

Tourism Statistics: Challenges and Good Practices

Regional Workshop for the CIS countries

Basic concepts and definitions: Travel and Tourism (domestic and international)

Item 5

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UNWTO/UNSD WS Moldova, 29 June – 2 July 2010

IRTS 2008: Basic definitions



- **IRTS 2008, para 2.4:**

Travel refers to the activity of travelers. A traveler is someone who moves between different geographic locations, for any purpose and any duration.

- **IRTS 2008, para 2.9:**

A **visitor** is a traveler taking a trip to a main destination outside his/her usual environment, for less than a year, for any main purpose (business, leisure or other personal purpose) other than to be employed by a resident entity in the country or place visited. These trips taken by visitors qualify as tourism trips. Tourism refers to the activity of visitors.

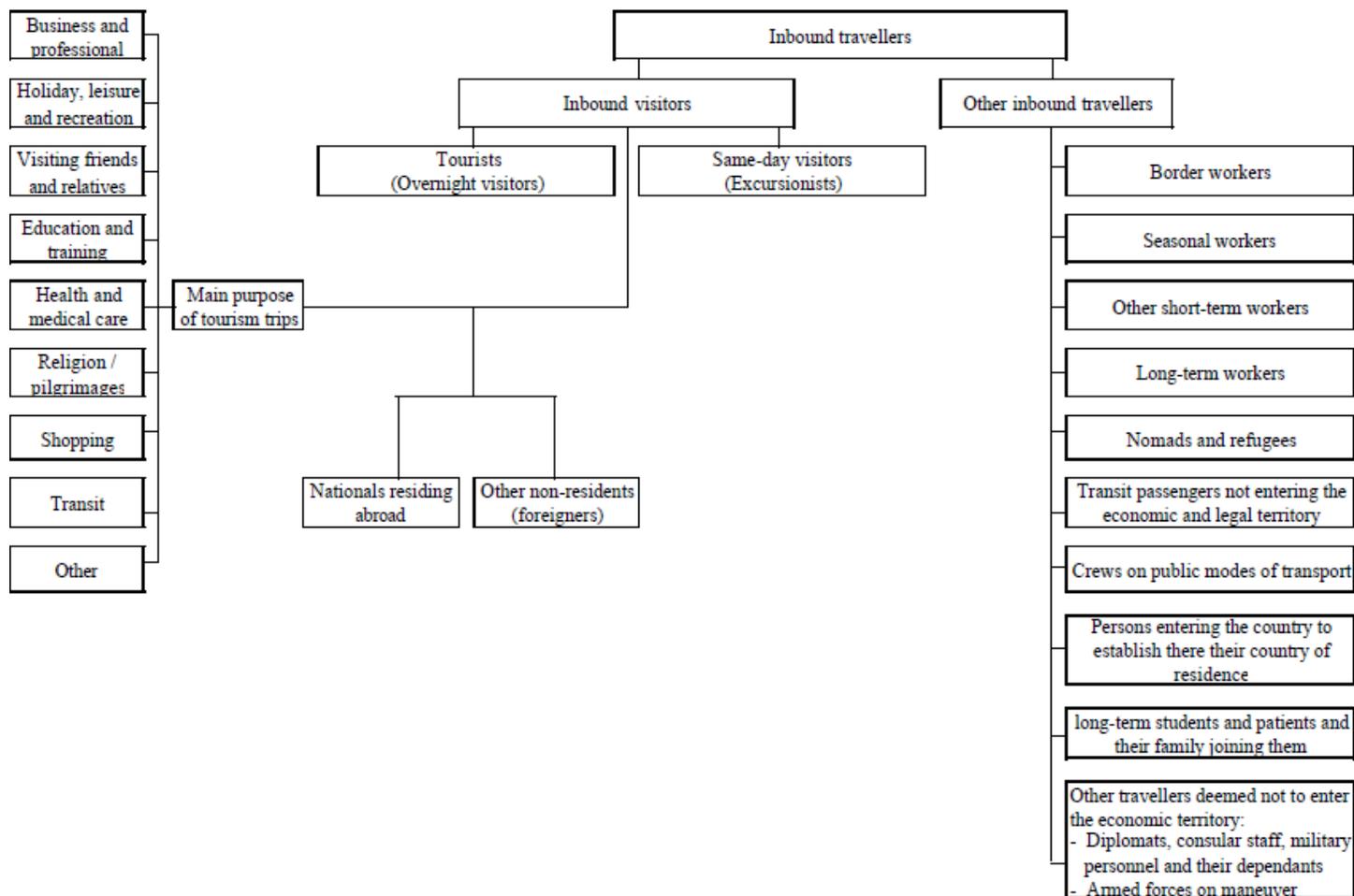
- **IRTS 2008, para 2.12:**

Tourism is therefore a subset of travel and visitors are a subset of travelers. These distinctions are crucial for the compilation of data on flows of travelers and visitors and for the credibility of tourism statistics.

Classification of inbound travellers (Fig. 2.1, IRTS 2008)



Figure 2.1
Classification of inbound travellers



Visitor or non-visitor?



- Border workers
- Students for a short term course
- Nomads
- Participant to a professional congress
- Speaker in a professional congress
- International consultant
- Participant in a technical fair
- Member of a professional football or cricket team
- Crew staff on an international flight
- Traveler crossing the country en-route to another country (destination)
