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PRESS RELEASE

QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF RESIDENTS TOURISTS: 2015 (Vacation Survey)

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces, the data of the 2015 of the Survey on the Qualitative Characteristics of Resident Tourists (Vacation Survey). On the basis of the survey data, in 2015, 5.815.064 trips were recorded and the number of persons who made a trip (resident tourists) amounted to 3.476.239, thus recording a decrease of 8,2% and 4,6%, respectively, compared with 2014. In 2015, the total of nights spent amounts to 57.439.286 and expenditure to EUR 1.713.664.522, recording a decrease of 10,2 % and 6,6%, respectively (Table 1).

As regards the purpose of the aforementioned trips, 93,8% of the trips were made for personal reasons and 6,2 % were business trips (Table 1).

The comparison between the data of 2015 and the corresponding data of 2014 shows that there is a decrease of 8,7% in the number of personal trips , as well as a 5,5% decrease in the number of persons traveling for personal purposes (Tables 3 and 2). A similar downward trend is also observed in the duration of personal trips, as the number of nights spent decreased by 8,8 % and the relevant expenditure by 6,4%, (Tables 4 and 5). The most significant decrease, in absolute values, in the number of trips and persons traveling for personal purposes, 11,9% and 11,8% respectively, is recorded for the age group 25-44 years (Tables 3 and 2). Similarly, for this specific age group the number of nights spent decreased by 14,6% (Table 4) and the relevant expenditure by 13,3% (Table 5).

Trips with 4-7 overnight stays and 15 and more overnight stays showed, in absolute values, a decrease of 8,8 % and 10,2%, respectively and overnight stays also decreased by 9,9% (4-7 overnight stays) and by 8,4% (15 overnight stays and more), respectively. Trips with 8 overnight stays and more recorded a significant decrease of 20,2% (Table 3).

Most of the personal trips were by car and by sea. When comparing the 2015 data with the corresponding 2014 data, it is observed that trips by car recorded a 10,4% decrease and trips by sea a 9,8% decrease, respectively (Table 3).

On the basis of available survey data, it is observed that for the majority of personal trips in 2015, the type of accommodation used was non-rented accommodation, i.e. 64,0% of the total trips and 78,4% of the total nights spent. The change, in absolute values, in 2015 compared with 2014, is reflected as a decrease of 8,5% and 9,3% in the trips and overnight stays in non-rented accommodation, respectively. A similar trend is also observed for trips in other categories of tourist accommodation and more specifically a 4,6% decrease is recorded for hotels and similar establishments, an 11,6% decrease for rooms for rent and rented houses and finally a 33,2% decrease for other collective and special accommodation. Accordingly, overnight stays recorded a decrease of 6,5% in hotels and similar establishments, a 36,2% decrease in other collective and special accommodation, while an increase of 4,5% is observed in overnight stays in rooms for rent and rented houses. (Tables 3 and 4).

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Table 1. Number of resident tourists, trips, nights spent and expenditure, by purpose of trip: 2014 and 2015

	Persons			Trips			Nights spent			Expenditure (in Euro)		
	2014	2015	Change %	2014	2015	Change %	2014	2015	Change %	2014	2015	Change %
Total	3.644.262	3.476.239	-4,6	6.334.275	5.815.064	-8,2	63.977.192	57.439.286	-10,2	1.834.994.676	1.713.664.522	-6,6
Business trips	187.163	188.713	0,8	362.742	362.414	-0,1	3.729.818	2.463.733	-33,9	152.920.079	139.863.446	-8,5
Personal trips	3.578.609	3.380.943	-5,5	5.971.533	5.452.650	-8,7	60.247.374	54.975.553	-8,8	1.682.074.597	1.573.801.076	-6,4
Rest, pleasure, vacation	2.710.326	2.585.126	-4,6	4.003.512	3.850.861	-3,8	43.611.096	41.987.351	-3,7	1.217.742.034	1.194.911.566	-1,9
Visiting relatives and friends	945.968	863.316	-8,7	1.537.071	1.285.556	-16,4	12.973.436	10.979.959	-15,4	347.484.987	297.891.895	-14,3
Other trips (pilgrim, health care, etc.)	321.510	224.341	-30,2	430.950	316.233	-26,6	3.662.842	2.008.243	-45,2	116.847.576	80.997.615	-30,7

Notes

Data refer to personal trips with 1 or more overnight stays and persons aged 15 years and over.

The data on persons do not sum up in the total, as a person may have more than one trip in a year, for different purposes each time.

Diagram 1

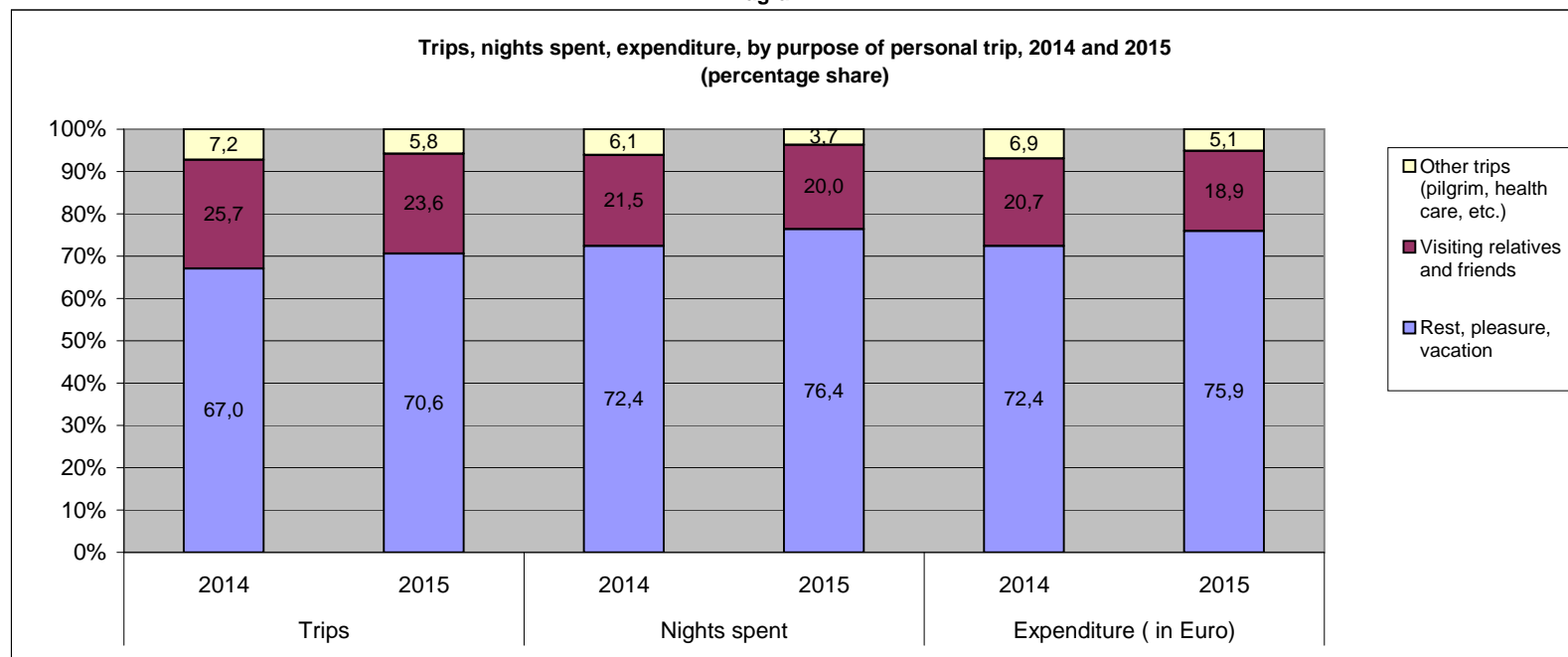


Table 2. Number of resident tourists traveling for personal reasons: 2014 and 2015

	2014	2015	Change %
Total	3.578.609	3.380.943	-5,5
Males	1.711.490	1.611.393	-5,8
Females	1.867.119	1.769.550	-5,2
Age groups			
15 - 24	470.253	448.170	-4,7
25 - 44	1.433.416	1.263.740	-11,8
45 - 64	1.153.302	1.157.869	0,4
65 and over	521.638	511.164	-2,0

Note: Data refer to personal trips with 1 or more overnight stays and persons aged 15 years and over.

