

# Tourism statistics - expenditure

Statistics Explained

*Data extracted in June 2023.*

*Planned article update: 12 December 2023.*

**" In 2021, EU residents spent an estimated € 288 billion on tourism trips, mostly on domestic trips (62%). "**

**" EU residents spent 95% of their tourism expenditure on trips inside Europe (91% inside the EU). "**

**" Europeans spent on average € 244 on a domestic trip and € 806 on a foreign trip in 2021. "**

This article is part of the [Eurostat](#) online publication [Tourism trips of Europeans](#) . The publication provides recent statistics on tourism [demand](#) in the [European Union \(EU\)](#) and [EFTA](#) countries. The other articles in this online publication analyse physical flows of [tourists](#) . This one adds a monetary dimension by taking a closer look at the expenditure of EU [residents](#) during [tourism](#) trips made in 2021. In the context of the article, all expenditure for a given trip refers to individual expenditure (not household expenditure or the expenditure of a travel party). The expenditure is allocated to the [main country of destination](#) , no matter in which country the service provider is based or where the turnover or added value was created. For example, if an individual uses an airline carrier, travel agency or tour operator based in a country other than that of the main destination, this expenditure will be allocated to the main country of destination, not to the country of the airline carrier, travel agency or tour operator.

## Half of Europeans' tourism expenditure was spent by German and French tourists

In 2021, EU residents spent an estimated € 288 billion on tourism trips (see Table 1). Of this, they spent 62 % on trips within their own [country of residence](#) ( [domestic tourism](#) ) and 38 % on trips abroad ( [outbound tourism](#) ). However, domestic trips represented much more of the total number of trips (85 %), while trips abroad represented 15% - see the article on the [characteristics of tourism trips](#) .

## Tourism expenditure of EU residents by destination (domestic/foreign) and by duration of the trip, 2021

Country of residence of the tourist	Total expenditure (Million EUR)			Share in total expenditure (%)					
	All trips	Domestic trips	Foreign trips	Domestic trips			Foreign trips		
				All trips (1 night or more)	Short trips (1 to 3 overnights)	Long trips (4 overnights or more)	All trips (1 night or more)	Short trips (1 to 3 overnights)	Long trips (4 overnights or more)
<b>EU</b>	<b>288 371</b>	<b>180 023</b>	<b>108 348</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>33</b>
Belgium	5 880	1 125	4 755	19	10	9	81	9	72
Bulgaria	637	553	85	87	32	55	13	4	9
Czechia	3 611	1 944	1 667	54	20	34	46	4	42
Denmark	5 306	2 665	2 641	50	26	24	50	7	42
Germany	82 555	39 142	43 413	47	19	29	53	5	48
Estonia	898	402	495	45	35	10	55	9	46
Ireland	2 638	1 067	1 571	40	25	16	60	11	48
Greece	2 010	1 777	234	88	12	76	12	2	10
Spain	27 473	22 718	4 755	83	34	48	17	3	14
France	65 107	53 709	11 397	82	28	55	18	2	15
Croatia	891	607	283	68	21	47	32	7	25
Italy	15 134	12 294	2 840	81	18	63	19	2	17
Cyprus	750	261	489	35	24	11	65	9	56
Latvia	508	163	345	32	22	10	68	11	57
Lithuania	674	271	403	40	32	8	60	10	49
Luxembourg	1 752	40	1 712	2	1	1	98	15	83
Hungary	1 705	854	851	50	27	23	50	11	39
Malta	327	69	258	21	14	7	79	17	62
Netherlands	15 530	6 247	9 283	40	18	22	60	6	53
Austria	10 541	3 844	6 698	36	18	18	64	12	52
Poland	10 697	6 978	3 720	65	21	44	35	5	30
Portugal	2 906	2 370	536	82	27	55	18	2	16
Romania	3 092	2 597	496	84	37	47	16	1	15
Slovenia	1 520	574	946	38	24	14	62	13	50
Slovakia	1 394	701	693	50	27	24	50	9	41
Finland	6 833	5 278	1 555	77	43	35	23	5	18
Sweden	18 001	11 773	6 228	65	38	28	35	6	28
Norway	10 029	7 787	2 242	78	39	38	22	6	17
Switzerland	10 052	3 163	6 889	31	13	19	69	11	58
North Macedonia	92	21	71	23	9	14	77	13	65

