



# 2022 Memorial Day Holiday Travel Forecast

May 2022

## Memorial Day Travel Nears Pre-Pandemic Levels

### Memorial Day travel to increase 8.3% over 2021 to 39.2 million

Rising prices are not deterring travel's resurgence this Memorial Day weekend, with travel volumes expected to reach 92% of pre-pandemic levels in 2019.

### Car travel to increase 4.6% over 2021 to 34.9 million

Despite historic highs in gas prices that began in early March, car travel remains a popular choice and will approach 93% of 2019's volume.

### More than 3 million people will fly this holiday weekend

Air travel continues to rebound, up 25% over 2021 and will make up 7.7% of all holiday weekend travelers, the highest share for air travel since 2011.

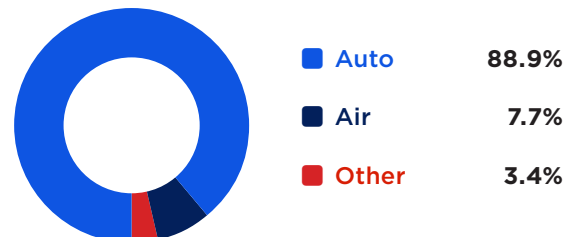
## Key Takeaways:

- More than 39 million people are expected to travel 50 miles or more from home during the 2022 Memorial Day holiday weekend — 3 million more than 2021.
- The 8.3% increase will be the second highest growth in travelers for this holiday weekend since 2010 and will bring total travel volume in line with 2017.
- Nearly 35 million people will travel by car, an increase of 4.6%.
- Air travel will continue its rapid rebound, growing 25% this year to just over 3 million people.
- Travel by other modes will triple from last year's level, with 1.3 million people using transportation like buses, trains and cruise ships.
- The 2022 Memorial Day holiday period is defined as Thursday May 26 through Monday, May 30.

## Economic trends influencing the travel forecast include:

- Consumer sentiment hit an 11-year low in March, driven by rising prices, the war in Ukraine and overall economic uncertainty.
- GDP should increase 2.9% compared to a year ago while the unemployment rate is expected to fall to 3.6%.
- Despite falling consumer sentiment, consumer spending is expected to surge in the second quarter, rising over 9%. However, rising prices will mean that real disposable income will fall 3.6% compared to a year ago.

## Share of Travelers by Mode



## Memorial Day Travelers

	Auto	Air	Other	Total
2022 (forecast)	34.9M	3.01M	1.33M	39.2M
2021	33.4M	2.41M	44K	36.2M
2019	37.6M	3.22M	1.9M	42.8M
Change* (2019 to 2022)	-7.3%	-6.3%	-29.6%	-8.2%
Change* (2021 to 2022)	4.6%	25.0%	199.9%	8.3%

\*Percentages may differ due to rounding.



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## Holiday Forecast Methodology: A Brief Overview

### Travel Forecast

In cooperation with AAA, IHS Markit—a world leader in critical information, analytics and expertise—developed a unique methodology to forecast actual domestic travel volumes. The economic variables used to forecast travel for the current holiday are leveraged from IHS Markit's proprietary databases. These data include macroeconomic drivers such as employment, output, household net worth, asset prices including stock indices, interest rates, housing market indicators and variables related to travel and tourism, including prices of gasoline, airline travel and hotel stays.

Historical travel volume estimates come from DK SHIFFLET's TRAVEL PERFORMANCE/*Monitor*<sup>sm</sup>. The PERFORMANCE/*Monitor*<sup>sm</sup> is a comprehensive study measuring the travel behavior of US residents. DK SHIFFLET contacts over 50,000 U.S. households each month to obtain detailed travel data, resulting in the unique ability to estimate visitor volume and spending, identify trends, and forecast U.S. travel behavior—all after the trips have been taken.

The travel forecast is reported in person-trips. In particular, AAA and IHS Markit forecast the total U.S. holiday travel volume and expected mode of transportation. The travel forecast presented in this report was prepared the week of Oct. 11.

### Memorial Day Holiday Travel Period

For purposes of this forecast, the Memorial Day holiday travel period is defined as the five-day period from Thursday, May 26 to Monday, May 30. The five-day holiday length is consistent with previous holiday periods.

## About AAA

AAA provides more than 62 million members with automotive, travel, insurance and financial services through its federation of 30 motor clubs and nearly 1,000 branch offices across North America. Since 1902, the not-for-profit, fully tax-paying AAA has been a leader and advocate for safe mobility. Drivers can request roadside assistance, identify nearby gas prices, locate discounts, book a hotel or map a route via the [AAA Mobile app](#). To join, visit [AAA.com](#).

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## About DK SHIFFLET

[www.dkshifflet.com](http://www.dkshifflet.com)

DK SHIFFLET boasts the industry's most complete database on U.S. resident travel both in the U.S. and worldwide. Data is collected monthly from a U.S. representative sample, adding over 60,000 traveling households annually and is used daily by leading travel organizations and their strategic planning groups. DK SHIFFLET is an MMGY Global company.