

NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

General

The object of the balance of payments accounts is to identify and record transactions between the residents of Barbados and non-residents to provide information suitable for analysing economic relations between Barbados and the rest of the world. The accounts are intended to record three basic types of transactions:

- a) flows of goods, services and income;
- b) changes in foreign financial assets and liabilities that arise from transactions (as opposed to valuation changes); and
- c) current and capital transfer payments, which are the counterpart of real resources or financial claims provided to, or received from the rest of the world without any quid pro quo.

The transactions are in principle recorded when the ownership of goods or assets changes and when services are rendered.

Accounting Conventions

The balance of payments accounts have been compiled according to principles outlined in the *Balance of Payments Manual (5th Edition)* published by the IMF (See Preface). The double-entry system of accounting is used and in this sense the balance of payments will always balance as the sum of the credit (or positive) entries must be equal to that of the debit (or negative) entries. Credit entries are recorded for outflows of goods, services and inflows of income and financial items (i.e decreases in assets or increases in liabilities); conversely debit entries are made for inflows of goods, services, and outflows of income and financial items.

In concept every balance of payment transaction involves both a debit and credit entry. The two offsetting entries are not made explicitly but are included as a result of the methods used in estimating the balance of payments. However, the sources of estimation are not complete or precisely accurate; one entry in respect of a particular transaction may elude the records, the two entries may not match in their timing, and they may be recorded at different rates of exchange. In order to bring the total of the credit and debit entries to zero, a balancing item, Errors and Omissions, is included to off-set the discrepancies in the other items of the account.

The balance of payments transactions are divided into the following main groups:

- a) current account transactions which cover imports and exports of goods and services, income and current transfers;
- b) the capital account which covers capital transfers and the acquisition/disposal of non-produced non-financial assets;
- c) the financial account transactions which cover public and private sector long-term and short-term investment capital transactions; and
- d) official financing which covers changes in the reserves, net borrowing from the IMF, net transactions with overseas monetary institutions and other Government borrowing for balance of payments support.

The balance on current account shows whether or not earnings from income and earnings from the outflow of goods, services, and the receipts of current transfers from abroad exceed payments of income and payments for the inflow of goods, services, and current transfers to non-residents.

The overall measure of balance of payments performance is the balance for official financing. This balance, which is the sum of the change in the international reserves and other official financing transactions (with the sign reversed), is obtained from official records. (The balance for official financing is also equal to the current account balance plus the capital and financial account balance and errors and omissions). Official financing transactions are undertaken in response to the autonomous transactions.¹ In the absence of borrowing for balance of payments support official financing is equal to the movement in the international reserves.

Residence

Residence in the compiling country is determined by the relationship of individuals and institutions to the territory of the economy. The territory of an economy includes territorial seas and any international waters beyond the territorial sea over which the economy has or claims to have exclusive jurisdiction. On this definition the territory of the economy of Barbados includes the land mass and territorial waters twelve miles from the shore. (The territorial waters extended for three miles until 1977 when the Barbados Territorial Waters Act, 1977-26 extended the limit to 12 miles.)²

¹The autonomous transactions are the current account and investment and other capital account transactions.

²A 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone was established in 1978 by the Marine Boundaries and Jurisdiction Act, 1978-3.

Individuals resident in Barbados are defined in accordance with the concept of residence generally accepted in the compilation of the balance of payments accounts and in national income accounting.³ Residents include all persons living within the territorial boundaries except the following:

- a) foreign investors (tourists), persons in the country for less than one year, specifically for recreation or holiday, medical care, religious observance, family affairs, participating in international sporting events, conferences and other meetings, and study tours or other student programmes;
- b) crew members of foreign vessels or aircraft docked or on lay-over here;
- c) foreign commercial (business) travellers who are to be in the country for less than one year, and foreigners who are the employees of non-resident enterprises and who have come here for less than one year for such purposes as installing machinery and equipment purchased from their employers;
- d) seasonal workers, persons who are, or will be in Barbados explicitly for purposes of seasonal employment only;
- e) official diplomatic and consular representatives and members of the armed forces of a foreign country who stationed here; and
- f) employees of international bodies who are not citizens of Barbados but are here on a mission of less than one year in duration;

The resident institutions⁴ are:

- a) the Government, including governmental agencies operating abroad such as embassies and their consular and diplomatic staff, the overseas offices of statutory corporations (including their home-based staff)⁵ and

³*U.N.: A system of National Income Accounts*, New York, 1968, No. E. 69: XVII, 3, paragraphs 5.115 - 5.117.

⁴*IMF: Balance of Payments Manual*, Washington, D.C., 5th Edition, paragraphs 73 through 89.

⁵"Home-based staff" refers to Barbadian staff not normally resident overseas.

- b) all business enterprises and non-profit organisations located here except branches of foreign insurance or airline and shipping companies.

Agencies of business enterprises are regarded as residents of the countries in which the agents operate. However, transactions between residents and foreign business enterprises completed through their agencies in Barbados are resident-foreigner transactions, which qualify for inclusion in the balance of payments.

Branches of airline or shipping companies operating in Barbados are treated as agencies. These branches act as intermediaries between their head offices, which provide the services, and residents. The branches provide services for their head offices and receive a payment equal to their operating expenses. This is treated similarly to commissions paid to an agency by its foreign principal.

