

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED TOURISM STATISTICS REPORT



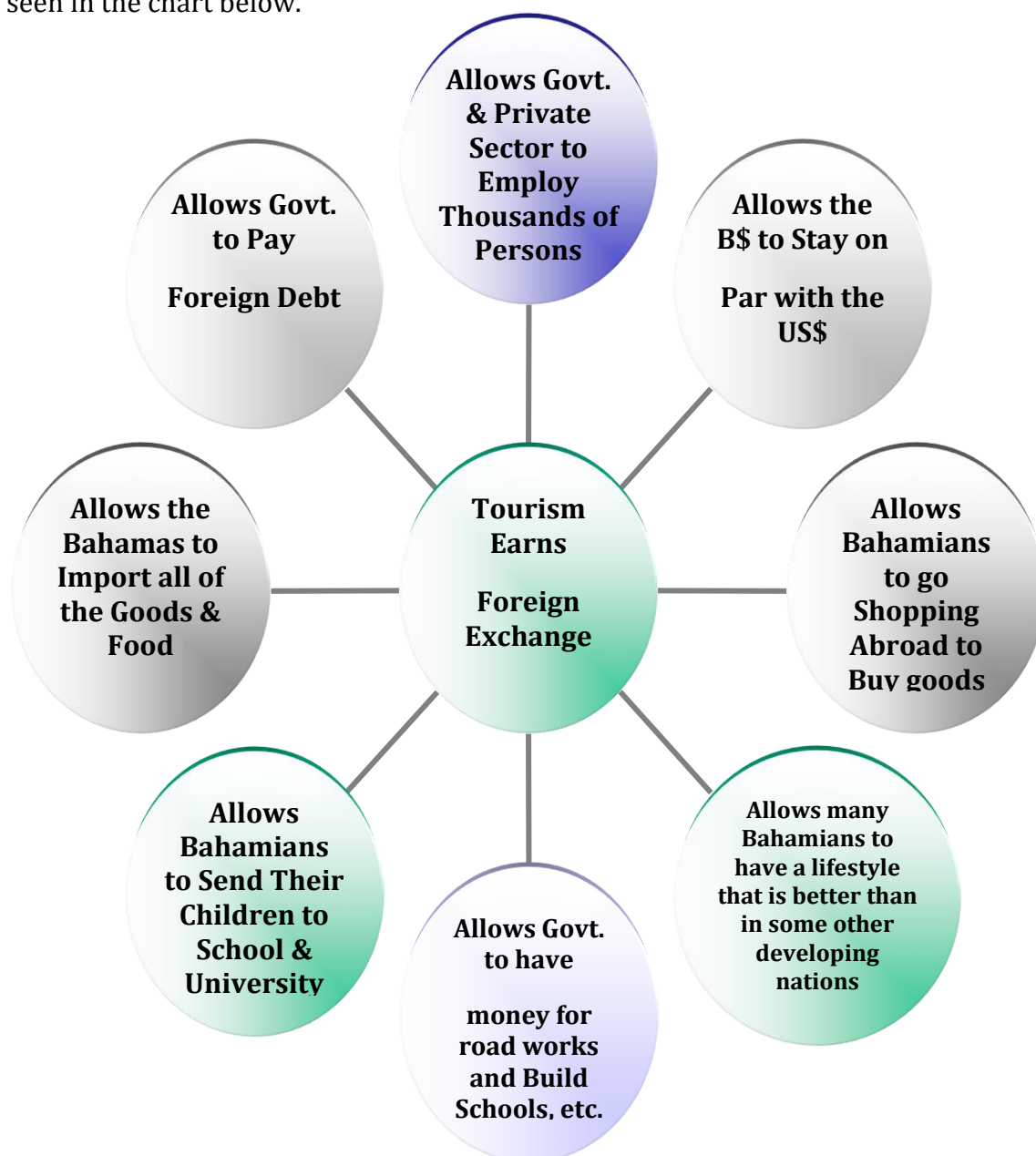
**RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM
2018**

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1. Why Does The Bahamas Need Tourism?

The Bahamas needs Tourism because it employs thousands of Bahamians and allows the Bahamas to earn Foreign Exchange, which has many benefits for the Bahamian people as seen in the chart below.



