

U.S. Travel and Tourism Satellite Account for 1999–2020

By Sarah Osborne

The travel and tourism industry—as measured by the real output of goods and services sold directly to visitors—decreased 48.0 percent in 2020 after increasing 1.0 percent in 2019, according to the most recent statistics from the Travel and Tourism Satellite Account (TTSA) of the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).¹ By comparison, the broader economy, as measured by real gross domestic product (GDP), decreased 3.4 percent in 2020 after increasing 2.3 percent in 2019. Revised statistics on travel and tourism reflect the incorporation of the annual update of the Industry Economic Accounts, which was released on September 30, 2021.²

Highlights from the TTSA include the following:

- This is the largest contraction in real output since the TTSA began measuring these statistics in 1998.
- Travel and tourism's share of GDP fell from 2.92 percent in 2019 to a historic low of 1.71 percent in 2020. It remains larger than agriculture, mining, and utilities.
- The full economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be quantified in the TTSA estimates for 2020 because the impacts are generally embedded in source data and cannot be separately identified.
- Real output decreased in each of 24 commodities in 2020. The largest contributors to the decrease included gasoline, domestic passenger air transportation services, food and beverage services, and traveler accommodations.
- Prices for tourism goods and services decreased 4.8 percent in 2020. The largest contributor to the decrease in 2020 was the price of traveler accommodations, followed by the price of domestic passenger air transportation services, and the price of gasoline.
- Price growth turned down from 1.4 percent in 2019 to –4.8 percent in 2020.
- The TTSA is available on the BEA website; see the box “Data Availability.”

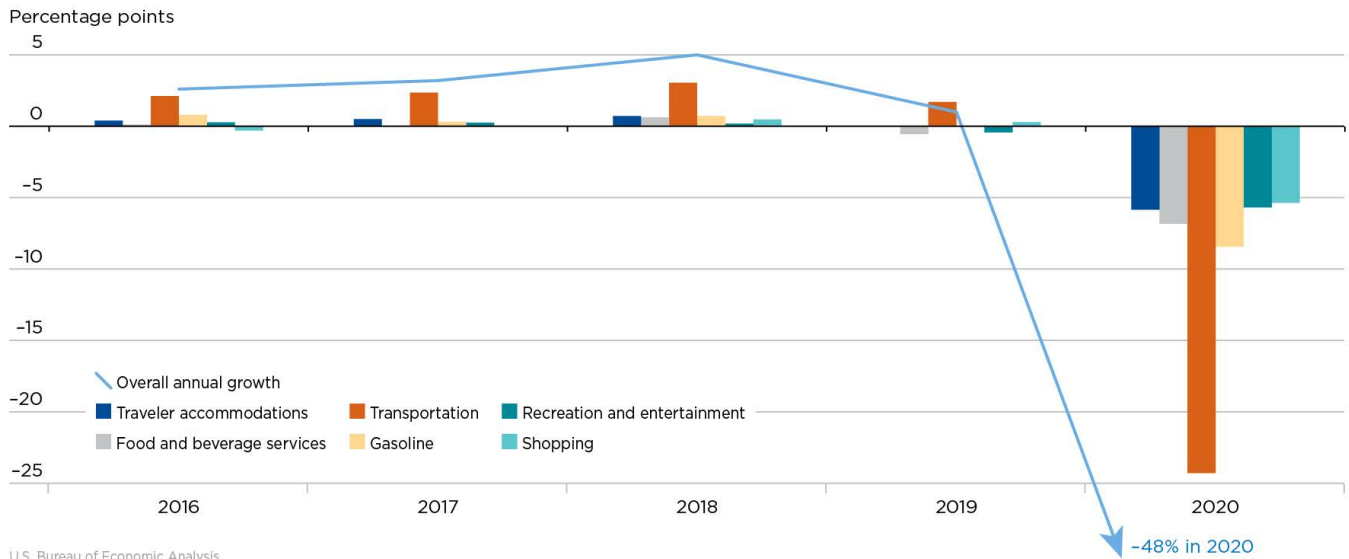
The remainder of this article includes a discussion of trends in travel and tourism output and prices, tourism value added, and employment.

Trends in Output and Prices

Real output

The leading contributors to the 48.0 percent contraction in real travel and tourism output were gasoline, which decreased 83.7 percent and contributed -8.44 percentage points to the real output decline; domestic passenger air transportation services, which decreased 46.6 percent and contributed -7.08 percentage points; food and beverage services, which decreased 49.7 percent and contributed -6.83 percentage points; and traveler accommodations, which decreased 30.0 percent and contributed -5.85 percentage points. (table A and chart 1).

Chart 1. Contributions to Annual Growth in Real Tourism Output in 2016-2020



Note. April 11, 2022: In chart 1, the overall annual growth for 2020 has been corrected from -4.80 percent to -48.0 percent since this article was originally published.

Table A. Annual Growth, Contributions to Growth, and Levels of Real Output by Tourism Commodity in 2016–2020

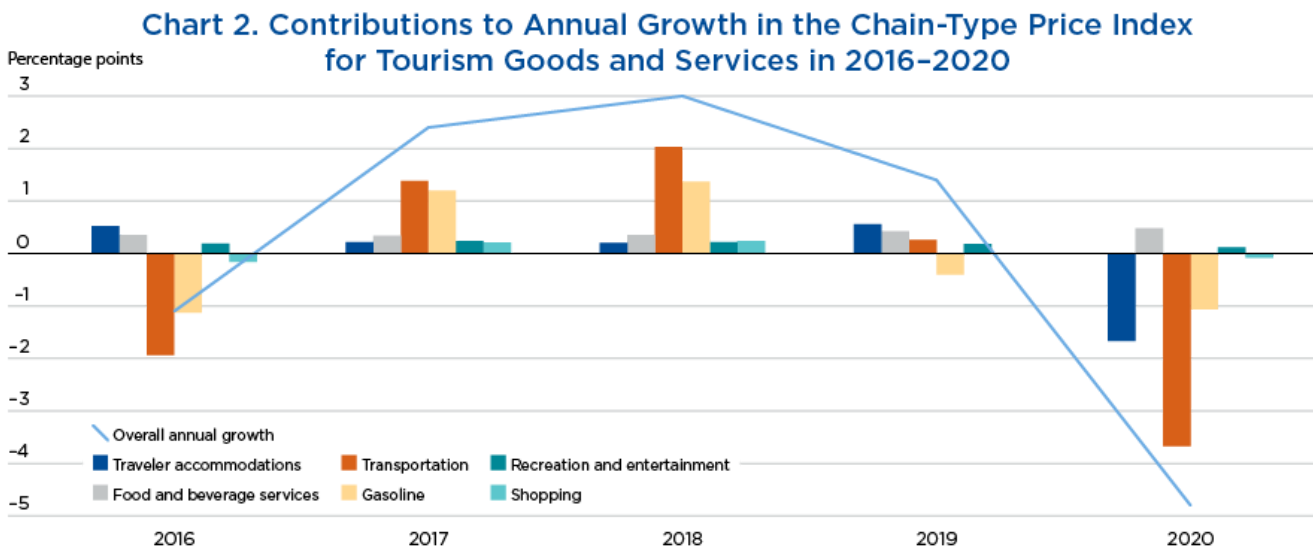
Commodity	Annual growth rates (percent change from preceding period)					Contributions (percentage points)					Real Output (millions of chained (2012) dollars)				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
All tourism goods and services	2.6	3.2	5.0	1.0	-48.0	2.6	3.2	5.0	1.0	-48.0	999,107	1,030,655	1,082,540	1,093,405	568,380
Traveler accommodations	1.9	2.4	3.5	0.0	-30.0	0.39	0.50	0.71	0.00	-5.85	180,921	185,274	191,823	191,777	134,283
Food and beverage services	0.9	0.0	4.5	-4.0	-49.7	0.12	0.00	0.62	-0.55	-6.83	125,087	125,125	130,744	125,458	63,126
Transportation	5.1	5.6	7.0	3.8	-54.6	2.12	2.36	3.05	1.70	-24.29	468,001	494,277	528,918	549,140	249,487
Passenger air transportation	2.6	4.8	4.6	6.4	-47.4	0.51	0.92	0.89	1.25	-9.54	198,115	207,540	217,028	230,937	121,583
Domestic passenger air transportation services	3.4	4.5	6.3	5.7	-46.6	0.51	0.65	0.92	0.84	-7.08	147,056	153,626	163,309	172,554	92,124
International passenger air transportation services	0.1	5.6	-0.5	8.8	-49.6	0.01	0.27	-0.03	0.41	-2.46	51,077	53,950	53,677	58,377	29,410
All other transportation-related commodities	7.4	6.4	9.0	1.8	-60.5	1.60	1.43	2.16	0.45	-14.75	271,521	288,771	314,723	320,417	126,447
Passenger rail transportation services	-0.8	2.0	-2.4	12.6	-70.7	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.03	-0.16	2,207	2,251	2,198	2,475	726
Passenger water transportation services	-1.5	3.2	11.1	14.8	-43.9	-0.02	0.05	0.17	0.23	-0.77	14,401	14,858	16,509	18,946	10,620
Intercity bus services	3.3	6.7	0.6	1.0	-33.5	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.05	1,364	1,456	1,465	1,479	984
Intercity charter bus services	-1.5	3.7	4.3	8.8	-48.9	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02	-0.12	2,352	2,440	2,546	2,770	1,415
Local bus and other transportation services	13.5	42.6	16.1	-2.9	-46.4	0.07	0.25	0.13	-0.03	-0.40	5,244	7,480	8,683	8,430	4,519
Taxicab services	-21.9	7.5	19.2	0.8	-63.5	-0.13	0.03	0.09	0.00	-0.34	4,043	4,348	5,184	5,224	1,908
Scenic and sightseeing transportation services	0.2	2.4	0.3	4.7	-69.6	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	-0.25	3,186	3,261	3,272	3,426	1,043
Automotive rental and leasing	11.6	3.5	12.8	18.6	-30.1	0.35	0.11	0.40	0.61	-1.14	33,704	34,874	39,344	46,644	32,621
Other vehicle rental and leasing	1.5	6.2	6.1	2.3	-21.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	628	667	708	724	572
Automotive repair services	7.7	2.3	3.5	2.4	-35.5	0.09	0.03	0.04	0.03	-0.46	11,355	11,614	12,024	12,312	7,945
Parking	-2.2	2.2	5.7	7.8	-52.9	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	-0.15	2,272	2,322	2,454	2,645	1,245
Highway tolls	4.4	2.4	3.6	-8.0	-26.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	836	856	887	816	604
Travel arrangement and reservation services	10.2	13.0	12.0	-9.8	-52.7	0.44	0.60	0.59	-0.51	-2.43	44,966	50,823	56,902	51,340	24,308
Gasoline	8.8	3.3	6.7	0.4	-83.7	0.80	0.32	0.71	0.04	-8.44	147,409	152,260	162,470	163,059	26,636
Recreation, entertainment, and shopping	-0.1	1.3	2.9	-0.6	-49.7	-0.02	0.30	0.66	-0.14	-11.05	205,217	207,879	213,929	212,604	106,988
Recreation and entertainment	2.7	2.4	1.8	-4.3	-57.8	0.28	0.25	0.18	-0.43	-5.69	89,867	92,040	93,662	89,649	37,796
Motion pictures and performing arts	-0.3	-1.3	5.2	1.1	-49.5	-0.01	-0.02	0.08	0.02	-0.83	15,202	15,002	15,776	15,945	8,054
Spectator sports	6.6	3.5	10.1	5.1	-22.2	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.03	-0.13	4,254	4,404	4,849	5,095	3,964
Participant sports	6.6	7.1	11.1	0.0	-48.3	0.09	0.10	0.17	0.00	-0.80	13,543	14,510	16,114	16,118	8,325
Gambling	2.0	1.6	1.4	-1.9	-67.8	0.11	0.08	0.07	-0.09	-3.42	49,427	50,216	50,906	49,945	16,084
All other recreation and entertainment	3.8	4.5	-12.6	-30.3	-58.1	0.06	0.07	-0.19	-0.38	-0.51	14,269	14,916	13,043	9,088	3,808
Shopping	-2.2	0.4	3.9	2.4	-43.2	-0.30	0.05	0.48	0.29	-5.36	130,495	130,988	136,064	139,373	79,163

The downturn in real output was led by the downturn in domestic passenger air transportation services spending, which decreased 46.6 percent in 2020 after reaching 5.7 percent growth in 2019. Other large contributors to the downturn included gasoline, which decreased 83.7 percent in 2020 after decreasing 0.4 percent in 2019; traveler accommodations, which showed a 30.0 percent decrease in 2020 after remaining flat in 2019, and food and beverage services, which decreased 49.7 percent, a sharper decline than the 4.0 percent decline in 2019.

Prices

Travel and tourism prices decreased 4.8 percent in 2020, after 3 years of increasing prices. The price decrease was led by a 7.2 percent decrease in the price of traveler accommodations, contributing -1.67 percentage points to the overall tourism price decline. Other contributors were the prices of domestic passenger air transportation services, which fell 10.0 percent and contributed -1.58 percentage points, and the price of gasoline, which decreased 15.1 percent, and contributed -1.06 percentage points to the overall tourism price decline.

The decrease in overall tourism prices was partly offset by increases in the prices of food and beverage services; the prices of a few of the commodities within other transportation; and the prices of recreation and entertainment (table B and chart 2).



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Table B. Annual Growth, Contributions to Growth, and Levels of Chain-Type Price Indexes for Tourism Commodities in 2016–2020

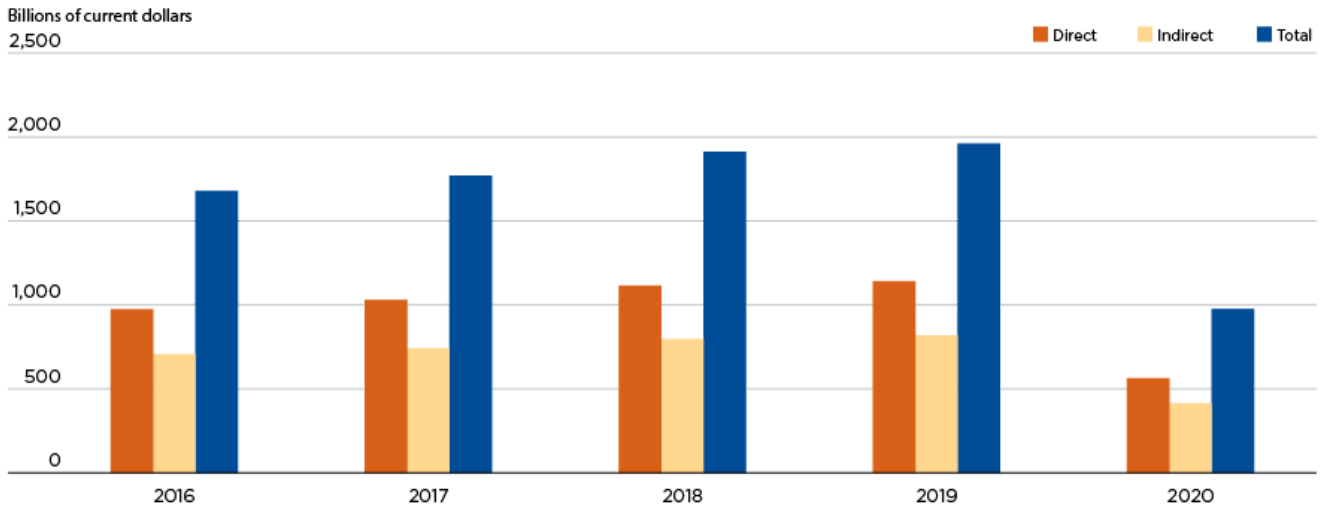
Commodity	Annual growth rates (percent change from preceding period)					Contributions (percentage points)					Price Indexes (index number, 2012=100)				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
All tourism goods and services	-1.1	2.4	3.0	1.4	-4.8	-1.1	2.4	3.0	1.4	-4.8	97.6	99.9	102.9	104.4	99.4
Traveler accommodations	2.6	1.1	1.0	2.9	-7.2	0.52	0.22	0.20	0.56	-1.67	111.8	113.0	114.1	117.4	108.9
Food and beverage services	2.5	2.4	2.6	3.1	3.7	0.35	0.34	0.35	0.42	0.48	110.3	113.0	115.9	119.5	124.0
Transportation	-4.5	3.3	4.7	0.6	-8.6	-1.94	1.38	2.03	0.26	-3.67	87.0	89.9	94.1	94.6	86.5
Passenger air transportation	-3.5	0.5	2.5	2.6	-9.5	-0.70	0.09	0.50	0.52	-1.96	96.4	96.9	99.3	101.9	92.3
Domestic passenger air transportation services	-3.2	0.7	1.8	3.4	-10.0	-0.49	0.10	0.27	0.51	-1.58	97.3	97.9	99.7	103.1	92.9
International passenger air transportation services	-4.2	-0.3	4.8	0.2	-7.8	-0.21	-0.01	0.23	0.01	-0.39	94.0	93.8	98.2	98.4	90.7
All other transportation-related commodities	-5.5	5.7	6.4	-1.0	-7.7	-1.24	1.29	1.54	-0.27	-1.71	79.6	84.2	89.6	88.6	81.9
Passenger rail transportation services	2.2	3.3	1.6	-5.0	2.2	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.00	100.2	103.5	105.2	100.0	102.1
Passenger water transportation services	3.5	0.9	0.3	-0.6	-3.6	0.05	0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.06	104.0	104.9	105.2	104.6	100.9
Intercity bus services	3.7	0.8	0.3	-0.6	-4.3	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	104.1	105.0	105.3	104.7	100.2
Intercity charter bus services	3.6	0.9	0.3	-0.7	-3.8	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	104.1	105.0	105.3	104.6	100.6
Local bus and other transportation services	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.1	-1.8	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.02	109.6	111.6	113.5	114.8	112.6
Taxicab services	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.1	-1.2	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01	109.7	111.6	113.5	114.8	113.4
Scenic and sightseeing transportation services	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.3	1.5	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	107.8	110.6	113.2	115.8	117.6
Automotive rental and leasing	-7.5	0.4	2.2	-0.5	-6.1	-0.24	0.01	0.07	-0.02	-0.27	91.6	91.9	94.0	93.5	87.8
Other vehicle rental and leasing	2.6	-2.3	-0.9	0.6	0.8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	105.7	103.2	102.3	102.9	103.7
Automotive repair services	1.6	1.8	1.9	3.3	3.5	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.05	106.5	108.5	110.5	114.2	118.1
Parking	2.8	2.4	2.3	2.8	0.8	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	111.8	114.6	117.2	120.5	121.4
Highway tolls	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.8	0.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	111.8	114.6	117.3	120.5	121.3
Travel arrangement and reservation services	-0.1	-0.2	0.5	2.1	-7.4	0.00	-0.01	0.03	0.10	-0.33	101.5	101.3	101.9	104.0	96.3
Gasoline	-11.4	13.1	13.5	-3.6	-15.1	-1.13	1.20	1.37	-0.40	-1.06	60.3	68.2	77.3	74.6	63.3
Recreation, entertainment, and shopping	0.1	1.9	2.0	0.8	0.2	0.02	0.44	0.46	0.17	0.04	100.1	102.0	104.1	104.9	105.1
Recreation and entertainment	1.8	2.3	2.2	1.9	1.4	0.19	0.24	0.22	0.18	0.12	105.9	108.3	110.6	112.7	114.2
Motion pictures and performing arts	3.6	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.4	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02	109.0	111.8	114.2	116.3	117.9
Spectator sports	3.3	2.2	1.8	2.1	3.0	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	117.0	119.6	121.7	124.2	127.9
Participant sports	1.6	2.3	2.9	2.6	1.4	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.02	105.4	107.8	110.9	113.8	115.4
Gambling	1.3	2.1	2.4	1.8	1.4	0.07	0.11	0.12	0.09	0.05	104.5	106.8	109.4	111.4	112.9
All other recreation and entertainment	1.6	2.3	0.6	1.0	-0.2	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00	104.2	106.6	107.2	108.2	108.0
Shopping	-1.3	1.6	1.9	-0.1	-0.7	-0.16	0.21	0.24	-0.01	-0.08	95.9	97.5	99.3	99.2	98.6

The downturn in the overall tourism price was led by the downturn in the price of traveler accommodations, a 7.2 percent decrease following a 2.9 percent increase in 2019, and the price of domestic passenger air transportation services, which decreased 10.0 percent after increasing 3.4 percent in 2019.

Total output

Total tourism-related nominal output fell to \$978.4 billion in 2020 from \$1.96 trillion in 2019. In 2020, total output consisted of \$564.8 billion in direct tourism output and \$413.6 billion in indirect tourism output. The 1.73 ratio of total output to direct output in 2020 means that every dollar of direct tourism output requires an additional 73 cents of indirect tourism output (chart 3).

Chart 3. Total Tourism-Related Output in 2016–2020



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Direct tourism output includes goods and services sold directly to visitors, such as passenger air travel. Indirect tourism output includes sales of all goods and services used to produce that direct output, such as jet fuel to fly the plane and catering services for longer flights.

Tourism Value Added and Employment

Value added

A sector's value added measures its contribution to gross domestic product. In 2019, the travel and tourism industry's share of GDP decreased to 1.7 percent from 2.9 percent (table C). While this indicates that travel and tourism industries are contracting disproportionately to non-travel and tourism industries, travel and tourism continued to account for a larger share of GDP than several industries, including utilities, mining, and agriculture.

Table C. Travel and Tourism as a Share of Gross Domestic Product in 2013–2020

Year	Billions of dollars		Percent
	Gross domestic product (GDP)	Tourism value added	Tourism value added as a share of GDP
2013	16,843	475	2.82
2014	17,551	489	2.79
2015	18,206	525	2.89
2016	18,695	540	2.89
2017	19,480	567	2.91
2018	20,527	602	2.93
2019	21,373	625	2.92
2020	20,894	357	1.71

Direct employment

Direct tourism employment refers to jobs that are directly related to visitor spending on goods and services. Airline pilots, hotel clerks, and travel agents are examples of such employees. Overall, direct employment decreased 36.0 percent in 2020, after decreasing 0.5 percent in 2019. The largest contributors to the decrease were food services and drinking places, which lost 822,000 jobs in 2020; traveler accommodations, which lost 482,000 jobs; gasoline, which lost 152,000 jobs; and participant sports and air transportation services, which lost 137,000 and 133,000 jobs respectively (chart 4 and table D).

Chart 4. Contributions to Annual Growth in Direct Tourism Employment in 2016-2020

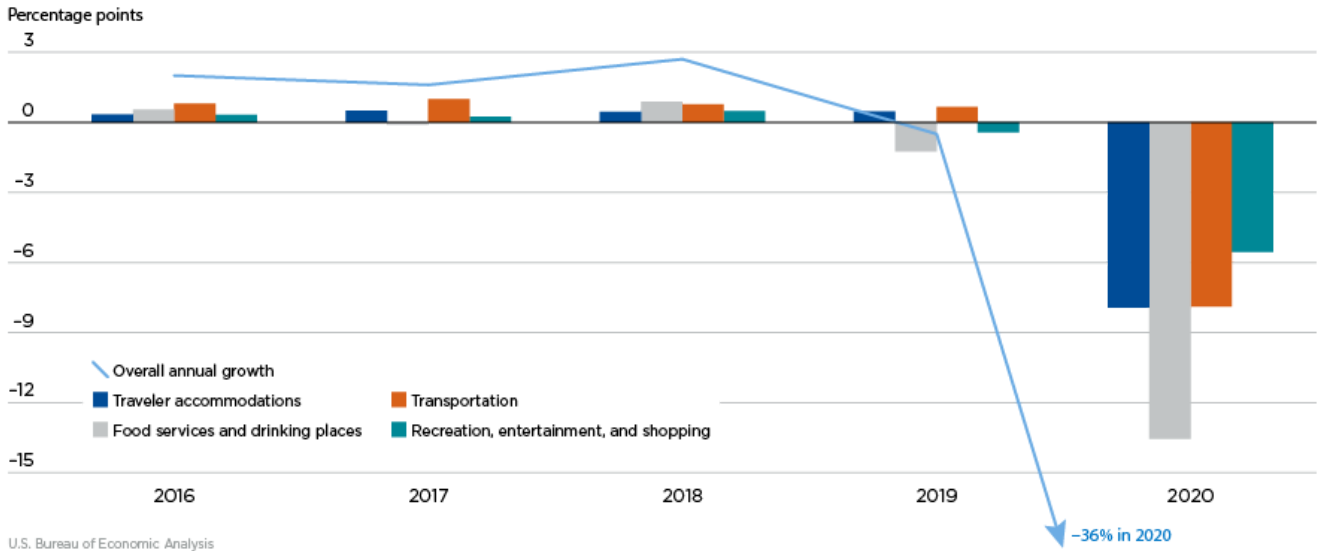


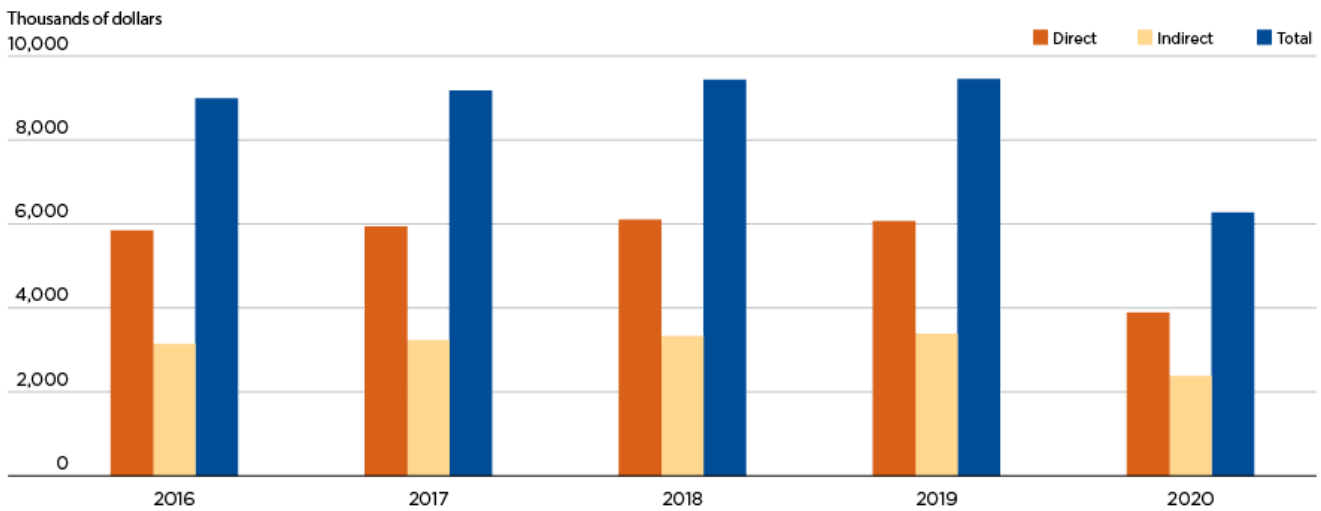
Table D. Annual Growth, Contributions to Growth, and Levels of Direct Employment by Tourism Industry in 2016–2020

