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A implantação das contas nacionais no Brasil: Uma réplica ao artigo “Para uma história das contas nacionais no Brasil”

The implementation of national accounts in Brazil: A reply to the article “Towards a history of national accounts in Brazil”

La implementación de las cuentas nacionales en Brasil: Una réplica al artículo “hacia una historia de las cuentas nacionales en Brasil”

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Resumo: Este artigo comenta sobre afirmações realizadas no artigo “Para uma história das contas nacionais no Brasil” de autoria do Dr. Luiz Eduardo Simões de Souza e publicado na Revista Economia e Política Pública V.9, n.2 de 2021. E apresenta, completamente, a implantação dos sistemas de contas nacionais do Brasil desde sua primeira edição pela Fundação Getúlio Vargas até a versão atual compilada e disseminada pelo Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística.

Palavras-chave: Sistemas de Contas Nacionais, IBGE, FGV, Brasil.

Abstract: This article presents comments on statements made in the article "Towards a history of national accounts in Brazil" authored by Dr. Luiz Eduardo Simões de Souza and published in the Revista Economia e Políticas Públicas V.9, n.2 of 2021. And it presents, in full, the implementation of the systems of national accounts in Brazil from its first edition by the Getúlio Vargas Foundation to the current version compiled and disseminated by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics.

Keywords: System of National Accounts, IBGE, FGV, Brazil.

Resumen: Este artículo comenta sobre las afirmaciones realizadas en el artículo 'Hacia una historia de las cuentas nacionales en Brasil', de autoría del Dr. Luiz Eduardo Simões de Souza y publicado en la Revista Economía y Política Pública V.9, n.2 de 2021. Además, presenta completamente la implementación de los sistemas de cuentas nacionales de Brasil desde su primera edición por la Fundación Getulio Vargas hasta la versión actual compilada y difundida por el Instituto Brasileño de Geografía y Estadística.

Palabras clave: Sistemas de Cuentas Nacionales, IBGE, FGV, Brasil.

Introduction

The author of the aforementioned article proposes in his work (§1, p.155): “*a first foray into a narrative of the implementation of the National Accounts System (SNA) in Brazil*” traces the history of the implementation of national accounts systems in Brazil. A rather long story for one article. The article presents some misinterpretations. Thus, aiming to clarify some points presented by the author, as well as to contest some strong statements, devoid of references and that affect the technical teams that worked for years on this implementation, we present in this text our comments and facts about this process.

In addition to this introduction, the article is divided into two sections. The first comments on the author's observations in his text for which no references were provided to prove them as facts, and which the authors of this text disagree with. Even though these are the author's opinions, more documentation should be presented. Next, we present the process

of implementing national accounts in the country, addressing the recent historical evolution in the development of methodologies for measuring national income and other economic variables. Both authors of this text actively participated in this process over a significant period of time, and seek to detail it, in addition to pointing out some divergences in relation to the view presented in the article published in 2021.

1- Author's comments on this process of implementing the System of National Accounts (SNA)

In the introduction to his article, the author comments (§2, p. 155): “*The Getúlio Vargas Foundation and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics disputed the primacy of calculation and dissemination...*”. At the end of his text, the author returns to this battle between the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV) and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) regarding positions on public policies and development strategies. The IBGE, as an institute of the Brazilian State responsible for publishing official data, is not tasked with carrying out assessments on policies or strategies. The IBGE has always followed the fundamental principles of statistics of not carrying out assessments or projections that go beyond its position as producer and disseminator of official statistics and geoinformation. In turn, the FGV, through the Brazilian Institute of Economics (IBRE), is free to express its opinions and has historically played an important role in debates on the fate of the country's economic policies, within its theoretical line. Therefore, the statement of a permanent struggle between both institutions seems to me to be just an opinion of the author, once again without being guided by references that prove it or locate it historically.

At the end of his article, the author comments that two distinct methodologies for Brazil's national accounts coexisted. Unfortunately, this is a mistake. The dissemination of national accounts data went through three basic periods. The first, from 1950 to 1986, when the accounts were published under the responsibility of FGV, in accordance with the methodologies proposed by the various manuals for compiling national accounts systems published by the United Nations Statistics Division, described below. From 1996 to 2000, the estimation and dissemination of the system in force until then was transferred to the IBGE's National Accounts Coordination Office, under the responsibility of the same FGV team that had been hired by IBGE in a consensual agreement with FGV. During this period, the same system that had been published until then was maintained. The transition of the FGV team to

IBGE was negotiated between the presidents of the two institutions, Julian Chacel and Edmar Bacha, respectively.

