

# Northern Ireland Tourism Satellite Account methodology guide: 2019

Geographical Area: Northern Ireland  
Theme: Tourism / Economy Statistics

NISRA Economic and Labour Statistics Branch  
March 2024

*Tourism is a social, cultural and economic phenomenon related to the movement of people to places outside their usual place of residence, pleasure being the usual motivation.*

*Tourism has an impact on the economy, the natural and built environment, the local population at the places visited and the visitors themselves.*

*Owing to this range of impacts and the wide spectrum of stakeholders involved, there is a need for a holistic approach to tourism development, management and monitoring. This approach is supported by the UN Tourism in order to formulate and implement national and local tourism policies.*

*Having more and reliable statistics is essential for policymakers to make effective decisions. Only with sufficient and adequate data that generate credible statistics is it possible to undertake different types of analysis of tourism. This is essential in order to evaluate the different aspects of tourism and to support and improve policy and decision-making.*

[International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008](#) (IRTS 2008) published by UN Tourism

In order to provide policy makers and key stakeholders in Northern Ireland with credible statistics relating to the NI Tourism industry to support policy development and decision making in this sphere going forward NISRA has produced a Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for Northern Ireland. This has been developed in line with international best practice guidance as detailed within this report.

# Contents

1	Introduction.....	3
2	Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) Background and concepts.....	5
	<b>2.1 Background to TSAs</b> .....	<b>5</b>
	<b>2.2 Classifications used in developing the TSA</b> .....	<b>7</b>
	<b>2.2.1 Tourism characteristic activities</b> .....	<b>7</b>
	<b>2.2.2 Tourism Industries</b> .....	<b>9</b>
3	Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) Tables.....	10
4	Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) Aggregates .....	13
5	Methodology and sources.....	14
	<b>5.1 Demand side sources</b> .....	<b>14</b>
	<b>5.1.1 Tourism Visits to Northern Ireland</b> .....	<b>14</b>
	<b>5.1.2 Supply-Use Tables</b> .....	<b>14</b>
	<b>5.2 Sources of supply data</b> .....	<b>15</b>
	<b>5.2.1 NI Annual Business Inquiry</b> .....	<b>15</b>
	<b>5.2.2 Labour Force Survey</b> .....	<b>15</b>
	<b>5.2.3 Business Register and Employment Survey</b> .....	<b>16</b>
	<b>5.2.4 Annual Population Survey (APS)</b> .....	<b>16</b>
	<b>5.2.5 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings</b> .....	<b>16</b>
	<b>5.2.6 Input-Output and Supply-Use Tables: the Make Matrix</b> .....	<b>16</b>
	<b>5.3 Sources of non monetary data</b> .....	<b>17</b>
	<b>5.3.1 NISRA Tourism Statistics (trips and nights)</b> .....	<b>17</b>
	<b>5.3.2 Accommodation Stock</b> .....	<b>17</b>
	<b>5.3.3 Occupancy Surveys</b> .....	<b>17</b>
	<b>5.3.4 Cruise Ships</b> .....	<b>17</b>
6	Further Information.....	18
7	Glossary.....	20

## 1 Introduction

This document presents the methodology employed by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) to develop a Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for NI for the 2019 reference year. The TSA has been developed to provide policy makers and key stakeholders in Northern Ireland with credible statistics relating to the NI Tourism industry to support policy development and decision making in this sphere going forward.

The TSA is an extension, or satellite, of the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008)<sup>1</sup> which sets out an internationally agreed standard set of recommendations on how to compile measures of economic activity.

Specifically the TSA has been developed in line with the [Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008 \(TSA: RMF 2008\)](#) published by the UN Tourism, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and Eurostat. This provides a comprehensive methodological framework for collection and compilation of tourism statistics in all countries irrespective of the level of development of their statistical systems.

It uses the same concepts, definitions and classifications as national accounts (as set out in SNA 2008) and is the internationally recognised framework for measuring tourist activity and the importance of tourism to national (or regional) economies. While traditional tourism statistics focus primarily on 'flows' (number of visitors, number of overnight stays etc.), TSA can tell us how much tourism contributes to an economy and how many jobs it creates<sup>2</sup>.

As a result, the TSA compiles information on both the supply side and the demand side of tourism. This means that it highlights economic activity in tourism-related industries and portrays tourism in the context of the overall economy and alongside other sectors. Putting tourism in an economic context is a key reason for compiling TSA.

Using an SNA framework to examine tourism is important as it allows (through the TSA) for the separation of expenditure of residents and tourists. This facilitates the estimation of main variables such as how much individual industries depend upon tourists and, by extension, how much value added and employment is supported by tourists.

---

<sup>1</sup> The [System of National Accounts](#) (SNA) is the internationally agreed standard set of recommendations on how to compile measures of economic activity. The SNA describes a coherent, consistent and integrated set of macroeconomic accounts in the context of a set of internationally agreed concepts, definitions, classifications and accounting rules.

<sup>2</sup> [Tourism Satellite Accounts in Europe - 2023 edition \(europa.eu\)](#)

Developing the NI TSA in line with the international guidance means that it is possible to make comparisons with other TSAs produced by other National Statistics Institutes following the same framework such as those produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for the UK<sup>3</sup> and the Central Statistics Office (CSO) for Ireland<sup>4</sup>.

The TSA has been developed for the 2019 reference year as this is the latest year that all required data sources are available.

Developing a TSA requires a large amount of data sources, an integral part of the TSA relies on data from Supply-Use Tables (SUTs). The SUTs provide a picture of the flows of products and services in the economy for a single year and are used to set the level of annual current price Gross Domestic Product (GDP). They show the composition of uses and resources across institutional sectors and the inter-dependence of industries in order to reconcile the production, income and expenditure approaches to the measurement of GDP.

The SUTs cover the whole of the NI economy and as such require analysis of a vast range of data sources, including data from the UK SUTs provided to NISRA by the ONS. As such, the NI SUTs have a lag of around 3-4 years for the most recent reference period. The [most up to date SUTs for NI](#) relate to the 2019 reference year and were published in August 2023.

This is why the TSA has been produced for the 2019 reference year. In addition, due to COVID-19, tourism surveys were unable to be carried out.

The TSA has been produced in consultation with DfE economists and Tourism policy officials in DfE, methodology experts in both the Office for National Statistics (ONS) & Central Statistics Office, Ireland (CSO) and an expert user group. The expert user group comprised of Tourism Northern Ireland and Tourism Ireland representatives alongside NISRA statisticians, DfE economists and DfE Tourism policy colleagues. NISRA would extend our appreciation and thanks to all key stakeholders for their invaluable contributions to this process.

---

<sup>3</sup> [UK Tourism Satellite Account methodology guide: 2017 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Irish Tourism Sector 2019 \(Tourism Satellite Account\) - Central Statistics Office](#)

## 2 Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) Background and concepts

### 2.1 Background to TSAs

The [International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics \(IRTS 2008\)](#) published by the UN Tourism, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and Eurostat provides a comprehensive methodological framework for collection and compilation of tourism statistics. This also defines what a visitor is and how that is related to travel (tourism being a subset of travel). The standard definition is as follows:

*“A visitor is a traveller taking a trip to a main destination outside his or her usual environment, for less than a year, for any main purpose (business, leisure or other personal purpose) other than to be employed by a resident entity in the country or place visited. These trips taken by visitors qualify as tourism trips. Tourism refers to the activity of visitors.”*

There are different forms of tourism, characterised by the various categories of visitor. These are primarily made up of:

- **Domestic tourism** (which includes visitors staying overnight, taking day visits within their own country, or expenditure on trips before they leave their country of residence); and
- **Inbound** tourism, which includes visitors to the reference country
- **Outbound** tourism, which includes residents trips outside are part of table 4 but do not contribute to the overall tourism satellite account.

There are further important classifications available internationally that relate to the different main purposes of a tourism trip, in particular the concept of tourism expenditure. This can be further elaborated upon with reference to different categories of expenditure, which may vary according to the classification of the purpose of the trip.

The TSA: RFM 2008 is used to clarify these important classifications. Firstly, it can be used as a statistical tool that complements those concepts, definitions, aggregates and classifications already presented in the IRTS 2008 and articulates them into 10 analytical tables. More information on the analytical tables NISRA has published for 2019 is available in [section 3](#). The tables provide elements to validly compare estimates between regions, countries or groups of countries. These elements are also comparable with other internationally recognised macroeconomic aggregates and compilations ([TSA: RMF 2008](#)).

