



Presentation to CEMLA Remittances International Steering Committee

Coverage, Quality and Sources of
Information



Remittances Definition

Current Definition

- workers' transfers (often called workers' remittances)
- compensation of employees
- migrants' transfers



Remittances Definition

New Definition: IMF Committee On Balance Of Payments Statistics

- **Personal Remittances**
 - Household to household transfers, current & capital (excluding migrants' transfers), in cash & in kind
 - “Net” compensation of employees from persons working abroad for short periods of time (less than one year)
- **Institutional Remittances**
 - Current & capital transfers in cash & in kind
 - From government, corporations, households, & NPISH to NPISH
 - From government, corporations, & NPISH to households



Coverage & Quality: Overview

- Canada is mostly concerned with outward flowing remittances.
- Canada follows the BOP framework; however, we do not publish data on remittances or any of its sub-components due to lack of data and/or poor data quality.



Sources & Methods

Workers' Remittances

- Survey of Household Spending (SHS)
- 'money, gifts and contributions to persons living outside Canada'
- No geographical breakdown of workers' transfers.



Coverage & Quality

Workers' Remittances

- Only 6% of SHS respondents report contributions to persons living outside Canada.
- The sample is not designed to estimate for the immigrant population.
- For 2004, the BOP estimate of personal remittances was \$1.4 billion.



Sources & Methods

Compensation of Employees

Estimates are compiled from old benchmarks based on:

- number of seasonal and border workers
- average income/spending per worker



Sources & Methods

Migrants Transfers

Estimates are compiled from old benchmarks



Future Plans

Personal Remittances

- There is no regulated system to track remittances flowing out of Canada
- Therefore, better survey data is needed
- Funding is being requested, but no approval yet



Future Plans

Employee Compensation

Need to find potential data sources

Tax records may be a source of information,
but more study is needed

Again, funding is a prerequisite



Future Plans

Institutional Remittances

- Canada is developing non-profit sector statistics as a satellite of the National Accounts
- Need to assess what data is available, and what the data gaps are