

AN EVALUATION ON THE EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE WORLD TOURISM ECONOMY

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36004/nier.cecg.I.2022.16.8>

Summary

The Covid-19 pandemic, which was first identified at the beginning of January 2020, is a major health crisis that has affected the whole world for more than two years. While the Covid-19 pandemic caused the biggest economic crisis of the century on a global scale, tourism is one of the sectors most negatively affected by this process. In this study, by giving general information about the Covid-19 pandemic, the effects of the pandemic on the world tourism economy were examined. Accordingly, in the study, situation of tourism before the pandemic and during the pandemic period and the effects of the pandemic on the world tourism economy were examined based on secondary data. In this context, reports, documents and previous studies on this subject were scanned with the literature review method in the study. As a result of the examination, it was determined that the Covid-19 pandemic has deeply affected the world tourism economy in the tourism seasons of 2020 and 2021. However, in this process, it was seen that countries do not want to lose their income from tourism activities due to the economy and other factors measures have been taken by supporting the tourism sector with many financial, consultancy, and supportive packages, especially taxes. Finally, it was seen that tourism professionals predicted that the year of 2022 will be the year of recovery in the tourism sector compared to the previous two years. Based on these results obtained as a result of the study and the view that 2022 will be the year of recovery in the tourism sector compared to the previous two years, inferences were made about what kind of structural changes will occur in the tourism sector. In this context, it is thought that the study will also guide tourism practitioners as well as its contribution to tourism literature.

Keywords: Covid-19 pandemic, World tourism economy.

JEL: Z00, Z39, M00

UDC: 338.48(100)

Introduction. The history of humanity is full of pandemics that caused the death of millions of individuals. These can be listed as “SARS”, “bird flu”, “swine flu”, “MERS and Ebola outbreaks”, respectively, in addition to relatively old pandemics such as “Black Death (14th century)” and “Spanish Flu (1918-20)”. All these pandemics have had significant effects on people’s lives. In its report titled “Managing epidemics: key facts about major deadly diseases” published in 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) (2018) drew attention to the fact that the probability of a new HIV, a New Ebola or a new flu pandemic is not very low, only

the time cannot be predicted. While the WHO's report was still warm, in late 2019, as a result of research conducted on a group of patients who showed signs of respiratory disease such as "fever", "cough" and "shortness of breath", the information that a new type of coronavirus disease was defined on January 13, 2020 which that proves how much WHO is right on his predict. Right after the definition of the disease, this new type of coronavirus disease, which was also named as Covid-19 by WHO on February 11, 2020, caused a pandemic to be declared on March 11, just one month later, with the effect of its rapid spread (WHO, 2020).

Mankind witnessed many pandemics that have affected the world, such as Covid-19 (Poudel et al., 2020). These pandemics have played very important roles in shaping the world with their demographic, economic, social and political consequences. Sometimes they have been instrumental in the destruction of an empire and sometimes the establishment of a new state. Undoubtedly, it was assumed that a phenomenon that was so decisive for the history of humanity would largely disappear or its possible effects would weaken with modern medicine. However, endless demands, unnecessary waste of resources and excessive intervention in nature have caused pandemics to disappear, on the contrary, to appear more frequently. Because all the comments and studies on this subject are that these new types of viruses will enter our lives at shorter intervals and cause more deadly results. These new types of viruses that we created as a result of our non-random relationship with the natural environment will continue to be a part of our lives from now on. These pandemics, which are also a reflection of how we live, will either force us to learn to live with them or inflict heavy damage as in the past (Žižek, 2020).

The Covid-19 has dealt a great blow to the tourism sector as well as to all sectors of the world economy (Menegaki, 2020). Therefore, besides the short-term consequences of Covid-19, it is an important issue whether it can change modern tourism, which is the result of 70 years of experience and habit. Because the construction of modern tourism and the economy it creates is a form that the capitalist system can never give up. In addition, the closure of tourism businesses has not only damaged the consumption economy but also caused hundreds of millions of people working in these businesses to be unemployed. Undoubtedly, vacation is a culture and a greater need for human beings than is thought. This need can be postponed during pandemic periods, but it does not disappear. However, the prolongation of this process directly affects the magnitude of the damage (Chen et al., 2020). In this process, although many countries have taken incentives and facilitating steps in this sense, it was seen that the damage is inevitable. In this sense, the aim of this study, which consists of secondary data sources is to examine the effects of the pandemic on the world tourism economy in the 2020-2021 period. In this context, this study can be evaluated as a literature study on both the trauma caused by the pandemic in the world tourism economy, the changes in seasonal tourism movements and the future of tourism from the point of view that 2022 will be the year of recovery in the tourism sector compared to the previous two years. The study will contribute to the tourism sector and related literature from this point of view.

Methodology. In this study, which was prepared based on secondary data, literature review method was used. In the context of the study, it was tried to examine "How the Covid-19 pandemic affects the world tourism economy?", "The situation of tourism

before and during the pandemic period” and make inferences about “What kind of structural changes will occur in the tourism sector?”. In this context, an extensive literature review was made from reports, documents, and previous studies related to this subject. In this direction, relevant institutions and organizations have been examined, which are; “the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)”, “the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC)”, “the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TÜRSAB)”, “the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)”, “the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)”, “Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA)” and previous studies on this subject.

Tourism sector before and during the Covid-19 pandemic and it’s effects on the world tourism economy. The tourism sector is a dynamic sector that quickly feels the negative effects of demand. 1/11 of the general employment in the world takes place in the tourism sector (WTTC, 2021). Tourism is an important sector that provides economic development, especially for countries with high levels of unemployment. In this context, the tourism sector is important and income-generating, especially in terms of increasing the income of people living in rural areas and improving their living conditions.

Tourism is one of the sectors that showed the fastest development all over the world after the World War II. According to UNWTO (2020a) data, while there were just 25 million international tourist arrivals in 1950s, this number has exceeded 500 million in 1990s and 1 billion in 2011. While the growth rate of the tourism sector, which has continued its development process steadily, was around 4% annually before the Covid-19 pandemic. The sector grew by 3.8% in 2019, the number of international tourist arrivals in 2019 reached 1 billion 461 million, and the international tourism revenue was USD 1.5 trillion (TÜRSAB, 2020). In 2019, the international tourism revenue was recorded as USD 3.5 trillion, approximately 51% of international tourist arrivals, which were 1 billion 461 million worldwide, were made to European countries. The table of international tourist arrivals between 2010-2019 is as follows:

Table 1. International Tourist Arrivals and Regional Distribution of Travels Between 2010-2019

Region	NUMBER OF ARRIVALS BY YEARS*				Distribution
	2010	2017	2018	2019	%
WORLD	952	1,332	1,407	1,461	100
EUROPE	487	676,6	716,1	742,3	50,8
- N. EUROPE	57	79,1	78,7	79,6	5,4
- B. EUROPE	154,4	192,7	200,2	203,8	14
- O. EUROPE	98,6	136,9	148,5	154,3	10,6
- MEDITERRANEAN (EUROPE)	177,1	267,9	288,8	304,6	20,8
ASIAN-PACIFIC	208,2	324,1	347,7	363,6	24,9
AMERICAN CONTINENT	150,3	210,7	215,7	220,1	15,1
AFRICA	50,4	63	68,4	71,2	4,9
MIDDLE EAST	56,1	57,7	59,4	63,9	4,4

Source: (UNWTO, 2020b)

*million

However, the Covid-19 pandemic, which emerged in China at the end of 2019 and affected the whole world in a short time, has been an event that seriously affected the lives of individuals and triggered an economic crisis in the global context. Although the Covid-19 pandemic has significant and tangible effects in terms of the tourism sector, the pandemic has had a negative impact on all tourism-related activities, especially tourism companies and their personnel (OECD, 2020).

