

# Media Release

[info@cbs.gov.il](mailto:info@cbs.gov.il) [www.cbs.gov.il](http://www.cbs.gov.il) Fax: 02-6521340

Jerusalem  
January 6, 2019  
003/2019

## All-Time Record 4.4 Million Visitor Arrivals to Israel in 2018

In 2018, for the first time, there were 4.1 million tourist arrivals<sup>2</sup>

Compared to 2017, the number of tourist arrivals increased by more than half a million, a 14% increase:

An increase of 22% for the months January–May 2018

An increase of 8% for the months June–December 2018

### Original data: Jan–Dec 2018 compared to Jan–Dec 2017 (Table 1)

4.4 million visitor<sup>1</sup> arrivals to Israel (a 14% increase)

4.1 million tourist<sup>2</sup> arrivals to Israel (a 14% increase)

3.6 million tourist arrivals by air (a 13% increase)

489,000 tourist arrivals by land (a 19% increase)

269,000 day visitor arrivals<sup>3</sup> (a 7% increase); 46,000 of these were cruise passengers<sup>4</sup>

### Seasonally adjusted data: Total tourist arrivals, Oct–Dec 2018 (Diagram B and Table 2)

An analysis of the seasonally adjusted data shows that during the last three months, there was an average of 371,000 arrivals per month, compared to 319,000 during the previous three months (July–Sept 2018).

<sup>1</sup> Visitor – Includes tourists and day visitors

<sup>2</sup> Tourist – A visitor staying in Israel who leaves it on a date other than the entry date (not the same day)

<sup>3</sup> Day visitor – A visitor who enters and leaves Israel on the same date (the same day, including cruise passengers).

<sup>4</sup> Cruise passenger – A tourist on a cruise who enters Israel for day visits and spends nights on board.

## **2018 (Diagram A and Table 4)**

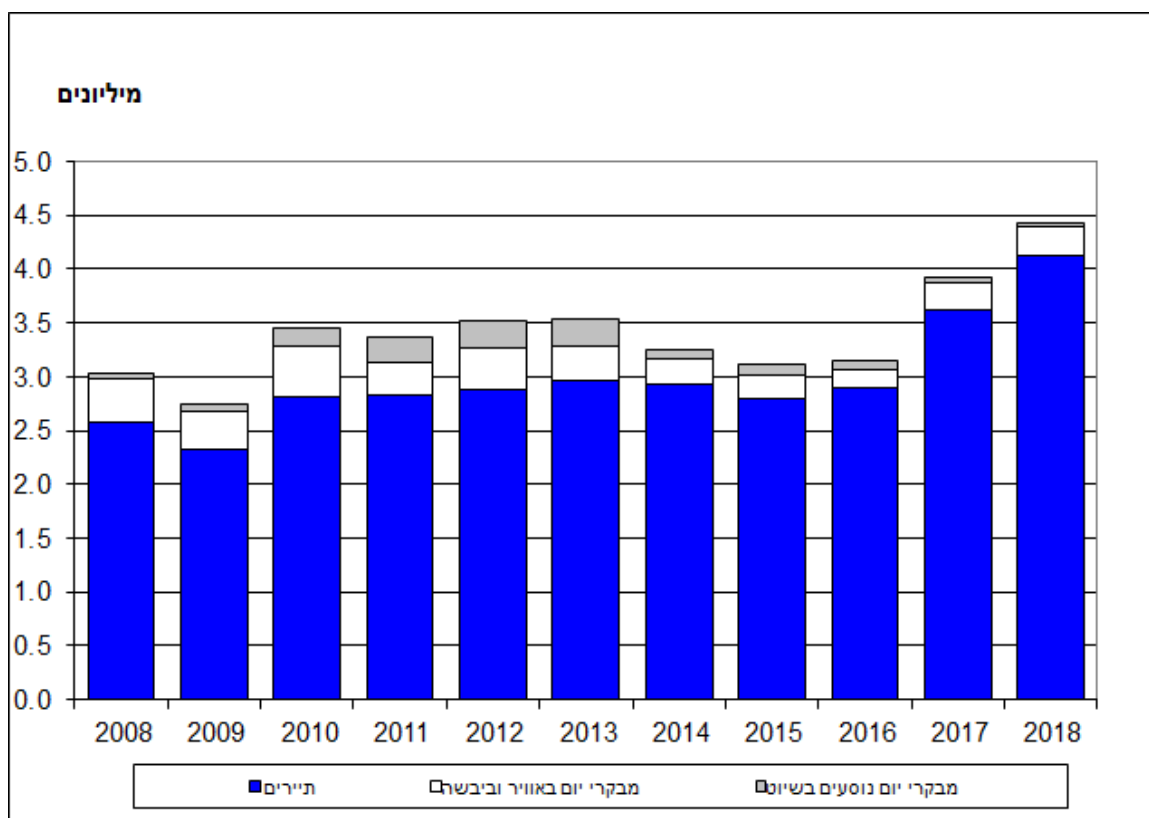
Through May 2018, there was an increase of 22% compared to the same months the previous year. In contrast, during June–December, there was an increase of only 8% (compared to June–December 2017). Note that the security situation was tense during the beginning of this period.

