International spending on medical tourism products and services grew by 358% in nominal terms between 2000 and 2017, increasing from $2.4 billion to $11 billion. This growth resulted in spending on medical tourism reaching 1.2% of international visitor spending in 2017 compared to 0.6% in 2000.

The United States is the largest destination market for inbound medical tourists, with spending reaching almost $4bn in 2017 and representing nearly 36% of global medical tourism spending.

Turkey, Thailand, Jordan and Costa Rica are the leading emerging economies in terms of inbound medical tourism spending.

The United States is also the world’s leading outbound medical tourism market, representing 20% of the market, with US citizens spending around $2.3bn in 2017 on medical tourism services abroad.

Kuwait is the second largest source market for outbound medical tourism, largely due to its government policy of supporting and financing medical procedures abroad. Nigeria is the third largest source market.

The most effective policies in supporting and stimulating medical tourism are those that establish the regulation and recognised accreditation/certification of medical practitioners and facilities, provide specific visa support, provide training and skills development, develop and implement targeted marketing strategies, and attract investment into the sub-sector.
1. INTRODUCTION

Over recent years, as the health and social care systems have become strained and expenditures and insurance premiums have risen in a number of countries, consumers have looked for more cost-effective care; in turn leading to the rise in medical tourism. The growth of this niche market has been swiftly identified by medical service providers who have recognised the opportunities to promote access to quality care, safety, privacy, lower cost procedures, and procedures that are not available in patients’ home countries.

Medical tourism, referred to as ‘health-related personal travel’ by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), is defined as the products and services bought by people who travel abroad primarily for medical and health-related reasons. This includes spending on food, accommodation, and local transport – either by individuals, or, at times, funded or even prompted by governments.

Different specialties including cosmetic surgery, dentistry, orthopaedics, cosmetic procedures, reproductive health and nanotechnology, have also been developed by countries wanting to attract distinct source markets; in turn achieving a competitive advantage. For instance, Hungary has developed a speciality in dentistry; medical tourists head to South Korea for expertise in cosmetic surgery and cardiology, and Mexico is expanding beyond its know-how in cosmetic procedures into orthopaedics.

A growing number of countries are increasingly recognising the opportunities of medical tourism as a catalyst for social and economic development. Bringing together the medical and tourism sectors synergistically not only supports quality education, highly skilled workers, favourable visa policies and accessible and well-developed infrastructure within a country, but also allows for the promotion of a country’s attractiveness.

This report seeks to analyse global medical tourism using data from the IMF Balance of Payments dataset, which is also the primary data source used for international Travel & Tourism spending in WTTTC’s annual economic impact research. Our analysis is based on 115 countries, which have published data on international medical tourism. These countries account for 58% of total global international visitor spending.

2. ANALYSIS OF MEDICAL TOURISM

2.1 MEDICAL TOURISM ACROSS THE WORLD

In 2017, international spending on medical tourism services totalled nearly US$11 billion, up from US$2.4 billion in 2000; amounting to an average annual growth of around 9% in nominal terms and a total growth of 358% between 2000 and 2017. Spending on medical tourism has grown as a share of total international visitor spending from 0.6% in 2000 to 1.2% by 2017.

Chart 1: International spending on medical tourism services, 2000-17

2.2 INBOUND MEDICAL TOURISM SPENDING

The United States is the largest destination market for inbound medical tourism spending, bringing in almost US$4bn in 2017. The USA accounts for 36% of global medical tourism spending and 19% of total inbound tourism spending in the country. France follows in second place with tourists spending US$0.8 billion for medical purposes in 2017, which amounts to 13% of total inbound tourism spending in the country.

Turkey, Thailand, Jordan and Costa Rica are also among the largest countries in terms of total inbound medical tourism spending; evidence that medical tourism brings benefits not only to developed countries but also to emerging and developing economies across continents.

Turkey’s strong performance has been supported by sustained government investment into the healthcare sector, low-cost services, well-educated personnel, and focused marketing campaigns. A total of 500,000 foreign patients were treated in Turkey in 2018, with strong growth expected over the coming years. Similarly, the government in Thailand has aimed to make the country a global centre for medical tourism through investment initiatives including tax exemptions for investment into new health facilities.

The aforementioned six countries, together with Belgium and the United Kingdom, contributed nearly three quarters of total global medical tourism spending in 2017, indicating that this niche market is dominated by a small number of destination markets.

1 European Travel Commission/UNWTO, 2018: Exploring Health Tourism
3 As an example, check the NHS: https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/
going-abroad-for-treatment/growing-abroad-for-treatment/growing-abroad-for-medical-treatment/
4 More examples of country specialties can be found on medicaltourism.com
5 For further details on the methodology and definitions, please see Appendix 2
6 Spending on medical tourism as a share of total international visitor spending refers to 115 countries analysed
7 For more information visit: https://europeanbusinessmagazine.com/business/medical-tourism-boosting-turkeys-economy/
9 Medical tourism in Thailand, cross-sectional study, 2015: https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/1/14-152165/en/
**Chart 2: Where do international medical tourists spend the most?**

Inbound medical tourism spending, 2017, in US$ bn and % share of world's total

- **United States**: US$ 3.99 bn, 36%
- **France**: US$ 0.80 bn, 7%
- **Turkey**: US$ 0.78 bn, 7%
- **Belgium**: US$ 0.64 bn, 6%
- **Thailand**: US$ 0.59 bn, 6%
- **Jordan**: US$ 0.50 bn, 5%

**Chart 3: Top 15 largest countries - inbound medical tourism spending, 2017 data (source: IMF)**

When examining medical tourism spending as a share of total inbound spending, developing and emerging countries rank highest with **Iran**, **Jordan** and **Costa Rica** in the top spots. **Iran**’s last available data, however, is for the year 2000, when 18% of total inbound tourism spending was related to medical services. While these figures are likely to have changed considerably, Iran’s strength in this area is in part due to the low cost of medical services, well-qualified personnel and active government support. In 2017, it was reported that Iran has signed agreements with 13 countries in the region to facilitate medical tourism in the country. **Medical services account for 12% and 11% of inbound tourism spending in Costa Rica and Jordan respectively, a result of government focus and strong investment into the sub-sector. In Costa Rica, as with a number of other destinations that actively promote this tourism niche, many travel companies offer ‘sun and surgery’ packages, overtly marketing its medical services to attract international tourists to the country.**

**India**, which currently ranks 12th in terms of inbound medical tourism spending, has strong governmental policies supporting medical tourism, including the introduction of ‘medical visas’ and targeted marketing campaigns, all of which help drive an increasing number of medical tourists to the country.

### 2.3 Origin Markets for Medical Tourism

In addition to being the world’s top inbound medical tourism destination, the **United States** is also the world’s leading outbound medical tourism market. US citizens spent around US$2.3bn in 2017 on medical services abroad, particularly in North America and Latin America. While the USA accounts for 20% of global outbound spending on medical tourism, this amounts to 17% of the total US outbound Travel & Tourism expenditure. Even though US citizens spend a significant amount abroad for medical services, this sub-sector provides a net benefit to the country’s GDP, with the revenue from inbound medical tourism exceeding the outbound spend by US$1.6bn in 2017.

**Kuwait** is the second largest origin market for outbound medical tourism, largely due to its government policies which support medical procedures abroad. While the share of outbound medical tourism spend as a proportion of overall outbound spending is 12.7% for the country, the government is in the process of implementing new regulations to significantly reduce outbound medical tourism and private healthcare.

The strong outbound medical tourism spending in **Nigeria**, the third highest spending origin market for medical tourism, is driven by a booming population and a domestic health system which is under pressure as a result of rising healthcare costs. Expatriates, who form a large portion of the population, are also drawn to foreign countries’ leisure facilities which are offered alongside healthcare treatments by some providers.

**Oman** is also the world’s leading outbound medical tourism market. US citizens spent around US$2.3bn in 2017 on medical services abroad, particularly in North America and Latin America. While the USA accounts for 20% of global outbound spending on medical tourism, this amounts to 17% of the total US outbound Travel & Tourism expenditure. Even though US citizens spend a significant amount abroad for medical services, this sub-sector provides a net benefit to the country’s GDP, with the revenue from inbound medical tourism exceeding the outbound spend by US$1.6bn in 2017.