It should be noted that for exchange control purposes residents are defined in Exchange Control Circular No. 10 as:

- a) Barbadian nationals residing in Barbados or temporarily working abroad;
- b) other nationals who have continuously resided in Barbados for at least three years; and
- c) a firm or company incorporated or registered and operating in Barbados.

Exchange Rates

The value of the Barbados dollar was fixed in sterling at the rate of 1 to BDS\$4.80 until July 5, 1975, when it was linked to the U.S. dollar at the rate of US\$1 to BDS\$2. No adjustments were made for exchange rate changes except in 1975 when a 9.7% revaluation accompanied the switch from sterling to the U.S. dollar. Where data on transactions are available in currencies other than Barbados dollars, the figures are converted at the rates prevailing when the transactions occurred. Similarly, if outstanding balances are given in foreign currencies, these are converted into Barbados dollars at the rate prevailing at the end of the reporting period. This accounts for part of the difference in the international reserves in Table 15 of this publication and in the table International Reserves in the *Economic and Financial Statistics*.

Summary Tables

The summary of the balance payments is presented in Table 1; the current account, capital and financial account and official financing are summarised in Tables 2 and 3 respectively. The summary is disaggregated and the items are described in the

appropriate notes in Tables 4 through 16. In the summary tables it is only necessary to define goods and non-factor services which appear on the current account. This entry is made up of goods and services minus wages to embassy officials, royalties and licence fees, and management fees. Wages are recorded in Table 5, and Royalties and Licence Fees and Management Fees are recorded in Table 9. Goods and non-factor services correspond to exports (X) and imports (M) in gross domestic product (GDP) which is stated as $Y = C + I + X - M$ where

- Y is gross domestic product
- C is private and public consumption, and
- I is private and public investment

NOTES ON SPECIFIC BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ITEMS

Current Account

The current account of the balance of payments refers to all transactions between residents and non-residents in goods, services, income and current transfers.

Table 4 Merchandise Account

This table covers imports and exports of goods, goods for processing, repairs on goods, goods procured in ports by carriers and non-monetary gold. For balance of payments purposes, it is necessary to make certain valuation, classification, and coverage adjustments to the free on board value of goods leaving Barbados (exports f.o.b.) and to the market value of goods entering the country (imports c.i.f.).

The following items are excluded from the trade statistics:

- i) gold coin and bullion, issued coinage and issued bank notes;
- ii) goods on lease;
- iii) Commercial travellers' samples;
- iv) goods intransit; and
- v) imports and exports of less than \$6 in value.

Exports: Coverage adjustments are made for:

- (a) goods exported through the parcel post;
- (b) the sale of notes, coins and stamps as collectors' items;
- (c) stocks of goods held overseas by residents.

Items (a) and (b) are added in the *Overseas Trade Report* while item (c) is deducted.

Goods for processing cover exports (or imports, in Barbados) of goods crossing the frontier for processing abroad and subsequent re-import (or export, in Barbados) of the goods, which are valued on a gross basis before and after processing. This item is an exception to the change of ownership principle. The entry is obtained from Trade statistics.

Repairs on goods cover repair activity on goods provided to or received from non residents on ships, aircraft, etc. Although the physical movement of these goods is similar to that described above, the repairs are valued at the prices (fees paid or received) of the repairs and not at the gross values of the goods before and after repairs are made. The entries are obtained from direct enquiry.

Goods procured in ports by carriers (formerly stores and bunkers) was originally included in the Transportation table under the Fourth Edition of the IMF Manual. The credit entry is obtained from the Barbados Statistical Department. It includes receipts from foreign ships and aircraft for fuels, provisions and stores.

Non-monetary gold covers exports and imports of all gold that is not held as a reserve asset (monetary gold by the Central Banks).

Estimates of the sale of stamps as collectors' items are provided by the Post Office while the Bank provides data on similar sales of notes and coins. Adjustments for currency have been made from 1973 when the currency of Barbados replaced the issue of the East Caribbean Currency Authority (ECCA) as legal tender in the country. Estimates of stocks held overseas are obtained by direct enquiry.

Until 1972, a valuation adjustment was made to exports as a result of special payments for sugar, known as sugar certificates, received from the United Kingdom. Data on these payments were supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture. In 1973 and 1974 when sugar was marketed under a new Commonwealth Sugar Agreement (CSA), the system of preferences was discontinued. In 1975 after the CSA was replaced by the marketing arrangements under the Convention of Lomé, a valuation adjustment was necessary to include the monetary compensation accounts (MCAs) paid by the European Economic Community (EEC) to the exporters. This valuation adjustment is provided by the Barbados Sugar Industry Ltd.

Imports: Coverage adjustments to imports are made for:

- a) unissued currency notes, coins and stamps;
- b) outstanding balances on consignment imports; and
- c) other adjustments which include ships and aircraft purchased by residents.

Item (a) is added to imports, item (b) is deducted and item (c) may either be added or deducted.

The value of ships and aircraft purchased is obtained by direct enquiry. The Bank supplies the data on the cost of minting and printing currency and the Post Office supplies data on stamps and imports. Prior to 1973 no adjustment was made for currency notes and coins because imports were made by ECCA, a non-resident organisation.

Classification

Imports are now recorded in the balance of payments exclusive of freight and insurance. According to the Fifth Edition of the IMF Manual, freight transportation is now recorded under Table 6 (Transportation) while freight insurance is recorded under Table 9 (Other Services).

