



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION
MALE' REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**

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NEWS RELEASE

New record in occupancy rate for the low season

The average occupancy rate of resorts and hotels in the Maldives has set a new record for the low season with a 58.9% surpassing the recorded rate of 2004. The average occupancy rate for the month of June during the last 10 years has been 47.9% with the highest rate at 57.4% in June 2004.

During the month of June 2007, the number of tourist arrivals increased by 16.4% compared to 2006, making a new record in arrivals for the month of June as well with a total of 38,457 tourists.

For the period from January to June 2007 a total of 342,515 tourists visited the Maldives which is an increase of 15.1% compared to the same period 2006, also a new record for the first six months of the year.

Italy continues to be the number one market for the Maldives contributing 19.8% to the market share with a total of 67,672 tourists during the period January to June 2007. The United Kingdom is the second generating market, capturing a market share of 17.9%. From January to June 2007 a total of 61,272 tourists visited the Maldives from the United Kingdom, which is an increase of 21.1% compared to the same period of 2006.

The other leading markets to the Maldives during the period of January to June 2007 include Germany with 10.8% market share, France with 8.0% market share, Japan with a market share of 5.1%, China with a 4.8% market share and Russia with 4.5% followed by Switzerland with a market share of 4.1%.

At end of June 2007, a total of 90 resorts and 10 hotels with a total bed capacity of 18,841 were registered with the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation. Out of these, 81 resorts and 10 hotels were in operation during the month of June. The total number of beds in operation in resorts and hotels during the month of June 2007 was 17,333.