Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS)

Country: Greece

Compiling agency: ELSTAT

Domain name: Qualitative Characteristics of Resident Tourists (Vacation Survey)

| ELSTAT metadata |
|------------------------------------|
| Reference metadata |
| 1. Contact |
| 2. Introduction |
| 3. Metadata update |
| 4. Statistical presentation |
| 5. Unit of measure |
| 6. Reference period |
| 7. Institutional mandate |
| 8. Confidentiality |
| 9. Release policy |
| 10. Frequency of dissemination |
| 11. Dissemination format |
| 12. Accessibility of documentation |
| 13. Quality management |
| 14. Relevance |
| 15. Accuracy and reliability |
| 16. Timeliness and punctuality |
| 17. Comparability |
| 18. Coherence |
| 19. Cost and burden |
| 20. Data revision |
| 21. Statistical processing |
| 22. Comment |

| 1. Contact | Тор |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1.1 Contact organisation | HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY (ELSTAT) |
| 100 11 11 11 | Division of Trade and Services Statistics (G4) |
| 1.2 Contact organisation unit | Tourism Statistics Unit (G43) |
| 1.3 Contact name | Dimitrios Stamou |
| 1.4 Contact person function | Employee at the Tourism Statistics Unit |
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2. Introduction Top

The Qualitative Characteristics of Resident Tourists Survey (Vacation Survey) is a yearly sampling survey conducted on households and refers to the number of holiday trips made by resident tourists. It covers national tourism, i.e. domestic and outbound tourism. The information on tourism demand concern trips (for the population aged 15 years and over) of which the main purpose of the trip is holidays, leisure or business and which involve at least one or more consecutive nights spent away from the usual place of residence.

| 3. Metadata update | <u>Top</u> |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| 3.1 Metadata last certified | March 2016 |
| 3.2 Metadata last posted | March 2016 |
| 3.3 Metadata last update | March 2016 |
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4. Statistical presentation

<u>Top</u>

4.1 Data description

The objective of the Qualitative characteristics of Resident Tourists (Vacation Survey) is a yearly sampling survey conducted on households and refers to the number of holiday trips made by resident tourists. It covers national tourism, i.e. domestic and outbound tourism. The information on tourism demand, concern trips (for the population aged 15 years and over) of which the main purpose is holidays, leisure or business and which involve at least one or more consecutive nights spent away from the usual place of residence. The survey results provide information on the characteristics of the resident tourists' vacation, such as the number of tourists, the number of trips, the overnight stays and the corresponding expenditure. These results are broken down by type of trip and characteristics of the trip (purpose, destination, transportation means and hotels establishment).

4.2 Classification system

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4.3 Sector coverage

The survey covers the characteristics of the trip, the nights spent, the purpose of the trip, the main way of transportation, the establishment used for the trip and the expenditure of the trip.

4.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

The definitions of the survey characteristics are laid down in Regulation (EU) No 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Further information on the definitions and the methodology of the survey are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/tourism/methodology/manuals-and-guidelines

4.5 Statistical unit

The statistical unit is:

Participation in tourism: individual

Tourism trips: the trip made by the individual

4.6 Statistical population

All the residents of Greece. Persons living in collective living quarters (hospitals, prisons, asylums, orphanages, etc) are not covered by the survey (corresponding to 2% of the total population and the vast majority belongs to the economically inactive population). All tourism trips of at least one overnight stay outside the usual environment, made by the resident population aged 15 and over.

4.7 Reference area

All territorities in Greece. Statistics are measured among all residents living in Greece. (NUTS 2).

4.8 Time coverage

Since 1999, both for serires on participation in tourism and for series on tourism trips.

More specifically, data are transmitted according to the Regulation 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council from 2012 onwards and according to Council Directive 95/57/EC on tourism statistics up to 2011.

4.9 Base period

Not applicable.

5. Unit of measure

Data is expressed in absolute values. Data for expediture is expressed in euros.

