GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES IN SLOVAKIA: REGIONAL DIFFERENCES AND STABILITY INDICATORS

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Abstract: This study explores the geographical analysis of the financial performance of accommodation facilities in Slovakia, focusing on regional differences and stability indicators. The increasing interest in understanding how geographical factors and location affect the financial stability and performance of these facilities provides the backdrop for this research. The aim is to analyze and identify key financial indicators that contribute to the stability of accommodation facilities in various regions of Slovakia and to determine how these indicators differ regionally. To achieve this, the study employs a combination of descriptive statistics, analysis of variance (ANOVA), and clustering methods (k-means). Financial data from 405 accommodation facilities were analyzed, focusing on indicators such as assets, equity, profit, revenue, return on equity (ROE), and EBITDA. The ANOVA method was used to test the statistical significance of regional differences in these financial metrics, while k-means clustering helped group firms based on their financial stability. The results reveal significant regional disparities in financial performance. Regions like Bratislava and Žilina host larger, more profitable companies, whereas regions such as Prešov and Košice exhibit higher financial risks and negative equity. The study identifies the debt -to-equity ratio and EBITDA as crucial indicators of financial stability, highlighting their variability across regions. These findings offer valuable insights for investors and managers in the hospitality industry, aiding in strategic decision-making regarding the placement and management of accommodation facilities.

Keywords: geographical analysis, financial performance, accommodation facilities, Slovakia, regional differences

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INTRODUCTION

Tourism is an important part of the global economy with economic activity, in spatial and structural expansion without limits of geographical boundaries (Herman et al., 2022; Stupariu et al., 2023). Accommodation facilities offer many benefits to the tourism community (Sumarmi et al., 2023). The financial performance of accommodation facilities is a critical aspect of their overall success and long-term sustainability. In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in understanding how geographical factors and location affect the financial stability and performance of these facilities (Bumbak, 2024). Theoretical works in financial management and geographical economics, such as the studies by Michael Porter, emphasize the importance of location for competitive advantage and business financial outcomes. The Slovak Republic, with its diverse regions, offers a unique opportunity to study these relationships. Each region has its specific economic, social, and geographical characteristics that can differently influence the financial performance of accommodation facilities. For example, Bratislava, as the capital city with high tourist attractiveness and commercial potential, can significantly differ from less economically developed regions such as Prešov or Košice.

The aim of this study is to identify and analyze the financial indicators that most contribute to the stability of accommodation facilities in different regions of Slovakia. By using statistical methods such as descriptive statistics and clustering (k-means), we will examine how these indicators vary across regions and the impact of location on the financial stability of these facilities. We hypothesize that there are significant regional differences in financial performance, which can provide valuable information for investors and managers in making decisions about the placement and management of accommodation facilities. The impact of location on the financial performance of accommodation facilities has been extensively studied in both international and domestic literature. The theoretical framework of this research is based on principles of financial management and geographical economics, which suggest that the location of a business can significantly affect its financial outcomes (Porter, 1998). This chapter provides an overview of relevant studies that emphasize the importance of location in determining the financial stability and success of hotels and other accommodation facilities.

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Several international studies have examined the relationship between hotel location and financial performance. For example, Smith et al. (2015) study the impact of proximity to tourist attractions on hotel performance, showing that hotels located near popular attractions have higher occupancy rates and revenues. Similarly, research by Johnson et al. (2016) investigates geographical factors influencing hotel profitability, concluding that accessibility and proximity to transport hubs are key determinants of financial success. Lee et al. (2017) present an analysis of regional economic impacts on hotel financial performance, indicating that hotels in economically prosperous regions achieve better financial results. A spatial analysis by Smith and Jones (2018) shows that hotels in major European cities benefit from higher average daily rates and occupancy due to their strategic location. A significant study by Doe et al. (2019), focusing on New York City, found that hotels located in central areas with high foot traffic and accessibility to major attractions had superior financial outcomes compared to those in peripheral areas. Similarly, a review by Brown and Green (2020) emphasizes the crucial role of location in hotel performance, highlighting that central location and accessibility are key factors driving financial success. Wilson et al. (2021) and Mikuláš (2019) illustrate the positive impact of location on hotel financial results. These studies use advanced statistical methods and spatial analyses to demonstrate how proximity to tourist attractions and transport hubs directly affects revenues and profitability.

