



National Travel and Tourism Office: International Visitation to and from the United States

Key Terms:

An International Visitor: A person who stays, or intends to stay, for at least one night and less than one year in a country of which he or she is not a resident for the purpose of business, pleasure or education.¹

International arrivals do not include temporary workers; artists, athletes, or entertainers; trainees or intracompany transferees; or participants in international cultural exchange programs.

U.S. International Visitation and the Coronavirus:

The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a significant impact on international visitation to and from the United States as well as on international travel globally. As the gravity of the pandemic emerged, the Federal Government initiated a set of policies to limit international travel to and from the United States to slow the spread of COVID-19.

In 2020 and through most of 2021, the U.S. government suspended most travel to the United States from China, Iran, Western Europe, C Combined, these restrictions affected visitation that accounted for 59 percent of total international arrivals to the United States in 2019. On November 8, 2021, the U.S. government ended these travel restrictions.

In June 2020, international travel arrivals were -95% compared to 2019 levels; by December 2020, international arrivals remained -84%; by June 2021, international arrivals were -73%; by October 2021, internal arrivals were -72%.

Following the end of restrictions on international travel to and from the United States in early November 2021, international inbound travel to the United States accelerated. Still, by December 2021, international arrivals remained 50% below 2019 levels (see Chart 1).

International arrivals to the United States increased 1.5 million (+82%) during the last three months of 2021 (from 1.9 million in October to 3.4 million in December). The largest increases during this time were arrivals from Canada (+363,563), Mexico (+187,840), the United Kingdom (+184,390), Brazil (+85,239) and France (+82,885). Together, these countries accounted for 59% of the increase in arrivals to the United States during the last three months of 2021.

International Visitation in 2021:

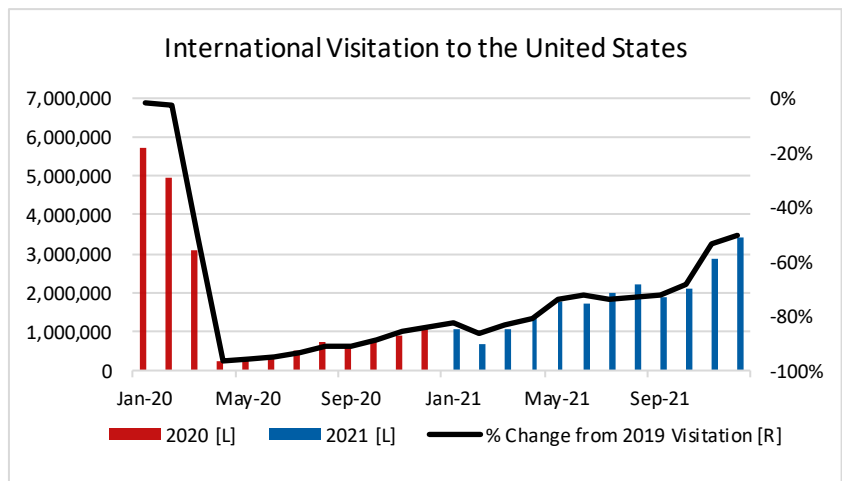
U.S. Inbound Arrivals: **22.1 Million** +15% from 19.2 Million 2020 and -72% from 79.4 Million in 2019.

Top International Arrivals Market: Mexico
Top Overseas Arrivals Market: Colombia

U.S. Outbound Departures: **49.1 Million**, +47% from 33.5 Million in 2020 and -51% from 99.7 million in 2019.

Top International Outbound Market: Mexico
Top Overseas Outbound Regional Market: The Caribbean

Chart 1: 2020-2021 Monthly U.S. International Arrivals



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce/ITA/ I&A/ National Travel and Tourism Office (NTTO) /ADIS/I-94 Program

¹ United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

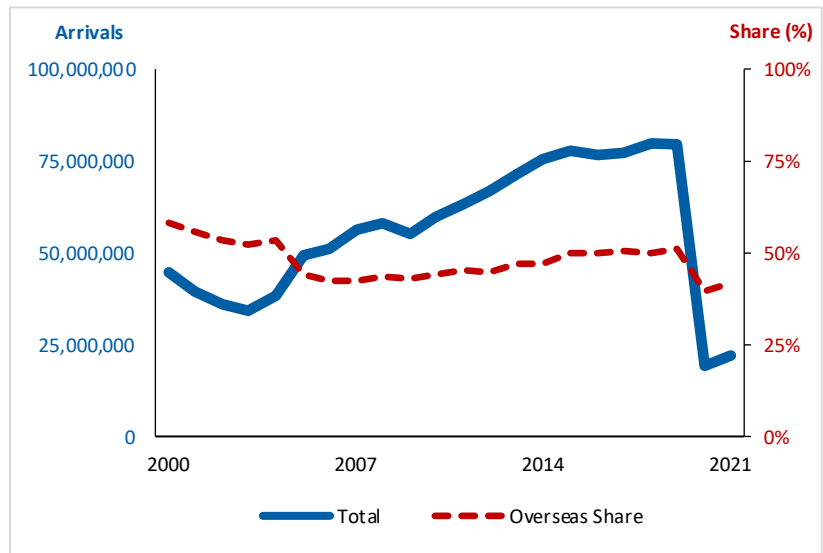
Arrivals to the United States

International Arrivals:

In 2021, international arrivals to the United States totaled 22.1 million. This was +15% from 2020 (19.2 million) and -72% from 2019 (79.4 million). In 2021, 58% of international arrivals to the United States were from Canada and Mexico, while 42% were from the rest of the world, or overseas. This is similar to 2020, when overseas arrivals accounted for 40%. By comparison, during the prior five years, overseas arrivals accounted for 50% of total international arrivals to the United States (see Chart 2).

In 2021, Mexico (10.4 million) supplanted Canada (2.5 million) for a second consecutive year as the top source market of international visitor arrivals to the United States. By comparison, during the prior five years, Mexican arrivals were 89 percent of Canadian arrivals.

Chart 2: U.S. International Arrivals



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce/ITA/I&A/National Travel and Tourism Office (NTTO)/ADIS/I-94 Program

Top 10 Arrivals to the United States:

Mexico supplanted Canada in 2020 as the top source market for international travel to the United States. This ranking continued in 2021, as Mexican arrivals rose (+52.7%) while Canadian arrivals fell (-47.4%) from 2020, in part, due to differences in COVID-related travel restrictions between the United States and the two countries (see Table 1).

Of the top 10 arrivals markets in 2021, six were not in the top 10 in 2019; eight increased from 2020; and two (Colombia and Peru) increased from 2019. In 2021, eight of the top 10 arrivals markets were from the Western Hemisphere, up from three in 2019 (see Table 1).

Table 1: 2021 U.S. Arrivals

	Country	Arrivals	Share	Change from 2020	Change from 2019	Change in 2021 Rank
	Total	22,100,453	100.0%	15.0%	-72.2%	From 2019
1	Mexico	10,396,724	47.0%	52.7%	-43.3%	↑ +1
2	Canada	2,529,022	11.4%	-47.4%	-87.8%	↓ -1
3	Colombia	1,063,659	4.8%	293.8%	12.7%	↑ +10
4	United Kingdom	460,749	2.1%	-36.9%	-90.4%	↓ -1
5	India	433,305	2.0%	29.0%	-70.6%	↑ +5
6	Ecuador	407,417	1.8%	140.6%	-10.8%	↑ +15
7	Dominican Republic	405,869	1.8%	127.1%	-16.9%	↑ +12
8	Peru	404,937	1.8%	340.5%	22.0%	↑ +20
9	Argentina	301,794	1.4%	52.6%	-64.7%	↑ +6
10	Guatemala	279,896	1.3%	249.5%	-0.8%	↑ +24

