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# U.S. TRAVEL FALL 2022



# U.S. TRAVEL FALL 2022

Travel Forecast

NOVEMBER 30 | 1:00 P.M. ET





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# U.S. TRAVEL FALL 2022 TRAVEL FORECAST summary data table

BIT.LY/TRAVELFORECAST-2022





AN OXFORD ECONOMICS COMPANY

# The Outlook for the Economy and Travel

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President

Tourism Economics

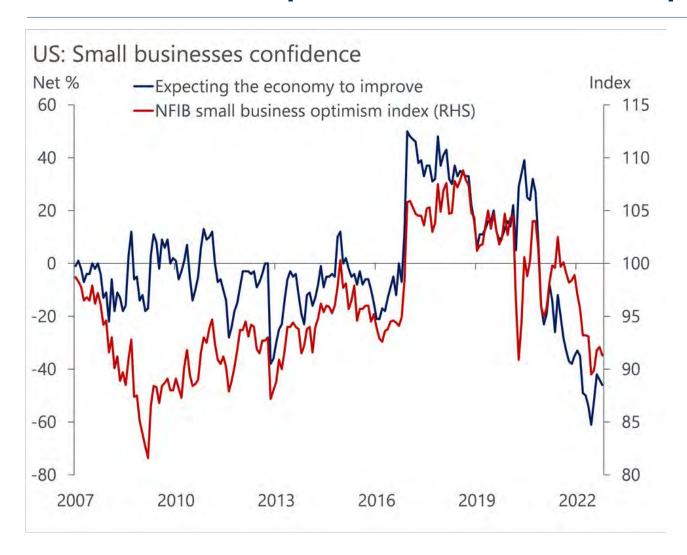
adam@tourismeconomics.com



- 1 Are we headed for a recession?
- 2 How does this usually work?
- 3 Why will travel prevail?



# Small business optimism remains low despite recent uptick





# **Consumers feeling uneasy**

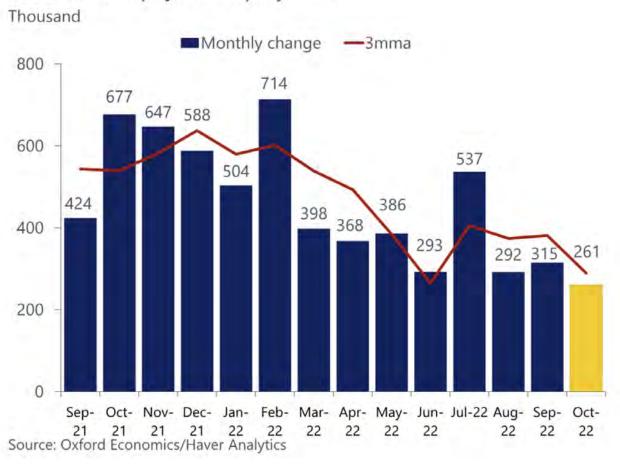
Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

#### US: Consumer surveys 3 mo. avg 3 mo. avg —Consumer Sentiment, LHS (U. of Mich) —Consumer Confidence, RHS (Conference Board)



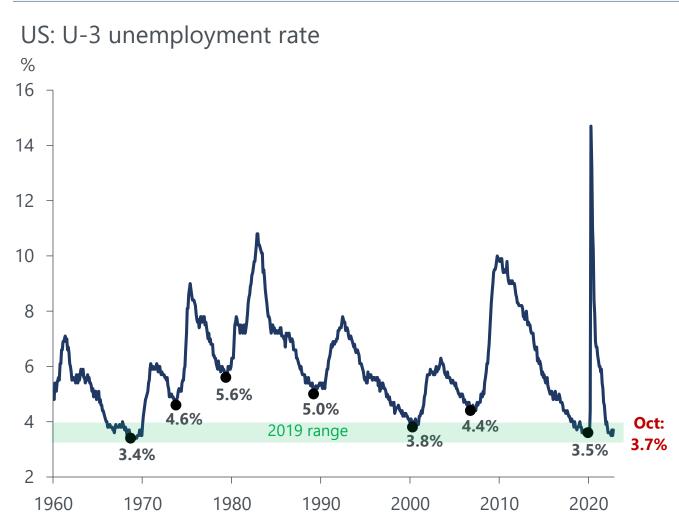
# Job growth continues at a more tempered pace

#### US: Nonfarm payroll employment





# **Unemployment rate remains historically low**

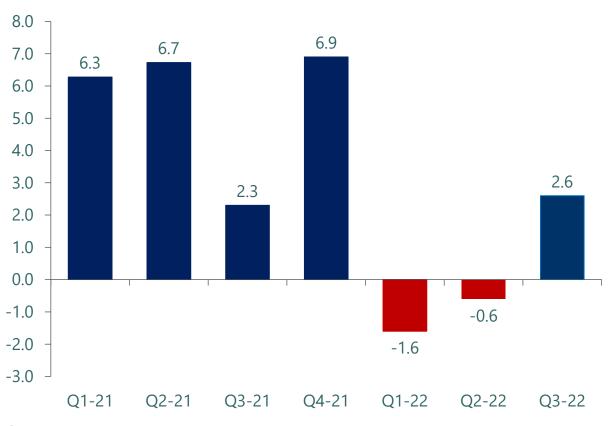






# The US economy resumed growth in the third quarter

US real GDP growth, % annualized

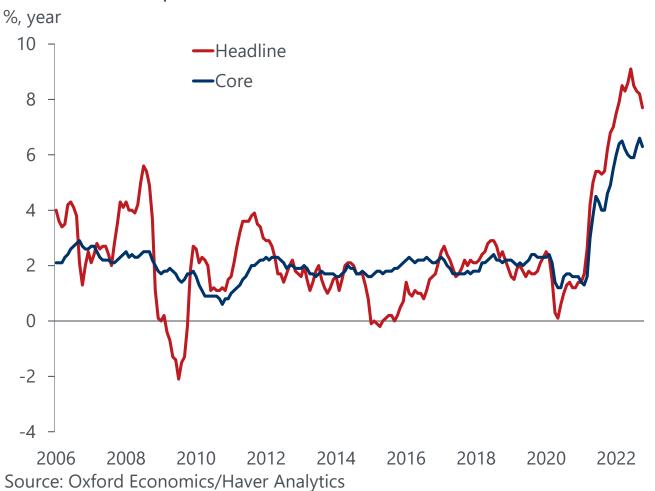


Source: BEA



# October CPI brought signs of hope but we're not there yet

#### **US:** Consumer prices

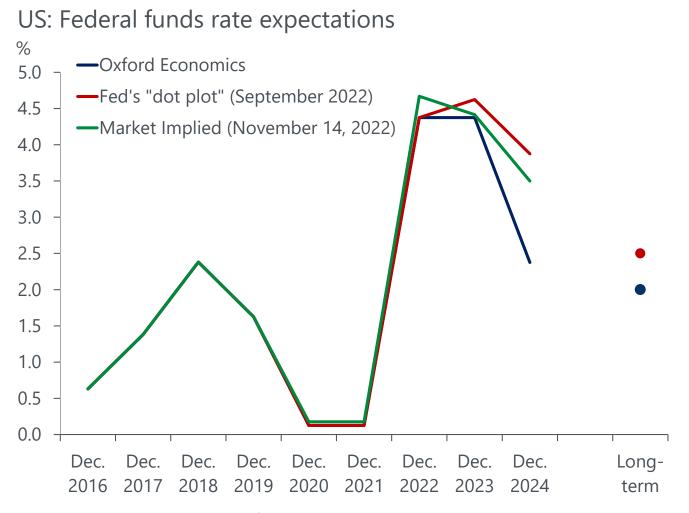


Headline and core CPI inflation decelerated to a still elevated 7.7% and 6.3%, respectively.

Interest rate hikes will continue.



#### And the Fed has been dialed in on its core mission



The Fed raised interest rates by 75bps for a fourth consecutive meeting in November, lifting the target range for the fed funds rate to 3.75% to 4.00%.

The Fed signaled that the pace of rate hikes may slow as it assesses the cumulative impact of 375bps of rate hikes, which will affect inflation and the economy with a lag.

