



**Item:** Fast Lane #31 in 2022 Petergram (#126 since 2020)  
**Date:** **Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> 2022**  
**From:** Peter writing from our office in Oldsmar, FL  
**To:** Our Fast Lane Travel **Customer Family** and **Friends** at home in Australia, Canada, Europe, Iceland, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa and in the USA!  
**Subject:** **Hotel Industry Update; Airline Merger**

**I. Hotel Industry News. My Comment:** If you are wondering why hotel rates are increasing and services are diminishing here is your answer. **Guests Are Back, but the Workers Aren't.** Hundreds of thousands have left the industry, and competition is fierce for housekeepers, food servers and other hotel staff; 'Where did everybody go?' **Labor shortages have led many hotels to scale back amenities, including daily housekeeping.**

*From my favorite newspaper The Wall Street Journal.*

*By Kate King and Inti Pacheco – Source: The Wall Street Journal July 26, 2022 7:00 am ET*

Hotels, still riding a surge in pent-up demand for leisure travel, are struggling to find enough workers to keep properties running smoothly. Hundreds of thousands of hotel workers have left the industry since the pandemic. There were about 1.7 million accommodation workers employed nationwide in June, a roughly 16% decline from June of 2019, according to estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Have you left a job in hospitality recently? What caused you to leave?* "Where did everybody go?" said Susan Buckley, vice president of food and beverage for Ace Hotel Group, a boutique brand. "The hospitality workers disappeared." Hotel operators are raising pay and boosting benefits, but many are finding those moves aren't enough to get people to sign on and stay. Some properties are cutting services or looking to technology to bridge the labor shortfall. After plummeting at the start of the pandemic, leisure travel has strongly rebounded and business travel is showing signs of recovering. The demand is driving up prices, with the average daily room rate in the four weeks ending July 16, reaching \$156, or 17% higher than the same period in 2019, according to hospitality data and analytics company STR.



Figure 1 PHOTO: NEETA SATAM FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

At the same time, room occupancy was 4.5 percentage points lower than it was three years ago, according to STR. Truist Securities Inc. analyst Patrick Scholes said he believes some full-service hotels are selling fewer rooms than they could, based on demand, in part because they don't have enough housekeepers to clean them. A survey conducted in May by the American Hotel & Lodging Association found that 97% of respondents were experiencing a staffing shortage, with more than

half ranking housekeeping as the most critical challenge. To recruit workers, most hotels have increased wages and are offering more flexible work hours, and some are expanding benefits, according to AHLA's survey.

Ace Hotel, which manages eight hotels worldwide including five in the U.S., has boosted pay by \$5 an hour or more depending on the position and is offering referral and sign-on bonuses, Ms. Buckley said. Hiring challenges have delayed the openings of restaurants at new properties, in large part because new hires are inexperienced and require more extensive training, she said.

Competition for workers is fierce. A restaurant can lose half its staff if a hotel down the street starts paying \$1 more an hour, Ms. Buckley said. Ace staff has been enlisted to scout for potential hires, including handing out special recruitment cards to servers who impress them when they dine out. "It's sort of a subtle poaching," she said. "I think everybody's doing it." The number of workers quitting the accommodation and food-services industry reached an all-time high in November of last year, according to federal data. Preliminary May numbers, the most recent available, show more than 760,000 people left the industry, a 10% increase over May 2019.

Even as room rates increase, labor shortages have led many hotels to [scale back amenities](#), including [daily housekeeping and room service](#) and restaurant hours. Travelers appear to have noticed. Overall hotel-guest satisfaction fell 8 points over the past year, according to the most recent J.D. Power North America Hotel Guest Satisfaction Index. Some hotel operators are turning to technology for help. [Marriott International](#) Inc. has beefed up its mobile app, which guests can use to check-in and gain access to their rooms, as well as to text the front desk and request items like extra blankets or pillows, a spokeswoman said.

[Hilton Worldwide Holdings](#) Inc. is piloting a partnership at some hotels with the platform DailyPay Inc., which allows employees to track and access their earned wages daily, rather than [waiting for traditional paychecks](#). The company has noticed lower turnover among employees enrolled in the program, said Christine Maginnis, senior vice president of human resources strategy, analytics and innovation.



Chan Chen, a housekeeping heavy porter at two hotel-casinos in Atlantic City, N.J., has been in the industry since 2015 and said he has been doing more work recently, including tasks outside his job description. In addition to being short-staffed, managers aren't training new hires well enough, Mr. Chen said. "I hope they train more people more professionally," he said. "It's not fair to the people who really know what they're doing and are working hard."

