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NewsWatch: Baltimore sets cruise record in 2011

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A record number of passengers set sail on a cruise from Baltimore last year. The port reported a total of 251,889 people on 105 cruises, breaking the record of 210,549 passengers on 90 cruises set in 2010. The port's cruise passenger count was the fifth highest on the East Coast and 12th highest in the U.S. in 2010.

"Cruising from Baltimore brings tens of millions of dollars to our state and generates hundreds of jobs," Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) said in a statement. "We expect this strong momentum to continue in 2012 with 100 cruises scheduled."

The annual economic impact of the cruise industry to Maryland is about \$90 million, according to the state, generating about 220 direct jobs in the state.

Year-round cruising from the port started in 2009, when more than 167,000 passengers sailed on 81 cruises.

Baltimore cruise passengers soar 20 percent in 2011

Baltimore Business Journal by Scott Dance, Senior Reporter/Projects Editor

Date: Monday, January 9, 2012, 11:16am EST

The number of cruise passengers embarking from Baltimore surged 20 percent in 2011, to more than 250,000.

A record 251,889 people sailed on 105 cruises last year, up from 210,549 on 90 cruises in 2010.

The passenger total is more than four times that of four years ago. Year-round cruising and long-term commitments from Carnival Cruise Lines and Royal Caribbean International have boosted Baltimore cruise business from the 61,000 passengers tallied on 27 cruises in 2008.

The cruise industry generated an estimated \$90 million economic impact in the region in 2010, according to the Maryland Port Administration. Baltimore ranked fifth on the East Coast for its cruise ship passenger total in 2010.

Cruise liners have scheduled 100 trips from Baltimore in 2012.

Balt. cruise traffic up 20 percent in 2011

Baltimore Sun

(also: Baltimore Business Journal, ABC News 2)

More than 250,000 people took 105 cruises

Port of Baltimore passenger cruise traffic rose nearly 20 percent in 2011, the fourth consecutive year of customer increases, the Maryland Port Administration announced Monday in a news release.

More than a quarter million people sailed on 105 cruises, good for fifth place on the East Coast and 12th place nationwide.

Port officials say about 220 jobs are tied to the cruise industry and estimate the value of cruising to the state economy at \$90 million.

The port has 100 cruises scheduled this year.

Port Report: Port of Baltimore Sets Cruise Passenger Record in 2011
CorridorInc. Com

Governor Martin O'Malley announced today that a record 251,889 people sailed on 105 cruises from the Port of Baltimore in 2011. That total exceeds the previous record of 210,549 on 90 cruises set in 2010.

"The Port of Baltimore's success in the cruise business further accentuates the importance of the Port as one of Maryland's key economic engines," said Governor O'Malley. "Cruising from Baltimore brings tens of millions of dollars to our State and generates hundreds of jobs. We expect this strong momentum to continue in 2012 with 100 cruises scheduled. The strong performances of our cruise and cargo operations at the Port of Baltimore means job stability for the thousands of men and women who depend on the Port to support their families."

The total economic value to the State of Maryland of cruising from the Port of Baltimore is about \$90 million. Approximately 220 direct jobs in Maryland are generated by cruise activity.

Carnival Cruise Lines and Royal Caribbean International offer year-round schedules from Baltimore. Cruises sail to the Bahamas, Bermuda, Caribbean, and New England/Canada. Carnival signed a five-year extension in 2011 to continue offering year-round cruises from Baltimore. The first two years are financially guaranteed and there are three one-year options. Royal Caribbean has committed to sailing from Baltimore through October 2013. Baltimore has 100 cruises scheduled in 2012.

The Port of Baltimore handled the fifth-largest amount of cruise passengers among East Coast cruise ports and 12th largest in the U.S. in 2010. Last year the Port began using a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled enclosed passenger boarding bridge. The bridge is mobile and flexible to accommodate various sized cruise ships.

In the last four years, Baltimore has seen a marked increase in its number of cruise passengers. In 2009, its first year of year-round cruising, more than 167,000 passengers sailed on 81 cruises. In 2008, about 61,000 people sailed on 27 cruises that operated in the spring, summer and fall.

Baltimore is 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 and 10 miles from BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport.

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.

AAPA ADVISORY

Baltimore Sets Cruise Passenger Record 2011

A record 251,889 passengers sailed on 105 cruises from the Port of Baltimore in 2011, beating the previous record, 210,549 on 90 cruises set in 2010, according to data reported by the Maryland Port Administration. It was Baltimore's fourth consecutive record year for cruise passenger embarkations and ship sailings.

Carnival Cruise Lines and Royal Caribbean International offer year-round schedules from Baltimore. Destination markets include the Bahamas, Bermuda, Caribbean, and New England/Canada. Carnival signed a five-year extension in 2011 to continue offering year-round cruises from Baltimore. The first two years are financially guaranteed and there are three one-year options. Royal Caribbean has committed to sailing from Baltimore through October 2013. Baltimore has 100 cruises scheduled in 2012.