


Ewa Bąk-Filipek¹, Gábor Szalkai², Katarzyna Podhorodecka³

¹ *Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Warsaw Poland, Institute of Economics and Finance
ewa_bak_filipek@sggw.edu.pl,  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5913-6813>*

² *ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, Department
of Regional Science, Budapest, Hungary, hajnalihegy@gmail.com,
 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8158-2983>*

³ *University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland, Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies
kpodhorodecka@uw.edu.pl,  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3075-7453>*

Foreign inbound tourism to Poland and Hungary during the COVID-19 pandemic times – comparing the solutions and outcomes

Abstract: The years 2020–2021 were very difficult for the tourism sector. The restrictions were introduced in almost every European country concerning the tourism movement and restrictions for activities of restaurants and hotel and accommodation services. As a result the losses of tourism sector were enormous. The aim of the article was to find the answer to a questions: what were the results of the foreign inbound tourism to Poland and Hungary during the COVID-19 pandemic (first, second, third wave)? What were solutions taken in Poland and Hungary concerning the tourism sector in the particular waves of COVID-19 pandemic?

Key words: COVID-19 pandemic, tourism sector, tourist arrivals, tourism economy, crisis events

Introduction

The years 2020–2021 were very difficult for the tourism sector. In 2020 there was decrease of international travel globally by 73% (UNWTO Statistics – www.unwto.org). The other sectors, which together suffered with tourism services during pandemic were air-craft passengers transportation, event and entertainment sector. The restrictions that were introduced concerned the movement of people and restrictions on activities related to the provision of hotel and restaurants services. As a result of the restrictions, there was a significant decrease in the number of tourists using tourist accommodation establishments.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been the most important factor limiting the development of the tourism economy in the last two years. In 2020, a decrease in the number of international travels at the global level by 73% was recorded, and in 2021 within 7 months, a decrease by 80% compared to the corresponding period from 2019. The decrease in the number of foreign tourists' arrivals to Poland in 2020 amounted to 60% (and for the first half of 2021 compared to 2019 – by 87%), a decrease in the number of domestic trips in 2020 by 30% (and in the first half of 2021 to 2019 – by 62%). There were definitely larger declines from distant markets, smaller ones from close markets. According to experts, the return to the level of travel from 2019 can be expected not earlier than in 2022 in the case of domestic tourism, and in 2024 in the case of international tourism. In Poland in 2020, tourism economy was responsible for 4.5% of GDP (Ministry of Sport and Tourism of Poland). It was by 1.8 percent point lower than in 2019, when the share of tourism economy in GDP was 6.3%. In Hungary the share of accommodation services and catering (restaurants, bars etc.) in GDP was 1.65% in 2019 and 1.06% in 2020. The decrease was by 0.6 percent point.

The tourism economy before COVID-19 pandemic had significantly contribute to the improvement of economic and territorial cohesion of individual regions. The impact of tourism on the national economy can be analyzed in terms of the term of 'tourism industry', which is defined as 'tourism in the narrow sense' – expenses occurred by tourists and travelers for goods and services directly related to tourism, e.g. expenses for hotels and restaurants, travel agencies (Klimek 2010). The concept of 'tourism economy' appears, which includes all the expenses of tourists also for other sectors. The development of tourism in a given country significantly contributes to the development of entrepreneurship and infrastructure (Winiarski, Zdebski 2008).

The aim of the article was to find out the answer to a question: what was the outcomes of the foreign inbound tourism to Poland and Hungary during the COVID-19? What were solutions taken in Poland and Hungary concerning the tourism sector during the first, second, third and fourth wave of COVID-19? The hypothesis in the article were as follows: both Poland and Hungary tourism sector suffer enormous loses during the COVID-19 pandemic similar other European Countries. The solutions taken during the particular waves of COVID-19 were lock downs, mainly restrictions which devastated tourism economy and also during fourth wave of COVID-19 solutions promoting vacancies and COVID-19 passports. The countries that have been chosen to the analysis are together in the V-4 group (Visegrád Group of countries) and are located in Central Eastern Europe. The are average size of countries (312 thousand square kilometers – Poland, 93 thousand square kilometer – Hungary and by population 38 million – Poland, 9.7 million – Hungary and the number of foreign visitors in 2020 88 million in Poland, 31 million – Hungary. It can be observed the development of the similar types of tourism – spa and wellness, active tourism, leisure tourism, transit tourism (www.worldbank.org). However they are many discrepancies like the main types of promotion on tourists markets and the length of stay of tourists and average expenditures of tourists in particular countries.

