# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE 

JEANETTE PORTILLO, ALICIA COAKLEY, FREDDY BARAJAS, HERIBERTO VALIENTE, DAVID CONCEPCION, DANIEL KASSL, and DANIEL SMITH, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,
v.

CoSTAR GROUP, INC., a Delaware corporation; STR, INC., a Delaware corporation, HILTON WORLDWIDE HOLDINGS INC., a Delaware corporation, HYATT HOTELS CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation, INTERCONTINENTAL HOTELS CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation, LOEWS HOTELS HOLDING CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation, MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL, INC., a Delaware corporation, and ACCOR MANAGEMENT US INC., a Delaware corporation,

Defendants.

Case No.
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
JURY DEMAND

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Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves individually and on behalf of a class consisting of all persons who rented rooms in the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets from a defendant or co-conspirator from February 21, 2020, through the present. Plaintiffs bring this action for treble damages and injunctive relief under Section 1 of the Sherman Act. Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury.

## I. NATURE OF ACTION

1. This case is about an ongoing information exchange among hotel operators that has unlawfully reduced competition in the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets across the country. ${ }^{1}$ Competitors in the luxury hotel industry have agreed to continuously share their detailed, audited, competitively-sensitive information about their prices, supply, and future plans through an intermediary, Smith Travel Research ("STR"), which is owned by Defendant CoStar Group ("CoStar") ${ }^{2}$. The purpose of this exchange is for competitors to share "super-timely revenue and occupancy data" so that competitors can ensure they are each getting their "fair share" of revenues. In other words, the exchange of this information allows participating hotels to set prices higher than they would have been absent this agreement to exchange information. This is price fixing in its modern form and is illegal under the Sherman Act.
2. Defendant and Conspirator Hotel Operators ${ }^{3}$ operate the vast majority of luxury hotels in the major cities across the United States, including Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, Nashville, New York, Phoenix, Portland, San Diego, San
[^0]Francisco, Washington D.C. and Seattle. Defendant and Conspirator Hotel Operators collectively possess market power in the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets. These Defendant and Conspirator Hotel Operators have collectively participated in an information exchange agreement administered by STR that enables them to exchange competitively sensitive information with each other.
3. The information exchange here occurs pursuant to an explicit set of contractual agreements. CoStar's license agreement specifically states that the information exchange occurs on a give-to-get basis. A Hotel Operator has to give information to STR in order to receive benchmarking information back; the license agreement states that "CoStar is under no obligation to provide to any Hotel Benchmarking Deliverables if Licensee does not provide the applicable Hotel Data to CoStar based on such data guidelines and timeframes," and its service "is subject to and contingent on Licensee providing CoStar timely, true, accurate, correct and complete Hotel Data as required. ${ }^{\prime 4}$ Moreover, the agreement states that the cadence at which a participating hotel shares its data determines the cadence at which that hotel receives data from STR. ${ }^{5}$ In other words, in order for a hotel to obtain data on a weekly basis, it has to provide data on a weekly basis. Costar's public financials confirm the existence of an explicit give to get information exchange agreement, spelling out that "STAR Reports are only available to industry participants who provide us with data." ${ }^{\text {. }}$
4. Defendant Hotel Operators also know exactly which of their competitors are participating in the information exchange as well as the frequency with which they are submitting data. As part of receiving STR's reports, a participating hotel needs to first select a "competitive set (comp set)." Confidential Witness 1 ("CW 1") ${ }^{7}$ stated that hotels selected their comp set based

[^1]on a participation list provided by STR, i.e., the hotels that agreed to share data with STR. To further produce transparency, in each report, STR also issues a "response report," a calendar listing the names of hotels in the comparative set created by the subject hotel. The report includes details of which days/weeks/months the hotels in the current information exchange submitted data to STR.
5. STR's service is widely used in the hotel industry. Scott Wheeler, CFO of CoStar Group, stated at the time of CoStar's acquisition of STR that "STR's share for providing benchmarking analytics in hospitality is in the very high double digits of those people purchasing." He continued, "They are well saturated in the U.S., the overwhelming vast majority of hotels in the U.S. contribute their operating data to STR." ${ }^{8}$ As of late 2019, Andrew Florance stated that the "second largest competitor is probably one-fortieth the size, maybe 2 to $3 \%$ the size."
6. Confidential Witness 2 ("CW 2") ${ }^{9}$, a former software engineer at STR, stated that "almost everybody" within the hotel industry in the U.S. was an STR client and received STR reports. Marriott, Hilton and Holiday Inn were all STR clients, just to name a few, she said. CW 2 recalled that STR "had very few competitors" and "we were kind of servicing everyone. There wasn't anyone else that did it." Similarly, Confidential Witness 3 ("CW 3") ${ }^{10}$, a former technical writer at STR, recalled comments made internally that "STR to the hotel industry is like oxygen or water. You just have to have it."
7. Over the years, STR reporting services have been widely recognized as "the single source of truth at the moment" for the hospitality industry, according to Dana Cariss, VP of revenue strategy and distribution of Caral Tree Hospitality. ${ }^{11}$ Sourav Ghosh, Chief Financial Officer of Host Hotels \& Resorts, endorsed STR products by touting that "STR data is frankly the

[^2]industry's standard in the lodging space. And there is a lot of trust that STR has garnered over the years, not only in terms of the data they put out there, but also the analysis and research work that they do. ${ }^{12}$
8. As such, the exchange of information facilitated by STR gives visibility into participating hotels' pricing and supply information and allows competitors to set prices higher than they would have been absent an agreement to exchange information.
9. Andrew Rubinacci, Executive VP of Revenue Strategy of Aimbridge Hospitality publicly praised how STR empowered them to form day to day pricing strategies:

We use STR every day, and it is extremely valuable, and I think it is a competitive advantage for the people and the expertise we have. Data's data: it's what you do with it and how you incorporate it into your everyday tactics and strategies. [STR] allows us to do that, they present the information in a really digestible format, and it allows us to go ahead and do the things we need to with it. ${ }^{[13]}$
10. Economists and government regulators recognize that competitors sharing data even through a third-party intermediary - is likely to have anticompetitive effects. As Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Doha Mekki of the Antitrust Division cautioned, "exchanges facilitated by intermediaries can have the same anticompetitive effect as direct exchanges among competitors. In some instances, data intermediaries can enhance - rather than reduce anticompetitive effects."
11. In addition, the DOJ has expressed concerns that advanced technology such as "data aggregation, machine learning and pricing algorithms" has increased "the competitive value of historical data for some products or services." Deputy Assistant AG Mekhi stated that although "aggregated, older data may have been less useful than disaggregated current or prospective information," "[t]he modern economy may have solved for these speed bumps." In fact, " $[i] n$ some industries, high-speed, complex algorithms can ingest massive quantities of 'stale,' 'aggregated' data from buyers and sellers to glean insights about the strategies of a competitor.

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${ }^{13}$ STR, Testimonials, https://str.com/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).

Where that happens the distinctions between past and current or aggregated versus disaggregated data may be eroded." Particularly, "[w]here competitors adopt the same pricing algorithms, our concern is only heightened. Several studies have shown that these algorithms can lead to tacit or express collusion in the marketplace, potentially resulting in higher prices, or at a minimum, a softening of competition."
12. This is one such case. Defendant Hotel Operators agree to exchange competitively sensitive information through a common data intermediary, STR. Multiple Defendant Hotel Operators and co-conspirators, including Hilton, Hyatt, Loews, and Omni use the same thirdparty revenue management system to help provide pricing services for them.
13. Further, the structure of the luxury hotel industry in the U.S. renders it more likely that such information exchanges are likely to harm competition. Specifically, the luxury hotels market is dominated by a few hotel chains in the metropolitan areas across the nation and features a fungible commodity product with inelastic demand and price-based competition. These are exactly the type of market structure characteristics that the Supreme Court recognized support a plausible inference of anticompetitive effects from an information exchange agreement. ${ }^{14}$
14. The information exchanges orchestrated by STR does not have the kind of characteristics that would produce procompetitive effects sufficient to outweigh the anticompetitive harms. Indeed, the nature of the information exchanged among Defendant Hotel Operators makes it highly likely to produce anticompetitive effects because the scheme (1) involves current and forward-looking exchange of information; (2) focuses exclusively on price and supply information; (3) allows Defendant Hotel Operators to create customized data cuts, including the exact competitors they want to monitor; and (4) is available only to hotels who shared data with STR.
15. First, the detailed reports distributed by STR include participating hotels' most current information on room rates, occupancy, revenue, as well as forward-looking booking data on future occupancy levels. Scott Wheeler, chief financial officer of CoStar Group, told investors

[^3]that one of the big advantages of CoStar's 2019, \$450 million acquisition of STR was "moving [STR's] content into CoStar on an aggregated basis ... so [customers] can see super-timely revenue and occupancy data; we see a lot of our customers buying that from STR and renewing in the high 90 digits. ${ }^{15}$ Additionally, CoStar, since its acquisition of STR, has prioritized STR providing forward-looking data. At the time of the acquisition, Andrew Florance, CEO of CoStar, stated that "there is clear demand in my mind for the forecasting component of the business where you are gathering forward information and forecasting future demand in the market and future pricing." By October 2023, Costar reported that more than 16,000 hotels were providing STR with forward-looking data, with Florance stating that "the more hotels we have contributing, the better data we are able to provide to the industry." ${ }^{16}$
16. Second, the information exchanged among Hotel Operators is also exclusively focused on price and supply information. These are hallmarks of the kind of information exchange that produces anticompetitive effects. Broadly speaking, participating hotels submitted three types of historical and live property-level data to STR: rooms available, rooms sold and revenue. STR also collects hotels' forward-looking occupancy data, including rooms available and rooms booked.
17. In a competitive market fraught with uncertainties of price competition, hoteliers generally find it advantageous to lower their prices, increase their sales, and consequently expand their market share. However, in this case, the current nature of the shared data and the amount of confidential data points made available in the STR reports have replaced uncertainty with comfort, reducing competitors' inclination to lower prices or engage in competitive actions. Hotel operators no longer feel the need to pursue a higher occupancy rate (leading to a larger market share) usually at the expense of dropping hotel rates. Instead, STR reports enable and encourage them to increase room rates even at the expense of occupancy because they are informed about their rivals past actions and anticipated strategies.

[^4]18. This is confirmed by public statements made by hotel industry professionals at annual conferences organized by STR. For example, at the 2022 Hotel Data Conference, an annual conference hosted by STR, Jihad Lotfi, McKibbon Hospitality's Vice President of Revenue Management, told the audience that hoteliers should not be "afraid to take risks" on charging high hotel rates. ${ }^{17}$ "None of us can decide what the customer will pay. It's kind of like the car industry right now. You're seeing cars being marked up $\$ 10,000-\$ 15,000$ and people are still buying them," he said. "You don't know what the ceiling is. I tell my team, 'If it's not broken, don't fix it.' Don't be afraid to take a risk." ${ }^{18}$
19. Echoing that, Alex Cisneros, senior vice president of revenue generation at Red Roof said that "I think we are still willing to see what competition and the market are doing ... but now we spend a lot of time making it easier for the organization's franchisees and revenue managers to have all the data in one place and they can make decisions faster." He said "Red Roof's franchisees for the most part are making more money with less occupancy. Red Roof is now providing more data to franchisees to educate and get them comfortable commanding higher rates." ${ }^{19}$
20. Third, STR lets participating hotels create tailored data cuts, allowing them to get customized versions of the data that specifically include information from the competitors they are interested in within a particular market. Specifically, STR provides hotels with a list of properties that participate in STR's information sharing. A hotel can then select a "competitive set," or "comp set," which is "a group of hotels that compete with your property for business and is selected with the purpose of benchmarking your performance against the competition. ${ }^{20} \mathrm{~A}$

[^5]comp set only needs to include as few as three competitors that are not affiliated with the subject hotel. ${ }^{21}$
21. In each report, STR distributes a "report card" for hotels that indicates their performance relative to competing hotels in their competitive set. STR uses indexes to evaluate performance for occupancy, average daily rate, and revenue. "An index of 100 means a hotel is capturing a fair share." ${ }^{22}$ An index greater than 100 represents a property is capturing more than its fair share, while anything below 100 reflects the property is capturing less than its fair share. ${ }^{23}$ Confidential Witness 4 ("CW 4"), ${ }^{24}$ who worked at IHG and Hyatt, noted that "It was a really important and critical tool for us" in showing how the hotel was "competing relative to the comp set." Hoteliers regularly refer to STR reports and data to gauge performance compared to competitors, trends and performance gains or losses, said CW 4.
22. Confidential Witness 5 ("CW 5") ${ }^{25}$ added that, based on a strategic selection of custom cuts, some hotels could deanonymize STR data. For example, CW 5 explained that if a property has seven hotels in its competitive set and wants to deanonymize data for one of those hotels, "I would partner with another hotel close to me that would pick six of the seven I had." "And what you do is subtract six out of the seven to single out the hotel that you wanted to measure," CW 5 said. "It's easy to do," CW 5 added.
23. Fourth, STR only allows hotels that shared data with STR to have full access to the reports it distributed. "Public dissemination is a primary way for data exchange to realize its pro-competitive potential. ${ }^{, 26}$ But the STAR reports are not publicly available - they are only made available on a "give to get" basis. STR ensured that its detailed, sensitive business
${ }^{21}$ STR, Competitive Set/Trend Report Guidelines, https://str.com/competitive-set-trend-report-guidelines (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
${ }^{22}$ STR, Glossary, https://str.com/resourcesglossary/index (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
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${ }^{24} \mathrm{CW} 4$ worked at IHG as a transactions and asset management intern and later at Hyatt as a revenue analyst.
${ }^{25}$ CW 5 worked at Hilton hotels and Accor Fairmont as a director of revenue management.
${ }^{26}$ Todd v. Exxon Corp., 275 F.3d 191, 213 (2d Cir. 2001) (Sotomayor, J.).
information was available only to the Defendant Hotel Operators and other similarly situated reports subscribers.
24. A test run economic analysis confirms that the information exchange among Defendant Hotel Operators leads to higher prices. Over 360,000 hotels future listing prices were collected from 6,000 hotels across 15 major cities in the United States between January and June of 2024. This regression analysis finds an average overcharge of at least $4.3 \%$ for Hotel Operators' five-star hotels, after accounting for hotel characteristics, location, and quality.

