

# U.S. Virgin Islands

## September 2009 Tourism Indicators

Bureau of Economic Research

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### Total visitors arrivals grew by 4.4 percent in September 2009

September marked the first month that total visitors arrival grew this year. There were 93,724 visitors to the Territory in September 2009 compared to 89,777 in September of 2008, a 4.4 percent increase. The number of air visitors grew by 16.4 percent to 28,410 from 24,400 in September 2008. Cruise passenger arrivals were at the same level as last year, recording 65,314 this month from 65,377 a year earlier.

The St. Thomas and St. John district experienced an 8.1 percent rise in air arrivals in September. Air arrivals totaled 20,758 compared to 19,201 in September 2008. St. Croix had impressive growth of 47.2 percent in air arrivals. The number of air visitors grew to 7,652 this September compared to 5,199 last September.

The St. Thomas and St. John district received 58,769 cruise passengers or 10.1 percent less than last year. The island of St. Croix welcomed 6,545 cruise visitors. There were no cruise ship calls to St. Croix last September. There were 21 cruise ship calls to the Territory this month, the same number of calls as last September.

The Territory's reported hotel occupancy rate for September 2008 averaged 34.4 percent compared to 37.1 percent for the corresponding month in 2008. The rate for St. Croix was 29.2 percent, the same as last year. The rate for St. Thomas and St. John was 36.2 percent compared to 40.0 percent for September 2008. A total of \$1,149,031 was collected in hotel room revenues this September 2009 compared to \$1,406,734 in September 2008, a loss of 18.3 percent.

### Tourism Statistics January to September 2009

A total of 1,626,028 visitors arrived in the Territory during the first nine months of 2009, about 11.8 percent fewer visitors than the corresponding period in 2008. Cruise passengers arrivals declined by 14.1 percent to 1,118,701 from 1,302,911 one year earlier. There were 507,327 air visitors or 6.3 percent less than the 541,676 air visitors for the same nine-month period in 2008. There were 438 cruise ship calls during this period, or 12.9 percent fewer calls than last year.

Territorial hotel occupancy rate averaged 56.2 percent for the first nine months of this year, about 6.6 percentage points lower than the corresponding period in 2008. Occupied room nights were 737,754 compared to 817,502 in 2008.

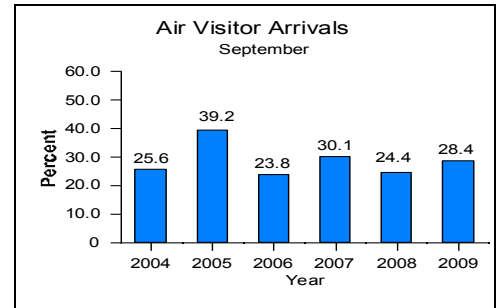
There were 663,218 registered hotel guests during this nine-month period. Guests from the United States were 7.3 percent higher than in 2008. Local resident guests increased by 6.9 percent, while guests from Europe increased 4.3 percent. Other West Indies, Canadian guest, and Other Areas increased 32.1 percent, 22.2 percent, and 7.0 percent, respectively. Conversely, guests from Central and South America decreased by 11.8 percent and 23.1 percent, correspondingly. Guests from Puerto Rico also decreased by 11.1 percent.



## Tourism Statistics for September 2009

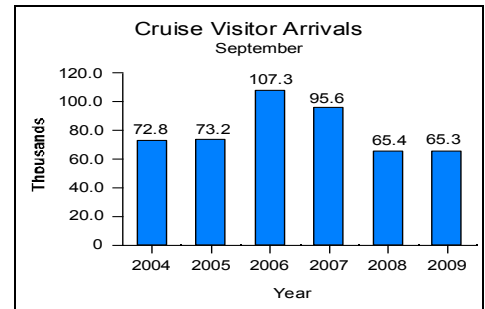
### PASSENGER ARRIVALS

	Sep 09	Aug 09	Sep 08	09 CY		08 CY % Ch.	
				Jan-Sep	Jan-Sep	09/08	09/08
Air Visitors	28,410	50,834	24,400	507,327	541,676	-6.3	
St. Thomas and St. John	20,758	39,932	19,201	411,576	447,357	-8.0	
St. Croix	7,652	10,902	5,199	95,750	94,318	1.5	
Cruise Ship Visitors	65,314	91,489	65,377	1,118,701	1,302,911	-14.1	
St. Thomas and St. John	58,769	72,166	65,377	1,079,872	1,301,035	-17.0	
St. Croix	6,545	6,999	0	52,046	1,876	-	
Cruise Ship Calls	21	24	21	438	503	-12.9	
St. Thomas and St. John	19	22	21	422	502	-15.9	
St. Croix	2	2	0	24	1	-	



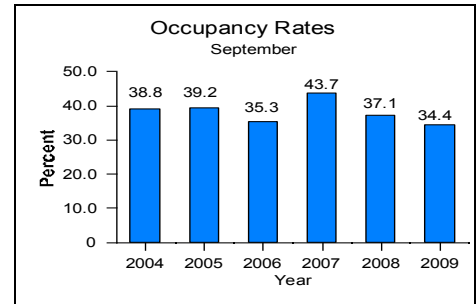
### HOTEL REGISTRATION

	Sep 09	Aug 09	Sep 08	09 CY		08 CY % Ch.	
				Jan-Sep	Jan-Sep	09/08	09/08
Total	39,856	68,686	33,310	663,218	619,519	7.1	
Residents	5,241	6,413	5,166	61,082	57,117	6.9	
Non Residents	34,615	62,273	28,144	602,136	562,402	7.1	
United States	30,941	57,610	25,252	555,990	518,193	7.3	
Puerto Rico	1,808	1,592	1,368	14,119	15,878	-11.1	
Other West Indies	556	1,024	340	7,497	5,676	32.1	
Canada	561	562	463	7,863	6,436	22.2	
Europe	500	1,230	489	12,398	11,888	4.3	
Central America	49	60	23	405	459	-11.8	
South America	35	23	42	714	929	-23.1	
Other Areas	165	172	167	3,149	2,943	7.0	
Average Stay (nights)	3.9	3.8	4.3	4.0	4.3	-7.0	



### HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

	Sep 09	Aug 09	Sep 08	09 CY		08 CY % Ch.	
				Jan-Sep	Jan-Sep	09/08	09/08
Total Tourist Rooms Available	4,920	4,893	4,850	4,898	4,853	0.9	
Occupied Room Nights	47,128	68,139	51,022	737,754	817,502	-9.8	
Available Room Nights	137,160	140,722	137,558	1,313,673	1,302,443	0.9	
Occupancy Rate (%)	34.4	48.4	37.1	56.2	62.8	-	
St. Thomas and St. John	36.2	54.3	40.0	62.6	67.7	-	
St. Croix	29.2	32.2	29.4	37.8	48.5	-	



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

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