

Anguilla: Tourism Summary Data June 2003

June 2003 saw 7,725 visitors to Anguilla, down slightly, by 3.5%, from June 2002. The decline in visitors for the first half of this year was 6.7% so June performed better than the average for the year. The source of decline came from fewer excursionists visiting Anguilla rather than fewer tourists who tend to spend more and make a larger contribution to the economy as a result.

Tourists (Stay-Over Visitors)

Although the number of visitors overall declined the performance by tourists was much more positive. There was a 12.5% increase in tourist arrivals compared to June last year. There were 3,373 arrivals during this month, which is above the average for June for the past three years and the highest number for the decade with the exception of June 2000. For the first half of this year 25,524 tourists have visited Anguilla, which is slightly above the number of 25,499 for the same period in 2002.

44% of tourists that visited the island during this reporting period, stayed for a period of 4–7 days, and 34% for 8–15 days which indicates a slight lengthening in the period of stay compared to last month. On average for this month, the length of stay was up slightly to 8.1 days compared to 7.7 days during June 2002.

Tourist arrivals through the port of Blowing Point for June were 1,239 up 27% from June 2002 and arrivals through the airport were also slightly up by 6% to 2,116 compared to June of last year. The airport is the gateway to Anguilla for most tourists but St. Martin is growing in importance, as visitors are able to get more choice in their flights to St. Martin.

The U.S. as a source of tourists has at last shown a slight strengthening. The percentage increase in June compared to last year from the U.S. was 19%. The second largest increase came from Europe and the UK at 16%. These signs are particularly promising as the U.S. represents 71% of market share and the UK and Europe represent 11%.

Excursionists (Day Visitors)

Excursionist arrivals, after being the dominant growth segment among visitors in 2002, continued to show a decline of 13% in June 2003 over June last year. 4,352 excursionists visited during this period compared to 5,007 in June 2002.

For the first half of this year there were 32,118 excursionists visiting Anguilla compared to 36,294 over the same period last year. This represents a decline of 11.5% for the period.