

TOURISM IN ROMANIA AND EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract: The tourism is considered by analysts as one of the most versatile economic sectors and “the most profitable industry of the end of the 20th century”. Romania is considered the most valuable and natural resources gifted country by the countries from central and east Europe, which gives it a great availability for tourism.

JEL classification: C10, C41

Key words: tourism, Romania, European Union

From the bellow figure 1, one can observe that Romanian tourists, between 2002 and 2006 had preferred to travel inside the country. Also one can observe the trend of Romanians to spend the holiday abroad was increasing with 184% in 2006 compared to 2002.

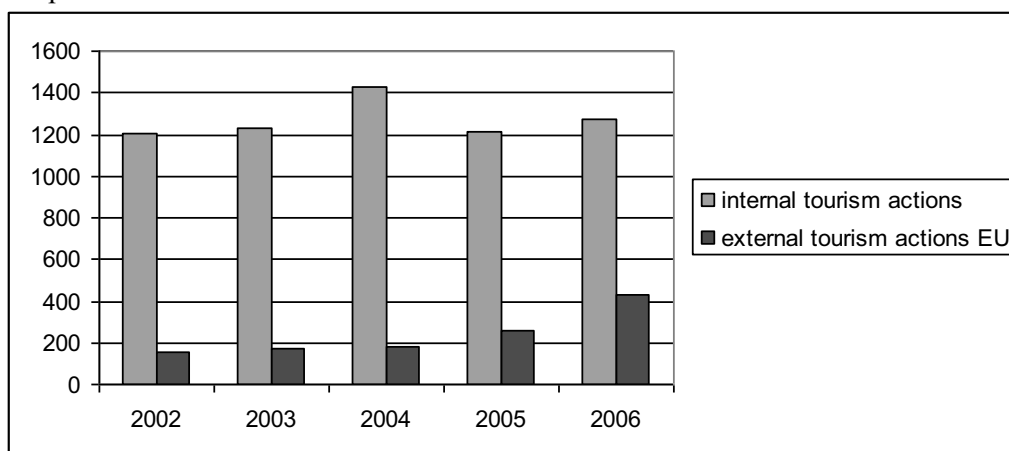


Figure no. 1

In top of preferred destination for Romanians there was Greece with 24%, Italy with 14%, Turkey with 11%, Hungary with 9%, and France with 7% and Spain with 7%. The countries with less Romanian tourists are: Croatia, Bulgaria and Ukraine.

The foreign tourists prefer to come to our country by train but also by plane. In Romanian tourists case there was a strong increasing in traveling by car. Although in 2005 there was registered a significant increase of plane travels.

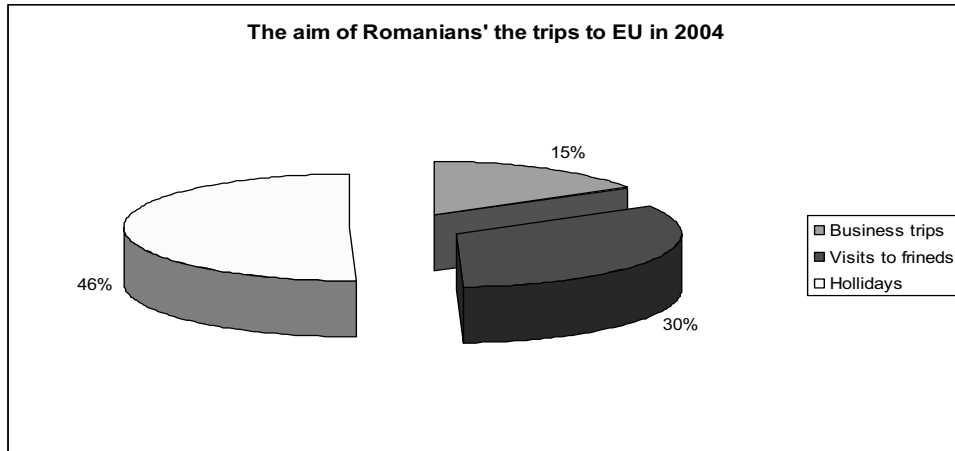


Figure no. 2

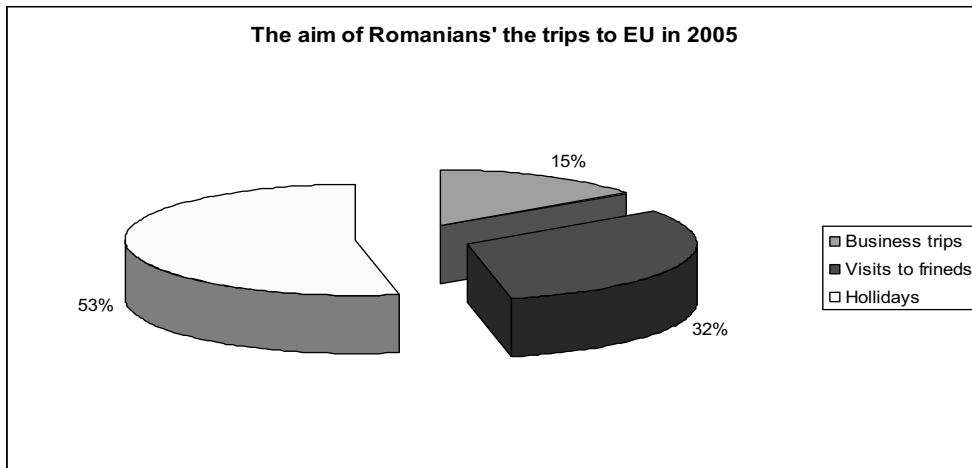


Figure no. 3

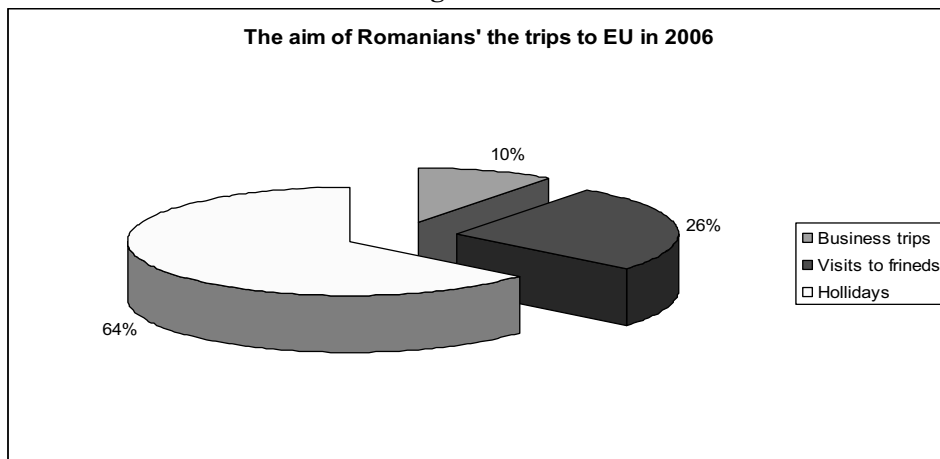


Figure no. 4

As seen in figures 2, 3 and 4, more and more Romanians leave the country for holiday, the percentage being 64% in 2006 compared with 46% in 2004. In 2005

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compared with 2004 the number of the Romanian travelers traveling to friends had increased to 32% compared with 30% from all the travels.

Inside the country - between 2002 and 2006 - almost 25% of Romanians prefer the seaside and almost the same percentage prefer the mountains. 1% prefers religious tourism and 3% - fluvial cruises.

Romanians that travel in European Union for business are less, in 2006 being 10% compared with 24% in 2004 from total trips abroad.

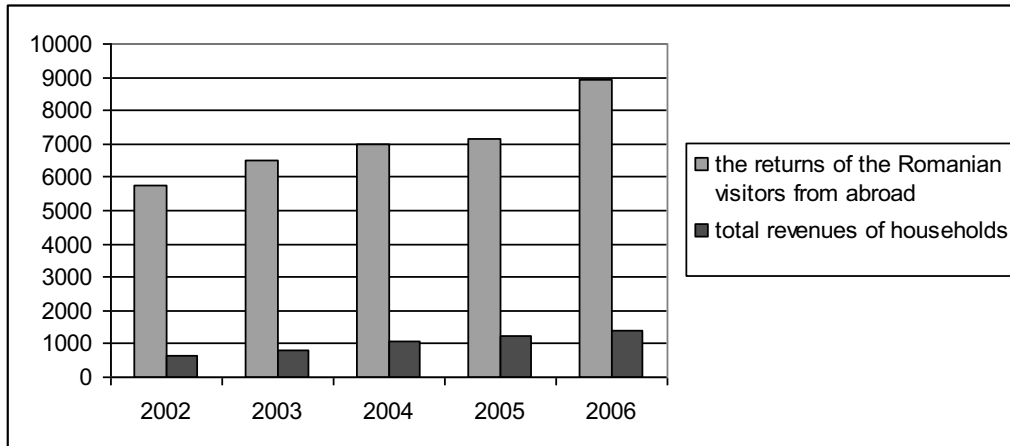


Figure no. 5

Between 2002 and 2006 the total revenues of the households had increased with 110.52%, the number of Romanian tourists that leaved the country had increased with 54.6%. In 2006 the number of the Romanian travelers was 8906 thousands compared with 2002 when the figure was 5757 thousands.

