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## Tourist Spending Exceeds \$18 Billion

Tourism expenditure in New Zealand reached \$18.6 billion for the year ended March 2006, according to the *Tourism Satellite Account: 2006* published today by Statistics New Zealand.

Total tourism expenditure, consisting of spending by international and domestic (household, business and government) tourists, increased 3.2 percent (\$573 million) from the previous March year.

Other key results from the *Tourism Satellite Account: 2006* include:

- International tourism expenditure increased to \$8.3 billion, or 19.2 percent of New Zealand's exports, compared with 18.9 percent for the previous year.
- Domestic tourism expenditure surpassed \$10.3 billion for the first time.
- Tourism directly contributed \$6.9 billion (or 4.8 percent) to gross domestic product for the year ended March 2006.
- The indirect value-added of industries supporting tourism (that is, where there is no direct relationship between the producer and the tourist) contributed an additional \$5.9 billion to tourism.
- The tourism industry directly employed 108,600 full-time equivalent employees (or 5.9 percent of total employment in New Zealand), an increase of 3.6 percent from the previous year.
- Tourists generated \$1.3 billion in goods and services tax (GST) revenue.

*The Tourism Satellite Account: 2006* is available on the Statistics New Zealand website ([www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz)) or via the Statistics New Zealand Information Centre.

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