

## Travel

A major component of service flows is reported under "travel", which covers all expenditures by non-residents incidental to travel in Canada (receipts or exports of travel services) and all expenditures by Canadian residents incidental to travel abroad (payments or imports of travel services). International travellers include tourists, business travellers, students, shoppers, commuters, seasonal workers, convention delegates, airplane and truck crews, diplomats and military personnel, etc.

Travel expenditure includes international fare payments, lodging, food, entertainment, local transportation, personal services, gifts and other goods purchased. Because many services, by their very nature, are consumed at the point of purchase, they are purchased only by travellers. Therefore, an allocation of exports and imports to any classification of services is heavily dependent on the availability of a detailed breakdown of travel expenditure. No country collects such highly detailed statistics. The available Canadian data do permit a split into expenditure on fares (by mode -- air, ship, rail, bus) versus all other.

## Available Canadian Detail

Published Balance of Payments statistics for Canada contain a wealth of information on capital and current account transactions, broken down by type of transaction and by geographical region. Data are available on a quarterly and an annual basis.

The focus of this report is on a relatively small component of these accounts. The prime goal is to obtain the most detailed data on services trade possible. Therefore no quarterly estimates nor time series are presented, nor is any geographical detail given. The year 1977 was chosen because that was the date of the last special survey of business service receipts and expenditures (the quadrennial survey referred to in Balance of Payments Division as BP-21S). The basic data source is the ledgers and worksheets of Balance of Payments Division.