

Tourism statistics - intra-EU tourism flows

Statistics Explained

Data extracted in November 2025.

Planned article update: November 2026.

Highlights

Greece and Romania recorded the longest stays by visitors from other EU countries in 2024 (around 9 nights on average), the average for EU destinations was 7 nights. In 2024 the highest average expenditure was observed for trips to Cyprus and Greece, 2 countries that are mainly reached by air travel. Most countries are predominantly reached by car, but more than one-third of the destination countries is most frequently visited by airplane (mainly island destinations and more remote countries in the EU).

This article is part of the [Eurostat](#) online publication [Tourism trips of Europeans](#), providing recent statistics on tourism [demand](#) in the [European Union \(EU\)](#) and [EFTA](#) countries.

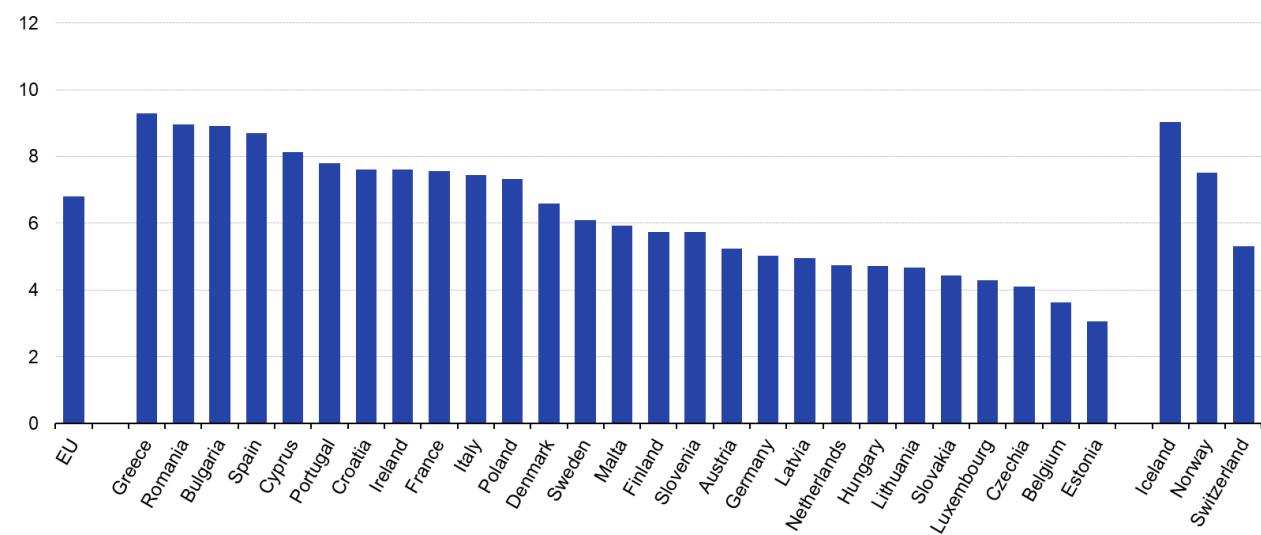
Three types of [tourism](#) flows can be distinguished: domestic tourism (persons making tourism trips within their country of residence), outbound tourism and inbound tourism. Until recently, the main source for European statistics on inbound tourism was statistics on [arrivals](#) and [nights spent](#) by non-residents at [tourist accommodation establishments](#).

This article tries to fill the data gap on inbound tourism by, at least for trips within the EU, re-using the outbound flows reported by countries to a range of destination countries as an estimate of the inbound flows from the point of view of those destination countries. The methodological approach is based on the simple fact that an outbound flow for 1 country represents an inbound flow for the country visited. When all outbound trips made by Europeans to a given country (as their main destination) are combined, an estimate of the intra-EU inbound tourism flows into this country can be obtained. The aim of this last article in the online publication [Tourism trips of Europeans](#) is mainly to briefly outline the potential offered by using partner countries' data to produce otherwise unavailable information, rather than to draw a comprehensive picture of inbound tourism. Note that for the segment of trips spent at rented accommodation, statistics on nights spent and arrivals by non-residents do exist (see the article on [Tourism statistics - annual results for the accommodation sector](#)).

