

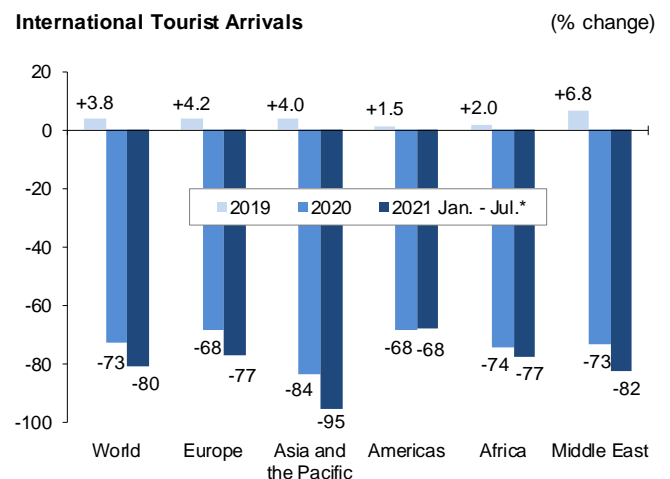


International tourism shows slight recovery in June and July 2021 driven by vaccinations and border reopening

- International tourist arrivals (overnight visitors) in the first seven months of 2021 were 40% below the levels of 2020, and still 80% down when compared to the same period of pre-pandemic year 2019.
- After a weak start of the year, international tourism saw a modest improvement during the months of June and July 2021.
- The small improvement in June and July was underpinned by the reopening of many destinations to international travel, mostly in Europe and the Americas. The relaxation of travel restrictions to vaccinated travellers, coupled with progress made in the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines, contributed to ease travel restrictions, lift consumer confidence and gradually restore safe mobility in Europe and other parts of the world.
- Small islands in the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific, together with a few small European destinations recorded the best performance in June and July, with arrivals coming close to, or sometimes exceeding pre-pandemic levels.
- July (-67%) saw comparatively better performance than June (-77%), making it the best month so far since April 2020.
- Asia and the Pacific continued to suffer the weakest results in January-July 2021, with a 95% drop in international arrivals compared to the same period in 2019. The Middle East (-82%) recorded the second largest decline, followed by Europe and Africa (both -77%). The Americas (-68%) saw a comparatively smaller decrease.
- Although destinations continued to report very weak international tourism revenues in the first seven

months of 2021, several countries recorded a modest improvement in the months of June and July, and some even surpassed the earnings of 2019.

- Among the larger source markets, France (-35% over 2019) and the United States (-49%) saw a small rebound in July.
- Despite the relative improvement over the low levels of 2020, international tourism remained well below 2019 levels. This is also reflected in the evaluation made by the UNWTO Panel of Experts in the September survey, showing mixed results for the period May-August 2021.
- Looking ahead, most experts continue to expect a rebound in 2022, driven by unleashed pent-up demand, mostly during the second and third quarter of that year. Nearly one-third of respondents expect a potential rebound in 2023. Almost half of all experts continue to see a return of international arrivals to 2019 levels in 2024 or later.



Source: UNWTO

* Provisional data (% change over 2019)



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About the *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer*

The *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer* is a publication of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) that monitors short-term tourism trends on a regular basis to provide global tourism stakeholders with up-to-date analysis on international tourism.

The information is updated several times a year and includes an analysis of the latest data on tourism destinations (inbound tourism) and source markets (outbound tourism). The Barometer also includes three times a year a Confidence Index based on the UNWTO Panel of Tourism Experts survey, which provides an evaluation of recent performance and short-term prospects on international tourism.

The UNWTO Secretariat wishes to express its gratitude to those who have contributed to the production of this *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer*, in particular to institutions that supplied data, and to the members of the UNWTO Panel of Tourism Experts for their valuable feedback and analysis.

This report was prepared by the **UNWTO Tourism Market Intelligence and Competitiveness Department**, under the supervision of Sandra Carvão, Chief of the Department. Authors include (in alphabetical order): Fernando Alonso, Michel Julian, and Javier Ruescas.

For more information including copies of previous issues, please visit: www.e-unwto.org/loi/wtobarometereng.

We welcome your comments and suggestions at barom@unwto.org.

