

Tourism Demand of Residents

2nd Quarter 2020

Tourism trips of residents declined by 59.1% domestically and barely existed (-98.5%) to destinations abroad

In the 2nd quarter of 2020, residents in Portugal took a total of 2.0 million trips, corresponding to a decrease of 64.9%¹. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the declaration of the state of emergency in April and the state of calamity in May with its mandatory confinement measures contributed to this decline. Despite this decrease, there was a significant increase in the number of overnight stays spent by tourists away from their usual environment in April and May: 8.00 nights and 5.41 nights respectively.

In the 2nd quarter of 2020, tourism trips within the national territory stood for 99.4% of the total, having decreased by 59.1% when compared to the same period a year earlier. Tourism trips to foreign countries were almost inexistent (0.6% of the total) totalling 12.4 thousand (-98.5%).

“Leisure, recreation or holidays” was the main reason to travel in the 2nd quarter of 2020 (1.1 million trips, -61.1%), having increased its representativeness (53.8% of the total, compared to 48.6% in the same quarter a year earlier). The “visit to relatives or friends” as a motivation to travel corresponded to 686.6 thousand trips (34.9% of the total; -2.8 p.p.²), declining by 67.5%.

“Hotels and similar” concentrated 10.8% of overnight stays resulting from tourism trips in the 2nd quarter of 2020, losing weight in total (-20.7 p.p.). “Free private accommodation” continued to stand as the main accommodation option (84.2% of overnight stays), being the only type of accommodation to strengthen its representativeness.

The information in this press release, referring to the 2nd 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.

A steep decrease in the number of trips

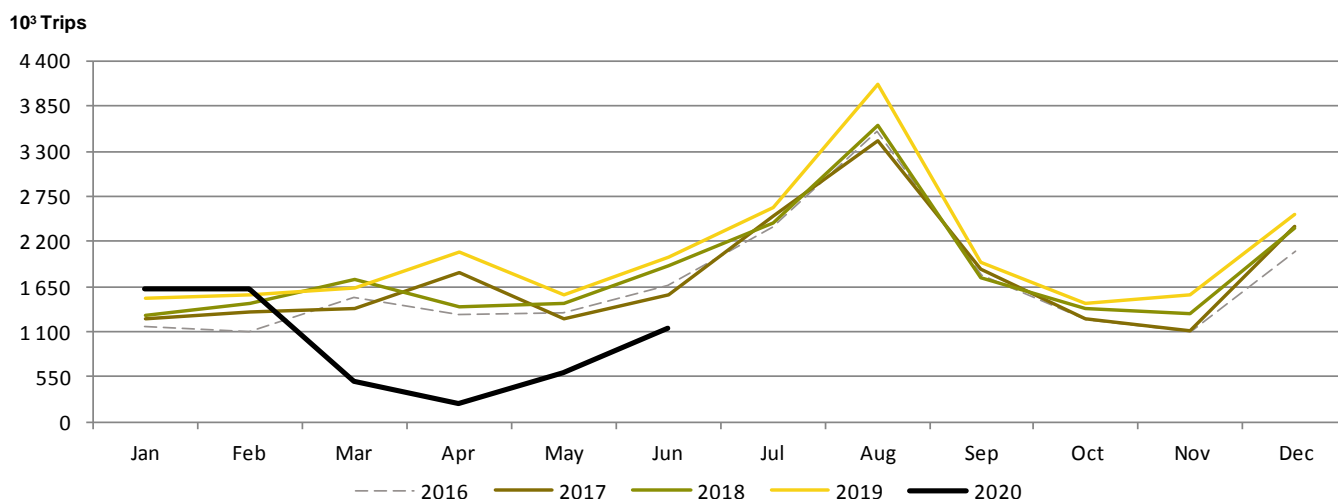
In the 2nd quarter of 2020, the residents in Portugal took a total of 2.0 million trips, corresponding to a decrease of 64.9% vis-à-vis the same quarter of 2019 (-20.0% in the 1st Q 2020). The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the declaration of the state of emergency in April and the state of calamity in May with its mandatory confinement

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

² In terms of proportions, the comparison was made between homologous quarters.

