



ISCTBL 2021
INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

Универзитет „Гоце Делчев“ –
Штип

**Goce Delchev University
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Факултет за туризам и бизнис
логистика

**Faculty of Tourism and
Business Logistics**

**Четврта Меѓународна Научна Конференција
Fourth International Scientific Conference**

**ПРЕДИЗВИЦИТЕ ВО ТУРИЗМОТ И БИЗНИС
ЛОГИСТИКАТА ВО 21 ВЕК
CHALLENGES OF TOURISM AND BUSINESS
LOGISTICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

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Пленарна сесија
Социо-економски импликации на КОВИД-19: намалување на
разликите и справување со дистрибутивните влијанија во различни
сектори

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д-р Татјана Бошков, вон. професор и декан на Факултет за туризам и бизнис логистика, Универзитет „Гоце Делчев“ – Штип, РС Македонија.

Втора сесија: Туризам, угостителство и гастрономија

д-р Наташа Митева, доцент и продекан за настава, Факултет за туризам и бизнис логистика, Универзитет „Гоце Делчев“ – Штип, РС Македонија.

Panel session

Socio-economic implications of COVID-19: reducing disparities and addressing distributional impacts in different sectors

Session chair: Tatjana Boshkov, Assoc.professor and Dean at Faculty of tourism and business logistics, „Goce Delcev University – Stip, N. Macedonia

Panelists

1. Gligor Bishev, University professor and Management Board Chairman, Sparkasse Bank, N. Macedonia
2. Zarko Radjenovic, PhD, Research Associate, Innovation Center, University of Nis, Serbia
3. Natasha Miteva, PhD, Vice-Dean for Education, Faculty of Tourism and Business Logistics, Goce Delcev University – Stip, N. Macedonia

Moderators

First session: Business logistics and business administration

Tatjana Boshkov, PhD, Dean at Faculty of Tourism and Business Logistics, Goce Delcev University – Stip, N. Macedonia

Second session: Tourism, hospitality and gastronomy

Natasha Miteva, PhD, Vice-Dean for Education, Faculty of Tourism and Business Logistics, Goce Delcev University – Stip, N. Macedonia



УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ „ГОЦЕ ДЕЛЧЕВ“ - ШТИП
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ФАКУЛТЕТ ЗА ТУРИЗАМ И БИЗНИС ЛОГИСТИКА
FACULTY OF TOURISM AND BUSINESS LOGISTICS

ЧЕТВРТА МЕЃУНАРОДНА
НАУЧНА КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈА

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

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Содржина – Contents

СЕСИЈА: БИЗНИС ЛОГИСТИКА И БИЗНИС АДМИНИСТРАЦИЈА	16
SESSION: BUSINESS LOGISTICS & BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	16
Tatjana Boshkov; Mishko Djidrov - CIRCULAR ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY: EVIDENCE FOR MACEDONIA	17
Dushko Joseski; Tatjana Boshkov - MONETARY ECONOMICS: POST-KEYNESIAN STOCK-FLOW CONSISTENT APPROACH (PK-SCF) VERSUS NEW-KEYNESIAN DYNAMIC STOCHASTIC GENERAL EQUILIBRIUM (NK-DSGE)	25
Елизабета Митрева; Трајанка Стојменова; Златко Трајковски - ПРИМЕНА НА МЕТОДОЛОГИЈАТА НА ДИГИТАЛНИ ЛОГИЧКИ СИСТЕМИ ВО ТРАНСПОРТОТ ВО ТИМОКОМ ЛОГИЧКИ СИСТЕМ	59
Емануела Есмерова; Драшко Атанасоски - МОДЕЛИ НА РАЗВОЈ НА ЧОВЕЧКИТЕ РЕСУРСИ ВО ЕКОНОМИЈАТА НА ПРЕТПРИЈАТИЈА.....	72
Марија Магдинчева-Шопова; Анета Стојановска-Стефанова - ПОЛИТИКИ И ПРАКТИКИ ЗА РАЗВОЈ НА СОЦИЈАЛНОТО ПРЕТПРИЕМНИШТВО	80
Анета Стојановска-Стефанова; Марија Магдинчева-Шопова; Христина Рунчева-Тасев - СОЦИО-ЕКОНОМСКОТО ВЛИЈАНИЕ НА КОВИД-19: МАКЕДОНСКИОТ СЛУЧАЈ СО РАЗВОЈ НА Е-ТРГОВИЈАТА	86
Žarko Rađenović - TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS: LOGISTICS PERFORMANCE INDEX APPROACH	100
Ивица Јосифовиќ; Игор Камбовски - ВИЗНАТА ПОЛИТИКА НА ЕВРОПСКАТА УНИЈА ВО ДОГОВОРОТ ОД ЛИСАБОН: ПРЕДИЗВИЦИ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ	109
Svetla Panayotova; Ventsislava Nikolova-Minkova - IMPORTANCE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FOR SMEs IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY	120
Ventsislava Nikolova-Minkova - ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT	128
Mimoza Serafimova; Bobana Stefanoska - SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 CRISIS ON HUMAN RESOURCES AND COMPANIES	135
Александра Жежова - ОДНЕСУВАЊЕТО НА ЛИЧНОСТА И ПОЗИЦИЈАТА НА РАБОТНОТО МЕСТО	149
СЕСИЈА: ТУРИЗАМ, УГОСТИТЕЛСТВО И ГАСТРОНОМИЈА.....	159
SESSION: TOURISM, HOSPITALITY & GASTRONOMY.....	159
Dushica Popova; Natasha Miteva - SERVICE QUALITY MODELS IN HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY	160
Cvetanka Ristova Maglovska; Ivan Durgutov - REBUILDING TOURISM AND TRAVEL FOR THE FUTURE: POLICY RESPONSES TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19). 167	

