

The Revision of the Trade Statistics Manuals

Fourth Meeting of the UN Committee of
Experts on Business and Trade Statistics

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Presentation outline

Background

- Integrated trade and business statistics
- IMTS and MSITS research agenda: overlapping areas

Research topics and issues, by theme, teams working on them, prioritization

- IMTS topics
- MSITS topics
- Cross-cutting topics

Process and timeline

- Life cycle of guidance notes
- Timeline

Progress monitoring

- Guidance note tracking
- Forward looking agenda and project risks

Assessment, Experimental Observations, and Outreach Components

- Outreach
- Baseline assessment
- Experimental observations



Background

Comprehensive, consistent, and integrated statistics

- Needs for more relevant, detailed, disaggregated, and linked datasets
- 2030 Agenda and other policy frameworks (climate change, globalization, decent jobs and income, etc.)
- UNSC 52nd Session (decision creating Trade Task Team under UNCEBTS)

Services trade and merchandise trade statistics

- integrated framework with appropriate extensions to the interrelations with society and the environment
- More consistent, coherent manual(s), concepts and definitions
- TTT to consider a single manual?

IMTS and MSITS research agenda: overlapping areas of research with other manuals

Issues	To be addressed through:
Economic territory	TBD – Trade Task Team
Time of recording	TBD – Trade Task Team
Goods for processing with or without change of ownership	To be addressed through the Task Team of Digitalization and Globalization, taking account of the work on the Handbook on Global Production (2015).
Manufacturing services on inputs owned by others	To be addressed through the Task Team of Digitalization and Globalization, taking account of the work on the Handbook on Global Production (2015).
Electronic commerce	To be addressed through the Task Team of Digitalization and Globalization, taking account of the work on the Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade (2020).
Merchanting	To be addressed through the Task Team of Digitalization and Globalization, taking account of the work on the Handbook on Global Production (2015).

Issues	To be addressed through:
Statistical classifications: CPC and ISIC	Joint work with the revision of the SNA and international classifications
Partner country	TBD – Trade Task Team
Data compilation	TBD – Trade Task Team
Metadata requirement	To be addressed through the Task Team of Capacity Building.
Linking business and trade statistics	To be addressed through the Task Team of Business Dynamics, Demography, and Entrepreneurship, taking account of the work on the United Nations Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers (2020) with guidance on the use of SBR for business demography and entrepreneurship statistics
Data Quality	To be addressed through the Task Team of the Capacity Building, taking account of the United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics (UN NQAF Manual, 2019).



Research topics: IMTS

m.1 Bilateral trade asymmetry

m.2 Informal cross border trade

m.3 Revision of classification of HS, CPC, ISIC, BEC, Business functions

m.4 Standard Customs Procedure Codes

m.5 Valuation (utilizing invoice value in addition to CIF, FOB valuation)

m.6 Valuation of trade under long term contracts

m.7 Accuracy of quantity information

m.8 Alternative data sources
– high-frequency non-customs data

m.9 Alternative method on the calculation of trade indices

m.10 SDMX-IMTS implementation

m.11 Trade in digital valuables

m.12 Scope of IMTS – cross-border concept, or change of ownership, or both?

m.13 Scope of IMTS – improved coverage General Trade System exclusively?



Research topics: SITS

- s.1 Recording transactor-based service categories (travel, construction and government goods under services)
- s.2 Merchanting and factoryless producers and merchanting of services
- s.3 Statistical impact of the change in treatment of operating leases in business accounting
- s.4 Economic ownership in the context of financial and operating lease transactions, in particular, pertaining to aircrafts
- s.5 Treatment of travel packages, health-related travel, and taxes and fees on passengers' tickets
- s.6 Clarification on FISIM
- s.7 FATS, Construction: guidance on separating the foreign trade in construction services and creating FDI enterprise
- s.8 Other government services: clarification on the definition
- s.9 Measurement of Modes of Supply



