



# NATIONAL BUSINESS TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

*Connecting the Business Travel World*

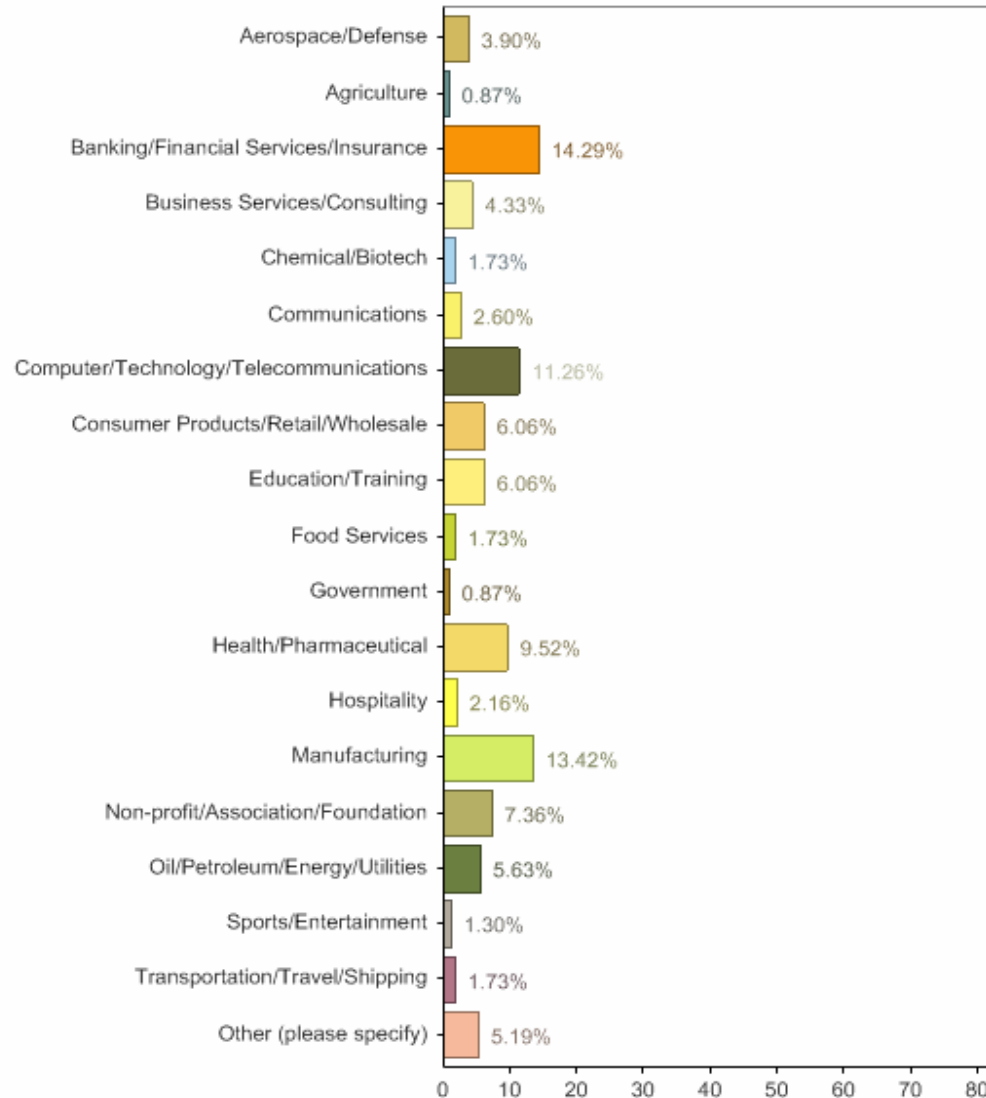


## **2009 Business Travel Overview & Cost Forecast**

# METHODOLOGY

## Industries Represented in NBTA Surveys

- **Primary findings—online survey of travel buyers conducted September 15-October 21, 2008 with 147 respondents.**
- **Additional findings:**
  - Two online surveys of travel buyers conducted July - October 2008
  - NBTA analysis of data from Bureau of Transportation Statistics, IATA, Smith Travel Research and other sources.



# THE U.S. BUSINESS TRAVEL MARKET

- **Business travel is expected to continue growing in 2009, but at a much slower rate than 2008.**
- **The slowdown in growth is a continuation of a trend that began in 2008, in which business travel grew slower than in the previous four years (2004-2007).**
- **Corporate travel buyers' perceptions are split regarding the industry outlook:**
  - 61% of respondents are optimistic about the growth of business travel:
    - 51% see continuous growth, but slower than last year.
    - 8% are hopeful that the economy will recover between 2009-10 and help business travel.
    - 2% expect it to grow rapidly because of a growing global economy.
  - The other 39% are more pessimistic about the economy and the state of business travel expecting it to decline with the economy.



