

Sanibel & Captiva Islands, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Pine Island, Boca Grande & Outer Islands, North Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres

#### Winter 2014 Visitor Profile and Occupancy Analysis

May 8, 2014

#### **Prepared for:**

Lee County Board of County Commissioners

Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau

Prepared by:

**Davidson-Peterson Associates** 





# Executive Summary Winter 2014

Throughout this report, statistically significant differences between responses for 2013 and 2014 at the 95% confidence level are noted with an A,B lettering system.

For example:

2012	2013
A	B
60%	70%A

In the table above 70% in Column B is statistically greater than 60% in Column A.





# **Executive Summary**

#### **Visitation Estimates**

- During the winter season of 2014, Lee County hosted approximately 777,539 visitors staying in paid accommodations and 642,459 staying with friends or relatives while visiting, for an estimated total of 1.42 million visitors.
- Winter 2014 visitation among paid accommodations guests was up 6.2% from 2013, but visitation among those staying with friends dropped 3.5%, resulting in a somewhat smaller net increase in total visitation year-over-year.

Estimated Visitation	Winter 2013	Winter 2014	% Change
Paid Accommodations	732,267	777,539	6.2%
Friends/Relatives	666,051	642,459	-3.5%
Total Visitation	1,398,318	1,419,998	1.6%

#### **Visitor Expenditures**

- Winter 2014 visitors spent an estimated \$1.07 billion during their stay in Lee County, a 2.3% increase from the prior winter expenditures (\$1.05 billion)
- Expenditures among winter 2014 paid accommodation guests amounted to \$763 million (71% of the total) – a notable increase over last year. Visitors staying with friends or relatives contributed the remaining \$311 million, representing a slight reduction year-over-year.

Estimated Expenditures	Winter 2013	Winter 2014	% Change
Paid Accommodations	\$736,972,483	\$763,319,329	3.6%
Friends/Relatives	\$313,075,730	\$311,390,478	-0.5%
Total Expenditures	\$1,050,048,213	\$1,074,709,807	2.3%





#### **Visitor Origin**

 Most of the winter 2014 visitors staying in paid accommodations reside within the United States (84%).
 The top international feeder market was Canada (7%), followed by Germany as a distant second (3%).

- Similar to last year over half of domestic paid accommodations visitors came from the Midwest (55%). Nearly a quarter came from the Northeast (20%), with slightly fewer from South (13%) and far fewer from the West (3%).
- Minneapolis, Indianapolis, and Chicago were the top Midwest domestic feeder markets for the Lee County lodging industry during winter 2014. New York and Boston were the primary contributors from the Northeast region.

Winter 2014 Top DMAs (Paid	Accomm	odations)
Minneapolis-Saint Paul	10%	62,574
New York	5%	34,763
Indianapolis	5%	32,446
Chicago	5%	31,287
Boston	4%	28,969
Cleveland-Akron	3%	19,699
Detroit	2%	13,905
Philadelphia	2%	13,905
Saint Louis	2%	13,905
Cincinnati	2%	12,747

Visitors Staying in Paid Accommodations							
	9	6	Visitor E	stimates	% Change		
Winter Season	2013	2014	2013	2014			
Country of Origin							
United States	79%	84%	582,058	654,709	12.5%		
Canada	9%	7%	64,060	52,145	-18.6%		
Germany	5%	3%	37,552	20,858	-44.5%		
Scandinavia	2%	2%	13,254	16,223	22.4%		
UK	2%	1%	16,567	10,429	-37.1%		
BeNeLux	<1%	1%	3,313	6,953	109.8%		
Switzerland	<1%	<1%	3,313	2,318	-30.1%		
France	-	<1%	-	2,318	-		
Latin America	<1%	<1%	1,104	1,159	4.9%		
Austria	1%	-	4,418	-	-		
Ireland	<1%	-	2,209	-	-		
Other International	-	1%	-	6,953	-		
No Answer	1%	1%	4,418	3,476	-21.3%		

Visitors Staying in Paid Accommodations							
	9	6	Visitor E	Visitor Estimates			
Winter Season	2013	2014	2013	2014			
U.S. Region of Origin							
Florida	2%	2%	8,836	12,747	44.3%		
South (including Florida)	12%	13%	67,373	82,273	22.1%		
Midwest	57%	55%	331,343	362,697	9.5%		
Northeast	23%	20%	133,641	133,259	-0.3%		
West	2%	3%	8,836	17,382	96.7%		
No Answer	7%	9%	40,866	59,098	44.6%		

Note: The percentage of visitors by origin market is based on data collected from visitors in the Visitor Profile Survey.





#### **Trip Planning**

- Many of Lee County's winter 2014 visitors began planning their trip well in advance. Seven in ten started talking about their Lee County trip *three or more months* in advance and nearly as many chose the destination within that timeframe. While their enthusiasm to plan their trip was high, fewer winter 2014 visitors made their lodging reservations within that window.
  - 71% started talking about trip 3+ months in advance (vs. 70% in 2013)
  - 65% chose Lee County for trip (vs. 64% in 2013)
  - 55% made lodging reservation (vs. 55% in 2013)
- When planning their trip, nine in ten visitors used the Internet to their advantage, claiming to have visited one or more websites during the process. Visitors most often mention using airline websites (41%) and search engine websites (31%), followed by hotel (26%), vacation rental (26%), or booking (25%) websites.
- More than half of visitors indicated they typically use their laptop to access destination planning information online (61%). Slightly fewer than half use their desktop computer (45%) and the same number are using their using smartphones (44%). A sizeable minority of winter 2014 visitors reported using tablets (40%) to access this online content, and the incidence was higher than that reported by winter 2013 visitors (28%).
- Not surprisingly, almost all winter 2014 visitors said that Lee County's warm weather positively influenced their decision to visit (94%). Additionally, peaceful/relaxing (84%), white sandy beaches (77%), and a safe destination (73%) were attributes rated favorably as being important in winter visitors' selection of the destination.

#### <u>Visitor Profile</u>

- Two-thirds of winter 2014 visitors flew to their destination on par with last year's incidence (68% vs. 65% in 2013). Keeping with the same trend as last year, Southwest Florida International Airport remains the airport most often used (87%).
- The majority of 2014 winter visitors reported they were on vacation (87%) in Lee County. On average, visitors stayed 10 days in Lee County but were away from home for 12 days. Three-quarters are repeat visitors (76%) and have taken an average of four or five trips to Lee County in the past five years (4.4 mean).
- Among the winter 2014 visitors interviewed, four in ten indicated they were staying in hotel/motel/resort properties (41%). Similarly, about the same proportion were staying in condo/vacation home properties (44%) mostly paid rentals. More than half of paid accommodation guests reported that the quality of their lodgings met expectations (55%) and another 41% said their accommodations far exceeded or exceeded expectations.



