



# Metadata

## Tourism Satellite Accounts

1. Contact.....	2
2. Metadata update .....	2
3. Statistical presentation .....	2
4. Unit of measure.....	8
5. Reference period .....	8
6. Institutional mandate.....	8
7. Confidentiality.....	9
8. Release policy.....	9
9. Frequency of dissemination .....	10
10. Accessibility and clarity .....	10
11. Quality management.....	11
12. Relevance .....	12
13. Accuracy and reliability .....	12
14. Timeliness and punctuality .....	13
15. Coherence and comparability .....	13
16. Cost and burden .....	14
17. Data revision .....	14
18. Statistical processing .....	15
19. Comment.....	18



# Metadata

## 1. Contact

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## 2. Metadata update

2.1 Metadata last certified	20.12.2021
2.2 Metadata last posted	20.12.2021
2.3 Metadata last update	20.12.2021

## 3. Statistical presentation

## 3.1 Data description

The purpose of Tourism Satellite Accounts is to calculate the contribution of tourism to the Icelandic economy and publish the results numerically and in a systematic way. Tourism Satellite Accounts highlight tourism within the national accounting framework. The aim is to measure the contribution of tourism across industries as tourism is not defined as a separate industry. The accounts are, like the National Accounts, not an accounting system where every transaction is recorded. Rather, there is a focus on certain main concepts.

The accounts are based on a variety of data sources that are either compiled by Statistics Iceland, collected in the form of surveys, direct inquiries or are obtained from public records. When available, the data is collected, quality tested and adapted into the process of data compilation.

Tourism Satellite Accounts are created in current prices. Unlike national accounts, Tourism Satellite Accounts have not been deflated which limits comparison of growth over time in real terms.

Tourism Satellite Accounts currently published for Iceland (TSA:RMF 2008 tables in parentheses):

- Inbound tourism expenditure (table 1)
- Domestic tourism expenditure (table 2)
- Internal tourism consumption (table 4)
- Production accounts of tourism industries and other industries (table 5)
- Total domestic supply and internal tourism consumption (table 6)
- Employment in tourism industries (table 7)
- Number of trips and overnight by forms of tourism and classes of visitor (10a)
- International arrivals by modes of transport (10b)
- Number of establishment and capacity by types of accommodation (10c)

A tourist is one of the main concepts in Tourism Satellite Accounts. A tourist is a traveler travelling outside of his or her usual environment for less than 12 months and where the main purpose of the trip is not to be employed (IRTS 2008, 2.6 - 2.16).

	<p>Figures on employment in tourism include number of jobs and employed persons serving tourists directly as well as number of hours worked in tourism. The industry classification system used is ÍSAT08, the Icelandic version of NACE rev.2.</p> <p>Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008 (TSA:RMF 2008) provides the methodology Statistics Iceland uses for compiling the Tourism Satellite Accounts.</p> <p>The Tourism Satellite Accounts are an important tool to measure tourism contributions to the Icelandic economy. The results of the Tourism Satellite Accounts are used for tourism analysis and policy making in Iceland.</p>
<b>3.2 Classification system</b>	<p>ESA 2010 both provides a methodology and defines classifications that Statistics Iceland uses for compiling national accounts on comparable bases, e.g., the ESA sector classification and institutional unit structure (see 3.3).</p> <p>In compiling the production accounts, the classification system in use is ÍSAT08, the Icelandic version of NACE rev.2. ÍSAT08 is a 5-digit classification which at the 4-digit level fully matches the 4-digit NACE rev.2 but the fifth digit adds the possibility of further breakdown if necessary.</p> <p>In the expenditure accounts, household final consumption uses the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) system in a breakdown of three levels.</p> <p>General government consumption expenditure is classified according to purpose. The classification by purpose follows the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG) in a breakdown of 3 levels.</p> <p>For compiling Tourism Satellite Accounts, Statistics Iceland uses above classification systems as well as the IRTS 2008 classification system on tourism statistics.</p>
<b>3.3 Sector coverage</b>	<p>Annual Tourism Satellite Accounts are used to describe all economic activity of tourism, domestic and inbound, in Iceland.</p>

## 3.4 Statistical concepts and definition

The concepts used in the Icelandic Tourism Satellite Accounts are from the Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008, the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics and the European System of Accounts: ESA 2010.

