International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008 and the Compilation Guide

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Statistics of International Trade in Services Section

- **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)**

Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG)

- The revision of the 1993 International Recommendation on Tourism Statistics 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.

The concepts, definitions, classifications and indicators in IRTS 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.

The manual consists of the following chapters:

1. Development and needs for tourism statistics

2. The demand perspective: basic concepts and definitions (including travel vs tourism, international and domestic tourism, measuring the flow of visitors)

3. The demand perspective: characterization of visitors and tourism trips

The manual consists of the following chapters:

4. The demand perspective: tourism expenditure (timing, categories, classification, measurement)

5. Classification of products and production activities for tourism

6. The supply perspective (statistical unit, characterization of tourism industries, measurement)

The manual consists of the following chapters:

7. Employment in the tourism industries (definition, characteristics of employment, measurement)

8. Understanding tourism in its relationship with other macroeconomic frameworks (TSA, BoP, tourism and sustainability)

9. Supplementary topics (quality, metadata, dissemination, implementation programme)

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

It is available in all UN languages at

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/tourism/Methodology.htm

Compilation Guide for IRTS 2008

The UN Expert Group was working with experts to develop a Compilation Guide for the manual covering the chapters in the manual with practical recommendations and country examples.

The Compilation Guide was presented and adopted by the UN Statistical Commission at its session in March 2014.

It is available in unedited draft version in English at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc14/BG-Tourism.pdf