



# TRAVEL BY AUSTRALIANS

YEAR ENDING JUNE 2019<sup>1,2</sup>

**OVERNIGHT SPEND** ▲15%  
**\$77.5 BILLION**

**OVERNIGHT TRIPS** ▲12%  
**113.3 MILLION**

**NIGHTS** ▲10%  
**400.2 MILLION**

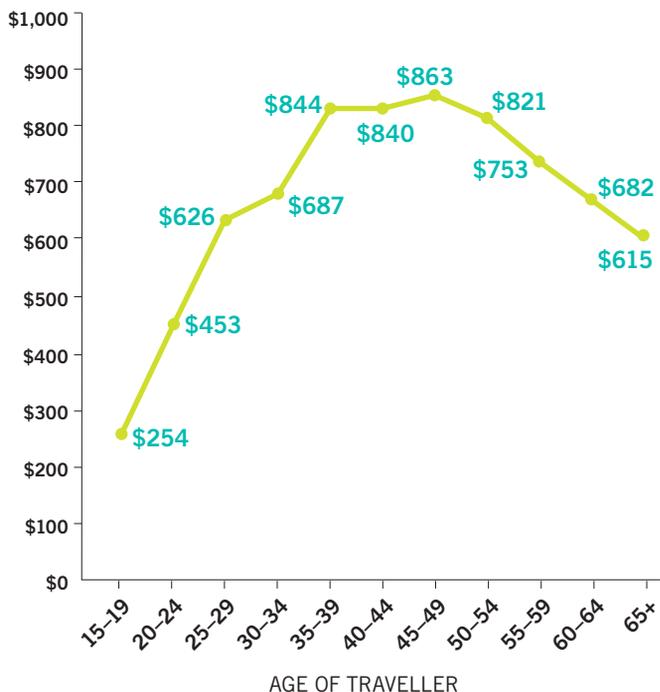
Domestic overnight travel continued to perform well over the year ending June 2019, with spend reaching a record \$77.5 billion. The number of overnight trips taken by Australians grew to 113 million, with 400 million nights spent away from home.

With domestic overnight and international tourism both generating strong results, total overnight spend (domestic and international) reached \$122.1 billion. Tourism dollars earned from domestic day trips also performed well, bringing total tourism spend (including day trips) to a record \$146.4 billion.

## VISITOR SPEND BY AGE

Spend on domestic overnight trips varies by age. During the year to June 2019, Australians aged 30–54 years spent \$809 per person on average per trip. This was substantially more than the average \$471 spent by younger Australians (15–29 years), and the \$666 spent by older Australians (55 years and over) (Figure 1).

**FIGURE 1: AVERAGE SPEND PER PERSON PER OVERNIGHT TRIP**



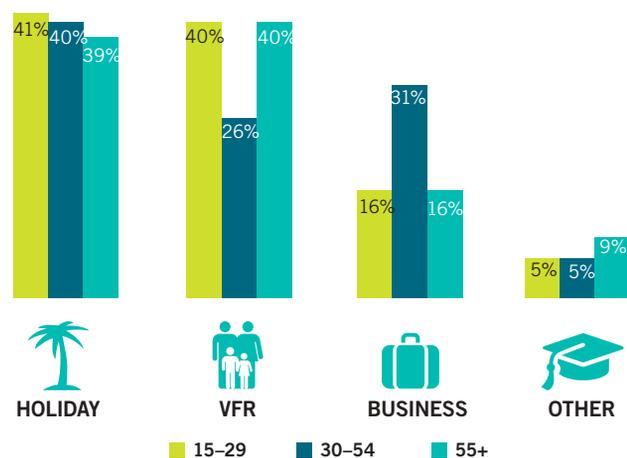
The much higher trip spend for middle-aged travellers is not related to length of trip. Middle-aged and younger Australians had a similar average trip length – 3.3 nights and 3.1 nights, respectively – while older Australians stayed away from home longer on average (4.2 nights).

Instead, the higher trip spend was due in part to a larger share of business trips taken by those aged 30–54 years (Figure 2). On average, business travellers spend more per person per trip (\$847) than other visitors (\$636).

This age group was also much less likely to visit friends and relatives (VFR) (26%) than other travellers (40%). Those travelling for the purpose of VFR have a comparatively low average trip spend (\$416), as expenses for items such as accommodation, food and transport are more often reduced by staying at the home of a friend or relative.

On average, middle-aged travellers also spent much more (\$965) than other visitors (\$722) on their holiday. This is because they were more likely to be travelling with children (45%), which increased trip expenses considerably.

**FIGURE 2: SHARE OF TRIPS TAKEN BY PURPOSE OF VISIT AND AGE GROUP**



1. Use caution when comparing 2019 NVS estimates with earlier years. The move to 100% mobile phone interviewing has seen increases to 2019 NVS estimates which have an upward influence on growth rates. For further information see: [www.tra.gov.au/Domestic/national-visitor-survey-methodology](http://www.tra.gov.au/Domestic/national-visitor-survey-methodology)

2. 2017 and 2018 data has been revised to align with the latest ABS population projections and will differ from previously published estimates. For further information see: [www.tra.gov.au/Domestic/national-visitor-survey-methodology](http://www.tra.gov.au/Domestic/national-visitor-survey-methodology)



## TRAVELLER SPENDING HABITS

Young travellers - Saved on their travel expenses by staying with friends and relatives more often (49% compared with 36% for other travellers), travelling less by plane (20% compared with 25%), and more by rail and coach (9% compared with 4%), and spending less on average on food and alcohol<sup>3</sup> (\$141 compared with \$202) per trip.

Middle-aged travellers – More likely to stay at a hotel or motel (39% compared with 28% for other travellers), travel more by plane (28% compared with 20%), and less by rail and coach (3% compared with 7%), and spend more on average on food and alcohol (\$218 compared with \$163) per trip.

