

# **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)**

## **Press Release**

### **In the Occasion of the Palestinian and Arab Tourism day 15/11/2008 About the Tourism Activity in the Palestinian Territory**

During the third quarter 2008, the total number of guests to the Palestinian Territory reached 95,709 persons, of whom 14% were Palestinians, and 43% were from the European Union countries. Most of those guests stayed in Jerusalem hotels representing 46% of the total number of guests to the Palestinian Territory; the percentage was 18% in hotels in the Middle of the West Bank, 33% in hotels in the South of the West Bank, and 2% in hotels in the North of the West Bank hotels, while the percentage of guests in Gaza Strip hotels was 1%.

The total number of guest nights was 238,437 nights; 9% of these nights by Palestinian guests, 45% by guests from European Union countries, and 7% by guests arriving from the United States of America and Canada.

The results also indicated that the average inbound personal daily expenditure 113.0 US\$. The distribution of expenditure according to the mode of consumption during the hotel guest visit showed that 46.3 US\$ was consumed on hotels and accommodations, 20.3 US\$ consumed on food and drinks, 27.1 US\$ on shopping, 10.2 US\$ on transportations and communications., and 9.0 US\$ on other consumptions. The results indicated that the resident daily expenditure was 51.5 US\$ during the visit in the West Bank, and the general average to both resident and non resident was 95.0 US\$.

The total number of operating tourism establishments is 1,257 of which 991 are in the West Bank and 266 in Gaza Strip.

The distribution of establishments engaged in tourism sector activities is as follows: 290 restaurants, 63 hotels, 218 tourism travel agencies, 38 rental agencies of tourism cars, handcrafts, 112 traditional goods factories, and 536 souvenir shops.

The number of employed persons in tourism is 5,802 through the year of 2007, 7% females, and the number of wage employees is 4,019. The highest percentage of employment in the tourist restaurants (34%). The lowest percentage of employment in the tourist rental cars by (2%) from the total.