



United Kingdom – International Passenger Survey

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Introduction

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History

- Introduced 1961
- Aims:
 - Balance of Payments
 - Migration
 - Tourism data
- Data relates to international tourism
 - UK residents' visits to countries outside the UK
 - Foreign residents' visits to the UK
- Includes day trips

History

- Initially only at Heathrow, Gatwick and Dover
- Gradually expanded to all major air and sea ports
- 1994 Tunnel
- 1999 Irish routes

Sample

- Airports

- Main

- Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Stansted

- Residual

- Bristol, Cardiff, Birmingham Main and Eurohub, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Nottingham East Midlands, Newcastle, London City, Leeds/Bradford, Liverpool, Luton, Prestwick

- Seaports

- Dover, Harwich, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Newcastle, Hull, Holyhead, Pembroke, Fishguard

- Tunnel

- Eurotunnel

- Cheriton

- Eurostar

- Waterloo, Ashford

Sample

- Generally cover
 - Airports with 250,000 international passengers per quarter
 - Seaports with 50,000 passengers per quarter
- Results in around 95% of all international passengers being eligible for sampling
- On average 1:500 passengers are selected for interview
- Sample is designed to be representative over a quarter

Sample

- Airports
 - Time slots covered (generally between 06.00 and 23.00)
 - Balance of times of the week and times of the day to get days of the week and weekend, and morning/afternoon shifts to be representative
- Seaports
 - Routes sampled (throughout the day and night)
 - Again balance of night time, morning and afternoon routes as well as days of the week
- Tunnel
 - Eurotunnel (throughout the day and night)
 - Trains sampled to obtain a balance of times of the day and days of the week
 - Eurostar (generally between 07.00 and 20.30)
 - Time slots sampled as with airports

Fieldwork

- Interview all sampled passengers but, in the main, use only data on UK residents arriving in the UK and Foreign residents departing UK
- Enables analysis to be based on what has happened rather than intentions
- Migrants are identified on the reverse routes i.e. via their intended length of stay
- Although information collected on paper by interview, data is keyed on shift. This allows some basic editing to be done while interviewers may still remember the interview

Fieldwork

- Questions asked include:
 - Foreign Residents
 - Country of residence and nationality
 - Date of arrival
 - Reason for visit
 - Holiday/pleasure
 - Visiting family/friends
 - Business
 - Study
 - Au pair
 - Personal shopping
 - Medical treatment
 - Transit
 - Spend in the UK
 - Places stayed overnight and type of accommodation stayed in
 - UK residents
 - Nationality
 - Place of residence
 - Main country visited
 - Date of departure
 - Reason for visit
 - Holiday/pleasure
 - Visiting family/friends
 - Business
 - Study
 - Au pair
 - Personal shopping
 - Medical treatment
 - Getting married
 - Cruise
 - Transit
 - Spend outside the UK
 - Spend on alcohol and tobacco

Fieldwork issues

- Not all time periods are covered
- Not all ports or routes covered
- Land border between Northern Ireland and Irish Republic not included
- Cruise data for UK residents on cruises starting and ending in the UK is not collected
- Definitions used exclude particular information
 - Only relate to information collected on UK residents to the country visited for the longest period of time. Issue of expenditure in two or more countries
 - Expenditure by foreign residents in regions of the UK not collected but calculated by proportional length of stay in those regions
- Only collect information on towns and accommodation stayed in from foreign residents for five places. Therefore may not be complete.

Weighting and other processing

- Some editing and coding done in-house (manually)
- Imputation of missing values carried out. This includes regional expenditure (electronically)
- Includes imputation of expenditure for package holidays
- Data weighted to total traffic data supplied by other organisations
 - Main airports – survey data is weighted to traffic at each airport
 - Residual airports – survey data for airports in a region are weighted to total passenger data for that region
 - Seaports – seaports are grouped together and survey data for that group is weighted to the passenger data for that group
 - Tunnel – survey data is weighted to the passenger data through the tunnel

Issues with weighting and other processing

- Not all passenger figures available for monthly processing thus requires revision to figures
- Do not interview out-of-hours and therefore need to adjust weights to account for this.
- After weighting, the numbers of passengers arriving and departing are different (known as imbalance). Further adjustment made to narrow this gap.

Issues with weighting and other processing

- Missing data taken account of by data from other sources.
 - Land border crossing between Northern Ireland and Irish Republic. Data from CSO Dublin used.
 - Expenditure in Channel Islands. Information obtained from these sources to supplement IPS data. This is because in the main Channel Island routes are not covered and the information is required for Balance of Payments purposes. Channel Islands (and Isle of Man) are treated differently for tourism and Balance of Payments purposes.
 - If train fare covers rail travel on UK and continent, information is obtained from British Rail to remove the UK element
 - Cruise information not collected for UK residents on UK to UK cruises. Additional information drawn from elsewhere and used to supplement IPS data.

Outputs

- Monthly
 - Overseas Travel and Tourism First Release
 - <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8168&More=N>
- Quarterly
 - Overseas Travel and Tourism MQ6
 - <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1905&More=N>
 - Travelpac (a dataset for analysis with limited variables)
 - <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14013>
- Annual
 - Travel Trends
 - <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1391&More=n>
 - Travelpac
 - <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14013>



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