



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE CAMPING, CARAVANING ET  
AUTOCARAVANING

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## *Survey and statistics on motorcaravanning habits*



### **The Motorcaravanning Commission, FICC**

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## Foreword

This document is the result of the survey conducted from 17<sup>th</sup> April 2011 to 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2012. It is based on 709 responses, completely anonymous, in operation on the Internet and also manually by ticking a form that was left in a letterbox during rallies and in a number of tourist campsites.

The present work has been undertaken by the Motorcaravanning Commission with the collaboration of the Spanish Federation (Federación Española de Clubes Campistas), the Unió Caravanista de Catalunya, both members of the FICC, and 2 independent motorhome websites:

[www.autocaravaning.eu](http://www.autocaravaning.eu) - [www.autocaravaning.org](http://www.autocaravaning.org)

The paper produces interesting work with documents and statistics on motorcaravanners' habits and motorcaravanning in general.

Spain is one of the most visited countries in Europe, an estimated 450.000 motorhomes (an average of 800.000 people) cross Spanish frontiers annually, representing around one third of all registered motorhomes in Europe; a good number of them remain for a large period, especially in winter, in different parts of Spain. Visitors from France, Germany, UK, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Finland and the Netherland's, etc., have also filled in this survey; thus, to certain extent, these statistics reflect some data at European level. Indeed there was a good reason to have originally produced this document in 2 languages, English and Spanish.

Below just a brief introduction of the most important parts of this survey:

- Classification of motorhomes

The highest number of these vehicles on the road corresponded to the "alcove" or "overcab" motorhome, 39%, followed by the integrated motorhome, 29%. See illustrations below.

- Federated and non federated motorcaravanners

According to data, only 29% are members of a club or federation; an overwhelming 71% are neither federated nor belong to any association.

- Motorcaravanners' preferred routes

50% answered in favour of travelling by different regions of Spain and abroad.



## SURVEY AND STATISTICS ON MOTORCARAVANNING HABITS

- How many days per year do motorcaravanners travel?

An average 45 to 60 days per year, equivalent to 38%, 291 responses.

- Main profession or occupation of motorcaravanners

The highest number of answers corresponded to retired people (many of them became pensioners before retirement age, even before the age of 60). In second place, there were professionals (teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, etc.), self-employed and entrepreneurs.

- Average age

The majority of responses came from people between 50 and 65 years old or more representing 46% of the Motorcaravanning population

- Distances covered annually

56% covered and average 5.000 to 7.500 km per year, see complete details below.

- How often do motorcaravanners go to a restaurant?

35% went to a restaurant 2 times per week, when travelling by motorhome.

- Average expense in a restaurant

Motorcaravanner's expense came to an average 25 to 30 Euros per person, 48% of the total number, each time they visited a restaurant.

- Average expense on daily shopping, souvenirs, etc.

Motorcaravanners spent, at least, € 20 to a maximum of € 30 daily per person.

More details below.

In regard to general expenses, restaurants, shopping, souvenirs, etc., these statistics have taken into account only periods during motorcaravanning activities.

Jose Iglesias Gonzalez

Chairman of the Motorcaravanning Commission

3rd of March 2012

### The Motorcaravanning Commission, FICC

NAME	CLUB OR FEDERATION	PARTICIPATION	COUNTRY
José I. González	General adviser, FECC (Spanish Federation)	Chairman	Spain
Les Kendrick	Board member, Motorcaravanners' Club	Member	UK
Gianni Picilli	President of Confedercampeggio (Italian Federation)	Member	Italy
Chris Wells	International Committee, The Camping and Caravanning Club	Member	UK
Willem Helwegen	Managing Director, NKC (Nederlandse Kampeerauto Club)	Member	Netherlands
Gérard Couté	President of the FFCC (Fédération Française de Camping et de Caravaning)	Member	France



