

29 May 2020

## Tourist Activity

April 2020 – Flash estimate

### Almost complete interruption of tourist activity in April

According to the flash estimate, in **April 2020**, the **tourist accommodation sector**<sup>1</sup> should have registered 68.0 thousand guests and 193.8 thousand overnight stays, corresponding to year-on-year rates of change<sup>2</sup> of -97.1% and -96.7%, respectively (-62.3% and -58.7% in March, in the same order). Overnight stays from residents will have decreased by 92.7% (-57.6% in March) and those from non-residents will have fallen by 98.3% (-59.2% in the previous month).

In April, in the context of the state of emergency, around 80.6% of tourist accommodation establishments would have been closed or did not received guests.

According to the results of an additional specific questionnaire which, during April and May, Statistics Portugal promoted and obtained answers from around 5,000 establishments, on the perspectives for tourist activity in the coming months until August, 78.4% of the respondent tourist accommodation establishments (representing 90.4% of the capacity) pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of bookings scheduled for March to August 2020. This percentage varies inversely with the extension of the time horizon: 74.4% reported cancellations for June, 63.6% for July and 57.5% for August.

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, statistics on tourism activity in April 2020 based on the primary information already collected up to May 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 April, scheduled for June 17, 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.

In April 2020, **tourist accommodation sector** should have registered 68.0 thousand guests and 193.8 thousand overnight stays, corresponding to year-on-year rates of change of -97.1% and -96.7%, respectively (-62.3% and -58.7% in March, in the same order).

Overnight stays from residents will have decreased by 92.7% (-57.6% in March) and reached 122.9 thousand, while those from non-residents will have fallen by 98.3% (-59.2% in the previous month), standing at 70.9 thousand.

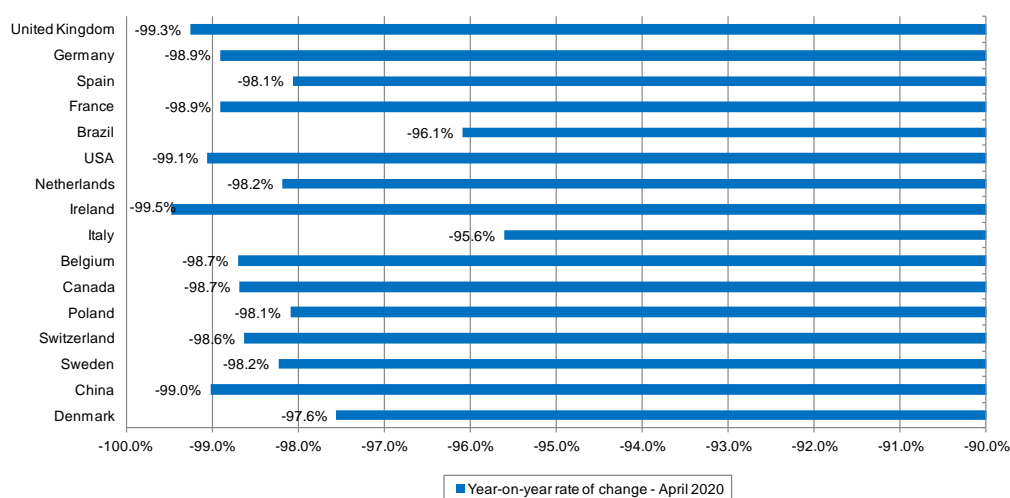
<sup>1</sup> Monthly series which includes three types of accommodation facilities: hotel establishments (hotels, apartment hotels, tourist apartments, tourist villages, pousadas and quintas da Madeira), local accommodation with 10 or more beds (according to the statistical threshold defined by EU Regulation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

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

Resident guests will have been 48.2 thousand, corresponding to a decrease of 94.5% decrease (-61.9% in March) and non-resident guests will have reached a total of 19.8 thousand, decreasing by 98.6% (-62.6% in the previous month).

All of the main inbound markets registered significant decreases in April, exceeding 95%.

**Figure 1. Year-on-year rates of change of overnight stays in tourist accommodation establishments, by country of residence**



In April, in the context of the state of emergency, around 80.6% of tourist accommodation establishments would have been closed or did not received guests.

The profile of the few tourists who stayed in tourist accommodation establishments this month was different from the usual, with several situations being reported to Statistics Portugal, such as for example guests staying in Portugal without the possibility of returning to their country of residence, or people who, for professional reasons, had to travel in the country and spend the night outside their place of residence.

### Results of the specific questionnaire on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Statistics Portugal asked the tourist accommodation establishments three questions to assess the impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic on their activity, namely as regards reservations and cancellations in the period from March to August 2020, by main markets, having obtained around 5,000 valid answers. The results obtained are presented below.

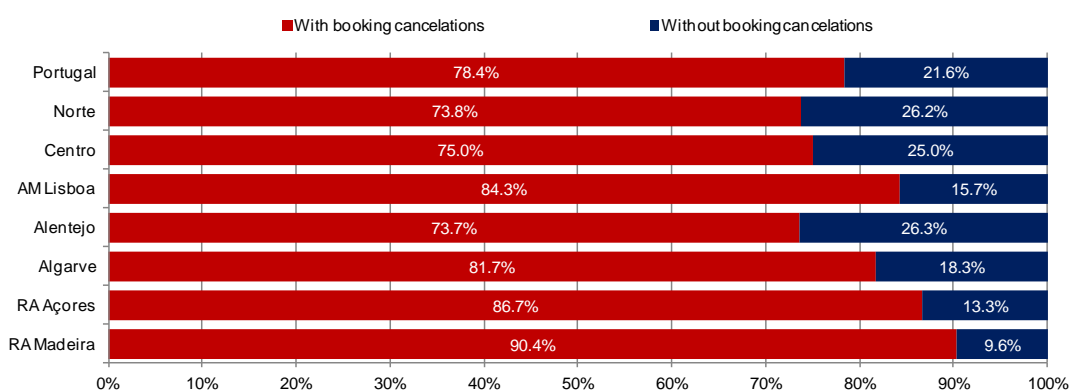
## Booking cancellations in most establishments

In Portugal, 78.4% of the respondent tourist accommodation establishments indicated that the pandemic led to the cancellation of bookings scheduled for March to August 2020 (these establishments represent 90.4% of the capacity of the respondent establishments).

RA Madeira was the region with the highest weight of establishments with reservations cancelled (90.4% of the establishments and 98.3% of the capacity offered), followed by RA Açores (86.7% and 96.5%, respectively), AM Lisboa (84.3% and 93.6%, in the same order) and Algarve (81.7% and 91.2%, respectively).

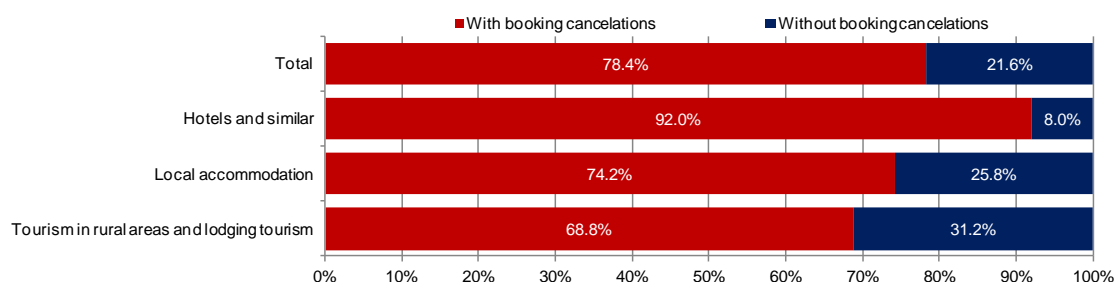
The more restrictive measures to the mobility of people may have influenced the higher rate of cancellations that occurred in the Autonomous Regions.

**Figure 2. Proportion of establishments with booking cancellations by NUTS II**



In the hotel activity, establishments with cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic represented 92.0% of the total (94.3% of the offered capacity). In local accommodation, these establishments accounted for 74.2% of the total (78.4% of the capacity offered) and in rural and lodging tourism they represented 68.8% of the total (74.1% of the capacity).

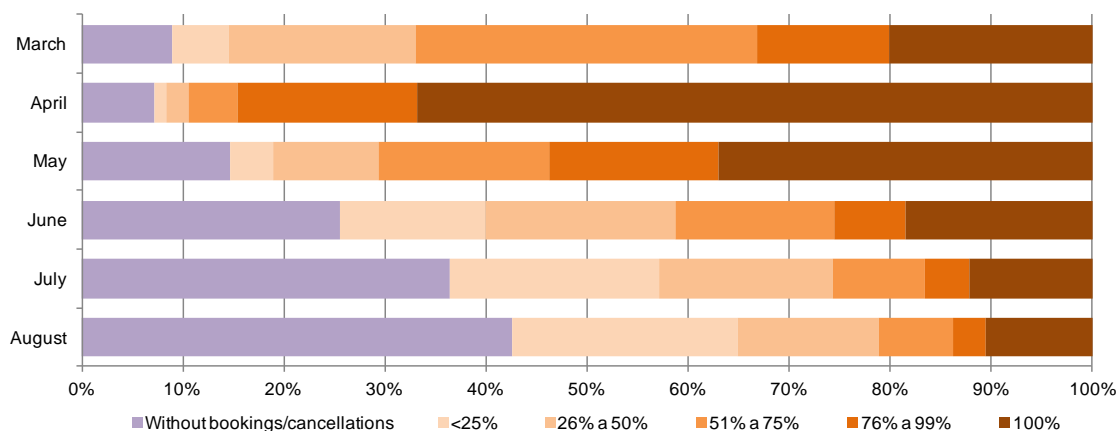
**Figure 3. Proportion of establishments with booking cancellations by segment of the establishment**



**Cancellation of all bookings decreases in the months with most intense demand**

As can be seen in the following graph, the proportion of establishments reporting partial or total cancellations of bookings decreases in the months when traditionally the request for tourist accommodation services is most intense. Still, according to this information, about 74.4% reported cancellations for June, 63.6% for July, and 57.5% for August.

