

#### PREPARED FOR:

HILTON HEAD ISLAND-BLUFFTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BY:

OFFICE OF TOURISM ANALYSIS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS**

Millennials and Gen Z represented a combined total of 82.7% of the respondents, followed by Gen X (12.5%), and then Boomers (4.0%). Over 53% of those surveyed had a bachelor's degree or higher, and more than 70% had an annual household income of \$75,000 or more per year. Also, just under 70% of the respondents were married.

#### **POINT OF ORIGIN**

The respondents resided in 244 geographical areas / MSAs (Metropolitan Statistical Areas) throughout the U.S., stretching from east to west coast. More respondents resided in California than any other state (10.5%). Second was New York (7.8%), followed then by Indiana (6.5%), Texas (5.0%), Maryland (4.7%), and Georgia (4.5%). In-state visitors did not make up a significantly large portion of the respondents (1.9%).

According to a market penetration analysis, the following MSAs were major markets amongst respondents: New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA; Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD; Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA; Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA; Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV; Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI; and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX.

Canada was the top international origin market amongst respondents (32.5%), followed by Europe (20.0%).

#### THOSE WHO TRAVELED TO BLUFFTON

The top reasons for choosing Bluffton as a destination included visiting beaches, visiting heritage attractions/museums/historic tours, and spending time with family. Other popular motivations included relaxation, boating/sailing/kayaking, and nature-based activities. The activities in which visitors actually participated are similar to the previously mentioned activities, and also include shopping, culinary, and health/wellness. Amongst Bluffton's overnight visitors, 83.4% were first-time visitors, suggesting that the destination continues to appeal to new visitors.

#### TRIP CHARACTERISTICS

The average group size of those surveyed was 3.8 for overnight visitors and 4.3 for day trip visitors. The main mode of transportation to town was personal/family car (36.7% overnight; 27.8% day trip). About 51.0% of overnight visitors flew to Bluffton via commercial flights, with just under one-third of them (28.5%) landing at the Hilton Head Island Airport.

The average length of stay for those overnight visitors surveyed was approximately 5.3 nights. Hotels were the most popular choice of accommodation for overnight visitors (36.5%), followed by resorts (21.5%), staying with friends/relatives (21.4%), and home/villa rentals (14.8%).

#### TRAVEL PLANNING

Airbnb was the most popular online booking platform for villas/homes (31.1%), followed by the local resorts' online booking platforms (23.3%), HomeAway (10.0%), TurnKey (8.9%), and local vacation rental companies (7.8%). The top five other destinations visitors considered before choosing Bluffton were the Alabama Golf Trail; the Hawaiian Islands; Gulf Shores, AL; Orlando, FL; and the Caribbean.

Top reasons for choosing to visit Bluffton were wanting to visit nature-based attractions (41.9%), wanting to visit heritage attractions (35.7%), word-of-mouth recommendation (35.5%), and wanting to visit a beach destination (34.9%)

Of those surveyed, 67.8% indicated an intention to return to visit Bluffton, which signals a high degree of trip satisfaction.

#### **Non-Visitors**

Of those who indicated not to have traveled at all or not to have traveled to the Hilton Head Island / Bluffton area in the past 12 months (N=341), 42.9% had never visited the Hilton Head Island / Bluffton area before, and 50.4% had visited one to five times before.

Of those non-visitors, 27.0% traveled elsewhere, 5.3% found it too expensive, 5.0% mentioned health reasons, 4.1% were hesitant because of unpredictable weather events, 3.2% did not find what they were looking for, and 0.6% did not travel at all. Over 25% stated the COVID-19 pandemic is still keeping them from visiting the Hilton Head Island / Bluffton area. Of those who did not visit the Hilton Head Island / Bluffton area, alternative destinations in the Southeast (33.7%) and South (22.3%) were the most popular. Nonetheless, 50.1% of the non-visitors indicated they had plans to visit the Hilton Head Island / Bluffton area within one year.

#### **TRAVEL BEHAVIOR**

Looking at the travel behavior of both visitors and non-visitors together, the majority (47.3%) take two to four leisure/vacation trips per year, and they are most likely to travel between June and October.

The top five most appealing experiences for leisure trips/vacations were: relaxation & rejuvenation (66.9%), beaches (65.1%), romantic couple getaways (65.0%), passive outdoor adventures (64.4%), and historic attractions (64.4%).

The following attributes were most important in choosing a leisure vacation: quality of dining options (72.5%), natural beauty of the destination (72.1%), quality of lodging options (71.0%), ease of access (70.5%), diversity of dining options (68.6%), environmental/ecological sensitivity (67.6%), and diversity of lodging options (67.3%).



#### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION**

The 2022 Visitor Profile Study (VPS) for the Hilton Head Island and Bluffton Area was conducted electronically. Between mid-January 2022 and January 2023, emails were sent on a rolling basis to invite individuals to participate in the VPS. These individuals had previously visited www.hiltonheadisland.org or www.visitbluffton.org and submitted their email addresses, and they were contacted following their anticipated dates of visitation. In addition, invitations to complete the survey were posted multiple times during the same time period on the social media channels of the Hilton Head Island Visitor & Convention Bureau and Explore Bluffton.

A total of 2,918 completed surveys were collected. This report is based largely on the 1,005 respondents who visited Bluffton as an overnight or day trip, along with individuals who did not travel at all or did not travel to Hilton Head Island / Bluffton.

This report presents the results of the present study, together with comparative results from the last time this study was completed, examining visitation in 2021.

The table below shows the visitor estimates for Bluffton by segment for 2021 and 2022.

Visitor Segment	2021	2022
Non-paying Guests	172,349	154,478
Daytrippers	309,137	277,083
Total Visitors	481,486	431,561

Table 1: Visitor Estimates 2022

# **SURVEY FINDINGS**

### **SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS**

Gender	
Female	38.1%
Male	61.9%
Marital Status	
Married	69.1%
Single	14.4%
Divorced	7.7%
Widowed	7.2%
Separated	1.6%
Education (highest level completed)	
Grade School	0.8%
High School	3.6%
Some College	26.7%
Associates Degree (2 years)	15.8%
Bachelor's Degree (4 years)	33.9%
Graduate Degree (Post degree/MA)	19.1%
Age	
19 years or younger	0.6%
20 to 29 years	38.3%
30 to 39 years	44.4%
40 to 49 years	10.7%
50 to 59 years	1.8%
60 to 69 years	2.9%
70 years and over	1.1%
Prefer not to say	0.2%
Household Income	
Under \$24,999	0.8%
\$25,000-\$34,999	5.6%
\$35,000-\$49,999	10.3%
\$50,000-\$74,999	12.6%
\$75,000-\$99,999	18.8%
\$100,000-\$149,999	18.4%
\$150,000-\$199,999	19.1%
\$200,000-\$249,999	7.6%
\$250,000 or more	6.8%
N	1,005

