

# Tourism statistics - nights spent at tourist accommodation establishments

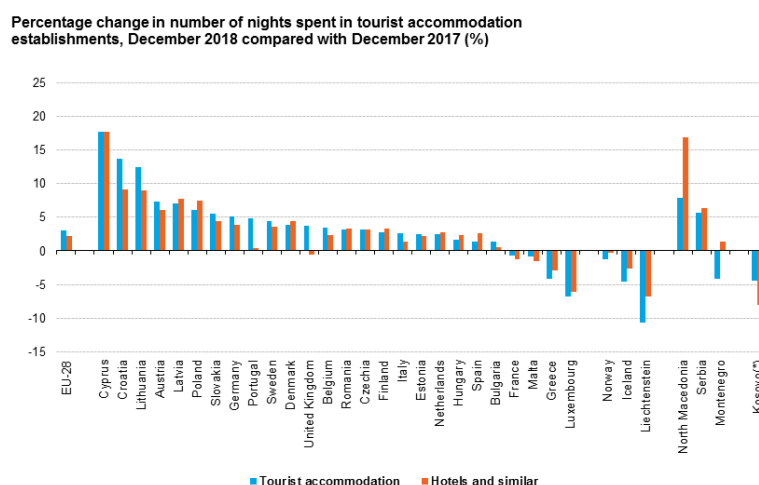
Statistics Explained

Data extracted in March 2019.  
Planned article update: July 2019.

This article focuses on the short-term evolutions in the **nights spent** in **tourist accommodation** in the **European Union (EU)**. The data from the most recent **reference month** available (December 2018) are compared with the same month of the previous year. Furthermore, the article includes estimates for the annual comparison of the entire year 2018 with 2017.

## Nights spent in December 2018 increased in most EU countries

In December 2018 compared with December 2017, 4.5 million more nights (+3.0 %) were spent in tourist accommodation in the European Union (see Figure 1 and Table 1). This increase, which was observed in 22 out of 26 EU Member States for which data are available, was due to both residents (domestic tourists travelling inside their own **country of residence**) (+2.2 %) and non-residents (inbound tourists) (+4.2 %).



Notes: EU-28 aggregate for 2018 estimated for the purpose of this publication. Ireland not included in the graph due to extremely 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 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.  
Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_occ\_nim)

eurostat

Figure 1: Percentage change in number of nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments, December 2018 compared with December 2017 (%) - Source: Eurostat (tour\_occ\_nim)

Nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments, December 2018 and December 2017 (thousand nights)

	December 2018		December 2017		2018/2017 change (%)	
	Tourist accommodation establishments (*)	Hotels and similar accommodation	Tourist accommodation establishments (*)	Hotels and similar accommodation	Tourist accommodation establishments (*)	Hotels and similar accommodation
<b>EU-28 (*)</b>	<b>153 384 (e)</b>	<b>114 857 (e)</b>	<b>148 865</b>	<b>112 394</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Belgium	2 655 (u)	1 622 (u)	2 579	1 586	3.4	2.3
Bulgaria	944	762	933	757	1.3	0.6
Czechia	3 338	2 854	3 238	2 769	3.1	3.1
Denmark	1 365	987	1 315	946	3.8	4.4
Germany	25 837	21 337	24 592	20 562	5.1	3.8
Estonia	488	417	477	408	2.5	2.2
Ireland	(u)	(u)	(u)	(u)	.	.
Greece	1 485 (e)	1 339 (e)	1 550 (e)	1 378	-4.2	-2.9
Spain	22 924	16 627	22 811	16 208	1.4	2.6
France	19 969	14 365	20 113	14 540	-0.7	-1.2
Croatia	734	470	645	431	13.7	9.1
Italy	17 341	13 095	16 894	12 921	2.6	1.3
Cyprus	377	377	321	321	17.7	17.7
Latvia	350	294	327	273	7.0	7.7
Lithuania	513	314	456	288	12.4	9.0
Luxembourg	126	109	135	116	-6.8	-6.1
Hungary	1 954	1 764	1 923	1 725	1.6	2.3
Malta	537	520	541	528	-0.8	-1.5
Netherlands	5 985	3 582	5 841	3 487	2.5	2.7
Austria	9 501	7 501	8 855	7 074	7.3	6.0
Poland	5 279	3 547	4 976	3 298	6.1	7.5
Portugal	3 511	2 842	3 349	2 830	4.8	0.4
Romania	1 641	1 285	1 590	1 244	3.2	3.3
Slovenia	.	.	655	510	.	.
Slovakia	862	651	818	623	5.5	4.4
Finland	1 753	1 507	1 706	1 458	2.8	3.3
Sweden	3 095	2 467	2 964	2 381	4.4	3.6
United Kingdom	18 258 (e)	11 935 (e)	17 612	11 992	3.7	-0.5
Iceland	438	342	459	351	-4.6	-2.6
Liechtenstein	9	9	11	9	-10.6	-6.8
Norway	1 470	1 252	1 490	1 256	-1.3	-0.3
Switzerland	.	.	3 330	2 632	.	.
Montenegro	62	54	64	64	-4.1	1.4
North Macedonia	107	95	99	81	7.8	16.9
Serbia	569	408	538	383	5.7	6.4
Kosovo(*)	26	22	27	24	-4.4	-8.0

