Fort Myers – Islands, Beaches and Neighborhoods Lee County VCB July - Sept 2023 Visitor Tracking, Occupancy & Economic Impact Study







Introduction





STUDY OBJECTIVES: MAP THE VISITOR JOURNEY



- Planning cycle
- Planning sources
- Information requests
- Other destinations considered
- Trip influencers
- Reasons for visiting
- Exposure to promotions
- Booking
- Mode of transportation



- Visitor origin
- Party size
- Party composition
- Demographics



Jul - Sep 2023

- Accommodations
- Length of stay
- Number of times in destination
- Activities in destination
- Attractions visited
- Area stayed

Post-Trip Evaluation

- Likelihood of recommending
- Likelihood of returning
- Satisfaction with overall stay & customer service
- Evaluation of destination attributes
- Visitor concerns
- Painting a picture for others

Economic Impact on Destination

- Number of visitors
- Expenditures
- Economic impact
- Room nights generated
- Occupancy, ADR, RevPAR
- Jobs, wages and taxes supported by tourism





Executive Summary



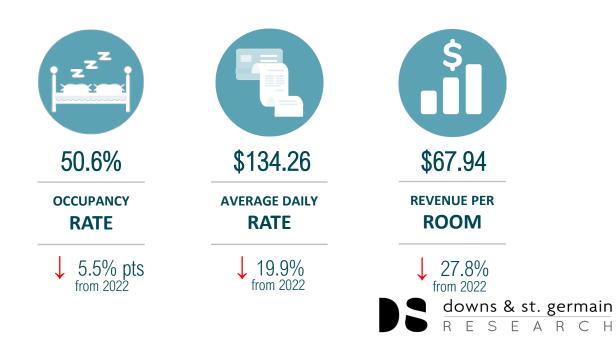


QUARTERLY SNAPSHOT July - Sept 2023

- → Due to Hurricane Ian, tourism metrics for the Fort Myers area are still down across the board as the recovery process remains ongoing.
- → Visitation was down 36.6% and room nights were down 31.6%.

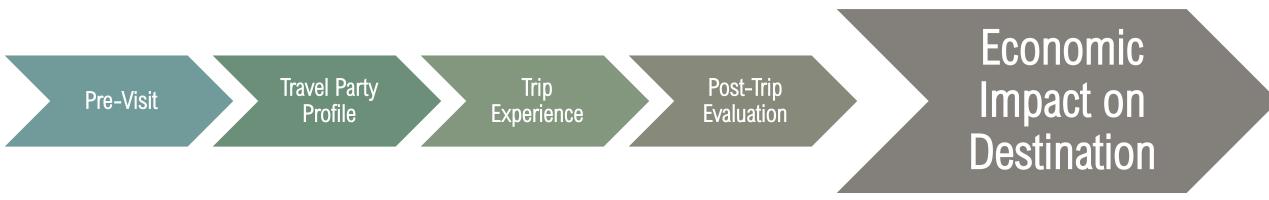
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- → The drop in room nights was not as steep as the drop in visitation due to an increased length of stay and smaller travel party size compared to Jul-Sep 2022.
- The proportion of visitors who stayed in unpaid accommodations remained at an elevated level of 31%, up from 22% in July-September 2022.
- → The proportion of first-time visitors decreased from 42% to 33%, while the proportion of loyal visitors increased from 11% to 21%, signaling the return of many long-time visitors to the area.
- → The proportion of international visitors again saw an increase compared to the same period last year. However, this still represents a 34% decrease in the actual number of international visitors.





VISITOR JOURNEY: ECONOMIC IMPACT ON DESTINATION







Visitor & Lodging Statistics	Jul - Sep 2022	Jul - Sep 2023	% Change '22-'23
Visitors	1,114,000	706,700	-36.6%
Visitor Days	5,618,600	4,113,000	-26.8%
Room Nights	1,265,400	865,200	-31.6%
Direct Expenditures ¹	\$812,265,900	\$584,185,900	-28.1%
Total Economic Impact ²	\$1,293,939,600	\$935,281,600	-27.7%

¹ Includes: accommodations, restaurants, entertainment, shopping, transportation, groceries, and "other" expenses.

² Economic impact includes indirect and induced effects of visitor spending. Indirect effects are increased business spending resulting from tourism dollars. Induced effects are increased household spending resulting from tourism dollars.





TOURISM SNAPSHOT: KEY METRICS YEAR TO DATE

Visitor & Lodging Statistics	CYTD 2022	CYTD 2023	% Change '22-'23
Visitors	3,717,600	2,170,200	-41.6%
Visitor Days	22,451,800	14,674,800	-34.6%
Room Nights	5,000,100	3,298,700	-34.0%
Direct Expenditures ¹	3,429,379,200	\$2,235,399,600	-34.8%
Total Economic Impact ²	5,463,001,100	\$3,578,874,800	-34.5%

¹ Includes: accommodations, restaurants, entertainment, shopping, transportation, groceries, and "other" expenses.

² Economic impact includes indirect and induced effects of visitor spending. Indirect effects are increased business spending resulting from tourism dollars. Induced effects are increased household spending resulting from tourism dollars.





50.6%

Occupancy



\$134.26

ADR

19.9% From 2022

\$67.94 RevPAR

4 27.8%
From 2022





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VISITOR JOURNEY: PRE-VISIT







TRIP PLANNING

 Nearly 2 in 5 visitors planned their trips to the Fort Myers area 1-2 months in advance

• The average trip planning cycle was nearly 3 months

- Over 2 in 5 visitors requested information to plan their trips
 - $\circ~1$ in 3 visitors called a hotel, motel, or condo
 - $_{\circ}~$ 9% of visitors requested a visitor guide
- 43% of visitors considered choosing other destinations when planning their trips







• Over 4 in 5 visitors used websites and apps to plan their trips to the Fort Myers area

 $_{\circ}$ Top websites and apps used to plan their trips include¹:

			Gmail Images
		Google	
	٩		¢
		Google Search I'm Feeling Lucky	
usiness	How Search works		Privacy T

31% Search Engines



30% Airline Websites/Apps



21% Airbnb, VRBO, HomeAway, or similar websites

¹Multiple responses permitted.





TOP TRIP INFLUENCES

• Visitors were heavily **influenced** by the following when choosing where to vacation¹:



91% Peaceful/relaxing



87% A safe destination



86% Warm weather

86% White Sandy Beaches

¹Top 2 box scores. Attributes rated on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is Not at All Influential and 5 is Definitely Influential.



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fort MYERS ISLANDS, BEACHES • Visitors' **top reasons for visiting** the Fort Myers area include¹:



40% Beach



38% Relax & Unwind



23% Visiting Friends & Relatives

¹Three responses permitted.



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- Over 2 in 5 visitors recalled promotions in the past 6 months for the Fort Myers area
- 21% of all visitors were influenced to come to the Fort Myers area by these promotions
- $_{\odot}$ Top sources of recall include¹:



56% Internet



39% Social media



27% Traveler reviews, blogs



10% Television

¹Multiple responses permitted.



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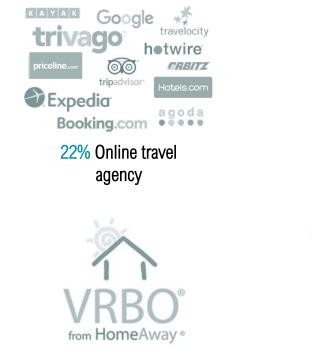


BOOKING

$_{\odot}$ Visitors used the following to book their trips:



37% Directly with hotel/condo



15% VRBO, HomeAway





7% Vacation rental company





TRANSPORTATION



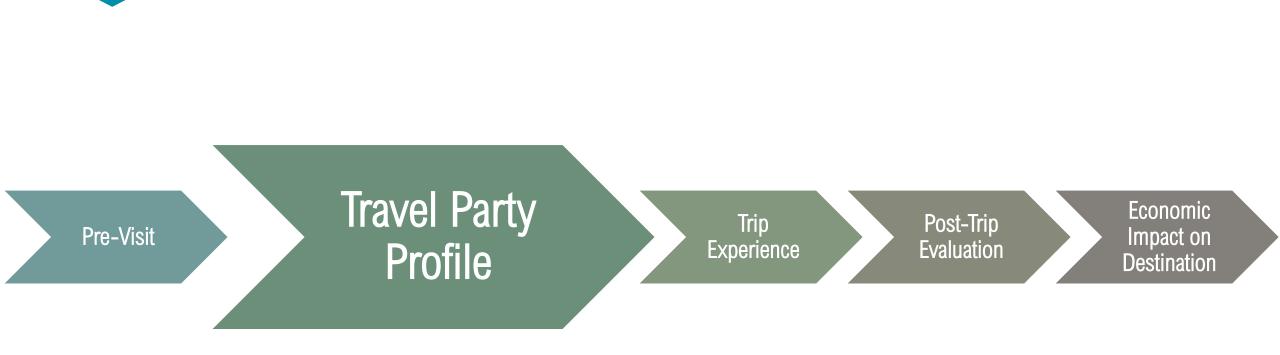
○ 78% of visitors flew to the Fort Myers area

67% of all visitors traveled to the Fort Myers area via RSW





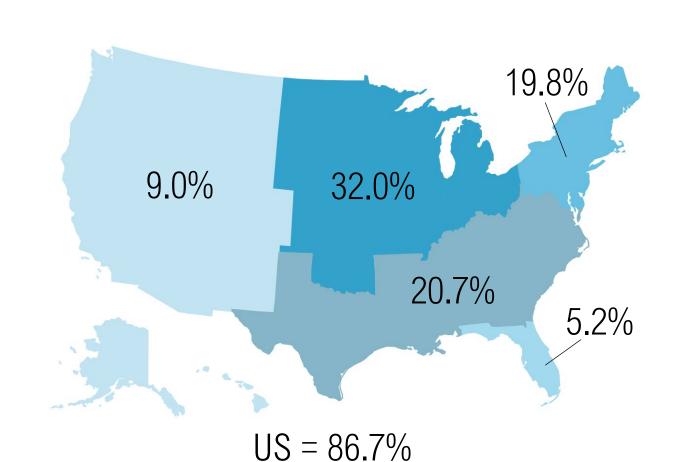
VISITOR JOURNEY: TRAVEL PARTY PROFILE

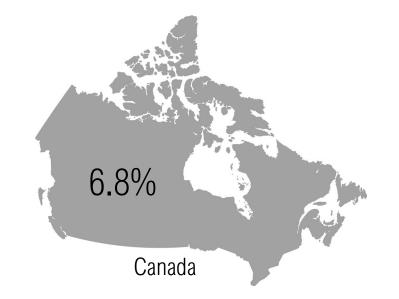






ORIGIN REGION¹





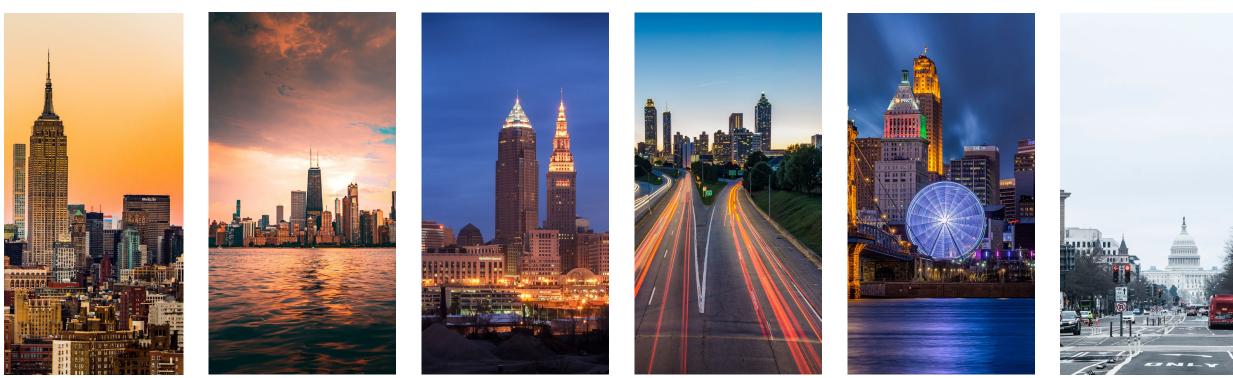
6.5% Other International Markets (Germany, UK, etc.)

¹Includes visitors who stayed in paid accommodations, VFRs, and day trippers. Based on data from the Visitor Tracking Study.

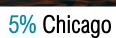




TOP ORIGIN MARKETS¹



9% New York



5% Cleveland

4% Atlanta





¹Includes visitors who stayed in paid accommodations, VFRs, and day trippers. Based on data from the Visitor Tracking Study.





TRAVEL PARTY SIZE AND COMPOSITION

• Visitors traveled in a party composed of **3.0 people**¹

◦ 44% traveled with children

 Over half of visitors traveled as a family, while over 1 in 4 traveled as a couple, 8% traveled solo, and 7% traveled with other couples/friends



¹Sources: Occupancy Study and Visitor Tracking Study



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Travel Party Profile Jul - Sep 2023



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE¹



July - Sept Visitors:

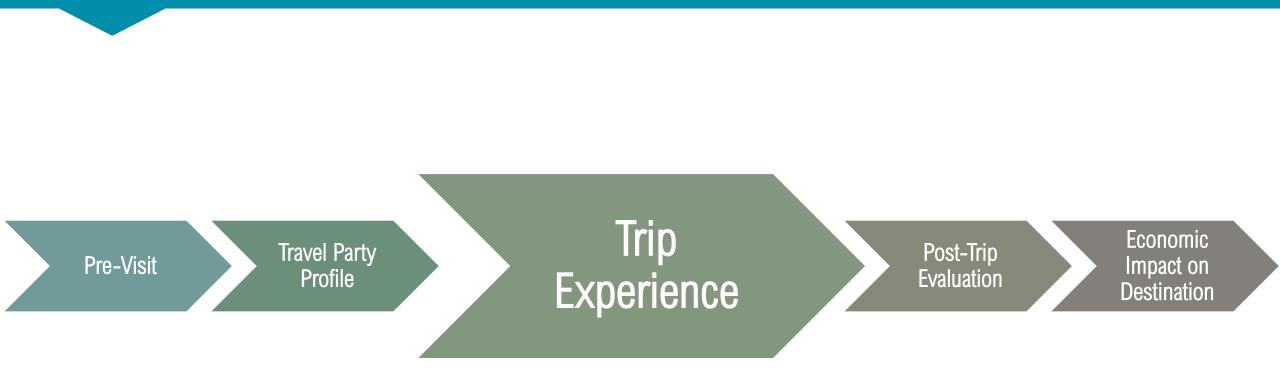
- Median age of 47 years old
- Median household income of \$105,600
- Married (73%)
- College educated (66%)
- Caucasian/white (76%)
- Female (50%)







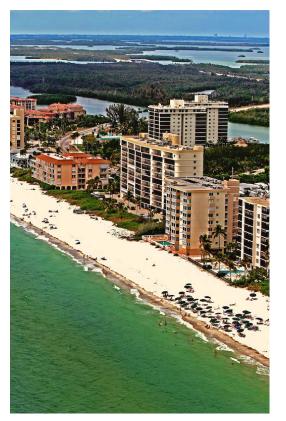
Visitor Journey: Trip Experience



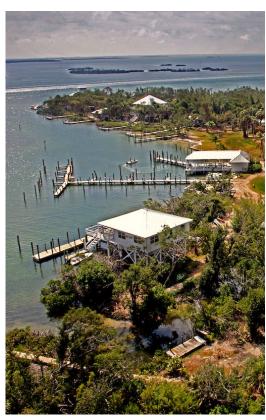




TOP ACCOMMODATIONS



32% Hotel/Motel/Resort



30% Condo/Vacation Rental



17% Personal second home, etc.



