

CARIBBEAN TOURISM ORGANIZATION ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT



2016

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2016 Edition

CARIBBEAN TOURISM ORGANIZATION

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**ANGUILLA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
THE BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BELIZE
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
CAYMAN ISLANDS
CUBA
CURACAO
DOMINICA
GRENADA
GUYANA
HAITI
JAMAICA
MARTINIQUE
MONTSERRAT
PUERTO RICO
ST EUSTATIUS
ST KITTS AND NEVIS
SAINT LUCIA
ST MAARTEN
ST MARTIN
ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
US VIRGIN ISLANDS
VENEZUELA**

FOREWORD

This report provides important statistics on tourism for thirty-four destinations in the Caribbean. It is the twenty-sixth in the series of annual statistical reports produced by the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO).

This issue of the Statistical Report was prepared by the staff of the CTO Research & Information Technology Department.

The goodwill and cooperation of the national tourist and statistical offices in our member countries and non-member countries, as well as the various regional and international institutions, in providing the basic statistics and other information are gratefully acknowledged.

May 2017

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SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective of the Report

This report has been prepared by the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) as part of its programme of providing vital information on the changing tourism environment in the region, a service to its members and to others who are interested in Caribbean tourism.

The main objective is to provide CTO members and other interested individuals with a single comprehensive source of key statistics on tourism in the Caribbean, including a statistical overview of trends in tourism in the region.

More specifically, this report includes statistics on tourists and cruise passengers, the supply and use of accommodation by visitors plus a wide range of visitor-related numbers. In addition, a variety of general economic and socio-economic indicators for individual Caribbean countries are also provided, subject to their availability.

More detailed statistics than can be included in this report may be obtained from the individual countries themselves. CTO itself also has a specialised library and a computerised statistical database covering all the Caribbean countries. Our most current statistics can be readily accessed by our members and subscribers through our website at www.onecaribbean.org/statistics/.

1.2 Format of the Report

This report is divided into five sections:

- ▶ **Section 1** (*this section*) provides an introduction.
- ▶ **Sections 2 and 3** give an overview of recent trends in Caribbean tourism. Section 3 also includes approximations derived by CTO for missing or unreported market data for some destinations. Also in this section, are calendar year estimates of tourist arrivals to Puerto Rico, which were produced by CTO from the fiscal year (July-June) estimates supplied by the Puerto Rico Planning Board.
- ▶ **Section 4** provides reported individual country data on tourist arrivals by country of residence, tourist and cruise passenger arrivals by month, and accommodation capacity statistics.
- ▶ **Section 5** contains a number of tourism-related economic and socio-economic indicators for individual CTO member countries.

1.3 Geographic Scope

A list of the countries covered by this report is given in Table 5. The term **Caribbean** in this report refers explicitly to these 34 destinations unless otherwise stated.

1.4 Data Definitions

Wherever possible, the international definitions advocated by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) have been followed, namely:

Visitor: Any person visiting a country other than that in which they normally reside, for not more than one year, and whose purpose of visit can be classified under one of the headings in the following table:

Purpose of Visit	Type of Activity
Leisure and visiting friends and relatives	Recreation, holiday, shopping, sports and cultural events, visit family/friends,
Business	Mission, meeting, paid study & research
Other	Health and medical treatment, religious pilgrimage, educational courses for less than a year,

There are two types of visitors, tourists and same-day visitors, which are defined as follows:

- ▶ **Tourists** are visitors staying at least 24 hours in the country visited, and;
- ▶ **Same-day visitors** are visitors staying less than 24 hours in the country visited.

Within the context of these definitions, the following special categories should be noted:

- ▶ **Cruise Passengers** are regarded as a special type of same-day visitor (even if the ship overnights at the port).
- ▶ **Yacht Visitors** are included among the tourist (stay-over) or same day population based on their length of stay. However, when these visitors are not required to complete immigration forms, they are excluded from figures.

It also follows that nationals of Caribbean countries who permanently reside abroad should be categorised as tourists when they return on a temporary visit for any of the reasons listed above. This definition is now followed by most Caribbean destinations.

Despite our efforts at standardisation, a few Caribbean countries still do not publish statistics according to strict international definitions. For example, arrival statistics may relate to visitors arriving by air only. Fortunately, the number of such countries doing this has decreased significantly in recent years.

Most of the tourism statistics published in this report are obtained by analysis of the embarkation/disembarkation (E/D) cards, which must be completed for the various immigration authorities, as part of border control, by visitors on arrival at the destination. In some countries, however, the E/D card does not apply to all visitors, for example, travel from France to Martinique or from the United States to Puerto Rico or US Virgin Islands is legally considered to be domestic travel and does not require completion of this card. In these

countries, greater reliance is placed on the analysis of hotel registrations. The applicable definitions are provided, wherever necessary, in the footnotes in **Section 4** of this report.

Some tourists visit more than one country while in the Caribbean or may make repeat visits to a particular destination. In such cases, each visit is recorded as a new arrival. It should also be noted that there is a significant number of Caribbean residents visiting other countries in the region. This intra-Caribbean travel is done largely by those on business and those visiting friends and relatives.

