



ANTIGUA  
AND BARBUDA

2016

October -  
December

# TOURIST ARRIVAL QUARTERLY REPORT



Research and Statistics Department  
Ministry of Tourism, Economic Development,  
Investment & Energy  
Statistics Division



## Foreword

This report provides a quantitative analysis of visitors to Antigua and Barbuda for the fourth quarter of 2016. The quantitative data was collected from the immigration cards of arriving passengers, via ports at V.C. Bird International Airport, Nelson Dockyard, Jolly Harbour, Deep Water Harbour, Heritage Quay, and Barbuda. The data was compiled by the Research and Statistics Department in the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Development, Investment & Energy, in collaboration with the Statistics Division within the Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Industry, Sports, Culture and National Festivals. The report was produced through the collaborative efforts of Tourism Research Officer Avonelle Alfred, Tourism Statistical Officer Lornel Mack, as well as Tourism Statistician Marissa Scott.

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## Overview

This report is an overview of the fourth quarter (QTR4) visitor arrivals by both Air and Sea to Antigua and Barbuda for the period of 2012-2016. Also provided are comparisons between visitor arrivals for QTR4, 2015 and 2016. Visitors are classified as persons who stay more than 24 hours, but less than one year, within a country outside of their usual country of residence. Persons who are in transit and/or spend less than a day are not classified as visitors. Total Sea Arrivals are comprised of tourists arriving by Cruise and Yacht, with Cruise visitors spending less than a day, and Yacht visitors a day or more.

Table 1. reveals Tourist Arrivals for the fourth quarter QTR4, October to December, over a period of five years. As seen, a total of 258,931 visitors arrived by Air and Sea. Of that number, 75% of visitors travelled by sea and 25% arrived by air. The year 2015 recorded the highest number of visitors 12,152 more than in QTR 4, 2016, with QTR4 of 2013, the lowest at 204,973. When compared to QTR4 2015, there is a -2.8% decrease in visitor arrivals by Air in 2016. Also, there is a 5% decrease in Sea arrivals in QTR4 2016 from that of QTR4 2015. Therefore, total visitor arrivals experienced a decrease of -4.5% in QTR4 2016.

Table 1: Total Visitors Arrivals (QTR4): 2012-2016

Mode	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% change 2015/2016
Air	60,300	61,635	61,189	66,863	65,002	-2.8
Sea	163,163	143,158	164,459	204,220	193,929	-5.0
Total	223,463	204,793	225,648	271,083	258,931	-4.5

Figure 1. below gives a comparison of tourist arrivals in QTR4, for the period 2012-2016. Tourist arrivals by air were seen highest in 2015 and lowest in 2012. Increases in tourist arrival by Air, were achieved in 2013 and 2015. Also, tourist arrival by air have remained just over 60,000, with gradual levels of change over the five year period. Whereas, Tourist arrivals by Sea were seen highest in 2015 and lowest in 2013. Also, Sea Arrivals saw vast increases in 2014 and 2015.