**Figure 4. Proportion of establishments reporting booking cancellations**

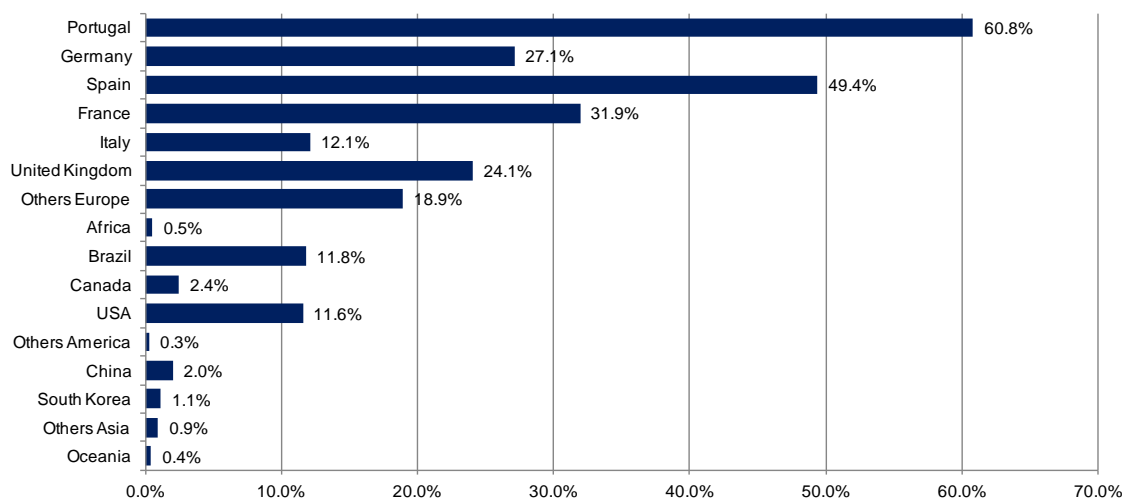


**The internal market was preponderant regarding booking cancellations**

When asked about the main markets with booking cancellations (each establishment can identify up to 3 markets), the internal market was the most mentioned, having been identified by 60.8% of the tourist accommodation establishments.

The Spanish market was the second most mentioned (49.4% of the establishments), followed by the French (31.9% of the establishments), German (27.1% of the establishments), and British (24.1% of the establishments) markets.

**Figure 5. Main markets with booking cancellations by establishment (%)**



Focusing the analysis on the markets that have been identified as one of the three markets with the highest number of booking cancellations in each region, results have shown that:

- In the Norte, the internal market was identified by 66.2% of the establishments, followed by the Spanish market (referred to by 61.6% of the establishments);
- In the Centro, the internal market was mentioned by 84.2% of the establishments, followed by the Spanish market (52.5% of the establishments);
- In AM Lisboa, the Spanish market was referred to by 59.0% of the establishments, and the French market was mentioned by 39.7% of the establishments. In this region, the internal market was identified by 33.5% of the establishments;
- In Alentejo, the internal market was identified by 81.3% of the establishments, followed by the Spanish market (referred to by 43.1% of the establishments);
- In the Algarve, 65.0% of the establishments referred to the British market, followed by the internal market (48.5% of the establishments) and the Spanish market (43.8% of the establishments);
- In RA Açores, the internal market was identified by 83.9% of the establishments, followed by the German market (54.0% of the establishments);
- In RA Madeira, the German market was identified by 72.9% of the establishments, followed by the French market (58.7% of the establishments) and the British market (49.0% of the establishments).

In hotels, the internal market was mentioned as one of the three markets with the highest number of cancellations by 66.5% of the establishments, followed by the Spanish market (58.1%). In local accommodation, the Spanish market was identified by 49.8% of the establishments, followed by the internal market (48.2%). In rural tourism and lodging establishments, the internal market was mentioned by 74.5% of the establishments.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

The sources used in this press release are: Survey on guest stays in hotel establishments and other accommodations

**Guest** – Individual that spends at least one overnight stay in a tourist accommodation activity establishment.

**Overnight stay** – Time spent by an individual between midday of one day and midday of the following day.

**Year-on-year rates of change** – comparison between the variable level in the reference period and the same period of the year before. The calculation of year-on-year rates of change for the main indicators is based on values in units, although in this press release they are visible only in thousands.

**Language** - In order to simplify the language, the term "foreigner" might be used instead of "non-resident".

Date of next press release: 17 June 2020