



STATISTICS

Current Account Task Team (CATT): Recent Activities

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

July 8, 2021

Outline

- **Task Teams for updating the standards**
- **Current Account Task Team (CATT)**
- **Current status of CATT Guidance Notes (GNs)**
- **Key lessons learned**

Task Teams for Updating the Standards (*BPM6 & SNA*)

- Task Teams have been formed to research issues and make recommendations for the update of the International Statistical Standards
- Balance of Payments Committee (BOPCOM) Task Teams
 - Current Account Task Team (CATT)
 - Direct Investment Task Team (DITT)
 - Balance of Payments Task Team (BPTT)
- Joint BOPCOM and ISWGNA Task Teams
 - Globalization Task Team (GZTT)
 - Financial and Payments System Task Team (FITTT)
 - Informal Economy Task Team (IETT)
 - Islamic Finance Task Team (IFTT)
 - Communications Task Team (CMTT)
- <https://www.imf.org/en/Data/Statistics/BPM>

Role of the CATT

- Provide technical inputs and make recommendations through **Guidance Notes (GNs)**
- Addresses current account issues on the Committee's research agenda
- In addition, CATT may consider other current account methodological issues raised by its members and by the other TTs relevant for the BPM6 update
- CATT will operate during Phase I of the BPM6 update process (March 2020–March 2022).
 - CATT may be consulted during Phase II (drafting of BPM7 chapters) on an as-needed basis
- To meet deadlines and avoid duplication, CATT will:
 - Take account of current or completed work on topics related to issues under its purview
 - Coordinate with other Task Forces or Working Groups on cross-cutting issues
- GNs posted for public consultation before going to the Committee for decision
 - For certain recommendations, a testing phase is envisioned after it is approved

<https://www.imf.org/en/Data/Statistics/BPM/CATT>

Description of the CATT



**Eurostat and
IMF co-chair**



**Membership
representing BP
SNA and GFS
communities;
countries with
varying levels
of statistical
development;
IOs**



**Coordination of
work on cross-
cutting issues
(including with
SNA task team
on
digitalization)**



**Review of
guidance notes
by BPTT and
AEG**



**Public
consultation for
4 weeks**



**To the BOPCOM
for decision
(and AEG for
joint GNs)**

Global & Collaborative Initiative

Current Account Task Team (CATT) Research Topics : **High-priority** items

| Issue No. | Research Topic | Links to other TTs | Date |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| C.1 | Recording transactor-based components of services (travel, construction and government goods under services) | | October 2020 |
| C.2 | Goods and services account by (trading) enterprise characteristics | | October 2020 |
| C.3 | International trade classified by currency (including for trade linked to long-term trade credits and advances) | | June 2021 |
| C.4 | Merchanting and factoryless producers; clarifying negative exports in merchanting; Merchanting of services | Joint with the GZTT | October 2021 |
| C.5.1 | Statistical impact of the change in treatment of operating leases in business accounting | | October 2020 |
| C.5.2 | Economic ownership in the context of financial and operating lease transactions pertaining, in particular, to aircrafts | | July 2021 |

Current account Task Team (CATT) Research Topics : **Medium-priority** items

| Issue No. | Research Topic | Links to other TTs | Date |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| C.6 | Trade in services classification | GZTT/ DZTT | June 2021 |
| C.7 | Treatment of travel packages, health-related travel, and taxes and fees on passenger tickets | | October 2021 |
| C.8 | Recording penalties and fines | | February 2021 |
| C.9 | Valuation of trade under long term contracts | | Dropped |
| GNs of other Task Teams relevant to the CATT | | | |
| C.11 | Valuation of imports and exports (CIF/FOB adjustment) | GZTT | Reviewed by CATT September 2020 |

DZTT= Digitalization Task Team

Committee Meetings

October 2020

C.1 Recording Transactor-based Components of Services (Travel, Construction And Government Goods Under Services)

- *GN Revised and circulated to CATT.*
- *Will be submitted to October 2021 BOPCOM.*

C.2 Goods and Services Account by (Trading) Enterprise Characteristics

- *Approved, under finalization*
- *Will be posted to be included in the annotated outline of BPM7.*

C.5.1 Statistical Impact of the Change in Treatment of Operating Leases in Business Accounting

- *Approved, will be finalized together with C.5.2.*

GZTT/CATT G.1/C.11

Valuation of Imports and Exports of Goods in the International Standards (CIF to FOB Adjustment)

- *Decision to follow up with feasibility test among NA and BOP communities*

February 2021

C.7 Treatment of Travel Packages, Health-related Travel, and Taxes and Fees on Passenger Tickets

- *currently put on hold pending decision on C.4 in October*

C.8 Recording Penalties and Fines

- *Finalize consultation with AEG*

June 2021

C.3 International Trade Classified by Currency (Including for Trade linked to Long-term Trade Credits and Advances)

- *GN to BOPCOM for decision.*

C.5.2 Economic Ownership in the Context of Financial and Operating Lease Transactions Pertaining, in Particular, to Aircrafts – *via written procedure*

C.6 Trade in Services Classification

- *GN to BOPCOM for decision.*

C.9 Valuation of Trade Under Long Term Contracts

- *deleted from the CATT research agenda*

October 2021

C.4 Merchanting And Factoryless Producers; Clarifying Negative Exports in Merchanting; Merchanting of Services

- *Under drafting jointly by CATT/GZTT*

GZTT/CATT C11

Valuation of Imports and Exports of Goods in the International Standards (CIF to FOB adjustment)

- *Follow through with Stage II testing*
- *Joint Report to BOPCOM and AEG*

C.1 Recording Transactor-based Components of Services (Travel, Construction, and Government Goods Under Services)

- *Final version to BOPCOM for final approval*

C.7 Treatment of Travel Packages, Health-related Travel, and taxes and Fees on Passenger Tickets

- *GN will be harmonized with C.1 and C.4 and submitted for discussion*

Joint collaboration with GZTT

C.11/G.1 Valuation of Imports and Exports of Goods (CIF-FOB)

- Online survey conducted during February-April 2021 received responses from 117 economies
- Good support for the use of invoice values (over 65%) from the BOP and NA communities
- Full or at least partial availability to about half of the BOP and NA compiling institutions
- Broad consensus that the quality of invoice values is fairly accurate
- Stage II of testing is ongoing (42 countries agreed to participate)

C.4 Merchanting And Factoryless Producers; Clarifying Negative Exports in Merchanting; Merchanting of Services

- Under drafting jointly by CATT and GZTT
- First draft of the GN should be available by early July
- GN will be submitted to the October 2021 meeting

Key Lessons Learned

- **Need for broad consultation**
 - Many issues are interconnected or have implications for other statistics
 - Countries may have different concerns about implementation or different needs depending on their circumstances; need for practical guidance was stressed in particular
- **Cross-cutting issues**
 - Drafting joint GNs to avoid conflicting recommendations that need to be resolved later
- **Prioritization**
 - All Task Teams are proposing additional granularity, memorandum items, and supplemental breakdowns that could be overly burdensome
 - Once all GNs are complete, their recommendations will be prioritized
 - For CATT GNs, question as to which recommendations need to be in the Balance of Payments and which can be in merchandise trade and international trade in services statistics
- **Timeframe**
 - Need to allocate sufficient time for the drafting and review of topics
 - Need to track progress

Thank you for your time and attention

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