

6 May 2020

Tourist Movement on Borders Survey (FRONTUR)
March 2020. *Provisional data*

Spain received 2.0 million international tourists in March, 64.3% less than in the same month of 2019

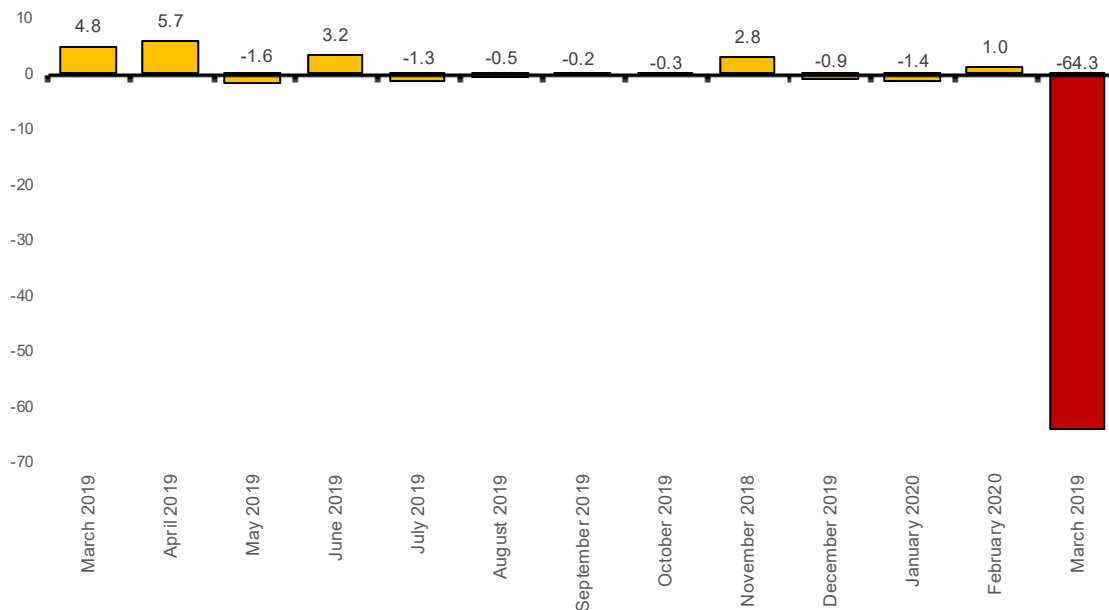
Spain received in March the visit of 2.0 million international tourists, 64.3% less than in the same month of 2019.

The United Kingdom was the main country of residence, with 397,117 tourists, accounting for 19.7% of the total and a decrease of 64.2% as compared to March last year.

France and Germany were the following countries with the most tourists visiting Spain. From France we receive 288,903 tourists (57.3% less in the annual rate) and from Germany 277,862 tourists (65.7% less in the annual rate).

International tourist arrivals.

Monthly data, annual variation



In the first three months of 2020 the number of tourists visiting Spain decreased by 25.6% and reached 10.6 million.

The main sending countries so far this year were the United Kingdom (more than 2.0 million tourists and a decrease of 27.8% as compared to the first three months of 2019), France (with more than 1.3 million, and a decrease of 20.1%) and Germany (with more than 1.3 million tourists, 29.9% less).

International tourist arrivals (*) by country of residence

| March 2020 | Monthly data | | Accumulated data | |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Absolute value | Annual change | Absolute value | Annual change |
| TOTAL | 2,018,323 | -64.3 | 10,580,270 | -25.6 |
| Germany | 277,862 | -65.7 | 1,314,068 | -29.9 |
| Belgium | 65,970 | -63.1 | 317,588 | -24.7 |
| France | 288,903 | -57.3 | 1,349,388 | -20.1 |
| Ireland | 38,949 | -68.7 | 220,356 | -27.7 |
| Italy | 69,894 | -78.2 | 552,745 | -33.4 |
| Netherlands | 94,969 | -57.2 | 459,802 | -15.3 |
| Portugal | 69,699 | -62.3 | 376,053 | -20.3 |
| United Kingdom | 397,117 | -64.2 | 2,022,685 | -27.8 |
| Switzerland | 37,661 | -67.0 | 198,951 | -29.2 |
| Russia | 21,386 | -69.8 | 132,150 | -29.5 |
| Nordic Countries | 164,028 | -66.8 | 899,578 | -28.9 |
| Rest of Europe | 163,504 | -62.2 | 896,003 | -25.1 |
| United States | 81,672 | -66.8 | 347,645 | -34.3 |
| Rest of America | 136,581 | -48.4 | 679,689 | -6.4 |
| Rest of the world | 110,127 | -72.6 | 813,568 | -26.3 |

