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Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Additional Temporary Mobility Indicators (PA1)

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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



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Policy Area 1

Improve the measurement of international migration (core) and temporary mobility (additional) stocks and flows

- *Flows* provide evidence for policies on entry and exits
- International mobility data should distinguish between business travellers, tourists and other travellers
- Important to understand the flows in either direction, whether foreign or national citizens and if the former, what type of permits have been given which enable certain entitlements
- *Stock* refer to size, characteristics and distribution of temporary populations
- With necessary disaggregation it can be used to inform various policy areas and size of emigrant populations



In the context of international temporary mobility (not reaching the threshold for change in place of usual residence) the following indicators are recommended

- Size of foreigners temporarily in the country for many reasons but mostly of cross border employment, education, health or asylum seekers in transit (1.6 Stock)
- The first two *flow* indicators (1.7 and 1.8) deal with annual flow and average duration of stay of foreigners entering the country temporarily by reason for entry.
- The flows are short terms and as indicated, do not impact the resident population
- 1.9 indicates the *flows* of foreign and national citizens departing the country temporarily.



Data sources for temporary mobility

- Measuring this type of mobility can be more challenging than that of international migration
- All instances of people crossing a border that do not meet the threshold for international migration are temporary mobility and these can be related to
 - Labour market
 - Education or training
 - Health or Medical services
 - Asylum seekers in transit
- People in the country for tourism or business are excluded from this category since they are measured through the framework on tourism statistics
- The stocks and flows described previously should be disaggregated by age, sex and duration of stay (absence).



Indicators	Types of data needed	Main data sources	Other potential data sources
<p>TMI 1.6 Number of foreign citizens temporarily present in the country (STOCK) who are:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cross-border workers -Engaged in seasonal work -Other types of employment -Engaged in training or education -Seeking health-related treatments -Asylum seekers/refugees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Border records -Visa records -Foreign students records -Foreign seasonal employment records -Health records -Asylum seekers/refugees records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Population census (if collects data on foreigners who were present but not residing in the country) -Population census collecting information on place of residence and place of work/study -Mobile positioning data

<p>TMI 1.7 Number of national citizens temporarily absent from the country who are:</p>	<p>(a) cross-border workers</p> <p>(b) engaged in seasonal work</p> <p>© Other types of employment</p> <p>(d) Engaged in training or education</p> <p>(e) Seeking health-related treatments</p>	<p>-Border records</p> <p>-passenger surveys</p> <p>-Mobile positioning data</p> <p>-Data from other countries</p>	
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<p>TMI 1.8 Annual number of foreign citizens entering the country temporarily (FLOW) for:</p>	<p>(a) cross-border workers</p> <p>(b) engaged in seasonal work</p> <p>(c) other types of employment</p> <p>(d) engaged in training or education</p> <p>(e) seeking health-related treatments</p> <p>(f) asylum seekers/refugees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Border records - Visa records - Foreign students records - Foreign seasonal employment records - Health records - Asylum seekers/refugees records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population census (if collects data on foreigners who were present but not residing in the country) - Population census collecting information on place of residence and place of work/study - Mobile positioning data
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TMI 1.9 Annual number of residents departing the country for temporary stays abroad (FLOW) who are:

- Foreign citizens
- Citizen population

-Border records
-Passenger surveys
-Mobile positioning data
-Data from other countries

- Although Census can be used for measuring temporary mobility particularly when reasons for movement are asked the main disadvantage is that it is conducted every 10 years and dynamic of temporary mobility change on a daily basis
- Additional questions may be required on temporary absence to capture outflows along with their details of where, why and for how long?
- Often Census questionnaires end when a respondent declares him/herself as a member of the non-resident population. This should not be the case and further questions related to the 4 main reason identified earlier should be asked
- From administrative records the ideal would be to integrate data from various databases dealing with permits or flows into or out of the country with temporary intent.
- How this is operationalised depends on country contexts and on overcoming challenges such as completeness, double counting and overlapping from various sources



- Temporary mobility should cover all movements into a country that are not classified as international migration and border records are important in this case
- Such data should be collected equally from foreigners as well as national citizens who were temporarily absent
- If additional data such as embarkation cards or travel surveys are conducted, those can be considered too

Temporary mobile persons can be;

- Seasonal or short terms workers
- International commuters who cross borders daily or weekly
- People on educational programs that last less than the period required to be an international migrant
- People entering for health care will have only some captured in a health register
- Tourists are captured in their hotels as part of tourism statistics (not TM)
- Asylum seekers until they have stayed the required period to be migrants even if their claim has not been adjudicated yet



We can estimate flows via the above approach but stocks can only be estimated where Census is able to discern between migrants and temporary mobile population.

Onset of social media, mobile telephony, airline databases and other big data such as search engines present us with the opportunity to track people on the move.

We still need methodological expertise to see how big data can be used to generate population stocks and flows of temporary mobility for the purpose of official statistics.

