

Economic Impact of the Adirondack Rail Trail

Historic Spending by Rail Trail Users

The following data is based upon 8,440 rail trail user surveys conducted by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in Pennsylvania and New Jersey between 2006 and 2015. This is the largest and most comprehensive database of actual trail user spending available.

Consumable Goods Spending

Spending Category	Percent Making Purchase
Beverages	21.9%
Snacks/Candy	10.2%
Sandwiches	6.4%
Ice Cream	7.7%
Meals	14.8%
Bike Rentals	.9%
Other	2.0%
Nothing	36.2%

Average Expenditure per person = \$18.99*

Individual Spending by Trail Users Who Only Purchased a Single Item

Spending Category	Average Individual Spending
Beverage	\$ 4.37
Snacks/Candy	\$ 4.36
Sandwiches	\$10.59
Ice Cream	\$ 5.19
Meals	\$20.22
Bike Rental	\$55.47

Overnight Accommodations

Accommodation Type	Average Spending Per Night
Hotel/Motel	\$ 99.73
B & B	\$122.29
Campground	\$ 34.60

*Note: The average individual expenditure for the 8,440 was \$18.99 this is due to the fact that few people purchased just one item. For example, 724 trail users said they purchased a sandwich but from an examination on the data, only 44 purchased only a sandwich.

Adjusting Expenditures for Inflation

Because the base data from the RTC surveys was collected between 2006 and 2015, we are going to make the assumption that the "average base year" for expenditures was 2010. So we will extrapolate the spending for future years using an internet tool that uses data from the US Office of Management

and Budget to calculate future year average expenditures. This will also be useful for existing and potential new business start-ups in estimating future revenues.

Spending Category	2010 Avg.	2017 Avg.	2020 Avg.	2025 Avg.
Overall Avg. Spending	\$ 18.99	\$ 21.41	\$ 23.06	\$ 26.09
Beverage	\$ 4.37	\$ 4.93	\$ 5.31	\$ 6.00
Snacks/Candy	\$ 4.36	\$ 4.92	\$ 5.29	\$ 5.99
Sandwiches	\$ 10.59	\$ 11.94	\$ 12.86	\$ 14.55
Ice Cream	\$ 5.19	\$ 5.85	\$ 6.30	\$ 7.13
Meals	\$ 20.22	\$ 22.80	\$ 24.55	\$ 27.78
Bike Rental	\$ 55.47	\$ 62.55	\$ 67.35	\$ 76.21
Hotel	\$ 99.73	\$112.46	\$121.10	\$137.02
B & B	\$122.29	\$137.89	\$148.50	\$168.01
Campground	\$ 34.90	\$ 39.35	\$ 42.38	\$ 47.95

Data from Other Trail User Surveys

Virginia Creeper Trail

Estimated Annual Usage 2002-2003 = 130,172 Range of estimate = 119,905 – 140,439

Estimated Annual Usage 2004 = 150,000 – 200,000

40% of trips are non-local

Non-local average distance traveled 260 miles

Average travel time 4.8 hours

Average number of trips per non-locals 4.8

77% take fewer than 4 trips

Consumer surplus for day trips \$51.50

Damascus, VA – Population 1,000. Eight bicycle shops supporting rentals and shuttle services

Abingdon, VA – Population 8,206. Overnight visitors spend on average \$700 per stay. Trail related tourism revenue is about \$25 million.

Great Allegheny Passage

Average group size: 2 = 45%, 1 – 19%

Multiday trips 57%

Spending on snacks and beverages \$19.71, restaurants \$59.26

Overnight stays 62%, average spending per night in 2011 \$114, in 2014 \$124.58

Average distance traveled to a trailhead 131 miles

Average distance traveled to trailhead by overnight stays 289 miles

New York State Snowmobile Data (source: 2011 NY Snowmobile Owners Survey)

The average number of days spent snowmobiling during the 2010 - 2011 season was, approximately, 22 days

More than 66% of the respondents reported that they trailered their snowmobiles to another area of the state at an average of 8.5 days

The largest percentage of the days spent snowmobiling was in the Adirondack region

Approximately 40% of the respondents reported that they took an overnight snowmobiling trip during 2010 – 2011

The average number of nights spent on overnight trips was seven (7) with an average of five (5) nights spent in hotels/motels.

Category of Expenditure	NYSSA Member Group	Random Sample Group
Gasoline, Oil & Supplies for Snowmobile in NYS	\$830.13	\$715.87
Parts, Service & Repairs for Snowmobile in NYS	\$562.84	\$547.41
Overnight Trips in Hotels/Motels in NYS	\$630.73	\$704.96
Meals in NYS	\$440.37	\$388.67
Total	\$2,464.07	\$2,356.91
Average Days Spent Snowmobiling	21.67	22.04
Average Expenditure Per Day	\$113.71	\$106.94