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1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Tourism Bulletin of the Department of Statistics



*Nevis Tourism Realities (NTR) is produced in a continual effort to disseminate information on movements and/or developments in the tourism sector on a quarterly basis.*

*The information assembled in the bulletin was taken from the administrative data for arrivals of mainly visitors inbound records via the air and sea ports on Nevis.*

## INTRODUCTION

*With specific emphasis on visitor arrivals, the release of this 2020 publication provides statistical data for specific indicators that may be used to track and monitor the tourism sector of the economy.*

*The bulletin is designed as an ease of reference so its users can identify trends and position in a visually appealing way.*

*Revision on the data is constantly updated since the output of this bulletin aims to provide accuracy and timely information. Historical movement for the inbound tourism can also be found within this publication.*

*At the end of December 2020, figures revealed a decline in inbound tourism when compared to the same period for 2019.*

## Visitor arrivals via air

During the period stated, (January-December 2020) recorded a total of 980 visitor arrivals, which revealed a decline in tourist arrivals of 3,065 when compared to the same period in 2019, which recorded 4,045 visitors.

The recorded figure of 980 for the period January to December 2020, indicates a decrease of 76%. These figures also indicate a continual decline in visitor arrivals.

Visitor Arrivals via VWAI 2019 vs. 2020													
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2020	325	274	118	0	0	0	4	15	20	16	85	123	980
2019	445	407	424	413	356	270	497	286	185	126	153	483	4045

## Visitor arrivals via sea (Charlestown Port)

Visitor arrivals via sea for the reviewed period accounted for a total of 6,446 tourists into Charlestown roadstead, with 2,110 yacht passengers and 4,136 cruise passengers. The arrivals of yacht passengers registered a decrease of 28% (805) when compared to 2019. Cruise passengers registered a decrease of 45% (3,410). A total decrease of 4,215 passengers as compared to 2019 total 10,461.

<i>Tourist (yacht) arrivals into Charlestown Port: January to December 2019 vs 2020</i>													
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2020	539	487	713	194	175	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2110
2019	673	522	456	544	107	73	115	7	2	23	119	274	2915

<i>Tourist (cruise) arrivals into Charlestown Port: January to December 2020 vs 2019</i>													
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2020	2394	677	1065	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4136
2019	1302	761	1101	168	0	0	0	0	0	0	761	3453	7546

## Passenger movement

The statistics provided for all passenger movements into VWAI over the period January to December 2020, revealed a decrease of 74% or 4,471 when compared to the same period in 2019.

During the period April 2020 and October 2020, passenger movements drastically declined by 4,471 as compared to the previous year of 6,020, totalling 1,549 passenger movement for 2020.

This decline was due to the closure of the borders as a result of the current global Covid-19 pandemic.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Total</i>
2020	425	379	200	0	0	14	48	51	47	60	132	193	1,549
2019	601	516	1,146	1,346	1,194	868	703	587	323	185	288	643	6,020

## Inter-island passenger movement

The inter-island passenger (visitors and non-visitors) movement into Charlestown port during the year 2020 revealed both arriving and departing passengers decreased by 43% when compared to the previous year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019.

Although the availability of sea transportation and scheduled trips have increased, Charlestown port had less passenger movement during the year 2020. Calculations are as follows: arriving passengers 2019; 184,908, while arriving passengers for 2020 totalled 105,252, less 79,656. Departing passengers 2019, 177,278 and year 2020 totalled 101,484, less 75,794 passengers.

## Length of Stay

For the recording period January to December 2020, figures tallied a total of 946 visitors of which the category of 4-7 days stay over period registered the highest total, a pattern from previous years. Compared to the year 2019, the figures declined by 76% (3021).

<i>Month</i>	<i>1-3 days</i>		<i>4-7 days</i>		<i>8-14 days</i>		<i>15+ days</i>		<i>Not stated</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>January</i>	98	51	167	189	67	42	112	42	0	0	444	324
<i>February</i>	96	44	205	146	63	44	43	37	0	0	407	271
<i>March</i>	96	36	188	60	95	7	44	12	0	0	423	115
<i>April</i>	97	0	220	0	60	0	35	0	1	0	413	0
<i>May</i>	93	0	171	0	24	0	53	0	9	0	350	0
<i>June</i>	60	0	112	0	42	0	35	0	18	0	267	0
<i>July</i>	157	0	113	1	107	0	86	2	34	1	463	4
<i>August</i>	64	3	144	7	25	1	40	4	12	0	285	15
<i>September</i>	64	0	76	0	12	0	27	0	5	0	184	0
<i>October</i>	53	0	47	1	9	0	17	9	0	6	126	16
<i>November</i>	50	7	74	10	15	9	14	49	0	3	153	78
<i>December</i>	61	5	219	37	139	4	63	73	0	4	482	123
<i>Total</i>	925	146	1736	451	658	107	569	228	79	14	3967	946

## Purpose of visit

The distribution of purpose of visit for inbound tourist during the period slated, January to December 2020 is provided in detailed tables below. There were decreases in all categories for purpose of visit during the year 2020 compared to the statistics of the previous year for the categories. 633 vacationing, 77 for business, 32 visiting friends and relatives and 87 on conferences, while other purpose of visit concluded with a total of 123.

<i>Purpose of visit for Inbound tourist, 2019 vs 2020</i>												
<i>Month</i>	<i>January</i>		<i>February</i>		<i>March</i>		<i>April</i>		<i>May</i>		<i>June</i>	
	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Vacation</i>	289	225	282	207	312	89	286	0	174	0	170	0
<i>Business</i>	24	30	45	16	35	11	32	0	35	0	19	0
<i>VFR</i>	55	26	9	2	7	2	5	0	39	0	1	0
<i>Conference</i>	37	29	36	33	35	9	59	0	52	0	29	0
<i>Other</i>	40	15	35	16	34	6	31	0	50	0	48	0

<i>Purpose of visit for Inbound tourist, 2019 vs 2020</i>												
<i>Month</i>	<i>July</i>		<i>August</i>		<i>September</i>		<i>October</i>		<i>November</i>		<i>December</i>	
	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Vacation</i>	255	0	153	7	71	0	75	5	101	48	398	52
<i>Business</i>	19	2	12	0	15	0	13	6	22	12	29	0
<i>VFR</i>	5	0	22	0	16	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Conference</i>	82	0	57	2	29	0	25	2	28	8	45	4
<i>Other</i>	136	2	41	6	53	0	13	3	2	9	10	66

<i>Purpose of visit for inbound tourist</i>	<i>Total</i>	
	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Vacation</i>	<b>2572</b>	<b>633</b>
<i>Business</i>	<b>300</b>	<b>77</b>
<i>VFR</i>	<b>159</b>	<b>32</b>
<i>Conference</i>	<b>514</b>	<b>87</b>
<i>Other</i>	<b>493</b>	<b>123</b>

## Conclusion:

Like many other countries, Nevis' tourism sector has seen a decline in daily air and sea traffic. Before Covid-19 travel and tourism was one of the fastest growing and most important sectors in the world economy, but due to an unprecedented fall in demand and widespread travel restrictions, Nevis has seen fewer visitor arrivals in 2020.

Early evidence on impacts on air travel, cruises, and accommodations have been devastating.

Yacht and cruise arrivals at the Charlestown port have deteriorated after the closure of the borders in March 2020 and have remained as such, even after the re-opening of the borders. Although the figures declined for inter-island passenger movements, inter-travel between Charlestown and Basseterre still remains active.

Air travel increased after the borders were re-opened on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Granting that the global pandemic is still ongoing and poses great threat to the tourism sector, November and December 2020 were great improvements for air travel.

Accommodations were greatly impacted by the decrease in visitor arrivals, and as a result, some remain without occupancy.

The Department of Statistics is grateful for those stakeholders who have been consistently cooperative in providing the data use to produce this year's bulletin.