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# Introduction

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The International Monetary Fund (IMF) collects, year by year, information on the international transactions of its member countries. The part of this information that refers to transportation activities is the subject of this study.

In Section 1, an exposition is given of the material as secured from the IMF files, which automatically leads to a discussion of the main deficiencies in the reporting.

The second section describes the ways used in this study to fill some of the biggest gaps in the information without, however, making any changes in the reported figures.

The amplified records, presented in Section 3, show big surpluses of payments over receipts. The gross freight, having been separated out, was found to account for most of the discrepancies, rather than the other transportation items.

A tentative analysis of the records in their present form is given in Section 4. No far-reaching conclusions could be drawn because of the remaining discrepancies between payments and receipts as well as the lack of information on chartering.

Methods to correct the figures on payments and receipts are presented in Sections 5 and 6. No use was made of the checks provided by the system of reporting, as such, because so far the number of countries that comply with the requirements is too small.

