16 February 2018

Tourist Demand of Residents
3rd Quarter 2017

Tourism trips increased by 1.1%

In the 3rd quarter 2017, the number of tourism trips taken by residents in Portugal increased by 1.1% vis-à-vis the same quarter of 2016[1] (+8.3% in the 2nd Q 2017), in a total of 7.8 million. Trips with a foreign destination grew the most (+8.5%, from +14.8% in the 2nd Q 2017), the equivalent to 10.1% of the total.

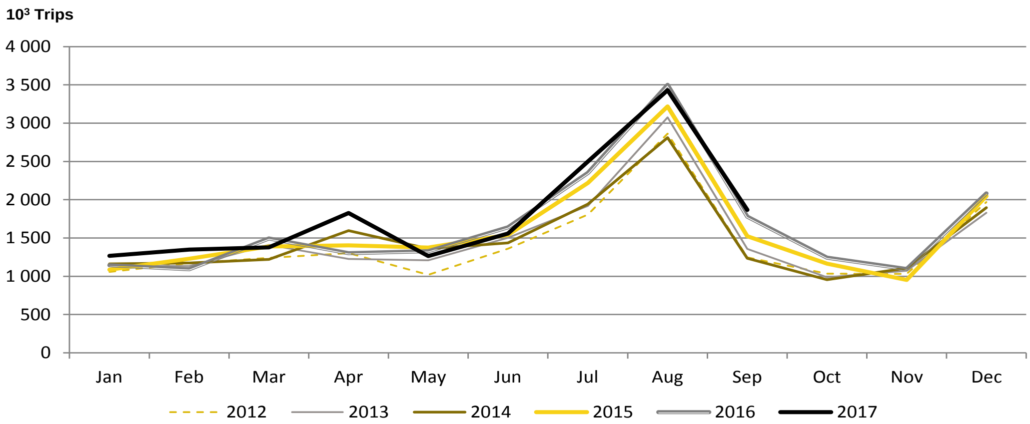
"Leisure, recreation or holidays" as a purpose to travel was behind 60.3% of the total trips (+0.4 p.p., amounting to 4.7 million), followed by "visit to relatives or friends" with 32.9% (+0.6 p.p., totalling 2.6 million trips). Travelling for "professional or business" reasons was at the origin of 3.8% of all tourist trips (-0.8 p.p., a total of 295.6 thousand).

"Free private accommodation" was the preferred accommodation option in trips taken by residents (61.9% of total overnight stays) and with a 1.2 p.p. raise in its share.

"Leisure, recreation or holidays" trips became more relevant

In the 3rd quarter 2017 trips taken by residents in Portugal amounted to 7.8 million, increasing by 1.1%, after growing by 8.3% in the 2nd Q 2017 and by 6.1% in the 1st Q 2017.

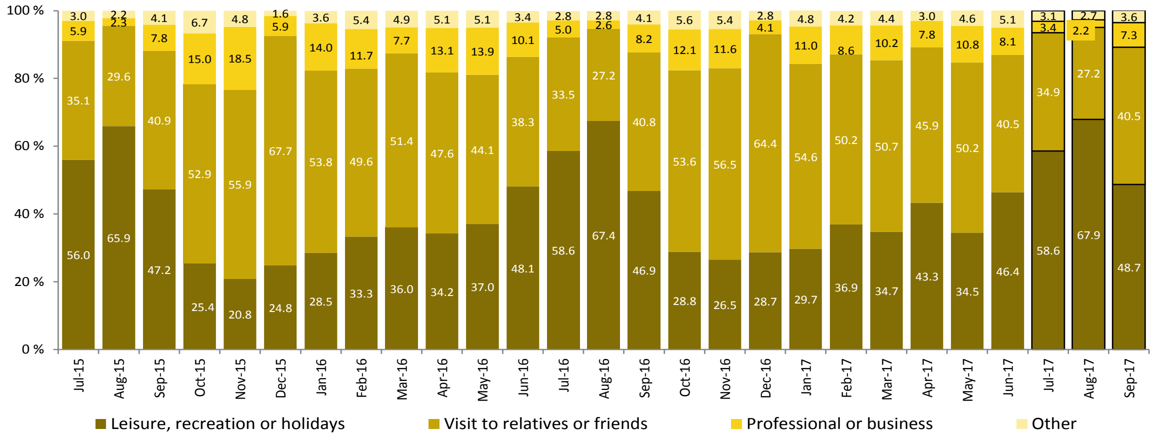
Figure 1. Tourist trips of residents by month



