

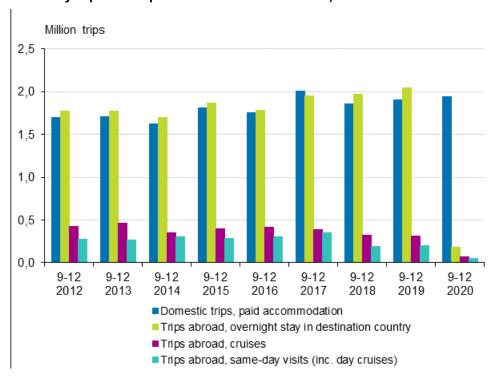
Finnish Travel

2020, Autumn (1 Sep to 31 Dec 2020)

Finnish residents' travel centred on trips to free-time residences in corona autumn 2020

According to Statistics Finland's preliminary data, tourism in autumn in 2020 focused on Finland as corona kept Europe in its grip. Overnight stays at own free-time residences doubled and the number of overnight stays at rented cottages was also much higher than in the previous year in September to December 2020. Finnish residents made in the autumn a total of 7.3 million domestic leisure trips with overnight stay and 0.3 million leisure trips abroad, of which 0.2 million were trips with overnight stay in the destination country.

Leisure trips in September to December 2012 to 2020* (excl. domestic same-day trips and trips with free accommodation)



In the third four months of 2020, Finnish residents aged 15 to 84 made 8.4 million trips, when domestic and foreign leisure trips, as well as business and professional trips are included. In addition to trips with overnight stay, the number also includes same-day trips abroad.

Altogether, 7.3 million domestic leisure trips with overnight stay were made in the September to December period. In all, 5.4 million of them were trips with free accommodation, which is slightly more than in September to December 2019. Leisure trips with overnight stay in paid accommodation numbered 1.9 million and their most popular destinations were Lapland, North Ostrobothnia and Pirkanmaa. In early winter, travel destinations in Northern Finland attracted more than those in Uusimaa and Southwest Finland in Southern Finland. The number of domestic trips with paid accommodation was unchanged from September to December of the previous year.

October was the most popular month for travelling in Finland in autumn, as then 0.6 million domestic trips with paid accommodation and 1.6 million trips with free accommodation were made. Of the trips made in October with paid accommodation, 16 per cent were made to Lapland.

Leisure trips to free-time residences were still very common after a lively summer. Overnight stays at own free-time residences doubled and the number of overnight stays at rented cottages was also much higher than in the previous year in September to December 2020.

By contrast, hotel holidays in Finland were not that popular, as around one fifth fewer nights were spent at hotels than in the previous autumn.

In all, 300,000 leisure trips were made abroad in September to December. The figure includes trips with overnight stay in the destination country, cruises and same-day trips. A total of 180,000 leisure trips abroad included overnight stay in the destination country. After a slightly freer summer for leisure trips abroad, travelling outside the borders of Finland stopped almost completely in the autumn. Compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, only good one tenth of the trips in the year before were made in September to December.

In addition to leisure trips, 0.7 million domestic business or professional trips were made. Business trips in Finland dropped by one half from the corresponding period of the previous year.

These data derive from Statistics Finland's Finnish Travel survey for which data were collected from altogether 4,941 persons aged 15 to 84 on the web or alternatively as a telephone interview in October, November and December 2020 and in January 2021.

Preliminary data for the whole of 2020

According to Statistics Finland's preliminary data, Finnish residents made 2.4 million different leisure trips abroad in 2020. Of the trips, 1.8 million were leisure trips with overnight stay in the destination country, 0.3 million cruises with overnight stays on board to neighbouring areas, and 0.3 million same-day trips or same-day cruises to neighbouring areas.

Estonia, Sweden and Spain were the most popular destinations for leisure trips in 2020.

Finnish residents made 23.7 million various leisure trips with overnight stay in Finland. In total, 6.2 million of the trips were trips with paid accommodation and 17.4 million with free accommodation.

The most popular regions were Uusimaa, Southwest Finland, Pirkanmaa and Lapland.

Leisure trips in Finland decreased slightly from the previous year, but the duration of trips lengthened by one day and was 3.9 nights, on average. By contrast, leisure trips abroad came to a sudden end starting from March. Leisure trips abroad decreased by around 70 per cent from 2019.

In all, the data on trips was collected from 15,475 persons aged 15 to 84 permanently resident in Finland Final annual data will be published on 30 March 2021.

