

In data we trust: Challenges of compiling input-output tables as official statistics

Topic: Innovative SAM Structures

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This paper examines the challenges for National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) in compiling Input-Output tables (IOTs). NSO's such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) take the responsibility of producing 'official' statistics extremely seriously, and this ultimately requires them to be more risk averse, and place a higher threshold on data quality than many researchers or institutions. Using the ABS compilation process as an example, this paper looks at some of the challenges faced by statisticians and will serve as an important reminder to those constructing and interpreting I-O models to carefully consider the inherent strengths and weaknesses of their original data.