

Tourism in the EU - what a normal spring season looks like - before Covid-19

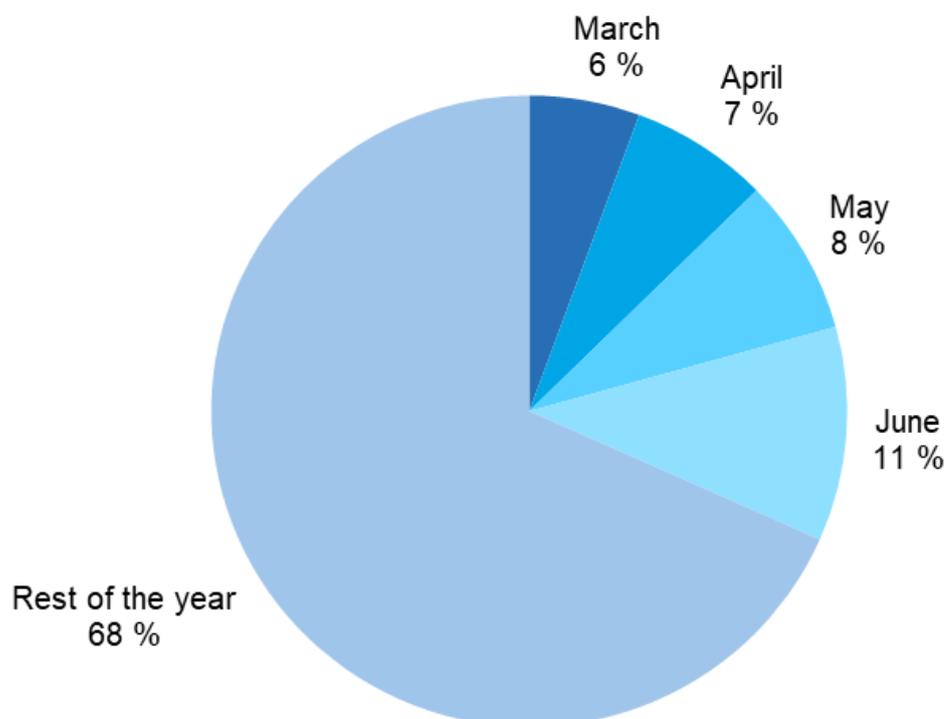
Statistics Explained

Data extracted in May 2020.

Highlights

" In spring 2019, nearly one third (32 %) of annual nights spent at tourist accommodation establishments were recorded from March to June. "

Nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments by month, EU-27, March-June 2019 (%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_occ_nim)

eurostat 

Nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments by month, EU-27, March-June 2019 (%) Source: Eurostat (tour_occ_nim)

Tourism occupies an important place in the economy of the Member States, with tourism activities representing a large potential source of employment. [Tourism satellite accounts](#) show that the annual tourism gross value added in the EU is estimated at EUR 787 billion.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, virtually all Member States have implemented containment measures and restrictions on non-essential travel, closed their borders and reinstated internal border controls within the Schengen area, often accompanied by requirements for cross-border travellers to stay in quarantine. This meant that millions of European citizens were suddenly unable to travel. In the course of March 2020, tourism came to a grinding halt and it is not likely that the recovery will start before the summer peak season.

The European Commission released on 13 May 2020 its Communication "[Tourism and transport in 2020 and beyond](#)". This article provides some background information that could be used to quantify the potential impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the tourism economy in the spring season in 2020.

For the purpose of this article, the spring season is defined as the period spanning the months March to June included. Note that a similar article is available on "[what a normal summer season looks like](#)" (summer season defined as the peak months of July and August).

One third of the annual nights at EU tourist accommodation

While in most European destinations the tourism peak is in summer, the spring season is also an important period, with nearly one third (32 %) of annual nights spent at [tourist accommodation establishments](#) recorded during the four months from March to June (2019 data) (see Figure 1). Spring represents more than 900 million nights spent, out of an annual total of 2.8 billion nights spent at accommodation establishments across the EU. The monthly share increases as summer approaches: from 6 % of the annual total observed during March, 7 % in April and 8 % in May to 11 % in June.

