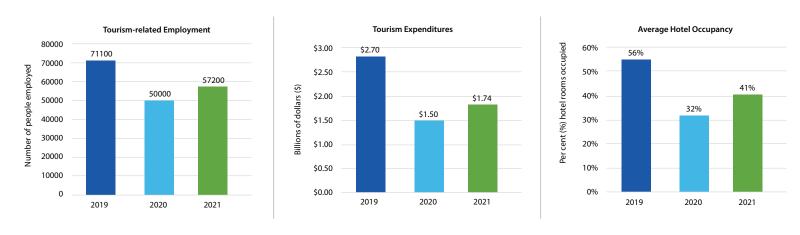


CHEER FOR SASKATCHEWAN'S TOURISM INDUSTRY RECOVERY



The COVID-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges to the tourism industry. Since the initial fallout in 2020, Saskatchewan has experienced a modest recovery.

There is optimism as total visitor expenditures and tourism-related employment numbers have seen increases. In 2020, Saskatchewan had \$1.50 billion in visitor spending. There were 50,000 people employed in tourism-related jobs that year. Tourism expenditures grew to \$1.74 billion in 2021, with 57,200 people employed in the tourism industry. Another encouraging statistic included hotel occupancy rates that rose from 32 per cent in 2020 to 41 per cent in 2021.

Estimates for 2022 are not available; however, further growth is anticipated over the next two years, with full recovery to pre-pandemic levels* expected in 2024.

*Pre-pandemic, tourism spending in Saskatchewan reached \$2.7 billion in 2019. Tourism-related employment hit 71,100, and hotel occupancy rates were 56 per cent.