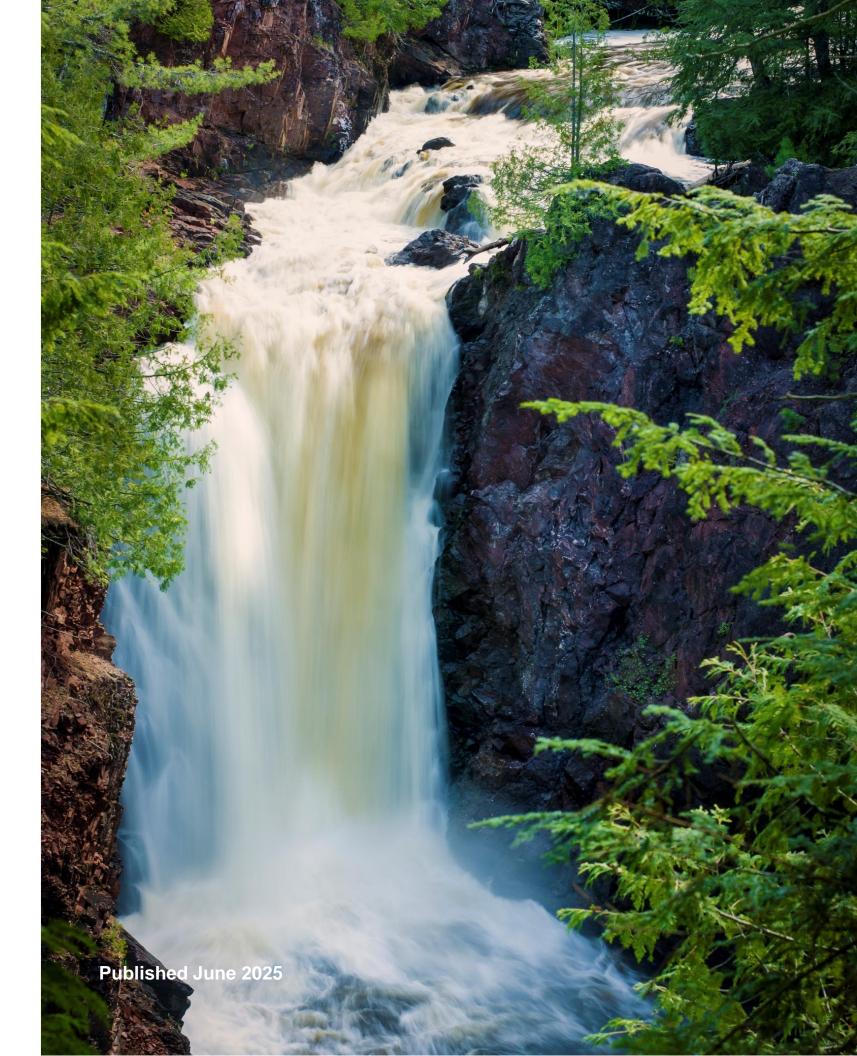
2024

Economic Impact of Visitors to Wisconsin





Introduction

Key Findings

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Visits and Direct Visitor Spending

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Economic Impact

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Introduction

Visitors are integral to Wisconsin's economy, generating significant financial benefits for residents and local businesses. Visitor activity also produces substantial tax revenue which supports government services.

Credible measurements of the visitor economy are designed to inform policy decisions that foster the sector's development.

To quantify the significance of Wisconsin's visitor economy, Tourism Economics developed a comprehensive analysis of direct visitor spending and its total economic impact on businesses, employment, personal income, and taxes. At a high level, our approach includes the following stages:

- · Compilation of visitor statistics
- · Compilation of industry data
- · Compilation of government data
- Analysis of direct visitor spending by category
- Economic impact modeling

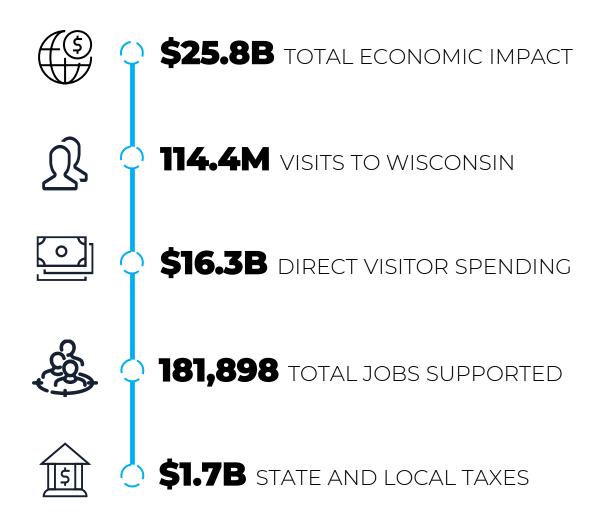


KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

Visitors Generate Significant Economic Impact

In 2024, **114.4** million visits to Wisconsin generated **\$25.8** billion in total **economic impact**, increases of 1.3% and 3.3%, respectively.