Research topics: cross-cutting

c.1 Scope of IMTS and SITS
– separation between goods and services

c.2 Digital trade including conceptual framework,
price and volume measurement

c.3 Global value chains

c.4 Classifications

c.5 International trade classified by currency
(BPM GN C3)

c.6 Clarification on cultural products resulting from
creative industries

c.7 Linking trade and business statistics

c.8 Impact of trade on environment and sustainability

IMTS topics by theme, prioritization and relevant UNCEBTS Task Teams

Research issue	Thematic categories				Prioritization	Linking to other Task Teams
	Globalization	Digitalization	Well-being & Sustainability	Trade (core/base)		
m.1 Bilateral trade asymmetry	X			X	H	
m.2 Informal Cross Border Trade			X	X	H	EBR
m.3 Update on Classification				X	M	
m.4 Standard Customs Procedure Codes				X	M	
m.5 Valuation (utilizing invoice value in addition to CIF, FOB)	X			X	H	
m.6 Valuation of trade under long term contracts	X			X	M	
m.7 Accuracy of quantity information			X	X	M	
m.8 Alternative data sources – high-frequency non-customs data				X	M	
m.9 Alternative method on the calculation of trade indices				X	M	
m.10 SDMX-IMTS implementation				X	M	
m.11 Trade in digital valuables		X	X	X	H	GD
m.12 Scope of IMTS – cross-border, or change of ownership, or both?	X		X	X	H	GD
m.13 Scope of IMTS – improved coverage by implementing General Trade System exclusively				X	M	

SITS topics by theme, prioritization and relevant

Research issue	Thematic categories				Prioritization	Linking to other Task Teams
	Globalization	Digitalization	Well-being & Sustainability	Trade (core/base)		
s.1 Recording transactor-based components of services (travel, construction and government goods under services)				X	H	
s.2 Merchanting and factoryless producers; Merchanting of services	X		X	X	H	EBR/GD
s.3 Statistical impact of the change in treatment of operating leases in business accounting	X			X	H	
s.4 Economic ownership in the context of financial and operating lease transactions, in particular, pertaining to aircrafts	X			X	H	
s.5 Treatment of travel packages, health-related travel, and taxes and fees on passengers' tickets				X	H	
s.6 Clarification on FISIM	X			X	M	
s.7 Construction services: Guidance on separating the foreign trade in construction services by FATS and FDI enterprises	X		X	X	M	
s.8 Other government services: clarification on the definition				X	M	
s.9 Measurement of Modes of Supply			X	X	M	

Cross-cutting topics by theme, prioritization and relevant UNCEBTS Task Teams

Research issue	Thematic categories				Prioritization	Linking to other Task Teams
	Globalization	Digitalization	Well-being & Sustainability	Trade (core/base)		
c.1 Scope of IMTS and SITS– separation between goods and services				X	H	
c.2 Digital Trade including conceptual framework, price and volume measurement		X	X	X	H	GD
c.3 Global value chains	X		X	X	M	EBR / GD
c.4 Classifications				X	H	GD
c.5 International trade classified by currency (BPM GN C3)	X			X	M	
c.6 Clarification on cultural products resulting from creative industries	X		X	X	M	
c.7 Linking trade and business statistics	X		X	X	H	BDDE
c.8 Impact of trade on environment and sustainability	X		X	X	M	WS

Categorization of IMTS issues by teams working on them

Research issue		Teams					Others
		UNCEBTS	BOPCOM	AEG/ ISWGNA	CL Expert Group	OECD/ WPTGS	
m.1	Bilateral trade asymmetry		GZTT/ CATT*	GZTT/ CATT*		X	Figaro Project
m.2	Informal Cross Border Trade	X		IETT*			AUC
m.3	Update on Classification				X		
m.4	Standard Customs Procedure Codes						GCC COMESA
m.5	Valuation (utilizing invoice value in addition to CIF, FOB)		GZTT/ CATT*	GZTT/ CATT*			TFITS
m.6	Valuation of trade under long term contracts		CATT				
m.7	Accuracy of quantity information			GZTT			UN NQAF Manual
m.8	Alternative data sources – high-frequency non-customs data		GZTT	GZTT			IMF, UNCBDB
m.9	Alternative methods for the calculation of trade indices			GZTT			Ottawa Group? AUC, GCC
m.10	SDMX-IMTS implementation						AUC, GCC, Eurostat, OECD, UNCTAD, ADB
m.11	Trade in digital valuables		X	X			
m.12	Scope of IMTS – cross-border, or change of ownership, or both?		DITT				
m.13	Scope of IMTS – improved coverage by implementing General Trade System exclusively						

