

CORONAVIRUS BRIEF

2 June 2020

LATEST FIGURES

- As of 2 June, there have been 6,273,402 reported cases. There have been 375,683 deaths and 2,697,873 recoveries. The [linked tracker](#) provides the latest figures.
- The fatality rate on the basis of reported cases is 6%
- Over 67% of cases are in 10 countries alone, notably the US, Brazil, Russia the UK, Spain, Italy, India, France, Germany and Peru
- According to the WHO, the pandemic is accelerating. It took 67 days from the first reported case to reach the first 100,000 cases, 11 days for the second 100,000, 4 days for the third 100,000 and just 2 days for the fourth 100,000. Billions of people have been asked to stay at home. To date, the outbreak has spread to 188 countries, regions and territories.
- According to the WHO most recent research, 40% of cases are mild (requiring isolation), 40% are moderate (pneumonia) 15% are severe (patients needing oxygen therapy) and 5% are critical (patients requiring mechanical ventilation). Approximately 10-15% of mild/moderate cases become severe, and approximately 15-20% of severe cases become critical. Overall, COVID-19 is less infectious than influenza but leads to more serious illness and death.
- Comparing the Coronavirus to SARS (2003). For SARS there were 8,437 cases, 813 deaths. The fatality rate was 10%. Comparing the Coronavirus to MERS (2012). For MERS, there were 2,494 cases and 858 death. The fatality rate was 34.4%.
- The following [Travel Risk eMap from Deloitte](#) and the map from the [World Food Programme](#) both highlight Travel restrictions as well as outbreak countries in countries around the world.

IMPACT

- The impact of H1N1 (2009) on the global economy was estimated between \$45-\$55 billion. The costs of H1N1 on just the Mexican Travel & Tourism sector amounted to \$5 billion.
- The impact of SARS (2003) on the global economy was estimated between \$30-\$50 billion. China had a 25% reduction of its Travel & Tourism GDP as a result and experienced a loss of 2.8 million jobs. It took China's Travel & Tourism sector 16 months to recover to pre-crisis international arrivals levels. Coronavirus is more widespread in China in 2020 to date than the SARS virus in 2003.
- The latest research from WTTC estimates over 100 million jobs losses in the Travel & Tourism sector. The figure has increased by over 30% in the last four weeks. WTTC analysis also shows a sharp escalation in the economic loss to the world economy, up to \$2.7 trillion of GDP, from \$2.1 trillion just a month ago. WTTC also estimates that a staggering one million jobs are being lost every day in the Travel & Tourism sector due to the sweeping effect of the coronavirus pandemic. The Asia-Pacific region is expected to be most heavily impact with over 63 million potential jobs losses throughout the region, representing a loss of nearly \$1.04 trillion to Travel & Tourism GDP. The latest figures in Europe suggest that 13 million jobs in Travel & Tourism are at risk, totalling a loss of over \$708 billion. For North America, potential job losses could exceed 8.2 million and amount to over \$680 billion in total GDP losses.
- According to Oxford Economics (OE), the global impacts are expected to be greater than during SARS (2003), with significant impacts in more destinations due to a much greater reliance on Chinese Travel. In terms of international arrivals to China, Oxford Economics expects a decrease in international visits between 8.6 million and 24.2 million. This will translate into a fall in international spent ranging from \$25.6 billion to \$56.3 billion in 2020.
- [IATA](#) estimated 2020 global revenue losses will drop by \$314 billion, a 55% decline compared to 2019. Full year passenger demand (domestic and international) is expected to be down 48% compared to 2019. Airlines could burn through \$61 billion of cash reserves in the second quarter alone. That puts at risk 25 million jobs dependent on

aviation. IATA estimates that only 30 out of 300 airlines have enough liquidity to survive for more than 3 months and most airlines only have 2 months of liquidity. According to IATA, total passenger demand in March saw the biggest year on year decline in recent history, dropping by 53% globally and by 60% in Asia-Pacific. International passenger demand dropped by 55% overall.

