

EXTERNAL SECTOR - BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

0. Prerequisites	
0.1 Legal environment	<p>0.1.1 Responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>The Statistics Act of 2011 gives the Office of Planning and Statistics (OPS) of the Ministry of Finance the authority to collect, compile and disseminate Palau’s statistical data.</p>
	<p>0.1.2 Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>The OPS does data sharing and coordination with a variety of agencies in Palau. Of these, the most important are Social Security Administration (especially on labor statistics), Financial Institutions Commission (on banking statistics), and Ministry of Finance (on government finance statistics). These data sharing and coordination arrangements work effectively.</p>
	<p>0.1.3 Confidentiality of individual reporters' data</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>Confidentiality of individual reporters’ data is protected through a number of ways. First, the Statistics Act of 2011 provides for protection of confidentiality (Section 204). Second, OPS staff is required take an oath of protecting confidentiality. Third, computer passwords also protect individual data confidentiality.</p>
	<p>0.1.4 Ensuring statistical reporting</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>Statistical reporting of data is ensured by the fact that the Statistics Act of 2011 gives the OPS authority to collect statistical data.</p>
0.2 Resources	<p>0.2.1 Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing</p> <p>The Office of Planning and Statistics (OPS) compiles and disseminates Palau’s balance of payments data with the help of four staffs and TA provided by PFTAC.</p>
1. Integrity	
1.2 Transparency	<p>1.2.1 Disclosure of terms and conditions for statistical collection, processing, and dissemination</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>The Statistics Act of 2011, which is available to the public, spells out the terms and conditions for the collection, compilation and dissemination of Palau’s statistical data.</p>
	<p>1.2.2 Internal governmental access to statistics prior to release</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>Statistical data compiled by the OPS are reviewed by the Director prior to publication.</p>
	<p>1.2.4 Advance notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>No advance notice given.</p>

EXTERNAL SECTOR - BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

2. Methodology	
2.1 Concepts and definitions	<p>2.1.1 Concepts and definitions</p> <p>The OPS compiles and disseminates Palau's balance of payments data. These data are compiled broadly following the guidelines recommended in the IMF's <i>Balance of Payments Manual</i>, fifth edition (<i>BPM5</i>). The published data are expressed in millions of United States dollars (USD). The balance of payments statement contains all main categories—the current account (with trade balance, services, income, and current transfers); capital and financial account; and the overall balance.</p>
2.2 Scope	<p>Scope of the data</p> <p>The balance of payments data, in principle, cover all transactions of Palau's resident sector with the nonresidents.</p> <p>Exceptions to coverage</p> <p>Coverage of foreign aid flows, as of TA received from abroad, is partial. While the portion of aid transacted through the central government budget is included, the portion outside the budget is excluded. Coverage of FDI is also partial. These deficiencies are being addressed through plans for improvement.</p>
2.3 Classification/sectorization	<p>2.3.1 Classification/sectorization</p> <p>Classification used in the presentation of Palau's balance of payments data posted on the OPS's website is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade balance Services Income Current transfers Current account (with grants) Current account (without grants) Capital and financial account Overall balance <p>A more detailed classification is used for publication in <i>Economic Statistics</i>, Graduate School USA.</p>
2.4 Basis for recording	<p>2.4.1 Valuation</p> <p>Balance of payments data are presented at market prices.</p> <p>2.4.2 Recording basis</p>

EXTERNAL SECTOR - BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

	<p>Customs data, used for balance of payments compilation, provide exports and imports on f.o.b. basis.</p> <p>2.4.3 Grossing/netting procedures</p> <p>Re-exports are included in both exports and imports shown in the balance of payments data.</p>
3. Accuracy and reliability	
3.1 Source data	3.1.1 Source data collection programs
	<p>Following key sources provide data on various components of the balance of payments.</p> <p>Exports and imports—Customs data.</p> <p>Shipping support services—Corporate Registry at the Attorney General’s Office.</p> <p>Airport and sea port services—Ministry of Finance.</p> <p>Travel—Palau Visitors Authority; and tourism survey of 2000.</p> <p>Remittances—HIES</p> <p>External debt—Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Bilateral grants—Ministry of Finance</p>
3.5 Revision studies	3.5.1 Revision studies and analyses
	<p>No revision studies are done.</p>
4. Serviceability	
4.1 Periodicity and timeliness	4.1.1 Periodicity
	<p>Annual—based on Palau’s fiscal year (October to September).</p>
	4.1.2 Timeliness
	<p>Timeliness is 3-4 months.</p>
4.3 Revision	4.3.1 Revision schedule
	<p><u>Balance of payments</u></p> <p>No revision schedule has been published.</p>
	4.3.2 Identification of preliminary and/or revised data
	<p><u>Balance of payments</u></p> <p>Data are identified as preliminary or revised.</p>

EXTERNAL SECTOR - BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

5. Accessibility	
5.1 Data	<p>5.1.1 Statistical presentation</p> <p>Balance of payments data are published in a table.</p> <p>Hard copy - Other</p> <p><i>Economic Statistics</i>, Graduate School USA.</p> <p><i>Statistical Yearbook</i>, Office of Planning and Statistics (OPS).</p> <p>Electronic - Other</p> <p>OPS website: www.palau.gov.net/stats.</p> <p>5.1.3 Advance release calendar</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>No ARC published.</p> <p>5.1.4 Simultaneous release</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>Statistical data are simultaneously released to all, usually through the OPS's website.</p>
5.2 Metadata	<p>5.2.1 Dissemination of documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques</p> <p>No metadata published.</p>
9. Plans	
9.2 General	<p>Plans for improvement - Short-term</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>(0.2.1) To build up statistical capacity.</p> <p>(0.2.1) To upgrade and modernize OPS's IT systems.</p> <p><u>Balance of payments</u></p> <p>(2.2.1.) To improve the coverage of foreign aid and foreign direct investment.</p> <p>(3.1.1) To conduct a tourism survey in early 2014.</p> <p>(3.1.1) To conduct a business survey, including a survey of foreign direct investment, in October 2013.</p>
9.3 Financial	<p>Plans for improvement - TA/financing needs - Short-term</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p>

EXTERNAL SECTOR - BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

	<p>Assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC) required for the plans mentioned above.</p> <p><u>Balance of payments</u></p> <p>Continued PFTAC TA needed.</p>
--	---