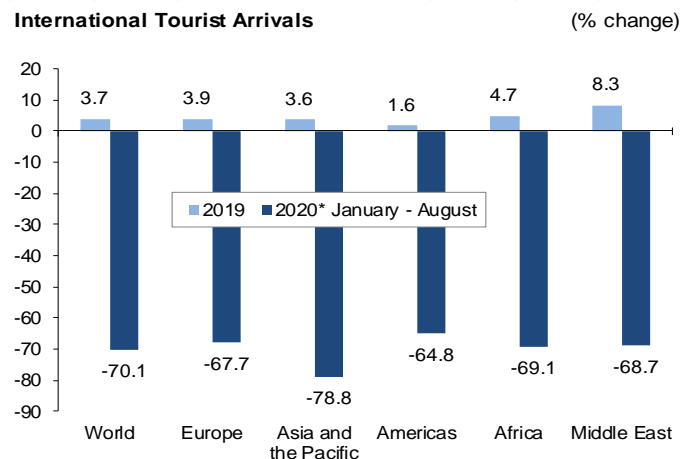




International travel plunges 70% in the first eight months of 2020

- International tourist arrivals (overnight visitors) declined 70% in the first eight months of 2020 over the same period of last year, amid global travel restrictions including many borders fully closed, to contain the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- International arrivals plunged 81% in July and 79% in August, traditionally the two busiest months of the year and the peak of the Northern Hemisphere summer season.
- Despite such large declines, this represents a relative improvement over the 90% or greater decreases of the previous months, as some destinations started to reopen to international tourism, mostly in the European Union.
- The decline in January-August 2020 represents 700 million fewer international tourist arrivals compared to the same period in 2019, and translates into a loss of US\$ 730 billion in export revenues from international tourism, more than 8 times the loss in 2009 under the impact of the global economic crisis.
- Asia and the Pacific, the first region to suffer the impact of the pandemic, saw a 79% decrease in arrivals in January-August 2020. Africa and the Middle East both recorded a 69% drop this eight-month period, while Europe saw a 68% decline and the Americas 65%.
- Data on international tourism expenditure continues to reflect very weak demand for outbound travel, though in several large markets such as the United States, Germany and Italy there is a small uptick in spending in the months of July and August.
- Based on latest trends, a 75% decrease in international arrivals is estimated for the month of September and a drop of close to 70% for the whole of 2020.
- While demand for international travel remains subdued, domestic tourism is strengthening recovery in several large markets such as China and Russia.
- The UNWTO Confidence Index continues at record lows. Most UNWTO Panel Experts expect a rebound in international tourism by the third quarter of 2021 and a return to pre-pandemic 2019 levels not before 2023.
- Experts consider travel restrictions as the main barrier weighing on the recovery of international tourism, along with slow virus containment and low consumer confidence.



Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) © * Provisional data



The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations specialized agency mandated with the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

UNWTO's membership includes 159 countries, 6 Associate Members, two Permanent Observers, and over 500 Affiliate Members representing the private sector, educational institutions, tourism associations and local tourism authorities.

Copyright © 2020 World Tourism Organization
C/ Poeta Joan Maragall 42, 28020 Madrid, Spain

UNWTO World Tourism Barometer

ISSN: 1728-9246

Published and printed by the World Tourism Organization, Madrid, Spain - First printing: 2020 (version 27/10/20)
All rights reserved

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinions whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

All UNWTO publications are protected by copyright. Therefore and unless otherwise specified, no part of a UNWTO publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, microfilm, scanning, without prior permission in writing. UNWTO encourages dissemination of its work and is pleased to consider permissions, licensing, and translation requests related to UNWTO publications. For permission to photocopy UNWTO material, please refer to the UNWTO website at www.unwto.org/publications

The contents of this issue may be quoted, provided the source is given accurately and clearly. Distribution or reproduction in full is permitted for own or internal use only. Please do not post electronic copies on publicly accessible websites. UNWTO encourages you to include a link to www.unwto.org/market-intelligence

World Tourism Organization

C/ Poeta Joan Maragall 42, 28020 Madrid, Spain
Tel (34) 91 567 81 00 / Fax (34) 91 131 17 02
info@unwto.org - www.unwto.org

Follow us on:      

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 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. Contributors 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 October 2020.

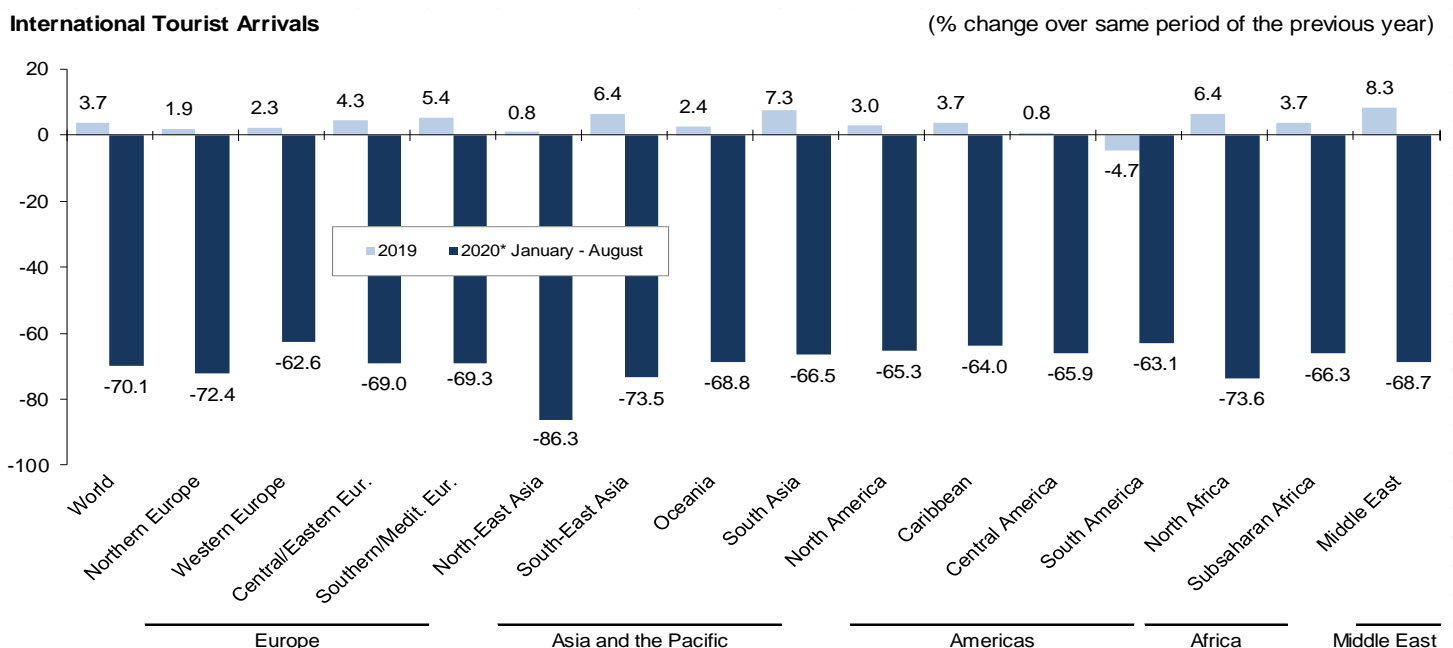
The next issue of the *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer* with more comprehensive results is scheduled to be published in November 2020

