Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts

The 2018 to 2021 revisions of the National Tourism Indicators



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The 2018 to 2021 revisions of the National Tourism Indicators

1. Introduction

With the release of the fourth quarter 2021 estimates of the National Tourism Indicators (NTI) in March 2022, data were revised from the first quarter of 2018 to the third quarter of 2021. Estimates for all of 2021, including the fourth quarter, were also revised with the release of the NTI first quarter of 2022 estimates in July 2022. This article explains the impact of the new and revised Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts (CSMA) data introduced during these revisions of the NTI.

Between 2018 and 2021, tourism spending in nominal terms was revised up for all years. Revisions were largest in 2018 and 2019, up \$0.7 and \$0.8 billion respectively, and smaller in 2020, \$0.3 billion, as well as 2021, \$0.1 billion.

The growth rate of tourism spending (in nominal terms) was revised up from +5.6% to +6.4% in 2018, +2.9% to +3.0% in 2019, and +10.4% to +10.7% in 2021. Only 2020, which saw the largest decline in tourism spending on record as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic had its growth rate revised down. This revision was from -49.7% to -49.8%.

On a quarterly basis, between the first quarter of 2018 and the fourth quarter of 2021, growth in tourism spending (in real terms) was revised up in eight quarters, down in five quarters and unchanged in three quarters (see Table 1.2).

2. Sources of revisions

The revisions to the NTI came from new and revised indicators from the CSMA and indirectly from the 2018 Supply and Use Tables (SUT). These revisions are described below.

2.1 Revisions to the Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts

The regular annual revisions to household final consumption expenditure, to gross domestic product (GDP) by industry and to the balance of payments for the period 2018 to 2020 in November 2021 led to quarterly updates to NTI estimates for this period. Revisions to the same accounts for 2021 in May 2022 also led to quarterly updates to the NTI.

As a result of these revisions, new benchmark information from other sources, notably the Survey of Household Spending, as well as transportation, food services and drinking places and accommodation industry surveys, were brought into the NTI indirectly. This affected the NTI quarterly movements and annual levels for all open years (2018 to 2021).

2.2 Supply and Use Tables, 2018

The 2018 SUT benchmarks released in November 2021 were used to benchmark indicators throughout the CSMA, leading to revisions to quarterly supply, demand, GDP and employment of the NTI from the first quarter of 2018 to the fourth quarter of 2021.

3. Impact of revisions on the National Tourism Indicators

3.1 Revisions to components of tourism demand (nominal terms)

Annual revisions to the components of tourism demand (in nominal terms) varied. On average during the four-year period, the largest contributor to the upward revision was other tourism goods and services (e.g. recreation and entertainment, pre-trip expenses and travel services) (see Table 2). Despite experiencing a slight downward revision in 2021, other tourism goods and services was revised up an average of \$0.3 billion across all years, primarily due to upward revisions to pre-trip expenses.

Accommodation services was revised up an average of \$0.2 billion, with the bulk of the increase in 2018 and 2019. Food and beverage services was revised up an average of \$0.1 billion over the period, will all years seeing similar increases.

Downward revisions to transportation services partially offset the upward revisions to tourism demand between 2018 and 2020. In 2021, transportation services was revised up \$0.1 billion.

3.2 Revisions to components of tourism demand (growth rates in real terms)

Annual growth rates of tourism spending (in real terms) were revised up 0.3 percentage points in both 2018 and 2021 and were virtually unchanged in 2019 and 2020 (see Table 3).

Transportation services was the only component to be revised down in 2018 and 2019, going from +4.8% to +4.6% and +1.4% to +1.2% respectively. The growth rate for tourism demand in transportation was unchanged in 2020, at -58.8%, and revised up 0.5 percentage points in 2021, to -5.4%.

Accommodation services and food and beverage services had upwards revisions in 2018 and 2019. Accommodation services was revised down in 2020 while food and beverage services was unchanged. In 2021, the growth rate was revised down from +16.8% to +16.4% for accommodation and brought up from +13.3% to +13.7% for food and beverage services.

