



# Rooms vacant in WA's north and south

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Hotels in Perth's CBD are doing well but regional accommodation is struggling according to the latest data. *Source:* PerthNow

**PERTH hotels might be doing well with high occupancy rates but some regional towns are continuing to struggle.**

New data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics today showed occupancy rates for the state fell by 1.2 per cent in the December 2012 quarter when compared with 2011.

While hotels in Perth CBD averaged a rate of 83.4 per cent occupancy for the quarter, some of the state's tourist hot spots were feeling the pinch.

Augusta's three establishments had an average occupancy level of just 34.4 per cent for the quarter; hitting a low of 32.6 per cent during October.

Meanwhile, Margret River and Busselton had an average occupancy rate of 69.3 per cent and 57 per cent and respectively.

The variation continued in the state's north, with Carnarvon reporting a rate of 79.8 per cent and Exmouth 57.2 per cent.

Australian Hotels Association WA chief Bradley Woods said it showed there was room for growth in the South-West, with the tourism area recording an average occupancy rate of 56.3 per cent.

“Current high demand from business travellers for accommodation in Perth especially from the resource industry has brought with it both pressures and opportunities,” he said.

The average price for a CBD hotel was up slightly from \$217.41 in the 2011 quarter to \$218.78 last year.

That was much higher than the overall state price of \$188.92, up from \$185.90 the previous period.

Mr Woods said there was the opportunity for tourists to get competitive prices if they booked in advanced and planned to stay in the CBD on weekends.

Visitors to the state stayed an average of 2.4 nights, slightly down from the previous December quarter of 2.5 nights.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/rooms-vacant-in-was-north-and-south/story-e6frg6n6-1226615190656>