



School of National Accounts training pathway

Office for National Statistics, UK

Daniel Williams

Technical Trainer – Office for National Statistics

05 June 2026

Overview

- SoNA development and pathway
- Curriculum
- Benefits of blended learning approach
- Barriers to learning
- Questions

SONA

Office for
National Statistics

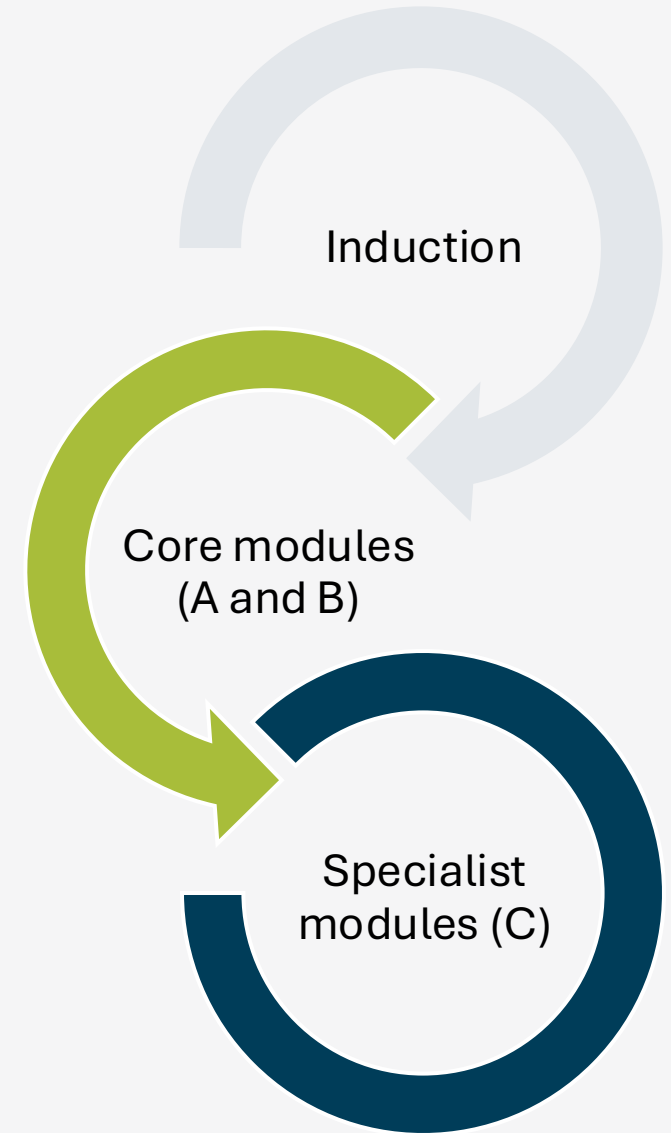
School of National Accounts

Training pathway development



Curriculum

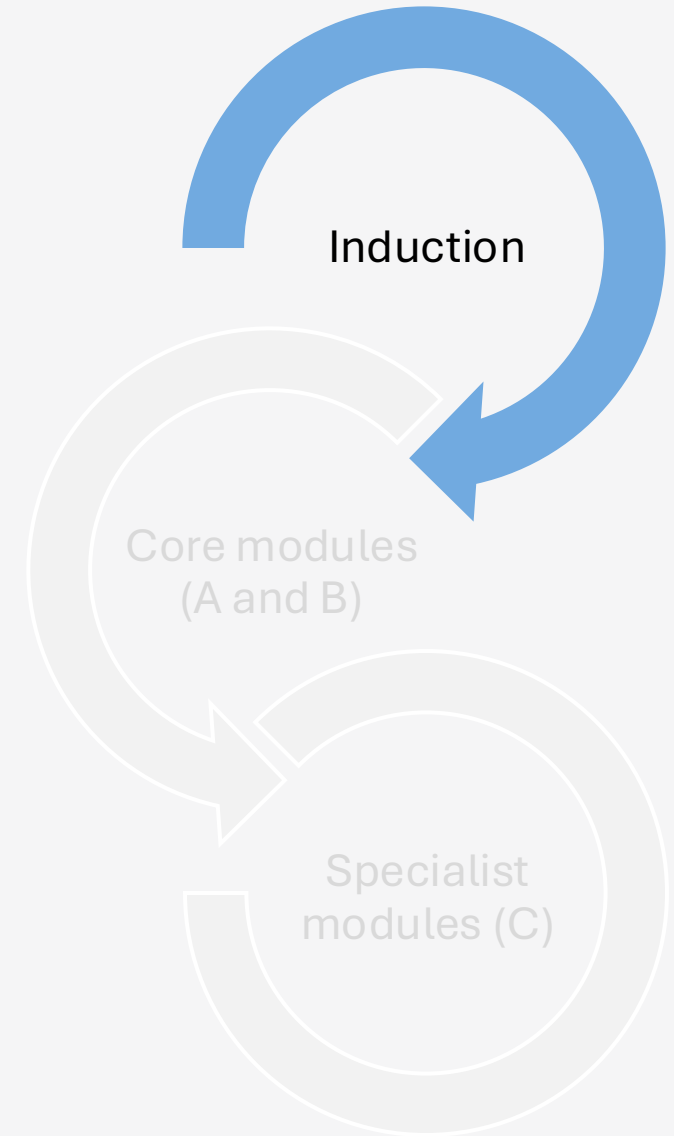