Љупчо Јаневски; Климент Наумов - ЕКОТУРИЗМОТ КАКО СПЕЦИФИЧНА ТУРИСТИЧКА ФОРМА ВО НАЦИОНАЛНИТЕ ПАРКОВИ НА РС МАКЕДОНИЈА	176
Tatjana Dimitrova; Slavi Dimitrov - TOURISM MANAGEMENT THROUGH PLANNING DOCUMENTS AT REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL	183
Никола В. Димитров - РЕГИОНАЛЕН ПРЕГЛЕД НА ПЛАНИНСКИОТ ТУРИЗАМ ВО РС МАКЕДОНИЈА	192
Душица Матета Гилова; Елизабета Митева - ГЛОБАЛИЗАЦИЈАТА И ТУРИЗМОТ ВО РЕПУБЛИКА СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА	204
Dora Kabakchieva - ADDITIONAL VALUE AND EFFECT OF DIGITALIZATION IN TOURISM	220
Илија Закоски - УЛОГА НА ИНТЕРНЕТОТ ПРИ ИЗБОР НА ТУРИСТИЧКА ДЕСТИНАЦИЈА И ОРГАНИЗАЦИЈА НА ТУРИСТИЧКО ПАТУВАЊЕ	230
Dragan Tezanovic; Sanja Filipovic; Maja Banjak - COFFEE AS A SIGNIFICANCE SEGMENT OF THE CATERING OFFER - CASE STUDY OF THE CITY NIŠ	238
Biljana Petrevska; Dajana Vjelajac; Bojan Djercan - DARK SKY TOURISM: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES FOR NORTH MACEDONIA	245
Перпарим Кахили - КЛИМАТСКИ И ХИДРОГРАФСКИ КАРАКТЕРИСТИКИ ВО РАЗВОЈОТ НА ТУРИЗМОТ ВО РЕГИОНОТ ЈИЛАН	254
Дарко Мајхошев; Цане Котески - ЛИСТИ НА УНЕСКО ЗА ЗАШТИТА НА СВЕТСКОТО НАСЛЕДСТВО СО ПОСЕБЕН ОСВРТ НА ЛИСТАТА НА СВЕТСКО НАСЛЕДСТВО ВО ОПАСНОСТ	264
Monika Angeloska- Dichovska; Katerina Vojkovska; Elizabeta Tosheva - INNOVATION STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH TOURISM AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES	274
Naser Bresa - VERMICA -TOURIST OASIS, CULTIVATOR AND SERVER OF TROUT	285
Арбен Халили; Мислим Зендели - АПИТУРИЗАМ КАКО НОВА ДИМЕНЗИЈА ЗА ПАТУВАЊЕ НИЗ ШАР ПЛАНИНА	292
Билјана Николовска - ПРЕДИЗВИЦИ И ИНОВАЦИИ НА МАКЕДОНСКИТЕ ТУРОПЕРАТОРИ СО ПОСЕБЕН ОСВРТ НА ПЕРИОДОТ ОД 2019 ДО 2021 ГОДИНА	302
Зоран Николовски - ОРГАНИЗАЦИЈА И КЕТЕРИНГ НА ДЕЛОВНИ НАСТАНИ НИЗ ПРИЗМА НА МАКЕДОНСКИТЕ КЕТЕРИНГ КОМПАНИИ	309
Vanya Vasileva; Iliana Dimitrova - DEVELOPMENT OF GOLF TOURISM ON THE NORTHERN BULGARIAN BLACK SEA COAST	316
Васко Шутаров - ГАСТРОДИПЛОМАТИЈА ВО ВРЕМЕ НА ПАНДЕМИЈА	327
Velibor Tasevski - IMPACT OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC ON NUMBER OF TOURISTS IN REPUBLIC OF N. MACEDONIA	337
Цане Котески; Александар Магдески - СОВРЕМЕНИ ФОРМИ НА МЕЃУНАРОДЕН ТУРИЗАМ СО ПОСЕБЕН ОСВРТ НА ГРАДСКИОТ И ЕВЕНТ ТУРИЗМОТ	344