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

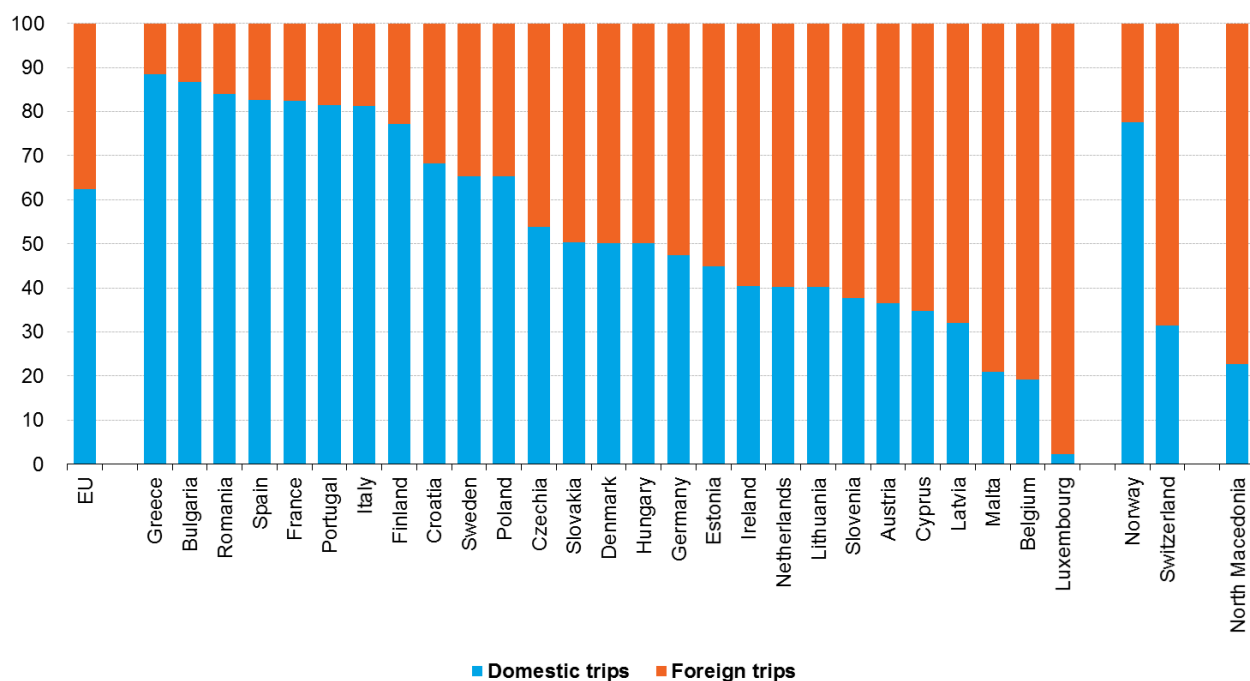
Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_dem\_extot)

eurostat 

**Table 1: Tourism expenditure of EU residents by destination (domestic/foreign) and by duration of the trip, 2021 Source: Eurostat (tour\_dem\_extot)**

In fifteen of the 27 EU countries, residents spent more than half of the tourism expenditure during 2021 on domestic trips (see Figure 1). The highest shares for domestic expenditure were observed for Greece (88 %), followed by Bulgaria (87 %), Romania (84 %), Spain (83 %), France, Portugal (both at 82 %) and Italy (81 %). For the rest of countries, most of the tourism expenditure occurred in foreign destinations, with the residents of Luxembourg, Belgium and Malta having spent more than 70 % of their total tourism expenditure on foreign trips.

### Tourism expenditure of EU residents by destination (domestic/foreign), 2021 (% in total expenditure)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_dem\_extot)

eurostat

**Figure 1: Tourism expenditure of EU residents by destination (domestic/foreign), 2021 (% in total expenditure) Source: Eurostat (tour\_dem\_extot)**

In all countries, most tourism expenditure occurred during longer trips of four or more nights (EU average: 71 %), with residents of Greece, Luxembourg, Belgium and Italy having spent more than 80 % of their tourism expenditure for long trips.

For each tourism trip, Europeans spent on average € 330 per person (see Table 2). Broken down by destination, they spent € 244 on average on a domestic trip and € 806 on a foreign trip. The average spent per night was € 67 (€ 58 on average for each domestic tourism night and € 93 a night on average for trips abroad).

## Average tourism expenditure of EU residents per trip and per night, by destination (domestic/foreign), 2021 (EUR)

Country of residence of the tourist	Average expenditure per trip (EUR)			Average expenditure per night (EUR)		
	All trips	Domestic	Foreign	All trips	Domestic	Foreign
<b>EU</b>	330	244	806	67	58	93
Belgium	466	209	657	64	58	65
Bulgaria	202	187	451	50	48	67
Czechia	139	86	511	32	22	69
Denmark	326	202	854	81	64	113
Germany	463	302	892	86	76	98
Estonia	316	178	862	91	77	108
Ireland	409	240	783	96	79	113
Greece	386	368	616	33	32	60
Spain	242	211	788	55	51	85
France	325	286	899	68	62	121
Croatia	273	228	475	40	37	51
Italy	416	380	703	62	60	73
Cyprus	320	140	1 038	75	54	96
Latvia	175	68	674	45	25	74
Lithuania	172	88	486	53	37	74
Luxembourg	892	264	944	115	67	117
Hungary	151	101	297	41	31	59
Malta	486	176	913	106	63	130
Netherlands	364	201	800	67	53	81
Austria	577	357	891	125	109	136
Poland	202	151	546	37	32	52
Portugal	199	172	626	42	39	69
Romania	178	158	544	47	44	74
Slovenia	283	176	446	69	64	73
Slovakia	221	148	443	55	43	78
Finland	219	180	868	57	52	87
Sweden	316	230	1 080	84	70	129
Norway	442	377	1 103	98	95	108
Switzerland	722	414	1 094	108	108	108
North Macedonia	198	102	274	38	29	43

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_dem\_extot)

eurostat 

**Table 2: Average tourism expenditure of EU residents per trip and per night, by destination (domestic/foreign), 2021 (€) Source: Eurostat (tour\_dem\_extot)**

German and French tourists were the biggest spenders in absolute terms. Their expenditure accounted for more than half (51 %) of the tourism expenditure of all EU residents. This share is much more than the proportion of German and French tourists in the total number of trips (43 %) or overnight stays (45 %) - see the article on the [characteristics of tourism trips](#).

