



28 April 2021
TOURISM DEMAND OF RESIDENTS
4th Quarter of 2020

TOURIST TRIPS OF RESIDENTS DECREASED BY 57.4% IN THE 4TH QUARTER AND 41.1% IN 2020

In **2020**, trips made by residents decreased by 41.1%¹ reaching 14.4 million (+10.8% in 2019). Domestic trips decreased by 35.7% and trips abroad decreased by 78.1% (+9.0% and +24.7%, respectively, in 2019). “Free private accommodation” gained expression as the main mean of accommodation used (69.2%, +8.0 p.p. compared to 2019) and the average number of overnight stays per tourist increased by 23.2% (from 5.45 nights in 2019 to 6.72 nights in 2020).

In the **4th quarter of 2020**, residents in Portugal made 2.3 million trips, which corresponded to a decrease of 57.4% (-26.7% in the 3rd Q 2020). Domestic trips corresponded to 97.4% of the trips (2.3 million), registering a decrease of 53.2%. Trips abroad decreased by 90.3%, totalling 61.6 thousand, corresponding to 2.6% in total (2.5% in the 3rd Q 2020).

Despite the circumstances determined by the COVID-19 pandemic, Statistics Portugal calls for the best collaboration of enterprises, households, and public bodies in responding to requests from Statistics Portugal. The quality of official statistics, particularly their capacity to identify the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, depends crucially on this collaboration, which Statistics Portugal is grateful for in advance.

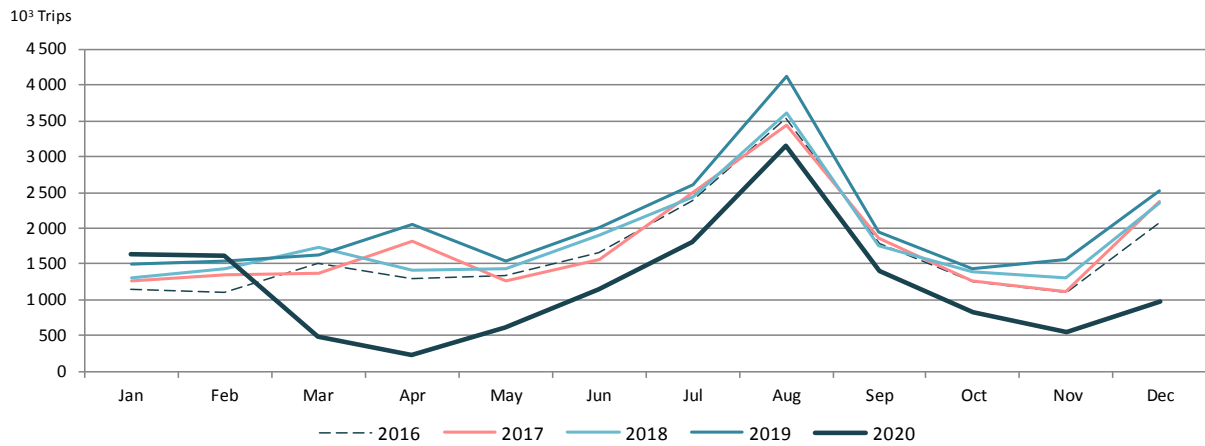
Significant decrease in the number of trips in the quarter and in the whole year

In the **4th quarter of 2020**, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of more restrictive measures to circulation, especially in November and December, continued to be felt in the number of trips made, with residents in Portugal taking 2.3 million trips, corresponding to a decrease of 57.4% (-26.7% in the 3rd Q 2020). In October, November and December, the decreases were 42.6%, 65.2% and 61.2%, respectively (-30.8%, -23.5% and -27.9%, in the same order, in July, August and September).

In **2020 as a whole** (preliminary results) 14.4 million trips were made (-41.1% compared to 2019), the lowest figure in the last decade.

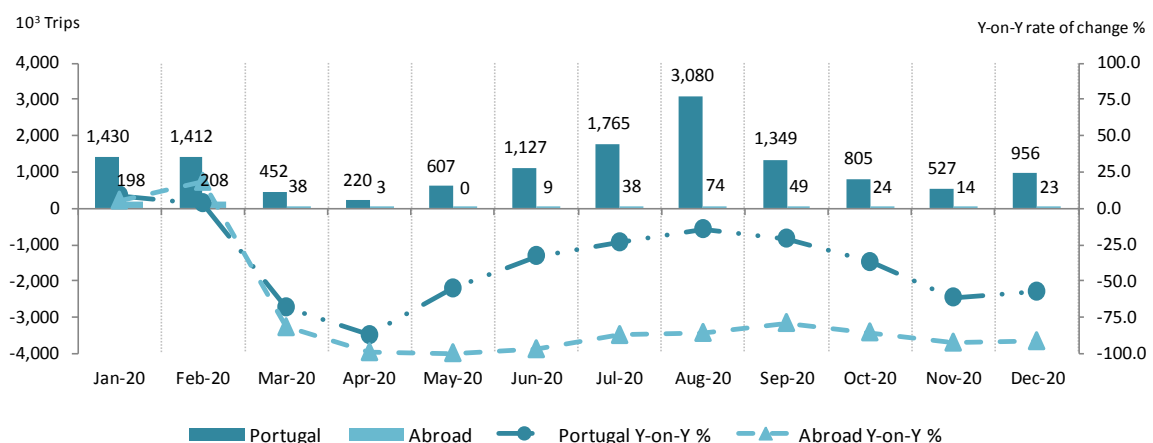
¹ Unless stated otherwise, the rates of change in this press release correspond to year-on-year rates of change.

Figure 1. Tourism trips of residents by month



In the **4th quarter of 2020**, domestic trips corresponded to 97.4% of the trips made (97.5% in the 3rd Q 2020), registering a decrease of 53.2% (-18.5% in the 3rd Q 2020) compared with the same period last year (rates of change of -37.0% in October, -61.4% in November and -57.4% in December). Tourism trips abroad represented 2.6% of the total (2.5% in the 3rd Q 2020), corresponding to 61.6 thousand trips (-90.3% year-on-year; -84.8% in the 3rd Q 2020) with October, November and December registering decreases of 85.5%, 92.5% and 91.6%, respectively.

Figure 2. Tourism trips and year-on-year rate of change by destination, by month

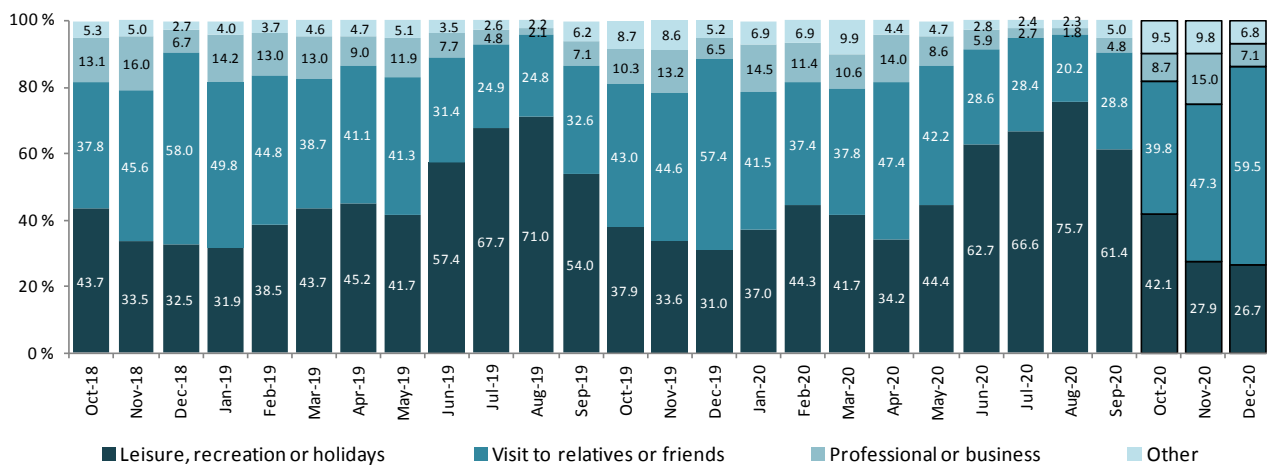


"Visit to relatives or friends" was the main motivation for travel in the 4th quarter of 2020, having corresponded to 1.2 million trips (-57.7% compared to the same period of the previous year; -32.6% in the 3rd Q 2020), its representativeness corresponding to 49.7% of the total (-0.3 p.p. compared to the same period of 2019). "Leisure, recreation or holidays" as a motivation to travel corresponded to 761.5 thousand trips made (-58.9%), representing 32.4% of the total (-1.1 p.p. compared to the 4th Q 2019). Trips for "professional or

business" reasons (222.2 thousand) increased by 0.1 p.p. their relative weight in the 4thQ 2020 (9.5% of the total).

