

U.S. Department of Commerce
International Trade Administration



Office of Travel and Tourism Industries

2012 Market Profile: Central America



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Visitation Trends (Arrivals)

[Thousands of Visitors]	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Change 2012/2005
Total Arrivals	696	694	786	776	758	760	747	803	107
Percentage Change (%)	1	0	13	-1	-2	0	-2	7	15

Spending Trends (Exports)

[Millions of U.S. Dollars]	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Change 2012/2005
Total Travel & Tourism Exports (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Passenger Fare Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Change (%) in Total Exports	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Information Sources Used for Trip Planning

	Information Sources Used	2011 (Percent)	2012 (Percent)	Point Change (2)
	Airlines (Directly)	33	46	12.5
	Corporate Travel Dept.	3	5	1.9
	Travel Guide(s)	1	5	4.3
2012	Personal Recommendation (Friends/Rel)		20	
2011	Friends/Relatives	18		
2012	National/State/City Travel Office		18	
2011	Nat'l Govt. Tourist Ofc.	1		
2011	State/City Travel Ofc.	4		
2012	Tour Operator/Travel Club		5	
2011	Tour Company	1		
2012	Online Travel Agency (OTA)		22	
2012	Travel Agency Office		25	
2011	Travel Agency	28		
2012	Other		4	
2011	TV/Radio	0.4		
2011	Personal Computer	33		
2011	In-flight Info. Systems	1		
2011	Newspapers/Magazines	0.2		

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Main Purpose of Trip

	Main Purpose of Trip	2011 (Percent)	2012 (Percent)	Point Change (2)
	Convention/Conference/Trade Show	8	12	4.1
	Visit Friends/Relatives	33	24	-9.2
	Health Treatment	2	2	0.8
	Religion/Pilgrimages	1	0.2	-0.9
2012	Business		14	
2011	Business/Professional	14		
2012	Vacation/Holiday		46	
2011	Leisure/Rec./Holidays/Sightseeing	34		
2012	Education		2	
2011	Study/Teaching	11		
	Other	1	1	0.3

All Purposes of Trip

	Purpose of Trip	2011 (Percent)	2012 (Percent)	Point Change (2)
	Convention/Conference/Trade Show	9	13	3.3
	Visit Friends/Relatives	51	44	-7.0
	Health Treatment	3	3	0.3
	Religion/Pilgrimages	2	1	-0.6
2012	Business		20	
2011	Business/Professional	21		
2012	Vacation/Holiday		60	
2011	Leisure/Rec./Holidays/Sightseeing	49		
2012	Education		4	
2011	Study/Teaching	4		
	Other	2	2	0.3
	NET PURPOSES OF TRIP:			
	Leisure & VFR	79	79	0.5
	Business & Convention	28	28	0.0

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Transportation Used in the United States

	Transportation Types Used in United States	2011 (Percent)	2012 (Percent)	Point Change (2)
	Airlines in U.S.	32	39	7.6
	Bus between Cities	12	9	-3.3
	City Subway/Tram/Bus	15	14	-0.9
	Company or Private Auto	36	41	5.3
	Railroad between Cities	10	7	-3.1
	Motor Home/Camper	0.2	0	-0.2
	Rented Auto	22	31	8.7
	Taxi/Cab/Limousine	26	16	-10.3
2012	Cruise Ship/River Boat 1+ Nights		5	
2012	Ferry/River Taxi/Short Scenic Cruise		3	
2012	Rented Bicycle/Motorcycle/Moped		1	

Select Traveler Characteristics

Traveler Characteristics	2011	2012	Change (2)
Advance Trip Decision Time (mean days)	55	56	1.6
Advance Trip Decision Time (median days)	30	30	0.0
Prepaid Package	2	3	1.5
First International Trip to the U.S.	11	2	-8.4
Length of Stay in U.S. (mean nights)	16.4	11.4	-5.0
Length of Stay in U.S. (median nights)	7	7	0.0
Number of States Visited (% 1 state)	79	79	-0.1
Average Number of States Visited	1.3	1.2	-0.1
Hotel/Motel (% 1+ nights)	61	51	-10.7
Average # of Nights in Hotel/Motel	7.4	5.3	-2.1
Travel Party Size (mean # of persons)	1.4	1.3	-0.1
Gender: % Male (among adults)	54	53	-0.9
Household Income (mean average)	\$73,200	\$57,434	-\$15,766
Household Income (median average)	\$49,900	\$35,000	-\$14,900
Average Age: Female	36	47	11.2
Average Age: Male	42	40	-2.3

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Activity Participation While in the United States

	Activity Participation While in the U.S.	2011 (Percent)	2012 (Percent)	Point Change (2)
	Amusement/Theme Parks	27	29	2.7
	Art Gallery/Museum	11	23	12.3
	Sporting Event	6	19	12.9
	Camping/Hiking	4	2	-2.2
	Casino/Gambling	8	2	-5.7
	Concert/Play/Musical	11	10	-0.7
	Environ./Eco. Excursions	1	3	2.0
	Golfing/Tennis	2	1	-1.2
	Guided Tours	8	13	5.7
	Hunting/Fishing	1	2	1.3
	Nightclubs/Dancing	10	15	4.1
	Shopping	83	89	6.7
	Visit American Indian Communities	3	2	-0.7
2012	Cultural / Ethnic Heritage Sites		14	
2011	Cultural Heritage Sites	8		
2011	Ethnic Heritage Sites	1		
2012	Experience Fine Dining		41	
2011	Dining in Restaurants	72		
2012	Sightseeing		56	
2011	Sightseeing in Cities	20		
2012	Snow Sports		2	
2011	Snow Skiing	4		
2012	Small Towns/Countryside		26	
2011	Visit Small Towns/Villages	28		
2011	Touring Countryside	10		
2012	National Parks/Monuments		21	
2011	Visit National Parks	12		
2012	Water Sports		5	
2011	Water Sports/Sunbathing	9		
2012	Visit Historical Locations		15	
2011	Visit Historical Places	36		
2012	Other		1	
2011	Cruises	2		
2011	Ranch Vacations	1		