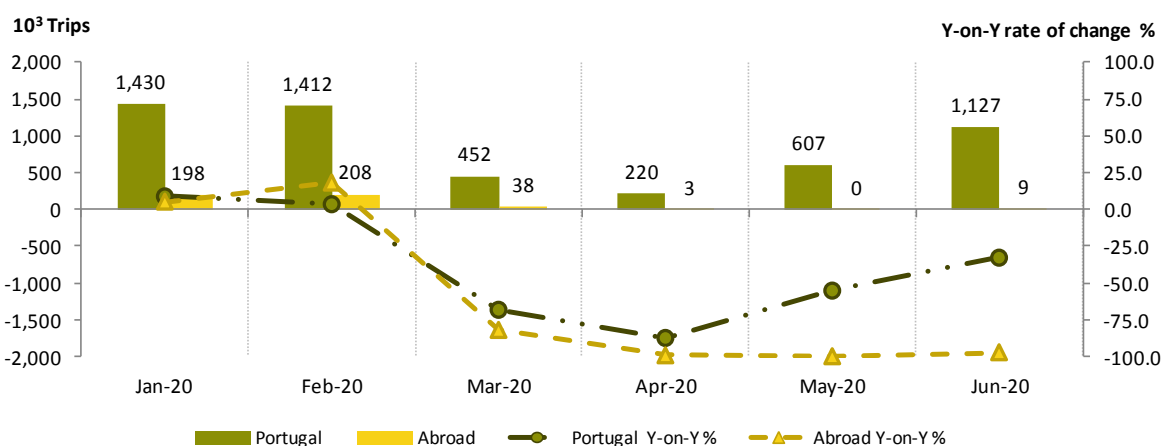
measures, had an impact on the number of trips taken which declined by 89.2% and by 60.5%, respectively. In June, with the Portuguese government adopting deconfinement measures, there was a significant reduction in the number of trips (-43.2%) but to a lesser extent when compared to the previous months.

Figure 1. Tourism trips of residents by month



In the 2nd quarter of 2020, 99.4% of trips corresponded to domestic trips, decreasing by 59.1% vis-à-vis the same period a year earlier (rates of change of -87.4% in April, -55.2% in May and -32.8% in June). Trips abroad were almost inexistent (0.6% of the total) and amounted to 12.4 thousand (-98.5%) with April, May and June recording declines of 99.2%, 99.8% and 97.1%, in the same order.

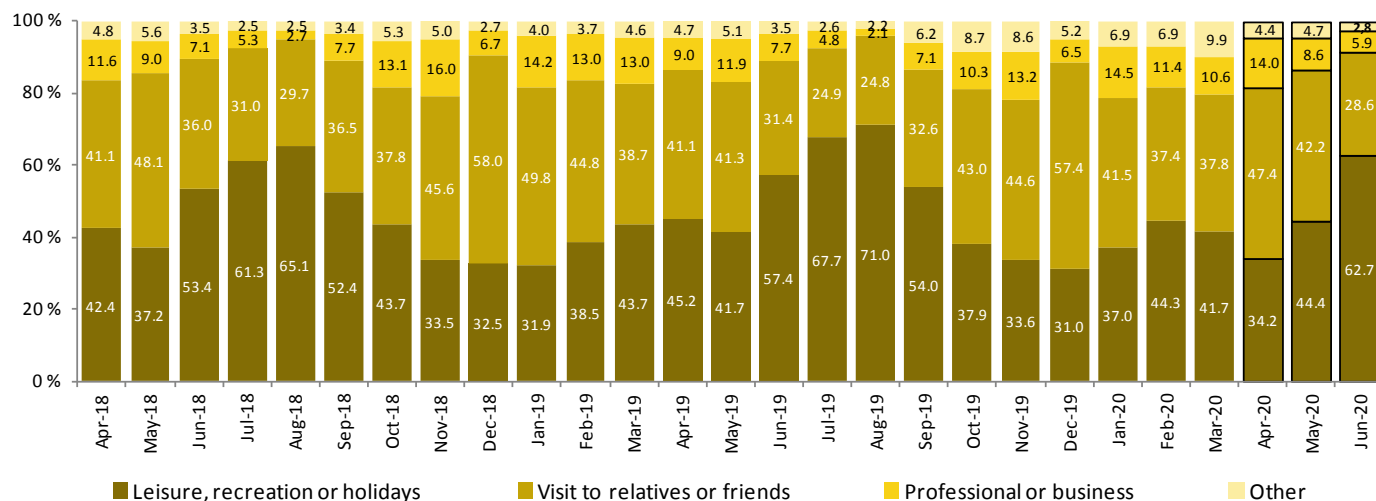
Figure 2. Tourism trips and year-on-year rate of change by destination, January to June 2020