- ACI estimates a reduction of more than 2 billion passengers globally in Q2 2020 and more than 4.6 billion passengers lost for all of 2020. The estimated decline in total global airport revenues is estimated to be \$39.2 billion in Q2 and more than \$97 billion for 2020.
- UNWTO estimates international tourist arrivals could decline by 1% to 3% in 2020 globally, down from a 3% to 4% growth estimated in early January. This would translate into an estimated loss of \$30-\$50 billion in international visitor spending in destinations (international tourism receipts). At the moment, the Asia-Pacific is expected to be the most affected region with a decrease of 9% to 12% in international tourist arrivals in 2020, down from 5% to 6% forecasted growth in early January. As of 18 May 2020, 75% of all world destinations have completely closed their borders to international tourism.
- Comparing 2019 figures to current data, STR found that hotel occupancy is down as much as 96% in Italy, 68% down in China, 67% down in the United Kingdom, 59% in the United States and 48% in Singapore.
- In less than 8 weeks, 83% of all world destinations have implemented travel restrictions.
- According to ICAO's latest forecasts, airlines may be faced with 1.5 billion fewer international air travellers in 2020. International seat capacity could drop by almost three-quarters, resulting in a \$273 billion loss compared to previously expected revenues. In March 2020, global international passenger capacity reduced by 49% and in April 2020, it is estimated to be experiencing an unprecedented 91% reduction. Europe and Asia-Pacific will be hardest hit by the capacity and revenue impacts, followed by North America. Europe will see the most substantial reduction in passenger numbers, especially during its peak summer travel season, followed by Asia-Pacific.

OUR RESEARCH

- We found that for outbreaks/disease cases, the average recovery time was 19.4 months to pre-crisis arrival levels. The range was 10 months to 34.9 months.
- The Travel & Tourism sector is becoming increasingly resilient. Our research (across the 4 types of crisis), shows that between 2001 and 2018, the months to recovery decreased from 26 months to 10 months on average. Here is the link to our [Crisis Readiness Report](#).

THE VIRUS & STAYING SAFE

- The WHO classified COVID-19 as a pandemic. The WHO believe that countries can contain COVID-19 and should not give up.
- COVID-19 is not SARS and it is not influenza. It is a new virus with its own characteristics. The COVID-19 virus is unique in its combination of high transmissibility, substantial fatal outcomes in some high-risk groups, and ability to cause huge societal and economic disruption. For planning purposes, it must be assumed that the global population is susceptible to this virus. As the animal origin of the COVID-19 virus is unknown at present, the risk of reintroduction into previously infected areas must be constantly considered.
- COVID-19 is transmitted via droplets and fomites during close unprotected contact between an infector and infectee. Airborne spread has not been reported for COVID-19 and it is not believed to be a major driver of transmission based on available evidence; however, it can be envisaged if certain aerosol-generating procedures are conducted in health care facilities.
- Early data suggests that COVID-19 may be 2-3 times as contagious as the flu. (Oliver Wyman, 19 March Update)
- The vast majority of cases arise from close contacts of symptomatic cases; 1-5% of 38,000 close contacts develop COVID-19. Transmission in most settings is driven by family-clusters (i.e. 75-85% of clusters). WHO has found no examples of children transmitting to adults.

- [Typical signs and symptoms](#) include: fever (87.9%), dry cough (67.7%), fatigue (38.1%), sputum production (33.4%), shortness of breath (18.6%), sore throat (13.9%), headache (13.6%), myalgia or arthralgia (14.8%), chills(11.4%), nausea or vomiting (5.0%), nasal congestion (4.8%), diarrhoea (3.7%), and haemoptysis (0.9%), and conjunctival congestion (0.8%).
- Individuals at highest risk for severe disease and death include people aged over 60 years and those with underlying conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease and cancer.
- The disease in children appears to be relatively rare and mild with approximately 2.4% of the total reported cases reported amongst individuals aged under 19 years.
- Proactive and swift mitigation measures, including social distancing, are critical to control the spread and reduce the overall burden on the healthcare system, i.e. flattening the curve, as 15-20% of confirmed cases require hospitalisation. (Oliver Wyman, 19 March Update)
- Mortality increases with age: i. over 80: 14.8%; ii. 70-79: 8.8%, 60-69: 3.9%, iv. 50-59: 1.3%, v. 40-49: 0.4%, vi. 30-39: 0.2%, vii. 20-29: 0.2%, viii. 10-19: 0.2%, ix. 0-9: 0.0%.
- People with COVID-19 generally develop signs and symptoms, including mild respiratory symptoms and fever, on an average of 5-6 days after infection (mean incubation period 5-6 days, range 1-14 days).
- WHO recommends that if individuals feel unwell, they should self-isolate and self-monitor to avoid possible transmission.
- WHO has developed [guidance](#) for employers on COVID-19 prevention. The WHO recommends among other things to keep workplaces clean and hygienic, promote regular and thorough handwashing, promote good respiratory hygiene, advise those who are sick to stay at home; ensure surfaces are wiped with disinfectant regularly and put sanitising hand rub dispensers in prominent places around the workplace.
- WHO standard recommendations for travellers and the general public to reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses including frequent hand cleaning, covering mouth and nose with flexed elbow when sneezing or coughing, avoid close contact with anyone who has a fever and cough, avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals as well as the consumption of raw or undercooked animal products. [Here is the WHO FAQ](#). People with no respiratory symptoms, such as a cough, do not need to wear a medical mask. WHO recommends the use of masks for people who have symptoms of COVID-19 and for those caring for individuals who have symptoms. WHO advises rational use of medical masks to avoid unnecessary wastage of precious resources and mis-use of masks.

BEST PRACTICES FROM PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES

- **No one stakeholder group can do it on its own- Public Private Collaboration is Key:** The increasing intricacy and interconnectedness of global events requires governments to work with the private sector so as to improve their preparedness to mitigate the impact of crises, their management to effectively address the crisis as well as enhance their responsiveness to ensure a speedy recovery.
- **Fear and panic-** Margaret Chan, Former Director General of the WHO, stated that 90% of economic losses during any outbreaks arise from the uncoordinated and irrational efforts of the public to avoid infection. In this context, it is essential to enhance coordination and cooperation to make sure people are safe.
- **Countries learn from their own experiences and strong policies and those of others-** The SARS outbreak brought China virtually to a standstill, forcing the country to thoroughly review its infectious disease control policies. Since then, the Chinese government has implemented new and innovative strategies, strengthened the related aspects of the legal system and the disease prevention and control system, and made substantial investments to improve infrastructures, surveillance systems, and emergency preparedness and response capacity, such as the development of a real-time monitoring system that is now serving as a model for worldwide surveillance and response to infectious disease threats. The world has moved on since the SARS epidemic, but the insights gained in mainland China remain valuable, with comparable infectious disease threats presenting continuously.
- **Educate People to Reduce Fear:** Misperceptions, particularly relating to geography, still occur often. For instance, one public misconception was that the entire African continent (54 countries) was affected by Ebola while the outbreak was limited to Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. This was also an issue for California when the public believed that “California” was on fire during the wildfires of 2018 when it affected just 1% of the State’s geography.

- **Ensuring Business Continuity is Key:** As a result of COVID-19, millions of Travel & Tourism related businesses, including SMEs which account for 80% of the sector, are suffering from rapid and significant falls in cash flow and revenues, putting companies and their employees at risk. In Japan for instance, a number of accommodation businesses and bus operators are going into bankruptcy as a result of tour cancellations from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea as well as domestic travellers. Depending on the evolution of COVID-19, there could be a larger number of industry players and SMEs going out of business and consequently an enormous number of employees and their families who lose their income. Japan's federal and local government has put in place emergency finance to support affected businesses, as well as providing subsidies for employment adjustment.

KEY TALKING POINTS

- **A Global Challenge:** This is no longer a challenge of individual countries, but rather a global issue. All countries are interconnected and need to be part of the solution. We are in uncharted territory and the Travel & Tourism sector is uniquely exposed and is in a fight for survival. We estimate that over 100 million jobs globally will be lost in 2020 as a result of COVID-19.
- **The public and private sectors alike should avoid disproportional reactions** which may affect the economic health of a destination. In this context, a fact-based approach from trusted authorities such as WHO to decision-making is essential. The WHO believes that containment is possible.
- **Balancing Personal Health and Economic Health:** This is not only a global health emergency, but a global economic emergency. Measures are taking a heavy toll on societies and economies. There is a need to strike a balance between protecting health, economies and human rights.
- **Do Not Stigmatize:** WTTC supports the recommendation of WHO, cautioning against actions that promote stigma and discrimination.
- **The Need for Government Support:** While the Travel & Tourism sector is resilient, it is facing an unprecedented threat requiring governments to take immediate action to help ensure the survival of this critical sector which supports the livelihoods of millions of people and their families.
- **Vital Measures:** WTTC proposes three vital measures to support Travel & Tourism in the turbulent months ahead. First, financial help must be granted to protect the incomes of the millions of workers in severe difficulty. Second, government must extend vital, unlimited interest-free loans to global Travel & Tourism companies as well as the millions of small and medium-sized businesses as a stimulus to prevent them from collapse. Third, all governments dues and financial demands on the Travel & Tourism sector need to be waived with immediate effect for at least the next 12 months.
- **Going the Extra Mile:** Despite the dire situation of the Travel & Tourism sector, WTTC Member organisations are going the extra mile to help their communities to overcome and combat COVID-19- from offering free accommodation to more than a million healthcare workers (Hilton with AMEX), and making available their ships to act as floating hospitals (Carnival) to offering free flights to medical personnel or to transport medical supplies (United and Iberia) and donating millions of surgical masks across the world (Trip.com)
- **As Dr. Tedros, the Director-General of the WHO stated, "This is the time for facts, not fear. This is the time for science, not rumours. This is the time for solidarity, not stigma. We are all in this together".**

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