The training pathway consists of three elements which focus on different knowledge levels and is delivered via a blended approach to learning.



Induction

Gives participants a basic understanding of:

- The principles of the National Accounts framework
- The main macroeconomic aggregates
- Frameworks for measuring National Accounts
- Data sources and measurement
- ONS' National Accounts publications and other economic indicators

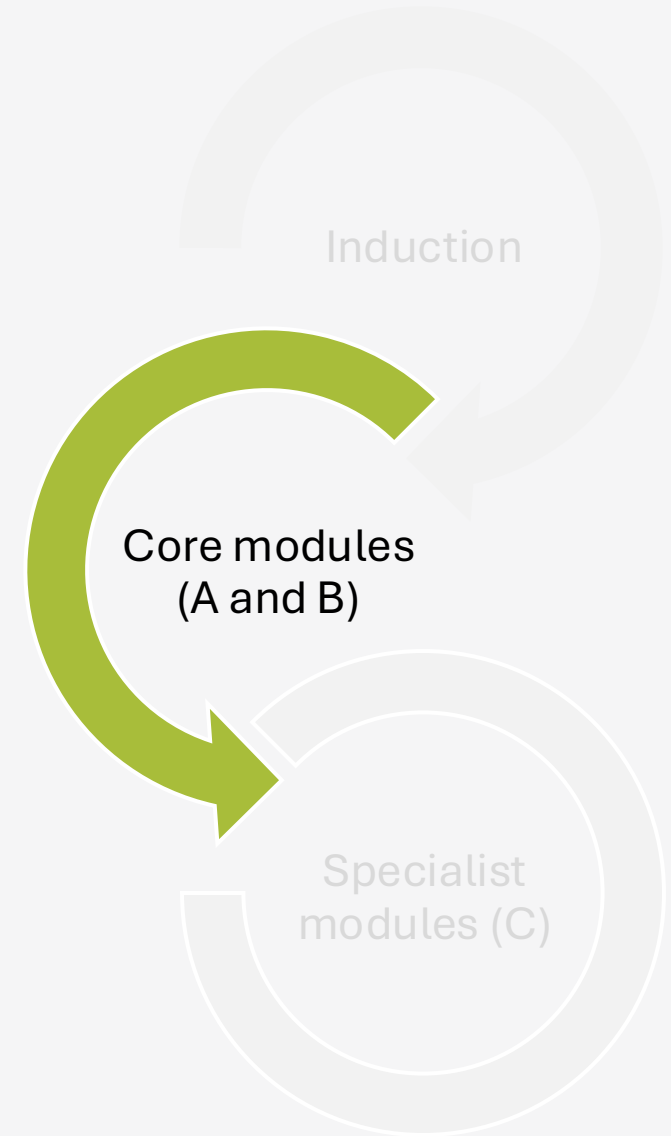


Core modules

The core modules are a sequential set of 14 training modules aimed at all people working in National Accounts roles.