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Appeared in the July 27, 2022, print edition as 'Shortage Of Workers Tests Hotels.'*



## II. JetBlue Airways Reaches a Deal to Buy Spirit Airlines

Source: by [Daniel McCarthy](#) / July 28, 2022- Travel Market Report

JetBlue Airways has reached a deal to buy ultra-low-cost carrier Spirit Airlines, bringing an end to a months-long bidding war with Frontier, and creating a “national low-fare challenger to the dominant big four airlines.”

JetBlue announced the deal on Thursday morning, writing that it will acquire Spirit for \$33.50 per share in cash, including a prepayment of \$2.50 per share in cash payable upon Spirit shareholders’ approval of the deal. When the deal is finalized, the combined carrier will be the fifth-largest airline in the U.S.

“We are excited to deliver this compelling combination that turbocharges our strategic growth, enabling JetBlue to bring our unique blend of low fares and exceptional service to more customers, on more routes,” said Robin Hayes, chief executive officer, JetBlue. “We look forward to welcoming Spirit’s outstanding Team Members to JetBlue and together creating a customer-centric, fifth-largest carrier in the United States. Spirit and JetBlue will continue to advance our shared goal of disrupting the industry to bring down fares from the Big Four airlines. This combination is an exciting opportunity to diversify and expand our network, add jobs and new possibilities for Crewmembers, and expand our platform for profitable growth.”

JetBlue’s announcement came just a few hours after talks between Spirit and Frontier ended. Spirit reportedly [could not secure shareholder approval for its deal to buy Frontier](#) despite the efforts from its executive board, including delaying the vote four different times.

“While we are disappointed that we had to terminate our proposed merger with Frontier, we are proud of the dedicated work of our Team Members on the transaction over the past many months,” said Ted Christie, President, and CEO of Spirit Airlines.

**III. Update from Stuttgart.** The Good News: This picture of the gas pump sign was taken yesterday in Frankfurt. Gas per gallon in Germany now ranges from \$8.78 to \$9.43/gallon, down from \$11.20/gallon when I was in Stuttgart in May, but still twice as much as when we designed the trips in 2019/20. The PORSCHE Company is doing their level best to make sure everyone on the Fall TREFFEN will be able to rent the PORSCHE models they prefer. The car line up for both Tuscany trips has been promised to us with an ample supply of various models, including 911’s. It’s been a bear trying to get the cars organized after several months of Factory shut downs and a ship full of cars sinking.







Stuttgart right now is absolutely beautiful! People are relaxing on the stately Schlossplatz with beautiful fountains spurting forth. After you arrive and check into the Graf Zeppelin - stroll down the Königsstrasse pedestrian avenue and get a cappuccino at one of the bistros on the Schlossplatz; citizens are out enjoying Stuttgart's beautiful parks taking in a little sunshine and the restaurants are packed. The local Hofbräu Beer tastes better than ever.

Farmers are selling their delicious Holzofenbrot (baked in old woodfired stoves). The **Farmers', Flower and Flea Markets** are in full swing and amazing in their variety. And people are still getting married in City Hall.



**IV. 2022 Fast Lane PORSCHE Trips Outlook:**  
**The traditional FALL TREFFEN to Stuttgart.** We have completed all arrangements for this exhilarating experience to enjoy a day in Zuffenhausen at the awesome **PORSCHE Museum** and be able to get a very rare tour of the **PORSCHE Factory**. In addition,

we spend a couple days driving a **PORSCHE on the Autobahn**, lunch in the Bavarian Mountains and enjoying the **5-Star Hotel Bayerischer Hof** in Lindau directly on Lake

Constance. Furthermore, it's a very rare treat to get invited by PORSCHE. **Get a group together from your local PCA Region** and enjoy unequalled hospitality and an amazing PORSCHE Experience. **Come on, check it off your bucket list!** **LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!!**

**GOOD NEWS:** The City of Stuttgart is forecasting that the long COVID-induced closure of the Cannstatter Volksfest will finally be lifted this fall! It's not confirmed yet, but I predict that it'll be THE wildest Oktoberfest party ever.



