

TOURISM CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: *Romania represents one of the countries with a very high touring potential due to the natural resources, more precisely the relief, flora and fauna are unique at European scale. Even if the potential of this sector is not valuated to maximum, presently the tourism represents a very important sector of national economy due to the factors involved and to the results obtained. Lately, the national economy have been affected by the economic and financial crises, but the tourism registered a very dynamic evolution. In many areas the tourism, more precisely the rural tourism and the agro-tourism are the only possibilities for the development of those areas.*

Key words: *tourism, national economy, results, activity*

INTRODUCTION

In Romania we find a third of the natural springs from Europe and also a significant number of localities that detain natural therapeutical elements as water, mud and gases. Another touristic point is represented by the Romanian seaside, but this attraction has a seasonal character. Romania disposes of 245 kilometers of seaside from the Danube Delta in north and till the border with Bulgaria in south. There are many resorts on the seaside and important seaports.

Tourism activity in our country is also supported by the cultural inheritance from which we can remember 30 monuments that can be found the UNESCO World Inheritance. We refer to the wooden churches from Maramureș, the painted churches from Moldova and the Dacian strongholds from Orăștie Mountains.

Totally in Romania we fiind over 6,600 monuments with national importance and over 670 museums.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

With such touristic inheritance, in our country the tourism has to represent one of the most important fields of the national economy.

In this paper we try to analyze the contribution of tourism to the national economy. We don't refer only to the production, intermediate consumption and gross value added but also to the touristic infrastructure, the base of the touristic activity.

RESEARCH RESULTS

In 2008, the gross domestic product from hotels and restaurants represented 16.95% from the total gross domestic product at country level.

In 2005 the production in tourism field was 11306.6 and in 2009 the production was 20327.8 lei million current prices which mean that in a five years period the production increased with almost 79%. The increasing trend was kept also by the intermediate consumption, but in this case the percentage was even higher than in the production case and it represented 90%. The gross value added increased with 66% from 2005 till 2009. All this values represent significant changes that were supported by the touristic infrastructure

Table 1
Production, intermediate consumption and gross value added, by activity, lei
million current prices

No.	Specification	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	Production	11306.6	15275.5	17872.1	20520.1	20327.8
2	Intermediate consumption	6216.7	8654.0	10054.8	11792.8	11870.2
3	Gross value added	5089.9	6621.5	7817.3	8727.3	8457.6

Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2011

In the mentioned period the number of hotels and motels increased from 1154 units in 2005 to 1397 units in 2009. The hostels duplicated their number and from 58 units, they reached 114 units. The touristic inns, the campings and houselet-type units, school and pre-school camps, ships accommodations spaces are the few form of establishments that in this period registered a decline of the number.

In 2005 in Romania were 4226 establishments of touristic reception with function of touristic accommodation and in 2009 their number was with 23.56% bigger, as we can observe in the table 2.

Table 2
Establishments of touristic reception with functions of touristic accommodation

No.	Specification	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
1	Hotels and motels	1154	1220	1231	1264	1316	1397
2	Hostels	58	75	79	81	97	114
3	Touristic inns	11	9	6	5	5	4
4	Touristic chalets	113	116	108	116	123	134
5	Campings and houselet - type units	124	121	111	109	101	100
6	Touristic villas and bungalows	1021	1040	974	982	1012	1035
7	School and pre-school camps	151	128	115	111	111	92
8	Touristic boarding houses	597	702	736	783	878	949
9	Agro-touristic boarding houses	956	1259	1292	1348	1412	1354
10	Touristic halting places	29	31	30	31	30	32
11	Holiday villages	3	2	3	3	4	4
12	Ships accommodation spaces	9	7	9	7	6	7
13	Total	4226	4710	4694	4840	5095	5222

Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2011

In the period 2009-2010 the number of establishment of 5, 4 and 3 stars as category of comfort increased while the number of 2 stars and 1 star establishment decreased. The largest increasing was in the category 3 stars where from 64224 places in 2009 reached 75385 places in 2010, that means an increasing with 11,161 places in this category. The economic and financial crises from the last years influences the activity in tourism and more precisely here we refer to touristic chalets, school and pre-school champs, agro-touristic boarding houses and touristic halting places, as presented in table 3.