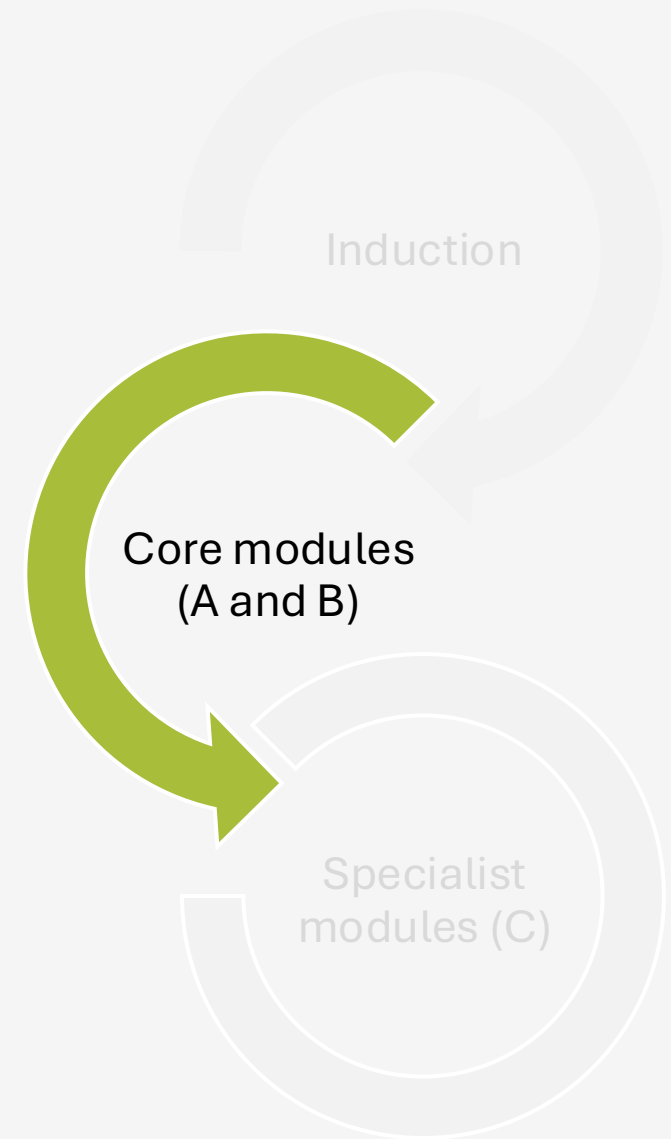
Each module introduces the international methods and UK practices.

They are split into two parts, A and B, followed by an optional online Knowledge Check quiz upon completion of all modules.



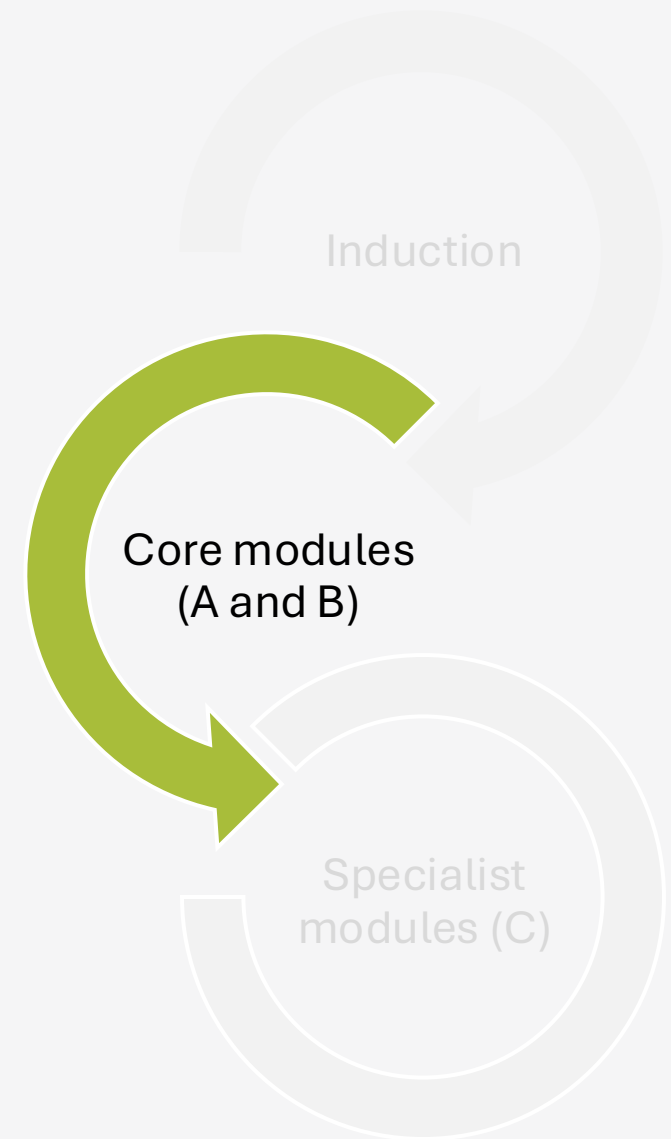
Core modules

Modules	Title
A.01	Overview of the National Accounts framework and key macroeconomic aggregates
A.02	Basic accounting principles
A.03	Classifications and frames
A.04	The production boundary
A.05	Overview of Supply and Use Tables, the sequence of accounts and balance sheets
A.06	Overview of National Accounts data sources



Core modules

Modules	Title
B.01	Gross Domestic Product and Gross National Income
B.02	Supply and Use Tables and Input-Output Tables
B.03	Institutional sectors
B.04	Current account
B.05	Accumulation accounts and balance sheets
B.06	Balance of Payments and International Investment Position
B.07	Capital stock measures, Perpetual Inventory Model, Productivity and Capital Services
B.08	Deflators and calculating CVMs and PYPs

