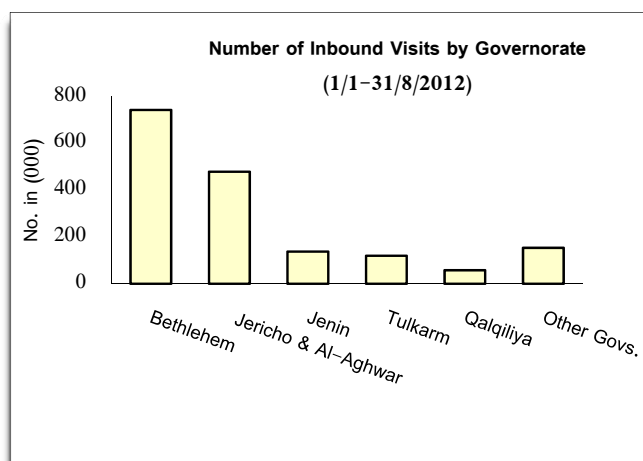




**Around 3.5 Million Visits to Tourist Sites in the Palestinian Territory in January - August 2012**

On the occasion of World Tourism Day, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, presents the following facts about tourism in the Palestinian Territory.

During the period from January to August 2012, around 3.5 million visits were made to tourist sites in the Palestinian Territory. These included 1.7 million visits by inbound visitors and 1.8 million visits by domestic visitors to gardens, parks and other tourism sites. The number of visits rose by 28% compared with the same period in 2011, but domestic visits fell by 10%.

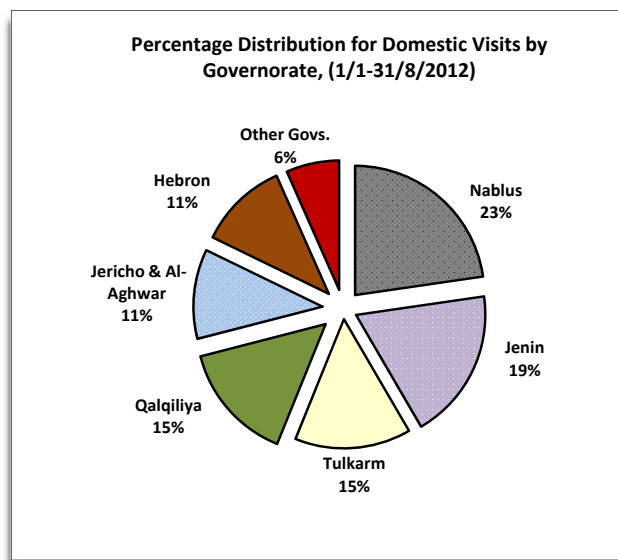


Most inbound visits were to the Bethlehem governorate with 44%, followed by Jericho and Al-Aghwar governorate with 28% and Jenin governorate with 8%.

Palestinians residing in Israel made up the largest number of inbound visitors with 35%, followed by 12% from Russia, 5% each from the United States, Italy and Poland, and 3% each from Germany and Indonesia.

Domestic visits in the Palestinian Territory were made up as follows: Nablus and Jenin governorates 23% and 19% respectively; Qalqilya and Tulkarem

governorates 15% each; Jericho and Al-Aghwar and Hebron governorates 11% each. These data do not include Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.



**274 Thousand Hotel Guests in First Half of 2012**

There were 274 thousand hotel guests during the first half of 2012, an increase of 3% compared with the first half of 2011. Of these, 14% were Palestinians, 38% were from European Union countries, and 9% were from Asia.

**Number of Guests During the First Half of 2011, 2012**

Nationality	2011	2012
Palestine	33,667	38,690
Israel	16,716	22,540
Asia	32,249	24,394
USA & Canada	28,353	20,936
EU.	91,619	103,267
Other European States.	34,339	40,807
Other Countries	29,276	22,966
<b>Total</b>	<b>266,219</b>	<b>273,600</b>

The guests were distributed by region as follows: 33% in Jerusalem hotels, 47% in the South of the West Bank, 15% in the Middle of the West Bank, and 4% in the North of the West Bank. Only 1% of guests stayed in Gaza Strip hotels.



There were 98 hotels in the Palestinian Territory in June 2012, comprising 5,454 rooms with 12,303 beds. There were 2,672 hotel employees, of whom 583 were female.

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