STATISTICS DENMARK

Documentation of statistics for Nights spent at hotels, holiday resorts and youth hostels 2025

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1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics "Nights spent at hotels, holiday centers and hostels" is to describe the occupancy and capacity of Danish hotels, holiday centers and hostels. The survey is used by i.e. EU, business and tourism organizations and municipalities in order to analyze the development in tourism. The survey has been compiled since 1969, but is only comparable from 1992 and onwards.

2 Statistical presentation

The accommodation survey "Nights spent at hotels, holiday centers and hostels" is a monthly summary on occupancy and capacity in Danish hotels, holiday centers and hostels with a minimum capacity of 40 bed places. The accommodation survey is broken down by capacity and geography of the establishment as well as the purpose and country of residence of the guest. Furthermore there is an annual census on occupancy and capacity for hotels, holiday centers and hostels with 10-39 bed places.

2.1 Data description

The purpose of the accommodation survey is in general to show the accommodation capacity and occupancy over time. The statistics have information on occupancy and capacity at Danish hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc. with a minimum of 40 bed places. The most important variables are number of nights spent broken down by country of residence, geography, number of rented rooms as well as number of rooms and bed places available. The number of overnight stays at hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc. tells something about the occupancy including how many guests who stayed overnight a number of days in a given geographical area. The statistics furthermore show where these visitors come from.

The number of nights at hotels and holiday resorts etc. are calculated every month and published in tables HOTEL1 and HOTEL2. Number of nights at hostels are published every month in the table VANDRER. The same information for hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc. with 10-39 bed places is published on a yearly basis in the table TURIST4. The number of hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc. illustrate the development of the capacity including how many accommodation enterprises there are and whether there is less or more compared with last month or last year. The range of hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc., the number of rooms and bed places and the use of the capacity of rooms and bed places is published every month in the table HOTEL3 and HOTEL5.

The capacity and the use of the capacity is also published on a yearly basis in the tables HOTEL4 and HOTEL6. Not every hotel, holiday resort and hostel etc. is open the whole year. In the tables HOTEL4 and HOTEL6 you can find data regarding how many hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc. at the maximum and minimum has been available during the year and the maximum and minimum of rooms and bed places during the year. Furthermore the use of the capacity of rooms and bed places is published in table HOTEL4 and HOTEL6.

In table HOTEL31 nformation regarding number of hotels, holiday resorts etc. rented rooms, number of nights, rooms and bed places and furthermore the use of rooms and bed places divided into groups based on the size of the accommodation enterprises (calculated in the number of bed places). The tables HOTEL7 and HOTEL8 illustrate whether the purpose of travelling is leisure or work. Information regarding all types of accommodation: hotels, holiday resorts, hostels etc., camp sites, marinas and holiday homes is to be find in the tables TURIST, TURIST1, TURIST2. Information about number of guests divided into type of accommodation, area and nationality is in the table TURIST2. In the table TURIST1 number of nights is seasonal adjusted and in TURIST number of night divided into nationality and area is illustrated.

2.2 Classification system

The standardized NUTS classification is used regarding breakdowns into geographical areas. The tables contain the groupings: period, geographical area, nationality, capacity, type of overnight stay and guests.

2.3 Sector coverage

The statistics belongs to sector code 55.10 and 55.20 in the Danish Industrial Classification DB07 and in the international NACE, rev. 2-classification. Hotels, hostels etc. belong to sector code 55.10 and holiday resorts belong to sector code 55.20. A description of the sectors is to be found in Dansk Branchekode 2007.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Occupancy rate for rooms (net): Number of rented rooms in the reference month/(number of rooms available in the reference month * number of days open in the reference month)*100 = Net occupancy rate in per cent.

Occupancy rate for beds (net): Number of nights spent in the reference month/(number of bed places in the reference month * number of days open in the reference month)*100 = Net occupancy rate in per cent.

Hotel: Includes hotels, holiday apartments, motels, inns, beach resorts and similar businesses. Hotels etc. are defined as accommodation businesses who provide hotel services such as daily bed-making and cleaning of rooms and sanitary installments. Furthermore, there may be services such as food and beverage serving, parking, laundry facilities, spa, swimming pools. fitness, recreational facilities and conference facilities. The definition is based on NACE-code 55.1 which is the European standard code for this type of facility.

