

National Travel Survey, third quarter 2022

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Highlights

Canadian residents took 96.7 million trips within Canada or abroad during the third quarter, 9.7 million more than in the third quarter of 2021. This represents over 95% of the number of trips taken during the same quarter in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

From July to September 2022, the majority (92.6%) of trips were domestic, down from 98.9% during the same three months of 2021, while 5.7% were destined for the United States and 1.7% were destined for overseas.

In the third quarter of 2022, Canadian residents spent almost three times as much on domestic trips (\$27.3 billion) as international travel (\$9.5 billion), and surpassed spending by 26.2% during the same quarter in 2019.

More recent data on international travel by Canadian residents are available from the monthly "[Travel between Canada and other countries](#)."

Travel demand sharply increases

Random mandatory COVID-19 testing for fully vaccinated travellers—initially paused on June 11, 2022 at all Canadian airports—resumed on July 19 for those arriving by air in Vancouver, Calgary, Montréal and Toronto.

At the same time, all inbound travellers, including returning Canadian residents, were required to use the ArriveCAN app to enter their health information and proof of vaccination within 72 hours of their scheduled arrival in Canada.

[In 2022, the summer travel season was challenging at major Canadian airports](#). An unforeseen sharp increase in travel demand coupled with staffing shortages resulted in some delays and cancelled flights as well as frustrated passengers.

Domestic travel takes off

In the third quarter, Canadian residents made 89.5 million domestic trips, up by nearly 3.5 million from the third quarter of 2021, reaching 97.7% of the pre-pandemic level from the same quarter in 2019. The number of domestic overnight trips was 34.8 million in the third quarter of 2022, while same-day travel was at 54.7 million trips during the same quarter.

Domestic travel expenditures by Canadian residents were \$27.3 billion, up 16.7% from the third quarter of 2021 (\$23.4 billion) and 26.2% higher than in the third quarter of 2019 (\$21.7 billion). Average spending was \$305 per trip (\$127 same-day and \$585 overnight) in the third quarter of 2022 compared with \$236 in the third quarter of 2019, reflecting price increases.

In July 2022, the [Consumer Price Index](#) found that prices for flights, hotel rooms and dining out continued to rise. The largest spending category during the third quarter was accommodations (\$6.9 billion), followed by vehicle operations (\$5.4 billion) and restaurants and bars (\$4.2 billion).

In the third quarter, Canadian residents spent \$2.5 billion on commercial transportation, up from \$1.7 billion during the same quarter in 2021. Likewise, expenditures on recreation (\$1.4 billion) and entertainment (\$1.2 billion) both exceeded their pre-pandemic levels in the third quarter of 2019 (\$1.1 billion each).

Trip activities in the third quarter of 2022 reflected the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, allowing greater attendance at events and more varied summer excursions. However, some activities remained below the levels recorded in the third quarter of 2019, such as attending festivals or fairs (-32.0%) and visiting a historic site (-22.4%).



Solo or small group outdoor activities remained popular during the third quarter of 2022. For instance, Canadian residents reported hiking or backpacking (+19.5%) and visiting a national, provincial, or nature park (+10.4%) at rates above the same quarter in 2019.

Table 1
Travel by Canadian residents in Canada and abroad by trip purpose, third quarter of 2022

	Trips	Travel expenditures
	thousands	millions of dollars
Trips by Canadian residents in Canada	89,513	27,322
Business	1,054	815
Holiday, leisure, or recreation	43,555	15,843
Visiting friends or relatives	31,644	6,845
Other	8,183	2,660
Trips by Canadian residents abroad	7,174	9,472
To the United States	5,501	5,335
Business	236	386
Holiday, leisure, or recreation	3,020	3,653
Visiting friends or relatives	1,114	686
Other	387	408
Overseas	1,673	4,137
Business	47	101
Holiday, leisure, or recreation	941	2,584
Visiting friends or relatives	559	1,054
Other	116	367

Source(s): National Travel Survey (5232).

Table 2
Top domestic activities by decrease, third quarter of 2022 compared with the third quarter of 2019

	Activities			Change	
	Third quarter 2019	Third quarter 2021	Third quarter 2022	Third quarter 2019 to third quarter 2022	Third quarter 2019 to third quarter 2022
	thousands			%	thousands
Visit friends or family	45,006	38,495	41,719	-7.3	-3,287
Festival or fair	4,229	746	2,875	-32.0	-1,355
Historic site	5,089	3,678	3,950	-22.4	-1,139
Shopping	19,106	16,948	18,068	-5.4	-1,038
Dine out/go to restaurant, bar, or club	23,228	20,880	22,230	-4.3	-998
Sightseeing	18,904	18,692	18,227	-3.6	-678
Boating	6,139	6,475	5,570	-9.3	-569
Business meeting, conference, or seminar	2,251	833	1,714	-23.9	-537
Fishing	4,211	4,145	3,961	-5.9	-251
Other activity	8,508	8,527	8,274	-2.8	-234

Note(s): Multiple counts: respondents can indicate multiple activities done on any given trip.

Source(s): National Travel Survey (5232).

Table 3
Top domestic activities by increase, third quarter of 2022 compared with the third quarter of 2021

	Activities			Change	
	Third quarter 2019	Third quarter 2021	Third quarter 2022	Third quarter 2019 to third quarter 2022	Third quarter 2019 to third quarter 2022
	thousands			%	thousands
Hiking or backpacking	6,901	10,197	8,246	19.5	1,346
Beach	10,030	11,619	11,136	11.0	1,106
National, provincial, or nature park	9,221	11,924	10,182	10.4	961

Table 3
Top domestic activities by increase, third quarter of 2022 compared with the third quarter of 2021

	Activities			Change	
	Third quarter 2019	Third quarter 2021	Third quarter 2022	Third quarter 2019 to third quarter 2022	Third quarter 2019 to third quarter 2022
Camping	6,300	6,722	6,756	7.2	456
Theme or amusement park	1,722	1,674	2,161	25.5	439
Cycling	2,565	3,658	2,953	15.1	388
Golfing	2,529	3,443	2,910	15.0	381
Canoeing or kayaking	5,236	6,257	5,583	6.6	346
Casino	1,182	617	1,250	5.7	68
All-terrain vehicle	1,112	1,028	1,167	4.9	54

Note(s): Multiple counts: respondents can indicate multiple activities done on any given trip.

Source(s): National Travel Survey (5232).

Travel Stateside slower to recover

With travel restrictions easing at the border, Canadian residents made 5.5 million trips to the United States in the third quarter of 2022. While much higher when compared with the third quarter of 2021, the volume represents less than three-quarters (73.3%) of the 7.5 million trips taken during the same quarter in 2019.

Compared with the third quarter of 2021, trips during the third quarter of 2022 were shorter but more frequent. Canadian residents spent an average of \$970 per trip, with an average length of 3.4 nights to the United States. However, with more trips, the \$5.3 billion in total spending when visiting the United States was significantly higher in the third quarter of 2022 than the \$545.9 million spent in the third quarter of 2021.

Spending by Canadian residents in the United States on accommodation (\$2.0 billion) and in restaurants and bars (\$990.5 million) led the way in the third quarter of 2022. Among trip purposes, holiday, leisure, or recreation (3.0 million trips) and visiting friends or relatives (1.1 million trips) were the most reported.

Overseas travel recovering

During the third quarter, Canadian residents returned from nearly 1.7 million trips overseas, significantly more trips than in the third quarter of 2021 (638,600). In fact, overseas trips recovered over two-thirds (67.6%) of the trips taken during the same quarter of 2019.

Most Canadian residents travelled overseas for holiday, leisure, or recreation purposes (941,400) and to visit friends or relatives (559,100) in the third quarter of 2022.

Of the over \$4.1 billion spent overseas by Canadian travellers in the third quarter, the two largest spending categories were accommodation (\$1.6 billion) and restaurants and bars (\$873.3 million).

The top three overseas countries that Canadian residents visited during the third quarter were France (240,000 visits), Mexico (197,000 visits) and the United Kingdom (194,000 visits).

Cruise vacations resume

As a final note, with travel restrictions having eased in the third quarter, many cruise vacations resumed. Spending on cruises to the United States and overseas increased sharply from \$1.5 million in the third quarter of 2021 to \$110.7 million in the third quarter of 2022, surpassing the pre-pandemic \$98.1 million from the same quarter in 2019.

Note to readers

The National Travel Survey (NTS) collects information about the domestic and international travel of Canadian residents.

Please note that revisions were made to all four quarters of the 2021 NTS estimates. While overall impacts are marginal, they will be more discernible for some smaller geographies and specific trip types.

All spending estimates are based on visit expenditures, and domestic visit expenditures now include commercial air expenditures incurred at the point of origin of the trip.

The **target population** is the civilian, non-institutionalized population 18 years of age and older in Canada's provinces, excluding people living on Indian reserves and in the territories. Routine trips taken by commuters and diplomatic or military personnel are out of scope.

Domestic trips are made by travellers residing in Canada who travelled inside Canada for a period of less than 12 months before returning to their place of residence.

Same-day trips or visits take place within the same calendar day—that is, the traveller left and returned home on the same day—and must be a distance of 40 km or more away (one way).

Trips abroad are made by travellers residing in Canada who travelled outside Canada for a period of less than 12 months before returning to Canada. Foreign citizens who are residing in Canada and travel abroad are included as Canadian resident travellers.

A **trip abroad** for people residing in Canada starts when they cross the border to exit Canada and ends when they first re-enter Canada.

Trips and visits: A trip can consist of one or more visits. A Canadian traveller on a trip abroad may cross into several countries or US states before being recorded as having re-entered Canada. Each of these crossings represents a visit. Similarly, a Canadian resident travelling in Canada may stay in several locations during their trip. Each stay at a Canadian location (for example, a province) within a given trip represents a visit.

Products

Data from the [third quarter of 2022](#) from the National Travel Survey are now available. Other tables, including statistical profiles of Canadian travellers, are available upon request.

Available tables: [table 24-10-0045-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: [survey number 5232](#).

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).