Diagram 2

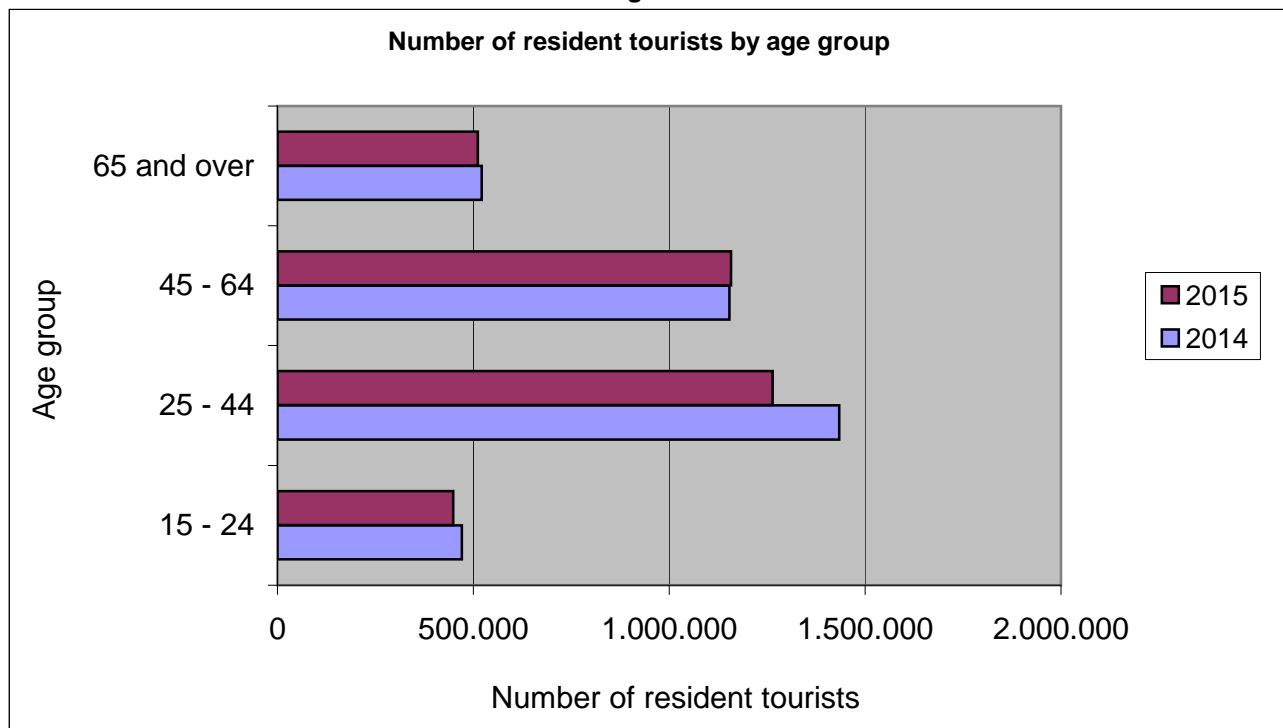


Table 3. Number of personal trips of resident tourists : 2014 and 2015

	2014	2015	Change %
Total	5.971.533	5.452.650	-8,7
Males	2.817.543	2.540.920	-9,8
Females	3.153.990	2.911.730	-7,7
Age groups			
15 - 24	782.292	646.153	-17,4
25 - 44	2.333.565	2.057.033	-11,9
45 - 64	2.002.788	1.937.370	-3,3
65 and over	852.888	812.094	-4,8
Number of nights spent			
1 - 3	1.693.818	1.579.779	-6,7
4 - 7	2.129.777	1.942.346	-8,8
8 - 14	1.003.930	903.635	-10,0
15 and over	1.144.008	1.026.890	-10,2
Means of transport			
By air	653.653	671.000	2,7
By sea	1.081.431	975.308	-9,8
By car	4.160.917	3.729.947	-10,4
By rail	75.532	76.395	1,1
Way of booking			
Direct booking	5.609.530	4.847.206	-13,6
Via travel agency, tour operator	362.003	605.444	67,2
Type of accommodation			
Hotels and similar establishments	1.351.584	1.289.825	-4,6
Rooms for rent and rented houses	618.917	547.247	-11,6
Other collective and special accommodation	185.918	124.167	-33,2
Non-rented accommodation (summer house, accommodation provided for free by relatives, friends, other owner-occupied accommodation)	3.815.114	3.491.411	-8,5

Note: Data refer to personal trips with 1 or more overnight stays and persons aged 15 years and over.

Table 4. Number of nights spent of resident tourists traveling for personal reasons: 2014 and 2015

	2014	2015	Change %
Total	60.247.374	54.975.553	-8,8
Male	27.914.960	25.139.568	-9,9
Female	32.332.414	29.835.985	-7,7
Age groups			
15 - 24	7.278.762	6.357.159	-12,7
25 - 44	19.212.707	16.401.475	-14,6
45 - 64	18.743.284	19.200.620	2,4
65 and over	15.012.621	13.016.299	-13,3
Number of nights spent			
1 - 3 nights	3.832.493	3.514.014	-8,3
4 - 7 nights	11.575.409	10.427.420	-9,9
8 - 14 nights	10.172.658	9.267.467	-8,9
15 and over	34.666.814	31.766.652	-8,4
Means of transport			
By air	6.826.283	6.786.937	-0,6
By sea	12.642.265	11.772.121	-6,9
By car	40.092.883	35.752.719	-10,8
By rail	685.943	663.776	-3,2
Way of booking			
Direct booking	58.488.118	50.143.796	-14,3
Via travel agency, tour operator	1.759.256	4.831.757	174,6
Type of accommodation			
Hotels and similar establishments	6.928.610	6.480.840	-6,5
Rooms for rent and rented houses	4.207.196	4.398.005	4,5
Other collective and special accommodation	1.580.690	1.008.672	-36,2
Non-rented accommodation (summer house, accommodation provided for free by relatives, friends, other owner-occupied accommodation)	47.530.878	43.088.036	-9,3

Note: Data refer to personal trips with 1 or more overnight stays and persons aged 15 years and over.