#### Visitor Profile (cont'd)

- While enjoying their winter 2014 Lee County trip, visitors were most interested in activities such as: *beaches* (90%), *relaxing* (79%), *dining out* (77%), and *shopping* (57%). Nearly half of visitors ventured on a day trip outside of Lee County (48%), most traveling to Naples (31%).
- Overall, visitors continue to be highly satisfied with their stay in Lee County and intent to return is quite high. The vast majority of winter 2014 visitors indicating they were either *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their visit (62% and 34% respectively). Given the strong propensity for repeat visitation, it's not surprising that nine in ten winter visitors stated they are likely to come back to Lee County (89%), and 60% of them said they will return next year. Additionally, most visitors claimed they would recommend Lee County over other vacation areas in Florida (89%).
- Despite all of the positives the destination has to offer, about half of visitors cited *traffic* as negative aspect encountered during their trip (50%) but no worse than reports among winter 2013 visitors (47%). Following at much lower levels of negative mentions were: *beach* seaweed (12%), water quality (12%), high prices (11%), and weather (10%).
- The demographic composition of winter 2014 visitors can be summarized as follows:
  - 57 years of age on average
  - \$107,600 household income on average
  - 77% married
  - 51% traveling as a couple
  - 22% traveling as a family
  - 86% traveling without children
  - 2 to 3 people in travel party on average





#### **Lodging Industry Assessments**

• For the Lee County lodging industry in total, both *available* and *occupied* room nights declined from winter 2013 to 2014. However, the decrease in *occupied* room nights (-49,283) was not nearly as great as the drop in *available* room nights (-107,418). The hotel/motel/resort category actually saw a slight increase in occupied room nights (+1.2%) where the other two categories did not.

Winter Season	Occup	ied Room N	lights	Available Room Nights		
	2013	2014	% Change	2013	2014	% Change
Hotel/Motel/Resort/B&B	823,661	833,418	1.2%	1,006,447	990,748	-1.6%
Condo/Cottage/Vacation Home	380,674	335,699	-11.8%	452,266	394,464	-12.8%
RV Park/Campground	410,834	396,768	-3.4%	461,440	427,523	-7.4%
Total	1,615,169	1,565,886	-3.1%	1,920,153	1,812,735	-5.6%

- The net result of these shifts in *available* and *occupied* room nights was positive. Lee County's industry-wide average occupancy rate increased from 84.1% in winter 2013 to 86.4% in winter 2014 (+2.7%). All three categories posted growth in average occupancy rate, but RV parks/campgrounds did particularly well.
- Average daily rate for winter season 2014 was significantly higher than last year, with a 9.1% jump. Again, all three property categories enjoyed gains in ADR, especially the condo/vacation category which increased by 15.1%.
- Since both ADR and average occupancy rate rose year-over-year, the uptick in revenue per available room was sizeable (+12.1%). The increases were significant in each of the three property categories.

Winter Season	Averag	e Occupan	cy Rate	Ave	rage Daily	Rate		RevPAR	
	2013	2014	% Change	2013	2014	% Change	2013	2014	% Change
Hotel/Motel/Resort/B&B	81.8%	84.1%	2.8%	\$173.79	\$186.29	7.2%	\$142.23	\$156.70	10.2%
Condo/Cottage/Vacation Home	84.2%	85.1%	1.1%	\$207.15	\$238.48	15.1%	\$174.36	\$202.95	16.4%
RV Park/Campground	89.0%	92.8%	4.2%	\$55.73	\$59.97	7.6%	\$49.62	\$55.66	12.2%
AVERAGE	84.1%	86.4%	2.7%	\$151.62	\$165.47	9.1%	\$127.54	\$142.94	12.1%

dpa≋\*-



#### Lodging Industry Assessments (cont'd)

• According to reports from Lee County property managers, the outlook for spring season lodging reservations – April, May, and June – was very positive. Nine in ten property managers responding in early April 2014 noted that their level of reservations for April, May, and June was higher than the same period last year (56%), and a third said reservations are the same (35%). Very few claimed that their reservations are down for the next three months (8%). In contrast, property managers responded somewhat less favorably this time last year.





# Winter 2014 Lee County Snapshot

Total Visitation						
	% Visitor Estimates					
Winter Season	2013	2014	2013	2014		
Paid Accommodations	52%	55%	732,267	777,539		
Friends/Relatives	47%	45%	666,051	642,459		
Total Visitation			1,398,318	1,419,998		

Total Visitor Expenditures						
Winter Season	% Change					
Total Visitor Expenditures	\$1,050,048,213	\$1,074,709,807	2.3%			
Paid Accommodations	\$736,972,483	\$763,319,329	3.6%			

Visitor Origin - Visitors Staying in Paid Accommodations						
	9	%	Visitor E	stimates		
Winter Season	2013	2014	2013	2014		
Florida	2%	2%	8,836	12,747		
United States	79%	84%	582,058	654,709		
Canada	9%	7%	64,060	52,145		
Germany	5%	3%	37,552	20,858		
UK	2%	1%	16,567	10,429		
Other International	4%	5%	27,611	35,922		
No Answer	<1%	<1%	4,418	3,476		

Average Per Person Per Day Expenditures					
2013	2014	% Change			
\$124.93	\$128.64	2.9%			

First-Time/Repeat Visitors to Lee County				
Winter Season	2013	2014		
First-time	20%	23%		
Repeat	79%	76%		

	Averag	e Occupan	cy Rate	Ave	rage Daily	Rate		RevPAR	
Winter Season	2013	2014	% Change	2013	2014	% Change	2013	2014	% Change
Hotel/Motel/Resort/B&B	81.8%	84.1%	2.8%	\$173.79	\$186.29	7.2%	\$142.23	\$156.70	10.2%
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RV Park/Campground	89.0%	92.8%	4.2%	\$55.73	\$59.97	7.6%	\$49.62	\$55.66	12.2%
AVERAGE	84.1%	86.4%	2.7%	\$151.62	\$165.47	9.1%	\$127.54	\$142.94	12.1%





# Visitor Profile Analysis Winter 2014

A total of 929 interviews were conducted with visitors in Lee County during the summer months of January, February, and March 2014. A total sample of this size is considered accurate to plus or minus 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

A total of 916 interviews were conducted with visitors in Lee County during the summer months of January, February, and March 2013. A total sample of this size is considered accurate to plus or minus 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.





# **Travel Planning**

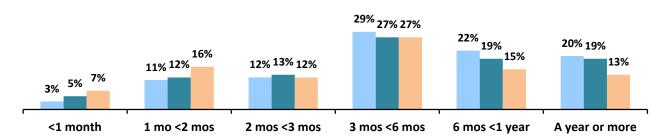
	Started Talking About Trip		Chose Lee County for Trip		Made Lodging Reservations	
Winter Season	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	Α	В	Α	В	Α	В
<b>Total Respondents</b>	916	929	916	929	663*	671*
Less than 3 months (NET)	<u>27%</u>	<u>26%</u>	<u>30%</u>	<u>29%</u>	<u>37%</u>	<u>35%</u>
<1 month	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%	7%
1 month - <2 months	10%	11%	12%	12%	15%	16%
2 months - <3 months	14%	12%	14%	13%	17%b	12%
3 months or more (NET)	<u>70%</u>	<u>71%</u>	<u>64%</u>	<u>65%</u>	<u>55%</u>	<u>55%</u>
3 months - <6 months	30%	29%	27%	27%	27%	27%
6 months - <1 year	18%	22%	17%	19%	16%	15%
A year or more	21%	20%	21%	19%	12%	13%
No Lodging Reservations Made	-	-	-		6%	7%
No Answer	3%	3%	5%	6%	2%	3%

Q3a: When did you "start talking" about going on this trip?

Q3b: When did you choose Lee County for this trip?

Q3c. When did you make lodging reservations for this trip?

