

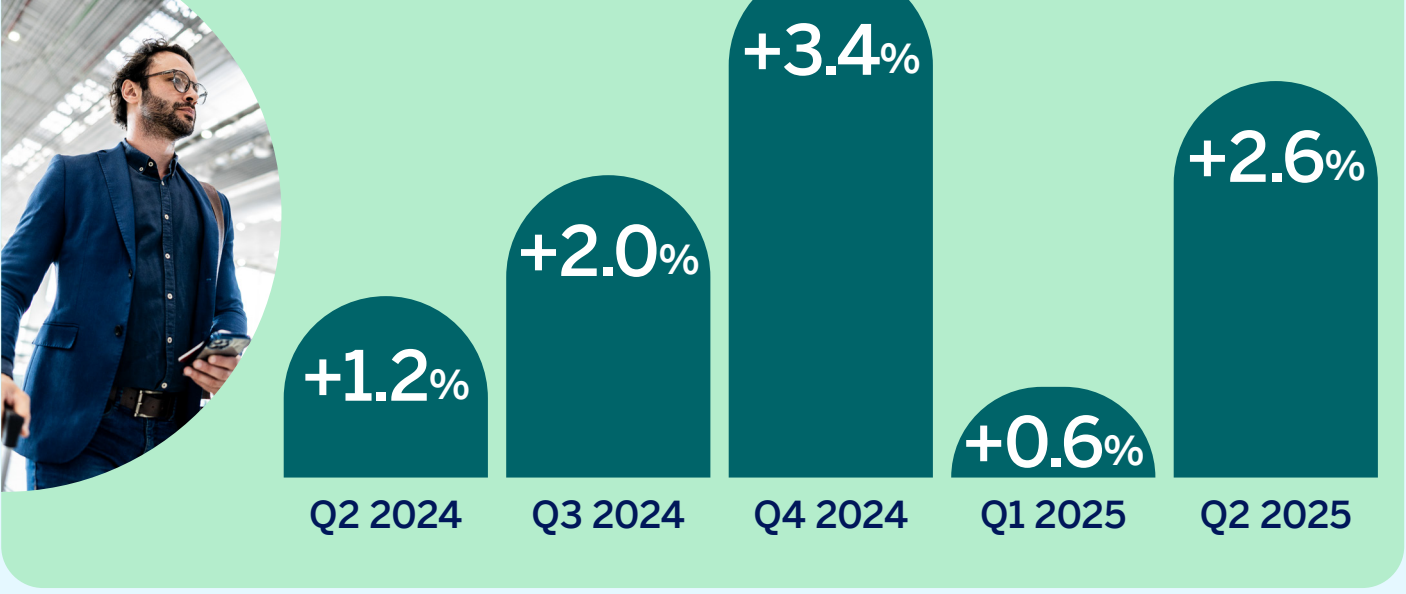
Business Travel Pulse

American Express Global Business Travel (Amex GBT) brings you the numbers that show how business travel drives economic activity around the world.



Business Travel Prices Index

We analyze a basket of business travel fares*, based on the components of a typical corporate travel program, to identify how the cost of business travel is evolving over time. In the most recent quarter, price growth picked up pace following a slower start to the year.



Business city focus: Chicago

Chicago is a key travel destination, last year attracting more than 55 million visitors and playing host to 1,891 meetings and conventions. As well as boasting one of the world's busiest airports, O'Hare International, Chicago is home to North America's largest convention center, McCormick Place.^{1,2} The city experienced record-breaking 98.5% hotel occupancy in May of this year when it played host to both Beyoncé at Soldier Field and the National Restaurant Association Show at McCormick Place.³

Touching down in the Windy City: Top 10 sources of air travel to Chicago

Domestic cities represent all of Chicago's top 10 air routes by volume, with New York, Dallas and Washington DC leading the ranking.



Rank	Origin
1	New York
2	Dallas
3	Washington DC
4	Atlanta
5	Boston
6	Minneapolis
7	San Francisco
8	Philadelphia
9	Detroit
10	Houston

Loop the Loop: The industries filling Chicago's hotels

Financial services, professional services, and IT companies drive demand for hotel room nights in the Midwest city.

Rank	Industry
1	Financial Services & Insurance
2	Business & Professional Services
3	Information Technology
4	Pharma & Healthcare
5	Consumer Goods & Retail



See you in Chicago: The industries driving meetings and events

Rank	Industry
1	Pharma, Healthcare & Health Sciences
2	Financial Services & Insurance
3	Technology & Communications
4	Business & Professional Services
5	Consumer & Manufacturing

Pharma, healthcare and health sciences top the table of industries holding meetings and events in Chicago.

From O'Hare to where? Chicago's fastest-growing city pairs

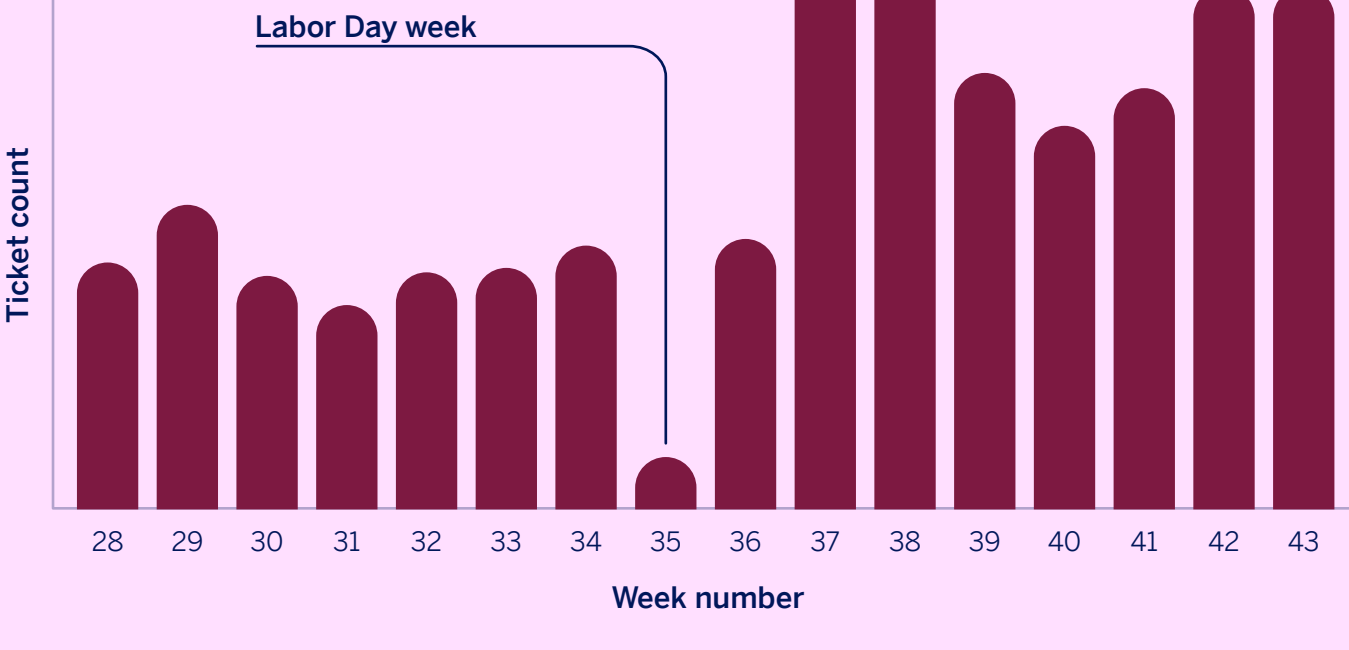
Like its top sources of air arrivals, all of Chicago's five fastest-growing business travel air connections are domestic. The fastest-growing route is with near neighbor, Indianapolis.

Rank	City pair (non-directional)
1	Chicago – Indianapolis
2	Chicago – Miami
3	Chicago – San Diego
4	Chicago – Detroit
5	Chicago – Tampa



End of summer: Labor Day's impact on business travel

Labor Day remains one of the biggest travel dates in the US calendar, with travelers marking the end-of-summer holiday with leisure trips.⁴ This is reflected in a clear drop in business travel bookings during Labor Day week, as seen in 2024 (below). Bookings then surge in September, traditionally a busy month for business travel as the Northern Hemisphere summer holidays end.



Leaving on a jet plane: Top 10 fastest-growing airline routes for business travel

Domestic routes are seeing strong growth, representing seven of our top 10 fastest-growing city pairs. Brussels-Helsinki retains its crown as the fastest-growing route, but Helsinki city pairs represent just two of the top 10 – down from four in our last Business Travel Pulse.



Rank	City pair (non-directional)
1	Brussels – Helsinki
2	Porto Alegre – Sao Paulo
3	Hiroshima – Tokyo
4	Helsinki – Paris
5	San Diego – San Francisco
6	Las Vegas – Philadelphia
7	Hyderabad – Pune
8	Madrid – Vigo
9	Albuquerque – Phoenix
10	Dubai – Kuwait

Methodology

Data included refers to Q2 2025, except Labor Day trends data, which represents the Labor Day period in 2024. All data is taken from Amex GBT's data lake, with additional analysis by the Amex GBT Consulting team. Data has been processed so no individual clients, or groups of clients, can be inferred from it.

*The Business Travel Prices Index is weighted as follows:

- Air, Average Ticket Price: 65% of Index score
- Hotel, Average Booked Rate: 25% of Index score
- Rail, Average Ticket Price: 5% of Index score
- Car Rental, Average Daily Rate: 5% of Index score

References

- News release, Chicago Department of Aviation, April 14, 2025, City of Chicago: O'Hare International Airport Ranked Among 10 Busiest Airports In The World In 2024.
- Choose Chicago, Accessed August 12, 2025.
- Beyoncé fans and foodies filled Chicago hotel rooms: new tourism CEO sees 'staycation' revenue opportunity, Chicago SunTimes, May 22, 2025.
- Travelers hit the road for the long Labor Day weekend, NBC News, August 31, 2024.

The statements contained in this document are based on Amex GBT data as of the date of publication, all of which are subject to change. While the data contained in Business Travel Pulse have been prepared with all due care and the information contained in this report is believed accurate at time of preparation, we do not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the data presented. The data presented is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as investment advice, or as a measure of American Express Global Business Travel's business performance. Past performance is not indicative of future results and should not be relied upon as being necessarily indicative of future results.