

Summary:

Foreign Visitor Survey 2005

Year 2005

During the year 2005 a total of more than 6.5 million foreigners visited Norway. More than 3.8 million guests stayed overnight in the country while 1.2 million were on a day trip. In addition, 1.3 million arrived on day visits as cruise passengers.

There were 900,000 foreign business visitors who stayed overnight in Norway, while the country was visited by 2.9 million holidaymakers from abroad. The total number of foreign guest-nights amounted to 26 million, of which holidaymakers represented 85 per cent.

The main part of incoming tourism is related to the summer season (May–September), which constitutes two thirds of the arrivals of foreign overnight visitors. 20 per cent of arrivals occur in the winter season (January–April).

Visitors from Sweden, Denmark, Germany, the UK and the USA make up the bulk of *business trips* to Norway. Seven out of ten foreign business travellers arrive by air, and nearly half of the business-related guest-nights are spent in hotels or similar accommodation. The number of foreign business travellers showed an increase in 2005 whereas the growth in guest nights was more modest as a result of shorter stays.

In 2005, the number of foreign *holiday travellers* increased by six per cent and the number of foreign guest-nights increased by five per cent. Germany, Sweden and Denmark are the most important foreign source markets for holiday travel to Norway, but also visitors from the UK, the Netherlands and the USA represent significant tourism volumes. The foreign holidaymakers are distributed among the four main types of accommodation: hotel (24 per cent), cabin (23 per cent), camping (20 per cent), and friends and relatives (28 per cent).

Winter season 2005

There were about 960,000 foreign visitors who stayed overnight in Norway during the winter season 2005 (January–April), which means an eight per cent increase compared to the previous year. A substantial growth was registered for the number of business travellers as well as for the number of holidaymakers from abroad.

Four countries are of vital importance for tourism in Norway in winter: Denmark and Sweden, and to a lesser degree Germany and Great Britain. Table A shows some key figures for winter traffic in the period 2003–2005.

Table A: Foreign business and holiday travel in Norway, winter seasons 2003–2005 (in thousands). Border registration when leaving Norway

	2003	2004	2005	Change in per cent 2004–2005	2005			
					By road	By ferry	By air	By rail/bus
Arrivals in total	1 136	1 206	1 307	8	609	267	412	20
- Day trips	335	335	342	2	244	63	33	2
- Overnight stays	801	871	965	11	364	204	378	18
-- arrivals, business trips	215	234	262	12	49	16	190	6
-- arrivals, holiday trips	585	637	703	10	315	188	188	12
Guest-nights in total	4 442	4 826	5 456	13	1 634	1 358	2 365	99
- Guest-nights, business trips	840	950	1 007	6	160	104	707	36
- Guest-nights, holiday trips	3 602	3 876	4 449	15	1 474	1 254	1 658	63

TØI report 813/2005

Summer season 2005

Table B presents the volume and distribution of foreign tourist arrivals and guest-nights in Norway in the summer season (May–September) 2005.

Table B: Foreign business and holiday travel in Norway, summer season (May–September) 2005 (in thousands). Border registration when departing Norway.

	Total	By road	By ferry	By air	By rail/bus
Arrivals in total	4 208	1 407	545	896	64
- Day trips	628	473	113	37	5
- Cruise passengers (day visits)	1 296				
- Overnight stays	2 284	934	432	859	59
-- arrivals, business trips	398	72	32	286	9
-- arrivals, holiday trips	1 885	862	401	573	49
Guest-nights in total	17 604	5 667	4 726	6 846	365
- Guest-nights, business trips	1 953	374	237	1 298	44
- Guest-nights, holiday trips	15 651	5 293	4 489	5 548	321

TØI report 813/2005

A total of about 4.2 million foreigners visited Norway during the 2005 summer season. These visitors spent 17,6 million guest-nights in the country. About 2.3 million visitors stayed overnight in Norway, while 630,000 arrived on a day trip and 1.3 million as cruise passengers (on day visits).

Some 83 per cent of the overnight visitors from abroad were holidaymakers, and 17 per cent were business travellers. Holiday visitors spent 15,7 million guest-nights in Norway, and the number of foreign business guest-nights amounted to 1.95 million.

About 1.4 million foreign visitors travelled by road, 900,000 by air, 545,000 by ferry and 65,000 by rail or bus. The holidaymakers from abroad utilised road and

ferry connections most frequently, whereas foreign business travellers mainly travelled by air.

Compared with the summer season in the previous year the total number of arrivals of day visitors from abroad increased by nine per cent, while the total number of arrivals among visitors who stayed overnight increased by six per cent. Moreover, the total number of foreign guest-nights turned out to be three per cent higher than the 2004-figure.