(\*) Tourist accommodation establishments include groups 55.1, 55.2 and 55.3 of NACE Rev.2 (cf. Methodological notes).

(\*) EU-28 aggregate for 2018 estimated for the purpose of this publication.

\*This designation is

"-" - data not available or

"u" - low reliability.

"e" - estimated data.

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

eurostat

**Table 1: Nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments, December 2018 and December 2017 (thousand nights) - Source: Eurostat (tour\_occ\_nim)**

In Cyprus, Croatia and Lithuania, the number of nights spent in tourist accommodation increased more than 10 % in December 2018 compared with December 2017, while Luxembourg, Greece, Malta and France reported drops (-6.8 %, -4.2 %, -0.8 % and -0.7 % respectively).

In the segment of [hotels](#), 2.5 million more nights were spent in December 2018 compared with December 2017 (+2.2 %). Cyprus reported the biggest increase (+17.7 %) followed by Croatia (+9.1 %) and Lithuania (+9.0%), while drops were recorded in Luxembourg (-6.1 %), Greece (-2.9 %), Malta (-1.5 %), France (-1.2 %) and the United Kingdom (-0.5 %).

## First results for 2018

**Nights spent at tourist accommodation across the EU grew by 2.4 % in 2018** Looking at the twelve-month period from January to December 2018, the number of nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments in the EU reached more than 3.1 billion, up by 2.4 % compared with 2017 (see Table 2).

Increases were recorded in all months from January to December 2018 compared with the same months of 2017, with the exception of April (-8.1 %) and July (-0.5 %) (see Figure 2). The increase (+8.9 %) recorded in March and the drop (-8.1 %) in April were partly due to the moving Easter holidays; for most countries these fell end March in 2018 while in 2017 they fell mid-April.

Nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments, January to December 2018 and January to December 2017 (thousand nights)