In only 2 years, the accommodation capacity in operation increased from 61104 thousands places-days to 63808 thousands places-days. The most significant increasing was in the 3 stars category where the difference represents 15.88% from the value registered in 2009. Also the 4 stars category developed from 8726 thousands places-days in 2009 to 9792 thousands places-days in 2010. The 5 stars category registered a slowly increasing while capacity in the 2 stars, 1 star and not classified categories decreased.

The main touristic destinations in Romania are the seaside, the spas, the mountains resorts, the Danube Delta, county residence towns and other localities where agro-tourism is practiced predominantly. On the seaside the number of establishments of touristic reception with function of touristic accommodation increased from 946 in 2009 to 1014 in

2010. Starting from this changes also there were registered changes in existing capacity and from this category we underlined the hotels.

Table 4

Accommodation capacity in operation, thou places-days

No.	Specification	Category of comfort						Total
		5 stars	4 stars	3 stars	2 stars	1 star	Not classified	
2009								
1	Hotels	1902	7406	11524	16829	2666	386	40713
2	Motels	-	-	506	919	285	9	1719
3	Hostels	-	-	570	492	48	52	162
4	Touristic inns	-	-	-	-	3	14	7
5	Touristic chalets	-	-	231	418	524	253	426
6	Campings and houselet - type units	-	3	56	219	596	141	105
7	Touristic villas and bungalows	24	48	825	1409	619	41	166
8	School and pre-school camps	-	-	-	-	-	1855	855
9	Touristic boarding houses	38	62	166	811	314	12	903
10	Agro-touristic boarding houses	64	81	767	276	247	-	735
11	Touristic halting places	-	-	5	112	57	-	74
12	Holiday villages	-	-	-	39	-	-	9
13	Ships accommodation spaces	-	6	53	-	1	-	0
14	Total	2028	726	17703	24524	5360	2763	1104
2010								
1	Hotels	1931	8325	13284	16253	2520	382	42695
2	Motels	-	-	608	949	261	9	827
3	Hostels	-	-	52	528	41	53	274
4	Touristic inns	-	-	-	-	-	13	3
5	Touristic chalets	-	-	350	367	505	227	449
6	Campings and houselet - type units	-	52	57	233	702	63	1107
7	Touristic villas and bungalows	39	249	813	1351	519	21	992
8	School and pre-school camps	-	-	-	-	-	1764	1764
9	Touristic boarding houses	50	663	2639	1813	308	18	5491
10	Agro-touristic boarding houses	72	466	2052	2073	229	-	4892
11	Touristic halting places	-	-	8	114	54	-	186
12	Holiday villages	-	-	1	38	-	-	39
13	Ships accommodation spaces	-	37	42	-	-	-	79
14	Total	2092	9792	20516	23719	5139	2550	63808

Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2011

Even with all these positive changes of the existing capacity, the value of indices of net using of capacity in operation and the average duration of stay were smaller in 2010 than in 2009 on the seaside.

The lack of investments in spas tourism and the changes that were made in the programs for pensioner persons for balneary tourism affected the development of establishment of touristic reception with function of touristic accommodation. So from 2009 to 2010, the number of these establishments increased only with 9 units, from which 2 were included in the hotels category. But in the case of spas for the other indicators, respectively for the existing capacity, the capacity in operation, the arrivals, the indices of net using of capacity in operation and the average duration of stay the values from 2010 were smaller than the ones from the year 2009.

In the mentioned period, in the mountains resorts were made investments especially with funds from European Unions through the development programs. The investments usually were materialised in cable installations, in sky-lifts and in artificial snow producing installations. Few resorts were equipped also with nocturne installation so the tourists can enjoy even in the night by the facilities of the resort.

