

Organisation and Management of the CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE (CSO) MAURITIUS

1. Institutional set-up

1.1 Place of CSO in the Country

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) was established in 1945 as a Government Department responsible for the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of official statistics relating to all aspects of the economic and social activities of the country. It is currently with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, but has responsibility for statistical activities in all Government ministries except Health and Fisheries.

The Bank of Mauritius has responsibility for Balance of Payments and Money and Banking Statistics.

1.2 Statistical Legislation

The Central Statistics Office operates under the Statistics Act. The first Statistics Act was passed in 1951. This Act was rehailed in 2000. The Statistics Act 2000 establishes the CSO as a central depository for all statistics produced in Mauritius, and confers upon it authority to collect data from all enterprises and households, sets penalties for failure to provide the required information, provides for confidentiality of the information collected, puts restrictions on disclosure of information and prescribes penalties for contravention of the provisions of the Act.

The CSO is headed by a Director who is empowered by the Act to administer and control the CSO, coordinate and monitor statistical activities in all ministries and government departments, local authorities and other statutory bodies, essentially to ensure statistical standards, and to minimize overlap and duplication in the production of statistics. He also has sole responsibility for deciding the procedure and method to be employed by the CSO in the provision of statistics, and the extent, form and timing of their publication and dissemination.

Some of the possible weaknesses of the Statistics Act 2000 are listed at Annex I.

1.3 The Statistics Advisory Council

A Statistics Advisory Council has been set up under the Statistics Act 2000 to advise the Minister with regard mainly to any gaps and deficiencies in the provision of statistics services in Mauritius, the maintenance of public trust in the statistics produced, and confidentiality and security of individual information. Its membership includes the Director of Statistics and 10-15 persons with experience in statistical matters and broadly representative of groups or interests concerned with the production and use of statistics.

1.4 Common Statistical Service

Mauritius has a common statistical service wherein all statistical personnel operating in statistical units within government ministries belong to the CSO. This arrangement promotes better coordination, professionalism and cost-effectiveness in statistical production, improved quality of administrative data, and better training and career prospects for staff.

1.5 Coordination arrangements

CSO holds regular meetings with stakeholders in various sectors particularly for economic forecasting purposes. Meetings are also held with users of data when censuses and surveys are being planned. Some coordination is also achieved at the level of the Statistics Advisory Council. However no formal, permanent mechanisms exist for coordination between data users, in particular policy makers, data producers and training and research institutions like the University.

2. Organisational development

Up to now the CSO has been organised broadly by subject matter. This structure is not considered to be geared towards the objectives of a modern national statistical organisation. In particular, a large part of human resources is mobilised for data collection and not enough for data analysis and integration. Furthermore, CSO does not have its own IT division and has to outsource from the relevant line Ministry. A new structure (Annex II) has been prepared taking into account the recommendations of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and Government's decision to shift from line to Programme-Based Budgeting in 2008.

The NSDS was prepared with the assistance of the African Development Bank using a fully participatory approach. Consultations were held in 2006, either directly or through workshops and seminars, with all stakeholders.

The NSDS was finalised in March 2007 and is currently in the implementation phase. The key recommendation is the creation of an autonomous national statistical agency which will be the hub and coordinator of the National Statistical System, and also absorb the current activities of the CSO. The agency will have an independent Board of Directors as its governing body. The enabling legislation is expected to be passed in the current financial year 2007-08.

The NSDS consists of the following five strategic objectives which are considered essential to achieve effective performance of the National Statistical System:

- (i) achieve organizational and institutional development;
- (ii) develop human resources;
- (iii) develop more effective infrastructure;
- (iv) make better data available, and
- (v) improve data management, dissemination and access.

3. **Human Resources**

The CSO currently has a technical staff of 213 consisting of 1 Director, 3 Deputy Directors, 5 Principal Statisticians, 5 Senior Statisticians, 34 Statisticians, 43 Senior Statistical Officers and 122 Statistical Officers. The professionalization level works out to around 22%, which is considered to be too low.

4. **Financial Resources**

Government provides the necessary funds to sustain the ongoing activities of the CSO and the periodic censuses and surveys. External financial assistance is negligible.

The budgetary allocation to CSO in recent years in 000 US\$ has been as follows:-

2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1,800	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,500

5. **Data dissemination**

5.1 **Subscription to GDDS**

The CSO subscribed to the IMF General Data Dissemination System in 2001. Data are released following an advance release calendar indicating the title of the publication, the period it will cover and the date it will be released. All publications as well as the release calendar are also posted on CSO's website (<http://statsmauritius.gov.mu>). As soon as the statistics are released they are reported, and commented upon, by both written and spoken media as well as the national TV.