6. Reference period

Top

Year 2014.

7. Institutional mandate

Top

7.1 Legal acts and other agreements

The legal framework concerning the organization and operation of ELSTAT is available on the website of ELSTAT at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gr/en/legal-framework

- Regulation on the Operation and Administration of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), 2012, (Government Gazette No 2390, Issue B, 28-8-2012).
- Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, on the European statistics (Official Journal of the European Union L 87/164).
- > Article 14 of the Law 3470/2006 (Government Gazette No 132, Issue A): "National Export Council, tax regulations and other provisions".
- Article 3, paragraph 1c, of the Law 3448/2006 (Government Gazette No 57, Issue A): "For the further use of information coming from the public sector and the settlement of matters falling within the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization".
- ➤ European Statistics Code of Practice, adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005 and promulgated in the Commission Recommendation of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical Authorities, after its revision, which was adopted on 28 September 2011 by the European Statistical System Committee.
- Presidential Decree 226/2000 (Government Gazette No 195, Issue A): "Organization of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece".
- Articles 4, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Law 2392/1996 (Government Gazette No 60, Issue A): "Access of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece to administrative sources and administrative files, Statistical Confidentiality Committee, settlement of matters concerning the conduct of censuses and statistical works, as well as of matters of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece".

The survey is carried out according to the Regulation 692/2011 (EC).

7.2 Data sharing

Data are sent to Eurostat, OECD, WTO and UN.

8. Confidentiality

Top

8.1 Confidentiality policy

The confidentiality policy of ELSTAT is availiable on the website of ELSTAT at the following link: http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistical-confidentiality.

8.2 Confidentiality - data treatment

➤ ELSTAT protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units that have provided them by the disclosure of individual information directly received for statistical purposes or indirectly supplied from administrative or other sources. ELSTAT takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of

the statistical unit are disseminated by ELSTAT if and only if:

- a) these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS), in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or
- b) the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.
- The confidential data that are transmitted by ELSS agencies to ELSTAT are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task and appointed by an act of the President of ELSTAT.
- ➤ ELSTAT may grant researchers conducting statistical analyses for scientific purposes access to data that enable the indirect identification of the statistical units concerned. The access is granted provided the following conditions are satisfied:
 - a) an appropriate request together with a detailed research proposal in conformity with current scientific standards have been submitted:
 - b) the research proposal indicates in sufficient detail the set of data to be accessed, the methods of analyzing them, and the time needed for the research;
 - c) a contract specifying the conditions for access, the obligations of the researchers, the measures for respecting the confidentiality of statistical data and the sanctions in case of breach of these obligations has been signed by the individual researcher, by his/her institution, or by the organization commissioning the research, as the case may be, and by ELSTAT.
- Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the Statistical Confidentiality Committee (SCC) operating in ELSTAT. The responsibilities of this Committee are to make recommendations to the President of ELSTAT on:
 - the level of detail at which statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible;
 - the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users;
 - the granting to researchers access to confidential data for scientific purposes.
- ➤ The staff of ELSTAT, under any employment status, as well as the temporary survey workers who are employed for the collection of statistical data in statistical surveys conducted by ELSTAT, who acquire access by any means to confidential data, are bound by the principle of confidentiality and must use these data exclusively for the statistical purposes of ELSTAT. After the termination of their term of office, they are not allowed to use these data for any purpose.
- Violation of data confidentiality and/or statistical confidentiality by any civil servant or employee of ELSTAT constitutes the disciplinary offence of violation of duty and may be punished with the penalty of final dismissal.

ELSTAT, by its decision, may impose a penalty amounting from ten thousand (10,000) up to two hundred thousand (200,000) euros to anyone who violates the confidentiality of data and/or statistical confidentiality. The penalty is always imposed after the hearing of the defense of the person liable for the breach, depending on the gravity and the repercussions of the violation. Any relapse constitutes an aggravating factor for the assessment of the administrative sanction.

