OVERVIEW

April’s summer season visitor arrivals for 2017 continued to show increases, recording the year’s first double digit figure of 24.6% when compared with April 2016; with arrivals totalling 19,618. This figure is recorded as the highest number of visitors to grace our shores during this April period as far back as 1993, followed by the years 2015 and 2006 recording 18,833 and 18,483 respectively. This may have been partly due to the Easter period events such as the Festival del Mar.

April’s increase in visitor arrivals was due to increases in both types of visitors; tourists (stay-overs) and excursionists (day-trippers). Double digits increases were recorded for both types of visitors; however, stay-over arrivals contributed the larger increase over their corresponding 2016 figures.

Of these visitors, 1.5% of the arrivals represented business travellers and the other 98.5% vacationers.

PASSENGER MOVEMENT

Passenger arrivals (including both residents and visitors) recorded a double digit increase of 13.9%, totalling 26,609 from April’s 2016 figure of 23,367 passengers.

Anguilla’s inward passenger movement by sea continues to be the main mode of entry; as the seaports saw inward passengers of 24,825 (93.3%), of which, 20,415 (82.2%) passengers entered at the Blowing Point terminal and 4,410 (17.8%) at the Sandy Ground port. 1,784 (6.7%) passengers came into Anguilla via the Clayton J. Lloyd International Airport.

TOURISTS (Stay- Over Visitors)

April’s tourist (stay-over) visitor arrivals to Anguilla recorded its first increase for this year 2017, with 31.7% over the same period for 2016 with 9,664 persons. This year’s figure recorded the largest amount of tourist arrivals for the month of April dating far back as 1993, followed by 2006 and 2007 with 8,392 and 7,736 arrivals respectively.

Passenger departures recorded an increase of 14.4% relative to the same period in 2016, to 27,868 outbound passengers, compared to the recorded 24,356 in 2016. Passenger departures via the seaports from Anguilla accounted for 91.0% (25,373), of which 21,013 (82.8%) passengers left though the Blowing Point terminal and 4,360 (17.2%) passengers made their exit from the Sandy Ground port. The Clayton J. Lloyd International Airport facilitated 9.0% (2,495) of the departures from Anguilla.
The average intended length of stay of tourists in Anguilla for the period under review increased to 6.8 days compared to April 2016, 6.3 days. The largest slice of tourists with more than half of the arrivals, accounted for 52.7% who intended to spend 4-7 days in Anguilla. 22.2% of tourists wished to stay 1-3 days, followed by 19.6% who wished to stay 8-15 days, 1.2% for 16-22 days and 4.3% indicating they intended to stay 23 or more days.

Day trippers to Anguilla showed that seven (7) of the source markets contributed to the increase in excursionist arrivals during this period under review. The largest increase was recorded in the ‘German’ market with 50.8%; followed by 26.0% and 25.6% in the ‘U.K.’ and “Other European” source markets respectively. The decreases were recorded in the ‘Canadian’, ‘Italian’ and ‘Caribbean’ markets with 8.6%, 3.9% and 1.6% respectively over their 2016 corresponding figures. Anguilla’s main excursionists source market the USA, held a share of 56.5% of the excursionists’ market, an increase of 24.0% over the period April 2016.