

Concept note

8th Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS)

24 – 26 June 2025, Singapore

Background

Since its establishment, the Committee has worked to strengthen basic business and trade statistics needed for the overall improvement of economic statistics and for responding to emerging needs. The Committee focuses on coordination, development of methodology and concepts, capacity-building, data, and communication on business and trade statistics. The Committee's strategic view on business and trade statistics is rooted in a horizontal and vertical integration of business and trade statistics across statistical domains. The UNCEBTS has organized annual physical/hybrid Meetings since 2018¹.

The 8th Meeting will take place from 24 - 26 June 2025 in Singapore, and it will be hosted by Statistics Singapore and Enterprise Singapore.

Objectives of the Meeting

The meeting will review the progress of work of its task teams, address follow-up actions to the decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission and review new developments and initiatives in business and trade statistics. In addition, the meeting will provide strategic direction on the organization and work programme of the Committee to ensure that it reflects the current efforts by the Committee to better integrate business and trade statistics and also to strengthen the horizontal and vertical integration of business and trade statistics with other statistical domains.

Priority agenda items of this UNCEBTS Meeting include:

- (a) Discussion on the strategic framework on the integration of business and trade statistics and the prioritization of the UNCEBTS work programmes;
- (b) Progress of the work of the task teams on Statistical Business Registers; International Trade Statistics; Business Dynamics, Business Demography and Entrepreneurship; Digitalization; Wellbeing and Sustainability;
- (c) Finalization of the revision of the trade manuals, including the update for the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) 2026 and the Manual on Statistics on International Trade in Services (MSITS) 2026 as well as the drafting of the 2nd volume of the Manual of Principal Indicators on Business and Trade Statistics;
- (d) Way forward in developing a concrete proposal for a UN Handbook on Business Statistics;

¹ Except for two Meetings in 2020 including a Special Meeting on the Impact of COVID-19 on Business and Trade Statistics, 16 - 18 June 2020. Also, all the Meetings in 2020 and 2021 were virtual only due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

- (e) Development of a centralized global public repository and stocktaking of countries' and international organizations' experiences in advancing business and trade statistics and their integration with other statistical domains;
- (f) Capacity development

Organization

The in-person meeting will take place at Enterprise Singapore in Singapore. In-person participation is deemed more suitable for tackling complex issues, allowing more interactions, in-depth discussions and longer time than is possible in an exclusive virtual meeting. Nonetheless, other members of the UNCEBTS who cannot participate in-person will have the opportunity to connect virtually. The Meeting will be conducted in English.

Contact

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