

Tourism statistics - characteristics of tourism trips

Statistics Explained

*Data extracted in November 2023
Planned article update: 04 December 2024*

"EU residents made 1.1 billion trips with overnight stays in 2022."

"In 2022 EU residents spent 94 % of their tourism trips inside the European Union."

"In 2022 EU residents made 100 million business trips, representing 9 % of the total number of tourism trips."

This article is part of the [Eurostat](#) online publication [Tourism trips of Europeans](#) providing statistics on tourism demand in the [European Union \(EU\)](#) and [EFTA](#) countries. The article takes a closer look at trips that EU residents (aged 15 and over) made in 2022, with a focus on the characteristics of these trips. Specific aspects such as [top destinations](#) , [seasonality](#) and [expenditure](#) on tourism trips are dealt with in more detail elsewhere in other articles of this publication. This article concentrates on analysis for the European Union at aggregate level. More detailed information at country level is available in the [online database](#) .

General overview

During 2022, EU residents made 1.1 billion trips with overnight stays - regardless of destination and duration (see Table 1). During these trips, 5.4 billion tourism nights were spent. Of these trips, 9.3 % were trips for professional purposes, while the remaining 90.7 % were trips made for personal purposes (see Figure 1). The highest number of trips were made by residents of France (229 million trips), followed by Germany (222 million trips) and Spain (138 million trips). The trips made by the residents of these three countries accounted for more than half (54.8 %) of all EU residents' trips.

Trips, nights spent and average length of trips made by EU residents by destination, 2022

Country of residence of the tourist	Total (Thousand)	Trips of which (%)		Total (Thousand)	Nights of which (%)		Average length of trips (Nights)		
		Domestic	Foreign		Domestic	Foreign	All trips	Domestic	Foreign
EU	1 075 716 e	75.5 e	24.5 e	5 435 422 e	60.3 e	39.7 e	5.1 e	4.0 e	8.2 e
Belgium	18 120	25.5	74.5	123 874	12.1	87.9	6.8	3.3	8.1
Bulgaria	4 314	79.6	20.4	18 187	70.8	29.2	4.2	3.7	6.0
Czechia	32 975	79.3	20.7	136 558	67.1	32.9	4.1	3.5	6.6
Denmark	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Germany	221 692	60.9	39.1	1 317 453	40.4	59.6	5.9	3.9	9.1
Estonia	3 759	70.2	29.8	12 519	43.6	56.4	3.3	2.1	6.3
Ireland	17 977	58.5	41.5	75 729	34.2	65.8	4.2	2.5	6.7
Greece	6 929	86.4	13.6	68 594	87.1	12.9	9.9	10.0	9.4
Spain	138 192	90.2	9.8	605 192	81.0	19.0	4.4	3.9	8.5
France	229 266	88.3	11.7	1 079 732	82.9	17.1	4.7	4.4	6.9
Croatia	4 500	70.0	30.0	26 577	73.2	26.8	5.9	6.2	5.3
Italy	47 339	80.3	19.7	295 813	74.1	25.9	6.2	5.8	8.2
Cyprus	2 924	57.8	42.2	13 828	32.7	67.3	4.7	2.7	7.5
Latvia	4 131	68.5	31.5	14 694	49.0	51.0	3.6	2.5	5.8
Lithuania	5 514	65.2	34.8	21 019	37.7	62.3	3.8	2.2	6.8
Luxembourg	2 983	5.5	94.5	21 474	3.7	96.3	7.2	4.8	7.3
Hungary	16 129	65.8	34.2	59 002	52.4	47.6	3.7	2.9	5.1
Malta	937	39.4	60.6	4 434	22.5	77.5	4.7	2.7	6.1
Netherlands	44 636	48.1	51.9	306 178	27.9	72.1	6.9	4.0	9.5
Austria	25 292	53.1	46.9	118 562	34.9	65.1	4.7	3.1	6.5
Poland	63 443	81.5	18.5	362 131	66.7	33.3	5.7	4.7	10.3
Portugal	19 015	88.2	11.8	79 218	78.5	21.5	4.2	3.7	7.6
Romania	18 295	91.9	8.1	67 744	85.3	14.7	3.7	3.4	6.7
Slovenia	5 934	46.7	53.3	25 650	28.4	71.6	4.3	2.6	5.8
Slovakia	10 445	68.4	31.6	41 225	56.9	43.1	3.9	3.3	5.4
Finland	33 294	81.4	18.6	140 419	64.8	35.2	4.2	3.4	8.0
Sweden	77 670	80.3	19.7	316 961	62.5	37.5	4.1	3.2	7.8

Note: Due to rounding, deviations can occur between total and subtotals.

