

1 June, 2018

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

Spain receives 6.8 million international tourists in April, 4.4% less than in the same month of 2017¹

Spain received in April the visit of 6.8 million international tourists, 4.4% less than in the same month of 2017.

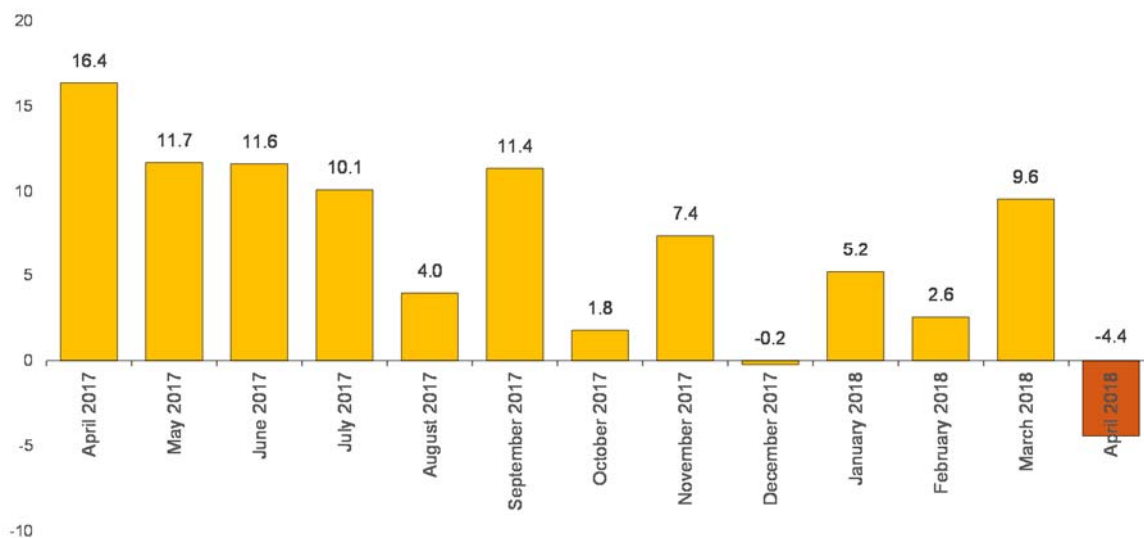
The United Kingdom was the main country of residence, with over 1.4 million tourists, accounting for 21.1% of the total and a decrease of 5.2% as compared to April last year.

France and Germany were the following countries with the most tourists visiting Spain. Almost 1.1 million tourists came from France (5.5% less in the annual rate) and 914,849 tourists from Germany (19.7% less).

Among the other countries of residence, the annual growth is particularly noteworthy in tourists coming from the Netherlands (13.9%), Belgium (13.6%) and Russia (8.2%).

Given that in 2018 Holy Week is celebrated in March, while in 2017 it was held in April, it is convenient to analyse the aggregate period March-April. During that period there was an increase of 1.3% in the number of tourists, as compared with the same two-month period of 2017.

International tourist arrivals. Monthly data, annual variation



¹ Given 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 four months of 2018 the number of tourists visiting Spain increased by 2.3% and reached 20.5 million.

The main issuing countries so far this year were the United Kingdom (with nearly 4.3 million tourists and a decrease of 1.6% as compared to the first four months of 2017), Germany (with nearly 2.8 million tourists and a decrease of 3.1%) and France (with almost 2.8 million tourists, 1.8% less).

International tourist arrivals ⁽²⁾ by country of residence

April 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	6,770,845	-4.4	20,489,495	2.3
Germany	914,849	-19.7	2,769,497	-3.1
Belgium	248,301	13.6	656,099	13.2
France	1,074,194	-5.5	2,765,844	-1.8
Ireland	164,823	-8.0	450,457	2.4
Italy	346,295	-0.4	1,118,715	3.8
Netherlands	322,676	13.9	879,883	10.2
Portugal	202,543	-6.1	614,324	10.7
United Kingdom	1,429,766	-5.2	4,280,380	-1.6
Switzerland	176,461	-18.4	461,922	-14.8
Russia	72,731	8.2	243,922	8.6
Nordic Countries	460,548	-2.7	1,811,723	5.2
Rest of Europe	443,133	2.4	1,473,425	5.5
United States	232,258	7.3	668,271	10.1
Rest of America	264,513	4.4	943,461	13.6
Rest of the world	417,755	6.1	1,351,572	10.6

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

Main destination Autonomous Communities

Cataluña was the main destination for tourists in April, with 23.1% of the total. It was followed by Canarias (16.3%) and Andalucía (15.4%).

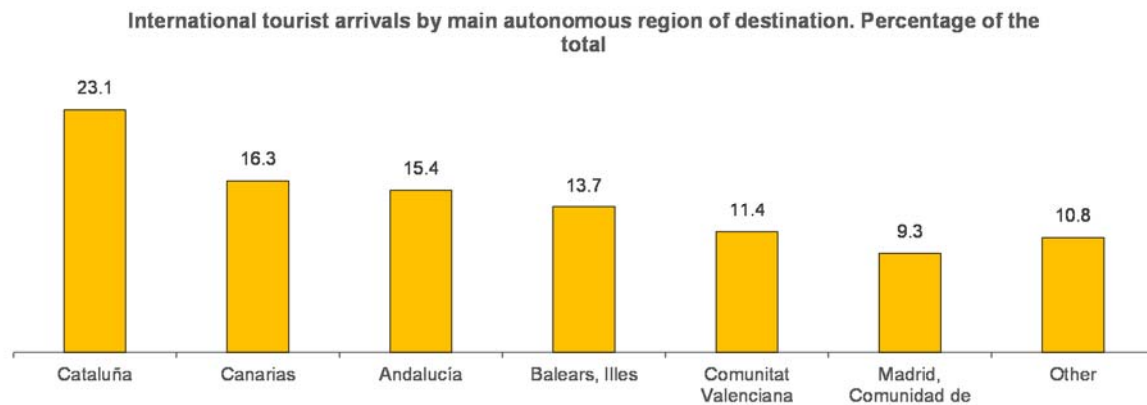
Almost 1.6 million tourists came to Cataluña, 11.0% less than in April last year. The main countries of residence of tourists visiting this Autonomous Community were France (25.4% of the total) and Rest of Europe (12.4%).

The number of tourists visiting Canarias decreased by 12.1% and exceeded 1.1 million. 38.3% of these tourists came from the United Kingdom and 18.8% from Germany.

The third main destination Autonomous Community by number of tourists was Andalucía, with more than one million visitors and an annual decrease of 0.2%. The United Kingdom was the main country of origin (with 24.0% of the total), followed by the Nordic countries (12.5%).

In the remaining Autonomous Communities the number of tourists increased, by 2.8% in Comunitat Valenciana. In turn, it fell by 6.2% in Comunidad de Madrid and by 6.8% in Illes Balears.

In the first four months of 2018 the Autonomous Communities that received the most tourists were Canarias (with more than 4.8 million and a decrease of 1.8% as compared to the same period of 2017), Cataluña (with nearly 4.7 million and a decrease of 1.9%) and Andalucía (with more than 2.9 million and an increase of 2.7%).



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
April 2018				
TOTAL	6,770,845	-4.4	20,489,495	2.3
Andalucía	1,042,404	-0.2	2,949,515	2.7
Balears, Illes	930,688	-6.8	1,603,850	0.6
Canarias	1,102,716	-12.1	4,826,992	-1.8
Cataluña	1,561,979	-11.0	4,654,701	-1.9
Comunitat Valenciana	770,745	2.8	2,286,686	8.4
Madrid, Comunidad de	630,846	-6.2	2,206,850	5.5
Other	731,467	20.7	1,960,900	15.9

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

April 2018	First	% tourists	Second	% tourists
	outbound country		outbound country	
TOTAL	United Kingdom	21.1	France	15.9
Andalucía	United Kingdom	24.0	Nordic Countries	12.5
Balears, Illes	Germany	42.5	United Kingdom	22.8
Canarias	United Kingdom	38.3	Germany	18.8
Cataluña	France	25.4	Rest of Europe	12.4
Comunitat Valenciana	United Kingdom	31.7	France	17.3
Madrid, Comunidad de	Rest of the world	17.9	Rest of America	16.2

Forms of access and main means of accommodation

Most tourists visiting Spain in April came by air, with nearly 5.5 million, representing an annual decrease of 4.5%.

