

1 February 2018

Statistics on Tourist Movement on Borders (FRONTUR)

December 2017 and year 2017. *Provisional data*

Spain receives 4.0 million international tourists in December, 0.2% less than in the same month of 2016

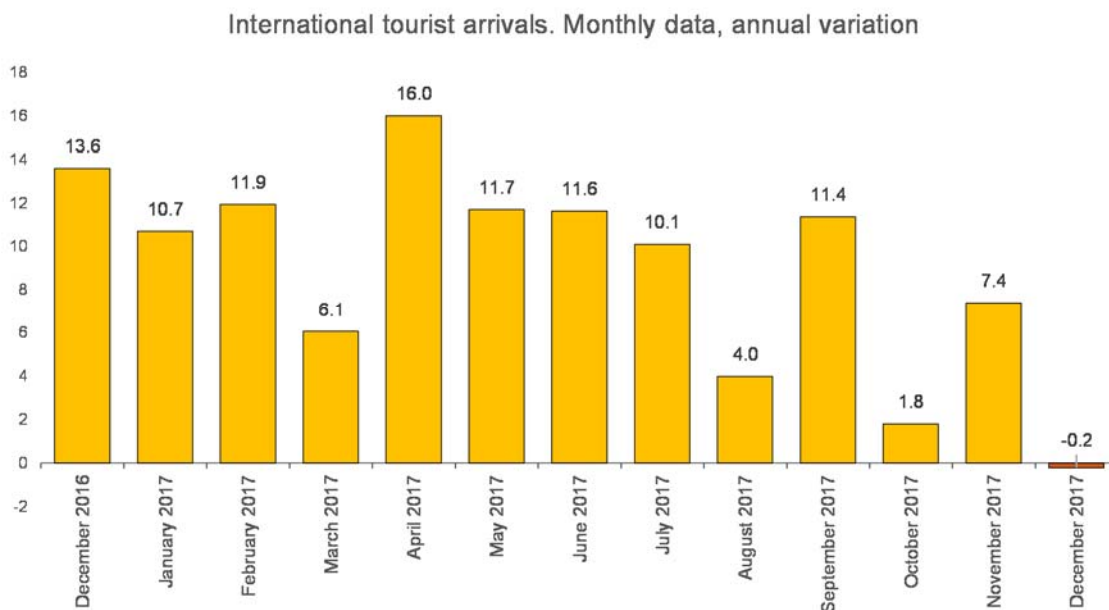
For 2017 as a whole, 81.8 million tourists visited Spain, 8.6% more than in the previous year

Spain received in December the visit of 4.0 million international tourists, 0.2% less than in the same month of 2016.

The United Kingdom was the main country of residence, with 813,422 tourists, accounting for 20.4% of the total and a decrease of 7.6% as compared with December last year.

France and Germany were the following two countries of residence with the most tourists visiting Spain in December. 553,338 tourists came from France (9.0% less in the annual rate) and 480,642 tourists from Germany (5.4% more).

Among other countries of residence, the annual growth is particularly noteworthy in tourists coming from Belgium (19,8%), Portugal (17,4%) and Russia (13,3%).



International tourist arrivals ⁽¹⁾ by country of residence

December 2017	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	3,981,745	-0.2	81,786,364	8.6
Germany	480,642	5.4	11,888,019	6.1
Belgium	123,023	19.8	2,475,208	7.5
France	553,338	-9.0	11,250,278	-0.1
Ireland	83,061	8.0	2,047,379	13.2
Italy	259,843	-1.1	4,223,895	6.4
Netherlands	132,350	-5.7	3,670,240	9.4
Portugal	142,897	17.4	2,129,000	6.7
United Kingdom	813,422	-7.6	18,779,466	6.2
Switzerland	94,845	3.4	2,062,411	21.1
Russia	51,107	13.3	1,145,848	14.1
Nordic Countries	397,333	8.7	5,855,644	14.2
Rest of Europe	255,281	-9.9	5,523,246	9.9
United States	128,127	10.3	2,650,068	32.4
Rest of America	191,804	12.9	3,235,718	25.8
Rest of the world	274,669	2.0	4,849,945	12.7

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

Main destination Autonomous Communities

Canarias was the main destination for tourists in December, with 31.6% of the total. It was followed by Cataluña (20.7%) and Andalucía (12.7%).