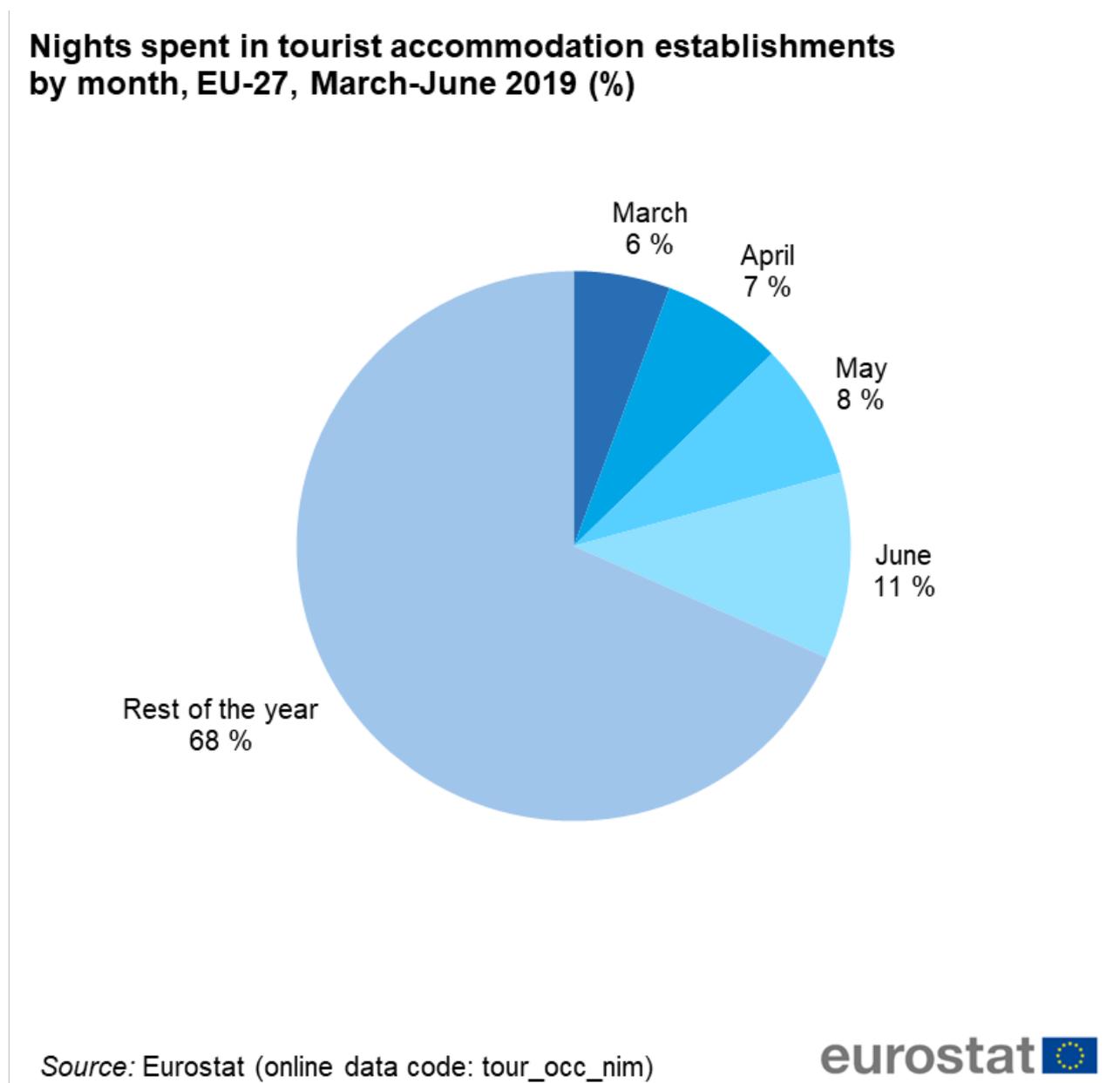


Figure 1: Nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments by month, EU-27, March-June 2019 (%)
Source: Eurostat (tour_occ_nim)

The weight of the spring season in annual accommodation figures is very significant in all Member States, ranging from 24 % and 27 % in Bulgaria and Croatia respectively (the two countries with the highest tourism concentration in the summer peak months (see [Seasonality in the tourist accommodation sector](#)) to 35 % in Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta and the Netherlands (see Table 1 and Figure 2). The share of the spring season in annual tourism is similar when looking at nights spent by residents and nights spent by non-residents.

Nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments, March-June 2019 (thousand)

	Number of nights spent		Share in the entire year 2019				
	Entire year 2019	March-June	March-June	March	April	May	June
EU-27	2 849 852	902 557	32%	6%	7%	8%	11%
Belgium	42 090	14 102	34%	7%	9%	8%	9%
Bulgaria	27 155	7 323	27%	3%	4%	5%	15%
Czechia	57 025	17 796	31%	7%	7%	8%	9%
Denmark	34 180	11 354	33%	5%	8%	9%	11%
Germany	436 955	148 181	34%	6%	8%	9%	10%
Estonia	6 967	2 234	32%	6%	7%	8%	11%
Ireland ⁽¹⁾	33 382	11 503	34%	7%	8%	10%	10%
Greece	119 515	36 016	30%	2%	3%	10%	16%
Spain	469 462	155 024	33%	6%	8%	9%	11%
France	446 467	137 310	31%	5%	8%	7%	10%
Croatia	91 178	21 845	24%	1%	3%	5%	14%
Italy	434 062	132 563	31%	5%	6%	7%	12%
Cyprus	18 056	6 297	35%	4%	7%	11%	13%
Latvia	5 510	1 817	33%	6%	7%	9%	11%
Lithuania	8 938	2 918	33%	6%	7%	9%	11%
Luxembourg	2 917	1 024	35%	5%	7%	10%	12%
Hungary	33 079	10 423	32%	6%	7%	8%	10%
Malta	9 910	3 466	35%	7%	9%	9%	10%
Netherlands	124 281	43 085	35%	6%	9%	9%	11%
Austria	127 891	37 015	29%	10%	6%	5%	9%
Poland	93 343	28 859	31%	6%	6%	8%	10%
Portugal	77 224	25 972	34%	6%	8%	9%	10%
Romania	29 870	8 440	28%	5%	6%	7%	10%
Slovenia	15 764	4 674	30%	5%	7%	7%	11%
Slovakia	17 225	5 233	30%	7%	7%	8%	9%
Finland	23 096	7 305	32%	8%	7%	7%	10%
Sweden	61 744	19 194	31%	6%	6%	8%	11%
United Kingdom	367 229	115 351	31%	6%	9%	7%	9%
Iceland	8 421	2 506	30%	7%	5%	7%	11%
Liechtenstein	176	53	30%	8%	5%	7%	10%
Norway	30 557	11 346	37%	7%	7%	9%	14%
Switzerland ⁽¹⁾	55 319	16 862	30%	9%	6%	7%	9%
Montenegro	4 605	1 388	30%	2%	5%	9%	14%
North Macedonia	2 295	737	32%	5%	7%	9%	11%
Serbia	10 051	3 376	34%	6%	8%	10%	10%
Kosovo ^(*)	382	101	26%	6%	8%	6%	7%

