

# Tourism statistics - summer season occupancy

Statistics Explained

*Data extracted in March 2019.*

*Planned article update: No planned update.*

**" 7.5 million (0.8 %) more nights were spent in hotels and similar accommodation of the EU in the summer season 2018 compared with 2017. "**

**" Spain, Italy and Greece were the most popular EU destinations for people travelling outside their own country in summer 2018."**

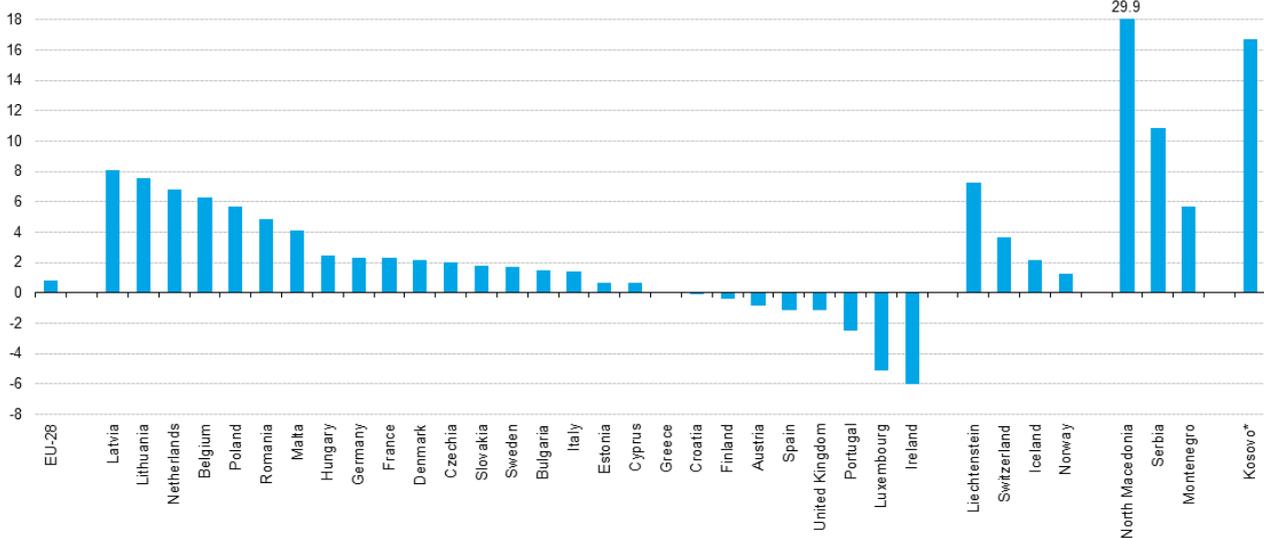
**" Compared with the same period in 2017, the net occupancy rates of bed places in the European Union increased by 0.8 % during the 2018 summer season, ranging from 31.4 % in Luxembourg, to 97.3 % in Croatia."**

This article analyses the [tourism](#) trends of the 2018 summer season (June to September) in the [European Union \(EU\)](#) Member States, [candidate](#) and [EFTA](#) countries. Tourism recorded positive growth rates in most countries, compared with the same period in 2017. This trend is confirmed both by the number of [nights spent at hotels and similar accommodation establishments](#) , and by their net [occupancy rates](#) .

## Summer season tourism trends in 2018

Comparing the monthly figures for the 2018 summer season with the previous year, 7.5 million more nights (+0.8 %) were spent in hotels and similar accommodation in the European Union. Positive growth rates were recorded in 19 out of 27 Member States where data is available. The highest increase was observed in Latvia (+8.1 %) followed by Lithuania (+7.6 %), while Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Spain, Austria, Finland and Croatia reported decreases (see Figure 1).

**Percentage change in number of nights spent at hotels and similar accommodation establishments, June-September 2018 compared with the same period in 2017 (%)**



Notes: EU-28 aggregate estimated for the purpose of this publication. Ireland: Unreliable data. Slovenia not included in the graph due to missing data.  
 (\*)This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.  
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_occ\_nim)



**Figure 1: Percentage change in number of nights spent at hotels and similar accommodation establishments, June-September 2018 compared with the same period in 2017 (%) Source: Eurostat (tour\_occ\_nim)**

Two out of three nights in hotels and similar accommodation in the EU-28 were spent in five countries: Spain (17.5 %), Italy (16.4 %), Germany (12.7 %), France (9.8 %) and the United Kingdom (9.6 %).

