

04 April 2018

Statistics on Tourist Movement on Borders (FRONTUR)
February 2018. *Provisional data*

Spain receives 4.2 million international tourists in February, an increase of 2.6% compared with the same month in 2017

Spain in February received 4.2 million international tourists, 2.6% more than the same month in 2017.

The United Kingdom was the main country of residence, with 865,316 tourists, accounting for 20.5% of the total and a decrease of 5.9% as compared with February last year.

France and Germany are the following countries with the most tourists visiting Spain in February. 549,654 tourists came from France (8.4% less in the annual rate) and 532,636 tourists from Germany (2.8% more).

Of the other countries of residence, the annual growth is particularly noteworthy in tourists coming from Portugal (17,5%), Italy (11,1%) and Ireland (9,9%).



In the first two months of 2018 the number of tourists visiting Spain increased by 3.9% and exceeded 8.3 million.

The main issuing countries so far this year were the United Kingdom (with around 1.7 million tourists and a decrease of 3.1% as compared to the first two months of 2017), France (with

more than one million tourists and a decrease of 2.2%) and Germany (also with more than one million tourists and an increase of 3.5%).

International tourist arrivals ⁽¹⁾ by country of residence

February 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4.224.826	2,6	8.334.963	3,9
Germany	532.636	2,8	1.034.934	3,5
Belgium	123.921	9,9	255.337	14,6
France	549.654	-8,4	1.041.205	-2,2
Ireland	86.177	9,9	166.419	2,0
Italy	233.815	11,1	491.870	5,8
Netherlands	171.390	1,8	332.132	5,3
Portugal	144.482	17,5	260.838	17,0
United Kingdom	865.316	-5,9	1.664.791	-3,1
Switzerland	85.558	-25,4	177.610	-15,6
Russia	48.745	9,2	115.716	7,0
Nordic Countries	419.294	2,2	846.958	6,7
Rest of Europe	330.635	9,9	662.506	12,5
United States	109.371	9,8	228.822	15,5
Rest of America	208.521	24,0	449.139	9,5
Rest of the world	315.313	26,2	606.688	11,5

(1) It does not include travellers in transit or visitors staying only one day without overnight stay (excursionists).

Main destination Autonomous Communities

Canarias was the main destination for the tourists in February, with 28.2% of the total. It was followed by Cataluña (24.1%) and Andalucía (13.8%).

Nearly 1.2 million tourists came to Canarias, 0.7% more than in February last year. The main countries of residence of tourists visiting this Autonomous Community were United Kingdom (33.0% of the total) and the Nordic countries (21.2%).

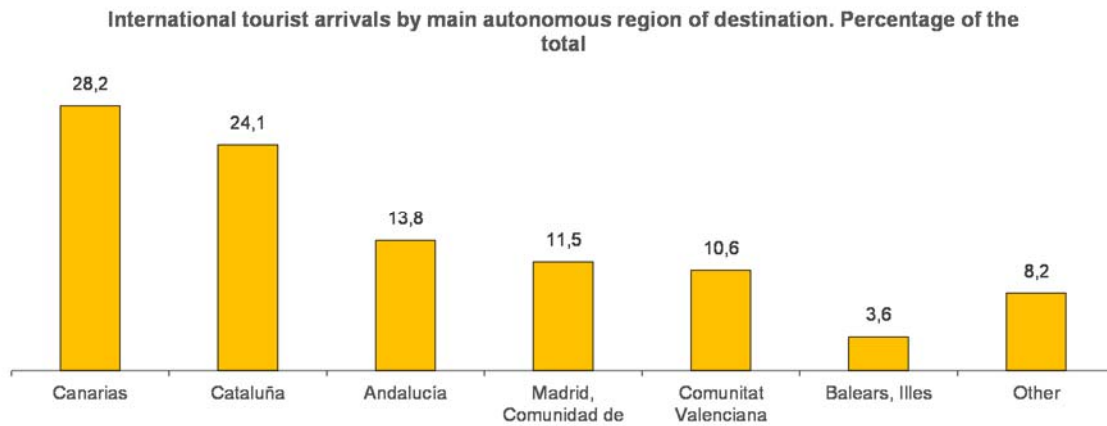
The number of tourists visiting Cataluña increased by 2.8% and exceeded one million. 21.1% came from France and 14.3% from the "rest of the world" group.