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

Main destination Autonomous Communities

Canarias was the main tourist destination in March, with 22.8% of the total. It was followed by Cataluña (20.1%) and Andalucía (15%).

459,947 tourists came to Canarias, 65.7% less than in March last year. The main countries of residence of tourists visiting this Autonomous Community were the United Kingdom (31.7% of the total) and Germany (22.8%).

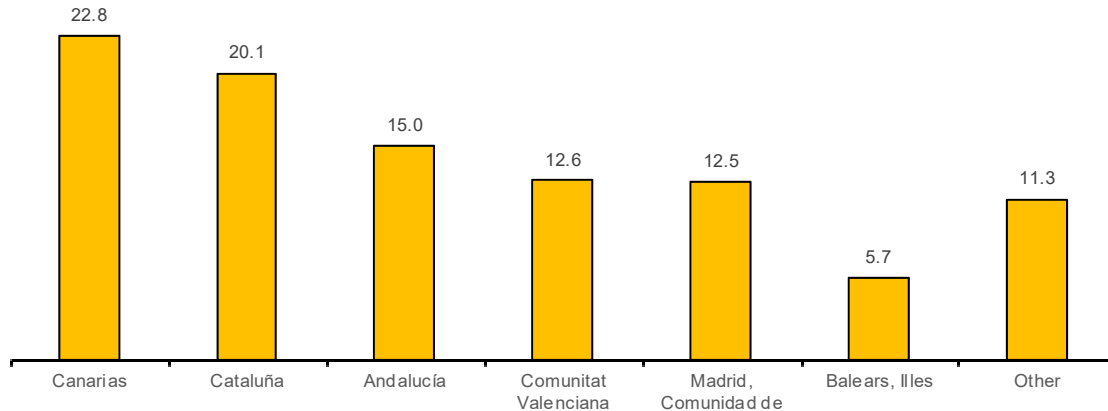
The number of tourists visiting Cataluña decreased by 68.2% and stood 406,683. 25.5% of these tourists came from France and 12.0% from Rest of Europe.

The third main destination Autonomous Community by number of tourists was Andalucía, with 302,928 tourists and an annual decrease of 64.1%. The United Kingdom was the main country of origin (with 27.0% of the total), followed by Germany (11.9%).

In the remaining Autonomous Communities the number of tourists decreased, by 60.9% in Comunitat Valenciana, by 63.2% in Comunidad de Madrid and by 68.3% in Illes Balears.

In the accumulated first three months of 2020, the Autonomous Communities that received the most tourists were Canarias (with over 2.7 million and a decrease of 25.7% as compared with the same period in 2019), Cataluña (with over 2.2 million and a decrease of 30.4%) and Andalucía (with more than 1.5 million, and 25% 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

| March 2020 | Monthly data | | Accumulated data | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Absolute value | Annual change | Absolute value | Annual change |
| TOTAL | 2,018,323 | -64.3 | 10,580,270 | -25.6 |
| Andalucía | 302,928 | -64.1 | 1,534,151 | -25.0 |
| Balears, Illes | 116,018 | -68.3 | 405,470 | -41.4 |
| Canarias | 459,947 | -65.7 | 2,731,780 | -25.7 |
| Cataluña | 406,683 | -68.2 | 2,240,557 | -30.4 |
| Comunitat Valenciana | 253,718 | -60.9 | 1,216,363 | -20.0 |
| Madrid, Comunidad de | 251,590 | -63.2 | 1,381,272 | -21.8 |
| Other | 227,439 | -53.3 | 1,070,677 | -17.6 |