### Tourism Statistics concepts and definitions:

*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 (IRTS 2008, 2.9).

*Usual environment:* The usual environment of an individual, a key concept in tourism, is defined as the geographical area (though not necessarily a contiguous one) within which an individual conducts his/her regular life routines (IRTS 2008, 2.21).

*Tourist (or overnight visitor) and same-day visitor (excursionist):* 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 (IRTS 2008, 2.13).

*Trips/Tourism trips:* Trips taken by visitors qualify as tourism trips (IRTS 2008, 2.9).

*Tourism:* Tourism refers to the activity of visitors (IRTS 2008, 2.9).

*Domestic tourism:* Domestic tourism, which comprises the activities of a resident visitor within the country of reference either as part of a domestic tourism trip or part of an outbound tourism trip (IRTS 2008, 2.39).

*Inbound tourism:* Inbound tourism, which comprises the activities of a non-resident visitor within the country of reference on an inbound tourism trip (IRTS 2008, 2.39).

*Outbound tourism:* Outbound tourism, which comprises the activities of a resident visitor outside the country of reference, either as part of an outbound tourism trip or as part of a domestic tourism trip (IRTS 2008, 2.39).

*Tourism characteristic activities:* Tourism characteristic activities are the activities that typically produce tourism characteristic products.

*Tourism consumption:* Tourism consumption has the same formal definition as tourism expenditure. Nevertheless, the concept of tourism consumption used in the Tourism Satellite Account goes beyond that of tourism expenditure. Besides 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 also includes services associated with vacation accommodation on own account, tourism social transfers in kind and other imputed consumption (TSA: RMF, 2.25).

*Inbound tourism consumption:* Inbound tourism expenditure is the tourism expenditure of a non-resident visitor within the economy of reference (IRTS 2008, 4.15).

*Domestic tourism consumption:* Domestic tourism expenditure is the tourism expenditure of a resident visitor within the economy of reference (IRTS 2008, 4.15).

**National Accounts concepts and definitions** (see concepts in [metadata on National Accounts](#)):

*Total output:* Total output is the sum of value of final goods and services produced in accounting period

*Operating surplus:* The operating surplus measures the surplus or deficit accruing from production before taking account of any interest, rent or similar charges payable or any interest, rent or similar receipts receivable.

*Gross value added:* Gross value added is the sum of compensation of employees, operating surplus and consumption of fixed capital.

*Gross Domestic Product (GDP):* Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is gross value added plus any taxes, and minus any subsidies, on products not included in the value of their outputs.

**Labour concepts and definitions:**

# Metadata

*Labour input:* Any input of labour used to produce goods and services that form the GDP according to ESA2010.

*Persons employed:* The median number of persons employed, in main job, per month over a reference period. Each individual is only counted once.

*Number of jobs:* The median number of jobs per month over a reference period. Each individual may be counted twice.

*Hours worked:* Total number of hours worked, by employees and self-employed persons over reference period, on producing goods and services that form the GDP according to ESA2010.



## Metadata

	As per the guidelines of ESA 2010, two types of units are used in national accounts: a) institutional unit and b) local kind of activity unit (local KAU).
<b>3.6 Statistical population</b>	Tourism Satellite Accounts cover all the economic transactions of domestic and inbound tourists in the Icelandic economy within a given time period.
<b>3.7 Reference area</b>	The Icelandic economy.
<b>3.8 Time coverage</b>	Covers a period from 2009. Data is published annually.
<b>3.9 Base period</b>	Not applicable.
<b>4. Unit of measure</b>	
<b>4. Unit of measure</b>	Units of measure either in monetary terms, in Iceland's case in Million Icelandic Krona (ISK), or in non-monetary terms e.g., number of tourists.
<b>5. Reference period</b>	
<b>5. Reference period</b>	The reference period of the annual figures refers to the calendar year.
<b>6. Institutional mandate</b>	





# Metadata

## 6.1 Legal acts and other agreements

See Act no. 163/2007 regarding Statistics Iceland legal basis for official statistics.

In Iceland, the preparation of government finance statistics is based on the European System of National Accounts 2010 (ESA 2010). The legal basis of the standard is Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) no. 549/2013 of 21 May 2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union.

The Regulation was incorporated into the EEA Agreement by Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No. 58/2014 of 8 April 2014. Based on the Regulation, Eurostat has issued guidance and opinions on individual subjects intended to facilitate the interpretation of the standard and further guidance on its use. Eurostat also monitors compliance with existing regulations.

