The Tourism Economy Study: CCU Lodging Update, May 17, 2018

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 May 6-12, 2018, indicate that the midweek occupancy rate averaged 50.4 percent, up 1.9 occupancy points or 3.9 percent compared to the equivalent week of 2017. During the Friday-Saturday night period, the occupancy rate averaged 85.2 percent, up 6.6 occupancy points or 8.4 percent compared to the equivalent weekend in 2017. The average daily rate (ADR) was even during the midweek period and up 2.3 percent compared with the equivalent weekend period in 2017. Consequently, HC-HC occupancy for the week overall was up 3.1 occupancy points or 5.4 percent, and ADR was up 1.3 percent, bringing revenue per available room (RevPAR) up 6.8 percent compared with the equivalent week of 2017.

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, 48.4 percent were reserved or blocked from rental during the week of May 5-11, 2018. The level of reservations was down 4.7 occupancy points or 8.8 percent compared with the equivalent week of 2017. For the nights of May 12-18, 2018, 56 percent of the VRPs were reserved or blocked from reservation. The level of reservations was up 1.4 occupancy points or 2.6 percent compared with the equivalent week in 2017.

Six-Week Average Performance

Preliminary results indicate that during the nights of April 1-May 12, 2018, which did not include the Easter Friday weekend, 60.2 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 4.1 occupancy points or 6.4 percent compared with the equivalent weeks of 2017, which in that year included the Easter Friday weekend. The average daily rate for these properties was down 3.7 percent compared with the equivalent weeks of 2017, leaving average RevPAR down 9.8 percent compared with the equivalent period of 2017. During the same period, 54 percent of the VRP bedrooms in the Center’s random sample of Horry County VRPs were reserved or blocked from weekly rentals, down 2.6 occupancy points or 4.6 percent compared with the equivalent weeks in 2017. Average advertised price for this segment was down 5.6 percent, which would leave revenue per available bedroom down 10 percent compared with the equivalent weeks in 2017.

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**Forecast and Analysis**

According to weather.com at the time of this writing, the forecast for the weekend of May 19-20, 2018, calls for a 100 percent and 60 percent chance of precipitation, and a high temperature of 75 degrees and 80 degrees, respectively. The Brittain Center predicts that average occupancy for its sample of HC-HC properties may be near 85 percent for the nights of May 18-19, 2018. Based on this week’s observations by Center researchers of 318 websites of VRPs available to rent in Horry and Georgetown counties, 55 percent are reserved for the week of May 19-25, 2018, down 17.5 occupancy points or 24 percent compared with the equivalent week of 2017.

**Additional Research Notes**

The Brittain Center’s preliminary sample of 23 HC-HC properties reporting for the week of May 6-12, 2018, consisted of 10 hotels (all but four are oceanfront/view, and three are brand-affiliated), 12 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 8,330 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.