

# Visitor Arrivals to the United States Historical Growth and Projections

A4A Economics Updated December 3, 2019

### **Contents**

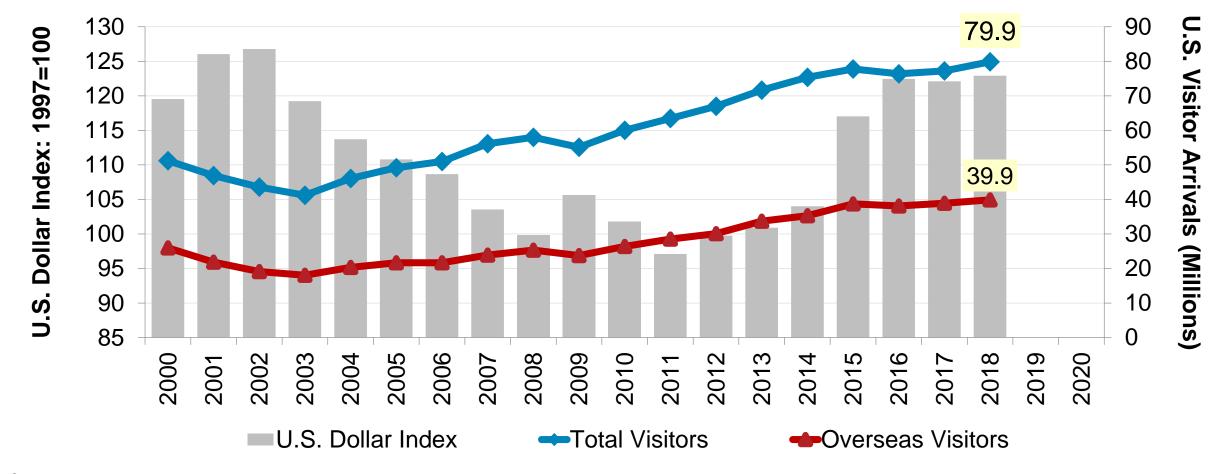


### **VISITOR ARRIVALS TO THE UNITED STATES**



### From 2009-2018, U.S. Visitors Grew 44 Percent Despite a 16 Percent Stronger U.S. Dollar

Visitors Increased Every Year Except 2016



#### Sources:

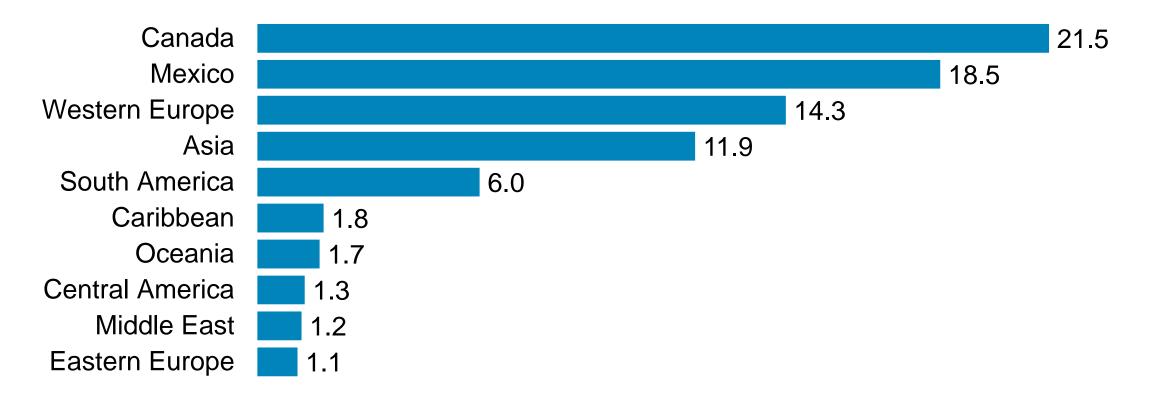
U.S. dollar = Federal Reserve Board of Governors weighted average of foreign exchange value of USD against currencies of broad group of major U.S. trading partners U.S. visitors = Department of Commerce (NTTO I-94 Program), Statistics Canada, and Banco de Mexico/Secretaria de Turismo (Mexico)



