

Travel will power our economic recovery. Why travel matters to

# ARKANSAS

STATE	SPENDING	PAYROLL	JOBS	TRAVEL INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT RANKING
2019	\$8 Billion	\$1.8 Billion	67,771	4
2020	▼ -25%	▼ -23%	▼ -23%	▼ 8
2021	▼ 4% Below 2019 Levels			

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the thriving travel and tourism industry was a significant economic driver in **ARKANSAS**. In 2019:

- Domestic and international travelers spent **\$8 billion** while visiting.
- For every **\$1 million** spent in Arkansas by domestic and international travelers, **8.4 jobs were created**.
- Travel spending directly supported **67,771 jobs**, making the travel industry the state's **4th largest workforce**, representing **6.6%** of our state's total private sector employment.
- Travel spending generated **\$1.1 billion in taxes to state and local governments**, which help fund jobs and public programs such as police, firefighters, teachers, road projects and convention centers.

In 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic led to historic declines in travel to **ARKANSAS** and caused severe economic harm to our attractions, hotels, restaurants and more.

- Spending by domestic and international travelers **declined 25% in 2020**, shuttering many local businesses and putting our residents out of work. **Spending was 4% below 2019 levels in 2021**.
- **Travel employment fell by 23% in 2020** and travel's share of total private industry employment fell from **6.6% to 5.3%**.

SOURCE: U.S. Travel Association, Tourism Economics

## TRAVEL REMAINS THE HARDEST-HIT INDUSTRY, WITH AN UNEVEN RECOVERY ACROSS ALL SECTORS.

