The Role of Trade Associations in the Production of Official Statistics

The Case of Air Transport Statistics

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The production of official statistics is typically led by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

Contributing agencies may include Ministries, Central Banks, Social Security Institutions, Fiscal Agencies, etc.

The direct contribution of private sector entities may be limited.

This presentation illustrates the potential role of trade associations, representing specific (private sector) industries or sectors, highlighting the example of the air transport industry.
The Production of Air Transport Statistics

• At the international level, the production of Air Transport Statistics is led by UN-ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) as the Secretariat of the ICAO Member States, as well as EUROSTAT.

• Two trade associations (Airports Council International (ACI) on behalf of airports, and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) on behalf of airlines) contribute to the production of the statistics by direct cooperation with UN-ICAO.
The Production of Air Transport Statistics

- International Civil Aviation Organization (UN-ICAO)
- Airports Council International (ACI)
- International Air Transport Association (IATA)
- ICAO Member States – National Civil Aviation Authorities
- Airport operators
- Airline operators
Airports Council International

- Representing 2,615 commercial airports
- Joint ACI-ICAO data collections with standardized formats
- Inclusion of non-member airports
- Data cover 95% of world scheduled passenger traffic
- Principle source of global airport statistics
International Air Transport Association

- Representing some 300 commercial airlines
- Autonomous data collections
- Wealth of administrative data repositories (e.g. ticketing; financial).
- Inclusion of non-member airlines
- Data cover 75 to 95% of world commercial traffic
- Derived statistics cover 100% of the industry
- Most timely source of global airline statistics
The Role of Trade Associations: Contributions

The two trade associations representing the majority of airport and airline operators have contributed to the production of official statistics:

• Leveraging direct contact with the individual operators, enabling timely access to quality data, through surveys and administrative records

• Production of industry statistics for mutual benefit

• Sharing industry expertise, vowing for the accuracy and relevance of the statistics

• Advocating for the further conceptual development of air transport statistics, through participation in the ICAO-ADAP (Aviation Data Advisory Panel)
The Role of Trade Associations: Considerations

- (Membership) coverage, representation
- Mutual trust and unbiased reporting
- In-house capacities to conduct surveys, process and validate data
- Sustainability of data collections / data sources
- Data ownership
- Data confidentiality
- Statistics commercialisation
The potential contributions of trade associations will differ, and may include:

- Autonomous or joint data collections
- Use of administrative data repositories
- Sharing of industry expertise
  - revision of data collection mechanisms
  - revision of data and statistics accuracy and relevance
THANK YOU.