The Covid-19 pandemic has not only affected human health all over the world, but also negatively affected many sectors and disrupted the social and economic structures of societies. (Mofijur et al., 2021). In order to reduce death cases and transmissions caused by Covid-19 pandemic, states had to take measures such as “travel restrictions”, “curfews”, “obligation to use masks”, “social distance” and “quarantine measures” in order to reduce human mobility. The aforementioned practices and restrictions had a serious and negative impact on production and consumption, caused a slowdown or halt in economic activities, and caused an economic recession in a global context. The Covid-19 pandemic has had the most serious impact on the tourism sector due to travel restrictions. Unprecedented travel and curfews, both within the country and between countries, caused the biggest fluctuation in the global economy until this period. Accordingly, tourism activities have also slowed down significantly as of March 2020 (Strielkowski, 2020).

When the data is evaluated such as “populations of countries”, “number of cases”, “number of deaths”, etc., it is possible to state that the pandemic is more common in continents, regions and countries where human mobility is intense. Especially the Mediterranean and European destinations, which are among the most important tourism regions in the world, and Central and North American destinations were negatively affected during the pandemic process due to the decrease in tourism movements (TÜBA, 2020).

The decline in the global tourism sector has also been evaluated by the OECD (2020). The Covid-19 pandemic described by the OECD as an “unprecedented crisis”. Within the framework of UNWTO (2021a) data, international tourism movements completely stopped in 156 of 217 destinations globally as of April 27, 2020. 83% of the destinations on the European continent have completely closed their borders for international tourism, this rate is 80% in the America, 70% in Asia and the Pacific, 62% in the Middle East, and 57% in Africa. According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) (2021a), the sector, which experienced its best season in the previous year, suffered a serious loss of -73% worldwide, while it was noted that 7 out of 10 people could not travel during this period. With the decrease in travels, a drastic loss of 64% was experienced in tourism revenues, and it was stated that only USD 533 billion of tourism revenue could be obtained in return for 402 million trips worldwide in 2020.

Countries such as “Croatia”, “Egypt”, “Albania”, “Qatar”, “Montenegro”, “Bahamas”, “Macao”, “Dominican Republic”, “Seychelles”, “Curacao”, “Jordan”, whose economy is largely dependent on tourism, have felt the severity of the Covid-19 pandemic in the first place. Classic Mediterranean destinations such as “Spain”, “Turkey”, “Greece”, “Italy” and “France” were less affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, due to the measures they took in 2020. While these countries continued their struggle against the Covid-19 pandemic, they have tried to reactivate their

tourism activities at every opportunity when the restrictions were lifted, and took various measures. Some of these measures are given in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Measures Taken by Countries for Tourism Against the Covid-19 Pandemic