Table 2: Demographics

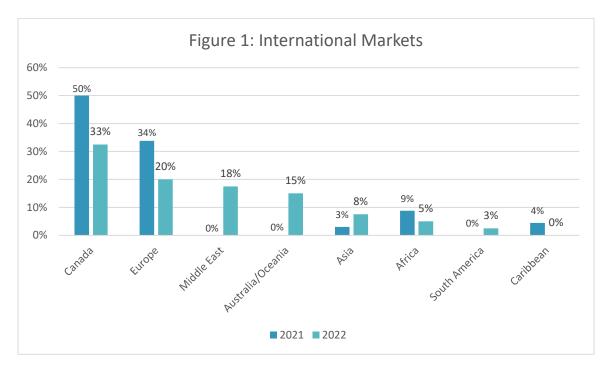
# SAMPLE POINT OF ORIGIN

# ZIP Code Analysis – Top 30 MSAs

	Metropolitan Area	Sum MSA	Percent MSA Share
1	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	75	7.8%
2	Fort Wayne, IN	41	4.4%
3	Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	32	3.3%
4	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	32	3.3%
5	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	29	3.0%
6	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	26	2.7%
7	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	24	2.5%
8	Rural North Dakota	18	1.8%
9	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	18	1.8%
10	San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA	17	1.7%
11	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	17	1.7%
12	Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	17	1.7%
13	Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, IN	15	1.5%
14	Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	14	1.4%
15	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	13	1.3%
16	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	13	1.3%
17	Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	12	1.2%
18	Cleveland-Elyria, OH	12	1.2%
19	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	11	1.1%
20	Montgomery, AL	11	1.1%
21	San Diego-Carlsbad, CA	10	1.0%
22	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	9	0.9%
23	Columbus, OH	9	0.9%
24	Colorado Springs, CO	9	0.9%
25	Pittsburgh, PA	9	0.9%
26	St. Louis, MO-IL	9	0.9%
27	Russellville, AR	8	0.8%
28	Easton, MD	8	0.8%
29	Worcester, MA-CT	8	0.8%
30	San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	7	0.7%
	Other	432	43.1%
	Total	965	

Table 3: ZIP Code Analysis – Top 30 MSAs

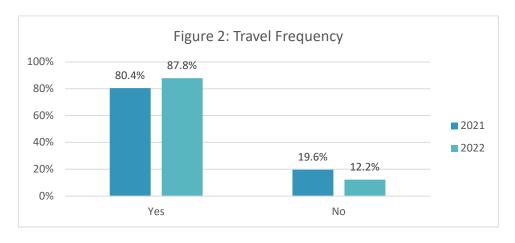
### **International Markets**



	2021	2022
Canada	50.0%	32.5%
Europe	33.8%	20.0%
Middle East	-	17.5%
Australia/Oceania	-	15.0%
Asia	3.0%	7.5%
Africa	8.8%	5.0%
South America	-	2.5%
Caribbean	4.4%	-
N	68	40

Table 4: International Markets

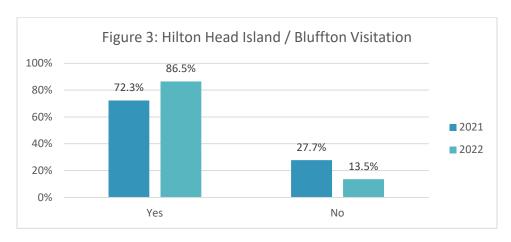
# TRAVEL TO THE HILTON HEAD ISLAND / BLUFFTON AREA Within the last 12 months have you traveled or taken a vacation?



	2021	2022
Yes	80.4%	87.8%
No	19.6%	12.2%
N	2,084	2,918

TABLE 5: Travel Frequency by Year

#### Did you visit Bluffton, SC or Hilton Head Island, SC in the last 12 months?



	2021	2022
Yes	72.3%	86.5%
No	27.7%	13.5%
N	1,675	2,547

TABLE 6: Bluffton / Hilton Head Island Visitation by Year

#### **BLUFFTON VISITORS**

#### Was that your first time visiting in Bluffton?



	2021	2021	2022	2022
	(Overnight)	(Day Trip)	(Overnight)	(Day Trip)
Yes	75.0%	64.3%	83.4%	81.5%
No	25.0%	35.7%	16.6%	18.5%
N	164	28	603	54

TABLE 7: First Time Visitor vs. Repeat Visitor

# Approximately how long before your trip to Bluffton did you make your first reservation (e.g., accommodation, transportation, etc.)?



	2021	2022
Less than 2 weeks	23.8%	22.5%
2 weeks to 4 weeks	37.8%	31.6%
1 to 2 months	20.1%	11.6%
3 to 5 months	14.0%	5.3%
6 to 12 months	3.0%	28.3%
More than 12 months	1.2%	0.7%
N	164	604

TABLE 8: Reservation Lead Time

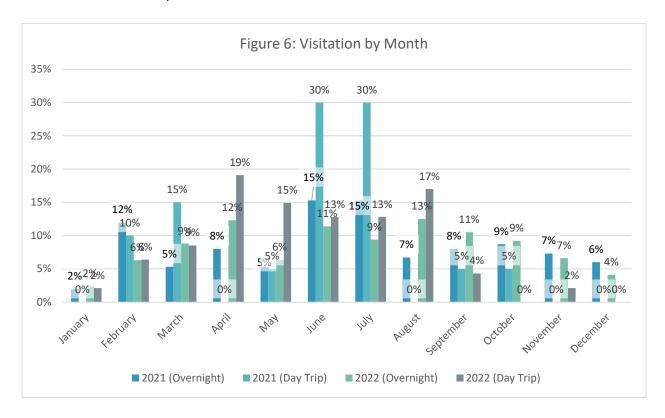
# When did you make your most recent trip to Bluffton?