Europeans stay around 1 week on average when visiting other EU countries

In 2024, tourism trips made by EU residents to another EU countries had an average duration of almost 1 week (6.8 nights), ranging from 3.1 nights for trips to Estonia and 3.6 nights in Belgium to over 8 nights for trips to Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain and Cyprus (see Figure 1).

Trips made by EU residents to other EU countries - Average duration by destination country, 2024 (Nights)



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: tour_dem_ttw, tour_dem_tnw)

eurostat

Figure 1: Trips made by EU residents to other EU countries - Average duration by destination country, 2024
 Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_ttw) (tour_dem_tnw)

Differences in the duration of trips across Europe are often associated with accessibility in terms of transport and the proximity of the main generating markets. For instance, the relative price (and distance) to reach Greece, Spain or Cyprus and the fact that they are top holidays destinations will motivate tourists to stay longer, while the proximity and accessibility of Belgium to its main generating market (the Netherlands, followed by France) will make short breaks of a few days the more likely way of visiting this country. This also applied to Luxembourg, whose main generating market was the nearby Germany, followed by the Netherlands.

Average expenditure on trips to another EU country is € 851

Inbound visitors coming from other EU countries spent on average € 851 (see Figure 2), ranging from € 344 in Slovakia (a country seeing many tourists from neighbouring countries on a short trip – see also Figure 1) to € 1 476 in Cyprus, followed by Greece (€ 1 370), Ireland (€ 1 231) and Spain (€ 1 120). These 4 destinations have relatively long stays of around 8 nights or more on average and a prevalence (78% of trips or more) of air travel to reach the country (see Table 1).

Per night, visitors from the EU to other EU countries spent on average € 125 (see Figure 3), ranging from € 72 for trips to Romania, € 78 to Slovakia and € 94 to Bulgaria or Luxembourg, to over € 170 per night for trips to Finland, Cyprus and Estonia. For 3 EFTA countries, the average expenditure per night of EU visitors was higher than the EU average, peaking in Iceland at € 169.

Figure 2: Trips made by EU residents to other EU countries - Average expenditure per trip, by destination country, 2024
 Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_exttotw)

Figure 3: Trips made by EU residents to other EU countries - Average expenditure per night by destination country, 2024
 Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_exttotw)

For intra-EU trips, car is the dominant means of transport

Residents of the EU made 250 million tourism trips of at least 1 overnight stay to destinations in another EU countries in 2024. For 44% of those trips, rented or private motor vehicles were the main means of transport (see Table 1), followed by airplane (41%). Train (7%), bus (5%) and transport using waterways (2%) were far less significant.

Trips made by EU residents to other EU countries - Share of means of transport by destination country, 2024 (%)

Destination country	Air	Waterway	Railway	Bus	Motor vehicle	Other
EU	41	2	7	5	44	1
Belgium	21	:u	18	3	58	:u
Bulgaria	73	:u	:u	3	23	:u
Czechia	22	:u	15	8	54	:u
Denmark	21	6	13(u)	5	53	:u
Germany	25	1	11	7	57	0
Estonia	13	65	:u	6	14	:u
Ireland	88	:u	:u	:u	4(u)	:u
Greece	85	3	:u	1	10	:u
Spain	78	1	1	3	16	1(u)
France	23	1	10	5	59	1
Croatia	21	:u	1(u)	7	69	:u
Italy	44	2	4	5	44	1
Cyprus	96	:u	:u	:u	:u	:u
Latvia	63	:u	:u	12	24	:u
Lithuania	34	:u	:u	17	40	:u
Luxembourg	23	:u	34(u)	2(u)	40	:u
Hungary	31	:u	15	10	43	:u
Malta	96	:u	:u	:u	:u	:u
Netherlands	18	1(u)	13	3	62	:u
Austria	12	:u	9	5	72	1(u)
Poland	39	:u	11	6	44	:u
Portugal	71	:u	1(u)	3	24	:u
Romania	55	:u	:u	3	40	:u
Slovenia	11	:u	9(u)	13	66	:u
Slovakia	7	:u	11	5	75	:u
Finland	48	29	:u	:u	16	:u
Sweden	32	21	5	2	38	:u
Iceland	67	:u	:u	:u	:u	:u
Norway	33	16	6(u)	4	42	:u
Switzerland	24	:u	20	4	51	:u

Note: due to rounding, deviation can occur between total and subtotals;

(:) data not available.

(u) low reliability.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: tour_dem_ttw, tour_dem_tttr)



Table 1: Trips made by EU residents to other EU countries - Share of means of transport by destination country, 2024
Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_ttw) (tour_dem_tttr)

When looking at the countries visited, air transport accounted for at least 3 out of 4 intra-EU inbound flows in Cyprus and Malta (96% each), Ireland (88%), Greece (85%) and Spain (78%). Note that all these destinations are islands or have an important part of their destinations situated on islands (Greek Islands, Canary or Balearic Islands etc.).

In 5 countries, the share of inbound trips made by motor vehicle was 60% or more: Slovakia (75%), Austria (72%),

Croatia (69%), Slovenia (66%) and the Netherlands (62%).

Only in Estonia was waterway the dominant means of transport for inbound visitors (65% of all intra-EU trips) most likely because of the popular ferry connection between Tallinn and Helsinki. The share of waterway was particularly high also for intra-EU trips to Finland (29%) and Sweden (21%).

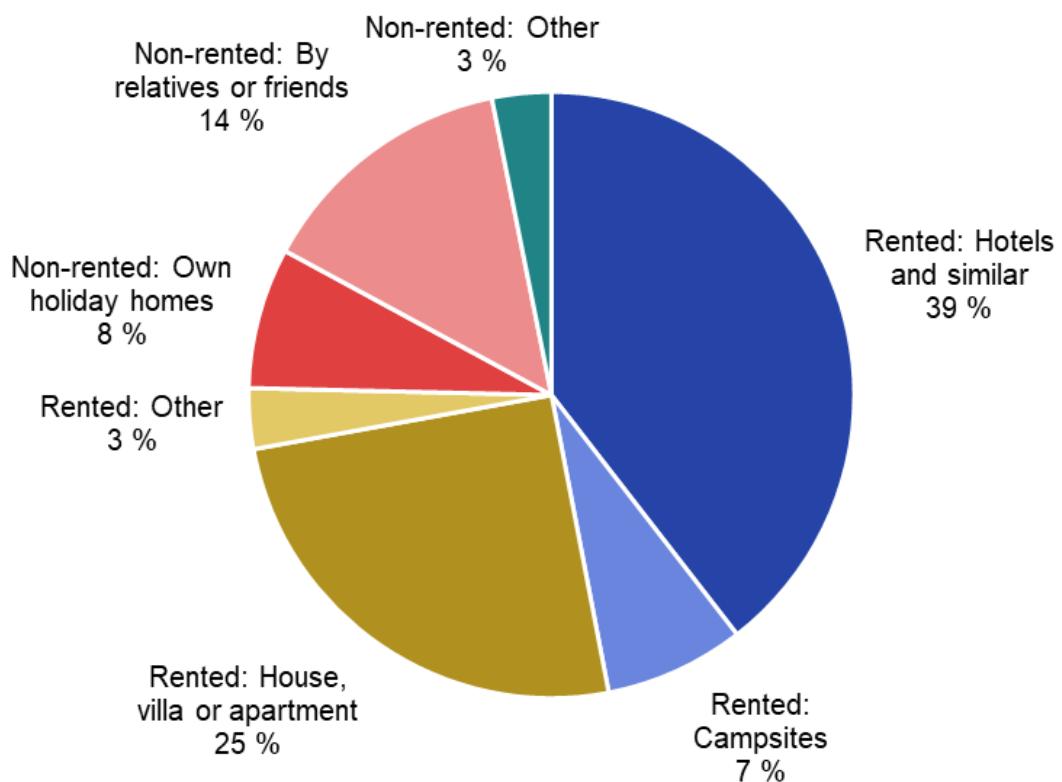
Railway was relatively significant for visitors to Luxembourg (34% of intra-EU inbound trips), probably due to the free public transport inside the country, as well as to Belgium (18%), Czechia (15%), Germany (13%), Denmark, Poland, Slovakia (11% each), while buses were relatively significant (at least 10%) for intra-EU trips to Lithuania, Slovenia, Latvia and Hungary.

