

Maine Office of Tourism

Profile of Travelers to Maine 2019 Fall Season

January 2020



A Division of DRI

Profile of Travelers to Maine 2019 Fall Season

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The DPA National Travel Survey[™] saw an increase in the proportion of Americans taking an overnight trip in the 2019 Fall season from the previous year, for both business and leisure travel. Maine and Connecticut appear to be the two New England states benefitting most from this increase. Maine's share of Fall overnight trips increased to 0.6% in both business and leisure categories.

Conditions that might effect travel to Maine this season were mixed. The U.S. Unemployment Rate remained low, yet the Canadian Exchange Rate dropped as well. Gas prices dropped from the summer months, but the Travel Price Index was relatively high (especially in September). Precipitation levels were typical for Maine, yet September and November were colder than average.

Still, an estimated 11.2 million visitors came to Maine in the Fall of 2019, a 4% increase from 2018 estimates. Of these, an estimated 6.5 million were on an overnight trip and 4.7 million were on a day trip.

While many metrics mirror those seen in previous years, a few notable shifts occurred for the Fall 2019 Visitor Profile:

- The average age of overnight visitors to Maine in the Fall season continues to drop consistently. In the Fall seasons of 2013 and 2014 it was almost 49 years of age whereas Fall 2019 saw an average age of roughly 38 years. The proportion in the "Under 35" group has been increasing steadily across time.
- From Fall 2018 to Fall 2019, the proportion visiting from Massachusetts dropped.
- The proportion of overnighters originating from the Mid-Atlantic states increased.
- The Maine Lakes & Mountains region saw in increase in overnight visitors from the previous year.
- With the success of Airbnb and Vrbo (among others), the percentage of overnighters selecting rental accommodations continues to increase.
- While overall spending among overnighters remained stable, their average spending on retail items went down from 2018 to 2019.
- Compared to the previous year, the proportion of daytrippers visiting the Maine Beaches region dropped while the proportion visiting the Portland/ Casco Bay region increased.

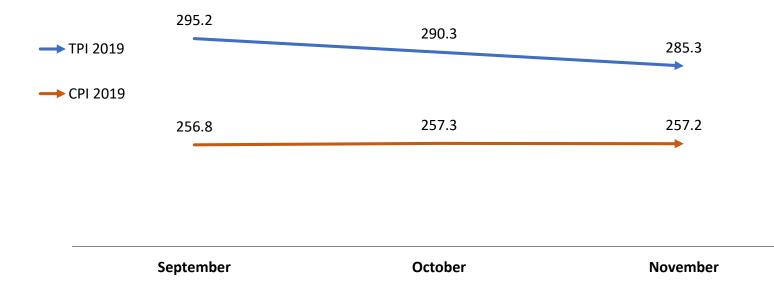
A majority rated their overall satisfaction with their Fall 2019 trip to Maine as exceeding their expectations and most (72% overnighters, 86% daytime visitors) believe they will take another trip to Maine in the next couple of years. Almost all (over 90% of both groups) said they will recommend Maine as a destination to their friends and family.

Fall 2019 Season Travel Context

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TRAVEL PRICE INDEX VS. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Fall 2019 Avg TPI = 290.3	Fall 2019 Avg CPI = 257.1
Fall 2018 Avg TPI = 284.7	Fall 2018 Avg CPI = 252.4
Fall 2017 Avg TPI = 279.7	Fall 2017 Avg CPI = 246.7
Tall 2017 Avg TFT= 279.7	1 all 2017 Avg CI1 = 240.7

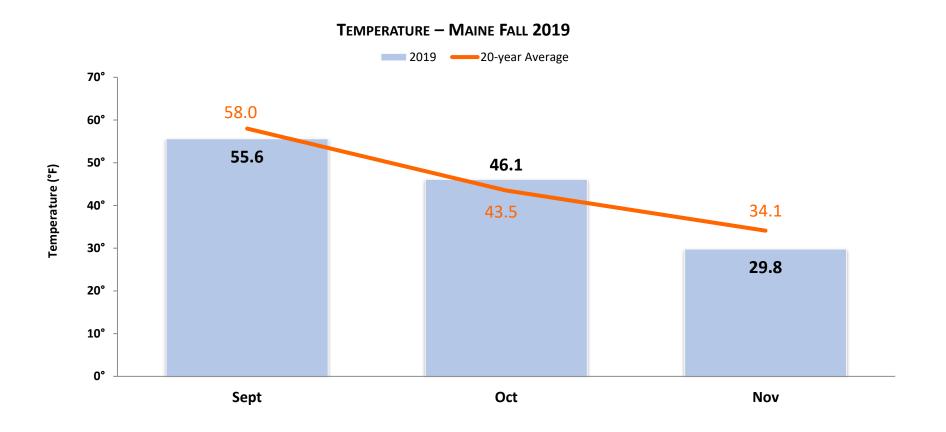




Data Sources: CPI figures are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. TPI figures are from the U.S. Travel Association.

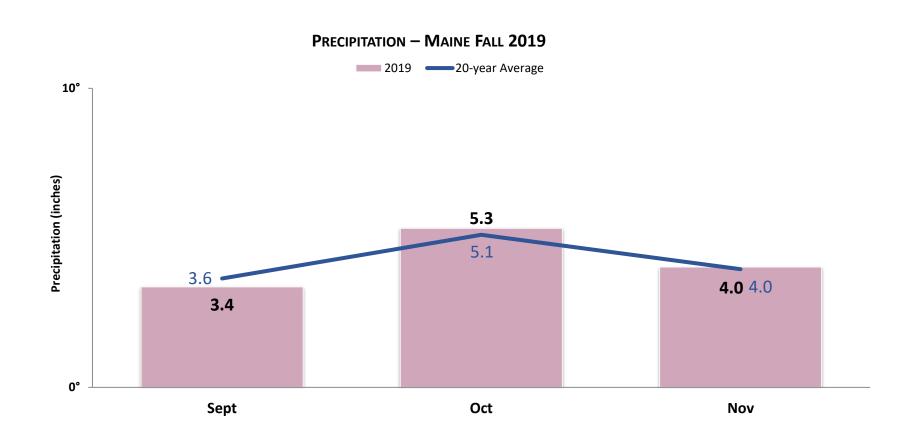
"Developed by the U.S. Travel Association, the Travel Price Index (TPI) measures the seasonally unadjusted inflation rate of the cost of travel away from home in the United States. The TPI is based on U.S. Department of Labor price data collected for the monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI). The TPI is released monthly and is directly comparable to the CPI." - **Source: U.S. Travel Association**

