

TOPIC : Territorial Approach

Authors : Christophe Terrier Chef du département « de la Stratégie, de la Prospective, de l'évaluation et des Statistiques » : Direction du Tourisme. Abdel Khiati conseiller scientifique au département « de la Stratégie, de la Prospective, de l'évaluation et des Statistiques » : Direction du Tourisme Research

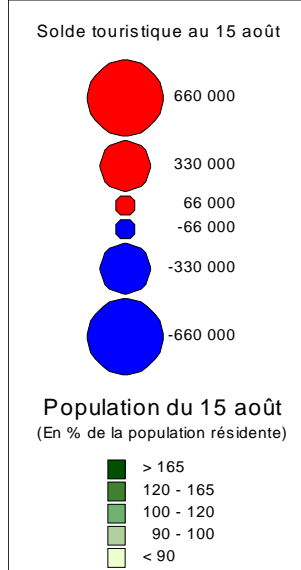
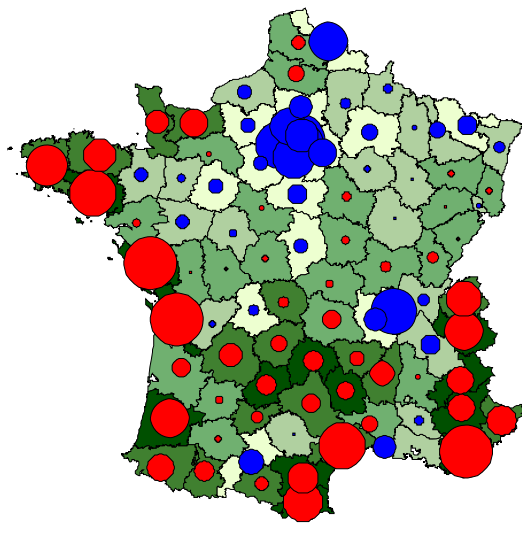
An estimation of differences between resident population and present population

The resident population is usually known by the census of population (INSEE). With the growing mobility of people, especially for touristic reasons, the present population in a given place and at a given time is almost always different from the resident population. For instance, on august 15th (2003), the studies on tourism show us that almost 14 millions of French people elect domicile out of their usual residence. With the 4 millions of foreign tourists, present that same day, more than 18 millions of people are on the French territory out of their domicile. It is usefull for the public authorities to have the closest estimation of present population day by day, at a local level.

The estimations of present population allow a different look at administration and planning of territories. Companies may use them to optimize the local implantation of their networks (publics transportations, post office, cell phone...). These estimations may also allow local administration to adjust their equipments to the maximum size of the population on their territories : waste planning, water purification... even a vaccination plan in case of bacteriological attack. It is then necessary to anticipate the maximum number of people to stock the sufficient number of vaccines, considering that saving the treatment only for the inhabitants is of course not an option.

The analysis of population variations due to tourism allow also a new approach of territorial economy. The principle of present population is that sendings are made by population (tourists + inhabitants) at a given time in a given place. Many activities (small business like bakery trade, hairdresser, doctors...) see their job stimulated by the presence of tourists. In Paris, for instance, the tourists have a major impact on economic results of museums and malls. The economic activitie due to present population is then of major importance for certain territories (sea and mountain for instance).

Solde touristique au 15 août 2003 (population présente, y.c. étrangers – population résidente)



The time and the localisation chosen to analyse the mobility of present population is the department, basic level of administration in France, and the day (24 hours). According to international standards, a tourist is an individual who travels, whatever the reasons are, and sleeps one night or more out of his domicile. In order to estimate, day by day, the present population in each department of Metropolitan France, it is necessary to evaluate the part of absence, that is the number of inhabitants who travel out of their department, and the presence, that same day, of tourists (French or foreign tourists) in that department.

The mobility of French people

The census of population made by the national statistics board (INSEE) gives the estimation of resident population of each department. The survey made by TNS-Sofres on behalf of the French Ministry of Tourism, asks monthly a panel of 20.000 people on their touristic mobility over the past month. This survey allows to determinate on a first time the resident population that is not present in its department. This absent population may travel for touristic reasons in its own department, in another department or out of France. The same survey allows to estimate the number of population living in another department and traveling in the considered department.

The mobility of foreign tourists

The problem of foreign tourists is simpler: they do not generate absences but only an increase of population. To estimate the number of foreign tourists at a given time, the sources are meanwhile less accurate. 75 millions of arrivals from non-resident people are recorded each year in France: this number can of course not be ignored. By combining the Survey on Frontiers (1996) and the monthly data of frequentation in hotels and camping (INSEE / Ministry of Tourism), the volume and the spatio-temporal distribution of foreign tourists can be estimated.

See also : Insee première N°1050 Novembre 2005

“En haute saison touristique la population présente double dans certains départements”