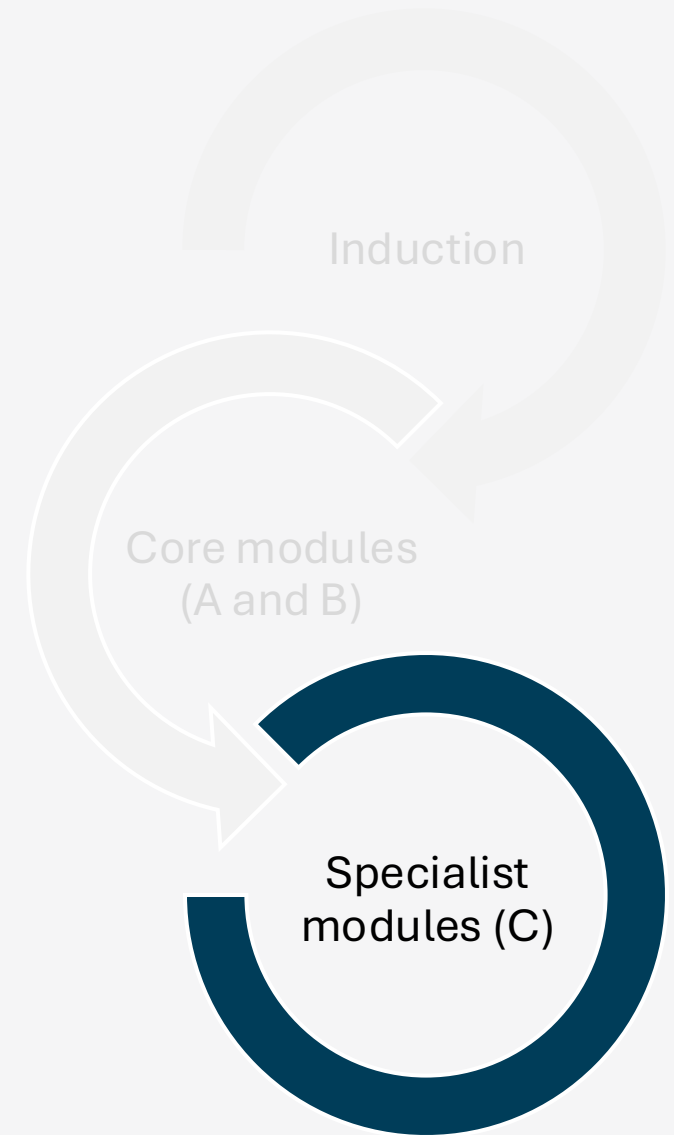


Specialist modules

The specialist modules are one-off courses which are more detailed than the core modules and explore broader topics linked to the National Accounts.

Examples include:

- Price and Volume
- Regional Accounts
- A History of National Accounts
- Financial Accounts
- Input output tables
- Taxes and subsidies



Bitesize training

Purpose:

- Bitesize videos covering National Accounts topics
- Discuss practical elements, timelines, deadlines, and ways of working
- Focus on internal ONS angle, differing from National Accounts theory and UK practice covered by SoNA.

Audience:

- Suitable for new starters and those looking to refresh their knowledge on less familiar areas

- Bitesize recorded sessions on "How we compile GDP", "Blue Book", "Overview of SNA25, BPM7 and GFS"

How do we compile GDP?

Gross domestic product (GDP) estimates are the main measure of UK economic growth based on the value of goods and services produced during a given period. GDP estimates are produced monthly, quarterly and annually as part of the revisions cycle to ensure the timely release of data throughout the year.

