

**Thirteenth Meeting of the  
IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics  
Washington, D.C., October 23–27, 2000**

**Country Practices in Reporting Balance of Payments Data to the Fund**

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

## Country Practices in Reporting Balance of Payments 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 the new edition of the *Manual* to all countries which 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.

The attached table provides information on the current reporting practices of countries providing balance of payments and international investment position data to the Fund to show which countries now report in *BPM5* format, recent period of data reported, type of reporter i.e. (annual/quarterly), participants in the 2001 Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS), and the method of reporting.

The table shows that 143 countries now report in *BPM5* format, which compares with 139 in 1999 and 130 in 1998. The table also shows that 91 of the 160 countries that report balance of payments data have reported data for 1999 and of the 62 countries that report international investment position, 36 have reported data for 1999. Slightly more countries report quarterly balance of payments data, 81, when compared to the 79 that report annual data. On the other hand, significantly more countries, 49, report annual international investment position data when compared to the 13 that report quarterly data. Participation in the 2001 CPIS is included in the table as an indication of the attempts by countries to address measurement issues involved with the compilation of portfolio investment data for their international investment position.

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; i.e., 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. The general picture is that there is no change in the number of countries sending data by edifact. Between 1998 and 1999, there has been a notable increase in the number of countries sending data by spreadsheet (from 95 to 105), and by e-mail (from 76 to 91).

The table also shows that there is a significant increase in the number of countries sending international investment position data (up from 51 to 62), which partly reflects willingness by countries to publish an incomplete IIP while working on the development of a more complete statement.