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French hotels logged 70.37 million summer overnight stays, up 1.7%

Domestic travelers drove the increase after non-resident demand barely moved during the peak holiday quarter

Friday, November 20, 2026

French hotels posted modest growth over the summer, driven mainly by domestic guests as foreign demand showed little change.

On Thursday, November 19, France’s national statistics agency Insee said hotels in the country recorded 70.37 million overnight stays in the third quarter, which covers July through September. That was up 1.7% from the same period in 2025, or 1.21 million additional nights.

The increase came mostly from residents traveling within France. Overnight stays by resident guests rose 2.8% from a year earlier, while stays by non-residents edged up just 0.2%. The gap showed that the French hotel market relied largely on domestic demand during the main summer travel season.

The third-quarter figures were final through August and provisional for September, according to Insee’s report and tables. The agency published the data in its Informations Rapides release No. 275.

The figures also showed that growth was uneven across hotel categories. Overnight stays in four-star and five-star hotels increased 5.7%, pointing to stronger demand at the upper end of the market. By contrast, one-star and two-star hotels saw overnight stays fall 2.2%, suggesting weaker traffic in lower-priced accommodation even as the

broader market expanded.

Foreign demand was mixed by region and in some cases weaker than a year earlier. Overnight stays by American travelers fell 1.2% in the quarter. Nights by visitors from Asia and Oceania dropped 6.2%. Those declines help explain why the overall rise in non-resident stays remained close to flat despite the summer holiday period.

The third-quarter results added to gains already seen earlier in the year. From January through September, French hotels accumulated 174.69 million overnight stays, up 1.9% from the same period in 2025, based on the quarterly series published by Insee.

The latest data point to a hotel sector that kept growing in 2026, but at a measured pace and with a clear dependence on the home market. Domestic travelers provided the main support for the summer season, offsetting the weak performance of several foreign segments and limited momentum in international demand.