Romania

Linking and liaising with Balance of Payments compilation

Compilation of BoP- Travel component

- In 2007, a cooperation started between the NIS, the Central Bank of Romania and the Ministry of Tourism for measuring expenditures relating to inbound and outbound trips.
- Estimation of Bop/Travel entries within the current system (2009):
  Credit side:
  - For monthly compilation of BoP, ITRS data are used:
    - Cross border payments above EUR 12500,
    - Credit and debit card information, reported by the banks,
    - Cash amounts sold/purchased from non-residents, reported by the exchange offices
  - For quarterly BOP: use of the outcome of a new Survey on tourism expenditures of non-residents staying at collective establishments (ACNER survey);
Compilation of BoP- Travel component

- The questionnaire was designed in cooperation by the three institutions, the implementation is done by the NIS;
- Data are quarterly sent by the NIS to the NBR for Travel compilation: estimation of expenditures of non-resident tourists, broken down by: 
  *purpose of the trip/type of expenditure/country*;
- During 2009, the results of ACNER survey were compared with ITRS data (on a quarterly basis): they were used as a complementary data sources:
  - Differences in total values, but not in the country breakdown;
- Reports containing comparisons between the two sets of data (survey based data and ITRS) are produced by the NBR and sent to the NIS as feed back;
- The results will be directly used for the compilation of Travel (Credits) after a longer period of comparisons between the two data sets.

Future plans for 2010:
- to continue to use the outcome of the ACNER survey;
- this will become *primary data source*, due to the increase of the reporting threshold for cross – border payments (up to EUR 50000);
- a new data source will complement the existing data: *Survey on tourism expenditures of non-residents staying at private establishments (Tour PA survey)*:
  - Designed in cooperation by: The NIS, The NBR and The Ministry of Tourism and its Research Institute;
  - Pilot survey in 2009, implemented by the NIS on a regular basis starting with 2010.
  - Data will be shared between the three institutions and used according methodology and needs in every statistics: BOP, TSA, accommodation
Compilation of BoP- Travel component

- Estimation of Bop/Travel entries within the current system (2009):
  Debit side:
  - For monthly compilation of BoP, ITRS data are used:
    - Cross border payments above EUR 12500,
    - Credit and debit card information, reported by the banks,
    - An estimation of cash amounts spent by resident travelers abroad, based on reports of the exchange offices.
  - For quarterly BOP: use of the outcome of a household survey on domestic and outbound tourism conducted on a quarterly basis by the NIS (Survey on tourism demand of residents - “ACTR”):
    - Used as a complementary data source;
    - Shortcomings: difficult to separately identify expenditures incurred during international trips of residents (outcomes of the survey include international transportation)

Future plans for 2010:
- To redesign the questionnaire, to meet the all the needs in the tourism statistics, BOP and TSA area (a draft of the new questionnaire is circulating between experts);
- The household survey will have a separate module to collect data on same-day visitors (flows and expenditures) – tested in 2009;
- To rely more for the compilation of Travel (debits) on the outcomes of the household survey on domestic and outbound tourism (on a quarterly basis);
- To share detailed data with the three institution, in order to compile the relevant statistics:
  Bop:
  - passenger transportation separately identified from other tourism expenses, expenses broken down by country and by type etc
  - data source for TSA compilation
Institutional Cooperation

- A cooperation protocol has been drafted to be signed at the level of NIS, NBR and the Ministry of Tourism aiming to:
  - Set up Working groups:
    - Evaluate the statistical need in the area of tourism statistics at the national level;
    - Propose solutions to harmonize the national statistics with international standards;
    - Analyze data obtained by the NIS and the Central Bank, explain the differences.
    - See how TSA will be implemented
  - Share data on a regular basis, in a standardized way (electronically, etc).

Thank you for your attention!
Questions are welcome

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