



# Tourism Satellite Account

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **What is a Tourism Satellite Account?**

Tourism is not recorded in the National Accounts (NA) as a separate activity and therefore has to be entered into a separate accounting system to be accounted for as an economic phenomenon in the context of the NA. Within the NA, tourism is recorded in a separate accounting system called the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA). The TSA strictly follows the definitions and concepts of the NA.

### **Why does Switzerland need a tourism satellite account?**

Tourism is very important to the Swiss economy and for this reason it is frequently the subject of discussion, both in political circles and in society generally. A strong need therefore exists among interested parties for reliable statistics on which to base their decisions and discussions. It is the purpose of the Tourism Satellite Account to meet this need.

### **How often is the TSA published?**

The Federal Statistical Office (FSO) publishes a TSA each three to four years. Five TSA have been published so far (1998, 2001, 2005, 2008 and 2011). In the intermediate years from 2001 on, the indicators of the TSA were published annually.

### **What are the measurement categories of the TSA?**

This satellite account is the basic synthetic statistic to measure the direct economic impact of tourism. Its purpose is to record tourism's importance to different sectors of the economy, as well as tourism's contribution to the economy in terms both of value added *and* employment. To achieve this, the Tourism Satellite Account does not derive its statistics from its own survey, but makes use of various existing base statistics.

### **Are there any monetary tourism statistics at cantonal or regional level?**

Currently, only results at national level are available.

### **Are there any monetary tourism statistics on winter tourism?**

Based on the currently available data it is not possible to obtain detailed information on the volume of winter tourism in the context of the currently published monetary tourism statistics.

**Are there any monetary statistics on the sale on jewelry and watches?**

Based on the currently available data it is not possible to obtain detailed information on sales of jewelry and watches in the context of the currently published monetary tourism statistics.

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***For further information:***

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