

METHODOLOGICAL COMMENTS

Since 2018, the Central bank started the compilation of the balance of payments, international investment position and external debt in accordance with the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6. IMF, 2009).

The purpose of compiling external sector statistics (balance of payments and international investment position) is to provide an integrated foundation for analyzing the foreign economic activity of the country, including its indicators, exchange rate policy, reserve management and external vulnerability to possible risks

The balance of payments, international investment position and external debt of the Republic of Uzbekistan are published on quarterly basis.

Balance of payments, international investment position, and external debt statistics can be revised regularly based on the latest available data.

The current methodological comments are derived from Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6. IMF, 2009) and intended to help users to better understand the foundations, principles, and structure of the balance of payments.

1.1. Methodological standards of the balance of payments

The balance of payments (BOP) is a systemized, macroeconomic and statistical report, which reflects the summarized economic transactions between residents and non-residents for a certain period. The data is classified and compiled based on BPM6 and in accordance with the international standards.

Definitions and main principles.

The structure of balance of payments consists of the current account, the capital account and the financial account. The current account covers the trade balance of goods and services, as well as balances of primary and secondary income. The capital account reflects acquisition/disposal of non-produced, non-financial assets and capital transfers. The financial account is divided into direct investment, portfolio investment, financial derivatives, other investments and reserve assets.

The sum of current and capital account balances is net lending to the rest of the world. Conceptually, it is equal to the balance of financial account. Financial account operations plus exchange rate, price and other changes reflect the difference between the beginning and the end stocks of the international investment position.

An economic unit is considered as a resident unit when it has a center of economic interest and a permanent location in the economic territory of a country for more than one year. At the same time for individuals, residence is determined regardless of citizenship.

The economic territory of a country consists of its geographic territory administered by a government and is subject to the same legislation.

An individual or legal person is considered to **have a center of economic interest** within a country when they have some location – a dwelling, place of production or other premises – within the economic territory of the country for either indefinitely or over a finite but long period of time.

Economic sectors

The financial account components of the BOP – direct investment, portfolio investment, financial derivatives, and other investment – are disaggregated by the economic sector of the residents involved in the operations. Four economic sectors are distinguished:

- Central bank – the Central Bank of Uzbekistan;
- Deposit-taking corporations, except central bank - commercial banks of Uzbekistan;
- General government – which comprises central government institutions and local public authorities;
- Other sectors, subdivided in two categories: other financial corporations (microfinance organizations, insurance companies and others) and non-financial corporations, households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH)

Types of Transactions

- exchanges – most transactions likely to be recorded in the balance of payments can be characterized as exchanges in which one transactor provides an economic value to another transactor and receives equal value in return. Most transactions reflected in the balance of payments can be characterized as exchanges;
- transfers – transactions in which one transactor provides economic value to another transactor and does not receive equivalent value in return;
- imputed transactions – when transactions are imputed and entries are made in the balance of payments accounts when no actual payment occurs i.e. accrual of interest.

The transactions mentioned above are reflected in the accounts of BOP as follows:

Goods comprise transactions with goods that cross the border of the country and either involve change of ownership between residents and non-residents (general merchandise, goods procured by carriers, and non-monetary gold).

Services cover all types of services that are performed by residents for nonresidents and vice versa and are divided into following categories:

- manufacturing services of physical inputs owned by others (nonresidents);
- maintenance and repair services not included elsewhere;
- all types of transportation services (passenger, freight and others)
- travel services (expenditures of nonresident travelers for business and personal purposes during their stay in Uzbekistan and expenses of resident travelers for business and personal purposes during their stay abroad).
- services of financial intermediaries;
- remaining types of services (construction; insurance services; computer and information services; other business services; personal, cultural and recreational services; government services; and services not included in other categories)

Primary income indicates two types of flows between residents and nonresidents:

- compensation of employees in the form of salaries, wages or other benefits, in cash or in kind, paid by employers to employees when the parties have a different residency status. These remunerations also include taxes paid in the host country, which are reflected in an opposite side entry in the current transfers item. Employees' expenditures in the host country are registered in the item "Travel" of article "Services";
- investment income covers income receivable, associated with residents' holdings of external financial assets, or payable, associated with residents' liabilities to nonresidents. Investment income consists of direct investment income, portfolio investment income, income on other investment and on reserve assets. Investment income is subdivided into dividends, reinvested earnings, interest and investment income attributable to policy-holders in insurance, pension schemes, and standardized guarantees, and to investment fund shareholders.