The third main destination Autonomous Community by number of tourists was Andalucía, with 582,686 tourists and an annual decrease of 0.3%. The United Kingdom was the main country of origin (with 26.7% of the total), followed by France (12.1%).

In the remaining Autonomous Communities the number of tourists increased by 7.8% in Comunidad de Madrid and 4.6% in Comunitat Valenciana. In turn, it fell by 6.4% in Illes Balears.

In the accumulated first two months of 2017, the Autonomous Communities that received the most tourists were Canarias (with around 2.4 million, a similar figure to the same period in

2017), Cataluña (with almost 1.9 million and an increase of 2.4%) and Andalucía (with more than 1.1 million and a growth of 1.4%).



International tourist arrivals by main Autonomous Community of destination. Monthly and cumulative data

February 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
	TOTAL	4.224.826	2,6	8.334.963
Andalucía	582.686	-0,3	1.122.202	1,4
Balears, Illes	152.388	-6,4	271.806	0,7
Canarias	1.192.844	0,7	2.376.656	0,0
Cataluña	1.016.409	2,8	1.879.281	2,4
Comunitat Valenciana	448.928	4,6	897.535	7,8
Madrid, Comunidad de	486.061	7,8	1.016.706	8,1
Other	345.509	8,5	770.777	16,4

International tourist arrivals by main Autonomous Community of destination. Main country of residence

February 2018	First outbound country	% tourists	Second outbound country	% tourists
	TOTAL	United Kingdom	20,5	France
Andalucía	United Kingdom	26,7	France	12,1
Balears, Illes	Germany	51,8	United Kingdom	13,2
Canarias	United Kingdom	33,0	Nordic Countries	21,2
Cataluña	France	21,1	Rest of the world	14,3
Comunitat Valenciana	United Kingdom	28,5	France	11,8
Madrid, Comunidad de	Rest of the world	18,3	Rest of America	16,5

Forms of access and main means of accommodation

Most tourists visiting Spain in February came by air, with more than 3.5 million, which represented an annual increase of 1.6%.

The number of tourists that came by road increased by 9.7% as compared with February 2017, while those who came by railway were 2.2% less and 7.1% less by port.

International tourist arrivals by main means of access to Spain

February 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4.224.826	2,6	8.334.963	3,9
Air transport	3.521.416	1,6	6.994.320	3,4
Motor vehicle	622.046	9,7	1.160.068	12,1
Train	16.585	-2,2	28.131	-22,4
Waterway	64.780	-7,1	152.444	-20,1

In February, the number of tourists choosing market accommodation as the main accommodation type increased by 6.7% in the annual rate. Within this type, hotel accommodation grew by 6.5%, while rented properties fell by 8.4%.

In turn, non-market accommodation decreased by 10.0%. The number of tourists staying in relatives or friends' homes decreased by 13.0% and those staying in their own properties did so by 2.1%.

International tourist arrivals by main type of accommodation

February 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4.224.826	2,6	8.334.963	3,9
Rented accommodation ⁽²⁾	3.315.215	6,7	6.194.909	5,0
-Hotel accommodation	2.630.304	6,5	4.964.475	4,4
-Rental housing	447.440	-8,4	814.521	-0,7
-Rest rented accommodation	237.471	58,0	415.913	27,8
Non-rented accommodation	909.611	-10,0	2.140.054	0,8
-Vacation home ownership	269.296	-2,1	595.982	7,8
-Home of family or friends	555.299	-13,0	1.386.743	0,1
-Rest non rented accommodation	85.016	-13,1	157.329	-15,2

(2) Two principal groups of accommodation are distinguished, depending on whether there has been a monetary transaction:

market accommodation (paid accommodation; hotels, rented accommodation, camp sites, country houses and other market accommodation) and non-market accommodation (own home, relatives or friends' homes and other non-market accommodation).

