Travel is essential to the American economy, providing an indispensable source of job creation. The travel industry is unique: it is highly dependent on human labor, generally immune to outsourcing and plays a key role in international trade. Given travel’s critical role in job creation across the country, lawmakers at all levels should prioritize policies that are pro-connectivity, pro-growth and pro-traveler.

TRAVEL IS A MAJOR EMPLOYER ACROSS AMERICA

- **8.9M** American jobs directly supported by domestic and international travelers in the United States.
- **No.7** Travel is the seventh largest employer in the private sector.
- **15.7M** Total number of American jobs supported by travel.
- **1 in 10** American jobs (private sector) supported by travel.
- **No.1** Travel-dependent leisure and hospitality is the largest small-business employer in the United States.
- **8** Number of travel jobs supported by $1 million in travel spending—compared to 5 jobs supported by $1 million in the overall private sector.

TRAVEL JOBS GROWING ACROSS AMERICA

- From 2010-2018 travel jobs increased **22 percent** compared to 17 percent in the rest of the private sector.
- **51** Number of states (including D.C.) where travel employment increased (2010-2017).
- **44** Number of states (including D.C.) where travel employment increased faster than the rest of the economy in their state (2010-2017).

TRAVEL JOBS EQUAL PROMISING CAREERS

- **22%** Share of Americans whose first job was in travel.
- **1/3** Share of Americans with a first job in travel who earned a bachelor’s degree.
- **$82K** Average career salary of Americans whose first job was in travel.
- **2 in 5** Share of Americans with a first job in travel who are now earning more than $100,000 a year.
- **52%** Share of travel jobs earning a middle-class wage or higher.

Source: U.S. Travel Association, 2018 estimates
INTERNATIONAL INBOUND TRAVEL = AMERICAN JOBS

2018 Data

- Number of American jobs directly supported by international inbound travel: 1.2M
- Share of travel jobs in the U.S. directly supported by international inbound travel: 1/7
- Share of export reliant jobs across all industries supported by international inbound travel: 1/5
- Number of travel jobs supported by $1 million in international inbound travel spending—more than 3-times the 2.5 jobs supported by $1 million in overall U.S. exports: 7.6

TRAVEL IS “MADE IN AMERICA”

2018 Data

- Total U.S. travel exports: $256B
- U.S. travel trade surplus: $69B
- Increase in our trade deficit if travel were excluded: 11%
- Travel is the America's second largest industry export after transportation equipment.
- Share of spending by international visitors out of total U.S. travel expenditures: 14%

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL: A U.S. EXPORT AND KEY JOB CREATOR

Spending by International Visitors Directly Supports 1.2 Million American Jobs

International Travel Spending: $156 Billion

Source: U.S. Travel Association based on U.S. Department of Commerce, 2018 data

Spending by International Visitors Constitutes a U.S. Travel Export While Spending by U.S. Residents Abroad Constitutes a U.S. Travel Import

Since travel exports are greater than travel imports, the U.S. enjoys a strong travel surplus, which helps curb our overall trade deficit.

U.S. Travel Exports: $256 billion

U.S. Travel Imports: $186 billion

$69 Billion Surplus in Travel Trade Balance

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2018 data

*Total U.S. Travel exports includes the $156 billion in general travel spending (as used above for calculating job creation) as well as spending on education, health, cross-border work and international passenger fares.