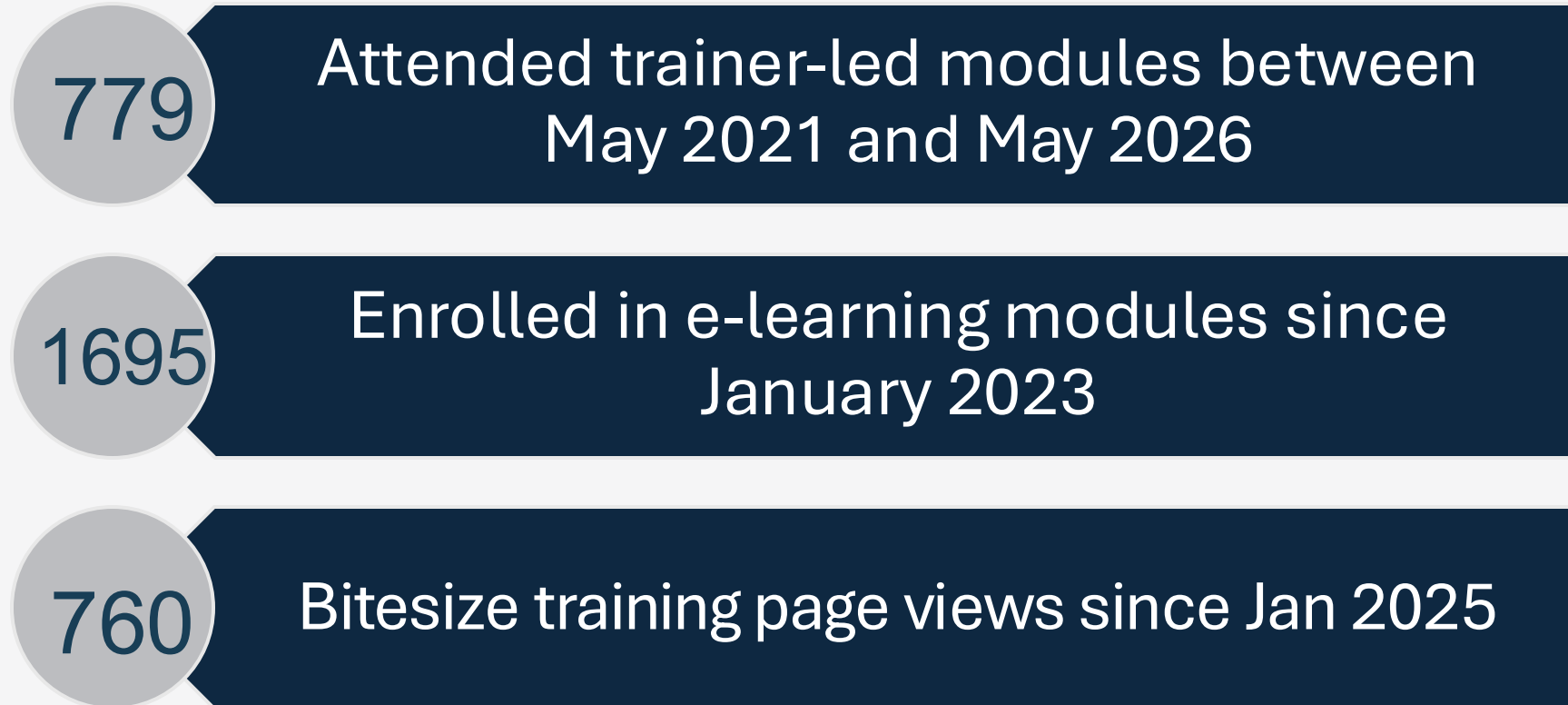
In this 30-minute presentation you will learn more about how and why we compile monthly, quarterly and annual estimates of GDP from the experts in National Accounts Co-ordination Division.

This presentation has been broken down into five bitesize recordings for you to watch in your own time.

Click the links to view the recording for each part in MS Stream

Part 1: Introduction	Link	4 minutes 18 seconds
Part 2: Monthly GDP	Link	3 minutes 27 seconds
Part 3: Quarterly GDP	Link	6 minutes 49 seconds
Part 4: Annual GDP	Link	7 minutes 1 second
Part 5: Communications, user engagement and revisions analysis	Link	6 minutes 22 seconds

SoNA in Metrics



Benefits of a blended learning approach

Virtual classroom

E-learning and Bitesize courses

Benefits of a blended learning approach



Virtual classroom

- Allows trainers to interact with attendees and share knowledge
- Interactive sessions include quizzes, group exercises, discussion and Q&A
- Learn from subject matter experts

Benefits of a blended learning approach

E-learning and Bitesize courses

- Flexible and accessible so allows staff to complete in their own time
- Staff can revisit training to refresh memory
- Interactive as it includes polls and quizzes

Uses of international classifications in the UK

Classifications can be categorised by type. Let's explore those types and how they are used in the UK National Accounts.

Click each heading for more information

Reference Classification

Derived Classification

National Classification

Reference Classification

The UK may use the international classification as it stands which is known as the reference classification. Reference classifications are a product of international agreement and are a means of harmonisation of international statistics.

Examples of UK adopting international classification are;

- Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP)
- Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG)
- Various systems of National Accounts classifications e.g. institutional sectors

Overcoming barriers to learning



Time: Monthly 3-hours ‘protected learning’ time



Accessibility: Trainer-led and e-learning options



Location: Online delivery

What's next?

- Working with other UK government departments to widen the reach of the training
- Developing further specialist modules
- Continuous improvement based on attendee feedback and ensuring latest methods and topics are included (including new international standards)

Thank you, any questions?