Day visitors crossed the border most frequently by road. The majority of such visitors were Swedes.

Table C: Foreign guest-nights in Norway, summer season (May–September) 2005, by country of residence and transport mode at the point of departure from Norway. Figures are in thousands except average length of stay, which is in number of nights per person.

	Total	Length of stay	By road	By ferry	By air	By rail/bus
Total	17 604	7,7	5 667	4 726	6 846	365
Sweden	1 974	4,2	1 299	160	373	142
Denmark	1 721	7,0	516	803	358	44
Finland	709	3,5	594	1	110	4
United Kingdom	1 171	7,8	33	282	846	10
The Netherlands	1 329	10,2	472	484	365	8
Belgium	241	7,6	51	47	142	1
France	694	8,0	159	38	492	5
Germany	4 903	10,6	1 585	2 545	744	29
Italy	414	9,2	179	17	207	11
Switzerland	307	9,3	73	27	193	14
Austria	149	8,3	98	9	39	3
Spain	398	10,8	53	4	338	3
Russia	129	8,6	67	0	60	2
Other Europe	1 327	9,5	486	181	632	28
USA	1 062	10,2	0	16	1 023	23
Japan	138	4,1	0	0	129	9
Other nations	938	11,6	2	112	795	29

TØI report 813/2005

Among those who stayed overnight in Norway during the summer season 2005, the average stay was 7,7 nights (Table C). In the summer 2004 the average stay was 8,0 nights and therefore the general increase in guest-nights (3 per cent) was more moderate than the increase in arrivals (6 per cent). Germany was by far the largest single foreign market in terms of number of guest-nights. However, countries like Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA were also important markets for the Norwegian tourism industry.

Persons living in Sweden constituted the largest proportion of arrivals associated with *business trips*. There was also substantial business travel from Denmark, the UK and Germany.

In the summer season of 2005, 1.9 million foreign *holiday travellers* stayed overnight in Norway, with an average stay of 8.3 nights. During the summer season, German holidaymakers made up the largest proportion of arrivals (22 per

cent) and guest-nights (28 per cent). Denmark and Sweden were also important foreign markets, and together with the USA, the Netherlands and the UK, these countries represented the bulk of summer holiday travel from abroad.

Holiday tours by private motor vehicles and coaches constituted about 60 per cent of all foreign holiday guest-nights in Norway. Visitors from the neighbouring Nordic countries, Germany, and the Netherlands dominated the arrivals by road and ferry. In the summer seasons over the past seven years, such holiday travel initially decreased in terms of both number of arrivals and guest-nights, although it has grown somewhat during the latest two years.

40 per cent of the 50,000 foreign motor homes visiting Norway in summer 2005 were of German origin. The number of motor homes from abroad has showed a remarkable increase in 2003, 2004 and 2005. The number of vehicles with caravan is estimated to about 23,000 in summer 2005, which represents a slight decrease compared to the previous year. The number of foreign-registered coaches visiting Norway increased from approximately 9,000 in the summer season 2004 to 9,500 in summer 2005.

Table D: Percentage of foreign guest-nights for all guests departing Norway by own vehicle, bus, rail or air, by type of accommodation. N = Number of guest-nights in summer season (May–September) 2003–2005 (thousands).

	2003		2004		2005		
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
(N)	(15 407)	(16 890)	(17 622)	(9 426)	(985)	(365)	(6 846)
Hotel, pension, etc.	27	26	27	14	79	23	38
Camping at campsite	18	19	18	32	6	2	1
Camping outside campsite	4	5	6	10	0	4	1
Rented cabin	17	13	12	20	6	3	3
Own/ borrowed cabin	4	4	5	7	0	3	3
Friends, relatives	21	23	22	13	0	51	36
Other	9	10	10	4	9	14	18

TØI report 813/2005

Business and holiday travellers spent a total of 17.6 million guest-nights in Norway during the summer period (Table D). These visitors mainly used three different types of commercial accommodation: hotel (27 per cent), camping at campsite (18 per cent) and rented cabin (12 per cent). In addition, overnight stays with friends and relatives (22 per cent), own/borrowed cabin and camping outside campsite were used.

Among the foreign motorists, camping and cabin were the most frequently used types of accommodation. The coach tourists mostly stayed in hotels, and visitors going by air, rail or bus mainly spent the nights in hotels or in private homes.

Nearly half of the business travellers from abroad stayed in hotels, whereas foreign holiday visitors were relatively equally distributed among the four accommodation sectors hotel, cabin, camping and friends/relatives.