



DESTINATION
ONTARIO

In partnership with Destination Ontario
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CROSS-BORDER TRAVEL INSIGHTS

Alex Mazanik, CAIP
amazanik@crg.ca

William Schatten, CAIP
wschatten@crg.ca



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AGENDA

OTTM OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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



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.

Tags - Explore more on DOinsights.crg.ca

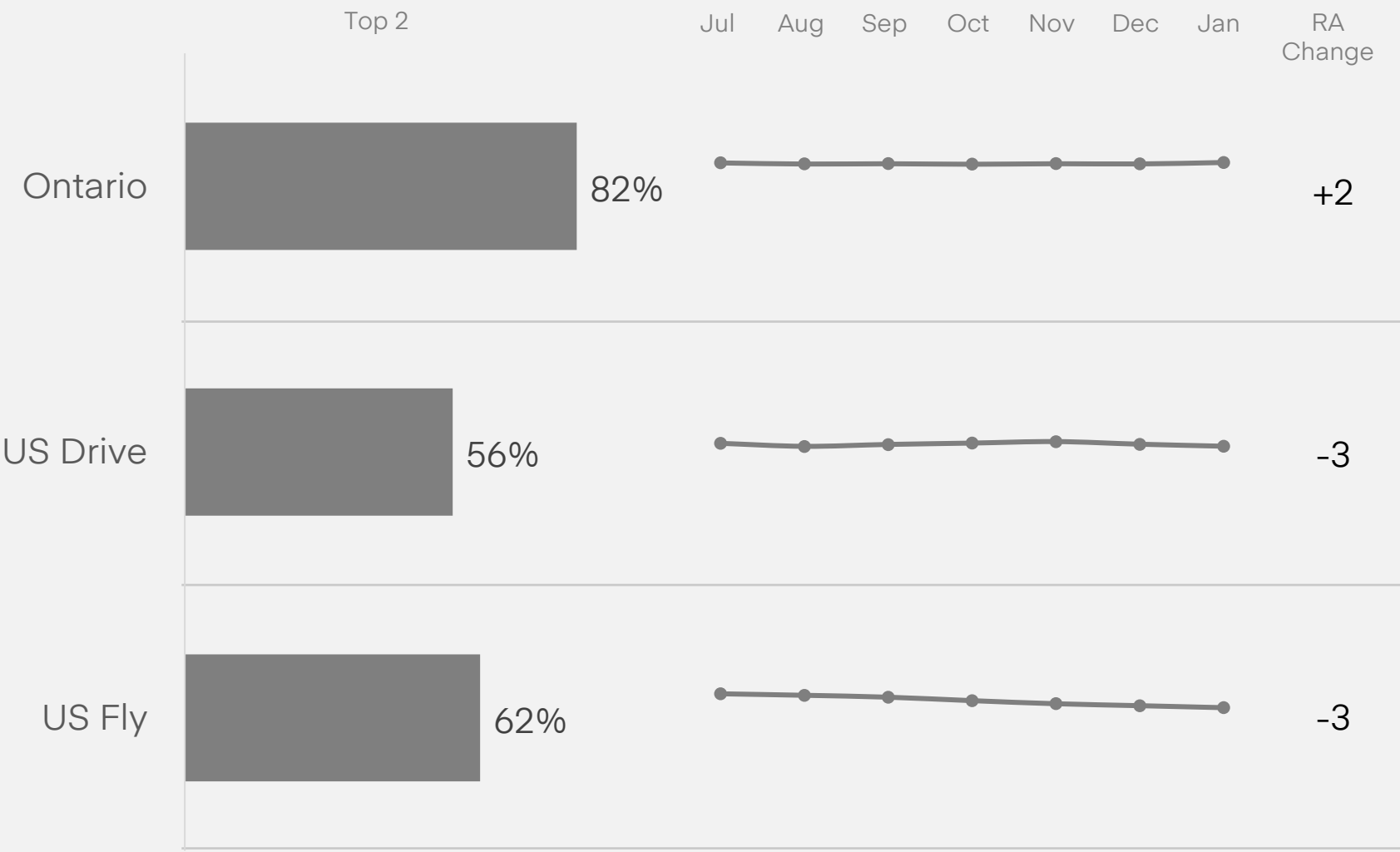
Travel Intent

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.

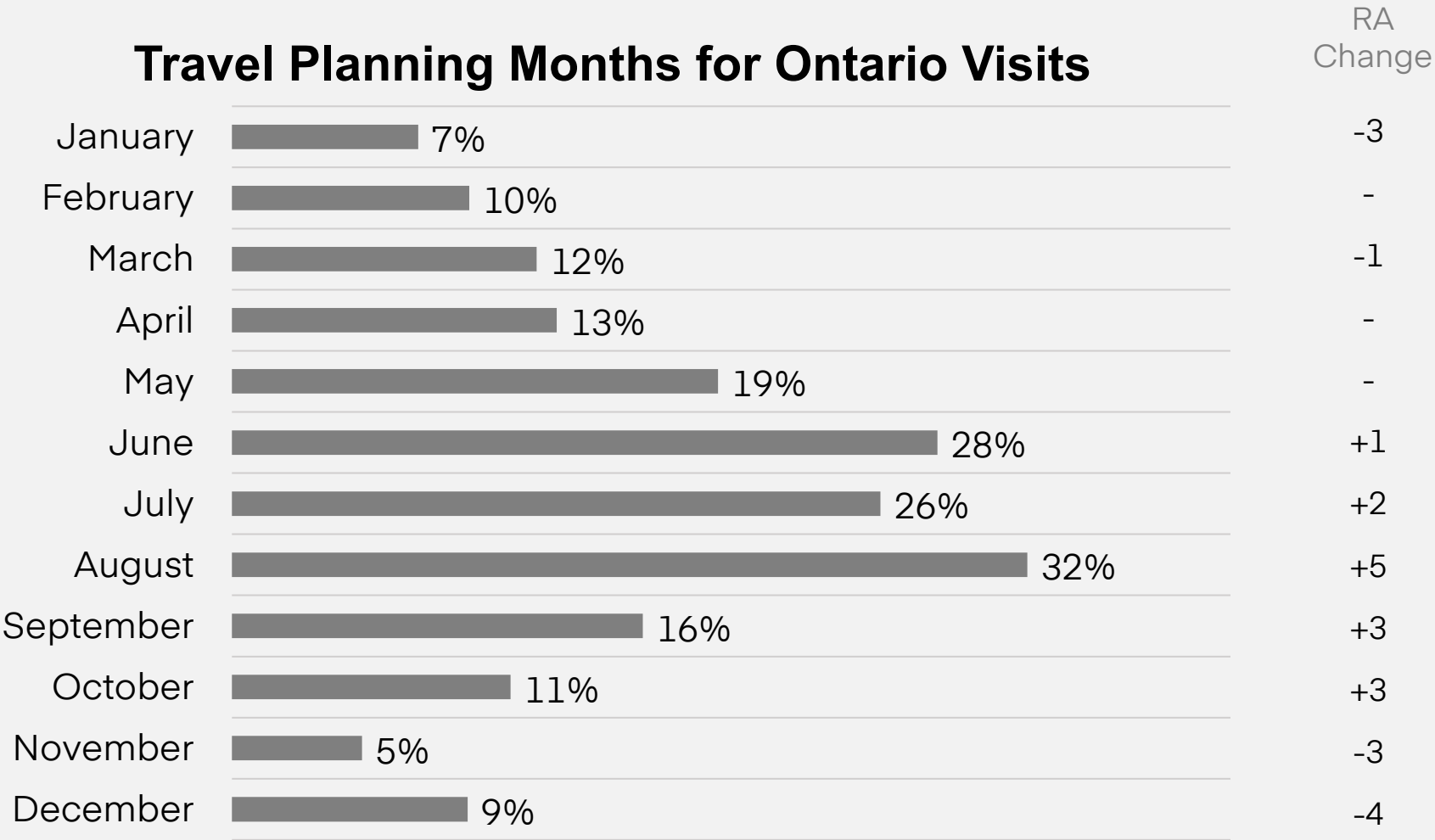


S5. In the next 12 months, how likely are you to take a pleasure trip of one or more nights in Ontario, Canada? (Excludes "don't know") (5-point scale)
All respondents (n= 3,011)

PLANNED MONTHS OF TRAVEL

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

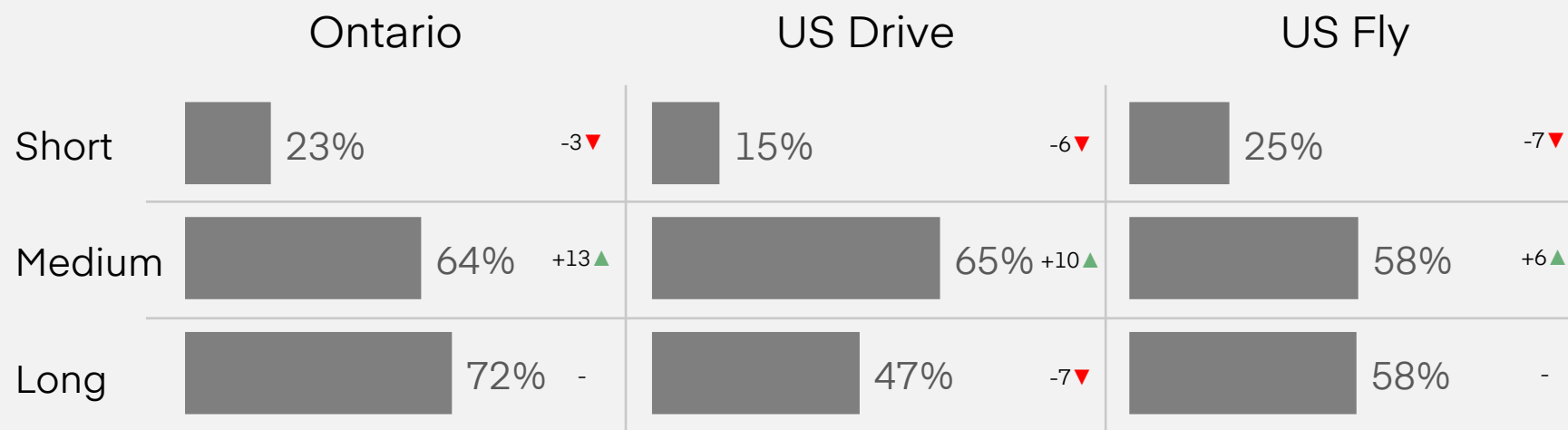
Travel Planning Months for Ontario Visits



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



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.