Literature discussion

According to Elnasr et al. (2021) tourism is one severely affected by the global pandemic of COVID-19 especially small tourism enterprises. According to Jiricka-Pürerrer et al. (2020) COVID-19 pandemic offered the opportunity to discuss a new restart of the tourism coping with climate change. According Bhaskara & Filimonau (2021) the pandemic times can be a chance for organisational learning for building disaster-resilient tourism industry. According to Rahman et al. (2021) COVID-19 pandemic affected travel risk and management perceptions. Reserving a longer tourism travels in advance brings a possibility of losing the money or being stock in a hotel or apartment in a quarantine, which can also results in losing time. According to Mariolis et al. (2021) the COVID-19 resulted severely on Greek economy. The decrease of international travel receipts would lead to a decrease in GDP of about 2–6%. The COVID-19 pandemic teaches tourists not to visit overpopulated and overcrowded destinations (Rahman et al. 2021). Tourism destinations are looking for image repair strategies to fight against COVID-19 tourism image crisis (Avraham 2021). That is because the COVID-19 pandemic results in changing the people's willingness to travel (Yu1 et al. 2021). For sustainable tourism during COVID-19 important is providing domestic travel subsidies (Matsuurra, Saito 2022). Even Yanga et al. (2021) proposed the COVID-19 tourism index for the purpose to monitor the tourism effects according to pandemic situation.

According to the UNWTO the main trends in tourism during the COVID-19 pandemic were connected with switching from international travels to the domestic tourism movement. Tourist were aware of restrictions related to traveling between countries and sanitary safety at the destination. More popular were travels to isolated places, connected with nature tourism and agritourism. Many people resign from travelling because of being in danger or losing time in quarantine (www.unwto.org).

The foreign tourism performance during the COVID-19 pandemic in Poland

Analysis of the data of the Central Statistical Office of Poland regarding inbound tourism to Poland shown a huge drops in the number of foreign tourists' arrivals comparing the data from 2020 to 2019 (a decrease of 60% from 21.2 million to 8.4 million). The decrease in the number of foreign guests using the accommodation base amounted to 69%, and the number of overnight stays in the accommodation base decreased by 64%. The expenses of foreign tourists visiting Poland decreased by 64%.

According to the estimates of the Ministry of Development and Technology in 2020, there were almost 51 million arrivals of non-residents, i.e. 42% less than in the corresponding period of the previous year. The number of tourist arrivals was estimated at approx. 8.4 million (60% less than in 2019). The number of

Table 1. Foreign inbound tourism to Poland in 2017–2020 (in millions)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019
Number of foreign tourist arrivals to Poland (in million)	18.3	19.6	21.2	8.4	-60.4%
Number of foreign tourists using the total accommodation base (in million)	6.8	7.1	7.5	2.3	-69.3%
Number of nights spent by foreign tourists in the total accommodation base (in million)	16.7	17.7	18.7	6.6	-64.7%
Number of foreign tourists using hotels (in million)	5.5	5.7	6.0	1.7	-71.7%
Expenditure by foreigners visiting Poland (in PLN billion)	59.4	61.1	71.5	27.4	-61.7%
Expenditure by foreign tourists visiting Poland (in PLN billion)	32.6	34.95	37.7	13.4	-64.5%

Source: Turystyka w 2018 r. (2019 and earlier editions).

Table 2. Number of arrivals of non-residents and foreign tourists to Poland in 2019 and 2020 by main groups of countries/countries (in thousands)

Country/Group of countries	Total arrivals		Change 2020/2019	Including tourists		Change 2020/2019
	2019 r.	2020 r.		2019 r.	2020 r.	
Total	88 515	51 076	-42.3%	21 158	8 418	-60.2%
EU-27	67 684	44 359	-34.5%	14 323	6 157	-57.0%
EU-15	41 602	27 574	-33.7%	11 980	5 209	-56.5%
Germany	35 820	25 467	-28.9%	7 067	3 426	-51.5%
United Kingdom	1 228	427	-65.3%	1 002	360	-64.1%
France	728	272	-62.7%	576	211	-63.4%
Italy	633	230	-63.6%	579	215	-62.9%
The Netherlands	603	294	-51.3%	503	233	-53.7%
Austria	493	173	-64.8%	409	150	-63.3%
Sweden	418	146	-65.0%	358	120	-66.4%
Remaining EU-15 countries	1 679	565	-66.3%	1 486	494	-66.8%
EU-12	26 082	16 785	-35.6%	2 342	948	-59.5%
Czech Republic	13 979	9 277	-33.6%	354	191	-46.1%
Slovakia	7 241	4 854	-33.0%	214	107	-50.0%
Lithuania	3 154	1 886	-40.2%	708	291	-58.9%
Hungary	316	137	-56.7%	244	96	-60.8%
Latvia	703	326	-56.6%	375	103	-72.6%
Remaining countries of 12EU	689	305	-55.7%	447	160	-64.2%
Neighbors from outside Schengen	17 889	5 974	-66.6%	4 359	1 651	-62.1%
Ukraine	11 557	3 976	-65.6%	2 596	1 021	-60.7%
Belarus	4 092	1 446	-64.7%	807	391	-51.5%
Russia	2 240	552	-75.4%	955	238	-75.1%
other overseas*	1 082	270	-75.0%	892	224	-74.9%
US	695	164	-76.4%	559	131	-76.5%

