



Press release

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One billion day trips last year

Last year the Dutch went on a total of one billion day trips – defined as a recreational activity which involves being away from home for at least two hours. This was 5 percent up on six years previously. Going out, and visiting attractions, events, and places of interest both rose by about 20 percent. One third of day trips are spent on more physical activities, with walking and cycling clear favourites according to figures from Statistics Netherlands.

Walking and cycling favourite activities

Walking is the most popular recreational activity: three-quarters of the population went out walking last year. Recreational cycling trips were undertaken by two-thirds of the population.

Both the number of walking and the number of cycling trips were 11 percent higher than in 1996. People go walking throughout the year, but least in the summer, while cycling peaks in this season. The number of cycling trips is twice as high as the number of walks in the summer.

How often people go walking and cycling depends on how old they are. People aged 30 years and older go out walking and cycling most often, while people aged 15 to 30 years prefer to go to the theatre or cinema.

More cinema and theatre-goers

More than 10 million people went to the cinema or theatre last year, 1.2 million more than in 1996. This form of recreation has increased in popularity most since 1996. In the age category up to 30 years the preference for the cinema is largest, while people over thirty are more likely to go to the theatre.

Young people like going out

Young people aged 15 to 30 years not only go the theatre and to the cinema but also to other places. They went out 31 times on average in 2002, compared with 26 times in 1996. Pubs and bars were the most popular destinations in this age group. 30-50 year-olds went out 14 times a year on average, and this frequency declines as people are older. For people aged over 30, going out for a meal is favourite.

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Children more sports-minded

More than 40 percent of day trips undertaken by children are connected with sports activities; and more with outdoor than indoor sports.

More than 100 million day trips were spent at various attractions, places of interest and events. Children accounted for nearly a third of these visits. Destinations such as playgrounds, amusement parks, zoos and children's farms are popular destinations for children. In 1996 children visited them five times on average, and this had risen to eight times by 2002. Just over eight in ten children aged under 15 years visited attractions such as a large playground, amusement park or zoo.