

# Travel between Canada and other countries, March 2022

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## Highlights

In March 2022, the number of international arrivals to Canada increased compared with March 2021, but remained below 2019 levels, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

While residents of overseas countries made over five times the trips to Canada in March 2022 than during the same month in 2021, it was under half (43.0%) of the trips observed in March 2019.

Likewise, US residents made almost five times the trips to Canada in March 2022 than in March 2021. However, this represented less than one-third (31.9%) of the trips taken in the same month in 2019.

Compared with March 2021, Canadian residents made over six times more trips home from visiting abroad in March 2022, but this was just over one-third (37.1%) of the trips taken in March 2019.

For more up-to-date estimates of international arrivals into Canada, please see April's "[Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada](#)."

## Border restrictions ease

In February 2022, the Government of Canada announced a phased easing of travel requirements issued in late 2021 to combat the Omicron variant. As of February 28, travellers entering Canada were given the option of providing a negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test, taken the day prior to their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border.

On the same day, restrictions as to where international passenger flights could arrive in Canada were lifted, and such flights were, once again, permitted to land at all international Canadian airports.

Since pandemic travel restrictions were first felt mid-month in March 2020, pre-pandemic comparisons are made with March 2019.

## Overseas visitors continue to increase

In March 2022, 148,900 overseas residents arrived in Canada. While this was over five times the number of such arrivals in March 2021, it was under half (43.0%) of overseas residents who entered Canada during the same month in 2019, before the pandemic.

The number of visitors from major markets continues to increase, with European visitors jumping from 5,600 in March 2021 to 68,800 in March 2022, and visitors from Asia increasing from 12,100 to 33,700 over the same period. Both remained below March 2019 levels, as did visits from other overseas residents.

## More US residents arrive in Canada

In March 2022, US residents took 465,200 trips to Canada, almost five times as many as in March 2021 (95,900). However, this was less than one-third (31.9%) of the 1.5 million such trips taken in March 2019.

Of the total arrivals in March 2022, 310,300 were by automobile—with over two-fifths (42.0%) being same-day returns (130,400)—a jump from the total of 90,100 in 2021. Again, the March 2022 total was less than one-third (30.4%) of the 1.0 million such arrivals before the pandemic in March 2019.



## **Canadian trips to the United States growing**

Canadian residents returned from 1.3 million trips to the United States in March 2022, more than five times as many as in March 2021 (256,900), but one-third (33.4%) of the 4.0 million such trips in March 2019.

Of the total returning Canadian trips, 775,800 were by automobile, with just under half (47.8%) being same-day trips.

While the number of return air trips by Canadian residents rose steeply from 18,900 in March 2021 to 549,300 in 2022, this was under half (48.3%) the number of such trips from the same month in 2019, before the pandemic.

## **More Canadians holiday overseas**

It appears that many Canadian resumed March-break vacations in 2022 as 685,000 residents returned from visiting overseas, up from 48,800 in March 2021. While a healthy jump, it is still under half (47.4%) of the 1.4 million returning Canadians flying back home in March 2019.

**Table 1**  
**Travel between Canada and other countries – Not seasonally adjusted**

	March 2021	February 2022	March 2022	March 2021 to March 2022
	thousands			% change <sup>1</sup>
<b>International trips to Canada</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>1,492</b>	<b>2,637</b>	<b>514.3</b>
<b>Trips to Canada by international visitors</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>397.0</b>
US residents entering Canada <sup>2</sup>	96	315	465	384.9
Air	4	85	145	...
Automobile <sup>3,4</sup>	90	225	310	244.5
Same-day	69	94	130	87.9
One or more nights	21	131	180	770.6
Other modes <sup>2,3,4</sup>	1	6	10	570.1
Overseas residents entering Canada <sup>2</sup>	28	105	149	438.8
Air	24	99	138	476.2
Other modes <sup>2</sup>	4	6	10	189.4
<b>Canadian residents returning from trips abroad</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>2,023</b>	<b>561.7</b>
Canadian residents returning from the United States <sup>2,5</sup>	257	686	1,338	420.8
Air	19	277	549	...
Automobile <sup>3,4</sup>	235	403	776	230.2
Same-day	200	244	370	84.9
One or more nights	35	160	405	...
Other modes <sup>2,3,4</sup>	3	6	13	316.8
Canadian residents returning from overseas <sup>2,5</sup>	49	386	685	...
Air	49	386	685	...
<b>Top overseas markets</b>				
United Kingdom	1	14	22	...
China	2	2	3	111.1
France	1	17	15	...
Mexico	5	14	21	315.9
Germany	1	5	7	881.1
Australia	0	4	4	...
India	6	8	11	88.2
South Korea	0	1	2	306.5
Japan	0	1	1	145.6
Brazil	0	3	3	...

... not applicable

- Percentage change is based on unrounded data.
- As of January 2022, one passenger from each bus record is considered a crew member. Prior to 2022, there were no crew from bus travellers.
- As of January 2022, all ferry travellers are included in the water mode, in order to align with United Nations World Tourism Organization recommendations. Prior to 2022, most of these travellers were included in the land mode as either pedestrian or automobile travellers (the only exception was Fortune, in Newfoundland and Labrador).
- As of January 2022, the maximum number of passengers allowed in an automobile before it is considered a bus is 8, in order to align with United Nations World Tourism Organization recommendations. Prior to 2022, the maximum was 10.
- As of January 2022, non-resident travellers with a trip duration of 365 days or more are considered as "other travellers" (not as visitors). Prior to 2022, they were reclassified as Canadian-resident visitors.

**Source(s):** Tables [24-10-0050-01](#) and [24-10-0053-01](#).

### 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.

Starting with the [January 2022 release](#), all estimates, including those in Table 1, are based on unadjusted counts only. Seasonally adjusted data continue to be available online in tables [24-10-0051-01](#) and [24-10-0054-01](#).

Seasonally adjusted data from January 2021 to February 2022 have been revised. No revisions were made to data that were not seasonally adjusted.

Elements of Statistics Canada's Frontier Counts program have recently been modified. For example, travellers arriving by commercial air with a trip duration of a year or more and workers are now excluded from the visitor counts. Although these changes should not have a significant impact on total estimates, readers are encouraged to review the concepts, definitions, data sources and methods for [Frontier Counts](#), as well as the explanatory notes for the online tables, especially when making historical comparisons and examining specific regions.

**Overseas countries** refer to countries other than Canada or the United States.

A **Canadian resident visitor** is a Canadian resident traveller whose trip purpose outside Canada is related to tourism and whose trip duration is less than one year.

A **non-resident visitor** is a traveller to Canada whose country of residence is not Canada, whose trip purpose is related to tourism and whose trip duration is less than one year.

**Available tables:** [24-10-0050-01](#) to [24-10-0055-01](#) .

The March 2022 issue of *International Travel: Advance Information* ([66-001-P](#)) is now available.

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

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; [infostats@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or Media Relations ([statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca)).