

# **SADC Workshop on Trade in Services Statistics**

## **Metadata**

**Johannesburg, South Africa  
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# What is Metadata?



*Metadata are data that define and describe other data and processes*

## Scope

Describe the statistical process:

- Information on, i.e., data collection, data processing and production;
- indicating data sources and tools, such as statistical standards and classifications, business registers and frames, statistical methods, procedures and software used.

# Institutional arrangements

To facilitate the international comparison of data, statisticians should use standard terminology for metadata across the various statistical domains.

## The Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX)

It's an initiative for data and metadata management and sharing between international organizations promoted by the UN Guidelines on integrated economic statistics.

*(<https://sdmx.org/>)*

**SDMX:** example for Balance of Payments Data Structure Definition (DSD)

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# Centralized Data Warehousing

Use of a centralized data warehouse for data and metadata can make creating, maintaining and accessing metadata *more efficient* and help the integration of economic statistics

