People on the move

A STATISTICAL PORTRAIT

2019 edition
People in today’s Europe are on the move much more than ever before. This mobility can be viewed from many angles, as there are many reasons for moving: migration, education, work or tourism... This digital publication People on the move – statistics on mobility in Europe shows the latest figures on these movements in many different ways, with a focus on people and not on goods.

The publication is divided into four chapters, each containing four sections:

**European melting pot** describes people entering and exiting the EU Member States. This chapter is also devoted to people acquiring citizenship and getting residence permits. To give an overview, data on people living in Europe broken down by nationals, other EU citizens and non-EU citizens are also included.

**Studying and working abroad** includes data on people studying abroad including Erasmus graduates. It also contains data on education level and working by citizenship. One section is devoted to crossing borders to go to work and another on commuting between regions.

**Trains, planes and automobiles** focuses on how people travel to work and elsewhere – is it by car, train or bus? One part deals with the number and age of cars, while another looks at the number of people travelling by plane, both within and outside Europe, as well as people travelling by boat. The largest passenger airports and ports are also presented.

**Out and about** concentrates on tourism. The chapter includes the purpose of trips, where tourists stay, the main destinations and transport means. The number of trips and their duration as well as expenditure on trips are also included.

This digital publication containing short texts, interactive visualisation tools and infographics has been developed by Eurostat.
## Contents

1. **EUROPEAN MELTING POT**  
   1. Living in Europe  
   2. Immigrating to EU Member States  
   3. Emigrating from EU Member States  
   4. Getting residence permits or acquiring citizenship  
   
2. **STUDYING AND WORKING ABROAD**  
   1. Studying abroad  
   2. Working abroad  
   3. Crossing borders  
   4. Commuting between regions  
   
3. **TRAINS, PLANES AND AUTOMOBILES**  
   1. Using road and rail  
   2. Focusing on cars  
   3. Travelling by plane  
   4. Travelling by ship  
   
4. **OUT AND ABOUT**  
   1. Portraying tourists  
   2. Going on trips  
   3. Travelling – where and how  
   4. Travelling – spending  
   
FURTHER INFORMATION
1. EUROPEAN MELTING POT

1.1 Living in Europe

Among the 512 million persons living in the EU in 2018, 7.8 % had a nationality other than their country of residence: 3.4 % had a citizenship of another EU Member State and 4.4 % of a non-EU Member State. These shares differed among the Member States. In 2018, Luxembourg had the largest share of citizens of another EU Member State (41 % of the population) followed by Cyprus (13 %) and Ireland (9 %). The largest proportions of citizens originating from outside the EU were found in Estonia and Latvia (both 14 %) and Austria (8 %).

At EU level in 2018, the share of women and men was almost equal for both nationals and non-nationals (both for citizens of other EU Member States and from outside the EU). However, among the Member States, the shares differed. Among citizens of another EU Member State, there was a large majority of men in Romania (75 %), Poland (71 %), Lithuania and Slovakia (both 65 %), while there was a large majority of women in Greece (65 %). Among non-EU citizens, the highest share of men was observed in Lithuania and Slovenia (both 65 %), and for women in Cyprus and Romania (both 60 %).

Over three quarters of non-EU nationals are of working age

Looking at the age perspective, 16 % of the national population in the EU in 2018 were below 15, 64 % were aged 15 to 64, and the remaining 21 % 65 and over. This pattern differed for both groups of non-nationals, where over three quarters (77 %) were of working age (15 to 64 years). The largest shares of citizens of another EU Member State aged 15 to 64 were observed in Czechia (86 %), Estonia and Romania (both 85 %), while for non-EU citizens, it was in Poland and Romania (both 88 %) and Ireland (87 %).
1.1 Living in Europe
1.2 Immigrating to EU Member States

A peak of immigrants to EU Member States in 2015

The number of people immigrating to the EU Member States has fluctuated in recent years. This includes people who have migrated both on a permanent basis as well as for a period of one year or more. Looking at the period of 2013 to 2017, total immigration including both people immigrating from another EU Member State and those from a country outside the EU stood at 3.4 million in 2013, then increased by more than a third to reach a peak of 4.7 million in 2015. Then immigration decreased by 8% to 4.3 million in 2016, and then, in 2017, increased by 3% to reach 4.4 million.

