The RV Industry Association is the national trade association representing the diverse manufacturing businesses which build more than 98 percent of all RVs produced in the U.S.—including motorhomes, travel trailers, fifth wheel travel trailers, folding camping trailers, park model RVs, and truck campers. We are the unifying force for safety and professionalism within the RV industry and work with federal and state policy makers to promote and protect the RV industry and our members.

**Government Affairs**
Advocates for the RV industry at the federal and state levels to create a favorable business environment and make it easier for consumers to purchase, drive, and own an RV.

**Industry Standards & Inspection Program**
Utilizes a team of experienced inspectors to audit manufacturer member’s compliance with industry standards and educate them on applicable regulations.

**Statistics & Research**
Drives new research on industry trends and consumer behaviors by providing the most up-to-date industry trends, forecasts, and market information.

**Go RVing**
Engages with consumers through lifestyle experience events across the nation to build interest in the RV lifestyle.

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**Economic Impact of the RV Industry**
An American Industry and Economic Engine

**ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT**

$140 BILLION

- **$73.7 Billion** RV Suppliers & Manufacturers
- **$30.5 Billion** RV Sales & Service
- **$35.7 Billion** RV Travel & Campgrounds

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Looking for specific research or information on the RV industry? The RV Industry Association staff can provide a range of RV-specific research for state analysts and researchers. **Contact Nick Rudowich, Senior Manager, State Government Affairs at nrudowich@rvia.org.**
The RV Industry Supports

- **678,114** Total Jobs
- **31,540** RV Businesses
- **$47.6 Billion** Wages
- **600,240** RVs Made in the USA
- **98%** Of RVs Sold in the USA are Made in the USA
- **$13.6 Billion** Total Taxes Paid by the RV Industry

Economic Impact of the Overall Outdoor Recreation Industry

- **72M** Americans who plan to go RVing each year—camping, hiking, boating, fishing—are a critical part of the outdoor recreation economy.

- **1.9%** OF THE US GDP IS OUTDOOR RECREATION
- **$862B** IN DIRECT ECONOMIC OUTPUT
- **4.5M** AMERICAN JOBS
RV Manufacturer/Dealer Agreements and Automobile Franchise Laws

In many states, RVs are covered by automobile franchise laws even though auto dealers and RV dealers operate under very different business models. Unlike the automobile industry, there are no true franchises in the RV industry. The unique character of the RV sales and distribution model is based on one-dealer-to-many-manufacturers, versus the auto industry's one-dealer-to-one-manufacturer model. Furthermore, the RV industry is not vertically integrated among manufacturers, parts, and suppliers like the auto industry, which creates a substantive difference in warranty obligations between the two industries.

When the RV dealer/manufacturer relationship is captured and included in the auto industry franchise laws the result is a misfit. Enacting an RV-specific law means the RV industry is not out of compliance with inapplicable auto franchise laws. RV-specific laws allow the RV industry to pursue its business model without interfering in the auto industry.

An RV-specific law, such as the model law negotiated and agreed to by the RV Industry Association and the national RV Dealers Association, provides consistency for manufacturers to develop and manage dealer agreements across the states. These laws provide reciprocal advantages for RV dealers and benefit consumers. Enactment of an RV-specific law does not disrupt state business licensing laws and state agency oversight of RV dealer/manufacturer interactions.
Lemon laws were developed to assist consumers when the automobile they purchased as a necessary investment for travel to school, work, shopping, and other transportation needs develops defects that cannot be repaired or remedied to conform to the vehicle warranty.

Motorhomes are discretionary purchases that are not the primary means of transportation for such daily activities. Instead, motorhomes are designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, seasonal, camping, or travel use. Automobile lemon laws are not written to address living quarters items such as appliances, roofing, furniture, or plumbing systems. Most states that include motorhomes in lemon laws exempt the “house half” of the vehicle, but this often leads to confusion for both the state’s lemon law administrator and the consumer. The RV Industry Association is a member of the International Association of Lemon Law Administrators. We work through this organization to help solve motorhome non-conformance issues in the states.

