

Slowdown in travel industry could be worse

By Micah Madenberg, New York Times

The travel industry is voicing a common refrain: President Trump's travel ban, terror attacks in Europe and a laptop ban represent a recipe for a potential sharp decline in visitors to and from the United States.

"When you hear words like 'travel ban,' it puts a big chill" on travel and tourism, James J. Murren, chairman and chief executive of MGM Resorts, said at an industry conference in New York.

Some data is backing up those concerns. Nearly 20 percent fewer people are visiting this summer from the Middle East, the focus of Trump's travel ban, even though the policy has been blocked by American courts. As of early June, overall advance airline bookings to the United States were down 3.4 percent for this year's summer travel season compared with the same time last year, according to ForwardKeys, a Spanish company that tracks air travel.

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