“Leisure, recreation or holidays” was the main reason to travel in the 2nd quarter of 2020 (1.1 million trips, -61.1%), increasing its representativeness (53.8% of the total, compared to 48.6% in the same quarter a year earlier). The “visit to relatives or friends” was behind with 686.6 thousand trips (34.9% of the total, -2.8 p.p.), corresponding to a

decrease of 67.5%. Trips made for “professional or business” reasons (151.3 thousand) decreased by 71.0%, also declining its relative weight by 1.6 p.p. (representing 7.7% of the total).

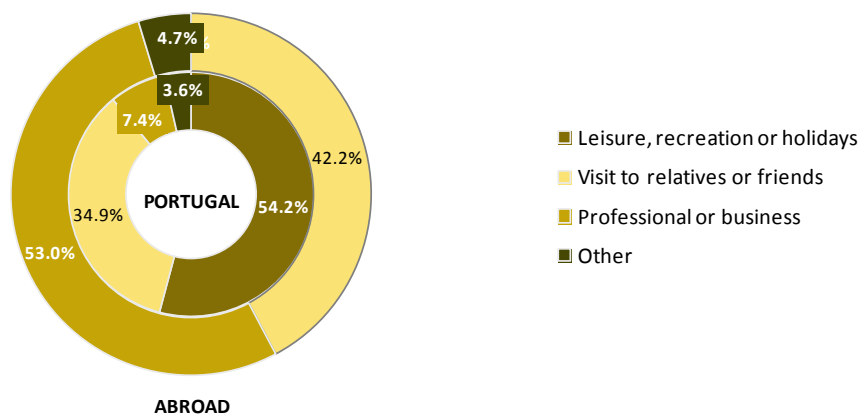
Figure 3. Breakdown of trips according to the main purposes, by month



Significant reduction in the number of trips abroad in the 2nd quarter of 2020

In the 2nd quarter of 2020, “leisure, recreation or holidays” was the main reason for travelling domestically (weight of 54.2%), increasing its representativeness in 7.4 p.p. Conversely, there was a decrease in “visit to relatives or friends” trips (-6.6 p.p., 34.9% of the total) and in trips made for “other reasons” (-1.2 p.p., 3.6% of the total). Concerning trips abroad, “professional or business” as a motivation to travel corresponded to more than half of the total (53.0%), followed by “visit to relatives or friends” (42.2%), and “other reasons” (4.7%) while there were no “leisure, recreation or holidays” trips.

Figure 4. Breakdown of trips according to purposes, by destination, 2nd Q 2020

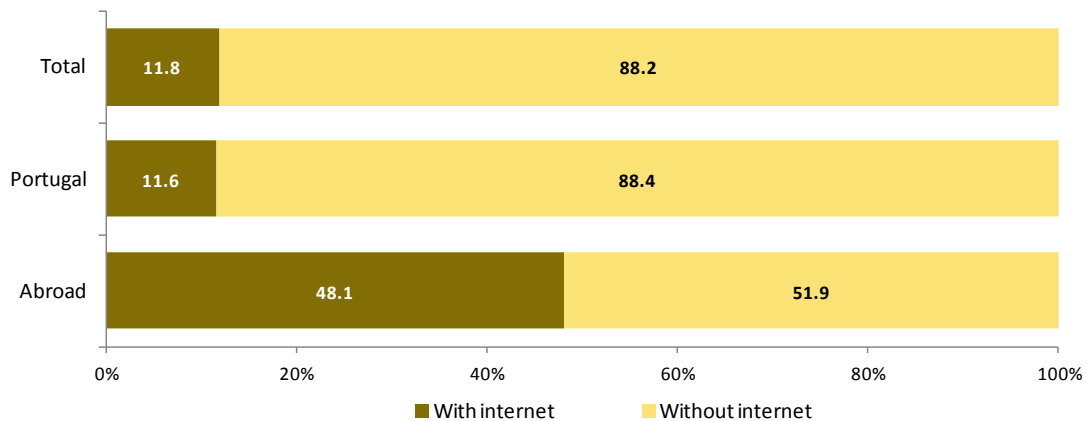


The use of the internet in the organization of trips lost expression in both destinations

In the 2nd quarter of 2020, 18.4% of trips were made using booking of services (-18.6 p.p.), reaching 79.6% (-14.3 p.p.) in the case of trips abroad. In domestic trips, booking of services was used in 18.1% of trips (-9.2 p.p.).

