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press release
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA
STATISTICS PORTUGAL

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Tourist Demand of Residents

4th Quarter 2017

Tourism trips of residents increased in the 4th quarter and in the year 2017

In the 4th quarter 2017, tourism trips taken by residents in Portugal amounted to 4.75 million, corresponding to an increase of 7.4% vis-à-vis the same quarter of 2016[1] (+1.1% in the 3rd Q). Trips with a foreign destination represented 9.9% of the total and grew above the domestic ones (+17.1% compared with +6.5%; +8.5% and +0.4%, in the same order, in the 3rd Q).

Trips to "visit relatives or friends" (2.6 million, 54.6% of the total) lost some representativeness (-4.8 p.p.), reinforcing the weight of trips for reasons of "leisure, recreation or holidays" (+5.0 p.p.) with a total of 1.6 million trips (33.2% of the total). The "professional or business" trips (405.1 thousand) weighed 8.5% in the total (+0.3 p.p.).

Overnight stays spent in "hotel and similar establishments" with a 15.5% share, grew by 1.1 p.p. in this indicator.

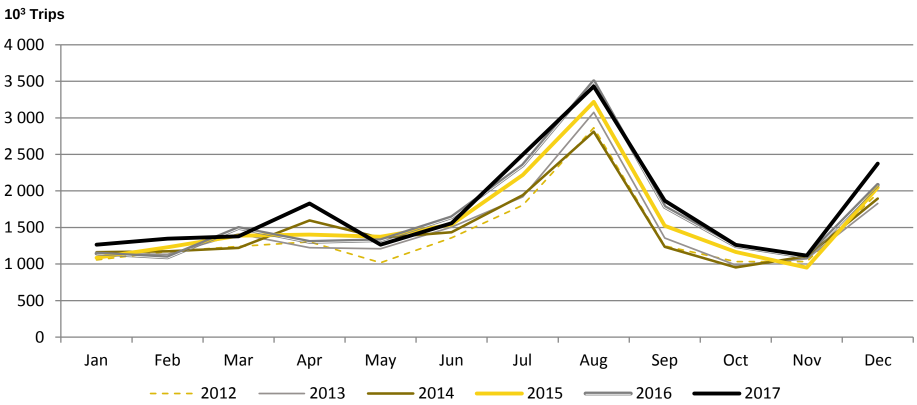
When **considering the whole year 2017,** tourism trips increased by 5.0% (+5.4% in 2016), amounting to 21.2 million. "Leisure, recreation or holidays" was the main reason to travel, corresponding to 9.6 million trips (45.2% of the total, +1.4 p.p.), followed by "visit relatives or friends" with 9.3 million (44.0%, -0.1 p.p.).

"Leisure, recreation or holidays" trips grew in importance

In the 4th quarter 2017, trips taken by residents in Portugal amounted to 4.75 million, increasing by 7.4%, after growing by 1.1% in the 3rd Q and by 8.3% in the 2nd Q.

In the **whole year 2017**, the number of tourism trips amounted to 21.2 million, increasing by 5.0% after growing by 5.4% in 2016 and by 7.0% in 2015.

