

# THE ASSESSMENT OF TOURIST FLOW IN VRANCEA COUNTY'S TOURISTY AND AGRO-TOURISTY BOARDING HOUSES

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## Abstract

*The aim of this study was to investigate the tourist flow in Vrancea county's touristy and agro-touristy boarding houses using common tourist flow indicators, such as: mean number of tourists ( $N_t$ ), mean duration of sojourn ( $D_s$ ), and density of touristy movement ( $D$ ) depending on the types of tourists. Our research was carried on considering the registered data between 2010 and 2015. The investigated tourist flow indicators shown the following results: the average number of Romanian tourists in touristy boarding houses was higher than in agro-touristy boarding houses (9.02 and 32.56); in the same time, the average number of foreign tourists in touristy boarding houses was higher than in agro-touristy boarding houses (1.32 and 0.76). The mean duration of sojourn ( $D_s$ ) for Romanian tourist in touristy boarding houses was lower than in agro-touristy boarding houses (1.48 and 1.46 days). The mean duration of sojourn ( $D_s$ ) for foreign tourist followed the same trend as for Romanian tourist, being lower in touristy boarding houses than in agro-touristy boarding houses (2.06 and 2.95 days, respectively). The density of touristy movement ( $D$ ) was lower in touristy boarding houses than in agro-touristy boarding houses (0.035 and 0.234 tourists).*

**Key words:** mean number of tourists; mean duration of sojourn; density of touristy movement

## INTRODUCTION

Vrancea, ancient hearth of Romanian civilisation, is a liaison bridge between those three historical provinces – Moldova, Walachia and Transylvania being placed is the central-east part of Romania, at exterior of Carpathians Curve in Putna River basin. By its position with direct access to two main European routes, road and rail, which cross Romania and with a geographical landscape created by various relief forms, having areas with a high historical, ethnographical or viticultural resonances, Vrancea County offers a touristy potential with a remarkable value.

Tourism development, its integration in the structures of a modern economy, in the sphere of populations' necessities and consumption, is reflected in a continuous enrichment of its content and into a diversification of manifestation forms.

Participation at touristy movement of some larger social categories, associated with variety of demands' motives, creates new forms of tourism, their adaptation being permanent in according with tourists demands and travelling conditions. Intensification of domestic and international travelling, intensification of tourism role in the frame of international relations as well as in economical and social life generated increased preoccupations to evaluate its dimensions and effects, for elaboration of a unitary system for recording and tracking of touristy movement [5].

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

The existent (installed) accommodation capacity represent the number of accommodation places for touristy utilization registered in the last document of reception, homologation and classification of the touristy unit, excluding the extra beds which could be placed in case of necessity. Places afferent to touristy units with function in complementary accommodation (houses, camping places, etc.) for a basic touristy unit

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(hotel, motel, camping etc.) and their utilisation are included in the basic structure [12].

A touristy structure with function in tourists' accommodation is represented by any construction, which provides permanent or seasonal accommodation services and other type of specific services for tourists. Touristy boarding houses are accommodation structures, having an accommodation capacity up to 20 rooms, totalizing maximum 60 places, functioned in citizens' houses or in independent buildings, which assure in special areas accommodation of tourists and conditions for meal preparing and serving. Agro-touristy boarding houses are accommodation units with a capacity of up to 8 rooms, functioned in citizens' houses or in independent buildings, which assure in special areas accommodation of tourists and conditions for meal preparing and serving, as well as the possibility to participate at different households and handicrafts activities [12].

In the number of tourists (entrances) accommodated in touristy units are included all the persons (Romanian and foreigner) which travel outside residence cities, on a period of less 12 months and whom stay at least one night in a touristy accommodation unit in areas visited in the country, the main reason of travel being other than the one for providing paid activities in the visited places [12].

The overnights (nr. days/tourist) represents each night for which a person is recorded into a touristy accommodation unit, no matter of its physical presence or not in room [12].

Quantification of touristy movement is based on different methods, with different complexity degrees, and use a large scale of indicators from which the most representative are: mean number of tourists, mean duration of sojourn, density of touristy movement.

Those indicators express the main characteristics of touristy movement and are calculated as follows [2]:

➤ **mean number of tourists** is expressed through the rate between sum of

tourists recorded in a certain period ( $\Sigma T$ ) and days number from that period ( $n$ ):

$$\bar{N}_t = \frac{\Sigma T}{n}$$

and show the intensity of touristy movement in a certain period of time (calendar or touristy season).

