27 July 2023
TOURISM DEMAND OF RESIDENTS
1st Quarter 2023

RESIDENTS' TRIPS ABROAD REMAINED BELOW 2019 LEVELS

In the **1st quarter of 2023**, residents in Portugal made 4.9 million trips, an increase of 11.8%[1] (+3.9% compared to the 1st quarter of 2019; +8.5% in the 4th quarter of 2022[2]). Domestic trips stood for 88.7% of the total trips (4.3 million) and increased by 9.3% (+5.0% when compared to the 1st quarter of 2019. Trips abroad grew by 35.8%, totalling 549.1 thousand trips, which corresponded to 11.3% of the total (12.1% in the 4th quarter of 2022). Regarding residents' trips abroad, there has been a progressive approach to 2019 levels, which were still 4.6% below those levels in the 1st quarter of 2023 (in the 1st quarter of 2022 this difference was -29.8%).

"Visit to relatives or friends" was the main reason for travelling in the **1st quarter of 2023** (2.2 million trips, 46.1% of the total, -0.9 p.p.[3] compared to the 1st quarter of 2022), increasing by 9.6% (+8.1% compared to the 1st quarter of 2019). "Leisure, recreation, or holidays" was the motivation for 1.9 million trips (39.5% of the total, +1.5 p.p.), growing by 16.2% (+7.5% compared to the 1st quarter of 2019).

"Hotels and similar establishments" accounted for 23.6% (+2.7 p.p.) of overnight stays from tourism trips in the **1st quarter of 2023**. The "free private accommodation" remained the main option (68.7% of overnight stays, -3.6 p.p.).

When organising travels, the internet was used in 22.2% of the situations (+2.3 p.p.), having been an option in 68.9% of trips abroad (+0.8 p.p.) and in 16.3% of domestic trips (+1.3 p.p.).

Residents' trips abroad stood 4.6% below 2019 levels

In the 1st quarter of 2023, the residents in Portugal made 4.9 million trips, corresponding to a 11.8% increase (+8.5% in the 4th quarter of 2022). The figures were higher than those of the 1st quarter of 2019 (+3.9%), due to the rate of change observed in domestic trips (+5.0%), as trips abroad remained below these levels (-4.6%). Regarding residents' trips abroad, there has been a progressive approach to 2019 levels, as the difference was -29.8% in the 1st quarter of 2022.

The number of trips increased in every month of the quarter: +14.4% in January, +15.8% in February, and +5.0% in March. Compared to the same months of 2019, a decrease of 8.0% was recorded in March, while

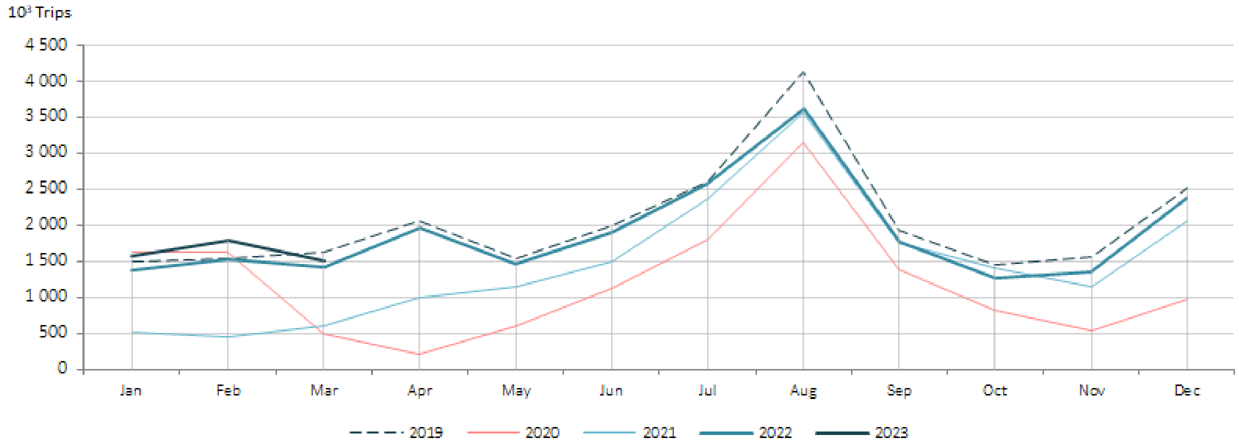
[1] Unless stated otherwise, the rates of change in this press release refer to year-on-year rates of change.

