

General Assembly Returns this Week



After a hectic and acrimonious crossover week May 1-5 in the General Assembly, legislative leaders in the House and Senate wisely opted to take an informal recess this past week.

Legislators return to Raleigh on Tuesday to finish up the Senate budget and begin final negotiations between the chambers the following week.

NCTIA lobbyists have been told by Senate budget writers that details of their spending plan will not be fully revealed next week. It was a similar negotiating tactic used by the House when they released their budget.

"Our priorities in the 2023 legislative session, especially on the spending side, will come down to the final conference report," said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. "We look forward to continuing conversations with legislators about the importance of summer calendar, the occupancy tax, and NCTIA's workforce development."

NC Tourism at \$33.3 Billion

The article below was excerpted by a [NC Department of Commerce press release that can be read here](#).

The North Carolina tourism economy reached its highest level ever with travelers spending more than \$33.3 billion on trips to and within the state. The previous record of \$29.22 billion was set in pre-pandemic 2019.

The General Assembly has invested hundreds of millions of dollars into helping the tourism industry recover and thrive following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The state's tourism-supported workforce increased 9.8 percent to 216,900 jobs in 2022. That figure reverses the more than 26 percent loss in employment suffered in 2020. Tourism payroll increased 13.5 percent to \$8.7 billion. Also, as a result of visitor spending, state and local governments saw rebounds in tax revenues to nearly \$2.5 billion.

The figures are preliminary findings from research commissioned by [Visit North Carolina](#), a unit of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, and conducted by Tourism Economics.

NC Tourism Facts

Total NC visitor spending reached \$33.3 billion in 2022 and represents a 15.2 percent increase over 2021 expenditures. The figure falls 14 percent above the record \$29.22 billion spent in 2019.

Visitors to North Carolina generated \$4.2 billion in federal, state and local taxes in 2022. The total represents a 7.9 percent increase from 2020.

State tax receipts from visitor spending rose 6.5 percent to nearly \$1.3 billion in 2022 while Local tax receipts grew 3.5 percent to nearly \$1.2 billion.

Direct tourism employment in North Carolina increased 9.8 percent to 216,900 and direct tourism payroll increased 13.5 percent to \$8.7 billion.

Visitors spend more than \$91 million per day in North Carolina. That spending adds \$6.7 million per day to state and local tax revenues (about \$3.5 million in state taxes and \$3.2 million in local taxes).

Each North Carolina household saved \$512 on average in state and local taxes as a direct result of visitor spending in the state. Savings per capita averaged \$230.

North Carolina hosted approximately 43 million visitors in 2022.