



PRESS RELEASE

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Tourism – March and Quarter I of 2008

In March 2008, compared to the corresponding month of the previous year, the arrivals in the establishments of tourists' reception with functions of tourists' accommodation registered an increase of 2.9 %, while the overnight stays decreased by 11.9 %.

Compared to March 2007, in March 2008 there was an increase registered by the customs in both the arrivals of foreign visitors (26.6 %) and the departures of Romanian visitors abroad (19.0 %).

In the first quarter of 2008, compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, the arrivals in the establishments of tourists' reception with functions of tourists' accommodation registered an increase of 6.2 %, while the overnight stays registered a slight decrease of 0.6 %.

March 2008 compared to March 2007

| | Arrivals | | | Overnight stays | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| | March 2008 thousand tourists | March 2007 thousand tourists | March 2008 compared to March 2007 -%- | March 2008 thousand tourists | March 2007 thousand tourists | March 2008 compared to March 2007 -%- |
| Total | 462.4 | 449.3 | 102.9 | 1047.6 | 1188.9 | 88.1 |
| Romanian Tourists | 357.9 | 350.3 | 102.2 | 814.1 | 970.1 | 83.9 |
| Foreign Tourists | 104.5 | 99.0 | 105.6 | 233.5 | 218.8 | 106.7 |

In March 2008, **the arrivals** in the establishments of tourists' reception amounted to 462.4 thousand, 2.9 % higher than those of March 2007.

In March 2008, the arrivals of the Romanian tourists in the establishments of tourists' reception with functions of tourists' accommodation were 77.4 % of the total arrivals, while the foreign tourists were 22.6 % of the total arrivals, weights roughly equal to those of March 2007.

In March 2008, the arrivals in hotels had a weight of 75.5 % of the total arrivals in the establishments of tourists' reception with functions of tourists' accommodation, 1.2 % higher than in March 2007.

In March 2008, **the overnight stays** in the establishments of tourists' reception amounted to 1047.6 thousand, 11.9 % lower than those of March 2007.

In March 2008, the Romanian tourists' overnight stays in the establishments of tourists' reception with functions of tourists' accommodation were 77.7 % of the total overnight stays, while the foreign tourists' overnight stays were 22.3 %, weights roughly equal to those of March 2007.

In March 2008, **the net use index** of accommodation places was 25.2 % on total tourists' accommodation, 4.6% lower than that of March 2007.

In March 2008, inns (29.9 %), hotels (29,3 %) and hotels for youth (26,8 %) registered higher net use indices of accommodation places.

In March 2008, **the arrivals of foreign visitors to Romania**, according to customs, amounted to 604.0 thousand, 26.6 % higher than those of March 2007. Most of the foreign visitors came from European countries (95.3 %). 62.1% of the total arrivals of the foreign visitors to Romania were from European Union Member States, out of which the most arrivals registered tourists from: Hungary (32.3 %), Bulgaria (25.9 %), Germany (8.8 %) and Italy (8.0 %).

In March 2008, compared to the corresponding month of the previous year, the road transport registered an increase of 33.8 %.

In March 2008, **departures of Romanian visitors abroad**, according to customs, amounted to 870.4 thousand, 19.0 % higher compared to March 2007. The Romanian visitors abroad mostly used the means of road transport, 78.9 % of the total departures.

Compared to March 2007, this year there was an increase in both air and road transport of 37.6 % and 15.8 %, respectively.

Quarter I of 2008 compared to Quarter I of 2007

| | Arrivals | | | Overnight stays | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| | Quarter I 2008 thousand tourists | Quarter I 2007 thousand tourists | Quarter I 2008 compared to Quarter I 2007 -%- | Quarter I 2008 thousand tourists | Quarter I 2007 thousand tourists | Quarter I 2008 compared to Quarter I 2007 -%- |
| Total | 1286.3 | 1211.0 | 106.2 | 2903.5 | 2922.2 | 99.4 |
| Romanian Tourists | 1009.5 | 955.0 | 105.7 | 2263.6 | 2335.1 | 96.9 |
| Foreign Tourists | 276.8 | 256.0 | 108.1 | 639.9 | 587.1 | 109.0 |

In the first quarter of 2008, **the arrivals** in the establishments of tourists' reception amounted to 1286.3 thousand, 6.2 % higher than those of the first quarter of 2007.