Data collection for this issue was closed mid-September 2021.

The next issue of the *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer* with more comprehensive results is scheduled to be published in November 2021.

Pages 1-4 of this document constitute the Excerpt of the *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer*. The full document is available free of charge for UNWTO Members and subscribers from the UNWTO eLibrary at www.e-unwto.org. This release is available in English, while the Statistical Annex is provided in English, French, Spanish and Russian.

Inbound tourism

International tourism down 80% in January-July 2021

- International tourist arrivals (overnight visitors) dropped by 40% in January-July 2021 compared to the same period of 2020. Yet, this was still 80% below the levels of pre-pandemic year 2019¹.
- This sharp decline represents a loss of some 677 million international arrivals compared to the same seven months of 2019, or 110 million compared to 2020.
- After a weak start of the year, international tourism saw a gradual improvement during the months of June and July 2021, especially in Europe.
- These results were underpinned by the reopening of many destinations to international travel, mostly in Europe and the Americas. The relaxation of travel restrictions for vaccinated travellers, coupled with progress made in the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines, contributed to lifting consumer confidence and gradually restoring safe mobility in Europe and other parts of the world. In contrast, most destinations in Asia remain closed to non-essential travel.
- Most destinations reporting data for June and July 2021 saw a moderate rebound in international tourist arrivals compared to the same months of 2020. Small islands in the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific, together with a few small European destinations recorded the best performance in June and July according to available data, with arrivals coming close to, or sometimes exceeding pre-pandemic levels.
- Among the destinations reporting data, Albania (-2%), Saint-Maarten (-4%), Aruba (-9%), Dominican Republic (-13%), Antigua and Barbuda (-14%), Andorra (-16%), Curaçao (-22%), Montenegro (-33%), Maldives (-36%) and Seychelles (-39%) were the best performing destinations in the period June-July 2021, over the same two months of 2019.
- July (-67%) saw comparatively better performance than June (-77%), making it the best month so far since April 2020. An estimated 54 million tourists travelled across borders in July 2021, compared to 34 million in 2020, though well below the 164 million recorded in 2019.
- By regions, Europe and the Americas recorded the smallest decreases in international arrivals in June and July, supported by intraregional demand. Several large destinations contributed to these results, recovering in some cases up to 80% of 2019 levels in the month of July, including Mexico (-19%), Croatia (-22%), Turkey (-33%), Greece (-50%) and Spain (-55%).
- Asia and the Pacific continued to suffer the weakest results in the period January to July 2021, with a 95% drop in international arrivals compared to the same period in 2019. Only essential travel was recorded in many Asian destinations, as most countries remained closed to international travel. The Middle East (-82%) recorded the second largest decline in arrivals, followed by Europe and Africa (both -77%). The Americas (-68%) saw a comparatively smaller decrease.
- By subregions, the Caribbean (-52% over 2019) recorded the best relative performance in January-July 2021. Growing travel from the United States has benefitted destinations in the Caribbean and Central America, as well as Mexico. The Caribbean (+11%) as well as Southern and Mediterranean Europe (+1%) were the only subregions to record growth in Jan-July 2021 compared to the same period in 2020.
- Most subregions saw comparatively better results in July than in June, with Southern and Mediterranean Europe, Central America and the Caribbean all posting decreases below 50% in July over 2019.
- Despite the relative improvement in performance over the low levels of 2020, international tourism remained overall well below 2019 results. This is reflected in the evaluation made by the UNWTO Panel of Experts in the September survey, showing mixed results for the period May-August 2021.
- Domestic travel continued to drive the recovery of tourism in several destinations, especially those with large domestic markets. In China and Russia, domestic air seat capacity already exceeded pre-crisis levels. However, the rebound in domestic travel in many markets has not compensated for the large drop in international tourism.

¹ Due to the unprecedented and large pandemic-driven declines suffered by international tourism in 2020, comparisons are made

with the corresponding period of pre-crisis year 2019, unless otherwise indicated.

Modest improvement of international tourism receipts and expenditure in June and July

• Destinations continued to report weak international tourism receipts in the first seven months of 2021, though several countries did record a modest improvement in June and July, and some even surpassed the earnings of 2019. Among the larger destinations, Mexico earned roughly the same tourism receipts in June 2021 as in 2019, and in July posted a 3% increase over 2019.

