

1 June 2020

Tourist Movement on Borders Survey (FRONTUR)

April 2020. *Provisional data*

The flow of international visitors was null in April due to the closure of the borders determined by the high alert period

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.

However, the exceptions established by the aforementioned provisions on the flow of people who can cross the Spanish border, as is the case of citizens of Spanish nationality residing in other countries who are allowed access to Spanish territory after these regulations come into force. orders, 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 (it can hardly be understood that the reason for their displacement is tourist) advise against their accounting.

During the month of April, these legal provisions were fully in force.

Results

As a consequence, **during the month of April, the number of international visitors to Spain for tourist reasons on all access roads has been zero.** In the same way, **the value of any of the breakdowns associated with these flows, whether considering the country of residence of the visitors, autonomous communities of main destination, type of accommodation used, main reason for the trip, form of organization, etc. , has also been null.**

Revision and updating of data

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

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>

For further information see **INEbase**: www.ine.es/en/ Twitter: [@es_ine](https://twitter.com/es_ine)

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