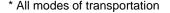
#### In 2018, Canada and Mexico Accounted for Half of Visitors\* to the United States

Canada, Mexico and Western Europe Collectively Accounted for Over Two-Thirds of Visitors\*

### Visitors\* (Millions) to the USA by Country of Residence, 2018



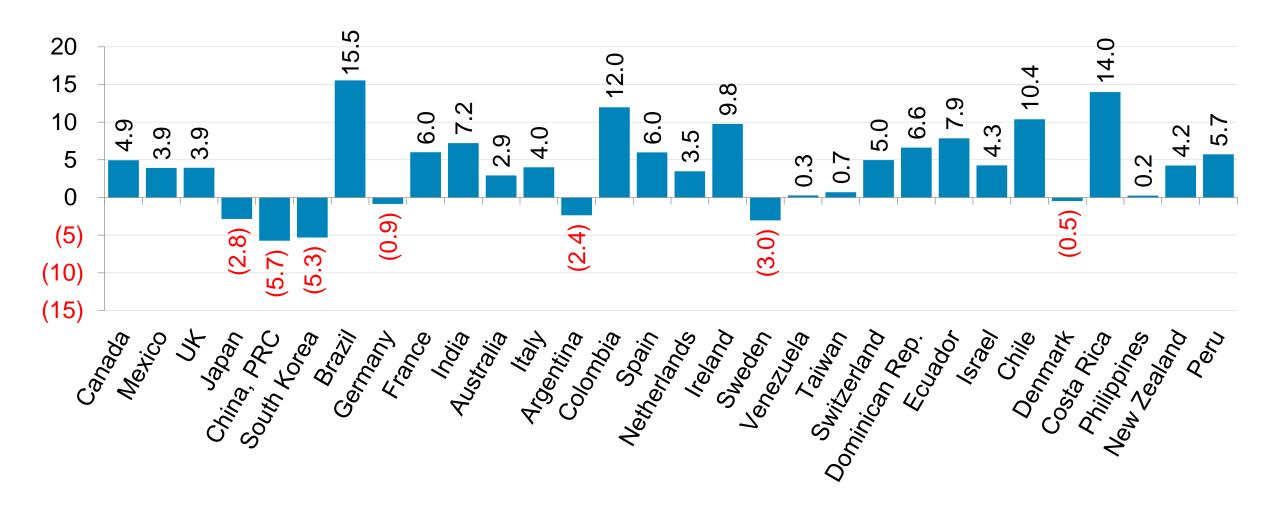
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce (NTTO I-94 Program), Statistics Canada, and Banco de Mexico/Secretaria de Turismo (Mexico)





