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Media release

Official figures show tourism spend has reached \$39.1 billion

The tourism industry's tremendous contribution to New Zealand's social and economic wellbeing has been reinforced by official industry measurements, says Tourism Industry Aotearoa.

Tourism Satellite Account figures released today show that total annual tourism spend for the year to March 2018 has reached an estimated \$39.1 billion, an increase of 7.7% or \$2.8 billion on the previous year.

International visitor spend is up by 9.6% to \$16.2 billion, while domestic visitors spend is up by 6.5% to \$23 billion.

"This is a continuation of the spectacular growth enjoyed in recent years," says TIA Communications Manager Ann-Marie Johnson.

The Tourism Satellite Account is the official annual measurement of the New Zealand tourism industry, compiled by Stats NZ. It includes measures of tourism spend by international and domestic visitors, the number of people employed directly and indirectly by tourism, tourism's share of export earnings and its contribution to New Zealand's GDP.

Today's figures show that annual tourism spend is now \$10.5 billion a year more than it was in 2014. That's an extra \$29 million dollars a day being spent in communities across New Zealand.

Tourism now provides 20.6% of New Zealand's total exports. It makes a direct contribution to GDP of 6.1% and a further indirect contribution of 4.3%.

216,000 people are directly employed in tourism, with a further 149,304 indirectly employed providing products and services consumed by visitors. That means 13.5% of our total workforce is earning a living from tourism.

"These figures reinforce our insight that tourism will continue to grow and sustain employment across our country. It means that a career in tourism is a viable and stable choice for young people, which is an area of particular importance to the industry," says Ms Johnson.

In 2014, through its **Tourism 2025 Growth Framework**, the industry set a goal of being a \$41 billion industry by 2025. It is well ahead of projected markers to meet that goal.

TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

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The attention of industry leaders is now focused on managing the growth in tourism and sharing the benefits with our communities.

The number of sign-ups to TIA's **Tourism Sustainability Commitment** has now hit 700, a massive achievement which shows a shared industry dedication to economic, visitor, community and environmental sustainability.

The recent introduction of the **Tiaki Promise** is another string in the industry bow. Lead by seven tourism organisations and announced by Tourism Minister Kelvin Davis, the Tiaki Promise outlines what travellers can do to care for New Zealand, travel safely and act as guardians of our land, waterways and ocean.

"Prioritising the sustainability of the tourism industry ensures we can manage and grow our contribution to New Zealand's economy whilst offering more benefits and opportunities to the communities in which we operate," says Ms Johnson.

The Tourism Satellite Account figures for 2018 can be found [here](#).

For more information, please contact:

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KEY FACTS

- Tourism in New Zealand is a \$107 million per day industry. Tourism delivers around \$44 million in foreign exchange to the New Zealand economy each day of the year. Domestic tourism contributes another \$63 million in economic activity every day.
- Tourism is New Zealand's biggest export earner, contributing \$16.2 billion or 20.6% of New Zealand's foreign exchange earnings (year ended March 2018).
- 13.5% of the total number of people employed in New Zealand work directly or indirectly in tourism. That means 365,316 people are working in the visitor economy.
- The [Tourism 2025](#) growth framework has a goal of growing total tourism revenue to \$41 billion a year by 2025.

Visit www.tia.org.nz for more information

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