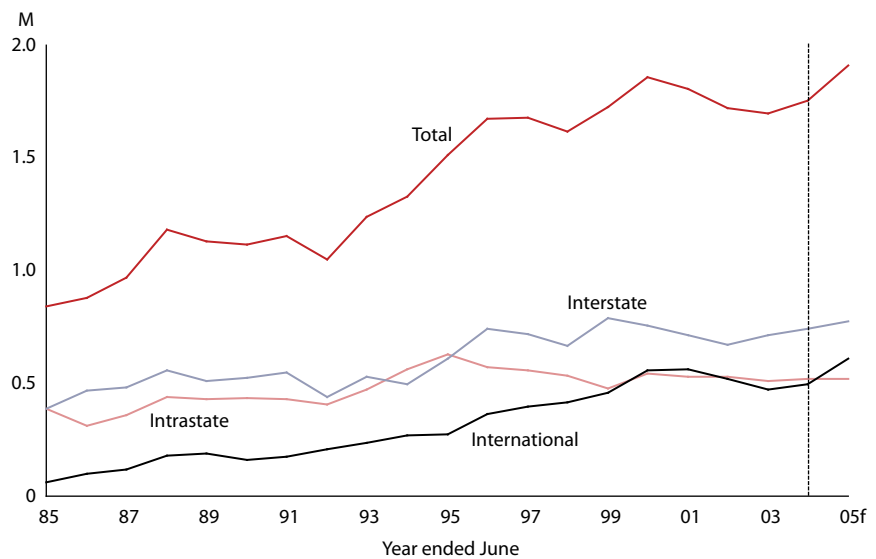


## Tourism

- During the 1990s, the Territory's tourism sector expanded considerably, driven by solid growth in international visitor numbers, which increased at an average rate of around 10 per cent per annum.
- The Northern Territory Tourist Commission estimates that total expenditure by tourists to the Territory increased by 5.2 per cent to \$1 080 million in 2002-03, of which international visitors accounted for 33 per cent, spending an average of \$174 per day each, up from \$148 per day in 2001-02.
- Over the past few years, however, international discretionary travel has declined due to weak global economic conditions exacerbated by the threat and reality of terrorist attacks, geopolitical uncertainty and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak.
- After three years of negative growth, total visitor numbers are estimated to have increased by around 3 per cent (to 1.75 million) in 2003-04 with growth of 9 per cent (to 1.91 million) expected in 2004-05. International visitor numbers are expected to rebound by 4.4 per cent (to around 500 000) in 2003-04 and by about 23 per cent (to around 600 000) in 2004-05.
- The appreciation of the Australian dollar is a major risk to the outlook, as it will act to constrain the strength of the anticipated upswing in international visitors while increasing the likelihood of Australians travelling abroad.

Chart 7: Visitor Numbers, Northern Territory



f: forecast  
Source: NT Treasury, NTTTC