

Tourism statistics for the European Neighbourhood Policy-South countries 2019 edition



Background information

This short guide presents the latest data available for the **European Union (EU)** and the **European Neighbourhood Policy-South (ENP-South) countries** concerning **tourism**. Tourism has the potential to contribute towards employment and economic growth, as well as to development in rural, peripheral or less-developed areas. Infrastructure created for tourism purposes contributes to local development, while jobs that are created or maintained can help counteract industrial or rural decline. Sustainable tourism involves the preservation and enhancement of cultural and natural heritage, ranging from the arts to local gastronomy or the preservation of biodiversity.

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was initiated in 2004. The main objective of the ENP was to avoid the emergence of dividing lines between an enlarged EU and its closest neighbours. The ENP is complemented by regional and multilateral cooperation initiatives, for example, the [Southern Neighbourhood](#). On 18 November 2015, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission jointly presented a [review of the European Neighbourhood Policy](#) (SWD(2015) 500 final) which underlined a new approach for the EU in relation to its eastern and southern neighbours, based on stabilising the region in political, economic, and security-related terms.

There are currently 16 neighbours within the ENP, of which 10 in the south, namely Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine (this designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue), Syria and Tunisia; note that ENP-South activities with Syria are currently suspended and there are no recent tourism data for this country and Libya.

The European Commission supports the ENP-South countries through technical assistance programmes to promote evidence-based decision-making and to foster democratic developments. Eurostat coordinates the EU's efforts to increase the capacity of the ENP-South countries to produce good quality statistics and to promote the use of European and internationally recognised standards through technical assistance and direct support to national statistical authorities, with the goal of improving the availability, visibility and accessibility of robust, reliable and timely statistical data. These data are made available free-of-charge on Eurostat's website.

Main statistical findings

The number of bed places available in hotels and similar accommodation establishments provides one measure of a country's capacity to attract tourists; note that official tourism statistics include business travellers as tourists alongside individuals travelling for pleasure or other reasons.

The eight ENP-South countries for which data are shown in Table 1 had a combined total of 1.1 million bed places (the latest information relates to 2016 or 2017). By comparison, there were 13.9 million bed places in hotels and similar accommodation establishments in the EU-28 in 2017. Among the ENP-South countries, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt (all 2016 data) had the highest number of bed places in hotels and similar accommodation establishments, with between 202 000 and 243 000 each. Figure 1

Table 1: Number of bed places in hotels and similar accommodation establishments, 2007-2017

(thousands)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
EU-28	11 878	12 125	12 446	12 627	12 780	13 052	13 574	13 661	13 751	13 791	13 917
Algeria	85	86	86	92	93	97	99	100	102	107	112
Egypt	267	267	301	283	254	242	256	236	205	202	:
Israel (*)	116	116	114	112	111	112	116	120	124	128	131
Jordan (†)	22	23	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	28	29
Lebanon	31	:	:	32	123	:	:	124	:	126	:
Morocco	143	153	165	173	184	194	208	222	231	243	:
Palestine (‡)	9	10	10	11	12	12	14	15	15	15	16
Tunisia (¶)	236	238	240	242	242	242	240	240	241	235	:

(*) Includes bed places in temporarily closed hotels.

(†) Number of rooms.

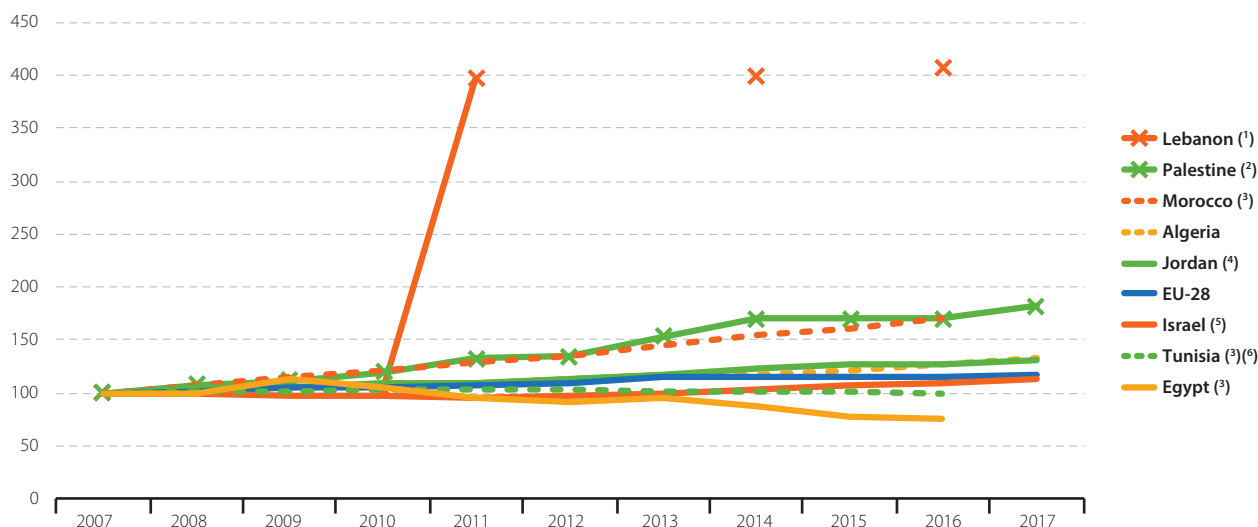
(‡) Refers to beds and rooms which are ready for use during the reference period. Rooms closed for maintenance or repairs are excluded. 2012-2017: West Bank only.

(¶) Includes also bed places in specialised establishments and campsites.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tour_cap_nat](#))

Figure 1: Developments for bed places in hotels and similar accommodation establishments, 2007-2017

(2007 = 100)



(1) 2008-2009, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2017: not available.

(2) Refers to beds and rooms which are ready for use during the reference period. Rooms closed for maintenance or repairs are excluded. 2012-2017: West Bank only.

(3) 2017: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tour_cap_nat](#))

(4) Based on the number of rooms.

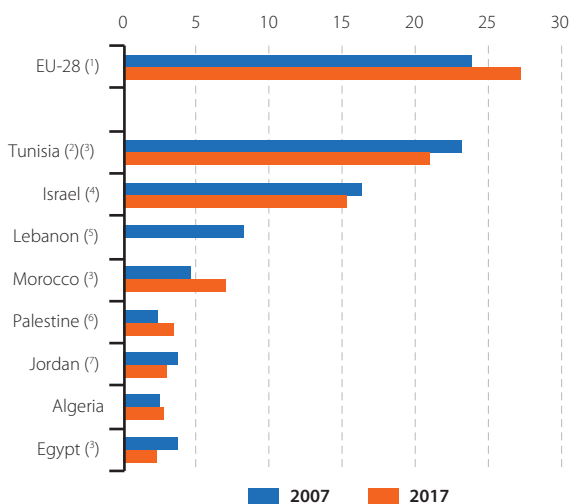
(5) Includes bed places in temporarily closed hotels.

(6) Includes also bed places in specialised establishments and campsites.

provides information on the development of the number of bed places in hotels and similar accommodation establishments over the period 2007-2017. Developments in Egypt were quite irregular, but by 2016 the total number of bed places was 24 % lower than it had been in 2007. Apart from Egypt, the only other ENP-South country not to report an increase was Tunisia, where bed capacity was similar in 2016 to that in 2007. Elsewhere, the number of bed places increased between 2007 and 2016 or 2017.

Figure 2 presents the number of bed places in hotels and similar establishments relative to the size of the national population. The EU-28 recorded a higher capacity of bed places than any of the ENP-South countries, with an average of 27 bed places in hotels and similar accommodation establishments per 1 000 inhabitants in 2017. Tunisia came closest to the EU-28 average, with 21 bed places in hotels and similar accommodation establishments per 1 000 inhabitants in 2016, reflecting the importance of tourism to the Tunisian economy. Despite the increase in the number of bed places in nearly all of the ENP-South countries in terms of absolute figures, in some countries the number of bed places per 1 000 inhabitants decreased during the period shown as population growth outstripped any increase in bed places.

Figure 2: Capacity of bed places in hotels and similar accommodation establishments, 2007 and 2017
(number of bed places per 1 000 inhabitants)



(1) Break in series. 2017: estimate.

(2) Includes also bed places in specialised establishments and campsites.

(3) 2016 instead of 2017.

(4) Includes bed places in temporarily closed hotels.

(5) 2017: not available.

(6) Refers to beds and rooms which are ready for use during the reference period. Rooms closed for maintenance or repairs are excluded. 2017: West Bank only.

(7) Based on the number of rooms.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [tour_cap_nat](#) and [demo_pjan](#))

Table 2 presents the number of non-resident arrivals at borders. Among the ENP-South countries this ranged from 2.5 million arrivals in Algeria to 8.3 million arrivals in Egypt. During the period 2012-2017 (see Table 2 for more details concerning data availability), there was a reduction in the number of non-resident arrivals at borders for all but one of the ENP-South countries, the exception being Israel; note however the strong rebound in the number of non-resident arrivals in Egypt between 2016 and 2017, and, to a lesser degree, in Jordan and Lebanon.

Table 3 shows that across ENP-South countries (as well as the EU-28), air transport accounted for the vast majority of domestic and international arrivals in 2017. Furthermore, it was commonplace to find a rapid increase in the number of domestic and international arrivals by air between 2007 and 2017, in contrast to a declining number of arrivals by sea.

Table 2: Number of non-resident tourist arrivals at the border, 2012-2017
(million)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Algeria	2.6	2.7	2.3	1.7	2.0	2.5
Egypt	11.5	9.5	9.9	9.3	5.4	8.3
Israel (1)	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.6
Jordan	8.2	7.0	7.0	6.5	6.4	6.9
Lebanon	5.6	5.9	5.1	3.6	3.6	4.3
Morocco	5.9	6.4	4.2	5.4	5.1	:
Palestine	:	:	:	:	:	:
Tunisia (2)	5.6	6.3	6.1	4.2	4.5	:

(1) Foreign tourists, excluding one-day visitors.

(2) Excluding national non-residents.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tour_occ_arnat](#))

Table 3: Number of domestic and international arrivals by air and sea, 2007 and 2017
(million)

	Air transport		Sea transport	
	2007	2017	2007	2017
EU-28 (1)	630.9	829.9	219.7	198.7
Algeria	3.6	7.1	0.4	0.4
Egypt (2)	15.0	13.5	1.6	0.5
Israel	5.1	10.2	0.2	0.1
Jordan	2.1	4.1	0.5	0.1
Lebanon (3)	1.7	4.1	0.0	0.0
Morocco (4)	5.9	10.1	:	2.3
Palestine	0.0	:	-	-
Tunisia (5)	5.4	3.9	0.4	0.4

(1) Air transport, 2007: excluding Croatia. Sea transport: 2016 instead of 2017.

(2) Air transport: 2016 instead of 2017. Sea transport: 2015 instead of 2017.

(3) Covers Beirut port only (which represents about 90 % of maritime transport of Lebanon).

(4) Sea transport: 2016 instead of 2017.

(5) 2016 instead of 2017.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [avia_paoc](#) and [mar_mp_aa_cpnd](#))

Table 4 presents similar information — again focusing on non-residents — but related to the number of arrivals in hotels and similar accommodation. The largest number of such arrivals across the ENP-South countries in 2017 (or the latest year available) was again recorded by Egypt, with 7.4 million arrivals in 2014; while this was considerably less than the number of arrivals recorded in 2010 it was an increase compared with the previous year. Israel had the second largest number of such arrivals, 3.7 million in 2017. These figures can be compared with a total of 297 million arrivals of non-residents at hotels and similar accommodation establishments in the EU-28 in 2016.

Figure 3 shows the number of arrivals of non-residents in hotels and similar accommodation establishments relative to the number of inhabitants. In the EU-28 there were 582 arrivals of non-residents per 1 000 inhabitants in 2017. Among the ENP-South countries, the ratio of non-resident arrivals to population was systematically lower than in the EU-28. The highest values in 2017 were recorded for Israel and Tunisia (2016 data), with 427 and 203 non-resident arrivals per 1 000 inhabitants respectively.

Table 5 and Figure 4 concern the flow of tourists travelling abroad. There were 278 million trips made by EU-28 tourists to destinations outside of their own Member State in 2015; note that EU-28 data for this particular indicator only refer to persons aged 15 and over. Among the ENP-South countries for which data are available, the highest number of outbound trips taken by tourists was recorded for Egypt at 8.1 million in 2017 while there were 7.6 million outbound trips made by tourists from Israel in the same year, ahead of Jordan at 6.9 million. Algeria recorded the strongest overall growth between 2007 and 2017, with its number of outbound tourist trips more than trebling between these years.

Relative to the size of the population, the number of outbound trips taken by tourists reached 547 trips (by persons aged 15 years and over) per 1 000 inhabitants for the EU-28 in 2015. Among the ENP-South countries, Israel recorded the highest ratio of outbound trips relative to population size, at 880 trips per 1 000 inhabitants in 2017, followed by Jordan with 702 trips per 1 000 inhabitants. These were the only two ENP-South countries (for which recent data are available) to record ratios above the EU-28 average.

Table 4: Number of arrivals of non-residents staying in hotels and similar accommodation establishments, 2007-2017
(thousands)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
EU-28	:	224 282	211 935	227 297	243 458	248 578	262 443	272 539	288 283	296 790	:
Algeria	233	253	284	317	351	384	402	401	444	590	735
Egypt	:	:	11 679	12 863	8 283	6 469	6 339	7 426	:	:	:
Israel	2 748	3 373	2 621	3 237	3 232	3 171	3 135	3 020	2 692	2 817	3 680
Jordan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Lebanon	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Morocco	3 910	3 824	3 669	4 078	3 456	3 570	4 010	4 204	3 668	2 929	:
Palestine (*)	264	387	396	522	449	490	546	556	432	400	503
Tunisia	5 536	5 603	5 042	5 020	3 473	4 231	3 952	3 913	2 143	2 284	:

(*) 2012-2017: West Bank only.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tour_occ_arnat](#))

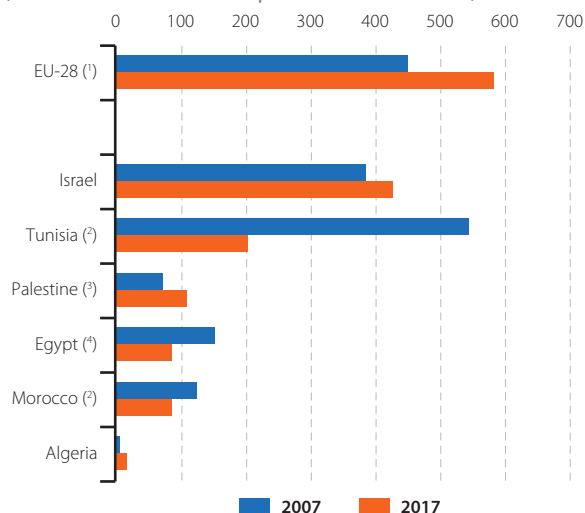
Table 5: Number of trips taken by outbound tourists, 2007-2017
(thousands)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
EU-28 (*)	:	:	:	:	:	287 410	291 515	279 658	278 360	:	:
Algeria	1 499	1 539	1 677	1 758	1 715	1 911	2 136	2 839	3 638	4 530	5 058
Egypt	10 456	6 816	8 636	13 890	9 500	10 917	9 148	9 504	9 269	5 301	8 066
Israel	4 147	4 207	4 006	4 269	4 387	4 349	4 757	5 181	5 891	6 781	7 597
Jordan	8 475	9 230	8 726	11 129	8 713	8 065	6 917	6 941	6 468	6 467	6 880
Lebanon	2 510	2 682	3 027	3 482	2 565	2 294	2 317	2 594	2 662	2 235	3 017
Morocco	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Palestine	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Tunisia	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