Tags - Explore more on DOinsights.crg.ca

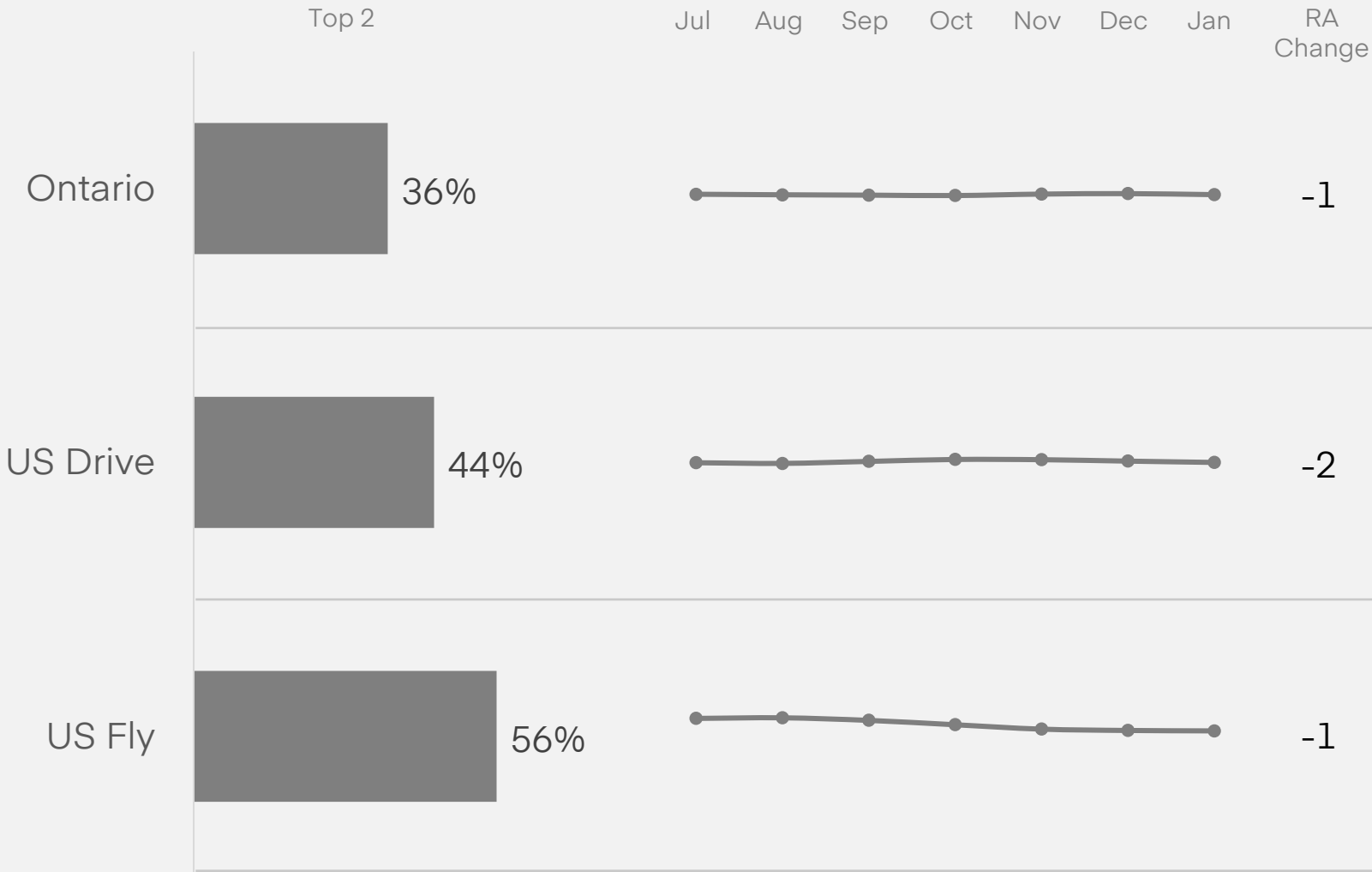
Travel Intent

Number of Trips

Month of Travel

PRIORITIZING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

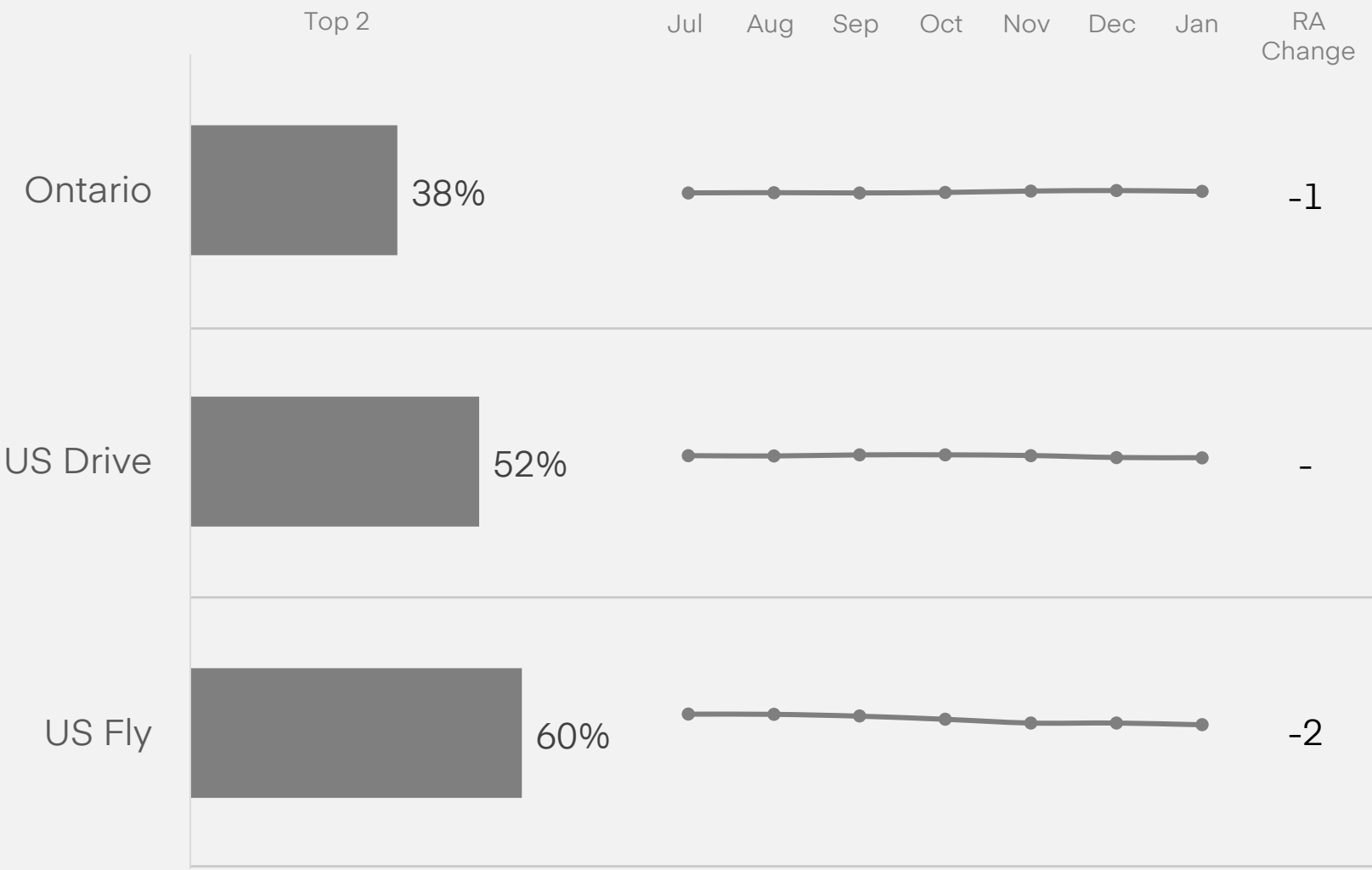
U.S. Fly travellers show a stronger preference for sustainable tourism options than other markets, while interest remains steady among all markets.



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

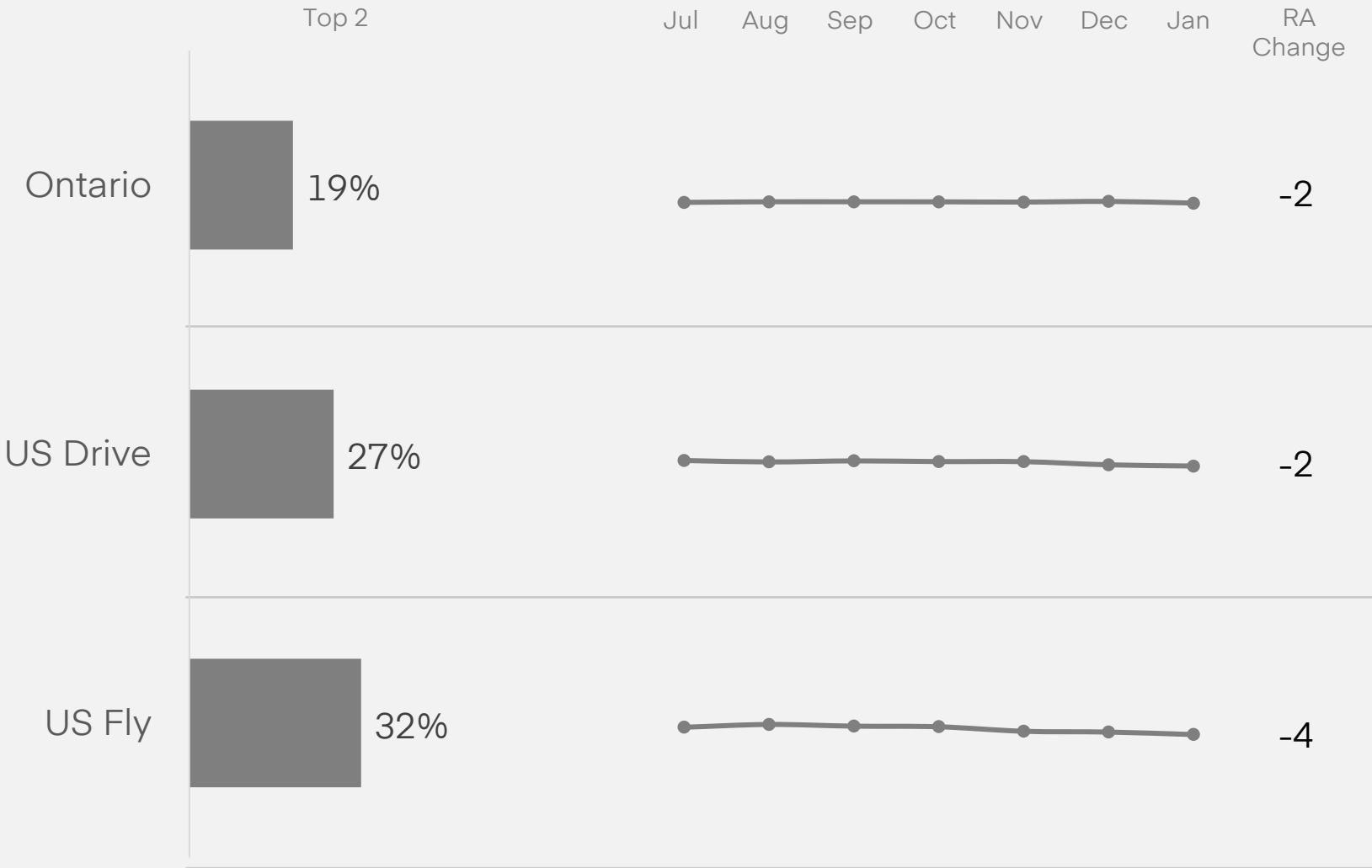
U.S. Fly travellers demonstrate higher sustainability awareness, with three in five willing to pay for a sustainable travel option, compared to lower willingness among Ontario travellers.



