

The multi-billion dollar travel industry in Washington is a vital part of the state and local economies. The industry is represented primarily by retail and service firms, including lodging establishments, restaurants, retail stores, gasoline service stations, and other types of businesses that sell their products and services to travelers. The money that visitors spend on various goods and services while in Washington produces business receipts at these firms, which in turn employ Washington residents and pay their wages and salaries. State and local government entities benefit from travel as well. The state government collects taxes on the gross receipts of businesses operating in the state, as well as sales and use taxes levied on the sale of goods and services to travelers. Local governments also collect sales and use taxes generated from traveler purchases.

#### **IMPACTS OF TRAVEL IN WASHINGTON STATE: A SUMMARY**

- Total direct travel spending in Washington state was \$14.8 billion in 2007. This represents a 6.8 percent increase over the preceding year. In constant (inflation-adjusted) dollars, travel spending increased by 3.6 percent. This is the fifth straight year of positive growth.
- There were an estimated 5.8 million domestic air passenger visitor arrivals to Washington state in 2007, an increase of 2.6 percent over 2006.
- International visitors accounted for 10 percent of all visitor spending in the state in 2006. Residents from other states accounted for 53 percent of all travel spending.
- Local and state tax revenues directly generated by travel spending were \$975 million in 2007, a 6.9 percent increase over 2006. Travel spending generated an additional \$827 million in federal tax receipts in 2007.
- Visitors who stayed overnight in commercial lodging (hotels, motels, resorts, bed & breakfasts) spent \$6.6 billion in 2007. This represents more than one-half of all visitor spending (not including resident air travel and travel agencies).
- During 2007, travel spending in Washington directly supported 149,800 jobs with earnings of \$4.2 billion. This is an increase of 2.2 percent in employment over 2006.