⁽¹⁾ 2018 data

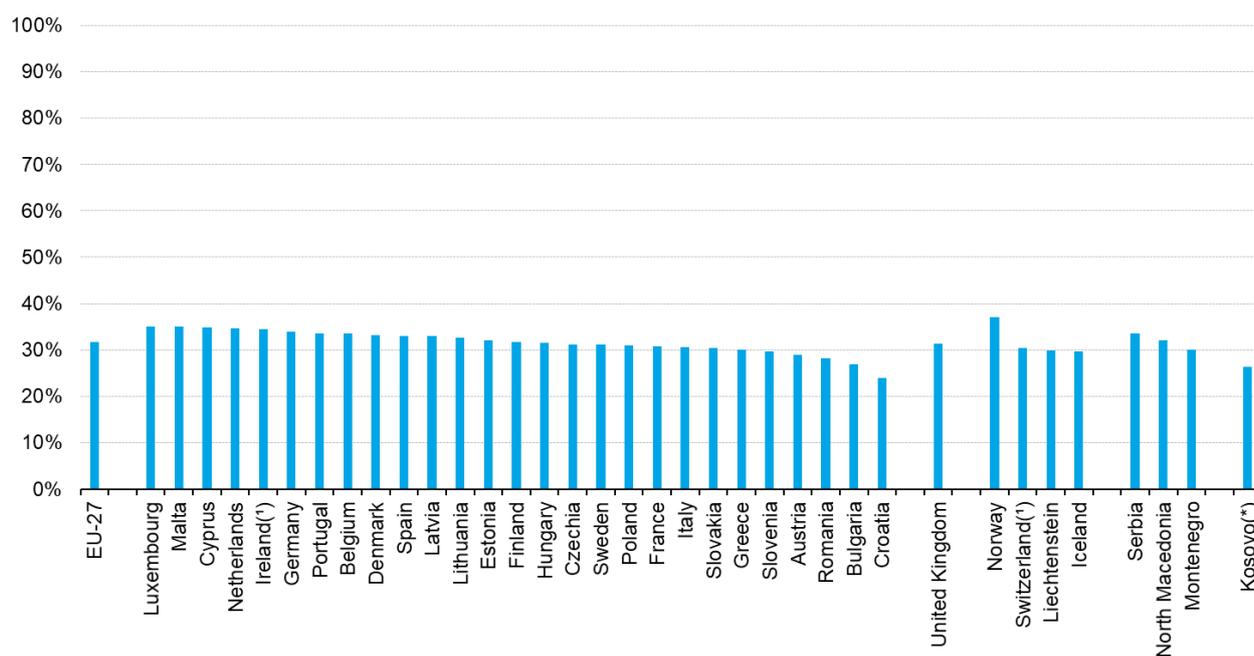
*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_occ_nim)

eurostat 

Table 1: Nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments, March-June 2019 (thousand) Source: Eurostat (tour_occ_nim)

Nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments, March-June 2019 as share of the entire year 2019



(*) 2018 data

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_occ_nim)

eurostat 

Figure 2: Nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments, March-June 2019 as share of the entire year 2019 Source: Eurostat (tour_occ_nim)

400 million tourism trips and 170 billion euro spent

The first part of this article looked at spring season occupancy of EU tourist accommodation establishments in 2019. The remaining part looks at trips made by EU residents from March to June 2018 (data for 2019 not yet available). From March to June, **residents** of the EU made nearly 400 million trips, corresponding to 34 % of the total number of tourism trips with overnight stays made in a year (2018 data) (see Table 2). Those trips account for 1.8 billion overnight stays and EUR 170 billion spending, of which EUR 66 billion was spent on domestic trips and EUR 62 billion on trips to destinations in other EU Member States (and the remaining EUR 42 billion on trips to non-EU destinations).