Karlo Mac; Cvetan Kovac - THE IMPACT OF CRISIS ON THE SEASONALITY OF CROATIAN TOURISM AFTER 2000	362
Златко Јаковлев - МЕНАЏМЕНТ НА АНИМАЦИЈАТА ВО ТУРИСТИЧКО - УГОСТИТЕЛСКИТЕ ПРЕТПРИЈАТИЈА	370
Тања Ангелкова Петкова; Цветанка Ристова Магловска - ЗНАЧЕЊЕТО НА ТУРИСТИЧКИТЕ АГЕНЦИИ ЗА РАЗВОЈ НА МАКЕДОНИЈА КАКО АТРАКТИВНА ТУРИСТИЧКА ДЕСТИНАЦИЈА.....	379

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IMPACT OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC ON NUMBER OF TOURISTS IN REPUBLIC OF N. MACEDONIA

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Abstract

The proclamation of the „COVID 19“ pandemic by the World Health Organization changed the way events were organized, created safety protocols that reduced the number of participants, reduced physical participation, and thus reduced opportunities for development and increased visits and accommodation of domestic and foreign tourists.

The purpose of the herein presented research is to analyze the number of tourists based on the realized visits and accommodation of domestic and foreign tourists in the Republic of North Macedonia before and during the „COVID 19“ pandemic.

The number of tourists in the Republic of Northern Macedonia has decreased. The total number of tourists has decreased by almost 61% compared to the total number of tourists before the „COVID 19“ pandemic.

Keywords: Tourism, COVID 19, visits, nights spent, tourists.

Introduction

Tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in the world economy. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the number of international tourist arrivals in 2019 reached 1,500 million. In 2018, tourism spending was 1.7 trillion American dollars, and the tourism industry accounts for 10% of global gross domestic product (GDP). Every tenth employee in the world is employed in this sector.¹ The characteristics of the tourist turnover are an important element for valuing the tourist economy, more precisely they are the final result that shows whether, how, and how much an area is attractive and visited by tourists and thus the attendance and occupancy of hospitality facilities. By analysing the arrivals and nights spent of tourists we can see the situation in tourism, simply put whether we are moving in the right direction or not, and if oscillations occur we need to find the reasons and eliminate them. In the period from 2011 to 2020, the tourist turnover in N. Macedonia is growing. The great growth of the tourist turnover is registered after the Project "Skopje 2014". In 2020, there is a large decline in tourism compared to 2019 as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Methodology

¹ Kristijan Dzambazovski; Dejan Metodijeski, Study on the effects on the private sector - tourism and hospitality affected by the health-economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, with recommendations for dealing with the economic effects, Skopje, May, 2020

Appropriate analysis of statistical reports related to hospitality and tourism, synthesis, comparative method, and others was used as a methodology for research of the problem, its elaboration, and evaluation.

For the needs of the research, information from relevant sources was used: data from the State Statistical Office, government measures and announcements, scientific papers covering the issue of the "COVID 19" pandemic and its impact on tourism, i.e. the number of tourists in N. Macedonia.

