

**Estadística de Movimientos Turísticos en Fronteras (FRONTUR)**  
February 2021. *Provisional data*

**Spain received 284,311 international tourists in February, 93.6% less than in the same month of 2020**

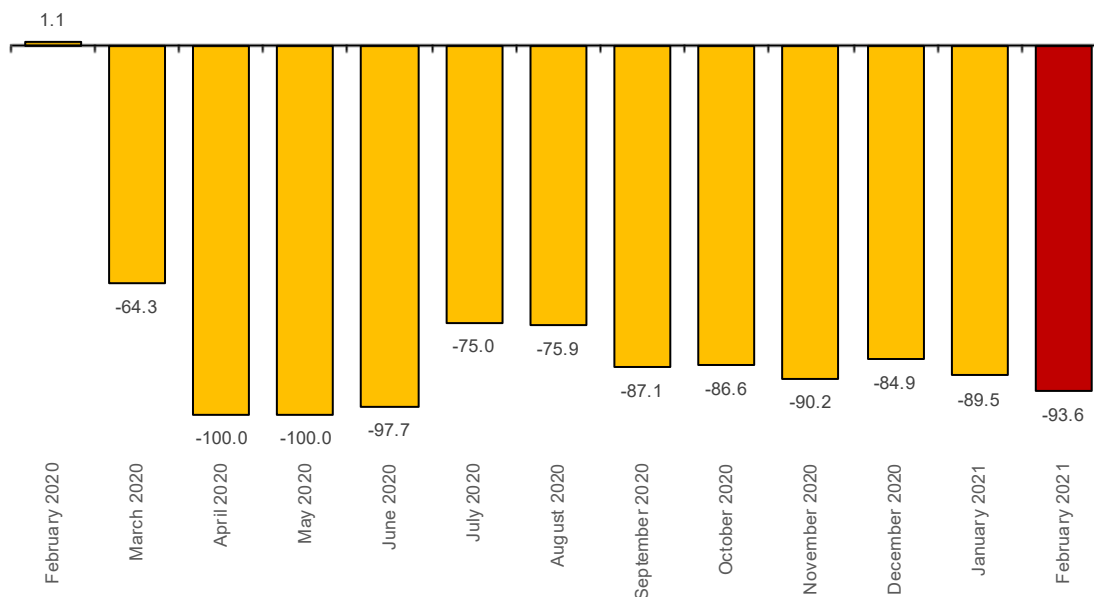
Spain received in February the visit of 284,311 international tourists, 93.6% less than in the same month of 2020.

France was the main country of residence, with 74,797 tourists, accounting for 26.3% of the total and a decrease of 87.4% as compared to February last year.

Germany and Portugal were the following countries with the most tourists visiting Spain. From Germany we received 36,856 tourists (93.1% less in the annual rate) and from Portugal 19,880 tourists (89.1% less in the annual rate).

**International tourist arrivals.**

Monthly data, annual variation



In the first two months of 2021 the number of tourists visiting Spain decreased by 91.6% and stand at 718,613 tourists. 8.6 millions of international tourists came in the same period last year.

The main sending countries so far this year were France (with 192,422 tourists and a decrease of 82.1% as compared to the first two months of 2020), Rest of Europe (with 114,801 tourists, and a decrease of 85.5%) and Germany (with 87,954 tourists, 91.4% less).