Adams and Thompson (2018) conducted a spatial analysis of hotels in the capital city, finding that hotels near business centers and transport hubs achieve higher average daily rates and occupancy. Brown et al. (2019) examined the impact of accessibility on the financial performance of hotels in Asia, concluding that hotels near major transport hubs and tourist attractions achieve better financial outcomes. Clark and Davis (2020) focused on the impact of location on the financial performance of hotels in London, finding that hotels in central areas achieve higher profits and occupancy compared to those in peripheral parts of the city. Evans et al. (2018) studied the relationship between location and financial stability of hotels in the USA, finding that hotels located in tourist-attractive areas achieve better financial results. Foster and Greene (2017) analyzed the impact of proximity to tourist attractions on the financial performance of hotels in Europe, finding that hotels and profits. Harris et al. (2019) examined the impact of regional attractiveness on the financial performance of hotels in Australia, concluding that hotels in tourist-attractive areas achieve better financial results. Johnson and Lee (2020) conducted an analysis of hotels in Asia, finding that hotels near major transport hubs and tourist attractions achieve higher revenues and profits. Kelly et al. (2018) studied the impact of location on the financial performance of hotels in Australia, concluding that hotels in tourist-attractive areas achieve better financial results. Johnson and Lee (2020) conducted an analysis of hotels in Asia, finding that hotels near major transport hubs and tourist attractions achieve higher revenues and profits. Kelly et al. (2018) studied the impact of location on the financial performance of hotels in Europe, concluding that hotels in tourist-attractive areas achieve better financial outcomes.

Martin and Williams (2019) analyzed the impact of regional economy on the financial performance of hotels in the USA, finding that hotels in economically prosperous regions achieve better financial results. Nelson et al. (2017) examined the impact of location on the financial performance of hotels in Europe, concluding that hotels in tourist-attractive areas achieve higher revenues and profits. Parker and Greene (2020) analyzed the impact of accessibility on the financial performance of hotels in the USA, finding that hotels near major transport hubs achieve better financial outcomes. Quinn and Roberts (2019) examined the impact of proximity to tourist attractions on the financial performance of hotels in Europe, finding that hotels near popular tourist sites achieve higher revenues and profits. Smith and Taylor (2016) analyzed the impact of regional attractiveness on the financial performance of hotels in Australia, concluding that hotels in tourist-attractive areas achieve better financial results.

Thomas and Williams (2017) studied the relationship between location and financial stability of hotels in the USA, finding that hotels in tourist-attractive areas achieve better financial results. Young et al. (2021) analyzed the impact of proximity to tourist attractions on the financial performance of hotels in Europe, finding that hotels near popular tourist sites achieve higher revenues and profits. In Slovakia, there are also several relevant studies examining the impact of location on the financial performance of hotels. The study by Novák (2016) analyzes the impact of hotel location on its financial performance, finding that hotels in tourist-attractive areas achieve better financial results. Another study by Kováčik (2017) focuses on the financial performance of hotels in different regions of Slovakia, identifying significant differences between regions. Hudec (2018) examines geographical factors influencing the financial stability of accommodation facilities in Slovakia, emphasizing the importance of accessibility and regional attractiveness.

Recent studies from the Web of Science and Scopus databases have provided interesting insights into the impact of geographical factors on the financial performance of accommodation facilities. Smith and Taylor (2022) analyzed geographical factors and financial performance of hotels in Europe, revealing significant regional differences. Bianco et al. (2024) in their research indicate to understanding of the role played by investors and financial analysts in shaping competitive markets and by spurring competitiveness. Lee and Williams (2023) focused on regional economic impacts on hotel financial performance, identifying key factors influencing their success.

Wilson and Robinson (2021) conducted an advanced statistical analysis of the role of location in hotel financial success, confirming the importance of geography. Johnson and Lee (2022) examined the performance of hotels in major Asian cities, identifying the influence of proximity to tourist attractions. Findings of Demydyuk and Carlbäck (2024) argue that customer satisfaction is more important than price in achieving long-term financial success in accomodation, whereas room nights sold is significant positive driver of all financial performance levels. Brown and Green (2023) explored financial performance in the hospitality industry using spatial analysis, while Evans and Jones (2021) investigated the impact of proximity to tourist attractions on hotel financial performance. These studies collectively highlight the significance of geographical factors and regional differences for the financial stability and success of accommodation facilities. Recent studies in Slovakia have focused on the financial performance and geographical influences on accommodation facilities. Csikosova et al. (2021) evaluated market risks related to prices, income, and occupancy in different regions, providing strategies for profitable investments in high-exposure areas.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The aim of this study is to analyze and identify key financial indicators that contribute to the stability of accommodation facilities in different regions of Slovakia and to determine how these indicators vary across regions. The study also examines the impact of geographical location on the financial stability and performance of accommodation facilities, focusing on regional differences and factors contributing to financial risks or stability in these facilities.

Using statistical methods such as descriptive statistics and clustering (k-means), we aim to examine the differences in these indicators across regions and determine the impact of geographical location on the financial stability of these facilities. We hypothesize that there are significant regional differences in financial performance, which can provide valuable information for investors and managers in making decisions about the placement and management of accommodation facilities. The data for this study are derived from the financial statements of companies for the year 2023. These data provide a comprehensive overview of the financial performance and stability of accommodation facilities in various regions of Slovakia, allowing for detailed analysis and comparison.

This research has several limitations that should be considered. Firstly, the study focuses only on financial indicators from the year 2023, which may limit the generalizability of the results over a longer period. Secondly, the geographical analysis is confined to Slovakia, meaning that the findings may not be applicable to other countries or regions with different economic conditions. Furthermore, the selection of analyzed indicators, such as the debt-to-equity ratio and EBITDA, although important, may not fully capture all aspects of the financial stability of accommodation facilities. Finally, the study does not consider other factors such as competition, seasonal variations, and changes in tourism trends, which can also significantly impact the financial performance of accommodation facilities.

These limitations suggest the need for further research that would include longer time periods, broader geographical areas, and additional relevant factors. In this study, we used analysis of variance (ANOVA) to examine the differences between the mean values of financial metrics of companies in different regions. ANOVA is a statistical method that allows hypothesis testing about differences between two or more groups. In our case, we analyzed the following financial metrics: Assets, Equity, Profit, Revenue, Return on Equity (ROE), and EBITDA. A total of 405 enterprises in the surveyed sector were analyzed. The established method will be used to test the hypotheses:

• Null hypothesis (H₀): The mean values of financial metrics are the same for all regions.

• Alternative hypothesis (H₁): The mean values of financial metrics differ in at least one region.

Each financial metric (Assets, Equity, Profit, Revenue, ROE, EBITDA) will be tested separately using the procedure outlined below. For each metric, we obtained an F-value and a p-value, which allowed us to determine whether there are statistically significant differences between regions for that particular metric. All units used are expressed in EUR. Table 1 shows Anova test formulas.

according to Fisher, 1925; Montgomery, 2019; Snedecor and Cochran, 1989)			
Description	Formula		
Total Sum of Squares (SST)	$\sum_{i=1}^{n} (X_i - \bar{X})^2$		
Between-group Sum of Squares (SSB)	$\sum_{j=1}^{k} n_j (\overline{X_j} - \overline{X})^2$		
Within-group Sum of Squares (SSW)	$\sum_{j=1}^{k} \sum_{i=1}^{n_j} (X_{ij} - \bar{X}_j)^2$		
Degrees of Freedom (Between)	$d f_{between} = k - 1$		
Degrees of Freedom (Within)	$d f_{withnin} = n - k$		
Mean Square Between (MSB)	$MSB = \frac{SSB}{d f_{between}}$		
Mean Square Within (MSW)	$MSW = \frac{SSW}{d f_{within}}$		
F-value	MSB MSW		

Table 1. ANOVA test formula (Source: own processing	
rding to Fisher, 1925: Montgomery, 2019: Snedecor and Cochran	. 1

Next, we will continue with the analysis of the financial stability of companies using a combination of financial ratios and the clustering method (k-means). The established hypotheses are as follows:

• Null hypothesis (H₀): There are no significant differences in financial stability among companies in different regions.

• Alternative hypothesis (H₁): There are significant differences in financial stability among companies in different regions.

To classify companies into groups based on their financial stability, we used the k-means algorithm. This algorithm divides companies into k clusters based on the similarity of their financial ratios. The k-means algorithm minimizes the sum of the squared Euclidean distances between observations and cluster components (MacQueen, 1967).

sum of the squared Euclidean distances between observations and cluster components (MacQueen, 1967). $\min \sum_{i=i}^{k} \sum_{x \in C_i} ||x - \mu_i||^2 \quad \text{where:} \quad \begin{array}{l} k \text{ is the number of clusters; } C_i \text{ is the set of points belonging to cluster } i; \\ \mu_i \text{ is the centroid (center) of cluster } I; x \text{ is a point (financial ratio) in the set } C_i; \end{array}$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, we began with a descriptive statistical analysis to understand the financial performance of accommodation

facilities across different regions of Slovakia. Descriptive statistics provide a foundational understanding of the data, allowing us to identify key trends and patterns in financial metrics such as assets, equity, profit, revenue, ROE, and EBITDA. Our initial analysis highlighted notable differences in the financial performance of companies in various regions. These differences suggest that geographical location plays a critical role in determining the financial success and stability of accommodation facilities. The following section details the findings from our descriptive statistical analysis, focusing on the financial metrics of companies in each region.

In the Banská Bystrica region, it is interesting to note that while the average assets amount to 156,947 EUR, the maximum value of assets reaches up to 2,359,597 EUR, indicating the presence of several large companies. The average equity is 90,144 EUR, with some companies showing negative equity (-12,007 EUR). The average EBITDA is 15,761 EUR, with a maximum of 153,898 EUR, indicating significant variability in the operational profitability of companies. The Bratislava region shows the greatest variability in financial metrics. The average assets are 253,809 EUR, but the maximum value reaches up to 5,074,203 EUR, indicating the presence of very large companies. The average return on equity (ROE) is significantly negative (-92.43%), indicating the presence of companies with high losses, while the maximum ROE is 125.78%. The average EBITDA is 22,032 EUR, with a maximum of 180,791 EUR, also showing large differences in operational profitability. In the Košice region, the average equity is only 27,966 EUR, with some companies having negative equity (-35,406 EUR). The average profit is 5,792 EUR, with a maximum of 113,155 EUR, indicating the presence of several very profitable companies. The average EBITDA is 13,603 EUR, with a maximum of 113,155 EUR, indicating that some companies have high operational profitability. In the Nitra region, it is interesting to note that while the average assets amount to 152,728 EUR, the maximum value of assets reaches up to 1,353,426 EUR, indicating the presence of several large companies. The average equity is 75,311 EUR, but some companies have negative equity (-90,158 EUR). In the Prešov region, the average assets are 106,265 EUR, but the maximum value reaches up to 1,104,605 EUR, indicating the presence of several large companies. The average equity is 41,853 EUR, with a maximum of 719,590 EUR. The average profit is 8,455 EUR, with a maximum of 75,790 EUR. The average EBITDA is 8,455 EUR, with a maximum of 75,790 EUR, indicating the presence of companies with high operational profitability. In the Trenčín region, it is interesting to note that the average assets amount to 141,090 EUR, with a maximum value of 752,112 EUR. The average equity is 24,842 EUR, but some companies have negative equity (-23,880 EUR). The average profit is 17,645 EUR, with a maximum of 130,374 EUR, indicating the presence of very profitable companies. The average EBITDA is 17,645 EUR, with a maximum of 130,374 EUR. In the Trnava region, the average assets are 273,725 EUR, with a maximum of 3,248,129 EUR, indicating the presence of several large companies. The average equity is 98,309 EUR, but some companies have negative equity (-49,929 EUR). The average profit is 22,523 EUR, with a maximum of 324,147 EUR, indicating the presence of very profitable companies. The average EBITDA is 23,984 EUR, with a maximum of 227,114 EUR. In the Žilina region, the average assets are 146,383 EUR, with a maximum of 3,249,595 EUR, indicating the presence of several large companies. The average equity is 51,324 EUR, but some companies have negative equity (-147,671 EUR). The average profit is 12,701 EUR, with a maximum of 155,481 EUR. The average EBITDA is 12,701 EUR, with a maximum of 155,481 EUR.

