

TCMI at SmartState Tourism Domestic Travel Anxiety Index[®]

FEBRUARY 2023

Monthly Index Score

72.5

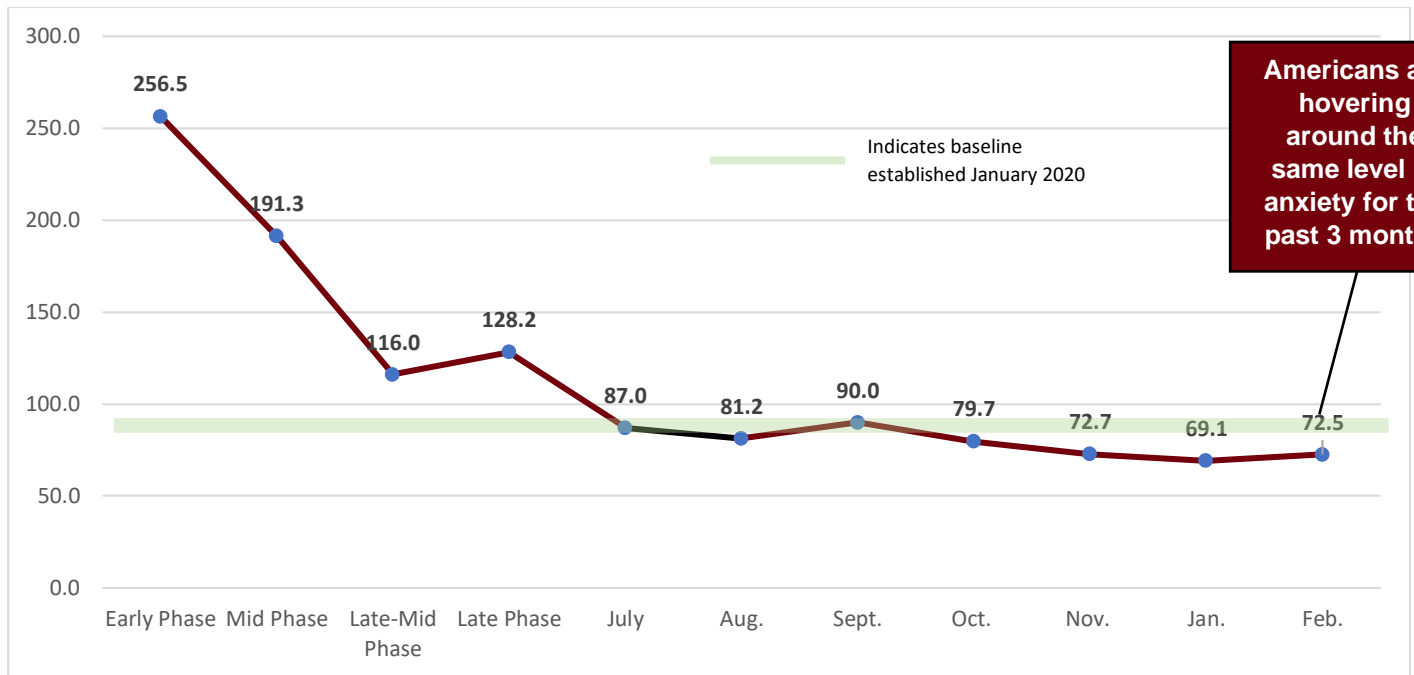
Month / Month Difference

4.97%

Month / Baseline Difference

-27.47%

TCMI DOMESTIC TRAVEL ANXIETY INDEX[®]



Index Overview

The Domestic Travel Anxiety Index[®] measures American leisure travelers' anxiety associated with domestic travel. The data is drawn from an online panel of U.S. residents who have traveled recently or are considering traveling within the next six months. The panelists represent U.S. leisure travelers. The purpose of the index is to monitor fluctuations in traveler anxiety over time.

The index is a monthly report provided by researchers at the [Richardson Family Smart State Center for Economic Excellence in Tourism and Economic Development \(SmartState Tourism\)](#) at the [University of South Carolina](#). It is part of the center's Tourism Crisis Management Initiative (TCMI). This is a relaunch of the index, which was measured during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Three values are reported: the monthly index score, the month / month difference, and the month / base difference. The month / month difference is the change of the given month's score to the previous month's



**Center for Economic
Excellence in Tourism**

College of Hospitality, Retail
and Sport Management

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

TCMI at SmartState Tourism Domestic Travel Anxiety Index[®]

score shown as a percentage. The month / base difference is the change from the given month to the baseline reference point of January 23, 2020 – before the pandemic arrived in the United States.

Five waves from the COVID-19 pandemic are included as reference points for the relaunched index. The waves were based on the CDC's defined phases of the pandemic: *Early Phase* (February 1 - April 30, 2020); *Mid-Phase* (May 1 - July 1, 2020); *Late-Mid Phase* (July 1 - August 31, 2020); *Late Phase* (September 1 - December 1, 2020).

About the Index

The TCMI Domestic Travel Anxiety Index[®] is a resource provided to the tourism industry by the [Richardson Family Smart State Center for Economic Excellence in Tourism and Economic Development at the University of South Carolina](#). It uses data collected from an ongoing survey to report perceptions and measure relative changes in domestic travel anxiety over time. The index is a barometer of domestic leisure travelers' anxiety, worry, and fear associated with travel within the U.S.

Methodology

Each wave has a range of 500-1,000 completed surveys, which are collected via an online panel of U.S. leisure travelers. TCMI's Domestic Travel Anxiety Index[®] is calculated by computing the relative score (the percent of negative replies divided by the total of the three categories of replies) for each of the three index questions (see Q1 below).

The survey scales range from 1-5. The scales are recoded as follows: 1=1, 2=2, 3=2, 4=3, and 5=3. These are labeled 1=negative, 2=neutral, 3=positive. Each relative score is rounded to the first decimal place. The three scores are summed together and divided by the baseline score and multiplied by 100. The baseline score is from January 23, 2020.

**Q1. Please indicate how you feel when you think about leisure travel in the U.S. right now.
(includes leisure travel using personal / rented vehicle)**

Anxious	←————→	Relaxed
Fearful	←————→	Fearless
Worried	←————→	Assured

Contact

Lori Pennington-Gray
SmartState Tourism Director
penninl@mailbox.sc.edu
803-576-7386

Ashley Schroeder
Research Lead
AS232@mailbox.sc.edu
803-576-7774

Web
sc.edu/SmartStateTourism



**Center for Economic
Excellence in Tourism**

College of Hospitality, Retail
and Sport Management

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA