



17th International Input-Output Conference

TITLE: INPUT-OUTPUT IN THE 2008 SNA

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ABSTRACT:

Input-output was first included in the international System of National Accounts with the SNA 1968, where a comprehensive exposition was given, complete with a mathematical annex. The supply and use tables were explained and illustrated in a highly instructive manner, and the derivation of symmetric input-output tables shown under the classic four alternative assumptions. This gave a strong impetus to the compilation of these tables world-wide. In the SNA 1993 the chapter on the input-output framework was more limited in scope, even though it was now recommended that supply and use tables be the preferred framework for the compilation of the real part of the national accounts. Still this chapter was very useful as a general introduction to the input-output framework. With the SNA 2008 the treatment of input-output has been split into two chapters, each of which deal at length with rather specialised questions that have only limited bearing on the general aspects of supply and use tables and symmetric input-output tables. Thus with the SNA 2008, the input-output framework has effectively been downgraded in the SNA, which does no longer provide a coherent introduction to this field, neither for compilers, nor for users. This paper outlines and discusses the implications of these developments.