- Traveler staying in a transit zone
- Cruise passenger
- Cruise crew

Trips; tourism trips



- **IRTS 2008 para 2.7:**

A **trip** refers to the travel by a person from the time of departure from his usual residence until he/she returns: it thus refers to a round trip. A trip is made up of visits to different places.

- **IRTS 2008 para 2.8:**

An **inbound trip** will correspond to the travel between arriving in a country and leaving,

A **domestic trip** or an **outbound trip** will correspond to the travel between leaving the place of residence and returning:

- ✓ a **domestic trip** has a main destination in the country of residence of the traveller, while
- ✓ an **outbound trip** has a main destination outside this country.

The main destination of a trip is the place visited that is central to the decision to take the trip!

International Travel vs. International Tourism



- International Travel (BoP)
 - All displacements that do not convert the international traveler into a resident (whether usual or non-usual environment)
 - Classified by nationality
 - Treatment of students and patients, even long term
 - No special treatment of short term workers (including border and seasonal workers, therefore)
- International Tourism (IRTS)
 - All displacements that do not convert the traveler into a resident and that are outside his/her usual environment
 - Classified by country of residence
 - Long term students or patients are considered to be within their usual environment (non visitors)
 - Short term workers in an employer/employee relationship with a resident employer are not considered as visitors