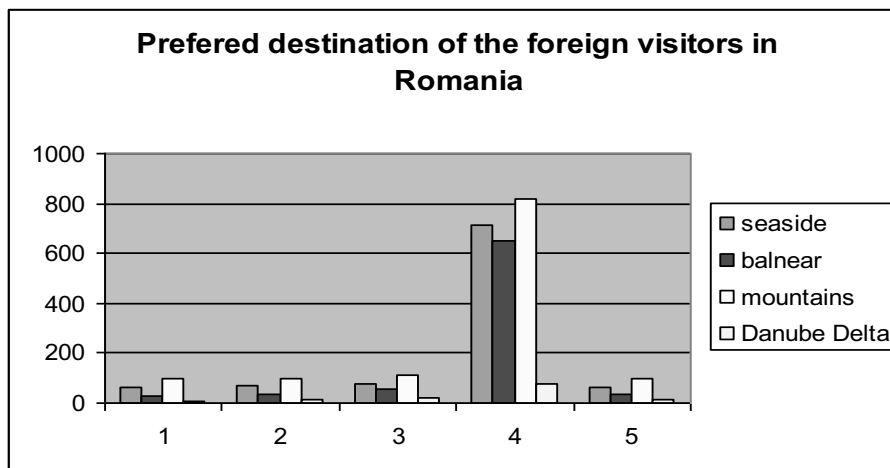


Figure no. 6

The top preferences of foreign tourists were the hotels with 95%, urban pensions with 3%, and agro pensions with 1%. Also, Rumanians prefer hotels with 87%, urban and agro pensions with 5% and 4%.

The mountain tourism is very dear to foreign tourists, followed by seaside and Danube Delta. In 2005 the number of the tourists was the highest from 2002-2006.

In 2002-2007, Romania had 2% from the tourist placements from European Union, which is composed by 27 countries, half of the tourist placement being composed by in England (21%), Germany (19%), Italy (17%), the sum being 57%.

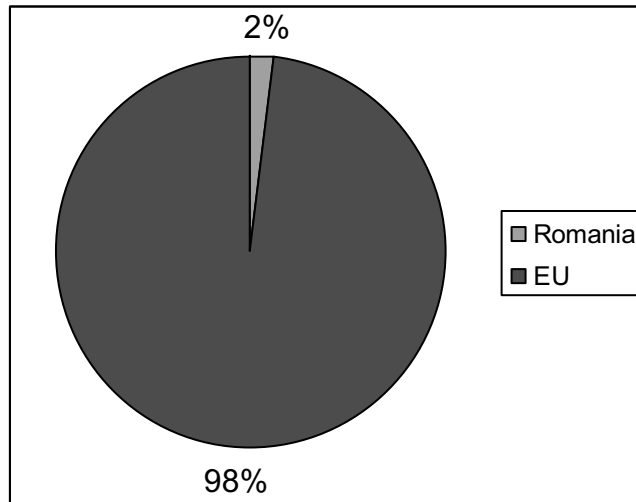


Figure no. 7. The number of turistic placement in EU-Romania, 2002-2006

According to "Financial" paper from April 2009, the economic crises affect the Romanians' holiday, the number of tourists decreasing. Also, Romanian tourism had decreased in the last two month of the year, the number of arrivals being with 15% less, compared with the same period of last year. In February, the arrivals had decreased with 18.9%, meaning a number of 360000 tourists.

Also the number of foreign tourists coming to our country had decreased . In February 2009 both the arrivals and the departures of foreign tourists had decreased with 21% and with 10%. Between Januarys-February 2009 most of the arrivals consisted of Romanians, meaning 78%. Most of the foreign tourists were traveling to Hungary (39.3%), Bulgaria (20.6%), Italy (8.5%) and Germany (7.7%).

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