The document is available 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 tourist arrivals down 70% in January-August 2020

- International tourist arrivals (overnight visitors) declined 70% in the first eight months of 2020 over the same period of last year, amid global travel restrictions including many borders fully closed, to contain the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- International arrivals plunged 81% in July and 79% in August, traditionally the two busiest months of the year and the peak of the Northern Hemisphere summer season.
- Despite such large declines, this represents a relative improvement over the 90% or greater decreases of the previous months, as some destinations started to reopen to international tourism, mostly in the European Union.
- The decline in January-August 2020 represents 700 million fewer international tourist arrivals compared to the same period in 2019, and translates into a loss of US\$ 730 billion in export revenues from international tourism, more than 8 times the loss in 2009 under the impact of the global economic crisis.
- Asia and the Pacific, the first region to suffer the impact of the pandemic, saw a 79% decrease in arrivals in January-August 2020. Africa and the Middle East both recorded a 69% drop this eight-month period, while Europe saw a 68% decline and the Americas 65%. In July and August, Europe recorded comparatively smaller declines of 72% and 69%, due to the gradual reopening of international borders, mostly in EU destinations. The slight recovery was short-lived however, as travel restrictions and advisories were reintroduced amid an increase in contagions. On the other side of the spectrum, Asia and the Pacific recorded the largest declines with -96% in both July and August, reflecting continued closure of borders in China and other major destinations in the region.
- Results in August are slightly better than in July in most destinations and particularly in Europe. Among all subregions in the world, Western and Southern-Europe show the smaller declines in August.
- At the subregional level, North-East Asia (-86%), South-East Asia, North Africa (both -74%) Northern Europe (-72%) and suffered the largest drop in January-August 2020. Arrivals in most world subregions recorded drops from -60% to -70%.
- Despite a gradual reopening of international borders in late May and June, the rebound in travel was mostly limited to Europe and proved to be short-lived, due to a spike in contagions. Many destinations have since reintroduced travel and advisories which is slowing down the already weak pace of recovery.



- Data on international tourism expenditure continues to reflect very weak demand for outbound travel, though in several large markets such as the United States, Germany and Italy there is a small uptick in spending in the months of July and August.
- While demand for international travel remains subdued, demand for domestic tourism continues to recover in several large markets. In China, some 637 million domestic trips (about 80% the level of 2019) were recorded during the eight-day Golden

Week holiday which began on October 1 and spent around US\$ 69.5 billion according to data from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China. In Russia, domestic seat capacity fully recovered to levels of 2019 and grew 9% in August, reflecting strong appetite for domestic travel.

For regular updated data, please check the **UNWTO Tourism Recovery Tracker** <https://www.unwto.org/unwto-tourism-recovery-tracker>

