



The Maryland Port Administration PRESS RELEASE

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NEW CRUISE PASSENGER RECORD FOR PORT OF BALTIMORE

210,549 Sailed from Baltimore in 2010 Besting 2009's Record

(BALTIMORE, MD) --- In its second year of offering year-round cruises, the Port of Baltimore has surpassed its record for most cruise passengers handled in one calendar year. Last year, 210,549 people sailed on 91 cruises from the Cruise Maryland Terminal exceeding 2009's record of 167,235 passengers on 81 cruises.

"Baltimore continues to make waves as one of the top cruise ports in the U.S.," said Governor Martin O'Malley. The city's geographic location, entertainment options, and the cruise terminal's easy access right off Interstate 95 continue to attract passengers in record numbers. The Port of Baltimore's cruise business also pumps millions of dollars and generates hundreds of jobs for our state's economy."

The total economic value to the State of Maryland of cruising from the Port of Baltimore in 2010 was about \$90 million, an increase of about \$10 million from 2009. Approximately 200 direct jobs in Maryland were generated by cruise activity.

"With Baltimore's long history as a port city, it is only natural that our port is now beginning to blossom as the home for cruise ship business," said Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. "I am grateful for the work of Governor O'Malley and the Maryland Port Administration to help the Port of Baltimore not only create new jobs, but new opportunities for adventure for the people of Baltimore and Maryland."

In 2011 the Port of Baltimore will have 112 cruises. Two cruise lines will operate year-round cruising schedules from Baltimore in 2011: the *Carnival Pride* offers year-round cruising to the Bahamas, Bermuda and the Caribbean and Royal Caribbean's *Enchantment of the Seas* sails to New England/Canada, Bahamas Bermuda, and the Caribbean.

Baltimore ranks sixth on the East Coast and 14th nationally for cruise passengers. Baltimore is also within a six hour drive of 40 million people. It is the closest East Coast drive-to port from Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Indianapolis and Chicago and is within a three-hour drive from the New York City metro area. The Cruise Maryland terminal is 2.5 miles from Baltimore's world famous Inner Harbor, 10 miles from BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, and little more than an hour from three other major airports.

Maryland's median household income of \$70,545 is the highest in the U.S. Baltimore is also located within a four-hour drive of eight of the ten wealthiest counties in the U.S. The Baltimore-Washington DC-Northern Virginia region is recognized as one of the most affluent in the nation.

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