



TRAVEL BY AUSTRALIANS

YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 2016

OVERNIGHT SPEND ▲5%
\$59.8 BILLION

OVERNIGHT TRIPS ▲5%
89.4 MILLION

NIGHTS ▲4%
330 MILLION

The year ending September 2016 saw strong growth across both domestic overnight and day trip travel. The growth was underpinned by increases in holiday-related trips for both domestic overnight and day trips, partly due to travellers switching overseas travel for domestic holidays.

- Domestic overnight trips were up 5% to a record 89.4 million, and nights were up 4% to 330 million.
- Domestic overnight trip spend also increased 5% on the previous year to a record high of \$59.8 billion; an increase of \$2.9 billion.
- Domestic day trips increased 7% to reach 187.7 million, while spend increased moderately, up 1% to \$19.3 billion.
- Total tourism spend for the year reached \$117.9 billion; an increase of 6% or \$7.1 billion over last year.

PURPOSE OF TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight holiday trips increased 8% to 36.9 million, while spend was also up 8% to reach a record \$30.1 billion.
- Interstate overnight holiday travel continues at record levels, increasing by 11% during the year ending September 2016 to reach a record 11.1 million trips. Spend increased 14% to \$16 billion.
- Travelling to visit friends and relatives was slightly weaker, with domestic overnight trips and spend up only 2% to 30.5 million and \$12.1 billion, respectively. Day trips were down 1% to 51.2 million and spend fell 6% to \$3.6 billion.
- Travel for overnight business trips during the year also showed signs of weakening, with both trips and spend up just 2% to 18.5 million and \$15 billion, respectively. Nights fell 2% to 65.7 million.

ACCOMMODATION

- As a result of the strong growth in holiday travel, the number of nights spent at guest houses, bed and breakfasts and caravan parks and camping grounds saw significant increases.
- Nights in guest houses or bed and breakfasts increased 19% to 3.6 million.
- Nights in caravan parks and commercial camping grounds increased 14% to 33.1 million nights.
- The number of nights at non-commercial caravan parks and camping grounds increased 24% to 18.1 million.

CARAVAN AND CAMPING

- The increase in nights in commercial campgrounds was largely due to growth in travel by adult couples and family groups, with increases of 14% and 12%, respectively. Friends or relatives travelling with children increased the most in the last year, spending 40% more nights in a commercial campground.
- Free camping increased by 24% over the last year, with adult couples and friends or relatives without children driving the growth (up 48% and 21%, respectively).
- Caravanning is still on the increase, with a 20% rise in nights spent in caravan parks and a 47% increase in nights spent free camping. Motorhome users have steered away from caravan parks in the last 12 months, with nights down 14%. They also preferred to free camp, which has seen an increase in nights of 36%.

FIGURE 1: NIGHTS IN CARAVAN PARKS AND FREE CAMPS BY TRAVEL PARTY ('000)

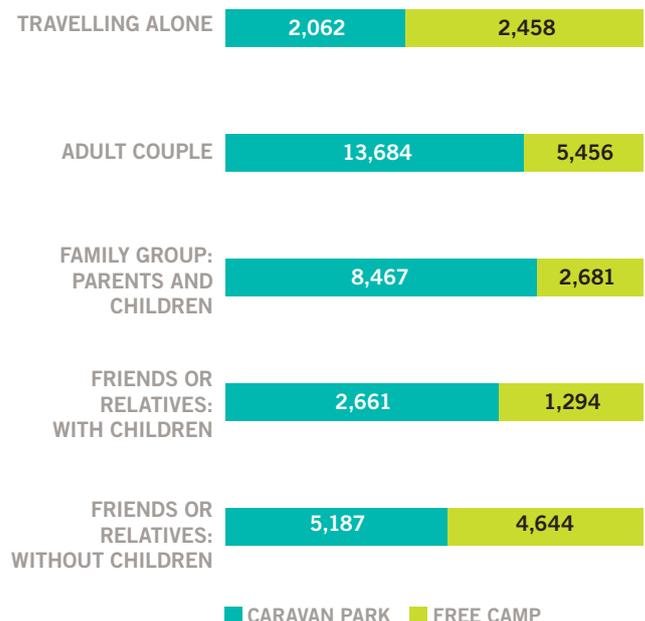
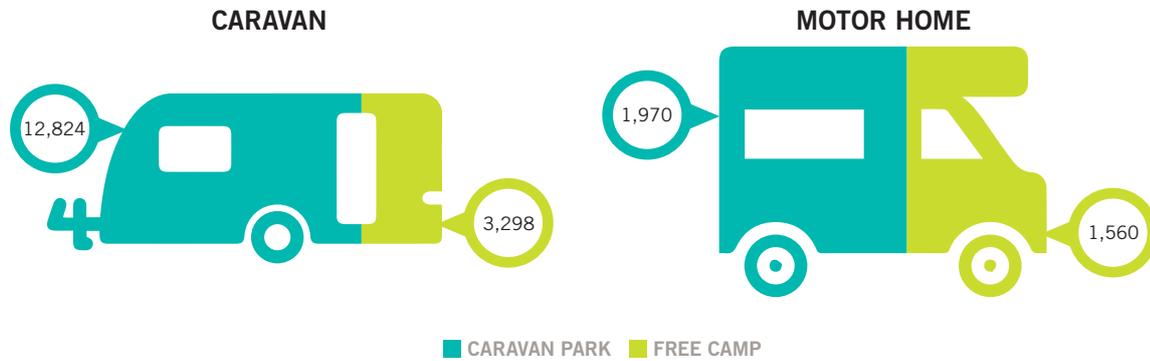




FIGURE 2: CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME NIGHTS BY LOCATION ('000)



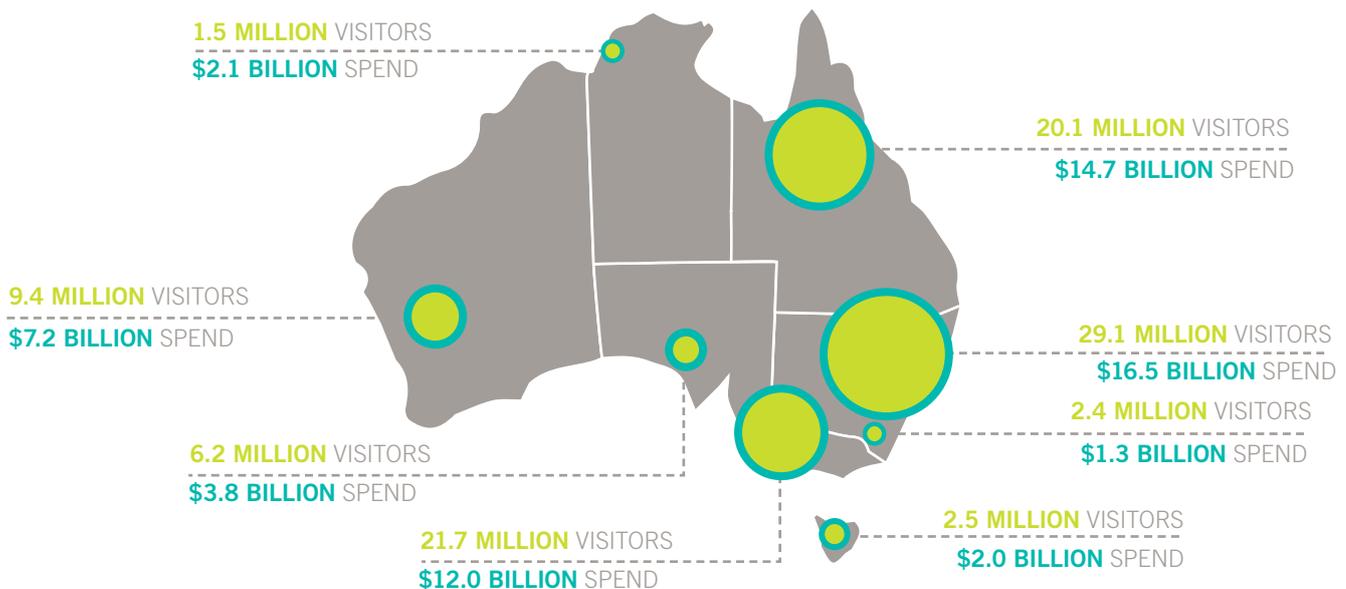
ACTIVITIES

- There was significant growth in those experiencing Indigenous art or craft and cultural displays (up 53% to 491,000); exercise, gym or swimming participation (up 29% to 5.9 million); and those visiting an Indigenous site or community (up 27% to 363,000). There were over 2.1 million more visits to the beach compared to last year; an increase of 10% to 22.3 million.

OUTBOUND TRAVEL

- The number of Australians travelling overseas for a holiday increased by 7% during the year to reach 5.9 million. This is a slowing of the previous growth which saw numbers more than double from 2.4 million in 2006 to 5.4 million in 2013.

FIGURE 3: OVERNIGHT TRIPS AND REGIONAL EXPENDITURE BY STATE*



* In recent quarters, some unexpectedly high growth rates have appeared in some *National Visitor Survey* (NVS) sub-estimates. The issue is more pronounced in some specific purpose groups (most noticeably in business trips), and has a relatively higher impact in some of the smaller states and territories. TRA suggests that users of the NVS data interpret recent year-on-year growth rates with caution until further notice.

Source: National Visitor Survey, September 2016.

Overseas Arrivals and Departures (OAD), September 2016, ABS Cat. No. 3401.0