Secondary income shows current transfers between residents and non-residents. It is an offsetting entry for real resources or financial items provided without quid pro quo by one economy to another. The most common examples of current transfers are grants and humanitarian aid and technical assistance. This component also covers current international cooperation, current taxes on income, personal transfers, social benefits, and net nonlife insurance premiums.

Capital account shows capital transfers receivable and payable between residents and nonresidents, and the acquisition and disposal of non-produced, nonfinancial assets. Transfer is considered as capital if it is intended for acquisition of fixed assets or capital construction.

Non-produced nonfinancial assets include intangible assets covering contracts, leases, licenses, and marketing assets; and natural resources (generally land).

Financial account assets and liabilities cover functional categories: Direct investment, portfolio investment, financial derivatives, other investments and reserve assets.

Direct investment is a category of international investment in which a resident entity in one economy (the direct investor) acquires a lasting interest in an entity resident in another economy (the direct investment enterprise). A direct investor in an enterprise is an investor that owns 10% or more of ordinary shares or voting power (for an incorporated enterprise) or the equivalent (for an unincorporated enterprise). The “direct investment” relationship is extended to enterprises in which goods and/or money are invested from enterprises associated with them: to capital investment between associated enterprises, branches and their head offices. Direct investment includes equity capital, reinvested earnings and other earnings.

Portfolio investments are in the form of equity and investment fund shares and debt securities. Debt securities traded in international markets are recorded at market price.

Financial derivatives are financial instruments that are linked to a specific financial instrument, indicator, or commodity and through which specific financial risks can be traded in financial markets in their own right. Financial derivatives comprise transactions with swaps, options, guarantees, deposits, etc., and are registered on a net basis.

Other investments are primarily divided into net acquisition of financial assets and net incurrence of liabilities. Other investment covers other equity, currency and deposits, loans, insurance, pension, and standardized guarantee schemes, trade credit and advances, and other accounts receivable/payable.

Other securities include investments that are not direct investments or reserve assets. Other securities are not in the form of securities; therefore, they are not included in securities.

Currencies and deposits include all claims to the Central Bank and commercial banks, in some cases other institutional sectors, in the form of cash banknotes and coins, as well as deposits.

Insurance, pension and standard guarantee programs include (a) insurance technical reserves (except life insurance), (b) rights to life insurance and annuity payments, (c) rights to receive a pension, (d) pension fund claims on companies, that manage pension funds, (e) eligibility for benefits not related to pension schemes, (e) provisions to cover standard guarantees.

Trade credit and advances arise when payment for goods or services is not made at the same time as the change in ownership of a good or provision of a service. If a payment is made before the change of ownership, there is an advance.

Other accounts receivable/payable includes accounts receivable or payable other than those included above.

Special drawing rights (SDRs) are international reserve assets created by the IMF and allocated to members to supplement existing official reserves. SDRs are held only by the monetary authorities of IMF members and a limited number of international financial institutions.

Reserve assets are those external assets that are readily available to and controlled by monetary authorities for meeting balance of payments financing needs, for intervention in exchange markets, and for other related purposes.

The BOP is constructed on the basis of a **double entry book-keeping system**. Every recorded transaction is represented by two entries with equal values. One of these entries is recorded under credit; the other is recorded under debit. For example, in the case where an export operation was made, the transaction value in the BOP will be reflected as credit in “Export” and as debit in “Assets – currency and deposits”. The sum of all credit and debit entries should equal to zero. In practice, however, the accounts frequently do not balance. Data for balance of

payments estimates are often obtained from different sources and, as a result, there may be a summary “net errors and omissions”.

Credit entries are recorded for exports, primary and secondary income received and acquisition of non-produced non-financial assets.

Debit entries are recorded for imports, primary and secondary income paid and disposal of non-produced non-financial assets.

