



DESTINATION  
ONTARIO

In partnership with Destination Ontario  
[DOinsights.crg.ca](http://DOinsights.crg.ca)

## CROSS-BORDER TRAVEL INSIGHTS

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## AGENDA

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OTTM OVERVIEW

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U.S. PULSE WAVE 3 RESULTS

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**ONTARIO TRAVEL & TOURISM  
MONTHLY**  
**JANUARY 2026**

## ONTARIO TRAVEL & TOURISM MONTHLY (OTTM)

All OTTM data / reports are available on the Destination Ontario Insights Portal (DO-IP):  
[DOinsights.crg.ca](http://DOinsights.crg.ca)

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Monthly survey of 2,000+ travellers in the following regions:

- Ontario
- Quebec
- Manitoba
- Atlantic Canada
- Western Canada
- key US markets

Results released **every second Monday** of the month.

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## TRAVEL DESTINATION PLANS

**Summer travel** is top of mind for all travellers, with August being the peak month.

The **shift toward medium-term planning** is influenced by seasonality as Spring and Summer travel is approaching.

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**Tags** - Explore more on [DOinsights.crg.ca](http://DOinsights.crg.ca)

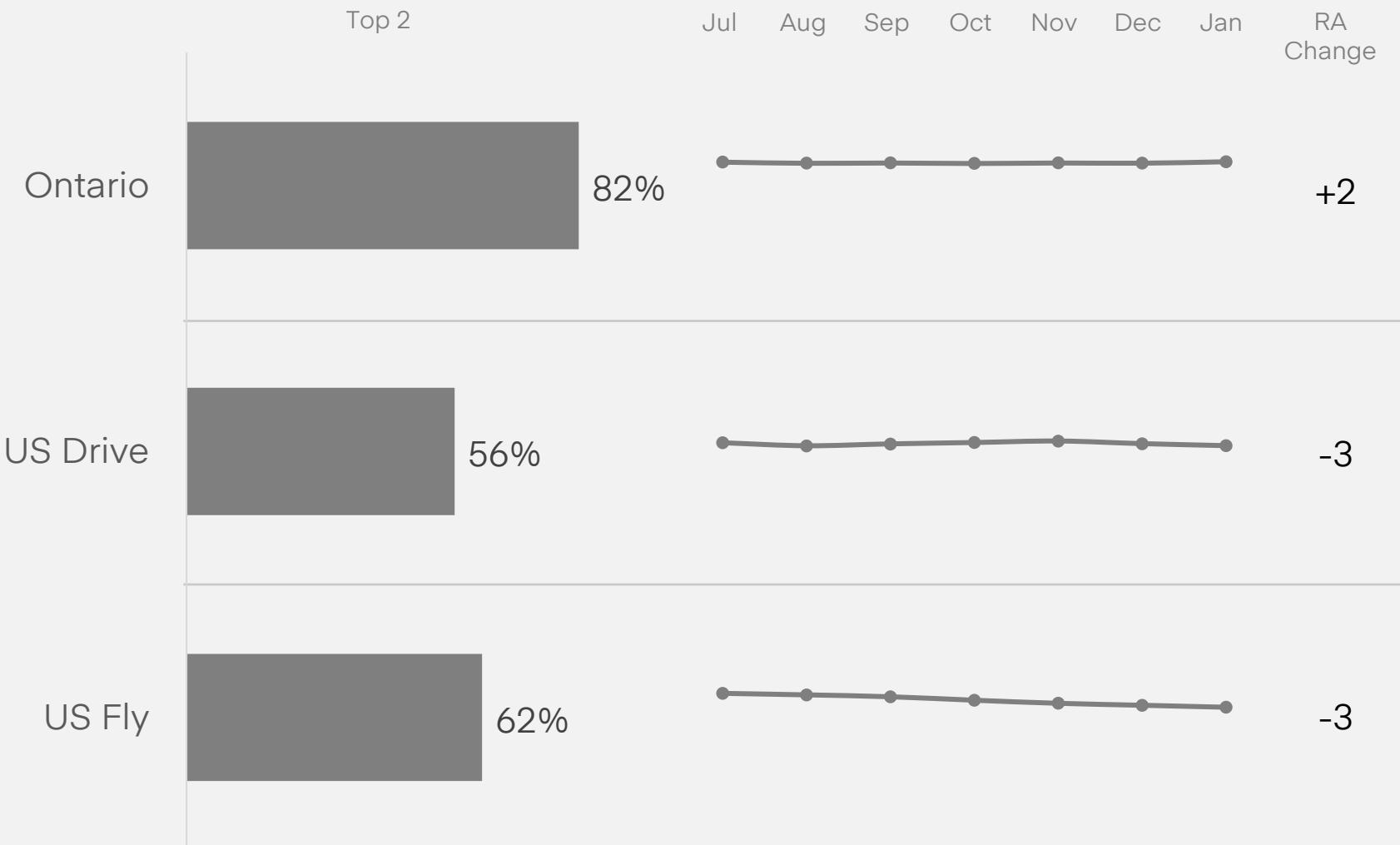
Travel Intent

Number of Trips

Month of Travel

## LIKELIHOOD OF TRAVELLING IN ONTARIO

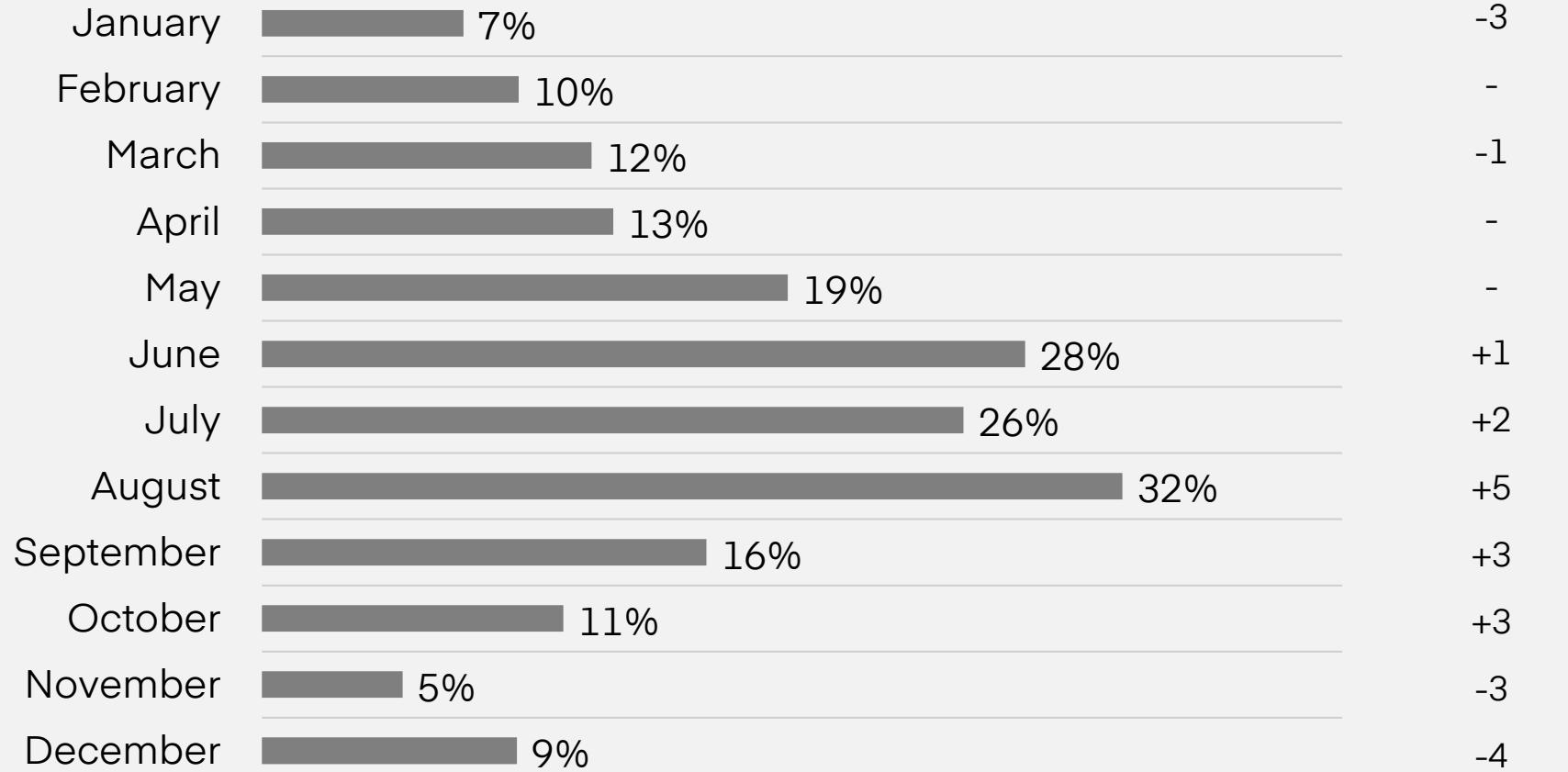
Interest in Ontario exists across all markets, but it is strongest among Ontario travellers.



S5. In the next 12 months, how likely are you to take a pleasure trip of one or more nights in Ontario, Canada? (Excludes "don't know") (5-point scale)  
All respondents (n= 3,011)

August is the peak month for trip consideration to Ontario, reinforcing summer as the primary planning season.

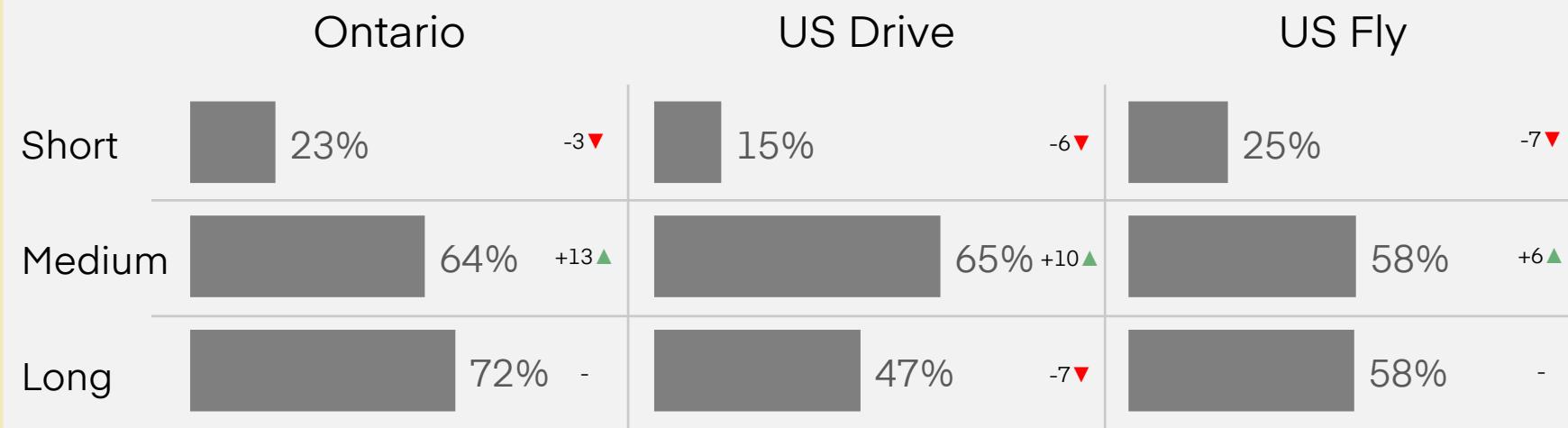
## Travel Planning Months for Ontario Visits



# TRIP PLANNING HORIZONS: ONTARIO & US VISITORS

Across markets, travellers are increasingly planning trips in the medium term, but long-term planning is still strongest among Ontario travellers, with U.S. Fly showing a mix of both horizons.

Short-term = <2 months ahead | Mid-term = 3-6 months ahead | Long-term = 7-12 months ahead



Note:

Bar = % of current month | ▲▼ = RA Change

S6B. In the next 12 months, when do you think you'll take your next pleasure trip to Ontario, Canada? (Multi-select)  
Respondents who are planning a trip in Ontario in the next 12 months.



## SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL FACTORS

Sustainability **remains a consistent factor** in travel decision-making, with U.S. Fly travellers showing the strongest engagement.

