

Coherence

The internal consistency of a statistical collection, product or release, as well as its comparability with other sources of information, within a broad analytical framework and over time. The use of standard concepts, classifications and target populations promotes coherence, as does the use of common methodology across collections. It is important to note that coherence does not necessarily imply full numerical consistency, rather consistency in methods and collection standards

Aspects of coherence which should be addressed, where appropriate, include:

- changes to data items: to what extent a long time series of particular data items might be available, or whether significant changes have occurred to the way that data are collected
- comparison across data items: this refers to the capacity to be able to make meaningful comparisons across multiple data items within the same collection. The ability to make comparisons may be affected if there have been significant changes in collection, processing or estimation methodology which might have occurred across multiple items within a collection
- comparison with previous releases: the extent to which there have been significant changes in collection, processing or estimation methodology in this release compared with previous releases, or any 'real world' events which have impacted on the data since the previous release
- comparison with other products available: this refers to whether there are any other data sources with which a particular series has been compared, and whether these two sources tell the same story. This aspect may also include identification of any other key data sources with which the data cannot be compared, and the reasons for this, such as differences in scope or definitions