14% Staying with friends/relatives



Trip Experience Jul - Sep 2023



LENGTH OF STAY & NUMBER OF TIMES IN DESTINATION

- Visitors¹ spent an average of 5.8 nights in the Fort Myers area
- $_{\odot}$ 33% were first time visitors
- $_{\odot}$ 21% have visited more than 10 times



¹Sources: Occupancy Study and Visitor Tracking Study







VISITOR ACTIVITIES

• Top visitor activities include¹:



65% Relaxing & unwinding



58% Beach



57% Dining out



41% Shopping



35% Visit friends/relatives

¹Multiple responses permitted.







TOP ATTRACTIONS VISITED¹



53% Beaches



23% Bell Tower Shops

18% Sanibel Lighthouse



21% Gulf Coast Town Center



18% Coconut Point Mall

¹Multiple responses permitted.







TOP COMMUNITIES STAYED



34% Fort Myers



20% Cape Coral



11% Fort Myers Beach







VISITOR JOURNEY: POST-TRIP EVALUATION







SATISFACTION



- 91% of visitors are likely to recommend the area
 - 51% are very likely to recommend
- 87% of visitors are likely to return
 - $_{\circ}~~53\%$ are very likely to return
- 77% of visitors are likely to return next year
 - $_{\circ}~$ 45% are very likely to return next year





SATISFACTION



- 94% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with their overall visit to the Fort Myers area (56% were very satisfied)
- 93% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with customer service on their visit (59% were very satisfied)
- 92% of visitors said paid accommodations at least met their expectations (41% said they exceeded expectations)





 \rightarrow Visitors gave the highest ratings to the following destination attributes¹:



96% Peaceful/relaxing



95% A safe destination



94% Warm weather

¹Top 2 box scores. Attributes rated on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is Poor and 5 is Excellent.



Post-Trip Evaluation Jul - Sep 2023



VISITOR CONCERNS¹

- Over 1 in 4 visitors mentioned the remaining damage to buildings, signs, and landscapes
- Nearly 1 in 4 visitors mentioned traffic as their least favorite part of their visit
- Over 1 in 4 visitors had no concerns at all about the destination









AREA DESCRIPTIONS

Peaceful/Relaxing



"Perfect place to vacation with great weather, beautiful landscapes, and family oriented."



Safe Destination



"A wonderful, safe, and affordable place to visit. Amazing restaurants and variety of entertainment."



Post-Trip Evaluation

Jul - Sep 2023

Warm Weather

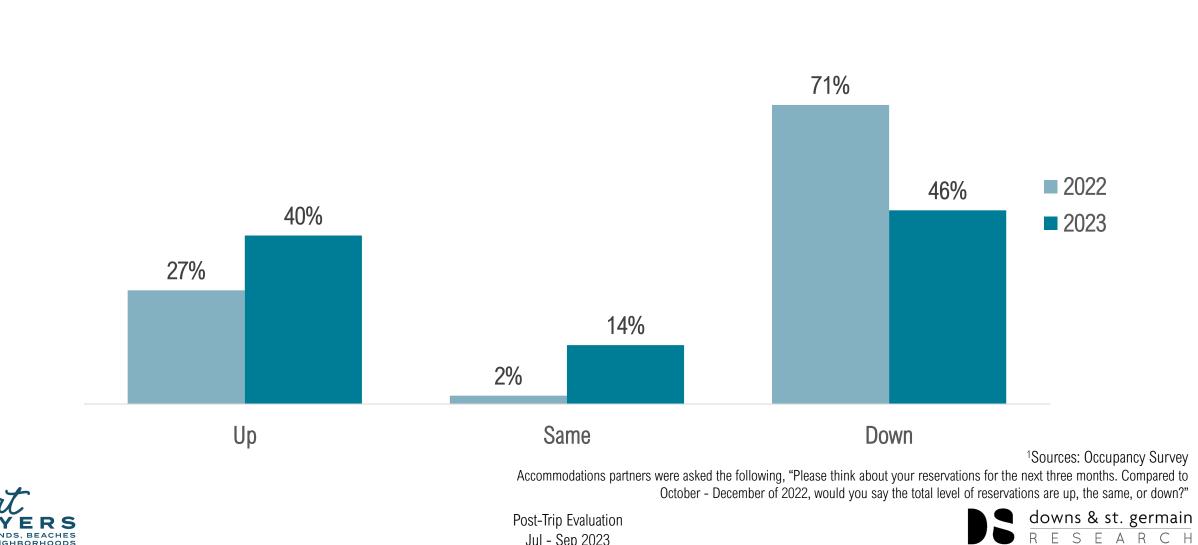


"Still a very beautiful area to visit, with beautiful coastlines, great weather, and plenty of sunshine."



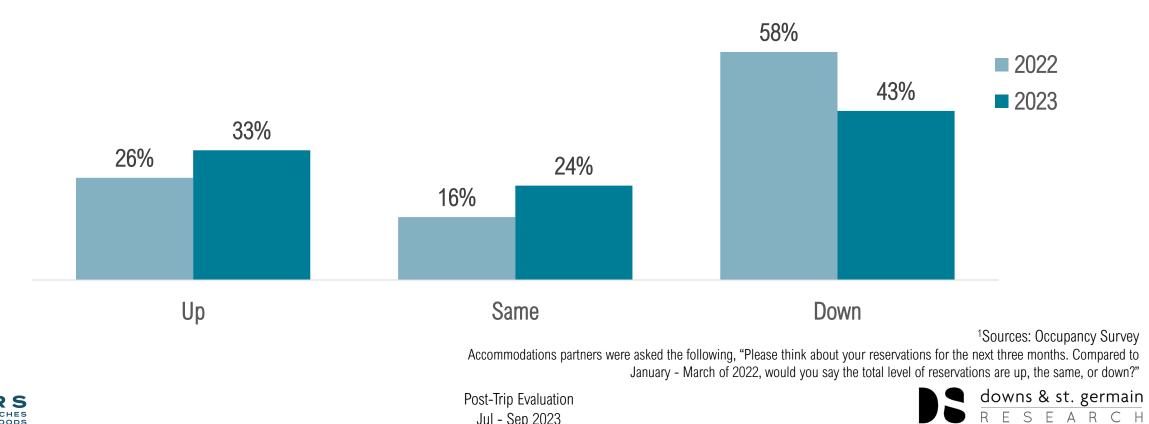


OCCUPANCY BAROMETER¹: OCT - DEC RESERVATIONS



Jul - Sep 2023

OCCUPANCY BAROMETER¹: JAN - MAR RESERVATIONS





Post-Trip Evaluation Jul - Sep 2023

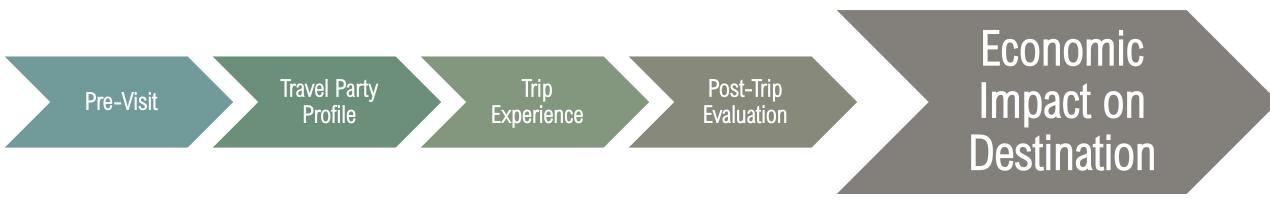
Detailed Findings







VISITOR JOURNEY: ECONOMIC IMPACT ON DESTINATION







NUMBER OF VISITORS



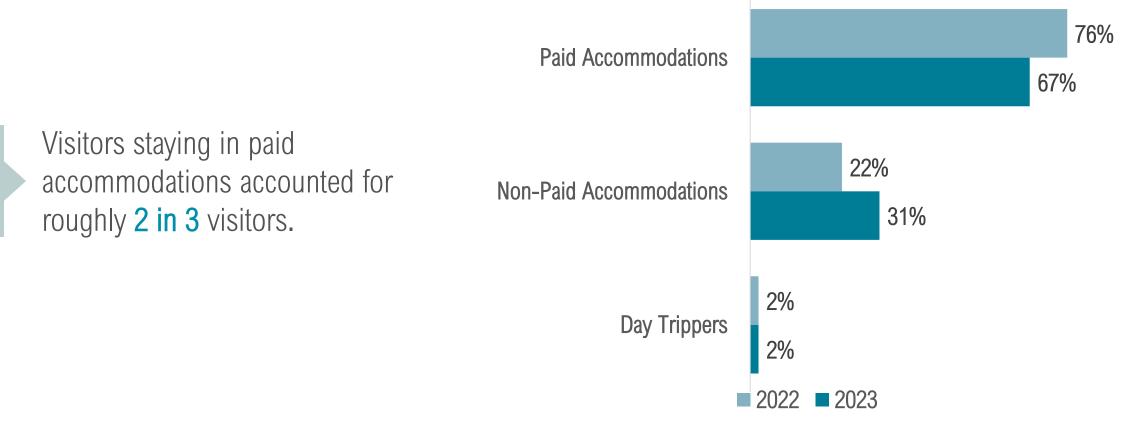
¹Sources: Visitor Tracking Study & Occupancy Survey



Economic Impact on Destination Jul - Sep 2023



VISITOR TYPE







VISITOR EXPENDITURES BY VISITOR TYPE

\$584,185,900 in the Fort Myers area,

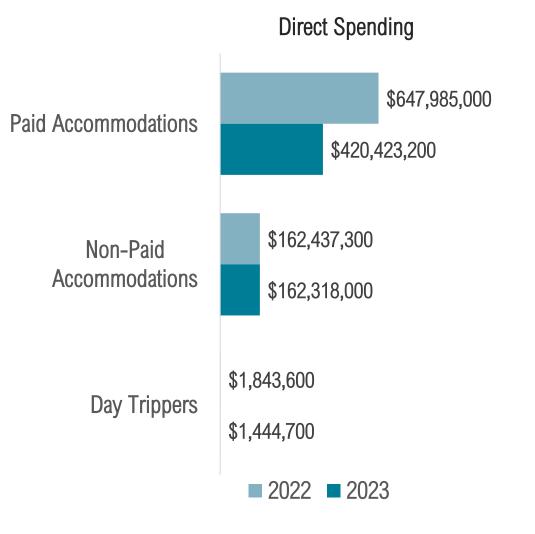
resulting in a total economic impact

of **\$935,281,600**, down 27.7% from

July - Sept visitors spent

2022.

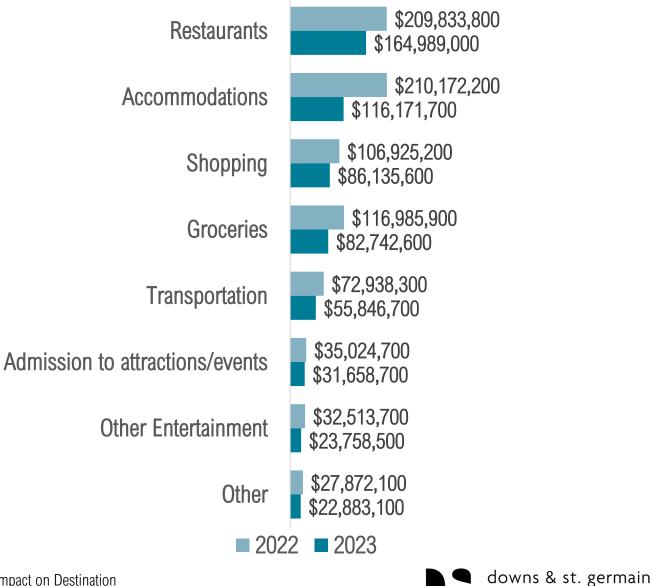
Visitors staying in paid accommodations accounted for 67% of all visitors and 72% of all spending.





VISITOR EXPENDITURES BY SPENDING CATEGORY

Of the **\$584,185,900** visitors spent in the Fort Myers area, 28% was spent on **restaurants** and 20% was spent on **accommodations**, accounting for **nearly half of all visitor spending**.





ARCH

VISITOR EXPENDITURES BY LODGING TYPE

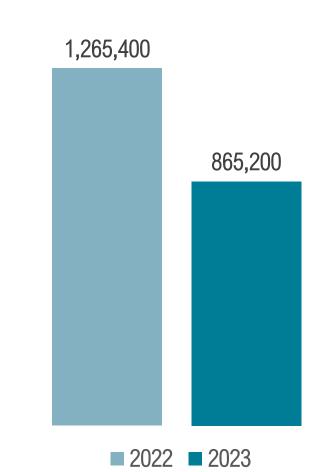






ROOM NIGHTS GENERATED

July - Sept visitors spent 865,200¹ nights in Fort Myers area hotels, resorts, condos, rental houses, RV parks, etc. (-31.6% from 2022).



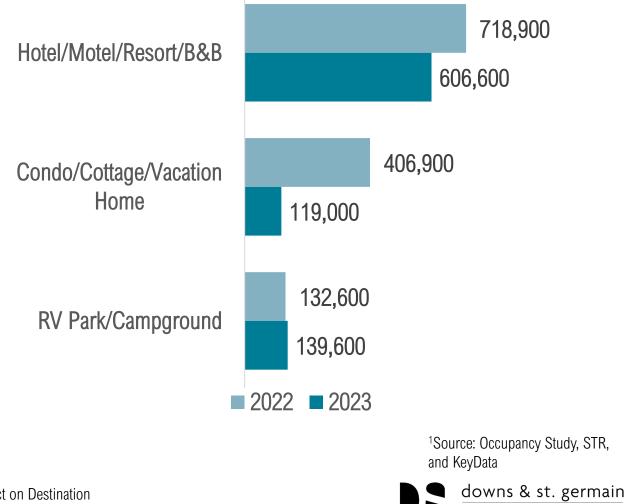


¹Source: Occupancy Study, STR, and KeyData



ROOM NIGHTS GENERATED

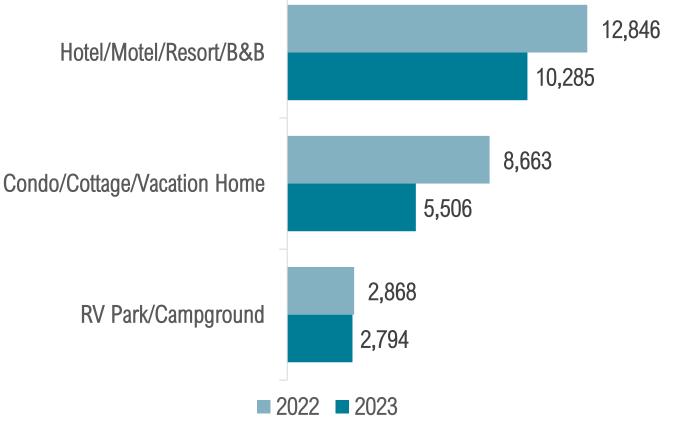
Hotels, motels, etc. accounted for 7 in 10 room nights spent in the Fort Myers area, while vacation rentals and RV parks/campgrounds accounted for the remaining 3 in 10 nights visitors spent in the area.





