



Travel by Australians

DECEMBER 2008

**QUARTERLY RESULTS OF THE
NATIONAL VISITOR SURVEY**

Tourism Australia 
Tourism Research Australia

Travel by Australians

**December 2008
Quarterly Results of the
National Visitor Survey**

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Tourism Research Australia
Level 3 11-17 Swanson Plaza Belconnen ACT 2617
PO Box 1110 Belconnen ACT 2616
Telephone: + 61 2 6228 6100
Facsimile: + 61 2 6228 6180
Email: tra@tourism.australia.com

For further information on the National Visitor Survey, contact Steve Matthews, Surveys Section, Tourism Research Australia on 02 6228 6113.

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Table 27**Modelled domestic overnight visitor expenditure^(a) (destination expenditure only)
by total intrastate and interstate origin for each State/Territory**

Year ended 31 December 2008

State/Territory	Intrastate	Interstate origin								All interstate	Total
		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT		
\$ million											
NSW	6 215	-	1 598	1 567	251	248	112	60	535	4 370	10 585
VIC	3 622	1 533	-	631	580	458	256	60	213	3 729	7 352
QLD	5 158	2 603	1 578	-	422	238	130	154	138	5 263	10 421
SA	1 092	410	453	124	-	128	19	55	np	1 232	2 324
WA	2 172	291	297	185	112	-	21	56	np	1 000	3 172
TAS	305	262	348	np	73	68	-	np	np	886	1 192
NT	185	155	217	185	94	67	np	-	np	748	933
ACT	1	464	149	np	37	np	17	np	-	782	784
Total Australia^(b)	18 751	5 718	4 651	2 900	1 569	1 232	574	404	981	18 029	36 780

Base: All visitors aged 15 and over.

Figures may not add to the total due to rounding.

(a) Expenditure excludes major purchases such as motor vehicles.

(b) Total Australia includes small amounts that cannot be allocated to a particular State/Territory.

np Not published due to reliability concerns.

Source: Tourism Research Australia expenditure allocation method applied to 2008 National Visitor Survey data.

How to read this table:

Table 27 shows that, during the year ended 31 December 2008, Queensland residents spent \$5.2 billion on overnight travel within Queensland (intrastate travel). Residents from other States/Territories spent \$5.3 billion on travel within Queensland. Domestic overnight visitors from New South Wales contributed the largest amount of interstate expenditure to Queensland (\$2.6 billion), followed by Victoria (\$1.6 billion) and South Australia (\$422 million).

Table 28
Modelled domestic overnight visitor expenditure^(a) (destination expenditure only)
by purpose of visit for each State/Territory
Year ended 31 December 2008

State/Territory	Holiday		VFR		Business		Other ^(b)		Total	
	\$ million	%	\$ million	%	\$ million	%	\$ million	%	\$ million	%
NSW	6 228	28	2 296	32	1 670	28	390	24	10 585	29
VIC	4 425	20	1 601	22	1 125	19	201	12	7 352	20
QLD	6 528	30	1 794	25	1 575	26	524	32	10 421	28
SA	1 259	6	484	7	470	8	111	7	2 324	6
WA	1 810	8	562	8	578	10	222	14	3 172	9
TAS	824	4	165	2	173	3	29	2	1 192	3
NT	2 546		86	1	189	3	113		933	3
ACT	281	1	225	3	230	4	48	3	784	2
Total Australia^(c)	21 918	100	7 214	100	6 010	100	1 637	100	36 780	100

Base: All visitors aged 15 and over.

Figures may not add to the total due to rounding.

(a) Expenditure excludes major purchases such as motor vehicles.

(b) Other includes visiting a State/Territory for education, employment and medical reasons.

(b) Total Australia includes small amounts that cannot be allocated to a particular State/Territory.

Source: Tourism Research Australia expenditure allocation method applied to 2008 National Visitor Survey data.

