

Embargoed until 10:45am – 12 February 2009

Accommodation Survey: December 2008

Highlights

In December 2008:

- Total guest nights were 3 percent lower than in December 2007.
- Nine of the 12 regions recorded fewer guest nights than in December 2007.
- All five accommodation types had fewer guest nights than in December 2007, led by motels.

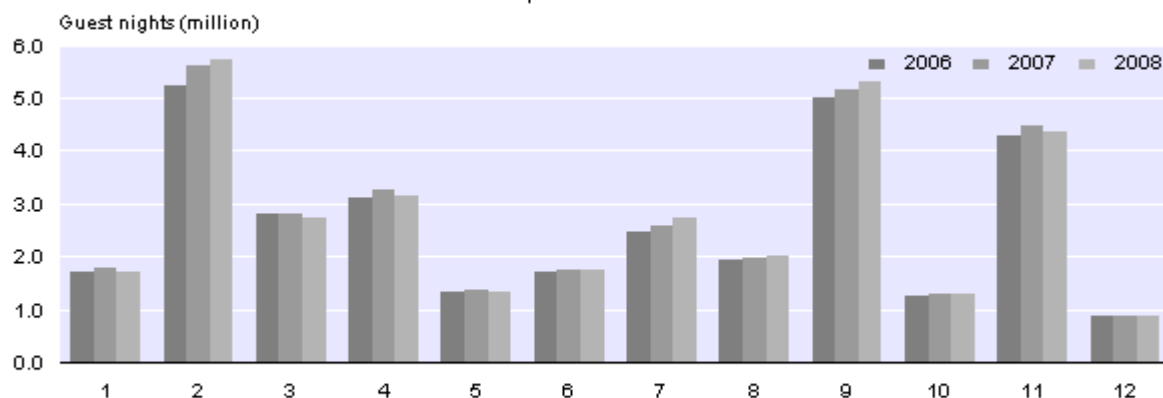
For the 2008 year:

- Total guest nights were similar to the 2007 year.
- Seven of the 12 regions recorded fewer guest nights than in 2007.
- Hotels had the largest guest nights increase compared with 2007, while motels had the largest decrease.

Annual Guest Nights

By region

2006, 2007 and 2008



1 Northland
2 Auckland
3 Waikato

4 Bay of Plenty
5 Hawke's Bay, Gisborne
6 Taranaki, Manawatu-Wanganui

7 Wellington
8 Nelson, Marlborough, Tasman
9 Canterbury

10 West Coast
11 Otago
12 Southland

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Government Statistician

See also [Accommodation Survey: December 2008 – Media release](#).

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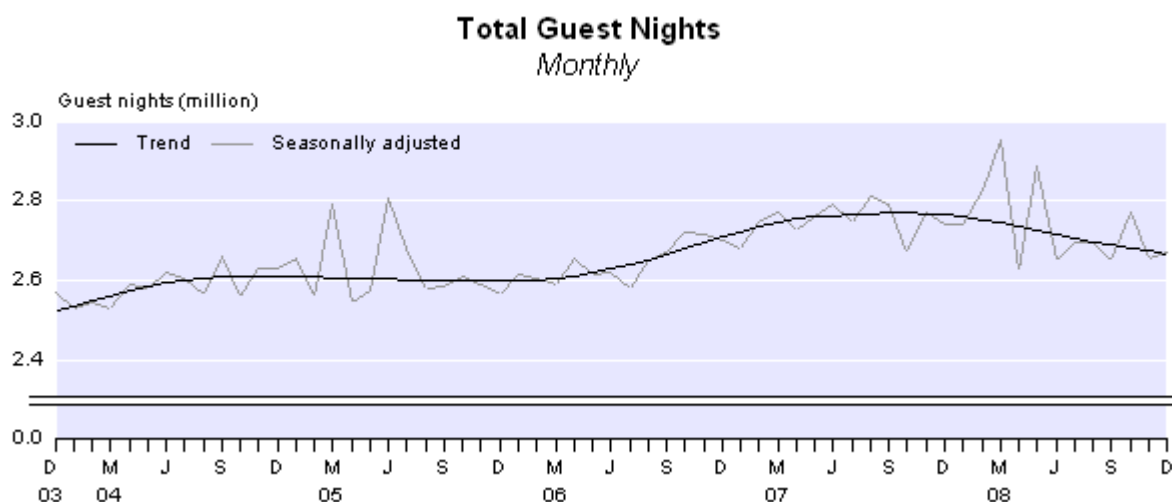
Commentary

Total guest nights

Total guest nights in short-term commercial accommodation were 3.1 million in the December 2008 month, a 3 percent decrease compared with December 2007 and a 2 percent decrease compared with December 2006.

