

# UNWTO World Tourism Barometer

Volume 14 • May 2016

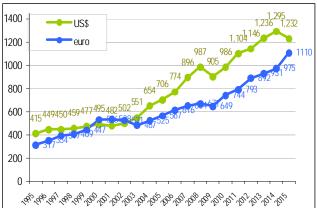
# Exports from international tourism rise 4% in 2015

International tourism receipts in destinations around the world grew by 3.6% in 2015, in line with the 4.4% increase in international arrivals. For the fourth consecutive year, international tourism grew faster than world merchandise trade, raising tourism's share in world's exports to 7% in 2015. The total export value from international tourism amounted to US\$ 1.4 trillion.

Income generated by international visitors on accommodation, food and drink, entertainment, shopping and other services and goods reached an estimated US\$ 1,232 billion (euro 1,110 billion) in 2015, an increase of 3.6% accounting for exchange rate fluctuations and inflation. International tourist arrivals (overnight visitors) increased by 4.4% in 2015, reaching a total of 1,184 million.

World: Inbound Tourism





Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) ©

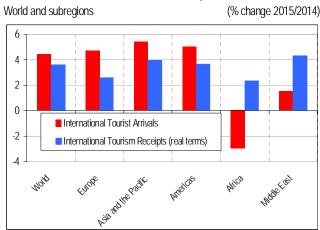
Alongside international tourism receipts (the travel item of the balance of payments), international tourism generated US\$ 210 billion in exports through international non-resident passenger transport services, bringing the total value of tourism exports up to US\$ 1.4 trillion, or US\$ 4 billion a day on average.

"Tourism is today a major category of international trade in services," said UNWTO Secretary-General Taleb Rifai addressing the 60th Regional Commission for the Americas meeting in Havana, Cuba. "Despite a weak and slow economic recovery, spending on international tourism grew significantly in 2015, proving the sector's relevance in stimulating economic growth, boosting exports and creating jobs for an increasing number of economies worldwide," he added.

International tourism represents 7% of total world exports and 30% of services exports. The share of tourism in overall exports of goods and services increased from 6% to 7% in 2015

as for the fourth consecutive year international tourism outgrew world merchandise trade, which grew 2.8% in 2015 according to recent data reported by the World Trade Organization. [to be continued on page 3]

### International Tourism, arrivals and receipts



Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) ©

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This issue of the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer and the accompanying Statistical Annex include a comprehensive analysis of international tourism receipts in 2015, as well as the top destinations by international tourist arrivals and receipts, and top source markets by international tourism expenditure. Furthermore, preliminary results are included for international tourism in the first months of 2016.

This release is available only in electronic format. The full document can be downloaded free of charge for members and subscribed institutions through the UNWTO elibrary at www.e-unwto.org/toc/wtobarometereng/current. The release is available in English only, while the Statistical Annex is provided in four languages through the UNWTO elibrary at:

English version: www.e-unwto.org/content/w83v37 French version: www.e-unwto.org/content/t73863 Spanish version: www.e-unwto.org/content/rn1422 Russian version: www.e-unwto.org/content/j62835 The *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer* is a publication of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). By monitoring short-term tourism trends on a regular basis, UNWTO aims to provide all those involved, directly or indirectly, in tourism with adequate upto-date statistics and analysis in a timely fashion.

The UNWTO World Tourism Barometer is periodically updated. Issues contain as regular sections: an overview of short-term tourism data from destinations, generating countries and air transport; the results of the latest survey among the UNWTO Panel of Tourism Experts, providing an evaluation of and prospects for short-term tourism performance; and selected economic data relevant for tourism. The objective for future editions of the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer will be to broaden its scope and improve coverage gradually over time.

The *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer* is prepared by UNWTO's Tourism Market Trends Programme. The UNWTO Secretariat wishes to express its sincere gratitude to all those who have participated in the elaboration of the *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer*, in particular all institutions that supplied data, and to the members of the UNWTO Panel of Tourism Experts for their valuable contributions.

For more information on the *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer*, including copies of previous issues, please refer to the Facts & Figures section on the UNWTO website at www.unwto.org/facts/menu.html.

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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 157 countries, six Associate Members, two Permanent Observers, and over 480 Affiliate Members representing the private sector, educational institutions, tourism associations and local tourism authorities.

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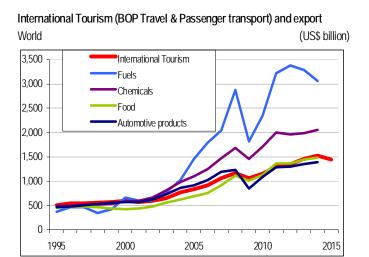
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Data collection for this issue was closed end of April 2016.

The next issue of the *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer* is scheduled to be published in June 2016.

### [Continuation from page 1]

As a worldwide export category, tourism ranks third after fuels and chemicals and ahead of food and automotive products. In many developing countries, tourism ranks as the first export sector.



Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and World Trade Organization (WTO)

Unusually strong exchange rate fluctuations in 2015 seriously influenced receipts for individual destinations and regions, expressed in current US dollars. Taking into account exchange rate fluctuations and inflation, receipts in the Americas, Asia and the Pacific and the Middle East all grew by 4%, while in Europe they grew by 3% and in Africa by 2%.

## The Caribbean, Central and South America show strong growth in international tourism receipts

The Americas continued to enjoy robust results both in international arrivals and receipts in 2015, with a strong US dollar fuelling outbound travel from the United States and benefiting many destinations across the region. The Caribbean, Central America and South America all recorded 7% growth in receipts, while North America saw a 3% increase.

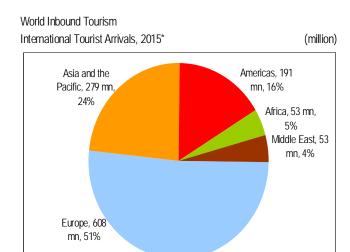
"As prices of raw materials have decreased, tourism has shown a strong capacity to compensate for weaker export revenue in many commodity- and oil-exporting countries," said Mr. Rifai. "Tourism is increasingly an essential component of export diversification for many emerging economies as well as several advanced ones," he added.

## The United States, China, Spain and France remain the world's top tourism destinations

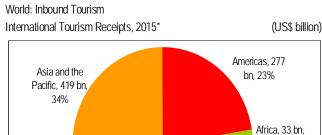
The United States (US\$ 178 billion), China (US\$ 114 billion), Spain (US\$ 57 billion) and France (US\$ 46 billion) continue to be the top destinations both in international tourism receipts and tourist arrivals.

The above data is preliminary and subject to revision. 2015 has shown some unusual strong appreciation of the US dollar to

many currencies, rendering receipts earned in these currencies lower in US dollar in 2015. Furthermore, China revised both its international tourism receipts and expenditure series substantially in 2015 and retrospectively for 2014 due to methodological changes.



Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) ©





Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) ©

Even though it is common practice to use volume data such as arrivals for short-term analysis, in the end most stakeholders are more interested in the receipts and expenditure trend. Estimating trends in receipts is a far more complicated exercise than in arrivals for the following reasons:

- On average receipts data lags about two months behind arrival data. Most countries report data on a quarterly basis and typically preliminary data is made available 2-3 months after the end of the period which is being reported.
- Trends in receipts data can be heavily distorted by exchange rate fluctuations.
- Inflation should be taken into account in order to avoid overestimating growth.
- In practice the preliminary data tend to be subject to substantial revisions.