How to read this table:

Table 28 shows that, during the year ended 31 December 2008, domestic overnight visitors who travelled for holiday purposes in Western Australia spent a total of \$1.8 billion, or 8% of total holiday expenditure in Australia.

Introduction to the National Visitor Survey

The National Visitor Survey is Australia's primary measure of domestic tourism activity, being the major source of information on the characteristics and travel patterns of domestic tourists.

Since 1 January 2005 interviews have been conducted with approximately 120,000 Australian residents aged 15 years and over on an annual basis. Between 1998 and 2004, just 80,000 interviews were undertaken annually. This sample was increased to enhance estimates for smaller States/Territories and at the regional level.

Respondents are interviewed in their homes using random digit dialling and Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing system. The survey contains over 70 questions regarding:

- Destination
- Purpose
- Transportation
- Travel package
- Sources to obtain information about the trip
- Activities
- Expenditure
- Accommodation
- Travel party
- Demographics.

National Visitor Survey (NVS) definitions are based on those provided by the World Tourism Organisation and therefore interviews people who have travelled for purposes including holiday, visiting friends and relatives, business, education and employment. These travellers must not have been away from home continuously for more than 364 days, or in a leap year 365 days.

The NVS has been designed to optimise the reliability of regional estimates. Respondents interviewed in the NVS are randomly sampled to be representative of the Australian population, based on place of residence, age and sex.

The NVS is funded by the Australian, State and Territory governments under the auspices of the Australian Standing Committee on Tourism (ASCOT).

Results from the NVS are published quarterly and are available for free download in PDF format from the Tourism Research Australia website, go to www.tra.australia.com

Survey methodology

Break in series between NVS and DTM

The previous major source of domestic tourism data, the Domestic Tourism Monitor (DTM), was conducted by the Bureau of Tourism Research (BTR) until March 1998. The NVS was introduced in January 1998 replacing the DTM. The NVS not only provides more information than the DTM on the characteristics and travel behaviour of Australians who travel within Australia, but also collects information on leisure activities, expenditure and outbound travel, which was not available from the DTM.

Aspects of the sampling and collection methodologies and the NVS questions themselves are quite different from those used in the DTM. Because of these differences, the results from the NVS cannot be compared with those from the DTM and differences between the results from the two surveys cannot validly be interpreted as changes in the level of tourism activity or travel behaviour of Australians.

Weighting and benchmarking

Weights for the NVS are calculated on an individual trip basis. They take into account the age, sex and place of origin of the respondent, the size of the household in which they live, month of travel, the recall period applicable to the trip (for example, 7 days for day trips, 28 days for overnight trips and 3 months for overseas trips) and the number of interviews with a return date in this recall period. The NVS is benchmarked to population estimates of those aged 15 years and over.

Determining domestic visitor expenditure in regional Australia

The NVS provides information on travel activity and expenditure by domestic visitors. Information on expenditure by these visitors is only collected for the respondent's entire journey, not for individual stops. In order to determine the impact that the visitor activity is having on a particular region, Tourism Research Australia uses a model based approach to allocate visitors' expenditure to Australia's tourism regions.

Data reliability

Reliability of NVS data

The results given in the NVS are based on a sample, rather than a census, of Australian residents. As with all sample surveys, the results are subject to sampling variability, and therefore may differ from figures that would have been obtained if the entire Australian population had been included in the survey.

A measure of the possible degree of difference is given by the confidence interval, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might vary by chance from the true figure because only a sample of the population was included.

In Table A, the 95% confidence interval widths are given for a range of estimates available in the NVS. These confidence intervals are expressed as a percentage of the estimate. That is, there are approximately 19 chances in 20 that the true figure (which might be obtained from a census) is within the range identified by applying the figures in the table.

