

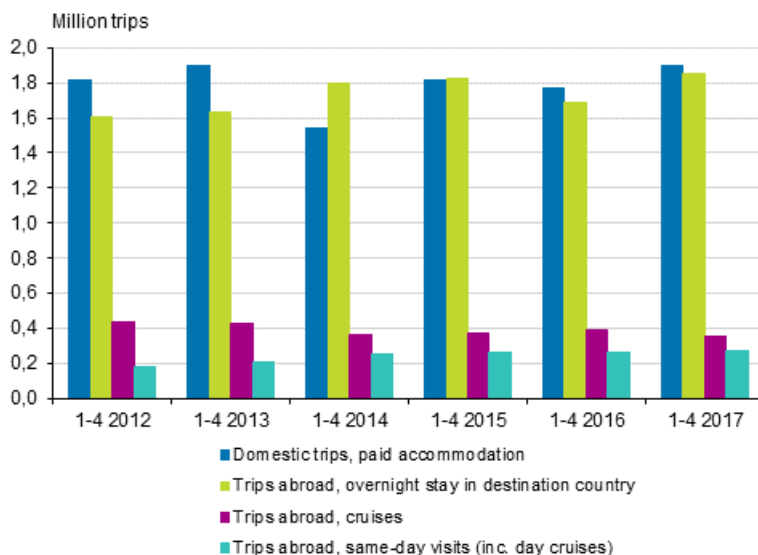
Finnish Travel

2017, Spring (1 Jan to 30 Apr 2017)

Finnish residents' trips to the Canary Islands and Central Europe increased in January to April 2017

According to Statistics Finland's preliminary data, Finnish residents travelled in Finland slightly more in the first four months of 2017 than in last year's spring. Of Finnish destinations, Lapland and Pirkanmaa grew in popularity. Leisure trips abroad also increased when compared to the corresponding period last year. Increasingly more of the Finns who travelled abroad in the first four months of the year made trips to conventional travel destinations, like the Canary Islands in Spain or Central Europe.

Finns' leisure trips by type of trip in January to April 2012 to 2017* (excl. domestic trips with free accommodation)



In the first four months of 2017, Finnish residents aged 15 to 84 made 11.2 million trips when all 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, seven million domestic leisure trips with overnight stay were made in the January to April period. Of these, good five million were trips with free accommodation. Trips with overnight stay at paid accommodation numbered nearly two million and their most popular destinations were located in Uusimaa, Lapland, Pirkanmaa and North Ostrobothnia. The numbers of trips to Uusimaa, Lapland and Pirkanmaa increased from the corresponding period of the previous year.

April was the most popular month for travelling in Finland in the early part of the year, as then, 0.5 million domestic trips with paid accommodation and 1.6 million trips with free accommodation were made. Of these trips made in April, 23 per cent were made either to North Ostrobothnia or Lapland.

Inclusive of trips with overnight stay in the destination country, cruises and same-day trips, leisure trips abroad numbered 2.5 million in the January to April period. A total of 1.9 million leisure trips abroad included overnight stay in the destination country. In January to April, 0.4 million cruises with overnight stay on board only were made. In the early part of the year, 0.3 million same-day leisure trips were made. Of these, one-half were same-day cruises to Estonia.

During the first four months of the year, leisure trips to our neighbouring countries numbered 640,000 to Estonia and 470,000 to Sweden. Trips to Sweden with overnight stay in the destination country and overnight cruises decreased slightly from one year ago. By contrast, same-day trips to Sweden increased.

Estonia is the number one favourite for Finns all the year round. In early 2017, trips to Estonia with overnight stay in the destination country increased and overnight and same-day cruises remained almost on level with the corresponding period last year.

In the early part of the year, 330,000 trips were headed to Spain, of which 63 per cent to the Canary Islands. The number of trips to the Canary Islands went up by 18 per cent. During the first four months of the year, 120,000 trips were made to Continental Spain and the Balearic Islands, which was fewer than in January to April 2016. March was the most popular of the four months to travel to the Canary Islands and April to Continental Spain.

When examining only trips with overnight stay in the destination country, ten per cent more of such trips were made than in last year's January to April period. April was the most popular month for these trips in the early part of the year, as then the number of trips abroad with overnight stay in the destination country was 630,000. One-fifth of the trips with overnight stay in the destination country were headed to Estonia, 12 per cent to the northern coast of the Mediterranean, and 11 per cent to the Canary Islands.

In addition to leisure trips, 1.4 million domestic business or professional trips were made. Business or professional trips abroad (inclusive of trips with overnight stay in the destination country, cruises and same-day trips) numbered 0.6 million. Domestic business trips went up from the corresponding period of last year. By contrast, fewer business trips abroad were made than one year earlier.

