

BPM7 Chapter 1. Introduction: Annotated Outline

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(Update to *BPM6* Chapter 1)

Changes from BPM6 highlighted in yellow

I. Introduction

- As in *BPM6* Chapter 1, this chapter will explain the main objectives of the *BPM7 (Manual)*, and the overall structure will be maintained from the *BPM6* chapter while adding subsections on the new topical chapters and communication. The chapter will have separate sections on purposes of the *Manual* (Section I), structure of the *Manual* (Section II), history of the *Manual* (Section III), the 2025 revision (Section IV), and revisions between editions of the *Manual* (Section V). See the Schematic Overview for details.
- In addition to the highlighted updates/additions below, further changes may be made to improve the consistency of the language with other macroeconomic statistics manuals (e.g., *2025 SNA*) as appropriate.

II. Purposes of the *Manual*

- In addition to the objectives listed in *BPM6*, another objective will be included related to providing principles and guidelines to improve the way external sector statistics are communicated and disseminated.
- The references to the *Manual*, *2025 System of National Accounts, Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual and Compilation Guide*, and *Government Finance Statistics Manual* will be updated to reflect the latest versions, and references to the *OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment* and the *External Debt Statistics Guide* will be added.

III. Structure of the *Manual*

- The structure of this section will be slightly adjusted compared to *BPM6* since new subsections on the topical chapters and the new chapter on communicating and disseminating economic statistics will be added. The introductory text will be updated to reflect the inclusion of 20 chapters and 13 annexes in *BPM7*.
- It will be highlighted that out of 20 chapters, seven are developed as common chapters with the *2025 SNA*.

A. Introductory Chapters – no significant changes

B. Chapters for Each Account

- This subsection will reflect the fact that there will be separate chapters for the goods account and services account in *BPM7*.

¹ Prepared by Jannick Damgaard and Venkat Josyula (BPM editors) and cleared by Carlos Sánchez-Muñoz (BPM Project Manager).

C. Topical Chapters

- This new subsection will be added to introduce the topical chapters on globalization, digitalization, Islamic finance, and informal activities that will be included in *BPM7* as a new feature.

D. Analysis – no significant changes

E. Communication

- This subsection will be added to introduce the new chapter on communicating and disseminating economic statistics.

F. Annexes

- The title of the subsection will be changed from “Appendixes” in *BPM6* to “Annexes” in *BPM7* to align with the SNA language. In addition, the subsection will be expanded with references to the new annexes on cross-border trade, direct investment, insurance and pensions, positions and transactions with the IMF, and sustainable finance.

G. Standard Components and Memorandum Items – no significant changes to the description of standard components, memorandum items, and supplementary items.

IV. History of the *Manual*

- This section will be expanded with a paragraph describing the main changes introduced with *BPM6*, and the references to related manuals and guides will be updated.

V. The 2025 Revision

- This section will be updated to describe the process for the 2025 BPM revision and highlight the close links to the SNA update process and other statistical domains, including the development of a common glossary for macroeconomic statistics. In line with the backbone strategy for updating *BPM6*, this subsection will lay out the main update themes, including globalization, digitalization, and drivers from the evolution of financial and payments systems.

VI. Revisions between Editions of the *Manual*

- The paragraph on the research agenda will be updated to drop those topics already addressed in this update round and to include new ones like crypto assets and reconciliation of direct investment and AMNE statistics as identified in the holistic review of *BPM6* update priorities. Other issues that will be identified during the remainder of the update process along with the SNA discussions will also be included in the research agenda. With the use of digital versions of the manuals, it is expected that clarifications and updates to the methodology may more easily be incorporated in between major revisions.

Schematic Overview

I	Purposes of the <i>Manual</i>
II	Structure of the <i>Manual</i> Introductory Chapters Chapters for Each Account Topical Chapters Analysis Communication Annexes Standard Components and Memorandum Items
III	History of the <i>Manual</i>
IV	The 2025 Revision
V	Revisions between Editions of the <i>Manual</i>

References

- Paper prepared for the October 2019 Meeting of the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics: *A Backbone Strategy for Updating BPM6* (BOPCOM–19/10).
- Paper on the *Outcomes of the Holistic Review Survey of BPM6 Update Priorities* (available at <https://www.imf.org/en/Data/Statistics/BPM>).

Key Stakeholders Consulted

- System of National Accounts Lead Editor
- IMF Statistics Department Financial Institutions Division and Government Finance Division
- OECD WGIIS Secretariat