

**Tourist Movement on Borders Survey (FRONTUR)**  
September 2019. *Provisional data*

**Spain received 8.9 million international tourists in September, 0.2% less than in the same month of 2018**

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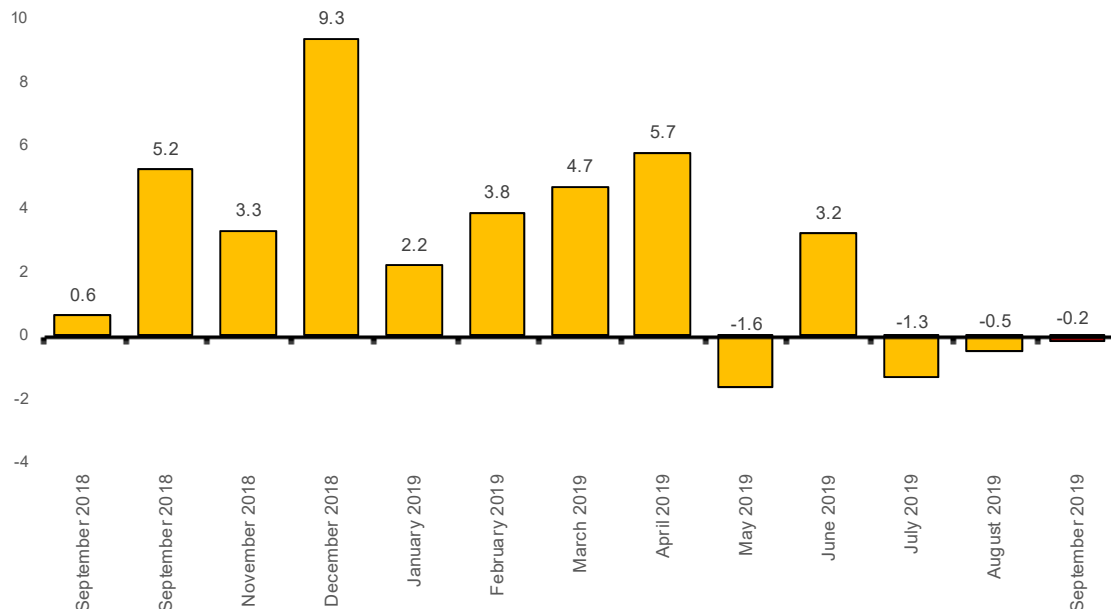
The United Kingdom was the main country of residence, with over 2.1 million tourist, accounting for 23.6% of the total and a decrease of 0.4% as compared to September last year.

Germany and France were the following countries with the most tourists visiting Spain. From Germany we receive 1.3 million tourists (7.1% less in the annual rate) and from France almost one million tourists (4.8% less in the annual rate).

Among the other countries of residence, the annual growth was particularly noteworthy in tourists coming from United States (18.2%), Portugal (9.6%) and Ireland (6.9%).

**International tourist arrivals.**

Monthly data, annual variation



In the first nine months of 2019 the number of tourists visiting Spain increased by 1.3% and reached 67.1 million.

The main sending countries so far this year were the United Kingdom (with nearly 14.8 million tourists and a decrease of 1.6% as compared to the first nine months of 2018), France (with

more than 9.1 million, and a decrease of 2.4%) and Germany (with almost 9.0 million tourists, 1.0% less).

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

September 2019	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	8,914,761	-0.2	67,097,568	1.3
Germany	1,266,122	-7.1	8,979,627	-1.0
Belgium	270,650	4.8	2,084,589	1.4
France	993,159	-4.8	9,128,972	-2.4
Ireland	253,417	6.9	1,801,184	7.4
Italy	438,087	-6.2	3,616,797	3.9
Netherlands	377,532	-1.3	3,014,564	-4.6
Portugal	262,608	9.6	2,006,123	8.5
United Kingdom	2,102,175	-0.4	14,756,597	-1.6
Switzerland	202,639	-4.4	1,432,787	-3.2
Russia	165,372	0.6	1,100,331	7.6
Nordic Countries	486,181	3.9	4,195,720	-6.0
Rest of Europe	684,327	-0.8	5,086,788	7.1
United States	365,529	18.2	2,631,897	14.2
Rest of America	427,927	17.4	2,918,590	10.3
Rest of the world	619,036	-0.5	4,343,002	9.7

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

## Main destination Autonomous Communities

Cataluña was the main tourist destination in September, with 22.6% of the total. It was followed by Illes Balears (22.5%) and Andalucía (15.7%).

