

6 May 2021
(Modified at 10:17)

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

Spain received 490,088 international tourists in March, 75.5% less than in the same month of 2020

France is the main issuing country, with 109,647 tourists, accounting for 22.4% of the total

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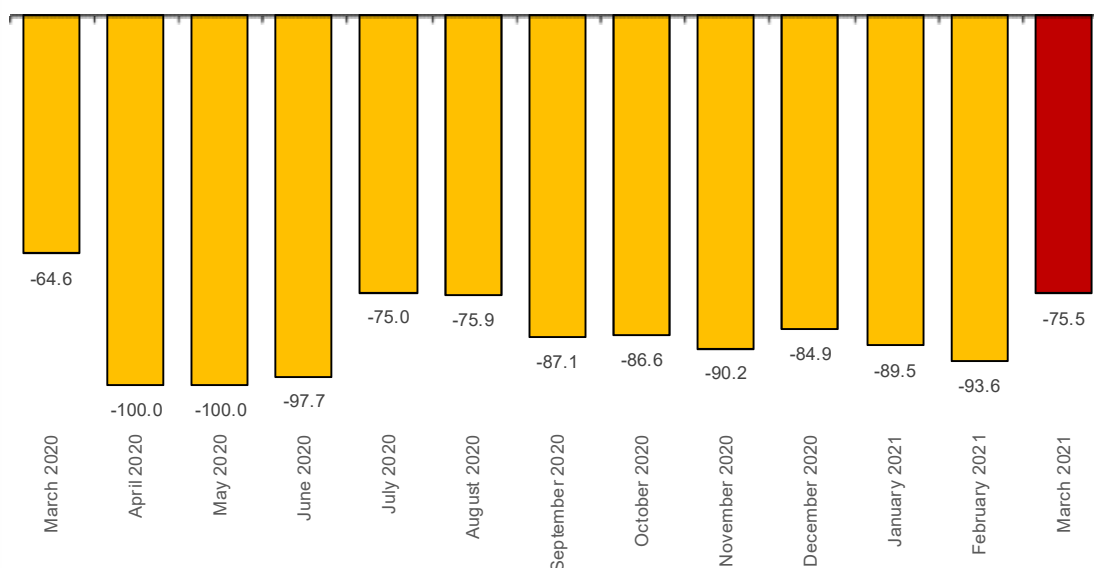
Comparing to levels prior to the pandemic, the number of international tourists decreased by **91.3%** in March 2021, compared to march 2019.

France was the main country of residence, with 109,647 tourists, accounting for 22.4% of the total and a decrease of 61.8% as compared to March last year.

Germany and Italy were the following countries with the most tourists visiting Spain. From Germany we received 99,516 (63.6% less in the annual rate) and from Italy 30,561 (51.0% less in the annual rate).

International tourist arrivals.

Monthly data, annual variation



In the first three months of 2021 the number of tourists visiting Spain decreased by 88.6% and exceed 1.2 million. 10.6 millions of international tourists came in the same period last year.

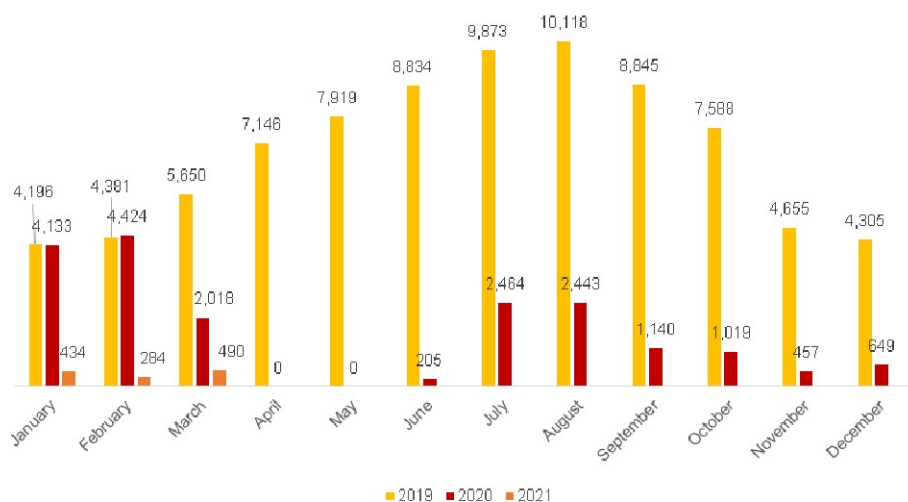
The main sending countries so far this year were France (with 302,069 tourists and a decrease of 77.8% as compared to the first three months of 2020), Germany (with 187,470 tourists, and a decrease of 85.6%) and Rest of Europe (with 180,904 tourists, 79.9% less).

