

Travel will power our economic recovery. Why travel matters to

MISSISSIPPI

STATE	SPENDING	PAYROLL	JOB	TRAVEL INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT RANKING
2019	\$7.1 Billion	\$2.6 Billion	88,786	4
2020	▼ -22%	▼ -20%	▼ -21%	▼ 5
2021	▲ 0.9% Above 2019 Levels			

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

- Domestic and international travelers spent **\$7.1 billion** while visiting.
- For every **\$1 million** spent in Mississippi by domestic and international travelers, **12.5 jobs were created**.
- Travel spending directly supported **88,786 jobs**, making the travel industry the state's **4th largest workforce**, representing **9.8%** of our state's total private sector employment.
- Travel spending generated **\$986 million 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 **MISSISSIPPI** and caused severe economic harm to our attractions, hotels, restaurants and more.

- Spending by domestic and international travelers **declined 22% in 2020**, shuttering many local businesses and putting our residents out of work. **Spending was 0.9% above 2019 levels in 2021**.
- **Travel employment fell by 21% in 2020** and travel's share of total private industry employment fell from **9.8% to 8.1%**.

SOURCE: U.S. Travel Association, Tourism Economics

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