Source: CME/Federal Reserve/Oxford Economics



# **Lower affordability = fewer sales**



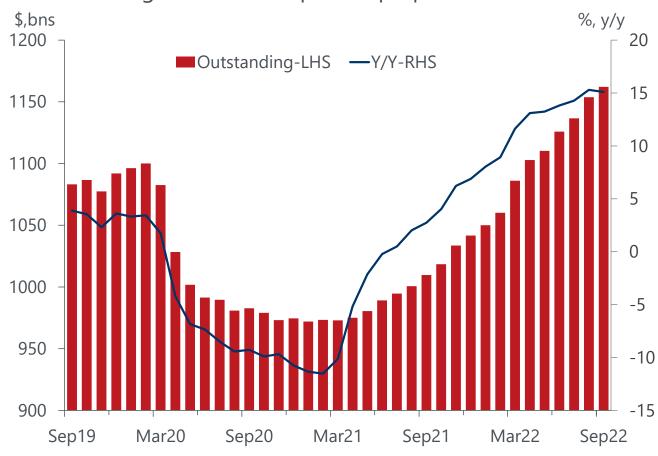
Average new monthly mortgage payments have risen nearly \$750, with interest rates near 7%

~20 mn households have been priced out by higher rates



# And households are taking on some debt

US: Revolving credit has surpassed prepandemic levels



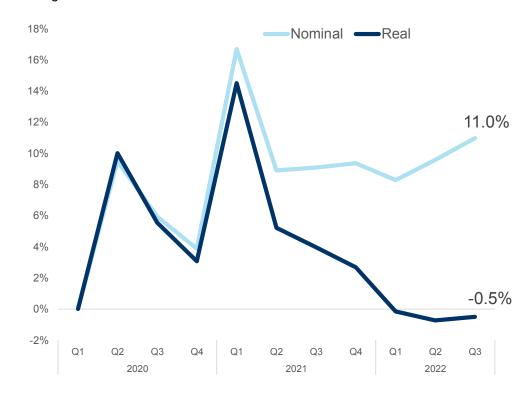
Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics



# Real income modestly down compared to pre-pandemic

#### Disposable personal income growth

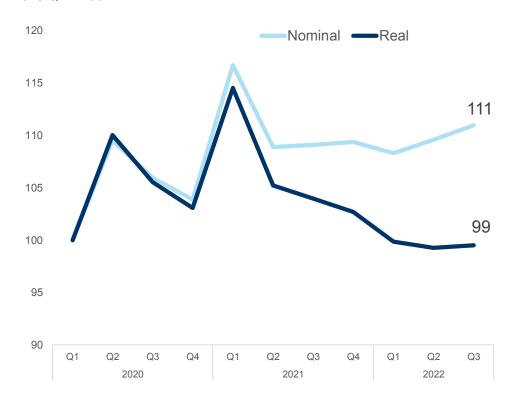
Change relative to 2020 Q1



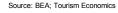
Note: Disposable personal income (measures income after taxes), seasonally adjusted. Real series deflated by PCE price index. Source: BEA; Tourism Economics

#### Personal income growth

2020 Q1 = 100



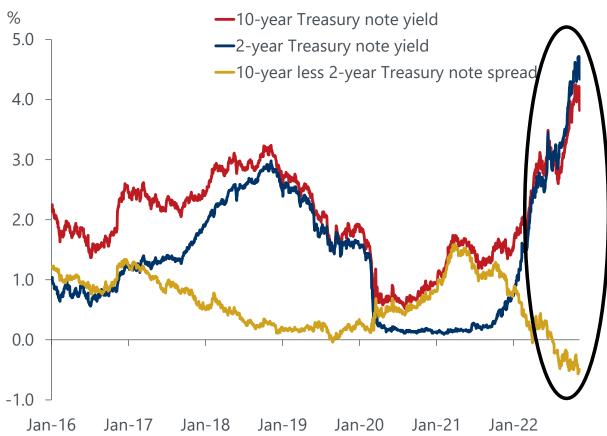
Note: Personal income, seasonally adjusted. Real series deflated by PCE price index.





# The yield curve has inverted (and stayed there)

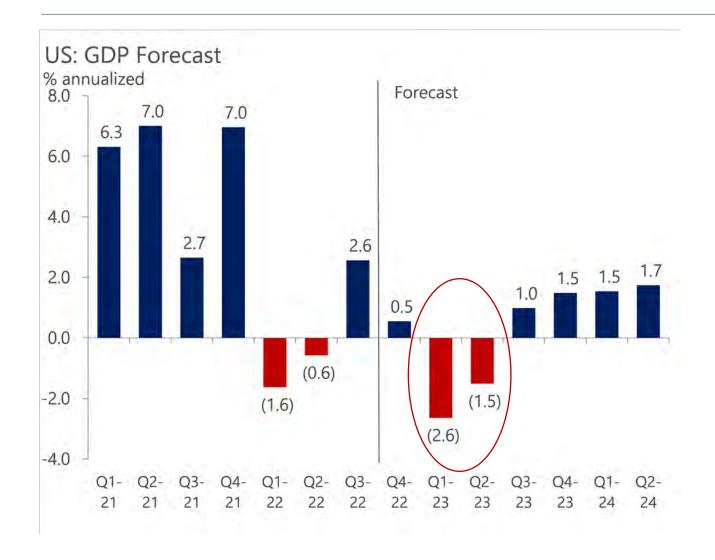
## US: Yield curve inversion



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics



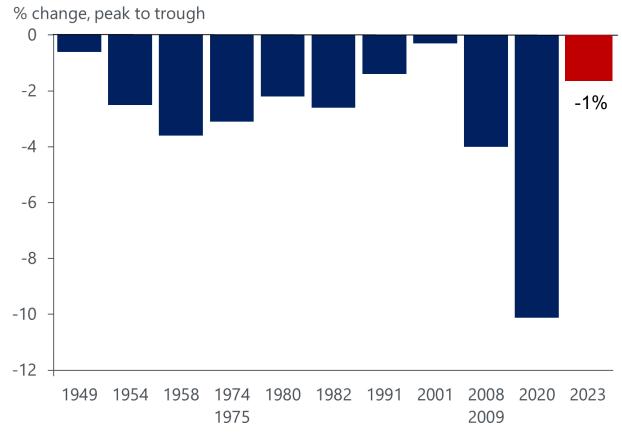
#### We are headed toward a recession in 2023





# The recession will be mild by historical standards

US: Peak-to-trough recessions since 1949



Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics

#### Why?

- Household balance sheets are in great shape and debt service burdens are low.
- Nonfinancial corporate balances are strong
- State and local governments are flush with cash.



# **Another buffer: job openings**

US: Number of job openings per unemployed







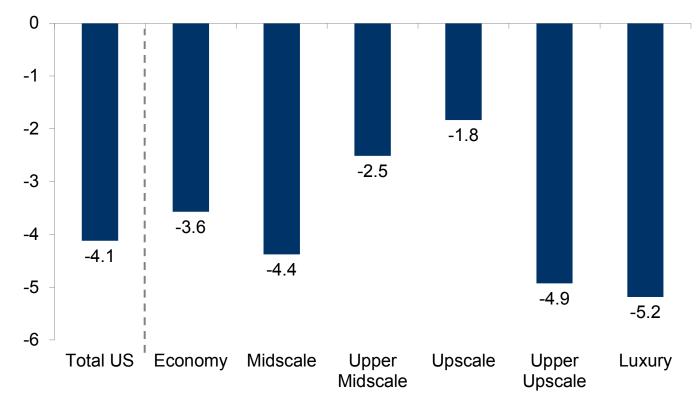
- 1 Are we headed for a recession?
- 2 How does this usually work?
- **3** Why will travel prevail?



# What is the usual relationship?

#### Hotel demand response to GDP during recessions

% change in room demand from -1% change in real GDP, 1987-2019



Over the past three recessions (not counting 2020), hotel demand fell on average 4x the rate of GDP.

