

Capacity and Turnover in Private Accommodation

According to Governmental Decree 110/1997 (25 June) the commercial use for tourism of flats, holiday chalets, and other buildings, or parts of buildings, and the localities and areas pertaining to them, is classified as the provision of private accommodation if the number of beds used is no greater than ten (or the number of rooms is no greater than five). The hosting of paying guests and providing rural accommodation is commercial use for tourism of private accommodation, but the renting of a flat, a house and subletting do not fall into this category. Providing private accommodation in towns, and special therapeutic and holiday resorts is classified as private room service, whereas the providing village accommodation is a similar activity carried out in villages and farmsteads outside of the areas mentioned above. (In Hungary a second or third home is not classified as private accommodation.)

Between 1998 and 2002¹ the number of units providing private room service rose by 32%, and the number of those offering rural room service rose by 39%. In the same period the bed capacity rose by 38% and 47% respectively.

Between 1998 and 2002 the number of guests at private rooms rose by a total of 4.4%, but the number of guest nights they spent fell by 11%. The ratio of domestic and foreign guests and guest nights in this same period changed, to the favour of Hungarian guest turnover, although even in 2002 the proportion of foreigners exceeded that of Hungarians: while in 1998 31% of guests and 30% of guest nights were Hungarian, by 2002 the proportion of Hungarian guests was 45%, and the proportion of guest nights had risen to 40%. The average length of stay in the period under examination fell: in the case of domestic guests the drop was from 6.4 days to 5.0 days, and for foreign guests from 6.8 days to 6.3 days.

In the same period, the number of guests in rural accommodation grew much more 51% than for guests at private rooms, and the number of guest nights also rose by more than 33%. Compared to private room service, Hungarian guests and guest nights were dominant in rural accommodation in the period under survey: in 1998 domestic guests staying in rural accommodation and also the number of guest nights spent by them accounted for 55% of the total turnover. By 2002 the ratios had changed somewhat, with the proportion of Hungarian guests rising to 67%, and the proportion of guest nights they spent to 63%, and in parallel to

¹ The HCSO has published data on private accommodation since 1998. Previously hosting paying guests was classified as public accommodation establishments.



Tourism in Hungary 1990-2002

the increase in the number of guests, the length of stay showed a decrease from 5.3 days to 4.4 days (table 1).

Table 1

Main Data for Private Accommodation in Hungary, 1998-2002

	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002	
	Private room service	Rural tourism								
Number of units	29 239	4 893	33 756	5 533	36 549	6 194	37 165	6 675	38 517	6 806
Number of beds	146 978	26 430	170 603	29 768	185 727	34 435	191 818	36 884	203 448	38 740
Number of guests	491 475	81 081	530 819	104 015	514 896	109 832	538 465	117 486	512 922	122 109
Domestic	151 937	44 595	191 070	61 153	185 960	69 174	187 468	72 141	232 926	82 190
Foreign	339 538	36 486	339 749	42 862	328 936	40 658	350 997	45 345	279 996	39 919
Number of guest nights	3 272 465	431 272	3 484 878	530 485	3 349 196	518 488	3 279 098	528 483	2 912 970	575 530
Domestic	969 828	237 200	1 277 068	274 541	1 120 322	297 362	1 077 482	295 679	1 161 145	360 379
Foreign	2 302 637	194 072	2 207 810	255 944	2 228 874	221 126	2 201 607	232 810	1 751 825	215 151
Average length of stay (days)	6.7	5.3	6.6	5.1	6.5	4.7	6.1	4.5	5.7	4.7
Domestic	6.8	5.3	6.5	6.0	6.8	5.4	6.3	5.1	6.3	5.4
Foreign	6.4	5.3	6.7	4.5	6.0	4.3	5.7	4.1	5.0	4.4

Source: Central Statistical Office, Hungary