Considering the trips made in 2020 as a whole, "leisure, recreation or holidays" as a motivation to travel was associated with 54.1% of the total (7.8 million trips, -35.6%) and "visit to relatives or friends" was the reason for 33.8% of the trips (4.9 million trips, -47.3%). "Business or professional" trips represented 7.1% of the total (1.0 million trips, -49.5%).

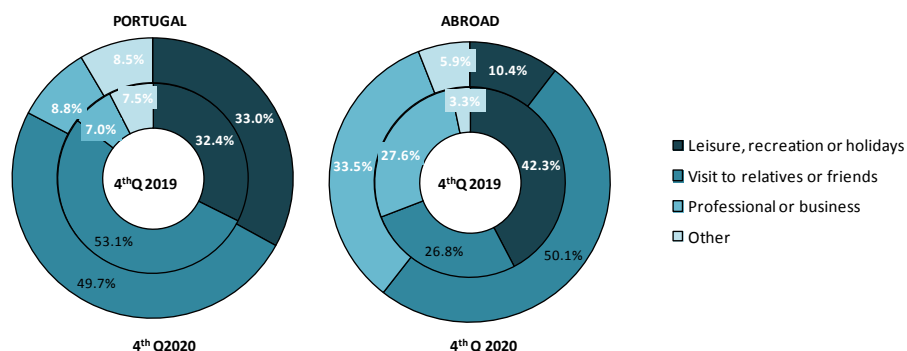
Figure 3. Breakdown of trips according to the main purposes, by month



"Visit to relatives or friends" increased its weight in the trips abroad in the quarter and in the whole year

In the 4th quarter of 2020, "visit to relatives or friends" as a motivation to travel was associated with most domestic trips (1.1 million; weight 49.7%) and trips abroad (30.9 thousand trips; weight 50.1%). "Leisure, recreation or holidays" was the second main reason for domestic trips (775.1 thousand trips; weight 33.0%), while in the trips abroad the second main reason for travel was "business or professional" related (20.6 thousand trips; weight 33.5%).

Figure 4. Breakdown of trips according to purposes, by destination



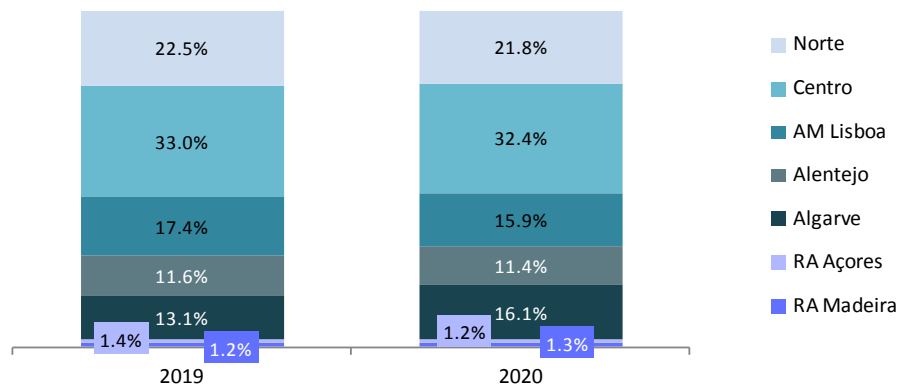
In 2020, trips abroad decreased by 78.1% (+24.7% in 2019), representing 4.7% of the total (-8.0 p.p.), mostly for "leisure, recreation or holidays" (weight of 43.9%, -15.8 p.p.). Domestic trips decrease by 35.7% (+9.0% in

2019), and the reason "leisure, recreation or holidays" was also the one that was associated with the highest number of trips (weight of 54.6%; +6.6 p.p.).