While **wildfire impact is generally low**, it affects U.S. Fly travellers more during hotter summer months.

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Tags - Explore more on [DOinsights.crg.ca](http://DOinsights.crg.ca)

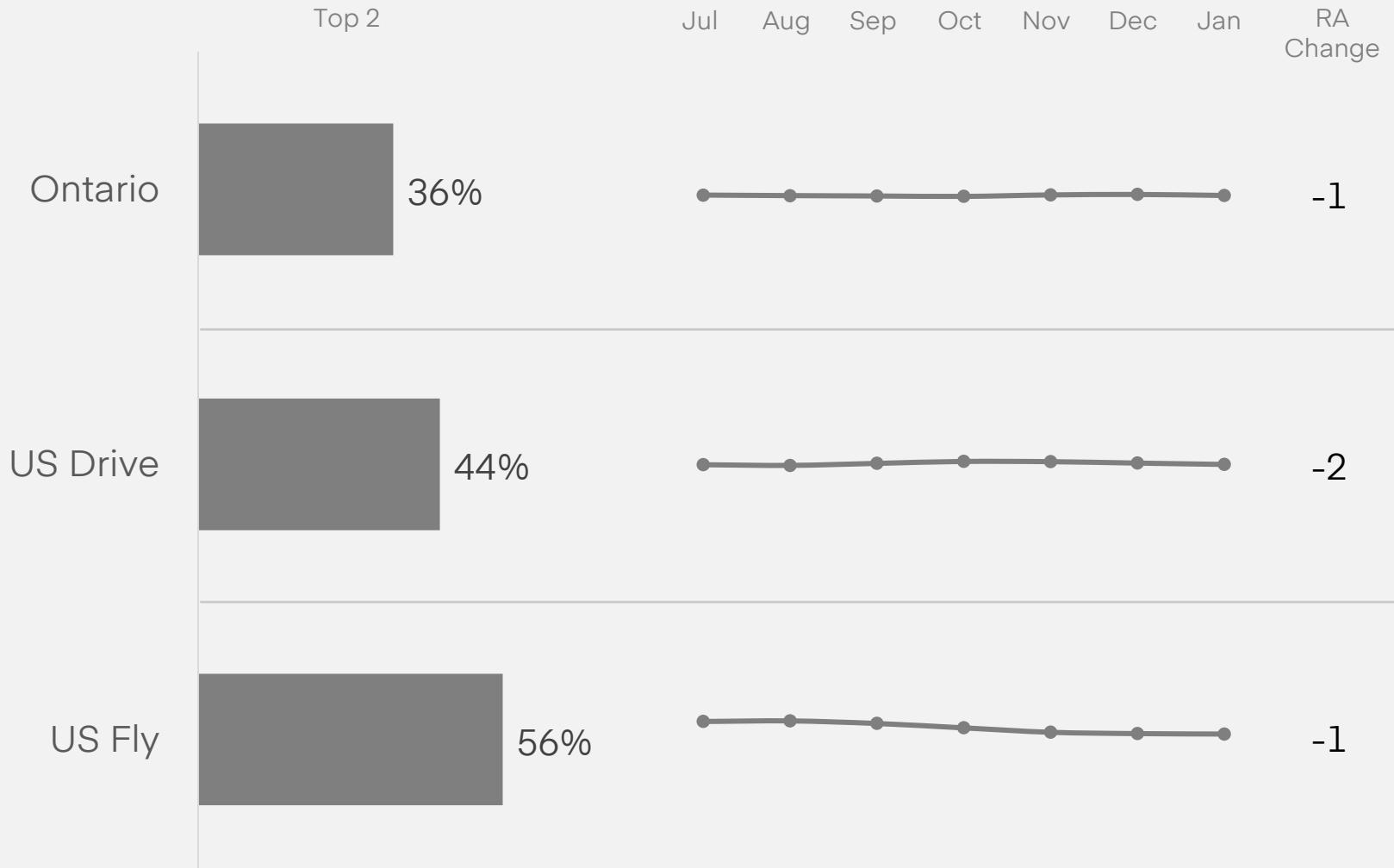
Travel Intent

Number of Trips

Month of Travel

## PRIORITIZING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

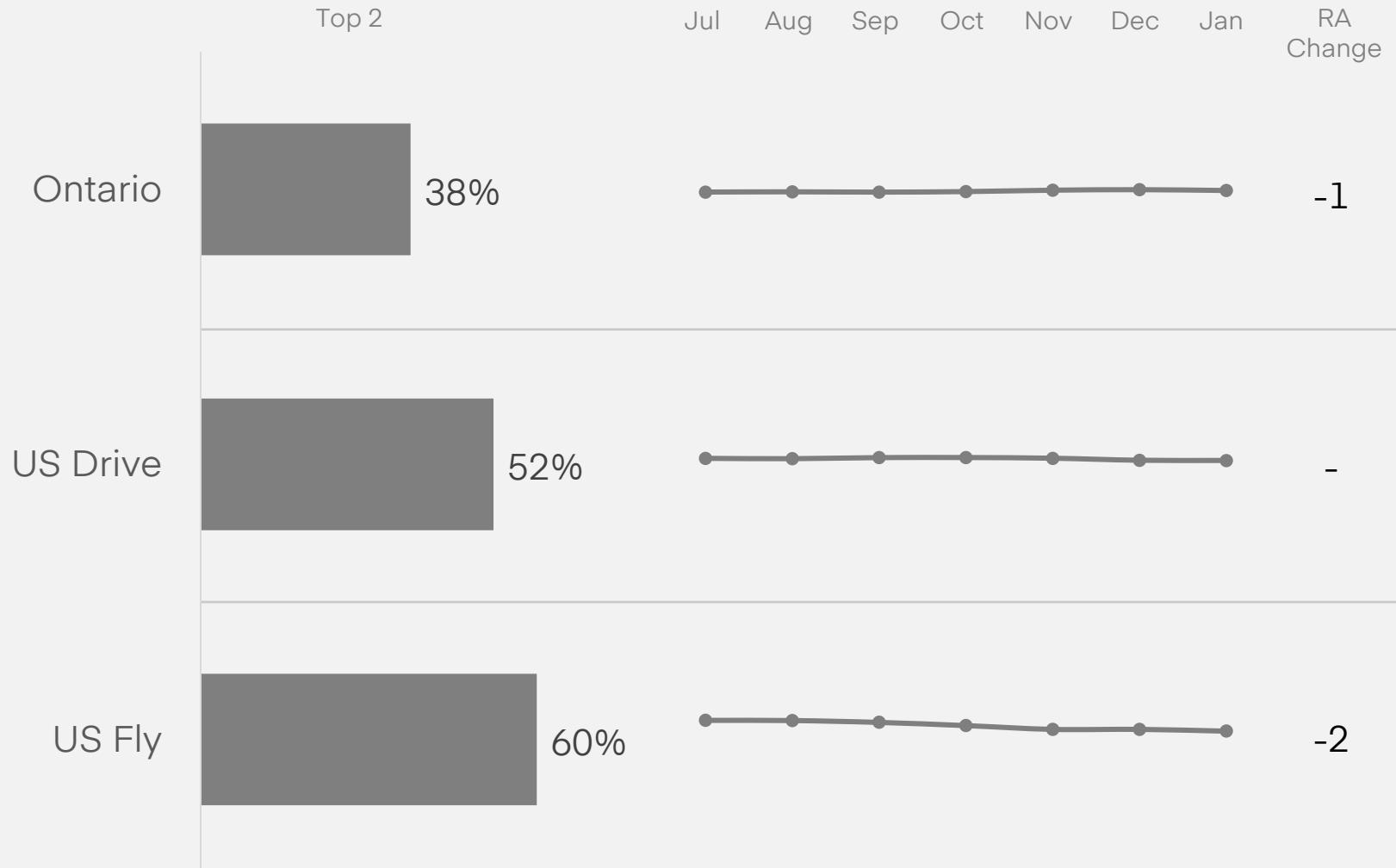
U.S. Fly travellers show a stronger preference for sustainable tourism options than other markets, while interest remains steady among all markets.



ST2. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Excludes "don't know") (5-point scale)  
[I choose travel destinations that prioritize sustainable tourism]  
All respondents. (n=2,913)

## PAYING EXTRA FOR SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

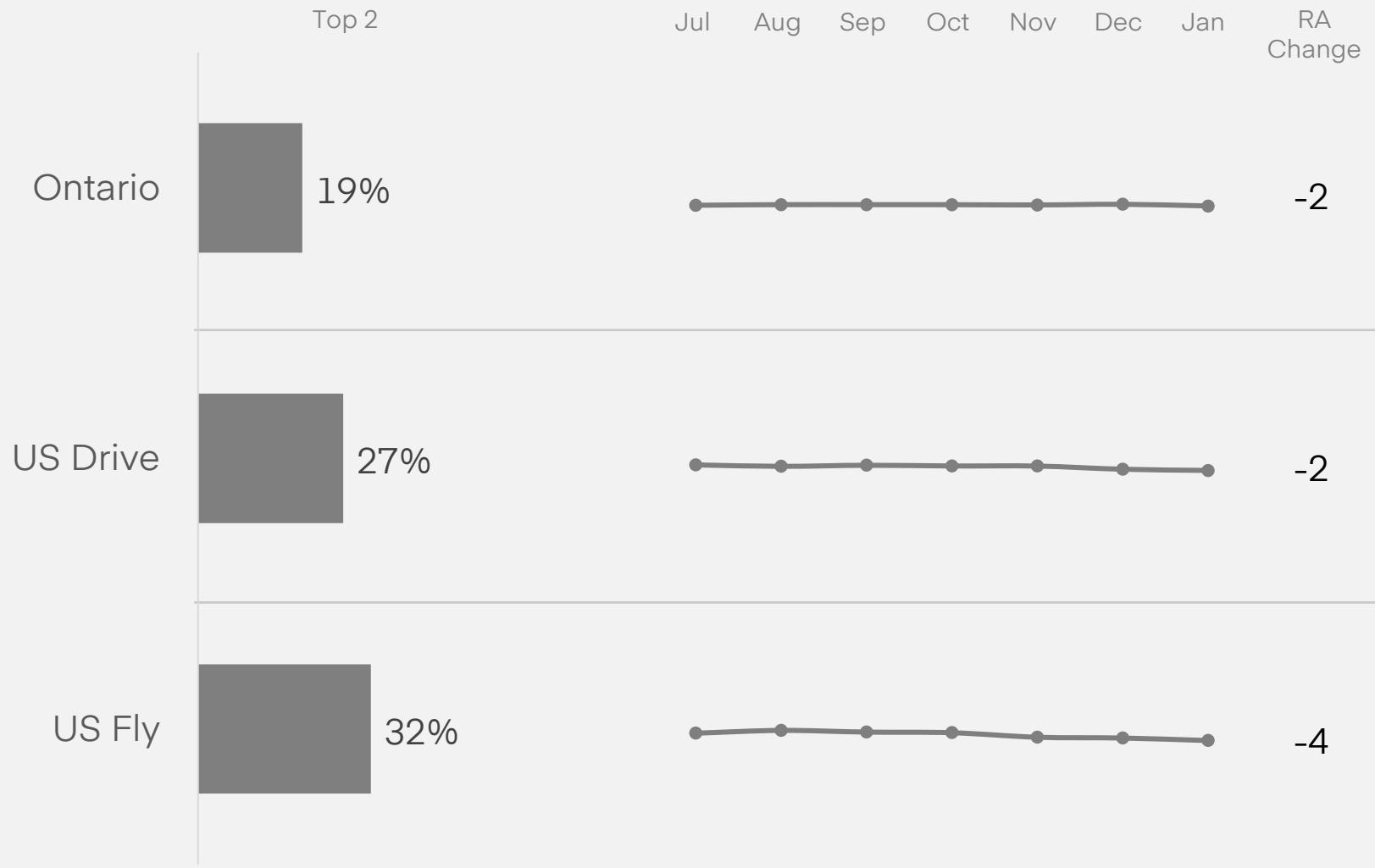
U.S. Fly travellers demonstrate higher sustainability awareness, with three in five willing to pay for a sustainable travel option, compared to lower willingness among Ontario travellers.



ST2. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Excludes "don't know") (5-point scale)  
[I am willing to pay more for a sustainable travel option, if the experience is equivalent]  
All respondents. (n=2,913)

## WILDFIRES IMPACT ON ONTARIO TRAVEL

Wildfires have a greater impact on U.S. Fly travellers, particularly during the summer (44 - 46%), while concern remains low among Ontario travellers.



ST1. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Excludes "don't know") (5-point scale)  
[Canadian wildfires have impacted my travel plans in Ontario, Canada]  
All respondents. (n=2,955)



## TRAVEL INFORMATION RESEARCH

**U.S. Fly travellers lead in travel information-seeking**, though interest across U.S. markets has seen a decline.

AI tools is primarily being used to **research attractions or activities** when it comes to planning a trip.

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Tags - Explore more on [DOinsights.crg.ca](http://DOinsights.crg.ca)

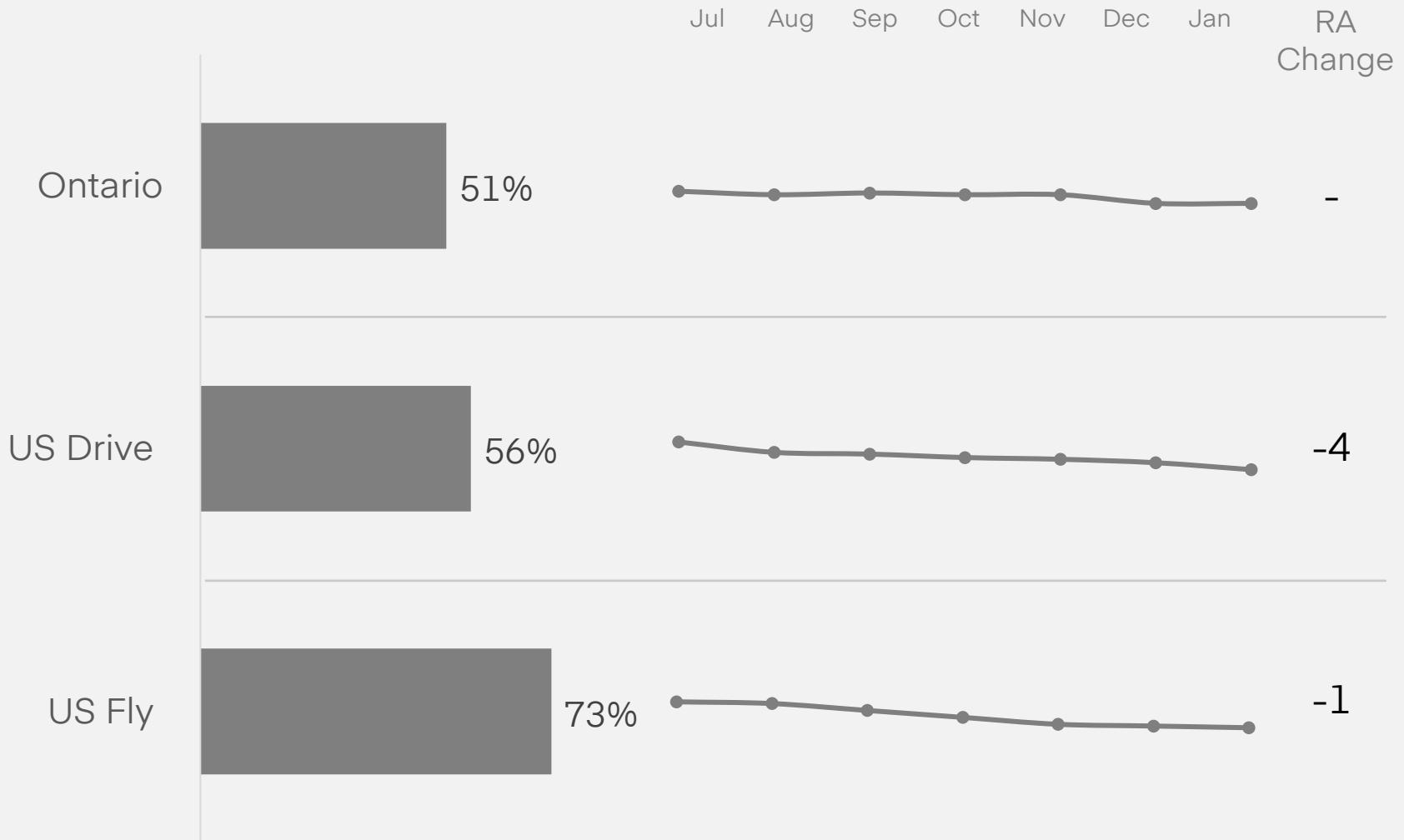
Travel Intent

Number of Trips

Month of Travel

## INFORMATION SEARCH

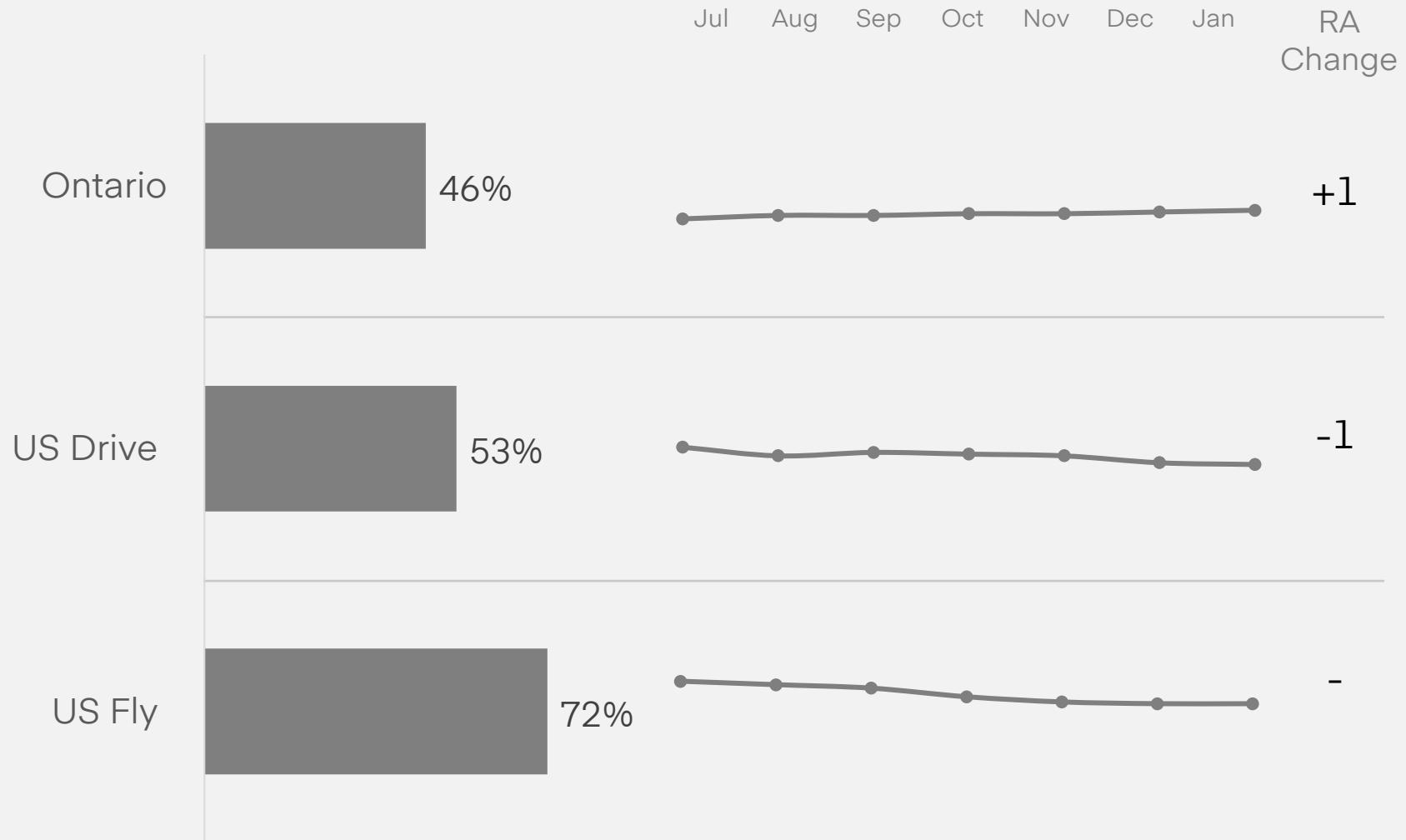
While travel information-seeking is strongest among U.S. Fly travellers, U.S. markets have declined since July, while Ontario remains stable.



I1. In the past month, have you looked for information about travelling? (Single-select)  
All respondents. (n=3,041)

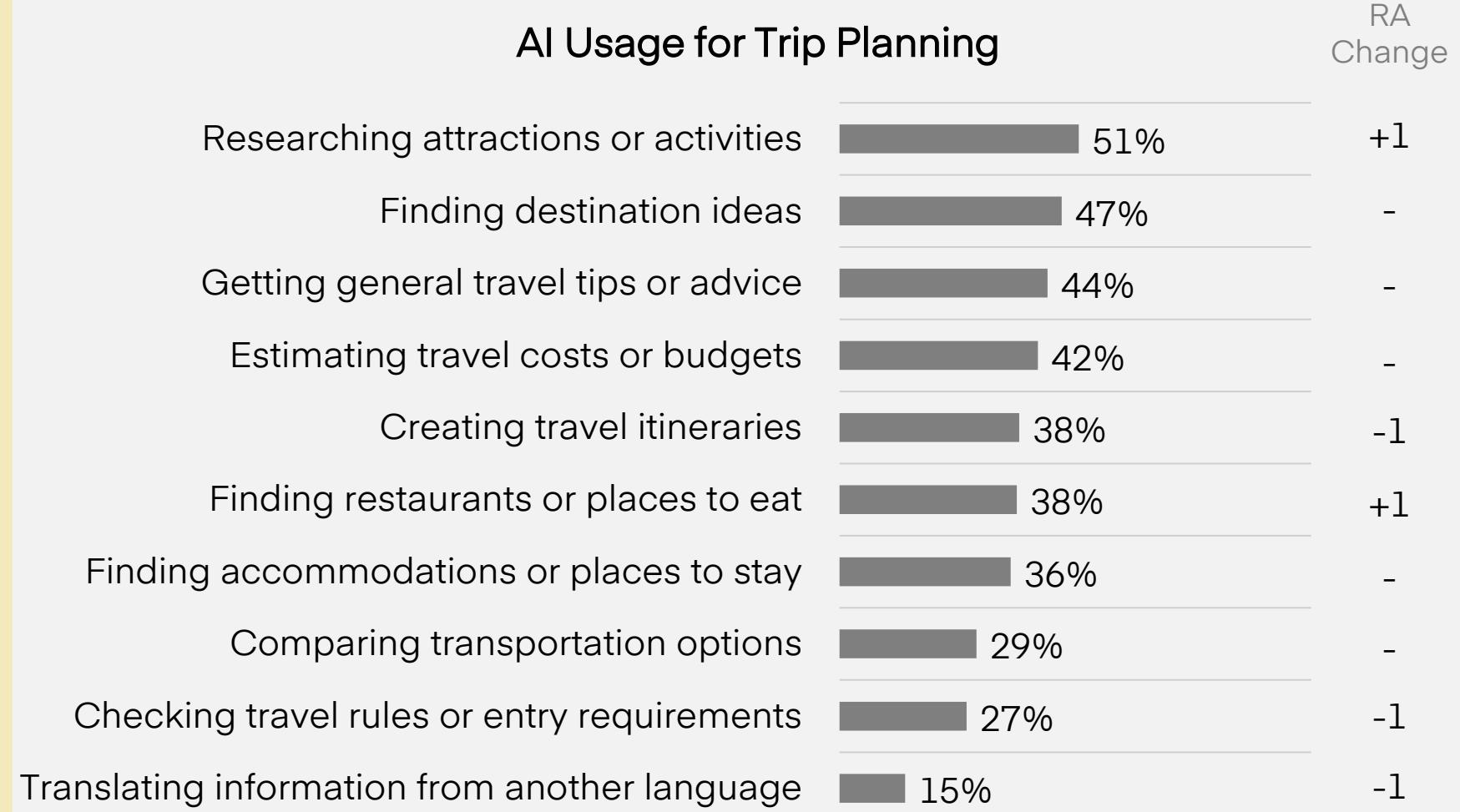
## LIKELIHOOD OF USING AI TOOLS

Intent to use AI tools for trip planning is highest among U.S. Fly travellers, while interest remains moderate among Ontario travellers.



