

29 April 2016

**Tourist Movement on Borders Survey (FRONTUR)**  
 March 2016. *Provisional data*

**Spain receives 4.8 million international tourists in March, an increase of 16.1% as compared to the same month of 2015<sup>1</sup>**

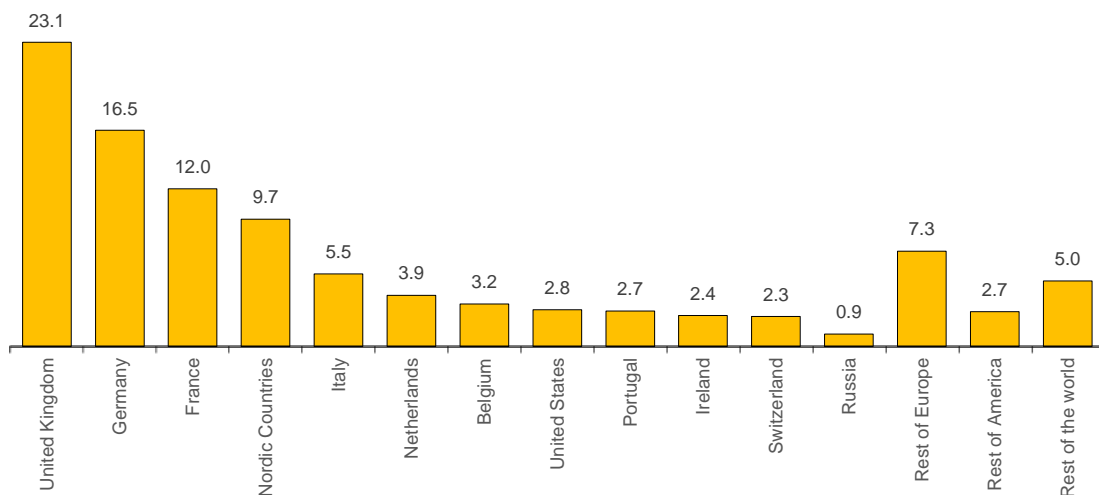
In March, Spain received more than 4.8 million international tourists, 16.1% more than the same month in 2015.

The United Kingdom was the main issuing country with 1,116,868 tourists, accounting for 23.1% of the total and 25.0% more than in March 2015.

France and Germany are the following two most important countries of residence of the tourists visiting Spain in March. From Germany we receive 793,840 (15.6% more) and from France 579,483 tourists (2.9% down on March 2015).

Of the other countries of residence, the annual growth is particularly noteworthy in tourists coming from Ireland (59.7%), Netherlands (34.8%) and from the Rest of Europe (22.3%).

International tourist arrivals by country of residence. Percentage of the total



<sup>1</sup> Since 2016 Easter was celebrated in March, while in 2015 it took place between March and April, it is advisable to wait for this survey next month results' to jointly analyse them.

In the first three months of 2016 the number of tourists visiting Spain increased by 13.9 % and reached 12.0 million.

The main issuing countries in this period were the United Kingdom (with 2,629,978 tourists, an increase of 20.1 % over the first three months of 2015), Germany (with 1,735,176 tourists and an increase of 8.7 %) and France (with 1,582,424 tourists and a growth of 6.4 %).

### International tourist arrivals <sup>(2)</sup> by country of residence

	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change <sup>(3)</sup>	Absolute value	Annual change
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,824,514</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>12,013,453</b>	<b>13.9</b>
Germany	793,840	15.6	1,735,176	8.7
Belgium	156,006	21.8	382,405	12.8
France	579,483	2.9	1,582,424	6.4
Ireland	113,720	59.7	250,927	35.4
Italy	266,874	14.5	706,586	13.6
Netherlands	188,474	34.8	467,337	18.4
Portugal	130,285	8.9	337,577	12.0
United Kingdom	1,116,868	25.0	2,629,978	20.1
Switzerland	110,418	16.2	265,465	18.3
Russia	45,590	7.6	139,209	5.6
Nordic Countries	467,893	16.7	1,260,141	15.1
Rest of Europe	350,203	22.3	838,627	18.8
United States	134,958	17.6	284,907	9.9
Rest of America	128,281	-13.7	402,589	0.4
Rest of the world	241,620	4.9	730,101	19.7

(2) Not including travellers in transit or visitors staying only one night.

