

U.S. Virgin Islands

February 2009 Tourism Indicators

Bureau of Economic Research

May 2009

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Visitor Arrivals for February 2009 declined by 6.6 percent

February's 6.6 percent decline in visitors is symptomatic of a downward trend in travel caused by the US economic recession. A total of 243,962 visitors came to the Territory, some 17,271 fewer visitors than February one year ago. There were 181,826 cruise ship passengers this month compared to 194,928 last February—a 6.7 percent decline. The number of cruise ship calls fell to 82 from 91 February last year. Air arrivals, which totaled 62,136 this February, decreased to 62,136 or by 6.3 percent when compared to last February.

Arrivals by District

The St. Thomas/St. John district received 51,805 air visitors, a 6.6 percent decline from 55,467 visitors last February. The St. Croix district received 10,332 air visitors, down by 4.7 percent from 10,837 last year. The St. Thomas/St. John district received 179,797 cruise passengers, a 7.8 percent decrease from February 2008 total of 194,928. The district of St. Croix played host to 6,337 cruise ship passengers this month. There were no cruise ship calls to St. Croix one year ago.

Hotel Occupancy

The Territory's hotels reported occupancy rate averaged 68.1 percent this February compared to 74.4 percent last February. The rate for St. Croix was 48.8 percent compared to 56.5 percent last year. The rate for St. Thomas and St. John was 74.8 percent, 5.3 percentage points lower than the 80.1 percent reported one year ago. Territory-wide occupied room nights in 2009 were 95,379 compared with 105,604 last February. A total of \$1,149,001 was collected in hotel room revenues, a loss of 48.2 percent this February compared to \$2,216,983 collected in February 2008.

Tourism Statistics January to February 2009

The first two months of this year brought 491,047 visitors to the Territory, a 11.6 percent decline when compared to the same period in 2008. There were 122,816 air visitors compared to 130,737 a year ago, a decrease of 6.1 percent. A total of 368,231 cruise passengers visited, in comparison to the 425,026 cruise passengers for the corresponding period last year. There was a total of 168 cruise ship calls, 13.8 percent fewer calls than a year ago.

February 2009 year-to-date air and cruise ship visitors to the St. Thomas/St. John district totaled 101,538 and 364,063, respectively. Air arrivals declined 6.4 percent while cruise passengers declined 14 percent. St. Croix had 21,278 air visitors, or a 4.5 percent decrease and 11,774 cruise passengers compared to the 1,876 in 2008.

The Territory's hotel occupancy rate from January to February averaged 63.4 percent. A total 168,903 guests were reported to have stayed at hotels and condominiums compared to 136,903 last year.

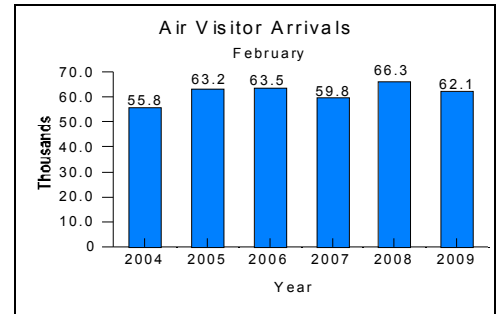
Guest Registrations were also up from the following regions: Local Residents (7.2 percent), Canada (86.9 percent), and Europe (49.2 percent). On the other hand, hotel guests decreased from Other West Indies (36.2 percent), Puerto Rico and Other Areas by (9.4 percent) and (24.5 percent), respectively; Central America (37.5 percent); and South America (36.2 percent).



Tourism Statistics for February 2009

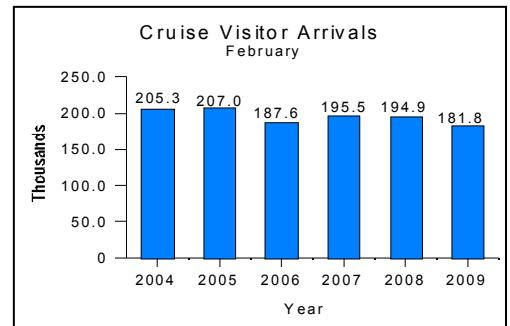
PASSENGER ARRIVALS

				09 CY	08 CY	% Ch.
	Feb 09	Jan 09	Feb 08	Jan-Feb	Jan-Feb	09/08
Air Visitors	62,137	60,679	66,306	122,816	130,737	-6.1
St. Thomas and St. John	51,805	49,733	55,469	101,538	108,446	-6.4
St. Croix	10,332	10,946	10,837	21,278	22,291	-4.5
Cruise Ship Visitors	186,405	186,405	230,098	368,231	425,026	-13.4
St. Thomas and St. John	179,797	184,266	194,928	364,063	423,150	-14.0
St. Croix	6,337	5,437	0	11,774	1,876	-
Cruise Ship Calls	82	86	91	168	195	-13.8
St. Thomas and St. John	81	83	91	164	194	-15.5
St. Croix	5	5	0	10	1	-



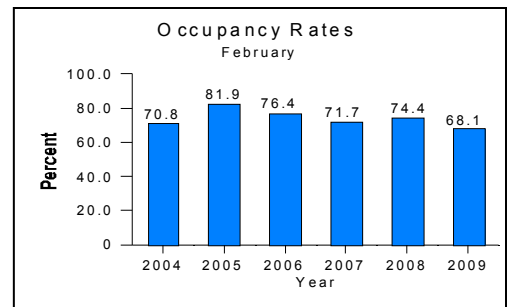
HOTEL REGISTRATION

				09 CY	08 CY	% Ch.
	Feb 09	Jan 09	Feb 08	Jan-Feb	Jan-Feb	09/08
Total	90,332	78,571	72,727	168,903	136,903	23.4
Residents	6,120	5,659	5,583	11,779	10,984	7.2
Non Residents	84,212	72,912	67,144	157,124	125,919	24.8
United States	78,835	67,604	62,597	146,438	116,776	25.4
Puerto Rico	1,345	1,345	1,413	2,551	2,816	-9.4
Other West Indies	373	453	729	826	1,295	-36.2
Canada	1,467	1,238	672	2,705	1,447	86.9
Europe	1,889	2,024	1,362	3,912	2,622	49.2
Central America	26	14	30	40	64	-37.5
South America	100	50	109	150	235	-36.2
Other Areas	177	324	232	501	664	-24.5
Average Stay (nights)	4.4	4.3	4.7	4.4	4.6	-4.3



HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

				09 CY	08 CY	% Ch.
	Feb 09	Jan 09	Feb 08	Jan-Feb	Jan-Feb	09/08
Total Tourist Rooms Available	4,897	4,897	4,893	4,897	4,819	1.6
Occupied Room Nights	95,379	90,942	105,604	186,288	203,218	-8.3
Available Room Nights	153,715	153,715	141,897	293,733	286,772	2.4
Occupancy Rate (%)	68.1	59.2	74.4	63.4	70.9	-
St. Thomas and St. John	74.8	65.4	80.1	69.9	75.9	-
St. Croix	48.8	41.0	56.5	44.7	55.6	-



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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