16. How likely are you to use AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Gemini, MS Copilot) to help you plan your next trip?  
(Excludes "don't know") (5-point scale)  
Respondents who plan to take an overnight trip. (n=2,860)

Researching attractions or activities is the top reason travellers use AI tools for trip planning.



I5. How did you use AI tools when planning your trip(s)? (Multi-select)  
 Respondents who used AI tools to help plan a trip in the past 12 months. (n=1,870)  
 Only overall  $\geq 5\%$  shown



## EXPLORER'S EDGE TRAVELLER PROFILE

The Niagara Region and Toronto are the top destination choices across all travellers.

U.S. Fly travellers are most likely to plan three or more overnight trips to Ontario.

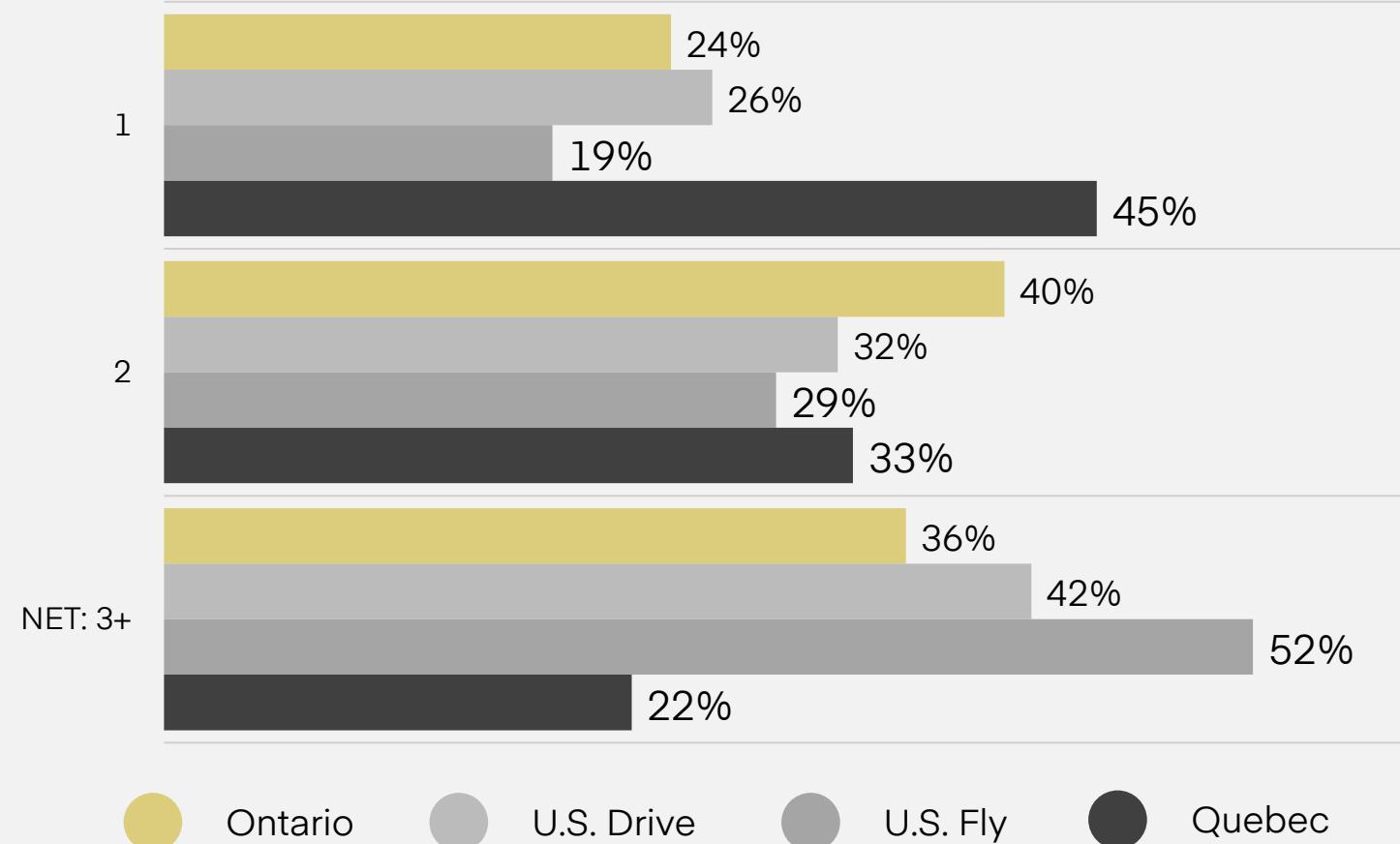
U.S. visitors prioritize **beaches, shopping, and cultural experiences**, while Ontarians favour day trips and **water-based outdoor activities**, and Quebec travellers lean toward **food-and-drink experiences**.

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Travellers interested in visiting RTO12 - Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin Park (e.g., Huntsville, Bracebridge, South River, Whitney)

## EXPLORER'S EDGE - OVERNIGHT TRIPS TO ONTARIO

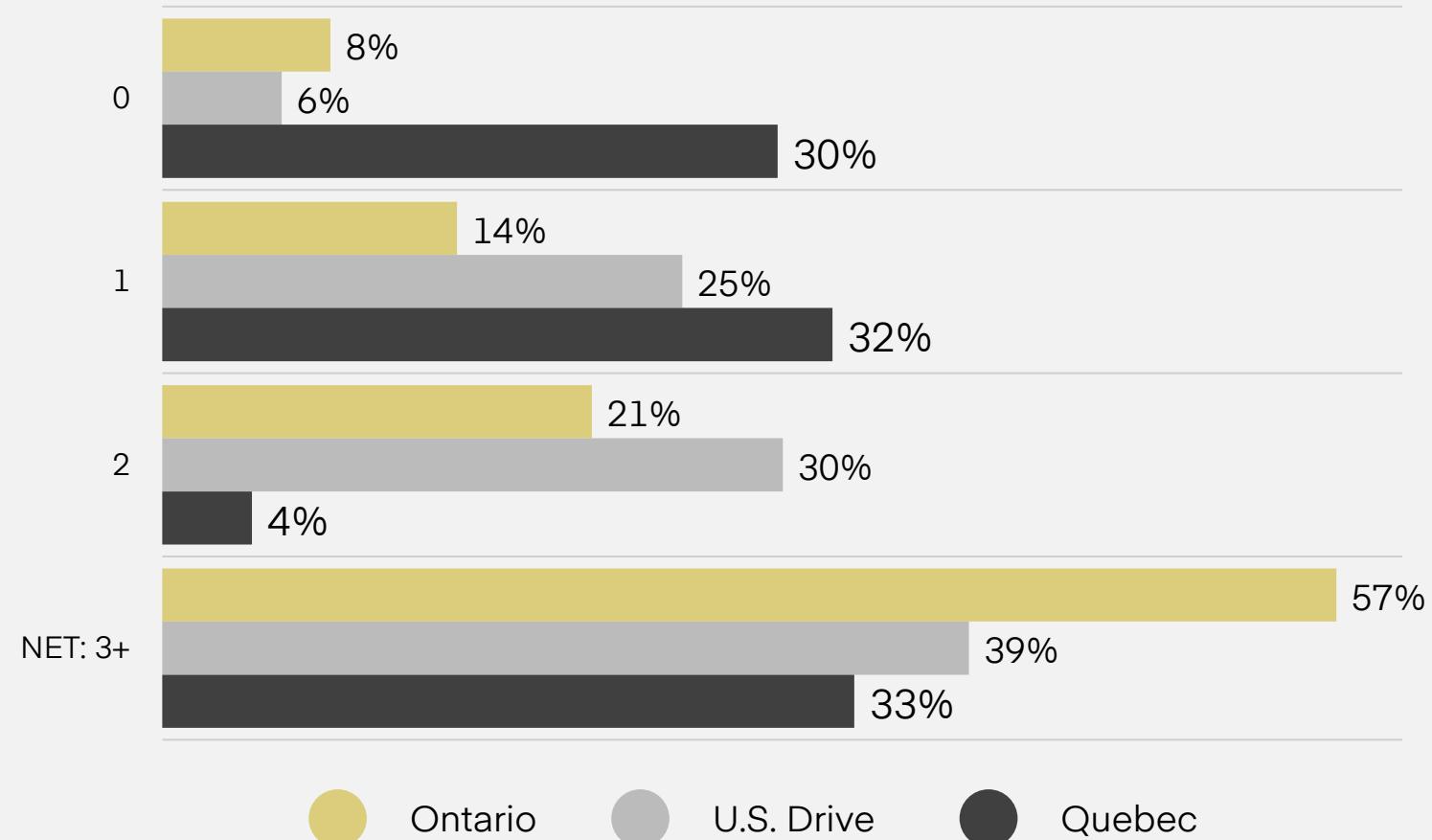
While all markets plan at least one overnight trip to Ontario, U.S. Fly travellers are more likely to plan multiple trips, whereas Quebec travellers typically plan just one.



S6. In the next 12 months how many pleasure trips of one or more nights away from home are you planning to take in Ontario, Canada?

Respondents interested in visiting Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin Park (e.g., Huntsville, Bracebridge, South River, Whitney) (n= 1,257)

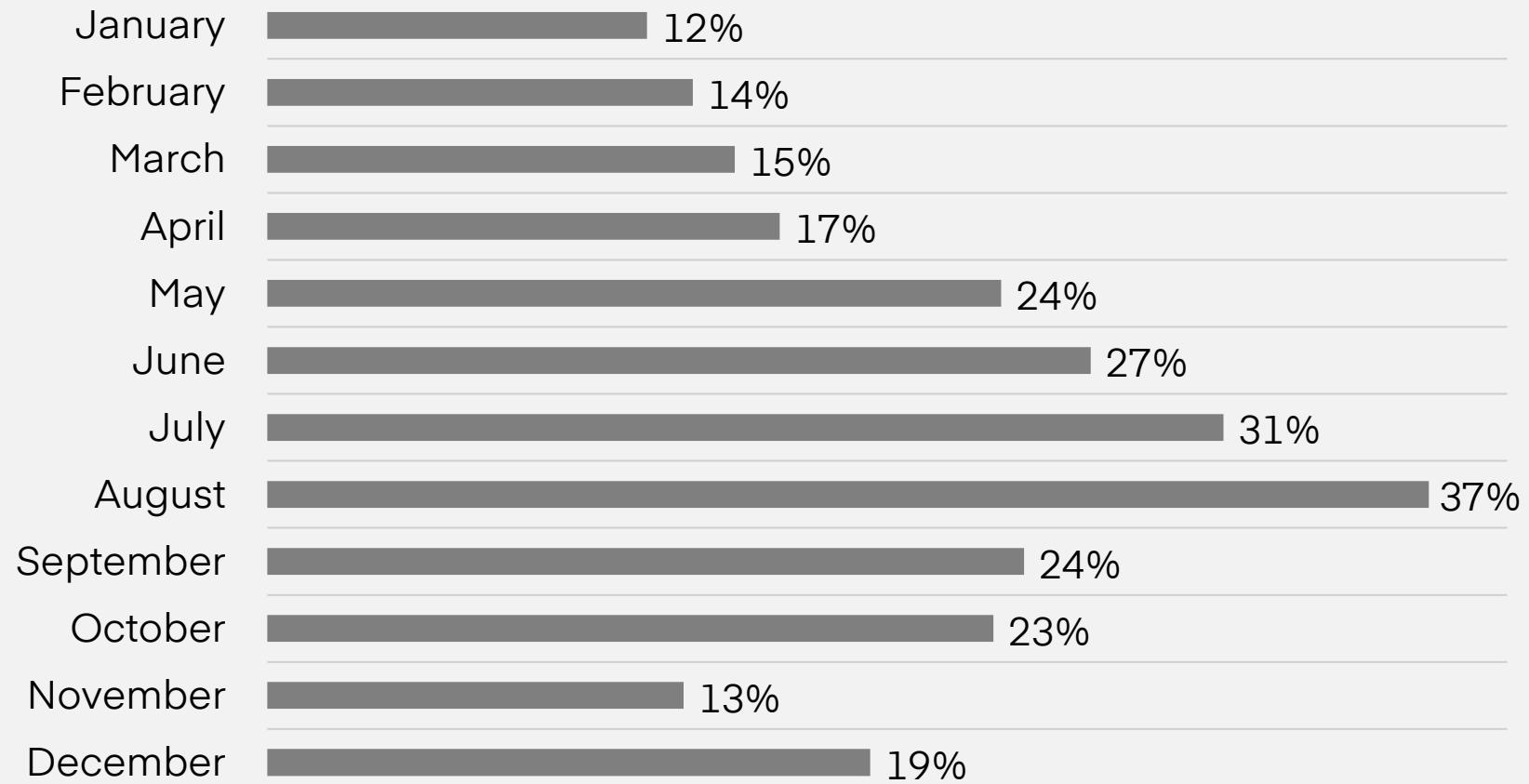
Ontario travellers tend to plan more frequent day trips, whereas Quebec travellers take fewer trips.



S9. In the next 12 months, how many day trips are you planning to take in Ontario, Canada?  
Respondents interested in visiting Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin Park (e.g., Huntsville, Bracebridge, South River, Whitney) (n=1,056)

Summer dominates planned travel to Ontario among those interested in Explorer's Edge, with August emerging as the peak month for consideration.

### Travel Planning Months for Ontario Visits

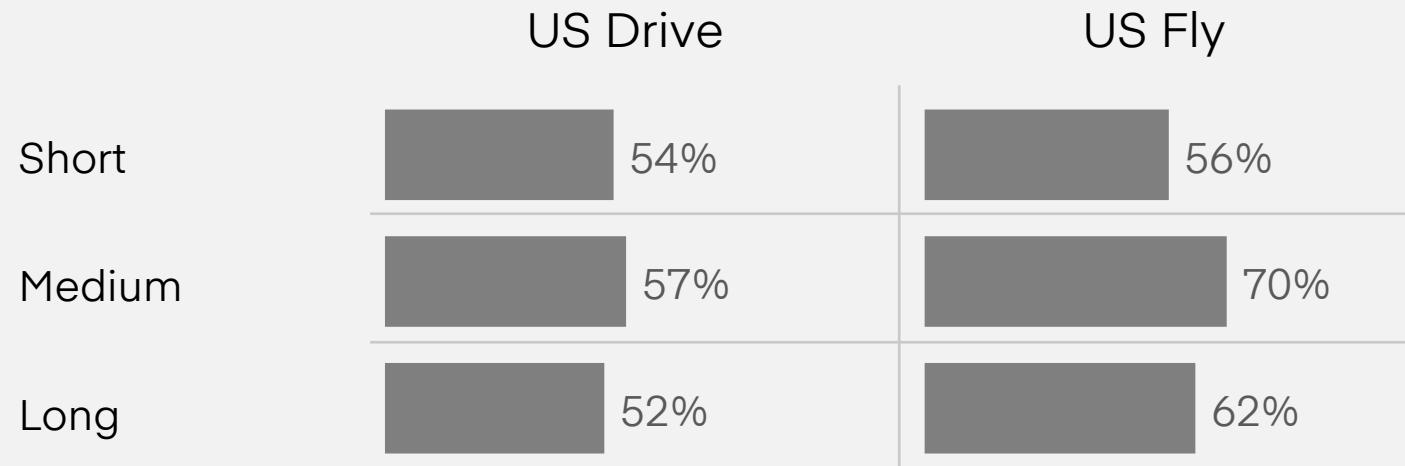


S6B. In the next 12 months, when do you think you'll take your next pleasure trip to Ontario, Canada? (Multi-select)  
Respondents who are planning a trip in Ontario in the next 12 months.

Respondents interested in visiting Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin Park (e.g., Huntsville, Bracebridge, South River, Whitney) (n=1,336)

U.S. travellers are more likely to plan Ontario trips in the medium term, particularly U.S. Fly travellers, while U.S. Drive travellers show a more even likelihood across planning horizons.

Short-term = <2 months ahead | Mid-term = 3-6 months ahead | Long-term = 7-12 months ahead



Note:

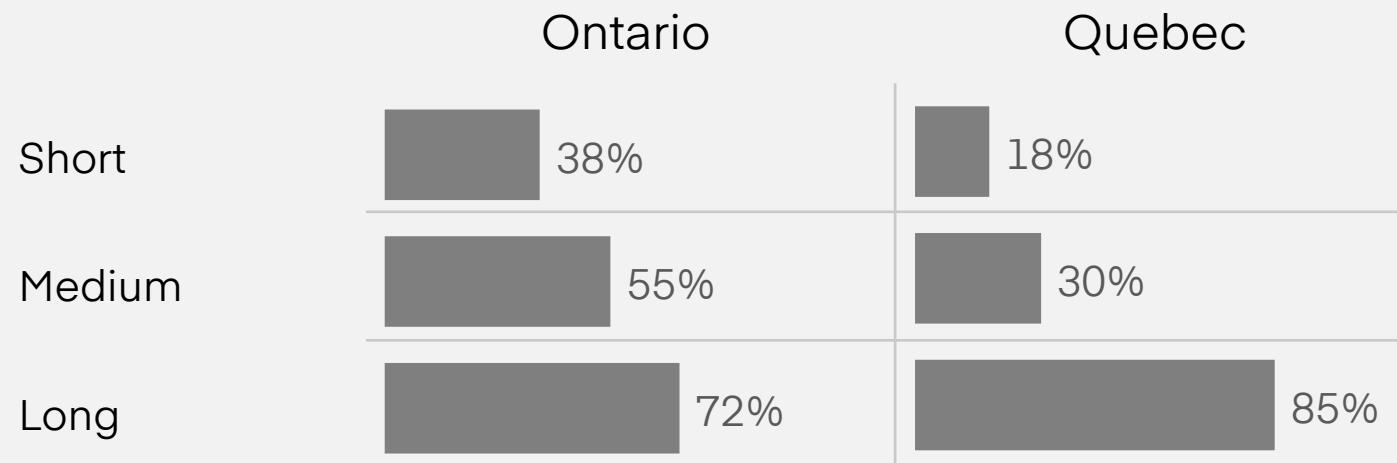
Bar = % of current month | ▲▼ = RA Change

S6B. In the next 12 months, when do you think you'll take your next pleasure trip to Ontario, Canada? (Multi-select)  
Respondents who are planning a trip in Ontario in the next 12 months.

Respondents interested in visiting Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin Park (e.g., Huntsville, Bracebridge, South River, Whitney) (n=260)

Long-term planning is most common among the Canadian markets, particularly Quebec travellers.

Short-term = <2 months ahead | Mid-term = 3-6 months ahead | Long-term = 7-12 months ahead



Note:

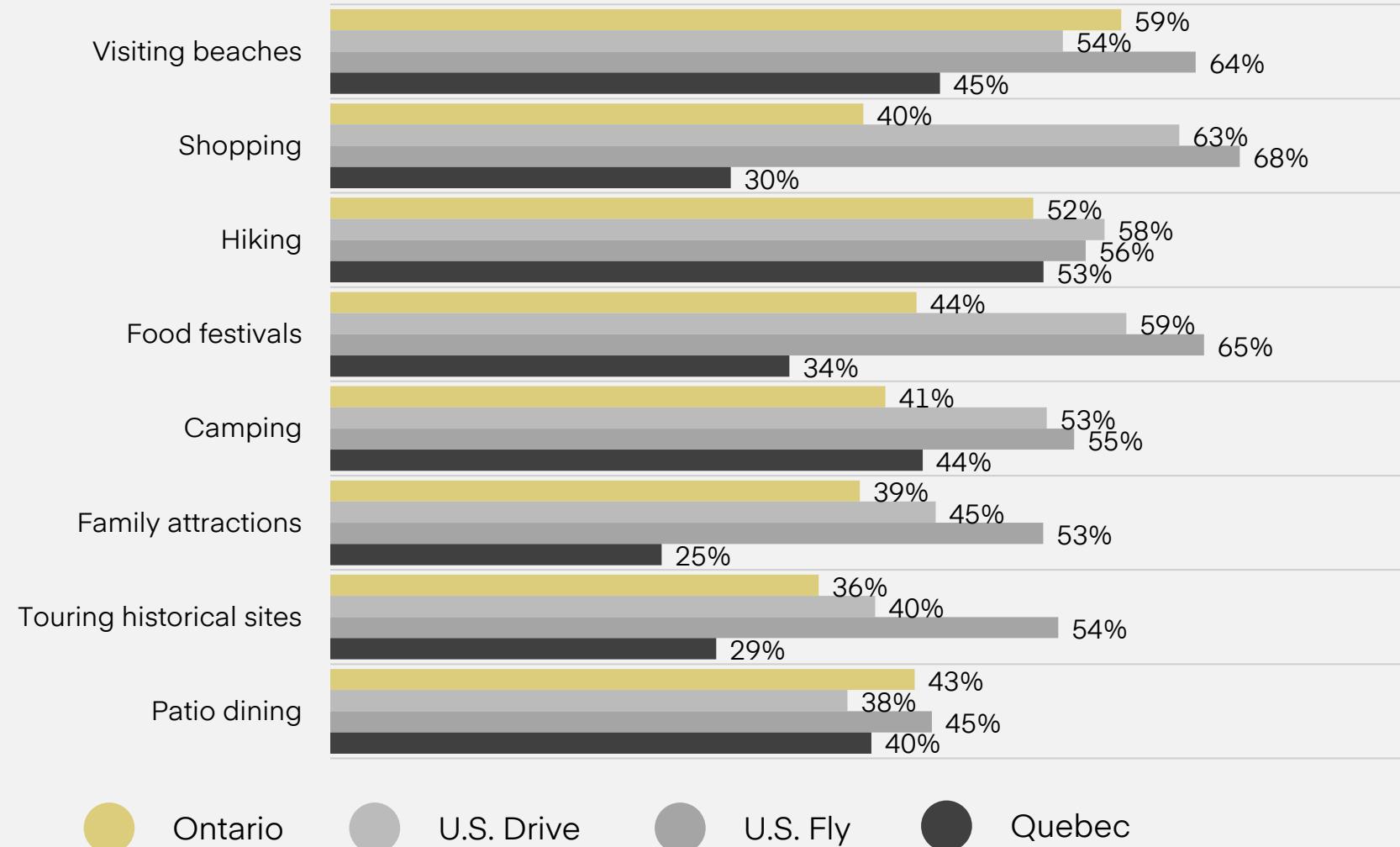
Bar = % of current month | ▲▼ = RA Change

S6B. In the next 12 months, when do you think you'll take your next pleasure trip to Ontario, Canada? (Multi-select)  
Respondents who are planning a trip in Ontario in the next 12 months.