Table A Confidence intervals for NVS estimates at the 95% level

Estimate ('000s)	Overnight visitors	Visitor nights	Overnight expenditure	Day visitors	Day visitor expenditure	Overseas trips
20	>50	>100	>100	>100	>100	37.5
50	47.5	>100	>100	>50	>100	23.3
80	37.7	>100	>100	>50	>100	18.3
100	33.8	>100	>100	>50	>100	16.3
200	24.0	>50	>100	42.2	>100	11.3
300	19.6	>50	>100	34.6	>100	9.2
500	15.3	45.7	>100	26.9	>100	7.1
1000	10.8	32.4	>100	19.1	>100	4.9
2000	7.7	23.0	>100	13.5	>100	3.4
3000	6.3	18.8	>100	11.1	>100	2.8
5000	4.9	14.6	>100	8.6	>100	2.1
7000	4.2	12.3	>100	7.3	>100	1.8
10000	3.5	10.3	>100	6.1	>50	
20000	2.5	7.3	>50	4.3	>50	
30000	2.0	6.0	>50	3.6	>50	
50000	1.6	4.6	>50	2.8	45.8	
70000	1.3	3.9	49.5	2.3	39.8	
100000	1.1	3.3	41.8	2.0	34.2	
140000	0.9	2.8	35.7	1.7	29.7	
200000	0.8	2.3	30.1	1.4	25.5	
500000	0.5	1.5	19.5	0.9	17.3	
1000000		1.0	14.1		12.9	
2000000			10.1		9.6	
5000000			6.6		6.5	
10000000			4.7		4.9	
20000000			3.4		3.6	
50000000			2.2		2.5	

In Table A, the areas above the lines indicate estimates which have large confidence intervals (greater than 100% of the estimate above the solid line, and between 50% and 100% of the estimate in the area between the dotted and solid lines). These estimates are subject to sampling variability which is too high for practical purposes and should be used with caution in analysis or in the reporting of NVS estimates, as they have a large margin of error. The area below the dotted line contains estimates with smaller confidence intervals. That is, the estimates are closer to the values that would be obtained if the entire Australian population were interviewed.

The following example illustrates the use of the table to determine 95% confidence intervals for NVS estimates.

The estimated number of overnight visitors to a particular State was 7,000,000. Looking at the 'Overnight visitors' column this estimate has a 95% confidence interval of plus or minus 4.2%. Therefore, there are 19 chances in 20 that, if the entire population had been included in the survey, we would obtain a figure which is within the range 7,000,000 plus or minus 4.2% of this estimate, that is, in the range 6,706,000 to 7,294,000.

For users who are familiar with statistical estimation techniques and the use of standard errors, the values in the above table are derived from the following linear regression equation:

$$\text{LN (RSE)} = A + B \cdot \text{LN(ESTIMATE)}$$

where RSE is the relative standard error and the model parameters are:

	Overnight Visitors	Overnight Visitor Nights	Overnight Expenditure	Day Visitor Expenditure	Day Visitor Expenditure	Overseas Trips
A	0.512561685	1.633627094	3.90523584	1.083439268	3.119586142	-0.100462227
B	-0.493277162	-0.497034255	-0.473357555	-0.494167269	-0.42262391	-0.518776947

In the above example of overnight visitors to a particular State:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{LN (RSE)} &= 0.512561685 + (-0.493277162) \cdot \text{LN}(7000) \\ &= -3.85475 \\ \text{RSE} &= \text{EXP} (-3.85475) \\ &= 0.021 \\ &= 2.1\% \end{aligned}$$

The 95% confidence interval is then found by multiplying the RSE by 1.96

$$95\% \text{CI} = \pm 4.2\%$$

Although confidence intervals are useful in indicating the reliability of one data item, they cannot simply be added to detect whether movements in data items between two periods of time are statistically significant. The following formula gives an approximation of the confidence interval width for the difference between two estimates:

$$\text{SQURE ROOT}(2) \cdot \text{CONFIDENCE INTERVAL WIDTH}$$

Note that this formula is an approximation only, and assumes that the two estimates being tested are of similar size, and are based on similar samples.

