



# TRAVEL BY AUSTRALIANS

YEAR ENDING MARCH 2017

**OVERNIGHT SPEND** ▲6%  
**\$61.7 BILLION**

**OVERNIGHT TRIPS** ▲3%  
**91.7 MILLION**

**NIGHTS** ▲4%  
**335.5 MILLION**

Domestic overnight trip spend increased 6% to reach a record \$61.7 billion during the year ending March 2017. This growth occurred on the back of a 3% increase in domestic overnight trips, reaching a record 91.7 million. Nights also increased, up 4% on the previous year to 335.5 million.

Domestic day trip spend was also on the increase, up 4% to a record \$19.6 billion, while day trips increased 1% to reach a record 187 million.

These results, combined with the strong growth shown in the *International Visitor Survey* results for the year ending March 2017, show total tourism spend at \$121.2 billion. This is an overall increase of 5% or \$6.3 billion on the previous year.

## INTERSTATE TRAVEL

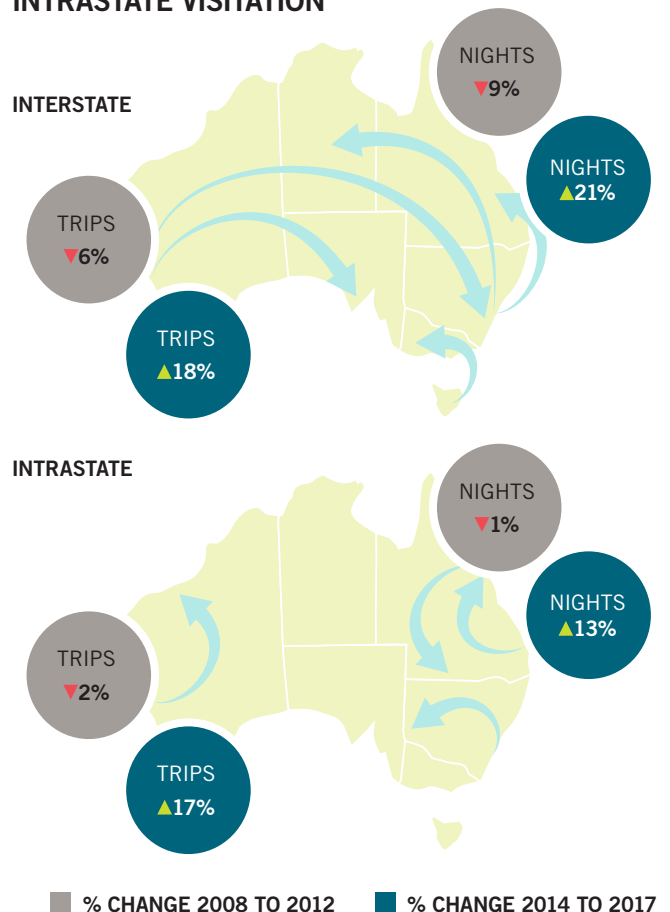
The stronger growth in domestic overnight spend compared to overnight trips is due to interstate trips growing faster than intrastate trips. Interstate overnight visitation is the more lucrative market in dollar terms, with average trip expenditure for an interstate trip at \$1,150, compared to \$444 for an intrastate overnight trip. The average length of stay for an interstate trip is five nights, compared to three nights for intrastate.

Since 2014, interstate overnight trips have increased by 18%, nights by 21%, and spend by 21% to \$34.3 billion. During the same period, intrastate overnight trips have increased by 17%, nights by 13% and spend by 14% to \$27.5 billion.

FIGURE 1: TOURISM EXPENDITURE

|              | DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT \$ BILLION | DOMESTIC DAY TRIPS \$ BILLION | INTERNATIONAL \$ BILLION |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| YE MARCH '00 | 33.5                          | 11.8                          | 17.0                     |
| YE MARCH '01 | 37.9                          | 12.4                          | 20.5                     |
| YE MARCH '02 | 38.3                          | 11.8                          | 21.0                     |
| YE MARCH '03 | 40.6                          | 11.7                          | 20.9                     |
| YE MARCH '04 | 40.1                          | 11.8                          | 19.7                     |
| YE MARCH '05 | 41.3                          | 11.5                          | 21.0                     |
| YE MARCH '06 | 41.1                          | 12.5                          | 21.8                     |
| YE MARCH '07 | 44.8                          | 13.6                          | 23.4                     |
| YE MARCH '08 | 47.3                          | 14.6                          | 25.3                     |
| YE MARCH '09 | 46.0                          | 14.4                          | 26.7                     |
| YE MARCH '10 | 46.2                          | 15.5                          | 25.1                     |
| YE MARCH '11 | 45.3                          | 15.3                          | 25.7                     |
| YE MARCH '12 | 50.0                          | 17.1                          | 26.3                     |
| YE MARCH '13 | 50.3                          | 18.1                          | 27.8                     |
| YE MARCH '14 | 52.6                          | 18.3                          | 29.7                     |
| YE MARCH '15 | 57.1                          | 18.4                          | 32.5                     |
| YE MARCH '16 | 58.1                          | 18.8                          | 37.9                     |
| YE MARCH '17 | 61.7                          | 19.6                          | 39.8                     |

