



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, 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 remained at \$84 billion.

In the aftermath of major restrictions on international travel being lifted in November 2021, travel exports increased 97% in 2022 to \$165 billion. By comparison other U.S. exports of goods and services increased 15% in 2022. Still, 2022 travel and tourism exports remained -31% compared to 2019 exports, while other U.S. exports of goods and services were +24% compared to 2019 exports. Travel’s export rank fell from No. 3. in 2019 to No. 9 in 2021 and then increased to No. 7 in 2022 (see Chart 2).

Top-Line Information

Travel Exports in 2022:

U.S. Travel Exports: **\$165B** (up from \$84B in 2021 but down from \$239B in 2019)

Travel exports increased 97% from 2021. This followed a 0.2% decline in 2021 and a 65% decline in 2020, 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 5.5% of **total U.S. exports** (down from 9.4% in 2019)

The United States maintained the highest number of international travel receipts worldwide, with **11.2 percent share of global travel receipts in 2021, down from 13.3 percent in 2019.**

Mexico was the largest U.S. travel export market: \$17.9B in travel exports.

Chart 1: Top 10 U.S. Exports 2019

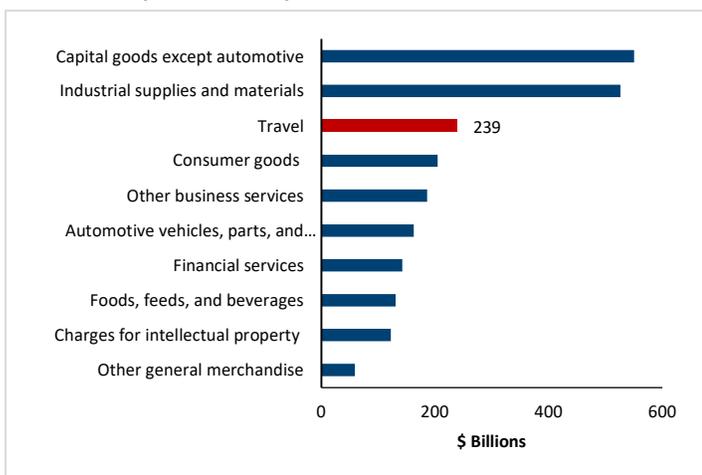
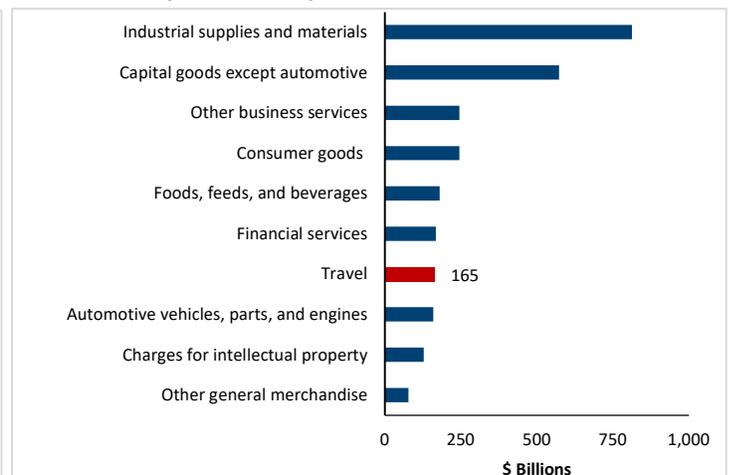


Chart 2: Top 10 U.S. Exports 2022



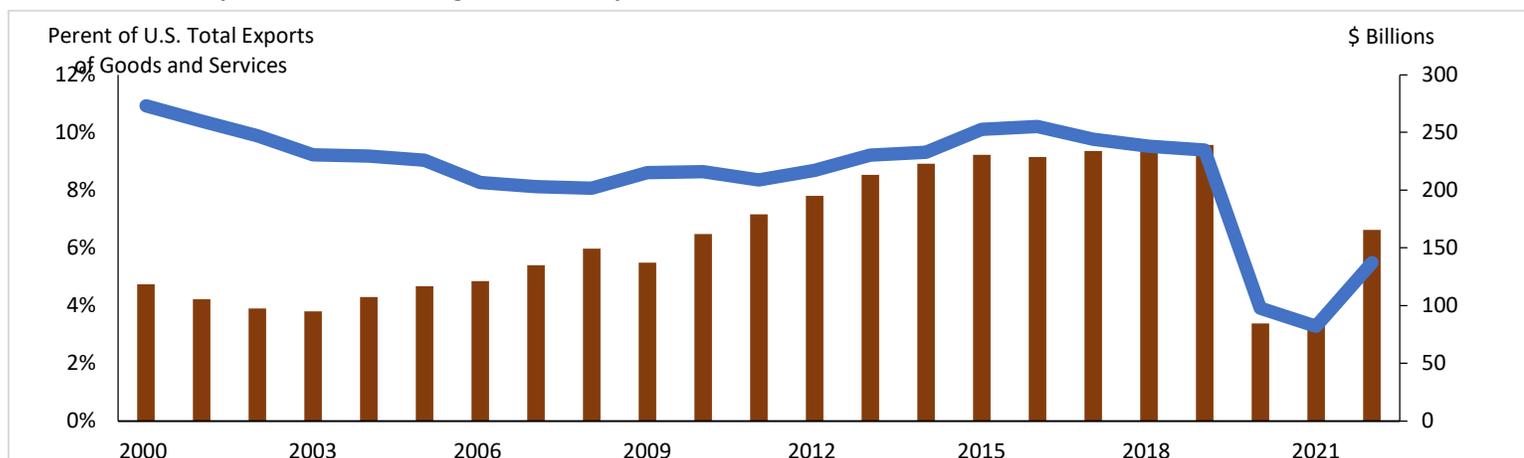
Travel Exports

From 1999 to 2009, U.S. travel exports increased 26%, slower than the 63% increase in total U.S. exports of goods and services. As a result, travel's share of U.S. exports declined from 11.2% in 1999 to 8.6% in 2009.

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

From 2019 to 2021, U.S. travel exports declined 65%, while total U.S. exports of goods and services increased 1%. As a result, travel's share of U.S. exports fell from 9.4% in 2019 to 3.3% in 2021. With the recovery in travel exports in 2022, travel's share of total U.S. exports rose to 5.5% (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 2022, the top 10 travel export markets changed from 2019. France entered the top 10, while Japan fell out of the top 10. Meanwhile, the rankings of most of the remaining in the top 10 in 2022 changed compared to 2019 (see Table 1).

Table 1: Top U.S. Travel Export Markets, 2022

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 (2022)	Change in Rank from 2019
1	Mexico	17.9	10.8%	6.1%	5.0%	↑+2
2	Canada	14.7	8.9%	6.1%	3.4%	--
3	China	14.0	8.4%	19.8%	7.1%	↓-2
4	India	13.2	8.0%	24.5%	18.1%	↑+1
5	United Kingdom	12.2	7.4%	10.6%	7.7%	↓-1
6	Brazil	6.3	3.8%	15.2%	8.4%	↑+1
7	Germany	6.0	3.6%	7.8%	5.2%	↑+3
8	Korea, Republic of	5.5	3.3%	11.4%	5.7%	--
9	France	4.8	2.9%	10.0%	7.1%	↑+2
10	Australia	4.5	2.7%	16.7%	8.6%	↓-1
	Other Countries	66.3	40.1%	8.2%	4.8%	

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).