

U.S. Travel and Tourism Satellite Accounts for 2013–2015

By Sarah Osborne and Jamie Williams

THE TRAVEL and tourism industry—as measured by the real output of goods and services sold directly to visitors—increased 4.7 percent in 2015 after increasing 2.8 percent in 2014, according to statistics from the travel and tourism satellite accounts of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). In comparison, the broader economy as measured by real gross domestic product (GDP) increased 2.4 percent in 2015 after increasing 2.4 percent in 2014.¹ These revised statistics on travel and tourism reflect the incorporation of the 2015 annual revision of the industry economic accounts, which was released on November 5, 2015.²

Highlights from the travel and tourism satellite accounts include the following:

- The acceleration in the travel and tourism industry in 2015 reflected accelerations in traveler accommodations, international passenger air transportation, and food and beverage services. Automotive rental and leasing also contributed to the acceleration.
- Real output increased in 19 of 24 commodities in 2015. Commodities experiencing the largest increases in real output include traveler accommodations, food and beverage services, international passenger air services, and automotive rental and leasing.
- Prices for tourism goods and services decreased 3.1 percent in 2015 after increasing 1.6 percent in 2014. The biggest contributor to the 2015 decrease in prices was gasoline, which decreased 26.7 percent. Despite the decrease in the overall price, most travel and tourism commodity prices increased.

The travel and tourism accounts are available on the BEA Web site; see the box “Data Availability.”

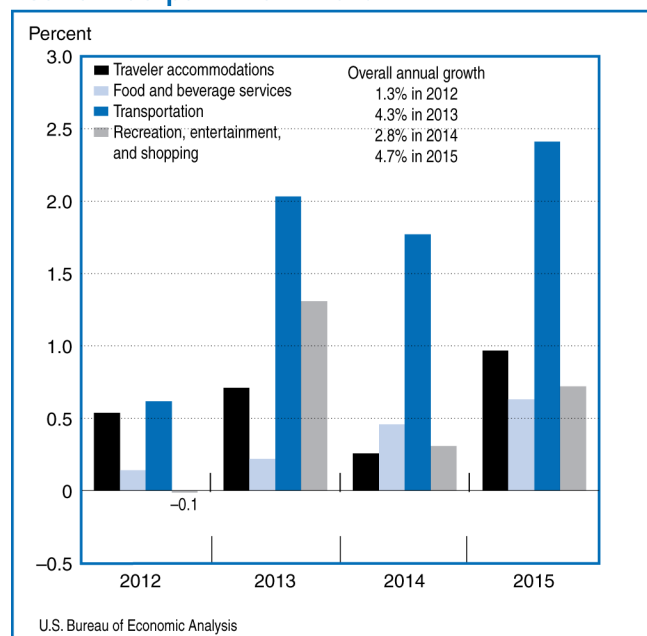
The remainder of this article discusses trends in travel and tourism output and prices, tourism value added and employment.

Trends in Output and Prices

Real output

The 4.7 percent increase in real travel and tourism output in 2015 was concentrated in a few commodities. The leading contributors to the overall growth were traveler accommodations, international passenger air services, and food and beverage services. Traveler accommodations increased 5.2 percent after a 1.4 percent increase in 2014 and international passenger air services increased 11.0 percent in 2015 after increasing 0.4 percent. Food and beverage services increased 4.2 percent after a 3.2 percent increase (table A and chart 1).

Chart 1. Contributions to Annual Growth in Real Tourism Output in 2012–2015



Data Availability

The complete set of detailed annual statistics for 1998 through 2014, statistics of output and employment for 2015, and quarterly statistics of output and employment from 1998 through 2014, are available on [BEA's Web site](#) under “Industry” and “Satellite Accounts.”

1. All measures of travel and tourism activity not identified as being in “real,” inflation-adjusted terms are current-dollar estimates.

2. For more information, see Kevin B. Barefoot, Edward T. Morgan and Ksenia E. Shadrina, “Initial Statistics for the Second Quarter of 2015: Revised Statistics for 2012–2014 and the First Quarter of 2015,” *SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS* 94 (December 2015).

