

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 2 November 2005

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: TOURISM AUSTRALIA
TOPIC: VALUE OF TOURISM TO THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY
REFERENCE: HANSARD 02/11/05, PAGE E54

QUESTION No.SBI-23
(Hansard 02/11/05, p.E54)

Senator Nash asked about:

How much is tourism worth to the Australian economy in general and can you specifically look at the worth to rural and regional areas?

ANSWER

The ABS Tourism Satellite Account figures show tourism accounted for nearly \$32 billion of total GDP in 2003-04 and the tourism industry share of GDP was 3.9%. Tourism gross domestic product (GDP) represents the total market value of Australian produced goods and services consumed by visitors after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production. Tourism contributed 12.1% of total exports of goods and services in 2003-04. The tourism industry employed 536,600 persons in 2003-04. Domestic visitors generated 76% of tourism industry GDP in 2003-04 while international visitors generated 24%.

Tourism Research Australia found that in 2004, of total tourism expenditure, 48 cents in every dollar was spent in regional Australia. Domestic visitors spend relatively more in regional Australia, spending 54 cents in every dollar, while international visitors spend 22 cents in every dollar in regional Australia. This research defined regional Australia as excluding the capital cities and the Gold Coast.