

NPS Visitor Spending Effects

The national parks are an important piece of the tourism landscape in the Southeast. Running the gamut from rural to urban, the Southeast's park sites showcase the diversity of the national parks, which are located in every state and touch nearly every community.

Spending by park visitors, in gateway communities, is a key economic driver of these local economies. Investing in the national parks is an investment in the economic vitality of gateway communities.

A detailed breakdown of the economic impact of NPS visitor spending in 2017, by state and park, can be accessed here: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>

Listed below are the notable NPS visitor spending effects for each of the 12 Southeastern states:

Alabama

968,000 park visitors spent an estimated \$40.6 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 617 jobs.

Arkansas

3.5 million park visitors spent an estimated \$188 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 2,870 jobs.

Florida

10.3 million park visitors spent an estimated \$613 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 8,960 jobs.

Georgia

7.4 million park visitors spent an estimated \$384 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 5,930 jobs.

Kentucky

1.9 million park visitors spent an estimated \$116 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 1,720 jobs.

Louisiana

528,000 park visitors spent an estimated \$30.2 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 447 jobs.

Mississippi

6.6 million park visitors spent an estimated \$197 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 2,790 jobs.

North Carolina

19 million park visitors spent an estimated \$1.3 billion in gateway communities, supporting a total of 19,900 jobs.

South Carolina

1.7 million park visitors spent an estimated \$93.4 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 1,370 jobs.

Tennessee

9.3 million park visitors spent an estimated \$638 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 9,470 jobs.

Virginia

24.3 million park visitors spent an estimated \$1 billion in gateway communities, supporting a total of 15,100 jobs.

West Virginia

1.7 million park visitors spent an estimated \$72.8 million in gateway communities, supporting a total of 1,080 jobs.