Visa Inbound Spend Report

Visa Insights 2017

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New Zealand's place in the world

The global travel and tourism sector is rapidly changing and the second annual Visa Inbound Spend Report provides fascinating insights into New Zealand's international standing as a key destination.

At first glance the data is positive, especially the increase in total international Visa cardholder spend to \$3.4 billion. But, as we delve further, it's clear that while New Zealand may be holding its own in a highly competitive sector, there is more we can do to get in front of the pack. This is particularly evident when comparing how New Zealand is performing versus Australia.

There is no single solution and much depends on changes to international travel routes, as well as global megatrends. Glenn Maguire, Visa Principal Economist for Asia Pacific, has identified three emerging travel trends – rising prosperity, changing travel demographics, and physical and digital connectivity. The latter – digital connectivity – is particularly key for New Zealand, as Asia Pacific is the epicentre of an emerging travelling class that is fully embracing new technology in all its forms. Some of these trends come through in the data in this report, notably the rise in contactless payments, which has grown by 95% year-on-year, as more and more visitors expect to pay by mobile and wearables. Another is the role of major events in attracting visitors from destinations further afield.

With an increase in long haul routes making New Zealand more accessible, it is important to consider the demographic profile of travellers from European countries, as well as the US. Glenn describes this group as the "ageing active" – people who are willing to venture further and have the economic means to do so in style. Further leveraging New Zealand's natural beauty and world-class food and wine could help appeal to these older tourists. As we head into the 2018/19 peak season, the challenge for all of us – in business, government and tourism – is to find ways to ensure that New Zealand is at the top of their bucket list.

Marty Kerr Visa Country Manager, New Zealand and South Pacific



About Visa



Global payments technology company

Connecting consumers, businesses, financial institutions, and governments in more than 200 countries and territories with 3.2 billion Visa cards worldwide.



One of the world's most advanced \bigotimes processing networks

Capable of handling more than 65,000 transaction messages per second



Sets the conditions to make it possible to pay anyone, anywhere using any device.



Interpreting the data in this report

The information in this report has been drawn from transactions conducted by international Visa cardholders in New Zealand between 2016 and 2017 (VisaNet 2017). Unless otherwise stated, we have focused on face-to-face (card present) spend while travellers are in New Zealand; that is, transactions that have taken place where the purchaser is present with their Visa card or mobile device.

We have used two metrics:

1 Spend

The total dollar value of transactions made, which provides the clearest way to understand the absolute value in any given year.

Transactions

The total number of actual transactions made.

All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Spend highlights in 2017







Spend from international Visa cardholders contributed NZD 3.4 billion to the New Zealand economy, an increase of 15% from 2016.* Transactions in New Zealand through the Visa network grew by 23%, from 2016. The top 10 inbound markets to New Zealand, in terms of spend, **represented 85%** of total spend in 2017.

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The 10 highest spending markets in New Zealand

Share of Market



— 2016 **—** 2017

* Data based on face-to-face spend while visitors are in NZ

The countries that make up the 10 highest spending markets have not changed from 2016 and 2015, **but all of them spent more in 2017.**

Markets outside the top ten contributed 15% of the growth, compared to 21% in 2016.

Growth in spend by markets



* Data based on face-to-face spend while visitors are in NZ

There was growth in the amount spent across all markets, with the standout being Germany. Visitors from this market spent 29% more than they did in the previous year, totalling a combined annual spend of NZ\$92 million.

Also topping the growth list were Australia and the US, which together represented 46% of total visitor spend.



Growth in transactions by markets



* Data based on the number of transactions when visitors are in NZ

Germany, Australia and China all experienced the highest YOY growth in Visa transactions.



How New Zealand rates as a destination

An examination of the number of transactions recorded for each market that make up the top 10, shows that New Zealand's ranking has improved in only one market in 2017 – the USA.

This is in contrast to 2016, when New Zealand's ranking improved in six markets.

	2016	2017	YOY change
🁯 AUS	2	2	0 ●
USA	20	19	+1 🏠
CHN	13	13	0 ●
₩ ик	21	21	0 ●
GER	21	21	0
FRA	27	31	-4 🖊 .
• CAN	11	11	0
JPN	19	19	0 ●
💽 Kor	24	24	0 ●
SGP	16	16	0



New Zealand vs Australia: Comparative growth

In 2016, New Zealand outperformed Australia in international transactions but in 2017 Australia was stronger.