Trips taken for "leisure, recreation or holiday" purposes (4.7 million) and for "visit to relatives or friends" (2.6 million) increased their representativeness by 0.4 p.p. and 0.6 p.p., respectively, with shares of 60.3% and 32.9%, in the same order. Trips taken for "professional or business" purposes (295.6 thousand; 3.8% of the total) lost weight (-0.8 p.p.).

[1] Unless stated otherwise, the change rates in this press release correspond to year-on-year change rates.

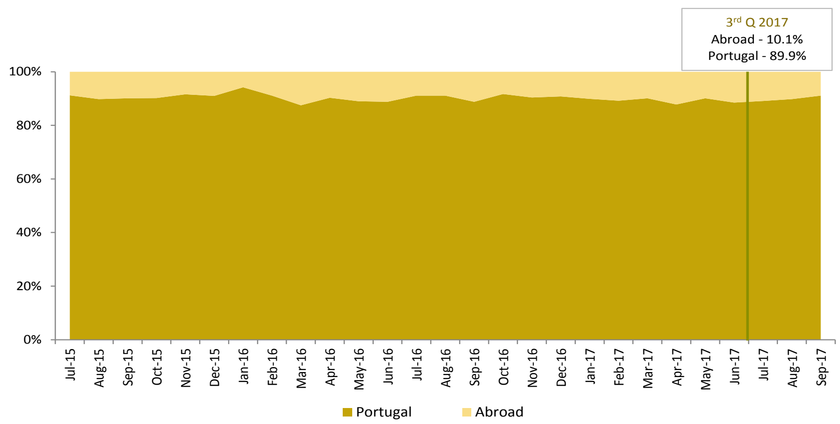
Figure 2. Breakdown of trips according to main purposes, by month



International trips abroad with the largest increase

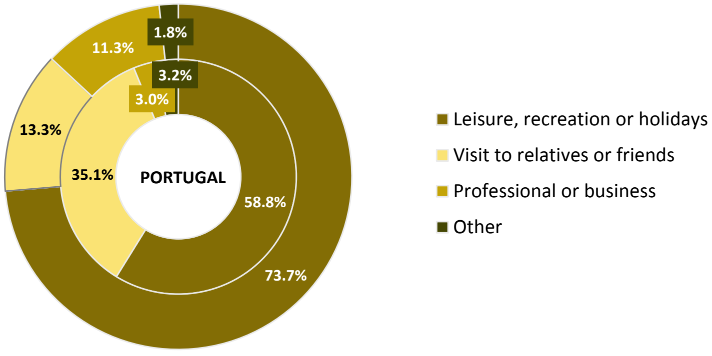
International trips increased by 8.5% and stood for 10.1% of the total trips (+0.7 p.p.). Domestic trips grew by 0.4% in the 3rd quarter 2017.

Figure 3. Breakdown of tourist trips by destination



Amongst the trips abroad, 73.7% had "leisure, recreation or holidays" purposes and increased by 5.5 p.p. in terms of representativeness, whereas those trips abroad taken to "visit relatives or friends" and for "professional or business" purposes declined in terms of share (-2.0 p.p. and -1.2 p.p. respectively). In domestic trips, "visit to relatives or friends" was still the most frequent purpose to travel (58.8%) although slightly declining in its share (-0.3 p.p.).

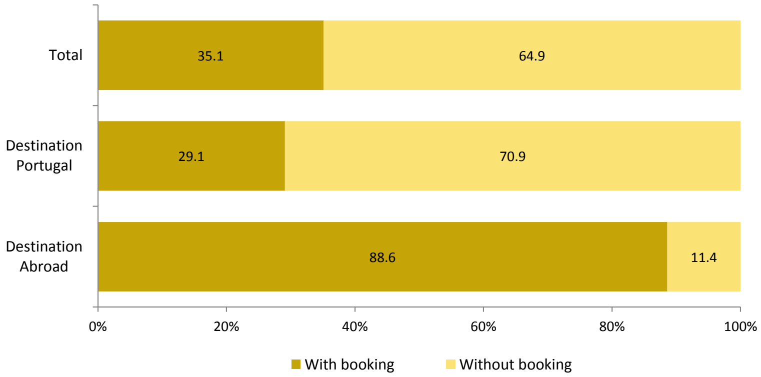
Figure 4. Breakdown of trips according to purposes, by destination, 3rd Q 2017



Use of the internet for booking continues to grow

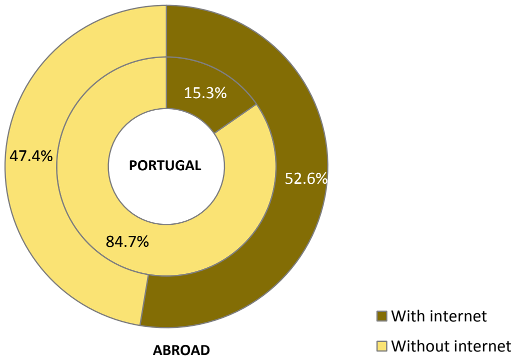
Booking in advance was used in 35.1% of trips taken in the 3rd Q 2017 (2.7 million, i.e. +2.1 p.p.), particularly in trips abroad (88.6%; +0.7 p.p.).

Figure 5. Breakdown of trips according to booking, by destination, 3rd Q 2017



The internet was used in the planning of 19.1% of trips taken (+2.5 p.p.), having increased by 2.2 p.p. in the case of the planning of domestic trips and by 2.5 p.p. in trips abroad, the latter reaching more than half of the total (52.6%).

Figure 6. Breakdown of tourist trips according to the use of the internet, by destination, 3rd Q 2017



The use of travel agencies gained importance slightly (+0.2 p.p.), having been used in 40.5% of trips abroad (+4.3 p.p.) but only in 3.0% of domestic trips (-0.5 p.p.).

"Free private accommodation" reinforced its importance

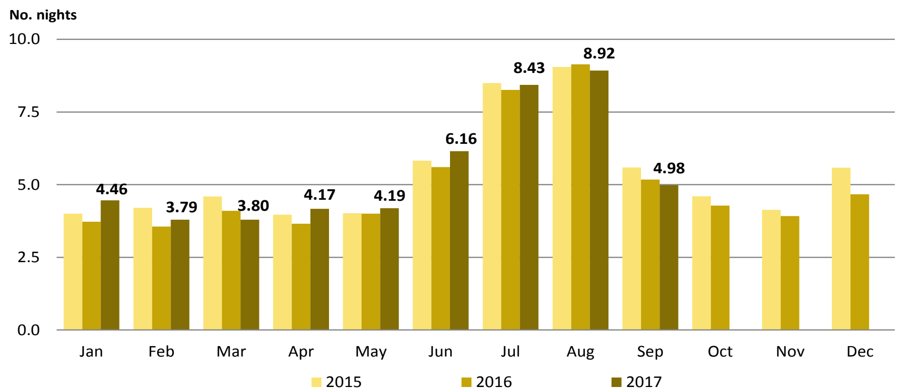
In the 3rd quarter 2017, "free private accommodation" and "paid private accommodation" grew in importance (+1.2 p.p. and +1.9 p.p. respectively).

"Free private accommodation" stood as the main accommodation option in trips taken by residents, aggregating 61.9% of total overnight stays. "Hotels and similar establishments" ensured 18.2% of total overnight stays (-3.0 p.p.).

Slight decrease in the average duration of trips

In the 3rd quarter 2017, each trip had on average 7.88 overnight stays (-1.1% vis-à-vis the 3rd Q 2016). As usual, the highest average stays were recorded in the months of August (8.92 nights, i.e. -2.4%) and July (8.43 nights; +2.1%), decreasing to 4.98 nights in September (-3.7%).

