



## WTTC: U.S. Travel & Tourism Recovery Projected to Exceed Pre-Pandemic Levels in 2022

*WTTC research projects sector's GDP contributions could reach almost \$2 trillion, a **6.2% increase from 2019**, with Easter and summer travel bookings helping bolster economic recovery*

**London (Feb. 8, 2022)** – The World Travel & Tourism Council ([WTTC](#)), which represents the global Travel & Tourism sector, today announced its latest economic modeling projecting that U.S. Travel & Tourism could rebound strongly this year, reaching \$2 trillion in U.S. GDP contribution and exceeding pre-pandemic levels by 6.2%.

News of the strong recovery follows steady gains in the sector during 2021 and signals the welcome comeback of one of the world's most important economic drivers after almost two years of upheaval.

“Our latest forecast shows the recovery significantly picking up this year as infection rates subside and travelers continue benefitting from the protection offered by the vaccine and boosters,” said Julia Simpson, President & CEO of WTTC. “As travel restrictions ease and consumer confidence returns, we expect a welcome release of pent-up Travel & Tourism demand. That, together with what we hope will be a strong consumer-led economic recovery, creates a positive outlook for the sector.”

### **STRONG RECOVERY OUTLOOK ANTICIPATED BY WTTC AND OXFORD ECONOMICS**

Projections by WTTC and Oxford Economics show that if the vaccine and booster rollout will continue at pace, and restrictions to international travel continue to be eased around the world throughout the year, the sector's contribution of nearly \$2 trillion to the U.S. economy could outperform 2019 levels (\$1.87 trillion) by more than six percent. Other findings include:

- U.S. domestic Travel & Tourism spending is forecast to reach more than **\$1.1 trillion** for the year, surpassing pre-pandemic levels by **11.3%**
- International traveler spending in the U.S. could see growth of **\$113 billion** during the year, reaching nearly **\$155 billion**, slightly below (14%) 2019 levels
- Employment in the sector could also surpass pre-pandemic levels, reaching nearly **16.8 million** jobs, above pre-pandemic levels by almost 200,000 jobs

“The good news is our outlook delivers a clear message: If the right conditions exist, the Travel & Tourism sector can rebound to deliver economic and employment benefits we have not seen since before the pandemic,” said Simpson. “We encourage global leaders to consider the economic and employment benefits of boosting consumer confidence by allowing fully vaccinated travelers to move freely.”

### **RELATED STUDY ALSO PROJECTS STRONG SECTOR RECOVERY IN 2022**

New research by ForwardKeys, the leading travel data and analytics company and WTTC's knowledge partner, has revealed inbound bookings to the U.S. over the Easter period have increased by 212% compared to the same period last year. Similarly, the latest data shows international inbound bookings to U.S. destinations during the busy Easter period have surged 130%, compared to 2021 levels.



Robust U.S. travel bookings could continue through the summer, with a 58% year on year increase in U.S. travel bookings already this year. Summer inbound international bookings will be similarly strong, increasing 87% year on year.

In 2019 Travel & Tourism generated 10.4% of global GDP and more than 330 million jobs worldwide. To reach close to pre-pandemic levels this year, WTTC urges governments around the world to continue focusing on the vaccine and booster rollout – and allowing fully vaccinated travellers to move freely without the need for testing.

The global tourism body also urges governments to replace the patchwork of restrictions for international travel with digital solutions that allow travellers to prove their status in a fast, simple and secure way.

###

#### **About the World Travel & Tourism Council**

The World Travel & Tourism Council ([WTTC](#)) represents the global Travel & Tourism private sector. Members include 200 CEOs, chairs and presidents of the world's leading Travel & Tourism companies from all geographies covering all industries. For more than 30 years, WTTC has been committed to raising the awareness of governments and the public of the economic and social significance of the Travel & Tourism sector.

According to WTTC's [2021 Economic Impact Report](#), during 2020, a year in which it was devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Travel & Tourism made a 5.5% contribution to global GDP and was responsible for 272 million jobs.

#### **WTTC Media Contacts:**

WTTC Press Office, [press.office@wttc.org](mailto:press.office@wttc.org)

Caroline Slaton, LDWW, [caroline@ldww.co](mailto:caroline@ldww.co), (214) 971-6810

Jody Venturoni, LDWW, [jody@ldww.co](mailto:jody@ldww.co), (214) 392-3344