

U.S. skier visits soar in 2012-13 season

The National Ski Areas Association announced today that U.S. ski areas tallied an estimated 56.6 million skier and snowboarder visits during the 2012-13 season. The results represent an 11 percent increase over the previous season, and the largest year-over-year gain in 30 years.

Despite a slow start to the winter season in parts of the country, many ski areas experienced a strong Christmas holiday period, and also reported strong visitation during Presidents Day and throughout March, helping to propel the industry back into a more typical visit volumes.



People line up for Vail's gondola that opened this season. Photo/LTN file

In another indication of the widespread rebound this season, 78 percent of reporting ski areas posted increases in visits. The median resort experienced a 10.6 percent gain in visits.

Visits were up in all regions, with the biggest rebounds seen for the Pacific Southwest, up 20.5 percent. Meanwhile the Northeast was up 20.3 percent, and the Southeast was up 17.2 percent. Impressive gains were also recorded in the Midwest, up 11.5 percent, and Pacific Northwest, up 7.5 percent. The

Rocky Mountain was up 1.9 percent over the 2011-12 season.

On an overall national basis, visitation was up in every period of the season, with the most substantial increases recorded at the end of the season. Specifically, visits were estimated to be up 2 percent in the early season; up 16 percent during the Christmas and New Year's holidays; up 7 percent during the January 7 to Feb. 18 period; up 14 percent in the Feb. 19 to March 24 period; and up 25 percent during the March 26 to closing period.

Ski report: Final turns

Spring conditions prevail on this final weekend of winter operation for a few remaining resorts.



Kirkwood, Mt. Rose and Squaw are open through Sunday.

Apline will close next weekend. Mammoth is open into May.

Here is the April 20 ski report.

– Curtis Fong

Ski report: Time for a new sport



This is the final daily ski report for the season because many resorts close this weekend.

Here is the April 14 ski report.

– *Curtis Fong*

Ski report: Closing weekend for some resorts



Take advantage this weekend of last runs of the season at some Tahoe resorts.

Here is the April 13 ski report.

– *Curtis Fong*

Ski report: Get out and ski



This will be the final weekend for many resorts. It's time to get out and enjoy spring conditions and make turns while you can.

Here is the April 12 ski report.

– *Curtis Fong*

Ski report: Closing dates approaching



These resorts will be closed as of April 15: Heavenly, Sierra-at-Tahoe, Sugar Bowl, Royal Gorge, Boreal and Bear Valley.

Kirkwood, Mt. Rose and Squaw Valley are open until April 21. Alpine Meadows is open Friday-Sunday into May. Mammoth is open through Memorial Day.

Here is the April 11 ski report.

– *Curtis Fong*

Ski report: Spring is back



Spring conditions have returned.

Here is the April 10 ski report.

– *Curtis Fong*

Ski report: Blue skies



Mostly clear with sunny skies and some fresh snow.

Here is the April 9 ski report.

– *Curtis Fong*

Ski report: Snow on all the slopes



This may be the last powder day of the season.

Here is the April 8 ski report.

– *Curtis Fong*

Ski report: Unsettled weather



Scattered showers on-and-off today. Wind is affecting lifts higher on the mountain.

Here is the April 7 ski report.

– *Curtis Fong*