Respondents interested in visiting Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin Park (e.g., Huntsville, Bracebridge, South River, Whitney) (n=997)

## EXPLORER'S EDGE - POTENTIAL SPRING & SUMMER ACTIVITIES

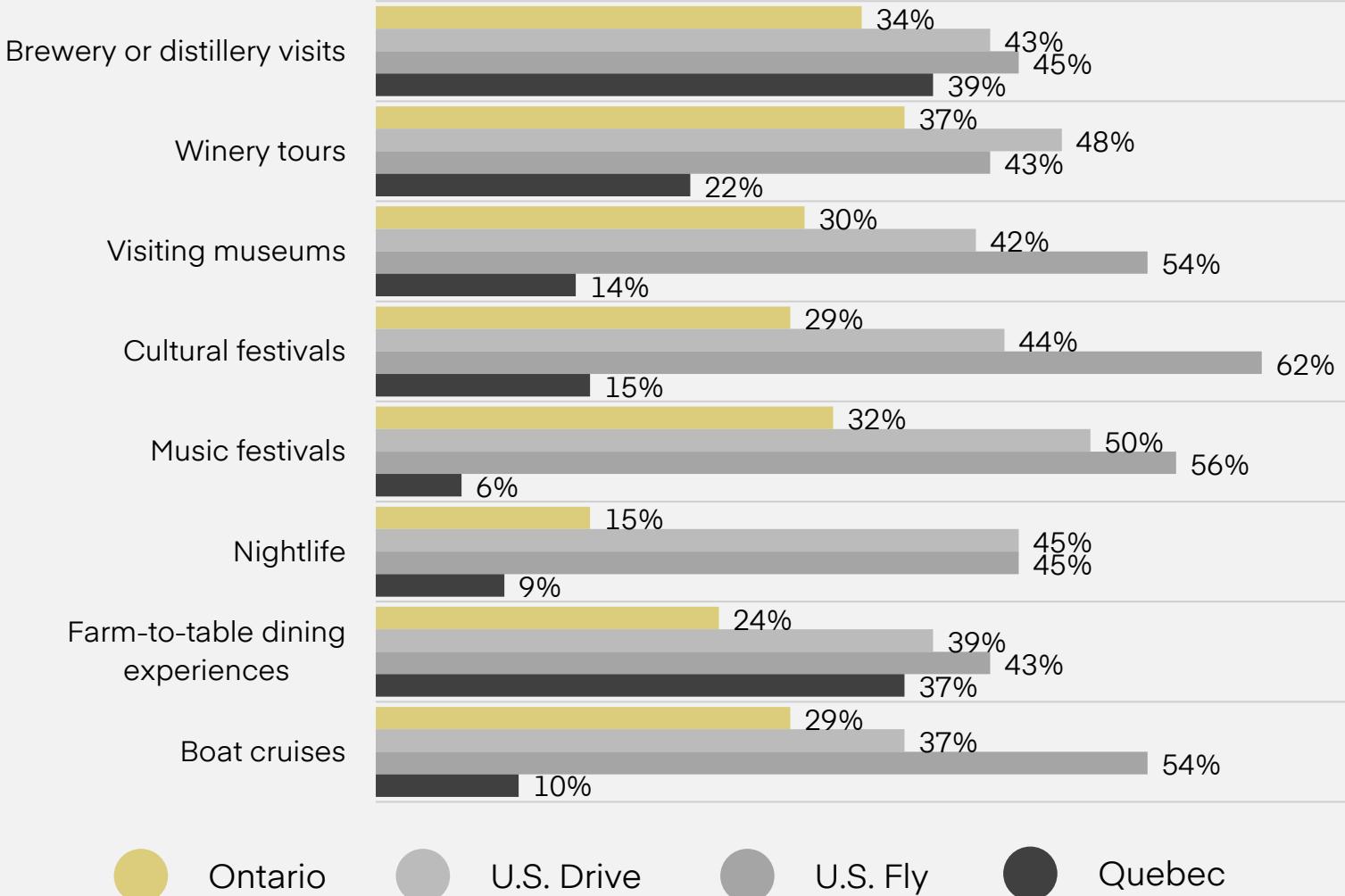
Visiting beaches is the top activity during spring and summer, while shopping resonates more with U.S. travellers and hiking is most strongly planned by Canadian travellers.



Q1BB Thinking about your next planned pleasure trip to Ontario, Canada in the spring or summer, which specific activities would you participate in?  
Respondents interested in visiting Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin. (n=838)

# EXPLORER'S EDGE - POTENTIAL SPRING & SUMMER ACTIVITIES

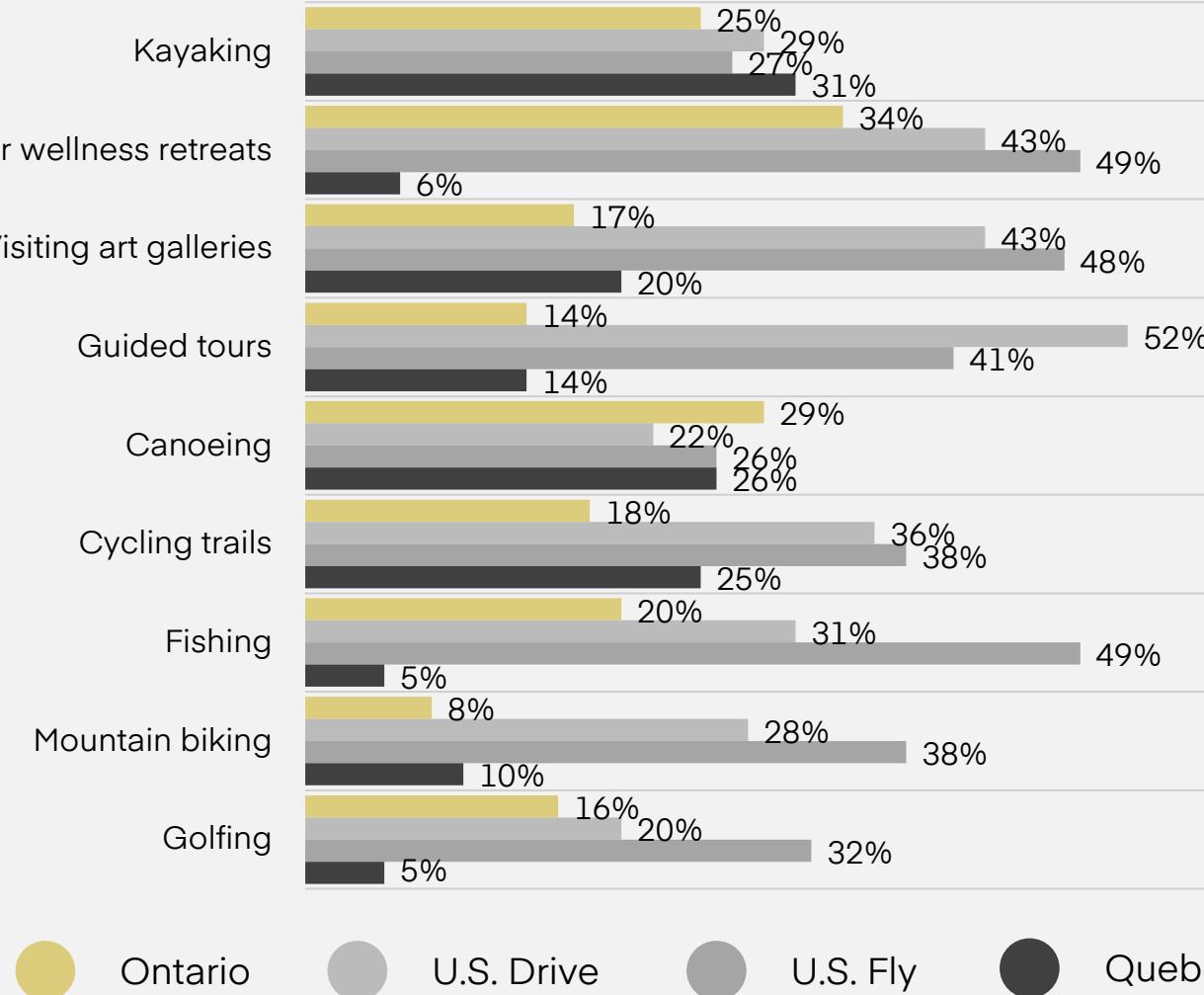
U.S. visitors express broader activity interest, while Quebec travellers favour distilleries and farm dining; U.S. Fly gravitate toward cultural experiences and cruises, and U.S. Drive toward winery tours.



Q1BB Thinking about your next planned pleasure trip to Ontario, Canada in the spring or summer, which specific activities would you participate in?  
Respondents interested in visiting Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin. (n=838)

## EXPLORER'S EDGE - POTENTIAL SPRING & SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The interest in tours continues for US Drive travellers and U.S. Fly plan fishing and relaxation, while Canadian travellers gravitate toward water activities like kayaking and canoeing.



Ontario



U.S. Drive



U.S. Fly



Quebec

Q1BB Thinking about your next planned pleasure trip to Ontario, Canada in the spring or summer, which specific activities would you participate in?  
Respondents interested in visiting Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin. (n=838)

Interest in Indigenous cultural experiences remains low among Ontario travellers, with fewer than one in ten expressing interest.

Trying Indigenous cuisine

7%

Indigenous cultural experiences

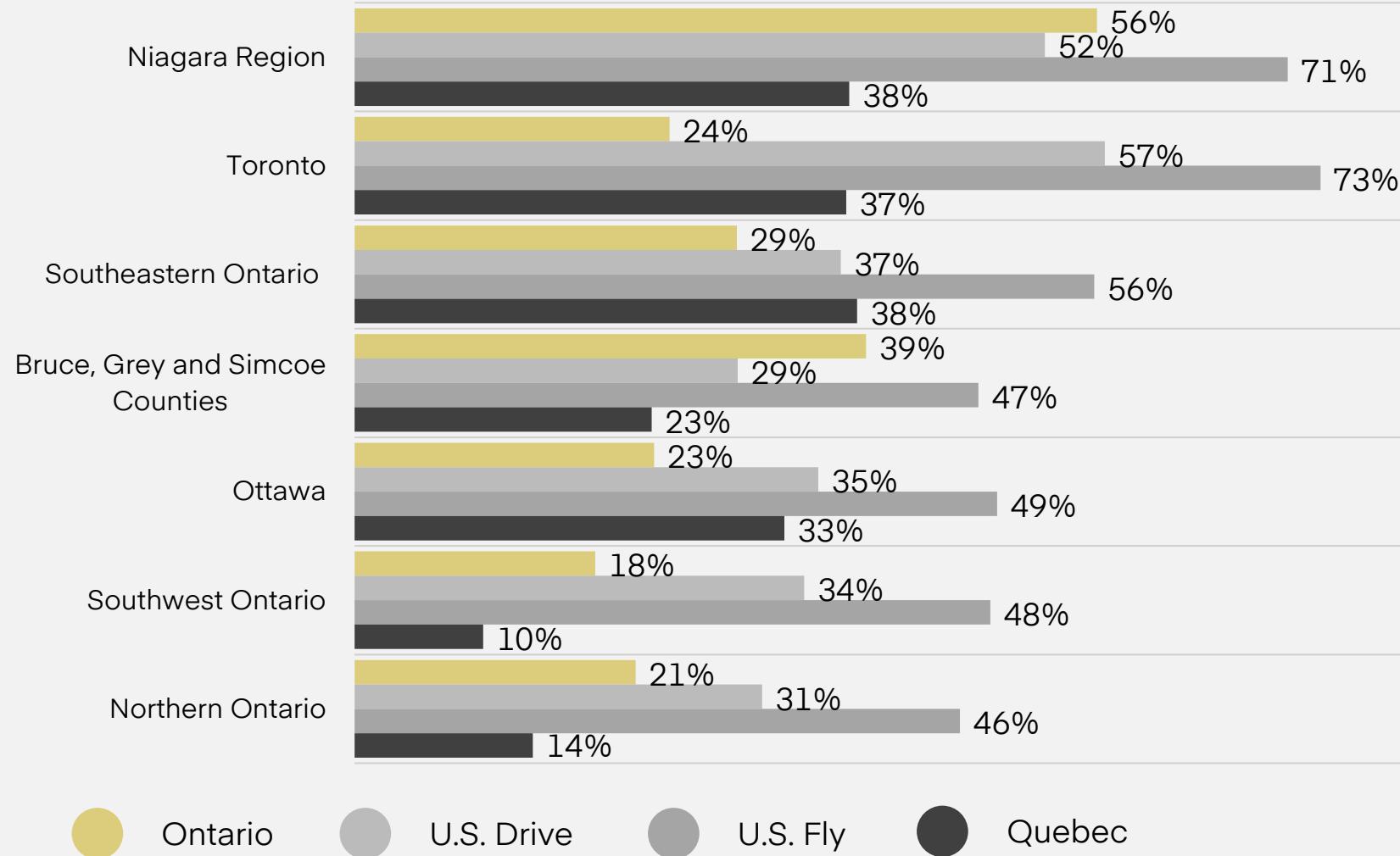
5%

Q3. Thinking about all the memorable trips you've had within Ontario, what were your favourite food experiences? Please select all that apply./ Q2. Thinking about all the memorable trips you've had within Ontario, what were your favourite leisure activities that you did?

