



# Hot Off The Press

LATEST STATISTICS FROM STATISTICS NEW ZEALAND

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## Accommodation Survey December 2005

### Highlights

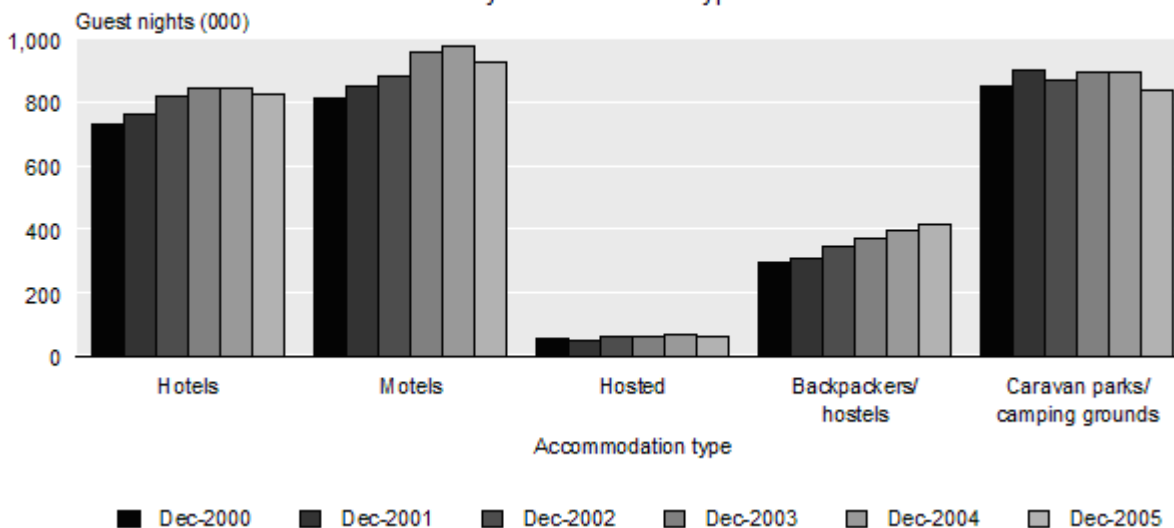
#### December 2005 month:

- Total guest nights were 3 percent lower than in December 2004.
- Nine of the 12 regions recorded fewer guest nights than in December 2004.
- Backpackers/hostels was the only accommodation type to record more guest nights than in December 2004.

#### 2005 calendar year:

- Total guest nights were 2 percent higher than in the 2004 calendar year.
- The Otago and Wellington regions recorded the largest increases in guest nights compared with the 2004 calendar year.
- All five accommodation types recorded more guest nights than in the 2004 calendar year.

**Guest Nights**  
By accommodation type



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Government Statistician

10 February 2006  
Cat 70.905 Set 05/06 – 126

There is a companion Media Release published – [Accommodation Survey: December 2005](#).

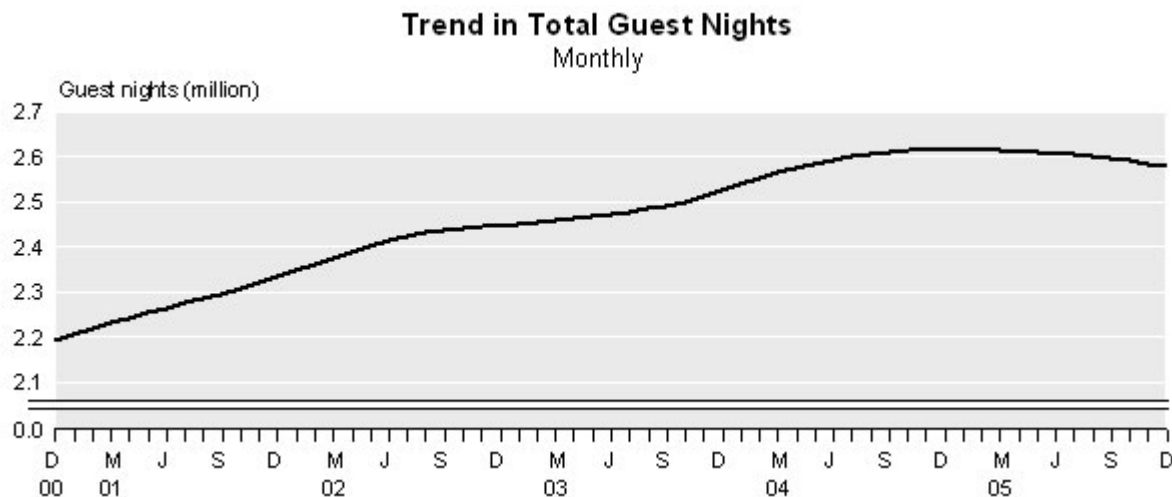
# Commentary

## Total guest nights

Total guest nights in short-term commercial accommodation were 3.1 million in December 2005, a 3 percent decrease compared with December 2004 and a 2 percent decrease compared with December 2003.

Guest nights for the 2005 calendar year were 31.5 million, a 2 percent increase compared with the 2004 calendar year. The guest nights total for 2005 was the highest for any calendar year since the survey began in July 1996. The major event that affected guest nights during 2005 was the British and Irish Lions rugby tour during June and July.

Until recently, the trend in total guest nights had been increasing since June 1998. An apparent change in the direction of the trend since April 2005 should be treated with caution, as time series analysis suggests more data is required for the direction of the trend to be confirmed. In December 2005, the trend level was 1 percent lower than in December 2004 and 2 percent higher than in December 2003.



## Comparison with short-term overseas visitor arrival statistics

The Hot Off The Press release External Migration: December 2005 shows that short-term overseas visitor arrivals in New Zealand for December 2005 were down 6,000 (2 percent) from December 2004. This follows a decrease of 5,900 (3 percent) in November 2005 compared with November 2004.

In contrast, the number of stay days for all visitor arrivals in December 2005 was up 1 percent on December 2004. This follows an increase of 3 percent in November 2005 compared with November 2004.

The average length of stay for visitor arrivals in December 2005 was 22 days, the same as in December 2004. In November 2005, the average length of stay was 21 days, compared with 20 days in November 2004.

New Zealand resident short-term departures for December 2005 were up 14,800 (8 percent) on December 2004. This follows a decrease of 4,300 (3 percent) in November 2005 compared with November 2004.

## Guest nights by island

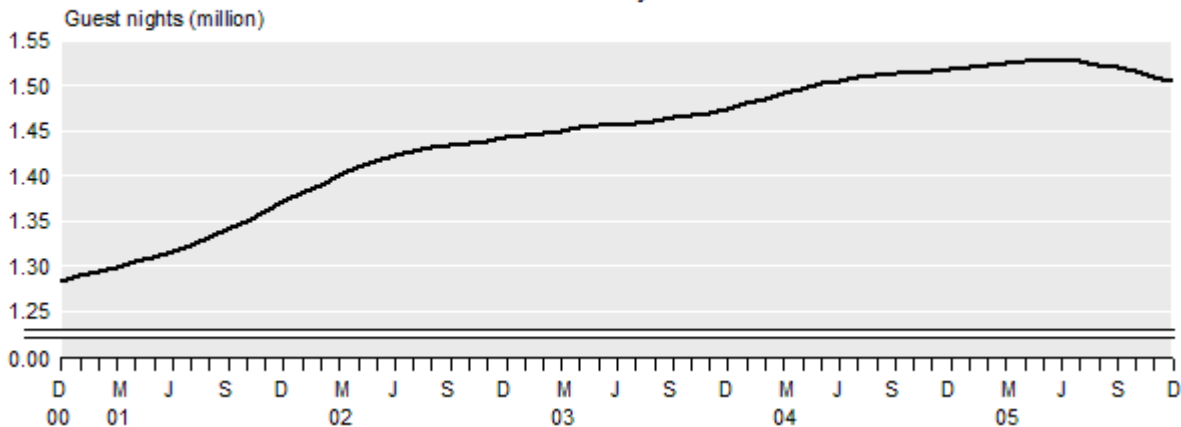
Guest nights in the North Island were 1.7 million in December 2005, a 4 percent decrease compared with December 2004. Guest nights in the South Island were 1.3 million, a 3 percent decrease compared with December 2004.

For the 2005 calendar year, guest nights were up 2 percent in both the North and South Islands, compared with the 2004 calendar year.

