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# Press release

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## ***Massive number of holidays in 2002***

Between 1 October 2001 and 30 September 2002 more than 81 percent of the Dutch population went on holiday at least once. This comes down to 12,3 million people. In total they took 35.5 million short and long holidays. The holidaymakers left home to go on vacation on average 2.9 times. Over half of all holidays were spent in the Netherlands.

These results were shown by the continuous holiday survey ContinuVakantieOnderzoek (CVO). The CVO is a joint project of Toerisme Recreatie Nederland (TRN), NIPO, Nederlands Research Instituut voor Recreatie en Toerisme (NRIT) and Statistics Netherlands.

### ***Destinations within Europe popular***

In the holiday year 2002 Dutch people spent 16.8 million short and long holidays abroad. France was the favourite destination, as it has been for years, where Dutch people spent 3.3 million holidays. With a 20 percent share, France leaves the other destinations well behind it, such as Germany (15 percent) and Belgium (13 percent). People take relatively many short holidays in these neighbouring countries. The same is true for Great Britain, which has a 5 percent share.

Spain, with a 10 percent share, is the most popular Mediterranean destination. Besides this, Dutch people spent their holidays often in Italy (5 percent), Turkey (4 percent) and Greece (3 percent). This year Turkey received more Dutch holidaymakers than Greece for the first time ever.

The Alps are popular throughout the year. With 1 million holidays, Austria, with a 6 percent share, is not only popular for winter sports but also for other kinds of holidays. The same is true for Switzerland, with a 3 percent share.

The number of holidays outside Europe was limited to close to 1 million.

### ***Woods and seaside***

Dutch people spent 18,7 million short and long holidays in the Netherlands. Three in five holidays were spent in woodland areas, with the Veluwe as traditional favourite destination. The wood and moors in Drenthe, North Brabant and Limburg were also frequented. Almost a fifth of domestic holidays was spent at the seaside. In 2002 3.4 million Dutch holidaymakers went out to the seaside resorts on the North Sea and the Wadden islands. Moreover

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2.5 million holidays were spent in the water recreation areas.