Main reason, length of stay and organisation of the trip

In February, *Leisure, recreation and holidays* were the main reasons for travelling to Spain for about 3.5 million tourists, representing an annual increase of 2.2%.

A total of 436,771 tourists arrived for *Business and professional reasons* (26.2% more) and 327,337 arrived for *Other reasons* (15.1% less).

International tourist arrivals by main purpose of the trip

February 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4.224.826	2,6	8.334.963	3,9
Leisure, vacations	3.460.717	2,2	6.925.880	6,1
Business and personal purposes	436.771	26,2	706.249	5,6
Other purposes	327.337	-15,1	702.834	-14,9

In February, the main length of stay for tourists was from four to seven nights, with more than two million tourists and an annual increase of 2.1%.

The number of visitors decreased by 3.2% among those without overnight stays (excursionists) and increased by 6.2% among tourists with a longer duration (more than 15 nights).

International visitor arrivals by length of stay

February 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	6.626.725	0,4	13.129.284	2,6
no night ⁽³⁾	2.401.899	-3,2	4.794.321	0,4
1 night	260.922	32,0	473.277	19,4
2 - 3 nights	923.477	-3,6	1.629.387	-2,8
4 - 7 nights	2.016.889	2,1	3.766.604	2,9
8 - 15 nights	682.887	2,3	1.689.603	7,7
More than 15 nights	340.651	6,2	776.092	7,1

(3) Excursionists

In February more than 3 million tourists travelled without a tourist package, representing an annual increase of 0.5%. Almost 1.2 million visitors came with a tourist package, representing an increase of 8.2%.

International tourist arrivals by type of organization

February 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4.224.826	2,6	8.334.963	3,9
No Tourist Package	3.027.288	0,5	6.068.490	3,2
Tourist Package	1.197.538	8,2	2.266.473	5,6

Methodological note

The main objective of the Tourist Movements on Borders Survey (FRONTUR) is to monthly estimate the number of non-residents in Spain that arrive to our country, whether tourists (with overnight stay) or excursionist (visitors without overnight stay), distinguishing between the different forms of access (road, airport, port and rail), as well as to know the main features of the trips made by those visitors (country of residence, main destination, type of accommodation and length of stay). For the preparation of FRONTUR the international definitions and recommendations of the UNWTO and EUROSTAT are followed in this matter.

Different administrative sources managed by different bodies and institutions are used as population frame.

The Directorate General of Traffic (DGT) provides information on the number and type of vehicles that cross the border by road. These DGT registers are complemented by a sample operation of Capacity, that allows to estimate the occupation of vehicles, according to the type and the car number plate nationality.

AENA facilitates the register of international flights operated in Spain, including the origin and destination airports, as well as the number of passengers.

State Ports provides information on the number of passengers boarded and landed in each Spanish port coming from a foreign port.

Finally, RENFE provides the complete list of trains that cross the border along with the number of passengers on the different international railway lines.

In the sample design, a series of stratum grouping border points, airports, ports or railway lines, respectively have been designed for each form of entry. For road and airport sample allocation, the day of the week in which the survey has been carried out is distinguished, discriminating between working days, weekends and holiday days. Furthermore, in airports 17 air relations are defined (origin Spanish airport-country of the destination airport) which determine as well the sample design in this form of access. The annual theoretical sample size of FRONTUR overcomes the 450,000 surveys, during the year, taking into account the seasonal nature of the flow of travellers. Information is collected by direct interviews when the traveller leaves Spain, with an electronic multilingual questionnaire.

It should be noted that FRONTUR's estimates are used as the population to which the data of the Tourist Expenditure Survey (EGATUR), also carried out by the INE, is raised and that is compiled as a subsample methodologically included in FRONTUR.

A press note is published monthly presenting the main results, along with a series of tables that include variation rates comparing the same month of the previous year.

On the INE website a more complete tabulation plan, with the main aggregate series, as well as the microdata file of the reference month is available to users.

For further information see **INEbase: www.ine.es/en/** Twitter: **@es_ine**

All press releases at: **www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm**

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