The Algarve ranked 3rd as the main domestic destination

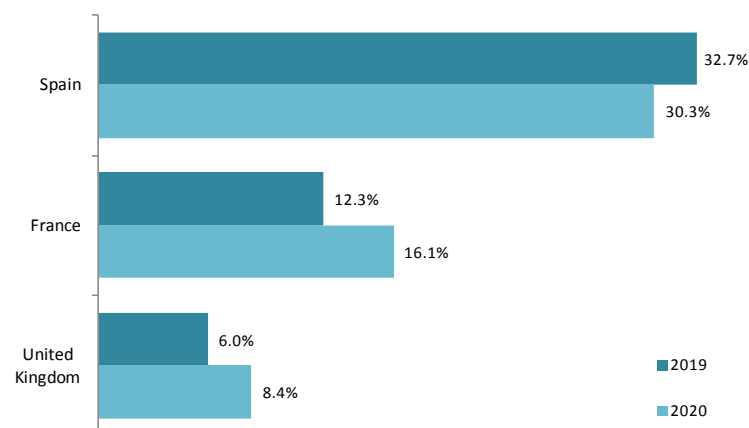
In 2020 as a whole, the Centro region continued to be the main destination region for domestic trips, corresponding to 32.4% of the total (-0.6 p.p. compared to 2019), followed by the Norte region (21.8% of the total; -0.7 p.p.). The Algarve was the region that became more relevant compared to 2019 (+3.0 p.p.) having been the destination of 16.1% of domestic trips, surpassing Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (15.9% of domestic trips; -1,5 p.p.).

Figure 5. Distribution of domestic trips by NUTS II



In 2020, among the main destination countries of trips abroad, Spain and France ranked 1st and 2nd, respectively, with 30.3% (-2.3 p.p.) and 16.1% (+3.8 p.p.) of trips. The United Kingdom rose to 3rd with 8.4% (+2.4 p.p.), the position occupied by Italy in 2019 which dropped to the 6th (5.5% compared to 6.2% recorded in 2019). Among the trips made abroad, 79.4% were destined for European Union countries (+3.8 p.p. compared to 2019).

Figure 6. The proportion of trips of the three main foreign destinations



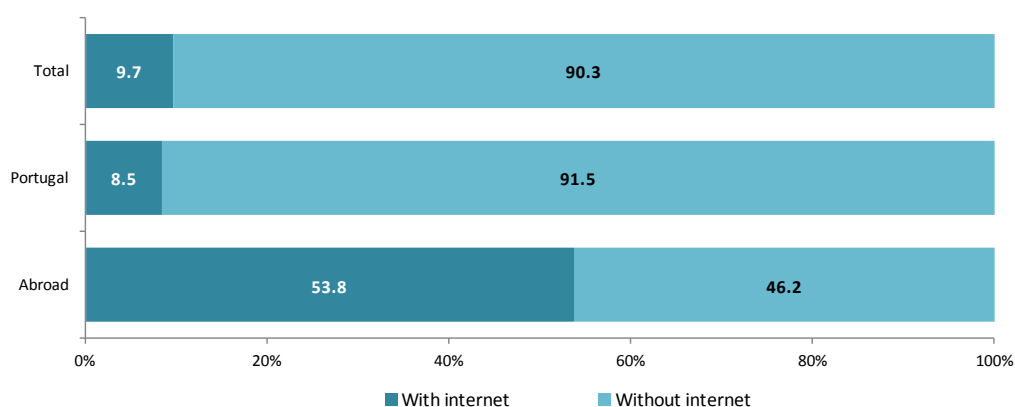


The use of the Internet to organise trips lost expression in both destinations

In the **4th quarter of 2020**, 17.6% of the trips were made through the booking of services (-11.2 p.p.), a proportion that reached 71.2% (-18.7 p.p.) for trips abroad. In domestic trips, booking of services was used in 16.2% of the trips (-4.8 p.p.).

The Internet was used to organize 9.7% of the trips (-8.2 p.p.), having been an option in 53.8% (-9.4 p.p.) of trips abroad and 8.5% (-3.5 p.p.) of domestic trips.

