



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
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PRESS RELEASE

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Title: Increase of Hotel employment in August
Report of RIT'S field research

While employment of private sector is constantly decreasing, Greek hotels kept their employment figures at the same levels, despite the reduction of arrivals in 2012. The above are depicted in the field research of RIT, research associate of Hellenic Chamber of Hotels.

At the same time with the research of the Institute, the study of RIT "Employment in tourism sector" was presented at Hellenic Chamber of Hotels press release.

According the annual field research conducted by Research Institute for Tourism, in which 1.200 hotels units participated this year, the employment of Greek hotels in August 2012 was equal to 119.990 people, recording an increase 0,8% compared to the corresponding month of 2011. On the contrary, the total employment of May 2012 was equal to 92.100 people, recording a decrease 2,3% compared to the corresponding period of 2011.

As indicated, the number of employees in Greek hotels is increased in high demand period, despite the turnover reduction in 2012 compared to 2011. The decrease of employees in May is due to the fact that several hotels did not open or opened with a delay. Maybe the employment figures were affected by the decrease of domestic tourism flow, due to economic crisis, which was more severe in mountain destinations.

Region

As highlighted in RIT's survey, in regional level, a high reduction of employment is recorded to regions whose tourism activity is based on Greek clients. On the contrary, an increase of employment is recorded in traditional destinations, which accommodate mainly foreign tourists. The highest decrease was observed in Epirus-Thessaly (-31,5% in May and -21,3% in August). Peloponnese and Attica are following with a decrease 16% and 8,2% respectively, in August.

Employment of hotels in Attica is constantly decreasing since 2008. Except from this year's decrease, employment in Attica decreased by 19,4% in 2011. It is noted that last year's loss is explained by the fact that several hotel units of capital center closed permanently.

The highest increase of employment 2011-12 was equal to 11,4% and was recorded in Macedonia-Thrace. Last year, employment decreased by 8,56% in the region, due to the negative performance of Thessaloniki's hotels in 2011. Employment this year returned to the levels of 2010.

In Crete and South Aegean Islands, employment increased for another year. South Aegean is the only region recording a constant increase rate since 2008. The expansion of high category hotel units contributes to the above result.

In 2012, hotel capacity of the country increased by 3.000 rooms. Most of new rooms were constructed in South Aegean, Crete and Macedonia-Thrace. If the increase of employment due to the operation of the new units was not considered, the number of Greek hotels' employees would record a further decrease equal to 1,3% in May and would also decrease in August.

For another year, tourism activity was concentrated in country's islands.

In 2008, Crete was first concerning employment, while in 2012 South Aegean region become first. On the contrary, Attica's share in total employment has decreased. Last year, Attica was behind Macedonia-Thrace Region, while this year remained behind Ionian Islands to.

An interesting result of 2012 is the high number of low category units that remained closed in May. 12,8% of 1 star hotels, 10,3% of 2 star hotels and 6,9% of 3 star hotels did not operate in May. All 4 and 5 star hotels operated, but despite this fact, closed hotels were 4,3% of total hotel capacity of the country. This is indicating that the tourism period of the country is constantly decreasing.

Foreigners

A remarkable result of the survey is that in 2012 the number of foreign employees working in Greek hotels decreased significantly.

In May 2012, the percentage of foreign employees was equal to 20,48% and in August equal to 21,42% of total employees. Compared to 2011, the number of foreign employees decreased by 7,3% in May and 8,4% in August. The highest decrease is observed in middle class hotels of mainland. An increase rate appears only in low category hotels of South Aegean and Crete. The survey of RIT concludes that hoteliers in local communities support young people of their area without aiming only to cost reduction of their businesses.

Estimation of Total Employment in Hotels by Region and Category

REGION	5****		4****		3***		2**		1*		Total		Total		C%	
	2012												2011		2012/11	
	May	August	May	August	May	August	May	August	May	August	May	August	May	August	May	August
ATTICA (excl. islands)	4.916	4.949	2.611	2.720	1.190	1.207	1.213	1.193	306	306	10.236	10.374	11.027	11.298	-7,2%	-8,2%
CENTRAL GREECE (excl. Attica)	289	312	786	1.039	859	1.150	673	1.124	0	105	2.608	3.731	2.750	3.584	-5,2%	4,1%
EPIRUS-THESSALY	762	923	955	1.196	852	1.095	946	1.407	271	266	3.786	4.887	5.525	6.207	-31,5%	-21,3%
MACEDONIA-THRACE	3.765	4.559	3.485	4.516	2.837	3.654	1.849	2.517	741	1.192	12.677	16.438	11.597	14.755	9,3%	11,4%
PELOPONNESE	3.382	4.377	1.443	1.915	1.286	1.853	961	1.308	76	160	7.148	9.613	8.813	11.448	-18,9%	-16,0%
AEGEAN ISLANDS	337	401	390	539	627	940	444	836	58	101	1.854	2.818	2.516	3.101	-26,3%	-9,1%
CRETE	6.923	8.954	7.488	9.320	3.629	4.252	3.513	4.366	490	679	22.043	27.569	20.453	25.096	7,8%	9,9%
CYCLADES-DODECANESE	5.872	7.487	10.255	13.069	3.871	4.778	3.481	4.936	376	584	23.855	30.854	23.060	29.732	3,4%	3,8%
IONIAN ISLANDS	1.700	1.995	3.236	4.055	2.709	3.886	2.343	3.519	166	253	10.155	13.707	10.890	13.867	-6,8%	-1,2%
COUNTRY TOTAL	27.946	33.956	30.650	38.368	17.859	22.815	15.424	21.207	2.483	3.645	94.361	119.992	96.631	119.088	-2,3%	0,8%

Source: Field research of RIT on hotel performance, 2012

Percentage of closed hotels in May 2012

Region	5*****	4****	3***	2**	1*	Total
ATTICA (excl. islands)	0,0%	0,0%	8,2%	0,0%	0,0%	2,1%
CENTRAL GREECE (excl. Attica)	0,0%	0,0%	14,9%	11,1%	21,4%	9,6%
EPIRUS-THESSALY	0,0%	0,0%	5,1%	19,7%	0,0%	8,0%
MACEDONIA-THRACE	0,0%	0,0%	7,8%	10,8%	16,5%	5,0%
PELOPONNESE	0,0%	0,0%	15,9%	6,1%	53,1%	7,2%
IONIAN ISLANDS	0,0%	0,0%	6,9%	11,8%	29,9%	5,8%
CYCLADES-DODECANESE	0,0%	3,2%	5,3%	15,7%	2,2%	5,3%
CRETE	0,0%	0,0%	2,0%	4,1%	8,0%	1,2%
AEGEAN ISLANDS	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	9,8%	0,0%	2,8%
Σύνολο Χώρας	0,0%	1,1%	6,9%	10,3%	12,8%	4,3%

Source: Field research of RIT on hotel performance, 2012