Prices

Travel and tourism prices decreased 3.1 percent in 2015. The decline was more than accounted for by a 26.7 percent decrease in the price of gasoline, which declined for the third consecutive year. Other contributors to the overall price decline were automotive

rental and leasing, which fell 7.9 percent, and international air transportation services, which fell 6.8 percent. The decrease in overall prices was partly offset by gains in spectator sports, traveler accommodations, and passenger rail transportation services. Spectator sports increased 7.1 percent in 2015 after increasing 3.0

Table A. Annual Growth, Contributions to Growth, and Levels of Real Output by Tourism Commodity in 2012–2015

Commodity	Annual growth rates (percent change from preceding period)				Contributions (percentage points)				Real output (millions of chained (2009) dollars)			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
All tourism goods and services	1.3	4.3	2.8	4.7	1.30	4.28	2.80	4.73	728,095	759,265	780,518	817,436
Traveler accommodations	3.1	4.0	1.4	5.2	0.54	0.71	0.26	0.97	140,811	146,390	148,474	156,181
Food and beverage services	1.0	1.5	3.2	4.2	0.14	0.22	0.46	0.63	111,086	112,761	116,349	121,224
Transportation	1.4	4.7	4.1	5.7	0.62	2.03	1.77	2.41	292,804	306,520	319,063	337,388
Passenger air transportation	-3.4	1.2	2.6	6.7	-0.59	0.20	0.43	1.10	113,136	114,446	117,400	125,212
Domestic passenger air transportation services	-4.9	2.4	3.8	4.3	-0.56	0.06	0.40	0.47	73,055	74,784	77,618	80,979
International passenger air transportation services	-0.5	2.3	0.4	11.0	-0.03	0.14	0.03	0.63	40,071	40,996	41,171	45,710
All other transportation-related commodities	4.7	7.0	5.0	5.1	1.21	1.84	1.34	1.31	179,680	192,222	201,914	212,307
Passenger rail transportation services	4.1	-0.9	1.7	-2.8	0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01	1,964	1,946	1,979	1,923
Passenger water transportation services	7.3	3.8	7.0	6.3	0.10	0.06	0.10	0.09	12,064	12,528	13,408	14,258
Intercity bus services	2.8	-2.9	-1.9	6.7	0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.01	1,304	1,267	1,243	1,326
Intercity charter bus services	-0.5	0.7	5.1	13.5	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.03	1,497	1,507	1,583	1,798
Local bus and other transportation services	0.5	21.7	10.1	1.2	0.00	0.13	0.07	0.01	4,113	5,006	5,509	5,576
Taxicab services	-0.5	-37.5	-37.1	-7.1	0.00	-0.21	-0.12	-0.01	3,929	2,457	1,546	1,437
Scenic and sightseeing transportation services	7.0	6.4	4.2	-1.7	0.02	0.02	0.02	-0.01	2,831	3,013	3,140	3,086
Automotive rental and leasing	6.5	0.9	8.3	13.2	0.24	0.03	0.31	0.52	32,682	32,969	35,701	40,407
Other vehicle rental and leasing	-0.4	2.6	1.5	1.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	756	776	787	798
Automotive repair services	-10.7	11.9	-10.8	-0.3	-0.18	0.17	-0.17	0.00	11,094	12,416	11,077	11,042
Parking	-13.5	37.3	-16.5	-6.2	-0.04	0.10	-0.06	-0.02	1,887	2,590	2,164	2,029
Highway tolls	-2.0	10.4	-4.9	7.9	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	616	680	646	698
Travel arrangement and reservation services	5.4	4.8	9.5	4.7	0.27	0.24	0.48	0.26	40,436	42,379	46,412	48,585
Gasoline	6.8	10.8	5.8	4.0	0.78	1.28	0.70	0.43	63,479	70,322	74,391	77,394
Recreation, entertainment, and shopping	-0.1	5.5	1.3	3.0	-0.01	1.31	0.31	0.72	183,285	193,348	193,348	195,861
Recreation and entertainment	2.7	-2.8	1.3	0.0	0.30	-0.31	0.14	0.49	86,574	84,161	85,276	85,276
Motion pictures and performing arts	21.9	-18.4	-2.0	5.3	0.41	-0.41	-0.04	0.09	17,402	14,207	13,921	14,662
Spectator sports	-4.6	7.2	0.5	2.4	-0.03	0.00	0.00	0.02	5,111	5,478	5,507	5,638
Participant sports	1.2	5.0	3.2	3.1	0.02	0.07	0.04	0.04	11,576	12,150	12,536	12,919
Gambling	0.7	2.1	3.6	5.9	0.04	0.11	0.19	0.32	41,186	42,038	43,531	46,103
All other recreation and entertainment	-8.3	-6.0	-4.9	1.2	-0.13	-0.09	-0.06	0.02	11,337	10,659	10,135	10,260
Nondurable PCE commodities other than gasoline	-2.4	12.8	1.3	1.7	-0.31	1.63	0.18	0.23	96,767	109,196	110,594	112,430

PCE Personal consumption expenditures

percent in 2014. Passenger rail transportation services increased 3.4 percent after a 0.8 percent increase in 2014 (table B and chart 2).

