

Секция 10

ПРОБЛЕМЫ РАЗВИТИЯ ИНДУСТРИИ ТУРИЗМА И ГОСТЕПРИИМСТВА

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ECONOMIC LOSSES TO THE PUBLIC FOOD INDUSTRY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Coronavirus infection has affected the economies of all countries and regions. According to the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Belarus, the economic consequences of the coronavirus amounted to about \$5 trillion, which is almost 90 % of Japan's GDP in 2018 and about 26 and a half times the annual GDP of Belarus [1]. Since the economy of the Republic of Belarus cannot be called sufficiently integral, but depends on Europe, Russia, China and the general state of affairs in the world, the impact of the pandemic can be traced on all economic indicators.

Particularly affected by the coronavirus are those industries that involve crowds of people in a confined space, i.e. it is the sphere of catering, tourism and hotel business. At the beginning of the pandemic, the decline in revenue of catering facilities was 10–20 %, at the height of the Pandemic the owners of restaurants and cafes were already pessimistic and many closed their businesses as in 3–4 days revenue decreased by 70–80 %. Small cafes and bars were the first to suffer, especially in the regions, but the situation also affected large restaurants. Some of them reoriented to delivery or organized take away service, but this option is applicable only to large cities.

To calculate the amount that Belarus has lost due to the pandemic, one should look at the country's budget. GDP of the Republic of Belarus at the end of 2020 amounted to 122,9 billion rubles in comparable prices compared to 124,1 billion rubles in 2019 [2]. GDP fell by 0,9 % or 1,2 billion rubles. This is the loss of the economy due to the coronavirus pandemic. Public catering turnover in January — December

2020 amounted to 2,458,7 million rubles, which is 80 % of the previous year. And this is a loss for the economy of 491,74 million rubles per year from the catering sector.

In order to minimize the impact of the pandemic on the economy of the Republic of Belarus, on April 24, 2020, the Decree of the Head of State № 143 “On support of the economy” was adopted. However, government support was not what the restaurateurs expected, and demand has not yet recovered.

The coronavirus has affected the middle class mostly, as burgers and pizza are not products that people can save a lot on. Expensive restaurants have their own established audience. However, there are noticeably fewer people in establishments for the middle class. With the beginning of the recovery, a second wave broke out, which did not lead to a complete lockdown, but entailed new changes in the work.

The industry will recover: to replace those who could not survive with all the difficulties of the first wave, new ones will come. When opening a catering establishment, it is necessary to make it more flexible in terms of adapting to possible restrictive measures. For example, so that it can quickly transform into a “grocery store”. Many bakeries are now following this path, creating so-called hybrid formats, including a bakery, a cafe, and a store. This format has not yet reached the peak of its popularity and will definitely grow for one or two years.

Thus, on the one hand, the catering sector is already on its way to recovery. Despite the fact that the restrictive measures are no longer, what they were before, they still remain. The worst thing is the consequences of the first wave. Quarantine measures, forced vacations, and a decrease in the profitability of employers force people to abandon some goods. Of course, these are, first of all, expensive items, cars, equipment and jewelry, but “penny and penny laid up will be many”, so people are reconsidering their eating habits.

References

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