

12 July 2022



**Measurement of interprovincial domestic tourism using mobile phone positioning**  
May 2022

**Domestic tourism between provinces during the month of May increased by 17.6% compared to 2021**

**Andalucía, Cataluña and Comunidad de Madrid are the three autonomous communities that receive the most tourists**

**The municipalities of Madrid, Barcelona and Sevilla were the three main destinations**

The National Institute of Statistics (INE) is today publishing experimental statistics with information on interprovincial tourism by residents in Spain using mobile phone positioning information.

The information source is the aggregate data provided by the three large mobile phone operators in Spain. This is done by tracking the positioning of users of these operators.

The statistical measurement of tourists is subject to operational limitations. These statistics identify a resident in Spain as a traveller in another province based on the position of their mobile device. It's possible that same person traveling with two or more device is counted more than once, or that a person keeps their devices disconnected throughout the trip and therefore will not be detected by the operator.

It should also be taken into account that a tourist's mobile device is counted in the month when they leave the province they've travelled to, even if entry occurred in a previous month.

We should likewise note that the INE receives information from mobile phone companies in aggregate and without any type of individual identification, which makes it impossible to carry out individualized monitoring of any phone user.

Among the improvements obtained from these new information sources is the granularity or detail of information provided. Information is provided - published at the autonomous community level, province and municipality level regarding the destination - so long as the results are significant.

Another improvement is the opportunity to publish the results prior to the end of the month following the reference month. In the best of cases, this would be four months before the publication of the data from the Resident Tourism Survey (RTS).

The short-term objective of this operation is to provide a rapid and highly detailed estimate of the number of residents in Spain who travel to a province other than the province of residency –based on innovative sources and processes– that can serve as a complement to the estimates provided by the RTS.

In the medium term, the goal will be to integrate the two operations, thus combining the speed and granularity of the first with the details of tourist's trips (reason for the trip, type of accommodation,...) provided by the second.

### **Evolution of resident tourists on interprovincial trips within Spain**

The number of resident tourists travelling to a province other than their residence in May increased by 17.6% compared to the same month in 2021. The number of overnight stays increased 9.4%

The average duration of trips was 3.5 days, a decline of 7.9% compared to the previous year.

### **Tourists by Autonomous Community of Origin**

The three autonomous communities of origin with the largest number of outbound tourists in the month of May were the Comunidad de Madrid, Andalucía and Cataluña.

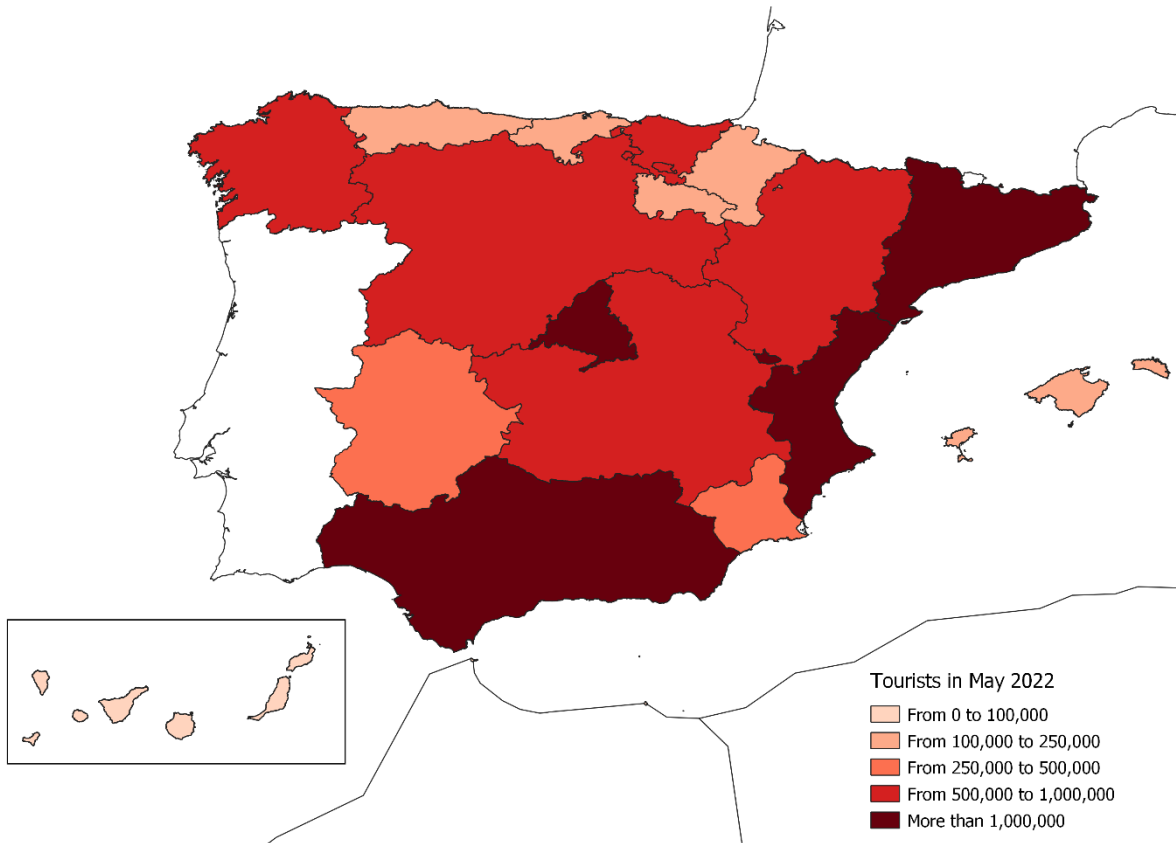
Tourist emission flows increased in all the autonomous communities. The largest increases were recorded in Canarias (90.5%), Illes Balears (87.5%) and Principado de Asturias (41.8%).