Commodity	Annual growth rates (percent change from preceding period)					Contributions (percentage points)					Direct employment (thousands)				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
All tourism industries	2.0	1.6	2.7	-0.5	-36.0	2.0	1.6	2.7	-0.5	-36.0	5849	5944	6103	6070	3887
Traveler accommodations	1.3	2.0	1.8	1.8	-30.8	0.34	0.50	0.45	0.46	-7.93	1481	1510	1537	1565	1083
Vacation Home Rentals	-0.6	2.5	-1.2	0.9	-4.3	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01	15	16	15	16	15
Food services and drinking places	1.9	-0.3	3.0	-4.3	-48.3	0.55	-0.09	0.88	-1.24	-13.54	1729	1724	1776	1701	878
Transportation	3.5	4.4	3.3	2.8	-32.4	0.80	0.99	0.77	0.66	-7.88	1332	1390	1436	1476	998
Air transportation services	1.9	6.1	2.7	3.9	-21.5	0.18	0.57	0.26	0.38	-2.19	545	579	594	618	484
All other transportation-related industries	4.7	3.1	3.7	2.0	-40.2	0.62	0.42	0.51	0.28	-5.69	787	812	842	859	513
Rail transportation services	-2.9	-2.4	-3.8	2.1	-51.9	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.00	-0.08	10	9	9	9	4
Water transportation services	2.2	-1.4	6.1	13.5	-36.6	0.01	-0.01	0.04	0.09	-0.26	37	36	38	44	28
Interurban bus transportation	-2.8	3.1	-1.0	0.8	-27.0	-0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.08	18	18	18	18	13
Interurban charter bus transportation	-0.6	1.8	-0.5	-3.4	-42.3	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.13	19	20	20	19	11
Urban transit systems and other transportation	8.0	23.6	5.9	-10.5	-29.2	0.08	0.24	0.07	-0.14	-0.34	60	74	78	70	50
Taxi service	-10.0	-10.6	-8.5	7.6	-55.4	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	-0.06	8	7	6	7	3
Scenic and sightseeing transportation services	3.6	1.6	1.5	2.6	-45.7	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.25	31	31	32	33	18
Automotive equipment rental and leasing	1.8	3.1	10.7	13.0	-19.1	0.03	0.05	0.18	0.24	-0.40	99	102	113	128	103
Automotive repair services	5.0	-2.2	0.4	-1.6	-28.1	0.06	-0.03	0.01	-0.02	-0.34	76	75	75	74	53
Parking lots and garages	-0.4	0.1	7.9	9.4	-56.4	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.06	-0.39	36	36	38	42	18
Toll highways	5.8	2.5	13.4	-8.2	-35.4	0.00	0.00	0.01	-0.01	-0.03	5	5	5	5	3
Travel arrangement and reservation services	8.1	0.9	-0.4	-0.8	-23.0	0.27	0.03	-0.02	-0.03	-0.77	203	205	204	203	156
Petroleum refineries	4.7	0.9	-0.2	3.8	-37.1	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	-0.06	9	9	9	10	6
Gasoline service stations	5.8	4.0	5.8	1.9	-76.5	0.17	0.12	0.18	0.06	-2.50	177	184	194	198	47
Recreation, entertainment, and shopping	1.8	1.3	2.7	-2.4	-31.5	0.32	0.24	0.48	-0.43	-5.55	1052	1066	1094	1068	731
Recreation and entertainment	4.8	4.1	4.8	-5.4	-48.6	0.42	0.37	0.45	-0.51	-4.38	531	553	579	548	282
Motion pictures and performing arts	2.6	-2.7	-4.5	-10.5	-11.6	0.02	-0.02	-0.04	-0.08	-0.08	52	50	48	43	38
Spectator sports	5.5	2.5	6.8	0.7	-19.4	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.00	-0.14	40	41	43	44	35
Participant sports	8.7	7.3	11.5	0.3	-47.1	0.34	0.30	0.50	0.01	-2.26	243	260	290	291	154
Gambling	-0.2	3.7	3.4	-11.3	-65.0	0.00	0.08	0.08	-0.25	-1.29	126	131	136	120	42
All other recreation and entertainment	2.5	-0.5	-12.0	-19.7	-74.8	0.03	-0.01	-0.14	-0.20	-0.62	71	71	62	50	13
Shopping	-1.1	-1.5	0.4	1.1	-13.6	-0.10	-0.13	0.04	0.09	-1.17	520	513	515	520	449
Industries producing nondurable PCE commodities, excluding petroleum refineries	-1.3	-1.7	1.2	2.8	-6.4	-0.03	-0.04	0.03	0.06	-0.15	134	132	133	137	128
Retail trade services, excluding gasoline service stations	-1.0	-1.4	0.2	0.5	-16.2	-0.07	-0.09	0.01	0.03	-1.02	386	381	382	383	321
All other industries	-0.4	-0.5	2.5	0.1	-25.9	-0.01	-0.02	0.04	-0.06	-0.29	239	238	244	244	181
All other industries, excluding Wholesale trade and transportation services	-0.5	-1.3	2.8	-4.6	-22.6	-0.01	-0.02	0.04	-0.06	-0.29	80	79	81	77	60
Wholesale trade and transportation services	-0.3	-0.1	2.3	2.4	-27.5	-0.01	0.00	0.06	0.07	-0.76	159	159	163	167	121