	January to December 2018		January to December 2017		2018/2017 change (%)	
	Tourist accommodation establishments(*)	Hotels and similar accommodation	Tourist accommodation establishments(*)	Hotels and similar accommodation	Tourist accommodation establishments(*)	Hotels and similar accommodation
<b>EU-28(*)</b>	<b>3 130 104 (e)</b>	<b>2 019 094 (e)</b>	<b>3 056 463</b>	<b>1 989 817</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Belgium	40 812 (u)	20 044 (u)	38 677	18 945	5.5	5.8
Bulgaria	26 845	24 750	26 054	24 071	3.0	2.8
Czechia	55 600 (e)	41 031 (e)	53 219	39 590	4.5	3.6
Denmark	33 291	15 958	32 354	15 472	2.9	3.1
Germany	419 461	297 605	401 163	288 759	4.6	3.1
Estonia	6 630	5 328	6 509	5 267	1.9	1.2
Ireland	· (u)	· (u)	· (u)	· (u)	·	·
Greece	111 840 (e)	88 176 (e)	111 271 (e)	87 628	0.5	0.6
Spain	467 506	340 249	471 074	340 461	-0.8	-0.1
France	442 746	219 456	433 105	214 328	2.2	2.4
Croatia	89 567	25 339	86 095	24 537	4.0	3.3
Italy	430 294	282 696	420 629	275 134	2.3	2.7
Cyprus	17 423	17 421	16 781	16 776	3.8	3.8
Latvia	5 369	4 216	4 951	3 845	8.4	9.7
Lithuania	7 998	4 414	7 365	4 081	8.6	8.2
Luxembourg	2 757	1 606	2 892	1 694	-4.7	-5.2
Hungary	32 745	25 349	31 599	24 301	3.6	4.3
Malta	10 114	9 802	9 580	9 310	5.6	5.3
Netherlands	116 880	52 333	111 698	48 873	4.6	7.1
Austria	125 229	93 891	121 127	91 612	3.4	2.5
Poland	88 860	50 430	83 881	47 138	5.9	7.0
Portugal	73 568	59 078	72 036	59 534	2.1	-0.8
Romania	28 449	23 335	26 916	22 242	5.7	4.9
Slovenia	·	·	11 855	7 739	·	·
Slovakia	15 188	10 457	14 668	10 118	3.5	3.3
Finland	22 227	17 992	21 874	17 753	1.6	1.3
Sweden	59 375	37 881	57 007	36 818	3.1	2.9
United Kingdom	353 783 (e)	214 441 (e)	347 547	205 034	1.8	4.6
Iceland	9 018	5 794	8 783	5 599	2.7	3.5
Liechtenstein	161	135	151	127	7.0	6.3
Norway	33 829	23 726	33 290	23 273	1.6	1.9
Switzerland	53 975 (e)	38 633 (e)	53 283	37 393	1.3	3.3
Montenegro	4 209	3 773	3 890	3 462	8.2	9.0
North Macedonia	2 212	1 880	1 874	1 479	18.0	27.1
Serbia	9 315	6 101	8 312	5 583	12.1	9.3
Kosovo(*)	326	291	301	280	8.8	4.2

(\*) Tourist accommodation establishments include groups 55.1, 55.2 and 55.3 of NACE Rev.2 (cf. Methodological notes).

(\*) EU-28 aggregate for 2018 estimated for the purpose of this publication.

\*This designation is

"·" - data not available

"u" - low reliability.

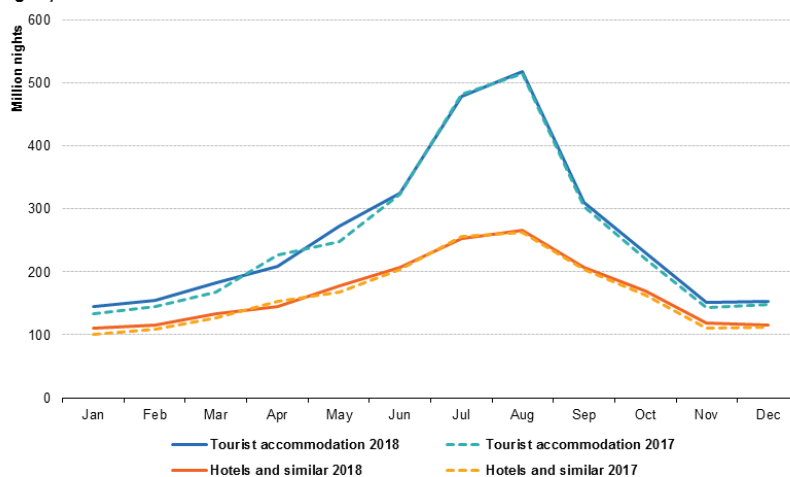
"e" - estimated data.

