  
**Statistical Working Group  
Statistical Guidelines**

**CL\_BREAK\_REASON  
Code list for reason for the break in time series**

**Version 1.0 – 18/02/2022**

**Name**: Code list for concept “Break in time series” (ID “BREAK\_REASON”).

**Description**: This code list provides coded information about breaks in time series occurring when there is a change in the standards for defining and observing a variable over time.

**Explanatory notes**: A break may be the result of a single change or the combination of multiple changes at any one point in time of observation of the variable. The specific causes of breaks in a statistical time series include changes in: classifications used, definitions of the variable, coverage; etc.

Statistical agencies and users of time series data for economic research to analyse and interpret economic and social events and conditions attach very high importance to the continuity and consistency of data over time. However, it should be emphasised that the occurrence of time series break may not necessarily jeopardise the reliability of a time series. Statistical agencies frequently apply a number of techniques to ensure the continuity of a time series. Finally, the impact of a time series break is often a matter of judgement on the part of the user and depends on the use(s) to which the data are put.

**Established international standard(s) used as input for the code list**: (none)

**Recommended Codes**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Code Id** | **Code Name** | **Code Description** | **Parent** |
| METH | Methodologies | Change of methodologies |  |
| DEF | Definition | Change in concept(s) and or definition(s) | METH |
| SOURCE | Data source | Change in data sources | METH |
| CONF | Confidentiality | Change in confidentiality aspects | METH |
| SAMPLE | Sample redesigned | Change of sample | METH |
| UNIT | Statistical unit(s) | Change in statistical unit(s) | METH |
| REF\_PER | Reference period | Change in reference period | METH |
| VAL | Valuation methods | Change in accounting rules, valuation methods (e.g., from accrual basis to cash basis), etc. | METH |
| TRANSF | Data transformation | Change in methods of data transformation | METH |
| STD | Standard(s) | Change in international standard(s) | METH |
| WEIGHT | Base weight | Change in base weight | METH |
| SCOPE | Revision of scope or coverage | Change of scope or coverage |  |
| CLASS | Classifications | Change of classifications |  |
| NONSTAT | Non-statistical factors | Change of non-statistical factors |  |
| ADMIN | Administrative procedures | Change in administrative procedures with regard to statistical data from administrative sources | NONSTAT |
| CUR | Currency | New or revalued currency | NONSTAT |
| LEGAL | Legal basis | Change of legal and/or institutional basis | NONSTAT |
| POL | Policy | New or change in economic/fiscal policy | NONSTAT |
| \_O | Other | Used to cover residual information not contained in other categories of the code list (in some contexts, e.g., classifications, referred to as n.e.s., not elsewhere specified, n.e.c., not elsewhere classified, etc.) |  |
| \_U | No data/unknown | Used to cover unknown reason for the reason for break in time series. |  |

**Remarks**

Further recommended code values for expressing general statistical concepts can be found in section “Generic codes” of the "Guidelines for the creation and management of SDMX Cross-Domain Code Lists"[[1]](#footnote-1).

The labelling of the “\_U” category code is coming from the “Guidelines for the creation and management of SDMX code lists”. For the reason for the break in time series, the “\_U” category code is aligned to the “unknown” definition and less relevant to the “No data” definition.

1. <https://sdmx.org/?page_id=4345%20-%20CodeListGuideline#CodeListGuideline> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)