Growth in other tourism goods and services was revised down 0.4 percentage points to +4.0% in 2021, while non-tourism goods and services was revised up 1.1 percentage points to +5.1%.

3.3 Revisions to employment generated by tourism demand

Tourism employment was revised up in all open years (2018 to 2021) (see Table 4). The largest revision to tourism employment was 2019, going from 692,000 to 696,400, with transportation and accommodation being the largest contributors to the change. By contrast, 2021 had the smallest revision, with a previously published 498,500 increasing to 498,900.

Tourism employment in transportation was revised up an average of two thousand jobs across all years, the most of any component. Upward revisions in the number of tourism jobs over the period for transportation, accommodation, and food and beverage services were partially offset by downward revisions in other tourism industries and non-tourism industries

Growth in tourism employment was revised up 0.4 and 0.2 percentage points in 2018 and 2019 respectively, down 0.3 percentage points in 2020 and up 0.1 percentage points in 2021.

Growth rates of tourism employment in transportation were revised up from 2018 to 2020, and was virtually unchanged in 2021. Other tourism industries and non-tourism industries had the largest downward revisions to growth rates over the revision period. Food and beverage services was the only component to have all growth rates within 0.4 percentage points of previously published estimates.

3.4 Revisions to tourism gross domestic product (growth rates in real terms)

Tourism GDP annual growth rates were revised up in 2018, 2019, and 2021, and revised down in 2020 (see Table 6). The mean absolute revision was 0.4 percentage points. In 2021, tourism GDP was revised up 0.3 percentage points to an increase of +5.3%.

Non-tourism industries had the widest range of revisions with 2018 being revised up 1.8 percentage points to 2020 being revised down 3.5 percentage points. Revisions in 2018 were primarily due to the incorporation of the SUT data. In 2020, larger revisions were expected due to volatility produced by the COVID-19 pandemic as indicators were revised with the incorporation of newly available data sources.

4. National Tourism Indicators revision policy

The NTI revision policy allows for regular incorporation of new and revised data, including regular benchmarking to the Provincial and Territorial Tourism Satellite Account (PTTSA). Revisions to the NTI are the result of new or revised data in the core economic accounts. The revision policy serves to improve the reliability and accuracy of the NTI time series estimates. It is consistent with the policy followed for the CSMA, which governs four types of revisions: current, annual, comprehensive, and updating to a new base year (currently 2012). Each of these are described below.

During the current reference year, estimates for any quarter are subject to revision at any subsequent quarter within the same year. For instance, a first-quarter estimate is revised on the release of the second-, third-, and fourth- quarter estimates for the same year. These are called current revisions, and allow improvements to estimates through the incorporation of the most up-to-date information available (including revisions to source data as a result of late reporting).

At the time of a first- and fourth-quarter releases, all estimates for a given number of years back from the current year are subject to revision. These annual revisions allow for the incorporation of the most up-to-date information from censuses, annual surveys, taxation statistics, public accounts, etc., which become available well after the fact. The number of years open to revision mirror the CSMA revision for that year. Furthermore, when a new set of PTTSA benchmarks is incorporated into the NTI, the revision period is extended back to the previous PTTSA. Thus, the window for revision in the NTI varies according to the frequency of PTTSA updates and any revisions to standard macroeconomic indicators in that year.

Estimates are also subject to periodic comprehensive revisions mainly to introduce new concepts, implement refined methods, and incorporate newly available data sources. Comprehensive revisions typically result in changes to the entire time series.

Updating of estimates in real terms to a new reference year (currently 2012), as with the third quarter 2018 release of the NTI, is normally carried out every five years. Updating of constant price series is done to remove bias in measures of inflation-adjusted growth as relative prices in the economy evolve away from those of the base year. Updating of constant price series involves revisions to only price indices and constant price aggregates, leaving aggregates at current prices unaffected.

Table 1.1
Revisions to tourism demand, not seasonally adjusted at current prices

	Revised estimate ¹	Previous estimate ²	Revision ³	Revision ⁴	Revised estimate ¹	Previous estimate ²	Revision ³
	mil	lions of dollars		%	% change, yea	r-to-year	% points
First quarter 2018	19,354	19,240	114	0.6	6.5	5.8	0.6
Second quarter 2018	24,394	24,217	177	0.7	6.6	5.8	0.8
Third quarter 2018	36,685	36,451	234	0.6	6.7	6.0	0.7
Fourth quarter 2018	21,675	21,496	179	0.8	5.4	4.5	0.9
First quarter 2019	20,259	20,096	163	0.8	4.7	4.4	0.2
Second quarter 2019	25,313	25,111	202	0.8	3.8	3.7	0.1
Third quarter 2019	37,401	37,163	238	0.6	2.0	2.0	0.0
Fourth quarter 2019	22,165	21,989	176	0.8	2.3	2.3	0.0
First quarter 2020	17,817	17,753	64	0.4	-12.1	-11.7	-0.4
Second quarter 2020	8,149	8,094	55	0.7	-67.8	-67.8	0.0
Third quarter 2020	16,802	16,666	136	0.8	-55.1	-55.2	0.1
Fourth quarter 2020	10,024	9,944	80	0.8	-54.8	-54.8	0.0
First quarter 2021	9,057	8,973	84	0.9	-49.2	-49.6	0.5
Second quarter 2021	11,793	11,789	4	0.0	44.7	44.7	0.0
Third quarter 2021	22,533	22,598	-65	-0.3	34.1	34.5	-0.4
Fourth quarter 2021	15,049	14,948	101	0.7	50.1	49.1	1.0

^{1.} Revised estimates for 2018 to 2020 were released in March 2022. Revised estimates for 2021 were released in July 2022.

Source: Statistics Canada, "The 2018 to 2021 revisions of the National Tourism Indicators", Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts (13-605-X), 2022.

^{2.} The previous estimates for 2018 to 2020 were released in June 2021. The previous estimates for 2021 were released in March 2022.

^{3.} The revision is the revised estimate minus the previous estimate.

^{4.} The percentage revision is the revision as a percentage of the previous estimate.

Table 1.2
Revisions to tourism demand at constant prices, seasonally adjusted at 2012 constant prices

	Revised estimate ¹	Previous estimate ²	Revision ³	
	% change, pred	% change, preceding quarter		
First quarter 2018	0.5	0.4	0.1	
Second quarter 2018	1.2	1.1	0.2	
Third quarter 2018	1.4	1.3	0.1	
Fourth quarter 2018	-0.2	-0.3	0.1	
First quarter 2019	0.3	0.4	-0.1	
Second quarter 2019	0.4	0.4	0.0	
Third quarter 2019	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	
Fourth quarter 2019	0.2	0.3	0.0	
First quarter 2020	-14.2	-14.2	0.0	
Second quarter 2020	-66.0	-65.9	-0.2	
Third quarter 2020	54.9	54.7	0.1	
Fourth quarter 2020	-2.9	-3.2	0.3	
First quarter 2021	-0.5	-0.7	0.2	
Second quarter 2021	5.0	5.2	-0.1	
Third quarter 2021	28.9	29.3	-0.4	
Fourth quarter 2021	9.8	8.7	1.1	

^{1.} Revised estimates for 2018 to 2020 were released in March 2022. Revised estimates for 2021 were released in July 2022.

Source: Statistics Canada, "The 2018 to 2021 revisions of the National Tourism Indicators", Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts (13-605-X), 2022.

Table 2
Revisions to components of tourism demand at current prices

	Revised estimate ¹	Previous estimate ²	Revision ³	Revision ⁴
	mil	millions of dollars		%
Transportation				
2018	38,973	39,033	-60	-0.2
2019	40,148	40,282	-134	-0.3
2020	15,904	16,004	-100	-0.6
2021	16,795	16,722	73	0.4
Accommodation				
2018	15,519	15,205	314	2.1
2019	16,020	15,635	385	2.5
2020	8,113	8,055	58	0.7
2021	9,712	9,787	-75	-0.8
Food and beverage services				
2018	15,685	15,633	52	0.3
2019	16,216	16,129	87	0.5
2020	9,285	9,235	50	0.5
2021	10,863	10,812	51	0.5
Other tourism goods and services	•	•		
2018	16,888	16,542	346	2.1
2019	17,218	16,867	351	2.1
2020	11,184	10,802	382	3.5
2021	12,115	12,139	-24	-0.2
Total tourism goods and services				
2018	87,065	86,413	652	0.8
2019	89,602	88,913	689	0.8
2020	44,486	44,096	390	0.9
2021	49,485	49,460	25	0.1
Other goods and services	·			
2018	15,043	14,991	52	0.3
2019	15,536	15,446	90	0.6
2020	8,306	8,361	-55	-0.7
2021	8,947	8,848	99	1.1
Tourism expenditures				
2018	102,108	101,404	704	0.7
2019	105,138	104,359	779	0.7
2020	52,792	52,457	335	0.6
2021	58,432	58,308	124	0.2

^{1.} Revised estimates for 2018 to 2020 were released in March 2022. Revised estimates for 2021 were released in July 2022.

Source: Statistics Canada, "The 2018 to 2021 revisions of the National Tourism Indicators", Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts (13-605-X), 2022.

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^{4.} The percentage revision is the revision as a percentage of the previous estimate.

Table 3 Revisions to components of tourism demand (growth rates)

	Revised estimate ¹	Previous estimate ²	Revision ³	Revised estimate ¹	Previous estimate ²	Revision ³		
	CI	current prices			2012 constant prices			
	annual percenta	age change	% points	annual percenta	age change	% points		
Transportation								
2018	8.5	8.7	-0.2	4.6	4.8	-0.2		
2019	3.0	3.2	-0.2	1.2	1.4	-0.1		
2020	-60.4	-60.3	-0.1	-58.8	-58.8	0.0		
2021	5.6	5.1	0.5	-5.4	-6.0	0.5		
Accommodation								
2018	6.2	4.1	2.1	5.1	4.7	0.4		
2019	3.2	2.8	0.4	4.4	4.0	0.4		
2020	-49.4	-48.5	-0.9	-41.8	-40.6	-1.2		
2021	19.7	20.6	-0.9	16.4	16.8	-0.4		
Food and beverage services								
2018	5.0	4.7	0.3	1.3	1.0	0.3		
2019	3.4	3.2	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.2		
2020	-42.7	-42.7	0.0	-43.9	-43.9	0.0		
2021	17.0	16.4	0.5	13.7	13.3	0.5		
Other tourism goods and services								
2018	4.8	2.6	2.1	2.6	0.7	1.8		
2019	2.0	2.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.1		
2020	-35.0	-36.0	0.9	-36.2	-37.1	0.9		
2021	8.3	8.5	-0.2	4.0	4.5	-0.4		
Total tourism goods and services								
2018	6.7	5.9	0.8	3.7	3.3	0.4		
2019	2.9	2.9	0.0	1.4	1.4	0.0		
2020	-50.4	-50.4	0.1	-49.3	-49.3	0.0		
2021	11.2	11.2	0.1	4.5	4.4	0.1		
Other goods and services								
2018	4.3	3.9	0.4	2.7	2.6	0.1		
2019	3.3	3.0	0.2	0.9	0.8	0.1		
2020	-46.5	-45.9	-0.7	-46.9	-45.9	-1.0		
2021	7.7	6.5	1.2	5.1	4.1	1.1		
Tourism expenditures								
2018	6.4	5.6	0.7	3.6	3.2	0.3		
2019	3.0	2.9	0.1	1.3	1.3	0.0		
2020	-49.8	-49.7	-0.1	-49.0	-48.8	-0.1		
2021	10.7	10.4	0.2	4.6	4.4	0.3		

3. The revision is the revised estimate minus the previous estimate.

Source: Statistics Canada, "The 2018 to 2021 revisions of the National Tourism Indicators", Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts (13-605-X), 2022.

