



Hotel and Restaurant Equipment

A Top Export Prospect for Dominican Republic

September 2014

Overview

Unit: (Millions of U.S. Dollars)

	2012	2013	2014 (est)
Total Market Size	43.0	43.0	44.0
Total Local Production	3.0	3.0	3.0
Total Exports	-	-	-
Total Imports	41.0	40.0	41.0
Imports from the U.S.	20.1	19.4	20.0

Exchange rate: RD\$43.5 – U.S.\$1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Statistics

Tourism continues to be one of the main pillars of the Dominican economy. During the period January - December 2013 the number of tourists that entered the Dominican Republic via different international airports and ports was 4.7 million; which reflects a 2.8 percent increase when compared to 4.6 million tourists that visited during the same period in 2012.

There are over 67,000 available hotel rooms in the Dominican Republic and approximately 200 restaurant members of the association of hotels and restaurants. The average hotel occupancy rate was 77.8 per cent during the month of December 2013, reflecting an increase of 12 per cent when compared to December 2012.

Sources: Central Bank of the Dominican Republic
Dominican Association of Hotels and Restaurants (ASONAHORES)

The economic downturn of the last few years has impacted the tourist sector and constrained spending by hoteliers and restaurateurs. In 2014, hotel and restaurant equipment imports, especially from the U.S., are expected to maintain the same levels as 2013, or experience a modest increase.

CAFTA-DR creates a competitive advantage for U.S. products in this industry sector since hotel and restaurant equipment imports originated in other countries will continue to pay 20%, while most U.S. made products in this sector enter the Dominican Republic duty free.

Sub-Sector Best Prospects

- Restaurant equipment and parts
- Bed & table linen & towels
- Table and kitchen glassware
- Cookware, cutlery, tools
- Kitchen appliances

Opportunities

Tourism investment is expected to continue but at a moderate pace during 2014 in resort hotels, specifically on the east and northern coasts, particularly in the Samana Peninsula. The investments in these areas, as well as in other areas of the country, present a variety of new opportunities for those who support the development of tourism infrastructure and supply equipment for new hotels or expansion projects.

Web Resources

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Sectors covered: Hotel & Restaurant Equipment and Travel & Tourism

Association of Hotels and Restaurants of the Dominican Republic:
<http://www.asonahores.com> ASONAHORES organizes an annual trade exposition for hotel suppliers. The “Exposicion Comercial ASONAHORES 2014” will take place on September 10-12, 2014.

Ministry of Tourism: <http://www.dominicana.com.do>

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