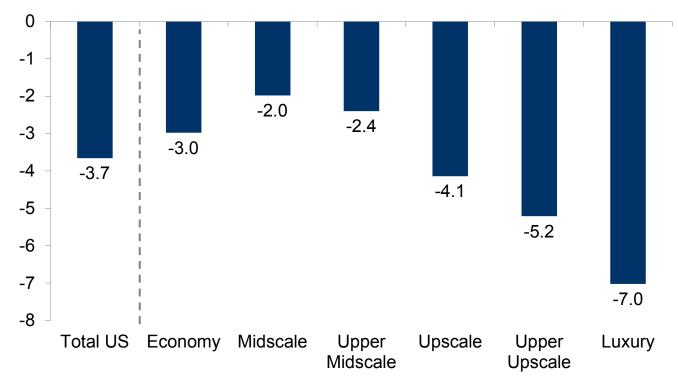
Source: Tourism Economics



# Rates react most at the top end

#### **Hotel ADR response to GDP during recessions**

% change in ADR from -1% change in real GDP, 1987-2019



For every 1% drop in GDP, Luxury ADR falls 7%

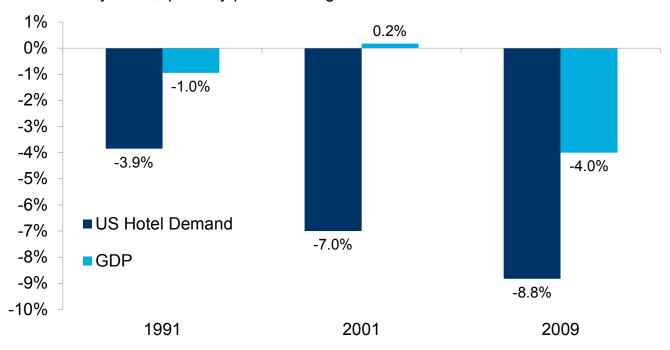
Source: Tourism Economics



#### What have the last three "normal" recessions looked like?

#### Hotel demand during recessionary periods

Year-over-year %, quarterly peak-to-trough



Quite a bit of variation is evident in the GDP-hotel room demand relationship

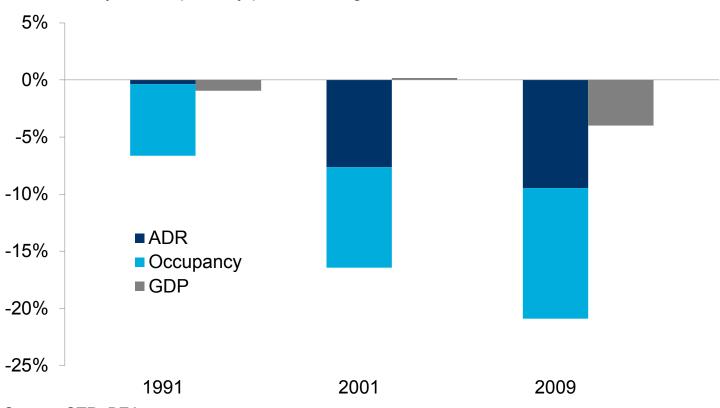
Source: STR, BEA



# Overall performance (choose your own adventure)

#### Hotel performance during recessionary periods

Year-over-year %, quarterly peak-to-trough



Quite a bit of variation is evident in the GDP-hotel room demand relationship

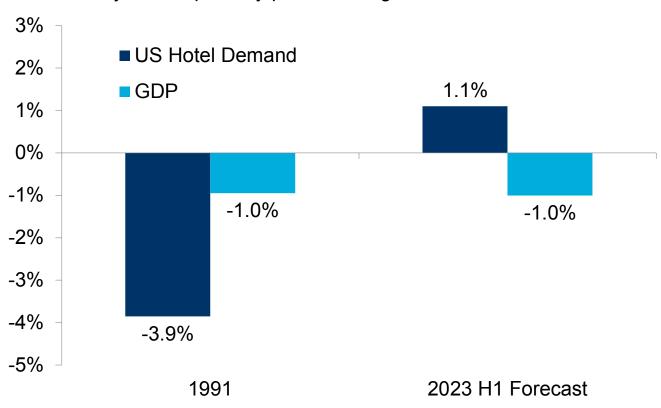
Source: STR, BEA



# Our expectation for 2023 is unique

#### **GDP and Hotel Room Demand**

Year-over-year %, quarterly peak-to-trough



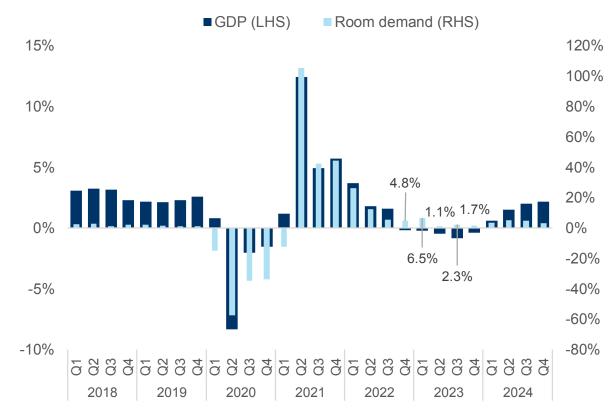
Source: STR, Tourism Economics, U.S. Travel, BEA



# Room demand will slow in 2023 but remain positive

#### GDP and hotel room demand

Quarterly data, year-over-year growth



Note: Real GDP, seasonally adjusted. Source: BEA; STR; Tourism Economics





- 1 Are we headed for a recession?
- 2 How does this usually work?
- 3 Why will travel prevail?



# Why the travel industry will prevail

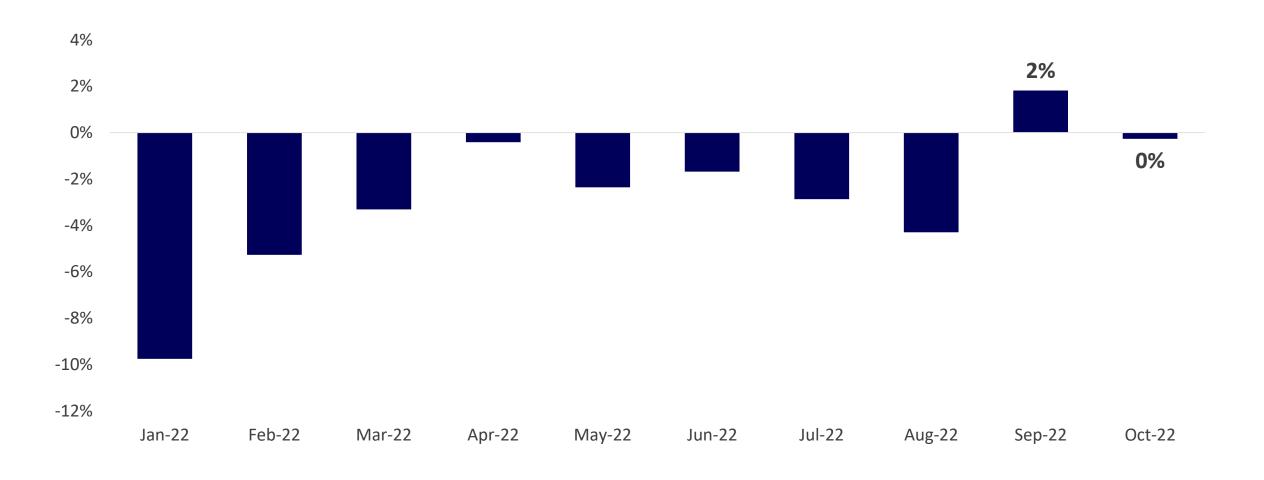
1 No signs of weakness yet!