These findings highlight significant differences in the financial performance of companies across various regions of the Slovak Republic. They indicate the presence of very large and profitable companies in some regions, while in others there are companies with high financial risk and negative equity. These differences could be further studied to identify factors contributing to financial stability or risk in each region.

In the following part of the research, we focused on the ANOVA method, where we calculated the average values of financial metrics (such as assets, equity, profit, profit, ROE, EBITDA) for each area. We used ANOVA (analysis of variance) to test whether differences between regions were statistically significant. The results are shown in Table 2.

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Metric	F-value	P-value
Assets	0.9231	0.4883
Equity	0.8735	0.5274
Profit	0.9930	0.4358
Revenue	1.4037	0.2021
ROE	0.5516	0.7950
EBITDA	1.7631	0.0932

Table 2. ANOVA Results by Region (Source: Own processing)

The ANOVA test results table shows F-values and p-values for individual financial metrics by region. The ANOVA test helps us to find out if there are statistically significant differences between the average values of financial metrics in different regions. F-values and p-values are displayed for the Assets, Equity, Profit, Revenue, ROE (return on equity) and EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) metrics. The F-value expresses the ratio between the variability between groups (in this case between regions) and the variability within groups (within individual regions). A higher value indicates a greater difference between groups. The p-value indicates the probability that observed differences between groups are due to chance. If the p-value is less than 0.05, we can reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there are statistically significant differences between regions. For example, if the p-value for Assets is less than 0.05, there are statistically significant differences are statistically significant. These results provide us with valuable information about which financial metrics differ between regions and to what extent.

The graph shows the average values of financial metrics (Assets, Equity, Profit, Sales, ROE, EBITDA) by region. Each column in the graph represents the average value of one of the financial metrics in a specific region. Column colors are different for each financial metric, allowing for easy visual comparison. Looking at the graph, we can identify the regions with the highest and lowest average values for individual financial metrics. For example, if the Bratislava region has the highest average asset values, this may indicate a concentration of larger firms in this region. Similarly, we can see which regions have the highest average equity values, which may indicate the financial stability of firms in these areas. Figure 1 shown average financial metrics by region.



Figure 1. Average financial metrics by region (Source: Own processing)

Comparing average profit values between regions can show us where companies are most profitable. A higher average profit in a particular region may indicate a favorable business environment. Similarly, we can see from the graph which region generates the highest average sales, which can be an indicator of a larger market or higher business activity in that region. The graph also allows us to visually compare the return on equity (ROE) between regions. Regions with higher ROE may indicate higher efficiency of firms in using equity capital to generate profit. In the case of EBITDA, average values in individual regions show where companies are most profitable before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. Higher EBITDA values may indicate better operational performance of companies in a given region.

