The HIBTS development process

Item 5 – Task Team on International Trade Statistics
2025 Meeting of the UNCEBTS

June 24 , 2025

Outline

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1. Background, objective and content

1. Background: Status

Statistical Commission
Fifty-sixth session
New York, 4 - 7 March 2025
Item 3(k) of the provisional agenda
Items for discussion and decision: business and trade statistics

Background document
Available in English only

HANDBOOK ON INTEGRATING BUSINESS AND TRADE STATISTICS

The Handbook on Integrating Business and Trade Statistics (HIBTS) was presented during the 56th session of the UN Statistical Commission (2025)

Currently, the HIBTS team is discussing the inclusion of informal cross-border trade and household trade under the Innovation section

In parallel, the team is also working on the implementation strategy for the Handbook

HIBTS is available at:
https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_56/documents/BG-3k-HIBTS_White_Cover_Version-E.pdf

1. Background: Objective

The main objectives of the HIBTS are:

- Provide the conceptual and methodological framework related to the integration of business and trade statistics

- Include technical guidance for building and strengthening capacities on the MDL process

- Share country experiences related to the linking business and trade

- Guide countries to produce linking business and trade (goods and services) statistics in an international comparable manner

1. Background: Content
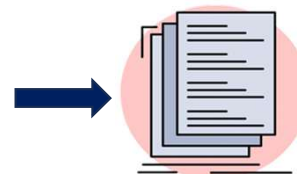
Introducing the
Conceptual basis → **Chapter 2.** Data Sources and institutional environment

Presenting the
Methodological aspects → **Chapter 3.** Data linking methods

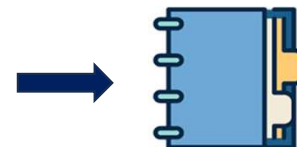Use of the conceptual and methodological framework for the
Linking process → **Chapter 4.** Linking business and trade statistics (goods and services)

Recommendations and statistical principles → **Chapter 5.** Quality framework
Chapter 6. Dissemination and principles of confidentiality

Emerging topics → They correspond to **Chapter 7** with "Innovation on linking business and trade statistics"

2. Collaboration to develop the HIBTS

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- **Cooperation and collaboration** with various groups, countries, and organizations make possible the development of the HIBTS, taking advantage of synergies and seeking to respond to a greater number of needs:

  - Country members from the TT-ITS
  - Collaboration with IMF
  - Collaboration with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics
  - Cooperation with the other TT of the UNCEBTS (TT-SBR and TT-BDBDE)
  - Cooperation with the IMTS and MSITS Chief Editors in cross-cutting issues, for more consistency between the different manuals

- The creation of a repository of practices on integrating business and trade statistics, based on the experience of developing the Country Progress Report site for the Wiesbaden Group, taking into account the compilation (receiving a filled template) and dissemination of the country experiences

3. Lessons learned

3. Lessons learned (1 of 2)

- Early scoping and objective definition is critical: the initial discussion on the outline was very relevant and crucial for the subsequent development process

- Engaging stakeholders from the start enhances relevance: the inclusion of topics related with the HIBTS in several global consultations was decisive

- Diverse expertise is crucial, but it needs to be coordinated effectively

- Iterative drafting and feedback loops were essential in the development of the HIBTS

3. Lessons learned (2 of 2)

- Documentation of decisions ensures transparency and continuity: maintain a decision log and version-controlled drafts to track rationale and revisions was relevant in the overall process

- Balancing technical depth with accessibility takes time: striking the right tone and detail level for multiple audiences (e.g., technical experts vs. policy users) is challenging, and the global consultations were useful for the improvement of HIBTS

- Coordination with external partners can be complex, but it was relevant, to ensure the usefulness of HIBTS

4. The Way forward

4. The way forward: Implementation strategy

Handbook on Integrating Business and Trade Statistics

Template of National practices

Global Online Repository

Training resources: online material

Region-specific workshops

Collaboration with International working groups

- As part of promoting the integration of business and trade statistics, it has been envisaged an implementation strategy along the HIBTS

- This includes the preparation of training materials, organization of regional workshops and development of a public online repository on national practices

- To achieve this goal, collaboration with other international working groups and intergovernmental bodies is essential

4. The way forward: Global online repository

- During the UNCEBTS meeting held 24–26 September 2024, the Task Teams agreed to collaborate on launching a Global Online Repository of Practices for Business and Trade Statistics

- This repository will cover several areas within business and trade statistics. It is intended to include relevant documentation for each area, as well as country-specific experiences

- The primary objective is to create a platform for knowledge sharing and to support countries in implementing the recommendations and practices advocated by the UNCEBTS Task Teams

- The Global Online Repository of Practices for Business and Trade Statistics is considered a key component of the HIBTS implementation strategy

4. The way forward: Capacity building

- UNSD also envisions the development of online materials to support the implementation of the HIBTS in countries

- Additionally, regional workshops will be organized as part of the implementation strategy

- In this regard, a regional workshop is planned in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in September 2025

5. Call to action

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- UNSD and the HIBTS coordinators kindly request your support in sharing your experiences on integrating business and trade statistics by fill in the template on national practices

- These contributions will form part of the specific domain on integrating business and trade statistics within the Global Online Repository for Business and Trade, developed by UNSD

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON BUSINESS AND TRADE STATISTICS
TASK TEAM ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS

Integrating business and trade statistics
TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL PRACTICES

Instructions:

Please provide a short description (maximum 3 pages in font Times New Roman #11) of the process to integrate business and trade statistics addressing the elements included in the following table. Also, if you consider that it is necessary to complement the information, you can share any document and/or hyperlinks to get more information, as well as graphs and/ or figures. Particularly, it is required:

- Identify the **topic(s)** that better reflects the content of your practice.
- 5-6 **Keywords** that provide readers with terms to facilitate the search of practices of interest.
- An **Introduction** providing a summary of national practices and addressing the institutions/stakeholders involved. In cases of institutional cooperation, please mention if there is a law, a Memorandum of Understanding, or any cooperation agreement. Moreover, please indicate if the practice/indicator addresses any requests from policymakers.
- A **Content** section a short description of the statistical products developed emphasizing its scope, periodicity, breakdown, dissemination practices and timeliness, among other core topics such as confidentiality. Additionally, it should include a short description of the process for linking business and trade data mentioning, data sources employed, techniques used, classifications and other technical considerations (e.g., software and other IT requirements, stand-alone application). Also, mention the data sources used (Census, Survey, Administrative, Other sources), techniques used, classifications, and other technical considerations.
- Some **Closing remarks** with a brief description of the results, the main challenges faced, difficulties in achieving the objectives, improvements made, as well as future plans.
- Finally, please provide any **Hyperlinks to additional documents** to get additional information.

Main topic(s) associated with your practice:

- ☐ Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC)
- ☐ Services Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (STEC)
- ☐ Social Statistics / Gender
- ☐ Subnational Statistics
- ☐ Services Trade by Modes of Supply
- ☐ Environmental Statistics
- ☐ National Accounts
- ☐ Other. Specify_____

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Thank You!

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