

Summer tourism in the EU

Summer accounts for more than half of the tourism activity of EU residents

Domestic tourism prevails

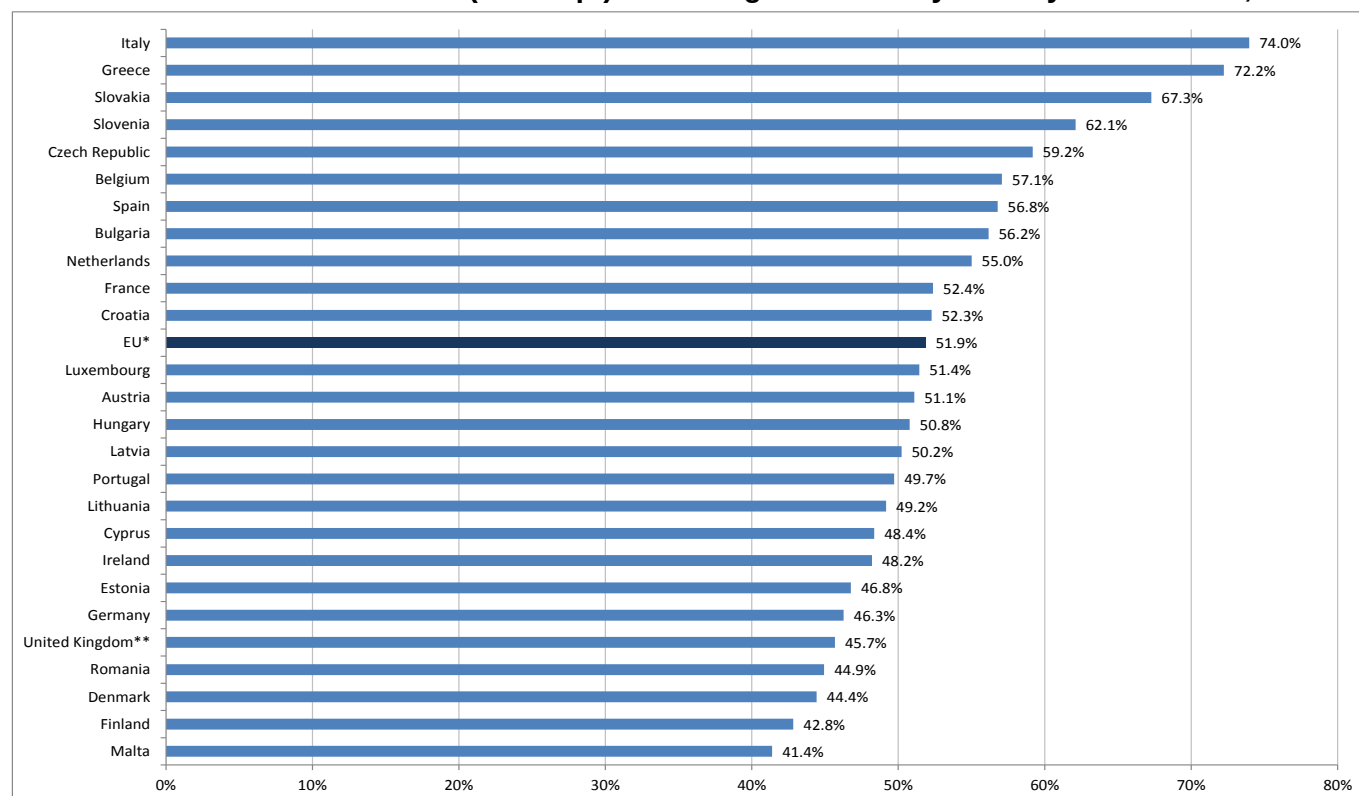
A clear seasonal pattern on tourism activity of residents of the **European Union (EU)** can be observed. The summer season (June-September) accounts for more than half (51.9%) of the total number of tourism nights¹ spent by **EU** residents during the whole year. A little more than 60% of these nights were spent in their own country (domestic), while almost 40% of summer season tourism nights were spent abroad (outbound).

July (16.1%) and August (17.2%) are the two months when **EU** residents spent most tourism nights during the year.

When looking at age groups, more than a third of all tourism nights for residents aged 15-29 (36%) and 30-64 (35%) are spent during July and August, while this share fell to around a quarter (27%) for residents aged 65 and over, who preferred to spread their holidays more evenly throughout the year.

This information comes from an [article](#)² issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. An [infographic](#)³ is also available on the Eurostat website.

Share of the summer season (Jun-Sept) in overnight tourism by country of residence, 2013



Data not available for Poland and Sweden.

* EU aggregate excluding Sweden and including 2012 data for the United Kingdom and estimates for Poland.

** 2012 data.

Residents of Italy spent three quarters of their tourism nights during the summer

For residents of a majority of EU Member States, the summer season represents more than half of all annual tourism nights. Among the noticeable exceptions are **Malta** (41.4% of tourism nights of residents spent during the summer season), **Finland** (42.8%), **Denmark** (44.4%), **Romania** (44.9%), the **United Kingdom** (45.7%), **Germany** (46.3%) and **Estonia** (46.8%). Accounting for almost three-quarters of all nights spent during the year, the summer season is particularly prominent for residents of **Italy** (74.0%) and **Greece** (72.2%), followed by those of **Slovakia** (67.3%) and **Slovenia** (62.1%).

Residents of Greece and Spain on top for domestic tourism during the summer

Although on average in the EU domestic tourism prevails, the pattern is very different across Member States. The largest proportions of nights spent by residents in their own country are registered for **Greece** (89.7% of all summer tourism nights), **Spain** (87.3%), **Romania** (86.6%), **Bulgaria** (84.7%), **France** and **Portugal** (both 82.8%). In contrast, the highest shares of summer tourism nights spent abroad are recorded for residents of **Luxembourg** (99.2% of all summer tourism nights), **Belgium** (88.3%) and **Malta** (86.7%).

Tourism nights spent by residents during the summer season, 2013

	Summer (June to September)			
	Number of nights (in thousands)	Share of all nights spent during the year (%)	of which (as % of all summer nights)	
			Domestic	Outbound
EU*	3 165 121	51.9	60.6	39.4
Belgium	55 085	57.1	11.7	88.3
Bulgaria	10 750	56.2	84.7	15.3
Czech Republic	77 531	59.2	65.5	34.5
Denmark	47 927	44.4	48.8	51.2
Germany	607 494	46.3	38.7	61.3
Estonia	5 483	46.8	35.6	64.4
Ireland	29 615	48.2	28.3	71.7
Greece	42 461	72.2	89.7	10.3
Spain	371 532	56.8	87.3	12.7
France	655 799	52.4	82.8	17.2
Croatia	26 909	52.3	70.7	29.3
Italy	253 973	74.0	76.9	23.1
Cyprus	8 221	48.4	37.7	62.3
Latvia	7 654	50.2	48.2	51.8
Lithuania	10 183	49.2	36.3	63.7
Luxembourg	5 512	51.4	0.8	99.2
Hungary	31 154	50.8	65.3	34.7
Malta	1 274	41.4	13.3	86.7
Netherlands	145 904	55.0	35.8	64.2
Austria	53 692	51.1	32.4	67.6
Poland	:	:	:	:
Portugal	36 548	49.7	82.8	17.2
Romania	32 872	44.9	86.6	13.4
Slovenia	11 903	62.1	22.4	77.6
Slovakia	21 952	67.3	35.4	64.6
Finland	56 682	42.8	67.2	32.8
Sweden	:	:	:	:
United Kingdom**	402 281	45.7	37.2	62.8

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

* EU aggregates excluding Sweden and including 2012 data for the United Kingdom and estimates for Poland.

** 2012 data.

: Data not available.

July and August, peak tourism months in all EU Member States except Lithuania

August is the leading month of departure for residents of a narrow majority of EU Member States, just ahead of July. In particular, August has a notable share in both **Italy** (32.7%) and **Greece** (31.3%), while it is smallest in **Denmark** (8.6%) and **Finland** (8.8%). Five EU Member States show no significant difference (less than 1 percentage point) between July and August: **France**, **Croatia**, **Lithuania**, **Malta** and **Austria**.

The share of July varies across Member States from just over 10% in **Romania** (10.4%) and the **United Kingdom** (10.6%), to more than 25% in **Slovenia** (25.4%), **Greece** (26.2%) and **Italy** (27.4%).

Differences across Member States are less significant in June, all around 10%, while September accounts for less than 10% of annual tourism nights for residents of every EU Member State, except **Lithuania** (13.4%), the **United Kingdom** (12.2%), **Cyprus** (10.6%) and **Germany** (10.2%). **Lithuania** is the only EU Member State for which neither July nor August, but September is the peak month for overnight stays of its residents.

Tourism nights spent by residents during the summer season, 2013 (as proportion of total nights during the year)

