

**Information provided by Turkey about the following topic discussed in the
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INBOUND TOURISM AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

CASE OF TURKEY

BOP Developments (“Travel” and “Passenger Transportation” Items)

1) Present situation of administrative records and expenditure surveys used for estimating the “Travel” and “Passenger Transportation” items

Travel revenue and expenditure estimates of the Balance of Payments are based on border surveys conducted by Turkish Statistical Institute with collaboration of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey. Travel revenue estimates are based on the **‘Departing Visitors Survey’** and travel expenditure estimates are based on the **‘Arriving Citizens Survey’**.

The surveys have been conducted at the border gates on nationality basis by using face to face interviews. They have been carried out quarterly, through 10 days in the middle of the related quarter.

The purpose of the **‘Departing Visitors Survey’** is to determine the expenditures of foreign visitors departing from Turkey as well as the expenditures of citizen visitors who are living abroad and considered as non-residents of Turkey.

‘Departing Visitors Survey’ has been conducted quarterly at the specified border gates from which approximately 95% of the non-resident visitors departed in the previous year. Since, the gates are determined by taking into account the previous year’s number of departing visitors, the gates at which the survey will be carried out may change from year to year. In 2006 the survey was conducted at 28 specified border gates.

For estimating travel revenues which is also reflected at the **credit** side of the **‘travel’** item of the **BOP statistics**, the average expenditures of visitors departing Turkey are expanded by the population of foreign visitors and citizens, by departure way, overnight visitors and same-day visitors. The data on number of foreign visitors, citizens and same-day visitors exiting our country are obtained from the **‘Administrative Records’** of the Passport Police affiliated to the **‘General Directorate of Security’**.

For estimating travel revenues of the citizens having Turkish passports and residing abroad, the results obtained from the surveys are expanded by the population of non-resident Turkish citizens. The population of the non-resident Turkish citizens is estimated by using the ratio of the non-resident Turkish citizens to total Turkish citizens. For this ratio, tourism statistics of Turkish Statistical Institute has been used.

Arriving Citizens Survey' has been conducted quarterly at 22 border gates at which the entry ratio of citizens having Turkish passports is approximately 95%. The survey is carried out by using face to face interviews with the citizens having Turkish passports at the time of their arrival from abroad.

For estimating tourism expenditures, the average expenditures of citizens staying abroad at least one night and arriving in Turkey are expanded by the population of resident Turkish citizens.

The population of the survey has been determined by applying domestic residence rates which are estimated by conducting a **'Determination of Residence of Citizen Arrival Survey'**. This is a quarterly conducted single question survey which asks the residence of citizens having Turkish passports who arrive in Turkey.

As a result of the survey, the ratio of citizens having Turkish passports and residing in Turkey has been found for each quarter. The population subject to the survey has been estimated by applying these ratios to the General Directorate of Security citizen arrival border statistics.

Besides estimating the travel revenues and expenditures these surveys can also be used to determine the profile (such as age, gender, education level, profession) and the travel characteristics (such as the purpose of the visit, nights spent, accommodation type, distribution of the expenditures) of the visitors. Purpose of the visit consists of travel, entertainment, culture, sports, visiting relatives, health, religion, shopping, meetings, conferences and seminars, job, commercial relations and exhibitions, education, etc. Distribution of the expenditures consists of food and beverage, accommodation, health, transport, sports, education, culture, tour services and other goods and services.

For the **'Passenger Transportation'** item of the BOP, the data are obtained via direct reporting. The data have been compiled by the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey. There are two separate surveys prepared for air transportation passengers and other air transportation data, one for the resident airlines and one for the non-resident airlines which have their head offices in their own country and only offices in Turkey. The data provided by the resident airlines are used for the credit side of the **'Passenger Transportation'** item, and the data provided by the non-resident airlines are used for the debit side of the **'Passenger Transportation'** item.

The assumption here is; all fares sold by resident operators are sold to non-residents and all fares sold by non-resident operators are sold to residents. In other words, the revenues of resident operators are earned from the carriage of non-residents and all the revenues of non-resident operators are earned from the carriage of residents.

Reportings by 11 resident and 16 non-resident air transportation operators have been made since January 2006.

2) Distinguishing visitors from travellers

Our present information system does not allow for distinguishing visitors from travellers.

3) Initiatives that might be considered for improving the estimation of these BOP items

One of the initiatives considered for improving the estimation of the BOP items is to adjust the data according to residency. Since our border statistics are based on nationalities, Turkish Statistical Institute is working on adjusting the data according to the residency of the visitors. On the other hand, the studies showed that, the adjustments will not change the travel revenue figures in a significant way. For the travel expenditures, the number of foreign residents is so small (approximately 100,000 foreign residents in total population of 74 million) that the change in the travel expenditures will be negligible even if the data is adjusted. On the other hand, this problem will be solved and there will be no need for an adjustment after the 'Address Based Population Register System' is put into practice, since the foreign citizens residing in Turkey as well as the Turkish citizens residing abroad will also be recorded by this way.

4) About the credibility of the “travel” item

Use of the mirror data might be a good way in questioning the credibility of the travel data. The mirror data of Turkey and some other European countries were compared for 2006 and it was found out that, Turkey's estimate of travel credit figure was almost the same as the travel debit figure of one of those countries and was more or less close to the travel debit figure of some other countries.