➤ **mean duration of sojourn** is determined by rate between number of days/tourist (NTZ) to number of tourist (T):

$$D_s = \frac{\Sigma NZT}{\Sigma NT}$$

and reflects the possibility of touristy offer to retain tourist in a certain area, region or country.

➤ **density of touristy movement** is the indicator which directly connect touristy movement with the resident population of area or country. Is calculated as rate between tourists number (T) and population number (P):

$$D = \frac{\Sigma T}{P}$$

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Any human action is motivated by extra-individual needs, which represent in their assembly possibility to universalize the person, through concept of human being whom lives in a diversity of forms actualised in the so distinct cultural context, simple named urban or rural [6].

Capitalization of touristy potential of a region could be synthetically expressed by some statistical indicators such as: capacity of touristy accommodation, entrances (number of tourists) and overnights (number days/tourist) [7, 8, 9, 10].

Touristy accommodation capacity existent in touristy and agro-touristy boarding houses from Vrancea County in period 2010–2015 (*tab. 1*), varied between 81–151 places in touristy boarding houses, majority of them being in Focșani City and between 193–449 places in agro-touristy boarding houses, majority of them being founded in Tulnici locality.

Table 1 Touristy accommodation capacity existent on structure types of touristy units (touristy boarding houses and agro-touristy boarding houses) and localities from Vrancea County

Type of touristy accommodation units	Localities	Years					
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
		UM: places					
Touristy boarding houses	Total	84	81	95	137	139	151
	Focșani City	34	81	95	137	139	139
	Adjud City	50	:	:	:	:	:
	Odoboești town	:	:	:	:	:	12
Agro-touristy boarding houses	Total	370	449	401	315	309	193
	Mărășești town	8	8	8	:	:	:
	Bolotești	10	:	:	:	:	:
	Cîmpuri	10	:	:	:	:	:
	Garoafa	:	52	:	:	8	8
	Golești	14	14	14	14	14	14
	Jarișteea	9	:	:	:	:	:
	Popești	10	10	10	10	10	:
	Soveja	26	26	26	26	26	:
	Tâmboiești	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Tulnici	267	329	333	255	241	161
	Vârteșcoiu	6	:	:	:	:	:

Legend: ":" – missing data;

Note: Yearly SNI collect statistical data from touristy accommodation units with an existent accommodation capacity of minimum 5 beds and over.

Source: insse.ro

Number of touristy accommodation units with accommodation functions such as touristy boarding houses and agro-touristy boarding houses, from Vrancea County, in period 2010–2015, was a lower one (*tab. 2*). The number of touristy boarding houses from Vrancea County, in analysed period (2010–2015), was between 5 and 9 boarding houses, most of them being founded in Focșani City.

The number of agro-touristy boarding houses from Vrancea County in the same period (2010–2015), varied between 13 and 24, the only locality with more than one boarding house being Tulnici locality. The numbers of tourists (entrances) in touristy and agro-touristy boarding houses on tourists' types in Vrancea County, from 2010 to 2015, are presented in *table 3*.

Table 2 Structures of touristy units with function of accommodation on structures types (touristy boarding houses and agro-touristy boarding houses) and localities from Vrancea County

Type of touristy accommodation units	Localities	Years					
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
		UM: number					
Touristy boarding houses	Total	5	6	7	8	8	9
	Focșani City	4	6	7	8	8	8
	Adjud City	1	:	:	:	:	:
	Odoboești town	:	:	:	:	:	1
Agro-touristy boarding houses	Total	24	23	21	18	19	13
	Mărășești town	1	1	1	:	:	:
	Bolotești	1	:	:	:	:	:
	Cîmpuri	1	:	:	:	:	:
	Garoafa	:	1	:	:	1	1
	Golești	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Jarișteea	1	:	:	:	:	:
	Popești	1	1	1	1	1	:
	Soveja	1	1	1	1	1	:
	Tâmboiești	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Tulnici	15	17	16	14	14	10
	Vârteșcoiu	1	:	:	:	:	:

Legend:";" - missing data;

Note: Are not taken in account in statistical research, touristy accommodation units with an installed accommodation capacity less than 5 places

Source: insse.ro

Table 3 Tourists' entrances in touristy accommodation units on structure types (touristy boarding houses and agro-touristy boarding houses) and tourist types in Vrancea County

