



28 April 2025  
TOURISM DEMAND OF RESIDENTS  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2024

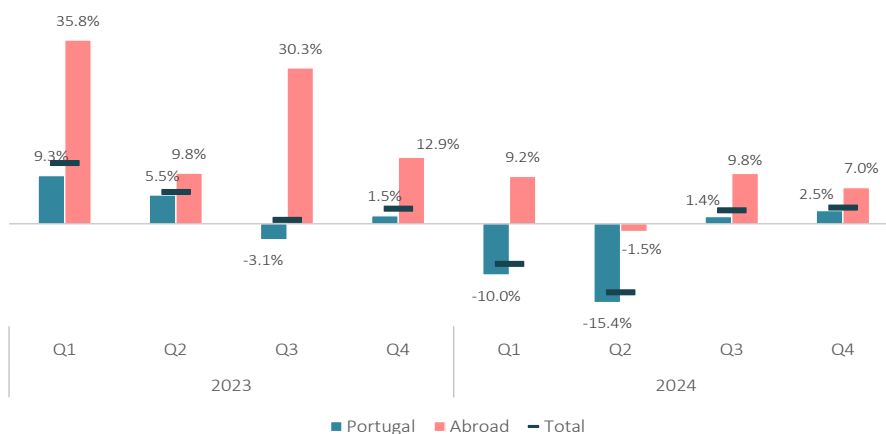
**TOURIST TRIPS ABROAD TAKEN BY RESIDENTS REACHED AN ALL-TIME HIGH IN 2024**

In 2024 as a whole, the number of trips taken by residents decreased by 3.2%<sup>1</sup> and totalled 22.9 million. Domestic trips fell by 4.7%, reflecting the significant decreases of the first two quarters of the year, though trips abroad grew by 6.2%, reaching a historic high. Free private accommodation remained the main chosen means of accommodation, despite losing expression (59.4%, -1.9 p.p.<sup>2</sup> compared to 2023). The average duration of trips was 4.07 nights (4.08 nights in 2023).

Spain (40.6%; -1.1 p.p.), France (9.5%, -0.6 p.p.), and Italy (6.2%, -0.7 p.p.), despite losing representativeness, remained the main destination countries for residents travelling abroad.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024, residents in Portugal took 5.3 million trips, corresponding to a 3.1% growth (+2.6% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2024). Domestic trips accounted for 86.2% of all trips (4.6 million), increasing by 2.5%. Trips abroad grew by 7.0% (+9.8% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2024), totalling 731,5 thousand, the equivalent of 13.8% of the total.

Figure 1. Year-on-year change (%) in resident trips by destination, quarterly



<sup>1</sup> Unless stated otherwise, the rates of change in this press release refer to year-on-year rates of change.

<sup>2</sup> When analysing proportions, a year-on-year comparison between quarters is carried out.



### Tourist trips abroad taken by residents reached an all-time high in 2024

In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024, the number of residents' trips continued to increase (+3.1% from the same period in 2023; +2.6% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2024), totalling 5.3 million. This growth reflects the rise in domestic trips (+2.5%; +1.4% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2024) and trips abroad (+7.0%; +9.8% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2024).

In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024, domestic trips accounted for 86.2% of all trips (84.2% in the previous quarter), totalling 4.6 million, while the remaining 731.5 thousand were trips abroad (13.8% of the total; 15.8% in the previous quarter).

The number of trips increased in October and November (+5.2% and +14.9% respectively) and decreased in December (-3.7%).

In 2024 as a whole (provisional results), 22.9 million trips were taken by residents, 3.2% fewer than in the previous year.

