

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO TABLES

Definitions of balance of payments items are harmonized with the System of National Accounts and IMF guidelines.

II INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Balance of Payments of the Republic of Serbia (BPM5)

The balance of payments is compiled according to the IMF's methodology BPM5 (Balance of Payments Manual, Fifth Edition, 1993). Data are disseminated at monthly and annual level, in EUR million. The value of transactions is recalculated from original currencies into reporting currency by applying the official middle exchange rates of the National Bank of Serbia (NBS) on the transaction date. The main data sources for compiling the balance of payments are the Statistical Office of Republic of Serbia and the reports submitted to the NBS. Standard presentation classifies the balance of payments components into current and capital-financial transactions. The main items within current transactions are goods, services, income and current transfers. Data on exports and imports of goods are derived from customs declarations. In line with BPM5, exports and imports of goods are adjusted on grounds of coverage and valuation by applying the 3.1% coefficient established by the Statistical Office. Data on the value of exports and imports of services are based on ITRS. The undervaluation of registered FX inflows and/or outflows is estimated and incorporated in data. As regards freight transport, expenditures are increased by a part of the costs of freight and insurance services provided by nonresidents for imported goods. The income account includes receipts and payments in respect of compensation of employees, and income on direct, portfolio and other investments. The main sources of data for the income account are ITRS and direct reporting. Current transfers show total value of remittances, net foreign exchange inflow pursuant to the Law on Payment Transactions in the territory of Serbia, official grants and other current transfers. The main source of data is ITRS. The inflow of remittances is increased by the amount of non-registered remittances estimated by applying NBS methodology. Capital account includes receipts and payments under migrants' personal transfers, as well as acquisition/disposal of non-financial non-produced assets. The main sources of data are ITRS and the Statistical Office. Financial account includes foreign direct investments, portfolio investments, other investments and changes in FX reserves. Direct investments are investments whereby the owner acquires at least a 10% ownership stake and include investments by nonresidents into resident legal entities, investments by residents into non-resident legal entities, and sale/purchase of real estate in the country and/or abroad. Direct investments comprise investments in cash and in kind, reinvested earnings and intercompany lending. The main sources of data are ITRS, direct reporting, reports on credit-financial transactions and the Statistical Office. Data on portfolio investments are derived from ITRS. Portfolio investments include: (a) up to 10% equity investments, (b) investments in debt

securities and (c) investments in financial derivatives. Other investments cover all financial transactions that cannot be classified as direct or portfolio investments. Table 2.1 shows other investments under the following items: Medium- and long-term loans, Loans to abroad, Short-term loans and deposits, Other and Banks. Medium- and long-term loans show data on effective drawings and repayments of principal under foreign loans (including drawings and repayments of IMF loans, and early repayment of principal and interest). Short-term loans to abroad show outflows on account of lending to non-residents, as well as repayments under these loans. Short-term loans and deposits include data on loans with maturity up to one year, and short-term trade credits under current oil and gas imports. The item Other comprises: advance payments on account of exports and imports of goods, loro cheques, growth in new FX savings (excluding the effect of exchange rate changes for the period 2001–2006), settled liabilities under frozen FX savings and other. The item Banks shows changes in the FX reserves of banks, excluding the effect of exchange rate changes (for the period 2001–2006). Table 2.2 shows other investment through the following items: trade credits, financial loans, currency and deposits and other assets/liabilities. Trade credits (granted to and received from abroad) represent the difference between the physical volume of trade in goods and the collections and payments made on that account. Financial loans include short-term (up to one year) and long-term loans (over one year) granted to (assets) and received from abroad (liabilities). Currency and deposits relate to data on changes in foreign assets and liabilities of banks (excluding exchange rate changes). Past due or prepaid obligations on account of principal and interest repayments are recorded under Other assets/liabilities. Reserve assets show changes in NBS FX reserves in the period observed excluding the effects of exchange rate changes and price changes of gold and securities. Errors and omissions represent a residual category. In the period 1997–2000, this item covered short-term trade credits, exchange rate changes and standard errors and omissions.

Balance of Payments of the Republic of Serbia (BPM6)

The balance of payments is compiled according to the IMF's methodology BPM6 (Balance of Payments Manual, Sixth Edition, 2009). Data are disseminated at the monthly and annual level, in EUR million and USD million.

