



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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Tourism to Saguaro National Park creates \$88,682,500 in Economic Benefits in 2017.

Tucson, AZ – A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 964,759 visitors to Saguaro National Park in 2017 spent \$60,716,800 in Tucson and other communities near the park. That spending supported 866 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$88,682,500.

“The Giant Saguaro cactus, an iconic symbol of the American Southwest draws visitors from across the country and around the world. Visitors can experience exceptional wilderness, scenic views and a richly diverse ecosystem, all in close proximity to a large urban community,” said Leah McGinnis, Superintendent at Saguaro National Park. “National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, and it’s a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our urban neighbors and are glad to be able to contribute to the local economy.”

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas of the U.S. Geological Survey and Lynne Koontz of the National Park Service. The report shows \$18.2 billion of direct spending by more than 330 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 306,000 jobs nationally; 255,900 of those jobs are found in these gateway communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$35.8 billion.

The lodging sector received the highest direct contributions with \$5.5 billion in economic output to local gateway economies and 49,000 jobs. The restaurants sector received the next greatest direct contributions with \$3.7 billion in economic output to local gateway economies and 60,500 jobs.

According to the 2017 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging/camping (32.9 percent) followed by food and beverages (27.5 percent), fuel (12.1 percent), souvenirs and other expenses (10.1 percent), admissions and fees (10.0 percent), and local transportation (7.5 percent).

Report authors also produced an interactive tool that enables users to explore visitor spending, jobs, labor income, value added, and output effects by sector for national, state, and local economies. Users can also view year-by-year trend data. The interactive tool and report are available at the NPS Social Science Program webpage:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>

National Park visitation grew by 7.7 percent from 2015 to 2017 which included the 2016 centennial of the National Park Service and the successful [Find Your Park](#) campaign. For more state-by-state information about national parks and how the National Park Service is working with communities, go to [http://www.nps.gov/\[statername\]](http://www.nps.gov/[statername]), for example: <http://www.nps.gov/virginia>.

National Park Visitor Spending Contributions to the U.S. Economy 2012-17

Year	Visitation	Visitor Spending	Jobs Supported	Local Jobs	Total Output
2012	282,765,682	\$14.7 billion	242,712	201,040	\$26.8 billion
2013	273,630,895	\$14.6 billion	237,599	197,343	\$26.5 billion
2014	292,800,082	\$15.7 billion	276,960	235,600	\$29.7 billion
2015	307,247,252	\$16.9 billion	295,339	252,030	\$32 billion
2016	330,971,689	\$18.4 billion	318,000	271,544	\$34.9 billion
2017	330,882,751	\$18.2 billion	306,000	255,900	\$35.8 billion

To learn more about national parks in Arizona and how the National Park Service works with **Saguaro National Park** communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/ARIZONA.

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