## International tourist arrivals (\*) by country of residence

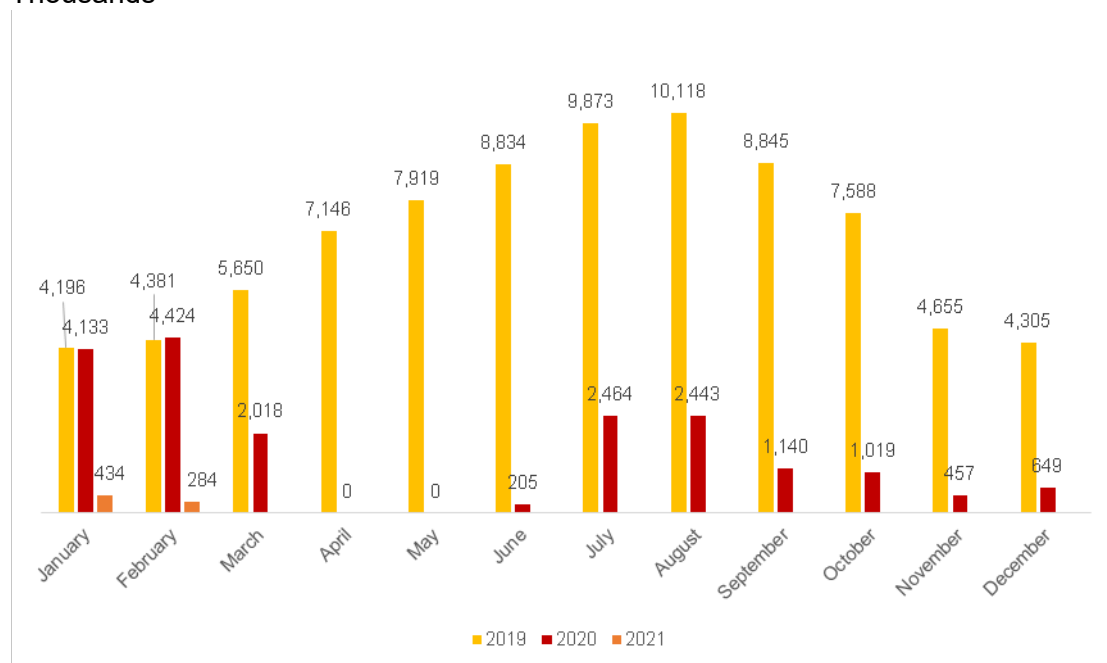
February 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
<b>TOTAL</b>	284,311	-93.6	718,673	-91.6
Germany	36,856	-93.1	87,954	-91.4
Belgium	9,006	-93.2	30,158	-88.0
France	74,797	-87.4	192,422	-82.1
Ireland	3,903	-95.9	12,256	-93.3
Italy	19,469	-92.4	42,197	-91.4
Netherlands	11,356	-94.2	27,264	-92.4
Portugal	19,880	-89.1	48,627	-84.4
United Kingdom	14,319	-98.4	37,536	-97.7
Switzerland	6,705	-92.2	22,190	-86.3
Nordic Countries	11,800	-97.0	31,164	-95.8
Rest of Europe (**)	50,213	-88.0	114,801	-86.5
United States	5,411	-95.7	11,498	-95.7
Rest of America	19,083	-92.0	39,708	-92.7
Rest of the world	1,515	-99.5	20,899	-97.0

(\*): does not include transit travellers or same-day visitors

(\*\*) Includes estimate for Russia due to insufficient sample size for that country

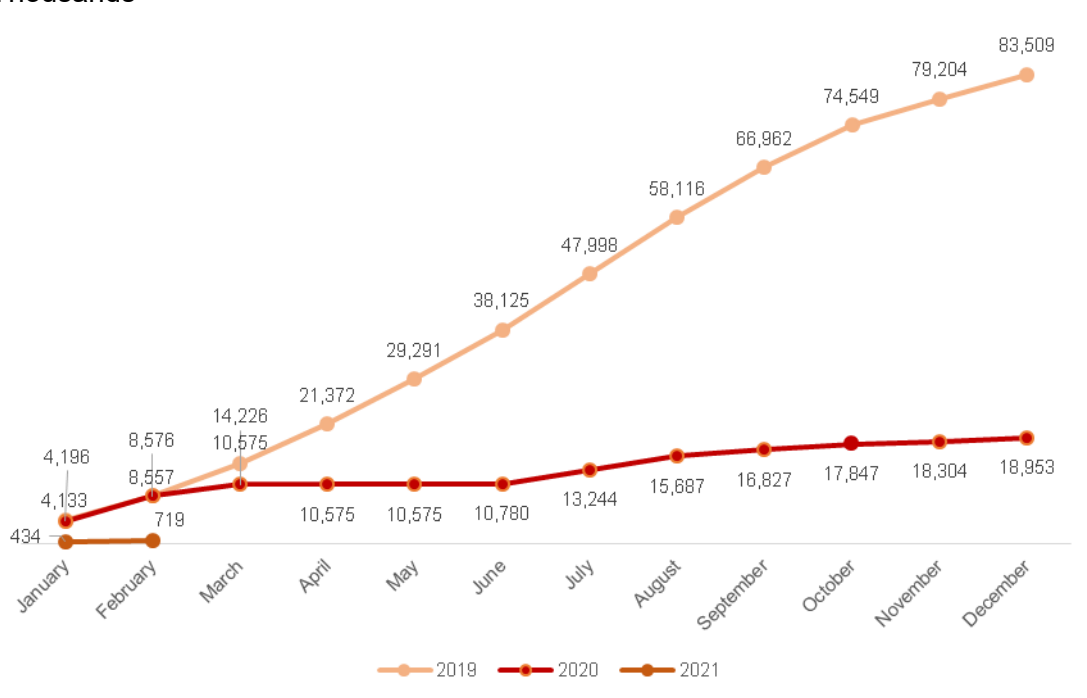
## International tourist arrivals. Comparative 2019-2020-2021\*

Thousands



(\*): Provisional data from March 2020

**Accumulated international tourist arrivals. Comparative 2019-2020-2021\***  
Thousands



(\*): Provisional data from March 2020

**Main destination Autonomous Communities**

Canarias was the main tourist destination in February, with 26.1% of the total. It was followed by Cataluña (19.0%) and Comunidad de Madrid (11.1%).

74,280 tourists came to Canarias, 93.7% less than in February last year. The main countries of residence of tourists visiting this Autonomous Community were Rest of Europe (33.0% of the total) and Germany (24.4%).

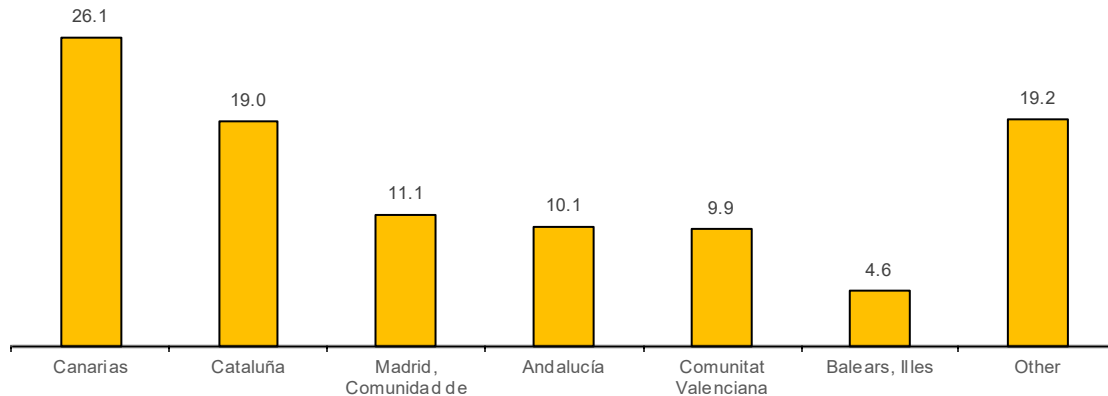
The number of tourists visiting Cataluña decreased by 94.4% and stood in 54,020 tourists. 29.8% of these tourists came from France and 18.9% from Rest of Europe.

The third main destination Autonomous Community by number of tourists was Comunidad de Madrid, with 31,580 tourists and an annual decrease of 93.9%. France was the main country of origin (with 26.9% of the total), followed by Rest of America (25.6%).

In the remaining Autonomous Communities the number of tourists decreased, by 92.9% in Illes Balears, by 94.7% in Comunitat Valenciana and by 95.4% in Andalucía.

In the accumulated first two months of 2021, the Autonomous Communities that received the most tourists were Canarias (with 160,849 tourists and a decrease of 92.9% as compared with the same period in 2020), Cataluña (with 139,285 tourists and a decrease of 92.4%) and Andalucía (with 78,377 tourists, a 93.6% less).