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# Effects of the Economy on Business Travel

- **More than 30 airlines have ceased operations.**
- **Higher air fares due to:**
  - Higher oil prices
  - Reduced seat capacity
  - Less competition on some markets
- **Total trip cost increases** (including air, hotel, cars, meals):
  - **U.S. Domestic: US\$140-\$175** more per trip
  - **International: US\$315-\$400** more per trip



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# Impact on Corporate Travel Varies

- **Most companies have implemented cost-containment and/or cost-cutting measures.**
- **But not all companies have done so.**

Top 5 Corporate Travel Responses to Fuel Price Hikes and Economic Downturn	
1- Cost cutting measures	56%
2- Cost savings mentality at every level	53%
3- Reduction of meetings & company events	39%
4- No impact / Business as usual	23%
5- Increased use of public transportation	22%



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# U.S. Business Travel Costs Increases

## NBTA PROJECTIONS FOR 2009

Segment of business travel	Range of increases
AIRFARES	7% - 10%*
HOTELS	1% - 4%
CAR RENTALS	1%-3%
<b>OVERALL COST INCREASES</b>	<b>5% - 8%</b>

\*New airline ancillary fees may add up to 5% to airfare projections



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# Airfare Increases

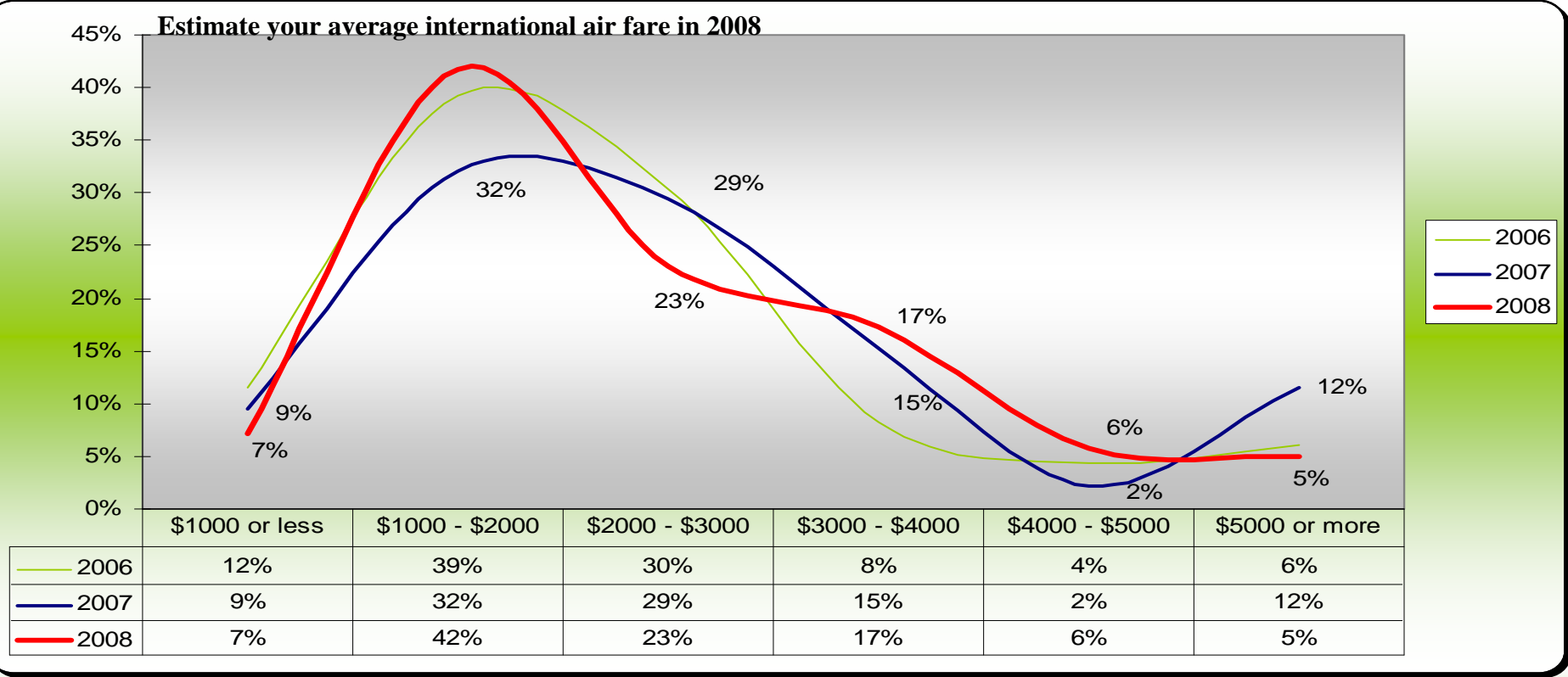
The average U.S. Domestic airfare is expected to surpass the 2001 fare levels: Up to 10% increase from 2008



