



## METHODOLOGICAL EXPLANATION

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# SCOPE OF COLLABORATIVE ECONOMY IN THE FIELD OF SHORT-TERM TOURIST ACCOMMODATION RENTALS

This methodological explanation relates to the data releases:

- Scope of collaborative economy in the field of short-term tourist accommodation rentals, Slovenia, 2019 (experimental release)
- Scope of collaborative economy in the field of short-term tourist accommodation rentals, Slovenia, 2020 and 2021 (experimental release)
- Scope of collaborative economy in the field of short-term tourist accommodation rentals, Slovenia, 2022 (experimental release)
- Scope of collaborative economy in the field of short-term tourist accommodation rentals, Slovenia, 2023 (experimental release)



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## 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of publishing experimental statistics is to present the scope of collaborative economy in the field of short-term tourist accommodation rentals in holiday and similar accommodation establishments in the Republic of Slovenia with analysis of new data sources.

The data are marked as experimental, because Eurostat for the first time obtained the privately held data directly from international online booking platforms for the purpose of the mentioned analysis. The methodology of experimental data processing is still being developed and does not yet meet the standards of regular releases.

## 2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- [Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys \(LPSR\) \(only in Slovene\)](#)
- [National Statistics Act \(OJ RS, No. 45/95 and 9/01\)](#)
- Regulation (EU) No 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning European statistics on tourism and repealing Council Directive 95/57/EC, (OJ, No. L 192/17)
- Residence Registration Act (OJ RS, No. 52/16)
- Rules on the Registration and Deregistration of Guests (OJ RS, No. 75/16)

## 3 UNIT DESCRIBED BY THE PUBLISHED DATA

The unit described by the published data is the short-stay accommodation establishment classified in the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities NACE Rev. 2 in group 55.2 – "Holiday and other short-stay accommodation". The unit described is also a tourist overnight stay.

The published data do not include short-stay accommodation establishments classified in the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities NACE Rev. 2 in group 55.1 – "Hotels and similar accommodation establishments" and 55.3. – "Camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks and trailer parks".

Bookings (stays) and nights spent (length of stay) at described short-term accommodation are shown by NUTS 1 classification unit (Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics), that is Slovenia, NUTS 2 (cohesion regions) and for Ljubljana as the capital of Slovenia.

Guest nights are shown by short-stay accommodation type (booked as a whole unit or a part of it), size (10 or more bedplaces or fewer than 10 bedplaces), by NUTS 1, NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 classification and for Ljubljana as the capital of Slovenia.

## 4 SELECTION OF OBSERVATION UNIT

The survey covers short-stay accommodation establishments on the territory of Slovenia classified in the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities NACE Rev. 2 in group 55.2 and advertised by their providers on one (or more) of the four major international digital tourist accommodation booking platforms Airbnb, Booking, Expedia and Tripadvisor.

The survey covers all nights of guests who book their accommodation on the mentioned online platforms and register their arrival in the booked holiday or other short-stay accommodation.

## 5 SOURCES AND METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

Data for the reference years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 were collected for each year in full (annually). Data for the reference years 2022 and 2023 were collected on a quarterly basis.

Online platforms that enable short-stay accommodation booking gather data on bookings of advertised accommodation establishments and on nights booked in their own databases for each day.

Eurostat signed the agreement of sharing the data on the number of bookings and the number of nights booked via online platforms with each of the mentioned online platforms on behalf of European national statistical offices. The first data were shared for reference years 2018 and 2019. Eurostat then shared aggregated data of all four online platforms with European national statistical offices. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SURS) gained the data in June 2021. The data for reference years 2020 and 2021 were gained by SURS in June 2022. In September 2022, SURS obtained the data for the first and second quarter of the reference year 2022, followed by the data for the third quarter in December 2022, while the data for the fourth quarter of 2022 were received in March 2023. The data for reference year 2023 were obtained quarterly.

