

# Travel between Canada and other countries, November 2020

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## Highlights

The number of travellers to Canada from both the United States and overseas countries was down 92.9% in November, compared with November 2019. Similarly, the number of Canadian residents returning from abroad fell sharply (-92.1%) year over year.

This is due to restrictions on non-essential travel into Canada, which remained in effect in November, as did the mandatory 14-day quarantine for Canadians returning from abroad.

## Travel restrictions continue

Restrictions on non-essential travel to and from Canada, which initially took effect in mid-March, have been in place for 10 months. With a second wave of the pandemic currently affecting many parts of the world, it is likely the restrictions will be extended to contain the spread of COVID-19.

## Overseas travel to Canada remains low

The number of travellers to Canada from overseas (countries other than the United States) dropped 91.1% year over year to 28,700 in November.

Travel originating in Europe (-92.3%) and Asia (-89.2%), Canada's largest markets, were down significantly compared with the same month a year earlier.

Compared with November 2019, the number of trips from China—the leading source market for travel from Asia—decreased from 29,800 to 1,800 in November 2020.

As for travel from Europe, there were 2,400 arrivals from the United Kingdom in November and 1,600 from France.

Travel from other major markets also remained low throughout November.

Ontario (-149,800), British Columbia (-78,600) and Quebec (-52,700) recorded the largest absolute year-over-year declines in the number of overseas travellers in November.

## Fewer arrivals from the United States

In November, US residents took 98,400 trips to Canada, down 93.3% from the same month a year earlier. The number of US residents arriving by plane declined 95.9% year over year to 14,100 in November.

Car arrivals dropped 92.1% year over year to 83,300 in November. Almost three-quarters (61,700) of these car trips were same-day trips, while overnight car arrivals (21,600) were down 95.2% from November 2019.

While every province recorded a decrease in arrivals from the United States in November, Ontario (-778,000) saw the largest absolute decline, followed by British Columbia (-317,400) and Quebec (-160,500).

## Fewer Canadians returning from the United States

Canadian residents made 252,600 return trips from the United States in November, down 92.3% from November 2019.



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Car arrivals, which accounted for approximately 8 in 10 of these trips, fell 91.5% year over year to 196,600. Of these, 169,600 were same-day trips, down 89.8%.

Meanwhile, air arrivals dropped 93.8% year over year to 54,500. Despite provincial measures, including health screenings and a mandatory quarantine, the number of Canadians returning from the United States by plane increased 29.0% to 42,200 from October.

Ontario (-1.5 million), British Columbia (-808,300) and Quebec (-270,800) posted the largest absolute year-over-year declines in return trips by Canadians from the United States.

### **Fewer Canadians returning from overseas**

In November, 73,200 Canadian residents returned home from travel overseas, up slightly from October, but down 91.3% compared with November 2019.

**Table 1**  
**Travel between Canada and other countries – Seasonally adjusted**

	November 2019 <sup>r</sup>	October 2020 <sup>r</sup>	November 2020 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2020
	thousands			% change <sup>1</sup>
<b>Canadian trips abroad<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>4,672</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>1.8</b>
To the United States	3,626	274	280	2.3
To other countries	1,046	94	95	0.2
Same-day car trips to the United States	1,770	192	180	-6.2
Total trips, one or more nights	2,747	161	179	11.1
United States <sup>3</sup>	1,701	67	84	26.5
Car	868	31	35	10.5
Plane	769	35	42	19.8
Other modes of transportation	64	0	8	...
Other countries	1,046	94	95	0.2
<b>Travel to Canada<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2,686</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>26.1</b>
From the United States	2,077	133	151	13.4
From other countries	609	33	58	77.3
Same-day car trips from the United States	701	79	79	-0.4
Total trips, one or more nights	1,822	73	114	57.4
United States <sup>3</sup>	1,238	43	61	41.1
Car	715	29	38	28.7
Plane	419	12	18	45.7
Other modes of transportation	104	1	5	255.2
Other countries <sup>4</sup>	583	29	53	81.3
<b>Travel to Canada: Top overseas markets,<sup>5</sup> by country of origin<sup>6, 7</sup></b>				
India	28	7	5	-20.3
France	57	2	2	1.5
United Kingdom	75	2	2	18.8
Mexico	44	2	3	41.2
China	60	2	3	27.9
Netherlands	12	1	1	15.1
Hong Kong	15	1	1	38.8
Australia	31	0	0	113.1
Japan	21	0	4	...
Germany	34	0	7	...
South Korea	22	0	6	...
Brazil	15	0	0	-4.1

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> 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](#).

### 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.

Since April 2020, releases have been based on seasonally unadjusted data to emphasize the change in actual volumes. However, seasonally adjusted data are available in some tables. With the unusually low 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 August to October 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 **tourist** is a traveller whose trip includes one or more nights' stay.

**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 November 2020 issue of [International Travel, Advance Information](#), Vol. 36, no. 11 ([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](mailto:STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca)) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; [STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca)).