In Mauritius, more specifically at the Central Statistics Office, the following improvements were made following adherence to GDDS:-

- (a) Publication of an advanced release calendar of 'Economic and Social Indicators';
- (b) Revision of classification of activities and products according to latest international standards-International Standard Industrial Classification of all economic activities (ISIC Rev 3), Central Product Classification (CPC 1.0), Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP 2000), Standard International Trade Classification (Rev. 4) and Harmonised System 2007.
- (c) Accelerating progression from the System of National Accounts (SNA) 68 to SNA 93. Presently out of the 6 milestones set up to progress from SNA68 to SNA93, CSO has completed the 4th milestone, which is the compilation of the set of accounts up to capital accounts for all institutional sectors and up to financial accounts for the General Government Sector.

- (d) Improvements in the periodicity and timeliness of indicators, pertaining to National Accounts, Labour, Producer price indices, Production index and Merchandise Trade among others;
- (e) Publication of Input/Output tables and Supply and Use Tables for years 1997 and 2002; and
- (f) Conduct of user-surveys for improvement of CSO publications.

5.2 Main publications:

CSO's main publications include:

- (i) **Economic and Social Indicators.** Some 70 issues are released annually, mostly on a quarterly basis. This series rapidly disseminates statistics on various topics as soon as they are available. It covers population and vital statistics, labour force, employment and unemployment, education, social security, crime, tourism, external trade, annual national accounts, quarterly national accounts, agricultural production, industrial production, road transport and accidents, business activity, productivity and competitiveness, energy and water, environment, ICT, consumer price index, construction price index (residential), export and import price indices, producer price index (agriculture and manufacturing), earnings and wage rate index.
- (ii) **Digests of Statistics.** Apart from the Annual Digest of Statistics which shows the main statistics for different subjects, a separate digest is published each year on the following 15 topics: demography, labour, education, social security, international travel and tourism, external trade, public finance, national accounts, agriculture, industry, road transport, business activity, productivity and competitiveness, energy and water, and environment.
- (iii) **Census and survey reports.** These include methodology, tabulation and analysis reports on the decennial Housing and Population Census (seventeenth taken in 2000), the quinquennial Household Budget Survey (eighth taken in 2006-07), the Continuous Multipurpose Household Survey (since 1999, excepting census year 2000), Survey of Employment and Earnings (bi-annual from 1966 to 1992 and annual as from 1993); quinquennial Census of Economic Activities (fifth being taken in 2007); and biennial Survey of Outgoing Tourists (since 1984).
- (iv) **Mauritius in Figures.** This is an annual publication, first released in 1995, which presents the main statistics in a pocket size format.

6. Subscription to Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

In Mauritius, four institutions are responsible for the dissemination of the 18 data categories required by the SDDS (Annex III). These are: The Central Statistics Office (CSO) (6 data categories), the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED) (4), the Bank of Mauritius (BOM) (7) and the Financial Services Commission (1). Out of the 18 data

categories, 10 meet the requirements of the SDDS. These are Depository corporations survey (BOM), Central bank survey (BOM), Interest rates (BOM), International reserves and foreign currency liquidity (BOM), Exchange rates (BOM), Stock Market (FSC), Central Government Operations (MoFED), Quarterly National Accounts (CSO), Merchandise trade (CSO) and Population (CSO).

Currently, CSO meets SDDS requirements for 3 of its 6 data categories, namely 'merchandise trade', 'national accounts' and 'population'. However, if it avails itself of flexibility options for two data categories, namely 'production index' and 'price indices', it will be meeting the standard for another 2 data categories.

The only data category which does not satisfy SDDS requirements is 'labour market' which comprises three components: 'employment', 'unemployment' and 'wages/earnings'. 'Employment' and 'unemployment' data already meet the standard. As regards 'wages/earnings' a quarterly survey of establishments is being carried out to collect data for the compilation of a wage index which is expected to be disseminated according to the SDDS by **September 2007**.

Mauritius is working towards SDDS subscription by the end of 2007. Annex III shows the current status for all data categories.

7. Revisions

The CSO does not have a documented revision policy. However, revisions are made regularly whenever better data become available. Benchmark data undergo major revisions whenever periodic censuses and surveys are completed. The most recent recommendations concerning methodology and classifications are implemented during such major revisions.