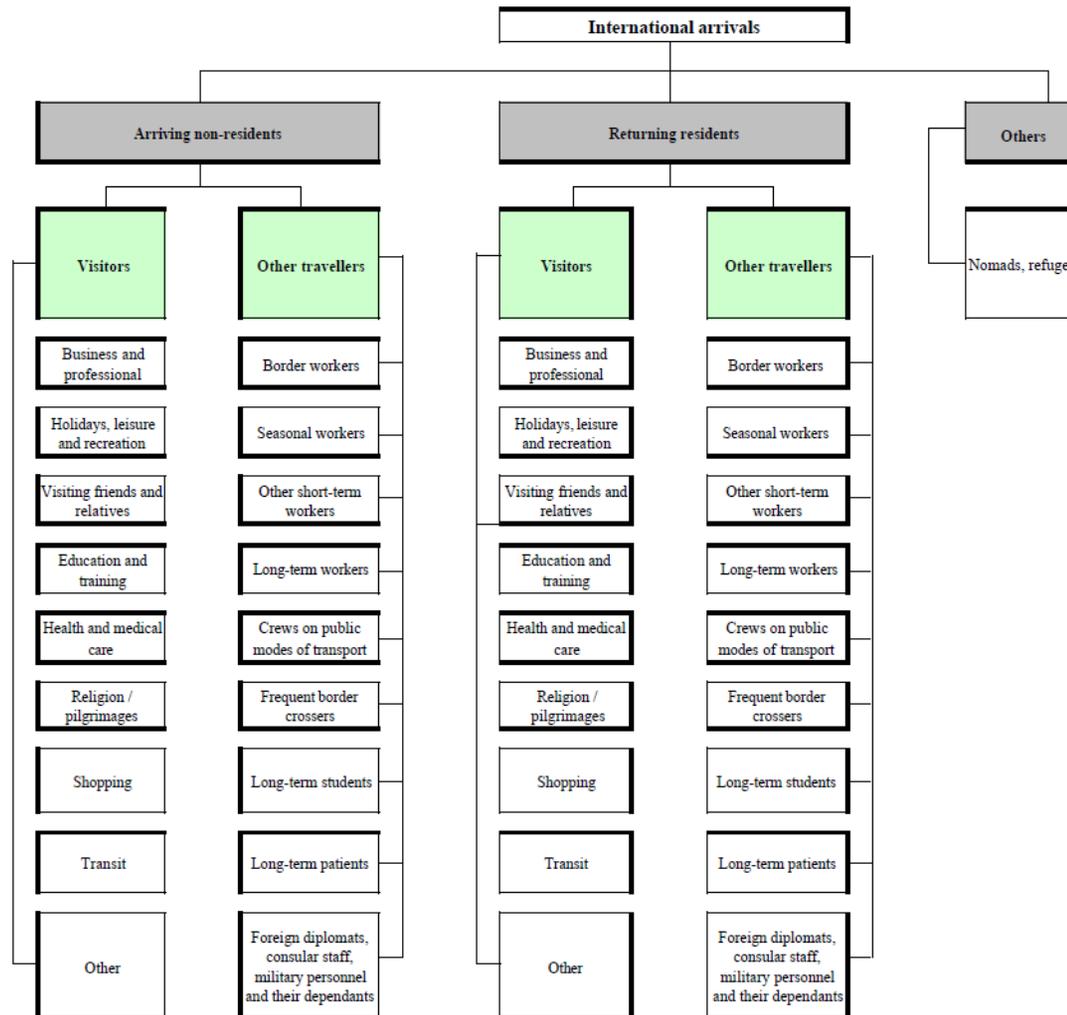
How to measure tourism??

International arrivals, visitors and other travellers

(Fig. 2.2, IRTS 2008)



Figure 2.2
Relationship between international arrivals and different categories of visitors and other travellers



Basic concepts and definitions: travel and tourism



- **IRTS 2008, para 2.20:**

Para 2.20: It is recommended that travelers (and visitors) be classified on the basis of their country of residence. (measurement issue related with international migrants).

- **IRTS 2008, para 2.21:**

The usual environment of an individual, a key concept in tourism, is defined as the geographical area (though not necessarily a contiguous one) within which an individual conducts his/her regular life routines.

- **IRTS 2008, para 2.22:**

The individual fulfills the concept of country of residence used in the national accounts (NA) and the balance of payments (BoP) and that of place of usual residence used in household statistics (see also Box 2.2 and 2.3, IRTS 2008).

Criteria to determine the usual environment



IRTS 2008 (para 2.21-2.28):

- Frequency of the trip (regular is excluded; daily shopping, school)
- Duration of the trip (one year or longer is excluded)
- The crossing of administrative or national borders (i.e. municipality)
- Distance from the place of usual residence (i.e. outside municipality)

Based on the prevalent habits of movements, it is **re-**
commended that each country define the precise meaning of
what is termed regular and frequent in the context of its
tourism statistics!

Measurement issues – main data sources



- **Border statistics:**

- ✓ Immigration controls
- ✓ E/D cards
- ✓ Border survey

Usually: **Not sufficient** to determine tourism flows (more traveler flows)!

- **Data from collective accommodation:**

- ✓ Administrative data (i.e. registration of guests)
- ✓ Surveys (i.e. business statistics)

Private paid accommodation?

- **Data from international transport:**

- ✓ TBoP
- ✓ Civil aviation statistics

- **Household surveys:**

- ✓ CATI
- ✓ CAPI

- **Surveys at “tourism” attractions (i.e. guest inquiries)**