25. Defendant and Conspirator Hotel Operators' ability to inflate marketplace price is supported by the evidence of their possession of dominate market share in the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets. They collectively possess an average of $70 \%$ market share across all 15 cities.

## Defendants Market Share

## Aggregate for all 15 Cities


26. As a result of Defendant and Conspirator Hotel Operators' unlawful conduct, plaintiffs and the Class paid artificially inflated prices for renting luxury hotel rooms during the Class Period. Such prices exceeded the amount they would have paid if the price for the luxury hotel rooms had been determined by a competitive market. Thus, Plaintiffs and class members were injured by defendants' agreement to exchange information through STR.
27. Defendants' agreement to exchange information is unlawful under Section 1 of the Sherman Act. Plaintiffs bring this action as a class action on behalf of a class of individuals who rented luxury hotel rooms from Defendant and Conspirator Hotel Operators.

## II. PARTIES

## A. Plaintiffs

28. Plaintiff Jeanette Portillo is a citizen and resident of the State of California. In 2022 and 2023, Ms. Portillo stayed at Curio Collection by Hilton and Hilton Hotel 1000 in Seattle, Washington. Ms. Portillo paid higher hotel room prices to Defendants by reason of the violation alleged herein. Plaintiff in the future intends to stay at hotels managed by Defendants.
29. Plaintiff Alicia Coakley is a citizen and resident of the State of Oregon. In 2022, Ms. Coakley stayed at the Marriott Hotel Vance in Portland, Oregon. She paid higher hotel room prices to Defendants by reason of the violation alleged herein. Plaintiff in the future also intends to stay at hotels managed by Defendants.
30. Plaintiff Freddy Barajas is a citizen and resident of the State of Washington. In 2021, Mr. Barajas traveled to Portland, Oregon and stayed at Portland Marriott Downtown. Mr. Barajas paid higher hotel room prices to Defendants by reason of the violation alleged herein. Plaintiff in the future intends to stay at hotels managed by Defendants.
31. Plaintiff Heriberto Valiente is a citizen and resident of the State of Florida. Mr. Valiente often travels and has stayed at the Marriott Marquis in San Diego, California. Mr. Valiente paid higher hotel room prices to Defendants by reason of the violation alleged herein. Plaintiff in the future also intends to stay at hotels managed by Defendants.
32. Plaintiff David Concepcion is a citizen and resident of the State of California. In 2023, Mr. Concepcion traveled to Los Angeles, California and stayed at the Marriot Westin Bonaventure Hotel \& Suites. Mr. Concepcion paid higher hotel room prices to Defendants by reason of the violation alleged herein. Plaintiff in the future intends to stay at hotels managed by Defendants.
33. Plaintiff Daniel Kassl is a citizen and resident of the State of Illinois. In 2023, Mr. Kassl stayed at The Langham in Chicago, Illinois, and the Hyatt Centric Arlington in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Mr. Kassl paid higher hotel room prices to Defendants by reason of the violation alleged herein. Plaintiff in the future intends to stay at hotels managed by Defendants.
34. Plaintiff Daniel Smith is a citizen and resident of the State of California. In the past few years, Mr. Smith regularly traveled to Kansas City, Missouri and San Francisco, California. He stayed in the hotel rooms managed by Defendants. For example, in 2023, Mr. Smith stayed at Marriott the Luxury Collection and Westin Hotels and Resorts in San Francisco, California. In 2021 and 2022, Mr. Smith stayed at Sheraton Suites Country Club and Courtyard by Marriott in

Kansas City. Mr. Smith paid higher hotel room prices to Defendants by reason of the violation alleged herein. Plaintiff in the future intends to stay at hotels managed by Defendants.

## B. Defendants

35. Defendant CoStar Group, Inc. ("STR") is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Washington, DC. Defendant STR, Inc. ("STR"), is a wholly owned subsidiary of CoStar, and is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Hendersonville, Tennessee. CoStar provides industryleading data benchmarking and analytics services, including the STAR reports and Forward STAR reports described herein to the hospitality industry. ${ }^{27}$
36. Defendant Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. ("Hilton") is a Delaware corporation headquartered in McLean, Virgina. Hilton rents hotel rooms throughout the United States. Hilton is one of STR's clients and subscribers to its services. Defendant Hilton's luxury brands include Waldorf Astoria, Conrad, Curio Collection, and Hilton.
37. Defendant Hyatt Hotels Corporation ("Hyatt") is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. Hyatt rents hotel rooms throughout the United States. Hyatt is one of STR's clients and subscribers to its services. Defendant Hyatt's luxury hotel brands include Andaz, Hyatt Regency, Park Hyatt, Embassy Suites and Grand Hyatt.
38. Defendant Inter-Continental Hotels Corporation ("IHG") is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. IHG is a wholly owned subsidiary of InterContinental Hotels Group PLC, a British hospitality company headquartered in Denham, United Kingdom. IHG rents hotel rooms throughout the United States. IHG is one of STR's clients and subscribers to its services. Defendant IHG's luxury hotel brands include the Hotel Indigo, Intercontinental, IHG, Kimpton, and Crowne Plaza.
${ }^{27}$ CoStar's 2023 10-K states that "we provide benchmarking and analytics for the hospitality industry both on a subscription basis and an ad hoc basis. We earn revenue on ad hoc transactions as reports or data are delivered to the customer." Costar's 2023 10k defines "We" as follows ""we' refer[s] to CoStar Group, Inc. and its direct and indirect wholly owned subsidiaries." See Costar 2023 10-K,
https://www.sec.gov/ixviewer/ix.html?doc=/Archives/edgar/data/1057352/000105735223000030/ csgp-20221231.htm (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
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39. Defendant Loews Hotels Holding Corporation ("Loews") is a Delaware corporation headquartered in New York, New York. Loews rents hotel rooms throughout the United States under its Loews Hotel luxury brand, including Loews Hotel 1000, Seattle, Washington. ${ }^{28}$ Loews is one of STR's clients and subscribers to its services.
40. Defendant Marriott International, Inc. ("Marriott"), is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland. Marriott rents hotel rooms throughout the United States. It is one of STR's clients and subscribers to its services. Defendant Marriott's luxury hotel brands include JW Marriott, Ritz-Carlton, St. Regis, W Hotels, Westin, Gaylord, Sheraton, and Renaissance.
41. Defendant Accor Management US Inc. ("Accor") is a Delaware corporation headquartered in National Harbor, Maryland. Accor is a wholly owned subsidiary of Accor S.A., a French hospitality company headquartered in Issy-les-Moulineaux, France. Accor rents hotel rooms throughout the United States. Accor is one of STR's clients and subscribers to its services. Defendant Accor's luxury hotel brands include Raffles, Orient Express, Fairmont, Sofitel, Emblems, MGallery, 21c Museum Hotel, Swissôtel, SLS South Beach Miami and Novotel.

## C. Co-Conspirators

42. Co-Conspirator Choice Hotels International, Inc., is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Rockville, Maryland. It acquired Radisson Hospitality, Inc., ("Radisson") in August 2022. Radisson is a Minnesota corporation headquartered in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Radisson rents hotel rooms throughout the United States and is one of STR's clients and subscribers to its services.
43. Co-Conspirator Great Eagle Holdings Limited is a property management company headquartered in Hong Kong, China. Great Eagle Holdings owns and manages a hotel portfolio
${ }^{28}$ Loews operated Hotel 1000 in Seattle during the relevant class period. The hotel has since been sold in June 2021. See Loews Hotels and Resorts Sells Hotel 1000 in Seattle for $\$ 55 M M$ (June 4, 2021) https://news.theregistryps.com/loews-hotels-and-resorts-sells-hotel-1000-in-seattle-for-55mm/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024). CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 13
branded The Langham ("Langham") and its affiliate brands. Langham rents hotel rooms in the United States and is one of STR's clients and subscribers to its services.
44. Co-Conspirator Wyndham Hotels \& Resorts, Inc. ("Wyndham"), is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Parsippany, New Jersey. Wyndham rents hotel rooms throughout the United States. It is one of STR's clients and subscribers to its services.
45. Co-Conspirator Omni Hotels Management Corporation ("Omni") is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Dallas, Texas. Omni rents hotel rooms throughout the United States under its Omni Hotel Luxury Brand. It is one of STR's clients and subscribers to its services.
46. Defendants' officers, directors, agents, employees, franchisees, or representatives engaged in the conduct alleged in this Complaint in the usual management, direction or control of Defendants' business or affairs.
47. Defendants are also liable for acts done in furtherance of the alleged conspiracy by companies they acquired through mergers and acquisitions.
48. When Plaintiffs refers to a corporate family or companies by a single name in this Complaint, they are alleging that one or more employees or agents of entities within that corporate family engaged in conspiratorial acts on behalf of every company in that family. The individual participants in the conspiratorial acts did not always know the corporate affiliation of their counterparts, nor did they distinguish between the entities within a corporate family. The individual participants entered into agreements on behalf of their respective corporate families. As a result, those agents represented the entire corporate family with respect to such conduct, and the corporate family was party to the agreements that those agents reached.
49. Each of the Defendants acted as the agent of, co-conspirator with, or joint venture partner of the other Defendants and co-conspirators with respect to the acts, violations, and common course of conduct alleged in this Complaint. Each Defendant or co-conspirator that is a subsidiary of a foreign parent acted as the United States agent when agreeing to exchange competitively sensitive information for hotels they managed through STR in the United States.

## III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

50. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337, as this action arises out of Section 1 of the Sherman Antitrust Act (15 U.S.C. § 1) and Sections 4 and 16 of the Clayton Antitrust Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 15 and 26).
51. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants under Section 12 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. § 22), Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(h)(1)(A), and Washington's long-arm statute, the Revised Code of Washington § 4.28.185. Each defendant: (a) transacted business throughout the United States, including in this District; (b) had substantial contacts with the United States, including in this District; and/or (c) engaged in an antitrust conspiracy that was directed at and had a direct, foreseeable, and intended effect of causing injury to the business or property of persons residing in, located in, or doing business throughout the United States, including in this District.
52. Defendants, directly or through their divisions, subsidiaries, predecessors, agents, or affiliates, engage in interstate commerce in the sale of hotel guest rooms.
53. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Section 12 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. § 22) and the federal venue statute (28 U.S.C. § 1391), because one or more Defendants maintain business facilities, have agents, transact business, and are otherwise found within this District and certain unlawful acts alleged herein were performed and had effects within this District.
54. Defendant Hilton has the following hotels in the cities of Seattle and Bellevue, Washington: Charter Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton and Hilton.
55. Defendant Hyatt has the following hotels in the cities of Seattle and Bellevue, Washington: Grant Hyatt and Hyatt Regency.
56. Defendant IHG has the following hotels in the cities of Seattle and Bellevue, Washington: Kimpton Hotels, Crowne Plaza and InterContinental.
57. Defendant Loews had Loews Hotel 1000 in Seattle, Washington during a portion of the relevant class period. ${ }^{29}$
58. Defendant Marriott has the following hotels in the cities of Seattle and Bellevue, Washington: W Hotels, Marriott Waterfront, The Westin, Renaissance, and Sheraton.
59. Defendant Accor has the following hotels in the city of Seattle, Washington: the Fairmont Olympic and Hotel Andra.

## IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

## A. STR operates an information sharing scheme that enables competitors to exchange competitively sensitive information.