These data derive from Statistics Finland's Finnish Travel survey for which altogether 4,836 persons aged 15 to 84 were interviewed in February, March, April and May. Until 2011, data were collected from those aged 15 to 74.

Contents

Tables

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1.1. Trips of Finnish residents and changes in them in January to April 2017*.....	4
Appendix table 1.2. Trips of Finnish residents in January to April 2012-2017*.....	4
Appendix table 2. Domestic leisure trips by destination region in January to April 2015-2017*.....	5
Appendix table 3. Means of transport used on domestic trips in January to April 2015-2017*.....	5
Appendix table 4. Leisure trips abroad (overnight in destination country) by destination in January to April 2015-2017*	6
Appendix table 5. Trips abroad by type of trip and destination in January to April 2015-2017*.....	7
Appendix table 6.1. Trips to Sweden and Estonia by type of trip in January to April 2015-2017*	7
Appendix table 6.2. Trips to Sweden and Estonia by reason in January to April 2015-2017*	8
Quality description: Finnish Travel 2016.....	9

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1.1. Trips of Finnish residents and changes in them in January to April 2017*

Type of trip			January	February	March	April	January-April, total	Year-on-year change, % 1-4/2017* - 1-4/2016
			1,000 trips					
Trips, total			2,380	2,820	3,110	3,380	11,680	5
Leisure	Domestic	Total	1,520	1,720	1,910	2,090	7,240	6
		Paid accommodation	330	480	600	480	1,900	7
		Free accommodation	1,190	1,240	1,310	1,610	5,350	5
	Abroad	Total ¹⁾	480	540	680	760	2,470	6
		Overnight stay in destination country	320	370	530	630	1,850	10
		Cruises	..	100	100	..	350	-11
		Same-day visits (inc. day cruises)	..	..	..	..	270	4
Business	Domestic	Total	260	400	330	380	1,360	10
	Abroad	Total ¹⁾	110	160	190	150	610	-9

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.

From 2012 onwards the figures are not fully comparable with those on earlier years due to the revised data collection method.

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

Appendix table 1.2. Trips of Finnish residents in January to April 2012-2017*

Type of trip			January-April					
			2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
			1,000 trips					
Trips, total			11,880	11,560	10,610	11,430	11,100	11,680
Leisure	Domestic	Total	7,190	7,370	6,410	7,300	6,850	7,240
		Paid accommodation	1,810	1,900	1,540	1,820	1,770	1,900
		Free accommodation	5,380	5,470	4,860	5,480	5,080	5,350
	Abroad	Total ¹⁾	2,220	2,270	2,410	2,460	2,340	2,470
		Overnight stay in destination country	1,610	1,640	1,790	1,820	1,690	1,850
		Cruises	440	430	360	370	390	350
		Same-day visits (inc. day cruises)	180	210	250	260	260	270
Business	Domestic	Total	1,550	1,370	1,180	1,060	1,240	1,360
	Abroad	Total ¹⁾	920	550	620	610	670	610

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.

From 2012 onwards the figures are not fully comparable with those on earlier years due to the revised data collection method.

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

Appendix table 2. Domestic leisure trips by destination region in January to April 2015-2017*

Destination region	Trips with paid accommodation			Trips with free accommodation			Domestic leisure trips, total		
	1-4/2015	1-4/2016	1-4/2017*	1-4/2015	1-4/2016	1-4/2017*	1-4/2015	1-4/2016	1-4/2017*
	1,000 trips			1,000 trips			1,000 trips		
Trips, total	1,820	1,770	1,900	5,480	5,080	5,350	7,300	6,850	7,240
Uusimaa	290	310	330	1,130	800	820	1,420	1,110	1,150
Varsinais-Suomi	100	120	100	460	380	330	560	500	430
Satakunta	..	..	..	200	200	190	220	220	210
Kanta-Häme	..	..	..	160	180	190	200	230	210
Pirkanmaa	240	190	270	620	550	600	850	740	870
Päijät-Häme	..	..	..	240	190	250	310	230	320
Kymenlaakso	..	..	..	140	160	150	140	170	170
South Karelia	..	..	..	..	160	150	150	220	180
Etelä-Savo	..	..	..	230	230	300	270	260	350
Pohjois-Savo	160	150	140	300	350	370	470	500	510
North Karelia	..	..	..	160	190	170	210	250	190
Central Finland	130	110	120	290	320	390	410	430	510
South Ostrobothnia	..	..	..	230	200	240	270	260	290
Ostrobothnia	..	..	..	140	110	110	160	150	140
Central Ostrobothnia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North Ostrobothnia	240	240	220	440	520	460	680	760	680
Kainuu	..	..	..	150	110	120	220	170	200
Lapland	250	210	320	410	350	440	660	570	760
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.