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

| March 2020 | First | % tourists | Second | % tourists |
|----------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| | outbound country | | outbound country | |
| TOTAL | United Kingdom | 19.7 | France | 14.3 |
| Andalucía | United Kingdom | 27.0 | Germany | 11.9 |
| Balears, Illes | Germany | 59.0 | United Kingdom | 11.5 |
| Canarias | United Kingdom | 31.7 | Germany | 22.8 |
| Cataluña | France | 25.5 | Rest of Europe | 12.0 |
| Comunitat Valenciana | United Kingdom | 30.5 | France | 17.1 |
| Madrid, Comunidad de | Rest of America | 27.0 | Rest of Europe | 13.2 |

Forms of access and main means of accommodation

Most tourists visiting Spain in March came by air, with more than 1.6 million, representing an annual decrease of 65.8%.

Road entries accounted for 57.4% less tourists and port arrivals had a decrease of 46.5%. Railway access registered a 61.4% decrease.

International tourist arrivals by main means of access to Spain

| March 2020 | Monthly data | | Accumulated data | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Absolute value | Annual change | Absolute value | Annual change |
| TOTAL | 2,018,323 | -64.3 | 10,580,270 | -25.6 |
| Air transport | 1,617,816 | -65.8 | 8,764,293 | -26.6 |
| Motor vehicle | 343,480 | -57.4 | 1,570,519 | -21.9 |
| Train | 7,655 | -61.4 | 39,311 | -20.9 |
| Waterway | 49,371 | -46.5 | 206,147 | -9.8 |

In March, the number of tourists choosing market accommodation as the main type of accommodation decreased by 65.9% in the annual rate. Within this type, hotel accommodation felt by 67.6%, while rented dwellings felt by 56.5%.

On the other hand, non-market accommodation decreased by 58.4%. The number of tourists staying in relatives or friends' homes decreased by 58.7% and that of those staying in their own dwelling did so by 62.7%.

International tourist arrivals by main type of accommodation

| March 2020 | Monthly data | | Accumulated data | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Absolute value | Annual change | Absolute value | Annual change |
| TOTAL | 2,018,323 | -64.3 | 10,580,270 | -25.6 |
| Rented accommodation ^(*) | 1,508,980 | -65.9 | 8,292,836 | -23.4 |
| -Hotel accommodation | 1,148,914 | -67.6 | 6,716,256 | -23.0 |
| -Rental housing | 263,929 | -56.5 | 1,134,160 | -19.3 |
| -Rest rented accommodation | 96,137 | -65.2 | 442,421 | -37.2 |
| Non-rented accommodation | 509,342 | -58.4 | 2,287,433 | -32.6 |
| -Vacation home ownership | 139,608 | -62.7 | 638,771 | -34.2 |
| -Home of family or friends | 310,401 | -58.7 | 1,464,478 | -32.8 |
| -Rest non rented accommodation | 59,333 | -39.9 | 184,185 | -24.5 |

(*): 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 organisation of the trip

In March, *Leisure, recreation, and holidays* were the main reasons for travelling to Spain for almost 1.7 million tourists, representing an annual decrease of 64.4%.

A total of 136,668 tourists arrived for *Business and professional reasons* (71.9% less) and 211,688 arrived for *Other reasons* (55.6% less).

International tourist arrivals by main purpose of the trip

| March 2020 | Monthly data | | Accumulated data | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Absolute value | Annual change | Absolute value | Annual change |
| TOTAL | 2,018,323 | -64.3 | 10,580,270 | -25.6 |
| Leisure, vacations | 1,669,967 | -64.4 | 8,699,589 | -25.5 |
| Business and professional purposes | 136,668 | -71.9 | 876,179 | -30.2 |
| Other purposes | 211,688 | -55.6 | 1,004,502 | -22.3 |

A stay of four to seven nights was the main length among tourists in March, with almost 1.0 million tourists and an annual decrease of 64.8%.

