

2025 TRAVEL PLANS

# American Travel Sentiment Study

WAVE 100:

PAST AND FUTURE FACTORS IMPACTING TRAVEL

OCTOBER 2, 2025

Longwoods  
INTERNATIONAL

miles  
PARTNERSHIP

# American Travel Sentiment Wave 100 Highlights

## Key Findings:

### 1. Impacts of COVID-19 on Travel: Post Pandemic Travel Behaviors

One-third (32%) of travelers report that the COVID-19 pandemic changed how they travel now. Among those, two-thirds (62%) now practice increased caution and hygiene practices when traveling. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, also resulted in increased importance and appreciation for travel. One-third (32%) of travelers report that 'travel is more important to me now' after the COVID-19 pandemic, while only 11% report 'travel is less important to me now'. The majority of travelers (58%) either strongly agree or agree that 'I appreciate travel more now, after experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic travel'.

### 2. Value and Importance of Travel

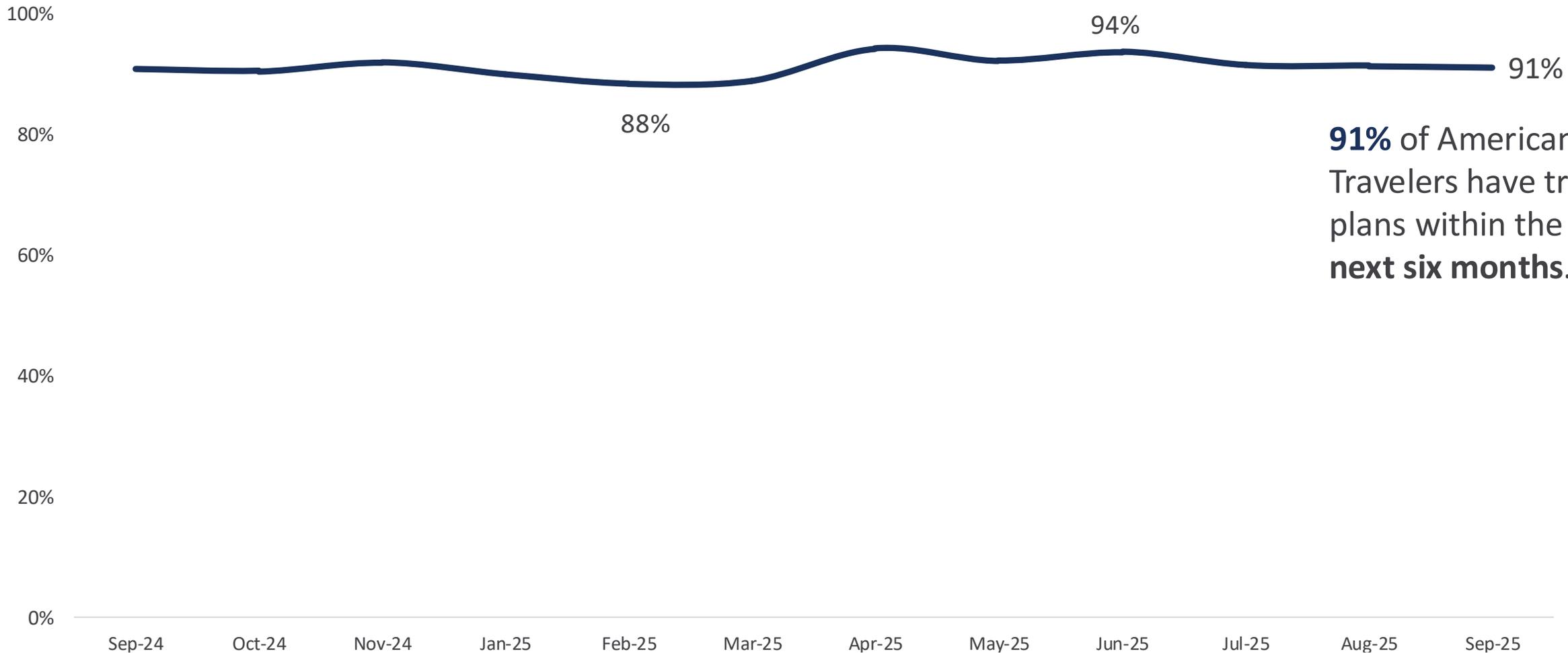
American travelers overwhelmingly place high value and importance on travel. Three-quarter of travelers either strongly agree or agree that 'Vacations are one of the things I most look forward to each year' (75%) and 'I value making experiences over acquiring more material belongings' (72%).

### 3. Economic Uncertainty and Financial Constraints Could Impact Future Travel Plans

Four in ten travelers (39%) report that there are factors limiting or discouraging them from leisure travel within the next 12 months. Among those, 75% report financial constraints and economic uncertainty as a top factor. Additionally, 64% of travelers either strongly agree or agree that 'Travel is becoming too expensive'. 54%, however, either strongly agree or agree that they are 'willing to reduce spending in other areas of my life to prioritize travel', which indicates that despite financial concerns, travel is still top-of-mind for many travelers.



# Travel Plans Within the Next 6 Months



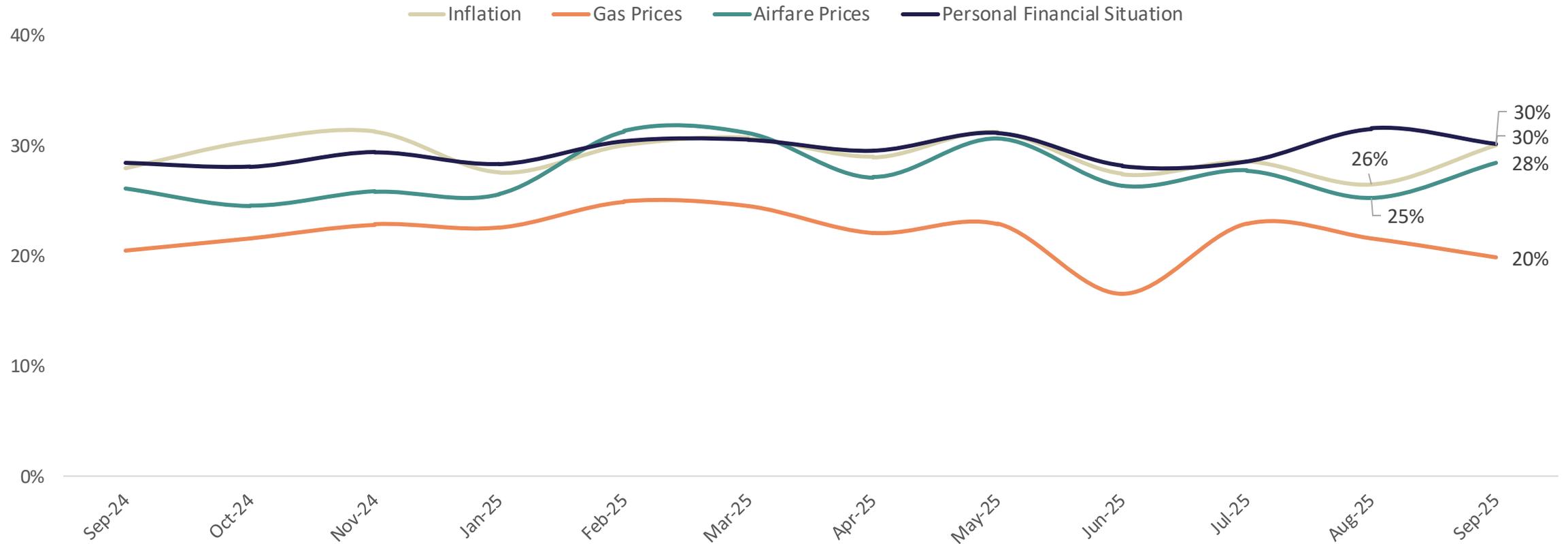
**91%** of American Travelers have travel plans within the next six months.

Source: Longwoods International ATS Wave 100  
Percentages are based only on respondents who are confirmed travelers (see definition in Methodology slide)

# Increase in Concerns About Inflation and Airfare Prices Impacting Travel Plans

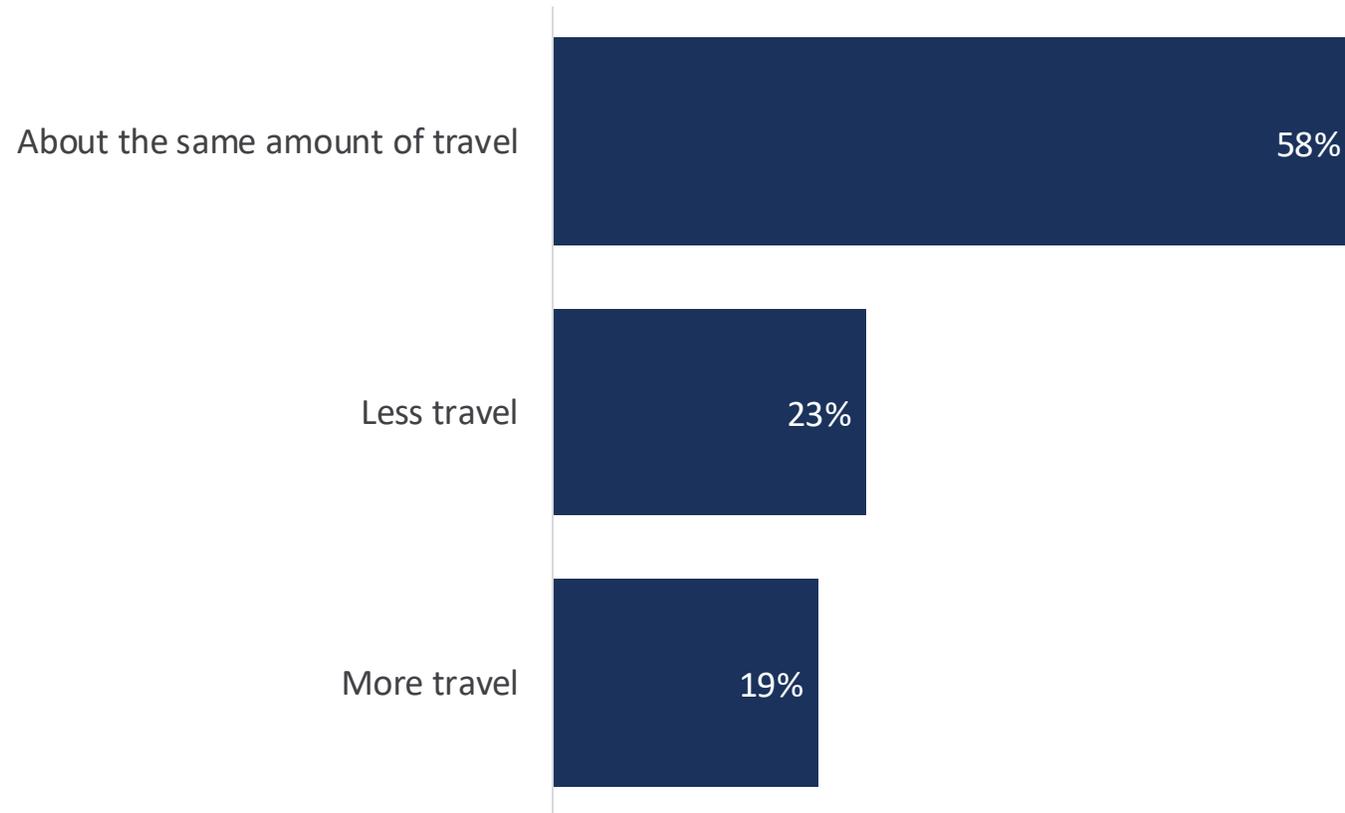
## Concerns Impacting Your Travel Decisions in the Next Six Months

The chart shows the percentage of respondents who rated each factor as "Greatly impact" their travel plans (a 5 on a 1–5 scale) over the period from September 2024 to 2025.



# Majority of Travelers Plan to Travel the Same Amount as Last Year this Fall

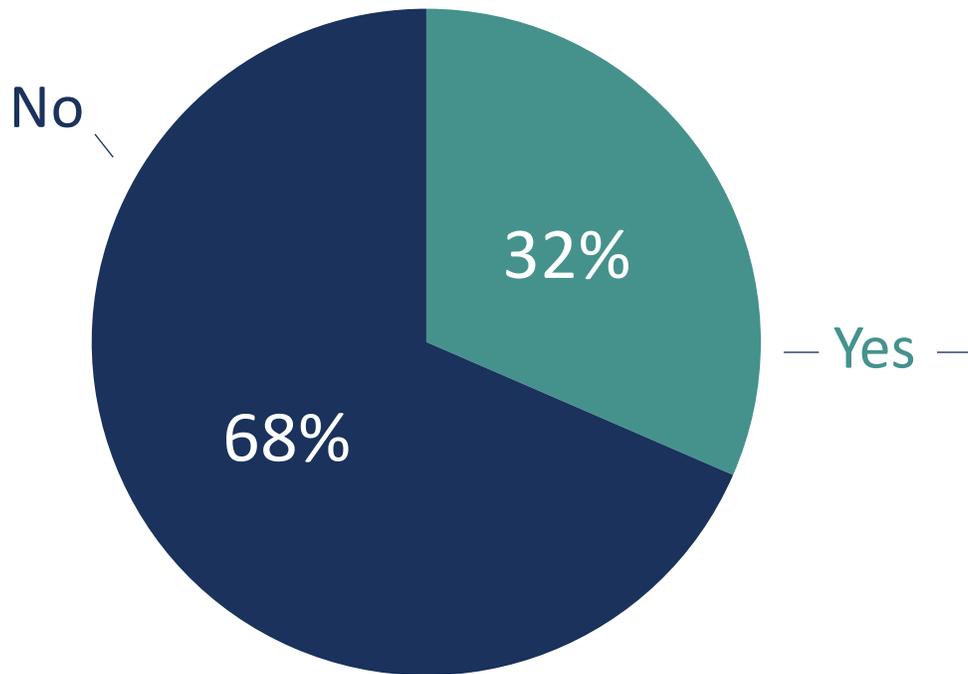
Compared to last year, how often do you plan to travel this fall?



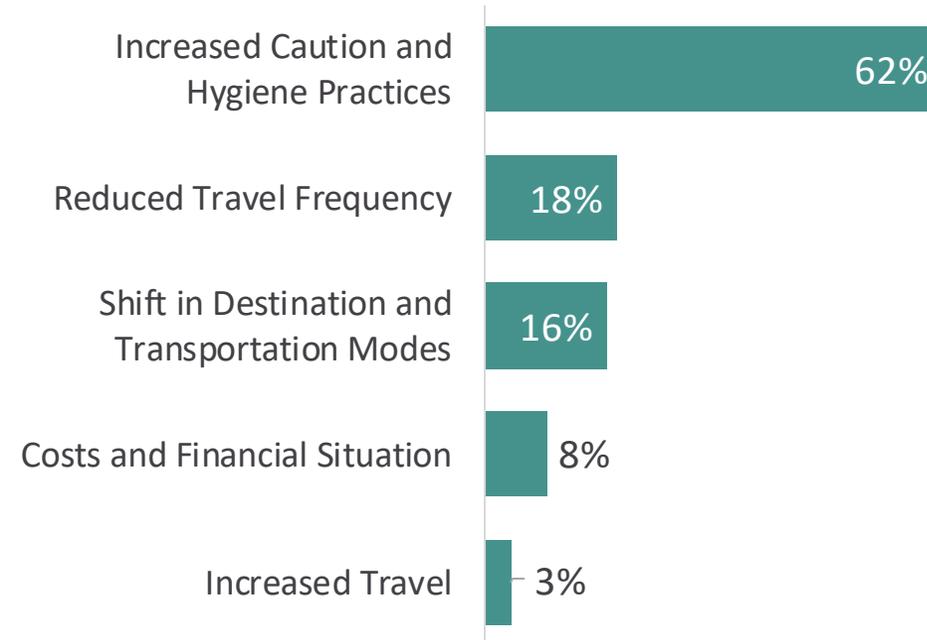
The **majority of travelers (58%)** plan to travel about the same amount this fall compared to last year. A **quarter (23%)**, however, plan to travel less this fall compared to last year.

# One-Third of Travelers Report COVID-19 Pandemic Changed How They Travel

Did the COVID-19 pandemic change how you travel now?



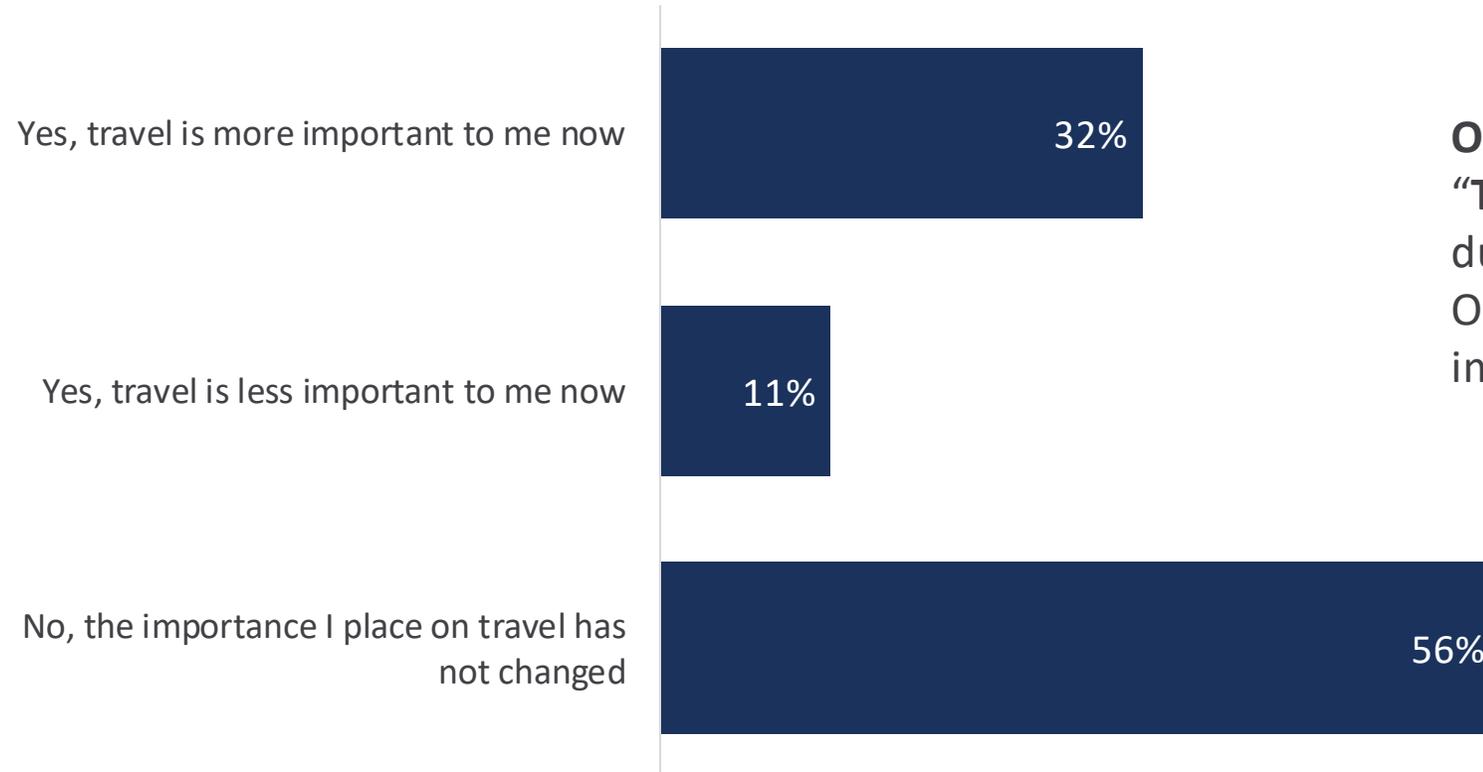
## Travel Changes Influenced by the COVID-19 Pandemic



One-third of travelers report that the COVID-19 pandemic changed how they traveled. Among those, the majority (**62%**) indicate they now **practice increased caution and hygiene practices**.

# Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Importance of Travel

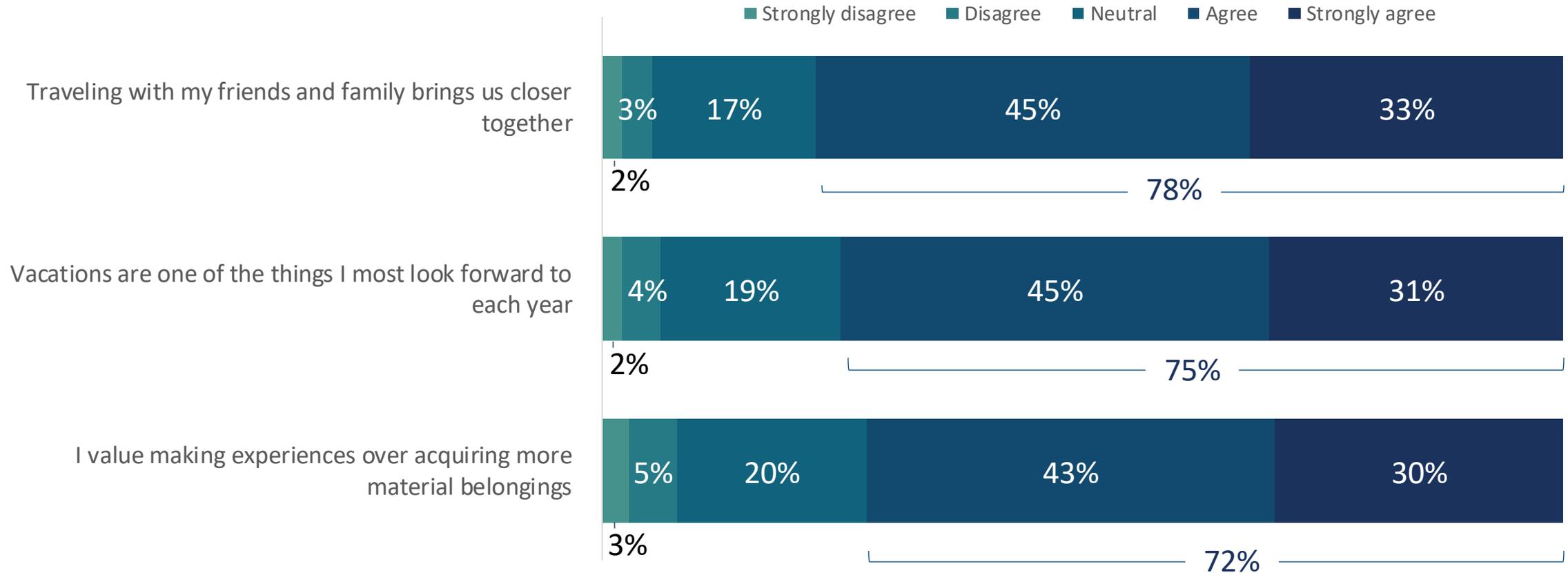
Did the COVID-19 pandemic change the importance you place on travel now?



**One-third (32%)** of travelers report that “**Travel is more important to me now**” due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Only **11%** report that “travel is less important to me now”.

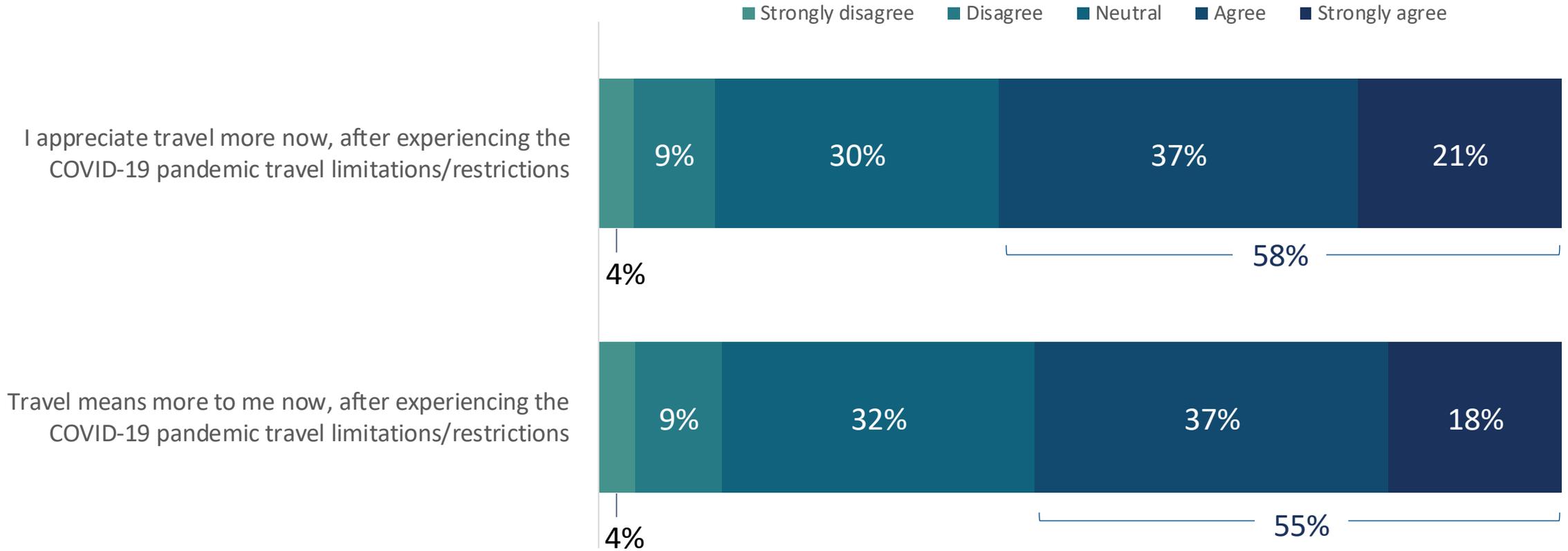
# Travelers Overwhelmingly Place High Value and Importance on Travel

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:



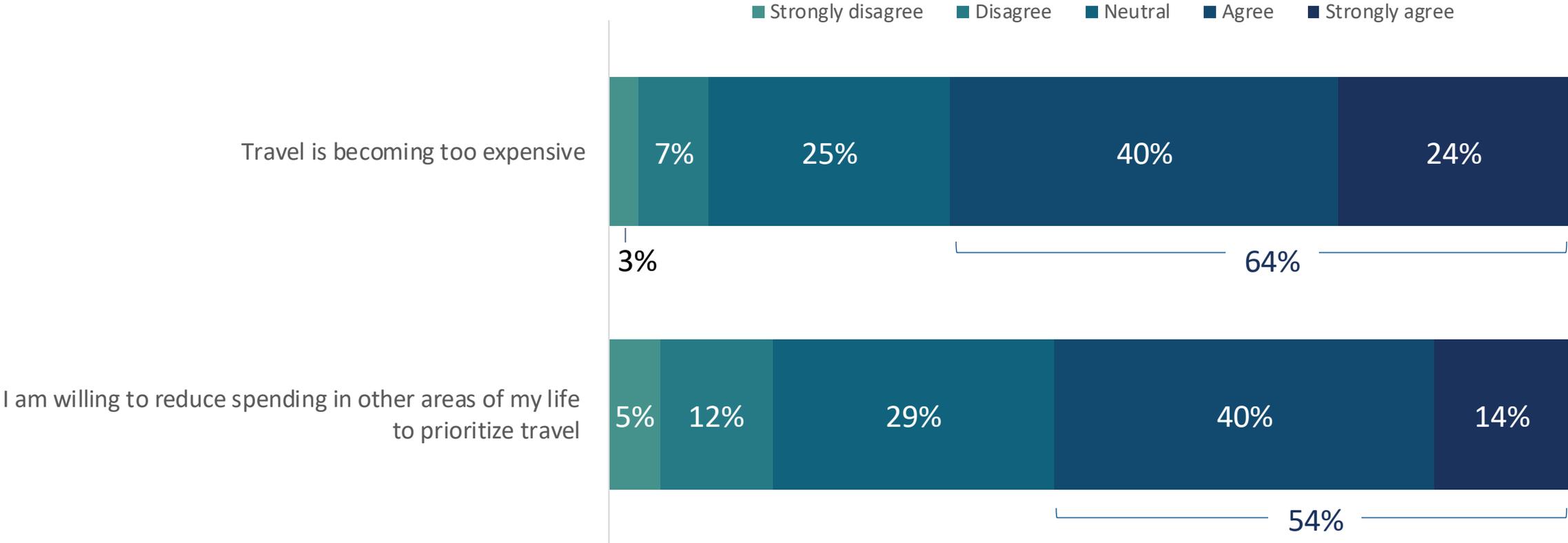
# Majority of Travelers Report Increased Appreciation for Travel Due to Pandemic

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:



# Majority of Travelers Prioritize Travel Despite Growing Concerns Over Travel Costs

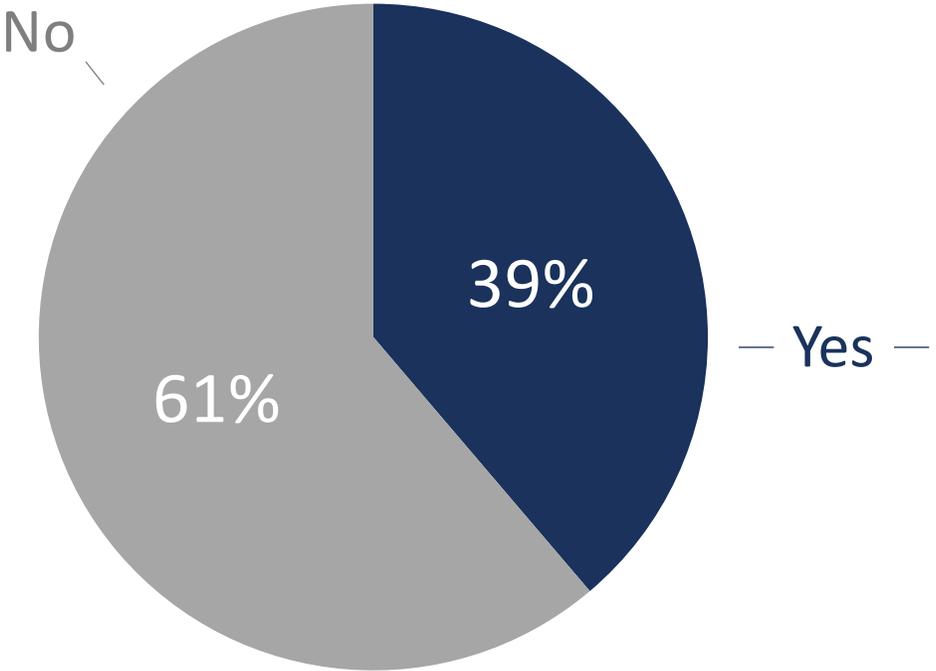
Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:



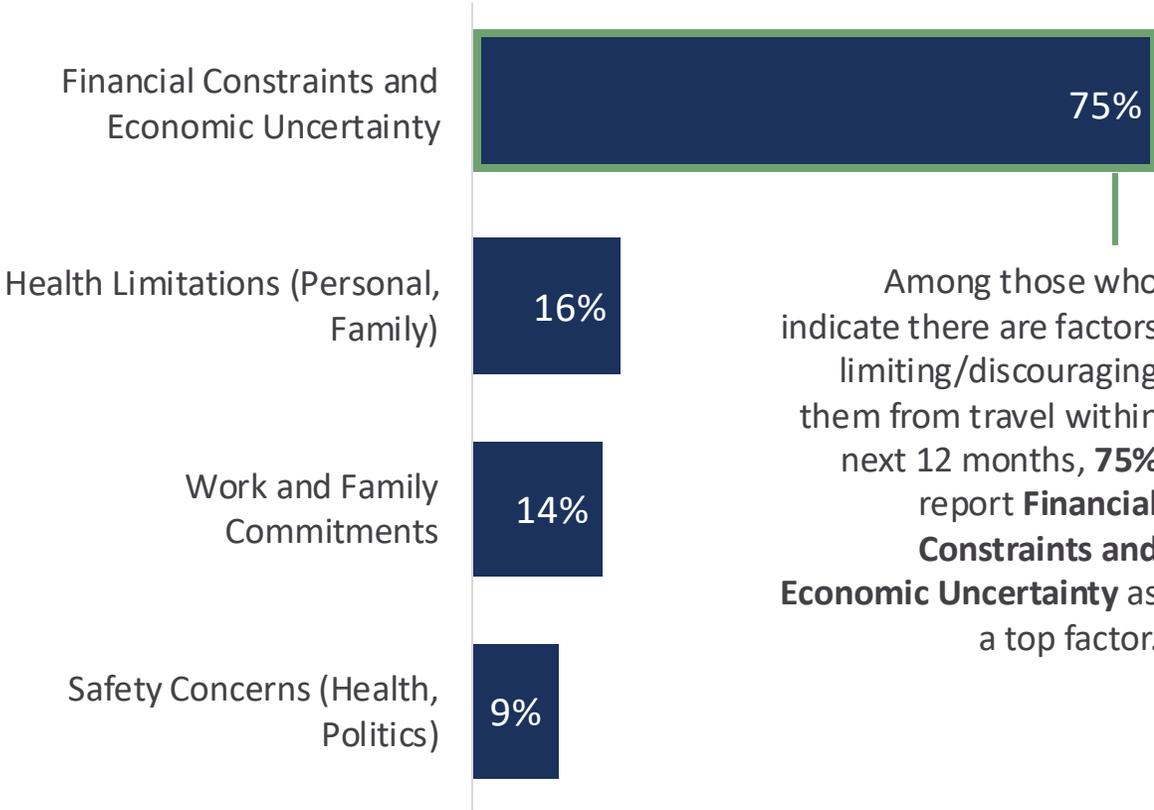
Source: Longwoods International ATS Wave 100  
Percentages are based only on respondents who are confirmed travelers

# 4 in 10 Travelers Report are Factors Limiting or Discouraging them from Leisure Travel within Next 12 Months

Are there any factors limiting or discouraging you from taking a leisure trip in the next 12 months?



## Factors Impacting Leisure Travel within Next 12 Months



Among those who indicate there are factors limiting/discouraging them from travel within next 12 months, **75%** report **Financial Constraints and Economic Uncertainty** as a top factor.

Source: Longwoods International ATS Wave 100  
Percentages are based only on respondents who are confirmed travelers

# American Travel Sentiment Methodology

The American Travel Sentiment Study is the most comprehensive and longest-running survey of its kind, offering valuable insights into the factors influencing American travel behaviors.

## Key Details:

- Survey Date: September 10, 2025
- Sample Size: 1,000 U.S. adults (18+)
- Margin of Error:  $\pm 3\%$
- Representative of U.S. population demographics (age, gender, region)

Travelers are only respondents that have taken a trip in the last 3 years and intend to take a trip in the next 2 years.

Conducted with support from Miles Partnership, this study remains a vital tool for understanding the dynamic landscape of American travel.





# WHO WE ARE

Established in 1978 as a  
market research  
consultancy

Headquartered in  
Columbus, OH and  
Toronto, ON

Focused in  
tourism since  
1985

Working with over  
175 Destinations  
and Brands

The logo for Longwoods International. The word "Longwoods" is in a blue, sans-serif font, with a small globe icon replacing the letter "o". Below it, the word "INTERNATIONAL" is in a smaller, green, all-caps, sans-serif font.



## Additional Resources

Longwoods International Research

<https://longwoods-intl.com/category/american-travel-sentiment/>

Miles Partnership Research and Insights

[www.MilesPartnership.com/How-We-Think](http://www.MilesPartnership.com/How-We-Think)

A person with long blonde hair tied back, wearing a teal long-sleeved shirt, stands on a rocky ledge overlooking a deep canyon. The canyon walls are dark and layered, and a vibrant turquoise river flows through the center. The scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the person and across the canyon.

**Thank You!**

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