

Statistical standard for country

Rationale

Country is a key variable for determining population and economic statistics in relation to birthplace, country of residence, international trade and balance of payments data.

Definition

A country is the current name, either short or official of a country, dependency or other area of particular geopolitical interest.

The term country is defined to include:

- independent countries recognised by the New Zealand Government;
- units which are recognised geographic areas;
- administrative subdivisions of the United Kingdom;
- overseas dependencies, external territories of independent countries.

Operational issues

A country, even if it comprises other discrete political entities such as states, is treated as a single unit for all classification purposes.

The collection and aggregation of data for economic and other statistics (such as international trade, migration and balance of payments statistics) require data to be coded to entities that do not equate directly to a single country or to countries at all. These categories are ships bunkering, passengers' effects, destination unknown - EU, destination unknown - non-EU and ships stores. Examples of how these are used are as follows:

- ships stores – goods (consumables and parts) for use on ships and aircraft leaving NZ;
- passenger's effects – goods sold ex licensed export warehouse (duty free store);
- ships bunkering – fuel/oil to be used on voyage by ships and aircraft leaving New Zealand.

In each case the goods have no true country of classification (where ships stores and bunkering are used en route, and passengers effects becomes the property of the individual).

The identification of country units in the classification, and the way in which they are grouped, does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of Statistics New Zealand concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Explanatory notes

The list of country titles used in this standard is based upon the list in the "Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use" established by the United Nations.

The assignment of alpha codes to these titles is made by the International Standards Organisation (ISO) and promulgated in the International Standard ISO 3166 "Codes for the Representation of Names of Countries and their Subdivisions". The country titles and alpha codes identified in ISO 3166 then form the basis for the New Zealand Standard Classification of Countries two Character Alpha codes.

Countries are included in the classification once identified by ISO subject to official recognition by the New Zealand Government and/or policy directives from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The numeric codes are then assigned in the sequence of the New Zealand Standard Classification of Countries code sequence after consultation with the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The two character alpha codes are used for trade and balance of payments purposes and provide the link to the New Zealand Customs Tariff listing of countries.

Classification changes

Changes that have occurred in the classification between the previous version and this version of the standard are summarised as follows:

- The Australian states are no longer separately identified allowing Australia and its external territories to be consolidated in a single Minor Group. This was previously two minor groups.
- Europe has been split into two Major Groups: *North–West Europe* and *Southern and Eastern Europe*. This division has been undertaken on the grounds of a more rigorous application of the classification criteria, practicality and usefulness.
- The NZSCC 1995 Minor Group *United Kingdom and Ireland* has been split into two minor groups to allow for separate identification of the United Kingdom (at the minor group level). Ireland becomes a single country Minor Group.
- The new European countries created from the former Soviet republics Moldova, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine) have been included in the Major Group *Southern and Eastern Europe*. Russia has been included in Europe, although much of it is geographically in Asia, because it is functionally a European country. European Russia contains a majority of the population and contains the seat of political and economic power.
- The Major Group *The Middle East and North Africa* has been renamed *North Africa and the Middle East* as a result of discussion with the Australian Bureau of Statistics on the order of this Major Group.
- The new countries of *Southeast Asia* have been split into two minor groups: *Mainland South–East Asia* and *Maritime South–East Asia* because this is a region of growing economic interest.
- The two major groups *Northern America* and *South America, Central America and the Caribbean* have been combined to form a single Major Group: *The Americas*.
- Some minor changes to the names of countries have been made to conform to current naming conventions.

Classification updating

- If a country needs to be added to the classification, it will be allocated the next available four digit code, in the numerical sequence of codes, of the minor group to which it is being added.
- If a country ceases to exist as a separate entity, and it is consequently deleted from the classification, its code will

not be re-allocated to another country as this will complicate the storage of time series data. If it is necessary to move a country from one minor group to another, it will be allocated the next available code of the minor group to which it is moved. Its previous code will not be re-allocated.

Classification criteria

The principal criterion used to classify a country is the country name or title stated by the survey respondent. To group countries, the principal criterion is geographic proximity. All countries are grouped into progressively broader geographic areas on the basis of their similarity in terms of social, cultural, economic and political characteristics.

Classification

The country classification is a 4 numeric code. Statistics New Zealand maintains the classification in accordance with numeric codes and names assigned by the United Nations Statistical Division and the International Organization for Standardization.

The 4 numeric classification of country is a hierarchical classification with three levels. There are nine Major Groups in level 1, 27 Minor Groups in level 2 and 241 countries in level 3. There are no residual categories, however supplementary codes are used instead.

Alternatively there is a 2 alpha classification of country that is a flat classification containing 241 countries.