Results in Context

The visitor economy is an economic pillar in Wisconsin:





\$16.3B DIRECT VISITOR SPENDING

Visitors spent \$44.5 million per day in Wisconsin, on average.



181,898 JOBS

The visitor economy supported one-in-21 jobs in Wisconsin in 2024.





State and local taxes generated by the visitor economy offset resident taxes by \$678 per household.



Visitor Economy Trends

Key indicators suggest that growth in Wisconsin visitor activity continued to normalize in 2024, as the fading effects of pandemic recovery and the impact of persistently high inflation on consumer behavior contributed to a widespread slowdown in growth.

According to STR, lodging revenue grew 1.6% in 2024, reflecting a pullback after several years of strong post-pandemic growth. Despite this slowdown, lodging revenue remained healthy in 2024, measuring 19% above 2019 levels.

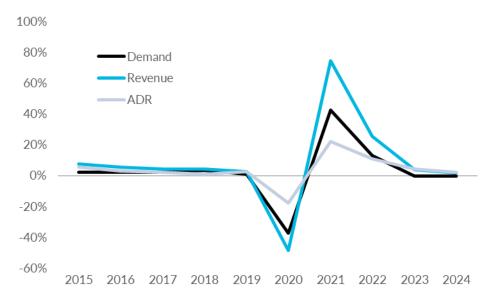
Room demand dipped slightly in 2024 due to a weak start to the year, but a rebound in the second half provided positive momentum heading into 2025. Further, stronger growth in lodging sales tax collections and bed taxes indicates that overnight demand performed better than suggested by the STR data in 2024.

Sales tax collections in key visitor-centric industries reflected continued direct visitor spending gains, albeit at a more moderate pace than in recent years. While restaurant sales tax growth slowed to 1.7% after a double-digit increase in 2023, entertainment and recreation collections rose by a stronger 4.2% year-over-year.



Lodging Performance Indicators

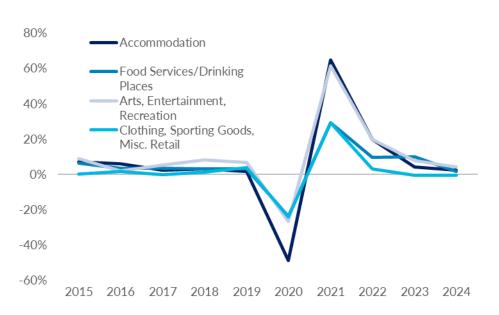
year-over-year percent change



Source: STR

Taxable Sales in Tourism-Related Industries

year-over-year percent change



Source: Wisconsin DOR



VISITS & DIRECT VISITOR SPENDING

Wisconsin welcomed 114.4 million visits that contributed \$16.3 billion in direct visitor spending in 2024.

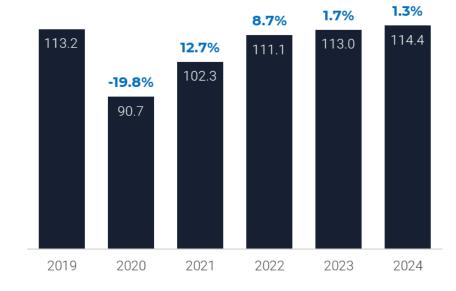


Visits

In 2024, visits to Wisconsin reached a record-breaking 114.4 million, a moderate increase over the prior year (+1.3%). Day and international arrivals supported growth, increasing 2.2% and 6.2%, respectively.

Wisconsin Visits

millions



Source: Tourism Economics, Longwoods International

Direct Visitor Spending

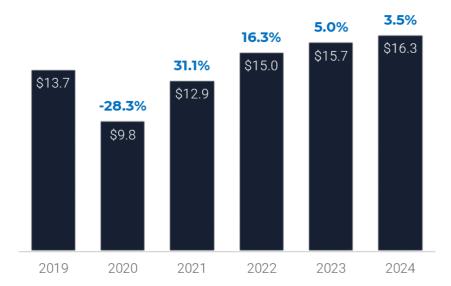
Direct visitor spending increased 3.5% in 2024, reaching \$16.3 billion.

Of the \$16.3 billion spent, lodging contributed \$4.4 billion in sales – representing 27.2% of total direct visitor spending.

Food and beverage purchases accounted for 26.3% of total direct visitor spending, while visitors spent 19.1% of their total budget on retail and nearly 14% on both transportation and recreation.

Wisconsin Direct Visitor Spending

\$ billions





Source: Tourism Economics, Longwoods International

Note: Lodging includes all accommodation types, and transportation includes both ground and air transportation.

Visit and Spending Trends

Direct visitor spending increased 3.5% in 2024, a result of moderating demand coupled with price increases.

