

EMERGING AREAS

In addition to its leadership role in traditional domains, STA has put an emphasis on the key emerging areas, such as climate, fintech, digital money, and the possibilities of Big Data to meet the evolving needs of member countries.

CLIMATE

STA is advancing data and tools for policymaking and building capacity across the membership on climate. The IMF's Climate Change Indicators Dashboard builds on international cooperation to provide timely, quality data. STA is actively engaged with the international statistical community to establish environmental accounting standards. Demand-driven capacity development, including workshops, is helping members develop macro-critical indicators.

FINTECH AND DIGITAL MONEY

STA plays a leadership role in the development of international statistical methodologies and datasets associated with advancements in fintech and digital money - in particular, the efforts to reflect developments in fintech and crypto assets in the update of the international statistical standards. Work with countries includes assessing the quality and international comparability of these macroeconomic and financial statistics and increasing their visibility to support evidence-based decision making for public policy.

BIG DATA

Big Data and other nontraditional data can improve the availability of timely information, facilitate more granular analysis, and measure and provide insights in areas where official statistics are lacking. The IMF Big Data Center has been established to support the use of Big Data for IMF's policy analysis and member countries' decision making. The Center will collaborate with country authorities, international organizations, and private sector companies to increase access and use of nontraditional sources and methods in macroeconomic statistics.

“
*If you cannot measure it,
you cannot improve it.*

Lord Kelvin



CONTACT US

- ✉ statistics@IMF.org
- 🔗 IMF.org/data
- 📍 1900 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20431



STATISTICS AT THE IMF

*Empowering
the World with Data*

Overview

ABOUT THE IMF STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

As a global hub for knowledge on economic and financial issues, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is dedicated to offering global leadership on macroeconomic and financial statistics, employing its analytical, policy, and operational expertise to advance international statistical methodology, capacity development, and economic surveillance.

To fulfill this mandate, the IMF Statistics Department (STA) serves as a central resource for comprehensive, internationally comparable, and reliable data, statistical products, and services responding to the analytical and policy needs of the IMF, its member countries, and the international community, while also offering technical assistance, training, and statistical guidance primarily to national statistical agencies, central banks, and ministries of finance.

KEY STA ACHIEVEMENTS



As a global leader on statistical methodology, STA has developed 20+ statistics manuals and guides covering the areas of the IMF's primary responsibilities and expertise, which are regularly updated.



STA provides data on a wide range of economic topics for the global economy, spanning more than seven decades and covering 190 member countries.



Over the past two years, STA has provided tailored technical advice and training in statistics in 130 countries by conducting over 1,200 CD activities including in fragile and conflict-affected states.



STA provides an annual platform for producers and users of data including policymakers, researchers, regulators, and the private sector to discuss cutting-edge issues in macroeconomic and financial statistics and to build support for statistical improvements.

STA KEY PRIORITIES

STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY AND STANDARDS

STA's work in methodologies has helped foster transparent, consistent, and comparable macroeconomic and financial data that enhance the quality of cross-country analysis to inform policymaking. The forthcoming update of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, alongside the System of National Accounts, will encompass responses to new challenges posed by digitalization and globalization.

IMPACTFUL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

STA provides technical assistance and training to member countries, enhancing their capabilities to produce and disseminate macroeconomic and financial statistics consistent with international statistical standards. Onsite training has been complemented in recent years by a comprehensive online learning curriculum that has benefited more than 13,500 participants to date. Most of these capacity development activities are financed by the generous contributions from donors.

DATA FOR SURVEILLANCE

STA's extensive methodological work on new surveillance priorities enhances multilateral surveillance by contributing to the availability of better policy-relevant data. The new framework for Data Adequacy Assessment strengthens the assessment of data provision and the integration between surveillance and capacity development. The IMF Data Standards Initiatives guide countries to disseminate key macroeconomic data for the public, markets, and the international community.

DATA PRODUCTS AND FRAMEWORKS

STA collects, validates, and disseminates a large number of databases. The modernized IMF Data platform empowers a larger community of economic data users by providing a single user interface with cutting-edge tools. STA continues to expand its work on frontier issues in the context of the leading G20 Data Gaps Initiative 3 focusing on addressing the data gaps in priority policy areas such as climate change, household distributional information, fintech, financial inclusion, and data sharing.

DATABASES

STA's key databases include:



BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

The Balance of Payments Statistics database provides data on the transactions between residents of an economy and non-residents.



INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POSITION

The International Investment Statistics database provides a quarterly or annual statement of the external financial assets and liabilities of an economy.



INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The International Trade database includes monthly merchandise trade export and import statistics disaggregated according to a country's primary trading partners.



NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

The National Accounts database provides official estimates of annual and quarterly expenditure-based GDP.



INTERNATIONAL RESERVES

The International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity database as well as *the Currency Composition of Official Foreign Exchange Reserves database* provide data on official reserves, other foreign currency assets, and short-term foreign currency obligations of individual countries.



EXTERNAL POSITIONS

The Coordinated Direct Investment Survey and *the Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey* provide data on the geographical composition of direct and portfolio investment positions.



PUBLIC SECTOR AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The Government Finance Statistics database contains fiscal data for all reporting countries covering the general government sector and its subsectors. *The Quarterly External Debt Statistics database* brings together detailed external debt data of countries and provides quarterly external debt positions broken down by sector, maturity, instrument, and currency.



MONETARY AND FINANCIAL SECTOR

The Monetary and Financial Statistics, Financial Soundness Indicators, and Financial Access Survey databases provide data on money aggregates, financial sector and its counterparts, monetary developments, financial stability, and financial inclusion (access to and use of financial services).

The other STA databases include data on labor markets, price indices, exchange rates, and industrial production.