

SME Survey

# The 2022 business travel bounceback

SME Survey Series Report 1  
April 2022



CT884115207



# About the study

Corporate Traveller commissioned an independent survey of 202 Australian SME business owners to gauge whether they had plans to increase their travel this year to pre-pandemic levels. The survey explored the proportion of travel that businesses had planned for Australia's 'golden triangle' - Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, as well as which international destinations were topping their lists.

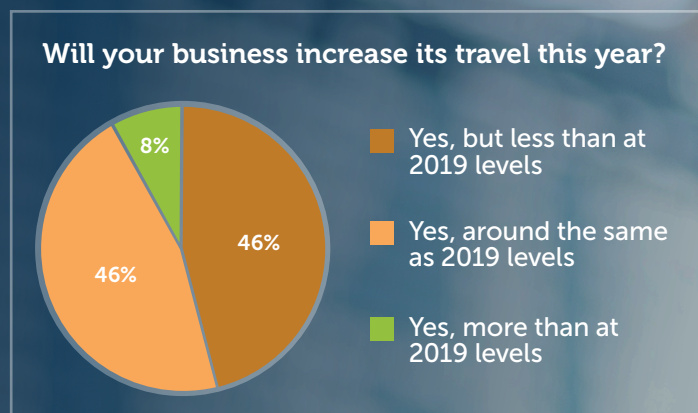
Survey respondents comprised SME business owners across micro (1-10 employees), small (11-50 employees) and medium (51-200 employees) businesses.

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# What proportion of SMEs will be increasing their business travel this year?

Corporate Traveller found that 46% of SMEs plan to increase their travel to 2019 levels, while 8% will travel more than they did before the pandemic. Nearly half (46%) of SMEs said they would increase their travel this year, but the volume would be less than pre-pandemic levels.



Among medium-sized businesses, 41% plan to travel more this year than before the pandemic, compared with 29% of micro and small businesses.

A higher proportion of Victorian businesses will increase travel above 2019 levels: 41% of Victorian businesses plan to travel more than in 2019, compared with 24% of NSW businesses and 12% of those in Queensland.

Against a background of easing of pandemic restrictions, the re-opening of our international border and a milder COVID variant, will your business increase its travel this year?

Response	By size of organisation (%)			By State (%)				
	1-15	16-50	51-200	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA
Yes, but less than 2019 levels	29	31	40	33	23	18	3	10
Yes, around the same as 2019 levels	34	35	32	35	22	22	1	7
Yes, more than 2019 levels	35	24	41	24	41	12	0	0

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# Which proportion of SME business travel will be to Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane in 2022?

Corporate Traveller discovered that Sydney will be a popular destination for business travel, with 34% of respondents planning to dedicate more than 50% of their corporate travel to the major city. In contrast, 26% plan to dedicate more than 50% of their travel to Melbourne and 23% to Brisbane.

A third (31%) of businesses said they don't plan to travel for business to Brisbane this year, while an equal 22% said they would not be planning to Sydney or Melbourne.

What percentage of your travel this year will be in Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane?											
Response	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
	Respondents (%)										
Sydney	22%	12%	9%	14%	8%	13%	3%	4%	5%	4%	5%
Melbourne	22%	15%	14%	12%	13%	10%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%
Brisbane	31%	15%	12%	11%	10%	8%	5%	3%	2%	1%	4%





