The Travel Trends Index measures the direction and pace of travel volume to and within the U.S. on a monthly basis. The index includes a Current Travel Index (CTI) and a Leading Travel Index (LTI). Both the CTI and the LTI include subcomponents (domestic, international, leisure, and business).

CTI reading of 51.1 in October 2019 indicates that travel to or within the U.S. grew 2.2% in October 2019.

LTI predicts travel growth will moderate through April 2020, a result of soft growth across all travel segments.

Overall travel volume (person trips to or within the United States involving a hotel stay or air travel) grew at the same year-over-year rate in October 2019 as in September 2019. Domestic travel growth remained stable and was solely supported by the leisure segment, while the business segment registered a decline. International inbound travel registered no growth.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Current Travel Index (CTI) has registered at or above the 50 mark for 118 straight months, as the industry sustains its 10th consecutive year of expansion.
- The CTI was positive in October, registering 51.1 (indicating 2.2% percent y/y growth). This is moderately lower than the 6-month moving average (2.6%).
- International inbound travel was flat in October, neither increasing nor decreasing (0.0%), prolonging the segment’s weakness. The Leading Travel Index (LTI) projects that inbound travel volume will decline about 0.8% over the next six months compared to prior-year levels.
- Domestic leisure travel growth carried its strength into October (4.4%), surpassing its recent six-month trend (3.6%). The business segment contracted (-1.6%), underperforming its six-month trend (0.8%).
- The six-month LTI reading of 50.6 indicates that total U.S. travel volume is expected to grow by 1.2% through April 2020. Over the same period, domestic travel is expected to ease toward 1.4% growth and international inbound travel will decline (-0.8%).

The Oxford/U.S. Travel Current Travel Index (CTI) measures the direction and pace of travel volume to and within the U.S. on a monthly basis compared to the same month in the prior year. The index is comprised of a weighting of hotel room demand and air passenger enplanements that represents the overall volume of travelers each month. A score above 50 indicates expansion. A score below 50 indicates decline.

The Oxford/U.S. Travel Leading Travel Index (LTI) is an indicator of the future direction and pace of travel volume to and within the U.S. over the coming three and six months compared to the same period in the prior year. The LTIs represent average readings over the next three and six months. The LTI econometric model is based on data sets that have demonstrated to predict near-term future travel: online travel searches and bookings for future travel, consumer travel intentions data, and economic fundamentals. A score above 50 indicates expansion. A score below 50 indicates decline.
OCTOBER TRAVEL TRENDS INDEX (CONT.)

The year-over-year growth rate of travel to and within the United States was slower during the first 10 months of 2019 than in the same period in 2018. This deceleration has been largely due to international inbound travel, and domestic business travel to a lesser extent. Meanwhile, domestic leisure travel has maintained momentum and continues to be a strong source of demand for the industry.

DAVID HUETHER  
Senior Vice President, Research

DETAILED RESULTS:

Domestic travel rose 2.6% in October, a result of solid leisure travel growth (+4.4%)—more than offsetting a decline in business travel (-1.6%). The decline in business travel can likely be attributed in part to a calendar shift in Jewish holidays that was unfavorable to business travel volumes in early October. Slower leisure travel growth of 1.6%—about one-third of its current pace—is expected through the coming six months. Vacation intentions remain ahead of last year; however, forward-looking booking and search data are softening. Domestic business travel is expected to recover and grow slightly faster than its six-month average.

International inbound travel did not experience any growth in October 2019 compared to October 2018. The segment has oscillated between positive and negative territory in 2019, shrinking in five of 10 months. Over the coming months, international inbound travel growth is expected to remain suppressed by economic and policy-based headwinds resulting in a year-over-year decline.

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Domestic travel is anticipated to expand approximately 1.4% year-over-year through April 2020. Leisure travel is expected to moderate (+1.6%), while business travel will grow slightly faster than its six-month average, though still at a relatively slow pace (+1.2%). Consumer confidence and expectations remained steady in October, though the prevailing consumer spending strength that has underpinned overall economic growth is expected to subside through the start of 2020. Business activity continues to cool, particularly in manufacturing, restraining expectations for domestic business travel.

International inbound travel remained at the same level as in October 2018. Looking ahead, the LTI indicates that the international segment will remain weak (-0.8%). Cooling domestic and global momentum, prolonged and expanding trade tensions and policy uncertainty remain major risks to international traveler sentiment.

Please note: The Travel Trends Index is based on public and private sector source data which are subjected to revision by the source agency.
METHODOLOGY

The Current Travel Index (CTI) measures monthly travel volumes in the U.S., including both domestic and international inbound travel. A score over 50 indicates an expansion in travel relative to the same month the prior year.

