

3rd November 2021

Tourist Movements at Borders (FRONTUR)
September 2021. *Provisional data*

**Spain received 4.7 million international tourists in September,
compared to 1.1 million in the same month of 2020**

**Germany was the main country of residence, with 829,269 tourists,
accounting for 17.7% of the total**

Spain received in September the visit of 4.7 million international tourists, 311.9% more than in the same month of 2020.

Germany was the main country of residence, with 829,269 tourists, accounting for 17.7% of the total and an increase of 841.2% as compared to September last year.

United Kingdom and France were the following countries with the most tourists visiting Spain. From United Kingdom we received 785,478 tourists (383.4% more in the annual rate) and from France 687,480 tourists (76.0% more in the annual rate).

In the first nine months of 2021 the number of tourists visiting Spain increased by 17.2% and reached 19.7 million. 16.8 millions of international tourists came in the same period last year.

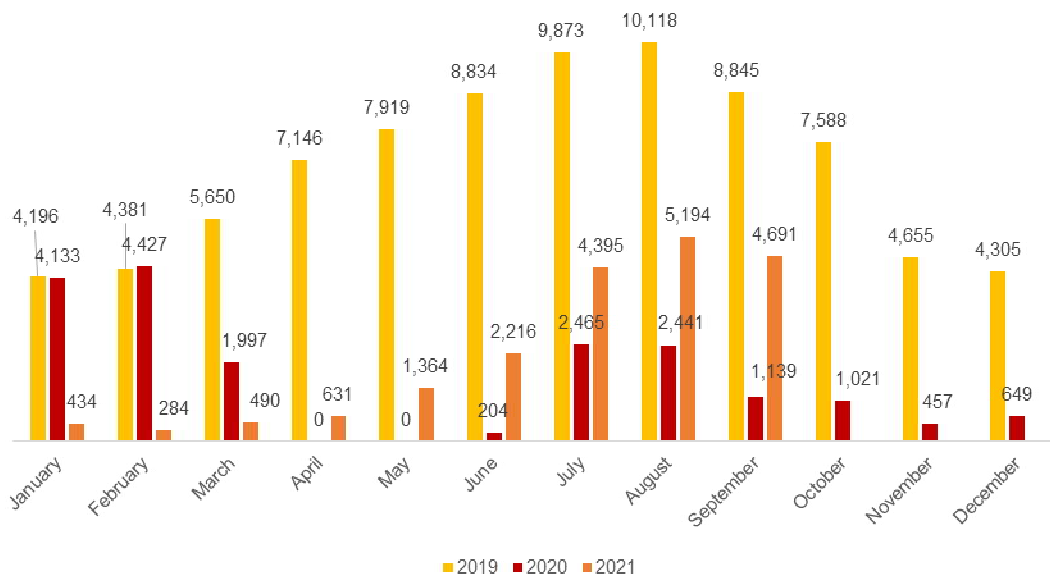
The main sending countries so far this year were France (more than 4.0 million tourists and an increase of 23.1% as compared to the first nine months of 2020), Germany (with almost 3.4 million, and an increase of 57.5%) and United Kingdom (with more than 2.3 million tourists, 17.1% less).

International tourist arrivals (*) by country of residence

September 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4,691,486	311.9	19,699,824	17.2
Germany	829,269	841.2	3,383,856	57.5
Belgium	235,949	497.5	970,755	52.2
France	687,480	76.0	4,040,341	23.1
Ireland	130,066	716.5	348,810	19.1
Italy	236,585	297.4	1,075,341	24.5
Netherlands	361,663	970.4	1,358,638	61.1
Portugal	173,623	146.5	837,456	27.0
United Kingdom	785,478	383.4	2,328,662	-17.1
Switzerland	119,429	568.7	631,077	79.5
Russia	21,082	427.1	84,103	-42.0
Nordic Countries	234,393	554.1	942,193	-13.2
Rest of Europe	436,757	233.7	2,007,149	36.7
United States	139,915	1320.6	457,388	18.7
Rest of America	139,010	169.3	580,936	-30.9
Rest of the world	160,787	467.1	653,118	-34.3

