

The Economic Significance and Impact of Pennsylvania State Parks: An Assessment of Visitor Spending on the State and Regional Economy

Researched and prepared by Pennsylvania State University’s Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 2010

Purpose: The main focus of this study was to analyze the impact and significance of state parks on Pennsylvania’s economy.

Location: Pennsylvania was the main focus of this report; however, the researchers did compare PA to several other states in the US such as New York, New Jersey, and Texas.

Study Design: Secondary data was primarily used for this report. Most of the data was from research conducted years ago so a multiplier was used to find estimates of current values.

Key Findings:

- Pennsylvania State Parks (PSP) hosted 33.6 million visitors who spent \$738 million on their trips (\$563.2 million for resident visitors; \$167.2 million for non-resident or out of state visitors, and \$7.9 million in extra spending associated with marinas, whitewater, and ski areas). (iv)
- Direct contribution of visitor spending to the state economy was \$463.7 million in sales, 8,439 jobs, \$174.5 million in labor income, and \$257.9 million in value added effects (iv).
- Restaurants/bars (\$198,881,000) and gas/oil (\$43,430,000) represented the largest percentage of visitor spending, followed by groceries and take out food/drinks (\$28,202,000). The smallest percentage of visitor spending was associated with marinas (\$2,511,000) and camping fees (\$8,939,000) (v, 9).
- The overall contribution of visitor trip spending to the Pennsylvania economy was (9):
 - \$818.3 million in sales
 - 10,551 jobs
 - \$291.4 million in wage and salary income
 - \$464.7 million in value added effects
- Below is a table comparing the spending of all visitors and the jobs created by the state parks in each region.

ALL VISITORS (Residential and Non-Residential)					
Region	Northcentral (Region 1)	Western (Region 2)	Southcentral (Region 3)	Eastern (Region 4)	Total (All Regions)
Total Spending (\$000’s)	60,785	290,202	140,175	247,083	738,245
Jobs (Total Effects)	865	4,198	2,017	3,396	10,476

Values in this table can be found on pages 12 and 13 of the report.