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Appendix tables

Appendix table 1.1. Trips of Finnish residents and changes in them in September to December 2020*

Type of trip		September	October	November	December	September- December, total	Year-on-year change, % 9-12/2020* -	
			1,000 trips					9-12 /2019
Trips, total			2,020	2,240	1,630	1,560	8,420	-30
Leisure	Domestic	Total	2,020	2,240	1,630	1,460	7,350	3
		Paid accommodation	550	610	490	290	1,940	2
		Free accommodation	1,470	1,630	1,150	1,170	5,410	3
	Abroad	Total	130				300	-88
		Overnight stay in destination country					180	-91
		Cruises						
		Same-day trips (inc. day cruises)						
Business	Domestic	Trips with overnight stay	180	260	220		710	-51
	Abroad	Total ¹⁾						

Symbols: [..] data not available or too uncertain for presentation, or subject to secrecy, [*] preliminary data. In some tables the sums do not amount to the totals shown because of rounding.

Appendix table 1.2. Trips of Finnish residents in September to December 2012-2020*

Type of tr	rip		Septembe	er-Decemb	er						
			2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
			1,000 trips	3							
Trips, tot	tal		12,530	12,290	12,140	12,360	12,790	12,720	12,380	12,010	8,420
Leisure	Domestic	Total	7,830	7,660	7,620	7,770	7,780	7,840	7,780	7,150	7,350
		Paid accommodation	1,700	1,700	1,620	1,810	1,750	2,000	1,850	1,900	1,940
		Free accommodation	6,130	5,960	6,000	5,960	6,030	5,830	5,930	5,240	5,410
	Abroad	Total ¹⁾	2,470	2,500	2,350	2,540	2,500	2,680	2,480	2,550	300
		Overnight stay in destination country	1,770	1,770	1,700	1,860	1,780	1,950	1,970	2,040	180
		Cruises	420	460	350	400	410	390	330	310	
		Same-day trips (inc. day cruises)	280	270	300	280	300	350	190	200	
Business	Domestic	Total	1,530	1,430	1,450	1,350	1,630	1,470	1,340	1,460	710
	Abroad	Total ¹⁾	690	690	710	690	870	730	770	850	

¹⁾ Includes same-day trips, cruises and trips with overnight stay in destination country

¹⁾ Includes same-day trips, cruises and trips with overnight stay in destination country

Appendix table 2. Domestic leisure trips by destination region, in September to December 2020*

Destination region	9-12/2020*					
	Trips with paid accommodation		Trips with free accommodation		Domestic leisure trips, total	
	1,000 trips	Share, %	1,000 trips	Share, %	1,000 trips	Share, %
Trips, total	1,940	100	5,410	100	7,350	100
Uusimaa	190	10	780	14	980	13
Varsinais-Suomi	180	9	540	10	720	10
Satakunta			210	4	230	3
Kanta-Häme			140	3	190	3
Pirkanmaa	200	10	610	11	810	11
Päijät-Häme			240	4	280	4
Kymenlaakso			240	4	280	4
South Karelia			150	3	210	3
Etelä-Savo	110	6	320	6	430	6
Pohjois-Savo			340	6	410	6
North Karelia	100	5	250	5	350	5
Central Finland	140	7	400	7	540	7
South Ostrobothnia			190	3	220	3
Ostrobothnia			110	2	130	2
Central Ostrobothnia						
North Ostrobothnia	220	11	250	5	470	6
Kainuu	100	5	170	3	270	4
Lapland	340	17	370	7	710	10
Åland						

Symbols: [..] data not available or too uncertain for presentation, or subject to secrecy, [*] preliminary data. In some tables the sums do not amount to the totals shown because of rounding.

Appendix table 3. Means of transport used on domestic trips in September to December 2020*

Means of transport	9-12/2020*								
	Leisure		Business						
	1,000 trips	Share, %	1,000 trips	Share, %					
Trips, total	7,350	100	710	100					
Passenger car	6,210	85	500	70					
Coach	270	4							
Train	680	9	120	16					
Aeroplane									
Other	130	2							

Appendix table 4. Leisure trips abroad (overnight in destination country) by destination in September to December 2019-2020*

Destination		9-12/2020*		9-12/2019	
		1,000 trips	Share, %	1,000 trips	Share, %
Trips total	180	100	2,040	100	
Nordic countries	Total			300	15
	Sweden			190	9
Russia and Baltic countries	Total	100	57	510	25
	Estonia			380	19
Western and Eastern Europe	Total			410	20
	Germany			100	5
Southern Europe and East	Total			620	31
Mediterranean countries	Spain (without Canary Islands)			170	8
	Spanish Canary Islands			100	5
	Italy			100	5
America	Total				
Africa	Total				
Asia and Oceania	Total			110	6

Symbols: [..] data not available or too uncertain for presentation, or subject to secrecy, [*] preliminary data. In some tables the sums do not amount to the totals shown because of rounding.

