



TRAVEL BY AUSTRALIANS

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2017

OVERNIGHT SPEND ▲6%
\$64.5 BILLION

OVERNIGHT TRIPS ▲7%
97.2 MILLION

NIGHTS ▲5%
351 MILLION

Domestic overnight travel saw strong growth during the year ending December 2017, with overnight trips up 7% to 97.2 million, spend up 6% to \$64.5 billion, and nights up 5% to 351 million. Growth was recorded across all purpose of visit categories:

- Holiday trips increased by 6% to reach 39.3 million, while spend grew 6% to reach \$32.5 billion. Nights increased 4% to 150 million.
- Those visiting friends and relatives (VFR) on overnight trips increased by 5% to reach 32.8 million. Spend for VFR travel saw strong growth during the year, up 6% to \$13.0 billion. Nights also increased 5% to reach 107 million.
- Overnight trips for business increased 12% to reach 21 million. However, these business trips were of shorter duration, with nights increasing 3% and spend 2% to reach 67 million nights and \$15.9 billion, respectively.

Domestic day trips saw moderate growth with trips up 1% to reach 192 million, while spend rose 3% to reach \$20.4 billion. Day trips for VFR and holiday travel increased by 6% and 2%, respectively, with this growth tempered by weakening day trip travel for business (down 9%).

FIGURE 1: GROWTH IN INTERSTATE OVERNIGHT TRIPS BY PURPOSE – YE DECEMBER 2017

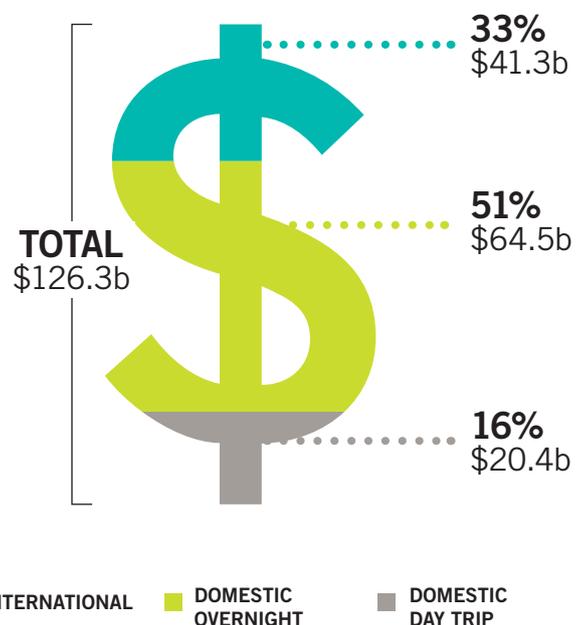
REASON FOR TRAVEL	OVERNIGHT TRIPS ('000)		
	2016	2017	% CHANGE
Holiday	11,018	11,425	▲ 4%
Visiting friends and relatives	9,629	10,251	▲ 6%
Business	8,328	9,490	▲ 14%
Other reason	1,934	2,127	▲ 10%
Total	29,587	31,871	▲ 8%

There was strong growth in interstate overnight travel where trips increased 8% to reach 31.9 million, nights increased 4% to 160 million, and spend 6% to reach a record \$35.9 billion. Interstate travel accounted for 60% of the growth in domestic overnight trip spend during the year. The average interstate overnight visitor spends \$1,127 per trip compared to \$438 for an intrastate overnight visitor. The continuing decline in the value of the Australian dollar has contributed to the growth in interstate travel, particularly holiday travel. With overseas trips having less appeal due to their increased cost, domestic travellers look towards interstate travel as a substitute.

The strong domestic overnight results combined with impressive growth in international travel for the year ending December 2017, places overnight tourism spend at a record \$105.8 billion. This is an overall increase of 6% or \$5.8 billion on the previous year, and continues the above-trend growth recorded over the past four years. Much of this growth (61%) can be attributed to the increases in domestic overnight trip spend.

Total tourism spend (including domestic day trip travel) reached \$126.3 billion during the year, an increase of \$6.4 billion. Domestic tourism spend accounted for 67% of total tourism spend across the country during 2017, with an even higher proportion of 72% in regional areas.

FIGURE 2: SHARE OF TOTAL VISITOR SPEND – YE DECEMBER 2017





ACCOMMODATION

The strong growth in overnight trips saw good results for the major accommodation categories. Nights spent in rented houses, apartments and units increased by 9% to reach 30 million during the year. On the back of strong growth in VFR visitation, nights spent at the home of a friend or relative increased 5% to reach 125 million, accounting for 36% of all domestic visitor nights. Hotels, motels and motor inns also saw growth of 5% in nights, on the back of good gains in domestic overnight trips for holiday and business.

ACTIVITIES

The number of overnight trips involving outdoor activities was on the rise during the year, with record participation seen in the following:

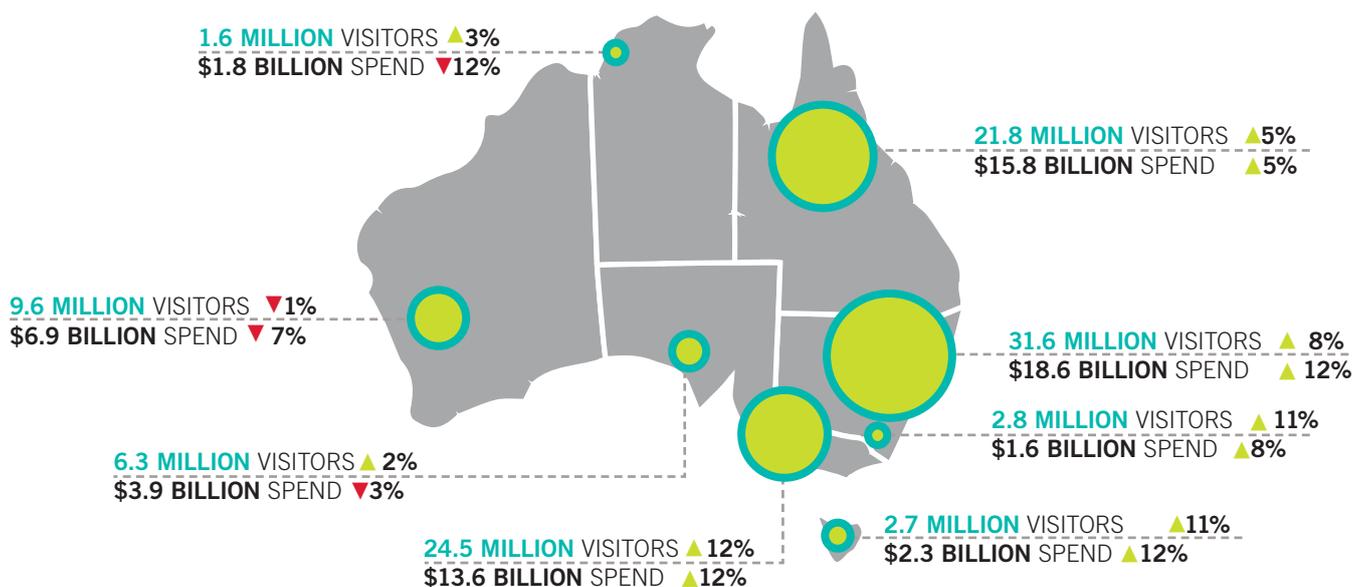
- a visit to a national park or state park, up 14% to 11.2 million
- bushwalking or rainforests walks, up 14% to 11.8 million
- water activities/sports, up 20% to 3.6 million
- attendance at an organised sporting event, up 11% to 3.9 million
- snow skiing, up 37% to 603,000
- a visit to an Indigenous site or community, up 22% to 465,000.

Domestic overnight travellers participated less in activities such as visiting casinos, down 22%, attending movies or cinema, down 13%, going to the markets, down 7% and shopping for pleasure, down 1%.

STATES AND TERRITORIES

The majority of states and territories recorded strong growth in domestic overnight trips and spend during the year ending December 2017 (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3: OVERNIGHT TRIPS AND SPEND BY STATE, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2017



Sources:

1. National Visitor Survey, YE December 2017