



Revision of the manuals on tourism statistics

Developing National Systems of Tourism Statistics: Challenges and Good Practices
Regional Workshop for South East Asian countries, 16 – 19 June 2009



United Nations Statistics Division
Statistics of International Trade in Services Section



Outline

- **UNSD's role in tourism statistics**
- **United Nations Expert Group on Tourism Statistics (EGTS)**
- **Recommendations on Tourism Statistics (1994)**
- **Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework (2001)**

- It is an important task of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) to support establishing and developing of tourism statistics in close cooperation with UNWTO
- The first milestone of the work was the drafting of the **Recommendations on Tourism Statistics** which was adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 1993

Need for developing tourism statistics in the eighties

- In the 1980s, there was an increased overall awareness of the importance of tourism and its interdependence with other economic and social activities.
- A revision process was developed in two main directions:
 - modifications to the definitions and classifications used to make them compatible with national and international statistical systems;
 - to take steps towards to integrate tourism to the analytical framework of national accounts.

- The “**Recommendations on Tourism Statistics**” was adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 1993 representing the first international set of recommendations designed to determine the basic foundations of a system of tourism statistics in terms of concepts, definitions, classifications and indicators. The set of definitions and classifications in the handbook reflected the work carried out by other international and regional organizations.

Application of the recommendations in countries

- In the following years, UNWTO intensified the promotion of the development of tourism statistics.
- Technical assistance to countries was strengthened by holding regional workshops and by missions to countries, and by producing technical manuals to provide guidance on the application of the recommendations.

Developing the Tourism Satellite Accounts

- UNWTO presented its work on proposed new international recommendations on measuring the economic impact of tourist, the Tourism Satellite Account in 1999.
- This proposal was reviewed by the Inter-secretariat Working Group and was the basis of the document that was endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its thirty first session in 2000: **Tourism Satellite Accounts: Recommended Methodological Framework.**

Update of international standards

- As a consequence of the update of the international statistical standards relevant to tourism statistics (the System of National Accounts 1993, the Balance of Payments Manual, fifth edition, Central Product Classification (CPC Ver. 1) and International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev. 3) and also the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2002 it was decided to revise the 1993 *Recommendations on Tourism Statistics*.

Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG)

- The revision process was carried out by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) on Tourism Statistics, created in 2004 at the request of the United Nations Statistical Commission. IACG identified issues where coordination was required.

Guiding criteria for ITRS

The concepts, definitions, classifications and indicators in ITRS were guided by the following criteria:

- Definitions and classifications should be of worldwide practical applicability to both developed and developing economies;
- They should also be:
 - Consistent with definitions and classifications used in national accounts, balance of payments, statistics of international trade in services, and household and migration statistics and also with the Central Product Classification (CPC) and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC);
 - Applicable for description and analysis of tourism at national and sub-national levels;
 - Conceptually coherent.

Tourism satellite account -- update

- In parallel with the drafting of the 2008 International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics, UNWTO and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Tourism Statistics (IACG on TS) were working on updating the 2000 Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework.
- The process focused on to reflect updated and new recommendations contained in IRTS 2008, the revised version of the 1993 System of National Accounts and the sixth edition of the Balance of Payment Manual.

World wide consultation

In order to ensure that all interested parties express their opinion on the manuals world wide consultation was held in May and June 2007.

The United Nations Expert Group on Tourism Statistics (EGTS) was jointly organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) being composed of representatives of national statistical offices, national tourism administrations and international organizations.

- Expert Group meeting (25 - 28 June 2007) in New York.
- Main purpose of the meeting
 - review,
 - amend and
 - endorsethe provisional draft of International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics

- The draft IRTS that was presented at the meeting was the outcome of different initiatives carried out by UNSD and UNWTO regarding the revision of the 1993 Recommendations on Tourism Statistics:
- The Provisional Draft of IRTS was subject to worldwide consultation during the period May-June 2007.

The Group discussed the first draft of the updated *The Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework* manual.

- It was agreed that a second draft of TSA: RMF was prepared by UNWTO and posted on the UNWTO website by mid September 2007

The manuals were adopted at the thirty-ninth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission for adoption (26-29 February 2008).

They are available in white-cover (edited) version in pdf format at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/tourism.htm>