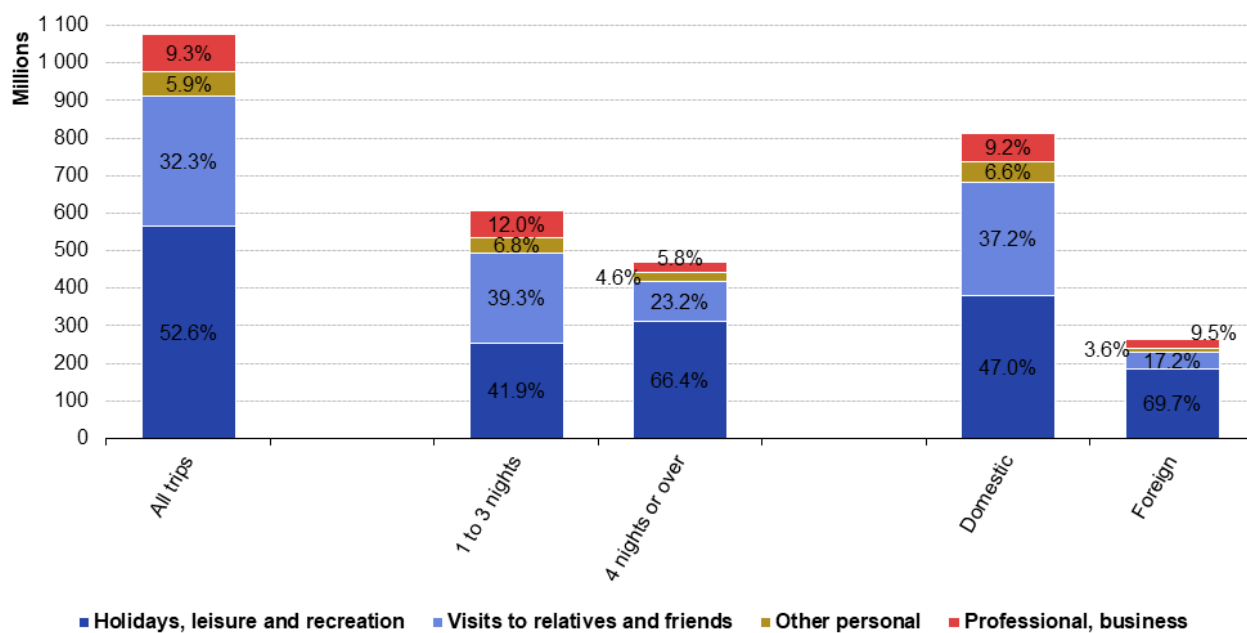
":" - Extremely unreliable or not available.

"e" - Estimated.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: tour_dem_tttot, tour_dem_tntot)

Table 1: Trips, nights spent and average length of trips made by EU residents by destination, 2022 - Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_tttot), (tour_dem_tntot)

Trips made by EU residents by purpose, duration and destination, 2022 (million)



Note: Due to rounding, deviations can occur between total and subtotals.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_ttpur)

eurostat

Figure 1: Trips made by EU residents by purpose, duration and destination, 2022 (million) - Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_ttpur)

On average for the EU, three out of four (75.5 %) trips were domestic trips. More than nine out of ten trips made by residents of Romania (91.9 %) and Spain (90.2 %) had a main destination inside their own country. In five Member States foreign trips accounted for more than half of all tourism trips: Luxembourg (94.5 %), Belgium (74.5 %), Malta (60.6 %), Slovenia (53.3 %) and the Netherlands (51.9 %).

Tourism trips made in the course of 2022 were dominated by short domestic breaks of one to three overnight stays (49.7 % of all tourism trips, see Table 2). Trips of four nights or more accounted for 43.6 % of all tourism trips (25.7 % with a domestic destination and 17.8 % with a destination outside the country of residence).

Europeans prefer trips inside their own country of residence

Although EU residents spent most of their trips inside their own country, nearly two out of three of these domestic trips were short breaks of one to three overnight stays (see Table 3). Given the relatively short duration of domestic trips (on average 4.0 nights, as compared to 8.2 nights for foreign trips, see Table 1), the proportion of nights spent on domestic trips within all tourism nights was - at 60.3 % - lower than the 75.5 % share of domestic trips in all tourism trips. The highest number of domestic trips was in France, with more than 202 million accounting for 24.9 % of all domestic trips made by Europeans. As regards foreign trips, German tourists came on top, with nearly 87 million foreign trips (32.8 % of all foreign trips made by Europeans).

Trips of EU residents by duration and destination, 2022

Country of residence of the tourist	Number of trips (Thousand)			Share by duration and destination (%)					
	All trips	Short trips (1 to 3 nights)	Long trips (4 nights or more)	Short domestic trips	Short trips to other EU Member States	Short trips outside the EU	Long domestic trips	Long trips to other EU Member States	Long trips outside the EU
EU	1 075 716	e 607 180	e 468 536	e 49.7	e 5.6	e 1.1	e 25.7	e 13.2	e 4.7
Belgium	18 120	7 516	10 604	19.0	20.8	1.7	6.5	41.9	10.1
Bulgaria	4 314	2 297	2 017	47.7	3.2	2.4	31.9	9.3	5.5
Czechia	32 975	19 477	13 498	54.6	4.3	0.1	24.7	12.3	4.0
Denmark	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Germany	221 692	103 776	117 916	38.6	7.0	1.3	22.4	23.3	7.5
Estonia	3 759	2 844	916	63.4	10.9	1.4	6.8	11.0	6.6
Ireland	17 977	11 475	6 503	48.6	4.6	10.6	9.9	18.4	7.9
Greece	6 929	1 919	5 010	25.4	1.5	0.8	61.1	6.3	5.0
Spain	138 192	93 983	44 208	64.9	2.4	0.8	25.3	3.9	2.8
France	229 266	133 416	95 850	54.3	3.2	0.6	34.0	5.1	2.7
Croatia	4 500	2 310	2 189	35.8	8.8	6.8	34.2	8.7	5.7
Italy	47 339	20 762	26 577	39.7	3.3	0.9	40.6	10.1	5.4
Cyprus	2 924	1 719	1 205	47.0	9.2	2.6	10.8	20.0	10.4
Latvia	4 131	3 103	1 028	61.1	12.4	1.5	7.3	11.3	6.3
Lithuania	5 514	3 648	1 867	57.4	6.5	2.2	7.8	16.0	10.1
Luxembourg	2 983	1 161	1 822	4.0	32.0	2.9	1.5	48.2	11.4
Hungary	16 129	10 464	5 665	50.9	11.7	2.3	14.9	16.4	3.8
Malta	937	461	476	32.0	14.9	2.2	7.3	32.3	11.2
Netherlands	44 636	21 130	23 506	33.4	12.5	1.4	14.8	28.4	9.4
Austria	25 292	14 413	10 879	39.1	16.2	1.7	14.0	22.8	6.3
Poland	63 443	32 277	31 166	47.3	3.3	0.3	34.2	11.3	3.6
Portugal	19 015	12 977	6 038	64.5	3.3	0.5	23.7	5.2	2.8
Romania	18 295	10 961	7 334	59.0	0.7	0.1	32.9	6.2	1.0
Slovenia	5 934	3 476	2 457	37.4	17.4	3.7	9.3	26.2	5.9
Slovakia	10 445	6 605	3 839	50.9	12.1	0.3	17.5	15.6	3.7
Finland	33 294	21 365	11 929	59.1	4.8	0.4	22.3	10.2	3.2
Sweden	77 670	50 557	27 113	59.2	5.0	0.8	21.1	10.8	3.0

Note: Due to rounding, deviations can occur between total and subtotals.

