

World Tourism Day

1 in 5 tourism nights of EU residents spent by tourists aged 65 or over...

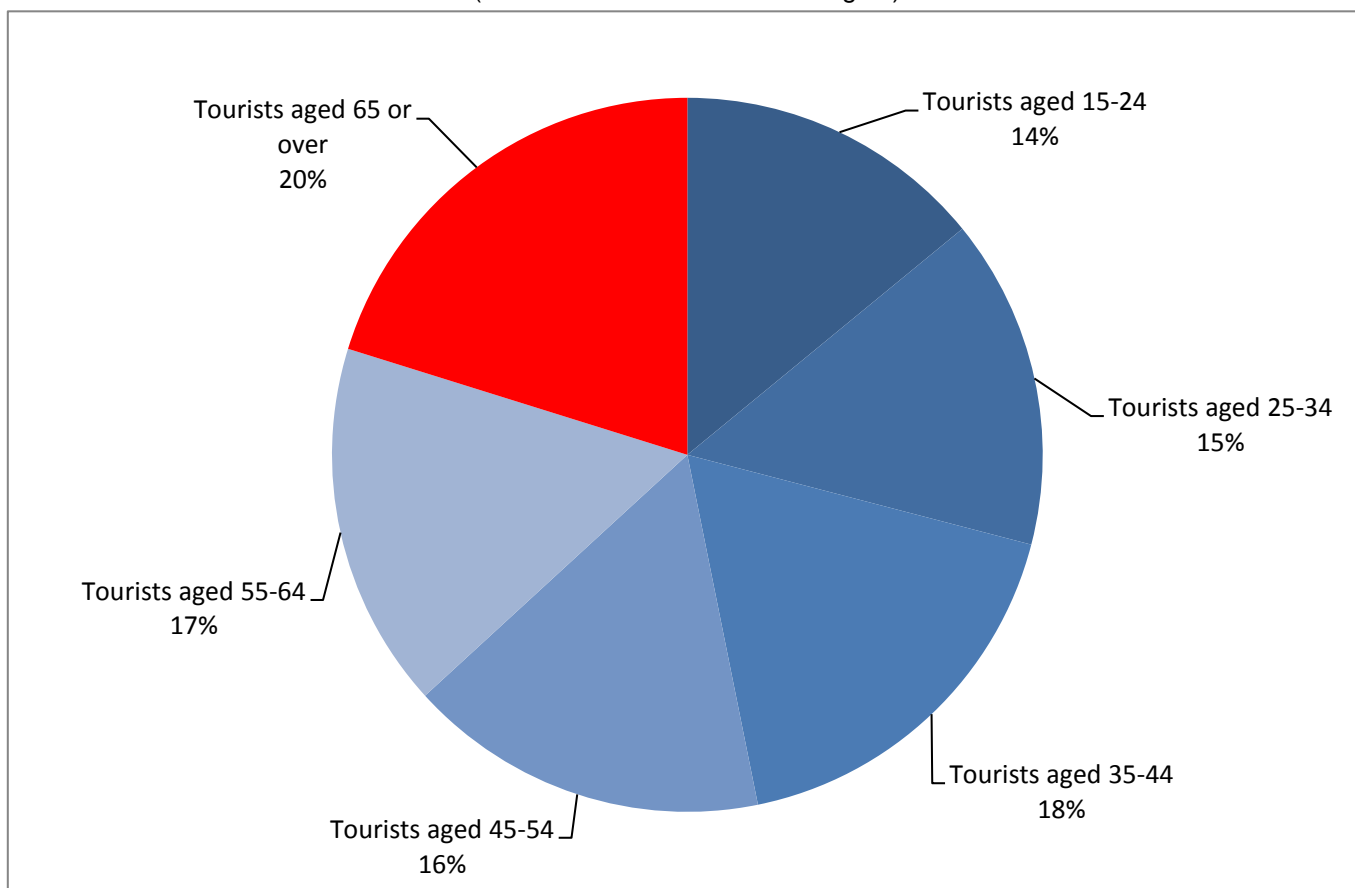
...with a generally lower average expenditure

With over 1.2 billion nights spent during their trips all over the world in 2014, tourists aged 65 or over (hereafter "older tourists") living in the **European Union (EU)** accounted for 20% of the tourism activity (in terms of number of nights spent by EU residents). However, their share in tourism expenditure was a bit lower, standing at 16%. Indeed, an older tourist in the **EU** spent on average €52.6 per day, or €12.7 less than the average tourist.

