



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

Tourism in SIDS: the challenge of sustaining livelihoods in times of COVID-19

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Key findings

- **Tourism** is a **socio-economic pillar of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** and the COVID-19 crisis risks devastating their economies.
- Tourism accounts for **over 30% of total exports** in the majority of SIDS, reaching as much as 80% in some.
- **International tourist arrivals declined by 47% in SIDS during January–April 2020** and the road to recovery is set to be long.
- Such a major shock translates into a massive **loss of jobs**, a sharp **decline in foreign exchange** and **tax revenues** which curbs **public spending capacity** and ability to deploy the measures necessary to support livelihoods through the crisis.
- **Women**, who account for half of the workforce in almost all SIDS, **and informal workers** are particularly at **risk**.
- **Many SIDS have deployed measures to sustain businesses and jobs**, often supported by international and regional institutions yet more support is urgent.
- The **external debt of the SIDS accounts for 72.4% of GDP** on average and foreign reserves are generally low, with **many SIDS possessing only the reserves sufficient for a few months of imports**, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
- The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs **estimates that SIDS economies could shrink by 4.7% in 2020 as compared to 3% for the world economy**.
- **SIDS require thus an extraordinary international programme** to counter the devastating impact of COVID-19 on tourism, their economies and livelihoods.

INTERNATIONAL TOURISM IN SIDS

44

million
international
tourists

US\$ 55

billion in exports
from international
tourism

>50%

of exports
in 14 out
of 38 SIDS

>20%

of GDP
in 14 SIDS

↓47%

in
January–April
2020

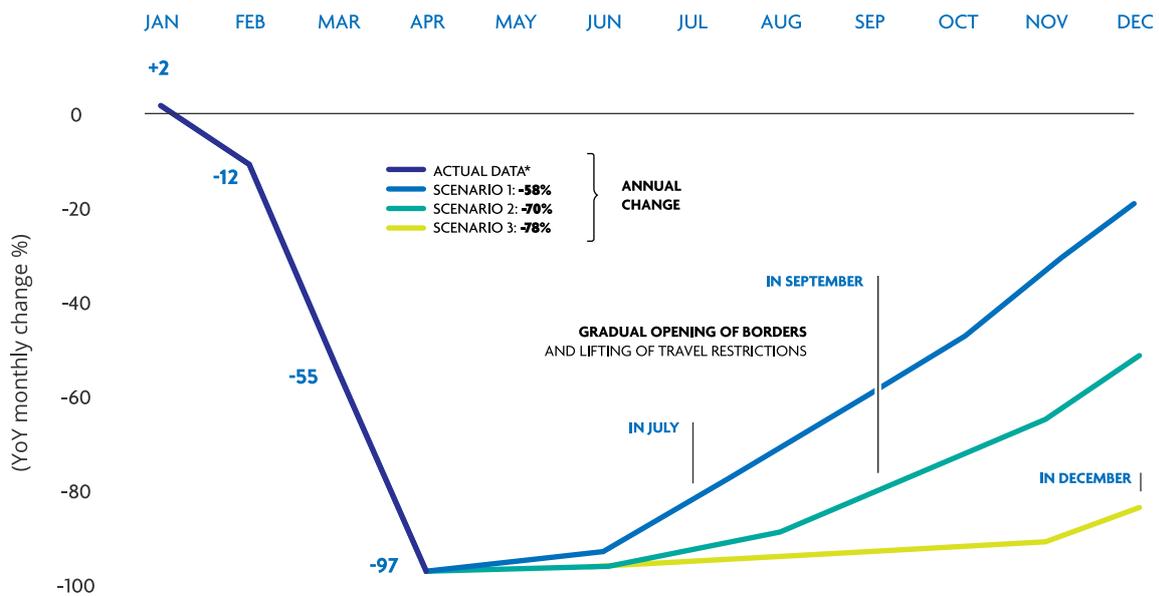
The Impact of COVID-19 on international tourism

Current scenarios for 2020 point to possible declines of 58% to 78% in international arrivals worldwide

- The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented disruption to both domestic and international travel, bringing destinations and source markets worldwide to a standstill.
- International tourist arrivals (overnight visitors) declined 44% in January–April 2020 over the same period of last year.
- Prospects for 2020 have been downgraded several times since the outbreak of the pandemic given the rapidly-evolving situation and high level of uncertainty.
- **UNWTO Scenarios¹ released in early May point to possible declines of 58% to 78% in international arrivals this year**, based on the speed of the containment of the disease, the duration of travel restrictions and the pace of re-opening of borders.

- This would be by far the largest decline in arrivals in the historical series, eclipsing the 4% drop in 2009 following the global economic crisis, or the mild decrease of 0.4% after the SARS outbreak in 2003.
- The scenarios are not forecasts and should not be interpreted as such. They are based on possible dates of lifting of travel restrictions and gradual reopening of international borders.
- The scenarios reflect possible patterns of monthly year-on-year change in arrivals from April to December 2020 supposing that travel restrictions start to be lifted and national borders opened in early July (scenario 1), in early September (scenario 2) or in early December (scenario 3). They are based on available data for January–March 2020 and other information such as the shutdown of all national borders as of late April, though still in a context of high uncertainty.

International tourist arrivals in 2020: three scenarios



1. UNWTO World Tourism Barometer, Volume 18, Issue 2, May 2020

An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The top half shows a dense forest of palm trees and other greenery. A narrow strip of white sand beach runs horizontally across the middle. Below the beach, the water is shallow and clear, showing a light greenish-blue color with some darker patches of seabed. The bottom half of the image shows the continuation of the forest and beach.

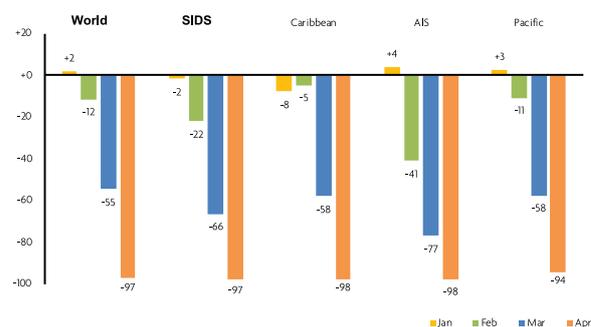
Tourism in SIDS: inbound tourism in January–April 2020

