Madrid is a peculiar place in August. Aside from the stifling heat, the traffic isn't too hectic, restaurants are either closed or distinctly emptier while tourist hotspots are unusually quieter. That sense of tranquility is due to the locals leaving the Spanish capital in order to find refuge from the scorching temperatures in the countryside and along the coast. Spanish workers have no problems leaving their jobs for weeks on end given that they have a statutory minimum of 22 paid vacation days, according to the OECD. They get 14 public holidays on top of that, meaning they get a grand total of 36 paid days leave annually. Many workers even get extra days depending on their company and position.

The situation in France is similar with motorways clogged with traffic every August as people flee the cities to start their summer holidays. French workers also get a minimum of 36 paid days off every year, of which 11 are public holidays and 25 are the statutory minimum. Elsewhere the vacation
allowance falls in Asia's major economies with South Korean workers getting a minimum of 15 days and people in Japan getting a mere 10.

That's still far better than workers in the United States. While people in France and Spain spend weeks chilling at the beach, most Americans are more than likely still stuck at their desks. The U.S. remains the only advanced economy that doesn't guarantee paid vacation. Even though some companies are generous and provide their employees with up to 15 days of paid leave annually, almost one in four private sector workers does not receive any paid vacation, according to the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

### Vacation: Americans Get A Raw Deal
Statutory minimum paid leave and public holidays in 2016 (selected countries)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Days of annual leave</th>
<th>Public holidays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany*</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Public holidays in Germany are regulated at state level. The number varies between 9 and 13 depending on the state.

Generally reflects full-time employees working a five-day week and who have been at their current employer for one year.

Source: OECD
Vacation: Americans Get A Raw Deal
Statutory minimum paid leave and public holidays in 2016 (selected countries)

United Kingdom: Days of annual leave: 28, Public holidays: 9
France: Days of annual leave: 25, Public holidays: 11
Spain: Days of annual leave: 22, Public holidays: 14
Germany*: Days of annual leave: 20, Public holidays: 13
Chile: Days of annual leave: 15, Public holidays: 15
South Korea: Days of annual leave: 15, Public holidays: 28
Australia: Days of annual leave: 20, Public holidays: 8
Japan: Days of annual leave: 10, Public holidays: 15
Israel: Days of annual leave: 11, Public holidays: 15
Canada: Days of annual leave: 10, Public holidays: 9
Mexico: Days of annual leave: 6, Public holidays: 7
United States: Days of annual leave: 10, Public holidays: 13

* Public holidays in Germany are regulated at state level. The number varies between 9 and 13 depending on the state. Generally reflects full-time employees working a five-day week and who have been at their current employer for one year. Source: OECD

Infographic Newsletter

Statista offers daily infographics about trending topics covering Media and Society.

FAQ

- Who may use the "Chart of the Day"?
  The Statista "Chart of the Day", made available under the Creative Commons License CC BY-ND 3.0, may be used and displayed without charge by all commercial and non-commercial websites. Use is, however, only permitted with proper attribution to Statista. When publishing one of these graphics, please include a backlink to the respective infographic URL. More Information

- Which topics are covered by the "Chart of the Day"?
The Statista "Chart of the Day" currently focuses on two sectors: "Media and Technology", updated daily and featuring the latest statistics from the media, internet, telecommunications and consumer electronics industries; and "Economy and Society", which current data from the United States and around the world relating to economic and political issues as well as sports and entertainment.

- Does Statista also create infographics in a customized design?

For individual content and infographics in your Corporate Design, please visit our agency website www.statista-content-design.de

Due to the holidays, there may be a delay in replying to your inquiries. We ask for your patience and understanding while we respond to inquiries. However, our US offices will remain open over the holiday period and will be able to help you with any urgent requests. Our UK offices will be closed from December 24th to January 2nd. If you need urgent assistance, please contact us at support@statista.com. For non-urgent requests (European customers) please send us an email at eu.support@statista.com and we will get back to you when we return to the office. Happy holidays!

Any more questions?

Get in touch with us quickly and easily. We are happy to help!

Statista Content & Information Design
Research, storytelling, infographics & presentation design on any topic in your corporate design.

More Information

News 18

We use cookies to personalize contents and ads, offer social media features, and analyze access to our website. In your browser settings you can configure or disable this, respectively, and can delete any already placed cookies. For details, please see your browser’s Help section (by pressing F1). Please see our privacy statement for details about how we use data.