

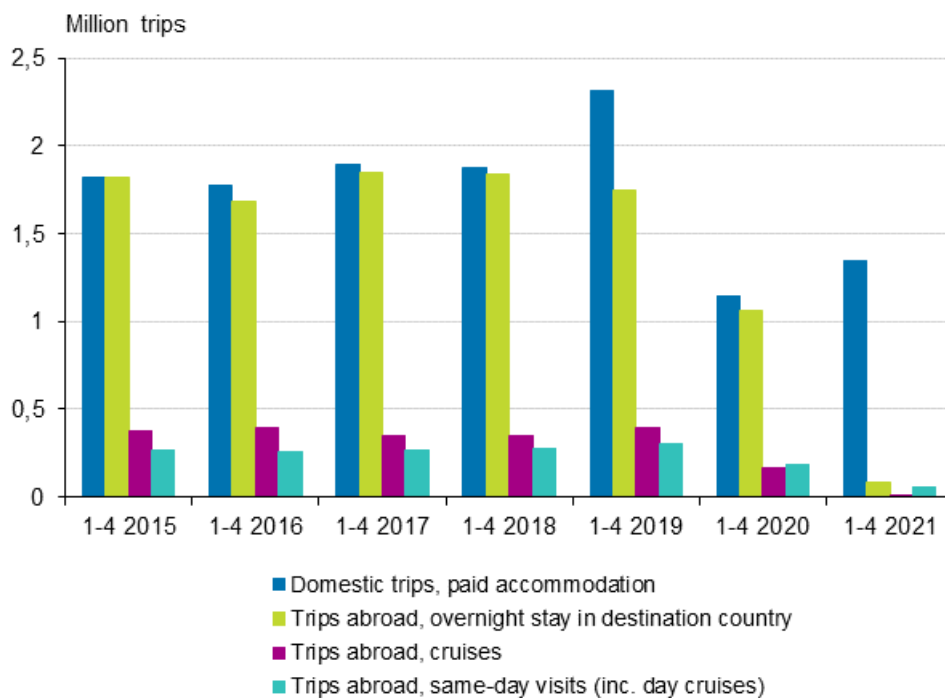
Finnish Travel

2021, Spring (1 Jan to 30 Apr 2021)

Second corona spring made Finnish residents travel in the home country in January to April 2021

According to Statistics Finland's preliminary data, Finnish residents travelled almost exclusively in the home country in the January to April period of 2021. The number of domestic leisure trips with overnight stay increased by good one third from the previous year. In addition, Finnish residents made 7.5 million same-day leisure trips in Finland. Leisure trips abroad decreased by more than 90 per cent from the corresponding period last year.

Leisure trips in January to April 2015 to 2021* (excl. domestic same-day trips and trips with free accommodation)



In January to April 2021, Finnish residents aged 15 to 84 made 6.4 million trips regardless of the difficult corona situation when all domestic leisure trips with overnight stay and all leisure trips abroad are included. In the corresponding period of the previous year, the number of trips was 6.0 million.

Altogether, 6.3 million domestic leisure trips with overnight stay were made in the January to April period. Of these, 4.9 million were trips with free accommodation. Trips with overnight stay in paid accommodation numbered 1.3 million. Thirty-eight per cent more domestic leisure trips with overnight stay were made than one year earlier.

Altogether 7.5 million same-day leisure trips were made in Finland, which is around double the number compared with 2018 when they were last recorded in the statistics. Same-day trips were made specifically outside the largest towns. The share of same-day trips in Greater Helsinki, Turku and Tampere was only 17 per cent, while in 2018 their share was 26 per cent.

Restrictions on travel due to the coronavirus situation and the absence of flights and boat departures reduced leisure trips abroad by more than 90 per cent from the previous year.

In January to April 2021 leisure trips abroad numbered 150,000 inclusive of trips with overnight stay in the destination country, cruises and same-day trips. In the corresponding period of the previous year, the number of leisure trips was 1.4 million. The number of trips in the previous year was raised both by the normal months for travelling, January and February, and by the extensive return to Finland in March to April 2020 by Finnish residents who had spent winter abroad.

In addition to leisure trips, 0.4 million domestic business or professional trips with overnight stay were made. Domestic business trips lasting for a day numbered 1.0 million. There were hardly any business and professional trips abroad.

These data derive from Statistics Finland's Finnish Travel survey for which data were collected from altogether 4,719 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 2021*

Type of trip			January	February	March	April	January-April, total	Year-on-year change, % 1-4/2021* - 1-4/2020
			1,000 trips					
Trips, total			3,860	3,390	3,500	4,700	15,450	..
Leisure	Domestic	Total ¹⁾	3,430	2,980	3,110	4,280	13,800	..
		Paid accommodation	300	300	360	380	1,340	15
		Free accommodation	1,230	1,080	1,010	1,620	4,940	46
		Same-day trips	1,890	1,600	1,750	2,280	7,520	..
	Abroad	Total ²⁾	150	-92
Business	Domestic	Total	370	390	350	350	1 460	..
		Trips with overnight stay	..	130	110	110	430	-45
		Same-day trips	290	270	240	240	1 030	..
	Abroad	Total ²⁾

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.

