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## **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Latest Figures Show Healthy Spend in Nelson**

Dot Kettle, Chief Executive of the Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce, commented today on the latest figures for Paymark- processed transactions in March.

“While down from last March these figures still show a healthy level of spend in our region. Over \$69million in EFTPOS transactions in Nelson for the month of March compares very favourably with other regions” Dot Kettle said.

“While it is difficult to fully understand the reasons for the slight drop in Nelson, contributing factors may include the drop in forward bookings in the tourism sector and recent news of redundancies. Overall however, members of the Chamber remain optimistic about our region and confident that our strengths will see us weather the current challenges” Dot Kettle said.

Members of the Chamber of Commerce involved in the tourism sector report a better than expected summer. The slight reduction in advance bookings is being offset to some extent by ‘last minute’ bookings. “Tourism continues to be a strong contributor to our region and the nationwide hit to the accommodation and travel sectors indicated by these latest Paymark statistics illustrates the ongoing importance of destination marketing and ensuring we all work together to put the Nelson Tasman region on the map nationally and internationally” Dot Kettle said.

“Overall Chamber members remain confident about the future and we encourage the wider community to remain confident as well. Community and business confidence is critical to the ongoing health of our region” Dot Kettle said.

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