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1.7% fewer holiday trips in the first half of 2026

Fewer and shorter trips than in the first half of 2025

Vienna, 2026-09-22 – According to preliminary data from Statistics Austria, the number of holiday trips involving at least one overnight stay (including visits to relatives and friends) stood at 11.62 million in the first half of 2026. This represents a decline of 1.7% compared with the first half of 2025 (11.82 million).

“In the first half of 2026, people living in Austria aged 15 and over once again travelled slightly less than they did a year earlier. After the peak recorded in the first half of 2024, the number of holiday trips in the first half of this year has thus fallen for the second year running. Holiday trips abroad fell by the same proportion as domestic trips within Austria – by 1.7% in each case. However, people are not only travelling less frequent, but also for shorter periods – on average, a holiday trip in the first half of 2026 lasted 4.5 days, compared with 4.7 days in each of the two previous years,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

By contrast, the number of business trips rose compared with the first half of 2025 by 4.5% to 1.80 million, primarily due to an increase in business trips abroad (+13.8% to 0.95 million).

Italy is the most visited destination abroad; Styria ranks first in Austria

In the first half of this year, roughly half of all holiday trips were taken domestically (49.7% or 5.78 million) and half abroad (50.3% or 5.84 million), which is consistent with the distribution in previous years. The 5 most popular international destinations from January to June 2026 – as in previous years – were Italy, followed by Germany, Croatia, Spain, and Hungary. The share of long-distance trips – trips outside of Europe and Türkiye – rose slightly compared to previous years to 9.2% of all holiday trips abroad (2025: 9.0%; 2024: 8.2%). Within Austria, the most popular holiday destinations were Styria (21.5% of domestic holiday trips), Salzburg (13.3%), and Upper Austria (12.9%).

Cars remain the most commonly used means of transport for journeys, but their share has fallen

In the first half of 2026, 58.3% of all holiday trips involved travelling to and from the destination by car, although this proportion continued to fall (first half of 2025: 59.7%; first half of 2024: 60.9%). Apart from the high usage of cars (domestic: 75.1% of all domestic holiday trips; abroad: 41.7% of all holiday trips abroad), the mix of the other means of transport differs significantly depending on whether the holiday trip is domestic or abroad. For holidays abroad, the proportions of journeys by air and rail increased compared with the first half of 2025 (air: 38.3% of all holidays abroad; rail: 11.3%). For domestic holidays, the train was used for 1 in 5 journeys (20.5%).

Holiday trips in the first half of 2024, 2025 and 2026

	First half of 2024	First half of 2025	First half of 2026[1]
By duration of the trip (absolute in 1 000)			
Holiday trips with 1–3 nights	6 974.9	6 718.8	6 620.4
Holiday trips with 4 or more nights	5 316.7	5 101.8	5 001.1
Total	12 291.5	11 820.7	11 621.5
By duration of the trip (share in %)			
Holiday trips with 1–3 nights	56.7	56.8	57.0
Holiday trips with 4 or more nights	43.3	43.2	43.0
By quarter of departure (share in %)			
Q1	43.7	40.3	42.4
Q2	56.3	59.7	57.6
By domestic and abroad destinations (absolute in 1 000)			
Domestic holiday trips	6 059.2	5 876.7	5 779.1
Holiday trips abroad	6 232.3	5 943.9	5 842.4
Total	12 291.5	11 820.7	11 621.5
By domestic and abroad destinations (share in %)			
Domestic holiday trips	49.3	49.7	49.7
Holiday trips abroad	50.7	50.3	50.3
By means of transport for arrival and departure (share in %)			
Car	60.9	59.7	58.3
Train	15.0	15.5	15.9
Plane	18.0	18.9	19.2
Other means of transport (incl. bus and ship, boat)	6.1	5.9	6.6
By top destinations abroad (share of holiday trips abroad in %; countries according to highest share in first half of 2026)			
Italy (incl. Vatican, San Marino)	20.1	19.8	23.7
Germany	16.5	14.6	14.7
Croatia	10.1	10.3	9.0
Spain (incl. Andorra, Gibraltar)	6.7	5.6	6.7
Hungary	3.4	4.4	4.1
Long-distance trips[2]	8.2	9.0	9.2
Other destinations abroad	35.0	36.3	32.6

S: STATISTIK AUSTRIA, Travel behaviour. – Rounding errors were not adjusted. –
1) Preliminary data. – 2) Holiday trips outside of Europe and Türkiye.

For detailed results and further information please refer to our website.

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.

Who is Statistics Austria?

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

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