

Report on Tourism Statistics
TOURISM AND MIGRATION STATISTICS

Report prepared by the World Tourism Organization (WTO)

1. The report submitted by WTO to the twenty-third session of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities referred to the acquisition of computing facilities at WTO. Over the intervening period, the main thrust of WTO's activities in the area of statistics has been directed to further developing its computerized data base of tourism statistics. Concurrently with the implementation of the hardware and the extension of the data base, WTO acquired the necessary in-house software capability to computerize the production of its statistical publications namely the Yearbook of Tourism Statistics, the Compendium of Tourism Statistics and the Current Travel and Tourism Indicators. WTO will certainly benefit from the extensive experience of other ACC organizations in the area of computerization.

2. Co-operation with international organizations will also have to be deepened and intensified in order to permit extension of the data base through incorporation of economic and social series outside tourism.

3. Subsequent to the computerization of its data base, WTO has begun, on a trial basis, to use diskettes for the collection of statistical data. This procedure should help in reducing work load on recipients and avoiding duplication. During an initial phase, it is being limited to OECD countries, but is expected to be progressively extended to developing countries.

4. One of WTO's major concerns, is to strengthen the capabilities of developing countries in data collection, processing and analysis. In this context, a particular attention will be given to training in computerized data processing as part of the technical assistance programme of the Organization.

5. The programme of work for the period 1990-91 contemplates the convening of an International Conference on Tourism Statistics jointly by WTO and the Government of Canada. The Conference is scheduled to be held at Ottawa on 25-28 June 1991. The work of the Conference will emphasize co-operation with other organizations and compatibility of statistical concepts in tourism with those applied in other fields of statistics. The recommendations adopted by the Conference will be brought to the attention of the UN Statistical Commission in close coordination with the United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO).

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

A. United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO)

For the first time in 1990 WTO has provided the United Nations Statistical Office with data on tourism in machine-readable form (diskette) for inclusion in the Statistical Yearbook of the United Nations.

B. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

6. WTO has made use in its work of the data on travel debits and credits and passenger fares supplied by the International Monetary Fund.

7. IMF provided WTO on diskette with data covering exchange rates for incorporation in WTO's data base.

C. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

8. In line with earlier practice, basic statistical data on international tourism have been communicated to ICAO for inclusion in its annual report. In addition, WTO has received from ICAO data on passenger fares, which have been used in WTO's publications.

D. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

9. WTO has continued its cooperation with OECD in the context of the activities of the Working Party of the Tourism Committee of OECD. WTO has initiated the collection of data on machine-readable form (diskette) as a step in reducing the duplication of questionnaires.

E. European Communities (EC)

10. As in previous years, WTO will provide the EC with data on international tourism. Since data are no longer being produced on magnetic tape, consideration is being given to the possibility of supplying data on diskettes.

F. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

11. As in previous years, WTO will provide the ECA with data on international tourism in Africa. Since data are no longer being produced on magnetic tape, consideration is also being given to the possibility of supplying data on diskettes.