Respondents from DO ON Consumer Survey 2025. (n=1,595)

## EXPLORER'S EDGE - POTENTIAL ONTARIO DESTINATIONS

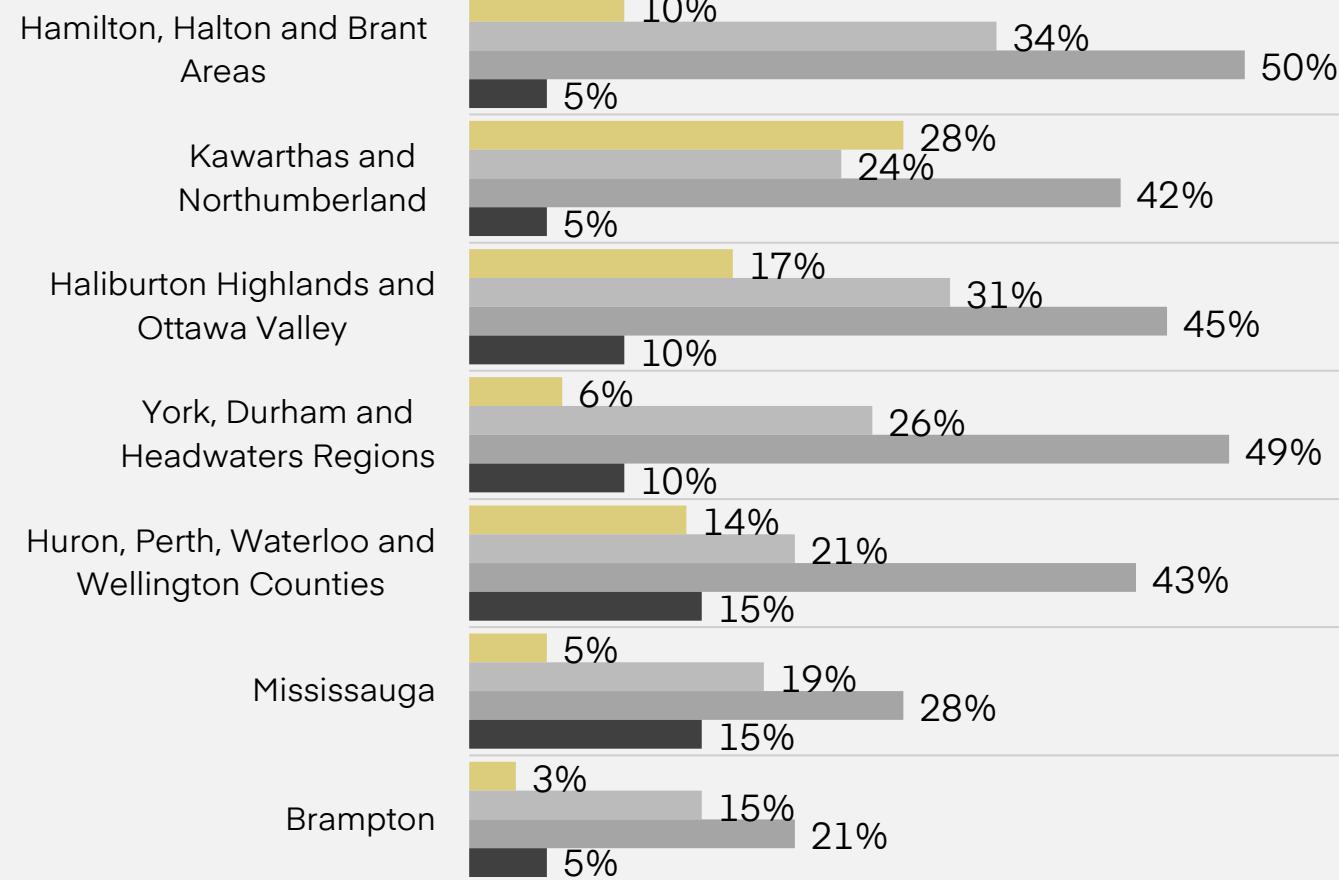
Niagara Region and Toronto are the top destination choices for U.S. travellers; Quebec travellers mirror this preference while also showing interest in Southeastern Ontario, whereas Ontario travellers' interest is primarily in the Niagara Region.



Q1B Which destination(s) in Ontario, Canada are you seriously considering for a pleasure trip in the next 12 months?  
Respondents interested in visiting Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin Park (e.g., Huntsville, Bracebridge, South River, Whitney) (n=1,257)

## EXPLORER'S EDGE - POTENTIAL ONTARIO DESTINATIONS

U.S. Fly travellers show the highest interest across all potential destinations, while Canadian markets sit at the lower end.



Ontario



U.S. Drive



U.S. Fly



Quebec

Q1B Which destination(s) in Ontario, Canada are you seriously considering for a pleasure trip in the next 12 months?  
Respondents interested in visiting Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin Park (e.g., Huntsville, Bracebridge, South River, Whitney)



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**U.S. PULSE SURVEY WAVE 3**  
Prepared for: Destination Ontario

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A high-angle, black and white aerial photograph of a coastal area. In the foreground, a dense forest covers a hillside. A paved road winds its way down the hill and along the coastline. On the right side of the image, a large, multi-tiered lighthouse or observation tower stands on a rocky outcrop. The ocean is visible in the background, with several small boats scattered across the water.

# U.S. TRAVELLER PULSE SURVEY

# METHODOLOGY

A pulse study among U.S. High Value Guests (HVGs) from Fly and Drive markets

WAVE 1 – JANUARY 2025 n= 1,610

WAVE 2 – MARCH 2025 n= 1,614

WAVE 3 – OCTOBER 2025 n= 1,622

# CONTEXTUAL TIMELINE

**JANUARY 27 – 31, 2025**

Wave 1

**MARCH 19 – 25, 2025**

Wave 2

**OCTOBER 7 – 14, 2025**

Wave 3

**JANUARY 20, 2025**

Donald Trump is inaugurated as the 47<sup>th</sup> president of the United States.

**FEBRUARY 1, 2025**

Announcement of U.S. tariffs and Canadian retaliatory tariffs. Start of trade tensions.

**APRIL 2, 2025**

Liberation Day

Ongoing Trade Tensions



# PERCEPTIONS OF ONTARIO AND CANADA

# TRAVEL INTENT HOLDING STEADY

Likelihood of a Pleasure Trip to Ontario (TOP2)

WAVE 1

**58%**

WAVE 2

**58%**

WAVE 3

**60%**

62%

56%



In the next 12 months, how likely are you to take a pleasure trip of one or more nights away to Ontario, Canada?

# EXCELLENT TRAVEL DESTINATION



Italy 86% (-1)  
Canada (as a whole) 82% (+0)  
Ontario 80% (-2)  
Ireland 74% (-2)  
United Kingdom 70% (-4)  
Mexico 54% (+5)

# KEY PERCEPTION ITEMS: NO CHANGE

Is friendly and inclusive to all visitors 87% (+1)

Provides good value for money 81% (+0)

# FEELING OF WELCOMING

# ELBOWS UP. ARMS OPEN?

This country is currently welcoming to U.S. visitors (% Agree)

WAVE 1

Canada	90%
Italy	84%
Ireland	84%
United Kingdom	83%
Mexico	62%

# ELBOWS UP. ARMS OPEN?

This country is currently welcoming to U.S. visitors (% Agree)

## WAVE 2

Italy	82%	(-2)
United Kingdom	81%	(-2)
Ireland	80%	(-4)
Canada	75%	(-15)
Mexico	60%	(-2)

# ELBOWS UP. ARMS OPEN?

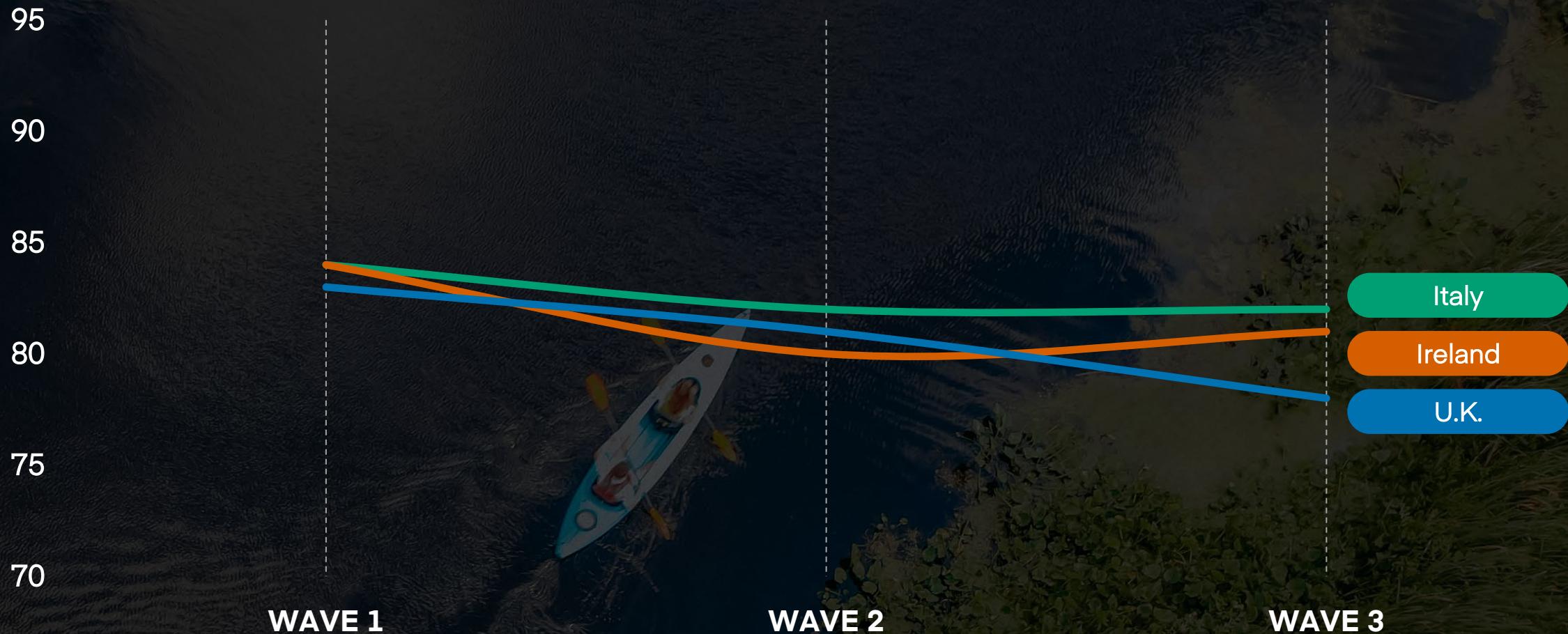
This country is currently welcoming to U.S. visitors (% Agree)

## WAVE 3

Canada	<b>82%</b>	(+7)
Italy	<b>81%</b>	(-1)
Ireland	<b>81%</b>	(+1)
United Kingdom	<b>78%</b>	(-3)
Mexico	<b>62%</b>	(+2)

# ELBOWS UP. ARMS OPEN?

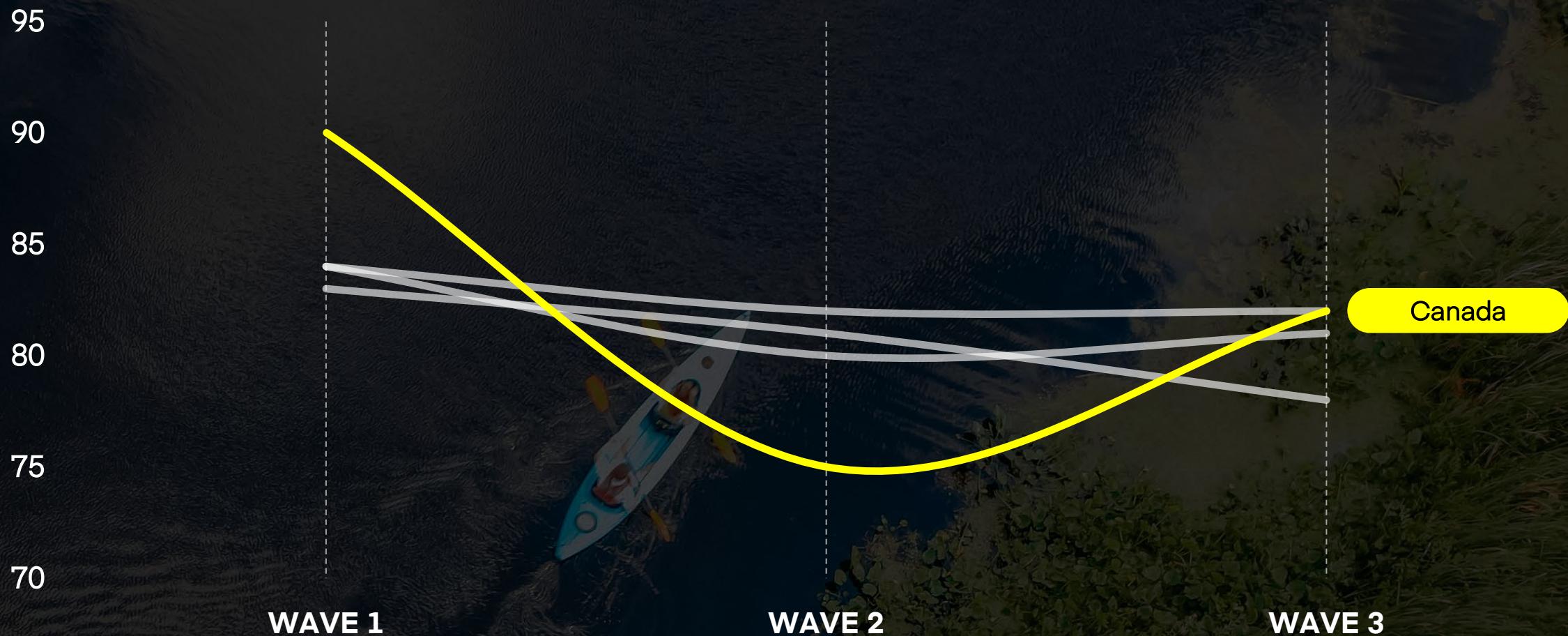
This country is currently welcoming to U.S. visitors (% Agree)



For each of the following countries, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "This country is currently welcoming to US visitors."