Country	International Tourist Arrivals	Measures
France	89.4 million	<p>Up to a certain wage, 75 percent of the salary of employees is paid by the state.</p> <p>The minimum wage is paid by the state in its entirety. The government becomes a partner in the credit risk to be given to the companies.</p> <p>Companies are given loans up to 25 percent of their revenues in 2019. In case of reservation cancellations, coupon payment is made by the government instead of refund.</p>
Spain	82.8million	<p>€440 salary support is provided to the unemployed.</p> <p>The state pays 70 percent of the salary of employees who are on compulsory leave.</p> <p>Tax debts up to thirty thousand euros are postponed to future dates.</p> <p>Tax payments of companies with annual income up to six hundred thousand Euros are postponed until June.</p> <p>Insurance premium payments are delayed for up to 6 months.</p> <p>Interest on overdue debts of small businesses and freelancers is deferred.</p> <p>The amount of guarantee applied in loans is increased up to one hundred billion euros and twenty billion euros of these loans are used by medium and large enterprises.</p>
United States of America	79.6 million	<p>It is aimed to reduce the economic and social damage by donating a total of USD 2 trillion to the households.</p> <p>While cash assistance is provided to small-scale enterprises, large-scale loans are provided to large enterprises.</p> <p>USD 100 billion in aid is provided to states, cities and municipalities, especially to hospitals.</p> <p>The increase in unemployment is prevented by helping businesses with a wide employment area such as the tourism sector.</p>
China	62.9 million	<p>General services, tourism and transport sectors are exempted from Value Added Tax (VAT).</p> <p>80 percent of the deposit allocated to travel agencies is temporarily transferred to licensed tour operators.</p> <p>The compensation period for the losses incurred in 2020 is increased from 5 years to 8 years.</p> <p>Financial support is provided to businesses located in different touristic destinations of the People's Republic of China, funds are set aside for qualified tourism businesses, Value Added Tax is reduced, insurance premiums are reduced or postponed.</p> <p>Numerous applies are carried out such as supporting tourism enterprises that do not reduce employment, providing low-interest loans and loan renewal opportunities.</p> <p>Class "A" tourism enterprises are exempted from Value Added Tax.</p>

		<p>It contributes to tourism marketing by supporting the domestic tourism activities of travel agencies.</p> <p>Numerous measures are taken to support the tourism industry, such as “promoting virtual tourism activities”, “providing ease of payment for congress center rentals”, and “extending payback periods”.</p>
Italy	62.1million	<p>Italy provides employment support reaching €10.4 billion. For two months, transactions that reduce employment are prevented and labor tax is not collected. Unemployment insurance is extended.</p> <p>Value Added Tax is suspended and the government guarantee is increased from 70 percent to 80 percent for loans up to USD 800 thousand.</p> <p>Overdue tax payments and tax returns are suspended.</p> <p>There is a 50 percent tax reduction on hygiene and sanitation products.</p> <p>A government-guaranteed coupon applies to canceled travel tours.</p> <p>Holiday support is provided to low-income families to support domestic tourism.</p>
Austria	46.18 million	<p>The Government of Austria has announced a €38 billion bailout package for all sectors, including subsidies for small businesses, payroll support, loan guarantees and tax deferrals.</p> <p>Before the pandemic, the demands of the accommodation facilities that had loan debts to stop the payments were taken into account and in this direction, matching platforms have been established to provide convenience for companies that want to receive accommodation services, banks, food retailers, plumbers, etc.</p>
Turkey	45.8 million	<p>In all businesses in the tourism sector, hygiene and distance rules are started to be applied and it is tried to protect employees and tourists. Measures against the pandemic are being increased with rules such as “contactless payment”, “a distance of one and a half meters”, “disposable products”, “the abolition of the open buffet” and “the prevention of maskless travel in transportation vehicles”.</p> <p>Turkey, which launched the “Safe Tourism Program” in 2020, has defined measures to be taken in various institutions, especially food and beverage, transportation and accommodation establishments, in order to ensure the health and well-being of all its tourists and tourism personnel, with the practice quickly adopted by the key players in the sector. In this context, considering the criteria determined for accommodation and food and beverage facilities, the certificate given to the facilities as a result of the compliance of the inspections in terms of cleanliness, hygiene and health is called the “Safe Tourism Certificate”.</p>

Mexico	41.4 million	<p>The government of Mexico has provided more than USD 600 million in aid by preparing a program to support the private sector for 6 months.</p> <p>Direct and indirect tax payments are deferred. Two hundred and fifty thousand Mexican pesos support is provided for each business and credit needs are met.</p> <p>Various opportunities are provided in terms of both the employer and the obligations of the employees to the state.</p> <p>Value added tax and other payments of touristic enterprises, especially in the food and beverage and accommodation sector, are postponed to future dates.</p>
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Source: (Demertzis et al., 2020; OECD, 2020)

On the other hand, only 6 countries could reach 10 million tourists in 2020 (UNWTO, 2021a), which is called “The year of the Coronavirus” (Archvadze, 2021).

