



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR99-286  
4 November 1999  
13.00 hrs

## *Holidays up slightly*

Despite the continued economic boom, the number of long holidays increased only by 0.5% during the spring and summer of 1999. This brought the total number of holidays to 12.1 million. The number of long holidays abroad increased by 1% to 7.6 million, while the number of long domestic holidays fell by 1% to 4.5 million.

There was no real growth in short holidays either. Short holidays increased by 2% to 4.3 million. Domestic holidays were again very popular although their number fell slightly to 3 million. On the other hand, the number of short holidays abroad increased to 1.3 million.

These figures come from the continuous holiday survey (Continu Vakantie Onderzoek), which is a joint project by the Nederlands Bureau voor Toerisme, the Nederlands Research Instituut voor Recreatie en Toerisme and Statistics Netherlands.

## *France increasingly popular*

France was again the top holiday destination for long holidays abroad. Over 1.7 Dutch people spent their vacation there. The 23% market share puts France well ahead of Spain (13%) and Germany (10%). Greece now stands fourth, with a record number of holidays for the country this year. This is probably because Turkey has not been a popular tourist destination this year. Belgium is the other top five country, but it has lost some of its popularity as a holiday destination this last season.

The trend of taking more and more holidays outside Europe came to a halt this spring and summer. Particularly the drop in the number of visits to the USA accounted for the almost 10% drop in long holidays to far-away destinations, bringing the total to 0.6 million.

Belgium was the most popular destination for short holidays, in which it has a 33% market share. Germany has gained the most on last year, however. There were so many more visits that the country took over the

Statistics Netherlands  
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000  
2270 JM Voorburg  
The Netherlands  
tel. +31 70 337 58 16  
fax +31 70 337 59 71  
e-mail:  
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs

second place from France as far as short holidays are concerned.

***Fewer holidays spent on de Veluwe***

Three in five holidays spent within the Netherlands were spent in wooded areas, as was the case in previous years. However, there was a slight change in the tourist areas visited. After years of growth, the number of domestic holidays to de Veluwe fell by 20%. The woods and moors of the provinces North Brabant and Drenthe received more visitors.

One quarter of domestic holidays was spent at the seaside. The North Sea beach resorts and the Wadden isles drew more holidaymakers. The popular water sports areas did not profit as much from the beautiful weather. They received fewer visitors than last year. This is especially true for the lake areas in the province of Friesland.

***Higher spending level***

Dutch people spent 13.7 billion guilders on holidays in the spring and summer of 1999. This constitutes a 3% increase on last year. The increase in expenditure is mainly due to the fact that slightly more holidays were spent abroad. Furthermore, average expenditure for long domestic holidays went up substantially. Dutch people spent an average of 1 378 guilders per person on long holidays abroad and 459 guilders on long domestic holidays. The averages for short holidays were 388 and 205 guilders respectively.

***For further information please contact:***

Stichting Continu Vakantie Onderzoek:

- K. van der Most (NBT), tel. +31 70 370 52 94
- J. Zom (NRIT), tel. +31 76 542 06 00.

Mr. Th. van Miltenburg (Statistics Netherlands) tel. +31 70 337 56 02.

**Major foreign holiday destinations, market share and number of holidays**

**De belangrijkste buitenlandse bestemmingen, 1 maart - 31 augustus**

Bestemmingen	Marktaandeel		Aantal vakanties	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	%		x 1 000	
<b>Lange vakanties</b>				
Binnen Europa:				
1. Frankrijk	21	23	1 560	1 740
2. Spanje	13	13	990	1 010
3. Duitsland	10	10	740	730
4. Griekenland	5	6	400	460
5. België	7	6	550	460
6. Oostenrijk	6	6	420	440
7. Italië	6	6	460	430
8. Groot-Brittannië	4	3	300	260
9. Zwitserland	2	3	190	230
10 Portugal	2	2	190	160
.				
Overige landen	15	15	1 100	1 130
Buiten Europa	9	8	660	600
Totaal	100	100	7 540	7 640
<b>Korte vakanties</b>				
1. België	36	33	390	420
2. Duitsland	20	27	210	330
3. Frankrijk	24	22	260	270
Overige landen	20	19	210	240
Totaal	100	100	1 070	1 260

Bron: Continu Vakantie Onderzoek

**Major domestic destinations, market share and number of holidays**  
**De belangrijkste binnenlandse bestemmingen, 1 maart - 31 augustus**

Bestemmingen	Marktaandeel		Aantal vakanties	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	%		x 1 000	
<b>Lange vakanties</b>				
Kustgebieden	25	26	1 120	1 180
Bos- en heidegebieden				
- in Noordoost-Nederland	20	21	900	960
- in Midden-Nederland	22	17	1 000	770
- in Zuid-Nederland	19	23	870	1 030
Watersportgebieden	9	8	420	380
Overige gebieden	5	4	220	190
Totaal	100	100	4 540	4 490
<b>Korte vakanties</b>				
Kustgebieden	19	19	610	590
Bos- en heidegebieden				
- in Noordoost-Nederland	17	19	530	570
- in Midden-Nederland	19	19	610	580
- in Zuid-Nederland	26	25	830	780
Watersportgebieden	13	12	410	380
Overige gebieden	6	5	180	160
Totaal	100	100	3 170	3 040

Bron: Continu Vakantie Onderzoek