principle, OECD should publish only data validated by Eurostat. In any case, the OECD should ensure that data which have not been published by national authorities are not disseminated before they are validated and officially released by Eurostat and that data confidentiality requested by national authorities is strictly respected. This is particularly important in the case of government finance statistics and related data. Eurobase, Eurostat's online database, is updated at 11:00 and 23:00 each day. Non-validated supply, use, and input-output data received by Eurostat are automatically forwarded to the OECD. However, the feasibility of transmitting only validated supply, use, and input-output data is being assessed and should be implemented as soon as technical issues are resolved.
- (6) Tables with main GDP aggregates and/or data from larger economies are usually loaded within one working day and may be prioritised at peak loading times.
- (7) About 22 days after first transmission for last countries due to the excessive deficit procedure (EDP).
- (8) Data will in any case be transmitted upon reception and validation by Eurostat.
- (9) Checking delays may be longer during peak transmission periods (especially the beginning of October and, from 2025, the beginning of May).
- (10) Validated publishable QSA data (non-financial sector accounts) by country transmitted to the OECD in three separate deliveries: at around T+97 days, T+108 days and T+120 days. For QSA datasets received later than this, individual data deliveries will be sent.
- (11) Around the end of October for the last countries.
- (12) Around the end of February for the last countries (from 2025, the end of January).

Table 3: Overview of (planned) data validation by the OECD for Japan, the United Kingdom and the USA

Tables	Specification	US data (1)	Japanese data(1)	UK data (1)	Validation within (2)
Table 1 (Q) (3)	National accounts main aggregates – quarterly	T+30, T+60 and T+90 days	T+45 and T+70 days	T+40 and T+90 days	1 day
Table 1 (A)	National accounts main aggregates – annual	T+11 months	No rule	Around T+3 months (and around T+9 months)	1 week at the latest
Table 2	Main aggregates of general government and its subsectors – annual	Table is provided at T+12 months	No rule	Around T+5 months and T+10 months (both including a full month of embargo time)	1 week at the latest
Table 3	Main aggregates by economic activity – annual	Tables are provided at T+11 months	No rule	Around T+9 months	1 month
Table 5	Household final consumption expenditure by purpose – annual	Tables are provided at T+11 months	No rule	Around T+9 months	1-2 weeks
Table 6	Financial accounts by sector (transactions) - annual	T+3, T+6 and T+9 months	T+9 months	T+4 and T+9 months	1-3 days
Table 7	Balance sheets for financial assets and liabilities by sector - annual	T+3, T+6 and T+9 months	T+9 months	T+4 and T+9 months	1-3 days
TSB720	Non-bank financial intermediation	No rule, requested at T+9 months	No rule, requested at T+9 months	No rule, requested at T+9 months	2 weeks
Table 8	Non-financial accounts by sector – annual	No rule. Simplified sector accounts (Table 0119) are transmitted at T+12 months	No rule	Around T+9 months	2 weeks at the latest
Table 801/801SA	Non-financial accounts by sector – quarterly – non-adjusted/seasonally and calendar adjusted data	Data not yet available	No rule	T+90 days	3 days
Table 9	Detailed tax and social contribution revenue – annual	Table is provided at T+11 months	No rule	Around T+10 months (including one month of embargo time)	1 month
Table 11	Expenditure of general government by function – annual	No rule	No rule	T+15 months	1 month

Table 15	Supply table at basic prices, including a transformation into purchasers' prices	No rule	No rule	No rule	1 month
Table 16	Use tables at purchasers' prices	No rule	No rule	No rule	1 month
Tables 1610, 1611 and 1612	Use table at basic prices, use table for domestic output at basic prices, use table for imports at basic prices	No rule	Not collected	No rule	1 month
Tables 1620 and 1630 to 1634	Table of trade and transport margins, tables on taxes less subsidies on products	No rule	Not collected	No rule	1 month
Tables 1700 and 1750	Symmetric input-output tables at basic prices (product by product, industry by industry)	Not included in the OECD SUT questionnaire	Not included in the OECD SUT questionnaire	Not included in the OECD SUT questionnaire	
Tables 1800 and 1850	Symmetric input-output tables for domestic output at basic prices (product by product, industry by industry)	Not included in the OECD SUT questionnaire	Not included in the OECD SUT questionnaire	Not included in the OECD SUT questionnaire	
Tables 1900 and 1950	Symmetric input-output tables for imports at basic prices (product by product), at basic prices (industry by industry)	Not included in the OECD SUT questionnaire	Not included in the OECD SUT questionnaire	Not included in the OECD SUT questionnaire	
Table 20	Fixed assets by economic activity and by asset (stocks) – annual	No rule	No rule	T+24 months	1 month
Table 26	Balance sheets for non-financial assets – annual	No rule	No rule	T+24 months	1 month
Table 29	Accrued-to-date pension entitlements in social insurance – three-yearly	Annual table is provided quarterly at T+15, T+18, T+21 and T+24 months	No rule	T+24 months (3 yearly)	1 month

Footnotes:

- (1) Usual date of reception or extraction by the OECD.
- (2) Period after national publication or transmission: timescales can be longer if the issue cannot be resolved rapidly with national authorities. In cases of significant delay (beyond agreed deadlines) in the provision of (validated) data, the other Side will be informed so that an alternative solution can be agreed upon.
- (3) See [OECD QNA release calendar](#).