Recreation led spending gains in 2024, increasing 4.8% year-over-year, followed by food and beverage and retail, which both grew 3.9% compared to the previous year.

Visits expanded 1.3% in 2024, led by gains in both day visits and international arrivals. Overnight visitor volumes remained flat compared to the previous year.

Wisconsin Direct Visitor Spending

\$ billions

							2024
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Growth
Total direct visitor spending	\$13.7	\$9.8	\$12.9	\$15.0	\$15.7	\$16.3	3.5%
Lodging	\$3.7	\$2.4	\$3.5	\$4.1	\$4.3	\$4.4	2.8%
Food & beverage	\$3.5	\$2.6	\$3.4	\$3.9	\$4.1	\$4.3	3.9%
Retail	\$2.7	\$2.2	\$2.6	\$2.9	\$3.0	\$3.1	3.9%
Transportation	\$1.8	\$1.3	\$1.7	\$2.1	\$2.2	\$2.2	2.2%
Rec/Entertainment	\$1.9	\$1.2	\$1.6	\$2.0	\$2.1	\$2.2	4.8%

Source: Tourism Economics

Note: Lodging includes all accommodation types, and transportation includes both ground and air transportation.

Wisconsin Visits and Direct Spending, By Segment

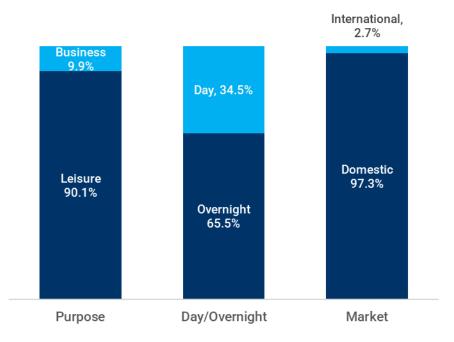
millions of visits, \$ billions, \$ per person

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total visits	113.2	90.7	102.3	111.1	113.0	114.4
Day	70.4	58.5	62.3	65.7	67.1	68.5
Overnight	42.8	32.3	39.9	45.4	45.9	45.9
Total direct visitor spending	\$13.7	\$9.8	\$12.9	\$15.0	\$15.7	\$16.3
Day	\$4.8	\$4.1	\$4.3	\$4.9	\$5.3	\$5.6
Overnight	\$8.8	\$5.7	\$8.5	\$10.0	\$10.4	\$10.7
Per visit direct spending	\$121	\$108	\$126	\$135	\$139	\$142
Day	\$69	\$70	\$70	\$75	\$79	\$82
Overnight	\$206	\$178	\$213	\$221	\$227	\$232

Source: Tourism Economics

Wisconsin Direct Spending Share, By Segment

Share of direct visitor spending



*2024 international spending is considered preliminary

Direct Visitor Spending Seasonality

Direct visitor spending during the key summer months surpassed \$5 billion in 2024, making up nearly one-third of all visitor spending for the year.

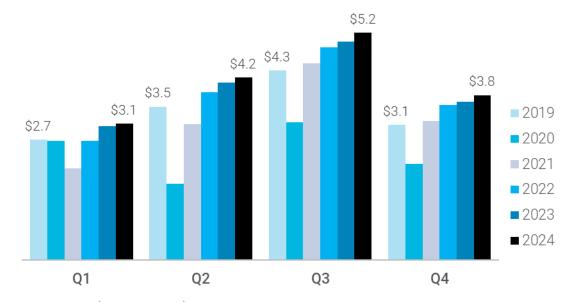
Direct visitor spending increased year-over-year in every quarter, with the latter half of 2024 driving overall growth, as year-over-year gains exceeded 4% in both the third and fourth quarters. Indeed, the combined spending increase of \$364 million over the final six months of the year accounted for two-thirds of the total annual spending gain seen in the state in 2024.

Wisconsin Quarterly Direct Visitor Spending, 2019-2024 \$ billions

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2019	\$2.7	\$3.5	\$4.3	\$3.1
2020	\$2.7	\$1.7	\$3.1	\$2.2
2021	\$2.1	\$3.1	\$4.5	\$3.2
2022	\$2.7	\$3.8	\$4.9	\$3.5
2023	\$3.1	\$4.0	\$5.0	\$3.6
2024	\$3.1	\$4.2	\$5.2	\$3.8
% Change	1.9%	3.1%	4.2%	4.3%

Source: Tourism Economics

Wisconsin Quarterly Direct Visitor Spending, 2019-2024 \$ billions







ECONOMIC IMPACT METHODOLOGY

Economic Impact Methodology

The development of visitor economy impact modeling begins with a comprehensive demand side analysis. Visitor survey data provides estimates on the volume of visitors by type and their spending in specific industries (e.g. lodging, restaurants, retail, recreation and entertainment, transportation). These estimates are strengthened through an analysis of industry-specific data sets on the lodging industry, aviation, and sectoral-level business sales. Government data, including taxes by type, as well as employment and personal income by industry, are used to supplement and confirm demand-side direct visitor spending calculations.