":" - Extremely unreliable or not available.

"e" - Estimated.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_ttw)



Table 2: Trips of EU residents by duration and destination, 2022 - Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_ttw)

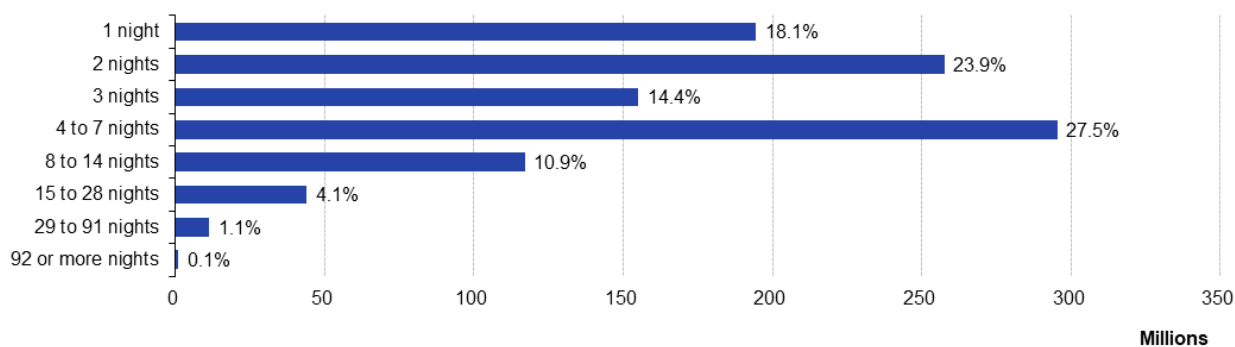
The EU is an attractive destination for its residents

More than three out of four foreign trips had as main destination another EU Member State, accounting for 202 million trips out of a total of 264 million foreign trips. Taking into account the 812 million domestic trips, this means that 94.2 % of all trips with overnight stays that EU residents made in 2022 were within the European Union. Even when restricting the analysis to longer trips of at least four overnight stays – more likely to be further away from home – 89.2 % were spent within the EU. Only in four Member States was the share of trips outside the EU 13 % or more: Ireland (18.5 %), Luxembourg (14.2 %), Malta (13.4 %) and Cyprus (13.0 %) (see Table 2). There is more detailed information on the destinations EU residents chose for their trips in a [separate article](#).

84 % of all trips made in 2022 lasted a maximum of one week

In 2022, 56.4 % of the tourism trips that EU residents made were short, taking a maximum of three overnight stays (see Table 2 and Figure 2). More than two out of three trips made by residents of Estonia, Latvia, Portugal and Spain were short trips. In seven Member States, the number of long trips exceeded the number of short trips: Greece (72.3 %), Luxembourg (61.1 %), Belgium (58.5 %), Italy (56.1 %), Germany (53.2 %), the Netherlands (52.7 %) and Malta (50.8 %).

Trips made by EU residents by duration, 2022 (million)



Note: Due to rounding, deviations can occur between total and subtotals.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_ttls)

eurostat

Figure 2: Trips made by EU residents by duration, 2022 (million) - Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_ttls)

The share of trips that lasted a maximum of one week was obtained by adding the short trips of one to three nights (56.4%) with the trips lasting four to seven nights (27.5%), resulting in a dominant share of 83.9% of all trips made in 2022 (if we consider only trips for professional purposes this share was 93.2%). While only 10% of the domestic trips were longer than one week, this was the case for 34% of the trips abroad. Only 5.2% of all trips were longer than two weeks (see Table 3).

Trips made by EU residents by duration, destination and purpose, 2022

	Trips (Thousand)	Length of stay (% on total)					
		1 to 3 nights	4 to 7 nights	8 to 14 nights	15 to 28 nights	29 to 91 nights	92 or more nights
All trips	1 075 716	56.4	27.5	10.9	4.1	1.1	0.1
Domestic trips	811 738	65.9	23.7	7.1	2.6	0.6	<0.05
Foreign trips	263 979	27.3	38.9	22.6	8.6	2.4	0.2
Personal trips	975 840	54.8	28.2	11.6	4.3	1.1	0.1
Professional trips	99 877	72.8	20.4	4.1	1.7	1.0	<0.05

Note: Due to rounding, deviations can occur between total and subtotals.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_ttls)

eurostat

Table 3: Trips made by EU residents by duration, destination and purpose, 2022 - Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_ttls)

Less than one in ten trips is for professional purposes

More than half of the tourism trips (52.6%) had holidays, leisure and recreation as the main purpose, and almost one out of every three trips (32.3%) were to visit relatives and friends. The latter accounted for a big share of short trips and of domestic trips (see Figure 1). In total, – including other purposes such as pilgrimages or health treatment – trips for personal purposes made up 90.7% of all tourism trips in 2022.