Over 2.0 million tourists came to Cataluña, 0.2% more than in September last year. The main countries of residence of tourists visiting this Autonomous Community were France (17.2% of the total) and the United Kingdom (13.3%).

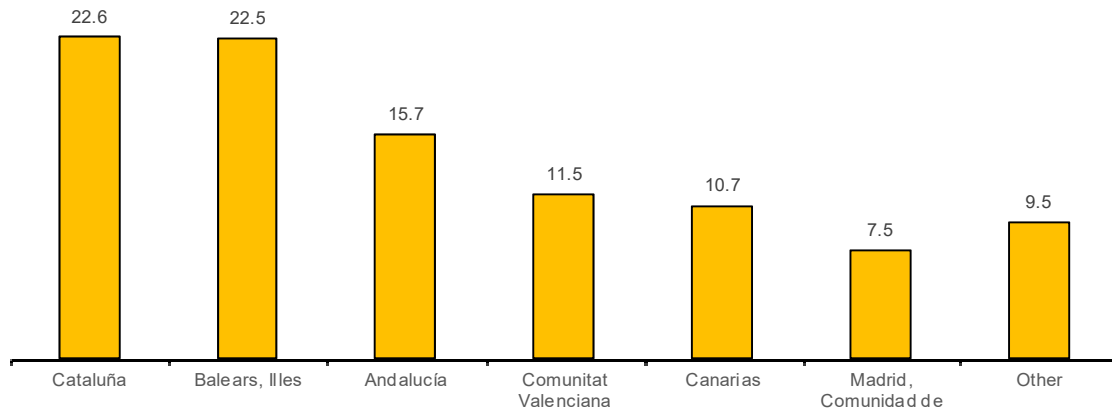
The number of tourists visiting Illes Balears decreased by 1.2% and stood above 2.0 million. 32.2% of these tourists came from Germany and 30.2% from the United Kingdom.

The third main destination Autonomous Community by number of tourists was Andalucía, with more than 1.4 million tourists and an annual increase of 6.2%. The United Kingdom was the main country of origin (with 23.7% of the total), followed by Rest of the world (14.2%).

In the remaining Autonomous Communities the number of tourists increased, by 1.7% in Comunitat Valenciana. In turn, it fell by 4.0% in Comunidad de Madrid and by 8.4% in Canarias.

In the accumulated first nine months of 2019, the Autonomous Communities that received the most tourists were Cataluña (with over 15.6 million and an increase of 0.6% as compared with the same period in 2018), Illes Balears (with over 12.1 million and a decrease of 0.4%) and Andalucía (with more than 9.7 million, and 3.4% more).

**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**

September 2019	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
<b>TOTAL</b>	8,914,761	-0.2	67,097,568	1.3
Andalucía	1,401,442	6.2	9,705,753	3.4
Balears, Illes	2,006,683	-1.2	12,148,049	-0.4
Canarias	952,091	-8.4	9,629,230	-4.2
Cataluña	2,011,982	0.2	15,624,257	0.6
Comunitat Valenciana	1,023,299	1.7	7,689,037	3.6
Madrid, Comunidad de	669,208	-4.0	5,692,691	7.4
Other	850,056	2.2	6,608,551	3.5

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

September 2019	First	% tourists	Second	% tourists
	outbound country		outbound country	
<b>TOTAL</b>	United Kingdom	23.6	Germany	14.2
Andalucía	United Kingdom	23.7	Rest of the world	14.2
Balears, Illes	Germany	32.2	United Kingdom	30.2
Canarias	United Kingdom	43.6	Germany	18.5
Cataluña	France	17.2	United Kingdom	13.3
Comunitat Valenciana	United Kingdom	32.2	France	15.2
Madrid, Comunidad de	Rest of America	25.4	Rest of the world	14.7

## Forms of access and main means of accommodation

Most tourists visiting Spain in September came by air, with more than 7.3 million, representing an annual increase of 0.6%.