Mature-aged travellers – More likely to stay at their own property (8% compared with 3% for other travellers), travel more by car (77% compared with 71%), and spend slightly less on food and alcohol on average (\$180 compared with \$191) per trip.

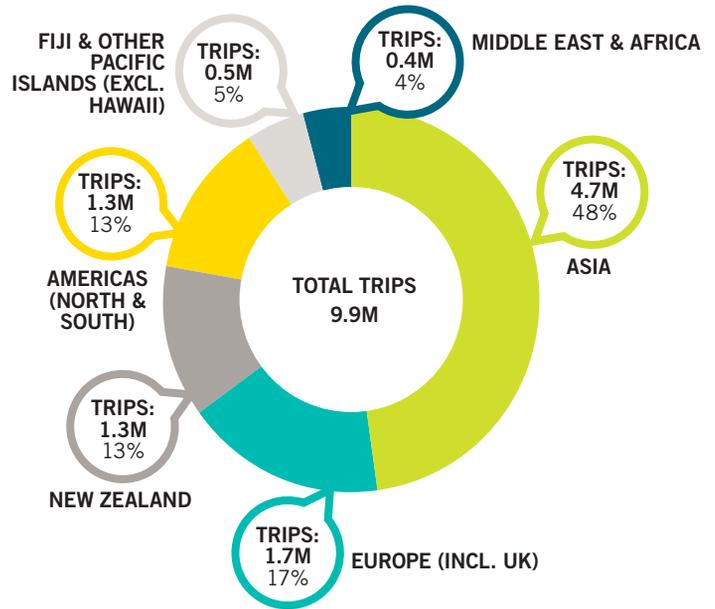
## OUTBOUND TRAVEL

Australians continued to enjoy more international trips in the year ending March 2019. There were 9.9 million trips taken by those aged 15 years and over, an increase of 5% on the previous year. Spend on international travel was up a stronger 9% to reach \$62.3 billion.

With its proximity to Australia, almost half (48%) of all trips were to Asia (Figure 3), up from 42% ten years earlier. The most visited destinations for the year to March 2019 were New Zealand (1.3 million), Indonesia (1.1 million), and the US (973,000).

Meanwhile, Japan has been the fastest growing destination in the last five years, with visitor numbers more than doubling from 184,000 to 416,000. This trend is set to continue with Japan currently staging the Rugby World Cup, and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics on the horizon.

FIGURE 3: INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BY AUSTRALIANS – YE MAR 2019<sup>4</sup>

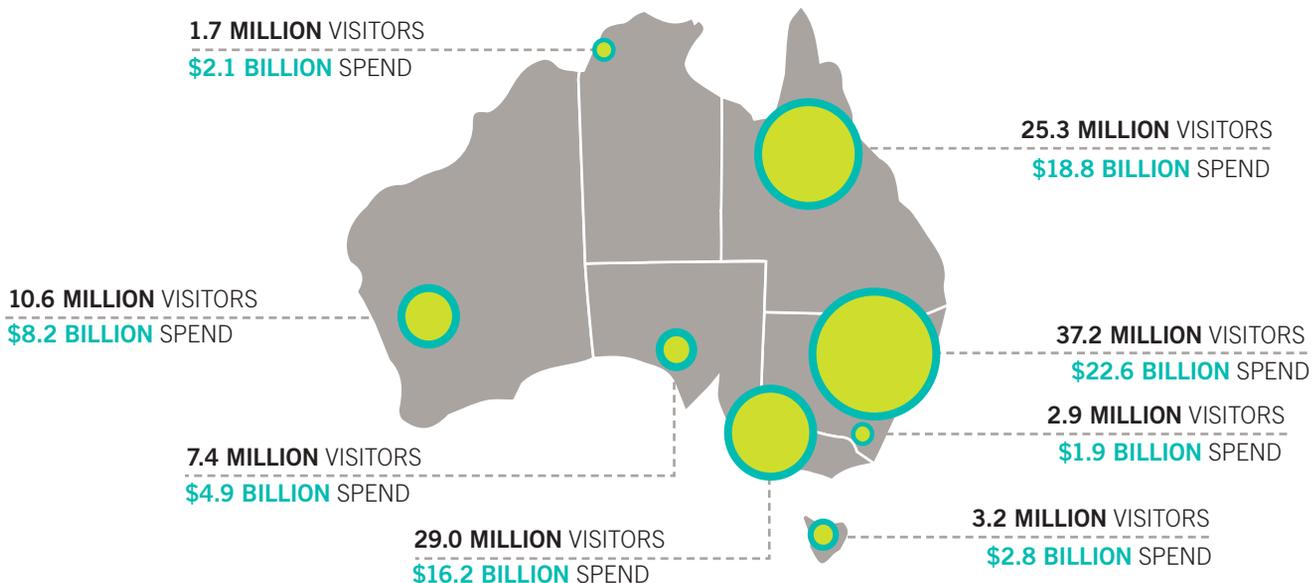


Four of five international trips were taken for the purpose of leisure (81%), while most of the remaining trips were for business (17%). Just 1% of trips were taken for education purposes, which is very small compared to the share of international visitors travelling to Australia for education (7%).

## STATES AND TERRITORIES

All states and territories continued to gain significant economic benefit from the spend of Australian domestic overnight travellers during the year ending June 2019 (Figure 4).

FIGURE 4: OVERNIGHT TRIPS AND REGIONAL SPEND BY STATE, YE JUNE 2019



3. This includes spend on food and alcohol at restaurants and cafes, on takeaway meals and at supermarkets.

4. Estimates released for outbound trips are to year ending March 2019 as outbound trips require a longer respondent recall period (3 months).