

International tourism in February 2026

Last February, Italy's tourism balance of payments recorded a surplus of €0.7 billion, an increase compared with the same month of 2025. Inbound tourism expenditure (€3.0 billion) grew by 14.7 per cent, while outbound tourism expenditures (€2.3 billion) rose by 1.6 per cent.

Also for the three-month period ending in February 2026, the increase in tourism receipts (7.9 per cent) was larger than that in expenditure (2.9 per cent) compared with the quarter ending in February 2025 (Fig. 1). The increase in spending by foreign travellers was higher for travellers from EU countries than for those from non-EU countries (9.5 per cent versus 6.4; Fig. 2, left panel). Similarly, Italians' spending abroad increased more in EU countries than in non-EU destinations (4.4 versus 1.9 per cent; Fig. 2, right panel).

According to survey data, around 250,000 foreign travellers visited Italy to attend the Winter Olympic Games; an additional 50,000 would have arrived even in the absence of the event but nevertheless attended some competitions. Lombardy recorded the largest inflow, followed by Veneto and Trentino. Spending by foreign travellers who would not have come to Italy in the absence of the Olympics is estimated at nearly €400 million, accounting for about 13 per cent of total receipts in February 2026; this amount is broadly comparable to the increase in spending recorded compared with the same month of 2025.

Figure 1

Italy's inbound and outbound tourism expenditure
 (3-month moving averages; year-on-year percentage changes)

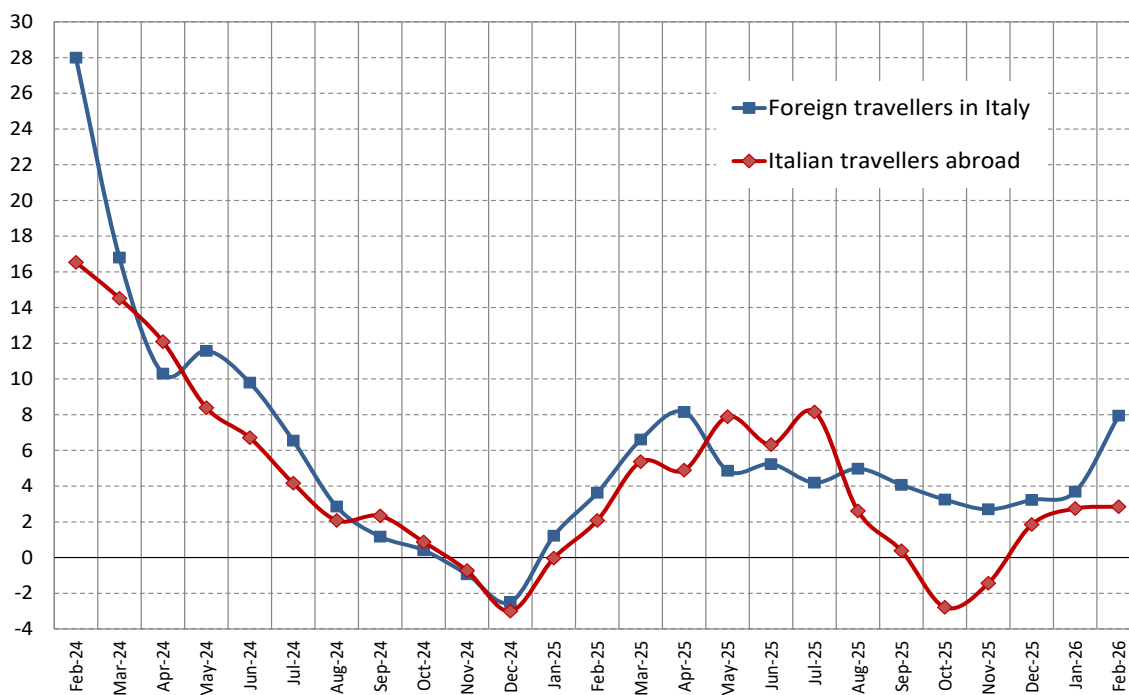
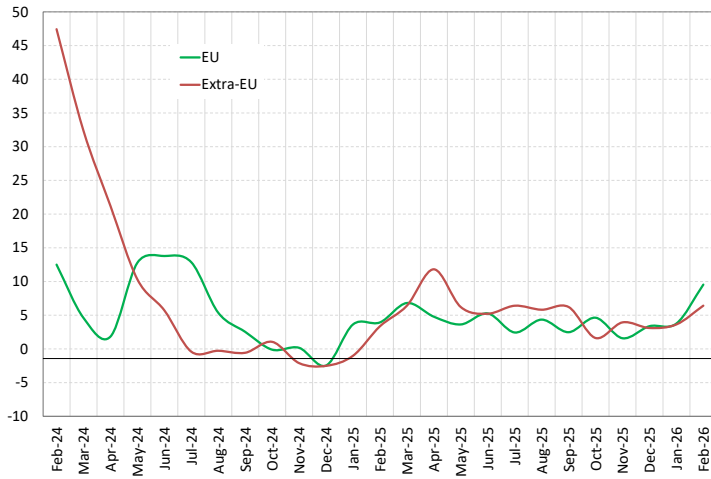


Figure 2

Italy's inbound and outbound tourism expenditure by geographical area
(3-month moving averages; year-on-year percentage changes)

Foreign travellers in Italy



Italian travellers abroad