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

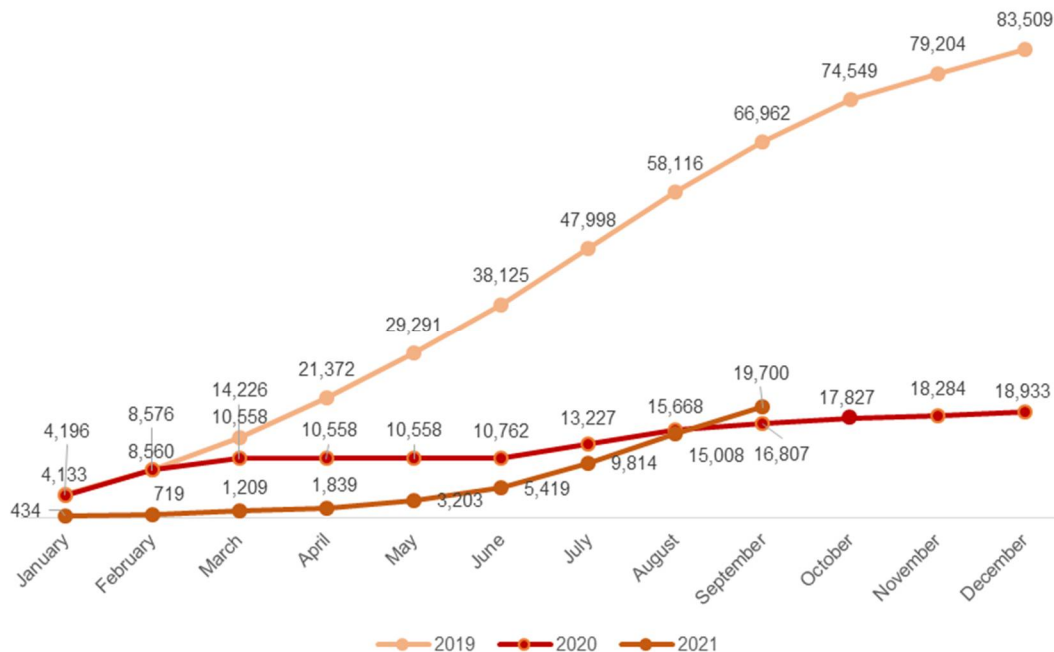
International tourist arrivals. Comparative 2019-2020-2021* Thousands



(*): Provisional data from January 2021

Accumulated international tourist arrivals. Comparative 2019-2020*

Thousands



(*): Provisional data from January 2021

Main destination Autonomous Communities

Illes Balears was the main tourist destination in September, with 24.9% of the total. It was followed by Cataluña (18.5%) and Andalucía (14.7%).

Almost 1.2 million tourists came to Illes Balears, 879.8% more than in September last year. The main countries of residence of tourists visiting this Autonomous Community were Germany (with 410,231 tourists) and United Kingdom (with 223,743).

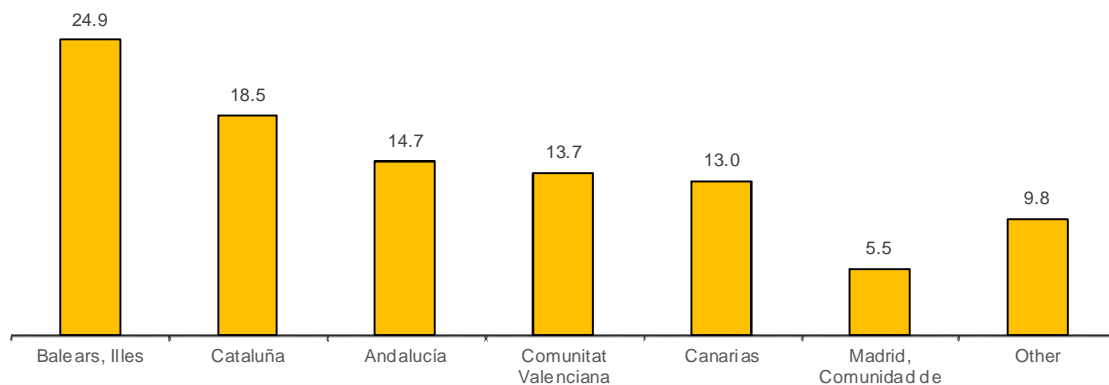
The number of tourists visiting Cataluña increased by 215.2% and stood nearly 867,500 tourists. 217,581 tourists came from France and 114,731 came from Rest of Europe.

The third main destination Autonomous Community by number of tourists was Andalucía, with 687,383 tourists and an annual increase of 283.6%. United Kingdom was the main country of origin (with 143,305 tourists), followed by Germany (68,838).

In the remaining Autonomous Communities the number of tourists increased, by 560.4% in Canarias, and by 436.6% in Comunidad de Madrid and by 246.4% in Comunitat Valenciana.