# International Airfares

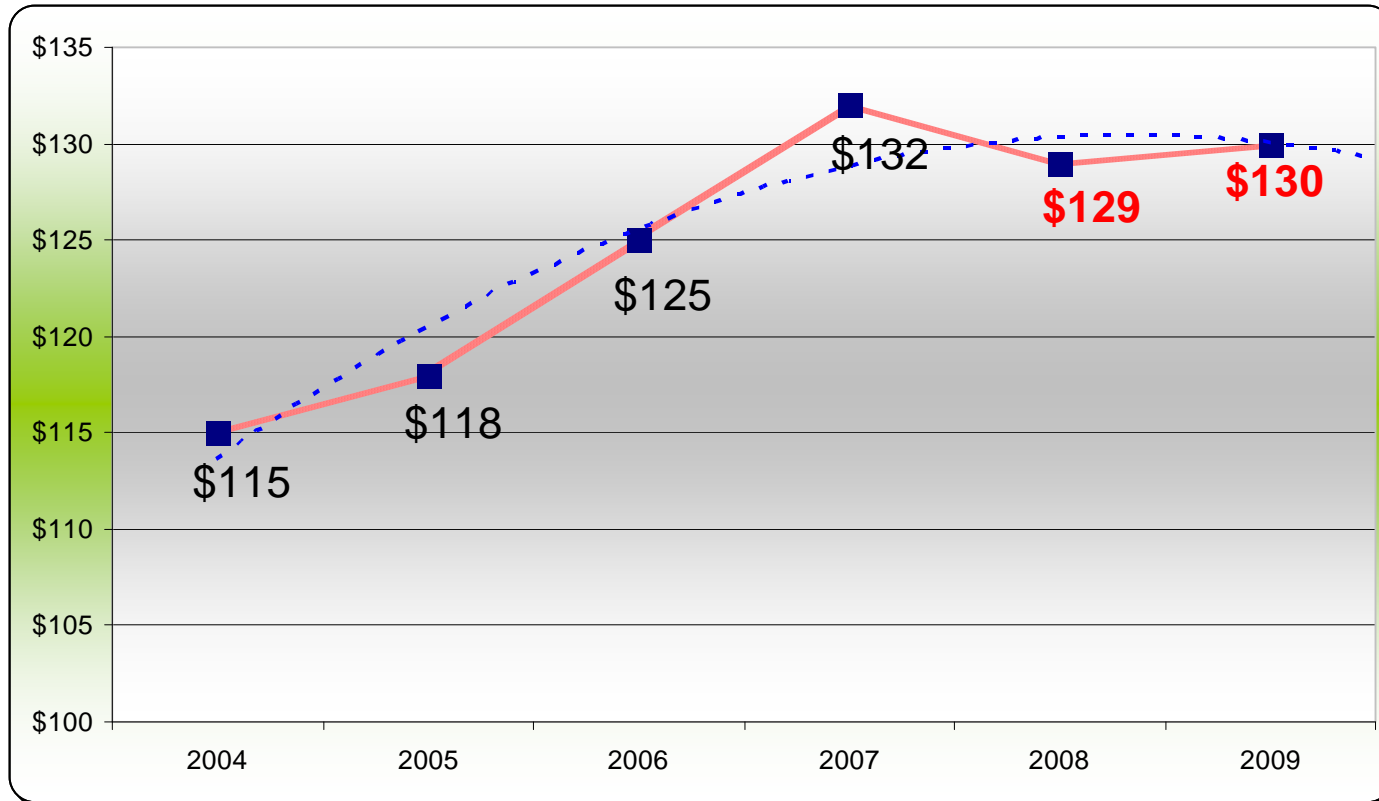
- **The average international airfare is close to \$2,100**
  - Reported average fares above \$5000 show a decline of 7 percentage points from 2007 as a result of cutbacks on business class spend by corporate accounts

Estimate your average international air fare in 2008



# Average Hotel Rates

The average U.S. hotel rate may increase between 1% and 4% in 2009



Trendline ---

Average rates  
2004-2008



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2004-2008 data: Smith Travel Research; 2009 projection: NBTA

# Corporate Car Rentals Rates

- **\$44 is the average corporate car rental rate in the U.S., an increase of 4% from the previous year.**
- **Corporate car rentals rates may remain flat or increase by up to 1% in 2009, while standard rates may reach a 3% increase.**



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# CORPORATE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

- The impact of the changing economy varies significantly by company:
  - Companies in market sectors less impacted by economic downturn maintain or grow travel levels, while others are reducing travel.
- At most companies, travel cost-containment measures are being put into place or ramped up.

	Top 10 Cost Cutting Measures in Travel Management for 2009
1	Reducing non-essential travel
2	Reducing number of meetings/events
3	Ramping up policy mandates
4	Reducing number of employee travel to conferences /events
5	Implementing e-folio hotel data
6	Renegotiating corporate rates
7	Bidding TMC Contract
8	Reducing number of individual travelers
9	Centralize Meetings Management / implement SMMP
10	Reducing luxury hotels bookings in favor of mid-priced hotels



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# Aviation Outlook

**AIRLINE SYSTEM:** obsolete at \$100 oil prices

Needs restructuring:

- **New Size of The Market:** Fleets and Systems should shrink to adapt to this yet unknown size
- **Airlines' New Focus:** higher revenues vs. market share
- **Airline Alliances:** increasing over airline mergers
- **Low Cost Carriers:** Downward pricing pressure declining
- **Regional Jets:** 50-seaters will be removed rapidly from the system
- **Labor Costs & Labor Relations:** Major impacting factor 2009-2011
- **Open Skies** = minor impact / **Global Mega-Hubs** = bigger impact
- **Cargo:** replacing declining passenger revenues to make international routes profitable
- **A la carte Pricing:** predicted to become the new and lasting trend