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

eurostat

Table 2: Nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments, January to December 2018 and January to December 2017 (thousand nights) - Source: Eurostat (tour\_occ\_nim)

Evolution of the number of nights spent in EU-28 tourist accommodation establishments, January to December 2018 and January to December 2017 (million nights)



Note: EU-28 aggregate estimated for the purpose of this publication.  
Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_occ\_nim)

eurostat

Figure 2: Evolution of the number of nights spent in EU-28 tourist accommodation establishments, January to December 2018 and January to December 2017 (million nights) - Source: Eurostat (tour\_occ\_nim)

Estimates for all three types of tourist accommodation establishments show rises for 2018; the number of nights spent at hotels, at [rented holiday accommodation](#) and at [campsites](#) increased by 2.5 %, 2.5 % and 1.8 % respectively (see Table 3).

The increase at EU level reflected national evolutions; in all but two of the 26 Member States where data is available the number of nights spent at tourist accommodation increased in 2018. Lithuania and Latvia recorded the highest growth (+8.6 % and +8.4 % respectively), while Luxembourg and Spain registered drops (-4.7 % and -0.8 % respectively) (see Figure 3).

Annual estimates - Percentage change in number of nights spent at tourist accommodation establishments by NACE class, 2018 compared with 2017 (%)

	2018/2017 change (in %)											
	Tourist accommodation establishments			Hotels and similar accommodation NACE 55.1			Holiday and other short-stay accommodation NACE 55.2			Camping grounds, recreational vehicle and trailer parks NACE 55.3		
	Total	Non-residents	Residents	Total	Non-residents	Residents	Total	Non-residents	Residents	Total	Non-residents	Residents
EU-28(*)	2.4	2.6	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.9	2.3	1.8	2.1	1.6
Belgium	5.5	9.0	2.3	5.8	5.9	5.6	4.1	14.0	-0.6	12.7	14.5	9.9
Bulgaria	3.0	3.8	1.6	2.8	3.6	1.2	5.6	13.6	3.7	8.9	-24.4	10.9
Czechia	4.5	2.3	6.6	3.6	1.7	6.5	5.1	5.5	5.0	13.2	16.1	12.5
Denmark	2.9	5.1	1.6	3.1	2.7	3.5	4.0	6.0	2.7	2.0	9.9	-0.6