Tourism trips, nights and expenditure of EU-27 residents by destination and month of departure, March-June 2018

	Entire year 2018	March-June	Share in the entire year 2018				
			March-June	March	April	May	June
Total trips (thousand)	1 133 696	389 216	34%	8%	7%	9%	10%
Domestic trips	799 731	271 318	34%	8%	7%	8%	10%
Outbound trips	333 965	117 899	35%	8%	8%	9%	10%
Other EU countries	239 643	86 726	36%	8%	7%	10%	11%
Rest of the world	94 322	31 172	33%	8%	8%	8%	9%
Total nights (thousand)	5 882 100	1 815 307	31%	7%	7%	8%	10%
Domestic trips	3 306 662	987 188	30%	7%	6%	7%	10%
Outbound trips	2 575 439	828 118	32%	7%	7%	8%	10%
Other EU countries	1 593 878	531 136	33%	6%	7%	9%	12%
Rest of the world	981 560	296 982	30%	8%	7%	7%	8%
Total expenditure (million Euro)	516 713	170 215	33%	8%	7%	8%	10%
Domestic trips	206 654	66 195	32%	8%	6%	8%	10%
Outbound trips	310 059	104 020	34%	8%	7%	8%	10%
Other EU countries	173 680	61 639	35%	7%	7%	10%	12%
Rest of the world	136 379	42 382	31%	8%	8%	7%	8%

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_ttmd, tour_dem_tnmd)



Table 2: Tourism trips, nights and expenditure of EU-27 residents by destination and month of departure, March-June 2018 Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_ttmd) (tour_dem_tnmd)

The pattern of destinations preference in spring does not differ much from the destination visited during the entire year: 7 out of 10 trips were domestic trips (accounting for 54 % of the nights spent and 39 % of the tourism expenditure).

The countries with the highest number of tourism trips in the spring months March to June are Germany (104 million trips, of which 64 million domestic trips), France (73 million trips, of which 51 million domestic trips) and Spain (52 million trips, of which 47 million domestic trips) (see Tables 3a, 3b and 3c for detailed data by country).

Tourism trips of EU residents by destination and month of departure, March-June 2018 (thousand trips)

Country of residence of the tourist	All trips (domestic + outbound)			Domestic trips			Outbound trips		
	Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)		Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)		Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)	
EU-27	1 133 696	389 216	34%	799 731	271 318	34%	333 965	117 899	35%
Belgium	16 893	4 950	29%	3 794	1 020	27%	13 098	3 930	30%
Bulgaria	5 090	1 531	30%	4 150	1 186	29%	940	345	37%
Czechia	34 569	11 587	34%	27 179	9 492	35%	7 390	2 094	28%
Denmark	18 875	6 320	33%	11 922	4 063	34%	6 953	2 257	32%
Germany	267 879	103 504	39%	159 338	64 101	40%	108 542	39 403	36%
Estonia	6 468	2 246	35%	4 399	1 587	36%	2 068	658	32%
Ireland	15 941	5 292	33%	8 597	2 729	32%	7 344	2 562	35%
Greece	6 565	1 482	23%	5 691	1 249	22%	874	233	27%
Spain	156 370	52 483	34%	139 938	47 367	34%	16 433	5 116	31%
France	220 225	73 210	33%	166 901	51 392	31%	53 324	21 819	41%
Croatia	5 255	1 919	37%	3 197	1 208	38%	2 058	711	35%
Italy	68 186	22 739	33%	53 850	17 771	33%	14 336	4 967	35%
Cyprus	3 001	1 023	34%	1 566	578	37%	1 435	445	31%
Latvia	3 952	1 296	33%	2 584	831	32%	1 368	465	34%
Lithuania	4 885	1 664	34%	2 641	904	34%	2 244	760	34%
Luxembourg	2 555	929	36%	45	18(u)	39%	2 509	912	36%
Hungary	19 230	6 429	33%	11 915	4 098	34%	7 315	2 332	32%
Malta	874	264	30%	245	74	30%	629	189	30%
Netherlands	44 551	16 145	36%	23 679	9 063	38%	20 871	7 081	34%
Austria	24 391	8 102	33%	12 508	3 851	31%	11 883	4 251	36%
Poland	60 483	17 701	29%	47 736	13 740	29%	12 747	3 961	31%
Portugal	18 298	5 362	29%	16 134	4 611	29%	2 164	751	35%
Romania	18 402	5 581	30%	17 144	5 227	30%	1 258	354	28%
Slovenia	5 191	1 484	29%	2 003	621	31%	3 188	863	27%
Slovakia	12 423	3 303	27%	7 761	2 083	27%	4 662	1 220	26%
Finland	38 602	13 290	34%	29 126	9 803	34%	9 476	3 487	37%
Sweden	54 541	19 380	36%	35 686	12 650	35%	18 855	6 730	36%
Norway	27 084	9 886	37%	18 998	7 280	38%	8 086	2 606	32%
Switzerland	21 946	6 408	29%	6 661	1 762	26%	15 285	4 646	30%

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_ttmtd)

Table 3a: Tourism trips of EU residents by destination and month of departure, March-June 2018 (thousand trips) Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_ttmtd)

