
**Twenty Second Meeting of the
IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics
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**Finalization of the Sixth Edition of the
*Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual***

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

FINALIZATION OF THE *BPM6*

A. Introduction

The sixth edition of the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6)* was adopted at the 21st Meeting of the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics in November 2008. A final version, subject to editing, was published on the IMF website in December 2008. This version – referred to as the “pre-publication draft” – included changes suggested by the Committee during the 21st meeting. The IMF also produced a limited number of hardcopies of the pre-publication draft. Since then, the *BPM6* has undergone final editing and formatting, and is on target to be published in English before the end of 2009. Translations into the 5 other IMF languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish) are in various stages of completion, and most or all of the translated versions should become available during 2010.

B. Editing Process

Following the release of the pre-publication draft, the IMF members of the Committee, Fund staff, and other users were invited to inform us of any errors or inconsistencies in the text, and we subsequently received useful feedback from many of these users. The 2009 balance of payments course that was conducted at the IMF headquarters presented an opportunity to carefully examine *BPM6*, because exercises in balance of payments accounting were prepared based on *BPM6*, and these were carefully reviewed during workshop sessions. Thus, course counselors and participants were able to identify a few minor inconsistencies in the text.

A list was maintained of all comments received during this review period, and the items on the list were then carefully studied. The review process ensured that any changes introduced to the text of the manual did not alter conceptual or methodological treatments that have been resolved by the Committee.

The IMF’s External Relations Department (EXR) is responsible for publishing all IMF publications according to the IMF’s publication guidelines. Some editing work, such as proofreading and indexing, is initially outsourced by EXR and then reviewed by EXR and STA staff. We have been satisfied with the work that the editorial staff have done on the publications. Some of the more time-consuming aspects of the editing process have been ensuring that the paragraph references are correct, that the key tables (in appendix 9) are aligned and consistent, and that the formatting is consistent throughout the document. Preparing a comprehensive index was a particularly laborious effort. In addition, during the

editing process, special attention was paid to maintaining consistency with the *2008 SNA*. Finally, changes were made during the editing process to take account of a new type of lending arrangement with the IMF.

Consistency between the BPM6 and the 2008 SNA

The simultaneous production of the *BPM6* and the 2008 *System of National Accounts (2008 SNA)* resulted in some non-substantive late changes to the *BPM6*, because the IMF needed to ensure that the two manuals maintained full consistency. One area of nonsubstantive changes to *BPM6* that resulted in significant effort arose due to changes in the numerical examples used in the *2008 SNA* relating to the rest of the world accounts. STA staff changed the numbers shown in the various *BPM6/2008 SNA* concordance tables, to ensure that the *BPM6* reflected the same numbers and aggregates used in the *2008 SNA*. The *BPM6* was also amended to reflect new wording in the *2008 SNA* on pension fund managers, and to incorporate the correct terminology relating to taxes on production and imports.

New developments relating to IMF credit arrangements

The *BPM6* finalization process has also taken account of new developments since the last Committee meeting, relating to IMF credit arrangements. The resulting changes in the *BPM6* represent efforts to clarify the guidelines (and corresponding changes to appendix 8, Standard Components and Selected Other Items), rather than conceptual and methodological changes. These clarifications relate mainly to the treatment of the new instruments developed by the IMF in response to the global financial crisis. One of these instruments relate to the issuance of IMF notes under Note Purchase Agreements. Thus, the item relating to IMF credit in the standard presentation has been amended to reflect the existence of loans *to* the IMF that are excluded from Reserve Assets and instead are recorded under Other Investment. The new item therefore represents, within the Other Investment functional category, *credits and loans with the IMF*; previously, the item covered credits and loans *from* the IMF, because lending to the IMF was a component of the Reserve Assets functional category.

Publication format

The numerous tables have posed special challenges for the editors. Adjustments in font size resulted in misaligned tables that had earlier been correctly reformatted. Ensuring that the tables were in the correct format and aligned, with facing pages containing appropriate corresponding material (such as assets appearing on the left hand page and corresponding liabilities on the right hand page) was time-consuming.

C. *BPM6* Index

Another time-consuming aspect of the publication has been the preparation and editing of the index, which could have only be undertaken after the text was considered settled. The index would be a hefty document by itself. It was initially drafted by external consultants on behalf of EXR. During its review, STA made many suggestions for improvement, including the addition of numerous entries that we thought users would consider important. One

improvement is the clear identification of item definitions (the italicized text in the *BPM6*), using bold-face type in the index to refer to the italicized paragraph.

The index is a critical component of the publication and we have strived to ensure that the index references are correct and consistent. A final index, with STA's proposed changes, was submitted to EXR in August 2009. EXR has accepted all of the proposed changes and has recently prepared an updated index.

D. Final Publication

The second set of proof-pages for (what we expect to be) the *final* review by the authors was received in mid-September.¹ This final review entailed cross-checking the index references against the paragraph numbers and ensuring that all the editing changes have been taken into account. Additional changes to the text were not considered or entertained.

Following the release of the final *BPM6* in hardcopy and the website, the IMF will be finalizing translations of the *BPM6* into the other main languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish. The IMF has already undertaken initial translations into French, Russian, and Spanish and these will be concluded following the final editing of the English language version. The translations are being undertaken by the IMF's Technology and General Services Department with substantial input from the staff of the Balance of Payments Division. Balance of Payments Division staff have foreign language skills and will review the translated documents for technical consistency, or will engage experts to assist in their review. Most or all of the translations will be completed in 2010.

EXR has advertised the *BPM6* in its publications catalogs and has been accepting pre-orders for the publication (\$80 a copy – see [//www.imfbookstore.org/ProdDetails.asp?ID=BPMEA2009001&PG=6&Type=BL](http://www.imfbookstore.org/ProdDetails.asp?ID=BPMEA2009001&PG=6&Type=BL)). It is expected that downloadable versions in *pdf* format of the *BPM6* will continue to be available free of charge on the IMF's website.

E. Future work

The IMF maintains a record of issues that may be considered in a future revision of the *BPM6*. However, some issues that users have identified as being unclear or unresolved will be addressed in the forthcoming *BPM6 Compilation Guide*.

At the 21st meeting, the Committee was asked to review the process by which the work on preparing the *BPM6* was undertaken with a view to providing guidance to successors who may be charged with undertaking subsequent revisions. Committee members were generally extremely pleased with the updating process, which involved an open dialog and collaboration with experts and other interested parties over a period of years.

¹ The number of revision cycles is determined by the publishers.

Questions for Committee members:

1. Recognizing that several members have recently joined the Committee, do Committee members have any further comments on the process of finalizing the manual?