Table 3. International Tourism Statistics-2020

Rank	Country	International Tourist Arrivals (millions)	Income from Tourism (in billion USD)	Average Spending per Tourist, USD	International Tourism, Receipts(% of total exports)
1.	Italy	25.2	19.8	786	3
2.	Mexico	24.3	11	453	3
3.	United States of America	19.4	76.1	3915	4
4.	Spain	19	18.5	976	5
5.	Turkey	15.9	10.2	643	7
6.	Australia	15.1	13.8	918	7
7.	Poland	8.5	7.8	923	2
8.	Hungary	7.4	3.2	432	2
9.	Holland	7.3	9.1	1253	1
10.	Greece	7.2	4.9	684	10
11.	United Arab Emirates	7.2			
12.	Thailand	6.7	14.2	2118	6
13.	Portugal	6.5	8.8	1360	12
14.	Russia	6.4	2.9	449	1
15.	India	6.3	13	2059	3
16.	Croatia	5.5	5.6	1004	21
17.	Malaysia	4.3	3	690	1
18.	Saudi Arabia	4.1	4	975	3
19.	Japan	4.1	10.7	2600	1
20.	Vietnam	3.8	2.5	651	1

Source: (UNWTO, 2021a)

The Covid-19 pandemic also changed the ranking of countries in 2020. Spain, which was the 1st in 2019 with 83.5 million tourists, dropped to the 4th place with 19 million tourists in 2020. Ranking 3rd in 2019, China, with the radical measures it

took, almost zeroed the number of tourists and was virtually eliminated from world tourism. In this period, Italy was the country that hosted the most tourists in the world with 25 million 200 thousand tourists. On the other hand, Mexico ranked second for the first time in its history with 24 million 30 thousand tourists. While America and Spain took the 3rd and 4th places with 19 million tourists, Turkey kept its 5th place in the world with 15.9 million tourists during this period (UNWTO, 2020b).

Table 4. International Tourist Arrivals by First 5 Country-2019

Rank	Country	International Tourist Arrivals (millions)
1.	Spain	83.5
2.	USA	79.4
3.	China	65.7
4.	Italy	64.5
5.	Turkey	51.2

Source: (UNWTO, 2020b)

Table 5. International Tourist Arrivals by First 5 Country-2020

Rank	Country	International Tourist Arrivals (millions)
1.	Italy	25.2
2.	Mexico	24.3
3.	USA	19.4
4.	Spain	19
5.	Turkey	15.9

Source: (UNWTO, 2021a)

Along with the travel bans and the closure of border crossings to control the Covid-19 pandemic, severely affected by the Covid-19 conditions and cannot be normalized in the short term (Pham et al., 2021). Due to the fact that the activities of all tourism companies at the national and international level have come to a standstill, people working in the tourism sector have become unemployed (Sharma et al., 2021). UNCTAD (2020) announced that approximately 120 million people in the tourism sector worldwide are facing the threat of unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was also stated that there could be a loss between 910 billion and USD 1.2 trillion in tourism revenues, and the loss was USD 1.3 trillion.

According to the data announced by the UNWTO (2022), the number of international tourist arrivals increased by 4% in 2021 compared to the previous year. Recovery processes in 2021 also showed regional variations due to travel restrictions, vaccination rates and consumer confidence that differ around the world. While the European continent completed the year with an increase of 19% compared to 2020, the increase in the number of international tourist arrivals in the Americas was by 17%. The 57% rise achieved by the countries on the Mediterranean coast was the most important factor in the rise in the European continent. Finally, the Caribbean's tourist arrivals rose by 63%, while the rise in Central America was by 54%. However, in line with the announced data, the number of international tourist

arrivals in 2021 increased to 421 million. Despite this increase, the number of international tourist arrivals remained 72% below the pre-Covid-19-pandemic period of 2019. Although the economic contribution of tourism in 2021 was USD 1.9 trillion over USD 1.6 trillion in 2020, it could not approach USD 3.5 trillion before the Covid-19 pandemic. Export revenues from international tourism exceeded USD 700 billion in 2021. In 2019, this figure was at the level of USD 1.7 trillion.

