

27 July 2020

Rectified at 14:30

Tourism Demand of Residents

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020

[Rectified text on pages 3 and 4](#)

## **Tourism trips of residents declined by 20.0% in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2020, with trips abroad decreasing by 81.9% in March**

In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020, residents in Portugal took a total of 3.7 million trips, corresponding to a decrease of 20.0%<sup>1</sup>, following +9.3% in the 4<sup>th</sup> Q 2019. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the declaration of the state of emergency in March resulted in a 70.0% decrease in this month, which explains the decline observed in the quarter, given that in January and February the number of trips had increased by 8.4% and by 5.2%, respectively. Despite this decline, there was a significant increase in the number of overnight stays spent by tourists away from their usual environment in March: 9.2 nights compared with 3.96 in February and 3.86 in January.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020, tourism trips within the national territory stood for 88.1% of the total, decreasing by 19.6%. Tourism trips to foreign countries (11.9% of the total) totalled 444.2 thousand (-22.9% in the quarter), having declined by 81.9% in March (+18.3% in February and +5.3% in January).

“Leisure, recreation or holidays” was the main reason to travel in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020 (1.5 million trips, -14.6%), increasing its representativeness (40.8% of the total, compared to 38.2% in the same quarter a year earlier). The “visit to relatives or friends” as a motivation to travel corresponded to 1.5 million trips (39.3% of the total; -5.0 p.p.<sup>2</sup>), declining by 29.1%.

“Hotels and similar” concentrated 21.2% of overnight stays resulting from tourism trips in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020, losing weight in total (-3.7 p.p.). “Free private accommodation” continued to stand as the main accommodation option (73.9% of overnight stays), being the only type of accommodation to strengthen its representativeness.

**The information in this press release, referring to the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020, reflects the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, both on the performance of the economic activity, namely on Tourism Demand, and on obtaining primary information. Despite the difficulties, we call for the best collaboration of enterprises, households, and public entities in responding to requests from Statistics Portugal. The quality of official statistics, particularly their capacity to identify the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, depends crucially on this collaboration, which Statistics Portugal is grateful for in advance.**

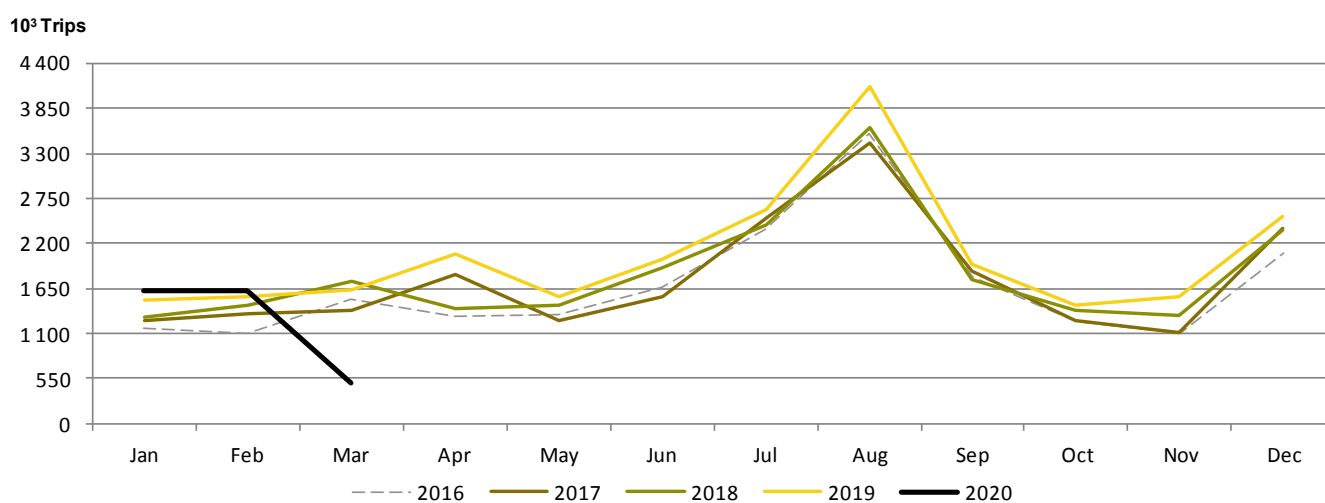
<sup>1</sup> Unless stated otherwise, the rates of change in this press release correspond to year-on-year rates of change.

<sup>2</sup> In terms of proportions, the comparison was made between homologous quarters.