The most popular destinations for **non-residents** were Spain, Italy and Greece, together accounting for nearly half of all nights spent by non-residents in the EU-28 in summer 2018 (see Table 1).

**Nights spent at hotels and similar accommodation establishments, non-residents and residents, June-September 2018 compared with the same period in 2017 (Thousand nights)**

	June - September 2018				June - September 2017				2018/2017 change (in %)		
	Total nights spent	of which:		Non-residents as % of Total	Total nights spent	of which:		Non-residents as % of Total	Total	of which:	
		Non-residents	Residents			Non-residents	Residents			Non-residents	Residents
<b>EU-28(*)</b>	932 943	500 272	432 671	53.6	925 420	499 380	426 040	54.0	0.8	0.2	1.6
Belgium	7 548	4 533	3 015	60.1	7 098	4 289	2 808	60.4	6.3	5.7	7.3
Bulgaria	17 730	13 961	3 769	78.7	17 465	13 729	3 736	78.6	1.5	1.7	0.9
Czechia	16 673	9 223	7 450	55.3	16 343	9 243	7 100	56.6	2.0	-0.2	4.9
Denmark	6 878	3 275	3 603	47.6	6 732	3 200	3 532	47.5	2.2	2.3	2.0
Germany	118 693	28 975	89 718	24.4	115 976	27 741	88 235	23.9	2.3	4.5	1.7
Estonia	2 249	1 614	636	71.7	2 234	1 639	595	73.4	0.7	-1.6	6.9
Ireland(**)	11 652	6 053	5 598	52.0	12 397	7 227	5 170	58.3	-6.0	-16.2	8.3
Greece	61 007	54 448	6 559	89.2	60 927	53 886	7 041	88.4	0.1	1.0	-6.8
Spain	163 109	109 105	54 004	66.9	164 896	111 296	53 599	67.5	-1.1	-2.0	0.8
France	91 144	37 242	53 902	40.9	89 137	34 844	54 293	39.1	2.3	6.9	-0.7
Croatia	16 969	15 841	1 127	93.4	16 979	15 914	1 066	93.7	-0.1	-0.5	5.8
Italy	153 125	71 678	81 447	46.8	151 080	71 644	79 436	47.4	1.4	0.0	2.5
Cyprus	9 611	9 117	494	94.9	9 548	9 102	447	95.3	0.7	0.2	10.5
Latvia	1 888	1 478	410	78.3	1 747	1 374	374	78.6	8.1	7.6	9.7
Lithuania	1 898	1 242	656	65.4	1 765	1 152	612	65.3	7.6	7.8	7.2
Luxembourg	608	549	59	90.4	640	580	61	90.5	-5.1	-5.3	-3.4
Hungary	10 744	5 397	5 346	50.2	10 481	5 315	5 166	50.7	2.5	1.5	3.5
Malta	4 143	4 004	139	96.7	3 980	3 848	132	96.7	4.1	4.0	4.8
Netherlands	20 273	11 025	9 248	54.4	18 990	10 293	8 697	54.2	6.8	7.1	6.3
Austria	36 391	25 978	10 413	71.4	36 691	26 394	10 296	71.9	-0.8	-1.6	1.1
Poland	20 789	5 924	14 865	28.5	19 673	5 824	13 850	29.6	5.7	1.7	7.3
Portugal	27 254	18 756	8 499	68.8	27 944	19 775	8 169	70.8	-2.5	-5.2	4.0
Romania	12 273	2 112	10 161	17.2	11 695	2 128	9 567	18.2	4.9	-0.8	6.2
Slovenia	.	.	.	.	3 451	2 652	799	76.8	.	.	.
Slovakia	4 297	1 884	2 414	43.8	4 220	1 868	2 352	44.3	1.8	0.8	2.6
Finland	6 940	2 092	4 848	30.1	6 969	2 179	4 790	31.3	-0.4	-4.0	1.2
Sweden	15 682	4 704	10 978	30.0	15 422	4 543	10 879	29.5	1.7	3.5	0.9
United Kingdom	89 906	47 405	42 502	52.7	90 940	47 701	43 239	52.5	-1.1	-0.6	-1.7
Iceland	2 602	2 332	269	89.6	2 545	2 310	235	90.8	2.2	1.0	14.7
Liechtenstein	52	51	1	98.5	49	48	1	98.9	7.3	6.9	46.3
Norway	10 759	3 716	7 044	34.5	10 626	3 790	6 836	35.7	1.3	-2.0	3.0
Switzerland	16 134	9 299	6 835	57.6	15 555	8 922	6 633	57.4	3.7	4.2	3.1
Montenegro	2 786	2 631	154	94.5	2 635	2 489	146	94.5	5.7	5.7	5.7
North Macedonia	958	764	194	79.8	737	607	130	82.4	29.9	25.8	49.4
Serbia	2 446	1 322	1 124	54.0	2 205	1 129	1 076	51.2	10.9	17.1	4.4
Turkey	.	.	.	.	61 471	40 785	20 686	66.3	.	.	.
Kosovo*	115	88	27	76.5	99	75	24	75.9	16.7	17.6	13.8