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.

Tags - Explore more on DOinsights.org.ca

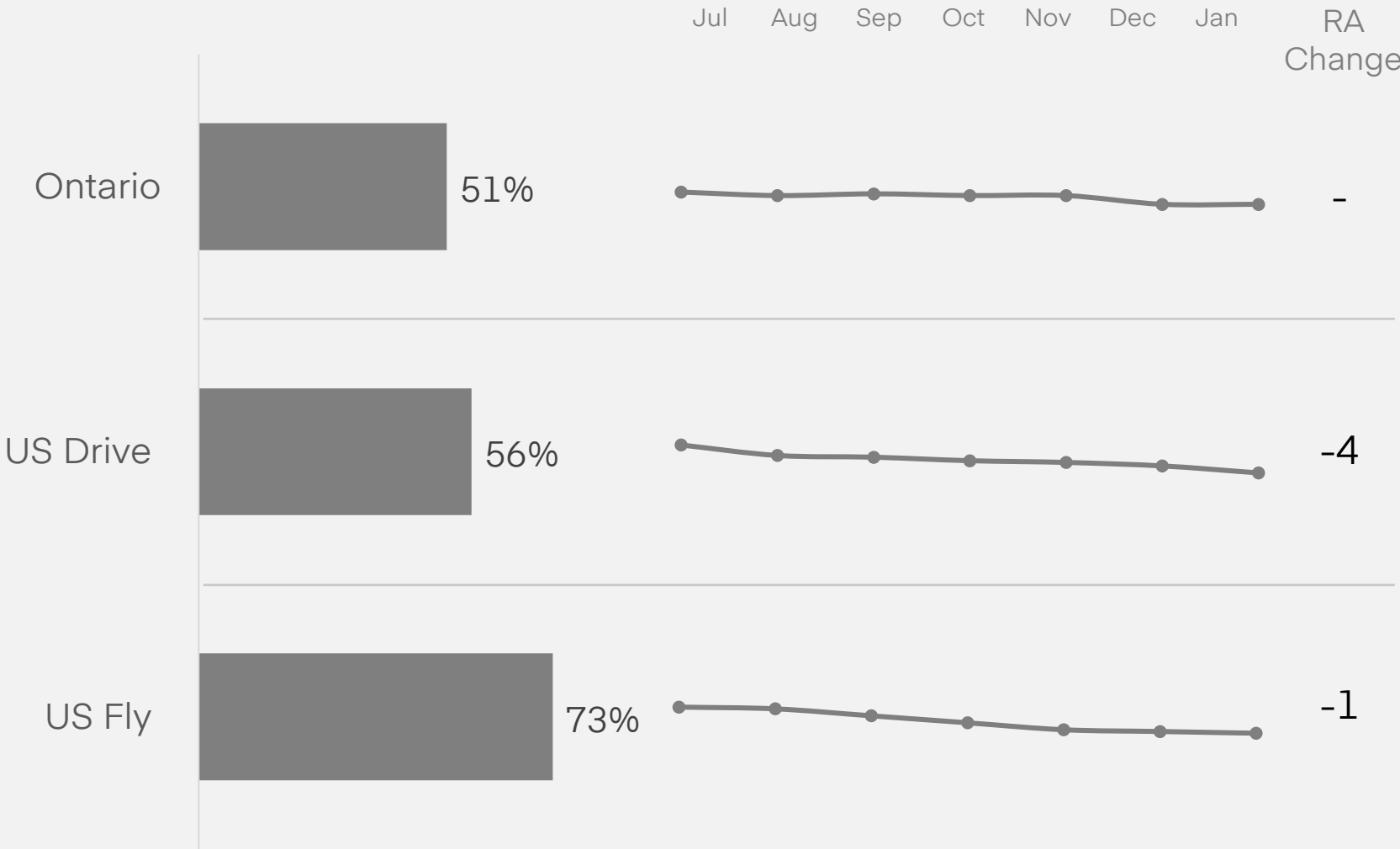
Travel Intent

Number of Trips

Month of Travel

INFORMATION SEARCH

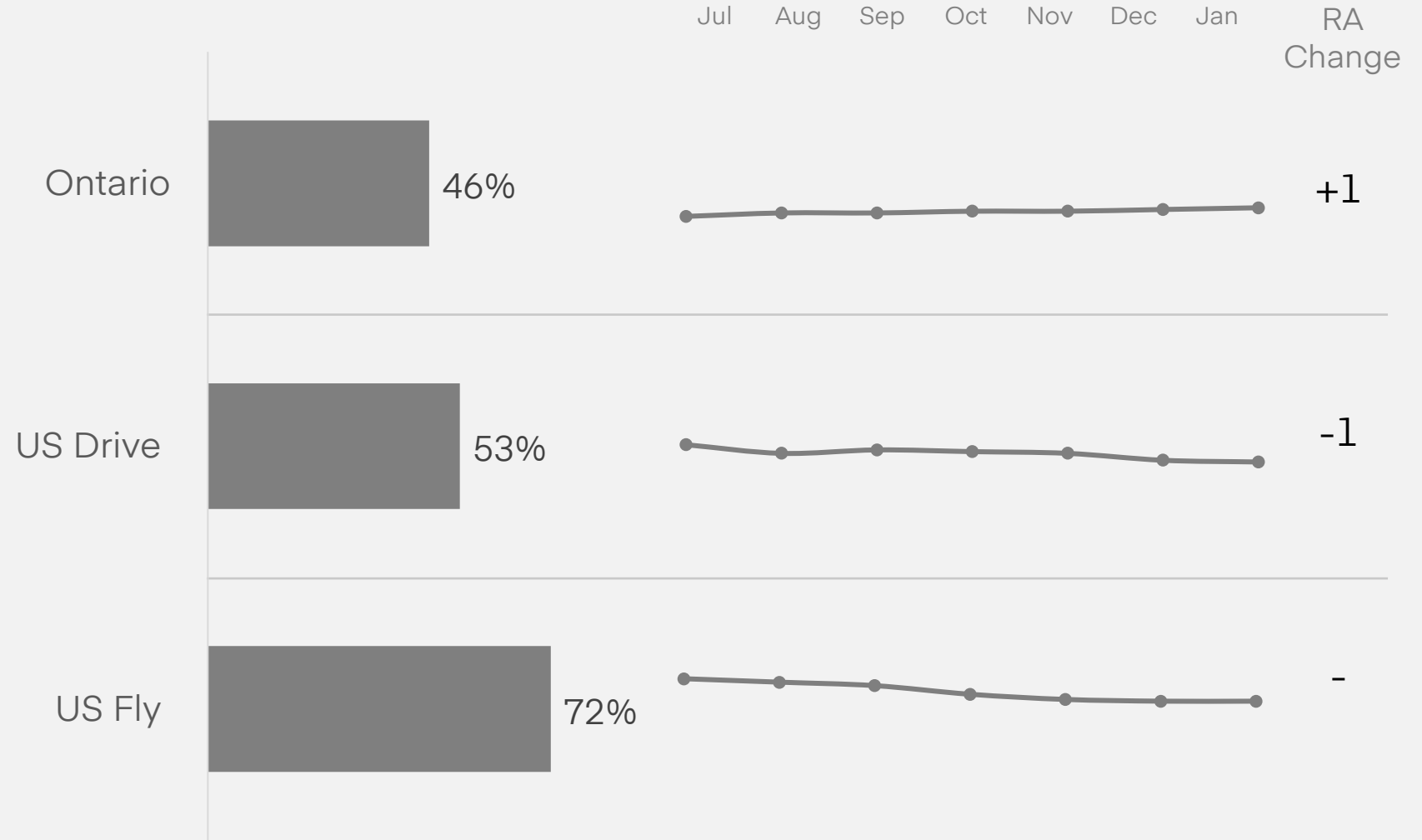
While travel information-seeking is strongest among U.S. Fly travellers, U.S. markets have declined since July, while Ontario remains stable.



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

LIKELIHOOD OF USING AI TOOLS

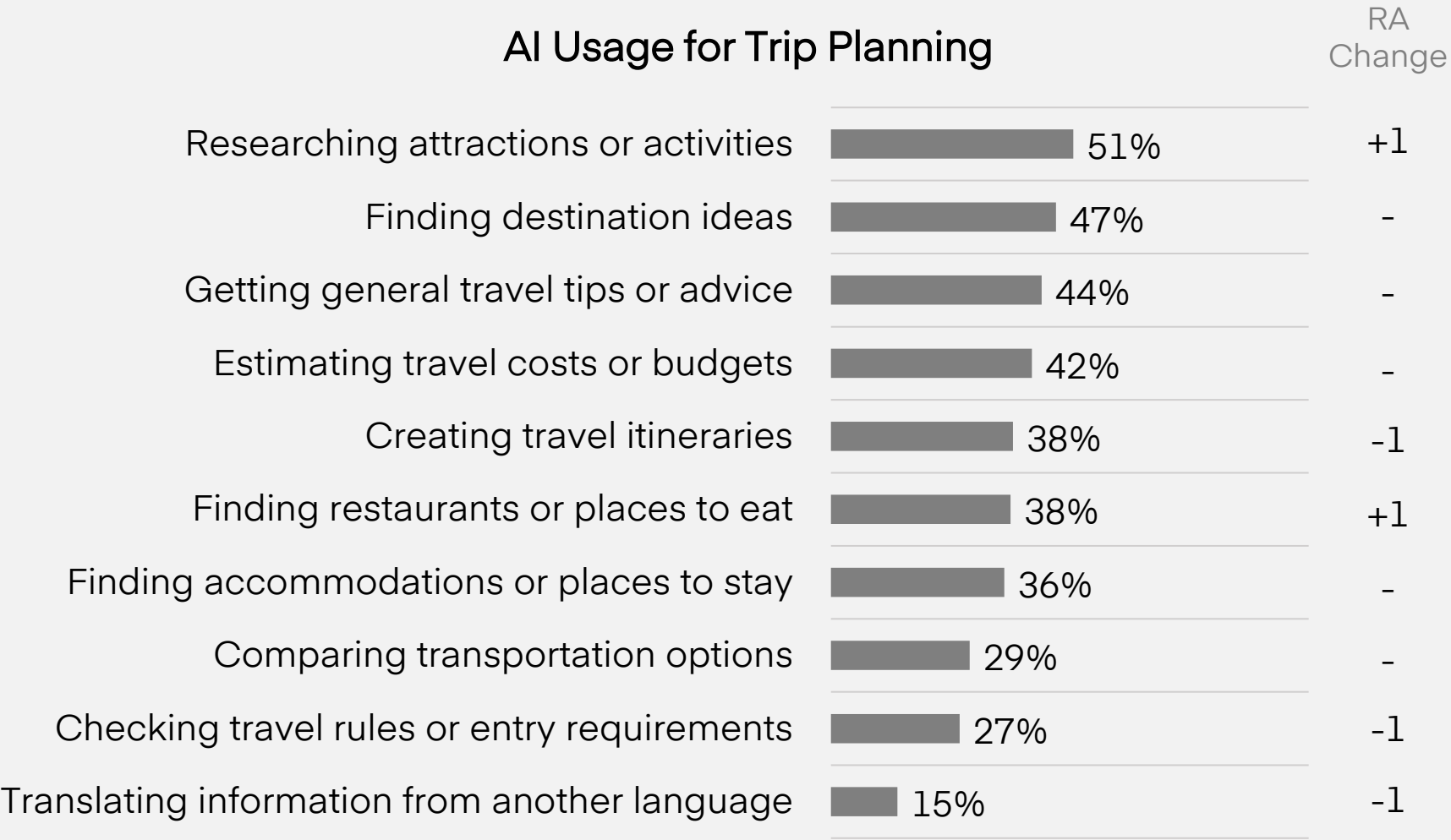
Intent to use AI tools for trip planning is highest among U.S. Fly travellers, while interest remains moderate among Ontario travellers.