Type of touristy accommodation units	Types of tourists	Years					
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
		UM: number of persons					
Touristy boarding houses	TOTAL	1056	1473	3160	4459	5580	6948
	Romanians	958	1300	2912	3450	4848	6305
	Foreigners	98	173	248	1009	732	643
Agro-touristy boarding houses	TOTAL	5233	7914	6234	3885	8542	6152
	Romanians	5071	7747	5643	3698	8384	5741
	Foreigners	162	167	591	187	158	411

Source: insse.ro

The number of tourists on type, in touristy boarding houses in the analysed period (2010–2015) enlightened that over 87% (87.19%) from entrances belongs to Romanian tourists. The number of tourist on their type, in agro-touristy boarding houses in the same period (2010–2015) showed that over 95% (95.58%) from entrances belongs

also to Romanian tourists. The number of tourists (entrances) in touristy and agro-touristy boarding houses on localities from Vrancea County, between 2010–2015, is presented in *table 4*. The number of tourists (entrances) varied between 1056 and 6948 in touristy boarding houses and 3885–8542 in agro-touristy boarding houses.

Table 4 Tourists' entrances in touristy accommodation units on structure types (touristy boarding houses and agro-touristy boarding houses) and localities in Vrancea County

Type of touristy accommodation units	Types of tourists	Years					
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
		UM: number of persons					
Touristy boarding houses	TOTAL	1056	1473	3160	4459	5580	6948
	Focșani City	850	1473	3160	4459	5499	5900
	Adjud City	206	:	:	:	:	:
	Odobești town	:	:	:	:	81	1048
Agro-touristy boarding houses	TOTAL	5233	7914	6234	3885	8542	6152
	Focșani City	:	:	:	:	:	4895
	Mărășești town	:	:	483	:	:	:
	Bolotești	120	:	:	:	:	:
	Garoafa	:	:	:	:	922	506
	Golești	735	809	605	526	825	284
	Soveja	535	687	317	60	54	5
Tulnici	3843	6418	4829	3299	6741	462	

Source: insse.ro'

The number of days/tourist (overnights) in touristy and agro-touristy boarding houses on tourists' type in Vrancea County, during 2010–2015, is presented in *table 5*.

The number of days/tourist (overnights), on tourists' type, in touristy boarding houses in the analysed period (2010–2015),

enlightened that over 84% from overnights (84.04%) belongs to Romanian tourists. The number of days/tourist (overnights), on tourists' type, in agro-touristy boarding houses in the same period (2010–2015), show that over 92% from overnights (92.51%) belongs to Romanian tourists.

Table 5 Overnights of tourists in touristic accommodation units, on structure types (touristic boarding houses and agro-touristic boarding houses) and tourist types in Vrancea County

Type of touristic accommodation units	Types of tourists	Years					
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
		UM: number of nights					
Touristic boarding houses	TOTAL	1736	2334	4640	7422	8655	9106
	Romanians	1513	1919	4041	5852	7162	7997
	Foreigners	223	415	599	1570	1493	1109
Agro-touristic boarding houses	TOTAL	11403	10480	9021	6044	11118	8251
	Romanians	10948	10071	7914	5152	10462	7555
	Foreigners	455	409	1107	892	656	696

Source: insse.ro

Population in accordance with its residency represent the number of persons with Romanian citizenship and residence of Romanian territory, divided by administrative-territorial criteria. Residence of a person is the address at which he declared that have the main house, as it is stipulated in the identity act, as it is registered by the state administrative organs.

To establish the value of that indicator is not taken in account the usual residency, period and/or motive of absence from home [12]. Population after residency at 1<sup>st</sup> of January on localities in Vrancea County is presented in *table 6*. Those values will be utilised at calculus of density of touristic movement in Vrancea County (on localities) in period 2010–2015.

Table 6 Population in accordance with residency at 1<sup>st</sup> of January on localities in Vrancea County

Localities	Years					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	UM: number of persons					
TOTAL	398690	398076	396894	395687	394345	392955
Focșani City	97156	96852	96498	95858	95470	95127
Adjud City	20776	20882	20845	20750	20661	20543
Mărășești town	13550	13537	13545	13555	13517	13460
Odobești town	9106	9337	9448	9557	9591	9635
Bolotești	4895	4851	4821	4825	4840	4827
Garoafa	4810	4823	4806	4860	4830	4811
Golești	4119	4145	4238	4321	4406	4454
Soveja	2611	2558	2504	2434	2380	2308
Tulnici	4139	4126	4121	4148	4155	4147

Source: insse.ro

Quantification of touristic movement is based on different methods, with different complexity degrees, the most representative ones being: mean number of tourists (Nt), mean duration of sojourn (Ds), density of touristic movement (D) [1, 3, 4].

