TOURISM ECONOMICS

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300+ Economists

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Focus Economics Best Economic Forecaster Awards

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Economic Impact of Tourism in Georgia

Christopher Pike Director, Impact Studies Tourism Economics <u>cpike@tourismeconomics.com</u>

Outline

- 1. Key definitions
- 2. Georgia Visitor Spending Results
- 3. Tourism as a community value local impacts
- 4. County methodology



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Key definitions

<u>Visitor volume</u> – overnight stays and over 50 miles for day travel is definition of a visitor.

<u>**Direct**</u> (spending/impacts) – results that directly interact with visitors themselves. Direct spending is spending coming out of visitor wallets; direct employment are jobs at hotels, restaurants that directly serve travelers...

<u>Indirect</u> – supported by visitor activity but not direct. These will be spending and jobs in support of the direct activity – the building services that keep the hotel running or the wholesalers that delivers food to the restaurant or the banker that takes care of payroll for the amusement park.

Induced – supported by the wages paid by visitor activity. Spending and jobs supported by wage spending.

Key definitions

<u>Visitor spending/industry</u> – overnight stays and over 50 miles for day travel is definition of a visitor. Visitor industry would be jobs and other impacts from this spending.

<u>Tourism Satellite Account (TSA)</u> – The Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) is data of measuring the direct economic impacts of tourism consumption to an economy. It helps depict a link between tourism demand expenditures AND the industries that produce tourism goods and services.

Meant to solve the issue that 'Tourism' is not a defined industry – it is not identified in the standard presentation of I-O accounts.

Tourism Economy – total impact of visitor-associated activity, includes indirect and induced impacts of all the spending noted above.

Outline

1. Key definitions

2. Georgia Visitor Spending Results

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State analysis - data

State tourism spending and impact analysis is based on Georgia specific data. Key data points used for analysis:

- Consumer survey results
- Sales tax data for key industries lodging, restaurants, recreation
- Bed tax data
- \$5 fee data
- STR lodging demand
- International spending analysis
- Governmental BEA/BLS employment and labor income data
- State/national park data
- Airport statistics
- Construction data
- Governmental tax/budget information
- And others...





State analysis - data

No data set is perfect, but all add to the analysis – so many lodging measures:

- Consumer survey results what travelers say they are spending on a trip to X.
 - Can include spending out of market
- Lodging sales tax specifically on businesses defined as lodging establishments
 - Will include all sales at hotel/motels not just rooms
- Bed tax data specifically on rooms rented
 - Includes short-term rentals usually
 - Different rates/payment times
- \$5 fee data applicable on a per-room basis
 - A helpful view of demand
- STR lodging demand a survey of hotels, weighted towards chain hotels





Why so many datasets?

Each show different aspects of visitor activity in destinations through the state...

Bed tax revenue includes AirBnB/VRBO rentals – sales tax does not STR data is reported by hotels themselves Sales tax data includes all sales by businesses in these key industries – can help understand hotel-owned restaurants/bars/recreational activities (resorts which may include certain recreational activities in the lodging fee)

2nd homes supports personal use of self-owned homes. Can also point to areas where visitor activity is more likely – and may impact non-traditionally tourism industries



Visitor spending of \$32.7 billion in 2022

Spending increased \$4.2 billion.

2022 results 7% higher than 2019 (pre-pandemic levels). This compares to overall US recovery at 1% above 2019 spending levels. Georgia direct visitor spending

Amounts in \$ billions



Source: Tourism Economics

Visitor spending of \$32.7 billion in 2022

Lodging spending reached \$7.3B, growth of 23%, 9% higher than pre-pandemic.

Recreational spending grew 10% and is 10% higher than 2019 levels in 2022.

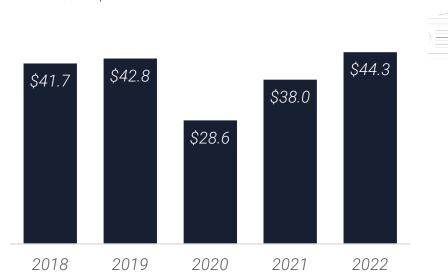
Retail activity moderated in 2022 as people interests shifted, increasing only 4%.



Tourism Satellite Account

Direct tourism demand includes visitor spending, construction in support of tourism, governmental spending in support of tourism and other tourism infrastructure.

