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Bilateral Comparisons of Travel Transactions

Office for National Statistics
United Kingdom

Introduction

1. BOPCOM 94/2/6 "Bilateral Comparisons of Travel Transactions of Selected Countries" gave a brief description of the methods used to compile travel estimates, presented some bilateral comparisons and identified some of the factors contributing to the asymmetries. This paper attempts to bring BOPCOM 94/2/6 up to date.

2. There are large bilateral discrepancies in the travel estimates of selected sets of countries. A Eurostat Technical Group has been working over the last few years to improve and compare travel estimates across the European Union countries. Its work has recently concentrated on two main tasks: (a) monitoring national plans for the implementation of new collection systems for travel following monetary union, and spreading best practice, (b) continuation of bilateral comparison exercises in order to improve the quality of the data and reduce travel asymmetries.

3. The data presented in this paper have been derived from various sources. The majority of it has been sourced from data presented to the TG Travel meetings. Data for the US , Canada and Australia were obtained either directly from compiling colleagues there or via the OECD. The data, especially for earlier years, may not be the most recently available and data used for 2001 may be provisional estimates for many countries. Gaps in the charts represent areas where data could not be obtained in time for the preparation of this paper. The paper has been prepared by Jennie Tse and Sharon Neville of ONS Trade in Services branch and they would like to thank all colleagues at Eurostat, OECD and the individuals in the specific countries who assisted with the provision of data.. They also claim ownership of any errors.

Methods used in Compiling Travel Estimates

4. Traditionally there have been two main methods for compiling international travel estimates of the expenditure by nonresidents during their journeys in the reporting country and the expenditure of residents during their journeys abroad. The first is direct reporting mechanisms of international transactions. This is based primarily on the reports from banks on purchases and sales of foreign currency, combined with information on turnover on credit cards, eurocheque cards etc. Sometimes this data is supplemented by other information e.g. from tour operators on external payments or accommodation statistics (number of tourists , country of residence, number of nights stayed). The second main method is sample surveys, either frontier or border surveys (which can collect both credits and debits) or household expenditure surveys (which can only collect debits). Administrative data are regularly used to supplement both methods.

5. There are advantages and difficulties associated with these methods and the following discussion will attempt to list and explain the major ones. It is important to understand how different collection methods can give different estimates. Data comparisons over time can then be more meaningful.

Direct reporting systems:

6. Cash expenditure is covered by foreign currency sales and purchases of local currency abroad, e.g. (for the USA travel account) sterling sold in USA prior to USA residents travelling to the UK and their purchases of sterling in the UK. Cash receipts are covered by foreign currency purchases and sales of local currency abroad, e.g. sales of dollars in the UK to UK residents and their purchases of dollars in USA. This information is often incomplete and difficult to collect. In addition not all purchases or sales of foreign currency are used for foreign travel transactions and should not be assigned to the travel account. For example they may include cash carried by nonresidents, including workers remittances paid abroad to dependents (which should be recorded as a transfer payment), cash changed back into the original currency, payments for imports and exports (especially telephone and internet purchases), and cash associated with the black economy, such as money laundering and drug dealing. Many countries make specific adjustments to try to remove some of these effects.

7. This error margin in the measurement of the cash transactions is potentially a significant problem because they still make up the majority of expenditure and receipts recordings. Some independent analyses within Europe have shown that even though the proportion of cash transactions of the total is falling (the use of credit cards, eurocheques and other payments is growing more and more popular) they still account for around 50 - 70% of total expenditure and receipts.

8. There will also be a tendency for an over-recording of receipts from countries whose currencies can be used widely in other countries. Also the direct reporting systems rely on the banks to correctly identify and record the transactions relating to travel. An example would be a shipping agent in the UK sending money to Greece via a banking transaction for holiday accommodation, but the bank identifying this as a shipping transaction rather that recognizing the recipient as a hotelier and correctly recording this transaction under travel. Payments to the headquarters of a multinational tour operator may be allocated to that country rather than the country of travel.

9. Direct reporting can lead to timing problems. Transactions will be recorded when the travel is planned or paid for rather than when the travel actually occurs. This can flatten the seasonal pattern across the year and distort bilateral comparisons with other collection systems.

Survey methodologies

10. All surveys are subject to error margins and possible bias. Data from sample surveys may be subject to (1) a distribution bias, where all categories of travellers may not be adequately represented in the sample, perhaps because the sample is not big enough and (2) non or low response bias, where certain types of individuals or travellers may be less likely to complete their questionnaires. These two types of bias are, of course, often interlinked and some further examples are given below in the descriptions of specific types of surveys.

11. Another problem with the use of sample surveys for the collection of the travel item is that they are frequently voluntary. Response rates vary widely country to country and these should be taken into account for meaningful data comparisons.

12. **Household Surveys**: household surveys can only collect information for the debits side. Countries in the EU which use these often rely on using partner country data for the credit side but a drawback is the timeliness of data becoming available. Tests carried out in several countries have shown that the results from household surveys also tend to underestimate travel figures. There are several explanations. Some countries have reported that their household surveys do not record border workers, same day tourists and students. In addition these surveys are often carried out by phone or postal questionnaire some time after any travel may have taken place and respondents forget or underestimate their expenditure. This will be more significant with business travellers making frequent trips. Frequent business travellers will, therefore tend to be underestimated for as they will often also be unavailable for telephone interviews. Another factor is that respondents may try to hurry through the interview and not give full information.

13. **Border Surveys:** countries employing these tend to collect both inward and outward flows by interviewing nonresident travellers at the time of their departure and resident travellers on their return from their trip. For United States travel debits, however, estimates are based on in-journey survey information on how much departing travellers intend to spend abroad. This anticipated expenditure is adjusted by factors collected via a one-off survey in 1998 to derive ratios of anticipated to actual expenditure broken down by major region. How much this ratio may change over time depending on such things as prevailing economic conditions may be an interesting investigation.

14. Countries with fewer borders or entry/exit points will obviously find border surveys easier to implement. Other EU countries trying to implement and pilot border surveys have reported difficulties in obtaining the cooperation of police and /or frontier authorities in stopping cars or administering the interviews.

15. Estimates can be affected by the location of interviewing, determined by practical constraints or regulations. For example in the UK departing visitors are currently being interviewed before they visit the Duty Free areas. An adjustment is made to try to include this area of possible under recording but we are currently reassessing the amount of this adjustment since the abolishment of Duty Free within the EU. It may be that we are now over-estimating credits from EU visitors.

16. A specific problem for border surveys carried out at airports is that it is difficult to catch returning business travellers and other travellers who only have hand luggage. This can cause a distribution bias and may be significant for countries which have a lot of business travel either outward or inward.

17. A problem that affects both Household surveys and Border surveys is the correct allocation of expenditure on package holidays. Package holiday expenditure is incurred in the traveller's resident country, but it cannot automatically be assigned entirely to one item in the Balance of Payments. This expenditure contains a part which represents the margin of the travel agency or tour operator who produces and markets the package. It also includes the part which is payment for the transportation within the package (and this should be assigned to the transport item for the most part), and finally it includes the part which is the payment for the tourism services in the package, such as accommodation, food and drink, car hire and excursions. Only this last part should be assigned as a travel debit or credit.

18. When respondents to the surveys are asked for their total expenditure on their trip, they are usually unable to isolate this portion of the total price paid for their package trip. Although it is relatively simple to gain rough information on the individual costs of each of those items, the price really paid by the travel agent or tour operator providing the package is likely to be quite different due to market negotiations and price setting amongst the agents that make up the market. The only truly reliable way of breaking down the total package trip cost into its relevant components is to get this information directly from the tour operators. Several countries carry out surveys of tour operators to obtain this information. Others such as the UK obtain sample discounted air, rail and sea fares and deduct these from the package trip cost (less the tour operators commission) to obtain the travel estimate. Discrepancies in bilateral data can arise if partner countries are using very different tour operator commission rates and/or transport to travel expenditure ratios, especially between countries in which package trips form a large proportion of the total holiday travel. For instance, in 2001 87% of the UK's holiday visits to Greece and 67% of the UK's holiday visits to Spain were as package tours.

Presentation of Bilateral Data on International Travel Transactions

19. Annex A presents a table and some charts illustrating some methods for bilateral comparisons and highlights a few areas for further discussion. Table A shows in matrix form the Travel data by partner country for selected countries for the years 1997 to 2001. The authors apologise for the gaps, but data for these areas were not available at the time of writing. The first column of data for each country column shows the credits as reported by that country vis-a-vis the partner country. The second column shows the corresponding debits as reported by partner country (the row heading). For example, under Canada's column, it can be seen that Canada reported Credits from Australia of 102 million euro whilst Australia's corresponding debits to Canada was reported as 97 million euro. The third and fourth columns show the absolute and relative percentage differences respectively. Unfortunately at this time, the totals are not very useful to see overall discrepancies due to the missing data.

20. Charts have also been created to assist with visual analysis of the data. The charts show for each country (except in the case of Greece because we were unable to get sufficient partner country data for Greece to make a meaningful analysis at this time) some bilateral comparisons in the year 1997 and 2000.   Within each chart, data against each partner country is shown as

four columns. The first column shown credits as reported by the main country, the second shows the corresponding debits of the partner country, the third shows the debits as reported by the main country and the fourth shows the corresponding partner's credits. For presentational purposes, main country debits and partner country credits have been shown below the line. Therefore, in a perfect system with no asymmetries, the first and second columns should match as should the third and fourth.

21. Where countries reported their data in their national currency values were converted to euros using annual average exchange rates.

Discussion on the Bilateral Data

22. BOPCOM 94/2/6 found that recorded debits exceeded partner country credits in general. This study (of fewer countries) showed that the data at a total level (and only including data where partner country data was available) was quite close but with credits marginally larger that debits. Of the 62 comparable partner country pairings for 2000, in 34 cases the debits were larger. It is also interesting to note that one of the largest differences in 1992 was for Italy and the UK, where Italian debits were $ US 3 billion higher than UK credits. At that time Italy was using the direct reporting system as its collection method. However, from 1996 Italy's Travel estimate has been compiled from data from a frontier survey and since that time, as this report shows the UK and Italy have enjoyed very small asymmetries.

23. As expected, estimates for the USA and Canada are relatively close in 2001, because of the close collaboration between the Bureau of Economic Analysis and Statistics Canada in estimating the Travel transactions between the two countries. The small discrepancies could be down to minor adjustments made by one of the partners and exaggerated by the use of average exchange rates for the currency conversions. Interestingly, however, the 1997 data for Canada's reported credits is more that 2 billion euro higher than the corresponding US debits data. Perhaps this is due to a different methodology employed at that time?

24. One of the largest areas of discrepancy is the credits reported by Spain from the UK and the UK's corresponding debits. Spain reports much larger credits than the debits recorded by the UK. The discrepancies are more than 3 billion euro for most years and more than 7 billion for the provisional estimate of 2001. Until 2002, Spain's collection method for Travel data was by the direct reporting system. Tests results from their new frontier survey are already showing that switching to this new collection system significantly reduces this asymmetry. In addition, Spain currently apply a split for expenditure on package tours of 60% to accommodation/meals etc and 40% for Transport payments (after the tour operators commission element has already been removed) for both their credits and their debits for all geographical areas. However, it is likely that this proportion may be overstating the accommodation/meals element in the case of UK travellers to Spain.   A significant portion of the UK travellers to Spain are younger people who will tend to spend less money on high quality accommodation in favour of the more affordable holidays. If the UK applies the equivalent of a split of 55% to 45%, this could account for a large

part of the discrepancy due to the fact that over 60% of total UK holiday visits to Spain are as package tours.

25. The UK also shows large asymmetries with the USA both for credits and for debits. The US records higher credits and debits than the UK's corresponding data. A significant proportion of trips to the US from the UK are for business purposes (around 20% of total visits). It could be that due to the difficulties in measuring business expenditure, the UK is under recording credits and/or debits. Business travellers sometimes neglect to record as valid travel expenditure, expenses which they will claim back from their companies or expenses which have already been paid for. Another possibility is that in asking for intended expenditure, the US may be overestimating the true expenditure

Introduction of Monetary Union in Europe

26. Many EU countries used the bank and credit card direct reporting method to collect their travel estimates until recently. However with the introduction of the euro information on foreign currency turnover and the sales and purchases of resident currency banknotes within the euroarea ceased to exist. Most of the countries affected have been busy over the last few years developing and implementing plans to move to new collection systems. In general a switch to survey systems has emerged although the details vary from country to country. This reflects the individual situations of each country and the relative appropriateness and ease of implementation of specific collection methods. This move to survey methods (in many cases hybrid ones, i.e. systems composed of a combination of several types of sources) has in some cases meant the transfer of responsibility for data collection of the travel estimate from the National Central Bank to the National Statistics Institute.

27. This radical change of collection systems for many countries has required substantial resources to complete the implementation and to monitor the results in order to ensure data quality has been maintained (and if possible improved). The results from these new methodologies and pilot studies are starting to become available now. Bilateral comparisons of these datasets will prove very interesting and should enable further work to reduce asymmetries.

28. It should be noted that it is not just euroarea countries that are affected by the introduction of the euro. Any other country that uses direct reporting mechanisms will now have difficulty deriving geographical breakdowns within the euroarea.

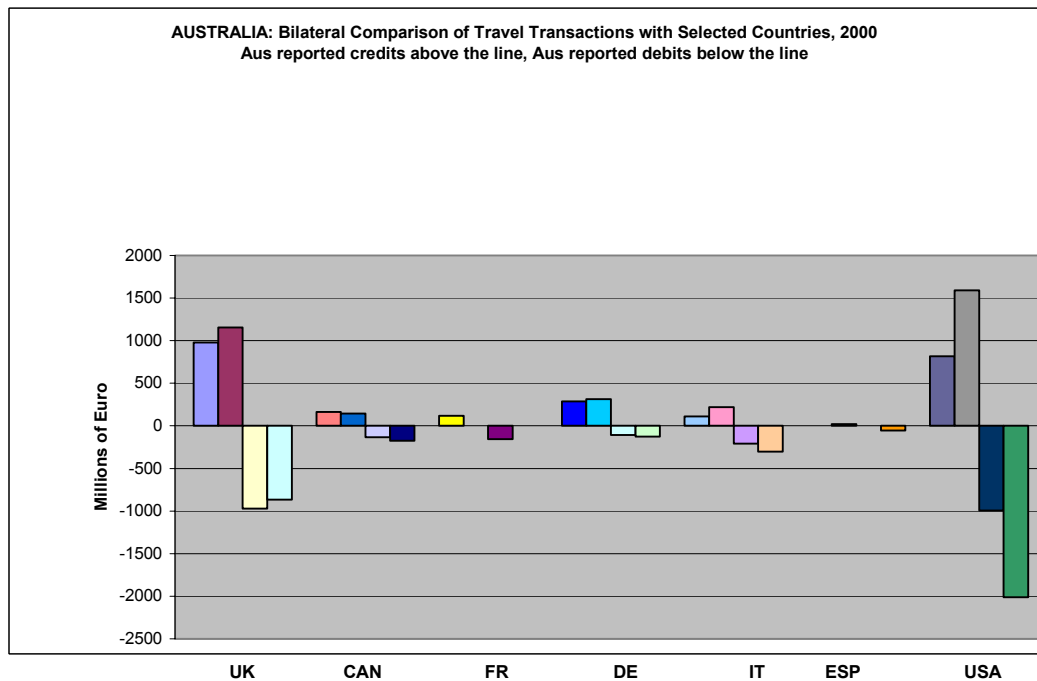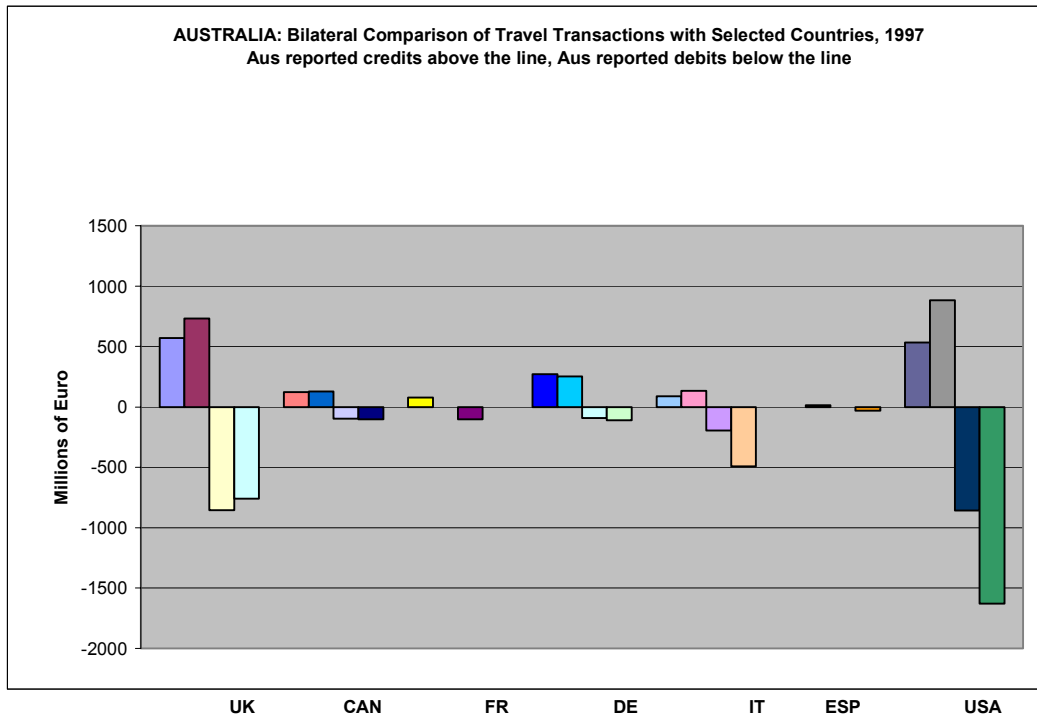**Annex A - Table and Charts showing Bilateral comparisons**

Annex B - Update on Structure of EU MS, Australia, Canada and the US collection systems from Travel in operation in 2002-2003

ONS/UK   September 2002

ANNEX A - Travel data for Selected Countries 1997-2001 in millions euro

		Sum 1997	Sum 1998	Sum 1999	Sum 2000		97 total	2000 total
		Credit	Credit	Credit	Credit		84,254 74,462	114,977 110,683

AUSTRALIA: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 1997
Aus reported credits above the line, Aus reported debits below the line

AUSTRALIA: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 2000
Aus reported credits above the line, Aus reported debits below the line

NOTE: For each partner country;
  1st column = Australia credits with partner country
  2nd column = Partner country debits with Australia
  3rd column = Australia debits with partner country
  4th column = Partner country credits with Australia

CANADA: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 1997
Can reported credits above the line, Can reported debits below the line

CANADA: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 2000
Can reported credits above the line, Can reported debits below the line
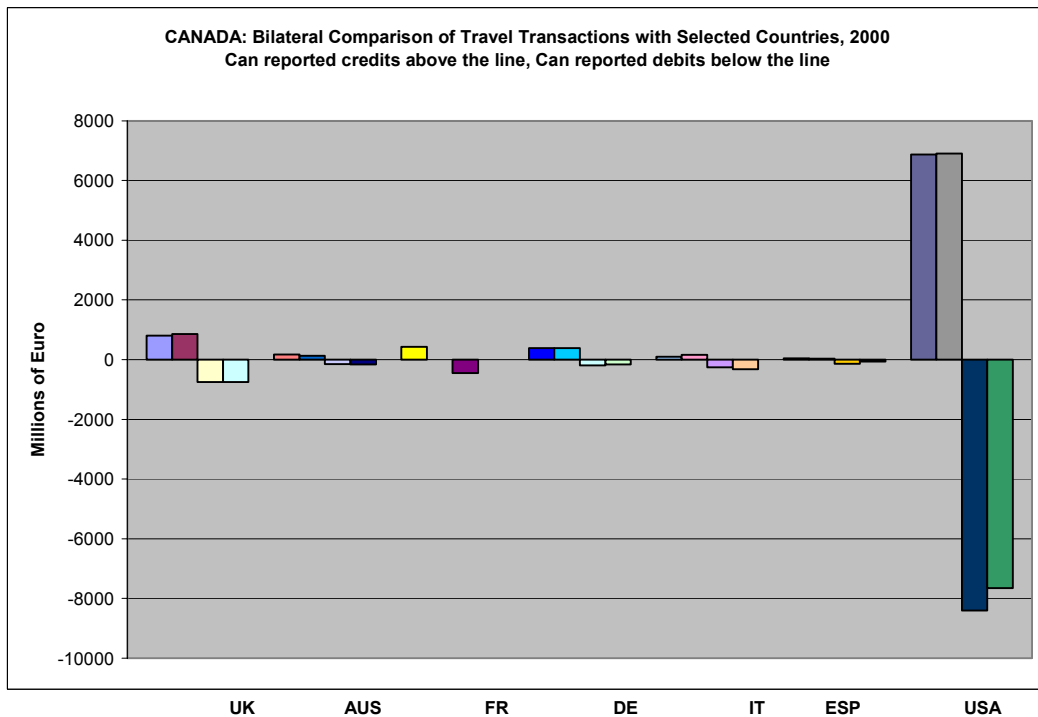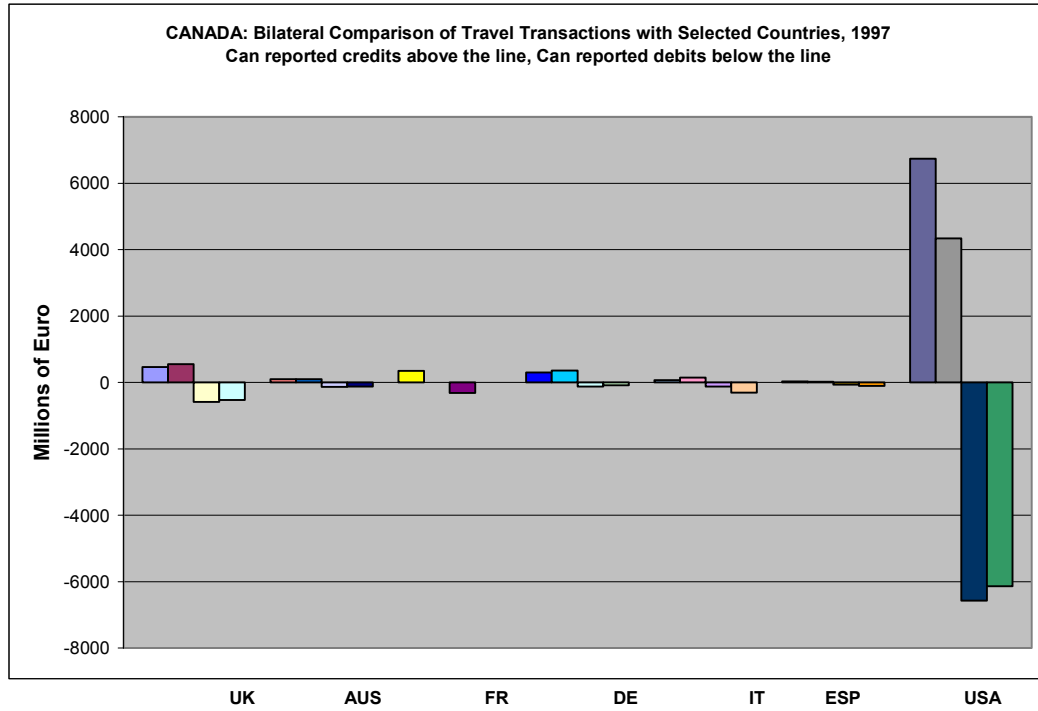
NOTE: For each partner country; 1st column = Canada credits with partner country
2nd column = Partner country debits with Canada
3rd column = Canada debits with partner country
4th column = Partner country credits with Canada

