



Economic Roundtable
Travel's Significance to the U.S. Economy

Tuesday, June 24, 2008
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

HC-6, U.S. Capitol

Economic Roundtable
Travel's Significance to the U.S. Economy

Agenda

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome Breakfast with Congressmen Sam Farr and Jon Porter, CTTC Co-Chairs
- 9:15 a.m. Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, Department of Commerce
- 9:30 a.m. Secretary Michael Chertoff, Department of Homeland Security
- 10:00 a.m. The Need for a Secure and Efficient Travel System
Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson
- 10:25 a.m. Comments from House Leadership on Travel and Tourism
House Republican Whip Roy Blunt
- 10:30 a.m. America's Byways, Highways and Skyways
Transportation & Infrastructure Chairman James Oberstar
Transportation & Infrastructure Ranking Member John Mica
- 11:00 a.m. Fueling our Economic Engine through Travel
Ways & Means Chairman Charles Rangel
Ways & Means Ranking Member Jim McCrery
- 11:45 a.m. Comments from House Leadership on Travel and Tourism
Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
- 12:00 p.m. Closing with Co-Chairs Farr and Porter and Roger Dow, TIA President & CEO

Invited:

Speaker Nancy Pelosi

House Republican Leader John Boehner

and

Homeland Security Approps. Chairman David Price

Appearances TBD.

Economic Roundtable
Travel's Significance to the U.S. Economy

Invited Members of Congress and Members of the Cabinet

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable John Boehner, House Republican Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Roy Blunt, House Republican Whip

The Honorable Jim McCrery, Ranking Member of the Ways & Means Committee

The Honorable John Mica, Ranking Member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable James Oberstar, Chairman of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable David Price, Chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable Charles Rangel, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee

The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee

The Honorable Carlos Gutierrez, Secretary of the Department of Commerce

The Honorable Michael Chertoff, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security

Economic Roundtable
Travel's Significance to the U.S. Economy

Invited Travel Executives

Ms. Caroline Beteta, CEO of California Travel and Tourism Commission and National Chair of Travel Industry Association of America

Ms. Julie Chase, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, State of Texas

Ms. Roslyn Dickerson, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Diversity of Intercontinental Hotel Group

Mr. Roger Dow, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Travel Industry Association of America

Mr. John F. Edman, Director of Explore Minnesota Tourism

Mr. Alan Feldman, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs of MGM Mirage

Mr. George Fertitta, CEO of NYC & Company

Mr. Bill Hardman, President and CEO of Southeast Tourism Society

Mr. Tim Maland, Director of Nevada Commission on Tourism

Ms. Kathleen Matthews, Executive Vice President, Global Communications & Public Affairs of Marriott International, Inc.

Mr. Joseph McInerney, President and CEO of American Hotel & Lodging Association

Ms. Lynn D. Minges, Executive Director of North Carolina Division of Tourism, Film, and Sports Development, North Carolina Department of Commerce

Mr. Rossi Ralenkotter, President and CEO of Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority

Mr. Gary C. Sain, President and CEO of Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Mr. Jim Shaughnessy, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Orbitz Worldwide

Mr. Jonathan Tisch, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Loews Hotels



Sam Farr (CA-17)

Congressman

U.S. House of Representatives

Co-Chair

Congressional Travel & Tourism Caucus

Sam Farr, a fifth-generation Californian, represents the state's beautiful Central Coast. His district encompasses the length of the Big Sur coastline in Monterey County, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Salinas Valley "salad bowl," the redwoods, mountains and beaches of Santa Cruz County, and the majestic rural landscape of San Benito County.

Once beset by a lackluster economy and the biggest military base closing in the history of the United States, the Central Coast has become a national model for sustainable development, marine science research and post-secondary foreign language education. The robust economic vitality on the Central Coast is buttressed by revenues of over \$4 billion from agriculture and \$2 billion from tourism.

In Congress since 1993, Farr serves on the powerful House Appropriations Committee which oversees the distribution of the federal budget. Farr sits on three subcommittees: Agriculture and FDA; Military Construction and Veterans Affairs; and Homeland Security.

Through his work on the committee, Farr has been able to advocate for the interests of the Central Coast: promoting key agriculture research, lobbying for strict federal organic standards, facilitating the final agreement that conveyed the former Fort Ord to civilian hands, working to establish a veterans' cemetery at Fort Ord, and helping maintain the Naval Postgraduate School and Defense Language Institute as premier educational institutions.

Farr represents the largest National Marine Sanctuary along the continental United States and has long been an advocate for our oceans. Farr is an original co-chair of the bipartisan House Oceans Caucus. In the late 1990s, Farr authored legislation to establish an oceans commission, patterned off the law that created the Stratton Commission in the 1960s. This Oceans Act was signed into law on Aug. 8, 2000, and in 2004 the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released a comprehensive inventory of our nation's coastal and marine resources, ocean programs and policies, federal funding priorities, infrastructure requirements and technological opportunities.

In response to this report, Farr and his fellow House Ocean Caucus co-chairs introduced legislation to broadly overhaul our ocean management system, the Ocean Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act. This bill, known as Oceans-21, is working its way through the House.

Farr has worked throughout his tenure in Congress to help the Central Coast to manage and benefit from the closure of Fort Ord in Monterey County. Fort Ord was slated for closure in 1991, two years before Farr came to Congress. Farr facilitated the final agreement that conveyed the fort's land to civilian hands at no cost and has continued to secure funds for clean-up and economic development on the former base, including more than \$65 million in defense conversion funds to start a new California State University at the closed base.



Jon Porter (NV-3)

Congressman

U.S. House of Representatives

Co-Chair

Congressional Travel & Tourism Caucus

Jon Porter has made community service a lifetime commitment. Currently in his third term as a member of the United States House of Representatives, Mr. Porter's common-sense approach and experience as a local leader has enabled him to successfully fight for the needs of Southern Nevadans.

In January of 2003, Jon Porter began his 22nd year of serving the community when he was sworn in as Nevada's first Representative of the newly-created Third Congressional District, one of the most unique and fastest-growing regions in the country. Ranging from the metropolitan areas of Las Vegas, to the growing suburbs of Henderson, to the idyllic Lake Mead and Red Rock Canyon, Nevada's Third District is a spectacular place to live or to visit.

Congressman Porter currently serves on the [House Ways and Means Committee](#). The assignment allows Mr. Porter to continue to advocate for low taxes, access to affordable healthcare and trade issues that will have a direct impact on Nevadan families. The Congressman's position further allows him to promote policies that foster the continuing expansion of Nevada's booming economy.

Congressman Porter additionally serves on the [House Budget Committee](#). This committee is responsible for drafting Congress's annual budget plan and monitoring action on the budget for the federal government. As a member of this important committee, Mr. Porter will continue to ensure the federal government spends the tax payer's money with discretion.

During the 108th Congress, Congressman Porter served on the [House Education and the Workforce Committee](#) and the [House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee](#). In the 109th Congress, Congressman Porter also secured a seat on the [House Government Reform Committee](#), and became Chairman of the Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Subcommittee. As Chairman of the Subcommittee, Mr. Porter led the investigation into possible falsification of documents and quality assurance failures at Yucca Mountain.

Congressman Porter first held public office as a Boulder City Councilman in 1983, eventually becoming Mayor in 1987. In 1994, Mr. Porter set his sights on extending his service and was elected to the Nevada State Senate, where he served for eight years. Among his many legislative accomplishments at the state and local level, of particular note is his role in providing for long-range school construction, the preservation of Southern Nevada's environmental resources, and extending prescription drug benefits to seniors.

Jon Porter was born on May 16, 1955, in Humboldt, Iowa. He attended Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa. Mr. Porter has two children, J. Chris and Nicole.

On a personal level, music has always been a passion for Mr. Porter. He is a founding member of the "Second Amendments," a bi-partisan Congressional band that has played for various charities in the Washington area. The band has also performed for our brave men and women in uniform serving overseas.



Nancy Pelosi (CA-8)

Speaker

U.S. House of Representatives

Since 1987, Nancy Pelosi has represented California's Eighth District in the House of Representatives, which includes most of the City of San Francisco. Overwhelmingly elected by her colleagues in the fall of 2002 as Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi is the first woman in American history to lead a major party in the U.S. Congress. Before being elected Leader, she served as House Democratic Whip for one year and was responsible for the party's legislative strategy in the House. On January 4, 2007, Nancy Pelosi was elected Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

As a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Pelosi fought for America's families. She has been a leader in increasing educational opportunity, protecting workers, and promoting health care, including women's health and the creation of a nationwide health tracking network to examine the links between environmental pollutants and chronic disease. She has been a strong proponent of increased investments in health research, and has secured funding to double the budget for the National Institutes of Health. Pelosi also has successfully defeated repeated attempts to reduce funding for international family planning programs.

As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for 10 years (the longest continuous period of service in the committee's history) including two years as the Ranking Democrat, Pelosi worked to ensure that policymakers and military commanders are provided with the timely and accurate intelligence necessary to guide diplomatic initiatives, succeed in combat, and protect U.S. military forces.

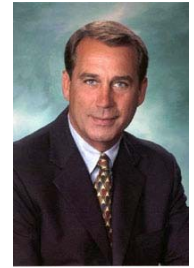
In meetings around the world with U.S. and foreign intelligence leaders, Pelosi has urged for greater attention to the threats to international security posed by the proliferation of technologies associated with the weapons of mass destruction and global terrorism.

In the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Pelosi led congressional reviews of the U.S. intelligence and security agencies and authored legislation to create an independent national commission to assess the overall performance of the federal government before, during, and after the attacks.

Pelosi has long been an advocate for human rights around the world. She has fought to improve China's human rights record, attempting to tie trade to increased human rights standards. She has also been a leader on efforts to free the people of Tibet.

A leader on the environment at home and abroad, Pelosi secured passage of a provision in the International Development and Finance Act of 1989 which requires the World Bank and all the regional multilateral development banks to review the potential environmental impacts of development projects for which they provide funding and to make these environmental assessments publicly available. Known as the "Pelosi Amendment," it has become a significant tool for indigenous, nongovernmental organizations around the world.

Pelosi has also served on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics) and the Banking and Financial Services Committee. She has chaired the Congressional Working Group on China and has served on the Executive Committee of the Democratic Study Group.



John A. Boehner (OH-8)

House Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

John Boehner, elected to represent the Eighth Congressional District of Ohio for a ninth term in November 2006, continues to be a key leader in the fight for a more limited and accountable federal government.

In 1990, he was elected to represent Ohio's Eighth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. His time in Congress has been highlighted by several government reform initiatives. His efforts include providing accountability and choice in education, ensuring workers' pension benefits are there when they retire, and fighting to rein in worthless pork barrel spending. He has been a vocal advocate for tax relief and spending restraint, and is an active supporter of rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal budget.

His first two terms in the House were marked by an aggressive campaign to clean up Congress and make it more accountable to the American people. During his freshman year, Boehner and fellow members of the reform-minded "Gang of Seven" took on the House establishment and successfully closed the House Bank, uncovered "dine-and-dash" practices at the House Restaurant, and exposed drug sales and cozy cash-for-stamps deals at the House Post Office.

The success of John's reform-minded agenda earned him election to the House Republican leadership after the Republican election victories in 1994. While in Congress, John has never lost sight of the need for greater fiscal responsibility in the federal government - a hallmark of his career as a small business owner. As House Republican Conference Chairman in the 104th and 105th Congress, John was a powerful voice in the fight to force Washington to stick to the strict spending limits in the Balanced Budget Act. More recently, in 109th Congress, Boehner led passage of new reforms clamping down on earmarks.

John is also active in education reform issues. In 1994, he passed legislation with strong bipartisan support allowing school districts to use their Title I funds for public school choice programs, under which parents could choose which public school their children would attend.

In January 2001, John was selected by House Republicans to chair the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Five months later, John's No Child Left Behind Act - a bill bringing transparency and accountability to the public education system, bolstering the case for school choice - passed the House with overwhelmingly bipartisan support.

Boehner's congressional district ranks among the largest agricultural districts in the State of Ohio, and for many years he was Ohio's sole voice on the House Agriculture Committee. John was the driving force behind the Freedom to Farm Act of 1996 - legislation freeing American agriculture from intrusive government regulation - and he was a leading opponent of 2002 legislation that reversed many of these important free-market reforms.

On November 17, 2006, Boehner was elected by his colleagues to serve as House Republican Leader. Boehner believes Republicans can earn back the majority in Congress by getting back to their core principles and focusing on developing new ideas that win broad-based support among the American people. Since February 2006 when Boehner was elected to serve as House Majority Leader, he has worked to reinvigorate the spirit of reform that first brought him to Congress.

Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5)

Majority Leader

U.S. House of Representatives



Congressman Steny H. Hoyer represents Maryland's Fifth Congressional District, which includes Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties and portions of Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties. A resident of Mechanicsville serving his 14th term in Congress, Congressman Hoyer became the longest-serving Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Maryland in history on June 4, 2007.

In November 2006, Congressman Hoyer was elected by his colleagues in the Democratic Caucus to serve as House Majority Leader in the 110th Congress. His election as Majority Leader – which is the second-highest position in the House – makes him the highest-ranking Member of Congress from Maryland in history.

Congressman Hoyer's experience, know-how and strong work ethic have led to increasing responsibilities within the House Democratic leadership. Prior to serving as the Whip in the 108th and 109th Congresses, he served as Chair of the Democratic Caucus - the fourth-ranking position among House Democrat - from 1989 to 1995. He is the former Co-Chair (and a current member) of the Democratic Steering Committee, and served as the chief candidate recruiter for House Democrats from 1995 to 2000. He also served as Deputy Majority Whip from 1987 to 1989.

In Congress, Steny Hoyer has built an outstanding record of achievement and earned a reputation as a strong leader, a skilled legislator and a committed consensus builder. For example, a profile of Congressman Hoyer in the magazine *National Journal* stated: "Congressional insiders roundly agree that [Steny Hoyer] is a workhorse with the ability to focus on getting a job done that is unmatched by many lawmakers."

He gained wide acclaim for guiding the Help America Vote Act to House passage and producing a House-Senate Conference Report that was signed into law by President Bush on Oct. 29, 2002. *Washington Post* columnist David Broder called this comprehensive election reform legislation "the most significant piece of election law since [the] Voting Rights Act."

In the Fifth Congressional District, Congressman Hoyer continues to be a leader for economic development and jobs. He helped bring 4,000 IRS jobs to New Carrollton; preserved 5,000 jobs and helped add 5,000 more jobs at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station; helped to keep open the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Indian Head, preserving 3,000 jobs; helped win the reversal of a closure recommendation at St. Inigoes, preserving more than 1,600 jobs; and blocked an effort to close Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, saving more than 3,000 civil service and approximately 6,000 contractor positions.

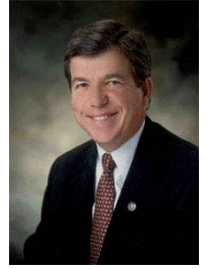
He also works hard to protect our natural resources. In addition to supporting every major piece of environmental legislation while in Congress, he co-sponsored the "Chesapeake Bay Restoration Act," providing funds to protect the Bay and its tributaries; secured more than \$10 million in the 1990s to respond to *Pfiesteria* and to study its effects on humans; and champions the efforts to replenish the declining oyster population of the Bay and to restore the Potomac, Patuxent and St. Mary's rivers.

In 1966, at the age of 27, Steny Hoyer won a seat in the Maryland Senate, after campaigning on a fair housing platform. In 1975, he was elected President of the Senate, the youngest ever in state history, and served in that body until 1978. He also was a member of the State Board of Higher Education from 1978 to 1981, the year in which he came to Congress after winning a special election.

Roy Blunt (MO-7)

House Republican Whip

U.S. House of Representatives



House Republican Whip Roy Blunt came to the United States House of Representatives in 1997 with a background as a public servant, university president and administrator.

Blunt, who became Majority Whip earlier in his career than any Member of Congress in the last eight decades, was reelected to a third term as Republican Whip in November 2006.

As Whip, Congressman Blunt is the second highest Republican in the House of Representatives. He selects and leads a team of Deputy and Assistant Whips, which columnist Robert Novak has described as "the most efficient party whip operation in congressional history."

The people of Southwest Missouri have sent Blunt to Washington to represent them six times. When Blunt was named Missouri's Republican of the Year in 2001, President Bush described him as "a leader who knows how to raise his sights and lower his voice."

Blunt's legislation signed into law in recent Congresses includes the Combat Meth Act, the Charitable Giving expansion, and legislation to enhance transparency in federal spending by establishing a searchable database of all federal grants and contracts. A recognized leader on energy-related issues, Blunt is a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the head of the House Energy Action Team (HEAT).

In 1984, Blunt was elected Missouri's first Republican Secretary of State in more than 50 years. Before coming to Congress, Blunt served four years as the president of his alma mater, Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri.

The Congressman is married to Abigail Blunt. Blunt has four children: Missouri Governor Matt Blunt; Amy Blunt, an attorney in Kansas City, Missouri; Andy Blunt, an attorney in Jefferson City, Missouri; and Charlie (age 3), who lives with his mom and dad. Blunt has five grandchildren: Davis Mosby, Ben Blunt, Branch Blunt, Eva Mosby, and Allyson Blunt.