(3) See methodological note about the link, at the end of this press release.

### Main destinations by Autonomous Communities

In March, Canarias was the main destination for the tourists, with 27.0% of the total. This community was followed in importance by Cataluña (22.6% of the total) and Andalucía (14.7%).

1,304,901 tourists came to Canarias, 18.5% more than in March 2015. The main countries of residence of those visiting this community are the United Kingdom (33.4% of the total) and Germany (20.3%).

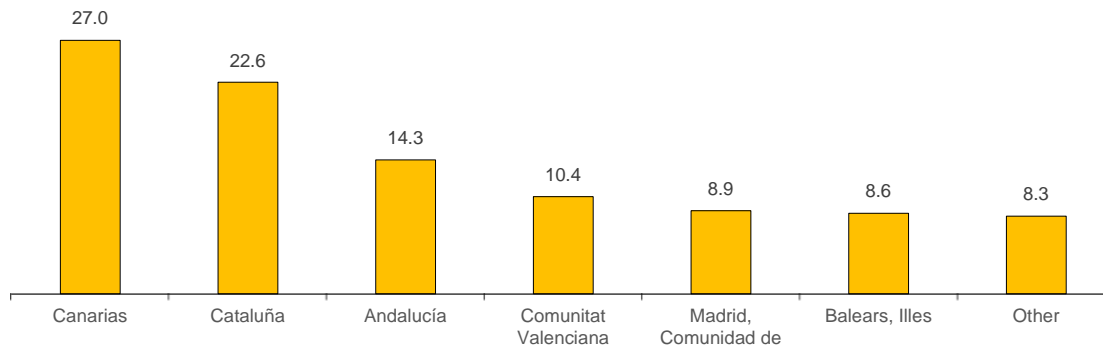
The number of tourists visiting Cataluña has increased by 0.2% and is approximately 1.1 million. 20.9% of these tourists come from France and from the rest of the world group (14.0%).

The third main Autonomous Community destination by number of tourists is Andalucía, with nearly 700,000 and an annual growth of 30.9 %. The United Kingdom is the first country of origin of this community (29.0% of the total), followed by Nordic Countries (13.0%).

In the remaining communities receiving most tourists there were increases of 46.5% in Illes Balears, 24.5% in Comunitat Valenciana and 2,1% in Comunidad de Madrid.

In the accumulated first three months of 2016 the communities that received more tourists were Canarias (with 3,467,214 and an increase of 9.8 %), Cataluña (with 2,762,461 and an increase of 8.3 %) and Andalucía (with 1,696,202 and a growth of 22.5 %).

International tourist arrivals by main autonomous region of destination. Percentage of the total



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

	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,824,514</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>12,013,453</b>
Andalucía	688,857	30.9	1,696,202	22.5
Balears, Illes	415,282	46.5	677,591	39.3
Canarias	1,304,901	18.5	3,467,214	9.8
Cataluña	1,088,019	0.2	2,762,461	8.3
Comunitat Valenciana	499,556	24.5	1,227,754	23.2
Madrid, Comunidad de	427,715	2.1	1,158,266	8.6
Other	400,185	18.8	1,023,965	13.3

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

	First outbound country	% tourists	Second outbound country	% tourists
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>Germany</b>
Andalucía	United Kingdom	29.0	Nordic Countries	13.0
Balears, Illes	Germany	52.6	United Kingdom	22.4
Canarias	United Kingdom	33.4	Germany	20.3
Cataluña	France	20.9	Rest of Europe	14.0
Comunitat Valenciana	United Kingdom	36.7	France	14.5
Madrid, Comunidad de	Rest of the world	19.1	Rest of America	14.1

## Forms of access and principal accommodation

Most of the tourists visiting Spain in March came by air, more than four million, an annual increase of 18.7%.