**Our US PORSCHE Fest trips are a very attractive option for you if Europe is not in the cards for you this year.** So, drive your own PORSCHE, Corvette, '62 Cadillac, Lexus or whatever, to our superbly planned and organized **Carolinas** and **Romantic Wild West** tours. We conduct both US trips in THE most desirable time of the year in each location. The **Fall Colors of the Carolinas**. If you don't want to bring your own car, we will assist you to rent one from PORSCHE Drive Atlanta or the Phoenix or Tucson PORSCHE Dealers. Please check out these links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coKJcvb0nII> and this one <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8tGOBhxkdQ>

**V. 2023 Fast Lane PORSCHE Tours Forecast: DETAILS to FOLLOW** – yes, still working on it. The challenge is to get the folks in Europe to come out of their July-August vacation “coma” and respond to our e-mails and countless 4:00 am phone calls. All we get these days is “Wir sind z.Z. im Urlaub!” It’s the same every year – we need information to conclude the fall and 2023 trip arrangement but “Urlaub” makes it very difficult. 😊

2023 Planned Fast Lane PORSCHE Tours:					
From	Date	To	Date	PORSCHE Tour	Highlights
Fri	21-Apr	Wed	26-Apr	Original PCA Spring PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart	Factory & Museum
Sun	23-Apr	Thu	4-May	NEW: From Munich to Amazing Croatia	Alps, Gmünd & Adriatic Coast
Sat	3-Jun	Mon	12-Jun	HUGE: The 100th 24-Hours of Le Mans Luxury Tour	Paddock, Pit Pass, Tribune
Wed	7-Jun	Fri	16-Jun	REPEAT: Twelve Alpine Passes PORSCHE Fest	Awesome Scenery & Fun
Sat	8-Jul	Mon	17-Jul	Our 5th: Colorado Rocky Mountain High	The BEST of the Rockies
Sun	28-Aug	Thu	7-Sep	NEW: Come Home to Two Peters' Austria	An unequalled private tour
Mon	11-Sep	Sun	17-Sep	Original PCA Fall PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart	Factory & Museum
Wed	20-Sep	Sun	1-Oct	Our 3rd: Fast Lane Alpine Adventure	Repeated by Popular Requ.
Tue	3-Oct	Sun	15-Oct	Our 12th: Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & Interlpen	Our Annual Favorite
in planning - early December				NEW: Christmas Markets in Germany & Austria	Starting in Stuttgart to Vienna

**We have received lots of interest in our 2023 PORSCHE Tours. The top four count this week are: Croatia, Twelve Alpine Passes, Tuscany and Austria.**

**VI. A Personal Comment:** I am recovering from two skin surgeries in the last two weeks – Mohs Surgery to remove a basil cell skin cancer from my nose plus shoulder surgery to remove a potential melanoma from my right shoulder. I'll spare you the pictures – I look grotesque. The stitches are out and I'm healing. Secondly, we had a bit of a COVID outbreak in the office – everyone is fine and healthy, but for a couple of days we were unable to be as responsive to some requests as you are customarily used to.

A few days ago, I had a call from an alumnus who wanted to know what our **Plans are for 2023?** I told him that he is living proof that I am wasting my time writing the Petergram, because nobody reads it. He replied, on the contrary he looks forward to it on every Saturday with his coffee, but he only reads the “Final Thoughts!” **So, what do I do?** Do I intersperse the final thoughts throughout? Any suggestions? LOL 😊



## VII. My Final Thoughts: Signs That You Are No Longer A Kid:

1. You can live without sex but not without glasses.
2. Your back goes out more than you do.
3. You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.
4. You buy a compass for the dash of your car.
5. You are proud of your lawn mower.
6. Your best friend is dating someone half their age...and isn't breaking any laws.
7. You call Olan Mills before they call you.
8. Your arms are almost too short to read the newspaper.
9. You sing along with the elevator music.
10. You would rather go to work than stay home sick.
11. You constantly talk about the price of gasoline.
12. You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.
13. You consider coffee one of the most important things in life.
14. You make an appointment to see the dentist.
15. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
16. Neighbors borrow your tools.
17. People call at 9 p.m. and ask, "Did I wake you?"
18. You have a dream about prunes.
19. You're asleep, but others worry that you're dead.
20. You answer a question with, "because I said so!"
21. The end of your tie doesn't come anywhere near the top of your pants.
22. You take a metal detector to the beach.
23. You wear black socks with sandals.
24. You know what the word "equity" means.
25. You can't remember the last time you laid on the floor to watch television.
26. Your ears are getting hairier than your head.
27. You get into a heated argument about pension plans.
28. You got cable for the weather channel. ("Old Folks MTV.")
29. You can go bowling without drinking.
30. You have a party, and the neighbors don't even realize.

Please stay safe, healthy, and look forward to the great times we will have together again on the remaining **PORSCHE tours in 2022 and the fabulous tours planned for 2023**. Please register for one of our **2022 USA PORSCHE Tours** – You really must get out now and have some fun! I need some more folks in the Carolinas. All the best to you, Peter.

