

Travel between Canada and other countries, December 2023

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Highlights

In December, the number of non-resident visitors to Canada accounted for 91.0% of the number observed in December 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the number of returning Canadian residents reached 87.7% of the level recorded in December 2019.

Residents of overseas countries took 469,400 trips to Canada in December 2023, and US residents took 1.5 million trips. In the same month, Canadian residents returned from 3.8 million trips abroad.

To further explore current and historical data in an interactive format, please visit the [Frontier Counts: Interactive Dashboard](#).

Overseas arrivals in Canada

In December, 469,400 overseas residents arrived in Canada, up 27.4% from the 368,400 overseas arrivals in December 2022, reaching 95.0% of such arrivals recorded in December 2019 (494,100), before the pandemic.

Over one-third (38.1%) of overseas visitors were from Europe in December 2023 (179,100), up 19.7% from December 2022 (149,600) and reaching 98.5% of the trips to Canada by European residents recorded in December 2019 (181,700).

Representing 36.8% of all overseas residents arriving in Canada in December 2023, residents of Mexico (69,300), the United Kingdom (56,800), and France (46,900) rounded out the top three overseas markets to Canada, with Mexico ranking first for the second consecutive month.

US-resident trips to Canada

In December, US residents took 1.5 million trips to Canada, up 24.9% from the 1.2 million trips taken in December 2022 and reaching 89.8% of trips taken during the same month in 2019 (1.7 million).

In December 2023, US-resident arrivals by automobile (1.1 million) increased 28.0% from December 2022 (868,600). Nearly half (49.9%) of the arrivals by automobile were same-day trips (554,600).

Canadian-resident trips to the United States

Canadian residents returned from 2.8 million trips to the United States in December 2023, increasing 15.3% from December 2022 (2.5 million) and reaching 84.2% of such trips taken during the same month in 2019 (3.4 million).

Of the total trips to the United States that Canadian residents returned from in December 2023, 2.0 million were by automobile and over two-thirds (71.0%) of those were same-day returns (1.4 million).

The number of Canadian residents returning from the United States by air was 809,000 in December, decreasing 12.5% from the 924,000 trips recorded in December 2022. In December 2023, the number of Canadian-resident return trips from the United States by air reached 94.8% of the pre-pandemic level observed in December 2019 (853,100).



Canadian residents travelling overseas

In December 2023, Canadian residents returned from 989,700 trips overseas, increasing 61.1% from the same month in 2022 (614,400). The number of overseas trips Canadian residents returned from in December 2023 corresponded to 99.6% of the pre-pandemic level recorded in December 2019 (993,300).

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

	December 2022	November 2023	December 2023	December 2022 to December 2023
	thousands			% change ¹
International trips to Canada	4,673	5,175	5,831	24.8
Trips to Canada by international visitors	1,589	1,520	1,994	25.5
US residents entering Canada ²	1,221	1,220	1,525	24.9
Air	314	286	358	14.0
Automobile ^{3,4}	869	883	1,111	28.0
Same-day	401	486	555	38.3
One or more nights	468	397	557	19.1
Other modes ^{2,3,4}	38	50	55	43.7
Overseas residents entering Canada ²	368	300	469	27.4
Air	329	249	411	24.8
Other modes ²	39	51	58	49.4
Top overseas markets				
United Kingdom	45	30	57	26.5
China	10	15	19	94.7
France	38	24	47	23.6
Mexico	49	33	69	40.8
Germany	13	12	15	9.2
Australia	31	12	31	-0.9
India	13	21	20	53.2
South Korea	8	7	9	18.9
Japan	6	8	9	36.7
Brazil	10	12	13	24.9
Canadian residents returning from trips abroad	3,083	3,655	3,837	24.5
Canadian residents returning from the United States ^{2,5}	2,469	2,857	2,848	15.3
Air	924	864	809	-12.5
Automobile ^{3,4}	1,510	1,939	1,990	31.8
Same-day	1,049	1,323	1,412	34.6
One or more nights	461	616	578	25.4
Other modes ^{2,3,4}	35
Canadian residents returning from overseas ^{2,5}	614	798	990	61.1
Air	613	795	985	60.7

.. not available for a specific reference period

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 eight 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](#).

2023 in review

2023 continued to gain momentum with increased recovery rates compared with 2022.

In 2023, Canada welcomed 74.5 million international arrivals (non-resident visitors and returning Canadian residents), almost 1.5 times those from 2022, and over four-fifths (84.1%) of the number of arrivals observed in 2019.

In 2023, the 21.2 million US residents (+51.8%) and 6.0 million overseas residents (+51.7%) both increased from the number of such arrivals recorded in 2022, representing over four-fifths of their 2019 levels (85.0% in the case of US residents and 80.4% in the case of overseas residents). The number of Canadian residents returning from visiting abroad was 47.3 million in 2023, up 48.0% from the 2022 volume and representing 84.2% of the 2019 level.

The cruise industry demonstrated its resiliency with a total of 1.8 million passengers entering Canada by cruise ships in 2023. Disembarkations by cruise passengers in Canada in 2023 included 184,600 by Canadian residents (+34.9% from 2019), 1.4 million by US residents (+35.3% from 2019) and 207,300 by overseas residents (-18.8% from 2019).

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Note to readers

Seasonally adjusted data for January to November 2023 have been revised; seasonally adjusted data continue to be available online in tables [24-10-0051-01](#) and [24-10-0054-01](#). No revisions were made to data that were not seasonally adjusted.

For more current estimates of international arrivals to Canada, please see the "[Leading indicator of international arrivals to Canada](#)" for the January 2024 reference month.

Readers are encouraged to review the concepts, definitions, data sources, methods, and summary of changes for [Frontier Counts](#), as well as explanatory notes for 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 December 2023 issue of *International Travel: Advance Information* ([66-001-P](#)) is now available.

The product "[Frontier Counts: Interactive Dashboard](#)," part of the *Data Visualization Products* series ([71-607-X](#)), is also 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).