In the herein presented research, tables and charts for the number of tourists are processed according to the data from the State Statistical Office. The data on tourists and nights spent are obtained on the basis of the regular monthly reports of the catering and other business entities that provide accommodation services to tourists, ie mediate in the provision of those services. The source of the data is the guest books which, according to the legal regulations, these business entities must take out.²

Case study development

Despite all the positive social, cultural, and economic impacts of tourism, it remains the most vulnerable to impacts such as war, terrorism, natural disasters, and catastrophes, as well as the spread of various diseases that limit or hinder tourist travel. The COVID-19 crisis that erupted in late 2019 led to the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring a global pandemic, and with the spread of the virus, destinations around the world have in various ways restricted the movement of people to stop the spread of the disease. The pandemic (spreading the disease over large areas), in addition to changing the life habits of people in the world, has led to the stagnation of economic activities in the entire economy.

Data from the United Nations World Health Organization (UNWTO) show that by September 10, 2021, was 223,022,538 cases of COVID-19 had been registered worldwide, including 4,602,424 deaths.³ It is until 10.09.2021 in our country was 180,369 cases of COVID-19 were registered during the year, including 6,067 deaths.⁴

UNWTO is the most important international organization that deals globally with tourism and the hospitality sector. It is directly linked to other organizations in the United Nations (UN). There is almost no country in the world that is not a member of this organization. Its goal is to improve the status of world tourism and its future development. This organization predicts a decline in tourism of 65-80% in 2020 compared to 2019, due to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus.⁵

By early April 2020 most countries had closed their international and, in some instances, internal borders, halting international travel for an indeterminate time and transforming the tourism industry in a manner never seen outside of wartime (Prideaux, Thompson, & Pabel, 2020). The Government of the Republic of North Macedonia as of the first day paid serious attention to and monitors the condition with the Coronavirus infections in pursuance with the recommendations issued by the WHO and issues measures for protection of all citizens of the country (Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, 2020b). The state of emergency was accompanied by drastic measures in the fight against the pandemic: closing borders and airports, free movement restriction (curfew) especially on weekends and religious holidays, sanitary protocols (mandatory wearing of a protective mask) and others. North Macedonia

² State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia

³ <https://covid19.who.int/>

⁴ <https://koronavirus.gov.mk/stat>

⁵ Kristijan Dzambazovski; Dejan Metodijeski, Follow-up study on the effects on the tourism and hospitality sector from the health and economic crisis caused by the pandemic covid-19, with recommendations for dealing with the economic consequences, Skopje, November, 2020

opened its borders to all countries on 26th June (Marija Mitevka, Radio Slobodna Evropa, 2020).⁶ Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis, the number of tourists in North Macedonia has decreased by 60,56%.

Results and discussion

Statistics on tourism in North Macedonia show a steady increase in recent years. For better visibility of statistical data, they are shown in tables and chart. Statistics related to the tourism and hospitality sector refer to the number of tourists and spent nights.

Table 1: Number of tourists in Republic of North Macedonia, 2011-2020

	Tourists		
	total	domestic	foreign
2011	647,568	320,097	327,471
2012	663,633	312,274	351,359
2013	701,794	302,114	399,680
2014	735,650	310,336	425,314
2015	816,067	330,537	485,530
2016	856,843	346,359	510,484
2017	998,841	368,247	630,594
2018	1,126,935	419,590	707,345
2019	1,184,963	427,370	757,593
2020	467,514	349,308	118,206
Total	8,199,808	3,486,232	4,713,576

Source: State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia (own calculations)

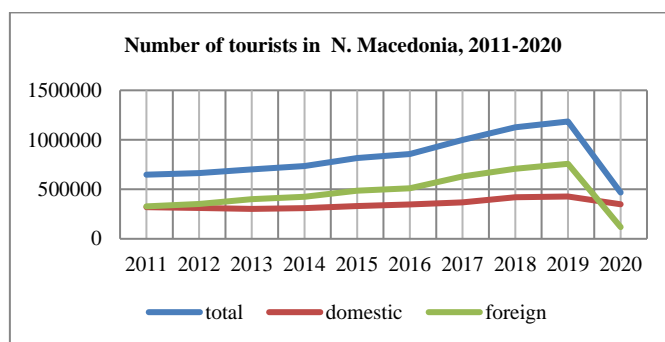
According to the data of the State Statistical Office, a ten-year analysis of the number of tourists in N. Macedonia was made. In this period 2011-2020, the total number of tourists was 8,199,808 or an average of 819,981.