From 2000 onwards, the IBGE replaced the so-called Consolidated National Accounts System with a broader structure based on the 1993 manual, introducing the Resource and Use Tables and the Integrated Economic Accounts. Veloso (2007) presents a detailed description of this process, of the system adopted by the FGV and, later, maintained by the IBGE.

Regarding the comment about the coexistence of two systems. This has never happened during all these years; there has been only one system with methodological improvements, but there has not been the dissemination of two distinct systems by two institutions. This entire process will be detailed below.

On the other hand, it would be important for the author to emphasize that it is a sign of the quality of the statistical system that there are statistics produced and published by different institutions, with common objectives and different methodologies, such as the estimation of consumer price indexes. Initially, estimated by the FGV, then the IBGE calculates and publishes its IPCA and INPC, methodologies that coexist and the official definition is that the statistics produced by the State agency are the country's official statistics. It should be added: it is healthy for the statistical system of any country that official statistics have equivalents produced by other producers, this brings quality to the statistical system of a country as a whole.

Obviously, throughout the period of publication of Brazil's national accounts, there were debates about methodological decisions taken to compile this system. However, it is important to separate the fruitful debate about alternatives, with personal views, from an antagonistic position between two institutions. Among several texts, with personal positions, on the national accounts system, it is possible to mention Bacha (1971), Suzigan (1973) and Bacha (2023), among others.

To begin, I will share a personal account of the relationship between FGV and IBGE during the implementation of the quarterly accounts system in the late 1990s. Until then, data were only estimated in constant values. At the time, IBGE did not estimate producer price indexes, only consumer price indexes. To fill this gap, IBGE requested that FGV pass on the disaggregated results of the Wholesale Price Index (IPA) on a quarterly basis under a confidentiality clause. This was done without any problems, and to this day, IBGE receives the IPA. In the case of the conflict mentioned in the text, a refusal would have been enough to prevent the project from being implemented at that time.

In his article, the author states, still in the introduction (§2, p. 155): “*in addition to interferences in the external context, which caused divergences of understanding and several revisions of the series*”, he then goes on to state: “*Far from what has been presented in historiography to date, this process was far from presenting a purely ‘neutral’, ‘technical’ character, without political interference*”. Once again, the author makes a very strong statement about interferences, without offering clear explanations or documentation about what these interferences would be, nor how and where they occurred. In a scientific paper, this type of detail is expected, unlike opinion texts. There is a direct questioning of the honesty of the FGV and IBGE teams in estimating the country's national accounts when they submitted to political pressure, that is, manipulated the results. And without any, I repeat, documentation to support this statement. And the doubt remains, the data were manipulated, adulterated?

For those who work in the area of production and dissemination of official statistics, whether in Brazil or in any other country in the world, pressure on results is part of everyday life. This is nothing new. Now, the transition between receiving pressure and responding to it is a little more serious. In this regard, due to its seriousness, great care must be taken when implying that it was accepted. Or was it an oversight by the author in his text?

The author also adds (§2 p. 159): “*Brazil, as a founding member of the UN, would mobilize its public administration to adopt the manual from the beginning, in the form of a resolution*”, without mentioning what resolution this would be, which seems to me to be an important point to be clarified and referenced in the description of the process. Then (§2, p. 159): “*The means and procedures for this adoption had their own character and even today, provide a somewhat nebulous narrative, which deserves further investigation.*” Again, there is no explanation as to why the author considers this nebulous narrative requiring investigation. What would be these so-called “means and procedures”?

Finally, it is undeniable that it is important to write about the implementation of statistical systems and their consequences in a country, presenting the conflicts, debates and conclusions of the period. However, extreme care must be taken, especially in a scientific article, with the concern to document facts, and even opinions or hypotheses must be substantiated, so that they do not simply remain in the air, allowing injunctions about the capacity, commitment or even honesty of the teams that participated in the implementation of a broader system of national accounts that is respected by the global statistical community.

2- The development of social/national accounts systems

The theoretical frameworks that formed the basis for the development of the current system of national accounts, including William Petty, Francois Quesnay, John Maynard Keynes, among many others, have already been exhaustively presented in several publications on this period. Vanoli (2002, 2005) presents a seminal description of the history of national accounts. In addition to the classical authors, three groups worked in parallel on the development of methodologies for measuring aspects of the economy. Ragnar Frisch stood out in the development of the identity of income concepts, affected by the type of valuation adopted and by the greater scientific rigor in the definition of variables such as gross national product at market prices and factor costs. Simon Kuznets worked with price index numbers and quantities, focusing on historical series. And finally, Wassily Leontief dedicated himself to the disaggregation of economic relations in his input-output analysis (Veloso, 2007; Olinto Ramos, 1997). Nunes (1998) provides a detailed description of the background and importance of Keynes's book *How to Finance War* for Richard Stone's subsequent work.

The development of a System of National Accounts (SNA) can be seen as having its beginning in the 17th century with the first attempts to measure national income. However, it was only in the 1930s that efforts to establish measures that represented the economic system were systematized. It was at this time that, under the influence of Keynesian aggregative analysis, the importance of quantifying concepts such as production, national income or national expenditure became clear. The need to develop new planning tools led governments to start funding working groups in this area. In the United States, for example, the National Bureau of Economic Research increased its funding for projects in this area.

Until the end of the Second World War, efforts were made to develop integrated systems in several countries. However, the decisive work was carried out by Richard Stone, with his system of accounts, formulated in 1940 and initially published in 1947 as *Definition and Measurement of the National and Related Totals*. A new version was presented in 1949 with the title *Functions and Criteria of a System of National Accounting*. His work was incorporated into the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Office, which published a first report in 1947, *Measurement of National Income and the Construction of Social Accounts*, United Nations (1943). In 1953, a second report was published, *A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables*, coordinated by Richard Stone himself, seeking to harmonize and disseminate the work of constructing systems of this type. The motivation for producing this manual, presented in its preface, is:

“...the main stimulus for this development was the practical need for information about the functioning of the economic system as a whole and the way in which its various parts are related. The practical need arose from the Great Depression of the 1930s and the subsequent problems of economic mobilization and war finance in the Second World War. In the post-war period information was needed to clarify the problems of reconstruction and development and, more generally, to assess economic change as a reference for making decisions on economic policy related to public policy.”³

In this manual, the effort to develop a coherent system was justified by the growing accumulation of disconnected statistical information without any theoretical framework to serve as a reference for its organization. According to its authors, there were three groups working on the systematization of methodologies for measuring economic phenomena. One group of researchers focused mainly on the concepts and measurement of income and national product and their transformation into a system of national accounts. Another group focused on the general problem of the interdependence of the flow between goods and services and converged on the development of input-output matrices. The third group focused on the identification of financial flows in the economy and in the banking system. The specific objective of this manual was: *“...to construct a standard system of accounts that provides a framework for recording national income and product statistics and that is of general use.”⁴*

The system was developed based on a key concept: the value of production and the identification of its uses. Six standard accounts were established: domestic production, national income, domestic capital formation, households and private non-profit institutions, government and transactions with foreign countries; and eleven basic tables. The accounts presented the variables in an aggregated form, "for the nation". Their breakdown by institutional sector was done through the so-called basic tables, which presented the main intersectoral flows of the standard accounts.

This publication was a pioneering proposal for organizing an integrated economic information system. It is a work that sought to bring together theoretical references and scattered statistical information to create a theoretically coherent, exhaustive and, above all, quantitatively balanced system⁵.

By establishing a structure with an aggregated central core and disaggregated complementary tables, the system allowed the standardization of national accounts, leaving the estimation of more detailed categories, impossible to be standardized for all countries, to

3 United Nations (1964), p. 1.

4 United Nations (1968), p. 1.

5 All accounting identities are validated and integrated.

be carried out according to national statistical systems. The main results achieved by this systematization effort were:

- create a methodological reference for measuring various economic concepts, defining them in detail;
- explain the importance of data collection and estimation procedures, and their relationship with theoretical concepts;
- explain a system that, due to its internal consistency, allows the verification of the coherence of the available information.