The internet was used in the organization of 11.8% of tourism trips (-12.2 p.p.), ascending to 48.1% (-15.1 p.p.) in what concerns trips abroad. In the 2nd quarter of 2020, concerning trips abroad, the booking of trips without using the internet (51.9%) was higher than those booked using the internet.

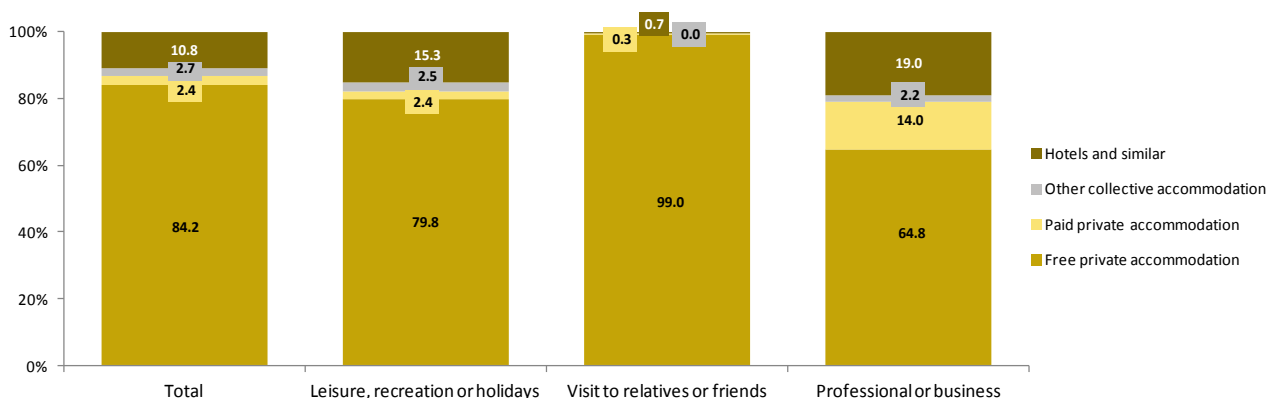
Figure 5. Breakdown of trips according to the use of the internet, by destination, 2nd Q 2020



“Free private accommodation” increased its representativeness

For tourism trips made in the 2nd quarter of 2020, “hotels and similar” concentrated 10.8% of the resulting overnight stays, losing representativeness (-20.7 p.p.). As in the 1st quarter of 2020, “free private accommodation” was the only type of accommodation with an increase in its representativeness (+26.7 p.p.; e.g. 84.2% in total).

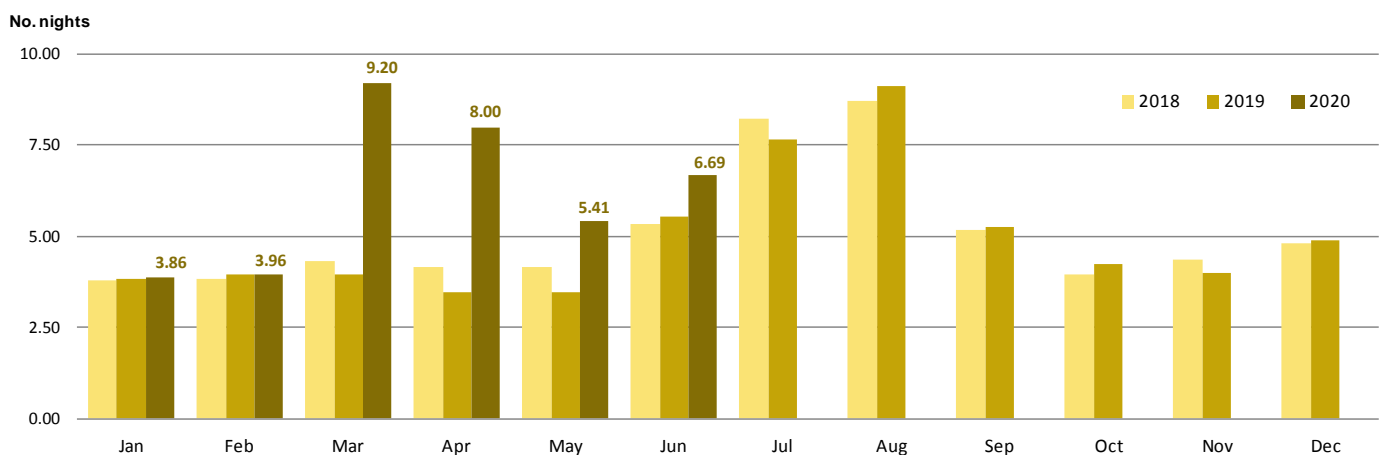
Figure 6. Breakdown of overnight stays by type of accommodation, according to main purposes, 2nd Q 2020