2. How Many Visitors Came to The Bahamas in 2018?

The Bahamas received 6.622 million foreign air and sea arrivals in 2018 and 6.136 in 2017. Of these foreign air and sea arrivals (including cruise) in 2018, The Bahamas received 1.66 million air arrivals. Of the foreign air and sea arrivals to The Bahamas in 2018, Nassau/Paradise Island received most of the visitors. More than half (57.0%, 3.8 million) of the foreign air and sea arrivals in 2018 came to Nassau/Paradise Island. The Out Islands received 30.0% (2.2 million) of the arrivals and Grand Bahama received 10.1% (670,745 thousand) of the arrivals.

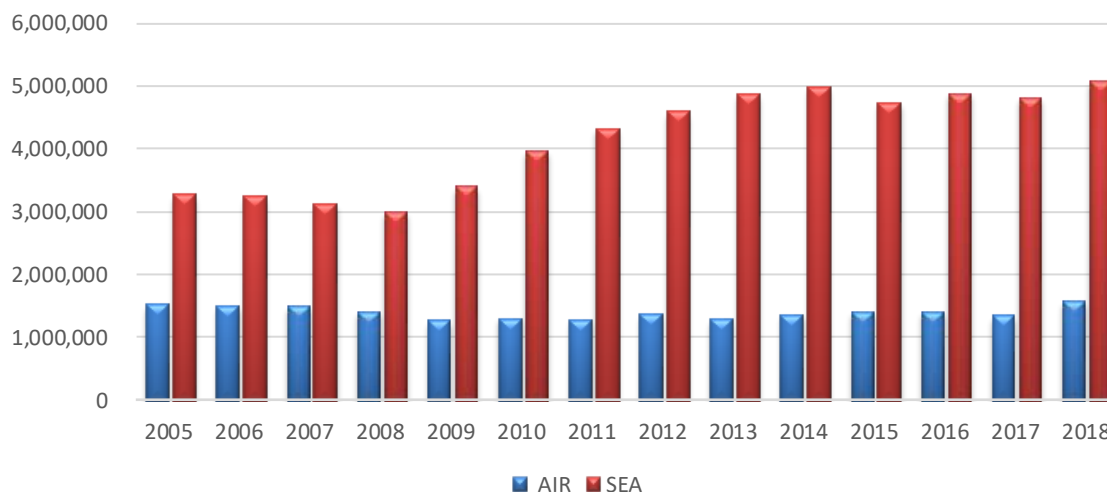
THE BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM VISITOR STATISTICS
TOTAL FOREIGN ARRIVALS TO THE BAHAMAS BY AIR & SEA
2005 - 2018

	AIR	%	SEA	%	TOTAL	%
2005	1,514,532	31.7%	3,264,885	68.3%	4,779,417	100.0%
2006	1,491,633	31.5%	3,238,974	68.5%	4,730,607	100.0%
2007	1,487,278	32.3%	3,114,060	67.7%	4,601,338	100.0%
2008	1,392,552	31.7%	3,001,020	68.3%	4,393,572	100.0%
2009	1,252,393	27.0%	3,392,722	73.0%	4,645,115	100.0%
2010	1,294,804	24.6%	3,960,002	75.4%	5,254,806	100.0%
2011	1,267,542	22.7%	4,320,046	77.3%	5,587,588	100.0%
2012	1,357,431	22.9%	4,582,739	77.1%	5,940,170	100.0%
2013	1,280,736	20.8%	4,870,048	79.2%	6,150,784	100.0%
2014	1,343,093	21.3%	4,977,095	78.7%	6,320,188	100.0%
2015	1,390,911	22.8%	4,721,182	77.2%	6,112,093	100.0%
2016	1,391,813	22.2%	4,873,206	77.8%	6,265,019	100.0%
2017	1,335,613	21.8%	4,800,226	78.2%	6,135,839	100.0%
2018	1,558,086	23.5%	5,063,929	76.5%	6,622,015	100.0%

Source: Immigration Card & Bahamas Ministry of Tourism Research & Statistics Dept.

These statistics are by First Port of Entry and reflect where visitors enter The Bahamas and not necessarily where they stay.

TOTAL FOREIGN ARRIVALS TO THE BAHAMAS BY AIR & SEA



These statistics are by First Port of Entry and reflect where visitors enter The Bahamas and not necessarily where they stay.

3. Which Island in The Bahamas Received the Most Stopover Visitors?

Nassau/Paradise Island received the most stopover visitors. In 2018, approximately seven in every ten (72%) stopover visitors to The Bahamas visited Nassau/Paradise Island, 8% visited Grand Bahama, and 20% visited the Out Islands.