Total output

Total tourism-related output increased to \$1.56 trillion in 2015, up 1.9 percent from \$1.53 trillion in 2014. In 2015, total output consisted of \$905.9 billion in direct tourism output and \$657.2 billion in indirect tourism output. The 1.73 ratio of total output to direct output in 2015 implies that every dollar of direct tourism output required an additional 73 cents of *indirect* tourism output (chart 3).

Direct tourism output includes goods and services sold directly to visitors, such as passenger air travel. Indirect tourism output includes sales of all goods and services used to produce that direct output, such as jet fuel to fly the plane and catering services for international flights.

Chart 2. Contributions to Annual Growth in the Chain-Type Price Index for Tourism Goods and Services in 2012–2015

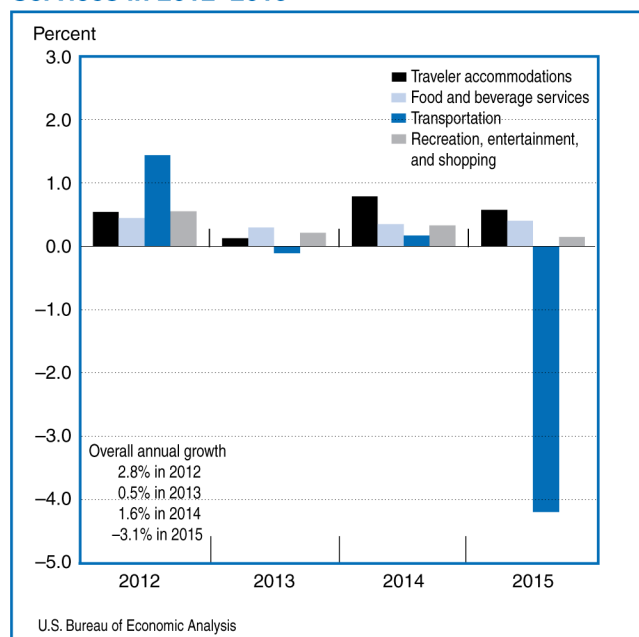


Table B. Annual Growth, Contributions to Growth, and Levels of Chain-Type Price Indexes for Tourism Commodities in 2012–2015

Commodity	Annual growth rates (percent change from preceding period)				Contributions (percentage points)				Price indexes (index numbers, 2009=100)			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
All tourism goods and services	2.8	0.5	1.6	-3.1	2.78	0.54	1.63	-3.08	111.6	112.2	114.0	110.5
Traveler accommodations.....	3.0	0.7	4.4	3.1	0.54	0.13	0.79	0.57	103.9	104.7	109.3	112.7
Food and beverage services.....	3.1	2.1	2.4	2.8	0.45	0.30	0.35	0.40	106.8	109.1	111.7	114.8
Transportation.....	2.9	-0.3	0.4	-9.6	1.44	-0.11	0.17	-4.19	120.7	120.4	120.9	109.3
Passenger air transportation.....	4.7	0.2	2.4	-4.3	0.91	0.05	0.40	-0.72	122.0	122.3	125.3	120.0
Domestic passenger air transportation services.....	4.8	0.1	2.5	-2.8	0.69	0.01	0.26	-0.30	121.2	121.4	124.3	120.8
International passenger air transportation services.....	4.6	0.5	2.4	-6.8	0.69	0.03	0.14	-0.41	123.6	124.3	127.3	118.6
All other transportation-related commodities.....	1.7	-0.6	-0.9	-13.0	0.52	-0.15	-0.24	-3.48	119.9	119.2	118.2	102.8
Passenger rail transportation services.....	3.9	3.1	0.8	3.4	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	109.3	112.6	113.4	117.3
Passenger water transportation services.....	-2.7	-0.4	-0.7	0.9	-0.04	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	97.5	97.0	96.4	97.2
Intercity bus services.....	3.6	3.6	-0.3	-6.2	0.01	0.01	0.00	-0.01	114.5	118.6	118.3	111.0
Intercity charter bus services.....	3.6	3.5	-0.3	-6.1	0.01	0.01	0.00	-0.01	114.6	118.6	118.3	111.1
Local bus and other transportation services.....	3.1	4.3	1.2	2.2	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	112.6	117.4	118.9	121.5
Taxicab services.....	3.1	4.3	1.2	2.2	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	112.2	117.0	118.5	121.0
Scenic and sightseeing transportation services.....	2.1	1.4	1.4	2.3	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	102.6	104.1	105.6	108.0
Automotive rental and leasing.....	-2.3	1.5	5.8	-7.9	-0.09	0.06	0.22	-0.34	95.0	96.4	102.1	94.0
Other vehicle rental and leasing.....	3.2	1.5	-5.7	0.7	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	110.2	111.9	105.5	106.3
Automotive repair services.....	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.7	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	105.9	107.5	109.2	111.0
Parking.....	8.7	3.5	2.4	2.6	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	114.8	118.9	121.8	124.9
Highway tolls.....	1.8	0.5	0.6	-5.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	114.0	114.5	115.2	108.8
Travel arrangement and reservation services.....	1.1	0.9	0.1	0.5	0.05	0.04	0.01	0.03	102.1	103.0	103.1	103.7
Gasoline.....	3.3	-2.8	-4.0	-26.7	0.48	-0.35	-0.50	-3.22	155.3	150.9	144.9	106.2
Recreation, entertainment, and shopping.....	2.3	0.9	1.4	0.6	0.55	0.21	0.33	0.15	106.0	106.9	108.4	109.0
Recreation and entertainment.....	2.2	1.0	1.3	0.8	0.24	0.11	0.13	0.09	105.2	106.3	107.7	108.6
Motion pictures and performing arts.....	2.0	1.1	1.8	2.2	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.04	104.4	105.6	107.5	109.9
Spectator sports.....	3.3	2.6	3.0	7.1	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.05	105.4	108.1	111.4	119.3
Participant sports.....	2.5	-0.9	-0.9	-2.0	0.04	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03	101.1	100.2	99.3	97.3
Gambling.....	2.1	1.5	1.6	0.1	0.11	0.08	0.09	0.01	107.0	108.6	110.4	110.5
All other recreation and entertainment.....	2.1	0.7	0.8	1.8	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	103.7	104.5	105.3	107.1
Nondurable PCE commodities other than gasoline.....	2.4	0.7	1.4	0.5	0.31	0.09	0.19	0.06	106.6	107.4	108.9	109.4

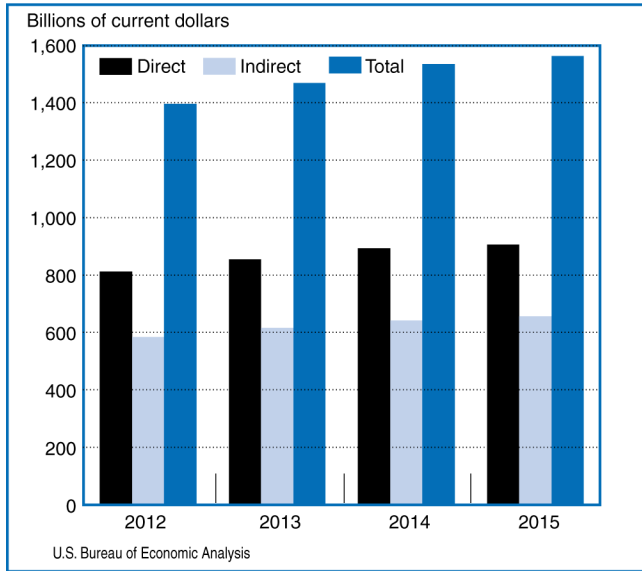
PCE Personal consumption expenditures

Tourism Value Added and Employment

Value added

A sector’s value added measures its contribution to gross domestic product (GDP). In 2014 (the most recent year for which data are available), the travel and tourism industry’s share of GDP was 2.6 percent (table C). Travel and tourism accounted for a larger share of GDP than other industries, such as utilities, computer and electronic products manufacturing, and broadcasting and telecommunications.

Chart 3. Total Tourism-Related Output in 2012–2015



Direct employment

Direct tourism employment includes jobs that involve producing goods and services that are sold directly to visitors. Airline pilots, hotel clerks, and travel agents are examples of such employees. Overall, direct employment decreased 0.4 percent in 2015. The largest contributor was food services and drinking places, which contributed 0.28 percentage point to the decline (chart 4 and table D).