Per trip, tourists from Luxembourg spent the most (€ 892), followed by Austrian tourists (€ 577), while less than € 170 per trip was spent by residents of Czechia and Hungary (see Figure 2). Domestic tourism expenditure per trip was highest in Italy (€ 380), followed by Greece (€ 368). The biggest spenders per foreign tourism trip (€ 1 000 or more) were tourists from Sweden and Cyprus.

Residents of Austria, Luxembourg and Malta spent at least € 100 per night on average during their tourism trips, while residents of Czechia, Greece and Poland spent less than € 40 (see Figure 3).

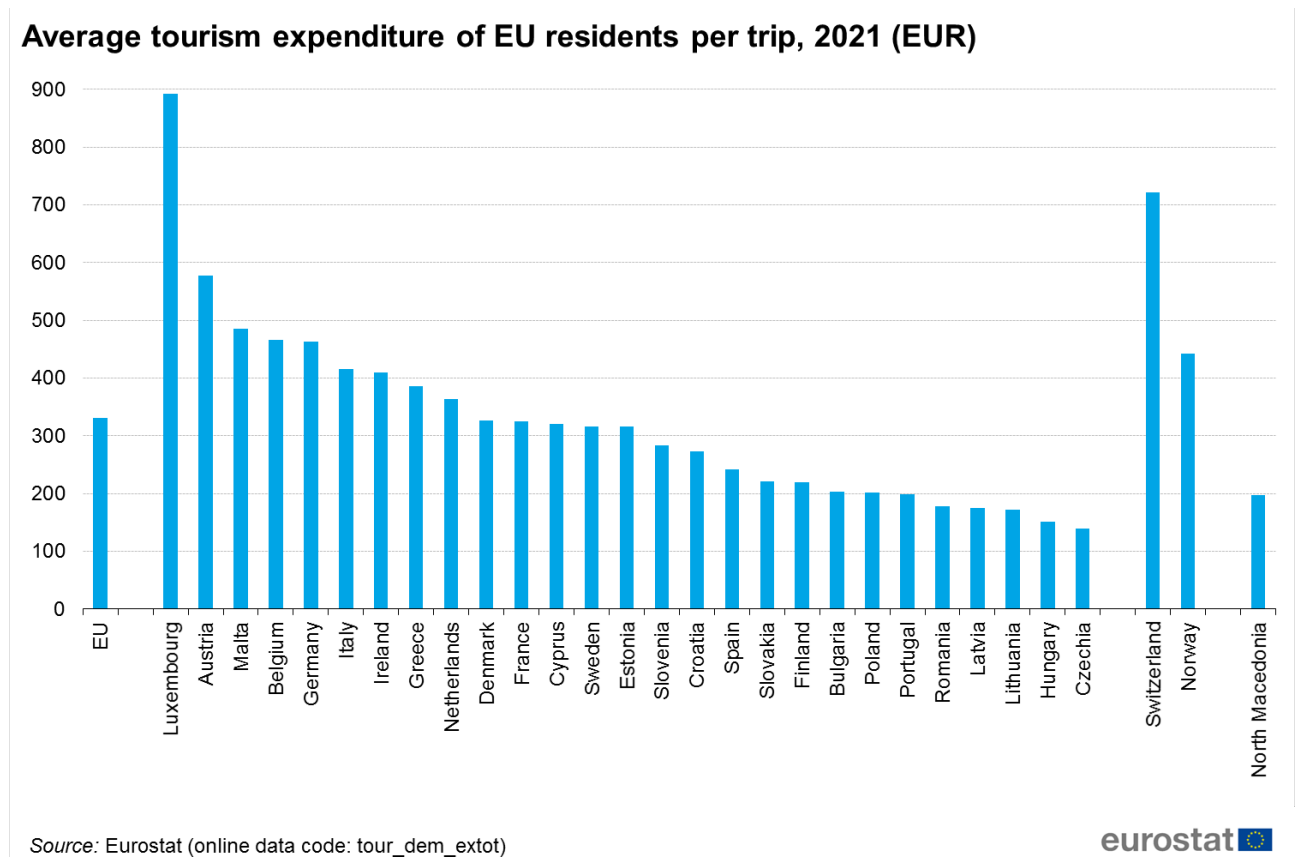
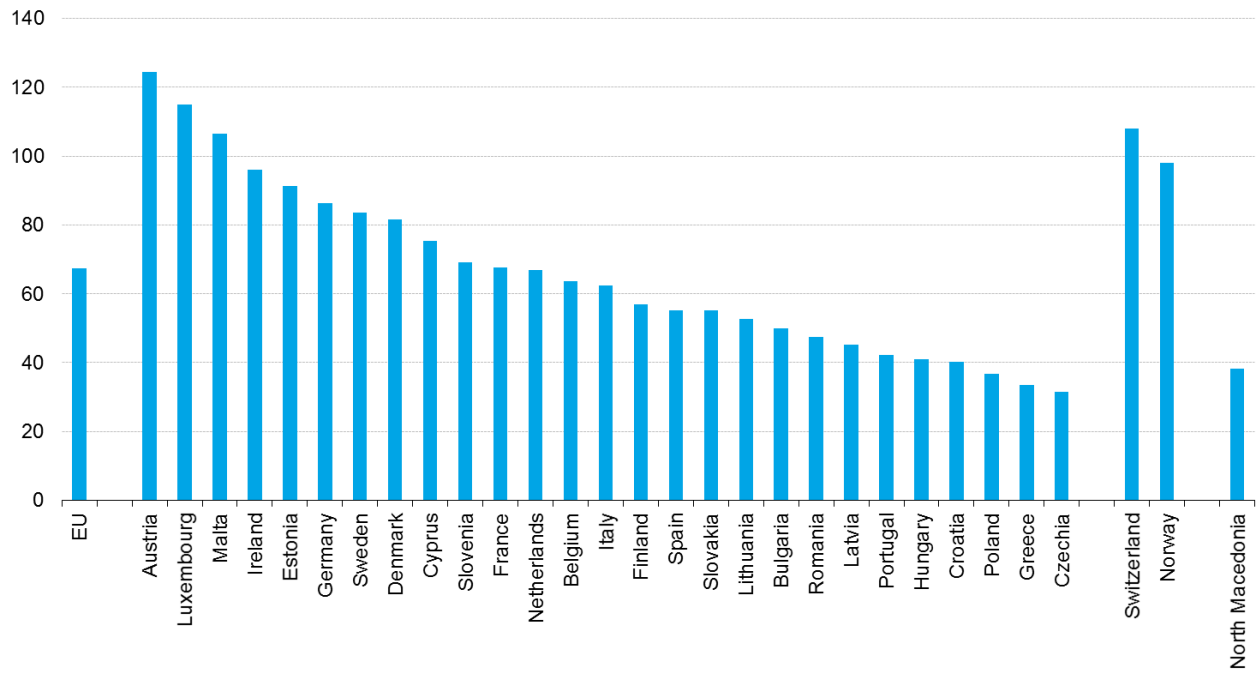


