

New report from WTTTC reveals UK Travel & Tourism sector is expected to create 700,000 jobs over the next decade

UK recovery has been slower due to lack of inbound international travel spend

Last year, sector lagged pre-pandemic job level by 170,000

WTTTC calls for more action to attract travellers back to the UK

London, UK: The World Travel & Tourism Council's latest Economic Impact Report (EIR) reveals the Travel & Tourism sector in the UK is expected to create nearly 700,000 new jobs over the next decade.

The forecast from the World Travel & Tourism Council ([WTTTC](#)), shows an average of 70,000 new jobs will be created every year for the next 10 years.

According to the report, the UK's Travel & Tourism's contribution to GDP is forecasted to grow at an average rate of 3% annually between 2022-2032.

This is nearly twice the 1.7% growth rate of the overall economy and is set to reach more than £286 billion (10.1% of the total economy).

By the end of 2022, the sector's contribution to GDP is expected to grow nearly two thirds (62.7%) to nearly £214 billion, amounting to 8.9% of the total economic GDP.

However, over this period, employment in the sector is set to grow by only 0.5%, to reach just over four million jobs.

Julia Simpson, WTTTC President & CEO, said: "Over the long term the future looks bright for the revival of the UK Travel & Tourism sector, but in the short term, international visitor spend is so low it is hampering the country's economic recovery.

“After two years of economic damage to the sector, the UK government continues to take this sector for granted. There has been no focus or understanding of how critical Travel & Tourism is to the UK economy.

“Smart countries are investing overseas to get visitors back. Travel & Tourism can contribute 10% to the economy and yet it is not even discussed at senior levels. The UK will lose out to other European destinations if this isn’t addressed urgently.”

In 2019 when Travel & Tourism was at its peak, international visitor spending in the UK reached a significant £36.4 billion. However last year, as the UK continued to struggle to attract visitors to its shores, the total spend was just £3.9 billion.

Before the pandemic, the UK Travel & Tourism sector’s contribution to GDP was 9.9% (£234.5 billion) in 2019, collapsing back to just 4.3% (£93.8 billion) in 2020, which represented a staggering 60% loss above the global impact of 50%.

The latest EIR report also reveals that 2021 saw the slow beginning of the recovery for the UK’s Travel & Tourism sector.

Last year, its contribution to GDP climbed 40.3% year on year, to reach more than £131 billion, still significantly below 2019 levels.

The sector’s modest recovery was unlined by the creation of less than 16,000 new Travel & Tourism jobs, to reach 4.11 million, which is still some 170,000 jobs fewer than before the pandemic

The sector’s contribution to the economy could have been higher if it weren’t for the impact of the Omicron variant, which led to the recovery faltering around the world, with many countries reinstating travel restrictions.

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