In 2017, immigrants with a non-EU citizenship accounted for 46% of immigration, while 30% were persons with a citizenship of another EU Member State and 23% were nationals going back to their country of origin. Among the Member States, the largest shares of immigrants with a citizenship from outside the EU in 2018 were observed in Italy (70% of total immigrants), Slovenia (65%) and Sweden (62%). For people with a citizenship of another EU Member State, the highest proportions were observed in Luxembourg (68%), Austria (58%) and Malta (54%), while for returning nationals the largest shares were in Romania (82%), Poland (63%) and Slovakia (60%).
1.2 Immigrating to EU Member States

Graph showing Immigrants by citizenship, 2017 (as % of total immigrants)
1.3 Emigrating from EU Member States

The number of people emigrating from the EU Member States has also fluctuated in recent years. Like for immigration, this includes people who have emigrated both on a permanent basis as well as for a period of one year or more. In 2017, just over 3 million persons emigrated from an EU Member State, including both people emigrating to another EU Member State and those to a country outside the EU, a number which increased by 12 % since 2013. In 2017, a majority (54 %) of those emigrating were nationals, meaning citizens from the reporting country, 25 % were citizens of another EU Member State, while 21 % were non-EU citizens. At a Member State level, a large majority of those emigrating were nationals, with the highest shares in Slovakia (99 %), Portugal (98 %) and Croatia (96 %). Largest shares of citizens from another EU Member State emigrating were observed in Luxembourg (67 %) and Austria (47 %), while for non-EU citizens, the highest proportions were found in Czechia (65 %) and Cyprus (60 %).
1.4 Getting residence permits or acquiring citizenship

A peak of first residence permits granted in EU Member States in 2017

The number of first residence permits granted in the EU to non-EU citizens increased from 2008 to 2017. This mainly resulted from a continuous growth during the last three years, from 2.3 million in 2014 up to 3.1 million in 2017, while the number of first residence permits granted over the 2008-2014 period fluctuated between 2.1 and 2.5 million.

In 2017, the largest shares of first residence permits were given to people from Ukraine (21 % of all first residence permits in the EU), Syria (7 %), China (6 %), India and the United States (5 % each). Poland was the main country giving first residence permits to people from Ukraine (88 % of all first residence permits given to Ukrainians), while for Syria (63 %) it was Germany. About half of first residence permits granted to people from China, the United States and India were in the United Kingdom.

The reason for applying for first residence permits in the EU varied: 32 % of people asking for residence permit did it for work reasons, 27 % for family reasons and 17 % for education. The remaining 24 % were for other reasons, including international protection.

A peak of acquisition of citizenship to EU Member States in 2016

The number of acquisitions of citizenship granted to people living in the EU Member States has increased during the period 2008 to 2017. Fluctuating at around 800 000 between 2008 and 2012, it increased in 2013 to reach 980 000. After that it decreased again in 2014 and 2015 to reach a peak of 995 000 in 2016. In 2017, the number was down to 825 000.

The EU Member States where most people acquired citizenship in 2017 were Italy (18 % of all acquired citizenships in the EU), the United Kingdom (15 %), Germany and France (14 % each), Sweden and Spain (8 % each). The main beneficiaries of an EU citizenship were people from Morocco (8 %), Albania (7 %), India and Turkey (4 % each).