Georgia direct tourism demand



Amounts in \$ billions

Source: Tourism Economics

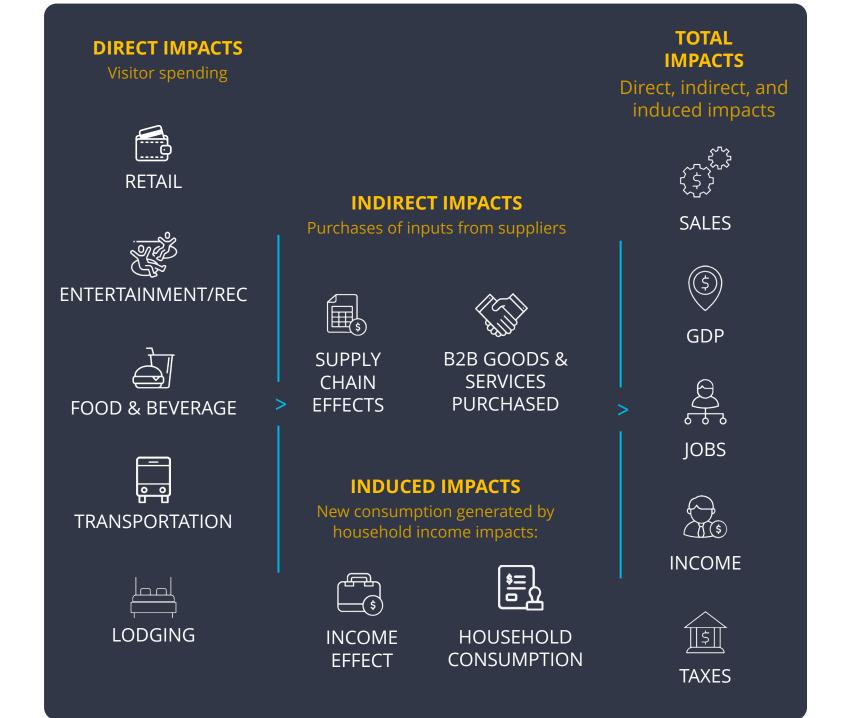
Outline

- **1. Key definitions**
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3. Tourism as a community value – local impacts

4. County methodology





Visitor activity supports local businesses

Everyone understands visitors support of hotels, entertainment venues, retailers...

Tourism also supports companies in banking, finance, business services, manufacturing...

A total impact on businesses in Georgia of \$73 billion in 2022.

Summary economic impacts (2022) Amounts in \$ billions



Source: Tourism Economics

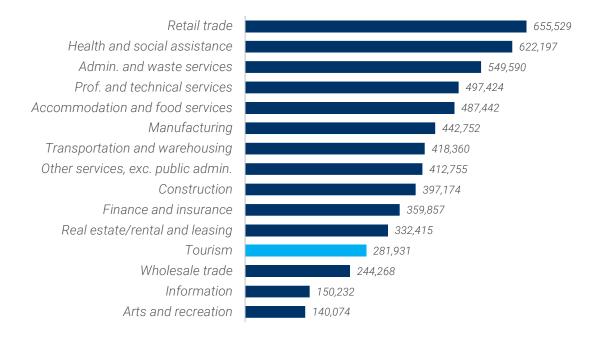
Visitor activity supports local jobs – directly...

A 'Tourism Industry' would rank 12th in comparison to employment in other industries.

Tourism will include jobs in accommodations & food services, retail, arts & rec, retail, and others but is not all of the employment in any of these industries. Local demand has to be accounted for.

Employment in Georgia, by major industry

Amounts in number of jobs, direct jobs for tourism

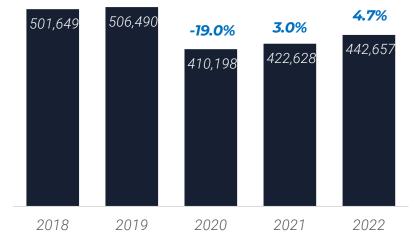


Source: Tourism Economics

Visitor activity supports local jobs – directly...

It takes local jobs to support these visitors staying in hotels, eating at restaurants, and shopping – over 440,000 jobs – 1 in 15 jobs in the state - in 2022 with the number of jobs directly supported by tourism increasing by 20,000 jobs.

Jobs recovery is at 87% of 2019 levels – a combination of a smaller workforce, hesitancy to hire, and difficulties in hiring has meant that job recovery lags spending recovery. **Employment supported by travel spending in Georgia** Total impact, amounts in number of jobs



Source: Tourism Economics

Visitor activity supports governmental tax revenues

Visitor activity created \$9.4 billion in tax revenues in 2022.

State and local governments saw \$4.7 billion in tax revenue due to tourism.

To make up for tourism taxes, each household in Georgia would need to pay \$1,200 to keep the current level of government.

