

Travel between Canada and other countries, July 2020

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Highlights

International travel to and from Canada remained low throughout July, as travel restrictions were in effect for the fourth full month since they were first introduced in March.

In July, the number of Canadian residents returning from the United States or from travel overseas was about 95% lower than in July 2019.

Travel to Canada from both the United States and overseas countries was down roughly 97% year over year.

July marks the fourth full month of travel restrictions

International travel remained low throughout July, as travel restrictions were in effect for the fourth full month since March.

Travel across the Canada–US border was flat throughout July, with restrictions on non-essential travel in force since March 21. As a result, the number of trips across the Canada–US border fell from 7.9 million in July 2019 to 347,100.

Despite this annual decline, travel across the border was up 11.1% from June—the third consecutive increase from the record low in April, the first full month of border restrictions.

Overseas travel to Canada remains flat

Travel from overseas (countries other than the United States) to Canada remained low in July compared with the same month last year. Overall, arrivals to Canada from overseas countries fell 97.4%, from 1.1 million to 28,400.

Arrivals from the United Kingdom, the top source of overseas travel to Canada, fell from 141,200 in July 2019 to 2,200 this July. Arrivals from China, the second-largest source, decreased from 104,000 to 1,400, while arrivals from France declined from 106,100 to 2,000.

The largest relative year-over-year declines in arrivals from overseas countries in July were in Yukon (-100.0%), Nova Scotia (-99.4%) and Alberta (-99.2%).

Air travel from the United States more affected than car travel

US residents made 113,400 total trips to Canada in July, down 96.9% from July a year earlier. However, compared with June, arrivals from the United States were up 11.6%.

Air travel from the United States to Canada fell 98.5% year over year to 11,000 arrivals in July. Despite traveller screening and other COVID-19 precautions, the number of trips has crept up from the record low in April, when 2,800 US residents entered Canada by plane.

Car arrivals, which accounted for 88.5% of all travel from the United States in July, fell 95.8% year over year to 100,400. Over two-thirds of these automobile trips were same-day car crossings (69.1%).

Car travel from the United States was down in every province year over year, led by Quebec (-97.0%), New Brunswick (-96.6%) and Ontario (-96.2%).



Number of Canadians returning from the United States remains low

Canadian residents made 233,700 return trips from the United States in July, down 94.6% from 4.3 million in July 2019. This was, however, up 10.8% from 210,800 trips in June and the fourth increase since April.

In July, the vast majority (205,400) of return trips from the United States were made by car, down 94.1% from the same month a year earlier. Of these, 176,300 were same-day car trips, down 91.6% from July 2019.

Year over year, Yukon (-99.0%), British Columbia (-98.1%) and Quebec (-97.7%) reported the largest percentage decreases in car trips.

The number of Canadian residents returning from trips to the United States by plane decreased by 96.1% year over year to 26,200 trips in July, but increased from the 16,200 taken in June.

Travel by Canadians overseas remains low

The number of Canadian residents returning from trips overseas declined 93.9% year over year, from 869,100 in July 2019 to 53,300.

Note to readers

Statistics Canada's Frontier Counts program uses administrative data from the Canada Border Services Agency on all international travellers who have been cleared for entry or re-entry into Canada. This includes residents of Canada, the United States and overseas countries.

Unlike releases prior to April 2020, this release is based on unadjusted data (not seasonally adjusted) to emphasize the change in actual volumes. However, seasonally adjusted data are available in the tables. With the unusually small travel volumes reported since April, future revisions to seasonally adjusted data for 2020 are expected to be larger than usual and may impact monthly movements in the series.

Seasonally adjusted data for March 2020 to June 2020 have been revised.

For information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

Overseas countries refer to countries other than the United States.

A **Canadian resident traveller** is a Canadian resident who has travelled outside Canada for a period of less than 12 months.

A **non-resident traveller** is a resident of a country other than Canada who is travelling to Canada for a period of less than 12 months.

An **overnight traveller or a tourist** is a traveller whose trip includes one or more nights' stay.

Table 1
Travel between Canada and other countries – Seasonally adjusted

	July 2019 ^r	June 2020 ^r	July 2020 ^p	June to July 2020
	thousands			% change ¹
Canadian trips abroad²	4,678	263	257	-2.4
To the United States	3,665	201	178	-11.3
To other countries	1,013	62	78	26.9
Same-day car trips to the United States	1,808	146	126	-13.7
Total trips, one or more nights	2,731	109	124	13.9
United States ³	1,718	47	46	-3.1
Car	921	24	16	-32.8
Plane	735	23	29	29.1
Other modes of transportation	63	0	0	-31.6
Other countries	1,013	62	78	26.9
Travel to Canada²	2,723	101	94	-6.3
From the United States	2,096	81	74	-9.2
From other countries	626	19	20	6.0
Same-day car trips from the United States	697	54	45	-16.9
Total trips, one or more nights	1,860	46	49	5.9
United States ³	1,263	27	29	5.5
Car	716	21	20	-2.4
Plane	423	6	8	31.5
Other modes of transportation	124	0	0	-76.3
Other countries ⁴	597	19	20	6.6
Travel to Canada: Top overseas markets,⁵ by country of origin^{6, 7}				
China	60	3	4	49.7
Mexico	42	0	0	...
France	57	0	0	...
United Kingdom	79	0	0	...
Netherlands	11	0	0	...
Japan	21	0	0	...
Australia	31	0	0	...
Germany	42	0	0	...
South Korea	22	0	0	...
India	28	0	0	...
Hong Kong	15	0	0	...
Brazil	15	0	0	30.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

... not applicable

1. Percentage change is based on unrounded data.

2. Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because the totals include same-day trips by all modes of transportation.

3. Data for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and data for planes, trains, boats and other methods of transportation.

4. Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only via the United States.

5. Overseas markets refer to countries other than the United States.

6. Includes same-day and overnight trips.

7. Starting with August 2018 data, Statistics Canada implemented a new method for estimating the country of residence breakdowns of overseas travellers entering Canada at land ports where this breakdown was not available. This change has varying degrees of impact on the total counts of travellers to Canada from individual countries. Users are therefore advised to use caution when comparing changes in travel to Canada with previous months for individual overseas countries.

Source(s): Tables [24-10-0005-01](#), [24-10-0043-01](#) and [24-10-0006-01](#).

Available tables: [24-10-0002-01](#), [24-10-0003-01](#), [24-10-0005-01](#), [24-10-0006-01](#), [24-10-0041-01](#) and [24-10-0043-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5005](#).

The July 2020 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 36, no. 7 ([66-001-P](#)), is now available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca).