

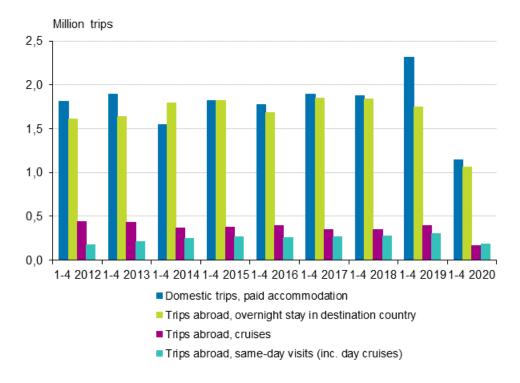
# **Finnish Travel**

2020, Spring (1 Jan to 30 Apr 2020)

# Travelling by Finns halted in spring 2020

According to Statistics Finland's preliminary data, Finnish residents travelled in the first two months of the travel year 2020 in the same way as in previous years. During March the situation changed dramatically and in April Finnish residents' leisure trips stopped due to the coronavirus situation. In addition, 1.4 million trips abroad and 0.8 million domestic trips with paid accommodation, for which reservations had been made before the restrictions set in March due to the pandemic, were cancelled or postponed in the April to September period for Finnish residents.

Leisure trips in January to April 2012 to 2020\* (excl. domestic same-day trips and trips with free accommodation)



Trips were made in January of the travel year 2020 similarly as in the previous years. In February, school children's winter holidays started and families were still able to go on their expected holiday trips. However, everything changed in March as in mid-month Finland's Government imposed a state of emergency in the country. Finns were instructed to avoid travelling both in Finland and abroad due to the prevailing coronavirus situation.

At the end of March, the borders of Uusimaa were closed for good two weeks. Easter also fell on this period, which is normally a busy time for leisure trips. Only around one-half of the usual domestic trips to free-time residences and visits to friends or relatives were made in March to April. Travel abroad and to domestic hotels and rented cottages slowed down in March and stopped almost completely in April.

In addition, the inquiry concerning trips in April asked about trips for April to September that had been reserved before the restrictions set due to the pandemic in mid-March. One in four respondents had these foreign travel reservations and they estimated that nearly all of them were either cancelled or postponed to a later date due to the coronavirus situation. Correspondingly, around one in six of the respondents had reservations for domestic trips with paid accommodation, and around 90 per cent of these trips were estimated to have been cancelled or postponed. Altogether 1.4 million trips abroad and 0.8 million domestic trips with paid accommodation, for which reservations had been made before the restrictions set in March due to the pandemic, were cancelled or postponed in the April to September period for Finnish residents. Around 80 per cent of these trips were scheduled for April to June and only 20 per cent for July to September.

In the first four months of 2020, Finnish residents aged 15 to 84 made 6.9 million trips when all domestic and foreign leisure trips, as well as business and professional trips are included. In the corresponding period of the previous year, the number of trips was 11.8 million.

Altogether, 4.4 million domestic leisure trips with overnight stay were made in the January to April period. Of these, 3.3 million were trips with free accommodation. Trips with overnight stay in paid accommodation numbered 1.1 million.

Travel restrictions caused by the coronavirus situation also decreased leisure travel in Finland, as around 40 per cent fewer domestic leisure trips were made in the January to April period than in the previous year.

By contrast, there was a total upheaval in leisure trips. Trips abroad reserved for the time of schoolchildren's winter holiday were still made as before, but trips abroad reserved for Easter time were cancelled.

Trips are recorded according to their month of ending and for Mainland Spain the number of these leisure trips increased by 74 per cent in the January to April period of 2020 from the corresponding period of the year before. In February to March, around one-half of the persons having returned from Mainland Spain were aged 65 to 84. This indicates that pensioners staying in Spain for the winter had to return to Finland early because of the coronavirus situation. The number of leisure trips to all other countries, including our neighbours Sweden and Estonia, declined considerably from the year before.

