

# Domestic Tourism Snapshot

Year ending March 2022



## Domestic overnight visitors within Australia

	Visitors	Annual <sup>1</sup> Change vs YE	Dec 2019	Avg <sup>2</sup> stay	Annual # change
<b>Total Australia<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>82,085,000<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>-30.1%</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Holiday	36,974,000	18.0%	-20.0%	4.0	0.2
VFR <sup>4</sup>	26,962,000	8.7%	-32.5%	3.4	0.0
Business	14,655,000	9.6%	-45.8%	4.1	-0.2
<b>Intrastate<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>65,554,000<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>-19.4%</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Holiday	30,605,000	9.5%	-10.0%	3.4	-0.1
VFR <sup>4</sup>	20,656,000	1.7%	-27.3%	2.6	-0.1
Business	10,892,000	1.0%	-26.1%	3.9	-0.1
<b>Interstate<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>17,901,000<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>54.3%</b>	<b>-53.3%</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Holiday	6,967,000	86.4%	-47.3%	6.2	0.6
VFR <sup>4</sup>	6,531,000	40.3%	-45.3%	5.7	-0.5
Business	4,004,000	44.0%	-68.1%	4.6	-0.8

## Domestic overnight visitor expenditure in Australia

	Expenditure	Annual <sup>1</sup> Change vs YE	Dec 2019
<b>Total Australia<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>\$63,324.1m</b>	<b>38.7%</b>	<b>-21.5%</b>
Holiday <sup>6</sup>	\$33,702.5m	41.2%	0.5%
VFR <sup>6</sup>	\$9,872.1m	33.7%	-21.6%
Business <sup>6</sup>	\$8,221.4m	20.4%	-46.2%



BAMAGA, TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND

### Australians releasing pent up demand to travel

While the year ending March 2022 includes three quarters with various COVID-19 related travel restrictions, most of these had been removed for the last three months. A total of 82.1 million domestic overnight trips were taken in Australia in the year ending March 2022, which is down 30.1 per cent compared to the pre-COVID-19 benchmark of the year ending December 2019. Overnight visitor expenditure (OVE) was \$63.3 billion, which is 21.5 per cent lower than the year ending December 2019.

National holiday OVE has returned to pre-COVID-19 levels (up 0.5 per cent) at 33.7 billion with Australians continuing to holiday at home when they have been able to. However other travel purposes are still softer; Visiting friends and relatives (VFR) expenditure was down 21.6 per cent to \$9.9 billion and Business OVE was 46.2 per cent lower. Even as holiday OVE has returned to pre-COVID-19 levels this has been due to greater spend per night, with holiday visitation remaining below the pre-COVID-19 period (20.0 per cent lower than 2019 at 37.0 million visitors). VFR visitation was 32.5 per cent lower than 2019 at 27.0 million and business visitation was 45.8 per cent lower than 2019 at 14.7 million.

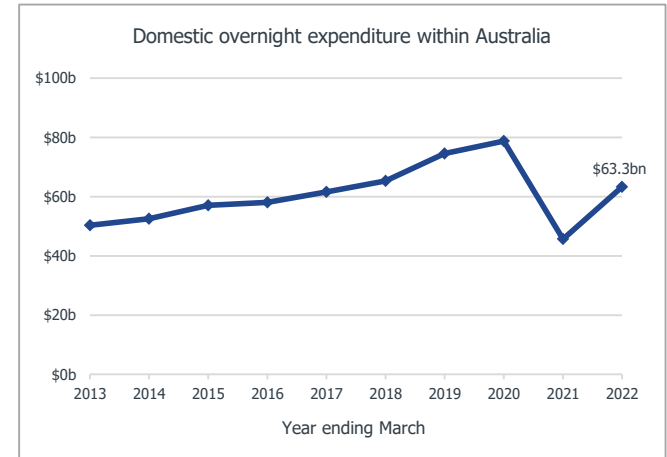
Due to travel restrictions that were in place for the first three quarters, intrastate visitation and OVE continued to outperform interstate nationally. Intrastate visitation decreased 19.4 per cent compared to 2019 to 65.6 million and intrastate OVE was only down 2.5 per cent to \$42.2 billion compared to 2019. On the other hand, interstate travel in Australia more than halved (down 53.3 per cent to 17.9 million visitors compared to 2019 and OVE decreased 43.5 per cent to \$21.1 billion). Intrastate spend has been boosted by a 0.4 night increase in the intrastate average length of stay to 3.3 nights and a 7.8 per cent increase in the intrastate average spend per night since 2019 to \$197 per night. Intrastate holiday OVE has been particularly strong, increasing 27.1 per cent compared to 2019 to \$23.2 billion, while both intrastate VFR (down 8.7 per cent to \$6.0 billion) and intrastate business OVE (down 24.9 per cent to \$4.9 billion) decreased.

