

U.S. Virgin Islands

November 2008 Tourism Indicators

Bureau of Economic Research

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Total visitors arrivals down by 14.6 percent in November 2008

Visitors declined 14.6 percent in November which marked the fifth consecutive month of decline in visitor arrivals. There were 203,839 visitors to the Territory in November 2008 compared to 238,763 in November of 2007. The number of air arrivals decreased by 9.8 percent to 47,414 from 52,593 in November 2007. Cruise passengers fell by 16.0 percent to 156,425 from 186,170 a year earlier. There were 61 cruise ship calls this November compared to 77 for the last November.

November saw the return of scheduled cruise ship calls to St. Croix with the arrival of the Oceana Regatta which brought 634 passengers. Except for January, no other cruise ship made calls during this year. The St. Thomas and St. John district received 155,791 cruise ship passengers, a 16.2 percent decline over last November's air arrivals of 185,857.

Some 37,853 air visitors arrived in the St. Thomas and St. John district compared to 42,211, a 10.3 percent decline. St. Croix saw 9,561 air arrivals to the island, a drop from the 10,382 a year ago.

Hotel Occupancy

The reported hotel occupancy rate for November 2008 averaged 53.9 percent, versus 64.0 percent reported for November 2007. The rate for St. Croix was 44.9 percent compared to 46.6 percent reported a year ago. The rate for St. Thomas and St. John was 57.2 percent, 13 percentage points lower than the 70.2 percent reported for the corresponding month last year. A total of \$580,205 was collected in hotel room revenues this November compared to \$684,245 in November 2007, a drop of 15.2 percent.

Tourism Statistics January to November 2008

A total of 2,152,860 visitors arrived in the Territory year-to-date--a 6.8 percent drop from the 2,308,990 visitors who came in 2007. Cruise passengers arrivals fell by 8.5 percent to 1,537,698 from 1,681,224 for the same period in 2007. There were 615,162 air visitors, a modest decline of 2.0 percent from 627,766 for the same eleven-month period in 2007. There were 592 cruise ship calls during this period or 8.8 percent fewer calls than last year.

The Territorial hotel occupancy rate averaged 60.4 percent, about 4.6 percentage points lower than the corresponding period in 2007. Occupied room nights were 956,448 compared to 1,010,595 in 2007. Available room nights grew by 1.9 percent from 1,584,512 to 1,555,392.

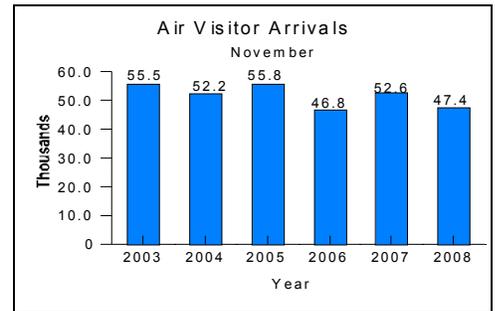
Paradoxically, hotels reported higher year-to-date guest registrations despite lower year-to-date occupied room-nights. Hotel guest registrations were 625,453, a 7.1 percent increase from 583,880 for the same eleven-month period in 2007. Guests from the United States, which makes up 83.1 percent of hotel guests, grew by 7.4 percent. Hotel guest registrations were up from the following regions: Canada (40.8 percent), Europe (4.9 percent), Central America (25.5 percent), and South America (8.1 percent). Conversely, Local residents fell (8.5 percent), Puerto Rico (1.8 percent), Other West Indies (31.7 percent) and Other Areas (73.6 percent).



Tourism Statistics for November 2008

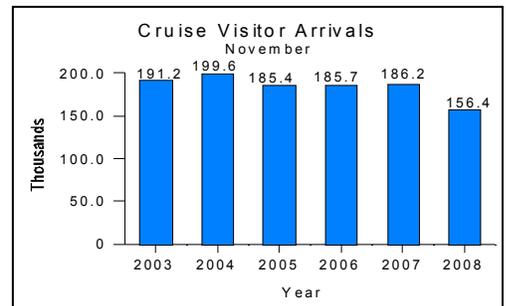
PASSENGER ARRIVALS

				08 CY	07 CY	% Ch.
	Nov 08	Oct 08	Nov 07	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	08/07
Air Visitors	47,414	26,072	52,593	615,162	627,766	-2.0
St. Thomas and St. John	37,853	19,861	42,211	505,071	507,934	-0.6
St. Croix	9,561	6,211	10,382	110,091	119,832	-8.1
Cruise Ship Visitors	156,425	78,362	186,170	1,537,698	1,681,224	-8.5
St. Thomas and St. John	155,791	78,362	185,857	1,535,188	1,680,717	-8.7
St. Croix	634	0	313	2,510	7,146	-
Cruise Ship Calls	61	28	77	592	649	-8.8
St. Thomas and St. John	60	28	76	590	647	-8.8
St. Croix	1	0	1	2	6	-66.7



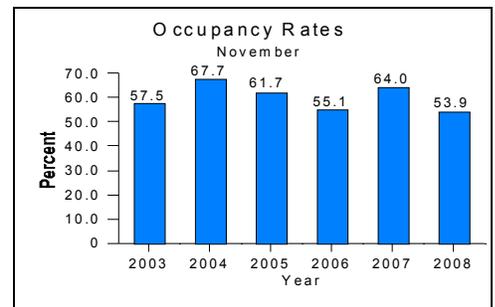
HOTEL REGISTRATION

				08 CY	07 CY	% Ch.
	Nov 08	Oct 08	Nov 07	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	08/07
Total	60,554	49,277	51,490	729,350	704,072	3.6
Residents	6,089	6,499	6,085	69,705	76,203	-8.5
Non Residents	54,465	42,778	45,405	659,645	627,869	5.1
United States	49,464	38,427	40,718	606,085	564,149	7.4
Puerto Rico	1,785	1,704	1,469	19,367	19,732	-1.8
Other West Indies	592	507	835	6,774	9,916	-31.7
Canada	658	677	387	7,771	5,519	40.8
Europe	1,622	1,101	1,545	14,611	13,928	4.9
Central America	27	35	61	521	415	25.5
South America	35	52	79	1,016	940	8.1
Other Areas	282	275	310	3,500	13,271	-73.6
Average Stay (nights)	4.1	4.1	4.5	4.3	4.4	-2.3



HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

				08 CY	07 CY	% Ch.
	Nov 08	Oct 08	Nov 07	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	08/07
Total Tourist Rooms Available	4,856	4,850	4,743	4,853	4,759	2.0
Occupied Room Nights	74,126	64,433	86,536	956,448	1,010,595	-5.4
Available Room Nights	137,648	144,421	135,150	1,584,512	1,555,395	1.9
Occupancy Rate (%)	53.9	44.6	64.0	60.4	65.0	-
St. Thomas and St. John	57.2	48.6	70.2	65.1	68.5	-
St. Croix	44.9	33.7	46.6	46.8	54.4	-



Note: CY = Calendar Year.

% Ch. 08/07 = year-to-date

Data subject to revision.

Tourism Indicators is a Bureau of Economic Research publication that compiles basic economic and statistical information from numerous sources. The table featured in this publication compares the reported month's data with figures from the preceding month and from the month of one year earlier figure. Data are subject to revision.