

Trips and holidays in Italy and abroad

Year 2017

In 2017, trips with overnight stays made by residents were 66,347 million. The number of trips was stable compared to 2016.

The average duration of trips increased slightly at 5.8 nights (6 nights for holiday trips and 3.5 for business trips), corresponding to an amount of 383 million nights (+7.7% compared to 2016).

Between 2016 and 2017, long holidays (32,7 million) increased by 9.1% and short holidays (28 million) were stable. Business trips (5,7 million) decreased by 15.6% reaching the lowest level since 2007.

Domestic destinations hosted 81.0% of trips. Trips to foreign countries (19.0%) were mostly directed towards EU destinations (13.4%).

During the summer, 13.6% of long domestic holidays were spent in Emilia-Romagna and 12.4% in Puglia, whereas Trentino-Alto Adige was the first destination during winter (14,0%) and autumn (12.4%).

Spain was the main destination for long holidays (13.6% of long trips abroad), whereas 15.8% of short holidays were spent in France, which was the preferred country also for business trips (17.7% of business trips abroad).

Among non-European destinations, Usa was the most visited country for long holidays (4.1%) and for business trips (7.1%).

In 2017, 21.8% of residents made at least one trip in a quarter on average, with an increase compared to 2016 (the percentage was 19.2%). The share of trips rose to 41.3% in the summer period, during which over a third of residents made at least one holiday (+7.6% compared to 2016). The average duration was 8.4 nights for holiday trips (10.8 nights for long holidays).

Private tourist accommodation was chosen in 54.3% of trips (62.3% of nights spent), especially in the case of long holidays (59.1% of trips and 65.5% of nights spent). Collective tourist accommodation establishments were confirmed to be the preferred for business trips (80.6% of trips and 70.7% of nights).

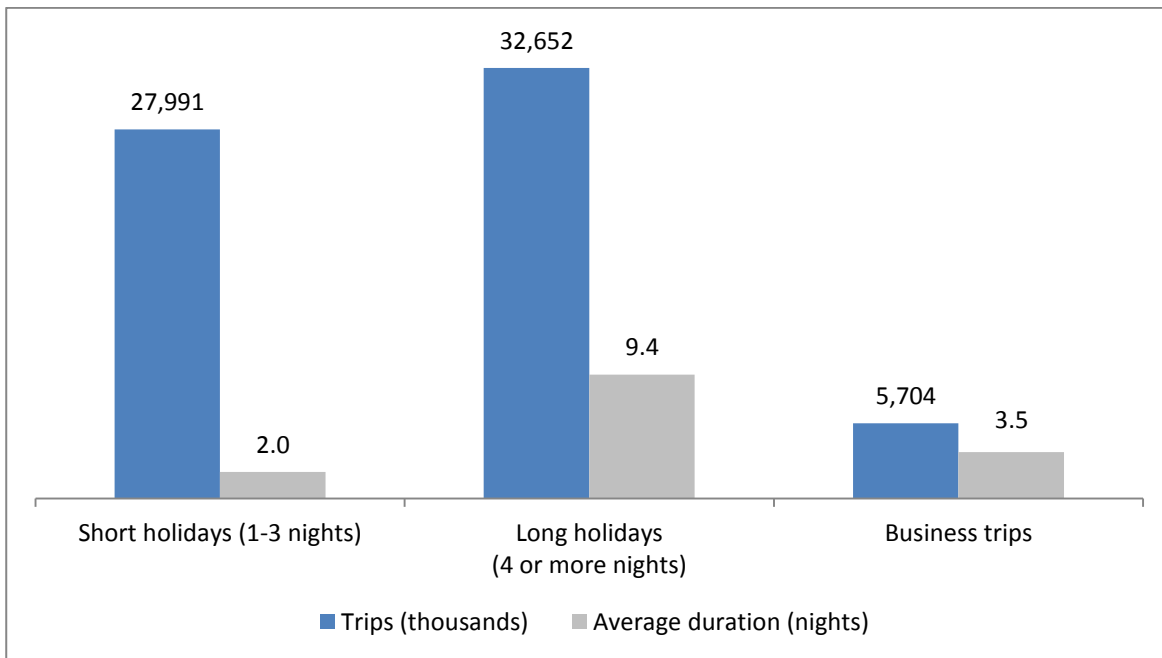
More than half of trips (55.7%) were organized through direct booking, whereas trips made without booking were 36.6% and trips booked via travel agency/tour operator were only 7.4%. The share of trips booked using Internet increased by more than five percentage points compared to 2016, regarding 44.0% of holidays and 55.0% of business trips.