FRANCE: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 1997
Fr reported credits above the line, Fr reported debits below the line

FRANCE: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 2000
Fr reported credits above the line, Fr reported debits below the line

NOTE: For each partner country;   **1st column = France credits with partner country**
2nd column = Partner country debits with France
3rd column = France debits with partner country
4th column = Partner country credits with France

GERMANY: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 1997
De reported credits above the line, De reported debits below the line

GERMANY: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 2000
De reported credits above the line, De reported debits below the line

NOTE: For each partner country;   **1st column = Germany credits with partner country**
                 2nd column = Partner country debits with Germany
                 3rd column = Germany debits with partner country
                 4th column = Partner country credits with Germany

ITALY: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 1997
It reported credits above the line, It reported debits below the line

ITALY: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 2000
It reported credits above the line, It reported debits below the line

NOTE: For each partner country;   1st column = Italy credits with partner country
                2nd column = Partner country debits with Italy
                3rd column = Italy debits with partner country
                4th column = Partner country credits with Italy

USA: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 1997
USA reported credits above the line, USA reported debits below the line

Millions of Euro

UK   AUS   CAN   FR   DE   IT   SPAIN

USA: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 2000
USA reported credits above the line, USA reported debits below the line

Millions of Euro

UK   AUS   CAN   FR   DE   IT   SPAIN

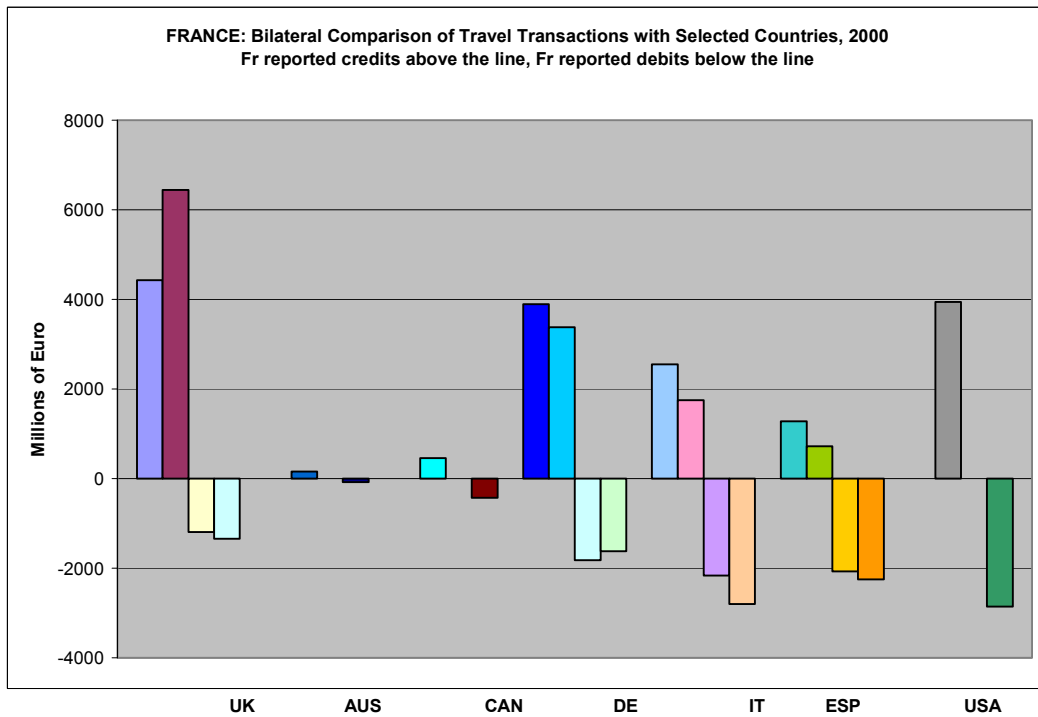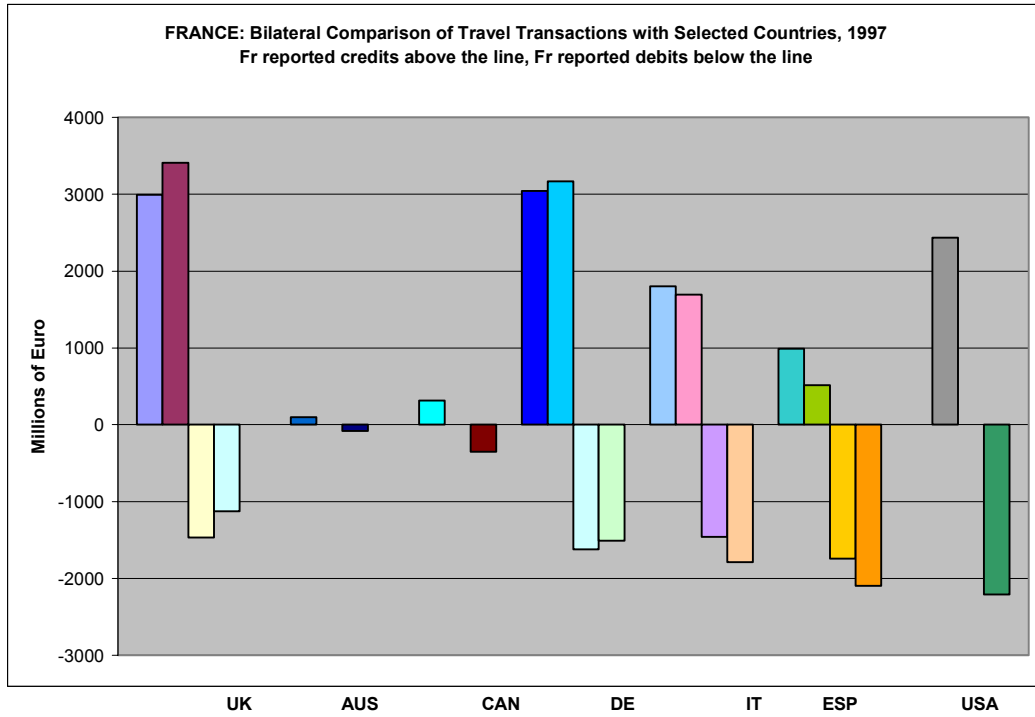**NOTE: For each partner country;**   **1st column = USA credits with partner country**
                                          2nd column = Partner country debits with USA
                                          3rd column = USA debits with partner country
                                          4th column = Partner country credits with USA

SPAIN: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 1997
Esp reported credits above the line, Esp reported debits below the line