* Joint Task Team

Categorization of SITS issues by teams working on them

Research issue		Teams				
		UNCEBTS	BOPCOM	AEG/ ISWGNA	CL Expert Group	OECD/ WPTGS
s.1	Recording transactor-based components of services (travel, construction and government goods under services)		CATT			
s.2	Merchanting and factoryless producers; Merchanting of services		GZTT* CATT	GZTT*	X	
s.3	Statistical impact of the change in treatment of operating leases in business accounting		CATT			IPTT
s.4	Economic ownership in the context of financial and operating lease transactions, in particular, pertaining to aircrafts		CATT			IPTT
s.5	Treatment of travel packages, health-related travel, and taxes and fees on passengers' tickets		BPTT GZTT* DZTT* CATT	GZTT* DZTT*		
s.6	Clarification on FISIM			X		
s.7	Construction services: Guidance on separating the foreign trade in construction services by FATS and FDI enterprises		DITT GZTT*	GZTT*		
s.8	Other government services: clarification on the definition		CATT			
s.9	Measurement of Modes of Supply				X	Eurostat TF MoS WTO

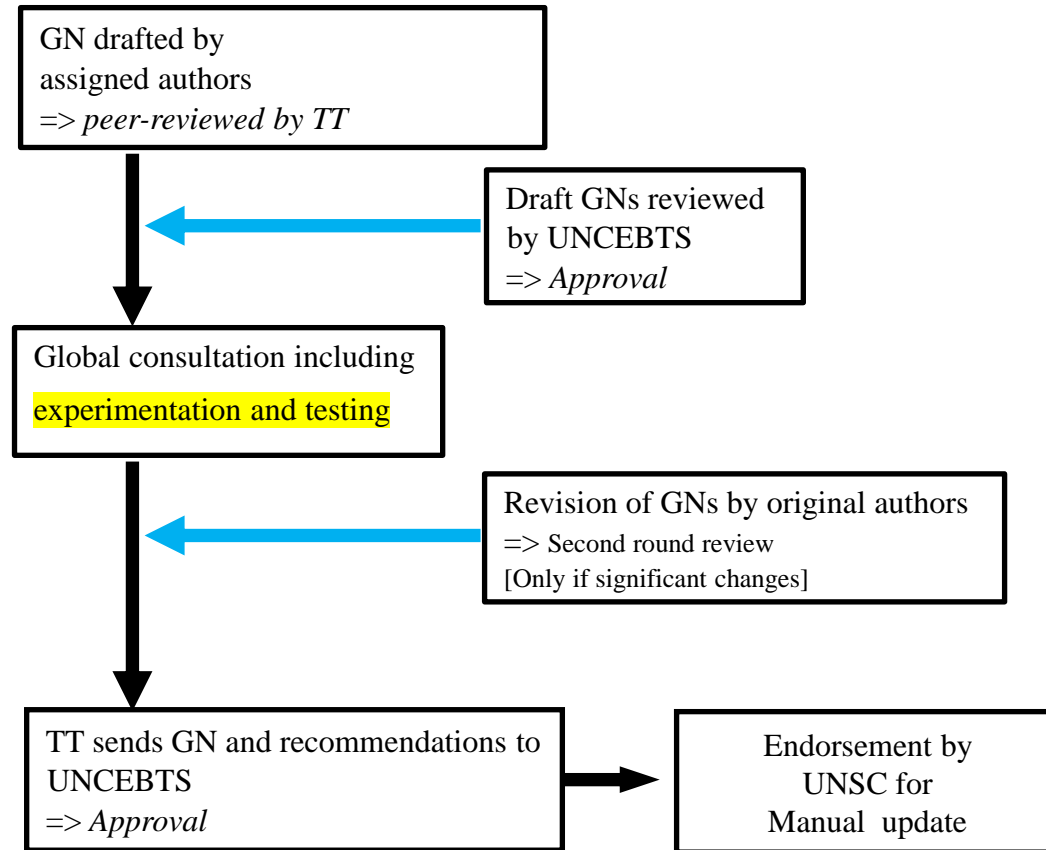
* Joint Task Team



Categorization of cross-cutting issues by teams working on them

Research issue	Teams					
	UNCEBTS	BOPCOM	AEG/ISWGNA	CL Expert Group	OECD/WPTGS	Others
c.1		CATT				
c.2			GZTT		TFITS EG OECD WTO IMF	
c.3	X		X		IMF, OECD	X
c.4				X		
c.5		CATT				
c.6					UNESCO UNCTAD	
c.7	X	CATT	X		Wiesbaden Group	X
c.8	X					X
c.9		CATT				

Process: schematic for the life cycle of Guidance Notes



Process: timeline

April 2021 — Sept 2023

	Apr. — Sept. 2021 (6 months)	Oct. 2021 — Jun. 2022 (9 months)	Jul. 2022 — Mar. 2023 (9 months)	Apr. — Jun. 2023	Jul. — Sept. 2023
Exploration Research	Research topics identification and prioritization	Research and drafting of GNs			
Consultations and approval			Global consultations on GNs – experimentation & testing	Final recommends.	Approval by TT & UNCEBTS