STOPOVER VISITORS ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS 2005 TO 2018

	All Bahamas	Nassau/ Paradise Island	Grand Bahama	Out Islands
2005	1,625,205	1,153,813	218,722	252,670
2006	1,613,279	1,156,696	196,857	259,726
2007	1,537,986	1,095,711	178,396	263,879
2008	1,468,618	1,065,582	155,131	247,905
2009	1,336,010	969,921	137,091	228,998
2010	1,378,298	982,117	160,622	235,559
2011	1,355,044	960,912	145,442	248,690
2012	1,430,988	1,019,312	146,282	265,394
2013	1,377,156	957,902	138,601	280,653
2014	1,443,550	960,482	179,104	303,964
2015	1,496,243	977,093	205,753	313,397
2016	1,498,735	997,638	177,188	323,909
2017	1,451,831	1,003,010	122,094	326,727
2018	1,632,613	1,182,675	125,201	324,737

***Prior to 1985, numbers were tabulated manually, therefore there may be rounding errors in them.*

Source Dept. of Immigration & Bahamas Ministry of Tourism Research & Statistics Dept.

4. Where Did the Stopover Visitors to The Bahamas Come From (2018)?

In 2018, approximately eight and ten (79.9%) stopover visitors to The Bahamas came from the United States, 7.7% of them came from Canada, the second biggest supplier of visitors to The Bahamas, and 7.5% of them came from Europe. In 2018, Europe was the 3rd largest supplier of stopover visitors to The Bahamas and the UK was the top producing market from this region. Approximately two percent (2.1%) of stopovers came from Latin America, 1.3% from the Caribbean, and 1.5% from the rest of the world.

5. How Did Each Major Market for The Bahamas Perform in 2018/2017 and 2017/2016 January to December YTD?

ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS STOPOVER VISITORS BY REGION JANUARY - DECEMBER

		2018	2017	% CHG	2017	2016	% CHG
1	USA	1,304,550	1,145,072	13.9%	1,145,072	1,182,518	-3.2%
2	CANADA	126,444	111,039	13.9%	111,039	124,922	-11.1%
3	EUROPE	121,963	116,344	4.8%	116,344	109,642	6.1%
4	LATIN AMERICA	33,977	34,714	-2.1%	34,714	40,496	-14.3%
5	CARIBBEAN	21,148	21,255	-0.5%	21,255	22,249	-4.5%
6	OTHER COUNTRIES	24,531	23,407	4.8%	23,407	18,908	23.8%
	TOTAL STOPOVERS	1,632,613	1,451,831	12.5%	1,451,831	1,498,735	-3.1%

All numbers are subject to revision.

All numbers are subject to revision. Source: Immigration Card and Bahamas Ministry of Tourism Research and Statistics Dept.

In 2018, stopover visitor arrivals were up from the USA (13.9%), Canada (13.9%), Europe (4.8%) and the rest of the world (4.8%). In 2018, stopovers were down from Latin America (-2.1%), and the Caribbean (-0.5%).

6. How Did the Various Provinces of Canada Perform in 2018/2017 and 2017/2016 January to December YTD?

TOP CANADIAN PROVINCES STOPOVER VISITORS ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS JANUARY - DECEMBER

	PROVINCES	2018	2017	% CHG	2017	2016	% CHG
1	Ontario	80,305	67,831	18.4%	67,831	76,338	-11.1%
2	Quebec	18,344	17,888	2.5%	17,888	20,365	-12.2%
3	Alberta	7,528	6,513	15.6%	6,513	9,738	-33.1%
4	British Columbia	7,422	6,303	17.8%	6,303	6,458	-2.4%
5	Nova Scotia	1,773	1,699	4.4%	1,699	2,849	-40.4%
6	Manitoba	1,484	2,321	-36.1%	2,321	2,631	-11.8%
7	Saskatchewan	1,173	1,116	5.1%	1,116	1,560	-28.5%
8	New Brunswick	897	917	-2.2%	917	1,414	-35.1%
9	Newfoundland and Labrador	500	497	0.6%	497	671	-25.9%
10	Other Provinces	7,018	5,954	17.9%	5,954	2,898	105.5%
	TOTAL CANADA	126,444	111,039	13.9%	111,039	124,922	-11.1%

All numbers are subject to revision. Source: Immigration Card and Bahamas Ministry of Tourism Research and Statistics Dept.