From 2012 onwards the figures are not fully comparable with those on earlier years due to the revised data collection method.

Appendix table 3. Means of transport used on domestic trips in January to April 2015-2017*

Means of transport	Leisure			Business		
	1-4/2015	1-4/2016	1-4/2017*	1-4/2015	1-4/2016	1-4/2017*
	1,000 trips			1,000 trips		
Trips, total	7,300	6,850	7,240	1,060	1,240	1,360
Passenger car	5,730	5,330	5,500	580	760	870
Coach	600	580	650	..	..	110
Train	830	740	880	230	270	220
Aeroplane	120	150	150	160	150	160
Other	..	..	..	..	..	..

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.

From 2012 onwards the figures are not fully comparable with those on earlier years due to the revised data collection method.

Appendix table 4. Leisure trips abroad (overnight in destination country) by destination in January to April 2015-2017*

		1-4/2015		1-4/2016		1-4/2017*	
		1,000 trips	Share, %	1,000 trips	Share, %	1,000 trips	Share, %
Trips total		1,820	100	1,690	100	1,850	100
Nordic countries	Total	210	12	210	13	190	10
	Sweden	160	9	160	9	150	8
Russia and Baltic countries	Total	510	28	400	24	500	27
	Estonia	430	23	310	19	370	20
Western and Eastern Europe	Total	380	21	300	18	420	23
	Western Europe	300	16	240	15	260	19
	Eastern Europe	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southern Europe and East Mediterranean countries	Total	430	24	450	27	460	25
	Spain (without Canary Islands)	..	..	150	9	120	6
	Spanish Canary Islands	160	9	180	10	210	11
America	Total	..	..	..	..	..	..
Africa	Total	..	..	..	..	..	..
Asia and Oceania	Total	190	11	190	11	190	10
	Thailand	..	..	100	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.

From 2012 onwards the figures are not fully comparable with those on earlier years due to the revised data collection method.

Appendix table 5. Trips abroad by type of trip and destination in January to April 2015-2017*¹⁾

Destination		Reason for trip abroad					
		1-4/2015		1-4/2016		1-4/2017*	
		Leisure trips, total	Business trips, total	Leisure trips, total	Business trips, total	Leisure trips, total	Business trips, total
		1,000 trips		1,000 trips		1,000 trips	
Trips, total		2,460	610	2,340	670	2,470	610
Nordic countries	Total	530	150	540	240	500	200
	Sweden	470	130	480	170	470	110
Russia and Baltic countries	Total	830	130	720	190	800	110
	Estonia	710	..	590	110	640	..
	Russian Federation	100	..	110	..	120	..
Western and Eastern Europe	Total	380	220	310	150	420	220
Southern Europe and East Mediterranean countries	Total	430	..	450	..	470	..
	Spain (without Canary Islands)	..	..	150	..	120	..
	Spanish Canary Islands	160	..	180	..	210	..
America	Total	..	..	..	..	..	..
Africa	Total	..	..	..	..	..	..
Asia and Oceania	Total	190	..	190	..	180	..
	Thailand	..	..	100	..	..	..

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.

From 2012 onwards the figures are not fully comparable with those on earlier years due to the revised data collection method.

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

Appendix table 6.1. Trips to Sweden and Estonia by type of trip in January to April 2015-2017*

Type of trip		Estonia			Sweden		
		Trips 1-4/2015	Trips 1-4/2016	Trips 1-4/2017*	Trips 1-4/2015	Trips 1-4/2016	Trips 1-4/2017*
		1,000 trips			1,000 trips		
Trips, total¹⁾		790	700	730	590	650	570
Leisure	Total ¹⁾	710	590	640	470	480	470
	Overnight stay in destination country	430	310	370	160	160	150
	Cruises	110	140	130	260	250	210
	Same-day visits (inc. day cruises)	170	140	140	..	..	100
Business	Total ¹⁾	..	110	..	130	170	110

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.

From 2012 onwards the figures are not fully comparable with those on earlier years due to the revised data collection method.

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

Appendix table 6.2. Trips to Sweden and Estonia by reason in January to April 2015-2017*

Reason of trip		Estonia			Sweden		
		Trips 1-4/2015	Trips 1-4/2016	Trips 1-4/2017*	Trips 1-4/2015	Trips 1-4/2016	Trips 1-4/2017*
		1,000 trips			1,000 trips		
Trips, total¹⁾		790	700	730	590	650	570
Leisure	Total ¹⁾	710	590	640	470	480	470
	Visiting friends or relatives	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Holiday	600	510	550	370	340	360
	Other personal reason	..	..	..	..	..	..
Business	Total ¹⁾	..	110	..	130	170	110

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.

From 2012 onwards the figures are not fully comparable with those on earlier years due to the revised data collection method.

