

## The direct contribution of tourism to GDP is estimated at 3.8% in 2019

Preliminary estimates for 2019 based on supply and use tables, and tourism satellite account tables, revealed that the direct contribution of tourism to GDP was 3.8%. The major contribution came from food and beverage sector, visitor accommodation, and air transport for passengers.

### More than 73,000 tourism-related establishments operated in 2019

According to the estimated data, which was based on the growth rate from tourism establishments surveys of 2016, 2017, and 2018, the number of tourism-related establishments reached 73,505 establishments, a rise of 1.5% over 2018. Food and beverage and visitor accommodation activities accounted for 84.9% of all tourism establishments, with 53,092 and 9,295 establishments, respectively.

### Over 571,000 employees in tourism-related establishments in 2019

According to the estimated data, which were based on the growth rate from tourism establishments surveys of 2016, 2017, and 2018, the employees of tourism-related establishments was estimated at 571,152 employees, a rise of 3.3% over 2018. Food and beverage, and visitor accommodation activities accounted for 75.5% of total employment in tourism-related activities with 306,508 and 124,676 employees, respectively.

The preliminary estimates for 2019, which were based on supply and use tables, showed that the total compensation of employees in tourism-related activities at basic price was SAR26,811 million. A breakdown of this number showed that food and beverage activities contributed SAR10,539 million, visitor accommodation activities provided SAR4,187 million, and passengers land transport contributed SAR3,965 million.

### Operating revenues of tourism-related establishments exceeded SAR197.8 billion in 2019

The total operating revenues of tourism-related establishments at basic price reached SAR197,856 million, an increase of 59.4% from 2018. Food and beverage activities contributed SAR59,594 million, visitor accommodation activities provided SAR57,773 million, and passengers air transport brought in SAR34,089 million.

### Operating expenses of tourism-related establishments exceeded SAR104.8 billion in 2019

The total operating expenses of tourism-related establishments at purchase price reached SAR104,797 million, an increase of 71.7% from 2018. Food and beverage activities contributed SAR33,671 million, visitor accommodation activities SAR31,891 million, and air transport activities for passengers SAR17,472 million.

### The estimated operating surplus of tourism-related establishments exceeded SAR66.2 billion in 2019

The total operating surplus of tourism-related establishments at basic price reached SAR 66,248 million in 2019. Food and beverage activities contributed SAR15,385 million, visitor accommodation activities SAR21,696 million, and air transport activities for passengers SAR13,034 million.

### Tourism direct gross value added exceeded SAR110.4 billion in 2019

The direct gross value added generated by tourism at basic price reached SAR110,448 million in 2019. Direct gross value added in tourism characteristic activities was SAR57,217 million; and in other activities, it was SAR53,231 million.

Table 1. Major Indicators of Tourism Sector (2019)

Indicator	Number
Total establishments operating in tourism characteristic activities	73,505
Total employees engaged in tourism characteristic activities	571,152
Total compensation of employees engaged in tourism characteristic activities at basic price*	26,811
Total operating revenues of tourism characteristic activities at basic price*	197,856
Total operating expenses of tourism characteristic activities at purchase price*	104,797
Total operating surplus of tourism characteristic activities at basic price*	66,248
Tourism share of output domestic producers at basic price*	200,463
Intermediate consumption attributed to tourism at basic price*	90,015
Tourism direct gross value added at basic price*	110,448
Taxes minus subsidies for locally produced and imported products*	3,729
Tourism direct GDP*	114,177
Direct contribution of tourism to GDP (%)	%3.8

\* The indicator's value in million SAR.

Figure 1. Number of employees by tourism characteristic activities (2019)

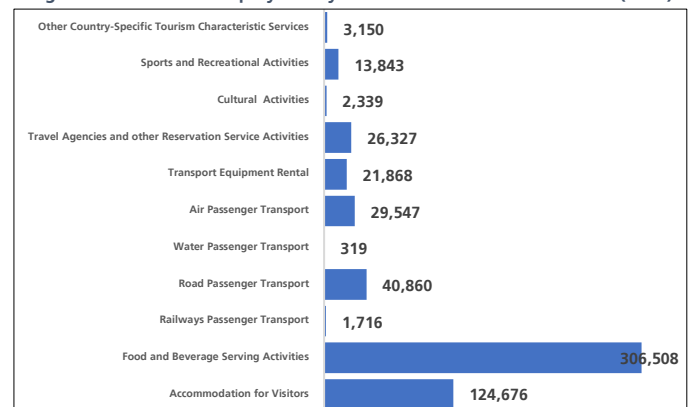
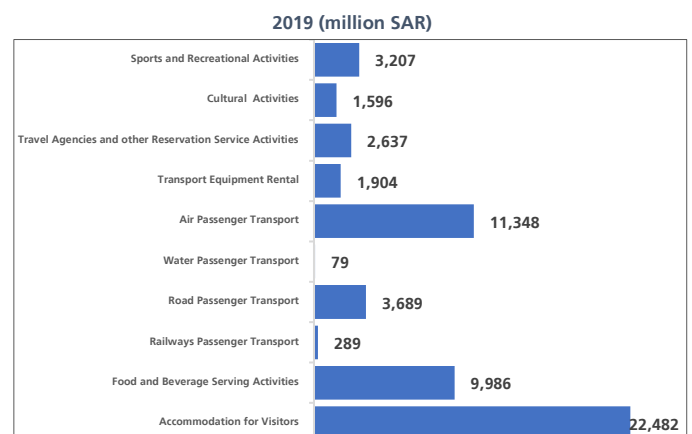


Figure 2 Tourism direct gross value added by tourism characteristic activities



## Methodology

Statistics of tourism establishments and employees were estimated based on the growth rate indicated in the survey of tourism establishments of 2016, 2017, and 2018. Due to Corona pandemic, the financial statements of tourism-related establishments were calculated using supply and use tables available on the GASTAT website and tourism satellite account tables. Revenues, contribution, and jobs are not necessarily the result of tourism spending alone. [methodology](#)