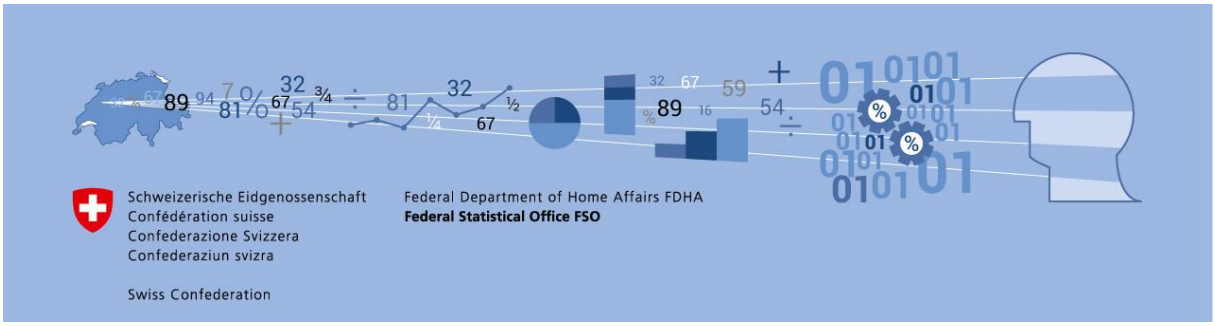


Press release

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10 Tourism

Supplementary accommodation in 2021

Supplementary accommodation grew by around 10% in 2021

In 2021, 16.3 million overnight stays were recorded for supplementary accommodation, which corresponds to an increase of 10.4% compared with 2020. Compared with 2019, which was unaffected by the pandemic, the result shows a decline of 2.1%. Domestic demand rose by 12.3% to 13.3 million overnight stays. The number of overnight stays by foreign visitors was 3.0 million (+2.8% compared with 2020), well below the 5.2 million recorded in 2019. 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 2021, 45.9 million overnight stays were registered in Switzerland, corresponding to an increase of 19.1% compared with 2020. Domestic visitors generated 34.3 million overnight stays (+21.3%), foreign visitors 11.6 million (+13.1%). In comparison with 2019, overnight stays fell by 18.4%. While domestic demand was up 16.8%, foreign demand dropped by 56.9%.

2021: more overnight stays in holiday homes than in 2019

In 2021, commercially-run holiday homes accounted for the majority of overnight stays in supplementary accommodation (46.3%). With an annual total of 7.6 million overnight stays, demand increased by 5.5% compared with 2020 and was higher than the 2019 figure (7.3 million). Domestic demand totalled 5.9 million overnight stays (+8.5% compared with the previous year) and foreign demand 1.6 million (–4.1%). More than 90% of overnight stays by foreign visitors were generated by visitors from Europe (1.5 million; –8.5%).

In 2020, the average length of stay in commercially-run holiday homes was 6.5 nights. Across the seven major regions, demand was strongest in Eastern Switzerland and the Lake Geneva region, each with 2.6 million overnight stays.

Fewer foreign visitors in collective accommodation

The 2.6% decline in collective accommodation with 3.4 million overnight stays in 2020 is the result of the 81.5% drop in the first quarter compared with the previous year's quarter that was hardly affected by the pandemic. Taking the whole year into account, the number of overnight stays (5.7 million) fell by 40.6% compared with 2019.

In 2021 domestic guests accounted for 3.0 million overnight stays, corresponding to an increase of 0.7%. Foreign visitors (92.7% of whom came from Europe), registered 338 000 overnight stays (–24.9%). The average length of stay in collective accommodation was 2.4 nights. With 830 000 overnight stays, Espace Mittelland held top position among the major regions.

Record level at campsites

With 5.4 million (+29.7%) overnight stays at campsites, the 5 million mark was exceeded. Compared with 2019 (3.8 million overnight stays), the number of overnight stays increased by 44.1%. The increase in domestic demand (+72.2% compared with 2019) more than compensated for the decline in visitors from abroad (-15.1% compared with 2019).

Demand rose sharply, among both Swiss guests (4.4 million overnight stays / +28.6%) and foreign visitors (1.0 million overnight stays / +34.3%). At 99.0%, guests from Europe accounted for the largest share of foreign demand. The average length of stay was 3.2 overnight stays in 2021. With 1.5 million overnight stays, Ticino was the major region with the highest number of overnight stays at campsites, followed by the Lake Geneva region (1.2 million).

Survey methods

The survey of commercially run-holiday homes was started in 2016 and is a sample survey conducted at national level. The 2021 sample was comprised of 12 223 collective accommodation units surveyed on a quarterly basis. The response rate was 88%.

The survey of collective accommodation also started in 2016 and is a sample survey conducted at national level. The 2021 sample was comprised of 1182 collective accommodation units surveyed on a quarterly basis. The response rate was 88%.

The survey of campsites is a monthly comprehensive survey and was reintroduced in 2005. It was conducted at national level in 2021 among 397 establishments. The response rate was 99%.

The hotel accommodation survey is a monthly comprehensive survey and was reintroduced in 2005. In 2021 the response rate to the survey was 95%.

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

Methodological 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.

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.

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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.

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