Important overseas*	387	106	-72.6%	333	93	-72.1%
Rest of the world	1 859	472	-74.6%	1 585	386	-75.6%
China	189	27	-85.9%	161	23	-86.0%
Brasil	27	5	-82.4%	27	5	-82.2%
Israel	319	43	-86.7%	289	36	-87.5%
India	44	12	-71.0%	38	11	-71.3%

*Australia, Japan, Canada, South Korea.

Source: based on data from the Ministry of Sport and Tourism and the Central Statistical Office.

non-resident arrivals to Poland has been increasing since 2010 till 2019 (till the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020).

Arrivals to Poland in 2020 by month were not evenly distributed. Most arrivals were recorded in the third quarter, when the tourist season falls in Poland. The largest number of arrivals took place in August (1.15 million) and July (1 million). Months characterized by a significant number of arrivals also included: June (1 million), September (0.9 million) and October (0.7 million each). Comparing the particular months of 2020 to the same period of 2019 we can observe the increase of foreign tourist movement in February +8%, January +4% and the biggest drops in April (-94%) and May (-93%) (Table 3).

Table 3. Number of foreign tourist arrivals by month (in thousands)

Months	2018	2019	2020	2020/2019
January	1 263	1 344	1 404	4.5%
February	1 186	1 283	1 391	8.4%
March	1 419	1 562	721	-53.8%
April	1 505	1 671	95	-94.3%
May	1 708	1 850	136	-92.6%
June	1 795	1 962	265	-86.5%
July	2 125	2 300	1 059	-54.0%
August	2 171	2 283	1 155	-49.4%
September	1 868	2 014	994	-50.6%
October	1 701	1 774	547	-69.2%
November	1 429	1 523	331	-78.3%
December	1 453	1 590	320	-79.9%
Total	19 622	21 158	8 418	-60.2%

Source: based on data from the Ministry of Sport and Tourism and the Central Statistical Office.

Characteristic of arrivals of foreign tourist to Poland

In 2020, the structure of the purposes of the stay was as follows. The goals of visiting relatives and friends are 41%, business trips are 23%, and tourism is also 23%. There is more variety for individual countries or groups of countries. In the group of overseas countries, we have 52% of the target – visiting relatives and friends, 24% for business and almost 20% for tourists. Among Germans,

Table 4. Structure of arrivals of foreign tourists to Poland by aims in 2020

The main aims of travels (in %)	Total	Germany	EU-14	EU-12	Russia, Belarus Ukraine	Main overseas*
Business, including:	23.5	11.0	18.7	46.2	38.1	24.0
doing business	13.4	9.1	16.6	16.8	13.9	22.7
participation in a conference, congress	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.0
participation in fairs and exhibitions	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0
transit	8.6	0.9	0.4	28.4	22.8	0.0
a different type of business trip	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.2
Touristic	23.4	25.6	28.9	29.0	8.5	19.9
Visiting relatives and friends	41.6	56.3	46.3	20.8	18.9	52.7
Transit for private purposes	3.1	1.5	0.9	0.9	11.5	0.7
Shopping	4.0	0.7	0.0	0.1	18.5	0.0
Health	1.4	2.1	2.0	0.1	0.5	0.6
Religious, pilgrimage	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.9
Other goals	2.0	1.4	2.1	1.9	2.2	3.7

*US, Australia, Japan, Canada, South Korea.

Source: based on data from the Ministry of Sport and Tourism and the Central Statistical Office.

business ones constitute only 11%, and visiting relatives and friends 56%, and a tourist destination – 25%.

In 2020, the average length of stay in Poland was 6.9 nights. Tourists from overseas countries (18.6 nights) and the EU-14 (8.7 nights) stayed the longest in Poland. Neighbors from the east (5.6 nights) and tourists from the EU-12 group (3.6 nights) stayed the shortest in Poland, as in previous years.

Table 5. Length of stay of foreign tourists in Poland in 2020

Number of nights (%)	Total	Germany	EU-14	EU-12	Russia Belarus Ukraine	Main overseas*
1 to 3 nights	39.8	30.5	24.3	66.8	69.6	3.7
4 to 7 nights	33.5	45.6	37.8	26.8	9.3	11.8
8 to 14 nights	17.1	19.0	22.4	5.2	8.0	46.2
15 to 28 nights	6.2	3.9	11.5	0.5	6.5	14.1
Over 4 weeks	3.4	1.0	4.0	0.6	6.7	24.3
Average number of nights	6.9	6.4	8.7	3.6	5.6	18.6

*USA, Australia, Japan, Canada, South Korea.