(\*) EU-28 aggregate estimated for the purpose of this publication.

(\*\*) Unreliable data.

(\*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

"-"=not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_occ\_nim)

**Table 1: Nights spent at hotels and similar accommodation establishments, non-residents and residents, June-September 2018 compared with the same period in 2017 (Thousand nights) Source: Eurostat (tour\_occ\_nim)**

## Nights spent by residents and non-residents

In the European Union, the number of nights spent by non-residents at hotels and similar accommodation increased by 0.2 % in summer 2018 compared with the same period of 2017. Positive growths were observed in

most Member States where data is available, while Lithuania, Latvia and the Netherlands reported increases above 7 %. However drops were recorded in 11 Member States (see Table 1).

The share of non-residents was more than 90 % in Malta (96.7 %), Cyprus (94.9 %), Croatia (93.4 %) and Luxembourg (90.4 %), while it was particularly low in Romania (17.2 %) and in Germany (24.4 %).

In terms of nights spent by [residents](#) staying at hotels and similar accommodation, domestic tourism increased during the 2018 summer season in all Member States where data is available with the exception of Greece (-6.8 %), Luxembourg (-3.4 %), the United Kingdom (-1.7 %) and France (-0.7 %).

### **Net occupancy rates of bed places**

Compared with the same period of the previous year, [net occupancy rates](#) of bed places in the European Union increased by 0.8 percentage points during the 2018 summer season. These rates ranged from 31.4 % in Luxembourg (August), to 97.3 % in Croatia (August) (see Table 2).

Net occupancy rates of bed places in hotels and similar accommodation establishments, June - September 2018 compared with the same period in 2017 (%)