In the example used above, an observed change from our estimate of overnight visitors of 7,000,000 would be significant (at the 95% level), if there is a difference in a subsequent or earlier estimate of 5.9% ($1.4142 \cdot 4.2\%$) or more. Therefore, if another estimate is outside the range 6,587,000 to 7,413,000 ($\pm 5.9\%$), we can state that there are 19 chances out of 20 that the apparent movement reflects a true trend in the population.

Use of NVS data to analyse national, State/Territory, or regional domestic tourism performance should be based on an understanding of the data's level of reliability. Through understanding the confidence interval of the data, users are able to determine when a change between years is likely to be statistically significant and when it is not (that is, when it is more likely to be simply the result of random sample variation).

For more information about the use of confidence intervals in the NVS, please contact the Manager, Surveys Section, Tourism Research Australia on 02 6228 6100.

Items that are not collected for long trips

In the NVS, information on purpose, accommodation, transport, leisure activities and detailed expenditure items are not asked for at individual locations visited on long trips. A long trip is defined as one where a person stops overnight in more than 21 different locations.

Indications of reliability in data tables

All figures reported in this publication are estimates based on the sample surveyed and as such are subject to some degree of uncertainty, indicated by the size of the confidence interval associated with the estimate. Estimates that have a confidence interval width between 50% and 100% are marked with a single asterisk (*) in tables. When the confidence interval width exceeds the estimate (that is, is greater than 100%), the estimate is marked with a double asterisk (**).

Where the estimate is marked with either a * or ** symbol, the estimate is subject to sampling variability which is too high for most practical purposes.

Use of symbols in tables

na data not available
* subject to sampling variability too high for practical purposes (confidence interval width between 50% and 100%)
** subject to sampling variability too high for practical purposes (confidence interval width of 100% or more)

Row and column totals

Items within the body of each table may not add exactly to row or column totals. This is due to rounding and to inclusion in totals of unallocated 'not stated' or 'unspecified' responses.

In some tables, the row or column total may be considerably different to the sum of the component values. This occurs due to multiple responses to some questions in the NVS questionnaire. Where items within the body of a table do not add exactly to row or column totals, a footnote has been provided.

State and Territory specific surveys

The Tasmanian Government conducts a regular survey of visitors to the State. Results of the survey are available from Tourism Tasmania:

Tourism Tasmania
GPO Box 399
Hobart TAS 7001
Phone: (03) 6230 8231
Fax: (03) 6230 8353
Email: statistics@tourism.tas.gov.au
Web site: www.tourismtasmania.com.au

Regional expenditure

Regional expenditure allocation methodology

A brief summary of the process by which expenditure by domestic visitors is allocated to regions is given below. Further explanation of expenditure allocation methods can be found in *Regional Expenditure Tables 2007 – Background and Methods*. Tourism Research Australia, Canberra. Expenditure in the NVS is collected for the respondent's entire journey, not for individual stops. For both overnight and day visitors, information is collected on the following three types of expenditure:

- expenditure by respondent during the trip
- expenditure by respondent before or after the trip
- expenditure paid by employer or other who is not travelling

For each of these three types of expenditure, information is collected on the amount spent on each of the following expenditure items:

- Packages
- Taxis (including to/from airport)
- Airline fares
- Organised tours/side trips
- Car hire costs (rental, leasing)
- Fuel (petrol, diesel)
- Vehicle maintenance or repairs
- Any other long distance transport costs (train, coach, ship etc)
- Any other local transport costs (bus, train, ferry, etc)
- Accommodation (not relevant for domestic day trips)
- Takeaways and restaurant meals
- Groceries etc for self-catering
- Alcohol, drinks (not already reported with food above)
- Shopping, gifts, souvenirs
- Entertainment, museums, movies, zoos etc
- Horse racing, gambling, casinos
- Conference fees
- Education, course fees
- Purchase of motor vehicles or any other major equipment
- Other (phone, postage, medical expenses, repairs, dry cleaning etc).

Expenditure on capital goods (for example, motor vehicles, property, and office equipment) is not included in the published NVS estimates, as it is not regarded as tourism expenditure. All the other expenditure items in the above list are included in the expenditure estimates for domestic day and overnight visitors.

Overnight trips expenditure allocation process

As discussed above, expenditure information in the NVS is collected for entire trips, not for individual stops. A method has been developed by which this amount can be distributed over all the stops on the trip.

The process of allocating money spent on overnight trips begins with the identification of four major sub-components of total expenditure:

- expenditure attributable to the respondent's home region
- expenditure on airfares and other long distance fares
- expenditure attributable to the destination region or regions
- expenditure on long trips

The 'home region' is the region where the survey respondent lives and home region expenditure, by definition, applies to a single region. In taking a trip a traveller may spend some money in the region where they live; this expenditure is identified as home region expenditure. For example, expenditure on taxi fares, fuel and groceries paid for before or after the trip are assigned wholly to the traveller's home region. Fuel expenses paid by someone other than the respondent and meals paid for before or after the trip are assigned to the home region in the proportion:

$1 / (\text{number of stops} + 1)$ – with the remainder going to destination regions.

Airfare and other long distance fare expenditure is allocated equally between the region where the journey started and where it ended. In the few cases where there is no major airport in the departure and/or arrival region (for example, the Central Coast of NSW or Melbourne East in Victoria) the share of airfare expenditure is allocated to the nearest region with a major airport. For trips where there is more than one destination, information on the transport mode used to get to each stopover is used to allocate airfares and other long distance transport fares to regions. For example, if a traveller uses air travel on three legs of their trip, one third of the airfare expenditure is allocated to the departure and arrival regions for each leg.

Unpublished work by Tourism Research Australia has shown that, on average, about 60% of package expenditure is taken up by airfares and other long distance fares and the remaining 40% by other items like accommodation, food and car hire. The first step in the allocation of package expenditure is to split the expenditure into these proportions. The airfare and other long distance component are allocated together with other airfare expenditure, and the remaining 40% is allocated by the iteration process.

In allocating package expenditure using the iteration method, the 'regional cost indicator' is average package expenditure per night. The end result of iteration is an estimate of package expenditure at each stop on each trip.

Destination region expenditure excludes expenditure on capital items, and includes 40% of package expenditure. Sixteen expenditure items and package expenditure are grouped into nine major expenditure types, which are:

- Packages
- Local transport
- Entertainment
- Fuel
- Food
- Shopping
- Accommodation
- Conference fees
- Any other expenditure.

Each of these expenditure types is allocated by the iterative process.

For *expenditure on long trips* (trips with more than 21 stops) a single expenditure figure is collected for these trips, which is equal to total expenditure for the entire trip. This amount is allocated to regions in proportion to the nights spent at each stop.

The iterative process

Overnight trips expenditure is allocated by iteration in three steps:

1. A regional cost indicator is calculated for each region that has an expenditure sample – national average expenditure used for those regions where there is no expenditure sample.
2. Preliminary expenditure estimates for each stop in the trip are calculated by multiplying the cost indicator for the region at the stop by the length of stay at that stop. Preliminary estimates of expenditure are rescaled using the formula:

$$r = p * (E / R)$$

where

- r = rescaled value for this stop
- p = preliminary estimate for this stop
- E = reported total expenditure for the trip
- R = sum of preliminary estimates for the trip

Rescaled values sum to the total reported expenditure for the trip.

3. New estimates of regional cost indicators are calculated by summing rescaled expenditure values for each region, and dividing this number by the total nights spent in that region. If estimates of cost indicators for the current iteration differ from estimates of cost indicators from the previous iteration by less than an agreed amount the process is stopped, otherwise it is repeated from step 2.

Rescaled values at the last iteration are the final estimates of expenditure at each stop.

