Tourism Statistics – Inbound Tourism

Edite Miezite, Head of Transport and Tourism statistics
CENTRAL STATISTICAL BUREAU OF LATVIA

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Survey of persons crossing the State border

• The aim of the survey is to establish complete profile of foreign travellers in Latvia;
• Survey is carried out quarterly (1 week) at the main border posts – 8 border checkpoints (departure) in Latvia;
• From 2008, survey is carried out more often in airport. There is the same survey carried out at the EU external borders (Russia, Belarus);
• Number of interviewed travellers varies every year – about 19 thsd incoming non-residents;
Data sources for estimating number of border crossings

- Data given by State Border guard (only for EU external borders);
- Automatic counts of cars on the roads near the border;
- Passenger flow counted in airport, roads;
- Systematic counts of residents and non-residents in the airport;
- Systematic counts of resident or non-resident cars and passengers in the cars on the roads with Schengen border;

Inbound Tourism – flow counting

- Once in a month is counted outgoing flow separating by residents and non-residents in the Riga Airport to estimate a proportion in the flow of passengers of residents and non residents as this information is not given by airline companies;

- Counting of incoming and outgoing flows separating by residents and non-residents 2 times per year on Schengen roads (Grenctale (LT), Ainaži (EE) Medumi(LT), Nica (LT));

- The results in 2009 from State Road agency were received from 4 roads (movements of transport vehicles) with Estonia and Lithuania;
Inbound Tourism – planned developments

- In future even more places of movements on the roads are planned to include for analysis and comparisons to estimate a total flow of visitors;

- It is considered to interview near the previous border posts in nearest restaurants, rest places or petrol stations to some how replace interviews that were previously conducted in border checkpoints;

Difficulties

- No solutions found how to carry out interviews on Schengen roads:
  - Estonia – Latvia;
  - Lithuania - Latvia;

- There are not stationary road movement counters on all roads:
  - Estonia – Latvia;
  - Lithuania - Latvia;

- Counting of the road transport movements on Estonian and Lithuanian border sides does not give the opportunity to create traveller profile and its characteristics:
  - Sex and age;
  - Purpose of the trip;
  - Expenditure structure;
Foreign **travellers** and their characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of border crossings thsd.</td>
<td>4645</td>
<td>5236</td>
<td>5496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average length of stay, days</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average expenditures per trip and in one day, LVL</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foreign **visitors** and their characteristics

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of border crossings thsd.</td>
<td>4185</td>
<td>4739</td>
<td>5082</td>
</tr>
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<td>Average length of stay, days</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average expenditures per trip and in one day, LVL</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank You for your attention!

Questions are welcome… …