

Carlsbad Caverns NP

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Year	Recreation Visitors
1924	1,280
1925	1,794
1926	10,904
1927	26,436
1928	46,335
1929	76,822
1930	90,104
1931	81,275
1932	61,474
1933	53,768
1934	88,349
1935	113,753
1936	148,129
1937	201,333
1938	205,765
1939	212,348
1940	236,653
1941	285,418
1942	124,809
1943	89,128
1944	122,467
1945	193,237
1946	380,465
1947	405,266
1948	435,481
1949	431,187
1950	467,283
1951	493,618
1952	531,751
1953	510,318
1954	444,300
1955	466,200
1956	455,000

Year	Recreation Visitors
1957	451,100
1958	435,200
1959	483,900
1960	537,000
1961	590,000
1962	556,000
1963	586,600
1964	588,000
1965	591,000
1966	604,800
1967	630,800
1968	668,400
1969	672,900
1970	712,700
1971	791,600
1972	856,086
1973	840,100
1974	672,400
1975	790,000
1976	876,500
1977	862,800
1978	867,277
1979	721,647
1980	672,963
1981	771,766
1982	781,963
1983	712,247
1984	712,989
1985	732,482
1986	752,552
1987	781,300
1988	786,135
1989	792,378
1990	747,016
1991	679,450
1992	688,742
1993	687,161

Year	Recreation Visitors
1994	617,087
1995	588,609
1996	557,217
1997	540,797
1998	522,076
1999	514,418
2000	469,303
2001	455,621
2002	476,259
2003	457,631
2004	419,599
2005	413,786
2006	407,367
2007	409,560
2008	400,381
2009	432,639
2010	428,524
2011	365,000
2012	381,058
2013	388,566
2014	397,309
2015	445,720
2016	466,773
2017	520,026
2018	465,912
2019	440,691
2020	183,835
Total	45,344,168

Tourism to Carlsbad Caverns National Park Creates \$34 Million in Economic Benefits

Date: May 24, 2019

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Contact: [Douglas Neighbor](#), Superintendent, 575-236-1431

A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 466,000 visitors to Carlsbad Caverns National Park in 2018 spent \$30.2 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 405 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$34 million.

“Carlsbad Caverns National Park welcomes visitors from across the country and around the world,” said Superintendent Doug Neighbor. “We are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides. We also feature the park as a way to introduce our visitors to this part of the country and all that it offers. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, and it’s a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities.”

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Egan Cornachione of the U.S. Geological Survey and Lynne Koontz of the National Park Service. The report shows \$20.2 billion of direct spending by more than 318 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 329,000 jobs nationally; 268,000 of those jobs are found in these gateway communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$40.1 billion.

Lodging expenses account for the largest share of visitor spending, about \$6.8 billion in 2018. Food expenses are the second largest spending area and visitors spent \$4 billion in restaurants and bars and another \$1.4 billion at grocery and convenience stores.

Visitor spending on lodging supported more than 58,000 jobs and more than 61,000 jobs in restaurants. Visitor spending in the recreation industries supported more than 28,000 jobs and spending in retail supported more than 20,000 jobs.

Report authors also produce an interactive tool that enables users to explore visitor spending, jobs, labor income, value added, and output effects by sector for national, state, and local economies. Users can also view year-by-year trend data. The interactive tool and report are available at the NPS Social Science Program webpage: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>

To learn more about national parks in New Mexico and how the National Park Service works with New Mexico communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/newmexico.

Last updated: May 31, 2019

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COVID-19 Response

Masks are required for everyone, regardless of location or vaccination status, in all NPS buildings, crowded outdoor spaces, and all forms of enclosed public transportation. Additional details are available at www.nps.gov/coronavirus. Before visiting, please check the [park website](#) to determine its operating status. Please [recreate responsibly](#).



National Park Service

Social Science

Visitor Spending Effects - Economic Contributions of National Park Visitor Spending

Download the 2020 National Park Service Visitor Spending Effects Report (docs/NPS_2020_Visitor_Spending_Effects.pdf) (PDF - 3.0 MB).

This interactive tool is a collaboration between the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey and displays results from the Visitor Spending Effects report series. Economic contributions of National Park Service visitor spending are displayed at the national, state, and local levels.