# Newsflash: hotel room demand is fully recovered

Total U.S., demand % chg. to 2019, Jan 2022 – Oct 2022

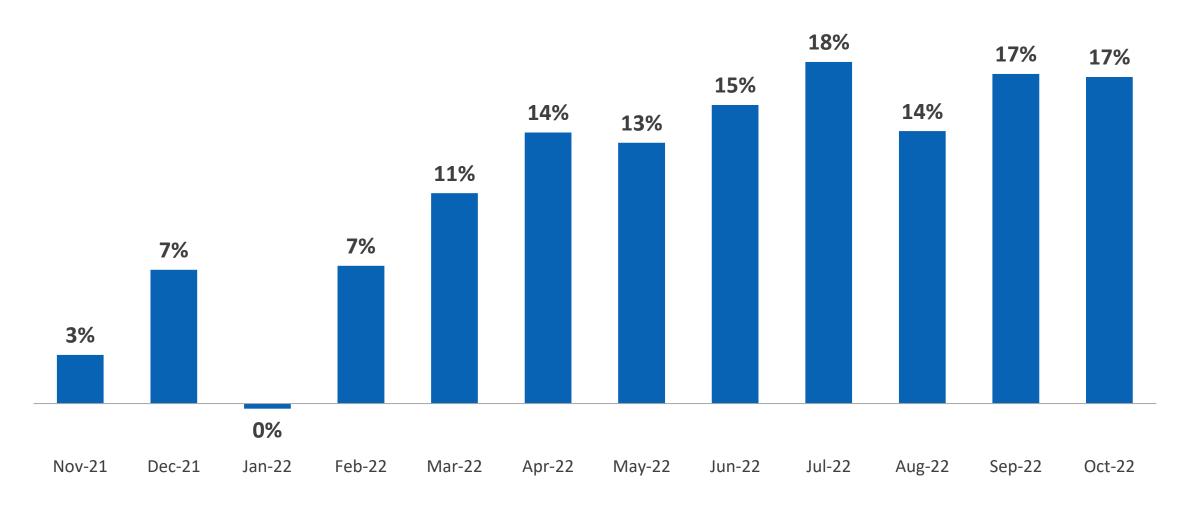




# ...and hotels continue to command high rates

Total U.S., ADR % chg. to 2019, Nov 2021– Oct 2022

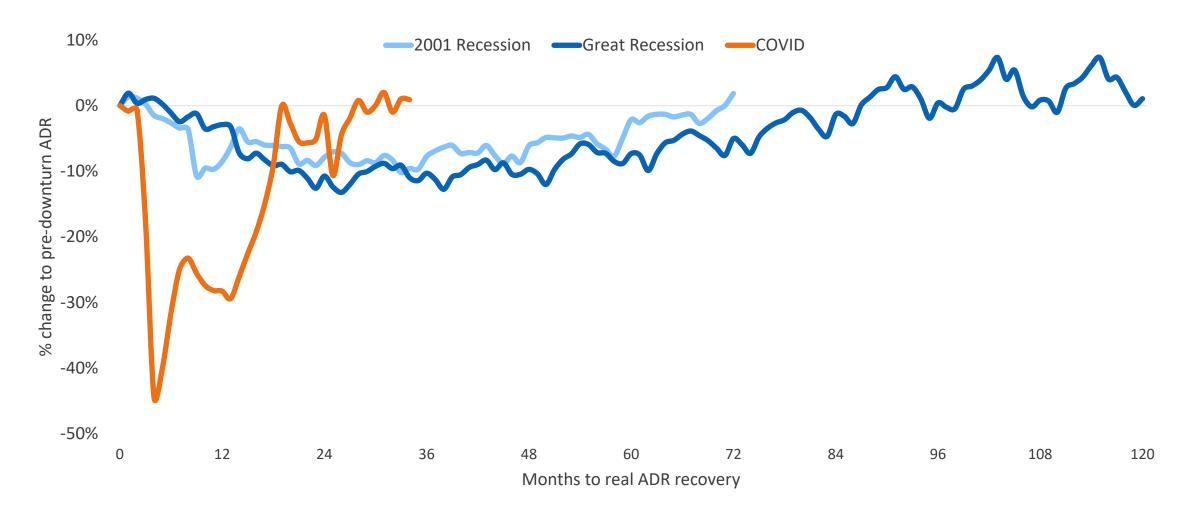




# Real ADR recovery very strong compared to prior downturns

Total U.S., real ADR % change to pre-recession year

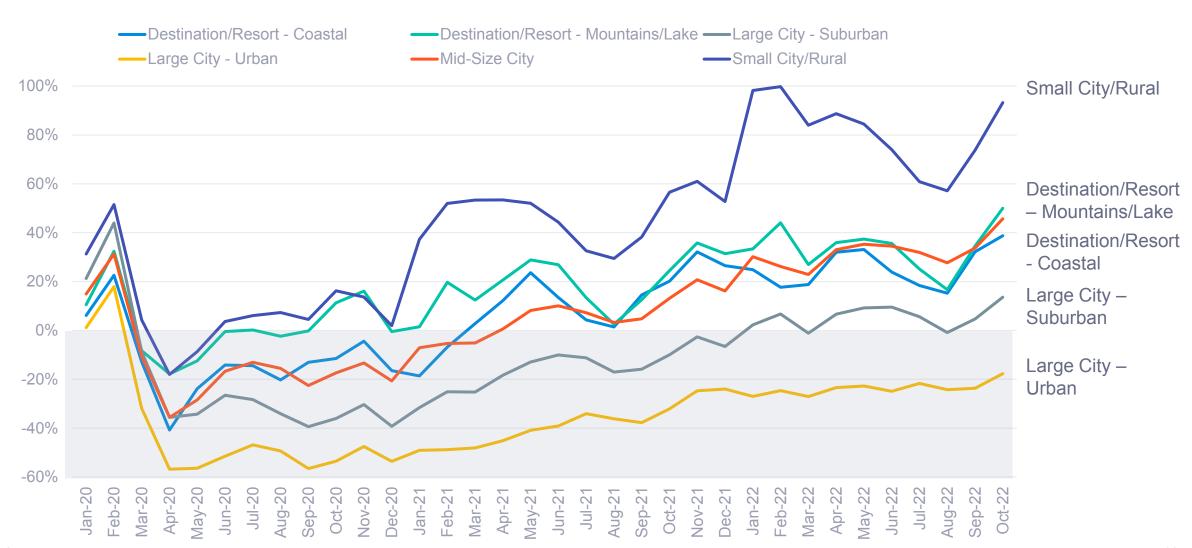




# ST rental demand expands... everywhere

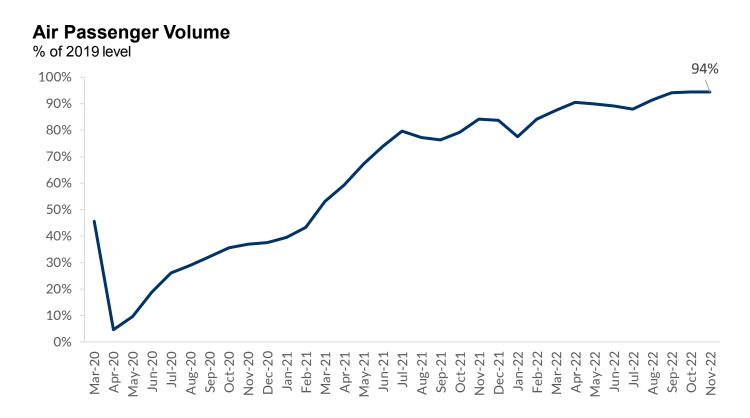
VIEDNV

Change in U.S. Short-term Rental Demand vs 2019 by Location Type



Source: AirDNA

# Air transportation continues to make gains



"We are expecting a very, very robust demand for the holiday periods for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and it looks to us now is the business is going to have a very strong fall.

I think everybody is looking for cracks. And what I'd say is we haven't seen any cracks in our demand set yet."

Delta earnings call, Sept 14

Source: TSA



### Auto travel still just fine



"In a normal world, 60% of our business is fly and 40% of it is drive. In the second quarter, we think it was 33% fly and 67% drive."

Hilton earnings call, July 27

Daily drive market index of US travelers who moved at least 50 miles from home and spent a minimum of 2 hours at the destination. The index is based on the average daily volume of 2019 travelers.





# Why the travel industry will prevail

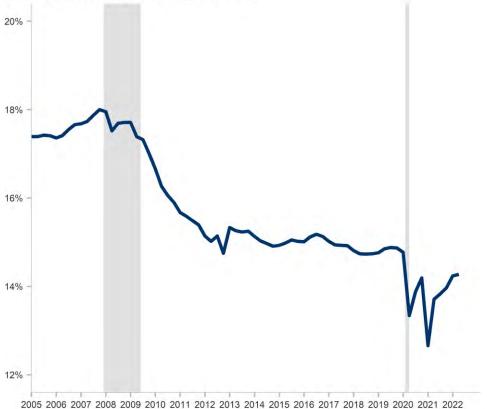
- 1 No signs of weakness yet!
- 2 US households are in a position of strength



# Household balance sheets remain strong

### Household debt service

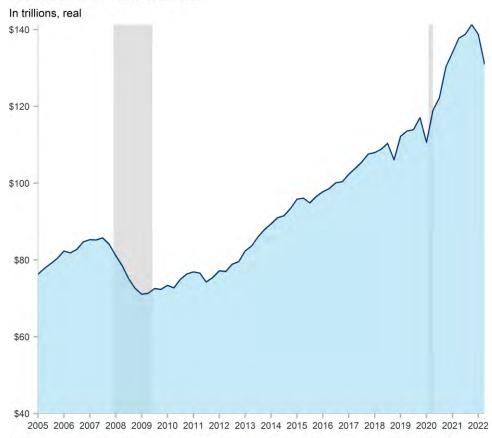
Financial obligations as ratio to disposable income



Note: Quarterly data through 2022Q2. Financial obligations ratio is the ratio of household debt payments, and

payments such as rent and auto leases, to disposable income. Source: Federal Reserve, NBER

### Household net worth

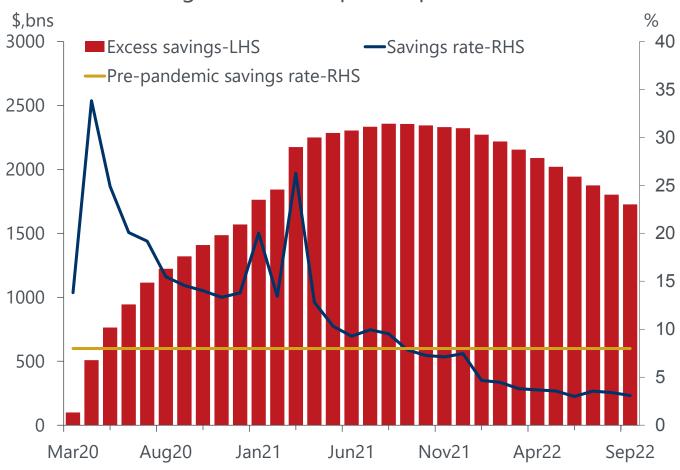


Note: 2020 dollars. Quarterly data through 2022Q2. Net worth of households and nonprofit organizations. Measures assets such as housing and financial assets, minus liabilities. Source: Federal Reserve, NBER



# Excess savings remain, but are drawing down

US: Excess savings based on reported personal income data

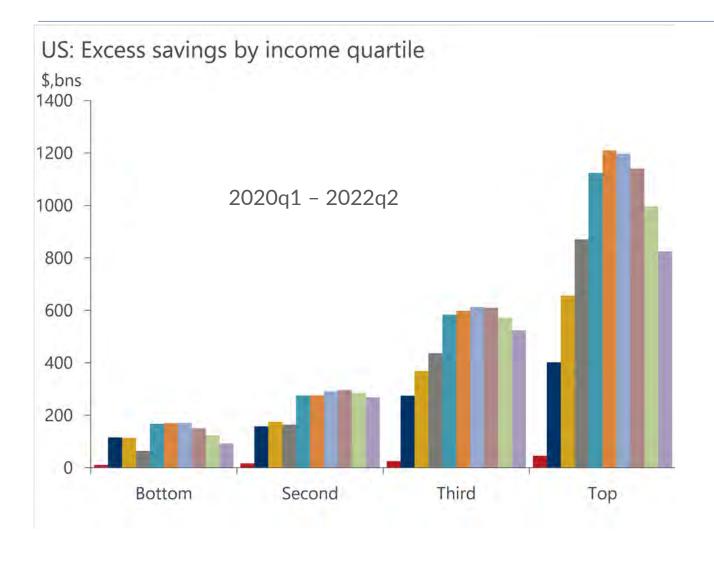


Still-massive excess savings will provide some support to consumer spending going forward.

