

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Travel Habits of the Austrian population

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Executive Summary

The survey on the travel habits of the Austrian resident population collects the number and profile of trips (outside the usual environment) made in Austria and abroad within a quarter. The socio-demographic profile of travellers and non-travellers is also collected. For this purpose, about 3,500 people per quarter are interviewed by telephone or online (population of approx. 7.56 million). Participation in the survey is **voluntary**. The selection frame for the **proportional stratified sample** is the Central Register of Residents (CRR). Phone numbers are taken from the public directory (Herold). The **telephone survey** (CATI - Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews) is done in the in-house call center of Statistics Austria. The survey infrastructure "STATsurv", developed by Statistics Austria, has the possibility of using mixed modes (CAWI, CATI). Furthermore, STATsurv automatically stores paradata such as response times for each question and offers standardised monitoring and reporting possibilities. The collected data are subjected to plausibility checks; implausible and missing data are imputed. After imputation, the extrapolation of the data and the creation of standard tables for publication are done.

Data are collected for

- **holiday and business trips**,
- with (**overnight trips**) and without an overnight stay (**same-day visits**),
- **domestic** trips and trips **abroad**.

In addition to the **profile of domestic and trips abroad** (duration of stay, travel destination, month of departure, purpose of travel, main mean of accommodation, organisation of the trip, main mean of transport and travel expenses) the socio-demographic profile of **travelers** and **non-travelers** is collected (gender, age, education, profession).

Data on travel habits of the Austrian population is available **since the reporting year 1969**. Until 2002 data were collected within the framework of the Austrian Microcensus as a special program. In accordance with **European Regulation on Tourism Statistics** and the **National Tourism Demand Statistics Decree**, the fieldwork of the data collection converted from a three-year or annual (1969-1996 three-year, 1998-2002 yearly¹) to a **quarterly survey cycle in the year 2000**. Since 2000 the data collection is a stand alone survey.

Data collection on travel habits represent an important source of information for all those who deal with the **tourism industry**, with **economic analysis** and **forecasts** and **market research**. Based on the data the economic importance of tourism is evaluated and findings are used for **tourism policy related decisions**. Internally the statistic is used for calculating the debit side of the „**Travel Balance of Payments**“(TBoP); furthermore, the available data related to domestic and outbound tourism is considered for calculations related to „**Tourism Satellite Account**“ (TSA).

The **main results** of the surveys and anonymised microdata are transmitted to Eurostat and main results are available in the [Eurostat database](#). A European user data-base containing all participating countries is disseminated by Eurostat.

Also on the [Statistics Austria website](#) selected results are presented quarterly and are available in [STATCube statistical database](#). Anonymised micro data are available without charge for scientific use. In an annual summary report, the main results of the year are summarized and time series are presented. The results of the survey are also occasionally published in various other media (e.g. press releases).

¹ For the reporting years 2000 to 2004 annual data are available from the Microcensus special programs (2000-2002), quarterly data were collected - on behalf of Statistics Austria - by external market research institutes.

The slightly **unclear definition of the survey item**, the risk of **different interpretations** and the **“multi-purpose” nature of many trips** is challenging. Furthermore, an **under-reporting of individuals who are not available in the public phone book**, can be assumed, therefore CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interviews) was introduced in a mixed mode model in 2020. The fact that the results are based on **retrospective surveys** over a past period may cause **recall problems** which might lead to biased results. In addition, people with **long-term trips** and those travelling frequently are **not sufficient captured**.

Since the reference year 2018 **MNO** (mobile network operators) **data** support the extrapolation of survey weights. The previous extrapolation was based on the characteristics of age group, gender and federal province. These weights now serve as the basic weight for the calibration and the corresponding cross table is one of the tables to which it is adjusted. In addition to this table, the key figures based on the MNO data for the individual countries are also included in the calibration. The ipf function from the surveysd R package is used for calibration, iterative proportional fitting is used. Every respondent receives their own weighting factor for grossing up, whereas the weights are calculated for each record depending on the stratum and adjusted in such a manner that the resulting distribution is in accordance with the population within the federal province.

Due to changed and /or adjusted methodology, the results are limited comparable over time.

Travel habits of the Austrian population – Main Features	
Subject Matter	Holiday and business of the Austrian population aged 15 years at Austria and abroad with and without an overnight stay (= day trips) in a quarter.
Population	Austrian population aged 15 and over living in private households; all persons are included whose permanent residence (= main residence) is located in Austria (regardless of citizenship), and who are not living in institutional households (e.g. nursing homes, convents, boarding schools, prisons and psychiatric hospitals).
Type of statistics	Primary statistical sample survey (CATI and CAWI)
Data sources/Survey techniques	The selection frame for the sampling is the Central Register of Residents (CRR); besides the address, information related to age, federal provinces, community size, nationality and gender are available; the address data are linked to the public telephone directory for CATI.
Reference period or due day	Yearly
Periodicity	Quarterly
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Voluntary
Main legal acts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on Tourism Demand Statistics 301/2003 • Regulation with which the tourism demand statistics regulation 2003 is changed, 25/2012 • Regulation 692/2011 concerning European statistics on tourism Commission Implementing Regulation 1051/2011 implementing Regulation 692/2011
Most detailed regional breakdown	Austria (with limitations federal provinces)
Availability of results	Final results: t + 90
Other	