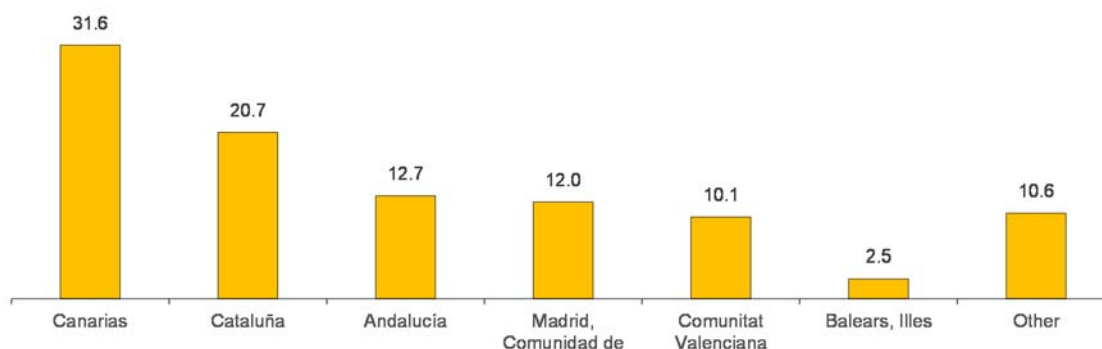
Nearly 1.3 million tourists came to Canarias, 0.5% more than in December 2016. The main countries of residence of those visiting this Autonomous Community were United Kingdom (with 33.6% of the total) and the Nordic countries (21.7%).

The number of tourists visiting Cataluña decreased by 13.9% standing at 823,427. 21.5% came from France and 14.5% from the rest of the world.

The third main destination Autonomous Community by number of tourists was Andalucía, with 506,032 tourists and an annual growth of 2.1%. United Kingdom was the main country of origin (with 21.0% of the total), followed by France (12.9%).

In the remaining Autonomous Communities the number of tourists increased by 10.2% in Comunidad de Madrid and 9.2% in Comunitat Valenciana, while in Illes Balears it decreased by 2.0%.

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

December 2017	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	3,981,745	-0.2	81,786,364	8.6
Andalucía	506,032	2.1	11,530,070	8.9
Balears, Illes	99,350	-2.0	13,790,968	6.1
Canarias	1,256,353	0.5	14,213,686	7.2
Cataluña	823,427	-13.9	19,046,720	5.0
Comunitat Valenciana	400,354	9.2	8,918,327	15.3
Madrid, Comunidad de	475,955	10.2	6,694,686	15.8
Other	420,275	8.3	7,591,906	11.4

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

December 2017	First outbound country	% tourists	Second outbound country	% tourists
TOTAL	United Kingdom	20.4	France	13.9
Andalucía	United Kingdom	21.0	France	12.9
Balears, Illes	Germany	49.9	United Kingdom	15.5
Canarias	United Kingdom	33.6	Nordic Countries	21.7
Cataluña	France	21.5	Rest of the world	14.5
Comunitat Valenciana	United Kingdom	28.1	France	20.6
Madrid, Comunidad de	Rest of America	18.3	Rest of the world	14.9

Forms of access and main means of accommodation

Most tourists visiting Spain in December came by air, with more than 3.2 million, representing an annual increase of 1.3%.

By road, 6.9% fewer tourists arrived as compared with December 2016, and by railway 31.6% less. In turn, port arrivals registered a 8.4% increase.

International tourist arrivals by main means of access to Spain

December 2017	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	3,981,745	-0.2	81,786,364	8.6
Air transport	3,244,655	1.3	66,645,609	10.4
Motor vehicle	651,133	-6.9	12,877,598	-0.7
Train	15,818	-31.6	373,571	3.0
Waterway	70,139	8.4	1,889,587	15.5

In December, the number of tourists that chose market accommodation as the main accommodation type increased by 4.1% in the annual rate. Within this type, hotel accommodation grew by 3.4%, while rented properties fell by 0.1%.

Non-market accommodation decreased by 10.8%. The number of tourists staying in relatives or friends' homes increased by 11.9% and those staying in their own properties did so by 2.5%.

