

25 January 2021

Tourism Demand of Residents

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020

**Tourism trips of residents declined by 84.8% regarding destinations abroad and by 18.5% domestically**

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, residents in Portugal took a total of 6.4 million trips, corresponding to a decrease of 26.7%<sup>1</sup> (-64.9% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2020). Tourism trips within the national territory stood for 97.5% of the total trips (6.2 million), having decreased by 18.5%. Tourism trips to foreign countries declined by 84.8%, amounting to 161.9 thousand, representing 2.5% of the total (0.6% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2020).

In this quarter, "leisure, recreation or holidays" continued to be the main reason to travel (4.4 million trips, -22.5%), having increased its representativeness (70.0% of the total, compared to 66.2% in the same quarter a year earlier). The "visit to relatives or friends" as a motivation to travel corresponded to 1.6 million trips (24.4% of the total; -2.2 p.p.<sup>2</sup>), declining by 32.6%.

"Hotels and similar" accounted for 25.0% of overnight stays resulting from tourism trips in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, losing weight in total (-2.4 p.p.). "Free private accommodation" continued to stand as main option (61.0% of overnight stays, +4.4 p.p.).

**Despite the circumstances determined by the COVID-19 pandemic, Statistics Portugal calls for the best collaboration of enterprises, households, and public bodies 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.**

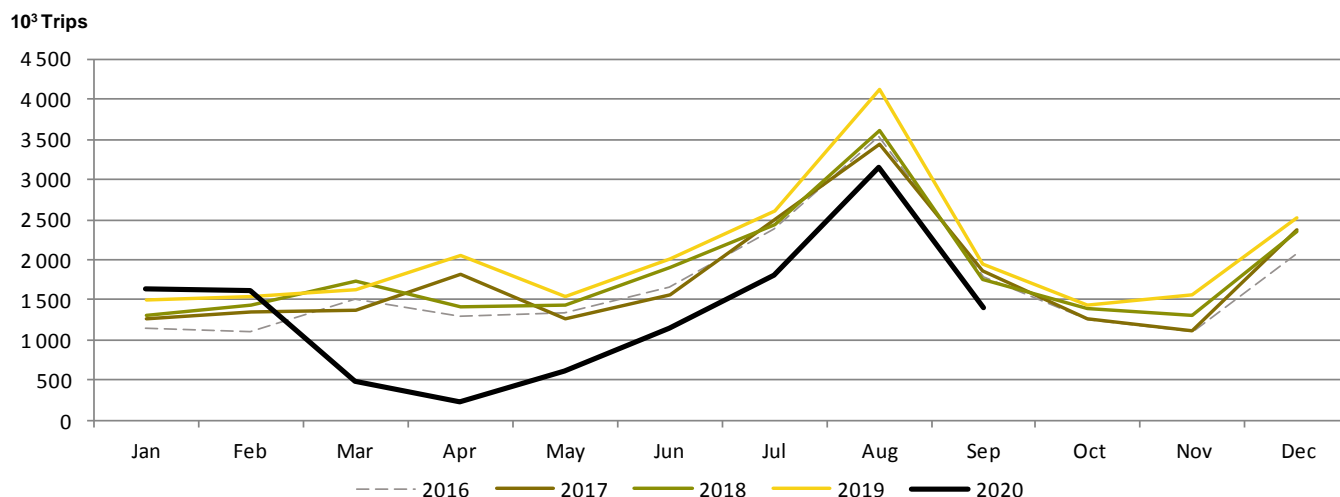
**A less intense decline in the number of trips**

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 the residents in Portugal took a total of 6.4 million trips, corresponding to a decrease of 26.7% vis-à-vis the same quarter of 2019 (-64.9% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2020). The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be felt on the number of trips taken, however less so compared to previous months. In July, August and September, the declines were 30.8%, 23.5% and 27.9% respectively (-89.2%, -60.5% and -43.2% in April, May and June respectively).