FIGURE 2: GROWTH IN INTERSTATE AND INTRASTATE VISITATION





**FIGURE 3: INTERSTATE VISITATION GROWTH**

|              | TRIPS  | NIGHTS  |
|--------------|--------|---------|
| YE MARCH '08 | 24,963 | 138,911 |
| YE MARCH '09 | 23,558 | 126,057 |
| YE MARCH '10 | 22,983 | 123,463 |
| YE MARCH '11 | 23,683 | 124,458 |
| YE MARCH '12 | 23,587 | 126,073 |
| YE MARCH '13 | 24,380 | 130,147 |
| YE MARCH '14 | 25,155 | 128,383 |
| YE MARCH '15 | 27,800 | 143,100 |
| YE MARCH '16 | 28,747 | 144,740 |
| YE MARCH '17 | 29,806 | 155,431 |

## ACCOMMODATION

The number of nights spent at the home of a friend or relative increased 6% to reach 121.9 million nights. This increase was underpinned by interstate visitation, where nights at the home of a friend or relative increased from 50.3 million to 56 million (up 11%). This style of accommodation accounted for 36% of all domestic visitor nights.

Overall, growth occurred in nights spent at other private accommodation (14%), non-commercial caravan and camping (7%), guest houses, bed and breakfasts (7%) and hotel, resorts and motor inns (4%).

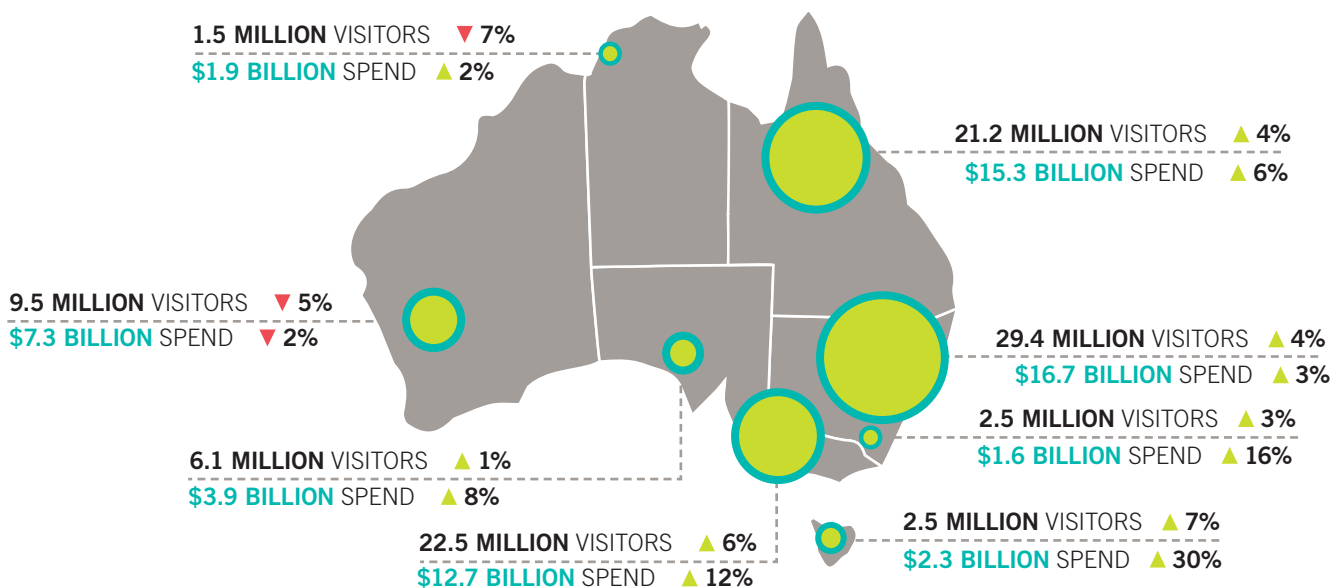
## OUTBOUND

The number of Australian residents going overseas for holidays increased by 3% during the year ending March 2017. Previously, holiday departures had grown 131% between 2006 and 2014, but have only grown by 11% since 2014. A contributing factor has been the weakening of the Australian dollar through 2013 to 2015, which has made overseas travel less appealing. This has been a key factor in the strong growth in domestic travel, particularly interstate, which has been partially substituted for international travel.

## TRANSPORT

Interestingly, the number of interstate overnight trips using aircraft increased by 6% for those aged under 45 years, while for those aged 45 years and over, there was no increase on the year before. However, interstate overnight trips using a self-drive vehicle increased by 11% for those aged 45 years or more, while for those aged under 45 years, it remained unchanged from the previous year.

**FIGURE 4: OVERNIGHT TRIPS AND REGIONAL EXPENDITURE BY STATE**



Source: National Visitor Survey, March 2017.

Overseas Arrivals and Departures (OAD), March 2017, ABS Cat. No. 3401.0