

TIME EVOLUTION OF THE TOURISTS IN THE ROMANIAN RURAL AREAS

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SUMMARY

The number of tourists registered in Romania and, in its rural areas is, normally, increasing year-by-year, fact that requires an analysis of the number of tourists accommodated at national level and in the rural areas, on one hand, and, the share of foreign tourists in the total number of tourists on the other hand. The analysis is based on the official data offered by the National Institute of Statistics, and, because of its availability, the analysis of the rural tourism is focused only on the rural touristic boarding houses.

Table 1

Time evolution of the tourists in the Romanian rural areas

Type of establishment	Type of tourists	UM	Year								Average rhythm
			2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
Total	Total	Number of persons	4920129	4874777	4847496	5056693	5638517	5805096	6216028	6971925	5.11
	Romanian		4053105	3960268	3848288	3951718	4279023	4375185	4836196	5420968	4.24
	Foreigners		867024	914509	999208	1104975	1359494	1429911	1379832	1550957	8.66
	Share of Romanians	%	82.38	81.24	79.39	78.15	75.89	75.37	77.80	77.75	
Rural touristic boarding houses	Total	Number of persons	15596	21244	32201	47444	96823	170164	217020	288508	51.71
	Romanian		14071	18425	28736	42173	86243	152521	198987	268065	52.35
	Foreigners		1525	2819	3465	5271	10580	17643	18033	20443	44.89
	Share of Romanians	%	90.22	86.73	89.24	88.89	89.07	89.63	91.69	92.91	

Source: Official web site of National Institute of Statistics, <http://www.insse.ro>, last accessed 25 of July 2008

It is difficult to resume in a few words the complexity of the phenomena regarding the time evolution of the tourism during the last 8 years, but there are two things that can not be neglected: the average increase rate is more than 10 times higher in rural areas (except for foreigners) and also the total share of Romanian's tourists. These facts allow the authors to conclude that investments in the rural tourism accommodation are feasible, but there is still a huge market insufficiently won by the Romanian rural areas, thus the ones of foreign tourists. These are the directions in which the priorities of rural tourism strategy should be focused.

REFERENCES

1. ***, Official web site of National Institute of Statistics, <http://www.insse.ro>, last accessed 25 of July 2008.