

€1 IN EVERY €7 IN SPAIN COMES FROM TOURISM

The Travel & Tourism sector contributed €1 in every €7, in the Spanish economy last year demonstrating the importance of the sector to the country.

This comes in a year in which Spain overtook the USA as the country with the second largest number of international visitor arrivals in a year (behind France).

These figures come from the World Travel & Tourism Council's (WTTC) annual review of the economic impact and social importance of the sector. The research conducted for almost 30 years by WTTC, which represents the global private sector of Travel & Tourism, shows that in 2018 the Spanish sector:

- Grew by 2.4% to contribute or €178 billion to the Spanish economy, or 14.6% of Spanish GDP
- Employed 2.8 million people, or 14.7% of all jobs
- Attracted 88% leisure seekers and 12% business travellers
- Saw a split of 55% vs. 45% in terms of international and domestic visitors
- Was the 5th largest tourism economy in the EU and 9th in the world in terms of total contribution to GDP

Looking forward to 2019, WTTC predicts the Spanish Travel & Tourism sector will grow by 2.8% - above the European average of 2.5%

Gloria Guevara, WTTC President & CEO, said: "2018 was another year of strong growth for the global Travel & Tourism sector reinforcing its role as a driver of economic growth and job creation. For the eighth consecutive year, our sector outpaced growth in the wider global economy and we recorded the second-highest growth of any major sector in the world.

"In Spain, consumer spending experienced robust growth and the Travel & Tourism sector performed well last year. Spain has the potential to increase the size of its travel economy even further by growing the size of its business tourism sector. At present, business travellers account for only 12% of all spending in Spain against a European average of 21%.

"It is fitting, then, that WTTC will be hosting its 2019 Global Summit in Seville this April, bringing together global leaders and sector experts to gather in the European hub of travel."

If you are a journalist, reporter, broadcaster or travel writer seeking editorial accreditation to attend the Global Summit, then please directly contact Chloe Wynne, Communications Executive, WTTC at Chloe.Wynne@wttc.org.

About the World Travel & Tourism Council

WTTC is the body which represents the Travel & Tourism private sector globally. Members consist of CEOs of the world's Travel & Tourism companies, destinations, and industry organisations engaging with Travel & Tourism.

WTTC has a history of 25 years of research to quantify the economic impact of the sector in 185 countries. Travel & Tourism is a key driver for investment and economic growth globally. The sector contributes US\$8.3 trillion or 10.4% of global GDP, and accounts for 313 million jobs or one in ten of all jobs on the planet.

For over 25 years, WTTC has been the voice of this industry globally. Members are the Chairs, Presidents and Chief Executives of the world's leading, private sector Travel & Tourism businesses, who bring specialist knowledge to guide government policy and decision-making and raise awareness of the importance of the sector.