Source: Oxford Economics/Haver Analytics



# **Excess savings remain, but are drawing down**



\$2.4 trillion saved during pandemic, now sits at \$1.7 trillion in September (a 27% decline over the past year)

Households in the top income quartile held close to half of excess savings at the end of Q2, while accounting for about two-thirds of the drawdown.

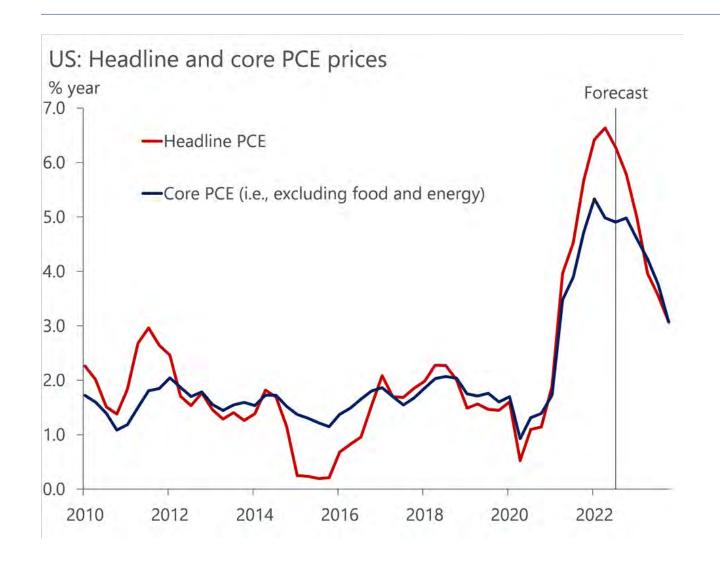


"While macroeconomic concerns continue to dominate the headlines, we are not seeing any signs of weakness in our business. ...consumers still have \$1.7 trillion in excess savings, with the majority concentrated in the top income brackets which gives us confidence the recovery in the lodging industry is sustainable."

Host earnings call, November 3, 2022



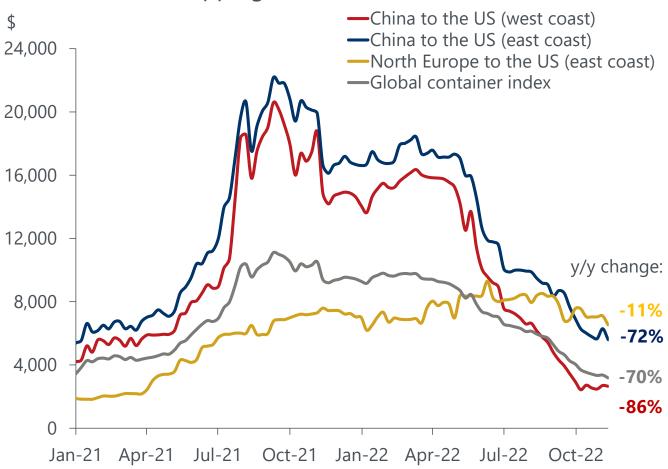
# **Expect inflation to slow in the coming months**





# Shipping costs continue to fall

US: The cost of shipping a container from...



Source: Oxford Economics/Freightos Baltic Index



# Why the travel industry will prevail

- 1 No signs of weakness yet!
- 2 US households are in a position of strength
- 3 Pent-up demand and prioritization of travel is real



"While we are mindful of macroeconomic headwinds, the travel industry is experiencing a countercyclical recovery. Global demand is continuing to ramp as consumers shift spend to experiences, businesses return to travel, and international markets continue to reopen."

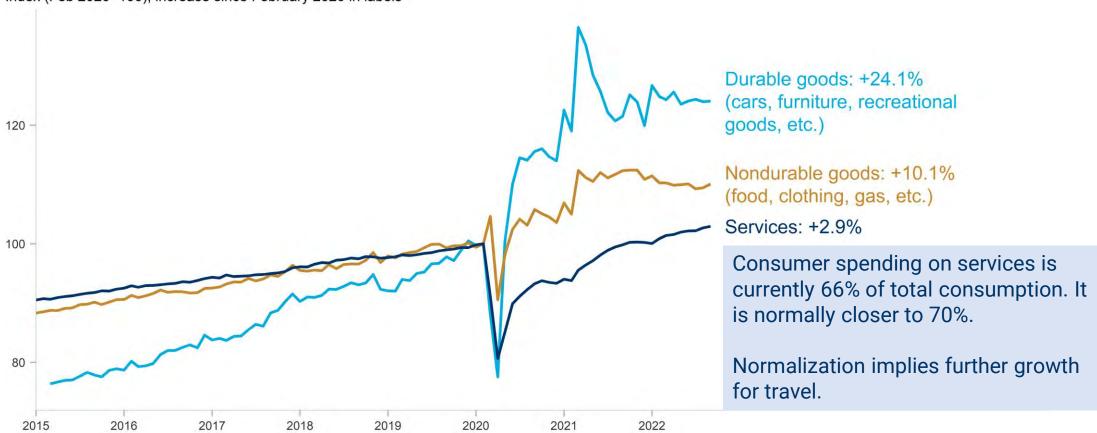
Delta CEO Ed Bastian, October 13, 2022



# Spending continues to rise... especially for services

### Consumer spending, real

Index (Feb 2020=100), increase since February 2020 in labels



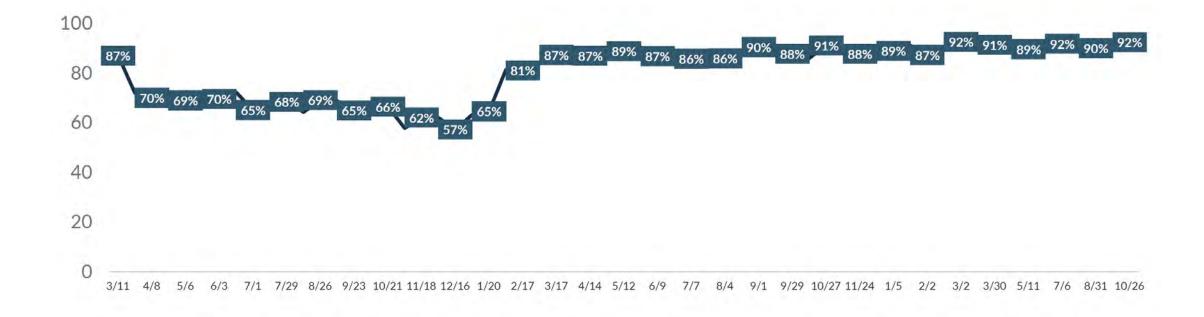
Note: Real. Seasonally adjusted monthly data through September 2022

