Overview of the Financial Flow Accounts

The ***Financial Flow Accounts*** (FFA) are statements of investment activity in the sectors of the economy: the non-financial and financial assets acquired as well as the financial liabilities incurred. The financial account is an extension of the ***Income and Expenditure Accounts*** (IEA).

The IEA measure aggregate economic activity through income generated from production and through final expenditure on production. This detail plus current transfers are broken down by institutional sector in the income and outlay account (current account) and capital finance account (capital account)   These sector accounts are the link to the FFA (accumulation account), which show the transactions based changes in wealth, with emphasis on the financing of economic activity (financial account).

At the core of the FFA, each sector records saving (current income less current expenditure), depreciation, non-financial capital acquisition and transactions in a number of asset-liability financial instruments. In other words, the FFA are a sources and uses of funds statement.   Gross savings includes net savings plus capital consumption allowance and miscellaneous valuation adjustments. Subtracting non-financial capital acquisition from Gross savings leaves the net amount each sector borrows or lends during a period. The net amount the sector borrows or lends is equivalent to net financial transactions -- financial assets acquired less the net financial liabilities incurred (net financial investment). Financial transactions are measured on a net basis – that is increases less decreases for each financial instrument.

Sector Accounts and transactions

The FFA is part of the integrated set of quarterly national accounts, and is situated between IEA income-spending and the ***National Balance Sheet Account*** (NBSA). The FFA account for part of the increase in NBSA wealth, with the other part being largely accounted for by capital gains/losses.

The sector accounts comprise four major sectors of the economy: persons and unincorporated business, corporations, governments and non-residents. The non-resident sector is the detail on Canada’s Balance of International Payments. The corporate sector is broken down into a number of sub-sectors with the bulk of this detail comprising the transactions of the financial institutions, reflecting the importance of the financial system in transferring funds from surplus to deficit sectors. The government sector transactions are available by level of government. In total, there are 30 unique sectors in the FFA. The sectoring of the financial accounts emphasizes intermediation by showing the transactions of a number of financial institutions.

The Financial Market Summary Table

The financial market summary table excludes most of the intermediate borrowing by ignoring funds borrowed by financial institutions to leave summary “ultimate borrowing“ of final demand for funds by non-financial sectors.

Coverage

All traditional assets and liabilities are in scope.

Valuation

Data are measured in nominal dollars terms.