Secondly, the TSA: RMF 2008 is the framework to guide countries in the further development of their system of tourism statistics, the main objective being the completion of the TSA, which could be viewed as a synthesis, or the core, of such a system.

The TSA provides the conceptual framework for the comprehensive reconciliation of tourism supply and demand data. For any country undertaking a TSA, there is a necessity for a consideration of tourism internal demand, specifically tourism consumption (or expenditure of tourists).

The complete Tourism Satellite Account provides:

1. **Macroeconomic aggregates** that describe the size and the direct economic contribution of tourism, such as Tourism Direct Gross Value Added<sup>5</sup> (TDGVA), consistent with similar aggregates for the total economy and for other productive economic activities and functional areas of interest;
2. **Detailed data on tourism consumption**, a more extended concept associated with the activity of visitors as consumers, and a description of how this demand is met by domestic supply and imports, integrated within tables derived from Supply and Use Tables;
3. **Detailed production accounts of the tourism industries**, including data on employment, linkages with other productive economic activities and gross fixed capital formation;
4. **Link between economic data and non-monetary information on tourism**, such as number of trips (or visits), duration of stay, purpose of trip, modes of transport, etc., which is required to specify the characteristics of the economic variables.

Although some implicit assumptions are needed for the compilation of the recommended tables, the Tourism Satellite Account is mainly descriptive in nature and **does not include any measurement of the indirect and induced effects of tourist consumption on the economic system as a whole.**

This means that the impact of tourism on the economy is not fully reflected in the Tourism Satellite Account tables and must therefore be measured and analysed using other means. This can be done for instance using input-output or computable general equilibrium models based on the Tourism Satellite Account or other modelling instruments which allow for comprehensive tourism impact analysis.

Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008, para 1.16

---

<sup>5</sup> Gross Value Added (GVA) measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector. Simplistically it is the value of the amount of goods and services that have been produced, less the cost of all inputs and raw materials that are directly attributable to that production.

## 2.2 Classifications used in developing the TSA

### 2.2.1 Tourism characteristic activities

To undertake this kind of tourism measurement and analysis within a SNA framework requires a particular classification of products and productive activities. The classification refers to products, mainly those belonging to tourism expenditure, and productive activities that are the basis for defining tourism industries (TSA: RMF 2008).

Products can be subdivided into those that are associated with consumption and those not (non-consumption products).

Tourism characteristic activities are those that typically produce tourism characteristic products.

Tourism characteristic products (Table 1) are those that satisfy one or both of the following criteria:

- Tourism expenditure on the product should represent a significant share of total tourism expenditure (share of expenditure or demand condition).
- Tourism expenditure on the product should represent a significant share of the supply of the product in the economy.

This criterion implies that the supply of a tourism characteristic product would cease to exist in meaningful quantity in the absence of visitors (IRTS 2008). The TSA: RMF 2008 identifies a list of categories of tourism characteristic consumption products and tourism characteristic activities (tourism industries) that we use to inform our analysis as outlined below.



**Table 1: List of categories of tourism characteristic consumption products and tourism characteristic activities (tourism industries)**

<b>Products</b>	<b>Activities</b>
1. Accommodation services for visitors	1. Accommodation for visitors
2. Food- and beverage-serving services	2. Food and beverage serving activities
3. Railway passenger transport services	3. Railway passenger transport
4. Road passenger transport services	4. Road passenger transport
5. Water passenger transport services	5. Water passenger transport
6. Air passenger transport services	6. Air passenger transport
7. Transport equipment rental services	7. Transport equipment rental
8. Travel agencies and other reservation services	8. Travel agencies and other reservation services activities
9. Cultural services	9. Cultural activities
10. Sports and recreational services	10. Sports and recreational activities
11. Exhibitions and conferences etc.	11. Exhibitions and conferences etc.
12. Country-specific tourism characteristic goods	12. Retail trade of country-specific tourism characteristic goods
13. Country-specific tourism characteristic services	13. Country-specific tourism characteristic activities

Source: TSA: Recommended Methodological Framework of 2008

Tourism activities occurring outside of the tourism industries (that is, non-tourism industries) are aggregated and accounted for within the “other consumption products” industry classification. Examples include car parking and costs associated with second home ownership. This is presented alongside the standard tourism industries throughout.