SEARCH

AVAILABLE UNITS



There were **18,585**¹ available units in July - Sept 2023 vs. 24,376 in 2022 (-23.8%). Over half of the units available were from hotels, motels, etc.

¹Source: Occupancy Study, STR, and KeyData



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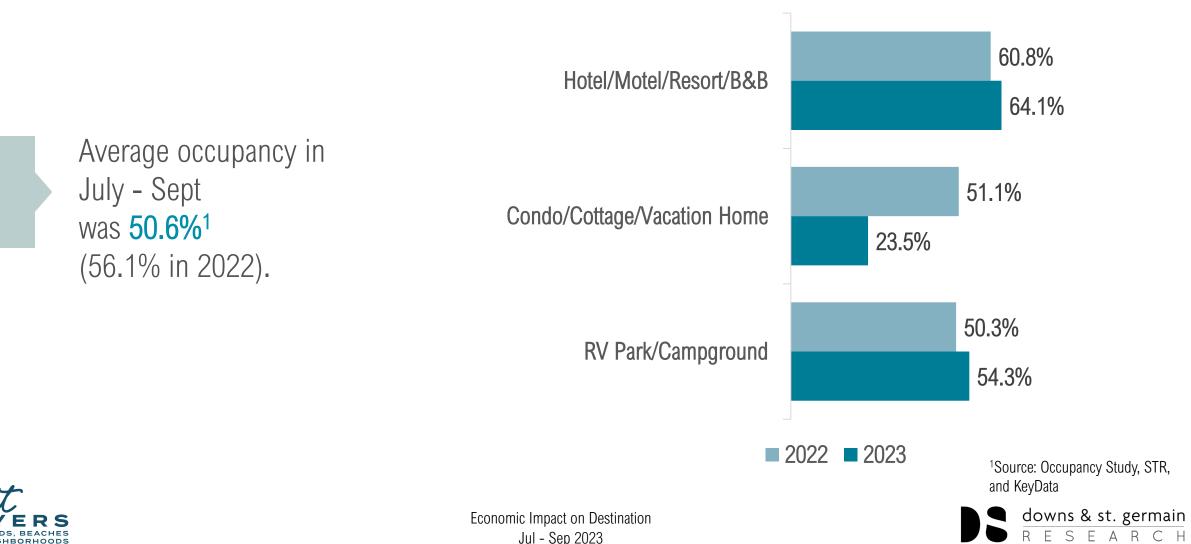


& NEIGHBORHOODS

Economic Impact on Destination Jul - Sep 2023

OCCUPANCY

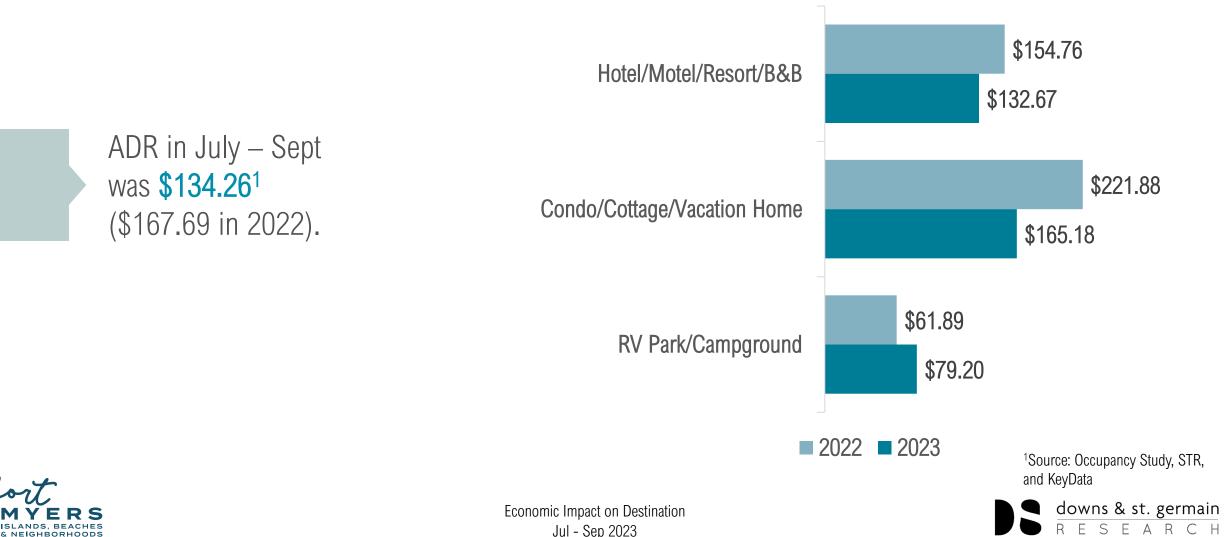
& NEIGHBORHOODS



Jul - Sep 2023

ADR

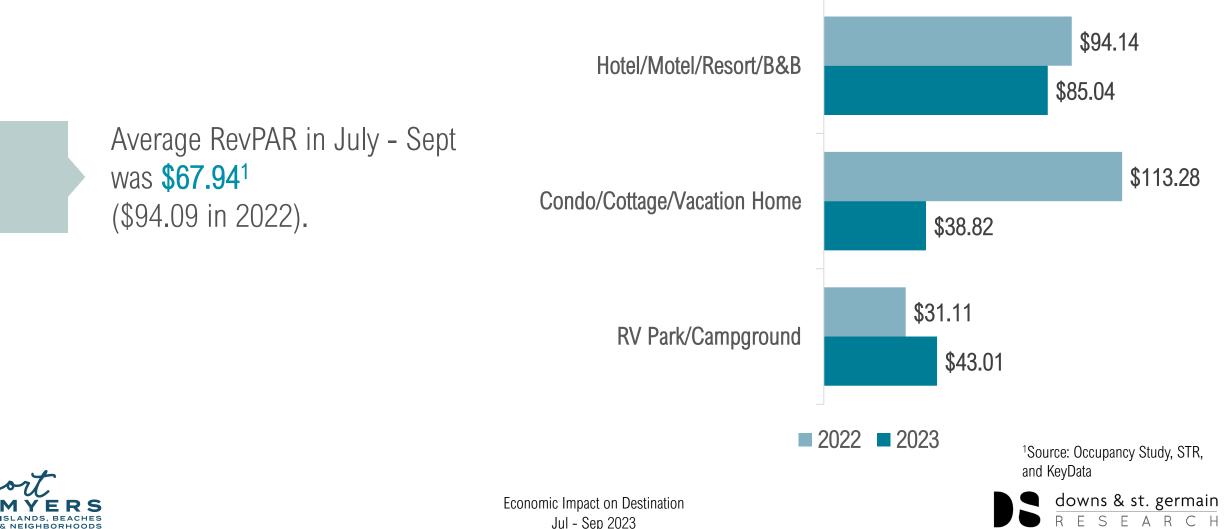
& NEIGHBORHOODS



Jul - Sep 2023

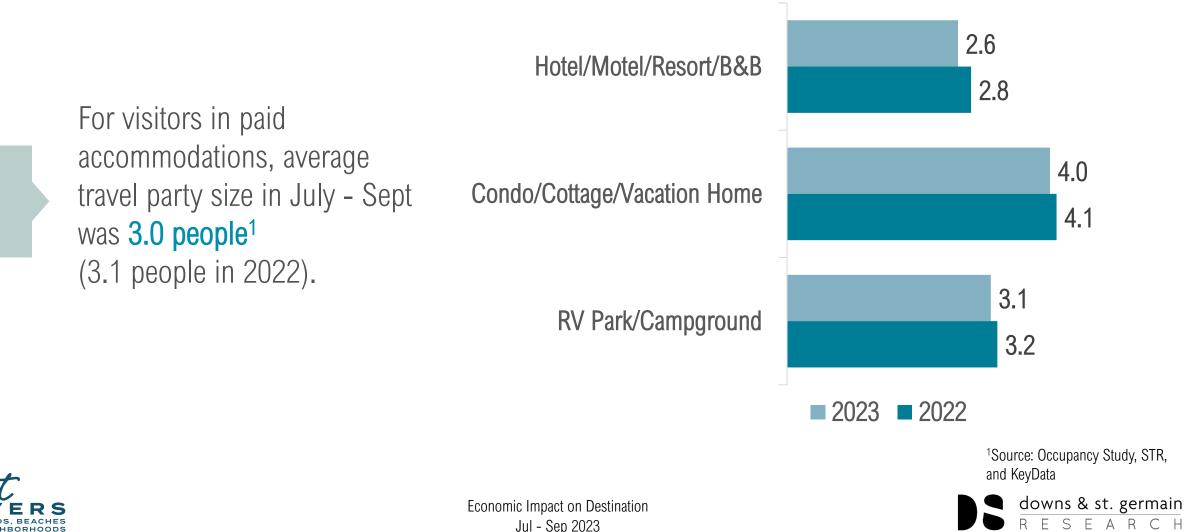
REVPAR

& NEIGHBORHOODS



Jul - Sep 2023

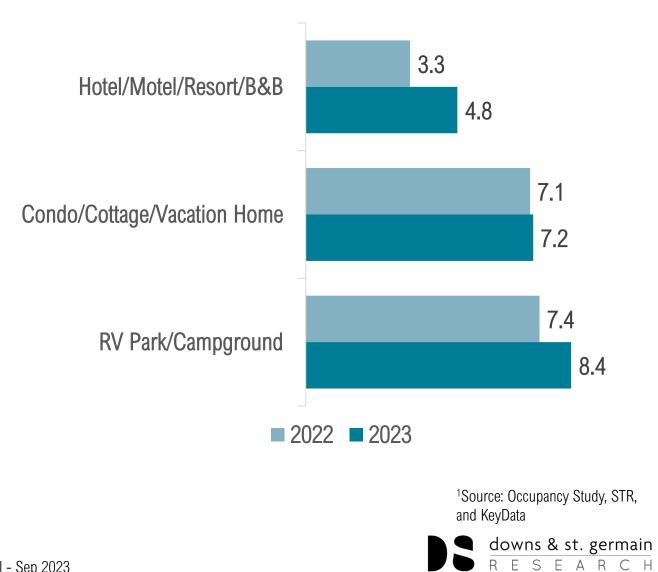
TRAVEL PARTY SIZE



LENGTH OF STAY



For visitors in paid accommodations, average length of stay in July - Sept was 5.8 nights¹ (5.0 nights in 2022).





Visitor Journey: Pre-Visit



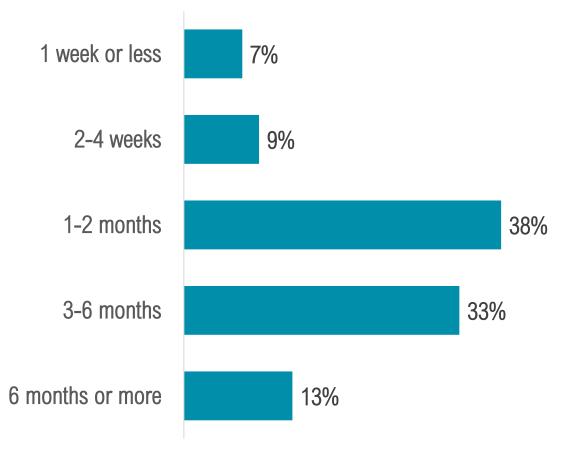




TRIP PLANNING CYCLE

Over 4 in 5 visitors planned their trip more than 1 month in advance, while nearly 2 in 5 visitors planned their trip 1-2 months in advance.









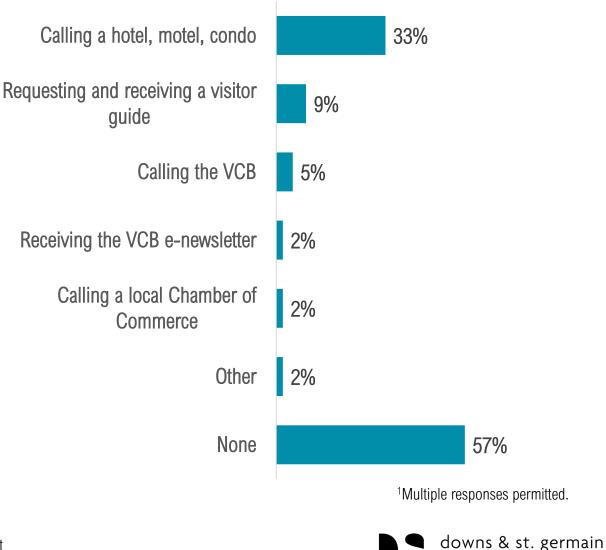
TRIP PLANNING: INFORMATION REQUESTS¹

Over 2 in 5 visitors made information requests while planning their trip to the Fort Myers area.

Visitors who sought information prior to their trips were most likely to rely on **lodging properties** for that information.



The share of visitors requesting information in Q3 2023 was lower than in Q3 2022.





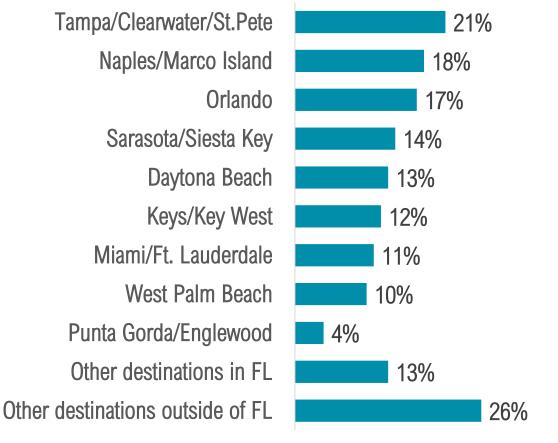
ARCH

Most alternate destinations considered were in Florida.



Over **1** in **4** visitors considered destinations outside of Florida.

BASE: 43% of visitors who considered other destinations





Pre-Visit Jul - Sep 2023 ¹Multiple responses permitted.



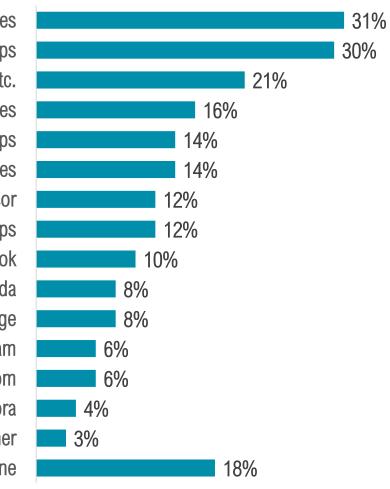
TRIP PLANNING: WEBSITES/APPS USED¹

Over 4 in 5 visitors used **websites and apps** to plan their trip to the Fort Myers area.

Visitors were most likely to use **airline websites/apps** or **online search engines** to plan their trips.

Over 1 in 5 visitors used Airbnb, VRBO, HomeAway, or similar websites to plan their trips.

Online search engines Airline websites/apps Airbnb, VRBO, HomeAway etc. Booking websites Vacation rental websites/apps Traveler reviews, blogs, stories Trip Advisor Hotel websites/apps Facebook Visit Florida VCB Facebook Page Instagram 6% www.VisitFortMyers.com 6% YouTube, Hulu, Pandora 4% Other 3% None



¹Multiple responses permitted.

downs & st. germain

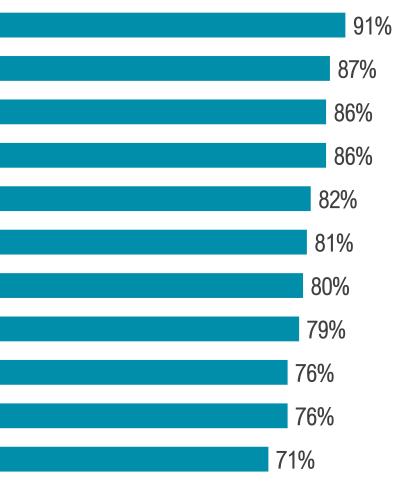
EARCH



TRIP INFLUENCES¹

Visitors were heavily influenced by the **peacefulness, safety, warm weather,** and **white sandy beaches** in the Fort Myers area when thinking about visiting.