International Tourist Arrivals by (Sub)region

	(million)			Share (%)	Change (%)		Monthly/quarterly data series								
					18/17	19*/18	% change over same period of the previous year								
	2017	2018	2019*	2019*			YTD	Q1	Q2	H1	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.
World	1,333	1,408	1,460	100	5.7	3.7	-70.1	-28.5	-94.9	-65.5	-97.1	-96.6	-91.5	-80.5	-78.6
Advanced economies ¹	732	761	776	53.2	4.1	2.0	-70.2	-30.1	-94.5	-67.9	-97.8	-96.6	-90.0	-75.6	-73.6
Emerging economies ¹	601	647	684	46.8	7.6	5.8	-70.0	-26.9	-95.5	-62.8	-96.4	-96.7	-93.4	-87.4	-85.4
<i>By UNWTO regions:</i>															
Europe	676.6	715.8	743.7	50.9	5.8	3.9	-67.7	-21.0	-93.3	-66.0	-97.5	-96.3	-87.8	-71.9	-69.1
Northern Europe	81.0	81.0	82.6	5.7	0.0	1.9	-72.4	-18.2	-95.7	-64.2	-96.7	-96.6	-94.2	-86.8	-84.9
Western Europe	192.7	200.2	204.7	14.0	3.9	2.3	-62.6	-19.8	-91.6	-62.7	-98.1	-96.6	-82.4	-63.2	-61.7
Central/Eastern Eur.	135.0	146.0	152.3	10.4	8.2	4.3	-69.0	-16.2	-94.1	-61.9	-97.3	-97.0	-88.7	-82.6	-83.4
Southern/Medit. Eur.	267.9	288.6	304.1	20.8	7.7	5.4	-69.3	-26.2	-93.6	-71.1	-97.4	-95.7	-89.3	-69.3	-64.3
- of which EU-28	540.5	562.5	579.0	39.6	4.1	2.9	-66.6	-21.8	-93.4	-65.9	-97.4	-95.9	-86.5	-68.7	-67.1
Asia and the Pacific	324.1	347.7	360.1	24.7	7.3	3.6	-78.8	-48.9	-98.2	-73.1	-97.8	-98.7	-98.2	-96.0	-95.7
North-East Asia	159.5	169.2	170.6	11.7	6.1	0.8	-86.3	-65.1	-98.9	-82.5	-99.3	-98.9	-98.5	-98.2	-97.8
South-East Asia	120.6	128.6	136.8	9.4	6.7	6.4	-73.5	-35.3	-97.3	-64.9	-95.4	-98.2	-98.5	-98.2	-98.1
Oceania	16.6	17.0	17.5	1.2	2.8	2.4	-68.8	-25.4	-99.0	-58.4	-98.8	-99.2	-99.0	-98.9	-98.6
South Asia	27.5	32.8	35.2	2.4	19.4	7.3	-66.5	-37.7	-97.5	-63.6	-98.9	-99.0	-94.7	-75.1	-74.6
Americas	210.8	215.9	219.5	15.0	2.4	1.6	-64.8	-16.9	-92.9	-55.5	-93.8	-92.9	-91.9	-88.3	-88.2
North America	137.4	142.2	146.4	10.0	3.5	3.0	-65.3	-14.3	-90.3	-55.5	-91.2	-90.1	-89.5	-86.9	-87.3
Caribbean	25.8	25.8	26.8	1.8	0.1	3.7	-64.0	-26.1	-97.7	-59.8	-99.3	-98.8	-94.7	-78.8	-76.4
Central America	11.1	10.8	10.9	0.7	-2.2	0.8	-65.9	-17.5	-98.3	-54.8	-97.2	-99.1	-98.8	-99.5	-98.9
South America	36.6	37.1	35.4	2.4	1.3	-4.7	-63.1	-17.5	-99.4	-51.9	-99.0	-99.6	-99.6	-98.7	-98.9
Africa	63.3	68.7	71.9	4.9	8.4	4.7	-69.1	-13.5	-98.9	-57.0	-98.6	-99.4	-98.9	-96.1	-93.7
North Africa	21.7	24.1	25.6	1.8	11.1	6.4	-73.6	-17.5	-98.2	-62.4	-97.2	-99.4	-98.3	-92.9	-88.7
Subsaharan Africa	41.7	44.6	46.3	3.2	7.0	3.7	-66.3	-11.7	-99.4	-54.1	-99.5	-99.4	-99.4	-99.4	-97.9
Middle East	57.6	60.1	65.1	4.5	4.3	8.3	-68.7	-20.2	-98.9	-58.9	-98.8	-99.1	-98.6	-96.1	-93.6

Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) ©

(Data as collected by UNWTO, October 2020)

* 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.

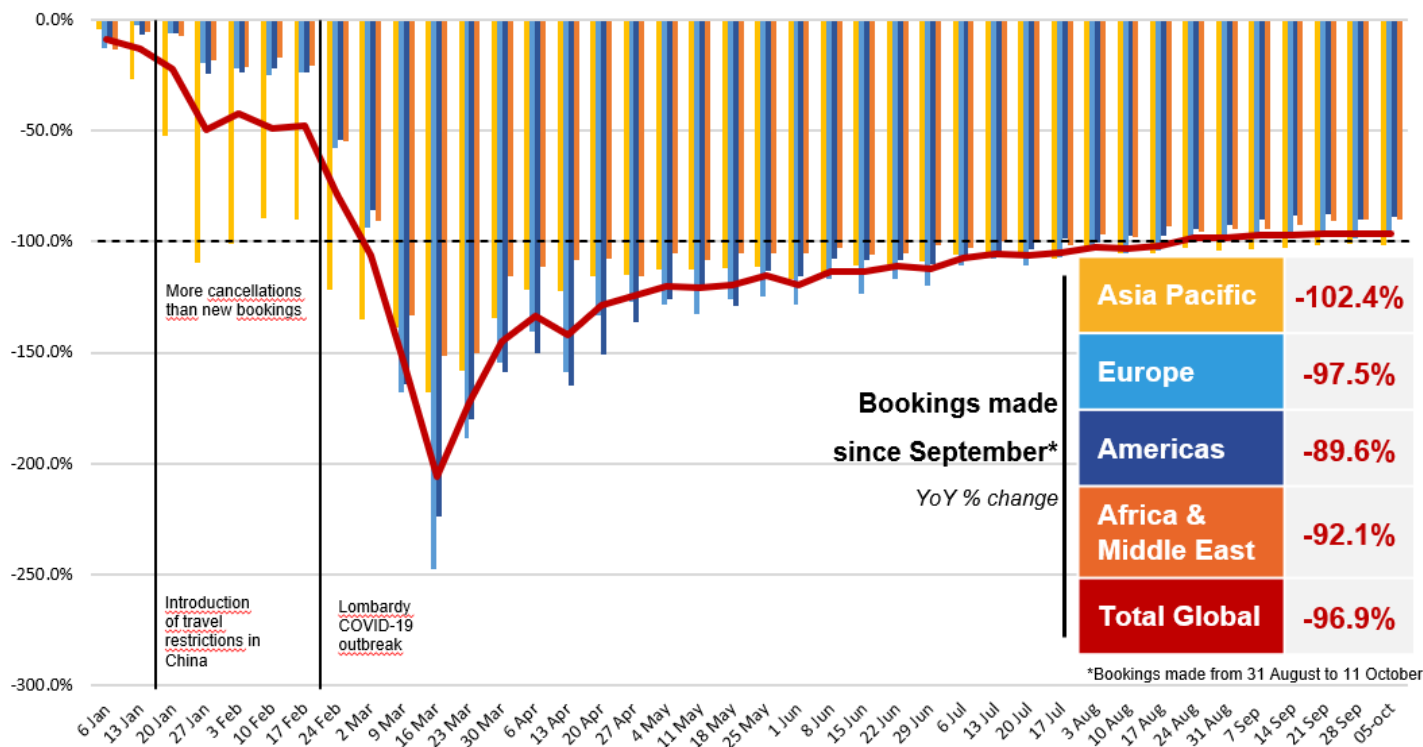
See box in page 'Annex-1' for explanation of abbreviations and symbols used

