

Documentation of statistics for Leisure and Business Trips 2025

1 Introduction

The purpose of the survey is to describe the travel patterns of the Danish population. Information is provided on the use of infrastructure and accommodation, as well as on the preferred destinations of Danish travelers and the expenditure associated with their trips. Statistics Denmark has compiled similar surveys in 1972, 1976 and 1980.

2 Statistical presentation

The survey covers leisure and business trips with nights spent as well as same-day visits made by adult Danes aged 15 or older. In broader terms, the survey covers the travel habits of the adult Danish population.

2.1 Data description

The survey's overall purpose is to describe the travel patterns of adult Danes, and in more detail the Danes that go on leisure and business trips with nights spent as well as same-day visits outside their usual environment. The survey covers the use of infrastructure and accommodation. Further information is also given on the preferred destinations and the total expenditures concerning the journey. The survey has undergone several methodical changes during the years which in turn makes it less appropriate as a time series. Instead, the survey is more feasible as a cross-section in time with information on for instance the purpose of the trips, the preferred destinations and the expenditure in a given year of reference.

The most important variables are:

- Travel frequency and propensity
- Purpose of the trip
- Duration of the trip
- Destination of the trip
- The average expenditure

2.2 Classification system

The tables in the StatBank are broken down by destination (country), length of stay, purpose of the trip, type of accommodation, and mode of transport.

2.3 Sector coverage

The survey covers Danish residents aged 15 years and over and describes the travel patterns of the Danish population.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Number of trips is the number of trips made outside of the usual environment.

2.5 Statistical unit

The primary statistical unit is the number of trips made by Danish residents aged 15 years or older.

2.6 Statistical population

The target population is the Danish population aged 15 years or older that are residing in Denmark.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

The survey is available from 1999 to 2012 as a statistical publication (pdf). Data from 2001 and onwards are available in the StatBank.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant.

2.10 Unit of measure

The primary unit of measure is number of trips.

2.11 Reference period

The survey is compiled annually and published approx. 7 months after the end of the reference year.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Annual.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Participation in the survey is voluntary and it is a part of a joint EU survey on tourism demand in relation to Regulation 692/2011 concerning European statistics on tourism. Similar surveys are made in the other EFTA and EU member states.

2.14 Cost and burden

As participation is voluntary, no respondent burden is calculated.

2.15 Comment

The survey has a web page [Leisure and Business trips](#).

3 Statistical processing

The survey is made on the basis of a randomly selected sample with approx. 6000 interviews in net value (unit nonresponse excluded) among Danish residents aged 15 years+. The sample is then grossed up to the target population (Danish residents aged 15 years+) by using different strata, which refers to groupings based on for instance gender, age, family type, family income and socio group in order to make the sample represent the target population the best way possible.

3.1 Source data

Sample survey among Danish residents aged 15 years and older. Approx. 6000 interviews per annum.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Data is collected on a daily basis.

3.3 Data collection

Mixed data collection method. Data are collected via telephone interviews (CATI) or web surveys (CAWI). The telephone interviews were previously conducted in-house by DST Survey, but since June 2019 they have been carried out by external survey providers, first Norstat and, since 2026, Wilke. Interviews are conducted on a daily basis with selected respondents. The web survey was introduced in 2013 and has become the predominant mode of data collection, gradually replacing telephone interviews. A new questionnaire was introduced in August 2017 and revised in June 2019 in connection with the transition to Norstat. A new questionnaire were introduced in 2025. In 2026, Wilke took over responsibility for the data collection from Norstat. Telephone interviews are still conducted, but since 2026 only among respondents aged 65 years and over. The primary mode of data collection is the web survey.

3.4 Data validation

Data is validated by comparing with previous reference periods as well as crosschecked for consistency. If errors or anomalies are detected they are examined and will either be discarded or imputed before aggregating the data.

3.5 Data compilation

Statistics Denmark collects data by interviewing a random sample of the Danish population aged 15 years and over. The anonymised interview data are validated and checked for errors. Among other things, consistency between variables is examined, and any outliers are removed. The respondent data are then combined into quarterly datasets, which form the basis for calculating calibration weights. The weights used to gross up the sample to the total population are calculated using the CLAN procedure, a standardised calibration method. Once the weights have been calculated, the four quarterly datasets are combined, and the sample is grossed up to represent the full population. The aggregated dataset is then validated again by comparing the results with previous periods and by checking consistency across variables.

3.6 Adjustment

Data is not adjusted after publication.

4 Relevance

The survey is used by The European Commission, Danish ministries and business and tourism organizations in the industry in order to monitor the market and develop potential tourism policies. In broader terms, the survey can also be used for educational purposes and as an indicator that tells something about the travel habits and behavior of the Danish population and of the society and the economic situation in general.

4.1 User Needs

The statistics is of interest to accommodation establishments who can utilize the numbers for comparison purposes. Furthermore, the statistics is of use to the European Commission, Danish ministries as well as business organizations and private enterprises. The statistics is mostly used for monitoring of the tourism market and for enabling potential tourism policy initiatives.