• The same is true for outbound travel. Among the larger markets, France (-35%) and the United States (-49%) saw a significant improvement in July, though tourism spending was still well below 2019 levels. Other countries such as Portugal (-25%) and Ukraine (-35%) saw a significant improvement in July, though tourism spending was also below 2019 levels. Romania spent roughly the same amount on outbound tourism in July 2021 as in 2019.

International Tourist Arrivals by (Sub)region

	Monthly/quarterly data series																		
	(million)		Share		Change		Percentage change (%)*								2021 over 2019				
			(%)		(%)		2021 over 2020 ²												
	2019	2020*	2020*	19/18	20/19	YTD	Q1	Q2	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	YTD	Q1	Q2	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.
World	1,466	402	100	3.8	-72.6	-40.3	-82.2	219.4	328.1	296.5	150.5	59.8	-80.5	-87.0	-81.5	-85.9	-81.8	-77.3	-66.7
Advanced economies ¹	777	214	53.2	2.1	-72.5	-41.9	-86.1	167.3	296.0	265.9	105.3	35.7	-82.0	-90.2	-90.5	-89.8	-83.8	-78.5	-65.5
Emerging economies ¹	689	188	46.8	5.7	-72.7	-38.7	-78.8	292.1	350.6	332.4	236.5	114.4	-78.8	-84.0	-83.1	-81.5	-79.3	-75.8	-67.2
<i>By UNWTO regions:</i>																			
Europe	746.3	235.9	58.7	4.2	-68.4	-31.1	-83.2	162.5	294.4	257.7	104.7	38.6	-76.9	-86.7	-80.5	-87.2	-81.6	-74.7	-57.6
Northern Europe	83.7	21.5	5.4	3.3	-74.3	-66.7	-92.8	65.6	59.9	57.7	71.5	9.3	-89.2	-94.1	-91.7	-94.6	-93.3	-88.4	-78.2
Western Europe	205.4	79.0	19.6	2.6	-61.5	-44.1	-87.8	87.7	286.5	223.3	21.7	-0.5	-78.5	-90.5	-80.5	-87.9	-77.4	-77.2	-58.3
Central/Eastern Eur.	153.2	47.2	11.7	4.8	-69.2	-45.8	-80.6	165.0	241.1	224.8	106.4	2.4	-80.3	-83.9	-81.8	-83.8	-83.0	-78.9	-71.0
Southern/Medit. Eur.	304.0	88.2	21.9	5.3	-71.0	1.4	-77.2	259.6	441.0	363.1	199.1	98.2	-70.6	-82.6	-77.0	-86.5	-80.6	-67.8	-46.2
- of which EU-27	540.7	178.6	44.4	3.2	-67.0	-32.6	-84.1	123.7	212.9	202.4	82.0	24.3	-76.8	-87.7	-88.9	-89.0	-81.9	-73.4	-56.4
Asia and the Pacific	360.4	59.3	14.8	4.0	-83.5	-81.0	-92.5	265.0	393.4	265.5	173.0	134.2	-95.3	-95.9	-95.0	-94.6	-94.8	-95.5	-94.3
North-East Asia	170.3	20.2	5.0	0.7	-88.1	-64.0	-87.3	451.5	819.2	487.6	238.7	152.7	-94.5	-95.6	-94.0	-93.4	-93.7	-94.8	-92.7
South-East Asia	138.6	25.5	6.3	7.8	-81.6	-93.0	-97.2	35.0	27.5	37.2	40.5	21.7	-97.9	-98.2	-97.6	-97.8	-97.3	-97.7	-97.7
Oceania	17.5	3.6	0.9	2.4	-79.4	-87.1	-98.2	927.8	874.8	↑	815.1	502.8	-95.4	-98.6	-92.1	-94.5	-91.3	-90.4	-93.7
South Asia	34.0	10.0	2.5	7.5	-70.5	-76.4	-86.7	426.0	↑	332.4	193.2	281.1	-88.7	-87.1	-90.7	-87.4	-92.5	-92.5	-89.0
Americas	219.3	69.9	17.4	1.5	-68.1	-19.1	-70.7	382.6	382.4	422.1	351.6	227.9	-68.0	-75.4	-63.8	-69.3	-61.6	-60.4	-60.3
North America	146.6	46.7	11.6	3.1	-68.2	-13.6	-67.1	263.8	258.6	276.0	257.4	198.3	-66.7	-72.0	-64.5	-68.8	-62.9	-62.0	-61.1
Caribbean	26.3	10.3	2.6	2.0	-60.7	10.9	-58.8	↑	↑	↑	561.0	185.6	-52.1	-65.7	-43.6	-52.0	-40.9	-37.0	-32.2
Central America	10.9	3.1	0.8	0.8	-71.6	-9.3	-71.7	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	-65.1	-76.7	-58.1	-68.7	-56.0	-48.3	-48.2
South America	35.4	9.7	2.4	-4.7	-72.6	-66.5	-90.3	↑	919.6	↑	↑	688.8	-86.2	-92.1	-79.9	-86.8	-74.7	-77.0	-81.8
Africa	70.1	18.1	4.5	2.0	-74.2	-44.9	-78.9	141.7	111.7	111.2	198.9	134.5	-77.3	-81.7	-76.5	-80.8	-77.6	-71.3	-69.8
North Africa	25.6	5.5	1.4	6.4	-78.4	-23.5	-77.1	↑	↑	↑	↑	258.9	-77.8	-81.7	-79.0	-84.7	-83.7	-70.8	-70.7
Subsaharan Africa	44.5	12.5	3.1	-0.3	-71.9	-52.6	-79.6	64.8	52.8	61.1	80.2	75.9	-77.0	-81.6	-75.0	-78.5	-74.6	-71.7	-68.9
Middle East	70.0	18.9	4.7	6.8	-73.0	-50.5	-77.5	↑	↑	↑	955.4	341.7	-82.5	-82.3	-83.0	-83.6	-83.8	-81.3	-81.5

Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) ©

(Data as collected by UNWTO, September 2021)

* Provisional data

¹ Classification based on the International Monetary Fund (IMF), see the Statistical Annex of the IMF World Economic Outlook of April 2017, page 175, at www.imf.org/external/ns/cs.aspx?id=29.

² Arrows (↑) indicate percentage change over 1000. (See Methodological Notes).

See box in page 'Annex-1' for explanation of abbreviations and symbols used.

For regularly updated data, please check the *UNWTO Tourism Recovery Tracker*:

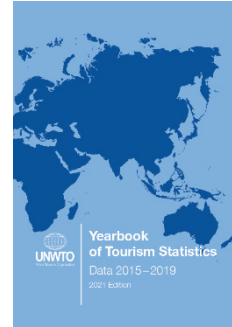
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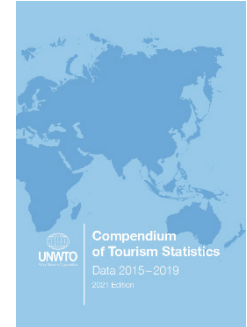
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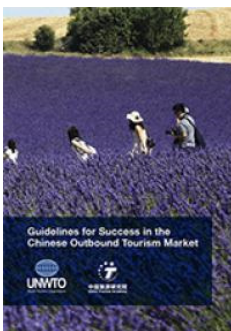
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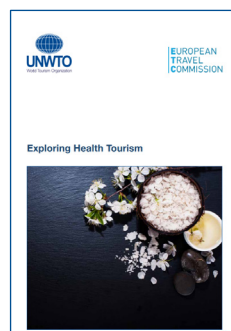
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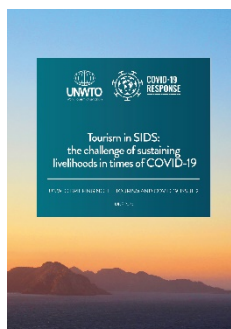
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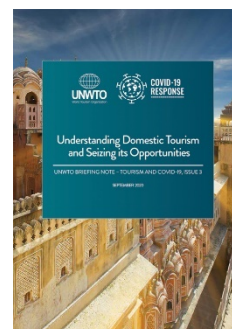
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