On the other routes, railway had a year-on-year increase of 25.4%, 22.6% increase in port arrivals and a 3.3% increase in road entries.

### International tourist arrivals according to form of access to Spain

	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute	Annual	Absolute	Annual
	value	change	value	change
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,824,514</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>12,013,453</b>	<b>13.9</b>
Air transport	4,017,653	18.7	9,931,472	15.4
Motor vehicle	723,836	3.3	1,806,146	5.6
Train	21,185	25.4	57,886	18.3
Waterway	61,840	22.6	217,948	20.9

The number of tourists choosing market accommodation as the main accommodation type increased by 17.5%. Within this type, hotel accommodation grew by 15.6% and rented properties remained virtually constant, with an annual increase of 0.1 %.

Non-market accommodation increased by 12.4%. The number of tourists staying in relatives or friends' homes increased by 30.6% and those staying in their own properties by 18.1%.

### International tourist arrivals by means of accommodation

	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute	Annual	Absolute	Annual
	value	change	value	change
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,824,514</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>12,013,453</b>	<b>13.9</b>
Rented accommodation <sup>(4)</sup>	3,585,042	17.5	8,769,678	15.4
-Hotel accommodation	2,952,883	15.6	7,354,090	15.1
-Rental housing	441,925	0.1	1,004,998	-4.4
-Rest rented accommodation	190,234	237.5	410,591	156.8
Non-rented accommodation	1,239,472	12.4	3,243,775	10.1
-Vacation home ownership	396,036	18.1	932,498	12.2
-Home of family or friends	734,406	30.6	1,956,448	19.9
-Rest non rented accommodation	109,031	-46.9	354,829	-26.7

(4) Two principal groups of accommodation are distinguished, depending on whether there has been a monetary transaction: market (paid accommodation; hotels, rented accommodation, camp sites, country houses and other market accommodation) and non-market (own home, relatives or friends' home or other non-market accommodation).

### Main reason, duration of the stay and organisation of the trip

Leisure, recreation and holidays are the main reasons for the trip to Spain for 3,872,492 tourists this month, 18.0% more than in March 2015.

390,776 tourists arrived for business and personal purposes, (17.8% less in the annual rate), and 561,246, or 40.9% more for other purposes.

#### International tourist arrivals by main purpose of the trip

	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute	Annual	Absolute	Annual
	value	change	value	change
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,824,514</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>12,013,453</b>	<b>13.9</b>
<b>Leisure, vacations</b>	<b>3,872,492</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>9,321,115</b>	<b>10.3</b>
Business and personal purposes	390,776	-17.8	1,178,163	10.8
Other purposes	561,246	40.9	1,514,176	46.5

A stay of four to seven nights is the main length in March, with 2,430,237 tourists and a year-to-year growth of 21.5%. The number of visitors increased in all defined length intervals.

#### International visitor arrivals by length of the stay

	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute	Annual	Absolute	Annual
	value	change	value	change
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,844,313</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>20,238,724</b>	<b>7.5</b>
no night <sup>(5)</sup>	3,019,799	3.9	8,225,270	-0.7
1 night	212,140	1.9	537,549	1.5
2 - 3 nights	875,676	7.8	2,171,079	12.1
4 - 7 nights	2,430,237	21.5	5,874,326	19.4
8 - 15 nights	957,465	18.7	2,431,876	8.1
More than 15 nights	348,994	6.8	998,624	9.8

(5) Excursionists

In March 3.4 million tourists travelled without a tourist package, which is a year-to-year increase of 19.3%. More than 1.4 million came with a tourist package, an increase of 9.0% more.

#### International tourist arrivals by purchase a tourist package

	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute	Annual	Absolute	Annual
	value	change	value	change
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,824,514</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>12,013,453</b>	<b>13.9</b>
No Tourist Package	3,422,313	19.3	8,633,202	16.1
Tourist Package	1,402,200	9.0	3,380,252	8.7

## Methodological note

The main objective of the Survey of Tourist Movements at Borders (FRONTUR) is to monthly estimate the number of non-resident visitors in Spain that arrive to our country, whether tourists (with overnight stay) or excursionists (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 duration of the stay). FRONTUR follows international definitions and recommendations made by the WTO and EUROSTAT on this matter.

