

## Cruise Industry News

### 2009: Record Year For Port of Baltimore

The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) announced today that approximately 167,000 passengers embarked on 81 homeport cruises from the Port of Baltimore in 2009. That total officially surpasses the previous record for most cruise passengers in one calendar year that was set in 2004 when the Port offered a then-record 60 cruises.

“Even in a very difficult economy, our very successful 2009 cruise season provides us with a tremendous sense of optimism for the future of cruising from Maryland,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “The strong cruise market in Baltimore last year generated an estimated economic impact of \$152 million, illustrating that our Port continues to drive economic progress and create jobs. We expect another strong performance in 2010 as the number of cruises grows to 91 with two lines offering year-round cruising from Baltimore.”

In 2010, three cruise lines will operate from the Port of Baltimore: Carnival, Celebrity, and Royal Caribbean. The Carnival Pride returns for its second year of year-round cruising to the Bahamas and Eastern Caribbean. Royal Caribbean brings a newer and larger vessel, the Enchantment of the Seas to Baltimore for cruises to New England/Canada, Bermuda, the Eastern Caribbean, and the Bahamas. Royal Caribbean will also offer all-season cruising from Baltimore for the first time. The Celebrity Mercury will return for a second season of winter cruising beginning in October and will travel to the Eastern Caribbean, Western Caribbean and the Bahamas.

The Port of Baltimore is the closest East Coast drive-to port from Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Indianapolis and Chicago. Baltimore is also within a three-hour drive from the New York City metro area. The Cruise Maryland terminal is only 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 \$70,540 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.

## WBAL Radio

### Record Number Of People Cruising From Baltimore

Anne Kramer

Port officials in Baltimore say that a record number of passengers cruised out of Baltimore last year.

Officials say there were about 167 thousand passengers on 81 cruises in 2009.

That figure beats an old record set back in 2004 when 60 cruises were offered from the Port of Baltimore.

This year the number of cruises leaving from the Port will jump to 91. Three cruise lines, Royal Caribbean, Carnival and Celebrity are operating cruises year round.

## WAMU Radio

### Catching A Cruise Boat In Baltimore

January 25, 2010 - By Cathy Duchamp

Airport security hassles and higher baggage fees may be some of the reasons why Baltimore's cruise ship sailings are soaring.

It used to be you had to fly to Florida to catch a Caribbean cruise in the winter. Now you can board from as far north as Baltimore.

"Business is booming, I mean, it's phenomenal," says J.B. Hanson, who is with the Port of Maryland. He says 81 cruise ships departed from Baltimore last year. This year it'll be more than 90.

"We're in one of the wealthiest regions in the country. You can get in a car from lets say Cleveland or Akron and be here in six or seven hours, you can drive," he says.

Baltimore is the closest drive-to cruise ship port for people in Ohio, Pennsylvania, D.C. and Maryland. The port collects more than \$2 million a year in security, parking and dock fees. That ripples out to more than \$100 million in economic impact, according to Maryland state officials.

**WAMU Radio** link to listen to the story: [www.wamu.org](http://www.wamu.org) go to search and type in Baltimore cruise business.

## TRAVEL AGENT CENTRAL

### Record-Breaking Year for Port of Baltimore

Jan 21, 2010 By: Meagan Drillinger

The Maryland Port Administration is reporting record numbers this year for Port of Baltimore's 2009 season. Approximately 167,000 passengers departed on 81 homeport cruises from the Port of Baltimore in 2009.

The record-breaking performance is instilling hope in the cruise industry for the future. "The strong cruise market in Baltimore last year generated an estimated economic impact of \$152 million, illustrating that our Port continues to drive economic process and create jobs," says governor of Baltimore, Martin O'Malley. "We expect another strong performance in 2010 a the number of cruises grows to 91 with two lines offering year-round cruising from Baltimore."

Beginning this year Carnival, Celebrity and Royal Caribbean cruises will all depart from the Port.

## Gazette News

### Port breaks record for cruises in 2009

The Port of Baltimore broke its record with 81 homeport cruises last year, the Maryland Port Administration announced Thursday. About 167,000 were on those cruises.

The previous record of 60 cruises was set in 2004.

"Even in a very difficult economy, our very successful 2009 cruise season provides us with a tremendous sense of optimism for the future of cruising from Maryland," said Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) in a statement. "The strong cruise market in Baltimore last year generated an estimated economic impact of \$152 million, illustrating that our Port continues to drive economic progress and create jobs. We expect another strong performance in 2010."

## Baltimore Business Journal

### Port of Baltimore breaks cruise passenger record in 2009

by Scott Dance Staff

About 167,000 people took cruises from the Port of Baltimore in 2009, 60 percent more than the previous single-year high.

Eighty-one cruises embarked from Baltimore last year. That puts the port well ahead of its previous record year in 2004, when 60 cruises carried 104,000 passengers.

That means an economic boost for the region at a time when tourism business is still slow. Cruising was expected to have a \$152 million economic impact on the region in 2009.

The Maryland Port Administration expects another strong year in 2010.

Carnival Cruise lines will continue its year-round schedule for a second year in a row; Royal Caribbean will bring a larger ship to Baltimore and have a year-round schedule here for the first time; and Celebrity Cruises will continue its winter cruising for a second year.