

3 February 2020

**Estadística de Movimientos Turísticos en Fronteras (FRONTUR)**  
December 2019. *Provisional data*

**Spain received 4.3 million international tourists in December, 0.9% less than in the same month of 2018**

**For 2019 as a whole, 83.7 million tourists visited Spain, 1.1% more than in the previous year**

Spain received in December the visit of 4.3 million international tourists, 0.9% less than in the same month of 2018.

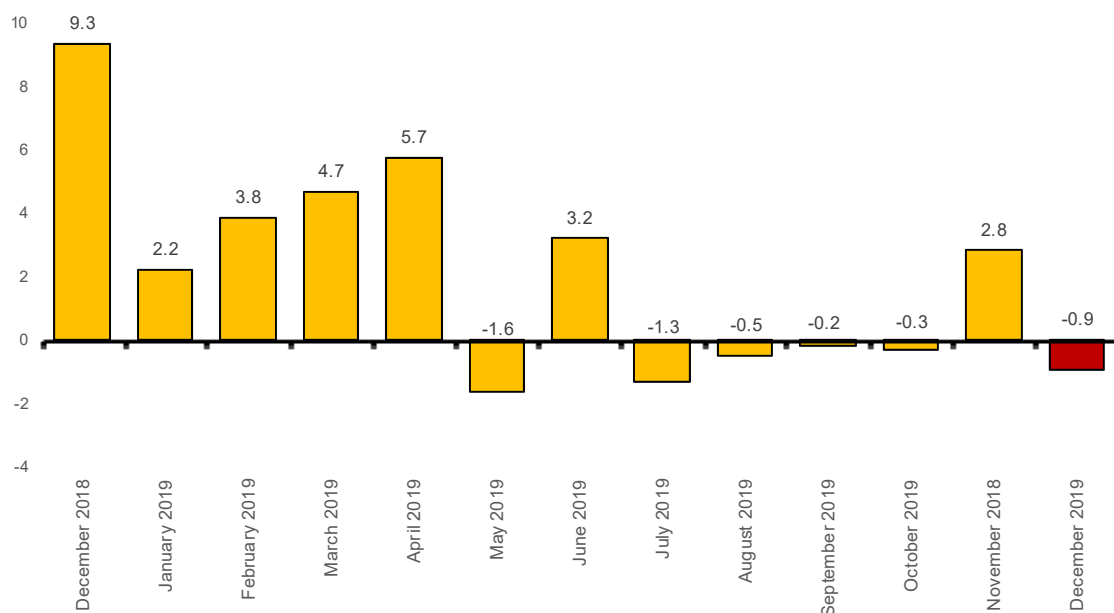
The United Kingdom was the main country of residence, with 790,507 tourist, accounting for 18.3% of the total and a decrease of 7.7% as compared to December last year.

France and Germany were the following countries with the most tourists visiting Spain. From France we receive 556,780 tourists (0.5% more in the annual rate) and from Germany 497,204 tourists (7.4% less in the annual rate).

Among the other countries of residence, the annual growth was particularly noteworthy in tourists coming from Belgium (12.3%), Netherlands (6.9%) and United States (5.9%).

**International tourist arrivals**

Monthly data. Annual variation



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

December 2019	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
<b>TOTAL</b>	4,314,612	-0.9	83,701,011	1.1
Germany	497,204	-7.4	11,176,545	-2.1
Belgium	129,533	12.3	2,538,829	1.3
France	556,780	0.5	11,156,671	-1.2
Ireland	84,455	-10.0	2,177,106	6.0
Italy	306,017	2.7	4,542,709	3.5
Netherlands	164,461	6.9	3,701,944	-4.0
Portugal	136,636	-8.4	2,440,746	4.1
United Kingdom	790,507	-7.7	18,078,076	-2.4
Switzerland	89,314	-7.4	1,824,839	-3.1
Russia	51,852	-14.4	1,311,746	6.9
Nordic Countries	366,118	-2.2	5,548,745	-4.4
Rest of Europe	346,954	1.4	6,415,281	6.9
United States	174,976	5.9	3,332,654	12.6
Rest of America	237,818	16.9	3,784,482	10.9
Rest of the world	381,988	7.6	5,670,638	10.3

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

## Main destination Autonomous Communities

Canarias was the main tourist destination in December, with 27.8% of the total. It was followed by Cataluña (23.0%) and Andalucía (13.0%).