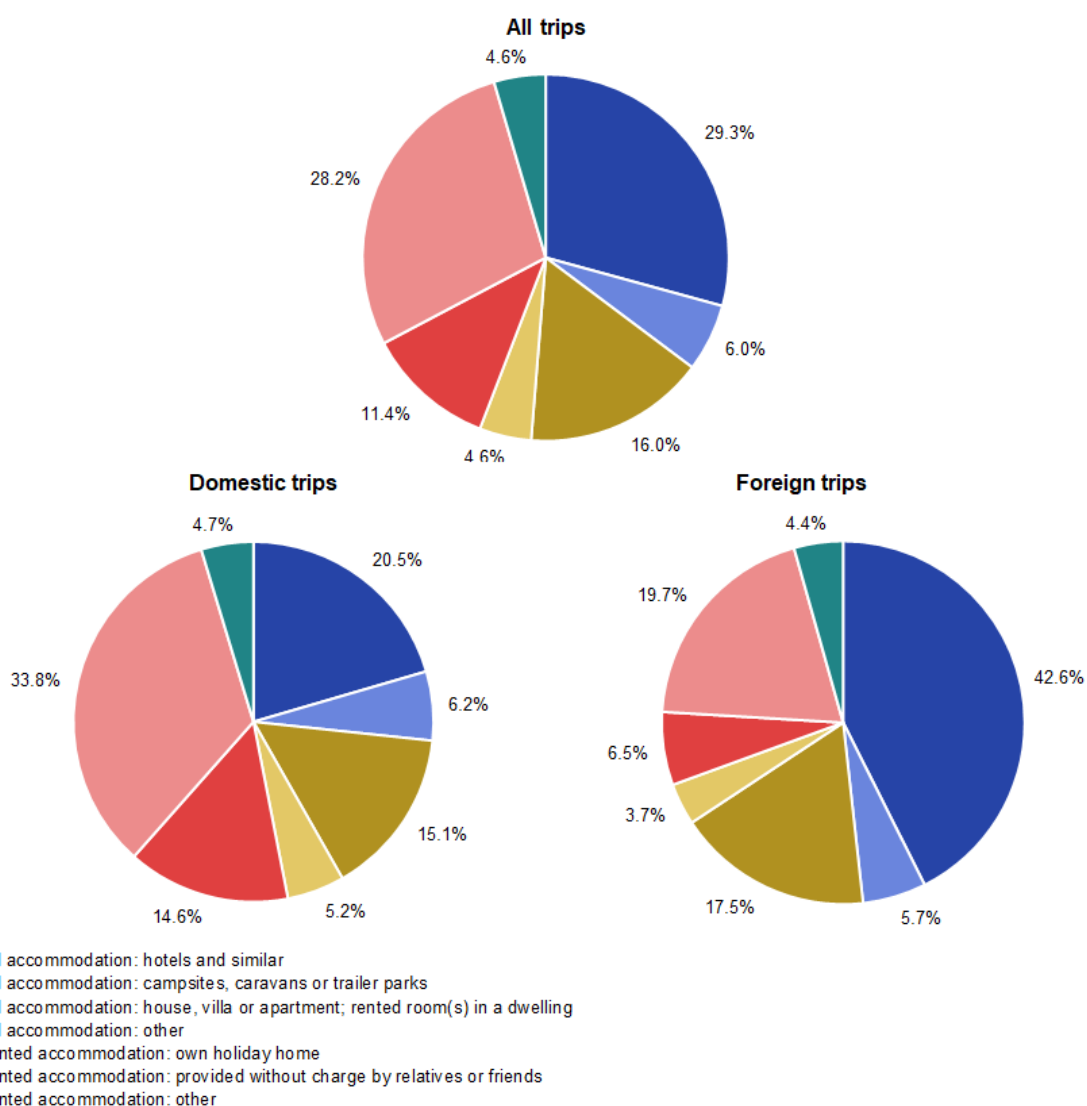
In 2022, EU residents made 100 million trips for professional purposes (e.g. business trips), representing 9.3% of the total number of tourism trips. Most of these trips were domestic (74.9%) and had a duration of maximum 3 nights (72.8%).

Over half of all overnight stays are in rented accommodation

EU residents made a total of 5.4 billion overnight stays during tourism trips in 2022 (see Table 1). More than half of these nights (55.9 %) were spent in rented accommodation, while 44.1 % were spent in non-rented accommodation (see Figure 3). Hotels or similar accommodation providing services such as daily cleaning and bed-making came on top with 29.3 %, followed by accommodation provided without charge by relatives or friends with 28.2 %, while 16.0 % were spent at a rented house, villa, apartment or rented room(s) in a dwelling.

Rented accommodation was more prevalent for foreign trips (69.4 %), while tourists travelling within their own country were more likely to stay at non-rented accommodation (53.1 %), provided mainly for free by friends or relatives (33.8 %).

Nights spent by EU residents by main means of accommodation, 2022



Note: Due to rounding, deviations can occur between total and subtotals.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_tnac)

eurostat

Figure 3: Nights spent by EU residents by main means of accommodation, 2022 - Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_tnac)

Looking only at nights spent in rented accommodation, in 2022 EU residents spent more than half of these tourism nights (52.4 %) in hotels (or similar), close to 2012 level (55.9 %). More than one out of three nights (36.9 %) were

spent in rented accommodation other than hotels or campsites (see Figure 4).

The segment of rented accommodation recorded an increase compared to 2012 (6.9 %), with the highest increase recorded for the category other than hotels or campsites (17.8 %). This latter category includes, among others, holiday dwellings, rented rooms in family houses and [short-stay accommodation offered via online collaborative economy platforms](#) . Non-rented accommodation decreased by -4.0 % in all but one category, other (128.6 %), which is a small segment of tourist accommodation (see Figure 5).

In 2022, EU residents spent an estimated EUR 168 billion on tourist accommodation (For more detailed information on tourism expenditure, see [separate article](#)).