**Table 2: Summary of products included within “other consumption products”**

Clothing and textiles
Currency exchange
Education
Financial legal and insurance services
Food, beverages and tobacco
Health and public admin services
Other goods and services (not included elsewhere)
Personal Transport (including car park charges)
Real estate services
Rental and leasing services (not including sport or transport)
Second home ownership

Source: Office for National Statistics

To summarise, the purpose of the TSA is to provide an overview of the supply and use of goods and services for the various types of tourism and to reconcile the supply of these products with the demand for them, or consumption, by tourists.



## 2.2.2 Tourism Industries

A tourism industry represents the grouping of those establishments whose main activity is the same tourism characteristic activity. In supply-side statistics, establishments are classified according to their main activity, which is determined by the activity that generates the most value added.

Using the concepts and definitions set out in the IRTS 2008 and TSA: RFM 2008 along with the table templates detailed in the TSA: RFM 2008 we have developed TSA tables for NI for the 2019 reference year.

It should be noted that NISRA have engaged closely with the ONS Tourism Satellite Team throughout the development of the NI TSAs to learn from their experience and ensure coherence with the UK TSAs. They have also consulted with CSO Tourism teams to share best practices and learn from the development of the CSO Tourism Satellite Account in 2019.

### 3 Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) Tables

The UN Tourism, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Eurostat TSA: RFM 2008 recommends 10 tables for use in a TSA, but only Tables 1 to 6 are currently considered as “core”.

The 10 tables are illustrative of the work to be undertaken, and should be considered as a guide for presenting Tourism Satellite Account data. The guidance notes that each country should decide on the most adequate format for taking into account its tourism reality and scope of available data.

The TSA: RFM 2008 states that the proposed tables, accounts and main aggregates should be developed in two or more main stages depending on the development of source data in the country.

In the first stage, the aim is to compile Tables 1 to 7 and Table 10.

At a minimum, in order to speak of a satellite account, the Tourism Satellite Account must include a detailed presentation of supply and consumption in terms of goods and services acquired by visitors (Tables 1-4) and of the industries that produce them (Table 5) as well as their components, as this constitutes the core of the Tourism Satellite Account system (Table 6).

Taken collectively, the TSA tables make it possible to identify the branches of tourism that generate the most value added, those that create the most jobs and those for which tourism consumption is highest.

Developing a TSA requires not only a transformation and partitioning of the information already existing in the Supply-Use Tables of the country (particularly in relation to Table 5), but also a basic set of direct data collection procedures regarding tourism expenditure data. That is, the demand side features of the tourism sector need to be collected and analysed within the TSA framework and presented in Tables 1 and 2 of the TSA.

The NISRA Economic and Labour Market Statistics branch (ELMS) collects and analyses these tourism demand side statistics on a regular basis and so has robust estimates of tourism expenditure, trips, etc. We also collect and produce a range of business statistics and have established Supply-Use Tables that are required to produce Tables 5 and 6 of the TSA. In addition, ELMS also collects and analyses a range of labour market statistics for NI which are required to produce Table 7.

As such, NISRA has produced Tables 1-7 and Table 10 of the framework for NI. Tables 8 and 9 have not been developed as the data required is not available. Though it is noted that the guidance states that Tables 8 and 9 are not essential as Tables 1-6 are considered the core of the TSA.

Further detail on the content of each table is presented below. For Tables 1-6 the expenditure is split across the various tourism product categories, whilst for Table 7

employment figures are split across the Tourism characteristic activities (Industries). Note that further information on the sources used to compile each table is provided in Section 5.