The following methods and sources are used to estimate (1) total travel; (2) international visitations; and (3) domestic travel (which is the residual of total travel minus international visitations):

1. **Total travel (domestic and international):** Total travel is calculated based on hotel stays of domestic and international travelers as well as air travel of domestic travelers. While most international visitors are assumed to stay in hotels, domestic travelers often do not. As such, the domestic travel estimate is further informed by domestic air enplanements to help capture the entire domestic market. STR provides monthly data on hotel room demand, and domestic air passenger enplanements are calculated based on monthly investor relations reports for all major domestic airlines. The research firm TNS provides representative data on U.S. travelers to determine the average length of stay, persons per traveler party, and the proportion of hotel guests who also fly. The CTI encompasses three traveler types on these bases that are shown below with their basic calculation.

   **HOTEL GUESTS & FLYERS**
   - enplanements
   - enplanements per trip
   - % of flyers that stay in hotel

   **HOTEL GUESTS & NON-FLYERS**
   - occupied rooms
   - people per room
   - length of stay
   - % of hotel guests that did not fly

   **NON-HOTEL GUESTS & FLYERS**
   - enplanements
   - enplanements per trip
   - (1 – % of flyers that stay in hotel)

2. **International visits:** The international component of the CTI is based on the Department of Homeland Security’s Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS), which tracks international travel to the U.S., and distinguishes between foreign nationals and U.S. citizens. Visits from Canada are tracked by Statistics Canada and visits from Mexico are tracked by Banco de Mexico. Further analysis of international markets is informed by origin-destination air travel data from OAG, Sabre Market Intelligence aviation passenger data, and IATA Billing Settlement Plan data. Each of these datasets tracks non-resident air travel to the U.S. by country of origin based on unique sources. Official estimated of international visitation to the U.S. (I-94) are released by the U.S. Department of Commerce on approximately a four-month lag. As this data becomes available, historic CTI estimates will be revised.

3. **Domestic travel:** The domestic component of the CTI is measured as the residual of total travel minus international. The domestic leisure travel component is based on STR room demand data that is segmented by type of property and day of the week. A domestic leisure travel proxy has been developed based on the location, type of property, and day of the week of travel. Domestic business travel is measured as the residual of total domestic travel minus domestic leisure travel.

The Leading Travel Index (LTI) measures the likely average pace and direction of U.S. travel volumes over the coming three and six-month periods. A reading over 50 indicates an expansion in travel relative to the same period last year.

The LTI econometric model includes three categories of information that have shown a strong predictive capability of short-term travel trends. High frequency macroeconomic data capture underlying movements in the labor market, exchange rates and company performance. Consumer sentiment data from the Conference Board provide a long-term trend of consumer attitudes that can be tracked with future travel patterns; online search and bookings data provide a window into traveler planning based on data from ADARA and nSight, and data from ARC measures bookings.
ABOUT THE U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION
The U.S. Travel Association is the national non-profit organization representing all components of the travel industry, which generates $2.5 trillion in total economic output and supports 15.7 million American jobs. U.S. Travel’s mission is to increase travel to and within the United States.

ABOUT OXFORD ECONOMICS
Oxford Economics is one of the world’s foremost independent global advisory firms, providing reports, forecasts and analytical tools on 200 countries, 100 industrial sectors and over 3,000 cities. Its best-of-class global economic and industry models and analytical tools give it an unparalleled ability to forecast external market trends and assess their economic, social and business impact.

DATA CONTRIBUTORS
The U.S. Travel Index project is dependent upon unique datasets to track and predict travel trends. The U.S. Travel Association and Oxford Economics wish to thank the following organizations for their significant contributions:

ADARA serves leading travel brands by delivering critical intelligence that drives personalization and relevance throughout the customer’s journey, resulting in more meaningful and profitable relationships. Fueling these insights is ADARA’s data co-op which connects over 200 leading travel brands to create the most comprehensive view of the world’s travelers and their behaviors across brands, channels, and devices. ADARA transforms how their B2C clients leverage consumer insight at every stage—learn, act, measure and modify—to unleash the revenue potential of each individual.

Airlines Reporting Corporation (ARC) is a leading technology solutions company providing the U.S.-based travel industry with world-class business products, travel agency accreditation services, process and financial management tools, and powerful data analytics.

nSight combines the world’s largest view of consumer shopping data with predictive marketing and revenue management solutions to deliver more guests to your hotel and visitors to your destination.

STR is the leading global provider of competitive benchmarking, information services and research to the hotel industry.

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