### Significant decrease in the number of trips

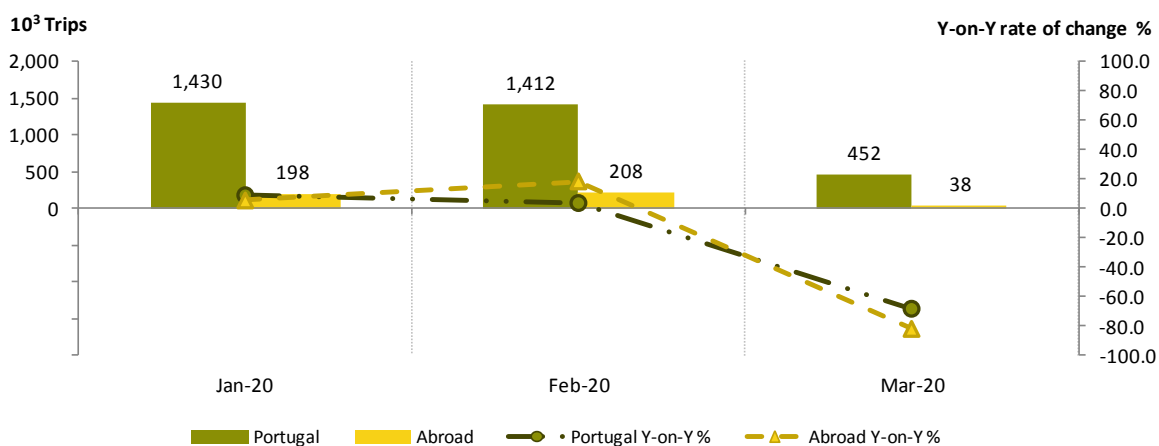
In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020, the residents in Portugal took a total of 3.7 million trips, corresponding to a decrease of 20.0% (+9.3% in the 4<sup>th</sup> Q 2019). The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the declaration of the state of emergency in March resulted in a 70.0% decrease in this month, which in turn was the reason for the decline registered in the quarter, given that the number of trips had increased in January and February by 8.4% and by 5.2% respectively.

**Figure 1. Tourism trips of residents by month**



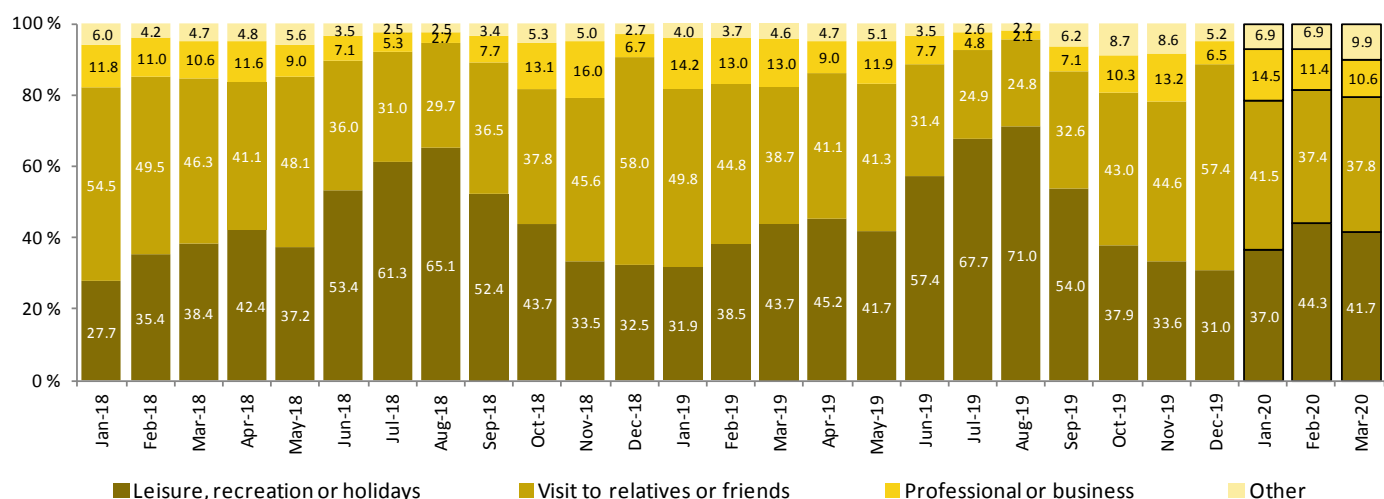
In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020, 88.1% of trips corresponded to domestic trips (3.3 million), decreasing by 19.6% (+8.9% in January, +3.6% in February and -68.2% in March). Trips abroad (11.9% of the total) amounted to 444.2 thousand (-22.9%) with March recording a decline of 81.9%, contrary to the increases of 5.3% and 18.3% in January and February, respectively.