This provides a detailed profile of direct visitor spending by industry, which is then connected to a local input-output (I-O) economic impact model constructed within the IMPLAN platform. This uses government (Bureau of Economic Analysis and Census) data to trace the flow of visitor through the local economy and its effects on businesses, households, and government. The model quantifies three levels of impact:

- Direct impacts: Visitor spending creates direct economic value within a
 defined set of sectors. This supports a proportion of spending, jobs, wages,
 and taxes within each sector.
- 2. Indirect impacts: Businesses providing direct services to visitors purchase goods and services, generating additional impacts called indirect impacts or supply-chain effects.
- 3. Induced impacts: Additional business activity is generated as employees spend incomes locally that are earned due to visitor activity. This is called the induced impact or income effect.

The model calculates these three levels of impact—direct, indirect and induced—for the following metrics:

- Spending
- Wages
- Employment

- Federal Taxes
- State Taxes
- Local Taxes

Economic Impact Model





ECONOMIC IMPACT

Business Sales Impacts

Visitors spent \$16.3 billion in Wisconsin in 2024. These direct impacts generated an additional \$9.6 billion through supply chain (indirect) and income (induced) effects.

As a result, the total economic impact of visitors reached \$25.8 billion in 2024, 3.3% ahead of the prior year.





Direct Visitor Spending

(Direct Sales)



\$4.8B











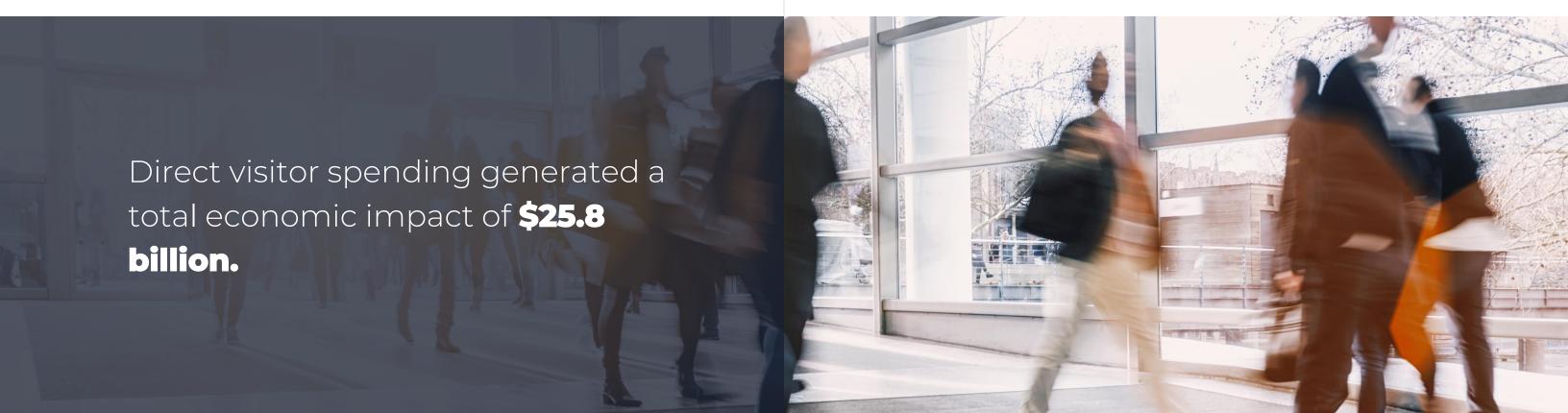
\$25.8B

Total Economic Impact

Business Sales by Industry (2024)

\$ millions

	Direct Business Sales	Indirect Business Sales	Induced Business Sales	Total Business Sales
Total, all industries	\$16,252	\$4,789	\$4,777	\$25,819
Retail Trade	\$4,351	\$78	\$356	\$4,785
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	\$1,210	\$1,111	\$1,489	\$3,811
Food & Beverage	\$3,040	\$269	\$330	\$3,639
Lodging	\$3,492	\$1	\$1	\$3,494
Recreation and Entertainment	\$1,988	\$96	\$63	\$2,147
Business Services	\$66	\$1,327	\$410	\$1,804
Gasoline Stations	\$1,067	\$4	\$32	\$1,103
Education and Health Care		\$12	\$912	\$924
Other Transport	\$295	\$294	\$125	\$714
Air Transport	\$587	\$7	\$10	\$604
Construction and Utilities		\$417	\$140	\$558
Personal Services	\$155	\$146	\$250	\$551
Manufacturing		\$347	\$169	\$516
Communications		\$303	\$181	\$484
Wholesale Trade		\$220	\$216	\$436
Government		\$128	\$67	\$196
Agriculture, Fishing, Mining		\$29	\$24	\$53



GDP (Value Added Impacts)

Wisconsin's visitor economy GDP increased to \$12.2 billion in 2024. This represented 2.7% of Wisconsin's entire economy.