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

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. In road and airport sample fixation, 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 11 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 seasonality of travel flows. Information is collected by direct interviews when the traveler leaves Spain, with an electronic multilingual questionnaire.

It has to be taken into account that estimates of FRONTUR are used as population to which data of the Survey on Touristic Expenditure (EGATUR), carried out by the INE too, is raised and that is compiled as subsample methodologically included in FRONTUR.

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

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

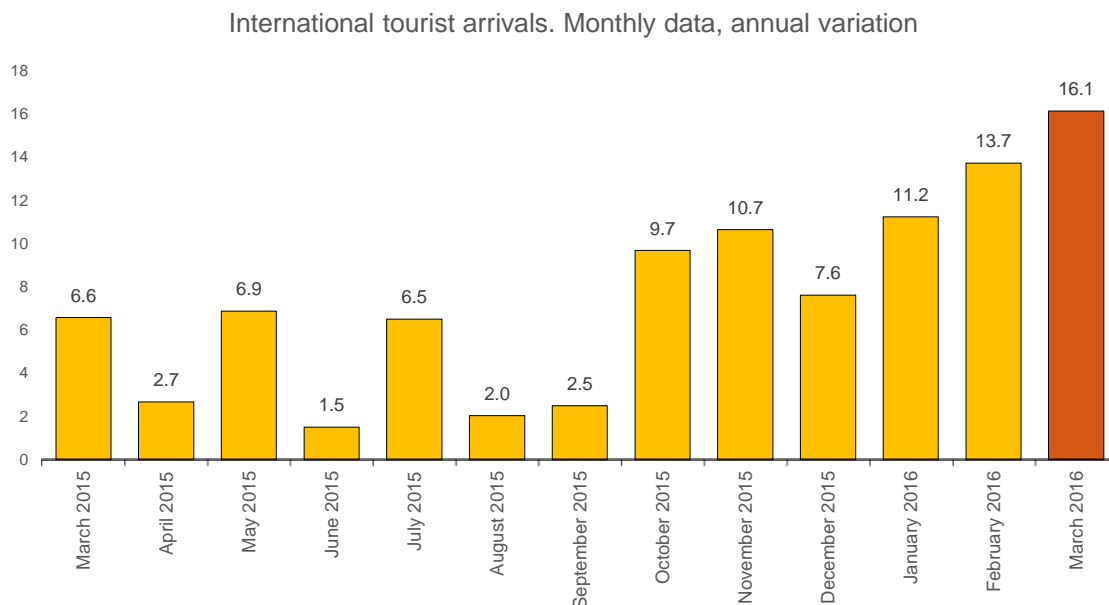
## Series link

The INE has carried out an updating of the methodology of the FRONTUR survey, so its results are not directly comparable with the previous series published by Turespaña up to the reference month of September 2015. Consequently, it is necessary to create a statistical link in order to build homogeneous data sets.

The link aims to capture the statistical effects due to changes in design and other methodological changes in order to facilitate the obtaining of rates of change in the current month compared to the same month last year for the main aggregates regarding inbound tourism, as if the results for the two months had been collected using the same methodology.

Thus, from October 2015, during the first 12 months after the transfer of the demand-side operations of tourism statistics FRONTUR and EGATUR from Turespaña to INE, the linked annual rates with the previous series published by Turespaña, will be disseminated calculated according to the link statistical technique designed by INE .

The description of the linking technique, as well as the new general methodology of FRONTUR and EGATUR and the changes with regard to the previous methodology, is available at [www.ine.es/en/](http://www.ine.es/en/).



For further information see [INEbase-www.ine.es/en/](http://INEbase-www.ine.es/en/)

All press releases at: [www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa\\_en.htm](http://www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm)

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