

National Accounts for Malawi: The effect on GDP of integrating Supply and Use Tables in the National Accounts and the requirements for periodically main revisions.

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Abstract

The ongoing National Accounts project in Malawi is part of an Institutional Cooperation Project between National Statistics Office (NSO) of Malawi and Statistics Norway. The goal of the project is to contribute to improved poverty reduction by policy planning based on reliable National Accounts figures.

PART I. Establishing Annual Supply and Use Tables from the year 2002

During the first project period from 2004, the objective has been to implement UN's SNA 1993 and an improved IT technique to strengthen the compilation of the National Accounts for Malawi. Annual Supply and Use Tables (SUT) have been compiled for Malawi from the year 2002 integrated in the annual compilation process of the National Accounts.

This paper will describe the experience from introducing SUT in Malawi and the importance of utilising all existing economic statistics and administrative data sources, such as Crop estimates, Annual Economic Surveys, detailed Government accounts, Import and Export statistics, Tax data by products, Household expenditure surveys and Consumer price indices. Balancing the different data sources in a systematic and well documented framework has provided important quality checks and has also given better estimates for the informal economy in the National Accounts for Malawi. The result of the revision of the National Accounts and GDP as published in 2007 will be presented.

The SUT compilation establishes a database which allows the calculation of Input-Output Tables in current and constant prices at different levels of aggregation. The use of the Input-Output Tables for economic planning in the Ministry of Development Planning and Cooperation in Malawi will be explained in this paper.

PART II: Main revision of the National Accounts for Malawi in 2011. Challenges phased.

Introduction of SNA 2008, new nomenclature ISIC Rev.4 and Rev. CPC from 2009 and several new statistical data sources call for a main revision of the National Accounts for Malawi.

The importance of the following different new or improved data sources will be analysed:

- Revised previous Annual Economic Surveys and the new Annual Economic Survey 2008
- New survey for small and medium sized enterprises and for NPISHs
- National Census of Agriculture and Livestock (NACAL)
- Malawi third Integrated Household Survey (IHS3)
- Population census 2008

IT is also planned to improve the coverage of the Non observed economy to be recorded within the production boundary of the National Accounts

The National Accounts with detailed Supply and Use tables calculated from the year 2002 have to be revised with new industry and product codes in order to compile comparable time series from 2002.

The methodology for the revision and the main effect on the National Accounts of implementing SNA2008 and especially the allocation of FISIM will be described.