	June	July	August	September
EU*	10.0%	16.1%	17.2%	8.5%
Belgium	9.6%	24.1%	15.4%	8.0%
Bulgaria	7.5%	16.9%	26.3%	5.5%
Czech Republic	10.1%	21.9%	19.7%	7.5%
Denmark	8.7%	19.4%	8.6%	7.8%
Germany	10.8%	11.7%	13.6%	10.2%
Estonia	10.4%	16.8%	12.3%	7.3%
Ireland	13.3%	15.6%	10.8%	8.5%
Greece	11.7%	26.2%	31.3%	3.1%
Spain	10.2%	17.9%	21.6%	7.1%
France	8.7%	18.8%	18.0%	6.8%
Croatia	11.4%	16.7%	16.7%	7.4%
Italy	10.0%	27.4%	32.7%	3.8%
Cyprus	8.3%	13.0%	16.4%	10.6%
Latvia	13.0%	15.7%	13.8%	7.7%
Lithuania	10.5%	12.5%	12.8%	13.4%
Luxembourg	7.3%	15.5%	20.3%	8.4%
Hungary	12.6%	13.6%	17.5%	7.1%
Malta	7.9%	11.8%	12.6%	9.1%
Netherlands	11.5%	21.2%	13.5%	8.9%
Austria	9.2%	17.0%	16.8%	8.1%
Poland	:	:	:	:
Portugal	7.6%	12.4%	23.0%	6.7%
Romania	7.8%	10.4%	20.8%	5.9%
Slovenia	10.0%	25.4%	20.8%	5.9%
Slovakia	12.3%	23.7%	26.7%	4.6%
Finland	12.5%	14.2%	8.8%	7.3%
Sweden	:	:	:	:
United Kingdom**	9.3%	10.6%	13.6%	12.2%

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

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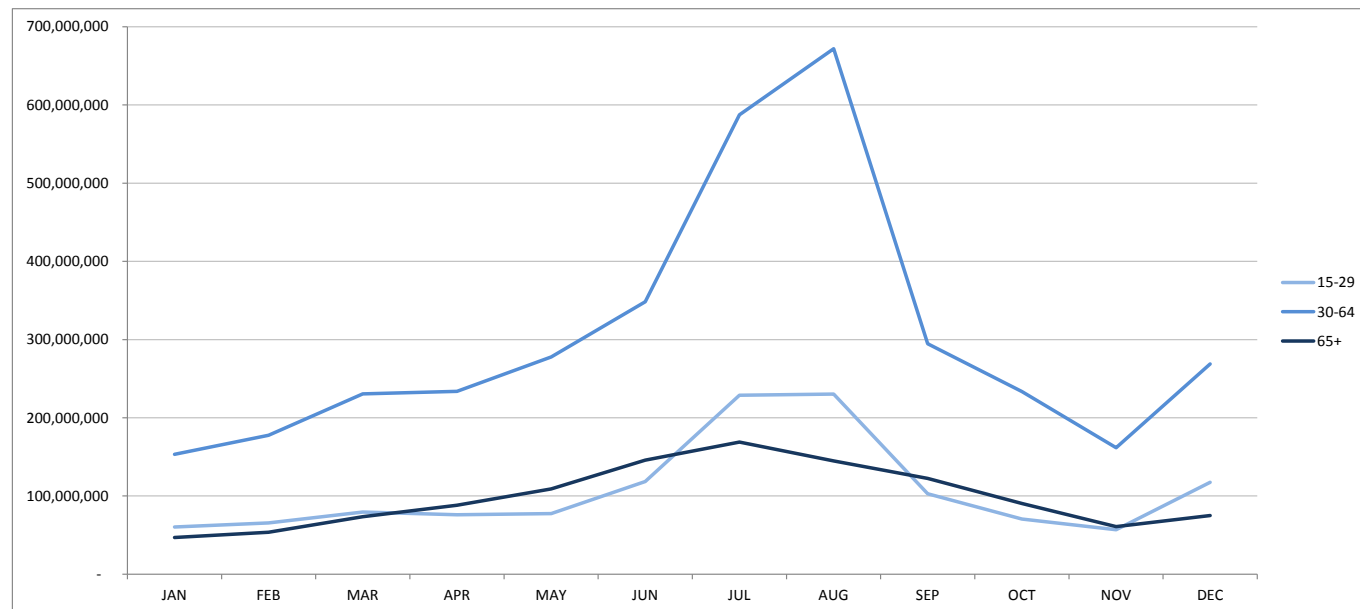
** 2012 data

: Data not available.

Extended summer season for EU residents aged 65 and over

A significant tourist peak can be observed during the summer season for **EU** residents aged 15-29 as well as for those aged 30-64, July and August being for them the two months which have by far the highest number of tourism nights spent during the year. This pattern is however less significant for **EU** residents aged 65 and over. Though July is the peak month for this age group, **EU** residents aged 65 and over spend slightly more tourism nights during June than in August and September still accounts for a significant share.

Number of tourism nights of EU residents by month of departure and age group, 2013



EU aggregates excluding Sweden and including 2012 data for the United Kingdom and estimates for Poland.

1. Nights spent by EU residents during their tourism trips, regardless of the purpose of these trips (personal or business) and regardless of whether these nights were spent in tourist accommodation (such as hotels or campsites) or in less formal types of accommodation (owned dwellings or accommodation provided for free by friends or relatives). The total number of nights spent during a trip is allocated to the month of departure.
2. **Eurostat**, Statistics Explained article "**Seasonality in tourism demand**" available on the Eurostat website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Seasonality_in_tourism_demand
3. An interactive infographic on tourism demand in the EU is available on the Eurostat website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/news/themes-in-the-spotlight/tourism>

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