From Table 1 and Chart 1, it can be stated that the number of tourists in 2011 was 647,568 in 2019 was 1,184,963, and from the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, the number of tourists in 2020 was 467,514. For the period from 2011 to 2020, the total number of tourists was 8,199,808, of which 43 % were domestic tourists and 57% were foreign tourists.

The number of tourists in N. Macedonia in 2019, compared to 2011, increased by about 82,98%, and due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, the number of tourists in 2020, compared to 2019 decreased by 60,56%.

Chart 1: Number of tourists in North Macedonia, 2011-2020

⁶ Goran Kitevski; Dejan Iliev- Tourism in covid-19 pandemic in North Macedonia: experiences and perspectives, Third International Scientific Conference, Challenges of tourism and business logistics in the 21st century, ISCTBL, Shtip 2020



Source: State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia (own calculations)

The number of tourists in 2019, compared to 2011, increased by about 82.98%, and due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, the number of tourists in 2020, compared to 2019, decreased by 60.56 %.

The number of domestic tourists in 2019 was 427,370 or has a share of 36%, and the number of foreign tourists in the same year was 757,593 or a share of 64% in the total number of tourists.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of foreign tourists in 2020 decreased by an absolute number of 118,206 or by 25% of the total number of tourists. The number of domestic tourists in 2020 was 349,308 or has a share of 75%.

The number of domestic tourists in 2019, compared to 2011, increased by 33.51%, and due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, the number of domestic tourists in 2020, compared to 2019, decreased by 18.27 %.

The number of foreign tourists in 2019 compared to 2011 increased by 131.35%, and due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, the number of foreign tourists in 2020 compared to 2019 decreased by 84.4%.

From Table 2 and Chart 2, it can be concluded that on average annually in the period 2011-2020, 2,444,504 spent nights were realized in Macedonia, of which 1,436,691 spent nights of domestic tourists (58.77%) and 1,007,813 spent nights of foreign tourists (41.23%). During this period, tourists realized an average of 3 nights, of which domestic tourists spent 4 nights, and foreign tourists spent 2 nights on average.

The number of nights spent in 2011 was 2,173,034 in 2019 was 3,262,398, and from the impact of the "COVID 19" pandemic, the number of nights spent in 2020 was 1,697,535.

Table 2: Number of nights spent in North Macedonia, 2011-2020

	Number of nights spent		
	total	domestic	foreign
2011	2,173,034	1,417,868	755,166
2012	2,151,692	1,339,946	811,746
2013	2,157,175	1,275,800	881,375
2014	2,195,883	1,273,370	922,513
2015	2,394,205	1,357,822	1,036,383
2016	2,461,160	1,407,143	1,054,017
2017	2,775,152	1,480,460	1,294,692
2018	3,176,808	1,685,273	1,491,535
2019	3,262,398	1,684,627	1,577,771

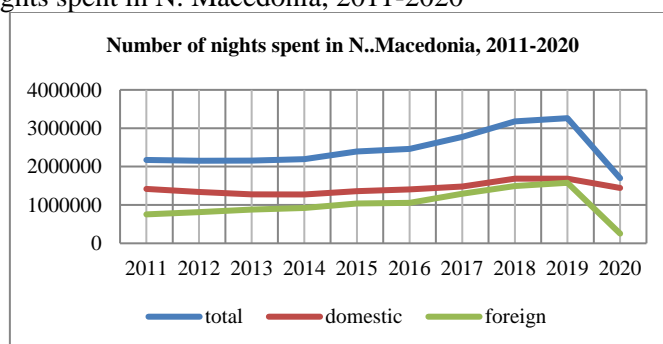
2020	1,697,535	1,444,605	252,930
Total	24,445,042	14,366,914	10,078,128

Source: State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia (own calculations)

Number of nights in 2019, compared to 2011, increased by about 50.13%, and due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, the number of nights spent in 2020, compared to 2019, decreased by about 48%.

The number of nights spent of domestic tourists in 2019 amounted to 1,684,627 or has a share of 52%, and the number of foreign nights spent in the same year amounted to 1,577,771 or a share of 48% of the total number of nights spent.

Chart 2: Number of nights spent in N. Macedonia, 2011-2020



Source: State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia (own calculations)

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of foreign nights spent in 2020 decreased by an absolute number of 252,930 or 15% of the total number of nights spent. The number of domestic nights spent in 2020 was 1,444,605 or has a share of 85%.