The number of visitors decreased by 54.1% among those without overnight stays (excursionists) and decreased by 51.5% among tourists with longer duration (more than 15 nights).

International visitor arrivals by length of stay¹

| March 2020 | Monthly data | | Accumulated data | |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Absolute value | Annual change | Absolute value | Annual change |
| TOTAL | 3,391,448 | -60.8 | 17,429,771 | -22.2 |
| no night ^(*) | 1,373,125 | -54.1 | 6,849,501 | -16.3 |
| 1 night | 116,649 | -62.8 | 616,982 | -23.8 |
| 2 - 3 nights | 431,721 | -66.8 | 2,159,452 | -31.1 |
| 4 - 7 nights | 965,484 | -64.8 | 5,026,559 | -24.5 |
| 8 - 15 nights | 328,194 | -64.8 | 1,890,622 | -25.9 |
| More than 15 nights | 176,273 | -51.5 | 886,654 | -17.6 |

(*):Excursionists.

In March, almost 1.6 million tourists travelled without a tourist package, indicating an annual decrease of 63.8%. Almost 0.5 million tourists travelled with a tourist package, 65.9% less.

International tourist arrivals by type of organization

| March 2020 | Monthly data | | Accumulated data | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Absolute value | Annual change | Absolute value | Annual change |
| TOTAL | 2,018,323 | -64.3 | 10,580,270 | -25.6 |
| No Tourist Package | 1,556,888 | -63.8 | 7,819,865 | -27.8 |
| Tourist Package | 461,435 | -65.9 | 2,760,405 | -18.7 |

¹ It should be borne in mind that visitors are surveyed at the time of leaving the country, so some of these nights may have been enjoyed in a previous period

Revision and updating of data

Coinciding with today's publication, INE has updated the data corresponding to the month of March 2019. The results are available at INEBase.

Note regarding COVID-19's impact on the statistical operations FRONTUR and EGATUR

The entry into force of Royal Decree 463/2020, of March 14, which declares the high alert period for the management of the health crisis situation caused by COVID-19 and the two subsequent provisions:

- Order INT/248/2020, of March 16, establishing an action criteria for the Security Forces and Corps in the face of the temporary reestablishment of border controls
- Order INT/270/2020, of March 21, establishing criteria for the application of a temporary restriction of non-essential travel from third countries to the European Union and associated Schengen countries for reasons of public order and public health due to the health crisis caused by COVID 19

de facto suppress the flow of international visitors to Spain for tourist reasons, from their effective dates, by the different access routes considered in the survey, roads, ports, airports or railways. In this way, in general, the only inflows of visitors that are included in this statistic during the month of March have the time limit established by these legal acts. Specifically,

- **Only visitor arrivals to Spain by road and railway are counted until March 16**
- **Only visitor arrivals to Spain through ports and airports are counted until March 21**

On the other hand, the moment in which the information collection of the visitors is carried out (trip made, stay, reason, expense made ...) is the moment in which they leave the country by any of the aforementioned routes, for what the only interviews that have been carried out during the month of March have been before the entry into force of the state of alarm. **Thus, complete information is available on the trips made by all visitors who left Spain before March 14.**

However, both the exceptions established by the aforementioned provisions and the way in which data collection is carried out determine that there are certain aspects of the operation that must be taken into account during this period.

In the first place, citizens of Spanish nationality residing in other countries are allowed access to Spanish territory after these orders come into force, as well as other travelers with just cause that could be considered, in some cases visitors. However, the low volume of these flows and the impossibility of their accurate characterization advise against their accounting.

Secondly, although the methodological process of the survey has allowed results to be obtained, the fact that field work could only be extended until March 14, has determined that a certain lack of sample in some strata, which has been supplemented with the usual sample complement mechanisms designed by the methodology of this statistical operation.

Taking all these aspects into account, it has been possible to construct, 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 21 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. It should be borne in mind that visitors are surveyed at the time of leaving the country, so the information collected may refer to a longer period than that of the reference month.

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

And the standardized methodological report at:

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

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