# Winter 2014 Travel Planning Started talking about trip ■ Chose Lee County for trip ■ Made lodging reservations\*



<sup>\*</sup> Base: Among those staying in paid accommodations





# **Travel Planning**

Devices Used to Access Destination Planning Information			
	2013	2014	
Winter Season	Α	В	
Total Respondents	916	929	
Any (NET)	<u>93%</u>	<u>95%</u>	
Laptop computer	63%	61%	
Desktop computer	51%b	45%	
Smartphone (iPhone, Blackberry, etc.)	40%	44%	
Tablet (iPad, etc.)	28%	40%a	
E-Reader (Nook, Kindle, etc.)	7%b	4%	
Other portable device	2%	2%	
None of these	6%	5%	
No Answer	1%b	<1%	

Q5. Which of the following devices, if any, do you typically use to access destination planning information available online? (Please mark ALL that apply.)

Travel Websites Visited				
	2013	2014		
Winter Season	Α	В		
Respondents who used a device to plan	854	884		
Visited web sites (net)	<u>86%</u>	<u>87%</u>		
Airline websites	40%	41%		
Search Engines	34%	31%		
Hotel websites	27%	26%		
Vacation rental websites	-	26%		
Booking websites	27%	25%		
Trip Advisor	19%	23%		
www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com	16%	13%		
AAA	10%b	6%		
Visit Florida	8%	7%		
Facebook	4%	5%		
Other	16%b	8%		
None/Didn't visit websites	12%	13%		
No Answer	1%	<1%		

Q6. While planning this trip, which of the following web sites did you visit? (Please mark ALL that apply.)



<sup>\*</sup> Note: Response option added in January 2014.



# **Travel Planning**

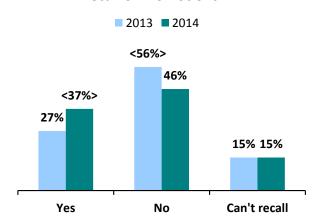
Travel Information Requested			
	2013	2014	
Winter Season	Α	В	
Total Respondents	916	929	
Requested information (NET)	<u>36%b</u>	<u>30%</u>	
Hotel website	18%b	14%	
Call hotel	9%b	6%	
VCB website	8%	6%	
Visitor Guide	5%	4%	
E-Newsletter	1%	1%	
Call local Chamber of Commerce	1%	1%	
Call VCB	1%	<1%	
Magazine Reader Services Card	<1%	1%	
Other	11%b	7%	
None/Did not request information	61%	<u>65%</u>	
No Answer	3%	5%a	

Q7: For this trip, did you request any information about our area by: (Please mark ALL that apply.)

Recall of Lee County Promotions			
	2013	2014	
Winter Season	Α	В	
Total Respondents	916	929	
Yes	27%	37%a	
No	56%b	46%	
Can't Recall	15%	15%	

Q8: Over the past six months, have you seen, read or heard any travel stories, advertising or promotions for the Lee County area?

#### **Recall of Promotions**





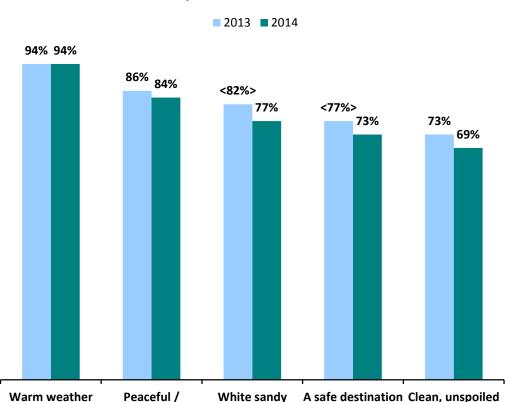


#### **Travel Decision Influences\* Winter Season** 2013 2014 В Α **Total Respondents** 916 929 Warm weather 94% 94% Peaceful / Relaxing 86% 84% White sandy beaches 82%b 77% A safe destination 77%b 73% Clean, unspoiled environment 73% 69% Convenient location 67% 67% Plenty to see and do 64% 62% Good value for the money 63% 59% Reasonably priced lodging 61%b 54% Affordable dining 56% 53% Upscale accommodations 53% 53% A "family" atmosphere 56%b 50%

Q9: When you were talking about coming to Lee County, if one (1) is "Not at All Influential" and five (5) is "Definitely Influential," how strongly did the following influence your selection?

#### **Travel Planning**





beaches

Relaxing



environment

<sup>\*</sup> Percentages shown reflect top 2 box scores (rating of 4 or 5)



# **Trip Profile**

Mode of Transportation				
Winter Season	2013	2014		
	Α	В		
Total Respondents	916	929		
Fly	65%	68%		
Drive a personal vehicle	30%b	25%		
Drive a rental vehicle	3%	4%		
Drive an RV	1%	1%		
Travel by bus	-	1%		
Other/No Answer	1%	1%		

Q1: How did you travel to our area? Did you...

Airport Used				
Winter Season	2013	2014		
	Α	В		
Respondents who flew	592	630		
SW Florida Int'l (Fort Myers)	86%	87%		
Punta Gorda	N/A	4%		
Tampa Int'l	5%	3%		
Orlando Int'l	3%	2%		
Miami Int'l	2%	1%		
Ft. Lauderdale Int'l	1%	1%		
Sarasota / Bradenton	1%	N/A		
West Palm Beach Int'l	<1%	N/A		
Other/No Answer	1%	2%		

Q2: At which Florida airport did you land?

Frequency of	Using SWFL Int'l	(Past Year)

V	/inter Season	2013	2014
<b>Total Respondents</b>		916	929
One or more trips		<u>57%</u>	<u>57%</u>
1 trip		40%	40%
2 to 3 trips		13%	13%
4 to 5 trips		2%	2%
6 or more trips		1%	2%
None/No Answer		43%	43%

Q40: In the past year, how many trips have you taken where you used Southwest Florida International airport (Fort Myers) for your air travel?

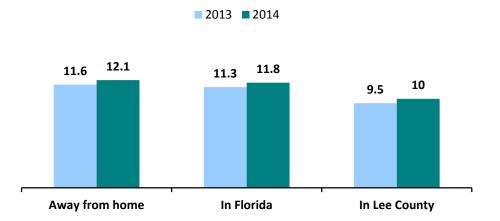


**Trip Profile** 

Trip Length Mean # of Days				
	2013	2014		
	Α	В		
Total Respondents	916	929		
Away from home	11.6	12.1		
In Florida	11.3	11.8		
In Lee County	9.5	10.0		

Q4a/b/c: On this trip, how many days will you be:

Trip Length (mean # of days)





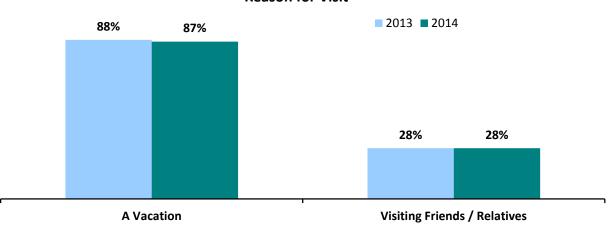


**Trip Profile** 

Reason(s) for Visit				
Winter Season	2013	2014		
	Α	В		
<b>Total Respondents</b>	916	929		
A Vacation	88%	87%		
Visiting Friends / Relatives	28%	28%		
Sporting Event(s)	5%	4%		
Personal Business	2%	2%		
Other Business Trip	1%	2%		
A Conference / Meeting	1%	1%		
A Convention / Trade Show	<1%	1%		
Other/No Answer (NET)	2%	2%		

Q10: Did you come to our area for...(Please mark all that apply.)

