



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE



STATISTICAL SERVICE  
1444 NICOSIA

17 January, 2020

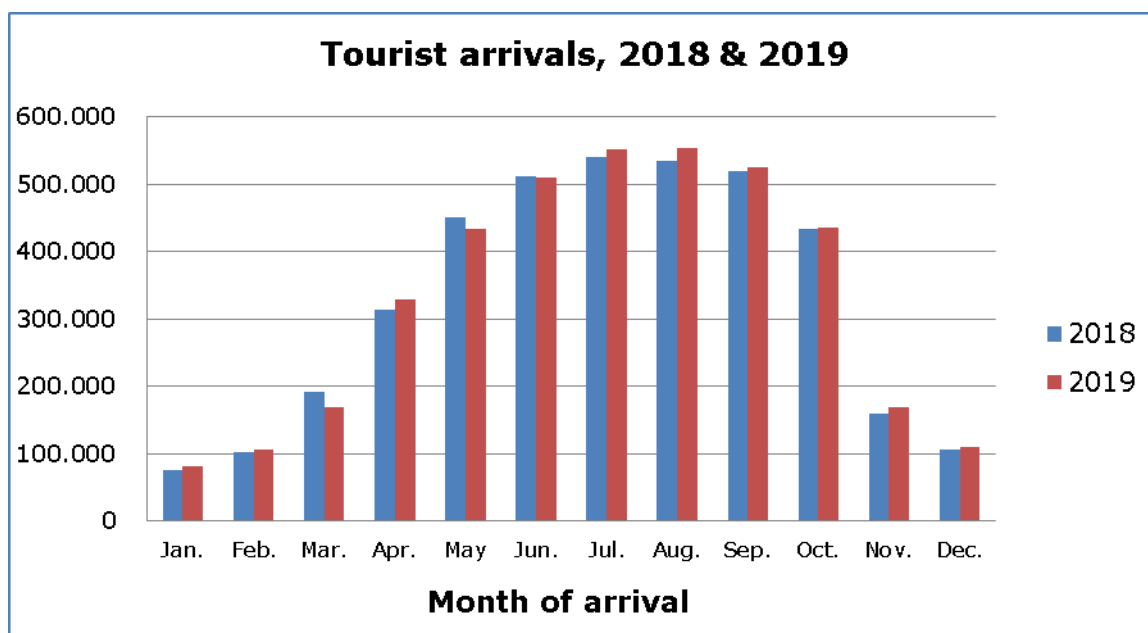
## PRESS RELEASE

### TOURIST ARRIVALS: DECEMBER 2019

#### **Tourist Arrivals +3,5%**

On the basis of the results of the Passengers Survey, arrivals of tourists reached 110.330 in December 2019 compared to 106.563 in December 2018, recording an increase of 3,5%. December 2019 had the highest volume of tourist arrivals ever recorded in Cyprus during the specific month.

For the period of January – December 2019 arrivals of tourists totaled 3.976.777 compared to 3.938.625 in the corresponding period of 2018, recording an increase of 1,0% and outnumbering the total arrivals ever recorded in Cyprus during a year (Table 1).



### **Analysis of changes**

Tourist arrivals from the United Kingdom increased by 4,2% in December 2019 compared to December 2018 while an increase of 51,0% was recorded for tourists from Israel. A decrease of 33,4% in tourist arrivals from Greece and 1,7% from Russia were recorded. Percentage changes from one year to the next for the main countries of usual residence of tourists are presented in Table 1.

### **Main countries**

The United Kingdom constitutes the main source of tourism for Cyprus for December 2019, with a proportion of 30,3% while arrivals from Israel comprise 12,8% of total arrivals, from Greece 9,5% and from Russia 8,9% (Table 2).

### **Purpose of visit**

For a percentage of 53,3% of tourists, the purpose of their trip in December 2019 was holidays, for 32,3% visit to friends and relatives and for 14,2% business (Table 3).

**Table 1**

Country of usual residence	December				January - December			
	Tourist arrivals			% change 2019/18	Tourist arrivals			% change 2019/18
	2017	2018	2019		2017	2018	2019	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98.924</b>	<b>106.563</b>	<b>110.330</b>	<b>3,5</b>	<b>3.652.073</b>	<b>3.938.625</b>	<b>3.976.777</b>	<b>1,0</b>
Austria	439	988	802	-18,8	40.473	45.888	44.538	-2,9
Belgium	651	616	1.451	135,6	27.089	28.231	26.077	-7,6
France	886	1.843	1.032	-44,0	35.931	36.500	31.114	-14,8
Germany	5.100	6.096	4.501	-26,2	188.826	189.200	151.500	-19,9
Denmark	180	133	252	89,5	34.990	43.063	40.568	-5,8
Switzerland (incl. Lichten.)	969	1.914	1.282	-33,0	57.540	74.216	67.534	-9,0
Greece	13.931	15.807	10.524	-33,4	169.712	186.370	171.512	-8,0
United Kingdom	28.218	32.065	33.401	4,2	1.253.839	1.327.805	1.330.635	0,2
Israel	10.048	9.324	14.077	51,0	261.966	232.561	293.746	26,3
Lebanon	1.920	1.935	2.663	37,6	58.273	62.255	58.796	-5,6
Norway	567	751	191	-74,6	54.342	55.273	60.782	10,0
Netherlands	498	912	885	-3,0	37.585	42.217	43.198	2,3
Ukraine	2.004	1.839	5.136	179,3	48.190	69.619	95.031	36,5
Poland	1.069	1.811	2.455	35,6	56.665	89.508	80.243	-10,4
Russia	12.307	9.990	9.818	-1,7	824.494	783.631	781.856	-0,2
Sweden	827	940	1.025	9,0	136.725	153.769	144.605	-6,0
Finland	49	136	121	-11,0	20.962	26.507	24.661	-7,0
Other	19.261	19.463	20.714	6,4	344.471	492.012	530.381	7,8

**Table 2**

<b>Country of usual residence of tourists</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>			
	<b>Dec 18</b>	<b>Jan – Dec 18</b>	<b>Dec 19</b>	<b>Jan – Dec 19</b>
United Kingdom	30,1	33,7	30,3	33,5
Israel	8,7	5,9	12,8	7,4
Greece	14,8	4,7	9,5	4,3
Russia	9,4	19,9	8,9	19,7
Ukraine	1,7	1,8	4,7	2,4
Germany	5,7	4,8	4,1	3,8
Lebanon	1,8	1,6	2,4	1,5
Other countries	27,7	27,6	27,4	27,5

**Table 3**

<b>Purpose of visit</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>		
	<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>Dec 18</b>	<b>Dec 19</b>
Holidays	51,4	51,1	53,3
Visiting friends & relatives	36,2	36,9	32,3
Business	12,4	11,9	14,2

## **METHODOLOGICAL NOTES**

### **Definitions**

**Tourists** – Visitors who stay for at least one night in Cyprus.

**Tourist arrivals** – The term refers to the number of trips and not to the number of persons. This differs in the sense that one person can take more than one trips during the reference period.

### **Source of data and coverage**

The data are obtained from the Passengers Survey which is conducted in the arrivals and departures halls in the airports of Larnaka and Pafos, as well as from administrative sources such as the monthly arrivals at ports.

The survey covers all persons who pass through passport control at the ports and airports in the Government controlled area of Cyprus. It does not include travelers who arrive and depart illegally via ports and airports in the occupied part of Cyprus.

The weighting of data is conducted based on the data sent to the Statistical Service by the Civil Aviation Department and from the ship manifests, as well as data sent by the Analysis and Statistics Office of the Cyprus Police.

### ***For more information:***

Statistical Service (CYSTAT) Website, subtheme [Tourism](#)

### **Contact**

Lucy Panayidou: Tel.: +35722602152, E-mail: [lpnayidou@cystat.mof.gov.cy](mailto:lpnayidou@cystat.mof.gov.cy)