Figure 1: Visitor Arrivals by Air and Sea (QTR4): 2012-2016

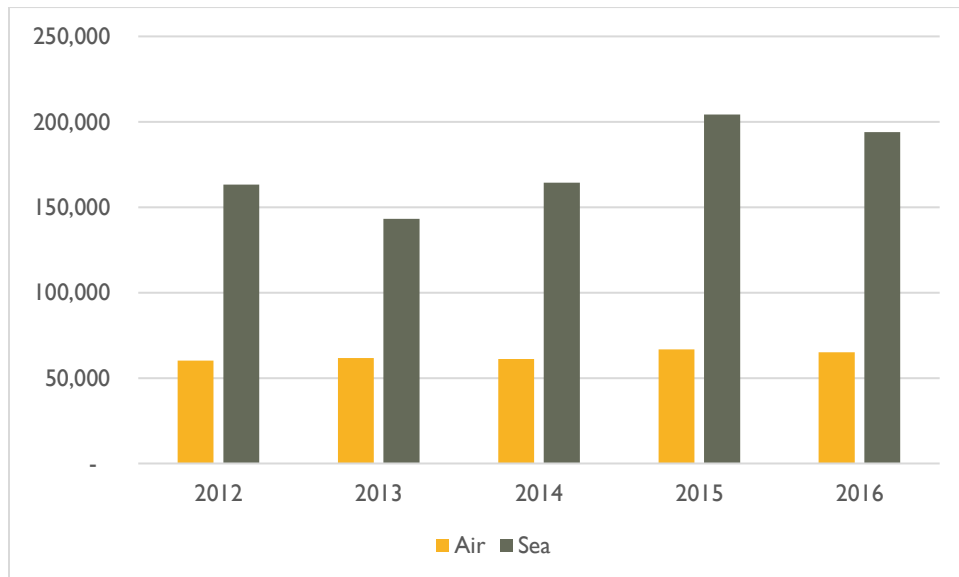
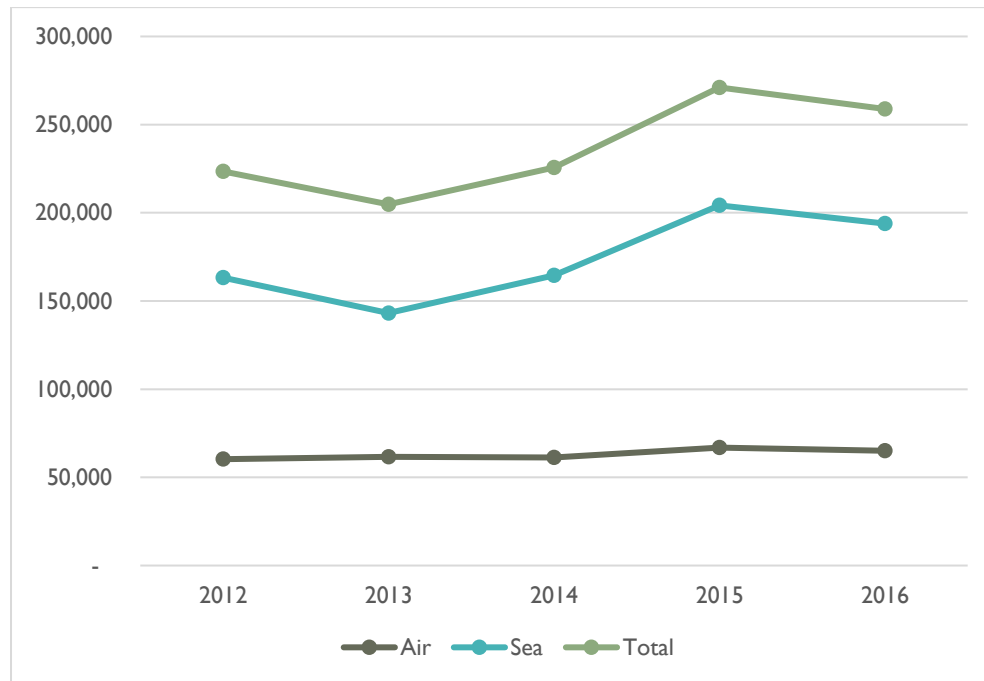


Figure 2. below illustrates a comparison between Air and Sea arrivals in QTR4 from 2012 to 2016. As seen, Air Arrivals remain fairly steady from 2012 to 2016, with only a slight increase from 2014 to 2015. However, Sea arrivals have consistently been significantly higher than air over the five year period.

Figure 2: Total Visitor Arrivals compared to Air & Sea Arrivals (QTR4): 2012-2016



## Air Arrivals

Table 2 is a comparison of the monthly arrivals record for QTR4 2015 and 2016. QTR4 2015 outperformed QTR4 2016 recording 1861 more visitors. Thus, pointing out a -2.8% decrease from 2015 to 2016. October the only favorable month for QTR4 2016 recorded a 1.2% increase while decreases can be seen in November (-1.5) and December (-6.1). Thus resulting in a percentage decrease of -3%.

Table 2: Monthly Air Arrivals (QTR 4): 2015-2016

Monthly Air Arrivals 2015/2016			
Month	Q4 2015	Q4 2016	% change 2015/2016
October	16,920	17,119	1.2%
November	21,616	21,293	-1.5%
December	28,327	26,590	-6.1%
Totals	66,863	65,002	-2.8%

Figure 3: Air Arrivals (QTR4):2012-2016

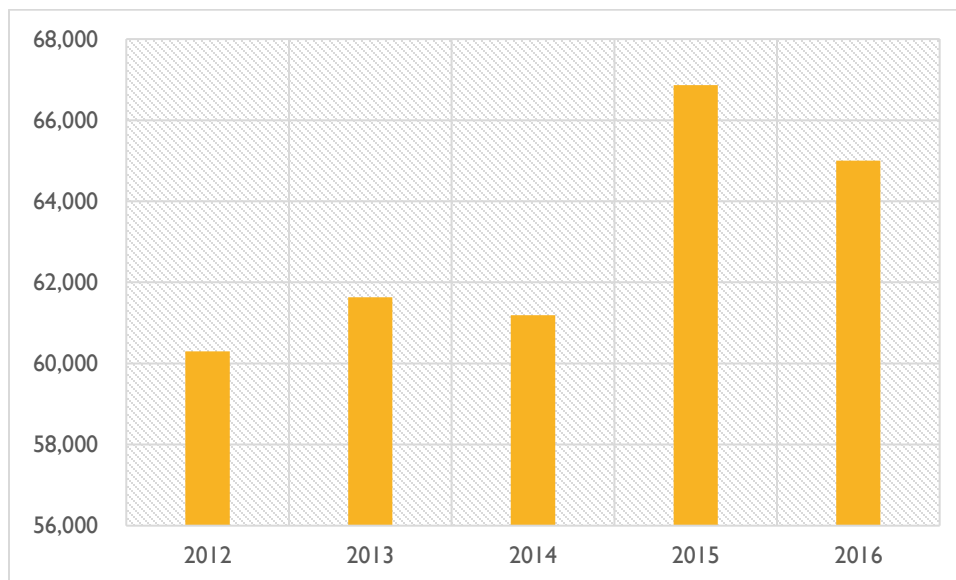
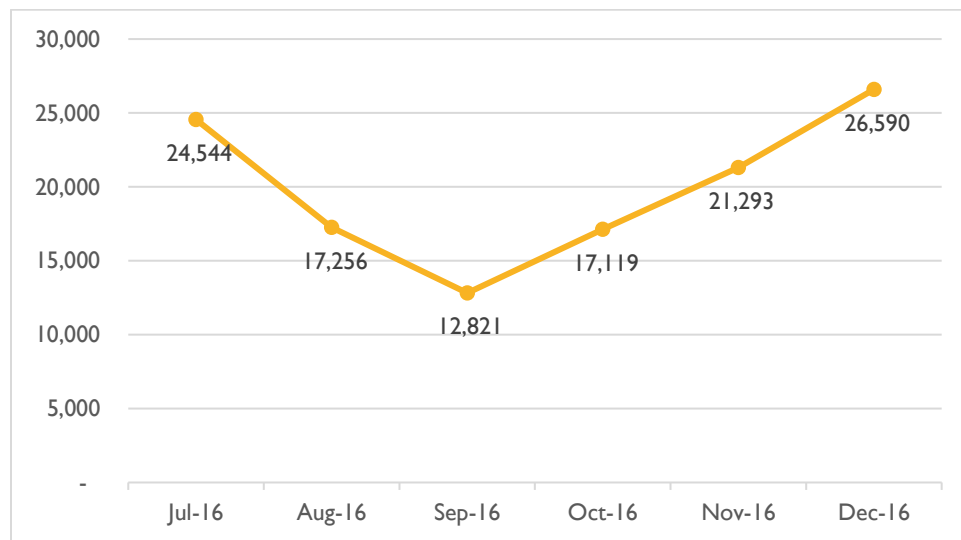


Figure 4. compares tourist arrival by Air from QTR3 to QTR4 of 2016. A dramatic decline in arrivals by Air is seen from July to September 2016. then followed by a sharp rise from October to December. In other words, visitor arrivals decreased in QTR3 of 2016, but increased in QTR 4 of the same year. Visitor arrival peaked in December 2016, having the highest recorded number of arrivals in any month within the last two quarters of 2016.