## **Reason for Visit**







# **Trip Profile**

First Time Visitors to Lee County								
	То	tal Florida Residents		Out-of-State Residents		International Visitors		
Winter Season	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	Α	В	Α	В	Α	В	Α	В
Total Respondents	916	929	16**	14**	664	694	173	147
First-time visitor	20%	23%	6%	7%	18%	22%a	29%	33%
Repeat visitor	79%	76%	94%	93%	81%	77%	70%	67%
No Answer	1%	1%	N/A	N/A	1%	1%	1%	1%

Q15: Is this your first visit to Lee County?

<sup>\*\*</sup>N/A: Insufficient number of responses for statistical analysis (N<30).

First Time Visitors to Florida			
Winter Season	2013	2014	
Total Respondents	916	929	
	Α	В	
Yes, first-time visitor	4%	4%	
No	93%	93%	
No answer	1%	1%	
FL Residents*	2%	1%	

Q13: Is this your first visit to Florida?

#### **First Time Visitors**



Opa \*\*Davidson Peterson
Associates

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Small sample size. (N<70) Please interpret results with caution.

<sup>\*</sup>Florida residents are shown as a proportion of total visitor interviews conducted, though FL residents are <u>not</u> asked this question.



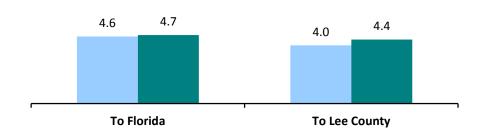
# **Trip Profile**

Previous Visits in Five Years				
Winter Season	Mean # of Vis	sits to Florida	Mean # of Visit	s to Lee County
	2013	2014	2013	2014
	Α	В	Α	В
Base: Repeat Visitors	<b>849</b> (FL res. Excl)	<b>868</b> (FL res. Excl)	722	705
Number of visits	4.6	4.7	4.0	4.4

Q14: Over the past five (5) years, how many times have you visited Florida? Q16: Over the past five (5) years, how many times have you visited Lee County?

#### **Previous Visits in Five Years**

2013 2014





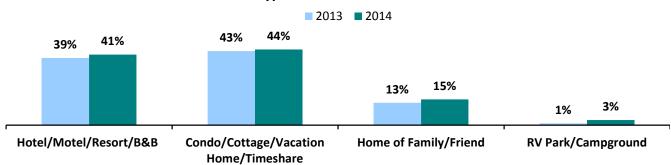


**Trip Profile** 

Type of Accommodations Used				
Winter Season	2013	2014		
	Α	В		
Total Respondents	916	929		
Hotel/Motel/Resort/B&B (NET)	<u>39%</u>	<u>41%</u>		
At a hotel/motel/historic inn	23%	22%		
At a resort	16%	19%		
At a Bed and Breakfast	<1%	<1%		
Condo/Cottage/Vacation Home/Timeshare (NET)	<u>43%</u>	<u>44%</u>		
Rented home/condo	32%	29%		
Owned home/condo	8%	7%		
Borrowed home/condo	3%	4%		
At the home of family or a friend	<u>13%</u>	<u>15%</u>		
RV Park/Campground (NET)	<u>1%</u>	<u>3%</u>		
Daytripper (No Accommodations)	<u>3%</u>	<u>1%</u>		

Q20: Are you staying overnight (either last night or tonight):

#### **Type of Accommodations Used**





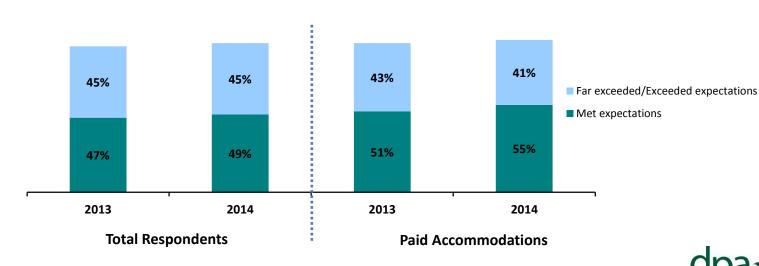


**Trip Profile** 

Quality of Accommodations				
	Total Res	pondents	Paid Accommodations	
Winter Season	2013 2014		2013	2014
	Α	В	Α	В
Respondents	916	929	663	671
Far exceeded/Exceeded expectations	45%	45%	43%	41%
Met your expectations	47%	49%	51%	55%
Did not meet/Far below expectations	3%	2%	3%	3%
No Answer	5%	3%	2%	2%

Q21: How would you describe the quality of your accommodations? Do you feel they:

**Quality of Accommodations** 



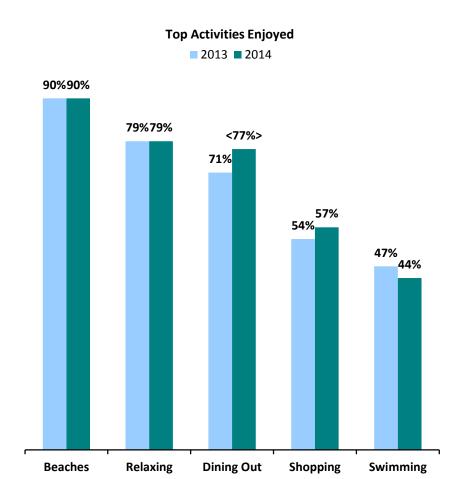
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Activities Enjoyed			
Winter Season	2013	2014	
	Α	В	
<b>Total Respondents</b>	916	929	
Beaches	90%	90%	
Relaxing	79%	79%	
Dining Out	71%	77%a	
Shopping	54%	57%	
Swimming	47%	44%	
Sightseeing	38%	37%	
Visiting Friends/Relatives	35%	36%	
Shelling	38%	34%	
Attractions	30%	30%	
Watching Wildlife	30%b	22%	
Bicycle Riding	21%	22%	
Exercise / Working Out	20%	18%	
Photography	22%b	16%	
Birdwatching	17%	16%	
Golfing	16%	14%	
Bars / Nightlife	16%	13%	
Fishing	11%	10%	
Boating	10%	10%	
Sporting Event	9%	9%	
Cultural Events	8%	8%	
Kayaking / Canoeing	7%	7%	
Guided Tour	6%	7%	
Miniature Golf	5%	6%	
Tennis	3%	4%	
Parasailing / Jet Skiing	4%	3%	
Scuba Diving / Snorkeling	1%	1%	
Other	3%	3%	
No Answer	1%	1%	

Q23: What activities or interests are you enjoying while in Lee County? (Please mark ALL that apply.)

# **Trip Activities**



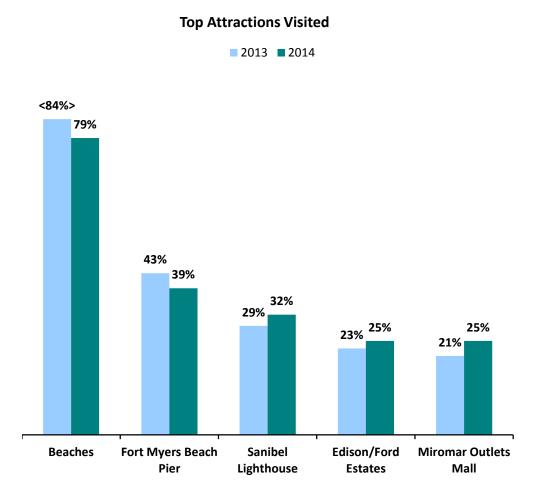




# **Trip Activities**

Attractions Visited			
Winter Season	2013	2014	
	Α	В	
Total Respondents	916	929	
Beaches	84%b	79%	
Fort Myers Beach Pier	43%	39%	
Sanibel Lighthouse	29%	32%	
Edison/Ford Estates	23%	25%	
Miromar Outlets Mall	21%	25%	
Tanger Outlet Center	24%	21%	
Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge	22%	20%	
Periwinkle Place	16%	15%	
Coconut Point Mall	12%	14%	
Bell Tower Shops	13%	11%	
Shell Factory and Nature Park	9%	11%	
Edison Mall	9%	8%	
Gulf Coast Town Center	10%	8%	
Manatee Park	7%	8%	
Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum	4%	5%	
Broadway Palm Dinner Theater	3%	2%	
Barbara B. Mann Perfoming Arts Hall	2%	2%	
Babcock Wilderness Adventures	1%	1%	
Other	9%	6%	
None/No Answer (NET)	4%	4%	

Q24. On this trip, which attractions are you visiting? (Please mark ALL that apply.)







