


OESTERREICHISCHE NATIONALBANK
Eurosystem

UNWTO: Workshop „Travel“


BOP: Bank settlements and alternative methods of data collection

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BOP vs Tourism Statistics

- **Border workers and seasonal workers**
 - Outside the scope of tourism statistics
 - Income of border workers is split into
 - Social Security contributions
 - Taxes
 - Cost of living abroad (included in travel)
- **Students and medical patients**
 - BOP-5: **Included** - even if they stay longer than 1 year;
 - Tourism Statistics: Strict application of 1-yr residency rules;
- **Items covered**
 - BOP-5: **All** goods and services bought during the trip
 - Including valuables and consumer durables
 - excluding investment (houses, ships)
 - excluding goods for resale

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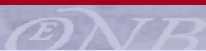
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Measuring the Travel Item for the BOP

EUROSTAT: Travel Task Force Report (G. Ortolani)


- **Bank Reporting Systems**
 - Basic Concept
 - Possible Extensions
- **Survey Systems**
 - Surveys of travellers
 - Frontier Surveys
 - Household Surveys
 - Accomodation Surveys
 - Surveys of enterprises
- **Other sources**
 - Estimates
 - Partner Country data
 - Adminstrative Sources


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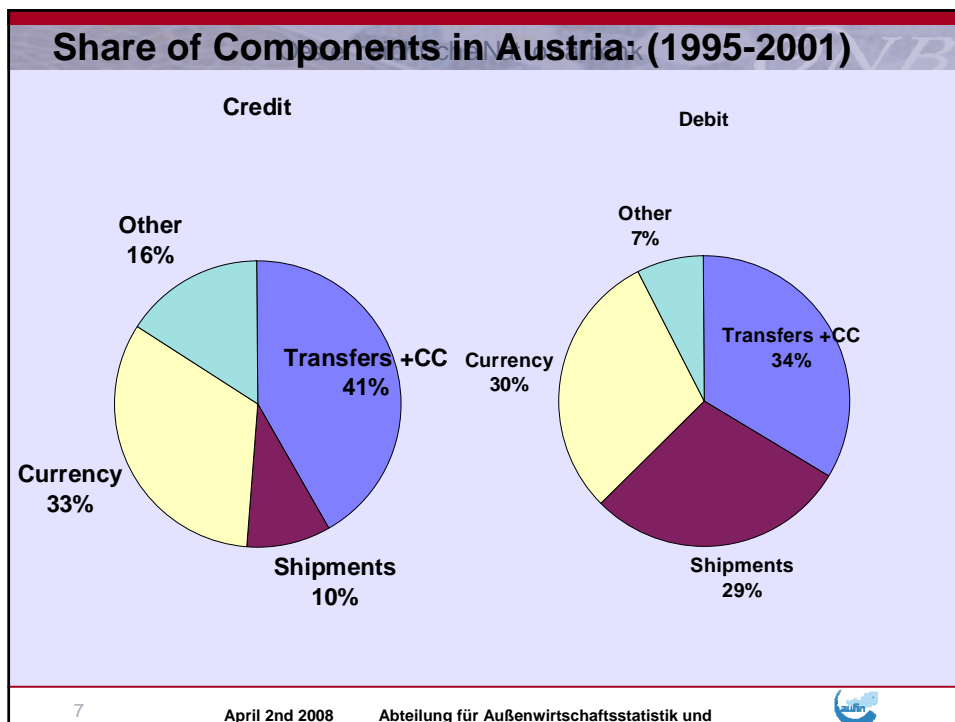
Bank Reporting System or ITRS

- In the late nineties majority of MS of the EU used this type of collection system
 - Except UK (Frontier Survey)
- Refers to typical „means of payments“ used for travel
 - Credit cards
 - Foreign currency
 - ATMs
 - Travellers cheques
 - Certain bank transfers
- Advantage
 - Coverage, timeliness, cost

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Components of the Standard ITRS-System	
CREDIT	DEBIT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank transfers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Receipts of hospitals, travel agents.. • Foreign currency bought <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – From non-banks – assuming that foreigners buy local currency during their trip • Banknote shipments abroad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Between banks – Tourist buy local currency in advance > Foreign banks need banknotes • Use of credit/ debit cards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Foreigners in compiling country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank transfers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expenditure for hotels, theaters • Foreign currency sold at banks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To non-banks – assuming that residents buy it in advance and use it abroad • Banknotes returning from abroad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Between banks – Residents sell local currency abroad -> banks return excess banknotes • Use of credit/ debit cards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Residents abroad
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Bank Reporting System: Problems(1)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Re)-exchange of foreign currency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Banks buy USD not from a foreigner, but from a resident, who sells excess banknotes after the trip (overestimate) – Use of banknotes for other purposes than travel • Credit cards and debit cards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mail order sales / Internet (overestimate) • Banknote exchange abroad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Shipments cover only a part of transactions (resale to travellers) – Circulation outside the banking sector (underestimation) – Use for other purposes than travel (remittances; compensation) 	
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Bank Reporting System: Problems (2)