**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**

February 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
<b>TOTAL</b>	284,311	-93.6	718,673	-91.6
Andalucía	28,661	-95.4	78,377	-93.6
Balears, Illes	13,149	-92.9	28,315	-90.2
Canarias	74,280	-93.7	160,849	-92.9
Cataluña	54,020	-94.4	139,285	-92.4
Comunitat Valenciana	28,066	-94.7	77,794	-91.9
Madrid, Comunidad de	31,580	-93.9	77,139	-93.2
Other	54,554	-87.3	156,915	-81.3

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

February 2021	First	% tourists	Second	% tourists
	outbound country		outbound country	
<b>TOTAL</b>	France	26.3	Rest of Europe	16.8
Andalucía	France	23.5	Rest of Europe	13.5
Balears, Illes	Germany	43.6	Rest of Europe	16.9
Canarias	Rest of Europe	33.0	Germany	24.4
Cataluña	France	29.8	Rest of Europe	18.9
Comunitat Valenciana	France	33.0	Rest of Europe	9.8
Madrid, Comunidad de	Rest of America	26.9	Rest of America	25.6

### Forms of access and main means of accommodation

Most tourists visiting Spain in February came by air, with 181,331 tourists, representing an annual decrease of 95.1%.

Railway access accounted for 71.8% less tourists, road entries had for 85.3% less and port arrivals had a decrease of 97.2%.

### International tourist arrivals by main means of access to Spain

February 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	284,311	-93.6	718,673	-91.6
Air transport	181,331	-95.1	431,292	-94.0
Motor vehicle	96,319	-85.3	271,139	-78.0
Train	5,082	-71.8	12,447	-60.6
Waterway	1,579	-97.2	3,795	-97.6

In February, the number of tourists choosing market accommodation as the main type of accommodation decreased by 94.0% in the annual rate. Within this type, hotel accommodation felt by 93.6%, while rented dwellings felt by 97.2%.

On the other hand, non-market accommodation decreased by 92.0%. The number of tourists staying in relatives or friends' homes decreased by 92.7% and that of those staying in their own dwelling did so by 91.5%.

### International tourist arrivals by main type of accommodation

February 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	284,311	-93.6	718,673	-91.6
Rented accommodation <sup>(*)</sup>	213,775	-94.0	477,183	-92.9
-Hotel accommodation	182,345	-93.6	406,329	-92.6
-Rental housing	14,047	-97.2	33,016	-96.3
-Rest rented accommodation	17,383	-90.1	37,837	-88.9
Non-rented accommodation	70,536	-92.0	241,491	-87.0
-Vacation home ownership	22,927	-91.5	71,822	-86.5
-Home of family or friends	39,816	-92.7	145,795	-87.9
-Rest non rented accommodation	7,792	-88.7	23,874	-81.8

(\*): 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, length of stay and organization of the trip

In February, *Leisure, recreation, and holidays* were the main reasons for travelling to Spain for 162,354 tourists, representing an annual decrease of 95.6%.

A total of 65,834 tourists arrived for *Business and professional reasons* (81.4% less) and 56,123 arrived for *Other reasons* (86.6% less).

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

February 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	284,311	-93.6	718,673	-91.6
Leisure, vacations	162,354	-95.6	436,596	-93.8
Business and professional purposes	65,834	-81.4	126,056	-82.6
Other purposes	56,123	-86.6	156,022	-80.6

A stay of four to seven nights was the main length among tourists in February, with 96,462 tourists and an annual decrease of 95.7%.

The number of visitors decreased by 81.1% among those without overnight stays (excursionists) and decreased by 83.9% among tourists with longer duration (more than 15 nights).

### International visitor arrivals by length of stay

February 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	802,150	-88.8	2,049,167	-85.4
no night <sup>(*)</sup>	517,840	-81.1	1,330,494	-75.7
1 night	42,027	-82.7	99,171	-80.0
2 - 3 nights	48,507	-94.8	121,005	-92.9
4 - 7 nights	96,462	-95.7	219,742	-94.6
8 - 15 nights	46,484	-93.2	146,696	-90.7
More than 15 nights	50,831	-83.9	132,059	-81.7

(\*):Excursionists.

In February, 252,421 tourists travelled without a tourist package, indicating an annual decrease of 92.3%. Over 31,890 tourists travelled with a tourist package, 97.3% less.

### International tourist arrivals by type of organization

February 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	284,311	-93.6	718,673	-91.6
No Tourist Package	252,421	-92.3	634,798	-89.9
Tourist Package	31,890	-97.3	83,876	-96.3

## **Note regarding COVID-19's impact on the statistical operations FRONTUR and EGATUR in January 2021**

The end of the state of alarm in force since March 17, 2020 has not meant the suppression of access controls to Spain through the different routes, so that, although since June 21 it is no longer in force, they have happened different orders that have restricted the free access of travelers to Spain. In the month of November, the current regulations, which to a large extent had already been established in the preceding months, are those collected by Order INT / 657/2020, of July 17, *by which the criteria for the application of a temporary restriction of non-essential trips from third countries to the European Union and Schengen associated countries are modified for reasons of public order and public health due to the health crisis caused by COVID-19.* (BOE n. 196, July 18), modified by Order INT / 734/2020, of July 30, (BOE n. 207, July 31), Order INT / 805/2020, of August 28, (BOE n. 232, August 29), Order INT / 851/2020, of September 14, (BOE n. 247, September 16), Order INT / 913/2020, of September 29, (BOE n. 259, September 30), Order INT/1006/2020, of October 29, (BOE n. 287, October 30), Order INT/1119/2020, of November 27 and Order INT/1278/2020, of December 29.

These orders establish access restrictions from third countries, establishing a specific list of countries, whose residents are not affected by the restrictions. This list is being updated in different orders depending on the health evolution of the different countries.

Therefore, in determining the number of visitors estimated by the FRONTUR-EGATUR statistics, a series of restrictions consistent with the aforementioned orders have been taken into account.

These restrictions have been limited to the port and airport access routes, where visitors who access Spain from third countries outside the European Schengen area have not been considered, beyond the countries explicitly detailed in the orders mentioned above.

However, both the exceptions established by the aforementioned provisions and the way in which data collection is carried out determine that there are some aspects of the operation that must be taken into account in October, consistent with their treatment in the preceding months.

Citizens of Spanish nationality residing in other countries are allowed access to Spanish territory, even outside the list of countries mentioned above, as well as other travelers with justified cause that could be considered, in some cases, visitors. However, the small volume of these flows and the impossibility of their accurate characterization advise against their accounting.

Throughout the month of November the survey process has continued, despite the new conditions of access to the places where it occurs and the interviewees themselves, derived from the health crisis, have not yet allowed its full development, for what the possible difficulties derived from this fact are being solved with the usual sample complement mechanisms designed by the own methodology of this statistical operation.

Taking all these aspects into account, it has been possible to build, with sufficient guarantee, the usual monthly estimators and, therefore, **the INE considers that the data provided by the statistics of FRONTUR and EGATUR are of sufficient quality to be disseminated and used by regular users of these operations.**

## Methodological note

The main objective of the Tourist Movement on Borders Survey (FRONTUR) is to estimate the number of non-residents visiting Spain on a monthly basis, as well as to know the main characteristics of the trips made by these visitors.

For the preparation of FRONTUR the international definitions and recommendations of the UNWTO and EUROSTAT in this field are followed.

Type of operation: continuous monthly statistics.

Population scope: this refers to non-residents in Spain who enter our country, whether or not they have stayed overnight, as well as those who pass through our country in transit.

Geographical scope: the entire national territory. The sample is collected at the main access points for non-resident travellers, both by road, airport, port and rail.

Reference period of the results: the month.

Sample size: the annual theoretical sample size of FRONTUR exceeds 450,000 surveys, which are distributed throughout the year, taking into account the seasonality of passenger flows.

Type of sampling: the sample design, a series of strata have been defined for each form of entry that group together 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 identified, differentiating between working days, weekends and holidays. Furthermore, in airports 20 air relations are defined (Spanish airport of origin-country of destination airport) which also determine the sample design in this form of access.

Collection method: information is collected by direct interview when the traveller leaves Spain, using a multilingual electronic questionnaire.

A more complete tabulation plan with the main series of aggregates, as well as the microdata file for the reference month, is available on the INE website. For more information you can access the methodology at:

[http://www.ine.es/daco/daco42/frontur/frontur\\_egatur\\_metodologia.pdf](http://www.ine.es/daco/daco42/frontur/frontur_egatur_metodologia.pdf)

And the standardized methodological report at:

<http://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=16028>

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