Figure 2: Average tourism expenditure of EU residents per trip, 2021 (€) Source: Eurostat (tour\_dem\_extot)

### Average tourism expenditure of EU residents per night, 2021 (EUR)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_dem\_extot)

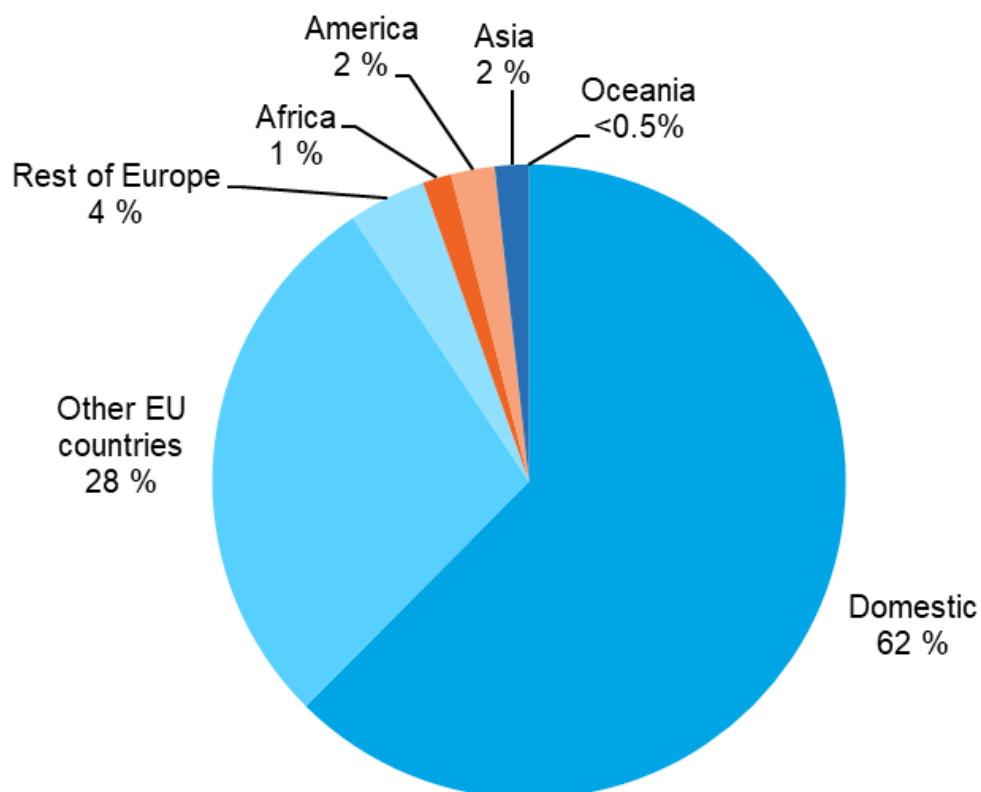


**Figure 3: Average tourism expenditure of EU residents per night, 2021 (€ )** Source: Eurostat (tour\_dem\_extot)

### Europeans spent 91 % of their total tourism expenditure on trips inside the EU

In 2021, intra-EU tourism accounted for 97 % of all tourism trips (85 % of which were domestic trips and 12 % trips to another Member State). In terms of expenditure, however, domestic trips accounted for 62 % of total tourism expenditure (see Figure 4), all EU destinations (including domestic) for 91 % and destinations outside the EU for 9 % (compared with only 3 % of the number of tourism trips).

## Tourism expenditure of EU residents by destination, 2021 (%)



":-" - data not available or extremely unreliable.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_dem\_extotw)

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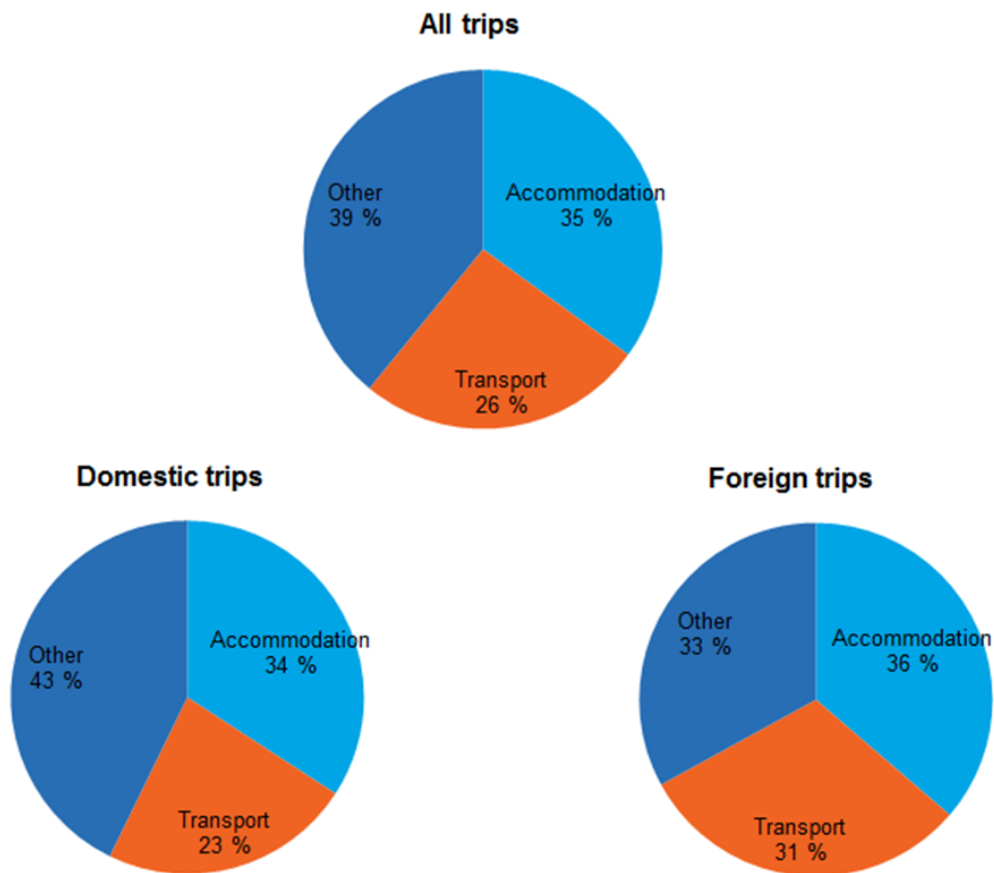
**Figure 4: Tourism expenditure of EU residents by destination, 2021 (%)** Source: Eurostat (tour\_dem\_extotw)

Europeans travelling to foreign continents spent most on trips to America and Asia (both 2 % of total expenditure by EU residents on tourism trips), followed Africa (1 %). European destinations outside the EU accounted for around 4 % of all of the tourism expenditure of EU residents.

### Expenditure on accommodation accounted for one third of the tourism budget of EU residents

Accommodation took up 35 % of tourism expenditure, while transport accounted for 26 % and miscellaneous other costs for 39 % (see Figure 5). Looking at domestic and foreign trips separately, the share of transport expenditure was higher by 8 percentage points for foreign trips than for domestic trips. The difference in the share of accommodation expenditure was less significant (+2 percentage points for foreign trips).

## Tourism expenditure of EU residents by type of expenditure, 2021 (%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_dem\_extot)