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce/ITA/I&A/National Travel and Tourism Office (NTTO)/ADIS/I-94 Program

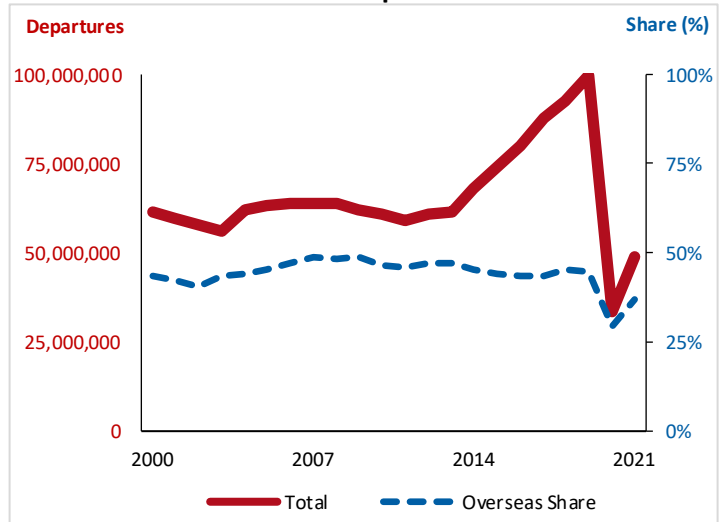
International Departures:

In 2021, international departures from the United States totaled 49.1 million. This was +46.6% from 2020 (33.5 million) and -51% from 2019 (99.7 million). In 2021, 63% of international departures from the United States were to Canada and Mexico, while 37% were to the rest of the world, or overseas. In 2020, U.S. departures to overseas destinations accounted for 29%. By comparison, during the prior five years, overseas destinations accounted for 44% of total international departures from the United States (see Chart 3).

International travel restrictions between the United States and other countries continued to have a significant impact on the distribution of U.S. international outbound travel in 2021. U.S. travel to Europe was temporarily opened mid-year before being suspended. Broad travel bans were lifted in November 2021.

In 2021, Mexico was the top international destination for U.S. travelers, unchanged from 2020 and 2019. The Caribbean was the second ranked destination in 2021, unchanged from 2020 but surpassing both Canada (No. 5 in 2021) and Europe (No. 3 in 2021) from 2019. Following Europe, Central America was the fifth ranked international destination for U.S. travelers, surpassing Asia from 2020.

Chart 3: U.S. International Departures



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce/ITA/I&A/National Travel and Tourism Office (NTTO)/ APIS/I-92 Program

Table 2: 2021 U.S. Departures

	Region/Country	Departures	Share	Change from 2020	Change from 2019	Change in 2021 Rank
	Total	49,096,891	100.0%	46.6%	-50.8%	From 2019
1	Mexico	28,789,191	58.6%	32.5%	-27.9%	--
2	Caribbean	6,398,693	13.0%	106.5%	-31.7%	↑+2
3	Europe	5,238,121	10.7%	102.9%	-72.5%	↓-1
4	Central America	2,585,337	5.3%	134.2%	-25.1%	↑+2
5	Canada	2,093,413	4.3%	8.5%	-86.0%	↓-2
6	Middle East	1,515,991	3.1%	105.7%	-40.4%	↑+1
7	South America	1,401,409	2.9%	81.4%	-40.1%	↑+1
8	Asia	626,002	1.3%	-43.8%	-90.4%	↓-3
9	Africa	385,280	0.8%	106.2%	-30.2%	↑+1
10	Oceania	63,454	0.1%	-74.4%	-93.4%	↓-1

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce/ITA/I&A/National Travel and Tourism Office (NTTO)/APIS/I-92 Program

If you have questions or would like more information regarding the data in this fact sheet, please contact David Huether (David.Huether@trade.gov).