Inclusive of trips with overnight stay in the destination country, cruises and same-day trips, leisure trips abroad numbered 1.4 million in January to April 2020. In the corresponding period of the previous year, the number of leisure trips was 2.4 million.

A total of 1.1 million leisure trips abroad included overnight stay in the destination country in the January to April period of 2020. In January to April, 0.2 million cruises with overnight stay on board only were made. In the early part of the year, 0.2 million same-day trips abroad were made.

In addition to leisure trips, 0.8 million domestic business or professional trips with overnight stay were made. Business or professional trips abroad (inclusive of trips with overnight stay in the destination country,

cruises and same-day trips) numbered 0.3 million.	. The numbers of business trips also	decreased considerably
in this exceptional spring.		

These data derive from Statistics Finland's Finnish Travel survey for which data were collected from altogether 5,305 persons aged 15 to 84 on the web or alternatively as a telephone interview in February, March, April and May.

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# Appendix tables

Appendix table 1.1. Trips of Finnish residents and changes in them in January to April 2020\*

Type of trip		January	February	March	April	January-April, total	Year-on-year change, %	
			1,000 trips					1-4/2020* - 1-4/2019
Trips, tot	al		2,500	2,220	1,310	850	6,890	-42
Leisure	Domestic	Total	1,500	1,340	850	740	4,430	-40
		Paid accommodation	420	450	230		1,140	-51
		Free accommodation	1,090	890	620	690	3,290	-35
	Abroad	Total	570	520	290		1,410	-42
		Overnight stay in destination country	400	380	240		1,060	-39
		Cruises					170	-58
		Same-day trips (inc. day cruises)					190	-39
Business	Domestic	Trips with overnight stay	310	220	150		760	-32
	Abroad	Total <sup>1)</sup>	120	140			280	-68

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 January to April 2012-2020\*

Type of tr	ip		January-April								
			2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
			1,000 trips	3			'				
Trips, tot	tal		11,880	11,560	10,610	11,430	11,100	11,680	10,830	11,820	6,890
Leisure	Domestic	Total	7,190	7,370	6,410	7,300	6,850	7,240	6,580	7,380	4,430
		Paid accommodation	1,810	1,900	1,540	1,820	1,770	1,900	1,870	2,320	1,140
		Free accommodation	5,380	5,470	4,860	5,480	5,080	5,350	4,700	5,060	3,290
	Abroad	Total <sup>1)</sup>	2,220	2,270	2,410	2,460	2,340	2,470	2,460	2,450	1,410
		Overnight stay in destination country	1,610	1,640	1,790	1,820	1,690	1,850	1,840	1,740	1,060
		Cruises	440	430	360	370	390	350	350	400	170
		Same-day trips (inc. day cruises)	180	210	250	260	260	270	280	310	190
Business	Domestic	Total	1,550	1,370	1,180	1,060	1,240	1,360	1,140	1,110	760
	Abroad	Total <sup>1)</sup>	920	550	620	610	670	610	660	880	280

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.

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

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#### Appendix table 2. Domestic leisure trips by destination region, in January to April 2020\*

Destination region	1-4/2020*						
	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	1,140	100	3,290	100	4,430	100	
Uusimaa	200	17	580	18	780	18	
Varsinais-Suomi			320	10	390	9	
Satakunta					100	2	
Kanta-Häme			100	3	140	3	
Pirkanmaa	150	13	360	11	510	11	
Päijät-Häme			180	5	210	5	
Kymenlaakso			110	3	120	3	
South Karelia			100	3	150	3	
Etelä-Savo			130	4	160	4	
Pohjois-Savo			210	6	280	6	
North Karelia			180	5	200	5	
Central Finland			250	8	320	7	
South Ostrobothnia					120	3	
Ostrobothnia							
Central Ostrobothnia							
North Ostrobothnia	120	11	230	7	350	8	
Kainuu					140	3	
Lapland	150	13	210	6	360	8	
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 January to April 2020\*

Means of transport	1-4/2020*						
	Leisure		Business				
	1,000 trips Share, %		1,000 trips	Share, %			
Trips, total	4,430	100	760	100			
Passenger car	3,360	76	480	63			
Coach	350	8					
Train	630	14	160	21			
Aeroplane							
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.