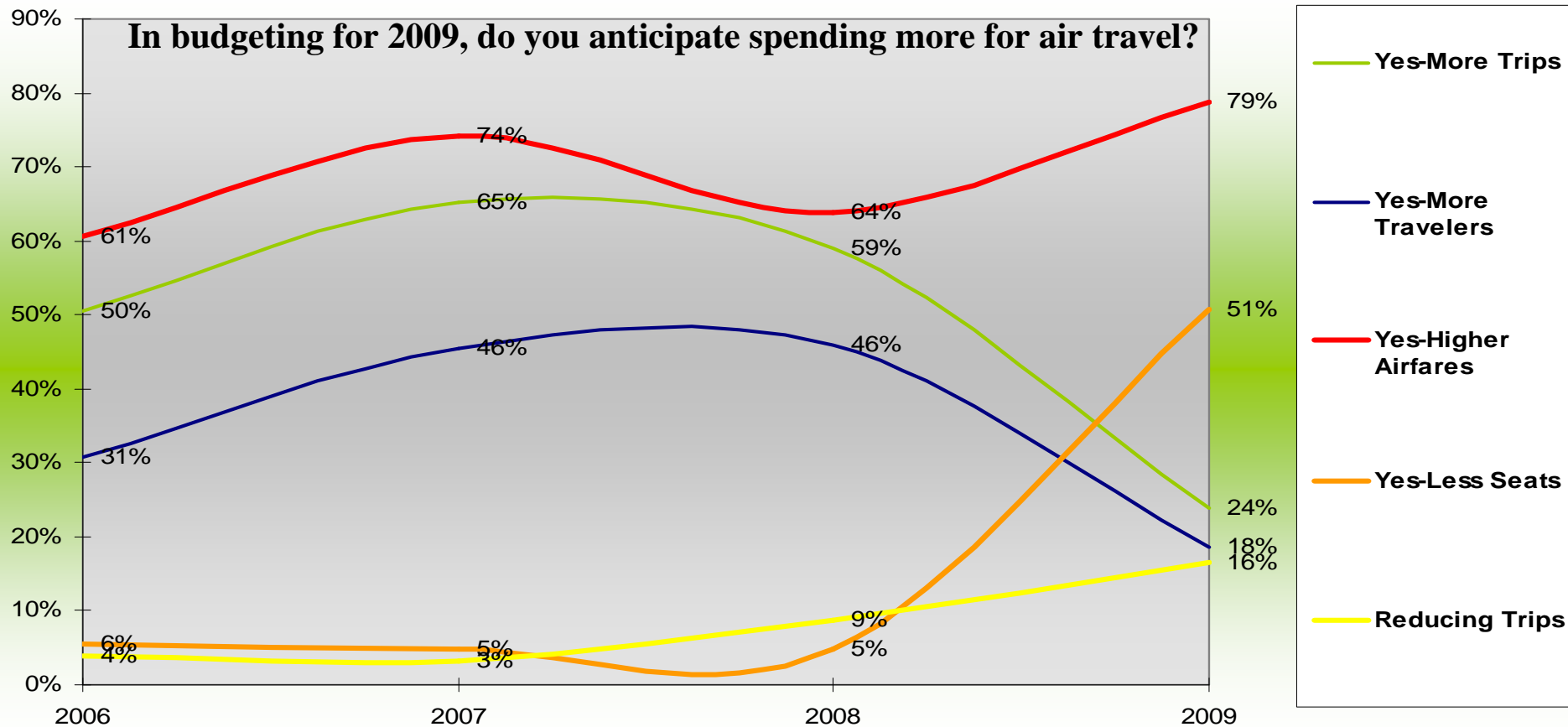
Caution: Even if fuel prices drop, airfares are expected to remain high and fees will remain in place. This may in turn help airlines reduce losses or even turn profits.



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# 2009 Air Travel Spend

- The percentage of corporate travel buyers attributing higher air travel spend to higher airfares increased by 23% from the previous year.
- Attributing higher air travel spend to more travelers or more trips decreased dramatically by about 60% of responses from the previous year.



# Air Travel Management

## Top 5 Air Travel Management Actions Taken by Corporations

1- Emphasizing advance purchase of air tickets	61%
2- Encouraging or requiring less air travel	55%
3- Sending fewer employees to conferences	51%
4- Strengthening mandates/enforcement of travel policies	50%
5- Driving people to travel alternatives (e.g. web-based meetings)	49%