Appendix table 5. Trips abroad by type of trip and destination in September to December 2020* 1)

Destination		Reason for trip a	broad						
		Leisure trips	Leisure trips						
	Visiting friens or relativesl	Holiday	Leisure trips, total	Business trips, total					
		1,000 trips	1,000 trips						
Trips, total			190		300				
Nordic countries	Total								
Russia and Baltic countries	Total		130		180				
	Estonia		100		130				
Western and Eastern Europe	Total								
Southern Europe and East Mediterranean countries	Total								
America	Total								
Africa	Total								
Asia and Oceania	Total								

¹⁾ Includes same-day trips, cruises and trips with overnight stay in destination country.

Appendix table 6. Trips to Sweden and Estonia by type of trip in September to December 2019-2020*

Type of trip		Estonia			Sweden			
		Trips 9-12/2020*	Trips 9-12/2019	Year-on-year change, %	Trips 9-12/2020*	Trips 9-12/2019	Year-on-year change, %	
		1 000 trips		9-12/2020* - 9-12/2019	1,000 trips		9-12/2020* - 9-12/2019	
Trips, tot	al ¹⁾	130	720	-82	540			
Leisure	Total ¹⁾	130	640	-80		420		
	Overnight stay in destination country		380			190		
	Cruises		120			180		
	Same-day trips (inc. day cruises)		130					
Business	Total ¹⁾					120		

¹⁾ Includes same-day trips, cruises and trips with overnight stay in destination country

Appendix table 7. Trips with overnight stay in January to December 2015-2020*

Type of tr	ip		January-D	December				
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	
			1,000 trips	S				
Trips, tot	al		38,060 38,910 39,490 38,580 38,720 2				28,220	
Leisure	Domestic	Total	25,720	25,930	26,380	25,680	25,730	23,680
		Paid accommodation	6,370	6,420	6,820	6,830	7,300	6,240
		Free accommodation	19,350	19,510	19,560	18,850	18,430	17,440
	Abroad	Total ¹⁾	7,250	7,240	7,570	7,390	7,350	2,070
		Overnight stay in destination country	6,160	6,100	6,520	6,440	6,260	1,750
		Cruises	1,090	1,140	1,050	950	1,100	330
Business	Domestic	Total	3,430	3,860	3,780	3,440	3,590	2,070
	Abroad	Total ¹⁾	1,660	1,890	1,760	2,060	2,050	390

¹⁾ Includes cruises and trips with overnight stay in destination country

Quality description: Finnish Travel 2020

Relevance of statistical information

The statistics on Finnish Travel contain information on trips made by Finnish residents and on the number of persons having travelled during the year. The statistics describe trips in Finland and abroad including overnight stay and same-day trips abroad.

The data of the statistics are used for monitoring domestic travel and trips abroad made by Finnish residents. The data are intended particularly for the use of central government, tourism enterprises and organisations and researchers. Within central government, the data are mainly used for the balance of payment calculations. The data from the statistics are also reported to Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities in accordance with the Regulation on European statistics on tourism (EU) No 692/2011.

Statistics Finland collects the data of the statistics as a so-called mixed-mode data collection, that is, with a self-filled web questionnaire or alternatively as a telephone interview. The survey persons represent the population aged 15 to 84 permanently resident in Finland.

The data are collected on voluntary basis. Survey data on individual persons must be kept confidential by virtue of the Statistics Act (280/2004, Section 12).

The concept of usual environment is essentially connected to the definition of tourism. According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), tourism comprises the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year.

Statistics Finland's classifications of municipalities and countries for the statistical reference year are used for classifying destinations of trips.

Methodological description of the statistics

The data for the statistics are collected with an inquiry consisting of two parts. The monthly inquiry collects data on trips made by Finnish residents during the past three months, their numbers and characteristics. In 2019, data were exceptionally collected about trips during three previous months.

In addition to the last monthly inquiry of the year, a so-called annual inquiry is made, where yes/no questions are used to establish the numbers of persons having made different types of trips during the statistical reference year.

The data collection is a sample-based inquiry conducted with a web questionnaire or alternatively as a telephone interview. The target persons are primarily asked to respond to the inquiry with a web questionnaire. If data are not obtained, the statistical interviewer will contact the target person by telephone. The data are collected between the February of the statistical reference year and the January of the year following it. The data for each monthly inquiry are collected during the following month. The data for the annual inquiry on persons having travelled are collected in connection with the last monthly inquiry of the year.

The population of the statistics comprises people aged 15 to 84 permanently resident in Finland according to the Population Information System. However, persons permanently living in institutions are excluded from the population. The samples are drawn with systematic sampling, and they represent the population comprehensively with respect to age, sex, area of residence and native language. Working-age people (aged 25 to 64) are drawn to the sample slightly more often than young people (aged 15 to 24) and pensioners (aged 65 to 84) because the highest number of trips is made by working-age people.

The sample size of the inquiry is 28,200 persons per year, that is, 2,350 persons per month. In 2019, the sample size was 16,000 persons per year. Until 2012, the same sample was also used in the data collection of the monthly statistics on consumer confidence.

The response data are expanded to the whole population with weighting coefficients. From 2012 onwards, the weighting coefficient for each month is expanded to the population of the month (preliminary data on

population structure). The strata used are the respondent's age group, sex and area of residence (major region). Before 2012, only sex was used as the stratum.

Correctness and accuracy of data

The data content of the statistics was extended particularly in the years 1995 to 1997 to correspond to the requirements of the EC Directive on tourism statistics (95/57/EC). In 1996, same-day trips abroad were included in the statistics in addition to trips with overnight stay, so in its present extent the statistics present a fairly comprehensive picture of travelling by Finnish residents. Only same-day trips in Finland are excluded from the statistics.

After the questionnaire reform of 2012, the respondent no longer decides the type of trip her/himself, but it is deduced from the responses given. All modes of overnight stays used during a trip are included in the questions, in order to ensure that trips with paid accommodation automatically get grouped correctly. This reduces errors and enables more accurate compilation of statistics.

The non-response rate for the survey is on the annual level 49 per cent. Non-response is one of the main sources of errors, as the size of non-response has an immediate effect on the size of the weighting coefficients. The larger the non-response rate, the greater the weighting coefficients.

Random variation caused by sampling is described by means of confidence intervals calculated for the annual estimates of trips and persons having travelled.

Table 1. Confidence intervals of numbers of trips by type of trip in 2019

Type of trip	N	Sum	Standard	95% Confidence Limit for Sum		
			deviation	Lower	Upper	
		1,000 trips				
Domestic leisure trips with paid accommodation	1,753	7,300	170	7,000	7,630	
Domestic leisure trips with free accommodation	4,136	18,430	250	17,940	18,910	
Domestic business and professional trips	614	3,590	140	3,310	3,870	
Same-day leisure trips abroad (incl. day cruises)	241	790	50	680	890	
Leisure cruises abroad	262	1,110	70	960	1 230	
Leisure trips abroad, overnight in country of destination	1,963	6,260	140	5,990	6,520	
Business and professional trips abroad	422	2,300	110	2,070	2,520	

Table 2. Confidence intervals of numbers of persons by travelling activity in 2019

Travelling activity	N	Sum	Standard	95% Confidence Limit for Sum	
			deviation	Lower	Upper
		1,000 persons			
Did't make leisure trips with overnight stay	251	770	40	680	850
Made leisure trips with overnight stay	1,217	3,730	40	3,650	3,820
Made domestic leisure trips with paid accommodation	644	1,960	60	1,850	2,080
Made same-day leisure trips abroad (incl. day cruises)	327	1,010	50	910	1,100
Made leisure cruises abroad	275	850	50	760	930
Made leisure trips abroad with paid accommodation, overnight in country of destination	734	2,220	60	2,110	2,340
Made business and professional trips, domestic and abroad	293	890	40	800	980

The results are presented at the accuracy of ten thousand. Prior to 2012, figures below 10,000 were not published, but they were entered as uncertain data. From 2012 to 2015, figures under 50,000 were entered as uncertain data. Starting from 2016, figures under 100,000 are entered as uncertain data.

Timeliness and promptness of published data

Until 2011, data on the numbers of trips were published monthly six to seven weeks from the end of the statistical reference month. From 2012 on, preliminary data are released at four-month intervals six to seven weeks from the end of the period, but preliminary data for 2020 are exceptionally released four months from the end of the period.

Annual data are published on the website of the statistics on Finnish Travel around six months after the end of the year.