Tourism nights of EU residents by destination and month of departure, March-June 2018 (thousand nights)

Country of residence of the tourist	All trips (domestic + outbound)			Domestic			Outbound		
	Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)		Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)		Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)	
EU-27	5 882 100	1 815 307	31%	3 306 662	987 188	30%	2 575 439	828 118	32%
Belgium	119 022	30 415	26%	14 746	3 620	25%	104 276	26 795	26%
Bulgaria	22 853	5 567	24%	16 455	3 695	22%	6 398	1 873	29%
Czechia	140 641	40 757	29%	93 647	28 508	30%	46 994	12 248	26%
Denmark	87 538	25 285	29%	39 969	12 293	31%	47 569	12 992	27%
Germany	1 498 547	537 437	36%	587 419	227 980	39%	911 128	309 458	34%
Estonia	20 555	6 610	32%	8 262	2 929	35%	12 293	3 681	30%
Ireland	71 572	23 905	33%	21 374	6 550	31%	50 197	17 355	35%
Greece	68 001	17 986	26%	60 391	16 244	27%	7 610	1 743	23%
Spain	631 513	172 386	27%	507 827	139 671	28%	123 687	32 715	26%
France	1 317 018	414 798	31%	917 023	265 520	29%	399 995	149 278	37%
Croatia	29 207	8 833	30%	17 581	4 739	27%	11 626	4 093	35%
Italy	366 766	87 655	24%	256 511	56 775	22%	110 255	30 880	28%
Cyprus	15 640	4 633	30%	3 684	1 179	32%	11 956	3 453	29%
Latvia	12 825	3 893	30%	5 514	1 562	28%	7 312	2 331	32%
Lithuania	21 596	6 931	32%	7 191	2 203	31%	14 405	4 728	33%
Luxembourg	15 968	4 755	30%	148	49(u)	33%	15 819	4 706	30%
Hungary	70 594	22 503	32%	37 328	11 450	31%	33 266	11 054	33%
Malta	4 519	1 186	26%	650	176	27%	3 869	1 010	26%
Netherlands	291 678	95 473	33%	98 667	35 518	36%	193 011	59 955	31%
Austria	115 664	34 579	30%	41 038	11 451	28%	74 626	23 128	31%
Poland	345 856	90 172	26%	224 767	54 590	24%	121 088	35 582	29%
Portugal	72 915	17 263	24%	56 755	12 281	22%	16 160	4 982	31%
Romania	70 234	18 290	26%	61 372	16 127	26%	8 862	2 163	24%
Slovenia	22 717	5 346	24%	5 412	1 489	28%	17 305	3 857	22%
Slovakia	53 170	13 139	25%	26 020	6 658	26%	27 150	6 481	24%
Finland	133 866	43 929	33%	78 356	25 895	33%	55 510	18 034	32%
Sweden	261 624	81 579	31%	118 553	38 036	32%	143 071	43 543	30%
Norway	119 614	36 309	30%	62 324	21 045	34%	57 289	15 264	27%
Switzerland	144 626	38 204	26%	25 851	5 825	23%	118 775	32 380	27%

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_tnmd)

Table 3b: Tourism nights of EU residents by destination and month of departure, March-June 2018 (thousand nights) Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_tnmd)

Tourism expenditure of EU residents by destination and month of departure, March-June 2018 (million Euro)

Country of residence of the tourist	All trips (domestic + outbound)			Domestic			Outbound		
	Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)		Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)		Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)	
EU-27	516 713	170 215	33%	206 654	66 195	32%	310 059	104 020	34%
Belgium	9 740	2 823	29%	815	198	24%	8 924	2 625	29%
Bulgaria	848	214	25%	515	92	18%	334	122	37%
Czechia	5 418	1 451	27%	2 019	561	28%	3 398	890	26%
Denmark	15 063	4 644	31%	5 240	1 702	32%	9 823	2 942	30%
Germany	166 843	59 190	35%	53 163	20 092	38%	113 680	39 098	34%
Estonia	2 109	706	33%	548	192	35%	1 561	514	33%
Ireland	8 067	2 745	34%	1 626	508	31%	6 440	2 236	35%
Greece	2 294	507	22%	1 768	364	21%	527	143	27%
Spain	40 695	12 529	31%	26 073	8 080	31%	14 623	4 449	30%
France	113 637	38 615	34%	59 893	18 318	31%	53 743	20 298	38%
Croatia	1 651	536	32%	630	197	31%	1 021	338	33%
Italy	26 829	6 971	26%	16 073	4 095	25%	10 756	2 876	27%
Cyprus	1 674	499	30%	188	58	31%	1 486	442	30%
Latvia	643	204	32%	122	36	30%	521	168	32%
Lithuania	1 206	414	34%	196	57	29%	1 010	357	35%
Luxembourg	2 103	693	33%	11	4(u)	39%	2 092	689	33%
Hungary	3 063	990	32%	951	284	30%	2 111	705	33%
Malta	606	164	27%	41	13	32%	565	151	27%
Netherlands	21 567	7 038	33%	4 053	1 505	37%	17 514	5 533	32%
Austria	15 464	4 903	32%	4 468	1 271	28%	10 996	3 632	33%
Poland	13 856	3 849	28%	6 485	1 605	25%	7 371	2 245	30%
Portugal	3 164	882	28%	2 007	482	24%	1 157	399	35%
Romania	2 687	676	25%	2 161	531	25%	526	145	28%
Slovenia	1 391	384	28%	241	67	28%	1 150	317	28%
Slovakia	3 096	785	25%	1 002	257	26%	2 095	528	25%
Finland	14 553	5 016	34%	5 770	1 985	34%	8 783	3 031	35%
Sweden	38 447	12 785	33%	10 597	3 639	34%	27 851	9 146	33%
Norway	17 219	5 441	32%	6 399	2 182	34%	10 820	3 259	30%
Switzerland	16 643	4 647	28%	2 208	536	24%	14 435	4 111	28%