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis



### And overall intentions to travel remain elevated

### Travelers with Travel Plans in the Next Six Months Comparison

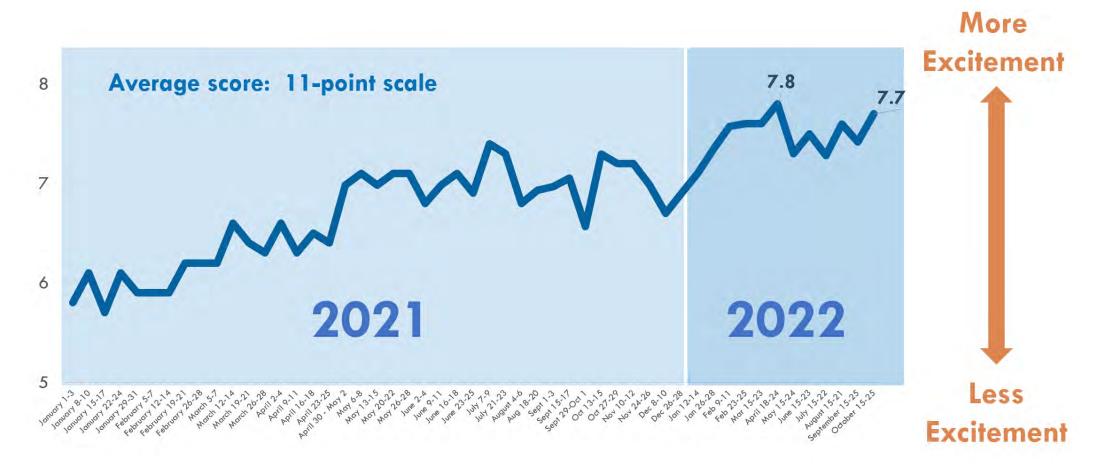


Travel Sentiment Study Wave 67





# How excited are you about leisure travel in the coming year?

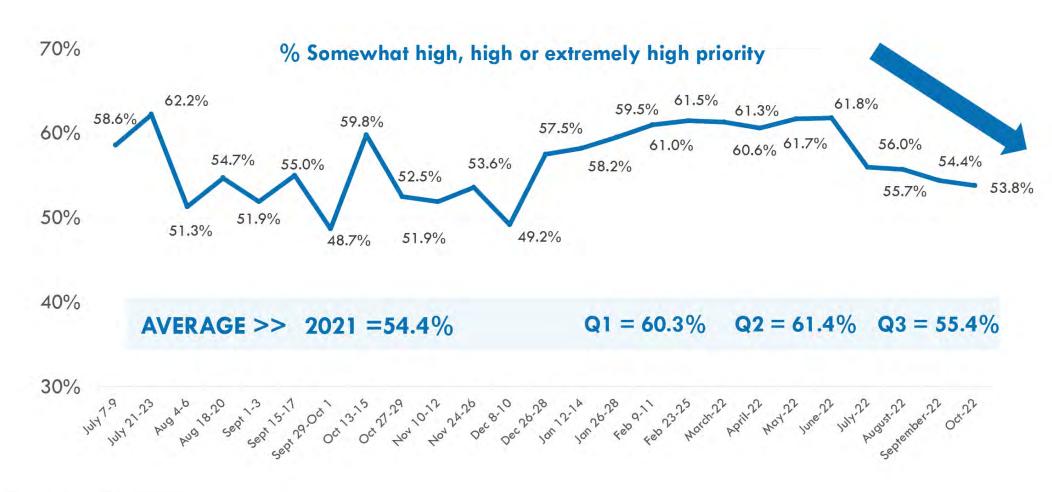




(Base: All respondents, 1,200+ completed surveys each wave in 2021. 4,000+ completed surveys each wave in 2022)



### Is travel a budget priority?

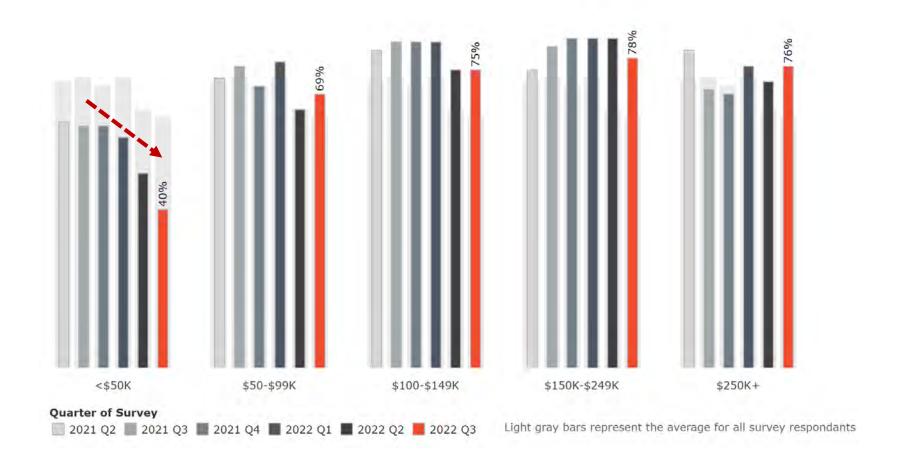






# Slippage evident among lower income earners

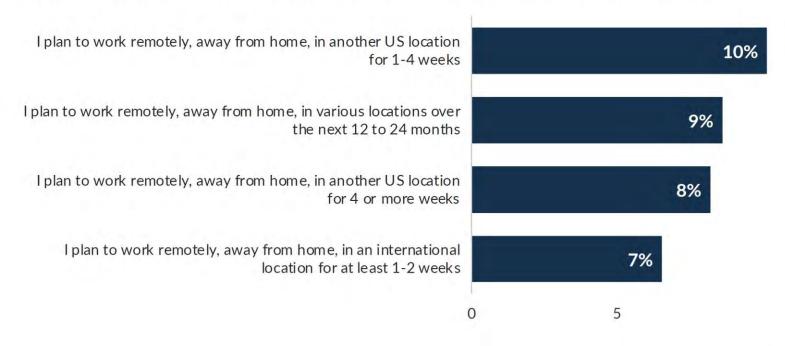
Planning Leisure Travel Within the Next 6 Months % of American Consumers





### 34% plan to travel... as they work remotely

### Which of the following describes your remote work plans within the next 12-24 months?



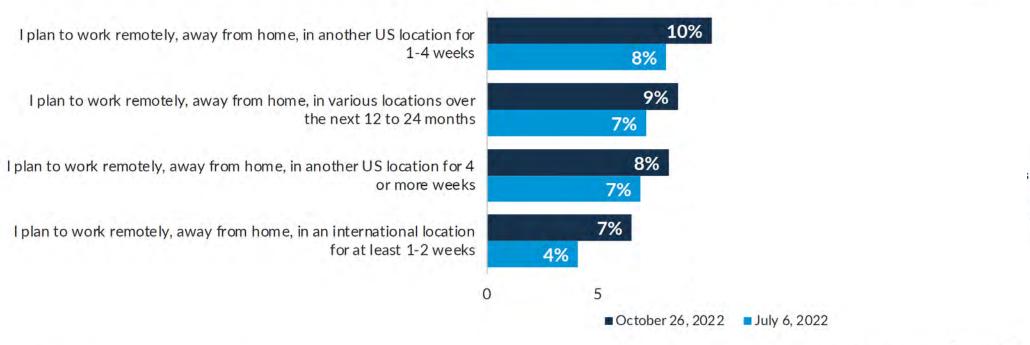
Travel Sentiment Study Wave 67





### ...an increase from 26% just a few months ago

### Which of the following describes your remote work plans within the next 12-24 months?



Travel Sentiment Study Wave 67





"There's been a permanent structural change in leisure demand because of the flexibility that hybrid work allows. This is not pent-up demand. It's the new normal."

United Airlines earnings call, October 19, 2022



# Why the travel industry will prevail

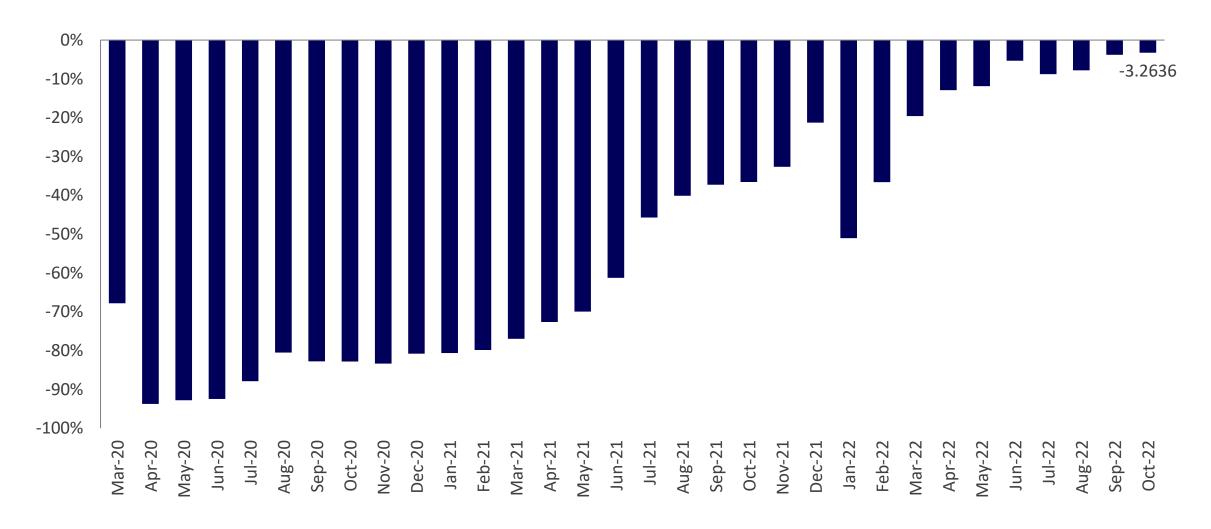
- 1 No signs of weakness yet!
- 2 US households are in a position of strength
- 3 Pent-up demand and prioritization of travel is real
- 4 Businesses are still restoring necessary travel



# **The Group Recovery Continues**



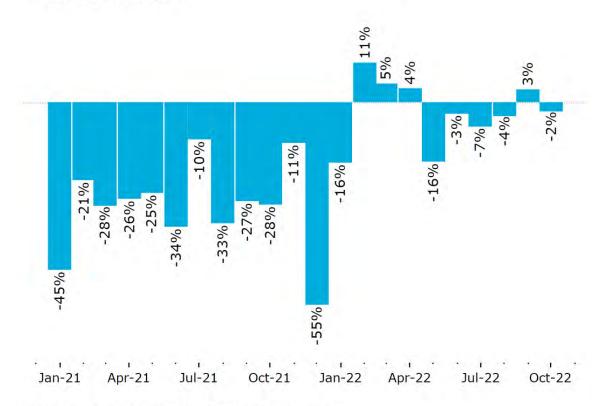




## Group bookings activity is just below 2019 levels

### **DMO/CVB Group Bookings**

Hotel room nights contracted during most recent months % change from 2019



Source: Simpleview CRM (250+ U.S. DMOs)

"Group bookings are up 30% compared to 2019, and we expect it to perform better than prior recessions."

