



## Press release

Embargo: 14.6.2021, 8:30

### 10 Tourism

Supplementary accommodation in 2020

## Supplementary accommodation in 2020: overnight stays fell by 11.3%, campsite demand rose sharply

In a 2020 marked by the Covid-19 pandemic, 14.8 million overnight stays were registered for supplementary accommodation. This represents an 11.3% decline compared with 2019. Domestic demand rose by 3.8% to 11.9 million, with domestic guests accounting for 80.3% of demand. In contrast, the number of overnight stays by foreign visitors fell by 44.4% to 2.9 million. European guests registered 2.8 million (–35.7%) overnight stays, accounting for the largest share in overnight stays by foreign visitors. These are some of the latest findings from the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).

When added to the hotel statistics these findings provide results for all tourist accommodation in Switzerland. In 2020, 38.5 million overnight stays were registered in Switzerland, corresponding to a decline of 31.5% compared with 2019. Domestic visitors registered 28.3 million overnight stays (–3.7%), foreign visitors 10.3 million (–61.9%)

### Only small decline in overnight stays in holiday homes

In 2020, commercially-run holiday homes accounted for the majority of overnight stays in supplementary accommodation (48.4%). With an annual total of 7.2 million overnight stays, demand fell by 1.3% compared with 2019. Domestic demand totalled 5.5 million overnight stays (+26.4% compared with the previous year) and foreign demand 1.7 million (–42.2%). More than 95% of overnight stays by foreign visitors were by visitors from Europe (1.6 million; –31.7%).

In 2020, the average length of stay in commercially-run holiday homes was 6.6 nights. Among the seven major regions, the Lake Geneva region saw the strongest demand with 2.8 million overnight stays, followed by Eastern Switzerland with 2.5 million overnight stays.

### Stays in collective accommodation plummet by 39%

With a decline of 39.0% to 3.4 million overnight stays in 2020, collective accommodation bore the brunt of the Covid-19 pandemic. Demand fell sharply, among both Swiss guests (3.0 million overnight stays; –34.3%) and foreign visitors (450,000; –58.8%). Visitors from Europe represented the greatest share in foreign demand (92.1%) with 414 000 overnight stays (–48.6%). The average length of stay in collective accommodation was 2.5 nights. With 1.0 million overnight stays, Eastern Switzerland held top position among the major regions.

## Strong growth at campsites

Despite the officially imposed closure in spring 2020, campsites registered 4.2 million overnight stays – 11.1% more than in the previous year. This was mainly because the number of overnight stays in the months of July to October rose by 33.1% in comparison with the same period of the previous year. Taking the whole year into account, domestic guests accounted for 3.4 million overnight stays, corresponding to an increase of 33.9%. Foreign visitors (99.3% of whom came from Europe), registered 760 000 overnight stays (–36.8%). The average length of stay was 3.2 overnight stays in 2020. With 973 000 overnight stays, the Espace Mittelland was the major region with the greatest number of overnight stays at campsites, followed by the Lake Geneva region (967 000).

## Survey methods

*The survey of commercially run-holiday homes* was started in 2016 and is a sample survey conducted at national level. The 2020 sample was comprised of 13 673 holiday homes surveyed on a quarterly basis. The response rate was 86%.

*The survey of collective accommodation* also started in 2016 and is a sample survey conducted at national level. The 2020 sample was comprised of 1170 collective accommodation units surveyed on a quarterly basis. The response rate was 95%.

*The survey of campsites* is a monthly comprehensive survey and was reintroduced in 2005. It was conducted at national level in 2020 among 396 establishments. The response rate was 98%.

*The hotel accommodation survey* is a monthly comprehensive survey and was reintroduced in 2005. In 2020 the response rate to the survey was 96%.

Detailed tables showing the different coefficients of variation for supplementary accommodation are available on the FSO website:

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/tourism/tourist-accommodation/supplementary-accommodation.html>

---

## Methodical note concerning arrivals in collective accommodation

The response rate for arrivals in collective accommodation is lower than that for overnight stays. The imputation model used to compensate for this lack of response may influence the reliability of results in terms of arrivals in this type of accommodation.

---

## Information

Christof Seewer, FSO, Tourism section, tel.: +41 58 463 66 51, email: [christof.seewer@bfs.admin.ch](mailto:christof.seewer@bfs.admin.ch)  
FSO Media Office, tel.: +41 58 463 60 13, email: [media@bfs.admin.ch](mailto:media@bfs.admin.ch)

## Online

Further information and publications: [www.bfs.admin.ch/news/en/2021-0303](http://www.bfs.admin.ch/news/en/2021-0303)

Statistics counts for you: [www.statistics-counts.ch](http://www.statistics-counts.ch)

NewsMail subscription in German, French and Italian: [www.news-stat.admin.ch](http://www.news-stat.admin.ch)

FSO website: [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch)

## Access to results

This press release has been established on the basis of the European Statistics Code of Practice, which ensures the independence, integrity and accountability of national and community statistical offices. Privileged access is supervised and under embargo.

The Swiss Tourism Federation (STF), Switzerland Tourism (ST), the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Swisscamps, Touring Club Suisse (TCS) and Parahotellerie Suisse received this press release 24 hours prior to publication to fulfil their missions.