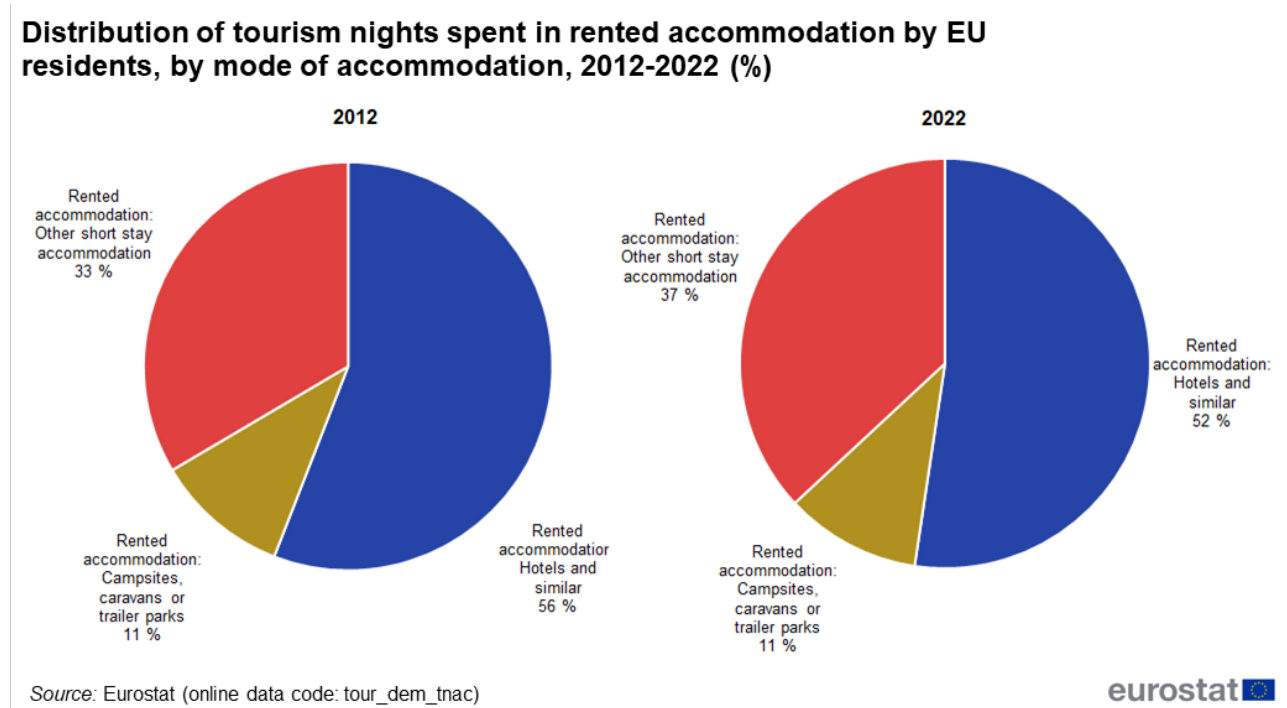
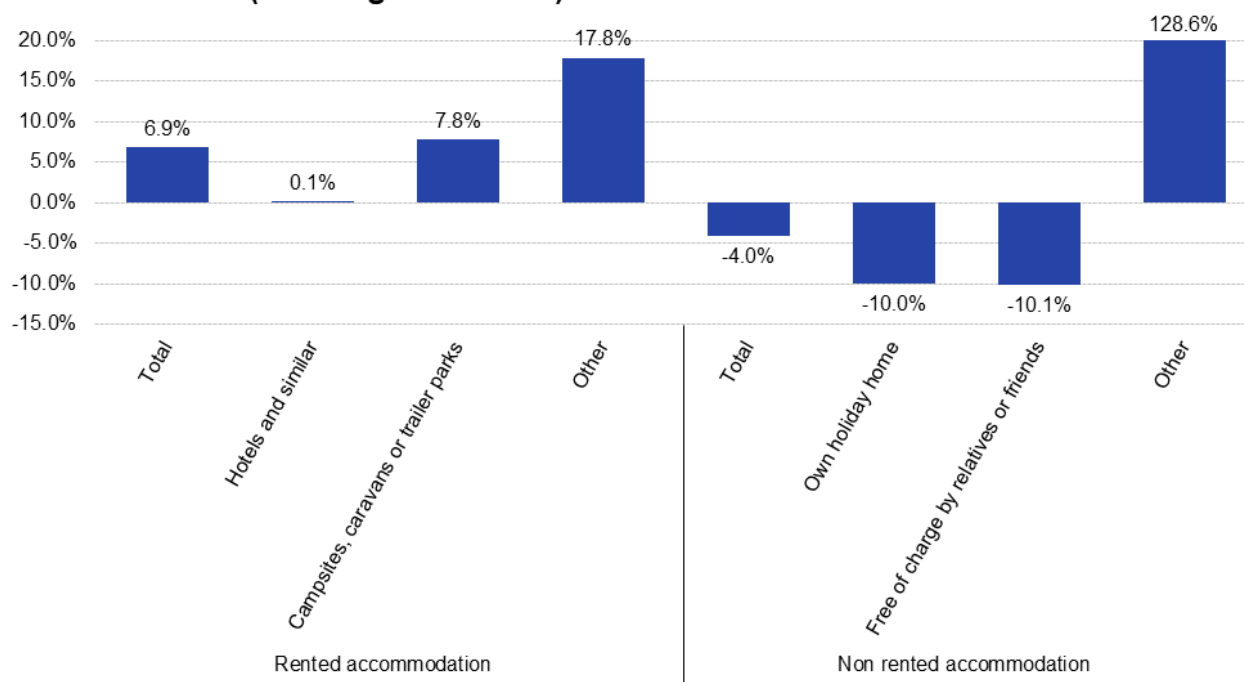


Figure 4: Distribution of tourism nights spent in rented accommodation by EU residents, by mode of accommodation, 2012-2022 (%) - Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_tnac)

Change in the number of tourism nights of EU residents, by mode of accommodation (% change 2012-2022)