1) Includes trips with overnight stay and same-day trips

2) 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 2015-2021*

Type of trip			January-April						
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
			1,000 trips						
Trips, total			11,430	11,100	11,680	10,830	11,820	7,040	6,900
Leisure	Domestic	Total ¹⁾	7,300	6,850	7,240	6,580	7,380	4,560	6,280
		Paid accommodation	1,820	1,770	1,900	1,870	2,320	1,170	1,340
		Free accommodation	5,480	5,080	5,350	4,700	5,060	3,390	4,940
	Abroad	Total ²⁾	2,460	2,340	2,470	2,460	2,450	1,400	150
		Overnight stay in destination country	1,820	1,690	1,850	1,840	1,740	1,040	..
		Cruises	370	390	350	350	400	170	..
		Same-day trips (inc. day cruises)	260	260	270	280	310	190	..
Business	Domestic	Total	1,060	1,240	1,360	1,140	1,110	780	430
	Abroad	Total ²⁾	610	670	610	660	880	290	..

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1) Nor including domestic same-day trips

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

Appendix table 2. Domestic leisure trips with overnight stay by destination region, in January to April 2021*

Destination region	Trips with paid accommodation		Trips with free accommodation		Same-day trips		Domestic leisure trips, total	
	1,000 trips	Share, %	1,000 trips	Share, %	1,000 trips	Share, %	1,000 trips	Share, %
Trips, total	1,340	100	4,940	100	7,520	100	13,800	100
Uusimaa	110	8	620	13	1,540	20	2,270	16
Varsinais-Suomi	..	..	480	10	630	8	1,190	9
Satakunta	..	..	200	4	310	4	530	4
Kanta-Häme	..	..	220	4	310	4	570	4
Pirkanmaa	140	10	480	10	870	12	1,500	11
Päijät-Häme	..	..	250	5	370	5	660	5
Kymenlaakso	..	..	180	4	200	3	400	3
South Karelia	..	..	170	3	200	3	400	3
Etelä-Savo	..	..	270	5	230	3	530	4
Pohjois-Savo	..	..	280	6	390	5	750	5
North Karelia	..	..	180	4	250	3	460	3
Central Finland	120	9	310	6	480	6	900	7
South Ostrobothnia	..	..	170	4	390	5	590	4
Ostrobothnia	..	..	..	..	270	4	340	2
Central Ostrobothnia	..	..	100	2	150	2	280	2
North Ostrobothnia	230	17	450	9	590	8	1,270	9
Kainuu	..	..	120	2	110	2	290	2
Lapland	270	20	350	7	220	3	840	6
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 January to April 2021*

Means of transport	1-4/2021*			
	Leisure		Business	
	1,000 trips	Share, %	1,000 trips	Share, %
Trips, total	13,800	100	1,460	100
Passenger car	12,440	90	1,190	81
Coach	330	2	..	2
Train	800	6	120	8
Aeroplane	..	..	..	..
Other	160	1	120	8

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 2019-2021*

Destination		1-4/2019		1-4/2020		1-4/2021*	
		1,000 trips	Share, %	1,000 trips	Share, %	1,000 trips	Share, %
Trips total		1,740	100	1,040	100	..	..
Nordic countries	Total	250	15	..	..	..	..
	Sweden	200	12	..	..	..	..
Russia and Baltic countries	Total	400	23	230	23	..	..
	Estonia	290	16	190	18	..	..
Western and Eastern Europe	Total	410	23	170	16	..	..
	Germany	110	6	..	..	..	..
Southern Europe and East Mediterranean countries	Total	400	23	300	29	..	..
	Spain (without Canary Islands)	100	6	150	14	..	..
	Spanish Canary Islands	140	8	100	9	..	..
America	Total	..	..	..	..	..	..
Africa	Total	..	..	..	..	..	..
Asia and Oceania	Total	180	10	160	16	..	..

Northern Mediterranean countries: Continental Spain and the Balearic Islands, Monaco, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.

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 to Sweden and Estonia by type of trip in January to April 2019-2021*

Type of trip		Estonia			Sweden		
		Trips 1-4/2019	Trips 1-4/2020	Trips 1-4/2021*	Trips 1-4/2019	Trips 1-4/2020	Trips 1-4/2021*
		1,000 trips			1,000 trips		
Trips, total¹⁾		550	370	..	830	310	..
Leisure	Total ¹⁾	460	340	..	630	210	..
	Overnight stay in destination country	290	190	..	200	..	..
	Cruises	..	..	..	330	120	..
	Same-day trips (inc. day cruises)	110	110	..	110	..	..
Business	Total ¹⁾	200	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.

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

Quality description: Finnish Travel 2021

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 45 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 2020

Type of trip	N	Sum	Standard deviation	95% Confidence Limit for Sum	
				Lower	Upper
1,000 trips					
Domestic leisure trips with paid accommodation	1,555	5,450	130	5,210	5,700
Domestic leisure trips with free accommodation	4,563	15,930	150	15,620	16,230
Domestic business and professional trips	556	1,960	80	1,810	2,120
Same-day leisure trips abroad (incl. day cruises)	93	330	30	260	400
Leisure cruises abroad	87	300	30	240	360
Leisure trips abroad, overnight in country of destination	482	1,660	70	1,510	1,810
Business and professional trips abroad	115	400	40	330	480

Table 2. Confidence intervals of numbers of persons by travelling activity in 2020

Travelling activity	N	Sum	Standard deviation	95% Confidence Limit for Sum	
				Lower	Upper
1,000 persons					
Didn't make leisure trips with overnight stay	335	1,270	60	1,160	1,380
Made leisure trips with overnight stay	827	3,140	60	3,030	3,260
Made domestic leisure trips with paid accommodation	422	1,160	60	1,490	1,730
Made same-day leisure trips abroad (incl. day cruises)	327	1,010	50	910	1,100
Made leisure cruises abroad	116	440	40	360	520
Made leisure trips abroad with paid accommodation, overnight in country of destination	55	200	30	150	260
Made business and professional trips, domestic and abroad	117	460	40	380	530

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 three 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.

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