

Embargoed until 10:45am – 10 October 2008

Accommodation Survey: August 2008

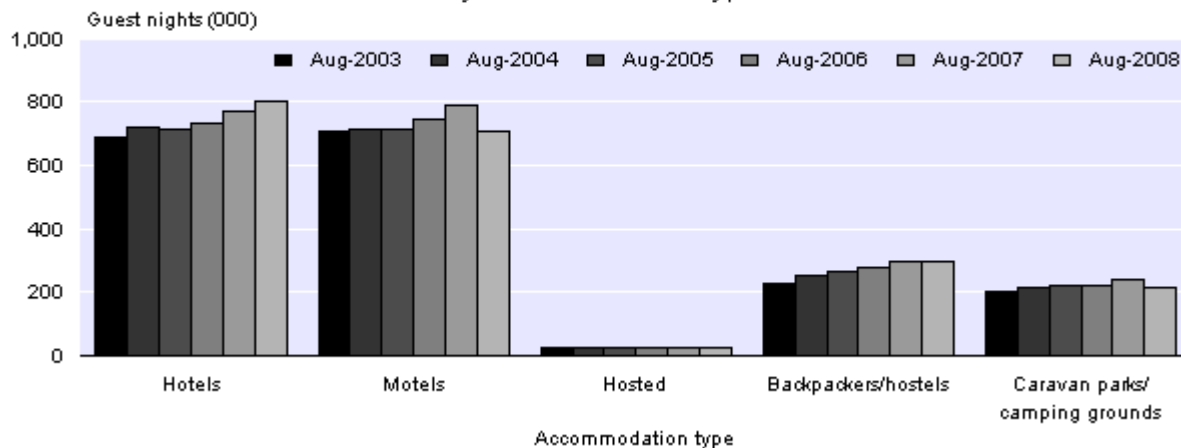
Highlights

In August 2008 compared with August 2007:

- Total guest nights decreased 4 percent, following decreases in June and July.
- Four of the five accommodation types had fewer guest nights, led by motels and caravan parks/camping grounds.
- Eleven of the twelve regions recorded fewer guest nights, led by Otago and Northland.

The trend in total guest nights has been decreasing since September 2007 but is still higher than a previous low point in January 2006.

Guest Nights
By accommodation type



Geoff Bascand
Government Statistician

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

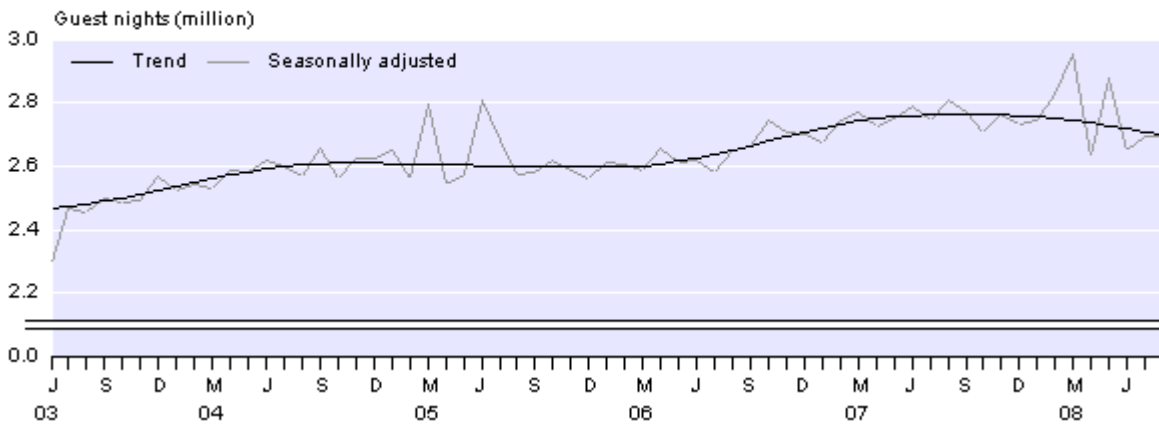
Commentary

Total guest nights

Total guest nights in short-term commercial accommodation were 2.0 million in August 2008, a 4 percent decrease compared with August 2007 and a 2 percent increase compared with August 2006. This is the third consecutive month in which total guest nights have decreased compared with the same month the previous year.

The trend in total guest nights has been decreasing since September 2007, after increasing since January 2006. The trend level is now 2 percent lower than the recent peak in September 2007 but is 4 percent higher than a previous low point in January 2006.

