

Canada

Annual Observance Report of the Special Data Dissemination Standard for 2007

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The IMF's work on data dissemination standards began in October 1995, when the Interim Committee (now the International Monetary and Financial Committee) endorsed the establishment by the IMF of standards to guide members in the dissemination to the public of their economic and financial data. The standards were to consist of two tiers: the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) to guide countries that have, or that might seek, access to international capital markets, and the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) to assist all other member countries. The IMF Executive Board approved the SDDS in March 1996, and has since conducted periodic reviews of the SDDS, making changes to maintain relevance as developments warrant. The Executive Board authorized annual reports of subscribers' observance of their SDDS undertakings in March 1999 after the Second Review of the Special Data Dissemination Standard, which also implemented a new requirement that subscribing countries disseminate a data template on international reserves and foreign currency liquidity.
2. This observance report follows in three additional parts. Part II summarizes a subscriber's SDDS undertakings. Part III reviews the subscribing country's observance of SDDS requirements during the reference year, and Part IV provides information, as available, on the quality of the subscriber's statistical processes for compiling and disseminating the data.

II. SDDS UNDERTAKINGS

3. In subscribing to the SDDS, countries undertake several measures to document their data dissemination practices to the international public. This report covers observance of SDDS undertakings. It follows the legal text governing the SDDS, contained in the Annex to the text of the founding 1996 Executive Board decision.¹ The Annex refers to the four metadata dimensions (Data, Access by the Public, Integrity, and Quality) of the SDDS and to the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB):
4. Under the Data dimension (Sections II.1 and III.3 of the Annex):
 - **Coverage:** Subject to the applicable "as relevant" coverage flexibility options allowed by the SDDS and exercised by the subscriber, subscribers must disseminate to the public

¹ Posted on the internet at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/sd/index.asp?decision=EBM/96/36>

all prescribed components of all prescribed data categories.² The report takes special note of the subscriber's coverage of the prescribed components for the data template on international reserves and foreign currency liquidity (reserves template) and for external debt.

- **Periodicity:** Subject to the periodicity flexibility options allowed by the SDDS and exercised by the subscriber, subscribers must release all prescribed components of all prescribed data categories with at least the prescribed periodicity. The report takes special note of the subscriber's observance of the periodicity requirements for the reserves template and for external debt.
- **Timeliness:** Subject to the timeliness flexibility options allowed by the SDDS and exercised by the subscriber, subscribers must release all prescribed components of all prescribed data categories with at least the prescribed timeliness. The report takes special note of the subscriber's observance of the timeliness requirements for the reserves template and for external debt. *All timeliness information in this report is based on release dates detected from the national summary data page (see below) that the subscriber maintains.*

5. Under the **Access by the Public** dimension (Sections II.2 and III.3 of the Annex):

- **Advance release calendar (ARC):** Subscribers must disseminate an ARC for all prescribed components of all prescribed data categories (subject to the “as relevant” coverage flexibility options allowed by the SDDS and exercised by the subscriber, and data released with daily frequency), whether or not periodicity or timeliness flexibility options are taken, at least three months in advance of release.
 - ARCs are to be reported to the IMF covering a future period from three months to one year, with a frequency sufficient to provide release dates at least three calendar months in advance of the current date.
 - ARCs may be revised after dissemination but should provide the date of data release no later than the Friday preceding the day of release.
 - ARCs must be reported in an electronic format the IMF determines.
 - This report refers to timeliness against the ARC as “punctuality” to distinguish it from timeliness against SDDS requirements. *All punctuality information in this*

² “As relevant” coverage flexibility may be available to a subscriber, subject to IMF staff approval, for components of the following categories:

Production index: Breakdowns by industrial, primary commodity, or sector, as relevant.

Labor market: Employment, unemployment, and wages/earnings, as relevant.

Central government debt: Breakdowns by domestic and foreign holders, as relevant, with a breakdown by currency (including indexed), as relevant, and a breakdown by maturity; debt guaranteed by central government, as relevant.

Stock market: Share price index, as relevant.

Exchange rates: Spot rates and three- and six-month forward market rates, as relevant.

report is based on release dates detected from the national summary data page (see below) that the subscriber maintains and the ARC the subscriber reports to the IMF.