Marriott earnings call, Sept 8



# And corporate profit margins remain strong

### **Corporate profit margins**



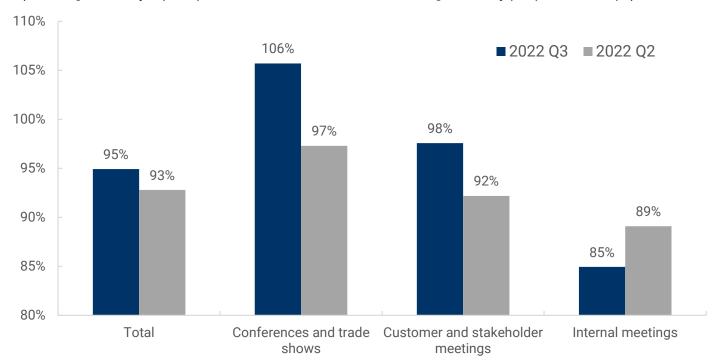
Note: Quarterly data through 2022Q2. Corporate profits before tax as a ratio to GDP. Based on corporate profits with inventory valuation and capital consumption adjustments, domestic industries. Source: BEA, NBER



### **Business travel expectations INCREASED in Q3**

### Average expected trips versus 2019

(% average monthly trips expected in six months relative to average monthly pre-pandemic trips)



[q1&q2] How many times do you travel on average for business purposes?

Business Travelers Survey BASE: Q3 N = 1641; Q2 N = 2545

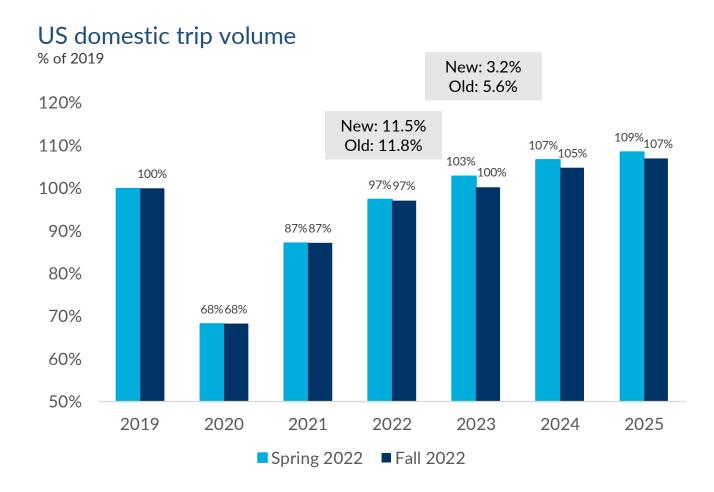
"Regardless of whether you think demand for business travel will ultimately return to 100% or something less, it almost certainly is going higher from here."

United earnings call, October 19





# **Comparing current and previous forecast**







# Modest downgrade to leisure travel forecast

### US domestic trip volume

% of 2019 120% 108%106% 110%108% 105% 103% 101% 101% 100% 96% 100% 76% 80% 60% 40% 20% 0% 2019 2022 2020 2021 2023 2024 2025 ■ Spring 2022 ■ Fall 2022

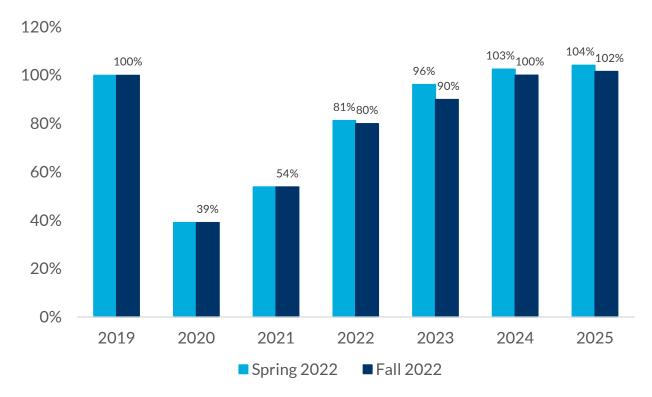




# Business trip volume: 80% this year and 90% next year

### US domestic business trip volume

% of 2019



Source: Tourism Economics, U.S. Travel Association

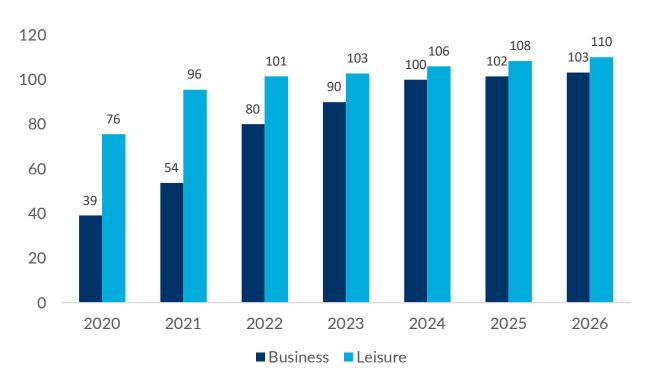




# Big picture is unchanged, but with slower growth in 2023

### US domestic trip volume

% of 2019



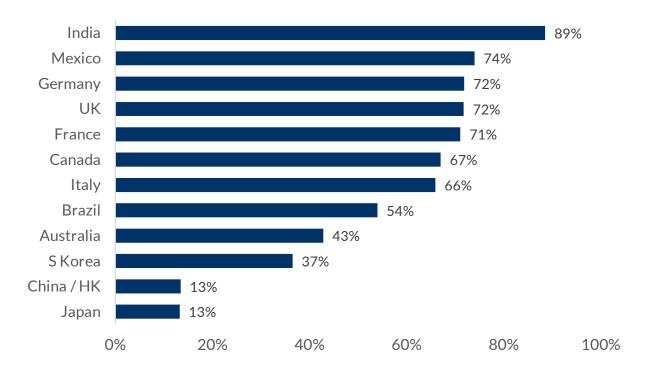




# International recovery: partial and mixed

### **Top US origin markets in 2022**

% recovered relative to 2019



Note: Top 12 origin markets for international travelers to the United States.

Source: Tourism Economics

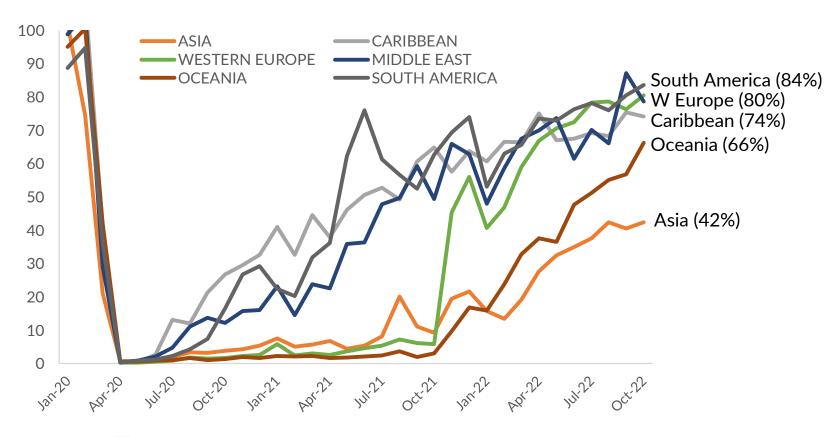




# Signs of some acceleration

### **US Inbound Overseas Travel by Region**

Same month in 2019 = 100



Source: I-94, NTTO



### Canada air has recovered while land stalls

### **Canada Visits to USA**

% of same month in 2019



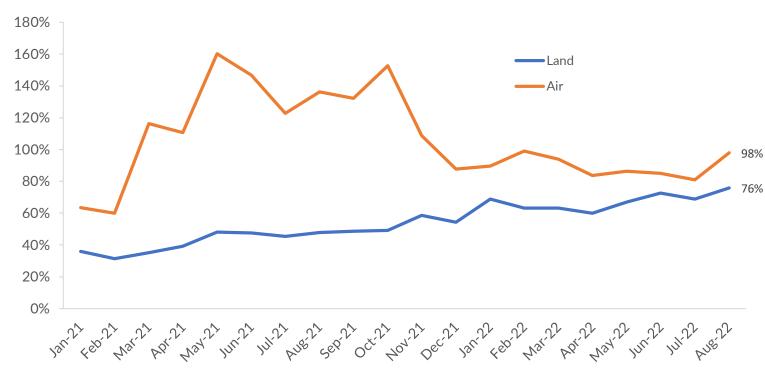
Source: Statistics Canada



# Mexico air arrivals in range of 2019 volumes

### **Mexico Visits to USA**

% of same month in 2019



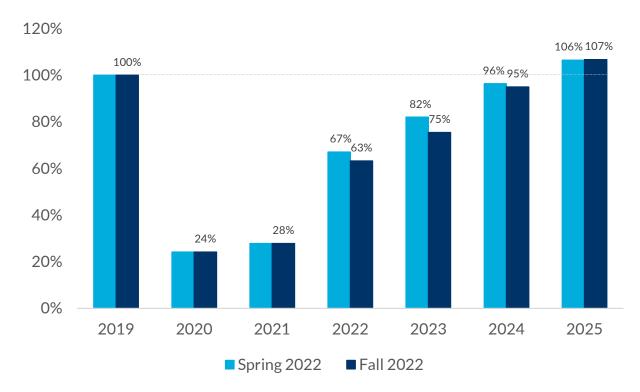
Source: Statistics Canada



### International inbound forecast downgraded

### International inbound forecast

% of 2019



Source: Tourism Economics, U.S. Travel Association

### Headwinds have stiffened

- 1. Strong dollar
- 2. Weaker global economy
- 3. Visa backlog
- 4. China "zero covid" policy

