Measuring national wealth in a global world – is it time to raise the white flag?

Joseph Haynes  
Statistics Netherlands  
Email: j.haynes@cb.nl

This paper looks at several issues around the measurement of the non-financial and financial balance sheets which make up national wealth. How can these statistics be measured in an era of increasing globalisation and asset mobility and what are the issues with the current international guidance? The paper proposes changes to current guidance that would allow the statistics to better reflect economic reality rather than a legal reality which increasingly gives an odd view of an economy.

In this paper references are made to real world businesses, all of the information included has been taken from previously published publically available sources.