Annex IV describes the current practice regarding revisions.

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Possible weaknesses of the Statistics Act

- (i) The scope of the Act is restricted to the CSO and does not cover the whole National Statistical System. Although it provides for the Director of Statistics to coordinate and monitor statistical activities in ministries and Government departments, local authorities and other statutory bodies, it does not specify how this should be done.
- (ii) The Act provides for the Minister to approve the particulars and information to be collected, and to approve the disclosure of unidentified information for research or statistical purposes, functions which may be considered as professional and better left to the Director.
- (iii) The provision for the Council to make public statements on, for instance, erroneous use and interpretation, may undermine the authority of the Director. The non-specification of a minimum number of meetings of Council may lead to some laxity.
- (iv) The normal civil service procedures apply to the appointment and protection of the Director. There may be need to consider a fixed term (renewable) appointment through fair and demonstrably non-political open competition to avoid suspicions of interference in the production of statistics.
- (v) The Act specifies the quantum of fines for contraventions. This could be included in the regulations which the Minister may amend from time to time to allow for inflation.

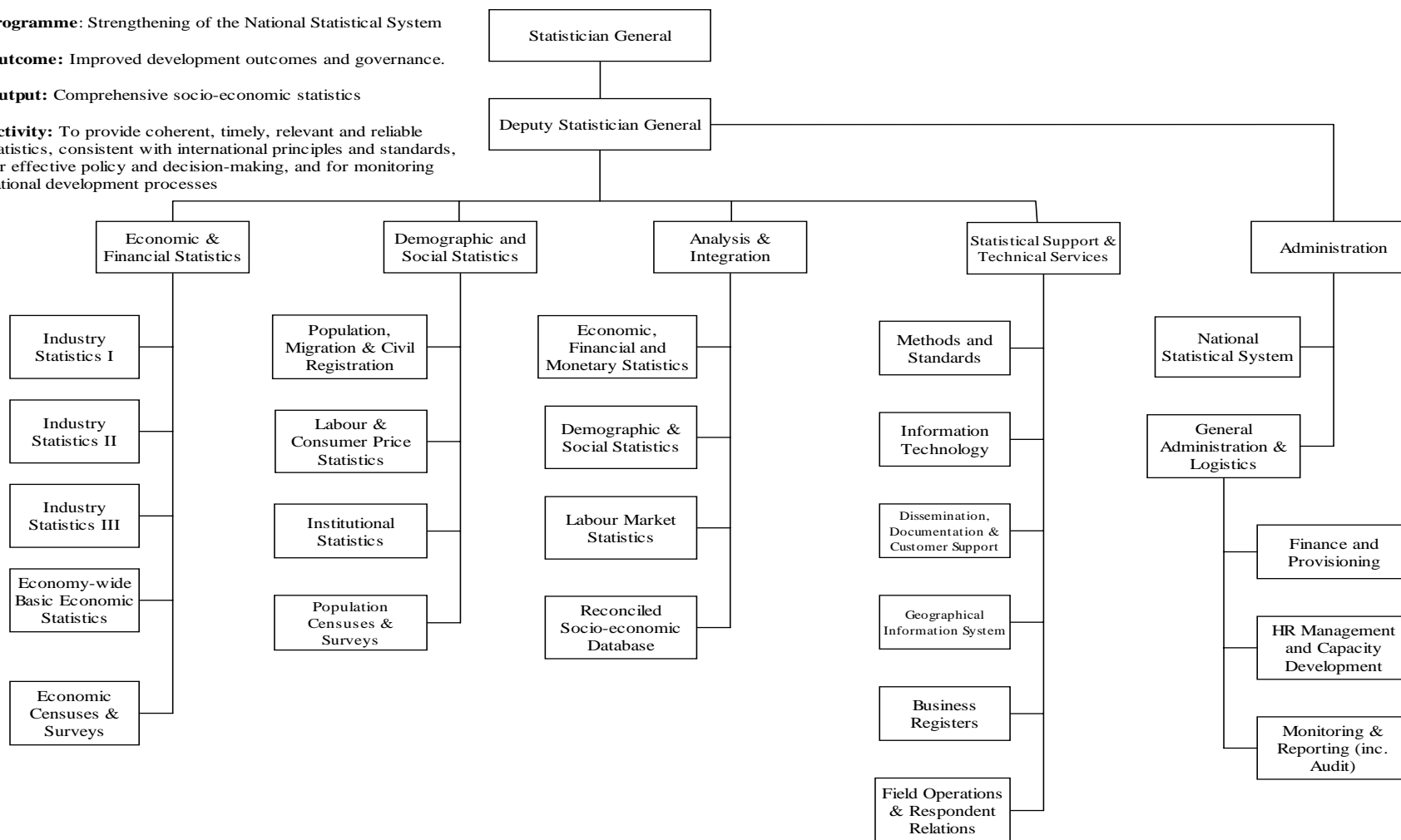
NEW STRUCTURE OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE

Programme: Strengthening of the National Statistical System

Outcome: Improved development outcomes and governance.

