

# Balance of Payments Travel Item. *Achievements and difficulties.*

IV workshop (18-20 November 2009, Vienna)

**Presentation of the Bank of Russia**

## Main source of information:

- The Federal Frontier Service of the Russian Federation

## Periodicity of information:

- Quarter

# Original Data of the Federal Frontier Service:

- | <b>Purpose of trip</b> | Business | Tourism | Private | Transit passengers | Service personnel |
|------------------------|----------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Country</b>         |          |         |         |                    |                   |
| all countries          |          |         |         |                    |                   |

- | <b>Type of vehicle</b> | Road | Water | Railway | On foot | Airplane |
|------------------------|------|-------|---------|---------|----------|
| <b>Country</b>         |      |       |         |         |          |
| all countries          |      |       |         |         |          |

## Problems:

- ✓ The duration of stay is unknown;
- ✓ The first destination country is shown (in case of outbound travel);
- ✓ Lack of administrative control on Russian – Belarussian border;
- ✓ Health- and education travel is not identified separately.

## Matrix: purpose of trip \* type of vehicle *by main partner-countries*

| Type of vehicle<br>Purpose of trip | Road | Water | Railway | On foot | Airplane |
|------------------------------------|------|-------|---------|---------|----------|
| Business                           |      |       |         |         |          |
| Tourism                            |      |       |         |         |          |
| Private                            |      |       |         |         |          |
| Transit passengers                 |      |       |         |         |          |
| Service personnel                  |      |       |         |         |          |

### Sources of information for inbound travel expenditures per one trip:

- Prices for the hotels in the regions of Russia;
- The information of the CIS countries about their officially fixed expenditures on business trips;
- Travel exhibitions;
- Trips to Russia's border territories conducted by Balance of Payments Department staff.

## Sources of information for outbound travel expenditures per one trip:

- Prices for hotels abroad for 52 countries;
- Prices for standard travel packages;
- Database on structure of organized tourism abroad;
- Standard allowance for business trips fixed by the Ministry of Finance of Russia;
- Survey of the regional travel companies;
- Trips to the border regions of Balance of Payments Department staff.

## Trips of BOP Department staff to Russia's border territories



## Outbound travel expenditures include:

- hotel or other;
- food;
- additional expenditures:
  - Russians go shopping abroad and buy expensive goods;
  - travel agencies estimate additional expenditures as being equal to price of the tour.

## Example of average additional expenditures of the Russian tourists in the Q2, 2009

|   | <i>USD</i> |
|---|------------|
| United States<br>(of America)                             | 1 202      |
| United Arab Emirates                                      | 1 148      |
| United Kingdom<br>(of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) | 1 096      |
| France  | 993        |
| Italy   | 958        |
| CIS – countries   | 61 - 75    |

## Difficulties in determining average expenditures

- additional expenses
- need for partner – country comparison
- lack of questions on travel expenditures in households' surveys

## Achievements

- Travel by country
- Business and Personal Travel
- Quarterly and annual analytical papers on main developments

Influence of separate factors on  
export and import changes in Travel item  
(the first half of 2009 in comparison with the first half of 2008)

*billions \$*

|         | 1 <sup>st</sup> half<br>of 2008 | 1 <sup>st</sup> half<br>of 2009 | Total<br>(growth (+);<br>decrease (-)) | at the expense of:               |  |                            |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
|         |                                 |                                 |  | changes of<br>number of<br>trips | changes of<br>expenditures<br>per one trip | structural<br>displacement |
| Export  | 5,5                             | 4,2                             | -1,3                                   | -0,5                             | -0,7                                       | -0,2                       |
| Import  | 10,6                            | 9,2                             | -1,4                                   | -1,3                             | -0,2                                       | 0,1                        |
| Total   | 16,2                            | 13,4                            | -2,8                                   | -1,7                             | -0,9                                       | -0,1                       |
| Balance | -5,1                            | -5,0                            | 0,1                                    | 0,8                              | -0,4                                       | -0,3                       |

Thank you