



International trips, Quarter 4 2017

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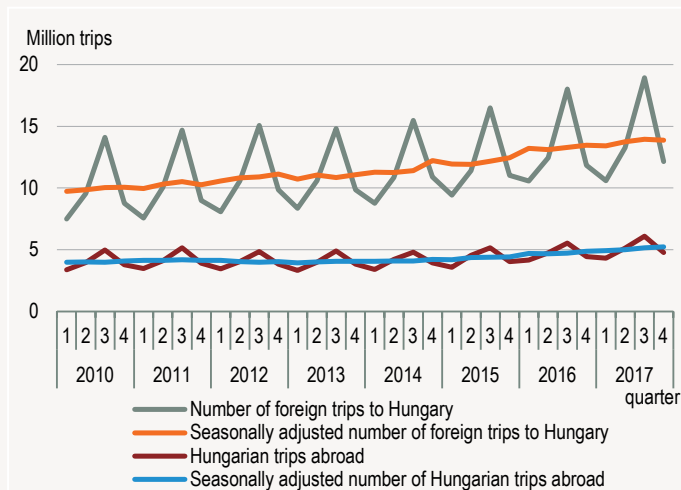
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In the fourth quarter of 2017, the number of foreign trips to Hungary was 12 million. The number of foreign arrivals rose by 2.5%, within which the number of trips grew by 11% for tourism and fell by 3.1% for non-tourism purposes compared to the previous year. The spending of foreign visitors increased by 9.0% at current prices compared to the fourth quarter of 2016. The number of Hungarian trips abroad increased by 7.2% and their travel-related expenses by 8.8% compared to the same period of the previous year. The foreign trade surplus in passenger traffic services grew year-on-year by HUF 21.7 billion (EUR 63.8 million) to HUF 258 billion (EUR 829 million).

In 2017, the number of inbound and outbound trips grew by 3.9% and 7.4% respectively, while the travel related amount of tourism exports and imports was 6.3% and 9.9% higher respectively than in the previous year. The number of Hungarian tourist trips abroad has been increasing for four years, by 2017 it exceeded 20 million, and tourism spending also exceeded HUF 800 billion as a result of a four-year growth. The number of inbound trips has been steadily rising since 2014. Compared to the number of visits in 2014, 24% more people came to our country.

Figure 1

Changes in foreign trips to Hungary and Hungarian trips abroad



Arrivals at border crossings in the fourth quarter of 2017

In the fourth quarter of 2017, the number of people crossing the Schengen borders further increased to 11.8 million, of whom 8.8 million were foreign nationals and 3.0 million Hungarians. The number of foreigners increased by 2.4% and that of Hungarians by 9.0%, thus, the number of people crossing the borders increased by 4.0% in total compared to the same period of the previous year.

In terms of total visitor traffic, small airports saw a significant growth of 34%, including rises of 41% in Debrecen and one quarter in Budapest. More people crossed the Croatian and Serbian borders as well and 10% more people were registered at the Ukrainian and 2.1% fewer at the Romanian border crossing stations.

The combined number of foreign nationals crossing the border increased most by about a third at the Ferenc Liszt International Airport in Budapest and at the small airports. The number of people crossing the border – because of the visa waiver – grew by 7.4% on the Ukrainian, by 2.2% on the Serbian, by 0.8% on the Croatian border section and – after a 15.3% increase in the fourth quarter of 2016 – fell by 1.8% on the Romanian border section.

Also, in case of Hungarian travellers, the increase in cross border air traffic was the most significant. Passenger traffic increased by 35% at small airports – primarily due to a lively interest in flights from Debrecen – and by 16% at the Budapest Airport. The number of domestic residents crossing the border increased by 18% on the Serbian, by 13% on the Ukrainian and by 2.3% on the Croatian border compared to the same period of the previous year. The number of Hungarian travellers crossing the Romanian border decreased by 3.6%, exceeding that of the foreigners.

Of individual border sections, the largest turnover of 5.4 million people was registered at the Romanian border section, within this Romanian travellers accounted for about two-thirds, Hungarians for 14% and Bulgarians for 7.8%. Most people crossing the Serbian border were Serbian and almost every third of them was Hungarian. Nearly one quarter of persons crossing the Croatian border were Hungarian and 41% Croatian citizens. On the Ukrainian border section, 1.8 million people crossed the border, more than half of them were Hungarian, the other half were largely Ukrainian travellers. Within the traffic of Budapest airports to destinations outside the Schengen zone (1.2 million people), Hungarians accounted for more than one quarter and UK travellers for one fifth. Smaller airports were mostly used by Hungarians and, to a lesser extent (less than 20%), by Romanians.

Arrivals at border crossings in 2017

In 2017, the number of people crossing Schengen external borders increased compared to 2016, the number of foreign and Hungarian nationals was 41 and 13 million respectively within the 54 million people crossing the border. The number of foreigners grew by 4.8% and that of Hungarians by 7.6% thus, overall, the number of people crossing the borders increased by 5.5% over the same period last year.

Considering visitor traffic as a whole, the number of passengers grew by a fifth at small airports - the most by 27% in Debrecen - and by a significant 15% in Budapest. The improvement in passenger traffic at Debrecen airport was due to summer charter flights and Christmas holidays in December. In addition, the Budapest Airport also saw a record turnover

due to the fact that new flights were launched and new operators entered the market with larger capacity airplanes. The number of people crossing the Croatian and Serbian borders has also increased (by 14 and 12% respectively). The number of people crossing the border increased by about 10% on the Ukrainian and decreased by 1.7% on the Romanian border section.

If we analyse the **border sections** by the size of cross border visitor traffic, the Romanian border section was the first with 23 million border crossings in which around two thirds were made by Romanian, 14% by Hungarian and 7.9% by Bulgarian nationals. 12 million people crossed the Serbian border, most of them were Serbs and nearly every fourth was Hungarian, more than one quarter of people crossing the Croatian border were Hungarian and one fifth Croatian citizens. 7.3 million people crossed the Ukrainian-Hungarian border, half of them were Hungarians and the other half mainly consisted of Ukrainian travellers. More than a quarter of the Schengen external border traffic (4.5 million people) of Budapest airports was generated by Hungarians and one fifth by travellers from the United Kingdom. Smaller airports were mostly used by Hungarians and, to a lesser extent (20%), by Romanians.

Foreign visits to Hungary in the fourth quarter of 2017

In the fourth quarter of 2017, foreigners made 12 million trips to Hungary, which was a 2.5% increase compared to the same period of 2016. The number of same day trips decreased by 0.5% and that of overnight trips grew by 9.8%. The number of tourism trips rose by 11% and that of non-tourism trips – accounting for nearly three fifths of inbound trips – fell by 3.1%. Within the latter ones, the number of trips fell by 6.2% and 4.5% for transit and shopping purposes respectively and grew by 1.1% for working and cross border trading purposes.

More than two thirds of foreign trips to Hungary lasted less than a day. Within the **8.3 million same day inbound trips** there were somewhat more than 3 million transit, 2.5 million shopping and nearly 2 million tourist trips. The total number of non-tourist trips decreased by few percentage points along with decreases of 7.8 and 3.9%, respectively, in the number of transit and shopping trips. The number of tourism trips grew by 15% compared to the previous year. Growth came from a 16% increase in the number of leisure trips representing a significant proportion, while the number of business trips accounting for a smaller proportion decreased by 23%.