SPAIN: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 2000
Esp reported credits above the line, Esp reported debits below the line
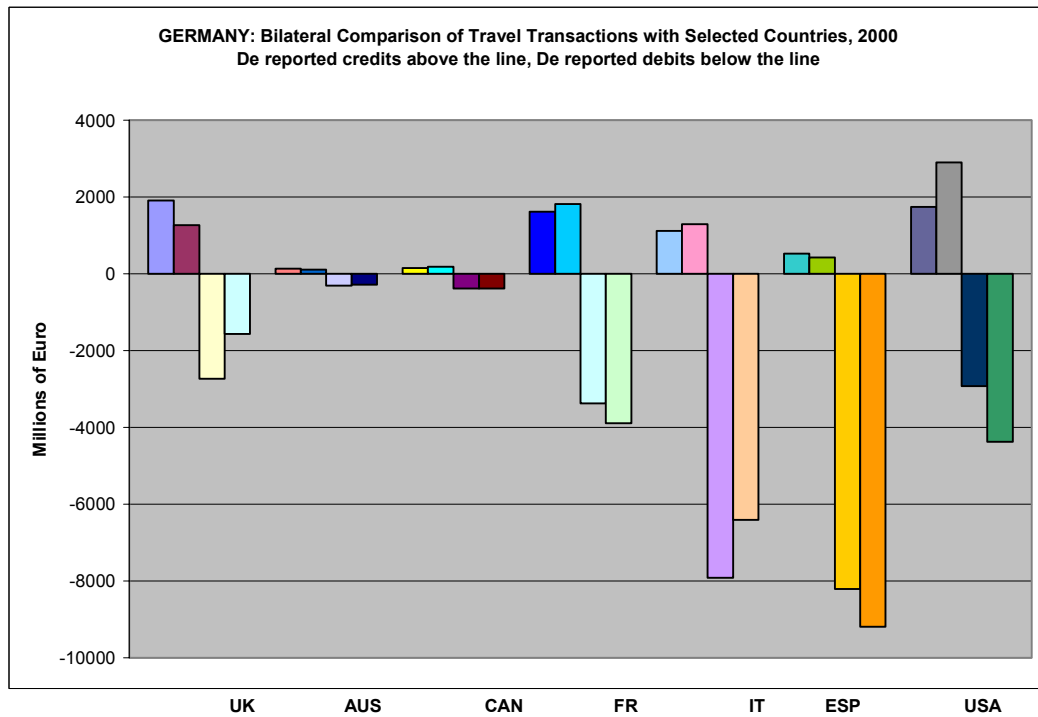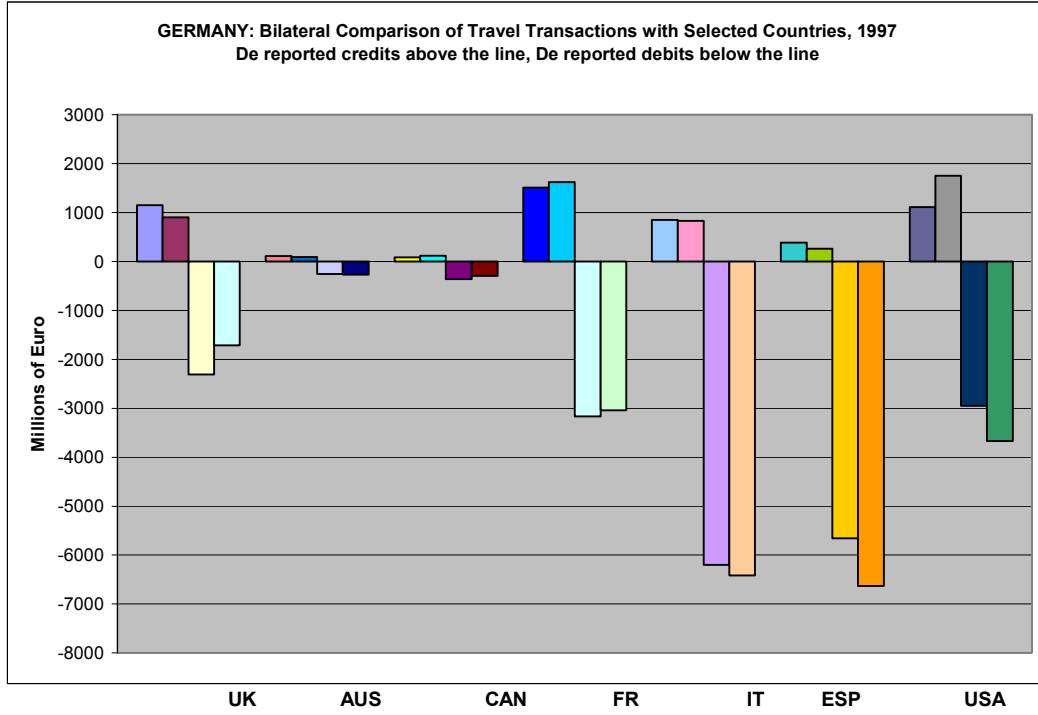
NOTE: For each partner country;   1st column = Spain credits with partner country
2nd column = Partner country debits with Spain
3rd column = Spain debits with partner country
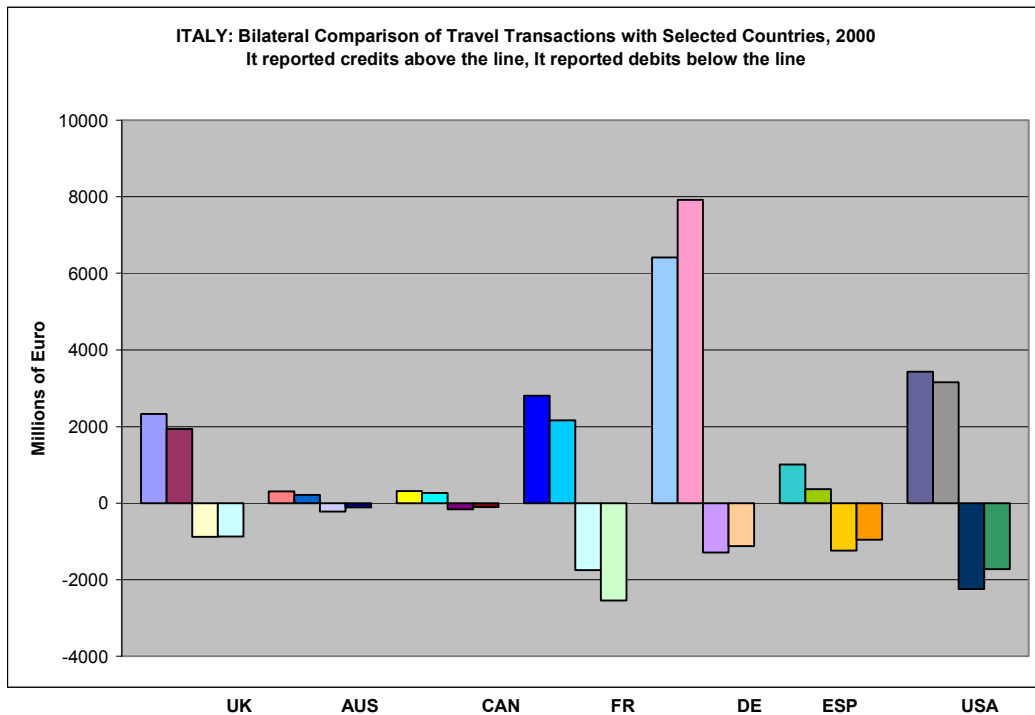4th column = Partner country credits with Spain

UNITED KINGDOM: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 1997
UK reported credits above the line, UK reported debits below the line

AUS   CAN   FR   DE   IT   ESP   USA

UNITED KINGDOM: Bilateral Comparison of Travel Transactions with Selected Countries, 2000
UK reported credits above the line, UK reported debits below the line