Jim McCrery (LA-4)

Ranking Member

Committee on Ways & Means

U.S. House of Representatives

Jim McCrery has been recognized as one of the most thoughtful members of the United States Congress, focusing on solving America's challenges by looking past politics of the moment and toward long-term, permanent solutions. He represents Louisiana's 4th Congressional District, encompassing northwest and west central Louisiana.

In the 110th Congress, McCrery is serving his 10th full term in the U.S. House of Representatives. McCrery is the ranking minority member of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, and he also serves on the Joint Committee on Taxation.

In his previous capacity as the Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee Chairman, Quarterly called McCrery an "economic guardian." In addition, the non-partisan magazine named McCrery as one of twenty-eight "emerging players" who will shape Congress's agenda in the post-Sept. 11th world.

McCrery has concentrated his energies on producing fundamental tax reform, economic growth and making health care more available and affordable. In addition, former Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer has called McCrery "one of the most knowledgeable members of the House on the issue of welfare reform." House leaders twice called on McCrery to serve on conference committees which resulted in the passage of historic welfare reform legislation.

In the 104th Congress, McCrery focused on preserving the fiscally-troubled Medicare program by co-authoring the Medicare Preservation Act. He served on the exclusive House-Senate Medicare conference committee in the fall of 1995.

Serving on the Ways and Means subcommittee on Health, McCrery played a major role in shaping our country's health care policy. During the 106th Congress, he helped write legislation to help seniors cope with the cost of prescription drugs by providing a voluntary and affordable prescription drug program for all seniors.

In January of 2001, McCrery significantly increased his influence over fiscal and economic policy when he was named Chairman of the Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee. As Chairman of this tax subcommittee of Ways and Means, McCrery played a leading role in shaping and passing major tax bills during President George W. Bush's first term. McCrery's subcommittee was also responsible for holding hearings on and fashioning the tax portion of the 2003 Energy Bill.

At the start of the 109th Congress, McCrery was named Chairman to the Subcommittee on Social Security. McCrery plans to reform and strengthen the current Social Security system. He supports personal accounts, a plan that would allow workers to prepare for retirement by using some of their payroll taxes to invest in stocks and bonds. McCrery will also continue to serve on the Health Subcommittee and Human Resources Subcommittee throughout the 109th.

With his senior position on the Ways and Means Committee and serving on the Executive Committee of the National Republican Congressional Committee, the National Journal called McCrery a "member who bears watching."



John Mica (FL-7)

Ranking Member

Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

U.S. House of Representatives

John L. Mica was first elected to the United States Congress on November 3, 1992, to represent the 7th Congressional District of Florida, which stretches across six counties from the suburban areas north of Orlando to the Jacksonville city limits. Major cities in the district include Winter Park, Altamonte Springs, Lake Mary, Sanford, Deltona, DeBary, DeLand, Daytona Beach, Ormond Beach, Palm Coast, Palatka and St. Augustine. He is currently serving his eighth term in the 110 th Congress, which began January 4, 2007.

In the 110 th Congress, Mica was elected by his peers in the House of Representatives to serve as the Republican Leader of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the largest Congressional panel in Congress. As the House Transportation GOP Leader, Mica serves on all six Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittees. He has been recognized as a national leader on a variety of transportation issues. Mica also is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Board of Visitors the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees. Rep. Mica served six years as the Speaker's Representative to the U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission and was formerly a Member of the House Administration Committee.

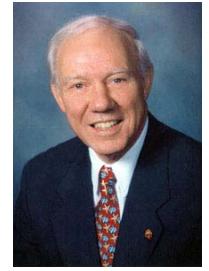
As a recognized national transportation leader, Rep. Mica was named Chairman of the Subcommittee on Aviation in 2001 and served through 2006. After the September 11 th terrorist attacks, Rep. Mica led the effort in Congress to restore stability to the aviation industry and co-authored the Aviation and Transportation Security Law.

Mica is a senior Member on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and former Chairman of two of its Subcommittees. As Chairman of the House Civil Service Subcommittee from 1995-1999, Mica authored landmark legislation dealing with veterans preferences, expanding healthcare access for military dependents and establishing one of the federal government's largest employee stock ownership programs.

From 1999-2001, Mica served as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources. As Chairman he became a national principal leader in the development of our nation's counter-narcotics policy. Appointed by then-House Speaker Dennis Hastert as a Co-Chairman of the Speaker's Drug Free Task Force from 1999-2006, he has been a respected national voice in advocating drug education, prevention, enforcement, eradication and interdiction programs.

In Mica's first term in Congress, his freshman Republican colleagues honored him with their Outstanding Legislative Leadership Award for new Members of Congress. Each year since 1993, he has consistently received the Golden Bulldog Award from the Watchdogs of the Treasury, the Taxpayer's Hero Award from the National Taxpayers Union, the Thomas Jefferson Award for Distinguished Service (Food Distributors International) and the Spirit of Enterprise Award (the U. S. Chamber of Commerce). In 1995, he was honored as one of 100 Americans to receive the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Prior to his election to Congress, Mica established several successful business ventures including real estate, communications, international trade consulting and governmental affairs firms. In 1973, the Florida Jaycees recognized Mica's work in reorganizing local government by awarding him the Florida State Good Government Award. As a member of the Florida House of Representatives (1976-1980), Mica served on the Appropriations, the Select Energy, the Ethics and Elections and the Community Affairs Committees.



James L. Oberstar (MN-8)

Chairman

Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

U.S. House of Representatives

As a boy growing up in Chisholm, Minnesota, Jim Oberstar was taught the value of hard work. His first job was delivering the Chisholm Free Press newspaper. Later, as a high school student, he worked summer jobs in the iron mines to pay his way through college. On one occasion, Jim recalls that he was studying during a break at the mine, when an older iron miner came up to him and said, "Sonny, better you should study," - advice Jim took to heart.

Jim Oberstar was born September 10th, 1934 to parents whose families had come to America for a better life. His grandfather was an oven maker from Slovenia who had been recruited by the U.S. Steel Company to work on the massive blast furnaces of the steel mills it was building in the Chicago area and later in Duluth's Morgan Park. When the work was finished he moved to the Iron Range where Jim's father, Louis was born. Louis was raised on the Range, where he met and married Jim's mother Mary Grillo and began working in the Godfrey Underground Iron Mine, later working in the open pits. Mary worked in the Arrow Shirt Factory in Chisholm to supplement the family income while she raised Jim and his brothers.

The work ethic his family and community inspired in him enabled Jim to graduate Summa Cum Laude from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul in 1956 with a double major in French and Political Science. From there, he continued his education by winning a scholarship to the College of Europe in Belgium. Following his tenure as a language teacher for over three years in Haiti, Jim returned to the United States to serve Minnesota as an aide to his predecessor in Congress, Rep. John Blatnik.

Between 1995 and 2006, Jim was the senior Democrat on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. In recent years, Jim has won numerous victories in the House, including the Safe Routes to School Act, a \$200 million program that helps school districts combat childhood obesity by providing money to build biking and walking paths to schools, hire crossing guards, and promote safety programs. He has secured thousands of jobs in his district by providing transportation projects vital to Minnesota's economy, including a \$700,000 grant for Chisholm/Hibbing Airport from the Economic Development Association and \$470,000 for the National Scenic Byways Program, "not to just make transportation efficient but more enjoyable," Oberstar said.

On January 4, 2007, Jim officially became the chairman of the Transportation Committee and immediately got to work on the people's business: by June, half of the bills passed in the House came from the Transportation Committee - the New Direction Congress was in full-swing. The Transportation Committee had introduced the Water Resources Development Act, which has since passed via veto override, and the Clean Water Restoration Act, which restores the Clean Water Act to its original intent and gives back authority to the Federal Government to ensure that our wetlands are protected.

When the I-35W bridge collapsed on August 1st, Jim immediately secured \$250 million from the Federal Government to aid in bridge reconstruction. And just one week after the collapse, Jim developed a National Highway System Bridge Initiative to address the problem of deteriorating bridge structures in America.

Since Jim has assumed the chair of the Transportation Committee, he has been able to use his leadership to enact legislation important to him and his constituents in the 8th district.



David Price (NC-4)

Chairman

Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

U.S. House of Representatives

David Price represents North Carolina's Research Triangle - a rapidly growing, largely suburban district that includes Raleigh, Cary, Durham, Chapel Hill, and surrounding communities. He received his undergraduate degree at UNC-Chapel Hill and went on to Yale University to earn a Bachelor of Divinity and Ph.D. in Political Science. Before he began serving in Congress in 1987, Price was a professor of Political Science and Public Policy at Duke University. He is the author of four books on Congress and the American political system.

Price currently serves on the House Appropriations Committee and is chair of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. He is also a member of the Appropriations subcommittees for Commerce, Justice and Science and for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development. He is a recognized leader in foreign policy, heading the House Democracy Assistance Commission, which he initiated to help strengthen parliaments in emerging democracies. He has played a leading role in holding the Administration accountable for conduct of the Iraq War and in the effort to negotiate a just peace in the Middle East. In North Carolina, David's constituents know him as a strong supporter of education, accessible health care, affordable housing, clean air and water, and improved transportation alternatives.

Price, a lifelong educator, is working to improve education by recruiting our nation's brightest young people to go into teaching. He is a recognized leader in foreign policy, serving as Chairman of the House Democracy Assistance Commission, which he initiated to strengthen parliaments in emerging democracies.

Among Price's other priorities are ensuring personal and national security, providing affordable housing, making health care accessible and affordable, and accelerating highway and transit development in the Triangle.

Price serves the House Democratic Caucus as Assistant Whip. He co-chairs the Democratic Budget Group, a forum on national fiscal priorities and policies, as well as the Democratic Caucus Faith Working Group.

Born in 1940, Price grew up in the small town of Erwin in East Tennessee. His father was a high school principal and his mother was an English teacher.

Price studied at Mars Hill College and was a Morehead Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH). He earned his B.A. there in 1961, and continued his education at Yale University, where he received a Bachelor of Divinity degree (1964) and a Ph.D. in Political Science (1969).

Price taught political science and public policy at Duke University. He is the author of four books on Congress and the American political system.

Price and his wife Lisa were married in 1968. Lisa is the former Executive Director of North Carolinians Against Gun Violence. They have two grown children: Karen, a filmmaker based in Los Angeles; and Michael, who teaches evolutionary psychology at Brunel University in London. Michael is married to the former Jade Gibson of Fredericksburg, VA, and they are the parents of the Prices' first grandchild, Charles Albert, who was born on June 2, 2006.



Charles B. Rangel (NY-15)

Chairman

Committee on Ways & Means

U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Charles B. Rangel is serving his 19th term as the Representative from the 15th Congressional District, comprising East and Central Harlem, the Upper West Side, and Washington Heights/Inwood. He is the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Chairman of the Board of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and Dean of the New York State Congressional Delegation

Congressman Rangel is the principal author of the five billion dollar Federal Empowerment Zone demonstration project to revitalize urban neighborhoods throughout America. He is also the author of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, which is responsible for financing ninety percent of the affordable housing built in the U.S. in the last ten years. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit, which Congressman Rangel also championed, has provided thousands of jobs for underprivileged young people, veterans, and ex-offenders.

As the former chairman of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, Congressman Rangel continues to lead the nation's fight against drug abuse and trafficking. In his efforts to reduce the flow of drugs into the United States and to solve the nation's continuing drug abuse crisis, Congressman Rangel serves as chairman of the Congressional Narcotics Abuse and Control Caucus.

Congressman Rangel is a founding member and former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus; he was also chairman of the New York State Council of Black Elected Democrats and was a member of the House Judiciary Committee during the hearings on the articles of impeachment of President Richard Nixon.

Congressman Rangel served in the U.S. Army from 1948-52, during which time he fought in Korea and was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Congressman Rangel has authored several pieces of legislation to benefit minority and women veterans, including a successful bill that established the Office of Minority Affairs Within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In 1987, at the height of the battle against apartheid, Congressman Rangel led the effort to include in the Internal Revenue Code one of the most effective anti-apartheid measures, denial of tax credits for taxes paid to South Africa. This measure resulted in several Fortune 500 companies leaving South Africa. In addition, Congressman Rangel played a vital role in restoring the democratic government in Haiti.

Congressman Rangel is a graduate of New York University and St. John's University School of Law. He has spent his entire career in public service, first as an Assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, and later in the New York State Assembly. He was elected to the 92nd Congress on November 3, 1970, and has been re-elected to each succeeding congress.

Congressman Rangel lives in Harlem with his wife Alma, who is a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses and participates in many civic and community organizations. Congressman and Mrs. Rangel have two children.



Bennie G. Thompson (MS-2)

Chairman

Committee on Homeland Security

U.S. House of Representatives

Bennie G. Thompson is currently serving his eighth term as the Democratic Congressman for Mississippi's Second District and third term on the Homeland Security Committee. The Second District stretches from Tunica in the north to Jefferson County in the south and all points in-between, creating a rare blend of agricultural economies and the hustle and bustle of city life.

Congressman Thompson has spent his entire adult life giving a voice to the voiceless. With more than 40 years of continuous public service, he is the longest-serving African-American elected official in the state of Mississippi. He served as alderman and mayor in his hometown for years, after which he served as Hinds County Supervisor for 13 years before being elected to Congress in 1993. With six district offices - Bolton, Greenville, Greenwood, Jackson, Marks, and Mound Bayou - Congressman Thompson is committed to empowering those who gave him an opportunity to represent the Second District of Mississippi. His reputation as a no-nonsense problem solver has earned him the trust of his constituents and the respect of his colleagues in Washington.

To begin the 110th Congress, Thompson was promoted by his colleagues to serve as the first ever Democratic Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, a committee which was created by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2002 in the aftermath of September 11, 2001. As Chairman, Congressman Thompson recently introduced and engineered House passage of the most comprehensive homeland security package since September 11th, H.R. 1, the "9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007".

Drawing on his 26 years of experience as a volunteer firefighter in Hinds County, Thompson understands that our nation's law enforcement and first responders are our first line of defense in times of emergency. With that in mind he has constantly fought to ensure they are fully equipped with the resources and tools they need to effectively respond to any and all emergencies.

Congressman Thompson long been considered a leading voice on civil rights, equal education and healthcare reform, Congressman Thompson has helped to make a real difference in the lives of his constituents. In 1975, he filed a lawsuit to increase funding at Mississippi's historically black universities. With Congressman Thompson as lead plaintiff, the case was settled in 2004 for an unprecedented \$503 million. In 2000, Congressman Thompson's legislation creating the National Center for Minority Health and Health Care Disparities became law.

Congressman Thompson is a lifelong member of the Asbury United Methodist Church in Bolton Mississippi. He has been married to his college sweetheart, London Johnson of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, for 39 years. The couple has one daughter BendaLonne, one granddaughter, Jeanna and one grandson, Thomas Gordon.

The Congressman enjoys hunting, gardening, reading and music.

Carlos M. Gutierrez

Secretary

Department of Commerce



Carlos M. Gutierrez is the 35th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the voice of business in government. The former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Kellogg Company, Secretary Gutierrez is a core member of President Bush's economic team. In nominating Mr. Gutierrez, President Bush said, "He understands the world of business, from the first rung on the ladder to the very top. He knows exactly what it takes to help American businesses grow and to create jobs."

A top priority for Secretary Gutierrez is prying open global markets for U.S. companies so they can continue innovating and competing to build a stronger American economy. The Secretary regularly travels internationally to visit with foreign government and business leaders to discuss ways to enhance trade and promote U.S. exports. He played a key role in the passage of CAFTA-DR, a landmark agreement that strips away trade barriers, expands export opportunities and boosts hope and opportunity throughout Latin America. He believes passionately in President Bush's vision of a 21st century where America is the best country in the world to do business and where everyone has the opportunity to experience the joy and pride of living the American Dream. "We have the best people, we have the training, we have the culture," Gutierrez says. "I believe the 21st century is really and truly the American century."

Secretary Gutierrez oversees a diverse Cabinet agency with some 38,000 workers and a \$6.8 billion budget focused on promoting American business at home and abroad. His Department gathers vast quantities of economic and demographic data to measure the health and vitality of the economy, promotes U.S. exports, enforces international trade agreements and regulates the export of sensitive goods and technologies. Commerce also issues patents and trademarks, protects intellectual property, forecasts the weather, conducts oceanic and atmospheric research, provides stewardship over living marine resources, develops and applies technology, measurements and standards, formulates telecommunications and technology policy, fosters minority business development and promotes economic growth in distressed communities.

As co-chair for the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba, Secretary Gutierrez is actively involved in U.S. - Cuba policy. He is a strong advocate for the Bush Administration's policy of helping the Cuban people hasten the day of their freedom from dictatorship. Secretary Gutierrez is also one of the President's point men on comprehensive immigration reform, an issue he sees as one of the greatest domestic social issues of our time. He believes a successful immigration solution must focus first on securing our borders, but must also address immigrants contribution to our economy and the importance of American unity.

Secretary Gutierrez was sworn into office on February 7, 2005. Born in Havana, Cuba in 1953, he came to the United States with his family in 1960. In 1975 he joined Kellogg as a sales representative. Rising to president and chief executive officer in 1999, he was the youngest CEO in the company's nearly 100-year history. In April 2000, he was named chairman of the board of Kellogg Company.

Secretary Gutierrez studied business administration at the Monterrey Institute of Technology in Queretaro, Mexico. He and his wife, Edilia, have three children, Carlos, Erika and Karina.