Table 1. Tourism trips by destination, by month

Unit: 10<sup>3</sup>

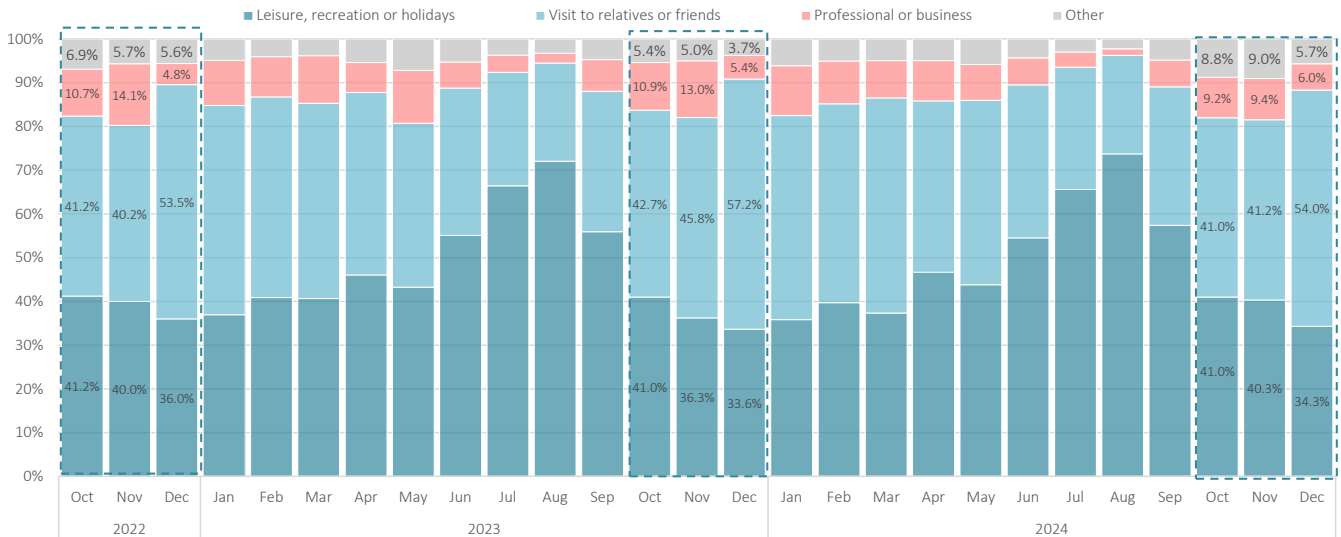
MONTH	Total (No)			Total Portugal (No)			Total Abroad (No)		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 627</b>	<b>23 668</b>	<b>22 901</b>	<b>19 969</b>	<b>20 440</b>	<b>19 472</b>	<b>2 657</b>	<b>3 228</b>	<b>3 430</b>
January	1 373	1 570	1 288	1 275	1 423	1 168	97	148	119
February	1 538	1 781	1 497	1 401	1 529	1 278	137	252	219
March	1 431	1 502	1 689	1 261	1 352	1 427	170	150	262
April	1 972	2 177	1 378	1 666	1 873	1 119	306	304	259
May	1 456	1 546	1 505	1 282	1 334	1 276	174	212	229
June	1 901	1 933	2 017	1 641	1 636	1 704	260	297	312
July	2 565	2 523	2 384	2 294	2 192	2 043	271	330	341
August	3 614	3 685	3 995	3 206	3 136	3 369	408	548	626
September	1 778	1 806	1 844	1 549	1 502	1 512	229	305	332
October	1 270	1 297	1 364	1 103	1 130	1 181	167	166	183
November	1 350	1 266	1 456	1 188	1 080	1 277	161	187	179
December	2 381	2 583	2 487	2 103	2 252	2 117	278	331	370

### The highest drop from 2023 was recorded in trips for professional or business reasons

Visit to relatives or friends was the main reason for travelling in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024, totalling 2.5 million trips (-4.1%), accounting for 47.2% of all trips (-3.6 p.p. compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023). Leisure, recreation, or holiday reasons to travel were behind 2.0 million trips taken (+7.5%), standing for 37.7% of the total (+1.5 p.p. compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023). Trips for professional or business reasons (412.3 thousand), which accounted for 7.8% of the total (-0.9 p.p.), decreased by 7.6%.

Considering the total number of trips in 2024, the main reason for travelling was leisure, recreation, or holidays (50.9%), corresponding to 11.7 million trips (-1.7% from 2023). Visit to relatives or friends was the second main reason for travelling, accounting for 37.7% of trips (8.6 million trips, -4.5% compared to 2023). Professional or business reasons for travelling represented 6.5% of the total (1.5 million trips) and had the highest decrease from 2023, -12.9%.

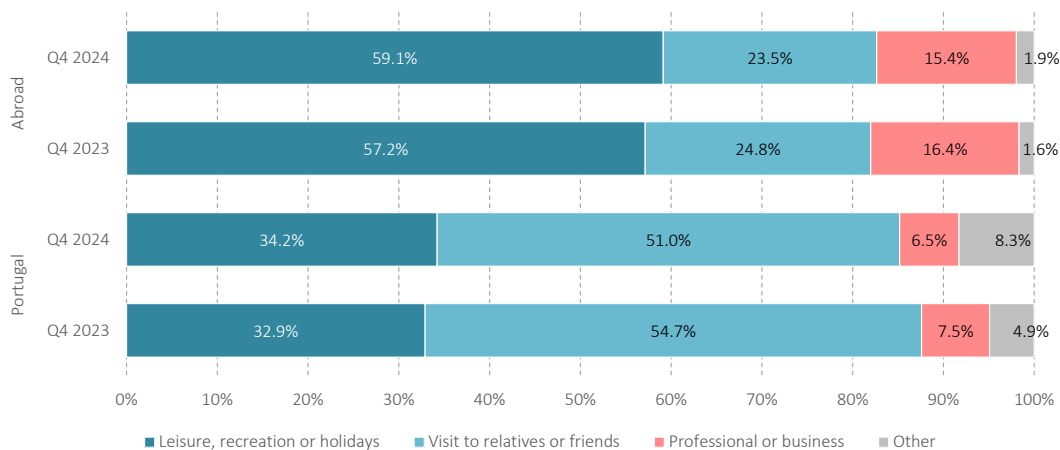
Figure 2. Breakdown of trips according to the main purposes, by month



More than half of trips abroad in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024 were taken for *leisure, recreation, or holiday* purposes

In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024, *visit to relatives or friends* as the reason to travel accounted for more than half of domestic trips (2.3 million; share of 51.0%) and was the second main reason for trips abroad (172.1 thousand trips; share of 23.5%). *Leisure, recreation, or holidays* were the main reason for trips abroad (432.6 thousand trips; weight of 34.2%) and the second reason for domestic trips (1.6 million trips; share of 34.2%). *Professional or business* purposes were the third main reason for residents to travel abroad (15.4%; 112.6 thousand trips).

Figure 3. Breakdown of trips according to purposes, by destination

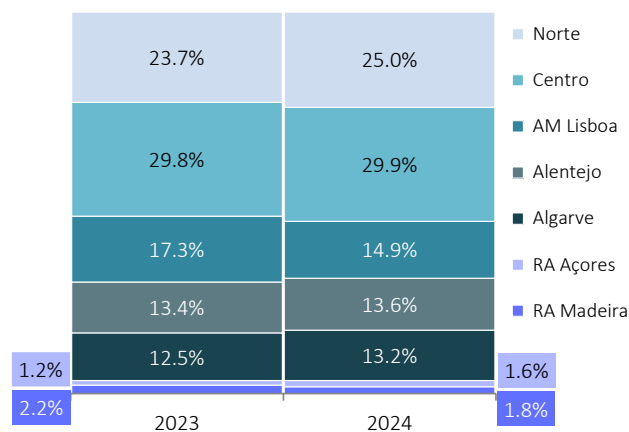


In **2024**, domestic trips fell by 4.7%, accounting for 85.0% of the total (-1.3 p.p.), mostly for *leisure, recreation, or holiday* reasons (share of 47.5%, +0.3 p.p.). Trips abroad increased by 6.2%, mainly taken for *leisure, recreation, or holidays* (share of 70.3%; +2.1 p.p.).

### Centro and Norte consolidated their ranking of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> as the main destinations for domestic trips in 2024

In **2024 as a whole**, the Centro region continued to lead as the main destination region for domestic trips, accounting for 29.9% of the total (+0.1 p.p. compared to 2023). Norte followed (25.0% of the total), gaining representativeness from the previous year (+1.3 p.p.). Conversely, the highlight was AM Lisboa, falling from 17.3% in 2023 to 14.9% in 2024.