Experience has shown:

- Cost indicators for most regions reach a value close to their final value after four or five iterations
- Fifteen iterations are usually enough to get successive differences well below \$1.00
- The process is not sensitive to initial estimates of cost indicators
- The main driver of the process is the nights spent at each stop

Day trips expenditure allocation process

Expenditure allocation for day trips is similar in principle to expenditure allocation for overnight trips, but less complicated as each trip has just one destination region. All day trip expenditure is apportioned between home and destination regions using predetermined proportions, which are the same as those for overnight trips. Unlike the overnight trip analysis, there is no need to further apportion expenditure to multiple destination regions.

Glossary of terms

Accommodation used

This indicates the type of accommodation used by an overnight visitor when visiting a particular location. The main categories of accommodation include:

- Hotel, resort, motel or motor inn
- Guest house or bed and breakfast
- Friend's or relative's property
- Rented house, apartment, flat or unit
- Caravan park or commercial camping ground
- Caravan or camping on private property
- Own property (eg holiday house).

There were some modifications made to the accommodation categories and definitions used from the March quarter 2003 to align with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Survey of Tourist Accommodation and to bring consistency between the International Visitor Survey (IVS) and the NVS. In 2003 the main change was the splitting of hotel, resort, motel, motor inn into two categories: luxury hotel/luxury serviced apartment/luxury resort (4 or 5 star) and standard hotel/motel/motor inn or standard serviced apartment (below 4 star). The rented house/apartment/flat/unit category was also refined to indicate this accommodation was not serviced on a daily basis.

The introduction of the new accommodation categories and definitions has resulted in some redistribution of response. It appears there has been leakage from the guest house or bed and breakfast and caravan park or commercial camping ground categories into hotel, resort, motel, motor inn. Consequently care should be taken when comparing estimates with earlier periods.

Average nights

The sum of all nights divided by the sum of all visitors for a particular category. This is commonly referred to as average length of stay.

Day visitors

Day visitors (or same day visitors) are those who travel for a round trip distance of at least 50 kilometres, are away from home for at least four hours, and who do not spend a night away from home as part of their travel. Same day travel as part of overnight travel is excluded, as is routine travel such as commuting between work/school and home.

Duration of visit

The total amount of time that a visitor spends in a State or Territory or region while on an overnight trip. The example at the end of the Glossary of terms relates to a Newcastle resident, where the duration of visit to NSW was two nights, the duration of their visit to the ACT was two nights and the duration of their visit to Victoria was eight nights. Similarly, their duration of visit to the High Country region was four nights. If the respondent spent another two nights in Sydney before returning home, then their duration of visit to NSW would instead be four nights.

Expenditure

Expenditure in the NVS is collected for the traveller's entire journey. Expenditure amounts include expenditure by, and on behalf of, travellers during a trip. Expenditure items include airfares and other transport costs such as bus and train fares and amounts spent on trip-related items before and after the trip.

Expenditure on capital goods

The purchase of motor vehicles is not included in the estimates, as this is not regarded as tourism expenditure.

Expenditure – other

This includes miscellaneous trip expenditure such as phone calls, postage, film processing, medical expenses, repairs and dry cleaning.

Intrastate tourism

A person is an intrastate visitor when they visit a location in the State or Territory in which they reside. In the example at the end of the Glossary of Terms, the traveller was an intrastate visitor to the Sydney region.