**Figure 2. Tourism trips and year-on-year rate of change by destination, January to March 2020**



“Leisure, recreation or holidays” was the main reason to travel in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020 (1.5 million trips, -14.6%), increasing its representativeness (40.8% of the total, compared to 38.2% in the same quarter a year earlier). “Visit to relatives or friends” justified 1.5 million trips (39.3% of the total; -5.0 p.p.), standing for the largest decrease (-29.1%). Trips made for “professional or business” reasons (472.4 thousand) decreased by 24.6%, also declining its relative weight by 0.8 p.p. (representing 12.6% of the total).

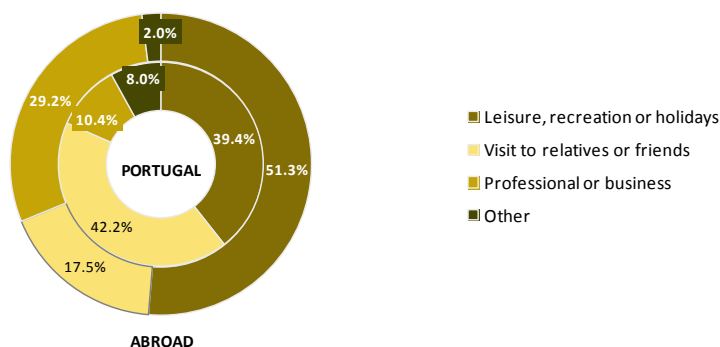
**Figure 3. Breakdown of trips according to the main purposes, by month**



**“Leisure, recreation or holidays” stood for more than half the number of trips abroad**

“Visit to relatives or friends” kept being the main reason for travelling domestically (weight of 42.2%), but with a 5.5 p.p. reduction in representativeness. On the contrary, there was an increase in “leisure, recreation or holidays” trips (+2.1 p.p.; 39.4% of the total) and on trips made for “other reasons” (+3.5 p.p.; 8% of the total). Concerning trips abroad, “leisure, recreation or holidays” as a motivation to travel corresponded to more than half of the total (51.3%), increasing its weight by 6.4 p.p.

**Figure 4. Breakdown of trips according to purposes, by destination, 1<sup>st</sup> Q 2020**

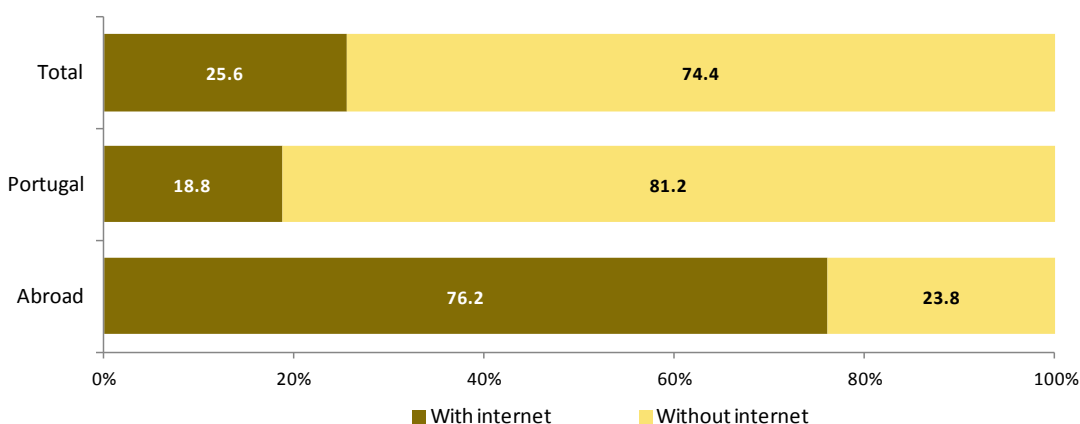


**Increased use of the internet in the organization of domestic and foreign trips**

In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020, 34.0% of trips were made using booking of services (+2.8 p.p.), reaching 91.4% (-2.5 p.p.) in the case of trips abroad. In domestic trips, booking of services was used in 26.2% of trips (+3.9 p.p.).

