

THE ADJUSTMENT IN “IMPORTS WITH WAIVER” ITEM OF THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STATISTICS

The primary data sources of the monthly balance of payments statistics comprise of :

- Foreign trade statistics compiled and disseminated by the State Institute of Statistics (SIS) on the basis of custom declaration forms and sub-components of these statistics,
- Travel related “Departing Visitors Survey”, “Arriving Citizens Survey” and “Shuttle Trade Survey” conducted by the SIS in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and the Central Bank,
- Reports from the banks' foreign exchange records.

In the course of time, new data sources may be considered and some adjustments can be made in the statistics in order to be in conformity with the balance of payments methodology presented in the “International Monetary Fund, Balance of Payments Manual 5th Edition (Manual)”. For instance, the real estate transactions of non-residents in Turkey, which are deemed to be “Direct Investment” in compliance with the aforementioned methodology, were provided through the “Departing Visitors Survey” of SIS and the records of General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadaster beginning from 2003.

Similarly, based on a study carried out in 2003; travel related expenditures of citizen visitors residing abroad, which were formerly obtained from the banks' foreign exchange records and classified under the “Workers’ Remittances” item, started to be obtained from the “Departing Visitors Survey” and reclassified under the “Travel Credit” item beginning from 2003.

In line with the ongoing studies to improve the quality of the statistics, detailed information was asked from SIS on the declared transactions regarding the “imports with waiver” data, due to a remarkable increase in these figures over the recent periods. These transactions, which amounted to USD 1.079 million in 2003 and USD 1.542 million in January-August 2004, were reviewed in the light of the detailed information obtained from the SIS and recognized that transactions amounting USD 1.055 million in 2003 and USD 712 million in January-August 2004 cannot be deemed as imports with waiver within the methodology described in the “Manual”. Therefore, these amounts were deducted from the Current Account/Current Transfers/Imports with Waiver in the balance of payments statistics.

The remaining transactions amounting USD 24 million in 2003 and USD 830 million in January-August 2004, were determined to be provisional imports in the form of financial leasing. For this reason, these amounts were included into the Current

Account/ Goods/Imports/Adjustment item and the “Imports with Waiver” item is cancelled.

Consequently, Current Account Deficit and Net Errors and Omissions items increased by USD 1.055 million in 2003 and USD 712 million in January-August 2004, respectively.

The above-mentioned study is being carried out for the previous years also and will be reflected whenever it is finalized.