^{1.} Revised estimates for 2018 to 2020 were released in March 2022. Revised estimates for 2021 were released in July 2022.

2. The previous estimates for 2018 to 2020 were released in June 2021. The previous estimates for 2021 were released in March 2022.

Table 4 Revisions to employment generated by tourism

	Revised estimate ¹	Previous estimate ²	Revision ³	Revision ⁴	Revised estimate ¹	Previous estimate ²	Revision ³
	tho	thousands of jobs		 %	annual percentage change		% points
Transportation							
2018	80.6	78.4	2.2	2.7	0.6	-2.1	2.7
2019	83.3	80.3	3.0	3.7	3.4	2.5	0.9
2020	67.9	65.1	2.8	4.3	-18.5	-19.0	0.5
2021	57.0	57.1	-0.1	-0.1	-16.0	-15.9	-0.1
Accommodation							
2018	138.8	138.8	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	0.0
2019	142.9	140.5	2.3	1.7	2.9	1.3	1.7
2020	93.0	90.9	2.1	2.3	-34.9	-35.3	0.4
2021	95.9	95.8	0.1	0.1	3.1	3.0	0.1
Food and beverage services							
2018	226.4	225.5	0.8	0.4	1.3	0.9	0.4
2019	230.1	228.3	1.8	0.8	1.6	1.2	0.4
2020	154.4	153.4	0.9	0.6	-32.9	-32.8	-0.1
2021	167.0	166.9	0.1	0.1	8.2	8.1	0.1
Other tourism industries							
2018	111.2	111.6	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	0.1	-0.4
2019	111.7	113.0	-1.3	-1.2	0.4	1.3	-0.8
2020	78.6	79.6	-1.0	-1.2	-29.6	-29.5	-0.1
2021	76.3	76.3	0.0	0.0	-3.0	-3.0	0.0
Total tourism industries							
2018	556.9	554.3	2.6	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.5
2019	567.9	562.1	5.7	1.0	2.0	1.4	0.6
2020	393.8	389.0	4.9	1.2	-30.7	-30.8	0.2
2021	396.2	396.0	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.0
Other industries							
2018	127.7	127.3	0.4	0.3	1.1	0.8	0.3
2019	128.6	129.8	-1.3	-1.0	0.7	2.0	-1.3
2020	97.5	101.2	-3.7	-3.6	-24.2	-22.1	-2.1
2021	102.8	102.5	0.3	0.3	5.4	5.1	0.3
Tourism activities							
2018	684.6	681.6	3.0	0.4	1.0	0.6	0.4
2019	696.4	692.0	4.5	0.6	1.7	1.5	0.2
2020	491.3	490.1	1.2	0.2	-29.5	-29.2	-0.3
2021	498.9	498.5	0.4	0.1	1.6	1.5	0.1

Revised estimates for 2018 to 2020 were released in March 2022. Revised estimates for 2021 were released in July 2022.
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 The revision is the revised estimate minus the previous estimate.
 The percentage revision is the revision as a percentage of the previous estimate.
 Source: Statistics Canada, "The 2018 to 2021 revisions of the National Tourism Indicators", Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts (13-605-X), 2022.

Table 5 Revisions to tourism gross domestic product at current prices

	Revised estimate ¹	Previous estimate ²	Revision ³	Revision ⁴	Revised estimate ¹	Previous estimate ²	Revision ³
	mill	ions of dollars		 %	annual percenta	ge change	% points
Transportation							
2018	11,289	11,768	-479	-4.1	2.5	6.9	-4.4
2019	11,937	12,414	-477	-3.8	5.7	5.5	0.3
2020	3,499	3,608	-109	-3.0	-70.7	-70.9	0.2
2021	3,130	3,115	15	0.5	-10.5	-11.0	0.4
Accommodation							
2018	9,507	9,305	202	2.2	6.5	4.2	2.3
2019	10,013	9,751	262	2.7	5.3	4.8	0.5
2020	4,879	4,757	122	2.6	-51.3	-51.2	-0.1
2021	5,883	5,894	-11	-0.2	20.6	20.8	-0.2
Food and beverage services	·						
2018	7,048	6,976	72	1.0	5.8	4.7	1.1
2019	7,284	7,198	86	1.2	3.3	3.2	0.2
2020	4,181	4,131	50	1.2	-42.6	-42.6	0.0
2021	4,894	4,873	21	0.4	17.1	16.6	0.5
Other tourism industries							
2018	5,612	5,545	67	1.2	3.8	2.6	1.2
2019	5,797	5,705	92	1.6	3.3	2.9	0.4
2020	2,749	2,725	24	0.9	-52.6	-52.2	-0.3
2021	2,629	2,633	-4	-0.2	-4.4	-4.2	-0.1
Total tourism industries							
2018	33,456	33,594	-138	-0.4	4.5	5.0	-0.4
2019	35,031	35,068	-37	-0.1	4.7	4.4	0.3
2020	15,308	15,221	87	0.6	-56.3	-56.6	0.3
2021	16,536	16,515	21	0.1	8.0	7.9	0.1
Other industries							
2018	10,121	9,953	168	1.7	7.8	6.0	1.8
2019	10,208	10,037	171	1.7	0.9	0.8	0.0
2020	6,610	6,774	-164	-2.4	-35.2	-32.5	-2.7
2021	7,624	7,526	98	1.3	15.3	13.9	1.5
Tourism activities							
2018	43,577	43,547	30	0.1	5.3	5.2	0.1
2019	45,239	45,105	134	0.3	3.8	3.6	0.2
2020	21,918	21,995	-77	-0.4	-51.6	-51.2	-0.3
2021	24,160	24,041	119	0.5	10.2	9.7	0.5

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 The previous estimates for 2018 to 2020 were released in June 2021. The previous estimates for 2021 were released in March 2022.
 The revision is the revised estimate minus the previous estimate.
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 Source: Statistics Canada, "The 2018 to 2021 revisions of the National Tourism Indicators", Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts (13-605-X), 2022.

Table 6 Revisions to tourism gross domestic product at 2012 constant prices

	Revised estimate ¹	Previous estimate ²	Revision ³
	annual percenta	ge change	% points
Transportation			
2018	3.1	5.4	-2.3
2019	2.3	1.9	0.4
2020	-70.5	-70.9	0.4
2021	-13.3	-14.2	0.9
Accommodation			
2018	6.3	4.7	1.6
2019	6.7	5.7	1.0
2020	-43.8	-44.4	0.6
2021	17.0	16.4	0.6
Food and beverage services			
2018	2.1	1.0	1.1
2019	1.2	0.6	0.6
2020	-43.7	-43.7	0.0
2021	13.7	13.2	0.5
Other tourism industries			
2018	1.3	-0.1	1.4
2019	1.0	0.7	0.4
2020	-52.7	-52.7	0.0
2021	-7.1	-6.8	-0.3
Total tourism industries			
2018	3.5	3.3	0.1
2019	3.1	2.5	0.6
2020	-54.4	-54.9	0.5
2021	5.3	4.8	0.5
Other industries			
2018	2.6	0.8	1.8
2019	0.6	0.8	-0.2
2020	-34.6	-31.2	-3.5
2021	5.3	5.4	-0.1
Tourism activities			
2018	3.2	2.7	0.5
2019	2.5	2.1	0.4
2020	-49.6	-49.2	-0.4
2021	5.3	5.0	0.3

Revised estimates for 2018 to 2020 were released in March 2022. Revised estimates for 2021 were released in July 2022.
 The previous estimates for 2018 to 2020 were released in June 2021. The previous estimates for 2021 were released in March 2022.
 The revision is the revised estimate minus the previous estimate.

Source: Statistics Canada, "The 2018 to 2021 revisions of the National Tourism Indicators", Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts (13-605-X), 2022.