Peaceful/relaxing A safe destination Warm weather White sandy beaches Plenty to see and do Clean, unspoiled environment A "family" atmosphere **Convenient** location Value for your travel dollar Memories of past visits/nostalgia Reasonably priced lodging



¹Top 2 box scores. Attributes rated on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is Not at All Influential and 5 is Definitely Influential.



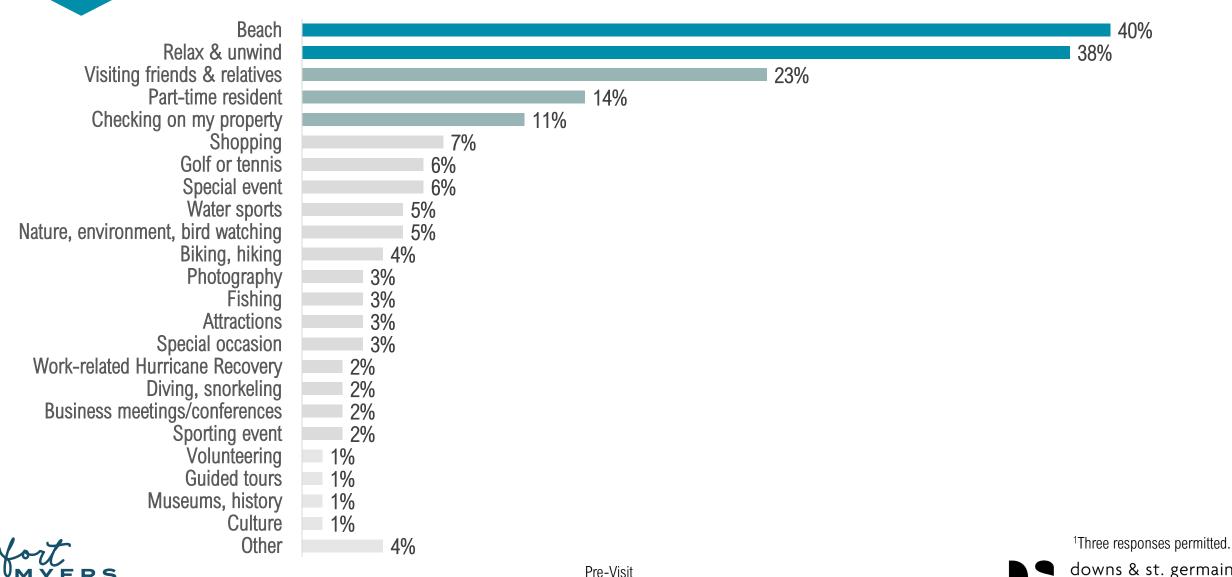


Pre-Visit Jul - Sep 2023

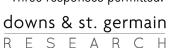
REASON FOR VISITING¹

ISLANDS, BEACHES

& NEIGHBORHOODS



Jul - Sep 2023



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PROMOTIONS RECALL¹

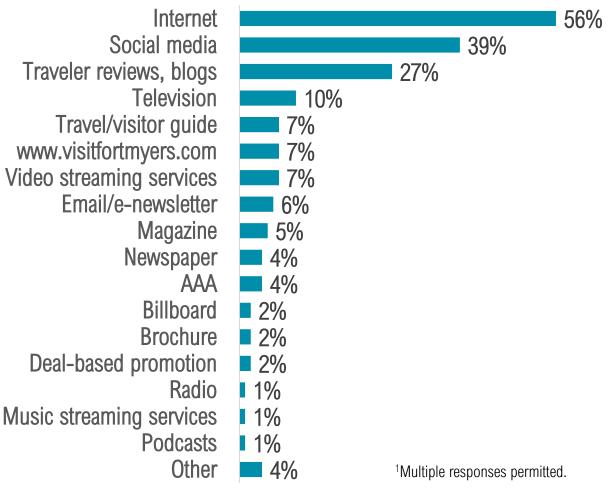


43% of visitors **recalled promotions** in the past 6 months for the Fort Myers area.

This influenced **21%** of all visitors to come to the Fort Myers area.

BASE: 43% of visitors who recalled promotions

Source of Promotion





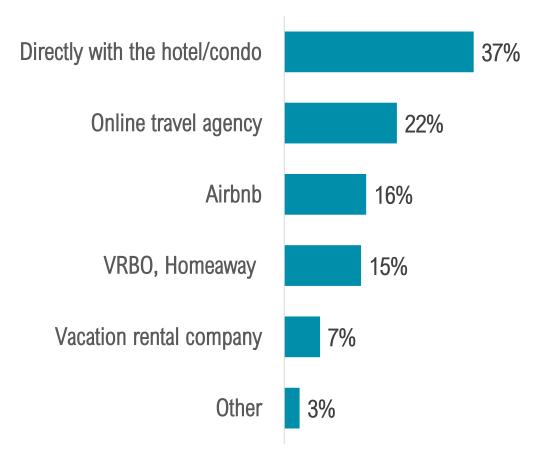
Pre-Visit Jul - Sep 2023 downs & st. germain

S

EARCH

BOOKING

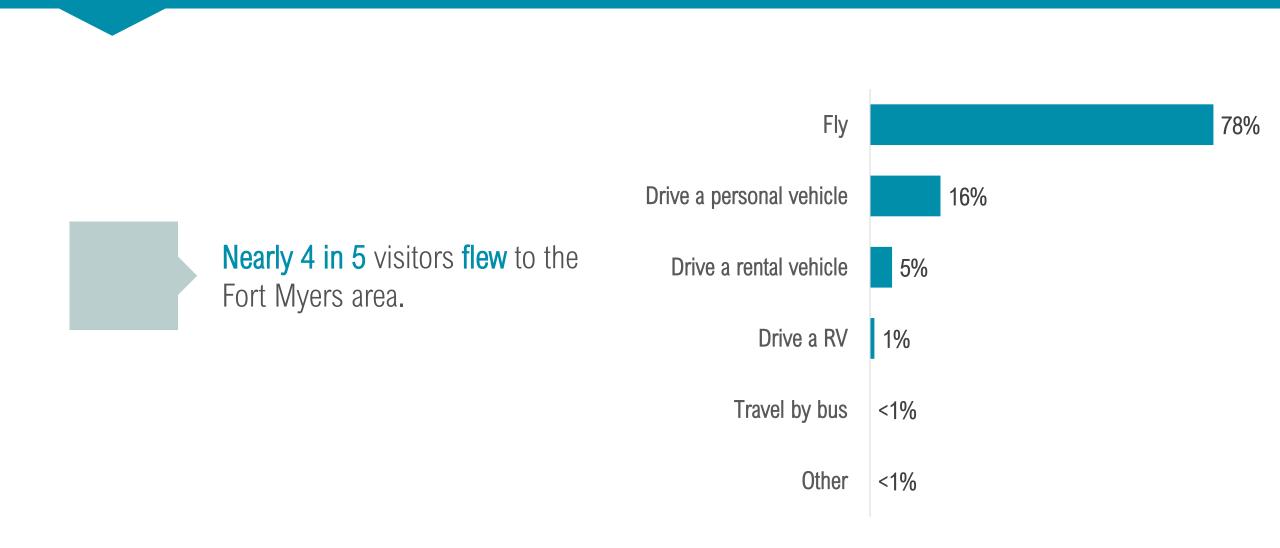






Pre-Visit Jul - Sep 2023 downs & st. germain R E S E A R C H

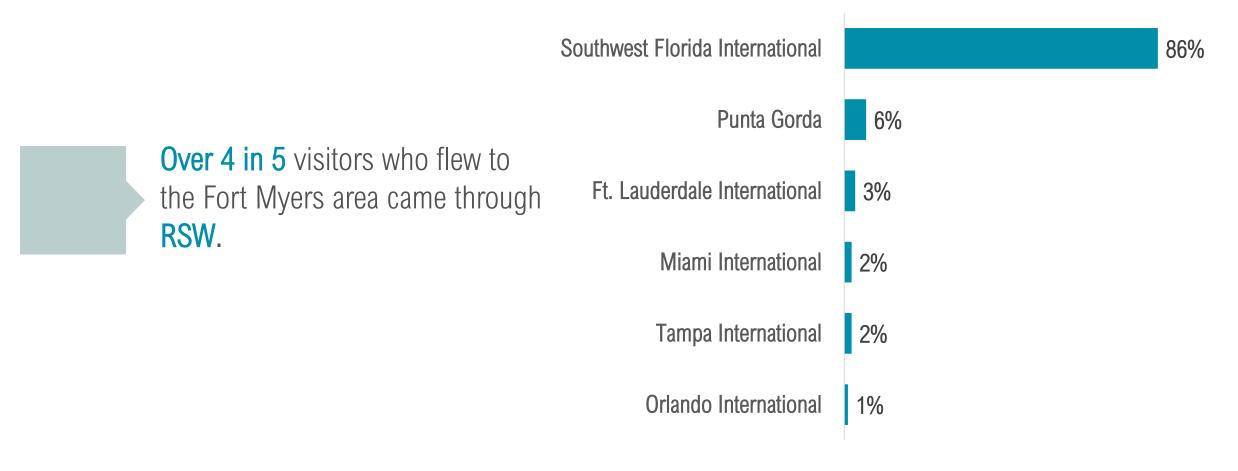
TRANSPORTATION





AIRPORT

BASE: 78% of visitors who flew

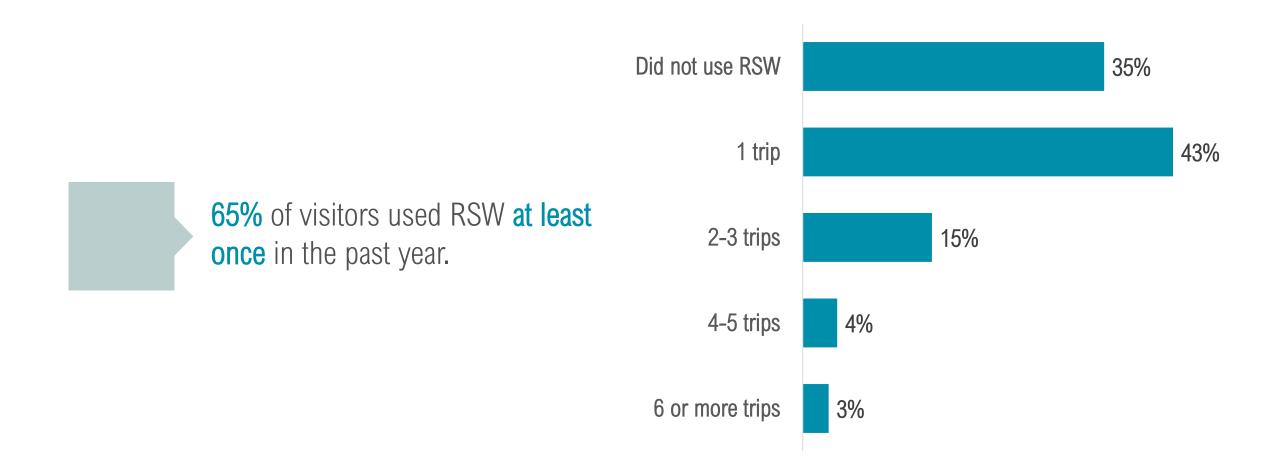




Pre-Visit Jul - Sep 2023



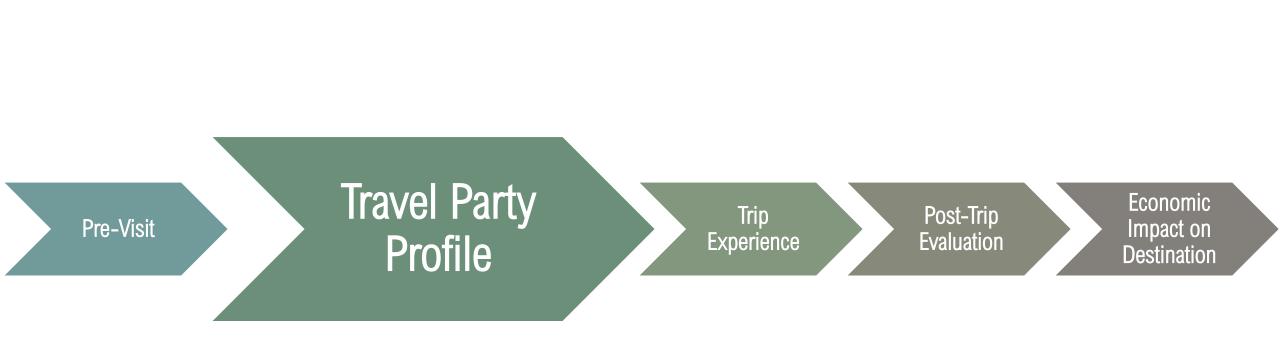
USE OF RSW IN THE PAST YEAR







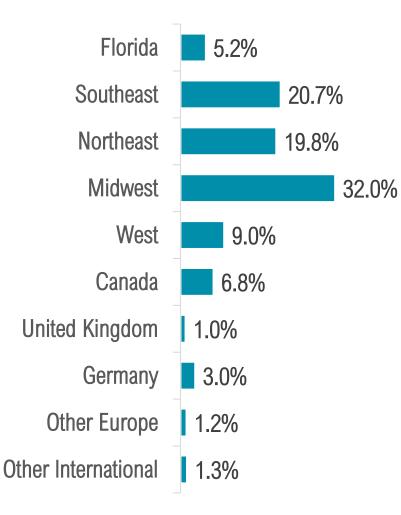
VISITOR JOURNEY: TRAVEL PARTY PROFILE

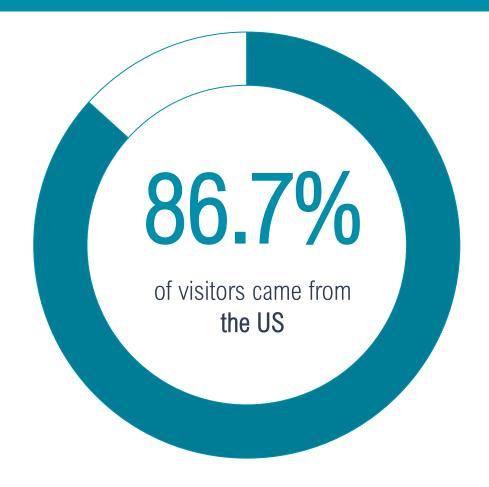






ORIGIN¹





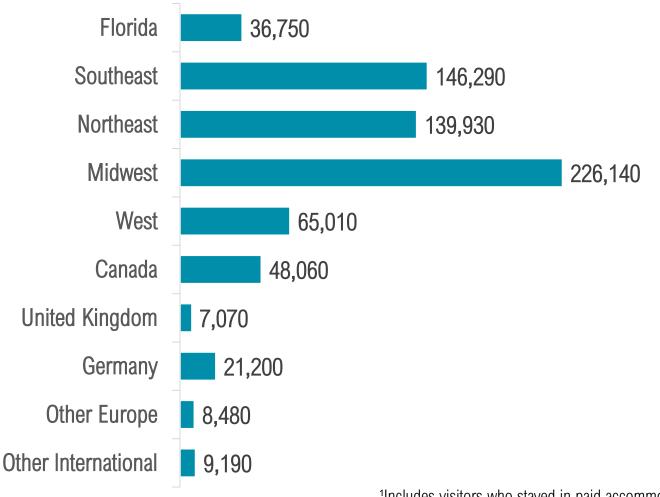
¹Includes visitors who stayed in paid accommodations, VFRs, and day trippers. Based on data from the Visitor Tracking Study.



Travel Party Profile Jul - Sep 2023



NUMBER OF VISITORS BY ORIGIN¹

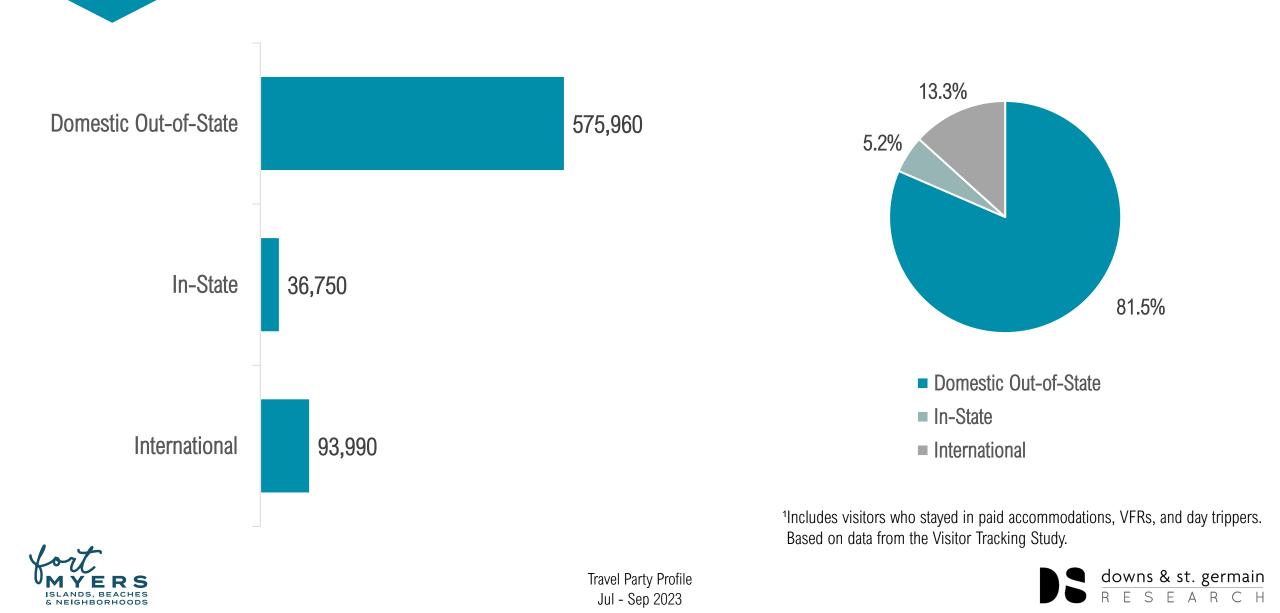




Travel Party Profile Jul - Sep 2023 ¹Includes visitors who stayed in paid accommodations, VFRs, and day trippers. Based on data from the Visitor Tracking Study.



NUMBER OF VISITORS BY ORIGIN



ORIGIN MARKETS¹

Market ²	Percentage of Visitors
NEW YORK	9%
CHICAGO	5%
CLEVELAND - AKRON	5%
ATLANTA	4%
CINCINNATI	3%
WASHINGTON, DC - HAGERSTOWN	3%
DENVER	2%
DES MOINES - AMES	2%
DETROIT	2%
HARTFORD - NEW HAVEN	2%
HOUSTON	2%
INDIANAPOLIS	2%
LOUISVILLE	2%
NASHVILLE	2%
PITTSBURGH	2%





¹Includes visitors who stayed in paid accommodations, VFRs, and day trippers. ²Based on data from the Visitor Tracking Study.



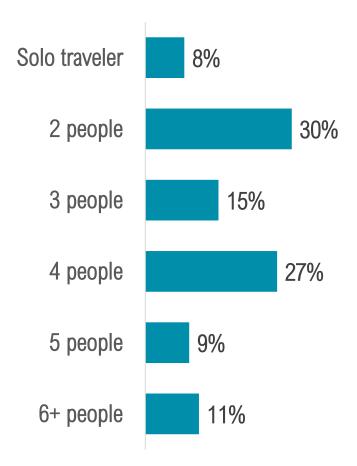
Travel Party Profile Jul - Sep 2023

TRAVEL PARTY SIZE AND COMPOSITION



Travel Party Size Visitors traveled in a party composed of **3.0**¹ people.

Travel with Children 44% of visitors traveled with children under the age of 18.



¹Sources: Occupancy Study and Visitor Tracking Study

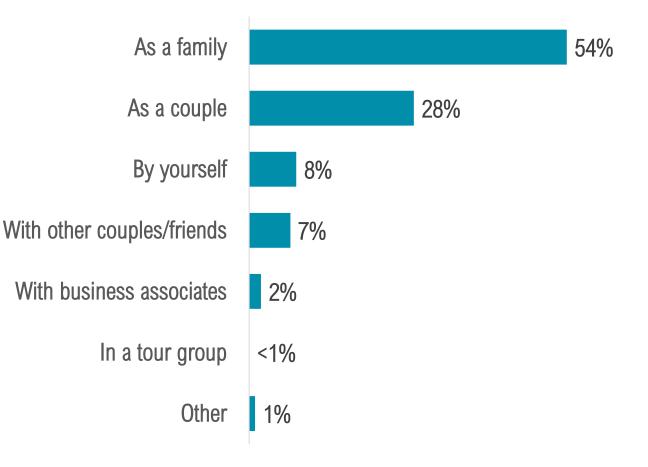


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TRAVEL PARTY TYPE

Over half of visitors traveled as a family, while over 1 in 4 traveled as a couple, and roughly 1 in 13 visitors traveled with other couples/friends or by themself.







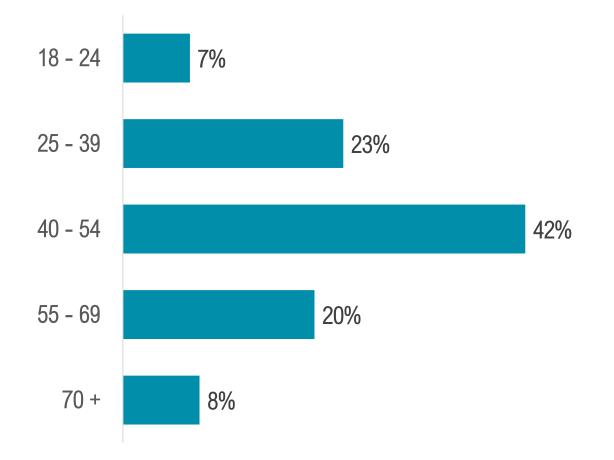
AGE



Average Age

The average age of July – Sept visitors was **50 years old.**

Median Age The median age of July - Sept visitors was **47 years old**.

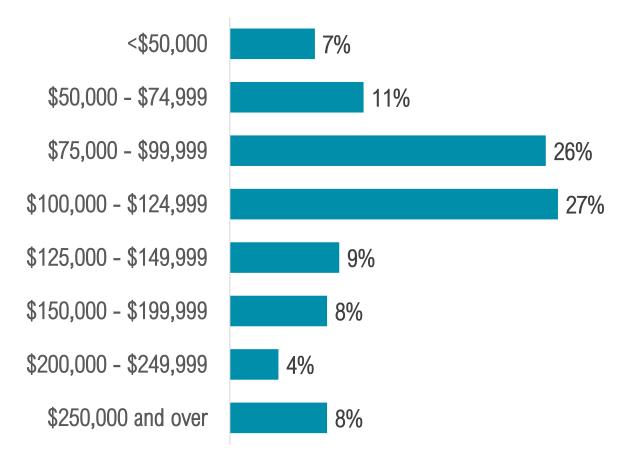




HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Median Household Income July - Sept visitors had a median household income of **\$105,600**.

12% of visitors had a household income in excess of **\$200,000**.

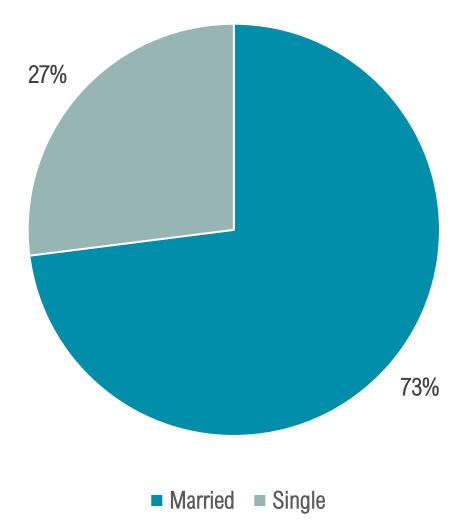








MARITAL STATUS





Travel Party Profile Jul - Sep 2023



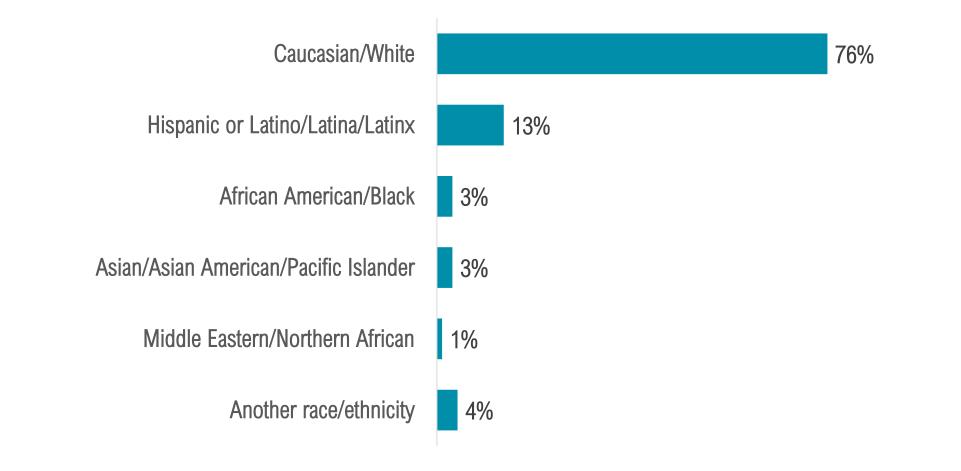
EDUCATION







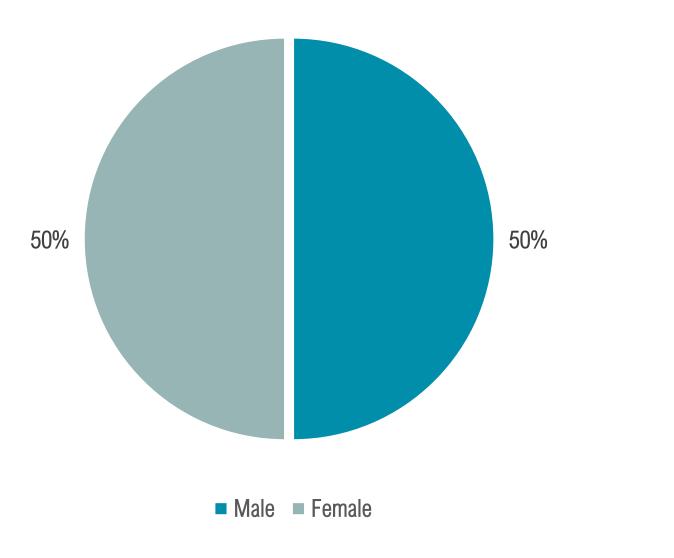
RACE/ETHNICITY









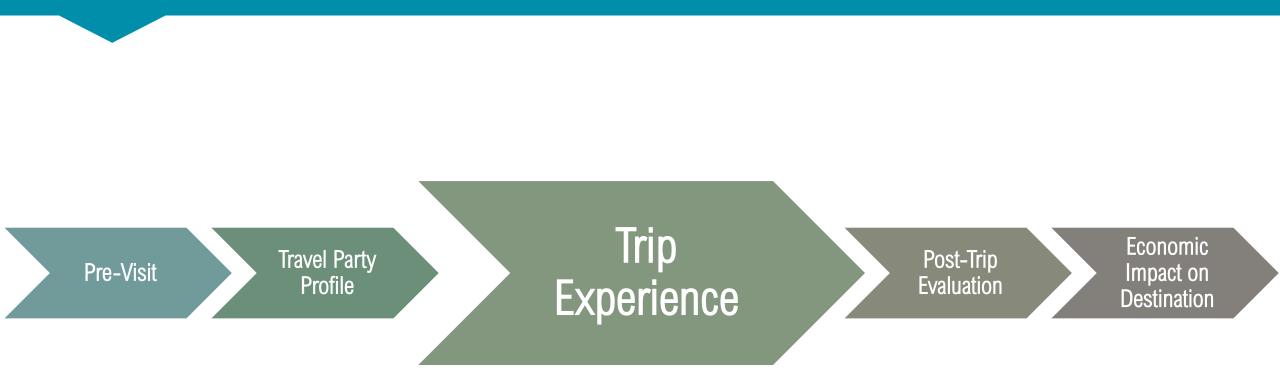




Travel Party Profile Jul - Sep 2023 ¹Gender of person interviewed.



VISITOR JOURNEY: TRIP EXPERIENCE







ACCOMMODATIONS





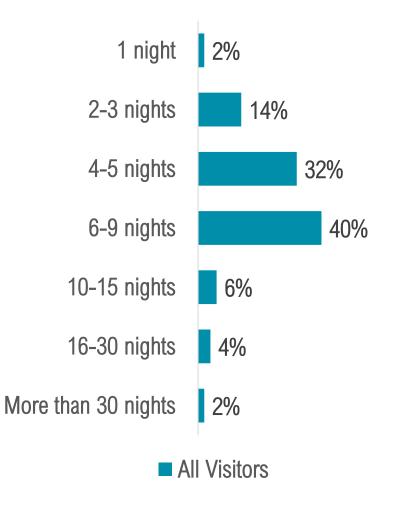
NIGHTS STAYED

All Visitors Visitors spent an average of **5.8¹ nights** in the Fort Myers area.

Visitors Staying in Paid Accommodations

Visitors staying in paid accommodations spent an average of **5.5² nights** in the Fort Myers area.

¹Sources: Occupancy Study and Visitor Tracking Study ²Source: Occupancy Study



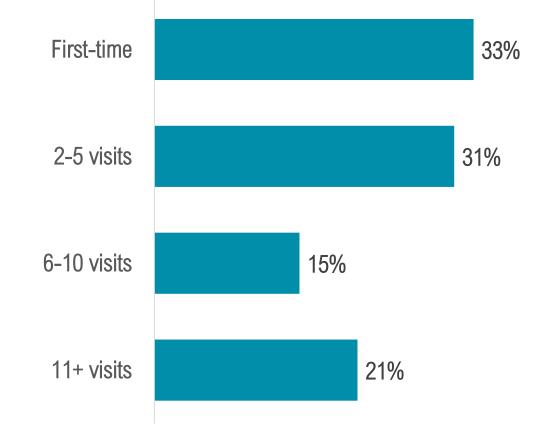




FIRST TIME AND EXPERIENCED VISITORS



1 in 3 visitors were visiting for the first time, while over 1 in 5 were highly loyal visitors, having visited more than 10 times.

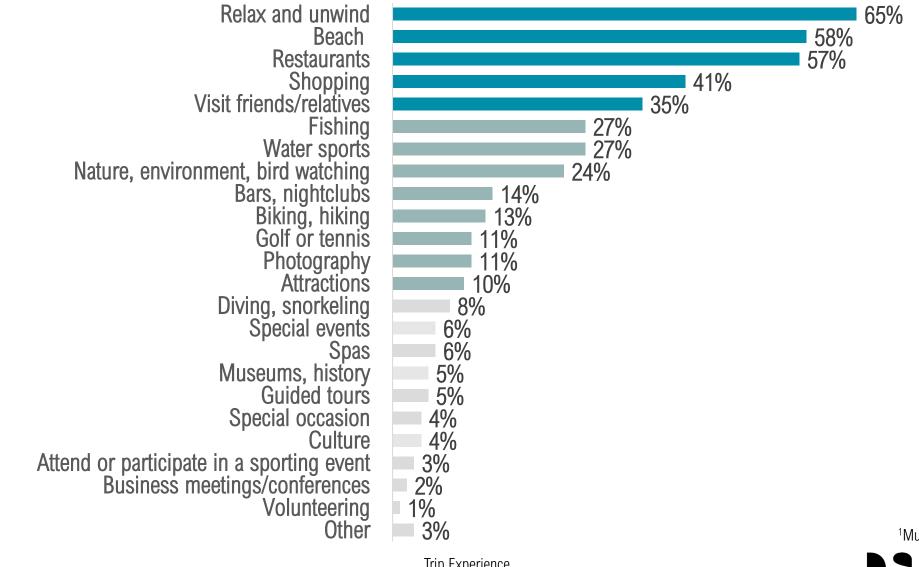








VISITOR ACTIVITIES¹



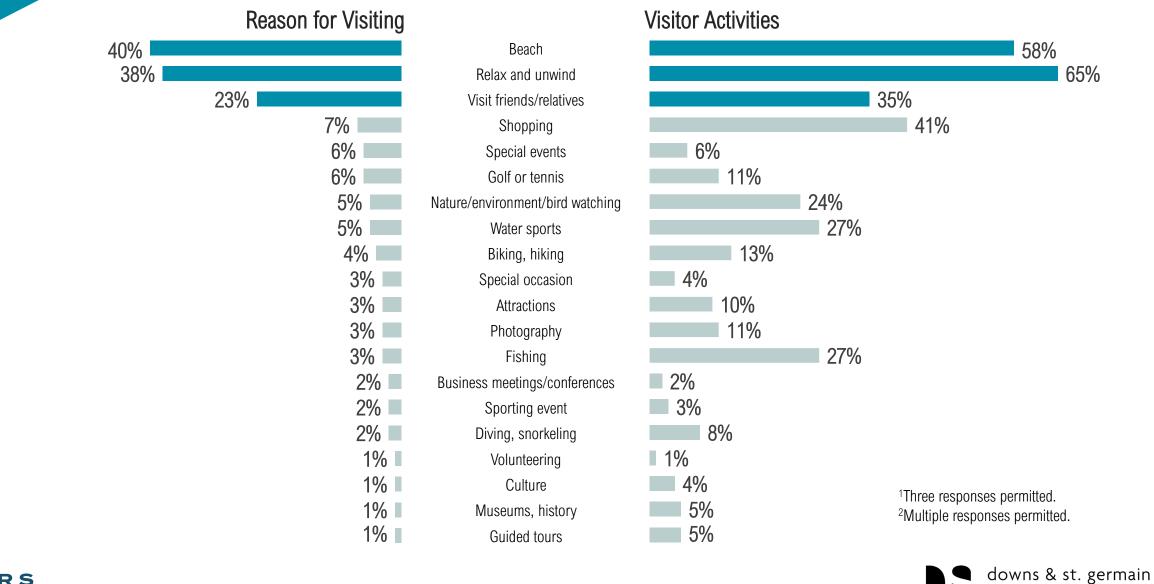


Trip Experience Jul - Sep 2023 ¹Multiple responses permitted. downs & st. germain

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ESEARCH

REASON FOR VISITING¹ VS. VISITOR ACTIVITIES²







ESEARCH

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ATTRACTIONS VISITED¹

Beaches	
Bell Tower Shops	23%
Gulf Coast Town Center	21%
Sanibel Lighthouse	18%
Coconut Point Mall	18%
Edison & Ford Winter Estates	16%
Fort Myers Beach Pier	14% ²
Miromar Outlets Mall	14%
Shell Factory and Nature Park	10%
Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum	9%
J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge	7%
Broadway Palm Dinner Theater	2%
Manatee Park	2%
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall	1%
Sanibel Outlets	0% - Closed ³
Periwinkle Place	0% - Closed ³
Other	<1%
None	13%



Trip Experience Jul - Sep 2023 ¹Multiple responses permitted. ²Represents visitors who spent time on the beach area near where the pier was. ³Closed due to Hurricane Ian.

53%



COMMUNITY STAYED

Fort Myers	34%
Cape Coral	20%
Fort Myers Beach	11%
Bonita Springs	8%
Estero	7%
Captiva Island	6%
Sanibel Island	3%
Lehigh Acres	3%
North Fort Myers	3%
Along I-75	2%
Boca Grande/Outer Islands	1%
Pine Island	<1%
None/not staying overnight	2%



Trip Experience Jul - Sep 2023



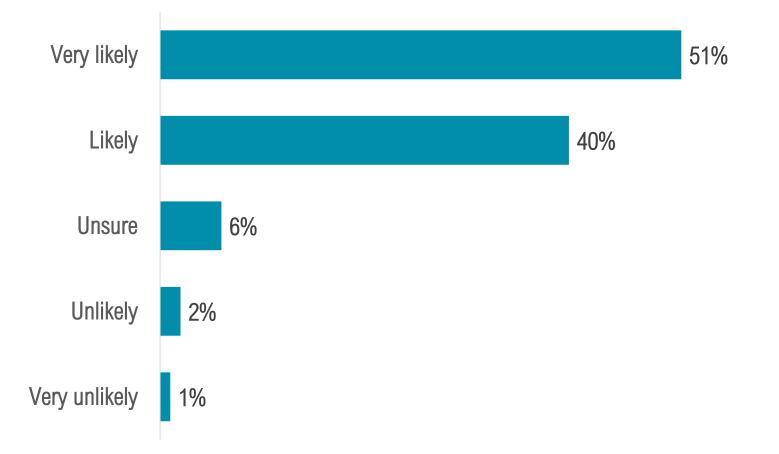
VISITOR JOURNEY: POST-TRIP EVALUATION







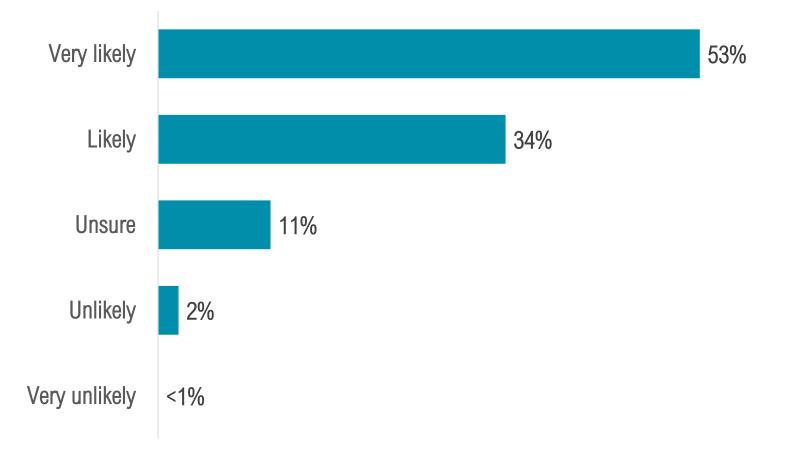
LIKELIHOOD OF RECOMMENDING THE AREA







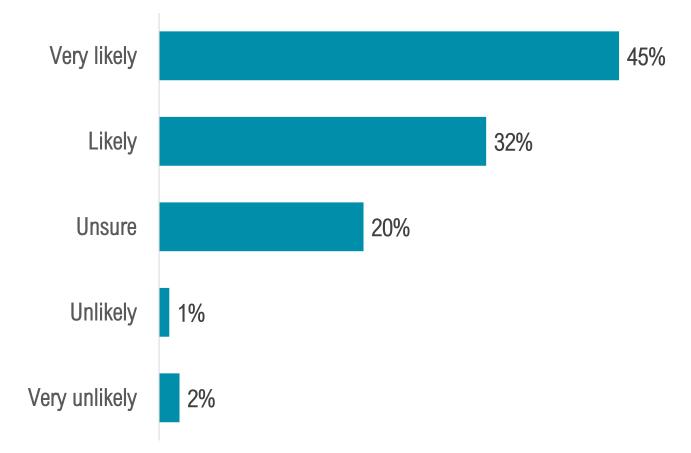
LIKELIHOOD OF RETURNING TO THE AREA







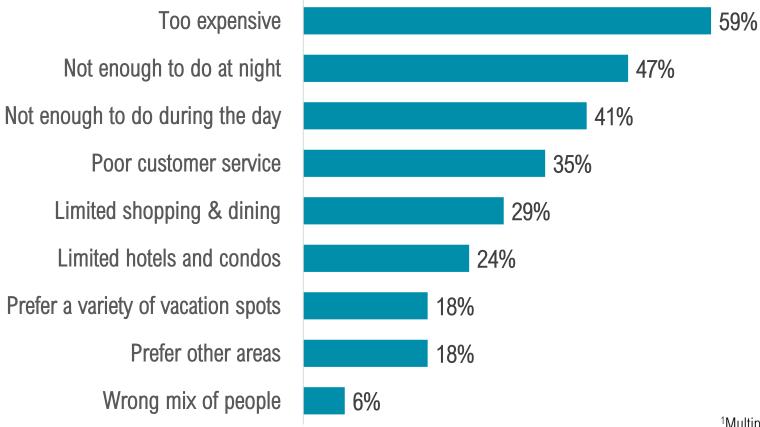
LIKELIHOOD OF RETURNING NEXT YEAR







REASONS FOR NOT RETURNING¹

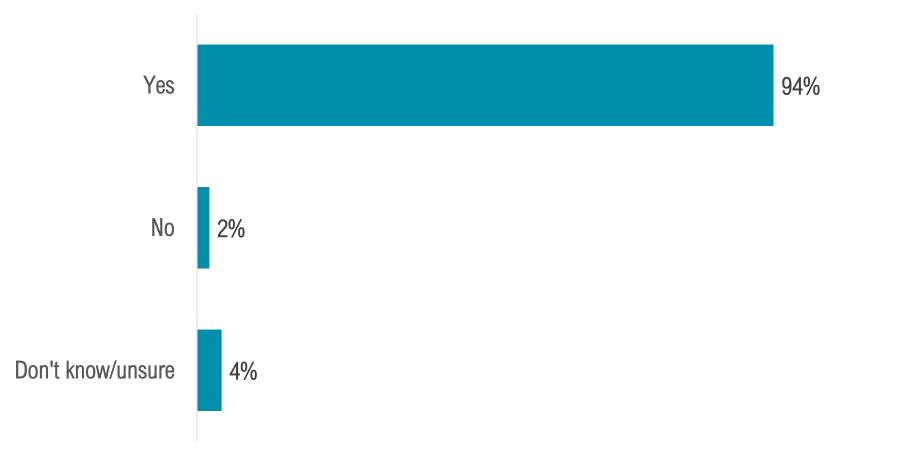


¹Multiple responses permitted. Only asked of respondents who said they were "very unlikely" or "unlikely" to return to the area which represents only 3% of all visitors.





FEELING OF WELCOMENESS





Post-Trip Evaluation Jul - Sep 2023



CROSSTABULATIONS: LIKELIHOOD OF RECOMMENDING¹

	First Time Visitors		Repeat	Repeat Visitors		Domestic Visitors		isitors
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Very Likely	86%	45%	070/	53%	53% 40%	52%	94%	51%
Likely	00%	36%	97%	40%		39%	94%	40%
Unsure/don't know	12%	13%	2%	5%	8%	8%	6%	6%
Unlikely	20/	4%	10/	1%	10/	<1%	00/	2%
Very Unlikely	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%

¹Survey response options were expanded from Yes/No/DK to a 5-point Likert scale to provide more detailed information.





CROSSTABULATIONS: LIKELIHOOD OF RETURNING¹

	First Time Visitors		Repeat	Repeat Visitors		Domestic Visitors		isitors
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Very Likely	750/	44%	020/	57%	59%	77%	53%	
Likely	75%	28%	93%	36%	85%	25%	11%0	35%
Unsure/don't know	22%	20%	6%	7%	12%	15%	23%	9%
Unlikely	20/	7%	10/	1%	20/	<1%	00/	3%
Very Unlikely	3%	1%	1%	<1%	3%	2%	0%	<1%

¹Survey response options were expanded from Yes/No/DK to a 5-point Likert scale to provide more detailed information.





CROSSTABULATIONS: LIKELIHOOD OF RETURNING NEXT YEAR^{1⁹⁴}

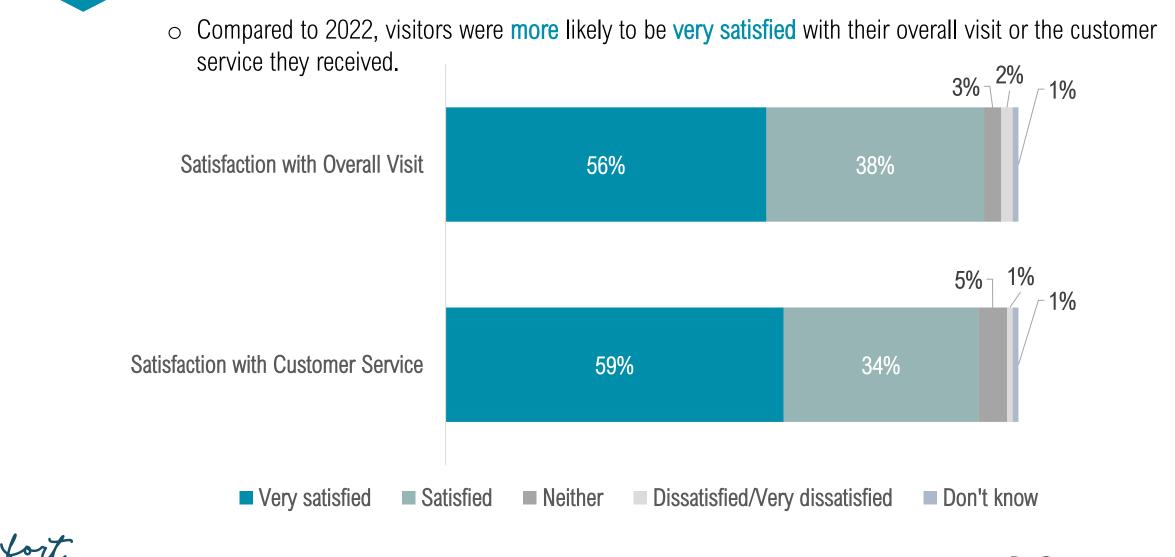
	First Time Visitors		Repeat	Repeat Visitors		Domestic Visitors		isitors
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Very Likely	200/	42%	660/	48%	60%	50%	54%	45%
Likely	38%	27%	66%	32%	00%	27%	04%	32%
Unsure/don't know	58%	23%	31%	20%	36%	23%	43%	20%
Unlikely	407	4%	20/	<1%	407	<1%	20/	1%
Very Unlikely	4%	5%	3%	1%	4%	<1%	3%	2%

¹Survey response options were expanded from Yes/No/DK to a 5-point Likert scale to provide more detailed information.





SATISFACTION



Hort MYERS ISLANDS, BEACHES & NEIGHBORHOODS

Post-Trip Evaluation Jul - Sep 2023



CROSSTABULATIONS: SATISFACTION WITH OVERALL VISIT

	First Time Visitors		Repeat	Repeat Visitors		Domestic Visitors		Int'l Visitors	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	
Very Satisfied	28%	50%	52%	60%	42%	63%	32%	55%	
Satisfied	59%	39%	45%	37%	50%	33%	65%	39%	
Unsure/don't know	9%	5%	3%	3%	6%	4%	3%	3%	
Dissatisfied	4%	5%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	2%	
Very Dissatisfied	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	





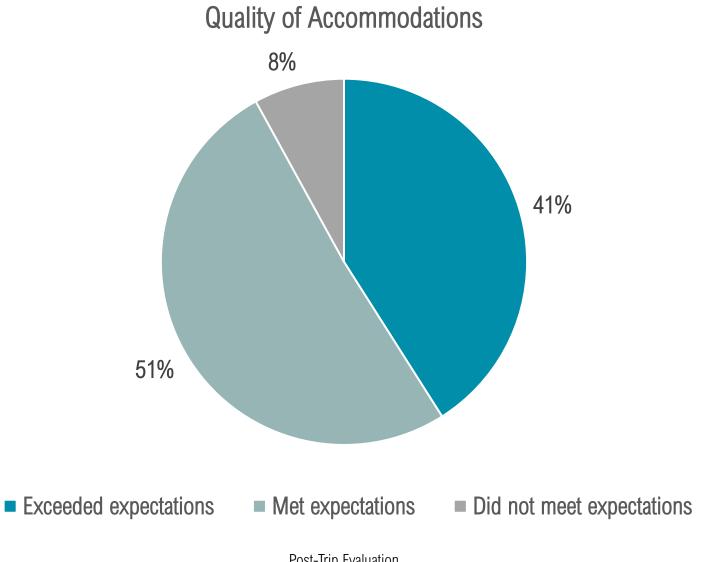
CROSSTABULATIONS: SATISFACTION WITH SERVICE

	First Time Visitors		Repeat	Repeat Visitors		Domestic Visitors		isitors
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Very Satisfied	28%	59%	52%	60%	42%	68%	27%	58%
Satisfied	56%	27%	42%	35%	46%	24%	68%	35%
Unsure/don't know	6%	11%	5%	4%	6%	8%	4%	6%
Dissatisfied	9%	4%	1%	1%	5%	0%	1%	1%
Very Dissatisfied	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%





SATISFACTION RATINGS: QUALITY OF ACCOMMODATIONS





Post-Trip Evaluation Jul - Sep 2023



SATISFACTION RATINGS: QUALITY OF ACCOMMODATIONS

	1 st Time Visitors		Repeat Visitors		Domestic Visitors		Int'l Visitors	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Exceeded Expectations	33%	43%	41%	40%	35%	55%	45%	39%
Met Expectations	58%	45%	55%	55%	58%	39%	51%	53%
Did Not Meet Expectations	9%	12%	4%	5%	7%	6%	4%	8%



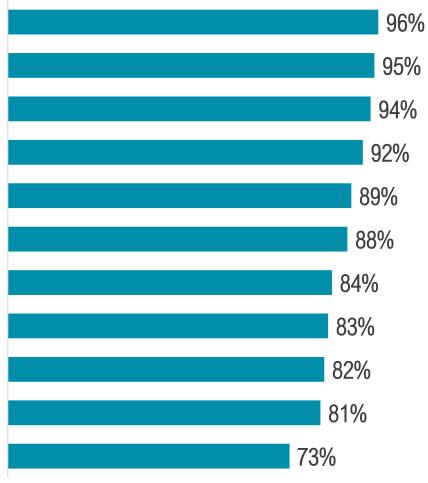


ATTRIBUTE RATINGS¹



At least 90% of visitors gave high attribute ratings for peacefulness, safety, weather, and beaches in the Fort Myers area.

Peaceful/relaxing A safe destination Warm weather White sandy beaches A "family" atmosphere Plenty to see and do Clean, unspoiled environment **Convenient** location Memories of visiting/nostalgia Value for your travel dollar Reasonably priced lodging



¹Top 2 box scores. Attributes rated on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is Poor and 5 is Excellent.





VACATION ATTRIBUTE INFLUENCE VS. RATINGS

•	Vacation Influences ¹		Fort Myers Area Ratings ²	
91%		Peaceful/relaxing		96%
87%		A safe destination		95%
86%		Warm weather		94%
86%		White sandy beaches		92%
82%		Plenty to see and do		88%
81%		Clean, unspoiled environment		84%
80%		A "family" atmosphere		89%
79%		Convenient location		83%
76%		Value for your travel dollar		81%
76%		Memories of past/nostalgia		82%
71%		Reasonably priced lodging		73%
	¹ Top 2 box scores. Attributes rated on a so	cale from 1 to 5 where 1 is Not at All Influential an	d 5 is Definitely Influential.	



¹Top 2 box scores. Attributes rated on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is Not at All Influential and 5 is Definitely Influential.

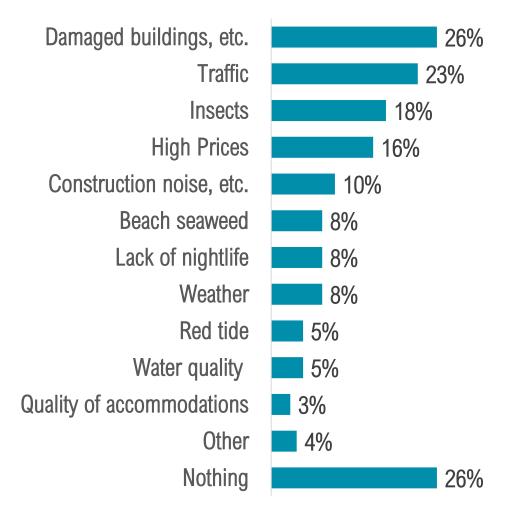
²Top 2 box scores. Attributes rated on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is Poor and 5 is Excellent.



Post-Trip Evaluation Jul - Sep 2023

LEAST LIKED FEATURES¹

Over 1 in 4 visitors mentioned hurricane damage, while under 1 in 4 were concerned with traffic, and another 26% had no concerns at all during their visit.





Post-Trip Evaluation Jul - Sep 2023 ¹Multiple responses permitted.

During this specific visit, which features have you like the LEAST about our area?



AREA DESCRIPTIONS



Peaceful & Relaxing

- "Peaceful, beautiful scenery and weather, and nice people."
- "Amazing. I've been coming here for 20 years, it's so relaxing."
- "Awesome times with our friends, a gorgeous relaxing environment, great fishing, and snorkeling."
- "If you're looking for a place to relax and unwind, come to Cape Coral!"



A Safe Destination

- "Family friendly, clean, and safe. Always a fabulous time staying here at our condo."
- "Clean and safe, and we've been having an awesome time golfing on pristine courses in great weather."
- "The best place to vacation with great weather, a tropical environment, and it's familyoriented."







AREA DESCRIPTIONS



White Sandy Beaches

- "Extremely fun time at the beautiful beaches that have palm trees, white sands, and good snorkeling."
- "Gorgeous area, subtropical environment, white sandy beaches, plenty of sunshine."
 "We love the white sandy beaches, the smaller town vibes, and we have family here so it's like a second home for us."



Warm Weather

- "Definitely one of our favorite spots to vacation. There's usually plenty of sunshine and great weather."
- "We're having a really great time. The weather has been perfect, the beaches are gorgeous, and there's some great kayaking."
- "The weather is usually great and there are plenty of outdoor activities to do, especially if you like golf."





OCCUPANCY BAROMETER¹: OCT – DEC RESERVATIONS

Oct – Dec Reservations	Oct – Dec 2022	Oct - Dec 2023
Up	27%	40%
Same	2%	14%
Down	71%	46%

¹Sources: Occupancy Survey

Accommodations partners were asked the following, "Please think about your reservations for the next three months. Compared to October - December of 2022, would you say the total level of reservations are up, the same, or down?"



Post-Trip Evaluation Jul - Sep 2023

OCCUPANCY BAROMETER¹: JAN – MAR RESERVATIONS

Jan - Mar Reservations	Jan - Mar 2022	Jan - Mar 2023
Up	26%	33%
Same	16%	24%
Down	58%	43%

¹Sources: Occupancy Survey

Accommodations partners were asked the following, "Please think about your reservations for the next three months. Compared to January - March of 2023, would you say the total level of reservations are up, the same, or down?"



Post-Trip Evaluation Jul - Sep 2023



Year-Over-Year Comparisons







Visitor & Lodging Statistics	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023	% Change '22 – '23
Visitors	1,114,000	706,700	-36.6%
Visitor Days	5,618,600	4,113,000	-26.8%
Room Nights	1,265,400	865,200	-31.6%
Direct Expenditures ¹	\$812,265,900	\$584,185,900	-28.1%
Total Economic Impact ²	\$1,293,939,600	\$935,281,600	-27.7%
Occupancy	56.1%	50.6%	-9.8%
ADR	\$167.69	\$134.26	-19.9%
RevPAR	\$94.09	\$67.94	-27.8%

¹ Includes: accommodations, restaurants, entertainment, shopping, transportation, groceries, and "other" expenses.

² Economic impact includes indirect and induced effects of visitor spending. Indirect effects are increased business spending resulting from tourism dollars. Induced effects are increased household spending resulting from tourism dollars.





	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023	% Change '22 – '23
Direct Jobs ²	10,960	7,280	-33.6%
Total Jobs ³	15,100	9,620	-36.3%
Direct Wages ²	\$257,590,900	\$210,786,800	-18.2%
Total Wages ³	\$438,862,500	\$296,858,700	-32.4%
Direct Local Taxes ²	\$25,649,500	\$15,263,800	-40.5%
Total Local Taxes ³	\$45,626,600	\$20,008,600	-56.1%
Direct State Taxes ²	\$60,703,800	\$27,761,900	-54.3%
Total State Taxes ³	\$88,529,200	\$36,607,400	-58.6%

¹ Calculated using IMPLAN, an economic impact analysis software.

² Only accounts for the money spent directly by visitors in categories such as accommodations, restaurants, entertainment, shopping, transportation, groceries, and "other" expenses. ³ Accounts for direct spending as well as the indirect and induced effects of visitor spending. In other words, it considers the "Total Economic Impact". As a reminder, indirect effects include increased business spending resulting from tourism dollars, while induced effects include increased household spending resulting from tourism dollars.





VISITOR TYPE

Visitor Type	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Visitors in Paid Accommodations	76%	67%
Visitors in Non-Paid Accommodations	22%	31%
Day Trippers	2%	2%





Planned trip in advance	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
1 week or less	4%	7%
2-4 weeks	7%	9%
1-2 months	42%	38%
3-6 months	34%	33%
6 months or more	12%	13%
Not sure	1%	0%

Considered Other Destinations	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Yes	54%	43%
No	46%	57%







Other destinations considered ¹	July - Sept 2022 ²	July - Sept 2023 ²
Tampa/Clearwater/St.Pete	13%	21%
Naples/Marco Island	11%	18%
Orlando	12%	17%
Sarasota/Siesta Key	9%	14%
Daytona Beach	12%	13%
Keys/Key West	9%	12%
Miami/Ft. Lauderdale	7%	11%
West Palm Beach	6%	10%
Punta Gorda/Englewood	3%	4%
Other destinations in FL	18%	13%
Other destinations outside of FL	36%	26%

¹Multiple responses permitted. ²Base: 29% of visitors who considered other destinations.







Trip Planning Websites/Apps ¹	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Online search engines	38%	31%
Airline websites/apps	34%	30%
Airbnb, VRBO, HomeAway etc.	24%	21%
Booking websites	20%	16%
Vacation rental websites/apps	19%	14%
Traveler reviews, blogs, stories	22%	14%
Trip Advisor	13%	12%
Hotel websites/apps	12%	12%
Facebook	11%	10%
Visit Florida	14%	8%
VCB Facebook Page	9%	8%
Instagram	7%	6%
www.VisitFortMyers.com	8%	6%
YouTube, Hulu, Pandora	3%	4%
Other	3%	3%
None	7%	18%





¹Multiple responses permitted.





Information Requests ¹	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Calling a hotel, motel, condo	41%	33%
Requesting and receiving a visitor guide	14%	9%
Calling the VCB	10%	5%
Receiving the VCB e-newsletter	3%	2%
Calling a local Chamber of Commerce	3%	2%
Other	2%	2%
None	36%	57%



Pre-Visit Jul - Sep 2023 ¹Multiple responses permitted.

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Recall of Lee County Promotions	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Yes	55%	43%
No	30%	38%
Can't recall	15%	19%
% of recallers influenced by promotions	53%	47%
% of total visitors influenced by promotions	29%	21%





Type of Promotions Recalled ¹	July - Sept 2022 ²	July - Sept 2023 ³
Internet	66%	56%
Social media	36%	39%
Traveler reviews, blogs	34%	27%
Television	8%	10%
Travel/visitor guide	7%	7%
www.VisitFortMyers.com	7%	7%
Video streaming services	-	7%
Email/e-newsletter	-	6%
Magazine	6%	5%
Newspaper	2%	4%
AAA	5%	4%
Billboard	5%	2%
Brochure	5%	2%
Deal-based promotion	3%	2%
Radio	2%	1%
Music streaming services	_	1%
Podcasts	-	1%
Other	2%	4%

¹Multiple responses permitted. ²Base: 55% of visitors who recalled seeing a promotion. ³Base: 43% of visitors who recalled seeing a promotion.





Characteristics influencing decision to visit Lee County (top 2 boxes) ¹	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Peaceful/relaxing	96%	91%
A safe destination	93%	87%
Warm weather	91%	86%
White sandy beaches	91%	86%
Plenty to see and do	87%	82%
Clean, unspoiled environment	86%	81%
A "family" atmosphere	84%	80%
Convenient location	76%	79%
Value for your travel dollar	84%	76%
Memories of past visits/nostalgia	-	76%
Reasonably priced lodging	83%	71%





¹Top 2 box scores. Attributes rated on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is Not at All Influential and 5 is Definitely Influential.

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Main Reason for Visiting ¹	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Beach	47%	40%
Relax & unwind	27%	38%
Visiting friends & relatives	9%	23%
Part-time resident ("Snowbird")	-	14%
Checking on my property	-	11%
Business meetings/conferences	1%	7%
Shopping	4%	7%
Special event	1%	6%
Golf or tennis	2%	6%
Nature, environment, bird watching	4%	5%
Water sports	4%	5%
Biking, hiking	1%	4%
Special occasion	3%	3%
Attractions	1%	3%
Fishing	5%	3%
Photography	2%	3%
Sporting event	1%	2%
Diving, snorkeling	1%	2%
Work-related Hurricane Recovery	-	2%
Culture	1%	1%
Museums, history	1%	1%
Guided tours	1%	1%
Volunteering	1%	1%
Other	2%	4%





¹Multiple responses permitted.



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Transportation	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Fly	78%	78%
Drive a personal vehicle	18%	16%
Drive a rental vehicle	2%	5%
Drive a RV	1%	1%
Travel by bus	1%	0%
Other	0%	0%

Airport Used	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Southwest Florida International	85%	86%
Punta Gorda	6%	6%
Ft. Lauderdale International	4%	3%
Miami International	2%	2%
Tampa International	2%	2%
Orlando International	1%	1%
Other	<1%	<1%





Visitor Origin ¹	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Florida	4.6%	5.2%
Southeast	21.1%	20.7%
Northeast	14.4%	19.8%
Midwest	37.3%	32.0%
West	9.8%	9.0%
Canada	7.4%	6.8%
United Kingdom	0.2%	1.0%
Germany	2.1%	3.0%
Other Europe	2.1%	1.2%
Other International	1.0%	1.3%

Visitor Origin ¹	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
NEW YORK	4%	9%
CHICAGO	6%	5%
CLEVELAND - AKRON	6%	5%
ATLANTA	6%	4%
CINCINNATI	6%	3%
WASHINGTON, DC - HAGERSTOWN	3%	3%

¹Based on data from the Visitor Tracking Study.





Travel Parties	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Mean travel party size ¹	3.1	3.0
Travel with children under age 18	56%	44%

Travel Party Composition	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
As a family	64%	54%
As a couple	24%	28%
By yourself	4%	8%
With other couples/friends	7%	7%
With business associates	1%	2%
In a tour group	<1%	<1%
Other	<1%	1%





¹Sources: Occupancy Study and Visitor Tracking Study



Marital Status	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Married/Domestic Partnership	69%	73%
Single	31%	27%

Age	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Average age	52	50
Median age	44	47

Household Income	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Median Income	\$108,600	\$105,600







Race/Ethnicity	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Caucasian/White	78%	76%
Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx	11%	13%
African American/Black	2%	3%
Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander	3%	3%
Middle Eastern/Northern African	-	1%
Another race/ethnicity	6%	4%

Gender	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Female	46%	50%
Male	54%	50%
Non-binary	<1%	<1%





Length of Stay ¹	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Average nights in the Fort Myers area	5.0	5.8

First Time/Repeat Visitors	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
First-time	42%	33%
Repeat	58%	67%



Trip Experience Jul - Sep 2023 ¹Sources: Occupancy Study & Visitor Tracking Survey.



Type of Accommodations	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Not spending the night	2%	2%
Hotel/motel/resort	37%	32%
Vacation rental home	36%	30%
Personal condo, house, timeshare, etc.	14%	17%
Friends/family home	8%	14%
Bed & Breakfast/Inn	2%	3%
Campground/RV Park	1%	1%
Other	0%	1%





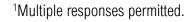




Activities ¹	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Relax and unwind	64%	65%
Beach	66%	58%
Restaurants	54%	57%
Shopping	43%	41%
Visit friends/relatives	26%	35%
Fishing	28%	27%
Water sports	34%	27%
Nature, environment, bird watching	26%	24%
Bars, nightclubs	12%	14%
Biking, hiking	22%	13%
Golf or tennis	9%	11%
Photography	8%	11%
Attractions	6%	10%
Diving, snorkeling	11%	8%
Special events	3%	6%
Spas	8%	6%
Museums, history	3%	5%
Guided tours	5%	5%
Special occasion	4%	4%
Culture	3%	4%
Attend or participate in a sporting event	3%	3%
Business meetings/conferences	1%	2%
Volunteering	1%	1%
Other	2%	3%







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Attractions ¹	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Beaches	64%	53%
Bell Tower Shops	15%	23%
Gulf Coast Town Center	12%	21%
Sanibel Lighthouse	32%	18%
Coconut Point Mall	12%	18%
Edison & Ford Winter Estates	17%	16%
Fort Myers Beach Pier	42%	14%
Miromar Outlets Mall	9%	14%
Shell Factory and Nature Park	17%	10%
Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum	7%	9%
J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge	13%	7%
Broadway Palm Dinner Theater	1%	2%
Manatee Park	3%	2%
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall	1%	1%
Periwinkle Place ³	22%	0%
Sanibel Outlets ³	14%	0%
Other	3%	<1%
None	5%	13%

¹Multiple responses permitted. ²Represents visitors who spent time on the beach area near where the pier was. ³Closed until further notice due to Hurricane Ian.





Area stayed	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Fort Myers	11%	34%
Cape Coral	11%	20%
Fort Myers Beach	36%	11%
Bonita Springs	5%	8%
Estero	3%	7%
Captiva Island	3%	6%
Sanibel Island	27%	3%
Lehigh Acres	1%	3%
North Fort Myers	1%	3%
Along I-75	<1%	2%
Boca Grande/Outer Islands	<1%	1%
Pine Island	<1%	<1%
None/not staying overnight	2%	2%



Trip Experience Jul - Sep 2023



Likelihood of Recommending the Area	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Very Likely	93%	51%
Likely	93%	40%
Unsure/don't know	6%	6%
Unlikely	1%	2%
Very Unlikely	170	1%
Likelihood of Returning to the Area	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Very Likely	87%	53%
Likely	07 70	34%
Unsure/don't know	11%	11%
Unlikely	20/	2%
Very Unlikely	2%	0%
Likelihood of Returning Next Year	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Very Likely	FC0/	45%
Likely	56%	32%
Unsure/don't know	39%	20%
Unlikely	E0/	1%
Very Unlikely	5%	2%



Post-Trip Evaluation Jul - Sep 2023



Satisfaction with Accommodations	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023		
Exceeded expectations	36%	41%		
Met expectations	57%	51%		
Did not meet expectations	7%	8%		

Felt Welcomed in the Fort Myers Area	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023	
Yes	94%	94%	







Satisfaction with Visit	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Very satisfied	51%	56%
Satisfied	43%	38%
Neither	4%	3%
Dissatisfied	2%	2%
Very dissatisfied	0%	0%
Don't know/no opinion	0%	1%

Satisfaction with Customer Service	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Very satisfied	49%	59%
Satisfied	42%	34%
Somewhat satisfied	5%	5%
Dissatisfied	3%	1%
Very dissatisfied	0%	0%
Don't know/no opinion	1%	1%



Post-Trip Evaluation Jul - Sep 2023



Visitor Concerns ¹	July - Sept 2022	July - Sept 2023
Damaged buildings, etc. from lan	-	26%
Traffic	19%	23%
Insects	17%	18%
High Prices	30%	16%
Construction noise, activity, etc.	-	10%
Beach seaweed	13%	8%
Lack of nightlife	15%	8%
Weather	9%	8%
Red tide	4%	5%
Water quality	5%	5%
Quality of accommodations	7%	3%
Other	2%	4%
Nothing	26%	26%



Post-Trip Evaluation Jul - Sep 2023 ¹Multiple responses permitted.



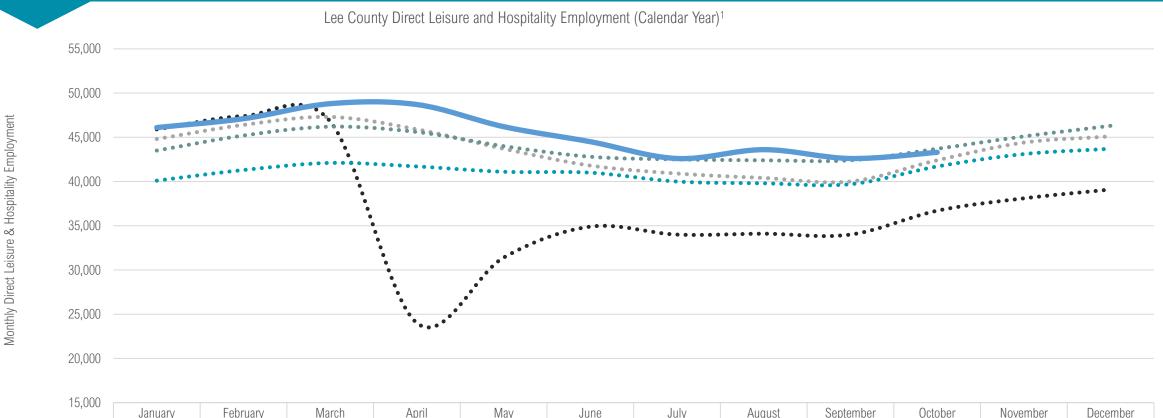
Industry Data







LEISURE & HOSPITALTY EMPLOYMENT



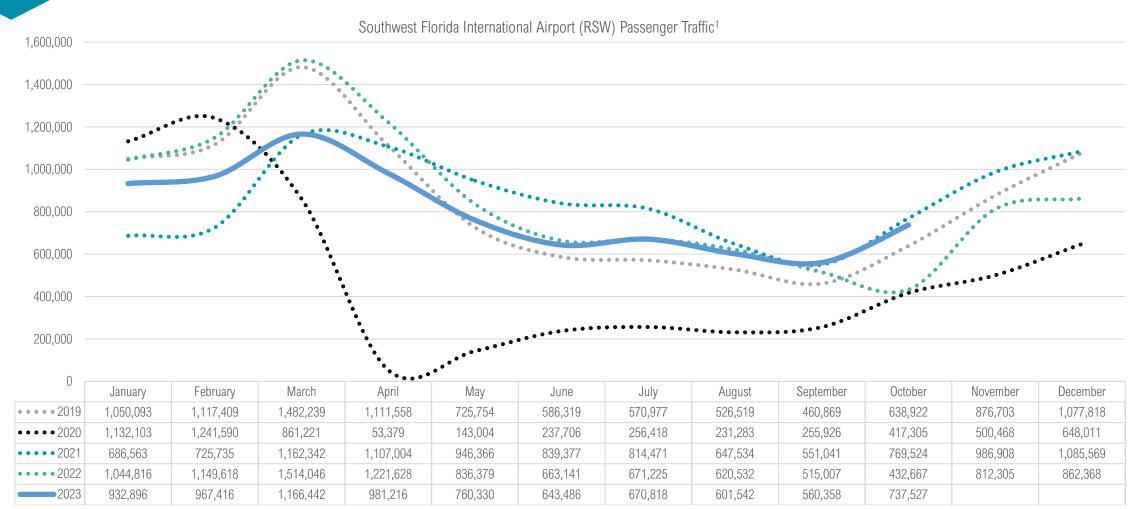
10,000	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
••••2019	44,800	46,400	47,300	45,900	43,700	41,800	40,900	40,400	40,000	42,400	44,400	45,100
••••2020	45,900	47,400	46,800	24,000	31,400	34,900	34,000	34,100	34,000	36,700	38,100	39,100
••••2021	40,100	41,300	42,100	41,700	41,100	41,000	40,000	39,800	39,700	41,700	43,100	43,700
••••2022	43,500	45,200	46,200	45,600	44,000	42,800	42,500	42,400	42,400	43,700	45,100	46,300
2023	46,100	47,100	48,800	48,700	46,200	44,500	42,600	43,600	42,600	43,300 (P)		

¹ SOURCE: Current Employment Statistic Program (CES), Lee County Leisure and Hospitality Sector, not seasonally adjusted.





RSW PASSENGER TRAFFIC



¹SOURCE: Lee County Port Authority Monthly Statistics.



RSW Total Passenger Traffic



LICENSED TRANSIENT RENTAL UNITS

Licensed Transient Rental Units in Lee County, as of October 2023 ¹							
	Hotel	Motel	Bed & Breakfast	Vacation Rental	Total		
Fort Myers	5,191	1,450	9	668	7,318		
Fort Myers Beach	715	550	6	1,957	3,228		
Cape Coral	584	204	0	2,387	3,175		
Sanibel	68	780	0	1,697	2,545		
Bonita Springs	1,244	38	0	435	1,717		
Captiva	107	166	0	333	606		
Estero	566	0	0	26	592		
North Fort Myers	0	325	0	69	394		
Boca Grande	77	107	0	177	361		
Lehigh Acres	75	0	0	175	250		
Saint James City	0	20	0	63	83		
Bokeelia	0	31	0	35	66		
Matlacha	0	0	2	31	33		
Cabbage Key	0	9	0	0	9		
Iona	0	0	0	3	3		
Pineland	0	0	0	1	1		
Miromar Lakes	0	0	0	1	1		
Alva	0	0	0	1	1		
Total	8,627	3,680	17	8,059	20,383 ²		



¹ SOURCE: Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation.

²Some units likely are still unavailable due to the impact of Hurricane lan.

downs & st. germain R E S E A R C H



Methodology







METHODOLOGY

- Economic Impact of tourism in Lee County is derived from:
 - Visitor Tracking Study
 - 900 surveys in public areas, hotels, at events around Lee County, and online
 - Target individuals: July September visitors to Lee County
 - Data Collection: July September 2023
 - Occupancy Study
 - Email and telephone survey of hotels, rental management companies, RV/campgrounds, etc., as well as data from STR and KeyData reports
 - Sample Size data from 7,823 hotel/rental/campground units (68 properties) reporting to DSG, 8,745 hotel units reporting to STR (73 properties), and 3,108 rental units (27 properties) reporting to KeyData
 - IMPLAN Economic Impact Modeling software
 - IMPLAN models the way tourism dollars are spent and re-spent in other sectors of the economy, generating waves of economic activity, called multiplier effects. The model uses national industry data and county-level economic data to generate a series of multipliers, which in turn estimate the total economic implications of economic activity.
 - Over 1,500 organizations use IMPLAN, including FEMA, EPA, Federal Reserve Bank, and Bureau of Land Management.
 - Various government agencies and data sources including Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation
 - TDT collections provided by the Lee County VCB
 - Tourism database at Downs & St. Germain Research





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METHODOLOGY¹

• Occupancy Study

• Internet and telephone survey of hotels,

• Sample Size – 68 completed surveys

Data Collection: Completed in October (for

hotel/rental/campground units reporting

to DSG, 8,745 hotel units reporting to

STR (representing 73 properties), and 3,108 rental units reporting to KeyData

rental management companies,

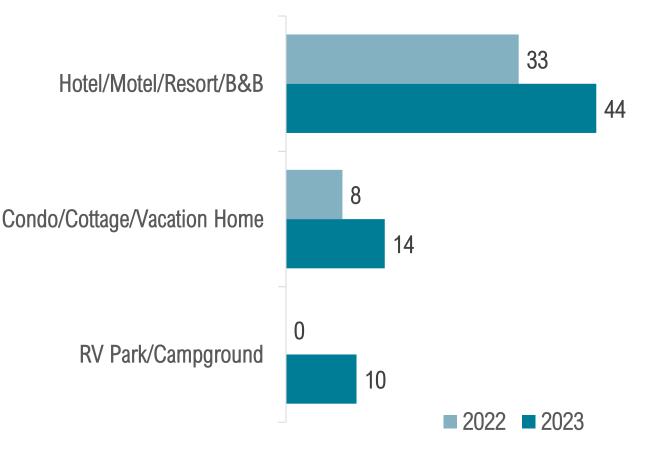
July - September 2023)

(representing 27 properties)

• Total Sample Size – data from 7,823

RV/campgrounds, etc.

Number of Complete Responses



¹ Due to Hurricane Ian's landfall in late September of 2022, Occupancy Study sample sizes were much smaller than normal in October 2022, however, sample sizes have been steadily increasing since then as more properties continue to recover and reopen.



Jul - Sep 2023

SEARCH

Fort Myers – Islands, Beaches and Neighborhoods Lee County VCB July - Sept 2023

Visitor Tracking, Occupancy, & Economic Impact Study

Tamara Pigott, CDME Executive Director

Downs & St. Germain Research contact@dsg-research.com 850-906-3111 | www.dsg-research.com





