



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the
Interior

Public Use Statistics Office

Social Science Program

303-987-6951 phone
303-987-6704 fax

202-513-7189 phone
202-371-2131 fax

Public Use Statistics - Monthly Report January - September 2008

Recreation Visits

Units of the National Park System received 221.6 million recreation visits in January-September 2008.¹ This was a 1.0% decrease in recreation visits, or 2.2 million fewer visits than in 2007. The Midwest Region reported a year-to-date change of -7% from last year or a decrease of 1.1 million visits while the Southeast Region reported a year-to-date change of -4% from last year or a decrease of 2.0 million visits. Meanwhile, the National Capital Region reported a +4% change or an increase of 1.6 million visits.

The largest year-to-date increases (in thousands) in recreation visits were reported at:

Vietnam Veterans Memorial	+525	Independence National Historical Park	+288
Lincoln Memorial	+479	Cuyahoga Valley National Park	+255
Gateway National Recreation Area	+388	Death Valley National Park	+219

The largest year-to-date decreases (in thousands) in recreation visits were reported at:

Blue Ridge Parkway	-797	Great Smoky Mountains National Park	-344
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial	-555	Ozark National Scenic River	-331
Ford's Theatre National Historic Site	-392	Mount Rushmore National Memorial	-280

The following September changes in visitation (in thousands) over the same month in 2007 are notable:

Ozark National Scenic River	-129 (-66%)	Difficulty in obtaining data.
Everglades National Park	-52 (-66%)	Weather related - tropical storms & hurricanes.
Shenandoah National Park	-50 (-36%)	Weather related - 19,000 fewer vehicles than September 2007.
Cape Lookout National Seashore	-27 (-37%)	Weather related - ferries did not run for 10 days.
Fort Washington Park	+58 (+183%)	Local high school athletes are training in the park.
Governors Island National Monument	+24 (+452%)	Increased publicity.

Non-Recreation Visits (Commuters)

Units of the National Park System received 121.6 million non-recreation visits in January-September 2008. The 2.0% decrease in non-recreation visits was 2.5 million fewer commuter visits than in the same time period in 2007. George Washington

¹ NPS Public Use Statistics Office, preliminary data, 2008. Data are adjusted for delinquent reports and comparisons are made against the same time period in 2007.

Memorial Parkway reported a decrease of 1.0 million visits and Great Smoky Mountains National Park reported a decrease of 0.4 million visits.

Overnight Stays (Year-to-Date)

Yosemite National Park reported 24,600 more Concessioner Lodging and 57,300 more Backcountry overnight stays. Lake Mead National Recreation Area had 62,100 more Concessioner Campground overnight stays and 30,600 more Tent & Recreational Vehicle overnight stays but had 20,600 fewer Backcountry stays and 39,200 fewer Nonrecreation overnight stays. Yellowstone National Park had 101,800 fewer Concessioner Camping overnight stays. Sixty-four percent of the units have reported a decrease in Recreational Vehicle overnight stays. Buffalo National River reported 15,700 fewer Tent and Recreational Vehicle overnight stays. Joshua Tree National Park reported 17,400 fewer Tent and Recreational Vehicle overnight stays. Badlands National Park reported 8,800 fewer Recreational Vehicle overnight stays. Channel Islands National Park reported 54,700 fewer Group and Boat overnight stays. Olympic National Park has been impacted by the severe storms of the last 2 years and is down in virtually all categories, totaling a decrease of 28,900 overnight stays.

Change in Overnight Stays in NPS Units 2007-2008

(September 2008, numbers in thousands)

Overnight Stay Category	Year-To-Date 2007	Year-To-Date 2008	Difference	% Change
Concessioner Lodging	3,100	3,112	12	+0
Concessioner Camping	1,225	1,138	-87	-7
Tents	2,690	2,633	-56	-2
Recreational Vehicles	1,792	1,711	-81	-5
Backcountry	1,495	1,486	-9	-1
Groups & Boats	1,866	1,806	-60	-3
Non-recreation	223	167	-56	-25

For further information please contact:

Tom Wade by phone at 303-987-6951 or email at tom_wade@nps.gov,

Jim Gramann by phone at 202-513-7189 or email at james_gramann@partner.nps.gov

Public Use Statistics Office Web site: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/stats>

Social Science Program Web site: <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/socialscience>