

## **WTTC: 412,000 Travel & Tourism jobs across the U.S. will remain unfilled unless urgent action is taken**

*Workforce shortages projected to peak during 3Q 2022; some relief expected later this year and into 2023*

*WTTC provides measures for addressing worker shortages in the sector*

**DALLAS (July 25, 2022)** – A new analysis by the World Travel & Tourism Council ([WTTC](#)), which represents the global Travel & Tourism business sector, estimates 412,000 Travel & Tourism jobs in the U.S. will remain unfilled this year, putting in serious jeopardy the recovery of the sector.

According to WTTC's data, one in 18 jobs remained vacant during the first half of 2022, highlighting a talent crunch that has plagued the sector since early 2021. An estimated 321,000 Travel & Tourism positions went unfilled in the January – June 2022 timeframe (a 5.4% shortage), and worker shortages are expected to persist into 3Q, peaking at 412,000 sector job vacancies (a 7% shortfall).

During 2020, employment in the sector dropped by 35.9% in the U.S. at its lowest point. As global Travel & Tourism began recovering in 2021, the U.S. saw a 12.4% hike in the number of jobs directly supported by the sector, adding a welcome 480,000 jobs back into the market.

Despite the positive growth in 2021, sightseeing transportation, accommodation and recreation are experiencing the most serious labor shortage impact this year. Employers in the accommodation industry in particular could struggle to find suitable candidates for nearly one in seven hotel and resort job postings.

“As the U.S. pushes full steam ahead toward a solid recovery for Travel & Tourism, a lack of qualified, available talent remains a major concern for the sector,” said Julia Simpson, WTTC President & CEO. “This is especially true given the sudden spike in international visitors following the removal of COVID tests for inbound travelers.”

### **MEASURES TO BOOST EMPLOYMENT GROWTH**

According to WTTC, the outlook could be more positive later this year and into 2023 if government officials and the public sector work together to increase the availability of eligible workers while adapting sector career opportunities to better appeal to top talent.

“There is huge potential to increase the number of available workers in the U.S. by fostering greater labor mobility within the U.S. and across its borders,” said Simpson. “Stringent visa allocations are affecting many industries which ultimately impacts the wealth and growth prospects for the US. We urge officials to consider measures that make visas and work permits more easily accessible.”

According to the report, the United States Census Bureau data indicates that between 2016 and 2020, international migration to the U.S. plunged from around 1.05 million people to just 477,000.

Some of the key measures identified in the report for both governments and the private sector to address the talent gap are:

- Facilitate **labor mobility** across international borders, with more favorable visa policies
- Enable **flexible and remote working** where feasible – allowing part time or contractor-based opportunities, where possible
- Ensure **decent work** and competitive employee benefits and compensation packages
- **Attract talent** by improving the perception of jobs and promoting viable career paths with growth opportunities
- **Develop and support a skilled workforce** through comprehensive educational programs, as well as upskilling and reskilling current talent
- Adopt **innovative technological and digital solutions** to alleviate pressure on staff, improve daily operations and an enhanced customer experience

By adopting the right measures to support Travel & Tourism employment growth, the sector can surpass pre-pandemic levels and successfully meet consumer demand across the industry.

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