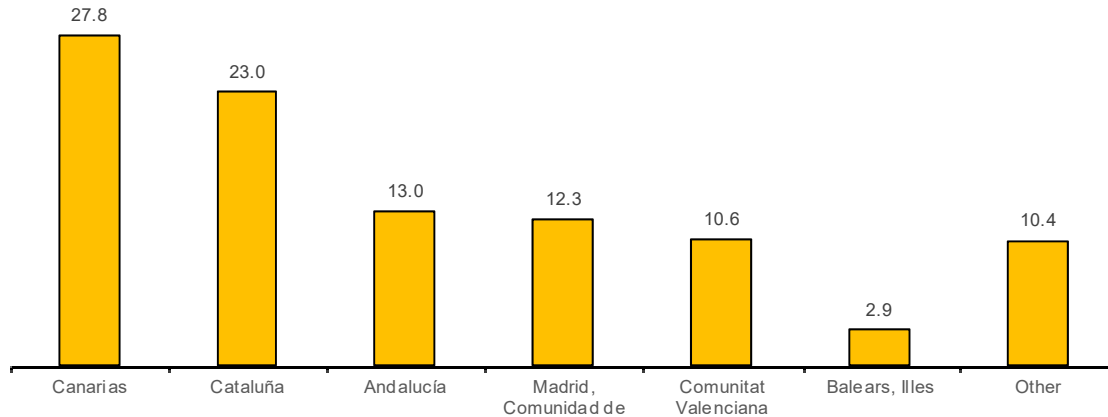
Over 1.2 million tourists came to Canarias, 4.4% less than in December last year. The main countries of residence of tourists visiting this Autonomous Community were the United Kingdom (32.9% of the total) and Germany (19.9%).

The number of tourists visiting Cataluña increased by 2.5% and stood nearly one million. 18.8% of these tourists came from France and 16.9% from Rest of the world.

The third main destination Autonomous Community by number of tourists was Andalucía, with 559,377 tourists and an annual increase of 1.2%. The United Kingdom was the main country of origin (with 23.2% of the total), followed by Nordic Countries (11.0%).

In the remaining Autonomous Communities the number of tourists increased, by 6.7% in Comunitat Valenciana, and by 0.4% in Comunidad de Madrid. In turn, it fell by 31.9% in Illes Balears.

**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**

December 2019	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
<b>TOTAL</b>	4,314,612	-0.9	83,701,011	1.1
Andalucía	559,377	1.2	12,079,017	3.4
Balears, Illes	124,929	-31.9	13,680,923	-1.2
Canarias	1,200,794	-4.4	13,147,009	-4.4
Cataluña	993,085	2.5	19,358,203	0.8
Comunitat Valenciana	456,596	6.7	9,566,566	3.9
Madrid, Comunidad de	529,059	0.4	7,638,375	7.0
Other	450,772	2.7	8,230,917	3.1

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

December 2019	First	% tourists	Second	% tourists
	outbound country		outbound country	
<b>TOTAL</b>	United Kingdom	18.3	France	12.9
Andalucía	United Kingdom	23.2	Nordic Countries	11.0
Balears, Illes	Germany	55.5	United Kingdom	12.4
Canarias	United Kingdom	32.9	Germany	19.9
Cataluña	France	18.8	Rest of the world	16.9
Comunitat Valenciana	United Kingdom	25.1	France	17.7
Madrid, Comunidad de	Rest of America	22.7	Rest of the world	20.5

## Forms of access and main means of accommodation

Most tourists visiting Spain in December came by air, with nearly 3.5 million, representing an annual decrease of 3.3%.

Road entries accounted for 10.9% more tourists and port arrivals had an increase of 15.7%. In turn, railway access registered a 22.0% decrease.

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

December 2019	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4,314,612	-0.9	83,701,011	1.1
Air transport	3,498,424	-3.3	68,689,460	1.7
Motor vehicle	731,557	10.9	12,757,771	-1.2
Train	14,268	-22.0	347,018	2.6
Waterway	70,363	15.7	1,906,761	-5.2

In December, the number of tourists choosing market accommodation as the main type of accommodation increased by 1.8% in the annual rate. Within this type, hotel accommodation grew by 2.5%, while rented dwellings fell by 4.4%.

On the other hand, non-market accommodation decreased by 9.3%. The number of tourists staying in relatives or friends' homes decreased by 12.4% while that of those staying in their own dwelling did grow by 0.7%.

### International tourist arrivals by main type of accommodation

December 2019	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4,314,612	-0.9	83,701,011	1.1
Rented accommodation <sup>(*)</sup>	3,349,814	1.8	68,314,398	2.4
-Hotel accommodation	2,713,373	2.5	54,724,475	3.6
-Rental housing	440,570	-4.4	9,418,301	-3.2
-Rest rented accommodation	195,872	6.8	4,171,622	0.5
Non-rented accommodation	964,798	-9.3	15,386,613	-4.5
-Vacation home ownership	288,417	0.7	4,915,343	2.0
-Home of family or friends	608,443	-12.4	9,426,884	-4.8
-Rest non rented accommodation	67,937	-18.0	1,044,386	-24.9

(\*): 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 December, *Leisure, recreation, and holidays* were the main reasons for travelling to Spain for more than 3.5 million tourists, representing an annual decrease of 0.9%.

A total of 381,027 tourists arrived for *Business and professional reasons* (18.7% more) and 394,251 arrived for *Other reasons* (14.7% less).

## International tourist arrivals by main purpose of the trip

December 2019	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4,314,612	-0.9	83,701,011	1.1
Leisure, vacations	3,539,334	-0.9	73,126,124	1.3
Business and professional purposes	381,027	18.7	5,388,120	7.3
Other purposes	394,251	-14.7	5,186,766	-7.6

A stay of four to seven nights was the main length among tourists in December, with almost 2.0 million tourists and an annual increase of 2.6%.

The number of visitors increased by 5.7% among those without overnight stays (excursionists) and decreased by 6.9% among tourists with longer duration (more than 15 nights).

## International visitor arrivals by length of stay

December 2019	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	7,355,018	1.7	126,065,492	1.3
no night <sup>(*)</sup>	3,040,406	5.7	42,364,481	1.7
1 night	277,041	-0.9	4,211,005	-4.6
2 - 3 nights	965,915	-5.7	15,464,150	5.9
4 - 7 nights	1,982,965	2.6	39,695,090	2.3
8 - 15 nights	729,603	-0.5	18,911,038	-2.9
More than 15 nights	359,089	-6.9	5,419,728	-1.7

(\*):Excursionists.

In December, almost 3.2 million tourists travelled without a tourist package, indicating an annual decrease of 5.6%. Over 1.1 million tourists travelled with a tourist package, 14.9% more.

## International tourist arrivals by type of organization

December 2019	Monthly data		Accumulated data	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	4,314,612	-0.9	83,701,011	1.1
No Tourist Package	3,179,836	-5.6	60,223,212	3.2
Tourist Package	1,134,776	14.9	23,477,799	-3.9

## Results for the whole year 2019

During the year 2019, 83.7 million tourists visited Spain, an increase of 1.1% as compared to the previous year.

