



PRESS RELEASE

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Recovery of Tourism in Israel: Approximately 1.5 Million Arrivals of Tourists into Israel in 2004 – 41% More Than in 2003

In 2004 there were 1,497,800 arrivals recorded of tourists in Israel – 41% more than in 2003. The number of tourist arrivals in 2004 is 74% higher than in 2002, but still lower by 38% than the number of arrivals in 2000 – which was a record year for tourism in Israel.

Out of 1,497,800 tourist arrivals, 1,330,300 were **by air** – a rise of 37% compared with 2003. Another 162,900 arrivals were recorded **by land** (a rise of 86% compared with 2003), and 4,600 arrivals were **by sea**. In addition, there were also 200 **cruise passengers**, similar to 2002 (in 2003 there were no arrivals recorded of cruise passengers).

Of all arrivals **by land** (some of which are returning arrivals of tourists who departed for neighbouring countries and returned to Israel), 84,600 were at checkpoints on the border with Jordan, and another 77,100 were at the “**Eilat**” **border checkpoint**.

This was reported by the CBS and the Ministry of Tourism – based on preliminary summaries of the data.

In **December, 2004** 139,400 tourist arrivals in Israel were recorded. Of those, 123,500 were **by air** (of those, 7,000 were direct flights to Eilat), and another 15,500 arrivals were **by land** (of those, 7,500 were through checkpoints on the border with Jordan and another 8,000 through the “Eilat” border checkpoint); some of those were arrivals of tourists who had departed for neighbouring countries and were returning to Israel.

Tourist Entries by Selected Countries

It was also reported, based on preliminary summaries, that similar to previous years, in 2004 the greatest number of tourist arrivals was from the **U.S.A.** – 378,000 arrivals, more than a quarter of all arrivals into Israel – a rise of 39% compared with 2003. There were 256,000 arrivals from **France** (which constituted 17% of all arrivals) – a rise of 47% compared with 2003, and 26% higher than in 2000. There were 146,000 arrivals from the **United Kingdom** (10% of all arrivals) – a rise of 40% compared with 2003; 75,000 arrivals were recorded from **Germany** (5% of all arrivals) – a rise of 54%; 55,000 arrivals were recorded from **Russia** (4% of all arrivals) – a rise of 33%; 43,000 arrivals were recorded from **Canada** (3% of all arrivals) – a rise of 38%; and 42,000 arrivals were recorded from **Italy** (3% of all arrivals) - a rise of 60% compared with 2003.

Written by Ms. Osnat Levi

For explanations and clarifications regarding the contents of this Press Release,
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Data on tourist arrivals in Israel is greatly affected by seasonality, and therefore they should be analyzed on the basis of season and trend adjustment. However, it should be noted that due to the calculation system used by the CBS, the **trend** of the last few months is liable to change on receipt of new data or updating of data for previous months.

Tourist Arrivals by Air

Seasonally-adjusted data

Tourist arrival data are influenced by seasonality and additional factors (mainly security events). An analysis of seasonally-adjusted data reveals that in most of the months in 2004, there were over 110,000 tourist arrivals by air on average per month. In August, close to 120,000 arrivals were recorded.

Trend Data

An analysis of **trend data** reveals that in the months of **January-August**, 2004 a gradual recovery was recorded – from 99,500 tourist arrivals by air in **January** to 113,000 arrivals in **August** (a rise of 14%); and since **August** the trend has been stable.

In the months of **October-December, 2004**, a rise at an annual rate of 1.1% was recorded in tourist arrivals by air (an average of 0.1% each month). In the months of **July-September** a rise at an annual rate of 8.6% was recorded (an average of 0.7% each month), and in **April-June** a rise at an annual rate of 31% was recorded (an average of 2.3% each month).

For your attention:

As of this month, seasonally-adjusted series are calculated by the new **X-12-ARIMA** method, which replaces the **X-12-ARIMA/2000** method used till now. In addition, the period processed has been changed, in order to seasonally-adjust all series presented into a uniform period. In this Press Release seasonal adjustment is based on data as of January, 1995.

A detailed explanation of the entire procedure of seasonal adjustment and trend estimation appears in “*Seasonal and Prior Adjustment Factors for 2004, Trends for 2000-2004*” (presented on the CBS website only, in: Research Tools, Reports and Working Papers) at

<http://www.cbs.gov.il/publication/tseries> .