International Passenger Survey

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What is the International Passenger Survey?

- A survey conducted face to face by interviewers
- Among international passengers arriving in the UK or leaving the UK
- Helping to shape tourism policy
- Measuring balance of payments associated with travel
- Key input to Migration National Statistics
How is IPS conducted?
21 international airports, five tunnel locations and 22 international sea routes are sampled

- Airports
- Sea routes
- Tunnel routes/ports
This means that 90% of international passengers have the chance of being sampled

But some people are not covered:

- The relatively small number at smaller ports
- Those crossing the land border in Ireland
- Those on cruises originating/docking in the UK

These people are accounted for through pseudo records or weighting strategies
IPS Sample (2014)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overseas departures</td>
<td>45,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas arrivals</td>
<td>64,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK resident departures</td>
<td>113,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK arrivals</td>
<td>57,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>281,058</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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- 90% of passengers subject to sample
- 0.2% of passengers sampled
- Optimised design from October 2016
Sampling is multi-stage

- Ports or routes selected for inclusion
- A certain number of shifts within a given period set for each port
- Shifts selected to a balanced design
- On shift, every nth passenger selected from a random start point
Questionnaire

Tablet data collection in development
Response rates are high

- Over 80%

- However, there are very few refusals (less than 2%)

- The interviewers do all they can to collect minimum information

- Response outcomes can be:
  - Completes
  - Partialis
  - Minimums
How do we produce estimates?
The sample profile is calibrated to passenger numbers at monthly and quarterly level.

- Sample at port x
- Traffic at port x
  - Average weight
    - Approximately 500
The weighting process is multi-stage

1. Design weight
2. Non response weight
3. Second design weight
4. Minimums weight
5. Weighting to sampling frame
6. Weighting for frame under coverage
7. Imbalance weight
8. Final weight (fweight)
The survey is primarily ONS funded

- But some external funding (VisitBritain, DCMS, HMRC, ORR, BEIS, HO)

- Questions carried for external sponsors provide detail to aid assessment of policy impact and provide key inputs to wider analyses
Outputs and publications
Travel trends 2015: total visitor numbers
Top destinations for UK residents 2015

- Spain
- France
- Italy
- Republic of Ireland
- USA
- Portugal
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Greece
- Poland
Top countries of residence for visits to UK, 2015

- France
- USA
- Germany
- Republic of Ireland
- Spain
- Netherlands
- Italy
- Poland
- Belgium
- Australia
Outputs & publications - Datasets

Datasets - Key differences

- **Quarterly**
  - provisional estimates
  - minimum period over which detailed analysis of the data can be made
  - similar variables as in annual
  - dataset available to users three and a half months after end of reporting period

- **Annual**
  - final revised figures
  - same variables as in quarterly
  - combines data for all four quarters
  - dataset available 5 months after end of reporting period
Main analysis variables

Full IPS dataset has over 110 variables

- questionnaire variables are directly from questions asked in the interview
- derived variables are from responses
- variables that are simply indicators to help identify the quality of data or to show where data have been obtained and to what degree.

There are about 26 most widely used variables.
Monthly Travel and Tourism Release

provisional top line figures

- shows estimates of visits and spending by:

  **UK residents**
  travelling abroad &

  **Overseas residents**
  visiting the UK

- seasonally and non seasonally adjusted data
- published 6 weeks after end of the reporting month
Quarterly Travel and Tourism Release

Contains provisional estimates

- includes more variables
- published two and a half months after end of reporting period.
Annual Publication: Travel Trends

Final figures

- gives tables, charts and commentary
- recommended to users for analyses
- published 5 months after the end of the year.
Outputs & publications

Access

• Key users and question sponsors directly supplied with datasets or data tables
• Datasets available to users through UK Data Service
• TravelPac is on the ONS website
• Data tables can be supplied when you contact our Data Advice and Relations Team (DART) - socialsurveys@ons.gsi.gov.uk.
• Key publications directly on ONS website.

Other information / reports on the ONS website

• Questionnaire
• Interviewer instructions
• Quality report.
Questions?