Table 5: Government n.i.e. (not included elsewhere)

This item consists of transactions in services that are not appropriate to the other items in the accounts between:

- a) the Government of Barbados, including its employees stationed abroad, and non-residents including international organisations; and
- b) residents of Barbados and the agencies of foreign governments (including their staff stationed here) and international organisations.

The Government of Barbados includes the Barbados Investment & Development Corporation (formerly Barbados Industrial Development Corporation) and the Barbados Tourism Authority (formerly the Barbados Board of Tourism), both of which have overseas offices, the Central Bank of Barbados as well as other statutory bodies. The estimates of the entries in this table are based on data supplied by embassies and other agencies of foreign governments and international organisations located in Barbados and by the Ministry of Finance.

Services under aid programme: The credit entry covers donation of services aid by Foreign Governments to the Government of Barbados. The debit entry covers services donated without charge by the Government of Barbados to Foreign Governments; an offsetting entry is included in Table 10 Government Transfer Payments.

Diplomatic personal expenditure: The credit covers the expenditure on goods and services by foreign government personnel stationed in Barbados while the debit covers the expenditure of Government of Barbados diplomatic and other "home-based" staff stationed abroad.

Real estate rentals: The credit covers receipts by residents for the rental of office accommodation and residences to agencies of foreign governments or international organisations. The debit records payments by the Government of Barbados to non-residents for office accommodation and residences for diplomatic and consular staff stationed abroad.

Other: The credit covers the local operating expenses of international organisations or agencies of foreign governments in Barbados and the debit covers similar expenses incurred abroad by institutions of the Government of Barbados.

NB: Wage payments to local staff now a component of income.

Table 6: Transportation

This table covers most of the transportation services, including freight transportation, by sea, air and any other mode. It now excludes goods procured in ports by carriers (formerly stores and bunkers).

Passenger Services: The debit item covers payments by residents of Barbados to foreign carriers for the transport of persons by sea, air or other forms of transport while the credit entry covers receipts by domestic carriers for similar services. The fares were supplied by airlines and shipping companies.

Freight: The debit item covers payment by residents of Barbados to foreign carriers for the transport of goods either by sea, air or other form of transport. This was previously estimated to be 10% of imports(c.i.f.). Freight data is now compile using survey data. The credit entry covers receipts by domestic carriers for similar services. This is estimated from direct enquiry.

Other: This includes harbour dues, landing fees, pilotage, stevedoring, tug services etc. provided to or by the port or the airport.

Table 7: Travel

This table covers personal or business expenditure of all visitors to Barbados and Barbadians going abroad except those persons included in Government n.i.e (Table 5). The entries in this table are based on the estimates of the Ministry of Labour, the Barbados Statistical Service, data from the Exchange Control Department of the Bank as well as from direct enquiry.

Business

The credit item covers travellers to Barbados for all types of business activity and also refers to personal acquisitions of goods and services but not the sales or purchases that the business travellers may conclude on behalf of the enterprise they represent.

The debit item comprises expenditure incurred by resident seasonal workers overseas. This item is estimated from information provided by the Labour Department.

Other: The credit item is made up of income received from visitors who arrive in Barbados for conferences, religious observances etc. and also from foreign crewmen. The debit item comprises expenditure by residents abroad for similar reasons. This information is obtained by direct entry and exchange control data.

Personal

This item covers the expenditure in Barbados of foreign visitors seeking medical care and pursuing study, those remaining in the island at least one night but not more than one year for holiday (long-stay tourists), as well as those visitors who spend less than twenty four hours in Barbados (excursionists), those visiting in connection with family matters, sports etc. Visitors, not included in the health and education categories are placed under Other. The debit entry covers similar expenditure by residents abroad.

Health and education related expenditures are obtained from direct enquiry. In the case of long stay tourists, the credit items are provided by the Barbados Statistical Service while the debits are estimated on the basis of exchange control records. The item excursionist, which only occurs on the credit side, covers the expenditure of cruise-ship passengers. The estimate, provided by the Barbados Statistical Service, is made by multiplying the number of cruise ship passengers by an average expenditure per head based on general observation.

NB: *Expenditure by Seasonal and Border Workers* now a component of compensation of employees.

Table 8: Income

This table covers the following:

Compensation of Employees: The credit entry is made up of income of Barbadian seamen serving on foreign lines and expenditure of foreign crewmen. These earnings are obtained from direct enquiry. The debit entry is mainly the gross earnings of foreign crewmen, administrative staff and overseas branch workers employed by residents other than the Government of Barbados. Wage payments to local staff and Expenditure by Seasonal and Border workers are now components of compensation of employees.

Wage payments to local staff. The credit entry covers wages paid to residents by embassies, consulates or other agents of foreign governments and international organisations. (Note that the staff of international organisations are residents of the country in which they are stationed for a period of one year or more.) The debit entry represents the wages and salaries paid to non-residents employed by embassies or consulates and statutory corporations of the Government of Barbados. **Expenditure by Seasonal and Border Workers:** The credit item is made up of the income received by residents employed in the US and Canadian farm workers' schemes.

Investment Income: Investment income is divided into direct investment income, portfolio investment income and other investment income. (For definition of direct, portfolio and other investment, see page 36).

The entries in this table cover income accruing to residents from investments abroad (credit) and income accruing to non-residents from investments in Barbados (debit).

Direct Investment. This is broken down into Income on Equity and Income on Debt.