60. Founded in 1985, Smith Travel Research (or "STR") provides performance benchmarking, marketplace insights and data analytics for the hospitality industry. Today, STR advertises that it has the world's largest hotel database ${ }^{30}$ that it utilizes to provide performance benchmarking and comparative analytics for hotels across the globe. ${ }^{31}$
61. STR launched its STAR program in 1987. Initially, according to company founder Randell Smith, the STAR program compared hotels to "a cross section of competitors that fell within a fairly broad range of groups. This primarily meant that a property would be compared to other properties in their chain scale, market track, market, region, and the total United States."
62. STR's customers quickly pushed STR to introduce additional data reports that would allow them to track specific competitor hotel properties. According to Smith, in 1989, "a representative from Westin" contacted STR "about the prospect of identifying specific properties that each of their hotels could be compared against."32 STR was concerned that "the opportunity

[^6]of abuse was so great that we initially refused to provide data at this level. After extensive discussions we finally agreed to provide this service in spite of our initial reservations."33
63. Since introducing information exchange between specific competitor properties, STR has worked closely with major hotel companies to ensure that the STAR reports accurately monitor a hotel's actual competitors and the relative performance of the competitors. Smith states that, "[a]t one point, we actually entered a primary comp set for an Upper Upscale property that consisted of nothing but economy-level properties even though the property was in a major market and was surrounded by true competitors. At this stage we alerted all of our clients to the possibility of this kind of abuse and some basic rules began to evolve in which a general manager had to have some type of approval from the brand management company or owner in creating the comp set and making subsequent changes., ${ }^{134}$
64. Smith further stated that the introduction of comp sets so that competitors could directly monitor each other led to widespread adoption of STR throughout the hotel industry: "With the broad introduction of comp sets to the industry at large, the STAR program clearly provided management with a tool to track competitive performance" and noted that the tool has "become so ubiquitous." ${ }^{35}$
65. Since late 2019, STR has been operated as a division of CoStar Group, Inc. ("CoStar"), which acquired STR in a $\$ 450$ million all cash deal in October 2019. A press release announcing the deal stated that STR "works with every major hotel chain and many independent owners and operators around the globe" ${ }^{36}$ and that it "processes, analyzes and reports on data from 66,000 hotels representing 8.9 million rooms in 180 countries. ${ }^{, 37}$ The numbers are likely far higher today: STR's homepage advertises that "there is no other provider that comes close in
${ }^{33} \mathrm{Id}$.
${ }^{34} \mathrm{Id}$.
${ }^{35} I d$.
${ }^{36}$ STR, CoStar Group to acquire STR (October 1, 2019), https://str.com/press-release/costar-group-acquire-str_(last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
${ }^{37} I d$.
terms of a directly sourced global sample" including 78,000 hotels, 10.3 million rooms in 2,595 submarkets and 6,518 class/scale cuts delivering 8,888 high-quality segments of data" ${ }^{38}$ :

## Why STR sets the industry standard for success

38

78k
Participating Hotels Around The World

10.3M<br>Hotel Rooms In The Global<br>Performance Sample

66. Scott Wheeler, CFO of CoStar Group, stated at the time of CoStar's acquisition of STR that "STR's share for providing benchmarking analytics in hospitality is in the very high double digits of those people purchasing. ${ }^{, 39} \mathrm{He}$ continued, "They are well saturated in the U.S., the overwhelming vast majority of hotels in the U.S. contribute their operating data to STR." ${ }^{40}$
67. Dana Cariss, VP of revenue strategy and distribution of Coral Tree Hospitality, publicly stated that "I think STR has become a household name, a staple with hotel management companies. I'd be surprised, or let me say differently, I am surprised when I come across a hotel that does not contribute their data. ${ }^{241} \mathrm{CW} 2$, a former software engineer at STR, confirmed that "almost everybody" within the hotel industry in the U.S. was an STR client and received STR reports, including Marriott, Hilton and Holiday Inn. CW 2 recalled that STR "had very few competitors" and "we were kind of servicing everyone. There wasn't anyone else that did it." Similarly, CW 3, a former technical writer at STR, recalled comments made internally that "STR to the hotel industry is like oxygen or water. You just have to have it."
[^7]
## 1. STAR Report

68. The STAR report ${ }^{42}$ is the company's flagship product that "provides hotel brands, owners and management companies vital performance benchmark information with more than 1.2 million reports distributed each month." ${ }^{43}$ In its 2012 promotional materials, STR describes that "hoteliers use the STAR Report to gauge their competition, benchmark performance and identify ways to increase their revenue." ${ }^{44}$ And "all major chains and thousands of independent hotels already participate with STR, including over $63 \%$ of the rooms in our state. ${ }^{" 45}$ As of today, STR emphasizes to potential participating hotels that "If you are affiliated with a chain, please contact your corporate office, because many major chains, management and ownership companies have made provisions for their hotels to participate., ${ }^{46}$

[^8]69. For the purpose of reporting, STR collects three types of confidential data from hotel competitors: rooms available, rooms sold and room revenue. Each participating hotel submits granular data broken down by type of travelers (transient, group and contract) ${ }^{47}$ and source of revenue (room, food and beverage revenue and other). ${ }^{48}$ STR refers to such data as "segmentation revenue."

70. To ensure accuracy, STR emphasizes that all the data collected is "submitted straight from the source: chain headquarters, management companies, owners and directly from

[^9]independent hotels" and checked for accuracy. ${ }^{49}$ STR also released detailed reporting guidelines to ensure consistency and reliability of data collected for the purpose of precise benchmarking. ${ }^{50}$ For example, the guidelines notes that net rooms revenue should only include revenue generated from guestroom rental. ${ }^{51}$ Revenue produced from other sources, such as food and beverage, resort fees, and gratuities should be excluded from Rooms Revenue reported to STR. ${ }^{52}$ By standardizing the data reporting process and validating the accuracy and completeness of the data submitted, STR effectively reduces common barriers to coordination and "cheating" on agreements.
71. STR then audits the data, standardizes it to facilitate comparisons and distributes it back to participating hotels in a variety of different reports charts on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. Specifically, STR identified three most crucial performance metrics to help hotel competitors to benchmark their operation: occupancy rate, average daily rate (ADR) and revenue per available room (RevPAR).
72. The hotel occupancy rate is calculated as a percentage based on the number of rooms occupied divided by the total amount of rooms available over a specified period. ${ }^{53}$ In a STAR report, hoteliers can measure if their property's occupancy is higher, lower or on par with competing hotels on an ongoing basis.
73. ADR is calculated by dividing room revenue by rooms sold. ${ }^{54}$ This performance indicator is the measure of the average paid for rooms sold in a given time period. ${ }^{55}$ As "the
${ }^{49}$ How does STR collect data?, supra n. 46 .
${ }^{50}$ STR states in its frequently asked questions online post that the data collected "is checked for accuracy and for adherence to our reporting guidelines." See https://str.com/datainsights/resources/faq (last visited Feb. 20, 2024). Moreover, STR also created a separate webpage listing all the STR Reporting Guidelines: https://str.com/reporting-guidelines (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
${ }^{51}$ Historical Benchmarking Data Reporting Guidelines, supra n.47.
${ }^{52}$ Id.
${ }^{53}$ STR, Understanding your STR reports: The Basics (January 5, 2022): https://str.com/data-insights-blog/understanding-your-str-reports-basics_(last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
${ }^{54}$ STR, What Is Average Daily Rate (ADR) and How to Calculate It (May 10, 2022): https://str.com/data-insights-blog/what-average-daily-rate-adr-and-how-calculate-it (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
${ }^{55} I d$.
rooms department is typically the largest generator of revenue and profit for hotels. An effective approach to ADR is a key piece of the hotel revenue-management cycle with the goal of maximizing profitability."56
74. RevPAR, widely considered as "the gold standard" for measuring top-line performance metric, factors both occupancy and ADR. ${ }^{57}$ RevPAR is calculated by dividing room revenue by rooms available-occupied and unoccupied. "Unlike ADR which is based strictly on rooms sold (demand), the calculation for RevPAR is based on all available rooms (supply)."58 This metric signifies the average revenue obtained from each available room of a hotel, whether occupied or vacant. This metrics demonstrate a hotel's competitiveness in filling its rooms and its effectiveness in pricing. STR explains that RevPAR is "the most effective metric when it comes to measuring market share and is an accurate indicator of profitability, with percentage changes in gross operating profit per available room (GOPPAR) generally 1.5 to 2.0 times more than RevPAR." ${ }^{59}$
75. With these quantifiable metrics, STR distributes comprehensive reports detailing how a subject hotel performed on various business functions by comparing to the market and competitors. ${ }^{60}$ For example, a participating hotel can analyze how it performed against competitors across RevPar, ADR and Occupancy by day of week, by segment, and by season. A typical monthly STAR report generally includes the following information: ${ }^{61}$
(1) Regarding the subject hotel's performance vs. its competitive set:
${ }^{56} \mathrm{Id}$.
${ }^{57}$ Understanding your STR reports, supra n.53.
58 What Is Average Daily Rate (ADR) and How to Calculate It, supra n. 54.
${ }^{59}$ Understanding your STR reports, supra n.53.
${ }^{60}$ See Attached hereto is Appendix A, which includes sample pages of the weekly and daily STAR reports.
${ }^{61}$ STR, How to use the STAR report, https://str.com/sites/default/files/2019-07/how-to-read-star-report.pdf (last visited Feb. 20, 2024). See also Appendix B, attached hereto. CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 22

- Monthly performance at a glance: a summary of a subject hotel's performance against its competitive set for the current month, year-to-date, running 3-month and running 12-month periods. ${ }^{[62]}$
- STAR summary: a summary of a subject hotel's occupancy, ADR and RevPar versus its comp set and pre-defined STR industry segments, for the current month, year-to-date, running 3 -month and running 12-month periods.
- Competitive set report: a comparison of a subject hotel versus comp set for the most recent 18 -month period, as well as for year-to-date, running 3 month and running 12 -month periods.
- Segmentation Summary: a summary of the subject hotel versus its comp set segmentation data for the current month and year-to-date. Segmentation data includes Occupancy, ADR and RevPar by source of business (transient, group and contract).
- Daily data for the month: Occupancy, ADR and RevPAR shown by day of week for the current month.
- Day of week and weekday/weekend: details occupancy, ADR and RevPAR for each day of the week and weekday/weekend for the current month, year-to-date, and the same day of the week for running 3-month and 12-month periods.
(2) Regarding the subject hotel's performance vs. its competitive set vs. its relevant market scale: ${ }^{63}$
- Segmentation analysis: a summary of monthly occupancy, ADR, RevPAR, index and ranking analysis of transient, group, contract and total business for the past 18 months.
- Segmentation day of week: Occupancy, ADR and RevPAR for transient, group, contract and total business shown by day of week for the current month.
- Additional revenue analysis: this is the monthly revenue analysis for room, $\mathrm{F} \& \mathrm{~B}$, other and total for the past 18 months. Revenue shown is divided by number of rooms sold.
(3) Response report:
- Response Report: details of properties in the subject hotel's comp set that have reported data to STR over the past 24 months.
- Segmentation response report: Details properties in the competitive set that have reported data to STR over the past 24 months.
${ }^{62}$ A running 3-month number "is the average of the values for the current month and the previous two months; a running 12-month number is the average of the values for the current month and the previous 11 months." How and why is running data calculated, supra n.46.
${ }^{63}$ STR classifies each hotel into seven chain scale groups: Luxury, Upper Upscale, Upscale, Midscale with F\&B, Midscale w/out F\&B, Economy and Independent.
https://str.com/sites/default/files/2019-07/how-to-read-star-report.pdf (last visited Feb. 20, 2024). CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 23

76. To achieve maximum profit, STR emphasizes that merely evaluating a user's business against itself would be insufficient because "your performance is only part of the puzzle. ${ }^{" 64}$ According to STR, the crucial factor in maximizing profits lies in monitoring a user's competitors'-information that is normally hidden from market participants in competition. Through STAR reports, participating competitor hotels exchange highly sensitive competitive information regarding their operation, pricing strategy, and overall performance with each other. STR describes this as "hotel benchmarking"-a process of "comparing and analyzing your property or portfolio's performance against the competition, ${ }^{,}{ }^{65}$

Hotel benchmarking can help you answer questions such as:

- Am I ahead of the competition or can I make gains in occupancy and average daily rate?
- Which days of week, months or seasons provide opportunity for further growth?
- Was focusing on occupancy or rate the right strategy?
- How are $F \& B$ revenues trending across the market and among my competition? What may be influencing other revenue sources relative to room revenue?
- What are the underlying factors behind changes in demand and rate? A shift in transient or group demand sources?
- Are my future bookings ahead or behind the market?
- The key to answering questions like these? Benchmarking top-line historical performance, profitability data, and forward bookings - both yours and that of the competition.

77. For example, average daily rate (ADR) "is an essential measurement in the benchmarking process because of its direct relationship with demand, guest types and their price points, channels for distributing rooms and room promotions." ${ }^{66}$ A primary step to benchmark as part of maximizing profit is to compare "your ADR levels against your competitors or market averages for the same segments and time periods. ${ }^{107}$
[^10]Benchmarking your ADR will allow you to answer questions such as:

Is my ADR truly affecting my occupancy levels?

- Do I need to change my rate strategy during lower demand periods?
- What is the optimal occupancy and ADR balance for growing RevPAR?

