Central Statistical Office of Poland Wacława Kraśniewska

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND TOURISM STATISTICS

National Bank of Poland within the BoP estimates data on expenditures of Poles abroad and non-residents in Poland.

Data is prepared **annually but divided by quarters** according to category:

Total

- Business travels of:
 - Seasonal workers and border workers
 - Other business travels
- Personal travels
 - Health -related
 - Education –related
 - Others

Annually and quarterly:

Total of which

- tourists
- and sameday visitors

Conceptual difference

Balance of payments focuses on describing the economic relationships between residents and non-residents.

Tourism statistics refers to all the activities that make people who travel and staying for leisure or other business not longer than a year outside their usual environment.

The item "travel" in BoP also includes expenditures of travelers who are not qualified in tourism as visitors, such as border workers, seasonal and other temporary workers often crossing the border within their usual environment, students studying for a long time abroad, and patients treated for a long time abroad.

Conceptual difference concern also the scope of goods and services as subject of the observation.

For example the item "travel" in BoP is broader than the concept of tourism expenditure (in particular, also contains the imputed value of rent-free accommodation);

The difference concern also expenditure of tourists on durable goods and transport.

Sources of information

Elaboration of the balance of payments in the scope of travels to a large extent based on the same or similar sources of information like statistics on tourism.

Moreover the National Bank of Poland (NBP) conducts a survey among Polish seasonal workers working in the United Kingdom and Ireland on expenditures and data from this survey are used to calculate this BoP item.

The National Bank of Poland has got an annual agreements with the Institute of Tourism since 2004 on regular providing quarterly and annual data on travel item for the BoP with required geographical breakdown and also with the breakdown for the purpose of visit and type of visit (same day visitors and travellers).

To calculate both statistics, balance of payments and tourism statistics, the Institute of Tourism uses the same data sources. The main sources are frontier surveys and surveys on individuals (residents participating in travels abroad) in the place of residence. This date are supplemented by other sources like e.g. bank recording system, accommodation statistics (from the Central Statistical Office) and verified with partner country data.

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Next steps

to improve consistency between BoP and tourism statistics

A new project

to improve consistency and data exchange between tourism statistics and BoP within MEETS program.

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The planned activities under the project

- Review and comparison of surveys in Poland and in selected EU countries on the "trip" item in the balance of payments and the statistics of tourism;
- Inventory of data sources;
- Detailed analysis of the similarities and differences between Polish and the European Union law on the list of variables, scope and frequency of the collected data and methodology.

The planned activities under the project

- Proposal/suggestion of the necessary modifications, as well as increase the efficiency of administrative data sources and other information.
- Elaboration of methods allowing to use the same data sources and frequency of the collected data and methodology for the balance of payments purpose (travel section) and tourism statistics.

Expected results

- Improvement collaboration and cooperation in the scope of surveys conducted by the public statistics and the Polish National Bank.
- Avoiding the duplication of surveys.
- Improving comparability, consistency and consequently the quality of data.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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