Table	Description	Detail	Data sources
1	Inbound tourism expenditure by products and classes of visitors	Shows inbound tourism expenditure by overnight visitors and same day visitors from abroad to NI.	NISRA Tourism Statistics (NISRA Passenger Survey, CSO Household Travel Survey, Fáilte Ireland Survey of Overseas Travellers)
2	Domestic tourism expenditure by products, classes of visitor and types of trips	Expenditure by NI residents within NI spent on domestic trips (overnight and same day trips), plus expenditure within NI spent on trips abroad such as spend at ports.	NISRA Tourism Statistics (NISRA Continuous Household Survey)
3	Outbound tourism expenditure by products and classes of visitors	Expenditure of NI residents on trips domestically and abroad where the money spent remains outside of NI.	NISRA Tourism Statistics (NISRA Continuous Household Survey)
4	Internal tourism consumption by products	Shows the internal consumption of tourism products by inbound tourism, domestic tourism and internal tourism. This combines internal tourism expenditure, made up of inbound tourism expenditure from Table 1 and domestic tourism expenditure from Table 2, with the other components of tourism consumption.	NISRA Tourism Statistics (NISRA Passenger Survey, CSO Household Travel Survey, Fáilte Ireland Survey of Overseas Travellers, NISRA Continuous Survey), Living Costs and Food Survey, NISRA Supply-Use Tables
5	Production accounts of tourism industries and other industries	This presents the production accounts of tourism industries and other industries in NI.	NISRA Input-Output and Supply-Use Tables 2019  NI Annual Business Inquiry 2019
6	Total domestic supply and internal tourism consumption	This is the core of the Tourism Satellite Account system; it is where the confrontation and reconciliation between domestic supply and internal	NISRA Input-Output and Supply-Use Tables 2019  NI Annual Business Inquiry 2019

Table	Description	Detail	Data sources
		tourism consumption take place.	
7	Employment in the Tourism Industries	Presents information on tourism employment within the labour market. It also details the number of businesses for each tourism industry.	Annual Population Survey, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Labour Force Survey, Business Register and Employment Survey, Annual Business Inquiry
TDGVA	Tourism Direct Gross Value Added	Presents information on the value added by tourism industries	NISRA Input-Output and Supply-Use Tables 2019  NI Annual Business Inquiry 2019
10	Non-monetary indicators	Presents quantitative indicators that are related to the previous tables and are important for the interpretation of the monetary information presented. The indicators include number of trips by forms of tourism, classes of visitors and duration of the stay; occupancy of tourism establishments	NISRA Hotel Occupancy Survey  NISRA Small Service Accommodation Occupancy Survey  NISRA Self-Catering Occupancy Survey  NISRA Tourism Statistics  Tourism Northern Ireland Stock

## 4 Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) Aggregates

The TSA: RFM 2008 states that aggregates are not the most important feature of the Tourism Satellite Account, whose primary objective is to provide detailed and analytical information on all aspects of tourism: the product composition of tourism consumption, the industries most concerned by the activities of visitors and their relationships with other industries, etc.

However, aggregates are extremely useful because they provide summary indicators of the size of tourism. The main aggregates that are derived from the tables are comparable with other macro-indicators relating to consumption and value added in a country.

A number of macroeconomic aggregates can be derived from the TSA which describe the size of the economic contribution of tourism. These include tourism direct gross value added (TDGVA) and tourism direct employment (TDE), consistent with similar aggregates for the total economy and for other productive economic activities and functional areas of interest.

These aggregates require the formulation of a **tourism ratio**. This is a main measure from the TSA in that it reconciles demand and supply through the computation of a ratio of the sum of all the demand side data components to the total obtained from the supply side data components (the total supply of tourism products).

These are measures that reflect the reconciliation of supply and demand within the TSA and refer to the direct effect of tourism on the economy.

The TSA only makes it **possible to measure the direct effects** of consumption on output and value added of tourism industries and other industries serving them (and it is what indicates the term “direct” in tourism direct gross value added and tourism direct gross domestic product).

The **TSA does not undertake a measurement of the indirect and induced effects of tourism consumption on the economy as a whole**. This can only be achieved through alternative forms of analysis such as input-output analysis or Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models (TSA: RMF 2008)<sup>6</sup>.

The main elements of a TSA have been highlighted in this section, but it is recognised that this is not an exhaustive treatment of a complex and substantial set of guidance on the subject from the UN Tourism.

Interested readers are directed towards the [TSA: Recommended Methodological Framework of 2008](#) for a complete description of the TSA process.

---

<sup>6</sup> See [TSA: RMF 2008 Annex 6](#) – The measurement of economic impacts of tourism, for further information.

## 5 Methodology and sources

The methodology to develop the NI TSA has followed the guidance set out in the IRTF 2008 and TSA: RMF 2008 in addition to advice and guidance from colleagues in the ONS.

This section provides information about sources and methods used to compile each TSA table.

### 5.1 Demand side sources

#### 5.1.1 Tourism Visits to Northern Ireland

The NISRA [Northern Ireland Passenger Survey](#) provides estimates of the expenditure on visits to NI by overseas visitors who exit through a port in NI. This is combined with the [Survey of Overseas Passengers](#) undertaken by Fáilte Ireland which provides estimates on the expenditure on visits to the NI by overseas visitors who exit through a port in the Republic of Ireland. This information is also combined with data from the [Household Travel Survey](#) (undertaken by CSO Ireland) which provides estimates of the expenditure on visits to NI by ROI residents. Together, these provide estimates of total inbound tourism expenditure used in Table 1.

The [Continuous Household Survey](#) (NISRA) provides expenditure data on visits abroad by NI residents, which have been used to provide the totals in Table 3 (outbound tourism expenditure). The lack of a breakdown by product again requires the use of Supply-Use Tables to complete the table.

However, inbound tourism provides no detailed breakdown of expenditure by product so further sources have been used for such a breakdown – we have used detailed unpublished Supply-Use Table data to do this.

#### 5.1.2 Supply-Use Tables

[Supply-Use tables](#) constitute part of the National Accounts system for NI. They are annual tables produced in line with the SNA 2008 and provide detailed data on the supply and use of commodities, inter-industry flows and the structure of the economy; they are also the foundation from which Input-Output Analytical Tables (IOATs) are derived.

The tables relate to supply of products, demand of products (split into intermediate and final demand) and include estimates of households final consumption expenditure (HHFCE).

The HHFCE estimates are calculated based on analysis of a range of data sources including the [Living Cost & Food Survey](#), UK HHFCE data, Northern Ireland Passenger Survey, and NI Census Data amongst others.

The Living Costs and Food Survey is the main source of information on household spending patterns and the cost of living in Northern Ireland.

The range of data sources above are analysed at detailed product and industry level prior to being aggregated for the Supply Use Tables (SUT) publication.

NISRA has used these unpublished detailed tables to combine with the expenditure data collected through the NIPS and CHS to apportion total expenditure to tourism products used in Tables 1 -4 of the NI TSA.

## 5.2 Sources of supply data

### 5.2.1 NI Annual Business Inquiry

The [NI Annual Business Inquiry \(ABI\)](#) is an annual business survey conducted by NISRA that samples approximately 10,000 businesses in Northern Ireland. It is a comprehensive survey that both financial and employment information from businesses.

Within the TSA development the ABI is used to extract the proportion of Supply-Use table (SUT) products or activities (for example, cultural activities) that are tourism and non-tourism related. We use Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC 2007) five-digit estimates of GVA, output and taxes to extract these proportions. We also use the ABI sample population file (originally based on the Inter-Departmental Business Register) to determine the number of enterprises in tourism characteristic industries in Table 7.

### 5.2.2 Labour Force Survey

The [Labour Force Survey](#) (LFS) is a monthly household survey conducted by NISRA that asks people in Northern Ireland about employment, unemployment and economic activity. It also covers a wide range of related topics such as income, qualifications, training and disability.

LFS data is used to determine the proportions of self-employed individuals in the tourism characteristic industries for Table 7. It is also used to split the output of accommodation services between "accommodation services for visitors" and "food and beverage serving activities" in Table 7. This is done by examining the proportion of people engaged in occupations relating to accommodation, and food and drink in the accommodation industry. This is because output attributable to the serving of food and drink should be accounted for under food and beverage serving activities within the TSA.



### 5.2.3 Business Register and Employment Survey

The [Business Register and Employment Survey \(BRES\)](#) is a large scale survey of businesses in Northern Ireland. For 2019 the BRES sample size was around 33,500 businesses. We have used detailed BRES data to estimate the number of employee jobs by status for each of the tourism industries.

### 5.2.4 Annual Population Survey (APS)

The [Annual Population Survey \(APS\)](#) is a continuous household survey, covering the UK. The topics covered include employment and unemployment, as well as housing, ethnicity, religion, health and education.

The UK APS data is used to calculate proportions of employees and self-employed that work within the tourism industries by gender and full time / part time, which are then applied to NI BRES employment figures at SIC 2 level.