Select an economy to get started:

NATIONAL ECONOMY
([national-index.html](#))

STATE ECONOMIES (states-index.html)

PARK ECONOMIES (parks-index.html)

MORE INFORMATION
([overview.html?tab=tab-overview](#))

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

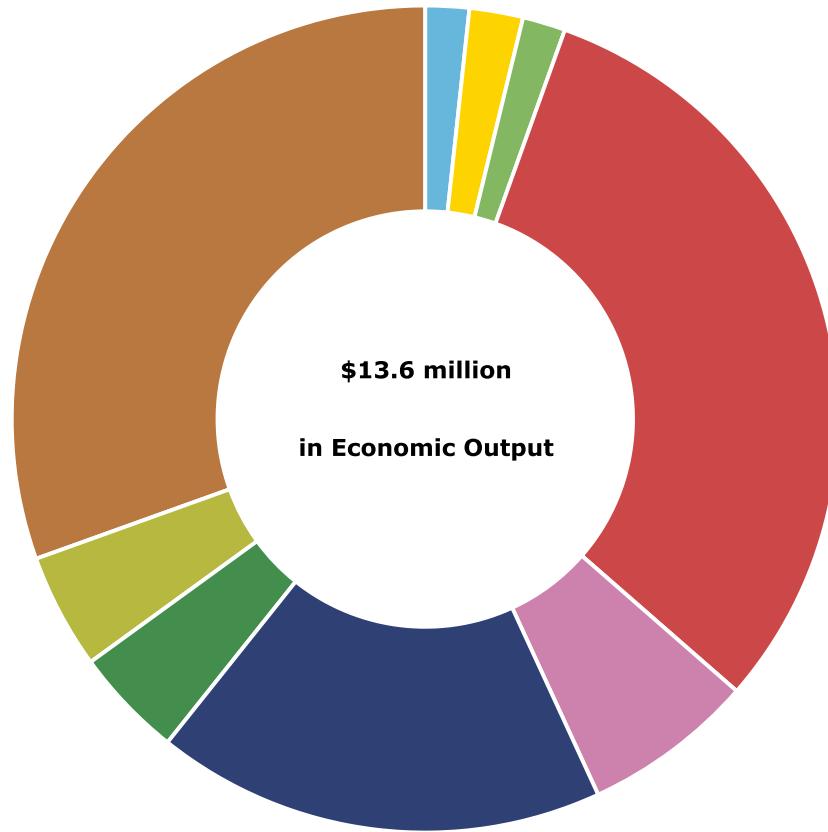
In 2020, 184 thousand park visitors spent an estimated \$12.1 million in local gateway regions while visiting Carlsbad Caverns National Park. These expenditures supported a total of 162 jobs, \$4.4 million in labor income, \$7.5 million in value added, and \$13.6 million in economic output in local gateway

economies surrounding Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

Visitor Spending Jobs Labor Income Value Added Economic Output

Click on a Park for more information or select a Park

Carlsbad Caverns National Park



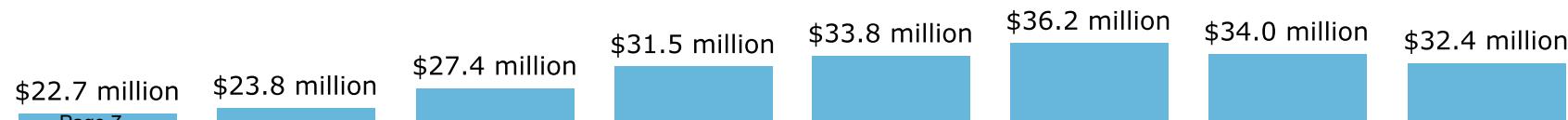
Directly Affected Sectors

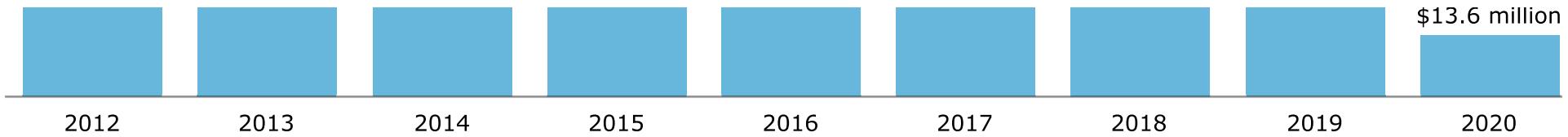
- Camping
- Gas
- Groceries
- Hotels
- Recreation Industries
- Restaurants
- Retail
- Transportation

Secondary Effects

- Secondary Effects

Total Economic Output Contributed to Carlsbad Caverns National Park Gateway Economies





Last updated: April 25, 2018