### In 2018, Visitor Arrivals to USA Rose From 23 of the Top 30 Markets

Change (Percent) in Visitor Arrivals to USA, by Country of Residence – Top 30

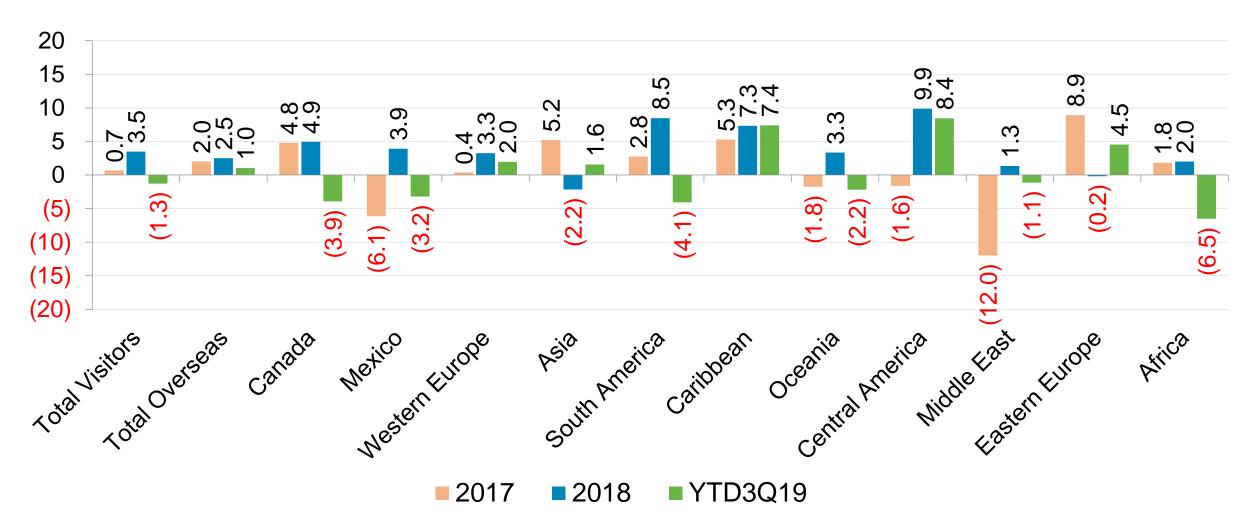


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce (NTTO I-94 Program), Statistics Canada, and Banco de Mexico/Secretaria de Turismo (Mexico)



### In 2019, USA Seeing Fewer Visitors\* From Canada, Mexico, S. America, Oceania and Africa

Change (Percent) in Visitor Arrivals to USA, by Region of Residence



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce (NTTO I-94 Program), Statistics Canada, and Banco de Mexico/Secretaria de Turismo (Mexico)

\* All modes of transportation



### **VISITOR EXPENDITURES**

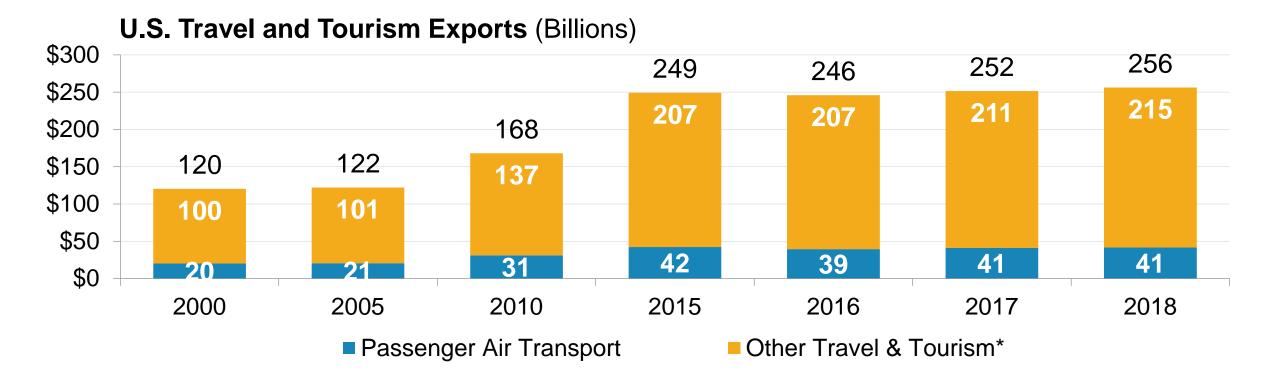


### Airlines Helped the U.S. Generate a Record 215 Billion in Visitor Spending in 2018

Travel and Tourism Exports Were \$256 Billion – 31 Percent of U.S. Services Exports

"International travelers continue to set spending records visiting the United States... The American tourism industry...continues to help drive our economy to new heights."

— Sec. of Commerce Wilbur Ross (Sept. 12, 2018)