**Mean number of tourists (Nt)** in touristic and agro-touristic boarding houses from Vrancea County, in period 2010–2015, on type of tourists is presented in *table 7*.

This indicator which show the intensity of touristic movement in a certain period of time (calendar or touristic season) [11] in touristic and agro-touristic boarding houses from Vrancea County on type of tourists

recorded mean values, in those six analysed years (2010–2015), of 9.02 Romanian tourists and 1.32 foreigner tourists in touristic boarding houses and 32.56 Romanian tourists respectively 0.76 foreigner tourists in agro-touristic boarding houses, values which show a low intensity of touristic movement quantified in mean number of tourists. It was observed that mean number of Romanian tourists is greater than mean number of foreigner tourist both in touristic boarding houses, with 583.33% as well as in agro-touristic boarding houses, with 4184.21%.

Mean number of tourists (Nt) recorded in the analysed period (2010–2015), in Vrancea

County, show a higher intensity of touristy movement in agro-touristy boarding houses face to touristy boarding houses with 260.97% for Romanian tourists and a higher

intensity of touristy movement in touristy boarding houses face to agro-touristy boarding houses with 73.68% for foreigner tourists.

Table 7 Mean number of tourists in touristy accommodation units, on structure types (touristy boarding houses and agro-touristy boarding houses) and tourist types in Vrancea County

Type of touristy accommodation units	Types of tourists	Years					
		2010	2011	2012*	2013	2014	2015
		UM: mean number of persons					
Touristy boarding houses	TOTAL	2.98	3.94	8.63	12.22	15.29	19.03
	Romanians	2.62	3.57	7.95	9.46	13.28	17.27
	Foreigners	0.26	0.47	0.68	2.76	2.01	1.76
Agro-touristy boarding houses	TOTAL	14.33	21.68	17.03	10.64	23.40	16.85
	Romanians	13.89	21.22	15.42	10.13	22.97	15.72
	Foreigners	0.44	0.46	1.61	0.51	0.43	1.13

Note: \* - year 2012 was a bisect year with 366 days

**Mean duration of sojourn (Ds)** in touristy and agro-touristy boarding houses from Vrancea County, in period 2010–2015, on type of tourists is presented in *table 8*.

This indicator which show the mean period (days) of tourists' staying in accommodation spaces and reflects the possibility of retain the tourist in a certain area or region [11], in touristy and agro-touristy boarding houses from Vrancea County on type of tourists, in analysed period (2010-2015), show mean values of 1.48 days for Romanian tourists and 2.06 for foreigner tourists in touristy boarding houses respectively 1.46 days for Romanian tourists and 2.95 days for foreigner tourists in agro-touristy boarding houses, being observed the fact that the sojourn duration for foreigner tourists is greater than the one of Romanian tourists both in touristy boarding houses with 39.19% as well as in agro-touristy boarding houses, with 102.05%.

Mean duration of sojourn (Ds) in analysed period (2010–2015), in Vrancea County, show that fact that mean period (days) of tourists' staying in accommodation spaces is greater in touristy boarding houses face to agro-touristy ones with only 1.37% for Romanian tourists and that fact that mean period (days) of tourists' staying in accommodation spaces is greater in agro-touristy boarding houses face to touristy ones with 43.20% for foreigner tourists.

**Density of touristy movement (D)** is the indicator which directly connects touristy movement with residential population of an area or country.

Density of touristy movement (D) in touristy and agro-touristy boarding houses, in period 2010–2015, in localities from Vrancea County is presented in *table 9*.

Usually this indicator have a sub-unitary value in areas with average and low touristy movement [11], as it is in the case of touristy movement density in touristy and agro-touristy boarding houses in the localities from Vrancea County; so in the analysed period (2010–2015) means values of 0.035 tourists in touristy boarding houses and 0.234 tourists in agro-touristy boarding houses, show a very low touristy movement in connection with the residential population from the localities in which could be founded touristy and agro-touristy boarding houses in Vrancea County.

Density of touristy movement (D), on localities, in analysed period (2010–2015), as indicator which directly connects touristy movement with residential population of Vrancea County enlightened a higher touristy movement for agro-touristy boarding houses, which in their majority are presented in rural areas in comparison with touristy boarding houses which could be founded in urban areas with 568.57%.

Table 8 Mean duration of sojourn in touristy accommodation units, on structure types (touristy boarding houses and agro-touristy boarding houses) and tourist types in Vrancea County

Type of touristy accommodation units	Types of tourists	Years					
		2010	2011	2012*	2013	2014	2015
		UM: days					
Touristy boarding houses	TOTAL	1.64	1.58	1.47	1.66	1.55	1.31
	Romanians	1.58	1.47	1.39	1.69	1.47	1.27
	Foreigners	2.27	2.40	2.41	1.55	2.03	1.72
Agro-touristy boarding houses	TOTAL	2.18	1.32	1.45	1.55	1.30	1.34
	Romanians	2.16	1.30	1.40	1.39	1.24	1.31
	Foreigners	2.80	2.45	1.87	4.77	4.15	1.69

Note:\* - year 2012 was a bisect year with 366 days

Table 9 Density of touristy movement on localities from Vrancea County

Type of touristy accommodation units	Localities	Years					
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
		UM: places					
Touristy boarding houses	Focșani City	0.008	0.015	0.033	0.046	0.057	0.062
	Adjud City	0.010	-	-	-	-	-
	Odobești town	-	-	-	-	0.008	0.109
Agro-touristy boarding houses	Focșani City	-	-	-	-	-	0.051
	Mărășești town	-	-	0.035	-	-	-
	Bolotești	0.024	-	-	-	-	-
	Garoafa	-	-	-	-	0.109	0.105
	Golești	0.178	0.195	0.143	0.122	0.187	0.064
	Soveja	0.205	0.268	0.126	0.025	0.023	0.002
	Tulnici	0.928	1.778	1.349	0.929	1.904	0.131

## CONCLUSIONS

**Mean number of tourists (Nt)** in touristy and agro-touristy boarding houses from Vrancea County, on type of tourists recorded mean values for those six analysed years (2010–2015), of 9.02 Romanian tourists and 1.32 foreigner tourists in touristy boarding houses and 32.56 Romanian tourists respectively 0.76 foreigner tourists in agro-touristy boarding houses, values which show a low intensity of touristy movement quantified in mean number of tourists. It was observed that mean number of Romanian tourists is greater than mean number of foreigner tourist both in touristy boarding houses, with 583.33% as well as in agro-touristy boarding houses, with 4184.21%.

Mean number of tourists (Nt) recorded in the analysed period (2010–2015), in Vrancea County, show a higher intensity of touristy movement in agro-touristy boarding houses face to touristy boarding houses with 260.97% for Romanian tourists and a higher intensity of touristy movement in touristy boarding houses face to agro-touristy boarding houses with 73.68% for foreigner tourists.

**Mean duration of sojourn (Ds)** in touristy and agro-touristy boarding houses from Vrancea County, on type of tourists in the same analysed period (2010–2015), show mean values of 1.48 days for Romanian tourists and 2.06 for foreigner tourists in touristy boarding houses respectively 1.46 days for Romanian tourists and 2.95 days for foreigner tourists in agro-touristy boarding houses, being observed the fact that the sojourn duration for foreigner tourists is greater than the one of Romanian tourists both in touristy boarding houses with 39.19% as well as in agro-touristy boarding houses, with 102.05%.

Mean duration of sojourn (Ds) in analysed period (2010–2015), in Vrancea County, show that fact that mean period (days) of tourists' staying in accommodation spaces is greater in touristy boarding houses face to agro-touristy ones with only 1.37% for Romanian tourists and that fact that mean period (days) of tourists' staying in accommodation spaces is greater in agro-touristy boarding houses face to touristy ones with 43.20% for foreigner tourists.

Density of touristy movement (D) in touristy and agro-touristy boarding houses, on localities from Vrancea County in analysed period (2010–2015), show means values of 0.035 tourists in touristy boarding houses and 0.234 tourists in agro-touristy boarding houses, show a very low touristy movement in connection with the residential population from the localities in which could be founded touristy and agro-touristy boarding houses in Vrancea County. Density of touristy movement (D), as indicator which directly connects touristy movement with residential population of Vrancea County enlightened a higher touristy movement for agro-touristy boarding houses, which in their majority are presented in rural areas in comparison with touristy boarding houses which could be founded in urban areas with 568.57%.

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