The SNA: Facing a Choice Between Measurability and Relevance?

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Paper Abstract:

In this paper we question whether striking a balance between measurability and relevance will continue to be a successful strategy for the SNA moving forward. First of all, we assess whether we are actually capable of measuring what we have to measure (the supply side), by analysing a number of measurement challenges such as hedging and transfer pricing, volume measurement for services, and the dependency on model assumptions. Secondly, we assess whether the SNA actually measures what we want it to measure (the demand side), illustrated by a number of recent developments such as the increase in C2C transactions, and demands to analyse globalisation and go beyond GDP. We present a potential way forward based on distinguishing between a measurable core system and a periphery with relevant satellites. Rather than providing clear-cut answers, the paper is intended to stimulate further discussions among accountants and economists.