



« Trade in Services Statistics in Tunisia »

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Introduction

- In the context of the elaboration of the Balance of payments of Tunisia, the **trade in services statistics** are adjusted according to the fifth edition of the International Monetary Fund Manual.
- The services statistics elaboration is based on the following stages:
 - I- Identification of information sources,
 - II- Collecting data, through the adoption of information systems introduced for this purpose,
 - III- Storage of collected information in databases for processing and checking,
 - IV- Elaboration of finalized services statistics and their inclusion in the Balance of Payments according to the fifth edition methodology of the Balance of Payments Manual,
 - V- Dissemination of statistics on the website and in publications of the Central Bank, as well as in the framework of the Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund and its publications.
 - VI- Statistical annexes about services.

I- Sources of Information

- The data collection system relating to the exchange of services with foreign countries is based especially on the ITRS system based on financial repayments through the declarations of the banking system, without specifying any limit for reported operations.
- The completion of these data occurs through :
 - surveys addressed to the most important companies in the field of services exchange with foreign countries, in particular, companies of transport, telecommunications and information technology (IT).
 - Ministries and Government institutions.

II-Data Collection

- Data collection is carried out according statistical and IT applications, implemented for this purpose, for all the mentioned sources.

II- Data collection Banking System (ITRS)

- Data is collected from the banking system under the legal texts (circulars of the Central Bank).
- The circulars of the Central Bank oblige banks to submit their transactions with foreign countries, in the context of the elaboration of the Balance of Payments and Exchange Controls.
- These circulars specify, in addition to legal issues for different transactions with foreign countries, the manner and methods to present this information, according to a specific form.
- The circulars contain annexes for codes of the Balance of Payments operations, of countries and currencies that ought to be respected when sending data, according to which the classification of transactions by category, country and currency takes place, following checking and processing of different collected data, to insert them after into the finalized statistics of the Balance of Payments, according to the methodology used in this field.
- Also, the Law governing the creation and organization of the Central Bank of Tunisia supports its statistical operations by engaging all economic operators to submit to the Central Bank departments the information required in the context of the elaboration of the Balance of Payments.

II- Data collection Banking System (ITRS)

- The data is sent by banks through a locked and secure electronic system (Data Exchange System).
- Collecting and sending data of banks to the Central Bank are conducted by a correspondent of the Balance of Payments Departments.
- The Balance of Payments Departments organize regular meetings with their correspondents at the banking system for mentoring and to discuss problems that may occur during collection or preparation of the required data.
- The Balance of Payments Departments conduct a training course for their correspondents in banks whenever there is an adoption of a new edition of the Balance of Payments and this occurs with the participation of experts from the International Monetary Fund.
- Cash operations include three payment modes :
 - Transfers on Foreign currency : daily data (between 5000 and 6000 operations per day),
 - Convertible dinar operations: monthly data (5500 transactions per month),
 - Banknotes: monthly data (2200 operations per month).

II- Data collection

Surveys addressed to companies operating in the field of services

The Balance of Payments departments conduct surveys annually addressed to the most important companies operating in the services sector that have transactions abroad,

- The surveys mainly concern companies of transport, telecommunications and information technology (IT),.... .
- It will be provided to the Balance of Payments Departments the turnover of transactions abroad of these companies classified by type of service and by country, through a form prepared for this purpose, taking into account different types of services.

II- Data collection

Ministries and Government institutions

- The Balance of Payments Departments receive periodically statistical data from various ministries and government institutions related to the exchange of services with foreign countries,
- These data allow the Balance of Payments Departments to make reconciliations in order to improve the quality of statistics in terms of detail or with regard to geographical distribution,
- Among the main requested data from this source, for example:
 - Entries and exits of non-residents by nationality (Ministry of the Interior),
 - Bed nights/Overnights of non-residents in Tunisian hotels by nationality (Ministry of Tourism) ,
 - Statistics on foreign students in Tunisia: number, nationality, education costs (Ministry of Higher Education),
 - Statistics of health services provided to non-residents (Ministry of Public Health).

III- Storage and processing of collected data

- **Storage of collected data :**

- The collected data is stored in:

- ✓ Database of purchases and sales operations with foreign currencies (daily data),
- ✓ Database of convertible dinars transactions (monthly data),
- ✓ Database of Banknotes (monthly data),
- ✓ Database of the Central Bank operations.

- The establishment of a database for surveys concerning services.

III- Storage and processing of collected data

- **Processing of collected data :**

- Review of bank data for authenticity purpose, and this is through three stages:

- ✓ Automatic sorting of erroneous operations and country codes by the IT system due to non-compliance with the codes contained in the Central Bank circulars,
- ✓ Request for additional information for large amounts, more than 200 thousand dinars to check and ensure the reported data.

