Balance of Payments and International Investment Position statistics (BoP/IIP) from IMF

“The **Balance of Payments** provides a framework that is applicable for a range of economies, from the smallest and least developed economies to the more advanced and complex economies. As a result, it is recognized that some items may not be relevant in all cases.

The balance of payments is a statistical statement that summarizes transactions between residents and nonresidents during a period. It consists of the goods and services account, the primary income account, the secondary income account, the capital account, and the financial account.

Under the double-entry accounting system that underlines the balance of payments, each transaction is recorded as consisting of two entries and the sum of the credit entries and the sum of the debit entries is the same.

The different accounts within the balance of payments are distinguished according to the nature of the economic resources provided and received.”[1]

“The **International Investment Position (IIP)** is a statistical statement that shows at a point in time the value of:

Financial assets of residents of an economy that are claims on nonresidents or are gold bullion held as reserve assets; and the liabilities of residents of an economy to nonresidents. The difference between the assets and the liabilities is the net position in the IIP and represents either a net claim on or a net liability to the rest of the world. The IIP represents a subset of the assets and liabilities included in the national balance sheet. In addition to the IIP, the national balance sheet incorporates nonfinancial assets as well as financial assets and liabilities positions between residents.”

☐

Contents

Availability and data source
Definitions
Series available (BoP)
Series available (IIP)
Instructions for Pulling BoP Raw Data
References

Availability and data source

The IMF data on balance of payments and international investment positions is available here- http://data.imf.org/?sk=7A51304B-6426-40C0-83DD-CA473CA1FD52&ss=1409773422141

The data is prepared in accordance with the 6th edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual. The handbook can be accessed here, http://data.imf.org/?sk=7A51304B-6426-40C0-83DD-CA473CA1FD52&ss=1390288795525

BoP data is available for approximately 204 economies, while IIP data is available for approximately 143 economies. Data is available for most countries from the year 1945.[2]

Definitions

BoP is a flow while **IIP** is a stock. Although the balance of payments accounts are, in principle, balanced, imbalances result in practice from imperfections in source data and compilation. This imbalance, a usual feature of balance of payments data, is labeled net errors and omissions and is identified separately in published data. It should not be included indistinguishably in other items. Net errors and omissions are derived residually as net lending/net borrowing and can be derived from the financial account minus the same item derived from the current and capital accounts.[3]

Series available (BoP)

Sr no	Main series	Sub-category	Description of specific series available
1	Current Account	Goods and services	Three series available for both goods and services (six total). They are broken down into Goods, Credit; Goods, Debit; Goods, balance; Services, Credit; Services Debit; Services, Balance.
2	Current Account	Primary income	Three series available for goods and services of Primary Income: Credit, Debit, and Net
3	Current Account	Secondary Income	Three series available for goods and services of scondary Income: Credit, and Debit, and Net.
4	Capital Account	Capital transfers	Three series available for the capital account: Credit, Debit, and Net
11	Financial account	Financial derivatives	Two series available for Financial Account. Financial Derivatives and employee stock options: assets and Liabilities
12	Financial account	Other investment	There are seven series available: other investment assets: equity, debt instruments, and net; and other investment liabilities for other equity, debt instruments, and net. and balance on current capital and financial account.
13	Financial account	Portfolio investment	Six series avaiable: total portfolio investestment assets, equity and investment fund shares assets, debt securities assets, total portfolio investestment liabilities, equity and investment fund shares liabilities, debt securities liabilities.
14	Financial account	Reserve assets	Reserve Assets with Fund Record totals.
18	Net errors and omissions	Errors and omissions	Net errors and omissions reflect the imbalances resulting from imperfections in source data and compilation of the balance of payments accounts. The Balance of Payments should sum to zero. In cases where they do not. the differences can be found here. A positive number indicates the reported financial account total is too high or the reported capital account total too low; a negative number indicates the reported financial account is too low or the reported capital account total too high. In other words (financial account) - (capital account) = 0

Series available (IIP)

Sr no	Main series	sub-category	Description of Series
1	Assets	Direct investment	There are two totaled series that are sums of their sub categories. The totaled categories are Equity and investment fund shares and Debt Instruments; the totalled categories are broken down into Direct investor enterprises in direct investment enterprises; direct investment enterprises in direct investor (reverse investment); and between fellow enterprises.
2	Assets	Financial derivatives	one series of totals of financial derivatives and employee stock options.
3	Assets	Other investment	The total series of "Other investment" is broken down into two sub-series: Other Equity and Debt Instruments. Debt Instruments are further broken down into totals of four sub-series: Central Bank; Deposit taking corporations, except the central bank; General Government; and Other sectors. Other sectors is further disagregated by "of which:other financial corporations."
4	Assets	Portfolio investment	Two series that are totals of four sub-series. The two main series: Equity and investment fund shares, and Debt Securities. Those two series' totals are broken down into Central Bank; Deposit taking corporations, except the central bank; General Government; and other sectors. Other sectors is disagregated by "of which:other financial corporations."
5	Assets	Reserve assets	Five series. One totaled series broken down into four sub-series: Monetary gold; special drawing rights' Reserve position in the fund; and other reserve assets.
6	Liabilities	Direct investment	There are two totaled series that are sums of their sub categories. The totaled categories are Equity and investment fund shares and Debt Instruments; the totalled categories are broken down into Direct investor enterprises in direct investment enterprises; direct investment enterprises in direct investor (reverse investment); and between fellow enterprises.
7	Liabilities	Financial derivatives	one series of totals of financial derivatives and employee stock options.
8	Liabilities	Other investment	The total series of "Other investment" is broken down into two sub-series: Other equity and Debt Instruments. Debt Instruments are further broken down into totals of four sub-series: Central Bank; Deposit taking corporations, except the central bank; General Government; and Other sectors. Other sectors is disagregated by "of which:other financial corporations."

Instructions for Pulling BoP Raw Data

1. Go to http://data.imf.org/?sk=7A51304B-6426-40C0-83DD-CA473CA1FD52
2. Click on "API & Bulk Download"
3. Click on the "Bulk Download (entire dataset)" icon
4. Login with your .edu email address. If you do not have one. You can set one up for free as long as you use and email that ends in ".edu"
5. All countries is selected by default. Unless you are pulling specific countries, this is correct.
6. Click on indicators and select the indicators of interest. The indicators above are all found under the first two tabs. Make sure you deselect the variables that are not of interest.
7. Click okay. the download will begin.

8. When the download is complete. You will receive an email, or you can click "My Data" in the top right hand corner.

References

1. See the BoP “about” sheet <http://data.imf.org/?sk=7A51304B-6426-40C0-83DD-CA473CA1FD52>
2. Refer About BoP/IIP Geographic,temporal coverage <http://data.imf.org/?sk=7A51304B-6426-40C0-83DD-CA473CA1FD52&sid=1409773422141&ss=1409773411929>
3. Refer to “Balance of Payments and International Investment Positions Manual Version 6.”