Output: Comprehensive socio-economic statistics

Activity: To provide coherent, timely, relevant and reliable statistics, consistent with international principles and standards, for effective policy and decision-making, and for monitoring national development processes



ANNEX III

Status of Mauritius - Data Dimension of the Special Data Dissemination Standard Assumption: Flexibility options are provided to Producer Price Indices and Index of Industrial Production

Status as at end July 2007

	Coverage			Periodicity	Timeliness	Periodicity	Timeliness	Remarks	Other requirements
	Prescribed		Encouraged categories and/or components	SDDS	SDDS	(Mauritius)	(Mauritius)		
	Category	Components							
Real Sector									
1	National accounts: nominal, real, and/or associated prices (CSO)	GDP in current prices and GDP volume by production approach and expenditure category with disaggregated components	Saving, gross national income	Q	Q	Q	Q	Meets SDDS requirements	
2	Production index/indices (CSO)	Industrial, primary commodity, or sector, as relevant	Forward-looking indicator(s), e.g., qualitative business surveys, orders, composite leading indicators	M (as relevant) M or Q	6W (as relevant), M encouraged M or Q	Q	Q	Meets SDDS requirements with Flexibility Option	
3	Labour market (CSO)	Employment, unemployment, and wages/earnings, as relevant		Q	Q	Q for employment and unemployment A for wages and earnings	Q for employment and unemployment 4 months for wages and earnings	Employment and unemployment meet SDDS requirements Problem of periodicity & timeliness for wages and earnings	With the quarterly survey of establishments, SDDS requirements would be met by Sept 2007 .
4	Price indices (CSO)	Consumer prices and producer or wholesale prices		M	M	M for CPI Q for PPI-A Q for PPI-M	1 week for CPI Q for PPI-A Q for PPI-M	Meets SDDS requirements with flexibility option	

Fiscal Sector									
5	General government or public sector operations (MOFED)	Revenue; Expenditure; Balance; Financing {Domestic (Bank, Non-bank), Foreign}	Interest payments, as a component of expenditure	A (Q encouraged)	2Q (Q encouraged)	A	3Q	Timeliness = No	SDDS would be met by Dec 2007 by compiling data from unaudited reports of the extra-budgetary units and local authorities instead of waiting for audited accounts.
6	Central government operations (MOFED)	Revenue; Expenditure; Balance; Financing {Domestic (Bank, Non-bank), Foreign}	Interest payments, as a component of expenditure	M	M	M	M	Only budgetary central government is currently covered. Meets SDDS requirements as the data on budgetary central government operations which account for 85% of total expenditure incurred by General Government units are good indicators of central government operations.	
7	Central government debt (MOFED)	Total by maturity and residency or by instrument or by currency of issue; non-central government debt guaranteed by central government, as relevant	Debt service projections; quarterly data on projected repayments of short term debt	Q	Q	2Q	Q		Data are available, expected to meet SDDS requirements by September 2007
Financial Sector									
8	Depository corporations survey	Broad money; domestic claims; net foreign assets or total foreign assets and total foreign liabilities	Narrower monetary aggregates; claims on other resident sectors	M	M	M	M	Meets SDDS requirements	
9	Central bank survey	Monetary base; domestic claims; net foreign assets or total foreign assets and total foreign liabilities	Claims on other resident sectors	M (W encouraged)	2W (W encouraged)	M	2W	Meets SDDS requirements	

10	Interest rates (BOM)	Short-term and long-term government security rates; policy-oriented rate	Range of representative deposit and lending rates	D		D	D	Meets SDDS requirements	
11	Stock market (FSC)	Share price index, as relevant		D		D	D	Meets SDDS requirements	
External Sector									
12	Balance of payments (BOM)	Current account; capital account; financial account; net errors and omissions	In financial account, separately report data on financial derivatives under assets and liabilities	Q	Q	Q	14W	Timeliness = No Coverage = No Problems of data gaps since, source data do not cover all the private sector's foreign assets and liabilities	SDDS requirements would be met by Dec 2007 with the quarterly enterprise survey that the Bank will launch shortly.
13	International reserves and foreign currency liquidity (BOM)	Total amount of official reserve assets (foreign currency reserves, IMF reserve position, SDR's, gold and other reserve assets)		M (W encouraged) for official reserve assets M (W encouraged) for reserves template	W for official reserve assets M (W encouraged)	M M	W M	Meets SDDS requirements	
14	Merchandise trade (CSO)	Merchandise exports and imports	Major commodity breakdowns with longer time lapse	M	8W (4-6W encouraged)	M	7 wks	Meets SDDS requirements	
15	International investment position (BOM)	Assets by direct investment abroad, portfolio investment, other investment and reserves assets; liabilities by direct investment in reporting economy, portfolio investment and other investment	Disaggregation of assets and liabilities by domestic sector; under assets and liabilities, separately report data on financial derivatives	A (Q encouraged)	3Q (Q encouraged)	A	3Q	Coverage = No Stock data on direct investment assets and liabilities as well as portfolio investment assets not covered.	SDDS requirements would be met by Dec 2007 with the quarterly enterprise survey that the Bank will launch shortly.

16	External debt (MoFED)	Debt of the general government, the monetary authorities, the banking sector, and other sectors. Data should also be broken down by maturity-short-term and long-term on an original maturity basis and by instrument, as set out in the BPM5.	Prospective debt service schedule with principal and interest components separately identified (disseminated twice yearly with a lag of 1Q)	Q	Q	Q	Q	Coverage = No	SDDS requirements would be met by Dec 2007 by compiling data on private sector debt, the source of which would be the enterprise survey to be conducted by BoM.
17	Exchange rates (BoM)	Spot rates and 3- and 6-month forward market rates, as relevant		D		D	D	Meets SDDS requirements	
18	Addendum: Population (CSO)		Key distributions, e.g., by age and sex	A	...	A	A	Meets SDDS requirements	

D: Daily

W: Weekly

M:
Monthly

Q:
Quarterly

Periodicity and
timeliness:

“D” daily

“W” weekly or with a lag of no more than one week after the reference date

“M” monthly or with lag of no more than one month after the reference date

“Q” quarterly or with lag of no more than one quarter after the reference date

“A” annual

ANNEX IV

Revision of Statistics - Mauritius 2007						
	SDDS Data category/ component	Periodicity	Revision made	Reasons for revision	Timing of revision	Note on revision
1	National accounts	Quarterly	Yes. Data are revised back and the new series are consistent over time.	(i) Updated data (ii) new data sources (iii) more complete coverage (iv) CEA results (major revision) every five years. During the major revisions the concepts and definitions of SNA are integrated. Also the latest classification eg. ISIC,CPC are used.	Quarterly and every five years.	(i) Quarterly National Accounts (QNA) Preliminary Quarterly National accounts are released 3 months after the reference quarter and are based on source data covering most important establishments and census or annual ratio of Intermediate Consumption to Gross output (IC/GO) is used to estimate Value added. Each quarter, earlier estimates are replaced by updated data. The quarterly estimates are also benchmarked with the annual ones that have better coverage and more details. The "status" of the estimates (first and revised) are given as footnotes in the tabulations.
						(ii) Annual National Accounts(ANA) Annual forecast is made at the beginning of the year based on trends and information gathered from key stake holders of the economy. These are revised every quarter until final accounts are available after ~ 2 years or comprehensive census data become available. The "status" (forecast, preliminary and revised) of the estimates are given as footnotes in the tabulations. Statements about revision are also included in the current publication. For major revision, 3 month advance notice is given in the previous Economic and Social Indicator (ESI).