6. Under the **DSBB** (Section III.2 of the Annex):

- **National summary data page (NSDP):** Subscribers must post a table on a national webpage to which the DSBB is linked containing for all prescribed components of all prescribed data categories (subject to coverage flexibility options allowed by the SDDS and exercised by the subscriber) the reference period of the latest release and the value of the latest and most recent previous releases.
- NSDPs must follow format and layout requirements determined by the IMF that allow the staff to detect releases by electronically scanning the NSDP.
- Among these electronic monitoring requirements, for the prescribed data template on international reserves and foreign currency liquidity, as well as the table on external debt, the NSDP may link to another electronic document containing a table with the prescribed components; however, the NSDP must contain the reference period of the table that contains the current release and is the target of such a link.

7. Under the Integrity Dimension (Section III.2 of the Annex):

- **Metadata certification:** Every calendar quarter, subscribers must certify that the information posted on the DSBB is correct within three (local and IMF) working days after the end of the quarter, and update metadata the subscriber deems incorrect at the certification time within an additional five (local and IMF) working days of the end of the quarter. The metadata posted on the DSBB include,
 - The ARC.
 - Descriptions of compilation and dissemination practices for the Data, Access by the Public, Integrity, and Quality dimensions, as well as the six aspects Summary Methodology, for each data category the SDDS prescribes, subject to any “as relevant” coverage flexibility options allowed by the SDDS and exercised by the subscriber.
 - User contact and data release formats information.

8. In making an overall assessment whether a subscriber is in observance of the SDDS, staff will follow a graduated approach that distinguishes between minor and serious deviations from a subscriber’s SDDS undertakings.

III. OBSERVANCE OF THE SDDS BY CANADA DURING 2007

9. Canada subscribed to the SDDS on April 20, 1996 and met all SDDS requirements on February 19, 1999. The Summary of Observance table³ on the DSBB shows Canada's dissemination policy concerning periodicity and timeliness of SDDS prescribed data categories and their components, as well as the flexibility options allowed under the SDDS that it has exercised, if any. According to the Summary of Observance, these policies have been in observance of the SDDS since the time of subscription. The following sections review Canada's dissemination practices against SDDS requirements in 2007.

A. Data Dimension Undertakings

Coverage

10. Canada took no "as relevant" coverage flexibility options.
11. During 2007, Canada met the SDDS requirements for coverage for all data categories.

Reserves template

Canada disseminated all the prescribed components for the reserves template.

External debt

Canada disseminated all the prescribed components for the external debt template.

Periodicity

12. As shown on the Summary of Observance at <http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/sddsctycatsoolist?strcode=CAN>, Canada did not use flexibility options for periodicity.
13. Canada exceeded the SDDS periodicity requirements for⁴
- Labor market: Employment
 - Labor market: Unemployment
 - Labor market: Wages/Earnings
 - General government or public sector operations
 - Central government debt
 - Analytical accounts of the central bank
 - International investment position
 - Population

³<http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/sddsctycatsoolist?strcode=CAN>

⁴ Exceeds means that Canada announced a dissemination period that is more frequent than the one prescribed by the SDDS.

14. During 2007, Canada met the SDDS periodicity requirements for all data categories.

Reserves template

Canada met the SDDS monthly periodicity requirement for all months for this data category.

External debt

Canada met the SDDS quarterly periodicity requirement for all quarters for this data category.

Timeliness

15. Table 1 shows for each prescribed data category how well Canada met the SDDS requirement for timeliness. To provide context, the table also shows the disseminated periodicity and indicates whether it exceeded the SDDS requirement.

16. As shown on the Summary of Observance at <http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/sddsctycatsoolist?strcode=CAN>, Canada used flexibility options for timeliness on the following:

- Central government operations
- Production index

17. Canada exceeded the SDDS timeliness requirements for ⁵

- National accounts
- Labor market: Employment
- Labor market: Unemployment
- Labor market: Wages/Earnings
- General government or public sector operations
- Analytical accounts of the central bank
- Balance of payments
- Official reserve assets
- Reserves template
- Merchandise trade
- International investment position
- External debt

⁵ Exceeds means that Canada announced a dissemination lag that was better (shorter) than the one prescribed by the SDDS.

18. During 2007, Canada met the SDDS requirements for timeliness for most of the data categories except for the following data categories

- Price index: Producer prices (occasional short delay)
- Central government debt (occasional short delay)
- Analytical accounts of the central bank (short delay)

Reserves template

Canada met the monthly timeliness requirement for most months except in December (*no advance release date provided*), falling short of the SDDS one month timeliness requirement for this data category.

External debt

Canada met the quarterly timeliness requirement for most quarters except in Q4 (*no advance release date provided*), falling short of the SDDS one quarter timeliness requirement for this data category.