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_extot)

eurostat 

Table 3c: Tourism expenditure of EU residents by destination and month of departure, March-June 2018 (million Euro) Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_extot)

Europeans spend more than 1.5 billion overnights in the EU

The previous chapter looked at the data from the point of view of the country of origin of the visitor and the destination of the trip (domestic trips within the country of residence, and outbound trips to foreign countries). This chapter focuses on intra-EU tourism trips by looking at the internal tourism of each EU country (domestic trips made by its own residents, and inbound trips of tourists coming from other EU countries) (see Tables 4a, 4b and 4c).

During spring (March to June), EU residents made nearly 360 million tourism trips to destinations in the EU, corresponding to 1.5 billion nights in rented or non-rented accommodation and EUR 128 billion spent during these spring trips, or over EUR 1 billion per day during the four spring months.

Looking at inbound overnight trips from other EU countries, regardless of the type of accommodation, in three countries the months March to June account for more than 40 % of the annual intra-EU visitors: Belgium (42 %),

Malta (43 %) and the Netherlands (45 %). When looking at domestic tourism, Germany records important domestic flows in spring (40 % of the annual number of trips made by residents of Germany to destinations within the country).

Intra-EU tourism trips by country visited and month of departure, March-June 2018 (thousand trips)

Country visited	All intra-EU trips (domestic + inbound)			Domestic trips (residents of a country making trips in that country)			Inbound trips (by residents of other EU countries)		
	Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)		Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)		Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)	
EU-27	1 039 374	358 044	34%	799 731	271 318	34%	239 643	86 726	36%
Belgium	12 462	4 659	37%	3 794	1 020	27%	8 668	3 639	42%
Bulgaria	6 719	2 045	30%	4 150	1 186	29%	2 569	859	33%
Czechia	34 644	11 996	35%	27 179	9 492	35%	7 465	2 504	34%
Denmark	17 009	5 967	35%	11 922	4 063	34%	5 087	1 904	37%
Germany	180 409	71 966	40%	159 338	64 101	40%	21 071	7 865	37%
Estonia	6 862	2 517	37%	4 399	1 587	36%	2 463	930	38%
Ireland	11 562	3 888	34%	8 597	2 729	32%	2 965	1 159	39%
Greece	17 452	5 065	29%	5 691	1 249	22%	11 761	3 815	32%
Spain	177 482	61 973	35%	139 938	47 367	34%	37 544	14 606	39%
France	187 287	58 960	31%	166 901	51 392	31%	20 386	7 568	37%
Croatia	13 213	3 798	29%	3 197	1 208	38%	10 016	2 590	26%
Italy	86 418	30 151	35%	53 850	17 771	33%	32 568	12 380	38%
Cyprus	2 444	928	38%	1 566	578	37%	878	350	40%
Latvia	3 702	1 249	34%	2 584	831	32%	1 118	418	37%
Lithuania	3 362	1 142	34%	2 641	904	34%	721	238	33%
Luxembourg	1 008	273	27%	45	18	39%	962	255	27%
Hungary	15 938	5 538	35%	11 915	4 098	34%	4 023	1 440	36%
Malta	1 747	724	41%	245	74	30%	1 502	650	43%
Netherlands	36 628	14 856	41%	23 679	9 063	38%	12 948	5 793	45%
Austria	32 926	10 041	30%	12 508	3 851	31%	20 418	6 190	30%
Poland	54 914	16 090	29%	47 736	13 740	29%	7 178	2 350	33%
Portugal	26 963	8 571	32%	16 134	4 611	29%	10 829	3 960	37%
Romania	20 526	6 455	31%	17 144	5 227	30%	3 382	1 228	36%
Slovenia	3 326	1 063	32%	2 003	621	31%	1 323	442	33%
Slovakia	11 080	3 069	28%	7 761	2 083	27%	3 319	986	30%
Finland	31 216	10 404	33%	29 126	9 803	34%	2 091	601	29%
Sweden	42 073	14 657	35%	35 686	12 650	35%	6 387	2 007	31%

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_ttw)

eurostat 

Table 4a: Intra-EU tourism trips by country visited and month of departure, March-June 2018 (thousand trips) Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_ttw)

