

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
Press Release
Hotels Survey, Annual Report 2008

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics is pleased to release the main findings of the Hotels Survey for the year 2008. This release aims at giving the public an overall idea of the most important indicators in the Hotels Survey, such as the number of guests, average number of workers, occupancy rates, and other main indicators.

The number of hotels operating in the Palestinian Territory as of December 2008 was 87 hotels, with 4,346 rooms and 9,446 beds. Of these hotels, there were 29 hotels in the Jerusalem governorate with a total of 1,315 rooms and 3,052 beds. The results showed that the total number of workers in the Palestinian hotels during 2008 were 1,345 employee of which 14% were female workers.

During the year 2008, the total number of guests in the Palestinian Territory hotels reached 446,133 persons; among them, 42% were from European Union countries, and 6% were from Israel. The total number of guest nights was 1,127,286 nights, of which 10% were for Palestinian guests, 4% were for Israelis, and 46% were for guests from European Union countries.

Most of those guests stayed in Jerusalem hotels (47%), 18% were in hotels in Middle of the West Bank, 33% in South of the West Bank and 1% in North of the West Bank hotels, while the percentage of guests in Gaza Strip hotels was less than 1%.

Since September 2000, there has been a dramatic drop in the main indicators of hotel activity due to the Israeli measures against the Palestinian institutions. By comparing with the year 2000, we found that the number of guests reached 355,711 persons, but it declined in 2001 and 2002 to reach 60,208 and 51,357 respectively, which was the lowest number of guests since September 2000.

Hotel activity increased after 2002, which was the lowest point for all the hotel indicators after a series of violent Israeli measures at that time. The number of guests increased in the years after 2002, reaching 62,812 during 2003, 100,184 during 2004, 131,908 during 2005 151,801 in 2006, 316,866 in 2007, and finally reaching to 446,133 in 2008.

The increase in the number of guests was accompanied by an improvement in every aspect concerning hotel indicators, mainly the number of nights and the rate of occupancy of rooms and beds. The percentage of room occupancy during 2000 was 32%; it decreased in 2002 to 10% of hotel rooms, and 25% in 2007, and it was 36% during the year 2008.

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