International tourist arrivals (*) by country of residence

March 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	490,088	-75.5	1,208,761	-88.6
Germany	99,516	-63.6	187,470	-85.6
Belgium	12,916	-80.1	43,074	-86.4
France	109,647	-61.8	302,069	-77.8
Ireland	3,976	-89.6	16,232	-92.6
Italy	30,561	-51.0	72,757	-86.8
Netherlands	17,003	-82.2	44,267	-90.3
Portugal	23,687	-65.5	72,315	-81.0
United Kingdom	18,216	-95.4	55,752	-97.2
Switzerland	12,512	-67.1	34,702	-82.6
Russia	4,269	-80.3	10,118	-92.3
Nordic Countries	22,100	-86.7	53,264	-94.1
Rest of Europe	71,952	-55.7	180,904	-79.9
United States	7,216	-90.8	18,714	-94.6
Rest of America	24,483	-81.8	64,191	-90.5
Rest of the world	32,033	-69.9	52,932	-93.5

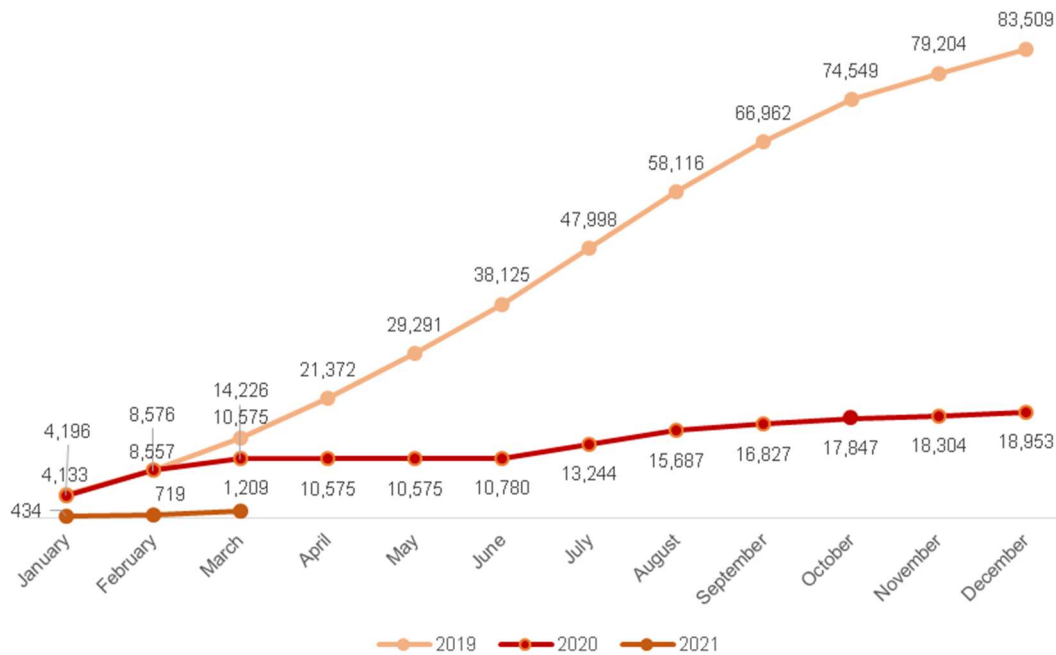
(*): does not include transit travellers or same-day visitors

International tourist arrivals. Comparative 2019-2020-2021 * Thousands



(*): Provisional data from April 2020

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



(*): Provisional data from April 2020

Main destination Autonomous Communities

Canarias was the main tourist destination in March, with 20.5% of the total. It was followed by Cataluña (17.5%) and Comunidad de Madrid (14.2%).

