

Travel will power our economic recovery. Why travel matters to

# RHODE ISLAND

STATE	SPENDING	PAYROLL	JOBS	TRAVEL INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT RANKING
2019	\$2.5 Billion	\$627 Million	17,342	11
2020	▼ -31%	▼ -21%	▼ -27%	▼ 12
2021	▼ 9% Below 2019 Levels			

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

- Domestic and international travelers spent **\$2.5 billion** while visiting.
- For every **\$1 million** spent in Rhode Island by domestic and international travelers, **6.8 jobs are created**.
- Travel spending directly supported **17,342 jobs**, making the travel industry the state's **11th largest workforce**, representing **4.1%** of our state's total private sector employment.
- Travel spending generated **\$286 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 **RHODE ISLAND** and caused severe economic harm to our attractions, hotels, restaurants and more.

- Spending by domestic and international travelers **declined 31% in 2020**, shuttering many local businesses and putting our residents out of work. **Spending remained 9% below 2019 levels in 2021**.
- **Travel employment fell by 27% in 2020** and travel's share of total private industry employment fell from **4.1% to 3.3%**.

SOURCE: U.S. Travel Association, Tourism Economics

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

