

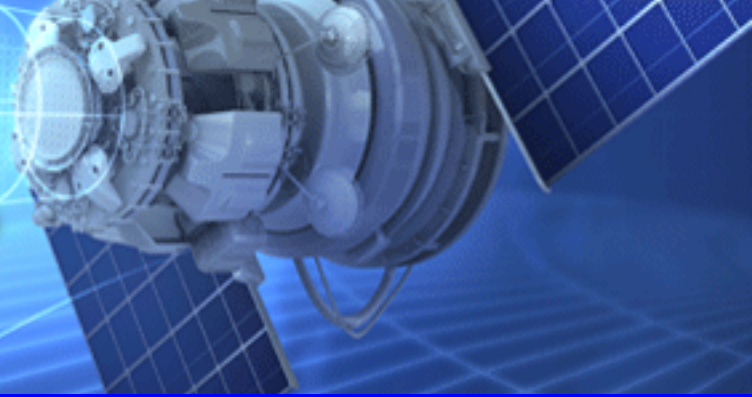
U.S. Department of Commerce
International Trade Administration

U.S. Travel and Tourism Satellite Accounts: Employment Q1:2009

Bureau of Economic Analysis • Office of Travel and Tourism Industries



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July 19, 2009

Office of Travel and Tourism Industries

Travel and Tourism Industry Shedding Jobs at a Record Pace Disappointing First Quarter Employment Data Indicate Accelerating Job Losses



Key statistics recently released by the Commerce Department for the first quarter of 2009 confirm that the current economic downturn has created the most difficult environment for the U.S. tourism industry since 9/11.

Total tourism-related employment fell by 149,000 during the first quarter of 2009, bringing the total number of jobs supported by the industry down to 8.4 million.

If the industry continues to eliminate jobs at the present rate, employment could shrink by a record 6.8% during 2009. This would translate into a loss of 581,000 industry-supported jobs for the year and would effectively erase over a decade's worth of job growth in the industry.

Direct tourism employment, a narrower measure that excludes jobs indirectly related to the industry, fell by 99,000

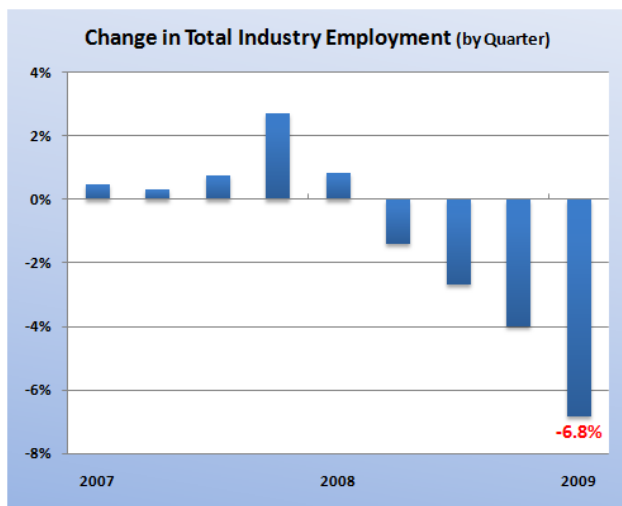
during the quarter. Direct employment slipped to 5.7 million, a four year low, after the biggest quarterly loss since the fourth quarter of 2001.

Traveler Accommodations Sector Hit Hardest

The traveler accommodations sector cut 45,000 jobs during the quarter, reducing employment in the sector to a decade-low 1.3 million. If trends continue, the sector could slash 12.5% of its work-

force during 2009, cutting 170,000 jobs. This would break the previous record for annual job losses, set in 2002, when the sector dropped 49,000 jobs.

The transportation sector jettisoned 26,000 jobs during the quarter; the sector has lost 63,000 jobs since the first quarter of 2008. Even with current



employment levels at a decade-low 1.1 million, employment in the sector could lose an additional 74,000 jobs by year's end if layoffs continue at the present rate.

Direct employment in the recreation, shopping, and entertainment sector decreased by 15,000

during the quarter; the sector has dropped 37,000 jobs since the first quarter of 2008 and presently employs 1.2 million people.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis will release Q2:2009 data on Wednesday, September 23, 2009. To receive these data via email, please visit:

https://service.govdelivery.com/service/multi_subscribe.html?code=USBEA.

Did You Know...?

- ...that the U.S. travel and tourism industry generates more than \$1.2 trillion in economic output for the U.S. economy each year?
- ...that the United States welcomed nearly 58 million international visitors in 2008?
- ...that in 2008 international visitors spent nearly \$142 billion traveling the United States?
- ...that the United States enjoyed a record-setting \$29.4 billion travel and tourism trade surplus in 2008?
- ...that travel and tourism exports account for 26% of U.S. services exports and 8% of all U.S. exports?

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Office of Travel and Tourism Industries.
Data are seasonally adjusted at annual rates (annualized) unless otherwise stated.

