6.2 Validate outputs

This sub-process is where statisticians validate the quality of the outputs produced, in accordance with a general quality framework and with expectations. This sub-process includes activities involved with the gathering of intelligence, with the cumulative effect of building up a body of knowledge about a specific statistical domain. This knowledge is then applied to the current collection in the current environment to identify any divergence from expectations and to allow informed analyses. Validation activities can include:

- Checking that the population coverage and response rates are as required;
- Comparing the statistics with previous cycles (if applicable);
- Checking that the associated metadata, particularly quality indicators, are present and in line with expectations;
- Checking geospatial consistency of the data;
- Confronting the statistics against other relevant data (both internal and external);
- Investigating inconsistencies in the statistics;
- Performing manual editing;
- Validating the statistics against expectations and domain intelligence.

**Quality Indicators:**
- Proportion of overall budget dedicated to validation activities;
- Number of validation measures applied;
- Number of changes made to the data based on validation results;
- Availability of backcasting procedures where there is a break in the series;
- Degree of coherence with other sources, with provisional data, with quick estimates, and with previous results of the same process.

For details, see [Quality Indicators for GSBFM (version 2.0)](#).