Income on Equity. On the credit side, Income on equity is made up earnings of foreign branches (net of losses), income and interest on dividends (from shareholdings of 10% or more) from subsidiaries abroad accruing to their Barbadian companies or other resident directors, undistributed corporate earnings, (that portion of corporate earnings and dividends not remitted to parent companies or other directors, with earnings recorded net of corporate income tax), and dividends and branch profits, that is, dividends paid to direct investors and the earnings of branches (net of losses) whether remitted or not to parent companies.

Dividends are recorded before tax while profits of branches are recorded after tax. Taxes on dividends paid by nonresidents to the Government of Barbados are recorded under Government Transfer Payments while similar payments by residents to foreign Governments are included under Private Transfer Payments. The debit entries cover similar income accruing to non-residents from residents.

Income on Debt. The credit item includes interest on loans from branches and subsidiaries to their Barbadian parent companies, interest accruing to Government of Barbados from loans to non-resident institutions. The debit item covers similar interest from branches and subsidiaries in Barbados to their parent companies overseas and interest payable by Government of Barbados to overseas institutions.

Portfolio Investment

Income on Equity. The credit item includes dividends (from shareholdings of less than 10%) accruing to residents of Barbados while the debit item covers dividends of similar holdings accruing to non-residents.

Income on Debt: This item includes interest on bonds and notes and money market instruments and financial derivatives accruing to residents of Barbados (credit) and payable by residents of Barbados to non-residents (debit). Money market instruments are debt securities (e.g. treasury bills), the original maturity of which is one year or less. Financial derivatives are instruments, which are linked to specific financial instruments such as foreign currencies, government bonds, interest rates etc or to a particular commodity that may be purchased and sold at a later date. Direct enquiry is the source of this information.

Other Investment: This item covers interest receipts and payments on all other resident claims (assets) on and liabilities to non-residents respectively.

Information on investment income is obtained from direct enquiry, exchange control information and in the case of the Government, official records.

Table 9: Other Services

This table comprises the following:

Insurance Services: This item includes the provision of life insurance and pension funds to non-residents by resident insurance companies and vice versa (for example premiums paid to, claims made by and pensions paid to resident insurance companies by non resident insurance companies and vice versa). It also covers freight insurance, which was originally shown with visible trade, non-life insurance and services provided for reinsurance. Freight insurance on exports is obtained from direct enquiry, as is the case with the other components. However freight insurance on imports is estimated to be 1% of imports c.i.f.

Communications: The debit and the credit entries, which cover international settlements for the use of postal, telegraph, telephone and satellite services, are based on direct enquiry. Prior to 1976, this item was included in Miscellaneous.

Construction Services: These Services cover construction and installation project work, that is, on a temporary basis, performed abroad by resident enterprises or in Barbados by non-resident enterprises and their personnel. This information is obtained from direct enquiry.

Management Fees: This includes the share of branches in the head office expenses of parent companies as well as payment for services obtained under management contracts. Estimates are based on direct enquiry, the records of the Exchange Control Department and the commercial banks' quarterly returns on income and expenditure.

Financial Services: These are services, other than those related to insurance enterprises and pension funds, occurring between resident and non-resident personnel. Included are commissions and fees for letters of credit, lines of credit, consumer and

business credit services, brokerage services, underwriting services, etc. Offshore companies' transactions are captured under this heading. The treatment of offshore companies departs from the recommendations of the 5th edition of the Balance of Payments manual. The manual now defines offshore activities as resident and therefore would exclude all of their transactions with Barbados. However, the foreign exchange inflows from these enterprises are important to the Balance of Payments and are included in the credit entry. This information is obtained from direct enquiry. Financial Intermediaries Indirectly Measured (FISIM) for deposit taking institutions are now measured and have been incorporated as far back as 1992.

Computer and Information Services: These services cover transactions related to hardware consultancy, software implementation, information services (data processing, data base) and maintenance and repair of computers and related equipment. Services provided by non-resident personnel to residents are recorded as a credit while services provided by Barbadian personnel to non-residents are recorded as a debit. Direct enquiry is the source of this information.

Royalties: These cover the exchange of payments and receipts between residents and non-residents for the authorised use of patents, copyrights, trademarks, franchises etc and with the use through licensing arrangements of produced originals or manuscript and films. Estimates are made from direct enquiry.

Other Business Services

Merchanting and Other Trade Related Services: Merchanting is defined as the purchase of a good by a resident of Barbados from a non-resident and the subsequent resale of that good to another non-resident; during the process the goods do not enter or leave Barbados. The difference between the value of the goods when acquired and the value when sold is recorded as the value of merchanting services provided. This information is obtained from direct enquiry. The other item under the head is Agents' commissions. The credit entry covers the cost of services rendered by Barbadian agencies (including those branches which are treated as agencies) to their overseas principals; the debit entry covers the cost of services rendered to Barbadian residents by foreign agencies. The debit and credit entries are based on direct enquiry and the records of the Exchange Control Department.

Prior to 1976, commissions earned by importers and shipping and airline agents (or companies) were provided directly by the enterprise; commissions received by agents of foreign football pool companies were estimated by applying an average rate of 15% of the gross amount collected from Barbadians as pool bets; commissions on insurance were obtained through the Survey of Insurance Transactions. Commissions paid overseas, other than on insurance, were derived from the returns made by the commercial banks of the Ministry of Finance.

Operational Leasing: This covers rentals or operational leases (excluding financial leases) made by residents to non-residents and vice versa, of vessels, aircrafts, cars, or

other commercial vehicles without crews for limited periods (such as a single voyage) for freight/passengers. Also included are the towing of oil platforms, floating cranes and dredges.