Source: own study based on data from the Ministry of Sport and Tourism and the Central Statistical Office.

In 2020, 82% of foreign tourists organized their stay on their own. As usual, the highest percentage of package buyers was among tourists from overseas and EU-14 countries. The largest share of trips organized independently was in the case of tourists from the east (96.5%)

According to data from the Central Statistical Office, in 2020 almost 2.3 million foreign tourists used accommodation facilities, and the number of overnight stays provided them amounted to 6.5 million (this is a decrease compared to the previous year by -69.3% and respectively -64.7%). In 2020, tourists from overseas countries and the EU most often used the accommodation base. On the other hand, the Germans most often stayed with family, relatives and friends during tourist trips (62%)

The main type of accommodation base used by foreign tourists staying in Poland was accommodation with relatives and friends (46%). The second group consisted of hotel establishments (33.7%). In the hotel base, tourists from overseas countries constituted the largest percentage (71%).

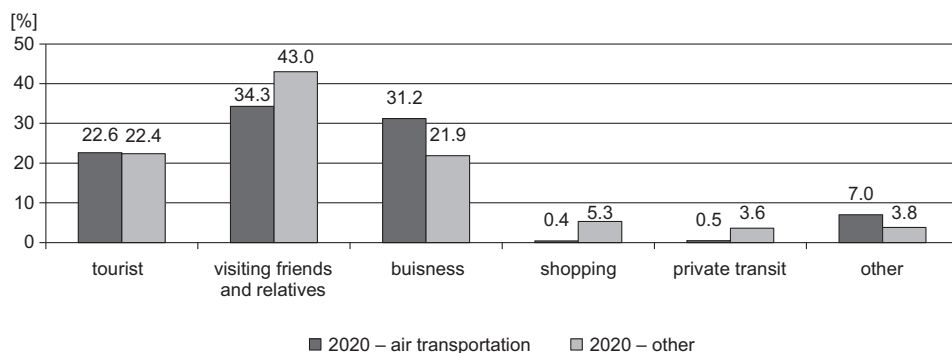


Fig. 1. Differentiation of the purpose of stay in 2020 by means of transport (in %)

Source: own elaboration based on data from the Ministry of Sport and Tourism and the Central Statistical Office.

A variety of uses of the means of transport were observed for arrivals according to the individual purposes of arrivals. Tourists coming for tourism and business purposes most often used the plane, while for visiting purposes they came by means of transport other than plane.

Amount and structure of expenditures of foreign tourists to Poland

The research carried out in 2020 shows that the average expenditure of tourists in Poland was PLN 1 583 per person and PLN 200 per day of stay.

There is considerable variation in average expenditure by country; these expenses ranged from 824 PLN (Czech Republic) to 5 361 PLN (selected overseas countries). The generic structure of expenses is as follows: 42% is housing expenses, 16.7% is food expenses, 16.3% is transport expenses.

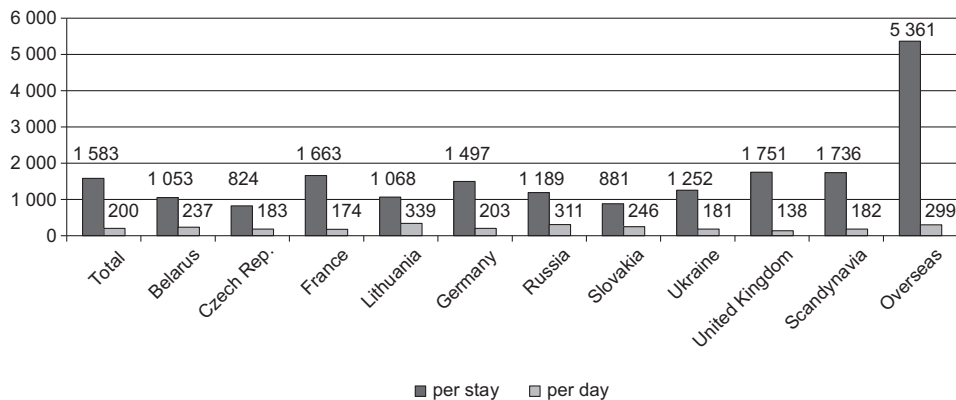


Fig. 2. Average expenses of foreign tourists per person and per day of stay in 2020 in PLN (by countries)

Overseas countries: Australia, Japan, Canada, South Korea. and the USA.

Source: based on data from the Ministry of Sport and Tourism and the Central Statistical Office.

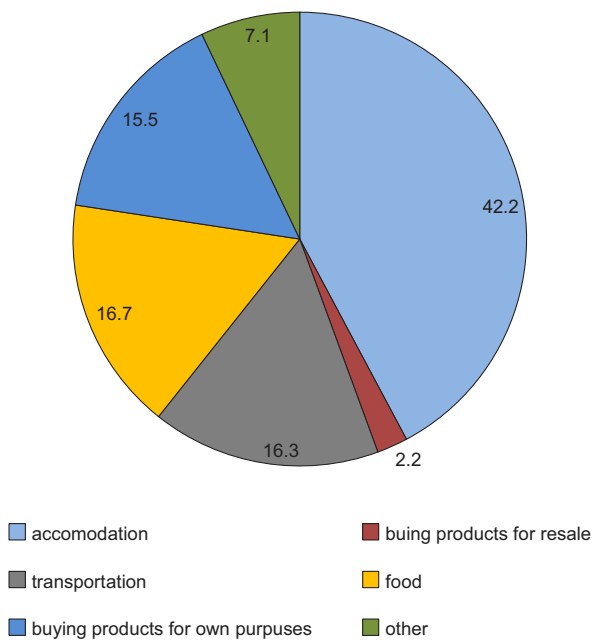


Fig. 3. The structure of expenses incurred by foreign tourists in Poland in 2020 (in %)

Source: based on data from the Ministry of Sport and Tourism and the Central Statistical Office.

The waves of COVID-19 pandemic in Poland and Hungary

The waves of COVID-19 pandemic in Poland and Hungary were very similar by time and extended (Fig. 4, 5).

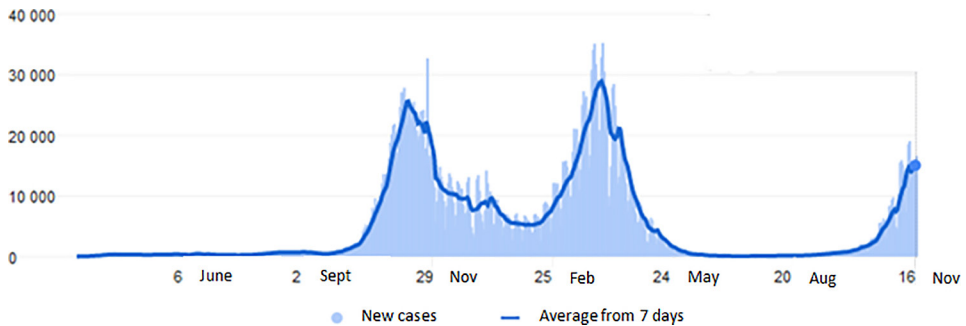


Fig. 4. The Poland's COVID-19 pandemic statistics – new cases of COVID-19 (second, third and fourth wave)
Source: JHU CSSE COVID-19 Data.

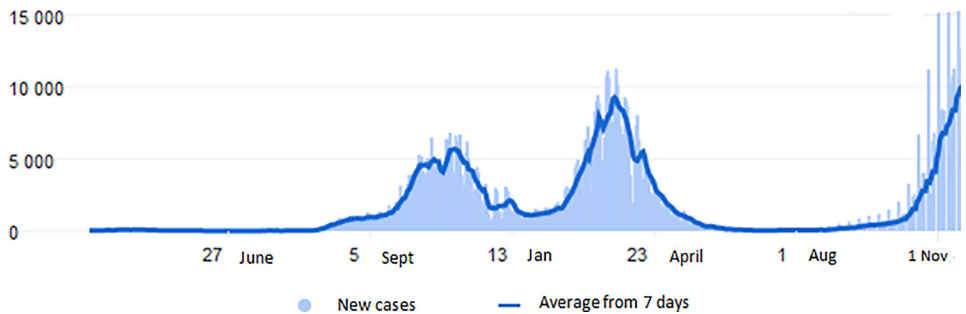


Fig. 5. The Hungary COVID-19 pandemic statistics – new cases of COVID-19 (second, third and fourth wave)
Source: JHU CSSE COVID-19 Data.

However the solutions taken were slightly different by those countries. The solutions concerning the restriction for tourism and restaurants in Poland and Hungary were shown in Table 6.

Table 6. The solutions concerning the restriction for tourism and restaurants in Poland and Hungary

Wave of COVID-19	Poland	Hungary
First	Hotels and restaurants closed (only take away meals in restaurants, hotels) – from March till June 2020	Restaurants first could be opened till 3.00 pm, then restaurants (only take away), hotels closed – reopening territorially and in time different – from March till May 2020
Second	From 7-th November 2020 hotels were available only to guests on a business trip or on a business trip, medical professionals, health patients and their carers – till February 2021.	From 11-th November 2020 hotels were available only for guest on a business and educational trip, restaurants closed (only for take away)
Third	From March 20 to April 9, 2021, the following activities had to be suspended: hotels (exceptions include workers' hotels, as well as accommodation provided as part of business trips – the exact catalog of exceptions along with the required confirmation of a business trip will be included in the regulation). Hotels open from June.	Terraces of restaurants could be opened 24th of April, indoor restaurant places were opened on 1 May 2021 for protected persons, hotels could be opened in June
Fourth	From 1-st of December 2021 only 50% of accommodation facility can used, the rest by vacancies people	No restrictions till mid of November 2021

Source: own elaboration on basis of legal regulations.

