



## Florida Department of Transportation-D-6 News Clip Port of Miami Tunnel Project

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From: *Miami Herald*, Friday, September 1, 2006  
Subject: **Miami still attracts the most cruise ship passengers**

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Miami remained the world's busiest cruise-ship hub last year with nearly 1.8 million people embarking on cruises, a 5.3 percent increase from 2004, according to a report released today by an industry trade group.

Port Everglades remained the no. 2 hub with nearly 1.3 million passengers, despite a 3 percent decline from 2004. Port Canaveral came in at no. 3 with 1.2 million passengers, up 1 percent.

The Arlington, Va.-based International Council of Cruise Lines released the port-by-port numbers as part of an annual report highlighting cruising's economic impact.

2005 was a strong year overall for cruising as 11.5 million people worldwide took cruise vacations, up 6 percent from 2004.

As headquarters to many cruise companies, Florida drew more than its fair share in cruise-related spending, ICCL said. The cruise industry spent nearly \$5.5 billion in the state last year and generated more than 128,000 jobs, according to the report. The primary beneficiaries were travel agencies, airlines, hotels, restaurants and ground transportation providers, ICCL said.

Some of the fastest-growing cruise-ship hubs are in California: Los Angeles and San Diego saw double-digit growth in passenger embarkations for the second consecutive year. New Orleans still ranked in the top 10, with 308,000 passengers last year, despite the fallout from Hurricane Katrina. That was down from 327,000 passengers in 2004.