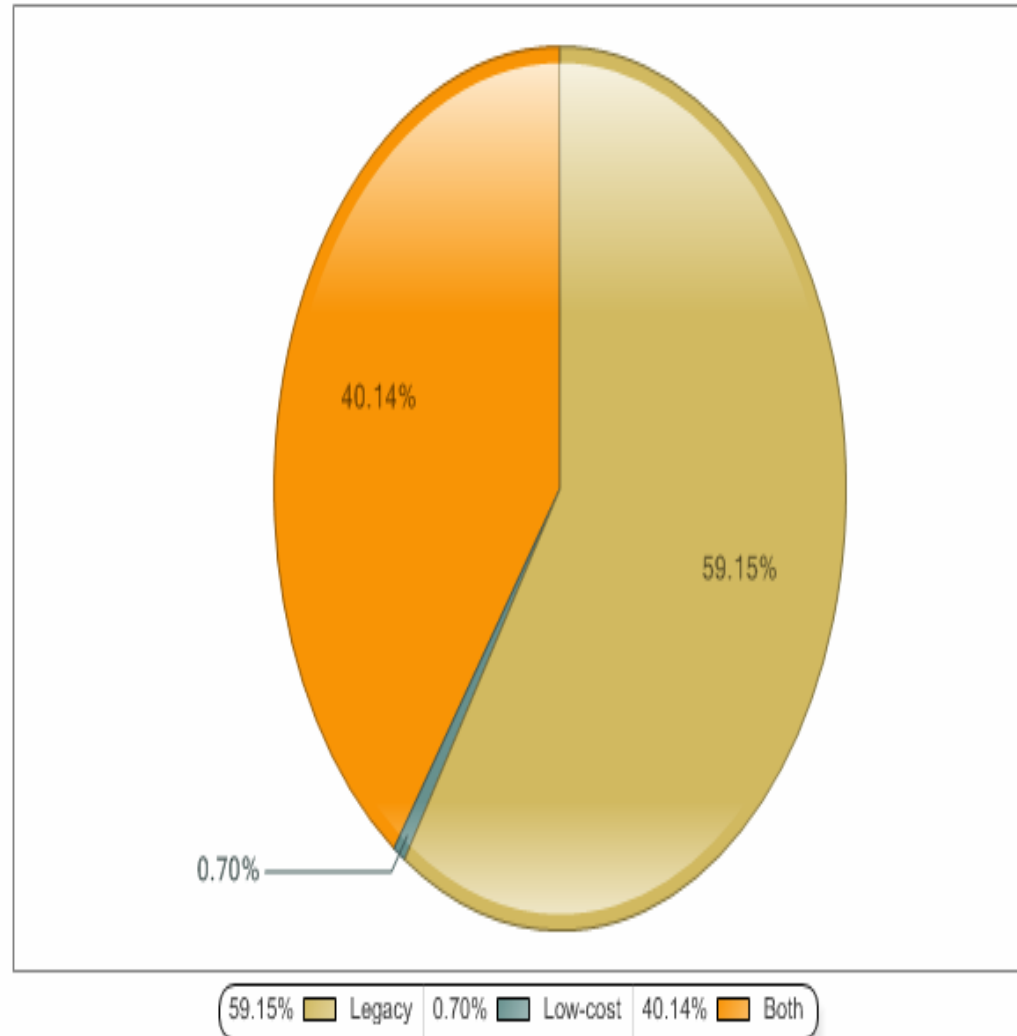


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# Low Cost Carriers

## More travel buyers are increasing the use of LCCs:

- 64% are encouraging bookings on LCCs if it means savings on airfares.
- Travel programs with a mix of both “legacy” carriers and LCCs as preferred airlines has increased 44% since 2007.
- Travel programs with only legacy airlines as preferred has decreased by 14%.



# New Airline Ancillary Fees

**Airline fees add a new challenge that travel managers will begin to tackle in the coming year:**

- **39% see it as minor inconvenience for budgeting.**
- **76% feel airlines are misleading the public with the fees.**
  - 44% of those noticed that seemingly competitive fares end up being much higher when the fees are added.
- **70% are planning to, or considering, negotiating on the fees during their next airline RFP.**
- **66% are already measuring, or planning to measure, the impact of the fees.**



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# A la Carte Pricing & New Restrictions

- **A la Carte Pricing:** rejected by 58% of corporate travel buyers:
  - Too complicated to manage (41%)
  - Complicates budgeting without knowing true air travel spend (17%)
- **New Ticketing Restrictions:** 83% consider re-introduction of Saturday-night stays to have an impact on their air travel budgets.
  - 57% consider it to be a major impact.
- **“Back-to-back” ticketing:** 80% of buyers don’t encourage it:
  - Unethical (22%)
  - Prohibited by their travel policy (17%)
  - Too risky (13%)
  - 22% of those 80% are willing to encourage travelers to stay over Saturday night, and cover additional costs, if the fare difference is significant.



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# Policies for Airline Fees

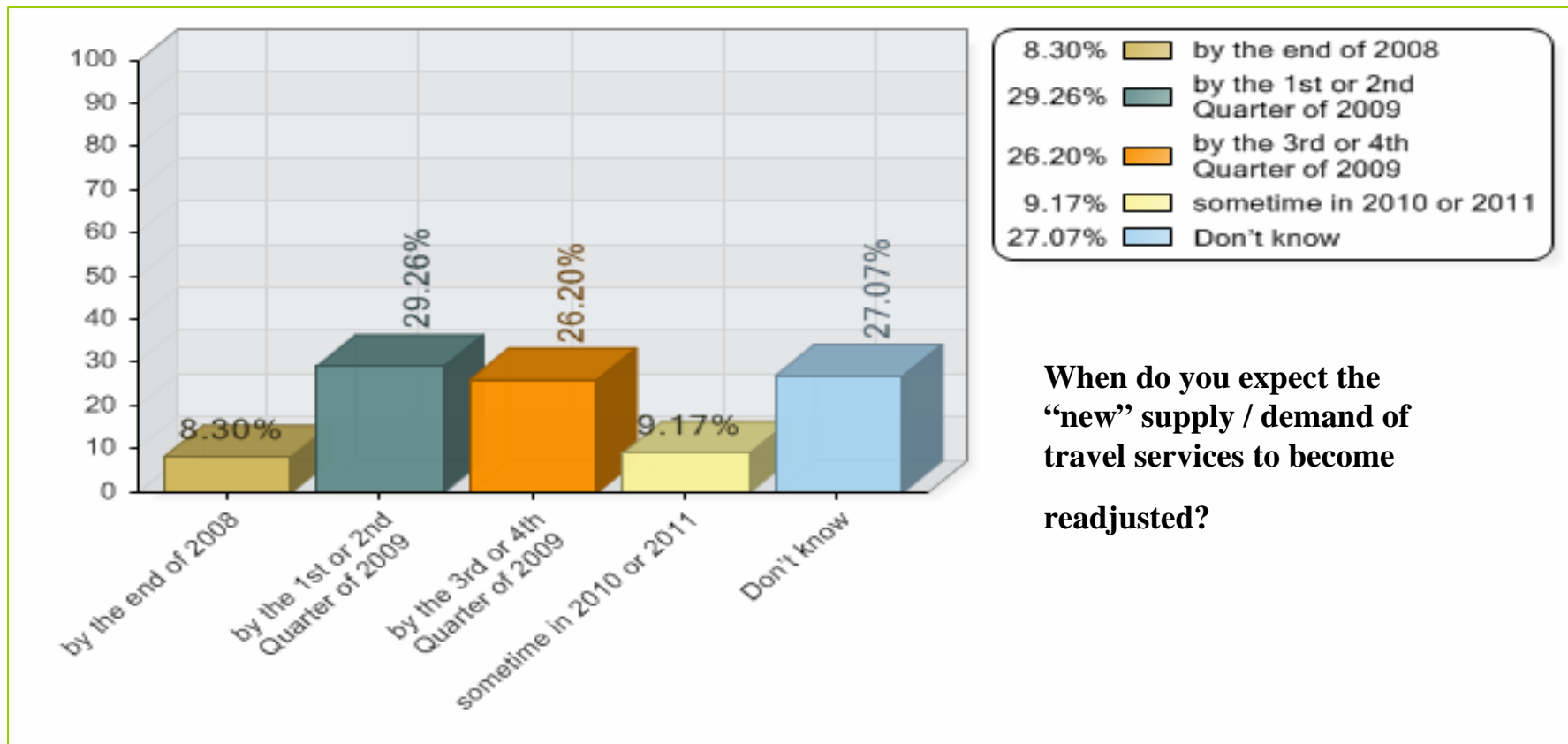
Rank	Airline Fees Reimbursable by Policy?	Responses
1	First bag fee	85%
2	“Buy-on-Board” meals/drinks	62%
3	2nd bag fee	60%
4	Airline booking fee	56%
5	Overweight bag fee	44%
5	Preferred seat fee	16%