The number of tourists entering the country by road was 1.3% lower, 32.4% lower by rail and 17.6% lower by port.

International tourist arrivals by main means of access to Spain

April 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	6,770,845	-4.4	20,489,495	2.3
Air transport	5,478,583	-4.5	16,990,872	2.2
Motor vehicle	1,141,659	-1.3	3,095,631	7.2
Train	22,045	-32.4	69,695	-20.5
Waterway	128,558	-17.6	333,296	-19.3

In April, the number of tourists choosing market accommodation as the main accommodation type decreased by 6.8% in the annual rate. Within this type, hotel accommodation fell by 2.7%, and rented dwellings did so by 15.9%.

In turn, non-market accommodation increased by 4.6%. The number of tourists staying in relatives or friends' dwellings increased by 5.9% and those staying in their own dwelling decreased by 1.5%.

International tourist arrivals by main type of accommodation

April 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	6,770,845	-4.4	20,489,495	2.3
Rented accommodation ⁽³⁾	5,218,196	-6.8	15,656,726	2.3
-Hotel accommodation	4,170,629	-2.7	12,510,109	3.0
-Rental housing	757,125	-15.9	2,169,478	-0.9
-Rest rented accommodation	290,441	-29.6	977,139	0.6
Non-rented accommodation	1,552,649	4.6	4,832,769	2.4
-Vacation home ownership	484,429	-1.5	1,437,348	2.9
-Home of family or friends	928,283	5.9	2,985,589	3.5
-Rest non rented accommodation	139,937	21.0	409,832	-6.5

(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 April, *Leisure, recreation and holidays* were the main reasons for travelling to Spain for about 5.8 million tourists, representing an annual decrease of 4.8%.

A total of 514,813 tourists arrived for *Business and professional reasons* (41.5% more) and 482,089 for *Other reasons* (26.1% less).

International tourist arrivals by main purpose of the trip

April 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	6,770,845	-4.4	20,489,495	2.3
Leisure, vacations	5,773,943	-4.8	17,033,197	2.7
Business and personal purposes	514,813	41.5	1,807,572	22.4
Other purposes	482,089	-26.1	1,648,726	-15.6

In April, the most frequent length of stay among tourists was four to seven nights, with almost 3.5 million tourists and an annual decrease of 9.4%.

The number of visitors decreased by 5.2% among those without overnight stays (excursionists) and increased by 1.1% among tourists with a longer duration (more than 15 nights).

International visitor arrivals by length of stay

April 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	10,165,269	-4.6	31,601,289	1.9
no night ⁽⁴⁾	3,394,424	-5.2	11,111,794	1.1
1 night	354,673	11.2	1,111,830	16.4
2 - 3 nights	1,371,041	13.2	4,068,453	2.2
4 - 7 nights	3,459,712	-9.4	9,933,268	0.8
8 - 15 nights	1,265,889	-10.6	3,872,623	1.7
More than 15 nights	319,530	1.1	1,503,321	5.6

(4) Excursionists.

In April, around 4.9 million tourists travelled without a tourist package, indicating an annual decrease of 3.4%. Almost 1.9 million visitors came with a tourist package, 6.9% less.

International tourist arrivals by type of organization

April 2018	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	6,770,845	-4.4	20,489,495	2.3
No Tourist Package	4,879,083	-3.4	14,821,823	2.9
Tourist Package	1,891,762	-6.9	5,667,672	0.9

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 in this field are followed.

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 strata have been designed for each form of entry, grouping border points, airports, ports or railway lines, respectively. In the road and airport sample allocation, the day of the week in which the survey has been carried out is also distinguished, differentiating between working days, weekends and holidays. 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 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](https://twitter.com/es_ine)

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

Press office: Telephone numbers: (+34) 91 583 93 63 /94 08 – gprensa@ine.es

Information Area: Telephone number: (+34) 91 583 91 00 – www.ine.es/infoine/?L=1