	Summer season 2018					Summer season 2017					Change in percentage points				
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Entire season(*)	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Entire season(*)	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Entire season(**)
EU-28(*)	56.2	65.0	67.7	56.6	61.5	55.5	63.7	66.5	56.2	60.7	0.7	1.3	1.2	0.4	0.8
Belgium	53.0	55.7	57.4	54.8	55.3	46.0	50.0	50.0	48.4	48.6	6.9	5.8	7.4	6.4	6.6
Bulgaria	51.9	65.7	65.1	40.3	56.3	48.7	66.6	65.9	40.3	56.0	3.2	-0.9	-0.8	0.0	0.3
Czechia	55.4	66.8	68.3	57.9	62.3	52.8	63.9	65.9	55.2	59.6	2.6	2.9	2.4	2.7	2.7
Denmark	56.0	69.0	64.0	52.0	60.3	57.0	68.0	63.0	52.0	60.1	-1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.2
Germany	50.7	53.0	53.7	53.7	52.8	50.1	52.9	53.5	53.7	52.6	0.6	0.2	0.2	-0.1	0.2
Estonia	56.0	68.0	60.0	46.0	57.7	56.0	70.0	68.0	53.0	62.0	0.0	-2.0	-8.0	-7.0	-4.3
Ireland(*)	61.0	62.0	65.0	60.0	62.1	62.0	72.0	74.0	69.0	69.2	-1.0	-10.0	-9.0	-9.0	-7.2
Greece	68.1	74.8	76.5	65.8	71.5	66.8	75.2	76.8	66.3	71.5	1.3	-0.4	-0.3	-0.5	0.0
Spain	67.0	75.1	81.7	69.5	73.5	68.7	77.6	82.9	70.6	75.1	-1.7	-2.5	-1.2	-1.1	-1.6
France	56.0	61.0	65.0	55.0	59.3	54.0	60.0	63.0	54.0	57.8	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.5
Croatia	74.6	94.3	97.3	73.1	85.1	77.5	95.9	98.3	72.8	86.4	-2.9	-1.6	-1.0	0.3	-1.3
Italy	54.0	75.1	75.5	53.4	64.7	51.4	63.9	69.3	50.5	59.2	2.6	11.2	6.2	2.9	5.5
Cyprus	91.2	97.2	96.0	90.3	93.7	92.6	99.2	101.8	92.2	96.5	-1.4	-2.0	-5.8	-1.9	-2.8
Latvia	56.0	65.4	65.5	47.4	58.7	51.9	61.0	57.0	45.9	54.0	4.1	4.4	8.5	1.5	4.7
Lithuania	50.4	56.9	58.6	45.9	53.1	48.9	54.3	55.5	45.5	51.1	1.5	2.6	3.1	0.4	1.9
Luxembourg	34.0	32.1	31.4	35.9	33.3	34.0	33.1	32.4	37.5	34.2	0.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.6	-0.9
Hungary	43.1	54.0	57.1	42.6	49.4	43.2	52.3	55.3	42.4	48.5	-0.1	1.7	1.8	0.2	0.9
Malta	78.9	88.1	88.5	77.1	83.3	74.2	85.9	85.6	76.3	80.6	4.7	2.2	2.9	0.8	2.6
Netherlands	56.3	59.2	63.1	55.6	58.6	56.2	59.3	61.3	54.8	57.9	0.1	-0.1	1.8	0.8	0.7
Austria	43.4	59.1	63.7	45.9	53.2	45.5	58.1	65.0	46.4	54.0	-2.1	1.0	-1.3	-0.5	-0.7
Poland	46.5	50.3	52.7	45.3	48.8	45.3	50.4	52.3	45.5	48.5	1.2	-0.1	0.4	-0.2	0.3
Portugal	58.9	64.6	73.3	62.5	65.0	61.0	66.6	74.6	63.9	66.7	-2.1	-2.0	-1.3	-1.4	-1.7
Romania	37.6	51.1	58.8	43.4	48.3	38.6	50.5	54.7	40.5	46.6	-1.0	0.6	4.1	2.9	1.6
Slovenia	.	.	.	.	.	55.2	67.3	74.6	55.6	63.3	.	.	.	.	.
Slovakia	36.5	42.4	45.9	36.1	40.3	37.6	44.1	46.8	37.5	41.6	-1.2	-1.7	-0.9	-1.4	-1.3
Finland	43.8	53.5	45.5	38.7	45.5	43.9	55.4	45.8	40.3	46.5	-0.1	-1.9	-0.3	-1.6	-1.0
Sweden	50.0	66.0	57.0	47.0	55.2	51.6	68.0	57.0	48.0	56.2	-1.6	-2.0	0.0	-1.0	-1.0
United Kingdom	58.3	60.5	62.8	58.2	60.1	56.6	60.9	61.2	57.5	59.4	1.7	-0.4	1.6	0.7	0.7
Iceland	63.1	69.9	70.9	64.3	67.2	63.9	75.2	71.4	62.4	68.4	-0.8	-5.3	-0.5	1.9	-1.2
Liechtenstein	26.3	28.3	34.9	27.8	29.4	28.9	28.9	31.5	25.3	28.6	-2.6	-0.6	3.4	2.5	0.7
Norway	49.3	56.3	52.8	38.0	49.2	50.1	59.5	54.3	42.6	51.8	-0.8	-3.2	-1.5	-4.6	-2.6
Switzerland	48.6	54.9	55.4	47.9	51.8	46.7	53.5	52.6	46.1	49.8	1.9	1.4	2.8	1.8	2.0
Montenegro	57.7	73.0	78.8	55.9	66.8	58.3	72.5	77.4	52.7	65.7	-0.6	0.5	1.4	3.2	1.0
North Macedonia	33.2	41.2	41.6	34.4	37.7	28.4	37.6	40.6	32.8	34.7	4.9	3.6	1.0	1.6	3.0
Serbia	40.0	40.9	44.8	37.9	41.0	37.6	41.2	41.7	37.4	39.5	2.4	-0.3	3.1	0.5	1.5
Turkey	.	.	.	.	.	55.0	75.6	79.7	66.8	69.3	.	.	.	.	.
Kosovo*	11.8	14.6	15.0	11.5	13.3	16.5	17.6	19.9	16.5	17.7	-4.7	-3.0	-4.9	-5.0	-4.4