Despite a 26% increase in transactions by Chinese Visa cardholders, New Zealand still has room to grow in attracting visitors from this market to our shores. Australia saw 36% growth in transactions in 2017.

The USA – New Zealand's second largest inbound market grew 23% compared to 29% growth seen in Australia.



The United Kingdom bounced back from a slow 2016 with a 17% growth in transactions in 2017.

	NZ Growth	AU Growth	NZ v AU
🗱 AUS	30%	_	_
📕 USA	23%	29%	-6% 🖊
CHN	26%	36%	-10% 🖊
₩ ∪к	17%	14%	+3% 懀
GER	39%	41%	-2% 🖊
FRA	10%	12%	-2% 🖊
CAN	18%	18%	0
JPN	15%	17%	-2% 🖊
😢 Kor	11%	12%	-1% 🖊
SGP	20%	21%	-1% 🖊

Average transaction size

While international visitors' total spend was more in 2017 than 2016, the average transaction size decreased in all markets.

Top spenders (by transaction size) remain the Chinese, South Koreans and Singaporeans.

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— 2016 **—** 2017

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\$NZD

* Data based on the average transaction size while visitors are in NZ

Leading categories for inbound spend

The three categories benefiting most from the 10 highest spend countries have remained unchanged for 2017 and 2016 –

Shopping & Retail, Lodging, and Restaurants.

Category	2016 \$NZD	2017 \$NZD	% Change
📜 Shopping & Retail	\$356m	\$384m	+8% 👚
Lodging	\$298m	\$333m	+12% 懀
📲 Restaurants	\$224m	\$284m	+27% 懀
💋 Food & Grocery	\$190m	\$228m	+20% 懀
💧 Fuel & Transport	\$128m	\$160m	+26% 懀
o Entertainment	\$106m	\$121m	+14% 👚
🚑 Vehicle Rental	\$88m	\$92m	+4% 👚
🚀 Travel Services	\$73m	\$77m	+5% 👚
Q Services	\$57m	\$65m	+13% 👚
Home Improvement & Supply	\$52m	\$59m	+13% 👚
m Education & Government	\$27m	\$30m	+10% 懀
🛪 Airlines	\$12m	\$13m	+7% 👚
Grand total	\$1.6 billion	\$1.8 billion	+15% 合

* Data based on face-to-face spend while visitors are in NZ

The rise in contactless transactions

Visitors making contactless payments on cards, phones and wearables grew by





Australian tourists accounted for 66% of the total contactless spend



Visa accountholders from Germany, China and the UK more than doubled their contactless spend in 2017



Lodging, Apparel & Accessories, Transportation and Entertainment were the fastest-growing categories for international contactless spend – growing more than 100% YOY Contactless technology provides a better customer experience, futureproofs a merchant's business, and provides them with a competitive advantage and greater operational efficiency.



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When The Lion Roars: Major events boost international spend

A deep dive into the months that the Lions Rugby Tour was held in New Zealand shows the power of major events to draw international visitors and increase spend.

The amount spent by visitors from UK and Ireland nearly doubled

in June and July in 2017, compared to the same time the year before.

	2016 \$NZD	2017 \$NZD
June	\$6.08m	\$11.43m
July	\$6.42m	\$12.36m

* Data based on face-to-face spend while visitors are in NZ

The categories that benefited most were Lodging, followed by Restaurants and Food & Grocery.

Category	2016 \$NZD	2017 \$NZD	Difference
Lodging	\$28.09m	\$29.39m	16.74 %
👭 Restaurants	\$21.75m	\$27.12m	15.45%
💋 Food & Grocery	\$20.00m	\$22.23m	12.67 %
📜 Shopping & Retail	\$12.26m	\$12.40m	7.10%
o Entertainment	\$10.47m	\$10.94m	6.23 %

* Data based on face-to-face spend while visitors are in NZ



Helping visitors to our shores

By 2025, Visa estimates that cross-border travel will reach NZ\$3.08 trillion.* To ensure that New Zealand grows its share of total international spend, there is an opportunity for:



Government and businesses to continue efforts to capture value from key emerging travel trends – rising prosperity, changing travel demographics, and physical and digital connectivity.



Major events to be held in off-peak seasons, helping to draw long-haul visitors to our shores during quieter months.



New Zealand merchants to ready their businesses for international visitors

by investing in contactless technology which enables customers to pay using cards, phones and wearables.









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