



**Task Team**  
**International Trade Statistics**  
**Global consultation**  
*on the draft of the*  
**Manual on Principal Indicators for Business and Trade Statistics,**  
**Volume 2**

**8th UNCEBTS Meeting**  
**Singapore, 24 – 26 June 2025**



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# The manual

## 1. Introduction

- A. Background
- B. Structure of the manual
- C. Process of preparing the manual
- D. Target audience

## 2. Uses of the manual and conceptual aspects

- A. Introduction
- B. Purposes and uses
- C. Main concepts
- D. Data sources
- E. Data quality issues
- F. Special methodological note for the indicators
- G. Micro data linking

## 3. Core Indicators

## 4. Aspirational Indicators

- 4.1 Productivity, wellbeing, labor and wage, gender inequality
- 4.2 Wellbeing
- 4.3 Labor and wage, gender inequality
- 4.4 Environment
  - Share of plastics trade in external trade
  - Share of BioTrade in external trade
- 4.5 Digitalization
- 4.6 Business Statistics
  - TEC – Trade by Enterprise Characteristics
  - STEC – Services Trade by Enterprise Characteristics



*Global Consultation on the draft of the MPIBTS, Vol  
March 25, to 18 April, 2025*

*The questionnaire*

*structured into two sections:*

- *Part 1 collects general feedback on the Manual;*
- *Part 2 delves into specific aspects of the indicators, evaluating their*
  - *relevance,*
  - *effectiveness*
  - *usefulness,*
  - *as well as the clarity*
  - *completeness of the corresponding indicator sheets.*



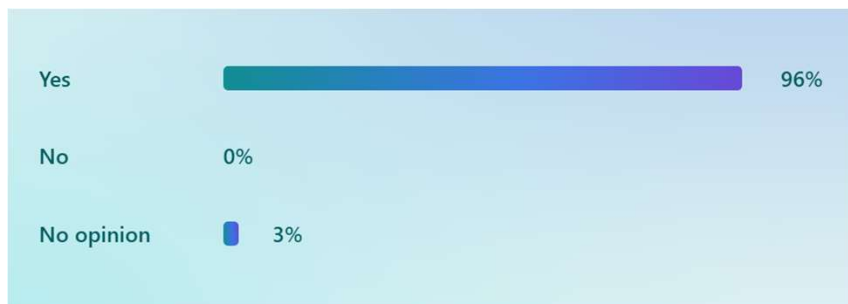
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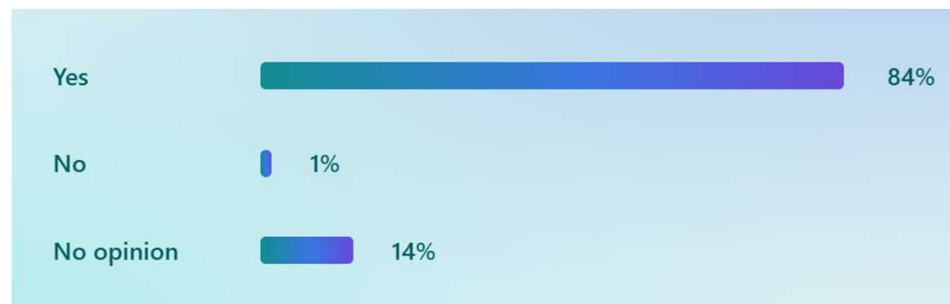
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51 responses

*Do you agree that the Manual provides a reference list of indicators that adequately address users' needs for high-quality and detailed information essential for trade-related analysis?*



*Do you agree that the indicators facilitate the analysis of trade's impact on the economy, society, and environment while aligning with the SDGs?*



Overall additional insights, suggestions, or concerns on the indicators

### Suggestion

- Identify a core/minimum/priority set of indicators
- Ensure methodological consistency (*harmonized concepts, data frequency*)
- Provide examples, best practices, case studies
- Include brief description of thematic areas/topics

### Concerns

- Response burden (*especially those involving surveys, e.g., import dependence of final consumption expenditure*)
- Data availability for some advanced indicators (*required details, MDL for chapter 4 indicators*)
- Technical capacity of countries

## Alignment with SDGs

### New indicator suggestions

- Average tariffs (SDG 17.12.1)
- Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports with zero-tariff (SDG 10.a.1)
- Agricultural export subsidies (2.b.2)
- Trade in green technologies and climate-adaptive goods
- Trade resilience or vulnerability to global shocks

### Other suggestion

- For each indicator, mention which SDG it relates to

## Chapter 1 and 2



Explain how vol-2 relates with vol-1



Further elaborate the rationale for developing vol-2



Provide guidance on when to use/who should use  
vol-1 vs vol-2



Refer to HIBTS (microdata linking) with relation to  
indicators on trade's links with other domains



## Chapter 3 and 4

### Ensure consistency of presentation

- e.g., indicator sheets for TEC/STEC

### Include references for the indicators

- i.e., research, publications, etc.

### Provide product code list for plastic trade and Bio-trade indicators (4.4.1, 4.4.2)

- HS codes or other classification

### New indicator suggestions

- Change of labor productivity by trade openness in constant prices between two consecutive years (or accounting periods)
- Price index
- Volume Index
- Company's spending on employee's fringe benefit, safety, healthcare, social/community contributions
- Company's spending on waste/pollutant treatment, carbon emission, and the like

Suggestions on specific indicators

## Many suggestions on specific indicators regarding

- Methodology
- Calculation
- data availability
- data sources
- technical capacity
- consistency of presentation

## Questions



Which suggestions are most important to implement?



Do you think the indicators covered all thematic areas? Did we miss anything?



Do we need to consider some new indicators given the current impact of geopolitics on trade?



Any other suggestions/concerns?

## Next steps

- Focus group will review the comments and address specific comments.
- The group should explore ways to address requests for prioritization of indicators and to mention the link with the SDGs, where applicable, on metadata.
- For classification related comments (e.g. plastic trade), the group will reach out to partner agencies for product lists (if any).
- Finalization in September 2025 for endorsement in 2026

Thank you!

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