

* Principal Differences between Primary and Secondary Data.

The following are some principal differences between primary and secondary data.

(1) Difference in Originality: →

Primary data are original because these are collected by the investigator from the source of their origin. Against this, secondary data are already in existence and, therefore, are not original.

(2) Difference in the Suitability of Objectives: →

Primary data are always related to a specific objective of the investigator. These data, therefore, do not need any adjustment for the concerned study. On the ~~old~~ other hand, secondary data have already been collected for some other purpose. Therefore, these data need to be adjusted to suit the objective of the study in hand.

(3). Difference in Cost of Collection: →

Primary data are costlier in terms of time, money and efforts involved than the secondary data. This is because primary data are collected for the first time from their source of origin. Secondary data are simply collected from the published or unpublished reports. Accordingly, these are much less expensive.

Secrist has rightly pointed out, "The distinction between primary and secondary data is one of the degree. Data which are primary in the hand of one party may be secondary in the hands of other."

Thank you.

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