

Europeans on holiday

A preference for domestic holidays, but not in all Member States

Nearly 60% of trips made by private car and 25% by air

In the **EU25**, in 2004, 57% of holiday trips of four nights or more were domestic – made within a country. Outbound trips – those made in other countries – accounted for 43% of holiday trips, of which two-thirds were taken in other Member States of the EU25, and one third outside the EU25. The most popular mode of transport was private car (58% of trips), followed by air (25%), rail and coach (8% each).

These figures come from publications¹ from **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**, which deal with the travel behaviour of European tourists.

More than 80% of holiday trips are domestic in Greece, Spain, France and Poland

There were significant differences between Member States in the choice of destination for holiday trips. The highest proportions of domestic trips were recorded in **Greece** (90% of all holiday trips of four nights or more), **Spain** (88%), **France** (83%) and **Poland** (82%). The highest percentages of outbound trips, on the other hand, were registered in **Luxembourg** (99%), **Belgium** (79%), **Ireland** and **Slovenia** (both 73%) and **Denmark** (69%).

On average in the **EU25** in 2004, 28% of holiday trips were made in other Member States and 15% in countries outside the EU25. In **Luxembourg** (81% of all holiday trips of four nights or more), **Belgium** (61%), **Ireland** (57%) and **Denmark** (50%) half or more of holidays were taken in other Member States. On the other hand, in **Slovenia** (63%), **Lithuania** (35%), **Latvia** (30%) and **Austria** (26%) more than a quarter of holidays were taken outside the EU25.

More than 70% of holiday trips made by private car in Slovenia, France and Spain

As expected, private cars are the most common means of transport in all Member States for holiday trips, except **Ireland** and the **United Kingdom**, where air travel predominates. Private cars were most commonly used in **Slovenia** (82% of all holiday trips of four nights or more), **France** (73%), **Spain** (71%) and the **Netherlands** (67%). Air travel was most often used in **Ireland** (66%), the **United Kingdom** (51%), **Denmark** (39%), **Luxembourg** (38%) and **Sweden** (35%).

The other means of transport, although less used on average in the EU25, were particularly important in certain Member States. Rail travel was relatively important for holiday trips in **Lithuania** and **Poland** (both 19%), **Latvia** (17%), **Hungary** (15%) and **France** (12%), and coach travel in **Estonia** (36%), **Slovakia** (26%), **Latvia** and the **Czech Republic** (both 20%) and **Poland** (19%). Water transport was particularly important in **Greece** (21%), due to the large number of islands that can only be reached by ship.

Lithuania and Latvia recorded largest increases in nights spent in hotels in summer season 2005

Comparing the figures for the 2005 summer season (June - September) with those for 2004, the total number of nights spent in hotels and similar establishments² increased in all **EU25** Member States where data is available, except **Malta** (-1.0%). The highest relative increases in total nights spent in hotels and similar establishments were recorded in **Lithuania** (+19.8%), **Latvia** (+18.0%), **Luxembourg** (+12.0%) and **Poland** (9.6%).

In absolute terms, **Italy** (126 million), **Spain** (120 million), **Germany** and **France** (both 83 million) and the **United Kingdom** (80 million) registered the highest numbers of nights spent in hotels and similar establishments during the 2005 summer season.

Breakdown of holiday trips of four nights or more by destination, 2004

	Domestic (%)	Outbound (%)	of which:	
			in the EU25 (%)	outside the EU25 (%)
EU25*	56.9	43.1	28.4	14.7
Belgium	21.2	78.8	60.8	18.0
Czech Republic	57.9	42.1	23.4	18.7
Denmark	30.9	69.1	50.0	19.2
Germany	36.0	64.0	43.4	20.6
Estonia	50.7	49.3	:	:
Greece**	90.2	9.8	4.6	5.2
Spain	88.1	11.9	7.0	4.8
France	82.9	17.1	8.1	9.0
Ireland	27.4	72.6	56.7	16.0
Italy	75.1	24.9	13.5	11.4
Cyprus	:	:	:	:
Latvia**	41.8	51.5	21.1	30.4
Lithuania	38.9	61.1	26.4	34.7
Luxembourg	0.7	99.3	81.5	17.8
Hungary	72.8	27.2	:	:
Malta	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	37.7	62.3	47.4	14.9
Austria	35.3	64.7	38.3	26.4
Poland***	81.8	18.2	13.1	5.1
Portugal	77.4	22.6	15.1	7.4
Slovenia	27.0	73.0	10.3	62.7
Slovakia	56.6	43.4	23.3	20.0
Finland	69.5	30.5	18.0	12.5
Sweden	52.5	47.5	31.2	16.3
United Kingdom	41.4	58.6	42.3	16.4

: data not available

* EU25 excludes Member States for which data are not available.

