The Challenges of introducing new standards and classifications into the Australian Input Output Tables

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The implementation of new standards and classifications by any statistical organisation raises significant challenges. The release of the 2006-07 Australian Input Output (IO) in December 2010 was the first set of IO tables released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to incorporate changes to the System of National Accounts (SNA08) and the new Australia New Zealand Standard Industry Classification (ANZSIC06) into the IO tables.

The implementation of SNA08 and ANZSIC06 has had significant impacts on the economic statistics produced by the ABS and particularly the production of the National Accounts data, including Supply Use (SU) and IO tables. The changes introduced through the SNA08 and ANZSIC06 necessitated a review of the existing IO Product and Industry classifications, resulting in the creation of new products and industries in those classifications.

This paper discusses the challenges faced by the ABS in implementing the new standards and classifications into the IO tables. It also outlines the strategies adopted by the ABS with respect to data collection, statistical methodology and IO table compilation. The paper also discusses some of the issues faced by users of IO tables, such as the prospect of working with new metadata.