



Kings Island helped draw more than \$1 billion last year. ENQUIRER FILE

Tourism draws big bucks to Warren County

By Sheila McLaughlin
smclaughlin@enquirer.com

Tourism was more than a \$1 billion business last year in Warren County, which calls itself 'Ohio's Largest Playground.'

That's according to a study by the private Philadelphia-based company, Tourism Economics, and Ohio's Office of Tourism and Travel.

It says 8.3 million visitors to the county – home to Kings Island amusement park – generated business sales of \$1.1 billion in 2013, which officials at the local convention and visitors bureau said was a first. Most of the spending went to retail, recreation and entertainment, and food and beverages.

Phil Smith, who heads the Warren County Convention & Visitors Bureau,

said tourism remains Warren County's No. 1 industry.

"Tourism supports one in every eight jobs in Warren County or 12.7 percent of the total," Smith said.

Close to 11,900 people are employed in tourism-related jobs in Warren County. The jobs generated \$252.1 million in wages and \$136.5 million in federal, state and local taxes, the study said. ■