In general, older tourists in the **EU** favour domestic holidays, which accounted for two-thirds (66%) of all their tourism nights (compared with 59% for all tourists), while outbound tourism represented a third (34%) in 2014. This pattern can be observed for a majority of Member States

On the occasion of the World Tourism Day (27 September), whose theme this year is "Tourism for all: promoting universal accessibility", **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, publishes a selection of data on participation in tourism of older people residing in the EU. An [infographic](#) on origins and destinations of tourists is also available on the Eurostat website.

Share of different age groups in tourism of EU residents, 2014
(based on number of tourism nights)



Older tourists tend to favor domestic holidays, notably those of Spain and Greece

The proportion of people aged 65 or over in all tourism nights was particularly high for residents of **France** and **Cyprus**, where they accounted for a quarter (25%) of all tourism nights in 2014, as well as for the **Czech Republic**, **Greece** and **Sweden** (all 24%), **Ireland** and **Portugal** (both 23%). At the opposite end of the scale, older tourists represented around 10% of nights spent by residents of **Malta** (9%), **Bulgaria**, **Latvia** and **Slovenia** (all 10%) as well as **Estonia** (11%).

In a small majority of EU Member States, older tourists favored domestic holidays over outbound trips, with the highest shares being recorded for residents of **Spain** (94%) and **Greece** (92%), followed by those of the **Czech Republic** and **Romania** (both 89%), **Italy** and **Portugal** (both 88%). In contrast, a large majority of older tourists living in **Luxembourg** (99%), **Belgium** (91%) and **Malta** (82%) went abroad in 2014.

Tourism nights spent by people aged 65 or over living in the EU Member States, 2014

Residence of the tourist	Share of 65+ in all tourism nights	Number of tourism night of 65+ (in 1000)	Of which:	
			Domestic	Outbound
EU*	20%	1 248 610.9	66%	34%
Belgium	16%	14 794.0	9%	91%
Bulgaria	10%	1 648.8	73%	27%
Czech Republic	24%	32 851.8	89%	11%
Denmark	16%	18 135.5	63%	37%
Germany	21%	271 818.2	45%	55%
Estonia	11%	1 526.3	41%	59%
Ireland	23%	14 632.5	27%	73%
Greece	24%	15 218.8	92%	8%
Spain	21%	128 270.7	94%	6%
France	25%	310 078.2	85%	15%
Croatia	13%	6 268.5	59%	41%
Italy	17%	53 340.0	88%	12%
Cyprus	25%	4 831.5	29%	71%
Latvia	10%	1 714.6	55%	45%
Lithuania	12%	2 276.5	49%	51%
Luxembourg	13%	1 482.2	(1%)	99%
Hungary	15%	9 635.4	85%	15%
Malta	9%	260.8	18%	82%
Netherlands	21%	53 184.6	40%	60%
Austria	17%	17 842.3	40%	60%
Poland	18%	51 069.6	71%	29%
Portugal	23%	14 164.3	88%	12%
Romania	13%	9 273.9	89%	11%
Slovenia	10%	1 933.3	43%	57%
Slovakia	15%	4 759.5	73%	27%
Finland	17%	21 370.2	60%	40%
Sweden	24%	38 789.8	50%	50%
United Kingdom**	17%	147 439.3	45%	55%
Switzerland	18%	23 009.8	26%	74%

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

* EU aggregate estimated using 2013 data for the United Kingdom.

