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NEWS RELEASES

CORE GOLFER NUMBER DIPS IN 2004

[June 6, 2005] - - Based on NGF's recent annual sounding of golf participation, the total number of adult golfers dropped 3.9 percent, from 28.4 million in 2003 to 27.3 million in 2004. The number of Core golfers – those playing at least eight annual rounds – was 12.8 million in 2004. That's 4.7% lower than the 13.4 million recorded in 2003.

Trend in Adult Golfers

 Trend in Adult Golfers

Other than 1997 to 2000 (Tiger effect?), the number of Core golfers, those playing eight or more rounds per year, has been relatively stable over the past 15 years.

"The number of Core golfers has been essentially flat for the past four years," says NGF president Joe Beditz. "Given the statistical margin of error around these numbers, we don't put too much emphasis on one-year variations in participation. What we can say is that the number of Core golfers is more than it was 10 years ago, but less than five years ago."

NGF focuses on Core golfers because, while they represent 47 percent of total golfers, they account for 91 percent of rounds played and 87 percent of golf-related spending. The number of junior golfers ages 12-17 increased from 2.5 million in 2003 to 2.9 million in 2004. And the number of total golfers ages 12 and above dropped from 30.9 to 30.2 million.

More detail regarding golf participation can be found in NGF's second quarter newsletter, *Golf Industry Report*. For more information, call NGF at (888) 275-4643.

About the NGF

The National Golf Foundation, founded in 1936, is the industry leader in providing accurate information and insights on the business of golf. Based in Jupiter, Fla., the NGF serves many constituencies in the golf industry including equipment manufacturers; builders and developers; facilities and ranges; course architects; retailers; turf maintenance suppliers; golf associations and the media. For more information, visit www.ngf.org.

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