



Travel & Tourism | Cities

COVID-19: pandemic impacts on Latin American city tourism

Economists

Sarah-Jane Trimble
Economist

Kieran Ferran
Senior Economist

Helen McDermott
Director of
Global Forecasting
Tourism Economics

An estimated 11 million fewer domestic visitors will travel to Latin American cities in 2020.

Key points

- The COVID-19 global pandemic has led to one of the largest global crises since the second world war. The spread of the virus spans 185 countries, many of which have implemented a range of measures to slow the spread, at a cost of major disruption to the global economy and to global travel.
- Inbound arrivals to Latin America are expected to decline 38% in 2020, with a loss of 28mn visitors compared to 2019.
- Collectively, Latin American city visitor arrivals are forecast to decline 38% in 2020 compared to 2019, equating to a loss of 7mn visitors for the 24 cities included in our GCT service.
- Latin American cities have a lower dependency on long-haul tourists than those in many other regions, which should facilitate a faster recovery. Tourist sentiment towards international travel has been dealt a significant blow by the outbreak of the coronavirus and is likely to take longer to recover than domestic tourism.
- The declines in the 15 largest Latin American city destinations for international visitor arrivals represent a decline of more than 6mn visitors compared to 2019, with the largest declines in Lima (1.5mn), Santiago (1.1mn) and São Paulo (1.0mn).
- Domestic city visitor arrivals are forecast to decline 20% in 2020, a loss of 11 million visitors. Over 70% of total arrivals to Latin American cities are from domestic tourists, which should assist the inbound travel recovery to the region as domestic travel restrictions are lifted.

Decline in international Latin American city tourist arrivals (mn), 2019-2020



To access the full report, please follow this [link](#).

Contact: Sarah-Jane Trimble | sjtrimble@oxfordeconomics.com

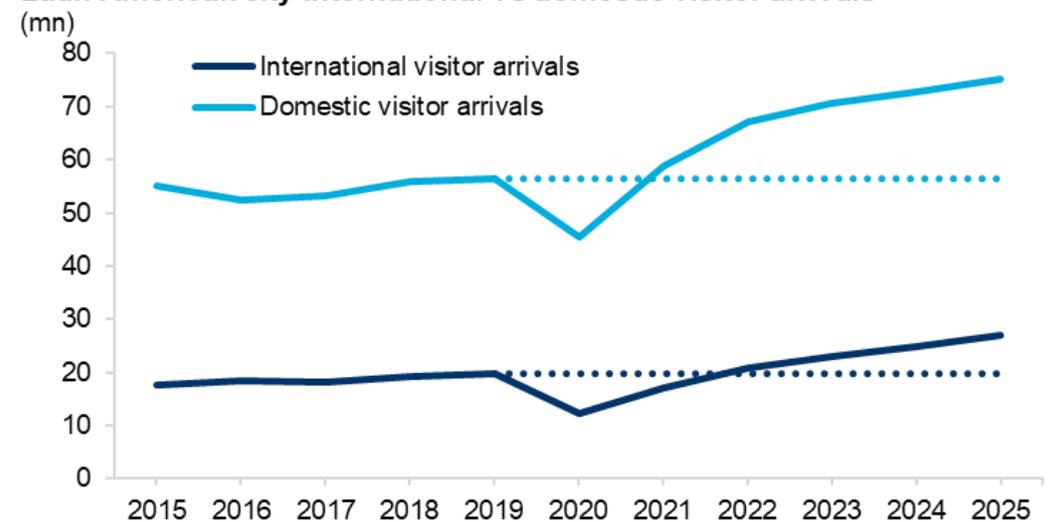
Impact on city inbound travel

Latin America is currently one of the lesser affected regions in the world from the coronavirus, although the number of cases are beginning to rise. However, Latin American cities (like elsewhere) will suffer a decline in international visitors in 2020. The largest drop in international arrivals is in Lima, with 1.5mn less visitors expected in 2020 compared to 2019. Six of the 11 Brazilian cities covered in GCT appear in the top 15 declines, with larger declines in Sao Paolo and Rio De Janeiro. International travel to Santiago is forecast to drop 43% in 2020, with the city's top three source markets (the US, Argentina and Brazil) accounting for over 65% of this decline in international visitor arrivals.

Recovery of city travel

Domestic visitor arrivals to Latin American cities will exceed 2019 levels by 2021, while the less severe spread of the virus in the region will allow a faster recovery in international arrivals than expected at the global level. International visitor arrivals are forecast to surpass 2019 levels in 2022.

Latin American city international vs domestic visitor arrivals



Source: Tourism Economics

On average, domestic visitor arrivals account for 73% of Latin American cities total visitor arrivals, while long-haul visitor arrivals account for on average, 24% of Latin American cities international arrivals.

International visitor arrivals to Latin American cities will surpass 2019 levels by 2022.