Do groups provide opportunities for greater contribution to my total revenue?
Am I taking advantage of high demand periods the same as my competitors and market?
78. STAR report uses "indexes" to measure a participating hotel's performance. The index is calculated by dividing the subject property's key performance indicator (KPI) values, Occupancy, ADR and RevPar by competitive set performance multiplied by 100. ${ }^{68}$ "An index of 100 indicates that the property has captured its fair share. Anything greater than 100 indicates a property is capturing more than its fair share, while anything below 100 indicates the property is capturing less than its fair share. ${ }^{\prime 69}$ In other words, STR encourages competitors to each get their "fair share" but, implicitly, not to get either more or less than their fair share.
79. Customization is another prominent feature of the STAR report. When ordering a STAR report, a participating hotel will handpick a "competitive set (comp set)," which is "a group of hotels that compete with your property for business and is selected with the purpose of benchmarking your performance against the competition." ${ }^{\text {70 }}$
80. STR uses comp sets to compile and deliver customized benchmarking reports. STR emphasizes that to make the benchmarking process work, the key is to have hotel management teams select an appropriate comp set. "Without a comp set," STR states, "you are left to compare your business against yourself and market. While those comparisons are
${ }^{68}$ How to use the STAR report, supra n.61; See also Appendix A, attached hereto, Tab 2. ${ }^{69}$ Id.
${ }^{70}$ What is benchmarking? Supra n. 20. CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 25
important, comp sets provide the most granular intel available in learning where you can improve the performance of your property or portfolio., ${ }^{71}$
81. To ensure accurate benchmark, STR instructs hotels to choose a comp set that is in direct competition in the relevant geographical area. ${ }^{72}$ For example, it recommends hotels do not "simply select those hotels 'across the street' from your subject property." ${ }^{\text {" }}$ Instead, hotels should consider "the characteristics of the hotels in your area, such as their class, room count, meeting space, etc. This is because selecting hotels that perform at different levels than your own property can produce misleading results. ${ }^{,{ }^{74}}$ STR also cautions participating hotels to review their com set selections on a continuous basis to ensure their close relevance in competition.
82. STR has provided analytics services that grade a hotel's comp set based on how closely it matches that of its competitors' comp sets-in other words ensuring that competitors are mutually monitoring each other through their STAR reports. A 2011 article by Caitlyn Hillyard, an STR analytics employee, states that "STR Analytics has utilized this extensive database to build a model, essentially assigning report card-like letter 'grades' to every single primary set, using several weighted metrics. The grade depicts how the comp set fits relative to other analogous properties' comp sets. Using the comp-set grading model, averages have been established on class and market levels.... In a perfectly competitive environment, the name-back percentage (the percentage of hotels you name as a primary competitor who name you as a primary competitor) should be 100 percent; meaning that competitive hotels find each other equally competitive.... For those hotels not able to achieve an A+ primary comp set, it is imperative to understand the set's challenges and use that knowledge to strategize for the future. Knowing the weak areas within a comp set can be just as effective as having a highly competitive

[^11]comp set in helping to interpret indexes and change what could have been seen as a negative, as a positive (or vice versa). Understanding these challenges will also aid in tweaking the comp set to make it more tightly competitive. ${ }^{75}$

## 2. Forward STAR Report

83. CoStar, when it acquired STR in 2019, specifically sought to introduce additional future forecasting into the STR product. Andrew Florance, CEO of CoStar, said at the time of the acquisition that "there is clear demand in my mind for the forecasting component of the business where you are gathering forward information and forecasting future demand in the market and future pricing."
84. Consistent with Costar's explicit goal of providing future demand and future pricing information, STR subsequently introduced the Forward STAR report in certain U.S. markets. Forward STAR enables hotels to monitor the future supply levels of their competitors and, accordingly, easily identify opportunities to raise price whenever it is feasible.
85. STR touts that "through the Forward STAR element of benchmarking, hoteliers can get ahead of the game by measuring rooms booked for the days, weeks and months ahead for both the local market and the competition ... Forward STAR completes the performance picture in tandem with top-line historical data, profitability and forecasting." ${ }^{, 76}$
${ }^{75}$ Comp Sets Revisited, Lodging Magazine (October 26, 2011) https://lodgingmagazine.com/comp-sets-revisited/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
${ }^{76}$ STR, Using business on the books in a complete benchmarking approach (December 12, 2023), https://str.com/data-insights-blog/using-business-on-the-books-in-complete-benchmarkingapproach (last visited Feb. 20, 2024). CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 27

HAGENS BERMAN
1301 Second Avenue, Suite 2000, Seattle, WA 98101


Visualize your hotel's demand build up against your local market and competition.

Inform your pricing, sales and marketing strategies with accurate forward-looking data obtained directly from the source.

## Look ahead to stay get ahead and make data-driven decisions for the days, weeks and months that lie ahead on the calendar.

Contact sales@str.com
86. Specifically, STR collects two types of forward-looking data from participating hotels: adjusted rooms available and rooms booked. "Adjusted rooms available" is the "total number of rooms a property has available in its inventory to be booked." 77 "Rooms booked" means "any room which has been subtracted/deducted from the Adjusted Rooms Available due to a booking." ${ }^{\text {. } 78}$
87. STR then computes the data into standard metrics and reports back hotel competitors' occupancy on the books and pickup information on a weekly and monthly basis. Occupancy on the books "represents confirmed occupancy levels for upcoming periods."79 Forward occupancy data enables a hotel to monitor and manage its room inventory with the knowledge of competitor's forward occupancy on the books for the next 90 days (weekly report)

[^12]and 12 months (monthly report). Pickup data, in turn, shows a hotel's "uptake in bookings from one data collection period to the next. ${ }^{,{ }^{80} \text { By comparing the subject hotel's future occupancy and }}$ pickup against market and competitor set, Forward STAR provides each subscriber a full picture of how it is gaining market share compared to its direct competitors in real time. ${ }^{81}$

Forward Occupancy for Hotel A and (Sub)Market

Forward occupancy for the next 90 days as at 12.11.2018.


Pickup for the next 83 days as at 12.11.2018.

${ }^{80} I d$.
${ }^{81}$ See Forward STAR sample report, https://str.com/sites/default/files/2019-07/forward-star-sample-report.pdf_(last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
88. Such knowledge of competitors' future occupancy information effectively reduces any strategic uncertainty that would lead competitors to naturally compete through lowering prices.
89. STR states that, for the purpose of maximizing profits, "Occupancy-driven revenue strategies can be less effective because of operating costs." ${ }^{22}$ In a competitive market, however, it is rational for a competitor to prioritize occupancy-driven revenue strategies because if they do not pursue them, their competitors will. This competitive process is good for consumers as it drives prices down and maximizes occupancy. STR, however, explicitly provides information that allows competitors to make sure they and their competitors in the competitive set are each getting their "fair share" of revenue and occupancy. This information exchange artificially stabilizes prices at elevated levels and tamps down the competition that would lead to lower prices and higher occupancy rates. Indeed, STR educates its perspective clients that in the hotel industry, "total revenue grows higher when hotels understand the maximum amount a customer is willing to pay." ${ }^{83}$ Competitors would not be able to figure that out in a competitive market but could do it here with the reports provided by STR.

[^13]
## 3. Bandwidth Report and RevPAR Positioning Matrix (RPM) Report

90. Supplementing the STAR report and Forward STAR report, STR also offers socalled "Bandwidth reports" and "RPM reports" to give subscribers "a unique advantage to look at data beyond averages." ${ }^{, 74}$ Specifically, the Bandwidth report shows, on a daily basis, "the range of performance among a competitive set indicated by the daily high and low performance of individual competitors. ${ }^{.85}$ It indicates where the subject hotel lies relative to its competitors' daily occupancy, average daily rate and revenue per available room performance.

91. Each Bandwidth report includes a "Daily Ranking" feature designed to assist hoteliers in benchmarking against competitors. As illustrated in the sample graph above, beneath

[^14]each bandwidth band, there is a ranking of the subject property compared to its competitors for each performance metric.
92. Notably, to help subscribers benchmark how much additional revenue is available in their comp set, the Bandwidth report calculates what the subject hotel could have gained or lost had it been the daily RevPAR leader or laggard.
*Calculated room revenue gain or loss had my property been the daily RevPAR leader or laggard for entire month.
93. As for RevPAR Positioning Matrix (RPM) Report, STR explains in its tutorial that "the concept behind the RPM report is to move away from simply showing your property's performance against the average of your competitive set, instead, the RPM shows you your property's RevPAR performance against the relative position of every other hotel in your comp set. ${ }^{" 86}$ Specially, the RPM report shows a clear visual representation of a participating hotel's RevPAR performance relative to each of the competitors identified in the comp set for the current month and the same month of the previous year.
94. STR provided a specific example in its video tutorial demonstrating how hotels could use the RPM report to effectively identify opportunities to raise room rates. As the below graph shows, the subject hotel (property number 6 in orange) ranks sixth in revenue per available room for the current month. Meanwhile, despite having a similar occupancy rate, properties number 5 and number 1 outperformed the subject hotel by charging higher rates. This RPM report clearly signals to the subject hotel the opportunity to increase its own prices.

[^15]

## B. Defendant and Conspirator Hotel Operators agreed to exchange confidential information through STR.

95. Each Hotel Operator agreed to regularly share its current and forward looking competitively sensitive information about their price and supply via STR with the understanding that the competitors would do the same. Moreover, Hotel Operators were aware of each other's participation in the information exchange because only participating hotels could be selected in the "comparative set," and STR provided a list of participants to each hotel operator for choosing their own comparative set.

## 1. STR's Give Data-to-Get Data Policy

96. STR only allows a hotel to access the data in its reports if the hotel contributed its own data to the report, thus ensuring that only the hotel defendants and similarly situated subscribers would have access to the data.
97. Costar explained in its SEC form 10-K that " $[t]$ hese confidential data reports enable customers to understand their market position based on trends and indices. Reports are CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 33
provided on a monthly, weekly or daily basis, and provide insights about key metrics such as occupancy, ADR and RevPAR. STAR Reports are only available to industry participants who provide us with data.. ${ }^{87}$
98. Forward STAR reports operate on the same give-to-get basis. Under the STR "Forward STAR Data Reporting Guidelines," "hotels must report their daily Adjusted Rooms Available and Rooms Booked for the next 90 days (for weekly reports) and 365 days (for monthly reports). In return, STR will report back on Occupancy on the Books and Pickup for the hotel as well as its (sub)market and competitive set (comp set subscription required)." ${ }^{88}$
99. STR enforces this "give data-to-get data" policy in its license agreement. Its "Hotel Benchmarking Product Terms and Conditions" provides that:

Licensee shall provide the Hotel Data types as indicated in the License Agreement for Licensee's hotels as indicated in the License Agreement and in accordance with the data guidelines and timeframes set forth here: https://str.com/data-reporting-guidelines. CoStar is under no obligation to provide to any Hotel Benchmarking Deliverables if Licensee does not provide the applicable Hotel Data to CoStar based on such data guidelines and timeframes.

CoStar's provision of the Hotel Benchmarking Deliverables is subject to and contingent on Licensee providing CoStar timely, true, accurate, correct and complete Hotel Data as required. ${ }^{[89]}$

[^16]100. In addition, the frequency at which a participating hotel submit data determines the frequency at which that hotel get reports from STR:
(ii) To the extent the Hotel Benchmarking Deliverables are delivered through the STR Application, Hotel Benchmarking Deliverables will generally be delivered to Licensee either daily, weekly and/or monthly, depending on the frequency of data set provided by Licensee. CoStar shall deliver or give access to Licensee the reports or services as indicated in the License Agreement. ${ }^{[90]}$
101. Consistent with the stated policy, CW 2, a former software engineer at STR, confirmed that all participating hotels had to supply their data to STR in order to receive STR reports.
102. While the competitively sensitive data collected from participating hotels are kept confidential from nonparticipants, participating hotels can contact STR to get a participation list for their specific geographic markets. ${ }^{91}$ The hotels included on this list are those that actively share their data with STR. A subject hotel can then select its comp set based on the list provided by STR.