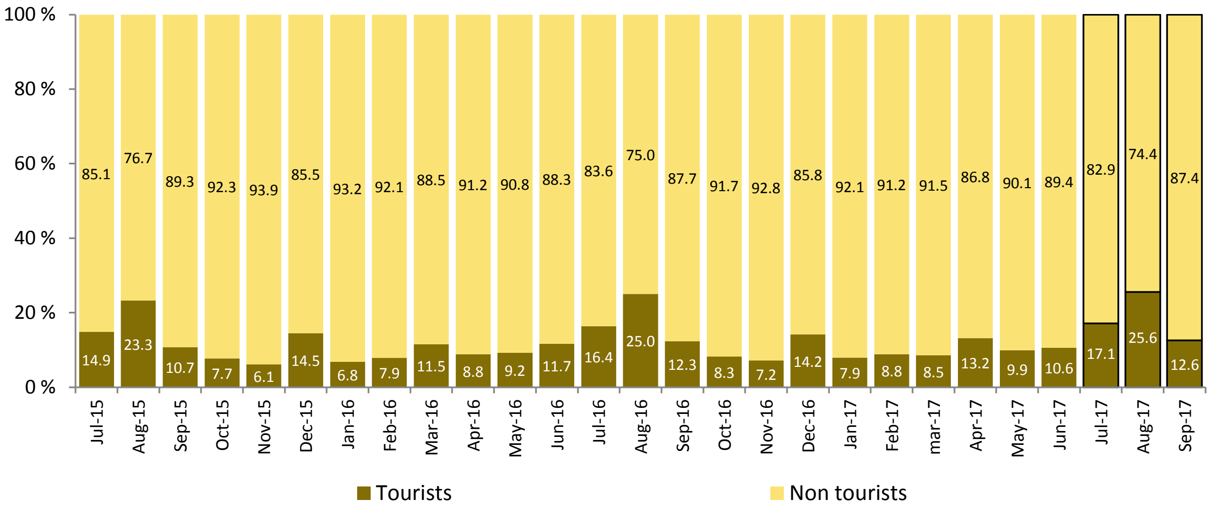
Figure 7. Average duration of trips, by month



Residual increase in the proportion of tourists

In the 3rd quarter 2017, the proportion of residents who took at least one tourist trip was 36.6% (+0.05 p.p. compared with the same period in 2016). Every month of the quarter recorded increases in the proportion of resident tourists, with the largest increase having been recorded in August (25.6%, i.e. +0.5 p.p.), followed by the months of July (17.1%; +0.8 p.p.) and September (12.6%; +0.2 p.p.).

Figure 8. Proportion of tourists and non tourists in the resident population, by month



METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data for 2016 – final data.

Data for 2017 – provisional data.

Results from the "Survey on Tourist Demand of Residents" are gathered from surveying a sample of about 5 000 accommodation units (12 000 individuals), with a 50% rotation in the beginning of each year according to a quarterly telephone interview preceded by a face to face interview.

Tourist – Traveler staying at least one night in a private or collective accommodation site in a particular place, regardless of the motivation to travel.

Tourist trip – A trip to one or multiple tourist destinations, including the returning trip to the starting point and covering the whole period of time during which an individual remains outside its usual living environment.

Usual living environment – Environment in the proximity of an individual's residence, in relation to its working and studying places, as well as other places frequently visited. Distance and frequency are two closely related dimensions to this concept and include the places located near the place of residence, regardless of how often visited and the places located at a considerable distance of the place of residence (including those in a foreign country), frequently visited (once or several times per week on average) on a routine basis.
One individual has only one usual living environment, with the concept applied on both levels of domestic tourism and international tourism.

Hotels and similar establishments – Tourist accommodation establishments whose main economic activity consists on the provision of accommodation services and other complementary or support services, with or without provision of meals, in exchange for payment.

Other collective accommodation – Establishments, places or facilities providing accommodation services to tourists mostly in exchange for payment, including camping sites, holiday camps, youth hostels, collective means of transportation, working or holiday projects, amongst others.

Free private accommodation – Accommodation used by tourists consisting of a second residence or provided by relatives or friends, for free.

Paid private accommodation – Private accommodation, with or without official licensing for the provision of tourist accommodation, having available a limited number of paid independent places (rooms or housing).

Date of next Press Release: May 2, 2018