Notes to Tables

The following symbols and conventions are used throughout this report: -

New series - excludes long term students	<i>N</i>
Revised	<i>r</i>
Fiscal	<i>f</i>
Provisional	<i>p</i>
Non-Resident Air Arrivals only	<i>a</i>
CTO Estimate	<i>e</i>
Includes estimates for missing data	<i>m</i>
Foreign Hotel Registration	<i>h</i>
Air Arrivals by Nationality	***
Excludes data from Vance M. Avory Int'l Airport in Nevis	^

Repeated Data: - *Roman Numerals* are used to denote the year of the data
e.g (I) - implies that the data represent 1 year prior to the date of the report

1.5 CTO's Tourism Statistics Program

The Caribbean Tourism Organization's statistical program continues to work to:

- improve and upgrade the level of tourism statistics in CTO member countries;
- further develop its in-house systems to store and manage this information, and;
- improve the range and quality of the statistics published by CTO
- ensure speedy availability of information to all users.

In the majority of cases, the range and quality of the statistics of tourism in the Caribbean have continued to improve. Notwithstanding these improvements, a few key countries have been experiencing difficulty with timely production of the required data. To the extent that this happens our ability to produce a timely report for Caribbean tourism in aggregate is seriously inhibited. This is an ongoing process, and further improvements are expected. Some statistical series have been revised in the light of more complete and more recent data, and estimates have been produced for missing data using best practice methods, when feasible. Regular updates are distributed to member countries and other subscribers by e-mail.

CTO maintains online **Tourism Statistics at its website www.onecaribbean.org/statistics/**, which provides the latest available numbers on both tourist and cruise passenger arrivals in the Caribbean along with other statistics on previous years.

1.6 What is new in this Report?

Some series in this report have changed and this is reflected by the necessary revisions to the main tables. Please note therefore the following:

- A new data series relating to total tourist arrivals to Grenada was provided by Grenada Tourist Board commencing from 2015. This series now excludes long term students.

1.7 Data Sources

The main data sources for the information provided in this report are the Central Statistical Offices and the National Tourist Offices of the individual countries. Details are given in the notes to the tables in **Section 4**. In cases where CTO estimates have been used (such as to arrive at regional totals) this is also indicated in the footnotes. This Report is based on information available at CTO up to June 7th, 2017.

Abbreviations Used	
n.a	not available at CTO at time of publication
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organization
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
DOM	Department Outre Mer (Overseas Department of France)
ECCB	Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
IMF	International Monetary Fund
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNWTO	World Tourism Organization
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council

The following are the sub-regional groups of destinations in the regional tables. These groups are:

OECS (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) - *Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines*

Other Commonwealth Countries - *The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Turks and Caicos Islands*

Commonwealth Caribbean - *The OECS countries and the Other Commonwealth countries combined*

Dutch West Indies - *Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St Eustatius and St Maarten*

French West Indies - *St. Martin, Guadeloupe and Martinique*

US Territories - *Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands*

Other Countries - *Cancun, Cozumel, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Suriname*

CARICOM (Caribbean Community) - This comprises a number of countries included in some of the other groupings as follows: *Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago*

VISITOR ARRIVAL STATISTICS 2016

Destination	TOURIST						CRUISE	
	Arrivals	%ch 2016/15	Market Share				Arrivals	%ch 2016/15
			U.S.A	Canada	Europe	Other		
Anguilla	79.2	↑	8.2				no cruise	
Antigua & Barbuda	265.2	↑	5.9				605.2	↓ -6.1
Aruba	1,102.0	↓	-10.0				656.0	↑ 8.1
Bahamas	1,481.8	↓	-0.2				4,690.4	↑ 3.9
Barbados	631.5	↑	6.7				595.0	↑ 1.4
Belize	385.6	↑	13.0				1,005.4	↑ 4.9
Bermuda	244.5	↑	11.2				397.9	↑ 5.4
Bonaire	78.6	↑	1.3				221.9	↓ -3.6
British Virgin Is.	407.8	↑	3.8				699.1	↑ 35.4
Cancun	3,164.9	↑	4.5				no cruise	
Cayman Islands	385.5	↑	0.0				1,711.8	↓ -0.3
Cozumel	424.3	↑	36.7				3,637.3	↑ 7.1
Cuba	3,902.9	↑	10.7				no cruise	
Curacao	441.3	↓	-5.6				464.7	↓ -12.0
Dominica	78.1	↑	4.8				277.1	↓ -1.6
Dominican Republic	5,959.3	↑	6.4				809.3	↑ 53.0
Grenada	135.4	↑	2.1				314.9	↑ 12.3

VISITOR ARRIVAL STATISTICS 2016

Destination	TOURIST							CRUISE		
	Arrivals	%ch 2016/15	Market Share				Arrivals	%ch 2016/15		
			U.S.A	Canada	Europe	Other				
Guadeloupe	505.0	↑	4.3					263.0	↓	-15.1
Guyana	235.3	↑	13.8					no cruise		
Haiti	467.1	↓	-9.4					707.9	↑	5.1
Jamaica	2,181.7	↑	2.8					1655.6	↑	5.5
Martinique	519.3	↑	6.6					276.1	↑	14.3
Montserrat	9.2	↑	2.6					no cruise		
Puerto Rico	3,598.7	↓	-1.1					1,401.9	↓	-4.0
Saba	14.1	↑	2.1					no cruise		
St Eustatius	14.5	↑	2.9					no cruise		
St Kitts/Nevis	109.6	↓	-2.3					951.0	↑	4.5
St Lucia	347.9	↑	0.9					587.7	↓	-13.2
St Maarten	528.2	↑	4.5					1,668.9	↓	-12.2
St Vincent & Gren.	78.8	↑	4.5					99.5	↑	21.3
Suriname	257.0	↑	12.8					no cruise		
Trinidad & Tobago	408.8	↓	-7.0					82.7	↑	4.3
Turks & Caicos Is.	453.6	↑	17.5					846.9	↓	-8.9
US Virgin Is.	669.2	↑	4.3					1,776.7	↓	-5.4