For the 2008 year, total guest nights were 32.9 million, a similar total to the previous year. Guest nights for 2007 were 4 percent higher than in 2006.

The trend in total guest nights has been decreasing since October 2007, after increasing since January 2006. The trend level is now 4 percent lower than the peak in October 2007, but is still 3 percent higher than the previous low point in January 2006.

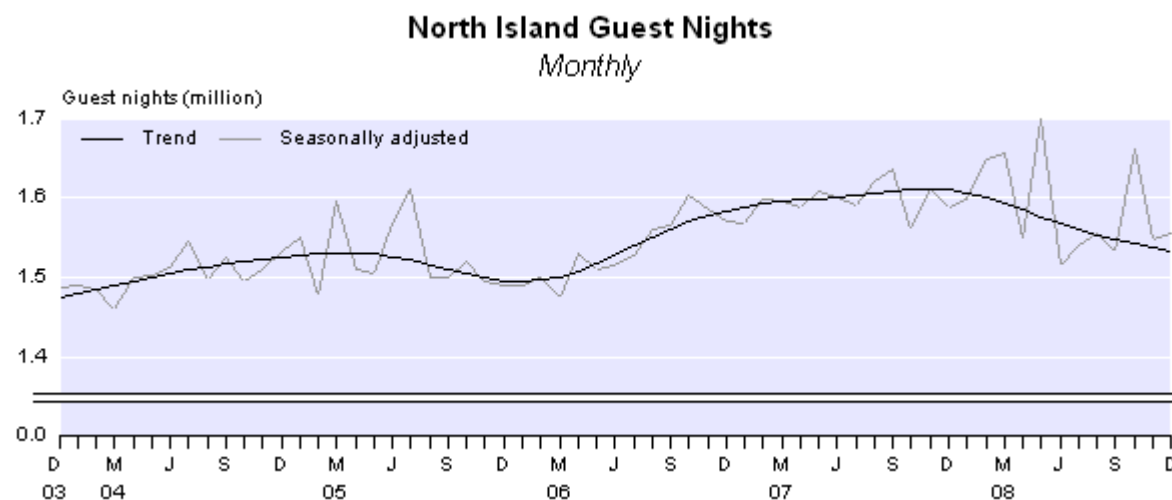


Guest nights by island

Guest nights in the North Island were 1.8 million in December 2008, a 2 percent decrease compared with both December 2007 and December 2006.

For the 2008 year, guest nights in the North Island were 19.1 million, a similar total to 2007.

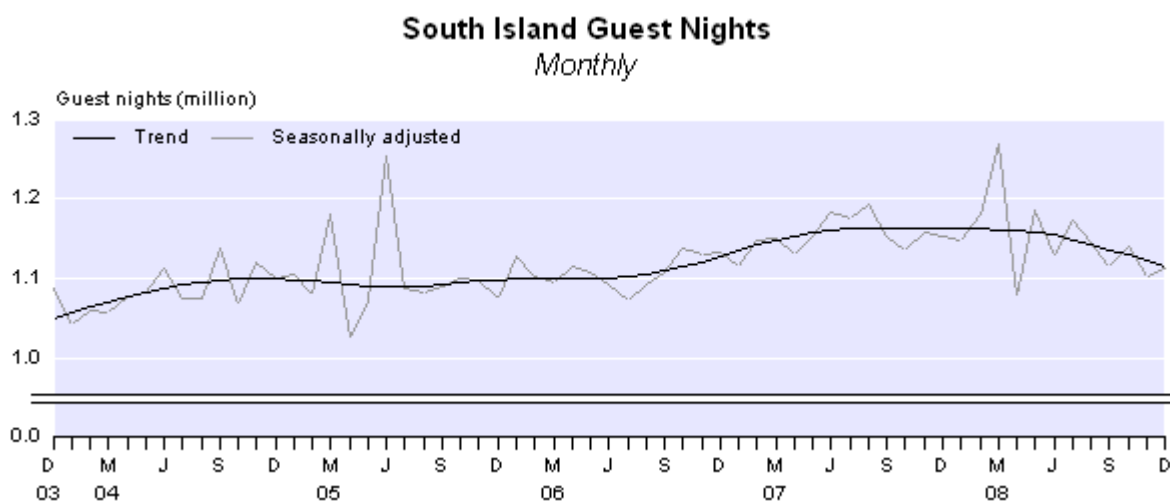
The trend for North Island guest nights has been decreasing since November 2007, after increasing since January 2006. The trend level is now 5 percent lower than the November 2007 peak, but is still 3 percent higher than the previous low point in January 2006.