Mild improvement across industry indicators in July and August

- Data from **IATA** shows that international air demand declined 70% in January-August 2020, in line with the decline in international tourist arrivals during the same period. International passenger demand measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPKs) fell close to 90% year-on-year (y-o-y) in August. All regions posted declines in international RPKs above 90% in August, with the exception of Europe (-80%). Increasing demand on intra-European routes, where most restrictions were lifted in mid-June, boosted Europe's performance.
- International demand lagged the positive developments on domestic routes in August. Domestic markets drove the total passenger market rebound, posting a decline of 51% y-o-y in RPKs, though at a slower pace compared to July as new waves of COVID-19 cases emerged in several countries.
- The comparatively better performance of the domestic air market is also reflected in the ease of the decline in air capacity. According to **ICAO**, domestic air capacity fell -34% during January-August, versus -68% for international capacity, with a solid rebound in July and August. Although more seats have been made available, demand to fill them remains low overall (59% in August).
- IATA data shows that Russia became the first key domestic market where passenger volumes returned to growth (+3.8% in RPKs) this year, thanks to falling fares along with a boom in domestic tourism. Russia's load factor was also the highest amongst the main markets (86%). Domestic RPKs in China contracted by 19 % y-o-y, up 9 percentage points from July. Falling fares along with the successful containment of the virus also underpinned China market's rebound. Brazil domestic market fell by 67% y-o-y in August, up from 78% in July. However, resurgence of COVID-19 cases has slowed progress in some countries such as Japan and Australia.
- Data from **STR** indicates some slight improvement was observed in July and August in the hotel industry occupancy, although performance across world regions remain at low levels compared to 2019. Occupancy in September reached 25% in Africa, 37% in Europe, 38% in the Middle East, 45% in the Americas, and 54% in Asia and the Pacific (data by region are based on STR statistical regions).
- Data from **ForwardKeys** indicates a 97% year-on-year drop in international air bookings made between 6 January and 11 October 2020 for travel in any period of the year. The data shows slightly more new bookings than cancellations. By departure region, Asia and the Pacific (-102%) suffered the biggest drop, followed by Europe (-98%). Bookings from Africa and the Middle East (-92%), as well as the Americas (-90%) recorded comparatively smaller decreases. The Caribbean and some destinations in Africa are showing encouraging signs of reactivation, according to air booking data.

Bookings made for International travel by departure region

6 January to 11 October, Year on Year variations



*Bookings made from 31 August to 11 October

Booking made from 6 January to 11 October 2020 vs same period in 2019 for future travel at any time.
 Only considered pax staying 1 to 21 nights at destinations.
 Source: ForwardKeys air reservation data.

© ForwardKeys, 2020. All Rights Reserved.

Note: Percentage declines larger than 100% reflect more cancellations than bookings

Prospects remain weak amid increased number of cases, travel restrictions and low confidence

- Based on the three UNWTO scenarios published in May 2020 indicating declines of 58% to 78% in international tourist arrivals in 2020 latest trends continue to place the expected end year results of international tourist arrivals between Scenarios 1 and 2 (-58% to -70%). Considering the decrease of 70% in arrivals through August and an estimated 75% drop in September, latest trends suggest a decline in international tourist arrivals closer to 70% for the whole 2020.
- The outlook is still highly uncertain and volatile as new cases of COVID-19 continue to be reported worldwide (42 million confirmed cases to date, according to the World Health Organization). Furthermore, many destinations have reintroduced travel restrictions after the resurgence of COVID-19 outbreaks, particularly in Europe. Some countries have returned to partial lockdowns and curfews, borders remain closed in many countries and some of the major outbound markets such as the United States and China remain at a standstill, all in a context of economic recession in 2020.
- According to IMF's October World Economic Outlook, the global economy would contract by 4.4% in 2020 and partially recover in 2021 (+5.2%).
- Consumer confidence is at record lows and prospects remain extremely weak for the period September-December, as expressed by the UNWTO Panel of Experts' latest survey.
- In view of supporting a safe restart of tourism, an increasing number of destinations are putting in place different measures including safety and hygiene protocols, the promotion of domestic tourism and the creation of travel corridors or bubbles. According to the European Commission, a

well-coordinated approach to the adoption of restrictions on freedom of movement is necessary to prevent the spread of the virus. In this regard, on 13 October 'EU ministers reached an agreement that will provide more clarity and predictability on measures that restrict free movement due to the coronavirus pandemic' (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_20_1871).

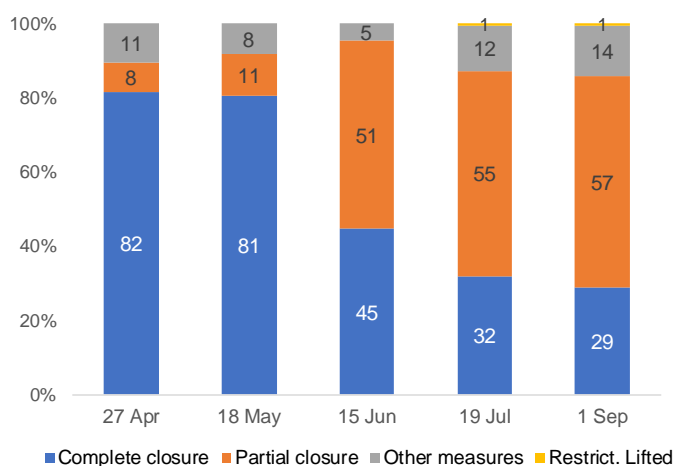
- UNWTO calls for the need to reopen tourism in a responsible, safe, coordinated and seamless manner, as travel restrictions are lifted. Restoring confidence and trust in the sector remains crucial.