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# Adjusted Supply-Demand Curve

- Cuts in air capacity and a slowdown in demand will redefine the supply-demand balance.
- The majority of respondents (55%) expect an adjustment of the new business travel supply and demand during 2009.



**When do you expect the “new” supply / demand of travel services to become readjusted?**

# Corporate Hotel Rates



- **Buyers' Market?** Not yet, according to 52% of corporate travel buyers surveyed, despite the current economic situation
- **More Mid-Priced Hotels:** 65% of buyers are encouraging their travelers to switch from luxury properties
- **Lower Transient Rates:** 37% have witnessed hotel rates falling below the level of their negotiated rates
- **Mid-Year Re-Negotiations:** reported by 32% of corporate travel buyers surveyed, including:
  - 16% who have been contacted by hotels rejected the previous year with new offers
  - Another 13% are currently renegotiating with preferred hotels

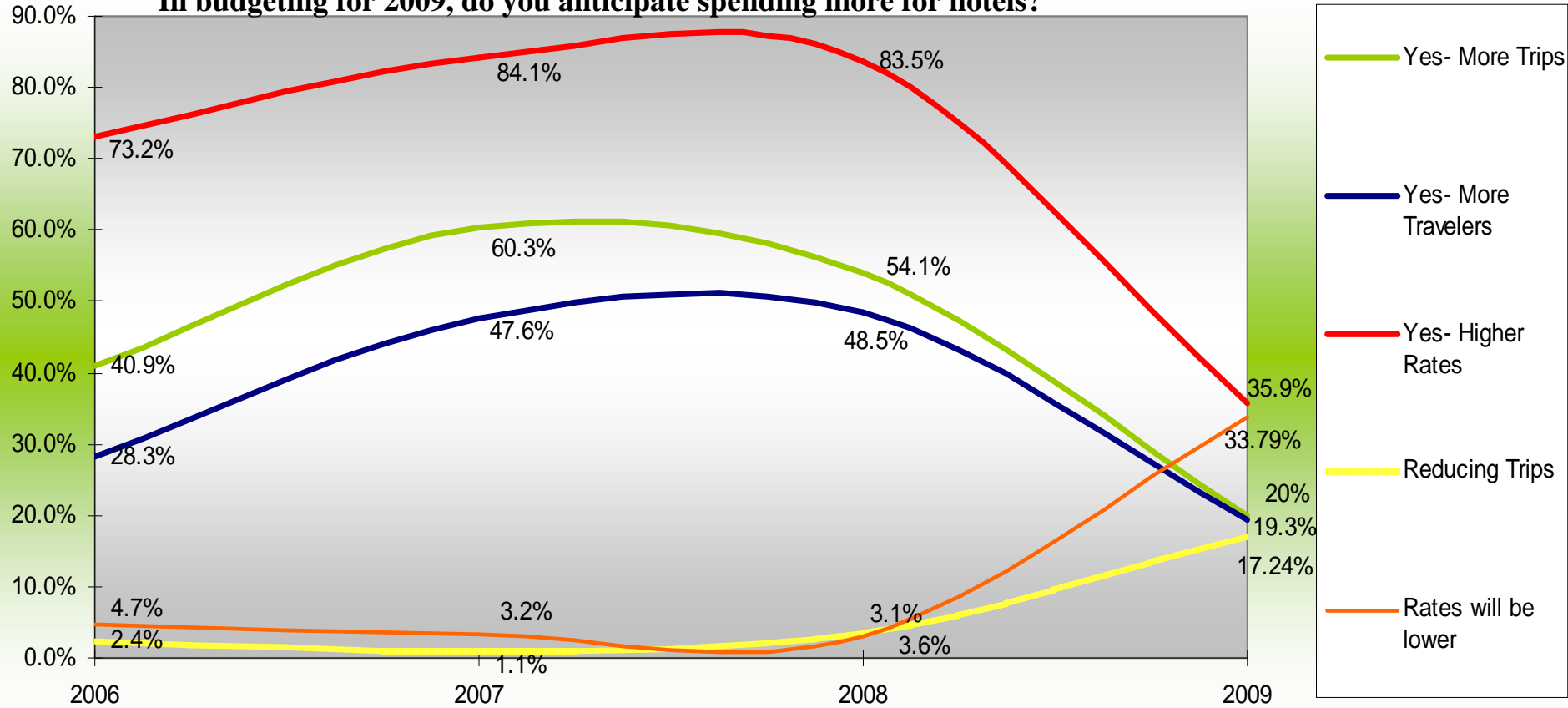


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# 2009 Hotel Travel Spend

- **36%** of corporate travel buyers expect their hotel spend to increase because of **higher hotel rates** while **34%** expect their rates to remain the same or be lower
- Attributing higher hotel travel spend to more trips or more travelers shows a dramatic downward change from previous years

In budgeting for 2009, do you anticipate spending more for hotels?