**Intra-EU tourism nights by country visited and month of departure of the trip, March-June 2018
(thousand nights)**

Country visited	All intra-EU trips (domestic + inbound)			Domestic trips (residents of a country making trips in that country)			Inbound trips (by residents of other EU countries)		
	Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)		Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)		Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)	
EU-27	4 900 540	1 518 325	31%	3 306 662	987 188	30%	1 593 878	531 136	33%
Belgium	47 967	17 899	37%	14 746	3 620	25%	33 221	14 279	43%
Bulgaria	36 340	9 472	26%	16 455	3 695	22%	19 885	5 777	29%
Czechia	125 738	38 932	31%	93 647	28 508	30%	32 091	10 424	32%
Denmark	69 834	21 731	31%	39 969	12 293	31%	29 865	9 438	32%
Germany	697 029	266 078	38%	587 419	227 980	39%	109 610	38 098	35%
Estonia	15 992	5 831	36%	8 262	2 929	35%	7 729	2 902	38%
Ireland	43 734	14 510	33%	21 374	6 550	31%	22 360	7 961	36%
Greece	166 178	51 316	31%	60 391	16 244	27%	105 787	35 072	33%
Spain	831 500	250 169	30%	507 827	139 671	28%	323 674	110 498	34%
France	1 058 538	313 876	30%	917 023	265 520	29%	141 516	48 356	34%
Croatia	99 491	25 613	26%	17 581	4 739	27%	81 909	20 874	25%
Italy	498 007	141 662	28%	256 511	56 775	22%	241 496	84 887	35%
Cyprus	10 602	3 879	37%	3 684	1 179	32%	6 918	2 700	39%
Latvia	10 041	2 989	30%	5 514	1 562	28%	4 528	1 427	32%
Lithuania	10 911	3 749	34%	7 191	2 203	31%	3 720	1 546	42%
Luxembourg	4 052	966	24%	148	49	33%	3 904	917	23%
Hungary	59 250	17 350	29%	37 328	11 450	31%	21 922	5 900	27%
Malta	11 426	4 594	40%	650	176	27%	10 776	4 418	41%
Netherlands	159 974	62 718	39%	98 667	35 518	36%	61 307	27 199	44%
Austria	152 490	40 347	26%	41 038	11 451	28%	111 452	28 896	26%
Poland	263 387	67 626	26%	224 767	54 590	24%	38 620	13 036	34%
Portugal	143 319	38 708	27%	56 755	12 281	22%	86 564	26 427	31%
Romania	88 585	25 430	29%	61 372	16 127	26%	27 213	9 303	34%
Slovenia	12 343	3 530	29%	5 412	1 489	28%	6 931	2 041	29%
Slovakia	38 501	9 910	26%	26 020	6 658	26%	12 481	3 252	26%
Finland	88 743	28 047	32%	78 356	25 895	33%	10 388	2 152	21%
Sweden	156 566	51 392	33%	118 553	38 036	32%	38 013	13 355	35%

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_tnw)

**Table 4b: Intra-EU tourism nights by country visited and month of departure of the trip, March-June 2018
(thousand nights) Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_tnw)**

Intra-EU tourism expenditure by country visited and month of departure of the trip, March-June 2018 (million euro)

Country visited	All intra-EU trips (domestic + inbound)			Domestic trips (residents of a country making trips in that country)			Inbound trips (by residents of other EU countries)		
	Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)		Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)		Jan-Dec 2018	March-June 2018 (% share in the year)	
EU-27	380 334	127 833	34%	206 654	66 195	32%	173 680	61 639	35%
Belgium	4 538	1 953	43%	815	198	24%	3 722	1 754	47%
Bulgaria	2 735	719	26%	515	92	18%	2 221	627	28%
Czechia	5 065	1 631	32%	2 019	561	28%	3 045	1 070	35%
Denmark	8 815	2 769	31%	5 240	1 702	32%	3 575	1 067	30%
Germany	64 411	24 379	38%	53 163	20 092	38%	11 249	4 287	38%
Estonia	1 683	668	40%	548	192	35%	1 135	475	42%
Ireland	4 340	1 556	36%	1 626	508	31%	2 714	1 048	39%
Greece	15 342	4 577	30%	1 768	364	21%	13 575	4 213	31%
Spain	64 203	21 934	34%	26 073	8 080	31%	38 131	13 854	36%
France	72 649	23 091	32%	59 893	18 318	31%	12 756	4 773	37%
Croatia	7 493	1 849	25%	630	197	31%	6 863	1 652	24%
Italy	43 530	14 580	33%	16 073	4 095	25%	27 457	10 485	38%
Cyprus	1 200	424	35%	188	58	31%	1 012	367	36%
Latvia	601	194	32%	122	36	30%	479	157	33%
Lithuania	523	175	33%	196	57	29%	327	118	36%
Luxembourg	349	107	31%	11	4	39%	338	103	30%
Hungary	3 042	1 060	35%	951	284	30%	2 091	775	37%
Malta	1 437	588	41%	41	13	32%	1 396	575	41%
Netherlands	10 929	4 652	43%	4 053	1 505	37%	6 877	3 147	46%
Austria	16 627	4 887	29%	4 468	1 271	28%	12 159	3 616	30%
Poland	10 656	2 992	28%	6 485	1 605	25%	4 171	1 387	33%
Portugal	11 653	3 892	33%	2 007	482	24%	9 646	3 409	35%
Romania	4 247	1 225	29%	2 161	531	25%	2 086	694	33%
Slovenia	967	340	35%	241	67	28%	726	273	38%
Slovakia	1 790	501	28%	1 002	257	26%	788	244	31%
Finland	7 094	2 337	33%	5 770	1 985	34%	1 324	352	27%
Sweden	14 415	4 754	33%	10 597	3 639	34%	3 818	1 115	29%

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_extotw)

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Table 4c: Intra-EU tourism expenditure by country visited and month of departure of the trip, March-June 2018 (million euro) Source: Eurostat (tour_dem_extotw)

Source data for tables and graphs

- [Download Excel file](#)

Data sources

Tourism, in a statistical context, refers to the activity of visitors taking a trip to a destination outside their usual environment, for less than a year. It can be for any main purpose, including business, leisure or other personal reasons other than to be employed by a resident person, [household](#) or [enterprise](#) in the place visited.

In July 2011, the [European Parliament](#) and the [Council of the European Union](#) adopted a new [Regulation \(EU\) No 692/2011](#) concerning European statistics on tourism and repealing [Council Directive 95/57/EC](#); this came into force for reference year 2012 and requires EU Member States to provide a regular set of comparable tourism statistics.

Tourism statistics in the EU consist of two main components: on the one hand, statistics relating to capacity and occupancy of collective tourist accommodation; on the other, statistics relating to tourism demand. In most EU Member States, the former are collected via surveys filled in by accommodation establishments, while the latter are mainly collected via traveller surveys at border crossings or through household surveys.

Data from a range of other official sources may be used to study tourism. These statistics include:

- [structural business statistics \(SBS\)](#) and [short-term business statistics \(STS\)](#) which may be used to provide additional information on tourism flows and on the economic performance of certain tourism-related sectors;
- data on employment in the tourism accommodation sector from the [labour force survey \(LFS\)](#) , analysed by working time (full/part-time), working status, age, level of education, sex, permanency and seniority of work with the same employer (annual and quarterly data);
- data on personal travel receipts and expenditure from the [balance of payments](#) ;
- [transport statistics](#) (for example, air passenger transport).

Context

According to a United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) publication titled ' [International Tourism Highlights](#) ', the EU is a major tourist destination, with four of its Member States among the world's top 10 destinations. Tourism 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.

Tourism can play a significant role in the development of European regions. 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](#) .

In 2006, the [European Commission](#) adopted a Communication titled ' [A renewed EU tourism policy: towards a stronger partnership for European tourism](#) ' (COM(2006) 134 final). It addressed a range of challenges that will shape tourism in the coming years, including Europe's ageing population, growing external competition, consumer demand for more specialised tourism, and the need to develop more sustainable and environmentally-friendly tourism practices. It argued that more competitive tourism supply and sustainable destinations would help raise tourist satisfaction and secure Europe's position as the world's leading tourist destination. It was followed in October 2007 by another Communication, titled ' [Agenda for a sustainable and competitive European tourism](#) ' (COM(2007) 621 final), which proposed actions in relation to the sustainable management of destinations, the integration of sustainability concerns by businesses, and the awareness of sustainability issues among tourists.

The Lisbon Treaty acknowledged the importance of tourism — outlining a specific competence for the EU in this field and allowing for decisions to be taken by a qualified majority. An article within the Treaty specifies that the EU 'shall complement the action of the Member States in the tourism sector, in particular by promoting the competitiveness of Union undertakings in that sector'. ' [Europe, the world's No 1 tourist destination — a new political framework for tourism in Europe](#) ' (COM(2010) 352 final) was adopted by the European Commission in June 2010. This Communication seeks to encourage a coordinated approach for initiatives linked to tourism and defined a new framework for actions to increase the competitiveness of tourism and its capacity for sustainable growth. It proposed a number of European or multinational initiatives — including a consolidation of the socioeconomic knowledge base for tourism — aimed at achieving these objectives.

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- [Tourism statistics at regional level](#)
- [Tourism trips of Europeans](#) (online publication)

Database

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

Thematic section

- [Tourism](#)

Publications

- [Recent Eurostat publications on tourism](#)

Selected datasets

- [Tourism \(t_tour\)](#)

Methodology

- [Annual data on trips of EU residents](#) (ESMS metadata file — [tour_dem_esms](#))
- [Capacity and occupancy of tourist accommodation establishments](#) (ESMS metadata file — [tour_occ_esms](#))
- [Methodological manual for tourism statistics](#)
- [Projects and studies](#) , see Methodology for tourism statistics and Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA)

External links

- [European Commission — Directorate-General \(DG\) for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs — Tourism](#)

Legislation

- [Agenda for a sustainable and competitive European tourism](#) (Communication from the European Commission, October 2007)

Visualisation

- [Regional Statistics Illustrated](#) - select statistical domain 'Tourism' (top right)