- The processing of data provided by ministries and companies and their checking through the electronic communications network or by telephone or via regular correspondence.

IV-Elaboration of Balance of Payments statistics (statistics of services)

- Once collected and processed, **services statistics** are **elaborated** and **disseminated** in accordance with the **5th edition of the IMF Balance of Payments Manual** .

V-Dissemination of services statistics

- Data on trade in services are available on:
 - Website of the CBT,
 - IMF website under the SDDS,
 - Financial Statistics Bulletin (quarterly publication),
 - Annual report of the CBT (Annual publication),
 - Brochure of the Balance of Payments (Annual publication of the Balance of Payments by country),

VI- Statistical annexes (Trends in Services Receipts)

(5th edition)

(In MTD)

Description	2010	2011	2012	2013
SERVICES	8,309.7	6,727.7	8,204.6	8,176.0
TRANSPORT	2,202.4	1,899.3	2,283.3	2,058.8
<i>Freight</i>	218.0	241.9	260.8	284.8
<i>Passengers</i>	1,190.6	866.1	1,098.9	1,091.3
<i>Other transports</i>	793.8	791.3	923.6	682.7
<i>Of which : gas royalties</i>	602.6	641.7	749.5	478.1
TRAVEL	3,785.9	2,694.9	3,478.0	3,559.5
<i>Tourism</i>	3,522.5	2,432.6	3,175.3	3,221.4
<i>Professional and official travel</i>	88.1	60.8	84.2	93.5
<i>Studies and training</i>	30.7	28.1	36.0	39.4
<i>Medical care</i>	117.2	131.5	151.6	171.5
<i>Other living expenses</i>	27.4	41.9	30.9	33.7
GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS	478.3	467.2	503.3	412.3
<i>Tunisian government</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Foreign governments</i>	478.3	467.2	503.3	412.3
OTHER SERVICES	1,843.1	1,666.3	1,940.0	2,145.4
<i>Insurance premiums and benefits</i>	93.5	85.9	103.4	110.2
<i>Office costs</i>	126.8	115.5	122.2	114.7
<i>Commercial & international trade costs</i>	248.4	226.1	275.4	327.8
<i>Large scale works & technical services</i>	685.1	504.2	635.4	700.6
<i>Communication services</i>	432.4	486.1	530.6	606.9
<i>Financial services</i>	103.7	92.5	108.3	111.3
<i>Computer and information services</i>	60.9	57.8	62.7	69.0
<i>Royalties and licence rights</i>	35.5	37.2	36.1	40.8
<i>Staff and cultural services</i>	13.9	12.7	13.9	17.8
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	42.9	48.3	52.0	46.3

VI- Statistical annexes (Trends in Services Expenditures)

(5th edition)

(In MTD)

Description	2010	2011	2012	2013
SERVICES	4,788.4	4,625.7	5,151.2	5,541.6
TRANSPORT	2,283.0	2,277.0	2,545.7	2,720.5
<i>Freight</i>	1,574.9	1,667.1	1,870.0	1,955.7
<i>Passengers</i>	91.7	99.5	125.0	151.0
<i>Other transport</i>	616.4	510.4	550.7	613.8
TRAVEL	783.3	853.9	926.3	1,097.2
<i>Tourism</i>	479.4	531.8	537.3	682.8
<i>Professional and official travel</i>	80.4	69.5	99.7	114.6
<i>Studies and training</i>	107.0	120.0	129.3	154.6
<i>Medical care</i>	18.5	18.8	15.3	20.2
<i>Other living expenses</i>	98.0	113.8	144.7	125.0
GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS	257.6	247.7	323.7	267.7
<i>Tunisian Government</i>	257.6	247.7	323.7	267.7
- <i>Technical assistance</i>	38.2	41.4	80.9	27.7
- <i>Other</i>	219.4	206.3	242.8	240.0
<i>Foreign governments</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OTHER SERVICES	1,464.5	1,247.1	1,355.5	1,456.2
<i>Insurance premiums and benefits</i>	303.5	306.3	317.4	333.8
<i>Office costs</i>	13.7	18.3	12.4	15.8
<i>Commercial & international trade costs</i>	158.7	152.0	159.5	173.3
<i>Large scale works & technical services</i>	571.1	432.9	502.5	552.6
<i>Communication services</i>	85.3	94.6	108.8	125.0
<i>Financial services</i>	109.0	82.0	92.8	91.6
<i>Computer and information services</i>	53.9	41.6	48.8	53.0
<i>Royalties and licence rights</i>	21.7	17.0	20.0	22.2
<i>Staff and cultural services</i>	15.6	7.2	11.2	18.5
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	132.0	95.2	82.1	70.4



**Thank you for
your attention**