# What percentage of Australian SMEs will be travelling internationally for business?

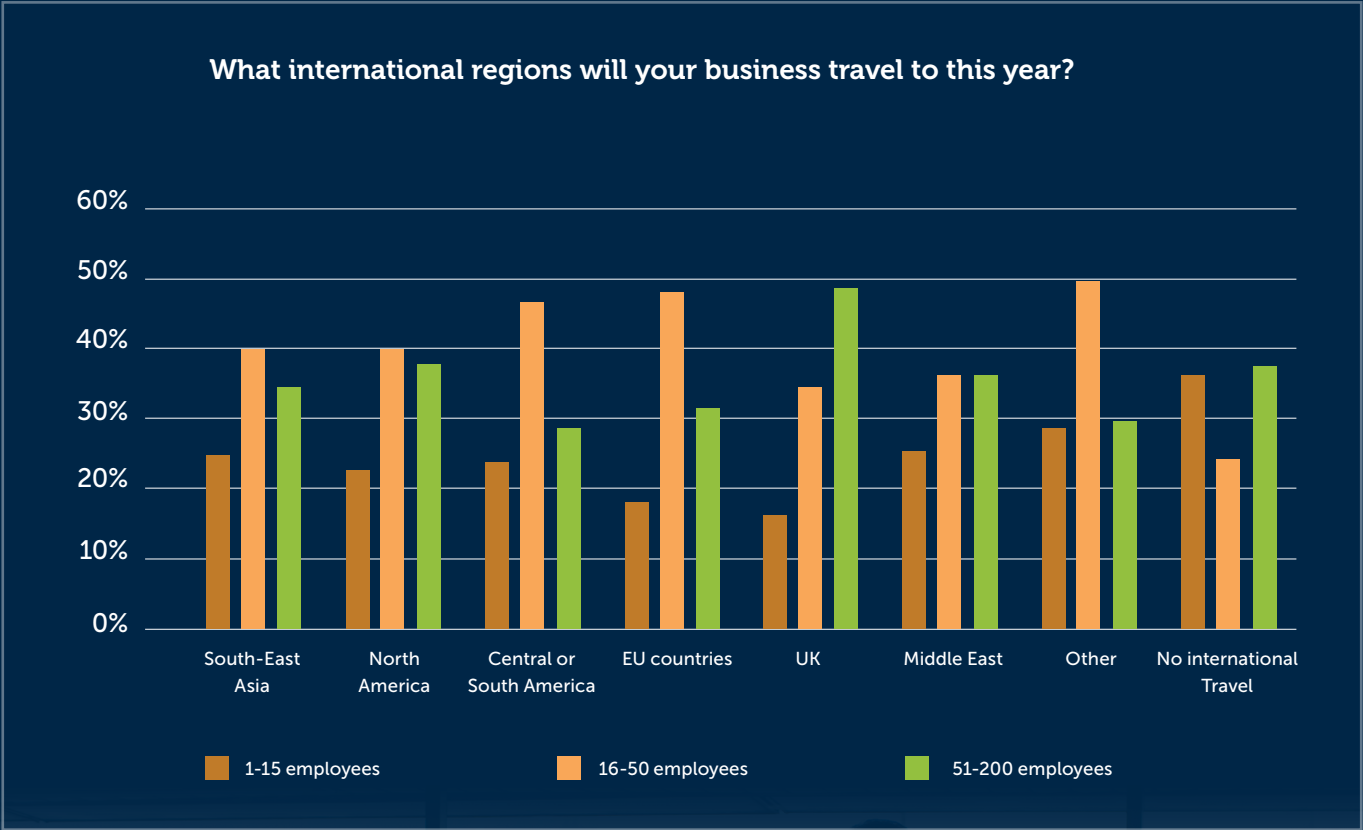
Half (54%) of Australian businesses are planning to travel internationally in 2022, with South-East Asia proving to be the most popular destination, chosen by 28% of respondents. Other destinations businesses plan to travel to include the UK (chosen by 18% of respondents), North America (chosen by 17%), Europe (15%), the Middle East (9%), and Central or South America (8%).

Against a background of easing of pandemic restrictions, the re-opening of our international border and a milder COVID variant, will your business increase its travel this year?									
Response	All (%)	By size of organisation (%)			By State (%)				
		1-15	16-50	51-200	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA
South-East Asia (includes Singapore)	28	25	40	35	37	23	21	2	4
North America	17	23	40	37	43	20	17	0	6
Central or South America	8	24	47	29	47	18	12	0	0
EU countries	15	19	48	32	39	19	23	0	7
UK	18	16	35	49	35	24	19	3	5
Middle East (includes Dubai/UAE)	9	26	37	37	42	11	21	0	5
Other	5	29	50	30	30	20	30	0	0
N/A – no one in our business will travel internationally this year.	46	37	25	38	32	24	19	2	11

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More medium-sized businesses (49%) plan to travel to the UK this year, compared with 35% of small businesses and 16% of micro-businesses.



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