(*) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tour_dem_ttTOT](#))

Figure 3: Arrivals of non-residents in hotels and similar establishments relative to population, 2007 and 2017
 (arrivals of non-residents per 1 000 inhabitants)



Note: Jordan and Lebanon, not available.

(*) 2008 instead of 2007 and 2016 instead of 2017.

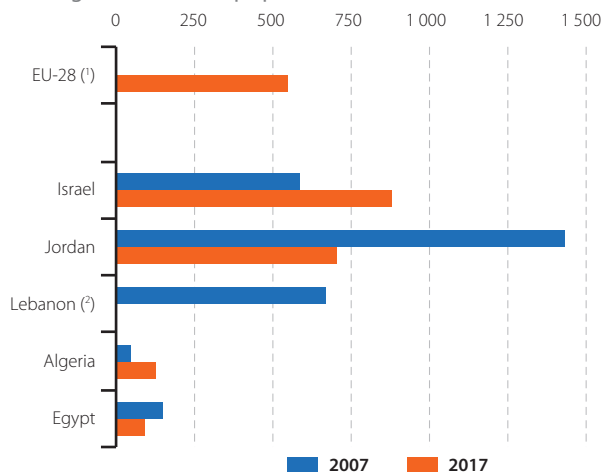
(†) 2016 instead of 2017.

(‡) 2017: West Bank only.

(§) 2009 instead of 2007, 2014 instead of 2017.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: *tour_occ_arnat* and *demo_pjan*)

Figure 4: Number of trips taken by outbound tourists relative to population, 2007 and 2017
 (average number of trips per 1 000 inhabitants)



Note: Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia, not available.

(*) 2007: not available. 2015 instead of 2017. Trips by persons aged 15 years and over relative to total population.

(†) 2017: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: *tour_dem_ttot* and *demo_pjan*)

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union

Eurostat's mission is to provide high quality statistics for Europe. Eurostat collects data from national statistical authorities.

Further information

Eurostat's website

Eurostat's website (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>) provides free access to its statistics; it is available in German, English and French. Eurostat online data codes, which are given in the source under each table or figure, provide users with a quick and efficient way to access the most up-to-date statistics. When entered in the 'search' facility on Eurostat's website, these codes provide users with the freshest data and longer time series.

Statistics Explained

Statistics Explained (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php>) is Eurostat's wiki-based system that presents statistical topics in an easy to understand way.

Statistical articles on ENP countries:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/European_Neighbourhood_Policy_countries_-_statistical_overview

Background information on the ENP:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Statistical_cooperation_-_European_Neighbourhood_Policy

National statistical authorities of the ENP-South countries

Algeria	Office National des Statistiques	www.ons.dz
Egypt	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics	www.capmas.gov.eg
Israel	Central Bureau of Statistics	www.cbs.gov.il
Jordan	Department of Statistics	dosweb.dos.gov.jo
Lebanon	Central Administration of Statistics	www.cas.gov.lb
Libya	Bureau of Statistics and Census Libya	www.bsc.ly
Morocco	Direction de la Statistique, Haut-Commissariat au Plan	www.hcp.ma
Palestine	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics	www.pcbs.gov.ps
Tunisia	Institut National de la Statistique	www.ins.nat.tn

Data were extracted on 23 January 2019. In tables, data in *italics* are provisional or estimates while a colon (:) indicates that data are not available.

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