The international accounts follow **net recording in the financial account**. Net recording, means aggregations or combinations that show net changes (increases less reductions) in a particular financial asset or a liability category on the same side of the balance sheet. Transactions on financial assets and liabilities are shown under “Net acquisition of financial assets” and “Net incurrence of liabilities”. Net acquisition of assets equals increase of the asset less decrease of the same asset. Transaction with positive sign means increase, while negative sign – decrease. Calculation of net acquisition of financial liabilities are in the same way as assets are calculated.

Market prices are the basis for valuation in the international accounts. Market prices for transactions are defined as amounts of money that buyers are willing to pay for acquiring something from sellers who, in his/her turn, has willing to sell. The exchanges are made between independent parties and on the basis of commercial considerations only.

Time of transaction recording is real time or estimated time when ownership change occurred. This is the time when transaction was recorded in financial reports.

Standard and analytical presentation of BOP

Standard presentation - BOP items are grouped corresponding to national accounts and other macroeconomic statistics standard classifications.

Analytical presentation denotes reorganization of standard BOP items in a way where international transactions balance is financed with international reserves, IMF or other international donor credits or other exceptional financing items

1.2. Sources of data and commentary on the compilation of components.

The main sources of information for compiling balance of payments data are the State Customs Committee, State Statistics Committee, enterprises and operators’ data on production sharing agreements (PSA), State Border Protection Committee, State Personalization Center, Central Bank, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other organizations.

Along with the reports received, some changes are made to improve the quality of the data and ensure their compliance with the methodology.

Data on imports/exports of goods

Export and import data are reflected in FOB prices in the balance of payments. Data on the import and export of goods are obtained from the State Customs Committee. CIF prices of imported goods are adjusted based on the coefficients calculated by weight, taking into account the mode of transport at the border and the region of shipment of goods.

Official data received from the State Customs Committee are supplemented with data on gold exports and are adjusted based on estimates of the Central Bank regarding shuttle exports and imports, as well as additional data obtained and identified statistical discrepancies in mirror statistics for the main trading partners.

Estimation of the value of goods imported/exported by individuals for subsequent resale is calculated as the product of the number of "shuttles" and the average value of the goods imported and exported by them. The average value has been derived on the basis of a quarterly survey conducted at border posts and airports in all regions of the country.

International services

Initial data for the exports and imports of transport services are obtained from the State Committee on Statistics. Additional data are obtained and calculations are made for the most significant and missing components. In particular:

For transport services

- estimations are made on the amount of imported air, rail and road transport services. For example, the import of air transport is calculated by multiplying the number of persons who entered and left the country by air, minus the number of citizens of Uzbekistan transported by the national carrier, to the average price of a ticket to the main countries of departure of citizens of Uzbekistan;
- information on the amount of air transport exports is received from national air carrier, including the goods sold to foreign ships at airports in Uzbekistan and purchased by ships of Uzbekistan at foreign airports;
- information on the amount and value of goods transported for non-residents is obtained from Uzbekistan Railways;
- CIF-FOB corrections are added separately to the amount of imports for each mode of transport based on their share in total volume of imports.

For travel services:

- expenses of short-term workers during their stay abroad are added to the data of the State statistics committee on debit and credit of business travels;
- the amount of exports and imports of personal travel services (tourism) are calculated based on data from the border service and the results of a survey on tourist statistics conducted by the State Statistics Committee in May 2018. Since the coefficients generated by the results of the tourist survey of residents also include the amount of transport expenses, they are deducted from the debit of travel services in order to avoid double counting.

For other services:

- to reflect information on public services not included elsewhere, information obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is used;
- to reflect insurance services, data are obtained from insurance companies and adjustments are made if discrepancies are identified. In addition, the cost of the cargo insurance service, obtained while calculating the CIF-FOB adjustment, is included in insurance services.

Primary income

- calculation of primary income is carried out on the basis of the cross-border money remittances data, generated by the Central Bank and cash imports of foreign currencies, formed by the State Customs Committee until 2018. The data are complemented by an estimate of the income of residents working at embassies and international institutions in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Calculation of wages of short-term workers is carried out in the methodology recommended by the IMF expert during the technical assistance mission. At the same time, the number of citizens of Uzbekistan who went abroad to work during the reporting and previous three quarters are multiplied to decreasing coefficients in order to determine the quantity of short-term workers in the calculations. The estimated number of short-term workers is multiplied by the average amount of their income to determine the total amount of their earnings. This approach also enables the determination of their travel expenses and mandatory payments in the form of taxes and patent fees.

