



PRESS RELEASE

info@cbs.gov.il

http://www.cbs.gov.il

FAX. 02-652 1340

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Person-Nights in Tourist Hotels – 2004

In 2004:

- 17 M person-nights in tourist hotels
- A rise of 45% in tourist person-nights, compared with 2003
- Average room occupancy of 51%

In December of this year, the number of person-nights in tourist hotels totaled approximately 1.3 M, according to **original data**. Approximately 896,000 were **Israeli** person-nights, and the rest – 420,000 – were **tourist** person-nights; which constituted 32% of total person-nights in hotels.

This was reported by the Central Bureau of Statistics, based on preliminary summaries of hotel reports, processed by the Bureau for the Ministry of Tourism.

Average **room occupancy** in **December 2004**, in open hotels (net occupancy) was 47%, similar to that of November, 2003.

In most regions there was a rise in room occupancy in December of this year, compared with December of last year. In the Central Region a drop in room occupancy was recorded, following a similar drop in Israeli person-nights. In the Southern Region the room occupancy recorded was identical to that of 2003; the occupancy in the Southern Region is the highest – 55%. **The greatest rise in room occupancy was recorded in the Tel Aviv and Haifa Regions, especially following a rise in the number of tourists in these regions.**

In 2004, total person-nights in tourist hotels reached approximately 17 M, according to **original data**. Of those, approximately 12.2 M were **Israeli person-nights**, and the rest – approximately 4.8 M - were **tourist person-nights**. In 2004, the **share of tourist person-nights** out of total person-nights, reached 28%.

Average **room occupancy** in open hotels (net occupancy) **in 2004** was 51%; higher than that recorded in each of the years 2001, 2002 and 2003, but still lower than the occupancy recorded in 2000 (60%).

Written by Ms. Tilda Chayat

For explanations and clarifications regarding the contents of this Press Release,
Please contact the Press Relations Unit, at 02-652 7845, 050-623 5124

Data on person-nights in hotels are influenced by seasonal changes; therefore, it is preferable for data analysis to be performed based on **seasonally-adjusted data** and **the trend**. It should be noted that due to the system used by the CBS to calculate the trend of seasonally-adjusted data, the trend of recent months may change on receipt of data for the coming months, or updating data for previous months.

Tourist person-nights

Data of tourist person-nights are also influenced – in addition to seasonal changes – by unexpected events, which cause irregularities in the data.

An analysis of the updated, **seasonally-adjusted** data indicates that from **July, 2003 to the end of 2004** a high level was recorded of tourist person-nights in hotels – an average of 368,000 per month. The level in December, 2004 (398,000) is similar to the average level recorded in the months of May-June this year.

From the **trend** data it appears that in the last three months – from October to December, 2004 – a drop of an annual rate of 7.3% was recorded (0.6% on average per month). In the previous three months (July-September), there was a rise in the trend of tourist person-nights – an annual rate of 24% (1.8% every month).

Israeli person-nights

From the trend data it appears that in the last three months a small rise was recorded – close to an annual rate of 2% (0.1% on average per month). In the previous three months (July-September, 2004), a drop of close to an annual rate of 5% was recorded (a drop of 0.4% on average per month). The level of Israeli person-nights (seasonally adjusted) is approximately 1 M per month.