

## NZ hotels record solid year in 2019

New Zealand hotels recorded a solid year in 2019, with the same national occupancy level as 2018, Tourism Industry Aotearoa says.

New statistics from TIA's 190 member hotels show the average national occupancy level was 79%<sup>1</sup>, the same rate as in 2018. The only region to record a small growth (+2%, to 69%) was Central Park, which covers Taupō, Hawke's Bay-Te Matau-a-Māui and Gisborne-Tairāwhiti.

Auckland-Tamaki-Makaurau hotels reported a small drop of 1% to 82%, the lowest occupancy in the city for the last five years. This was partly due to a drop in air crew room nights reflecting a small reduction in air capacity out of Auckland Airport.

"These figures confirm that the recent spectacular growth of our visitor economy has come to an end," TIA Chief Executive Chris Roberts says.

"Along with flat occupancy, the average hotel rate was slightly down at the national level<sup>2</sup>. No growth in hotel income will eventually impact on employment and reinvestment. The challenge will be compounded by new hotels that are due to open around the country, with more than 1200 new rooms expected to become available in Auckland alone by the end of 2020."

Across New Zealand, three-star hotels were the only star band to record occupancy growth in 2019.

52% of hotel guests were New Zealanders. Among our major visitor markets, New Zealand, USA and UK all increased their share of nights in hotels compared to 2018. China was static while Australia and Japan decreased their share of room nights for the year.

With no new major events scheduled in New Zealand this year, hoteliers are not expecting to see any significant improvement in their bottom line, Mr Roberts says. In 2021, New Zealand will host the America's Cup and APEC but the impact of these events will be felt less in regional New Zealand.

With the end of the government's Commercial Accommodation Monitor last year, TIA's monthly hotel statistics are now the best measure available of what is happening in our valuable hotel sector. TIA is looking forward to an announcement shortly from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment about what is planned to replace the CAM, Mr Roberts says.

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<sup>1</sup> On average, 79% of all available hotel rooms were occupied each night in 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Aggregated room rate information is provided to participants in the TIA survey.

## Year ending 31 December 2019 statistics for each TIA Hotel region

Region	2019 occupancy	2018 occupancy	No. of rooms
Auckland	82%	83%	9126
Central Park	69%	67%	712
Christchurch	76%	77%	2848
Dunedin	68%	70%	588
Nelson/Marlborough	74%	74%	514
Queenstown	82%	82%	3316
Rotorua	79%	79%	1686
Wellington	79%	79%	3353

### TIA Hotel Sector

TIA's hotel sector represents the interests of over 190 members throughout New Zealand, including international chains, large independent and privately owned hotels. TIA hotel sector members have more than 22,000 rooms, employ over 12,000 staff nationally, and earn annual revenues of more than \$1.67 billion. TIA's hotel members contribute to a monthly performance survey conducted by the Fresh Information Company.

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#### KEY FACTS

- Tourism in New Zealand is a \$112 million per day industry. Tourism delivers around \$47 million in foreign exchange to the New Zealand economy each day of the year. Domestic tourism contributes another \$65 million in economic activity every day.
- Tourism is New Zealand's biggest export earner, contributing \$17.2 billion or 20.4% of New Zealand's foreign exchange earnings (year ended March 2019).
- 14.4% of the total number of people employed in New Zealand work directly or indirectly in tourism. That means 393,279 people are working in the visitor economy.
- The **Tourism 2025 & Beyond** sustainable growth framework/Kaupapa Whakapakari Tāpoi has a vision of growing a sustainable tourism industry that benefits New Zealanders.

Visit [www.tia.org.nz](http://www.tia.org.nz) for more information

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