

# The Economic Impact of Government Meetings



Government travel for meetings and conferences is vital to making government more efficient in carrying out its mission, more responsive to citizens and more effective in partnering with the private sector.

The report – The Value of Government Meetings – was conducted by Rockport Analytics, a research and analytical consulting firm. The study assesses the broad economic impact of federal and state government meeting travel by examining the economic contribution made by both government meeting travel reimbursements and government-sponsored meeting operations expenses for 2011.

## Travel for government meetings delivers a broad economic impact and supports thousands of jobs

- Government travel for meetings and conferences had a total economic impact of \$24.4 billion in 2011.
- Additionally, each government-meeting delegate generated roughly \$174 in tax receipts, \$78 of which went to state and local authorities.
- Government travel for meetings and conferences supported 343,800 American jobs, \$14.5 billion in U.S. wages and contributed \$5.5 billion in tax revenue.
- Government meeting and conference spending is key to a number of job sectors. In 2011, government meeting spending directly supported:
  - 58,700 food services and restaurant jobs in the U.S.;
  - 48,400 hotel jobs;
  - 31,500 meeting management support jobs; and
  - 1,100 jobs in software, audio, and video media.

## Government meetings are much more efficient than private-sector meetings

- Employees attending government meetings and conferences spent an average of \$185 per day in 2011, almost 20% less than the \$224 per day spent by private-sector meeting attendees.
- Likewise, spending on government meetings and conferences operations was significantly lower than that of the private-sector – \$173 per delegate, per day on average compared to \$339 for the private-sector.
- In 2011, government-meeting travel comprised 36% of all government travel expenditures, much lower than that of the private sector, which spends nearly half (48%) of its budget on meetings-related travel.