The internet was used in the organization of 25.6% of tourism trips (+5.5 p.p.), ascending to 76.2% (+11.0 p.p.) in the case of trips abroad.

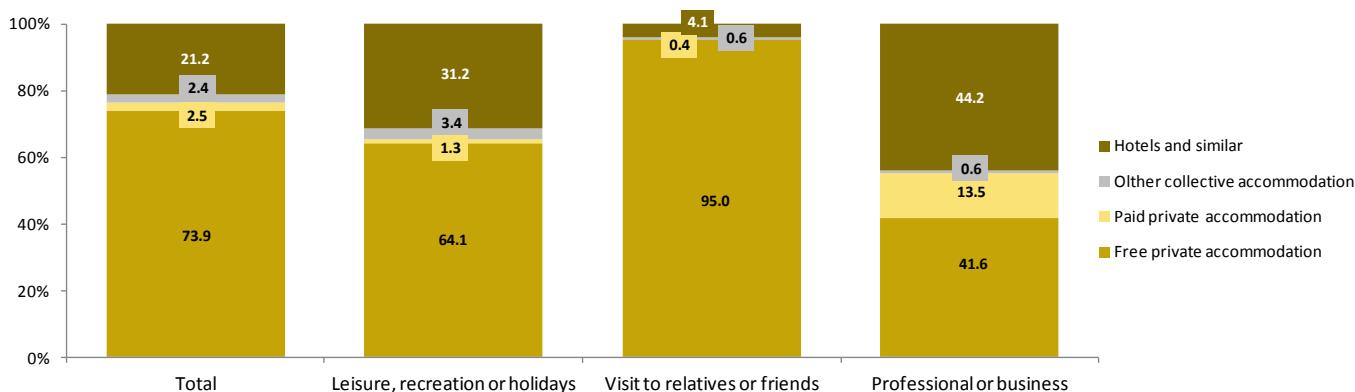
**Figure 5. Breakdown of trips according to the use of the internet, by destination, 1<sup>st</sup> Q 2020**



**“Free private accommodation” increased in representativeness**

For tourism trips made in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020, “hotels and similar” concentrated 21.2% of the resulting overnight stays, losing representativeness (-3.7 p.p.). “Free private accommodation” was the only type of accommodation with an increase in its representativeness (+5.5 p.p.; weight of 73.9% in total).

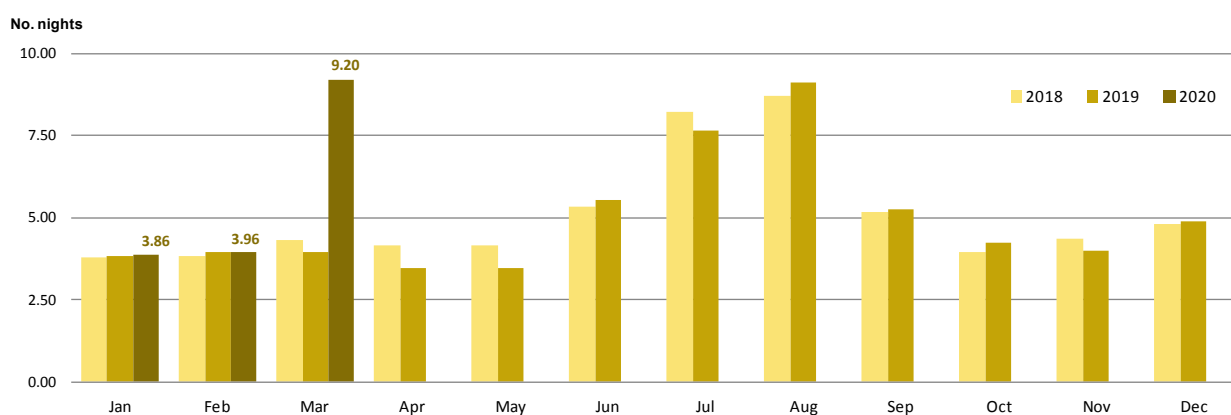
**Figure 6. Breakdown of overnight stays by type of accommodation, according to main purposes, 1<sup>st</sup> Q 2020**



## The number of overnight stays per tourist in the quarter increased

In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020, the average number of overnight stays in trips of each resident tourist was 4.68 nights, corresponding to an increase of 19.7% (3.91 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Q 2019). This growth is closely related to the pandemic caused by COVID-19, because although the number of tourists was significantly lower in March (when the state of emergency was declared), the number of overnight stays spent out of the usual environment by these same tourists increased considerably (9.2 nights in March, 3.96 in February and 3.86 in January), contributing largely to the growth observed in the quarter.

