

Press release: 13 493-260/24

Record number of holiday trips in Q3

64.5% of the resident population in Austria took at least one holiday trip between July and September 2024

Vienna, 2024-12-11 – According to preliminary results from Statistics Austria, the Austrian resident population aged 15 and over took 9.45 million holiday trips in the period from July to September 2024, 0.8% more than in the third quarter of the previous year. More than half of these trips were abroad (57.9%). The most common way to go on holiday was by car. However, the share of holiday trips by car fell to its lowest level to date, while the proportion of rail journeys increased.

“This summer, the desire to travel was higher than ever: 64.5% of the total population aged 15 and over, i.e. almost five million people in Austria, took at least one holiday trip between July and September 2024. This means that travel intensity has risen to its highest level since quarterly records of travel behaviour began in 2000,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

In the summer months of 2024, fewer short holiday trips with one to three overnight stays were taken than in the previous year (–3.0% compared to Q3 2023) in favour of longer holiday trips with four or more overnight stays (+3.8%). Longer holiday trips accounted for 58.2% of all holiday trips (5.50 million holiday trips).

More than half of holiday trips were abroad

With a share of 57.9% (or 5.47 million), more than half of holiday trips between July and September 2024 were spent abroad. As in previous years, most holiday trips were made to Italy (21.7%), followed by trips to Croatia (15.7%) and Germany (11.6%). Long-distance travel has increased again compared to previous years and, with a share of 5.0% it, is at its highest level since the pandemic, but below the pre-pandemic level of the third quarter of 2019 (6.4%). 3.98 million holiday trips were spent in Austria in the third quarter of 2024, of which a fifth (20.0%) were spent in Styria.

Coolcation trend not yet apparent

The coolcation travel trend, where summer holidays are now increasingly spent in cooler destinations in the north due to rising temperatures in the south, is not evident from the data currently available. For example, the share of coolcation destinations in trips abroad in this quarter is 6.9% and therefore lower than in other years (2014: 7.0%; 2016: 7.7%; 2019: 7.6%; 2023: 7.6%).

Car remains most common mode of transport for holiday trips, albeit with a downward trend

The most frequently used mode of transport for holiday trips in the third quarter of 2024 was again the car. However, the share of car journeys in all holiday trips fell to 60.5%. This is the lowest figure since 2006. At 19.5%, the share of air travel is back at the 2019 level (19.7%), while the share of trips by train in the current quarter is 11.8%, the second-highest figure to date. Within Austria in particular, rail travel was used more frequently: 18.8% of domestic holiday trips in the third quarter of 2024 were train journeys, the share of train journeys in all domestic holiday trips was therefore 3.2 percentage points higher than in the same quarter of the previous year (Q3 2023: 15.6%). After the car (49.5% of holiday trips abroad) and the plane (33.7%), buses (7.8%) were used more frequently than trains (6.7%) for holiday trips abroad.

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

Holiday trips in the summer months (July, August and September) 2019 to 2024

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Share of persons aged 15 and older with at least one holiday trip (in %)						
Domestic trips	30.8	33.8	35.8	35.5	32.7	32.5
Trips abroad	39.1	16.5	34.4	44.9	47.5	47.5
Total	57.6	43.2	56.1	63.3	63.5	64.5
Holiday trips by duration (number of trips in 1 000)						
Short-term trips (1-3 nights)	2 914.4	2 965.9	3 462.8	4 200.5	3 965.7	3 945.6
Longer trips (4 and more nights)	4 129.4	2 643.9	4 508.9	4 875.1	5 339.8	5 502.5
Total	7 043.8	5 609.8	7 971.7	9 075.7	9 305.5	9 448.2
Holiday trips by duration (share in %)						
Short-term trips (1-3 nights)	41.4	52.9	43.4	46.3	42.6	41.8
Longer trips (4 and more nights)	58.6	47.1	56.6	53.7	57.4	58.2
By month of departure (share in %)						
July	37.7	33.5	34.1	36.5	34.6	35.8
August	38.4	42.6	40.9	39.7	38.0	40.1
September	23.9	23.9	25.0	23.8	27.4	24.1
Organisation of the trips (share in %)						
Privat	72.8	82.3	79.9	70.4	69.8	69.0
Travel agency or tour operator	27.2	17.7	20.1	29.6	30.2	31.0
Domestic trips and trips abroad (in 1 000)						
Domestic trips	3 204.0	3 933.9	4 093.1	4 025.0	3 953.8	3 978.2
Trips abroad	3 839.8	1 675.9	3 878.5	5 050.7	5 351.7	5 470.0
Total	7 043.8	5 609.8	7 971.6	9 075.7	9 305.5	9 448.2
Domestic trips and trips abroad (share in %)						
Domestic trips	45.5	70.1	51.3	44.3	42.5	42.1
Trips abroad	54.5	29.9	48.7	55.7	57.5	57.9
Top destinations abroad (share in %)						
Italy (incl. Vatican, San Marino)	22.2	31.7	32.6	25.9	22.2	21.7
Croatia	13.9	8.3	16.2	16.7	17.9	15.7
Germany	12.6	25.0	12.7	11.0	12.8	11.6
Greece	9.7	4.3	10.0	6.5	5.8	6.5
Spain (incl. Andorra, Gibraltar)	4.4	3.1	3.9	5.6	5.0	5.0
Turkey	2.9	1.5	2.3	2.2	3.3	4.5
Hungary	2.8	4.3	1.7	3.0	3.0	3.3
France (incl. Monaco)	2.8	3.0	2.4	2.9	2.4	2.8
Coolcation-destinations ¹	7.6	4.2	4.8	5.5	7.6	6.9
Long-distance trips ²	6.4	0.2	0.7	4.6	4.1	5.0
Other destinations	14.7	14.4	12.7	16.1	15.9	17.0

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Travel behaviour. – Holiday trips with at least one overnight stay. – Rounding differences were not adjusted.

1) Denmark (incl. Faeroe Islands), Estonia, Finland, Greenland, Ireland, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway (incl. Spitzbergen), Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Belarus. – 2) Holiday trips outside Europe and Türkiye.

Information on methodology, definitions: Statistics Austria conducts quarterly sample surveys with the aim of mapping the travel behaviour of the Austrian resident population aged 15 and over. Every quarter, around 3 500 selected Austrian residents aged between 15 and 85 (net sample) are interviewed online (CAWI) and by telephone (CATI) as part of this survey. Participation in the survey is voluntary. The selection frame for the proportionally stratified sample is the Central Register of Residents (ZMR). The data to be collected concerns holiday and business trips with at least one overnight stay as well as day trips. Data on the travel behaviour of the Austrian population on holiday trips with four or more overnight stays has been available since the reporting year 1969.

Statistics Austria is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment. As a national statistical institute, it is committed to the statutory principles of independence, impartiality and objectivity. Statistics Austria is headed by Tobias Thomas, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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