The Tourism Balance of Payments: New Developments in Austria

Methods, concepts and results

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Tourism Balance of Payments (TBoP)

UNWTO Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism

27 – 28 March 2006
The official Tourism and Travel Statistics in Austria

Tourism and Travel Statistics

**Tourism Statistics**
- Monthly arrivals and nights spent (accommodation statistics)
- Yearly capacity statistics (accommodation statistics)
- Quarterly household surveys

**Satellite Systems**
- Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) for Austria
- Regional Tourism Satellite Accounts
- TSA-Employment Module

**Travel BoP**
- Credits (related incoming tourism)
- Debits (related outgoing tourism)
- Net valuation related credits and debits
Travel Balance of Payments
International Concepts and Methodology
UNWTO – Definition International Tourism Receipts

**International Tourism Receipts (credit):**

...expenditure of international *inbound visitors* including their payments to *national carriers* for international transport, including *pre-payments* made for goods/services received in the destination country....

**International Fare Receipts (Credit):**

...any payment made to *carriers registered in the compiling country* of sums owed by non-resident visitors, whether or not travelling to that country...
International Tourism Expenditure (Debit):

...expenditure of outbound visitors in other countries including their payments to foreign carriers for international transport....

International Fare Expenditure (Debit):

...any payment made to carriers registered abroad by any person resident in the compiling country...
What is included within TBoP?

Travel Balance of Payments (TBoP)

- Travel
  - Personal
    - Health-related expenditure
    - Education-related expenditure
    - Other
  - Business
  - Sea transport
  - Air transport
  - Other transport
    - Rail transport
    - Road transport
    - Inland waterway transport

Passenger Transportation

Other expenditure by seasonal and border workers

Personal

Business

Sea transport

Air transport

Other transport

Other
What is included within TBoP?

**Travel:**

- **Personal travel** covers travellers going abroad for purposes other than business (e.g. for leisure activities such as holidays, participation in sports and other recreational and cultural activities, visits with relatives and friends, pilgrimage, studies, and health-related purposes).

- **Business travel** covers travellers going abroad for all types of business activities (e.g. carrier crews stopping off or lying over, government employees on official travel), including seasonal and border workers.

Business travel refers to personal acquisitions of goods and services, but not the sales or purchases that the business travellers may conclude on behalf of the enterprises they represent.
What is included within TBoP?

Passenger transportation:

- Transportation covers **all kind of transportation** (sea, air, and other - including land, internal waterway, space) services that are performed by residents of one economy for those of another.

- **Passenger transportation** covers all services provided, between the compiling economy and abroad or between two foreign economies, in the international transportation

  - of non-residents by resident carriers (**credit**), and

  - that of residents by non-resident carriers (**debit**).
Tourism Statistics versus TBoP concepts

- **TBoP-definition** related “Travel” is *broader* than that of the definition of tourism and the “visitor” in tourism statistics.
- TBoP considers **students** and **medical patients** as residents of their economy of origin, even if their length of stay is over one year.
- TBoP includes expenditure of **seasonal and border workers** under “Travel”.
- Tourism statistics reflects **demand-oriented flows**, but it does not show the actual monetary flows or payments.
- Considering **package tours** tourism statistics is showing demand-oriented information (e.g. by destination of the trip), which does not coincide with the actual monetary flow to the country of production of the package.
Travel Balance of Payments

Developments in Austria
Starting point - in general

- In Europe BoP-statistics faces new challenges according to the advent of the **Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)**;
- **TBoP** - from the data collection standpoint - one of the most affected by the introduction of the Euro;
- **Disappearance** of the exchanges of bank notes to travel inside the euro zone hindered the use of collection systems based on bank reports;
- **New options for collection systems** for Travel have to be considered:
  - Frontier survey based systems
  - Household survey based systems
  - Hybrid systems
  - Credit card based systems
  - Exchange of data with partner countries and estimates
- **European Regulation** on “Community statistics on International Trade in Services, Foreign Direct Investment and Balance of Payments”.

UNWTO, 27-28 March 2006

**STATISTICS AUSTRIA**
Starting point – in Austria

- **Contract** between Statistics Austria and the Austrian Central Bank;
- **Statistics Austria is responsible** related the compilation of the following items of the BoP:
  - Current account, including goods and services (excl. financial sector)
  - Compensation of employees (excl. financial sector)
  - Current transfers (excl. financial sector)
- Capital and Financial account is done by the Austria Central Bank
- **Starting**: 1st quarter 2006
- **Timing and submission of the data**: 12 working days before the end of the following quarter, including revised data of the previous quarter;
- **TBoP under Current Account “Services”**, comprising Transportation (passenger, freight, other) and Travel (business, personal).
Main data sources – TBoP (Credit)

- **Accommodation statistics** (nights, arrivals), estimation basis related expenditure of inbound overnight tourism;
- **Tourism Monitor Austria** (T-Mona), amount of expenditure of inbound overnight holiday-tourists by country of origin;
- **German study** related its outbound same-day visitors to Austria;
- **Mirror statistics** of partner countries related their outbound tourism to Austria;
- UNWTO-data, European Travel Monitor (ETM), **New Cronos** (Eurostat), visits of friends/relatives and business travel;
- **Central Registration Register**, second homes;
- **Wage Tax Statistics**, seasonal and border workers;
- **University statistics, Erasmus-statistics**, education-related expenditure;
- **Private insurance information**, health-related expenditure;
- **“Fuel tourism” study**.
Main data sources – TBoP (Debit)

- **Quarterly Household Surveys** related outbound trips of the Austrians;
- **Mirror statistics** of partner countries related their inbound tourism from Austria (plausibility checks);
- **Car Registration Statistics**, bought cars by Austrians abroad;
- **Wage Tax Statistics**, Austrian seasonal and border workers abroad;
- **Erasmus-statistics**, education-related expenditure (students abroad);
- **Social Security Statistics**, estimates based on Hungarian spa tourism (“tooth-tourism”), health-related expenditure;
- **Branch information** related the composition of package-tours.
Problems

Package tours:

- Disaggregation into three dimensions:
  - Identification of domestic and outbound components
  - Accordance of monetary-flow with travel destination
  - Share of components (i.e. hotel, transport) on whole package product

Outbound (Debit):

- expenses for dental medical reasons and cosmetic surgeons;
- expenses of inbound same-day visitors;
- expenses related expensive but seldomly bought products (i.e. cars, building materials);
- expenses related “illegal” products and activities (i.e. drugs, sex-tourism).
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