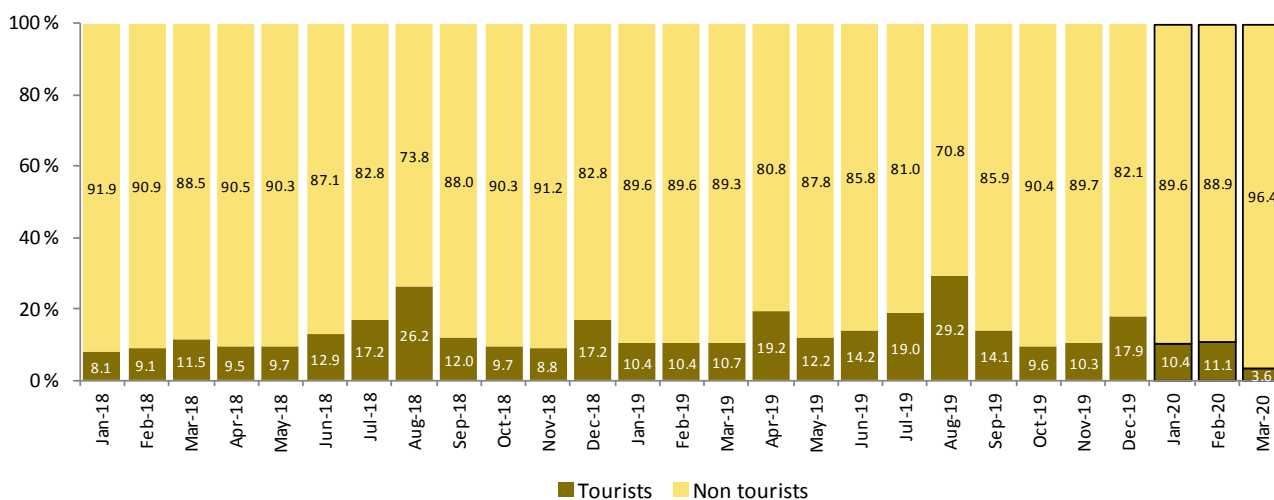
**Figure 7. Overnight stays spent by tourist during trips, by month**



## The proportion of tourists in the quarter decreased slightly in year-on-year terms

In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020, 17.5% of the resident population made at least one tourism trip, mirroring a 1.7 p.p. decline. In this quarter, March registered the only decline in year-on-year terms concerning the weight of residents who travelled (-7.1 p.p.), given that in January and February there were increases of +0.1 p.p. and +0.7 p.p., respectively.

**Figure 8. Proportion of tourists and non tourists in the resident population, by month**



## METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Results from the “Travel survey of residents” are gathered from surveying a sample of housing units, with a 50% rotation in the beginning of each year, with a quarterly telephone interview.

Results in this Press Release are:

Until 2019 – final data

2020 – provisional data

## Main concepts

**Tourist** – Traveller staying at least one night in a private or collective accommodation site in a particular place, regardless of the motivation to travel.

**Tourism trip** – A trip to one or multiple tourist destinations, including the returning trip to the starting point and covering the whole period of time during which an individual remains outside its usual living environment.

**Usual living environment** – Environment in the proximity of an individual’s residence, in relation to its working and studying places, as well as other places frequently visited. Distance and frequency are two closely related dimensions to this concept and include the places located near the place of residence, regardless of how often visited and the places located at a considerable distance of the place of residence (including those in a foreign country), frequently visited (once or several times per week on average) on a routine basis.

One individual has only one usual living environment, with the concept applied on both levels of domestic tourism and international tourism.

**Hotels and similar** – Tourist accommodation establishments whose main economic activity consists on the provision of accommodation services and other complementary or support services, with or without provision of meals, in exchange for payment.

**Other collective accommodation** – Establishments, places or facilities providing accommodation services to tourists mostly in exchange for payment including camping sites, holiday camps, youth hostels, collective means of transportation, working or holiday projects, amongst others.

**Free private accommodation** – Accommodation used by tourists consisting of a second residence or provided by relatives or friends, for free.

**Paid private accommodation** – Private accommodation, with or without official licensing for the provision of tourist accommodation, having available a limited number of paid independent places (rooms or housing).

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**Date of next Press Release** – 26 October 2020