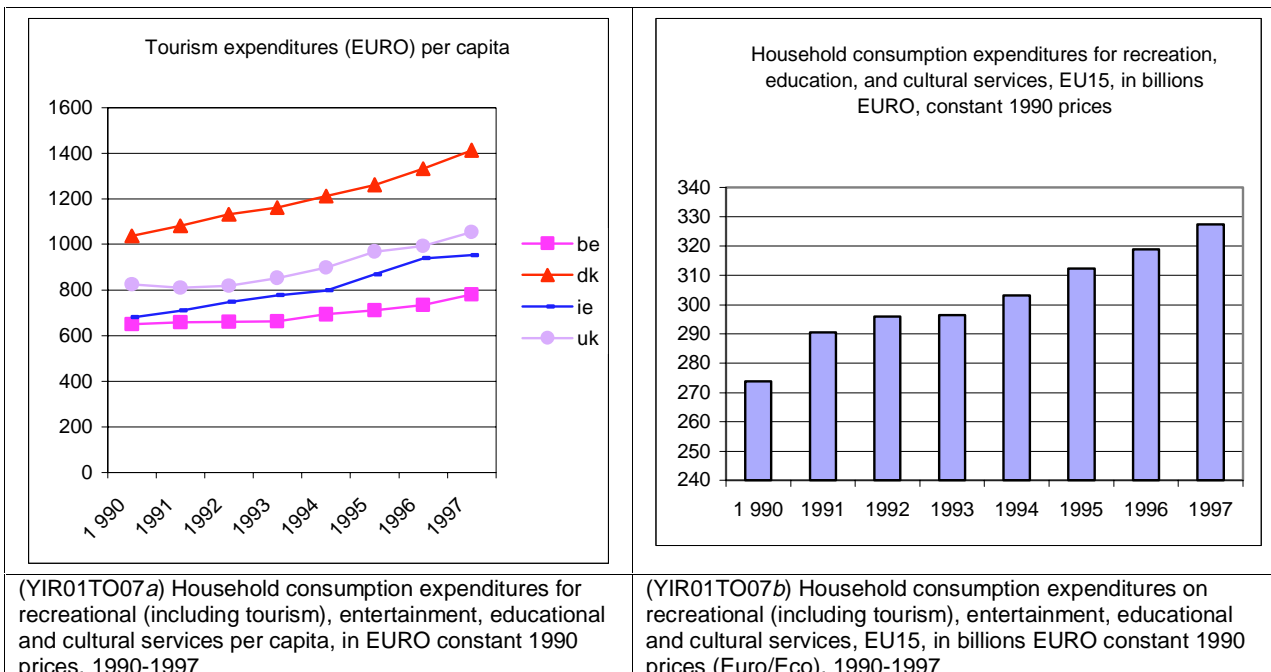


**Indicator Fact Sheet Signals 2001 – Chapter Tourism**

**YIR01TO07 Tourism expenditures of private households**



**Key message**

☺ Household expenditure on tourism in Europe increased by 16 % between 1990 and 1997. Tourism prices are continually decreasing, resulting in deals more attractive to the customer.

**Results and assessments**

The relevance of the indicator for describing developments in the environment

The links between tourism expenditure of private households and the effects of such expenditure on the environment are complex, depending on tourism prices, individual incomes, policies and taxes, holiday periods, and household priorities. The main impacts of increases in tourism expenditure by households are from increases in transportation (YIR01TO04), which accounts for the largest share of tourism expenditure, and the associated increase in energy use (for tour packages, about 45 % of the overall cost is for travel and 37 % for accommodation). The level of expenditure less determines the impacts of tourist activities at destinations.

Policy relevance and policy references

Several international and national initiatives are in place. The General Assembly placed sustainable tourism on the agenda of the Commission at its Seventh Session in 1999. The EC programme of policies and actions in relation to the environment and sustainable development includes issues related to household expenditures.

There are several examples of user fees for public transport to support environmental conservation at national levels. In France, for example, a tax on marine public transport to listed protected areas was created in 1995. The aim of this tax, which is based on the



number of passengers, is to provide additional resources for the better management of these areas, which are often on islands and under pressure from tourism.

Household expenditures will be influenced by the EC and national policies on transport pricing (YIR01TO04).

#### Assessment

As people become more affluent and have more leisure time, and as the relative costs of travel and holidays fall, tourism is taking a larger and larger share (currently about 9 %) of household expenditure.

Household expenditures have been shifting away from basic needs (food, clothing, housing) towards less basic ones, such as transport, fuel and recreation (see YIR01HH04). Household expenditure on recreational, entertainment, educational and cultural services, which includes tourism, increased by 16 % between 1990 and 1997, the largest increases (more than 20 %) being in Belgium, Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Sweden is the only country in which household expenditures for tourism decreased.

