

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN BULGARIA DURING 1990

The number of foreign tourists, who have visited Bulgaria during 1990 reached a record level - nearly 10,330 thousand or 25,7% more compared with 1989. There is a considerable increase in the number of tourists from Rumania - more than 6,8 times, USSR - 43,8%, Norway - 40,5%, Turkey - 33,0%, and Iran - 30,4%.

More than 2,161 thousand foreigners came in Bulgaria for tourism and recreation in 1990 or 22,1% less compared with 1989. A significant decrease is observed in the number of tourists coming from Spain - 80,0%, Germany - 69,9%, Hungary - 47,6%, Poland - 44,4%, CSFR - 43,5%, Finland - 32,0% and Sweden - 29,5%. The only increase is registered for tourist flow from Iraq - nearly 3,3 times, Turkey - by 88,0%, Norway - by 44,8%, USSR - by 38,5%, Yugoslavia - by 26,4%, Iran - by 5,8% and Jordan - by 4,5%.

In 1990 foreign visitors who came in Bulgaria on business were nearly 777 thousand, which is 22,8% more than 1989. There is a considerable increase in the number of business trips from Rumania - nearly 5 times, Poland - by 69,3%, Yugoslavia - by 17,9% and USA - by 12,6%.

During the reported year, the number of foreign transit passengers was more than 5,1 millions, or 30,8% more than in 1989. There is a certain increase in this kind of visitors from Rumania, USSR, Iran, Greece, CSFR, Denmark and Turkey. The flow of the tourists passing transit through Bulgaria is decreasing as follows: from Hungary - by 55,7%, Austria - by 43,7%, Spain - by 33,0%, Switzerland - by 25,5% and USA - by 24,6%. The transit passengers coming from Turkey, Yugoslavia and Rumania represent respectively 76,8%, 7,2% and 6,6% from the transit flow as a whole.

Different types of transport were used by foreigners coming to Bulgaria, preference was given to road transport. More than 8,6 million tourists have visited Bulgaria in 1990 using road transport, which is 36,3% more than in 1989. There is a considerable increase in the number of autotourists from Rumania - nearly 8,6 times, USSR - nearly 3,4 times, Turkey - by 32,7%, Iran - by 30,4% and Norway - by 26,1%.

The next transport preferred by foreign tourists is railway transport. During 1990 nearly 922 thousand tourists arrived by railway, or 12,5% more than in 1989. There is a significant increase in the number of tourists, travelling to Bulgaria by railway from Rumania - more than 3,4 times, United Kingdom - nearly 2,7 times, Norway - by 63,0%, Yugoslavia - by 57,5% and Turkey - by 52,5%.

There is a high degree of seasonal character observed in the development of international tourism in this country. It is expressed in more visits of foreigners to the country during the summer months: June - August - 57,7% from the whole. Never the less, in comparison with 1989, there is also a certain increase in the visits of foreigners during December - by 90,0%, November - by 82,4%, May - by 58,9% and October - by 49,2%.

During the active tourist season the number of the foreign tourists who have visited Bulgaria reached 6,946 thousand, or 17,1% more in comparison with the same period in 1989. There is a significant increase in the flow of foreign visitors from Rumania - nearly 6,5 times, Iraq - by 54,6%, Norway - by 43,1%, Turkey - by 35,1%, USSR - by 33,1% and United Kingdom - by 12,6%. Never the less, nights spent by the foreign tourists of the reported countries (excluding USSR and United Kingdom) are less than 3,0% of the whole number of nights spent in the accommodation facilities during the active tourist season in 1990.

In 1990 the nights spent by foreign tourists in accommodation establishments accounted more than 12,759 thousand accommodation nights, or 31,9% less compared with 1989. The increased number of the nights, spent by international tourists from Yugoslavia - nearly 5,1