

Explanatory Notes

Data Sources

All room revenue data reported is compiled by BC STATS using the hotel tax database maintained and administered by the Consumer Taxation Branch of the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue.

Traveller Entry data is from Statistics Canada. All other data sources are accredited within the report.

Accommodation Categories

Each property has been assigned to one of eight accommodation categories. In addition to motels and four sizes of hotels, there are three special accommodation categories:

Fishing Lodges -- All inland and coastal fishing camps located on or near lakes, rivers and oceans. Includes lodges which offer inland fishing expeditions, marinas with accommodation and lodges offering the services of fishing guides.

Vacation Rentals -- Includes beach houses, cabins, and selected trailer parks. May also include certain inns and apartment complexes.

Miscellaneous -- Includes guest ranches; outfitting, adventure hunting and other types of outdoor adventure; lodges that cater to skiers, hikers, etc. (with the exception of those lodges that mainly service cabins); bed and breakfasts; and houseboats. Also includes universities, mining firms, farms and other establishments renting rooms whose primary activity is not accommodation.

Seasonally Adjusted Data

Accommodation revenue exhibits large, regular seasonal fluctuations, characterised by peaks in the summer months and troughs in the winter months.

The *Tourism Sector Monitor* report uses Statistics Canada's X11/ARIMA/88 technique to remove the effects of seasonality from the revenue time series. The resulting seasonally adjusted series provides a useful tool for the analysis of underlying trends in accommodation revenue.

Unless otherwise indicated, revenue data in the *Tourism Sector Monitor* report is adjusted for seasonal fluctuations.

Tourism Sector Monitor is prepared by BC STATS, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, using data from the Consumer Taxation Branch of the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue.

Visit BC STATS on the World Wide Web at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

Limitations

The data reported here is derived from the hotel tax database. Tax is not payable for several kinds of accommodation, including:

1. properties with three or fewer rooms (such as small bed and breakfast operations);
2. room rentals exceeding one month in duration;
3. lodging where the daily rate is below \$20;
4. lodging supplied to passengers of a ship or train while the ship or train is in transit or is making a scheduled stopover in the Province;
5. lodging supplied by employers to employees; and,
6. lodging supplied to consular employees and their staff.

Readers wishing more information regarding the nature of the hotel tax are referred to the *Hotel Room Tax Act* and the *Hotel Room Tax Regulations*.

Room Counts

Data are obtained primarily from Tourism BC's *Accommodation Guide* and supplemented by estimates from the Consumer Taxation Branch's hotel tax file. Vendors and their rooms are not counted in any given month unless revenue has been reported.

Suppression

The protection of confidentiality requires the suppression of categories not containing at least 10 properties. In most cases, protection is achieved by aggregating confidential cells into larger categories.

Revisions

A standard revision cycle accommodates corrections to the source data, to the allocation of consolidated reporters, and to the coding of properties by accommodation type. Revisions are implicit in the seasonally adjusted data and in the month-over-month, year-over-year and year-to-date percentage changes of subsequent reports, and are comprehensively reported in the annual tables published in the Annual issue of the *Tourism Sector Monitor* report.