Total employment

Total tourism-related employment (the sum of direct and indirect jobs) decreased to 6.3 million jobs in 2020 from 9.5 million jobs in 2019. The 6.3 million jobs consisted of 3.9 million direct tourism jobs and 2.4 million indirect tourism jobs (chart 5). While direct tourism employment includes jobs that produce direct tourism output, such as airline pilots, indirect tourism employment is generated by the businesses that supply goods and services to the tourism sector, such as refinery workers producing jet fuel. The most recent data indicate that for every 100 jobs supported directly by the travel and tourism industry, an additional 61 indirect tourism jobs are also required.

Chart 5. Total Tourism-Related Employment in 2016-2020



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Data Availability

The complete set of detailed annual statistics for 1998 through 2020 are available on [BEA's website](#).

Key Terms

The following key terms are used to describe the Travel and Tourism Satellite Account:

- **Domestic tourism.** Travel-related expenditures by U.S. residents traveling within the United States. It comprises travel by resident households, business travel, and travel by government employees.
- **Inbound tourism.** Travel-related expenditures by nonresidents traveling within the United States and expenditures by nonresidents on international transportation purchased from U.S. providers. These expenditures exclude expenditures for travel to study in the United States and for medical reasons.¹
- **Tourism commodities.** Goods and services that are typically purchased by visitors, such as airline passenger transportation, hotel accommodations, and meals.²
- **Tourism employment.** Total tourism-related employment consists of direct tourism employment plus indirect tourism employment. Direct tourism employment comprises all jobs where the workers are engaged in the production of direct tourism output (for example, hotel staff and airline pilots), and indirect tourism employment comprises all jobs where the workers are engaged in the production of indirect tourism output (for example, workers producing hotel toiletries and delivering fuel to airlines).
- **Tourism output.** Total tourism-related output consists of direct tourism output and indirect tourism output. Direct tourism output comprises all domestically produced goods and services purchased by travelers (for example, traveler accommodations and passenger air transportation), and indirect tourism output comprises all output required to support the production of direct tourism output (for example, toiletries for hotel guests and fuel for airplanes).
- **Visitor.** A person who travels outside of his or her usual environment (more than 50–100 miles from the area of normal, everyday activities) for less than a year or who stays overnight in a hotel or motel.³ The visitor may travel for pleasure or business (private sector or government). Visitors exclude travelers who expect to be compensated at the location of their visit (such as migrant workers, persons traveling to new assignments, and diplomatic and military personnel traveling to and from their duty stations and their home countries).

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1. In the travel and tourism satellite account, inbound and outbound visitors are not differentiated by type of visitor, because the data to prepare these estimates are not available.
 2. The classification of tourism commodities in the Travel and Tourism Satellite Account is based on a list of primary activities of visitors that was developed from recommendations by the World Tourism Organization, by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and from various surveys of U.S. visitors.
 3. The distance criterion differs by source data. The Consumer Expenditures Survey (Bureau of Labor Statistics) uses 75 miles from home; surveys by the U.S. Travel Association and surveys by D.K. Shifflet and Associates, use 50 miles from home.

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1. All measures of travel and tourism activity not identified as being in “real,” inflation-adjusted terms are current-dollar estimates.
 2. For more information see [“The 2021 Annual Update of the Industry Economic Accounts: Revised Statistics for 1999–2020 and the First Quarter of 2021,”](#) *Survey of Current Business* 101 (October 2021).

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