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Abstract

Tourism increasingly ered important to regional economic prospects. Consequently many regions, notably those less prosperous, have expended significant resources in developing tourism attractions, promoting tourism events and supporting tourism-based operations. In this resource context, the difficulties in assessing the economic contribution of this diverse (and often atomised) set of activities are of concern. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and others have suggested Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSAs) as a suitable method of providing consistent economic evaluation of tourism-based activity. Yet the provision of an accurate and reliable set of accounts, which informs policy decisions and resource directions, is far from easy. This paper examines some of the methodological difficulties in constructing a TSA at the regional level and implications for deriving an effective tourism policy.

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1. For example, deflating the tourism-related information from 1998 to 1996 before incorporation into the tables would have maintained the integrity of the input-output tables, whilst if relevant information had been available, the 1996 table could have been updated to 1998 using a RAS procedure (Allen and Gossling, 1975).

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