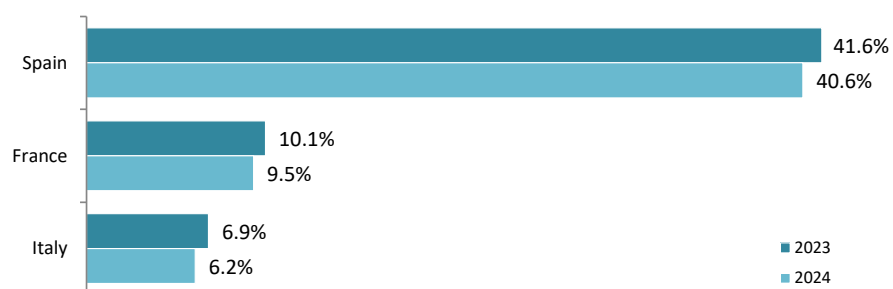
Figure 4. Distribution of domestic trips by NUTS II



### Trips within the European Union accounted for 71.5% of all trips abroad

In **2024**, Spain, France, and Italy once again ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> as the top destinations for trips abroad, with shares of 40.6% (-1.0 p.p.), 9.5% (-0.6 p.p.), and 6.2% (-0.7 p.p.), respectively. Among trips abroad, those to the set of European Union countries increased by 1.8%, accounting for 71.5% of the total (-3.1 p.p.).

Figure 5. The proportion of trips to the three main foreign destinations



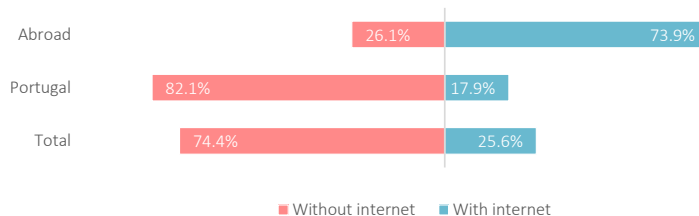


## The use of the internet for organising residents' trips gained expression in 2024 in both domestic and trips abroad

In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024, the prior booking of services by residents was used in 34.6% of all trips taken (-0.7 p.p.). In trips abroad, that was the option chosen in 92.4% of the cases, while in domestic trips only 25.4% of the cases (-1.1 p.p.) were in this situation.

In the process of organising trips, the Internet was used in 25.6% (+0.9 p.p.), with this option being used in 73.9% (+1.0 p.p.) of trips abroad and 17.9% (+0.6 p.p.) of domestic trips.

Figure 6. Breakdown of trips according to the use of the internet, by destination, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024