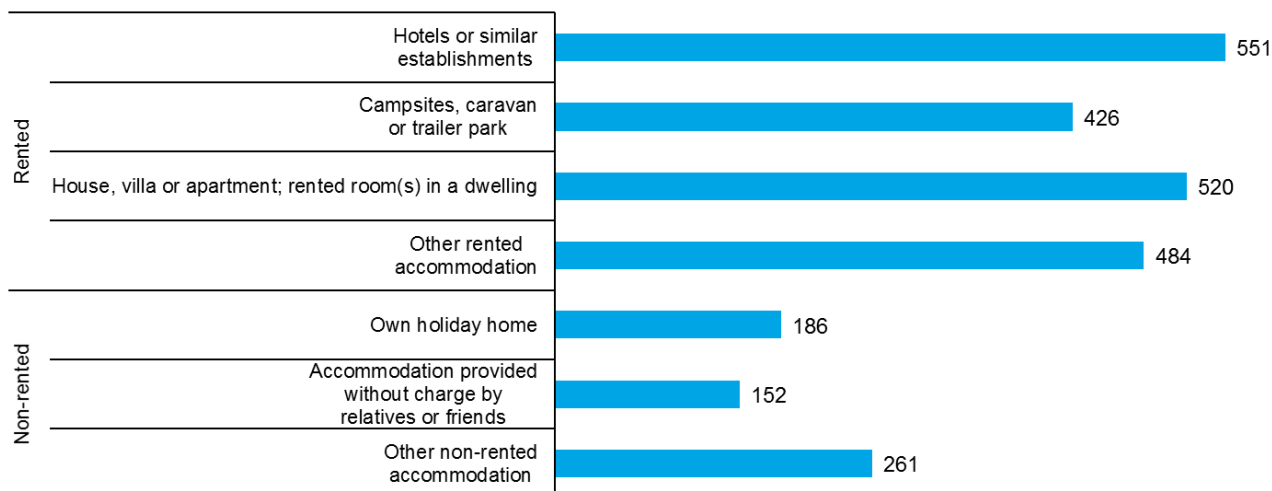
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**Figure 5: Tourism expenditure of EU residents by type of expenditure, 2021 (%)** Source: Eurostat (tour\_dem\_extot)

On average, expenditure per trip was higher for trips for which the main accommodation was rented (see Figure 6). The average cost of trips spent at hotels was € 551 (as compared with the overall average of € 330), while trips spent at an own holiday home cost € 186 on average and those spent at accommodation provided free of charge by friends or relatives cost € 152.



## Average tourism expenditure per trip by type of accommodation, EU, 2021 (EUR)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_dem\_extot, tour\_dem\_ttac)

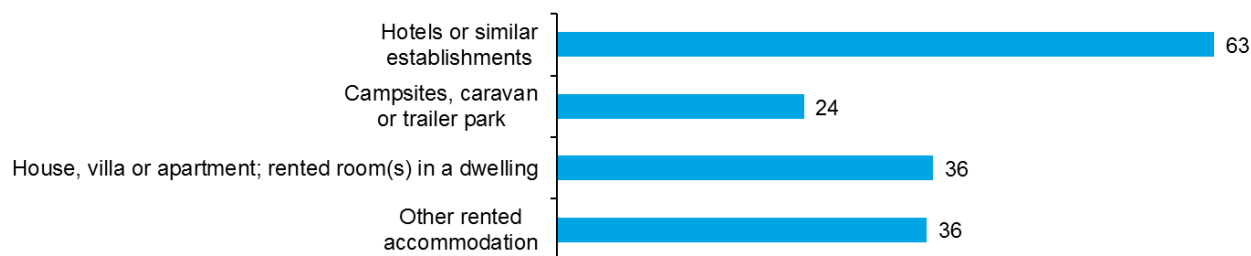
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**Figure 6: Average tourism expenditure per trip by type of accommodation, EU, 2021 (€ )** Source: Eurostat (tour\_dem\_extot) (tour\_dem\_ttac)

For trips where the main means of accommodation was rented accommodation, the average expenditure per night per person on accommodation was € 47

– ranging from € 24 per night for trips spent mainly at campsites to € 63 for trips spent mainly at hotels (see Figure 7).

## Average expenditure per night on accommodation for trips of EU residents, by type of rented accommodation, EU, 2021 (EUR)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_dem\_exac)

eurostat

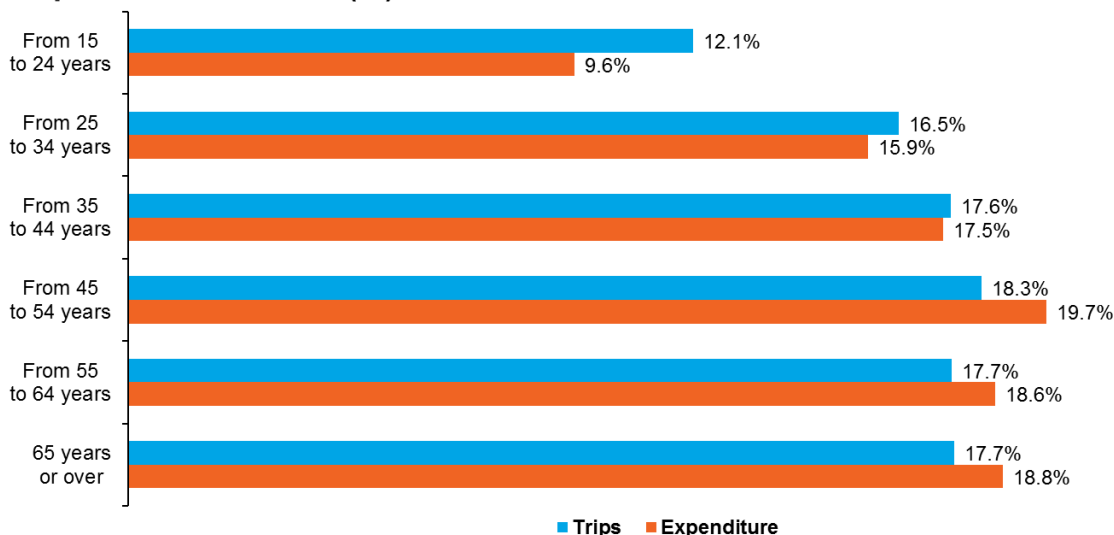
**Figure 7: Average expenditure per night on accommodation for trips of EU residents, by type of rented accommodation, EU, 2021 (€ )** Source: Eurostat (tour\_dem\_exac)

