



National Travel and Tourism Office: Travel Exports

Key Terms:

International Travel Trade. International travel trade consists of transactions involving goods and services acquired by nonresidents while visiting another country. Non-U.S. residents purchasing goods and services while in the United States is export income for the U.S. economy. U.S. residents purchasing goods or services while outside the United States is export income for another country and a U.S. import.

Travel Exports:

U.S. travel exports totaled \$239 billion in 2019, ranking travel as the third largest U.S. export, behind capital goods and industrial supplies and above consumer goods except food and automotive, other business services, and automotive vehicles, parts, and engines (see Chart 1).

In 2020, travel exports declined 65 percent to \$84 billion, which was by far the largest annual decline this century. For perspective, travel exports declined 20 percent from 2000 to 2003 during the aftermath of the 9-11 terrorist attacks in 2001 and declined 8 percent in 2009 during the global financial crisis. In 2021, travel exports declined 2 percent to \$83 billion.

The \$155 billion decline in travel exports in 2020 was responsible for 40 percent of the overall \$388 billion decline in total U.S. exports of goods and services from 2019. After declining 15 percent in 2020, total U.S. exports of goods and services increased 18 percent in 2021. As a result, travel's export rank fell from No. 3 in 2019 to No. 9 in 2020 and in 2021 (see Chart 2).

Top-Line Information

Travel Exports in 2021:

U.S. Travel Exports: **\$83B** (down from \$84B in 2020 and \$239B in 2019)

Travel exports declined 2% from 2020. This followed a 65% decline in 2020 from 2019, which was greater than the 20% decline from 2000-2003 in the aftermath of the 9-11 terrorist attacks and the 8% decline during the global financial crisis.

Travel accounted for 3.2 percent of **total U.S. exports** (down from 9.4 percent in 2019)

The United States maintained the highest number of international travel receipts worldwide, with **14.2 percent*** share of **global travel receipts in 2020 (latest year available) up from 13.2 percent in 2019.**

*provisional

Chart 1: Top 10 U.S. Exports 2019

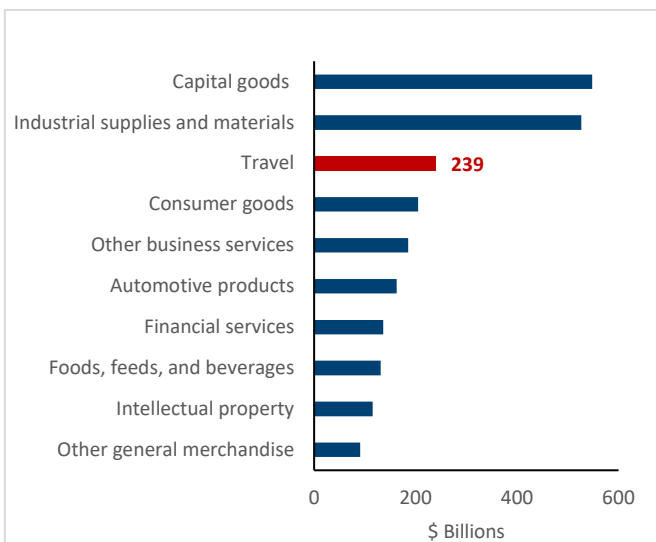
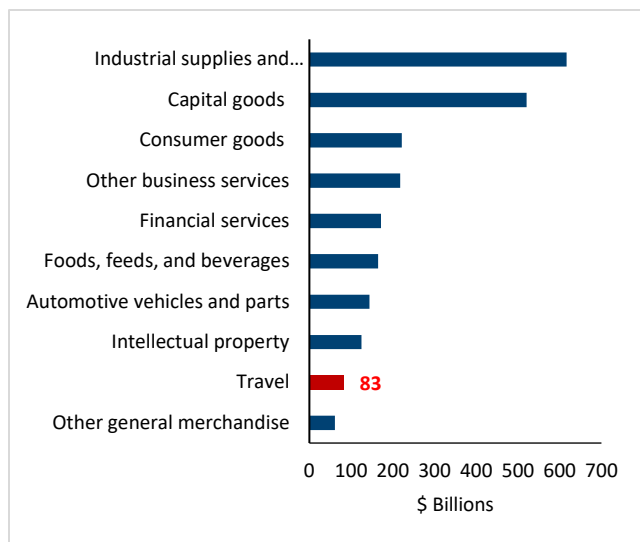


Chart 2: Top 10 U.S. Exports 2021



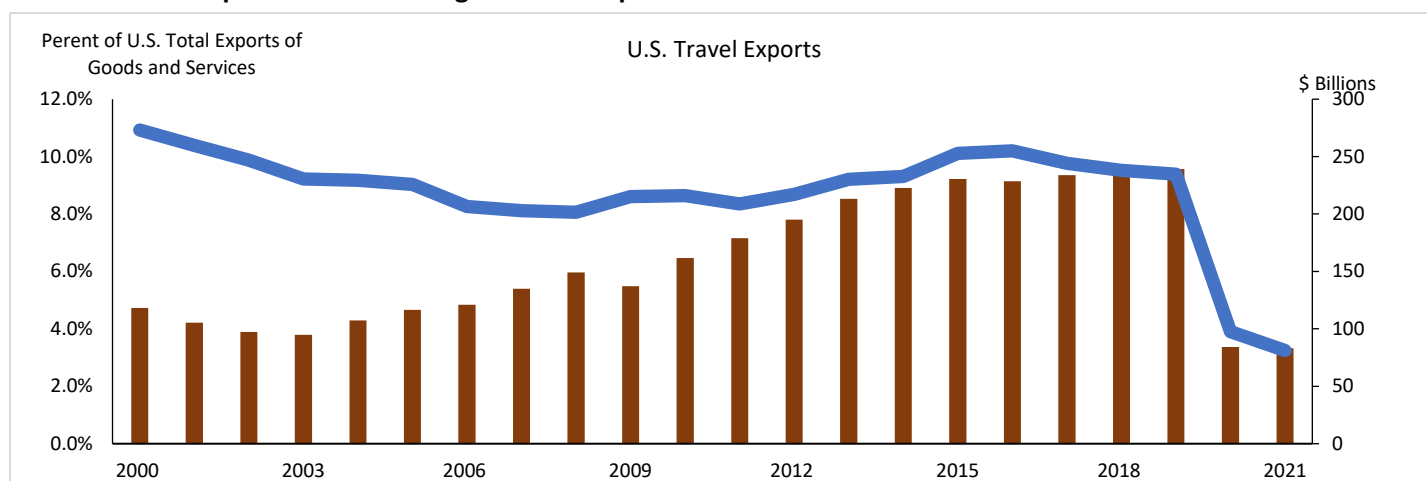
Travel Exports

From 2000 to 2009, U.S. travel exports increased 16 percent, slower than the 47 percent increase in total U.S. exports of goods and services. As a result, travel's share of U.S. exports declined from 10.6 percent in 2000 to 8.6 percent in 2009.

From 2009 to 2019, U.S. travel exports increased 74 percent, faster than the 60 percent increase in total U.S. exports of goods and services. As a result, travel's share of U.S. exports rose from 8.6 percent in 2009 to 9.4 percent in 2009.

From 2019 to 2021, U.S. travel exports declined 65 percent, while total U.S. exports of goods and services increased 0.4 percent. As a result, travel's share of U.S. exports fell from 9.4 percent in 2019 to 3.2 percent in 2021. (see Chart 3).

Chart 3: Travel Exports as a Percentage of Total Exports



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce/Bureau of Economic Analysis

Travel Exports by Country:

In 2021, the top 10 travel export markets changed from 2019. Argentina, the Dominican Republic and Columbia entered the top 10, while Japan, Australia and Germany fell out of the top 10. Meanwhile, the rankings of those remaining in the top 10 in 2021 all changed compared to 2019 (see Table 1).

Table 1: Top U.S. Travel Export Markets, 2021

Rank	Export Market	Travel Exports (\$ Billions)	Share of U.S. Travel Exports	Share of U.S. Exports of Goods and Services By Country (2019)	Share of U.S. Exports of Goods and Services By Country	Change in Rank from 2019
1	Mexico	13.5	16.2%	6.1%	4.4%	↑+2
2	China	11.2	13.5%	19.8%	5.8%	↓-1
3	India	8.2	9.8%	24.5%	14.0%	↑+2
4	Colombia	3.4	4.1%	na	na	↑+10
5	Canada	3.3	4.0%	6.1%	0.9%	↓-3
6	South Korea	2.7	3.3%	11.4%	3.2%	↑+2
7	United Kingdom	2.1	2.6%	10.6%	1.6%	↓-3
8	Brazil	1.7	2.0%	15.2%	2.7%	↓-1
9	Dominican Republic	1.5	1.8%	na	na	↑+13
10	Argentina	1.4	1.7%	21.4%	10.9%	↑+3
	Other Countries	34.0	41.0%	9.6%	2.5%	

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce/Bureau of Economic Analysis

If you have questions or would like more information regarding the data in this fact sheet, please contact David Huether (David.Huether@trade.gov).