Figure 4: Monthly Air Arrivals (QTR3 2016- QTR4 2016)





## **Air arrivals by Market:**

Table 3 is a comparison of tourist arrival by source market. Further, the table compares the number of visitor arrivals between QTR4 of 2015 and QTR4 2016. There is a decrease in tourist arrival by 1,861 in QTR4 2016, a decrease of -2.8%.

The United States continues to be the main market contributing 35 % of the total number of visitors in QTR4 2016. Tourist arrivals from the USA saw an increase of 3.05%, from QTR4 2015. Most visitors from this market are from areas such as New York (28%), New Jersey (10%) and Florida (8%).

The United Kingdom which is the second largest source market accounts for 34 % of total visitor arrivals in QTR4 2016. However, the UK saw a decrease in arrivals by -8.19%. The county of Greater London accounts for 48% of visitors within this category and Hampshire & Isle of Wt. accounted for 20%.

The Caribbean represents 12% of all visitor arrivals in QTR4 2016. However, the region experienced a slight decline of -0.31%. CARICOM member states such as Dominica 11%, Trinidad 12% and Jamaica 12%, contributed to the level of tourist arrivals from within the Caribbean region.

Canada accounted for 8% of visitor arrivals, the market declined by -8.28% from QTR4 2015. The majority of tourists traveled from areas such as Ontario 69%, Quebec 11%, British Columbia 8% and Alberta 7%.

Table 3: Air Arrivals by Country of Residence (QTR 4): 2014-2015

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q4 2015	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q4 2016	% change '15-'16
<b>Total Visitors</b>	<b>16,920</b>	<b>21,616</b>	<b>28,327</b>	<b>66,863</b>	<b>17,119</b>	<b>21,293</b>	<b>26,590</b>	<b>65,002</b>	<b>-2.78%</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>7,875</b>	<b>9,325</b>	<b>10,540</b>	<b>27,740</b>	<b>6,846</b>	<b>8,856</b>	<b>10,486</b>	<b>26,188</b>	<b>-5.59%</b>
<b>UK</b>	7,037	7,918	7,733	22,688	5,885	7,296	7,649	20,830	-8.19%
<b>Italy</b>	331	358	1,151	1,840	412	546	1,251	2,209	20.05%
<b>France</b>	86	117	292	495	107	118	319	544	9.90%
<b>Germany</b>	70	301	298	669	94	251	232	577	-13.75%
<b>USA</b>	<b>5,020</b>	<b>6,983</b>	<b>11,434</b>	<b>23,437</b>	<b>5,949</b>	<b>7,995</b>	<b>10,208</b>	<b>24,152</b>	<b>3.05%</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>1,903</b>	<b>2,663</b>	<b>5,569</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>1,665</b>	<b>2,326</b>	<b>5,108</b>	<b>-8.28%</b>
<b>All Caribbean</b>	<b>2,572</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>3,021</b>	<b>8,348</b>	<b>2,928</b>	<b>2,350</b>	<b>3,044</b>	<b>8,322</b>	<b>-0.31%</b>
<b>Caricom</b>	1964	2173	2195	6,332	2,154	1,820	2,324	6,298	-0.54%
<b>OECS</b>	987	1206	1055	3,248	942	923	1,180	3,045	-6.25%
<b>Other Caribbean</b>	307	319	351	977	358	217	269	844	-13.61%
<b>French West Indies</b>	58	23	65	146	78	31	76	185	26.71%
<b>Dutch West Indies</b>	70	62	124	256	103	101	119	323	26.17%
<b>of which: Cuba</b>	5	14	16	35	34	25	29	88	151.43%
<b>South America</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>-68.64%</b>
<b>Central America</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>0.86%</b>
<b>Other Visitors</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>4.39%</b>
<b>Not Stated</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>70.00%</b>