The RV industry is focused on ensuring RVing is here for future generations by prioritizing sustainable practices, including electric RVs (eRVs). RV manufacturers and suppliers are heavily invested in this area and are continuing to develop state-of-the-art electric motorhomes, electric-assist travel trailers, and generators. These eRVs incorporate advanced drivetrain and battery packages that power not only the vehicle in transit but also the living systems, such as overnight air conditioning, entertainment, personal medical devices, and other integral. The same consumer demand and concerns about greenhouse gas emissions that are driving electric power automobile and truck applications are also spurring eRV products. In fact, EVs are already being used today to tow lightweight travel trailers. Unfortunately, the infrastructure for charging EVs is not keeping up with sales and registrations of new EVs.

In order for the country to more fully adopt electric vehicles, the federal government is investing $7.5 billion over five years to develop public EV charging infrastructure. However, almost all currently available charging infrastructure utilizes traditional pull-in charging sites that are difficult, if not impossible, for a large number of vehicles to use, including EVs towing traditional RVs, eRVs, and electric over-the-road trucks. To ensure that future infrastructure is available to all vehicle types, states should invest some of this federal funding in pull-through charging sites. It is imperative that industry and government continue to work together to ensure that charging infrastructure along Alternative Fuel Corridors and other primary highways, as well as rural communities frequented by RVers, can accommodate eRVs and other larger vehicles. Doing so on the front end will save time and money on the back end by cutting down on the need for retrofitting or new installation.
Why All States Should Have Standardized Definitions, Titling, and Registration for RVs

Imagine purchasing a vehicle only to be told at the department of motor vehicles it’s not a vehicle by definition and the department will not register or title it. This does happen to RV owners. A consumer can experience this issue when purchasing an RV in one state but then finding they cannot register or obtain title in their home state because of the state’s definition of an RV. Consumers become frustrated, and so do their lenders, who then have no title against which to register their lien. Registration and titling are necessary for every RV type, just as for any other vehicle.

Equally vexing to consumers and regulators alike is titling a motorhome, which is a multi-stage vehicle. RV manufacturers sometimes build a new motorhome on a chassis built by another manufacturer that can be from a previous model year, which is a common practice in multi-stage vehicle manufacturing.

The RV Industry Association is a member of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA). Through this organization, we work to educate state departments of motor vehicles that, as included in AAMVA’s annual policy statement publication, the generally accepted method for registering a motorhome is to use the model year of the completed vehicle designated by the final stage vehicle manufacturer, not the model year on the chassis vehicle identification number (VIN). But many DMV computer systems are programmed only to accept the VIN date.

Support vehicle and titling of all types of motorhomes and towable RVs, aligning generally accepted industry definitions for all RV types in the motor vehicle codes across all states, and titling multi-stage motorhomes in the model year of the completed vehicle.
A Park Model RV is a unique towable RV designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, seasonal, camping, or travel use. Park Model RVs (previously referred to as recreational park trailers) are built on a single trailer chassis, mounted on wheels and have a gross trailer area not exceeding 400 square feet in the set-up mode. They are certified by their manufacturers to comply with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A119.5 Park Model Recreational Vehicle Standard. Park Model RVs are most often sited in RV parks or campgrounds for seasonal use. The campground might own the units and rent them to guests, or an individual Park Model RV owner might site their unit on a space leased from an RV park or campground. Park Model RVs by definition are not meant to be affixed to real property. Park Model RVs are neither designed nor intended by their manufacturers to be used as permanent residences.

Park Model RVs are titled as vehicles in many states just like other RV types. Park Model RVs are unique among other types of RVs because these units can be up to 15 feet wide and 26 feet in length, with a peaked roof. Park Model RVs are sometimes designed with porches or decks built within the footprint of the unit.

Although the distinctive appearance of a Park Model RV sometimes leads people to think it looks like a small manufactured home, Park Model RVs are specifically excluded from the definition of a manufactured home under regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in November 2018, because they are recognized by HUD as a type of RV (24 C.F.R. § 3282.15). This regulation clearly establishes a bright line definitional difference between RVs, including Park Model RVs, which are not regulated by HUD, and manufactured housing which is regulated by HUD.
Outdoor Recreation

Campground Modernization and Expansion

Campground modernization, particularly as it relates to RV camping, is needed throughout state campground systems. Although many states have begun modernizing their campgrounds, there are still many campgrounds that were not built or equipped to handle today’s motorhomes and travel trailers.