## ${ }^{90} I d$.

${ }^{91}$ Where can I find a participation list for my market? Supra n.46.
2. Defendant and Conspirator Hotel Operators subscribe to the STR reporting services. 103. STR's website prominently identifies Hotel Operators Hilton, Marriott, Accor, IHG, Hyatt and Wyndham as its clients. ${ }^{92}$

## Our Clients

Hilton

IHG
HOTELS \& RESORTS
BW | Best Western Hotels 6 Resorts

Jumeirah

HYATT


WYNDHAM
104. Hilton. Hilton is publicly listed by STR as one of its clients. Hilton's advertised jobs for positions as a revenue manager at its Revenue Management Consolidated Center require as one of its minimum qualifications that the applicant have "in-depth knowledge of industry analytical reports such as STR ... reports. ${ }^{933}$ CW 5, who worked at Hilton's Conrad Hotels and Waldorf Astoria as a Director of Revenue Management, confirmed that the hotels submitted their data to STR via Hilton's corporate office, and received STR reports in return. Hilton employees, including revenue managers, also regularly tout their experience with using STAR reports as part of their work experience at Hilton. ${ }^{94}$ Hilton executives have also attended the Hotel Data

[^17]Conference that STR regularly hosts. For example, Jess Pettit, Senior Vice President of Analytics at Hilton, was a speaker at a 2023 HDC conference panel along with Amanda Hite, president of STR. ${ }^{95}$
105. Hyatt. Hyatt is publicly listed by STR as one of its clients. Hyatt's advertised jobs for positions in revenue management include duties related to STR reports. For example, Hyatt's advertised position for Senior Manager, Revenue Management, Franchise states that the role will "manage the STR access administration for Americas Franchise Operators." CW 4 also confirmed that the Hyatt hotel he worked at in New York city uses STR reports. Hyatt executives have regularly attended the Hotel Data Conference that STR hosts. For example, Raymond Boyle, Vice President of Data and Analytics at Hyatt, spoke at the 2023 Hotel Data Conference. In his presentation, Boyle emphasized the importance that Hyatt places on data, stating that "Data culture is leading to leaders thinking about leveraging algorithms to drive value in new ways."
106. Marriott. Marriott is publicly listed by STR as one of its clients. Marriott's advertised jobs for general manager positions include duties related to STR reports. For example, as part of the "core work activities," Marriott requires a general manager to be responsible for reviewing and working with appropriate revenue management reports including STR reports and be able to respond to STR reports related critique from property shareholders. ${ }^{96}$ In addition, CW 1 recalled that the two Marriott Ritz-Carlton hotels she worked at all use STR reports. Marriott employees working in revenue management regularly tout their experience with using STR reports as part of their work experience at Marriott. ${ }^{97}$ Marriott executives have also regularly
(Training to become a Revenue Manager including pricing strategies, displacement analysis, short term and monthly forecasting, strategy meetings, STAR report analysis, critques, and future strategy recommendations...).
${ }^{95}$ STR revisits January's forecast during Hotel Data Conference, Hotel Management (March 29, 2021) https://www.hotelmanagement.net/operate/hotel-data-conference-str-revisits-january-sforecast (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
${ }^{96}$ Marriott Careers, https://jobs.marriott.com/marriott/jobs/24022693?lang=en-us (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
${ }^{97} \mathrm{https}: / / \mathrm{www} . l i n k e d i n . c o m / \mathrm{in} / \mathrm{betsy}$-bolton-3ba22635/ (the manager of centralized revenue management services is responsible for conducting "[a]nalysis of performance reports, STR
attended the Hotel Data Conference that STR hosts. For example, Erika Alexander, chief global officer of global operations at Marriott, was a speaker at a 2022 HDC conference panel along with Amanda Hite, president of STR.
107. IHG. IHG is publicly listed by STR as one of its clients. IHG's advertised jobs for position in revenue management include duties related to STR reports. For example, IHG's advertised position for a director of revenue management position states that the role will "monitor RevPAR index on STR report and provide critical analysis of performance on weekly and monthly basis. ${ }^{98} \mathrm{CW} 4$ also confirmed that the IHG hotel he worked at uses STR reports. IHG employees working in revenue management regularly highlight their experience of analyzing STAR reports as part of their work experience at IHG. ${ }^{99}$ IHG executives have also regularly attended the Hotel Data Conference that STR hosts. For example, Philippe Garnier from IHG was one of the featured panelists and presenters during general sessions of the 2019 HDC. ${ }^{100}$
108. Loews. Loews includes analysis of STR reports as one of the job duties in posted positions for its company. For example, a job advertisement posted by Loews states that the duties for a group rooms coordinator position includes "[a]nalyz[ing] weekly STR reports to examine hotel occupancy, ADR and RevPAR performance." ${ }^{101}$ Employees working at Loews also tout

Reports (weekly and monthly); Lead a weekly Strategy Meeting where the appropriate booking horizon is evaluated for proper pricing and inventory controls");
https://www.linkedin.com/in/meghan-davino/ (the revenue manager of Marriott would "review and analyze STR data on a weekly and monthly basis, identify and implement strategies for future demand scenarios, and compile weekly reports to analyze key drivers of market share performance and understand overall effectiveness of strategies").
${ }^{98}$ IHG job posting, https://g.co/kgs/N5FrpWL (last visited Feb. 20, 2024)
${ }^{99} \mathrm{https}: / / \mathrm{www} . l i n k e d i n . c o m / i n / a m y-b e m u s-a 844 a 21 \mathrm{a} 9 /$ (the role of a portfolio revenue manager at IHG includes job duties of "educate[ing] hotels on strategies for revenue management, including: STAR analysis...").
${ }^{100}$ STR, Hotel Data Conference sold out for sixth year in a row (July 23, 2019) https://str.com/press-release/hotel-data-conference-sold-out-sixth-year-row (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
${ }^{101}$ Loews job posting, https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/137378309/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
their experience with using STR reports as part of their work experience. ${ }^{102}$ Loews' executives have regularly attended the Hotel Data Conference that STR hosts. For example, Monica Xureb, chief revenue officer of Loews, spoke at the 2021 HDC. ${ }^{103}$
109. Accor. Accor is publicly listed by STR as one of its clients. Accor advertised jobs in revenue management include duties related to STR reports. For example, the ability to utilize STR reports is highlighted as a crucial skill for the Director of Revenue Management position advertised by Accor Fairmont. ${ }^{104}$


## Fairmont Winnipeg

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We are currently looking for a one-year term Director of Revenue Management! Are you excited by spreadsheets? Do you love keeping up with market trends, analyzing data, using available information to anticipate demand, and then adjusting strategies accordingly? Is your nightstand cluttered with STR Reports? Do you dream about ADR, RevPar, and Market Share? If this sounds like the right fit for you, apply today at: https://Inkd.in/euj82XMf
\#experience \#luxury \#opportunity
Accor Fairmont Hotels \& Resorts
110. In another Accor job posting, it states that the revenue analyst will be responsible for "[a]ssisting ADRM to upload STR information through STR and internal report." ${ }^{105}$

Employees working at Accor tout their experience with using STR reports as part of their work

[^18]experience. ${ }^{106}$ Accor's executives also have regularly attended the Hotel Data Conference that STR hosts. ${ }^{107}$
111. Omni Hotels. Omni Hotels advertised jobs for position in management include duties related to STR reports. For example, Omni Hotels' LinkedIn job posting for general manager specifically states that any qualified candidate should be able to "[r]eview[] the STR report, competitive shopping reports and using other resources to maintain an awareness of the property's market position." ${ }^{108}$ Employees working at Omni Hotels tout their experience with using STR reports to deliver excellent financial results for the hotel. ${ }^{109}$ Omni executives have regularly attended the Hotel Data Conference that STR hosts. For example, Peter Strebel, then Chairman of Omni Hotels \& Resorts, was a panelist at the 2022 HDC, which was also hosted at the Omni Nashville Hotel.
112. A 2007 federal court decision included in its findings of fact a description of how Omni Hotels uses STAR Reports: "With regard to sales, Omni compares a hotel's performance to the performance of a small number of competitors in its geographic market, referred to as the 'competitive set.' Omni analyzes individual hotel performance against the competitive set based on three factors: (a) average room rate, (b) occupancy, and (c) revenue per available room ('RevPar'). RevPar represents the revenue per available room the hotel is receiving, computed by multiplying the average room rate by the percentage of occupancy. To analyze how a hotel is
${ }^{106} \mathrm{https}: / / \mathrm{www} . l i n k e d i n . c o m / i n / b e n-s h i h-8273331 /(r e v i e w i n g ~ " t h e ~ S T R ~ r e p o r t, ~ c o m p e t i t i v e ~$ shop reports and other industry metrics to optimize the hotel's market position" is part of the job duties of the director of sales and marketing at Accor); https://www.linkedin.com/in/ren\�\�-mayer-1a456b35/details/experience/ (former Accor Fairmont director of sales and marketing stated that one of the key achievements was "STR Ranking Improvement: Successfully increased our hotel's STR ranking from 4 to 1, demonstrating our commitment to excellence in service and guest satisfaction").
${ }^{107}$ See https://www.linkedin.com/posts/muditjain676_hotel-data-conference-build-your-roadmap-activity-6780079177245765632-mizA/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
${ }^{108}$ Omni Hotels job posting, https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/general-manager-at-omni-hotels-resorts-3779904785/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
 won an award "for excellent financial and STR results at Omni Charlotte and Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort for 2015 results").
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performing in these areas compared to the competitive set, Omni purchases the STAR report from Smith Travel Research. The STAR report is a monthly analysis which provides comparative data. ${ }^{1100}$ In that decision, the Court specifically found that Omni had fired general managers of its hotels based, in part, on poor performance in the STAR report. ${ }^{111}$ This shows the importance that Omni places on the STAR report.
113. Choice/Radisson. Radisson is publicly listed by STR as one of its clients. ${ }^{112}$ Choice Hotels' employees working in revenue management regularly highlight their experience of analyzing STAR reports as part of their work experience. ${ }^{113}$
114. Langham. Langham employees working in revenue management tout their experience with using STR reports as part of their work experience. ${ }^{114}$
115. Wyndham. Wyndham is publicly listed by STR as one of its clients. Wyndham's advertised jobs for revenue management positions include duties related to STR reports. For example, in its job posting for coordinator, revenue management services operations, Wyndham

[^19]${ }^{111}$ Id. at 698 ("In the twelve months before and after Elmougy's separation, Omni terminated non-Muslim, non-Egyptian GMs without prior written warning: (a) Mike Knapp, GM of the Omni Los Angeles, April 9, 2001, for poor sales (RevPar index change in the bottom five (5) hotels of the Omni chain at the time of separation); (b) Paul Martin, GM of the Omni Severin in Indianapolis, April 30, 2002, for low morale and lagging sales (RevPar index change above the bottom five hotels of the Omni chain at the time of separation")).
${ }^{112}$ Caroline Thissen, Senior Area Director of Sales and Revenue Optimization at Radisson praised STR's services by providing her testimonials featured on the STR website: https://str.com/.
${ }^{113} \mathrm{https}: / / \mathrm{www} . l i n k e d i n . c o m / \mathrm{in} / \mathrm{jordanreus} /$ (the revenue manager of Choice Hotels is responsible for "[o]ptimize[ing] RevPAR by analyzing demand and creating effective selling strategies, oversell and optimal market mix; Prepar[ing] and analyz[ing] weekly, monthly and period end data including Daily Report, Segmentation Report, ChoiceMAX reports, pricing positions, market shops, STR, reservation activity, etc").
${ }^{114} \mathrm{https}: / / \mathrm{www} . l i n k e d i n . c o m / i n /$ chapmann-wong-crme-685857b0/?originalSubdomain=hk (employee who used to work at Langham corporate office as a revenue executive noted that reviewing STR reports as part of his job duties); https://www.linkedin.com/in/kenneth-ayson-crme-chia-827a7751/ (The director of revenue management at Langham is required to "[m]onitor RevPAR index on STR report and provide critical analysis of performance on weekly and monthly basis").
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states one of this role's primary responsibilities includes "coordination of STR reporting and
initiating competitive pricing reports."}\mp@subsup{}{}{115}\mathrm{ Wyndham's executives have regularly attended the
Hotel Data Conference that STR hosts. For example, Dimitris Manikis, president of Wyndham,
spoke at the 2021 HDC. }\mp@subsup{}{}{116
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## C. STR-hosted Hotel Data Conference teach Hotel Operators how to use STR reports to charge higher prices

116. Since 2009, STR has hosted the Hotel Data Conference, or "HDC," a yearly soldout event staple in the hotel industry. According to its promotional materials, the conference is "a gathering of industry executives with a specific interest in crunching data to improve the performance of their hotels and/or hotel companies. The conference content is designed to appeal to brand executives, hotel owners, developers, operators, revenue management specialists and pricing analysts." ${ }^{117}$
117. HDC is touted by attendees as "the only conference where the revenue management leaders of our industry come together." ${ }^{118}$ Indeed, according to the 2016 HDC conference attendee list, in addition to STR, employees from hotel chain representatives, including Hyatt, Hilton, IHG, Loew Hotels, Marriott, Accor, Omni Hotels \& Resorts and Wyndham, all attended the event. ${ }^{119}$ "Conferences are such a key part of the industry—not only for the business they bring destinations, but for the opportunities they provide in the exchange of

[^20]knowledge and advancement of the industry," said Patrick Mayock, an STR VP and co-lead of the HDC Planning Committee. ${ }^{120}$
118. In the 2022 HDC press release, Amanda Hite, STR president stated that "[o]ur conference caters to a segment of the industry that was among the most affected in terms of budget and resources. Professionals from this segment have relied upon data to aid in the recovery, and they understand the need for new perspectives as we approach the seasonal transition from leisure to corporate demand amid a time of economic uncertainty. We are proud to deliver those perspectives through the agenda we have built and the content we will deliver." ${ }^{121}$
119. Utilizing the conference as a platform, STR educates the audience how it perceives the best use of data it distributed to drive up prices. For example, one way encouraged by Raquel Ortiz, assistant director of financial performance at STR at the 2023 Hotel Data Conference, is to reduce room occupancy (i.e., supply): ${ }^{122}$

On average, hotels are most profitable when they run around $87 \%$ occupancy.

- At what occupancy are hotels most profitable? While there are many other factors to take into account for maximum profitability, hotels are most profitable when running somewhere between $\mathbf{8 3 \%}$ (full service, luxury) and $\mathbf{9 1 \%}$ (upscale). Remember: More guests means more staff, more wear and tear, and long lines that could lead to lower guest satisfaction scores.
- Interesting correlation: As RevPAR moves either up or down at a hotel, GOPPAR moves an additional $1.5 \%$ to $2 \%$ on top of that number.
- In the full-service luxury segment, which includes many resort properties that have a high dependency on ancillary revenue from golf, spa, parking, etc., GOP margin averages $35 \%$, which equates to $\$ 122$ GOPPAR. In these types of properties, naturally, a focus on boosting occupancy over ADR leads to higher GOPPAR, as more guests on property means more opportunities to drive revenue across other outlets.

120. Each year, HDC covers dozens of presentations on general topics such as industry outlook, revenue management, industry trends, forecast, as well as providing attendees with a

[^21]wide selection of breakout panels for in depth discussions. Here is an example of speakers and topics featured at the 2022 HDC :

HDC will feature 92 speakers across five general sessions, 12 breakout panel sessions, 17 "data dash" sessions and six advanced level "data dive" discussions. Those sessions combine to cover the latest around topics such as business travel, forecasting, group business, guest evolution, inflation and other macroeconomic indicators, labor challenges, market leaders, OTA relationships, pipeline, and profit optimization.

In addition to top presenters from STR and HNN, featured panelists and presenters during general sessions include: Erika Alexander (Marriott International), James Carroll (Crestline Hotels \& Resorts), Christine Duffy (Carnival Cruise Line), Sourav Ghosh (Host Hotels \& Resorts), Michelle Horn (Delta Air Lines), Mitch Patel (Vision Hospitality Group), Adam Sacks (Tourism Economics) and Peter Strebel (Omni Hotels \& Resorts). ${ }^{[123]}$

[^22]121. As another example, an archived version of the 2020 HDC event page from the STR website, shows agenda items that focused on introducing to subscribers to STR and featured speakers from hotel chains, such as IHG, Omni, and Rosewood, who described how they set their revenue management strategies based on data received from the STR reports. ${ }^{124}$

122. Employees from hotel chains and revenue management companies frequently serve as speakers and panelists of the conference to share their views on hotel pricing.

- At the 2023 HDC, there was a panel titled "Courageous Revenue Management," where panelist revenue strategists discussed "how they are evolving revenue management to protect rate integrity, maximizing revenue channels, and making other bold and creative moves."
- At the 2022 HDC, on a panel titled "Exchanging occupancy for ADR? Understanding cost and profitability" Jihad Lotfi, McKibbon Hospitality Vice President of Revenue Management, presented that hoteliers should not be "afraid to take risk" on charging high hotel rates. ${ }^{125}$
- At the 2021 HDC, Monica Xuereb, chief revenue officer for Loews Hotels \& Co., spoke on a panel titled the "Prognosticating Post-Pandemic: The U.S. Hotel Forecas.." ${ }^{[126]}$

123. HDC attendees also touted "the biggest value from my perspective is really the network opportunity. The people connection is irreplaceable." ${ }^{127}$ Indeed, each year HDC has networking sessions build into the agenda.
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5:45 PM - 7:00 PM Networking Reception Presented by Rainmaker

Help us kick-off the conference, by joining us for a cocktail reception. You can also pick up your conference badge at this time.

\section*{D. The information exchanges orchestrated by STR produce anticompetitive effects.}
124. Competition is likely to be harmed when competitors who possess dominate market shares in a concentrated market, such as the market at issue, exchange competitively sensitive information about their current and forward-looking prices and supply/demand. When

\footnotetext{
\({ }^{125}\) Revenue Experts: ‘Don’t Be Afraid To Take Risk’ on Hotel Rates (August 25, 2022), https://www.hospitalitynet.org/external/4112139.html (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
\({ }^{126}\) CoStar, Latest Hotel Forecast: Leisure Surpasses 2019; Business and Group Have 'a Long Way To Go' (August 17, 2021), https://www.costar.com/article/889584950/latest-hotel-forecast-leisure-surpasses-2019-business-and-group-have-a-long-way-to-go (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
\({ }^{127}\) Supra n. 118.
}
defendants that are competing for the same customers exchange information that is crucial to competition, comfort replaces uncertainty and reduces incentives to lower price to attract customers in the relevant market.

\section*{1. The structure of the relevant Luxury Hotel market is one where information exchange is likely to lead to anticompetitive effects.}
125. The Luxury Hotel market exhibits numerous attributes indicating that the type of information exchanges facilitated by STR are particularly likely to cause anticompetitive effects. In particular, the market features high barriers to entry, market concentration, a relatively fungible product, and inelastic demand.
126. Barriers to entry. The existence of high barriers to entry is one factor which makes a market susceptible to collusion. Although under the basic economic principles, collusive parties' ability to raise luxury hotel room prices above competitive level would attract new entrants who seek to benefit from the supracompetitive pricing, because there are significant barriers to entry in the market, such new entrants are less likely. Thus, barriers to entry help facilitate the formation and maintenance of a collusion.
127. During the Class Period and continuing today, substantial barriers impede entry into the luxury hotel rental market. New entrant into the market would face costly and lengthy start-up costs, including the high cost of renovating and customizing a hotel property, upfront investment in hotel amenities, recruiting and training highly skilled staff, establishing a property management infrastructure, implementing marketing and advertising campaigns, and ongoing costs of property maintenance. For example, one 2019 survey found that the median cost to develop a luxury hotel was \(\$ 675,000\) per room. In other words, the median cost to open a 100room hotel would be \(\$ 67.5\) million. \({ }^{128}\) On average, the number of rooms in a luxury hotel is over
\({ }^{128}\) U.S. Hotel Development Cost Survey 2020, HVS (October 14, 2020) https://www.hvs.com/article/8910-US-Hotel-Development-Cost-Survey-2020 (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
300. \({ }^{129}\) This means that the average cost to open a luxury hotel in the United States is approximately \(\$ 200\) million dollars.
128. Market concentration. The U.S. hotel market has been subject to steadily increasing consolidation over the past years \({ }^{130}\) and arguably has become "the world's most consolidated hotel market, with only about one-third of hotels have remained independent." \({ }^{131}\) As a result of the consolidation, the Luxury Hotel market is dominated by a few key players. \({ }^{132}\) Collectively, Defendants and their co-conspirators controlled at least \(70 \%\) of the relevant market during the Class Period. The presence of few companies supports the inference that a conspiracy to exchange information had the intended effect of restraining competition.
129. Relative fungibility of hotel rooms. With an accounting of a few high-level characteristics of properties - such as the size, amenities, location, or the age of the buildinghotel guest rooms within classes of properties are relatively fungible, such that competition among defendant hotels is primarily driven by pricing.
130. Inelastic demand. The demand for luxury hotel rooms is relatively inelastic, as consumers make reservations for immediate, short-run needs. \({ }^{133}\) Because hotel defendants
\({ }^{129}\) Average number of rooms per hotel in the United States from 2017 to 2020, by chain type, Statista (April 21, 2023), https://www.statista.com/statistics/823786/average-number-of-rooms-per-hotel-by-chain-type/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
\({ }^{130}\) The article published by CoStar, titled "Merged and Acquired: A Review of US Hotel Industry Consolidation in 2023," describes that "consolidation was still the name of the game" for the U.S. hotel industry. See https://www.costar.com/article/2083388443/merged-and-acquired-a-review-of-us-hotel-industry-consolidation-in-2023 (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
\({ }^{131}\) Independent Hotels in the U.S. Pressured by the Big Brands, Skift (March 1, 2023) https://skift.com/2023/03/01/independent-hotels-in-the-u-s-pressured-by-the-big-brands/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
\({ }^{132}\) According to the analysis conducted by James Hales, portfolio manager of Platinum Assent Management in 2020, "[l]arge hotel groups, such as Marriott and Hilton, dominate the market for these travelers. In the US today, around \(70 \%\) of hotels are part of branded chains." See Oligopoly Forming: Consolidation in the Hotel Industry (January 22, 2020), https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/oligopoly-forming-consolidation-hotel-industry-james-halse-cfa (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
\({ }^{133}\) The Supreme Court has emphasized that inelastic demand occurs in markets where, "buyers place orders only for immediate, short-run needs." United States v. Container Corp. of Am., 393 U.S. 333, 337 (1969).
dominated the relevant market during the Class Period, consumers generally have limited reasonable substitutes to discipline cartel pricing.

\section*{2. The nature of the information exchanged renders it likely to produce anticompetitive effects.}
131. The STR information exchange is likely to have anticompetitive effects because it involves (1) current and forward-looking price information, (2) shared only among participating hotels, (3) focused exclusively on prices and supply, (4) in a loosely deanonymized format, and (5) facilitated by common third-party.
132. As discussed in detail above, STR reports contain current and forward-looking price information.
133. Moreover, STR is available to only one side of the market - the hotel owners and operators who submitted data to STR. Consumer purchasers are unable to access the information because STR functions on a "give to get" basis. In addition, the publication of the "response report" allows report subscribers to monitor participation by their competitors in the agreements. This information asymmetry contributes to the anticompetitive effects of the information exchange.
134. Although STR has claimed that the data it distributes is aggregated, the expansive amount of competitively sensitive information provided in the reports is at best loosely "anonymized." A comp set only needs to include as few as three competitors that are not affiliated with the subject hotel. \({ }^{134}\) To provide further transparency of competitors' data, on daily and weekly reports, a subject hotel is always excluded from the comp set data. Moreover, each report provides the subject hotel with details of whether properties in the subject hotel's comp set have reported data to STR. In any event, although the report provides aggregated data sets, the subject hotel knows which competitors it is looking at because it handpicks them for the competitive set. CW 5 stated that, based on a strategic selection of custom cuts, some hotels could deanonymize participants of the STR reports.
\({ }^{134}\) STR, Competitive Set/Trend Report Guidelines: https://str.com/competitive-set-trend-report-guidelines (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
135. Lastly, as part of the information exchange scheme, participating hotels all agree to pay STR to manage the exchange of competitively sensitive information among competitors. STR profits by managing the scheme and encourages participating hotels' use of the reports it provided for anticompetitive purposes. Such use of a common intermediary to exchange information help competitors foster trust for collusion because participating hotels do not need to trust each other directly, as long as they trust the intermediary. This is what STR has achieved over the years. As Dana Cariss, VP of revenue strategy and distribution of Caral Tree Hospitality puts it, "When you are evaluating performance of a hotel in a market, it's the single source of truth at the moment." \({ }^{135}\)
136. Sourav Ghosh, Chief Financial Officer of Host Hotels \& Resorts, endorsed STR products by touting that "STR data is frankly the industry's standard in the lodging space. And there is a lot of trust that STR has garnered over the years, not only in terms of the data they put out there, but also the analysis and research work that they do." \({ }^{136}\) To foster trust, STR issues detailed data submission guidelines to outline protocols and standardize performance data consistency for reporting purposes. \({ }^{137}\) It also engages in extensive data verification. As CW 3 explained, STR implemented "a lot of internal applications that were run against" data submitted by each hotel to STR to verify accuracy. There was an accuracy percentage or threshold for various metrics which, if not met, triggered "more scrutiny," CW 3 said.

\section*{3. Economic analysis confirms that the STR information-sharing scheme produces anticompetitive effects in the form of higher prices for participating hotels during the conspiracy period.}
137. Economic analysis confirms that collective information exchange through STR leads to higher prices. Preliminary economic analysis was conducted on a publicly available dataset of future listing prices for over 6,000 hotels across 15 major cities in the United States between January and June of 2024. The data, comprising of over 360,000 price points, allows an
\({ }^{135}\) Testimonials, supra n. 11.
\({ }^{136} \mathrm{Id}\).
\({ }^{137}\) See Forward STAR Data Reporting Guidelines, supra n.77; Historical Benchmarking Data Reporting Guidelines, supra n. 47.
assessment of how hotel operators set their room rates on the basis of information available at the time.
138. This analysis indicates that Hotel Operators have been able to set higher prices, compared to other luxury hotels in the respective cities. Regression analysis suggests an average overcharge of at least \(4.3 \%\) for the 5 -star hotels of Hotel Operators, after accounting for hotel characteristics, location, and quality. The overcharge is likely higher during peak demand periods, when hotels enrolled in STR's information sharing scheme can gain a competitive advantage over hotels with less information available.

139. Defendant Hotel Operators are also associated with higher price increases (or lower price decreases) over time. The chart below shows the average price adjustment for Defendants and other luxury hotels: specifically, how much have hotel operators adjusted the asking price for the same booking, in the space of two weeks. As can be seen below, Defendants are overwhelmingly more likely to increase their listed prices by more (or decrease them by less), for the same room and check-in date.

How Defenants Adjust Prices Over a Two-Week Period - 15 Major US Cities

140. By exchanging current and forward-looking competitively sensitive information, rival hotel operators were able to coordinate prices across multiple cities. Evidence from preliminary analysis of listed prices displays parallel pricing movements and trends amongst competitors, suggesting a common pricing strategy and/or a shared input in determining room fares. The graph below shows price parallelism in four pairs of competing premium hotel chains across 15 major U.S. cities. The similarities in their pricing patterns are unlikely to be explained
by adjustments due to shifting demands, given that these are observed (and averaged) across 15 different markets.