- No information available on
 - Purpose of the trip
 - Type of expenditure
 - Regional allocation below national level
- Geographical misallocation
 - Currency to country mismatch
 - Location of travel agents
- **Not Feasible in Currency Unions**
- => EUROSTAT: Task force TRAVEL

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Frontier Surveys:

- **Allows data collection for both**
 - Travel credits
 - Non-residents leaving the country **after** their trip
 - Travel debits
 - Residents entering the reporting country **after** their trip
- **Prerequisites**
 - Border controls
 - Limited number of entry points
 - Information (counting or reliable estimate) of total number of residents/ non-residents crossing the border (sampling frame)
- **Advantage**
 - Any information of interest may be asked
 - E.g. satisfaction for marketing purposes

Frontier Surveys (2): Some problems

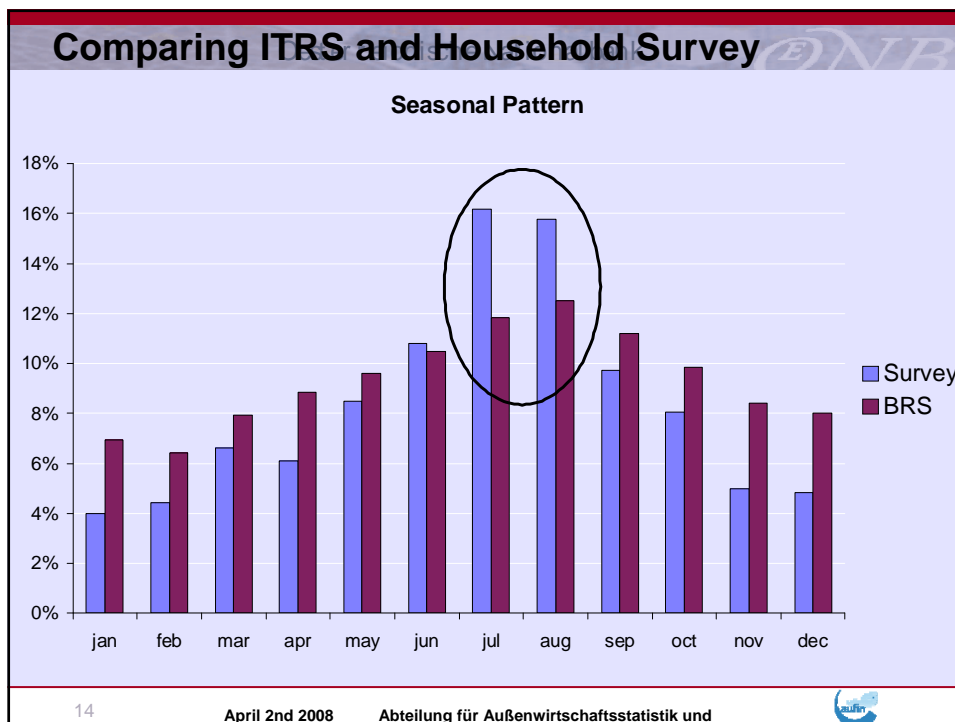
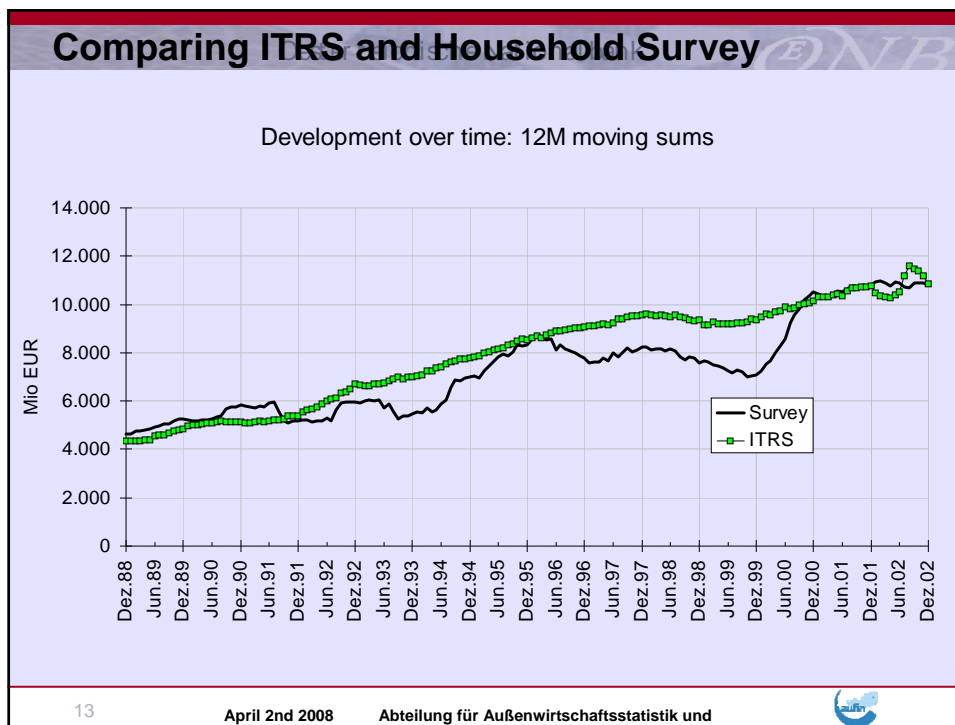
- **Difficult for (small) countries with many border-points**
 - Transit travel
 - Border workers
 - Cross-border shopping
- **Almost impossible for Schengen-Countries**
 - Disappearance of borders hampers interviewing
 - Interviews at gas stations / rest areas?
- **Costly**
 - Multi-lingual interviews