International tourism impacted by travel restrictions

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in early 2020, the number of world destinations imposing a 'complete' closure of borders dropped from 156 in late April, to 93 in early September (out of 217)¹. Those destinations represent 82% and 29% of the world's international tourist arrivals respectively.

Despite the decline in complete shutdowns, most countries have kept some form of restrictions in place, such as compulsory quarantines or travel bans for certain markets. A total of 69 destinations maintained a 'partial' closure of frontiers as of early September, equivalent to 57% of world arrivals and 53 imposed 'other measures' such as the obligation to present a negative COVID-19 test (14%).

World destinations by type of travel restriction, 2020
(% of world arrivals)*

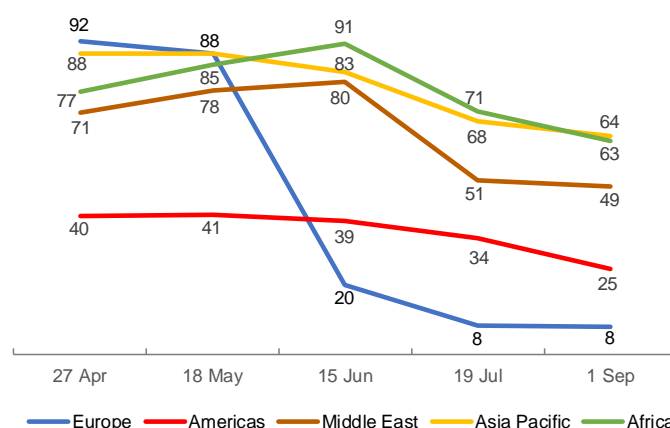


*Shares are calculated in terms of international arrivals, as of 2019. Source: UNWTO. E.g. destinations with complete closure on 27 April represent 82% of world arrivals.

The imposition of travel restrictions has had a clear impact on international travel. Arrivals plunged 97% in March and May, as 82% and 81% of destinations closed off their borders to travel, respectively. Starting in late May, some countries slowly reopened with some restrictions and travel edged up slightly the following months. By June the share of destinations which remained completely closed fell to 45% and the decrease in arrivals was 91%. In July and August international arrivals dropped 81% and 79% respectively as fewer destinations remained fully closed.

From April to September, destinations imposing a 'partial' closure of borders has increased from 8% to 57%. Those implementing 'other measures' moved from 11% to 14%.

Share of destinations with complete closure of borders, by region, 2020
(% of region's arrivals)*



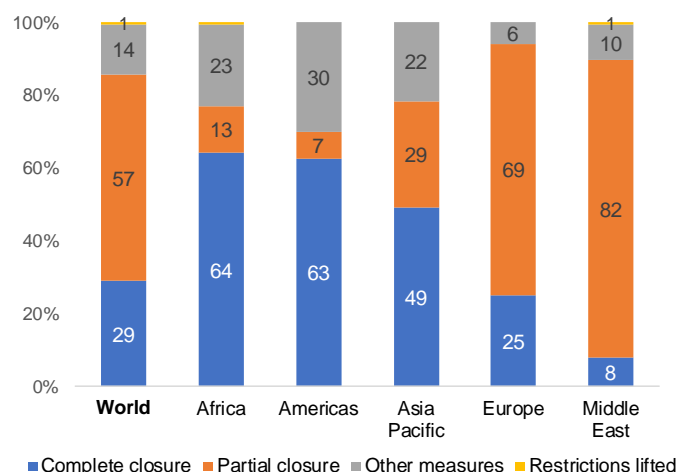
*Shares are calculated in terms of international arrivals, as of 2019. Source: UNWTO. E.g. European destinations with complete closure on 1 Sep. represent 8% of region's arrivals.

¹ UNWTO, *COVID-19-Related Travel Restrictions, A Global Review for Tourism, Seventh Report as of 1 September 2020*, available at: <https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-09/200909-travel-restrictions.pdf>

By regions, Europe saw the largest decline in ‘complete’ closures, from 92% of the region’s total arrivals in late April, to 8% in early September). This reflects a major reopening of destinations across the European Union in late May and June.

In Asia Pacific the share also dropped, though to a lesser extent (from 88% in April to 64% in September) since several large destinations such as China remain closed. ‘Complete’ closures in the Americas declined from 40% to 25% this same period, reflecting the opening of borders in several destinations across the region, mostly in the Caribbean. However, the United States and Canada remained closed.

Destinations by type of travel restriction, as of 1 Sept. 2020
(% of world arrivals)*

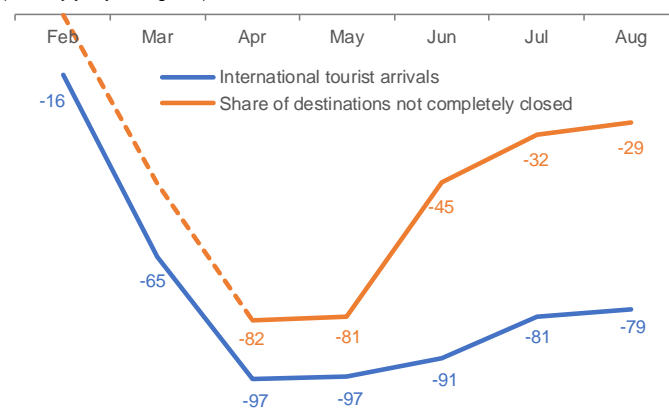


*Shares are calculated in terms of international arrivals, as of 2019 Source: UNWTO
E.g. African destinations with complete closure represent 64% of region’s arrivals.

Unlike other regions, in Africa and the Middle East the proportion of ‘complete’ closures increased between April and June, before declining in July and early September. This is explained by the later impact of the pandemic on those regions, compared to Asia or Europe. In Africa the proportion of destinations with a ‘complete’ shutdown peaked at 91% in June before falling to 63% in September. In the Middle East the share peaked at 80% before dropping to 49%.