4.2 User Satisfaction

A meeting with interested parties is held every 6 months. These meetings provide participants with information on the latest developments in the field and an opportunity to discuss the current statistics and potential improvements.

4.3 Data completeness rate

The survey is fully compliant with the EU regulation.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The statistics are affected by statistical sampling errors and memory bias, especially regarding the expenditure questions.

Due to the sampling method, statistical errors do occur. For the net propensity to undertake a holiday trip the interval made up as the estimated value +/- 2 per cent will contain the true value in 95 per cent of the cases.

5.1 Overall accuracy

Although the survey is well established, it has a relatively high non-response rate, resulting in a small net sample and consequently greater statistical uncertainty. In addition, certain socio-economic groups may be overrepresented, as they are more likely than others to participate in the survey. It has also been found that travel patterns differ between older respondents who complete the web survey and those who participate in telephone interviews (CATI). For these reasons, an increasing use is made of mixed-mode data collection, in which different data collection methods complement one another and help reduce potential bias. As the survey has also undergone substantial methodological changes over time, the results are currently not considered suitable for time series analysis.

5.2 Sampling error

Not calculated.

5.3 Non-sampling error

Not calculated.

5.4 Quality management

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

5.5 Quality assurance

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

5.6 Quality assessment

The survey is a sample survey of the travel behavior of the Danish population. The estimates are based on information reported by persons registered in the Danish Civil Registration System (CPR). The survey has a relatively high non-response rate, resulting in a small net sample and consequently greater statistical uncertainty. In addition, certain socio-economic groups may be overrepresented, as they are more likely than others to participate in the survey. The survey has undergone a number of methodological changes over time, which limits its suitability for time series analysis. Consequently, the results should primarily be regarded as a snapshot of the level of tourism activity rather than as a basis for analysing trends over time. The variables measuring the number of trips and preferred destinations are considered the most reliable. Estimates of travel expenditure are subject to greater uncertainty, as respondents often have difficulty recalling their spending and other details of their trips.

5.7 Data revision - policy

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the [Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark](#). The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

5.8 Data revision practice

The published statistics are final and are not subsequently revised unless errors are identified in the data.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics is published annually approx. 7 months after the end of the reference year. The statistics is published according to schedule.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The statistics is published annually approx. 7 months after the end of the reference year.

6.2 Punctuality

The statistics is published according to schedule.

7 Comparability

The statistics is mandatory and in coherence with other EU-statistics. The statistics for 1995 and subsequent years are fully comparable. The key figures for the period before 1995 data are generally comparable. Changes were made in the questionnaire in 2008, 2010 and 2017, 2019, and 2025, and the statistic is therefore not comparable over time.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

The statistics are comparable with those of other EU Member States on the same subject, as the output data are compiled in accordance with harmonised European requirements. However, Member States have some flexibility in their data collection and data processing methods, which may reduce the degree of comparability between countries.

7.2 Comparability over time

Because of statistical uncertainty and methodological changes, comparability over time is subject to considerable uncertainty. Methodological changes were implemented in 2008 and 2010, and the questionnaire was revised in 2017, 2019 and 2025. The most significant changes include collecting detailed information on the two most recent trips instead of the previous five, introducing specific questions on visits to friends and relatives and stays in respondents' own holiday homes, and reducing the recall period for long trips from twelve months to three months. In addition, unlike previously, the survey now explicitly includes all private trips with at least one overnight stay, including visits to friends and relatives.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The statistics cannot be compared with other statistics such as the accommodation statistics.

7.4 Coherence - internal

The data is internally coherent.

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published in a Danish press release and in the StatBank under [Holiday and business trips](#).

8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calendar can be accessed on our English website: [Release Calendar](#).

8.4 News release

These statistics are published in a Danish press release.

8.5 Publications

Publications only in Danish.

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject [Holiday and business trips](#) in the following tables:

- [FF2](#): Holidays by destination, duration, purpose and time
- [FF1](#): Holidays abroad by destination, duration and time
- [FF3](#): Number of trips by purpose of visit, means of transport, duration, destination and time
- [FF4](#): Holidays by purpose of visit, type of overnight accommodations, duration, destination and time

8.7 Micro-data access

The data collected is stored in electronic form from 1995. It is possible to gain access to anonymous Micro-data via [Denmark's Data Portal](#).

8.8 Other

Aggregate data and Micro-data are disseminated to Eurostat on an annual basis. Eurostat is the EU Commission's statistical organization.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

[Data Confidentiality Policy](#) for Statistics Denmark is applied.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

The respondents are anonymous in the input data in order not to be able to identify an individual. Confidentiality is furthermore ensured by accumulating data or by omission of certain variable breakdowns if there is less than 10 respondents in a given cell.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

Not relevant for these statistics.

8.12 Quality documentation

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics is in the division of Short Term Statistics, Business Statistics. The contact person is Karen Keller, tel.: + 45 2119 8561 and e-mail: KKE@dst.dk.