- The SIDS comprise 38 States² with common characteristics such as limited resources, heavy dependence on international trade, often fragile environments and remoteness, which makes them particularly vulnerable to external shocks, natural disasters and climate change.
- On the other hand, they differ in several aspects, such as land area, geographical configuration, population size, income levels, diversification of source markets and the importance of tourism to their economy.
- With a particularly rich natural and cultural heritage, SIDS have emerged as one of the world's leading tourist destinations. Many of them have benefited greatly from the increasing demand for international travel, enhanced air accessibility and cruise tourism, which provide a vital contribution to their economies.
- **In 2019, SIDS welcomed some 44 million international tourist arrivals** (3% of the world's total) and **exports from international tourism reached US\$ 55 billion**, accounting for 8% of total exports from SIDS.
- **COVID-19 has inflicted a heavy blow to international tourism in SIDS in the first four months of 2020 (47% drop in international arrivals)**, with the nearly total suspension of travel by air and sea, widespread travel restrictions and border closures in both destinations and source markets.
- **The importance of tourism as a source of export revenues, income, job creation and investments, makes SIDS particularly vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19.** The severe disruption caused by the pandemic poses a serious threat for a large number of tourism-dependent livelihoods, small and medium enterprises, and the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and to stimulate the recovery of the tourism sector in SIDS, especially in an adverse global economic context, are more critical than ever.**

International tourist arrivals in SIDS declined 47% in January-April 2020

- COVID-19 is having an unprecedented impact on tourism, bringing international travel to a virtual standstill from March 2020 onwards.
- **International tourist arrivals (overnight visitors) worldwide saw a 44% decrease in January-April 2020.** Arrivals were down 97% in April following lockdowns in many countries, widespread travel restrictions in 100% of destinations in the world and the shutdown of airports and national borders.
- **In SIDS destinations, arrivals are estimated to have dropped by 47% in January–April 2020, equivalent to a loss of 7.5 million arrivals** compared to the same period in 2019. The decline was steeper in the month of April, with arrivals falling 97%.
- Destinations in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) group were the hardest-hit, with a 53% decline in January–April 2020 in view of the earlier impact of the pandemic in Asia and a much sharper 98% drop in April. The Caribbean and Pacific groups both suffered a 43% drop in the first four months of 2020.

International tourist arrivals in SIDS: January–April 2020 (monthly % change)



2. In three geographical regions: 16 SIDS in the Caribbean, 9 in the Pacific Ocean and 13 in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS). Small Island Developing States comprise 38 UN Members, according to the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS).

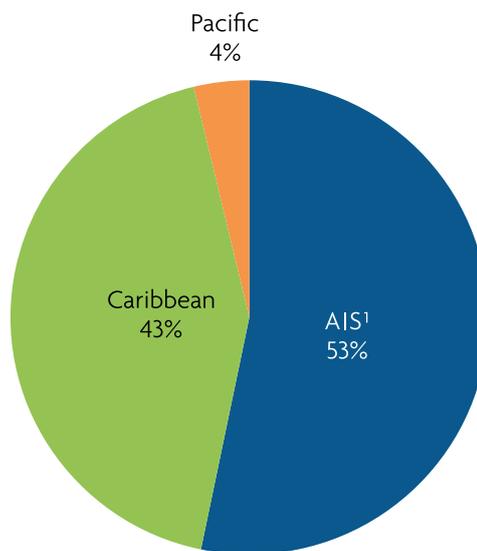
An aerial photograph of a tropical island chain, likely the Maldives, showing numerous small, turquoise islands with white sandy beaches scattered across a deep blue ocean. In the upper left and right corners, the white wings of a commercial airplane are visible against a clear blue sky. A white rectangular box is superimposed over the upper middle portion of the image, containing the title text.

International tourism: a lifeline for SIDS

Over US\$ 50 billion in exports in 2019

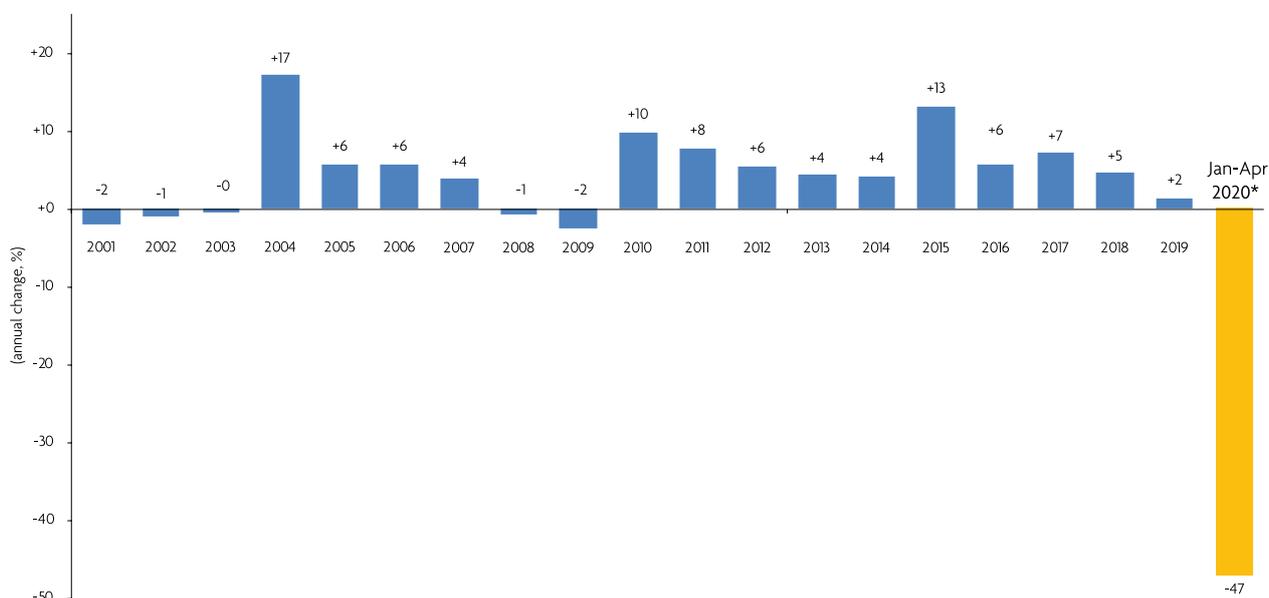
- In 2019, SIDS recorded **44 million international tourists (overnight visitors)**, about 3% of the world's total.
- Destinations in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea group (AIS) account for 53% of the total and those in the Caribbean 43%. The Pacific group accounts for a smaller proportion of 4%.
- In the nine years from 2010 to 2019, SIDS destinations grew an average 6% per year, outperforming the world average of 5%.
- In 2019, arrivals in SIDS saw zero growth, with the AIS group recording a small 1% increase and Caribbean destinations a 1% decline as a consequence of the lingering impacts of the strong 2018 hurricanes. The smaller group of Pacific destinations saw 3% growth.
- **Three destinations represent about 60% of the total international tourist arrivals in SIDS: Singapore, the Dominican Republic and Cuba.** Singapore alone accounts for 34% of the SIDS total, with 15 million international arrivals in 2019. The Dominican Republic represents 15% and Cuba about 11% of the total. These are followed by Bahrain and Jamaica.