Michael Chertoff

Secretary

Department of Homeland Security

On February 15, 2005, Judge Michael Chertoff was unanimously confirmed by the Senate and sworn in as the second Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. He formerly served as United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, after his June 2003 Senate confirmation.

Secretary Chertoff was previously confirmed by the Senate in 2001 to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice. As Assistant Attorney General, he oversaw the investigation of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He also formed the Enron Task Force, which produced more than 20 convictions, including those of CEOs Jeffrey Skilling and Ken Lay.

Before joining the George W. Bush Administration, Chertoff was a Partner in the law firm of Latham & Watkins. From 1995 to 1996, he served as Special Counsel for the U.S. Senate Whitewater Committee.

Prior to that, Chertoff spent more than a decade as a federal prosecutor, including service as U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey, First Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey, and Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. As a federal prosecutor, Chertoff investigated and personally prosecuted significant cases of political corruption, organized crime, and corporate fraud. Among them was the “Mafia Commission” case, in which the leaders of La Cosa Nostra were all convicted and sentenced to 100 years in prison for directing the criminal activities of the American Mafia.

Chertoff graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College in 1975 and magna cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1978. From 1979-1980 he served as a clerk to Supreme Court Justice William Brennan, Jr.

Caroline Beteta

Chief Executive Officer

California Travel and Tourism Commission

National Chair

Travel Industry Association of America



Caroline Beteta serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the industry-led California Travel and Tourism Commission (CTTC) and is National Chair of the Travel Industry Association (TIA). CTTC, a non-profit organization created to market California as a premier travel destination and to increase the State's share of tourism-related revenues. She also serves as the Deputy Secretary for Tourism under the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. Caroline is responsible for implementing the CTTC's \$50 million marketing plan and serving as the lead spokesperson for California's \$96.7 billion tourism industry. Under her leadership, California Tourism's share of the domestic market increased from 9.7% to 11.5% from 1998-2006, reversing a decade-long decline.

As part of an overall branding and promotional strategy for California, Caroline works closely with Governor Schwarzenegger and his staff on many tourism promotional activities. She played an integral role in the Governor's participation in the CTTC's TV spots, the successful Japan, China, Mexico and Canada Trade and Tourism Missions, TIA's International Pow Wow in Los Angeles, industry forums and other high profile tourism media events leading to Governor Schwarzenegger's role as California's "Ambassador for Tourism."

Caroline is active on the federal level promoting the key role tourism plays in the national economy, serving as Chair of the Travel Industry Association. In her role as National Chair, Caroline oversees TIA's Board of Directors, the governing body of the association, and its Executive Committee. Caroline's National Chair Platform includes three areas: 1) expanding TIA's public affairs focus; 2) successfully launching DiscoverAmerica.com, the official travel and tourism Web site of the United States; and 3) becoming the champion of travel and the traveler, and continuing to position travel and tourism as an economic engine for local, state and national economies.

Caroline also serves as the Chair of the Western States Tourism Policy Council and has been the recipient of numerous national and state awards for her creative work and leadership in the travel industry.

As a native Californian, Caroline has proudly enjoyed a varied career in promoting many aspects of sound public policy for the Golden State. As Vice President of Del Smith and Company, one of Washington, D.C.'s oldest and most established public affairs firms that represents primarily California-based clients, her client roster included: the County of Los Angeles, the City of Long Beach, the Port of Long Beach, the City of Palos Verdes, the City of Laguna Beach, the Santa Cruz Harbor, the California Independent Petroleum Association, the National Independent Private Schools Association, the Long Beach Naval Shipyard and the City of Anaheim. Working with these clients, Caroline acquired an intimate knowledge of the impact federal and state policy could have on economic development and tourism in California.

Caroline holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations from UCLA. She obtained a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California, which included fellowships with a member of the California Congressional Delegation and the Times Mirror Company in Washington. She also completed the Stanford Graduate School of Business Executive Marketing Management Program.

Caroline is married to Art Whitney and together they have four children (Troy, Corey, Nick and Alexandra). She is an avid recreational enthusiast and enjoys horseback riding at her ranch in Grass Valley.



Julie Chase

Chief Marketing Officer

Texas Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism Division

Julie Chase is the Chief Marketing Officer for the Texas Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism Division. She is responsible for marketing Texas as a premiere travel and business relocation destination in domestic and international markets.

Ms Chase most recently served as Tourism Director and began her career in tourism as the Canada Marketing Manager for the state. Under her direction, Texas Tourism has received numerous awards for their advertising and marketing campaigns.

Ms. Chase currently serves as chair of the US/Mexico Border Governor's tourism work table; a chairman's circle board member of the Travel Industry Association of America and is an ex-officio board member of the Texas Travel Industry Association.

Prior to employment with the State of Texas, Ms. Chase served as a public relations representative for the Universities Research Association's SSC Laboratory.

Ms. Chase is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications.

Ms. Chase, her husband Coby, and their six-year-old daughter Sydney reside in Austin.

Roslyn Neal Dickerson

SVP, Corporate Affairs & Diversity
Intercontinental Hotel Group PLC



Roslyn Neal Dickerson is Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs & Diversity for InterContinental Hotels Group PLC, the world's largest hotel group by number of rooms. As Chief Diversity Officer, Ms. Dickerson is responsible for leading, developing and implementing diversity and inclusion strategies for IHG.

In her role, Ms Dickerson has focused IHG's diversity and inclusion efforts on franchise development, increased guest flow, community partnerships and talent—all factors contributing to IHG's growth and success. She also furthers the development of IHG's organizational culture, identifying solutions that will contribute to a more inclusive and effective organization. Most recently, Ms. Dickerson has assumed responsibility for Corporate and Governmental Affairs while still maintaining her current role as Chief Diversity Officer.

Ms. Dickerson previously served as Corporate VP, Chief Diversity Officer for Honeywell. She joined the company in 2002, where, as a global senior leader, she initiated a complete redesign of strategy, operating structure and governance model for Honeywell's diversity management, and provided leadership and coaching for business unit leaders. Prior to her tenure at Honeywell, Ms. Dickerson held various senior-level positions with several financial services companies on Wall St. This includes her role as Managing Director, Corporate & Investment Bank for Citigroup, where, as the global head of diversity, she was responsible for developing and executing a global diversity strategy for the firm's institutional businesses and establishing relationships, with female and minority market participants. Prior to this position she worked for Merrill Lynch & Co. in such capacities as, Director of Marketing, Wealth Management and VP and Head of Global Recruiting.

Ms. Dickerson earned her bachelor's degree in education and health sciences from Boston University and also holds an M.B.A. from The Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University. She is a board member for the AH&LA Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Council as well as the W.E.B. Du Bois Society. Ms. Dickerson has previously served on the board of directors for March of Dimes of Greater New York, the chairman's advisory council for Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, the corporate advisory circle for the National Council for Research on Women and The Conference Board's Diversity Council.

Roger J. Dow

President and CEO

Travel Industry Association of America



Roger J. Dow is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA), a position he assumed on January 1, 2005. With over 2,000 organizations as members, TIA is the national, umbrella association that represents and speaks for all segments of the \$740 billion U.S. travel and tourism industry in promoting and facilitating increased travel to and within the United States. TIA is headquartered in Washington, DC with overseas offices in Japan, the United Kingdom, and Brazil.

A thirty-four year veteran of the U.S. travel industry, Roger was most recently Senior Vice President, Global & Field Sales for Marriott International responsible for Marriott's 10,000-person worldwide sales organization. The scope of his responsibilities included sales for 2,800 hotels and 12 brands in the United States and 69 other countries worldwide. During his three-plus decades with Marriott, he had managerial responsibility for virtually every aspect of sales and marketing including advertising, public relations, promotion, sales training, and market planning. He established and developed the *Marriott's Rewards Program*, one of the industry's leading frequent traveler programs.

Roger Dow has been the recipient of many awards during his illustrative career including being named by the Convention Industry Council (CIC) to its prestigious Hall of Leaders, being named by Meeting Professionals International (MPI) as one of the industry's top leaders, and being honored by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) with its Academy of Leaders Award. This past year he was awarded the Association Executive of the Year -2007 by Association Trends Magazine.

He has co-authored two books on best business practices: *Turned On -- Eight Vital Insights to Energize Your People, Customers and Profits* and *The Trust Imperative – The Competitive Advantage of Trust-based Business Relationships*. He serves, or has served, on the Board of Directors of ASAE, PCMA, ASAE Foundation, MPI Foundation (Chairman), GWSAE, the Travel Institute, RE/MAX International and on the Advisory Board of Arizona State University's Center for Services Leadership, and the University of Richmond Robins Schools of Business.

In 1969, Roger Dow was drafted into the United States Army, where he served in the 101st Airborne Division until 1971. He was first in his class in NCO School, served in Vietnam, and was awarded the Bronze Star and other citations.

A native of New Jersey, he is a graduate of Seton Hall University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. At Seton Hall, he was Senior Class President, Captain of the varsity wrestling team and Secretary of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity (TKE). In 1991, he was named TKE "Alumnus of the Year" and was presented with the award by President Ronald Reagan.

Roger Dow currently resides in Potomac, MD with his wife Linda and two children Blake and Devon.

John Edman

Director

Explore Minnesota Tourism



As Director of Explore Minnesota Tourism, John Edman is responsible for the development and implementation of statewide tourism plans, policies and programs to promote Minnesota as a tourism and travel destination. He is the state's chief spokesperson for state tourism-related issues, and manages Explore Minnesota Tourism with a staff of approximately 50 full-time staff and an annual budget of \$9.7 million.

Mr. Edman was first appointed as Director of the Minnesota Office of Tourism by Governor Ventura in October 2000 and was re-appointed as Deputy Commissioner for Tourism in the Department of Employment and Economic Development by Governor Pawlenty in March 2003. As the state's leader for Minnesota Tourism, Mr. Edman has developed new marketing strategies for Minnesota tourism, created new public and private marketing partnerships, generated over \$15 million in private industry funding for tourism, and created a new statewide advertising campaign. Under his stewardship, Minnesota received top honors as the Best Overall Tourism program in the country, as recognized by National Council of State Travel Directors.

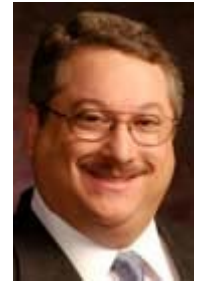
Mr. Edman also recently led the industry in creating a new entrepreneurial approach for Minnesota Tourism in 2004. The state's tourism office was a small division of the much larger Department of Employment and Economic Development, but has been repositioned as a separate state office in order to maximize private sector involvement. Legislation to create Explore Minnesota had broad support within the industry, and passed unanimously in the Minnesota House and Senate in 2004. Explore Minnesota Tourism now operates as a separate state office guided by an all new Tourism Council that is more closely connected with tourism businesses and organizations throughout the state.

Mr. Edman holds leadership positions on a variety of national and state groups including: the National Council of State Travel Directors Board; the Travel Industry Association; Great Lakes of North America; the University of Minnesota Tourism Center; the Minnesota Scenic By-ways Committee; and the Minnesota Tourism Advisory Committee

Prior to coming to the state, Mr. Edman served as Director of Marketing for Carlson Destination Marketing Services. He was responsible for tourism marketing programs for a wide range of state and national tourism destinations throughout the world. Before Carlson Companies, Mr. Edman served as Director of Mississippi River Country, U.S.A, an international regional marketing organization, and as a marketing manager for Enright and Associates, a national marketing and management association firm.

Mr. Edman holds a Masters of Business Administration degree from the University of St. Thomas, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota. He also is a graduate of the Carlson Executive Leadership Program at the University of Minnesota.

Mr. Edman is a life-long resident of Minnesota and lives in Stillwater. He is married with two children, has vacationed in Minnesota his whole life, and loves skiing, fishing, golf, biking, and the great outdoors.



Alan M. Feldman

Senior Vice President of Public Affairs
MGM MIRAGE

Alan M. Feldman is well known in the gaming industry as the voice of MGM MIRAGE. Officially, he is the company's Senior Vice President of Public Affairs. In this capacity, Mr. Feldman oversees the planning and implementation of the company's public relations efforts as well as its community and government relations programs.

It's been said that any journalist covering the industry ought to have Alan's name in his/her rolodex. Since joining Mirage Resorts, Incorporated in March 1990, Mr. Feldman has established a reputation for candor and insight that is all too rare in corporate America.

In his 17 years of service, Mr. Feldman has become involved in a wide array of industry issues, from helping to create the American Gaming Association to serving on numerous AGA committees after its formation.

Mr. Feldman is very active in areas concerning responsible gaming and serves on the boards of both the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling and the National Center for Responsible Gaming. He also previously served as a member of the Athletes and Addictions Task Force at Harvard University Medical School, Division of Addictions.

His work has been the recipient of numerous awards and in 2002 the Casino Management Association honored him as the Gaming Professional of the Year.

Active in the community, Mr. Feldman is a member of the board of directors of Nevada Public Radio, the Las Vegas Performing Arts Center Foundation and the Executive Committee of the Las Vegas Centennial Commission.

Mr. Feldman began his career in public relations after attending UCLA where he studied Theatre Arts.

Mr. Feldman is married and has four children.



George A. Fertitta

CEO

NYC & Company

In June 2006, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced the City's plan to create a single marketing and tourism organization to be led by CEO George A. Fertitta. The creation of this single organization focused financial resources and professional expertise to better achieve Mayor Bloomberg's goal of attracting 50 million visitors annually by the year 2015. The merger of three existing entities—NYC & Company, NYC Big Events and NYC Marketing—into one larger multifaceted organization, also named NYC & Company, was announced in January 2006.

A private non-profit corporation, NYC & Company is a fully integrated marketing agency that operates as New York City's advertising, tourism, convention sales, and licensing organization and has a membership of more than 2,000 businesses, including museums, hotels, restaurants, retail stores, theaters, tour organizations and attractions.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Fertitta was the Chairman and founder of Margeotes Fertitta, a New York City-based branding, marketing advertising agency with annual billings of more than \$350 million and clients that included the National Football League, Campbell Soup Company, Godiva Chocolatier, McGraw-Hill, Bacardi, Sapporo USA, Radisson Seven Seas Cruises, Coca-Cola, Disney and many others.

Before joining Mayor Bloomberg's administration, Mr. Fertitta led his company for 30 years and worked with a broad range of both US and international companies. The company's concentration ranged from telecommunications, corporate image, media, financial services, travel and consumer products.

Bill Hardman

President & CEO

Southeast Tourism Society



As President & CEO of Southeast Tourism Society, Mr. Hardman directs the organization's efforts in promoting travel to the twelve Southeastern states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

STS promotes the Southeast through cooperative marketing efforts, provides continuing education programs for its members and represents the legislative interests of the tourism industry in the southeast region.

Mr. Hardman began his tourism career in 1969 as Assistant Manager of Public Relations at Six Flags Over Georgia. He has held the positions of Director of Promotion for Atlanta's Cumberland Mall; Director of Promotions and Public Relations for the Omni International Complex (now the CNN center in Atlanta); Director of Membership for the Georgia Hospitality & Travel Association; and, Director of Advertising and Membership for the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Prior to being appointed President & CEO of Southeast Tourism Society, Mr. Hardman served as President & CEO of Atlanta's DeKalb Convention & Visitors Bureau from 1987 to 1997.

Mr. Hardman currently serves on the Industry Advisory Board of Directors for the Cecil B. Day School of Hospitality at Georgia State University. He was a member of the International Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus Board of Directors where he served as the first Chairman of the IACVB Foundation.

During the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, he served as Chair of the Georgia Olympic Marketing Task Force. He was also appointed by Senator Sam Nunn as a delegate to the White House Conference on Travel & Tourism.

He currently serves on the Executive Committee for the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA).

Mr. Hardman has twice been selected as the Travel Industry Leader of the Year in Georgia.

Tim Maland

Director

Nevada Commission on Tourism



Tim Maland is an accomplished gaming and hospitality industry leader with more than 30 years of experience directing hotel management and financial operations for major hotel and gaming corporations.

He served as president of Northern Nevada's largest resort, the Reno Hilton, and in Las Vegas as chief financial officer for Caesars Palace and Gaming Division controller for ITT Sheraton. In Atlantic City, N.J., he was executive vice president for the Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino. Internationally, he was division controller for ITT Sheraton's Europe, Africa and Middle East Division, based in Brussels and was vice president for Hotel Development for Asia Pacific for Ramada International, based in Hong Kong. He began his career in Las Vegas, working as a CPA for Haskins & Sells.

Mr. Maland has served on numerous boards, including four years on the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority Board of Directors.

He is a graduate of Arizona State University and attended INSEAD, a graduate business school in France.



Kathleen Matthews

Executive Vice President, Global Communications & Public Affairs
Marriott International, Inc.

Kathleen Matthews is Marriott International's Executive Vice President Global Communications and Public Affairs. She is responsible for the company's external and internal communications, including global brand and corporate public relations, corporate social responsibility and community engagement, diversity initiatives and government affairs. She also co-chairs Marriott's Executive Green Council.

A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, Kathleen was an award-winning producer, reporter and news anchor who covered news in the nation's capital for 25 years. She was the evening news anchor at WJLA-TV, the ABC affiliate in Washington, DC. She also hosted Capital Sunday, a half-hour talk show focusing on current events in the nation's capital, and Working Woman, an internationally syndicated magazine show.

An honors graduate from Stanford University, Matthews has been awarded nine local Emmys. She has been honored as a "Woman Who Means Business" by the Washington Business Journal and a Washingtonian of the year by Washingtonian Magazine.

Highly involved in the community, Matthews is active in Catholic Charities and serves on the boards for Shakespeare Theatre Company, Ford's Theatre and Academy of Achievement.

Kathleen and her husband, Chris, have three children.



Joseph A. McInerney, CHA

President & CEO

American Hotel & Lodging Association

Joseph A. McInerney, CHA, is president and chief executive officer of AH&LA. As the head executive of the largest trade association representing the U.S. lodging industry, McInerney implements and directs AH&LA's services as well as provides leadership to association members. He also works directly with the volunteer officers, board of directors, and partner state associations in determining the direction of the industry.

Since his appointment, McInerney has reorganized the association to streamline efficiency and strengthen its core operations, including consolidating its two affiliates to form the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Foundation - the only educational dollar-dispensing, not-for-profit premier organization for scholarships, professional certification, and instructional material as well as funding for key industry research. Additionally, McInerney spearheaded the changing of the membership structure from a federation to a dual membership format, streamlined the board of directors, and clarified the organization's mission.

With more than 45 years of experience in the hospitality industry, McInerney is well versed in the various skills needed to operate in association, corporate, and lodging environments. Prior to AH&LA, he was president and CEO of the Pacific Asia Travel Association; Forte Hotels, Inc.; Hawthorn Suites; and ITT's Sheraton franchise division.

McInerney is an honor graduate of Boston College. He also is a Certified Hotel Administrator via the Educational Institute (EI), an affiliate of AH&LA.

McInerney has been recognized with several industry awards, including the 2007 "Above and Beyond Award" at The Lodging Conference; "Tourism Man of the Year" award by the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association; the 1999 Stephen Brener, Silver Plate Lifetime Achievement Award from Hospitality Magazine; Travel Agent Magazine's 1998 Pacific/Asia Person of the Year, and the 1994 Economy Lodging's "Person of the Year," by AH&LA.



Lynn Davis Minges

Executive Director N.C. Division of Tourism, Film, and Sports Development
North Carolina Department of Commerce

Lynn Minges is Executive Director of the North Carolina Department of Commerce's, Division of Tourism, Film, and Sports Development. In this role, she provides leadership and strategic direction for the state's tourism, film, sports, and wine industries.

Lynn serves on the board of directors of the Travel Industry Association and is an active member of the National Council of State Travel Directors where she has chaired and served on numerous committees. She is a past chair and executive committee member of Travel South USA, and is a member of the board of directors of Southeast Tourism Society. She also serves on the Business Advisory Council of the John A. Walker College of Business at Appalachian State University.

Under her leadership, the division has been recognized with numerous national and international awards for marketing excellence. Lynn was recently recognized by *Triangle Business Journal* with their "Outstanding Women in Business Award."

Lynn is a graduate of Peace College and North Carolina State University and has over 25 years of sales and marketing experience.



Rossi Ralenkotter

President and CEO

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority

As president and CEO of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA), Rossi Ralenkotter is responsible for marketing Las Vegas and Southern Nevada as the world's most desirable destination for leisure and business travel. Under Mr. Ralenkotter's leadership, the LVCVA successfully launched "Vegas Stories," the most successful branding campaign in tourism history. The campaign is best known for its oft-repeated tagline, "What happens here, stays here.™" The LVCVA owns and operates the Las Vegas Convention Center and Cashman Center. With Mr. Ralenkotter's oversight, Las Vegas remains the world's tradeshow capital. In 2007, the LVCC hosted 44 of the largest 200 tradeshows in North America.

Mr. Ralenkotter began his career at the LVCVA 35 years ago as a research analyst. Prior to becoming President and CEO in 2004, he was the Authority's executive vice president and senior vice president of marketing. Before joining the LVCVA, Mr. Ralenkotter worked for a local telephone company and served in the United States Air Force. He is a 57-year resident of Southern Nevada.

As president and CEO, Mr. Ralenkotter has embarked on a five-year vision plan for the destination that includes continued support of the resort industry's unprecedented growth and a goal of attracting a record 43 million visitors by the end of the decade. For the fourth year in a row, the destination achieved record-breaking visitation in 2007, welcoming 39.2 million visitors from around the globe. Mr. Ralenkotter is credited with being a part of securing the 2007 NBA All-Star Weekend in Las Vegas, marking the first time a city without an NBA team hosted the high-profile event. He is also leading the nearly 50 year old facility's master renovation program, which will enhance the customer experience by adding more meeting space with state-of-the-art technology, improving traffic flow and increase public space for convention delegates.

Mr. Ralenkotter is a member of the American Society of Travel Agents, Destination Marketing Association International, the American Society of Association Executives, and the Hotel Sales Marketing Association. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Travel Industry Association of America.

Mr. Ralenkotter was named "Employer of the Year" by the Employee Service Management Association in 2006, one of the "25 Most Influential People in the Meetings Industry" by *Meeting News* in 2005, and in 2004, he was selected "Co-Grand Marketer of the Year" by *Brandweek* magazine. Mr. Ralenkotter was named one of the Outstanding Young Men of America, listed in *Who's Who of America*. Additionally, he served as a delegate to the White House Conference on Tourism.

Mr. Ralenkotter holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Arizona State University and a Master's degree in Business Administration from University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is a member of the Las Vegas Ad Club, which inducted him into the Las Vegas Advertising Hall of Fame for lifetime marketing achievements. He also received Lifetime Achievement honors from the American Marketing Association and the Travel and Tourism Research Association.



Gary C. Sain

President & CEO

Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.

Gary C. Sain is president and CEO of the Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc. (Orlando CVB). Founded in 1984, the Orlando CVB is the only officially recognized sales and marketing organization for the Orlando and Orange County area. The organization is dedicated to promoting the area as one of the world's great vacation and convention/meeting destinations and providing unbiased information to travelers on all aspects of the destination.

Prior to joining the Orlando CVB in February 2007, Sain was executive vice president, chief marketing officer, and partner of Yesawich, Pepperdine, Brown & Russell, an Orlando-based international advertising and public relations agency specializing in travel, leisure and lifestyle categories. He was responsible for the overall marketing and sales efforts of the firm including overall agency branding and communications, business and strategic partner development, and executive portfolio account management.

Sain previously served as executive vice president of sales and marketing for GES Exposition Services, one of America's leading exhibition and tradeshow marketing companies; senior vice president of sales, marketing and passenger services for Premier Cruise Line aka The Big Red Boat; and assistant vice president of sales for Hyatt Hotels Corporation. Prior to Hyatt, he served as corporate vice president sales/marketing for the Ritz-Carlton in D.C./New York and the Whitehall/Tremont Hotels in Chicago, in addition to successfully opening the Stouffers Hotels in Chicago and Atlanta as director of marketing. In the early 1990s, Sain successfully positioned Premier Cruise Line's "Big Red Boat" as one of the most recognizable brands in the cruise industry. He was voted a member of *Travel Agent* magazine's "Winners Circle" for two years in a row, and is the recipient of Warner Bros. "President's Award" for most creative use of the Looney Tunes characters.

Sain received a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Business Administration and a minor in Marketing from Davis and Elkins College. He serves on the board of directors of the Travel Industry Association of America and is a foundation trustee of the board of directors of Destination Marketing Association International, ASAE, the Center for Association Leadership, IAEE, Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International, Professional Convention Management Association and Meeting Professionals International. His community involvement includes serving on the advisory council of the University of Central Florida's Rosen College of Hospitality Management, the boards of Florida Citrus Sports, Myregion.org, Orlando Museum of Art, Boy Scouts of America, Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association and as the Hospitality Cabinet Chair for the 2007 United Way Campaign. He is immediate past chairman of the Association of Travel Marketing Executives, past executive committee member of the Cruise Line International Association, past board member of HSMIA and past president of SKAL International Orlando.

He is also the recipient of numerous professional designations including Certified Travel Counselor (CTC), Certified Hospitality Marketing Executive (CHME) and Certified Travel Marketing Executive (CTME). Sain resides in Maitland, Fla. with his wife, Pamela, and has two daughters, Vanessa and Olivia.

James P. Shaughnessy

Senior Vice President, General Counsel
Orbitz Worldwide



James P. Shaughnessy serves as Senior Vice President, General Counsel for Orbitz Worldwide, responsible for global legal affairs since June 2007.

Prior to joining Orbitz Worldwide, Mr. Shaughnessy was Senior Vice President & General Counsel of Lenovo Group Ltd., which he joined in July 2005.

Mr. Shaughnessy's extensive experience with technology companies includes service as Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary of PeopleSoft, Inc. and in senior legal positions with Hewlett-Packard, Compaq and Digital Equipment Corporation.

Prior to joining Digital, Mr. Shaughnessy worked with the Congloeum group of companies and was in private practice in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Shaughnessy received a B.S. from Northern Michigan University and a J.D. and a Masters of Public Policy from the University of Michigan.



Jonathan M. Tisch

Chairman and CEO
Loews Hotels

Jonathan M. Tisch is Co-Chairman of the Board and a member of the Office of the President of Loews Corporation, one of the largest diversified financial holding companies in the U.S., and is also Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of its subsidiary, Loews Hotels.

During his tenure, Tisch has engineered Loews Hotels' expansion and emergence as a leading luxury hotel chain by infusing the properties with a widely praised corporate culture that places a high value on partnerships. His leadership philosophy, explored in his best-selling book, *The Power of We: Succeeding Through Partnerships*, provides a blueprint for achieving enduring success through partnerships that empower employees, satisfy customers, contribute to communities, and improve the bottom line. His best-seller follow-up book, *Chocolates on the Pillow Aren't Enough: Reinventing the Customer Experience*, nominated for a Quill Award as one of the five best business books of the year, offers a detailed look at how the right customer experience can produce long-lasting success for any organization.

Tisch starred in the premier episode of *Now Who's Boss?*, a television series by TLC and New York Times Television, that explored what happens when a CEO is put back in frontline positions at his own company. Tisch also hosts *Beyond the Boardroom*, a television series on CNBC where he goes one-on-one with the nation's leading CEOs.

Recognized as a national leader of the multi-billion dollar travel and tourism industry, Tisch has served since 1995 as Chairman of the Travel Business Roundtable, a prominent coalition of chief executives representing various sectors of the travel and tourism industry, and in 2003, he was appointed to the United States Department of Commerce U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board. Tisch also served a five-year term as an officer of the American Hotel & Lodging Association, culminating in his Chairmanship of the organization in 1997. For his role as a national leader of travel and tourism, Tisch has received numerous honors and accolades, including "Hotel Person of the Year" by *Travel Agent* magazine and one of the "25 Most Influential People in the Meetings Industry" by *Meeting News* magazine.

Tisch is also committed to a vibrant tourism industry in New York City, where for nearly six years he served as Chairman of NYC & Company, the city's official tourism marketing agency and local convention and visitors bureau. Tisch served as Chairman of "New York Rising," a task force set up to help rebuild the city in the aftermath of September 11th by reviving tourism. In recognition for his leadership and civic involvement, Tisch was named one of the "Top Ten Most Influential Business Leaders" by *Crain's New York Business* and the 2006 "CEO of the Year" by the Executive Council of New York.

Tisch served as the Vice-Chairman of The Welfare to Work Partnership, and currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Tufts University, where he is also the naming benefactor of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service. He is also on the Boards of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, the Tribeca Film Institute and the Business Council for the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In addition, he is on the Board and is the Treasurer of the 2007 Super Bowl Champions New York Football Giants.

After graduating from Tufts University, Tisch worked as a Cinematographer/Producer at WBZ-TV in Boston, for which he received two local Emmy nominations.

Economic Roundtable *Travel's Significance to the U.S. Economy*

CTTC Accomplishments

Pending Report Language in FY09 DHS Appropriations bill

- \$1 million to beef up staffing for Visa Waiver program.
- Model Ports of Entry program – directs CBP to submit a report not later than 6 months after enactment of the FY09 HS approps bill for implementation of a MPE program at the 20 largest international airports.
- Global Entry (formerly International Registered Traveler) – \$10 million for CBP to expand program to 20 largest international airports for expedited screening to pre-approved, low risk travelers.
- \$28.8 million for hiring an additional 561 CBP officers for land port of entry passenger processing.
- \$8.7 million for hiring an additional 173 CBP officers for air ports of entry.

Enacted Report Language in FY08 DHS and/or State-Foreign Ops Appropriations Act

- To address the allocation of CBP officers for international air passenger processing.
- To require consular posts provide a report if they take longer than 30 days to schedule a personal interview after a visa request is submitted.
- To provide a detailed, 3 year review of visa processing, including new programs and initiatives to improve both the security and efficiency of the visa process.
- Committee endorsement for a pilot on visa video teleconferences.
- To require a report on what is necessary to implement an International Registered Traveler program at the US's 20 busiest international airports.

Circulated 9-11 conference letter in support of tourism agenda.

Authored letter to the President requesting a White House Conference on Tourism

Authored HR 3670, Improving Public Diplomacy through International Travel Act

Cosponsored HR 3232, The Travel Promotion Act of 2007

Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus 110th Congress

DEMOCRATS

Rep. Sam Farr - Co-Chair, CA-17
Rep. Neil Abercrombie, HI-01
Rep. Tom Allen, ME-01
Rep. Shelley Berkley, NV-01
Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo, GU
Rep. Rick Boucher, VA-09
Rep. Allen Boyd, FL-02
Rep. Robert Brady, PA-01
Rep. G.K. Butterfield, NC-01
Rep. Lois Capps, CA-23
Rep. Michael Capuano, MA-08
Rep. Donna Christensen, VI
Rep. James Clyburn, SC-06
Rep. Jerry Costello, IL-12
Rep. Danny Davis, IL-07
Rep. Lincoln Davis, TN-04
Rep. William Delahunt, MA-10
Rep. Rosa DeLauro, CT-03
Rep. Norman Dicks, WA-06
Rep. Mike Doyle, PA-14
Rep. Eliot Engel, NY-17
Rep. Bob Etheridge, NC-02
Rep. Bob Filner, CA-51
Rep. Kristen Gillibrand, NY-20
Rep. Charles Gonzalez, TX-20
Rep. Bart Gordon, TN-06
Rep. Brian Higgins, NY-27
Rep. Ruben Hinojosa, TX-15
Rep. Mazie Hirono, HI-02
Rep. Mike Honda, CA-15
Rep. William Jefferson, LA-02
Rep. Hank Johnson, GA-04
Rep. Patrick Kennedy, RI-01
Rep. Ron Klein, FL-22
Rep. James Langevin, RI-02
Rep. Barbara Lee, CA-09
Rep. Zoe Lofgren, CA-16
Rep. Mike McIntyre, NC-07
Rep. Jim Moran, VA-08
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC
Rep. Jim Oberstar, MN-08
Rep. John Olver, MA-01
Rep. Solomon Ortiz, TX-27
Rep. Donald Payne, NJ-10
Rep. Nick Rahall, WV-03
Rep. Charles Rangel, NY-15
Rep. Silvestre Reyes, TX-16
Rep. C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger, MD-2
Rep. Bobby Rush, IL-01
Rep. Timothy Ryan, OH-17
Rep. Linda Sanchez, CA-39
Rep. Loretta Sanchez, CA-47
Rep. Adam Schiff, CA-29
Rep. Robert Scott, VA-03
Rep. Brad Sherman, CA-27
Rep. Ike Skelton, MO-04
Rep. Louise Slaughter, NY-28

Rep. John Spratt, SC-05
Rep. John Tanner, TN-08
Rep. Mike Thompson, CA-01
Rep. Tom Udall, NM-03
Rep. Henry Waxman, CA-30

TOTAL: 62

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Rep. Richard Baker, LA-06
Rep. Gresham Barrett, SC-03
Rep. Brian Bilbray, CA-50
Rep. Gus Bilirakis, FL-09
Rep. Roy Blunt, MO-07
Rep. Jo Bonner, AL-01
Rep. Mary Bono, CA-45
Rep. John Boozman, AR-03
Rep. Henry Brown, SC-01
Rep. Mike Conaway, TX-11
Rep. Barbara Cubin, WY-A.L.
Rep. David Davis, TN-01
Rep. Nathan Deal, GA-10
Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, MO-08
Rep. Phil English, PA-03
Rep. Tom Feeney, FL-24
Rep. Mike Ferguson, NJ-07
Rep. Virgil Goode, VA-05
Rep. Ralph Hall, TX-04
Rep. Bob Inglis, SC-04
Rep. Darrell Issa, CA-49
Rep. Bobby Jindal, LA-01
Rep. Walter Jones, NC-03
Rep. Ric Keller, FL-08
Rep. Randy Kuhl, NY-29
Rep. Jim McCrery, LA-04
Rep. John McHugh, NY-23
Rep. Gary Miller, CA-42
Rep. Charles W. "Chip" Pickering, MS-03
Rep. Joe Pitts, PA-16
Rep. Adam Putnam, FL-12
Rep. Jim Ramstad, MN-03
Rep. Harold Rogers, KY-05
Rep. Chris Smith, NJ-04
Rep. Mark Souder, IN-03
Rep. Zach Wamp, TN-03
Rep. Dave Weldon, FL-15

TOTAL = 38

GRAND TOTAL = 100

Compliments of Rep. Sam Farr and
Rep. Jon Porter, CTTC Co-Chairs
www.farr.house.gov/cttc.

EMBARGOED UNTIL RELEASE AT 8:30 A.M. EDT, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2008

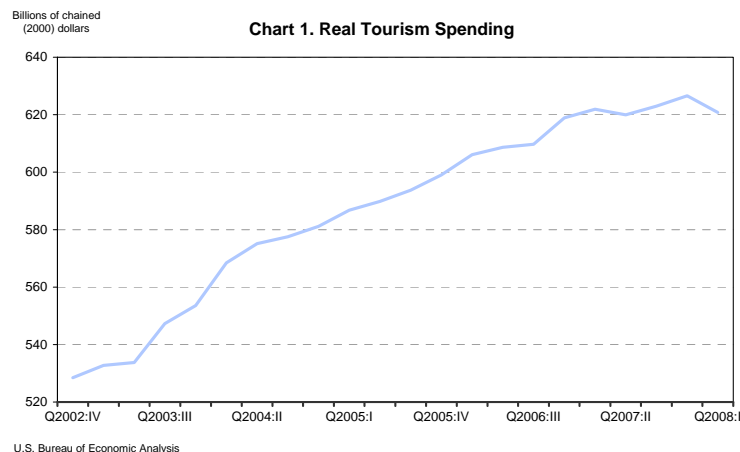
Technical: Paul Kern: (202) 606-9596
Sarah Mattingly: 606-9286
Media: Ralph Stewart: 606-9690
E-mail inquiries: travelandtourism@bea.gov

BEA 08-28

TOURISM SPENDING DECLINED 3.7 PERCENT IN FIRST QUARTER 2008

Real spending on tourism (spending adjusted for price changes) decreased at an annual rate of 3.7 percent in 2008:1, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, reflecting steep declines in spending on accommodations and passenger air transportation. In 2007:4, real spending on tourism grew 2.3 percent (revised). By comparison, real gross domestic product (GDP) grew at an annual rate of 0.9 percent (preliminary) in 2008:1 and 0.6 percent in 2007:4.

Real spending on accommodations turned down sharply, decreasing 10.8 percent in 2008:1 after increasing 12.1 percent (revised) in 2007:4. Real spending on passenger air transportation also turned down, decreasing 5.6 percent in 2008:1 after increasing 2.1 percent in 2007:4. Prices for accommodations increased slightly (0.9 percent) in 2008:1 after declining (1.9 percent) in the previous quarter. Prices for passenger air transportation accelerated, increasing 4.7 percent in 2008:1 after increasing just 1.3 percent (revised) the previous quarter.

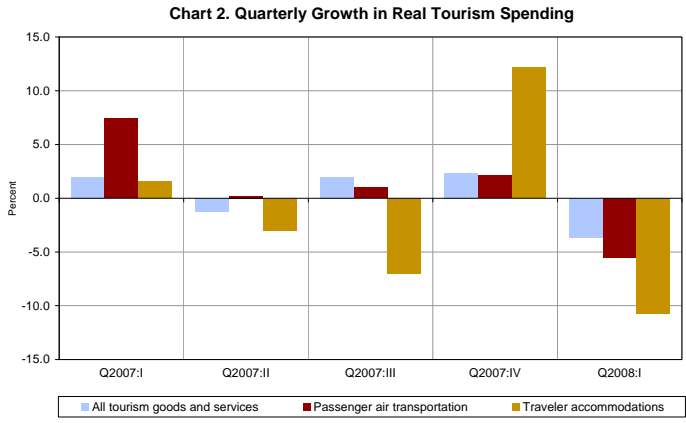


Employment supported directly by tourist spending rose 2.8 percent in 2007:4 (the most recent period for which data are available). In 2007:3, employment grew 0.9 percent (revised). By comparison, overall U.S. employment grew 0.8 percent in 2007:4 and 2007:3.

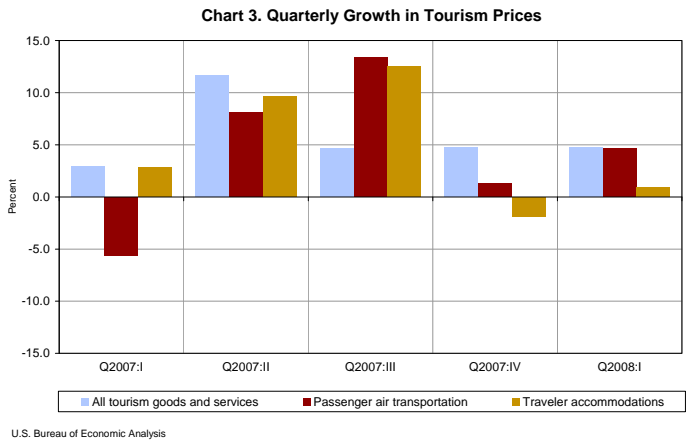
Also:

- Real spending on recreation and entertainment slowed further, declining 6.6 percent in 2008:1 after declining 3.6 percent (revised) in 2007:4.
- Prices for all tourism goods and services continued to increase steadily, 4.8 percent in 2008:1, 4.8 percent in 2007:4, and 4.7 percent in 2007:3.
- Retail shopping by travelers grew slightly in 2008:1.

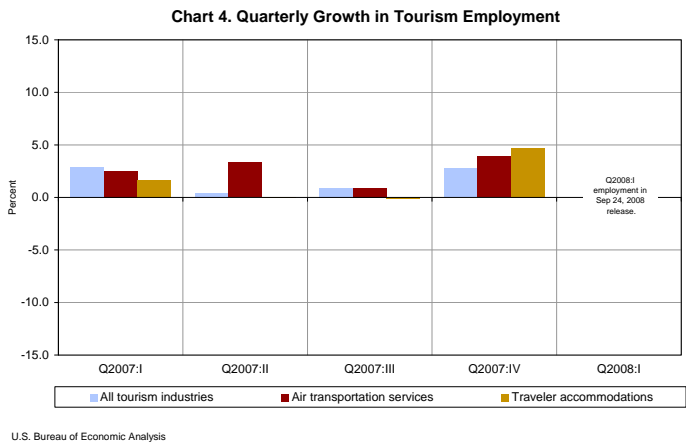
Real Tourism Spending. In 2008:1, passenger air transportation decreased 5.6 percent, while accommodations decreased 10.8 percent. In 2007:4, passenger air transportation increased 2.1 percent while accommodations increased 12.1 percent.



Tourism Prices. Prices for passenger air transportation increased 4.7 percent in 2008:1 after increasing just 1.3 percent in 2007:4. Prices for accommodations increased slightly – 0.9 percent – in 2008:1 after declining 1.9 percent in 2007:4.



Tourism Employment. Employment in air transportation services increased 3.9 percent in 2007:4, marking the sixth consecutive quarter of growth. Employment in accommodations grew 4.7 percent in 2007:4 after a decline of 0.1 percent in 2007:3.



Total Tourism-Related Spending. The U.S. production that tourism spending generates not only includes the goods and services that are purchased directly but also the inputs used to produce these goods and services—indirect tourism-related spending. In 2008:1, total current-dollar tourism-related spending of \$1.4 trillion consisted of \$768.8 billion (57 percent) of direct tourism spending—goods and services sold directly to visitors—and \$591.4 billion (43 percent) of indirect tourism-related spending—goods and services used to produce what visitors buy.

Total Tourism-Related Employment. In 2007:4, total tourism-related employment of 8.6 million consisted of 5.9 million (69 percent) direct tourism jobs—jobs where workers produce goods and services sold directly to visitors—and 2.7 million (31 percent) indirect tourism-related jobs—jobs where workers produce goods and services used to produce what visitors buy.

Discontinuation of Quarterly Travel and Tourism Estimates: Due to budget constraints, BEA is discontinuing production of quarterly travel and tourism estimates. The final set of quarterly estimates (for 2008:2) will be released on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. EDT.

Annual estimates, published each June in BEA's *Survey of Current Business*, will continue to be produced with support from the Office of Travel and Tourism Industries, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Definitions

Tourism spending. Tourism spending comprises all goods and services purchased by tourists (defined as people who travel for any reason.). In the following tables, tourism spending is referred to as direct tourism output.

Indirect tourism-related spending. Indirect tourism-related spending comprises all output used as inputs in the process of producing direct tourism output (e.g., toiletries for hotel guests and the plastic used to produce souvenir key chains).

Total tourism-related spending. Total tourism-related spending is the sum of direct tourism spending and indirect tourism-related spending.

Direct tourism employment. Direct tourism employment comprises all jobs where the workers are engaged in the production of direct tourism output (such as hotel staff, airline pilots, and souvenir sellers).

Indirect tourism-related employment. Indirect tourism-related employment comprises all jobs where the workers are engaged in the production of indirect tourism-related output (e.g., employees of companies that produce toiletries for hotel guests and the plastic used to produce souvenir key chains).

Total tourism-related employment. Total tourism-related employment is the sum of direct tourism employment and indirect tourism-related employment.

These estimates are from BEA's Travel and Tourism Satellite Accounts (TTSAs), which are supported by funding from the Office of Travel and Tourism Industries, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. The current-price estimates of direct tourism output were derived from BEA's annual TTSAs (revised in June 2008) and from current-price quarterly estimates of personal consumption expenditures from the NIPAs. The constant-price estimates of direct tourism output were developed using price indexes from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and constant-price quarterly estimates of personal consumption expenditures from the NIPAs. The estimates of direct tourism employment were derived from the annual TTSAs (revised in June 2008) and the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages from BLS. Employment data are available five to six months after the end of the reference quarter.

Quarterly estimates are expressed at seasonally adjusted annual rates, unless otherwise specified. Percent changes are calculated from unrounded data and annualized. "Real" estimates are in chained (2000) dollars. Price indexes are chain-type measures. Growth in overall U.S. employment is calculated using BLS Total nonfarm employment from Current Employment Statistics, www.bls.gov/ces/home.htm#data.

* * *

BEA's national, international, regional, and industry estimates; the *Survey of Current Business*; and BEA news releases are available without charge on BEA's Web site at www.bea.gov. By visiting the site, you can also subscribe to receive free e-mail summaries of BEA releases and announcements.

Table 1.a. Percent Change in Real Tourism Output
[Percent change from preceding period]

Tourism Goods and Services Group																				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Q2004:IV	Q2005:I	Q2005:II	Q2005:III	Q2005:IV	Q2006:I	Q2006:II	Q2006:III	Q2006:IV	Q2007:I	Q2007:II	Q2007:III	Q2007:IV	Q2008:I	
Traveler accommodations	3.4	3.6	1.8	3.8	1.2	-2.1	0.9	4.1	10.3	3.2	7.0	-2.1	-2.9	11.8	1.6	-3.0	-7.1	12.1	-10.8	
Transportation	0.8	6.7	3.4	2.7	2.0	2.9	8.2	0.2	1.4	3.1	2.7	6.6	-0.8	2.2	3.5	-0.9	4.8	0.5	-1.8	
Passenger air transportation	3.3	10.6	2.7	2.6	2.6	4.8	6.7	-0.2	0.3	-1.4	6.9	11.4	-9.3	5.5	7.4	0.2	1.0	2.1	-5.6	
All other transportation-related commodities	-0.8	4.0	3.9	2.8	1.7	1.7	9.2	0.5	2.2	5.9	0.2	3.9	4.8	0.3	1.3	-1.2	6.8	-0.5	0.4	
Food services and drinking places	4.4	5.5	4.5	3.2	1.7	6.7	3.2	7.0	1.4	4.6	6.1	-3.8	3.1	9.0	-0.9	-0.9	1.6	2.1	-1.8	
Recreation, entertainment, and shopping	5.4	5.3	1.5	2.8	2.3	2.2	-0.1	0.0	0.7	3.3	5.4	0.1	3.4	5.6	1.8	-1.1	4.8	-0.8	-2.7	
Recreation and entertainment	5.5	6.3	1.6	1.6	1.8	-1.4	5.2	-0.9	0.4	3.2	3.1	-4.2	4.1	8.5	-1.3	-0.4	5.4	-3.6	-6.6	
Shopping	5.3	9.9	2.7	5.0	3.2	5.8	-2.1	2.1	2.3	4.6	7.7	5.1	4.0	5.0	4.5	-0.2	2.5	1.4	0.4	
All tourism goods and services	3.1	6.2	2.9	3.1	1.9	2.5	3.9	2.1	2.7	3.6	4.8	1.7	0.7	6.2	2.0	-1.3	2.0	2.3	-3.7	

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table 1.b. Real Tourism Output
[Millions of chained (2000) dollars]

Tourism Goods and Services Group																				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Q2004:IV	Q2005:I	Q2005:II	Q2005:III	Q2005:IV	Q2006:I	Q2006:II	Q2006:III	Q2006:IV	Q2007:I	Q2007:II	Q2007:III	Q2007:IV	Q2008:I	
Traveler accommodations	93,952	97,377	99,167	102,887	104,144	96,809	97,019	97,995	100,424	101,228	102,960	102,407	101,648	104,533	104,943	104,148	102,256	105,228	102,270	
Transportation	210,818	224,855	232,542	238,852	243,681	227,050	231,578	231,722	232,551	234,318	235,878	239,701	239,249	240,581	242,682	242,135	244,962	245,268	244,142	
Passenger air transportation	89,900	99,431	102,076	104,735	107,424	100,526	102,168	102,119	102,191	101,828	103,551	106,380	103,807	105,200	107,104	107,159	107,419	107,980	106,449	
All other transportation-related commodities	120,848	125,716	130,610	134,223	136,571	126,841	129,664	129,836	130,533	132,404	132,470	133,729	135,291	135,402	135,840	135,446	137,687	137,531	137,678	
Food services and drinking places	86,680	91,462	95,560	98,572	100,237	93,188	93,925	95,519	95,861	96,936	98,376	97,436	98,171	100,307	100,069	99,855	100,256	100,768	100,299	
Recreation, entertainment, and shopping	149,878	157,778	160,215	164,760	168,493	159,767	159,738	159,758	160,025	161,337	163,470	163,528	164,883	167,160	167,917	167,452	169,414	169,087	167,950	
Recreation and entertainment	64,206	68,224	69,307	70,387	71,671	68,380	69,251	69,097	69,168	69,713	70,241	69,485	70,192	71,631	71,393	71,322	72,270	71,619	70,412	
Shopping	85,616	94,132	96,707	101,497	104,760	96,308	95,793	96,283	96,830	97,922	99,752	100,996	101,995	103,243	104,379	104,336	104,979	105,344	105,440	
All tourism goods and services	541,835	575,551	592,308	610,812	622,705	581,123	586,742	589,777	593,723	598,991	606,023	608,648	609,704	618,873	621,899	619,895	622,927	626,543	620,735	

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table 1.c. Percent Changes in Chain-Type Price Indexes for Direct Tourism Output
[Percent change from preceding period]

Tourism Goods and Services Group																				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Q2004:IV	Q2005:I	Q2005:II	Q2005:III	Q2005:IV	Q2006:I	Q2006:II	Q2006:III	Q2006:IV	Q2007:I	Q2007:II	Q2007:III	Q2007:IV	Q2008:I	
Traveler accommodations	1.6	5.7	5.0	2.6	4.8	6.9	8.6	0.3	-4.3	9.3	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.9	9.7	12.5	-1.9	0.9	
Transportation	4.7	3.8	6.1	6.6	3.7	6.4	-1.6	11.8	22.7	1.3	-0.5	23.3	2.1	-16.2	1.9	23.0	3.9	9.2	7.3	
Passenger air transportation	3.4	-1.1	3.0	5.6	2.5	-1.1	2.9	8.8	6.6	6.4	-0.6	17.5	2.0	-2.7	-5.6	8.1	13.4	1.3	4.7	
All other transportation-related commodities	5.6	7.2	8.2	7.2	4.5	11.4	-4.3	13.8	33.8	-1.7	-0.5	26.9	2.1	-23.6	6.7	32.4	-1.1	14.2	9.0	
Food services and drinking places	2.1	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.7	2.6	3.7	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.4	2.9	4.2	3.4	4.9	3.9	4.0	
Recreation, entertainment, and shopping	1.4	4.6	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.5	3.3	2.9	3.3	2.1	3.3	2.9	2.3	3.8	3.1	0.5	3.6	4.0	
Recreation and entertainment	2.5	1.5	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.5	3.3	2.9	3.3	2.1	3.3	2.9	2.3	3.8	3.1	0.5	3.9	3.4	
Shopping	0.5	1.7	1.5	1.7	2.2	2.2	0.7	1.9	1.4	2.1	1.6	1.8	1.7	0.9	3.6	1.6	2.2	3.4	4.4	
All tourism goods and services	2.8	3.6	4.4	4.2	3.6	4.8	1.9	5.7	8.8	3.2	1.2	10.4	2.4	-5.5	3.0	11.6	4.7	4.8	4.8	

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table 1.d. Chain-Type Price Indexes for Direct Tourism Output
[Index numbers, 2000=100]

Tourism Goods and Services Group																			
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Q2004:IV	Q2005:I	Q2005:II	Q2005:III	Q2005:IV	Q2006:I	Q2006:II	Q2006:III	Q2006:IV	Q2007:I	Q2007:II	Q2007:III	Q2007:IV	Q2008:I
Traveler accommodations	102.8	108.7	114.2	117.1	122.7	111.8	114.1	114.2	112.9	115.5	116.1	116.7	117.4	118.2	119.0	121.8	125.4	124.8	125.1
Transportation	98.9	102.7	109.0	116.2	120.5	104.3	103.9	106.8	112.4	112.8	112.6	118.7	119.3	114.1	114.6	120.7	121.9	124.6	126.8
Passenger air transportation	93.2	92.2	94.9	100.2	102.7	91.6	92.3	94.3	95.8	97.3	97.2	101.2	101.7	101.0	99.5	101.5	104.7	105.1	106.3
All other transportation-related commodities	103.3	110.8	119.9	128.5	134.3	114.1	112.8	116.5	125.3	124.8	124.6	132.2	132.9	124.3	126.3	135.5	135.1	139.7	142.7
Food services and drinking places	108.2	111.5	115.0	118.6	123.0	112.7	113.8	114.5	115.4	116.2	117.1	118.1	119.1	120.0	121.2	122.2	123.7	124.9	126.1
Recreation, entertainment, and shopping	105.4	110.2	113.3	116.5	119.7	111.3	112.0	112.9	113.7	114.6	115.2	116.1	116.9	117.6	118.7	119.6	119.8	120.8	122.0
Recreation and entertainment	108.6	110.2	113.3	116.5	119.7	111.3	112.0	112.9	113.7	114.6	115.2	116.1	116.9	117.6	118.7	119.6	119.8	120.9	121.9
Shopping	103.1	104.9	106.5	108.3	110.6	105.6	105.8	106.3	106.7	107.2	107.6	108.1	108.6	108.8	109.8	110.2	110.8	111.7	112.9
All tourism goods and services	102.8	106.4	111.1	115.7	119.9	108.0	108.6	110.1	112.4	113.3	113.6	116.5	117.2	115.5	116.4	119.6	121.0	122.4	123.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table 2. Direct Tourism Output
[Millions of dollars]

Tourism Goods and Services Group																			
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Q2004:IV	Q2005:I	Q2005:II	Q2005:III	Q2005:IV	Q2006:I	Q2006:II	Q2006:III	Q2006:IV	Q2007:I	Q2007:II	Q2007:III	Q2007:IV	Q2008:I
Traveler accommodations	96,571	105,840	113,212	120,487	127,818	108,184	110,680	111,881	113,409	116,877	119,557	119,540	119,335	123,517	124,878	126,821	128,237	131,337	127,938
Transportation	208,589	230,887	253,435	277,517	293,738	236,778	240,546	247,507	261,437	264,250	265,665	284,466	285,392	274,544	278,228	292,347	298,595	305,602	309,636
Passenger air transportation	83,759	91,644	96,873	104,993	110,344	92,103	94,285	96,256	97,885	99,068	100,600	107,611	105,533	106,226	106,603	108,767	112,517	113,463	113,133
All other transportation-related commodities	124,829	139,243	156,562	172,524	183,394	144,675	146,261	151,251	163,552	165,182	165,065	176,856	179,859	168,318	171,625	183,580	186,078	192,147	196,521
Food services and drinking places	93,745	101,947	109,873	116,897	123,289	105,060	106,849	109,398	110,585	112,659	115,237	115,101	116,931	120,318	121,277	122,045	124,008	125,824	126,483
Recreation, entertainment, and shopping	157,980	173,897	181,471	191,884	201,696	177,759	178,842	180,301	181,887	184,852	188,251	189,867	192,821	196,598	199,336	200,299	202,876	204,269	204,894
Recreation and entertainment	69,719	75,191	78,502	81,974	85,794	76,081	77,533	77,983	78,617	79,874	80,888	80,676	82,085	84,246	84,751	85,312	86,544	86,580	85,843
Shopping	88,261	98,706	102,969	109,910	115,902	101,678	101,309	102,319	103,269	104,978	107,363	109,191	110,736	112,353	114,585	114,987	116,332	117,704	119,091
All tourism goods and services	556,884	612,571	657,990	706,786	746,541	627,782	636,917	649,088	667,318	678,638	688,710	708,974	714,480	714,977	723,720	741,512	753,715	766,983	768,762
<i>Percent change at annual rate</i>	6.0	10.0	7.4	7.4	5.6	7.4	5.9	7.9	11.7	7.0	6.1	12.3	3.1	0.3	5.0	10.2	6.7	7.2	0.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table 3. Total Tourism-Related Output
[Millions of dollars]

Tourism Goods and Services Group																			
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Q2004:IV	Q2005:I	Q2005:II	Q2005:III	Q2005:IV	Q2006:I	Q2006:II	Q2006:III	Q2006:IV	Q2007:I	Q2007:II	Q2007:III	Q2007:IV	Q2008:I
Traveler accommodations	148,791	163,073	174,430	185,640	196,840	166,684	170,529	172,380	174,734	180,078	184,207	184,180	183,865	190,307	192,312	195,304	197,485	202,259	197,024
Transportation	357,211	396,507	436,391	478,302	507,033	407,179	413,520	425,863	450,799	455,383	457,557	490,896	492,610	472,147	479,512	505,031	515,245	528,011	535,395
Passenger air transportation	142,075	155,450	164,320	178,092	187,585	156,229	159,929	163,273	166,036	168,042	170,642	182,533	179,009	180,185	181,226	184,904	191,278	192,888	192,326
All other transportation-related commodities	215,136	241,058	272,071	300,210	319,448	250,950	253,591	262,589	284,763	287,341	286,915	308,362	313,601	291,962	298,287	320,127	323,966	335,132	343,087
Food services and drinking places	176,231	191,651	206,551	219,755	231,783	197,503	200,866	205,658	207,890	211,788	216,636	216,379	219,820	226,187	228,001	229,445	233,135	236,550	237,789
Recreation, entertainment, and shopping	298,183	328,856	343,089	363,162	383,598	336,480	338,094	340,846	343,909	349,506	356,083	359,569	365,066	371,930	379,148	380,904	385,737	388,596	390,284
Recreation and entertainment	115,001	123,995	129,381	135,047	141,363	125,450	127,831	128,488	129,577	131,628	133,256	132,948	135,238	138,746	139,665	140,582	142,604	142,624	141,461
Shopping	183,182	204,861	213,708	228,115	242,235	211,029	210,264	212,359	214,332	217,878	222,827	226,621	229,828	233,183	239,483	240,322	243,133	246,000	248,900
All tourism goods and services	980,417	1,080,087	1,160,461	1,246,860	1,319,253	1,107,845	1,123,009	1,144,748	1,177,332	1,196,755	1,214,481	1,251,024	1,261,361	1,260,572	1,278,973	1,310,684	1,331,602	1,355,334	1,360,118
<i>Percent change at annual rate</i>	6.1	10.2	7.4	7.4	5.8	7.7	5.6	8.0	11.9	6.8	6.1	12.6	3.3	-0.3	6.0	10.3	6.5	7.3	1.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table 4. Percent Change in Direct Tourism Employment
[Percent change from preceding period]

Tourism Industry Group	2003-2007					Q2004:IV-Q2007:IV													
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Q2004:IV	Q2005:I	Q2005:II	Q2005:III	Q2005:IV	Q2006:I	Q2006:II	Q2006:III	Q2006:IV	Q2007:I	Q2007:II	Q2007:III	Q2007:IV	
Traveler accommodations	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.3	1.5	1.1	0.7	2.3	0.6	-2.2	0.4	0.1	0.8	3.9	1.7	0.0	-0.1	4.7	
Transportation	-6.1	-1.5	-0.7	-2.1	1.4	0.0	-2.1	0.2	-0.4	-2.0	2.0	-0.7	0.5	1.1	2.6	1.4	0.7	2.7	
Air transportation services	-8.1	-1.3	-3.6	-1.0	1.9	-2.2	-6.9	-3.4	-2.3	-3.0	0.8	-1.4	0.4	1.8	2.5	3.3	0.9	3.9	
All other transportation-related industries	-4.7	-1.6	1.3	0.8	1.0	1.6	1.4	2.7	1.0	-1.3	2.9	-0.2	0.6	0.7	2.6	0.1	0.5	1.9	
Food services and drinking places	3.7	4.7	4.0	1.2	2.1	4.8	5.1	4.2	1.0	-0.5	2.1	0.0	1.8	2.8	3.9	0.5	1.6	1.9	
Recreation, entertainment, and shopping	1.0	2.0	-1.5	-0.4	1.6	-0.1	-4.8	-0.6	-1.1	-2.1	0.4	-0.5	0.1	2.1	3.8	-0.1	1.0	2.5	
Recreation and entertainment	1.7	2.7	0.7	-1.0	2.5	3.0	-1.4	1.8	-0.3	-2.5	-3.0	-0.7	0.3	3.1	5.7	0.1	1.7	5.0	
Shopping	0.2	1.4	-4.0	0.2	0.5	-3.3	-8.5	-3.3	-2.1	-1.6	4.3	-0.4	-0.3	1.0	1.8	-0.3	0.2	-0.2	
All other industries	-0.4	0.6	1.0	4.5	1.2	1.4	-1.7	2.1	3.1	3.6	8.7	3.9	2.7	2.1	0.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	
All tourism industries	-0.1	1.8	1.0	0.6	1.7	1.8	0.2	1.9	0.3	-1.3	1.6	0.0	1.0	2.6	2.9	0.4	0.9	2.8	

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table 5. Direct Tourism Employment
[Thousands]

Tourism Industry Group	2003-2007					Q2004:IV-Q2007:IV													
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Q2004:IV	Q2005:I	Q2005:II	Q2005:III	Q2005:IV	Q2006:I	Q2006:II	Q2006:III	Q2006:IV	Q2007:I	Q2007:II	Q2007:III	Q2007:IV	
Traveler accommodations	1,327.7	1,339.9	1,352.6	1,356.1	1,376.4	1,345.4	1,347.7	1,355.4	1,357.5	1,350.0	1,351.3	1,351.6	1,354.2	1,367.1	1,372.7	1,372.7	1,372.2	1,387.9	
Transportation	1,133.6	1,116.7	1,108.5	1,109.7	1,125.0	1,116.0	1,110.0	1,110.5	1,109.5	1,104.0	1,109.6	1,107.8	1,109.1	1,112.2	1,119.3	1,123.2	1,125.0	1,132.5	
Air transportation services	473.2	466.9	450.1	445.7	454.2	463.4	455.1	451.3	448.7	445.3	446.2	444.7	445.1	447.0	449.9	453.6	454.6	458.9	
All other transportation-related industries	660.4	649.8	658.4	663.9	670.8	652.6	654.9	659.2	660.8	658.7	663.4	663.1	664.0	665.2	669.5	669.6	670.4	673.6	
Food services and drinking places	1,696.6	1,776.5	1,847.2	1,869.5	1,909.3	1,808.8	1,831.4	1,850.1	1,854.9	1,852.4	1,862.1	1,862.1	1,870.3	1,883.3	1,901.4	1,903.7	1,911.5	1,920.4	
Recreation, entertainment, shopping	1,173.5	1,197.4	1,178.9	1,173.8	1,192.2	1,198.3	1,183.5	1,181.6	1,178.3	1,172.1	1,173.3	1,171.7	1,171.9	1,178.1	1,189.2	1,188.8	1,191.8	1,199.2	
Recreation and entertainment	603.4	619.5	624.1	617.7	633.3	625.4	623.2	625.9	625.5	621.6	617.0	616.0	616.5	621.3	630.0	630.1	632.8	640.5	
Shopping	570.1	577.8	554.8	556.1	558.9	572.9	560.3	555.7	552.7	550.5	556.3	555.8	555.4	556.8	559.2	558.7	559.0	557.8	
All other industries	247.4	248.9	251.4	262.8	266.0	250.0	248.9	250.2	252.1	254.3	259.7	262.2	263.9	265.3	265.3	265.8	266.3	266.7	
All tourism industries	5,578.7	5,679.4	5,738.6	5,771.7	5,868.8	5,718.5	5,721.5	5,747.8	5,752.2	5,732.8	5,756.0	5,755.3	5,769.5	5,806.0	5,847.9	5,854.1	5,866.6	5,906.7	

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table 6. Total Tourism-Related Employment
[Thousands]

Tourism Industry Group	2003-2007					Q2004:IV-Q2007:IV													
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Q2004:IV	Q2005:I	Q2005:II	Q2005:III	Q2005:IV	Q2006:I	Q2006:II	Q2006:III	Q2006:IV	Q2007:I	Q2007:II	Q2007:III	Q2007:IV	
Traveler accommodations	1,632.0	1,647.0	1,662.6	1,666.8	1,691.7	1,671.9	1,674.6	1,684.1	1,686.7	1,677.5	1,679.7	1,680.1	1,683.3	1,699.1	1,706.1	1,706.0	1,705.4	1,724.7	
Transportation	1,978.2	1,961.8	1,956.8	1,962.9	1,989.4	1,966.1	1,957.1	1,959.9	1,959.0	1,951.2	1,962.3	1,959.4	1,962.3	1,967.4	1,979.6	1,986.3	1,989.5	2,002.5	
Air transportation services	838.4	827.4	797.6	789.9	804.9	821.2	806.5	799.7	795.0	789.1	790.7	787.9	788.7	792.2	797.2	803.7	805.5	813.2	
All other transportation-related industries	1,139.7	1,134.4	1,159.2	1,173.0	1,184.6	1,144.9	1,150.6	1,160.2	1,163.9	1,162.2	1,171.7	1,171.4	1,173.6	1,175.2	1,182.4	1,182.6	1,184.0	1,189.3	
Food services and drinking places	2,268.8	2,375.7	2,470.2	2,500.0	2,553.2	2,418.9	2,449.0	2,474.1	2,480.5	2,477.2	2,490.1	2,490.1	2,501.1	2,518.5	2,542.7	2,545.8	2,556.2	2,568.1	
Recreation, entertainment, shopping	1,856.5	1,888.8	1,848.1	1,835.4	1,859.8	1,886.1	1,859.1	1,853.3	1,845.4	1,834.7	1,836.4	1,832.7	1,832.2	1,840.3	1,856.2	1,854.7	1,859.1	1,869.5	
Recreation and entertainment	888.8	911.5	915.8	906.4	929.4	919.0	915.0	918.7	917.7	911.8	905.3	903.8	904.7	911.9	924.5	924.7	928.8	939.7	
Shopping	967.8	977.3	932.3	929.0	930.4	967.1	944.0	934.6	927.7	922.9	931.1	928.8	927.5	928.4	931.7	930.0	930.2	929.8	
All other industries	418.5	420.4	426.2	445.5	450.6	422.5	421.6	424.1	427.6	431.6	440.3	444.5	447.5	449.7	449.3	450.2	451.0	451.8	
All tourism industries	8,153.9	8,293.7	8,364.0	8,410.5	8,544.8	8,365.5	8,361.4	8,395.5	8,399.2	8,372.1	8,408.9	8,406.7	8,426.3	8,475.1	8,533.8	8,543.0	8,561.1	8,616.6	
Percent change at annual rate	-0.5	1.7	0.8	0.6	1.6	1.6	-0.2	1.6	0.2	-1.3	1.8	-0.1	0.9	2.3	2.8	0.4	0.8	2.6	

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

washingtonpost.com

Fewer Tickets to Ride

As Gas Prices Rise, Tourists and Companies Cut Back

By Ylan Q. Mui and David Cho
Washington Post Staff Writers
Friday, June 6, 2008; D01

The Spirit of Washington dinner boat packs powerful twin diesel engines that carry 600 people on sightseeing voyages along the Potomac. Two eight-cylinder generators keep the neon lights glowing at the onboard bar. The bow thruster helps it push away from the dock.

Fueling them all are 7,000 gallons of diesel that have shot up in price by about 40 percent over the past year. Add four other boats with a total of 20 engines among them, and it's one big financial headache for Sal Naso. He's worried.

"We've absorbed most of the cost," said Naso, vice president and general manager of Entertainment Cruises, which owns the boats, "but if it keeps going up, we're going to have to pass it on."

The spike in fuel prices is hitting the Washington region's tourism industry during the heart of the high season, pummeling vacationers and the companies that cater to them. Official numbers won't be available for months, but warning signs have been spotted.

Some travelers are cutting their trips short and have less money to spend. Tour bus operators and sightseeing boats struggle to maintain prices even as their costs increase. One rental car company is offering free gas to keep people driving as the specter of \$4-a-gallon fuel begins to reshape the way we spend our time off.

"We are starting to see some fundamental changes in consumer driving behaviors," said David Portalatin, director of auto industry analysis at NPD. According to an April survey by the research firm, 8 percent of consumers plan to vacation closer to home, and 12 percent have canceled trips altogether.

The trouble began around Memorial Day, said [Lon Anderson](#), director of public affairs for AAA. Several measures indicated tourism was declining.

In Ocean City, AAA reported, the "flush count" -- an estimate of the number of visitors based on water use -- was down 13 percent from the previous year. Holiday traffic across the [Chesapeake Bay](#) Bridge dipped 3 percent, the first significant decline since 2002. Traffic on Virginia highways was down 4 percent. [MasterCard](#) gasoline purchases were down 5 percent in the Washington area.

And the road isn't always easy for those who do drive: AAA has seen a 15 percent increase in calls for help from motorists who have run out of gas as they test the limits of their fuel tanks.

Washington's tourism bureau is trying to preempt a big drop in visitors with a new \$2 million marketing campaign dubbed "Staying Power" that touts the capital's free attractions (jazz at the Corcoran, anyone?) and public transportation. Destination DC President Bill Hanbury said anecdotal accounts from local companies show that tourism is about even with last year.

About 2.3 million leisure travelers visit the city between June and August, according to the organization. Their dollars are particularly important during these slow, sweaty months when Congress is out of session and

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business travel grinds to a halt. More than 90 percent of leisure travelers arrive by car; nearly 60 percent stay overnight.

"We are a drive market," Hanbury said. "You're not even taking a full tank of gas to get to us, and I think that's going to be our advantage."

Tour companies have also struggled under increasing fuel costs. Naso said he spent about \$3 a gallon on diesel gasoline last year for the five tour boats in his fleet. Last week, he paid \$4.29 a gallon to fill up one boat's 3,800-gallon tank.

Naso has sought ways to offset the increase without scaring away customers. The company tacked on a 3 percent fuel surcharge to each ticket in the past year. But in a nod to increasingly frugal customers, it plans to offer regular, two-hour midday tours starting next week that are cheaper than its traditional dinner cruises.

Naso has also slowed down the new Seadog speedboat that travels to National Harbor -- a half-knot decrease almost imperceptible to riders but which increases fuel efficiency.

"Everybody feels the same pinch," he said.

At Open Top Sightseeing, each red double-decker tour bus holds about 120 gallons of gasoline and needs refueling every other day. The company runs 11 buses that clock 100 miles daily. The route starts at [Union Station](#) and stops at the [White House](#), Adams Morgan and [Arlington National Cemetery](#).

"We can feel it like everyone else," said Anders Nielsen, U.S. development director for Open Top's parent company, Les Cars Rouges. He may not be able to put extra buses on the route during busy times this year and plans to train drivers on how to improve mileage.

Fleet Transportation in Alexandria has begun working with consulting firm Green Ride Global to help it become more fuel-efficient. It now requires drivers to switch between idling their engines for one minute and turning them off for 10 minutes, to conserve fuel when waiting for passengers. The optimum driving speed is 50 to 55 miles per hour, and jumping from 20 to 70 mph when entering the Beltway is discouraged.

Stacey S. Glazier, director of sales and marketing, said Fleet has already seen some cost savings, and the changes have been a selling point to both private groups and corporations.

"We can offer you that sense of extra-conscious effort," she said.

But will \$4 gas keep people from driving and companies from making money? The Car Care Council isn't taking any chances.

An industry group that promotes auto maintenance, the council released this news alert last month: "Traditional summer family vehicle vacation better deal than flying."

The council extolled the benefits of driving: leaving at any time, no long security lines and the chance to stop and stretch at any moment. Even if fuel were to hit -- gasp! -- \$5 per gallon, the council estimated that a 1,000-mile round trip would cost a family of four riding high in an SUV about \$343.

"The thought of sitting at home and forgoing that wonderful family road trip, and all the pleasures that brings and enjoying some beautiful country -- we certainly don't want to see people not doing that," Executive Director Rich White said. "It is an encouragement not to freak out."

washingtonpost.com

Weak Dollar Lets Foreign Tourists Spend Big in D.C.

International Travel to U.S. Up 15 Percent

By Anita Huslin

June 16, 2008

When the Turkish tourists arrived at their chic Foggy Bottom hotel with empty suitcases and a few hours of free time, the first thing they asked was how to get to Pentagon City. Twenty-four hours later, they headed back to the airport, their luggage bulging with bargains.

A Scandinavian journalist, on each of his three trips to Washington this year, made a similar beeline for Trader Joe's to stock up on cashews and other treats that are cheaper in the United States.

International travel agents are increasingly on the prowl for VIP accommodations and special experiences to sell to clients. Some hoteliers are responding with private rooftop dinners overlooking the White House, back-of-the-house visits to Smithsonian museums and limousine tours of Virginia's wine country.

If there is a silver lining to the battered U.S. economy, the hotel and hospitality crowd may have found it. International travel to the United States -- increasingly with a high-end flavor -- appears to be on the rise. Foreign tourists typically spend two or three times what Americans do on U.S. vacations, and the weak dollar creates an incentive to splurge even more. For gateway cities such as Washington, New York and Orlando, international tourism may not be completely negating the effects of the domestic downturn, but it is softening the economic blow.

One of the ways the hotel industry hopes to weather the slowing economy is by maximizing revenues from foreign travelers, Marriott International chief executive Bill Marriott said in an MSNBC interview last week during a hospitality industry investment conference at New York University.

"There's a whole new bunch of travelers over there, China, India . . . Russia," Marriott said.

The number of international visitors to the United States increased 15 percent in the first three months of this year from 2007, and rose by 7.2 percent in the District, according to the Commerce Department. From January through April, the number of international passengers arriving at Reagan National or Washington Dulles International airports increased nearly 11 percent, to 1.8 million, from last year, according to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

The mid-Atlantic continues to be the top U.S. destination for overseas travelers, according to the International Trade Administration, a federal agency that tracks tourism and travel trends.

The D.C. region's challenge, some tour operators say, is living up to the expectations of leisure travelers who might choose it over more luxury-oriented and expensive destinations such as Dubai or Paris.

"Many of our members are now looking at U.S. East Coast destinations such as Washington, D.C. as a great alternative option to European city break destinations for their long weekend trips," said Zia Bapuji, London regional manager for TenLifestyle Management, a membership-based concierge vacation service. Within the U.S. markets, "not only are they looking for higher grades of hotels, but within these high-end hotels they are also looking for upgraded room types."

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A recent report by the Ernst & Young Global Real Estate Center projected that this boom in high-end international tourism could produce a nearly 6 percent increase in revenue per available room, a standard metric for room rates and occupancy growth in the hotel industry. Hotels are reaching out to wealthy travelers with offers such as Marriott and Renaissance hotels' "Passport to New York City, Boston and Washington D.C." It includes "personalized concierge services . . . and a new, 21-inch wheeled American Tourister suitcase delivered to your room and ready to be filled with purchases from the many world-class shopping destinations in the city of your choice," the promotion says.

The Ritz-Carlton in Georgetown has seen reservations for international travelers more than double this year, hotel officials said, with most of the increase coming from Britain. At the Willard Hotel, where the clientele is mostly business travelers, concierges are booking more docents for private tours and hiring limousines for shoppers, who return to the hotel laden down with bags from Neiman Marcus, Tiffany's, Bloomingdale's and Apple stores.

Aaron Gillespie, director of sales and marketing for the Melrose Hotel, an upscale hotel in Foggy Bottom with rooms that run from \$189 to \$429 per night, began focusing last year on increasing international leisure clientele. The effort has benefited from the introduction of new direct airline service between Dulles and Qatar, Beijing, Seoul, Dublin, Doha, Rio de Janeiro and Madrid.

"They're going for higher-quality experiences, not necessarily extended stays, and their spending is usually quadruple the amount American tourists will spend," Gillespie said

A group of 10 visitors from Turkey recently arrived with extra empty suitcases and asked him for shopping suggestions. He directed them to several locations and gave them instructions on how to get there by Metro. They chose taxis instead. "Price was not an issue," he said.

German tourists, for whom the United States is the No. 1 vacation destination, are increasingly booking through travel agencies and concierge services, according to Klaus Henschel, managing director of Lufthansa City Center, one of the leading German travel agencies. The Washington region in particular has been a beneficiary, Henschel said in an e-mail, because of its driving distance to so many attractions.

"Our clients love to take a car and go on the scenic byways to experience the country even when the fuel prices now show \$4.50 per gallon," Henschel wrote, "which is, by the way, still half the price Europeans have to pay for gasoline."

washingtonpost.com

Fuel Prices Challenge Cars' Reign

\$4 Gas Transforms Buying Habits, Affecting Everything from Vacations to Pizza Orders

By Steven Mufson and David Cho
Washington Post Staff Writers
Tuesday, June 10, 2008; A01

Gasoline prices, which shattered the \$4-a-gallon mark on average in the Washington area Friday, ranged as high as \$4.39 a gallon for regular yesterday amid signs that cash-strapped Americans are changing vacation plans, consolidating errands, and turning to carpools and mass transit.

The average price of a gallon of gasoline nationally is now almost a dollar higher than it was a year ago, according to the [Energy Department](#). And with crude oil trading at more than \$134 a barrel yesterday, more gasoline price increases are probably in the pipeline as refiners and retailers attempt to pass crude oil costs along to motorists, industry analysts warn.

"The fear here is that we've crossed a Rubicon," said [John Townsend](#), a spokesman for AAA. "Normally, prices plateau after Memorial Day . . . But I don't think we're going to get much relief this summer."

In a society nurtured on cheap gasoline, the high fuel prices are having disparate effects: the end of free pizza deliveries at major franchises, a plunge in the sales of sport-utility vehicles, a steep drop in the price of houses that are far from jobs or mass transit.

Federal officials have also reported the first decline in miles driven on U.S. roads since 1979, business at roadside convenience stores has slowed, and the tourism industry is bracing for a downturn this summer. Nationwide, about 8 percent of Americans say they have changed their commuting patterns and are taking public transportation, according to a survey conducted by [NPD Group](#), a market research firm. The same share of respondents said they would vacation closer to home this summer because of rising gas prices.

The biggest U.S. airlines, squeezed by massive fuel costs, imposed domestic fare increases over the weekend, only to roll them back yesterday to avoid losing passengers.

After more than five years of petroleum price increases, American consumers appear to be expecting the worst. A [CNN](#) poll taken last week showed that 59 percent of Americans believe it is very likely that they will pay \$5 a gallon for gasoline before the end of the year and that an additional 27 percent say it is somewhat likely.

Economists say these expectations make it more probable that people will change behavior rather than simply wait for a turn in the traditional up-and-down cycle of commodity prices. "People now realize that prices may come back down, but they're not going down to where they were," said [Mark Zandi](#), chief economist of Moody's [Economy.com](#). "We're going to have to live with higher energy prices for a while. And that's affecting their behavior and what they buy and don't buy."

For Rusty Davis, a handyman from Arlington, the high cost of gasoline is changing the way he runs his business. He has started to refuse jobs outside the county. When he does travel to jobs, he now takes his fuel-efficient car and leaves behind his work van, which gets only 12 miles to the gallon. He also used to do free estimates in person. Now he does them over the phone.

"Before, you just wanted the client to see your face so they would be more willing to hire you to do the job," he said. "You don't do those anymore. I'm more apt to give them an estimate over the phone to save on gas."

Economists fear that the steadily rising price of gasoline is eating into the money consumers have to spend on other items and that fuel prices could be a drag on an economy already weighed down with concerns about housing prices and the stability of financial institutions.

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"It saps people's purchasing power," Zandi said. "If they have to spend more to fill their gas tanks and heat their homes, everything suffers." He added that he worries that "the surge in energy prices overwhelms the economy if we stay here for very long."

Zandi said energy costs -- including electricity, gasoline and heating -- now account for about 6.5 percent of the average household budget. For the poorer half of the nation's households, energy costs are gobbling up close to 10 percent of family budgets.

Although the \$4 barrier has symbolic importance, the bite out of household budgets is real. AAA calculates that the gasoline cost of commuting from Washington area suburbs to the District has increased sharply over the past year. The cost of the 44-mile round trip between Fairfax City and downtown Washington has risen to \$8.93 a day from \$6.78 last year for a commuter driving a car with average fuel efficiency. The cost of the 88-mile round trip between Frederick and the District has risen to \$17.86 a day from \$13.24.

In the past two days, the highest price for regular in the Washington area was \$4.39, at two stations on Virginia Avenue in Northwest D.C. The local average yesterday was \$4.09, according to AAA.

As a result, people have been trimming their driving.

According to the [Federal Highway Administration](#), estimated vehicle miles traveled on U.S. roads for March fell 4.3 percent, or 11 billion miles, compared with March 2007. It was the first time that March travel on public roads fell since 1979 and the biggest yearly drop for any month in history.

In recent weeks, [MasterCard](#) has been reporting 4 to 5 percent declines in gasoline purchases. The [Energy Department's Energy Information Administration](#) has been reporting more modest declines.

"For 30 years, we've operated under the assumption that there are going to be more cars on the road," said David Portalatin, automotive analyst at NPD Group. "So we've developed drive-through windows, quick lube stations. We've done everything we can do service this on-the-go consumer. The biggest news is we've reached the point where we are starting to see some fundamental changes in consumer driving behaviors."

With consumers cutting back on their driving, many industry groups are worried. The Car Care Council, an association that promotes auto maintenance, has resorted to marketing the benefits of driving, arguing that even if gas hits \$5, driving is still cheaper than flying.

"These soaring gas prices shouldn't sour our love affair with our vehicles," said Rich White, the council's executive director. He added that the changes in driving behavior may be temporary. "It's going to take a lot for Americans to give up that freedom of mobility that they cherish," he said.

The high oil prices, although beneficial for oil companies that have their own oil wells, are hurting many companies in the refining and marketing end of the business. Sam Darab, who fled Afghanistan after the Russian invasion, has been an [Exxon](#) dealer in Fairfax for 20 years, but he says low profit margins, competition from a big [Safeway](#) gas station and rising rents charged by [Exxon Mobil](#) are driving him out of business. Darab, a father of seven, plans to close his gas station Sunday.

"I work so hard," he said. "They have been so harsh with me."

Another Exxon dealer, Sohaila Rezazadeh, who was featured on the front page of [The Washington Post](#) last month, said yesterday that she can't advance the cash Exxon wants for deliveries and hasn't had any gas for four days. She said high rent and low profit margins had drained her accounts. She plans to close her station by the middle of this month.

Exxon Mobil had no comment on either of the dealers.

The New York Times

ON THE WEB

Foreigners Sustain New York's Economy

By PATRICK MCGEEHAN

New York Times

April 16, 2008

New York City has started to slide into the economic downturn that is enveloping much of the country. But the city has a counterbalance against recession that few other American cities share: a rising tide of free-spending foreign visitors.

After a record year of tourism and business travel in 2007, the influx has continued to grow this year, city officials said. About one million more visitors came to the city — more than one fifth of them foreigners — in the first three months of 2008 than in the first quarter of last year, according to a preliminary estimate from NYC & Company, the city's marketing arm.

Foreign tourists are filling up the tables at the city's pricier restaurants. Danny Meyer, who operates several highly rated restaurants in Manhattan, said that he added the Euro equivalent to prices on the wine list at the Modern, the restaurant in the Museum of Modern Art, to impress upon tourists what bargains the bottles were.

The device worked: "We have sold more wines and more expensive wines," Mr. Meyer said.

Broadway theaters are filling up at an average ticket price of more than \$75, and the city's hotels remain nearly full at a record average of about \$270 a night, according to NYC & Company.

One of the main attractions is a dollar so weak against the Euro and other currencies that everything in New York appears to be on sale. NYC & Company estimated that foreign visitors spent about \$560 million more in the first three months of 2008 than in the first quarter of 2007, an increase of 7 percent.

While the number of international tourists coming to the United States last year was still two million below the number who visited in 2000 — the year before the Sept. 11 attacks — New York has bucked that trend. It was the only one of the 10 American cities most popular with foreign visitors that drew more of them in 2006 than in 2000, according to the federal Department of Commerce.

Los Angeles, Miami and Chicago each recorded a drop of more than 950,000 annual visitors from outside of North America during that period, the Commerce Department's figures show. The Travel Industry Association in Washington estimates that the decline in tourism from overseas since 9/11 has cost the United States nearly \$100 billion in lost spending and nearly 200,000 jobs.

Mike Stengel, who oversees five full-service Marriott hotels in the city, said that guests were coming from all over the globe, attracted by a weak dollar and New York's polished-up image overseas. On Tuesday morning, Mr. Stengel ate breakfast at the Marriott Marquis with 15 travel agents from China, only five of whom had been to the city before.

After breakfast, the group was going to go shopping at Woodbury Common, an outlet mall an hour north of the city. To get there, Mr. Stengel said, the group planned to walk, unescorted, the six blocks from the hotel to the

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Port Authority Bus Terminal and catch a public bus, a venture around Times Square that he said a tour group would not have considered four or five years ago.

Already this year, foreigners have made about 10,000 more overnight stays in the city's five full-service Marriotts than in the first 3 ½ months of 2007, Mr. Stengel said. Over all, he said, Marriott's hotel business in the city is up about 6 percent over last year, he said.

"Domestic tourist business is down, but it's being made up by international business," Mr. Stengel said. Banquets and other catered events have been shrinking since turmoil on Wall Street began threatening to end the long rebound of New York's economy.

Of course, spending by Europeans and other foreigners was an important factor in the city's economic boom from 2003 through last year. And real estate developers and brokers have credited foreign buyers of condominiums with keeping prices high in New York's extraordinarily strong housing market.

On Broadway, attendance and revenue are off only slightly from last year, even after a three-week strike by stagehands last fall, according to the Broadway League. But some shows, including "Wicked" and "Jersey Boys," are still filling all of their seats at average ticket prices of more than \$100.

Even as foreign visitors are continuing on a spending spree, American visitors, especially those sent here by their employers, have become more frugal, said George A. Fertitta, president of NYC & Company.

Tourism industry executives, he said, are noticing that the Americans are spending less on food and drinks.

"Everybody has said, 'Knock off the expense account,' " Mr. Fertitta said. "Where a group might have spent \$300 on something, now they're spending \$150." He added that, "We're hoping that the international visitor can make up a lot of that."

Mr. Meyer said he saw that happening at his establishments. Revenue at his restaurants, including Union Square Cafe and Gramercy Tavern, he said, was flat so far this year because foreigners are filling seats left open by Wall Street deal-makers on a diet.

"The recession is definitely impacting especially those people who were doing lots and lots of deals on lots and lots of nights a week in investment banking and the mergers and acquisitions business," Mr. Meyer said.

But for the mid-priced restaurants in and around the city, the decline is well under way, said Malcolm M. Knapp, a restaurant industry consultant.

Mr. Knapp said that the number of customers dining in chain restaurants like Applebee's and Outback Steakhouse in the metropolitan area dropped by 3.4 percent in February.

Economist.com

Bargain-hunting

The weak dollar lures visitors

March 13th 2008

BIG SKY, MONTANA – As the Ramcharger chairlift cranks its frozen passengers to the top of Montana's Andesite Mountain, Jan and Lorene Nobert from Quebec beam about their American holiday. The snow this season, they say, is just as good as they'd heard it was. South Florida, meanwhile, is relying on its warm weather to attract foreign visitors. Fort Lauderdale recently sent over its “beachmobile”—a lorry bearing a heated, glass-enclosed fake seashore complete with palm tree, lifeguard tower and sunbathing models—to lure Britons tired of dull weather.

Non-Americans have a better incentive than winter gloom or Rocky Mountain peaks to visit America these days. The weak dollar makes even resort prices cheaper, not to mention the goods in the country's malls. The result is a healthy tourism industry, and a much-needed economic boost for some of America's worst-off regions. But is the tourist bump as big as it could be?

The Commerce Department announced this week that America ran a \$17.8 billion travel surplus in 2007, more than double the 2006 figure. Arrivals from Canada were up 11%; from Mexico, up 13%. Visits from many west European countries, China and India also increased by double digits. Although its trade in goods runs a hefty deficit with the rest of the world, America boasts a widening trade surplus in services, which make up 30% of all exports. Travel and tourism now account for 8% of all exports, more than the auto business.

The weak dollar and high oil prices also encourage Americans to take their holidays nearer home, providing a further boost for domestic tourism. Nearly every state showed gains in leisure and hospitality employment in 2007, even places battered by the housing bust such as Arizona, California and Florida. As the country slides into recession, the tourist trade will be a vital counterbalance.

The biggest winners, of course, are huge tourist markets such as Miami or New York, which registered a 22% rise in overseas visitors last year. Retailers in these areas have boomed as Europeans stock up with dollar-denominated iPods, clothes and shoes, and hotels have seen revenues increase. But America's national parks are also seeing more visitors after slumping earlier in the decade, which enriches more remote spots.

Despite the bumper year, overseas tourism has not passed the peak it reached before the 2001 terrorist attacks. The industry wants the government to step up promotion abroad. Simplifying immigration procedures at America's borders might help a lot more, though.

Economist.com

A New Itinerary

May 15th 2008

DUBAI -- When you arrive at Dubai International Airport, the bus journey from your aeroplane to the terminal building takes almost 15 minutes. This is not because Dubai is inefficient—far from it—but because for a small country it has a huge airport, which is in the throes of expansion. The airport will still be too small to cope with the swelling inflow of travellers, so Dubai's rulers are building another one, at Jebel Ali, a port town 35km (20 miles) away, which is due to come into full operation in 2017. Designed to handle 120m passengers a year, it is expected to be the world's busiest airport.

Booming emerging economies are the great hope of the world's travel and tourism industry. Dubai is the most shimmering example. It has only a tiny percentage of the United Arab Emirates' oil reserves, and so is straining to turn itself into a regional hub for finance, travel and high-class tourism. Three palm-shaped island-resorts are being built: the Palm Jumeirah (pictured), the Palm Jebel Ali and the Palm Deira. The Burj al-Arab, curved like a sail and on another artificial island, is the world's only seven-star hotel—with its own helipad, naturally. Dubai also boasts the Middle East's first indoor ski-slope.

About 30% of Dubai's GDP depends on travel and tourism, but Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai's ruler, wants the industry to grow much more. He is the driving force behind the construction of Dubailand, a tourism and entertainment complex divided into seven theme worlds that are Dubai's answer to Disneyland. By 2015 Dubailand is aiming to attract 15m tourists, roughly 40,000 visitors daily.

No wonder, then, that last month the top brass of the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), the industry's main lobby group, held their annual meeting amid Dubai's glitz. They might have found lots of reasons to be gloomy: a weak dollar, sky-high oil and food prices, looming recession in America and a credit crunch on both sides of the Atlantic. Yet the tourism barons were fairly chipper. They hope that Americans will still travel, albeit more parsimoniously. And they think that travellers to and from emerging economies will make up for some of the flagging Wanderlust of the developed world.

Ready for take-off

The rise of emerging economies marks the third revolution the travel industry has undergone in the past 50 years. The first came in the 1960s, in the shape of cheap air travel and package tours. Rising incomes enabled people of modest means to travel more, to farther-flung parts of the globe, and to take advantage of “all-in” offers that may have included sightseeing trips, scuba diving or camel rides. The second was the advent of the internet, which has allowed millions to book flights, hotels, hire cars and package tours without going near a high-street travel agent.

Now fast-growing emerging economies—not just Dubai but also the BRICs (Brazil, Russia, India and China) and others, such as South Korea and Vietnam—are changing the world of travel once again, either as destinations or as sources of newly affluent travellers. Often, citizens of these countries are visiting similar, emerging lands. Last year, for example, Russians made a total of 34.3m trips abroad, up from 29.1m in 2006. Turkey was their most popular destination, followed by China and Egypt. The Chinese head the table of visitors to Vietnam.

The WTTC claims that travel and tourism is the world's biggest industry in terms of its contribution to global

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GDP and employment. The lobby group forecasts that global travel and tourism will account for \$5.9 trillion of economic activity in 2008, or about 10% of global GDP, employing 238m people. It expects employment to rise to 296m in the next decade.

In fact, assessing the scale of the industry is not straightforward. When all travel and tourism is lumped together, so that everything from airlines to cafés counts, it is no surprise that the WTTC's total is so large. As a rule, restaurants do not record whether they are serving tourists, business travellers or locals out for a meal.

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) has resorted to monitoring international tourist arrivals only. It therefore knows where tourists are going to, but has a much less accurate idea of where they have come from. Travel and tourism data from developing countries, in particular, are unreliable. And many of the industry's jobs, such as tour guides or souvenir salesmen, go unrecorded. Officially, the tourism business in Sicily is sizeable, but it would be bigger still if untaxed and undeclared jobs were counted.

Never mind the difficulties of definition and measurement: the industry, from any angle, is huge and growing. It accounts for a large part of many countries' foreign-exchange earnings. For many developing countries, it offers an important route out of poverty. And further expansion and democratisation of tourism, centred on emerging economies, is under way. Having once worked in tourism, an increasing number of citizens of those countries are beginning to become tourists themselves.

According to the UNWTO, international tourist arrivals grew by 6% last year, to 900m (see chart 1). The total has gone up by almost 100m in two years. Last year the Middle East welcomed 13% more international tourists, or 46m in all. Arrivals in Asia and the Pacific were up by 10%, to 185m—with much of the extra travel coming from elsewhere in the region. Africa saw an increase of 8%, to 44m. This year, the UNWTO predicts, growth of international tourism will be fastest in Asia and the Pacific.

Forecasts for growth are even less reliable than in other industries, partly because tourism is vulnerable to shocks such as natural disasters or terrorist attacks. José Antonio Tazón, boss of Amadeus, a travel-technology company, points out that global firms are less exposed than local ones. They can make up for lost business in a region affected by catastrophes with business in other parts of the world.

A dollar won't stretch that far

For the next year or two, the travel industry is likely to find its long-standing customers in rich Western countries a less than reliable source of growth. As American families plan their holidays, many will be worrying about the frailty of their country's economy, the rising cost of petrol and—for those venturing outside the United States—the weakness of the dollar. They are delaying booking in the hope of nabbing cheap, last-minute deals.

They certainly seem to be spending less. On May 7th Orbitz, an American online travel-firm, posted a first-quarter net loss of \$15m compared with a net loss of \$10m a year earlier. The mainstay of its business is domestic bookings, which were 6% lower in the first quarter than a year earlier, at \$2.4 billion.

About 85% of American travel and tourism is domestic. Only one-fifth of American citizens have passports. Those thinking of going abroad will need more tempting than usual. Some hotels in European cities are offering deep discounts to American travellers to make up for the weakness of the dollar. WorldHotels, a hotel-marketing company, says that Americans can book rooms at a one-to-one euro-dollar exchange rate—a saving of roughly one-third at today's rate—at 52 of the European hotels on its books. Nevertheless, WorldHotels saw a 15% drop in business from Americans at its European hotels during the first quarter of this year.

Yet the industry remains confident that people will travel, even if they spend less. “One of the last bits of

discretionary spending people cut is their holiday,” argues Thomas Middelhoff, chief executive of Arcandor, the German retailer that owns Thomas Cook, a travel company.

Some European travellers, by contrast, will at least have the benefit of a strong euro. Within the continent, there are other pluses. The expansion of low-cost airlines is boosting short-break travel. The extension of the passport-free Schengen area to nine more countries makes trips within Europe easier. The Euro 2008 football championship in Austria and Switzerland, the Zaragoza International Expo in Spain and Liverpool's reign as Europe's cultural capital are also expected to be good for business. That will help the European Union remain the biggest contributor to global travel and tourism, with 27.5% of the share of the world market and more than 10% of the industry's total workforce.

Even so, Europeans are likely to feel the slowdown of the economy and the impact of the high price of oil. British Airways recently upped its fuel surcharge, which now stands at £158 (\$312) for a return long-haul flight to Britain. On May 7th easyJet, a low-cost airline, unveiled a £57.5m loss for the six months to the end of March. Granted, that is usually the company's weaker half-year, but the loss a year before had been only £17.1m. The trouble was the rising cost of fuel, which now accounts for 28% of easyJet's cost per seat. All this means tourism in the EU will grow by only about 2% this year, reckons the WTTC, compared with worldwide growth of 3-4%.

For faster growth, the industry will have to look to emerging economies. These are becoming increasingly well established as places to visit. Now they are starting to provide more visitors too. According to McKinsey, a consulting firm, by the middle of the next decade almost a billion people will see their annual household incomes rise beyond \$5,000—roughly the threshold for spending money on discretionary goods and services rather than simple necessities. Consumers' spending power in emerging economies will rise from \$4 trillion in 2006 to more than \$9 trillion—nearly the spending power of western Europe today.

Some of that extra purchasing power will go on travel, at home and abroad (see chart 2). Western companies are flocking into the developing world to prepare for these new tourists. “The Middle East, India and China are the next big thing,” predicts Bill Marriott, the chairman and chief executive of Marriott, an American hotel chain. He thinks that the industry will be bigger in the Middle East, where he is planning to build 65 hotels by 2011, than in India. China will dwarf even the Middle East.

The new travelers

Last year the number of visits abroad by the Chinese reached 47m, 5m more than the number of foreign visitors to China. The Chinese also made 1.6 billion trips at home—a staggering total, but not much more than one each. According to WTTC forecasts, Chinese demand for travel and tourism will quadruple in value in the next ten years. At present China ranks a distant second, behind the United States, in terms of demand, but by 2018 it will have closed much of the gap.

Other emerging economies have woken up to the spending power of Chinese tourists. Mexico is one: AeroMéxico will begin direct flights between Mexico City and Shanghai at the end of May. The plan is to fly twice a week. In Vietnam, home to one of the fastest-growing tourist industries in the world, Chinese and other Asian tourists are overtaking Westerners. In the first 11 months of last year 507,000 visitors came to Vietnam from China, along with 442,000 from South Korea and 376,000 from America. The Tourism Authority of Thailand is also counting on more Chinese custom. It forecasts that 1.3m Chinese will visit the country this year, 10% more than last year (when visitors were put off by Thailand's unsettled politics).

To speed up the development of tourism and other industries, the Chinese government is racing to build roads, railways and airports. In January it said that it planned to add 97 airports by 2020 to the 142 China had at the end of 2006. The number with an annual handling capacity of over 30m passengers will grow from three to 13.

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According to the state media, investment in infrastructure will see double-digit growth every year for the rest of the decade. Between 2006 and 2010, \$200 billion is expected to have been invested in railways alone, four times more than in the previous five years. In June the world's longest sea-crossing bridge, a 36km six-lane highway across Hangzhou Bay, is due to open. This will halve the travel time between Ningbo and Shanghai, two of China's busiest ports, to about two hours.

Asia's other rising economic giant is lagging behind China, both as a source of tourists and as a tourist destination. Last year India had only 5.5m foreign visitors, a tiny share of the world market: the country of the Taj Mahal and the Himalayas ranks below Bulgaria and Bahrain. Fewer than 10m Indians travelled abroad, though about 600m Indians made trips at home. Andhra Pradesh, home of many religious sites, got the lion's share of visits, whereas foreigners flocked to Delhi and Maharashtra, India's most urbanised state. Travel on the subcontinent can be bewildering even for Indians, owing to more than 20 official languages and innumerable dialects. Many moan as much as foreigners do about uncomfortable transport, strange food, unusual bowel movements and the lack of decent hotel rooms.

The subcontinent's biggest problem is the poor state of much of its infrastructure. The government plans to spend more than 20 trillion rupees (around \$500 billion) on infrastructure in the five years to 2012. India's tourism ministry says it spent 4.6 trillion rupees on 248 projects in the year to March. India's main airports are undergoing expensive facelifts with lots of private-sector money. Parts of Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport are gleaming; but elsewhere people sit with their saris drawn over their mouths to stop themselves inhaling the dust as plasterboard is machine-sawn nearby. At Indira Gandhi airport in Delhi, immigration officials will think nothing of clocking off with four or five people left in the queue, who then have to go to the back of another line. An official will stamp a traveller's visa—and a few yards later a guard will check that it has indeed been stamped.

Some investors are backing the country's breathtaking beauty against all the inconvenience and bureaucracy. Marilyn Carlson Nelson, chief executive of Carlson, a privately owned travel group which owns Radisson hotels and Regent Seven Seas Cruises, sees great promise in India. Carlson is developing around 50 hotels in India compared with only ten in China. Manny Fontenla-Novoa, chief executive of Thomas Cook, a travel company, is equally optimistic about India's potential. In March Thomas Cook bought Thomas Cook India, the subcontinent's largest foreign-exchange and second-biggest travel business, dating back to the 1880s, from Dubai Financial Group. Joint ventures in Russia and China are next on Mr Fontenla-Novoa's list.

Clouds on the horizon

What might stop tourism's latest revolution? Political violence is one possibility. Developed countries are no strangers to terrorism, but the dangers in emerging economies are greater. This week's bomb attacks in Jaipur, a popular spot on the Indian tourist trail, are a bloody reminder. Kenya, a country that depends on tourism for much of its foreign income, lost about half its business in the wake of political violence after elections in December. Natural disasters are also likelier to cause worse devastation in poorer places. However, Mr Tazón of Amadeus points out that “the industry has proved to be very resilient.” It recovered quickly after the terrorist attacks on September 11th 2001, SARS, the outbreak of the war in Iraq and the tsunami in December 2004.

Another possible obstacle is the growing concern, especially in Western countries, with the environment. During the 1960s and 1970s, when tourism was growing explosively in America and Europe, few gave much thought to the consequences for the planet. That has changed. Philippe Bourguignon, vice-chairman of Revolution Places, a travel business, says that greenery cannot be dismissed as merely the flavour of the month.

The industry, which contributes 5-6% of all carbon emissions, seems worried. Green strategies are multiplying. In April Travelport, a travel-technology company, introduced the Travelport Carbon Tracker, which allows travel agencies and companies to measure and analyse carbon emissions and hence to help “sustainable travel

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decision-making”. Hotels are keen to show that they conserve water (do you really need a clean towel every day?), recycle rubbish, and save electricity by using low-energy light bulbs. Airlines order less thirsty planes. Eco-spas powered by wind turbines and solar panels, and safaris based on conservation are vying for the customer with a green conscience.

Marriott's efforts are a case in point. In April the hotel firm and the Brazilian state of Amazonas signed an agreement to protect 1.4m acres of endangered Amazon rainforest in the Juma Sustainable Development Reserve. Marriott is chipping in \$2m to pay for an environmental management plan administered by the newly created Amazonas Sustainable Foundation that will support employment, education and health care for the approximately 500 people who live in the Juma reserve. Over the next ten years Marriott aims to reduce energy and water consumption at its hotels by 25% by, for instance, introducing solar power at up to 40 hotels. “After years of lip service, companies like Marriott are really being proactive,” says Michael Johnson, dean of Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration.

For all this concern, emerging economies are much more interested in rapid growth than in ecology. And holidaymakers, wherever they are from, seem unwilling to give up flying or driving just yet. Mr Fontenla-Nova sees little evidence that an environmental conscience plays a big part in customers' travel planning. Westerners have had their decades of fun. Now the rest of the world wants a turn.