Miscellaneous Business, Professional and Technical Services: This covers transactions in legal and accounting services, advertising and market research, architectural, agricultural and engineering services, management consulting, mining and public relations between residents of Barbados and non-resident enterprises. The information is obtained by direct enquiry.

Personal, Cultural and Recreational Services: This covers transactions in (1) audio and related services and (2) other cultural and recreational services between residents and non-residents. The first category comprises services and associated fees for producing motion pictures (on film or video tape), radio and television programmes (live or on tape) and musical recordings. Included are receipts or payments for rentals; fees received by actors, fees for distribution rights (for television, radio etc). The second category includes services offered by museums, libraries, archives etc. Also included are fees for the provision of correspondence courses rendered by teachers or doctors. This information is obtained by direct enquiry.

Miscellaneous: This item covers transactions not included in any of the above heads, and the estimates are based on direct inquiry.

Table 10: Government Transfer Payments

This table covers transfer payments between the Government of Barbados and all non-residents. Estimates of the entries in this table were made by direct enquiry and from data supplied by the Ministry of Finance. Transaction between government and nonresidents other than government are also included under other transfers. They cover taxes on income, wealth, etc and other transfers such as social security scheme contributions.

Inter-governmental grants: The credit entry covers the counterparts of goods, services under aid programmes or cash received without a quid pro quo by the Government of Barbados from foreign governments or international organisations. The debit entry consists of gifts to foreign governments, as well as contributions to the administrative budget of international organisations and regional commercial enterprises.

Taxes: The credit entry includes withholding taxes on interest and dividends, taxes paid on behalf of their principles by branches and agencies of airline or shipping companies, taxes on pensions paid to non-residents, airport departure tax and fees such as for passports paid by non-residents. No data on tax refunds are available for the debit entry.

Pensions: This item is debit only. Some of these pensions are paid through the Crown Agents and the rest are paid locally on behalf of retired civil servants residing overseas. Pensions paid by the National Insurance Scheme are also included in this entry.

Other: The debit entry covers all transfers made by the Government of Barbados to non-resident individuals and private institutions. The credit entry covers fees paid by international business companies and revenue collected from offshore and financial sector, previously recorded as a proxy for Financial services in Table 9, is now included.

Table 11: Private Transfer Payments

From Foreign Governments: This entry (credit) is broken down into 'Pensions' and 'Other', both of which were estimated from direct enquiry and administrative records. Other transfers include gifts in cash or in kind to resident institutions and individuals.

To Foreign Governments: This entry (debit) covers taxes paid to foreign governments by residents. These taxes also include fees such as those paid for visas or passports, as well as tax deducted from dividends and interest.

Other Transfer Payments: These payments consist of (a) Institutional in cash and kind; and (b) Workers Remittances and (c) Other

- (a) **Institutional in cash/kind:** The credit entry covers cash gifts or goods and services (kind) received by resident non-profit organisations from non-residents institutions while the debit entry covers similar gifts to overseas non-profit organisations by resident institutions.
- (b) **Workers Remittances:** On the credit side these are funds sent to Barbados for the maintenance of children and other dependents. The opposite holds for debits. This information is obtained from the Ministry of Labour, Exchange Control Records, Commercial Bank records and survey of Money Transfer companies.
- (c) **Other:** This includes all other transfers between residents and non-residents not recorded elsewhere in the table. On the credit side these are items to residents such as cash or kind and also includes gifts, dowries, inheritances, tickets sold and prizes won by lotteries. Estimates of the entries are based on the records of the Exchange Control Department and on the returns of the sale and purchase of postal orders by the Post Office.

Capital Account

The Capital Account covers capital transfers and the acquisition/disposal of intangible assets which are non-produced and non-financial. A capital transfer consists of the following:

- (a) the transfer of ownership of a fixed asset when no counterpart is received in return;
- (b) the forgiveness of a liability by a creditor when no counterpart is received in return; or
- (c) a transfer of cash when it is linked to, or conditional upon the acquisition or disposal of a fixed asset.

Capital transfers are broken down into debt forgiveness and migrant transfers.

Debt Forgiveness: When a creditor in one economy formally agrees (via a contractual agreement) to forgive (extinguish) all, or part, of the obligations of the debtor to that creditor, the amount forgiven is treated as a capital transfer from the creditor to the debtor. The information is obtained from official records.

Migrant Transfers: In the strictest sense these transfers are not transactions between two parties but contra-entries to flows of goods and changes in financial items that arise from the migration of individuals from one economy to another.

Acquisition/Disposal of Non-Produced Non Financial Assets: This relates to tangible assets (such as land, as long as the transaction is conducted by an embassy) and intangible assets (such as patents, copyrights, trademarks, franchises etc) that may be needed for the production of goods and services but which themselves have not been produced. Non-financial assets are assets, which are not claims to receive income or value from others (as in the case with money, bonds, equity).

Financial Account

The financial account records changes in legal ownership of the economy's foreign assets and liabilities, including foreign exchange reserves. As noted earlier (page 20) an increase in liabilities or a fall in assets is recorded with a positive sign while a decrease in liabilities or an increase in assets is recorded with a negative sign.

Classification

The financial account covers direct investment, portfolio investment (broken down into equity securities and debt securities) and other investment.

Direct investment capital: The direct investor seeks to have an effective voice in the management of an enterprise located in a foreign economy. To achieve this, the investor provides a substantial part of the equity capital and may also supply other capital to further the operations of the enterprise. There is no precise definition of what constitutes 'an effective voice' in the management of an enterprise except in the case of a branch or subsidiary. However, in addition to branches and subsidiaries, ownership of 10% or more of the voting stock of an enterprise is considered as direct investment.

Portfolio investment capital: Portfolio investment is usually in the form of long-term corporate bonds or debentures, which provide the holder with a guaranteed income. Unlike direct investment, portfolio investment does not confer on the holders an 'effective voice' in management of an enterprise. Portfolio investment in these accounts also includes holdings of less than 10% of the voting stock of an enterprise.

Equity securities cover all instruments and records acknowledging claims to the residual values of incorporated enterprises. Debt securities cover (1) bonds, debentures, notes etc; and (2) money market instruments. Financial derivatives are utilized for hedging of risks, investment and trading purposes.

Other Investment capital

This category includes transactions not covered under direct investment, portfolio investment or international reserves. It is broken down into Trade credits, loans and deposits in banks.

Table 12: Government Foreign Financial Account Transactions

This table shows changes in the foreign financial assets and liabilities of the Government as well as all government-owned bodies. The basic data were derived from the records of the Accountant General, the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank. When necessary, the figures have been adjusted to an appropriate calendar year basis.

Investment in regional enterprises: This item includes the Government's contribution to the equity capital of regional enterprises.

Capital subscriptions: This item, which only appears as an asset, covers subscriptions to the ordinary and special funds of regional and international lending institutions. These institutions are the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Caribbean Investment Corporation.

Long-term securities: On the assets side there are investments of sinking funds against foreign debt and securities held by the National Insurance Board and the Natural Gas Corporation. These investments are usually made in bonds issued or guaranteed by foreign governments. On the liabilities side, long-term securities include promissory notes of the Government of Barbados as well debentures held by such institutions. Securities are decomposed into equity securities and debt securities, which are defined on page 34.

Long-term loans: This item refers to project finance and borrowings other than for balance of payments support. The assets are loans to foreign governments and other non-residents while the liabilities are loans to the Government of Barbados by foreign governments or governmental agencies such as the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), international lending institutions and overseas commercial banks.

Suppliers' credit: This item refers to credit extended to the Government by suppliers of goods and services. These credits are extended for a period of over one year and are therefore included in long-term capital.

Capital transfers: See note on page 35.

Due from/to other governments: Assets result from settlements made by the Government on behalf of other Caribbean governments; conversely liabilities result when foreign governments make settlements on behalf of the Government of Barbados. Such settlements are usually contributions to inter-regional organisations.

Other: The assets are amounts due from regional organisations.

Table 13: Private Foreign Financial Account Transactions

This is the sum of Direct investment, Portfolio investment and Other investment for both assets and liabilities.

Direct investment (see page 36)

This item is broken down into:

- (a) Investment in branches/subsidiaries
 - (b) Undistributed corporate earnings; and
 - (c) Other.
- (a) **Investment in branches/subsidiaries:** A branch is an enterprise situated in another location (overseas for balance of payments), other than the main (parent) body and is not a separate legal entity. A subsidiary is a corporate legal entity in which another company owns the majority (sometimes all) of the ordinary shares. The assets are the investments of residents in branches and subsidiaries overseas while the liabilities are investments of non-residents in branches and subsidiaries located in Barbados (excluding those branch enterprises which are defined as non-resident).
- (b) **Undistributed corporate earnings:** The entry in the assets is the contra-entry for the credit in Table 8 while on the liabilities it is the contra-entry for the debit (see page 30).
- (c) **Other:** This item includes loans by the parent company to overseas branches or subsidiaries and other investment in enterprises in which the investor holds 10% or more of the ordinary share capital.

Portfolio investment (see page 36): These consist of:

- (a) Equity securities; and
 - (b) Debt securities
- (a) **Equity securities:** See note on page 36.
- (b) **Debt securities:** See note on page 36.

Other investment: This comprises trade credits, long-term loans and financial items not mentioned previously. Trade credits refer to long-term credit extended to residents by non-residents and visa versa. Long-term loans include loans from non-residents but exclude loans by parent companies (excluding banks) to overseas branches or subsidiaries. After the initial capital by commercial banks to their respective branches, (which would fall under direct investment) all other loans to these branches by their parent companies are captured under this heading.

Short-term investment: This item is broken down into:

- (a) Trade credits;
 - (b) Deposits in overseas banks; and
 - (c) Other.
- (a) **Trade credits:** The assets refer to short-term credit by residents for goods while the liability refers to similar credit by non-residents.
- (b) **Deposits in overseas bank:** This covers the balance net of overdrafts in overseas banks.
- (c) **Other:** This item refers to balances due by non-residents to residents (assets) and by residents to non-residents (liabilities). These balances appear as accounts receivable (assets) and accounts payable (liabilities) in the books of residents.

Table 14: Foreign Assets and Liabilities of Commercial Banks

This table covers the changes in the foreign assets and liabilities of commercial banks operating in Barbados. The data are derived from Banking Schedule 4: Statement of External Assets and Liabilities submitted monthly by the commercial banks to the Central Bank and published in *Economic and Financial Statistics*. All commercial banks' foreign assets and liabilities except loans and deposits of non-residents and long-term external borrowings for on-lending to Government or the private sector, are included in the international reserves.

