

Should international organisations use also non-official sources when providing official international economic statistics?

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Abstract

There is an increasing need for official international economic and financial statistics that supports multilateral surveillance purposes and that allows policy makers and business people to compare economic developments among countries and economic areas across continents. By contrast not all countries and regions are able to provide timely statistics that is internationally comparable. The Statistics Departments of the international organisations are therefore forced to take also non-official sources into account when providing (a) comparable statistics among countries and (b) statistics for economic areas or the world as a whole.

The paper discusses under which conditions the Statistics Departments of international organisations should be entitled to depart from official national statistical sources. The paper also addresses whether the statistical quality frameworks of international organisations are sufficiently developed and harmonised to guide in this field the discussions with countries that typically report statistics to several international organisations.

Key Words: Official international statistics, statistical quality frameworks of international organisations, non-official statistical sources