

28 April 2017

Tourist Movement on Borders Survey (FRONTUR)
 March 2017. *Provisional data*

Spain receives 4.9 million international tourists in March, an increase of 6.1% compared with the same month in 2016

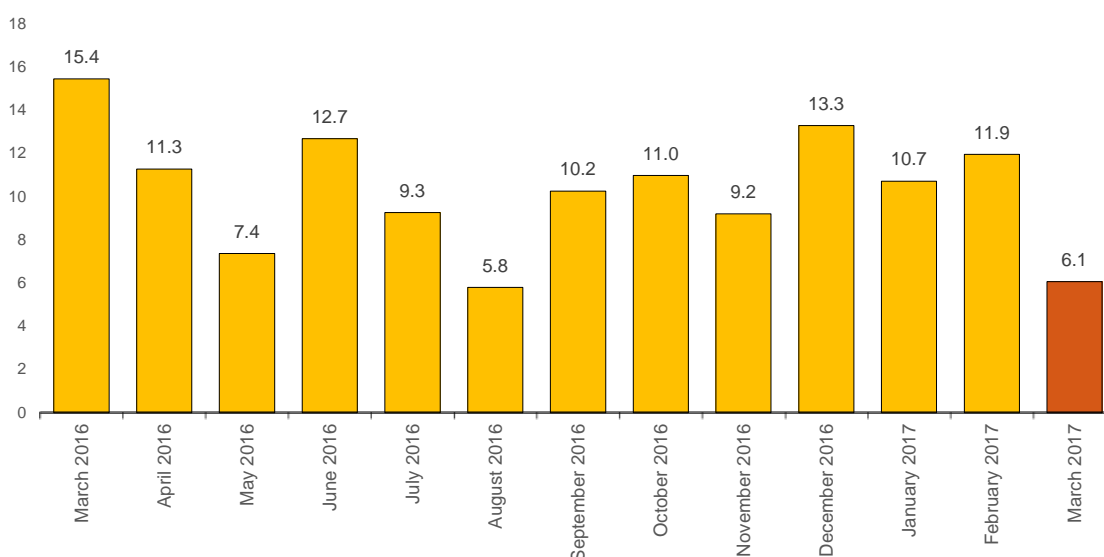
Spain in March received 4.9 million international tourists, 6.1% more than the same month in 2016.

The United Kingdom was the main issuing country with 1,120,003 tourists, accounting for 22.8% of the total and an increase of 5.8% as compared to March last year.

Germany and France were the following most important countries of residence of the tourists visiting Spain in March. From Germany we received 721,784 tourists (2.1% less in the annual rate) and from France we receive 613,616 tourists (11.6% more).

Of the other countries of residence, the annual growth is particularly noteworthy in tourists coming from the United States (46,1%), Russia (16,4%) and Switzerland (14,7%).

International tourist arrivals. Monthly data, annual variation



In the first three months of 2017 the number of tourists visiting Spain exceeded 12.9 million with an increase of 9.3%.

The main issuing countries so far this year were the United Kingdom (with more than 2.8 million tourists and an increase of 11.0% as compared to the first three months of 2016), Germany (with more than 1.7 million tourists and an increase of 2.0%) and France (with nearly 1.7 million tourists and an increase of 8.3%).

International tourist arrivals ⁽¹⁾ by country of residence

	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4,907,554	6.1	12,930,065	9.3
Germany	721,784	-2.1	1,723,953	2.0
Belgium	138,561	-6.7	362,726	-3.2
France	613,616	11.6	1,682,729	8.3
Ireland	96,856	-12.2	259,404	4.4
Italy	262,895	5.8	726,235	4.7
Netherlands	198,299	13.2	515,029	14.8
Portugal	117,401	-18.3	339,497	-1.4
United Kingdom	1,120,003	5.8	2,837,055	11.0
Switzerland	116,162	14.7	328,018	28.7
Russia	48,885	16.4	156,212	14.9
Nordic Countries	454,534	1.2	1,244,158	0.4
Rest of Europe	376,783	9.9	962,485	13.5
United States	192,868	46.1	391,315	37.8
Rest of America	166,875	25.3	575,712	40.6
Rest of the world	282,032	10.8	825,538	9.9

(1) Not including travellers in transit or visitors staying only one day without overnight stay (excursionists).