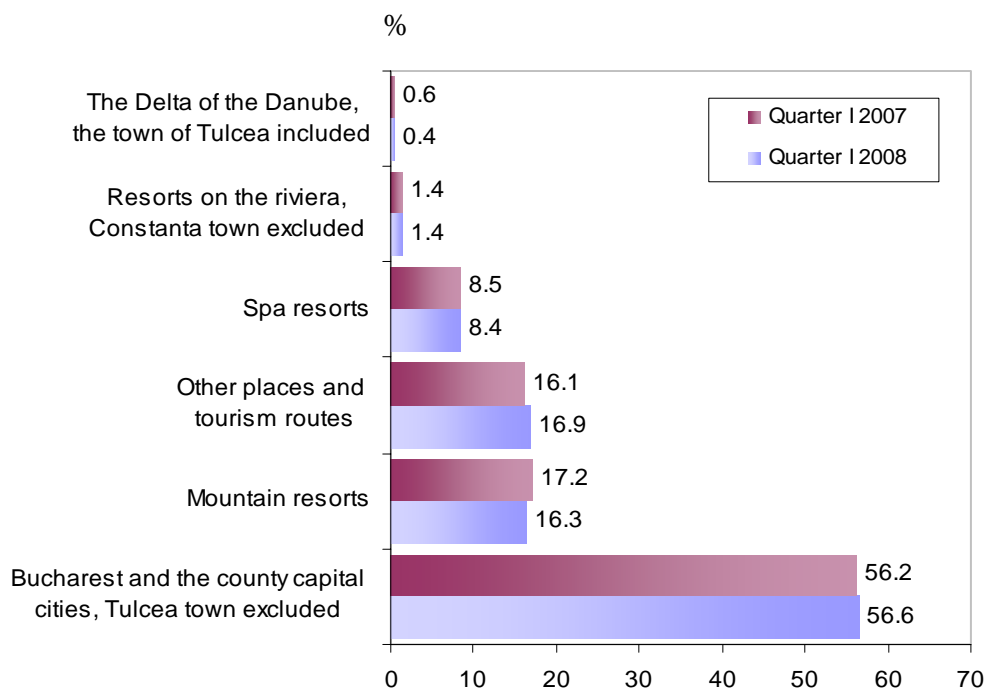
In the first quarter of 2008, the arrivals of the Romanian tourists in the establishments of tourists' reception with functions of tourists' accommodation were 78.5 % of the total arrivals, while the foreign tourists were 21.5 % of the total arrivals, weights roughly equal to those of the first quarter of 2007.

In quarter I of 2008, the arrivals in hotels had a weight of 73.6 % of the total arrivals in the establishments of tourists' reception with functions of tourists' accommodation, 3.9 % higher than that of quarter I of 2007.

In the first quarter of 2008, **the overnight stays** in the establishments of tourists' reception amounted to 2903.5 thousand, 0.6 % lower than those of the first quarter of 2007.

In quarter I 2008, **the overnight stays** of the Romanians in the establishments of tourists' reception amounted to 78.0 % of the total number of overnight stays, while the foreign tourists represented 22.0 %, weights roughly equal to those of the first quarter of 2007.

The structure of arrivals and overnight stays in the establishments of tourists' reception with functions of tourists' accommodation, on tourist areas, in quarter I 2008, compared to quarter I 2007



In the first quarter of 2008, the **net use index** of accommodation places was 25.0 % on total tourists' accommodation, 1.3% lower than in the first quarter of 2007.

Hotels (28.8 %) and hotels for youth (27.6 %) registered higher use indices of accommodation places in the first quarter of 2008.

In quarter I 2008, **the arrivals of foreign visitors to Romania**, according to customs, amounted to 1723.1 thousand, 46.4 % higher than the first quarter of 2007. Most of the foreign visitors came from European countries (95.7 %). 61.7 % of the total arrivals of the foreign visitors to Romania were from the European Union Member States, out of which the most arrivals registered tourists from: Hungary (35.0 %), Bulgaria (23.1 %), Italy and Germany (8.5 % each).

Compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, the road transport registered an important increase (61.7 %).

In quarter I 2008, **the departures of Romanian visitors abroad**, according to customs, amounted to 2712.6 thousand, 36.6 % higher than in quarter I of 2007. The Romanian visitors abroad mostly used the means of road transport (79.0 % of the total departures).

Compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, the air transport registered an increase of 47.1 % and the road transport an increase of 35.0 %.

METHODOLOGICAL EXPLANATION

1. The data source consists of the monthly statistical survey concerning the "Attendance of the establishments of tourists' reception with functions of tourists' accommodation" (TURISM 1 A) for the arrivals and overnight stays in the establishments of tourists' reception with functions of tourists' accommodation, according to the European Council Directive no.57/1995 regarding the data collection in tourism statistics.

The data regarding the arrivals of the foreign visitors to Romania and the departures of the Romanian visitors abroad, according to customs, are collected from administrative sources monthly – The General Inspectorate of the Frontier Police within The Ministry of Domestic Affairs and Administrative Reformation.

2. The statistical survey regarding the "Attendance of the establishments of tourists' reception with functions of tourists' accommodation" applies to all the establishments of tourists' reception having a minimum of 5 places of accommodation and operating in the month of reference – about 3600 economic operators.

3. The data are temporary and are subject to revision periodically based on the retroactive corrections made by the economic operators.

For more information, see the Monthly Statistical Bulletin, date of issue May 13, 2008

The next issue of the press release will be on Tuesday, June 3, 2008