Tourists whose origin was Illes Balears had the longest trip duration, with an average of 5.2 overnight stays.

## Tourists, overnight stays and average stay by Autonomous Community of origin

May 2022	Tourists		Overnight stays		Average stay	
	Absolute value	Annual variation	Absolute value	Annual variation	Absolute value	Annual variation
Total	14.578.947	17,6	51.534.355	9,4	3,5	-7,9
Andalucía	2.633.297	14,7	9.106.113	9,7	3,5	-2,8
Aragón	502.133	21,4	1.756.648	11,1	3,5	-7,9
Asturias, Principado de	246.624	41,8	871.495	48,6	3,5	2,9
Balears, Illes	140.742	87,5	733.806	32,8	5,2	-29,7
Canarias	221.875	90,5	1.117.043	68,0	5,0	-12,3
Cantabria	156.213	21,2	726.029	-17,9	4,6	-33,3
Castilla y León	948.794	22,0	4.243.946	-14,9	4,5	-29,7
Castilla-La Mancha	919.470	4,5	3.398.791	-12,7	3,7	-15,9
Cataluña	2.146.886	3,4	6.773.628	5,4	3,2	3,2
Comunitat Valenciana	1.250.946	18,7	4.589.672	5,9	3,7	-9,8
Extremadura	322.281	24,7	1.292.287	8,9	4,0	-13,0
Galicia	798.906	19,1	3.091.468	16,1	3,9	-2,5
Madrid, Comunidad de	2.799.480	26,3	8.925.519	30,0	3,2	3,2
Murcia, Región de	318.643	11,5	1.019.262	2,3	3,2	-8,6
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	189.137	13,1	626.156	13,5	3,3	0,0
País Vasco	812.034	23,0	2.665.088	32,2	3,3	6,5
Rioja, La	126.564	13,4	444.241	-6,6	3,5	-18,6
Ceuta	27.544	-0,6	78.683	-13,5	2,9	-12,1
Melilla	17.378	28,8	74.480	16,4	4,3	-8,5

### Tourists by Autonomous Community of origin. May 2022



### Tourists by main Autonomous Community destination

In May, the three main autonomous communities destinations receiving the largest number of tourists were Andalucía, Cataluña and the Comunidad de Madrid.