# Hotel Market Outlook

- The mortgage and credit crisis slowed down new hotel projects planned during the housing market boom.
- Economic slowdown is impacting demand in many markets in the U.S. and around the world.
- Current market conditions put travel buyers in a better negotiating position than recent years.
- Corporate rates may remain flat or increase only slightly.
- Promotional rates will be abundant in soft markets.
- Tight supply and high rates will continue to be a burden in big cities and emerging markets, but not as severe as previous years.
- Hotels will continue to use surcharges to generate revenue.



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# Ground Transportation



## Top 5 Ground Transportation Trends Due to High Oil Prices

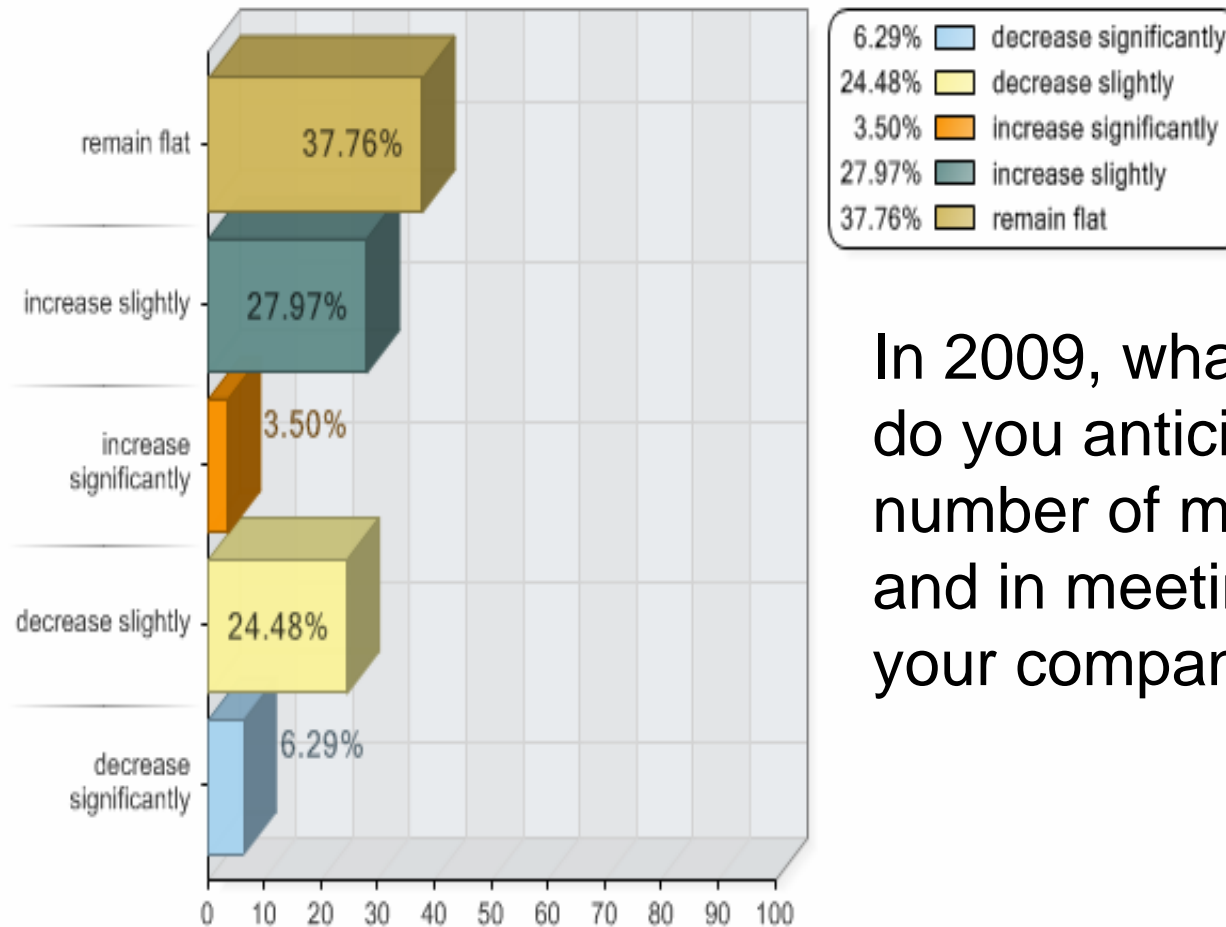
- 1 Refueling before returning car rental
- 2 Sharing ground transportation costs with other employees
- 3 Moving to smaller, less expensive car rentals
- 4 Renting more fuel efficient cars (non-hybrids)
- 5 Using more public transportation when traveling