Over 2 out of 3 intra-EU tourism nights are spent in rented tourist accommodation

In 2024, EU residents spent 1.7 [billion](#) tourism nights during their trips to other EU countries. 75.4% of those nights were spent in [rented tourist accommodation establishments](#) (see Figure 4). Hotels or similar accommodation providing services such as daily cleaning and bed-making came on top with 39%, while 25% of all intra-EU tourism nights were spent at a house, villa or apartment and 7% in campsites (including caravan or trailer parks). The remaining 3% were spent in other types of rented accommodation (e.g. youth hostel, mountain hut).

Looking at non-rented accommodation, own holiday homes accounted for 8% of all intra-EU tourism nights and accommodation provided for free by friends or relatives for 14%.

Tourism nights spent by EU residents to other EU countries - Share by type of accommodation, 2024 (%)



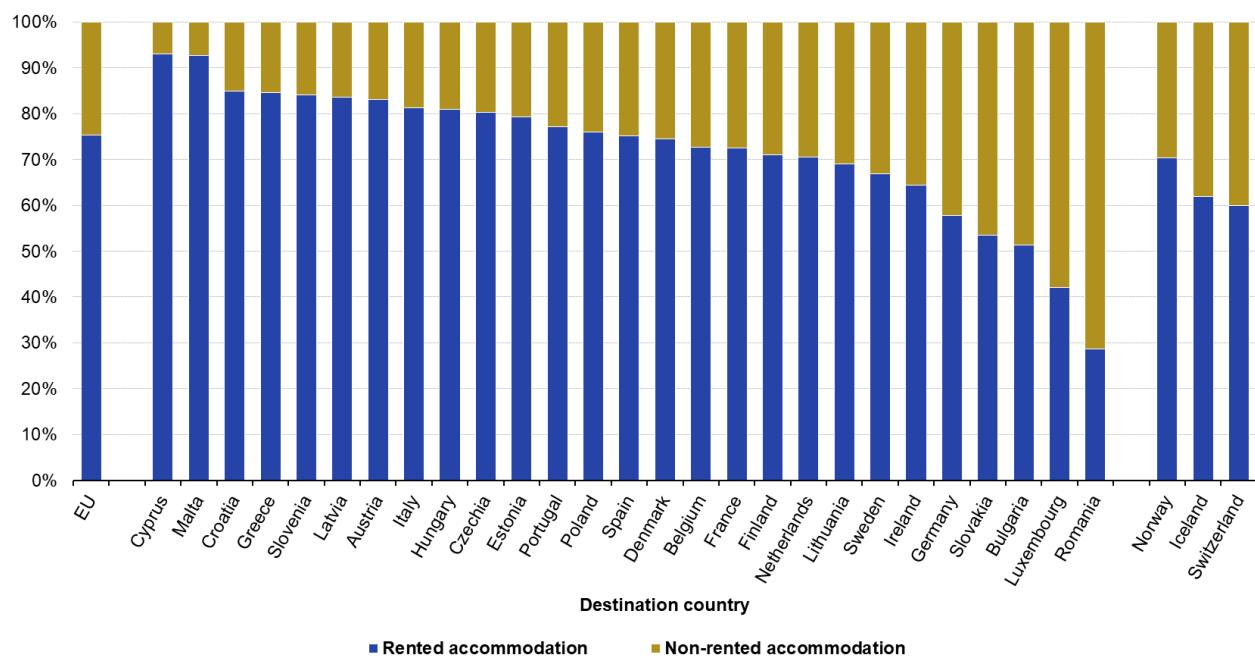
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: tour_dem_tnw, tour_dem_tnac)

eurostat 

Figure 4: Tourism nights spent by EU residents to other EU countries - Share by type of accommodation, 2024 Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_tnw) (tour_dem_tnac)

Across the EU, the significance of rented and non-rented accommodation for inbound visitors was quite contrasting. The share of rented accommodation ranged from 93% of all EU residents' tourism nights in Cyprus and Malta to 29% of those spent in Romania, where a big amount of tourist trips are done by Romanians living abroad visiting friends and family (see Figure 5).

Tourism nights spent by EU residents to other EU countries - Share by type of accommodation, by destination country, 2024 (%)



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: tour_dem_tnw, tour_dem_tnac)

eurostat

Figure 5: Tourism nights spent by EU residents to other EU countries - Share by type of accommodation, by destination country, 2024 Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_tnw) (tour_dem_tnac)

Around 1 in 4 intra-EU trips are made in July and August

Looking at the breakdown by month of departure of trips, August (12.8%) and July (11.7%) accounted for almost 1 out of 4 trips, while January represented only 4.5% of intra-EU trips in 2024 (see Table 2).

Trips made by EU residents to other EU countries - Distribution over the year, by destination country, 2024 (%)

Destination country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EU	4.5	5.7	7.3	7.3	9.5	10.8	11.7	12.8	10.4	8.6	4.8	6.7
Belgium	6.2	7.3	7.5	9.5	10.5	8.8	9.8	7.0	7.3	8.2	7.8	10.0
Bulgaria	1.8(u)	4.2(u)	2.4(u)	14.2(u)	5.9	18.0	17.5	17.1	10.5	2.5(u)	1.9(u)	4.0
Czechia	4.8	5.2	10.7	6.0	8.8	12.0	7.6	9.0	10.8	12.1	4.9	8.0
Denmark	5.4	2.1	11.0	5.9	6.5	14.0	13.0	8.9	8.3	12.8	3.9	8.2
Germany	4.6	6.5	7.3	6.9	9.0	9.9	10.8	9.4	8.9	10.3	6.6	9.7
Estonia	2.9(u)	8.1	6.1	7.2	9.5	7.8	15.2	11.6	5.7	8.3	8.3	9.5
Ireland	5.0	4.0	9.1	18.9	10.7	7.5	7.7	5.6	11.3	6.3	7.9	6.0
Greece	0.7	1.0	1.6	4.2	12.1	16.0	17.2	17.7	16.5	9.1	1.3	2.6
Spain	3.8	4.9	6.7	9.1	10.2	9.7	10.4	11.5	11.1	11.6	5.4	5.4
France	3.9	4.4	7.2	7.3	9.7	12.3	13.9	14.5	11.9	6.3	3.0	5.5
Croatia	1.0	1.0	3.0	4.7	10.6	14.9	21.3	22.8	11.7	5.2	1.7	2.2
Italy	3.9	5.3	7.1	8.1	10.7	11.2	11.9	13.0	12.6	8.8	2.9	4.5
Cyprus	0.8	0.8(u)	3.0	4.6	9.6	25.7	7.5	21.4	11.8	8.0	5.5	1.2(u)
Latvia	3.0	4.5	4.0	16.9	4.1	5.3	14.2	20.7	7.8	8.1	5.5	5.9
Lithuania	:u	:u	6.3(u)	3.2(u)	3.9	10.3	16.3	16.8	8.2	6(u)	6.9(u)	17(u)
Luxembourg	:u	2.7(u)	4.4(u)	11.4(u)	5.2(u)	4.8(u)	15.3(u)	24.2(u)	8(u)	9.2(u)	5.9(u)	6.1(u)
Hungary	3.7	6.2	7.7	4.7	8.2	7.5	9.6	18.5	5.3	10.6	6.6	11.5
Malta	2.9(u)	6.1	3.8	8.4	6.8	15.0	12.2	12.6	10.0	7.4	8.5	6.4
Netherlands	5.3	8.3	11.3	9.8	8.6	7.0	8.9	11.8	12.1	7.0	4.8	5.0
Austria	10.7	13.9	10.6	3.0	6.5	8.2	8.7	12.0	5.5	4.0	3.3	13.6
Poland	4.7	7.2	5.8	5.7	10.1	10.5	8.3	10.0	9.0	6.0	13.7	9.1
Portugal	3.6	3.6	9.0	11.2	7.8	11.9	10.9	11.5	8.4	9.6	6.8	5.7
Romania	2.6(u)	7.0	4.2	7.7	8.4	6.2	12.1	21.4	8.1	4.0	10.5(u)	7.9
Slovenia	3.5(u)	2.6(u)	6(u)	6.5(u)	17.8	8.1	11.8	7.8	7.7	18.0	3.1(u)	7.1
Slovakia	5.4	8.3	5.2	7.4	7.8	7.7	12.4	14.4	8.1	10.0	5.1	8.1
Finland	7.5	5.4(u)	12.9	3.6(u)	11.0	5.7	11.3	11.3	8.7	13.5	2.5	6.6
Sweden	6.2	5.0	6.2	5.5	9.9	11.9	12.9	14.3	8.2	7.8	6.5	5.6
Iceland	:u	:u	:u	:u	5.1(u)	11.5(u)	13.5(u)	32.1(u)	11.4(u)	:u	:u	:u
Norway	4.0	8.6	7.4	4.9	7.4	10.8	21.9	10.5	6.9	7.3	3.6	6.5
Switzerland	4.6	7.4	7.2	5.8	9.7	7.7	12.5	11.9	7.6	7.0	4.9	13.7

"." - data not available.

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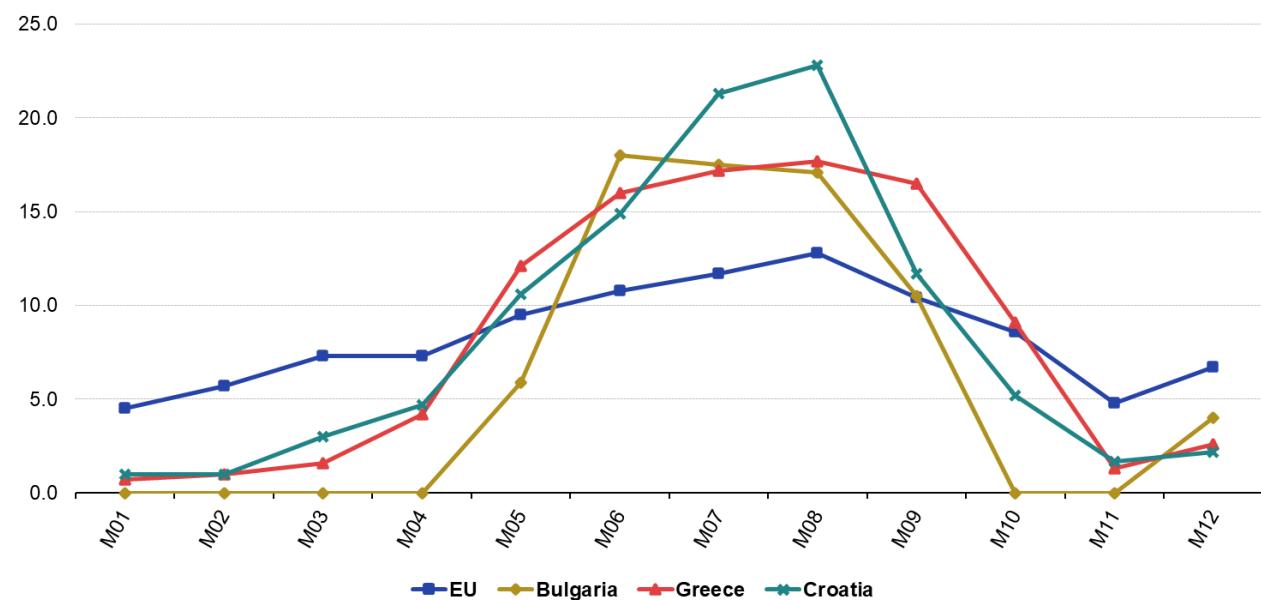
Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_ttw)

eurostat 

Table 2: Trips made by EU residents to other EU countries - Distribution over the year, by destination country, 2024 Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_ttw)

Seasonality of inbound trips by visitors coming from other EU countries was particularly high in Croatia, where a little less than half of all inbound trips (44.1%) took place during the 2 core summer months, July and August. In Greece the share of these 2 months was 34.9%, followed by Bulgaria (34.6%) (see Figure 6).

Distribution over the year of EU residents' trips to Bulgaria, Greece and Croatia, 2024 (%)