Germany	4.6	4.5	4.6	3.1	3.9	2.8	7.6	5.1	8.0	10.4	11.7	10.2
Estonia	1.9	0.6	4.1	1.2	-0.5	5.0	4.8	8.6	2.2	9.3	14.0	-19.7
Ireland	(u)	(u)	(u)	(u)	(u)	(u)	(u)	(u)	(u)	(u)	(u)	(u)
Greece	0.5	2.3	-6.9	0.6	1.8	-5.4	-0.1	4.7	-10.2	2.6	8.5	-3.7
Spain	-0.8	-1.4	0.5	-0.1	-0.4	0.7	-4.5	-6.2	-0.8	2.0	2.7	1.2
France	2.2	5.4	0.8	2.4	7.4	-0.4	3.7	2.8	3.9	0.8	2.5	0.1
Croatia	4.0	3.7	8.6	3.3	2.9	6.5	5.8	5.5	10.5	1.0	0.9	6.2
Italy	2.3	2.0	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.5	1.6	3.6	-0.2	-1.3	0.8
Cyprus	3.8	3.5	11.0	3.8	3.5	11.4				-54.3	-19.5	-56.9
Latvia	8.4	9.9	5.3	9.7	9.3	10.7	2.8	12.5	-4.2	13.8	17.4	9.7
Lithuania	8.6	8.4	8.8	8.2	7.5	9.3	7.9	10.4	7.0	67.9	24.7	113.0
Luxembourg	-4.7	-4.6	-5.4	-5.2	-5.0	-6.7	-4.3	-3.3	-7.4	-3.8	-4.1	-1.5
Hungary	3.6	2.4	4.7	4.3	2.5	6.3	2.2	6.4	1.2	-1.0	-2.2	0.8
Malta	5.6	5.5	8.3	5.3	5.2	7.3	15.2	13.8	124.1			
Netherlands	4.6	7.4	2.9	7.1	7.5	6.6	1.5	6.7	-0.7	5.5	8.3	4.5
Austria	3.4	3.8	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	5.6	8.3	0.9	8.4	7.2	12.4
Poland	5.9	6.2	5.9	7.0	5.7	7.5	4.4	6.0	4.1	10.3	16.0	8.6
Portugal	2.1	0.4	5.7	-0.8	-2.6	4.0	28.1	34.2	18.3	4.9	3.9	5.5
Romania	5.7	0.7	6.9	4.9	1.1	6.0	10.7	-3.8	12.3	-11.0	-0.4	-12.2
Slovenia												
Slovakia	3.5	4.6	3.0	3.3	2.4	4.1	3.5	13.6	0.9	10.1	11.2	8.3
Finland	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.4	2.0	4.9	0.8	3.7	5.1	3.4
Sweden	3.1	6.4	1.9	2.9	5.9	1.8	5.6	4.3	6.0	2.4	8.7	0.3
United Kingdom	1.8	5.8	-0.7	4.8	6.2	3.0	-1.7	7.7	-7.1	-3.0	-31.0	-1.7
Iceland	2.7	1.4	11.2	3.5	3.0	7.3	1.5	0.2	14.3	0.9	-5.6	17.5
Liechtenstein	7.0	7.5	-13.9	6.3	6.5	-4.4	7.6	10.6	-27.3	31.2	30.7	700.0
Norway	1.6	1.9	1.5	1.9	0.9	2.4	-5.0	0.6	-10.5	3.2	6.4	1.9
Switzerland	1.3	3.2	-0.5	3.3	3.9	2.6	-6.0	-1.5	-8.1	6.9	6.8	6.9
Montenegro	8.2	8.8	3.2	9.0	9.3	5.2	-0.1	-0.2	0.2	30.0	31.3	-16.9
North Macedonia	13.0	20.8	12.6	27.1	22.3	44.4	-23.4	-6.9	-27.0	51.7	26.5	57.0
Serbia	12.1	15.2	10.1	9.3	14.0	4.8	17.9	24.0	16.7	9.4	-5.3	25.1
Kosovo(**)	8.6	4.9	18.4	4.2	3.4	6.5	67.6	58.0	71.2			

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

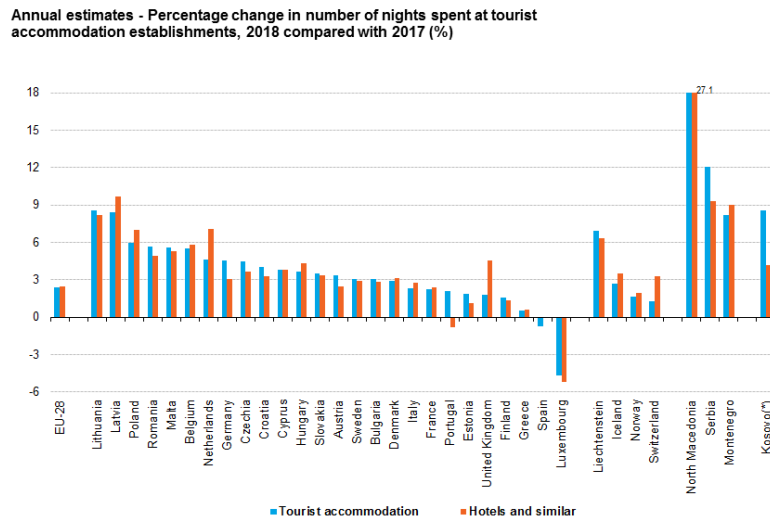
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"u" - low reliability.