Foreign inbound tourism to Hungary in the COVID-19 pandemic situation

Restrictive measures on COVID-19 in Hungary were first started on 11-th March 2020, with effect from the following day. A government decree on what to do during the emergency banned entry from China, Iran, Italy and South Korea, and later Israel, and border controls were reintroduced at the Slovenian and Austrian borders. From 17-th March, the borders were closed to 'all' non-Hungarian citizens. The restrictions were gradually lifted from the end of May and the state of emergency ended on 18-th June. From the beginning of July, the second round of restrictions started due to the deterioration of the epidemic situation in some areas. Countries around the world were classified into green, yellow and red categories depending on their risk, with almost all non-European areas placed in the red category, which means they were banned from travel. Among the neighboring countries, Serbia and Romania were classified as yellow and Ukraine as red. For the second wave, restrictions were tightened again from 1 September 2020, with the borders again 'closed' and no foreign nationals allowed to enter for tourism purposes. From 11-th November, hotels were only allowed to receive guests for educational or business purposes, the provision was only lifted on 1-st May 2021 for those with a protection card. However, the government lifted Schengen border controls even later, on 23 June 2021, allowing citizens of neighboring countries

– with the exception of Ukraine – to enter Hungary by land without restriction, and citizens of other countries with the appropriate epidemiological immunity cards. In the Table 7 was presented number of foreign tourist arrivals by quarter in Hungary. It can be observed a huge drop in third and fourth quarter of 2020.

Table 7. Number of foreign tourist arrivals by quarter (in thousands) in Hungary in years 2018–2020

Quarters	2018	2019	2020	2020/2019
First	10 889	12 155	10 568	–0,13%
Second	13 747	14 687	3 371	–0,77%
Third	20 684	21 743	10 842	–50.1%
Fourth	12 347	12 812	6 859	–46.4%
Total	57 667	6 1397	31 640	–48.4%

Source: Central Statistical Office of Hungary (www.ksh.hu).

As a result of the restrictions, the Hungarian tourism sector has suffered a huge decline. In 2020, compared to a 5% drop in the national economy's output, the gross value added of accommodation and food services fell by 32%, making the sector one of the biggest losers of the epidemic. The number of people employed in the sector fell by 8.5% (177.000) compared with an average of 0.9% (www.ksh.hu/docs/hun/xftp/idoszaki/jeltur/2020/helyzetkep_turizmus_2020.pdf).

Accurately counting the turnover of foreign visitors is made difficult by the fact that data collection was interrupted on several occasions during the epidemic or was only carried out with reduced reliability due to the low number of data providers. The HCSO has sometimes used model estimation to fill in missing data, and comparisons with former data are limited (www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/tur/hu/tur0003.html).

From 2019 to 2020, the number of foreign arrivals to Hungary decreased by 48.4%, with one-day trips falling below average (45.5%) and multi-day trips falling well above average (56.2%). On a seasonal, quarterly basis, the second quarter of 2020 showed the largest decrease (77%) compared to the same period of the previous year, with subsequent quarters showing decreases of between 46% and 59%. (www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/tur/hu/tur0003.html, www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/tur/hu/tur0043.html).

In 2020, the number of foreign visitors was 1.4 million and the number of nights spent in commercial accommodation was 3.8 million, down 78% and 76% respectively on a year earlier. Revenue from commercial accommodation fell by 58% (www.ksh.hu/docs/hun/xftp/idoszaki/jeltur/2020/helyzetkep_turizmus_2020.pdf).

By sending area, the number of arrivals from all other continents fell by between 73% and 80%, while the drop from Europe was 'only' 47%. In 2019, there were 12 countries with at least 900.000 arrivals to Hungary per year, with the smallest decrease in Bulgaria (39%), the largest declines in Croatia, Italy and the UK (60–70%). Countries with the biggest number of arrivals, Romania, Slovakia

and Austria had smaller declines (41–45%). If only overnight trips are taken into account, by far the most important sending country, Germany, recorded a drop of 48%, second to third Romania and Slovakia 47–53%, while Austria in fourth only 26% (www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/tur/hu/tur0004.html). By mode of travel, the sharpest drop in long-distance travels was seen in air arrivals, down 76%, and road arrivals, down 45%. (www.bud.hu/budapest_airport/letoltheto_dokumentumok/statisztikak/forgalmi_jelentesek, www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/tur/hu/tur0006.html). The length of stay in Hungary of tourists in 2020 was only 2.2 nights. The longest stay were recorded from overseas countries, the shortest from neighboring countries (Fig. 6).