Figure 5: Air Arrivals by Country of Residence (QTR4): 2014-2015

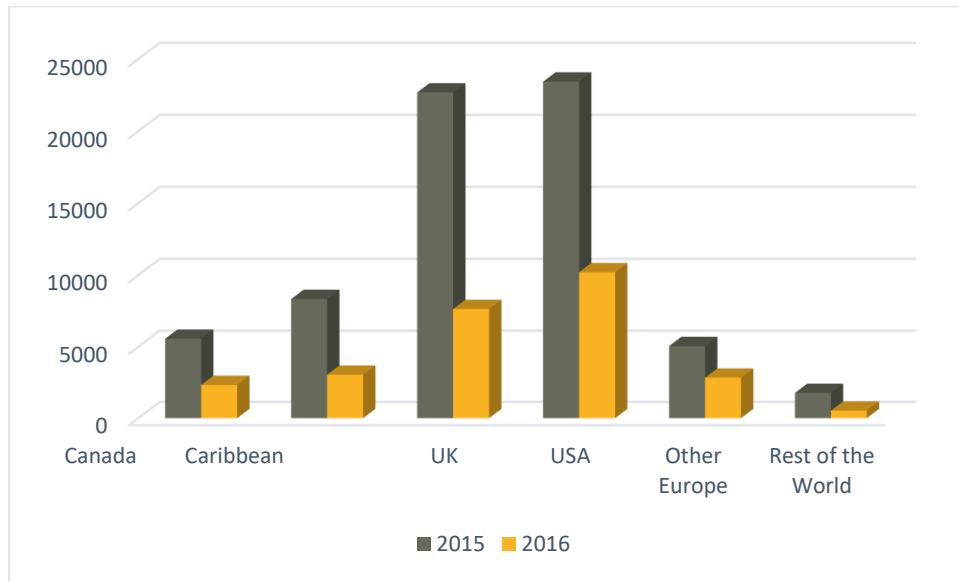
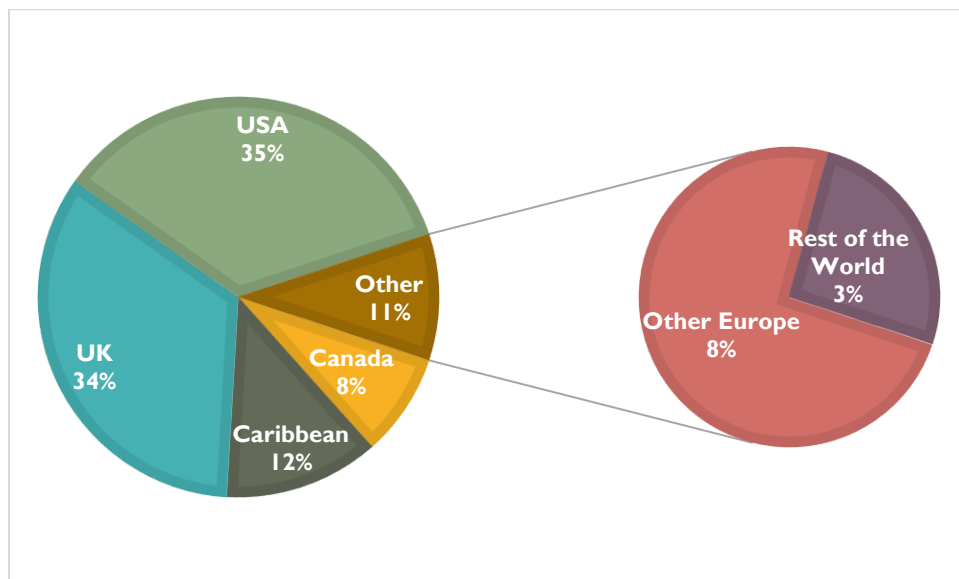


Figure 5. below depicts a percentage distribution of tourist arrivals by market. As seen, the UK and USA have the highest recorded tourist arrivals with 34% and 35% respectively. The Caribbean accounts for 12%, Canada 8%, while Europe and the rest of the world accounts for 11% of tourist arrivals for the QTR4.

Figure 5: Air Arrivals by Country of Residence (QTR4): 2016



## Length of Stay

Figure 7: Length of Stay (QTR4) 2016

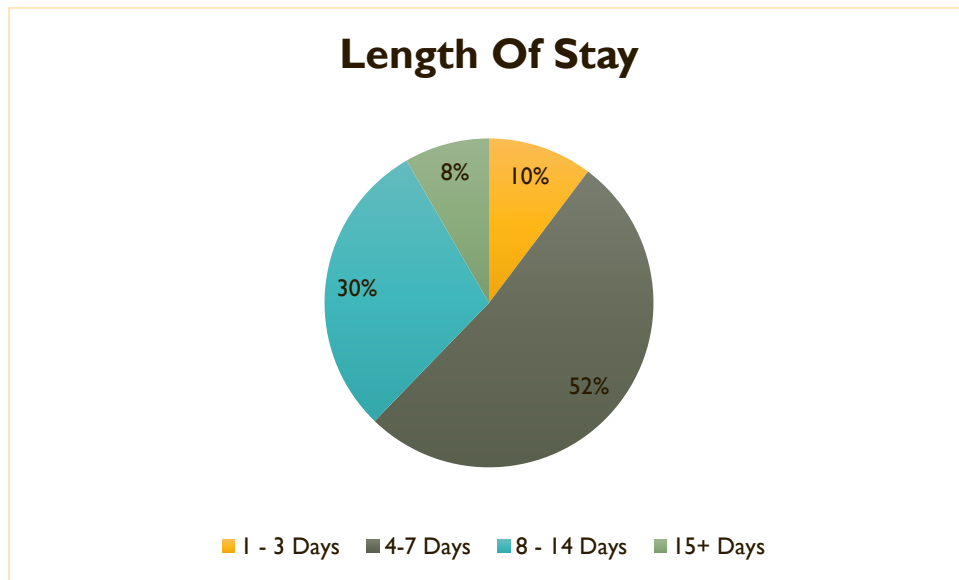


Figure 7. above shows the Length of Stay for QTR4 2016. It is evident that more than half of all visitors to Antigua and Barbuda (52%) spent for 4-7 days, followed by 30% who spent 8-14days, 10% for 1-3days, and 8% for 15+ days. The average length of stay for QTR4 2016 is 9days.

## Purpose of Visit

Figure 8: Purpose of Visit (QTR4) 2016



Among the total stay-over arrivals by Air to Antigua and Barbuda in QTR4 2016, 82% of all visitors indicated their purpose of visit as 'Vacation'. Visiting Friends and Relatives (V.F.R) was selected by 11%, followed by 4% as 'other', and 3% as 'Business'. Hence, the main purpose indicated by tourist for visiting Antigua and Barbuda for Q4 2016 was 'Vacation'.

## Sea Arrivals

Table 4: Sea Passenger Arrivals (QTR4): 2012-2016

Passenger	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% change 2015/2016
<b>Cruise</b>	163,163	143,158	164,459	204,220	193,929	-5.0
<b>Yacht</b>	6,906	4,352	4,697	4,407	4,136	-6.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>170,069</b>	<b>147,510</b>	<b>169,156</b>	<b>208,627</b>	<b>198,065</b>	-5.1

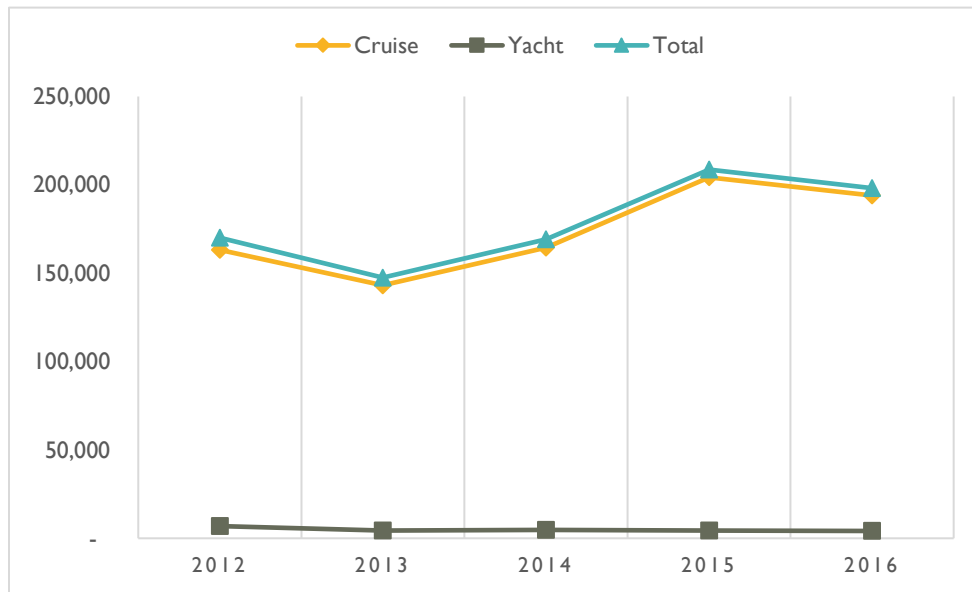
Table 4. displays the total number of passengers arriving via Cruise Ship and Yacht. The table shows that total passenger arrivals by sea decreased by 5.1% in QTR4 2016 from that of QTR4 2015. As Compared to QTR4 2015, Cruise arrivals decreased by 5% and Yacht arrivals also decreased by 6.1% in QTR4 2016.

