



المركز الإحصائي  
لدول مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية  
GCC-STAT



# Tourism statistics in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (GCC) In 2019

'Executive summary'

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An electronic copy of the publication is available on the center's website at the following link: <https://www.gccstat.org/ar/statistic/publications>

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## Introduction

In an effort of the GCC-STAT to enhance and support the GCC cooperation and joint work in many statistical areas including tourism statistics sector, which is one of the priority statistical areas outlined in strategic plan for the GCC joint statistical work program (2015-2020), that is consider as a significant contributor to measure economic growth and development of GCC countries , the provision of reliable and high quality statistical data required to reflect GCC countries as a unified economic and social bloc, as well as support decision-makers, policy-makers, researchers, planners and regional organizations in making and supporting their decisions based on them.

The preparation of this edition is a part of GCC-STAT efforts to keep up with the user needs for quick-easy statistical review summaries.

## Tourism Demand

### Inbound Tourism

#### The decline of inbound tourists arriving to GCC countries in 2019<sup>1</sup>

Statistics showed that in 2019, the total number of inbound tourists arriving to GCC countries totaled about 43.8 million tourists with annual decline rate of 0.3% during the period of 2015 to 2019.

Figure 1: The Number of inbound tourists arriving to GCC countries, 2015-2019  
(Million tourists)

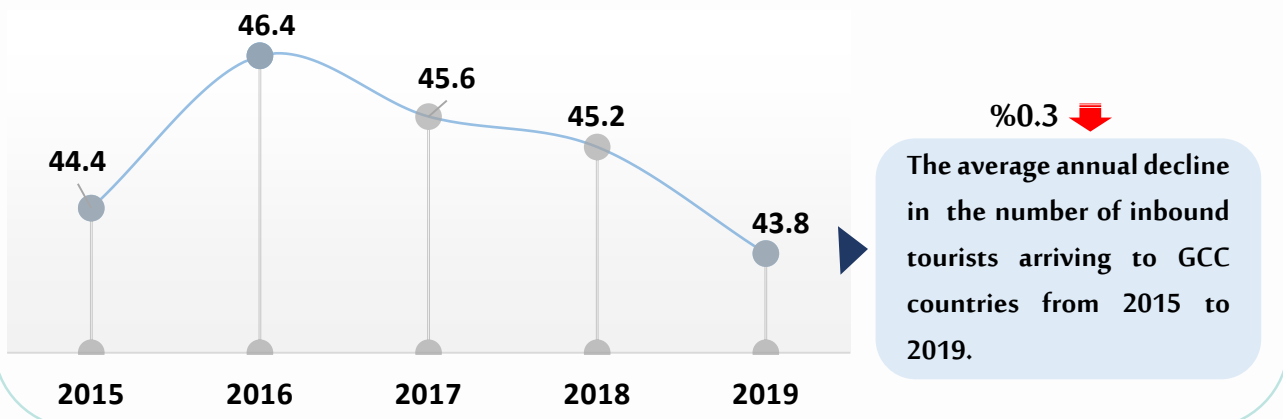
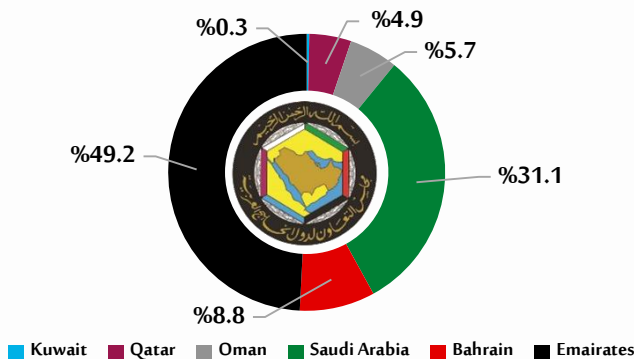


Figure 2: The percentage distribution (%) of the number of inbound tourists arriving to the GCC countries in 2019<sup>1</sup>



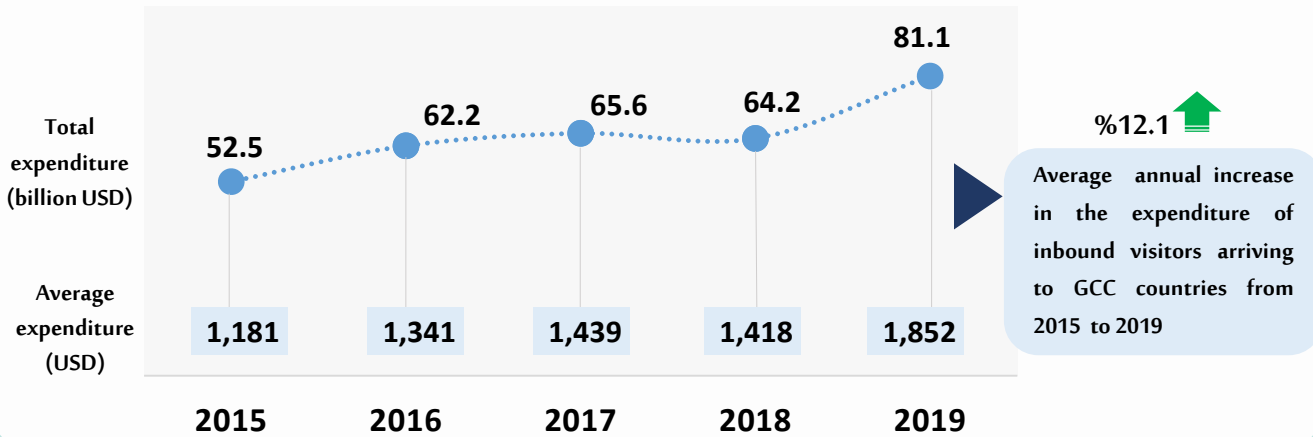
In view of percentage distribution of inbound tourists arriving to the GCC countries, 49.2% of tourists arrived in Emirates, 31.1% in Saudi Arabia, and 8.8% in Bahrain, while the remaining percentage was distributed among other GCC countries.

1- Data of Kuwait for the years 2018 and 2019 are 2017 data, which include data of tourists staying in hotels only

## Inbound tourism expenditure in the GCC countries increased to 81 billion USD<sup>1</sup>

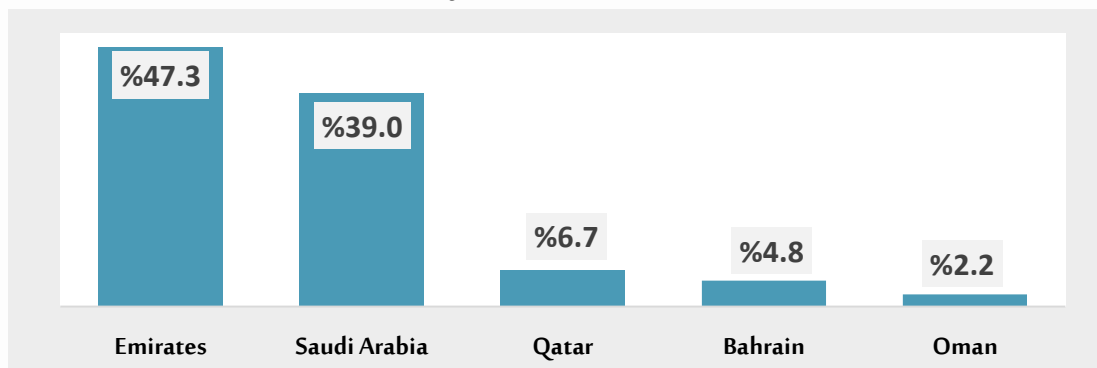
Inbound tourism expenditure recorded successive annual growth over the past years, as the total expenditure of visitors arriving to the GCC countries in 2019 reached about 81.1 billion USD, compared to 52.5 billion USD in 2015, with annual increase rate of 12.1%.

Figure 3: Expenditure of GCC countries inbound visitors, 2015-2019



The expenditure of visitors arriving to GCC countries in 2019 distributed by 47.3% in Emirates and 39.0% in Saudi Arabia , while the remaining percentage distributed among other member states.







Figure 4: The percentage distribution (%) of the expenditure of inbound visitors<sup>1</sup> arriving to GCC countries in 2019



## Mode of arrival <sup>1</sup>

The number of tourists arriving by air represented the highest percentage of the total number of tourists by 65.6%, followed by the number of tourists arriving by road at 33.6%, while the percentage of tourists arriving by sea to the GCC countries was about 0.8%.

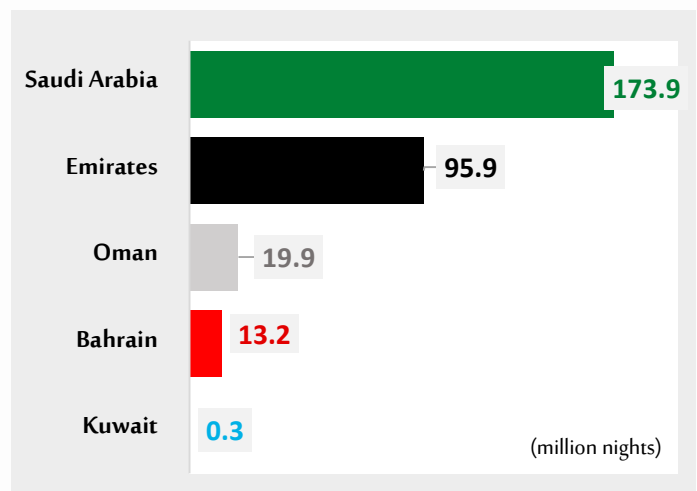
Figure 5: The percentage distribution (%) of inbound tourists arriving to GCC countries by mode of arrival ,2019

