

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

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES  
**OUTCOME/OUTPUT:** Outcome 1, Output 1.2  
**TOPIC:** EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR  
**REFERENCE:** HANSARD 02/11/05, PAGE E54

**QUESTION No.SBI-24**  
(Hansard 02/11/05, p.E54)

**Senator Nash** asked about:

How many people does the tourism sector employ? Can you break the figures down into metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas?

**ANSWER**

The Australian Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) shows that in 2003-04 tourism was responsible for the direct employment of 536,600 people. The TSA – which is the official National Accounts measure of tourism in the economy – does not provide any data at a lower geographic level. Some state and territory tourism commissions have developed measures of tourism employment in their jurisdictions, but different methodologies are used and these cannot be compared or aggregated.

To address the lack of a reliable and consistent measure of tourism employment at the state/territory and regional level, DITR has commissioned the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to develop a standard methodology to enable such measurement. The ABS is currently developing this methodology and advises that this should be completed by the end of 2005. It is expected that, once agreed, this methodology will enable consistent state/territory level tourism employment measures to be produced.