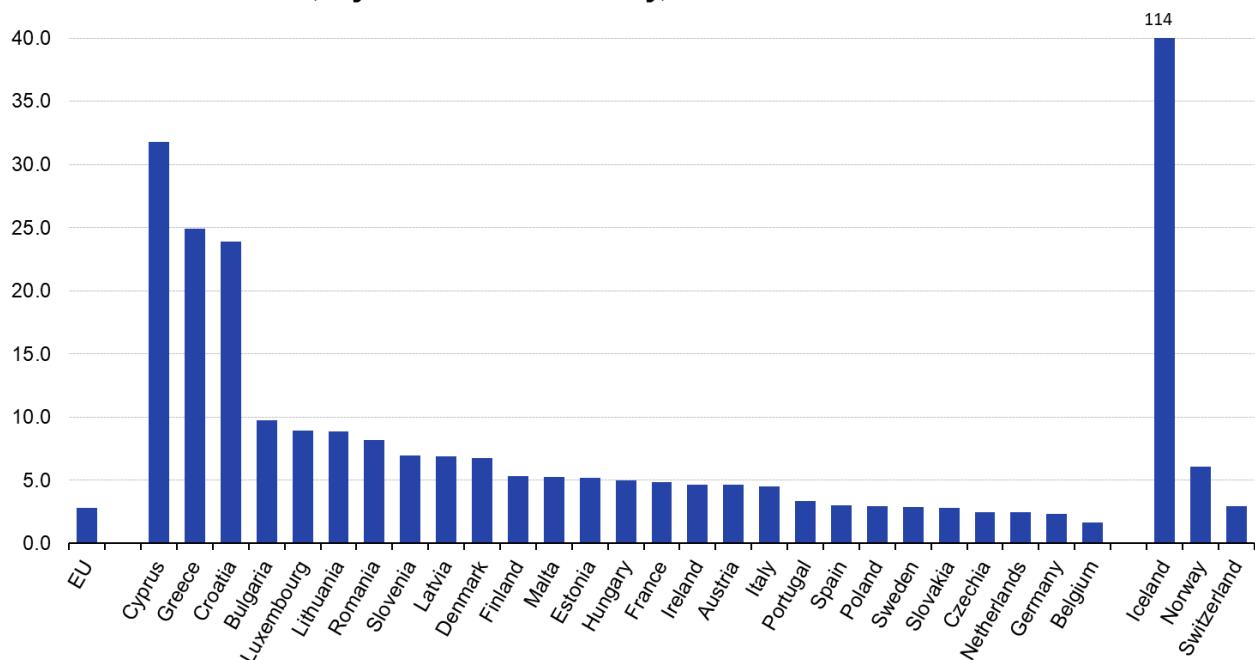
Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_ttw)

eurostat

Figure 6: Distribution over the year of EU residents' trips to Bulgaria, Greece and Croatia, 2024 Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_ttw)

In Cyprus, the number of trips made by EU visitors in the peak month was 32 times higher than the lowest month, while this ratio was 25 to one for Greece and 24 to one for Croatia. The lowest seasonality was recorded in Belgium and Germany; in these countries the number of intra-EU inbound trips during the peak month was less than 2.5 times higher compared with the lowest month (see Figure 7).

Ratio of the peak month by the weakest month for EU residents' trips to other EU countries, by destination country, 2024



Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_ttw)



Figure 7: Trips made by EU residents to other EU countries - Ratio of the peak month by the lowest month, by destination country, 2024 - Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_ttw)

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 1 overnight stay, made by the [resident population](#) aged 15 and over. It includes trips made for private or professional purpose, outside the usual environment.

Data on type of destination is sent to Eurostat every 3 years. This article includes data for the reference year 2022. Next transmission will take place in 2026 for the reference year 2025. For this variable, multiple answer possibilities are allowed. In case of a trip involving several destinations, it should refer to the entire trip and not only to the main destination of the trip.

Context

The EU is a major tourist destination, with 6 EU countries among the world's top 10 destinations for holidaymakers, according to UN Tourism¹ data. Tourism is an important activity in the EU which contributes to employment and

¹[UN Tourism](#)

economic growth, as well as to the development of rural, peripheral or less-developed areas. Tourism is estimated to account for 4.5% to the EU's gross value added. 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.

View this article online at http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Tourism_statistics_-_intra-EU_tourism_flows

Footnotes

Explore further

Other articles

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

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)

Thematic section

- [Tourism statistics](#)

Publications

- [Recent Eurostat publications on tourism](#)

Selected datasets

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

[Trips by detailed country/world region of main destination \(tin00190\)](#)

[Nights spent by detailed country/world region of the main destination \(tin00193\)](#)

Methodology

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

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](#)

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.

Visualisation

- [Regional Statistics Illustrated - Tourism](#)