Metadata: An Integral Part of Statistics Canada's Data Quality Framework

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Abstract: Statistics Canada's product is information. The management of quality must therefore play a central role within the overall management of the Agency. The Quality Assurance Framework describes the approaches that Statistics Canada takes to the management of quality. This Framework is based on six indicators: relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, interpretability and coherence. Metadata are at the heart of the interpretability indicator by providing the information necessary to interpret and utilize the statistics appropriately.

The first part of the paper will describe the Quality Assurance Framework and will show how metadata relates to the framework.

The second part of the paper will be devoted to metadata. It will include a description of the IMDB, its governance model, the mechanisms put in place to assist managers in loading information and ensuring its coherence, the monitoring of its quality and users' access.
Another section will outline the minimum set of metadata required to comply with the Policy on Informing Users of Data Quality and Methodology. A final section will focus on the agriculture statistics program.