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)

AI ASSISTANCE IN TRAVEL PLANNING

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



15. 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 ≥ 5% shown



EXPLORER'S EDGE TRAVELLER PROFILE

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

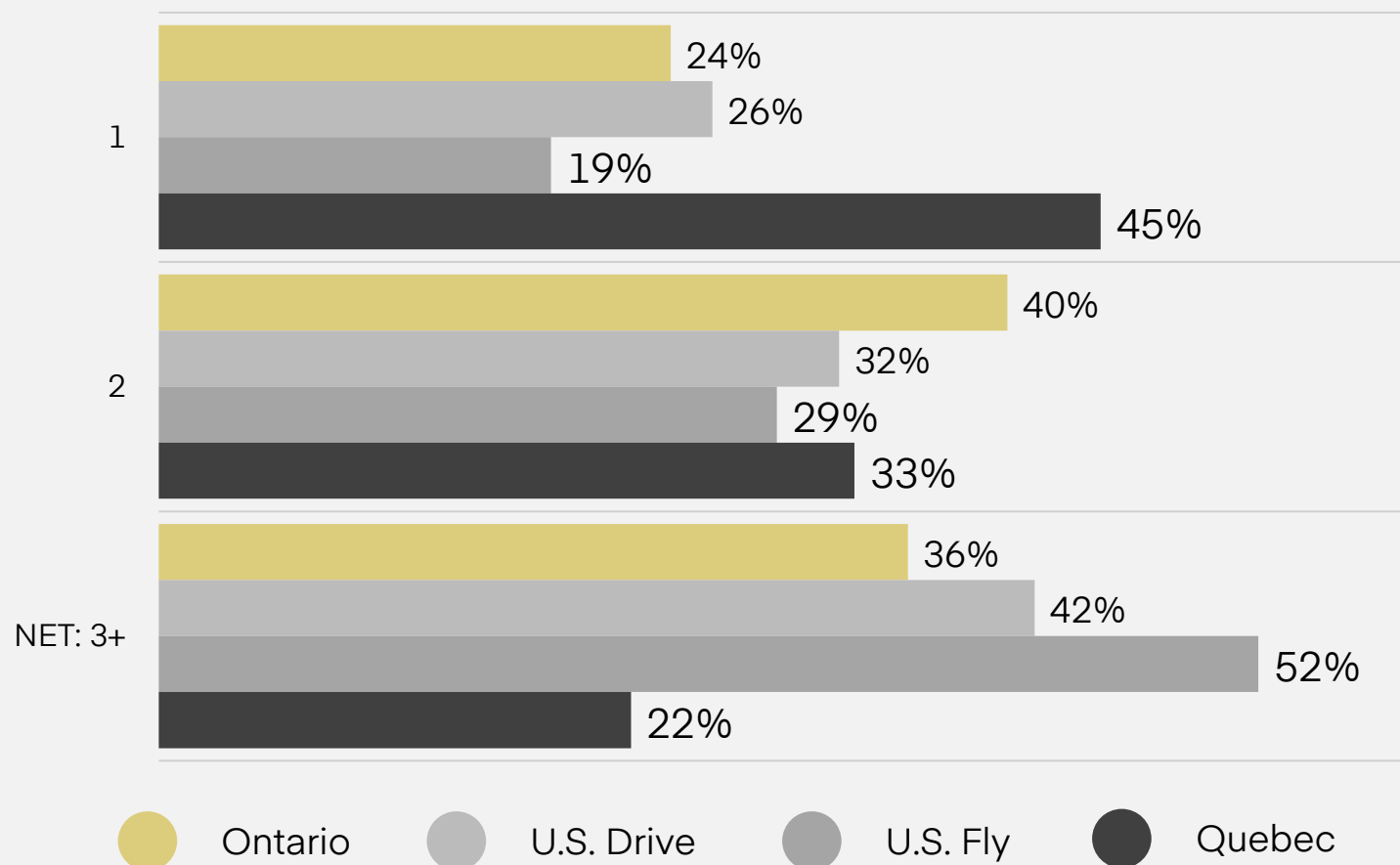
U.S. Fly travellers are most likely to plan three or more overnight trips to Ontario.

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.

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

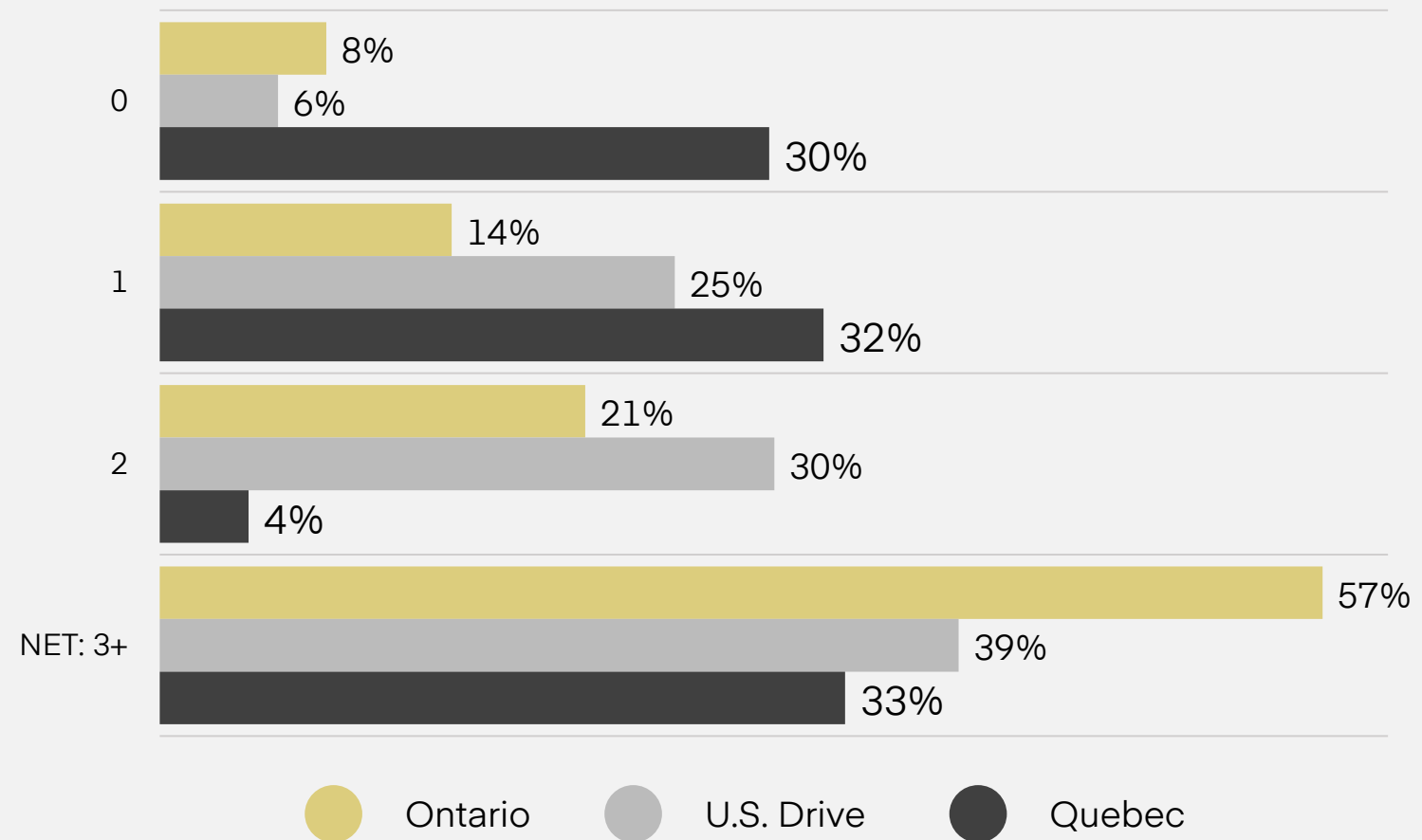
EXPLORER'S EDGE - OVERNIGHT TRIPS TO ONTARIO

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.



