METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

To improve the quality of statistics on tourist arrivals and overnight stays and on tourist facilities in Slovenia, in 2018 the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia started to use data from the Register of Accommodation Establishments and data collected via the eTourism system.

In addition to the transition for new data sources, the methodology of data coverage was also changed. From January 2018 on monthly data include all accommodation establishments, including those with fewer than 10 permanent beds. Before 2018 these accommodation establishments were not included in monthly statistics, since they reported only once a year for the whole year.

Due to the reasons mentioned above, data from January 2018 on are **not directly comparable with data for reference months before this date**. Monthly data until December 2017 are in the archives.

First estimates of the impact of the changed methodology and data coverage from new sources to facilitate understanding of differences between published data for the period up to 2017 and from 2018 on:

From January 2018 data coverage is complete, meaning that the monthly survey on tourist arrivals and overnight stays also covers accommodation establishments with fewer than 10 permanent beds. Data for 2017 show that these smaller accommodation establishments that were not included in the monthly survey and reported their data only for the entire year contributed 4% to the total annual number of arrivals and 5% to the total annual number of overnight stays.

The effects of described changes are evident and they are favourable: due to the setting up of the Register of Accommodation Establishments and the new electronic system of reporting data on guests the coverage of accommodation establishments in Slovenia is more complete. Full coverage was also the result of increased supervision of reporting data on guests (implemented by the Police as well as municipal inspectors) and supervision of the registration of accommodation establishments (implemented by the Market Inspectorate). As an example let us state that in 2017 the statistical survey covered around 4,000 accommodation establishments, while at the monthly level data were collected from about 2,000 tourist accommodation establishments. As of 31 March 2018 the Register of Accommodation Establishments contained 5,715 tourist accommodation establishments, 5,362 of them active. Since the register is new, it is expected that its completeness and quality will, improve.

Because coverage of observation units is more complete, the published monthly data for 2018 are not directly comparable with monthly data for 2017 (or published monthly data for 2008–2017).

To at least partly show trends in accommodation statistics – without the impact of the changed methodology and transition to new sources –, we prepared the analysis of tourist arrivals and overnight stays, which included those accommodation establishments that reported their data in the first three months of 2017 and were active in the first three months of 2018. Thus we were able to compare the number of arrivals and overnight stays in the same accommodation establishments in the same months of two consecutive years.

The analysis has shown that in the first three months of 2018 these accommodation establishments recorded 88% of all arrivals and 86% of all overnight stays. Compared to the first quarter of 2017, in the first quarter of 2018 these accommodation establishments recorded about the same number of arrivals and 1% fewer overnight stays.

If we compared (not completely comparable) data on tourist arrivals and overnight stays in the first quarter of 2018 (covering all accommodation establishments) with data for the first quarter of 2017 (lower number of accommodation establishments due to the threshold and no record of all accommodation establishments), the data would show an 11% increase in arrivals and a 9% increase in overnight stays. First estimates thus show that the impact of changed coverage and methodology on the increase in arrivals and overnight stays in the first three months of 2018 is about 10 percentage points.

Since first analyses were performed on provisional data, they will be continued. Publication of final monthly data for 2018 is planned for the end of March 2019. At that time we will also publish the revised time series of monthly data for 2017.

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