# Appendix table 4. Leisure trips abroad (overnight in destination country) by destination in January to April 2019-2020\*

		1-4/2020*		1-4/2019		
		1,000 trips	Share, %	1,000 trips	Share, %	
Trips total		1,060	100	1,740	100	
Nordic countries	Total			250	15	
	Sweden			200	12	
Russia and Baltic countries	Total	230	22	400	23	
	Estonia	180	17	290	16	
Western and Eastern Europe	Total	160	15	410	23	
	Germany			110	6	
Southern Europe and East	Total	330	31	400	23	
Mediterranean countries	Spain (without Canary Islands)	170	16	100	6	
	Spanish Canary Islands	100	9	140	8	
America	Total					
Africa	Total					
Asia and Oceania	Total	160	16	180	10	

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 January to April 2020\* $^{1)}$

Destination		Reason for trip abroad					
		Leisure trips		Business trips			
		Visiting friens or relativesl	Holiday	Other personal reason	Leisure trips, total	Business trips, total	
		1,000 trips		'			
Trips, total		210	1,050	160	1,410	280	
Nordic countries	Total		200		240	140	
	Sweden		170		200	100	
Russia and Baltic	Total		310		420		
countries	Estonia		270		340		
Western and Eastern Europe	Total		100		170		
Southern Europe	Total		270		330		
and East Mediterranean countries	Spain (without Canary Islands)		130		170		
Countries	Spanish Canary Islands				100		
America	Total						
Africa	Total						
Asia and Oceania	Total		110		160		

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.

<sup>1)</sup> 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 January to April 2019-2020\*

Type of tr	ip	Estonia			Sweden		
		Trips 1-4/2020*	Trips 1-4/2019	Year-on-year change, %	Trips 1-4/2020*	Trips 1-4/2019	Year-on-year change, %
		1 000 trips		1-4/2020* - 1-4/2019	1,000 trips		1-4/2020* - 1-4/2019
Trips, tot	al <sup>1)</sup>	370	550	-34	300 830		-64
Leisure	Total <sup>1)</sup>	340	460	-26	200	630	-68
	Overnight stay in destination country	180	290	-35		200	
	Cruises				120	330	-63
	Same-day trips (inc. day cruises)	110	110	0		110	
Business	Total <sup>1)</sup>				100	200	-52

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 7. Views on booked trips taking place in April-September 2020<sup>1)</sup>

	Persons	Share of persons
	Number	%
Persons aged 15 - 84 in total	4,443,520	100
Domestic trips in paid accommodation		
No trip reservations	3,724,867	84
Trip(s) will take place within the planned schedule	89,825	2
Trip(s) will be cancelled or postponed	628,827	14
Trips abroad		
No trip reservations	3,373,285	76
Trip(s) will take place within the planned schedule	47,501	1
Trip(s) will be cancelled or postponed	1,022,735	23

<sup>1)</sup> Concerns only trips that were booked before travel restrictions were set in place in mid-March due to the pandemic.

## Appendix table 8. Trips cancelled or postponed in April - September 2020 due to the pandemic 1)

	Domestic trips in paid accommodation	Trips abroad
	1,000 trips	1,000 trips
Trips total	830	1,410
April	350	510
May	170	340
June	160	250
July	80	160
August	60	100
September	10	50

<sup>1)</sup> Concerns only trips that were booked before travel restrictions were set in place in mid-March due to the pandemic

<sup>1)</sup> Includes same-day trips, 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 deviation	95% Confidence Limit for Sum	
				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 2020

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Source: Finnish Travel, Statistics Finland