EXPLORER'S EDGE - DAY TRIPS TO ONTARIO

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

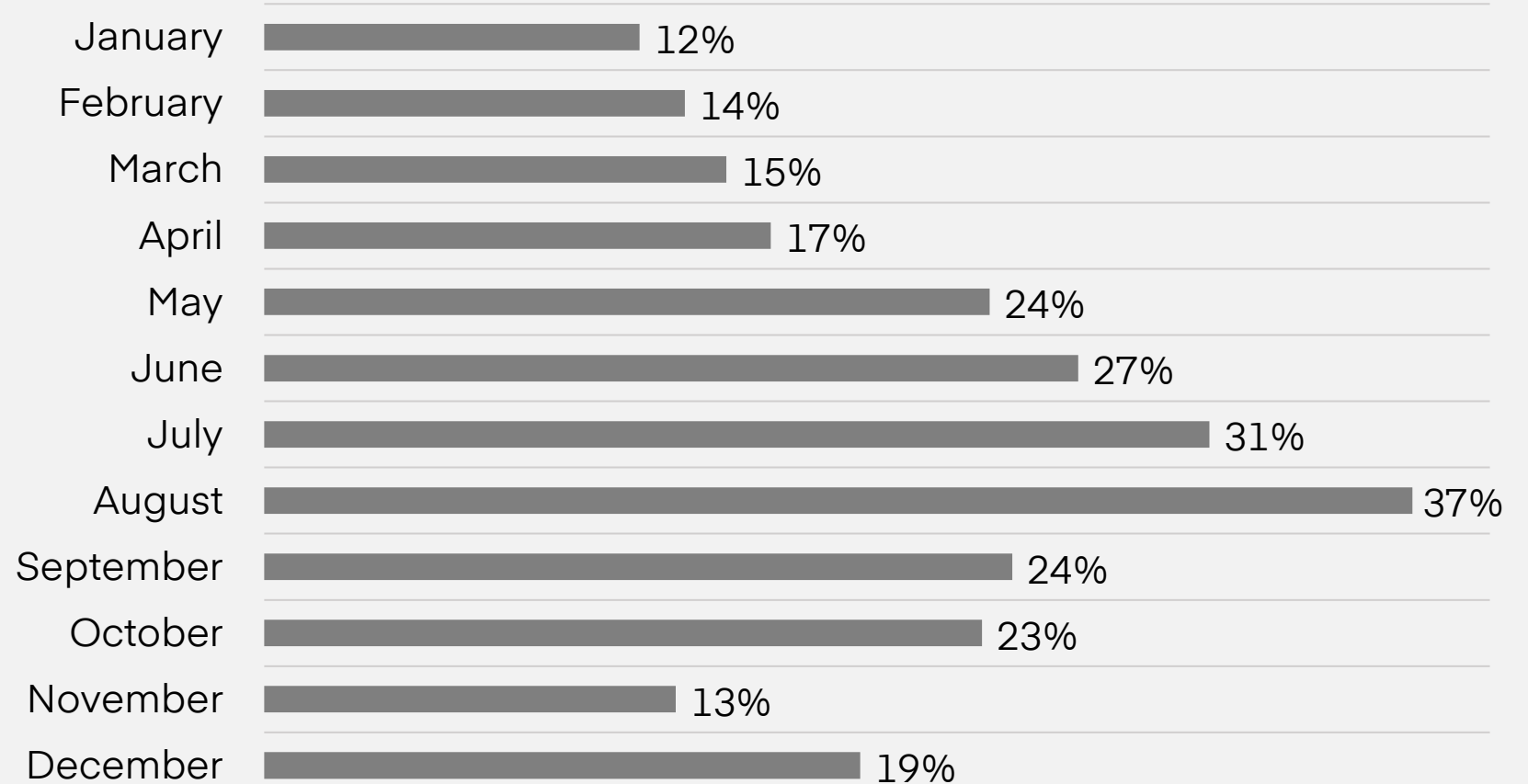


S9. In the next 12 months, how many day trips are you planning to take in Ontario, Canada?
Respondents interested in visiting Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin Park (e.g., Huntsville, Bracebridge, South River, Whitney) (n=1,056)

EXPLORER'S EDGE - PLANNED MONTHS OF TRAVEL

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

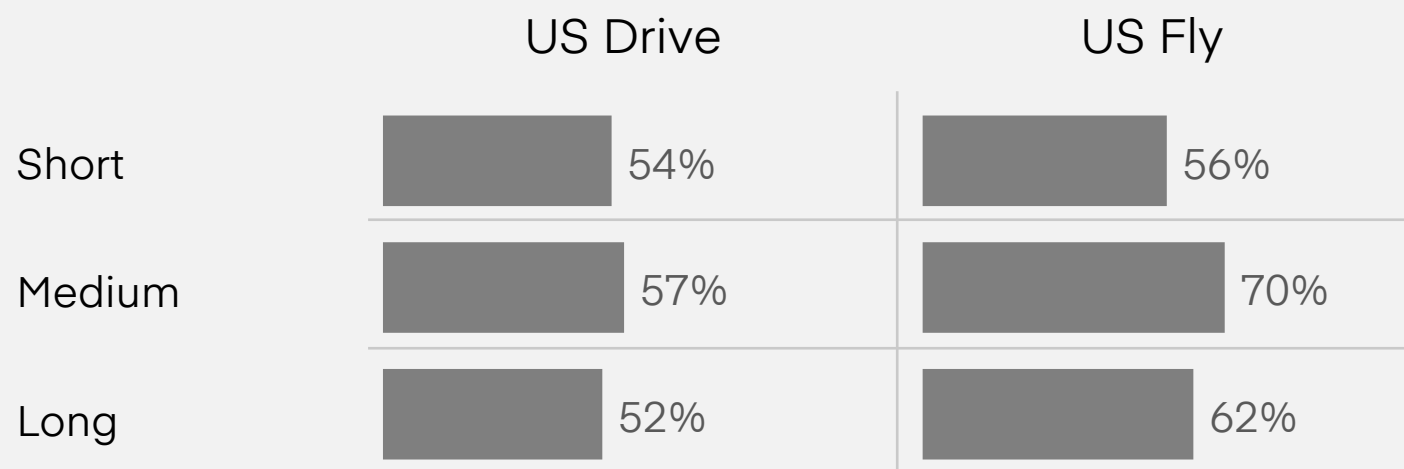


S6B. In the next 12 months, when do you think you'll take your next pleasure trip to Ontario, Canada? (Multi-select)
Respondents who are planning a trip in Ontario in the next 12 months.
Respondents interested in visiting Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin Park (e.g., Huntsville, Bracebridge, South River, Whitney) (n=1,336)

EXPLORER'S EDGE - TRIP PLANNING HORIZONS

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

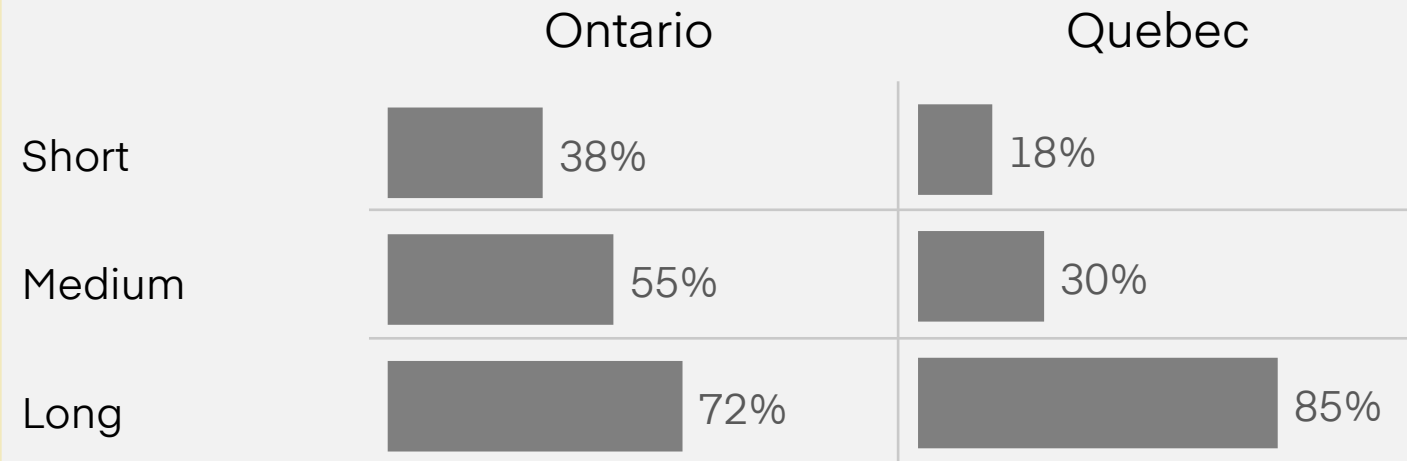
S6B. In the next 12 months, when do you think you'll take your next pleasure trip to Ontario, Canada? (Multi-select)
Respondents who are planning a trip in Ontario in the next 12 months.

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

EXPLORER'S EDGE - TRIP PLANNING HORIZONS

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

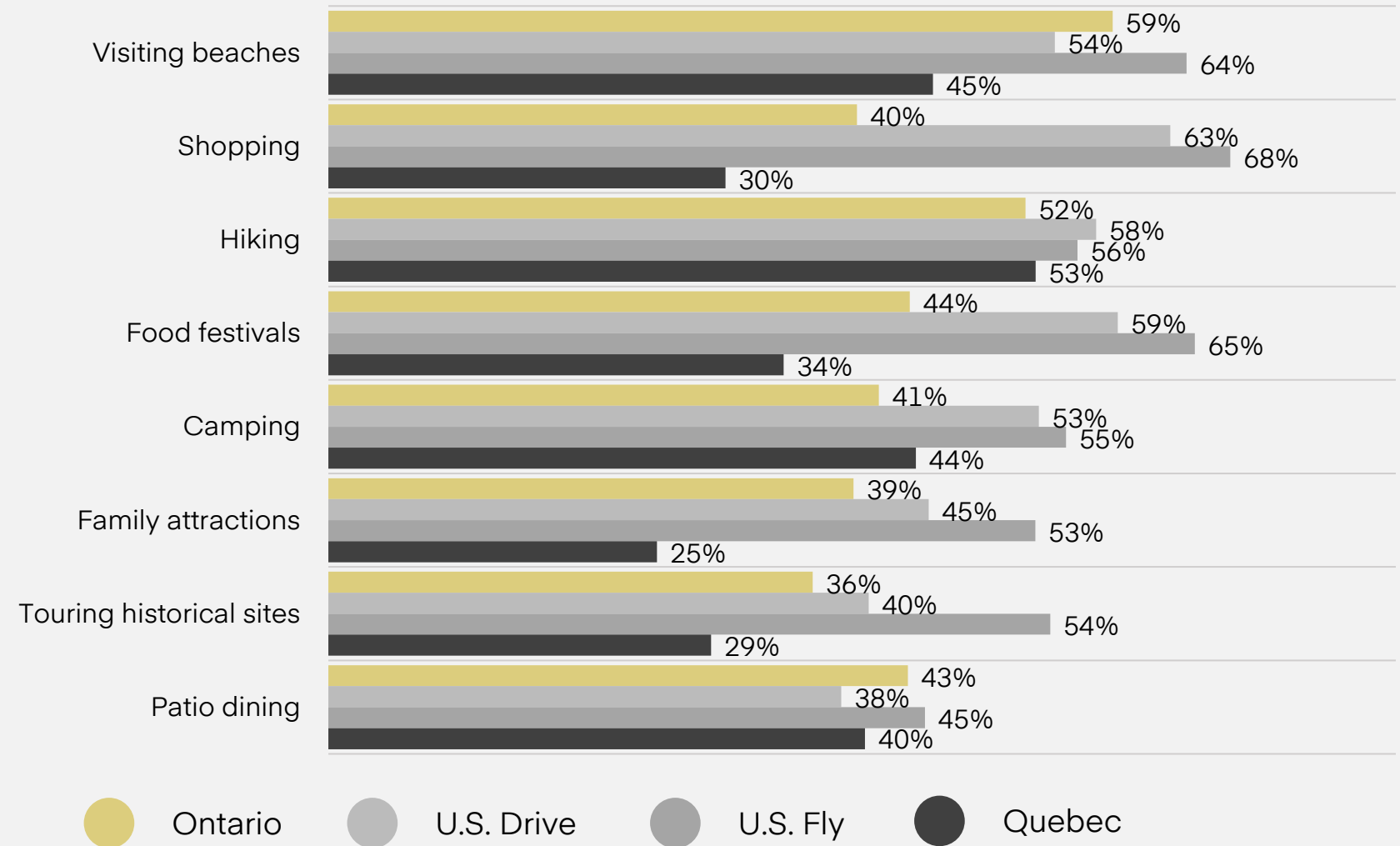
S6B. In the next 12 months, when do you think you'll take your next pleasure trip to Ontario, Canada? (Multi-select)

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.

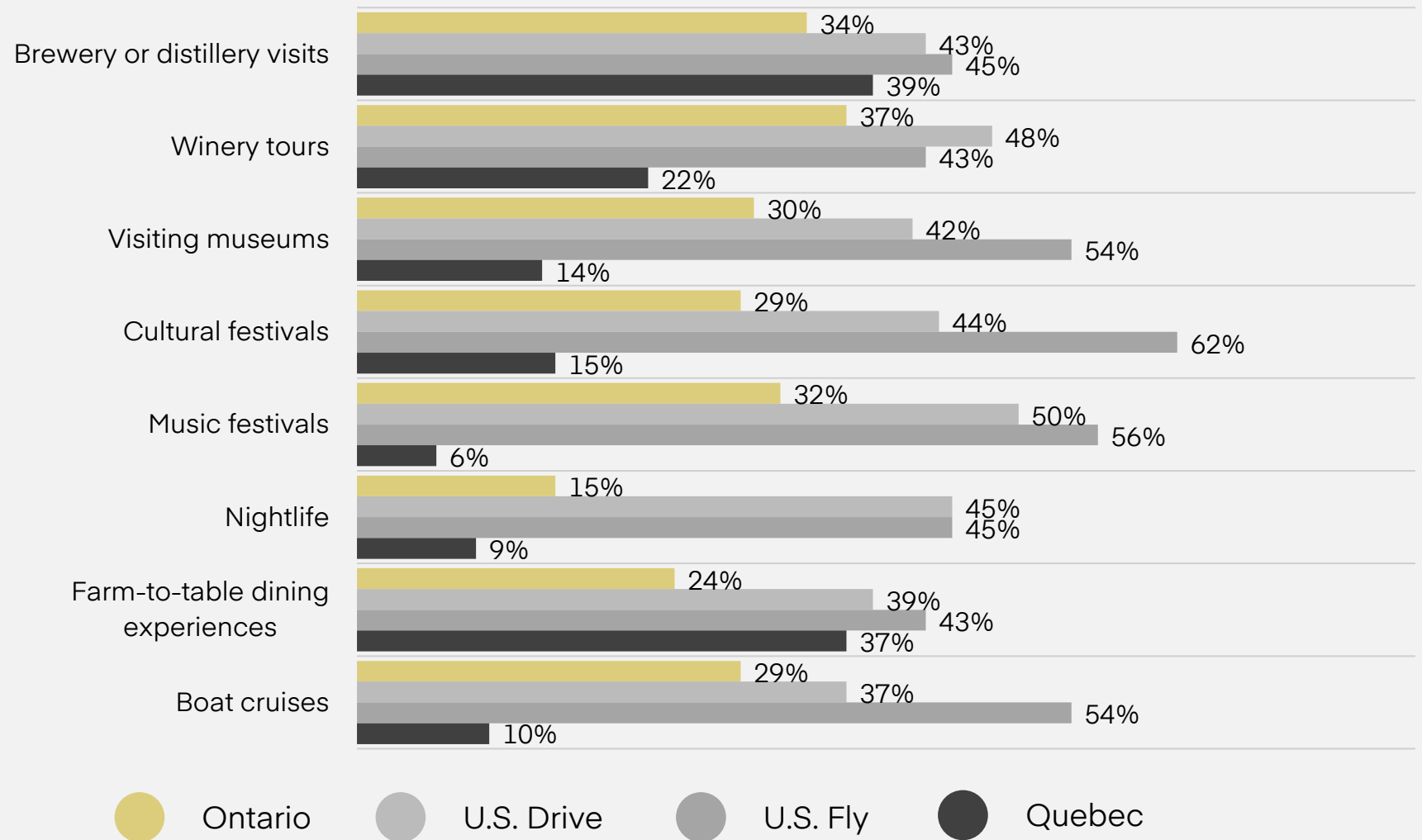


Q1BB Thinking about your next planned pleasure trip to Ontario, Canada in the spring or summer, which specific activities would you participate in?

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.

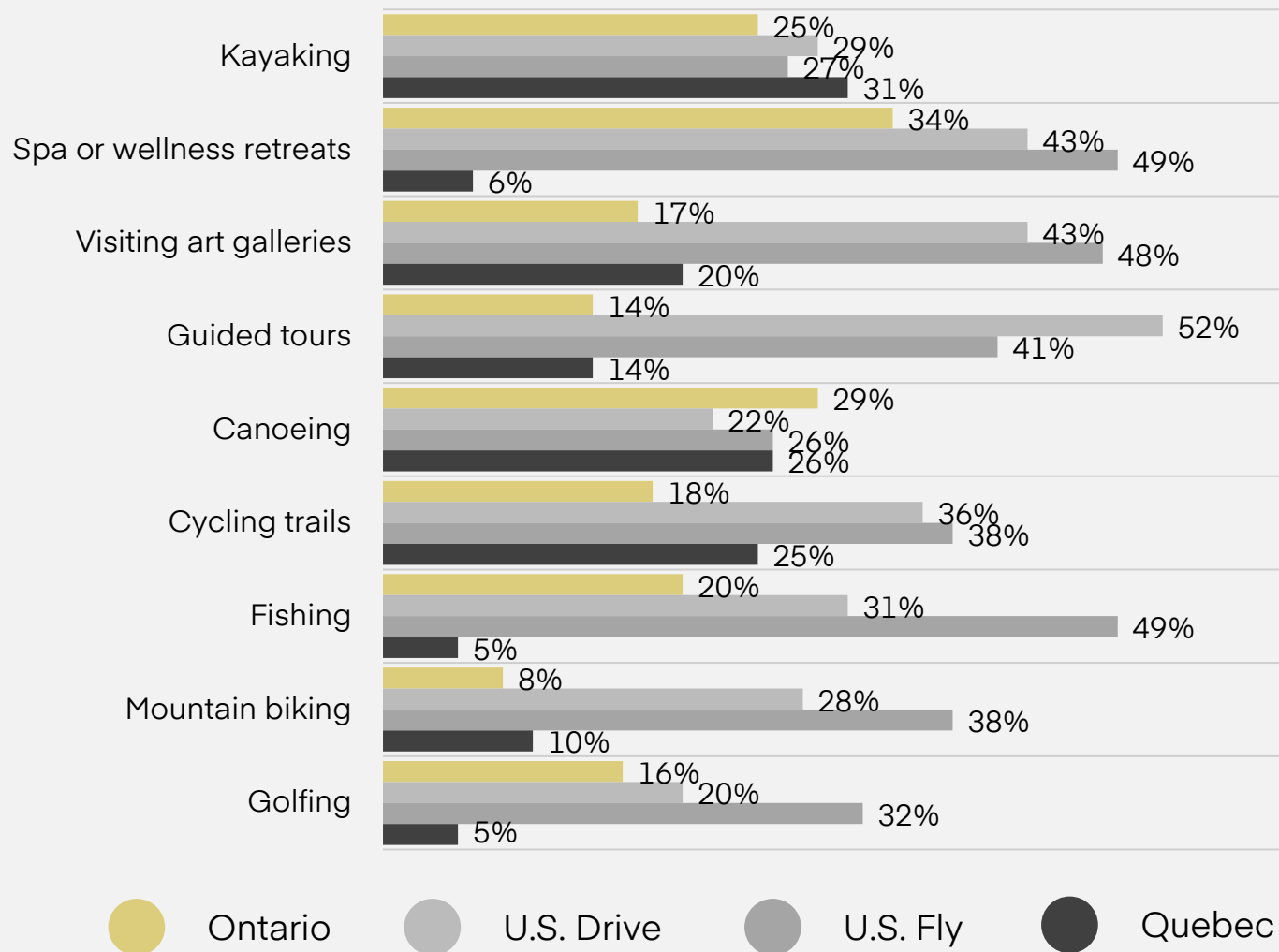


Q1BB Thinking about your next planned pleasure trip to Ontario, Canada in the spring or summer, which specific activities would you participate in?

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.



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)