Country 4 numeric

Classification	Country – New Zealand Standard Classification 1999 – 4 Numeric
Abbreviation	NZSCC4N99
Version	VFE.0
Effective date	1/€J/20FF

Country 2 alpha

Classification	Country – New Zealand Standard Classification 1999 – 2 Alpha
Abbreviation	NZSCC2A99
Version	VFF.0
Effective date	F/€J/20FF

Supplementary codes

The supplementary codes are used to process inadequately described responses in statistical collections. The supplementary codes, listed are of two types:

- Codes commencing with zero are used to code responses which cannot be allocated a country, minor group or major group code (operational codes).
- Codes ending with zero are used to code responses which cannot be coded to the detailed level of the classification but can be coded to a higher level of the classification structure (not further defined codes).

Coding process

In developing the coding index a number of rules were followed in assigning index entries the correct classification code. It is recommended these rules be adhered to when coding any response which does not appear in the coding index provided. The coding rules are:

- Responses relating directly to a country separately identified in the classification are, of course, coded to that country.
- Responses relating to places, towns, regions, states, etc, which lie wholly within the boundaries of a country separately identified in the classification, and which are part of that country, are coded to that country.
- Responses relating to places, regions, etc, which cannot be identified as lying wholly within the boundaries of a country separately identified in the classification are assigned a 'not further defined' code, or the code of a residual category, as described above.
- Changes in national boundaries create particular difficulties for coding country of birth responses to a classification of countries.
- Responses relating to countries which have changed name, without changing boundaries, are coded to the latest name in the classification. Thus the response "Upper Volta" is coded to "Burkina Faso".
- In instances where a country no longer exists, if the geographic area the defunct country previously occupied is wholly contained within the boundaries of an existing contemporary country, then responses for this defunct country are coded to the contemporary country.
- If the area of a country no longer in existence is not wholly contained within the boundaries of one of the separately identified countries of the classification, responses relating to the defunct country are assigned an appropriate 'not further defined' code. For example, a response relating to a country no longer in existence, the previous area of which is not wholly contained within a contemporary country, but is wholly contained within a minor group, is allocated the code of the minor group followed by '00'.
- Where multiple responses are given to a question, the first response is taken.

A codefile is used to code responses to the classification. A codefile is a comprehensive list of probable survey responses and the categories to which they are coded. The codefile for country contains in addition to country titles, regions and provinces where appropriate.

A two character alpha code is provided for the processing of overseas trade, migration and balance of payments information.

Specific supplementary categories are used for economic and other entities. These are applied in the processing of overseas trade, migration and balance of payments information.

Questionnaire module

Requirements

The questionnaire module should obtain the current name/title of the country. This can be ascertained via a direct question or through the use of a tick box selection of the most commonly identified countries, with or without an 'other' option.

Example

The questionnaire module below is an example that meets the requirements documented in this statistical standard. Other questionnaire modules may vary in format but should conform to the requirements contained in this statistical standard.

9 Which country were you born in?

New Zealand → go to **11**

Australia

England

Scotland

China (People's Republic of)

South Africa

Samoa

Cook Islands

other. Please print the present name of the country:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Standard output

Country

The output categories are the same as the detailed classification structure in the first instance. Country groupings must follow the minor and major groups and the economic groupings outlined in this standard.

Economic groupings

The country classification also provides 12 economic groupings. These are:

Asia Pacific Economic Co-Operation Countries (APEC)

Australia	Brunei Darussalam	Canada
Chile	China, Peoples' Republic of	Hong Kong (SAR)
Indonesia	Japan	Korea, Republic of
Malaysia	Mexico	New Zealand
Papua New Guinea	Peru	Philippines
Russia	Singapore	Taiwan
Thailand	United States of America	Viet Nam

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Brunei Darussalam	Cambodia	Indonesia
Laos	Malaysia	Myanmar
Philippines	Singapore	Thailand
Viet Nam		

European Union (EU)

Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria
Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark
Estonia	Finland	France
Germany	Greece	Hungary
Ireland	Italy	Latvia
Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta
Netherlands	Poland	Portugal
Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia
Spain	Sweden	United Kingdom

European Economic Area

Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria
Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark
Estonia	Finland	France
Germany	Greece	Hungary

Iceland	Ireland	Italy
Latvia	Liechtenstein	Lithuania
Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands
Norway	Poland	Portugal
Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia
Spain	Sweden	United Kingdom

European Monetary Union (EMU)

Austria	Belgium	Cyprus
Finland	France	Germany
Greece	Ireland	Italy
Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands
Portugal	Slovenia	Spain

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman
Qatar	Saudi Arabia	United Arab Emirate

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

Canada	Mexico	United States of America
--------	--------	--------------------------

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Australia	Austria	Belgium
Canada	Czech Republic	Denmark
Finland	France	Germany
Greece	Hungary	Iceland
Ireland	Italy	Japan
Korea, Republic of	Luxembourg	Mexico
Netherlands	New Zealand	Norway
Poland	Portugal	Slovakia
Spain	Sweden	Switzerland
Turkey	United Kingdom	United States of America

Organisation of Petroleum - Exporting Countries (OPEC)

Algeria	Angola	Ecuador
Gabon	Indonesia	Iran
Iraq	Kuwait	Libya
Nigeria	Qatar	Saudi Arabia
United Emirates	Arab Venezuela	

Pacific Island Forum (PIF)

Australia	Cook Islands	Fiji
Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Micronesia, Federated States of
Nauru	New Zealand	Niue
Palau	Papua New Guinea	Samoa
Solomon Islands	Tonga	Tuvalu
Vanuatu		

South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement (SPARTECA)

Australia	Cook Islands	Fiji
Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Micronesia, Federated States of
Nauru	New Zealand	Niue
Palau	Papua New Guinea	Samoa
Solomon Islands	Tonga	Tuvalu
Vanuatu		

Commonwealth

Full member

Antigua and Barbuda	Australia	Bahamas
Bangladesh	Barbados	Belize
Botswana	Brunei Darussalam	Cameroon
Canada	Cyprus	Dominica
Fiji	Gambia	Ghana
Grenada	Guyana	India
Jamaica	Kenya	Kiribati

Lesotho	Malawi	Malaysia
Maldives	Malta	Mauritius
Mozambique	Namibia	Nauru
New Zealand	Nigeria	Pakistan
Papua New Guinea	Samoa	Seychelles
Sierra Leone	Singapore	Solomon Islands
South Africa	Sri Lanka	St Kitts-Nevis
St Lucia	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Swaziland
Tanzania	Tonga	Trinidad and Tobago
Tuvalu	Uganda	United Kingdom
Vanuatu	Zambia	

Associate members

Anguilla	Bermuda	British Indian Ocean Territory
Cayman Islands	Cook Islands	Falkland Islands
Gibraltar	Montserrat	Niue
Norfolk Island	Pitcairn	St Helena
Tokelau	Turks and Caicos Islands	Virgin Islands, British

Related classifications and standards

New Zealand

The classification is also used as part of the usual residence and usual residence n years ago classifications. The classification is used by other parts of the Official Statistical System in New Zealand.

International

The classification is linked with the International Standard "Codes for the Representation of names of Countries" and linked and based upon the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC).

Amendments to the standard classification are as a result of the renaming or restructuring of countries.

The differences between the SACC and the New Zealand Country Classification (NZSCC) are summarised below:

- Statistics New Zealand consider the Ross Dependency to be part of New Zealand for statistical purposes. Category 1201: 'New Zealand' in the NZSCC, therefore includes the Ross Dependency but not in the SACC. In the SACC the Ross Dependency is allocated the code 1607 (in minor group 16: Antarctica). This difference is considered to have little statistical significance.
- The NZSCC has only one third level unit in the minor group Antarctica, 1601: Antarctica. The SACC separately identifies the seven individual Antarctic territories including the Ross Dependency. As a result of this divergent practice the code 1601 represents Antarctica as a whole in the NZSCC and Adelie Land (France) in the SACC. The codes 1602 - 1607 are not used in the NZSCC. This difference is considered to have little statistical significance.
- The SACC splits the major group North-East Asia into two minor groups: Chinese Asia (includes Mongolia), and Japan and the Koreas. This was done to derive a 'total China' and to encompass 'Chinese' countries which are important in the Australian context. In the NZSCC the major group North-East Asia contains a single minor group as preferred by New Zealand users of the classification. This difference results in a number of different country codes between the two classifications.
- The two classifications contain the following differences in country names. These differences are due to historical treatment of country titles, user requirements and reflects in some instances the official titles recognised by the government of each country.

NZSCC	SACC
Vatican City State	Holy See
Russia	Russian Federation
Gaza Strip/Palestine/West Bank	Gaza Strip and West Bank
Myanmar	Burma (Myanmar)
China, People's Republic of	China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)
Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)	Hong Kong (SAR of China)
Korea, Democratic People's Republic	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of (North)
Korea, Republic of	Korea, Republic of (South)
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyz Republic

Due to alphabetical ordering of countries within groups, these name differences will not affect the country codes between the two classifications excepting the Koreas.

References

Australian Bureau of Statistics (1990). *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS)* , Canberra.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (1998). *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC)* , Canberra.

International Standards Organisation (1997). *Codes for the Representation of Names of Countries (ISO 3166)* , Berlin.

Statistics New Zealand, 1999. *New Zealand Standard Classification of Countries 1999* , Wellington.