9. Release policy Top

9.1 Release calendar

A release calendar exists and is available on the website at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gr/en/calendar

9.2 Release calendar access

The release calendar is published on the webpage of ELSTAT: http://www.statistics.gr/en/calendar

9.3 User access

The data are made available to all users simultaneously, by posting the tables on the webpage of ELSTAT at: http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/STO15/2014

Equal access of users to data is governed by the European Statistics Code of Practice of Eurostat, by respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.

10. Frequency of dissemination

Top

The annual data are transmitted to Eurostat 180 days after the end of the reference year and are published on the website of ELSTAT.

11. Dissemination format

Top

11.1 News release

A press release is published for 2014 on the website of ELSTAT:

http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/STO15/2014

11.2 Publications

Tables of the survey are posted on the website of ELSTAT at:

http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/STO15/-.

Moreover, the survey results are published in the regular publications of ELSTAT, namely "Living Conditions in Greece" (http://www.statistics.gr/en/living-conditions-in-greece), "Greece in Figures"

(http://www.statistics.gr/en/greece-in-figures), as well as in a special publication issued for the Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF).

11.3 On-line database

There is no an on-line database.

Therefore, data are available at the web site of ELSTAT at the following http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/STO15/2014

Data are also available at the web site of Eurostat: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tourism

11.3.1 Data tables - consultations

Users' consultation as regards the survey on the Qualitative characteristics of Resident Tourists (Vacation Survey), amounts to 3.711 webpage hits. There is no possibility to make a distinction between user's consultations on data tables and user's consultation on metadata.

11.4 Micro-data access

Microdata are made available to users after their submitting a request to the:

Division of Statistical Information and Publications

46, Peiraios and Eponiton Str.,

18510 Piraeus

Tel: +30 213 135 2022 Fax: +30 213 135 2312

e-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr

Confidentiality of data is always ensured. More details on this issue are available on the website of ELSTAT at the following link: http://www.statistics.gr/en/scientific_provision_data

11.5 Other

Brief overview of the main additional national indicators (e.g. coverage of age groups outside the scope of the Regulation; same-day visits; activities during the visit; etc...). This can also include information from other sources, as long as it is published as official statistics by the NSI or equivalent ESS partner.

11.5.1 Metadata - consultations

There is no possibility to make a distinction between user's consultations on data tables and user's consultation on metadata. (see 11.3.1).

12. Accessibility of documentation

Top

12.1 Documentation on methodology

Methodological note is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/tourism/methodology/manuals-and-guidelines

12.1.1 Metadata completeness - rate

Metadata completeness as regards the applicable fields amounts to 100%.

12.2 Quality documentation

Several quality tools have been developed in order to improve the quality of the statistical processes and data, according to the European Statistical System.

13. Quality management

Top

13.1 Quality assurance

Data are collected and compiled in line with Regulation 692/2011 and the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The quality assurance is ensured by the quality policy of EL.STAT: http://www.statistics.gr/en/policies.

13.2 Quality assessment

All the checks, crosschecks and comparisons of data taking place at each stage of the production- where any identified errors are duly corrected- ensure that the produced results are considered high quality results. Moreover, the tool EDIT/EBB is used for the validation of the data.

14. Relevance Top

14.1 User needs

The main users of the survey are:

- The Ministry which is responsible for Tourism (drawing policy on tourism)
- Agencies that elaborate and compile studies and researches, such as the Bank of Greece, the Institute for Tourism Research and Forecasts (ITEP), universities, etc.
- Local Government
- Enterprises, individual users (for investing in tourism or other issues.)

14.2 User satisfaction

For every data request, users have to fill in a questionnaire on user satisfaction.

More information on the latest results of the User Satisfaction Survey are available by the Section of Dissemination of Statistical Information at: http://www.statistics.gr/en/user-satisfaction-survey

14.3 Completeness

All the information required in the Regulation 692/2011 is collected and taking into account the recommendations included in the Metodological Manual for tourism statistics.