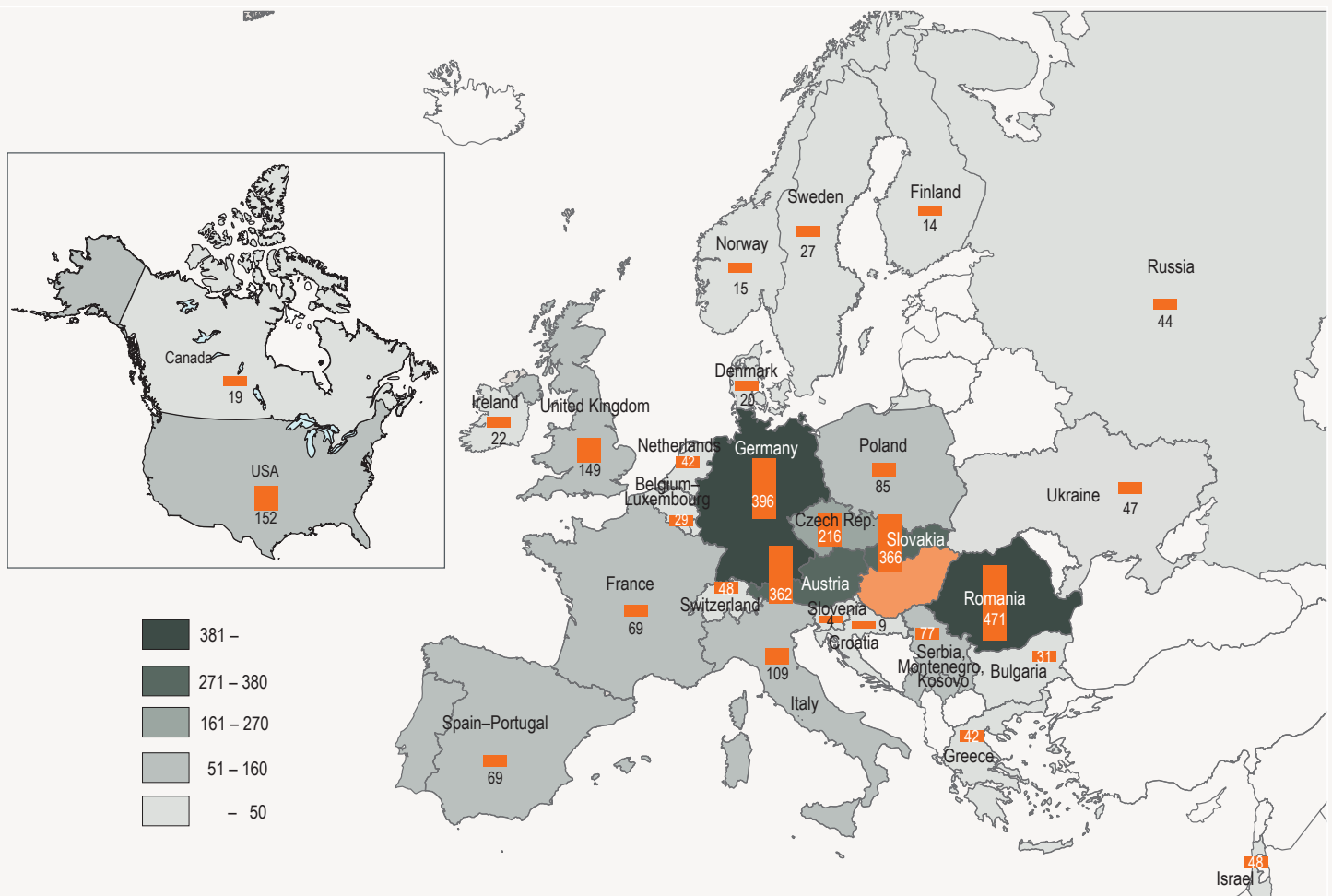
The number of foreign arrivals for several days increased by 9.8% to 3.8 million. 14% of overnight trips were not for tourism purposes but mainly for transit and to a lesser extent for working purposes. The number of tourism trips grew by 9.7%, while that of non-tourism trips increased more by 11%.

By sending country, overnight visitors came mainly from Romania (645,000), Germany (465,000), Slovakia (418,000) and Austria (377,000) in the fourth quarter of 2017. The number of overnight visitors grew year-on-year by 5.6% from Germany, by 1.8% from Romania and fell by 5.4% from Slovakia. The number of Austrian overnight visitors grew by nearly 50% due to a rise in VFR¹ and medical visits and the use of second homes.

Overnight tourist visitors came mainly from Romania and Germany (471 and 396 thousand people respectively). The number of visitors from Slovakia and Austria was almost the same (366 and 362 thousand respectively – they represented the third and fourth largest groups of incoming visitors). Tourism trips represented a considerable proportion (73%, 85%, 88% and 96% respectively) within the overnight trips of the incoming Romanians, Germans, Slovaks and Austrians.