Note: Due to rounding, deviations can occur between total and subtotals.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_tnac)

eurostat 

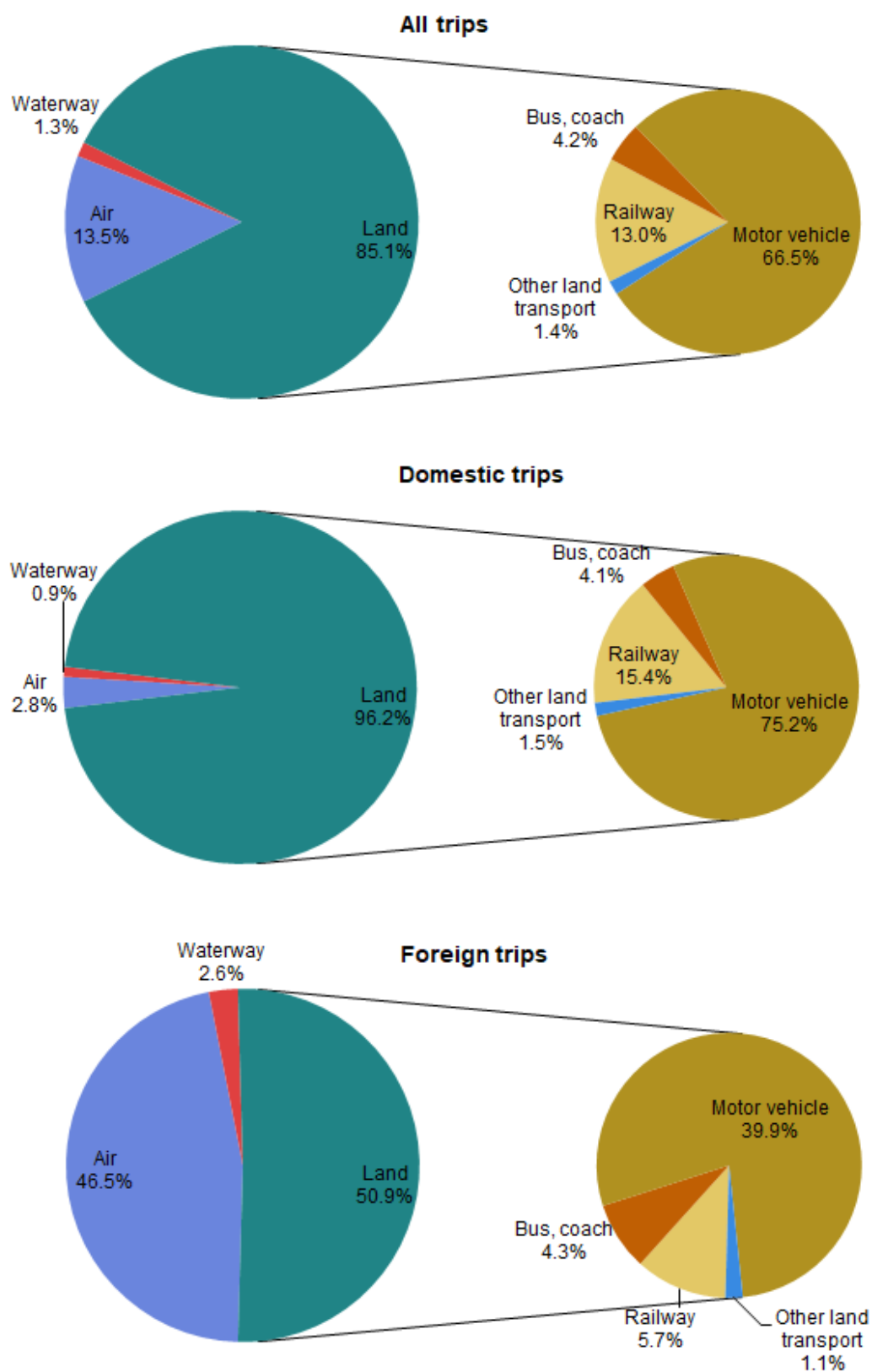
Figure 5: Change in the number of tourism nights of EU residents, by mode of accommodation (% change 2012-2022) - Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_tnac)

More than one in eight trips of Europeans are made by train

Motor vehicles (private or rented) were the main means of transport for 66.5 % of all trips, followed by air transport and railway (13.5 % and 13.0 %, respectively) (see Figure 6). Other modes of transport were relatively insignificant, though it is important to note that this pattern can be very different at country level. Waterways were the main means of transport for 47.0 % of trips made by residents of Malta and 20.1 % of trips made by Greek residents, while residents of Bulgaria, Estonia, Croatia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania took buses for more than 9 % of their trips (see Table 4).

Motor vehicles were the preferred means of transport for domestic trips (75.2 %), followed by rail (15.4 %) and bus (4.1 %). For foreign trips the preferred means of transport was airplane (46.5 %), followed by motor vehicles (39.9 %) and rail (5.7 %).

Trips made by EU residents by main means of transport, 2022



Note: Due to rounding, deviations can occur between total and subtotals.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_ttr)

eurostat 

Trips made by EU residents by main means of transport, 2022

Country of residence of the tourist	Total (Thousand)	Share by type of transport (% of total transport)			Share by type of land transport (% of total transport)			
		Air	Waterway	Land	Railway	Bus, coach	Motor vehicle (private or rented)	Other (e.g. bicycle)
EU	1 075 716	13.5 e	1.3 e	85.1 e	13.0 e	4.2 e	66.5 e	1.4 e
Belgium	18 120	29.0	0.4	70.6	8.0	3.6	58.6	0.4
Bulgaria	4 314	7.7	:	92.3	2.1	11.3	78.9	: (u)
Czechia	32 975	7.3	: (u)	92.7	5.3	5.5	81.3	0.5
Denmark	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Germany	221 692	15.0	1.3	83.7	17.1	3.2	60.7	2.8
Estonia	3 759	17.4	4.1	78.5	4.3	9.8	64.0	: (u)
Ireland	17 977	34.4	1.5	64.2	5.3	6.0	52.2	0.6
Greece	6 929	15.0	20.1	64.9	0.9	6.2	57.7	: (u)
Spain	138 192	11.9	1.3	86.8	5.8	4.9	75.8	0.3
France	229 266	9.5	0.5	90.0	22.6	2.2	64.1	1.1
Croatia	4 500	8.0	0.9	91.1	1.7	10.9	78.4	: (u)
Italy	47 339	19.3	2.4	78.3	9.7	3.1	62.0	3.6
Cyprus	2 924	42.0	: (u)	57.8	:	1.2	56.4	: (u)
Latvia	4 131	17.4	: (u)	82.4	2.6	8.0	71.6	: (u)
Lithuania	5 514	23.6	1.1	75.3	1.8	9.9	62.0	1.7
Luxembourg	2 983	36.6	:	63.4	6.7	2.2	53.7	0.8
Hungary	16 129	12.0	: (u)	88.0	6.8	4.1	76.6	0.5
Malta	937	53.0	47.0	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	44 636	20.1	1.1	78.9	10.8	2.1	64.2	1.8
Austria	25 292	14.7	: (u)	85.2	15.9	4.7	62.6	2.0
Poland	63 443	11.3	0.3	88.4	7.6	9.3	71.4	0.2
Portugal	19 015	11.6	0.5	87.9	3.2	3.2	80.5	1.1
Romania	18 295	3.5	0.1	96.3	7.0	16.3	72.9	: (u)
Slovenia	5 934	6.7	0.4	92.8	1.5	5.5	85.6	: (u)
Slovakia	10 445	9.0	: (u)	90.8	11.2	7.1	71.6	: (u)
Finland	33 294	12.0	5.9	82.1	12.1	4.3	64.7	1.1
Sweden	77 670	15.2	2.0	82.8	11.7	3.4	65.9	1.8

