

Towards the new IMTS



Towards the new IMTS

- ▶ Chief editors and contacts
 - Chief editors: Amy Donnelly and Grace Kim, Australian Bureau of Statistics (amy.donnelly@abs.gov.au)
 - Support: Annica Monagle (annica.monagle@abs.gov.au)
- ▶ Presentation outline
 1. Timeline for IMTS2026
 2. Recap of new IMTS structure, sub-chapters and topics
 3. Drafting principles and overarching updates
 4. Key changes and updates
 5. Next steps

Timeline and Drafting Mechanism for IMTS 2026

Q1, 2024:
-Start drafting sections and chapters (v1)
-Summary of changes to UN Statistical Commission

Q2, 2024:
Continuing with drafting sections and chapters (v2)

Q3, 2024:
Finalizing drafting sections and chapters (v3)

Q4, 2024:
Consolidate and proofread consolidated chapters (v4)

Q1, 2025:
-Editing by consultant and ensuring consistency (v5) and finalization by chief editors (v6)
-Approve by TT co-leads (v7) and endorsement by UNCEBTS bureau (v8)

Q2, 2025:
Undertake global consultations (v8)

Q3, 2025:
Final editing (v9)

Q4, 2025:
Final review by TT-ITS, approval by co-leads and endorsement by UNCEBTS (v10)

Q1, 2026:
-UNSC endorsement
-Working on language editing, cover (v11-en)

Q2, 2026:
-Working on language editing, cover (v11-en)

Q3, 2026:
Translation to other UN languages (v11-fr/es/ar/ru/cn)

Q4, 2026:
Translation to other UN languages (v11-fr/es/ar/ru/cn)

Recap of IMTS Structure & New Topics

1. Introduction
2. Conceptual framework
 - Globalization and the cross-border principle
3. Institutional arrangements and data sources **New**
4. Trade system
5. Classifications
6. Valuation
 - Trade by currency
7. Quantity measurement
8. Partner country
9. Mode of transport
10. Data compilation strategies
 - Trade flows: nature of transactions
 - Linking trade, business and other statistics
11. Quality assurance framework
12. Bilateral trade asymmetries **New**
13. Dissemination
 - Standard and alternate outputs
 - SDMX-IMTS
14. Specialized topics
 - Measuring the impact of trade on environment and sustainability
 - Measuring the impact of trade on well-being, labor, and productivity
 - Cultural and creative industry goods
 - Global production arrangements and value chains
 - Digital trade
 - Indicators on trade statistics

Annexes

Drafting principles and overarching updates

Drafting principles:

- ▶ Alignment with guidance notes
- ▶ Inclusion of new and emerging topics
- ▶ Increased alignment with BPM7, SNA 2025 and the other trade manuals (MSITS, HIBTS, MPITBS) where applicable
- ▶ Review for consistency and to avoid duplication
- ▶ Editing principles
 - Plain English: clear and accessible language
 - Increased use of diagrams and visuals

Overarching manual changes:

- ▶ Clarifications on many definitions, terminologies, guidance
- ▶ Elevation of selected encouragements from IMTS 2010 to recommendations
- ▶ UN Quality assurance framework and GSBPM used as the key reference frameworks for the Institutional arrangements and Quality assurance chapters

Key changes and updates

Conceptual Framework:

- Broadening of scope to include:
 - informal cross border trade and legal goods moved illegally
 - Coins of precious metals
- Amendments to align more explicitly with BPM7, where applicable
- Clarification on a range of items e.g. returned goods and new technologies
- New section on *Globalization and the cross-border principle*, comparing the cross-border principle and change of ownership principles

Institutional arrangements and data sources:

- Increased recognition that customs data alone does not achieve full coverage and information on using multiple data sources

Trade system:

- Clearer recommendation that if general trade system cannot be used, relaxed special trade should be used. Strict special trade should only be used as a last resort

Classifications:

- Countries are recommended to use the most current edition of HS and avoid mixing different editions in a specific period

Key changes and updates

Valuation:

- New encouragement to start compiling invoice value – to facilitate future transition to invoice value for BPM/SNA valuation
- Trade by invoicing currency

Quantity:

- Encouragement to use provisional extended list of IMTS standard units of quantity
- New Annex linked to this chapter to provide the provisional extended list

Partner country:

- Country of consignment as the second partner country attribution for imports now recommended
- New encouragement to record country of origin for re-exports

Mode of transport:

- Updates to MOT classification titles/structure e.g. Air and space

Key changes and updates

Data compilation:

- Advancing the use of IMTS as a source of information to understand global manufacturing arrangements and value chains
- Encouraged set of Nature of transaction output codes to identifying goods traded under various arrangements
- Missing data
- Linking trade with business and other statistics

Quality assurance framework:

- UN-NQAF as reference framework and new Annex linked to this chapter

Bilateral trade asymmetries:

- Own chapter, outlining identified causes of asymmetries and encouragements for reconciliation studies

Dissemination:

- Introduces 'data vintage' concept
- Diagram to visualise release cycles
- New content on SDMX-IMTS

IMTS - Next steps

- ▶ June-July 2025: Finalising outstanding draft chapters/sub-chapters
- ▶ Late July-Early September 2025: IMTS Global consultations
- ▶ September-December 2025: Incorporate feedback from global consultations and finalise text
- ▶ Early 2026: Presented for UNSC endorsement



Questions?

20/06/2025