## Age made a slight difference to the average expenditure per trip

Tourists under 45 years old accounted for less tourism expenditure (43 % of expenditure made by all age groups) than tourism trips in 2021 (46 %). On average tourists of this age group spent € 306 per trip, while the youngest

(15-24 years old) spent the least (€ 261) (see Figure 8 and Figure 9). The rest (and older) of the age groups spent € 351 on average per trip, while tourists aged from 45 to 54 years spent the most (€ 355).

### Share of the age group in the total number of tourism trips and expenditure, EU, 2021 (%)

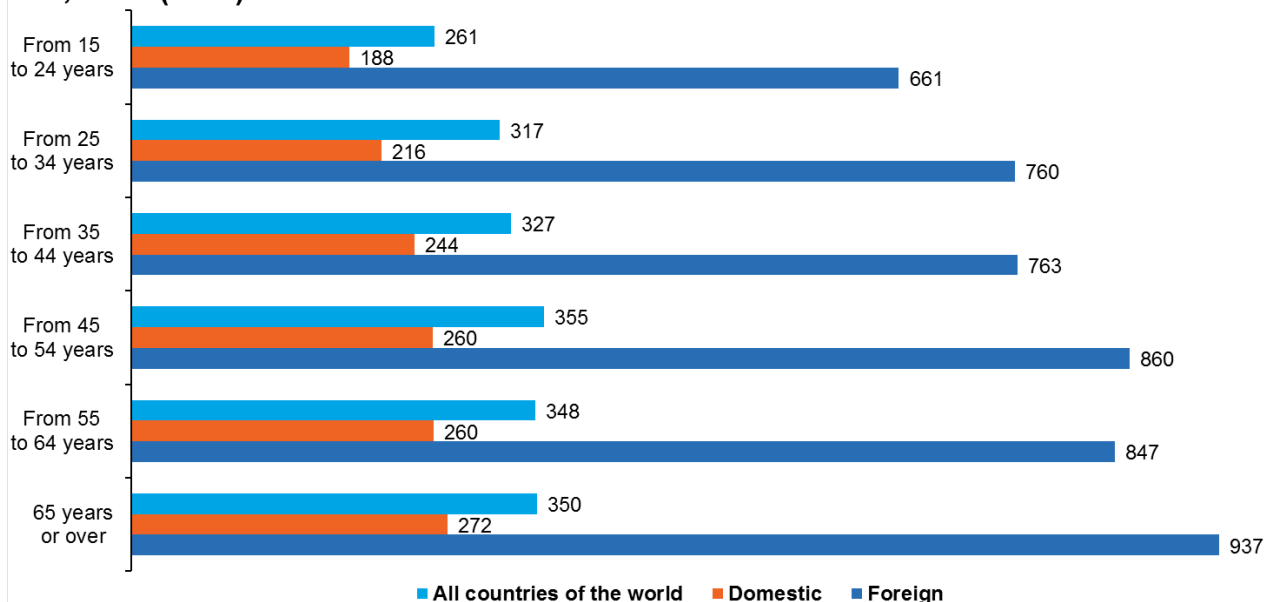


Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_dem\_exage, tour\_dem\_ttage)

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**Figure 8: Share of the age group in the total number of tourism trips and expenditure, EU, 2021 (%)** Source: Eurostat (tour\_dem\_exage) (tour\_dem\_ttage)

### Average tourism expenditure per trip by age group and destination, EU, 2021 (EUR)



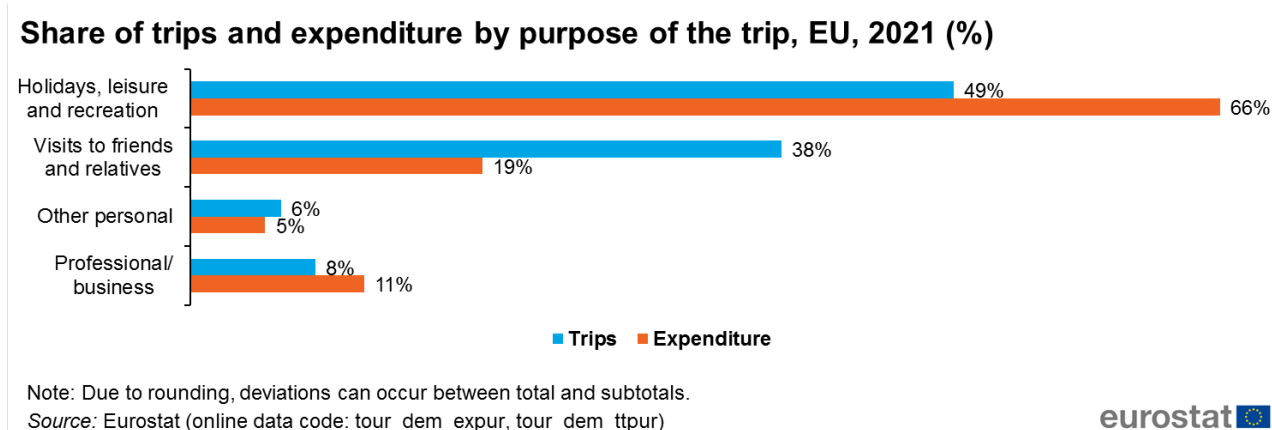
Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_dem\_exage)