Fall Temperatures: 2019 Season and 20-year Averages



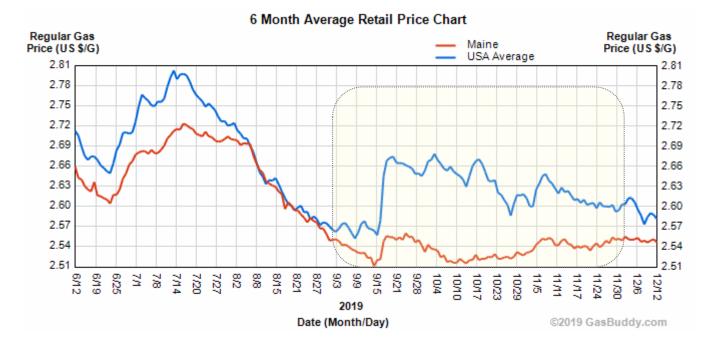


Fall Precipitation Totals: 2019 Season and 20-Year Averages

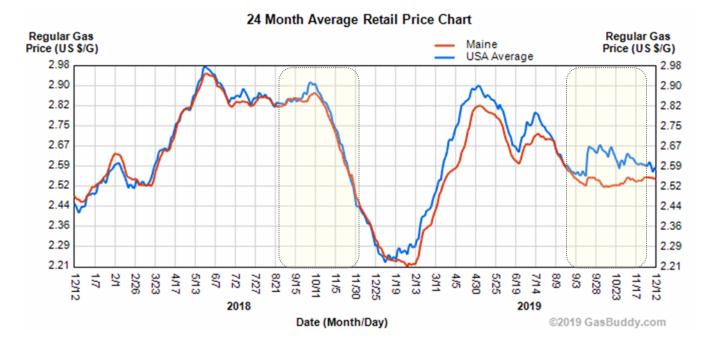




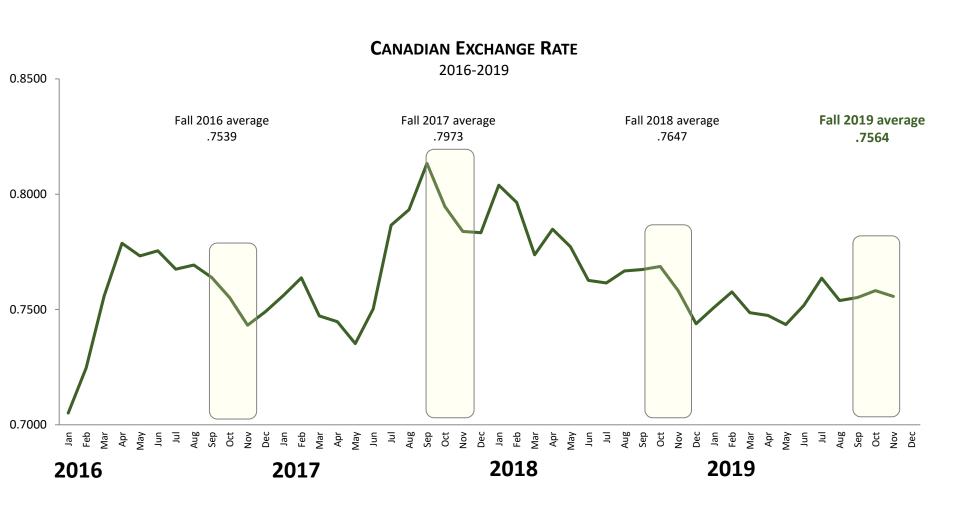
Fall Season 2019



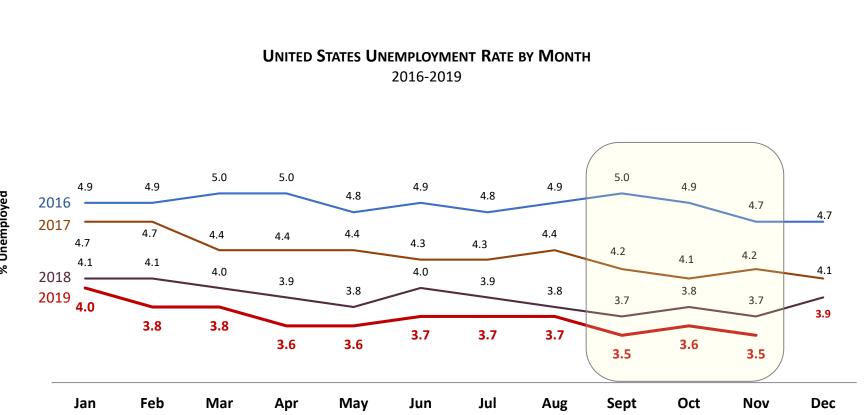
Average Gas Prices: Two-Year Trend



Canadian Dollar vs. U.S. Dollar Across Four Years/ in the Fall Season

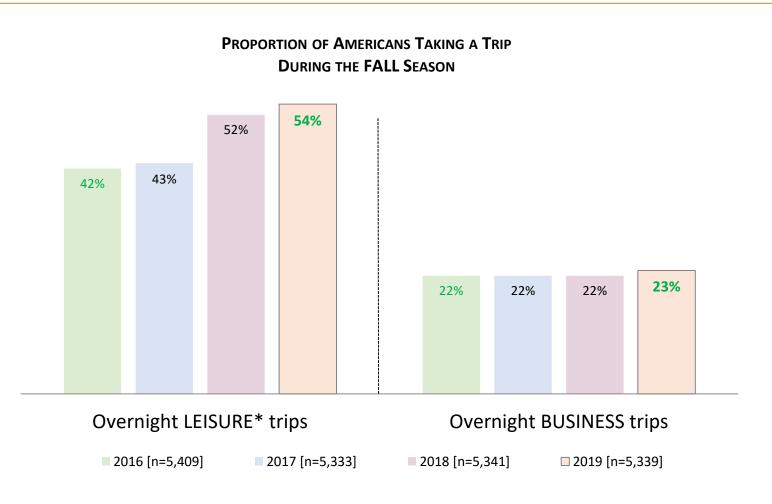


U.S. Unemployment Rate across Four Years/ in the Fall Season





Four Year-Trend: National Overnight Travel in the Fall Season

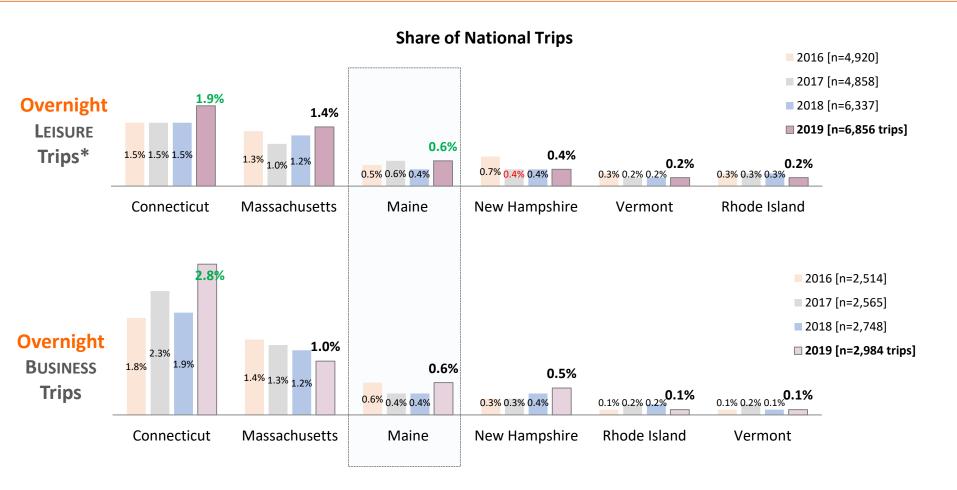


* In 2018, data collection was modified to only measure leisure travel and business travel, eliminating the separate category of VFR travel.



Nat'l Travel Survey Q1. During the past four weeks, how many times have you taken a trip on which you spent at least one night away from home for either business, visiting friends/relatives, or leisure? A statistically significant **increase** from the previous year is indicated by **green**, and a significant **decrease** with **red**.

Share of Fall Travel Among New England States, Past Four Years



* In 2018, data collection was modified to only measure leisure travel and business travel, eliminating the separate category of VFR travel.



Nat'l Travel Survey Q2. In which U.S. state, Canadian province, or other country was the primary destination of each of these trips? Share of total trips taken by U.S. residents.

A statistically significant **increase** from the previous year is indicated by **green**, and a significant **decrease** with **red**.

Fall 2019 Seasonal Travel Highlights

VISITATION ESTIMATES*	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	% Change 2018-2019
Total	10.7 million	10.8 million	11.2 million	+4.0%
Overnight Visitors	6.3 million	6.0 million	6.5 million	+8.5%
Day Visitors	4.4 million	4.8 million	4.7 million	-1.6%

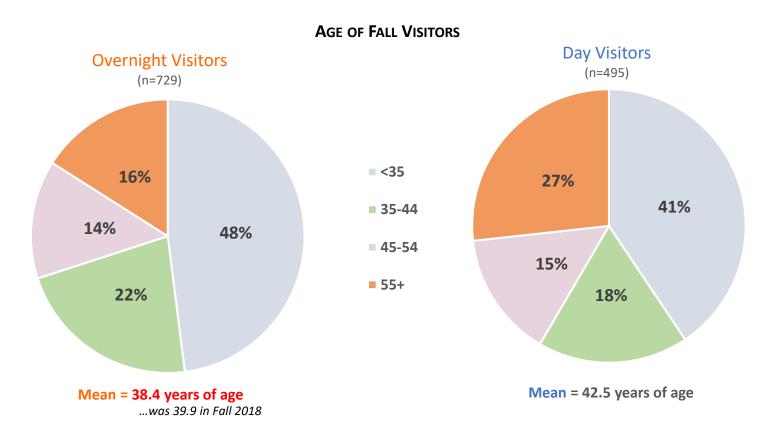
*For the purposes of visitation estimates, <u>only visitors on tourism-related trips</u> are included.

Tourism-related trips include:

- All leisure trips EXCEPT those for a funeral, family reunion, or class reunion.
- Business trips that are for a convention/conference/trade show or training/professional development.

Visitation estimates provided here are **preliminary** and reflect visitation from September 2019 through November 2019. Adjustments will be made to these estimates at the end of the year, to account for seasonal fluctuations.

Age of Visitors to Maine in the 2019 Fall Season





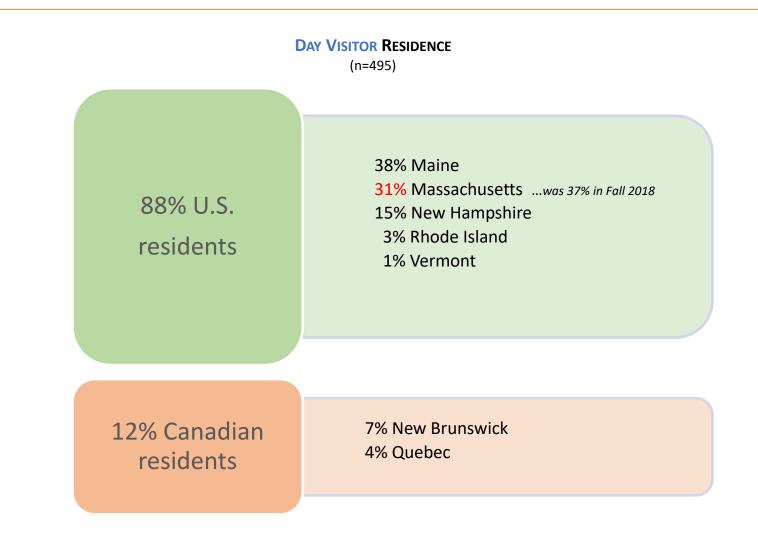
Origin of Overnight Visitors to Maine, Past Four Years

	Ov	ERNIGHT VISITOR RES	SIDENCE	
	2016 (n=712)	2017 (n=730)	2018 (n=726)	2019 (n=729)
United States	85%	87%	83%	84%
New England	56%	61%	49%	44%
Massachusetts	27%	27%	29%	20%
Maine	13%	15%	8%	7%
Connecticut	6%	7%	4%	6%
New Hampshire	6%	10%	3%	5%
Rhode Island	2%	2%	3%	4%
Vermont	2%	1%	1%	2%
Mid-Atlantic	29%	26%	34%	40%
New York	15%	12%	19%	17%
Pennsylvania	7%	6%	8%	11%
New Jersey	6%	5%	4%	8%
Maryland	2%	2%	2%	4%
Delaware	<1%	<1%	1%	1%
Washington, DC	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%
Canada	15%	13%	17%	16%

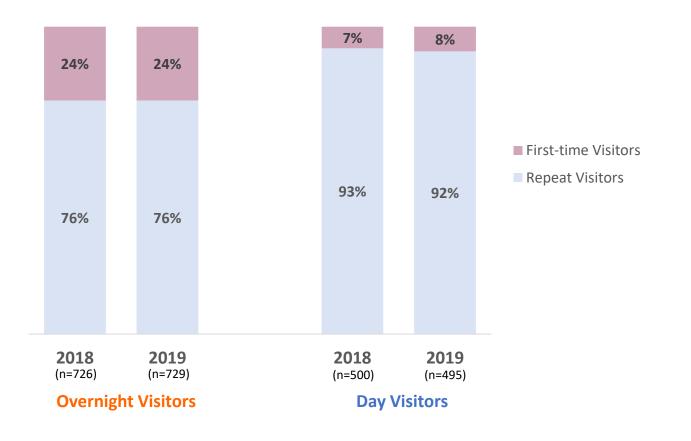
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Q2. State/Province of Residence

A statistically significant **increase** from the previous year is indicated by **green**, and a significant **decrease** with **red**.