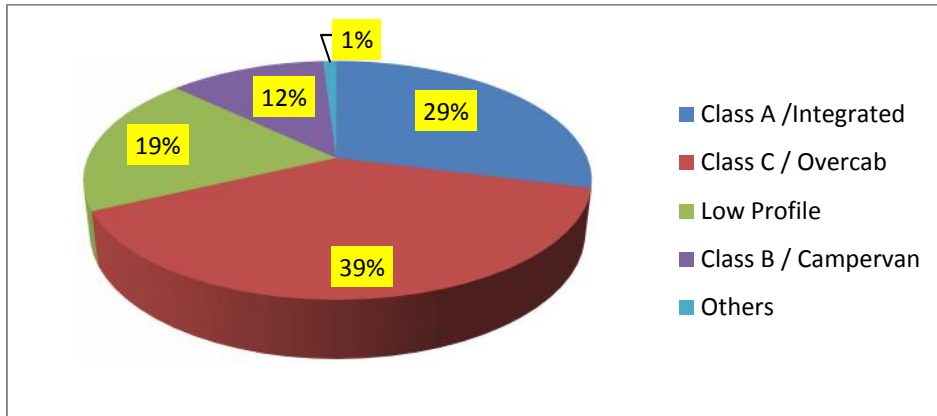
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**SURVEY AND STATISTICS ON MOTORCARAVANNING HABITS**

**CLASSIFICATION OF MOTORHOMES**



CATEGORY	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
Overcab or alcove	273	39%
Integrated	205	29%
Low profile or semi-integrated	133	19%
Campervan	90	12%
Others*	8	1%

\*Others, it refers to non standard category vehicles converted from trucks, vans, coaches and even buses in custom motorhomes.

Main categories

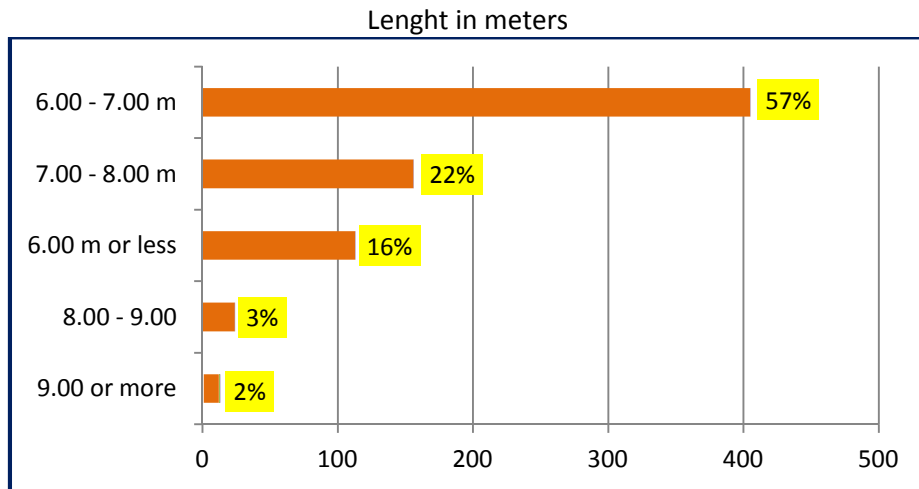


-According to the above statistics, it is clear that “overcab” vehicles, 39%, and “integrated”, 29%, represent the highest number of registered motorhomes.



**SURVEY AND STATISTICS ON MOTORCARAVANNING HABITS**

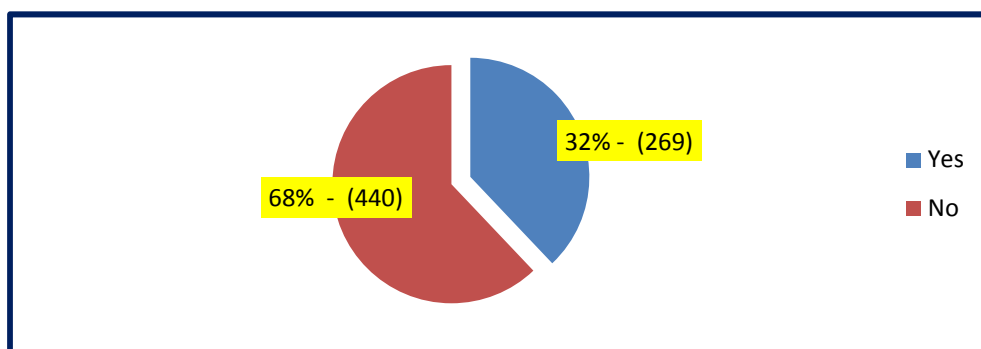
**LENGHT OF MOTORHOMES**



LENGTH IN METERS	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
6 - 7 m	405	57%
7 - 8 m	156	22%
6 m or less	113	16%
8 - 9 m	24	3%
9 m or more	11	2%

-Motorhomes from 6.00 to 7.00 meters in length corresponded to the highest number of registered vehicles, 57% out of the total. In second place are vehicles from 7.00 to 8.00 meters, 22% out of the total, as it can be seen on above table.

**USING OF TRAILERS (TO TOW A QUAD, CAR, ETC.)**



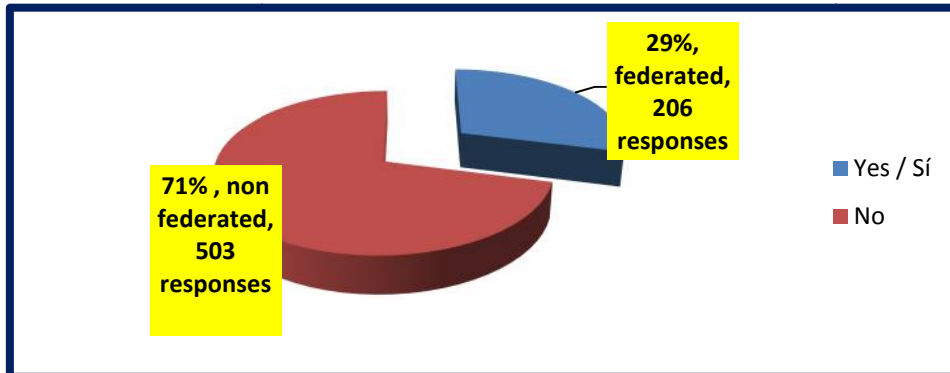
MOTORHOMES WITH TRAILER	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
Using trailer	269	38%
No trailer	440	62%

The use of trailers is growing increasingly year after year, due to the transport of small cars (Smart model), quads, etc.



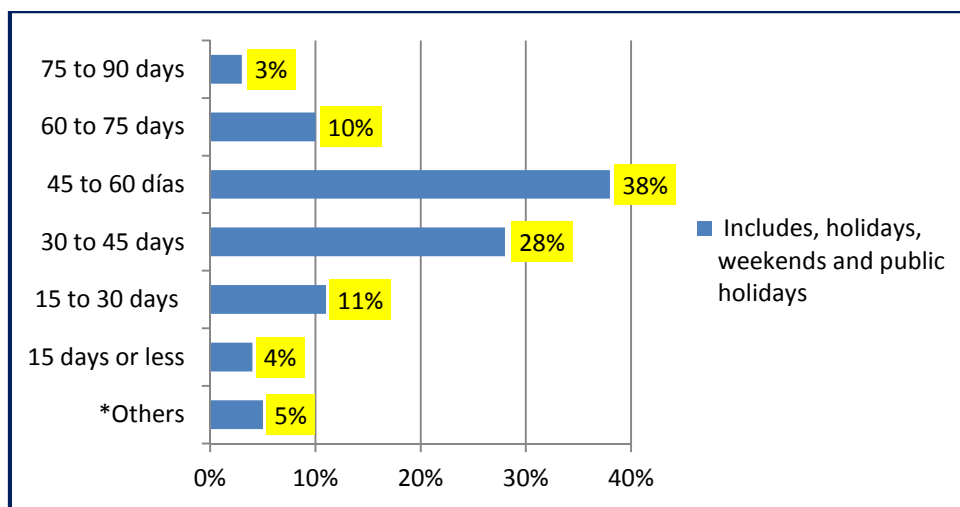
**SURVEY AND STATISTICS ON MOTORCARAVANNING HABITS**

**FEDERATED AND NON FEDERATED MOTORCARAVANNERS**



-The statistics show an overwhelming evidence of non federated motorcaravanners; however, this reality is beginning to be reflected in a number of European countries, especially in motorcaravanning; the lack of interest in socializing seems to be the new trend, this is the main subject of reflection for clubs, federations or associations in the federated world of camping.

**HOW MANY DAYS PER YEAR DO MOTORCARAVANNERS TRAVEL?**



NUMBER OF DAYS PER YEAR	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
15 days or less	28	4%
15 to 30 days	78	11%
30 to 45 days	206	29%
45 to 60 days	291	41%
60 to 75 days	71	10%
75 to 90 days	21	3%
Others*	14	2%

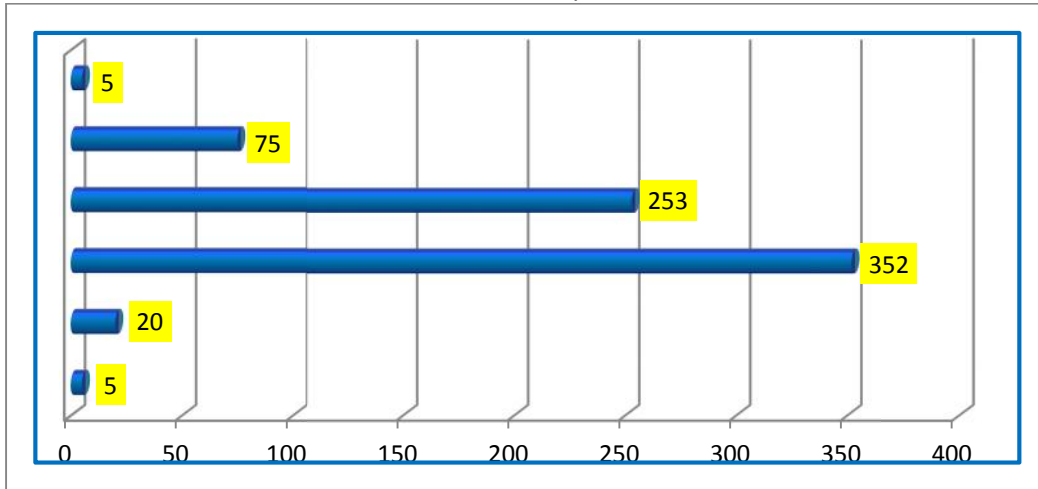
\*Others, it refers to motorhome users travelling more than 90 days per year, most of them pensioners or retired people.



**SURVEY AND STATISTICS ON MOTORCARAVANNING HABITS**

**MOTORCARAVANNERS' PREFERRED ROUTES**

Number of responses

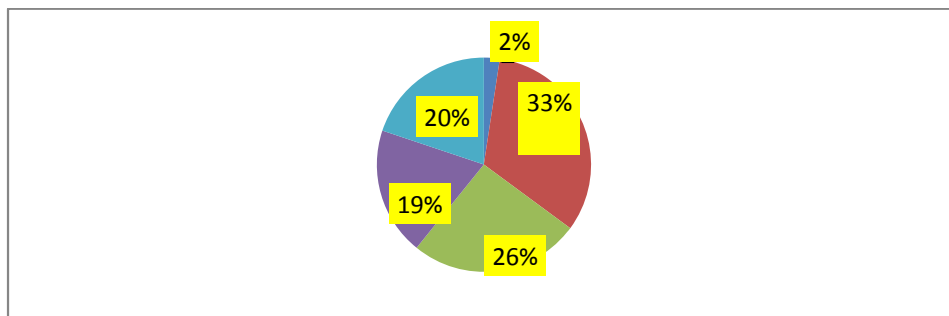


SELECTED ROUTES BY MOTORCARAVANNERS	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
The region of residence only	5	1%
Different regions of Spain	74	10%
The region of residence and abroad	253	35%
Different regions of Spain and abroad	352	50%
Only journeys abroad	20	3%
Others*	5	1%

\*Others

It Refers to motorcaravanners who did not use their vehicle for different reasons, illness, economic conditions, etc.

**MAIN PROFESSIONS OR OCCUPATIONS OF MOTORCARAVANNERS**



MAIN OCCUPATIONS	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
Employee (services, banking, representative, etc.)	136	19%
Self-employed, entrepreneur, etc.	138	20%
Teaching, doctor, lawyer, engineer, etc.	184	26%
Retired, pensioner	234	33%
*Others	17	2%

Regarding main occupations, pensioners or retired people represent the largest number of motorcaravanners, 33%.

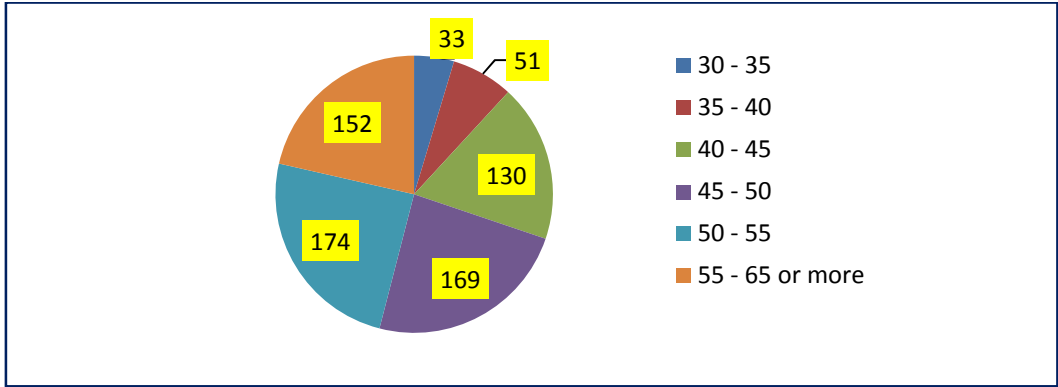
\*Others, it refers to professions or occupations not listed on the survey.





**SURVEY AND STATISTICS ON MOTORCARAVANNING HABITS**

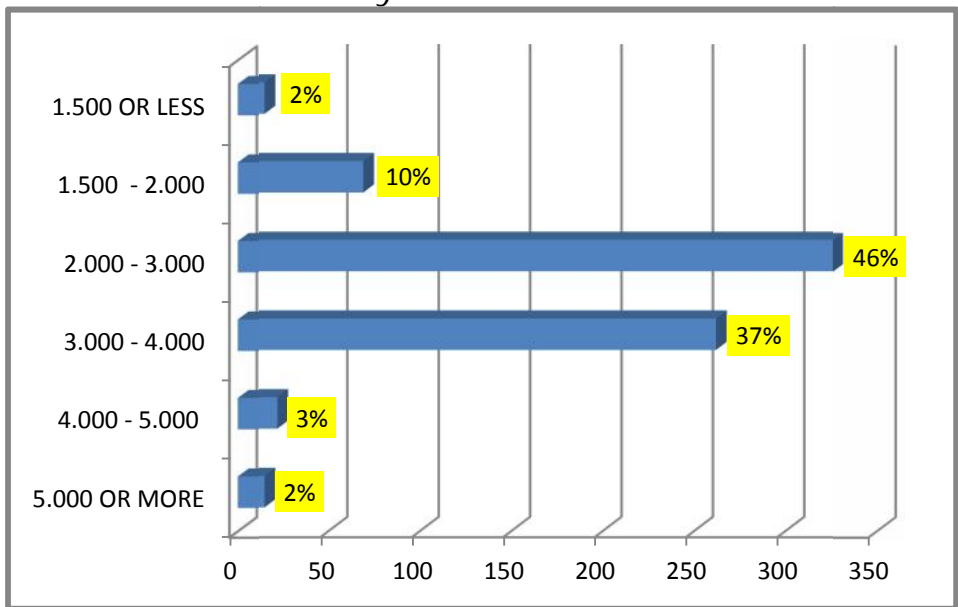
**AGE OF MOTORCARAVANNERS**



AVERAGE AGE OF MOTORCARAVANNERS	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
30 - 35	33	5%
35 - 40	51	7%
40 - 45	130	18%
45 - 50	169	24%
50 - 55	174	25%
55 - 65 or more	152	21%

As it can be seen on the above table, people aged between 50 to 65 years old, or more, account for 46% out of the total.

**AVERAGE MONTHLY SALARY OF MOTORHOMERS**  
Monthly Salaries in Euros



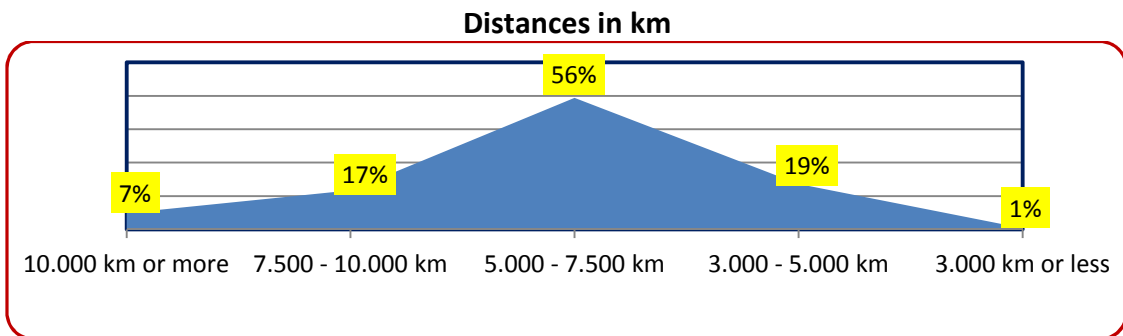


**SURVEY AND STATISTICS ON MOTORCARAVANNING HABITS**

AVERAGE MONTHLY SALARIES IN EUROS	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
1.500 or less	15	2%
1.500 - 2.000	69	10%
2.000 - 3.000	326	46%
3.000 - 4.000	262	37%
4.000 - 5.000	22	3%
5.000 or more	15	2%

Regarding to monthly salary, the majority of motorcaravanners, 46% out of all responses, receive an income from €2.000 to a maximum €3.000 per month.

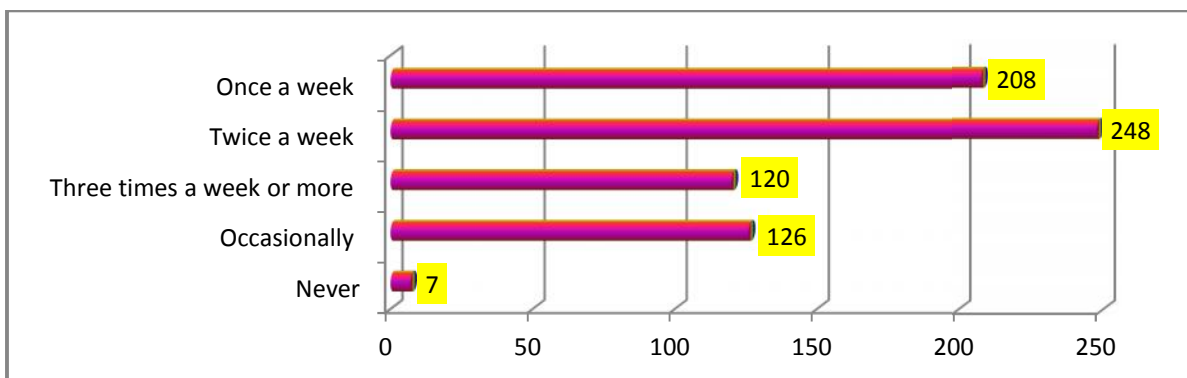
**DI STANCES COVERED ANNUALLY**



AVERAGE DISTANCE COVERED ANNUALLY	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
3.000 km or less	7	1%
3.000 - 5.000 km	138	19%
5.000 - 7.500 km*	395	56%
7.500 - 10.000 km	119	17%
10.000 km or more	50	7%

\*According to the above statistics, the majority of motorcaravanner's have covered an average 5.000 to 7.500 km annually, 56% responses, taking into account national territory and abroad.