Figure 2

Number of overnight tourist trips to Hungary by main sending countries, fourth quarter of 2017, thousand trips

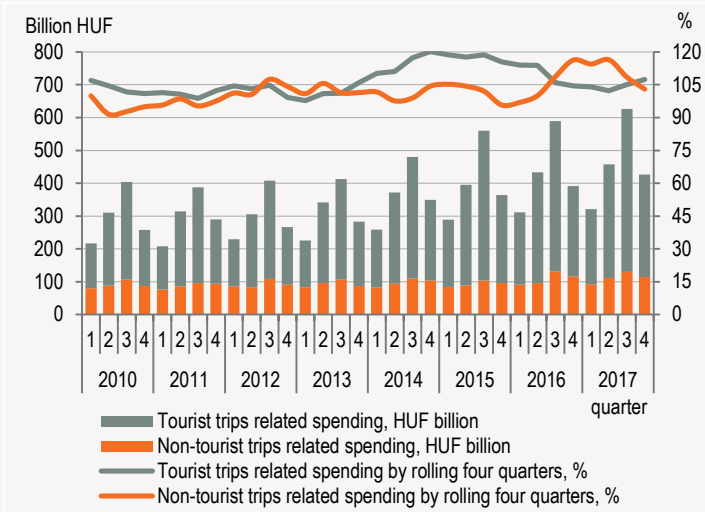


¹ Visiting friends and relatives.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, foreigners participating in trips in Hungary spent a total of 28 million days in Hungary, 1.8% more than in the fourth quarter of 2016. **The average length of stay of overnight travellers fell year-on-year by 0.3 to 5.2 days** during the period under review.

Figure 3

Amount and change of expenditures related to foreign trips to Hungary by rolling four quarters*



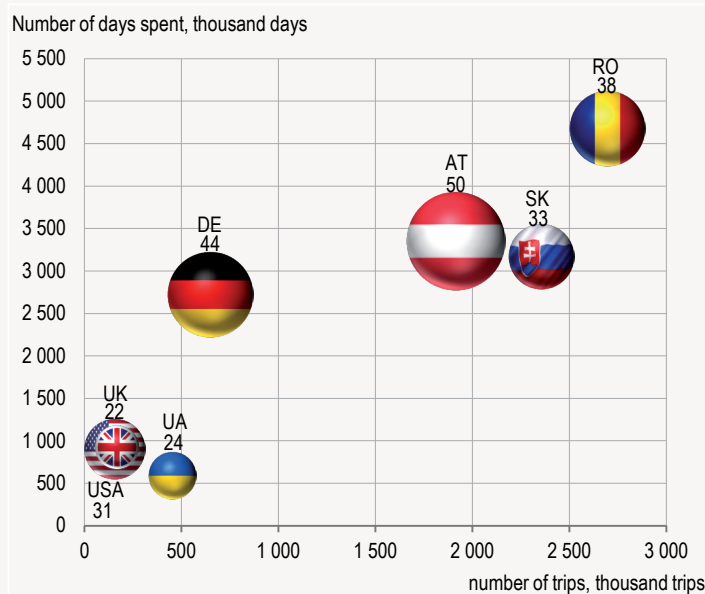
* Value index of traffic in the reference quarter and in the previous three quarters compared to the previous four quarters.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, foreign visitors spent HUF 427 billion in Hungary, 9.0% more than in the fourth quarter of 2016.

Almost four fifths of the expenditures came from European and nearly one tenth from American and Asian visitors. The latter groups spent 26% and 20% more in Hungary than one year ago, the spending of European visitors in Hungary grew by 6.3%, the largest amount (HUF 50 billion) was spent by visitors from Austria. German visitors spent 44, Romanian and Slovakian visitors 38 and 33 billion forints respectively on products and services during their trips in Hungary.

Figure 4

Most important sending countries from the perspective of tourism spending in the fourth quarter of 2017 (billions of HUF)



