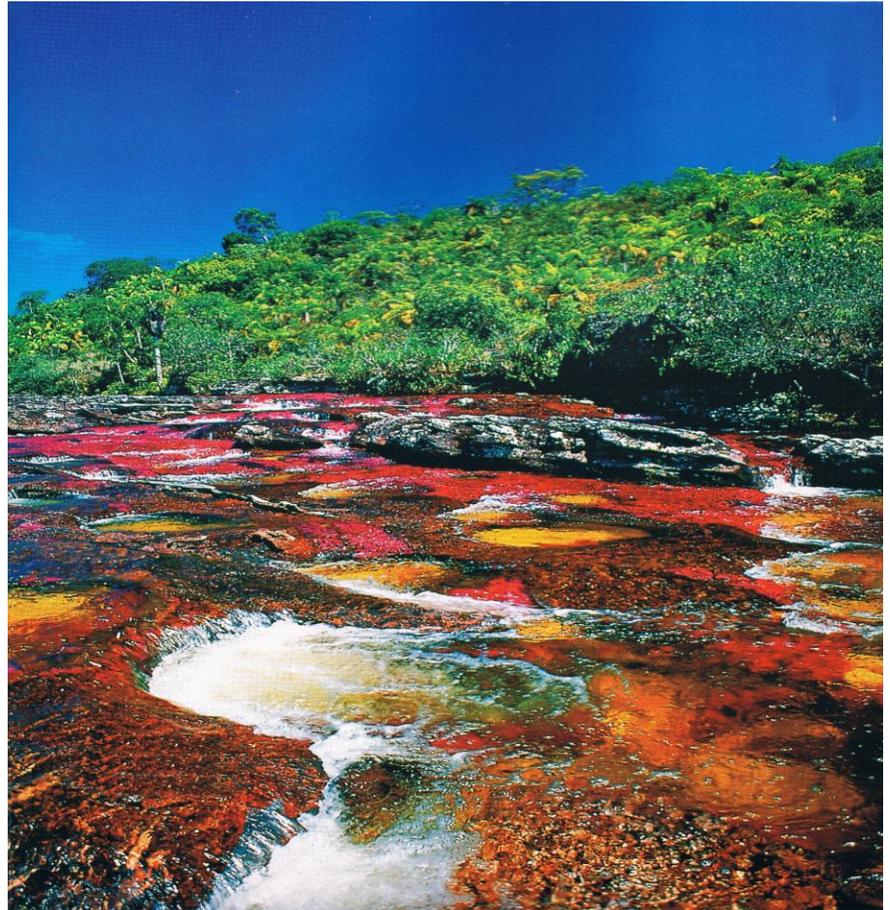




# IRTS 2008

## An overview



Regional WorkShop on Travel and  
International Tourism Consumption  
Organized by UNSD with UNWTO and Caricom  
14-17 Mayo 2013  
Dominica

# Content

- Definition of tourism
- Background: historical development of tourism statistics
- Structure of the IRTS 2008
- Main differences with previous recommendations
- Travel and tourism

# Tourism: definition

According to the actual definitions, tourism statistics identify tourism as “the activities of **travellers** taking trips to a main destination **outside their usual environment** for less than one year for any main purpose (business, leisure and other personal) **other than to be employed by a resident entity in the place visited**”, where usual environment is defined as the geographical area (though not necessarily a contiguous one) within which an individual conducts his or her regular life routines.

Such travellers are called **visitors**.

Visitors are further classified in two ways:

- (a) Either, according to length of stay, as tourists, who stay for at least one night in the place visited, or as same-day visitors, whose visit does not include an overnight stay;
- (b) Or, according to the country visited, as international visitors, when their country of residence is different from the country visited, or as domestic visitors, when their country of residence is the country visited.

# Background: historical development of tourism statistics

- From 1937 with the first definition of an international tourist for statistical purposes (Council of the Leagues of Nations) until 1978 «*Provisional guidelines on statistics on international tourism*», tourism statistics had a development on its own
- Since the 1980's and in particular 1983, process of revision of definitions and classifications by UNWTO in close cooperation with UNSD in order to make tourism statistics compatible and consistent with other national and international statistical systems;
- 1991: the International Conference on Travel and Tourism statistics in Ottawa (convened by UNWTO and the Government of Canada) discusses national experiences, revises the 1981 OECD *Manual on Tourism Economic Accounts* and emphasises the need to develop a system of tourism related data structurally integrated with the system of National Accounts;
- 1993: Recommendations on Tourism Statistics: the first international set of recommendations establishing the basic foundations of a system of tourism statistics
- 2000: The TSA Recommended Framework
- 2008 International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics; 2008 TSA Recommended Methodological Framework

# Structure and content of the IRTS 2008

- Chapter 1: Development and needs for tourism statistics
- Chapter 2: The demand perspective: basic concepts and definitions
- Chapter 3: The demand perspective: characterization of visitors and tourism trips
- Chapter 4: The demand perspective: tourism expenditure
- Chapter 5: Classification of products and productive activities for tourism
- Chapter 6: The supply perspective
- Chapter 7: Employment in the tourism industries
- Chapter 8: Understanding tourism in its relationship with other macroeconomic frameworks:
  - The TSA approach
  - Tourism and Balance of Payments
  - Measuring tourism at subnational levels
  - Tourism and sustainability
- Chapter 9: supplementary topics
  - Quality
  - Metadata
  - Dissemination
  - Inter-agency cooperation
  - Implementation programme and updating policy

# Main differences between the IRTS 2008 and previous recommendations

1. Improved definitions of tourism trips and visits;
2. Clarification regarding being employed by a resident unit in the place visited;
3. Definition of travel party/group;
4. Clarification of the scope of the usual environment;
5. Revised formulation of the definition of the different forms of tourism;
6. Revision of classifications of:
  - tourism related purposes of trips;
  - types of accommodation;
  - tourism characteristic products and activities
7. Review of the definition of tourism expenditure and tourism consumption
8. Clarification of the relationship between forms of tourism and categories of tourism expenditure /tourism consumption
9. Employment in the tourism industries
10. Clarification of the link with Balance of Payments statistics

# The link between travel and tourism: a crucial topic in the recommendations

- In the first times of the development of tourism statistics, travel and tourism were used as equivalents;
- Some countries (case of the US) and organizations (case of WTTC) still speak of «travel and tourism» as a global concept including both travel and tourism;
- IRTS 2008 focusses on stressing the differences between travel and tourism, which appears in the following sections:
  - Ch. 2. The demand perspective: basic concepts and definitions (contrasting travellers and visitors)
  - Ch. 8: Understanding tourism in its relationship with other macroeconomic frameworks, section B (Tourism and Balance of Payments), Box 8.1 and figure 8.1 (Bridge table between the «travel» and «passenger international transportation services» items of Balance of Payments and inbound/outbound tourism expenditure) (reproduced in the MSITS 2010).



**Thank you!**

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