

Statistics on Tourism
Some Basic Concepts and Methodological Remarks

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Method for calculation of price index on tourism

The index of tourist prices express the average changes in services and commodities consumed by foreign tourists. The price data come from the survey on consumer prices and the weighting data are based on a special sample survey on spending of tourists.

This "basket" contains 50 items (commodities and services) in the following 9 main groups:

- accomodation
- restaurants
- food products
- clothings and footwear
- other manufactured goods
- pharmaceutical products
- transport fares
- healt, cultural and sport services
- others

The weighting data are collected by interviews of 20 000 foreign tourist. Interviews are carried out by students knowing foreign languages. Visitors are asked about their nationality, the lenght of stay, the type of accomodation they have, how much money they spent and what tey bought the previous day.

The data collected are to be divided into several subgroups according to

- the nationality of person
- the type of accomodation
- the length of stay
- the holiday site (Budapest, Lake Balaton, other places)

In this way we gain relatively homogenous categories in the point of view of spending. The breakdown of consumer price statistics is detailed enough, so we can easily select the suitable price index for each spending category. It is thought, that the stucture of foreign tourists and their spending is stable, so this sample survey is to planned in every fourth year.

STATISTICS ON TOURISM

SOME BASIC CONCEPTS AND METHODOLOGICAL REMARKS

Definitions used in Hungarian tourism statistics are in conformity with those used by WTO /World Tourism Organization/ as recommended by the United Nations Conference on International Travel and Tourism, Rome 1963.

The present chapter includes definitions and methodological remarks required for a uniform interpretation and comparability.

Information on international tourism is obtained by two methods. The number of foreigners visiting Hungary by nationality and mode of transport, further on the number of Hungarians travelling abroad by mode of transport are available from full-range countings at each frontier points. Sample surveys are used to collect data on the characteristic features of passengers. This approach can furnish reliable estimates on aspects of tourism statistics such as:

- characteristics of arrivals /visitors, tourists, excursionists, transit visitors^{x/}/
- purpose of visits
- length of stay

VISITOR

any person visiting a locality /country/ other than that in which he has his usual residence, for any reason other than following an occupation remunerated from within the locality /country/ visited.

TOURIST

visitor staying more than twenty-four hours in locality /country/ visited

EXCURSIONIST

visitor staying less than twenty-four hours in locality /country/ visited.

^{x/} Travellers who, in legal sense do not enter the country /air travellers who do not leave an airport's transit area/ are excluded.

TRANSIT VISITOR^x

foreign visitor who cross the country and whose stay lasts more or less than 24 hours

MODE OF TRANSPORT

frontier arrivals, Hungarians visiting abroad or participating in domestic tourism are classified according to the mode of transport such as: road, rail, water way and air.

GROUPS OF COUNTRIES

classification of countries according to their social and political system, respectively by sort of foreign exchanges used in recording of payments of the international tourism.

SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

are: Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland, German Democratic Republic, Rumania, Soviet Union, People's Republic of China, Korean People's Democratic Republic, Cuba, Mongolia, Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

NON-SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

all countries not listed above.

Rouble-accounting countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, German Democratic Republic, Rumania, Soviet Union, People's Republic of China, Korean People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Cuba.

Non-Rouble-accounting countries: all countries not listed above.

INTERNATIONAL TOURISM PAYMENTS

International tourism receipts and expenditures appearing in balance of international payments.

DOMESTIC TOURISM

this is tourism performed by the inland population within the frontiers of the country. Statistics on domestic tourism relate only to persons staying in public accommodations, in recreation accommodations and in youth camping sites.

^{x/} Travellers who, in legal sense do not enter the country /air travellers who do not leave an airport's transit area/ are excluded.

ACCOMMODATION ESTABLISHMENTS

public accommodation establishments:

units offering accommodations and related services all the year round or in certain period, available for everybody and staying on a professional basis /hotels, inns, holiday villages, boarding-houses, camping sites, private room service^{xx}/.

recreation accommodations:

units being available only for people holding an assignment. There are: convalescent homes, recreation houses, weekend rest-houses, supplementary recreation accommodations, and tent camps.

/Rooms, flats, cottages let by the inhabitant directly without the assistance of travel agencies tourist offices of other official bodies are excluded. From 1980 data on public accommodation establishments are published according to the new classification./

ORGANIZED TOURISM

participants of tours /individuals of groups/ managed by travel agencies, tourist offices /in present volume data relate not only to the following travel agencies: IBUSZ Rt, EXPRESS /travel agency for young people/, MALEV AIR TOURS, VOLAN and COOPTOURIST/ but to the whole organized tourism.