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

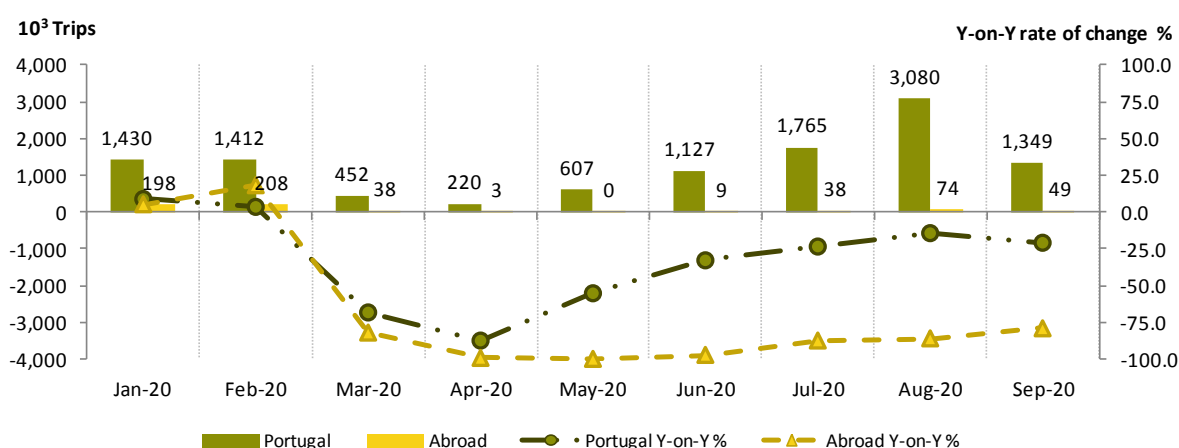
<sup>2</sup> In terms of proportions, the comparison was made between homologous quarters.

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



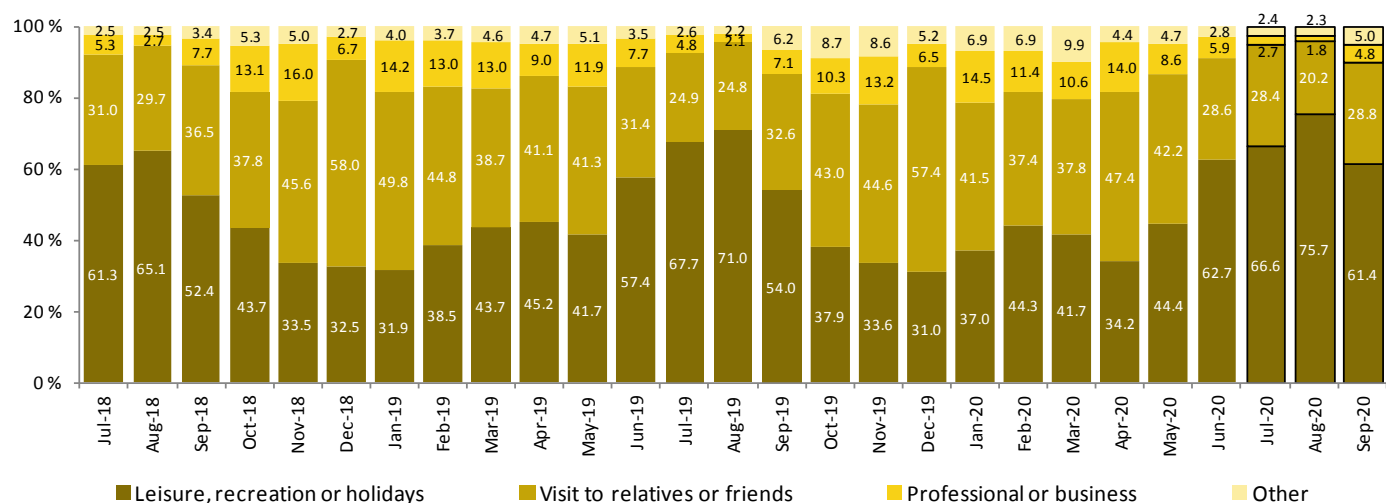
In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, 97.5% of trips corresponded to domestic trips, decreasing by 18.5% (-59.1% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2020) vis-à-vis the same period a year earlier (rates of change of -23.4% in July, -14.3% in August and -20.8% in September). Tourism trips abroad represented only 2.5% of the total (0.6% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2020), corresponding to 161.9 thousand trips (-84.8% compared to the same period in 2019; -98.5% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2020), with July, August and September recording declines of 87.3%, 85.9% and 79.0%, respectively.