In 2018, stopover visitor arrivals from Canada were up by 13.9% for the year compared to 2017. Stopover arrivals to The Bahamas from Canada increased from Ontario (18.4%), Quebec (2.5%), Alberta (15.6%), British Columbia (17.8%), Nova Scotia (4.4%), Saskatchewan (5.1%), and Newfoundland and Labrador (0.6%). Stopovers declined from Manitoba (-36.1%) and New Brunswick (-2.2%) during the period.

7. How Did the United States Perform in 2018/2017 and 2017/2016?

TOP STATES THAT BROUGHT BUSINESS TO THE BAHAMAS STOPOVER VISITORS UNITED STATES 2016 to 2018

STATES	Full Year			STATES	Full Year		
	2018	2017	% Chg		2017	2016	% Chg
Florida	286,047	276,569	3.4%	Florida	276,569	275,256	0.5%
New York	133,725	114,937	16.3%	New York	114,937	125,877	-8.7%
Texas	80,492	62,005	29.8%	Texas	62,005	67,374	-8.0%
California	63,841	56,440	13.1%	California	56,440	58,308	-3.2%
New Jersey	61,953	54,302	14.1%	New Jersey	54,302	61,043	-11.0%
Pennsylvania	49,090	41,830	17.4%	Pennsylvania	41,830	45,386	-7.8%
Georgia	47,809	39,708	20.4%	Georgia	39,708	40,870	-2.8%
Massachusetts	41,839	36,052	16.1%	Massachusetts	36,052	40,433	-10.8%
Virginia	36,695	31,876	15.1%	Virginia	31,876	36,862	-13.5%
Illinois	34,783	29,650	17.3%	Illinois	29,650	30,388	-2.4%
North Carolina	34,504	28,937	19.2%	North Carolina	28,937	29,911	-3.3%
Maryland	31,870	28,525	11.7%	Maryland	28,525	33,206	-14.1%
Ohio	30,392	25,831	17.7%	Ohio	25,831	28,517	-9.4%
Connecticut	26,865	22,261	20.7%	Connecticut	22,261	25,238	-11.8%
Michigan	26,158	21,976	19.0%	Michigan	21,976	23,662	-7.1%
South Carolina	23,945	20,447	17.1%	South Carolina	20,447	20,094	1.8%
Tennessee	18,380	15,447	19.0%	Tennessee	15,447	15,654	-1.3%
Colorado	16,862	14,898	13.2%	Colorado	14,898	13,564	9.8%
Indiana	15,760	12,924	21.9%	Indiana	12,924	13,719	-5.8%
Alabama	12,682	10,855	16.8%	Alabama	10,855	10,614	2.3%
Louisiana	12,257	10,014	22.4%	Louisiana	10,014	10,115	-1.0%
Missouri	11,327	9,023	25.5%	Minnesota	9,960	11,245	-11.4%
Minnesota	11,057	9,960	11.0%	Wisconsin	9,103	8,856	2.8%
Wisconsin	10,180	9,103	11.8%	Missouri	9,023	9,025	0.0%
Arizona	9,547	8,122	17.5%	Arizona	8,122	8,283	-1.9%
Kentucky	9,374	7,767	20.7%	Kentucky	7,767	9,119	-14.8%
Oklahoma	7,898	6,068	30.2%	Washington	6,364	6,544	-2.8%
Washington	7,450	6,364	17.1%	Oklahoma	6,068	6,772	-10.4%
Kansas	6,011	4,926	22.0%	Nevada	5,138	4,555	12.8%
Nevada	5,698	5,138	10.9%	Kansas	4,926	5,542	-11.1%
Oregon	5,319	4,597	15.7%	Oregon	4,597	5,146	-10.7%
Washington DC*	4,957	4,478	10.7%	Washington DC*	4,478	5,385	-16.8%
New Hampshire	4,766	4,349	9.6%	New Hampshire	4,349	4,743	-8.3%
Arkansas	4,723	3,813	23.9%	Utah	4,025	4,058	-0.8%
Utah	4,646	4,025	15.4%	Mississippi	3,881	3,662	6.0%
Mississippi	4,267	3,881	9.9%	Arkansas	3,813	3,926	-2.9%
Iowa	3,970	3,349	18.5%	Iowa	3,349	3,805	-12.0%
Rhode Island	3,921	3,270	19.9%	Rhode Island	3,270	3,631	-9.9%
Nebraska	3,494	2,644	32.1%	Nebraska	2,644	2,788	-5.2%
Maine	2,637	2,338	12.8%	Maine	2,338	2,470	-5.3%
West Virginia	2,439	1,984	22.9%	West Virginia	1,984	2,194	-9.6%
Delaware	2,227	1,763	26.3%	Delaware	1,763	2,164	-18.5%
Vermont	1,846	1,624	13.7%	New Mexico	1,754	1,857	-5.5%
New Mexico	1,773	1,754	1.1%	Montana	1,656	1,497	10.6%
Montana	1,741	1,656	5.1%	Vermont	1,624	1,730	-6.1%
Idaho	1,614	1,347	19.8%	Idaho	1,347	1,565	-13.9%
North Dakota	1,110	1,038	6.9%	North Dakota	1,038	1,726	-39.9%
Wyoming	1,052	801	31.3%	South Dakota	949	1,053	-9.9%
South Dakota	867	949	-8.6%	Wyoming	801	968	-17.3%
Alaska	729	684	6.6%	Alaska	684	790	-13.4%
Hawaii	496	550	-9.8%	Hawaii	550	522	5.4%
Unknown/Non-Resp.	81,465	72,223	12.8%	Unknown/Non-Resp.	72,223	50,806	42.2%
Grand Total	1,304,550	1,145,072	13.9%	Grand Total	1,145,072	1,182,518	-3.2%