**Inbound medical tourism spending in Costa Rica and Jordan respectively, a result of government focus and strong investment into the sub-sector. In Costa Rica, as with a number of other destinations that actively promote this tourism niche, many travel companies offer ‘sun and surgery’ packages, overtly marketing its medical services to attract international tourists to the country.**

**India**, which currently ranks 12th in terms of inbound medical tourism spending, has strong governmental policies supporting medical tourism, including the introduction of ‘medical visas’ and targeted marketing campaigns, all of which help drive an increasing number of medical tourists to the country.

### Medical Tourism: A Prescription for a Healthier Economy

**In Oman**, outbound medical tourism spending accounts for 21% of total outbound spending. This is the result of reported long delays in public healthcare facilities domestically, and a high cost of private medical services. Omanis are also drawn to foreign countries’ leisure facilities which are offered alongside healthcare treatments by some providers.

12 Source: India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), 2019: Healthcare
While medical tourism has been characterised as patients from high-income countries travelling abroad to access cheaper care in low and middle-income countries; a more complex market model is emerging, with an increasing number of tourists from emerging and developing countries travelling abroad for medical purposes. In fact, for a number of small developing countries, medical tourism accounts for a large share of total outbound tourism spending; including Eswatini, Maldives and Bermuda, where 66%, 40% and 36% of total outbound expenditure relates to medical tourism products and services.

The Maldives’ large share of medical tourism is the result of a 2012 government policy of Universal Health Care (UHC), which is a comprehensive benefit package that includes subsidised treatment abroad for services unavailable in the country. The result was immediate; within one year of the implementation of the scheme, $11.6 million was spent by the government to treat patients abroad with 276,000 citizens (84% of the population) benefitting from the scheme.

### Chart 4: Top 15 largest countries - outbound medical tourism spending, 2017 data* (source: IMF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Outbound medical tourism spending (US$ bn)</th>
<th>Outbound medical tourism spending as a share of total outbound travel spending (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data for Kuwait, the Netherlands and Canada is from 2015

**Medical tourism in Thailand, cross-sectional study:** [https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/1/14-152165/en/]

**Understanding medical travel from a source country perspective: a cross sectional study of the experiences of medical travelers from the Maldives:** [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4607560/]

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16 Data for Kuwait, the Netherlands and Canada is from 2015.
17 Medical tourism in Thailand, cross-sectional study: [https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/1/14-152165/en/]
18 Understanding medical travel from a source country perspective: a cross sectional study of the experiences of medical travelers from the Maldives: [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4607560/]
3. POLICIES SUPPORTING MEDICAL TOURISM

A growing number of governments around the world are recognising the benefits that medical tourism can bring to their economies and are increasingly lending their support to this sub-sector. The policies that best support and stimulate medical tourism include those that are part of the overall tourism strategy of the country, and those that are integrated within the broader Travel & Tourism sector. National and regional governments have an important role to play in the development, management and prioritisation of such policies.

As destinations work towards developing their medical tourism sub-sector, the following elements should be considered as governments develop their strategies and policies:

- Establishing strong regulation and recognised accreditation/certification of medical practitioners and facilities
- Developing enabling visa facilitation policies which support the development of this sub-sector
- Defining the skills gap and developing trainings to enhance the talent
- Designing and implementing targeted marketing strategies
- Creating the financial incentives to attract investment into the sub-sector

REGULATION AND ACCREDITATION SCHEMES

To ensure the quality of medical services and attract foreign tourists, a number of destinations have established recognised regulation and accreditation of medical practitioners and facilities. In Mexico for instance, plastic surgeons who meet the required quality standards are certified by the Mexican Board of Plastic Surgery and belong to the Mexican Association of Plastic Surgeons. This ensures not only the quality of services but also reduces the chance of surgical procedures going wrong and the consequent risk of bad publicity. The Mexican state of Baja California is the first in the country to implement a public policy on Health and Wellness, aiming to promote health tourism in a responsible manner, protect patients’ rights and to ensure that all providers of health services are certified.

At the international level, the Joint Commission International (JCI) is one of the leading international health care accreditation organisations, which works to improve patient safety and the quality of health care by offering education, publications and advisory services. In more than 100 countries, JCI partners with hospitals, clinics, academic medical centres, health agencies, government ministries and academia to promote rigorous standards of health care. Thailand and Turkey, two of the largest medical tourism destinations for international tourists, have 68 and 43 JCI accredited healthcare institutions, respectively.

TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Governments have recognised that a highly skilled medical workforce contributes not only to a better functioning domestic healthcare system but is also more likely to attract foreign visitors for medical procedures, thereby increasing spend into the national economy. As such, there has been an increased focus on the training and skills development of medical practitioners in many destinations around the world. With service quality, staff reliability, responsiveness, and empathy shown to have a positive impact on patient satisfaction, it is important to train the workforce to be better not only at medical skills but also at customer service.

National and international accreditation bodies such as the Mexican Association of Plastic Surgery, Institute of Hospital Quality Improvement & Accreditation of Thailand, JCI and many others provide health care organisations with the tools and resources to achieve the continued learning, quality improvement and accreditation success. In Turkey, the Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Medical Education Programs has been established to improve the quality of medical education by providing the evaluation and accreditation for undergraduate medical courses.

The Certified Medical Travel Professional (CMTM) launched in 2012 and managed by Global Healthcare Accreditation, is a training programme and certification that provides participants with a comprehensive overview of the medical tourism industry, latest trends, best practices, key stakeholders and business models. In the UK, the Medical Tourism Association (MTA) and Online Travel Training (OTT) have signed a partnership agreement with a goal to educate and engage the country’s travel agents in medical tourism. The agreement customised the Certified Medical Tourism Professional (CMTM) certification programme for the UK’s travel trade professionals through OTT.

TARGETED MARKETING STRATEGIES

Some countries have effectively focused on the promotion of medical tourism to foreign visitors. Strategies include the promotion of specific specialties such as dentistry, cosmetic surgery, cardiac procedures, etc., while targeting specific source markets. Some governments have also created special organisations to facilitate and promote medical tourism.

In Malaysia, healthcare has been recognised as one of the 12 national key economic areas, and as such the government has...
identified medical tourism as an important sub-sector for the national economy.

It established the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC), which facilitates and promotes the healthcare travel industry of the country by coordinating industry collaborations and building valuable public-private partnerships, both domestically and abroad. Its main goal is to create a seamless end-to-end healthcare journey experience for all visitors. The MHTC seeks to attract not only the citizens of Indonesia, Iceland, and East Asia, but also higher spending medical tourists from other countries. The MHTC has opened offices in Indonesia, Vietnam, and China and continues to strengthen its network.

In South Korea, the government certifies medical tourism providers (official facilitators) and lists their details in the promotional guidebook. The Ministry of Health and Welfare jointly with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (the marketing facilitators) and lists their details in the promotional guidebook. The Ministry of Tourism, the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme (MDA) provides financial support to international events such as the World Travel Market (WTM) in London, and ITB Berlin. Moreover, under the marketing strategy of the Ministry of Tourism, the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme (MDA) provides financial support to approved tourism service providers.

In South Korea, the government certifies medical tourism providers (official facilitators) and lists their details in the promotional guidebook. The Ministry of Health and Welfare jointly with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism operates the medical tourism information centre at the Incheon international airport in Seoul. For the convenience of foreign tourists who may want to book medical procedures and additional tourism services after arriving in the country, the government has selected China, Russia, Central Asia and Southeast Asia as the four major strategic markets and is pursuing a targeted marketing strategy for each region.

South Korea's marketing strategy focused on increasing revenues from medical tourism. For instance, Gangnam district, which has become well-known for its medical tourism, particularly for cosmetic surgery procedures. The South Korean government has worked closely with private sector partners, notably the Lotte City Hotel Mapo in Seoul, whose parent company is WTTTC Member LOTTE Group. The Lotte City Hotel operates in partnership with the major hospitals and clinics in South Korea, providing services and special benefits to medical tourists, and thereby supporting the country's medical tourism.