Eurostat obtains already partly aggregated data on short-stay accommodation in the EU Member States and EFTA countries, offered by service providers via the mentioned platforms, together with nights booked in them. The data are then transmitted to national statistical offices in accordance with the signed bilateral agreements on sharing the data between Eurostat and national statistical offices. Statistical confidentiality rules of shared data are respected.

SURS gains the mentioned data for the survey "Scope of collaborative economy in the field of short-term tourist accommodation rentals". As mentioned, the data sources are four major international online platforms offering short-stay accommodation booking (Airbnb, Booking, Expedia and Tripadvisor).

Data for the survey are not obtained from administrative sources.

## 6 DEFINITIONS

The term "**collaborative economy**" refers to business models where activities are facilitated by collaborative platforms that create an open marketplace for the temporary usage of goods or services often provided by private individuals. The collaborative economy involves three categories of actors:

- Service providers who share assets, resources, time and/or skills; they can be private individuals offering services on an occasional basis (peers) or service providers acting in their professional capacity (professional service providers);
- Users of these services;
- Intermediaries that connect providers with users via an online platform and facilitate transactions between them (collaborative platforms).

Collaborative economy transactions generally do not involve a change of ownership and can be carried out for profit or not-for-profit (*the definition generated for the document Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions; A European agenda for the collaborative economy, SWD(2016) 184 final*).

**Online short-stay accommodation booking platforms** are platforms that enable direct connection between service/goods providers (tourist short-term accommodation rental) and users (tourists). The most known such international online platforms in the EU Member States and EFTA countries are Airbnb, Booking, Expedia and Tripadvisor.

**Number of bookings (stays)** is the number of times a facility offered via the platforms was occupied in the reference period.

**Number of nights (length of stay)** is the number of nights a facility offered via the platforms was occupied in the reference period.

In the national accommodation statistics (survey Tourist arrivals and overnight stays) the term "indivisible units sold" is used.

**Number of guest nights** is the number of nights spent during a stay in the reference period, taking into account the size of the travel party.

In the national accommodation statistics (survey Tourist arrivals and overnight stays) the term "tourist overnight stays" is used.

An overnight stay is every night that a tourist actually spends in a tourist accommodation (by sleeping or being there) or that they are registered in a tourist accommodation (their physical presence there is thus not necessary).

*Example: A family of four, staying 3 nights in an apartment, represents 1 stay, 3 nights and 12 guest nights.*

**Tourism** includes the activities of people travelling and staying away from their usual environment for at least one day (spending at least one night), but not more than a year (365 days) continuously, for leisure, business and other purposes.

**Tourists** are persons travelling to a place other than that of their usual environment, staying in a hotel or some other tourist accommodation in the place/country visited for at least one night (but not more than 365 nights consecutively) for leisure, business or other reasons, but not to make profit in the place visited (they receive no remuneration).

Tourists are registered on their arrival to any tourist accommodation where they spend the night; therefore, it can happen that their registration in a place/country is multiplied.

**Domestic tourists** are persons with permanent residence in Slovenia who temporarily stay in some other place in Slovenia for leisure, business and other reasons and in that place spend at least one night in a hotel or other tourist accommodation.

**Foreign tourists** are persons who come to Slovenia from abroad and temporarily stay in a certain place in this country for leisure, business and other reasons and they spend at least one night in a hotel or other tourist accommodation. We record the nationality of foreign tourists according to their country of residence (an assumption is made that the country of usual residence equals the country of citizenship reported at the registration of the tourist at the accommodation establishment).

## 7 EXPLANATIONS

### 7.1 CLASSIFICATIONS

The activity of short-term tourist accommodation rental that is a part of collaborative economy is via international online platforms to the greatest extent represented in the group of short-stay accommodations that are in the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities NACE Rev. 2 classified in group **52.2** – "Holiday and other short-stay accommodation".