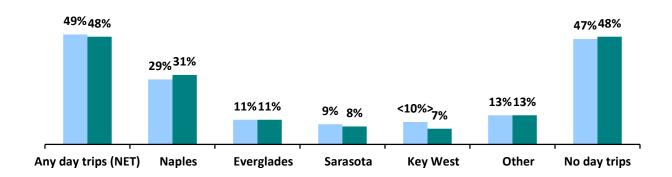
**Trip Activities** 

Day Trips Outside Lee County				
Winter Season	2013	2014		
	A	В		
Total Respondents	916	929		
Any day trips (NET)	<u>49%</u>	<u>48%</u>		
Naples	29%	31%		
Everglades	11%	11%		
Sarasota	9%	8%		
Key West	10%b	7%		
Other	13%	13%		
No day trips	<u>47%</u>	48%		
No Answer	11%	12%		

Q25: Where did you go on day trips outside Lee County?

**Day Trips Outside Lee County** 

2013 2014







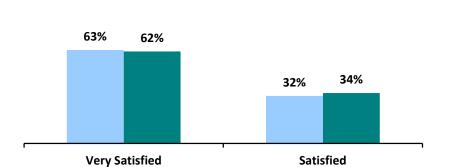
# **Lee County Experience**

Satisfaction with Visit					
Winter Season	2013	2014			
	Α	В			
Total Respondents	916	929			
Very Satisfied/Satisfied	<u>95%</u>	<u>95%</u>			
Very Satisfied	63%	62%			
Satisfied	32%	34%			
Neither	1%	2%			
Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied	<1%	<1%			
Don't know/no answer	4%	3%			

Q28: How satisfied are you with your stay in Lee County?

#### **Satisfaction with Visit**

■ 2013 ■ 2014







#### **Future Plans**

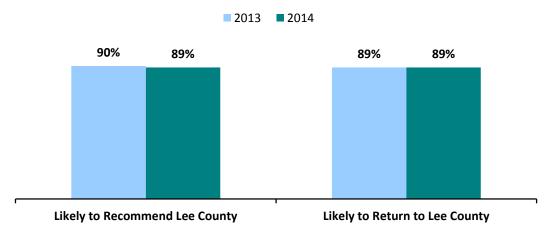
Likelihood to Recommend/Return to Lee County				
Winter Season 2013 2014				
	A	В		
Total Respondents	916	929		
Likely to Recommend Lee County	90%	89%		
Likely to Return to Lee County	89%	89%		
Base: Total Respondents Planning to Return 819 827				
Likely to Return Next Year	65%	60%		

Q27: Would you recommend Lee County to a friend over other vacation areas in Florida?

Q31: Will you come back to Lee County?

Q32: Will you come back next year?

## Likelihood to Recommend/Return to Lee County (Responded "Yes")



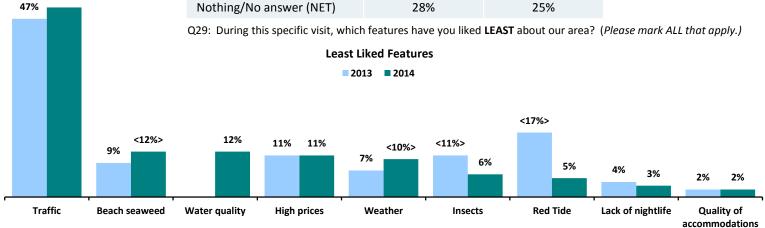




50%

# **Trip Activities**

Least Liked Features				
Winter Season	Winter Season 2013			
	A	В		
Total Respondents	916	929		
Traffic	47%	50%		
Beach seaweed	9%	12%a		
Water quality	N/A	12%		
High prices	11%	11%		
Weather	7%	10%a		
Insects	11%b	6%		
Red Tide	17%b	5%		
Lack of nightlife	4%	3%		
Quality of accommodations	2%	2%		
Other	5%	5%		
Nothing/No answer (NET)	28%	25%		





**Trip Activities** 

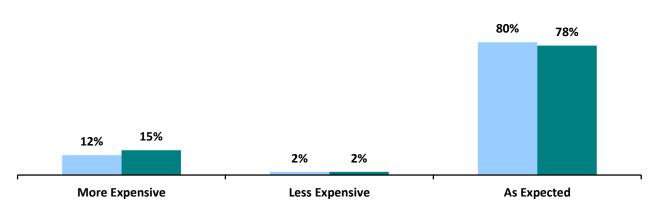
Perception of Lee County as Expensive						
Winter Season 2013 2014						
	Α	В				
Total Respondents	916	929				
More Expensive	12%	15%				
Less Expensive	2%	2%				
As Expected	80%	78%				
Don't know/No Answer (NET)	6%	5%				

Q26: From your experience, would you say that our area is more expensive, less expensive, or as expensive as you had expected?

## **Perception of Lee County as Expensive**







Winter 2014 28



# **Visitor and Travel Party Demographic Profile**

Visitor Demographic Profile							
Winter Season	Winter Season 2013						
	Α	В					
Total Respondents	916	929					
Age of respondent (mean)	55.5	57.0a					
Annual household income (mean)	\$106,760	\$107,587					
Martial Status							
Married	74%	77%					
Single	10%	9%					
Vacations per year (mean)	2.7	2.9					
Short getaways per year (mean)	4.2	3.9					

Q37: What is your age, please?

Q39: What is your total annual household income before taxes?

Q36. Are you: Married/Single/Other

Q33: How many vacations, lasting FIVE (5) OR MORE NIGHTS

AWAY FROM HOME, do you take in an average year?

Q34: And how many short getaway trips lasting AT LEAST (1) BUT

NOT MORE THAN FOUR (4) NIGHTS AWAY FROM HOME, do you

take in an average year?

Travel Party							
Winter Season	2013	2014					
	Α	В					
Total Respondents	916	929					
Couple	51%	51%					
Family	26%	22%					
Group of couples/friends	12%	14%					
Single	8%	8%					
Mean travel party size	2.7	2.8					
Mean adults in travel party	2.5	2.6					

Q17: On this trip, are you traveling:

Q18: Including yourself, how many people are in your immediate travel party?