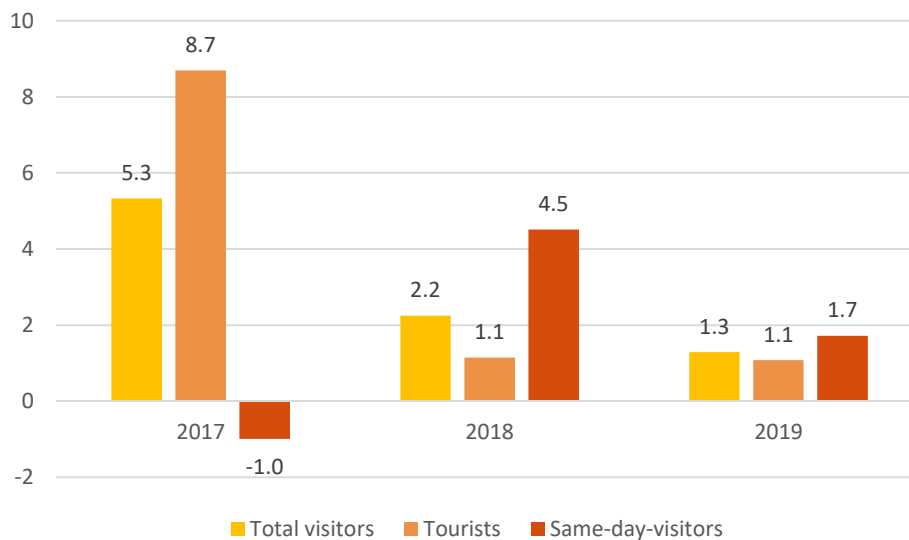
On the other hand, 42.4 excursionists came to Spain, 1.7% more than 2018.

### International tourist arrivals by type of visitors

	2019		2018	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	126,065,492	1.3	124,455,667	2.2
Same-day visitor	42,364,481	1.7	41,647,253	4.5
Tourists	83,701,011	1.1	82,808,413	1.1

### International tourist arrivals by type of visitors

Annual variation



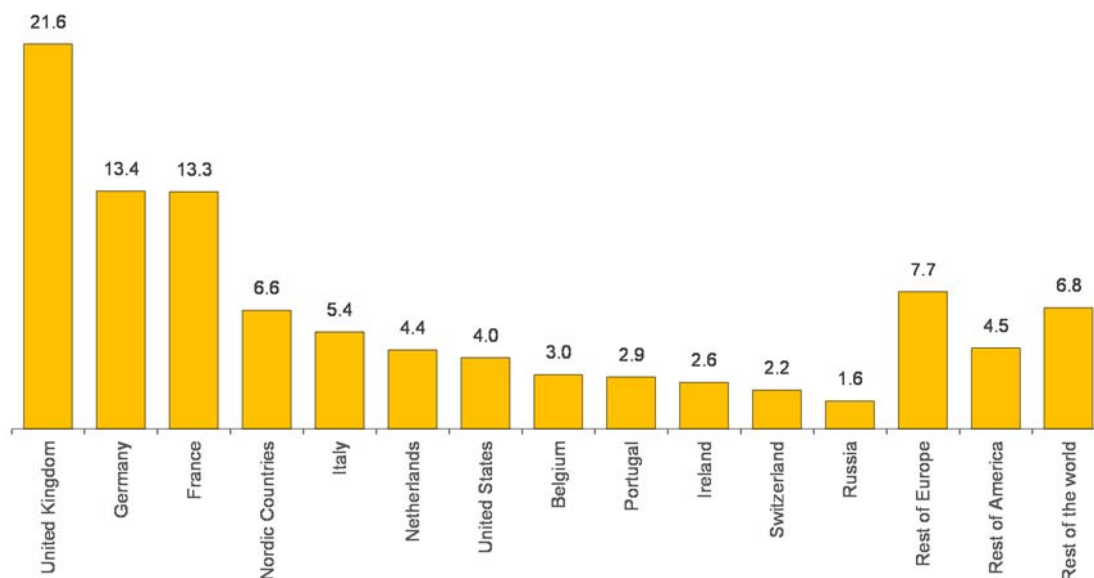
The main countries of residence of tourists were the United Kingdom, Germany and France. The arrival of tourists resident in the United Kingdom decreased by 2.4%, that of German tourists by 2.1%, and the number of tourists coming from France decreased by 1.2%.

### International tourist arrivals by country of residence

	2019		2018	
	Valor absoluto	Variación anual	Valor absoluto	Variación anual
TOTAL	83,701,011	1.1	82,808,413	1.1
Alemania	11,176,545	-2.1	11,414,955	-4.1
Bélgica	2,538,829	1.3	2,505,146	1.2
Francia	11,156,671	-1.2	11,293,323	0.2
Irlanda	2,177,106	6.0	2,053,385	0.4
Italia	4,542,709	3.5	4,389,453	3.9
Países Bajos	3,701,944	-4.0	3,855,269	4.1
Portugal	2,440,746	4.1	2,344,322	9.7
Reino Unido	18,078,076	-2.4	18,523,957	-1.5
Suiza	1,824,839	-3.1	1,883,148	-8.5
Rusia	1,311,746	6.9	1,227,530	6.7
Países nórdicos	5,548,745	-4.4	5,803,535	-0.4
Resto de Europa	6,415,281	6.9	6,003,629	8.3
Estados Unidos	3,332,654	12.6	2,959,487	12.2
Resto de América	3,784,482	10.9	3,411,059	5.7
Resto del mundo	5,670,638	10.3	5,140,216	5.6

### International tourist arrivals by country of residence

Percentage of the total



Cataluña was the main destination Autonomous Community in 2019, with 23.1% of the total of tourists. It was followed by Illes Balears (with 16.3%) and Canarias (with 15.7%).

Nearly 19.4 million tourists came to Cataluña and an annual increase of 0.8%. The main countries of residence of tourists visiting this Autonomous Community were France (21.0% of the total) and the aggregate of rest of the world (12.4%).

The number of tourists visited Illes Balears decreased by 1.2% and stood nearly 13.7 million. 33.2% of these tourists came from Germany and 27.0% from the United Kingdom.

The third main destination Autonomous Community by number of tourists was Canarias, with more than 13.1 million tourists and an annual decrease of 4.4%. The United Kingdom was the main country of origin (with 37.1% of the total), followed by Germany (19.1%).

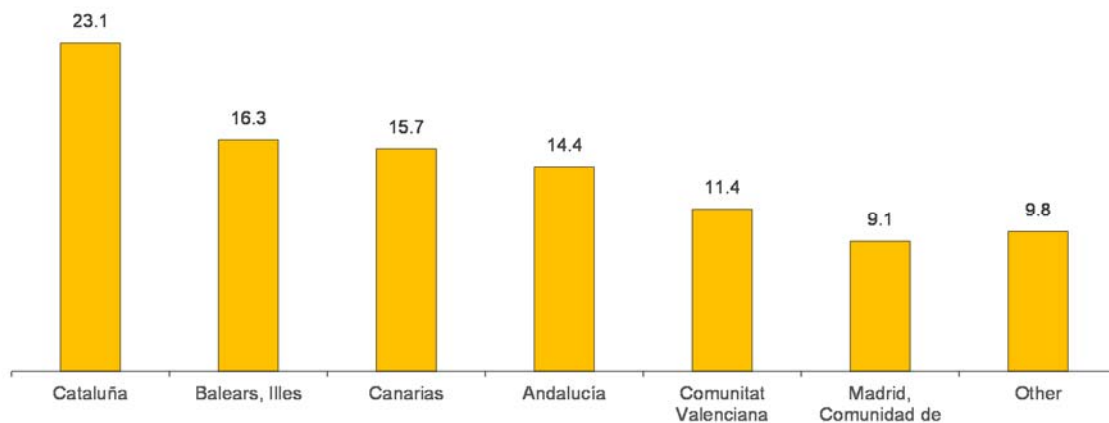
On the other hand, Andalucía received 12.1 million tourists (3.4% more than in 2018), Comunitat Valenciana 9.6 million (3.9% more) and Comunidad de Madrid 7.6 million (with an increase of 7.0%).