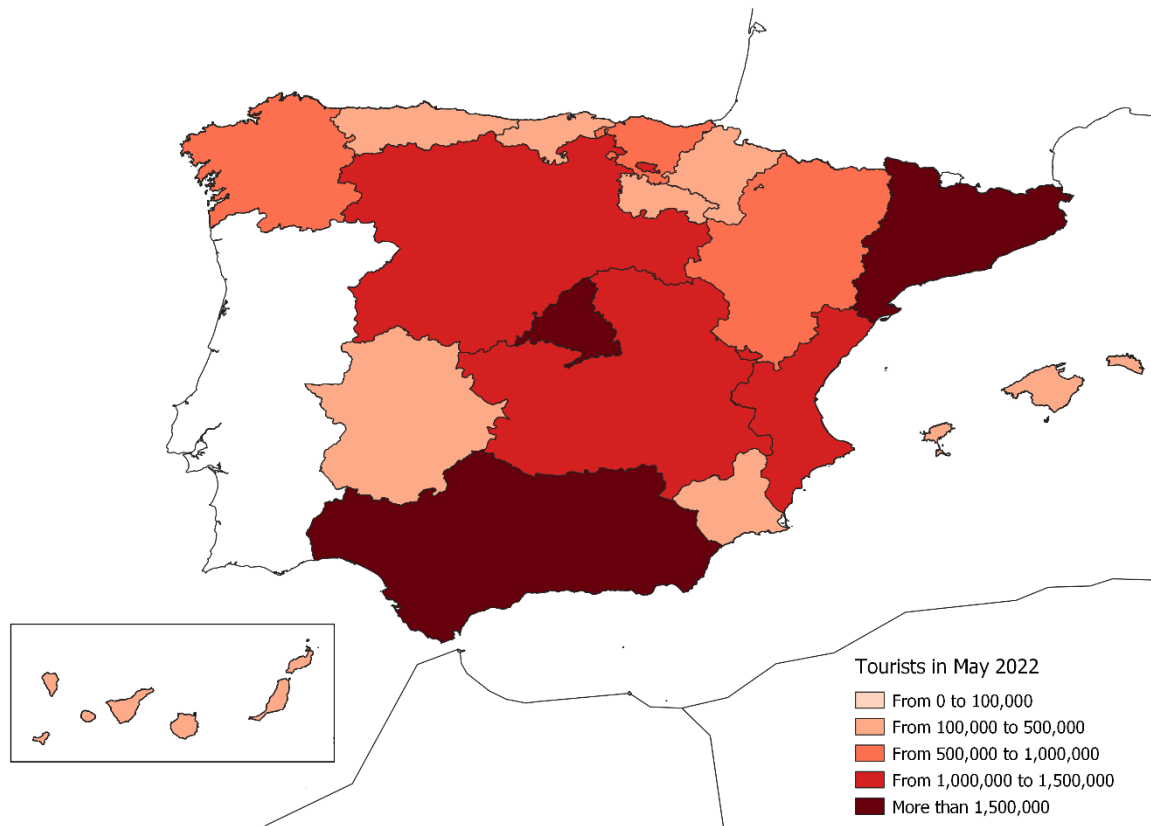
The number of tourists received increased in all communities. The greatest increases were registered in Illes Balears (138.4%), Canarias (66.0%) and Comunidad de Madrid (37.0%).

Canarias was the main destination autonomous community where tourists spent the longest duration of time, with an average of 5.5 overnight stays.

## Tourists, overnight stays and average stay by Autonomous Community of destination

May 2022	Tourists		Overnight stays		Average stay	
	Absolute value	Annual variation	Absolute value	Annual variation	Absolute value	Annual variation
Total	14.578.947	17,6	51.534.355	9,4	3,5	-7,9
Andalucía	2.959.521	19,1	10.193.107	22,7	3,4	3,0
Aragón	522.495	8,2	1.734.036	1,8	3,3	-5,7
Asturias, Principado de	222.213	35,5	826.539	0,8	3,7	-26,0
Balears, Illes	221.266	138,4	1.050.371	115,8	4,7	-9,6
Canarias	242.131	66,0	1.333.755	52,9	5,5	-8,3
Cantabria	307.386	32,2	914.703	31,2	3,0	0,0
Castilla y León	1.449.241	15,6	4.540.106	16,6	3,1	0,0
Castilla-La Mancha	1.279.364	6,5	3.682.911	8,4	2,9	3,6
Cataluña	2.097.478	5,8	6.684.545	1,8	3,2	-3,0
Comunitat Valenciana	1.380.222	14,1	4.943.233	18,6	3,6	5,9
Extremadura	394.065	12,3	1.358.918	15,7	3,4	3,0
Galicia	755.672	14,8	2.637.909	22,8	3,5	6,1
Madrid, Comunidad de	1.523.324	37,0	7.307.617	-12,0	4,8	-36,0
Murcia, Región de	261.207	16,5	995.796	13,2	3,8	-2,6
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	219.545	8,8	692.873	6,0	3,2	0,0
País Vasco	555.510	25,2	2.063.790	-18,7	3,7	-35,1
Rioja, La	168.467	15,9	472.208	9,7	2,8	-6,7
Ceuta	12.933	34,4	58.874	14,8	4,6	-13,2
Melilla	6.907	64,9	43.064	49,9	6,2	-10,1

**Tourists by destination Autonomous Community. May 2022**



**Tourists by municipality of main destination**

In May, Madrid was the municipality to receive the largest number of tourists as the main destination, with 862,302. It was followed by Barcelona and Sevilla, with 283,657 and 266,791, respectively.

