In 2018, APEC ministers recognized the economic significance of tourism in terms of regional cooperation, trade, MSME support, job creation, skills enhancement, innovation, and the development of ICT.

KEY STATISTICS 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>APEC</th>
<th>% growth</th>
<th>% total APEC region</th>
<th>% APEC represents of global T&amp;T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T&amp;T GDP (Direct contribution)</td>
<td>US$ 1.6 trillion</td>
<td>4.0% (2019/2018)</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrivals</td>
<td>454.8 million</td>
<td>4.7% (2018/2017)</td>
<td></td>
<td>32.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>US$ 620.5 billion</td>
<td>7.6% (2018/2017)</td>
<td></td>
<td>42.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment (Direct contribution)</td>
<td>64.5 million</td>
<td>1.1% (2019/2018)</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export Value (visitor spending)</td>
<td>US$ 712.3 billion</td>
<td>1.1% (2019/2018)</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: WTTC data for 2019 GDP, employment and export value / UNWTO for 2018 arrivals and receipts.

OPPORTUNITIES TO DRIVE GROWTH

1. Facilitate travel while enhancing safety and security:
   - International airports in APEC economies: 466*
   - Advance Passenger Information Programs in APEC economies: 16
   - Information-sharing schemes in place among APEC economies.
   - Tourism crisis management plans in place.
   - Use of biometrics by APEC economies in the travel process, including entry/exit.
   - Guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in place.
   - TWG Work: Contribute to APEC Connectivity Blueprint: People-to-People Connectivity (ongoing).

2. Ensure sustainable and inclusive economic growth:
   - Number of World Heritage Sites (UNESCO): 246 (22% of global)
   - Participation by women in the tourism economy, including number of women-owned businesses.
   - Participation by MSMEs in the tourism economy.
   - Participation by youths, seniors and people living with disability in the tourism economy.
   - Visitor management systems in place in APEC economies.
   - Revenue per visitor in APEC economies.
   - Nationally protected terrestrial and marine areas in APEC economies.
   - Destination readiness for tourism growth.

   - TWG Work: Project: Prospect Analysis for Sustainable Development of Tourism in Remote Areas of APEC Economies (Russia, completed).
   - TWG Work: Develop best practices report to provide APEC economies with actionable recommendations for policy frameworks that leverage digital tools to promote travel and tourism and inclusive economic growth (United States, completed.)
   - TWG Work: Produce the Measures by APEC Economies to Mitigate the Impact of COVID-19 on Tourism Industry (in progress).
   - TWG Work: Hold APEC Tourism Business Forum to revive the MICE industry affected by COVID-19 pandemic (Malaysia, completed)

3. Develop a skilled workforce for the future:
   - APEC economies identified in the top 10 economies with the greatest talent gaps in meeting demand in the region.
   - Workforce programs/initiatives for travel and tourism (apprenticeships) in APEC economies.
   - Education/training programs for the digitalization of the tourism economy.
   - Higher education programs for tourism in APEC economies.
   - Initiatives in the APEC region to ensure there is awareness of career paths in travel and tourism.

   - TWG Work: APEC occupational standards framework – furthers with Human Resources Development Working Group (Australia, Peru, completed)**
   - TWG Work: The TWG will undertake more work in this area in 2021, as this area is a priority objective in the APEC Tourism Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

*Source for aviation data: IATA Economics **Cross-fora collaboration with different APEC Working Groups ***Source: World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC)