

U.S. Virgin Islands

May 2009 Tourism Indicators

Bureau of Economic Research

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Visitor Arrivals for May 2009 down by 5.5 Percent

The Territory recorded a total of 143,334 visitors for the month of May 2009, representing a 5.5 percent decline from 146,695 visitor arrivals for the same month last year. Air arrivals, which totaled 57,571 this May, decreased 2.2 percent when compared with last May. There were 85,763 cruise ship passengers this month compared to 92,836 last May. The number of cruise ship calls fell to 28 from 31 last year.

Arrivals by District

The St. Thomas and St. John district experienced a 5.3 percent decline in air visitors to 45,852 compared to 48,418 in May 2008. For the second consecutive month St. Croix reported an increase in air arrivals—a 12.2 percent increase to 11,719 from 10,441 last May. The St. Thomas and St. John district welcomed 79,102 cruise passengers or 14.6 percent less than last year. St. Croix received 6,661 cruise passengers in May of this year. There were no cruise passengers visiting St. Croix in May 2008.

Hotel Occupancy

The hotel occupancy rate reported averaged 57.9 percent, down from 61.7 percent May last year. The rate for St. Croix was 42.0 percent compared to 49.3 one year ago. The rate for St. Thomas and St. John was 63.5 percent compared to 65.9 percent for May 2008. The Territory's occupied room nights were 88,013 compared to 90,554 a year earlier, while room nights available were 152,012 versus 146,692 last May. A total of \$1,790,799 was collected in hotel room revenues this May compared to \$2,014,882 in May 2008, a revenue loss of 11.1 percent.

Tourism Statistics January to May 2009

Cumulatively, the Territory received 1,099,624 visitors during the first five months of 2009, a 13.2 drop or 167,236 fewer visitors than a year ago. There were 308,829 air visitors, down 8.6 percent from 337,997 air arrivals for the same period a year earlier. A total of 790,795 cruise passengers visited in 2009, in comparison to the 928,863 passengers who visited in 2008. There was a total of 338 cruise ship calls for this period, about 13.1 percent fewer calls than a year ago.

Air visitor arrivals to the St. Thomas and St. John district for the first five months of the year, which totaled 255,769, declined 9.0 percent from 281,149, while air visitors to St. Croix fell to 53,060 from 56,848 through May a year ago. Cruise passenger arrivals were 779,311 compared to 926,987 for the corresponding period in 2008. St. Croix received 24,701 cruise passengers in comparison to 1,876 cruise passengers in 2008.

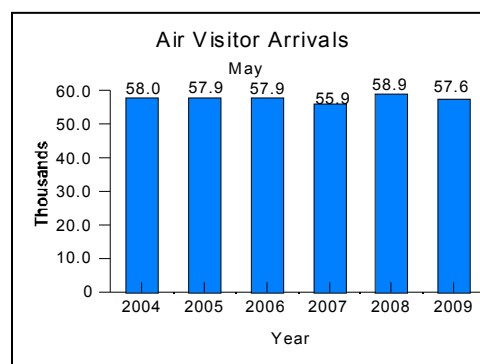
The Territory's hotel occupancy rate from January to May averaged 61.4 percent. Hotel guest registrations were 399,653 for this period. Guests from the United States, whose share is 84.1 percent of all hotel guests, increased 3.6 percent. Guests from Europe grew by 15.4 percent, Other West Indies by 15.5 percent, Other Areas by 45.2 percent, and from Canada by 40.7 percent. Visitors from Puerto Rico, South and Central America, fell by 5.9 percent, 46.0 percent, and 5.8 percent, respectively.



Tourism Statistics for May 2009

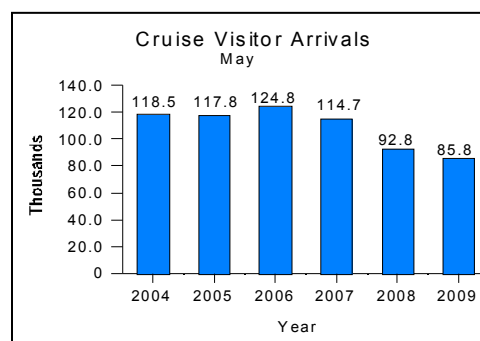
PASSENGER ARRIVALS

	May 09	Apr 09	May 08	09 CY Jan-May	08 CY % Ch. Jan-May 09/08
Air Visitors	57,571	65,738	58,859	308,829	337,997 -8.6
St. Thomas and St. John	45,852	54,747	48,418	255,769	281,149 -9.0
St. Croix	11,719	10,991	10,441	53,060	56,848 -6.7
Cruise Ship Visitors	85,763	155,626	92,839	790,795	928,863 -14.9
St. Thomas and St. John	79,102	155,626	92,836	779,311	926,987 -15.9
St. Croix	6,661	0	0	24,701	1,876 -
Cruise Ship Calls	28	57	31	338	389 -13.1
St. Thomas and St. John	26	57	31	330	388 -14.9
St. Croix	2	0	0	16	1 -



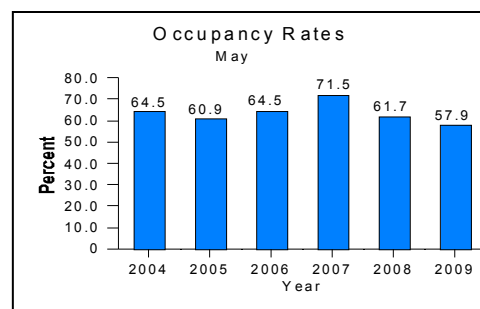
HOTEL REGISTRATION

	May 09	Apr 09	May 08	09 CY Jan-May	08 CY % Ch. Jan-May 09/08
Total	78,224	89,507	81,770	399,653	379,771 5.2
Residents	7,410	7,788	6,509	35,894	30,513 17.6
Non Residents	70,814	81,719	75,261	363,759	349,258 4.2
United States	65,864	76,119	57,507	336,051	324,424 3.6
Puerto Rico	1,270	1,592	1,814	5,846	6,213 -5.9
Other West Indies	1,402	810	404	3,637	3,149 15.5
Canada	851	952	696	5,466	3,884 40.7
Europe	880	1,695	1,025	8,529	7,389 15.4
Central America	37	43	105	135	250 -46.0
South America	87	174	73	505	536 -5.8
Other Areas	424	333	238	2,320	1,598 45.2
Average Stay (nights)	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.4 -4.5



HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

	May 09	Apr 09	May 08	09 CY Jan-May	08 CY % Ch. Jan-May 09/08
Total Tourist Rooms Available	4,898	4,896	4,855	4,896	4,848 1.0
Occupied Room Nights	88,013	88,831	90,554	459,722	507,857 -9.5
Available Room Nights	152,012	149,138	146,692	748,596	730,767 2.4
Occupancy Rate (%)	57.9	59.6	61.7	61.4	69.5 -
St. Thomas and St. John	63.5	67.7	65.9	68.2	74.2 -
St. Croix	42.0	55.0	49.3	41.7	55.2 -



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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