

Labor Day weekend expected to be full of travelers

People are expected to be on the move Labor Day weekend.

AAA Travel projects 34.1 million Americans will venture 50 miles or more, a 4.2 percent increase from the 32.7 million people who traveled last year. The anticipated increase in holiday travel is predominantly due to increased consumer spending and the improving housing market.

“AAA is forecasting a lift in Labor Day travel this year due to the increasingly positive economic outlook and optimism in the housing market,” said AAA President and CEO Robert L. Darbelnet. “For many Americans, their home is also their biggest asset, as home prices improve in many parts of the country more families are feeling comfortable about traveling this Labor Day holiday.”

Some predictions by AAA:

- Eighty-five percent of travelers (29.2 million) will travel by automobile, an increase of 4.3 percent from 28 million last year
- Holiday air travel expected to increase nearly 3 percent to 2.61 million.
- The largest share of travelers (46 percent) will depart on Aug. 30.
- That Monday is the most popular date of return for holiday trips with 43 percent planning to return that day.
- The average traveler is expected to travel a round-trip distance of 594 miles and spend \$804.