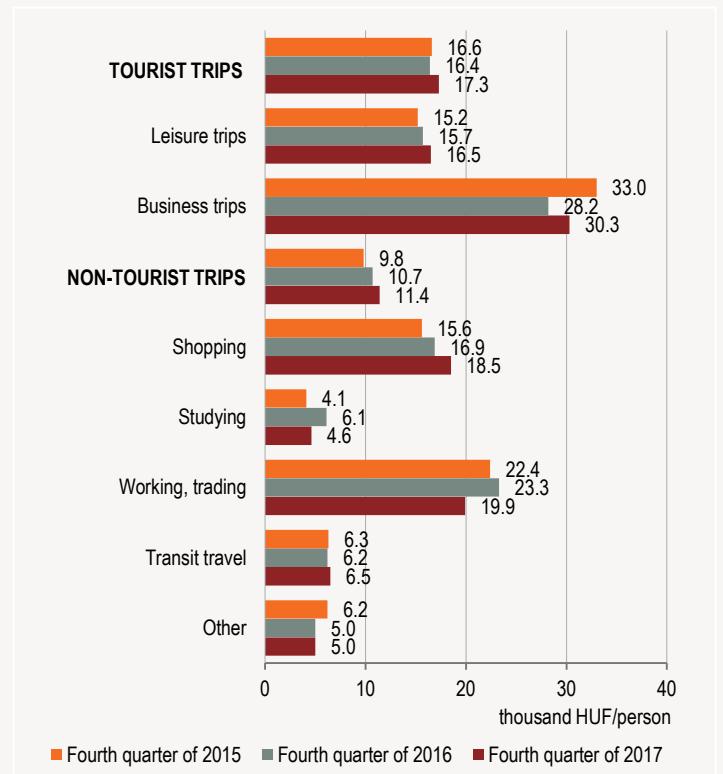
* The size of the bubbles (billions of HUF) is proportional to the spending. Country Codes: AT – Austria, DE – Germany, RO – Romania, SK – Slovakia, UA – Ukraine, UK – United Kingdom, USA – United States.

Tourism trips generated revenues of HUF 313 billion, within which 10–10% came from Austrian and German, 9.5% from US, 6.9% from UK, 6.1% from Romanian, 5.5% from Czech and 5.0% from Slovakian travellers. Within expenditures, 66% were from leisure trips, 7.3% from business and 27% from non-tourism trips.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, foreigners visiting Hungary for one day (same day travellers) spent a total of 110 billion forints, 4.7% more than in the same period of 2016. Within the spending, 41% came from shopping, 21% from tourist, 19% from transit and 18% from working travellers and cross-border traders. Expenditures grew by 3.6% during same day shopping trips and fell by 3.7% during transit trips and by 5.0% during working and cross-border trading trips.

Figure 5

Amount of daily spending per foreign visitor by purpose of trip



In the fourth quarter of 2017, overnight visitors to Hungary spent HUF 316 billion, 11% more than in the fourth quarter of 2016. From this, HUF 289 billion was spent by tourists, within which 89% came from leisure and 11% from business trips. The spending of overnight tourist visitors grew by 13% compared to the fourth quarter of 2016.

An average of HUF 15,200 per person per day was spent by foreigners arriving in Hungary, 7.2% more than in the fourth quarter of last year. The value of daily spending per capita grew from HUF 12,600 to HUF 13,300 for same day trips and rose from HUF 14,900 to HUF 16,000 for overnight trips compared to the fourth quarter of the previous year.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, foreign overnight travellers mainly visited the Budapest–Central Danube region (44%) and Western Transdanubia (30%). Regarding the distribution of visits, the share of **Budapest** grew year-on-year by 4.8 percentage points and of Western Transdanubia fell by 3.4 percentage points. The proportion of visits to our capital has increased by 2.0 percentage points for 1–3 day trips and by 9.5 percentage points for at least 4-day trips. That is why it is still the most popular travel destination – especially for business travellers as well as sightseeing and VFR visitors.

In the observed period, the consumption structure of foreigners visiting Hungary did not change considerably compared to the same period of the previous year. Participants in same day trips spent most of their expenditures (62%) on the purchase of food and other goods. The share of

food purchasing expenditures fell by 2.2 percentage points, and that of other articles grew by 0.3 percentage points. During multi-day visits, 39% of expenditure was spent on accommodation and catering services, 16% on transport, 23% on food and other goods, and 4.8% on medical and healthcare services. The share of transport expenditures grew by 1.3 percentage points and that of fuel expenditures remained unchanged.

Foreign visitors to Hungary, 2017

In 2017, the number of visits to Hungary made by foreign nationals was 55 million including 39 million same day and 16 million overnight visits.

The **number of same day trips** increased by a total of 4.1% in the year as a whole due to a rise in tourist and non-tourist trips, each quarter saw a growth except the fourth. The number of trips grew by 3.8% for tourism and by 4.2% for non-tourism purposes. Slightly more than one-fifth of same day visitors, 8.3 million people, were tourists including 3.1 million visitors from Slovakia, 2.4 million from Austria and 1.5 million from Romania. In 2017, 17 million transit, 10 million shopping and 2.4 million working and cross-border trading visitors were recorded in Hungary.