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



“Leisure, recreation or holidays” was the main reason to travel (4.4 million trips, -22.5%), having its representativeness increased by 3.8 p.p. (70.0% of the total, compared to 66.2% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2019). The “visit to relatives or friends” was the reason behind 1.6 million trips (24.4% of the total, -2.2 p.p.), corresponding to a decrease of 32.6%. Trips made for “professional or business” reasons (171.6 thousand, -50.7%) decreased its relative weight by 1.3 p.p. (representing 2.7% of the total).

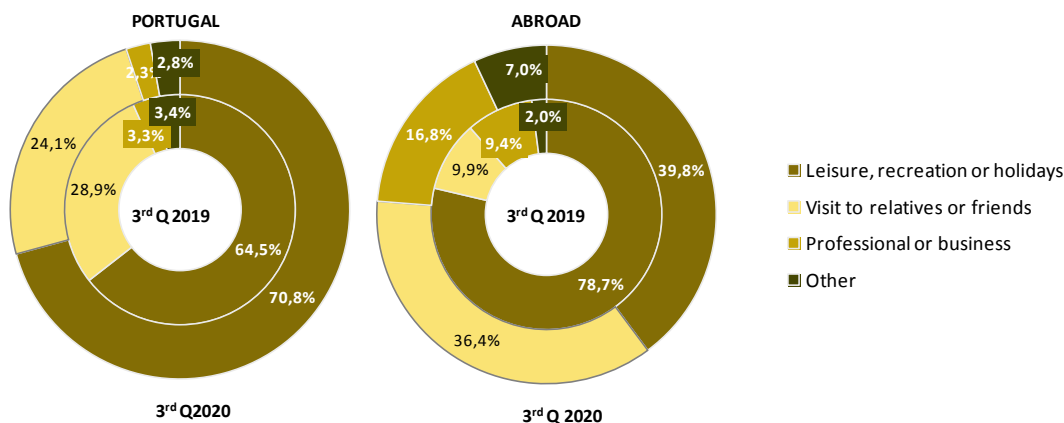
**Figure 3. Breakdown of trips according to the main purposes, by month**



**“Visit to relatives or friends” with increased weight in trips abroad**

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, “leisure, recreation or holidays” was the main reason for travelling both domestically and abroad, concentrating 70.8% (+6.3 p.p.) and 39.8% (-38.8 p.p.) of trips, respectively. The “visit to relatives or friends” was the second main reason for trips made, corresponding to 24.1% (-4.8 p.p.) of domestic trips and 36.4% (+26.6 p.p.) of trips abroad.