In the accumulated of first nine months of 2021, the Autonomous Communities that received the most tourists were Illes Balears (with nearly 5.1 million and an increase of 216.7% as compared with the same period in 2020), Cataluña (with over 3.7 million and an increase of 7.2%) and Andalucía (with more than 2.6 million, and 6.9% 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 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4,691,486	311.9	19,699,824	17.2
Andalucía	687,383	283.6	2,616,596	6.9
Balears, Illes	1,167,388	879.8	5,050,567	216.7
Canarias	611,161	560.4	2,348,199	-28.5
Cataluña	867,500	215.2	3,732,714	7.2
Comunitat Valenciana	641,452	246.4	2,612,089	16.6
Madrid, Comunidad de	258,039	436.6	1,145,801	-27.7
Other	458,563	91.4	2,193,859	0.9

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

September 2021	First	Tourists	Second	Tourists
	outbound country		outbound country	
TOTAL	Germany	829,269	United Kingdom	785,478
Andalucía	United Kingdom	143,305	Germany	68,838
Balears, Illes	Germany	410,231	United Kingdom	223,743
Canarias	United Kingdom	182,120	Germany	150,696
Cataluña	France	217,581	Rest of Europe	114,731
Comunitat Valenciana	France	143,255	United Kingdom	117,238
Madrid, Comunidad de	Rest of America	57,977	United States	41,179

Forms of access and main means of accommodation

Most tourists visiting Spain in September came by air, with more than 3.8 million, representing an annual increase of 572.9%.

Road entries accounted for 48.7% more tourists, railway access a 63.0% increase and port arrivals had an increase of 336.2%.

International tourist arrivals by main means of access to Spain

September 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4,691,486	311.9	19,699,824	17.2
Air transport	3,819,323	572.9	14,996,692	21.1
Motor vehicle	827,162	48.7	4,508,356	8.8
Train	11,744	63.0	102,225	45.3
Waterway	33,257	336.2	92,550	-55.9

In September, the number of tourists choosing market accommodation as the main type of accommodation increased by 408.5% in the annual rate. Within this type, hotel accommodation grew by 430.9%, while rented dwellings grew by 337.9%.

On the other hand, non-market accommodation increased by 107.4%. The number of tourists staying in relatives or friends' homes increased by 113.0% and that of those staying in their own dwelling did so by 121.2%.

International tourist arrivals by main type of accommodation

September 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4,691,486	311.9	19,699,824	17.2
Rented accommodation ^(*)	3,934,084	408.5	15,663,060	24.8
-Hotel accommodation	3,281,573	430.9	12,742,780	31.0
-Rental housing	450,264	337.9	1,956,311	-0.8
-Rest rented accommodation	202,248	284.1	963,970	13.1
Non-rented accommodation	757,402	107.4	4,036,764	-5.1
-Vacation home ownership	302,437	121.2	1,604,230	17.6
-Home of family or friends	428,605	113.0	2,249,393	-12.9
-Rest non rented accommodation	26,360	-3.4	183,141	-40.2

(*): 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 September, *Leisure, recreation, and holidays* were the main reasons for travelling to Spain for almost 4.2 million tourists, representing an annual increase of 359.8%.

A total of 256,654 tourists arrived for *Business and professional reasons* (242.8% more) and 284,583 arrived for *Other reasons* (76.3% more).

International tourist arrivals by main purpose of the trip

September 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4,691,486	311.9	19,699,824	17.2
Leisure, vacations	4,150,250	359.8	16,653,627	18.5
Business and professional purposes	256,654	242.8	1,304,981	19.6
Other purposes	284,583	76.3	1,741,216	4.7

A stay of four to seven nights was the main length among tourists in September, with more than 2.1 million tourists and an annual increase of 462.9%.

The number of visitors increased by 24.2% among those without overnight stays (excursionists) and increased by 130.7% among tourists with longer duration (more than 15 nights).

International visitor arrivals by length of stay

September 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	7,021,401	132.9	33,748,878	8.3
no night ^(*)	2,329,915	24.2	14,049,054	-2.1
1 night	205,798	43.9	1,009,817	-4.6
2 - 3 nights	680,175	230.3	2,605,750	-11.4
4 - 7 nights	2,140,816	462.9	8,550,332	14.9
8 - 15 nights	1,299,347	417.1	5,549,093	49.8
More than 15 nights	365,349	130.7	1,984,831	19.7

(*): Excursionists.

In September, almost 3.7 million tourists travelled without a tourist package, indicating an annual increase of 255.0%. Over 1 million tourists travelled with a tourist package, 851.1% more.

International tourist arrivals by type of organization

September 2021	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4,691,486	311.9	19,699,824	17.2
No Tourist Package	3,657,326	255.0	16,171,518	23.1
Tourist Package	1,034,161	851.1	3,528,306	-3.8

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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