

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA

Federal Statistical Office FSO

Economy, State and Social Issues

United Nations Statistics Division New York

Neuchâtel, 5 October 2007

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Comments on draft SNA chapters Chapter 16: Price and volume measures

General comments

- The chapter should start with an explanation about the role and importance of the deflation for national accounts.
- The chapter is too focused on technical aspects such as index numbers.
- It would be useful to define the concepts of deflation and volume.

Specific comments

§ 16.1

"The changes over time of the values of flows of goods and services can be directly factored into two components, one reflecting changes in the prices of the goods and services concerned and the other the changes in their volumes."

§ 16.34 and 16.35

Index numbers in practice. We suggest transferring paragraphs 16.34 and 16.35 at the end of the section dealing with Laspeyres and Paasche indices. The section on index numbers in practice would then disappear.

§ 16.58 - 16.61

It would be useful to indicate how to deal with the non-additivity. The corresponding text in SNA 93 could also be used in SNA 93 Rev 1.

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§ 16.76

It would be useful to indicate the name of the method. We suggest "chaining method".

§ 16.79 – 16.81

It is conceptually not appropriate to put hedonics and buildings on the same level because hedonics is a method and buildings is a field of application of hedonics or other indirect methods. Buildings should be mentioned as an example.

§ 16.102

"Volume estimates can be obtained by simply replacing both the current period interest rates and reference rates with their base period values in order to yield a base period FISIM margin."

§ 16.115

It would be useful to indicate that it is important to differentiate the intermediate consumption of national origin from the one of foreign origin.