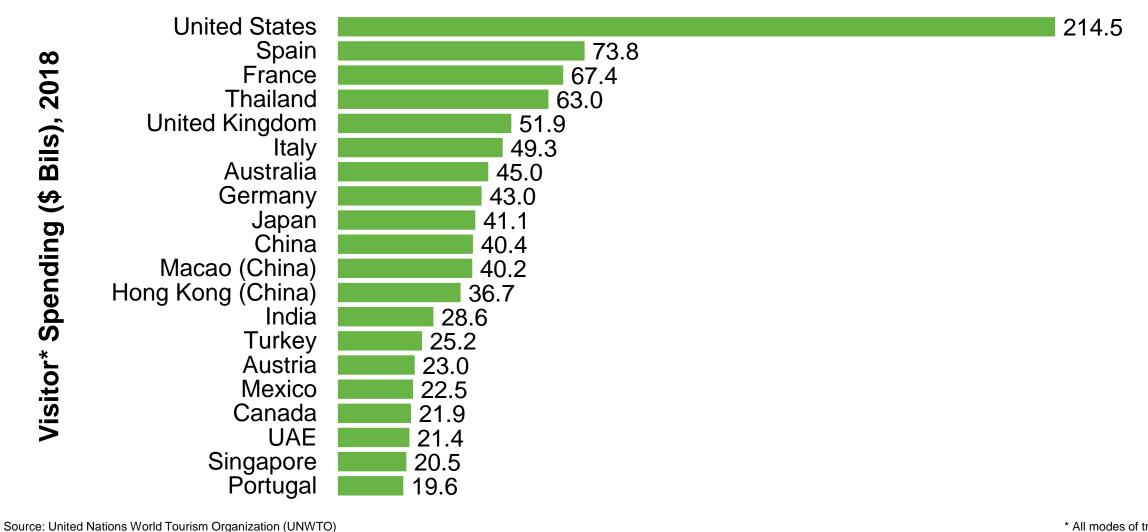
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis



<sup>\*</sup> Food, lodging, recreation, gifts, entertainment, local transportation in the USA, and other items incidental to foreign travel