The demographics of the next generation of campers, which includes a diverse mix of Millennials, minorities, and urban residents, is creating a shift in expectations and uses of RV campgrounds. For example, many who enjoy outdoor recreation also want modern, full-service amenities and the ability to share resources with each other. They prefer to use digital means to access reservations, schedule activities, obtain equipment, and more. RV campgrounds must meet those expectations to remain a relevant source of recreation experiences for current and upcoming generations. Our public campgrounds are in danger of becoming irrelevant without important improvements that will maintain them as favored destinations.

Offices of Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation currently accounts for 1.9% of the U.S. GDP and supports more than 4.5 million jobs—but this powerhouse sector of the economy has the potential to grow even larger when states focus on strategically growing the outdoor recreation economy in their state. Offices of Outdoor Recreation (OREC) do just that by bolstering outdoor recreation business opportunities while helping to conserve and provide access to the iconic public lands that millions of Americans enjoy each year.

OREC offices play a critical role in increasing outdoor recreation participation by working with local communities to improve infrastructure, coordinating recreation efforts statewide, and promoting the benefits of engaging in outdoor recreation among the citizens of their state. These offices have proven to be exceptionally effective at encouraging increased participation in outdoor recreation which leads to a stronger economy.
RV Dimensions

Maximum Length and Width for RVs

RVs are built to be road-worthy and comply with applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS), as well as the NFPA 1192 Standard for RVs or the ANSI A119.5 Standard for Park Model RVs. RVs have a special exception for “appurtenances” on the width of an RV, such as retracted side awnings or mirrors situated to provide a safe view for the driver along the sides of the RV. These federal exemptions have been adopted by almost every state. Universal laws of this type mean that manufacturers can build to the industry standard and they and consumers will comply with highway laws as they travel across the U.S.

For several years, RVs have been built up to 45 feet long and 8.5 feet (102 inches) wide in travel mode, not including appurtenances (side-view mirrors, retracted awnings, or truck camper tie downs for example), in response to consumer demand for roomier RVs. These longer RVs have not had any impact on RV accident statistics, which continue to bear out the fact that RV owners are among the safest drivers on the road.

Support a maximum length of 45 feet for a motorhome, a maximum allowable width of 102 inches plus up to six inches additional for appurtenances for all RVs, and a maximum RV combination length of at least 65 feet.
Motorized RVs
Living quarters are accessible from the driver’s area in one convenient unit.

**MOTORHOMES**

**Class A Motorhomes**
Generally roomiest of all RVs. Luxurious amenities. Sleeps up to ten.

**Class B Motorhomes**
Commonly called van campers. Drive like the family van. Sleeps up to four.

**Class C Motorhomes**
Similar amenities to Type As. Optional sleeping space over the cab. Sleep up to eight.

Towable/Motorized
RV units available in both motorized and towable.

**Sport Utility RV**
Built-in garage for hauling cycles, ATVs, and other sports equipment. Sleeps up to 8.

Towable RVs
Designed to be towed by family car, van or pickup truck. Can be unhitched and left at the campsite while you explore in your auto.

**TRAVEL TRAILERS**

**Conventional Travel Trailer**
Wide range of floor plans and sizes. Affordable homelike amenities. Sleeps up to ten.

**Fifth-Wheel Travel Trailers**
Spacious two-level floor plans. Towed with a pickup truck. Sleeps up to six.

**Travel Trailer with Expandable Ends**
Ends pull out for roomy sleeping. Lightweight towing. Sleeps up to 8.

**Folding Camping Trailers**
Fold for lightweight towing. Fresh-air experience with RV comfort. Sleeps up to eight.

**Truck Campers**
Mount on pickup bed or chassis. Go wherever your truck can go. Sleeps up to six.

**Park Model RVs**
Movable resort unit designed exclusively for part-time recreational use. Sleeps up to ten.