The **number of overnight trips** grew by 3.5% to 16 million, within which the number of tourist trips rose by 4.7%. The proportion of Romanian citizens (2.5 million) was the highest among those travelling to Hungary, however, the number of their trips decreased significantly by 11% compared to the previous year. They were followed by the Germans (2.1 million) and the Slovaks (1.8 million), who increased the number of their visits by 5.7% and 5.1% respectively in 2017. Recreation, sightseeing as well as visiting relatives and friends were the most frequent travel purposes this year too.

Foreigners spent a total of 124 million days in our country, their length of stay was essentially unchanged compared to 2016. The length of stay of overnight visitors decreased by 1.3%, their average length of stay fluctuated between 5.9 and 4.9 days per quarter.

In 2017, foreign visitors spent HUF 1,832 billion in Hungary, of which tourism expenditures amounted to HUF 1,386 billion. One quarter of the expenditures, 467 billion forints, came from same day visitors accounting for nearly three quarters (71%) of total visitor traffic. **Overnight visitors spent a total of 1,365 billion forints during the year.**

Average per capita daily expenditure grew by 5.9% to HUF 14,700 for visitors to Hungary and by 7.1% to HUF 16,000 for overnight visitors.

Hungarian trips abroad in the fourth quarter of 2017

In the fourth quarter of 2017, **the number of Hungarian trips abroad was 4.8 million**, an increase of 7.2% over the fourth quarter of 2016. Same day trips gave two-thirds of all trips. The number of same day and overnight trips grew by 6.8 and 8.0% respectively. One third of same day trips and the overwhelming part of overnight trips (86%) were for tourist purposes. The number of **trips for tourist purposes** overall increased by 13% and approached 2.4 million.

The **total time spent on travel** increased by 4.4% compared to the fourth quarter of 2016. The average length of multi-day trips abroad fell from 5.7 days measured a year earlier to 5.5 days. Spain (7.4 days), France (7.2 days) and Italy (6.6 days) were the most popular overnight destinations of the Hungarians. Hungarian travellers spent on average 2.4–3.2 days in the neighbouring countries (Slovakia, Serbia and the Ukraine).

Same day trips are usually to visit neighbouring countries and a significant part (80%) of them are tourist trips to Austria or Slovakia.

Almost nine-tenths of **overnight tourist trips** were for some country in the European Union. Among countries visited by large numbers of Hungarians, the number of overnight tourist trips to Italy, the Ukraine and Spain significantly increased by more than 50% and of trips to Germany and Slovakia by 13%. At the same time, the number of people choosing to travel to Austria, the Czech Republic or Serbia has fallen compared to the fourth quarter of 2016.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, **HUF 168 billion was spent on travel abroad**, 8.8% more than in the fourth quarter of 2016. Leisure tourism increased by 10% and business tourism fell by 4.1%. Within the spending,

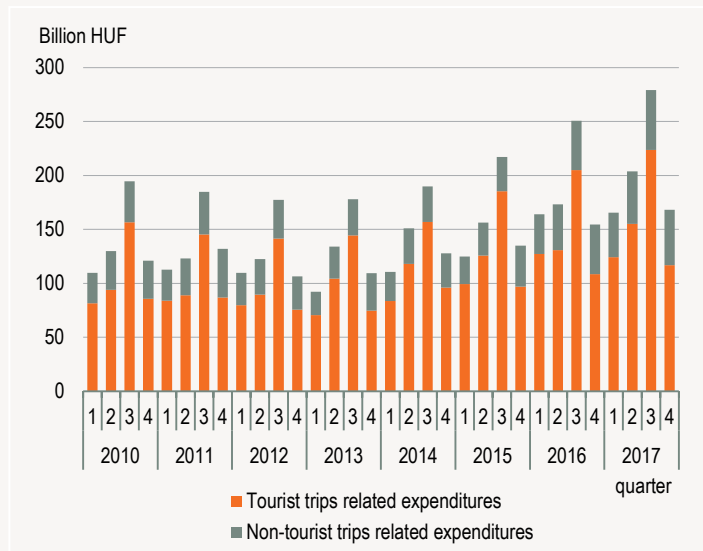
70% came from tourist, 17% from shopping and an additional 13% from working, study and other trips.