# ELBOWS UP. ARMS OPEN?

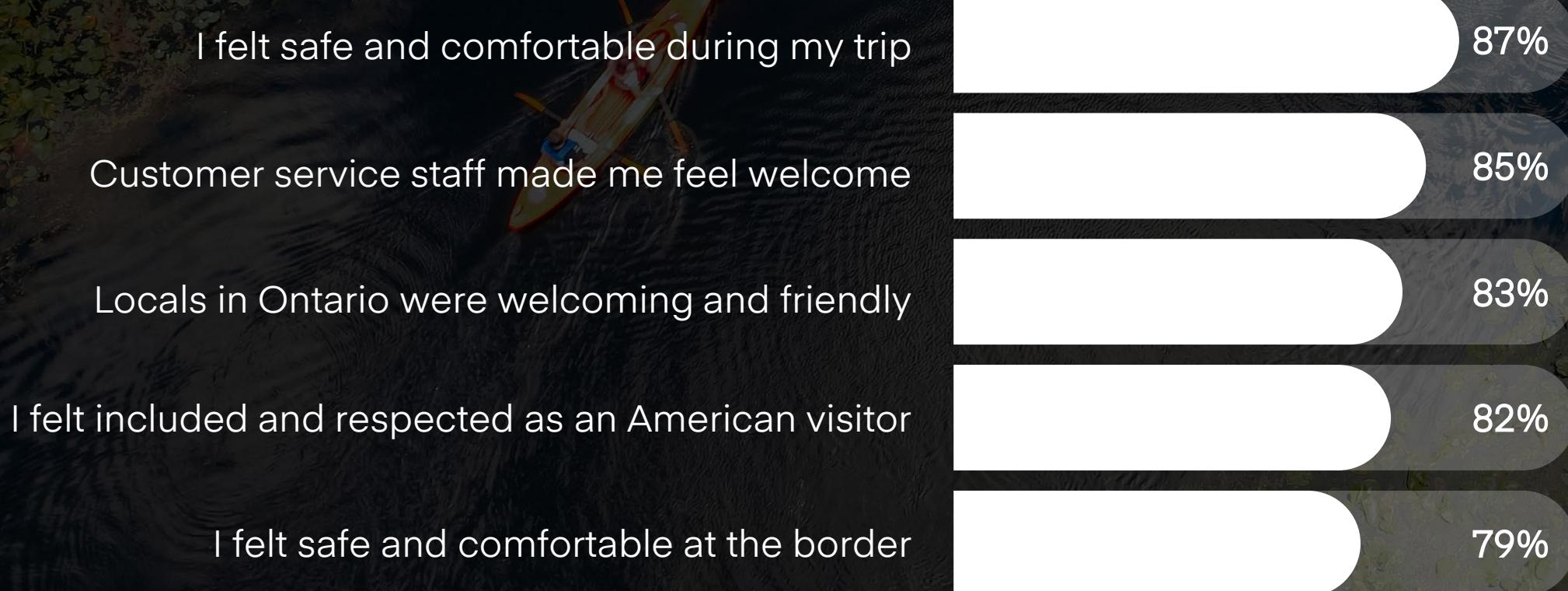
This country is currently welcoming to U.S. visitors (% Agree)



For each of the following countries, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "This country is currently welcoming to US visitors."

# SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE

U.S. travellers who took an overnight trip to Ontario since February 2025



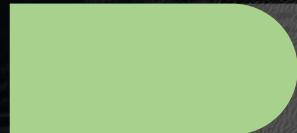
Thinking about your most recent overnight pleasure trip to Ontario, Canada, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Those who took an overnight trip to Ontario since Feb 2025).

# POSITIVE OUTLOOK

One year from now, will Canada be welcoming to U.S. travellers?

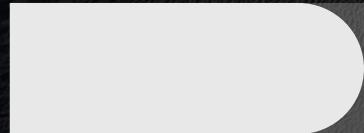
WAVE 3

More welcoming



37% (+7)

About the same



45% (+10)

Less welcoming



17% (-18)

# MORE WELCOMING



You mentioned that Canada will be more welcoming to US visitors in a year from now. What factors contribute most to this perception?

# LESS WELCOMING



You mentioned that Canada will be less welcoming to US visitors in a year from now. What factors contribute most to this perception?



# BARRIERS & OPPORTUNITIES

# THICKENING OF THE BORDER

I am concerned about border crossings, entry requirements or travel restrictions... (TOP2)

to Ontario, Canada



returning to the U.S. from Canada



# CONCERNED ABOUT THE HOME STRETCH

Top 5 concerns about returning to the U.S. from Canada



You mentioned that you are concerned about returning to the US from Canada. Which of the following, if any, describe your concerns? (Multi-Select)  
Respondents who are concerned with border issues

# RETURNING BACK TO NORMAL?

Top 5 barriers to visiting Ontario – Wave 2



Which of the following factors might discourage you from visiting Ontario, Canada?

# RETURNING BACK TO NORMAL?

Top 5 barriers to visiting Ontario – Wave 3



Which of the following factors might discourage you from visiting Ontario, Canada?

# MONEY WELL SPENT

Awareness of the favourable exchange rate



More likely to travel to Ontario because of the favourable exchange rate



How aware are you that the US dollar has a higher exchange value than the Canadian dollar (1 USD = 1.39 CAD, as of September 25th)?

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I am more likely to travel to Ontario, Canada in the next 12 months because of the favourable exchange rate."

Wave 3 Results (Difference from Wave 2)

# FIFA 2026 IMPACT

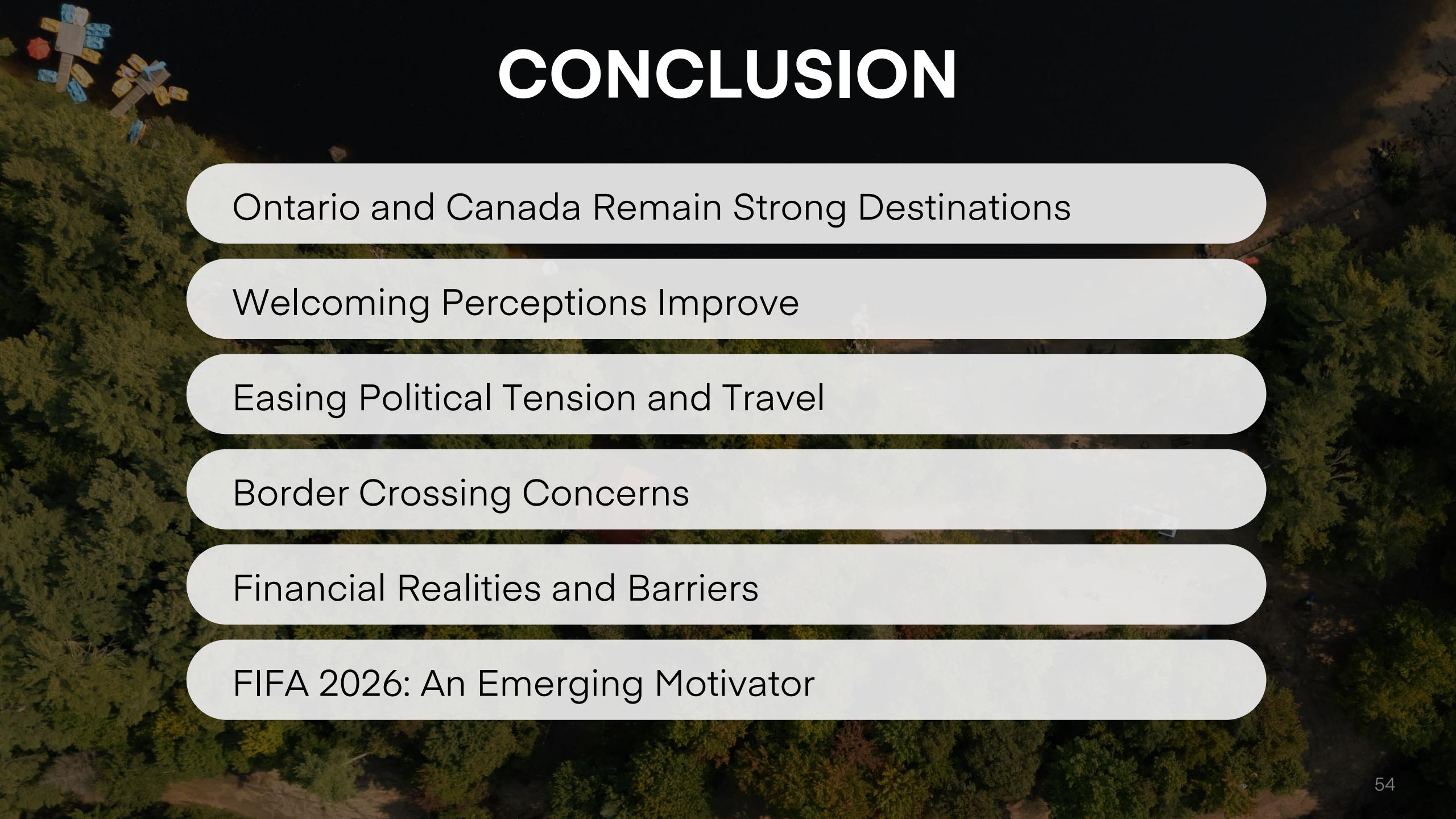
Aware of Toronto as a host city



Likelihood of visiting Toronto because of  
the 2026 FIFA World Cup



Before today, how aware are you that Toronto, Canada is one of the official host cities for the FIFA 2026 World Cup?  
How likely are you to visit Toronto, Canada because it's hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup?



# CONCLUSION

Ontario and Canada Remain Strong Destinations

Welcoming Perceptions Improve

Easing Political Tension and Travel

Border Crossing Concerns

Financial Realities and Barriers

FIFA 2026: An Emerging Motivator

# Explore Ontario's Tourism Insights

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 **2,000+**  
**Travellers**  
Surveyed monthly

 **Continuous  
Tracking**  
Monitor trends over time

 **Centralized  
Access**  
All reports, one portal

 **Localized  
Insights**  
Focused on Ontario markets

## Why it Matters:

- Strengthens Ontario's tourism industry with reliable, accessible data
- Centralizes trusted Destination Ontario reports in one place
- Monitors monthly shifts in traveller sentiment and intent
- Provides timely, actionable data
- Supports informed decision-making



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Start exploring Ontario tourism insights

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Email Address \*

Organization Name \*

Organization Type \*

Select organization type

Preferred Language \*

English

Password \*

Minimum 8 characters. Use a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols for better security.

Confirm Password \*

Create Account →

Already have an account?

 Log in to your account

## DO-IP: IN DEVELOPMENT

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Regional analysis

Interactive dashboards

Suggest topics and questions

Integration of additional data