Guest nights in the South Island were 1.4 million in December 2008, a 4 percent decrease compared with December 2007 and a 3 percent decrease compared with December 2006.

For the 2008 year, guest nights in the South Island were 13.8 million, a similar total to 2007.

The trend for South Island guest nights has been decreasing since September 2007. The trend level is now 4 percent lower than the September 2007 peak.



Guest nights by region

In December 2008, nine of the 12 regions recorded fewer guest nights than in December 2007, with the following regions showing the largest decreases:

- Bay of Plenty (down 25,000 or 7 percent)
- Canterbury (down 20,000 or 4 percent)
- Northland (down 19,000 or 9 percent)
- Otago (down 17,000 or 4 percent).

The Waikato region had the largest increase, up 15,000 or 5 percent.

For the December 2008 year, seven of the 12 regions recorded fewer guest nights than in 2007, with the following regions showing the largest decreases:

- Otago (down 112,000 or 3 percent)
- Bay of Plenty (down 93,000 or 3 percent)
- Waikato (down 86,000 or 3 percent)
- Northland (down 75,000 or 4 percent).

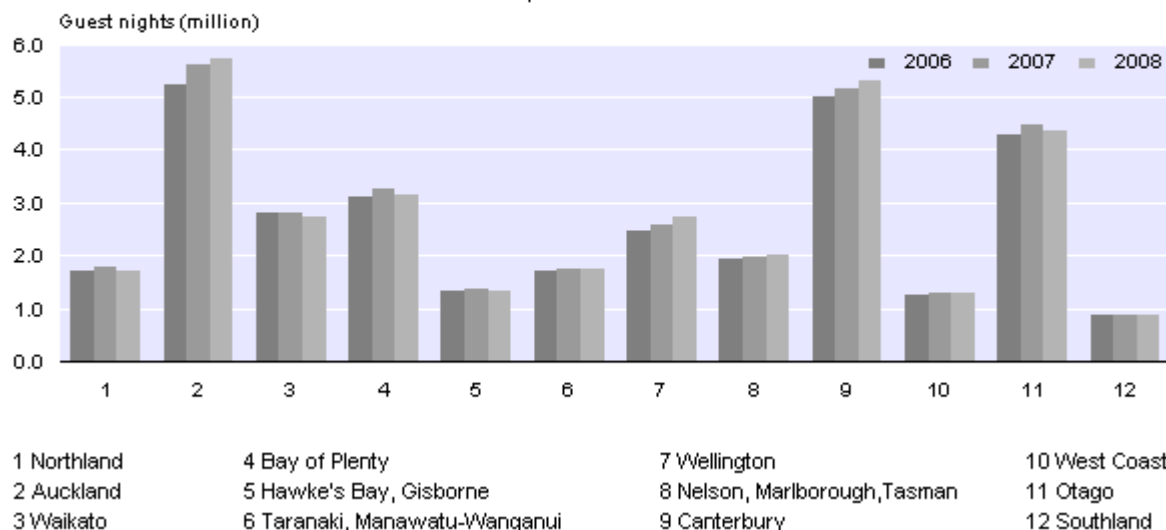
The regions that showed the largest increases in annual guest nights were:

- Wellington (up 135,000 or 5 percent)
- Canterbury (up 128,000 or 2 percent)
- Auckland (up 98,000 or 2 percent).

Annual Guest Nights

By region

2006, 2007 and 2008



Comparison with short-term overseas visitor arrival statistics

International Travel and Migration: December 2008 shows that short-term overseas visitor arrivals to New Zealand in December 2008 were up 4,900 (2 percent) from December 2007. This fall follows a decrease of 9,500 (4 percent) in November 2008 compared with November 2007.

There were more visitors on holiday (up 4,600 or 3 percent) and visiting friends and relatives (up 3,800 or 3 percent) in December 2008 compared with December 2007, while there were fewer visitors on business (down 3,500 or 19 percent).