Main destination by Autonomous Communities

Canarias was the main destination for the tourists in March, with 26.2% of the total. It was followed by Cataluña (23.5%) and Andalucía (14.7%).

Nearly 1.3 million tourists came to Canarias, 6.4% more than in March last year. The main countries of residence of those visiting this community were United Kingdom (34.4% of the total) and Germany (20.9%).

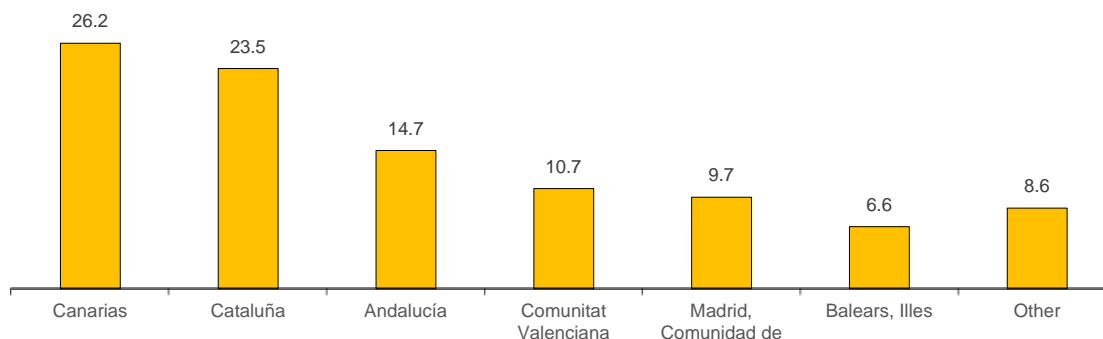
The number of tourists visiting Cataluña increased by 7.0% and stood at 1,151,664. 22.6% of these tourists came from France and 14.5% from the Rest of Europe.

The third main Autonomous Community destination by number of tourists was Andalucía, with 722,914 tourists and an annual growth of 5.7%. United Kingdom was the main country of origin (with 30.7% of the total), followed by France (12.0%).

In the remaining communities the number of tourists increased by 26.0% in Comunidad de Madrid and 9.2% in Comunitat Valenciana. In turn, in Illes Balears decreased by 17.0%.

In the accumulated first three months of 2017 the Autonomous Communities that received more tourists were Canarias (with more than 3.6 million and an increase of 6.8% as compared to the same period of 2016), Cataluña (with nearly 3.0 million and an increase of 4.0%) and Andalucía (with 1.8 million and an increase of 12.2%).

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



International tourist arrivals by main autonomous community region of destination. Monthly and cumulative data

	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
	TOTAL	4,907,554	6.1	12,930,065
Andalucía	722,914	5.7	1,829,321	12.2
Balears, Illes	325,263	-17.0	595,101	-9.7
Canarias	1,283,866	6.4	3,661,246	6.8
Cataluña	1,151,664	7.0	2,988,238	4.0
Comunitat Valenciana	524,659	9.2	1,359,431	18.4
Madrid, Comunidad de	478,106	26.0	1,411,563	27.2
Other	421,082	3.0	1,085,167	10.4

International tourist arrivals by main autonomous community of destination. Main country of residence

	First outbound country	% tourists	Second outbound country	% tourists
	TOTAL	United Kingdom	22.8	Germany
Andalucía	United Kingdom	30.7	France	12.0
Balears, Illes	Germany	55.9	United Kingdom	13.2
Canarias	United Kingdom	34.4	Germany	20.9
Cataluña	France	22.6	Rest of Europe	14.5
Comunitat Valenciana	United Kingdom	34.2	France	13.0
Madrid, Comunidad de	Rest of America	13.5	Rest of the world	13.4

Forms of access and main means of accommodation

Most tourists visiting Spain in March came by air, with more than 4.1 million, which represented an annual increase of 7.8%.