On the other hand, the UNWTO (2022) announced that in the first quarter of 2022, the number of international tourists reached 117 million, with an annual increase of 182%. However, when compared to the data in 2019, when tourism was at a record level, it was shared that Europe was behind by 43% and America by 46%. Likewise, compared to 2021, in the first quarter of 2022, there was an increase of 132% in the Middle East, 96% in Africa, and 64% in Asia and the Pacific. According to the assessment made by the UNWTO (2022), the increase in vaccination rates in 2022 contributed to the increase in the coordination and agreements that facilitate international travel.

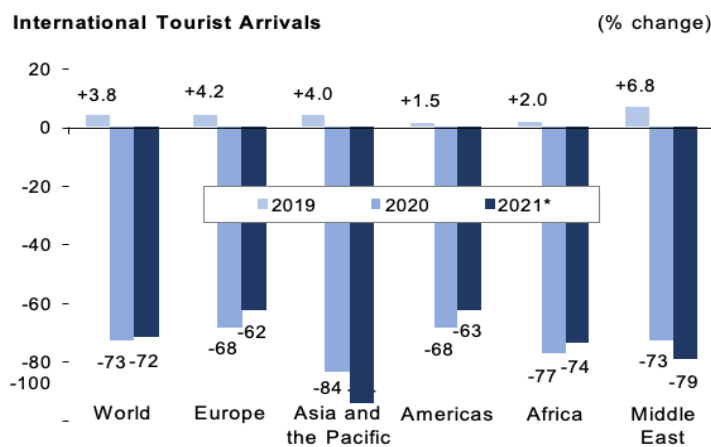


Figure 1. % change over 2019-2021

Source: (UNWTO, 2022)

* Provisional data (% change over 2019)

In addition to the above, the UNWTO (2020c) announced that the average expenditure per person in international tourism arrivals, which was USD 1300 in 2020, increased to USD 1500. It was also stated that this increase is due to the prolongation of vacation periods as well as the increase in transportation and accommodation costs. According to the research carried out by UNWTO (2021b) with the participation of tourism sector representatives around the world, it was seen that tourism professionals believe that 2022 will be better than the last two years, but after 2024 stands out in their expectations for reaching 2019 levels. In addition, it was determined that 4% of tourism professionals around the world has stated that the tourism levels will reach the 2019 levels in 2022, while 32% of them have announced this expectation as 2023. It was also determined that 63% of tourism professionals predict that the levels before the pandemic will be reached in 2024 or later.

Studies on this subject in the literature have showed that “Covid-19 pandemic can contribute to the redefinition of many things in tourism and the re-establishment of balances, and the creation of a more responsible and ethical tourism understanding”. Wachyuni and Kusumaningrum (2020)’s study aimed to examine “the travel intentions of tourists’ post- pandemic in Jakarta, Indonesia”. Results of the study conducted with 128 people between February-April 2020 showed that “the travel preferences are 78%, or the majority of respondents stated that they would go back on tour”. Additionally, the findings revealed that “about 65% will return to travel in the near term which is 0-6 months after the pandemic is declared over, of the type of tourism desired by respondents is nature tourism by 66% and the majority of the desired tour duration is short-period, which is 1-4 days”. The research’s consequences also showed that “travel intention mean value is higher than travel anxiety”.