Oct 2023 — Mar 2025

	Oct. 2023 — Mar. 2024 (6 months)	Apr. — May 2024	Jun. — Oct. 2024 (5 months)	Mar. 2025	May 2025 — onwards
Drafting	The first draft manuals	Global consultations on the draft manuals			
Finalization & endorsement			Manual finalization and approval by UNCEBTS	UNSC endorse.	Capacity building activities on the new manuals

Guidance Note Tracking and Progress Monitoring

Until September 2023, the overall progress can be measured in progress of the individual guidance notes.

While Task Teams may be aware of the status of each guidance note assigned to them, it is difficult for the secretariat to keep an overview.

Following the progress monitoring model of the update of the 2008 SNA and BPM 6, Task Teams will therefore be surveyed on the status and various other important issues for each guidance note.

SNA and BPM GN Tracking Questionnaire:

Please select your Task Team:

Globalization ▾

1. Please indicate the status of your Task Team's guidance notes.

Choose one of the following statuses for each guidance note:

- 0: Not started
- 1: Initial Drafting in progress
- 2: Submitted to AEG for guidance
- 3: Re-drafting (as a follow up of 2)
- 4: Consolidation of guidance notes
- 5: Submitted to AEG to be cleared for Global Consultation & Assessment
- 6: Re-drafting (as a follow up of 5)
- 7: Cleared by AEG for Global Consultation & Assessment
- 8: Global Consultation in progress
- 9: Global Consultation finalized
- 10: Final Drafting
- 11: Submitted to the AEG for final endorsement
- 12: Endorsed by the AEG for publication
- 1: Unknown
- 2: Dropped (e.g. due to consolidation of GN with other GNs)

If your task team will write an additional guidance note please use a new line and enter the title. For consolidated guidance notes use a new line and mark the respective original guidance notes as -2: Dropped.

Space for 10 additional guidance notes will appear when a title is provided for GN 10

	Title (GN)	Status (see above for description)														
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	-1	-2
GN 1	Valuation of Imports and Exports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GN 2	Treatment of MNE and Intra-MNE Flows	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Forward-Looking Agenda and Risk Assessment

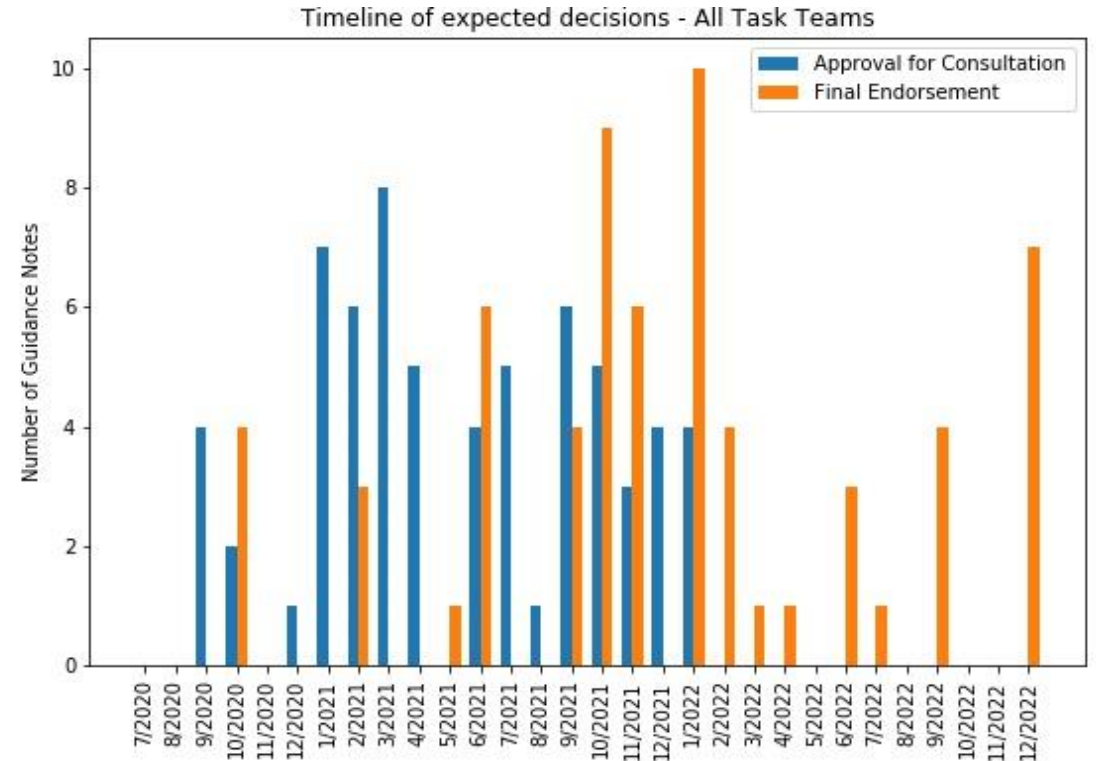
Besides the current status of each guidance note, the questionnaire also asks for the dates when the following milestones are expected to be met:

- Submitted for approval for global consultation
- Finalized global consultation and assessment
- Submitted for final endorsement.

These milestones will be followed by consultations of the UNCEBTS and country consultations.

Being aware of the expected dates means that potential bottlenecks or other risks can be identified in advance.

SNA and BPM GN Timeline of Expected AEG and BPTT/BOPCOM decisions:



Questionnaire and Semi-Automated Progress Report

Through personalized links, the questionnaire saves prior responses and can be updated at any time.

It allows adding new guidance notes by respondents and adding new questions by UNSD.

A python script will use the extracted data to automatically generate a progress report. Supplementary tables will be made available to UNCEBTS and other stakeholders through SharePoint Online.

Excerpt of the SNA and BPM Update Progress Report:

Progress Report of the 2008 SNA and BPM 6 Update Project

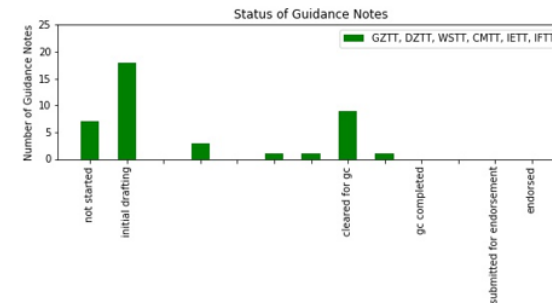
This is a summary of the status of the Update project of the 2008 SNA and BPM 6 as of 1/7/2021. The information in this report was provided by the Task Team Chairs and Secretariats.

All guidance notes go through the same major steps on their way to full endorsement after the initial drafting phase:

1. Approval for global/public consultation by BPTT/AEG
2. Completion of global/public consultation
3. Final endorsement by BOPCOM/AEG

Table 2: Progress of Guidance Notes by Task Team Type

Task Team Type	Not started	Started but not yet approved for consultation	Approved for consultation	Consultation completed	Endorsed
Total	7	32	10	5	3
SNA	4	12	7	0	0
BPM	0	0	0	0	0
Joint SNA/BPM	3	20	3	5	3



For the revision of Trade Manuals, we will follow the practice in SNA update with minor tweaks.... SNA update outreach is as follows:

Outreach, Assessment and Experimental Observations Component

- **Outreach**

- ✓ Inception webinars
 - ✓ Thematic webinars
- GNs broadcast
Feedback
Info. collection

- **Baseline assessment**

- ✓ Structural information
 - ✓ Specific information
- Assessment
tool/criteria

- **Experimental Observations** and user consultation assessment

- Reporting/gathering results (central repository)

Planning



Detailed monitoring tool
Follow-up with TTs

Outreach

1. Inception regional webinars (possibly 2 by region – language)

- Broadcast the status of the update process
- Present the expected calendar of activities – promote the global consultation
- Inform countries about the experimental observations component
- Gather information on countries' developmental plans on NA

2. Thematic webinars

- Ideally cluster topics to be covered by theme, implementation tools, or regional interest
- Explore potential candidate for the EO
- Foster the consultation and gather user and compilers' feedback
- Complement the collection of specific data for the baseline assessment (GC's forms)

Assessment and Experimental Observations Component

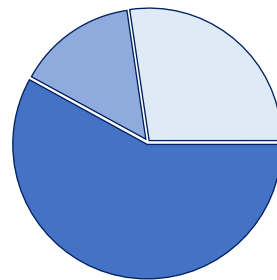
- Baseline assessment
 - ✓ Structural information
 - ✓ Specific information
- Experimental Observations / Early Implementation
- Reporting/gathering results (central repository)



Implementation feasibility of the recommendations



Impact assessment of the recommendations



Feedback – information sharing