

U.S. Virgin Islands

August 2009 Tourism Indicators

Bureau of Economic Research

November 2009

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Total visitors arrivals fell by 14.8 percent in August 2009

Visitors this August reached 129,999, down 14.8 percent from last August's 152,548 visitors. The number of air visitors decreased by 5.9 percent to 50,834 from 54,045 in August 2008. Cruise passenger arrivals fell 19.6 percent to 79,165 from 98,503 a year earlier.

Arrivals by District

Air arrivals for the St. Thomas and St. John district totaled 39,932 compared to 44,085 in August 2008. St. Croix air visitors, on the other hand, climbed by 9.5 percent to 10,902 this August compared to 9,960 last August.

There were 24 cruise ship calls this month compared to 30 last August. Cruise ship visitor arrivals in the St. Thomas and St. John district were 72,166, or 26.7 percent less than the 98,503 cruise arrivals last year. The island of St. Croix welcomed 6,999 cruise passengers. There were no cruise ship calls to St. Croix during the same period last year.

Hotel Occupancy

The Territory's reported hotel occupancy rate for August 2009 averaged 48.4 percent compared to 54.3 percent for the corresponding month in 2008. The rate for St. Croix was 32.2 percent compared to 39.4 percent for August 2008. The rate for St. Thomas and St. John was 54.3 percent compared to 59.9 percent a year ago. Territory-wide occupied room nights were 68,139 compared with 77,132 the previous year. A total of \$942,193 was collected in hotel room revenues this August compared to \$1,258,406 in August 2008, a revenue loss of 25.1 percent.

Tourism Statistics January to August 2009

A total of 1,532,304 visitors arrived in the Territory during the past eight months of 2009, a 12.7 percent loss, or 222,506 less visitors than the corresponding period in 2008. August 2009 year-to-date cruise passengers arrivals were 1,053,387 from 1,237,534 one year earlier. There were 478,917 air visitors or 7.4 percent fewer than the 517,276 air visitors for the same eight-month period in 2008. There were 417 cruise ship calls during this period, 13.5 percent fewer calls than last year.

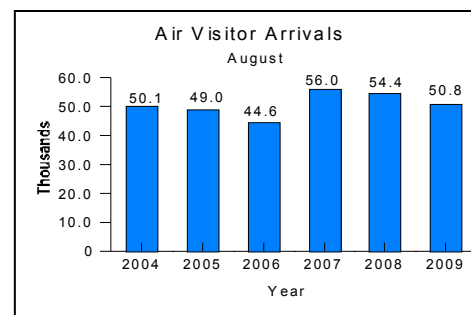
The hotel occupancy rate averaged 58.7 percent for this period. There were 623,362 registered hotel guests. Guests from the United States were 6.5 percent higher than in 2008. Local resident guests increased by 7.5 percent, while guests from Puerto Rico increased 15.3 percent. Guests from Other Areas and Other West Indies grew by 7.5 percent and 30.1 percent, respectively. Guests from Central and South America declined by 18.3 percent and 23.3 percent, respectively. Conversely, the number of guests from Europe climbed by 4.4 percent, while Canadian guest increased by 22.3 percent.



Tourism Statistics for August 2009

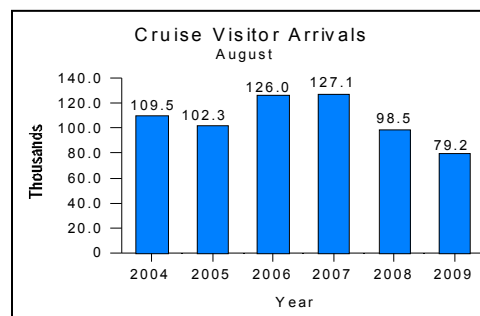
PASSENGER ARRIVALS

	Aug 09	Jul 09	Aug 08	09 CY Jan-Aug	08 CY % Ch. Jan-Aug 09/08
Air Visitors	50,834	61,143	54,045	478,917	517,276 -7.4
St. Thomas and St. John	39,932	48,559	44,085	390,818	428,156 -8.7
St. Croix	10,902	12,584	9,960	88,098	89,119 -1.1
Cruise Ship Visitors	91,489	91,489	98,503	1,053,387	1,237,534 -14.9
St. Thomas and St. John	72,166	84,446	98,503	1,021,103	1,235,658 -17.4
St. Croix	6,999	7,043	0	45,501	1,876 -
Cruise Ship Calls	24	27	30	417	482 -13.5
St. Thomas and St. John	22	25	30	403	481 -16.2
St. Croix	2	2	0	22	1 -



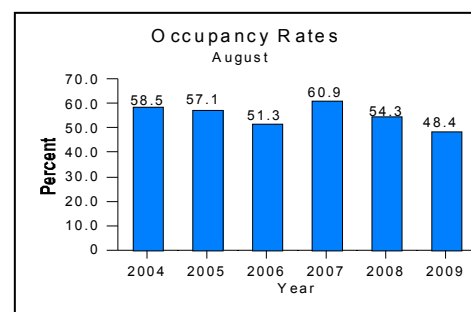
HOTEL REGISTRATION

	Aug 09	Jul 09	Aug 08	09 CY Jan-Aug	08 CY % Ch. Jan-Aug 09/08
Total	68,686	83,969	61,035	623,362	586,209 6.3
Residents	6,413	6,871	7,403	55,841	51,950 7.5
Non Residents	62,273	77,098	53,632	567,521	534,259 6.2
United States	57,610	71,088	47,419	525,049	492,941 6.5
Puerto Rico	1,592	1,940	2,114	12,311	14,510 -15.2
Other West Indies	1,024	1,551	858	6,941	5,336 30.1
Canada	627	702	562	7,302	5,973 22.3
Europe	1,230	1,418	1,957	11,898	11,400 4.4
Central America	60	133	60	356	436 -18.3
South America	23	65	23	680	887 -23.3
Other Areas	172	203	501	2,984	2,776 7.5
Average Stay (nights)	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.3 -4.7



HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

	Aug 09	Jul 09	Aug 08	09 CY Jan-Aug	08 CY % Ch. Jan-Aug 09/08
Total Tourist Rooms Available	4,893	4,893	4,866	4,895	4,854 0.8
Occupied Room Nights	68,139	81,345	77,132	690,627	766,608 -9.9
Available Room Nights	140,722	144,000	142,062	1,176,495	1,164,885 1.0
Occupancy Rate (%)	48.4	56.5	54.3	58.7	65.8 -
St. Thomas and St. John	54.3	64.7	59.9	65.6	70.9 -
St. Croix	32.2	32.8	39.4	38.8	50.9 -



Note: CY = Calendar Year.

% Ch. 09/08 = 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.

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