Note: Due to rounding, deviations can occur between total and subtotals.

"-" - data not available or extremely unreliable.

"e" - Estimated.

"u" - low reliability.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_tttr)

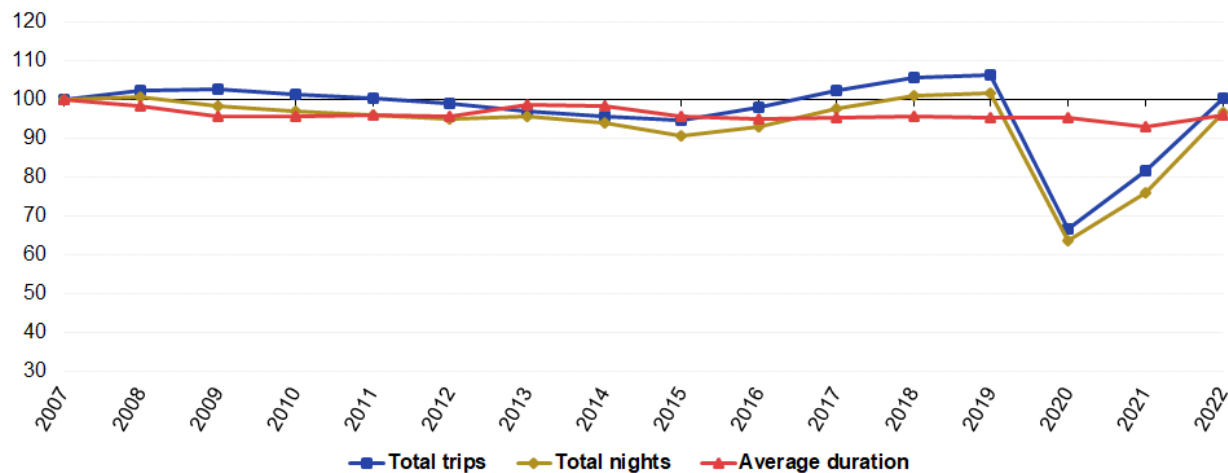
Table 4: Trips made by EU residents by main means of transport, 2022 - Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_tttr)

In 2022 tourism continued to recover from the Covid-19 crisis

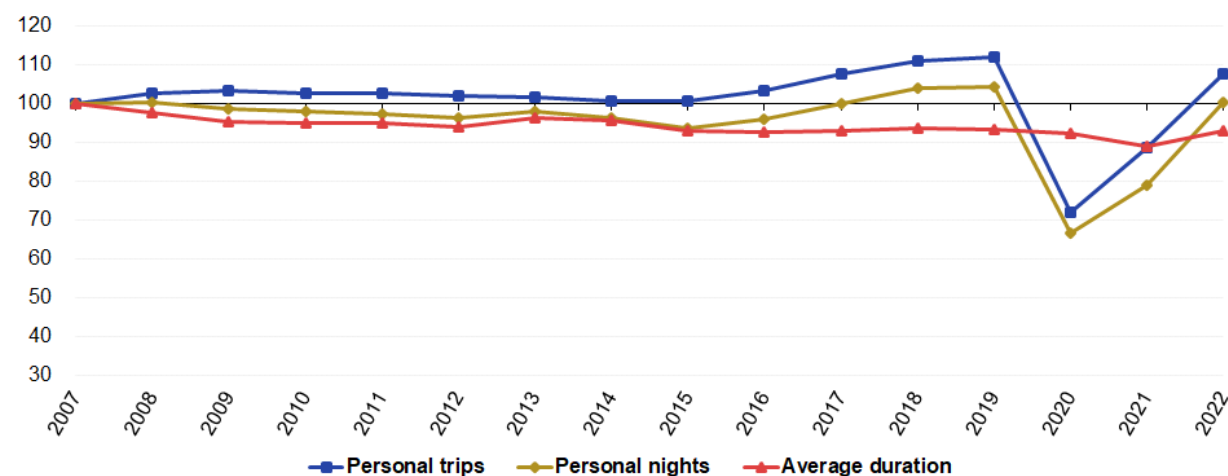
The main trends in tourism by EU residents for the period 2007-2022 are shown in Figure 7. Overall, the 2008-09 global economic crisis did not strongly affect EU residents' tourism. Following slight drops each year between 2009 and 2015, in 2016 the number of trips and nights spent started recovering and regained the levels existing prior to the economic crisis. In 2019 compared with 2007, the number of trips and nights spent increased by 6.4 % and 1.5 % respectively. However, tourism has developed very differently depending on whether the trips were made for personal or professional purposes. The Covid-19 crisis strongly affected EU residents' tourism in 2020, with drops of 37% in the number of trips and the number of nights and even higher drops for business trips, compared to the previous year. The slow recovery started in 2021, when the number of trips increased by 22.6% compared to 2020, while the number of nights increased by 19.6% during the same period. The recovery continued in 2022, when the number of trips increased by 23.1% compared to 2021 and the number of nights increased by 26.9% during the same period. However, neither the number of trips, nor the number of nights reached pre-pandemic levels of 2019 (-5.5% in number of trips and -4.9% in number of nights). The business trips and nights recorded even slower recovery compared to personal trips and nights.