100,524 tourists came to Canarias, 78.1% less than in March last year. The main countries of residence of tourists visiting this Autonomous Community were Germany (with 34,653 tourists) and Rest of Europe (with 28,214 tourists).

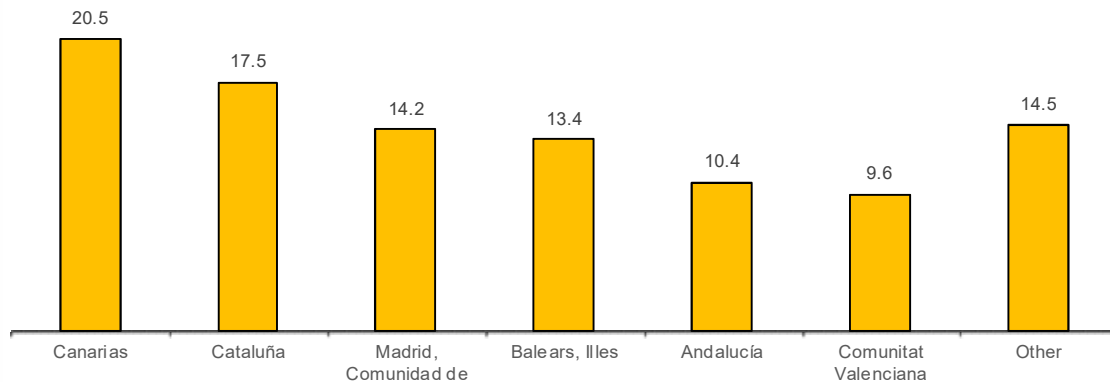
The number of tourists visiting Cataluña decreased by 78.5% and stood in 85,622 tourists. 30,593 tourists came from France and 15,290 tourists from Rest of Europe.

The third main destination Autonomous Community by number of tourists was Comunidad de Madrid, with 69,366 tourists and an annual decrease of 72.3%. France was the main country of origin (with 17,074 tourists), followed by Rest of America (with 13,609 tourists).

In the remaining Autonomous Communities the number of tourists decreased, by 43.3% in Illes Balears. In turn, it fell by 81.1% in Comunitat Valenciana and by 82.9% in Andalucía.

In the accumulated first three months of 2021, the Autonomous Communities that received the most tourists were Canarias (with 261,373 tourists and a decrease of 90.4% as compared with the same period in 2020), Cataluña (with 224,907 and a decrease of 89.9%) and Comunidad de Madrid (with 146,505, and 89.4% 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 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	490,088	-75.5	1,208,761	-88.6
Andalucía	51,087	-82.9	129,464	-91.5
Balears, Illes	65,661	-43.3	93,976	-76.8
Canarias	100,524	-78.1	261,373	-90.4
Cataluña	85,622	-78.5	224,907	-89.9
Comunitat Valenciana	46,984	-81.1	124,778	-89.7
Madrid, Comunidad de	69,366	-72.3	146,505	-89.4
Other	70,843	-68.6	227,758	-78.6

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

March 2021	First	Tourists	Second	Tourists
	outbound country		outbound country	
TOTAL	France	109,647	Germany	99,516
Andalucía	Rest of Europe	9,610	Rest of the world	6,251
Balears, Illes	Germany	45,134	Rest of Europe	5,758
Canarias	Germany	34,653	Rest of Europe	28,214
Cataluña	France	30,593	Rest of Europe	15,290
Comunitat Valenciana	France	12,556	Italy	5,602
Madrid, Comunidad de	Rest of America	17,074	Rest of America	13,609

Forms of access and main means of accommodation

Most tourists visiting Spain in March came by air, with 329,330 tourists, representing an annual decrease of 79.7%.