New Zealand resident short-term departures for December 2008 were down 12,400 (6 percent) from December 2007. This follows a decrease of 4,300 (3 percent) in November 2008 compared with November 2007.

Origin of guests

International visitors contributed 1.4 million guest nights in December 2008, down 73,000 or 5 percent from December 2007. Eight of the 12 regions showed decreases in international guest nights, led by:

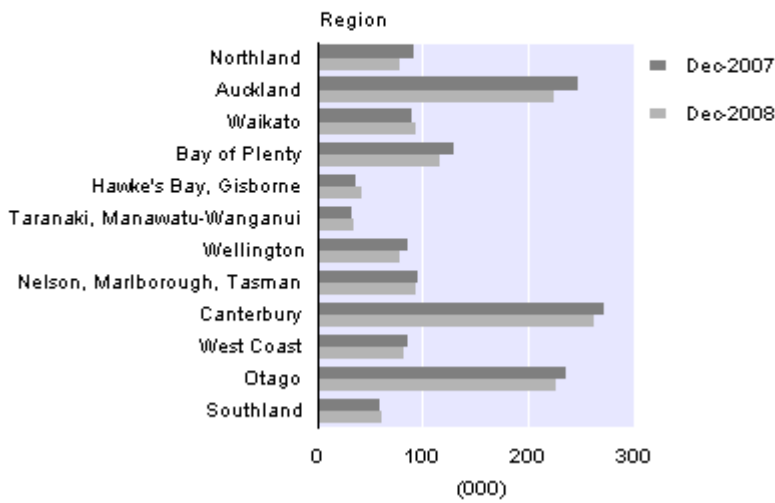
- Auckland (down 23,000 or 9 percent)
- Bay of Plenty (down 14,000 or 11 percent)
- Northland (down 13,000 or 15 percent).

Hawke's Bay/Gisborne showed the largest increase in international guest nights, up 6,000 or 16 percent.

International Guest Nights

By region

December 2007 and 2008



In December 2008, domestic guest nights were 1.8 million, down 18,000 or 1 percent from December 2007. Nine of the 12 regions showed decreases in domestic guest nights, led by:

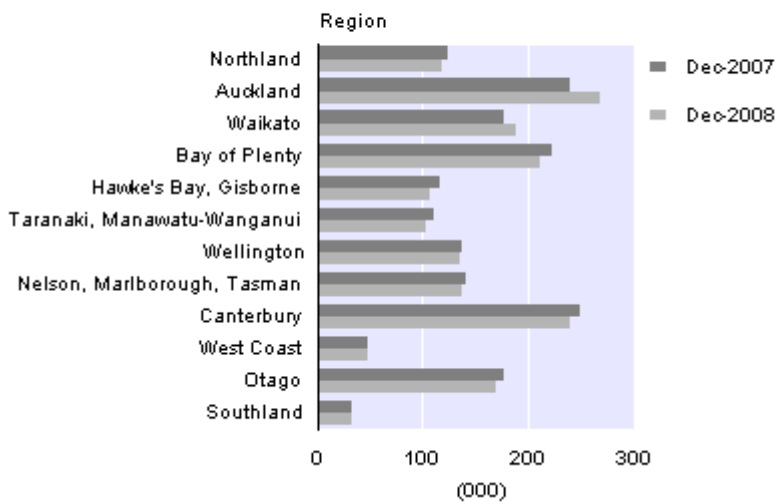
- Bay of Plenty (down 11,000 or 5 percent)
- Hawke's Bay/Gisborne (down 10,000 or 8 percent)
- Canterbury (down 10,000 or 4 percent).

The Auckland region showed the largest increase in domestic guest nights, up 28,000 or 12 percent.

