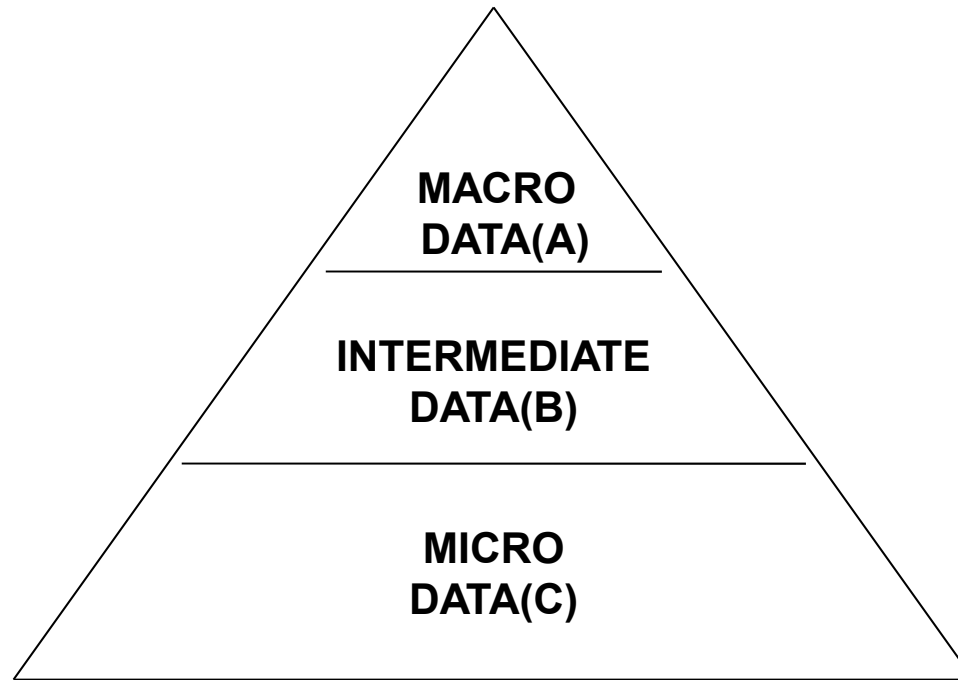


Official Statistics in Changing Times

Dennis Trewin

Comparative Advantage of Official Statistics

- Data integrity
- Classifications and standards
- Accessibility
- Respondent co-operation
- Pursue the 6 dimensions of quality (accuracy, relevance, coherence, timeliness, interpretability, accessibility)
- **MUST MAINTAIN THESE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES**



A Policy Influences
B Policy Advisers
C Policy Researchers

The Past and The Present

- (A) Indicators – collection based indicators; increasing emphasis on time series, seasonal adjustment, graphics, analysis
- (B) Intermediate statistics – mostly cross tabulations of variables within a collection; increasing interest in relationships between variables derived from multiple collections (eg national accounts, environmental accounts)
- (C) Micro Data – services have been limited but starting to expand (eg confidentialised micro data files, data laboratory)

The Future

- (A) Indicators – Multiple indicators using a framework (eg well-being indicators)
- (B) Intermediate statistics – more ‘accounts’ including social accounts
- (C) Micro data – Increased access (UN guidelines); archiving of data sets from other agencies; partnerships with data archives

Cost-effectiveness

- Investment in improved productivity is important

BUT

more effective strategies may be to take steps to increase usage of official statistics and reducing redundancy of effort by increasing access (whilst maintaining confidentiality).

Taking an external view

- Genuine user engagement
- A national statistical service that recognises there are multiple providers of statistics
- Information Development Plans for particular fields of statistics