

## **Introduction:**

Sri Lanka is an Island and having only one International airport. About 99.9 per cent of international visitors are coming to Sri Lanka by air and the balance 0.1 per cent of visitors coming by sea. Tourist arrivals and departure data are capturing from the E/D cards manually.

## **Hotel Statistics**

Data on Hotel statistics are collected monthly by sending forms to graded and ungraded establishments such as tourist's hotels, Guesthouses and rest houses etc. The data is compiling and publishing monthly and annually. The details of the information are collected as follows:

No. of rooms available for sale & no. of rooms occupied, no. of foreign guest nights, no. of local guest nights, room occupancy, etc.

## **Employment Statistics:**

Employment statistics are collected from all establishments such as Hotels, Guesthouses, Rest houses, Restaurants, Tourists shops, Travel Agents, recreational establishments who have registered with the tourists board (NTO) by sending forms. Compiling data under three categories such as Managerial, Technical, clerical allied & supervisory and Manual & Operative levels.

## **Foreign Exchange Earnings**

Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourism are compiled by the Research & Planning Division of the Sri Lanka Tourist Board from the administrative records.

The sources of data collection are from the establishments such as hotels, Guest Houses, Rest houses, Restaurants, Travel agents, Tourist Shops, Gem Corporation and the Commercial Banks. These establishments (Other than the banks) have been issued with permits by the Central Bank. Holders of these permits are allowed to accept foreign currencies and travelers cheques directly from tourists. Permit holders are also expected to deposit their foreign exchange earnings from tourism into a bank account within three days of receipt. They are also expected to provide to the central bank a certified statement, monthly, of all receipts in foreign exchange. The Sri Lanka Tourist Board gets a copy of these statements for compiling data. Direct encashment at Commercial Banks are also included in arriving at the foreign exchange receipts from tourism.

**Issues:**

- Low responses , not complete coverage
- F.Ex earnings from tourism mixed with private foreign remittances (Sri Lankan working abroad)
- Manual data capturing need to be mechanization in order to speed up the process but unable to found the suitable / appropriate tool to do it. If there is any possibilities the UNWTO will recommend such suitable tools to capture data from E/D cards and concentrate on developing standard computer softwares for tourism survey data entry, analyses etc

Web site for Sri Lanka Tourism Statistics: [\*\*www. sltbstatistics.org\*\*](http://www.sltbstatistics.org)