
Tourism

The APEC Tourism Working Group (TWG) was formed in 1991 as a platform for tourism administrators of APEC economies to share information, exchange views and develop areas of cooperation in tourism, trade and policies to support growth in the region through travel and tourism. In 2020, the group endorsed its APEC TWG Strategic Plan 2020–2024, covering four priority areas:

1. Digital transformation
2. Human capital development
3. Travel and facilitation competitiveness
4. Sustainable tourism and economic growth

Additionally, the TWG aligned with APEC Malaysia 2020’s priorities under its overarching theme “Optimising Human Potential towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity. Pivot. Prioritise. Progress”:

- Improving the narrative of trade and investment
- Inclusive economic participation through digital economy and technology
- Driving innovative sustainability

The TWG pursued partnerships with relevant tourism stakeholders to progress its work and continued to work towards its shared target of 800 million international tourists by 2025.

The Economic Contribution of Tourism in the APEC Region

In 2018, APEC ministers recognized the economic significance of tourism in terms of regional cooperation, trade, MSME support, job creation, skills enhancement, innovation, and the development of ICT.

Prior to the pandemic, the tourism sector was one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world.

In 2019, travel and tourism’s direct, indirect and induced impact **accounted for**:

- USD 8.9 trillion contributed to the world’s GDP, or 10.3 percent of global GDP
- 330 million jobs or 1 in 10 jobs around the world
- USD 1.7 trillion in visitor exports (6.8 percent of total exports, 28.3 percent of global services exports)
- USD 948 billion in capital investment (4.3 percent of total investment)

The Asia-Pacific region achieved record numbers in terms of tourist arrivals and tourism receipts in 2018 and 2019:

- 454.8 million international tourist arrivals in 2018—this is up 4.7 percent compared to 2017 and accounted for 32.3 percent of global tourism arrivals.
- USD 712.3 billion in export value (visitor spending) in 2019 representing 42.5 percent of global travel and tourism.

The tourism sector directly and indirectly contributed to all 17 goals of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, Economic Growth and Decent Work, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, and Responsible Consumption and Production.

Source: [APEC State of Tourism Report](#)

Last page update: December 2020

Source: <https://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working-Groups/Tourism>.