As of September 1st, Africa (64%) and the Americas (63%) had the largest proportion of destinations with a ‘complete’ shutdown of borders, followed by Asia and the Pacific (49%) and Europe (25%). In the Middle East, destinations which remained completely closed represent only 8% of the region’s arrivals

Change in world arrivals and in share of destinations without complete closure*
(monthly y-o-y change, %), 2020



*Shares are calculated in terms of international arrivals, as of 2019 Source: UNWTO
E.g. destinations not fully closed dropped 82% in April (ie. 18% were open to some travel)
Five dates of travel restriction reports correspond roughly to months April to August.

Forward-looking Scenarios for 2020

Three scenarios for international tourism in 2020 were presented in the May 2020 UNWTO World Tourism Barometer, which described alternative recovery paths after the global lockdown, based on possible lifting of travel restrictions in July, September and December 2020. They assumed no significant or long-lasting worsening of travel conditions thereafter.

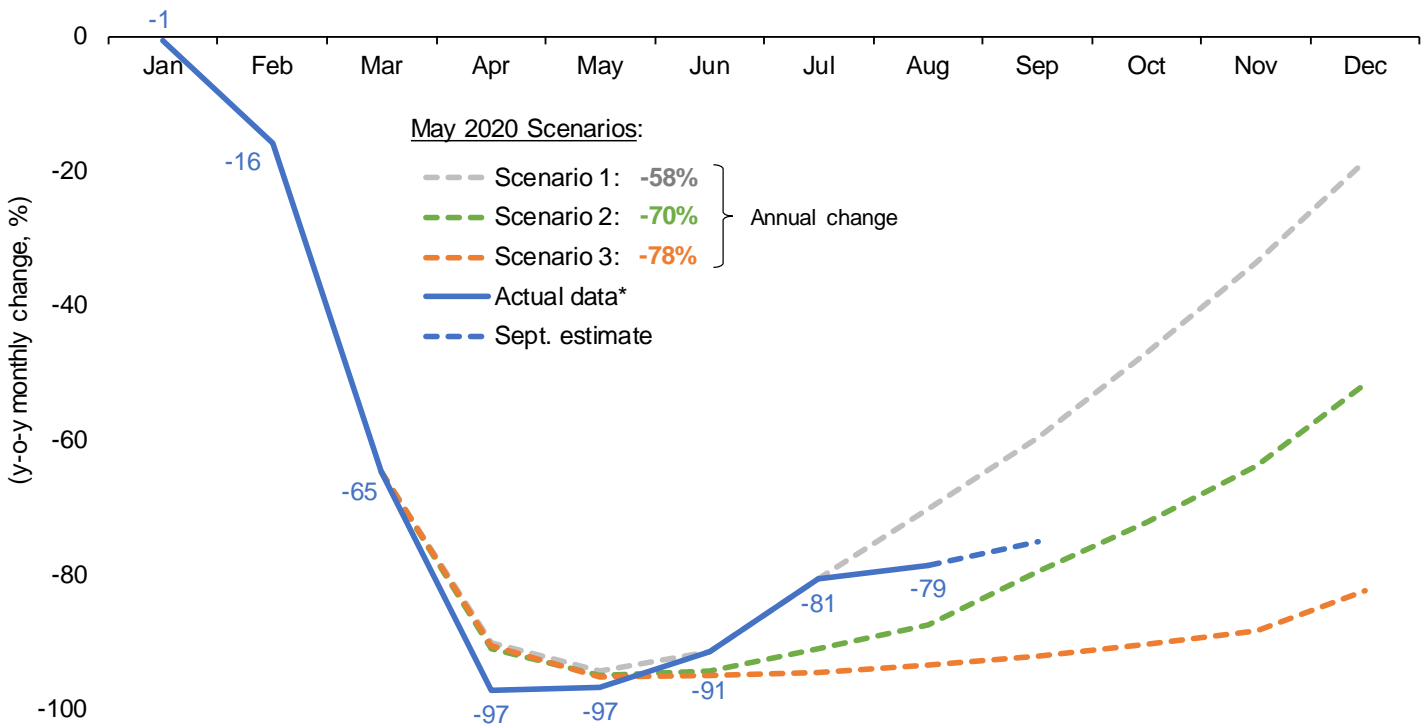
Considering that international tourist arrivals declined 81% in July and 79% in August (compared to the same months of 2019) and that recent data point to an estimated drop of 75% in September, international tourism results currently stand between Scenarios 1 and 2.

International travel came to a near complete halt after the shutdown of most international borders in late

March, with arrivals plunging 97% in April and May, before edging up slightly to -91% in June and -81% in July.

Scenario 1 now seems unlikely despite the lifting of travel restrictions in some countries in June and July, as this was mostly limited to Europe and proved to be short-lived. In July and August several European destinations reintroduced quarantines and other measures in response to growing cases of COVID-19. By mid-October most of these restrictions had not been lifted, and major international tourist destinations in other parts of the world such as China and the United States remained closed.

International tourist arrivals in 2020: YTD results and scenarios (y-o-y monthly change, %)



Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

(Data collected October 2020)

* Actual data through August includes estimates for countries which have not yet reported monthly results.

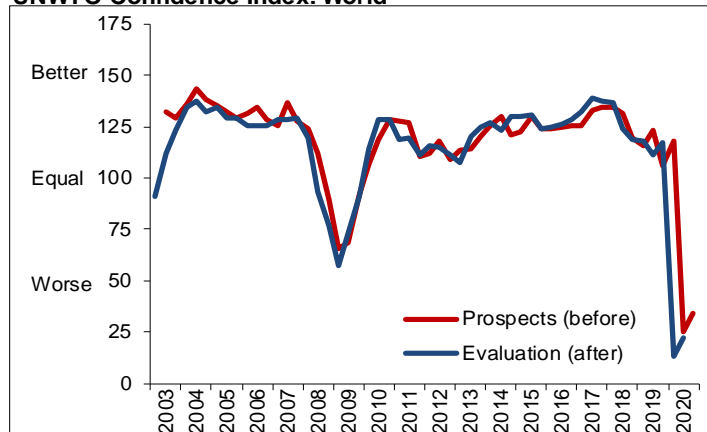
Note: dotted blue line corresponds to UNWTO estimate for September 2020.

