NSW was the State hit hardest by the Australian bushfires and this event impacted travel to NSW in January and February 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic as well as the enforcement of travel bans and border closures from late March 2020 have had a severe effect, with NSW recording its lowest ever domestic overnight visitation in April 2020. As cases declined and restrictions eased (including the Government ban on travel to regional NSW for holiday purposes lifted on 1 June 2020), visitation to NSW increased during the school holiday months of July and October. Without the benefit of school holidays, November results were lower than October.

NSW received 22.0 million domestic overnight visitors in the January to November 2020 period who stayed 75.0 million nights and spent $12.5 billion. This was a decline of 13.6 million domestic overnight visitors (or down 38 per cent), 36.4 million nights (or down 33 per cent) and $9.1 billion in expenditure (or down 42 per cent) as compared to the same period in 2019.