

Travel will power our economic recovery. Why travel matters to

# TENNESSEE

STATE	SPENDING	PAYROLL	JOBS	TRAVEL INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT RANKING
2019	\$24.5 Billion	\$6.7 Billion	194,944	5
2020	▼ -32%	▼ -18%	▼ -19%	▼ 7
2021	▼ 8% Below 2019 Levels			

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

- Domestic and international travelers spent **\$24.5 billion** while visiting.
- For every **\$1 million** spent in Tennessee by domestic and international travelers, **8.0 jobs were created**.
- Travel spending directly supported **194,944 jobs**, making the travel industry the state's **5th largest workforce**, representing **7.5%** of our state's total private sector employment.
- Travel spending generated **\$3.6 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 **TENNESSEE** and caused severe economic harm to our attractions, hotels, restaurants and more.

- Spending by domestic and international travelers **declined 32% in 2020**, shuttering many local businesses and putting our residents out of work. **Spending remained 8% below 2019 levels in 2021**.
- **Travel employment fell by 19% in 2020** and travel's share of total private industry employment fell from **7.5% to 6.3%**.

SOURCE: U.S. Travel Association, Tourism Economics

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