(\*) Estimated figures, calculated using estimated average monthly capacities for each Member State.

(\*\*) Unreliable data.

(\*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

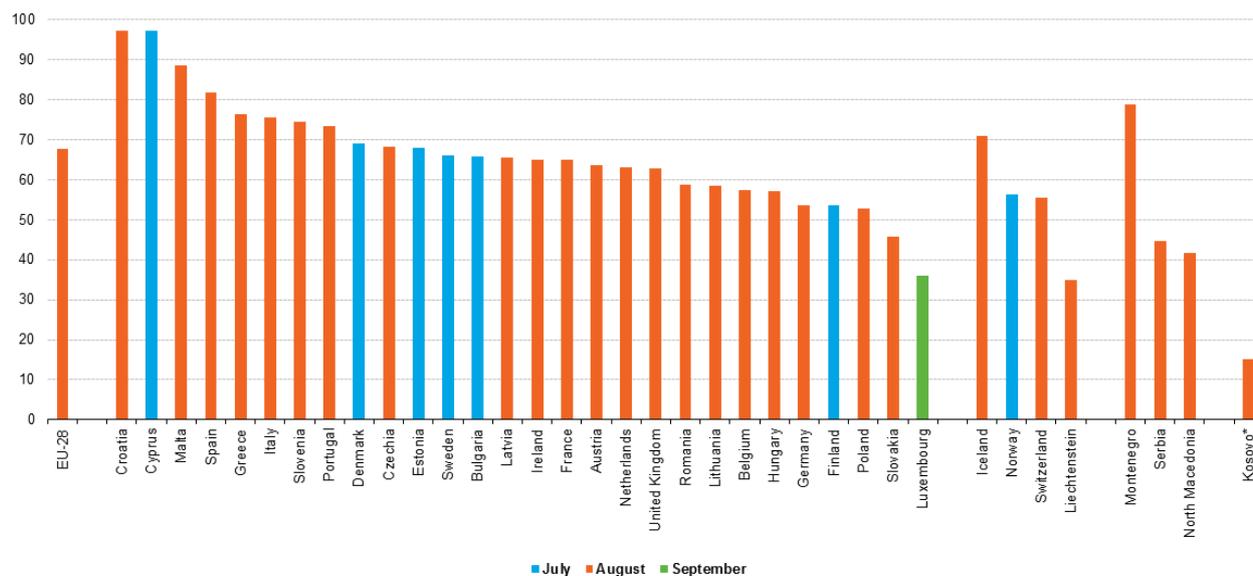
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Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_occ\_mnor)

Table 2: Net occupancy rates of bed places in hotels and similar accommodation establishments, June - September 2018 compared with the same period in 2017 (%) Source: Eurostat (tour\_occ\_mnor)

August was the month with the highest occupancy rates for most Member States. In Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Cyprus, Finland and Sweden the peak month was July, while in Luxembourg it was September. With more than nine out of ten available bed places having been in use, Croatia and Cyprus were the EU countries with the highest net occupancy rates during their peak summer month (see Figure 2).

**Net occupancy rates of bed places in hotels and similar accommodation establishments in the peak month, summer season 2018 (%)**



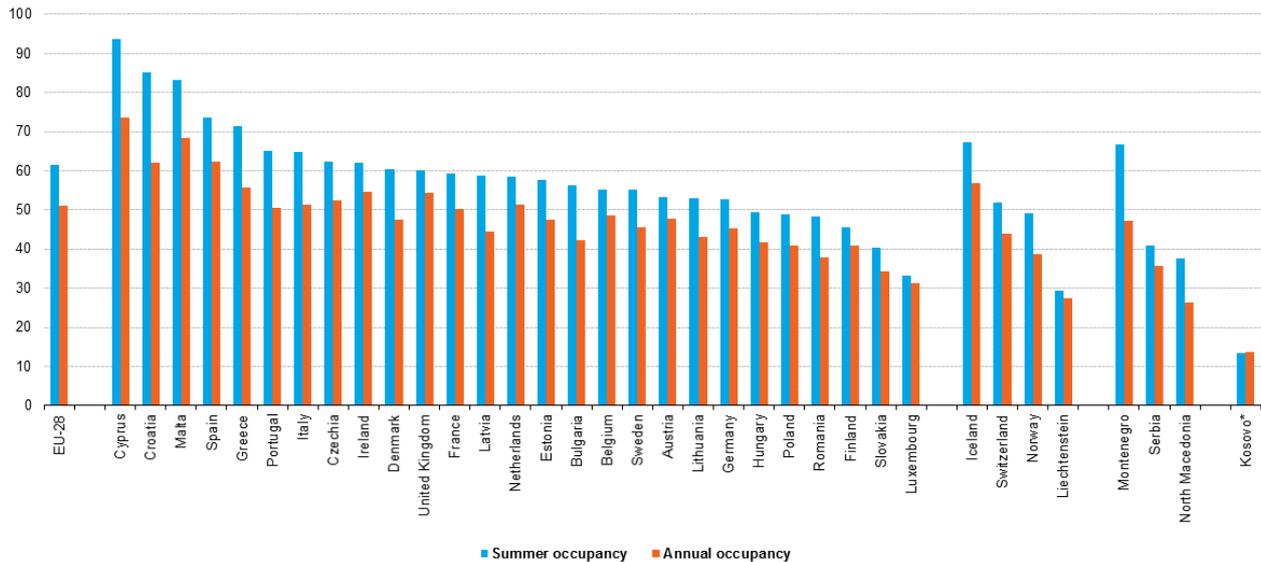
Notes: EU-28 aggregate estimated for the purpose of this publication. Ireland: Unreliable data. Slovenia: 2017 data.  
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 Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_occ\_mnor)



**Figure 2: Net occupancy rates of bed places in hotels and similar accommodation establishments in the peak month, summer season 2018 (%) Source: Eurostat (tour\_occ\_mnor)**

Figure 3 shows the occupancy rates in the 2018 summer season compared with the estimated occupancy rates in the entire year 2018. The differences between these two figures for each country can be less significant than one would expect on the basis of the seasonality of nights spent (see article [Seasonality in the tourist accommodation sector](#)). This can be partly explained by the fact that the net occupancy only takes into account available bed places, in other words some rooms that may be closed during the lower season do not affect the occupancy rate downwards.

Net occupancy rates of bed places in hotels and similar accommodation establishments, summer season 2018 and entire year 2018 (%)



Notes: Estimated figures for the entire year 2018. IE: unreliable data. Slovenia: no data available.  
 (\*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.  
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_occ\_mnor)



Figure 3: Net occupancy rates of bed places in hotels and similar accommodation establishments, summer season 2018 and entire year 2018 (%) Source: Eurostat (tour\_occ\_mnor)

### Source data for tables and graphs

- [Download Excel file](#)

### Context

The EU is a major tourist destination, with five 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 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

- [Seasonality in the tourist accommodation sector](#)
- [Seasonality in tourism demand](#)
- [All articles on tourism statistics](#)

<sup>1</sup> UNWTO Tourism Highlights

## Tables

- [Tourism \(t\\_tour\)](#)

## Database

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

## Dedicated section

- [Tourism](#)

## Publications

- [Recent Eurostat publications on tourism](#)

## Methodology

- [Occupancy of tourist accommodation establishments](#) (ESMS metadata file — tour\_occ\_esms)
- [Tourism statistics in the European Statistical System - 2008 data](#)

## 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)

[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 95/57/EC](#) of 23 November 1995 on the collection of statistical information in the field of tourism.

[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](#)