The Tourism Economy Study: CCU Lodging Update, Feb. 23, 2017

Current Performance Estimates

Hotel, Condo-Hotel and Campsite Properties

Preliminary results from Coastal Carolina University’s voluntary sample of hotel, condo-hotel and campsite (HC-HC) properties along the Grand Strand during the week of Feb. 12-18, 2017, indicates that the midweek occupancy rate averaged 31 percent, down 2.6 occupancy points or 7.7 percent compared to the equivalent week of 2016. During the Friday-Saturday night period, the occupancy rate averaged 72.4 percent, up 4.8 occupancy points or 7.2 percent compared to the equivalent weekend last year. The average daily rate (ADR) was up 8.2 percent during the midweek period and up 22.5 percent during the weekend compared with last year. Consequently, HC-HC occupancy for the week overall was down 0.8 occupancy point or 1.9 percent, but revenue per available room (RevPAR) was up 14.4 percent compared with the equivalent week of 2016.

VRPs

Based on the Brittain Center’s observations of random samples of internet websites of vacation rental properties (VRPs) in the coastal sections of Horry and Georgetown counties (318 of the 3,135 units) for which complete data are publicly available, 31.5 percent were reserved or blocked from nightly rentals during the nights of Feb. 11-17, 2017. The level of reservations was down 16.6 occupancy points or 34.3 percent compared with the equivalent week of 2016. For the nights of Feb. 18-24, 2017, 35.7 percent of the VRPs were reserved or blocked from reservation. The level of reservations was down 7.2 occupancy points or 16.8 percent compared with the equivalent week of 2016.

Six-Week Average Performance

Preliminary results indicate that during the nights of Jan. 8-Feb. 18, 2017, 30.5 percent of the lodging properties in the Brittain Center’s voluntary sample of HC-HC properties located along the Grand Strand were occupied, which was down 1.2 occupancy points or 3.9 percent compared with the equivalent weeks of 2016. The average daily rate for these properties was up 5.9 percent compared with the equivalent weeks of 2016, driving average RevPAR up 1.8 percent compared with the equivalent period of 2016. During the same period in 2017, 36.7 percent of the VRP bedrooms in the Center’s random sample of Horry County VRPs were reserved or blocked from nightly rentals, down 0.6 occupancy point or 1.5 percent compared with the equivalent weeks of 2016. Advertised prices for this segment were up 6.7 percent compared with the equivalent weeks of 2016, which would drive revenue per available bedroom up 5.1 percent compared with the equivalent weeks of 2016.

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Forecast and Analysis

According to weather.com at the time of this writing, the forecast for the weekend of Feb. 25-26, 2017, calls for a high temperature of 78 degrees and 63 degrees, and a 20 percent and 0 percent chance of precipitation, respectively. The Brittain Center predicts that average occupancy for its sample of HC-HC properties may be near or above 60 percent for the nights of Feb. 24-25, 2017. Based on this week’s observations by Center researchers of 318 websites of VRPs available to rent in Horry and Georgetown counties, 35.4 percent are reserved for the week of Feb. 25-March 3, 2017. VRP reservations in Horry and Georgetown counties for that week are down 17 occupancy points or 32.5 percent compared with the same week of 2016.

Additional Research Notes

The Brittain Center’s preliminary sample of 27 HC-HC properties reporting for the week of Feb. 12-18, 2017, consisted of 13 hotels (all but five are oceanfront/view, and five are brand affiliated), 13 condo-hotels (all are oceanfront/view), and one campground resort property. The results for the current moving six-week period are based on an average sample size of 9,131 units per week average.

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Note: The above analysis is based on sample estimates. Actual business performance results may vary greatly. Therefore, neither the above centers nor Coastal Carolina University warrant the use of the above data or analysis for specific business application.