In 1968, again with Richard Stone as chairman of the working group, a new version of the System of National Accounts (SNA) was published by the United Nations, SNA-68. This version is the result of the work of expanding and improving SNA-52; the 42-page manual was transformed into a 237-page book. This revision maintains the concepts of SNA-52 and suggests an organization of the expanded accounts, taking the form of integrated and detailed tables. It also introduces a series of issues that had not been addressed, such as accounts at constant prices or a more detailed treatment of financial transactions. For the first time, the integration of input-output analysis into an SNA is proposed. SNA-68 refers to this integration as:

“...the new system sought not only to produce larger and better standard accounts along the lines of the old SNA, but also to open up new areas for statistical tabulation. In particular, great emphasis was placed on the subdivision of the production account by industries and other producers and on determining the flow of output between these industries; there are few countries today that have not constructed at least an input-output matrix. The attempt to integrate such tables into the system of national accounts has led to a new set of problems that had not arisen in the old SNA but which are dealt with in detail here.”⁶

Since the publication of SNA-68, a series of specific manuals have been published, such as the manual for constructing accounts at constant prices or the manual on income distribution⁷.

From the United Nations system, various groups began to develop alternative and expanded systems. The European Community developed the Systeme Européenne de Comptabilité (SEC), and France, the Système Elargi de Comptabilité Nationale (SECN). Two other factors brought new elements to the discussions on the SNA-68: changes in the structures of the economies of developed countries, mainly the emergence of high inflation rates that substantially alter accounts at constant prices or the coefficients of Input-Output

6 op. cit. , p. 1.

7 United Nations (1977), Provisional Guidelines on Statistics of the Distribution of Income, Consumption and Accumulation of Households, Series M, No. 61

Matrices (MIP); and the growth of monetarism, bringing greater interest to financial statistics (normally under the responsibility of central banks) than to statistics researched by official institutes.

Based on the alternative proposals, there was a major reformulation of the manuals discussed within the United Nations. The reformulation meetings took place between 1986 and 1989, and all the material is available on the United Nations website. The 1993 revision of the manual incorporated these alternative structures, including recommendations for Resource and Use Tables and Integrated Economic Accounts by institutional sector. In addition, there was an improvement in concepts and a more in-depth discussion of constant price accounts, with the new recommendation that these accounts should always be calculated at the prices of the previous year, instead of a fixed base year.

The manual currently adopted (revision version of 2008 - SNA-08) is an improvement of the previous version (revision of 1993, SNA 93). In this version, there was no change in the structures of the recommended tables, there was only concern with updating the recommendations considering the changes in the economy. The update was entrusted in 2003 to the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA)⁸ to address issues brought about by changes in the economic environment, advances in methodological research and user needs. The issues addressed during the preparatory meetings covered how to measure the changes brought about by globalization, new global productive arrangements, digitalization with free products and services, the growing number of special purpose entities, the treatment of “maquidoras”, the informal economy, crypto assets, etc. A detailed list of the topics discussed is also available on the United Nations website⁹

One of the most important changes in the 2008 recommendations was the redefinition of the concept of fixed assets, expanding its scope and updating the nomenclature adopted.

A new update of the recommendations is currently being discussed, with a view to publishing a new manual for 2025. The focus of these discussions is on incorporating well-being indicators into the structure of the SNA, unpaid domestic work, the measurement and incorporation of human capital, and environmental accounts.

In <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/hsna.asp> It is possible to find the entire sequence of manuals on income measurement, followed by social accounts, later called national accounts. From the initial text of 1947, based on the report led by Richard Stone, placed as an appendix in the United Nations publication, Definition and Measurement of the

⁸ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/iswgna.asp>

⁹ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3d-NationalAccounts-E.pdf>

National Income and Related Totals, the first manual was published in 1953, United Nations (1953), in 1960 its first revision was published (Rev.1), followed by the revisions of 1964, Rev.2, of 1968, Rev.3, United Nations (1964) and United Nations (1968). The 1993 manual, United Nations (1993) was published under another standard, deviating from the sequence of revisions as well as the 2008 manual.

The figure below shows the evolution up to 2008 of the various stages of the preparation of increasingly comprehensive recommendations on how national accounting systems should be prepared so that there is international homogeneity across the various economies.

The screenshot shows the United Nations Statistics Division website. The main heading is "Historic Versions of the System of National Accounts". Below this, there is a paragraph explaining the broad objective of the SNA. A vertical timeline lists the following milestones:

- 1947**: The origins of the SNA trace back to the 1947 Report of the Sub-Committee on National Income Statistics of the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts under the leadership of Richard Stone. At its first session in 1947, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) emphasized the need for international statistical standards for the compilation and updating of comparable statistics in support of a large array of policy needs. In view of the emphasis on international statistical standards throughout the history of the Commission, the following national accounts standards were produced:
- 1953**: The 1953 SNA was published under the auspices of the UNSC. It consisted of a set of six standard accounts and a set of 12 standard tables presenting detail and alternative classifications of the flows in the economy. The concepts and definitions of the accounts were widely applicable for most countries, including developing countries. Two slightly modified editions of the 1953 SNA were published.
- 1960**: The first revision in 1960 reflected comments on country experience in the implementation of the 1953 SNA.
- 1964**: The second revision in 1964 improved consistency with the International Monetary Fund's Balance of Payments Manual.
- 1968**: The 1968 SNA extended the scope of the national accounts substantially by; adding input-output accounts and balance sheets; giving more attention to estimates at constant prices; and making a comprehensive effort to bring the SNA and the Material Product System (MPS) closer together.
- 1993**: The 1993 SNA represents a major advance in national accounting and embodies the result of harmonizing the SNA and other international statistical standards more completely than in previous versions.
- 2008**: The 2008 SNA, which is an update of the 1993 SNA, addresses issues brought about by changes in the economic environment, advances in methodological research and the needs of users.

Source: United Nations, available at: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/hsna.asp>.

In conclusion, conducting periodic reviews of SNAs is the usual procedure to keep the measurement of the economy aligned with its dynamics. However, the challenges go beyond the reviews themselves, also focusing on creating long historical series that are minimally coherent.

2.1 - On the implementation of national accounts in Brazil

Brazil's national accounts began at the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV). Veloso (2007) describes the conditions in 1947 that led to the implementation of national income measurement and national accounts at the FGV:

“The first question that arises is why the calculations of the National Accounts were initiated at the Getúlio Vargas Foundation, and not, as in most countries, at a public institution responsible for statistics or economic and financial policy. The answer is simple: Brazilian institutions at the time, in 1947, did not have the technical conditions for such a mission. The Central Bank had not yet been created, and the IBGE only became capable during the administration of Professor Isaac Kerstenetzky, which occurred from 1970 to 1979.”

At the time, the IBGE was a statistical agency that had existed for a long time as the National Directorate of Statistics, but only Decree No. 24,609 of July 6, 1934 created the National Institute of Statistics and established the organic provisions for the execution and development of statistical services, assigning to the new Institute the mission of establishing, in a permanent and systematic manner, the coordination of all statistical services. Decree No. 1,022 of August 11, 1936 approved and ratified the National Convention on Statistics and with this approval the system established for the full coordination of the country's statistical services emerged and became effective, of which the aforementioned Institute is the national agency. Finally, Decree No. 1527 of March 24, 1937, created the Brazilian Council of Geography, explicitly stating its intention to join the National Institute of Statistics (INE). By Decree-Law No. 218 of January 26, 1938, the Brazilian Council of Geography became the National Council of Geography and joined the INE, which then changed its name to IBGE.

In 1947, the IBGE was undergoing a major restructuring and its main focus was still on conducting demographic, agricultural and economic censuses. At that time, current sampling techniques were not applicable and it did not have the staff qualified to compile a system of national accounts that was not, and is not, statistics, but rather the organization, within the accounting framework of a system of national accounts, of various information, statistics, administrative records, among others. At that time, the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV) had a more qualified team for this task, which began with the publication of the thesis of Professor Antônio Dias Leite, who proposed a methodology for measuring national income. The process is detailed in the work *Fundação Getúlio Vargas: concretização de um ideal (Fundação Getúlio Vargas: realization of an ideal)*, which includes a report by Prof. Antônio Dias Leite himself, among others ¹⁰.

