FACT SHEET: U.S. TRAVEL EXPORTS (2016)

International Traveler Spending in the U.S. – A $245 billion U.S. Export.

1. Despite accounting for only half of total visits to the U.S. from abroad, overseas (long-haul) travelers are responsible for four-fifths of U.S. travel exports.
   - Overseas visitors (travelers from all countries except Canada and Mexico) constitute only half of all visitations to the U.S., but are responsible for 84 percent of travel exports.
   - $205 billion -> Overseas visitor spending (Travel Exports)\(^1\)
   - $245 billion -> Total visitor spending (Travel Exports)
   - The travel industry is very “export-intensive”, and the impact of spending by international visitors has grown over the past decade.
   - Spending by international visitors accounted for about 15 percent of total U.S. travel receipts in 2016. To put this into perspective, overall exports of goods and services accounted for less than 9 percent of overall private sector output of the United States.

2. After taking into account U.S. residents’ spending abroad, the U.S. enjoys a large travel trade surplus of $84 billion.
   - $245 billion -> all travel spending (“travel exports”) by visitors to the U.S. in 2016 (including international passenger fares and spending on education and health, as well as spending by border/seasonal/short-term workers).
   - $161 billion -> all travel spending by U.S. residents abroad (“travel imports”),
   - $84 billion -> positive travel trade balance, the highest of any industry
   - Without this travel trade surplus, the total U.S. trade deficit would have been $589 billion in 2016, 17 percent higher than its actual size.

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\(^1\) Includes general travel spending, international passenger fares, as well as education and health-related spending, and spending by border/seasonal workers.
General travel spending by international visitors to the U.S. comprise nearly two-thirds of overall travel exports.

- U.S. travel exports (spending by international visitors to the U.S.) consist of:
  - 63% -> General travel spending on goods and services by international visitors in the U.S.
  - 16% -> International passenger fare receipts on U.S. airlines
  - 21% -> Education and health-related spending, and spending by border/seasonal workers.

- U.S. Travel imports (spending by U.S. residents abroad) consist mostly of general travel spending and passenger fares (93%), with relatively low spending on education (5%) and other categories (2%).

- As a result, education-related spending and spending by border/seasonal workers offer significant contributions of 32 and 8 percent, respectively, to the U.S. overall travel trade surplus.

Average spending by overall international visitors to the U.S., as well as overseas visitors, is considerably higher than that of U.S. residents spending abroad

- $2,546 -> average travel spending (excludes education, health and cross-border workers) by all international visitors to the U.S.
- $1,436 -> average amount spent by U.S. travelers abroad
- $4,361 -> average travel spending by overseas visitors to the U.S.
- $2,010 -> average amount spent by U.S. travelers overseas

- Visitors from all top-10 inbound markets, ranked by average spending, spend more than $5,000 per visit to the U.S.³

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### Top 10 Origin Markets by Travel Spending on U.S. Visits, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market</th>
<th>Average spending by visitors in the U.S. ($)</th>
<th>Average spending by U.S. travelers abroad ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. South Africa</td>
<td>7,326</td>
<td>2,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>7,320</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. China</td>
<td>6,901</td>
<td>2,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Nigeria</td>
<td>6,559</td>
<td>2,444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Australia</td>
<td>6,295</td>
<td>3,099</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Travel Association