

# DATA-FIRST FACTSHEET

**NTTW**  
NATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM WEEK  
MAY 7-13, 2023

**The travel industry plays an indispensable role** in driving economic growth, creating jobs and supporting communities across the country. A thriving travel industry moves our nation forward.

The data below showcases our industry as a critical component to the economic vitality of America.

## TRAVEL AS AN ECONOMIC ENGINE:

- In 2022, **direct travel spending totaled \$1.2 trillion**, powering communities and livelihoods across the nation.
  - **Did you know:** 68% of Americans agree travel and tourism to their region are important economic contributors to local businesses and jobs.<sup>1</sup>
  - **Click [here](#)** to learn more about how travel directly impacts your Congressional district.
- **With an economic output of \$2.6 trillion in 2022**, travel serves as an essential catalyst for a productive U.S. economy and helps to fuel connection and innovation within other industries.
- Travel spending generated nearly **\$160 billion** in total tax revenue, including **\$84 billion** in state and local tax revenue in 2022.
  - **What's more:** 62% of Americans agree taxes paid by travelers help fund essential services in their communities.<sup>2</sup>

## TRAVEL AS A MAJOR EMPLOYER:

- **Eight million** workers are directly employed within the travel industry.
- The travel industry's impact goes beyond direct employment to support a total of **15 million American jobs**.
  - Prior to the pandemic, **1 out of 10 jobs** depended on travel.
- **Bonus:** 2.3 million domestic person-trips were taken in 2022—injecting dollars into local communities and contributing to the success of countless small businesses.

## THE POWER OF TRAVEL'S UNTAPPED POTENTIAL:

- Prior to the pandemic, travel was our nation's #1 services export and generated a significant trade surplus.
  - In 2022, travel's trade surplus declined to just \$3 billion—from a peak of \$86 billion in 2015—due to the slow return of inbound international travel and full recovery of outbound travel.<sup>3</sup>
  - **How we build back:** Drastically lower visa wait times and welcome more international visitors to the U.S.
- **Domestic leisure travel spending reached \$837 billion in 2022.** While far above pre-pandemic levels in nominal terms, it has essentially recovered to 2019 levels when adjusted for inflation.
- As domestic business and international inbound travel remain further behind, **there is much room to grow:**
  - Domestic business travel spending remained at just 74% of 2019 levels (inflation-adjusted).
  - International inbound visitations were 64% recovered, while inflation-adjusted spending was just 55% recovered.<sup>4</sup>

LET'S MOVE #TRAVELFORWARD

Source: U.S. Travel Association, *Tourism Economics* | <sup>1,2</sup>Ipsos, <sup>3,4</sup>U.S. Department of Commerce