### A quarter of unrestricted travel

The March quarter 2022 represents the first quarter without any lockdowns and only Western Australia's border restrictions remaining in place (these restrictions ended on 3 March 2022). As a result, total domestic OVE in Australia was 3.3 per cent higher than the March quarter 2019, although visitation was 16.5 per cent lower at 24.6 million. Intrastate OVE was up 15.5 per cent compared to 2019 as the two largest states could once again travel within their states after lockdowns in previous quarters and consumers felt more comfortable travelling within their own state. Interstate OVE was 12.8 per cent lower than March 2019. With restrictions eased people were looking to go on holiday (holiday OVE was up 26.6 per cent to \$11.5 billion) or visit friends and relatives (VFR OVE up 6.8 per cent to \$3.4 billion) but business travel is still slower to recover (business OVE was down 35.1 per cent to \$2.0 billion).

## March quarter 2022 overnight visitors in Australia

	Visitors Mar QTR 2022	Visitors Mar QTR 2019	Change vs Mar QTR 2019
<b>Total Australia</b>	<b>24,623,000</b>	<b>29,483,000</b>	<b>-16.5%</b>
Holiday	12,141,000	12,847,000	-5.5%
VFR <sup>4</sup>	8,084,000	9,846,000	-17.9%
Business	3,654,000	5,818,000	-37.2%



SOUTH BRISBANE, BRISBANE

# Domestic Tourism Snapshot

Year ending March 2022



## Domestic overnight visitors in Queensland

	Visitors	Annual change	Change vs YE Dec 2019	Avg stay	Annual # change
<b>Total Queensland</b>	<b>20,769,000</b>	<b>21.6%</b>	<b>-19.9%</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Holiday	9,062,000	32.3%	-9.5%	4.5	0.5
VFR	6,685,000	14.3%	-25.3%	3.5	0.0
Business	4,005,000	15.2%	-34.6%	4.0	-0.4

<b>Intrastate</b>	<b>16,624,000</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>-6.5%</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Holiday	7,099,000	17.5%	6.6%	3.7	0.0
VFR	5,386,000	9.3%	-16.5%	2.7	-0.1
Business	3,185,000	7.1%	-19.0%	4.0	-0.1

<b>Interstate</b>	<b>4,145,000</b>	<b>79.5%</b>	<b>-49.0%</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Holiday	1,963,000	143.9%	-41.4%	7.8	0.3
VFR	1,298,000	40.9%	-47.9%	6.8	-0.2
Business	820,000	63.3%	-62.6%	3.8	-1.6

## Domestic overnight visitor expenditure in Queensland

	Expenditure	Annual change	Change vs YE Dec 2019
<b>Total Queensland</b> <sup>5</sup>	<b>\$17,859.3m</b>	<b>47.9%</b>	<b>-8.1%</b>
Holiday <sup>6</sup>	\$9,989.1m	61.1%	13.3%
VFR <sup>6</sup>	\$2,546.6m	40.4%	-11.8%
Business <sup>6</sup>	\$2,038.1m	16.0%	-38.1%



## Queensland holiday records continue

The year ending March 2022 (i.e. 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022) includes a full March quarter where Queensland's borders were open to all interstate travellers after borders were reopened to Victoria and New South Wales on 13 December 2022. For most of the September and December quarter 2021 border were closed to Queensland's largest market (Victoria and New South Wales) and some Queensland regions experienced lockdowns.

Queensland's domestic OVE was down 8.1 per cent to \$17.9 billion compared to the year ending December 2019 on the back of visitation decreasing by 19.9 per cent to 20.8 million. Despite the decline at the overall level, domestic holiday OVE reached a record \$10.0 billion (up by 13.3 per cent compared to 2019), a record for the third consecutive quarter. The record levels of holiday OVE were largely due to intrastate holiday visitors with intrastate holiday OVE up 51.1 per cent compared to 2019. On the other hand, total domestic VFR OVE was down 11.8 per cent to \$2.5 billion and business OVE was down 38.1 per cent to \$2.0 billion compared with 2019 levels. The increase in expenditure has predominately been led by an increase in spend on accommodation fuelled by a strong increase in average daily rates (Source: STR).

Intrastate expenditure reached another record over the year, up 12.0% to \$11.4 billion compared to 2019. This occurred despite Queensland's total intrastate visitation decreasing 6.5 per cent compared to the pre COVID-19 benchmark of 2019 because intrastate spend per night increased 15.1% to \$202.

## Interstate visitors march into Queensland in the March quarter

Queensland outperformed the national average and all other states for both OVE (up 19.2 per cent) growth and visitation (down 9.6 per cent) in the March quarter compared to 2019 which was largely due to a strong recovery in interstate market. Interstate expenditure was up by 26.3 per cent compared to 2019 and interstate visitation was only a little below 2019 levels (down 1.5%). In comparison intrastate OVE was up by 13.6 per cent and intrastate visitation was down by 12.8 per cent.

