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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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November 18, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Members, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade
FROM:	Committee Majority Staff
RE:	Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Hearing

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade has scheduled a hearing on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (ET) in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building. The hearing title is "Daylight and Destinations: Examining Time, Travel, and Tourism."

II. WITNESSES

- Ms. Rosanna Maietta, President and CEO, American Hotel and Lodging Association
- Mr. Jay Karen, CEO, National Golf Course Owners Association
- Dr. Tyler J. Kleppe. Ph.D., CPA, EY Associate Professor of Accounting. Von Allmen School of Accountancy, Gatton College of Business and Economics, University of Kentucky
- Ms. Lisa Simon, CEO and Executive Director, International Inbound Travel Association *(Minority)*

III. BACKGROUND

A. Travel and Tourism

In the United States (U.S.), the travel and tourism industry historically has been a significant contributor to economic success and growth of the national gross domestic product (GDP). In 2024 alone, travelers in the U.S. spent $1.3 trillion, resulting in an economic output of $2.9 trillion—accounting for 2.5 percent of national GDP and sustaining over fifteen million jobs.[1] Further, the U.S. hosted nearly 72.4 million international visitors who spent more than $253.9 billion on U.S. travel and tourism-related goods and services, contributing an average of

[1] *See* U.S. Travel Ass'n, *Economic Impact of the U.S. Travel Industry: 2024 National Data* (2024), https://www.ustravel.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/National%20Data_0.pdf.

$696 million per day to the U.S. economy.[2] Based on data from July 2024 and July 2025, the U.S. is on pace to reach $253.9 billion in international inbound visitor spending again in 2025.[3]

Although the global tourism industry dramatically declined throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, this industry has largely rebounded since 2022.[4] In the United States, the travel and tourism industry crosscuts several areas contributing to its recovery and economic impact. For example, consumer spending on U.S. air transportation, amusement parks, campgrounds, spectator sport admissions, casino gambling, package tours, hotels and motels, and motor vehicle rentals rose roughly 4 percent year-over-year throughout much of 2024.[5] That same year, the U.S. National Park System recorded 331.9 million recreational visits, generating $29 billion in visitor spending in local communities and supporting about 340,000 jobs.[6]

The entertainment industry in the U.S.—including concerts and sporting events—is a significant driver of economic gain, especially because it attracts fans from all over the world. In 2023, Taylor Swift's 53 U.S. concerts that made up the "Eras" Tour added $4.3 billion to the country's gross domestic product (GDP).[7] In 2024, spectator sports travelers directly spent $47.1 billion across the U.S., generating a total economic impact closer to $114.4 billion and supporting 664,860 jobs.[8]

The U.S. spectator sports industry is entering a multi-year period with potential for vast growth in domestic and international travel. Notably, the U.S., along with Mexico and Canada, will be co-hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup, with matches taking place in several U.S. cities.[9] The U.S. federal government has been actively preparing for the World Cup, following President Trump's establishment of the White House Task Force on the FIFA World Cup 2026. The Task

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[2] *See* Appendix I; *see also* Int'l Trade Admin., *December 2024 International Inbound Visitor Spending* (Feb. 7, 2025), https://www.trade.gov/feature-article/december-2024-international-inbound-visitor-spending.
[3] *See* Int'l Trade Admin., *July 2024 International Inbound Visitor Spending* (Sept. 2024), https://www.trade.gov/feature-article/july-2024-international-inbound-visitor-spending; *see also* Int'l Trade Admin., *July 2025 International Inbound Visitor Spending* (Sept. 8, 2025), https://www.trade.gov/feature-article/july-2025-international-visitor-spending.
[4] UNWTO, *Impact Assessment of the COVID-19 Outbreak on International Tourism* (Mar. 24, 2020), https://www.untourism.int/impact-assessment-of-the-covid-19-outbreak-on-international-tourism.
[5] David Michael Tinsley, *Yellow Light for Travel: U.S. Domestic Tourism Taps the Brakes*, BANK OF AM. INST. (Mar. 28, 2025), https://institute.bankofamerica.com/content/dam/economic-insights/domestic-tourism.pdf.
[6] Matthew Flyr et al., *2024 National Park Visitor Spending Effects: Economic Contributions to Local Communities, States, and the Nation*, Sci. Rep. NPS/SR-2025/353, NAT'L PARK SERV., U.S. DEP'T OF THE INTERIOR (Sept. 2025), https://doi.org/10.36967/2315417.
[7] Devon Pendleton et al., *Taylor Swift Vaults Into Billionaire Ranks With Blockbuster Eras Tour*, BLOOMBERG (Oct. 26, 2023), https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2023-taylor-swift-net-worth-billionaire/.
[8] Sports Events & Tourism Ass'n, *Sports ETA Unveils 2024 State of the Industry for the $114 Billion Economic Impact from Spectator Sports Tourism* (Apr. 16, 2025), https://www.sportseta.org/blog/2025/04/16/sports-eta-unveils-2024-state-of-the-industry-for-the-114-billion-economic-impact-from-spectator-sports-tourism.
[9] *See* FIFA, *FIFA World Cup 26: Host countries, cities, dates, teams, tickets, qualifying, and more* (Oct. 13, 2025), https://www fifa.com/en/tournaments/mens/worldcup/canadamexicousa2026/articles/fifa-world-cup-2026-hosts-cities-dates-usa-mexico-canada#:~:text=The%20next%20World%20Cup%20will,content%20Share%20VideoShare%20Video.

Force is "leading and coordinating federal efforts" for the "comprehensive planning, organization, and execution" of the World Cup.[10]

Additionally, Los Angeles, California, is hosting the 2028 Summer Olympic Games—the third time LA is hosting the event.[11] With the size, scope, and international draw of these events, there is immense opportunity for economic growth for both the host cities and the broader U.S. economy.

B. Standard Time and Daylight Saving Time

Background and History

Twice a year, most Americans adjust their clocks to either observe Standard Time or Daylight-Saving Time (DST). DST, in which clocks are set one hour ahead of Standard Time, is observed from the second Sunday of March through the first Sunday of November. Standard Time covers the remaining months from the first Sunday of November through the second Sunday of March.[12] Americans that live in states that observe DST set their clocks forward by an hour in March, effectively losing an hour from their day, and back by an hour in November, effectively gaining an hour in their day. As a result, the sun will rise and set later in the day during DST and will rise and set earlier in the day during Standard Time.

Congress first addressed time standardization with the Standard Time Act of 1918, which established five time zones across the U.S. and set national observance of Standard Time and DST between the last Sunday of March and the last Sunday of October. Following World War I, Congress abolished DST observance at the federal level, leaving states free to decide whether to continue to observe it at a local level.[13]

Congress reexamined Standard Time and DST observances with the Uniform Time Act of 1966, which mandated the observance of Standard Time across the five time zones and "specified the observance period for DST" as moving the clocks ahead by one hour at 2:00 a.m. on the last Sunday in April and back one hour at 2:00 a.m. on the last Sunday of October. Additionally, it allowed states the ability to exempt themselves from observing DST, provided the entire state chose to do so.[14]

The Uniform Time Act of 1966 was amended in 1972 to allow states that were split between time zones to exempt that part of the state from DST observance. The Act was amended twice more to change the dates at which DST was observed: in 1986 the start date was changed

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[10] Exec. Order No. 14,234, 90 Fed. Reg. 11,883 (Mar. 12, 2025), https://www federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/12/2025-04102/establishing-the-white-house-task-force-on-the-fifa-world-cup-2026.
[11] *See* LA28, *Los Angeles and the History of the Games*, https://la28.org/en/newsroom/los-angeles-and-the-games html (last visited Nov. 6, 2025).
[12] Corrie E. Clark & Lynn J. Cunningham, Cong. Research Serv., R45208, *Daylight Saving Time (DST)* (Sept. 30, 2020), https://www.crs.gov/reports/pdf/R45208/R45208.pdf.
[13] *Id.*
[14] *Id.*

from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in April, and the end date was changed under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 from the last Sunday in October to the first Sunday of November.[15] These observance dates are currently in effect.

Year-Round Daylight-Saving Time – Justifications and Arguments

Since its establishment, Congress has enacted temporary year-round DST twice. First, Congress enacted it when the U.S. joined World War II in 1942 and allowed the return to the standard observance either six months after the end of the war or earlier if required by Congress. The second time was in 1973 during the oil embargo by the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries. Congress enacted the Emergency Daylight Saving Time Energy Conservation Act of 1973, establishing a trial period for year-round DST. This Act eventually was amended to include four months of standard time before the trial period ended after a recommendation by the Department of Transportation.[16]

Since DST was first implemented in 1918, energy efficiency and conservation have consistently been cited as key reasons for the practice of changing the clocks.[17] Many legislative actions related to DST coincided with wartime efforts—World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War—with the goal of conserving energy for national defense. The year-round observance during World War II was known as "War Time."[18] The Energy Policy Act of 2005 that extended DST observance also required the Department of Energy to study any potential energy savings from the extension of DST observance. The results showed that the electricity savings from extended DST were about 1.3 terawatt-hours, equaling a 0.03 percent savings in electricity consumption over the year.[19]

On the other hand, concerns regarding disruption to the circadian rhythm during DST observance are often cited by health professionals as reasons to eliminate DST and observe standard-time year round.[20] Stakeholders in the motor vehicle industry cite the practice of changing the clocks, as well as changes in the timing of sunrise and sunset, as having consequences on motor vehicle safety for drivers and pedestrians, particularly children on their way to school, cyclists, and others.[21] Proponents of permanent DST argue that extended daylight

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[15] *Id.*
[16] *Id.*
[17] See *Id.*; Michael Downing, *Spring Forward: The Annual Madness of Daylight Saving Time* (Shoemaker & Hoard 2005); Amanda Onion et al., *Daylight saving time instituted*, HIST. (Nov. 5, 2009), https://www history.com/this-day-in-history/february-9/daylight-saving-time-instituted.
[18] Andrew Glass, *U.S. implements 'war time,' Feb. 9, 1942*, POLITICO (Feb. 9, 2015), https://www.politico.com/story/2015/02/this-day-in-politics-us-implements-war-time-feb-9-1942-114998.
[19] David B. Belzer, Stanton W. Hadley & Shih-Miao Chin, *Impact of Extended Daylight Saving Time on National Energy Consumption: Technical Documentation for Report to Congress*, U.S. DEP'T OF ENERGY, OFF. OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY (Oct. 2008), https://www1.eere.energy.gov/ba/pba/pdfs/edst_national_energy_consumption.pdf.
[20] Muhammad Adeel Rishi et al., *Daylight saving time: an American Academy of Sleep Medicine position statement*, 16 J. CLIN. SLEEP MED. 1781 (2020), https://jcsm.aasm.org/doi/10.5664/jcsm.8780.
[21] *See* Amber N. Woods, Rebecca A. Weast & Samuel S. Monfort, *Daylight saving time and fatal crashes: The impact of changing light conditions*, 93 J. SAFETY RES. 200 (2025), https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsr.2025.02.010.

in the evening encourages consumer activity, benefiting retail, travel, and tourism sectors.[22] Conversely, many farmers have long opposed DST, noting disruptions to carefully curated agricultural schedules and impacts to working hours by the changes in sunrise and sunset. Farmers originally lobbied against the establishment of DST in the Standard Time Act of 1918.[23]

State and Federal Action and Legislation

States have taken frequent action regarding DST observance. As of October 2025, Arizona, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have exempted themselves from DST observance and follow year-round Standard Time, in accordance with the Uniform Time Act of 1966.[24] Meanwhile, nineteen states[25] have enacted legislation to observe DST year-round; however, for those state laws to take effect, Congressional action is required, as the Uniform Time Act of 1966 only allows states to follow year-round Standard Time, not year-round DST.[26]

The policy discussions around DST practices continue at the federal level as well. In the 119th Congress, the following legislation related to DST has been introduced and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce:

- H.R. 139, Sunshine Protection Act of 2025 (Rep. Buchanan);[27]
- H.R. 300, Daylight Act (Rep. Maloy);[28] and
- H.R. 1630, to allow States to elect to observe year-round daylight saving time, and for other purposes (Rep. Rogers).[29]

IV. KEY QUESTIONS

1. What actions should the U.S. take to sustain a robust and economically successful travel and tourism industry?
2. How can the U.S. incentivize international travel to the U.S.?
3. How should the U.S. prepare for major international sporting events coming to the country over the next few years?
4. Should Congress adopt permanent Standard Time, permanent DST, or maintain the current time observances?

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[22] *See* Daniel Victor, *Daylight Saving Time: Why Does It Exist? (It's Not for Farming)*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 11, 2016), https://www nytimes.com/2016/03/12/us/daylight-saving-time-farmers html.
[23] *See* AgAmerica, *Myth Vs. Fact: Daylight Saving Time and Farming* (Nov. 15, 2019), https://agamerica.com/blog/myth-vs-fact-daylight-saving-time-farming/.
[24] Nat'l Conf. of State Legis., *Daylight Saving Time | State Legislation* (updated Oct. 9, 2025), https://www ncsl.org/transportation/daylight-saving-time-state-legislation.
[25] *Id.*; These states include: Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Alabama, Georgia, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Idaho, Louisiana, South Carolina, Utah, Wyoming, Delaware, Maine, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, and Florida.
[26] *Id.*
[27] Sunshine Prot. Act of 2025, H.R. 139, 119th Cong. (2025).
[28] Daylight Act, H.R. 300, 119th Cong. (2025).
[29] H.R. 1630, 119th Cong. (2025).

V. STAFF CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Giulia Leganski, Natalie Hellmann, or Alex Khlopin of the Committee Staff at (202) 225-3641.

APPENDIX I

Table A
Visitors to the U.S. by World Region of Residence
December 2024 and Year-to-Date

	December 2024				Year-to-Date 2024		
Overseas Visitors to the U.S. by World Region of Residence	**Number of Arrivals**	**2024 Share**	**% Change from 2023**		**Number of Arrivals**	**2024 Share**	**% Change from 2023**
Western Europe	1,092,398	33.6%	1.2%		13,067,365	37.2%	6.9%
Eastern Europe	95,639	2.9%	12.2%		1,098,994	3.1%	18.1%
Asia	765,478	23.6%	7.4%		9,182,300	26.1%	21.6%
Middle East	87,648	2.7%	18.7%		1,101,913	3.1%	6.4%
Africa	57,517	1.8%	(0.0%)		588,177	1.7%	10.9%
Oceania	127,541	3.9%	4.6%		1,310,431	3.7%	6.3%
South America	586,735	18.1%	9.7%		5,398,809	15.4%	11.7%
Central America (Excluding Mexico)	222,092	6.8%	9.4%		1,611,508	4.6%	9.4%
Caribbean	214,611	6.6%	6.3%		1,799,752	5.1%	8.8%
Total Overseas	**3,249,659**	**100.0%**	**5.8%**		**35,159,249**	**100.0%**	**11.7%**

	December 2024				Year-to-Date 2024		
All International Visitors to the U.S.	**Number of Arrivals**	**2024 Share**	**% Change from 2023**		**Number of Arrivals**	**2024 Share**	**% Change from 2023**
Total Overseas	3,249,659	50.3%	5.8%		35,159,249	48.6%	11.7%
Mexico	1,709,192	26.5%	19.6%		16,989,951	23.5%	18.3%
Canada	1,497,711	23.2%	7.2%		20,241,121	28.0%	(1.3%)
Grand Total	**6,456,562**	**100.0%**	**9.5%**		**72,390,321**	**100.0%**	**9.1%**

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[30] Int'l Trade Admin., *International Visitor Arrivals Program: Final_SummaryAnalysis-COR_December_2024*, https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.trade.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2025-02%2FFINAL_SummaryAnalysis_COR_December_2024.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK (last visited Nov. 6, 2025).