AUS   CAN   FR   DE   IT   ESP   USA
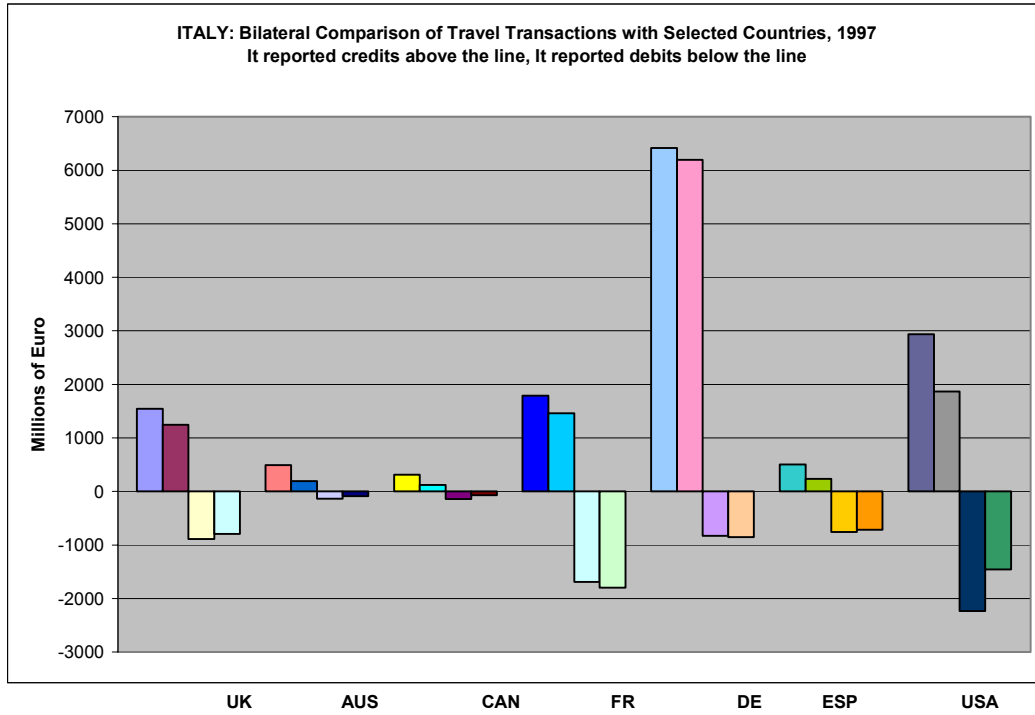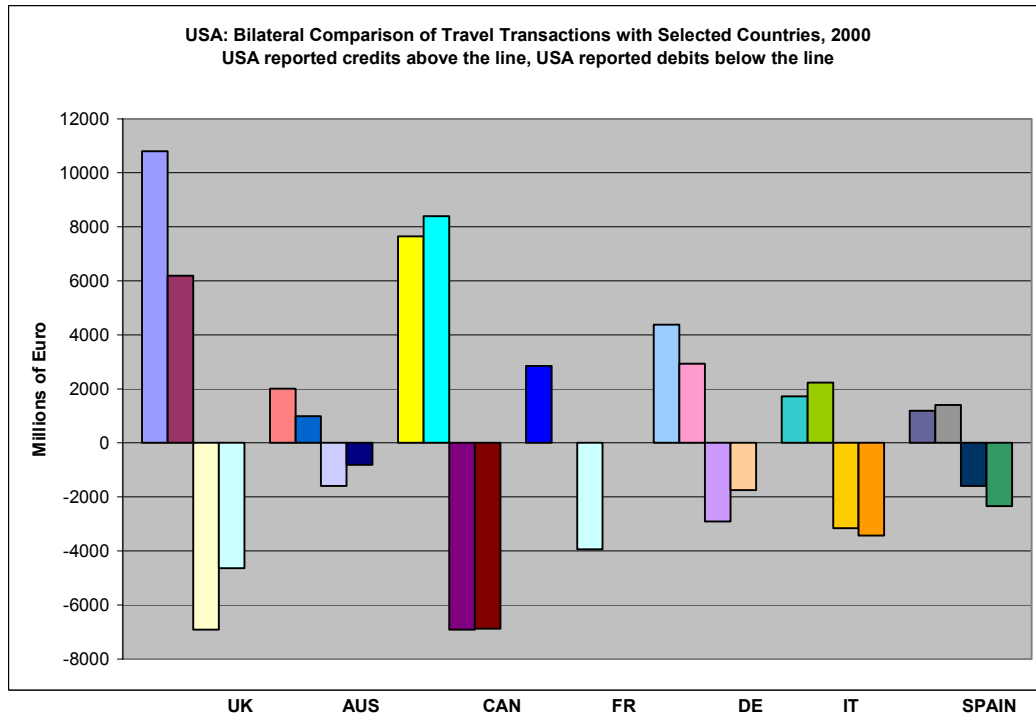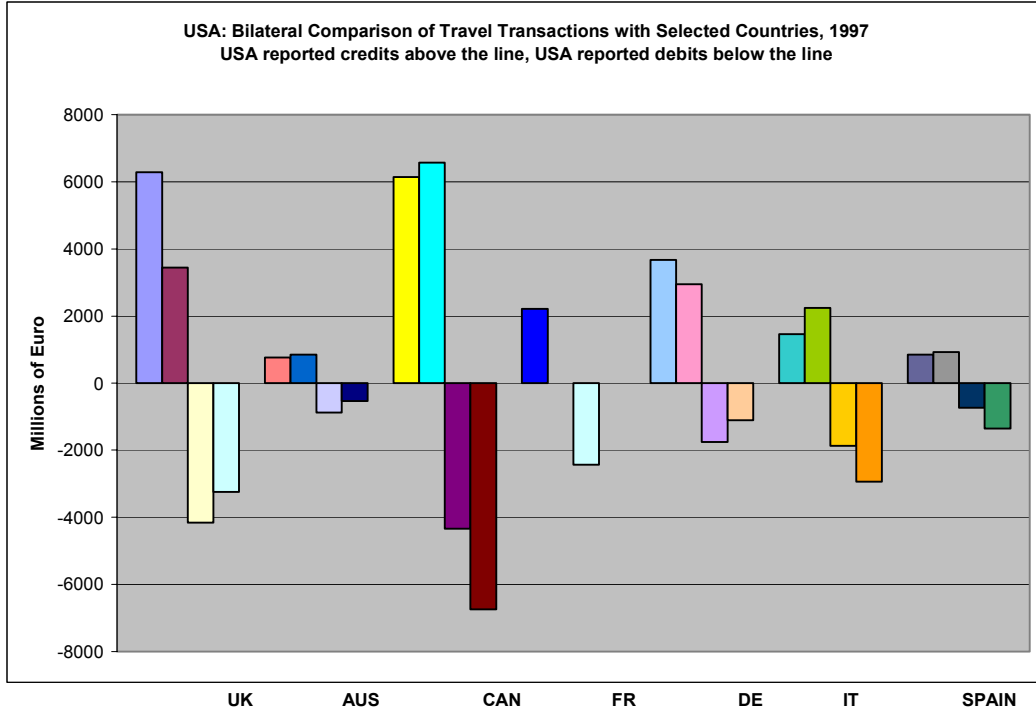
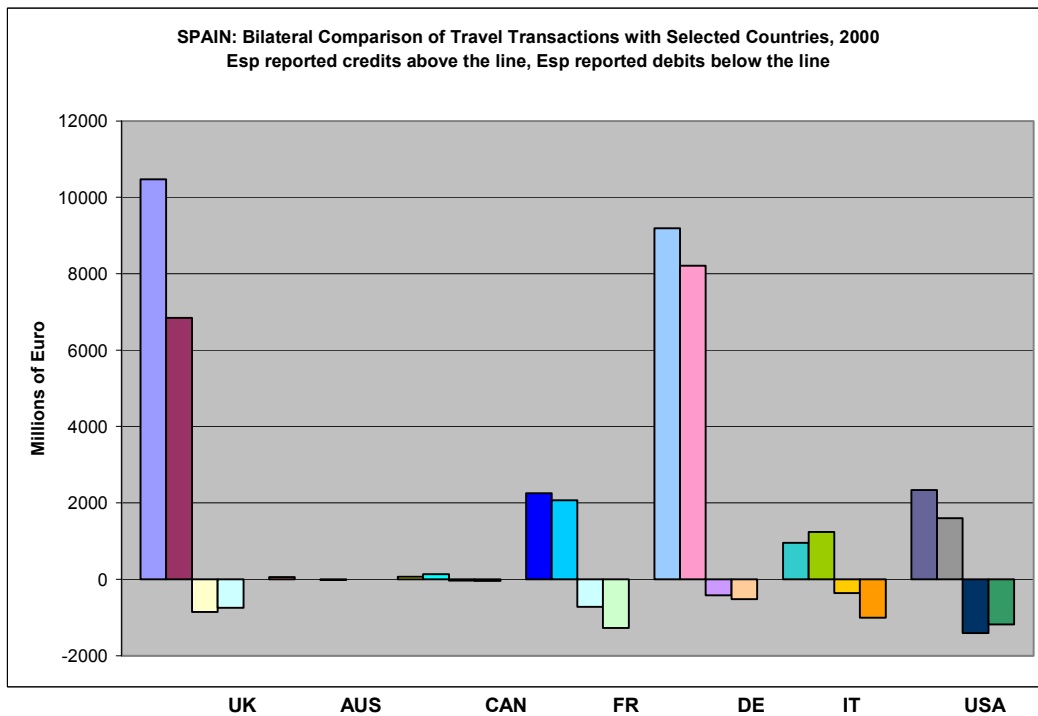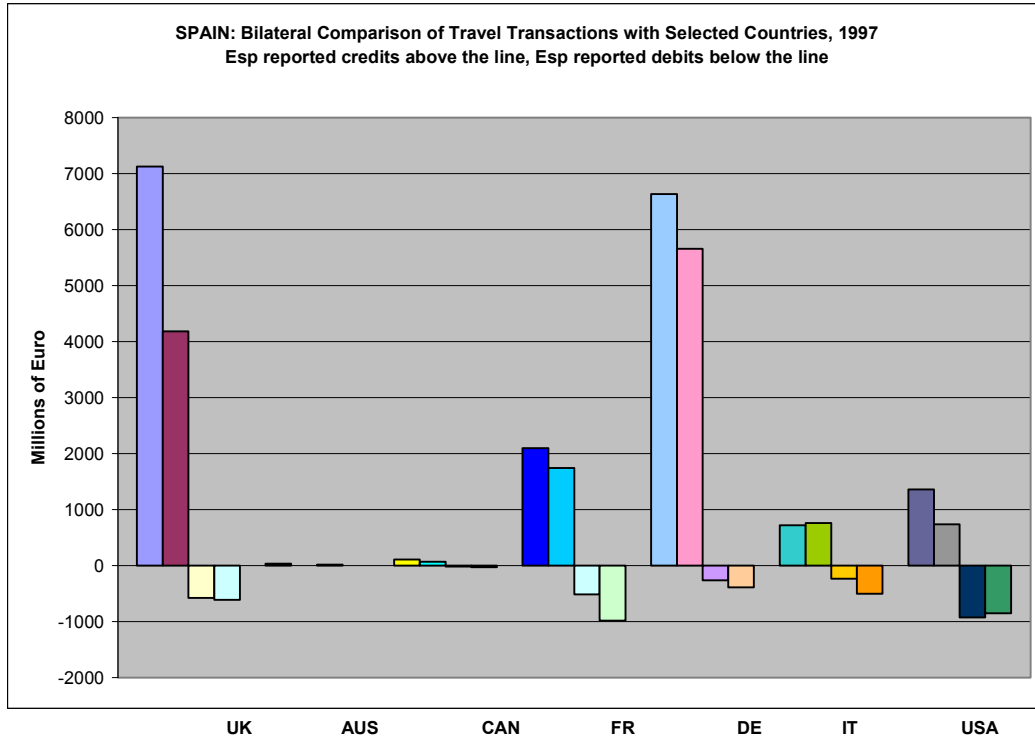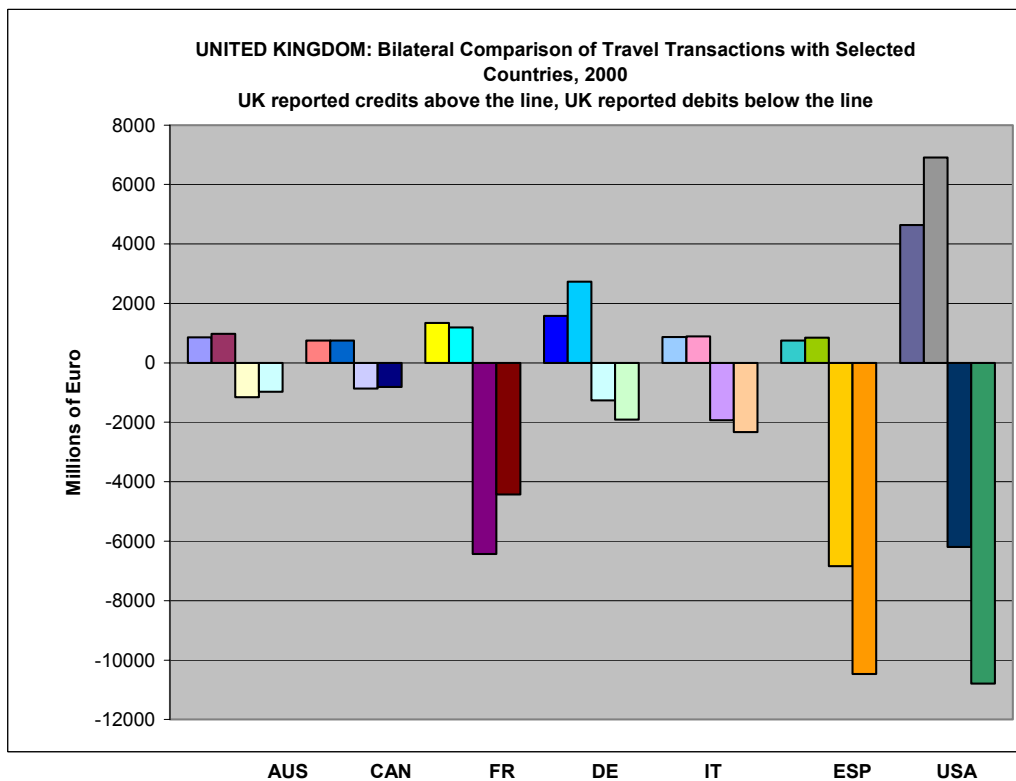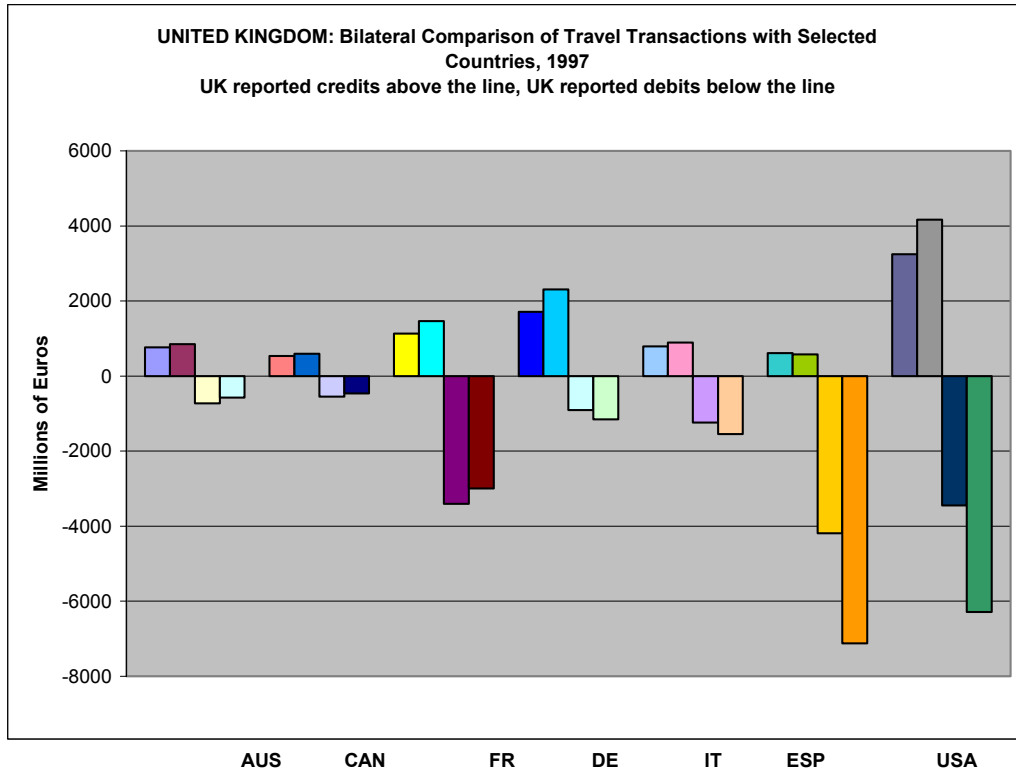NOTE: For each partner country;   1st column = UK credits with partner country
                                        2nd column = Partner country debits with UK
                                        3rd column = UK debits with partner country
                                        4th column = Partner country credits with UK