GDP removes the value of all imported (from other states and internationally) goods and services.





Direct GDP



\$2.4B

Indirect GDP



\$2.6B

Induced GDP



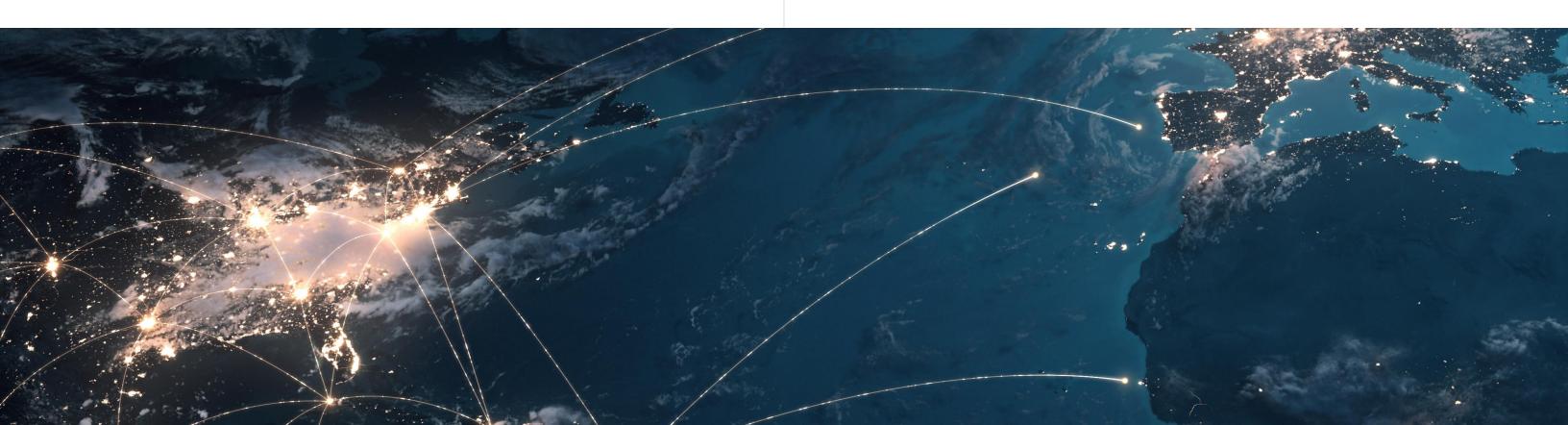
\$12.2B

Total GDP

GDP by Industry (2024)

\$ millions

	Direct GDP	Indirect GDP	Induced GDP	Total GDP
Total, all industries	\$ 7,123	\$ 2,386	\$ 2,648	\$ 12,156
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate Food & Beverage	\$ 837 \$ 1,765	\$ 518 \$ 143	\$ 831 \$ 183	\$ 2,185 \$ 2,091
Lodging Recreation and Entertainment	\$ 2,071 \$ 1,164	\$ 0 \$ 58	\$ 1	\$ 2,072 \$ 1,258
Business Services Retail Trade	\$ 27 \$ 636	\$ 754 \$ 53	\$ 234 \$ 224	\$ 1,015 \$ 914
Education and Health Care Other Transport	\$ 180	\$ 6 \$ 143	\$ 544 \$ 63	\$ 550 \$ 386
Personal Services Air Transport	\$ 109 \$ 253	\$ 96 \$ 3 \$ 128	\$ 153 \$ 4 \$ 121	\$ 358 \$ 260 \$ 249
Wholesale Trade Communications		\$ 130	\$ 97	\$ 227
Construction and Utilities Manufacturing		\$ 165 \$ 96	\$ 56 \$ 40	\$ 222 \$ 136
Government Gasoline Stations	\$ 82	\$ 77 \$ 2	\$ 32 \$ 16	\$ 108 \$ 100
Agriculture, Fishing, Mining		\$ 13	\$ 12	\$ 25



Employment Impacts

Visitor activity sustained 129,026 direct jobs in 2024, with an additional 52,872 jobs supported from the indirect and induced impacts of visitor activity. Total employment impacts tallied 181,898 in 2024, a 2.2% increase over the previous year. This translates to one-in-21 jobs in the state.





Direct Jobs



25.2K

Indirect Jobs



27.7K

Induced Jobs



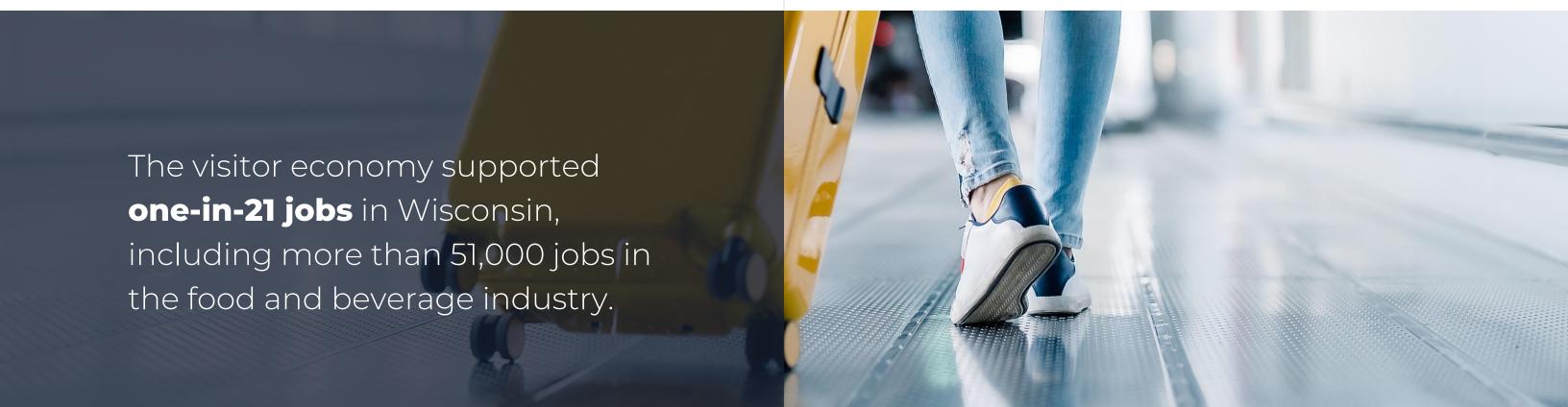
181.9K

Total Jobs

Employment by Industry (2024)

jobs

	Direct Jobs	Indirect Jobs	Induced Jobs	Total Jobs
Total, all industries	129,026	25,151	27,721	181,898
Food & Beverage	43,659	3,378	4,286	51,323
Lodging	33,952	17	20	33,989
Recreation and Entertainment	25,124	1,273	869	27,267
Retail Trade	14,280	591	3,607	18,478
Business Services	475	8,143	2,575	11,193
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1,809	4,044	3,213	9,066
Personal Services	3,606	1,406	2,581	7,593
Education and Health Care		129	7,076	7,205
Other Transport	3,059	2,034	893	5,986
Gasoline Stations	1,531	30	257	1,817
Air Transport	1,530	15	21	1,567
Wholesale Trade		682	748	1,430
Manufacturing		930	410	1,340
Construction and Utilities		827	295	1,122
Communications		712	395	1,107
Government		691	268	959
Agriculture, Fishing, Mining		248	207	456



Direct Employment

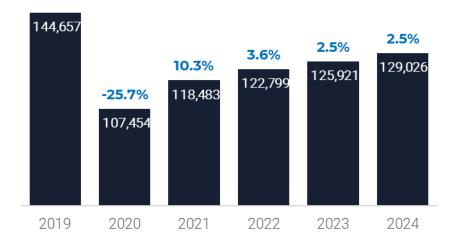
Employment directly supported by visitor activity increased 2.5% in 2024, reaching 129,026 jobs.

Visitor-supported employment is a significant part of several industries in Wisconsin—nearly all lodging employment, 30% of recreation employment, and 19% of food and beverage jobs are supported by visitor spending.

Overall, direct tourism jobs accounted for about 4.2% of all jobs in Wisconsin in 2024.

Visitor-Supported Employment in Wisconsin

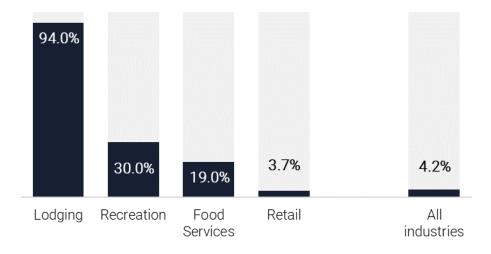
jobs



Source: Tourism Economics

Tourism Employment Intensity

share of total industry employment





Personal Income Impacts

Visitor activity generated \$4.0 billion in direct personal income in 2024. Including indirect and induced impacts, employees received \$7.0 billion in personal income. Total visitor-generated income in Wisconsin increased 2.9% in 2024.