Holidays made with the purpose of recreation and relax were mainly directed to Italian destinations (54.7%), whereas holidays made for visiting the artistic, architectural and archaeological heritage were more frequently abroad (26.0%).

Car was the main means of transport (61.4% of trips), especially for short holidays (66.3%). Air and train were less used (respectively 18.6% and 9.8%).

Compared to 2016, the number of same-day visits (70,669 million) decreased by 4.7%. These were mainly directed to Italian destinations (97.5%), with the purpose of recreation and relax (65.0%), but also for visiting relatives and friends (15.1%).

TRIPS AND AVERAGE DURATION BY TYPE OF TRIP. Year 2017



Provisional data

Glossary

Average duration of trips: ratio between the number of nights spent on trips and the number of trips.

Business trip: trip made for professional reasons, such as work or military missions, participation in congresses, conferences, business meetings, representation/sale activities, didactic activities or other professional reasons other than to be employed by a resident entity in the place visited.

Collective tourist accommodation establishments: hotel, motel, boarding house, religious institution, health establishment, beauty farm, congress and conference center, farm holiday, holiday village, marina (boats moored in ports), volunteer work-camp, holiday camp, place in public transport means (couchettes, sleeping cars, cruise ships), other kind of collective facility not specified.

Destination, means of transport, type of accommodation, holiday and business trip purpose: detected basing on the concept of “prevalence”. In particular, the destination of the trip and the accommodation are respectively the location and the type of accommodation in which the greatest number of nights was spent. The main means of transport is the means by which the longest distance has been covered.

Holiday trip: trip made for main purposes of relax, pleasure/leisure, entertainment, visiting relatives and friends, health care, spa treatment, religious reasons, pilgrimages.

Private tourist accommodation: rented room/house, bed&breakfast, personally owned home, timeshare property, home of relatives or friends, other private accommodation.

Same-day visit: trip without overnight stay made for any main purpose (business, leisure or other personal purpose) outside the usual environment of the visitor (municipality where he/she lives), with a minimum duration of three hours spent at the destination.

Type of booking: “Direct booking” is the booking of accommodation/transport directly at the accommodation or at the provider of transport; “booking through agency” is the booking through tour operator/travel agency; “Internet booking” is the use of Internet for booking accommodation/transport directly or through travel agency.

Tourism: the activity of travelling made by visitors to a main destination outside their usual environment. The identification of the usual environment of a visitor allows to distinguish tourism from mobility, as the latest is not included in the domain of demand-side surveys. Tourism includes trips with overnights stay and same-day visits (without overnight stay).

Trip: travel with at least one overnight stay, made for any main purpose (business, leisure or other personal purpose), outside the usual environment of the visitor (municipality where he/she lives) for less than a year. Trips with overnight stays made every week in the same destination are excluded, as in this cases the destination is considered as usual environment of the visitor.

EU: the 28 Member States of the European Union: Italy, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Hungary.

Methodological note

The estimates of the main aggregates on tourism demand are provided by “Trips and Holidays”, a focus included in the Household Budget Survey (<http://www.istat.it/it/archivio/71980>), that collects expenditure behaviors of households residing in Italy, which are randomly selected from Municipality Population Registers. In 2017 the annual actual sample of the survey was about 17,000 households and about 485 Italian municipalities. The survey is conducted continuously, every month throughout the year, through a computer-assisted face-to-face interview (CAPI).

Tourism is the activity of travelling made by visitors to a main destination outside their usual environment. The identification of the usual environment of a visitor allows to distinguish tourism from mobility, as the latest is not included in the domain of demand-side surveys. Tourism includes trips with overnight stay and same-day visits (without overnight stay).

According to international standards, tourism trips are classified into business trips and holiday trips, distinguishing short-holidays (1 to 3 overnight stays) from long-holidays (4 or more overnight stays). Holiday

trips include those trips made for main purposes of relax, pleasure/leisure, entertainment, visiting relatives and friends, health care, spa treatment, religious reasons, pilgrimages.

The survey is carried out according to the [Eu Regulation 692/2011 concerning European statistics on tourism](#).

The estimates provided by “Trips and Holiday” survey are available at:

- datawarehouse I.Stat (<http://dati.istat.it/?lang=en> theme: “Communications, Culture, Trips”
- Tourism database on Eurostat website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/tourism/data/database>.

Information on the survey is available at: <http://www.istat.it/it/archivio/123949>.

For more details please refer to the Italian version

Contact person:

Mascia Di Torrice (maditorr@istat.it)
Istat – National Institute of Statistics
Via Cesare Balbo 16 – Rome 00184 Italy
phone +39 06 4673.2364