¹⁰ Available at: <http://biblioteca.jfjb.jus.br/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/fundacao-getulio-vargas-concretizacao-de-um-ideal.pdf>

Regarding the first system implemented, there is testimony from Maria Alice Veloso, coordinator of the accounts system at FGV and, later, at IBGE until its replacement by the current system, in a text not publicly released¹¹:

“Brazil's System of National Accounts has been adopting the methodology recommended by the United Nations as a basic conceptual reference since its implementation in the 1950s. This methodology, A System of National Accounts - SNA - whose first version appeared in July 1953, was the subject of a profound review published in 1968, and more recently, in 1993, revision IV was released, now in force.

The revision published in 1968 represented a major expansion in relation to the system recommended until then, which was basically formed by a set of six consolidated accounts and corresponding statistical tables (4). This expansion and deconsolidation of the previous system was developed in order to cover, in an integrated and articulated manner, in a new system, the input-output tables, the flows of generation, appropriation and use of income, the financial flows, and the national balance sheets (assets). This development therefore resulted in a broad System of National Accounts, the implementation and periodic calculation of which would require a considerable level of development of the country's primary statistics.

The methodology recommended by the United Nations (version 1968) basically suggests three groups of accounts (accounts I, II and III) and 26 standardized tables. The first group of accounts corresponds to the Consolidated Accounts for the Nation: Gross Domestic Product, National Disposable Income, Capital Formation and Transactions with Foreign Countries. The second group corresponds to two subgroups of accounts: the accounts for the production of goods and services, by sector of activity, and the accounts for the supply and use of goods and services, by group of goods and services. And the third group includes the accounts for the appropriation and use of income, capital formation accounts and financial accounts.

The Consolidated National Accounts of Brazil, whose methodology is the subject of this work, correspond with some variations to the accounts of the first group, that is, the Consolidated Accounts for the Nation and its original methodology was developed at the National Accounts Center of the Getúlio Vargas Foundation.

The Consolidated National Accounts System (SCNC) described here, after its incorporation by the IBGE, was revised in order to adapt some concepts and definitions to the new international recommendations, and its dissemination was maintained until the system based on the new 1993 recommendations was officially released in December 1997. In addition, it was also possible to review the estimates of the series prior to 1970, as the results have already been published in several publications by the Getúlio Vargas Foundation and in the two editions of the Historical Series by the IBGE, but whose complete methodology is only now being released.”

In the 1970s, Prof. Isaac Kerstenetzky, president of the IBGE from 1970 to 1979, originally from FGV, initiated a program to improve the IBGE by introducing several statistical surveys. This program included the development of the consumer price index, an

¹¹ BRAZIL - SYSTEM OF CONSOLIDATED NATIONAL ACCOUNTS, Maria Alice de Gusmão Veloso, 2005 (mimeo).

unprecedented survey on family consumption and income, the National Study of Family Expenditure – ENDEF (1974-1975), later followed by the Family Budget Surveys - POF, carried out periodically to this day, an annual survey on income and employment, the National Household Sample Survey – PNAD, started in 1967 and replaced by the Continuous PNAD in 2016. The framework that would guide the implementation of the new statistics was the development of a Social Accounting Matrix (MCS), a project much discussed at the time. The MCS would be the theoretical framework that would organize the research needed to develop an integrated and exhaustive system of social and economic statistics, within the project to improve and expand the activities of the IBGE, which considered the implementation of an expanded and integrated system of national accounts in the MCS, advancing in scope and disaggregation in relation to the system recommended in the 1953 and 1968 manuals. The first step in this direction was the development of Input-Output Matrices that would introduce a broader view of the economy with the disclosure of disaggregated economic activities (at the time called sectors), beginning the break with the aggregated tables of the 1968 recommendation. The first MIP was released in 1979.

There were no conflicts with the FGV, only the IBGE was moving to become a producer of economic and social statistics, with a well-defined framework, assuming its role as producer of the country's official statistics. In 1974, through Decree no. 74.084, the General Plan for Statistical and Geographical Information (PGIEG) was approved, according to Professor Kerstenetzky¹²:

“The document comprises the set of statistical, geographic, geodetic, demographic, socioeconomic, natural resource and environmental conditions information, including pollution, necessary for understanding the physical, economic and social reality of Brazil, in its aspects considered essential for economic and social planning and national security. Thus, the Plan discriminates a broad spectrum of information that is already being produced or that will be produced by IBGE according to the areas of competence defined by Law 5.878, of May 11, 1973.”