\$4.0B +

Direct Personal Income



\$1.5B

Indirect Personal Income



+ \$1.5B

Induced Personal Income



\$7.0B

Total Personal Income

Note: In previous reports, 'Personal Income' was referred to as 'Labor Income.' This change was made to align with the naming convention used by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Personal Income by Industry (2024)

\$ millions

	Direct Personal Income	Indirect Personal Income	Induced Personal Income	Total Personal Income
Total, all industries	\$4,045	\$1,477	\$1,493	\$7,016
Food & Beverage	\$1,103	\$104	\$120	\$1,327
Lodging	\$1,308	\$0	\$1	\$1,309
Business Services	\$25	\$591	\$185	\$801
Recreation and Entertainment	\$655	\$31	\$22	\$708
Retail Trade	\$429	\$25	\$131	\$584
Education and Health Care		\$5	\$493	\$499
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	\$64	\$198	\$178	\$439
Other Transport	\$169	\$117	\$47	\$332
Personal Services	\$131	\$81	\$118	\$331
Wholesale Trade		\$65	\$66	\$132
Air Transport	\$116	\$1	\$2	\$119
Communications		\$61	\$42	\$103
Construction and Utilities		\$70	\$26	\$96
Manufacturing		\$61	\$26	\$87
Government		\$59	\$22	\$82
Gasoline Stations	\$44	\$1	\$8	\$54
Agriculture, Fishing, Mining		\$6	\$6	\$12



Tax Impacts

Visitor activity generated \$3.1 billion in government revenues in 2024.

State and local taxes alone measured nearly \$1.7 billion in 2024.

Each household in Wisconsin would need to be taxed an additional \$678 to replace the visitor-generated taxes received by destination state and local governments in 2024.

Tax Impacts (2024)

\$ millions

							2024
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Growth
Total Tax Revenues	\$2,905.8	\$2,232.0	\$2,601.2	\$2,853.8	\$3,004.0	\$3,090.8	2.9%
Federal Taxes	\$1,288.9	\$1,064.3	\$1,212.9	\$1,335.9	\$1,398.2	\$1,433.0	2.5%
Personal Income	\$295.2	\$271.1	\$330.1	\$382.3	\$446.8	\$455.6	2.0%
Corporate	\$120.2	\$88.9	\$100.0	\$113.6	\$126.1	\$131.0	3.8%
Indirect Business	\$154.0	\$108.4	\$115.5	\$124.9	\$113.0	\$116.0	2.7%
Social Insurance	\$719.5	\$595.9	\$667.3	\$715.0	\$712.4	\$730.4	2.5%
State and Local Taxes	\$ \$1,616.9	\$1,167.7	\$1,388.2	\$1,518.0	\$1,605.8	\$1,657.8	3.2%
Sales	\$594.6	\$420.6	\$475.9	\$527.8	\$548.8	\$566.2	3.2%
Bed Tax	\$120.8	\$70.5	\$118.6	\$150.7	\$159.7	\$164.9	3.2%
Personal Income	\$141.5	\$114.6	\$147.8	\$160.8	\$165.1	\$169.2	2.5%
Corporate	\$168.9	\$79.9	\$82.0	\$88.8	\$93.3	\$95.7	2.6%
Social Insurance	\$13.3	\$8.7	\$7.5	\$7.6	\$7.3	\$7.4	2.0%
Excise and Fees	\$144.5	\$56.3	\$63.2	\$69.3	\$73.2	\$75.2	2.8%
Property	\$433.3	\$417.1	\$493.4	\$513.0	\$558.4	\$579.2	3.7%

Source: Tourism Economics



Tax Impacts (2024)

\$ millions

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 Growth
State & Local Revenues	\$1,616.9	\$1,167.7	\$1,388.2	\$1,518.0	\$1,605.8	\$1,657.8	3.2%
State Taxes	\$900.2	\$602.5	\$688.8	\$757.9	\$786.6	\$809.6	2.9%
Sales	\$549.6	\$388.8	\$439.9	\$487.8	\$507.3	\$523.3	3.2%
Personal Income	\$141.5	\$114.6	\$147.8	\$160.8	\$165.1	\$169.2	2.5%
Corporate	\$168.9	\$79.9	\$82.0	\$88.8	\$93.3	\$95.7	2.6%
Social Insurance	\$13.3	\$8.7	\$7.5	\$7.6	\$7.3	\$7.4	2.0%
Excise and Fees	\$27.0	\$10.5	\$11.8	\$12.9	\$13.6	\$14.0	2.8%
Local Taxes	\$716.7	\$565.2	\$699.4	\$760.0	\$819.2	\$848.2	3.5%
Sales	\$45.0	\$31.9	\$36.0	\$40.0	\$41.6	\$42.9	3.2%
Bed Tax	\$120.8	\$70.5	\$118.6	\$150.7	\$159.7	\$164.9	3.2%
Excise and Fees	\$117.6	\$45.8	\$51.4	\$56.4	\$59.5	\$61.2	2.8%
Property	\$433.3	\$417.1	\$493.4	\$513.0	\$558.4	\$579.2	3.7%



APPENDIX

Appendix

Methodology Overview

Measuring the visitor economy begins with a comprehensive demand side analysis. A visit is defined as any journey involving travel of more than 50 miles from home. The measure used for visitor counts is a 'person trip' - one trip taken by one visitor. The study area is defined as the state of Wisconsin.