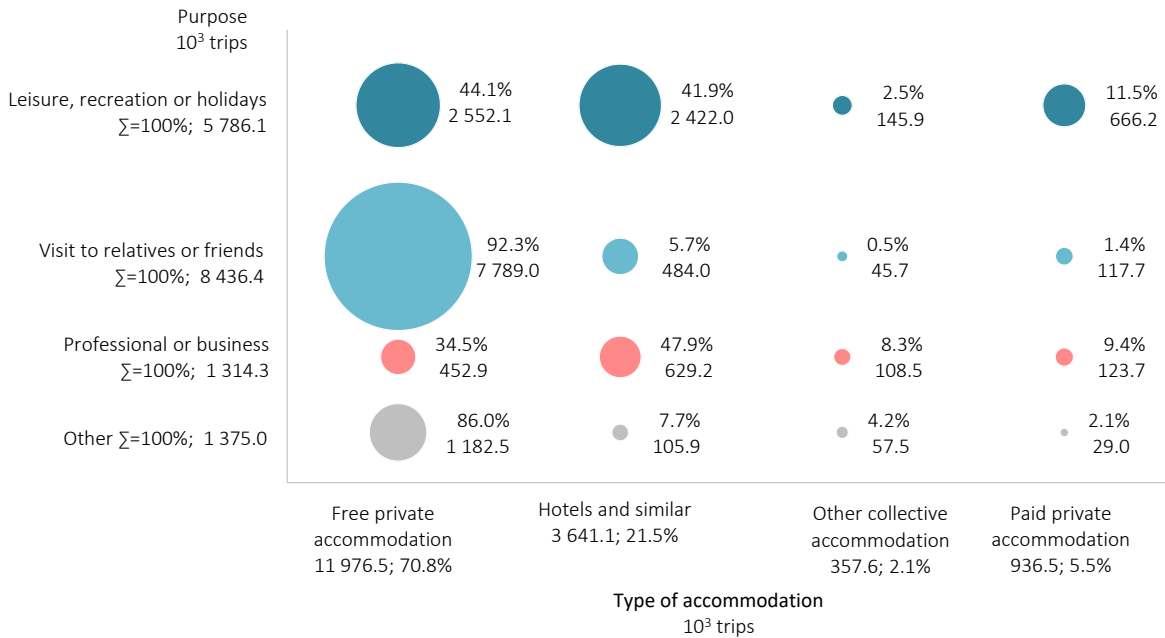


In 2024 as a whole, residents chose to use pre-booked services in 41.0% of all trips (+2.1 p.p. compared to 2023), given that this option was used in 93.3% of trips abroad (+1.0 p.p.). The Internet was used in 28.1% (+2.4 p.p.) of all trips, 20.8% of those in Portugal (+1.6 p.p.) and 69.6% of those abroad (+2.7 p.p.).

## Hotels and similar establishments have strengthened their presence in overnight travel

Free private accommodation kept being the main accommodation option for resident trips (70.8% of overnight stays) in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024, despite a decrease in its weight in the total (-2.2 p.p.). Hotels and similar establishments were the second main accommodation option, accounting for 21.5% of overnight stays (3.6 million). This type of accommodation accounted for 47.9% of overnight stays on trips for professional or business reasons and 41.9% of trips for leisure, recreation, or holidays.

Figure 7. Breakdown of overnight stays by type of accommodation, according to main purposes, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024

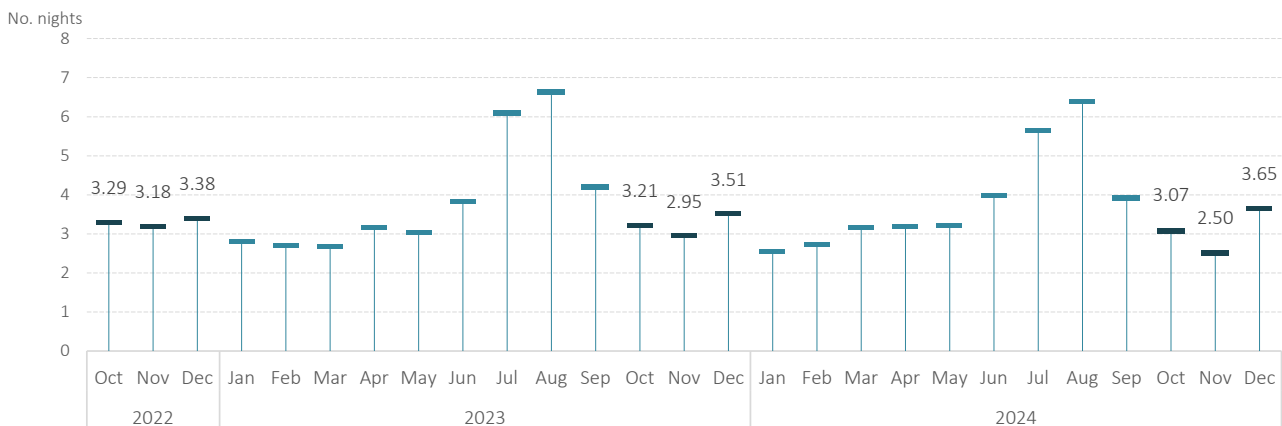


In 2024, overnight stays in *free private accommodation* accounted for 59.4% (61.3% in 2023) and decreased by 6.6%. *Hotels and similar establishments* accounted for 24.6% of total overnight stays (+1.0 p.p. compared to 2023), while *private paid* accommodation accounted for 12.0% of the total.