Table 5: Sea Vessels Arrivals (QTR4): 2012-2016

Vessels	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% change '14-'15
<b>Cruise</b>	99	95	107	108	109	0.9
<b>Yacht</b>	782	821	815	847	803	-5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>912</b>	-4.5

Table 5. summaries the number of Vessels visiting our shores for QTR4 2016. It reveals a 0.9% increase in the number of Cruise vessels coming to Antigua. While, Yacht vessels to Antigua decreased by -5.2% from that of 2015. Consequently, the total number of vessels to Antigua and Barbuda decreased by -4.5% from QTR4 2015.

Figure 5: Total Arrivals by Sea (QTR4):2016



## Summary Highlights

Throughout the fourth quarter of 2016 total passenger arrivals to Antigua and Barbuda has declined by -4.5%. This comes as a result of a reduction in the level of Air, Cruise and Yacht Passenger Arrivals. Air Arrivals fell by -2.8%, a difference of 1,861 from that of QTR4 2015. Cruise arrivals fell by -5.0% in QTR4 2016. Where, the month of October dramatically saw a decrease of 49.9% from QTR4 2015 adding to the overall decline. Also, Yacht arrivals saw a decrease of -6.1% from that of QTR4 2015.

The United States, the United Kingdom and the Caribbean are the three main source markets for Antigua and Barbuda. Arrivals from the United States contributed to 35 % of the total number of visitors in QTR4 2016. While, the United Kingdom accounted for 35% and the Caribbean 12%.

‘Vacation’ is the main purpose of stay by tourist visiting Antigua and Barbuda as indicated by 82% of all visitors.

The Average length of stay of visitors to Antigua and Barbuda is 9 days for QTR4 2016. However, the majority of visitors spent 4-7 days which represents 52% of visitor arrivals for QTR4 2016.



Table 6: Tourist Arrival Summary (QTR4): 2012-2016

Q4 2016							
Mode	Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% change '15-'16
Air	October	16,890	14,318	15,182	16,920	17,119	1.2
	November	19,533	20,840	19,907	21,616	21,293	-1.5
	December	23,877	26,477	26,100	28,327	26,590	-6.1
Total		60,300	61,635	61,189	66,863	65,002	-2.8
SEA ARRIVALS							
Cruise	Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% change '15-'16
	October	15,416	12,404	18,904	21,333	10,679	-49.9
	November	61,018	48,751	51,891	61,943	64,941	4.8
	December	86,729	82,003	93,664	120,944	118,309	-2.2
Total		163,163	143,158	164,459	204,220	193,929	-5.0
Yacht	Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% change '15-'16
	October	238	240	272	308	271	-12.0
	November	2,003	1,322	1,222	1,418	1,505	6.1
	December	4,665	2,790	3,203	2,681	2,360	-12.0
Total		6,906	4,352	4,697	4,407	4,136	-6.1
Total Sea		170,069	147,510	169,156	208,627	198,065	-5.1
Overall Total		230,369	209,145	230,345	275,490	263,067	-4.5

**Sources:**

Ministry of Tourism, Economic Development, Investment and Energy

V.C. Bird International Airport

Nelson Dockyard

Jolly Harbour

Deep Water Harbour

Heritage Quay

Barbuda