

Increasing number of Russian tourists in Abu Dhabi

The number of tourists in Abu Dhabi increased 10 percent during the first five months of this year, with around 60,000 British nationals topping the list of guests of the emirate's hotels. The number of British visitors was up 17 percent compared to the same period in 2010, **while tourists from Russia also jumped substantially by 46 percent, bringing the number of Russian visitors to 6,323**, according to the Abu Dhabi government.

The emirate, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, is investing billions of dollars in tourism and infrastructure to diversify away from oil. Abu Dhabi accounts for around 55 percent of the UAE's economy.

The number of hotels and hotel apartments in Abu Dhabi increased by around 5.5 percent last year compared to 2009, with the number rising to 116, according to governmental data.

Hotel revenues rose by six percent to 1.9 billion dirhams (\$517 million) despite falling room rates, while the average hotel occupancy rate jumped to 71 percent, an increase of 10 percent compared to the same period last year.