Holiday resort: Holiday resorts are defined as clusters of houses, apartments or bungalows with cooking facilities. There may be additional facilities on site such as a reception, laundromats, swimming facilities etc., but no services such as daily bed-making and cleaning are provided. Businesses that provide daily bed-making and cleaning are to defined as hotels. . The definition is based on NACE-code 55.2 which is the European standard code for this type of facility.

Hostel: All hostels with at least 40 bed places or a DanHostel-membership. Hostels are classified under NACE-code 55.2 which is the European standard code for this type of facility. Hostels are typically characterized by a limited selection of services and the possibility of staying in dorms. Recently, some hostels have expanded their supply of facilities and now resemble hotels more and more. This development has not been addressed in the current NACE-classification.

2.5 Statistical unit

The statistical units are hotels, holiday resorts, hostels and similar kind of accommodations.

2.6 Statistical population

Hotels, holiday resorts, hostels and similar in Denmark.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

These statistics cover the time period from 1992 and onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant.

2.10 Unit of measure

Number of nights spent and arrivals (arrivals are also defined as guests).

2.11 Reference period

Month and year.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Monthly and yearly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Law on Statistics Denmark, § 8, section 1, Declaration no. 610 of May 30th 2018.

Regulation 692/2011 of 6 June 2011 concerning European statistics on tourism (https://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/DA/TXT/?qid=1551875717478&uri=CELEX:32011R0692).

2.14 Cost and burden

The respondent burden for the statistics "Nights spent at hotels, holiday resorts and hostels" is estimated to 280.000 DKK pr. year (calculated 2004) regarding hotels, holiday resorts, hostels etc. with a minimum of 40 bed places. The respondent burden for hotels, holiday resorts, hostels etc. with 10-39 bed places is estimated to 55.000 DKK pr. year (calculated 2004).

2.15 Comment

Further information can be found at the subject page or by contacting Statistics Denmark directly.

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3 Statistical processing

Data for the statistics are collected monthly from Danish hotels, holiday resorts, hostels etc. with a minimum of 40 bed places and yearly from Danish hotels, holiday resorts, hostels etc. with 10-39 bed places using an online questionnaire or by using a system-to-system solution where the accommodations booking system automatically sends data to Statistics Denmark. Collected data are validated on micro-level during the data collection and again on macro-level when aggregated. The validated data are then imputed with missing values and afterwards aggregated into geographical and nationality totals.

3.1 Source data

The statistics "Nights spent at hotels, holiday resorts, hostels etc." are based on monthly reports from the accommodation enterprises with at least 40 bed places that are registered in the Danish Business Register. Hotels, holiday resorts, hostels etc. with 10-39 bed places that are registered in the Danish Business Register report on an annual basis.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Data is collected on a monthly basis for accommodation enterprises with at least 40 bed places and on a yearly basis for accommodation enterprises with 10-39 bed places.

3.3 Data collection

The accommodation statistics is collected either online via http://www.virk.dk or by using a web-application where the accommodation businesses can extract and report directly from their booking systems to Statistics Denmark.

3.4 Data validation

The collected data are compared with the data from the previous year and potentially significant changes are examined, explained and corrected in case of errors. There is also a cross validation making sure that the values given under the different variables are plausible. Afterwards, data are aggregated into geographical and nationality totals and data are then validated on macro-level i.e. by comparing time series.

3.5 Data compilation

If an enterprise does not disseminate data within the given time frame, data from the same month the year before is imputed. If the enterprise later on disseminate data the imputed data are replaced.

Number of nights are calculated as number of guests multiplied by the lenght of the stay. E.g. 2 guests staying at a hotel, holiday center or hostel for 5 days are equal 10 overnights. Number of nights are also reported as "guest nights".

Arrivals are the number of guests no matter the lenght of the stay. In the example above with 2 guests, the arrivals are 2.

No grossing-up procedures are used as this is a census with a cut-off limit of at least 40 bed places for the monthly statistics and for the yearly survey a census with 10-39 bed places. Data are aggregated into geographical and nationality totals and subsequently validated on macro-level.

3.6 Adjustment

The accommodation statistics is seasonally adjusted by using an ARIMA-model where are business days and Easter is taken into account.

4 Relevance

The accommodation statistics are relevant for accommodation businesses, Eurostat, ministries and business and tourism organizations for forecasts, analysis and planning. The accommodation statistics are under constant review and the user needs are rapidly changing with the emergence of peer-to-peer platforms such as AirBnB.

4.1 User Needs

The primary users of the statistics are accommodation businesses who use the data to compare their own development with the development in general. Furthermore the statistics are used by Eurostat and professionals from ministries, business and tourism organizations and scientist. Also the statistics are used by students, media and school pupils.

4.2 User Satisfaction

Statistics Denmark hosts a bi-annual meeting with interested parties from the industry. The participants have the opportunity to get knowledge on the latest developments in the statistics as well as discuss the current situation and provide valuable suggestions for improvements.

4.3 Data completeness rate

The statistics are not fully compliant with the EU regulation. In the monthly statistics the existing cut-off limit of 40 bed places or more is too high, since the requirement of the EU is 10 bed places or more. Statistics Denmark has set the cut-off limit to 40 in order to reduce the burden on SMEs, which according to the survey of small hotels and campsites cover about 5 per cent of the annual overnight stays at hotels, holiday centers and hostels etc. In the yearly statistics the cut-off limit is 10 bed places, as required. Furthermore the regulation requires the collection of data concerning the number of arrivals by nationality. At present the arrivals is only divided into Danish arrivals and arrivals of foreign visitors and therefore only an estimate of arrivals divided into nationalities is disseminated to Eurostat.

Nights spent via Airbnb and similar are not included in this statistics.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The monthly statistic only cover hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc. with at least 40 bed places. The annual statistics also cover hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc. with 10-39 bed places. A possible source of error can be that the respondents have difficulties distinguishing between the concepts of nights spent and arrivals. Missing answers are imputed which may lead to revisions of published data.

5.1 Overall accuracy

In the monthly survey the number of nights spent might be a bit underestimated in relation to the actual number of nights spent at hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc. in Denmark as a cut-off limit of at least 40 bed places is used. Every year a survey on hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc. with 10-39 bed places is made. Hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc. with 10-39 bed places have a share of approx. 5 per cent of the total number of nights spent at hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc. As a consequence, the underestimation is not regarded significant.

A possible systematic source of uncertainty may be the difficulty distinguishing between the concepts of nights spent and arrivals. The statistics do not include accommodation enterprises with 1-9 bed places and nights spent in facilities such as Airbnb.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

The statistics is a census, but the response rate for the monthly data is not a 100 per cent and there will therefore be a lack of reliability in terms of imputed values from hotels, holiday centers and hostels etc. that have not disseminated information in time for a given month or year of reference. The respondents may have difficulties distinguishing between the concept of nights spent versus the concept of arrivals and this may lead to reporting errors.

5.4 Quality management

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

5.5 Quality assurance

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

5.6 Quality assessment

The statistics are a census based on data collected every month of all Danish hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc. with 40 bed places or more and on a yearly basis hotels, holiday centers and hostels etc. with 10-39 bed places. The census is based on hotels with sector code 55.10 in The Danish Business Register and on holiday centers with sector code 55.20. However, a few enterprises may be registered under another sector code when the enterprises are operated as a secondary business, e.g. in relation to a conference center. Thus, it is not certain that all relevant companies are represented in the census, but the population is thoroughly reviewed on an annual basis in order to find any newly opened businesses that are not registered yet or registered under another sector code than 55.20 and 55.10. Since the population is relatively constant from year to year, the data are believed to be comparable from year to year.

5.7 Data revision - policy

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark. The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

5.8 Data revision practice

The preliminary monthly data do not deviate significantly from the final data. There may be revisions in data as a result of imputations made in missing values.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The monthly statistics for hotels, holiday centers and hostels etc. with a minimum of 40 bed places are published monthly approx. 40 days after the end of the reference month. The statistics is published without delay according to the planned publication tables. The final statistics are published annually together with the statistics for Hotels, holiday centers and hostels etc. with 10-39 bed places. The Annual statistics are published approx. 100 days after the end of the reference year.

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6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The monthly statistics for hotels, holiday centers and hostels etc. with a minimum of 40 bed places are published monthly approx. 40 days after the end of the reference month. The final statistics are published annually together with the statistics for hotels, holiday centers and hostels etc. with 10-39 bed places. The Annual statistics are published approx. 100 days after the end of the reference year.

6.2 Punctuality

The accommodation statistics is published without delay in accordance with the previously announced publication tables.

