

Glossary: System of national accounts (SNA)

Statistics Explained

The **system of national accounts** , abbreviated as **SNA** , is the internationally agreed standard set of recommendations on how to compile measures of economic activity in accordance with established accounting conventions based on economic principles. The recommendations are expressed in terms of a set of concepts, definitions, classifications and accounting rules that comprise the internationally agreed standard for measuring such items as [gross domestic product \(GDP\)](#) , the most frequently quoted indicator of economic performance. The accounting framework of the SNA allows economic data to be compiled and presented in a format that is designed for purposes of economic analysis, decision taking and policy-making.

Further information

- [Building the System of National Accounts](#) - online publication

Related concepts

- [National accounts \(NA\)](#)

Statistical data

- [National accounts and GDP](#)

Source

- [The 2008 SNA](#), European Commission, IMF, OECD, UN, World Bank, 2009, Chapter I: Introduction