**Table 5. Expenditure of resident tourists traveling for personal reasons:
2014 and 2015 (in Euro)**

	2014	2015	Change %
Total	1.682.074.597	1.573.801.076	-6,4
Males	795.699.315	742.827.977	-6,6
Females	886.375.282	830.973.099	-6,3
Age groups			
15 - 24	185.948.416	175.842.149	-5,4
25 - 44	668.453.983	579.348.959	-13,3
45 - 64	556.465.312	568.456.119	2,2
65 and over	271.206.886	250.153.849	-7,8
Number of nights spent			
1 - 3	247.018.523	239.986.715	-2,8
4 - 7	604.378.942	576.562.319	-4,6
8 - 14	354.487.892	289.813.716	-18,2
15 and over	476.189.240	467.438.326	-1,8
Means of transport			
By air	366.806.547	352.159.341	-4,0
By sea	369.238.499	374.249.376	1,4
By car	931.276.956	834.200.118	-10,4
By rail	14.752.595	13.192.241	-10,6
Way of booking			
Direct booking	1.525.523.350	1.361.348.347	-10,8
Via travel agency, tour operator	156.551.247	212.452.729	35,7
Type of accommodation			
Hotels and similar establishments	525.255.200	485.197.379	-7,6
Rooms for rent and rented houses	200.429.345	198.784.089	-0,8
Other collective and special accommodation	53.882.135	44.670.114	-17,1
Non-rented accommodation (summer house, accommodation provided for free by relatives, friends, other owner-occupied accommodation)	902.507.917	845.149.494	-6,4

Note: Data refer to personal trips with 1 or more overnight stays and persons aged 15 years and over.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Vacation Survey The Qualitative Characteristics of Residents Tourists (Vacation Survey) is conducted in all EU Member States pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The purpose of the survey is to collect data on the characteristics of resident tourists, tourist expenditure and contribution of several socio-demographic groups in tourism and their behavior, with the aim of drawing national and European policy in the tourism sector. Data are collected for the number of tourists, trips, nights spent and expenditure incurred during these trips. Furthermore, data are collected on the characteristics of resident tourists e.g., age, sex, and on the characteristics of every trip, such as purpose of the trip, destination, transportation means, type of accommodation establishment, etc.

Legal Frame The survey is conducted by virtue of Regulation (EU) No 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Statistical units The survey units are the households.

Coverage Greece total.

Dissemination of results The survey results are posted on the website of ELSTAT since 2004 and from 2014 onwards they are also published in Press Release.

Reference period 2015.

Definitions Resident: any natural person, irrespective of citizenship, normally residing or having the intention to reside for a period of at least 12 months in Greece.

Personal trips: trips whose purpose is vacation, leisure, rest, recreation, visiting friends and relatives, beyond the traveler's daily routine and activities, as well as other trips for pilgrim or health care purposes, etc.

Business trips: refer to trips related to the traveler's work, beyond his daily routine and activities.

Nights spent: refer to the overnight stays of each household member for every trip and they are calculated on the basis of the sum of the number of nights spent of each trip multiplied by the number of tourists participating in this trip.

Expenditure: refer to expenditure related to the trip and incurred before and during the trip by the tourists. These expenditures refer to money spent on accommodation, food, transport, and other trip-related expenses e.g., for cultural, recreational activities, purchase of clothing, footwear, purchase of consumables and big-value goods, purchase of food, beverages, drinks, presents, souvenirs, etc.

Hotels and similar establishments: they include hotels, motels, suites, bungalows, etc.

Other collective and special accommodation establishments: they include therapeutic centres, camping grounds, conference centres, passenger transport means such as cruise ships, rented campsites and other rented collective accommodation establishments, such as mountain guesthouses, youth hostels, etc.

Non-rented accommodation establishments: they include auxiliary summer houses, accommodation provided without charge by relatives and friends and other owner-occupied accommodation provided for free (e.g., caravans, tents, etc.).

Methodology The Survey on Qualitative Characteristics of Residents Tourists (Vacation Survey) is a sampling yearly survey conducted on households. The survey unit is the household and its members. The data derive from a special questionnaire filled in by each household. The surveyed households derive from the sample of the Labour Force Survey. The two-stage stratified sampling method is used with primary sampling unit the city block and secondary survey unit the household and its members.

References More information on the survey can be found on the web page of ELSTAT, www.statistics.gr, at the link: "Statistical Themes > Industry, Trade, Services, Transport > Tourism > Qualitative Characteristics of resident tourists (Vacation Survey).