B. Access Dimension Undertakings

Advance Release Calendar

19. During 2007, Canada met the SDDS requirements for ARC in most months except in November and December 2007, falling short of SDDS requirements. Without the expected release dates in the Advance release Calendar, the following data categories could not be monitored:

- Central government operations (November and December)
- Central government debt (July, November, and December)
- Official reserve assets (December)
- Reserves template (December)
- External debt (Fourth quarter)

Punctuality

20. Table 2 shows for each prescribed data category how well Canada met the SDDS requirements for punctuality against its ARC. To provide context, the table also shows the disseminated periodicity and indicates whether it exceeds the SDDS requirement. The table also shows Canada's policy on release lags for each data category, as shown in its SDDS metadata.

21. During 2007, Canada met the punctuality requirement for most of the data categories except for the following data categories

- Labor market: Unemployment (frequent early releases)
- Central government operations (occasional long delays)
- Central government debt (occasional long delays)
- Analytical accounts of the banking sector (short delay)
- Analytical accounts of the central bank (frequent short delays)
- Official reserve assets (occasional short delays)
- Reserves template (occasional short delays)
- Population (early release)

C. Dissemination standards bulletin board undertakings

National summary data page

22. Canada displayed the SDDS-prescribed components on its NSDP or showed them via hyperlinks on webpages. Canada posts on the NSDP the reference period of linked tables for the Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity, External Debt, and International Investment Position.

D. Integrity dimension undertakings

Metadata certification

23. Table 3 shows for each prescribed data category how well Canada met the SDDS timeliness requirements for quarterly certification of its metadata on the DSBB. The table also shows the timeliness of metadata updates if, at the time of quarterly certification, Canada informed the staff the metadata posted on the DSBB was incorrect.
24. During 2007, Canada met the SDDS requirements for certification in the third quarter. None of the data categories were certified in the first, second, and fourth quarters, falling short of SDDS requirements.

IV. DATA QUALITY DIMENSION UNDERTAKINGS

25. During 2007, Canada provided available information on the methodology, sources, and reconciliation of data categories in Data Quality Assessment Framework that would facilitate users to assess the quality of the data.
26. Canada has received a mission to produce a Data module of the Reports on Observance of Standards and Codes (data ROSC) through which the IMF assesses in detail the quality of the statistical systems of its member countries. A full report may be found at: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2003/cr03328.pdf>.

27. The Statistical Appendix of the Article IV staff report of February 2008 (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.cfm?sk=21733.0>) stated that:

“The quality, coverage, periodicity, and timeliness of Canada’s economic data are considered to be excellent both in the context of the Article IV consultation and for purposes of ongoing surveillance.”

Table 1. Canada, 2007: Timeliness Against SDDS Requirements

Unshaded cells reflect SDDS prescribed periodicity; entries in shaded cells reflect cases where SDDS prescribed periodicity is exceeded or where flexibility options are used.
 √ – SDDS requirement met; × – data were not disseminated and/or no ARC release dates provided; negative numeric entry – number of days dissemination was later than timeliness requirement.

Data Category	National Periodicity	Prescribed Release Lag	Reference Period																
			Prev yr	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Apr	May	Jun	Q2	Jul	Aug	Sep	Q3	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q4
Real Sector																			
National accounts	Q	1Q					√				√				√				√
Production index	M ^{-TF}	6W		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	
Labor market: Employment	M [*]	1Q		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	
Labor market: Unemployment	M [*]	1Q		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	
Labor market: Wages/Earnings	M [*]	1Q		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	
Price index: Consumer prices	M	1M		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	
Price index: Producer prices	M	1M		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	-4	√	
Fiscal Sector																			
General government or public sector operat	Q [*]	2Q					√				√				√				√
Central government operations	M ^{-TF}	1M		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	×	×	
Central government debt	M [*]	1Q		√	√	√		-14	√	√		×	√	√		√	×	×	
Financial Sector																			
Analytical accounts of the banking sector	M	1M		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	
Analytical accounts of the central bank	W [*]	2W		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	-4	
Interest rates	D	1D																	
Stock market: Share price index	D	1D																	
External Sector																			
Balance of payments	Q	1Q					√				√				√				√
Official reserve assets	M	1W		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	×	
Reserves template†	M	1M		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	×	
Merchandise trade	M	8W		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	
International investment position	Q [*]	3Q					√				√				√				√
External debt	Q	1Q					√				√				√				×
Exchange rates	D	1D																	
Socio-demographic Data																			
Population	Q [*]	...																	