As working hours have fallen and holiday periods have increased, time spent on vacations is becoming longer and more people are taking them. For example, vacation time in Denmark increased from 5 to 5.5 weeks during the 1990s. In the Netherlands 40.8 % of people took vacations in 1966 and 72.2 % in 1997, with the average number of vacations per person increasing from 1.24 to 1.71 over that period. Also in the Netherlands, between 1988 and 1997 the percentage of people taking short vacations increased by about twice as much as the percentage taking long vacations. In France, and several other European countries, working hours have fallen from 39 to 35 hours, holiday periods have been extended and the tendency to take a vacation has increased. The average number of trips per person in France increased from 3.1 in 1975 to 4.8 in 1994, with the average duration of each holiday falling from 18 to 13 days. About one-third of holidays taken in France are during July and August; spreading holidays over a longer period would help to reduce congestion and some of the related environmental problems.

Summer and winter holidays have become equally important. For instance, in the Netherlands the amount paid for leisure during the summer and winter holiday seasons differed by 50 % in 1988; they became almost equal by 1997.

As travel prices continue to fall and living and working conditions improve, the tendency to take more trips each year and spend more money on leisure is likely to continue. Reflecting world patterns and the increasing frequency of air travel, Europeans will be taking trips more frequently and further away from home. The average distance travelled increased from 100 km to 800-900 km between 1982 and 1994. In addition, the retired population in the EU will increase by about 17 million over the next 20 years which could contribute significantly to the growth of tourism.

**Meta data**

## Technical information

## 1. Data source

**Tables 1 to 3** : Eurostat New Cronos Domain SEC2.

C16a70u1: Constant prices – Final consumption of households within an economic territory in millions of EURO. Sector c54.

Total number of households: New Cronos.

Budeanu, A. 1999 *A Tour to Sustainability?*, Lund, Sweden, Lund University.

Revier, P. 2000 Personal Communications.

Kristensen, P. 2000 Personal Communications.

RIVM, National Institute of Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands

[http://www.milieubalans.rivm.nl/doelgroep/ind\\_3\\_8\\_co\\_8029.html](http://www.milieubalans.rivm.nl/doelgroep/ind_3_8_co_8029.html)

## 2. Description of data

The expenditure data for the tourism sector includes recreational, entertainment, educational and cultural services [CM 7]

The data are estimated for Austria (1980-1997), Denmark 1997, Federal Republic of Germany (including ex-GDR from 1991) (1980-1997), Greece (1980-1997), Ireland (1980-1987), Luxembourg (1980-1997), The Netherlands (1980-1997), Portugal (1980-1985), Spain (1980-1997), Sweden (1980-1997) and the United Kingdom (1980-1983).

Population: population on 1 January each year.

Germany: Federal Republic of Germany (including east from 1991)

## 3. Geographical coverage

EU15 and one EFTA country (Iceland).

## 4. Temporal coverage

Data from Eurostat is available from 1980 to 1997 (estimates and collected data).  
1990-1997

## 5. Methodology and frequency of data collection

The data are based on Eurostat data on household consumption expenditures on recreational, entertainment, educational and cultural services. The graph above shows the median of household consumption expenditures on recreation.

## 6. Methodology and data manipulation

The domain SEC2 (household consumption) contains disaggregated macroeconomic data harmonized to follow the ESA-79 standard.

Measure: Constant prices. Households within an economic territory in millions of EURO.

Qualitative information

## 7. Strengths and weaknesses (at data level)

Data for several countries (as mentioned above) are estimated.





Table 3: Household consumption expenditures for tourism per capita (EURO/cap)

	1 990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
at	764,8	790	798,6	783	779,3	809,3	839,4	841,9
be	649,8	658	660,2	663	692,9	710,6	733,5	779,9
dk	1037	1081	1132	1162	1211	1261	1332	1413
fi	1017	987	909,2	910	922,1	974,1	1012	1063
fr	751,6	755	773,1	765	781,4	789,1	798,3	813,4
de	825,6	991	1006	992	983,2	981	990,7	979,9
gr	264,8	272	274,8	270	298,8	305,1	302,1	305,5
ie	680,7	709	747,7	777	797	868,9	938,2	952,6
it	848,2	865	876	859	878,1	899,4	902,1	923,9
lu	461	467	472,3	494	509,8	525,1	536	549,2
nl	915,4	953	955,3	961	961,2	976,8	1003	1049
pt	235,3	264	298,6	291	303,6	313,3	320,8	330
es	455	469	475,9	471	475,7	495,9	521,9	532,1
se	1056	1060	1033	978	1003	1021	1013	1044
uk	824,6	809	818,2	852	897,1	968,1	992,9	1055