** United Kingdom: 2013 data instead of 2014.

Data shown in brackets are calculated as the balance of the available share.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

EU tourists aged 65 or over spent on average 20% less per day for their tourism trips

Across the EU Member States in 2014, the older tourists who spent the most on average per day were those of **Luxembourg** (€120.8) and **Austria** (€106.9), ahead of **Malta** (€93.7), **Belgium** (€89.5), **Ireland** (€88.0) and **Denmark** (€85.1). At the opposite end of the scale, the lowest average expenditure per person and per day were recorded for older tourists living in the **Czech Republic** (€13.7), **Romania** (€13.8), **Greece** (€18.0) **Lithuania** (€19.1) and **Hungary** (€19.2).

For all Member States except **Belgium**, the average expenditure of older tourists was lower than the overall average. This was notably the case for **Lithuania** (€19.1 euros per person and day on average for older tourists, compared with €48.4 for the total average, or a difference of €29.3) and **Slovakia** (-€29.2), followed at a distance by **Cyprus** (-€24.8), **Estonia** (-€24.3) and **Finland** (-€24.1). At **EU** level, an older tourist spent on average €52.6 a day, compared with €65.3 for the overall average, or €12.7 less per day. It should be noted that tourism expenditures are influenced notably by the duration of trips and by the proportion of holidays spent in second homes or during off-peak seasons.

Tourism expenditure of residents aged 65 or over, by EU Member States, 2014

Residence of the tourist	Share of 65+ in all tourism expenditure (%)	Total tourism expenditure of 65+ (in million euros)	Average tourism expenditure per day of 65+ (in euro)	Difference with total average tourism expenditure (in euro)
EU*	16%	65 623.8	52.6	-12.7
Belgium	16%	1 324.2	89.5	4.9
Bulgaria	6%	35.6	21.6	-13.6
Czech Republic	13%	451.2	13.7	-12.8
Denmark	13%	1 543.6	85.1	-20.1
Germany	19%	20 649.2	76.0	-9.7
Estonia	7%	55.7	36.5	-24.3
Ireland	21%	1 287.7	88.0	-11.9
Greece	15%	274.5	18.0	-10.5
Spain	16%	3 808.0	29.7	-9.4
France	20%	15 769.7	50.9	-12.2
Croatia	7%	127.2	20.3	-18.8
Italy	14%	2 393.3	44.9	-12.1
Cyprus	16%	219.1	45.3	-24.8
Latvia	7%	42.7	24.9	-9.8
Lithuania	5%	43.4	19.1	-29.3
Luxembourg	12%	179.0	120.8	-9.6
Hungary	8%	185.0	19.2	-17.5
Malta	8%	24.4	93.7	-14.1
Netherlands	17%	2 546.1	47.9	-9.4
Austria	14%	1 908.2	106.9	-20.2
Poland	13%	1 208.4	23.7	-8.8
Portugal	17%	374.8	26.5	-8.7
Romania	7%	127.7	13.8	-12.4
Slovenia	8%	79.7	41.3	-14.5
Slovakia	8%	137.3	28.9	-29.2
Finland	13%	1 647.8	77.1	-24.1
Sweden	:	:	:	:
United Kingdom**	12%	7 365.9	50.0	-19.3
Switzerland	18%	2 361.3	102.6	-3.3

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

* EU aggregate estimated using estimated data for Sweden and 2013 data for the United Kingdom.

** United Kingdom: 2013 data instead of 2014.

: Data not available

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

Data presented in this News Release cover national tourism, meaning tourism activity of residents (and not within the country).

Tourism nights refer to all tourism nights spent by residents, aged 15 or over, outside their usual environment for personal or professional/business purpose.

A tourism night (or overnight stay) is each night that a guest actually spends (sleeps or stays) in a collective accommodation establishment (such as hotels or campsites) or in private tourism accommodation (such as owned dwellings or accommodation provided for free by friends or relatives).

Expenditure on tourism refers to the total consumption expenditure made by a visitor or on behalf of a visitor for and during his/her stay at destination. Total expenditure is broken down by following expenditure items: transport, accommodation, food and drinks in cafés or restaurants and other expenditure. Expenditure for durables and valuable goods may also be available, but are not included in the total expenditure.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to tourism statistics

Eurostat [database](#) on tourism

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on characteristics of tourism trips

Eurostat [infographic](#) on origins and destinations of tourists in the EU.

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