Figure 1. Tourism trips of residents by month



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

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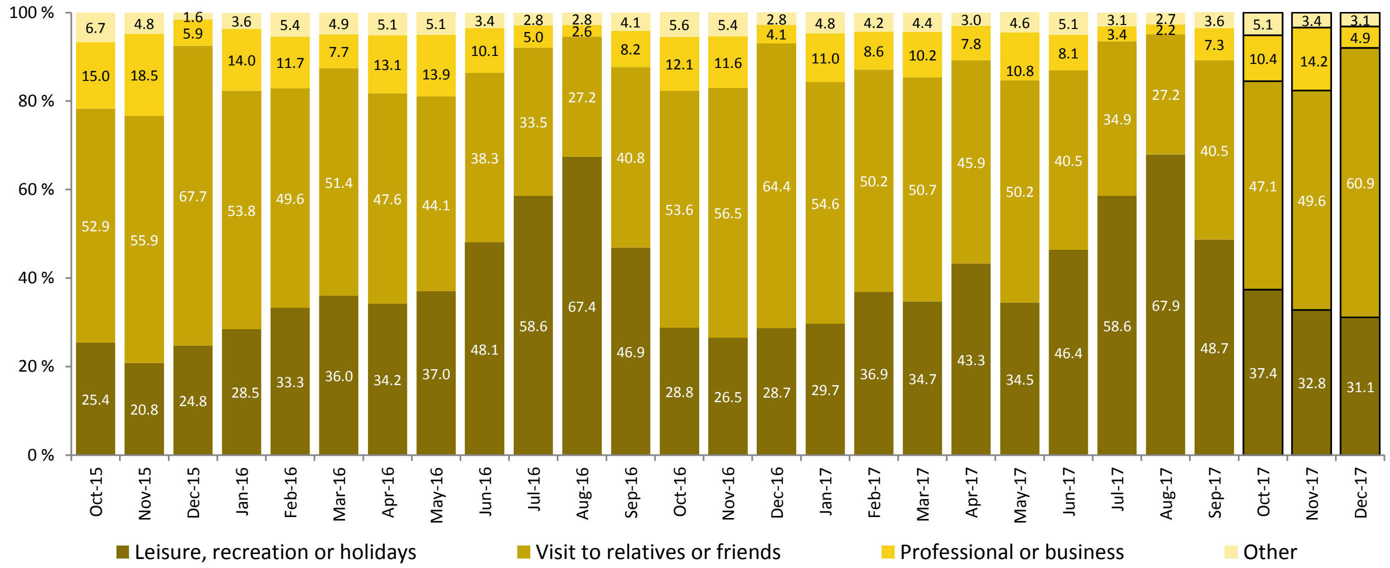
In the last quarter 2017, there were increases of 5.0 p.p. in the share of "leisure, recreation or holidays" trips (which stood for 33.2% of the total, i.e. 1.6 million trips) and of 0.3 p.p. in "professional or business" trips (8.5% of the total, corresponding to 405.1 thousand trips). In the opposite direction, "visit relatives or friends" trips lost expression (-4.8 p.p.) but still corresponded to the largest proportion of trips (54.6%, i.e. 2.6 million).

In **2017**, "leisure, recreation or holidays" trips totalled 9.6 million (45.2%, i.e. +1.4 p.p. vis-à-vis 2016) and stood as the main motivation to travel, followed by "visit to relatives or friends" with 9.3 million trips (44.0%, i.e. -0.1 p.p.).

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

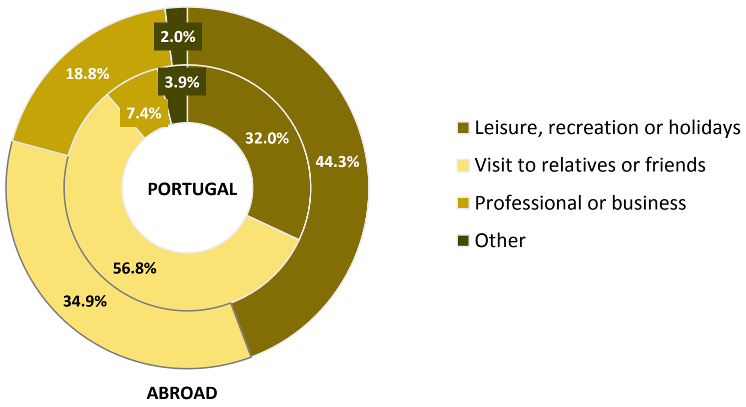


Trips abroad with greater representativeness

In the 4th quarter 2017, trips abroad stood for 9.9% of the total trips (+0.8 p.p.), with a total of 469.9 thousand. Trips abroad and domestic trips recorded increases but more so in the case of trips abroad (+17.1%). Domestic trips (4.3 million) grew by 6.5%.

In the 4th quarter 2017, considering destinations abroad, most trips had "leisure, recreation or holidays" purposes (44.3%) and increased by 2.9 p.p. in terms of representativeness. By contrast, there were reductions in the weights of trips abroad taken to "visit relatives or friends" or motivated by "professional or business" reasons (-2.7 p.p. and -1.0 p.p. respectively). In domestic trips, although "visit relatives or friends" continues to be the main motivation (56.8%), it had a lesser expression (-4.8 p.p.), in opposition to the 5.1 p.p. increase in "leisure, recreation and holidays" domestic trips share (32.0%).