France, Spain and Italy (together 83 %) were the main Member States where people from Morocco acquired citizenship, while for those from Albania it was in Greece and Italy (together 97 %). The United Kingdom (53 %) was the main Member State where the population from India acquired citizenship, while for those from Turkey it was Germany (50 %).
1.4 Getting residence permits or acquiring citizenship

First residence permits, 2017
## Acquisition of citizenship

**2017**

### EU Member States granting

**Select a country:**

**European Union**
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Germany
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Greece
- Spain
- Finland
- France
- Croatia
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Latvia
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Sweden
- Slovenia
- Slovakia
- United Kingdom

### Citizens acquiring

**Top 3 recipient countries of European citizenship, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>67,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>58,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>31,618</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total: 825,447 granted citizenships**

Data for Romania by single former citizenship is not available and is not included in the calculation of the top recipients.

Source: Eurostat - [access to dataset](https://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu)
To carry out your studies and graduate in another country than one's home country has become increasingly common among students. In 2017, there were in total 1.7 million such mobile tertiary students in the EU coming from abroad (both from another EU Member State and from outside the EU), a number which has increased by 22 % since 2013.

Mobile tertiary students coming from abroad represented 8.1 % of all enrolled tertiary students in the EU in 2017. The shares differed among the Member States: the largest shares were observed in Luxembourg (47 %), Cyprus (23 %) and Austria (17 %), while the lowest were recorded in Croatia, Spain and Greece (all 3 %).

**Erasmus+: 193 000 mobile graduates at bachelor and master level in 2017**

The Erasmus+ programme is a European Union student exchange programme, which supports students to spend part of their studies at another higher education institution abroad. In 2017, around 114 000 bachelor graduates and around 78 000 master graduates had benefitted from this programme.

For Erasmus+ bachelor graduates, the main exchange destination country was Spain (21 300 graduates or 19 % of total bachelor Erasmus graduates in the EU in 2017), followed by Germany (18 400 or 16 %), the United Kingdom (12 400 or 11 %), Italy (11 500 or 10 %) and the Netherlands (10 900 or 10 %). Together, these five Member States were the destination of two thirds of all bachelor Erasmus graduates in 2017.

For Erasmus master graduates, France (20 500 or 26 % of total master Erasmus graduates in the EU in 2017) was the most frequent country chosen, followed by Italy (15 000 or 19 %) and Germany (14 600 or 19 %). Together, almost two thirds of all master Erasmus graduates in 2017 went for an exchange in these three Member States.

**Almost a third of citizens from another EU Member State have a tertiary education level**

As mentioned in chapter 1.1, 7.8 % of the EU population in 2018 had a nationality other than their country of residence: 3.4 % had the citizenship of another EU Member State and 4.4 % were non-EU citizens. The remaining 92.2 % were nationals living in their country of origin. Let’s look closer at the education level of these three different groups.

On average in the EU, almost one in three persons (31 %) who have the citizenship of another EU Member State than the one they were living in had a high education level (tertiary education), while this was the case for 28 % of all nationals and 24 % of non-EU citizens.
For the lowest education level (less than primary or lower secondary education), the situation was different: almost half of all non-EU citizens (46 %) living in the EU had a low education level, followed by those with another EU citizenship (29 %) and nationals (27 %).

These shares differed significantly between the Member States. Looking at the people with the citizenship of another EU Member State than the one they were living in, the highest share of those having a high education level were found in Denmark (54 %), Sweden (53 %) and Ireland (47 %), while over half of non-EU citizens in Ireland (66 %), the United Kingdom (53 %) and Poland (52 %) had a high education level. On the other hand, over half of non-EU citizens in Italy (61 %), Spain (53 %) and Sweden (51 %) had a low level of education.
2.1 Studying abroad

Erasmus: bachelor and master students

Number of graduates who had short-term mobility (mainly Erasmus)

Data for 2017.
Source: Eurostat
2.2 Working abroad

Not only studying abroad but also working abroad has become more and more common in the EU. Looking closer at the employment situation of the three different groups of people by citizenship, the employment rate for those with a citizenship of another Member State than the one they were living in was 77 % in 2018, compared with 74 % for nationals and 59 % for non-EU citizens.

In thirteen Member States each, the employment rate was either highest among nationals or among those with a citizenship of another EU Member State. In contrast, in Romania and Slovakia, the employment rate was highest for non-EU citizens.