Despite the slowing of tourist arrivals during the second half of the year, 2018 set an all-time record: 4.1 tourist arrivals (94% of all visitor arrivals). This was a 14% increase compared to 2017 – over half a million more tourists.

Tourists from the United States accounted for 898,000 arrivals (a 15% increase compared to 2017).

In addition, there were 269,000 day visitor arrivals, 46,000 (17%) of whom were cruise passengers.

**Diagram 1 – Arrivals of Tourists and Day Visitors, 2008–2018**



**Translation of Diagram 1:**

**Million**

**Day visitors – cruise passengers**

**Day visitors by air and land**

## Tourists

### December 2018, Original Data (Table 4)

- Visitor arrivals numbered 352,000
- Tourist arrivals numbered 326,000, 89% (288,000) by air
- Of the arrivals by air, 270,000 arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport and 18,000 arrived at Ovda Airport
- There were 37,000 arrivals by land
- Arrivals of day visitors numbered 26,000; 3,000 of these were cruise passengers

**Table A - Tourist Arrivals, Ten Leading Countries by Last Year, Thousands**

Country	December 2018	December 2017	2018	2017	% change
United States	67.8	62.4	898.0	778.8	15
France	29.6	24.2	346.0	308.6	12
Russia	22.0	23.3	316.3	331.5	-5
Germany	19.5	15.9	263.0	218.1	21
United Kingdom	14.7	13.5	218.0	198.5	10
Poland	10.7	12.3	152.0	97.3	56
Italy	20.5	14.0	150.6	107.8	40
Ukraine	9.2	9.8	137.4	146.3	-6
Romania	6.0	4.2	107.0	78.0	37
China	9.3	9.5	104.5	122.5	-15

In 2018, the largest number of tourist arrivals was from the United States: 898,000 (an increase of 15% compared to 2017). Next was from France: 346,000 (an increase of 12% compared to 2017).

In the group of 10 countries with the most tourist arrivals during the past year, Poland had the largest increase compared to 2017 (56%; 152,000 arrivals). Also, Italy had a 40% increase (151,000 arrivals). The United Kingdom had the smallest increase (10%).

Although Russia remained in third place in number of tourist arrivals to Israel, in 2018 there was a 5% decrease in the number of tourist arrivals from Russia (316,000 arrivals). China had a larger decrease in number of tourist arrivals (15%).