All numbers are subject to revision. Source: Immigration Card and Bahamas Ministry of Tourism Research and Statistics Dept.

In 2018, stopover visitors to The Bahamas from the US increased by 14% compared to 2017. The Bahamas experienced an increase in stopovers from most of the US states in the year.

8. How Did the European Countries Perform in 2018/2017 & 2017/2016?

TOP EUROPEAN COUNTRIES STOPOVER VISITORS ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS

EUROPE	Full Year			EUROPE	Full Year		
	2018	2017	% Chg		2017	2016	%Chg
1 UK	36,240	33,540	8.1%	UK	33,540	34,824	-3.7%
2 FRANCE	17,550	16,748	4.8%	FRANCE	16,748	15,173	10.4%
3 ITALY	13,579	13,403	1.3%	ITALY	13,403	12,699	5.5%
4 GERMANY	12,982	13,119	-1.0%	GERMANY	13,119	11,274	16.4%
5 SWITZERLAND	6,099	6,251	-2.4%	SWITZERLAND	6,251	6,581	-5.0%
6 SPAIN	4,277	4,333	-1.3%	SPAIN	4,333	3,753	15.5%
7 POLAND	3,452	3,136	10.1%	POLAND	3,136	2,422	29.5%
8 NETHERLANDS	2,680	2,925	-8.4%	NETHERLANDS	2,925	2,570	13.8%
9 ROMANIA	2,413	1,640	47.1%	SWEDEN	2,202	2,273	-3.1%
10 SWEDEN	2,238	2,202	1.6%	RUSSIA	2,196	1,444	52.1%
11 AUSTRIA	2,181	1,906	14.4%	AUSTRIA	1,906	2,080	-8.4%
12 RUSSIA	2,018	2,196	-8.1%	BELGIUM	1,643	1,320	24.5%
13 BELGIUM	1,665	1,643	1.3%	ROMANIA	1,640	1,266	29.5%
14 DENMARK	1,603	1,393	15.1%	DENMARK	1,393	1,206	15.5%
15 NORWAY	1,322	1,320	0.2%	NORWAY	1,320	1,274	3.6%
16 UKRAINE	1,262	1,063	18.7%	IRELAND	1,104	949	16.3%
17 IRELAND	1,196	1,104	8.3%	UKRAINE	1,063	604	76.0%
18 PORTUGAL	1,132	1,054	7.4%	PORTUGAL	1,054	917	14.9%
19 GREECE	852	712	19.7%	FINLAND	719	965	-25.5%
20 HUNGARY	765	589	29.9%	GREECE	712	496	43.5%
21 FINLAND	679	719	-5.6%	CZECH REPUBLIC	682	616	10.7%
22 CZECH REPUBLIC	678	682	-0.6%	HUNGARY	589	438	34.5%
23 TURKEY	634	578	9.7%	TURKEY	578	785	-26.4%
24 BULGARIA	586	500	17.2%	CROATIA	547	371	47.4%
25 CROATIA	503	547	-8.0%	BULGARIA	500	367	36.2%
26 SLOVAKIA	461	437	5.5%	SLOVAKIA	437	414	5.6%
27 ESTONIA	395	289	36.7%	ESTONIA	289	477	-39.4%
28 LUXEMBOURG	296	286	3.5%	LUXEMBOURG	286	306	-6.5%
29 MONACO	249	246	1.2%	MALTA	276	186	48.4%
30 MALTA	243	276	-12.0%	MONACO	246	273	-9.9%
31 LITHUANIA	225	148	52.0%	SERBIA	190	149	27.5%
32 LATVIA	209	183	14.2%	LATVIA	183	143	28.0%
33 SERBIA	203	190	6.8%	MACEDONIA	179	78	129.5%
34 SLOVENIA	200	154	29.9%	SLOVENIA	154	206	-25.2%
35 ICELAND	157	110	42.7%	LITHUANIA	148	236	-37.3%
36 MACEDONIA	154	179	-14.0%	CYPRUS	130	96	35.4%
37 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	100	54	85.2%	MONTENEGRO	120	39	207.7%
38 MONTENEGRO	78	120	-35.0%	ICELAND	110	93	18.3%
39 CYPRUS	72	130	-44.6%	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	54	73	-26.0%
40 GEORGIA	71	36	97.2%	ANDORRA	51	23	121.7%
41 LIECHTENSTEIN	59	37	59.5%	BELARUS	39	27	44.4%
42 BELARUS	54	39	38.5%	LIECHTENSTEIN	37	51	-27.5%
43 MOLDOVA	49	23	113.0%	GEORGIA	36	36	0.0%
44 ANDORRA	37	51	-27.5%	MOLDOVA	23	33	-30.3%
45 SAN MARINO	35	21	66.7%	SAN MARINO	21	15	40.0%
46 ALBANIA	17	8	112.5%	FAROE ISLANDS	15	8	87.5%
47 FAROE ISLANDS	5	15	-66.7%	ALBANIA	8	12	-33.3%
48 KOSOVO	5	1	400.0%	GREENLAND	8		100.0%
49 GREENLAND	3	8	-62.5%	KOSOVO	1		100.0%
50 HOLY SEE			0.0%	HOLY SEE		1	-100.0%
GRAND TOTAL	121,963	116,344	4.8%	GRAND TOTAL	116,344	109,642	6.1%

