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## Bombers fail to curb Spanish tourism

SPAIN'S tourist industry is on the road to a full recovery, just months after the Madrid bomb attacks killed 191 people. According to a study by Exceltur, a lobby group of 29 of Spain's main tourist groups and companies, travel sector figures indicate a prompt and full recovery, with the effects of the attack concentrated exclusively on Madrid.

The report claims the attacks had a negligible impact on the country's Mediterranean tourist areas. With first-quarter growth between 3 and 4 per cent, Exceltur's chief executive, Jose Luis Zoreda, said tourism would have been "extraordinarily good" had the attacks not happened. This latest news is extremely welcome, after Spain's tourist industry - which accounts for 12 per cent of the nation's GDP - plunged 13 per cent in March 2003 following the launch of the US-led invasion of Iraq.