Holiday makers continued to lead the way. OVE in the March quarter was 45.2 per cent or \$896 million higher than in March 2019. This growth was split evenly among intrastate and interstate holiday visitors. VFR OVE also grew (up 35.1 per cent) largely driven by interstate visitors making use of the easing of border restrictions to visit friends and family in Queensland. Business OVE, on the other hand, remains down compared to 2019 (down 33.1 per cent).

## Two-speed recovery in the midst of some emerging leakage

The two/three speed recovery persists. Tropical North Queensland (up 18.8 per cent vs 2019), Whitsundays (up 22.9 per cent over the three-year trend) and Sunshine Coast (up 5.7 per cent vs 2019) reached record levels of OVE, while OVE also grew in Southern Queensland Country (up 10.7 per cent vs 2019) and Southern Great Barrier Reef (up 5.1 per cent vs 2019). On the other end of the spectrum OVE in Brisbane was down by 36.8 per cent.

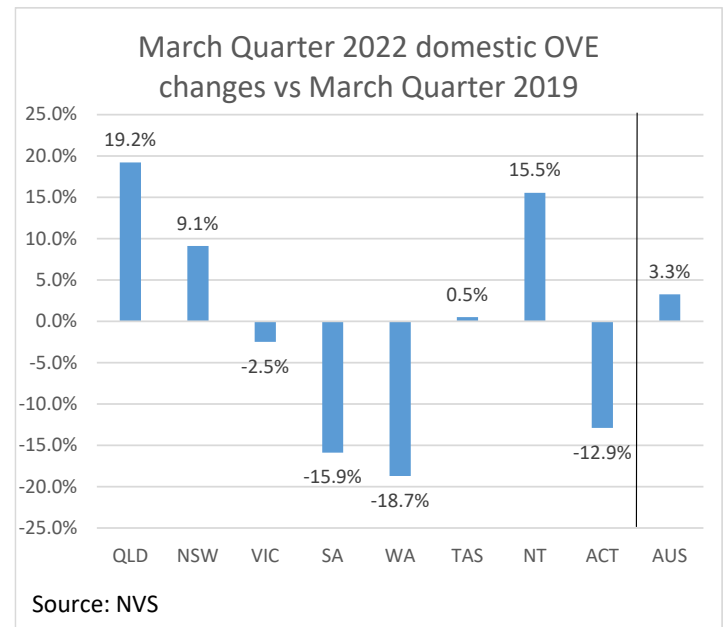
If we look specifically at the March quarter we see evidence that leakage is beginning to occur with large decreases (both year on year and vs. 2019) in intrastate visitation in regions such as Gold Coast, SGBR and Brisbane. In comparison regions that have continued to perform well have experienced a large increase in the number of nights from interstate visitors over the period such as the Sunshine Coast and Tropical North Queensland.

## March quarter 2022 overnight visitors in Queensland

	Visitors Mar QTR 2022	Visitors Mar QTR 2019	Change vs Mar QTR 2019
<b>Total Queensland</b>	<b>5,432,000</b>	<b>6,007,000</b>	<b>-9.6%</b>
Holiday	2,407,000	2,335,000	3.1%
VFR <sup>4</sup>	1,863,000	2,056,000	-9.4%
Business	940,000	1,399,000	-32.8%
<b>Overnight Visitor Expenditure</b>	<b>\$5,253.0m</b>	<b>\$4,407.0m</b>	<b>19.2%</b>

## March quarter 2022 Queensland Interstate vs Intrastate

	Visitors Mar QTR 2022	Visitors Mar QTR 2019	Change vs Mar QTR 2019
<b>Visitation</b>			
Interstate	1,708,000	1,734,000	-1.5%
Intrastate	3,724,000	4,273,000	-12.8%
<b>Overnight Visitor Expenditure</b>			
Interstate	\$2,443.0m	\$1,933.7m	26.3%
Intrastate	\$2,810.0m	\$2,473.3m	13.6%







# Domestic Tourism Snapshot

Year ending March 2022



## State expenditure comparison

	Expenditure	Annual change	Change vs YE Dec 2019	Share of expenditure	Spend per visitor
<b>Total Australia</b>	<b>\$63,324.1m</b>	<b>38.7%</b>	<b>-21.5%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$771</b>
Queensland	\$17,859.3m	47.9%	-8.1%	28.2%	\$860
New South Wales	\$16,730.7m	14.6%	-29.3%	26.4%	\$687
Victoria	\$10,629.6m	64.0%	-37.4%	16.8%	\$585
Other States	\$18,104.5m	44.9%	-12.1%	28.6%	\$866

## State visitation comparison

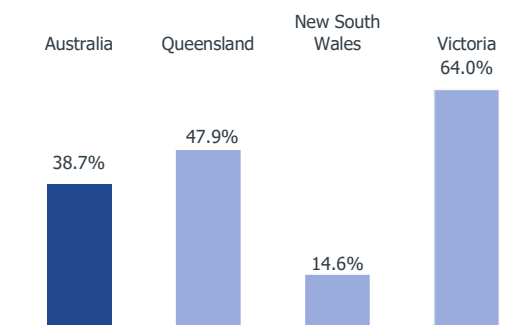
	Visitors	Annual Change	Change vs YE Dec 2019	Avg stay	Annual # change
<b>Total Australia</b>	<b>82,085,000</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>-30.1%</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Queensland	20,769,000	21.6%	-19.9%	4.1	0.1
New South Wales	24,353,000	-2.3%	-37.5%	3.5	0.0
Victoria	18,157,000	36.0%	-39.0%	3.1	-0.4
Other States	20,896,000	10.5%	-22.0%	4.4	0.2

<b>Total holiday</b>	<b>36,974,000</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>-20.0%</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Queensland	9,062,000	32.3%	-9.5%	4.5	0.5
New South Wales	10,428,000	0.1%	-29.5%	3.7	0.1
Victoria	8,571,000	42.9%	-31.2%	3.2	-0.3
Other States	9,730,000	14.2%	-7.9%	4.2	0.4

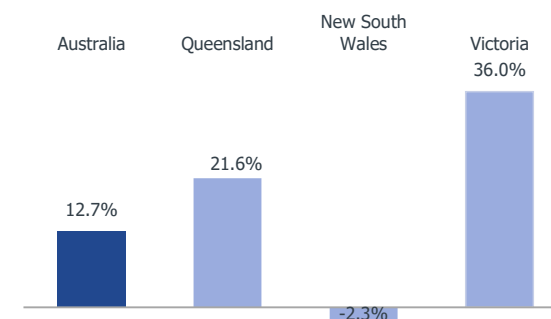
<b>Total VFR</b>	<b>26,962,000</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>-32.5%</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Queensland	6,685,000	14.3%	-25.3%	3.5	0.0
New South Wales	8,656,000	-4.1%	-38.4%	3.3	0.2
Victoria	6,445,000	34.0%	-37.3%	2.9	-0.3
Other States	5,557,000	3.8%	-24.3%	3.6	0.0

<b>Total Business</b>	<b>14,655,000</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>-45.8%</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Queensland	4,005,000	15.2%	-34.6%	4.0	-0.4
New South Wales	4,113,000	-2.6%	-50.7%	3.2	-0.1
Victoria	2,310,000	25.7%	-60.3%	2.9	-0.2
Other States	4,624,000	9.9%	-38.6%	5.3	-0.1

## Annual change in visitor expenditure by state Year ending March 2022



## Annual change in visitation by state, Year ending March 2022



### Data Source:

The information included in this report refers to overnight visitor data extracted from the National Visitor Survey (NVS), managed by Tourism Research Australia (TRA) a federally-funded body based in Canberra. Approximately 120,000 Australian residents aged 15+ are surveyed annually using a telephone interview. The statistics included in this report depict rolling annual data and are updated each quarter. The use of rolling annual data removes seasonality from the data allowing the measurement of real growth and decline.

For this publication, data has been adjusted to conform to Tourism and Events Queensland's (TEQ) tourism region definitions.

In 2019, TRA transitioned to 100 per cent mobile phone interviewing, after previously doing 50 per cent of the sample from landlines. 97 per cent of the Australian population aged 15 years or more own a mobile phone. This change will improve the accuracy of national, state and territory estimates.

Please visit [tra.gov.au](http://tra.gov.au) for more information on the methodology, back-casting process and impact on results.

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### Notes:

1. Annual change refers to the percentage change between the year covered by this snapshot compared to the year prior.
2. Avg stay = Average length of stay.
3. Total includes visitors classified as 'Other' purpose. Total Australia includes visitors classified as 'Other/transit' i.e. not allocated to a state/territory.
4. VFR = Visiting friends or relatives.
5. Expenditure including airfares and long distance transport costs.
6. Expenditure excluding airfares and long distance transport costs.
7. SQC = Southern Queensland Country. Region is inclusive of the Toowoomba, South Burnett, Southern Downs and Western Downs regions.
8. SGBR = Southern Great Barrier Reef. Region is inclusive of Capricorn, Gladstone and Bundaberg.
9. TNQ = Tropical North Queensland.
10. Trend change refers to the percentage change between the three years to this year ended, compared to the three years to the prior year ending.

n/p = Not publishable

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