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

In the 2nd quarter of 2020, the average number of overnight stays in trips of each resident tourist was 6.46 nights, corresponding to an increase of 57.2% (4.11 in the 2nd Q 2019). This growth is closely related to the COVID-19 pandemic because although the number of tourists was significantly lower in the months of the second quarter, namely in April and May, the number of overnight stays spent out of the usual environment by these same tourists increased considerably (8.00 nights in April, 5.41 in May and 6.69 in June compared to 3.47; 3.45 and 5.56 in the same months of 2019).

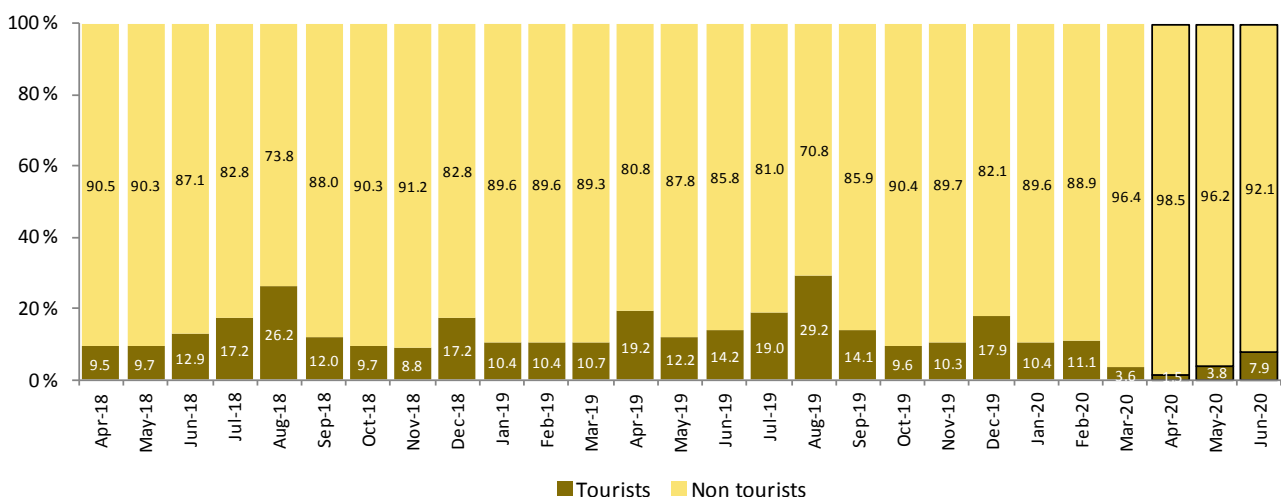
Figure 7. Overnight stays spent by tourist during trips, by month



The proportion of tourists in the quarter decreased steeply

In the 2nd quarter of 2020, only 9.6% of the resident population made at least one tourism trip, mirroring a 19.1 p.p. decline. In this quarter, all months registered declines in year-on-year terms concerning the weight of residents who travelled, more so in April (-17.7 p.p.), largely due to the state of emergency declared at that time. May and June recorded decreases of 8.4 p.p. and 6.3 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).

Date of next Press Release – 25 January 2021