### By Far, Foreign Visitors Spend More Money in the USA Than in Any Other Country

Top 20 Countries by Visitor Spending (aka International Tourism Receipts), 2018

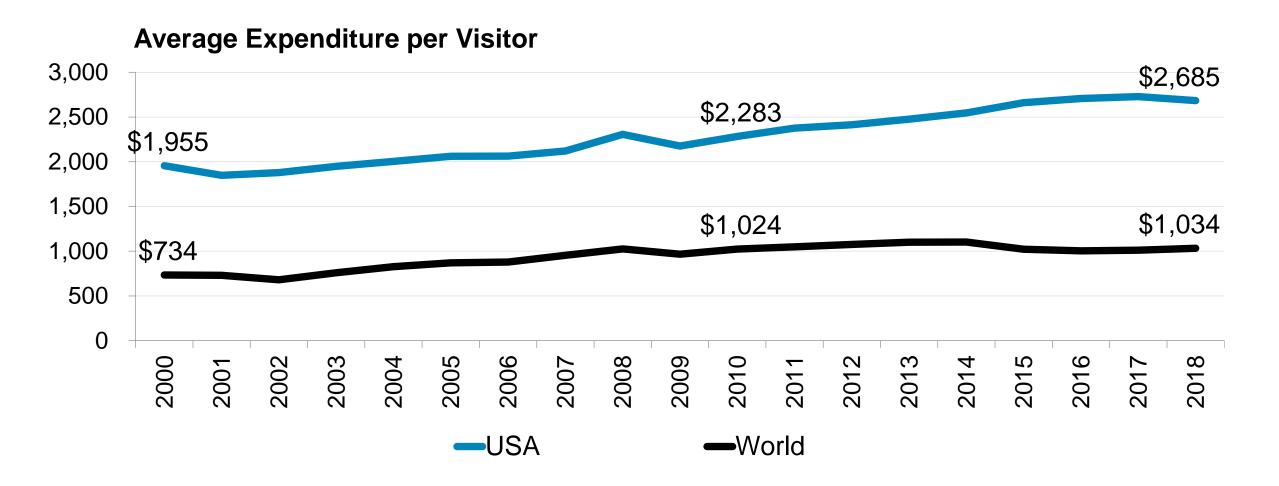




\* All modes of transportation

### From 2010-2018, USA Experienced 18% Increase in Spend per Visitor, vs. 1% Worldwide

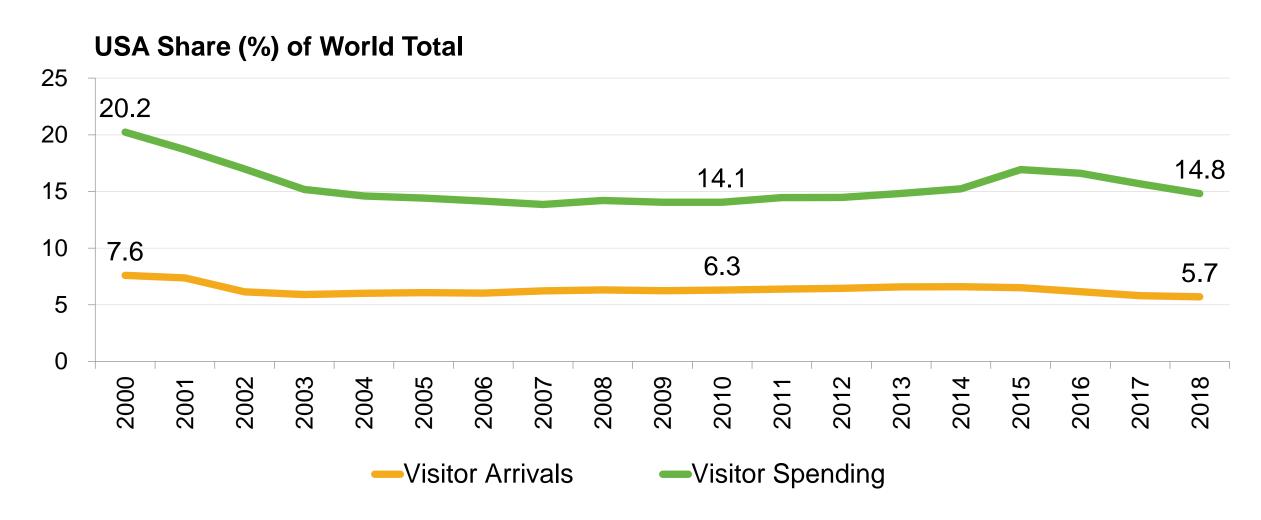
Spend per Visitor to USA Now 2.6 Times the World Average, Up From 2.2 in 2010



Source: A4A and United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)



### The United States Continues to Command ~15 Percent of Global Tourism Receipts



Source: United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and U.S. Department of Commerce

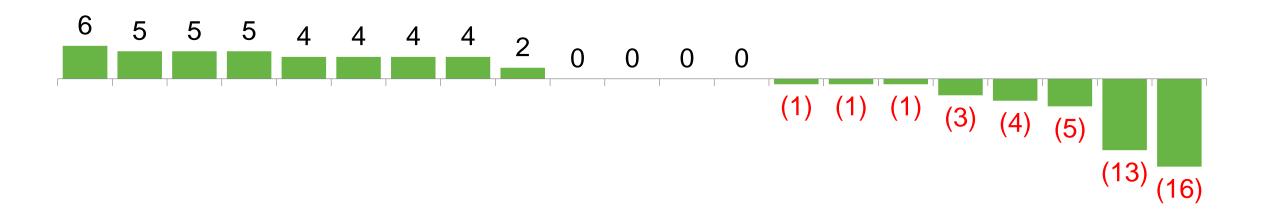


### **OUTLOOK FOR GROWTH IN U.S. VISITORS**



## In 2019, Visitors From Spain, Taiwan, Japan and France Leading the Way, But Declines From Canada, Mexico and China Resulting in a Net Decline of 1 Percent