Visitor survey data provide estimates on the volume of visitors by type and their spending in specific categories (e.g. lodging, restaurants, retail, recreation and entertainment, transportation). These estimates are strengthened through an analysis of industry-specific data sets on the lodging industry, aviation, and sectoral-level business sales. Government data, including taxes by type as well as employment and personal income by industry are used to supplement and confirm demand-side visitor spending calculations.

The primary source of the employment and wage data is the Regional Economic Information System (REIS), maintained by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). This is more comprehensive than Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS QCEW) data because sole-proprietors do not require unemployment insurance and are not counted in the QCEW data.

The complete set of data inputs is provided below.

Data Sources

- Longwoods International: Consumer survey data, including spending and visitor profile characteristics
- STR: Hotel performance data, including room demand and revenue
- Wisconsin Department of Revenue: Lodging and sales tax receipts, by industry
- **BEA/BLS**: Employment and wage data, by industry
- US Census: Business sales and employment by industry, and seasonal second homes inventory
- Tourism Economics: International arrivals data for visitors to Wisconsin

Methodology Note

We acknowledge the critical role Wisconsin's Tribes play in enriching Wisconsin's tourism offering and bringing in travelers to Wisconsin. The survey data used in this analysis encompasses all visits to Wisconsin. However, because Tribal tourism data is private, this analysis is unable to confirm the precise magnitude of these activities. As a result, the total economic impact of Tribal tourism may not be wholly reflected in this report.

Glossary

	LODGING	All accommodation businesses, including hotels, B&Bs, campgrounds, and short-term rentals. This includes food, entertainment, and other services provided by these establishments.
SNS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	Includes all visitor spending on food & beverages, including at restaurants, bars, grocery stores and other food providers.
OEIN	RECREATION	Includes visitors spending within the arts, entertainment and recreation sector.
SPENDING DEFINITIONS	RETAIL	Includes visitor spending in all retail sub-sectors within the local economy, excluding grocery stores.
NDIN	LOCAL TRANSPORT	Ride share, taxis, limos, trains, rental cars, buses, and gasoline purchases.
SPE	AIR TRANSPORT	Where applicable, the local share of air transportation spending.
	SECOND HOMES	Where applicable, spending associated with seasonal second homes for recreational use as defined by the Census Bureau.
NS	DIRECT IMPACT	Impacts (business sales, jobs, income, and taxes) related to businesses where visitors spend dollars (e.g. recreation, transportation, lodging).
	INDIRECT IMPACT	Impacts created from the purchase of goods and services as inputs (e.g. food wholesalers, utilities, business services) into production by the directly affected sectors (i.e. business-to-business purchases).
DEFINITIONS	INDUCED IMPACT	Impacts created from spending in the local economy by employees whose wages are generated either directly or indirectly by visitor activity.
_	EMPLOYMENT	Employment is measured by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) definition, and captures full-time and part-time jobs, which includes salary and wage employees and proprietors.
ECONOMIC IMPACT	PERSONAL INCOME	Income (wages, salaries, proprietor income and benefits) supported by visitor spending.
NONC	VALUE ADDED (GDP)	Business sales net of intermediate (supply chain) purchases.
ECO	LOCAL TAXES	City and County taxes generated by visitor spending. Includes any local sales, income, bed, usage fees, licenses and other revenue streams to local governmental authorities.
	STATE TAXES	State tax revenues generated by visitor spending. Includes sales, income, corporate, usage fees and other assessments of state governments.

About the Research Team

This study was conducted by the Tourism Economics group within Oxford Economics. Tourism Economics combines an understanding of traveler dynamics with rigorous economics to answer the most important questions facing destinations, investors, and strategic planners. By combining quantitative methods with industry knowledge, Tourism Economics designs custom market strategies, destination recovery plans, forecasting models, policy analysis, and economic impact studies.

Oxford Economics was founded in 1981 as a commercial venture with Oxford University's business college to provide economic forecasting and modeling to UK companies and financial institutions expanding abroad. Since then, we have become one of the world's foremost independent global advisory firms, providing reports, forecasts and analytical tools on 200 countries, 100 industrial sectors and over 3,000 cities. Our best-of-class global economic and industry models and analytical tools give us an unparalleled ability to forecast external market trends and assess their economic, social and business impact.

Oxford Economics is an adviser to corporate, financial and government decision-makers and thought leaders. Our worldwide client base comprises over 2,000 international organizations, including leading multinational companies and financial institutions; key government bodies and trade associations; and top universities, consultancies, and think tanks.

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