

U.S. Virgin Islands

September 2008 Tourism Indicators

Bureau of Economic Research

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Total Visitor Arrivals Chopped by 28.6 Percent in September

The month of September saw a 28.6 percent drop in overall visitor arrivals when compared to September last year. A total of 125,730 visitors came to the Territory this September compared to 89,777 last September. This is largest drop for the month of September in six years. The overall lost of visitors is attributed to the cancellation of 10 territory-wide American Eagle flights, and the reduction of American Airlines daily direct flight from New York to St. Thomas to one weekly. Air visitor arrivals declined 18.9 percent to 24,400 from 30,098 a year ago. This September, cruise passengers declined by 31.6 percent to 65,377 passengers versus 95,632 passengers last September. The number of cruise ship calls fell to 21 from 31 in September 2007.

Arrivals by District

Air arrivals to the St. Thomas/St. John district declined by 19,201 or 18.9 percent compared to 23,671 last September. St. Croix district received 5,199 air passengers from 6,427 last year. All 65,377 cruise ship passengers came to the St. Thomas/St. John district shores.

Hotel Occupancy

The Territory's hotels reported occupancy rate was 36.8 percent. Occupied room nights were 50,676 compared to 59,676 the previous September. Despite lower occupied nights, hotel revenues collected were higher than last year. A total of \$1,406,734 was collected in hotel room revenues this September compared to \$1,144,944 in September 2007, a growth of 22.9 percent.

Tourism Statistics January to September 2008

A total of 1,844,587 visitors arrived in the Territory during the first nine months of 2008, about 2.8 percent less than the 1,897,392 visitors last year. There were 541,676 air visitors, a 1.6 percent increase over the 532,981 air visitors who came during the same period in 2007. Air arrivals to the St. Thomas/St. John District grew by 3.6 percent when compare to a year earlier. The St. Croix District recorded a 6.6 percent decrease, or 6,669 less air visitors than last year.

A total of 1,302,911 cruise passengers visited the Territory during this period, down by 4.5 percent from 2007. There was a total of 503 cruise ship calls, about 4.0 percent fewer calls than a year earlier.

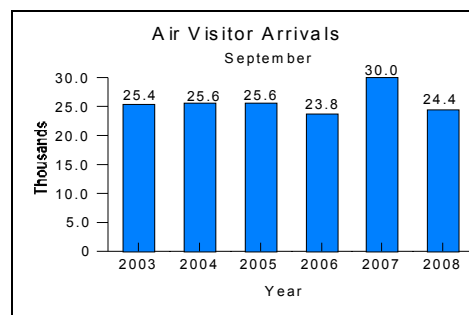
The Territory's hotel occupancy rate for the nine months averaged 62.8 percent compared to a 66.2 percent reported for the same period in 2007. Total occupied room nights were 817,448 or about 3.4 percent lower than the 846,527 occupied room nights in 2007. There were 619,519 guests staying at local hotels during this period. Guest registrations increased for the following regions: United States (6.3 percent), Europe (3.8 percent), Canada (34.2 percent), South and Central America (21.8 percent) and (62.8 percent), respectively. On the other hand, hotel guests decrease for Puerto Rico (5.4 percent), Other West Indies (27.3 percent), Other Areas (77.0 percent), and Local Residents (9.7 percent).



Tourism Statistics for September 2008

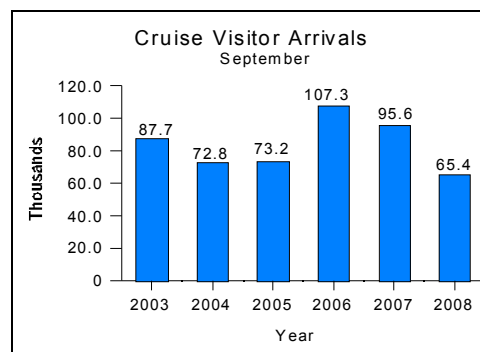
PASSENGER ARRIVALS

	Sep 08	Aug 08	Sep 07	08 CY Jan-Sep	07 CY Jan-Sep	% Ch. 08/07
Air Visitors	24,400	54,045	30,098	541,676	532,981	1.6
St. Thomas and St. John	19,201	44,085	23,671	447,357	431,993	3.6
St. Croix	5,199	9,960	6,427	94,319	100,988	-6.6
Cruise Ship Visitors	65,377	98,503	95,632	1,302,911	1,365,011	-4.5
St. Thomas and St. John	65,377	98,503	95,632	1,301,035	1,364,817	-4.7
St. Croix	0	0	0	1,876	6,833	-
Cruise Ship Calls	21	30	31	523	524	-0.2
St. Thomas and St. John	21	30	31	502	503	-0.2
St. Croix	0	0	0	1	5	-80.0



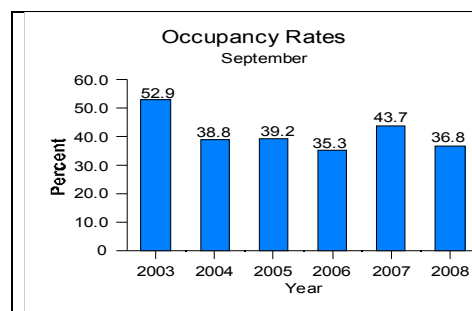
HOTEL REGISTRATION

	Sep 08	Aug 08	Sep 07	08 CY Jan-Sep	07 CY Jan-Sep	% Ch. 08/07
Total	33,310	61,035	32,799	619,519	605,439	2.3
Residents	5,166	7,403	5,655	57,117	63,237	-9.7
Non Residents	28,144	53,632	27,144	562,402	542,202	3.7
United States	25,252	47,419	43,085	518,193	487,538	6.3
Puerto Rico	1,368	2,114	1,568	15,878	16,790	-5.4
Other West Indies	340	858	963	5,676	7,809	-27.3
Canada	463	627	199	6,436	4,796	34.2
Europe	489	1,957	593	11,888	11,455	3.8
Central America	23	60	10	459	282	62.8
South America	42	96	59	929	763	21.8
Other Areas	167	501	329	2,943	12,796	-77.0
Average Stay (nights)	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	2.3



HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

	Sep 08	Aug 08	Sep 07	08 CY Jan-Sep	07 CY Jan-Sep	% Ch. 08/07
Total Tourist Rooms Available	4,850	4,866	4,743	4,853	4,762	1.9
Occupied Room Nights	50,676	77,288	59,023	817,448	846,527	-3.4
Available Room Nights	137,558	142,062	135,060	1,302,443	1,277,983	1.9
Occupancy Rate (%)	36.8	54.4	43.7	62.8	66.2	-
St. Thomas and St. John	39.6	59.9	39.6	67.7	69.4	-
St. Croix	29.4	39.8	29.4	48.5	56.9	-



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.