#### International Tourism, World

1990 2000 2005 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015\* 09/08 10/09 11/10 12/11 13/12 14/13 15\*/14 09/08 10/09 11/10 12/11 13/12 14/13 15\*/14 Change (%) International Tourist Arrivals (overnight visitors) (million) 435 674 809 928 892 950 994 1,040 1,088 1,134 1,184 -3.9 6.5 4.6 4.7 4.6 4.2 Index (2008=100) 100 96 102 107 112 117 122 128 International Tourism Receipts (billion) Change, current prices (%) Change, constant prices (%) Local currencies -3.2 8.5 7.4 8.0 6.5 -4.6 5.4 4.2 Index (2008=100, real terms) 100 95 101 105 109 115 120 US\$ 271 495 706 987 905 986 1,104 1,146 1,236 1,295 1,232 -8.3 8.9 12.0 3.8 7.9 4.7 -4.8 -8.0 7.2 8.6 1.6 6.3 3.1 -5.0 Euro 536 567 671 649 744 793 892 931 975 1,110 -3.3 14.6 6.7 12.4 4.3 4.7 13.9 -3.6 12.8 3.8 9.7 3.0 4.3 13.9

Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) ©

(Data as collected by UNWTO May 2016)

### International Tourism by (Sub)region

	International Tourism Receipts									International Tourist Arrivals						
	Change			US\$ euro Share						Share		abs.	Change			Share
	Local currencies, constant prices (%)		per			per										
			(billion)		arrival	rrival (billion)		arrival	(%)	(million)		(%)			(%)	
	13/12	14/13	15*/14	2014	2015*	2015*	2014 201!	2015*	2015*	2015*	2014	2015*	13/12	14/13	15*/14	2015*
World	5.4	4.2	3.6	1,295	1,232	1,040	975	1,110	940	100	1,134	1,184	4.6	4.2	4.4	100
Advanced economies <sup>1</sup>	5.3	3.5	1.2	810	741	1,140	610	668	1,030	60.2	619	647	4.6	5.8	4.6	54.7
Emerging economies <sup>1</sup>	5.4	5.5	6.9	484	491	920	364	442	820	39.8	515	536	4.6	2.3	4.2	45.3
Europe	4.1	4.1	2.6	512.9	448.1	740	386.1	403.9	660	36.4	<i>580.2</i>	607.6	4.8	2.4	4.7	51.3
Northern Europe	7.5	6.3	3.6	82.6	75.4	1,000	62.2	68.0	900	6.1	70.8	75.6	2.4	5.3	6.8	6.4
Western Europe	2.2	2.8	0.2	173.0	146.4	810	130.2	131.9	730	11.9	174.4	179.7	2.8	2.1	3.1	15.2
Central/Eastern Europe	3.5	-0.9	-0.2	58.2	50.3	400	43.8	45.4	360	4.1	120.2	127.1	7.5	-6.0	5.8	10.7
Southern/Medit. Europe	4.7	6.1	5.2	199.2	176.0	780	149.9	158.6	700	14.3	214.8	225.1	5.6	6.9	4.7	19.0
- of which EU-28	3.8	4.4	2.9	426.7	370.6	780	321.2	334.0	700	30.1	454.1	477.9	3.9	4.8	5.2	40.4
Asia and the Pacific	9.0	4.9	4.0	420.1	418.9	1,500	316.2	377.6	1,360	34.0	264.3	278.6	6.9	5.7	5.4	23.5
North-East Asia	9.9	5.4	0.4	238.0	236.3	1,660	179.1	213.0	1,500	19.2	136.3	142.1	3.4	7.3	4.3	12.0
South-East Asia	10.5	2.0	8.2	108.1	108.8	1,040	81.4	98.1	940	8.8	97.3	104.2	11.3	3.0	7.2	8.8
Oceania	2.0	7.2	10.4	44.6	42.3	2,980	33.6	38.1	2,690	3.4	13.2	14.2	4.6	6.0	7.1	1.2
South Asia	8.8	8.4	7.4	29.4	31.5	1,740	22.1	28.4	1,570	2.6	17.5	18.1	12.1	9.6	3.6	1.5
Americas	4.9	3.0	3.7	274.0	277.2	1,450	206.3	249.9	1,310	22.5	181.9	191.0	3.1	8.5	5.0	16.1
North America	5.1	2.2	2.7	210.9	211.8	1,680	158.7	190.9	1,510	17.2	120.9	126.2	3.6	9.7	4.3	10.7
Caribbean	3.8	5.0	6.7	26.8	28.4	1,190	20.2	25.6	1,070	2.3	22.3	23.9	2.8	5.4	7.3	2.0
Central America	7.6	7.5	6.9	10.6	11.5	1,120	8.0	10.3	1,010	0.9	9.6	10.3	2.6	5.6	7.1	0.9
South America	3.3	6.2	6.9	25.7	25.6	830	19.4	23.0	750	2.1	29.1	30.7	1.4	7.1	5.4	2.6
Africa	2.3	2.3	2.4	36.2	<i>33.2</i>	620	27.2	29.9	560	2.7	54.9	<i>53.3</i>	4.4	0.4	-2.9	4.5
North Africa	-2.1	5.2	-9.8	10.6	8.6	450	8.0	7.7	410	0.7	20.4	18.9	5.8	-1.4	-7.7	1.6
Subsaharan Africa	4.0	1.1	7.5	25.5	24.6	720	19.2	22.2	640	2.0	34.5	34.4	3.6	1.4	-0.1	2.9
Middle East	-4.9	7.3	4.3	51.5	54.6	1,020	38.8	49.2	920	4.4	52.4	<i>53.3</i>	-2.9	6.7	1.6	4.5

Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) ©

(Data as collected by UNWTO May 2016)

See box at page 'Annex-1' for explanation of abbreviations and signs used

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Classification based on the International Monetary Fund (IMF), see the Statistical Annex of the IMF World Economic Outlook of April 2015, page 150, at www.imf.org/external/ns/cs.aspx?id=29.

## A few leading source markets drive outbound tourism in 2015

China, the United States and the United Kingdom led outbound tourism last year, fuelled by their strong currencies and economies.

China continues to lead global outbound travel after double-digit growth in tourism expenditure every year since 2004, benefitting Asian destinations such as Japan and Thailand as well as the United States and various European destinations. Spending by Chinese travellers increased 25% in 2015 to reach US\$ 292 billion, as total outbound travellers rose 10% to 128 million.

Tourism expenditure from the world's second largest source market, the United States, increased by 9% in 2015 to US\$ 120 billion, while the number of outbound travellers grew by 8% to 73 million. Expenditure from the United Kingdom, the fourth largest market globally, increased 8% to US\$ 63 billion with 65 million of its residents travelling abroad, up 9%. By contrast Germany, the world's third largest market, reported a small decline in spending (US\$ 76 billion), partly due to the weaker euro.

France's expenditure on outbound tourism reached US\$ 38 billion, Russia's US\$ 35 billion and that of the Republic of Korea a total of US\$ 25 billion.

Please note that all of the above data is preliminary and subject to revision.

The detailed information in the continuation of the *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer* and its Statistical Annex is not included in the complimentary excerpt of this document.

The full document is available in electronic format for sale and free of charge for UNWTO members and subscribed institutions through the UNWTO elibrary at www.e-unwto.org/content/w83v37.

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# UNWTO Tourism Trends Snapshot

The new UNWTO Tourism Trends Snapshot provides a closer look at a selected tourism topic with each edition. The first edition "Tourism in the Mediterranean, 2015 edition" provides insight into the general trends in arrivals and receipts in the Mediterranean region, the performance of the individual destinations, the long-term trends until 2030 as well as the opportunities and challenges.



# World Tourism Organization UNWTO Publications

### **UNWTO World Tourism Barometer**

The *UNWTO World Tourism Barometer* and accompanying Statistical Annex provides tourism stakeholders with up-to-date statistics and analysis in a timely fashion. The information is updated six times a year, covering short-term tourism trends, a retrospective and prospective evaluation by the UNWTO Panel of Experts of current tourism performance, and a summary of economic data relevant for tourism.