International tourist arrivals in SIDS, by subgroup (%), 2019



1. Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea

International tourist arrivals in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), % change

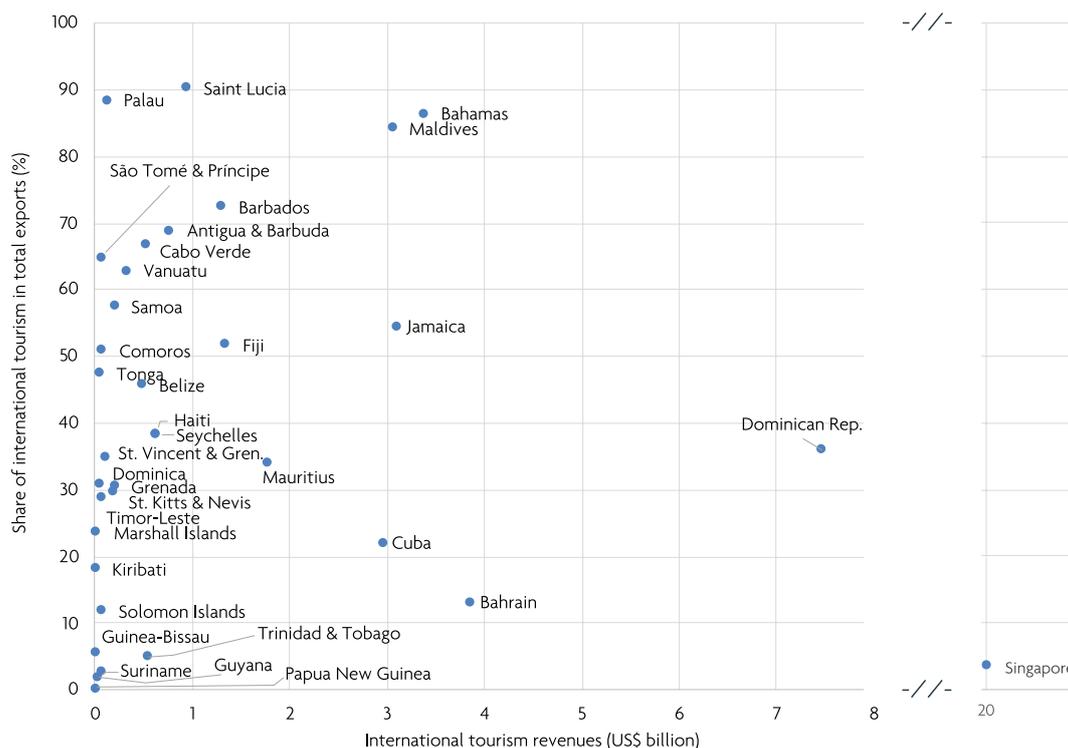


* Provisional Data

(Data collected June 2020)

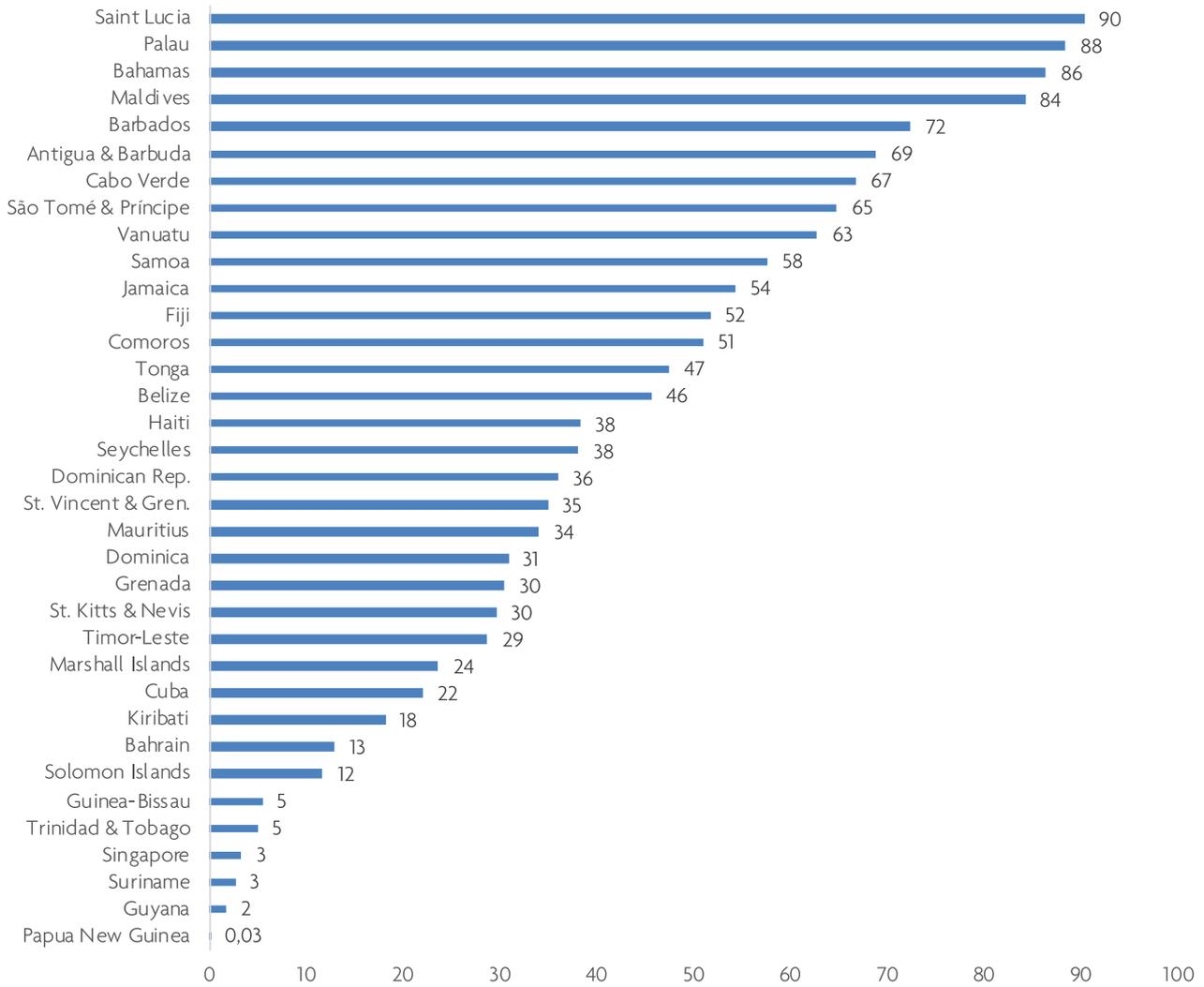
- Caribbean destinations such as Bahamas and Jamaica also receive large numbers of international cruise passengers every year, which often exceed the number of international tourists (overnight visitors). Bahamas received 5 million cruise passengers in 2018, compared to roughly 2 million international tourists.
- International tourism represents over 30% of total exports in the majority of SIDS.
- SIDS earned **US\$ 55 billion in exports from tourism in 2019**, or about 3% of the world total. AIS destinations earned US\$ 30 billion, or 55% of the SIDS total and Caribbean destinations US\$ 22 billion, or 41%. The largest destination, Singapore, recorded US\$ 20 billion in international tourism revenues in 2019, or 37% of the total.
- **International tourism** accounts for **8% of SIDS total exports** as compared to the world average of 7%. Yet, **excluding Singapore, the weight of tourism in the exports of SIDS economies reaches 28%**.
- In **13 out of the 38 SIDS, tourism accounts for 50% or more of total exports**. In **Saint Lucia, Palau, Bahamas** and the **Maldives it generates over 80% of all exports**.
- Overall, the weight of tourism is much larger in **Caribbean** destinations, with **34% of all exports** generated by **international visitor spending**. In the Pacific islands tourism represents 14% of total export revenues.
- The proportion of tourism revenues is smaller in the AIS group (5%), mostly due to the lower share of Singapore (3%), a major international trade hub and the top destination in SIDS, which brings down the AIS average.
- Tourism revenues are also high relative to population in SIDS, with an average US\$ 610 per capita earned in SIDS destinations, well above the world average of US\$ 230.
- **Compared to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), export revenues from tourism represent about 9% of SIDS economies**. This also exceeds the world average of 2%, which emphasizes the importance of international tourism for SIDS.
- Only a few SIDS report data on the economic contribution of tourism to GDP (Tourism GDP), based on their Tourism Satellite Accounts. Tourism accounts for 13% of Fiji's GDP (2014) and 9% in Jamaica (2017), while tourism GDP represents less than 0.5% in Timor-Leste (2014).

— Small Island Developing States: international tourism revenues (US\$ billion) and Share of total exports (%) —



Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and World Trade Organization (WTO). Note: No data available for Micronesia FSM, Tuvalu or Nauru.

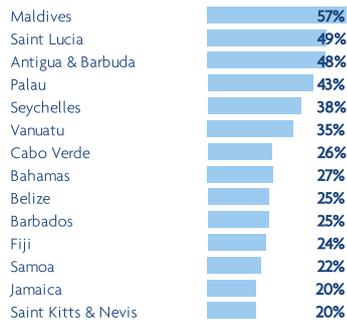
Small Island Developing States: international tourism revenues, share of total exports (%)



Note: No data available for Micronesia FSM, Tuvalu or Nauru.

Small Island Developing States: export revenues from international tourism as a percentage of GDP (%)

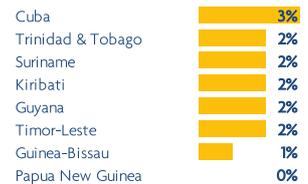
Between 20% and 60%



Between 5% and 20%



Less than 5%



Women and informal workers particularly at risk

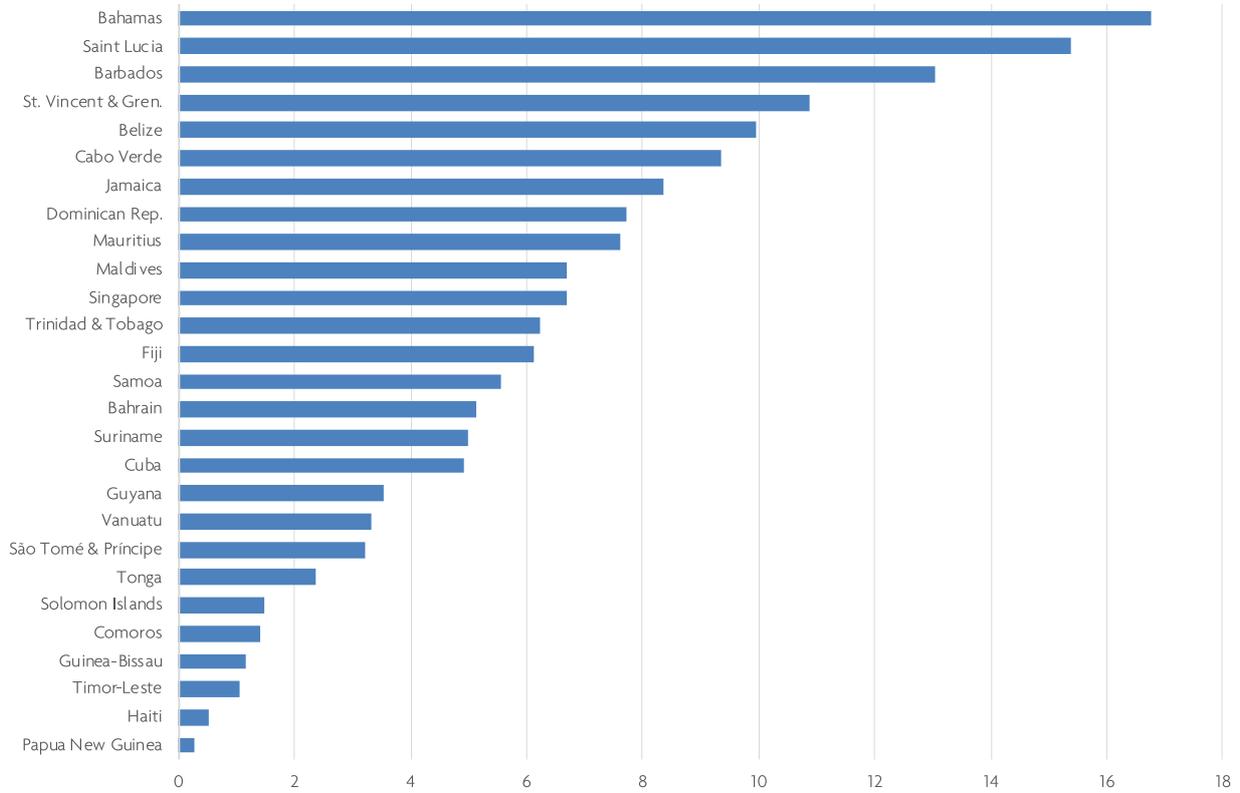
- Tourism is major engine of job creation and a driver of socio-economic growth. As a labour-intensive activity and with a multiplier effect on related sectors such as agriculture, construction and transport, tourism generates job opportunities particularly for women and youth.
- As a result of the collapse in demand for international travel, **UNWTO estimates that between 100 and 120 million direct tourism jobs in the world are at risk.**
- According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), accommodation and food services³ is one of the economic sectors most at risk.
- Of the 144 million workers in the accommodation and food services sector in 2019, more than half are women.
- According to aggregates based on ILO data, employment in accommodation and food services reached some 1.3 million overall in the 27 SIDS reporting data in 2018.
- Data reported by 27 countries shows that **employment in accommodation and food service activities in the Caribbean islands, can reach around 17% in Bahamas and more than 10% in Saint-Lucia, Barbados and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.**
- Most SIDS reporting data on employment distribution by sex (26) show a high share of female workers with **women employed in the accommodation and food services reaching more than 70% in Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago, and more than 50% of the total workforce in 21 SIDS across the three regions.** The majority of the workforce are employed in micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).
- The ILO estimates that **almost 1.6 billion informal workers** (the most vulnerable in the labour market) **out of 2 billion have suffered massive damage** to their capacity to earn a living due to the lockdown measures and/or **because many work in the hardest-hit sectors³ such as tourism.**
- Informal workers in low-income and lower-middle-income countries, which includes many SIDS, are particularly affected. 68% of informal employment (as a percentage of total employment) in low-income countries and 80% of informal employment in lower-middle-income countries are significantly impacted. The informal economy (wage workers without social protection, own-account workers such as street vendors)⁴ contributes to jobs, incomes and livelihoods, and in many low- and middle-income countries such as SIDS it plays a major economic role. The COVID-19 pandemic could thus put a large number of informal workers at risk of poverty or falling deeper into poverty, according to the ILO.

3. Considering ILO modelled estimates for employment in accommodation and food services sector as a proxy. ILO data for employment in the accommodation and food services subsector should be considered as a proxy of employment in the tourism sector.

4. International Labour Organization (ILO), Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work, Third edition, https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_743036/lang-en/index.htm

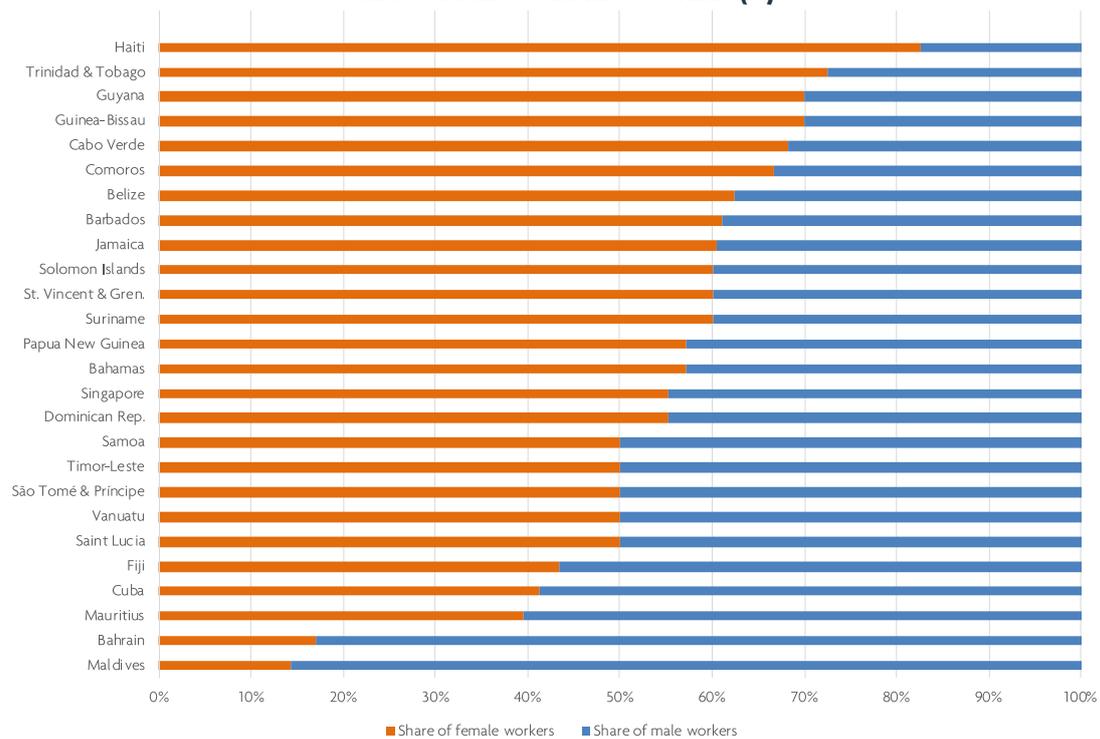
5. https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/wages/minimum-wages/beneficiaries/WCMS_436492/lang-en/index.htm

Small Island Developing States: employment in accommodation and food service activities, share of total employment (%)



Source: Compiled by UNWTO based on data by the International Labour Organization (ILO) modelled estimates

Small Island Developing States: employment in accommodation and food service activities, share of female and male workers (%)



Source: Compiled by UNWTO based on data by the International Labour Organization (ILO) modelled estimates

SIDS are highly dependent on international tourism and most of them rely on source markets from the same region

- **SIDS tourism are mostly based on international demand which makes them highly exposed to a downturn in international travel.** Few SIDS report data on domestic tourism. Yet, for those with data, international overnights in hotels and similar establishments can be five times higher in Cuba than domestic and more than 65 times higher in Seychelles or Bahrain.
- **Two-thirds of international tourist arrivals to the SIDS in the Caribbean originate in the Americas.** The share of arrivals from the Americas can reach 90% in Bahamas, Haiti and Saint Kitts and Nevis. The United States of America and Canada are two major outbound markets for many Caribbean islands. Due to the proximity of these two source markets, traffic is mostly intraregional. Other islands such as Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the Dominican Republic and Cuba have a more diversified market distribution, with an important share of arrivals from Europe as well.

- The different geographical location of SIDS in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea defines the source region for many SIDS. **Though some 57% of international tourist arrivals for the AIS group originate in Asia and the Pacific, Europe is the main source market for Seychelles, Cabo Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe and Comoros.** Maldives has a balanced share of international arrivals coming from Europe and Asia and the Pacific. Two SIDS rely virtually on a single region market: Bahrain on the Middle East (97% of arrivals) and Singapore on Asia and the Pacific (83% of arrivals). China, the world's largest outbound market, has become a major source market in many SIDS of the region.
- **International tourist arrivals in all Pacific SIDS originate mostly in Asia and the Pacific (82% of arrivals),** which underlines the geographical remoteness of these States.

An aerial photograph of a coastline. The top half of the image shows deep blue ocean water with white foam from waves breaking. A white sandy beach runs diagonally across the middle. Below the beach is a shallow, turquoise lagoon with visible sandbars and channels. The bottom half of the image shows a dense, green forested area.

Policies to mitigate the impact, accelerate recovery and build resilience

<https://www.e-imvto.org/doi/book/10.18111/9789284421916> - Tuesday, June 30, 2020 1:31:29 AM - IP Address:5.56.103.143

- **Overall, countries around the world have deployed a strong and quick response to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 lockdown measures on businesses and jobs.**⁶
- **Most measures** are applicable across the economy with a **special focus on SMEs, self-employed and job protection.** Due to its labour-intensive nature, SMEs' structure and as one of the hardest-hit sectors, tourism benefits from these measures.
- Measures currently in place are aimed at:
 - i) providing **fiscal relief and financial support to SMEs and self-employed workers** (prevent bankruptcy, ensure survival and address liquidity shortage); and
 - ii) promote **job retention.**
- As the situation evolves and recognizing the need to implement tourism specific measures, some countries have deployed measures targeting directly the tourism sector, particularly those countries where tourism plays a significant role in the national economy, such as SIDS.
- Alongside these measures, **over recent weeks a growing number of countries have developed measures to restart tourism,** including some SIDS such Jamaica or the Maldives which announced opening up borders in mid-June early July.
- Many SIDS have deployed measures to sustain businesses and jobs, often supported by international and regional institutions (the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund or the South Pacific Tourism Organisation), yet more support is urgent.
- The external debt of the SIDS accounts for 72.4% of GDP on average and foreign reserves are generally low, with many SIDS possessing only the reserves sufficient for a few months of imports.⁷
- The United Nations⁸ estimates that SIDS economies could shrink by 4.7% in 2020 as compared to 3% for the overall economy. The Bahamas, Maldives, Seychelles and Palau could see their GDP down by 8% or more, making the current crisis the worst in recorded history.

The way forward

- The massive impact that tourism decline is having on jobs and income is particularly devastating for the SIDS economies.
- The **current crisis** can translate into **increased poverty** and **undermine the ability of SIDS to advance sustainable development and withstand natural disasters,** which have been hitting many with increasing frequency and intensity.
- **A special consolidated programme for crisis mitigation and recovery of SIDS tourism would be critical** to support them withstand the immediate impact of the crisis and navigate recovery.
- **With reduced domestic markets it is critical to support SIDS as they open their international borders** safely for travellers, workers and communities.
- Programmes that address **training, digital transformation and skills, infrastructure maintenance, implementation of health protocols, social protection and business continuity** should be at the core of the support devised by the international community to SIDS tourism sector.

6. UNWTO Monitoring of Country Measures, <https://www.unwto.org/covid-19-measures-to-support-travel-tourism>

7. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Director, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UN Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD), Impact of COVID-19 on Tourism in Small Island Developing States, Inter Press News Agency, <http://www.ipsnews.net/2020/05/impact-covid-19-tourism-small-island-developing-states/>

8. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN/DESA Policy Brief #64: The COVID-19 pandemic puts Small Island Developing economies in dire straits, 1 May 2020, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-desa-policy-brief-64-the-covid-19-pandemic-puts-small-island-developing-economies-in-dire-straits/>

Together with fiscal and monetary measures, the **Bahamas** implemented a series of measures to support of jobs including:

- Social security mechanisms (to assist individual persons affected by the virus and persons whose employment is interrupted by the crisis. Specific social security provisions were made for tourism workers, including the self-employed. This includes food assistance and unemployment benefits.
- Companies participating in the Business Continuity Loan Programme are required to retain at least 51% of staff.
- The approvals process for investment projects, both domestic and international, will be expedited to facilitate a speedy return to work.
- Incentives for SMEs.

Samoa will receive US\$ 5.1 million from the World Bank for COVID-19 response as part of WB IDA grant to most in-need countries. The Government announced relief assistance for the Tourism Sector, including:

- Freezing payments for the Samoa National Provident Fund (SNPF) and Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) for 6 months.
- Discounts on government managed assets, reduction in rents and fees on state-owned properties.

SNPF assistance includes:

- Employers in the hospitality sector will be permitted to postpone their contributions payments for the six-month period January to June 2020 to be payable only in July.
- 20% early withdrawal for members in the Hospitality sector who have lost employment due to COVID-19;
- Subject to certain conditions, members in the affected sector to be allowed;

- a) member loans offset from contributions;
- b) Early withdrawal of either: 20% of net contributions or SAT\$ 4,000 whichever is lesser.

ACC assistance includes

- 50% reduction in the hotels' Daily Fixed Rate for 3 months;
- 3 months' rent free for all businesses operating within the Faleolo Airport;
- Government to carry 3 months of loan repayments for all small businesses under its Government Guarantee Schemes administered by the Samoa Business Hub;
- Government to provide interest relief for all loans with the Development Bank of Samoa for 2 months;
- Samoa Housing Corporation 3 months moratorium on all loan repayments, and 50% reduction in interest rates on all loans for 6 months;
- SAT\$ 1 million Capital Injection to the Samoa Airways;
- Government to carry 2% of total interest on all loans with every commercial bank for 3 months namely NBS, BSP, SCB and ANZ;
- 2 months extension on income tax due dates and all late fees for late filing to be waived;
- Registration fees for taxis and buses waived for the months of June and September – vehicles will still need to be brought in for inspection;
- All late fees waived for vehicle inspections and registrations; and 10% reduction on all registrations for motor vehicles for the rest of the calendar year;
- 20% reduction in water rate by the Samoa Water Authority;
- 10% reduction in the price of electricity for 6 months.

International tourism and its economic importance in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)^a, 2019^c

	International tourism						Population (million)	Exports				
	Arrivals		International tourism revenues ²					Total (USD billion)	of which:		International tourism	
	Overnight visitors (million)	per 100 inhabit. (million)	Cruise passeng, 2018 (million)	Export revenues (USD billion)	Rev. per capita (USD)	Rev. as a % of GDP (%)			Goods (USD billion)	Services (USD billion)	Share of total exports (%)	Share of services exports (%)
World	1,460	19	..	1,732	230	2.0	7,603	24,990	18,889	6,101	6.9	28
SIDS	44	49	..	55	620	8.7	90	718	454	264	7.7	21
<i>% of world</i>	3.0			3.2			1.2	2.9	2.4	4.3		
Caribbean	19	48	..	23	560	13	40	65	30	36	35	64
Dominican Republic	6.4	62	1.0	7.5	720	8.3	10.4	20.7	11	9.4	36	80
Cuba	4.7 ¹	41	..	3 ¹	260	3.0	11.3	13.2	2.5	10.7	22	28
Jamaica	2.7	93	1.8	3.1 ¹	1,080	20	2.9	6.0	1.7	4.3	54	81
Bahamas	1.8	474	4.9	3.6	9,460	28	0.4	4.9	0.8	4.1	73	88
Barbados	0.7 ¹	237	0.7	1.3	4,420	24	0.3	1.8	0.5	1.3	70	94
Haiti	0.4 ¹	4	0.9	0.6 ¹	55	6.4	11.2	1.5	1.2	0.3	38	115
Trinidad and Tobago	0.4	28	0.1	0.5 ¹	390	2.4	1.4	8.1	7.3	0.8	5	46
Belize	0.5	124	1.2	0.5	1,255	26	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.7	44	74
Saint Lucia	0.4	235	0.8	1.0	5,390	49	0.2	1.0	0.1	1.0	93	99
Antigua and Barbuda	0.3	324	0.8	0.8	8,530	47	0.1	1.1	0.0	1.1	70	73
Suriname	..	46	..	0.1	105	1.7	0.6	2.4	2.3	0.1	3	50
Guyana	0.3	40	..	0 ¹	35	0.7	0.8	1.7	1.6	0.1	2	14
Grenada	0.2 ¹	148	0.3	0.2	1,555	14	0.1	0.7	0.0	0.6	26	27
St. Kitts and Nevis	0.1	230	1.1	0.2	3,540	20	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.6	31	34
St. Vincent and Gren.	0.1	78	0.3	0.1	1,070	14	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	38	43
Dominica	0.1 ¹	89	0.1	0.1	1,580	19	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	64	73
AIS^b	23	63	..	30	820	7	37	637	412	225	5	13
Singapore	15.1	267	..	20.1	3,535	5.5	5.7	596	391	205	3	10
Bahrain	3.8	255	0.1	3.9	2,555	10	1.5	30	18	11.9	13	32
Maldives	1.7	458	..	3.1 ¹	8,210	57	0.4	3.6	0.4	3.3	84	93
Mauritius	1.4	109	0.01	1.8	1,405	12	1.3	5.2	2.2	3.0	34	59
Cabo Verde	0.8	136	..	0.5 ¹	925	26	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.7	67	74
Seychelles	0.4	400	0.04	0.6	6,430	38	0.1	1.6	0.5	1.1	38	55
Guinea-Bissau	0.1	3	..	0.02 ¹	10	1.4	1.8	0.3	0.3	0.0	5	64
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.03 ¹	15	..	0.1 ¹	325	17	0.2	0.1	0.01	0.1	65	76
Comoros	0.04 ¹	4	..	0.1 ¹	90	6.5	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.1 ¹	51	71
Pacific	1.6	13	..	2	180	6	12	15	12	3	14	74
Fiji	0.9	100	0.2	1.3	1,505	24	0.9	2.6	1.0	1.6	52	83
Papua New Guinea	0.2	2	0.1	0 ¹	0	0.01	8.6	10.8	11	0.2	0.03	1
Palau	0.1	522	..	..	6,835	43	0.0	0.1	0.01	..	88	93
Samoa	0.2	87	..	0.2	1,010	22	0.2	0.3	0.05	0.3	58	67
Vanuatu	0.1	41	0.2	0.3 ¹	1,110	35	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.4	63	72
Timor-Leste	0.1	6	..	0.1	55	2.4	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	29	77
Tonga	0.1 ¹	54	0.02	0.1	570	11.7	0.1	0.1	0.02	0.1	53	65
Micronesia FSM	0 ¹	17	..	..	..	..	0.1	0.1	0.04	0.1	..	..
Solomon Islands	0 ¹	4	..	0.1	110	4.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.1	12	52
Marshall Islands	0 ¹	12	..	0.02 ¹	340	9.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.04 ¹	24	47
Kiribati	0 ¹	6	..	0 ¹	30	1.8	0.1	0.02	0.01	0.0	18	32
Tuvalu	0 ¹	23	..	..	..	..	0.01	0.003	0.00	0.0	..	..
Nauru	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.01	..	..	..	..	..

Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organization (WTO)

Notes: a) According to UN Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Dev. Countries and Small Island Dev. States (UN-OHRLLS). See: <http://unohrls.org/about-sids/country-profiles>.

b) Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea.

c) All data corresponds to 2019 unless otherwise indicated. Revenues as % of GDP and export shares may correspond to 2018, if no 2019 data is available.

1) Data corresponds to 2018.

2) Total revenues include receipts in destinations and passenger transport receipts for 2019, or 2018.

International tourist arrivals in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)¹

	Series	(1000)				Share of SIDS (%)	Change (%)		Av. annual growth (%)	Series	2020*, % change over same period of 2019					
		2010	2017	2018	2019*		2019*	18/17			19*/18	2010-2019	YTD	Q1	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
World		952 mn	1,333 mn	1,409 mn	1,460 mn	..	5.7	3.6	4.8		-43.8	-22.7	1.8	-11.7	-54.6	-97.0
SIDS		26,268	41,797	43,752	44,409	100	4.7	1.5	6.0		-47.2	-30.9	-1.7	-22.1	-66.3	-97.4
Caribbean		12,590	18,096	19,044	19,427	44	5.2	2.0	4.9		-42.6	-25.0	-7.8	-4.6	-57.9	-97.6
Dominican Republic	TF	4,125	6,188	6,569	6,446	14.5	6.2	-1.9	5.1	TF	-43.4	-25.8	-6.8	-6.6	-59.9	-100.0
Cuba	TF	2,507	4,594	4,684	..	..	2.0	..	..	VF	-49.0	-33.2	-19.6	-13.2	-63.7	-99.8
Jamaica	TF	1,922	2,353	2,473	2,681	6.0	5.1	8.4	3.8	TF	6.0	..	4.9	7.1	..	..
Bahamas	TF	1,370	1,442	1,634	1,804	4.1	13.3	10.4	3.1	TF	-34.5	-34.5	-9.3	-8.5	-69.7	..
Barbados	TF	532	664	680	..	..	2.5	..	..	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Haiti	TF	255	467	447	..	..	-4.3	..	..	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belize	TF	242	427	489	503	1.1	14.6	2.8	8.5	TF	-22.1	-22.1	-4.0	1.9	-58.6	..
Trinidad and Tobago	TF	388	395	375	389	0.9	-4.9	3.5	0.0	TF	-12.4	-12.4	8.6	13.4	-60.5	..
Saint Lucia	TF	306	386	396	424	1.0	2.5	7.1	3.7	TF	-20.1	-20.1	-2.5	3.9	-56.6	..
Antigua and Barbuda	TF	230	247	269	301	0.7	8.7	11.9	3.0	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suriname	TF	205	278	..	..	..	..	..	..	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guyana	TF	152	247	287	315	0.7	15.9	9.8	8.4	TF	17.1	..	9.9	24.8	..	..
Grenada	TF	110	146	161	..	..	10.0	..	..	TF	-17.5	-17.5	1.9	2.3	-55.1	..
St. Kitts and Nevis	TF	98	115	123	131	0.3	7.0	6.6	3.2	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Vincent and Gren.	TF	72	76	80	85	0.2	5.4	6.5	1.8	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dominica	TF	77	71	63	..	..	-11.9	..	..	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
AIS²		12,439	22,132	23,118	23,342	53	4.5	1.0	7.2		-52.6	-37.7	4.2	-41.0	-76.7	-97.8
Singapore	TF	9,161	13,903	14,673	15,115	34	5.5	3.0	5.7	VF	-57.7	-43.3	3.9	-51.1	-84.7	-100.0
Bahrain	TCE	995	4,373	4,366	3,849	8.7	-0.2	-11.8	16.2	VF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Maldives	TF	792	1,390	1,484	1,703	3.8	6.8	14.7	8.9	TF	-20.7	-20.7	14.4	-11.1	-63.4	-100.0
Mauritius	TF	935	1,342	1,399	1,383	3.1	4.3	-1.1	4.5	TF	-45.3	-13.5	12.4	-3.5	-51.2	-100.0
Cabo Verde	THS	336	668	710	758	1.7	6.3	6.8	9.5	THS	-28.3	-28.3	..	..	..	..
Seychelles	TF	175	350	362	384	0.9	3.4	6.2	9.2	TF	-12.4	-12.4	11.1	3.6	-48.7	..
Guinea-Bissau	TF	22	50	55	52	0.1	11.1	-4.7	10.0	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
São Tomé and Príncipe	TF	8	29	33	..	..	15.6	..	..	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Comoros	TF	15	28	36	..	..	28.2	..	..	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pacific		1,239	1,569	1,589	1,641	4	1.3	3.3	3.2		-42.8	-21.7	2.9	-10.7	-57.6	-94.1
Fiji	TF	632	843	870	894	2.0	3.3	2.8	3.9	TF	-56.2	-18.7	2.5	-4.9	-52.8	-99.1
Papua New Guinea	TF	140	143	140	160	0.4	-2.1	14.3	1.5	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Palau	TF	85	123	106	94	0.2	-13.3	-11.6	1.2	TF	-30.7	-30.7	33.4	-42.6	-69.7	..
Samoa	TF	122	146	164	172	0.4	12.4	4.8	3.9	VF	-36.2	-36.2	-24.0	-22.0	-62.7	..
Vanuatu	TF	97	109	116	121	0.3	5.9	4.3	2.4	TF	20.4	..	25.0	13.0	..	..
Timor-Leste	TF	40	74	75	81	0.2	1.1	8.2	8.1	VF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tonga	TF	47	62	54	..	..	-13.1	..	..	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Micronesia FSM	TF	45	..	19	..	..	..	..	..	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Solomon Islands	TF	21	26	28	..	..	8.4	..	..	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marshall Islands	TF	5	6	7	..	..	13.3	..	..	TF*	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kiribati	TF	5	6	7	..	..	22.4	..	..	VF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuvalu	TF	2	2	3	..	..	9.5	..	..	TF	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nauru	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

