

MAIN REVISION OF TOURISM STATISTICS

Explanatory Note

TurkStat Directorate of International Trade Statistics

27.10.2022

In this document; studies on the main revision carried out in cooperation with the Turkish Statistical Institute, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Council of Higher Education, the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye and the Interbank Card Center for the improvement of tourism statistics are summarized. Within the scope of the revision, new data sources were integrated into the system and methodological improvements were made. The effect of the revision was reflected to the system as of 2012, depending on the availability of data.

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BKM: Interbank Card Center

VAT: Value Added Tax

MoCT: Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Culture and Tourism

CBRT: Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye

Introduction

Tourism statistics are one of the most basic indicators of the economy and one of the important inputs of the balance of payments and national accounts system. Since 2001, these statistics have been estimated by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) via surveys. These surveys are carried out in certain periods and at certain border gates. Expenditures are calculated for foreigners leaving our country, citizens residing abroad and citizens leaving abroad.

International methodology is used in tourism statistics. The main source on this subject is the United Nations' Manual for Tourism Statistics (International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008).

The development in the socio-economic structure of the world has also increased the tourism activities, and the need for faster and higher quality information has emerged due to its effects on sectors such as education and health. In this context, a need for revision has arisen in order to increase the use of administrative records for faster and higher quality calculation of tourism statistics, to integrate new data sources and research results into the system, and to reflect methodological improvements.

All countries regularly revise statistics that they produce for two main reasons:

Routine revision; this revision is realized by reflecting the subsequent or subsequently finalized data to the accounts.

The main revision is; this revision signifies the updates resulting from the base year changes, changes of classifications, definitions and coverage as well as change in the source data and in consequence of the legal amendments. In accordance with the revision policy, which is shared regularly with the public, as more information is obtained, there may be a need to update the estimates and review the previous estimates.

With the revision work carried out, methodological changes were made in the system, updated data sources were integrated into the system and the results of the new survey studies were reflected in the system in line with the purpose. The main revision work was carried out in cooperation with the Turkish Statistical Institute, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT), Council of Higher Education, Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye (CBRT) and Interbank Card Center (BKM).

The results of this revision will cause changes in the balance of payments statistics and accordingly in the national accounts system.

Part 1. Main reasons for revision in tourism statistics

Tourism statistics data published by TurkStat are compiled via surveys applied to visitors at border gates. In order to increase the quality of the data compiled through the surveys, alternative data sources were searched within the framework of the methodology. In the developing and changing world, administrative records should be kept consistent in order to provide the statistical needs. This has led to an update in the compilation methods of statistics.

With the increase in tourism activities and technological progress in the world, it has become important to calculate the income and expenditures required for the determination of tourism policies in a faster and high quality. Due to reasons such as the widespread use of international credit cards, the concentration in sectors such as education and health, and the increase in the use of information and communication technologies, studies are carried out to compile data from different sources.

TurkStat focused on studies to obtain data from different data sources. Within the scope of the revision;

• The Departing Visitor Survey will continue to be used with additional data sources and the regulation regarding the number of overnight stays in the package tour has been integrated,

- BKM credit card data has been integrated into the system,
- The results of the health tourism survey were used to obtain health tourism data,

• The results of the education tourism survey for the acquisition of educational tourism data and the fees paid by the students studying within the scope of the international student quota (Turkish, foreign) have been compiled and the results have been integrated,

• Studies were carried out on the use of BKM data for the determination of tourism expenditures.

Tourism, health tourism and educational tourism income were revised with the data obtained from new sources and methodological arrangements.

The explanations regarding the new method used in the calculation of tourism income within the scope of the tourism statistics revision are summarized as below.

1.1 Departing Visitors Survey

Departing Visitors Survey data will continue to be compiled and data from the survey will be used with additional data sources.

Current calculation method of tourism statistics

The Departing Visitors Survey, conducted within the scope of Tourism Statistics, has been carried out since 2001 within the scope of the protocol signed between TurkStat, the Central Bank the Republic of Türkiye, and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Foreigners leaving the border gates and citizens residing abroad (with a passport of the Republic of Türkiye) are included in the scope. The Departing Visitors Survey is conducted by the TurkStat regional directorates at 22 border gates, namely air, land, rail and sea. Information on the profile and travel characteristics of visitors, especially tourism expenditures (tourism income) is compiled.

According to the border figures of the General Directorate of Security of the previous year, field application is carried out at 22 border gates, where it is determined that approximately 90% of foreign visitors and citizens residing abroad. Children under the age of 15 are excluded. This work;

- In quarterly periods,
- Starting from 2021, with the monthly area application at specific gates,
- Face to face and in 26 languages,
- With a sample size of ‰5 (quota sampling)
- Estimates are made for 27 selected countries and 6 country groups.

Shuttle Trade Survey is conducted to calculate the value of the goods that foreigners who come to our country take abroad with them to sell. The Shuttle Trade Survey is conducted by face-to-face interview method at the border gates where shuttle is traded in the same period and dates as the Departing Visitors Survey.

In accordance with the international methodology, the rule of "residence" has started to be applied instead of "the basis of nationality" in the calculation of statistics. With this method, calculations were made based on the country of residence of the visitor. With this study, the data has been converted into compliance with international comparison. For example, Tunisians living in Germany, France or Tunisia, in the current calculation method were presented under the title of Tunisia. In the new dataset, departing visitors will be published according to their country of residence.

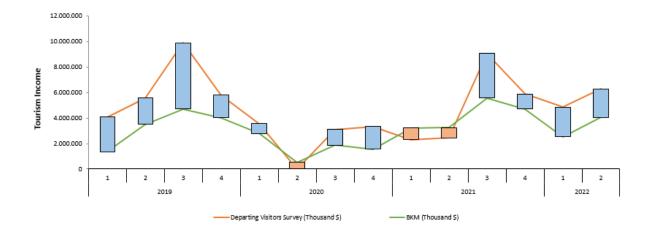
In the calculation of tourism income, compilations have been made using new data sources for package tour expenditures and have been updated in the relevant data since 2012.

1.2 Interbank Card Center Data

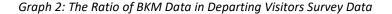
Within the scope of improving tourism statistics, BKM's data were examined. It has been evaluated that information such as the type of expenditure required for the calculation of tourism statistics, the country of the card, the country where the card is used, the way the card is used (physical and e-commerce) are available in BKM data. Regular flow of BKM data to our Institution has been ensured. Expenditures that are not subject to tourism and expenditures made within the scope of e-commerce are excluded from the scope by examining the data according to the types of expenditures. Classification study was carried out in order to set up residency rules of the card usage information of foreigners (resident) living in our country. Credit card expenditure figures, which are considered to be used by foreigners living in our country, are excluded from the calculation as they are not within the scope of tourism statistics due to the residency rule in the methodology.

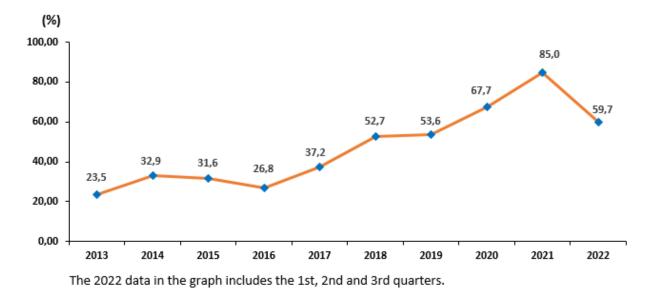
BKM data have been analyzed for the years 2013-2022. The data BKM and Departing Visitors Survey results were compared. It was observed that there were underestimations for the year 2019 and beyond. Because of that, BKM data has been used for 2019 and later in the revision.

Tourism income was obtained directly by using BKM data, since field application could not be made due to the Covid-19 pandemic in the 2nd quarter of 2020.



Graph 1: Comparison of BKM Data and Departing Visitors Survey Data in Tourism Income





Tourism and travel income is calculated by using BKM data and the results of Departing Visitors Survey. Individual expenditures are compiled as the sum of cash and credit cards within the scope of Departing Visitors Survey studies carried out at the border gates. The rate of credit card usage is determined by the question of distribution of individual expenditures made by foreign and resident citizens who visit and leave our country in the aforementioned survey according to payment types. With this study, the survey data and existing administrative records have been integrated and so the quality of the figures have been improved.

According to the international methodology, all of the expenditures on durable goods made by the visitors are considered as tourism expenditures. Expenditures on durable goods above a certain threshold, varies by country, are required to be declared when leaving the country. The declaration are classified as exports of goods and reflected in the balance of payments statistics. For this reason, it is recommended that those who are above a certain threshold and declared within the scope of export of goods should not be included in the balance of payments within the scope of tourism statistics. In this way, duplication is avoided. Within the scope of this revision, a study was carried out with micro data (foreign trade statistics, departing visitors survey, BKM) about that subjects. The figures that should be included in the balance of payments goods have been determined.

Marina service expenditures, obtained through the survey applied to marina enterprises, have begun to be obtained from BKM data.

1.3 Health Tourism Survey

Health tourism; plastic surgery operations, organ transplantation, dental treatment, physical therapy, rehabilitation, etc. to improve physical well-being in health centers and spas. It covers the activities of the visitors who come to receive treatment.

One of the studies carried out within the scope of improving tourism statistics is health tourism survey. Information on the number of people who come to our country for health purposes and the amount of expenditures made by these people are obtained with the Departing Visitors Survey, and these data are used in the calculation of tourism income and also provide input to the balance of payments travel item. In the health expenditures obtained through the survey; expenditures covered by private insurances and/or other states and health expenditures of visitors who come to our country for health purposes and organize their travel with package tours cannot be recorded. For these reasons, it was decided to apply health tourism survey to the enterprises.

The data in the value added tax (VAT) declarations received from the Revenue Administration were used effectively in the formation of both the framework and statistics. In this context, one of the data sources used within the scope of health tourism studies have been the value added tax (VAT) exemption in health services provided to foreigners. Preventive medicine, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation services provided exclusively to real person of foreign nationality who are not resident in Türkiye within the body of health institutions and organizations are exempt from VAT as of 1/6/2018. The "VAT exemption amount in health services given to foreigners", which is under the 334 code of the VAT1 declaration, was determined from the tax identification numbers of the authorized facilities and institutions sent by the Ministry of Health and used as an auxiliary source in our survey study.

With the health tourism survey, it is aimed to obtain the data from the supply side and has been applied to approximately 2000 health institutions since 2021. These health institutions were selected according to the following criteria:

- Those who have received authorization certificate from the Ministry of Health,
- Those who benefit from the exception under the 334 code of the VAT1 Declaration,
- Those who are excluded from these and have a significant share in the branch of service they provide.

BKM data was also used to obtain health expenditures. In this context, expenditures made in healthrelated sectors (excluding expenditures in health institutions) included in BKM's data are added to health expenditures.

The services that our citizens residing abroad receive from health institutions are carried out with their TR Identity Numbers. For this reason, settlement separation cannot be made and information about this continues to be compiled from Departing Visitors Survey.

Health tourism income;

- Health expenditures made by non-resident foreigners obtained from health tourism survey,
- Health expenditures of Turkish citizens living abroad from Departing Visitors Survey,
- Consists of credit card expenditures of non-residents in related sectors outside the scope of health tourism survey.

Part 2. New Method Used in Calculating Travel Income

Travel income, according to the international methodology, is defined as the extent of goods and services purchased by non-residents during their visit to economic territory.

There is a methodological scope difference between travel and tourism expenditures. While students and patients with a stay of more than one year are included in the travel income. Tourism statistics excludes the expenditures made by visitors who are staying at the economic territory for more than one year. Data on the travel item under the balance of payments are compiled by TurkStat. These data are obtained by excluding expenditures made for GSM (roaming), international transportation and durable consumer goods, which are included in tourism statistics. In addition to that the education expenditures made by the refugees are added to the travel data.

		Balance of Payments	Tourism Statistics		
	Diplomats, consular staff, military personnel (other than locally engaged staff) and their dependants	No	No		
	Border workers	Yes	No		
	Seasonal workers	Yes	No		
	Other short-term workers	Yes	No		
8			Considered as visitors except regular as well as occasional crews on		
	Crews	Yes	public modes of transport		
	Students	Short-term and long-term	Only those taking courses for less than one year(short-term)		
	Patients	Short-term and long-term	Only those under treatment for less than one year(short-term)		
	Nomads, refugees and displaced persons	Yes, if for stay of less than one year	No		

Table 1: Travel statistics and tourism statistics coverage differences by visitor type

Table 2: Travel statistics and tourism statistics coverage differences by expenditure type

		Balance of Payments	Tourism Statistics
		Yes	Not included in tourism expenditure but in the more inclusive concept of
	Transactions on goods and services that do not		tourism consumption used in the tourism satellite account approach
	imply a monetary transaction and represent		
	social transfers in kind or require imputations		
	Acquisition of consumption goods and services	Yes	Yes
	other than international transport		
_	Acquisition of valuables	Yes if under the customs' threshold	All, if acquired on trips
Trave	Acquisition of consumer durable goods	Yes if under the customs' threshold	All, if acquired on trips
	Expenditure on education for those whose main	Yes	
	purpose is education		Yes, if course for less than one year (short-term)
	Expenditure on health for those whose main	Yes	
	purpose is health		Yes, if treatment for less than one year (shortterm)
	GSM roaming expenditures	No	Yes
	Expenditure other than acquisition of goods and		No
	services	No in principle.	

Table 3: Travel statistics and tourism statistics coverage differences by international transportation expenditure

	Balance of Payments	Tourism Statistics
	Yes	Yes
Transport to and from the country of reference		
in a resident to non-resident transaction		
	Yes	For the country of residence of the carrier, the traveller is not a visitor to,
Transport between two points outside the		from or within that country; for the country of residence of the traveller,
country of reference as a resident to non-		part of outbound tourism expenditure, if the traveller is an outbound
resident transaction		visitor.
Transport within an economy by non-resident	Yes	Part of outbound tourism expenditure for the country of residence of the
carriers as a resident to non-resident		traveller if he or she is a visitor; not in tourism statistics for the country
transaction		of residence of the carrier.
Ë	If remunerated by a fee or commission paid by the carrier, whatever the	In all cases, the service is valued using the gross margin: it is acquired by
	country of residence of the travel agency, its service is included in the	the visitor. It is included in inbound, outbound or domestic tourism
	valuation of international passenger transport and included or excluded	expenditure depending on the country of residence of the travel agency
	whether the purchase of international passenger transport is a resident to	and the visitor.
	non-resident transaction or not. Or, if a separate fee is paid by the	
	traveller, it is included under travel but only if it represents a resident to	
Intermediation of travel agencies	non-resident transaction.	

2.1 Education Tourism Survey

Another study carried out within the scope of improving tourism statistics is educational tourism survey.

Educational tourism is a type of tourism that occurs when individuals go to a different country from their country of residence for the purpose of education.

The expenditures of students who come to our country for education for more than one year provide input to the balance of payments travel item.

It is observed that education expenditures, which is one of the sub-expenditure components of tourism income, have been increasing in recent years. It is aimed to obtain these data, which was compiled with the field application at the border gates, in a more reliable and accurate way, supported by administrative records.

In order to determine the number of people who come to our country for education and the amount of expenditure, a survey (for tuition fee and number of non-resident students) with universities has been compiled.

In addition to that an education tourism survey was applied to the students studying in the quota of international students who came to our country for long-term education. With the survey applied to the students, expenses such as education expenses, food and beverage, transportation, excluding the tuition fees they have made in Türkiye taken into account. Since the duration of stay of the students in the country is more than one year, the results obtained from the education tourism survey will not be included in the tourism statistics and will be evaluated in the travel item of the balance of payments statistics.

2.2. Refugee Expenditures

According to the methodology, expenditures made by refugees are not included in tourism income. Tourism statistics for Ukrainian were estimated from the values obtained according to the departing visitors by purpose of visit with the survey conducted to the Ukrainian at the border gates. On the other hand, additional studies have been carried out to estimate the expenditures of Ukrainian citizens who have come to our country temporarily due to regional conflicts and have not yet exited. The expenditures made by those Ukrainians estimated by using BKM data and classified as travel item.

Length and depth of major revision

The revision process, depending on the subject, from 2012 to 2022 3rd quarter; the departing visitors by purpose of visit, the country of residence and the type of expenditure were carried out in detail.

Revision Component	Years	Method		
Regulation on the number of overnight stays subject to the package tour	2012-2022	Instead of the share of the number of overnight stays in Türkiye, the total duration of the trip has been used.		
Health Tourism	2019-2022	For the years 2019-2022, BKM data, citizen (residing abroad) health expenditures, Health Tourism Expenditures and VAT1 Declaration Exception values obtained from the Departing Visitors Survey were used.		
Interbank Card Center Data	2019-2022	A monthly data set from BKM was used.		
Education Tourism	2018-2022	The information collected from the students studying in the international student quota in our country through the fee information obtained from the universities and the mobile survey were used.		
Durable Goods	2012-2018 2019-2022	The values obtained from Departing Visitors Survey for the years 2012-2018, BKM data was used for the years 2019-2022.		
Refugee Expenditures	2022	Estimations were made for only Ukrainian citizens using BKM data.		

Table 4: Revision in Tourism Statistics

Table 5: Main Revision Impacts in Tourism Statistics, 2012 – 2022

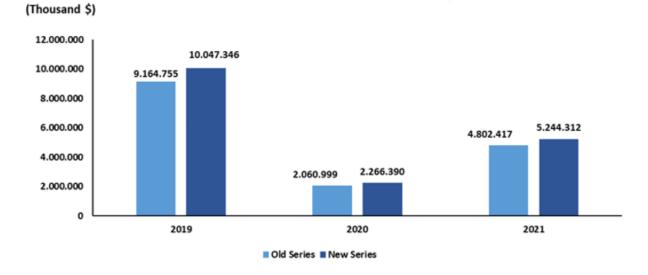
			Tourism				Travel In		
Year	Quarter		(Thous	and \$)			Travel In (Thous		
				1			(mous		
		Old Series	New Series	Gap	Change of Level (%)	Old Series	New Series	Gap	Change of Leve (%)
2012	Annual		29 689 249	682 246	2,35	25 344 819	26 027 065	682 246	2,6
			3 571 808	47 386	1,34	2 978 648	3 026 034	47 386	1,5
	1		7 253 848	187 833	2,66	6 168 902	6 356 735	187 833	3,0
			11 346 251	291 165	2,63	9 688 468	9 979 632	291 165	3,0
	IV		7 517 341	155 863	2,12	6 508 800	6 664 664	155 863	2,3
2013	Annual		33 073 502	764 511	2,37	27 994 884	28 759 395	764 511	2,7
	741144		4 707 530	58 714	1,26	3 901 123	3 959 836	58 714	
	1		8 542 206	226 418	2,72	7 296 963	7 523 381	226 418	3,1
			11 902 866	323 860	2,80	10 081 864	10 405 724	323 860	3,2
	IV		7 920 900	155 520	2,00	6 714 935	6 870 455	155 520	2,3
2014	Annual		35 137 949	832 045	2,43	29 551 937	30 383 982	832 045	2,8
			4 871 185	63 348	1,32	4 045 010		63 348	,
			9 211 959	235 983	2,63	7 767 667	8 003 650	235 983	3,0
			13 235 862	381 489	2,97	11 223 280	11 604 769	381 489	3,4
	IV		7 818 944	151 226	1,97	6 515 980	6 667 206	151 226	,
2015	Annual		32 492 212	1 027 435	3,27	26 617 220	27 315 673	698 453	2,6
	,	4 868 890	4 990 277	121 387	2,49	4 056 939	4 100 728	43 790	,
	1		7 981 917	248 241	3,21	6 530 230	6 734 961	204 730	3,1
			12 758 420	464 232	3,78	10 522 541	10 857 646	335 105	3,1
	IV		6 761 597	193 575	2.95	5 507 511	5 622 338	114 828	2.0
2016	Annual		22 839 468	732 029	3,31	18 741 972	19 113 174	371 203	1,9
2010	Ainda		4 153 890	87 506	2,15	3 372 303	3 407 820	35 517	1,0
	-		5 135 024	153 706	3.09	4 226 266	4 326 757	100 492	2,3
			8 629 735	352 725	4,26	7 053 828	7 216 717	162 888	2,3
	IV		4 920 820	138 091	2,89	4 089 575	4 161 880	72 305	1,7
2017	Annual		27 044 541	760 885	2,89	22 477 564	22 966 757	489 193	2,1
	,	3 369 753	3 442 495	72 742	2,16	2 818 673	2 841 905	23 232	0,8
	-		5 585 194	172 146	3.18	4 606 700	4 721 254	114 554	2.4
			11 761 803	370 135	3,25	9 854 006	10 108 817	254 812	2,5
	IV		6 255 049	145 863	2,39	5 198 185	5 294 780	96 595	1,8
2018	Annual	0 - 00 - 00	30 545 924	1 032 997	3,50	25 219 506	25 933 673	714 167	2,8
			4 503 731	78 495	1,77	3 662 826	3 704 367	41 541	1,1
			7 289 762	245 171	3,48	6 031 770	6 195 861	164 091	2,7
			12 025 329	522 664	4,54	9 989 175	10 356 309	367 134	3,6
	IV		6 727 102	186 668	2,85	5 535 735	5 677 136	141 400	2,5
2019	Annual		38 930 474	4 410 141	12.78	29 827 711	34 305 316		15,0
	,	4 629 679	5 126 534	496 854	10,73	3 843 337	4 456 705	613 368	15,9
			9 135 322	1 161 358	14,56	6 963 864	8 195 516	1 231 652	17,6
			15 843 017	1 811 895	12,91	12 165 429	13 842 799	1 677 370	,
	IV		8 825 602	940 034	11,92	6 855 080	7 810 296	955 215	13,9
2020	Annual		14 817 273	2 757 954	22,87	10 129 590	13 330 322	3 200 731	31,6
	741144	4 101 206	4 664 392	563 186	13.73	3 409 409	4 166 353	756 943	22,2
	(1)		647 474	647 474		-	791 490	791 490	
			5 122 305	1 077 949	26,65	3 415 055	4 530 958	1 115 903	32,6
	IV		4 383 102	469 344	11.99	3 305 126	3 841 521	536 395	16.2
2021	Annual		30 173 587	5 691 255	23,25	20 828 962	26 634 333	5 805 371	27,8
		2 452 213	2 635 969	183 756	7,49	2 0 4 8 5 1 4	2 447 003	398 489	19,4
	-		4 104 082	1 100 454	36,64	2 531 440	3 773 202	1 241 762	49,0
			14 126 732	2 731 615	23,97	9 715 647	12 262 695	2 547 048	26,
	1		9 306 804	1 675 431	23,97	6 533 361	8 151 434	1 618 072	20,2
2022	Annual		17 076 179	2 904 588	20,50	11 937 152	15 542 524	3 605 372	30,2
2022	Annua		6 561 011	1 106 523	20,30	4 509 649	5 885 949	1 376 300	30,2
			10 515 168	1 798 065	20,23	7 427 503	9 656 575	2 229 072	30,3
			1 10 212 100	1,00,000	20,03	/ 42/ 303	5050575	2 2 2 2 3 0 1 2	

The main revision effects of tourism statistics, 2012 - 2022

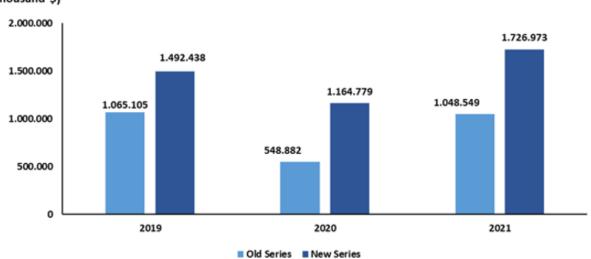
 Average Change of Level
 7,52
 9,22

 (1) Since the survey could not be conducted at the border gates due to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), the data for the 2nd quarter of 2020 w ere taken from the Interbank Card Center and added to the new series.
 9,22
(2) The data for 2022 includes the 1st and 2nd quarters. (*) Travel income figures are provisional, it has been revised with the Balance of Payments Statistics published by the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye on November 11, 2022.

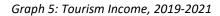
Graph 3: Package Tour Expenditures, 2019-2021



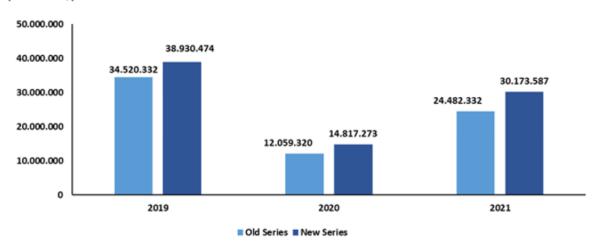
Graph 4: Health Expenditures, 2019-2021



(Thousand \$)







Graph 6: Travel Income, 2019-2021

