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Briton abducted at knife point in Port of Andratx: See Page Three

Coronavirus impact is overwhelming, Spain's hotels association says

Madrid.—Hotel bookings have fallen by as much as 40% in some areas of Spain, the country's hotel federation said and flagged an overwhelming impact for the eurozone's fourth largest economy as anxiety about the coronavirus outbreak takes hold.

Tourism accounts for 12% of Spain's Gross Domestic Product and is especially important during next month's Easter holiday period.

Hotel bookings were around 20%-30% lower at the start of March compared to the same period a year ago and the drop is as steep as 40% in some areas, the country's hotel federation said.

"The impact is overwhelming," said Jorge Marichal, the president of Spain's hotels and tourist accommodations federation CEHAT.

"The (sales) figures are decreasing a lot. We are talking about a percentage between 20 and 30 percent, in some places up to 40. It depends also on each type of installation," he said. Concerns over the impact of coronavirus on the sector has been exemplified by a hotel in Tenerife, under lockdown with hundreds of tourists inside since Feb. 25 after several cases of coronavirus were reported there



**Another victim of
coronavirus Spain's
religious
statue-kissing: See
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Iran bans travellers from Spain

Madrid.— Iraq has banned entry to travellers coming from France and Spain, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday bringing the total number of countries on its entry ban list to 11 as it tries to stem the spread of coronavirus. The ban does not extend to Iraqi citizens and foreign diplomats, a ministry spokesman said in a statement. Iraq

has so far recorded 38 cases of coronavirus and two deaths. The health minister, who heads Iraq's coronavirus response task force, called on all Iraqis in Iran - which has suffered the world's deadliest coronavirus outbreak outside China - to return by March 15 before border crossings are closed and only four airports open to them.

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