Exports from international tourism rise 4% in 2015

International tourism receipts in destinations around the world grew by 3.6% in 2015, in line with the 4.4% increase in international arrivals. For the fourth consecutive year, international tourism grew faster than world merchandise trade, raising tourism’s share in world’s exports to 7% in 2015. The total export value from international tourism amounted to US$ 1.4 trillion.

Income generated by international visitors on accommodation, food and drink, entertainment, shopping and other services and goods reached an estimated US$ 1,232 billion (euro 1,110 billion) in 2015, an increase of 3.6% accounting for exchange rate fluctuations and inflation. International tourist arrivals (overnight visitors) increased by 4.4% in 2015, reaching a total of 1,184 million.

Alongside international tourism receipts (the travel item of the balance of payments), international tourism generated US$ 210 billion in exports through international non-resident passenger transport services, bringing the total value of tourism exports up to US$ 1.4 trillion, or US$ 4 billion a day on average.

"Tourism is today a major category of international trade in services," said UNWTO Secretary-General Taleb Rifai addressing the 60th Regional Commission for the Americas meeting in Havana, Cuba. "Despite a weak and slow economic recovery, spending on international tourism grew significantly in 2015, proving the sector’s relevance in stimulating economic growth, boosting exports and creating jobs for an increasing number of economies worldwide," he added.

International tourism represents 7% of total world exports and 30% of services exports. The share of tourism in overall exports of goods and services increased from 6% to 7% in 2015 as for the fourth consecutive year international tourism outgrew world merchandise trade, which grew 2.8% in 2015 according to recent data reported by the World Trade Organization. [to be continued on page 3]

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Statistical Annex Annex-1 to Annex-32

This issue of the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer and the accompanying Statistical Annex include a comprehensive analysis of international tourism receipts in 2015, as well as the top destinations by international tourist arrivals and receipts, and top source markets by international tourism expenditure. Furthermore, preliminary results are included for international tourism in the first months of 2016.

This release is available only in electronic format. The full document can be downloaded free of charge for members and subscribed institutions through the UNWTO elibrary at www.e-unwto.org/toe/wtobarometereng/current. The release is available in English only, while the Statistical Annex is provided in four languages through the UNWTO elibrary at: English version: www.e-unwto.org/content/w83v37 French version: www.e-unwto.org/content/t73863 Spanish version: www.e-unwto.org/content/m1422 Russian version: www.e-unwto.org/content/j62835
The UNWTO World Tourism Barometer is a publication of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). By monitoring short-term tourism trends on a regular basis, UNWTO aims to provide all those involved, directly or indirectly, in tourism with adequate up-to-date statistics and analysis in a timely fashion.

The UNWTO World Tourism Barometer is periodically updated. Issues contain as regular sections: an overview of short-term tourism data from destinations, generating countries and air transport; the results of the latest survey among the UNWTO Panel of Tourism Experts, providing an evaluation of and prospects for short-term tourism performance; and selected economic data relevant for tourism. The objective for future editions of the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer will be to broaden its scope and improve coverage gradually over time.

The UNWTO World Tourism Barometer is prepared by UNWTO’s Tourism Market Trends Programme. The UNWTO Secretariat wishes to express its sincere gratitude to all those who have participated in the elaboration of the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer, in particular all institutions that supplied data, and to the members of the UNWTO Panel of Tourism Experts for their valuable contributions.

For more information on the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer, including copies of previous issues, please refer to the Facts & Figures section on the UNWTO website at www.unwto.org/facts/menu.html.

We welcome your comments and suggestions at barom@unwto.org, tel +34 915678198 / fax +34 915678217.

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations specialized agency mandated with the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

UNWTO’s membership includes 157 countries, six Associate Members, two Permanent Observers, and over 480 Affiliate Members representing the private sector, educational institutions, tourism associations and local tourism authorities.

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Data collection for this issue was closed end of April 2016.

The next issue of the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer is scheduled to be published in June 2016.
As a worldwide export category, tourism ranks third after fuels and chemicals and ahead of food and automotive products. In many developing countries, tourism ranks as the first export sector.

![Graph showing International Tourism (BOP Travel & Passenger transport) and export World (US$ billion)](image)

Unusually strong exchange rate fluctuations in 2015 seriously influenced receipts for individual destinations and regions, expressed in current US dollars. Taking into account exchange rate fluctuations and inflation, receipts in the Americas, Asia and the Pacific and the Middle East all grew by 4%, while in Europe they grew by 3% and in Africa by 2%.

**The Caribbean, Central and South America show strong growth in international tourism receipts**

The Americas continued to enjoy robust results both in international arrivals and receipts in 2015, with a strong US dollar fuelling outbound travel from the United States and benefiting many destinations across the region. The Caribbean, Central America and South America all recorded 7% growth in receipts, while North America saw a 3% increase.

“As prices of raw materials have decreased, tourism has shown a strong capacity to compensate for weaker export revenue in many commodity- and oil-exporting countries,” said Mr. Rifai. “Tourism is increasingly an essential component of export diversification for many emerging economies as well as several advanced ones,” he added.

**The United States, China, Spain and France remain the world’s top tourism destinations**

The United States (US$ 178 billion), China (US$ 114 billion), Spain (US$ 57 billion) and France (US$ 46 billion) continue to be the top destinations both in international tourism receipts and tourist arrivals.

The above data is preliminary and subject to revision. 2015 has shown some unusual strong appreciation of the US dollar to many currencies, rendering receipts earned in these currencies lower in US dollar in 2015. Furthermore, China revised both its international tourism receipts and expenditure series substantially in 2015 and retrospectively for 2014 due to methodological changes.

![Graph showing World Inbound Tourism International Tourist Arrivals, 2015* (million)](image)

![Graph showing World Inbound Tourism International Tourism Receipts, 2015* (US$ billion)](image)

Even though it is common practice to use volume data such as arrivals for short-term analysis, in the end most stakeholders are more interested in the receipts and expenditure trend. Estimating trends in receipts is a far more complicated exercise than in arrivals for the following reasons:

- On average receipts data lags about two months behind arrival data. Most countries report data on a quarterly basis and typically preliminary data is made available 2-3 months after the end of the period which is being reported.
- Trends in receipts data can be heavily distorted by exchange rate fluctuations.
- Inflation should be taken into account in order to avoid overestimating growth.
- In practice the preliminary data tend to be subject to substantial revisions.
### International Tourism, World

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>International Tourist Arrivals (overnight visitors) (million)</th>
<th>Change (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>-3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>809</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,088</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,134</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014*</td>
<td>1,184</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### International Tourism Receipts (billion)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Local currencies</th>
<th>Change, current prices (%)</th>
<th>Change, constant prices (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-3.2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) © (Data as collected by UNWTO May 2015)

### International Tourism by (Sub)region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>International Tourist Arrivals</th>
<th>International Tourism Receipts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>1,134</td>
<td>502.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced economies¹</td>
<td>1,140</td>
<td>520.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging economies¹</td>
<td>940</td>
<td>360.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>502.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Europe</td>
<td>975</td>
<td>481.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td>1,030</td>
<td>481.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central/Eastern Europe</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>481.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern/Medit. Europe</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>481.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- of which EU-28</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>481.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>1,360</td>
<td>502.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-East Asia</td>
<td>316.2</td>
<td>268.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-East Asia</td>
<td>360.0</td>
<td>268.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>268.0</td>
<td>268.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>316.2</td>
<td>268.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>1,310</td>
<td>502.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>1,063</td>
<td>268.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>1,063</td>
<td>268.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central America</td>
<td>1,063</td>
<td>268.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>1,063</td>
<td>268.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>268.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Africa</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>268.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>268.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>268.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) © (Data as collected by UNWTO May 2016)


See box at page 'Annex-1' for explanation of abbreviations and signs used.
A few leading source markets drive outbound tourism in 2015

China, the United States and the United Kingdom led outbound tourism last year, fuelled by their strong currencies and economies.

China continues to lead global outbound travel after double-digit growth in tourism expenditure every year since 2004, benefitting Asian destinations such as Japan and Thailand as well as the United States and various European destinations. Spending by Chinese travellers increased 25% in 2015 to reach US$ 292 billion, as total outbound travellers rose 10% to 128 million.

Tourism expenditure from the world’s second largest source market, the United States, increased by 9% in 2015 to US$ 120 billion, while the number of outbound travellers grew by 8% to 73 million. Expenditure from the United Kingdom, the fourth largest market globally, increased 8% to US$ 63 billion with 65 million of its residents travelling abroad, up 9%. By contrast Germany, the world’s third largest market, reported a small decline in spending (US$ 76 billion), partly due to the weaker euro.