### Projected Change (Percent) in Visitors to USA – 2019 vs. 2018

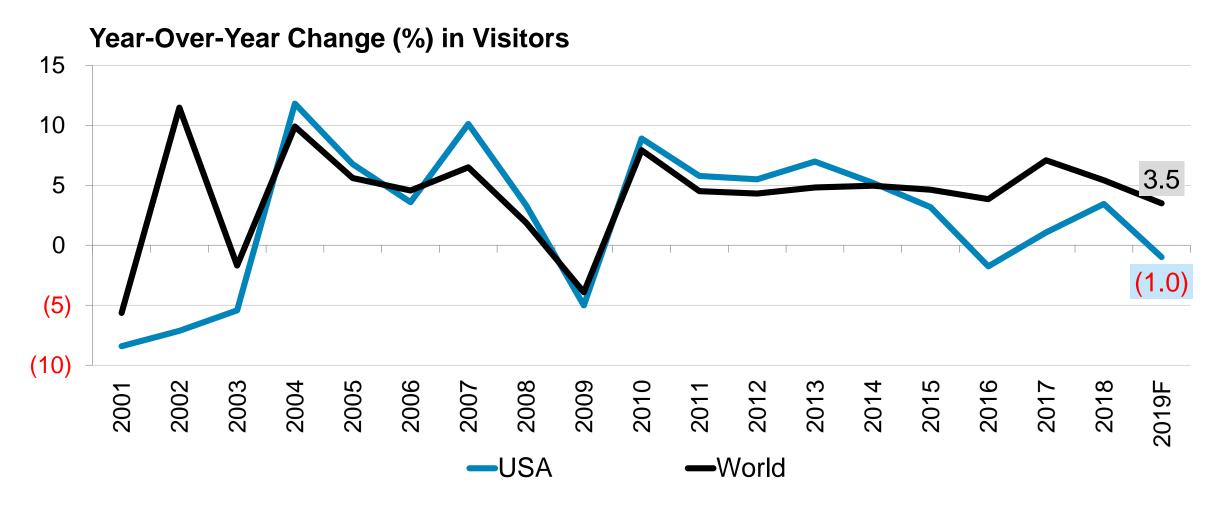


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Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce NTTO Travel Forecast (October 2019) for top 21 origin countries, which accounted for 87 percent of U.S. visitors in 2018



### In 2019, the Gap Between U.S. Visitor Arrivals and World Visitor Arrivals Will Grow

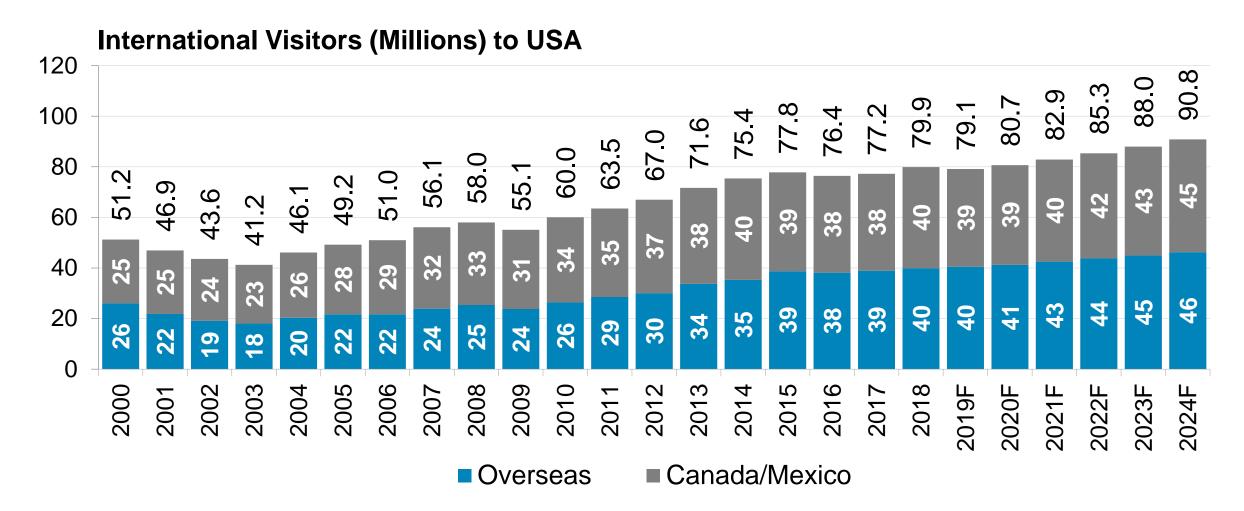


Source: United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and U.S. Department of Commerce



### The U.S. Government Projects Visitors to Grow 2.2 Percent Annually From 2018-2024

Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) for Previous Six Years Was 3.0 Percent

