

30 April 2020

Guests year-on-year rate of change rectified (14 May 2020)

Tourist Activity

March 2020 – Flash estimate

Negative perspectives for tourist activity

According to the flash estimate, in **March 2020**, the **tourist accommodation sector**¹ should have registered 701.0 thousand guests and 1.9 million overnight stays, corresponding to year-on-year rates of change² of **-62.1%** and **-58.5%**, respectively (+15.3% and +14.7% in February, in the same order). Overnight stays from residents will have decreased by 56.9% (+26.4% in February) and those from non-residents will have fallen by 59.2% (+9.5% in February).

Through an additional specific questionnaire that, in April, Statistics Portugal conducted and which received responses from about 4,000 establishments, on the perspectives for tourist activity in the coming months until August, 79.2% of respondent tourist accommodation establishments pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic motivated the cancellation of bookings scheduled for the months from March to August 2020 (these establishments represent 91.3% of the capacity of the establishments that responded).

The current pandemic is affecting the activity of most economic sectors, at national and global levels, particularly tourism. Given the concern that is being generated about this sector, Statistics Portugal will once again release, in advance, monthly statistics on tourist activity, corresponding to March 2020 and based on the primary information already collected up to April 27 in the scope of the Survey on guest stays in hotel establishments and other accommodations. In the usual press release on the tourist activity in March, scheduled for May 15, the results now published may be revised and added to a greater detail in its presentation, depending on the information transmitted to Statistics Portugal in the meantime.

¹ Monthly series which includes three types of accommodation facilities: hotel establishments (hotels, apartment hotels, tourist apartments, tourist villages, pousadas and quintas da Madeira), local accommodation with 10 or more beds (according to the statistical threshold defined by EU Regulation 692/2011) and rural/lodging tourist.

² Unless stated otherwise, the rates of change presented in this press release correspond to year-on-year rates of change.