The number of domestic nights spent in 2019, compared to 2011, increased by 18.8%, and due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, the number of nights spent at home in 2020, compared to 2019, decreased by about 14.25%.

The number of foreign nights spent in 2019 compared to 2011 increased by 108.93%, and due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, the number of foreign nights spent in 2020 compared to 2019 decreased by about 84%. Table 3 and Table 4 show the comparative foreign exchange inflow based on tourism for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.

Table 3: Foreign exchange inflow based on tourism 2018 – 2019

Foreign exchange inflow in USD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
2018	64.71	87.15	147.14	82.62	381.55
2019	63.27	90.62	154.16	87.87	395.92
%	-2.23%	3.98%	4.77%	6.35%	3.75%

Source: Agency for Promotion and Support of Tourism in the Republic of North Macedonia
<http://tourismmacedonia.gov.mk/statistika>

In Table 3, it can be concluded that the inflow on the basis of tourism in the Republic of Northern Macedonia in 2019, compared to 2018 has increased by 3.75%.

Due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, the inflow on the basis of tourism in the Republic of Northern Macedonia in 2020, compared to 2019, decreased by 36.34% (Table 4).

Table 4: Foreign exchange inflow based on tourism 2019 – 2020

Foreign exchange inflow in USD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
2019	63.24	90.62	154.16	87.87	395.92
2020	63.74	37.61	80.61	70.09	252.05
%	0.74%	-58.50%	-47.71%	-20.23%	-36.34%

Source: Agency for Promotion and Support of Tourism in the Republic of North Macedonia
<http://tourismmacedonia.gov.mk/statistika>

In the Republic of Northern Macedonia, a study was conducted on the effects caused by COVID 19 on the tourism and hospitality sector with recommendations for dealing with economic effects. The research was conducted by the Chamber of Commerce of Macedonia, the Chamber of Commerce of Northwest Macedonia, the Chamber of Commerce of Information and Communication Technologies - MASIT, and the Association of Chambers of Commerce of Macedonia. The study shows that by August-September 2020, the cancellation of the arrangement is massive and that the number of tourists expected from abroad is drastically reduced. Almost 100% of hotels booked cancellations for April, May, June, for July 2020 there are cancellations of group bookings for 89% of hotels, for August 2020 for 69% of hoteliers, for September there are cancellations for 50% of respondents. and there are updates for December and January 2021. To improve the situation in the tourism sector, the study states that it is necessary to stimulate domestic tourism by introducing special subsidized arrangements and conducting a strong campaign to encourage domestic tourism.⁷

Conclusion

In the period from 2011 to 2020, the tourist turnover in N. Macedonia is growing. The great growth of the tourist turnover is registered after the Project "Skopje 2014". In 2020, there is a large decline in tourism compared to 2019 as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis, the number of tourists in N. Macedonia is down 61%. In the period from 2011 to 2020, the total number of tourists is 8,199,808. The total tourist turnover is higher than 57% of foreign tourists and about 43% of domestic tourists.

In the period 2011-2020 in Macedonia, were 2,444,504 nights spent, of which 1,436,691 nights spent of domestic tourists (58.77%) and 1,007,813 nights spent of foreign tourists (41.23%). Tourists realized on average 3 nights, of which domestic tourists after 4 nights, and foreign tourists on average after 2 nights.

From the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic:

- ✚ The number of tourists in 2020 compared to 2019 decreased by 60.56%.
- ✚ The number of domestic tourists in 2020 compared to 2019 decreased by 18.27%.
- ✚ The number of foreign tourists in 2020 compared to 2019 decreased by 84.4%.
- ✚ The number of nights spent in 2020 compared to 2019 decreased by about 48%.

⁷ Study on effects caused by COVID 19 on tourism and hospitality sector with recommendations for dealing with the economic effects. The research was conducted by the Economic Chamber of Macedonia, the Economic Chamber of Northwest Macedonia, the Economic Chamber of Information and Communication Technologies - MASIT and the Association of Chambers of Commerce of Macedonia

- ✚ The number of domestic nights spent in 2020 compared to 2019 decreased by about 14.25%.
- ✚ The number of foreign nights spent in 2020 compared to 2019 decreased by about 84%.
- ✚ The inflow based on tourism in the Republic of Northern Macedonia in 2020, compared to 2019, decreased by 36.34%.
- ✚ There was a large decline in tourism in N. Macedonia, so the entire tourism and hospitality sector was directly affected and fell into crisis.

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