France’s expenditure on outbound tourism reached US$ 38 billion, Russia’s US$ 35 billion and that of the Republic of Korea a total of US$ 25 billion.

Please note that all of the above data is preliminary and subject to revision.
UNWTO World Tourism Barometer

The UNWTO World Tourism Barometer and accompanying Statistical Annex provides tourism stakeholders with up-to-date statistics and analysis in a timely fashion. The information is updated six times a year, covering short-term tourism trends, a retrospective and prospective evaluation by the UNWTO Panel of Experts of current tourism performance, and a summary of economic data relevant for tourism.

Available in English, with the Statistical Annex also in French, Spanish and Russian.

Tourism in the Mediterranean, 2015 edition

The new UNWTO Tourism Trends Snapshot provides a closer look at a selected tourism topic with each edition. The first edition “Tourism in the Mediterranean, 2015 edition” provides insight into the general trends in arrivals and receipts in the Mediterranean region, the performance of the individual destinations, the long-term trends until 2030 as well as the opportunities and challenges.

Available in English.

Tourism Towards 2030

UNWTO Tourism Towards 2030 is UNWTO’s long-term outlook and assessment of future tourism trends from 2010 to 2030. It is a broad research project building on UNWTO’s on-going work in the field of long-term forecasting, initiated in the 1990s. Key outputs of the study are quantitative projections for international tourism flows up until 2030, based on data series on international tourist arrivals by subregion of destination, region of origin and mode of transport for the period 1980-2010. Available in English.

Marketing Handbooks:

E-Marketing for Tourism Destinations
Tourism Product Development
Tourism Destination Branding

These series cover crucial topics on tourism development, providing tools and fresh insight for tourism destinations.

E-Marketing for Tourism Destination outlines all necessary aspects of an e-marketing strategy, practical information on latest trends and developments in mobile marketing and social media. Tourism Product Development covers the essential elements in the process of tourism product development planning and implementation with a range of successful approaches and case studies. Tourism Destination Branding presents a step-by-step guide to the branding process, accompanied by strategies for brand management illustrating case studies and best practices.

UNWTO/GTERC Asia Tourism Trends

This second edition includes an analysis of the recent tourism trends of Asia, with emphasis on international tourist arrivals and receipts as well as outbound tourism and expenditure. It also includes an analysis of the links between Asian and Latin American markets. The report also elaborates on city tourism, including selected case studies and a section on Macao’s tourism product diversification.

Available in English.

Outbound Travel Market studies:

Key Outbound Tourism Markets in South-East Asia
The Indian Outbound Travel Market
The Russian Outbound Travel Market
The Middle East Outbound Travel Market
The Chinese Outbound Travel Market

The outbound travel market series offers a unique insight into trends and travel behaviour in fast-growing source markets in the world. UNWTO jointly with the European Travel Commission (ETC) have covered the key outbound markets of China, Brazil, the Russian Federation, India and the Middle East, and with Tourism Australia key South-East Asian markets Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Available in English.

Understanding Russian Outbound Tourism
Understanding Brazilian Outbound Tourism
Understanding Chinese Outbound Tourism

The innovative UNWTO/ETC Understanding Outbound Tourism netnographic series explores the behaviour and mind-set of outbound travellers based on internet and social media activity.

Available in English.

The Decision-making Process of Meetings, Congresses, Conventions and Incentives Organizers

This ETC/UNWTO study aims at providing a better understanding of the Meetings Industry and the way meeting and event organizers make decisions. Aimed at DMOs, NTOs and NTAs, the study offers wide-ranging overview of the MCCI segments as well as a comprehensive analysis of planners’ needs and expectations with respect to destination and venues choice. It also includes several best-practice examples of National Convention Bureaux. Available in English.


The Compendium provides statistical data and indicators on inbound, outbound and domestic tourism, as well as on tourism industries, employment and macroeconomic indicators related to international tourism. The 2016 edition presents data for 200 countries with methodological notes in English, French and Spanish.


Deriving from the most comprehensive statistical database available on the tourism sector, the Yearbook of Tourism Statistics focuses on data related to inbound tourism (total arrivals and overnight stays), broken down by country of origin. The 2016 edition presents data for 196 countries with methodological notes in English, French and Spanish.

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