Available in English, with the Statistical Annex also in French, Spanish and Russian.

### Tourism in the Mediterranean, 2015 edition

The new UNWTO Tourism Trends Snapshot provides a closer look at a selected tourism topic with each edition. The first edition "Tourism in the Mediterranean, 2015 edition" provides insight into the general trends in arrivals and receipts in the Mediterranean region, the performance of the individual destinations, the long-term trends until 2030 as well as the opportunities and challenges.

Available in English.

### **Tourism Towards 2030**

UNWTO Tourism Towards 2030 is UNWTO's long-term outlook and assessment of future tourism trends from 2010 to 2030. It is a broad research project building on UNWTO's on-going work in the field of long-term forecasting, initiated in the 1990s. Key outputs of the study are quantitative projections for international tourism flows up until 2030, based on data series on international tourist arrivals by subregion of destination, region of origin and mode of transport for the period 1980-2010. Available in English.

### Marketing Handbooks:

# E-Marketing for Tourism Destinations Tourism Product Development Tourism Destination Branding

These series cover crucial topics on tourism development providing tools and fresh insight for tourism destinations. E-Marketing for Tourism Destination outlines all necessary aspects of an e-marketing strategy, practical information on latest trends and developments in mobile marketing and social media. Tourism Product Development covers the essential elements in the process of tourism product development planning and implementation with a range of successful approaches and case studies. Tourism Destination Branding presents a step-by-step guide to the branding process, accompanied by strategies for brand management illustrating case studies and best practices.

### **UNWTO/GTERC Asia Tourism Trends**

This second edition includes an analysis of the recent tourism trends of Asia, with emphasis on international tourist arrivals and receipts as well as outbound tourism and expenditure. It also includes an analysis of the links between Asian and Latin American markets The report also elaborates on city tourism, including selected case studies and a section on Macao's tourism product diversification.

Available in English.











### **Outbound Travel Market studies:**

Key Outbound Tourism Markets in South-East Asia The Indian Outbound Travel Market The Russian Outbound Travel Market The Middle East Outbound Travel Market The Chinese Outbound Travel Market

The outbound travel market series offers a unique insight into trends and travel behaviour in fast-growing source markets in the world. UNWTO jointly with the European Travel Commission (ETC) have covered the key outbound markets of China, Brazil, the Russian Federation, India and the Middle East, and with Tourism Australia key South-East Asian markets Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Available in English.

### Understanding Russian Outbound Tourism Understanding Brazilian Outbound Tourism Understanding Chinese Outbound Tourism

The innovative UNWTO/ETC *Understanding Outbound Tourism netnographic* series explores the behaviour and mind-set of outbound travellers based on internet and social media activity.

Available in English.



# The Decision-making Process of Meetings, Congresses, Conventions and Incentives Organizers

This ETC/UNWTO study aims at providing a better understanding of the Meetings Industry and the way meeting and event organizers make decisions. Aimed at DMOs, NTOs and NTAs, the study offers wide-ranging overview of the MCCI segments as well as a comprehensive analysis of planners' needs and expectations with respect to destination and venues choice. It also includes several best-practice examples of National Convention Bureaux. Available in English.



## Compendium of Tourism Statistics, 2016 Edition. Data 2010–2014

The Compendium provides statistical data and indicators on inbound, outbound and domestic tourism, as well as on tourism industries, employment and macroeconomic indicators related to international tourism. The 2016 edition presents data for 200 countries with methodological notes in English, French and Spanish.

### Yearbook of Tourism Statistics, 2016 Edition. Data 2010–2014

Deriving from the most comprehensive statistical database available on the tourism sector, the Yearbook of Tourism Statistics focuses on data related to inbound tourism (total arrivals and overnight stays), broken down by country of origin. The 2016 edition presents data for 196 countries with methodological notes in English, French and Spanish.



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