Intrastate visitor night	Any night spent in the same State or Territory the traveller lives in. In the example at the end of the Glossary, there are two intrastate visitor nights spent in NSW.
International visitors	International visitors, or outbound visitors, are those who visit another country. As for overnight travel, only international travel where the respondent is away from home for less than 12 months is included.
Interstate tourism	A person is an interstate visitor when they visit a State or Territory other than that in which they reside. In the example at the end of the Glossary, the traveller was an interstate visitor to Canberra, Melbourne and the High Country regions.
Interstate visitor night	Any night spent in a State or Territory other than that in which the visitor resides. In the example at the end of the Glossary, there could be a total of 10 interstate visitor nights - two visitor nights spent in the ACT and the remaining eight visitor nights spent in Victoria.
Median nights	Represents the midpoint length of stay for which 50% of visitors stay less time and 50% stay longer.
Modelling Expenditure	Tourism Research Australia has used a model based approach to derive regional expenditure estimates for domestic day and overnight visitors. This enables the production of consistent estimates of domestic tourism expenditure in Australian States and Territories and in the major Australian tourism regions.
Overnight trips	<p>In the NVS, overnight trips are defined as trips involving a stay away from home for at least one night, at a place at least 40 kilometres from home. Only those trips where the respondent is away from home for less than 12 months are in scope.</p> <p>The trip is the basic collection unit used in the NVS to obtain information about overnight travel undertaken by Australians.</p>
Overnight visitors	<p>Australians who undertake an overnight trip are referred to as overnight visitors or simply visitors. Occasionally in this publication, they are referred to as overnight travellers.</p> <p>A person is a visitor to a location if they stay one or more nights in the location while travelling, and they are said to have made a visit to the location. Therefore, a traveller may be a visitor to several different locations, and consequently a trip may include multiple visits.</p> <p>Within each geographic region, net visitor numbers are reported. That is, a traveller is reported as only one visitor to a geographic region, irrespective of the number of places visited within the area.</p>
Purpose of visit	<p>The purpose of visit is the main purpose, or the major reason for visiting a particular location. The major categories of purpose of visit are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday travel – includes holidays, travel for leisure, entertainment, sport as a participant and spectator, shopping, relaxation and just ‘getting away’. • Visits to friends and relatives (VFR) - travel such as to a friend’s or relative’s wedding or funeral. • Business - includes business, work travel for transport crews, attendance at conferences, conventions, exhibitions and trade fairs, training and research related to employment. • Other - includes for the purposes of education (for example, school excursions), personal appointments, health-related travel, and employment/leisure travel (for example, working holidays).

Note: the following example highlights an important point – travellers may have different purposes for visiting different locations. As such, the sum of all visitors across purposes will be greater than the overall number of visitors to a particular geographic area.

Example: one trip could include - travel to Sydney to visit friends, a visit to Canberra for holidays, a visit to Melbourne for business and a visit to the High Country for holidays. This visitor is counted as a visitor to NSW to visit friends and/or relatives, a holiday visitor to the ACT, a business visitor as well as a holiday visitor to Victoria.

Total domestic economic value

The TDEV methodology was developed by Tourism Research Australia on behalf of the Tourism Forecasting Committee. TDEV is calculated from quarterly expenditure data collected in the National Visitor Survey and benchmarked to annual 'Domestic tourism consumption' data in the ABS Tourism Satellite Account (ABS cat. no.5249.0). TDEV exceeds total domestic visitor expenditure (excluding major items) as this expenditure measure does not capture the full economic value of goods and services consumed by domestic visitors. For example, TDEV includes the value of subsidised services consumed by domestic visitors, such as entrance fees to museums and art galleries. TDEV does not include expenditure on major items bought during a trip, such as motor vehicles and white goods.

Visitor nights

Visitor nights refer to the number of nights spent away from home in association with individual visits. In the preceding example, there was a total of 12 visitor nights, with two of these being spent in NSW, two in the ACT and the remaining eight visitor nights being spent in Victoria. At a regional level, there were two visitor nights spent in the Sydney region, two visitor nights spent in the Canberra region, four visitor nights in the Melbourne region and four visitor nights spent in the High Country region.

Example

This example is referred to in some of the above definitions:

Consider a 12 night trip from Newcastle, where a person spends two nights in Sydney, two nights in Canberra, four nights in Melbourne, two nights in Benalla and two nights in Wangaratta.

At the regional level, this respondent would be a visitor to the Sydney region, the Canberra region, the Melbourne region and the High Country region.

The respondent is counted as a single visitor to the High Country region, even though they had two stopovers in this region – one in Benalla and one in Wangaratta.

At the State/Territory level, the respondent would be counted as a visitor to Victoria, the ACT and also a visitor to NSW. As with the regional level data, the traveller is counted as a single visitor to Victoria, even though they were a visitor to two different regions in this State.