Due to / from abroad: (a) Banks: The assets are deposits, loans, credit instruments or other claims on the head office or overseas branches on the Barbados branch. Transactions with banks other than head office or overseas branches are also included in this entry. (b) Non-Bank financial institutions: The assets are balances due from trust companies, insurance, investment finance and mortgage finance companies or other non-bank financial intermediaries. The liability refers to loans by such institutions to local commercial banks.

Equity securities: See note on page 36.

Debt securities: See note on page 36.

Foreign currency: This item refers to holdings of all currencies other than Barbados dollars.

Loans to / deposits of non-residents: These loans and deposits are due in foreign currency.

Other: This includes items in the course of collection.

Reserve and non-reserve items: Under assets, reserve items are total assets less loans to non-residents. Loans to non-residents is the non-reserve item. Under liabilities, reserve items represent short-term liabilities. Short-term liabilities can be found under Table B3 in the Bank's Economic and Financial Statistics. Non-reserve items, are the difference between total liabilities and reserve items, that is, a residual term.

Table 15: International Reserves and Official Financing Liabilities

The international reserves are foreign assets available to the authorities for financing or regulating a payments imbalance. The reserves consist of the Central Bank's foreign exchange holdings, monetary gold, special drawing rights (SDRs) in the IMF, reserve position in the IMF and existing claims on non-residents. The change in the holdings of such items reflects the responses to the aggregate deficit or surplus accruing as a result of autonomous transactions. Changes may also reflect action taken by the authorities in the foreign exchange market to influence the exchange rate. However, since the Barbados dollar is not traded in international money markets, the authorities do not use foreign reserves to influence the exchange rate.

In addition to those held by the monetary authorities, i.e., the Government and the Central Bank, the net foreign assets (or liabilities) of the commercial banks are also treated as part of the international reserves. The foreign assets of the commercial banks are deemed to be under the effective control of monetary authorities through the exchange control regulations and are therefore available for balance of payments purposes.

Special drawing rights (SDRs): The special drawing rights were created by amendment of the IMF's Articles of Agreement to establish the Special Drawing Account. This amendment became effective on July 28, 1969. Under the amended Articles the Fund was authorised to allocate to participants in the Special Drawing Account a new form of international reserve asset - special drawing rights (SDR's). On joining the IMF in 1970, Barbados was allocated SDR 2.8 million, half of this allocation was received in 1971 and the remainder in 1972. A further allocation of SDR 1.768 million was received in 1979. At the end of 1980, when quotas were increased by one half, one quarter of the increase (SDR 2.125 million) was subscribed in SDRs.

Reserve tranche subscription to IMF: As a consequence of the second amendment of the Articles of Agreement of the IMF (April 1978) the gold tranche, which is that 25% of a member's quota in the IMF subscribed in gold or in convertible currencies, was re-named the reserve tranche. Subscriptions can now be made in the national currency, in SDRs or in the currency of other members as determined by the Fund.

Barbados was given a quota of SDR 13.0 million on becoming a member of the IMF in 1970. At that time only 15.4% of the Quota (SDR 2.0 million) was subscribed in convertible currencies, consequently the Fund's holdings of Barbados dollars were 84.6% of quotas. As a result of the build-up of foreign reserves in 1975, Government was required, under Article V of the IMF Agreement, to repurchase the Fund's holdings of Barbados dollars in excess of 75% of quota. This obligation was discharged in November and the reserve tranche in the IMF rose by SDR 1.237 million (BDS\$3.1 million). The quota was increased to SDR 17.0 million in 1978 and government opted to make the reserve tranche contribution in local currency.

Monetary Gold: As a result of the second amendment of the Article of Agreement, the Fund agreed to sell ('restitute') 25 million ounces of fine gold to those countries that were members at August 31, 1975 and agreed to buy it, in proportion to their quotas on that date. Barbados purchased 11,124 fine ounces valued at \$0.943 million as part of the gold restitution plan. Early in 1990 the Bank sold all of its gold holdings.

Foreign securities: Foreign securities held by the Central Bank (ECCA prior to 1973) are treasury bills and other money market instruments of foreign governments or international lending institutions. These securities are usually short-term; however, because they are readily marketable, original contractual maturity does not impose a constraint on availability of long-term investments to meet a balance of payments need. Securities issued by international lending institutions especially for the account of central monetary authorities are excluded from the foreign reserves. These securities usually have an original maturity of over one year and are not readily marketable.

Other: This item includes foreign notes and coins, working balances with other central banks, balances with the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) which replaced the balances with regional central banks and monetary authorities in June 1977, and deposits with other financial institutions.

Sinking funds against domestic and foreign debt: These funds, invested overseas for the redemption of domestic debt, are available for balance of payments purposes since the redemption of domestic debt does not require the use of foreign exchange. As in the case of sinking funds for foreign debt, the sinking funds for domestic debt are invested in the money market securities issued or guaranteed by foreign governments. Prior to 1997, only sinking funds against domestic debt were considered part of Government's international reserves. Since then, these reserves also include sinking funds against foreign debt.

Other: The other foreign reserve assets of the Government include balances in the General Account, the foreign investments of the public sector and miscellaneous funds.

Other Foreign Securities: These are funds managed by the Central Bank but not included in Central Bank's foreign assets. (Industrial Credit Fund and Staff Pension Scheme).

Commercial Banks: See note on foreign assets and liabilities of commercial banks on page 39.

Net International Reserves: These are the foreign assets of the monetary authorities (the Central Bank and Government) less any credit from the I.M.F.

