

Report summarizes economic impacts of parks for 2008

In addition to individual park analyses, the 2008 MGM2 technical report (Stynes 2009) shares the following aggregate economic impacts of the National Park System:

The National Park System received 274.9 million recreation visits in 2008. Park visitors spent \$11.56 billion in local gateway regions (within roughly 50 miles of the park). Visitors staying outside the park in motels, hotels, cabins, and B&B's accounted for 55% of the total spending. Over half of the spending was for lodging and meals, 17% for gas and local transportation, 9% for groceries, and 14% for souvenirs. Local economic impacts are estimated after excluding spending by visitors from the local area (9.8% of the total). Combining local impacts across all parks yields a total impact, including direct and secondary effects, of 205,000 jobs, \$4.4 billion in labor income, and \$6.9 billion value added. The four economic sectors most directly affected by visitor spending are lodging, restaurants, retail trade, and amusements. Visitor spending supports over 50,000 jobs in each of the hotel and restaurant sectors, and over 23,000 jobs each in the retail trade and the amusements sectors.