

04 May 2018

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

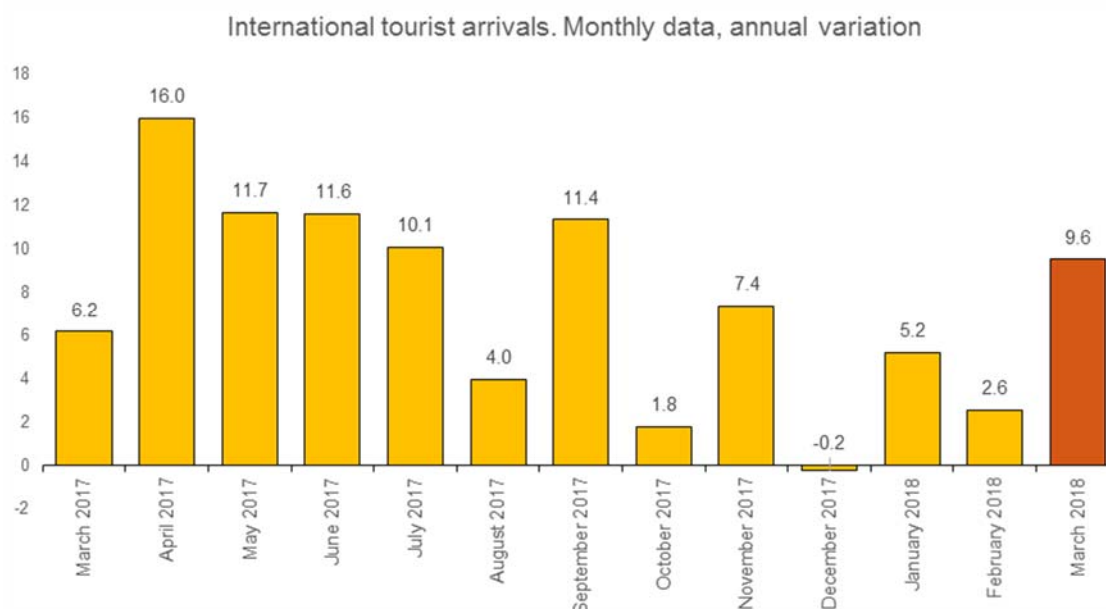
Spain receives 5.4 million international tourists in March, an increase of 9.6% compared with the same month of 2017¹

Spain in March received 5.4 million international tourists, 9.6% more than the same month in 2017.

The United Kingdom was the main country of residence, with almost 1.2 million tourists, accounting for 22.0% of the total and an increase of 5.6% as compared to March last year.

Germany and France were the following countries with the highest number of tourists visiting Spain. Germany provided 819,714 (14.1% more in the annual rate) and France 650,445 (5.7% more).

Among the other countries of residence, the annual growth was particularly noteworthy in tourists coming from Portugal (29.7%), Ireland (22.2%) and the Netherlands (12.7%).



¹Given that in 2018 Holy Week was celebrated in March, while in 2017 it was held in April, it is convenient to analyse both months together.

In the first three months of 2018 the number of tourists visiting Spain exceeded 13.7 million with an increase of 6.0%.

The main issuing countries so far this year were the United Kingdom (with nearly 2.9 million tourists and an increase of 0.4% as compared to the first three months of 2017), Germany (with nearly 1.9 million tourists and an increase of 7.9%) and France (with almost 1.7 million tourists, an increase of 0.7%).

International tourist arrivals ⁽²⁾ by country of residence

March 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	5,383,687	9.6	13,718,650	6.0
Germany	819,714	14.1	1,854,648	7.9
Belgium	152,461	10.5	407,798	13.0
France	650,445	5.7	1,691,650	0.7
Ireland	119,215	22.2	285,634	9.5
Italy	280,550	5.8	772,420	5.8
Netherlands	225,075	12.7	557,207	8.2
Portugal	150,943	29.7	411,781	21.3
United Kingdom	1,185,824	5.6	2,850,614	0.4
Switzerland	107,851	-6.7	285,461	-12.4
Russia	55,476	12.5	171,192	8.7
Nordic Countries	504,217	10.6	1,351,175	8.1
Rest of Europe	367,786	-2.0	1,030,292	6.9
United States	207,191	7.7	436,013	11.7
Rest of America	229,808	37.6	678,947	17.6
Rest of the world	327,129	15.0	933,817	12.7

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

Main destination Autonomous Communities

Canarias was the main destination for tourists in March, with 25.0% of the total. It was followed by Cataluña (22.5%) and Andalucía (14.6%).

More than 1.3 million tourists came to Canarias, 5.0% more than in March last year. The main countries of residence of tourists visiting this Autonomous Community were United Kingdom (34.2% of the total) and Germany (19.3%).

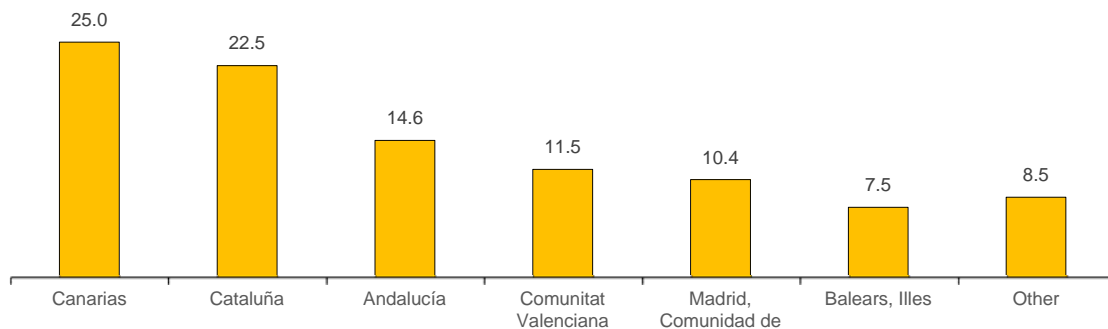
The number of tourists visiting Cataluña increased by 5.1% and exceeded 1.2 million. 21.2% came from France and 12.6% from the "rest of the world" group.