	 By air	 By road	 By sea
The percentage of the total number of mode of arrival	%65.6	%33.6	%0.8
Annual rate of change (2015-2019)	%0.5 	%8.9 	%34.4 

## Nights stay <sup>2</sup>

The total number of nights stay of tourists arriving to GCC countries in 2019 reported 303.2 million nights, 57.4% of which were concentrated in Saudi Arabia, and the remaining percentage was distributed among GCC countries.

Figure 6: Number of nights stay of inbound tourists arriving to the GCC countries, 2019



1- It does not include the data of Kuwait and Emirates, and the data of Qatar and Saudi Arabia for the year 2019 are 2018 data.

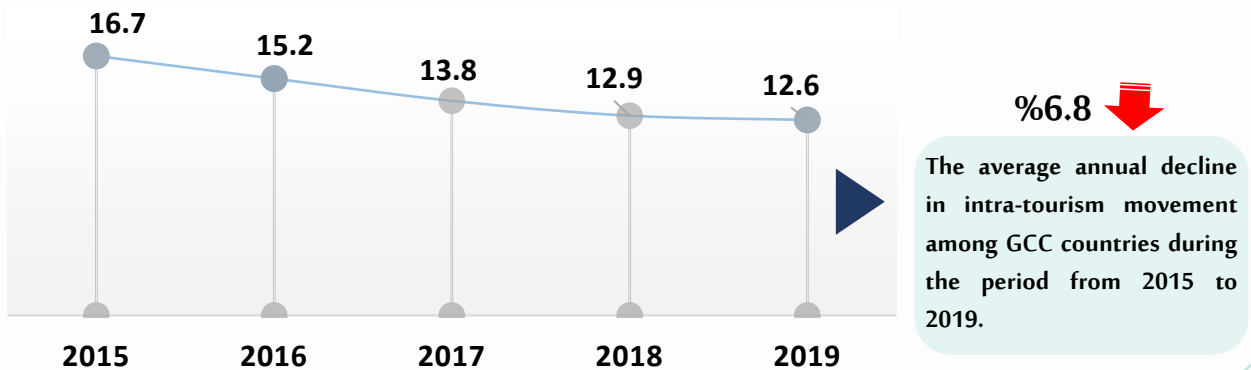
2- It does not include the data of Qatar, the data of Saudi Arabia for the year 2019 are 2018 data, Kuwait data for the year 2019 are 2017 data

## Intra-tourism among GCC countries <sup>1</sup>

The total number of intra-tourists among GCC countries in 2019 reached about 12.6 million, with annual decrease of 6.8% during the period from 2015 to 2019.

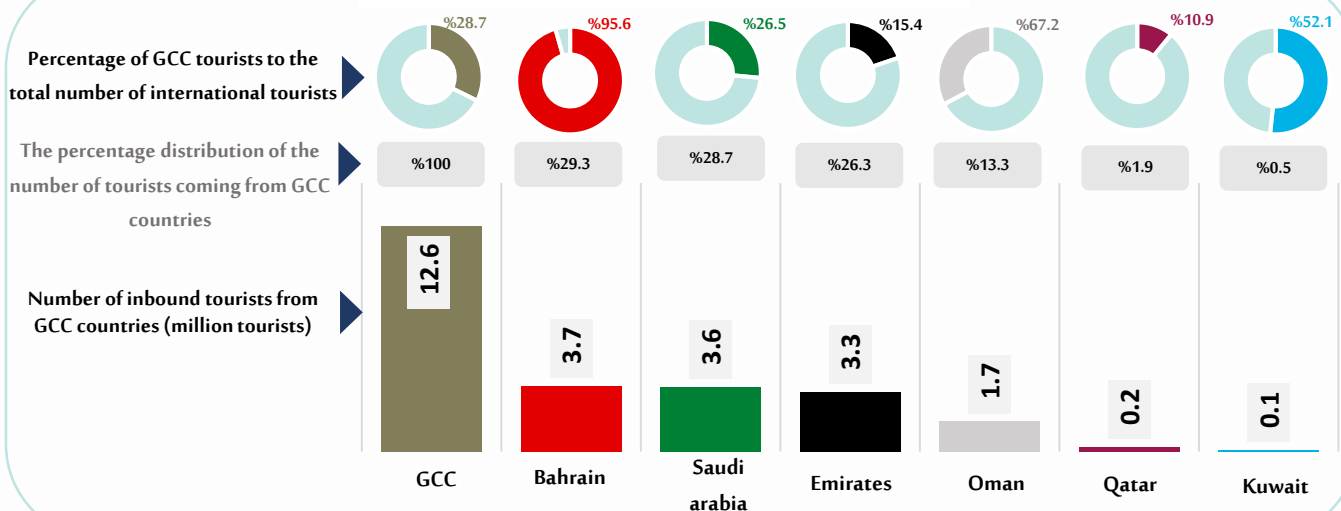
Figure 7: Intra-tourism movement among GCC countries, 2015-2019