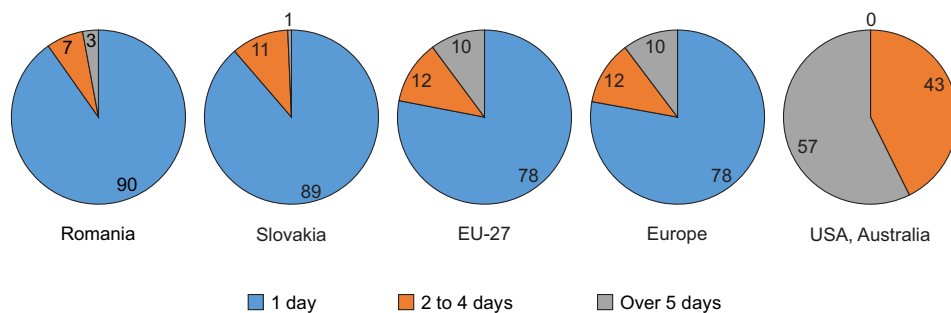


Fig. 6. The length of stay of foreign tourists in Hungary in 2020 (in %) Source: Central Statistical Office of Hungary (www.ksh.hu).

By purpose of entry, the two extreme declines for day trips were for sightseeing (63%) and other private trips (39.4%), with the exception of work, for which the statistics are unchanged. However, the picture is much more varied for multi-day trips, with some categories showing lower falls than the 50–60% (76% for sightseeing) that are typical in general. Thus, although not legally permitted in principle, the drop was only 32% for health care, while the drop was also lower for activities that are legally exempt from the entry restriction (business 38%, study 22%, work 20%). For multi-day trips, there was also a category, other private trips, which could become a catch-all category due to trips not included elsewhere, and here, alone, there was an increase of more than 100% (www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/tur/hu/tur0005.html).

Table 8. The length of stay of foreign tourists in Hungary in 2020

Number of days	Total	Romania	Slovakia	EU-27	Europe	USA, Australia
1 day	24224	6877	5698	20457	24215	0
2 to 4 days	3880	522	684	3093	3687	87
Over 5 days	3537	223	44	2668	3202	117
Average number of days	2,2	1,4	1,2	2	2	26

Source: Central Statistical Office of Hungary (www.ksh.hu).

In terms of regions in Hungary, the biggest drop in the number of foreign was in the capital (66%), but the southern regions of the country also saw a fall of over 60%. By contrast, Lake Tisza, which presumably attracts a more stable visitor base and is less affected by the slight decline in summer tourism, lost only 30% of its foreign visitors. (www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/tur/hu/tur0009.html). In August 2021, the least affected region of Western Transdanubia also recorded 34.5% fewer foreign overnight stays compared to two years earlier, while Budapest and Pest county were the worst affected with a 65.5% drop (www.ksh.hu/heti-monitor/turizmus.html).

Summary and Conclusions

Trends in tourism observed during the COVID-19 pandemic are as follows: the most frequently indicated trends in tourism are greater interest in domestic tourism, paying special attention to regulations related to traveling between countries and sanitary safety at the destination, looking for isolated and less popular places, increasing interest in accommodation in smaller facilities, using a private car as a means of transport, trips in the family group choosing rural areas instead of cities, outdoor activities. Tourists resigned from trips abroad changing them to domestic ones or travels to the neighbouring countries from, which they can quickly return by car in the case of lock-downs or the restrictions. However many people afraid of foreign travelling, because they do not want to lose money or time in quarantine.

In the article were shown the reactions of tourism industry in Poland and Hungary due to COVID-19 pandemic situation. Like almost every European country during the first, second and third wave of COVID-19 government provided the restrictions for HoReCa sector and quarantine to people traveling from the abroad. The results of the foreign inbound tourism to Poland and Hungary during the COVID-19 pandemic were similar to rest of the World (decrease in number of internationals travels by 73%). In Poland the decrease was by 70% in foreign tourist's arrivals and in Hungary by 78% in accommodation tourism statistics. Occurring new versions of COVID-19 viruses can bring other unexpected decisions of tourist and authorities. During the increasing fourth wave in Poland people were resigning from Christmas stays and new years travels, which were booked just after the summer holidays when the number of detected cases of COVID-19 was very low.

During the first wave of COVID-19 the restrictions in Poland and in Hungary were very similar – hotels and restaurants closed, only take away meals in restaurants and in Hungary from March till June restaurants first could be opened till 3.00 pm, restaurants (only take away option). During the second wave hotels were closed – reopening was territorially differentiated in time – from March till May 2020. The fourth wave is different, because people had time to get vacancies against COVID-19. Omicron variant can of course bring changes. Fourth wave in Poland provided small changes concerning the hotel and the level of the number

of people, which took the vacancies against COVID-19 from 15-th of December 2021 (only 30% of accommodation can be used by people without COVID-19 passports).

References

- Avraham E. 2021. Recovery strategies and marketing campaigns for global destinations in response to the COVID-19 tourism crisis. *Asia Pacific Journal of Tourism Research*, 26, 11: 1255–1269 (<https://doi.org/10.1080/10941665.2021.1918192>).
- Bhaskara G.I., Filimonau V. 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic and organisational learning for disaster planning and management: A perspective of tourism businesses from a destination prone to consecutive disasters. *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management*, 46: 364–375.
- Elnasr A., Sobaih E., Elshaer I., Hasanein A.M., Abdelaziz A.S. 2021. Responses to COVID-19: The role of performance in the relationship between small hospitality enterprises' resilience and sustainable tourism development. *International Journal of Hospitality Management*, 94.
- Jiricka-Pürerer A., Brandenburg C., Probstl-Haider U. 2020. City tourism pre- and post-COVID-19 pandemic – Messages to take home for climate change adaptation and mitigation? *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*, 31 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jort.2020.100329>).
- Klimek K. 2010. *Turystyka jako czynnik społeczno-gospodarczego rozwoju Szwajcarii*. Polskie Towarzystwo Ekonomiczne, Kraków.
- Mariolis T., Rodousakis N., Soklis G. 2021. The COVID-19 multiplier effects of tourism on the Greek economy. *Tourism Economics*, 27(8): 1848–1855, DOI: 10.1177/1354816620946547.
- Matsuura T., Saito H. 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic and domestic travel subsidies. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 92.
- Rahman M.K., Gazi A.I., Bhuiyan M.A., Rahaman A. 2021. Effect of COVID-19 pandemic on tourist travel risk and management perceptions, *Plos One* (<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0256486>).
- Turystyka w 2018 r.* 2019. Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa.
- Turystyka w 2019 r.* 2020. Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa.
- Turystyka w 2020 r.* 2021. Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa.
- Winiarski R., Zdebski J. 2008. *Psychologia turystyki*. Wyd. Akademickie i Profesjonalne, Warszawa.
- Yanga Y., Altschulera B., Xiang Z.L., Lia R. 2021. Monitoring the global COVID-19 impact on tourism: The COVID19tourism index. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 90: 103–120 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annals.2020.103120>).
- Yul H., Hanyu1 B., Shiwei1 S. 2021. How does COVID-19 affect tourism in terms of people's willingness to travel? Empirical evidence from China. *Tourism Review*, 76, 4: 892–909. www.stat.gov.pl (dostęp: 17.11.2021).
- www.unwto.org – UNWTO Statistics (dostęp: 3.12.2021).
- www.coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html – JHU CSSE COVID-19 Data (dostęp: 17.11.2021).
- www.bud.hu/budapest_airport/letoltheto_dokumentumok/statisztikak/forgalmi_jelentesek
- www.ksh.hu/docs/hun/xftp/idoszaki/jeltur/2020/helyzetkep_turizmus_2020.pdf
- www.ksh.hu/heti-monitor/turizmus.html
- www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/tur/hu/tur0003.html
- www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/tur/hu/tur0043.html
- www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/tur/hu/tur0004.html
- www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/tur/hu/tur0005.html
- www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/tur/hu/tur0006.html
- www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/tur/hu/tur0009.html
- www.gov.pl/web/sport/ – Ministry of Sport and Tourism of Poland
- www.unwto.org/impact-assessment-of-the-COVID-19-outbreak-on-international-tourism (dostęp: 27.02.2022).

Zagraniczna turystyka przyjazdowa do Polski i na Węgry w czasie pandemii COVID-19 – porównanie rozwiązań i wyników

Zarys treści: Lata 2020–2021 były bardzo trudne dla branży turystycznej w całej Europie i na świecie. W prawie każdym europejskim kraju wprowadzono ograniczenia dotyczące ruchu turystycznego, działalności restauracji oraz usług hotelarskich i noclegowych. W rezultacie straty sektora turystycznego były ogromne. Celem artykułu było znalezienie odpowiedzi na pytanie: jakie były skutki zagranicznej turystyki przyjazdowej do Polski i na Węgry podczas pandemii COVID-19 (pierwsza, druga, trzecia fala)? Jakie rozwiązania przyjęto w Polsce i na Węgrzech w odniesieniu do sektora turystycznego w czasie poszczególnych fal pandemii COVID-19?

Słowa kluczowe: pandemia COVID-19, sektor turystyczny, przyjazdy turystów, gospodarka turystyczna, wydarzenia kryzysowe