The value of transactions is recalculated from original currencies into the reporting currency by applying the official middle exchange rates of the National Bank of Serbia (NBS) on the transaction date. The main data sources for compiling the balance of payments are: reports submitted to the NBS and data of the Statistical Office of Republic of Serbia.

The standard presentation classifies the balance of payments components into current, capital and financial transactions. The main items within current transactions are: goods, services, primary income and secondary income. Names and definitions of current account transactions are harmonised with items from the System of National Accounts (SNA 2008 and ESA 2010). Data on exports and imports of goods are derived from customs declarations and reports submitted to the NBS. In line with BPM6, exports and imports of goods show only goods whose ownership changed. Data on external trade are adjusted based on coverage (merchanted, goods

without customs declarations etc) and based on classification (cif/fob adjustment – by applying the 3.1% coefficient established by the Statistical Office). Data on the value of exports and imports of services are based on the ITRS, performed through banks and the NBS. The undervaluation of registered FX inflows and/or outflows is estimated and incorporated in data (transport/tourism). Financial services also include financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM).

The primary income account includes collections and payments in respect of employee compensations and income in respect of investments (direct, portfolio and other investments). Direct investment income includes total profit of legal persons, i.e. dividends and reinvested earnings. Investment income excludes the value of FISIM which is included into trade in services. The main sources of data are the ITRS performed through banks and the NBS, reports on credit-financial transactions and direct reporting.

The secondary income account includes current transfers of the government and other sectors. The main sources of data are ITRS reports, data of the Statistical Office and reports of other NBS organisational units. The inflow of remittances is increased by the amount of non-registered remittances estimated by applying the NBS method.

The capital account includes receipts and payments under the acquisition of non-produced and non-financial assets, as well as other capital transfers. The main sources of data are ITRS records.

In accordance with the BMP6 methodology, items within the financial account are expressed by the assets-liabilities approach. An increase in assets/liabilities is shown with a positive sign, while a decrease is shown with a negative sign. The net value of items is obtained as a difference between assets and liabilities. The financial account separately shows: direct investments, portfolio investments, financial derivatives, other investments and reserve assets.

Direct investments are investments whereby the owner acquires at least a 10% ownership stake and include investments into equity (including reinvested earnings) and debt instruments (intercompany loans), as well as investments in cash and in kind. The main sources of data are ITRS reports, direct reporting, reports on credit-financial transactions and the Statistical Office. Portfolio investments include investments into equity securities whereby the owner acquires less than 10% of ownership stake and debt securities. Data on portfolio investments are compiled from the ITRS performed through banks and the NBS and the Central Securities Depository and Clearing House.

Financial derivatives include transactions of all sectors in these financial instruments, apart from the NBS (contained in reserve assets). Transactions in financial derivatives are treated separately from the value of the core activity that they are connected with, which is shown under the appertaining category. Other investments cover all financial transactions that cannot be classified as direct investments, portfolio investments, financial derivatives or reserve assets. They include:

other equity, currency and deposits, loans, insurance, pension and other standardised guarantee schemes, trade credit and advances, other accounts receivable/payable, and SDR allocation.

Other equity includes up to 10% of equity investment into legal persons which are not joint-stock companies. Currency and deposits include currency and deposits without exchange rate changes. Loans include short-term (up to one year) and long-term loans (over one year) approved to abroad (assets) and disbursed from abroad (liabilities). The source of data are direct reports on credit-financial transactions submitted to the NBS. Pension, insurance and standardised guarantee schemes include non-life insurance technical reserves, life insurance and annuity entitlements, pension entitlements, claims of pension funds on pension managers, entitlements to non-pension funds, and provisions for calls under standardised guarantees. Short-term trade loans are assessed based on data on the physical movement of goods and collections/payments in this respect, while data on long-term trade loans are obtained from direct reports on credit-financial transactions. Due but outstanding liabilities or liabilities paid in advance, other than those included in trade credit and advances, are recorded under other accounts receivable/payable. The SDR allocation shows obligations of IMF members in respect of SDR allocation.

Reserve assets show changes in NBS FX reserves in the period observed, excluding the effects of exchange rate changes and price changes of gold and securities.

Errors and omissions represent a residual category (difference between shown financial transactions and transactions on current and capital accounts).