State and Territory abbreviations

NSW	New South Wales
VIC	Victoria
QLD	Queensland
SA	South Australia
WA	Western Australia
TAS	Tasmania
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
NT	Northern Territory

About Tourism Research Australia

Tourism Research Australia is a business unit of Tourism Australia, a Federal Government statutory authority established 1 July 2004.

Tourism Research Australia provides independent, accurate, timely and strategically relevant statistics and analysis to the tourism industry, government and the community at large to enhance the contribution of tourism to the benefit of the Australian community.

Tourism Research Australia is based in Canberra and is jointly funded by the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments.

Research publications and reports

Tourism Research Australia publications and reports are available in electronic formats for free PDF download. Selected publications are available for purchase in hardcopy formats. For further information go to www.tra.australia.com

If you would like to receive email alerts advising of new releases, go to www.tra.australia.com and register for the Tourism Research Australia Publications Advisory Service.

Statistical Enquiry Service

Tourism Research Australia Statistical Enquiry Service is available for industry operators, academics and other interested parties. This service is maintained by a Tourism Research Information Officer who plays a key role in linking the tourism industry to important tourism research data.

This service can provide Tourism Research Australia data in excel tables tailored to meet specific research needs.

Tourism Research Australia is a cost recovery organisation and charges apply for research services. These will be dependent on the complexity of the information required. A consultancy quotation will be provided for data needs via email. All major credit cards are accepted with the exception of Diners. A tax invoice will be supplied on completion.

For further information on the Statistical Enquiry Service please contact research@tourism.australia.com

Online Data Package

Tourism Research Australia has designed an online facility that allows paid subscribers authorised access to real time research information using Tourism Research Australia databases.

This online environment provides users with the ability to manipulate and use data to generate tables which are relevant to specific needs as well as expanded functionality including:

- immediate access to the new data each quarter on the day of release
- capability to store and update customised tables of user specified data in a password protected online database
- saved tables which can be built to update immediately when quarterly data is uploaded by Tourism Research Australia
- access from any computer with an internet service, allowing the user improved flexibility.

If you would like to receive information about the Online Data Package subscription or have further enquiries please email tra@tourism.australia.com

Tourism Research Australia Destination Visitor Surveys

In addition to the International Visitor Survey (IVS) and the National Visitor Survey (NVS), Tourism Research Australia has developed a program of Destination Visitor Surveys (DVS). These projects are a regional initiative and are aimed at non-capital city destinations.

The Destination Visitor Surveys program allows the analysis of visitor type, trip characteristics and destination specific issues.

The data from these surveys are weighted to the IVS and NVS data in order to gain accurate and cross-comparable statistics. For further information on the regional Destination Visitor Surveys program, go to www.tra.australia.com

- **Visitor Profile and Satisfaction Program**

In response to a number of industry requests, Tourism Research Australia has developed a Visitor Profile and Satisfaction (VPS) program. In this program the research design, questionnaires, analysis and reporting are standardised.

The standardised surveys enable regional destinations to work in partnership with Tourism Research Australia and leading market research companies to support localised marketing and business decision making. This program allows destinations to minimise the cost and time normally taken to complete such projects.

The VPS program is open to any Australian tourism destination - projects are funded by the broader Destination Visitor Survey program. Opportunities are available for destinations to fund their own VPS project. To date those participating in these projects have covered a diverse range of visitor profiles and destination types, from remote outback destinations to some of the busiest tourism destinations in Australia.

For more detailed information read the [Visitor Profile and Satisfaction Program - A Guide for Tourism Destinations 2008](#) on our website at www.tra.australia.com

Please note: initial contact *must* be made with the relevant [State Tourism Organisations](#).

Tourism Research Australia

Level 3 11-17 Swanson Plaza Belconnen ACT 2617

PO Box 1110 Belconnen ACT 2616

Telephone: + 61 2 6228 6100

acsimile: + 61 2 6228 6180

Email: tra@tourism.australia.com

www.tra.australia.com



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