7 Comparability

The accommodation statistics is comparable with the other EU-statistics on tourism. The breakdown into nationalities has expanded from 13 to 51 since 1996 and this can weaken the comparability when using time series.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

The accommodation statistics is comparable with other accommodation statistics done by EU-member states. The Danish statistics can be under-estimated compared with other EU-member states who use the lower cut-off limit of a minimum of 0 or 10 bed places where in Denmark the cut-off limit is 40 bed places in the monthly statistics. In the yearly accommodation statistics the cut-of limit is 10 bed places. Thus the difference to other accommodation statistics is not considered to be significant.

7.2 Comparability over time

For the key figures, the statistics are comparable over time.

- Before 1991 smaller hotels with 10-39 bed places are in the statistics, while information on 11 larger holiday resorts are missing.
- From 1996, the number of nationalities expanded from 13 to 21.
- Since 2004, a breakdown into purpose of the the trip has been added for nights spent on hotels and holiday resorts, not hostels.
- Before 2005, Luxembourg was included in the numbers for Belgium, and the nationality "Asia Other" is South East Asia and China.
- From 2005, the number of nationalities expanded from 21 to 46.
- Since 2008, the number of nationalities expanded from 46 to 48.
- From 2013 the number of nationalities expanded from 48 to 51. Before 2013 "Europe Other" includes Croatia and "Asia Other" includes India and Thailand.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The statistics of nights spent at hotels, holiday resorts and hostels are part of the total overnight stays in Denmark. Therefore the statistics are comparable with the statistics of nights spent at camp sites.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Not relevant for these statistics.

8 Accessibility and clarity

The statistics are published in Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik. Data are published in statbank at Hotels, holiday centres and hostels og All types of overnight accommodation and in an annual publication with all types of overnight accommodation. For more information about the statistics look at the subject page.

Statistics on a municipality level or for a province can be found at VisitDenmark. If you wish to combine statistics of tourism with other types of variables or combine variables in a different way please contact DST Consulting.

8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calender can be accessed on our English website: Release Calender.

8.4 News release

The statistics are published monthly for hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc. with more than 40 bed places in a Danish press release Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik with all types of overnight accommodations and annually including hotels, holiday resorts and hostels etc. with 10-39 bed places.

8.5 Publications

The statistics were included in the Statistical ten-year review until 2024.

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8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject Hotels, holiday centres and hostels and All types of overnight accommodation in the following tables:

- TURIST: Overnight stay by type of overnight accommodations, region, nationality of the guest and period (year)
- TURIST1: Overnight stay by type of overnight accommodations, seasonal adjustment and nationality of the guest (month)
- TURIST2: Guests by type of overnight accommodations, region, nationality of the guest and period (month)
- TURIST3: Hotels and Holiday resorts by certification and capacity (month)
- TURIST4: Overnight stay by type of overnight accommodations, region and nationality of the guest (year)
- HOTEL1: Nights spent at hotels and holiday resorts by region, nationality of the guest, unit and period (month)
- HOTEL2: Nights spent at hotels and holiday resorts by region, nationality of the guest, type, unit and period (month)
- HOTEL3: Hotels and holiday resorts by region and capacity (month)
- HOTEL4: Hotels and holiday resorts by region and capacity (year)
- HOTEL5: Hotels and holiday resorts by region, capacity and type (month)
- HOTEL6: Hotels and holiday resorts by region, capacity and type (year)
- HOTEL7: Nights spent at hotels and holiday resorts by region, purpose and period (year)
- HOTEL8: Nights spent at hotels and holiday resorts by region, purpose, type and period (year)
- HOTEL31: Hotels and holiday resorts by size and capacity (month)
- VANDRER: Nights spent at hostels by region and citizenship by region, nationality of the guest and period (year)

8.7 Micro-data access

Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions can be granted access to the underlying micro-data by contacting Research Services.

8.8 Other

Aggregated data regarding number of nights and capacity are delivered on a monthly and yearly basis to Eurostat.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

Data Confidentiality Policy at Statistics Denmark is followed.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

Any geographical area has to have at least 3 reporting accommodation enterprises before any data can be published.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

There are no separate documentation on methodology for these statistics.

8.12 Quality documentation

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics is in the division of Short Term Statistics, Business Statistics. The contact person is Karen Keller, tel.: + 45 2119 8561, and e-mail: KKE@dst.dk.