According to the findings of the study carried out by Özdemir (2020) with Turkey’s tourism sector representatives, public institutions, tourism enterprises and 62 domestic tourists in April 2020, it was determined that “tourists will tend to nature-based tourism after the pandemic”. On the other hand, as stated by tourism representatives, it was determined that “there will be serious trend changes in the type of accommodation business preferred after the pandemic and in the product variety of travel agencies”. If the post-pandemic scenario is for alternative tourism, it was pointed out that “it is likely that there will be a tourism activity in rural areas, so the interest in nature-based tourism types such as “highland tourism”, “eco-tourism” and “rural tourism”, small-scale accommodation businesses will increase, travels will be made with small groups, transportation vehicles will serve with the same size but low capacity”. In addition, in the context of the study, it was pointed out that “the understanding of responsible tourism and sustainable tourism will increase in service providers and buyers by considering practices such as hygiene, cleaning and sanitation”.

According to Öztürk and Tankuş (2020), digitalization already experienced in the tourism sector will show its effect without slowing down post-pandemic. In addition, within the scope of the study, it was concluded that “people will generally suspend their holiday decisions during and after the Covid-19 process, and avoid regions with high carrying capacity, especially during tourism seasons, as well as places where Covid-19 cases are intense throughout the country”. Another conclusion reached within the scope of the study is that “people will prefer individual holiday attitudes and prefer small-scale places by leaving the most used tourism routes due to the social and psychological effects of fear and anxieties caused by being in a mass”. On the other hand, it was stated that “individuals will take into account the physical conditions in the places they go and give more importance to the hygiene and safety conditions for their own health while managing their holiday activities”. In addition to this situation, it was pointed out that “not only the individual himself, but also other individuals who take part in the holiday activity will keep their virus protection and health status under observation”. Lastly, it was stated that “this situation indicates there will be more meticulous and skeptical consumers in the future of tourism sector compared to the past”.

Mirzaei et al. (2021)'s study conducted on Iranian tourists show that "health and safety have come to the forefront of travelers' needs". The study's findings also showed that "the hygiene and disinfection of tourism facilities have changed from hygiene factors to motivator factors". In addition, due to the extended length of trips is perceived as a risk to Iranian tourists' health, hence it is understood that "travelers prefer to take shorter trips". The study's findings also showed that "Iranian tourists rather get help from professionals to book their trips".

Jeon and Yang (2021) examined "the structural changes of a local tourism network focusing on Gangwon Province, in the Republic of Korea, which has experienced a rise in tourist demand following the Covid-19 outbreak". The research designed a matrix using the movement patterns of tourists who visited Gangwon Province during corresponding periods before and after the outbreak and then conducted a network analysis. The consequences showed that "as tourists travelled, they focused their movements on local areas and simplified travel routes". In addition, findings revealed that "the demand for tourism was concentrated on beaches, which previously tended towards a low tourism density".

Eşitti (2021) emphasized that "competition in the tourism sector will be experienced intensely among countries with alternative tourism diversity when evaluated in terms of outbreaks that may occur in Covid-19 process and after". It was also stated that by the researcher "natural habitats, physical spaces isolated from society, digitalization, and smart tourism applications will gain more importance in terms of tourism activities and will come to the fore in the destination preferences of tourists".

Moya Calderón et al. (2022) aimed to determine "the changes and consequences in travel plans due to Covid-19 and characterize the behavior of domestic tourism in Costa Rica after the confinement through an online survey". The findings indicated that "the respondents expressed their intention to travel in the first six months, mostly two nights, and accompanied by their family members". In addition, the findings revealed that "the factors related to safety and security appeared as key drivers affecting travel decisions". The findings also showed that "protected areas and nature-based tourism are the preferred destinations to visit after the lockdown with a clear concentration in the most visited protected areas of Costa Rica".

According to all these studies mentioned above, the tourists' perception of Covid-19 has influenced the intentions and motivation in the tourism sector and has changed travel behaviors as well as the tourism industry.