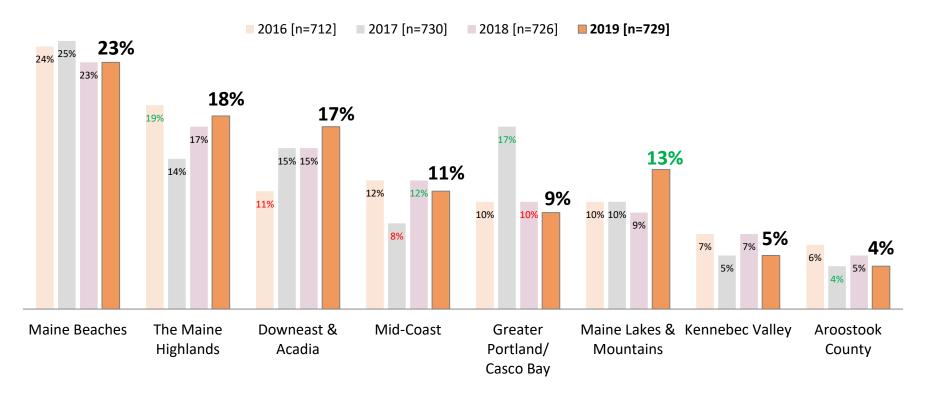






Primary Destination of Fall Overnight Visitors, Past Four Years

OVERNIGHT VISITORS: PRIMARY DESTINATION

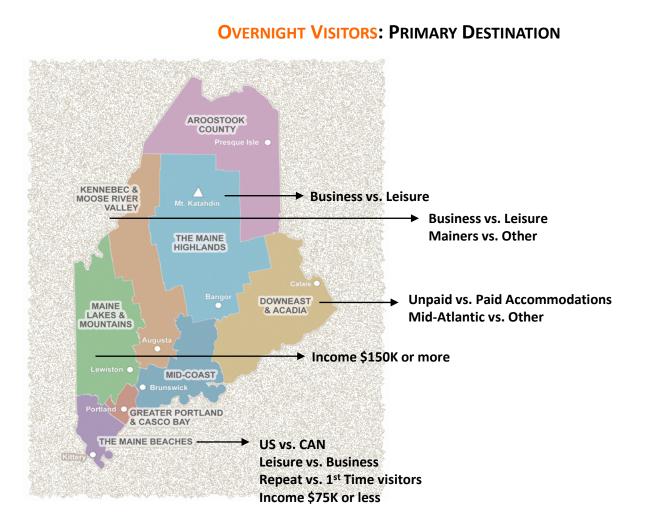




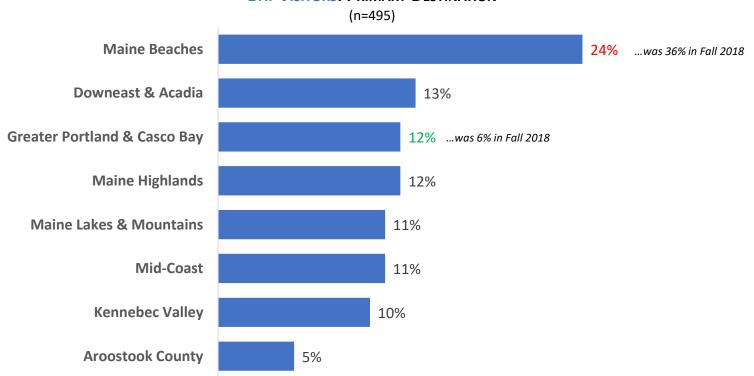
Overnight Q28. What region in Maine was your primary destination?

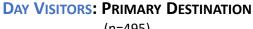
A statistically significant increase from the previous year is indicated by green, and a significant decrease with red.

Subgroup Differences in Primary Destination of Overnight Visitors



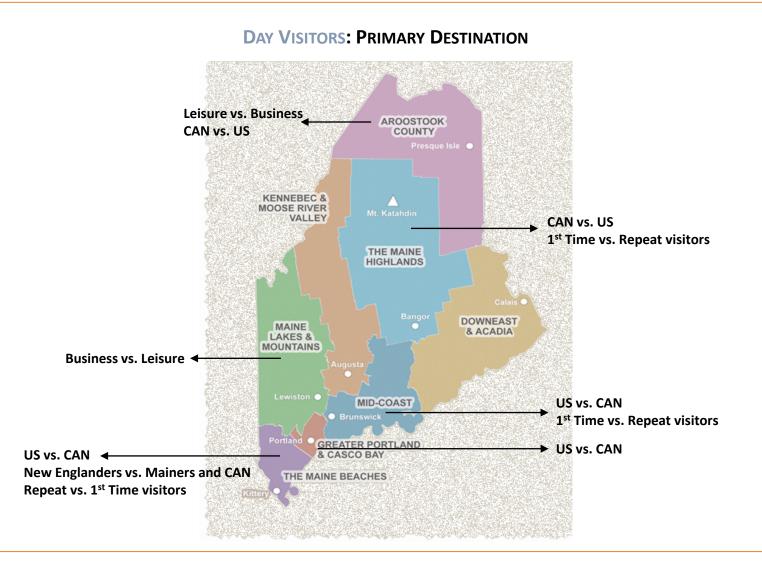
Primary Destination of Day Visitors to Maine, Fall 2019



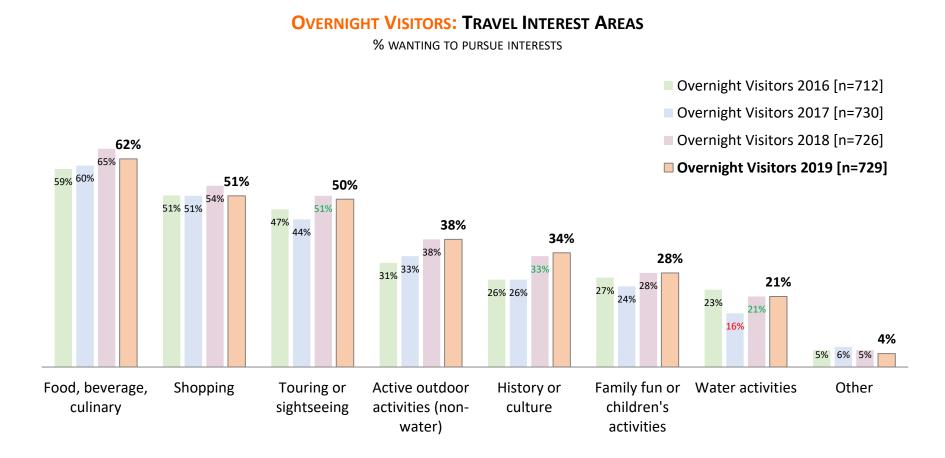




Subgroup Differences in Primary Destination of Day Visitors

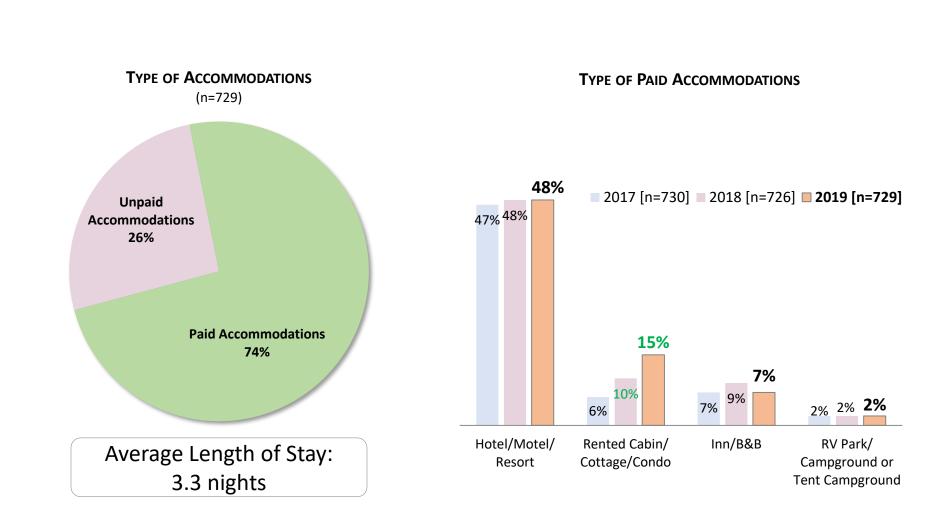


Day Q21. What region in Maine was your primary destination?



DAY VISITORS: TRAVEL INTEREST AREAS (n=495)			
Interest area:	% wa	% wanting to pursue	
Shopping		55%	
Food, beverage, culinary		53%	
Touring or sightseeing	Ë	37%	
Active outdoor activities		40%	
Water	s.	19%	
Non-water	汣	30%	
Family fun, children's activities	ŕľľ ŧ	24%	
History, culture		14%	

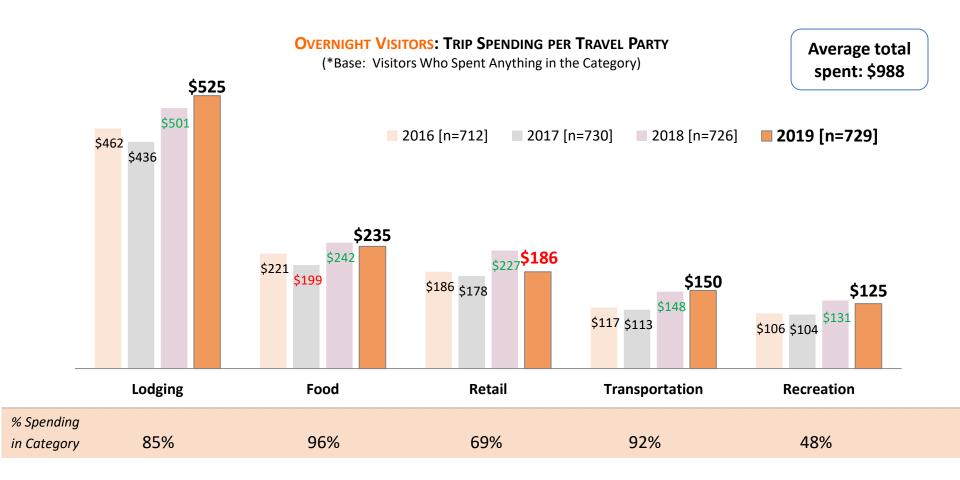




Overnight Q10. On this trip to Maine, how many nights were you away from home?

Overnight Q27. In which of the following types of accommodations did you spend the most nights on this trip to Maine? A statistically significant **increase** from the previous year is indicated by **green**, and a significant **decrease** with **red**.

Travel Party Spending: Overnight Visitors, Past Four Years

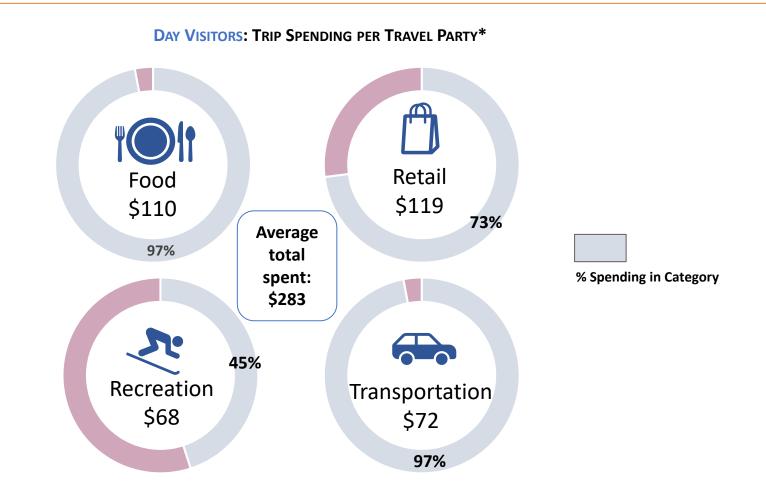


*Reported figures represent the average amount of money spent per travel party, excluding parties who did NOT spend money in that expenditure category.

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Overnight Q38. Please tell us the total amount of money you and your immediate travel party spent on this trip in Maine in each of the categories listed below. A statistically significant **increase** from the previous year is indicated by **green**, and a significant **decrease** with **red**.

Travel Party Spending: Day Visitors, Fall 2019



*Average amount of money spent per travel party, excluding parties who did NOT spend money in that expenditure category.



Day Q27. Please tell us the total amount of money you and your immediate travel party spent on this trip in Maine in each of the categories listed below.

Trip Evaluation

How Trip Compared to Expectations: Overnight Visitors

	OVERNIGHT VISITORS: TRIP EXPERIENCE % Saying Trip Experience Exceeded Expectations (4 or 5 on 5-point scale) (n=729)		
Overall experience	65%		
Friendliness of people	62%		
Welcoming locals who make visitors feel comfortable	57%		
Distinctive, genuine, and unique experiences	57%		
Overall quality of customer service	56%		
Quality of dining	56%		
Authentic communities with their own individual personalities	54%		
Variety of activities available	51%		
Accessible, diverse, and abundant shopping choices	51%		
Quality of lodging	50%		
Overall value for the money	48%		
Availability of lodging	48%		
Great selection of family attractions and venues	46%		
Availability of fine dining	46%		
Availability of family dining	45%		



Overnight Q41: Using the scale provided in the table below, please indicate whether this most recent trip to Maine exceeded, matched, or fell below your expectations for each of the listed items.





Day Q28: Using the scale provided in the table below, please indicate whether this most recent trip to Maine exceeded, matched, or fell below your expectations for each of the listed items.

Future Travel

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OVERNIGHT VISITORS: LIKELIHOOD OF TRIP TO MAINE IN NEXT TWO YEARS

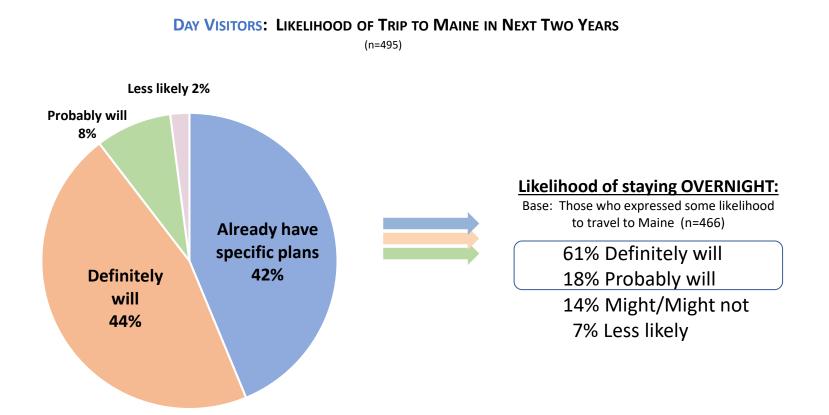
	2017 (n=730)	2018 (n=726)	2019 (n=729)
Have Plans/Definitively Will Return:	78%	76%	72%
I already have specific plans	32%	25%	23%
Definitely will	46%	51%	49%
Probably will	17%	15%	16%
Might/might not	5%	7%	8%
Probably will not	<1%	1%	3%
Definitely will not	<1%	2%	1%



Overnight Q44. How likely will you be to travel in Maine in the next two years?

A statistically significant **increase** from the previous year is indicated by **green**, and a significant **decrease** with **red**.

Likelihood of Returning to Maine Among Day Visitors





Day Q31. How likely will you be to travel in Maine in the next two years? Day Q32. Assuming you travel in Maine again in the next two years, how likely are you to stay overnight in Maine on one or more of these trips?

OVERNIGHT VISITORS:

LIKELIHOOD OF RECOMMENDING MAINE AS A VACATION DESTINATION

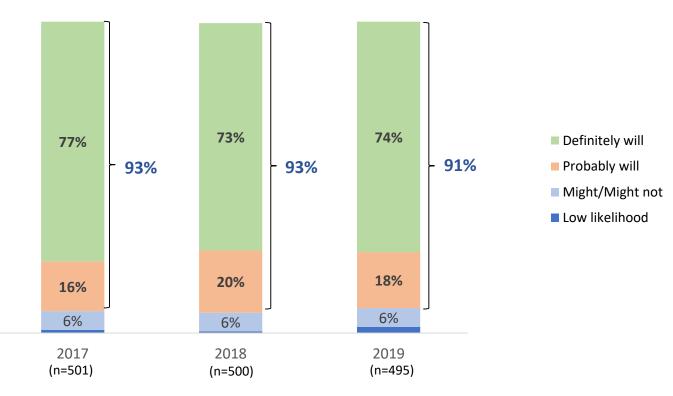
			2011 The Control of Co
	2017 (n=730)	2018 (n=726)	2019 (n=729)
Probably/Definitely Will Recommend:	94%	93%	93%
Definitely will	76%	73%	67%
Probably will	17%	20%	25%
Might/might not	6%	5%	7%
Probably will not	<1%	1%	<1%
Definitely will not	<1%	<1%	<1%



Overnight Q45: How likely are you to recommend Maine as a vacation destination to friends or relatives?

A statistically significant **increase** from the previous year is indicated by **green**, and a significant **decrease** with **red**.





Visitor Segment Analysis

- In 2014, DPA conducted a market segmentation study in collaboration with BVK, which allowed for the development of a predictive model to classify Maine's visitors. The culmination of this research effort was the creation of a Segment Typing Tool a model with a short list of questions that can be used to predict segment membership in subsequent research studies, including the ongoing Visitor Profile Research.
- DPA added the Segment Typing Tool to the Visitor Profile questionnaire and began collecting this supplemental data in January 2015. We use this classification scheme to understand and compare the perceptions, travel behaviors, and future travel intentions of the targeted segments.

- Three consumer segments were defined as high-priority segments for the Office of Tourism as a result of the market segmentation research:
 - Balanced Achievers
 - Genuine Originals
 - Social Sophisticates
- This section provides a topline profile and comparison of these priority segments as they relate to Maine's 2019 fall season visitors.
- <u>Important Note</u>: Sample sizes are extremely low in this seasonal analysis for the Social Sophisticates segment. Please use caution in interpreting the findings for this segment. At the completion of the 2019 research, an in-depth segmentation analysis will be completed for the entire year, at which time sample sizes will be sufficient to draw conclusions for all visitor segments.

FALL VISITOR SEGMENTS

	Ove	rnight Visit	ors	Day Visitors			
	2017 (n=730)	2018 (n=726)	2019 (n=729)	2017 (n=501)	2018 (n=500)	2019 (n=495)	
Balanced Achievers	36%	42%	39%	24%	28%	29%	
Genuine Originals	33%	32%	30%	33%	33%	35%	
Social Sophisticates	9%	7%	9%	8%	9%	8%	



Visitor Segment Analysis: Fall Overnight Visitor Highlights

Balanced Achievers



Less likely to live in Massachusetts.

More likely to have taken a business trip in Fall '19.

More likely to have used resources to plan their trip, including Maine Tourism Region websites.

More likely to have used Airbnb, VRBO and/or Uber.

More likely to have had children aged 6-17 years of age in travel party.

Spent the most on lodging, transportation, and overall (on average).

More likely to say trip exceeded expectations (on several measures) and will return to Maine in the next 2 years.

Genuine Originals



Least likely of three segments to have children living in their household.

Social Sophisticates



Less likely to be Maine residents.

Less interested in History or Culture while visiting Maine.

Spent the least, on average, on food and recreation.

Less likely, across several, measures to say their trip exceeded their expectations.

Visitor Segment Analysis: Fall Day Visitor Highlights

Balanced Achievers



Less likely to be from Massachusetts.

More likely to be from Canada.

Less likely to be Repeat visitors.

More likely than Genuine Originals to be interested in Family activities.

Least likely to visit Maine Beaches region as primary destination.

Spend more, on average, than did Genuine Originals.

Genuine Originals



Less likely than Balanced Achievers to be traveling with children.

More likely than Balanced Achievers to be interested in Active Outdoor activities.

Least likely to say they will stay overnight if returning to Maine.

Social Sophisticates

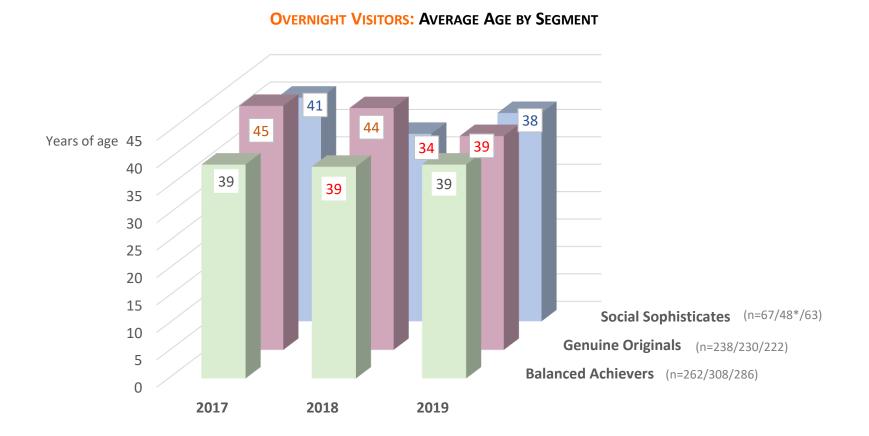


Least likely to visit Downeast & Acadia region while on their trip.

More likely than Balanced Achievers to visit the Greater Portland & Casco Bay region.

Least likely to say Maine exceeded expectations on offering "distinctive, genuine and unique experiences" or "a great selection of family attractions and venues."

Age of Fall Overnight Visitors Across Target Segments

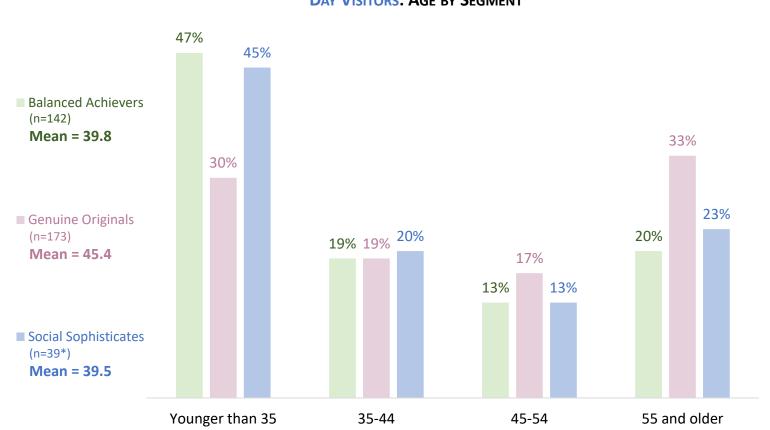




Q1. How old are you?

*Please note small sample size. Use caution when interpreting results. A statistically significant increase from the previous year is indicated by green, and a significant decrease with red.

Age of 2019 Fall Day Visitors Across Target Segments



DAY VISITORS: AGE BY SEGMENT



Fall Overnight Visitor Origin by Target Segment

OVERNIGHT VISITORS: STATE/PROVINCE OF ORIGIN BY VISITOR SEGMENT									
	Balanced Achievers			Genuine Originals			Social Sophisticates		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
	n=262	n=308	n=286	n=238	n=230	n=222	n=67	n=48*	n=63
UNITED STATES	85%	80%	83%	90%	90%	85%	89%	87%	85%
New England	52%	41%	37%	71%	58%	51%	67%	58%	47%
Massachusetts	22%	23%	15%	33%	39%	21%	32%	44%	26%
Maine	16%	8%	7%	11%	5%	9%	8%	0%	2%
New Hampshire	6%	3%	3%	15%	4%	9%	18%	7%	5%
Connecticut	5%	3%	6%	9%	5%	6%	7%	3%	7%
Rhode Island	2%	4%	5%	1%	3%	3%	0%	3%	6%
Vermont	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	2%
Mid-Atlantic	32%	39%	46%	19%	32%	33%	22%	29%	38%
New York	12%	23%	20%	7%	16%	11%	16%	21%	19%
New Jersey	8%	4%	10%	4%	3%	6%	1%	4%	6%
Pennsylvania	8%	7%	10%	6%	9%	11%	4%	3%	12%
Maryland	4%	3%	5%	2%	2%	5%	0%	0%	1%
Delaware	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	<1%	0%	0%	0%
CANADA	15%	20%	17%	10%	10%	15%	11%	13%	15%
Ontario	10%	14%	8%	7%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%
Quebec	4%	4%	6%	1%	2%	4%	3%	2%	6%
New Brunswick	<1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	4%	2%

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State/Province of Residence

*Please note small sample size. Use caution when interpreting results.

DAY VISITORS: STATE/PROVINCE OF ORIGIN BY VISITOR SEGMENT

	Balanced Achievers		Genuine Originals			Social Sophisticates			
	2017 (n=121)	2018 (n=140)	2019 (n=142)	2017 (n=164)	2018 (n=167)	2019 (n=173)	2017 (n=41*)	2018 (n=44*)	2019 (n=39*)
UNITED STATES	79%	88%	80%	89%	95%	93%	98%	96%	89%
Massachusetts	34%	38%	23%	36%	39%	36%	56%	49%	42%
Maine	31%	25%	35%	29%	34%	39%	21%	22%	31%
New Hampshire	14%	21%	15%	19%	17%	15%	18%	26%	15%
Rhode Island	<1%	2%	5%	2%	1%	1%	3%	0%	0%
Vermont	<1%	1%	2%	3%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%
CANADA	21%	12%	20%	11%	5%	7%	2%	4%	11%
Quebec	8%	5%	7%	7%	2%	2%	0%	1%	4%
New Brunswick	12%	7%	12%	4%	3%	4%	1%	2%	7%

Q2. State/Province of Residence

*Please note small sample size. Use caution when interpreting results.

OVERNIGHT VISITORS: PRIMARY REGIONAL DESTINATION BY VISITOR SEGMENT

	Balanced Achievers		Genuine Originals			Social Sophisticates			
	2017 (n=262)	2018 (n=308)	2019 (n=286)	2017 (n=238)	2018 (n=230)	2019 (n=222)	2017 (n=67)	2018 (n=48*)	2019 (n=63)
Maine Beaches	21%	20%	21%	29%	25%	26%	42%	30%	32%
Greater Portland/Casco Bay	14%	7%	5%	22%	13%	10%	17%	18%	10%
Downeast & Acadia	14%	16%	16%	16%	17%	16%	9%	17%	17%
Maine Highlands	18%	22%	21%	10%	10%	14%	7%	12%	14%
Maine Lakes & Mountains	11%	10%	16%	11%	7%	11%	4%	14%	12%
Mid-Coast	8%	11%	9%	7%	15%	13%	12%	4%	9%
Kennebec Valley	7%	7%	7%	3%	8%	5%	6%	0%	6%
Aroostook County	6%	5%	4%	1%	4%	3%	2%	6%	2%

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Overnight Q28. What region in Maine was your primary destination?

*Please note small sample size. Use caution when interpreting results.

	Balanced Achievers		Genuine Originals			Social Sophisticates			
	2017 (n=121)	2018 (n=140)	2019 (n=142)	2017 (n=164)	2018 (n=167)	2019 (n=173)	2017 (n=41*)	2018 (n=44*)	2019 (n=39*)
Maine Beaches	31%	30%	18%	32%	37%	28%	71%	62%	39%
Greater Portland/Casco Bay	14%	8%	9%	12%	4%	13%	10%	5%	15%
Downeast & Acadia	18%	16%	13%	12%	13%	11%	9%	2%	8%
Maine Highlands	14%	16%	17%	10%	8%	8%	5%	5%	6%
Maine Lakes & Mountains	8%	14%	14%	12%	12%	10%	2%	5%	10%
Mid-Coast	8%	7%	12%	10%	14%	12%	1%	2%	13%
Kennebec Valley	5%	4%	10%	8%	6%	12%	1%	13%	6%
Aroostook County	3%	3%	5%	3%	6%	4%	1%	2%	2%

DAY VISITORS: PRIMARY REGIONAL DESTINATION BY SEGMENT

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Day Q21. What region in Maine was your primary destination?

*Please note sample size. Use caution when interpreting results.

Noteworthy Subgroup Variations

Overnight Visitor Subgroup Analyses: Highlights

Age groups:

- Travelers 55+ years of age were less likely to be traveling with children, less likely to be interested in outdoor activities, and less likely to have gone on a business trip in the Fall of 2019;
- Those younger than 45 were more likely to be on a business trip, be 1st Time visitors to Maine, and to use share/peer-to-peer networks for lodging and transportation;
- Those 45 and older were more likely to be on a leisure trip, be traveling with children, be Return visitors, and be interested in family activities.

Income levels:

- Travelers in the highest income group (\$150K+) spent more nights away from home, on average, vs. those in the lowest income group (\$75K or less);
- Travelers in the lower income group were more likely than those in the highest group to visit the Maine Beaches region as their primary destination, whereas those in the highest earning group went to the Lakes & Mountains region.

Traveling with children:

Those with children in their travel party were more likely than those without to: visit other nearby states/provinces (mainly NH), go to the VisitMaine.com website and/or Facebook to plan their trip, be interested in shopping, water activities and family fun, and to say they will return to Maine in the next couple of years. They also spent more, on average, on recreation and overall.

1st Time vs. Repeat Visitors:

- 1st Time visitors were more likely to be from New York, Ontario or Maryland. They were also more likely to be on a business trip and were more likely to use resources to plan their trip;
- Repeat visitors were more likely to be interested in food and shopping activities and spent more, on average, on food and retail. They were also more likely to say they will return to Maine again in the next two years and will recommend Maine as a destination to their family and friends.

Day Visitor Subgroup Analyses: Highlights

Age groups:

- Those 55+ were less likely to be interested in Active Outdoor activities (non-water). They were also more likely than younger travelers to live in Maine and less likely to be traveling with children;
- > Those 45+ were more likely than those 35 and younger to say they are likely to return to Maine in the next two years;
- > Those 35 and under were more likely than those 55+ to be on a business trip and less likely to be on a leisure trip;
- > Those 35 and under were more likely than those 45+ to be 1st Time visitors.

Income levels:

> Spending on retail and in total increases with household income.

Traveling with children:

Those traveling with children spent more, overall, on average, than did those traveling without children. They also were more likely to say they would stay overnight next time they visit Maine and would recommend Maine as a travel destination to their family and friends.

Visitor origin:

- > Those visiting from Canada for the day were more likely than those from the U.S. to be interested in shopping;
- > U.S. residents were more likely than those from Canada to be interested in Active Outdoor activities.

1st Time vs. Repeat Visitors:

Repeat visitors were more likely than 1st Time visitors to be interested in Active Outdoor activities (non-water).

Research Objectives and Methodology

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Three distinct online surveys are used to achieve the five primary goals of Maine's visitor tracking research.

Research Objectives: Identify Maine's share of the U.S. travel market	National Travel Survey	Overnight Visitor	Day Visitor
Estimate the number of visitors who come to Maine	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Provide a profile of Maine visitors		\checkmark	\checkmark
Estimate the amount of spending generated by tourism in Maine		\checkmark	\checkmark
Determine the Maine traveler's level of satisfaction and view of Maine		\checkmark	\checkmark

DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

Day Visitor Overnight Visitor National Travel Survey Sampled from Maine and a 100-mile Sampled from core advertising \geq Nationally-representative sample radius of Maine's borders markets: New England, NJ, NY, PA, MD, of the U.S. population > Have taken a day trip in Maine greater DE, DC, and Canada Surveyed bi-weekly \geq than 50 miles from home in the last four > Have taken an overnight trip to Maine weeks in the last four weeks Surveyed monthly Surveyed monthly

Survey Instruments

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Methodology

- This report provides results from the Fall 2019 travel season, describing travel that occurred between September and November 2019.
- Fall data collection occurred monthly between October 3 and December 15, 2019. The number of completed surveys collected for each research component is as follows:

Research Component	Completed Fall Season Surveys
National Travel Survey	5,339
Overnight Visitor Survey	729
Day Visitor Survey	495

• Statistical significance of all differences was calculated at the 95% confidence level. Noteworthy statistically significant differences across years and subgroups are highlighted throughout this report by colors or letters. A statistically significant **increase** from the previous year is indicated by **green**, and a significant **decrease** from the previous year is indicated with **red**.





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