The third main destination Autonomous Community by number of tourists was Andalucía, with 784,910 tourists and an annual increase of 8.9%. The United Kingdom was the main country of origin (with 26.4% of the total), followed by Germany (12.0%).

In the remaining Autonomous Communities the number of tourists increased by 23.3% in Illes Balears, 17.4% in Comunitat Valenciana and 17.0% in Comunidad de Madrid.

In the accumulated first three months of 2018 the Autonomous Communities that received more tourists were Canarias (with more than 3.7 million and an increase of 1.7% as compared to the same period of 2017), Cataluña (with nearly 3.1 million and an increase of 3.4%) and Andalucía (with more than 1.9 million and an increase of 4.4%).

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
March 2018				
TOTAL	5,383,687	9.6	13,718,650	6.0
Andalucía	784,910	8.9	1,907,112	4.4
Balears, Illes	401,356	23.3	673,162	13.1
Canarias	1,347,620	5.0	3,724,276	1.7
Cataluña	1,213,441	5.1	3,092,722	3.4
Comunitat Valenciana	618,406	17.4	1,515,941	11.5
Madrid, Comunidad de	559,298	17.0	1,576,004	11.1
Other	458,656	8.1	1,229,433	13.1

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

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

	First	%	Second	%
	outbound country	tourists	outbound country	tourists
March 2018				
TOTAL	United Kingdom	22.0	Germany	15.2
Andalucía	United Kingdom	26.4	Germany	12.0
Balears, Illes	Germany	55.7	United Kingdom	16.3
Canarias	United Kingdom	34.2	Germany	19.3
Cataluña	France	21.2	Rest of the world	12.6
Comunitat Valenciana	United Kingdom	31.6	France	12.6
Madrid, Comunidad de	Rest of America	15.7	Rest of the world	15.7

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

Forms of access and main means of accommodation

Most tourists visiting Spain in March came by air, with more than 4.5 million, which represented an annual increase of 9.4%.

The number of tourists that came by road increased by 13.8% and by rail 3.4%, while port arrivals decreased by 20.6%.

International tourist arrivals by main means of access to Spain

March 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	5,383,687	9.6	13,718,650	6.0
Air transport	4,517,969	9.4	11,512,289	5.7
Motor vehicle	793,905	13.8	1,953,972	12.8
Train	19,519	3.4	47,650	-13.5
Waterway	52,294	-20.6	204,738	-20.3

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 11.6% in the annual rate. Within this type, hotel accommodation grew by 8.8%, and rented dwellings did so by 27.5%.

In turn, non-market accommodation increased by 2.6%. The number of tourists staying in relatives or friends' homes increased by 7.8% and those staying in their own homes did so by 1.4%.

International tourist arrivals by main type of accommodation

March 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	5,383,687	9.6	13,718,650	6.0
Rented accommodation ⁽³⁾	4,243,622	11.6	10,438,530	7.6
-Hotel accommodation	3,375,004	8.8	8,339,480	6.2
-Rental housing	597,832	27.5	1,412,353	9.5
-Rest rented accommodation	270,785	16.3	686,698	23.0
Non-rented accommodation	1,140,065	2.6	3,280,119	1.4
-Vacation home ownership	356,937	1.4	952,919	5.3
-Home of family or friends	670,562	7.8	2,057,305	2.5
-Rest non rented accommodation	112,566	-18.0	269,895	-16.4

(3) 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, duration of the stay and organisation of the trip

In March, *Leisure, recreation, and holidays* were the main reasons for travelling to Spain for more than 4.3 million tourists, representing an annual increase of 8.5%.

A total of 586,510 tourists arrived for *Business and professional reasons* (32.1% more) and 463,802 for *Other reasons* (2.3% less).

International tourist arrivals by main purpose of the trip

March 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	5,383,687	9.6	13,718,650	6.0
Leisure, vacations	4,333,374	8.5	11,259,254	7.0
Business and personal purposes	586,510	32.1	1,292,760	16.1
Other purposes	463,802	-2.3	1,166,636	-10.3

In March, the main length of stay for tourists was from four to seven nights, with more than 2.7 million tourists and an annual increase of 14.1%.

The number of visitors increased by 10.8% among those without overnight stays (excursionists) and by 6.5% among tourists with a longer duration (more than 15 nights).

International visitor arrivals by length of stay

March 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	8,306,735	10.0	21,436,020	5.3
no night ⁽⁴⁾	2,923,049	10.8	7,717,370	4.1
1 night	283,880	18.4	757,157	19.0
2 - 3 nights	1,068,025	-2.5	2,697,412	-2.7
4 - 7 nights	2,706,952	14.1	6,473,555	7.3
8 - 15 nights	917,131	11.5	2,606,734	9.0
More than 15 nights	407,699	6.5	1,183,791	6.9

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

(4) Same_day visitors.

In March, almost 3.9 million tourists travelled without a tourist package, indicating an annual increase of 11.5%. More than 1.5 million came with a tourist package, with an increase of 4.9%.

International tourist arrivals by type of organization

March 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	5,383,687	9.6	13,718,650	6.0
No Tourist Package	3,874,250	11.5	9,942,739	6.3
Tourist Package	1,509,437	4.9	3,775,910	5.4

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 Tourist Expenditure (EGATUR), carried out by the INE too, is raised and that is compiled as sub sample 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 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.