Railway access accounted for 13.2% less tourists, road entries accounted for 56.1% less and port arrivals had a decrease of 88.8%.

International tourist arrivals by main means of access to Spain

March 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	490,088	-75.5	1,208,761	-88.6
Air transport	329,330	-79.7	760,622	-91.3
Motor vehicle	151,151	-56.1	422,290	-73.2
Train	6,647	-13.2	19,094	-51.4
Waterway	2,961	-88.8	6,756	-96.3

In March, the number of tourists choosing market accommodation as the main type of accommodation decreased by 76.5% in the annual rate. Within this type, hotel accommodation felt by 74.3%, while rented dwellings felt by 89.2%.

On the other hand, non-market accommodation decreased by 72.2%. The number of tourists staying in relatives or friends' homes decreased by 79.7% and that of those staying in their own dwelling did so by 52.0%.

International tourist arrivals by main type of accommodation

March 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	490,088	-75.5	1,208,761	-88.6
Rented accommodation ^(*)	355,385	-76.5	832,568	-89.9
-Hotel accommodation	301,651	-74.3	707,981	-89.3
-Rental housing	26,490	-89.2	59,506	-94.8
-Rest rented accommodation	27,244	-71.4	65,081	-85.1
Non-rented accommodation	134,703	-72.2	376,193	-84.0
-Vacation home ownership	63,302	-52.0	135,124	-79.6
-Home of family or friends	60,488	-79.7	206,283	-86.2
-Rest non rented accommodation	10,913	-80.2	34,787	-81.3

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

In March, *Leisure, recreation, and holidays* were the main reasons for travelling to Spain for 268,155 tourists, representing an annual decrease of 83.8%.

A total of 129,073 tourists arrived for *Business and professional reasons* (5.9% less) and 92,861 arrived for *Other reasons* (54.3% less).

International tourist arrivals by main purpose of the trip

March 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	490,088	-75.5	1,208,761	-88.6
Leisure, vacations	268,155	-83.8	704,750	-91.9
Business and professional purposes	129,073	-5.9	255,128	-70.4
Other purposes	92,861	-54.3	248,882	-75.3

A stay of four to seven nights was the main length among tourists in March, with 174,767 tourists and an annual decrease of 81.8%.

The number of visitors decreased by 44.1% among those without overnight stays (excursionists) and decreased by 53.0% among tourists with longer duration (more than 15 nights).

International visitor arrivals by length of stay

March 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	1,236,756	-62.9	3,285,923	-81.1
no night ^(*)	746,668	-44.1	2,077,162	-69.5
1 night	63,019	-44.5	162,190	-73.4
2 - 3 nights	98,800	-77.3	219,805	-89.7
4 - 7 nights	174,767	-81.8	394,509	-92.1
8 - 15 nights	75,057	-76.8	221,753	-88.3
More than 15 nights	78,446	-53.0	210,504	-76.3

(*):Excursionists.

In March, 437,864 tourists travelled without a tourist package, indicating an annual decrease of 71.4%. 52,224 tourists travelled with a tourist package, 88.8% less.

International tourist arrivals by type of organization

March 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	490,088	-75.5	1,208,761	-88.6
No Tourist Package	437,864	-71.4	1,072,662	-86.3
Tourist Package	52,224	-88.8	136,100	-95.0

Revision and updating of data

Coinciding with today's publication, INE has updated the data corresponding to the month of March 2020. The results are available at INEBase.

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

And the standardized methodological report at:

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

Statistics from INE are prepared in accordance with the European Statistics Code of Practice, which is the basis of the Institution's quality policy and strategy. For more information, consult the section [Quality in the INE and Code of Practice](#) on the INE website.

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