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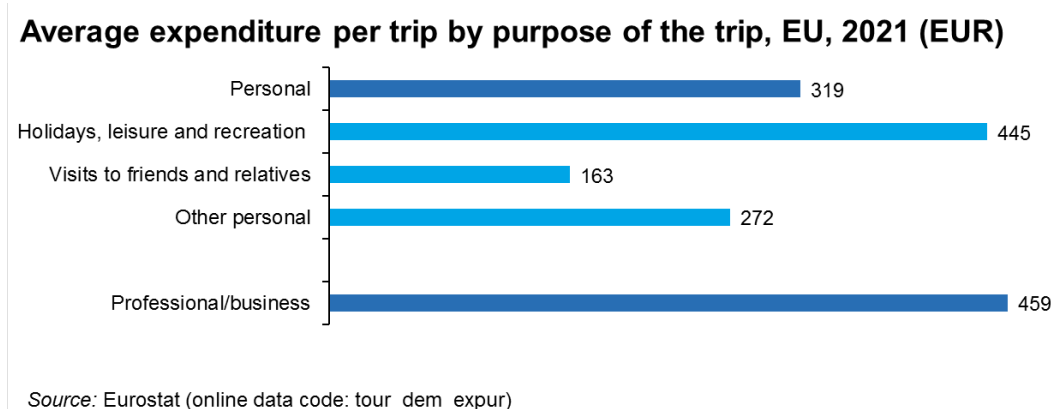
**Figure 9: Average tourism expenditure per trip by age group and destination, EU, 2021 (€)** Source: Eurostat (tour\_dem\_exage)

## Business travel accounted for 11 % of total tourism expenditure in 2021

Holiday, leisure and recreation trips accounted for the majority of tourism expenditure (66 %) in 2021 (see Figure 10). Visits to relatives and friends accounted for only 19 % of all tourism expenditure, but they represented 38 % of all tourism trips (accommodation was often free on such trips). A typical visit to relatives and friends costs just over half the average tourism trip for personal reasons (€ 163 compared to € 319) (see Figure 11).



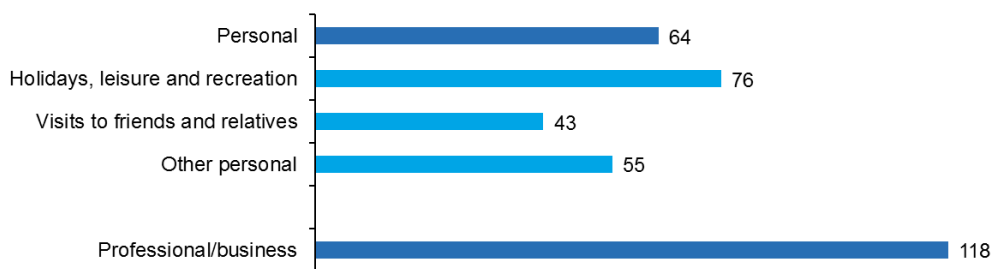
**Figure 10: Share of trips and expenditure by purpose of the trip, EU, 2021 (%)** Source: Eurostat (tour\_dem\_expur) (tour\_dem\_ttpur)



**Figure 11: Average expenditure per trip by purpose of the trip, EU, 2021 (€ )** Source: Eurostat (tour\_dem\_expur)

Business trips accounted for 11 % of tourism expenditure in 2021. At € 459, they recorded the highest average expenditure per trip, while the expenditure per night (see Figure 12) was 1.8 times higher for business trips than for trips for personal purposes (€ 118 per night versus € 64 per night).

## Average expenditure per night by purpose of the trip, EU, 2021 (EUR)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_dem\_expur)

eurostat 

**Figure 12: Average expenditure per night by purpose of the trip, EU, 2021 (€ )** Source: Eurostat (tour\_dem\_expur)

### 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 UNWTO<sup>1</sup> data. Tourism is an important activity in the EU which contributes to employment and economic growth, as well as to the development of rural, peripheral or less-developed areas. These characteristics drive the demand for reliable and harmonised statistics on this activity, 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](#)

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<sup>1</sup> [UNWTO data](#)

## Publications

- [Recent Eurostat publications on tourism](#)

## Main tables

- [Tourism \(t\\_tour\)](#) , see:

[Expenditure by category of expenditure \(tin00194\)](#)

[Average expenditure per trip \(tin00195\)](#)

[Average expenditure per night\(tin00196\)](#)

## Database

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

Trips of EU residents - annual data

[Tourism trips \(tour\\_dem\\_tt\)](#)

[Tourism nights \(tour\\_dem\\_tn\)](#)

[Expenditure on tourism trips \(tour\\_dem\\_ex\)](#)

## Dedicated section

- [Tourism statistics](#)

## Data visualisations

- [Select statistical domain 'Tourism' \(top right\)](#)

## 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 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](#)