Barcelona was the province with the highest number of outbound tourists to the municipality of Madrid.

**Main destination municipalities**

May 2022	Tourists	First province of origin	% tourists	Second province of origin	% tourists
Madrid	862.302	Barcelona	10,4	Toledo	8,0
Barcelona	283.657	Madrid	20,0	Girona	15,9
Sevilla	266.791	Madrid	20,6	Cádiz	14,1
València	174.842	Madrid	22,7	Alicante/Alacant	15,9
Granada	141.796	Madrid	17,8	Málaga	15,7
Málaga	139.513	Madrid	18,3	Granada	10,8
Zaragoza	139.502	Madrid	18,5	Huesca	12,9
Córdoba	134.272	Madrid	23,6	Málaga	14,0
Bilbao	90.003	Madrid	17,9	Cantabria	12,1
Valladolid	81.291	Madrid	27,9	Palencia	7,7

If the preferences of tourists residing in the principal Spanish municipalities are examined, the main destination of tourists from the municipality of Madrid is large cities, such as Barcelona, Sevilla or Valencia.

In the rest of the cities analysed, Barcelona, Valencia, Seville, Zaragoza and Malaga stand out as main destinations for a large number of coastal municipalities.

## Main destinations (municipalities) for the most populated cities

Madrid	Barcelona	València	Sevilla	Zaragoza	Málaga
Barcelona	Madrid	Madrid	Madrid	Madrid	Madrid
Sevilla	Calafell	Dénia	Almonte	Jaca	Sevilla
València	Palafrugell	Jávea/Xàbia	Rota	Barcelona	Granada
Córdoba	Vendrell (El)	Barcelona	Chipiona	Salou	Córdoba
Málaga	Tarragona	Alicante/Alacant	Isla Cristina	Huesca	Tarifa
Alicante/Alacant	Lloret de Mar	Castelló de la Plana	Puerto de Santa María (El)	Peníscola/Peñíscola	Jerez de la Frontera
Granada	València	Benidorm	Lepe	Cambrils	Barcelona
Zaragoza	Castell-Platja d'Aro	Benicasim/Benicàssim	Punta Umbría	Sabiñánigo	Almería
Toledo	Blanes	Murcia	Jerez de la Frontera	Biescas	Chiclana de la Frontera
Valladolid	Girona	Sevilla	Chiclana de la Frontera	València	Conil de la Frontera

## Project, concepts and results

All information on the measurement of domestic tourism based on mobile phone positioning is available in the 'Experimental Statistics' section of the INE website. Monthly data from July 2019 to May 2022 are included.

The fundamental concepts of this experimental statistic are listed below (also included in the technical project, which likewise details adaptation to the field of mobile phone operators):

**Tourist trip** : designates any movement by a person to a destination outside of their regular pace of residence, from the moment of their departure until their return. It involves at least one overnight stay outside the aforementioned environment and lasts less than one year, provided that the main reason for the trip - including business, leisure or other personal reasons - is distinct from a job assignment at a company located in the place visited.

**Tourist**: the person who takes a trip whose main goal is tourism. If an individual travels several times to another province - other than the province of residence - in the same month, it will be counted as many times as trips made. In other words, if a resident of Spain travels to a province distinct from their province of residence three times in the month of April, they will count as three tourists.

**Habitual environment**: in the geographical area, made up of areas that are not necessarily contiguous, in which a person habitually carries out their activities.

**Main trip destination**: the destination in which the most time has been spent, measured by number of overnight stays

**Legs**: a trip can have several destinations in addition to the main destination. Each of the destinations where there is at least one overnight stay will be considered a stage of the journey.

**Day trip**: a day trip is considered to be any visit without an overnight stay made outside of the regular environment, with the traveller's regular environment as starting point.

Today, statistics on tourists resident in Spain who travel to a province distinct from their province of residence are published according to main trip destination, as well as the overnight stays made on said trips, taking into account the trips that end in the reference month (that is, the total overnight stays of the trip are assigned to the month in which it ends, even if they occurred in previous months). Work is underway to expand the scope of these experimental statistics to include results for number of legs and day trips.

The technical project and the results of this operation can be accessed at:

[https://www.ine.es/experimental/turismo\\_moviles/experimental\\_turismo\\_moviles.htm](https://www.ine.es/experimental/turismo_moviles/experimental_turismo_moviles.htm)

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics, which is the basis for the institution's quality policy and strategy. For more information, please see the [Calidad en el INE y Código de Buenas Prácticas Quality at INE and the Code of Good Practices](#) on the INE website.

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