## International tourist arrivals by main autonomous region of destination

	2019		2018	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	83,701,011	1.1	82,808,413	1.1
Andalucía	12,079,017	3.4	11,681,256	1.4
Balears, Illes	13,680,923	-1.2	13,851,598	0.4
Canarias	13,147,009	-4.4	13,752,022	-3.3
Cataluña	19,358,203	0.8	19,196,344	0.4
Comunitat Valenciana	9,566,566	3.9	9,206,908	3.1
Madrid, Comunidad de	7,638,375	7.0	7,139,775	6.6
Other	8,230,917	3.1	7,980,511	5.0

## International tourist arrivals by main autonomous region of destination

Percentage of the total



## Forms of access and main means of accommodation

As regards the form of entry into Spain, 68.7 million tourists used the air route, which meant an increase of 1.7%. A total of 12.8 million arrived by road, 1.2% less.



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

	2019		2018	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	83,701,011	1.1	82,808,413	1.1
Air transport	68,689,460	1.7	67,545,674	1.4
Motor vehicle	12,757,771	-1.2	12,912,411	0.2
Train	347,018	2.6	338,242	-9.5
Waterway	1,906,761	-5.2	2,012,087	2.4

By type of accommodation, market accommodation was used by 68.3 million tourists (2.4% more) and non-market accommodation by 15.4 million (4.5% less).

## International tourist arrivals by main type of accommodation

	2019		2018	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	83,701,011	1.1	82,808,413	1.1
Rented accommodation <sup>(*)</sup>	68,314,398	2.4	66,692,869	2.4
-Hotel accommodation	54,724,475	3.6	52,816,678	2.8
-Rental housing	9,418,301	-3.2	9,725,191	0.1
-Rest rented accommodation	4,171,622	0.5	4,151,000	3.0
Non-rented accommodation	15,386,613	-4.5	16,115,544	-3.6
-Vacation home ownership	4,915,343	2.0	4,818,465	-1.9
-Home of family or friends	9,426,884	-4.8	9,905,717	-3.8
-Rest non rented accommodation	1,044,386	-24.9	1,391,362	-8.4

(\*): 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, duration of the stay and organisation of the trip

The main reason for tourists in their trips to Spain during 2019 was *Leisure, recreation and holidays*. For that reason, 73.1 million arrived, with an annual increase of 1.3%. A total of 5.4 million tourists arrived for *Business and professional purposes* (7.3% more).

## International tourist arrivals by main purpose of the trip

	2019		2018	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	83,701,011	1.1	82,808,413	1.1
Leisure, vacations	73,126,124	1.3	72,173,054	1.3
Business and professional purposes	5,388,120	7.3	5,023,355	7.3
Other purposes	5,186,766	-7.6	5,612,005	-7.6

The main length of stay among tourists in 2019 was four to seven nights, with 39.7 million tourists and an annual increase of 2.3%.

#### International visitor arrivals by length of stay

	2019		2018	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	126,065,492	1.3	124,455,667	2.2
no night <sup>(*)</sup>	42,364,481	1.7	41,647,253	4.5
1 night	4,211,005	-4.6	4,415,509	8.3
2 - 3 nights	15,464,150	5.9	14,606,759	2.6
4 - 7 nights	39,695,090	2.3	38,786,818	1.9
8 - 15 nights	18,911,038	-2.9	19,484,451	-1.1
More than 15 nights	5,419,728	-1.7	5,514,877	-4.9

(\*):Excursionists.

Regarding the form of organization of the trip, 60.2 million tourists arrived in Spain without a tourist package (3.2% more than in 2018) and 23.5 million with a tourist package (3.9% less).

#### International tourist arrivals by type of organization

	2019		2018	
	Absolute value	Annual change	Absolute value	Annual change
TOTAL	83,701,011	1.1	82,808,413	1.1
No Tourist Package	60,223,212	3.2	58,380,345	1.0
Tourist Package	23,477,799	-3.9	24,428,069	1.6

#### Revision and updating of data

The data published today are provisional and will be revised in the third quarter of this year. 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.

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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