

Virginia Tourism Monitor

Information current as of 10/3/08

Airports:



Newport News/ Williamsburg International Airport

Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport served 631,479 airline passengers through July 2008. This is a 4.2% increase compared to the same period of 2007.

Richmond International Airport reported a 2.2% decrease in passenger activity through Aug. 2008 with a total of 2,364,805 passengers year-to-date. This compares with a total of 2,419,176 passengers for the same period of 2007.

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport

Year-to-date (Jan-Aug 2008), passenger activity has decreased by 3.6% from the same period of 2007. Year-to-date, 12.3 million passengers have used Ronald Reagan National Airport. This compares to 12.8 million in the same period of 2007.

Washington Dulles International Airport

Year-to-date (Jan-Aug 2008), passenger activity has decreased by 2.4% from 2007. Year-to-date, 16.5 million passengers have used Washington Dulles International Airport. This compares to 16.9 million in the same period of 2007.

Parks (State and National)

Visits to Virginia's State Parks through August 2008 are down less than 0.05% compared to the same period of 2007

2008 year to date 5,271,477

2007 year to date 5,273,178



Recreational Visits to Virginia's *National Parks* through July 2008 are down 1.6% compared to the same period of 2007.

2008 Year-to-date – 12,380,175

2007 Year-to-date – 12,583,164

National Trends:

TIA's Travel Price Index

The Travel Price Index for August 2008 reflects an increase of 7.9% year to date. Developed by the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA), the Travel Price Index (TPI) measures the seasonally unadjusted inflation rate of the cost of travel away from home in the United States. The TPI is released monthly and is directly comparable to the CPI.

CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

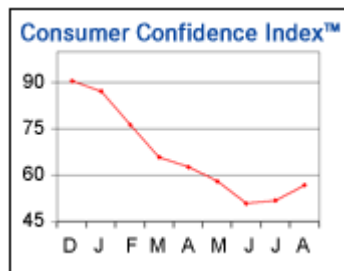
The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) decreased 0.4 percent in August before seasonal adjustment, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The August level of 219.086 (1982-84=100) was 5.4 percent higher than in August 2007.

(<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm>)

Consumer Confidence

The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index, which had improved moderately in August, posted a slight gain in September. The index now stands at 59.8 (1985=100), up from 58.5 in August.

<http://www.conferenceboard.org/economics/consumerconfidence.cfm>



International

The U.S. Department of Commerce announced that 23.9 million international visitors traveled to the United States during the first six months of 2008, an increase of 11 percent over the same period in 2007.

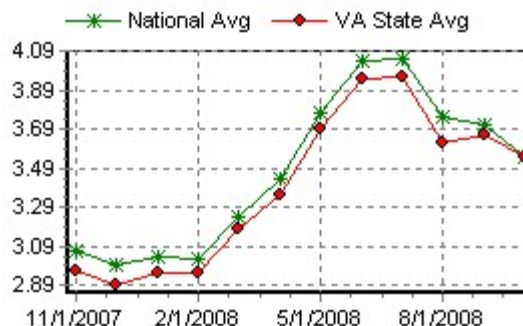
International visitors spent a record \$69.9 billion from January through June 2008, an increase of 23 percent over the first half of 2007.

(Source: *Tourism Industry NEWS* – September 11, 2008)

(<http://www.tinet.ita.doc.gov/tinews/archive/tinews2008/20080911.html>)

Gasoline Prices in VA compared to National Average

(Source: AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report – 12 month average)



Source: AAA Fuel gauge Report

(<http://www.fuelgauge.com/VAavg.asp>)