	2021 (Overnight)	2021 (Day Trip)	2022 (Overnight)	2022 (Day Trip)
2020	29.3%	15.8%		
2021	70.7%	84.2%		
2022			100.0%	100.0%
N	150	19	543	47

**TABLE 9: Visitation Year** 

	2021 (Overnight)	2021 (Day Trip)	2022 (Overnight)	2022 (Day Trip)
January	2.0%	-	2.4%	2.1%
February	12.0%	10.0%	6.3%	6.4%
March	5.3%	15.0%	8.8%	8.5%
April	8.0%	-	12.3%	19.1%
May	5.3%	5.0%	6.4%	14.9%
June	15.3%	30.0%	11.4%	12.8%
July	15.3%	30.0%	9.4%	12.8%
August	6.7%	-	12.5%	17.0%
September	8.0%	5.0%	10.5%	4.3%
October	8.7%	5.0%	9.2%	-
November	7.3%	-	6.6%	2.1%
December	6.0%	-	4.1%	-
N	150	20	543	47

TABLE 10: Visitation by Month



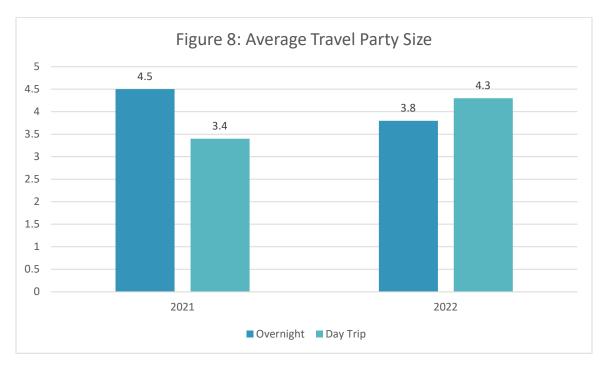
# Approximately how many nights was your trip to Bluffton?



	2021	2022
None/day trip only	15.6%	7.5%
1 night	3.4%	3.4%
2 nights	12.8%	12.9%
3 nights	18.4%	14.2%
4 nights	10.6%	10.4%
5 nights	13.4%	9.9%
6 nights	-	6.7%
7 nights	4.5%	4.6%
8 nights	2.8%	2.6%
9 nights	2.2%	2.1%
10 nights	5.6%	4.2%
11 nights	1.7%	2.2%
12 nights	1.7%	1.6%
13 nights	1.7%	1.1%
14 nights	1.7%	3.8%
15 nights	1.1%	2.2%
More than 15 nights	2.8%	10.5%
N	179	626

TABLE 11: Length of Stay

# Please indicate how many people (including yourself) were in your travel party.



	2021 (Overnight)	2021 (Day Trip)	2022 (Overnight)	2022 (Day Trip)
Average	4.5	3.4	3.8	4.3
N	151	21	543	47

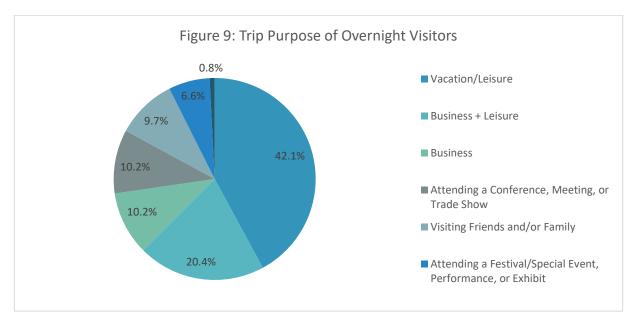
TABLE 12: Travel Party Size

#### Please indicate by age category how many people were in your travel party.

		<del>-</del>	-					
Α	.ge	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
	Under 18	73.1%	17.1%	7.0%	0.7%	1.2%	0.5%	0.4%
	18-24	64.3%	21.3%	11.0%	2.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.7%
	25-34	33.4%	31.3%	25.2%	5.4%	1.4%	2.1%	1.2%
Overnight	35-44	67.8%	18.9%	8.9%	2.1%	0.5%	1.4%	0.5%
	45-54	90.9%	3.5%	4.7%	0.2%	0.7%	-	-
	55-64	94.4%	3.3%	2.3%	-	-	-	-
	65+	96.0%	2.6%	1.4%	-	-	-	-
	Under 18	68.8%	31.3%	-	-	-	-	-
	18-24	62.5%	6.3%	18.8%	6.3%	0.0%	-	6.3%
	25-34	56.3%	12.5%	25.0%	6.3%	-	-	-
Day Trip	35-44	81.3%	12.5%	6.3%	-	-	-	-
	45-54	75.0%	12.5%	12.5%	-	-	-	-
	55-64	93.8%	-	-	6.3%	-	-	-
	65+	81.3%	6.3%	6.3%	-	6.3%	-	-

TABLE 13: Travel Party Age Mix

# What was the main purpose of your overnight visit to Bluffton?



	2021	2022
Vacation/Leisure	46.3%	42.1%
Business + Leisure	22.1%	20.4%
Business	-	10.2%
Attending a Conference, Meeting, or Trade Show	9.4%	10.2%
Visiting Friends and/or Family	16.8%	9.7%
Attending a Festival/Special Event, Performance, or Exhibit	3.4%	6.6%
Relocating to Hilton Head/Bluffton area	2.0%	0.8%
N	149	608

TABLE 14: Trip Purpose of Overnight Visitors

# Day Trip Visitors: Was this visit part of an overnight vacation or a day trip from home?

	2021	2022
Part of a vacation	50.0%	85.2%
Day trip from home	50.0%	14.8%
N	28	54

TABLE 15: Day Trip as Part of a Vacation or Day Trip from Home

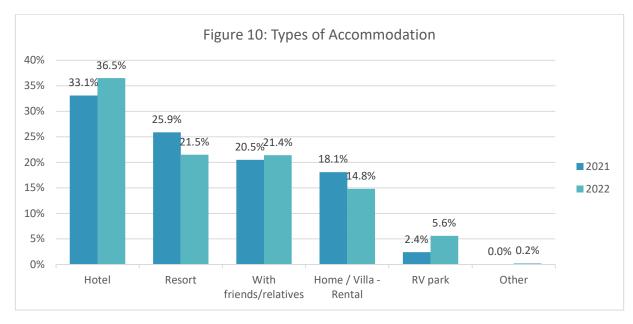
#### Where did you stay overnight?

	2021	2022
Charleston	18.2%	39.1%
Tybee Island	-	28.3%
Beaufort	18.2%	17.4%
Savannah	45.5%	8.7%
Jacksonville	9.1%	2.2%
Other	9.1%	4.3%
N	11	46

TABLE 16: Vacation Day Trip Visitors Overnight Location

#### **Overnight Visitors:**

# What was your primary form of accommodation while visiting Bluffton?



	2021	2022
Hotel	33.1%	36.5%
Resort	25.9%	21.5%
With friends/relatives	20.5%	21.4%
Home / Villa - Rental	18.1%	14.8%
RV park	2.4%	5.6%
Other	-	0.2%
N	166	608

TABLE 17: Types of Accommodation

# What was the name of the Hotel/Resort where you stayed?

Old Town Bluffton Inn	24.5%
Comfort Suites	16.8%
Montage Palmetto Bluff	16.1%
Hampton Inn & Suites	10.5%
Candlewood Suites	6.3%
Comfort Inn	6.3%
America's Best Value Inn	4.9%
Hilton Garden Inn	3.5%
Holiday Inn Express	2.8%
Palmera Inn and Suites	2.8%
N	143

TABLE 18: Top 10 Hotels or Resorts

# Which of the following online platforms did you use to make your home/villa reservation?

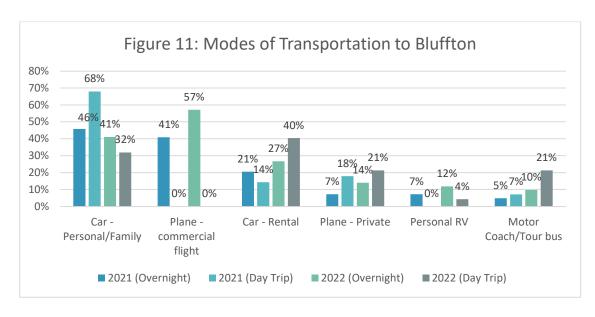
Airbnb	31.1%
Directly with the resort	23.3%
HomeAway	10.0%
TurnKey	8.9%
A local vacation rental company	7.8%
Booking.com	7.8%
VRBO	4.4%
Vacasa	3.3%
None	3.3%
N	90

TABLE 19: Booking Platforms for Home/Villa Rental

### What type of transportation did you use to travel to Bluffton?

	2021 (Overnight)	2021 (Day Trip)	2022 (Overnight)	2022 (Day Trip)
Car - Personal/Family	45.8%	67.9%	36.7%	27.8%
Plane - Non-stop commercial flight	30.1%	-	30.3%	-
Car - Rental	20.5%	14.3%	23.8%	35.2%
Plane - Multi-leg commercial flight	10.8%	-	20.7%	-
Plane - Private	7.2%	17.9%	12.5%	18.5%
Personal RV	7.2%	-	10.5%	3.7%
Motor Coach/Tour bus	4.8%	7.1%	8.7%	18.5%
N	166	28	608	54

TABLE 20: Modes of Transportation to Bluffton



# Visitors Arriving by Plane: At which airport did you land?

Hilton Head Island	28.5%
Charleston	23.9%
Savannah/Hilton Head Island	
International	20.6%
Atlanta	16.3%
Jacksonville	8.0%
Charlotte	2.8%
N	326

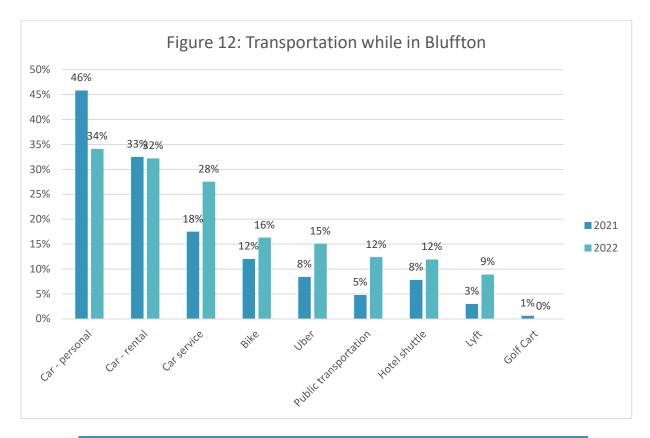
TABLE 21: Arrival Airport by Year

#### Which commercial airline did you use?

American Airlines	40.3%
Alaska	14.2%
Allegiant	10.4%
Air Canada	7.5%
Breeze	6.0%
Delta	5.6%
Frontier	4.9%
Southwest	4.9%
JetBlue	3.0%
Silver Airways	3.0%
Other	0.4%
N	268

TABLE 22: Commercial Airlines Used

# Once in Bluffton, what mode(s) of transportation did you use?



	2021	2022
Car - personal	45.8%	34.1%
Car - rental	32.5%	32.2%
Car service	17.5%	27.5%
Bike	12.0%	16.3%
Uber	8.4%	15.1%
Public transportation (HHI Trolley, etc.)	4.8%	12.4%
Shuttle offered by the hotel/resort	7.8%	11.9%
Lyft	3.0%	8.9%
Golf Cart	0.6%	-
N	166	608

TABLE 23: Transportation Used While In Bluffton

# Please indicate the approximate total amount of money that was spent by your party/group for each category while in the Bluffton area.

	Overnight	Day Trip	Overall
Transportation	\$235.32	\$64.38	\$228.56
Lodging	\$679.77	\$0.00	\$652.92
Food - Dining	\$525.56	\$180.31	\$511.82
Food - Grocery	\$196.32	\$88.75	\$192.07
Shopping	\$531.10	\$232.00	\$519.97
Spas	\$71.80	\$44.29	\$70.79
Golf	\$61.98	\$37.50	\$61.01
Biking	\$23.56	\$7.50	\$22.92
Performance/Visual Arts	\$60.33	\$51.25	\$59.97
Festivals	\$57.50	\$28.75	\$56.37
Museums/Historical Tours	\$60.72	\$76.25	\$61.34
Boating/Sailing/Fishing	\$91.05	\$47.50	\$89.32
Nature-based Activities	\$41.02	\$3.75	\$39.53
Dolphin Tours	\$42.40	\$6.25	\$40.96
Tennis	\$20.76	\$0.00	\$19.94
Other Expenses	\$178.60	\$7.50	\$171.74
Total Expenditure	\$2,862.66	\$855.94	\$2,783.38

Table 24: Average Per Travel Party Trip Expenditures by Category and Visitor Type

# What are the three primary reasons why you visited Bluffton?

	2021	2021	2022	2022
	(Overnight)	(Day Trip)	(Overnight)	(Day Trip)
Beaches	33.1%	53.6%	30.3%	27.8%
Heritage attractions / Museum / Historical tours	22.3%	25.0%	17.6%	13.0%
Time with family/friends	22.3%	21.4%	23.5%	5.6%
Relaxation	21.7%	-	11.0%	9.3%
Boating / Sailing / Kayaking	21.1%	7.1%	22.7%	20.4%
Nature-based activities (dolphin/turtle tours, fishing, etc.)	16.9%	3.6%	16.1%	3.7%
Biking	15.7%	14.3%	23.2%	37.0%
Business trip (convention, meeting, etc.)	15.1%	10.7%	22.7%	37.0%
Shopping	14.5%	28.6%	16.4%	11.1%
Culinary	12.0%	32.1%	10.2%	37.0%
Golf	11.4%	3.6%	7.9%	13.0%
Attend sporting event	10.2%	25.0%	12.2%	11.1%
Health/wellness/fitness	10.2%	7.1%	11.7%	5.6%
Festivals	7.8%	3.6%	12.8%	1.9%
Parks	5.4%	7.1%	8.6%	7.4%
Heritage attractions / Museum / Historical tours	4.8%	7.1%	17.6%	13.0%
Tennis	2.4%	3.6%	4.9%	1.9%
Wedding	2.4%	-	3.5%	-
Other			1.2%	1.9%
Performance/visual arts	-	3.6%	-	-
N	166	28	608	54

TABLE 25: Three Primary Reasons for Visitation

# Which of the following activities did you actively participate in?

	2021 (Overnight)	2021 (Day Trip)	2022 (Overnight)	2022 (Day Trip)
Beaches	40.4%	42.9%	40.6%	37.0%
Biking	16.9%	7.1%	33.9%	27.8%
Business/work	17.5%	14.3%	24.8%	9.3%
Shopping	22.3%	50.0%	22.0%	18.5%
Museum / Historical tours	19.3%	10.7%	21.5%	5.6%
Culinary	17.5%	42.9%	21.2%	20.4%
Nature-based activities (dolphin/turtle tours, fishing, etc.)	24.1%	-	20.4%	9.3%
Time with family/friends	24.1%	35.7%	20.4%	14.8%
Health / Wellness / Fitness	16.3%	3.6%	19.6%	18.5%
Festivals	12.7%	7.1%	19.1%	11.1%
Attend sporting event	13.3%	14.3%	17.1%	16.7%
Golf	12.7%	7.1%	16.1%	7.4%
Music or theatrical performance / Visual arts exhibit	10.2%	7.1%	15.6%	3.7%
Relaxation	25.9%	35.7%	15.3%	13.0%
Spas	5.4%	3.6%	13.2%	3.7%
Water excursions	11.4%	10.7%	9.5%	22.2%
Sports activities	5.4%	-	9.2%	3.7%
University visit / Education / Intellectual programs	4.2%	10.7%	8.2%	5.6%
Tennis	5.4%	-	6.9%	1.9%
Other	1.8%	-	-	-
N	166	28	608	54

TABLE 26: Activities Visitors Participated In

# Which shopping locations did you visit?

	2021 (Overnight)	2021 (Day Trip)	2022 (Overnight)	2022 (Day Trip)
Downtown Bluffton	48.2%	39.3%	48.8%	50.0%
Main Street Village	19.3%	17.9%	27.1%	18.5%
Coligny Plaza	29.5%	25.0%	25.8%	37.0%
Harbour Town	26.5%	17.9%	25.8%	33.3%
Tanger Outlets	31.3%	53.6%	21.5%	9.3%
Shelter Cove Harbour	21.7%	10.7%	20.9%	29.6%
Shelter Cove Towne Centre	18.1%	17.9%	20.2%	22.2%
Buckwalter shopping areas	15.7%	14.3%	19.9%	11.1%
South Beach Marina	10.2%	3.6%	18.3%	9.3%
The Shops at Sea Pines Center	20.5%	7.1%	17.9%	16.7%
Village at Wexford	12.7%	-	14.8%	11.1%
Shopping areas off 278 (Target, Kroger, Best				
Buy, etc.)	17.5%	28.6%	11.2%	18.5%
Other	1.2%	-		
None	1.2%	3.6%		
N	166	28	608	54

TABLE 27: Shopping Locations Visited

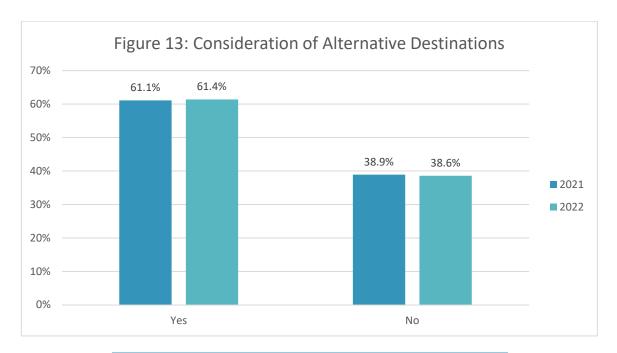
# Did you visit any of the following cities while staying in Bluffton?

	2021	2022
Hilton Head Island	50.6%	37.7%
Charleston	26.5%	33.7%
Daufuskie Island	15.1%	28.5%
Beaufort	25.9%	27.5%
Jacksonville	21.7%	27.3%
Savannah	27.7%	25.2%
Tybee Island	14.5%	15.3%
Port Royal	0.6%	0.3%
I did not visit any other cities.	4.2%	4.1%
N	166	608

TABLE 28: Other Cities Visited While Staying in Bluffton

#### **TRAVEL PLANNING**

# Before deciding to visit Bluffton, did you consider any other destinations?



	2021	2022
Yes	61.1%	61.4%
No	38.9%	38.6%
N	193	658

TABLE 29: Consideration of alternative destinations

# Which of the following destinations did you consider visiting?

	2021	2022
Alabama Golf Trail	36.4%	38.1%
Hawaiian Islands	22.0%	37.4%
Gulf Shores, AL	22.0%	29.5%
Orlando, FL	15.3%	28.7%
Caribbean	22.0%	26.5%
Isle of Palms, SC	22.0%	26.2%
Marco Island/Naples	15.3%	24.3%
Savannah, GA	9.3%	23.8%
Telluride, CO	7.6%	23.5%
Aspen, CA	36.4%	22.3%
Reynolds Plantation, GA	9.3%	21.3%
Sea Island, GA	9.3%	21.0%
Outer Banks, NC	9.3%	20.3%
Sandestin, FL	9.3%	18.3%
Ponte Vedre, FL	9.3%	17.3%
Kiawah Island, SC	22.0%	17.1%
Pinehurst, NC	9.3%	16.3%
Hilton Head, SC	22.0%	13.9%
Sarasota, FL	9.3%	12.1%
Sanibel Island, FL	9.3%	11.9%
Napa/Sonoma, CA	15.3%	11.4%
St. Simmons Island, GA	9.3%	10.6%
Charleston, SC	22.0%	10.6%
Tampa/St. Petersburg, FL	7.6%	10.1%
Tybee Island, GA	7.6%	8.7%
Jekyll Island, GA	22.0%	8.4%
Santa Fe, NM	9.3%	7.4%
Myrtle Beach, SC	15.3%	6.9%
The Florida Keys	7.6%	5.7%
Other	15.3%	17.3%
Total	118	404

TABLE 30: Alternative Destinations by Year

# How did Bluffton make it to your list of places to consider for your vacation?

	2021	2022
Wanted to visit because of the nature-based attractions	23.3%	41.9%
Wanted to visit heritage attractions	19.2%	35.7%
It was recommended by friends/family	29.0%	35.5%
Wanted to visit a beach destination	32.6%	34.9%
Wanted to visit someplace new	16.6%	24.0%
Had visited in the past and wanted to return	28.0%	22.7%
Discovered/learned about it on the internet/display ads/search engines	20.2%	19.7%
Saw an advertisement in a magazine/website/social media	17.1%	18.8%
Wanted to visit some place within driving distance	19.7%	18.4%
Wanted to attend a cultural/performing arts event	9.3%	15.8%
Wanted to attend a sporting event	5.7%	13.7%
Safe place to visit during or after COVID-19	9.8%	11.7%
Other	4.7%	1.3%
Total	193	618

TABLE 31: Reasons for Visiting Hilton Head Island

#### How likely are you to return to Bluffton?

	2021	2022
Very likely	59.4%	34.8%
Likely	26.4%	33.0%
Neutral	12.3%	24.3%
Unlikely	0.9%	6.1%
Very Unlikely	0.9%	1.8%
Total	106	618

TABLE 32: Likelihood of Visiting Bluffton Again

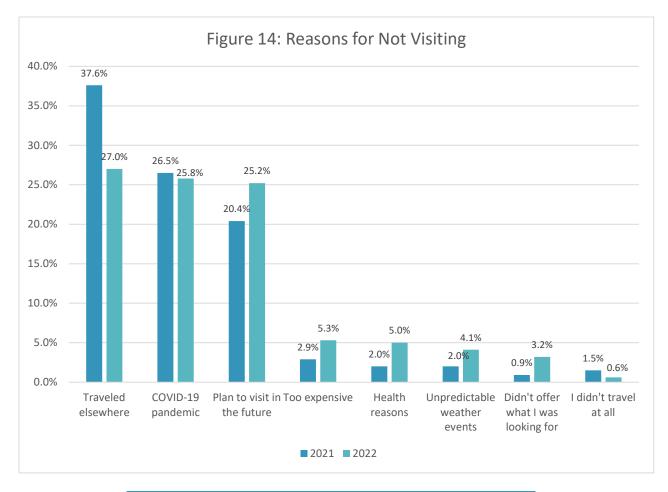
#### How likely are you to recommend visiting Bluffton to a friend or family member?

	2021	2022
Definitely Recommend	70.8%	39.4%
Probably Recommend	20.8%	40.0%
May or May Not Recommend	7.5%	17.2%
Probably Not Recommend	0.9%	3.1%
Definitely Not Recommend	0.0%	0.3%
Total	106	635

TABLE 33: Likelihood of Recommending a Visit to Bluffton

#### **Non-Visitors**

# Which of the following most accurately reflects why you did not visit Hilton Head Island-Bluffton during the last 12 months?



	2021	2022
Traveled elsewhere	37.6%	27.0%
COVID-19 pandemic	26.5%	25.8%
Plan to visit in the future	20.4%	25.2%
Too expensive	2.9%	5.3%
Health reasons	2.0%	5.0%
Unpredictable weather events	2.0%	4.1%
Didn't offer what I was looking for	0.9%	3.2%
I didn't travel at all	1.5%	0.6%
Other	6.2%	3.8%
Total	860	341

TABLE 34: Reasons for not visiting

### Please indicate the region(s) that you traveled to in the past 12 months.

	2021	2022
USA - Southeast (GA, FL, NC, SC)	26.9%	33.7%
USA - South (AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, OK, TN, TX)	9.0%	22.3%
USA - Midwest (IA, IN, IL, KS, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI)	10.5%	20.8%
USA - West (AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY)	9.8%	19.6%
USA - Northeast (CT, MA, MA, NJ, NH, NY, PA, RI, VT)	9.1%	18.5%
USA - South Atlantic (DE, DC, MD, VA, WV)	8.0%	17.0%
Canada	1.4%	10.9%
Europe	1.2%	7.3%
Latin America and Caribbean	2.1%	6.5%
Asia	0.5%	4.4%
Australia/New Zealand	0.2%	3.2%
Africa	0.3%	1.2%
Other	0.1%	2.1%
Total	860	341

TABLE 35: Regions Visited by Non-Visitors in the Past 12 Months

### How many times have you visited Hilton Head Island-Bluffton in the past 10 years?

	2021	2022
Never visited	38.9%	42.9%
1	18.6%	14.0%
2 to 5	30.2%	36.4%
6 to 10	9.8%	5.0%
11 to 20	1.9%	0.9%
21 or more	0.9%	0.5%
Total	860	341

TABLE 36: Visitation Frequency in the Past 10 Years by Non-Visitors

#### Do you have plans to visit Hilton Head Island-Bluffton in the near future?

	2021	2022
Yes, within one year	49.2%	50.1%
Yes, but not sure when	42.5%	49.0%
No	8.3%	0.9%
Total	859	341

TABLE 37: Plans of visiting Hilton Head Island in the Future by Non-Visitors

#### TRAVEL BEHAVIOR - ALL RESPONDENTS

#### On average, approximately how many leisure/vacation trips do you take each year?

	2021	2022
0 to 1	15.3%	10.0%
2 to 4	55.1%	47.3%
5 to 7	19.2%	29.9%
8 to 10	6.3%	8.2%
More than 10	4.1%	4.7%
Total	1,042	984

TABLE 38: Frequency of Leisure/Vacation Trips

#### Which month(s) are you most likely to travel for vacation purposes?



	2021	2022
January	14.8%	8.5%
February	21.3%	17.8%
March	24.4%	17.7%
April	26.2%	16.5%
May	32.5%	20.5%
June	40.5%	38.4%
July	36.5%	33.7%
August	32.9%	20.7%
September	40.1%	21.4%
October	40.6%	29.8%
November	22.2%	20.0%
December	18.7%	8.5%
Total	1,042	984

TABLE 39: Preferred Travel Months

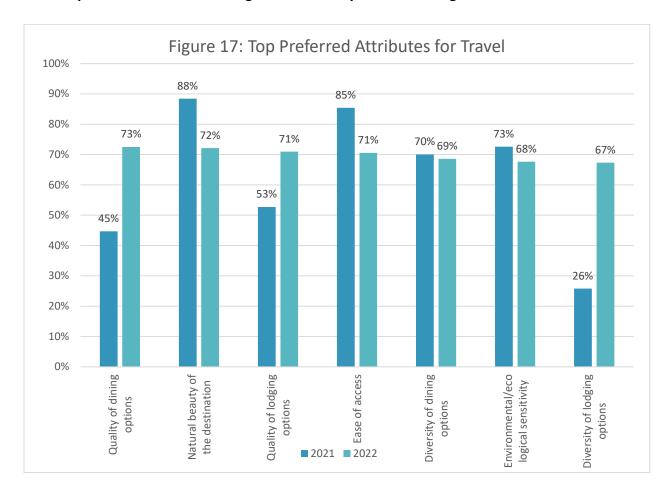
# To what extent do the following types of vacations/leisure trips and/or travel experiences appeal to you?

"Appealing" + "Very Appealing"	2021	2022
Relaxation & rejuvenation	85.4%	66.9%
Beaches	88.4%	65.1%
Romantic couple getaways	70.0%	65.0%
Passive outdoor adventures	72.6%	64.4%
Historic attractions	75.5%	64.4%
Culinary experiences	70.1%	63.7%
Cultural experiences	70.7%	62.9%
Warm weather sports	52.7%	61.2%
Water sports	48.8%	60.4%
Quality nightlife options	52.6%	60.3%
Exploration	57.5%	59.8%
Active outdoor adventures	46.8%	59.6%
Theme parks	44.7%	58.7%
Performing/cultural arts getaways	51.2%	58.6%
Urban getaway	48.4%	58.5%
Immersion excursions	49.6%	57.4%
Art	49.8%	57.1%
Spectator sporting events	49.2%	57.0%
Learning while traveling	60.9%	56.3%
Medical/wellness	40.8%	55.5%
Luxury camping	39.9%	55.0%
Waterparks	40.3%	54.4%
Winter sports	30.2%	53.9%
Golf getaways	37.4%	50.6%
Voluntourism	29.5%	49.9%
Tennis getaways	25.8%	48.5%
Total	949	1,005

TABLE 40: Preferred Vacation/Leisure Travel Experiences

Figure 16: Preferred Travel Experiences						
Relaxation & rejuvenation, 66.9	%			antic couple vays, 65.0%		
Passive outdoor adventures, 64.4%		Historic attractions,		Culinary iences, 63.7%		
Cultural experience 62.9%	es,	Warm weather sports, 61.2% Wat		Wate	ter sports, 60.4%	
Quality nightlife		Active outdoo lventures, 59		Theme	parks, 58.7%	
options, 60.3%	CL		Urban			
Exploration , 59.8%	g	etaways, 58.6%	getaway, excursions, 58.5% 57.4%			

# How important are the following attributes to you in choosing a leisure vacation?



"Important" + "Very Important"	2021	2022
Quality of dining options	44.7%	72.5%
Natural beauty of the destination	88.4%	72.1%
Quality of lodging options	52.7%	71.0%
Ease of access	85.4%	70.5%
Diversity of dining options	70.0%	68.6%
Environmental/ecological sensitivity	72.6%	67.6%
Diversity of lodging options	25.8%	67.3%
Affordability	75.5%	67.2%
Low traffic congestion	60.9%	64.8%
Activities like events/festivals	49.6%	64.2%
Travel distance	70.7%	63.1%
Nightlife activity options	48.4%	61.4%
Medical/wellness	37.4%	60.4%
Access to other cities in the surrounding area	46.8%	58.8%
Public transportation	57.5%	57.0%
Total	949	1,005

TABLE 41: Preferred Attributes for Vacation/Leisure Travel

# Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I would rather rely on a travel agent or tour operator than make my own travel arrangements.	10.9%	25.9%	31.9%	20.6%	10.8%
I try to support the local economy of places that I visit.	22.1%	42.0%	21.8%	10.9%	3.2%
N 973					

TABLE 42: Travel Preferences

# **A**PPENDIX

### ALL ZIP CODES COLLECTED BY MSA

MSA	Count	Percent
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	75	7.8%
Fort Wayne, IN	41	4.4%
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	32	3.3%
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	32	3.3%
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	29	3.0%
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	26	2.7%
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	24	2.5%
Rural North Dakota	18	1.8%
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	18	1.8%
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA	17	1.7%
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	17	1.7%
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	17	1.7%
Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, IN	15	1.5%
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	14	1.4%
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	13	1.3%
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	13	1.3%
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	12	1.2%
Cleveland-Elyria, OH	12	1.2%
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	11	1.1%
Montgomery, AL	11	1.1%
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA	10	1.0%
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	9	0.9%
Columbus, OH	9	0.9%
Colorado Springs, CO	9	0.9%
Pittsburgh, PA	9	0.9%
St. Louis, MO-IL	9	0.9%
Russellville, AR	8	0.8%
Easton, MD	8	0.8%
Worcester, MA-CT	8	0.8%
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	7	0.7%
SacramentoRosevilleArden-Arcade, CA	7	0.7%
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY	7	0.7%
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	7	0.7%
Kansas City, MO-KS	7	0.7%
Oklahoma City, OK	7	0.7%
Raleigh, NC	7	0.7%
Macon, GA	6	0.6%
Nashville-DavidsonMurfreesboroFranklin, TN	6	0.6%

MSA	Count	Percent
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	6	0.6%
Anchorage, AK	6	0.6%
Binghamton, NY	6	0.6%
Fresno, CA	6	0.6%
Savannah, GA	6	0.6%
Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	5	0.5%
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	5	0.5%
Albuquerque, NM	5	0.5%
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	5	0.5%
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort, SC	5	0.5%
Austin-Round Rock, TX	5	0.5%
El Paso, TX	5	0.5%
Fergus Falls, MN	5	0.5%
Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV	5	0.5%
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	5	0.5%
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	5	0.5%
Fargo, ND-MN	5	0.5%
Richmond, VA	5	0.5%
Saginaw, MI	4	0.4%
Birmingham-Hoover, AL	4	0.4%
Panama City, FL	4	0.4%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC	4	0.4%
Alamogordo, NM	4	0.4%
Jacksonville, FL	4	0.4%
Lexington-Fayette, KY	4	0.4%
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA	4	0.4%
Spokane-Spokane Valley, WA	4	0.4%
Stockton-Lodi, CA	4	0.4%
Waterloo-Cedar Falls, IA	3	0.3%
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO	3	0.3%
Columbus, GA-AL	3	0.3%
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	3	0.3%
Columbia, SC	3	0.3%
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	3	0.3%
Huntsville, AL	3	0.3%
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	3	0.3%
Peoria, IL	3	0.3%
Salinas, CA	3	0.3%
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	3	0.3%
Waycross, GA	3	0.3%
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA	3	0.3%
Niles-Benton Harbor, MI	2	0.2%

MSA	Count	Percent
Daphne-Fairhope-Foley, AL	2	0.2%
Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC	2	0.2%
Portland-South Portland, ME	2	0.2%
Edwards, CO	2	0.2%
San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles-Arroyo Grande, CA	2	0.2%
Claremont-Lebanon, NH-VT	2	0.2%
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	2	0.2%
Bismarck, ND	2	0.2%
Springfield, IL	2	0.2%
Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Niagara Falls, NY	2	0.2%
Fayetteville, NC	2	0.2%
Salt Lake City, UT	2	0.2%
Terre Haute, IN	2	0.2%
Charleston, WV	2	0.2%
New Orleans-Metairie, LA	2	0.2%
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	2	0.2%
Rural Wyoming	2	0.2%
Springfield, MA	2	0.2%
Tifton, GA	2	0.2%
Toledo, OH	2	0.2%
Tucson, AZ	2	0.2%
Tulsa, OK	2	0.2%
Urban Honolulu, HI	2	0.2%
Vallejo-Fairfield, CA	2	0.2%
Baton Rouge, LA	2	0.2%
Boise City, ID	2	0.2%
Charleston-North Charleston, SC	2	0.2%
Grand Junction, CO	2	0.2%
Lansing-East Lansing, MI	2	0.2%
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, SC-NC	2	0.2%
New Haven-Milford, CT	2	0.2%
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL	2	0.2%
Rural Alaska	2	0.2%
Rural Missouri	2	0.2%
Rural North Carolina	2	0.2%
Rural Texas	2	0.2%
Trenton, NJ	2	0.2%
Valdosta, GA	2	0.2%
Freeport, IL	1	0.1%
Aberdeen, WA	1	0.1%
Bardstown, KY	1	0.1%
Sioux City, IA-NE-SD	1	0.1%

MSA	Count	Percent
Chico, CA	1	0.1%
Rural Ohio	1	0.1%
Jackson, MI	1	0.1%
Bowling Green, KY	1	0.1%
Pine Bluff, AR	1	0.1%
Coeur d'Alene, ID	1	0.1%
Dublin, GA	1	0.1%
Montrose, CO	1	0.1%
Columbia, MO	1	0.1%
Cookeville, TN	1	0.1%
Huntington, IN	1	0.1%
Stillwater, OK	1	0.1%
Yakima, WA	1	0.1%
Chattanooga, TN-GA	1	0.1%
Ketchikan, AK	1	0.1%
Olean, NY	1	0.1%
Reading, PA	1	0.1%
Ann Arbor, MI	1	0.1%
Gainesville, FL	1	0.1%
Marion, OH	1	0.1%
Natchitoches, LA	1	0.1%
ScrantonWilkes-BarreHazleton, PA	1	0.1%
Amarillo, TX	1	0.1%
Austin, MN	1	0.1%
Elmira, NY	1	0.1%
Findlay, OH	1	0.1%
Laurel, MS	1	0.1%
Minot, ND	1	0.1%
Price, UT	1	0.1%
Jacksonville, IL	1	0.1%
Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR	1	0.1%
Parkersburg-Vienna, WV	1	0.1%
Pullman, WA	1	0.1%
Salina, KS	1	0.1%
Summit Park, UT	1	0.1%
Visalia-Porterville, CA	1	0.1%
Barre, VT	1	0.1%
Hutchinson, MN	1	0.1%
Meridian, MS	1	0.1%
Peru, IN	1	0.1%
Watertown-Fort Drum, NY	1	0.1%
Wichita, KS	1	0.1%

MSA	Count	Percent
Beckley, WV	1	0.1%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford, VA	1	0.1%
Burlington-South Burlington, VT	1	0.1%
Clearlake, CA	1	0.1%
Decatur, AL	1	0.1%
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	1	0.1%
New Philadelphia-Dover, OH	1	0.1%
Oil City, PA	1	0.1%
Rocky Mount, NC	1	0.1%
Rural Colorado	1	0.1%
Rural Nebraska	1	0.1%
Santa Rosa, CA	1	0.1%
St. Cloud, MN	1	0.1%
Torrington, CT	1	0.1%
Urbana, OH	1	0.1%
Amsterdam, NY	1	0.1%
Appleton, WI	1	0.1%
Barnstable Town, MA	1	0.1%
Big Spring, TX	1	0.1%
Bradford, PA	1	0.1%
Brainerd, MN	1	0.1%
Cedar Rapids, IA	1	0.1%
Centralia, WA	1	0.1%
Chambersburg-Waynesboro, PA	1	0.1%
Charleston-Mattoon, IL	1	0.1%
Corning, NY	1	0.1%
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin, FL	1	0.1%
Durango, CO	1	0.1%
Florence, SC	1	0.1%
Greeley, CO	1	0.1%
Greensboro-High Point, NC	1	0.1%
Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin, SC	1	0.1%
Greenwood, SC	1	0.1%
Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	1	0.1%
Jackson, MS	1	0.1%
Jackson, TN	1	0.1%
Jackson, WY-ID	1	0.1%
Jamestown-Dunkirk-Fredonia, NY	1	0.1%
Jamestown, ND	1	0.1%
Johnson City, TN	1	0.1%
Juneau, AK	1	0.1%
Kill Devil Hills, NC	1	0.1%

MSA	Count	Percent
Kingston, NY	1	0.1%
Lafayette, LA	1	0.1%
Las Vegas, NM	1	0.1%
Marquette, MI	1	0.1%
Marshall, MN	1	0.1%
Mason City, IA	1	0.1%
Modesto, CA	1	0.1%
Mount Pleasant, TX	1	0.1%
Mount Vernon-Anacortes, WA	1	0.1%
New Bern, NC	1	0.1%
Nogales, AZ	1	0.1%
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	1	0.1%
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	1	0.1%
Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA	1	0.1%
Paducah, KY-IL	1	0.1%
Parsons, KS	1	0.1%
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent, FL	1	0.1%
Prescott, AZ	1	0.1%
Redding, CA	1	0.1%
Reno, NV	1	0.1%
Rural Iowa	1	0.1%
Rural New York	1	0.1%
Rural South Dakota	1	0.1%
Santa Maria-Santa Barbara, CA	1	0.1%
South Bend-Mishawaka, IN-MI	1	0.1%
Spartanburg, SC	1	0.1%
Spearfish, SD	1	0.1%
Spencer, IA	1	0.1%
Spirit Lake, IA	1	0.1%
Sumter, SC	1	0.1%
Syracuse, NY	1	0.1%
Ukiah, CA	1	0.1%
Warner Robins, GA	1	0.1%
Watertown, SD	1	0.1%
Wilmington, NC	1	0.1%
Winona, MN	1	0.1%
Wooster, OH	1	0.1%
York-Hanover, PA	1	0.1%



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