### 5.2.5 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

The [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings \(ASHE\)](#) a UK wide survey that provides data on hourly, weekly and annual earnings by gender, work patterns, industry and occupation, including public versus private sector pay comparisons.

ASHE data is used to determine the average hours worked in tourism characteristic industries to better determine the full-time equivalents estimates in Table 7.

### 5.2.6 Input-Output and Supply-Use Tables: the Make Matrix

NISRA produces a detailed [Supply Table](#), showing the value of 112 products produced by 112 industries. As products are normally produced by their corresponding industry this table is mostly diagonal. This table is used to apportion industry or activity output across products.

NISRA produces a make matrix as part of the Supply Use Tables (SUT) compilation however it is not published due to its disclosive nature. However, we have used this detailed data to inform our estimates within the TSA (Table 6), the results that we derive from the make matrix are not disclosive in any way as it is used solely to apportion industry, or activity, output across tourism products.

## 5.3 Sources of non monetary data

### 5.3.1 NISRA Tourism Statistics (trips and nights)

The NISRA [Northern Ireland Passenger Survey](#) provides estimates of the visits to NI by overseas visitors who exit through a port in NI. This is combined with the [Survey of Overseas Passengers](#) undertaken by Fáilte Ireland which provides estimates on visits to the NI by overseas visitors who exit through a port in the Republic of Ireland. This information is also combined with data from the [Household Travel Survey](#) (undertaken by CSO Ireland) which provides estimates of visits to NI by ROI residents. The [Continuous Household Survey](#) (NISRA) provides data on tourism trips by NI residents. These are used for tables 10a-10e.

### 5.3.2 Accommodation Stock

In order to offer tourist accommodation in NI, you must have a certificate ([Tourism Northern Ireland \(certification\)](#)) from Tourism Northern Ireland (TNI) – TNI refers to this as certification. It is illegal to offer tourist accommodation in NI without a certificate from TNI. The list of certified accommodation from TNI is known as the “stock”.

### 5.3.3 Occupancy Surveys

Using the Accommodation Stock from TNI, NISRA carry out a monthly survey to all [Hotels](#) and a sample of [small service accommodation](#) (bed & breakfasts, guest accommodation and guesthouses). Annually, NISRA carry out a survey on occupancy of a sample of [self catering](#) establishments.

### 5.3.4 Cruise Ships

While there is no data available on the number of passengers disembarking cruise ships or their expenditure, the number of cruise ships and capacity can provide information on the potential value.

## 6 Further Information

### Official Statistics

Official Statistics are statistics produced by Crown bodies and other organisations listed within an Official Statistics Order, on behalf of the UK government or devolved administrations. They provide a factual basis for assessment and decisions on economic, social and environmental issues at all levels of society. This broad definition of official statistics means that the scope of official statistics can be adapted over time to suit changing circumstances.

NISRA have developed the Tourism Satellite Accounts while abiding by Official Statistics policies and following the professional standards in the Code of Practice for Statistics, to provide official statistics that serve the public good. The Code pillars trustworthiness, quality and value should provide reassurance to the users of the information.

“Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics that all producers of official statistics should adhere to. You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing [regulation@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:regulation@statistics.gov.uk) or via the OSR website.”

NISRA is keen to engage and receive informed feedback from users which will improve the quality and value of the statistics. If you wish to join our Economic Accounts mailing list to keep informed of developments or provide any feedback on these statistics please email [tourismstatistics@nisra.gov.uk](mailto:tourismstatistics@nisra.gov.uk).

## **References**

The [System of National Accounts \(SNA\) 2008](#)

[Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008 \(TSA: RMF 2008\)](#)

[Tourism Satellite Accounts in Europe - 2023 edition \(europa.eu\)](#)

[UK Tourism Satellite Account methodology guide: 2017 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

UN Tourism Organisation [International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics \(IRTS 2008\)](#)

### **For Further Information**

#### **Issued by:**

Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch,  
Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency  
Department of Finance  
Email: [tourismstatistics@nisra.gov.uk](mailto:tourismstatistics@nisra.gov.uk)

Statistics Contacts:

Joanne Henderson

Email: [joanne.henderson@nisra.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.henderson@nisra.gov.uk)

Tel: 028 9025 5163

## 7 Glossary

The methodology for TSA is based on the 2008 Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework (TSA: RMF 2008) and, for tourism statistics in general, on the 2008 International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics (IRTS 2008).