After the implementation of the MIP program, IBGE signed a technical cooperation program with the Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (INSEE), its French equivalent, to support the ongoing reform. Specifically in the area of national accounts, it was decided that IBGE would work on the implementation of the French system,

¹²Brazilian Journal of Geography 36(2):103-107, April/June, 1974. Available at: <https://www.rbg.ibge.gov.br/index.php/rbg/article/view/1066/767>

Système Élargi de Comptabilité Nationale¹³, much broader and more detailed than the proposed 1968 manual. This proposal considered the estimation of Resource and Use Tables (TRU) and Integrated Economic Accounts (CEI) by institutional sector. The IBGE National Accounts Department began this work with strong support from French consultants in the early 1980s.

During the same period, FGV reached an agreement with IBGE to transfer the staff of its National Accounts Center to IBGE, returning the task that was the institutional responsibility of IBGE. This move was in line with IBGE's plan to begin producing economic and social statistics, as already indicated by the approval of the PGIEG.

A partir dessa integração o IBGE permaneceu divulgando o chamado Sistemas de Contas Nacionais Consolidado até o momento da divulgação do novo sistema com o padrão do SNA-93. Em documento publicado em 1990 pelo IBGE¹⁴

“With the publication of this methodological text and the revision of the National Accounts series for the period 1970-87, attached hereto, the IBGE considers the first phase of the work to integrate the Consolidated National Accounts System with the New National Accounts System to be completed. In December 1986, the IBGE took over the work of calculating the Brazilian National Accounts, which until then had been the responsibility of the Getúlio Vargas Foundation. Its methodology, implemented in the early 1950s, was based on the Consolidated Accounts for the Nation, according to the recommendations of the United Nations in 1953. The IBGE, in turn, taking advantage of its experience in the area of Input-Output Matrices, had been developing a project since 1985 to implement a New System of National Accounts that was broader and more modern, following the recommendations of the UN in 1968. To this end, it signed a technical cooperation agreement with the Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (INSEE) of France, which allowed, in addition to training the team, the introduction of innovations that will be the subject of the new manual of National Accounts of the United Nations, scheduled for 1990.

With the incorporation of technicians from the FGV National Accounts Center into the IBGE staff, an integration process began, which was guided in this first phase by evolving from the concepts and definitions of the previous system to those of the new system.

In the second phase, the objective is to expand the Consolidated System by including transactions related to financing in the Capital Accounts and Transactions with the Rest of the World, separating information from the productive sector into private and state-owned, in addition to several other adjustments seeking to integrate the systems, a phase that will last until 1991, when the New System of National Accounts will come into operation.”

In these documents it is observed that there was a transition between the current methodology, based on SNA-68, already published under the responsibility of IBGE, to the

¹³https://www.persee.fr/doc/estat_03361454_1976_num_79_1_2350#:~:text=le%20syst%C3%A8me%20%C3%A9largi%20de%20comptabilit%C3%A9%20%E2%80%A2%20nationale,.et%20les%20comptes%20%E2%96%A0%20interm%C3%A9diaires.

¹⁴ IBGE, Consolidated National Accounts System, Methodological Reports Series, Volume 8, 1990. Available at: <https://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv21416.pdf>

new version based on the recommendations of SNA-93. There was no conflict of methodologies, as mentioned in the article (p. 162). The teams responsible for the national accounts developed the methodologies in an integrated manner with the international recommendations.

Brazil's SNA has been expanded and revised periodically, in accordance with international standards. In 2000, the first major revision of the series was carried out with the introduction of new surveys, such as annual sample surveys for industry, commerce and services, and in 2010, the second change of base with new surveys and, mainly, the incorporation of the recommendations of the new manual that replaced the 1993 one, the SNA-08. A new revision is currently underway, with the release of the 2025 manual scheduled for 2026, already officially announced by the IBGE, with a new base in 2021.

The IBGE published on its website all the methodological changes made: (<https://www.ibge.gov.br/estatisticas/economicas/contas-nacionais/9052-sistema-de-contas-nacionais-brasil.html?=&t=notas-tecnicas>).

In conclusion to this article, all that remains is to say that after all these years, Brazil has a respected national accounts system, publishing regional accounts and municipal GDP, quarterly accounts, satellite health accounts, environmental economic accounts (water, energy and land) and input-output matrices.

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