

Tourism Statistics: Challenges and Good Practices

Regional Workshop for South East Asian countries

Basic concepts and definitions: travel and tourism

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Definitions from IRTS 2008

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.



Visitor/non visitor: Find out?

- 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 (the place) en-route to other country (place)
- 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: the place visited that is central to the decision to take the trip

International Travel vs. International Tourism (IRTS)

- International Travel
 - All displacements that do not convert the international traveler into a resident
 - Border controls: by nationality
 - Treatment of students and patients, even long term
 - No special treatment of short term workers
- 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??

4. Basic concepts and definitions: travel and tourism

- 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)
- 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.
- 2.22. It is a characteristic attached exclusively to an individual that complements the concept of country of residence used in the national accounts and the balance of payments and that of place of usual residence used in household statistics



Criteria to determine the usual environment

IRTS 2008

- Frequency of the trip
- Duration of the trip
- The crossing of administrative or national borders
- Distance from the place of usual residence



Measurements issue:

- Main sources:

- Border statistics:

- Immigration controls
 - E/D cards
 - Border survey

Usually: Not sufficient to determine tourism flows

- Controls at collective accommodation

- Administrative data
 - Surveys

- Data from International transport

- Household surveys

- Surveys at “tourism” attractions