[2] With the release of the Tourism Statistics 2022 publication, the 2022 results have been revised and the update is reflected in this press release.

[3] When analysing proportions, a year-on-year comparison between quarters is carried out.

in January and February there were increases of 4.6% and 15.7%, respectively, mainly due to calendar effects.

Figure 1. **Tourism trips of residents by month**



In the **1st quarter of 2023**, domestic trips corresponded to 88.7% of total trips (87.7% in the 1st quarter of 2019; 87.9% in the 4th quarter of 2022) and grew by 9.3% compared to the same period in 2022 (+5.0% vis-à-vis the 1st quarter of 2019; +4.4 % in the 4th quarter of 2022). It should be noted that the year-on-year increases reflect the impact of the restrictions on passenger traffic that were still in force at the beginning of 2022, as a result of measures to control the spread of the pandemic.

Tourist trips abroad grew by 35.8%, resulting in 549.1 thousand trips (-4.6% compared to the 1st quarter of 2019; +51.8% in the 4th quarter of 2022) and represented 11.3% of the total (12.3% in the 1st quarter of 2019; 12.1% in the 4th quarter of 2022).

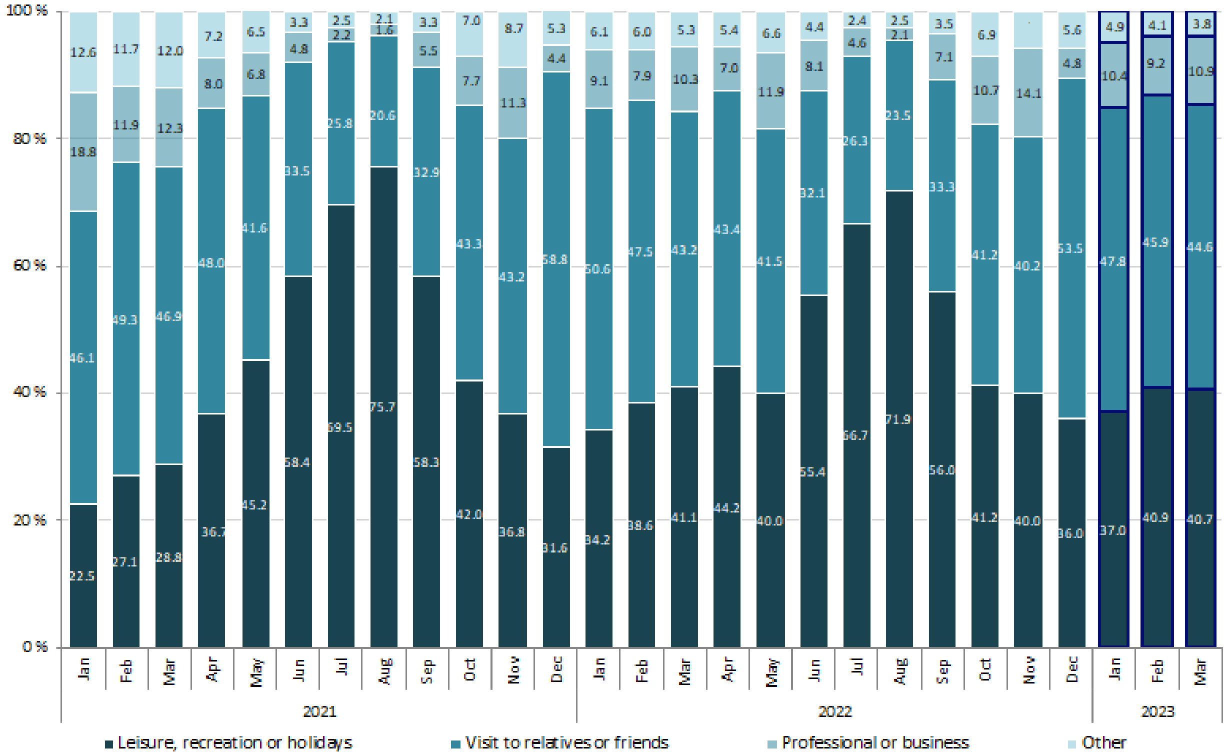
Table 1. **Tourism trips by destination, by month**