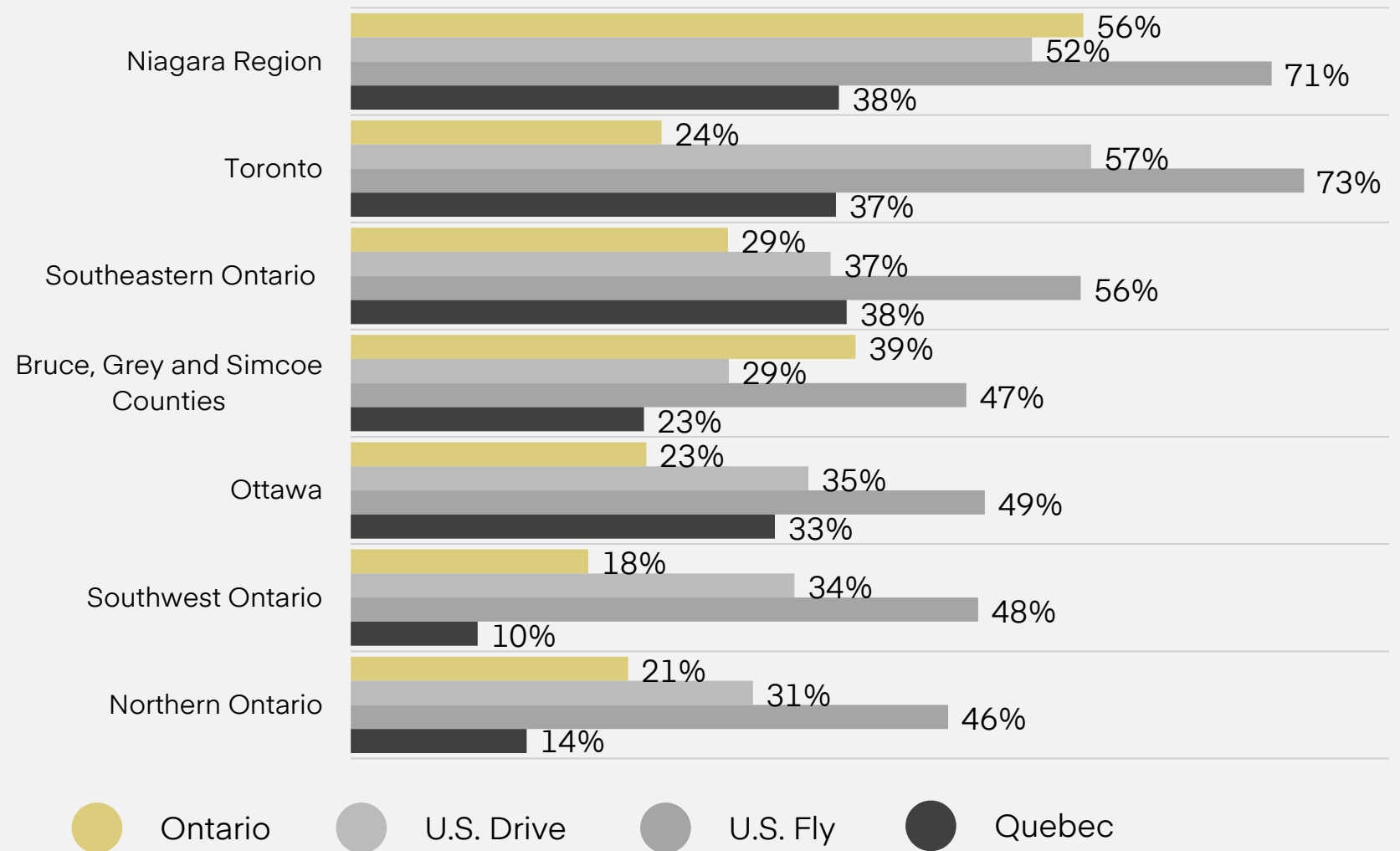
EXPLORER'S EDGE - INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCE: ONTARIO

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



EXPLORER'S EDGE - POTENTIAL ONTARIO DESTINATIONS

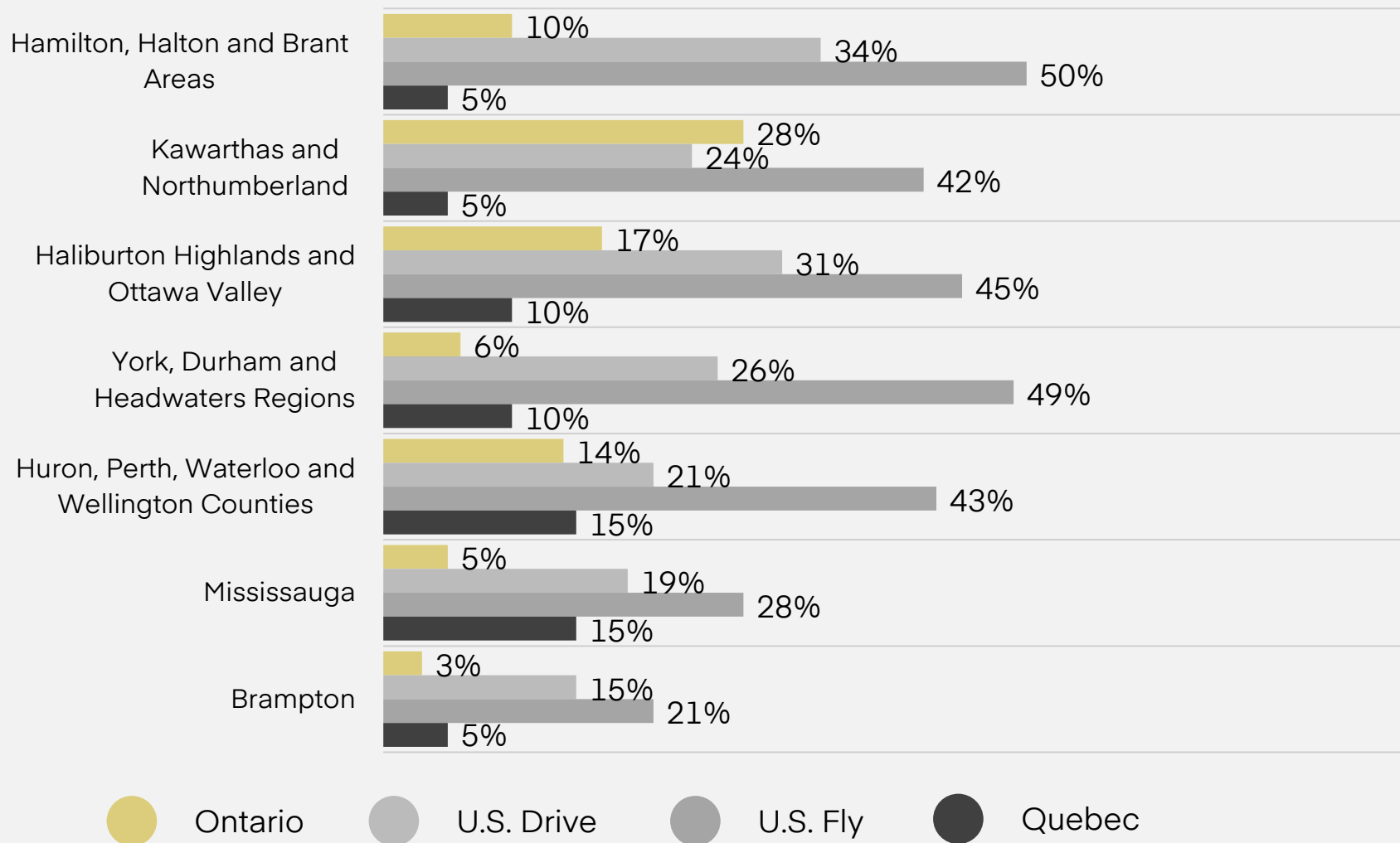
Niagara Region and Toronto are the top destination choices for U.S. travellers; Quebec travellers mirror this preference while also showing interest in Southeastern Ontario, whereas Ontario travellers' interest is primarily in the Niagara Region.



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.



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

An aerial, black-and-white photograph of a coastal area. A dense forest covers a peninsula or shoreline. A prominent spiral staircase tower, resembling a lighthouse or observation deck, stands out in the forest. The ocean is visible on the left and right sides of the frame, with waves breaking against the shore. The text "U.S. TRAVELLER PULSE SURVEY" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

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

Ongoing Trade Tensions

JANUARY 20, 2025

Donald Trump is inaugurated as the 47th 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

An aerial, black and white photograph of a vineyard. In the center, a large, spoked structure resembling a giant umbrella or a sundial stands in the rows of vines. Below it, a couple sits on a white bench, looking towards the structure. The text "PERCEPTIONS OF ONTARIO AND CANADA" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image.

PERCEPTIONS OF ONTARIO AND CANADA

TRAVEL INTENT HOLDING STEADY

Likelihood of a Pleasure Trip to Ontario (TOP2)

WAVE 1

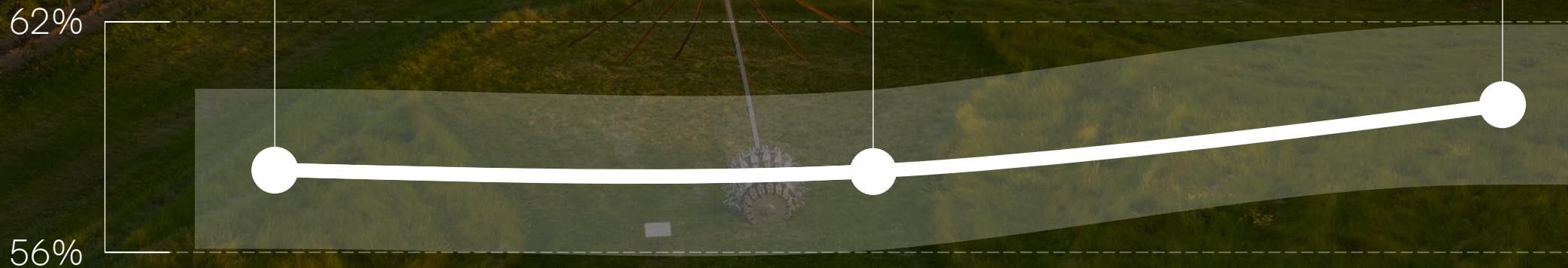
58%

WAVE 2

58%

WAVE 3

60%



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

An aerial photograph of a vast, green, grassy field. In the center-left, a white wooden bench sits on the grass, with two people sitting on it, their backs to the camera. Above the bench, a large, circular, metallic sculpture resembling a sunburst or a stylized flower is mounted on a tall pole. The background is a dense expanse of green grass under a soft, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

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?

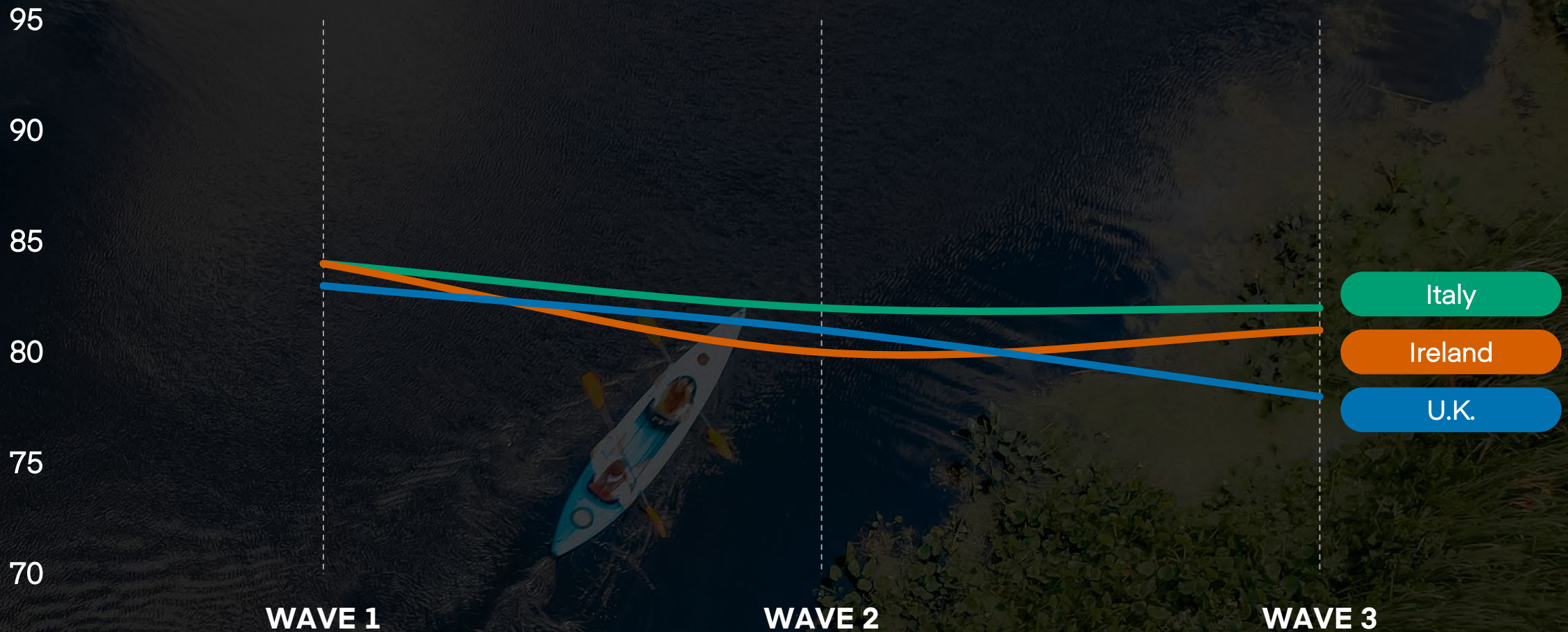
This country is currently welcoming to U.S. visitors (% Agree)