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U.S. Destinations Visited (States, Cities, and Regions)

Visitation to U.S. Destinations/Regions (3)	Market Share 2011 (Percent)	Volume 2011 (000)	Market Share 2012 (Percent)	Volume 2012 (000)
No destinations meet the minimum sample requirement.				

- (1) Total Travel & Tourism Exports = travel receipts (purchase of travel and tourism-related goods and services, to include food, lodging, recreation, gifts, entertainment, local transportation in the country of travel, and other items incident to a foreign visit) + passenger fare receipts (fares paid to U.S. air carriers and vessel operators for travel between the United States and foreign countries and between two foreign points).
- (2) Percentage-point and percentage changes are based on non-rounded data.
- (3) Only census region, state, and city destinations having a sample size of 400 or more are displayed. Due to quarterly data weighting by country and port of entry, some unreported destinations may have a higher proportion of total than those reported.
- (**) Estimate not shown due to sample size fewer than 400 for this year.

Note: Estimate not shown due to sample size fewer than 400 for this year. This profile shows only a portion of the 35 travel characteristics data in 2011 and the 37 items reported on international arrivals to the U.S. Additional information may be obtained for a fee.

To learn more, please visit our website: <http://tinet.ita.doc.gov/research/programs/ifs/index.html>

For a list of the states that comprise each census region, please visit: http://tinet.ita.doc.gov/outreachpages/census_regions.html

Interested in data for your destination? OTTI sells custom reports. To learn more, go to: <http://www.tinet.ita.doc.gov/research/programs/ifs/customized.html>

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, ITA, Office of Travel and Tourism Industries; Bureau of Economic Analysis

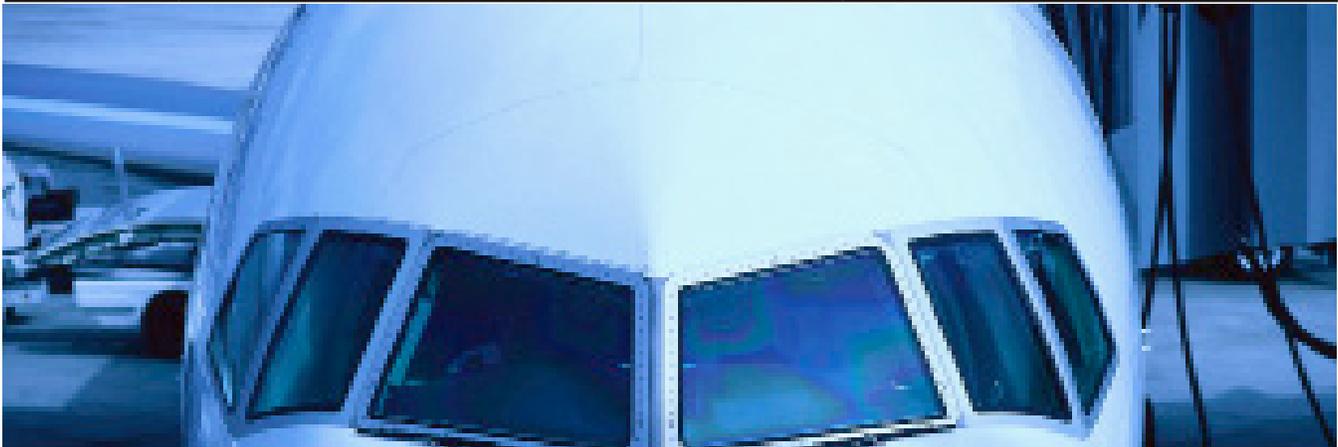
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Survey of International Air Travelers

The Survey of International Air Travelers provides a level of detail and insight into the traveler characteristics and travel patterns of international visitors to and from the United States not found elsewhere. Responses are weighted with data from the Department of Homeland Security and the following thirty-five tables are then populated. This report, which was constructed using just a fraction of the data available, summarizes what we know about the Central America traveler who visits the United States.

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Interested in obtaining data for your organization?

OTTI collects, analyzes and disseminates international travel and tourism statistics from the U.S. Travel and Tourism Statistical System and produces visitation data tables, including a business and pleasure arrivals rate of change analysis and detailed region, country and port analyses.

To learn more, you are encouraged to visit:

<http://tinet.ita.doc.gov/research/programs/ifs/customized.html>

For OTTI programs of interest visit:

<http://www.tinet.ita.doc.gov/research/index.html>

- Summary of International Travel to the United States (I-94)
- U.S. International Air Traveler Statistics (I-92)
- Canadian Statistics
- Survey of International Air Travelers (SIAT)
- Forecast of International Arrivals to the United States
- U.S. Travel and Tourism Exports, Imports and the Balance of Trade
- U.S. Travel and Tourism Satellite Accounts
- Travel Trade Barometer

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