Figure 7. Breakdown of trips according to the use of the internet, by destination, 4th Q 2020

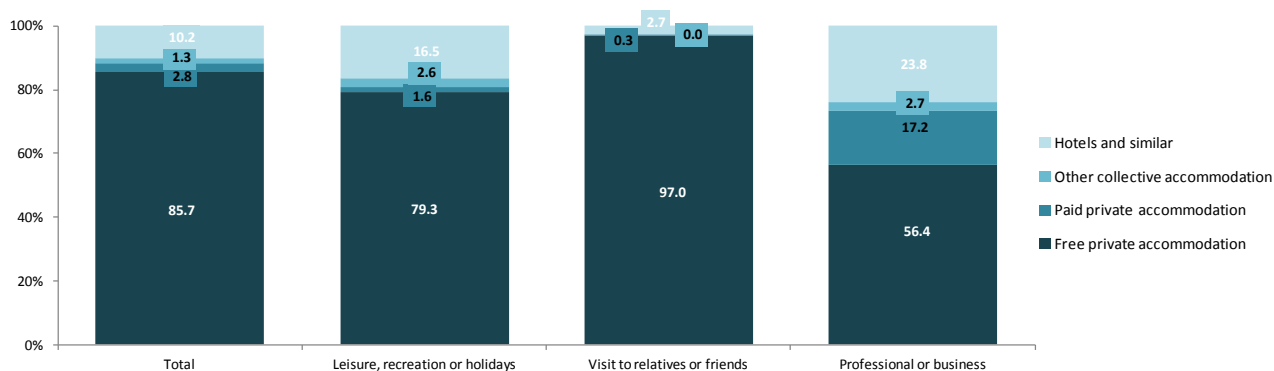


In **2020**, pre-booked trips accounted for 31.4% of the total (-3.9 p.p. compared to 2019) and 85.9% of the trips abroad (-4.9 p.p.). The use of the internet occurred in 20.7% (-1.1 p.p.) of trips in 2020, a figure that rises to 69.9% when considering only trips abroad.

In a pandemic context, "Free private accommodation" strengthened its predominance in the quarter and consolidated its position in annual terms

"Hotels and similar" hosted 10.2% of overnight stays in the **4th quarter of 2020**, losing representativeness, -12.1 p.p., compared to the same period of 2019. "Free private accommodation" remained as the main accommodation option (85.7% of the overnight stays), registering an increase of 12.1 p.p. in total weight.

Figure 8. Breakdown of overnight stays by type of accommodation, according to main purposes, 4th Q 2020

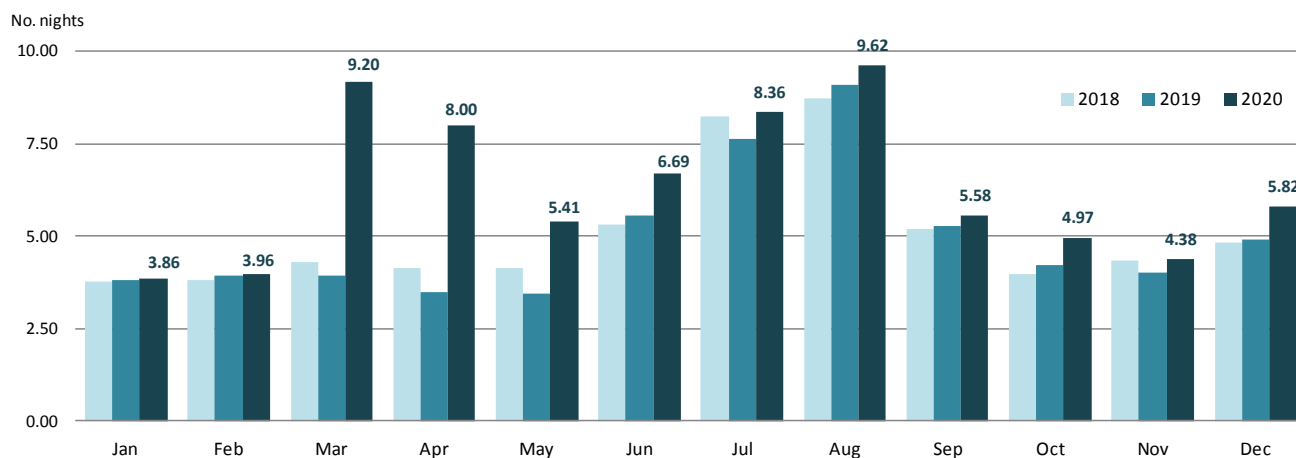


In 2020, overnight stays spent in "free private accommodation" strengthened its weight in the total, corresponding to 69.2% (61.3% in 2019), with "hotels and similar" losing representativeness (20.7% of total overnight stays, -6.3 p.p.), due to the decrease of 45.9% in the number of overnight stays in this type of accommodation compared to 2019.

The average number of overnight stays per tourist increased both in the quarter and year-on-year

In the 4th quarter of 2020, each resident tourist slept, on average, 5.22 nights for the duration of tourism trips made (+16.4%). The highest average stay was observed in trips made in December (5.82 nights).

Figure 9. Overnight stays spent by tourist during trips, by month



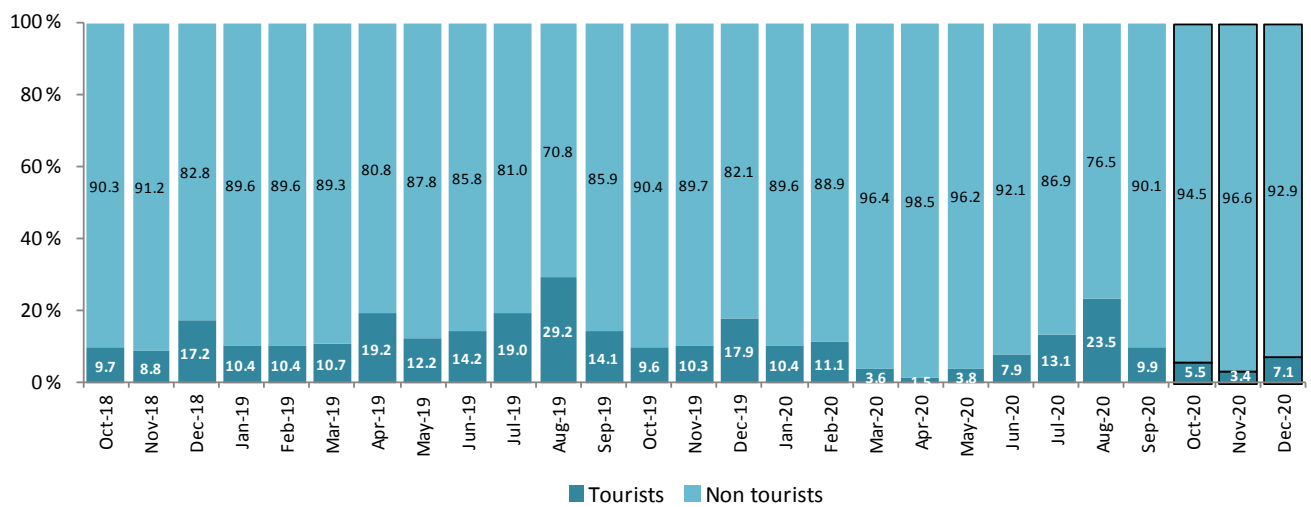
In 2020 as a whole, each tourist spent an average of 6.72 overnight stays (5.45 in 2019 and 5.63 in 2018), with very high figures in the first months of the pandemic (9.2 nights in March and 8.0 nights in April 2020).



A steep decline in the number of tourists in the quarter

In the 4th quarter of 2020, 9.5% of the resident population made at least one tourism trip (-12.6 p.p. compared to the 4th Q 2019). December recorded the highest proportion of residents who travelled (7.1%) despite being the month that recorded the largest year-on-year decrease in that proportion (-10.7 p.p., compared to -6.9 p.p. in November and -4.1 p.p. in October).

Figure 10. Proportion of tourists and non-tourists in the resident population, by month





METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

Results 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.

Results in this Press Release are:

Until 2019 – final data

2020 – 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 its usual living environment.

Usual living environment - Environment in the proximity of an individual’s residence, concerning 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 – Tourist accommodation establishments whose main economic activity consists of 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 – 27th of July 2021