Expenditures related to same day trips significantly increased by 14%.

Expenditures on overnight trips abroad – the vast majority of which (87%) were spent on tourism trips – increased by 7.3%. Overnight travellers spent more on both leisure and working trips than in the same quarter last year.

Figure 6

Expenditures related to Hungarian trips abroad



In the fourth quarter of 2017, spending per day grew for both same day and overnight trips. This amount grew by 6.3% to HUF 13,500 for same day trips and by 3.6% to HUF 14,600 for overnight trips.

The **consumption structure of a foreign trip** is significantly influenced by the length of the given trip: same day travellers mainly purchase goods, while services account for a greater share in the spending of overnight travellers. The purchase of food, beverages, durable and valuable consumer goods, fuel and other goods accounted for 89% of expenditures made during same day trips abroad, while accommodation and catering, culture, sports services, fuels and the purchase of other goods accounted for more than half of expenditures made during overnight trips abroad. In the fourth quarter of 2017, considering the internal proportions, Hungarian tourists travelling abroad spent more on accommodation and catering services as well as on cultural, sports and medical programs and less on fuels, foods and beverages than in the fourth quarter of 2016.

Hungarian trips abroad in 2017

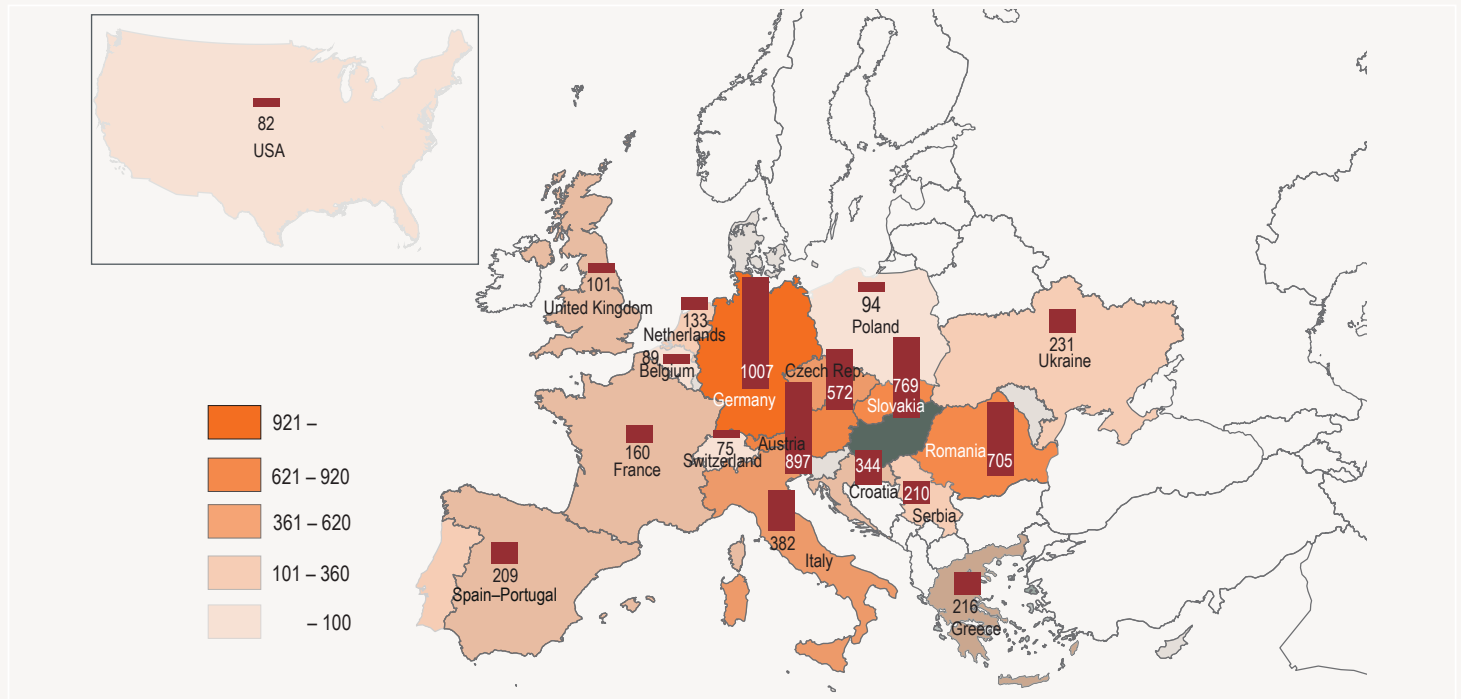
In 2017, Hungarians made 20.3 million visits abroad including 12.8 million same day and 7.5 million overnight visits. The number of **same day trips** increased by 8.1% in the observed period, mainly owing to an increase in the share of work-related trips. The number of trips grew every quarter; growth was faster than 10% in the third quarter. The number of visitors grew by 6.3% for **overnight trips** due to a significant increase in the number of leisure trips. The number of overnight trips abroad increased in each quarter of the year, growth was the highest at 14% in the second quarter.

