

Travel between Canada and other countries, September 2022

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Highlights

In September, the overall number of international arrivals to Canada—non-resident visitors and returning Canadians—reached about two-thirds (65.6%) of the September 2019 level, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Residents of overseas countries made over three times more trips to Canada in September 2022 compared with the same month in 2021; just over half (55.2%) of the number of trips taken in September 2019.

Likewise, US residents took nearly 1.6 million trips to Canada in September. This was three times the number of trips taken in September 2021 and represented over two-thirds (68.0%) of the trips taken in September 2019.

In September 2022, Canadian residents returned from nearly 3.0 million trips abroad, almost four times the trips taken in September 2021, reaching 66.3% of the September 2019 pre-pandemic level.

For more current estimates of international arrivals into Canada, please see the "[Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada](#)" for the October reference month.

Airport challenges waning and restrictions ending

Although air travel was approaching its 2019 pre-pandemic level over the summer, employment challenges led to flight cancellations, long security queues, and lost luggage at Canada's largest airports. However, these pressures have subsided as volumes typically decline in September, marking the end of the busy summer travel season.

On September 26, 2022, the Government of Canada announced that as of October 1, all COVID-19 border requirements, including vaccination, mandatory use of the ArriveCAN app, and any testing and quarantine requirements will end for all travellers entering Canada whether by land, air, or sea.

Recovery of overseas visitors

In September, 468,600 overseas residents arrived in Canada, up from the 153,400 such arrivals in September 2021, and just over half (55.2%) of those who arrived in Canada in September 2019.

There were 270,600 arrivals from Europe (up from 89,600 in September 2021), which remained the largest segment of overseas visitors during September 2022. However, recovery of the Asian market continued to lag, with 89,300 visitors.

US-resident trips to Canada

In September, US residents made nearly 1.6 million trips to Canada, three times as many trips than in September 2021 (518,200) and more than two-thirds (68.0%) of the same month in 2019; the highest level of recovery since the pandemic began.

Of the total US-resident arrivals in September 2022, 908,700 were by automobile, with 40.6% being same-day returns (368,900). This was an increase from the 393,300 total arrivals by automobile in September 2021, and almost two-thirds (64.6%) of those recorded in September 2019, before the pandemic.



More Canadian residents travel to the United States

In September, Canadian residents returned from nearly 2.5 million trips to the United States, more than five times the number recorded in September 2021 (474,700), and 67.5% of the pre-pandemic level from the same month of 2019. Of this total, 1.7 million trips were by automobile in September 2022, with over half (59.5%) being same-day trips.

The number of Canadian residents returning by air from the United States was 720,100 in September, up sharply from 175,700 in September 2021, and slightly higher (+1.8%) than the number recorded in the same month in 2019, rising above pre-pandemic levels for the first time.

Canadian residents travelling overseas

In September, 538,700 Canadian residents returned from visiting overseas, over one and a half times the number that returned during the same month in 2021 (313,600).

While September experienced a typical seasonal decline from August 2022, the pace of recovery has slowed noticeably. Canadian-resident trips overseas were 61.4% of pre-pandemic September 2019, down from the two-thirds (67.3%) recovery reached in August 2022 (compared with August 2019).

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

	September 2021	August 2022	September 2022	September 2021 to September 2022
	thousands			% change ¹
International trips to Canada	1,460	6,249	5,023	244.0
Trips to Canada by international visitors	672	2,515	2,029	202.1
US residents entering Canada ²	518	1,969	1,560	201.1
Air	118	453	395	235.5
Automobile ^{3,4}	393	1,209	909	131.0
Same-day	134	439	369	175.8
One or more nights	260	770	540	108.0
Other modes ^{2,3,4}	7	307	257	...
Overseas residents entering Canada ²	153	547	469	205.4
Air	147	424	368	151.0
Other modes ²	7	123	100	...
Canadian residents returning from trips abroad	788	3,734	2,994	279.7
Canadian residents returning from the United States ^{2,5}	475	2,981	2,455	417.1
Air	176	685	720	309.9
Automobile ^{3,4}	293	2,206	1,659	466.5
Same-day	227	1,127	987	334.9
One or more nights	66	1,080	672	919.5
Other modes ^{2,3,4}	6	90	76	...
Canadian residents returning from overseas ^{2,5}	314	753	539	71.8
Air	314	749	537	71.2
Top overseas markets				
United Kingdom	21	100	86	312.7
China	6	7	7	25.2
France	22	74	62	181.0
Mexico	8	40	37	366.6
Germany	14	57	41	199.5
Australia	1	22	22	...
India	11	19	25	121.7
South Korea	3	10	9	264.8
Japan	2	9	8	342.9
Brazil	2	9	9	270.6

... not applicable

1. Percentage change is based on unrounded data.

2. As of January 2022, one passenger from each bus record is considered a crew member. Prior to 2022, there was no crew from bus travellers.

3. As of April 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).

4. 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.

5. 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 Canada Border Services Agency administrative data gathered from 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 June 2022 to August 2022 have been revised. Revisions have been made to data for March 2021 in Table [24-10-0053-01](#).

Elements of Statistics Canada's Frontier Counts program were modified in January 2022. 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](#) .

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

The September 2022 issue of *International Travel: Advance Information* ([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; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).