Conclusions. The tourism sector has a critical importance for the country's economies with the employment volume and foreign exchange reserves it provides. However, the Covid-19 pandemic, which was seen for the first time in December 2019 and spread rapidly in the world, has deeply affected the tourism sector, as it has in all sectors. The activities of the tourism, accommodation and aviation sectors have completely stopped due to travel bans, closure of borders and increased quarantine measures. Restrictions and bans on activities such as "concerts", "conferences", "congresses", "sports leagues", "entertainment", "eating and drinking" have also deeply shaken tourism. Social distancing, vaccination, testing, hygiene, visa, quarantine, health measures, various bans have hampered national and international tourism, business and private life travels. According to the assessment made by the

UNWTO (2020d), the damage caused by Covid-19 pandemic to the tourism sector has increased 10 times that of the global economic crisis in 2009. According to the published data by the UNWTO (2021c), the direct world economic contribution of tourism amounted to USD 3.5 trillion in 2019, USD 1.6 trillion in 2020, and USD 1.9 trillion in 2021. In 2020, only USD 533 billion of tourism income could be obtained in return for 402 million trips worldwide. As mentioned World Tourism Barometer published by UNWTO (2022), international tourism has rebounded strongly in the first five months of 2022, with nearly 250 million international arrivals recorded. In the January-May 2021 period, this number was around 77 million. As can be understood from the statistics, one can say that 2022 is the savior year of tourism.

Fears and different needs have developed in people and state administrations that did not exist before with the Covid-19 pandemic. According to various reports, studies, research, and expert comments, today, even if the spread is eliminated, it is obvious that “many new rules, restrictions, and practices that have emerged due to the Covid-19 pandemic will be permanent in the tourism and travel sectors, and even new ones will be added”. It is clear that “even if 2022 will be the year of recovery in the tourism sector compared to the previous two years, the tourism and travel sector can only reach pre-Covid-19 pandemic levels in 2023”.

It is quite obvious that “there will be important structural changes in the tourism sector in the following periods according to previous studies on this subject, reports and expert comments”. In this sense, “the protection of social distance” and “the need for hygiene” will be among the main elements that shape travel preferences. It can be also stated that “the first reflection of the need to maintain social distance in the tourism sector is expected to be seen in the restructuring of existing accommodation facilities to adapt to the new conditions”. It can be told that “studies should be carried out on working with low capacity, separating common areas, maintaining distance and providing necessary hygiene”. In addition, as of 2021, it can be pointed out that “more boutique hotels, villa-type facilities with structures located at certain distances will be preferred instead of large hotels, while it is thought that all-inclusive hotels and open buffet system may not be preferred as much as before”. Apart from accommodation, it is possible to indicate that “there should be changes that ensure the protection of social distance in transfer, historical and touristic places, restaurants and shopping points”. It is also possible to say that “travel should be responsible and sustainable to protect millions of people who depend on tourism”. In addition to the above, it should be said that “technological applications and disinfection systems should be used in order to keep the hygiene conditions at the highest level in all service providers of the sector, especially in accommodation”. The tour concept will lose its popularity in the coming period and personalized travel planning will come to the fore. Thus, the demand for cruises, where many people travel for a long time in an enclosed space, will decrease significantly.

Lastly, the trend toward other alternative tourism types will increase such as “ecotourism”, “gastronomy”, “yacht”, “diving”, “caravan”, “tent”, etc. which can be done in small groups instead of sea tourism. In addition, it can be stated that “trips to distant geographies will decrease due to the decrease in the desire to travel by air, while road trips from neighboring countries may increase”. Although there was an increase in rapid applications such as “electronic visas” and “gate visas” in recent

years, it is still seen that approximately half of the world's population is subject to traditional visa applications. It can be seen that "the trend toward rapid visa applications will increase in the coming period in order to encourage travel". Thus, it is clear that, "digital tourism stands out as a new field that is expected to develop in the sector". In addition, it can be foreseen that "the options that introduce and explain a certain region to users and enable them to navigate in a virtual environment will increase with the help of interactive websites and applications".

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