### **Tourism Satellite Accounts**

The purpose of tourism satellite accounts is threefold: to analyse in detail all aspects of demand for goods and services associated with the activity of visitors, to observe the operational interface with the supply of such goods and services within the economy and to describe how this supply interacts with other economic activities.

### **Visitor**

A visitor is a traveller taking a trip to a main destination outside his/her usual environment for less than a year for any main purpose (business, leisure or other personal purpose) other than to be employed by a resident entity in the country or place visited. These trips taken by visitors qualify as tourism trips.

### **Tourist and same-day visitor**

A visitor (domestic inbound or outbound) is classified as a tourist (or overnight visitor) if his/her trip includes an overnight stay, or as a same-day visitor (or excursionist) otherwise.

### **Inbound tourism**

Inbound tourism comprises the activities of a non-resident visitor within the country of reference on an inbound trip.

### **Domestic tourism**

Domestic tourism comprises the activities of a resident visitor within the country of reference either as part of a domestic trip or part of an outbound trip.

### **Internal tourism**

Internal tourism comprises domestic tourism and inbound tourism, i.e. the activities of resident and non-resident visitors in the country of reference as part of domestic or international trips.

### **Outbound tourism**

Outbound tourism comprises the activities of a resident visitor outside the country of reference either as part of an outbound trip or as part of a domestic trip.

## **Tourism expenditure**

Tourism expenditure refers to the amount paid for the acquisition of consumption goods and services as well as valuables for own use or to give away for and during tourism trips. It includes expenditure by visitors themselves as well as expenses paid for or reimbursed by others.

## **Tourism (direct) gross value added**

Tourism gross value added adds the parts of gross value added generated by tourism industries and other industries of the economy that directly serve visitors in responding to internal tourism consumption. The use of the term 'direct' in this aggregate refers to the fact that the TSA measures only that part of value added (by tourism industries and other industries) due to consumption by visitors and leaves aside the indirect and induced effects that such consumption might generate.

## **Domestic tourism expenditure**

Domestic tourism expenditure includes not only the expenditure of visitors on domestic trips, but also expenditure in the country of origin of visitors undertaking outbound trips. The economy benefiting from tourism expenditure is not always identical with the places visited during the trip. There is not always a strict relationship between the places visited and the economy/economies affected. For instance, not all expenditure associated with international trips occurs outside the visitor's economy of origin; in particular, some services might be acquired from producers in the country of origin or another country (international transport in particular, or any expenditure en route).

## **Domestic supply**

Supply of goods and services by domestic industries, thus not supply via imports.

## **Tourism consumption**

According to formal definitions, 'tourism consumption' is the same as 'tourism expenditure'. However, the concept of tourism consumption as used in the TSA goes beyond that of tourism expenditure. In addition to 'the amount paid for the acquisition of consumption goods and services as well as valuables for own use or to give away for and during tourism trips', which corresponds to monetary transactions (the focus of tourism expenditure), it includes services associated with holiday accommodation on own account, tourism social transfers in kind and other imputed consumption, such as the imputed rent of holiday homes or services paid by non-profit institutions for trips made by, for instance, groups of disabled people.

## **Gross fixed capital formation**

Gross fixed capital formation is an important component of the description and analysis of tourism industries. It should be noted that, from an industry perspective, not only is gross fixed capital formation an important variable but transactions in non-produced non-financial assets (such as land) and in nonproduced intangible assets (such as landing rights) may also be important in a broader perspective.

## **Tourism collective consumption**

Although collective non-market services have been excluded from tourism consumption, this does not mean that the measurement of expenditure by public administrations in the tourism-related fields of market promotion, information, planning, etc. is not relevant and that it does not have its place in the aggregate measurement of the economic importance of tourism.

## **Trip**

A trip refers to travel by a person from the time of departure from his or her usual residence until he/she returns, i.e. a round trip. A trip can be made up of visits to different places. A same-day trip is a trip without an overnight stay; an overnight or tourism trip is one that includes at least one overnight stay.

## **Note on rounding in tables**

Due to rounding, totals or subtotals are not always equal to the sum of the (rounded) components.