Travel Parties with Children						
Winter Season	2014					
	Α	В				
Total Respondents	916	929				
Traveling with any Children (net)	<u>15%</u>	<u>14%</u>				
Any younger than 6	6%	6%				
Any ages 6-11	6%	6%				
Any 12-17 years old	6%	6%				
No Children	85%	86%				

Q19: How many of those people are:

Younger than 6 years old/ 6-11 years old/ 12-17 years old/ Adults





# **Visitor Origin and Visitation Estimates**

Total Visitation						
		%	Visitor E			
Winter Season	2013	2014	2013	2014	% Change	
Paid Accommodations	52%	55%	732,267	777,539	6.2%	
Friends/Relatives	48%	45%	666,051	642,459	-3.5%	
<b>Total Visitation</b>			1,398,318	1,419,998	1.6%	

Visitor Origin (Paid Accommodation Guests)						
Winter Season		%	Visitor E			
<b>Country of Origin</b>	2013	2014	2013	2014	% Change	
United States	79%	84%	582,058	654,709	12.5%	
Canada	9%	7%	64,060	52,145	-18.6%	
Germany	5%	3%	37,552	20,858	-44.5%	
Scandinavia	2%	2%	13,254	16,223	22.4%	
UK	2%	1%	16,567	10,429	-37.1%	
BeNeLux	<1%	1%	3,313	6,953	109.8%	
Switzerland	<1%	<1%	3,313	2,318	-30.1%	
France	-	<1%	-	2,318	-	
Latin America	<1%	<1%	1,104	1,159	4.9%	
Austria	<1%	-	4,418	-	-	
Ireland	<1%	-	2,209	-	-	
Other International	-	1%	-	6,953	-	
No Answer	1%	1%	4,418	3,476	-21.3%	

U.S. Region of Origin	2013	2014	2013	2014	% Change
Florida	2%	2%	8,836	12,747	44.3%
South (including Florida)	12%	13%	67,373	82,273	22.1%
Midwest	57%	55%	331,343	362,697	9.5%
Northeast	23%	20%	133,641	133,259	-0.3%
West	2%	3%	8,836	17,382	96.7%
No Answer	7%	9%	40,866	59,098	44.6%

Winter 2014 Top DMAs (Paid	Accommod	ations)
Minneapolis-Saint Paul	10%	62,574
New York	5%	34,763
Indianapolis	5%	32,446
Chicago	5%	31,287
Boston	4%	28,969
Cleveland-Akron	3%	19,699
Detroit	2%	13,905
Philadelphia	2%	13,905
Saint Louis	2%	13,905
Cincinnati	2%	12,747

Note: The percentage of visitors by origin market is based on data collected from visitors in the Visitor Profile Survey.

Davidson Peterson
Associates



# Occupancy Data Analysis Winter 2014

For the 2014 winter season, property managers were interviewed in April 2014 to provide data for each specific month of the season (January, February, and March 2014).

For the 2013 winter season, property managers were interviewed in February 2013, March 2013, and April 2013 to provide data for the preceding month.





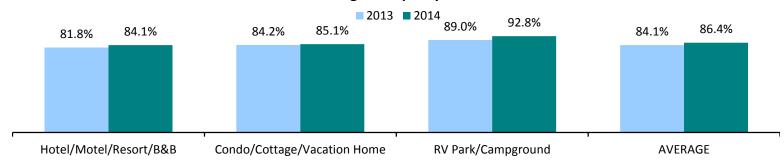
## **Occupancy/Daily Rates**

	Average Occupancy Rate			Average Daily Rate			RevPAR		
Winter Season	2013	2014	% Change	2013	2014	% Change	2013	2014	% Change
Hotel/Motel/Resort/B&B	81.8%	84.1%	2.8%	\$173.79	\$186.29	7.2%	\$142.23	\$156.70	10.2%
Condo/Cottage/Vacation Home	84.2%	85.1%	1.1%	\$207.15	\$238.48	15.1%	\$174.36	\$202.95	16.4%
RV Park/Campground	89.0%	92.8%	4.2%	\$55.73	\$59.97	7.6%	\$49.62	\$55.66	12.2%
AVERAGE	84.1%	86.4%	2.7%	\$151.62	\$165.47	9.1%	\$127.54	\$142.94	12.1%

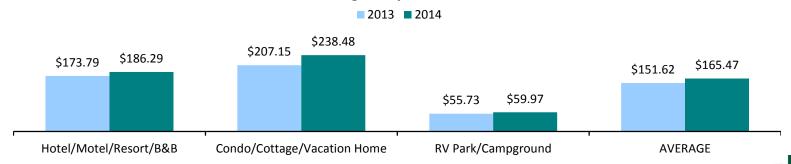
Q16: What was your overall average occupancy rate for the month of [January/February/March]?

Q17: What was your average daily rate (ADR) in [January/February/March]?

#### **Average Occupancy Rate**



#### **Average Daily Rate**

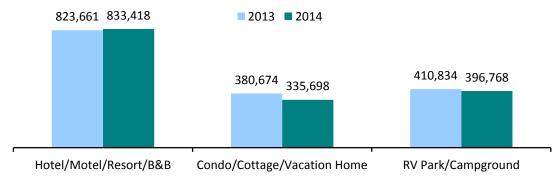




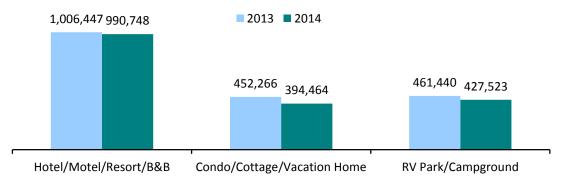
# **Room/Unit/Site Nights**

	Occupied Room Nights			Available Room Nights		
Winter Season	2013	2014	% Change	2013	2014	% Change
Hotel/Motel/Resort/B&B	823,661	833,418	1.2%	1,006,447	990,748	-1.6%
Condo/Cottage/Vacation Home	380,674	335,698	-11.8%	452,266	394,464	-12.8%
RV Park/Campground	410,834	396,768	-3.4%	461,440	427,523	-7.4%
Total	1,615,169	1,565,885	-3.1%	1,920,153	1,812,735	-5.6%





#### **Available Room Nights**



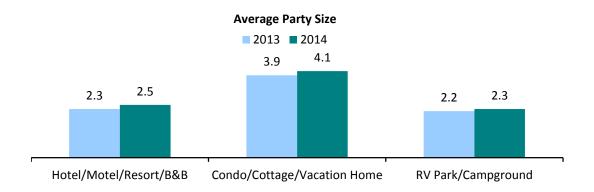




# **Average Party Size and Length of Stay**

	Average Party Size			Average Length of Stay		
Winter Season	2013	2014	% Change	2013	2014	% Change
Hotel/Motel/Resort/B&B	2.3	2.5	9.2%	3.4	3.5	1.3%
Condo/Cottage/Vacation Home	3.9	4.1	4.7%	11.2	10.2	-8.7%
RV Park/Campground	2.2	2.3	7.4%	18.0	21.6	19.7%
Average	2.6	2.8	6.0%	5.8	5.6	-3.2%

Q18: What was your average number of guests per room/site/unit in [January/February/March]? Q19: What was the average length of stay (in nights) of your guests in [January/February/March]?