15. Accuracy and reliability

Top

15.1 Overall accuracy

Overall accuracy of the survey data is good. The concepts and definitions of variables, as well as the survey methodology are in line with European standards and Regulation. The estimations methods which are used ensure the production of accurate results. Furthermore, an ESTAT tool (EDIT- EBB) is used to check and validate data.

15.2 Sampling error

There are sampling errors, as follows:

Number of residents, aged 15 or over, having made at least 1 trip (for personal purpose) of at least 1 overnight stay,

Age group Estimated value CV 15+ 3.578.664 2,5%

| 65 + | 521.639 | 4,6% | |
|-------|-----------|------|--|
| 15-24 | 470.273 | 6,1% | |
| 25-34 | 623.703 | 5,1% | |
| 35-44 | 809.748 | 4,3% | |
| 45-54 | 666.262 | 4,3% | |
| 55-64 | 487.039 | 4,3% | |
| 65 + | 521.639 | 4,6% | |
| 25-44 | 1.433.451 | 3,6% | |
| 45-64 | 1.153.302 | 3,2% | |
| | | | |

Number of domestic trips during the reference year (personal & professional purpose)

Age group Estimated value CV

15+ 5.621.981 3,2%

Number of outbound trips during the reference year (personal & professional purpose)

Age group Estimated value CV

15+ 712.481 6,2%

Number of trips for private/personal purpose (domestic &

outbound)

Age group Estimated value CV

15+ 5.971.715 3,0%

Number of trips for professional/business purpose (domestic &

outbound)

Age group Estimated value CV 15+ 362.747 9,9%

Number of domestic trips spent at rented accommodation during

the reference year

Age group Estimated value CV 15+ 3.212.107 3,8%

Number of domestic trips spent at non-rented accommodation

during the reference year

Age group Estimated value CV 15+ 2.409.874 4,9%

Total expenditure of tourist during the reference year
Age group Estimated value CV
15+ 1.834.994.645 3,0%

Expenditure of tourist on accommodation during the reference

year

Age group Estimated value CV 15+ 315.047.717 4,3%

15.3 Non-sampling error

Non sampling errors are mainly due to:

- 1. coverage errors,
- 2. measurement errors,
- 3. non-response errors and
- 4. processing errors.

No coverage and over-coverage error are observed.

In order to eliminate measurements errors, the following steps are taken:

- Instructions, on how to fill in the survey questionnaire, are given to the external statistical interviewers
- the staff of the Tourism Statistics Unit is duly trained in order to correct properly the questionnaires
- automated checks during data entry ensured by an electronic application.

Part of the number of selected households/individuals did not reply to the questionnaire of the survey. In order to eliminate the non-response error, several phone calls were made to the households and a reminder letter was sent to all the surveyed households, outling the scope and the legal basis of the survey, as well as the obligation of fulfiling the questionnaire of the survey.

During the processing error stage, qualitative and quantitative checks are conducted on the data of the database in order to detect and duly correct errors during the data entry.

Finally, no imputation technics are applied to the survey.

15.3.1 Coverage error

No coverage error is observed.

15.3.1.1 Over-coverage – rate

No over-coverage is observed.

15.3.1.2 Common units - proportion

Not applicable. The data are collected from administrative sources.

15.3.2 Measurement error

In order to eliminate measurements errors, the following steps are taken:

- Instructions are given to the external interviewers on how to fill in the survey questionnaire
- The staff of the Tourism Statistics Section is duly trained in order to correct properly the questionnaires
- Automated checks during data entry ensured by an electronic application.

15.3.3 Non response error

Non- response error amounts to 13,5%

15.3.4 Processing error

Qualitative and quantitative checks are conducted on the data of the database in order to detect and duly correct errors during data entry.

15.3.5 Model assumption error

No model.

16. Timeliness and punctuality

Top

16.1 Timeliness

According to the regulation 692/2011, annual data on participation in tourism for personal pruposes and micro-data on tourism trips and visitors making the trips, should be sent 6 months after the reference period.

16.2 Punctuality

The survey data were published with a short delay of 33 days.

17. Comparability

Top

17.1 Comparability - geographical

The available data are comparable with the corresponding data of the other EU Member States, since the survey is conducted in compliance with EU Regulation 692/2011. The survey fulfils the geographical comparability because the sample is representative of all regions of the country.

17.1.1 Assymetry for mirror flows statistics - coefficient

Not applicable.

17.2 Comparability over time

Data are comparable from 1999 onwards.

18. Coherence Top

18.1 Coherence cross-domain

The survey data are coherent with the corresponding data of the Household Budget Survey (HBS). Moreover, data from demand side are compared with other two sources. In particular, data on the outbound flows (overnights and trips) are compared with data from Bank of Greece, whereas data on domestic overnights spent in rented accommodation are compared with data from supply side on nights spent by resident in Greece in collective accommodation.

18.1.1 Coherence – sub annual and annual statistics

The survey data are coherent with the corresponding data of the Household Budget Survey (HBS). Not applicable, the survey produces only annual data.

18.1.2 Coherence - National Accounts

The survey data are used from year 2013 onwards.

18.2 Coherence - internal

The data are characterized by internal coherence. The same definitions, database and methodology are used.

19. Cost and burden Top

Total cost and burden have not been estimated. The survey is conducted by external interviewers and the average time need for filling each questionnaire is approximately 20 minutes. The annual budget of the survey amounts to approximately 90.000 euros.

20. Data revision

20.1 Revision policy

The data are revised, when necessary, in accordance with the Circular on the Revision Policy of ELSTAT, which is available at the following link: http://www.statistics.gr/en/policies.

20.2 Revision practice

Data were not revised for 2014.

21. Statistical processing

Top

21.1 Source data

The survey is a sample survey and it is conducted on a yearly basis, on a sample of 8771 households (consisting of approximately 20.173 persons). For each household a questionnaire is filled in pertaining to all the trips made by each household member during the reference year.

21.2 Frequency of data collection

Annually

21.3 Data collection

The two-stage area sampling was adopted for the survey. The primary units are the areas (one or more unified blocks) and the ultimate sampling units selected in each sampling area are the households. In each Region (NUTS 2), the stratification of primary units was conducted by allocating the Municipalities and Communes according to the degree of urbanization (urban, semi-urban, and rural regions). Except for the two former Major City Agglomerations (Athens and Thessaloniki), the produced strata according to the degree of urbanization are:

- 1. Urban: Municipalities with 10.000 inhabitants or more.
- 2. Semi-urban: Municipalities and Communes with 2.000 to 9.999 inhabitants.
- 3. Rural :Communes up to 1.999 inhabitants.

The former Greater Athens Area was divided into 31 strata of about equal size (equal number of households) on the basis of the lists of city blocks of the Municipalities that constitute it and taking into consideration socio-economic criteria. Similarly, the former Greater Thessaloniki Area was divided into 9 equally sized strata. The two Major City Agglomerations account for 40% of total population and for even larger percentages in certain socio-economic variables.

21.4 Data validation

Analytical checks are conducted on the tabulated survey results both by ELSTAT and Eurostat. Furthermore, qualitative and quantitative checks, checks and cross-checks of primary data, as well as comparisons with corresponding data of the previous year are made.

21.5 Data compilation

The data compilation process includes the following:

- use of access and excel spreadsheets applications for the processing and tabulation of data
- estimation of data on the basis of the corresponding data of the previous years, taking into consideration data trend and seasonality.

21.5.1 Imputation - rate

Not estimated.

21.6 Adjustment

No adjustment

21.6.1 Seasonal adjustment

No seasonal adjustment.

22. Comment Top

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