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

Quality description: Finnish Travel 2016

Relevance of statistical information

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

The data from the survey 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 survey are also reported to Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities in accordance with the Regulation on tourism statistics (EU) No 692/2011.

Statistics Finland collects the data for the statistics with a sample-based telephone interview survey. 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 Organisation (UNWTO), tourism means the activity 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 survey

The Finnish Travel Survey comprises two parts. The monthly survey collects information on trips made by Finnish residents, their numbers and characteristics. A so-called annual survey is made once a year to establish the number of persons who have travelled during the survey year.

The survey is a sample-based telephone interview survey where computer-assisted interview questionnaires are used. The interviews for the Finnish Travel Survey are conducted centrally from Statistics Finland's computer-assisted telephone interview centre, the CATI Centre. The data are collected between the February of the survey year and the January of the year following the survey year. The interviews are conducted immediately after the end of the month, during two to three weeks.

The data for the annual survey concerning persons having travelled are collected in the January of the year following the survey year. Previously, Statistics Finland's field interviewers conducted the telephone interviews for the annual survey around the country. From the statistical reference year 2012 onwards, the annual part of the survey was combined as part of the monthly interview made at the CATI Centre.

In each partial survey, the population 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 survey. The samples are drawn with systematic sampling, and they represent the population comprehensively with respect to age, gender, area of residence and native language.

Since 2012, the total annual sample size of the Finnish Travel Survey is approximately 28,200 persons. The data concerning the statistical reference year are obtained with 12 separate samples. From 2012, the sample size is 2,350 persons per month, while before that it was 2,200 persons. The same sample is also used for the data collection of the monthly Consumer Survey. In the interviews, target persons are asked about trips that had ended during the month preceding the interview month.

In connection with the January interviews, questions are also made concerning travelling in the preceding year. In the annual survey the responses to the questions made are of the form yes/no. In the interviews several groups of trips are examined, and the target persons are asked whether they had made trips of that group during the reference year.

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 number of population of the month (preliminary data on population structure). The strata used are the respondent's age group, gender and area of residence (major region). Prior to 2012, only gender was used as the stratum.

Correctness and accuracy of data

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

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 Finnish Travel Survey is on the annual level 48 per cent, on average. 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 Limits of trips by type of trip in year 2016

Type of trip	N	Sum	Standard deviation	95% Confidence Limit for Sum	
				Lower	Upper
		1,000 trips			
Domestic leisure trips with paid accommodation	1,728	6,420	140	6,140	6,700
Domestic leisure trips with free accommodation	5,085	19,510	200	19,130	19,890
Domestic business and professional trips	999	3,860	120	3,640	4,090
Same-day leisure trips abroad (incl. day cruises)	274	980	60	860	1,090
Leisure cruises abroad	309	1,140	60	1,010	1,260
Leisure trips abroad, overnight in country of destination	1,625	6,100	140	5,820	6,380
Business and professional trips abroad	535	21,060	90	1,890	2,230

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 are 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 four to five weeks from the end of the statistical reference month. From 2012 on, the preliminary data are released at four-month intervals four to seven weeks from the end of the period.

Annual data are published on the website of the Finnish Travel Survey three to four months after the end of the year.

Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

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 the database service on the Internet. The time series by group of trips start from 1991 and by destination area from 2000.

Comparability of statistics

The Finnish Travel Survey has been made regularly since 1991. From 1991 to 1994, Statistics Finland produced the Travel Survey on assignment of the Finnish Tourist Board. These years are mutually comparable, because uniform methods were used. In 1995, the survey was transferred completely to Statistics Finland. The content and methodological changes started in the same year had an effect on the comparability of data between 1995 and 1999. The data content and the calculation and data collection methods of the Travel Survey 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 together with the Consumer Survey. Prior to this, the data for the survey 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 that 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 numbers of trips by one to three per cent at the main level. The revision of the weighting coefficients increased the numbers of trips by another one to three per cent at the main level. 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.

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 monthly survey.

Coherence and consistency/uniformity

The **Finnish Travel Survey** 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**. They contain data on the accommodation capacity of hotels and its use and overnight stays at accommodation establishments broken down by the travellers' country of residence.

Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) is a statistical system where the economic impacts of tourism are described in a versatile and comprehensive manner. Tourism accounts are published on the webpage of **Visit Finland's** Statistics Service Rudolf.

Statistics on passenger transport between Finland and other countries are compiled on sea transport by the **Finnish Transport Agency** and on air transport by **Finavia**. However, these statistics do not report the country of residence of the travellers. 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.

Inquiries

Taru Tamminen 029 551 2243
Teemu Okkonen 029 551 2634
Director in charge:
Reetta Moilanen

liikenne.matkailu@stat.fi
www.stat.fi
Source: Finnish Travel, Statistics Finland