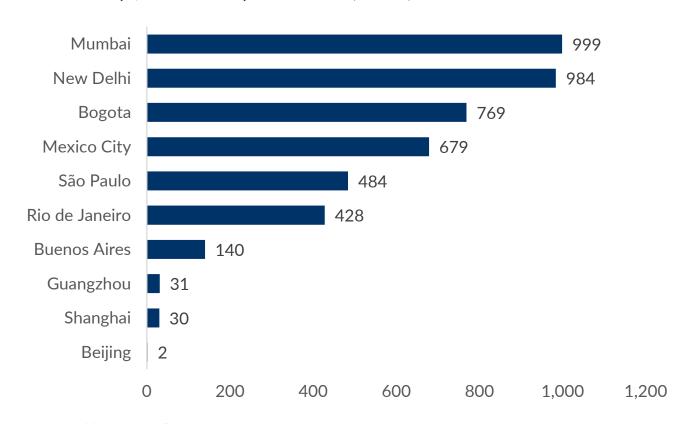




# This headwind will increasingly affect the market

### Visa appointment wait times

Calendar days, interview required visitors (B1/B2)



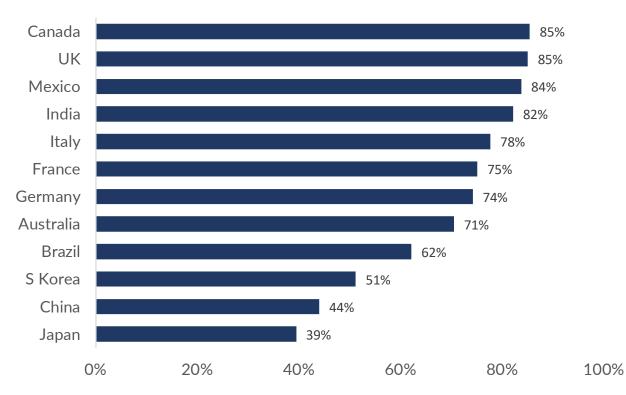
Source: U.S. State Department



# A snapshot of next year

### International visits to US in 2023

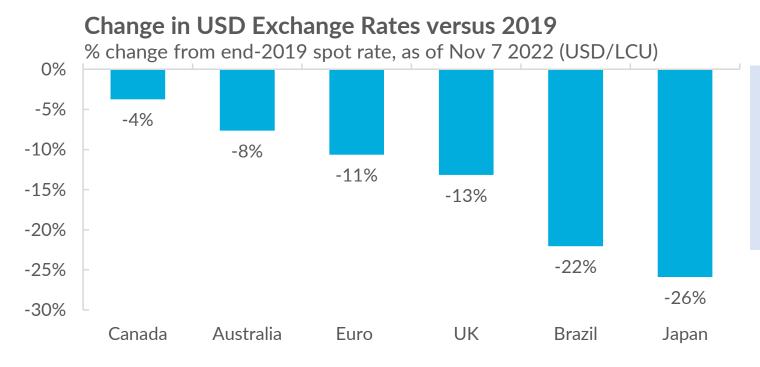
Share of 2019







### And traveling to the US has gotten more expensive



Oct overseas inbound = 2.3 mn (66% of 2019 visits)

Oct outbound = 3.1 mn (95% of 2019 departures)

Sources: Tourism Economics, Haver

Note: Negative change implies depreciation of local currency (LCU) versus USD.



"Demand for transatlantic travel is extending well into the fall. Starting in October, we anticipate flying more transatlantic capacity than 2019, making it the first geography to exceed 2019 capacity levels."

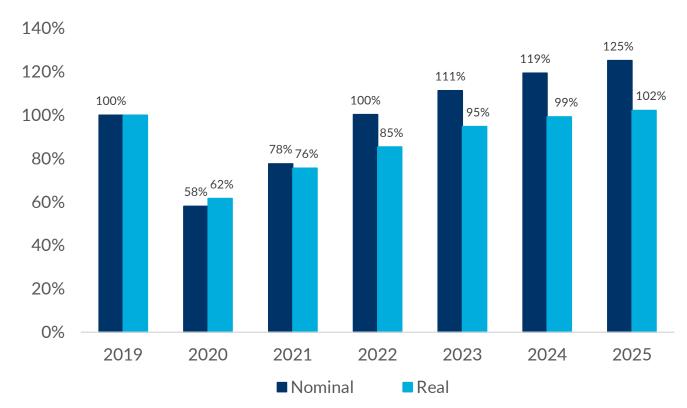
Delta earnings call, October 13, 2022



### Nominal spending recovers this year. Real will take more time.

### **Total US visitor expenditures**

% of 2019



Source: Tourism Economics, U.S. Travel Association

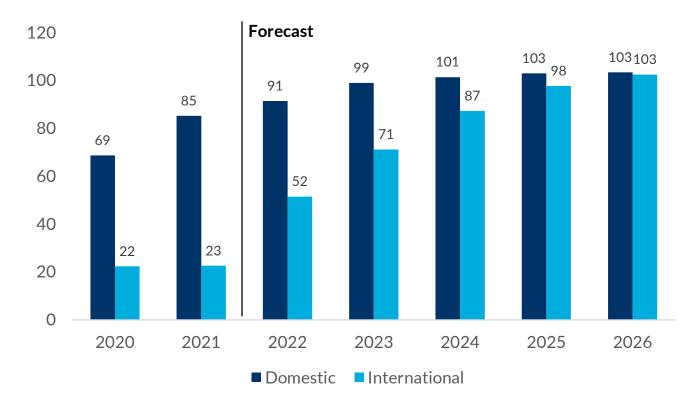




# International spending will "catch-up" to domestic in 2026

### Real travel expenditures

Index (2019=100)



Source: Tourism Economics, U.S. Travel Association

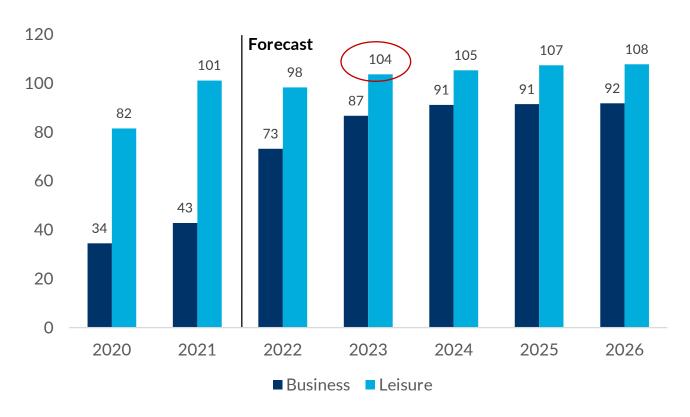




# Business travel spending at 73% this year and 87% in 2023

### Real travel expenditures

Index (2019=100)



Note: Domestic travel expenditures only.





# Summary

### 1 A mild recession is likely in 2023

Inflation and higher interest rates will leave a mark, but strong balance sheets should limit the downside

### 2 Usually, this would imply a substantial retrenchment in travel

The 1% drop in GDP would historically room demand to drop 4%. The latest forecast defies this norm.

### 3 Four reasons travel is uniquely positioned for this downturn

- Momentum is still evident
- Households (and businesses) are in a fiscally strong position
- Pent-up demand is prioritizing travel
- Business travel continues to rebuild

### **4** The travel outlook

The 2023 outlook was revised downward but we still expect growth across all segments



### **RESEARCH ESSENTIALS**

U.S. Travel Answer Sheet

Monthly Travel Data Report

Travel Facts and Figures

The Intersection Webinar

### Forecast

Monthly Workforce Data

### **INTERACTIVE DATA**

Recovery and Growth Insights Dashboard

DMO Digital Performance Dashboard

**Economic Impact Calculator** 

Economic Impact Map

NCAE Mobile Data Insights Dashboard

**VIEW ALL INDUSTRY IMPACT >** 

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# U.S. TRAVEL FALL 2022 TRAVEL FORECAST bull report

# Recovery and Growth DASHBOARD

# BIT.LY/RECOVERYGROWTHDASHBOARD

MEMBER LOGIN REQUIRED