Domestic Guest Nights

By region

December 2007 and 2008



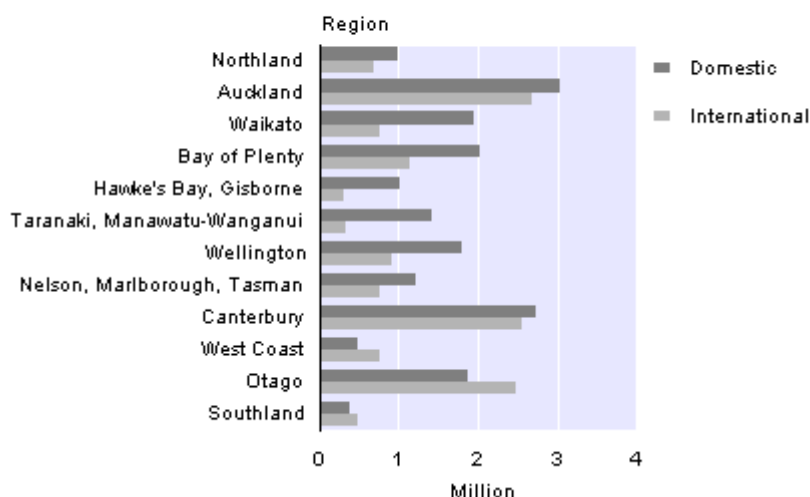
For the 2008 year, international guest nights were 42 percent of the total guest nights. The West Coast (61 percent), Otago (57 percent) and Southland (56 percent) were the only regions to show a higher proportion of international guest nights than domestic guest nights.

Taranaki/Manawatu-Wanganui (81 percent), Hawke's Bay/Gisborne (76 percent) and Waikato (72 percent) showed the highest proportion of domestic guest nights in the 2008 year.

Domestic and International Guest Nights

By region

Year ended December 2008

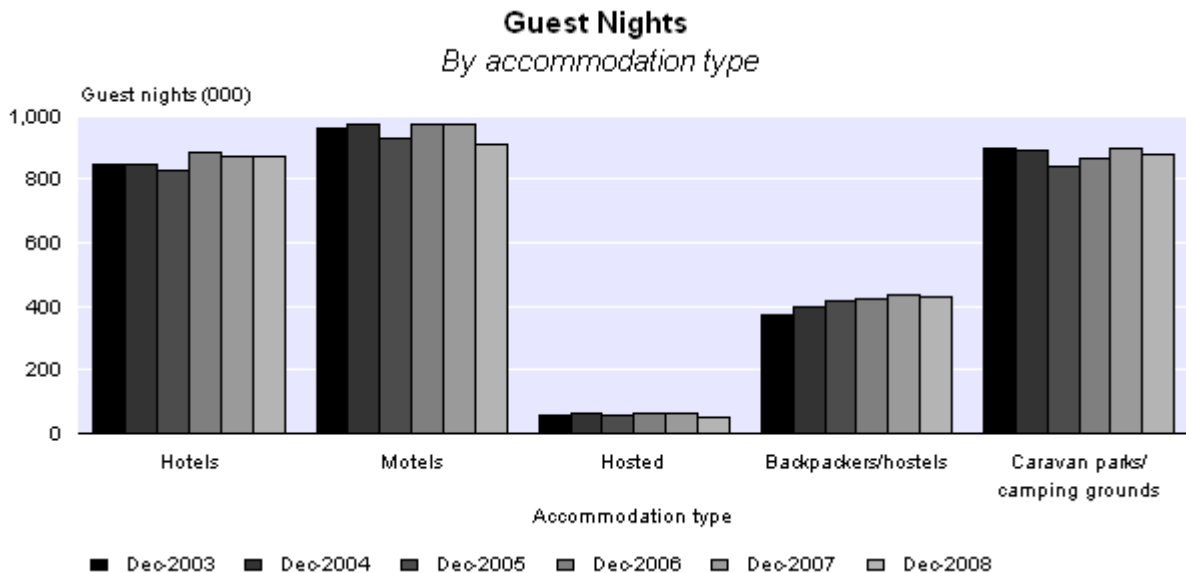


In December 2008, there was a response rate of 71 percent to the Accommodation Survey question on 'origin of guests'. In December 2007, there was a response rate of 65 percent to the question on 'origin of guests'. Figures for those establishments that failed to respond have been imputed and such high levels of imputation can affect data quality, including comparisons between different months.

Guest nights by accommodation type

In December 2008, guest nights decreased for all five accommodation types compared with December 2007. Motels had the largest decrease, down 62,000 (6 percent), followed by caravan parks/camping grounds, down 14,000 (2 percent). The decrease in motels contributed more than two-thirds of the decrease in total guest nights.

In December 2008, motels had the largest share of total guest nights (29 percent), followed by caravan parks/camping grounds and hotels (both with 28 percent).



For the December 2008 year, three of the five accommodation types recorded more guest nights than in 2007. Hotels recorded the largest increase, up 383,000 (4 percent) followed by caravan parks/camping grounds, up 60,000 (1 percent). Motels recorded the largest decrease in guest nights, down 448,000 (4 percent).

