

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Press Release

For the Hotel survey, First Quarter 2008

86,684 guests spent 207,809 nights during the first quarter 2008

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics is pleased to release the main findings of the Hotel Survey for the first quarter 2008, which aims at giving the public an overall idea of the most important indicators of the Hotel Survey, mainly the number of guests, average number of workers, occupancy rates, and other main indicators.

The number of hotels operating in the Palestinian Territory at the end of first quarter was 82 hotels, comprising a total of 3,957 rooms with a total of 8,704 available beds, of which 26 hotels including 1,089 rooms comprising 2,566 beds in Jerusalem area, and the results show that the number of workers in the Palestinian hotels was 1,202 of which 147 are females.

During the first quarter 2008, The total number of guests to the Palestinian hotels was 86,684 guests, of which 18.4% of them were Palestinian guests, and 39.0% were from the European Union countries. Most of those guests were in Jerusalem hotels with a percentage of 43.6% from the guests total, whereas the percentage reached up to 27.8% in the Middle of the West Bank, it reached 26.6% in the South of the West Bank hotels, and 1.3% in North of the West Bank hotels, while the percentage of guests in Gaza Strip hotels was 0.7%.

The results indicate that the total number of guest nights in the Palestinian hotels during the first quarter of 2008 was 207,809 nights, of which 15.5% of these nights was occupied by Palestinian guests, while 43.6% by the guests whom arrived from European Union countries, and 8.4% of these nights were occupied by the guests whom arrived from the United State and Canada. Whereas the guests spent 49.7% of those nights in Jerusalem hotels, they spent 19.6%, 27.7%, 1.1% in the Middle, South, and North of the West Bank respectively, while the percentage of guest nights in Gaza Strip hotels was 1.9%.

When we compare the results of the first quarter of 2008 with the same quarter of 2007, we find that the number of operating hotels increased by 5%, the number of guests and guest nights increased by 76%, 96% respectively, and the percentage of occupancy of rooms and beds increased by 117% and 90% respectively.

Mid - Term Changes

We note that the decline in the volume of main hotel indicators except the number of guests which records a high number since that time by an increase to about 4.3%, where the decrease in the number of nights and room occupancy rate reached 18.2% and 8.4% respectively, but this rate of decline is the lowest compared to first quarter of the previous years.