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# Meetings Spend

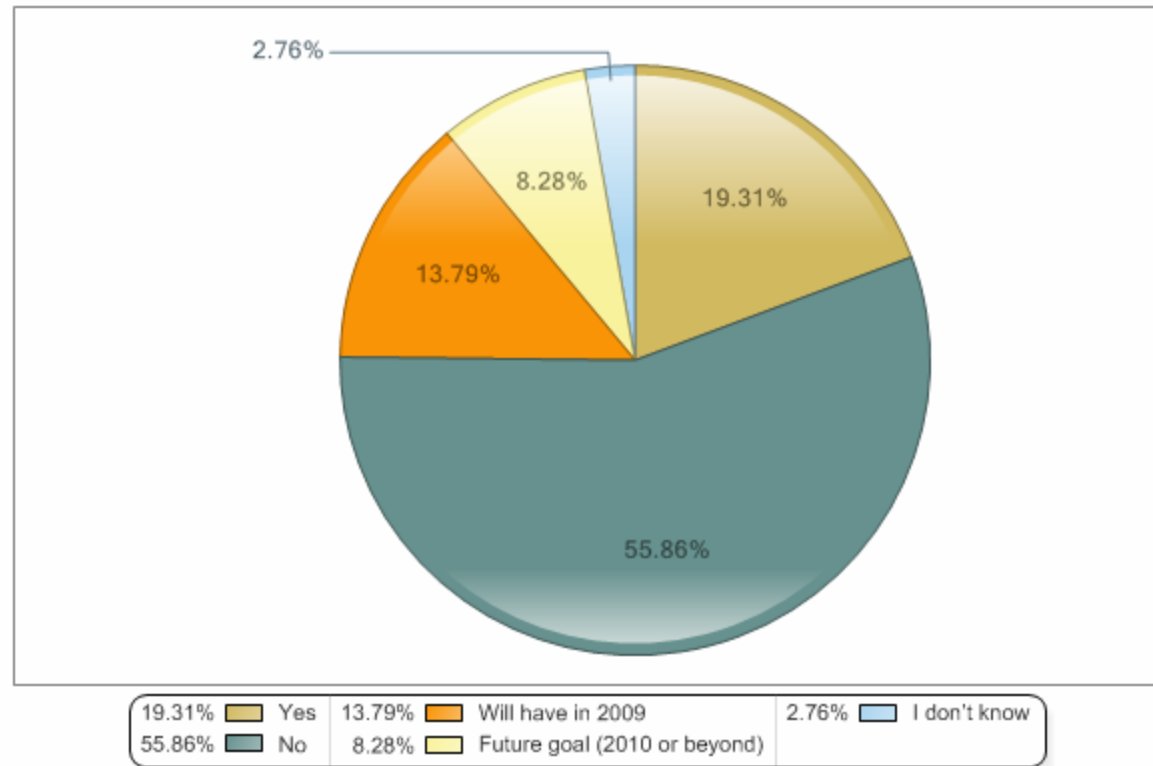
- Meetings spend outlook varies by company:
- 38% expect meetings spend to remain flat
- 31% project a reduction in meetings spend
- 32% foresee an increase in meetings spend



In 2009, what change, if any, do you anticipate in the number of meetings planned and in meetings spend within your company?

# Meetings Management

- 19% of companies surveyed have a strategic meetings management program in place.
- 22% plan to implement one during 2009 or beyond.



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# Travel Alternatives

**Teleconferencing:** usage increase reported by 75% of survey respondents

- 31% reporting an increase of up to 5%
- 21% indicating an increase of 5-10%

**Video Teleconferencing:** also increasing according to 57% of respondents

- 32% indicate an increase of up to 5 %

**Telepresence:** the most robust and most costly conferencing technology, is only used by about 14% of respondent companies

- 9% note increased use of Telepresence by up to 5%
- 5% of users report a 5-10% increase

**Technology Replacing Trips?** 81% of travel buyers think so, but

- An additional 20% said that this technology complements trips rather than replace it



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# Outbound Business Travel Growth

The top 10 international destinations that will see growth in corporate travel from the U.S. in 2009.



Rank	Countries or Regions
1	China
2	India
3	United Kingdom
4	Canada
5	France
6	Mexico
7	Other Western European Countries
8	Germany
9	Japan
10	Australia/New Zealand



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# Corporate Travel Management Priorities 2008-2009

Top 10 Most Pressing Issues Facing Travel Managers	
1	Higher travel costs overall
2	Reducing travel costs further
3	Rising air fares
4	Travel policy compliance
5	Data / reporting
6	Uncertain economy
7	High fuel prices
8	Dealing with airline fees
9	Globalizing travel program
10	Challenges in budgeting for next year



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# Other Trends: Green Travel

**Greening of the travel industry, as part of Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, continues expanding and increasing in importance with corporations and travel suppliers:**

- 29% of corporations surveyed have in place some kind of a company wide environmental program
- 45% use demand management to encourage travel alternatives (ex. Teleconferencing)
- Airlines and aviation manufacturers continue exploring fuel alternatives
- Hotels have increased their greening efforts based on travelers' demand
- Car rental companies are increasing the supply of more fuel efficient cars

**Yet, only 16% of corporate travel buyers consider “green” initiatives to be influential when selecting a travel supplier**

- 17% indicated that the economic downturn is slowing down implementation of “green” & CSR initiatives
- While other buyers claim that they get better policy compliance by calling “Going Green” any effort related to cutting travel costs



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**Source: NBTA 2009 Forecast survey  
& CSR Trends in Travel Management survey (2008)**

# Thank you!

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