Unit: 10^3

MONTH	Total (No)					Total Portugal (No)					Total Abroad (No)				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	24 463	14 410	17 518	22 627	4 853	21 363	13 730	16 506	19 969	4 304	3 100	680	1 012	2 657	549
January	1 501	1 627	522	1 373	1 570	1 313	1 430	494	1 275	1 423	188	198	28	97	148
February	1 539	1 620	456	1 538	1 781	1 363	1 412	445	1 401	1 529	176	208	11	137	252
March	1 634	490	607	1 431	1 502	1 422	452	600	1 261	1 352	212	38	7	170	150
April	2 060	222	987	1 972		1 739	220	976	1 666		321	3	11	306	
May	1 539	608	1 138	1 456		1 356	607	1 109	1 282		184	0	30	174	
June	2 001	1 137	1 491	1 901		1 677	1 127	1 420	1 641		323	9	71	260	
July	2 607	1 803	2 374	2 565		2 304	1 765	2 272	2 294		303	38	101	271	
August	4 122	3 155	3 573	3 614		3 595	3 080	3 391	3 206		527	74	182	408	
September	1 939	1 398	1 761	1 778		1 705	1 349	1 590	1 549		234	49	171	229	
October	1 443	829	1 400	1 270		1 278	805	1 252	1 103		165	24	148	167	
November	1 555	541	1 147	1 350		1 365	527	1 036	1 188		190	14	111	161	
December	2 524	980	2 061	2 381		2 246	956	1 922	2 103		278	23	139	278	

The “visit to relatives or friends” was the main reason for travelling in the 1st **quarter of 2023**, accounting for 2.2 million trips (+9.6%; +8.1% when compared to the 1st quarter of 2019), standing for 46.1% of the total (-0.9 p.p. vis-à-vis the 1st quarter of 2022; +1.8 p.p. compared to the 1st quarter of 2019). “Leisure, recreation, or holidays” was the motivation for 1.9 million trips (+16.2%; +7.5% vis-à-vis the 1st quarter of 2019), representing 39.5% of the total (+1.5 p.p. compared to the 1st quarter of 2022). Trips for “professional or business” reasons (489.4 thousand), corresponding to 10.1% of the total (+1.0 p.p.), registered the largest increase (+23.9% compared to the 1st quarter of 2022 and -21.9% vis-à-vis the 1st quarter of 2019).

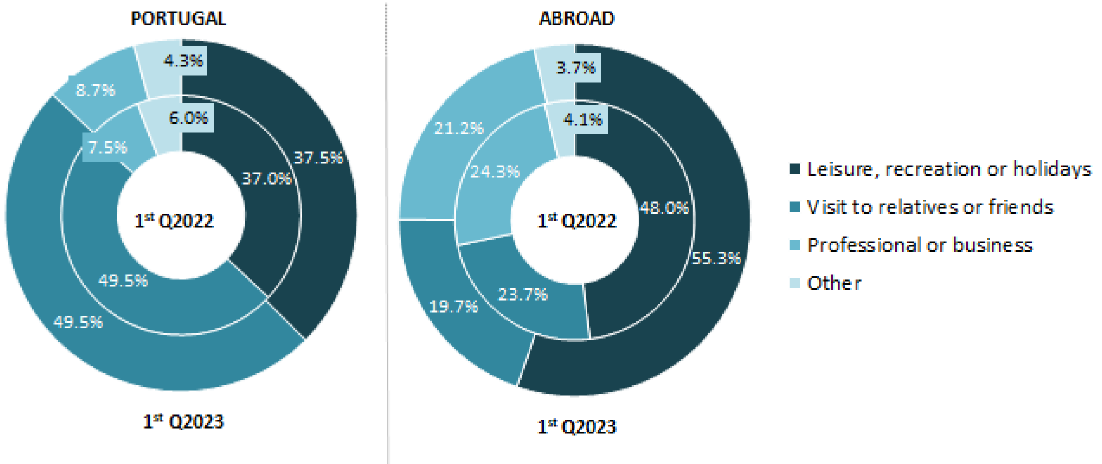
Figure 2. **Breakdown of trips according to the main purposes, by month**



“Leisure, recreation, or holidays” accounted for more than half of trips abroad

In the 1st **quarter of 2023**, the “visit to relatives or friends” was associated with about half of domestic trips (2.1 million; share of 49.5%), while it was the third most frequent reason for travelling abroad (108.4 thousand trips; share of 19.7%). "Leisure, recreation or holidays" was the main reason for travelling abroad (303.8 thousand trips; share of 55.3%) and the second most common reason for domestic trips (1.6 million trips; weight of 37.5%). For trips abroad, "professional or business" reasons was the second most important motivation for travelling, totalling 116.6 thousand trips (21.2% of the total, -3.1 p.p.).

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

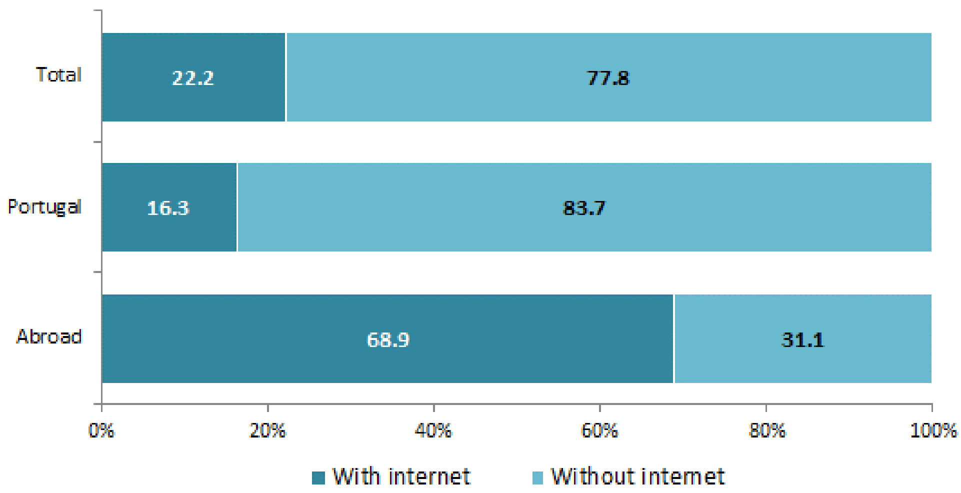


Most trips abroad were organised via the internet

In the **1st quarter of 2023**, booking services were used in 32.7% of trips taken by residents (+3.1 p.p.), reaching 93.2% (+2.7 p.p.) in the case of trips abroad and 24.9% in domestic trips (+1.6 p.p.).

The internet was used to organise 22.2% of trips (+2.3 p.p.), with it being an option for 68.9% (+0.8 p.p.) of trips abroad and 16.3% (+1.3 p.p.) of domestic trips.