### The average trip duration decreased

In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024, each trip had an average duration of 3.19 nights (3.29 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023). The lowest average duration occurred in November (2.50 nights), while the longest was recorded in December (3.65 nights).

Figure 8. Average trip duration, by month



In 2024 as a whole, each trip had an average duration of 4.07 nights (4.08 nights in 2023).

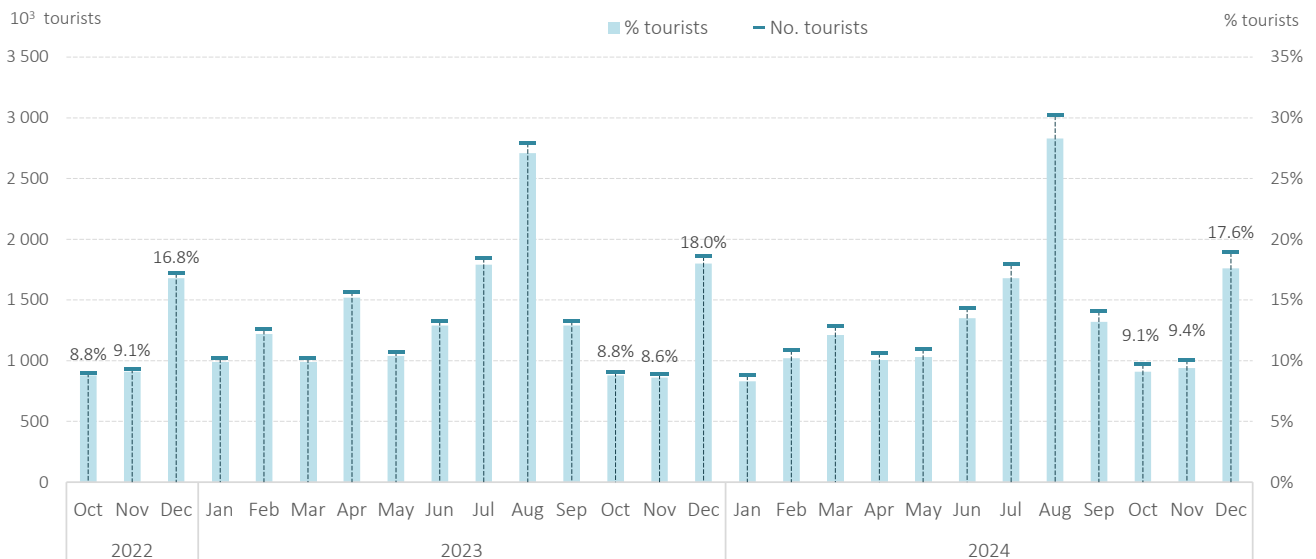


### The proportion of resident tourists decreased in the quarter

In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024, 20.1% of residents took at least one tourist trip, decreasing of 1.8 p.p. from the same period of the previous year. On a monthly analysis, in year-on-year terms, the proportion of residents who travelled at least once decreased in December (-0.4 p.p.) yet increased in October and November (+0.3 p.p. and +0.8 p.p., respectively).

In 2024 as a whole, 48.7% of the residents in Portugal took at least one tourist trip, down 3.0 p.p. from 2023 (138.6 thousand fewer tourists).

Figure 9. Proportion of tourists in the resident population, by month





## METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The statistical findings from the *Travel survey of residents* are gathered from surveying a sample of housing units, with a 50% rotation at the beginning of each year, with a quarterly telephone interview.

The results in this Press Release are:

Up until 2023 – final data

2024 – provisional data

### Main concepts

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

**Tourism trip** - A trip to one or multiple tourist destinations, including the returning trip to the starting point and covering the whole period during which an individual remains outside his/her usual living environment.

**Usual living environment** - Environment in the proximity of an individual's residence, concerning his/her 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 from 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 to both levels of domestic tourism and international tourism.

**Hotels and similar** – Tourist accommodation establishments whose main economic activity consists of the provision of accommodation services and other complementary or support services, with or without the 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).

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**Date of next Press Release** – 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2025

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