UNWTO Confidence Index – Return to 2019 levels expected by 2023

Confidence remain at record lows

- Confidence in global tourism continued to hit record lows in the period May-August 2020, according to the latest **UNWTO Confidence Index** survey. On a scale of 0 to 200, the UNWTO Panel of Tourism Experts rated the period May-August with a score of 22. An overwhelming majority (93%) of respondents evaluated the period **May-August 2020** as much worse (69%) or worse (24%) than expected.
- This reflects a slower than expected restart of tourism during the Northern Hemisphere peak summer season. Despite a gradual reopening of international borders in late May and June, the rebound in travel was mostly limited to Europe and proved to be short-lived, due to a spike in contagions. Many destinations have since reintroduced travel restrictions and advisories which have slowed down the already weak pace of recovery.
- Expectations remain weak for the period **September-December 2020**, which covers part of the Northern Hemisphere winter season and the Southern Hemisphere summer season. UNWTO experts rated prospects with a score of 34 as compared to 25 for May-August, the lowest reflecting no major change in confidence levels for the remaining four months of the year. Experts mentioned the impact of the ongoing pandemic and the lack of a vaccine, as well as travel restrictions in all forms still in place (i.e. partial or full border closure, compulsory quarantine requirement, etc) weighing on prospects for the remainder of the year.

UNWTO Confidence Index: World



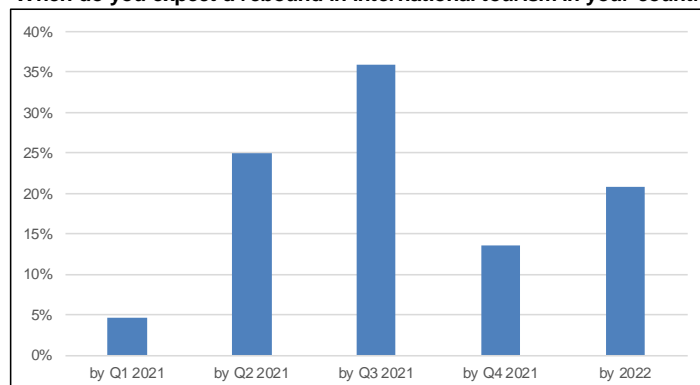
Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) ©

- UNWTO experts from Europe are the most pessimistic about September-December 2020, with 89% expecting worse or much worse results, followed by experts from Asia and the Pacific (82%), from the Americas (81%) and Africa (80%). Experts from the Middle East are the least pessimistic of all world regions, with 67% expecting a worsening of results in the last four months of 2020.

International tourism expected to rebound by Q3 of 2021

- A majority of experts sees a rebound in international tourism in 2021, in particular by the **third quarter 2021**, while around 20% expects it to occur only in 2022.
- Most experts do not see a return to pre-pandemic 2019 levels happening before **2023**. By regions, the largest share of experts pointing to a return to 2019 levels in 2023 or later are in Europe (74%) the Americas (71%) and Asia and the Pacific (66%). In Africa and the Middle East this share is 60% and 50% respectively. Half of respondents from the Middle East and 40% from Africa expect the recovery to 2019 levels to take place by 2022. (For region graphs please see the Statistical Annex).

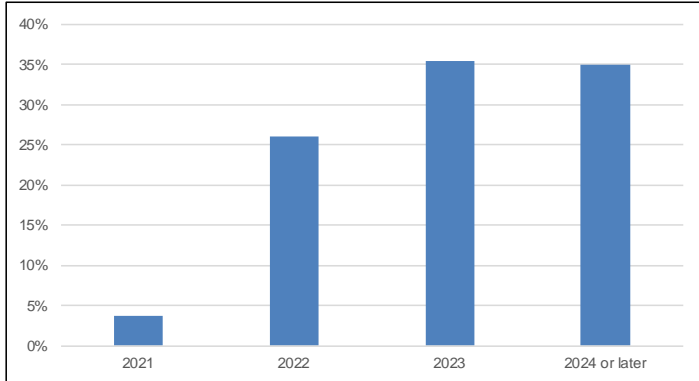
When do you expect a rebound in international tourism in your country?



- Experts consider **travel restrictions** as the main barrier weighing on the recovery of international tourism, along with slow virus containment and low consumer confidence. The lack of coordinated response among countries to ensure harmonized protocols and coordinated restrictions, as well as the

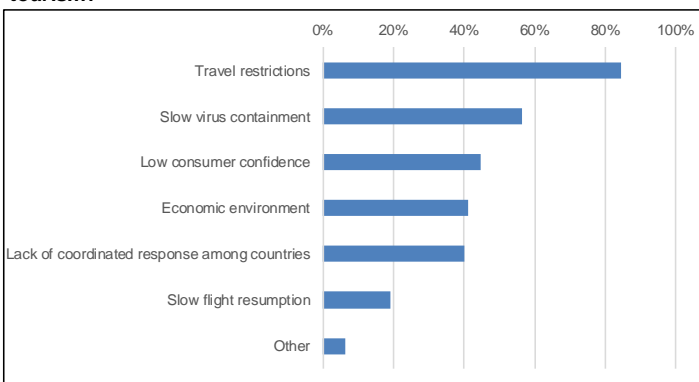
deteriorating economic environment were also identified by experts as important obstacles for recovery. Slow flight resumption was considered comparatively less determinant among factors mentioned.

When do you expect international tourism to return to pre-pandemic 2019 levels in your country?

