

## Employment

In mountain areas, tourism generates employment opportunities for porters, cooks, kitchen boys, and guides. However, not all of these employment benefits accrue to the local population and, quite often, people outside the area reap these benefits. The bulk of employment generated in mountain areas is in the form of portering and is seasonal in nature, lasting six to seven months a year. In the thirty years of mountain tourism in Nepal, this form of employment generation has not changed for the better.

Table 7 provides an estimate of the total direct employment generated by mountain tourism over a period of four years. Since the support staff hired by group trekkers (2 to 4) is generally higher than support staff hired by FITS (0.5 to 1.5), the former has a greater impact on direct employment than the latter. However, individual trekkers generate other indirect employment in lodges, hotels, and tea stalls. Employment generated in lodges, tea houses, and hotels and other forms of indirect employment are not considered (see Table).

**Table 7: Direct Man Days of Employment Generated by Mountain Tourism**

Year	Groups			Individuals			Total Employment Generated	
	Total Number	Employment Generated		Total Number	Employment Generated		(Man Days)-	
		----- (Man Days) -----			----- (Man Days) -----			
		High	Low		High	Low	High	Low
1985	16,937	667,480	338,740	11,770	176,550	58,850	844,030	397,590
1986	19,829	793,160	396,580	13,780	206,700	68,900	999,860	465,480
1987	21,337	853,480	426,740	14,827	222,405	74,135	1075,885	500,875
1988	22,873	914,920	457,460	15,895	238,425	79,475	1115,345	536,935

Source: Banskota and Sharma 1994

Direct employment generated by mountaineering expeditions experienced a decline, especially during the period from 1990 to 1992 (Table 8). For example, direct employment generated by mountaineering teams declined from 9,154 persons to 8,251 persons in 1992 because of the decline in both the

number of mountaineering teams and in members per team (Banskota and Sharma 1994).

**Table 8: Employment Generated by Mountaineering Teams**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Teams</b>	<b>No. of Mountaineers</b>	<b>Seasonal Employment</b>
1980	64	639	9016
1985	91	824	8835
1986	94	807	10415
1987	98	796	11166
1988	92	936	10839
1989	125	1053	10984
1990	120	966	12179
1991	130	1038	9154
1992	113	929	8251

Source: Ministry of Finance, Economic Survey (1993)