



Tourists Travelling Back to South Africa's Biggest Cities Says WTTTC

Johannesburg tourism jobs to surpass 2019 levels

Cities Economic Impact Report analysed 82 cities around the world

London, UK: The World Travel & Tourism Council ([WTTTC](#)) has today revealed positive signs of recovery for the South African Travel & Tourism sector with travellers heading back to its major cities.

The report, researched in partnership with Oxford Economics, analysed key indicators such as Travel & Tourism's direct contribution to GDP, employment and traveller spend.

The results show travellers are returning to cities such as Cape Town and Johannesburg with all indicators bouncing back to pre-pandemic levels.

The WTTTC Cities Economic Impact Report shows that in 2019, the Travel & Tourism sector contributed over \$2.5BN to Cape Town's economy and more than \$2.1BN to Johannesburg's.

However, the pandemic devastated the country's economy. In 2020, both cities Travel & Tourism's GDP contribution dropped by more than half, falling to \$1BN.

But light is at the end of the tunnel. Over the last two years, since the border reopened, both cities have witnessed a significant recovery.

In 2022, Cape Town's sector is expected to have grown to \$1.8BN, 28% lower than 2019 levels, while Johannesburg's Travel & Tourism's sector is forecast to be worth just over \$2.2BN, 4% above 2019 levels.

Julia Simpson, WTTTC President & CEO, said: "South Africa has long been a world-favourite destination and after more than two years of disruption, it's great to see tourists heading back. Tourism provides a massive boost to both the economy and job creation.

"It is crucial that the national and local governments continue to recognise the importance of Travel & Tourism for the local and national economies, jobs, and businesses."

Jobs on the rise

In 2019 there were more than 170,000 people employed by the Travel & Tourism sector in Cape Town. In 2020 this figure dropped to just over 117,000 (-32%). But in 2021, employment grew by 8% to 127,000 jobs and is expected to have grown at a two and a half times that rate in 2022, to reach more than 152,000 jobs.

In Johannesburg, it's a similar picture.

Before the pandemic, there were over 138,000 Travel & Tourism jobs, but this number fell by 28,000 to just over 110,000 in 2020. A 10% rise in 2021 saw the number increase to more than 120,000.

WTTC is forecasting jobs to grow three times as fast in 2022 to reach more than 156,000 jobs – 11.5% more jobs than pre-pandemic levels.

The report also shows that the sector's contribution to both cities will increase by more than \$2.25BN over the next decade.

According to the global tourism body's forecast, Cape Town's Travel & Tourism sector is expected to contribute over \$3.3BN, while Johannesburg's will provide a boost of almost \$800MN by 2032 to reach just under \$3BN annually.

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For further information please contact the WTTC Press Office at press.office@wttc.org

To access the Cities Economic Impact Report please visit wttc.org