\section*{Future Listed Prices Across 15 Major US Cities}


\section*{4. Hotel competitors' extensive sharing of pricing and supply data empowers pricing algorithms to push higher rates.}
141. There is a widespread usage of hotel revenue management algorithms in the hospitality industry. These advanced revenue management systems are fed with vast amounts of data collected and analyzed by the systems. For example, global chains Starwood Hotels, now merged with Marriott International, introduced its Revenue Optimizing System (ROS), in which it invested more than \(\$ 50\) million, in 2014. The system "analyzes climate and weather data, competitor pricing, booking patterns on other sources, and the presence of music or sports events
in the property area." \({ }^{138}\) It "allowed revenue managers to skip manual spreadsheet entries and price recommendations for every single room. ROS integrates internal and external data and analyzes it in real time to forecast demand and suggest optimal rates."139
142. A 2019 article on "Hotel Technology News" describes that "next-generation, AIpowered revenue management has taken the industry by storm. Some of the leading AI-powered solutions, ... now automatically generate in excess of a 100 million decisions across tens of thousands of properties each day. The results are impressive, with major hotel brands seeing their revenue numbers increase by millions of dollars a year." \({ }^{140}\)
143. The hotel industry underscores the paramount importance of market level data, including competitors rate information, in pushing higher rates for hotel rooms. As the same publication explained, "[a]dvanced revenue management solutions leverage not only the repository of historic data that resides in a hotel's property management system, but also, in many cases, a vast array of market intelligence and other data, from competitor rates data to booking trends data. This makes it possible to more accurately forecast demand, and, as a result, increase hotel revenue and profitability in unprecedented ways." It further observed:

> AI-powered solutions sometimes produce pricing decisions that revenue managers may view as overly aggressive, irrational, or just plain wrong. Therein lies the power of big data and machine learning compared to the data processing and analytical capabilities of mere mortals. Even the most experienced revenue managers report that they have sold rates recommended by AI-enabled solutions that they would not have published in the past. \({ }^{[141]}\)
144. Notably, multiple Hotel Operators, including Hilton, Hyatt, Loews, and Omni, use the same third-party revenue management system to help provide revenue management services
\({ }^{138}\) How the Hospitality Industry Uses Performance-enhancing Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (August 9, 2018), https://www.altexsoft.com/blog/how-the-hospitality-industry-uses-performance-enhancing-artificial-intelligence-and-data-science/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
\({ }^{139} \mathrm{Id}\).
\({ }^{140}\) Why AI-Powered Hotel Revenue Management Is Taking The Hospitality Industry By Storm (October 8, 2019), https://hoteltechnologynews.com/2019/10/why-ai-powered-hotel-revenue-management-is-taking-the-hospitality-industry-by-storm/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
\({ }^{141} \mathrm{Id}\).
for them. Hilton's CFO, Kevin Jacobs, has stated regarding Hilton's revenue management work that "We have a vendor that we work with. We co-created the algorithm with them ... [today's] algorithms are being tweaked constantly to add incremental data fields that used to be in revenue management in our world. The world is awash in data that are contributing to the decision-making in these algorithms and just make it smarter."
145. Defendants provide and operate sophisticated, centralized revenue management systems for their brands, including owned, operated, and franchised properties.
146. Hilton specifies in a 2022 franchise disclosure document that franchisees are required to use Hilton's OnQ system that included revenue management, rate \& inventory management, and forecast management: "You must use our required business computer system, which we may periodically change. Currently, we require you to use 'OnQ,' which connects System Hotels to Hilton's reservation offices and travel planners worldwide. OnQ is comprised of proprietary components for reservations, property management, revenue management, rate \& inventory management, forecast management, learning management, and other components" for the operation of the Hotel.
147. Marriott, in a 2022 franchise disclosure document for Westin, states that the Westin system includes a revenue management system: "If approved, we will offer you a nonexclusive franchise to use our 'system' in connection with the establishment, development and operation of a Westin hotel at a specific location. The 'system' consists of the 'Westin' trademark and other trademarks, design criteria, and specifications for your Westin hotel; high standards of cleanliness, quality, and service; training programs and materials; advertising, marketing, and promotional programs, including loyalty programs; a reservation system; a property management system; a revenue management system; and a quality assurance program." Marriott also operates a Revenue Management Solutions department that provides revenue management advisory services.
148. A Hyatt executive, on a May 2, 2019 investor call, emphasized that "we have been and will continue to work closely with our franchise operators to leverage the most effective
revenue management strategies to optimize performance as we work through these industry dynamics." A recent advertised position for a Hyatt senior manager of revenue management for Hyatt's franchise portfolio states that the position "plays a key role in optimizing revenue and maximizing profitability across our smaller franchise operators" and that the duties of the position include "support[ing]" franchise operator's "training compliance and adoption of Hyatt's Revenue Management system, tools, and reporting" as well as "ensur[ing] assigned Operators are practicing Hyatt Corporate Revenue Management guidelines as outlined in the Americas Revenue management Standards and procedures manual."
149. An IHG franchise disclosure document for Kimpton Hotels states that IHG operates a centralized "revenue management system," as part of its IHG Concerto offering, and that franchise hotels must be linked to the revenue management system. On an October 18, 2019 investor call, an IHG executive stated that "we have very sophisticated revenue management algorithms, price optimization tools in our Concerto tool" and that these tools would support the "most rational response" of "hold[ing] pricing" even if occupancy "slacken[s] off."
150. The data exchange mechanism provided by STR act as the essential "fuel" propelling pricing algorithms towards the ultimate goal of charging higher prices. Defendants have specifically attributed their ability to achieve higher prices and show greater discipline to their leveraging of data. For instance, at a September 20, 2022 investor event, there was the following exchange between an investment analyst and Keith Barr, then CEO of IHG: "Q: So, compared with five years ago, IHG is much better at pricing discipline and extracting optimal rate from the market, and that is a long-term tailwind. Is that right? A: Yeah, absolutely. It's leveraging technology and data and analytics."
151. Multiple Defendants' executives have specifically attributed success in obtaining higher prices to widespread use of revenue management throughout the entire industry. At an August 10, 2021 investor event, Paul Edgecliffe Johnson, then CFO of IHG, stated: "So in terms of pricing, it is a really interesting one because people did point to the previous cycles and said well, look, it could take some years before we still - see full pricing. And it's absolutely not what
we've seen. I think it's an indication of the strength of the revenue management discipline that exists in the industry. And it is not just us, it's others. We have very good revenue management capabilities, revenue management tools that we've talked about and I think you know well." At an October 21, 2022 investor event, Johnson further stated pricing growth "has come from rate. And it's been encouraging how the revenue management discipline in IHG and across the industry has worked, so that when there is demand, people have gone for the maximum rates available. I think that's been a very effective strategy." Similarly, Kathleen Oberg, CFO of Marriott, similarly stated on a May 2, 2023 investor call that "there's also been some great learnings on the part of the industry about revenue management."
152. Indeed, it has become part of hoteliers' standard operating procedure to use competitors' data point in tandem with a revenue management system to push for higher hotel rates. For example, an article published by Sean Downey on Lodging describes how each morning, Stephanie Torres, an employee of Red Lion Anaheim, "logs into Duetto Edge, a cloudbased revenue management application, to see how the performance of the hotel is trending, and then she compares the new numbers to last year's and to her forecast to see what kind of opportunities are available to push rate or occupancy or both. From there, she references a Revcaster report on her local comp set to make sure her inventory is priced competitively." \({ }^{142}\)
153. In the same article, Cindy Hooper, general manager of the Red Lion Anaheim, notes that "Torres has made a huge impact on the Red Lion Anaheim's performance despite only having been there for nine months. In the first quarter of 2015, the room revenue for the property was up by 11 percent over last year. A few hotels in their comp set have even started benchmarking their prices off the regular adjustments Torres makes to her numbers." "I see rate changes in my market almost hourly," Hopper says. "And when we adjust our rates, I'll see our comp set adjust theirs. If I come down, they come down." \({ }^{143}\)

\footnotetext{
\({ }^{142}\) Pushing Rates: Getting More Out of Every Room Night (June 15, 2015), https://lodgingmagazine.com/pushing-rates-getting-more-out-of-every-room-night/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
\({ }^{143} \mathrm{Id}\).
}
154. With the occupancy information made available to hoteliers, even additional supply in the market would not necessarily means more competition. Hopper states, "I know a lot of people are unsure about new supply, but I think it's good for us in this case. They're all driving rate higher, so I think it's going to actually give us an opportunity to bring our rates up and still be a great value." "While there are plenty of opportunities to drive occupancy, the trick is to do it while still capturing a hotel's fair share of revenue from the market." \({ }^{144}\)
155. Christopher Nassetta, CEO of Hilton, emphasized the importance of data for the pricing algorithms that Hilton uses, stating that "[today's] algorithms are being tweaked constantly to add incremental data fields that used to be in revenue management in our world.... Now we have data sets, because the world is awash in data that are contributing to the decisionmaking in these algorithms and just make it smarter." \({ }^{145}\)

\section*{5. Studies show that competitively sensitive information sharing among competitors is likely to result in anticompetitive effects.}
156. Extensive economic research documents and empirical observation suggest that industry-wide information exchange leads to anticompetitive effects, including elevated prices. In a 2006 paper, "Information Agreements, The Pros and Cons of Information Sharing," competition law professor Richard Whish writes that:

> Against this the dangers of information agreements have to be borne in mind. The essence of competition is that each producer should act independently on the market and not coordinate its behaviour with that of its rivals. If competitors agree to divulge to one another detailed information about their pricing policies, investment plans or research and development projects, it becomes easier for them to act in concert. Indeed in some circumstances it may be that the mere exchange of information will in itself be sufficient to eliminate normal competitive rivalry. The overriding principle is that certain forms of contact between competitors should be avoided. \({ }^{[146]}\)

\footnotetext{
\({ }^{144} \mathrm{Id}\).
\({ }^{145}\) Hilton Q3 2022 earnings call (October 26, 2022).
\({ }^{146}\) Richard Whish, "Information Agreements," in The Pros and Cons of Information Sharing, Swedish Competition Authority's Pros and Cons Series 5 (2006), p. 20. See also Francisco
}
157. Similarly, Professors Jeffrey R. Church and Roger Ware explain that information exchange is one type of "facilitating practices" that could increase the likelihood of collusion among participants, as facilitating practices typically promote collusion by (i) increasing the probability of detection, increasing the severity of punishment, or decreasing the response time for punishment or (ii) decreasing the difficulties associated with reaching an agreement. Facilitating practices typically operate by promoting information exchange, or managing incentives, or both. \({ }^{147}\)
158. Use of an intermediary to facilitate an information exchange does not relieve any existing anticompetitive concerns. Indeed, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Doha Mekki of the Department of Justice has stated that "exchanges facilitated by intermediaries can have the same anticompetitive effect as direct exchanges among competitors. In some instances, data intermediaries can enhance - rather than reduce - anticompetitive effects." \({ }^{148}\)
159. Moreover, empirical study shows that when firms share their price information with one another, but not with buyers, the information is more likely to raise competitive concerns. This is because if buyers have knowledge of the various sellers' prices, then they can more easily force them to compete with each other. \({ }^{149}\)
160. Regarding the nature of the data exchanged, economic research has identified that "private communication among the participating firms about future plans as well as the exchange of individual data on prices and quantities carries high risks of collusion; exchange of individual