Chart 4. Contributions to Annual Growth in Direct Tourism Employment in 2012–2015

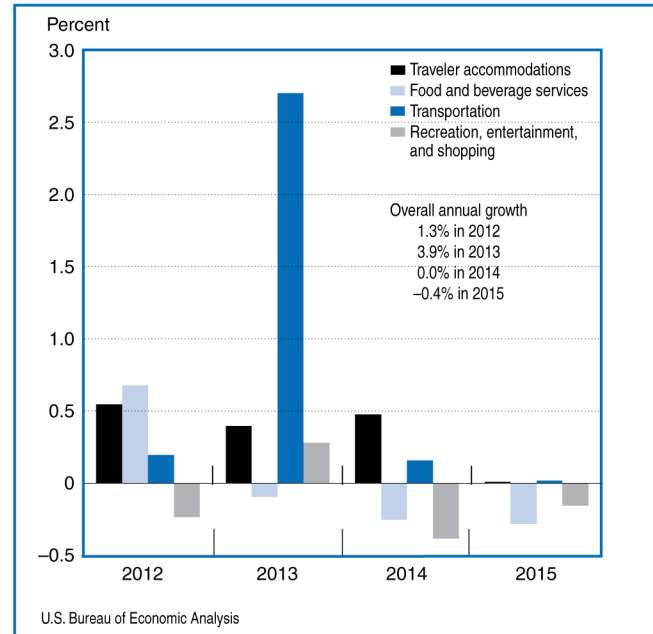


Table C. Travel and Tourism as a Share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2007–2014

	Billions of dollars		Percent
	GDP	Tourism value added	Tourism value added as a share of GDP
2007.....	14,478	402	2.78
2008.....	14,719	391	2.66
2009.....	14,419	366	2.54
2010.....	14,964	377	2.52
2011.....	15,518	404	2.60
2012.....	16,163	422	2.61
2013.....	16,663	454	2.72
2014.....	17,348	455	2.63

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Total employment

Total tourism-related employment (the sum of direct and indirect jobs) decreased to 7.60 million jobs in 2015 from 7.63 million jobs in 2014. The 7.6 million jobs consisted of 5.35 million direct tourism jobs and 2.25 million indirect tourism jobs (chart 5). While direct tourism employment includes jobs that produce direct tourism output, such as airline pilots, indirect tourism employment comprises jobs that produce indirect tourism output, such as refinery workers producing jet fuel. The most recent data indicate that for every direct tourism job generated, an additional 0.42 of a job is indirectly generated.

Chart 5. Total Tourism-Related Employment in 2012–2015

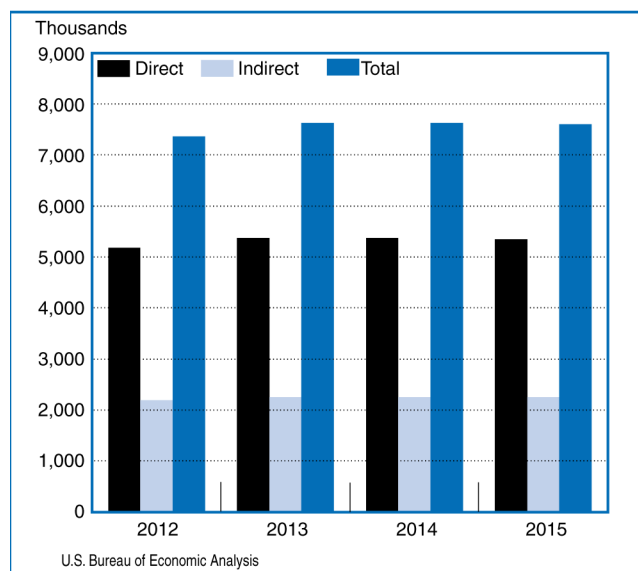


Table D. Annual Growth, Contributions to Growth, and Levels of Direct Employment by Tourism Industry in 2012–2015