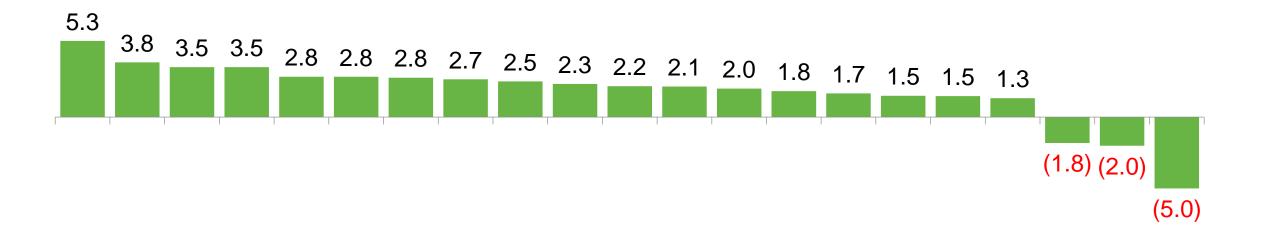


Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce National Travel and Tourism Office; INEGI (Mexico); Statistics Canada – 2019 Travel Forecast (October 2019)



### Biggest Growth in USA Visitors Expected From India and Ireland

Projected Compound Annual Growth Rate (%) for Visitors to USA in 2018-2024





Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce NTTO Travel Forecast (October 2019) for top 21 origin countries, which accounted for 87 percent of U.S. visitors in 2018



### Conclusion

- » Air travel is growing all over the world between countries with increasing populations and trade flows and a rising middle class, among other economic forces
- » U.S. visitor arrivals have grown in every year since the Great Recession except 2016 and 2019
  - They have grown in the face of a strengthening U.S. dollar
  - Arrivals rose 1 percent in 2017 and 3.5 percent in 2018
  - Residents of most major regions visited the U.S. in greater numbers in 2018
- The United States leads the world in visitor spending at 2.9 times #2 Spain
  - The average spend per U.S. visitor rose 18 percent from 2010 to 2018 vs. a world increase of 1 percent
  - The U.S. share of global visitor spending rose from 14.1 percent in 2010 to 14.8 percent in 2018
- » In 2018, U.S. visitor growth narrowed the gap to world visitor growth
- » In its 2019 forecast, Commerce projected visitors to the USA to reach an all-time high 91 million by 2024
  - Commerce expects the fastest 2018-2024 growth from India, France, Colombia, Taiwan and Switzerland
  - Visitation from Venezuela, Argentina and Sweden expected to decline



## **APPENDIX**



#### "Arrivals" Data

- » The National Travel and Tourism Office (NTTO) [within Dept. of Commerce] works cooperatively with the DHS/CBP to release I-94 arrivals data, providing a comprehensive count of all travelers entering the USA.\*
- » Provides a count of visitor (≥ 1 night) arrivals to the USA to calculate U.S. travel and tourism exports. Source is CBP Entry-Exit I-94 Record, completed electronically by international visitors (non-U.S. citizens) from all countries except for those traveling from Mexico within the 25-mile frontier zone along the southern border.
- » NTTO extracts and processes official visitor arrival I-94 data to adhere as closely as possible with UN tourism guidelines/recommendations. It is a generally accepted practice among countries to follow the UN and to base arrivals data on country of residence (COR).
  - The United States has followed the intent of these guidelines for more than four decades to report international arrivals. [NTTO also provides country of citizenship-based (COC) arrivals data, which reflect the nationality of visitors, identifying the countries where visitors have citizenship as stated in their passports.]
- » Canada arrivals data are collected by Statistics Canada. Mexico arrivals data (air/sea/auto/pedestrian) are collected by Banco de Mexico. Both programs provide arrivals data based solely on country of residence.

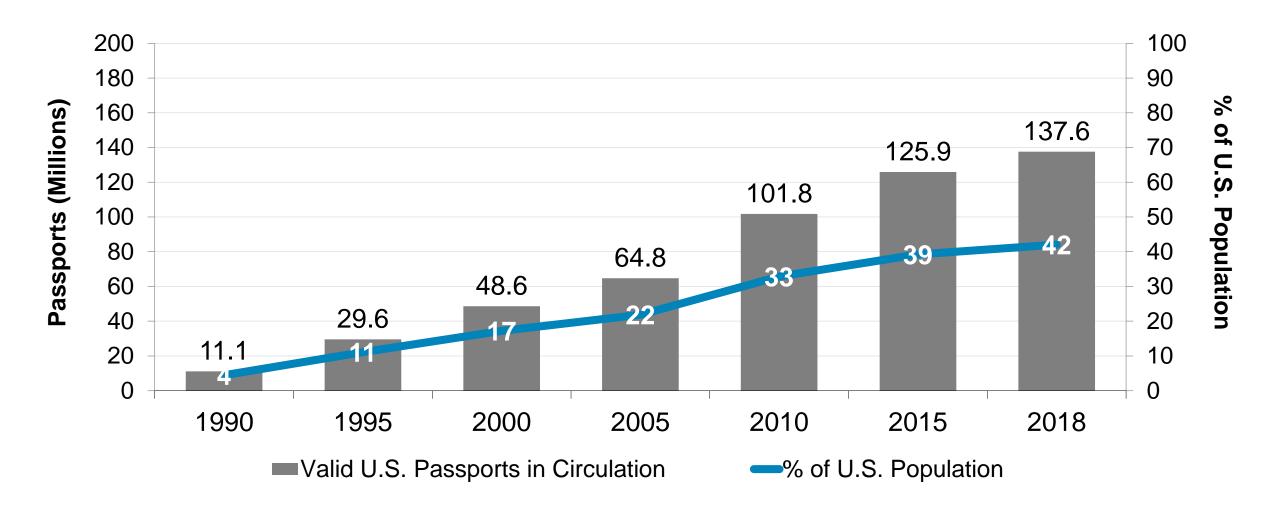
Source: https://travel.trade.gov/view/m-2017-I-001/index.asp

\* All modes of transportation



### **American Passport Ownership Has Grown Steadily**

In 2018, 42 Percent of Americans Had Valid U.S. Passports

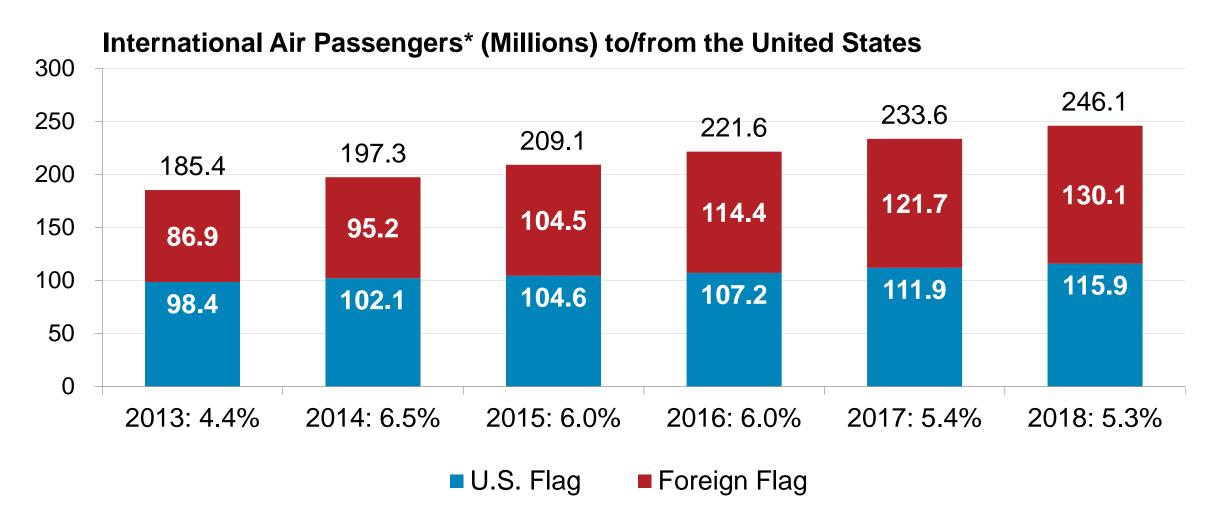


Source: U.S. Department of State (Bureau of Consular Affairs) and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis



### Air Travel Between the United States and Foreign Countries\* Reached All-Time High in 2018

Foreign Flag Airlines Carried 53 Percent of Passengers



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce National Travel and Tourism Office

\*Years preceding 2011 do not include traffic between the United States and Canada





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