

July Camping Data Shows Continued Growth in Camping Activity Through Summer Months

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KOA's Monthly Research Report projects that 24.5 million households will camp in July

BILLINGS, Mont. (Jul. 21, 2021) – The [KOA Monthly Research Report – July Edition](#) continues to forecast more North American households are planning to camp this year. According to research conducted in July, Kampgrounds of America, Inc. (KOA) projects 53.5 million households will take a camping trip in 2021. Following the release of [Kampgrounds of America's \(KOA\) annual North American Camping Report](#) in April, ongoing monthly research by KOA indicates dramatic month-over-month growth in interest in the camping lifestyle.

A busy month for the camping industry, data suggests that a staggering 24.5 million campers will venture out in July. KOA also notes impressive growth among new campers with the new camper segment estimated to reflect 4.9 million by the end of the year. This is up from estimates of 4.3 million in May and 4.8 million in June.

Looking to summer as a whole, KOA research shows that 52% of all North American campers plan to camp even as monthly research shows campers across the U.S. and Canada are dealing with outside forces that may affect camping behavior.

"It's very encouraging to see month-over-month growth in camping interest among veteran and new campers," said Toby O'Rourke, president and CEO of Kampgrounds of America. "While we are still seeing outside factors, like COVID and now gas prices in the U.S., affect travel, camping is not only proving to be a top vacation option, but the preferred mode of travel for a growing segment of the population."

While COVID concerns continue to be the primary reason for changes to camping plans (40%), financial concerns and gas prices are also considerations. Nearly 7-in-10 campers say that climbing gas prices could affect their summer camping plans.

"As a business that is tied to road travel, we keep a close pulse on fuel prices," O'Rourke said. "We have seen exponential growth in camping households across the U.S. and throughout our organization. In fact, the dramatic year-over-year growth KOA experienced for ten years after the 2008 recession began as prices at the gas pump started to rise, indicating resiliency among our camping base. People may be taking trips closer to home or staying at locations longer, but we are not seeing a slowing in the desire to camp."

Notably, 31% of campers say that gas prices will have no impact on upcoming camping trips. Most campers say that higher prices will cause them to take fewer trips (37%) or trips that are closer to home (33%).

Continuing trends established in prior months, campers are most likely to spend their trips at state park (76%), national park (74%), and privately owned campgrounds (61%) this summer. Top states for summer camping include California, New York, Florida, and Pennsylvania.

Other key camping industry indicators tracked by KOA include participation, incidence and future intent, and preferred type of camping.

To view the full findings of the KOA Monthly Research Report – July Edition, past and future editions, and review the research methodology, visit the [KOA Press Room](#).

ABOUT KAMPGROUNDS OF AMERICA

[Kampgrounds of America](#), Inc. (KOA) is the world's largest system of open-to-the-public campgrounds with 525 locations across the U.S. and Canada united under the mission of "connecting people to the outdoors and each other." The industry leader in outdoor hospitality, KOA's family of campground brands – KOA Journey, KOA Holiday and KOA Resort – offer sites and amenities designed for every type of camping experience. In addition to unrivaled brand visibility, KOA offers campground owners unparalleled support, marketing, and technology. The company's proprietary reservation software, K2, deliver's campgrounds a competitive advantage within the market. Founded in 1962 in Billings, Mont., KOA now serves more than a million camping families each year, who rely on the standards of excellence and unique outdoor adventures KOA is known for. For more information, visit [KOA.com](#).

ABOUT CAIRN CONSULTING GROUP

Cairn Consulting Group is a market research firm with extensive experience in the hospitality and services industries. For the past several years, Cairn Consulting Group has worked with organizations in both indoor and outdoor hospitality, including the gaming/casino areas, food services/restaurant space, accommodations, travel/tourism and the products and services that are a part of the hospitality industry. The organization also serves clients in branding/brand positioning efforts, evaluating consumer behavior, public opinion & policy and product development.

