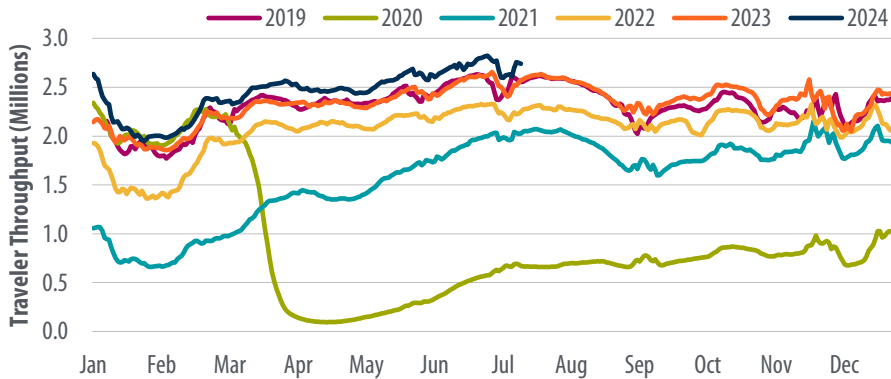


In this week's edition of "Three on Thursday," we examine some key high-frequency data to see how things stand a few years after the COVID-19 shutdowns of 2020. Many believed that the world would be forever changed and that things would never return to their pre-pandemic state. However, the data show that the post-COVID world resembles the pre-COVID world in many ways. People have resumed traveling and are once again frequenting high-occupancy places. Below, you'll find three insightful charts that offer a deeper understanding of the current situation relative to the pandemic.

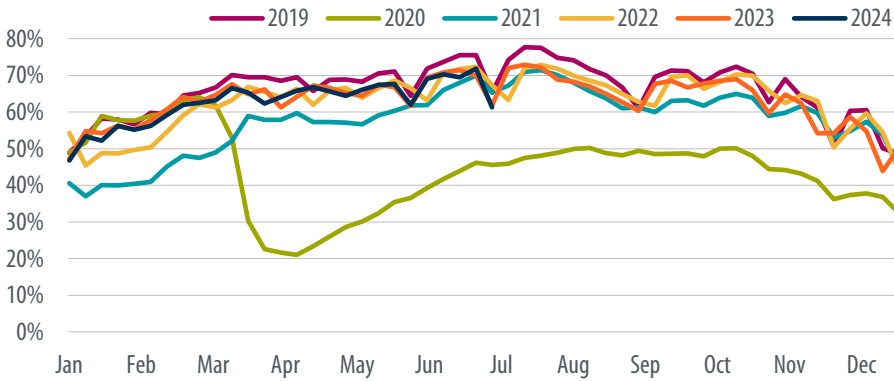
Daily TSA Checkpoint Travelers (7-Day Moving Average)



Source: Transportation Security Administration, First Trust Advisors. Daily data 1/1/2019 - 7/13/2024.

One of the best ways to assess air travel trends is by examining TSA checkpoint data. This data represents the number of people passing through TSA checkpoints at U.S. airports, averaged over the past seven days to mitigate volatility. In 2020, as the shutdowns took effect, fewer than 100,000 people were going through TSA checkpoints daily. The numbers gradually recovered, eventually surpassing pre-pandemic 2019 levels in 2023. In 2024, TSA checkpoint numbers have reached new all-time highs, indicating that people are once again confident in air travel.

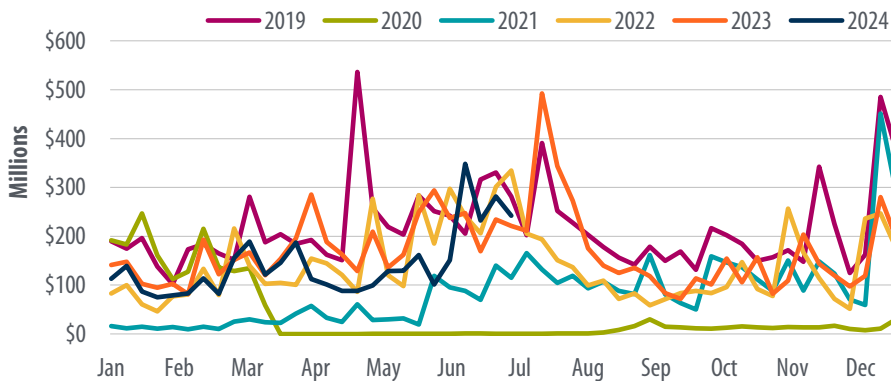
U.S. Hotel Occupancy



Source: CoStar, First Trust Advisors. Weekly data 1/5/2019 - 7/6/2024

Many believed that people would never want to stay in hotels again, but things have largely returned to normal. At the start of the shutdowns, hotel occupancy plummeted to around 20%. However, over the past several years, occupancy rates have been running just slightly below 2019 levels, indicating that overnight stays away from home have nearly returned to pre-pandemic norms.

U.S. Box Office Receipts



Source: Box Office Mojo, First Trust Advisors. Weekly data 1/4/2019 - 7/5/2024

The week of March 20-26, 2020, saw domestic box office revenues plummet to a mere \$5,632, a stark contrast to the \$204,114,622 earned during the same week in 2019. Many thought movie theaters were doomed and would never recover. However, despite week-to-week volatility driven by movie releases, domestic box office sales have returned to a normal pre-COVID range, bringing in \$241,893,722 over the week of July 5th, up 19.8% from the same week in 2019.

This report was prepared by First Trust Advisors L.P., and reflects the current opinion of the authors. It is based upon sources and data believed to be accurate and reliable. Opinions and forward looking statements expressed are subject to change without notice. This information does not constitute a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell any security.