COVID-19 CASES AND TOURISM IN CARIBBEAN SMALL STATES

In comparison to other Commonwealth countries, Caribbean small states have a small number of total COVID-19 cases.

- **Barbados**: 884 cases
- **The Bahamas**: 8004 cases
- **Guyana**: 6558 cases
- **Antigua & Barbuda**: 176 cases
- **Canada**: 670,000 cases
- **United Kingdom**: 3.1 million cases

In comparison to other Commonwealth countries, Caribbean small states have a small number of total COVID-19 cases. However, due to the strict measures of quarantine, lockdowns and closures of borders, these countries GDPs have been severely impacted, namely because of their heavy reliance on tourism. For example, in Antigua and Barbuda, tourism accounts for 54% of GDP; 42% in Belize; 41% in Barbados; 38% in Dominica and 34% in Jamaica (World Travel & Tourism Council, 2019).

In the short term, Caribbean small states will need to provide support for workers within the tourism sector in the form of fiscal packages, designed to provide temporary income support. They will also need to understand whether re-skilling is possible for these workers, allowing for transfers to different industries to take place. Supporting small business survival along the tourism value chain will also be critical.

In the long term, regional cooperation will be crucial, and governments in the region should collaborate to ensure cross-border transport networks remain open as much as possible. The role of digital technology should also be integrated into travel protocols and services, alongside creating stronger linkages between tourism and other sectors of the economy that will better support local communities.

**GDP Growth (annual %)**

- **Average of Caribbean Small States**: -8.2%
- **Canada**: -7.1%
- **United Kingdom**: -9.2%

Source: Commonwealth COVID-19 Dashboard

Source: World Economic Outlook, November 2020

Source: Commonwealth COVID-19 Dashboard

Source: World Travel & Tourism Council, 2019

Source: World Economic Outlines, November 2020