**Figure 4. Breakdown of trips according to purposes, by destination**

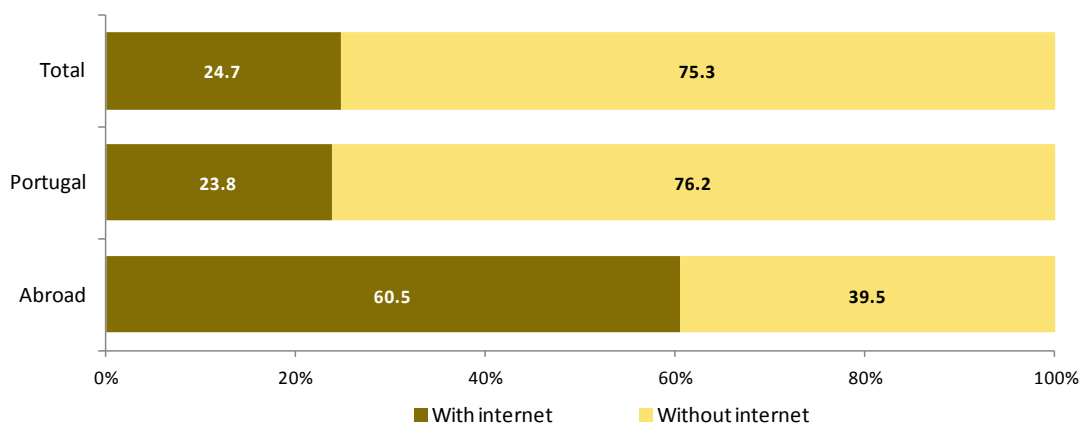


**A slight increase in the use of the internet in the organization of trips**

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, 39.0% of trips were made using the booking of services (-1.6 p.p.), reaching 76.8% (-10.3 p.p.) in the case of trips abroad. In domestic trips, the booking of services was used in 38.1% of trips (+3.9 p.p.).

The internet was used in the organization of 24.7% of tourism trips (+0.8 p.p.), having been an option in 60.5% (+4.4 p.p.) of trips abroad and 23.8% (+4.4 p.p.) in domestic trips.

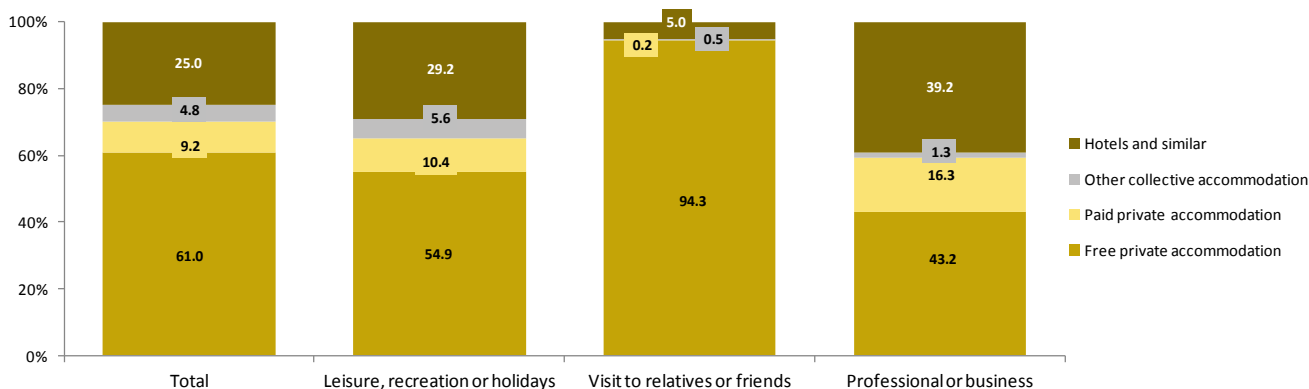
**Figure 5. Breakdown of trips according to the use of the internet, by destination, 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2020**



**In a context of reduction of the number of overnight stays, the relative weight of "free private accommodation" has increased and the weight of "hotels and similar" has decreased**

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, the relative weight of overnight stays in "hotels and similar" fell by 2.4 p.p. to 25.0% of the total. "Free private accommodation" remained the main accommodation option (61.0% of overnight stays), increasing its weight in the total (+4.4 p.p.).

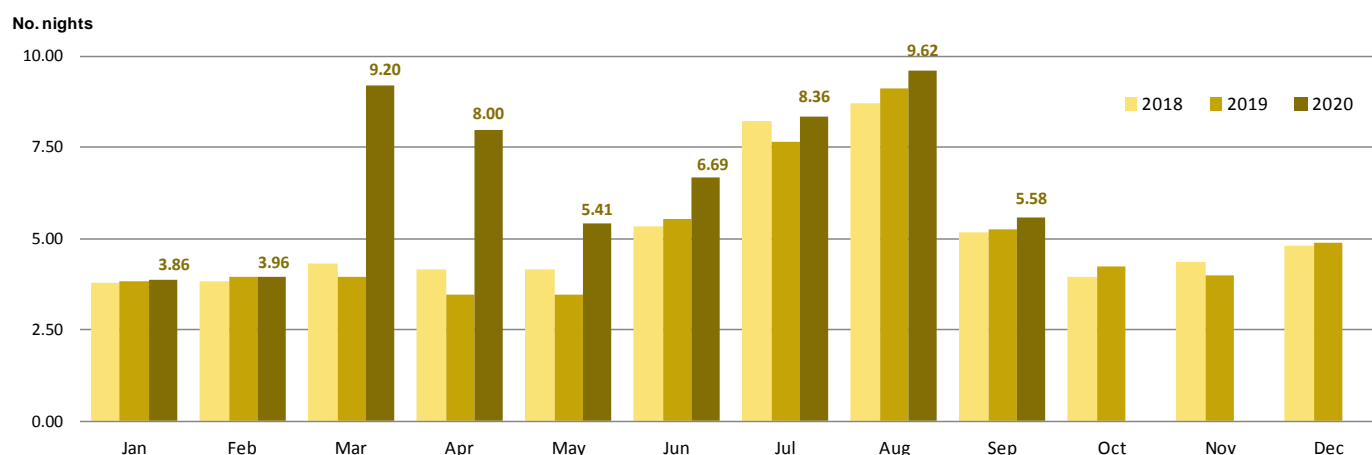
**Figure 6. Breakdown of overnight stays by type of accommodation, according to main purposes, 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2020**



### The average number of overnight stays per tourist increased

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, the average number of overnight stays in trips of each resident tourist was 8.41 nights, corresponding to an increase of 7.8% compared to the same quarter in 2019 (7.80 overnight stays in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2019).

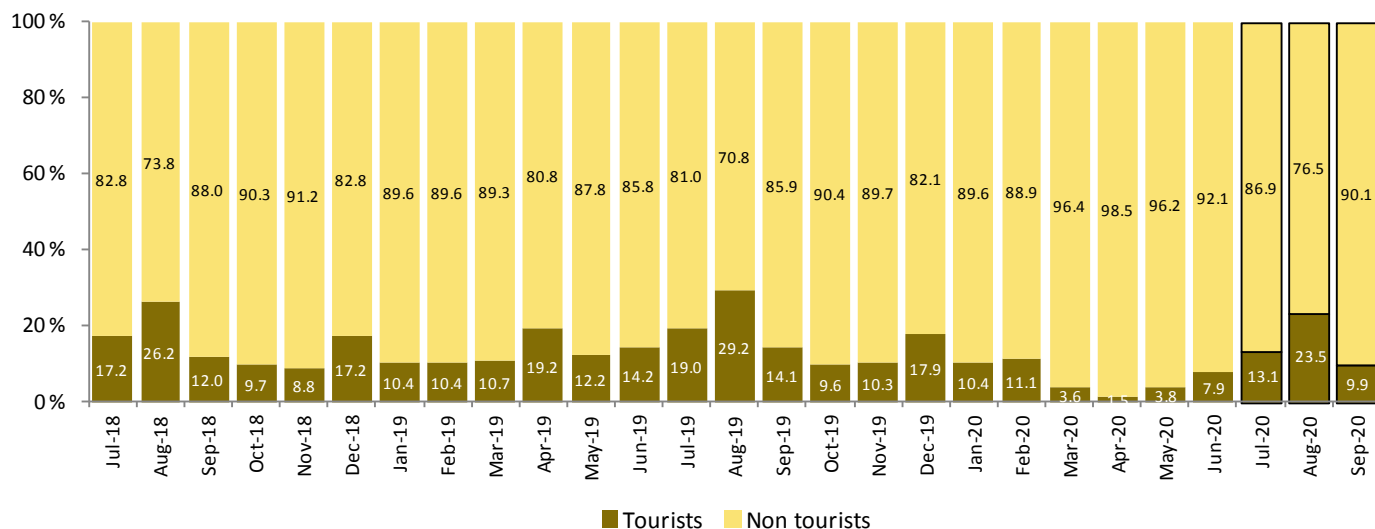
**Figure 7. Overnight stays spent by tourist during trips, by month**



### Proportion of tourists in the population as a whole has decreased significantly

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, 32.8% of the resident population made at least one tourism trip (-9.5 p.p.). In this quarter, and similarly to the second quarter of 2020, there were year-on-year decreases every month in terms of the percentage of residents who travelled (-5.9 p.p., -5.7 p.p. and -4.2 p.p. in July, August and September 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** – 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2021