

**Fifteenth Meeting of the  
IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics  
Canberra, Australia, October 21–25, 2002**

**Country Practices in Reporting Balance of Payments and International Investment  
Position Data to the Fund**

**Prepared by the Statistics Department  
International Monetary Fund**

## **COUNTRY PRACTICES IN REPORTING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POSITION DATA TO THE FUND**

The publication of the fifth edition of the *Balance of Payments Manual (BPM5)* in September 1993 introduced a substantially revised system of compilation for balance of payments accounts. In December 1994, the Fund's Statistics Department mailed individual country data recast in the structure of *BPM5* to all countries that had reported balance of payments data in the past. The country authorities were asked to review this recasting of their data and to begin reporting data in *BPM5* format.

Balance of payments data in *BPM5* format were published for the first time in the 1995 issue of the *Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook (BOPSY)*. Data for the international investment position were published for the first time in the 1996 issue of *BOPSY*.

The attached table provides information on the current reporting practices of countries providing balance of payments and international investment position data to the Fund. It shows which countries now report in *BPM5* format, the most recent period for which data are reported, the type of reporter (annual or quarterly), and the method of reporting.

The table shows that 151 countries now report in *BPM5* format, which compares with 144 in 2001 and 143 in 2000. The table also shows that 115 of the 175 countries that report balance of payments data have reported data for 2001 and of the 87 countries that report international investment position data, 60 have reported data for 2001. More countries report quarterly balance of payments data (95) than report annual data (80). Sixty-five countries report annual international investment position data and 22 report quarterly data.

The table also shows that there is a significant increase in the number of countries providing international investment position data (up from 78 in 2001 to 87 in 2002), which partly reflects willingness by countries to publish incomplete position statements while working on the development of more complete statements.

On the method of reporting, it may be noted that many countries send data both in electronic format and in hardcopy as a backup. However, the table is intended to show only the highest level of reporting, that is, whether data are sent electronically by edifact/gesmes, if not, whether electronically by spreadsheet, and, in both cases, whether data are sent by e-mail. Nine countries report data using edifact, the same as in 2001. Between 2001 and 2002, there has been an increase in the number of countries sending data by spreadsheet (from 122 to 135), and by e-mail (from 121 to 134).

The attached table also lists those reporting countries that are expected to participate in the 2001 Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (2001 CPIS). These details are included in the table to provide an indication of the attempts by countries to address measurement issues involved with the compilation of portfolio investment data for their international investment position statements. In total, 69 member and nonmember jurisdictions have indicated that they will participate in the 2001 CPIS.