Trends in number of trips, nights spent and average duration of trips made by EU residents, 2007-2022 (index_2007=100)_2

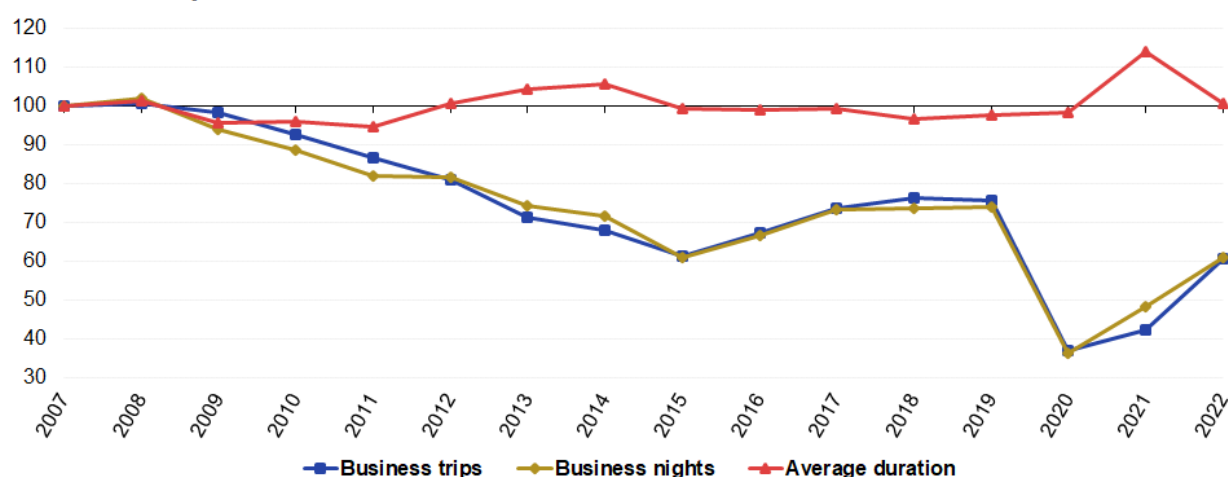
All trips



Personal trips



Business trips



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: tour_dem_tfq, tour_dem_tftot, tour_dem_tnq, tour_dem_tntot)

eurostat

Figure 7: Trends in number of trips, nights spent and average duration of trips made by EU residents, 2007-2022 (index 2007=100) - Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_tfq), (tour_dem_tftot), (tour_dem_tnq), (tour_dem_tntot)

Source data for tables and graphs

- [Download Excel file](#)

Data sources

Collection of annual data on trips of EU residents

The collection consists of harmonised data collected by the Member States in the frame of the [Regulation \(EU\) No 692/2011](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning European statistics on [tourism](#) .

The scope of observation for data on tourism trips are all tourism trips with at least one overnight stay, made by the [resident population](#) aged 15 and over. It includes trips made for private or professional purpose, outside the usual environment.

Context

The EU is a major tourist destination, with four Member States among the world's top ten destinations for holidaymakers, according to UNWTO¹ data. Tourism is an important activity in the EU which has the potential to contribute towards employment and economic growth, as well as to development in rural, peripheral or less-developed areas. These characteristics drive the demand for reliable and harmonised statistics within this field, as well as within the wider context of regional policy and sustainable development policy areas.

Other articles

- [Tourism trips of Europeans](#) (online publication)
- [All articles on tourism statistics](#)

Publications

- [Recent Eurostat publications on tourism](#)

Main tables

- [Tourism \(t_tour\)](#) , see:

[Trips by purpose \(tin00188\)](#)

[Trips by duration of the trip \(tin00189\)](#)

[Nights spent by purpose \(tin00191\)](#)

[Nights spent by duration of the trip \(tin00192\)](#)

¹ UNWTO data

Database

- [Tourism \(tour\)](#) , see "Trips of EU residents - annual data":

Tourism trips (tour_dem_tt)

Tourism nights (tour_dem_tn)

Dedicated section

- [Tourism statistics](#)

Methodology

- [Trips of EU residents - annual data](#) (ESMS metadata file — tour_dem_esms)

Legislation

- With 2012 as reference year:
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 692/2011](#) of 6 July 2011 concerning European statistics on tourism and repealing Council Directive 95/57/EC. ([Summary](#))
 - [Regulation \(EU\) No 1051/2011](#) of 20 October 2011 implementing Regulation (EU) No 692/2011 concerning European statistics on tourism, as regards the structure of the quality reports and the transmission of the data.
- Previous legal acts (concerning reference periods before 2012):
- [Directive 95/57/EC](#) of 23 November 1995 on the collection of statistical information in the field of tourism
 - [Commission Decision 1999/35/CE](#) of 9 December 1998 on the procedures for implementing Council Directive 95/57/EC on the collection of statistical information in the field of tourism.
 - [Commission Decision 2004/883/CE](#) of 10 December 2004 adjusting the Annex to Council Directive 95/57/EC on the collection of statistical information in the field of tourism as regards country lists.
 - [Directive 2006/110/EC](#) of 20 November 2006 adapting Directives 95/57/EC and 2001/109/EC in the field of statistics, by reason of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania

External links

- [Agenda for a sustainable and competitive European tourism](#) (Communication from the European Commission, October 2007)
- [European Commission - Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs - Tourism](#)

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