

# Welsh hotel occupancy rates at 'record highs' over the summer

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Welsh hotel occupancy rates jumped six per cent in August as the thriving staycation market increased levels to record highs, according to the RSM Hotels Tracker.

The data, compiled and produced by STR and analysed by RSM, shows that Wales continued to be the destination of choice for UK holidaymakers as occupancy levels increased from 80 per cent in July 2021 to 86 per cent.

The figure surpassed pre-pandemic levels for the same month in 2019.

The average UK occupancy rate has also risen to 71 per cent in August from 65 per cent in July 2021.

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The average room rate across the UK has almost recovered to pre-pandemic levels at £94, with Wales reaching a two-year high at £89.

In addition, revenue per available room across Wales went to £77 in August 2021, up from £41 in 2020 and pre-pandemic levels at £57.

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Chris Tate, head of hotels and accommodation at RSM, said: “The hotel sector is on the right track with a welcome staycation boost driving occupancy levels up again this month. Wales hit record highs over the summer as holidaymakers opted to enjoy the Welsh valleys rather than foreign getaways.

“However, lower occupancy levels in London continued to hamper a wider UK recovery. Staff shortages continue to impact the sector which is starting to push up wage costs – applying acute financial pressure as the sector looks to recover post-Covid.”

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