Notes: Data collected June 2020.

TCE: International tourist arrivals at collective tourism establishments; THS: International tourist arrivals at hotels and similar establishments;

TF: International tourist arrivals at frontiers (excluding same-day visitors); VF: International visitor arrivals at frontiers (tourists and same-day visitors).

*) Provisional data.

1) According to UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS). See: <http://unohrls.org/about-sids/country-profiles>.

2) Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS)¹: international tourist arrivals by source regions, 2018 (%)

International tourist arrivals To:	2018 (1000)	From: Source regions (%)					
		Africa	Americas	Asia and the Pacific	Europe	Middle East	Not specified
Caribbean							
Dominican Rep.	6,569	..	65	0.2	20	..	14
Cuba	4,684	1	48	5.2	30	0	16
Jamaica	2,473	0	86	0.4	13	0	0
Bahamas	1,634	0	91	1.0	8	0	0
Barbados	680	0	60	1.0	38	0	0
Haiti	447	..	92	..	7	..	1
Trinidad and Tobago	375	1	82	2.9	14	0	..
Belize	489	0	82	2.7	12	1	2
Saint Lucia	396	..	75	0.1	24	..	1
Antigua and Barbuda	269	0	66	1.1	33	0	0
Suriname	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guyana	287	..	93	..	4	..	2
Grenada	161	0	64	1.2	19	0	14
St. Kitts and Nevis	123	..	89	..	9	..	2
St. Vincent and Gren.	80	..	76	..	22	..	2
Dominica	63	1	80	2.3	17	0	0
AIS²							
Singapore	14,673	0	5	83	11	1	0
Bahrain	4,367	..	0	0.6	1	97	0
Maldives	1,484	1	5	41.9	49	4	0
Mauritius	1,399	22	2	14.5	59	2	0
Cabo Verde	710	0	1	..	77	..	22
Seychelles	362	10	4	8.8	69	9	..
Guinea-Bissau	55	..	..	..	..	..	..
São Tomé and Príncipe	33	22	7	3.8	67	0	..
Comoros	36	30	1	2.6	65	1	..
Pacific							
Fiji	870	..	11	81.8	6	..	1
Papua New Guinea	140	1	6	86.8	6	..	0
Palau	106	0	8	87.5	4	0	..
Samoa	164	..	8	86.3	4	..	1
Vanuatu	116	..	3	87.1	7	..	3
Timor-Leste	75	..	4	57.8	12	..	27
Tonga	54	0	14	79.6	6	..	..
Micronesia FSM	19	..	..	..	..	..	..
Solomon Islands	28	..	7	86.1	7	..	1
Marshall Islands	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kiribati	7	..	22	65.0	9	..	4
Tuvalu	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nauru	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

Notes: Data collected April 2020.

1) According to UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) at: <http://unohrlls.org/about-sids/country-profiles>.

2) AIS: Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea.

Key to abbreviations and symbols used

* = provisional data
.. = data not (yet) available
| = change of series
n/a = not applicable

mn = million (1,000,000)
bn = billion (1,000,000,000)
trn = trillion (1,000,000,000,000)

Q1: January, February, March
Q2: April, May, June
Q3: July, August, September
Q4: October, November, December
T1: From January to April
T2: From May to August
T3: From September to December
H1: From January to June
H2: From July to December

YTD: Year to date, variation of months with data available compared with the same period of the previous year. The (sub) regional totals are approximations for the whole (sub)region based on trends for the countries with data available.

Data series of International Tourist Arrivals

TF: International tourist arrivals at frontiers (excluding same-day visitors);
VF: International visitor arrivals at frontiers (tourists and same-day visitors);
THS: International tourist arrivals at hotels and similar establishments;
TCE: International tourist arrivals at collective tourism establishments;
NHS: Nights of international tourists in hotels and similar establishments;
NCE: Nights of international tourists in collective tourism establishments.

Data series International Tourism Receipts and Expenditure

All percentages are calculated from non-seasonally adjusted series in local currencies, unless otherwise indicated:
\$: in US dollars; €: in euros; sa: seasonally adjusted series.

For major concepts, definitions and classifications in the measurement of tourism, please see the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008 (IRTS 2008) at <statistics.unwto.org/content/irts-2008>.



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

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COVID-19 RESPONSE