** 2003 data

*** Estimate

Breakdown of holiday trips of four nights or more by mode of transport used, 2004

	Private vehicle	Air	Rail	Coach	Waterway
EU25*	57.5	25.2	8.1	7.6	1.6
Belgium	57.8	29.8	4.8	6.4	1.2
Czech Republic	59.7	10.7	9.1	19.9	0.5
Denmark	43.3	39.0	6.6	8.7	2.3
Germany	53.5	28.6	7.5	10.4	:
Estonia	37.1	19.2	:	36.0	7.7
Greece**	55.8	8.4	1.8	13.0	21.1
Spain	71.1	14.7	4.3	8.0	1.8
France	72.5	12.1	12.3	2.4	0.6
Ireland	25.4	65.9	2.3	1.8	4.6
Italy***	60.9	19.0	9.3	5.0	5.8
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	:
Latvia**	42.6	16.4	17.0	20.0	4.0
Lithuania	48.8	13.5	18.9	13.5	5.3
Luxembourg	52.1	37.5	4.5	4.5	1.3
Hungary	64.0	5.2	15.0	15.6	0.2
Malta	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	67.3	23.5	3.4	4.4	1.4
Austria	55.4	30.5	6.5	7.0	0.7
Poland****	58.4	3.5	18.7	19.4	:
Portugal	64.6	21.5	2.8	9.1	1.9
Slovenia	82.1	8.8	2.1	5.5	1.5
Slovakia	47.9	14.7	11.0	26.3	0.1
Finland	55.6	24.5	9.0	5.7	5.3
Sweden	52.0	34.5	4.2	5.8	3.5
United Kingdom	37.3	50.8	5.0	5.2	1.7

: data not available

* EU25 excludes Member States for which data are not available.

** 2003 data

*** Provisional

**** Estimate

**Total nights spent in hotels and similar establishments, Summer 2005 compared to Summer 2004
(000 bednights)**

	June-Sept 2004	June-Sept 2005	Growth 2005/2004 (%)
Belgium	5 541	5 664	2.2
Czech Republic	10 118	10 450	3.3
Denmark	4 488	4 590	2.3
Germany	80 472	82 774	2.9
Estonia	1 493	1 575	5.5
Greece	34 607	36 859	6.5
Spain	114 559	120 263	5.0
France	79 435	82 594	4.0
Ireland	12 015	:	:
Italy	123 781	126 341	2.1
Cyprus	7 683	8 074	5.1
Latvia	863	1 019	18.0
Lithuania	809	969	19.8
Luxembourg	505	566	12.0
Hungary	6 712	7 073	5.4
Malta	3 535	3 498	-1.0
Netherlands	11 181	11 733	4.9
Austria	29 011	29 120	0.4
Poland	7 826	8 582	9.6
Portugal	15 677	16 385	4.5
Slovenia	2 167	2 171	0.2
Slovakia	2 793	2 811	0.6
Finland	5 757	5 868	1.9
Sweden	9 012	9 598	6.5
United Kingdom*	:	79 880	:
Iceland	904	978	8.1
Liechtenstein	39	41	4.8
Norway	7 482	7 782	4.0

* In the UK the methodology changed in April 2005. It is therefore not possible to make comparisons between 2005 and 2004.

1. **Eurostat**, Statistics in Focus, Industry, trade and services 18/2006 "**How Europeans go on holiday**".
Eurostat, Statistics in Focus, Industry, trade and services 19/2006 "**Summer tourism trends in 2005**".
Both publications are available free of charge in PDF format on the Eurostat website.
2. **Hotels and similar establishments**: Hotels, apartment hotels, motels, roadside inns, beach hotels and other similar establishments which provide hotel services including more than bed-making and cleaning of the room and sanitary facilities. Similar establishments are other similar types of accommodation which is let per room and has a limited number of hotel-type services, including bedmaking and cleaning of rooms and sanitary facilities, on a daily basis.
The number of **nights** includes nights spent by both residents and non-residents, whether for business or leisure.

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