Hotels also recorded the largest share of total guest nights (33 percent) for the 2008 year, followed by motels (32 percent) and caravan parks/camping grounds (20 percent). In 2007, motels had recorded the largest share of total guest nights (33 percent).

Occupancy rate

In December 2008, the occupancy rate, excluding caravan parks/camping grounds, was 48 percent, compared with 50 percent in December 2007.

Accommodation capacity, excluding caravan parks/camping grounds, was 3 percent above the December 2007 level.

Hotels had the highest occupancy rate (50 percent) of all the accommodation types in December 2008, followed by motels (48 percent) and backpackers/hostels (46 percent).

Excluding the caravan parks/camping grounds category, the Auckland region had the highest occupancy rate (57 percent) in December 2008, followed by Wellington (50 percent).

Response rates

Response rates by accommodation type for December 2008			
Accommodation type	Establishments responding to questions on guest nights, guest arrivals and stay unit nights	Proportion of guest-night estimate from actual data	Proportion of origin-of-guest estimate from actual data
	Percentage		
Hotels	78	93	80
Motels	77	81	67
Hosted	84	87	77
Backpackers/hostels	77	78	60
Caravan parks/ camping grounds	80	88	71
Total	79	86	71

When respondents do not answer questions in this survey, Statistics New Zealand estimates the missing information based on data from similar establishments in the same and/or similar areas. For more information, please see the technical notes of this release or contact Statistics NZ.

Survey sponsorship

The Accommodation Survey is a monthly survey undertaken by Statistics NZ and sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism.

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Next release ...

Accommodation Survey: January 2009 will be released on 12 March 2009.

Technical notes

Population

The target population for this survey is all 'geographic units' (called 'establishments' in this publication) that are classified as short-term (less than one month) commercial accommodation providers operating in New Zealand. In terms of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), the target population is taken from class 5710 (accommodation), and the part of class 5720 (pubs, taverns and bars) that also provides accommodation.

The survey frame is all short-term commercial accommodation-providing geographic units belonging to an economically significant 'enterprise'. Economic significance is generally determined as being GST registered and having a turnover of at least \$30,000 per annum.

Survey errors

This survey aims for 100 percent coverage of the population (a full census). In practice, however, an overall response rate of between 76 and 80 percent is usually achieved. The remaining units are given imputed values based upon the characteristics of similar establishments in the same or similar regions. Imputation introduces unknown errors into the estimates, and users of the data should bear this in mind. The size of these unknown errors is difficult to quantify.

Other errors occur for reasons such as respondent error, frame quality and errors in processing. While every effort is made to minimise these errors, they will still occur. It is not possible to quantify their effect.

Trend estimates

For any series, the survey estimates can be broken down into three components: trend, seasonal and irregular. While seasonally adjusted series have had the seasonal component removed, the trend series have had both the seasonal and the irregular components removed. Trend estimates reveal the underlying direction of movement in a series, and are likely to indicate turning points more accurately than seasonally adjusted estimates.

The accommodation trend series are calculated using the X-12-ARIMA seasonal adjustment package. They are based on optimal moving averages of the seasonally adjusted series, with an adjustment for outlying values. The X-12-ARIMA package is an updated version of X-11-ARIMA, developed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The trend estimates towards the end of the series incorporate new data as it becomes available, and can therefore change as more observations are added to the series. Revisions can be particularly large if an observation is treated as an outlier in one month, but is found to be part of the underlying trend as further observations are added to the series. All trend estimates are subject to revisions each month, but normally only the last two or three estimates are likely to be substantially altered.

Trend estimates versus month-on-month comparisons

Trend estimates reveal the underlying direction of the movement in a series. In contrast, comparisons between one month and the same month in the previous year(s) do not take account of data recorded in between these periods, and are subject to one-off fluctuations. Reasons for fluctuations include changes in the timing of holidays, international crises, and large sporting and cultural events.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

The X-12-ARIMA package has been used to produce the seasonally adjusted estimates referred to in the Commentary text. Seasonal adjustment aims to eliminate the impact of regular seasonal events. These may be due to climatic effects (such as more guests staying in camping grounds during the summer) or calendar effects (such as holidays). This makes the data for adjacent months more comparable. All seasonally adjusted figures are subject to revision each month.

Further information about [seasonal adjustment](#) is available on the Statistics New Zealand website.