- investment income is calculated on the basis of data from the Central Bank, commercial banks, the Ministry of Finance and enterprises operating on the basis of the PSA. Wherein, commercial banks provide data on accrued interest on unsecured private debt, while the Ministry of Finance presents data on accrued interest on loans attracted by the government or under its guarantee.

Secondary income

- personal transfers are calculated on the basis of cross-border money remittances data, generated by the Central Bank and cash imports of foreign currencies, formed by the State Customs Committee until 2018. The net earnings of short-term workers are deducted from the total amount of remittances into the country and the cash import of foreign currency by the citizens of Uzbekistan and the balance is indicated as a transfer;
- data on grants in monetary form are presented by commercial banks, while humanitarian assistance received in the form of goods is obtained from the database of the State Customs Committee;
- the Ministry of Finance provides information on the contributions of the Republic of Uzbekistan to international organizations.

Capital account

- information on capital transfers is compiled on the basis of data obtained from commercial banks and other sources of data.

Financial account

Direct investment

- data on direct investment are generated by using the results of a survey conducted by the State Statistics Committee. The form of the survey is based on the reporting forms recommended by the International Monetary Fund. Additionally, enterprises operating on the basis of PSA provide data on investments made. Furthermore, information on direct investment in commercial banks and other non-bank financial institutions is received from commercial banks and other non-bank financial institutions. Data on intercompany loans from related companies are submitted by commercial banks;
- direct investments of enterprises of Uzbekistan abroad are insignificant. Moreover, the determination of their real volume from administrative data is not feasible.

Portfolio investment

- data on portfolio investments are generated by using the results of a survey conducted by the State Statistics Committee. The form of the survey is based on the reporting forms recommended by the International Monetary Fund. Information on portfolio investment in commercial banks and other non-bank financial institutions is received from commercial banks and other non-bank financial institutions. Data on market prices of traded securities are derived from Bloomberg.

Other investment

- data on external loans and balances of correspondent accounts are formed on the basis of data of the Central Bank, the Ministry of Finance and commercial banks;
- trade credits and advances are calculated on the basis of data received from commercial banks.

Reserve assets

- source of information on reserve assets is the Central Bank.

1.3. Methodological standards of international investment position

International Investment Position (IIP) of the Republic of Uzbekistan is compiled in accordance with the sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6, IMF, 2009).

The IIP shows the balance of the country's external financial assets and liabilities for a certain period of time. The IIP includes the full range of claims and obligations to non-residents from different institutional sectors: the Central Bank, depository corporations other than the Central Bank, the Government, and other sectors. The main articles of this report are identical to the articles of the financial account: direct investment, portfolio investment, financial derivatives, other investments and reserve assets.

The difference between financial assets and liabilities of the economy is a net investment position. Thus, a sector in the IIP can either be a “net lender” or a “net borrower”.

The IIP is compiled in the form of a table reflecting flows and balances of operations.

1.4. Sources of information and the formation of data on the external debt of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The external debt of the Republic of Uzbekistan consists of the outstanding balance of debt on foreign borrowings of residents of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as accrued but unpaid interest on those borrowings. External debt is divided into private sector external debt and government external debt.

Government external debt includes loans received by the government or under the guarantee of the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan provides data on the disbursements of funds, accrual of interest and payments related to the government external debt.

The external debt of the private sector consists of external borrowings received without the guarantee of the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, including debt on loans provided by foreign parent companies. Information on the external debt of the private sector is provided by commercial banks.

Data on the external debt of the private sector are formed in the context of economic sectors (oil and gas and energy sector, banking, telecommunications, textile and other sectors).

Also, banks provide data on the forecasts relating to the future repayment of principal and interest.

1.5. Legal basis of data compilation

1. Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On the Central bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan» and «On currency regulation» (new edition).
2. Decree by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 9, 2018 № УП-5296 «On measures for fundamental improvement of activities of the Central bank of Uzbekistan.
3. Decree by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 12, 2017 № P-5054 «On measures to ensure openness and transparency of economic and financial data on Republic of Uzbekistan»
4. Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan dated April 3, 2018 № 263 «On measures to ensure compilation of external sector statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan».