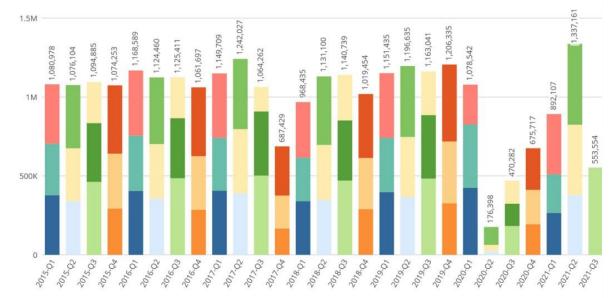


#### Research Update - August 11, 2021

Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport had more than 550,000 arrivals in July, the highest ever recorded for the San Juan airport. This breaks the previous record set in June. June's arrivals, combined with the most May arrivals ever recorded for that month, resulted in the highest 2nd Quarter visitation Puerto Rico has ever seen.

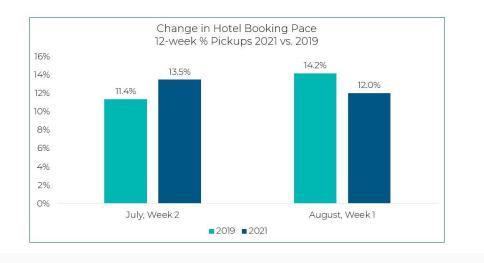
# **HIGHEST AIR ARRIVALS EVER IN JULY** Beats record set in June, for highest Q2 visitation





And while the current booking pace for the remainder of 2021 continues to outpace the record-setting year in 2019, there has been a slowing of bookings in the last two weeks as the Delta variant has COVID-19 cases on the rise again. In the second week of July, hotel bookings increased an average of 13.5% for the next 12 weeks, compared to 11.4% in 2019. That 12-week pickup percentage fell to 12% the first week of August, when two years ago the average pickup was 14.2%.

#### **HOTEL BOOKING PACE HAS SLOWED** Fewer bookings the first week of August than 2 years ago



Destination Analysts, in their August 10, 2021 Travel Sentiment Index Report shows after months of increasing confidence in the safety of travel activities, there is a significant decline with the rise of the Delta variant and corresponding COVID cases. The report shows that "After hitting a high of 52.9% just six weeks ago, the percent of American travelers who feel "confident" or "very confident" they can travel safely in the current environment fell to 36.6%. Nearly half (48.0%) agree that media coverage of the COVID-19 situation has them doubting that it is safe to travel." The report shows that just 39.3% of consumers consider traveling on a commercial airline to be safe, lower than the average travel activity of 41.5%

### FEELINGS OF TRAVEL SAFETY



Confidence takes a dive with the rise in COVID cases



With rising safety concerns, the Destination Analysts report shows that just 51.5% of consumers except to travel in the next three months, down from 63.0% in their July 26th report. "Meanwhile just 34.4% say now is a good time to spend money on travel, down from 42.4% two weeks ago, and Americans reporting travel as a budget priority dropped to 51.3% from 62.2%. And yet 75% of American travelers still did some travel dreaming or planning in the last week alone." However, there was a considerable decline in consumes researching travel online and making reservations, which is reflected in the slowing of Puerto Rico's booking pace.

## **TRAVEL PLANNING IN THE NEXT WEEK** Significant drop in researching travel online



Day-dreamed about taking a leisure trip
Talked to a friend or relative about a future trip

-Researched travel ideas online

- Made travel reservations (lodging, transportation, tickets, etc.)
- Researched travel ideas offline (magazines, printed visitor guides, etc.)

