



30 April 2021  
TOURIST ACTIVITY  
March 2021 – Flash Statistics

## TOURIST ACTIVITY WITH A VERY NEGATIVE YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE BUT LESS PRONOUNCED, REFLECTING THE COMPARISON WITH A MONTH ALREADY AFFECTED BY THE PANDEMIC

The **tourist accommodation sector**<sup>1</sup> registered 283.7 thousand guests and 636.1 thousand overnight stays in March 2021, corresponding to year-on-year rates of change<sup>2</sup> of -59.0% and -66.5% respectively (-87.1% and -87.8% in February, in the same order). Overnight stays of residents declined by 20.2% (-74.9% in February) and those of non-residents decreased by 86.2% (-94.5% in the previous month). It should be noted that these year-on-year rates of change in March focus on the first month of 2020 when the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has already been felt significantly.

In the first quarter of the year, total overnight stays decreased by 80.0%, resulting from changes of -59.3% in residents and -90.0% in non-residents.

In March, 58.5% of the tourist accommodation establishments were closed or had no movement of guests (63.9% in February).

Despite the circumstances determined by the COVID-19 pandemic, Statistics Portugal calls for the best collaboration by companies, families and public entities in responding to Statistics Portugal's data requests. The quality of official statistics, particularly its ability to identify the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, crucially depends on this collaboration, which Statistics Portugal thanks in advance.

Figure 1. Global results of the tourist accommodation sector

Global preliminary results	Unit	February 2021		March 2021		Jan - Mar 21	
		Value	Year-on-year change rate (%)	Value	Year-on-year change rate	Value	Year-on-year change rate (%)
<b>Guests</b>	<b>10<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>205.8</b>	<b>-87.1</b>	<b>283.7</b>	<b>-59.0</b>	<b>790.3</b>	<b>-78.7</b>
Residents in Portugal	"	174.4	-77.6	233.8	-21.7	634.1	-63.5
Residents abroad	"	31.4	-96.1	49.9	-87.3	156.3	-92.1
<b>Overnight stays</b>	<b>10<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>468.4</b>	<b>-87.8</b>	<b>636.1</b>	<b>-66.5</b>	<b>1 802.3</b>	<b>-80.0</b>
Residents in Portugal	"	328.4	-74.9	452.1	-20.2	1 200.0	-59.3
Residents abroad	"	139.9	-94.5	184.0	-86.2	602.3	-90.0
<b>Average stay</b>	<b>no. of nights</b>	<b>2.28</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>-18.3</b>	<b>2.28</b>	<b>-6.0</b>
Residents in Portugal	"	1.88	12.2	1.93	1.9	1.89	11.5
Residents abroad	"	4.46	43.6	3.68	8.9	3.85	25.6

<sup>1</sup> 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 tourism.

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