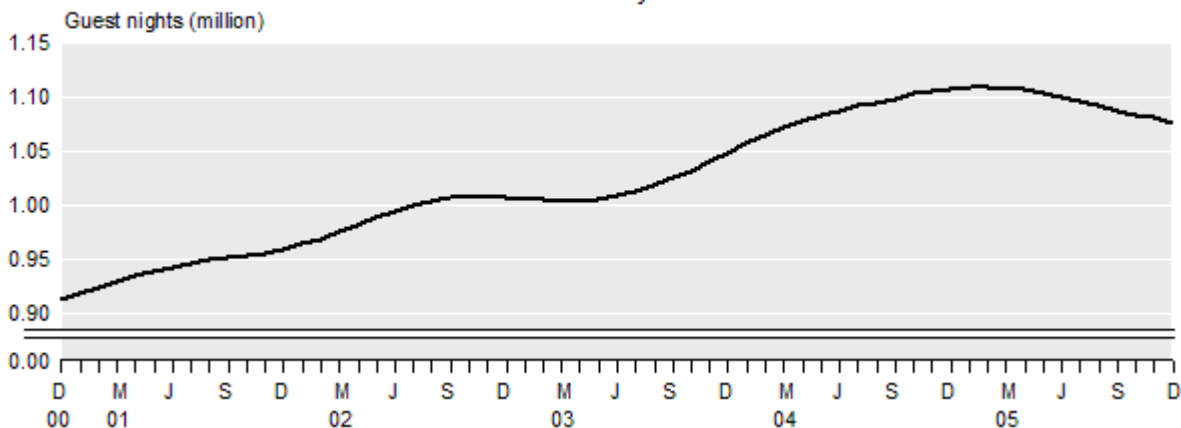
Until recently, the trend in North Island guest nights had been increasing since September 1998. An apparent change in the direction of the trend since June 2005 should be treated with caution, as time series analysis suggests more data is required for the direction of the trend to be confirmed. In December 2005, the trend level was 1 percent lower than in December 2004 and 2 percent higher than in December 2003.

The trend in South Island guest nights has been decreasing since February 2005, following a period of increases that began in September 1997. Since the trend level peaked in February 2005, it has declined by 3 percent. In December 2005, the trend level was 3 percent lower than in December 2004 and 3 percent higher than in December 2003.

**Trend in North Island Guest Nights**  
Monthly



**Trend in South Island Guest Nights**  
Monthly



## Guest nights by region

Nine of the 12 regions recorded fewer guest nights in December 2005 than in December 2004. Canterbury (down 29,000 or 6 percent) recorded the largest absolute decrease in guest nights, followed by Northland (down 23,000 or 10 percent) and Auckland (down 23,000 or 5 percent).

The Otago region (up 15,000 or 4 percent) recorded the largest absolute increase in guest nights in December 2005, compared with December 2004. Other regions to record an increase in guest nights were Taranaki/Manawatu-Wanganui (up 4,000 or 3 percent) and Wellington (up 1,000 or 1 percent).

Ten of the 12 regions recorded more guest nights for the 2005 calendar year than for the 2004 calendar year. Otago (up 163,000 or 4 percent) recorded the largest absolute increase in guest nights followed by Wellington (up 159,000 or 7 percent). The only two regions that recorded decreases in guest nights were Auckland (down 21,000) and Northland (down 5,000). Both these decreases were less than 1 percent.

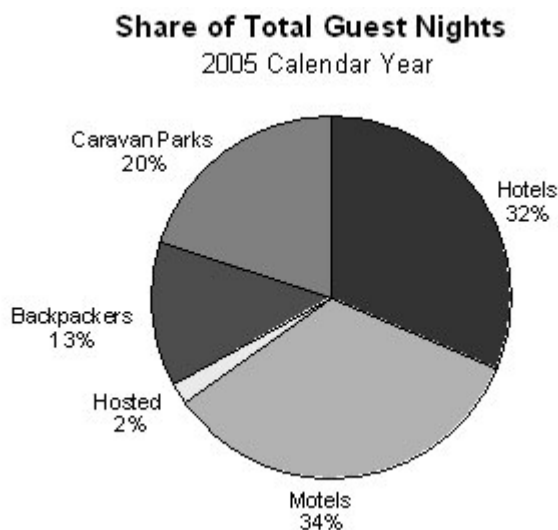
## Guest nights by accommodation type

Backpackers/hostels (up 18,000 or 5 percent) was the only accommodation type to record more guest nights in December 2005 than in December 2004. Caravan parks/camping grounds (down 53,000 or 6 percent) and motels (down 44,000 or 5 percent) recorded the largest decreases.

Motels (30 percent) had the largest share of total guest nights in December 2005, followed by caravan parks/camping grounds and hotels (both with 27 percent).

All five accommodation types recorded more guest nights in the 2005 calendar year than in the 2004 calendar year. Backpackers/hostels (up 270,000 or 7 percent) recorded the largest increase, followed by hotels (up 196,000 or 2 percent).

For the 2005 calendar year, motels (34 percent) had the largest share of total guest nights, followed by hotels (32 percent) and caravan parks/camping grounds (20 percent).

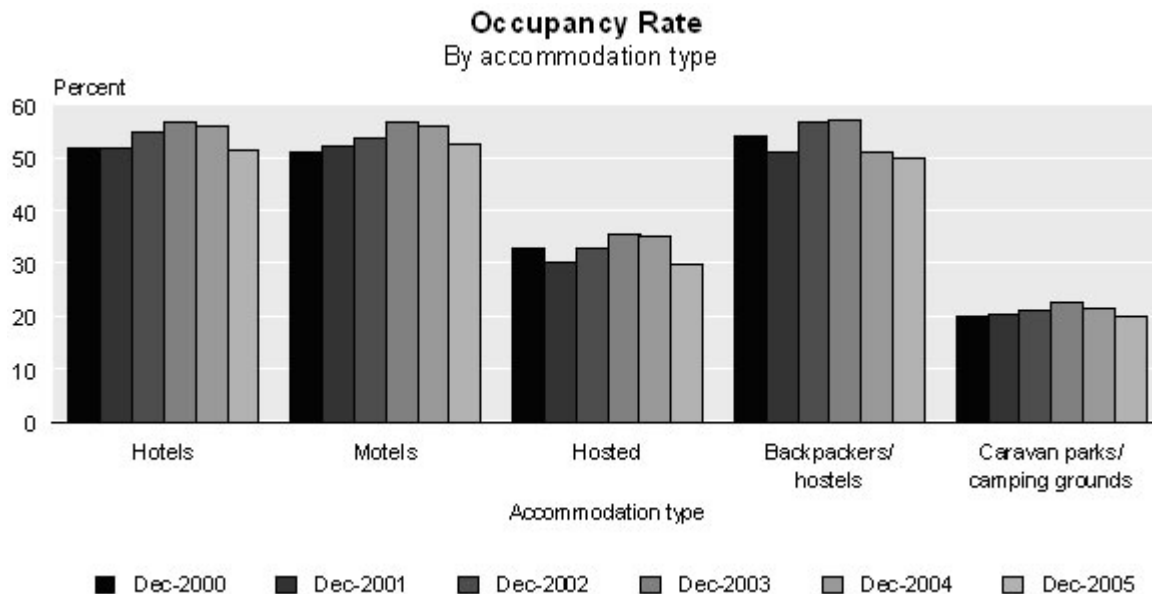


## Occupancy rate

The December 2005 occupancy rate, excluding caravan parks/camping grounds, was 50.5 percent, compared with 53.7 percent in December 2004.

Accommodation capacity for December 2005, excluding caravan parks/camping grounds, was 7 percent above the December 2004 level.

Motels and hotels (both with 52 percent) had the highest occupancy rates of all the accommodation types in December 2005, followed by backpackers/hostels (50 percent).



In December 2005, the highest occupancy rate, excluding caravan parks/camping grounds, was recorded by the Otago region (57 percent), followed by Auckland (56 percent) and Bay of Plenty (54 percent).

## Non-response imputation

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 or contact Statistics New Zealand.

## Response rates by accommodation type for December 2005

Accommodation type	Percentage of establishments responding to questions on guest nights, guest arrivals and stay unit nights	Percentage of the guest night estimate from establishments that responded to the question on guest nights
Hotel	81 percent	92 percent
Motel	80 percent	82 percent
Hosted	82 percent	82 percent
Backpackers/hostels	79 percent	80 percent
Caravan parks/camping grounds	80 percent	89 percent
<b>Total New Zealand</b>	80 percent	86 percent

### Survey sponsorship

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

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# 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 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 (ie 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 this should be borne in mind by users of the data. 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 types of error, 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 US Bureau of the Census.

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.

## Classification of residence of guest

Every third month (January, April, July and October), the survey asks all respondents to classify their guests as coming from the following regions:

<b>Domestic</b>	<b>International</b>
Auckland	Australia
Wellington	Japan
Rest of North Island	Korea
Canterbury	Other Asia
Otago	UK and Ireland
Rest of South Island	Germany
Don't know	Other Europe
	North America
	Other
	Don't know

## Other definitions

### Business Frame

A register (maintained by Statistics New Zealand) 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 New Zealand 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 (eg 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 New Zealand website.

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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 New Zealand. Statistics New Zealand accepts no responsibility for any such delays.

### **Next release ...**

Accommodation Survey: January 2006 will be released on 10 March 2006.

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# Tables

The following tables can be downloaded from the Statistics New Zealand website in Excel 97 format. If you do not have access to Excel 97 or higher, you may use the Excel file viewer to view, print and export the contents of the file.

## List of tables

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

## 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.

- **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 out 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'.