Figure 3. Breakdown of trips according to purposes, by destination, 4th Q 2017



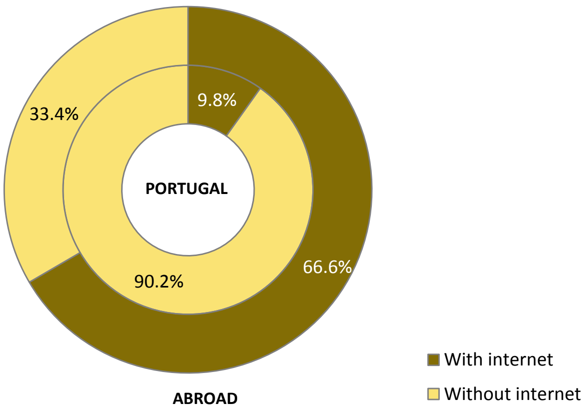
In **2017**, trips abroad represented 10.4% of the total (+0.7 p.p. vis-à-vis 2016). "Leisure, recreation or holidays" reasons where behind 57.4% (+2.6 p.p.) of trips made abroad. With regard to domestic trips, 46.6% of these (+0.1 p.p.) were taken to "visit relatives or friends".

Use of the internet for booking increases

In the last quarter 2017, booking in advance was used in 25.5% (+0.7 p.p.) of trips, and was particularly used in trips abroad (91.8%, i.e. +3.6 p.p.).

The internet was used in the planning of 15.4% of trips taken in the 4th quarter 2017 (+1.0 p.p.), having increased by 0.3 p.p. in the case of the planning of domestic trips and by +2.7 p.p. in trips abroad.

Figure 4. Breakdown of tourism trips according to the use of the internet, by destination, 4th Q 2017

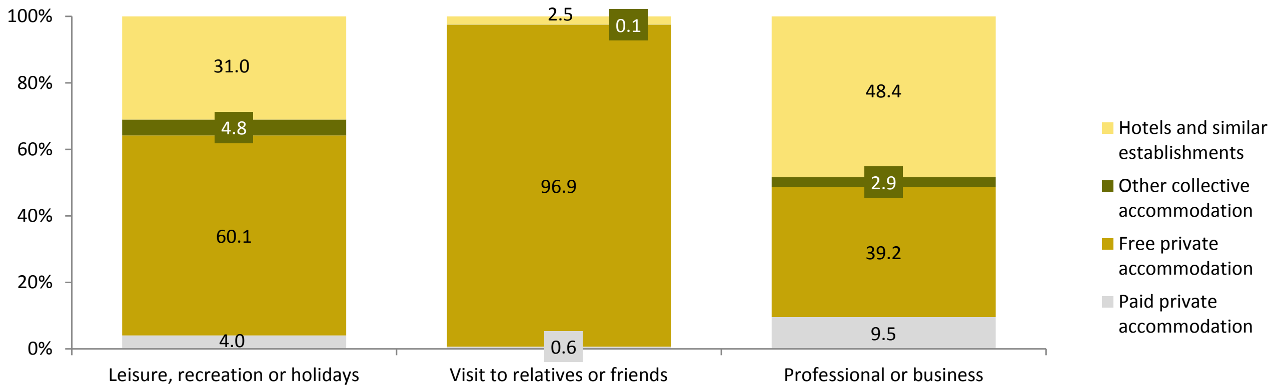


In **2017**, the proportion of trips booked in advance increased by 1.2 p.p. to 30.2%. In the case of trips abroad, booking in advance increased by 1.4 p.p. (to 90.0%). The internet was used in 17.4% of all trips during 2017 (15.8% in 2016).

"Hotel and similar establishments" grew in its share in the quarter

In the 4th quarter 2017, "hotels and similar establishments" were the accommodation of 15.5% of total overnight stays spent in tourism trips (+1.1 p.p.). The remaining means of accommodation lost expression slightly. Nonetheless, "free private accommodation" aggregated 79.8% of overnight stays while "paid private accommodation" was the chosen option in 2.5% of overnight stays.

Figure 5. Breakdown of overnight stays by type of accommodation, according to purpose, 4th Q 2017

