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Growth in corporate travel expected



By [Sheryl Jean/Reporter](#)
sjean@dallasnews.com | [Bio](#)
5:00 PM on Mon., Mar. 14, 2011 | [Permalink](#)

Business passengers expect to travel more this year, according to an annual global [survey](#) by Ascend.

Ascend chief economist Peter Morris said the survey stresses the link between corporate travel and economic recovery. "To get the global economy going again, business people have to fly," he said. "After the challenges of 2009 and 2010, travelers clearly feel now is the time to start rebuilding their businesses."

Here are some highlights of Ascend's poll of more than 380 corporate travelers worldwide:

- 49 percent expect to fly more for business this year vs. 35 percent in 2010 and 10 percent in 2009.
- 5.5 percent increase in the number of business flights this year.
- 48 percent expect an increase in travel budgets this year, up from 28 percent in 2010 and 9 percent in 2009.
- 8 percent of travelers expect a decrease in 2011 budgets, compared with 20 percent last year and 54 percent in 2009.

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I'm interested to see if this holds up in the face of much higher oil prices. If so it will be good for the airlines, but it's hard to imagine people paying \$750 or more for a leisure flight. Should be an interesting summer... airlines better tighten their belts.

KenF Score: 0

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Let's hope soaring fuel prices do not hinder a comeback in business travel. But, I'm not going to hold my breath either.

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