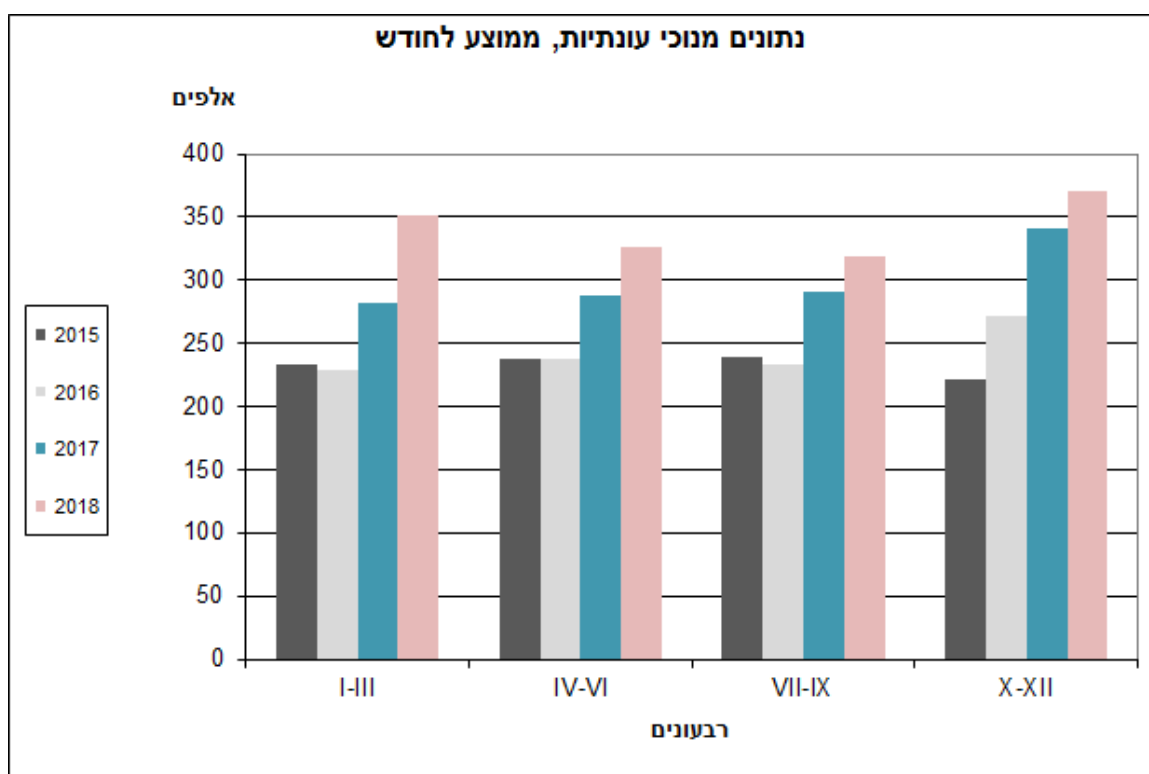
## Seasonally Adjusted Data and Trend<sup>1</sup> (Table 2)

### Total Tourists

Analysis of the **seasonally adjusted** data shows that during the last three months (October–December 2018), there was an average of 371,000 arrivals per month (4.4 million arrivals on an annual basis), compared to 319,000 during July–September 2018 (3.8 million arrivals on an annual basis).

Analysis of the **trend** shows that during the last three months (October–December 2018), there was an average increase of 2.3% per month, in contrast to an average increase of 1.2% per month during July–September 2018.

**Diagram 2 – Seasonally Adjusted Data for Total Tourist Arrivals, Monthly Averages**



### Translation of Diagram 2:

#### Seasonally adjusted data, monthly averages

<sup>1</sup> Because the data of tourist arrivals in Israel are influenced by seasonal changes, they are analyzed based on seasonally adjusted and trend data. Nonetheless, it is emphasized that because of the calculation methodology used by the CBS, the trend of the last months is likely to change when new data are received or data from previous months are revised.

Note that beginning in July 2014, as a result of Operation Protective Edge, the number of tourist arrivals was especially low, which led to a decrease in the data level and a trend break in the series. Therefore, beginning in the period that began in July 2014, the seasonally adjusted and trend data were calculated after adjustment of the series data up to June 2014 to the lower level that was obtained during the first months of the crisis.

## Quarters

### Tourists by Air

Analysis of the seasonally adjusted data shows that during the last three months (October–December 2018), there was an average of 327,000 arrivals per month (3.9 million arrivals on an annual basis), compared to 284,000 during July–September 2018 (3.4 million arrivals on an annual basis).

Analysis of the trend shows that during the last three months (October–December 2018), there was an average increase of 2.1% per month, in contrast to an average increase of 1.1% per month during July–September 2018.

A detailed explanation of the seasonal adjustment procedure and the trend estimation can be found in the document [Seasonal and Prior Adjustment Factors for 2018; Trends for 2014-2018](#)

The next media release, "Visitor Arrivals to Israel in January 2019",  
was published on February 5, 2019.