Michigan golfers spend almost $1 billion annually

LANSING, Mich. — Golfers spend a minimum of $941 million in Michigan annually, according to a new economic impact study commissioned by Travel Michigan.

The study, conducted by professors at Eastern Michigan University, is the first economic impact study of golfers on the Michigan economy. "Michigan leads the nation with more than 750 public golf courses and we have led the nation in the number of new courses coming on line," said Richard Czuba, Michigan's director of tourism. "For the first time we can estimate the economic impact of golf on Michigan's economy. At nearly $1 billion, the impact is staggering."

According to the study, golfers spent $586.10 per trip, at both the golf course and in the community, on trips that averaged 2.6 nights away from home. Golfers spent at least $506.6 million at Michigan golf courses and resorts, and poured a minimum of $434.4 million into Michigan's communities.

The study measured only the expenditures of golfers. Real estate sales, construction jobs, and golf course employment were not included as part of the economic impact study.

"Tourism is the state's second largest industry, and golf is emerging as a major economic player for the state," said Czuba. "Not only do golf courses provide great enjoyment, they highlight Michigan's great outdoors while supporting the thousands of small tourism businesses across the state, bringing more jobs to all corners of Michigan."

Beyond economic figures, the study provided an interesting profile into the Michigan golfer, including a golf population younger than the national average of 40 years old and 52 percent earning an annual income in excess of $75,000.

Detroit track headed for redo

DETROIT — The 18-hole Shady Hollow Golf Course looks headed for a redesign as part of a $250 million, 700-acre retail, business and housing project north of Detroit Metro Airport.

The proposed Metro World Centre, which would be one of Detroit's largest developments, would include a 450,000-square-foot discount mall, five technology parks, corporate park, office campus, retail strip center and single-family and rental housing. Shady Hollow falls within the proposed site plan.

Metro World developer Burt Farbman has said that changes to the golf course are very likely and that it may be reduced to a nine-hole layout. He said a study has shown that 80 percent of the rounds now played on the course are nine-hole rounds.

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Environmental Golfer & Glen Arnie Golf Club
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