



PRESS RELEASE

enjoyillinois.com



FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

July 19, 2018

CONTACT: Teri Hammel

Executive Director, Decatur Area CVB

217-423-7000

teri@decaturcvb.com

Tourism to Macon County Contributing to Robust Economic Growth in Illinois

Macon County generated \$2.89 million in local tax revenue and \$150.07 million in visitor expenditures

Decatur, IL – The Illinois Office of Tourism announced both international and domestic travel expenditures reached \$39.5 billion in 2017 which is a \$1.1 billion boost to the state’s economy since 2016. Visitors to the state hit an all time high in 2017 with an additional 1.6 million travelers from 2016 contributing to an increase of visitor spending, tax revenue and local jobs.

Macon County played a role in the state’s added economic domestic growth, with \$150.07 million in travel expenditures – a 5.6% increase, and \$2.89 million in local tax revenue – a 5.8% increase. More than 6,000 jobs were created across the state as a result of visitor spending, with 4.3% of them in Macon County.

“Illinois is the perfect destination for anyone looking for a new experience – whether it’s an outdoor adventure, a scenic road trip, incredible nightlife, or a family-friendly activity – there truly is something for everybody,” said Cory Jobe, director of Illinois Tourism. “The added boost in state and local tax revenue is a testament to the continued impact that tourism continues to have on Illinois.”

Economic Impact of Domestic Travel by County:

Macon County

Travel expenditures – \$150.07 million (5.6% increase)

Local tax revenue – \$2.89 million (5.8% increase)

With visitor growth continuing its upward trend, Macon County locals will have a lot to look forward to as work continues developing the region, says Teri Hammel, executive director, Decatur Area CVB.



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
OFFICE OF TOURISM
Bruce Rauner, Governor

ARE YOU UP FOR
Amazing?

PRESS RELEASE

enjoyillinois.com



“2017 was a great year for the tourism industry in Macon County” said Hammel. “It was a Farm Progress Show year which is always fills our hotels and restaurants, plus the area hosted numerous meetings, conventions, events, and sporting tournaments—all of which play a significant role in boosting the local economy.”

Fast Facts about Illinois Tourism in 2017:

- Every \$1 invested in Illinois tourism generates \$9 in economic impact for the state
- Illinois welcomed 111 million domestic visitors
- Of Illinois’ 111 million domestic visitors, 17% were for business and 83% for leisure
- In the past 10 years, domestic travel to Illinois has increased by 23 million visitors
- The visitor expenditures generated by domestic visitors supported 308,490 jobs in 2017 which is an increase of 6,040 jobs since 2016
- Domestic travelers spent \$36.3 billion in Illinois during 2017, a 3.3 percent increase from 2016

Illinois Office of Tourism receives domestic visitor volume estimates from DK Shifflet and international visitor numbers from Tourism Economics. Visitor expenditures, tax revenue and jobs numbers come from U.S. Travel Association.

For more press materials and to download images, visit Media.EnjoyIllinois.com

For travel inspiration and trip ideas, visit EnjoyIllinois.com

###

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for Illinois residents



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
OFFICE OF TOURISM
Bruce Rauner, Governor