Fiscal (tax) impacts

Amounts in \$ millions

	Direct taxes	Indirect/Induced taxes	Total Taxes
Total Tax Revenues	\$6,024	\$3,342	\$9,367
Federal Taxes	\$2,715	\$1,981	\$4,696
Personal Income	\$919	\$733	\$1,652
Corporate	\$223	\$180	\$403
Indirect Business	\$218	\$104	\$322
Social Insurance	\$1,355	\$965	\$2,319
State and Local Taxes	\$3,309	\$1,362	\$4,671
Sales	\$1,242	\$580	\$1,822
Bed Tax	\$690	\$0	\$690
Personal Income	\$263	\$207	\$470
Corporate	\$43	\$35	\$78
Social Insurance	\$4	\$3	\$7
Excise and Fees	\$82	\$45	\$127
Property	\$984	\$493	\$1,477

Source: Tourism Economics

ECONOMIC IMPACTS IN CONTEXT



The \$44.3 billion in direct tourism demand equates to \$1.2 million in visitor activity EVERY DAY.

\$73.0B TOTAL IMPACT

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The \$73.0 billion in total business sales generated by tourism is enough to support the Hartsfield-Jackson Airport expansion project 52 times over (\$1.4 billion).



443,000 TOTAL JOBS

The total number of jobs sustained by tourism (443,000), including indirect and induced benefits, accounts for 6.8% of all jobs in the state of Georgia, enough to fill Mercedes-Benz Stadium nearly six times.



\$4.7B STATE & LOCAL TAXES

The \$4.7 billion in state and local tax revenue received in 2022 would be enough to pay the salaries of over 76,000 elementary school teachers in the state of Georgia.

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County analysis - data

County analysis adds up to state visitor spending totals. Key data points used for county analysis:

- Sales tax data for key industries lodging, restaurants, recreation
- Bed tax data
- \$5 fee data
- STR lodging demand
- Governmental BEA/BLS employment and labor income data
- State/national park data

Provides consistency across geographies





County analysis - totals

State used to receive two reports:

- One focused only on visitor spending and direct impacts of this visitor activity
- The second following the TSA results and including indirect and induced impacts
- In 2023, for the 2022 calendar year deliverable, the two reports were combined and streamlined
- County analysis is linked to the first report visitor spending and its direct impacts. With the combined report, some aggregate numbers that the county results add up to are not included.

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County analysis - totals

As an example – employment:

Employment reported in the 2021 county analysis – 232,537, which matched the results in the 'Visitor Industry' report for Georgia.

• This analysis was limited to just the visitor spending in Georgia

Employment reported for the 2022 county analysis – 247,263. This result is based on the direct impact of visitor spending in Georgia – similar to 2021 analysis.

• The streamlined report for the 2022 only reports the direct employment of the Tourism Satellite Account analysis – 281,931.

The county analysis for 2022 maintains a consistent methodology as 2021 but some of the totals for the county work are no longer reported in the state analysis.

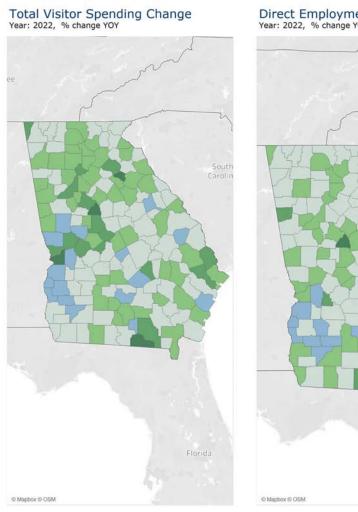




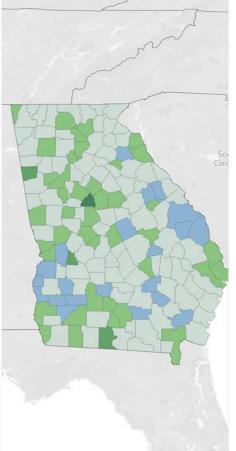
Comparison Maps

Navigation

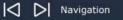
Year 2022



Direct Employment Change Year: 2022, % change YOY



County Summary - Spending and Economic Impact



Year

2022

2022

€



\$3.2M Total Visitor Spending

YOY: A 0.5%

Actual, share & % change YOY

Visitor Spending by Category in



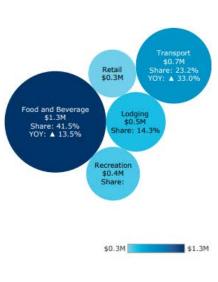


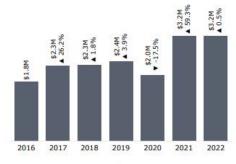
0.5% is the share of jobs directly sustained by visitor spending in county

Visitors generated \$0.2M in state and local taxes which is equivalent to \$30 in tax savings for every household

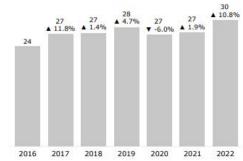
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Visitor Spending Actual & % change YOY





Tourism Supported Direct Employment Actual & % change YOY



% change YOY Spending -16.9%

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% change YOY Direct Employment

-19.0% 44.4%

SYMPHONY TOURISM ECONOMICS



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