Implementation of European Parliament and Council Regulation (EU) No. 549/2013 is in the hands of Statistics Iceland, which is an independent institution and center for official statistics in Iceland.

In the European Union regulation no. 692/2011 on European Tourism Statistic, the importance of improved tourism statistics is emphasized.

According to the Tourism Strategy [2011-2020](#) passed in Althing, the parliament of Iceland, in 2011 annual statistical data on the development of the tourism industry shall be included in National Accounts.

## 7. Confidentiality

### 7.1 Confidentiality - policy

See [rules on confidentiality](#).

### 7.2 Confidentiality – data treatment

Source data is stored at Statistics Iceland. Access to more detailed data than has already been published is granted on an individual basis. In these cases, the main principle is to uphold the confidentiality of the data in guidance with Statistics Iceland Rules of Procedure for Treating Confidential Data – see 7.1.

## 8. Release policy



# Metadata

<b>8.1 Release calendar</b>	<p>The Tourism Satellite Accounts are published according to Statistics Iceland advance <a href="#">release calendar</a>. The release calendar lists in advance all the statistical data and publications to be released over the year. See <a href="#">rules on statistical releases</a>.</p> <p>All changes to the schedule are implemented as soon as possible and new publishing date is issued.</p>
<b>8.2 Release calendar access</b>	<p>The Tourism Satellite Accounts are published according to Statistics Iceland advance <a href="#">release calendar</a>. So far, the publication has always been on schedule. The advance <a href="#">release calendar</a> with scheduled releases for the forthcoming calendar year (1 January to 31 December) is published in November each year.</p>
<b>8.3 User access</b>	<p>All users are granted equal access to the Tourism Satellite Accounts data, dissemination dates of official statistics are announced in advance and no user category is provided access to official statistics before other users.</p> <p>All Tourism Satellite Accounts data is accessible through Statistics Iceland's website under the heading "<a href="#">Tourism Satellite Accounts</a>".</p>
<b>9. Frequency of dissemination</b>	
<b>9. Frequency of dissemination</b>	<p>Annual Tourism Satellite Accounts are released once a year on Statistics Iceland's website.</p>
<b>10. Accessibility and clarity</b>	
<b>10.1 News release</b>	<p>News releases are published in Statistic Iceland's <a href="#">news archive</a>.</p>
<b>10.2 Publication</b>	<p>In addition to news releases figures from the Tourism Satellite Accounts may be disseminated in other publications, such as statistical papers, yearbooks, internal and external articles.</p> <p>Publications are available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

<b>10.3 On-line database</b>	<p>All results from the Tourism Satellite Accounts are accessible through Statistics Iceland's website under the heading "<a href="#">Tourism Satellite Accounts</a>".</p> <p>Statistics Iceland uses PC-Axis for dissemination of statistical information. PC-Axis is a family of software used by statistical institutes all over the world. The programs are developed by statistical institutions with dissemination of statistical information in mind.</p> <p>Exports/downloads of statistical information are proposed in various formats such as Excel, CSV, PC-Axis.</p>
<b>10.4 Micro-data access</b>	<p>It is possible to apply for micro-data access through <a href="#">Statistics Iceland research service</a>.</p>
<b>10.5 Other</b>	<p>In addition to news releases and other publications figures from the Tourism Satellite Accounts may be disseminated on Statistics Iceland's social media.</p>
<b>10.6 Documentation on methodology</b>	<p><a href="#">Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008</a> (TSA:RMF 2008) provides the methodology Statistics Iceland uses for compiling the Tourism Satellite Accounts as well as the <a href="#">International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics</a> (IRTS 2008).</p> <p>The compilation of Tourism Satellite Accounts for Iceland is described in <a href="#">The New Compilation of the Tourism Satellite Account in Iceland for 2009- 2013: Data Sources, Methodology and Results</a> (Cristi Frenț, 2015).</p> <p>The methodology that Statistics Iceland uses for compiling National Accounts is described <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>10.7 Quality documentation</b>	<p>At the time being, Statistics Iceland does not publish any documents or reports on quality management regarding the compilation of tourism satellite accounts.</p>

## 11. Quality management

<b>11.1 Quality assurance</b>	See Statistics Iceland's <a href="#">quality policy</a> .
<b>11.2 Quality assessment</b>	No documents are released by Statistics Iceland regarding Tourism Satellite Accounts quality management or quality assessment.
<b>12. Relevance</b>	
<b>12.1 User needs</b>	<p>Ministries, government agencies, NGO's, private companies, the media, international organisations, such as Eurostat, as well as the public use the Tourism Satellite Accounts for policy making, management and planning, decision making and informed public debate on tourism, among other things.</p> <p>Statistics Iceland appreciates good cooperation with users of official statistics, knowing that cooperation with users will help increase understanding of user needs and gives users information on statistics and its production.</p> <p>A council of specialists has been formed with the aim of developing the Tourism Satellite Accounts further and ensuring that quality standards are met. The council consists of specialists from ministries, tourism industry associations and government agencies.</p>
<b>12.2 User satisfaction</b>	Information on the user satisfaction of Tourism Satellite Accounts is not collected at this point in time but, Statistics Iceland carries out general user surveys, with the main goal of measuring user satisfaction with Statistics Iceland and user estimation of the quality of official Icelandic statistics. By doing so, Statistics Iceland can make improvements and better fulfil user needs. The user survey has been conducted five times since 2007.
<b>12.3 Completeness</b>	Statistics Iceland is not publishing all the tourism satellite accounts tables listed in TSA:RMF 2008. Table 3 on outbound tourism expenditure, table 8 on tourism gross fixed capital formation, table 9 on tourism collective consumption nor table 10d on number of accommodation establishments by number of employed persons have not been published.
<b>13. Accuracy and reliability</b>	

<b>13.1 Overall accuracy</b>	<p>Errors and inaccuracy may occur in the Tourism Satellite Accounts figures. Main weaknesses are that data on labour input does not include estimates for illegal activities or undeclared or unpaid work. Also, the accounts cover the shared economy to a limited extent.</p> <p>Potential errors or inaccuracy in National Account figures may affect the Tourism Satellite Accounts.</p>
<b>13.2 Sampling errors</b>	Not applicable.
<b>13.3 Non-sampling errors</b>	Not applicable.
<b>14. Timeliness and punctuality</b>	
<b>14.1 Timeliness</b>	Annual Tourism Satellite Accounts are published 6 months after the end of the year of reference.
<b>14.2 Punctuality</b>	The Tourism Satellite Accounts are published according to Statistics Iceland advance release calendar. In recent times, no delay has been on the schedule of dissemination.
<b>15. Coherence and comparability</b>	
<b>15.1 Comparability – geographical</b>	There is a high degree of comparability with the Tourism Satellite Accounts of other countries, especially those who follow the same standards; TSA:RMF 2008 and IRTS 2008. However, comparability cannot always be fully ensured due to differences in source data used and compilation methods.



## Metadata

<b>15.2 Comparability – over time</b>	<p>One of the fundamental ideas of national accounts is to follow harmonised procedures from year to year in order to make time series as comparable over time as possible. However, unlike national accounts, Tourism Satellite Accounts have not been deflated which limits comparison of growth over time in real terms.</p> <p>Time series breaks can occur when major revisions are underway.</p>
<b>15.3 Coherence – cross domain</b>	<p>In the case of Tourism Satellite Accounts the comparison with other statistics is limited by the fact that in many cases Tourism Satellite Accounts figures are based on various primary statistics. Therefore, comparison is more frequently made during the working process rather than at the final stage.</p>
<b>15.4 Coherence – internal</b>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<b>16. Cost and burden</b>	
<b>16. Cost and burden</b>	<p>In exceptional cases data is requested directly from companies but never from individuals. Most data is already available within companies and institutions. The response burden is therefore kept at a minimum.</p>
<b>17. Data revision</b>	
<b>17.1 Data revision - policy</b>	<p>See Statistics Iceland <a href="#">revision policy</a>.</p>

## 17.2 Data revision - practice

For official statistics, there are two quality dimensions that are of the utmost importance; timeliness and accuracy of results. It is common for official statistics, including national accounts, for the results to be revised as it is often based on provisional data, due to the importance of timeliness. The reliability and accuracy of the results usually increases over time as newer and better data becomes available. Therefore, in the case of dissemination of preliminary results, users need to be informed and interpret preliminary results according to its nature.