Hungarians spent 57 million days abroad; their **length of stay** was 4.7% more than in 2016. The aggregate length of stay of Hungarian travellers in the selected destination countries grew by 8.1% during same day trips and by 3.8% during overnight trips. Except for the first quarter the number of days spent increased in each quarter compared to the corresponding quarters of the previous year.

Just as in 2016, the average length of stay was 2.9 days in 2017 too. Except for the third quarter, the **average length of stay of overnight**

Figure 7

Number of overnight tourist trips abroad by main destination countries in 2017, thousand trips



visitors, ranging between 5.4 and 6.8 days during the year, decreased compared to 2016.

In 2017, Hungarian travellers spent HUF 816 billion on products and services during their travels abroad. Of this amount, tourism expenditures amounted to 620 billion forints. 19% of the expenditures, HUF 159 billion, came from same day outbound visitors, who proportionally accounted for about two thirds of total visitor traffic. **Overnight outbound visitors spent 657 billion forints.**

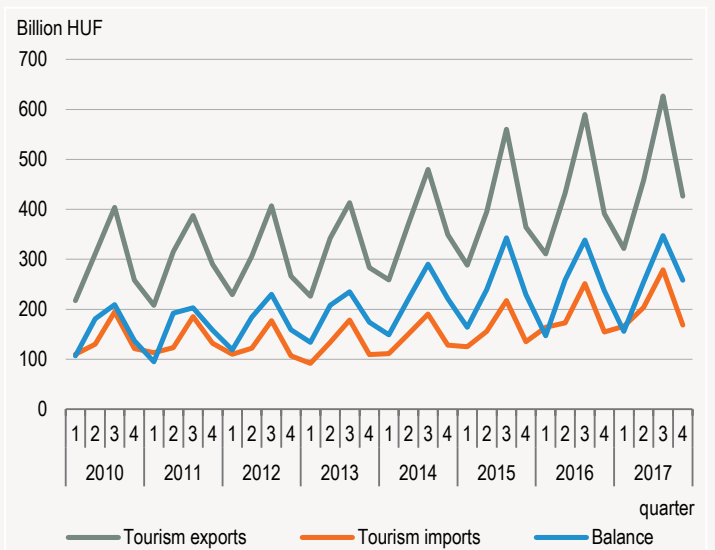
Balance of passenger traffic

In the fourth quarter of 2017, surplus in passenger traffic was HUF 258 billion (EUR 829 million). Export growth rates were similar to those of imports (exports increased by 9.0% and imports by 8.8%), however, **the balance of travel services at current prices was only 9.2% higher in the fourth quarter than in the same period last year.** The forint-euro exchange rate was 0.8% higher in the fourth quarter of 2017 than in the same period of 2016.

In 2017, the surplus of passenger traffic was HUF 1,016 billion (EUR 3.3 billion). The HUF denominated export of passenger services grew by 6.3% and their imports by 9.9%. **The balance was 3.4% higher at current prices than the previous year's figure.**

Figure 8

Changes in the turnover of passenger services (at current prices)



Further information, data (links):

- [Tables](#)
- [Tables \(STADAT\)](#)
- [Methodology](#)
- [Dissemination database](#)

Contact details:

kommunikacio@ksh.hu
 Contact us!
 Phone: +36 1 345 6789
www.ksh.hu