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

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The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and should not be attributed to the International Monetary Fund, its Executive Board, or its management.

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 160 countries now report in *BPM5* format, which compares with 157 in 2003 and 151 in 2002. The table also shows that 120 of the 181 countries that report balance of payments data have reported data for 2003 and of the 97 countries that report international investment position data, 66 have reported data for 2003. More countries report quarterly balance of payments data (105) than report annual data (76). Seventy-two countries report annual international investment position data and 25 report quarterly data.

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 2003. Between 2003 and 2004, there has been an increase in the number of countries sending data by spreadsheet (from 149 to 153). Thirty-three countries report spreadsheet data via the Integrated Correspondence System (ICS) up from 20 countries in 2003.

The attached table also lists those reporting countries that are expected to participate in the 2003 Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (2003 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, 70 member and nonmember jurisdictions have indicated that they will participate in the 2003 CPIS.