Official financial transactions: These are transactions, which the monetary authorities (the Central Bank and the Government) undertake to meet the need to manage a deficit (or surplus) arising from the autonomous transactions, i.e. the current and capital account (excluding reserves) of the balance of payments. They include the use of the Fund's credit facilities, as well as borrowing from other Central Banks and Commercial banks.

Use of Fund's resources: In 1977 Barbados made a drawing of \$15.135 million from the Fund under a facility for the compensatory financing of export fluctuations. Repayment was completed in 1981. In 1982, a Standby Arrangement and compensatory financing totalling \$100 million were negotiated with the Fund. Repayment, which started in January 1986, was completed during 1991. In the fourth quarter of 1991, Government negotiated an 18-month Standby Arrangement for an amount equivalent to SDR 23.9 million. In addition, the Government drew SDR 22.2 million under the Fund's Compensatory and Contingency Financing Facility to compensate for a shortfall in earnings in the tourism sector. The repayment was completed during 1997.

Other monetary authorities: In 1977 a loan of \$20 million was provided to the Central Bank of Barbados by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago for balance of payments support. A repayment of \$4 million was made in both 1979 and 1980. During 1990 the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago provided a further \$11.3 million. This was repaid in full during 1994.

Table 16: Foreign Assets and Liabilities of the Monetary Sector at year end:

This table records the balances outstanding at December 31 in each year (as opposed to the changes which are recorded in Table 15).

International Reserves: see page 40.

Non-reserve Assets: These are foreign assets held by the Central Bank and Government which are not readily available for balance of payments purposes. They include 'Sinking funds for foreign debt' and other liquid securities.

Official financing liabilities: These are claims on the monetary authorities (the Central Bank and the Government) that arise from official financing transactions. The official financing liabilities may be classified as reserve liabilities if they form part of the reserves of the creditor. This is always the case with the use of the resources of the

IMF. The official liabilities are transactions with the fund and with other monetary authorities.

Memoranda Items: The market valuation of gold is based on the closing price for the last working day of the year on the London Market.

Reliability of the Estimates

The balance of payments accounts are compiled from a large number of sources and the degree of accuracy varies considerably between sources.

Visible Trade

The data on visible trade are among the most reliable in the balance of payments; however, errors and omissions may arise from two sources:

- (a) incomplete recordings; and
- (b) differences in exchange rates.

Errors and omissions arising from incomplete recordings are not considered significant since adjustments are made for the main items not recorded.

Discrepancies due to exchange rate movements arise because the rates at which invoices for imports are converted into Barbados dollars by customs may differ from that at which settlement is made. 'Customs rates' for the U.S dollar, CARICOM currencies, the Canadian dollar and the Pound Sterling are published in the *Official Gazette* while rates for other currencies are obtained as needed. The published rates, used for the calculation of custom duties, are adjusted from time to time to reflect market changes in the exchange rates.

Invisibles

Figures for government transactions are based on official records and are considered reliable; errors are only likely to arise from minor timing discrepancies due to differences in the accounting period.

The other invisible items are obtained from a variety of sources, which are subject to varying degrees of error. In most cases the debit entries are more reliably estimated than the credit entries. Debit entries for invisibles based on exchange control records are subject to errors due to timing and to the different definition of residents; entries based on direct enquiry are also subject to timing discrepancies.

While exchange control records and direct enquiry provide adequate coverage for the debit entries, there is more dependence on indirect methods of estimation for the credits. These are therefore subject to a greater degree of error. Since 1976 the Exchange Control Department has been operating a system under which commercial banks are required to submit bi-monthly returns of all foreign exchange sales and purchases. The data provided in these reports have improved the accuracy of both the debit and credit entries on the invisibles in the balance of payments.

Capital and Financial Account

Capital transfers data are obtained from official records in the case of general government and from direct enquiry otherwise. Direct enquiry is also the method used to obtain information on the acquisition/disposal of non-produced non-financial assets.

In the case of the financial account, public sector transactions are obtained from official records. As in the case with government services and transfers, minor errors may arise from timing discrepancies; such errors, however, are more likely to occur in the short-term transactions.

Private sector transactions are based on direct enquiry and the principal factors affecting the estimates are: coverage of the sector, response rate, valuation changes and differences in accounting periods. In order to improve the coverage of the sector the use of exchange control data on capital flows has been introduced.

Official financing and international reserves

These figures are based on official records and are precise.

Errors and Omissions

This item is the net total of the discrepancies that arise throughout the accounts. Positive net errors and omissions suggest that the debit entries have been over-estimated or the credits have been under-estimated.

Analysis of the Balance of Payments Survey

The Bank conducted its annual survey of establishments as the basis for the 2011 balance of payments accounts (Data to 2010). Details of the survey for 2011 are summarised in the table below:

Summary of Balance of Payments Survey 2011				
Category	No. Mailed	No. Returned	No. Completed	Response Rate
Insurance Companies	44	32	32	72.7
Transport, Shipping and Freight	35	19	19	54.3
Offshore Bank and Trust	75	58	58	77.3
Commercial banks	8	7	7	87.5
Education	15	11	11	73.3
Health	7	5	5	71.4
Charitable and Non-Profit	22	10	10	45.5
Telecommunications and Courier	31	13	13	41.9
Government	3	2	2	66.7
Regional, International and Diplomat	24	22	22	91.7
Hotel and Restaurants	37	11	11	29.7
Legal	23	5	5	21.7
Other	329	186	186	56.5
Total	653	381	381	58.3