Industry	Annual growth rates (percent change from preceding period)				Contributions (percentage points)				Direct employment (thousands)			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
All tourism industries	1.3	3.9	0.0	-0.4	1.35	3.90	-0.01	-0.43	5,176	5,376	5,374	5,351
Traveler accommodations.....	2.2	1.7	2.0	0.0	0.55	0.40	0.48	0.01	1,320	1,342	1,368	1,369
Vacation home rentals.....	-5.8	91.8	-2.5	0.0	-0.01	0.14	-0.01	0.00	8	16	15	15
Food services and drinking places.....	2.1	-0.3	-0.8	-0.9	0.68	-0.09	-0.25	-0.28	1,660	1,655	1,641	1,626
Transportation.....	1.0	14.3	0.7	0.1	0.20	2.70	0.16	0.02	1,030	1,178	1,187	1,188
Air transportation services.....	0.8	2.1	1.3	0.1	0.07	0.17	0.11	0.01	440	449	455	455
All other transportation-related industries.....	1.2	23.4	0.4	0.1	0.14	2.53	0.05	0.02	591	729	732	733
Rail transportation services.....	4.4	-1.8	-0.2	-0.4	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	10	10	10	10
Water transportation services.....	4.8	-7.3	5.1	0.5	0.03	-0.04	0.03	0.00	31	28	30	30
Interurban bus transportation.....	2.5	-5.2	1.0	0.5	0.01	-0.02	0.00	0.00	19	18	18	18
Interurban charter bus transportation.....	-2.5	45.8	2.9	0.0	-0.01	0.11	0.01	0.00	13	19	19	19
Urban transit systems and other transportation.....	-3.6	41.4	8.3	0.6	-0.03	0.32	0.09	0.01	43	60	65	66
Taxi service.....	-0.4	-86.0	-35.1	-18.0	0.00	-0.67	-0.04	-0.01	43	6	4	3
Scenic and sightseeing transportation services.....	4.3	88.3	4.5	0.9	0.01	0.24	0.02	0.00	15	28	29	29
Automotive equipment rental and leasing.....	1.5	16.3	5.6	2.0	0.03	0.26	0.10	0.04	88	102	108	110
Automotive repair services.....	-10.6	107.1	-11.6	-1.8	-0.10	0.84	-0.19	-0.03	43	89	78	77
Parking lots and garages.....	-5.7	193.5	-14.4	-2.8	-0.02	0.49	-0.11	-0.02	14	41	35	34
Toll highways.....	-5.6	11.2	-3.2	-0.9	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	4	4	4	4
Travel arrangement and reservation services.....	3.3	7.4	1.3	0.3	0.11	0.23	0.04	0.01	171	184	187	187
Petroleum refineries.....	6.8	0.0	0.3	-0.5	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	8	8	8	8
Gasoline service stations.....	5.8	45.9	3.4	0.4	0.10	0.76	0.08	0.01	91	132	137	137
Recreation, entertainment, and shopping.....	-1.2	1.6	-2.2	-0.9	-0.23	0.28	-0.38	-0.15	957	972	951	943
Recreation and entertainment.....	1.4	-4.9	-4.4	-1.0	0.14	-0.47	-0.40	-0.09	527	501	479	474
Motion pictures and performing arts.....	17.1	31.6	-4.9	0.6	0.08	0.16	-0.03	0.00	28	37	35	36
Spectator sports.....	9.3	-23.4	-9.4	-1.8	0.09	-0.24	-0.07	-0.01	57	43	39	39
Participant sports.....	-0.2	6.9	-4.8	-0.8	-0.01	0.26	-0.19	-0.03	206	220	210	208
Gambling.....	1.2	-30.1	-1.3	-1.8	0.04	-0.97	-0.03	-0.04	176	123	122	120
All other recreation and entertainment.....	-5.2	28.9	-5.5	-0.7	-0.06	0.32	-0.08	-0.01	60	77	73	73
Shopping.....	-4.3	9.5	0.3	-0.7	-0.37	0.75	0.02	-0.06	429	470	472	469
Industries producing nondurable PCE commodities, excluding petroleum refineries.....	-1.8	15.9	0.3	-0.6	-0.04	0.32	0.01	-0.01	109	126	127	126
Retail trade services, excluding gasoline service stations.....	-5.0	7.4	0.3	-0.7	-0.33	0.43	0.02	-0.04	321	344	345	343
All other industries.....	4.1	6.3	-0.7	-0.6	0.15	0.47	-0.01	-0.04	201	214	212	211
All other industries, excluding wholesale trade and transportation services.....	-1.6	-0.6	-3.8	-1.2	-0.02	0.23	-0.03	-0.02	61	61	59	58
Wholesale trade and transportation services.....	6.8	9.3	0.6	-0.4	0.17	0.24	0.02	-0.01	140	153	154	153

PCE Personal consumption expenditures