The employment rates of nationals ranged from 60 % in Greece to 85 % in Sweden in 2018, for those from another EU Member State they ranged from 54 % in Greece to 95 % in Lithuania, and for non-EU citizens, the rates varied between 43 % in Belgium and 82 % in Czechia.

8.3 % of employed in the EU are non-nationals

Another way of looking at employment by citizenship is by the share of non-nationals in total employment. In the EU in 2018, the share of other EU citizens (those with a citizenship of another Member State than the one they were living in) in total employment was 4.1 % and for non-EU citizens 4.2 %. Going more in detail, by sector, the shares were 4.0 % for other EU-citizens and 4.3 % for non-EU citizens in the service sector, 4.5 % and 3.9 % respectively in the industrial sector and 2.5 % and 3.4 % respectively in agriculture.

Among the Member States, the shares differed with the largest share in total employment of other EU citizens in Luxembourg (49.4 %), followed by Ireland (12.8 %) and Cyprus (11.4 %), while for non-EU citizens the largest proportions were found in Estonia (13.1 %), Malta (9.4 %) and Cyprus (7.6 %).

In the service sector, the largest shares of other EU nationals were found in Luxembourg (48.1 %), Ireland (12.6 %) and Cyprus (10.7 %) and of non-EU citizens in Estonia (10.3 %), Malta (9.4 %) and Cyprus (7.6 %).

For industry, over half of employed in Luxembourg (61.9 %) were other EU citizens working in this sector, followed by Ireland (15.4 %) and Cyprus (14.9 %). For non-EU citizens in this sector, the highest shares were observed in Estonia (20.7 %), Malta (9.8 %) and Greece (8.6 %).

Within the agricultural sector, Denmark (11.7 %) had the highest share of other EU citizens, followed by the United Kingdom (8.8 %) and Cyprus (7.6 %). For non-EU citizens, on the other hand, the largest shares in this sector were observed in Cyprus (19.1 %), Spain (14.7 %) and Italy (12.2 %).
2.2 Working abroad
2.3 Crossing borders

As we have seen in the previous chapter, many people live and work outside their home country. In this chapter, we will now look closer at people who live in one Member State and work in another. In 2018, among the 220 million employed persons aged 20-64 years in the EU, this situation applied to 1.3 million, equivalent to 0.6 % of all employed.

In 2018, the largest number of cross-border workers among the Member States were for those living in Poland and working in Germany (125 000 people), France and Luxembourg (88 000), Germany and Luxembourg (52 000), Slovakia and Austria (48 000) and France and Belgium (46 000).

**Cross border workers are mostly men in the construction field**

Men working within the construction field were most common among cross border workers living in Poland and working in Germany (30 %), France and Luxembourg (21 %) and Germany and Luxembourg (12 %). Men working in manufacturing were most common among cross border workers living in France and working in Belgium (30 %), while women working in human health was most common for those living in Slovakia and working in Austria (46 %).
2.3 Crossing borders

**EU cross-border workers flows**

1. **125,000 workers**
   - Poland → Germany

2. **52,000 workers**
   - Germany → Luxembourg

3. **46,000 workers**
   - France → Belgium

4. **48,000 workers**
   - Slovakia → Austria

5. **88,000 workers**
   - France → Luxembourg

**Top groups**

- Men working within the construction field
- Men working within the manufacturing field
- Women working in human health

Data for 2018. Source: Eurostat
2.4 Commuting between regions

People also commute for work between regions in the country they live in. In 2018, among the 220 million employed persons aged 20-64 years in the EU, 18.3 million, equivalent to 8.3 % of employed, were commuting from one region to another within their country of residence.

The highest rate of regional commuting in 2018 was recorded in Belgium and the United Kingdom, where more than one in five (21 % of employed each) persons commuted to work to a different region, followed by the Netherlands (17 %). Commuting was also relatively common in Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Hungary and Austria where around 10 % of employed commuted to work in a different region.

The regions with the highest share of commuting were found in the London area in the United Kingdom: in Outer London – South (61 % of employed in that region), Outer London – East and North East (59 %), Inner London – East (53 %), Outer London – West and North West (48 %), followed by Prov. Brabant Wallon in Belgium (47 %).
3. TRAINS, PLANES AND AUTOMOBILES

3.1 Using road and rail

Which type of land transport (road and rail) do people in the EU use in order to move from one place to another? Looking at total travel (measured in passenger kilometres) in the EU in 2016, 83 % were by car, 9 % by bus and 8 % by train. These shares have been quite stable over the last decade.

In the Member States, the share of cars in passenger land transport in 2016 ranged from 69 % in Hungary to 89 % in Portugal and 90 % in Lithuania. The proportions for busses ranged from 3 % in the Netherlands and 5 % in the United Kingdom to 22 % in Hungary, and for trains, it varied from 1 % in Greece and Lithuania to 11 % in the Netherlands and 12 % in Austria.
3.2 Focusing on cars

As can be seen in chapter 3.1, the car is most often used for road passenger transport in the EU. Looking at the number of cars per 1 000 inhabitants, there are large differences among the Member States. In 2017, there were over 600 cars per 1 000 inhabitants in Luxembourg (670), Italy (625 in 2016), Finland (617), Malta (613) and Cyprus (609). On the other hand, there were less than 400 in Hungary (355), Latvia (356), Croatia (389) and Bulgaria (393).

However, differences between Member States in cars registered can not only be observed for the number of cars per inhabitants, but also for the age of the cars. In 2017, among the Member States for which this data is available, the share of cars less than 2 years old was highest in Denmark (24 % of all cars), Belgium (22 %) and Sweden (20 %). On the other hand, 70 % or over of cars in Lithuania (83 %), Latvia (77 %), Poland (74 %), Estonia and Hungary (both 70 %) were more than 10 years old.
3.2 Focusing on cars
3.3 Travelling by plane

Total number of passengers grew by 30 % between 2008 and 2017

In 2017, just over 1 billion air passengers in total were recorded in the EU. Almost half (47 %) were passengers flying within the EU, 36 % flew to destinations outside the EU, while the remaining 17 % took national flights within the same country.

The total number of air passengers in the EU grew by 30 % between 2008 and 2017. Except for Slovakia (-7 %), all Member States registered an increase in the number of passengers, with the largest rises observed in Romania (+123 %), Luxembourg (+107 %), Lithuania (+106 %) and Poland (+101 %).

Main airplane routes within EU: Madrid <---> Barcelona and Paris <---> Toulouse

Within the EU, the top air routes were between Madrid-Barajas and Barcelona/El Prat in Spain (1.2 million passengers each way) and between Toulouse/Blagnac and Paris/Orly in France (also 1.2 million each way), followed by Paris/Orly to Nice/Côte d'Azur (1.1 million), also in France.

Which were the main airport routes when travelling from the EU to a destination outside? In 2017, the three most common routes all started from London/Heathrow in the United Kingdom: to New York/John F. Kennedy (1.5 million passengers), to Dubai International Airport (1.4 million) and to Hong Kong International Airport (790 000). These were followed by København/Kastrup in Denmark to Oslo Gardemoen in Norway (775 000) and Paris/Charles de Gaulle in France to New York/John F. Kennedy (780 000).

Largest EU airports are London/Heathrow, Paris/Charles de Gaulle and Amsterdam/Schiphol

The largest airports in the EU in 2017 in terms of number of passengers carried were London/Heathrow in the United Kingdom (78 million passengers), Paris/Charles de Gaulle in France (69 million), Amsterdam/Schiphol in the Netherlands (68 million), Frankfurt/Main in Germany (64 million) and Madrid/Barajas in Spain (52 million).
3.3 Travelling by plane
3.4 Travelling by ship

In 2017, 415 million ship passengers disembarking and embarking in ports in the EU were registered, a decrease of 5.5 % compared with 2007. In 2017, among the Member States with maritime ports, Italy (18 % of the EU total) had the largest share, followed by Greece (17 %) and Denmark (10 %). These three Member States accounted for 45 % of all ship passenger transport in the EU.