Total Guest Nights
Monthly

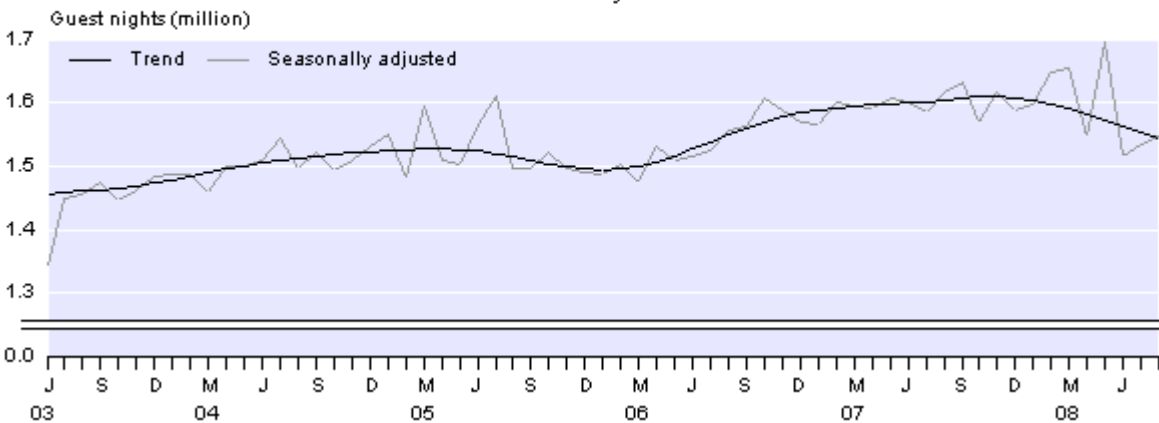


Guest nights by island

Guest nights in the North Island were 1.2 million in August 2008, a decrease of 4 percent compared with August 2007 and similar to August 2006.

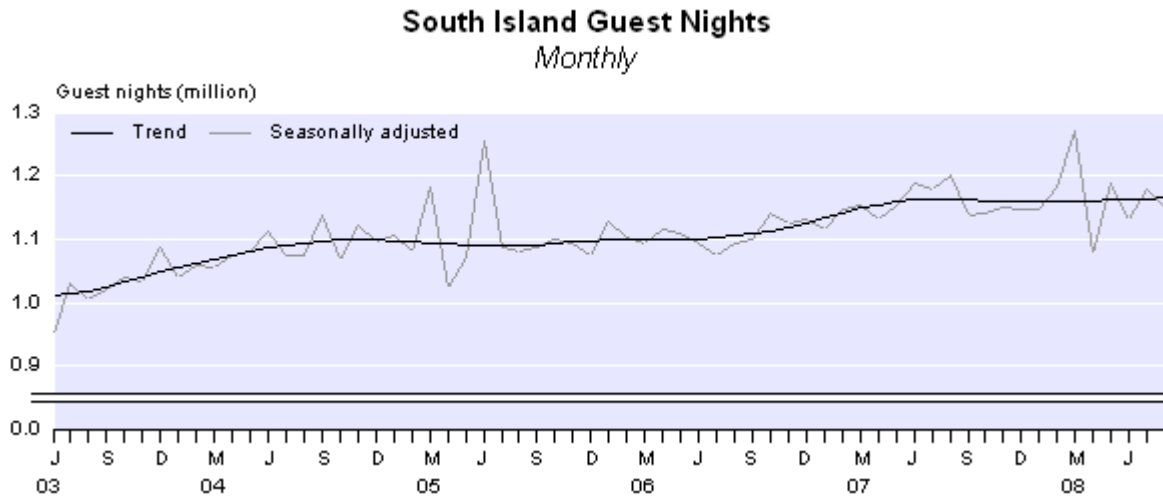
The trend for North Island guest nights has been decreasing since October 2007, after increasing since January 2006. The trend level is now 4 percent lower than the October 2007 peak but is 3 percent higher than a previous low point in January 2006.

North Island Guest Nights
Monthly



Guest nights in the South Island were 0.9 million in August 2008, a 4 percent decrease compared with August 2007 and a 6 percent increase compared with August 2006.

The trend for South Island guest nights has been relatively flat since mid-2007. In August 2008, the trend level was similar to August 2007 and 6 percent higher than in August 2006. However, initial trend estimates should be treated with caution, as time series analysis suggests more data is required for the direction of the trend to be confirmed.



Guest nights by region

In August 2008, eleven of the twelve regions recorded fewer guest nights than in August 2007, with the following regions showing the largest decreases:

- Otago (down 19,000 or 5 percent)
- Northland (down 17,000 or 22 percent)
- Hawke's Bay/Gisborne (down 13,000 or 18 percent)
- Waikato (down 10,000 or 6 percent).

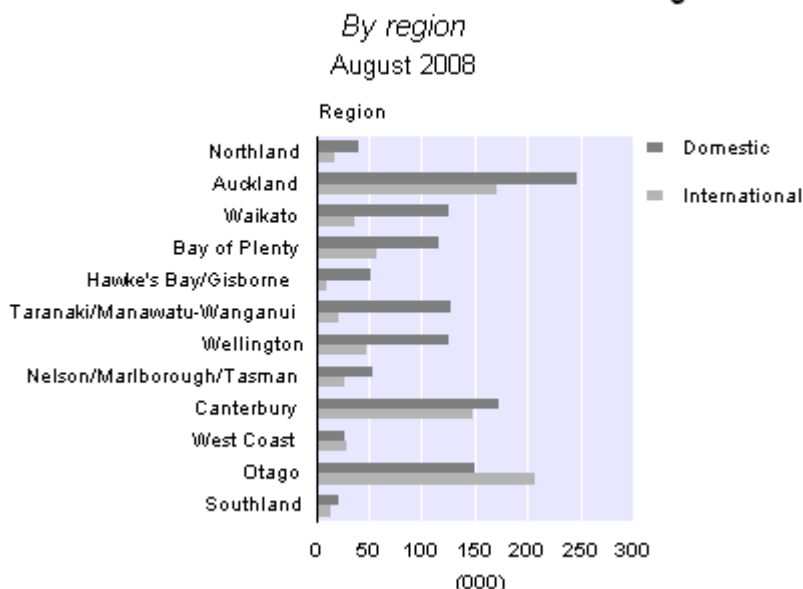
The only region to record an increase was Auckland, up 1,000 or less than 1 percent.

Origin of guests

In August 2008, domestic guest nights were 1.3 million. The Auckland region had the highest number of domestic guest nights, followed by Canterbury and Otago.

International visitors contributed 0.8 million guest nights in August 2008. The Otago region had the highest number of international guest nights, followed by Auckland and Canterbury.

Domestic and International Total Guest Nights



Domestic guest nights were 62 percent of total guest nights in August 2008. In the North Island, domestic guest nights contributed 70 percent of the North Island's total guest nights. In the South Island, domestic guest nights were 50 percent of its total. Ten of the twelve regions had more domestic than international guest nights.

Survey change

From the November 2007 survey month, information on domestic and international guest nights is available on a monthly basis. Previous information on 'origin of guest by country' is no longer available. This is the first stage of changes being made, following a review of the Accommodation Survey, which aim to balance the need for high-quality information against the need to reduce respondent load.

In August 2008, there was a response rate of 69 percent to the Accommodation Survey question on 'origin of guests'. Before the survey change, the response rate for this question ranged between 55 and 60 percent. Figures for those establishments that failed to respond have been imputed. Such high levels of imputation can affect data quality, especially for regional statistics and those for accommodation type.

Comparison with short-term overseas visitor arrival statistics

International Travel and Migration: August 2008 shows that short-term overseas visitor arrivals to New Zealand in August 2008 were down 2,300 (1 percent) from August 2007. This decrease followed an increase of 2,700 (2 percent) in July 2008 compared with July 2007.

More visitors came to visit friends and relatives (up 1,826 or 5 percent) in August 2008 compared with August 2007, while fewer visitors were on holiday (down 2,222 or 3 percent) and on business (down 1,276 or 6 percent).

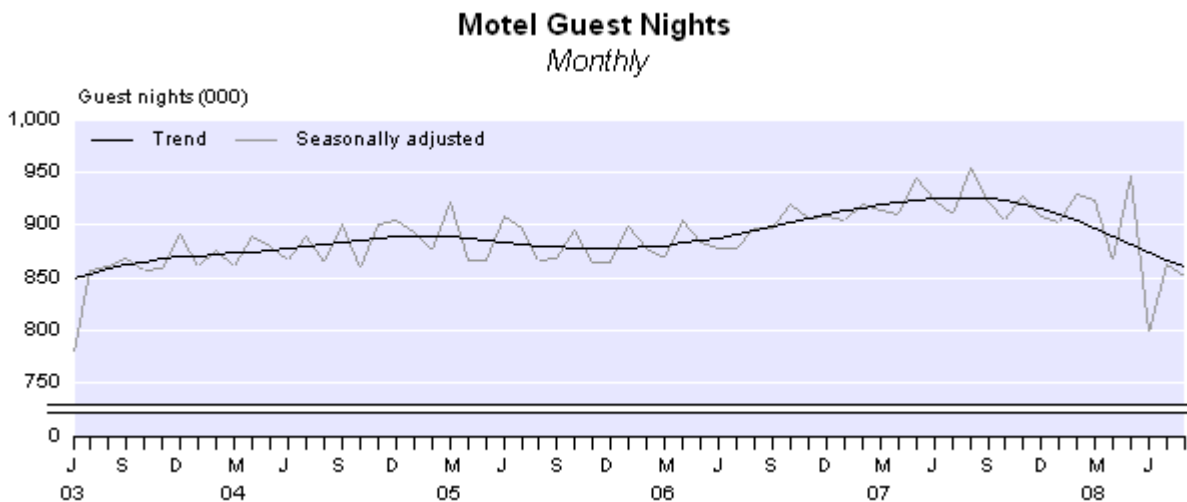
The estimated average number of visitors who were in New Zealand during August 2008 was up 4 percent from August 2007.