International tourist arrivals by main type of accommodation

December 2017	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	3,981,745	-0.2	81,786,364	8.6
Rented accommodation ⁽²⁾	2,955,362	4.1	65,011,143	9.0
-Hotel accommodation	2,368,369	3.4	51,298,634	6.5
-Rental housing	402,405	-0.1	9,712,547	20.2
-Rest rented accommodation	184,588	26.7	3,999,963	17.1
Non-rented accommodation	1,026,383	-10.8	16,775,221	7.2
-Vacation home ownership	315,698	-2.5	4,932,106	1.1
-Home of family or friends	628,619	-11.9	10,319,355	11.4
-Rest non rented accommodation	82,065	-27.4	1,523,760	1.1

(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, duration of the stay and organisation of the trip

In December, *Leisure, recreation, and holidays* was the main reason for travelling to Spain for more than 3.2 million tourists, representing an annual increase of 3.2%.

341,965 tourists arrived for *Business and professional reasons* (1.1% more) and 423,489 arrived for *Other reasons* (21.0% less).

International tourist arrivals by main purpose of the trip

December 2017	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	3,981,745	-0.2	81,786,364	8.6
Leisure, vacations	3,216,291	3.2	71,035,704	10.5
Business and personal purposes	341,965	1.1	4,707,514	0.6
Other purposes	423,489	-21.0	6,043,146	-4.4

In December, the main length of stay for tourists was from four to seven nights, with more than 1.8 million tourists and an annual increase of 2.6%.

The number of visitors decreased by 2.0% among those without overnight stays (excursionists) and by 9.0% among tourists with a longer duration (more than 15 nights).

International visitor arrivals by length of stay

December 2017	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	6,811,314	-1.0	121,677,483	5.3
no night ⁽³⁾	2,829,570	-2.0	39,891,119	-0.9
1 night	247,360	-3.2	4,082,918	15.8
2 - 3 nights	880,300	6.1	14,189,875	15.8
4 - 7 nights	1,811,091	2.6	38,033,912	8.8
8 - 15 nights	666,810	-8.3	19,694,992	2.5
More than 15 nights	376,183	-9.0	5,784,668	7.9

(3) Excursionists.

In December, almost 2.9 million tourists travelled without a tourist package, indicating an annual decrease of 1.3%. Around 1.1 million came with a tourist package, with an increase of 2.9%.

International tourist arrivals by type of organization

December 2017	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	3,981,745	-0.2	81,786,364	8.6
No Tourist Package	2,915,210	-1.3	57,776,487	10.5
Tourist Package	1,066,534	2.9	24,009,877	4.3

Results for the whole year 2017

During the year 2017, a total of 81.8 million tourists visited Spain, an increase of 8.6% as compared to the previous year.

The main countries of residence of tourists were the United Kingdom, Germany and France. The arrival of tourists resident in the United Kingdom increased by 6.2% and that of German tourists by 6.1%. In turn, the number of tourists coming from France fell by 0.1%.

Cataluña was the main destination Autonomous Community in 2017, with 19.0 million tourists, 5.0% more than in 2016. It was followed by Canarias (with 14.2 million and an increase of 7.2%) and Illes Balears (with 13.8 million and an increase of 6.1%).

On the other hand, Andalucía received 11.5 million tourists (8.9% more than in 2016), Comunitat Valenciana 8.9 million (15.3% more) and Comunidad de Madrid 6.7 million (with an increase of 15.8%).

Forms of access and main means of accommodation

As regards the form of entry into Spain, 66.6 million tourists used the air route, which meant an increase of 10.4%. A total of 12.9 million arrived by road, 0.7% less.

By type of accommodation, market accommodation was used by 65.0 million tourists (9.0% more) and non-market accommodation by 16.8 million (7.2% more).

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

The main reason for tourists in their trips to Spain during 2017 was *Leisure, recreation and holidays*. For that reason, 71.0 million arrived, with an annual increase of 10.5%. A total of 4.7 million tourists arrived for *Business and professional purposes* (0.6% more) and 6.0 million arrived for *Other reasons* (4.4% less).

The main length of stay among tourists in 2017 was four to seven nights, with 38.0 million tourists and an annual increase of 8.8%.

Regarding the form of organization of the trip, 57.8 million tourists arrived in Spain without a tourist package (10.5% more than in 2016) and 24.0 million with a tourist package (4.3% more).

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.