Road entries accounted for 3.4% less tourists and port arrivals had a decrease of 6.0%. Railway access registered a 7.4% increase.

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

September 2019	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	8,914,761	-0.2	67,097,568	1.3
Air transport	7,338,524	0.6	54,844,529	2.2
Motor vehicle	1,184,075	-3.4	10,445,070	-2.6
Train	34,272	7.4	296,549	8.1
Waterway	357,890	-6.0	1,511,420	-6.8

In September, the number of tourists choosing market accommodation as the main type of accommodation increased by 0.5% in the annual rate. Within this type, hotel accommodation grew by 1.5%, while rented dwellings grew by 0.3%.

On the other hand, non-market accommodation decreased by 3.5%. The number of tourists staying in relatives or friends' homes decreased by 1.2% while that of those staying in their own dwelling did grow by 0.1%.

### International tourist arrivals by main type of accommodation

September 2019	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	8,914,761	-0.2	67,097,568	1.3
Rented accommodation <sup>(*)</sup>	7,487,597	0.5	54,817,220	2.5
-Hotel accommodation	6,024,595	1.5	43,765,475	4.0
-Rental housing	1,102,945	0.3	7,603,283	-4.3
-Rest rented accommodation	360,057	-14.4	3,448,462	-0.8
Non-rented accommodation	1,427,163	-3.5	12,280,348	-3.8
-Vacation home ownership	439,458	0.1	3,953,117	2.7
-Home of family or friends	893,260	-1.2	7,529,102	-4.0
-Rest non rented accommodation	94,446	-29.9	798,129	-25.3

(\*): 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 organisation of the trip

In September, *Leisure, recreation, and holidays* were the main reasons for travelling to Spain for more than 8 million tourists, representing an annual increase of 0.2%.

A total of 509,928 tourists arrived for *Business and professional reasons* (0.5% more) and 399,272 arrived for *Other reasons* (8.8% less).

## International tourist arrivals by main purpose of the trip

September 2019	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
<b>TOTAL</b>	8,914,761	-0.2	67,097,568	1.3
Leisure, vacations	8,005,561	0.2	59,101,115	1.7
Business and professional purposes	509,928	0.5	3,939,099	5.6
Other purposes	399,272	-8.8	4,057,354	-7.9

A stay of four to seven nights was the main length among tourists in September, with more than 4.2 million tourists and an annual increase of 1.9%.

The number of visitors decreased by 0.3% among those without overnight stays (excursionists) and decreased by 3.1% among tourists with longer duration (more than 15 nights).

## International visitor arrivals by length of stay

September 2019	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
<b>TOTAL</b>	12,773,287	-0.2	100,037,098	1.2
no night <sup>(*)</sup>	3,858,526	-0.3	32,939,531	1.2
1 night	423,421	-8.9	3,224,157	-8.4
2 - 3 nights	1,542,524	5.0	11,956,263	7.8
4 - 7 nights	4,210,194	1.9	31,894,099	2.8
8 - 15 nights	2,212,462	-4.9	15,737,230	-2.9
More than 15 nights	526,160	-3.1	4,285,819	-2.9

(\*):Excursionists.

In September, almost 6.4 million tourists travelled without a tourist package, indicating an annual increase of 3.8%. Almost 2.6 million tourists travelled with a tourist package, 8.9% less.

## International tourist arrivals by type of organization

September 2019	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
<b>TOTAL</b>	8,914,761	-0.2	67,097,568	1.3
No Tourist Package	6,363,931	3.8	48,655,520	4.3
Tourist Package	2,550,830	-8.9	18,442,047	-6.0

## 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.

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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