New Zealand resident short-term departures for August 2008 were down 1,600 (1 percent) from August 2007. This decrease followed an increase of 16,700 (9 percent) in July 2008 compared with July 2007.

Guest nights by accommodation type

In August 2008, guest nights for four of the five accommodation types decreased compared with August 2007. Motels had the largest decrease, down 83,000 or 10 percent. This is the third consecutive month in which motel guest nights have decreased compared with the same month the previous year.

The trend in motel guest nights has been decreasing since August 2007 and is now 7 percent lower.



In August 2008, guest nights also decreased for caravan parks/camping grounds, down 26,000 (11 percent). Offsetting these decreases was an increase in hotel guest nights, up 32,000 (4 percent).

In August 2008, hotels had the largest share of total guest nights (39 percent), followed by motels (35 percent) and backpackers/hostels (14 percent).

Occupancy rate

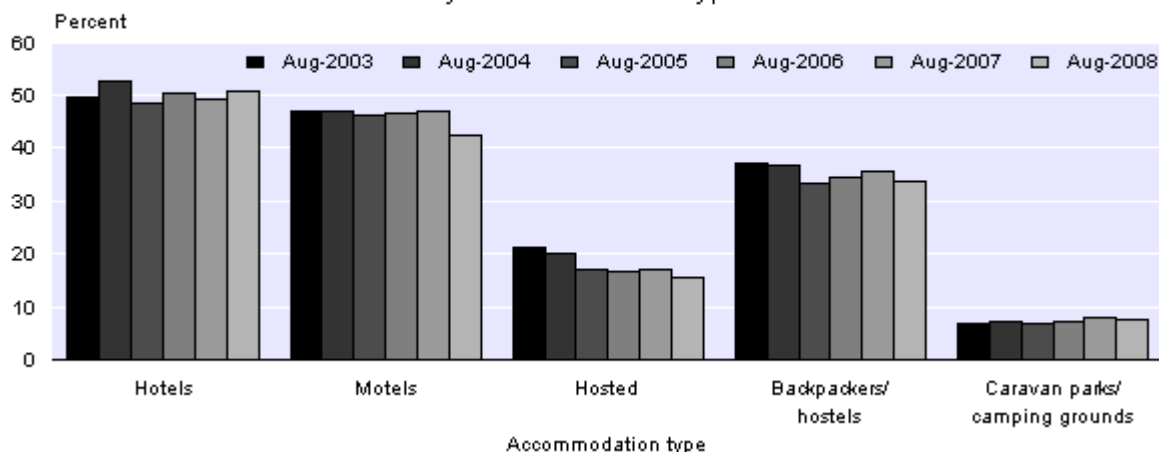
In August 2008, the occupancy rate, excluding caravan parks/camping grounds, was 42 percent, compared with 44 percent in August 2007.

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

Hotels had the highest occupancy rate (51 percent) of all the accommodation types in August 2008, followed by motels (42 percent) and backpackers/hostels (34 percent).

Excluding the caravan parks/camping grounds category, the Otago region had the highest occupancy rate (56 percent) in August 2008, followed by Auckland (55 percent).

Occupancy Rate By accommodation type



Response rates

Response rates by accommodation type for August 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
Hotels	79	92	78
Motels	79	82	65
Hosted	82	82	68
Backpackers/hostels	77	84	58
Caravan parks/camping grounds	80	83	64
Total	79	86	69

When respondents do not answer questions in the Accommodation 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 refer to 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.

For technical information contact:
Brylee Wayman or Tehseen Islam
Christchurch 03 964 8700

Email: info@stats.govt.nz

Next release ...

Accommodation Survey: September 2008 will be released on 12 November 2008.

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 New Zealand 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 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 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'.