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Tourism expenditure passes \$20 billion

Tourism expenditure in New Zealand reached \$20.1 billion for the year ended March 2007, according to the *Tourism Satellite Account: 2007* published today by Statistics New Zealand.

Total tourism expenditure, consisting of spending by international and domestic (household, business and government) tourists, increased 4.7 percent (\$896 million) from the previous March year.

Other key results from the *Tourism Satellite Account: 2007* include:

- International tourism contributed \$8.8 billion (or 18.3 percent) to total New Zealand exports.
- Domestic tourism expenditure was \$11.3 billion.
- Tourism generated a direct contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) of \$7.9 billion, or 5.1 percent of GDP.
- The indirect value added of industries supporting tourism generated an additional \$6.2 billion to tourism.
- The tourism industry directly employed 108,100 full-time equivalent employees (or 5.8 percent of total employment in New Zealand), an increase of 1.9 percent from the previous year.
- Tourists generated \$1.5 billion in goods and services tax (GST) revenue.

The *Tourism Satellite Account: 2007* is available on the Statistics New Zealand website (<http://www.stats.govt.nz/>) or via the Statistics New Zealand Information Centre.

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