All numbers are subject to revision. Source: Immigration Card and Bahamas Ministry of Tourism Research and Statistics Dept.

Yugoslavia no longer exists as a country but some persons that were born there still use that name even though the country was dissolved. Greenland is technically not on the continent of Europe.

In 2018, stopover arrivals from Europe were up by 4.8% compared to 2017. Stopover arrivals were up for most of the European countries during 2018.

9. How Did Latin America Perform Between 2018 and 2017?

TOP LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES STOPOVER VISITORS ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS

LATIN AMERICA	Full Year			LATIN AMERICA	Full Year		
	2018	2017	% Chg		2017	2016	% Chg
1 BRAZIL	8,261	8,718	-5.2%	BRAZIL	8,718	7,672	13.6%
2 ARGENTINA	6,602	7,398	-10.8%	ARGENTINA	7,398	7,474	-1.0%
3 MEXICO	5,547	5,827	-4.8%	MEXICO	5,827	7,669	-24.0%
4 COLOMBIA	2,536	2,234	13.5%	COLOMBIA	2,234	3,613	-38.2%
5 CHILE	1,950	1,685	15.7%	CHILE	1,685	2,135	-21.1%
6 PANAMA	1,739	1,507	15.4%	PANAMA	1,507	2,233	-32.5%
7 PERU	1,733	1,470	17.9%	PERU	1,470	2,260	-35.0%
8 VENEZUELA	1,267	1,308	-3.1%	VENEZUELA	1,308	1,544	-15.3%
9 ECUADOR	886	861	2.9%	ECUADOR	861	986	-12.7%
10 URUGUAY	741	831	-10.8%	URUGUAY	831	908	-8.5%
11 COSTA RICA	560	678	-17.4%	COSTA RICA	678	1,029	-34.1%
12 HONDURAS	479	437	9.6%	GUATEMALA	478	727	-34.3%
13 GUATEMALA	470	478	-1.7%	PARAGUAY	466	684	-31.9%
14 PARAGUAY	376	466	-19.3%	HONDURAS	437	467	-6.4%
15 NICARAGUA	307	253	21.3%	NICARAGUA	253	418	-39.5%
16 BOLIVIA	185	143	29.4%	EL SALVADOR	219	310	-29.4%
17 EL SALVADOR	179	219	-18.3%	BELIZE	201	121	66.1%
18 BELIZE	159	201	-20.9%	BOLIVIA	143	246	-41.9%
TOTAL	33,977	34,714	-2.1%	TOTAL	34,714	40,496	-14.3%

All numbers are subject to revision. Source: Immigration Card and Bahamas Ministry of Tourism Research and Statistics Dept.

In 2018, stopover arrivals to The Bahamas from Latin America decreased by 2% compared to 2017. The Bahamas did experience growth from some of the Latin American countries like Colombia, Chile, Panama, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Bolivia but it was not enough to counter the fall from the other countries.

10. Which Months Are the Slowest for Visitor Arrivals to the Bahamas?

September and October are the slowest months for stopover arrivals to visit The Bahamas.

STOPOVERS ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS ALL BAHAMAS

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Jan	105,666	110,810	104,195	111,027	94,430	91,859	84,985	93,199	89,718	93,034	102,202	100,306	96,937	105,493
Feb	131,363	132,492	122,027	129,686	110,678	105,771	106,806	115,207	106,407	114,396	121,342	123,526	115,304	135,334
Mar	193,293	183,194	176,950	175,339	144,014	158,629	153,458	164,429	165,934	159,533	170,072	182,819	157,046	187,995
Apr	152,098	170,859	152,234	144,720	134,546	131,041	140,630	145,212	123,003	142,981	148,376	143,105	151,335	150,005
May	149,527	156,069	138,940	141,202	123,334	128,083	118,132	122,279	126,391	131,633	132,360	139,992	133,071	142,283
Jun	169,336	173,260	161,781	154,196	132,186	146,153	143,627	153,797	144,884	147,435	142,930	155,722	154,756	162,504
Jul	183,141	164,555	159,597	159,686	145,231	158,410	158,054	158,711	147,458	158,013	165,967	174,859	169,109	171,661
Aug	129,514	121,503	136,055	128,838	109,838	120,640	105,763	128,101	127,515	130,818	129,555	125,169	124,239	145,812
Sep	75,734	74,706	71,023	44,691	54,302	57,565	61,877	62,993	57,399	60,053	72,336	78,318	50,166	69,152
Oct	86,663	83,546	81,140	74,331	77,212	74,786	70,428	71,145	73,332	82,409	84,306	55,075	69,290	83,318
Nov	116,599	112,783	108,486	92,608	93,792	93,885	95,964	99,412	95,256	95,643	95,731	92,125	98,207	119,779
Dec	132,271	129,502	125,558	112,294	116,447	111,476	115,320	116,503	119,859	127,602	131,066	127,719	132,371	159,277
Grand Total	1,625,205	1,613,279	1,537,986	1,468,618	1,336,010	1,378,298	1,355,044	1,430,988	1,377,156	1,443,550	1,496,243	1,498,735	1,451,831	1,632,613

Source: Immigration Card and The Research and Statistics Dept, The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism. All numbers are subject to revision.

11. Which Months Are the Busiest Months for Visitor Arrivals to The Bahamas?

March is historically the busiest month for stopover visitor arrivals to The Bahamas but on occasion July has been the busiest. In 2018, March was the busiest month. March is the month when many spring breakers converge on the islands for their escape from their various Colleges and Universities. In addition, the Easter Holiday often falls in either March or April and this holiday has always been popular for stopovers to visit The Bahamas.

The busiest period for stopover visitors to come to The Bahamas is between the months of March to the end of August. The month of December has also been a good month for stopovers to visit.

12. Which Months Are the Busiest Months for Stopover Arrivals to the Bahamas From the United States?

The months of March through August are usually the busiest months from the US and September and October the slowest.

Stopover Arrivals from the United States tended to peak in March historically prior to 2009. Since 2009 after the financial meltdown, the summer month of July has often been busier than March for US stopovers to The Bahamas.

In 2018 however, March was the busiest month for stopover arrivals to The Bahamas from the United States.

13. Which Months Are the Busiest Months for Stopovers From Canada?

Stopover Arrivals to The Bahamas from Canada in any given year are normally highest in the winter months of November thru April (i.e. November, December, January, February, March, and April) which are usually the coldest months in Canada.

