

From: Luisa Ryan [mailto:luisa.ryan@abs.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 8 November 2010 10:53 AM
Subject: Review and update of Government Finance Statistics [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Colleagues,

Review and update of Government Finance Statistics

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently commenced a review of the *Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001* (GFSM). The expectation is that the IMF will release a revised GFSM by mid 2012.

2. During 2010-11, Michael Davies (First Assistant Statistician, Macro-Economics and Integration Division) will be participating in the IMF Government Finance Statistics (GFS) Advisory Committee, a small expert group established for the review and update of the GFSM. The Advisory Committee will meet in February 2011 at the IMF headquarters in Washington, D.C.. ABS will also participate in a GFS electronic discussion group during the review.

3. The purpose of the review and update of the IMF GFSM is to achieve consistency with SNA08 and rectify inconsistencies and errors in the current manual.

4. To enhance the coherence of ABS macroeconomic statistics and to ensure that Australian Government Finance Statistics remain relevant, the ABS will subsequently update the *Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods 2005* to:

- reflect the changes to the IMF GFSM,
- ensure that it provides an accurate and useful standards document underpinning Australia's GFS, including being a reference standard for AASB 1049,
- address some other identified issues, and
- ensure the format is relevant given current dissemination options.

5. As part of the review and update, the ABS will consult with key external stakeholders including the Department of Finance and Deregulation; Australian Commonwealth and State Treasuries; the Commonwealth Grants Commission; the Productivity Commission; the Reserve Bank Of Australia; the Australian Accounting Standards Board; the Australian National Audit office; the Heads of Treasuries Accounting and Reporting Advisory Committee (HOTARAC) and the Economic Statistics User Group.

6. The consultation process will be broken up into two phases. First, to address the IMF GFSM update - from now to mid 2012 with consultation to occur prior to the February 2011 meeting. Second, the update of the *Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods 2005* which is expected to be finalised in 2012-13. Implementation of the revised ABS Manual in ABS GFS data will follow this release.

7. The ABS will circulate to stakeholders the list of issues to be considered as part of the Review of the IMF GFSM as soon as this is publically available.

8. Please advise Brigitte Batschi if there is an alternate contact for your organisation for consultation during this Review.

9. If you would like to discuss further please contact either myself on (02) 6252 7041 or Brigitte Batschi on (02) 6252 6275 or brigitte.batschi@abs.gov.au.

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