	SDDS Data category/ component	Periodicity	Revision made	Reasons for revision	Timing of revision	Note on revision
2	Production index	Quarterly	Yes	(i) Updated data from VAT for Manufacturing companies (ii) Final accounts for sugar milling, electricity and water (iii) After updating of weights based on CEA results every five years	Quarterly and every five years	For quarterly revision, "status" of data (provisional) is given on publication. 3 month advance notice is given in previous ESI for major revision every 5 years
3	Wages /earnings index	Quarterly	Not yet compiled			
4	Employment	Quarterly	Yes	(i) Population data (ii) Seasonality (iii) Results from population census	(i) Quarterly (Population data) (ii) Annual (Seasonality) (iii) Every 10 years (Census)	(i) Quarterly estimates Quarterly estimates are based on survey data. They are revised every quarter using updated population weights. Forecast for subsequent quarters of the year are made based on latest data available and past trends. Quarterly estimates for intercensal years will be revised if justified when benchmarking with population census. The "status" of the estimates (provisional and revised) are given in the tabulations. (ii) Annual estimates Annual estimates are obtained as the average of quarterly data and are revised every quarter and the status at any point in time is the same as that of the quarterly estimates.
5	Unemployment					
6	Consumer price index	Monthly	Yes	Updating of weights following HBS	Every five years	The weights and base period are updated. Conversion factor for the overall CPI is published to enable comparison with past series. One year advance notice is given about the revision through the CPI Advisory Committee.

	SDDS Data category/ component	Periodicity	Revision made	Reasons for revision	Timing of revision	Note on revision
7	Producer price index (PPI-M)	Quarterly	Yes	After updating of weights based on CEA results every five years	Every five years	The quarterly estimates are only revised when the updating of weights exercise is completed. The series for the concerned years which have been compiled using the old weights will be revised. For major revision every 5 years, 3 month advance notice is given through ESI.
8	Producer price index (PPI-A)	Quarterly	Yes	(i) Final prices of tea, sugar and tobacco (ii) After updating of weights based on final production accounts every five years	Quarterly and every five years	For quarterly revision, "status" of data (provisional and revised) is given on publication. For major revision every 5 years, 3 month advance notice is given through ESI.
9	General government operations	Annual	Yes	(i) To include changes between unaudited and audited accounts of extra budgetary units and local government. (ii) To revise estimates made for non respondents. Note: no big changes.	9 months after reference quarter	First estimates are compiled within 6 months after reference yr based on final budget data (>90% of total) and audited/unaudited accounts for extra budgetary and local government. After 9 months, when the audited accounts are available, estimates are updated. The "status" of estimates is given on publication. All data are compiled using GFS 86. Work has started to implement the GFSM 2001 classification and coding system. Presently GFS data which are classified according to the GFS 1986 manual are reclassified to the GFSM 2001 manual using bridge tables provided by the IMF. These tables are then published as GFSM 2001 data in the IMF year book.

	SDDS Data category/ component	Periodicity	Revision made	Reasons for revision	Timing of revision	Note on revision
10	Central government operations	Monthly	Yes. Only for the last month of the Financial Year.	Legally, Final account have to be furnished to MOFED within 3 months. In practice after ~1.5 months most of the accounts have been received.	Monthly.	Users are informed of "status" of estimates in tabulations.
11	Central government debt	Quarterly	Yes	To incorporate data on "disbursement made" as and when available	Quarterly	Users are informed of "status" of estimates in tabulations.
12	Depository corporations survey	Monthly	Yes, very rarely because data obtained from commercial banks are reliable.	Updated data	Monthly	Users are informed of "status" of estimates in tabulations.
13	Central bank survey	Monthly	Yes, very rarely because data obtained from commercial banks are reliable.	Updated data	Monthly	Users are informed of "status" of estimates in tabulations.
14	Interest rate	Daily	No. Once published data are final			
15	Stock market	Daily	No. Once published data are final			
16	Balance of payment	Quarterly	Yes.	(i) Misclassification (ii) updated data	Quarterly	Users are informed of "status" of estimates in tabulations. Past series are updated when possible.
17	International reserves and foreign currency liquidity (official reserves and reserves template)	Monthly	Yes -very rarely	Estimates replaced by actual data.		Users are informed of "status" of estimates in tabulations.

	SDDS Data category/ component	Periodicity	Revision made	Reasons for revision	Timing of revision	Note on revision
18	Merchandise trade	Monthly	Yes	(i) Further editing of bills (ii) Final data on sugar exports, (iii) Imports of ships and aircraft (iv) Final data for imports of the State Trading Corporation (v) Post entry and cancellation of imports and exports not done	Monthly	First estimates are compiled based on partly edited data captured by the customs department and provisional data on sugar exports and trend estimate of Ship Stores Bunkers (SSB).
19	International investment position	Annual	Not yet compiled			N/A
20	Exchange rate	Daily	No. Once published data are final			N/A
21	External debt	Quarterly	Yes	Updated (i) BOM survey data for private sector and (ii) Disbursement by Government and parastatal bodies.	Quarterly	Users are informed of "status" of estimates in tabulations.
22	Population	Annual	Yes	Results of population census	Every ten years	