14. Which Months Are the Busiest Months for Stopovers From Europe?

Prior to 2010, the month of August was unequivocally the most popular month for Europeans to visit The Bahamas, but that pattern has shifted somewhat. The month of April was the most popular month for Europeans to visit between 2017 to 2018.

15. How Much Money Did Visitors Spend In The Bahamas?

In 2018, stopover, cruise and day visitors spent \$3.7 billion in the Bahamian Economy compared to \$2.9 billion in 2017.

16. Why Did Visitors Come to The Bahamas?

Roughly three in every four (75%) stopover visitors came to The Bahamas for a vacation, 6% for a honeymoon, 5% of them on a business trip and 3% to visit friends & relatives.

17. What Did Visitors Say Influenced Their Decision to Visit The Bahamas?

Stopovers were influenced to visit The Bahamas because of the beaches (68% of them), climate (53%) and rest & relaxation (46%) that they expected to do on the islands.

Stopover visitors to Nassau/Paradise Island (11%) were also more influenced to visit by the casinos than those to Grand Bahama (2%) and the Out Islands (1%). For Grand Bahama, good package deals and the perception that they would receive the best value for money used to be big influences for stopovers to the island prior to 2017 when the Memories Resort was on the island. The Memories Resort closed after Hurricane Matthew caused extensive damage to the property in October 2016. Other major influences for stopover visitors to the Out Islands included friendly people (34%), the perceived safety of the islands (26%), the perception that the Islands were exotic (21%), and sports (23%).

18. What Activities Did Visitors Say They Wanted to Do While in The Bahamas?

Stopover visitors to The Bahamas had a few activities in mind that they wanted to do before they arrived. Activities that visitors wanted to do included: enjoy beaches (86% of them), rest & relax (73%), snorkel (34%), shop (26%), go to the casino (20%), and go on an island tour (19%).

19. How Many Visitors Have Been to The Bahamas Before?

In 2018, more than half (56%) of stopover visitors to The Bahamas had visited before. More than half of the visitors to Nassau/Paradise Island (54%), and Grand Bahama (56%) had visited the Bahamas before. Roughly two in every three (65%) stopover visitors to the Out Islands had visited The Bahamas before. The percentage of repeat visitors to the Out Islands has always been high.

20. How Many Visitors Said That They Were Likely to Return to The Bahamas in 1-5 years (2018)?

Eighty-six percent (86%) of stopover visitors to The Bahamas Overall said that they were likely to return, compared to 85% of those to Nassau/Paradise, 81% to Grand Bahama Island, and 91% to the Out Islands.

21. How Many Visitors Said That They Were Likely to Recommend The Bahamas to their friends and relatives (2018)?

The majority (94%) of stopovers to The Bahamas Overall said that they were likely to recommend the destination to friends and relatives, 94% of those to Nassau/Paradise Island, 91% of those to Grand Bahama Island and 97% of the stopovers to the Out Islands said this.

22. What is Tourism?

Tourism: The “activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated (i.e. without receiving a salary/wage for said activity/activities) from within the place visited.” (Source: United Nations World Tourism Organization UNWTO, & *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*).

TYPE OF VISITORS

Visitors to the Islands of The Bahamas can come to the Bahamas by air or by sea.

Air arrivals are persons that come to the destination by air and include: stopover visitors, day visitors, & transits.

Sea arrivals are persons that come to the destination by sea and include: cruise arrivals, cruise stopover visitors and boaters/yachters.

Stopover/Stayover Visitors are travelers that travel outside of their normal environment for any purpose other than to be employed by a resident entity, and stay in the destination for 24 hours or more but less than a year. Some examples of stopover visitors include persons that stay in hotels, private boats/yachts, vacation rentals, timeshares, etc.

Cruise Stopover Visitors are a special category of stopovers that come to the destination on a cruise ship but get off and stay in other land-based or other accommodations upon arrival.

Cruise Visitors are travelers that travel outside of their normal environment on a cruise ship for any purpose other than to be employed by a resident entity and use the ship for their accommodations.

Day Visitors are travelers that travel outside of their normal environment for any purpose other than to be employed by a resident entity and stay in the destination for less than 24 hours.

Transits are persons that are simply passing through a country/destination on their way to somewhere else.



Information in this brochure is based on the Immigration Card and the Tour Operator & Media Exit Survey 2018.

Research and Statistics Department

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