* – Exceeds SDDS requirement; PF – Periodicity flexibility option taken; TF – Timeliness flexibility option taken; SF – Special timeliness flexibility option taken; TT – Targeted timeliness flexibility option taken; RPF – "As relevant" flexibility option taken for periodicity; RTF – "As relevant" flexibility option taken for timeliness; D – day; WD – working day; W – week; F – fortnight; M – month; Q – quarter; SA – semi-annual; A – annual; NLT – not later than; † – Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity.

Table 2. Canada, 2007: Punctuality Against the Advance Release Calendar

Unshaded cells reflect SDDS prescribed periodicity; entries in shaded cells reflect cases where SDDS prescribed periodicity is exceeded or where flexibility options are used.
 √ – data were released on the date shown on the advance release calendar (ARC); × – data were not disseminated and/or no ARC release dates provided; NYD – data not yet disseminated;
 positive numeric entry – number of days dissemination was earlier than the release date on the ARC; negative numeric entry – number of days dissemination was later than the release date on the ARC.

Data Category	National Periodicity	National Release Lag	Reference Period																	
			Prev yr	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Apr	May	Jun	Q2	Jul	Aug	Sep	Q3	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q4	
Real Sector																				
National accounts	Q	60D *					√					√				√				√
Production index	M	60D ^{-TF}		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		
Labor market: Employment	M *	NLT 10WD *		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		
Labor market: Unemployment	M *	NLT 10WD *		18	18	√		18	18	18		11	18	18		25	11	√		
Labor market: Wages/Earnings	M *	NLT 60D *		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		
Price index: Consumer prices	M	NLT 1M		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		
Price index: Producer prices	M	1M		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		
Fiscal Sector																				
General government or public sector operat	Q *	60D *					√					√				√				√
Central government operations	M	7W ^{-TF}		-6	-10	-8		-5	-5	-35		-40	-5	-3		-18	×	×		
Central government debt	M *	1Q		-6	-10	-8		-18	-18	-35		×	-5	-3		-18	×	×		
Financial Sector																				
Analytical accounts of the banking sector	M	NLT 1M		-3	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		
Analytical accounts of the central bank	W *	2D *		-4	-2	-11		-10	√	-7		-11	-5	-7		-4	-10	-14		
Interest rates	D	1D																		
Stock market: Share price index	D	1D																		
External Sector																				
Balance of payments	Q	60D *					√					√				√				√
Official reserve assets	M	1WD *		√	√	√		√	√	√		-5	√	-2		√	-2	×		
Reserves template†	M	NLT 7D *		√	√	√		√	√	√		-5	√	-2		√	-2	×		
Merchandise trade	M	43D *		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		
International investment position	Q *	75D *					√					√				√				√
External debt	Q	75D *					√					√				√				×
Exchange rates	D	D																		
Socio-demographic Data																				
Population	Q *	1Q																		99

* – Exceeds SDDS requirement; PF – Periodicity flexibility option taken; TF – Timeliness flexibility option taken; SF – Special timeliness flexibility option taken; TT – Targeted timeliness flexibility option taken; RPF – "As relevant" flexibility option taken for periodicity; RTF – "As relevant" flexibility option taken for timeliness; D – day; WD – working day; W – week; F – fortnight; M – month; Q – quarter; SA – semi-annual; A – annual; NLT – not later than; † – Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity.

Table 3. Canada, 2007: Metadata Certification and Update

√ – SDDS requirement met; × – no SDDS metadata certification;
negative numeric entry – number of days late.

Data Category	Metadata Certification				Metadata Update			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Real Sector								
National accounts	×	×	√	×				
Production index	×	×	√	×				
Forward-looking indicators								
Labor market: Employment	×	×	√	×				
Labor market: Unemployment	×	×	√	×				
Labor market: Wages/Earnings	×	×	√	×				
Price index: Consumer prices	×	×	√	×				
Price index: Producer prices	×	×	√	×				
Fiscal Sector								
General government or public sector operations	×	×	√	×				
Central government operations	×	×	√	×				
Central government debt	×	×	√	×				
Financial Sector								
Analytical accounts of the banking sector	×	×	√	×				
Analytical accounts of the central bank	×	×	√	×				
Interest rates	×	×	√	×				
Stock market: Share price index	×	×	√	×				
External Sector								
Balance of payments	×	×	√	×				
International reserves and foreign currency liquidity	×	×	√	×				
Merchandise trade	×	×	√	×				
International investment position	×	×	√	×				
External debt	×	×	√	×				
Exchange rates	×	×	√	×				
Socio-demographic Data								
Population	×	×	√	×				