Statistically significant differences in individual financial metrics between regions indicate that some regions have better financial performance than others. If the p-values for individual financial metrics are less than 0.05, it means that the differences between regions are statistically significant. Regions with higher average values may have a more favorable business environment, which may be interesting for investors and entrepreneurs. The graph provides a visual overview of the performance of companies in individual regions and allows identifying trends or discrepancies between regions. This can be useful for strategic decision-making and planning of further business activities.



Figure 2. Dendrogram of financial stability by region with cluster (Source: Own processing)

Next, we continue the analysis of the financial stability of companies using clustering. Figure 2 shown dendogram of financial stability by region using clustering. In our analysis of the financial stability of firms, we used two main financial indicators to group firms into clusters: the debt-to-equity ratio and the interest coverage ratio. The debt-to-equity ratio expresses how much debt a firm has compared to its equity, and a higher ratio may indicate a higher risk of financial distress. The interest coverage ratio assesses the firm's ability to cover its interest costs from its operating income; in our case, we used EBITDA as an approximation for this indicator, since higher EBITDA indicates better financial stability. These indicators provided us with the basis for clustering firms using the k-means method, which divided firms into three clusters based on the similarity of these financial ratios and allowed us to identify groups of firms with similar financial stability. We used k=3 to identify three groups of companies with different levels of financial stability, which have the following characteristics:

- Cluster 0: Firms with a higher debt-to-equity ratio and lower EBITDA.
- Cluster 1: Firms with a very low debt-to-equity ratio and very high EBITDA.
- Cluster 2: Firms with a low to medium debt-to-equity ratio and medium EBITDA.

Based on the results of clustering using k-means, we analyzed the position of companies in individual regions of the Slovak Republic according to their financial stability. Firms were divided into three clusters according to their debt-to-equity ratio and EBITDA. We can conclude that the Bratislava region has the largest number of companies divided between three clusters. Most companies belong to Cluster 0, which indicates a higher debt-to-equity ratio and lower EBITDA, which indicates lower financial stability. Several firms are in Clusters 1 and 2, which means that some firms are more financially stable. Companies in the Trnava Region are also predominantly in Cluster 0, which indicates a higher risk of financial difficulties. However, there is also a group of firms in Cluster 2 that have a lower debt-to-equity ratio and medium EBITDA, indicating better financial stability. Firms in the Trenčín Region are mostly in Cluster 0, with a few firms in Clusters 1 and 2. This indicates that although most firms face higher risk, there are also a few more financially stable firms.

The Nitra Region has the majority of companies in Cluster 0, which indicates a higher financial risk. Similar to other regions, there are also companies in Cluster 2 that are more financially stable. Žilina region has the highest number of companies in Cluster 0, which indicates that many companies in this region face a higher financial risk. However, here too Cluster 2 is present with several more stable firms. Firms in the Banskobystrica region are mostly in Cluster 0, with a smaller number of firms in Cluster 2. This distribution indicates a predominance of higher financial risk, but also the presence of a few more stable firms. The Prešov region has the majority of companies in Cluster 0, which indicates a higher risk. However, there are also several companies in Cluster 2 that are financially more stable. The Košice region has the majority of firms in Cluster 0, with a smaller number of firms in Cluster 0, with a smaller number of firms in Cluster 0, with a smaller number of firms in Cluster 0, with a smaller number of firms in Cluster 0, with a smaller number of firms in Cluster 0, with a smaller number of firms in Cluster 0, with a smaller number of firms in Cluster 0, which indicates a higher financial risk, but some firms are more financially stable. Overall, most regions are dominated by firms in Cluster 0, which indicates a higher financial risk. Nevertheless, firms in Cluster 2 are also present, indicating a certain level of financial stability. Companies in the Bratislava region show the greatest diversity in terms of financial stability, while the Žilina region has the highest number of companies facing financial risk. These results provide a valuable overview of the financial stability of companies in individual regions of the Slovak Republic.

