

General Bureau of Statistics (GBS)



Collaborative efforts of Social and
Economic Statistics Divisions
of the GBS

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General Information

- Country: Suriname with Paramaribo as Capital
- Surface area: 163.820 km²
- Borders: Atlantic Ocean in the North, Brazil in the South, Guyana in the West and French Guyana in the East
- Member state of CARICOM, UN (and former member state of CTO)
- Population 2019: (MYE_NSO: 598.000)
- 10 districts divided into 62 sub districts (“ressorten”)
- NSO is lead by the Chief Statistician and deputy director(s) and reports to the Commission for Statistics
- The NSO has semi-autonomous status and administratively comes under the Ministry of Finance
- The NSO has 1 Head Office in the capital city and 1 branch office in Commewijne (east district) and 1 branch office in Nickerie (west district)

Tourism Data sources

- SURINAME TOURISM FOUNDATION TILL 2016
(processing of ED card information) (*indicators with **)
- MILITARY POLICE FORCE (immigration service,
border management system)
- VISITOR EXIT SURVEY 2016/2017
- AIRPORT MANAGEMENT

Tourism Indicators (Inbound and Outbound)

- Arrived non - residents through all ports
- Arrived residents through all ports
- Arriving tourists by age group *
- Arrivals of one-day visitors by age group *
- Arriving tourists by sex *
- One-day visitors arriving by sex *
- Arriving tourists according to the purpose of the visit *
- Arrived one-day visitors by purpose of the visit *
- Arrivals by duration of the visit *
- Arriving persons by place of residence *
- Arrivals by country of residence
- Arrivals by nationality

Traffic and Transport publication

Traffic and Transport Statistics department.

Chapter included in publication regarding “International Passenger Traffic”.

Data collection:

The majority of the data collection is based on the use of secondary data from external sources. These data sources are contacted yearly, by telephone and in writing.

INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER TRAFFIC

The measuring points for INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER TRAFFIC, i.e. passenger traffic between Suriname and the rest of the world, are:

- Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport
- The border posts at South Drain in the district of Nickerie and the ferry landing at Albina in the district of Marowijne
- Zorg and Hoop Airport

Highlights from the publication (*chapter Passenger Traffic*):

- The annual number of arrivals via our international airport JAP increased from 215,990 in 2012 to 242,980 in 2016.
- Regarding arrivals from all ports: in 2017 we had 220,983 arrived persons and in 2019 (#) the number of arrivals was 269,901.
- Zorg en Hoop is the smallest borderpost and has the lowest percentage of incoming persons
- The JAP airport is the largest borderpost and has the highest number of persons arriving
- The largest group of tourists come from Europe and South America
- If we look at the age group, the largest group of tourists is in the 40-49 and 50-59 classes

(#) 2019 regards preliminary data

Datagaps, challenges, bottlenecks

- Since 2016 the NSO has not been able to collect data from the Suriname Tourism Foundation (STF). The STF was / is dealing with (re)organizational issues.
- The NSO has been using data from the Border Management System from the Military Police as an alternative source, to still be able to produce selected data regarding International Passenger Traffic.
- Lack of a central authority where all data and information regarding the Tourism sector is accessible

Visitor Exit Survey (VES)

The General Bureau of Statistics (Suriname) in collaboration with the then Suriname Tourism Foundation (STS) conducted a Visitors Exit Survey from 19 December 2016 up to 31 January 2017.

- Target group: non-residents who visited Suriname for whatever reason for a period shorter than one year (2016) and left the country in the above mentioned period.
- Transits were excluded.

Visitor Exit Survey (VES)

The Survey was conducted at the Immigration and Custom ports. Those are:

- The International Johan Adolf Pengel Airport (JAP) (PBM)
- Zorg en Hoop Airport (PBM)
- South Drain, Ferry Canawaima (Nick)
- Albina, Ferry La Grabielle (Marow)

The questionnaire consisted of 10 questions (monetary and non-monetary) and was in; Dutch, English, Spanish, French and 'Mandarin Chinese'.

Visitor Exit Survey (VES)

The questionnaire covered:

1. Visitor by port, sex, age, etc
2. Main Purpose of Visit
3. Duration of Visit
4. Accommodation
5. Activities done
6. First Time Visitor
7. Expenses

Visitor Exit Survey - VES

(19 December 2016 – 31 January 2017)

Number and Percentage Visitors by Region of Residence and Port

| Region of Residence | Port | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|------|--------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|----------------------|------|
| | Total | | Albina | | South Drain | | JAP Airport | | Zorg en Hoop Airport | |
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| North Am. | 2373 | 5.4 | 8 | 0.6 | 301 | 5.3 | 2043 | 5.6 | 21 | 8.3 |
| Dutch Caribbean | 2784 | 6.4 | 8 | 0.6 | 38 | 0.7 | 2739 | 7.5 | 0 | 0.0 |
| The Caribbean | 1437 | 3.3 | 4 | 0.3 | 161 | 2.8 | 1269 | 3.5 | 3 | 1.2 |
| South America. | 8256 | 18.9 | 1039 | 78.1 | 4816 | 85.1 | 2230 | 6.1 | 173 | 68.4 |
| Europe | 28257 | 64.8 | 252 | 18.9 | 269 | 4.8 | 27719 | 76.2 | 17 | 6.7 |
| Asia | 226 | 0.5 | 4 | 0.3 | 73 | 1.3 | 109 | 0.3 | 39 | 15.4 |
| Rest of the world | 207 | 0.5 | 16 | 1.2 | - | 0.0 | 190 | 0.5 | - | 0.0 |
| Unknown | 92 | 0.2 | - | 0.0 | 5 | 0.1 | 87 | 0.2 | - | 0.0 |
| Total | 43632 | 100 | 1331 | 100 | 5662 | 100 | 36386 | 100 | 253 | 100 |

Top ten (10) Countries with the highest Number of Visitors by Main Purpose of Visit

| No. | Country | Number of Visitors | Main Purpose of Visit |
|-----|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | The Netherlands | 26475 | Vacation |
| 2 | Guyana | 4676 | Visting Friends & Relatives (VFR) |
| 3 | United States of America | 2063 | VFR |
| 4 | French Guiana | 1972 | Vacation |
| 5 | Curacao | 1258 | VFR |
| 6 | Brasil | 1034 | VFR |
| 7 | Aruba | 923 | VFR |
| 8 | Trinidad | 700 | VFR/Business |
| 9 | Belgium | 536 | VFR |
| 10 | France | 429 | Vacation |

Tourism Satellite Accounts

- The GBS does not produce a TSA as yet, but we did follow training courses
- 3 staff members of the National Accounts department completed the CN 1800 Tourism Industry Analysis online course from May-June 2015 via MOOC
- SESRIC held two tourism statistics workshop in Suriname: the first one at the General Bureau of Statistics from 9-11 August 2016 and the second one at the headquarters of Suriname Airlines
- From 1-3 February 2017 CARICOM organized a workshop at the General Bureau of Statistics on Tourism Statistics and the elaboration of a TSA.

The END

Thank you

