According to the Events Industry Council’s Meetings Significance Survey, the U.S. meetings economy continues to grow across all segments and major reporting metrics. In 2016, there were:

- **1.9 million meetings nationwide**, including more than 250 million participants and representing 10 percent growth relative to 2012
- **$330 billion in direct spending** (or business sales), up from $280 billion in 2012
- **More than six million international participants**, generating spending in the U.S. of $18.3 billion

Direct spending supported by meetings was greater than the sales of businesses in the air, rail and water transportation sectors – combined. It was also greater than the output of businesses in the arts, entertainment and recreation sector.

The survey results, which are scheduled for release in February 2018, include data from Oxford Economics, Longwoods International, the National Travel and Tourism Office and STR. Responses represent:

- 1,300 planners, venues and exhibitors;
- 9,000 domestic business travelers;
- 50,000 international travelers; and
- 11,000 hotels.

**The full research results will be released next month, with an exclusive briefing by the Events Industry Council and MMBC. Please email info@meetingsmeanbusiness.com for more information on the briefing.**