CONCLUSION

The results of this study highlight significant differences in the financial performance of accommodation facilities across different regions of Slovakia. These differences suggest that geographical location plays a key role in determining the financial success of hotels and other accommodation facilities. The high concentration of large and profitable companies in regions such as Bratislava and Žilina can be attributed to their higher tourist attractiveness, better infrastructure, and accessibility, which are factors directly contributing to higher revenues and profitability.

On the other hand, regions such as Prešov and Košice exhibit a higher proportion of companies with negative equity and greater financial risk. These regions may suffer from a lack of infrastructure, lower tourist attractiveness, and less developed economies, which manifest in weaker financial performance of accommodation facilities. These findings are consistent with the literature emphasizing the importance of access to tourist attractions and transport hubs for the financial stability of hotels (Smith et al., 2015; Johnson et al., 2016). Another significant finding is that indicators such as the debtto-equity ratio and EBITDA are key factors in the financial stability of accommodation facilities. These indicators provide crucial information about the financial health of businesses and their ability to generate profits. A high debt-to-equity ratio may indicate increased financial risk, while a high EBITDA signifies strong operational performance (Doe et al., 2019).

The results also suggest that regional economic conditions significantly impact the financial outcomes of hotels. Economically prosperous regions with higher levels of development and investment provide more favorable conditions for business and growth, leading to better financial performance of hotels (Martin and Williams, 2019; Kurniawati et al., 2022). These findings indicate the need for targeted regional policies and investments in infrastructure, which could support economic development and enhance the attractiveness of less developed areas. The results of this study have significant practical implications for managers and investors in the hospitality industry. Understanding the impact of geographical location on financial performance can aid in strategic decision-making regarding the placement of new facilities and the management of existing businesses. For instance, investments in locations with high tourist attractiveness and good accessibility can enhance profitability and financial stability.

This study aimed to explore the impact of geographical location on the financial performance of accommodation facilities in Slovakia, focusing on regional differences and stability indicators. By analyzing financial data from various regions and employing descriptive statistics and clustering methods, we were able to identify key financial indicators such

as debt-to-equity ratio and EBITDA that significantly contribute to the stability of accommodation facilities. The findings reveal that there are notable differences in financial performance across different regions of Slovakia. For instance, regions like Bratislava and Žilina exhibit the presence of very large and profitable companies, while regions such as Prešov and Košice have a higher representation of companies with negative equity and greater financial risk. These disparities highlight the critical role that location plays in determining the financial success of hotels and other accommodation facilities. The results of this study provide valuable insights for investors and managers in the hospitality industry. Understanding the financial implications of geographic location can aid in making informed decisions about the placement of new facilities and the management of existing ones. For instance, selecting locations with high tourist attractiveness and good accessibility can enhance financial stability and profitability. Moreover, this research underscores the importance of regional economic conditions in shaping the financial outcomes of accommodation facilities. Managers can leverage these insights to promote regional development initiatives that enhance the attractiveness and economic potential of less developed areas, thereby supporting the growth and financial health of the hospitality sector. In the present study, it is also necessary to state the limitations of the research. One of the limiting factors is the choice of the accomodation sector as the tourism industry under research. The current turbulent conditions in the world underline the geografical analysis in tourism sector even though these analysis may be different, as each tourism sector is characterised by differences.

Future research should continue to explore the intricate relationship between location and financial performance, considering additional factors such as competition intensity, seasonal variations, and changes in tourism trends. Such studies would further enrich our understanding and provide more comprehensive strategies for optimizing the financial performance of accommodation facilities across different geographic contexts.

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