

## Tourism direct contribution to GDP declined to 1.7% in 2020

Preliminary estimates for 2020 based on supply and use tables, and tourism satellite account tables, show that direct tourism contributed 1.7% to GDP in 2020. Travel restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic saw tourism's contribution to GDP decline by 2.1 percentage points compared to 2019. Tourism-related activities were heavily affected by the pandemic, in particular visitor accommodation and air and road transport of passengers.

### Almost 82,000 tourism-related establishments operated in 2020

Administrative data of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development and Saudi Arabian Airlines showed that the number of tourism-related establishments reached 81,859 in 2020. Establishments in the food and beverage and visitor accommodation activities accounted for 83.2% of all tourism establishments, with 59,683 and 8,393 establishments, respectively.

### Almost 680,000 employees in tourism-related establishments in 2020

Employees engaged in tourism-related establishments reached 679,539 in 2020, where visitor accommodation and food and beverage activities accounted for 80.3% of total tourism-related employees with 93,720 and 451,999 employees, respectively.

Saudi males accounted for 16.9% of the total number of tourism-related male employees in 2020, while Saudi females accounted for 88.2% of the total female tourism-related employees in 2020. Saudi employees (both male and female) made up 24.8% of the overall employees within tourism-related activities during the year.

The preliminary estimates for 2020, which were based on supply and use tables, showed that total compensation for those engaged in tourism-related activities at basic price is estimated at SAR25,904 million. Food and beverage activities contributed SAR8,967 million, visitor accommodation activities SAR4,232 million, and road transport activities for passengers SAR4,090 million.

### Operating revenues of tourism-related establishments in 2020 declined by 36.8% compared to 2019

The total operating revenues of tourism-related establishments at basic price reached SAR124,932 million, a decrease of 36.8% from 2019. Operating revenues for passenger air transport declined sharply by 59.7%, and those for visitor accommodation fell by 50.5%, while for food and beverage activities they decreased by 20.4% compared to 2019, due to the impact of the Corona pandemic.

### Operating expenses of tourism-related establishments in 2020 declined by 44.3% compared to 2019

Total operating expenses of tourism-related establishments at purchase price reached SAR58,384 million, a decline of 44.3% from 2019. Operating expenses for visitor accommodation fell by 60.6%, operating expenses for passenger air transport fell by 61.0%, while operating expenses for food and beverage activities declined by 33.4% compared to 2019 due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

### Operating surplus of tourism-related establishments in 2020 declined by 38.6% compared to 2019

The total operating surplus of tourism-related establishments at basic price reached SAR40,644 million, a decline of 38.6% from 2019. The operating surplus of passenger air transport activity fell sharply because of the Corona pandemic by 75.5%, the operating surplus of visitor accommodation decreased by 45.8%, while the operating surplus of food and beverage alone fell by only 4.2% compared to 2019.

### The tourism direct gross value added in 2020 declined by 62.1% compared to 2019

The direct gross value added generated by tourism at basic price reached SAR41,811 million in 2020. Direct gross value added in tourism characteristic activities was SAR27,820 million; and other activities, it was SAR13,990 million.

Table 1. Major Indicators of Tourism Sector (2020) \*

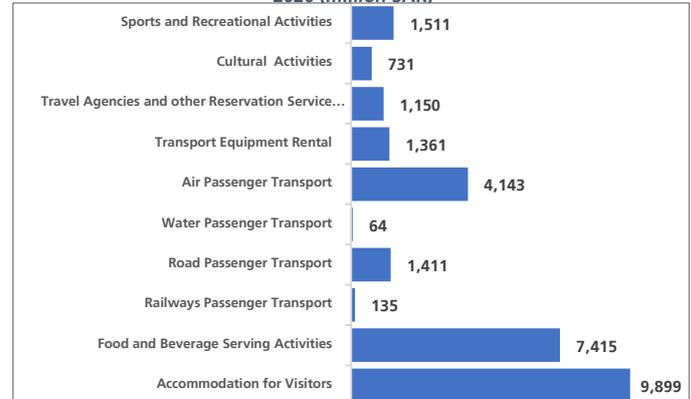
Indicator	2019	2020
Total establishments operating in tourism characteristic activities	73,505	81,859
Total employees engaged in tourism characteristic activities	571,152	679,539
Total compensation of employees engaged in Tourism characteristic activities at basic price*	26,811	25,904
Total operating revenues of tourism characteristic activities at basic price*	197,856	124,932
Total operating expenses of tourism characteristic activities at purchase price*	104,797	58,384
Total operating surplus of tourism characteristic activities at basic price*	66,248	40,644
Tourism share of output domestic producers at basic price*	200,463	72,966
Intermediate consumption attributed to tourism at basic price*	90,015	31,155
Tourism direct gross value added at basic price*	110,448	41,811
Taxes minus subsidies for locally produced and imported products*	3,729	2,615
Tourism direct GDP*	114,177	44,426
Direct contribution of tourism to GDP (%)	3.8	1.7

\* The indicator's value in million SAR.

Figure 1. Number of employees by tourism characteristic activities (2020)



Figure 2. Tourism direct gross value added by tourism characteristic activities 2020 (million SAR)



## Methodology

Statistics of tourism employees and establishments were obtained from administrative data of the Ministry of Human resources and Social Development and Saudi Arabian Airlines. The financial statements of tourism-related establishments were calculated using supply and use tables available on the GASTAT website, and tourism satellite account tables. Revenues, contribution and jobs are not necessarily the result of tourism spending alone. [Methodology](#)