Tourism

Methodological and explanatory notes

1 Visitor entries in Spain

The Tourism Studies Institute has issued statistics on Tourist Movement at Borders (Frontur) since 1996. It comprises short-term information which makes it possible to ascertain on a monthly basis the evolution of the entry of visitors into Spain via different border crossings.

Frontur statistics are issued at monthly intervals, using a combined system in order to obtain results: records of an administrative nature (Spanish Traffic Authority, AENA (Spanish Airports and Air Navigation), State ports and RENFE (Spanish National Railway Network)), calculations of entry via road border crossings and, lastly, a sample survey (in the case of roads and airports).

All persons travelling to a place other than their usual place of residence are regarded as visitors, whether within or outside their country of residence, for a duration of less than twelve months, and whose primary purpose is not to carry out paid activities in the place visited.

The distinction between the two possible categories of visitor (tourist / same-day visitor) is solely in response to the criterion overnight stays in places visited: at least one, in the former case, and none in the latter case.

2 Hotel Occupancy Survey

The different data presented refers to the Hotel Occupancy Survey issued by the INE.

Some of the basic definitions used in the survey are:

– **Guest:** a person staying one or more nights in the same accommodation.

– **Hotel bedplaces:** these are defined as the number of fixed beds. Double beds provide two bedplaces, and supplementary beds are not included.

– **Overnight stay**: occupancy by one person of a bedplace or a supplementary bed during one day at a hotel and at the same establishment.

– **Occupancy rate by capacity:** relationship, as a percentage, between the total number of overnight stays and the product of the vacancies by the days the overnight stays refer to, including supplementary beds.

– **Price:** the price in euros of a double ensuite room, not including breakfast or VAT.

–**Anticipated occupancy rate by room:** this involves ascertaining the percentage of rooms in the establishment expected to be occupied during the second and third month following the reference month. For example, if the survey corresponds to the month of January, information on the months of March and April is requested.

As a framework for the selection of informant units, the directories of the Autonomous Communities' Tourist Boards are used. Research is carried out by means of a stratified probable sample, defining a double stratification, by province and hotel class. The sample is comprehensive except in those strata with a number of sufficiently large establishments for a systematic sample with a random start to be selected.

Data is collected in establishments solely for a period of seven consecutive days in each month; these periods have been systematically allocated to establishments in each stratum, such that among them all the days in the month are evenly covered. Since January 2005, a questionnaire has been included for first line hotels (3, 4, 5 gold stars), requesting monthly information on the total number of travellers and overnight stays, as well as the number of days the establishment has been open during said month.

The estimates of the variables: guests, overnight stays and average stay, number

of establishments open and estimated number of bedplaces according to the

survey, occupancy rate by bedplace and by room and employed personnel will be obtained from this monthly information, as well as from the data that appears in the traditional questionnaire referring to a specific week.

Consequently, data published as of January 2006 cannot be directly compared with that published up to December 2005, and in order to make this comparison easier, link coefficients have been created to allow users to compare data from different years.

As a general note, it is worth noting that since January 1990, and in accordance with EU guidelines, the country of residence of the guest, rather than the place of nationality, is established as the criterion regarding the place of origin.

3 Staff employed, by hotel class

Tourist Accommodation Occupancy Survey (hotel establishments) also gathers data on employment in the different establishments, distinguishing between permanent and temporary staff.

4 Income from and payments for tourism

This includes estimate figures by the Foreign Department of the Bank of Spain. These figures represent the so-called Tourism and Travel Balance of Payments Account.

For further information, please see the methodological notes in the *Balance of Payments publication* of the aforementioned Bank of Spain.

Online from the INE **(www.ine.es /en/welcome_en.htm)** server**,** in the corresponding INEbase section, the content of this chapter and any statistical subject may be examined in greater depth.