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

eurostat

Table 3: Annual estimates - Percentage change in number of nights spent at tourist accommodation establishments by NACE class, 2018 compared with 2017 (%) - Source: Eurostat (tour\_occ\_nim)

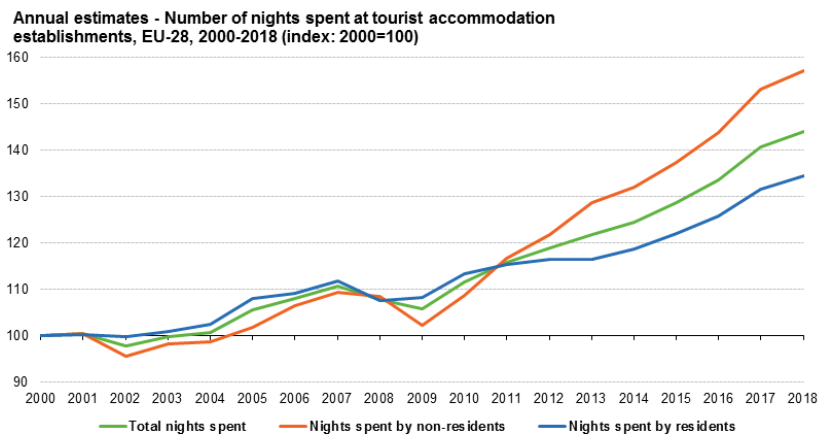


Notes: EU-28 aggregate for 2018 estimated for the purpose of this publication. Ireland not included in the graph due to extremely unreliable data. Slovenia not included in the graph due to missing data.  
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 Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_occ\_nim)

eurostat

Figure 3: Annual estimates - Percentage change in number of nights spent at tourist accommodation establishments, 2018 compared with 2017 (%) - Source: Eurostat (tour\_occ\_nim)

**Increase in total nights spent at tourist accommodation establishments due to both residents and non-residents** In 2018 the EU tourist accommodation sector continued its recovery that started in 2010 following the two years of decline, in 2008 and 2009 (see Figure 4), with a growth of +2.4 % compared with 2017.



Note: EU-28 aggregate estimated for the purpose of this publication using available data.  
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_occ\_ninat, tour\_occ\_nim)

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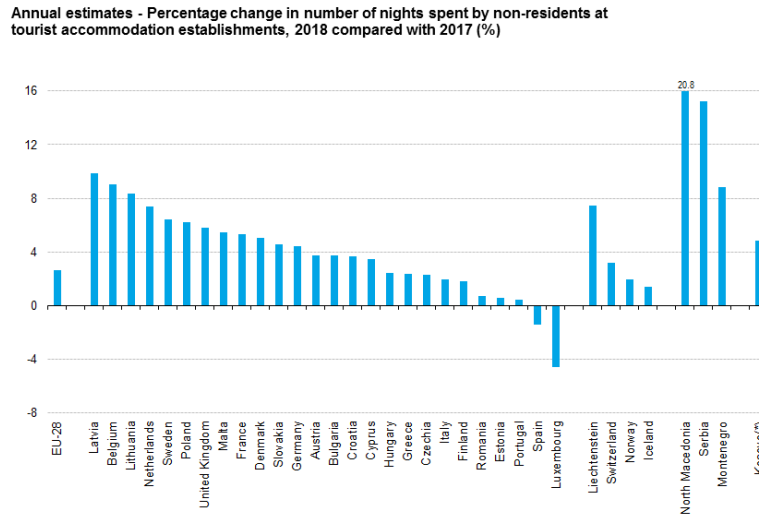
Figure 4: Annual estimates - Number of nights spent at tourist accommodation establishments, EU-28, 2000-2018 (index: 2000=100) - Source: Eurostat (tour\_occ\_nim)

Despite a lower growth pace than the previous years, both non-residents and residents spent more nights in EU-28 tourist accommodation in 2018 compared with 2017 (+2.6 % and +2.2 % respectively).