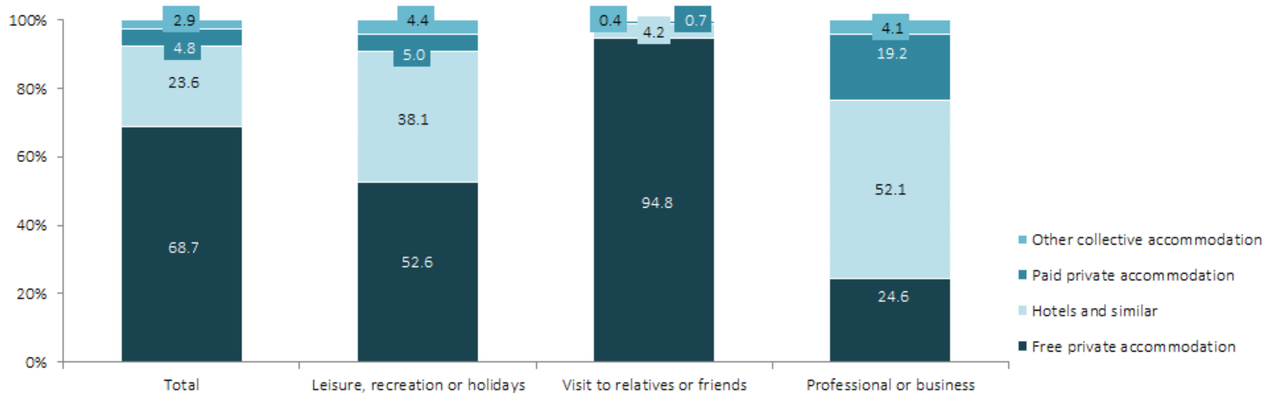
Figure 4. Breakdown of trips according to the use of the internet, by destination, 1st quarter of 2023



"Hotels and similar" establishments accounted for almost ¼ of overnight stays, but "free private accommodation" continued to prevail

"Hotels and similar" hosted 23.6% (+2.7 p.p.) of overnight stays spent on tourist trips in the **1st quarter of 2023** (3.1 million overnight stays, +20.1%; -0.4% compared to the 1st quarter of 2019). "Free private accommodation" remained as the main option, 68.7% of the total (-3.6 p.p.), corresponding to 9.1 million overnight stays (+1.2%; +5.2% compared to the 1st quarter of 2019).

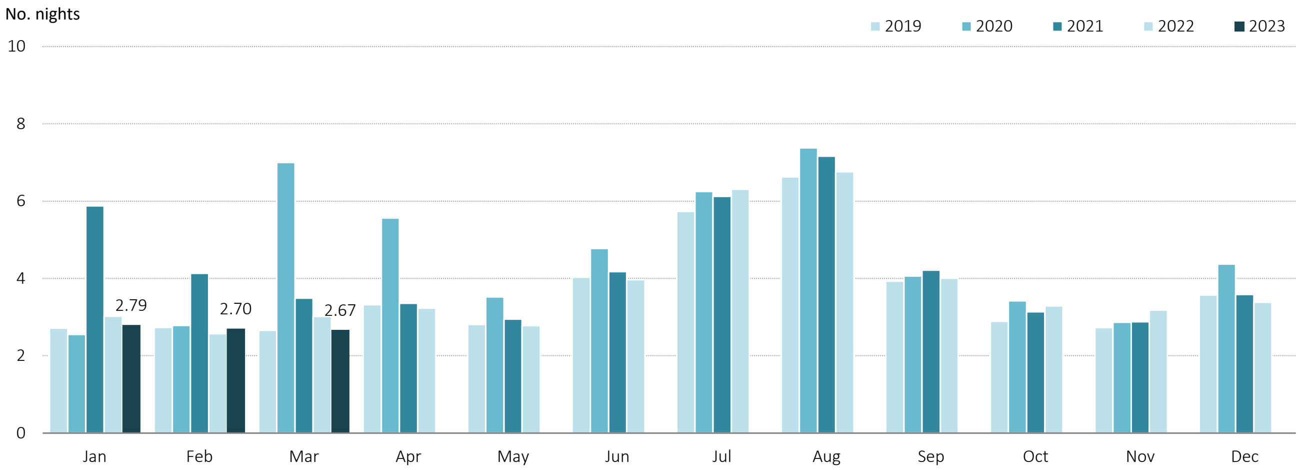
Figure 5. **Breakdown of overnight stays by type of accommodation, according to main purposes, 1st quarter of 2023**



The average trip duration in the 1st quarter of 2023 was 2.72 nights

In the **1st quarter of 2023**, each trip had an average duration of 2.72 nights (2.86 in the 1st quarter of 2022; 2.70 in the 1st quarter of 2019). The lowest average duration was recorded in March (2.67 nights), while the highest occurred in January (2.79 nights).