Table 5

Touristic accommodation capacity and activity, by touristic destination

No.	Specification	Touristic destinations						Total
		Seaside	Spas	Mountain resorts	Danube Delta	County residence towns	Other localities	
2009								
1	Establishments of touristic reception with functions of touristic accommodation, number	946	377	1052	141	980	1599	5095
2	of which: hotels, number	309	118	118	18	443	164	1170
3	Existing capacity, places	118835	37419	35395	4988	64599	42250	303486
4	of which: hotels, places	76667	27569	12441	1571	50151	11080	179479
5	Capacity in operation, thou places-days	9114	9371	9906	543	22015	10155	61104
6	of which: hotels, thou places-days	7560	7643	3883	363	17737	3527	40713
7	Arrivals, thou	788	640	831	70	2884	928	6141
8	of whom: foreigners, thou	32	23	81	16	980	144	1276
9	Overnight stays, thou	3518	4625	1858	124	5393	1807	17325
10	of which: foreigners, thou	149	92	187	30	1926	284	2668
11	Indices of net using of capacity in operation, %	38.6	49.4	18.8	22.9	24.5	17.8	28.4
12	Average duration of stay, days	4.5	7.2	2.2	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.8
2010								
13	Establishments of touristic reception with functions of touristic accommodation, number	1014	386	1038	127	1063	1594	5222
14	of which: hotels, number	318	120	121	15	496	176	1246
15	Existing capacity, places	121003	36706	35426	4287	71877	42399	311698
16	of which: hotels, places	77091	26975	12774	1080	55548	12053	185521
17	Capacity in operation, thou places-days	8976	9150	10126	549	23884	11123	63808
18	of which: hotels, thou places-days	7590	7392	4012	388	19363	3950	42695
19	Arrivals, thou	703	568	815	68	3012	907	6073
20	of whom: foreigners, thou	31	22	87	14	1047	145	1346
21	Overnight stays, thou	2934	3910	1773	109	5584	1741	16051
22	of which: foreigners, thou	134	90	194	24	2036	289	2767
23	Indices of net using of capacity in operation, %	32.7	42.7	17.5	19.8	23.4	15.7	25.2
24	Average duration of stay, days	4.2	6.9	2.2	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.6

Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2011

But the number of establishments of touristic reception with function of touristic accommodation decreased in the two years with 14 units, but the number of hotel increased from 118 to 121. The existing capacity in hotels reached in 2010 12774 places, that means a 333 places more than in 2009. Positive changes were underlined also in the capacity in operation and in this category in hotels, more exactly.

The number of arrivals expressed in thousands declined from 2009 but the number of arrivals of foreigners increased. The increasing number of foreigners arrivals influenced also the overnights stays and so in the year 2010 were registered 194 thousands overnight stays of foreigners.

The indices of net using of capacity in operation reduced from 18.8 to 17.5% in 2010, while the average duration of the stay remain the same as in the year 2009, more precisely 2.2 days.

The Danube Delta is one of the touristic destination in which the number of establishments of touristic reception with functions of touristic accommodation decreased from 141 to 127 units in 2010.

If in the year 2009 in Danube Delta we could find 18 hotels in the year 2010 we could find only 15 hotels, with the capacity of 1080 places. In the year 2010 the capacity in operation was 549 thousands places-days, from which in hotels 388 thousands places-days. The arrivals decreased from 70 thousands to 68 thousands and the difference was represented by the number of foreigners arrivals.

Also in the case of Danube Delta, the value of indices of net using of capacity in operation and the value for the average duration of the stay, we could observe the general diminishing trend.

The number of hotels as establishment of touristic reception with functions of touristic accommodation in the counties residence towns registered the largest increasing from the category. So, the hotels starting from 443 units in 2009 they reached 496 units in 2010. Usually in the counties residence towns we meet the business tourism and due to this fact the tourism in the towns in not very much influences by the other factors that's affect the tourism generally. The counties residences towns are the only destination where the number of arrivals increased from 2884 thousands in the year 2009 to 3012 thousands in the year 2010. In this category a significant percentage is represented by the foreigners arrivals.

In 2010 the indices of net using of capacity in operation was smaller than the previous year while the average duration of the stay remained the same, 1.9 days.

Through other localities as touristic destination we understand other cities than the county residence towns and the villages. In the cities many forms of tourism can be practiced, while in the villages we meet especially the rural tourism and agro-tourism.

The number of hotels in other localities grew with 12 units from 2009 to 2010 that brought a plus of 149 places to the existing capacity. Even if the number of foreigners arrivals was smaller in 2010 than in the previous year, they remained more so the number of overnight stays increased with 1 thousands in one year.

The indices of net using of capacity in operation is smaller in the last year but the average duration of the stay remain the same.

CONCLUSIONS

Starting from the data presented above we can affirm that tourism is one of the most important sectors of the national economy.

Its development can be influenced by the development of other fields as businesses, culture, religion, the environmental protection etc.

In the last years, there were made investments with the aim of attracting new tourists, but are still needed serious investments in infrastructure in order to be able to compete to the touristic destination from aboard.

The infrastructure from tourism is not used at its maximum potential due to the problems from the field, but it gives the possibility to reach a higher percentage of the tourism contribution the the national economy, to the gross domestic product when these problems would have been resolved.

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