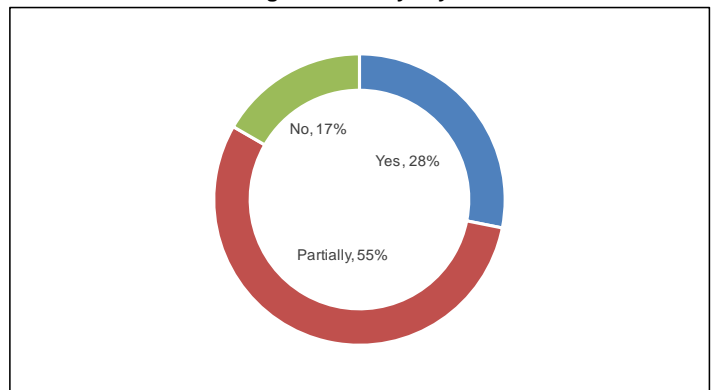


- Domestic tourism** is driving the recovery of several destinations but in most cases only partially, as it is not compensating for the drop in international demand. Among regions, respondents from Asia and the Pacific were the most positive regarding the contribution of domestic tourism to the recovery of destinations. Experts mentioned that domestic tourism has boosted the demand for nature-based products, such as rural and coastal areas, though meetings and conferences as well as urban tourism continued to struggle due to the lack of international visitors. The resumption of domestic tourism is helping the recovery of destinations with a sheer domestic size, though domestic tourism is not strong enough to drive the recovery in destinations heavily relying on inbound tourism. Furthermore, the pandemic has severely disrupted domestic travel in some countries, due to local lockdowns.

What are the main factors weighing on the recovery of international tourism?



Is domestic tourism driving the recovery in your destination?



- According to experts, there is a high demand for countryside tourism in Macao (China), but this does not compensate the drop in demand from Mainland China. In the United Kingdom, domestic tourism is significant but below normal levels due to restrictions and local lockdowns, while in New Zealand the demand for domestic travel is high but not enough to drive recovery as most of the destination's market is international. In the United States, where domestic represents 85% of travel spending, the pandemic has severely disrupted domestic travel demand, with an impact on tax revenues and funding for promotion.

For data and insights on domestic tourism, see: *UNWTO Briefing Note – Tourism and COVID-19, Issue 3. Understanding Domestic Tourism and Seizing its Opportunities* www.e-unwto.org/doi/book/10.18111/9789284422111

UNWTO Confidence Index and survey:

UNWTO conducts a Panel of Tourism Experts' survey to track global tourism performance and business sentiment every four months. In each survey, Panel members are asked to rate both the performance of the previous 4 months and the outlook for the coming 4 months on the following scale: [0] much worse; [50] worse; [100] equal; [150] better, [200] much better. The result is a Confidence Index for the tourism sector which has been published since April 2003. The UNWTO Secretariat's aim is to continuously expand and improve the Panel sample. Experts interested in participating in the survey are kindly invited to contact us at unwtopanel@unwto.org.

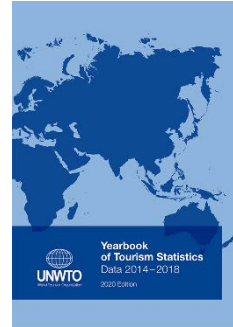
In the most recent survey, additional questions were made to the UNWTO Panel of Tourism Experts on the impact of COVID-19 on tourism and the expected time of recovery. The survey was conducted during the first week of October 2020 and follows a prior survey conducted in July.



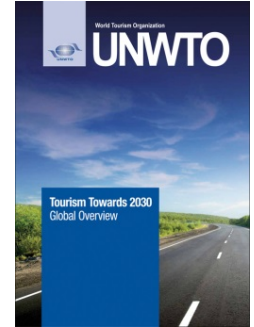
UNWTO World Tourism Barometer



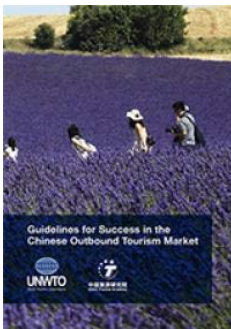
International Tourism Highlights, 2019 Edition



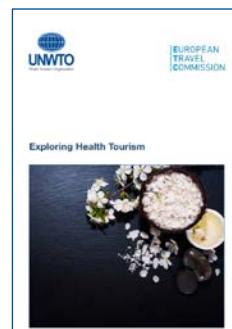
Yearbook of Tourism Statistics and Compendium of Tourism Statistics



Tourism Towards 2030 Global Overview



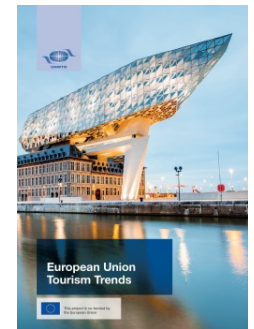
Guidelines for Success in the Chinese Outbound Tourism Market (2019)



Exploring Health Tourism (2018)



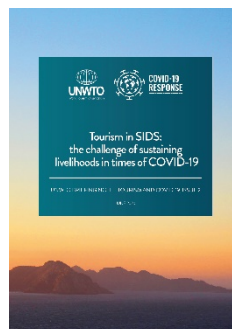
The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Outbound Travel Market (2018)



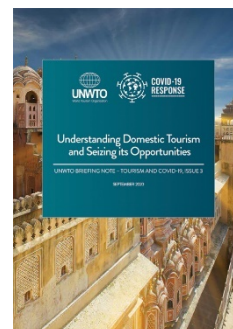
European Union Tourism Trends (2018)



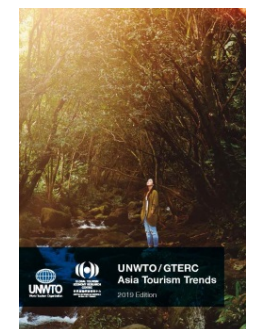
How are countries supporting tourism recovery? Tourism and Covid-19 (2020)



Tourism in SIDS: the challenge of sustaining livelihoods in times of Covid-19 (2020)



Understanding domestic tourism and seizing its opportunities (2020)



UNWTO/GTERC Asia Tourism Trends, 2019 Edition

www.unwto.org/publications