

Swiss and Liechtenstein trade in services with foreign countries

SNB to expand its survey (serviceBOP project)

Background

The economies of Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein are strongly interconnected with the rest of the world. Foreign trade in goods is usually cited as evidence of this, since it is very well documented in statistical terms. There is, by contrast, a relative dearth of information about Swiss and Liechtenstein trade in services with foreign countries, although it represents a significant factor in the Swiss and Liechtenstein economies and has grown vigorously in the wake of globalisation. This has led to a shortage of information, since data on foreign trade in services are needed by companies, economic policymakers and public authorities as a basis for decision-making and by research institutions for analytical purposes.

Collection of data in connection with balance of payments statistics

Switzerland's and Liechtenstein's trade in services with foreign countries forms part of the balance of payments statistics compiled and published by the SNB (for further information on the balance of payments, cf. the [annual](#) and [quarterly](#) publications). The SNB's current system of data collection on foreign trade in services is not comprehensive enough. To close the gaps, the SNB is expanding its survey through the serviceBOP project. In future, data for all service categories that are of relevance for Switzerland and Liechtenstein will be collected and compiled with a geographical breakdown. To make the data more representative, the reporting population will be expanded. With serviceBOP, companies and other economic agents will be able to gain a more comprehensive picture of developments in Swiss and Liechtenstein trade relations with regard to both imports and exports. Moreover, the SNB and the authorities in Switzerland and Liechtenstein will be able to base their assessments of the economic cycle and economic developments on a more complete set of data.

Introduction in Switzerland in 2012

In the first half of 2010, the SNB conducted a preliminary survey in Switzerland to select the companies that will, in future, be required to report data. The expanded survey will be introduced in Switzerland in 2012. To facilitate the conduct of the survey, the SNB will put a user-friendly online reporting system into operation when the survey is launched.

Introduction in Liechtenstein in 2013

In the second half of 2011, the SNB will conduct a preliminary survey in the Principality of Liechtenstein to select the companies that will, in future, be required to report data. The introduction of the expanded survey in Liechtenstein is scheduled for 2013.

serviceBOP circular	Fifth circular – survey documents, preliminary survey in the Principality of Liechtenstein Fourth circular – reporting population and contents of survey Third circular – consultation procedure Second circular – preliminary survey First circular – announcement
Definitive survey documents for quarterly survey starting Q1/2012	Letter for quarterly survey (sample), November 2011 Letter for annual survey (sample), November 2011 General questionnaire with notes and list of countries (Release CAGX(1.0)) Specialised questionnaires with notes and list of countries <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Banks (Release CABX(1.0))- Insurance corporations (Release CAIX(1.0))- Freight forwarding and logistics companies (Release CATX(1.0))
Preliminary survey for Liechtenstein, 2011	Letter (sample), October 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Questionnaire- Notes- Quick reference guide for data transmission using PrivaSphere
Definitive contents of survey starting 2012	Letter for quarterly survey (sample), May 2011 Letter for annual survey (sample), May 2011 General questionnaire with notes and list of countries <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Questionnaire- List of countries- Notes Specialised questionnaires with notes and list of countries

Banks

- [Questionnaire](#)
- [List of countries](#)
- [Notes](#)

Insurance corporations

- [Questionnaire](#)
- [List of countries](#)
- [Notes](#)

Freight forwarding and logistics companies

- [Questionnaire](#)
- [List of countries](#)
- [Notes](#)

Consultation procedure for contents of
serviceBOP survey documents

[Letter \(sample\), December 2010](#)

[Documents of the consultation procedure notes on preliminary survey](#)

serviceBOP preliminary survey for
Switzerland, 2010

[Letter \(sample\), February/April/June 2010](#)

[Documents of the preliminary survey](#)

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