



## Tourism Recovery Dampened by Omicron in Q1

- While starting to show signs of recovery, the pickup in international tourism activity in the Asia & Pacific region remained modest in 2022Q1 and limited to a small number of countries. International visitor arrivals were estimated to be 91 percent lower than the pre-pandemic levels in 2022Q1, a slight improvement compared to the previous quarter (Figure 1). With the emergence of the Omicron variant at the end of 2021, the region witnessed a surge in COVID cases during the first three months of 2022 (Figure 2). This delayed efforts to reopen international borders and relax travel restrictions, especially in the Pacific region (Figure 3).

- Countries that managed to reopen borders and ease entry requirements have observed some recovery in international tourism. **Maldives**, one of the first countries in Asia to reopen for tourists, witnessed a return to pre-pandemic tourism levels in 2021Q4. However, the country suffered from a 11 percent drop in tourist arrivals in 2022Q1 compared to the same period in 2019, partially due to the Omicron wave and impact of the Ukraine-Russia war. Meanwhile, **Sri Lanka** has seen a marked improvement in tourist inflows since end 2021, with the resumption of visa-on-arrival and easing of entry restrictions. **Fiji** also observed a resurgence of visitor arrivals since reopening borders in December 2021 and relaxing restrictions in 2022Q1. Tourism activity in **India** has continued to recover gradually with further relaxation in travel guidelines. Other tourism destinations in the region also scaled back travel restrictions for vaccinated tourists during 2022Q1: **Cambodia** resumed visa-on-arrival and waived testing requirements; and **Thailand** reduced quarantine measures.

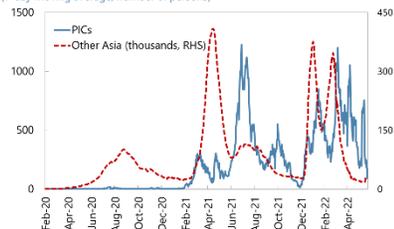
- The recovery in Asia & Pacific tourism activity is expected to continue and become more broad-based as low COVID cases and increased vaccination encourage more countries to reduce travel restrictions. Several Asian countries have further relaxed testing and quarantine requirements for tourists in early 2022Q2, including Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand. Helped by rising vaccination rates, some countries in the Pacific region are also expected to reopen international borders in 2022H2 (Figure 4). However, the pace of tourism recovery in the Asia Pacific region remains uncertain, given the weak global economic outlook and high oil prices.

Figure 1: International Visitor Arrivals by Destination Country (% change from same quarter in 2019; latest available official data and tracking estimates. Blanks = insufficient data.)

	2020				2021				2022
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
<b>Asia &amp; Pacific Region</b>	-30	-98	-98	-97	-96	-96	-96	-92	-91
<b>Pacific Island Countries</b>	-23	-99	-99	-99	-98	-99	-99	-93	-82
Fiji	-19	-99	-99	-99	-98	-99	-100	-89	-72
Micronesia	-24	-97	-95	-95	-94	-98	-98	-100	-100
Palau	-31	-100	-99	-100	-99	-98	-88	-92	-94
Marshall Islands	-21	-99	-99	-100	-97	-98	-99	-100	-100
Samoa	-36	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100
Solomon Islands	-32	-99	-97	-99	-98	-97	-100	-95	-95
Tonga	-41	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100
Tuvalu	-12	-100	-100	-100	-97	-98	-99	...	...
Vanuatu	-2	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100
Kiribati	-35	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100
<b>Rest of Asia &amp; Pacific</b>	-30	-98	-97	-97	-96	-96	-96	-93	-91
Cambodia	-38	-98	-96	-97	-96	-98	-98	-96	-72
India	-22	-99	-97	-94	-90	-94	-89	-77	-95
Indonesia	-29	-88	-89	-88	-91	-90	-92	-89	-95
Korea	-47	-98	-96	-96	-95	-95	-94	-94	-93
Maldives	-21	-100	-95	-66	-38	-44	-7	0	-11
New Zealand	-20	-99	-98	-99	-99	-81	-95	-99	-97
Philippines	-37	-100	-98	-98	-99	-99	-98	-97	...
Singapore	-3	-100	-100	-99	-98	-99	-99	-97	-91
Sri Lanka	-32	-100	-100	-100	-99	-97	-94	-71	-61
Thailand	-38	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-97	-95
Vietnam	-18	-99	-99	-99	-99	-99	-99	-99	-98

Note: Official data is not available for Tonga in 2022Q1 and Kiribati in 2021Q4 and 2022Q1. The data is replaced with -100 percent as the two countries have not reopened their borders (as of June 2022).

Figure 2: Daily Confirmed COVID-19 Cases (7-day moving average, number of persons)



Sources: John Hopkins University, and Our World in Data.

Figure 3: International travel controls

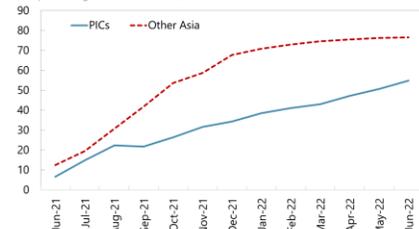
(Simple average of country indices, 0=no measures, 1=screening, 2=quarantine arrivals from high risk regions, 3=Ban on high risk regions, 4=total border closure)



Note: Updated by June 4th, 2022. Sources: Our World in Data.

Figure 4: Share of Total Population Fully Vaccinated

(Simple average across countries)



Note: Data as of June 20, 2022. Source: Our World in Data.