The growth of non-resident nights at EU level was reflected in most EU Member States for which data is available. Latvia, Belgium and Lithuania recorded the highest increase (+9.9 %, +9.0 % and +8.4 % respec-

tively) while drops were reported by Luxembourg (-4.6 %) and Spain (-1.4 %) (see Figure 5).

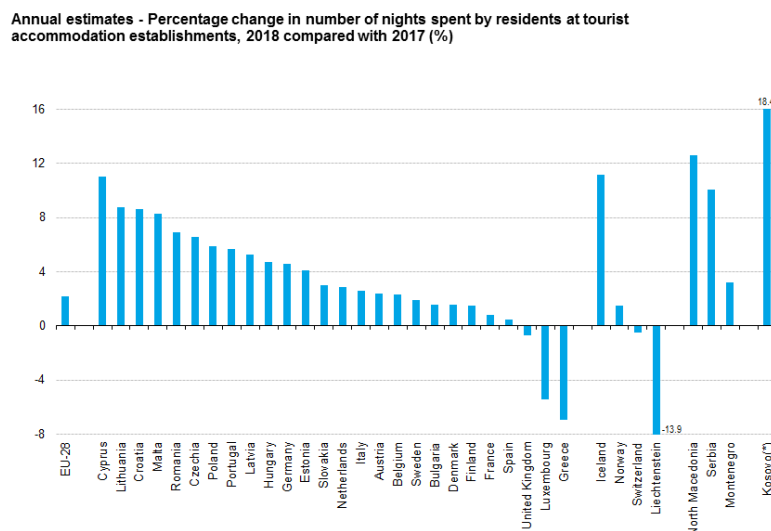
Nights spent by residents increased in all but three of the 26 Member States where data is available. The biggest increase was recorded in Cyprus (+11.0 %) while Greece, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom reported drops of -6.9 %, -5.4 % and -0.7 % respectively (see Figure 6).



Notes: EU-28 aggregate for 2018 estimated for the purpose of this publication. Ireland not included in the graph due to extremely unreliable data. Slovenia not included in the graph due to missing data.  
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 Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_occ\_nim)

eurostat

**Figure 5: Annual estimates - Percentage change in number of nights spent by non-residents at tourist accommodation establishments, 2018 compared with 2017 (%) - Source: Eurostat (tour\_occ\_nim)**



Notes: EU-28 aggregate for 2018 estimated for the purpose of this publication. Ireland not included in the graph due to extremely unreliable data. Slovenia not included in the graph due to missing data.  
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 Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_occ\_nim)

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**Figure 6: Annual estimates - Percentage change in number of nights spent by residents at tourist accommodation establishments, 2018 compared with 2017 (%) - Source: Eurostat (tour\_occ\_nim)**

## Source data for tables and graphs

- [Download Excel file](#)

## Data sources

This article presents the short-term trends in nights spent in tourist accommodation in the European Union (EU), analysing monthly data provided by Member States.

For the year-to-year evolution of the number of nights spent in tourist accommodation and a detailed analysis of 2017 annual data, see [Tourism statistics - annual results for the accommodation sector](#) .

## 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 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 entry page in Statistics Explained](#)
- [All articles on tourism statistics](#)
- [Tourism statistics - annual results for the accommodation sector](#)

## Tables

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

## Database

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

## Dedicated section

- [Tourism](#)

## Publications

- [Recent Eurostat publications on tourism](#)
- [News Release 17/2019](#)

## Methodology

- [Capacity and occupancy of tourist accommodation establishments](#) (ESMS metadata file — tour\_occ\_esms)

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<sup>1</sup> UNWTO [Tourism Highlights](#)

## Legislation

[Regulation \(EU\) No 692/2011](#) of 6 July 2011 concerning European statistics on tourism and repealing Council Directive 95/57/EC.

[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.

## 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](#)