**HOW MANY TIMES PER WEEK DO MOTORCARAVANNERS GO TO A RESTAURANT?**



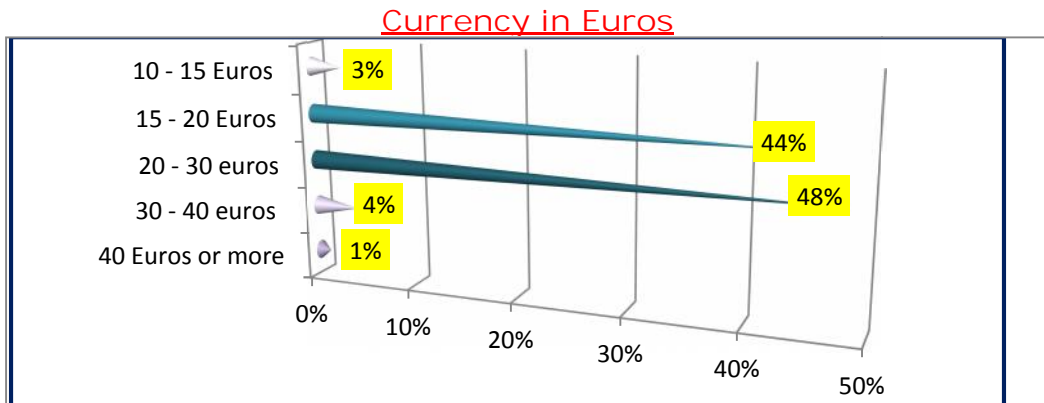


**SURVEY AND STATISTICS ON MOTORCARAVANNING HABITS**

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF TIMES PER WEEK	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
Once a week	208	29%
Twice a week	248	35%
Three times a week or more	120	17%
Occasionally	126	18%
Never	7	1%

35% of all respondents went to a restaurant, at least, twice a week.

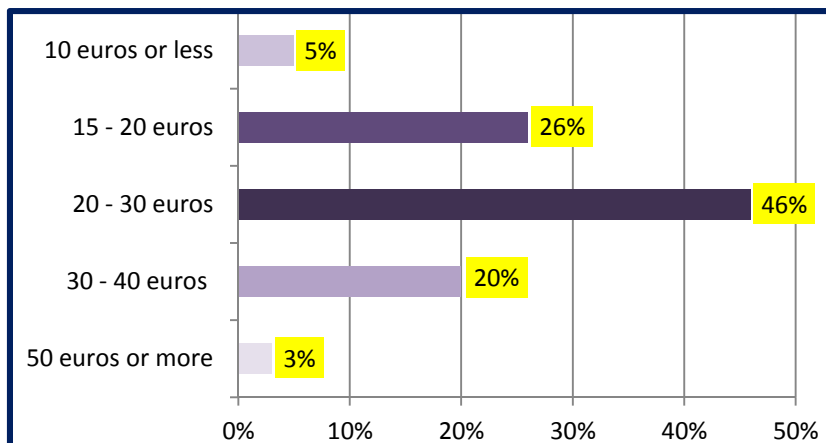
**WHAT IS THE AVERAGE EXPENSE PER PERSON IN A RESTAURANT?**



AVERAGE EXPENSE PERSON IN A RESTAURANT (IN EUROS)	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
10 - 15	20	3%
15 - 20	311	44%
25 - 30	342	48%
30 - 40	29	4%
40 euros or more	7	1%

-The average expense produced by motorcaravanner's, each time they visited a restaurant, attributed to 48% of the motorcaravanning community, was from € 25 to € 30 per person.