# Average Length of Stay 2013 2014 21.6 11.2 10.2 3.4 3.5 Hotel/Motel/Resort/B&B Condo/Cottage/Vacation Home RV Park/Campground

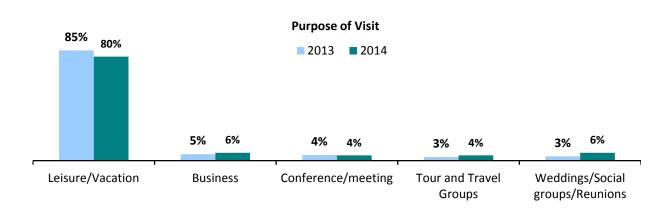




# **Lodging Management Estimates**

Guest Profile							
Winter Season	2013	2014					
	Α	В					
Total Number of Responses	95	104					
<u>Purpose of Visit</u>							
Leisure/Vacation	85%	80%					
Business	5%	6%					
Conference/meeting	4%	4%					
Tour and Travel Groups	3%	4%					
Weddings/Social groups/Reunions (net)	3%	6%					

Q22: What percent of your [January/February/March] room/site/unit occupancy do you estimate was generated by:







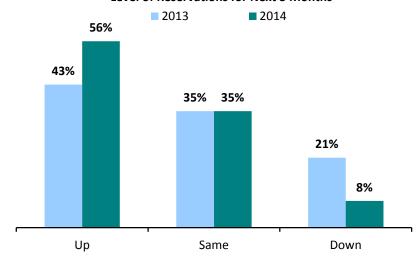
## **Occupancy Barometer**

Level of Reservations	or Next 3 Months Com	nared to Last Year
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Winter Season	2013	2014
	A	В
Total Respondents	101	111
<u>Up/Same (net)</u>	<u>77%</u>	<u>91%a</u>
Up	43%	56%
Same	35%	35%
Down	21%	8%

Q24: Compared to April, June, and July of [prior year], is your property's total level of reservations up, the same or down for April, June, and July of [current year]?

#### **Level of Reservations for Next 3 Months**



\*Note: Only includes those property managers interviewed in April 2013 for direct comparability to those interviewed in April 2014.





# **Economic Impact Analysis Winter 2014**

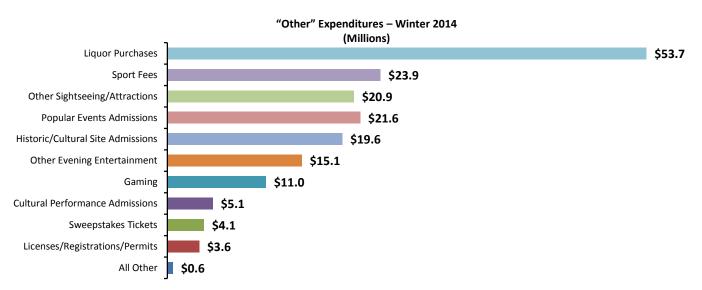




#### **Total Visitor Expenditures by Spending Category**

TOTAL EXPENDITURES				
Winter Season	2013	2014	% Change	
TOTAL	\$1,050,048,213	\$1,074,709,807	2.3%	
Food and Beverages	\$268,197,542	\$269,927,494	0.6%	
Shopping	\$261,154,408	\$264,582,635	1.3%	
Lodging Accommodations	\$244,896,197	\$259,104,943	5.8%	
Ground Transportation	\$94,764,414	\$101,896,278	7.5%	
Other	\$181,035,652	\$179,198,457	-1.0%	

(Note: Other includes the categories detailed below.)



(Note: The sum of the numbers in the chart may not match the "other" row in the table above due to rounding.)

Davidson Peterson
Associates



## **Total Visitor Expenditures by Lodging Type**

TOTAL EXPENDITURES						
	Staying Paid Accommodations		Visiting Friends and Relatives/Day Trippers			
Winter Season	2013	2014	% Change	2013	2014	% Change
TOTAL	\$736,972,483	\$763,319,329	3.6%	\$313,075,730	\$311,390,478	<u>-0.5%</u>
Lodging Accommodations	\$244,896,197	\$259,104,943	5.8%	\$0	\$0	-
Food and Beverages	\$162,282,873	\$166,074,195	2.3%	\$105,914,669	\$103,853,299	-1.9%
Shopping	\$156,231,585	\$159,255,385	1.9%	\$104,922,823	\$105,327,250	0.4%
Ground Transportation	\$62,565,806	\$67,821,532	8.4%	\$32,198,608	\$34,074,746	5.8%
Other	\$110,996,022	\$111,063,274	0.1%	\$70,039,630	\$68,135,183	-2.7%

"Other" includes the following categories:

- Liquor Purchases
- Other Sightseeing/Attractions
- Historic/Cultural Site Admissions
- Popular Events Admissions
- Sports Fees
- Other Evening Entertainment
- Gaming
- Cultural Performance Admissions
- Licenses/Registrations/Permits
- Sweepstakes Tickets
- All Other





## **Total Visitor Expenditures by Lodging Type**

Total Expenditures by Lodging Type					
Winter Season	2013	2014	% Change	2013	2014
TOTAL	\$1,050,048,213	\$1,074,709,807	2.3%	100%	100%
Visiting Friends & Relatives/Day Trippers	\$313,075,730	\$311,390,478	-0.5%	30%	29%
Paid Accommodations	\$736,972,483	\$763,319,329	3.6%	<u>70%</u>	<u>71%</u>
Hotel/Motel/Resort/B&B	\$402,763,469	\$431,142,538	7.0%	38%	40%
Condo/Cottage/Vacation Home	\$225,747,868	\$221,506,571	-1.9%	21%	21%
RV Park/Campground	\$108,461,146	\$110,670,220	2.0%	10%	10%









#### **Direct and Indirect Impact of Visitor Expenditures**

Estimated total visitor expenditures (detailed in 16 expense categories) are entered into an input/output model designed specifically for Lee County. This model classifies the visitor expenditure dollars by industry and identifies how the dollars move through the County economy. This Regional Input-Output Model is based on an economic model designed by the Federal Government, but it is modified using County Business Patterns to reflect how the economy of Lee County actually works.

In the text and figures which follow to describe the impact of visitor expenditures on Lee County, both direct and total impacts are mentioned.

#### DIRECT IMPACTS

Economic benefits due directly to visitor expenditures.

For example, when visitor expenditures pay the salary and benefits for a hotel desk clerk, that amount would be considered in the direct impact for both jobs and income.

#### **TOTAL IMPACTS**

Total impacts are the sum of direct and indirect impacts.

<u>Indirect</u> impacts are the additional economic benefits supported during additional rounds of spending.

For example, the front desk clerk pays income tax and property tax which are an indirect result of visitor expenditures. The front desk clerk also pays his/her utility bills, buys food for his/her family, shops for gifts, etc. Those dollars create the indirect impact of the initial traveler expenditures through many additional rounds of spending in the economy.





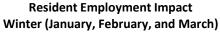
#### **Impact on Jobs for Lee County Residents**

In order to produce the output (food, lodging, entertainment, etc.) purchased by visitors, businesses have to employ people.

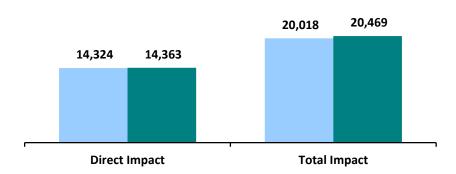
The number of jobs necessary to produce what is purchased with visitor expenditures is the employment impact of the visitor expenditures.

<u>Direct employment</u> includes the number of employees necessary to produce the direct output purchased with the visitor expenditures.

<u>Total employment</u> includes the number of employees necessary to produce the direct output purchased with the visitor expenditures <u>PLUS</u> the employees necessary to produce additional output purchased with the recirculation of money in Lee County. For example, wages paid to a hotel desk clerk are then used to purchase food and services for that employee, leading to additional supported jobs (grocery store proprietor, auto mechanic, etc.).