Largest passenger ports in the EU are Helsinki and Dover

The largest passenger ports in the EU in 2017 were Helsinki in Finland and Dover in the United Kingdom (11.8 million passengers each), followed by Tallin in Estonia (10.0 million), Messina in Italy (9.3 million) and Calais in France (9.0 million).
4. OUT AND ABOUT

4.1 Portraying tourists

In 2017, 267 million people in the EU*, corresponding to 62 % of the population, went at least on one private trip (as opposed to business trips). This number has increased by 4 % since 2012. Among the Member States, over 80 % of the population in Finland (91 %), the Netherlands (86 %), Sweden and Czechia (both 82 %) and Luxembourg (81 %) went on at least one private trip in 2017. On the other hand, this share was less than 40 % in Romania (27 %), Bulgaria (35 %) and Greece (39 %).

This means, on the other hand, that 38 % of the EU* population did not make any private trip in 2017.

On average on the EU, the main reason for not participating in tourism (2016 data) was that people could not afford it (48 %), followed by not having any interest and/or health reasons (20 % each).

17 % of EU tourists are aged over 65

In 2017, private trips among EU* tourists were quite evenly spread among different age groups. They ranged from 14 % for the age group 15 to 24 to 18 % each for the age groups 35 to 44 and 45 to 54. In a majority of Member States, the most common age group for tourists was 35 to 44. However, in six Member States (Sweden, France, Finland, Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands), the age group 65 and over was the most common, representing at least 20 % of the tourists from these countries.

* EU aggregate including 2016 data for the United Kingdom, since data is not available for 2017
4.1 Portraying tourists
4.2 Going on trips

Almost 90 % of all trips are private trips

In 2017, residents of the EU* made in total 1 billion trips, either for business or privately. This is an increase of 7 % since 2014. Of these trips, almost 90 % were made for private personal purposes (private trips), meaning people went on a trip for holidays, visits to friends and relatives or other personal reason, with at least one overnight stay.

Looking more at the detailed purpose of these private trips, more than half (56 %) were made for recreation, 39 % were to visit friends and relatives, while 5 % were made for other personal reasons. These shares differed among the Member States: The largest shares of trips for recreation purposes were recorded by residents from Malta (90 % of all personal trips made by Maltese residents) and Belgium (82 %). On the other hand, the majority of trips by residents from Romania (53 %), Latvia (52 %) and Sweden (51 %) were visits to friends and relatives.

Staying at a friend’s or relative’s house most common

For nearly half (47 %) of their private trips, EU* residents stayed in rented accommodation, while the rest of their trips (53 %) were spent in non-rented accommodation.

During these trips, EU* residents most commonly stayed at a friend’s or relative’s house (40 % of all personal trips made in 2017), followed by hotels (29 %), another type of rented accommodation (16 %), their own holiday home (11 %) and campsites (4 %).

Looking at the Member States, staying at a friend’s or relative’s house during these trips was most common for tourists from Romania (61 % of their trips) and Latvia (60 %), while for hotels, the highest shares were found for tourists from Austria (53 %) and Malta (52 %). For own holiday homes, the highest shares were observed for tourists from Czechia (24 %) and Greece (23 %), while for camping they were for tourists from Slovenia (8 %).

On average in the EU: 4 trips per tourist in 2017

On average in the EU*, each tourist made 4.2 trips in 2017. Among the Member States, tourists from Finland (8.3 trips), Sweden (8.0 trips), Denmark (6.9 trips) and Spain (5.6 trips) recorded the highest average number of trips, while it was lowest for those from Greece (1.6 trip), Belgium and Italy (both 2.4 trips) and Bulgaria (2.5 trips).

In 2017, each private trip made by EU* residents lasted on average 5.2 nights. This varied between Member States, with the longest trips made by tourists from Greece (10.0 nights), Luxembourg (7.5 nights), Belgium and the Netherlands (6.7 nights each), while the shortest trips were observed for tourists from Estonia and Latvia (3.3 nights each) and Finland (3.5 nights).

* EU aggregate excluding data for the United Kingdom, since data is not available for 2017
4.2 Going on trips

Private trips by type of accommodation, 2017
(as % of the total number of trips)

- Hotels 29.1%
- Relatives' and friends' home 40.3%
- Own holiday home 10.9%
- Camping 3.5%
- Other, including rented houses or apartments 16.2%

Average number of trips per tourist
2017

Average number of trips per tourist
Three quarters of trips by EU residents are domestic trips

Looking at the destination of private trips made by EU residents, they can either stay in their own country (domestic trips) or travel to another country (outbound trips). In the EU* in 2017, 75 % of private trips made by EU residents were domestic trips, while the remaining 25 % were trips either to another Member State or to a country outside the EU.

Among the Member States, the share of domestic and outbound trips varied, depending on, among other things, the size and the location of the country. At least nine in ten trips by residents of Romania (94 % of all private trips), Spain and Portugal (both 91 %) as well as Greece (90 %) were made within their own country, while the largest proportions of outbound trips were observed for residents of Luxembourg (99 %), Belgium (79 %) and Malta (63 %).

Which are the main tourism destinations of EU residents in terms of nights spent during their trips? Have a look at the interactive visualisation to the right.

Two thirds of private trips are made by car

On average in the EU* in 2017, two thirds of all private trips were made by car, 14 % by air, 9 % by train, 6 % by bus, 2 % by waterways and 1 % by other means. Not surprisingly, the type of transport differed largely between Member States: 80 % or over of private trips made by residents of Slovenia (88 %), Portugal (81 %) and Czechia (80 %) were made by car, while over 40 % of trips by residents of Malta (58 %), Cyprus (44 %), Ireland and Luxembourg (both 41 %) were made by air. For bus, the highest shares were observed in Croatia (20 %), Romania (19 %) and Bulgaria (16 %), and for train in Germany (13 %), France and Slovakia (both 12 %). The highest shares for trips made by boat were by tourists from Malta (42 %) and Greece (17 %).

* EU aggregate excluding data for the United Kingdom, since data is not available for 2017
4.3 Travelling – where and how

Top destinations of EU residents, 2017
(as % of total tourism nights spent)

Source: Eurostat – access to data

Private trips by transport mode, 2017
(as % of the total number of trips)

Source: Eurostat – access to data
Average expenditure per private trip ranges from € 134 to € 743

In the EU* in 2017, tourists spent on average € 362 per private trip. Spending varied considerably among the Member States, with over € 600 per trip for residents from Luxembourg (€ 743), Austria (€ 636), Malta (€ 609) and Denmark (€ 605). Residents from Romania (€ 134), Czechia (€ 135), Latvia (€ 138), Bulgaria (€ 147), Portugal and Hungary (€ 150 each) spent on average € 150 or less.

* EU aggregate excluding data for Sweden and the United Kingdom, since data is not available for 2017
FURTHER INFORMATION

People on the move — statistics on mobility in Europe is a digital publication released by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

Information on data

The text refers to data available as of June 2019.

Contact

If you have questions on the data, please contact the Eurostat User Support.

Identifiers of the digital publication

Catalogue number: KS-04-19-470-EN-Q
ISBN 978-92-76-08572-0
doi:10.2785/50487

The European Commission is not liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse of this publication.

© European Union, 2019

Reuse is authorised provided the source is acknowledged. The reuse policy of European Commission documents is regulated by Decision 2011/833/EU (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39).

Copyright for the cover pictures:
Photo1: © LaineN / Shutterstock.com
Photo2: © wavebreakmedia / Shutterstock.com
Photo3: © Yuganov Konstantin / Shutterstock.com
Photo4: © sifkigali / Shutterstock.com

For any use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holders. For more information, please consult:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/about/policies/copyright