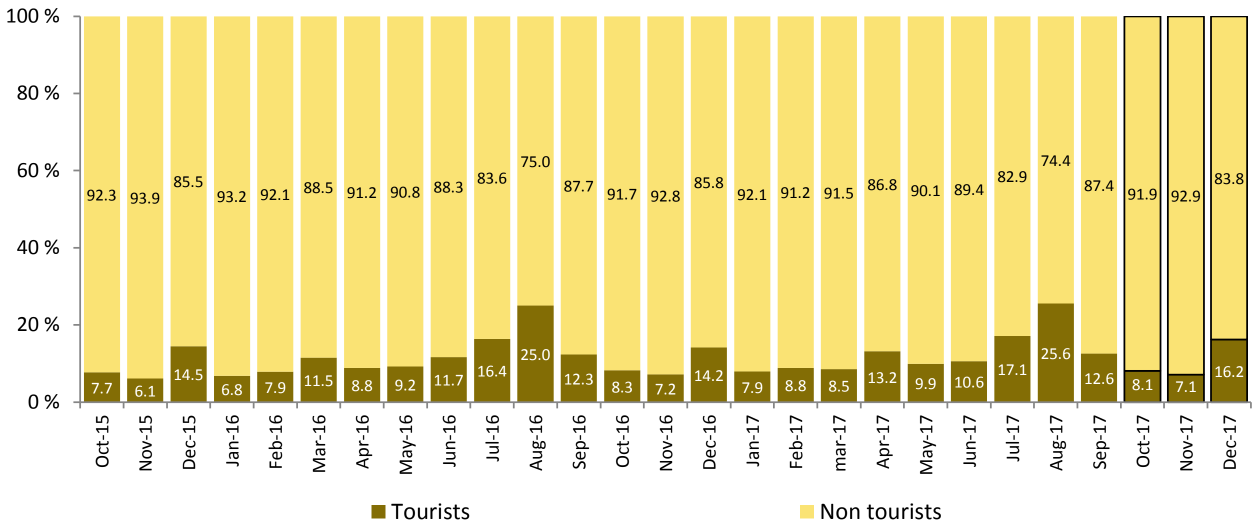


In **2017**, overnight stays spent in "free private accommodation" were the equivalent to 66.9% of the total (+1.1 p.p.), with "hotels and similar establishments" corresponding to 18.9% of overnight stays (-1.8 p.p.).

Increase in the proportion of tourists

In the last quarter 2017, the proportion of residents who took at least one tourism trip was 18.1%, which stood for a 0.8 p.p. increase vis-à-vis the same period of 2016. This increase was due to the positive contribution in December (+2.0 p.p., i.e. 16.2% tourists) given that in October (8.1% tourists) and November (7.1%) there were slight decreases in the proportion of tourists (-0.1 p.p. in each month).

Figure 6. Proportion of tourists and non tourists in the resident population, by month

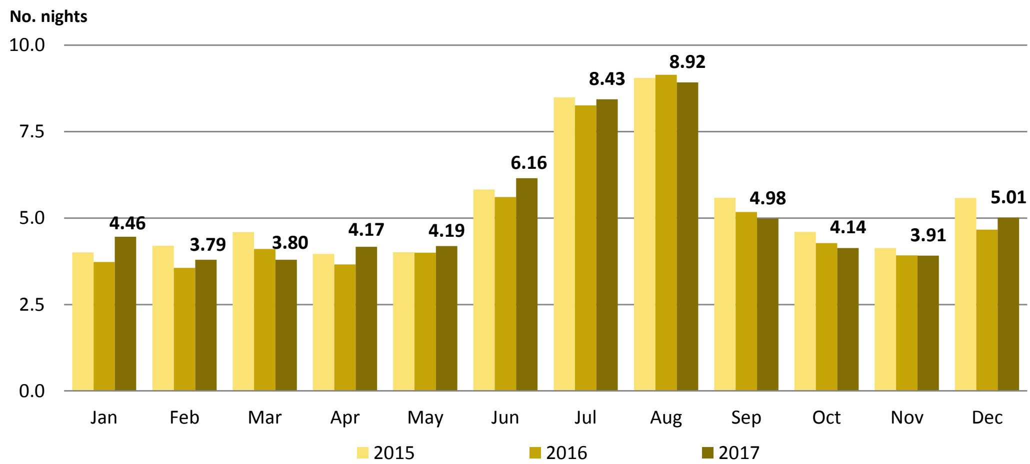


Average duration of trips increased

On average, in the 4th quarter, each resident tourist spent 4.54 overnight stays in tourism trips (+3.7%). The highest average stays were recorded in December (5.01 nights, i.e. +7.4%).

Considering **the whole year 2017**, each tourism trip had an average duration of 5.77 nights (5.69 nights in 2016).

Figure 7. Average duration of trips, by month



METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data for 2016 – final data.

Data for 2017 – provisional data.

Results from the "Survey on Tourist Demand of Residents" are gathered from surveying a sample of about 5 000 accommodation units (12 000 individuals), with a 50% rotation in the beginning of each year according to a quarterly telephone interview preceded by a face to face interview.

Tourist – Traveler 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 tourism destinations, including the returning trip to the starting point and covering the whole period of time during which an individual remains outside its usual living environment.

Usual living environment – Environment in the proximity of an individual's residence, in relation to 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 establishments – Tourist accommodation establishments whose main economic activity consists on 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: July 25, 2018