



UNITED STATES RECORDS 58 MILLION VISITORS IN 2008

More than 58 million international visitors traveled to the United States in 2008, an increase of four percent from 2007, according to statistics released by the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA).

- North American arrivals represented 56 percent of the international visitation to the United States. Canadian visitation (18.9 million) was up seven percent compared to arrivals in 2007. Mexican visitation (13.8 million) was down four percent from 2007.
- Overseas arrivals (excluding Canada and Mexico) totaled 25.3 million, up six percent for the year.
- Western European travel to the United States totaled a record 12.2 million visitors, up 12 percent from 2007. New visitation records were set by Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and Sweden. Travel from the top market, the United Kingdom, grew more than one percent from 2007.
- Asia/Pacific arrivals to the United States declined by three percent. The emerging markets, India and the People's Republic of China, both set visitation records in 2008, posting six percent and 24 percent increases, respectively. Australian travel increased three percent for the year, setting another record for arrivals in 2008.
- From Latin America, South American arrivals were up 12 percent. Double-digit growth was experienced in visitation from Brazil (up 20 percent), Argentina (up 19 percent), and Venezuela (up 11 percent). Colombia also set a record for the year. In addition, arrivals from Central America and Caribbean dropped by one percent and nine percent, respectively.
- Arrival totals from Africa and the Middle East grew by 13 percent and 10 percent, respectively. Israel also set a record for arrivals, posting a six percent growth rate for the year.

ITA's Office of Travel and Tourism Industries (OTTI) collects, analyzes, and disseminates international travel and tourism statistics for the U.S. Travel and Tourism Statistical System. To view OTTI visitation data tables, please visit: <<http://www.tinet.ita.doc.gov/view/m-2008-I-001/index.html>>.