(Million tourists)



The percentage of intra-tourism among GCC countries in 2019 reached around 28.7% of the total number of international tourists arriving to the GCC countries, and Bahrain recorded the highest rate in terms of receiving tourists from GCC countries by 95.6%.

Figure 8: Intra-tourism in GCC countries, 2019



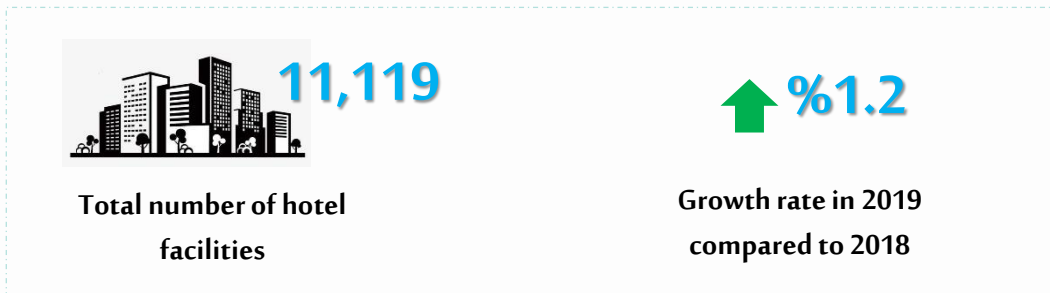
1- The State of Kuwait data for the years 2018 and 2019 are the data of 2017, which include the data of tourists staying in hotels only. Data of Saudi Arabia for the year 2019 are 2018 data.



## Tourism Supply

### Accommodation services<sup>1</sup>

Figure 9: Hotel facilities in the GCC countries in 2019



With regards to hotels distribution in the GCC countries in 2019, Saudi Arabia reported 9,101 hotel facilities whereas Emirates recorded 1,136, and the remaining number was distributed among other GCC countries.

Figure 10: Number of hotel facilities in GCC countries in 2019

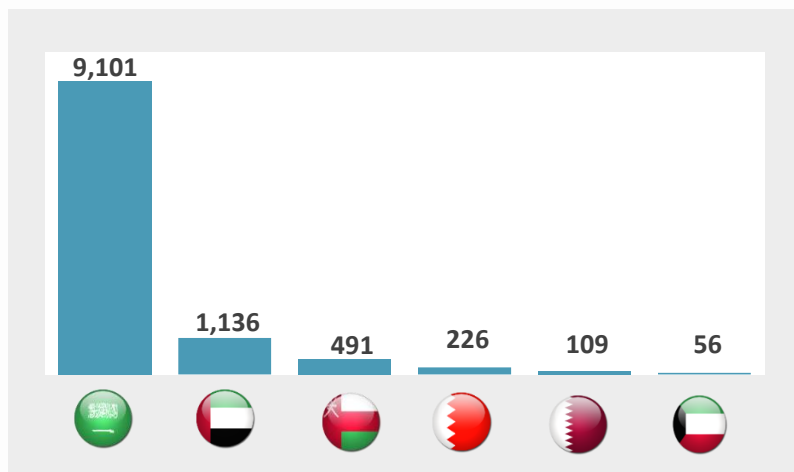


Figure 11: Hotel facilities rooms in the GCC countries in 2019



1- Data of Kuwait for the year 2019 are the data of 2017, the data of Saudi Arabia for the year 2019 are 2018 data.

## SOURCES:

- GCC Statistical Center (GCC-STAT)
- National statistical agencies in the GCC countries



Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre

<http://www.fcsc.gov.ae>



Information & eGovernment Authority, Kingdom of Bahrain

<http://www.cio.gov.bh>



General Authority for Statistics, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

<http://www.stats.gov.sa>



National Centre for Statistics and Information, Sultanate of Oman

<http://www.ncsi.gov.om>



Planning and Statistics Authority, State of Qatar

<http://www.qsa.gov.qa>



Central Statistical Bureau, State of Kuwait

<http://www.csb.gov.kw>



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