Classification of accommodation type

The predominant capacity provided determines the accommodation type. For instance, if a business provides both motel and camping ground accommodation, but the majority of its stay units are motel rooms, then it would be classified as a motel. The classification system used is the New Zealand Accommodation Classification, broadly defined below:

- Hotels: includes both hotels and resorts
- Motels: includes motor inns, apartments and motels
- Hosted: includes private hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfasts, and holiday farm (farmstay) accommodation
- Backpackers/hostels
- Caravan parks/camping grounds.

Further information on the classification system is available on request.

Origin of guests

From November 2007, information on total domestic and international guest nights will be available on a monthly basis but the breakdown by region or country will no longer be available.

Other definitions

Business frame

A register (maintained by Statistics NZ) of all economically significant businesses operating in New Zealand from which the survey population is drawn.

Establishment

The smallest statistical unit operating within a single physical location and owned by a single enterprise. The term is used to represent what is usually called the 'geographic unit' in other Statistics NZ publications.

Guest night

A guest night is equivalent to one guest spending one night at an establishment. For example, a motel with 15 guests spending two nights would report provision of 30 guest nights of accommodation.

Stay unit

The term used to describe the unit of accommodation that is available to be charged out to guests (for example a powered site in a caravan park, a bed in a backpackers, a room in a hotel or motel).

Capacity (stay unit nights available)

This is the basic measure of an establishment's accommodation capacity. It is defined as one stay unit multiplied by one night. For example, 10 units in a motel available for guest use (whether occupied or not) for the full 31 days in July would have an accommodation capacity of 310 stay unit nights.

Occupancy rate

This derived variable is calculated by dividing stay unit nights occupied by stay unit nights available. In the case of the motel above, if six of its 10 units were occupied every night in July, it would have $6 \times 31 = 186$ stay unit nights occupied, and its occupancy rate would be 60 percent.

Average length of stay

This derived variable is calculated by dividing total guest nights by total guest first nights.

More information

For more information, follow the [link](#) from the Technical notes of this release on the Statistics NZ website.

Confidentiality

Data collected and information contained in this publication must conform to the provisions of the Statistics Act 1975. This requires that published information maintains the confidentiality of individual respondents.

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Timing

Timed statistical releases are delivered using postal and electronic services provided by third parties. Delivery of these releases may be delayed by circumstances outside the control of Statistics NZ. Statistics NZ accepts no responsibility for any such delays.

Tables

The following tables are printed with this Hot Off The Press and can also be downloaded from the Statistics NZ website in Excel format. If you do not have access to Excel, you may use the [Excel file viewer](#) to view, print and export the contents of the file.

1. Establishments, capacity, guest nights, occupancy rate and average stay, by accommodation type
2. Occupancy rate excluding caravan parks/camping grounds, by region
3. Total guest nights
4. Seasonally adjusted and trend guest nights, by accommodation type
5. North Island guest nights
6. South Island guest nights
7. Regional guest nights

 [Accommodation Survey: December 2008 – tables 1–7 \(Excel, 109KB\)](#)


Accommodation pivot tables

The Accommodation pivot tables provide more detailed information, breaking the survey variables down by regional tourism organisation areas and territorial authority areas. These tables can be downloaded from the Statistics NZ website.


- **Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) Area by Accommodation Type (Type)**
Contains the number of establishments, capacity, occupancy rates, guest nights, guest arrivals, length of stay and some ratios of these variables. The graph on the first worksheet will change to display the RTO and Type you select on the second worksheet. When printing the graph, select a cell rather than the graph so the heading will print.
- **Total Accommodation by Territorial Authority (TA)**
Contains number of establishments, capacity, occupancy rates, guest nights, guest arrivals, length of stay and some ratios of these variables.
- **Origin of Guests and Employment Information by Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO)**
Contains domestic and international guest night variables and employees.

Printing a selection of data in a spreadsheet

If you only want to print some of the information in a spreadsheet, either select the pages you want in the print box, or hide the data you don't want to print by highlighting the columns or rows of data you don't want, then right click the mouse and select 'Hide'.

 [Regional Tourism Organisation \(RTO\) Area by Accommodation Type \(Type\) Excel, 5.15MB](#)

 [Total Accommodation by Territorial Authority \(TA\) \(Excel, 1.41MB\)](#)

 [Origin of Guests and Employment Information by Regional Tourism Organisation \(RTO\) \(Excel, 4.67MB\)](#)