This class includes the provision of accommodation, typically on a daily or weekly basis, principally for short stays by visitors, in self-contained space consisting of completely furnished rooms or areas for living/dining and sleeping, with cooking facilities or fully equipped kitchens. This may take the form of apartments or flats in small free-standing multi-storey buildings or clusters of buildings, or single storey bungalows, chalets, cottages and cabins. Very few complementary services, if any, are provided.

This class includes accommodation provided by:

- Children and other holiday homes
- Visitor flats and bungalows
- Cottages and cabins without housekeeping services
- Youth hostels and mountain refuges

**Cohesion and statistical regions.** According to the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS), Slovenia is divided into three territorial levels. NUTS 1 level represents Slovenia as a whole country, at NUTS 2 level the country is divided into two cohesion regions – Vzhodna Slovenija and Zahodna Slovenija – and at NUTS 3 level the country is broken down into 12 statistical regions: Pomurska, Podravska, Koroška, Savinjska, Zasavska, Posavska, Jugovzhodna Slovenija, Osrednjeslovenska, Gorenjska, Notranjsko-kraška, Goriška and Obalno-kraška.

Detailed classification of Slovenian municipalities into statistical regions is published on SURS's website (at Klasje – Classification server, see: [NUTS\\_SKTE - Šifrant kohezijskih regij, statističnih regij, občin in naselij](#)).

## 7.2 DATA PROCESSING

### DATA EDITING

Data editing was not performed.

### WEIGHTING

Weighting was not performed.

### SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

Seasonal adjustment is not applicable.

## 7.3 INDICES

Indices are not published.

## 7.4 PRECISION

The precision is not calculated.

## 7.5 OTHER EXPLANATIONS

Due to data confidentiality rules, only aggregated data of all four online platforms are published.

In Slovenia, all short-stay accommodation providers – caterers, room providers, farmers and managers of marinas – who offer their short-stay accommodation to customers and are listed in the Business Register of Slovenia have to register in the Register of Accommodation Establishments and report data on tourist arrivals, departures and monthly accommodation establishment's occupancy in the eTurizem database. So tourist overnights stays generated within collaborative economy, are already included in the national accommodation statistics on tourist arrivals and overnight stays.

The key data source on the scope of collaborative economy in the field of short-stay accommodation for tourists in Slovenia is the providers of these services, i.e. four major international online booking platforms (Airbnb, Booking, Expedia Group and Tripadvisor). Based on the data on reservations made via these platforms, we are publishing the data on occupancy of short-stay accommodation in Slovenia, which are in the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities NACE Rev. 2 classified in group 55.2 “Holiday and other short-stay accommodation”.

Short-stay accommodation renting for tourism purposes as a part of collaborative economy is on online platforms in the majority included in group 55.2. Therefore, the data on tourist overnight stays in hotels and similar accommodation (group 55.1) and camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks and trailer parks (group 55.3), which are also advertised via online platforms, are excluded.

## **8 PUBLISHING**

- SiStat Database: Tourism - Accommodation of tourists - [Short stay accommodation bookings via online platforms](#); absolute data is published.
- Experimental statistics (Tourism, Accommodation statistics): "Scope of collaborative economy in the field of short-term accommodation rental".
- EUROSTAT (Statistical Office of the European Union)

## **9 REVISION OF THE DATA**

### **9.1 PUBLISHING OF PRELIMINARY AND FINAL DATA**

Provisional data are not disseminated. Only final data are published.

### **9.2 FACTORS INFLUENCING COMPARABILITY OVER TIME**

There are no breaks in time series, so all points in time are comparable.



## 10 OTHER METHODOLOGICAL MATERIALS

Methodological materials on SURS's website are available at <https://www.stat.si/statweb/en/Methods/QuestionnairesMethodologicalExplanationsQualityReports>.

- Questionnaire:
  - SURS does not collect data for this survey by using a questionnaire.
- Methodological explanations, by Eurostat:
  - [Experimental statistics on short-stay accommodation offered via online collaborative economy platforms](#)
- Methodological explanations:
  - Tourist arrivals and overnight stays

Theme: Tourism, Subtheme: Accommodation statistics