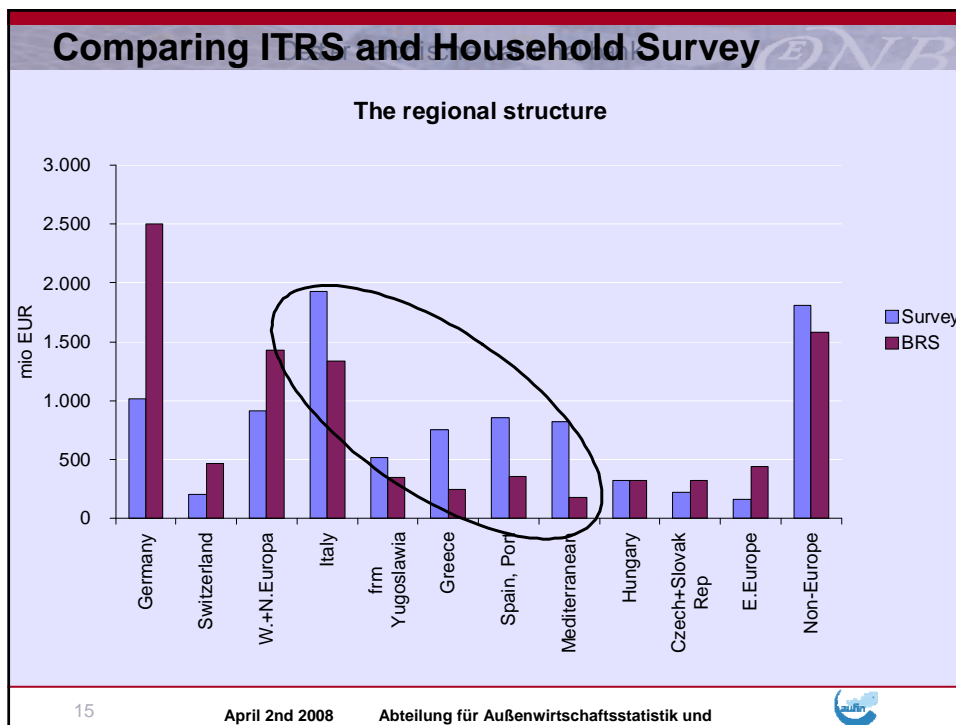
Household Surveys (1):

- For Travel debits (expenses) only
- Provides information on purpose/type of trip
 - Business/ private Education/ health/ shopping/ relatives
 - Length of trip, nights spent etc.
- Provides information on type of expenditure
 - Transportation
 - Accomodation
 - Purchase of goods

Household Surveys (2) - Problems:

- Volatility of results (Sampling error)
 - Depending on sample size
 - Increasing with required detail
- Volatility of results (Non-random error)
 - Depending on Survey design
 - Depending on Type of Interview (face to face – telephone)
- Problems of non-resonse
 - Possible bias towards less frequent travellers
 - Recall of details increase with time-lag and required detail





Accommodation Surveys:

- Equivalent to interviews at „points of interest“
- Useful for travel Credits
- Problems:
 - Planned instead of actual expenses
 - How to cover same-day visitors
 - How to cover business travellers
 - Visits to friends and relatives
 - Use of weekend and holiday homes

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Surveys of Enterprises:

- **Credit card companies**
 - Regional detail for country breakdown
 - Breakdown by type of expenditure
 - Competition between settlement agencies
- **Tourist intermediaries**
 - Analysis of package tours
 - Service charge of travel agencies
- **Tourist providers**
 - Hotels
 - Restaurants

Other Sources:

- **Administrative data**
 - Nights spent by foreigners
 - Tax/ Social security for border workers
 - Students' exchange programs
- **Partner Country Information**
 - For same day visitors
 - For checking purposes
- **Estimates**
 - Time series analysis for preliminary data
 - Structural models

Collection systems in the EU-27 (2007):

- **9 countries „Frontier surveys“ (at least inbound)**
 - EE, EL, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, PL, UK
- **8 countries „Hybrid system“ (household survey for debits)**
 - AT, BE, DE, DK, FI, FR, LU, NL
- **5 countries Bank Reporting“ + surveys**
 - CY, ES, MT, PT, CZ
- **4 countries Bank Reporting only**
 - BG, RO, SI, SK