Road entries accounted for 3.7% less tourists than in March 2016, and port arrivals had an increase of 17.7%. Railway access registered a 9.0% decrease.

International tourist arrivals according to form of access to Spain

	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute	Annual	Absolute	Annual
	value	change	value	change
TOTAL	4,907,554	6.1	12,930,065	9.3
Air transport	4,129,581	7.8	10,892,690	11.7
Motor vehicle	696,369	-3.7	1,731,302	-4.1
Train	18,819	-9.0	55,042	-4.7
Waterway	62,786	17.7	251,031	16.6

Note: does not include transit travellers or same-day visitors.

In March, the number of tourists choosing market accommodation as the main accommodation type increased by 6.4% in the annual rate. Within this type, hotel accommodation grew by 1.8%, and rented properties did so by 30.5%.

On the other hand Non-market accommodation increased by 4.8%. The number of tourists staying in relatives or friends' homes increased by 0.8% and those staying in their own properties by 1.4%.

International tourist arrivals by means of accommodation

	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute	Annual	Absolute	Annual
	value	change	value	change
TOTAL	4,907,554	6.1	12,930,065	9.3
Rented accommodation ⁽²⁾	3,793,109	6.4	9,677,604	9.8
-Hotel accommodation	3,092,162	1.8	7,825,340	5.0
-Rental housing	469,911	30.5	1,294,796	35.6
-Rest rented accommodation	231,036	37.9	557,468	37.7
Non-rented accommodation	1,114,445	4.8	3,252,462	7.7
-Vacation home ownership	354,709	1.4	910,664	5.7
-Home of family or friends	622,223	0.8	2,013,896	11.1
-Rest non rented accommodation	137,513	42.9	327,901	-4.9

(2) 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 were the main reasons for the trip to Spain for almost four million tourists in March, representing an annual increase of 6.5%.

442,532 tourists arrived for *Business and professional purposes* (14.1% more) and 474,063 arrived for *Other purposes* (3.7% less).

International tourist arrivals by main purpose of the trip

	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4,907,554	6.1	12,930,065	9.3
Leisure, vacations	3,990,959	6.5	10,519,755	13.9
Business and personal purposes	442,532	14.1	1,109,979	-5.7
Other purposes	474,063	-3.7	1,300,331	-8.6

A stay of four to seven nights was the main length in March, with almost 2.4 million tourists and an annual increase of 0.4%.

The number of visitors decreased by 13.0% among those without overnight stays (excursionists) and increased 23.3% among tourists with longer duration (more than 15 nights).

International visitor arrivals by length of stay

	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	7,565,884	-1.5	20,381,836	1.5
no night ⁽³⁾	2,658,329	-13.0	7,451,770	-9.6
1 night	240,977	13.2	637,872	18.1
2 - 3 nights	1,094,354	30.8	2,772,297	28.6
4 - 7 nights	2,369,582	0.4	6,027,267	3.6
8 - 15 nights	823,028	-9.5	2,388,329	0.6
More than 15 nights	379,614	23.3	1,104,300	17.0

(3) Excursionists.

In March, almost 3.5 million tourists travelled without a tourist package, indicating an annual increase of 8.2%. More than 1.4 million came with a tourist package, with an increase of 1.2%.

International tourist arrivals by purchase a tourist package

	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4,907,554	6.1	12,930,065	9.3
No Tourist Package	3,475,643	8.2	9,360,588	11.2
Tourist Package	1,431,912	1.2	3,569,478	4.6

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 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 duration of the stay). For the creation of EGATUR 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. In 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 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 traveller 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.

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