Visitor arrivals to Anguilla for the month of March 2017; the last month of the first quarter ended positively, with an increase of 1.7% over its 2016 March figure with 19,912 persons gracing our shores compared to the 19,582 in 2016. This increase was the third increase for the 1st quarter of 2017; with all its months recording positive changes over their corresponding 2016 figures of 1.1% and 7.3% for January and February respectively. Conversely all the 1st quarter 2016 figures recorded declines over their previous 2015 figures; resulting from decreases in excursionist arrivals (day trippers), as tourist arrivals to the island recorded increases. This is the complete opposite 2017/2016 tourist arrivals, as declines were experienced in all months of the first quarter 2017 over their corresponding 2016 figures.

Visitor arrivals for the first quarter experienced a 3.2% increase over the 2016 recorded figure of 54,369 with 56,126 visitors. A 7.4% decline in 2016 was previously recorded against its corresponding 2015, of 58,702 visitors. Most visitor arrivals (98.3%) to Anguilla during March came with the intention of vacationing, while 1.7% came with the intention of doing business.

Passenger arrivals, which include both visitors and residents, decreased this month by 0.5% from 26,820 in March 2016 to 26,683. Anguilla’s inward passenger movement by sea continues to be the main form of entry facilitating 90.5% (24,148) of arrivals; of which, 18,353 (76.0%) of sea passenger arrivals entered at the Blowing Point terminal and 5,795 passengers (24.0%) arrived at the Sandy Ground terminal. Passenger arrivals by air at the Clayton J. Lloyd International Airport accounted for 2,535 (9.5%) of total passengers arrivals.

Departures during this period were up, when compared to March 2016 with an increase of 1.4%; 26,969 passenger departures relative to 2016’s figure of 26,587.

Of the three ports of exit, the two seaports cumulatively accounted for 90.9%, (24,522) of all departures, of which, the Blowing Point terminal facilitated the movement of 18,693 (76.2%) passengers and Sandy Ground with 5,829 (31.2%) passengers.

By air, 2,447 (9.1%) passengers departed Anguilla through the Clayton J. Lloyd Airport International.

Tourist (stay-over visitors) arrivals to Anguilla for March 2017 continue the negative trend reporting 9,244 arrivals; a decrease of 5.1% over the 9,743 in March 2016. January and March 2017 both recorded decreases of 0.2% and 0.3% respectively over their corresponding 2016 figures. However, this was the 3rd highest recorded March figure dating back to 1993, after arrivals of 9,895 and 9,743 recorded in 2007 and 2016 respectively.
The intended average length of stay of tourists was 7.3 days, up from the 6.6 days reported in March 2016. The largest number of tourists with just over half the arrival (50.2%) intended to stay for 4 to 7 days, 22.5% between 8 to 15 days, 20.2% for 1 to 3 days, 5.1% indicated 23 or more days and 2.0% for 16 to 22 days.

A review of the source markets for tourists visiting Anguilla in March 2017 over 2016, showed an increase in seven (7) of the source markets, with three (3) market declining.

Excursionists (Day Trippers)

Excursionist arrivals for the month under review were up 8.4% to 10,668 arrivals compared with the same period in 2015 of 9,839 arrivals. This was the second largest comparative increase for the 1st quarter of 2017, “topped” only by February’s 14.1% and followed by January’s 2.0%. The 1st quarter 2017 accounted for 31,681 day tripper; an increase of 7.8%. This was the second largest amount of day-trippers for the month of March, dating as far back as 1993, with 2015’s 12,306 arrivals being the highest. The seaports accounted for 99.4% of excursionist arrivals, of which Blowing Point port welcomed 5,362 (50.6%). The Sandy Ground port welcomed 49.4% (5,241).

Tourism Statistics Summary – March 2017

The largest decrease was reported within the “French West Indies” market with 57.0%, followed by the “Italian”, “Dutch West Indies” and “Caribbean” markets with 40.4%, 37.6% and 31.9% respectively over their corresponding 2016 figures. The increases were reported within the “UK”, “Canadian” and “German” with 21.3%, 19.1% and 17.2% respectively.

Anguilla’s main source market for tourists; the USA, reported a decrease of 1.4% over March’s arrivals in 2016, holding 72.5% share of the tourist market.

There were increases in six (6) day-trippers source markets and four (4) decreases. The largest increases were reported in the “German” market which more than doubled with 153.7% (121-307 persons), followed by the doubling of “UK” residents with 102.6% (233-472 persons) and the “Other European” markets with 51.6%. The decreases were experienced in the “Italian”, “Caribbean”, “French West Indies” and “Dutch West Indies” markets by 52.2%, 35.5%, 22.7% and 14.2% respectively.

Anguilla’s main source market for excursionist; the USA, increased by 1.0% during this period over its 2016 figure, accounting for 47.8% of excursionist arrivals to Anguilla.