

# Nonresident Tourist Groups —

## Time And Money Spent, Miles Traveled

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(This is the second article in North Dakota Farm Research on resident and nonresident tourist travel).

Tourism is an important industry in North Dakota, and the whole state benefits.

How long do nonresident tourist groups stay in North Dakota, how many miles do they travel while here, and how much money do they spend for various items?<sup>1</sup>

We know the answers given by 2,112 nonresident tourist groups to these questions, when they traveled in North Dakota in the fall of 1967. Of the 2,112 groups, 2,093 provided information on the number of nights spent in North Dakota; 1,863 listed miles traveled, and 1,965 gave information on expenditures.

Nonresident tourist groups traveling in North Dakota did not linger long here (Table 1). For example, almost 19 per cent did not remain overnight, and about 45 per cent stayed only one night. Less than 5 per cent had stays of 11 or more nights.

Table 1. Number of nights spent in North Dakota by nonresident tourist groups.

Number of Nights	Groups Reporting	
	Number	Per Cent
All Groups	2,093	100.0
0	394	18.8
1	934	44.7
2 - 3	417	19.9
4 - 10	255	12.2
11 and more	93	4.4

<sup>1</sup>A tourist group includes all persons in one vehicle.

About 8 per cent traveled from 200-299 miles while in North Dakota (Table 2). This range includes the north-south distance across the state.

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Forty-two per cent said they traveled 300-399 miles. This range includes the east-west distance across North Dakota. Less than 2 per cent of the tourist groups traveled 1,000 miles or more in North Dakota.

Table 2. Number of miles traveled in North Dakota by nonresident tourist groups.

Number of Miles	Groups Reporting Miles	
	Number	Per Cent
All Groups	1,863	100.0
Less than 100	24	1.3
100 - 199	75	4.0
200 - 299	153	8.2
300 - 399	792	42.6
400 - 499	271	14.5
500 - 999	520	27.9
1,000 and above	28	1.5

Of the 2,112 tourist groups, 1,965 reported total expenditures for various items of \$86,196, or an average of \$43.87 per group (Table 3). Expenditures at eating and drinking places and for lodging accounted for 24.7 per cent and 22.7 per cent, respectively, of the total. These two items taken together accounted for almost one-half of the total. Expenditures for gasoline and oil constituted 30.6 per cent of the total. The highest average expenditure per reporting group (except for "other" items) was \$17.76 for lodging.

Table 3. Expenditures in North Dakota by nonresident tourist groups.

Item	Expenditures Per Reporting Group			
	Number of Groups Reporting	Total Dollars	Per Cent of Expenditures	Average Dollars
All items	1,965	\$86,196	100.0	\$43.87
Food bought at stores	732	8,102	9.3	11.07
Eating and drinking places	1,446	21,249	24.7	14.70
Lodging	1,097	19,484	22.7	17.76
Amusements	211	2,220	2.6	10.52
Gasoline and oil	1,836	26,419	30.6	14.39
Other items	447	8,722	10.1	19.51

Forty-eight per cent of the reporting groups spent less than \$30 for all items, 43 per cent spent from \$30 to \$99, and 9 per cent spent \$100 or more (Table 4).

Table 4. Distribution of groups according to expenditures for all items.

Expenditures Dollars	Number	Groups Reporting Per Cent
All Groups	1,965	100.0
Less than 10	177	9.0
10 - 19	375	19.1
20 - 29	399	20.3
30 - 39	324	16.4
40 - 49	187	9.5
50 - 74	231	11.8
75 - 99	93	4.7
100 - 149	75	3.8
150 - 199	41	2.1
200 - 299	21	1.1
300 - 399	11	.6
400 - 499	7	.4
500 and over	24	1.2

The 1965 nonresident tourist groups represented only a small proportion of the total number of nonresidents traveling in North Dakota during the season. The total expenditures by nonresident tourists amount to millions of dollars each year, indicating that tourism is a very important industry in North Dakota. These expenditures benefit the immediate recipient and are diffused throughout the community.



Figure 1. Disaster strikes. Hail causes some \$3,000,000 of damage annually to North Dakota's wheat crop.

# Simulated Hail Damage On Spring Wheat

Robert H. Busch

Hail losses to wheat causes yield decrease and other damage amounting to about \$3,000,000 annually in North Dakota. Uninsured hail damage decreases farm income in North Dakota by possibly as much as another \$3,000,000.

Insurance against hail losses is written by private companies and public programs. Hail adjustors "adjust" hail losses on hundreds of farms in North Dakota each year. Estimating hail damage is difficult, but efforts to improve the accuracy of hail damage adjustment techniques have been underway for many years and continue as varieties change, research techniques improve, and more knowledge is gained. North Dakota State University is participating in this research.

Insurance companies have founded a research organization called Hail Insurance Adjustment and Research Association (HIARA) to obtain accurate measurements of various damage levels and their effect on yield and other characteristics on many insured crops. Winter wheat has been studied at several state experiment stations, using various treatments in five stages of growth: boot, bloom, milk, soft dough and hard dough. Appropriate yield adjustments for damage have been incorporated into a hail loss chart for use throughout the western plains wheat area. Further experimentation is necessary to confirm and combine various levels of damage to more accurately assess the reduction in yield and yield components in spring wheat.

Research was begun in 1968 by the Agronomy Department and funded by HIARA to conduct simulated hail injury studies on hard red spring wheat at the Fargo, Carrington and Dickinson

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