

The travel item

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What is it?

- The *travel* component of the EBOPS 2010 is a transactor-based component
- *Travel* is defined as covering goods and services, for own use or to give away, acquired from an economy, by non residents during visits to that economy.

What does it include?

Travel includes goods and services acquired

- ... by persons undertaking study or medical care while outside the territory of residence
- ... by seasonal, border and other short-term workers in the economy of the employment.
- The goods and services may be purchased by the persons concerned or by another party on their behalf

Most common goods and services

... consumed in the supplying economy

- accommodation,
- food and beverages,
- transport **within** the economy visited
- excludes the international carriage of persons, which is covered in *passenger services* under *transport services*.

... may be taken out of the economies visited

- gifts,
- souvenirs,
- other articles purchased for own use

Excluded ...in travel

- goods purchased for resale at home or in a third country
- acquisition of valuables, consumer durable goods other consumer purchases for own use, which are in excess of customs thresholds

... These goods are included in general merchandise

Travel also excludes

the acquisition of goods and services

- by diplomats, consular staff, military personnel, etc. and their dependents

... included in government goods and services

Business travel

- ... by persons whose primary purpose of travel is for business. It does **not** include the sales or purchases that they may undertake on behalf of the enterprises they represent.

Seasonal, border and other workers

The acquisition of goods and services ... by seasonal, border and other workers ... is separately identified in the EBOPS 2010 subcomponent:

- *acquisition of goods and services by border, seasonal and other short-term workers.*

All other business travel is included in the EBOPS 2010 subcomponent

- *other business travel.*

Personal travel

- ... by persons going abroad for purposes other than business such as holidays, participation in recreational and cultural activities, visits to, friends and relations, pilgrimage and education and health-related purposes. It is proposed to have three sub-components:
 - *health-related;*
 - *education-related;*
 - *other, including:*
 - holidays,
 - recreational and cultural activities,
 - visits to friends
 - pilgrimages

An alternative presentation of *travel*, by product

- *goods;*
- *local transport services,*
- *accommodation services;*
- *food and beverage-serving services;*
- *other travel-related services*
 - *health services*
 - *education services*

Compilers should take care to avoid confusion between the presentation by product and the presentation by purpose of travel.

Margins of tour agents

- If the agent is a resident of the same economy as the customer, then the margin or commission is a resident-to-resident transaction.
- The net amount payable to service providers resident in other economies is included in travel.

Time-share

The recording of the periodic flow of accommodation services is derived based on the following:

- The acquisition of deeded ownership of property should be imputed based on market prices.
- Payments for rights to use a property under a membership system is equivalent to pre-paying for accommodation services. Included in *travel*

Relationship between Travel and Tourism (1)

- The IRTS 2008 uses the concept of “usual environment” as an additional criterion to that of residence. The concept is designed to exclude from tourism persons that travel regularly between their place of usual residence and places of work (e.g. border or seasonal workers), study (e.g. individuals studying abroad for more than one year), or other places visited as part of the regular life routine, although these places may be in a different economic territory. There are also some additional differences in terms of the coverage of expenditure between travel and tourism expenditure. As a consequence, some of the main differences are that:

Relationship between Travel and Tourism (2)

- *Travel* includes estimated values of products (such as accommodation), that may be provided free of charge.
- It also includes the acquisitions of goods and services by border, seasonal and other short-term workers, and acquisitions of students and medical patients away from their country of residence for a period of one year or more. Tourism excludes these from the definition.

Relationship between Travel and Tourism (3)

- *Travel* excludes purchases of valuables and consumer durables above a custom threshold (tourism includes all irrespective of the threshold). *Travel* also excludes expenditure on international passenger transportation (included in EBOPS 2010 *passenger transport*) which tourism includes except for border, seasonal and other short-term workers.
- To highlight the link between balance of payments and tourism statistics MSITS 2010 includes a supplementary item, *Tourism-related services in travel and passenger transport* (see paragraph 3.130). Annex IV also provides more guidance on the differences between MSITS 2010 conceptual framework and tourism statistics recommendations

Travel Workshop: General

- Organized by Eurostat and the hosting country (participants EU 27, EFTA, Candidate countries, private experts)
- Self-organized, autonomous work on relevant topics/research fields
- Eurostat is the contact point and provides technical infrastructure
- Chaired by hosting country/Eurostat

Meetings

- Vienna, 29 - 30 November 2010
- Reykjavik, 22-23 September 2011
- Dublin, 27-28 June 2012

1st TWS: 29-30 November 2010, Vienna

- Exchange in good practices/techniques
- Topics e.g. use of credit card data, mobile positioning, package tours, mirror data, frontier surveys and estimation models
- Harmonization of BoP and tourism statistics, therefore close cooperation with tourism unit in Eurostat

2nd TWS: 22-23 September 2011, Reykjavik

- Wiki as a new working and communication tool
- The consultation on national plans to collect travel statistics was updated for the reference period 2010-2011.
- Update on European tourism Regulation

2nd TWS: 22-23 September 2011, Reykjavik

- Results of the harmonization of BoP travel item and tourism statistics (MEETS)
- Package tours/Cruises data
- Tourisme Satellite Account (TSA) and integration of data into the BoP
- Use of credit card data

Next Steps (1)

- Development of a new questionnaire (former “so-called” national plans to collect travel statistics)
focus on methodology
 - to collect information on methodology central
 - Hybrid collection systems in MS
 - Inventory for all compilers in the European Union
- Bilateral work on asymmetries (monetary and physical indicators)

Next Steps (2)

- Development of guidelines/recommendations → BPM6, MSITS2010: Ongoing work on compilers manuals on international level
- The group agreed to explore the possibilities on the international level to avoid duplication of work
- Guidelines/common document should included countries with similar problems or cases (tbd)

Further information

- **Web link:**

http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/dsis/trade/library?l=/travel_workshop&vm=detailed&sb=Title

- **Wiki:**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis/display/EstatTravelWorkshop/Home>

Thank you very much for your attention