Revisions, in other words altered data relating to a period which has already been published, are a natural part of national accounts work. A distinction is made between two kinds of revisions:

- Current or routine revisions
- Major or occasional revisions

Strictly speaking Statistics Iceland never considers national accounts figures to be final. The current revisions of annual figures are normally released twice a year. Other revisions, covering longer periods, named occasional or major revisions may arise for a number of reasons. The most common reasons are new sources, new methods or classifications, amended procedures for the application of ESA2010 and alike. Such revisions relate to a longer period and are generally undertaken at less frequent intervals.

Iceland is set to implement a benchmark revision, coordinated major European revision carried out at least once every five years, in 2020 to incorporate new data sources and major changes in international statistical methodology. Benchmark revisions ensure a maximum degree of consistency within national accounts: the longest possible time series as well as consistency across EU Member States and between domains. As data sources and statistical methods evolve, improvements must be introduced in national accounts in a coherent and systematic way. It also helps to ensure stability of key macroeconomic indicators for policy and business analysis.

## 18. Statistical processing

## 18.1 Source data

The Icelandic Tourism Satellite Accounts compilation builds mainly on statistics and data that are primarily collected for other purposes. A wide variety of sources are used for the compilation of the national accounts, largely administrative data. Among the most important sources are (non-exhaustive list):

- External trade (expenditure approach)
- Balance of payments (expenditure approach)
- Financial accounts of enterprises and institutions (expenditure and production approach)
- Enterprise Accounts Register (production approach)
- Pay-as-you-earn Register (expenditure and production approach)
- Personal income tax returns (production approach)
- The financial accounts of central and local governments (expenditure accounts)
- Production statistic (expenditure and production approach)
- VAT Register (expenditure and production approach)
- Information from the Registers Iceland (expenditure approach)
- Household expenditure survey (expenditure approach)
- Consumer price index and Building cost index (expenditure approach)
- Wage index (expenditure approach)
- Credit card turnover (expenditure approach)
- Number of passengers at Icelandic airports (ISAVIA)
- Number of cruise passengers (Icelandic Tourism Research Centre)
- Number of summer houses (Registers Iceland)
- Accommodation statistics (Statistics Iceland)
- Various questionnaires playing an minor role

## 18.2 Frequency of data collection

Due to the nature of data sources, the frequency of data collection of primary statistics can vary. The frequency and timing of the compilation of Tourism Satellite Accounts are not necessarily aligned with the frequency and timing of (all) primary statistics data.





# Metadata

## 18.3 Data collection

The data collection process occurs through several transmission protocols:

- Statistic's Iceland Online Data Collection Portal
- Database mirroring between institutions
- Cloud services
- Email

The transmission protocols vary between source data and intra data, external sources and internal sources.

## 18.4 Data validation

In addition to the quality and verification tests performed on the data received and used in the compilation of Tourism Satellite Accounts, data and results are validated throughout and in all areas of the compilation process. Among other things, it is done to ensure internal consistency in the results and minimize the risk of errors. In some cases, data validation is done by using corresponding time series (criterion variables) to capture possible deviations or signs of items that need further examination. The scope and depth of the data validation process is highly dependent on the time limits set for processing.

<b>18.5 Data compilation</b>	<p>The data compilation process of Tourism Satellite Accounts takes place in several steps. The scope of the process depends in part on the data sources available and the time frame within which the data compilation is made.</p> <p>Tourism Satellite Accounts are published 6 months after the end of the reference year. The accounts are based on a variety of data sources that are either compiled by Statistics Iceland, collected in the form of surveys, direct inquiries or are obtained from public records. When available, the data is collected, quality tested and adapted into the process of data compilation. For example, data and information on credit card turnover is used in assessing tourism consumption.</p> <p>National Accounts results are used in compiling Tourism Satellite Accounts. The core item is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that shows the income generated in the production process that is available for disposal. GDP can be reached through two main approaches, the in the expenditure approach (disposal/use of income) and the production approach (generation of income). The main components of the expenditure approach are household and government consumption, gross fixed capital consumption and, exports and imports, where the production approach presents the value added by individual industries. The methodology that Statistics Iceland uses for compiling National Accounts is described <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>The information collected is always adapted to the definitions and concepts of tourism statistics.</p>
<b>18.6 Adjustment</b>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<b>19. Comment</b>	
<b>19. Comment</b>	