**2013 2014** 







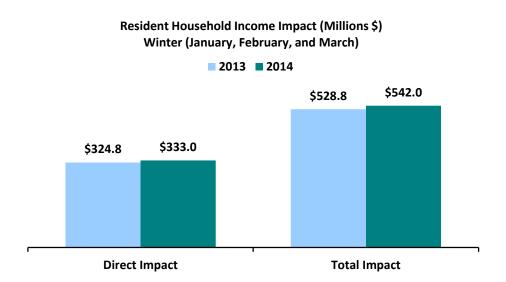
#### Impact on Household Income for Lee County Residents

As stated earlier, in order to produce the output (food, lodging, entertainment, etc.) purchased by visitors, businesses have to employ people. This requires business owners to pay wages and salaries to their employees, and also includes proprietary income for the business owner in some cases.

The wages and salaries paid in order to produce what is purchased with visitor expenditures is the household income impact of the visitor expenditures.

<u>Direct household income impact</u> includes the direct wages and salaries paid in order to produce the goods and services purchased with the visitor expenditures.

<u>Total household income</u> includes the wages and salaries paid in order to produce the goods and services purchased with the visitor expenditures <u>PLUS</u> the wages and salaries necessary to produce the additional output purchased with the recirculation of money in Lee County. For example, wages brought home by a hotel desk clerk are then used to purchase food and services for that person and his/her family, leading to additional wages and salaries being paid to others (grocery store employee, utility crews, etc.).







#### **Impact on State and Local Government Revenues**

In producing and selling any goods and services purchased by visitors, both local and state revenues are collected by local and state governments.

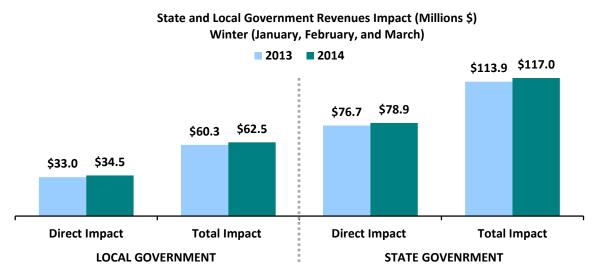
The gross government revenues accruing to governments as a result of producing the output purchased with visitor expenditures is the government revenue impact.

<u>Local government revenue impact</u> is a result of revenues provided to the local (Lee County) government. This includes the bed tax, local property tax, any local-option sales tax, and any operating income for local government agencies.

<u>State government revenue impact</u> is a result of revenues provided to the Florida state government. This includes sales tax and any operating income for state government agencies.

The following are included in government revenues as appropriate for the local area; gasoline taxes, vehicle licenses and registrations, boat registrations, hunting and fishing licenses, liquor taxes, local and state park user fees, etc.

Tax ratios used to calculate these government revenue impacts are adjusted to conform to data reported in State and Local Government Finance Data (SLGF, Bureau of the Census).







Appendix Winter 2014





# **January 2014 Interviewing Statistics**

City	Event/Location	Interviewing Dates	Number of Interviews
RSW	RSW Airport	1/6/14	27
Fort Myers	Edison Estates	1/9/14	23
RSW	RSW Airport	1/11/14	33
Fort Myers Beach	Estero Island Beach Club	1/13/14	10
Fort Myers Beach	Diamond Head	1/13/14	10
Fort Myers Beach	Neptune Inn	1/13/14	10
Fort Myers Beach	Lani Kai	1/13/14	5
Sanibel	Surfside	1/14/14	5
Sanibel	Holiday Inn	1/14/14	6
Sanibel	Sundial Resort	1/14/14	6
Fort Myers	Centenial Park	1/15/14	4
Fort Myers Beach	Pink Shell Resort	1/20/14	10
Fort Myers Beach	Windward Passage	1/20/14	10
Fort Myers Beach	Best Western	1/20/14	10
North Fort Meyers	Shell Factory	1/20/14	13
Fort Myers	Edison Estates	1/21/14	24
Bonita Springs	Bonita Beach	1/23/14	24
Cape Coral	Cape Coral Yatch Club	1/23/14	6
Sanibel	Light House Beach	1/26/14	15
Sanibel	Periwinkle Camp Ground	1/26/14	5
Sanibel	Sanibel Beach Club	1/26/14	5
Estero	Miromar Outlets	1/27/14	16
Sanibel	Holiday Inn	1/28/14	8
Sanibel	Loggerhead Cay	1/28/14	10
Sanibel	Coquina Beach	1/28/14	9
Total			304





# **February 2014 Interviewing Statistics**

City	Event/Location	Interviewing Dates	Number of Interviews
RSW	RSW Airport	2/1/14	34
Bonita Springs	Bonita Beach	2/4/14	20
Fort Meyers Beach	Times Square	2/7/14	25
Fort Meyers Beach	Neptune Inn	2/7/14	10
Fort Meyers Beach	Diamond Head	2/7/14	10
Sanibel	Holiday Inn	2/10/14	10
Sanibel	Sanibel Siesta	2/10/14	5
Sanibel	Compass Point	2/10/14	5
Sanibel	Sundial Resort	2/10/14	10
Sanibel	Light House Beach	2/10/14	9
North Fort Meyers	Shell Factory	2/12/14	9
Fort Myers	Edison Estates	2/14/14	25
RSW	RSW Airport	2/15/14	28
Fort Meyers Beach	Lani Kai	2/21/14	5
Fort Meyers Beach	Best Western	2/21/14	10
Fort Meyers Beach	Estero Island Beach Club	2/21/14	10
Estero	Miromar Outlets	2/21/14	20
Fort Myers	Centenial Park	2/22/14	6
Sanibel	Sanibel Cottages	2/24/14	6
Sanibel	Casa Ybel	2/24/14	10
Sanibel	Pointe Santo	2/24/14	10
Fort Myers	Edison Estates	2/25/14	23
Cape Coral	Cape Coral Yacht Club	2/26/14	9
Total			309





# **March 2014 Interviewing Statistics**

City	Event/Location	Interviewing Dates	Number of Interviews
RSW	RSW Airport	3/1/14	30
Bonita Springs	Bonita Beach	3/3/14	25
North Fort Meyers	Shell Factory	3/5/14	8
Fort Meyers Beach	Neptune Inn	3/7/14	10
Fort Meyers Beach	Windward Passage	3/7/14	10
Fort Meyers Beach	Pink Shell Resort	3/7/14	10
Sanibel	Loggerhead Cay	3/10/14	10
Sanibel	Coquina Beach	3/10/14	10
Sanibel	Sanibel Surfside	3/10/14	5
Sanibel	Holiday Inn	3/10/14	11
Fort Myers	Hammond Stadium	3/13/14	20
Fort Myers	Jet Blue Park	3/17/14	20
Fort Myers	Edison Estates	3/19/14	23
Fort Meyers Beach	Diamond Head	3/21/14	10
Fort Meyers Beach	Estero Beach Club	3/21/14	10
Fort Meyers Beach	Times Square Area	3/21/14	20
RSW	RSW Airport	3/22/14	30
Sanibel	Casa Ybel	3/24/14	7
Sanibel	Compass Point	3/25/14	5
Sanibel	Sundial	3/25/14	10
Sanibel	Pointe Santo	3/25/14	10
Estero	Miromar Outlets	3/31/14	22
Total			316





#### **Occupancy Interviewing Statistics**

Interviews were conducted during the first two weeks of April 2014 to gather data for January, February, and March 2014 lodging activity. Information was provided by 122 Lee County lodging properties.

Lodging Type	Winter 2014 Number of Interviews		
Hotel/Motel/Resort/B&Bs	74		
Condo/Cottage/Vacation Home/Timeshare	30		
RV Park/Campground	18		
Total	122		