ANNEX B

Overview of collection systems for Travel in Operation in 2002-2003

Table 1—Structure of EU MS Collection Systems for Travel in Operation in 2002-2003

Country		S1 Bank reporting system (excluding credit card data)	S2 Credit card data (from banks)	S3 Credit card data (from credit card issuers)	S4 Frontier surveys	S5 Household surveys	S6 Surveys of travelers at accommodation establishments	S7 Surveys of tourist providers (e.g. hotels)	S8 Surveys of tourists intermediaries (e.g. travel agencies)	S9 Partner country data	S10 Estimates and models	S11 Administrative Sources	S12 Other sources
Austria	Credits	**Implemented**		**Implemented**		**Implemented**				[Under test]	[Under test]		Implemented
	Debits	Implemented		Implemented								Implemented	
Belgium	Credits	Implemented	Implemented	Under test		**Under test**				Planned	Planned	Implemented	
	Debits	Implemented	Implemented	Under test						Planned	Planned	Implemented	
Finland	Credits			[Planned]	**Implemented**	**Implemented**		**Under test**		[Implemented (non-EMU)]		Implemented	
	Debits			[Planned]	**Under test**		Implemented			[Implemented (non-EMU)]		Implemented	Implemented
France	Credits			**Implemented**	**Implemented**	**Under test**	Implemented				[Planned]		
	Debits			**Implemented**	**Implemented**						[Planned]		
Germany	Credits	**Implemented**	**Implemented**	**Implemented**	**Under test**	**Implemented**	Implemented			**Under test (EMU)**	Implemented		**Implemented**
	Debits	**Implemented**	**Implemented**	**Implemented**	**Under test**					Under test [EMU]	**Implemented**		**Implemented**
Greece	Credits	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented									
	Debits	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented									
Ireland	Credits				**Implemented**								Implemented
	Debits				**Implemented**	[Implemented]						[Implemented]	
Italy	Credits				**Implemented**			[Implemented]		[Implemented]		Planned	
	Debits				**Implemented**					[Implemented]		Planned	
Luxembourg	Credits	[Implemented (non-EMU)]		[Implemented]							**Implemented**	**Implemented**	**Under test?**
	Debits	[Implemented (non-EMU)]		[Implemented]		**Implemented**						**Implemented**	
Netherlands	Credits			Planned		**Implemented**		**Implemented**			**Implemented**		Planned
	Debits			Planned									Planned
Portugal	Credits	**Implemented**	**Implemented**	**Implemented**	**Planned**		Implemented	Implemented		[Planned (EMU)]	**Implemented**		
	Debits	**Implemented**	**Implemented**	**Implemented**	**Planned**					[Planned (EMU)]	**Implemented**		
Spain	Credits	[Implemented]	[Implemented]	[Implemented]	**Under test**			[Implemented]		[Planned]			
	Debits	[Implemented]	[Implemented]	[Implemented]	**Under test**					[Planned]			
Denmark (**)	Credits	In the short run, the survey of travelers at accommodation establishments carried out by the Danish Tourist Board and tourism statistics produced for the Council Directive 95/57/EC will be used, respectively, for the credit and the debit side.											
	Debits												
Sweden	Credits	**Implemented**		**Implemented**		Implemented			Planned	**Implemented**	**Implemented**		
	Debits	Implemented		**Implemented**					Planned	Implemented	**Implemented**		
United Kingdom	Credits				**Implemented**							Implemented	Implemented
	Debits				**Implemented**								

LEGEND
Bold underlined: Main source
Italic: Supplementary source
[Between square brackets] Source used for verification

Further Information for Table 1

AT – S12 – Nights spent/physical data

FI – S9 – So far partner country data comparisons are done with a non-EU country (Estonia)
where tourism expenditure (debits) are among the highest
S12 – Data collected by the Association of the Finnish Travel Agencies on package
tours by plane from Finland

FR – ☐ French plan aims to combine credit card data reported by the credit card issuers with
surveys giving the credit card share of the total expenditure (household survey and
frontier survey) and the total expenditure itself

☐ Models might also be combined to complete missing information

☐ The frontier survey tested last year had to be stopped considering the difficulties
with obtaining assistance from the police force on the road frontiers. A new
methodology is under study

DE – S12 – Data on eurocheque cards (from banks and clearing agencies)

IT – S5 – ISTAT household survey on domestic and outbound tourism (physical flows and
expenditures).

S7 – ISTAT data on stays of non resident tourists in collective accommodation
establishments (physical flows).

S9 – Bilateral comparisons are conducted (not systematically) with most EU countries
(mostly in the framework of the Eurostat Technical Group "Travel").

S11 - Data from the national civil aviation authority (ENAC) on the number on arrivals
and departures in/from countries' airports. This information will be used to improve the
accuracy of the grossing-up of the frontier survey results (at present, grossing-up is
only based on the counting sub-operation of die survey).

LU - S12 - Other sources: Accommodation statistics (number of tourists, their country of
residence, the number of overnight stays). Survey of non-resident cross-border workers,
for the survey the first results can be expected in 2-3 months, at the present moment this
source is not yet used to produce BOP data.

NL - S12 – Other sources: Price indices by National Accounts and Information of Tourism
and Recreation Netherlands

PT - Presently, the compilation of the Travel item of the Portuguese b.o.p. is based on the information available regarding the means used to settle travel transactions. The main sources of information are the bank community and the credit cards issuers. Since January 2002, the estimation procedure has been refined and reinforced, as a result of the introduction of the Euro. Both debits and credits recorded in "Travel" include, now, a component that is estimated. For 2003, a pilot survey is planned for the border points of Portugal. The results of the survey will be tested during the year. A task force between the Banco de Portugal and the INE (National institute of Statistics) is presently developing the methodology of the pilot survey but this work is at a very early stage.

ES – S4 – For the time being, EGATUR is being tested. Nevertheless Spain intends to use it as the main source of information for the travel item starting in January 2003

SE – S1 As from 2003 Statistics Sweden will be responsible for the collection of the data. They will however continue to use the present system with the direct reporting on exchange of banknotes and credit card data. The methods will have to be revised if Sweden joins the EMU.

GB – S12 – Survey of independent schools

The UK's primary source of travel data in the Balance of Payments is the 'International Passenger Survey' run at travel ports throughout the UK. This collects inward and outward data and the counting operation is carried out simultaneously. This is supplemented with data on personal imports of cars from the UK Customs and excise Department and expenditure of foreign pupils in UK private schools which is collected through an annual survey of independent schools. Although not planned in detail yet, the UK are considering the possibility of running a one off survey of Tour and Travel operators to validate our current estimates of the Transport/Travel/operator commission splits.

Australia

1.   Arrival and Departure cards provide the basis for the counting and to assist the sample selection for their surveys.

2,   A survey of departing visitors at international airports collects information on expenditure as well as information on purchases of airline tickets. This information on credits is supplemented by a survey of international students last conducted in 1997 with estimates of expenditure on goods and services in Australia and foreign student fees from the relevant Government department. Only students on education visas are covered.

3.   Debits data are collected via the survey of International Trade in Services which also covers travel. This is supplemented by data from a postal household survey last run in 1996 (previously 1992).

Canada

4.   Numbers of travelers are derived from a combination of census and sample counts. This data is used alongside sample surveys collecting data on travelers' expenditure and purpose of visit. Counts of travelers are considered to be quite reliable but response rates for the expenditure data remain very low.

5.   Data for health related travel is collected by an annual hospital survey for credits and for debits by using administrative data on provincial health plans relating to 1996 (with projections for more recent years). Education related travel credits are estimated from numbers of foreign students and average tuition fees.

USA

6.   The USA uses different data sources for compiling their travel data with Canada, and other overseas countries. Traveler numbers are, for the most part, collected through counts by the Immigration service.

7.   For debits to Canada, it appears that Statistics Canada provide information on numbers of US travelers crossing the Canadian/US border and this data is combined with average expenditure data derived from a survey run by the BEA covering American visitors to Canada.

8.   For credits from Canada, it seems that the BEA uses the Statistics Canada estimates of Canadian Travel expenditure in the US as a measure of US Travel receipts from Canada.

9.   For other countries, average expenditure data by non-residents is collected through a survey conducted aboard a sample of scheduled flights departing the United States. Debits data is also collected through on board surveys but in this case departing travelers are asked how much they *intend* to spend abroad. This anticipated expenditure data is then adjusted by ratios derived through a one-off survey in 1998 comparing actual to anticipated expenditure pattern.