The data are published only on Statistics Finland's website. The annual Finnish Travel publication was produced as a printed copy until the statistical year 2008.

Annual data on trips are available by group of trips and destination area in Statistics Finland's StatFin database. The time series by group of trips start from 1991 and by destination area from 2000.

Comparability of statistics

The statistics have been made regularly since 1991. From 1991 to 1994, Statistics Finland produced the statistics on assignment of the Finnish Tourist Board. These years are mutually comparable, because uniform methods were used. In 1995, the statistics were transferred completely to Statistics Finland. The content and methodological changes started in the same year have had an effect on the comparability of data between 1995 and 1999. The data content and the calculation and data collection methods remained unchanged from 2000 to 2009. Due to changes made to the data collection in 2010 and 2012, the figures are not fully comparable with previous years.

Starting from the beginning of 2000, the survey has been made centrally every month together with the Consumer Survey (now Consumer Confidence). Prior to this, the data were collected in connection with those for Statistics Finland's Labour Force Survey, quarterly between 1996 and 1999 and before that three times a year.

In 2000, the maximum length of a trip changed from 90 to 365 days according to the guidelines of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The fact that starting from the statistical reference year 2000, target persons have been asked about trips that ended during the survey period instead of trips that started, has also weakened the comparability of the data somewhat.

The data collection was changed in 2010 so that the survey period of the interview month was shortened from two months to one month, that is, the inquiry concerns only trips ended during the month immediately before the interview month instead of the two previous months as before. Previously, final data on the numbers of trips in each month were obtained as an average for two samples, after the change the figures are based on one sample.

From 2012 onwards, the statistics on tourism are compiled in accordance with the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) No 692/2011. At the same time, the population was extended from people aged 15 to 74 to those aged 15 to 84, more accurate weighting coefficients were introduced and significant changes were made to the interview questionnaire. On account of the revision, the data are not fully comparable with previous years. The extension of the *age group* increased the sums by group of trips by two to five per cent. The specification of the *weighting coefficient* increased the sums by group of trips by two to three per cent. It is difficult to define the effect of changed questions on the results obtained. The deduction of the type of trip from the responses given (instead of the respondent's own classification) has moved part of the trips to another group. The revised instructions aim to lower the amount of travelling belonging to the usual environment in the statistics.

In the 2019 survey, the reference period of the monthly survey was extended from one month to three previous months. The aim of the change was to obtain more travel observations from each respondent

than before. At the same time, however, fewer trips were obtained by month. This is assumed to be because either not all trips during three months were remembered to be reported or their reporting was felt too heavy especially for those who travelled much. This sub-reporting concerned especially short trips, business trips, and various trips made with guest and other free accommodation.

In order to maintain the comparability of the annual numbers of trips, the weight coefficients of trips were raised by type of trip and for trips abroad by country-specific coefficients. Source data outside the statistics describing annual level change were used to determine these inflating coefficients. Statistics Finland's accommodation statistics were used especially for trips with paid accommodation in Finland. For Finnish residents' trips abroad, statistical data based on data on telecommunications operators were used on visits by destination country, statistics on package tours of the Association of Finnish Travel Agents, passenger statistics on sea transport, and for Estonian tourism, statistics on the number of passengers published by the Port of Tallinn.

Data on persons having travelled are comparable between different years. The annual survey on persons having travelled was made in connection with the Labour Force Survey between 1991 and 2011 and after that as annexed to the Finnish Travel Survey.

Coherence and consistency/uniformity

Finnish travel compiles statistics on the demand for tourism. The supply of tourism in Finland is described in Statistics Finland's monthly and annually published **Accommodation statistics**. The statistics contain data on the accommodation capacity of hotels and its use and overnight stays at accommodation establishments broken down by the visitors' country of residence.

Tourism satellite account (TSA) is a statistical system in which the economic effects of tourism are described in a versatile and comprehensive manner. The figures for tourism accounts are published on the web pages of **Visit Finland's** statistical service Rudolf.

Statistics on passenger transport between Finland and foreign countries are compiled in Statistics Finland's statistics on international sea transport and air transport. However, these statistics do not report the country of residence of the passengers. The **Association of Finnish Travel Agents** (AFTA) publishes yearly on its website statistics on leisure package tours made by air and their market shares, which provide information about the number of trips bought through travel agencies by country of destination.



Suomen virallinen tilasto Finlands officiella statistik Official Statistics of Finland

Transport and Tourism 2021

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