**DAILY SHOPPING, INCLUDING SOUVENIRS**





## SURVEY AND STATISTICS ON MOTORCARAVANNING HABITS

DAILY SHOPPING AND SOUVENIRS	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
10 - 15	33	5%
15 - 20	186	26%
20 - 30	323	46%
30 - 40	143	20%
50 euros or more	24	3%

Regarding to daily shopping, the expense was a minimum of €20 to a maximum €30 per person, considering 46% out of all responses.

### APPENDIX:

#### TERMINOLOGY OF THE WORD MOTORHOME

According to the British English "Cambridge Dictionary" motorhome or motor home are correct words to describe a large motor vehicle designed to be lived in while travelling. It contains cooking equipment, one or more beds and a toilet, among other comforts, depending of the model and characteristics. However, the following expressions:

- Motor caravan o motorcaravan, since these are the oldest words (especially in the UK, due to the origin of the motorhome, during the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, by converting and motorizing caravans in customs motorcaravans).
- Other expressions commonly used: Motorcaravanner or motor caravanner; motor caravanning or motorcaravanning are common in the UK. Even though this may lead to confusion are perfectly accepted in the motorcaravanning [jargon](#) (words or expressions –may not be in the dictionary– that are used by a particular profession or group of people).
- Nowadays a word like motorhoming, by reason of connection to the word motorhome, although not mentioned in dictionaries, is also being used in English language.

In addition, the definition of motorhome or motorcaravan in some other languages was not clear until, approximately, 20 to 30 years ago; before that there was no mention at all on dictionaries; as a result, would often generate confusion with the registration of motorhomes, many of them appeared on the vehicle logbook as van, truck, lorry or other strange definitions that had nothing to do with the denomination of motorhome, etc.

#### DENOMINATION OF MOTORHOME IN OTHER LANGUAGES, COUNTRIES WHERE THIS VEHICLE IS WIDELY USED

- France, coming-car, autocaravane (term mainly used by the Québécois, French Canadian, now used as well in European countries where French language is spoken;



## SURVEY AND STATISTICS ON MOTORCARAVANNING HABITS

- Germany, Wohnmobil;
- Italy, camper or autocaravan;
- Spain, autocaravana;
- Portugal, autocaravana;
- Sweden, Husbil;
- The Netherlands, Kampeerauto;
- United States, RVs, Recreational Vehicles, this also refers to trailers and other leisure vehicles, since those –including the so called American campervan, a larger model than in Europe, because of its size it can be confused with the English meaning of campervan: smaller version of motorhome.

Speaking of motorhomes or RVs, it is noteworthy that the U.S.A is the country in the world with more leisure vehicles, including the whole of Europe.

Finally, it is interesting to compare that unlike Europe the motorhome or RV is also used by professionals, representatives, etc., for their daily jobs as mobile offices and for people working far away from home; furthermore, many users make it a regular home without being penalized with special surcharges (as it happens in some European countries where any type of RV, whether large or small, is considered as a luxury vehicle).

### DESCRIPTION OF THE MOTORCARAVANNING COMMISSION

- The Commission consists of up to six members, including the Chairman. The Chairman is appointed by the Council.
- The members of the Commission are appointed by the President and the Chairman with approval of the Council.
- Four members of the Commission shall be Quorum.
- The Commission advises the Council on changes in current practices that could affect F.I.C.C. member Clubs. Also provides member clubs with information and changes in International Standards.
- The members of this Commission produce documents, as the present one, and discuss its contents; once they have reached a quorum the document is sent to the Council for approval.

The Motorcaravanning Commission is a lot more than a commission, is a team of experts at European level. Its members boast a long career in the world of associations and are closely linked to motorcaravanner's daily difficulties. No doubt that the Commission is representing the vast majority of users in Europe, carrying out various assignments for the benefit of the European Motorcaravanning community, not only in the EU but also involved with the majority of countries in European the continent, including Russia.

The Motorcaravanning Commission, FICC

3rd of March 2012