

## **Data Gaps in Selected Segments of Financial and Related Sectors in India**

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*This brief paper aims at providing an overview of the data gaps existing in the selected segments of the financial sector in India. In financial sector, the data gaps leading to asymmetric information create market inefficiencies. Hence, the open access data has positive externalities and it should be treated as a public good and should be freely accessible. The study emphasises that with technological advancement and big data analytics, the constraints on data warehousing are minimized. However, the data gaps still prevail, because of the ignorance about the usefulness of the data and also because of the reluctance of the data holders to share the data. A large portion of existing data gaps can be bridged merely with a planned, systematic and responsible data management by the public agencies and regulators. To remove the overlaps, fragmentation, inconsistency, and gaps in the data, the study recommends the creation of an all-India single point data bank consisting of a repository of master data and a Metadata directory of entire financial and economic data from all the sectors and layers of the economy.*

### **I Introduction**

The financial sector is considered to be the most data rich sector as compared with the non-financial sectors in India. This perception exists mainly due to the Indian banking sector datasets disseminated by the Reserve Bank of India. These databases are relatively orderly, comprehensive and freely accessible. Another conspicuous financial dataset, the stock market-related data, is available because of its commercial viability and technological advancement in real-time data management due to electronic transactions. These financial sector data sources are most extensively used by the market participants and policy makers. In spite of this apparent data sufficiency, there are several gaps in financial sector data as far as the databases and information related to non-commercial academic and policy use are concerned. At the international level, the global financial crisis brought to the fore the data gaps in the financial sector (Murphy 2010). The Financial Stability Board (FSB) and IMF G-20 Data Gaps Initiative (DGI) have emphasised the availability of financial sector data as a prerequisite for enhanced policy analysis. The G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Banks strongly encouraged the implementation of the recommendations in this initiative in order

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