

Chapter XI – Tourism

1. Hotels, Rooms, Overnight Stays, and Revenue from Tourism

Hotels - Includes: hotels, guest houses on kibbutzim and moshavim, apartment hotels and motels, pensions and convalescent homes. Does not include: camping sites, youth hostels, field schools or accommodations defined as "rural accommodation" on moshavim, kibbutzim and in towns, or hotels transformed into immigrant absorption centers.

Tourist Hotels - Hotels as noted above, listed for tourists by the Ministry of Tourism.

Data until 1990 refer only to listed tourist hotels. From 1991 onward, data include listed hotels and those not yet listed but that applied for recognition as tourist hotels according to the requirements of the Ministry of Tourism.

Grading and classification - Until May 1992, tourist hotels were graded by the Ministry of Tourism by stars. As of 1994, data on hotels that had previously been graded 1-5 stars, are classified into four levels, "Level I" being the highest. The classification was based on two criteria: the type of hotel (city hotel or recreation hotel), and the average size of a double room (not including suites and public areas).

Rooms - Containing at least one bed intended for guests. Not including: office rooms, dining rooms, halls, storerooms, etc. A suite is considered one room. The number of rooms includes rooms in temporarily closed hotels (due to renovations or seasonal reasons), as well as rooms in hotels temporarily closed due to low profitability (for example, stemming from the security situation which began in October 2000). Not included are rooms in hotels that were transformed into absorption centers.

Beds - Permanent beds in hotels. A double bed is considered two beds.

Guest - A guest (adult or child) who checks into a hotel and stays at least one night. A guest who left a hotel and checked in a second time is counted twice.

Tourist - A guest checking into a hotel with a foreign passport. Includes foreign workers and diplomats.

Israeli - A guest checking into a hotel with an Israeli identity card.

Overnight stays - All overnight stays of the above-mentioned guests at hotels. The stay of one person in a two-bedroom or double bedroom is considered one overnight stay.

Percentage of bed occupancy - Total overnight stays spent in hotels open during the period under review, in relation to the total potential overnight stays in these hotels.

The potential overnight stays are the number of permanent beds multiplied by the number of nights the hotel was open in the surveyed year.

Percentage of room occupancy - The total number of occupied rooms in hotels open during the surveyed period, in relation to all available rooms at these hotels.

Revenue – Includes revenue from overnight stays, value-added tax (VAT) from overnight stays and prolonged stays, as well as revenue from other services (not overnight stays), such as meals and drinks, hotel shops, swimming pools, laundry, payments paid by employees (e.g. for meals), etc.

Revenue from tourists - Revenue from accommodation and other services for tourists who are exempt from paying VAT.

Revenue from Israelis - The difference between the total revenue and the revenue from tourists, as defined above. Revenue from Israelis includes revenue from lodging and services for Israeli guests, revenue from events and rental of areas as well as revenue from tourists on which VAT was paid.

The revenue from tourists in US dollars and the average revenue for person-nights in US dollars are calculated from the revenue reported in NIS and other currencies at the average representative exchange rate for the month.

Data on guests, overnight stays, and occupancy are obtained from all the hotels, mainly through monthly reports to the Israel Hotels Association.

For more detailed explanations, see: CBS, [Tourism 2016 \(Publication no. 1707\)](#) and the quarterly statistical reports on tourism and hospitality services.

2. Tourist Characteristics

Inbound Tourism Survey

The data in table XI/11, 12 are based on an annual survey of incoming tourism conducted by the Ministry of Tourism. The survey population comprises visitors from abroad entering Israel. The survey is given to a sample of tourists and day tourists when they leave the country, at the airport and land border crossings.; It does not include new immigrants, diplomats living for extended periods in Israel, foreign workers, or tourists spending more than one year in the country. Israeli citizens who live abroad permanently are included, as they are considered to be holding “visitor” status from the time they enter the country.

Sample - Every tourist interviewed provided details for the family unit with which s/he came to Israel; thus, the questionnaire sometimes refers to more than one person. In 2017, 15,000 individual questionnaires were filled in, representing 15,214 tourists and 771 day tourists. The total number of tourists who left Israel after visiting in 2017 was 3.6 million and 250 thousand day tourists.

Type of tour -

Organized tour - Mainly groups, occasionally individual organized tours. These are tourists who purchased in one package most of the ground services, such as: flight, hotel, transport, entry to sites, accompanying guide, etc. These tourists pay for all anticipated expenses abroad.

Package deal - These typically include flight, transfers and hotels. Usually includes singles or couples.

Free independent travelers (FIT) - Tourists who pay for all their tourism services in Israel during the course of their visit.

3. List of Sources for the Tables

Tables XI/1-10: Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Tourism, *Tourism and Hotel Services, Statistical Quarterly*, for relevant years (Int.)

Tables XI/11-12: Ministry of Tourism, *Inbound Tourism Survey*, for relevant years (Int.)