



PRESS RELEASE

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8.1% RISE OF REVENUE IN COMMERCE AND SERVICES INDUSTRIES IN 2004

In 2004, compared with 2003:

- A rise of 6.9% in revenue of the wholesale and retail trade – wholesale trade revenue rose by 5.9% and retail trade revenue rose by 8.8%.

Revenue of commerce and services industries grew in 2004 by 8.1%, compared with 2003; after a drop of 0.6% in 2003, compared with 2002; and a drop of 0.8% in 2002, compared with 2001.

The trend data indicate that in the last three months of 2004 (October-December), a rise of an annual rate of 6.8% was recorded in the revenue of commerce and services industries, following a rise at an annual rate of 6.4% during July-September, 7.1% during May-July and 10.3% during January-March, 2004.

The commerce and services industries include wholesale and retail trade, accommodation services and restaurants, business services and personal services.

The above is based on data processed from a sample of VAT reports.

In the **wholesale and retail trade** revenue rose in 2004 by 6.9%, compared with 2003; after a rise of 0.3% in 2003, compared with 2002. In 2004, revenue rose by 5.9% in **the wholesale trade**, and by 8.8% in **the retail trade**, compared with 2003.

In **accommodation services and restaurants**, revenue rose by 10.1% in 2004, compared with 2003; after a drop of 6.3% in 2003, compared with 2002.

Written by Ms. Shlomit Zayit

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In **real estate and business services, which include computer services, law, accounting, security and cleaning, personnel recruitment and other business activities**, revenue grew by 22.9% in 2004, compared with 2003.

In **education industries** a rise of 6.3% was recorded in 2004, compared with 2003. In **health and welfare industries** a rise of 4.2% was recorded; and in **personal and other services** a rise of 6.3% was recorded.

It should be noted that the trend data are adjusted for irregular factors, in addition to being seasonally-adjusted, and adjusted for work days and holidays.