34 For more information: https://www.medicaltour.gangnam.go.kr/main.do?lang=en
36 For more information: https://www.visitportugal.com/en/content/brelcome
37 For more information visit: https://www.traveldailynews.com/post/turismo-de-portugal-launches-brelcome-health-campaign-aimed-at-british-tourists
38 For more information visit: https://www.visitportugal.com/en/content/brelcome
40 For more information: https://gulfnews.com/uae/health/the-state-of-the-uaes-health-2016-1.1658937
41 For more information visit: https://www.in-cancun.com/medical-tourism-499445
43 For more information, please check Travel Weekly article: https://www.travelweekly.com/Mexico-Travel/Insights/Medical-tourism-on-the-rise-in-Cancun
44 For more information, please visit: https://www.abudhabiairports.com/en/Hospitality/Abu-Dhabi-Airport-Hotel
45 For more information: https://www.imtj.com/news/new-centre-foreign-patients-incheon-airport/
46 For more information visit: https://www.imtj.com/news/new-centre-foreign-patients-incheon-airport/
47 For more information visit: https://www.imtj.com/news/new-centre-foreign-patients-incheon-airport/
48 For more information visit: https://www.gulfnews.com/uae/health/the-state-of-the-uaes-health-2016-1.1658937
49 For more information visit: https://www.dha.gov.ae/en/HealthRegulation/pages/dubaimedicaltourismprogram.aspx
50 For more information: https://www.visitportugal.com/en/content/brelcome
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100 For more information visit: https://www.visitportugal.com/en/content/brelcome
4. CONCLUSION

Medical tourism has become an important niche market over recent years, supported by various government policies and private sector initiatives across the world. Countries have recognised the opportunities that medical tourism brings as a catalyst for social and economic development and its potential to support quality education, highly skilled workers, favourable visa policies, promotion of a country’s attractiveness, and well-developed infrastructure within a country. As more governments recognise these benefits and develop strategies and policies for this sub-sector, WTTC expects that with the right policies, support and regulation, medical tourism can continue to grow across developed and emerging economies.

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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### Appendix 1: Medical Tourism Data Tables

#### Table 1: Top 25 countries in inbound medical tourism spending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Inbound Medical Tourism Spending (US$ Mn)</th>
<th>Inbound Medical Tourism Spending as % of Total Inbound Spending</th>
<th>Data Reference Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>3,930</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>763</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>589</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>2017</td>
</tr>
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<td>2017</td>
</tr>
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<td>Poland</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Canada</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
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<td>4.0%</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2017</td>
</tr>
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<td>Iran</td>
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<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>62</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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#### Table 2: Top 25 countries in outbound medical tourism spending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Outbound Medical Tourism Spending (US$ Mn)</th>
<th>Outbound Medical Tourism Spending as % of Total Outbound Spending</th>
<th>Data Reference Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>2,320</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>1,569</td>
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<td>600</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>Maldives</td>
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<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>2.2%</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Armenia</td>
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<td>9.4%</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>Luxembourg</td>
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<td>3.3%</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>Bermuda</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>0.7%</td>
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<td>South Korea</td>
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<td>0.3%</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 2: METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

For the purpose of this report, medical tourism refers to ‘health-related personal travel’ by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and to the products and services bought by people who travel abroad for medical and health-related reasons. This includes spending on food, accommodation, and local transport – either by individuals, or, at times, funded or even prompted by governments45, when the primary purpose of travel is to receive health or medical services.

Data on international health-related travel services is sourced from the IMF Balance of Payments dataset, which is also the primary data source used for international Travel & Tourism spending in WTTC’s annual economic impact research. Data on inbound and/or outbound medical tourism spending is available for 115 of the 185 countries covered by the WTTC Travel & Tourism economic impact research. It is important to note that for most countries in this analysis, data is only available for a short time series or for a single year, making countries’ comparisons across years difficult to achieve.

Inbound medical tourism spending data is available for ten of the T20 economies – Brazil, Canada, France, India, Italy, South Korea, Mexico, Turkey, UK and USA. This means that analysis of medical tourism has not been possible for several major economies, including China, Germany and Japan.

Our research has focussed solely on international medical tourism due to the lack of published data on domestic medical tourism in Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSAs).

Other papers exploring health tourism, such as, from the European Travel Commission/UNWTO (2018)46 and the Research for TRAN Committee – Health tourism in the EU (2017)47 go into greater detail on the conceptualisation of health tourism.

46 European Travel Commission/UNWTO, 2018: Exploring Health Tourism
47 Research for TRAN Committee – Health tourism in the EU: a general investigation, 2017