WAVE 3

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

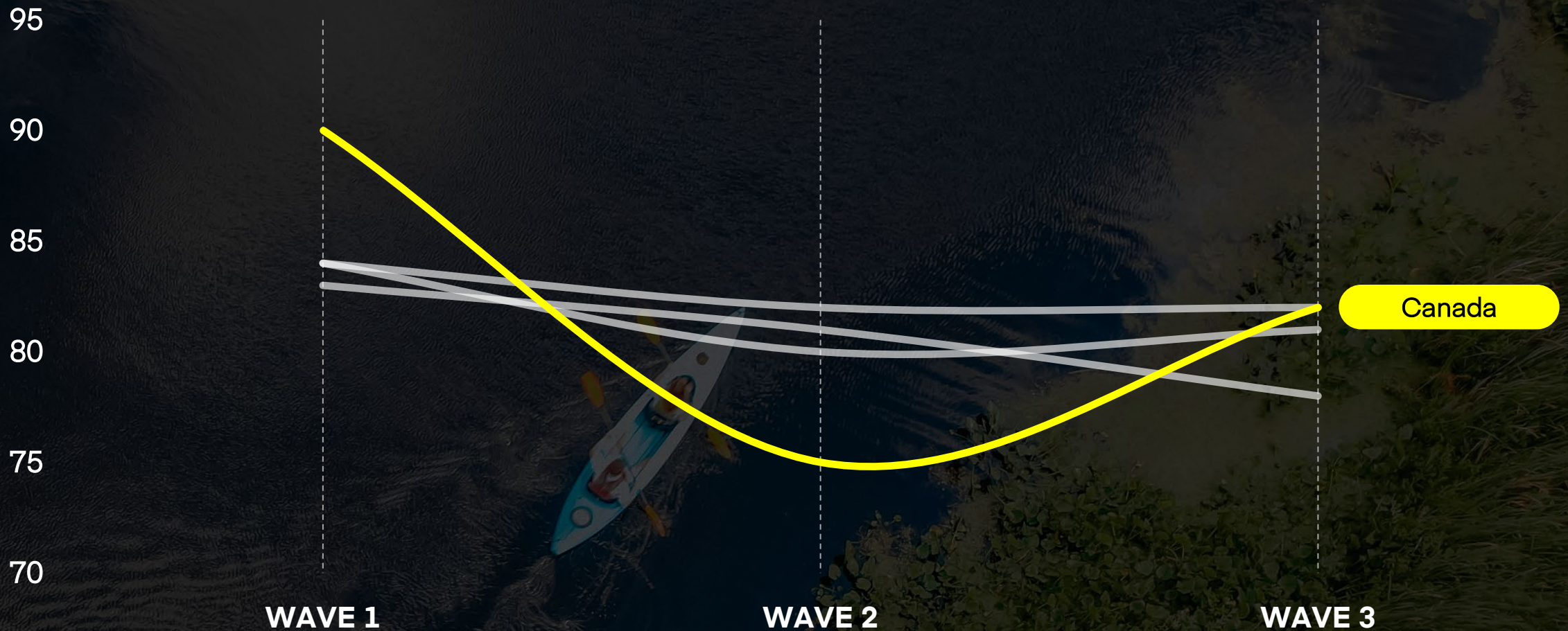
ELBOWS UP. ARMS OPEN?

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



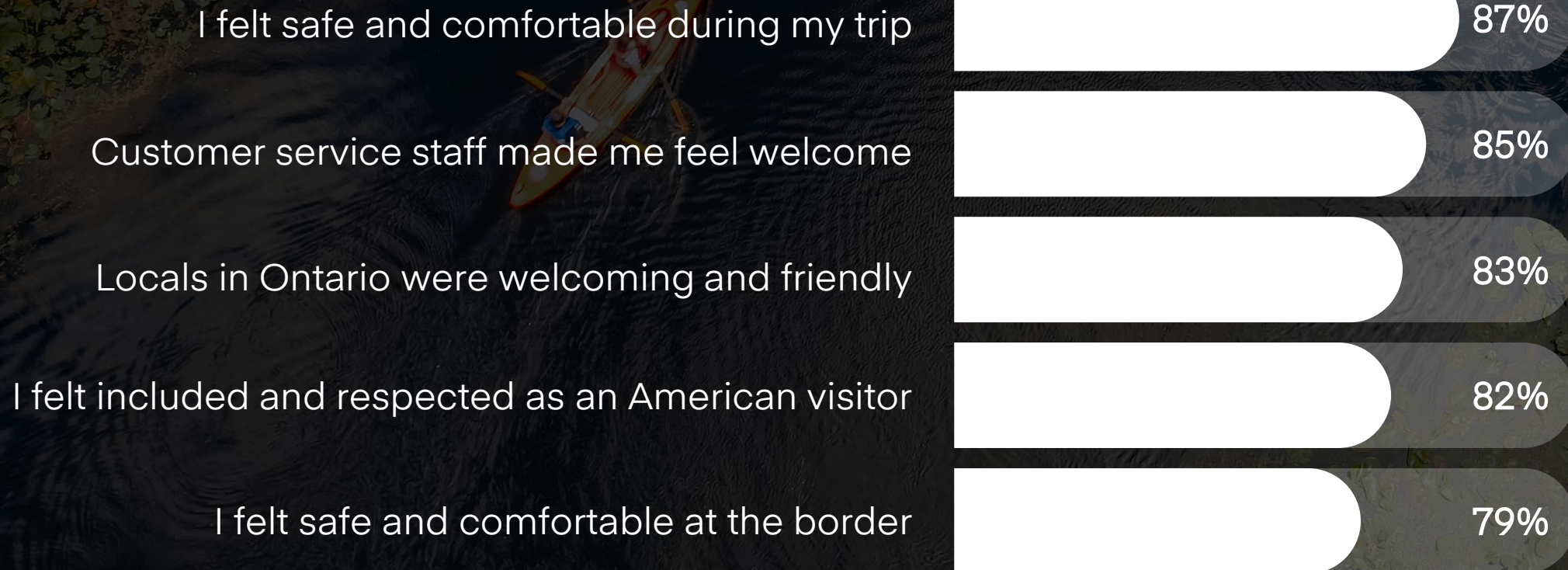
ELBOWS UP. ARMS OPEN?

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



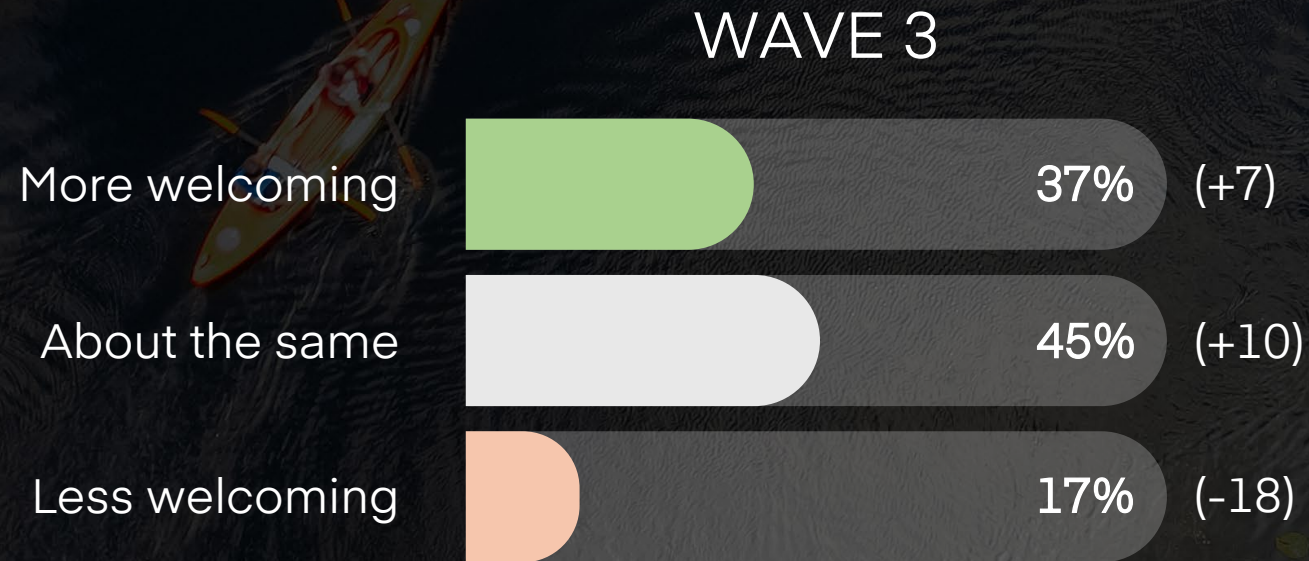
SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE

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



POSITIVE OUTLOOK

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



MORE WELCOMING



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?

An aerial, black-and-white photograph of a dense forest. In the upper portion of the image, a dark, calm body of water is visible, bordered by a shoreline with some small structures or debris. The forest below is thick with trees, and a few small, light-colored patches are visible, possibly clearings or buildings. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

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

61%

Delays or long lineups at the border

45%

Required documentation or paperwork

39%

Paying duties, taxes or fees

38%

Immigration questioning or enforcement

34%

Customs inspections

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

52%

Likelihood of visiting Toronto because of
the 2026 FIFA World Cup

40%

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


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Surveyed monthly

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Monitor trends over time

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**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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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

Regional analysis

Interactive dashboards

Suggest topics and questions

Integration of additional data