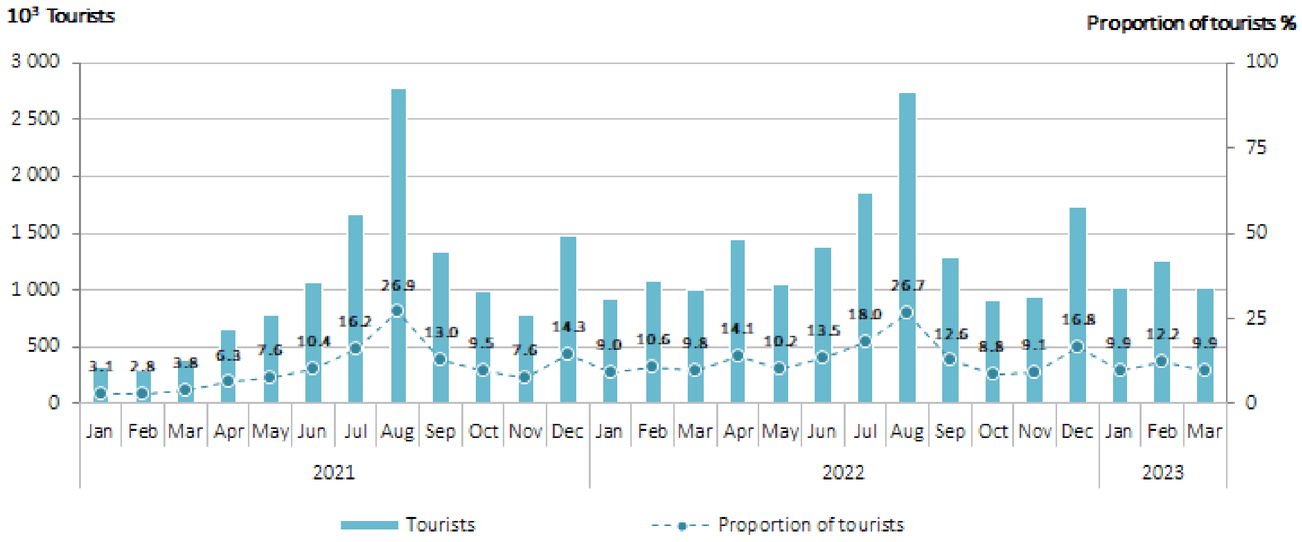
Figure 6. **Average trip duration, by month**



Proportion of residents who travelled increased in the 1st quarter of 2023, compared to the same periods in 2022 and 2019

In the **1st quarter of 2023**, 19.8% of the resident population took at least one tourism trip, +2.1 p.p. compared to the same period of the previous year (+0.7 p.p. compared to the 1st quarter of 2019). On a monthly basis, there were increases in the proportion of residents who travelled in all months of the quarter (+0.9 p.p., +1.6 p.p., and +0.1 p.p., from January to March, in the same order). Compared to the same months in 2019, the observed changes were -0.5 p.p., +1.8 p.p., and -0.8 p.p., respectively.

Figure 7. **Proportion of 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.

The results in this Press Release are:

Up until 2022 – final data (In this press release, the final results for 2022 have been updated according to the information recently made available in the Tourism Statistics 2022 publication and the corresponding annual indicators were made available on the Statistics Portugal website)

2023 – 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 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 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).

Date of next Press Release – 27th of October 2023