Gomez-Martinez, Sander Onderstal, and Joep Sonnemans, "Firm-Specific Information and Explicit Collusion in Experimental Oligopolies," European Economic Review 82 (2016): 132-141 (working paper for experimental evidence that communication of firm-specific information reduces the level of competitiveness in the market).
\({ }^{147}\) Jeffrey R. Church and Roger Ware, Industrial Organization: A Strategic Approach, Irwin McGraw-Hill (2000), pp. 348-349.
\({ }^{148}\) Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Doha Mekki of the Antitrust Division Delivers Remarks at GCR Live: Law Leaders Global 2023 (February 2, 2023), https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/principal-deputy-assistant-attorney-general-doha-mekki-antitrust-division-delivers-0 (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
\({ }^{149}\) Douglas D. Davis and Charles A. Holt, "Consumer Search Costs and Market Performance," Economic Inquiry 34, no. 1 (1996): 133-151. CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 59
data on demand and cost carries medium risks; while the exchange of aggregate data carries low risks." \({ }^{150}\)
161. The Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice's "Antitrust Guidelines for Collaborations Among Competitors" emphasize that "[o]ther things being equal, the sharing of information relating to price, output, costs, or strategic planning is more likely to raise competitive concern than the sharing of information relating to less competitively sensitive variables. Similarly, other things being equal, the sharing of information on current operating and future business plans is more likely to raise concerns than the sharing of historical information." \({ }^{151}\)
162. The Department of Justice has recently emphasized the significant potential anticompetitive effects from information exchange. Doha Mekki, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the Department of Justice, stated in February 2023 that "the suggestion that data that is at least three-months old is unlikely to be competitively-sensitive or valuable is undermined by the rise of data aggregation, machine learning, and pricing algorithms that can increase the competitive value of historical data for some products or services." \({ }^{152}\) Mekhi continued that "aggregated, older data may have been less useful than disaggregated current or prospective information.... The modern economy may have solved for these speed bumps. The realities of some markets - and the products and services that are core to them - challenge embedded assumptions about the susceptibility of those markets to concerted action among market participants of varying sizes and geographies. In some industries, high-speed, complex algorithms can ingest massive quantities of 'stale,' 'aggregated' data from buyers and sellers to
\({ }^{150}\) Mats Bergman, "Introduction," in The Pros and Cons of Information Sharing, Swedish Competition Authority's Pros and Cons Series 5 (2006), p. 15.
\({ }^{151}\) Federal Trade Commission \& U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Guidelines for Collaborations Among Competitors 15-16 (April 2000).
\({ }^{152}\) Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Doha Mekki of the Antitrust Division Delivers Remarks at GCR Live: Law Leaders Global 2023 (February 2, 2023), supra n. 148. CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 60
glean insights about the strategies of a competitor. Where that happens the distinctions between past and current or aggregated versus disaggregated data may be eroded." \({ }^{153}\)
163. Based on these concerns, the Department of Justice retracted guidelines it had previously provided on the types of information exchange that it had classified as falling into "safe harbor" zones, explaining that technological advancement and modern economics had rendered the policy statements regarding information exchange outdated. The now-retracted safe harbor guidelines were that (1) the collection was managed by a third party; (2) all data was more than three months old; and (3) there were at least five providers for each statistic, with no individual provider representing more than \(25 \%\) of the data on a weighted basis for that statistic. Notably, the information exchange through STR does not even satisfy these now-retracted guidelines. The STR data is not more than three months old. Instead, the data is provided on a near-contemporaneous basis, with daily, weekly, or monthly reports being provided to participants. STR also does not require that at least five hotels participate in a comp set. Instead, STR states that a minimum of only 3 hotels must report data in order for a comp set to be generated.
164. Hotel Operators in this case provide a textbook example of the concerns raised by the DOJ. Industry-wide competitors coordinated to exchange current and forward looking competitively sensitive information through a third-party intermediary regularly. Denying public access, STR compiles and distributes detailed reports only to those who submitted data. Equipped with the high-speed algorithmic pricing software, competitors in the hotel industry are released from any speed bumps they might have in old days and able to inflate hotel prices at the expense of competition.
\({ }^{153}\) Id.

\section*{E. Defendant and Conspirator Hotel Operators possess market power in the relevant Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets.}

\section*{1. Luxury Hotels constitutes the relevant product market.}
165. One tool that courts use to assess the competitive effects of concerted action is defining a relevant market, which is the zone of competition among the agreeing rivals in which the agreement may affect competition. A relevant market contains both a product dimension (the "product market") and a geographic dimension (the "geographic market"). The relevant antitrust market in this case is the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets. \({ }^{154}\)
166. Budget or mid-range economy hotels are not reasonable substitutes for luxury hotels from the perspective of consumers. For example, consumers stay at luxury hotels generally expect the hotels have highly skilled staff who provide high-quality service, top-notch amenities and facilities, such as upscale spas, fine dining restaurants, fitness centers, swimming pools, luxurious bedding, and stylish furnishings, none of which is provided by the budget or economy hotels.
167. Further, luxury hotels are typically situated in prime locations, such as city centers, beachfronts, or scenic countryside settings. These desirable locations offer guests convenient access to attractions, shopping, dining, and entertainment options, enhancing their overall experience.
168. The Hotel industry has long recognized luxury hotels-traditionally associated with four and five-star hotel brands-as a district market. \({ }^{155}\) Luxury hotels often have prestigious brand reputations built over years of delivering exceptional service and experiences. Guests choose luxury hotels for the prestige associated with the brand, knowing that they can expect a certain level of excellence and sophistication.
\({ }^{154}\) Luxury hotels here were identified based on hotels identified as having four or five star ratings on Kayak in the fifteen metropolitan markets identified below.
\({ }^{155}\) Five Star Hotel Market: Elevating Luxury Hospitality, https://markwideresearch.com/press-release/five-star-hotel-market-elevating-luxury-hospitality/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
169. The hotel industry has specifically catered to the desire of consumers to identify luxury hotels with a star rating that classifies hotels in segments from one star to five stars. Fourand five-star hotels are widely recognized as providing distinctive levels of luxury and comfort to guests as compared to hotels with lower star ratings. Various independent organizations provide star ratings in response to consumer demand for identifying particular subsets of hotels that are responsive to the specific needs of those consumers.
170. Recognizing the uniqueness of the Luxury Hotels market and its distinct consumer base, Defendant Hotel Operators have developed separate brands tailored to this high-end segment. For instance, among the 24 brands created within Hyatt's portfolio, "Andaz" hotels are luxury hotels, "Destination by Hyatt" are luxury and upper-upscale hotels, and "Hyatt House" are upscale hotels. \({ }^{156}\) Other Defendant Hotel Operators take similar approach to effectively cater to diverse consumer needs and provide targeted webpages and searches available on their websites specifically focused on their luxury hotel brands. \({ }^{157}\)

\section*{2. Metropolitan Areas constitute the relevant geographic markets.}
171. Defendant STR operates a nationwide business with hotel clients spread throughout the country. The foundational STAR report is structured in the same way across the country. Consumers throughout the country are impacted by the information exchange agreement organize by STR.
172. Consumers of hotel rooms are generally looking for lodging in a specific location, usually tied to a trip that the consumer is taking to that region that necessitates accommodation. Therefore, there are specific metropolitan markets for luxury hotels. Consumers in a particular metropolitan market do not consider hotels in other metropolitan markets as adequate substitutes

\footnotetext{
\({ }^{156}\) Hyatt, Our Brands, https://www.hyatt.com/development/ourbrands (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
\({ }^{157}\) See e.g., Hilton, https://www.hilton.com/en/locations/luxury/; Marriott, https://www.marriott.com/travel-experience/luxury-hotels/; IHG, https://www.ihg.com/explore/luxury-hotels (last visited Feb. 20, 2024). CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 63
}
for the hotel in the geographic market they are seeking. In short, a consumer visiting Miami will not consider a luxury hotel room in New York to be an adequate substitute.
173. Plaintiffs allege that Defendants' agreement harmed competition in at least the following metropolitan areas, each of which compromises a separate and distinct relevant geographic market under any potential Rule of Reason Analysis. The fifteen metropolitan areas each constitute a relevant geographic market.
174. The metropolitan area around Austin, Texas constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, IHG, Accor, and Omni have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.
175. The metropolitan area around Boston, Massachusetts constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Accor, Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, IHG, Langham, and Omni have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.
176. The metropolitan area around Chicago, Illinois constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, IHG, Accor, Loews, Omni, Langham, and Choice Hotels have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.
177. The metropolitan area around Denver, Colorado constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, and IHG have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.
178. The metropolitan area around Kansas City, Missouri constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, IHG, Accor, and Loews have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.
179. The metropolitan area around Los Angeles, California constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, IHG, Accor, Omni, Langham, and Loews have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.
180. The metropolitan area around Miami, Florida constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, IHG, Accor, and Loews have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.
181. The metropolitan area around Nashville, Tennessee constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, IHG, Loews, and Omni have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.
182. The metropolitan area around New York, New York constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, IHG, Loews, Accor, Langham, and Omni have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.
183. The metropolitan area around Phoenix, Arizona constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, IHG, and Omni have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.
184. The metropolitan area around Portland, Oregon constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, and IHG have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.
185. The metropolitan area around San Diego, California constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, and IHG have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.
186. The metropolitan area around San Francisco, California constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, IHG, Accor, and Omni have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.
187. The metropolitan area around Seattle, Washington constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, Accor, and IHG have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.
188. The metropolitan area around Washington, D.C. constitutes a relevant geographic market. Multiple Hotel Operators, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, IHG, Accor and Omni have branded luxury hotels in that metropolitan market.

\section*{3. The Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets constitute the relevant antitrust markets.}
189. The Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets satisfies the test for market definition used by federal antitrust enforcement agencies, widely known as the "SSNIP test." The test asks whether a hypothetical monopolist in a proffered market could profitably impose a small but significant (typically 5\%), non-transitory increase in price (a "SSNIP"), without causing a sufficient number of customers to switch to other products or services such that the SSNIP would be unprofitable to the monopolist. If the SSNIP is profitable, the market is properly defined. If the SSNIP is not profitable, the market is too narrowly defined, and does not encompass sufficient economic substitutes.
190. Here, the SSNIP test is satisfied. Using publicly available data on hotel room rates in the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets, the price gap between luxury hotels compared to midscale and economy ranges from as high as \(47 \%\) in San Diego to 9\% (at its lowest) in Portland.


191. Indeed, as shown in the graph below, the pricing differences between luxury hotels and economy hotels is, on average, over \(40 \%\) across the nation. This stark difference in the average prices demonstrates that hotel operators in the luxury hotels rental market can increase prices by a SSNIP without losing sufficient sales to render the increase unprofitable. The luxury hotels rental market is thus properly defined.

Luxury vs Midscale Hotel Market Prices


\section*{4. Defendant and Conspirator Hotel Operators collectively possess market power in the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets.}
192. Defendant Hotel Operators and their conspirators are able to collectively exercise market power in the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets. As set forth in Appendix C, Hotel Operators collectively possess market power in the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets. They possess an average market share of \(70 \%\) across all 15 metropolitan areas. In every single one of these markets, Hotel Operators' market share is no less than \(50 \%\).

\section*{Defendants Market Share}

Aggregate for all 15 Cities


Defendant
Non-Defendant Luxury

\section*{V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS}
193. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves, and as a class action under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 23(a), (b)(2) and (b)(3), seeking compensatory damages and injunctive relief pursuant to federal law on behalf of the members of the following class:

> All persons that have been direct purchasers of hotel guest room rentals from Defendants or co-conspirators in the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets during the Class Period of February 20 , 2020 , through the Present. Specifically excluded from this Class are the Defendants and co-conspirators; the officers, directors or employees of any Defendant or co-conspirator; any entity in which any Defendant or co-conspirator has a controlling interest; and any affiliate, legal representative, heir or assign of any Defendant or coconspirator. Also excluded from this Class are any federal, state or local governmental entities, any judicial officer presiding over this action and the members of his/her immediate family and judicial staff, any juror assigned to this action, and any co-conspirator identified in this action.
194. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all members in this action is impracticable. There are tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands of members in the proposed Class.
195. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of those of the Class.
196. Plaintiffs and all members of the Class were all injured by the same unlawful conduct, which resulted in all of them paying more for hotel rooms than they otherwise would have in a competitive market.
197. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect and represent the interests of the Class. The interests of the Plaintiffs are not antagonistic to the Class.
198. Questions of law and fact common to the members of the Class will predominate over questions, if any, that may be individual to individual class members since the Defendants have acted and refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class.
199. Questions of law and fact common to the Class include but not limited to:
A. Whether Defendants and their co-conspirators engaged in an information exchange agreement that reduced or suppressed competition in the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets;
B. The identity of the participants of the alleged agreement;
C. The duration of the agreement alleged herein and the acts performed by Defendants and their co-conspirators in furtherance of the agreement;
D. Whether the conduct of Defendants and their co-conspirators, as alleged in this Complaint, caused injury to the property of the Plaintiffs and the other members of the Class;
E. The effect of Defendants' alleged conspiracy on the prices of hotel guest rooms sold in the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets during the Class Period; and
F. The appropriate class-wide measure of damages.
200. Plaintiffs are represented by counsel who are experienced and competent in the prosecution of complex antitrust and unfair competition class actions.
201. Class action treatment is the superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy in that, among other things, such treatment will permit many similarly situated people to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would
engender. The benefits of proceeding through the class mechanism, including providing injured persons with a method of obtaining redress for claims that might not be practicable for them to pursue individually, substantially outweigh any difficulties that may arise in the management of this class action.
202. Defendants have acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making final injunctive relief appropriate with respect to the Class as a whole.

\section*{VI. ANTITRUST INJURY}
203. Defendants' anticompetitive conduct had the following effects, among others:
A. Price competition has been restrained or eliminated with respect to hotel guest room rentals;
B. The prices of hotel guest rooms have been fixed, raised, stabilized, or maintained at artificially inflated levels as a result of the information exchange;
C. Direct purchasers of hotel guest room have been deprived of free and open competition; and
D. Direct purchasers of hotel guest room, including Plaintiffs, paid artificially inflated prices.
204. Commonly used and well-accepted economic models can be used to measure both the extent and the amount of the supra-competitive charge paid by the direct purchasers. Thus, the economic harm to Plaintiffs and the class members can be quantified.
205. The purpose of the conspiratorial conduct of Defendants and their co-conspirators was to raise, fix, or maintain the price of hotel guest rooms and, as a direct and foreseeable result, Plaintiffs and the Class paid supra-competitive prices for hotel guest rooms during the Class Period.
206. By reason of the alleged violations of the antitrust laws, Plaintiffs and the Class have sustained injury to their property, having paid higher prices for hotel guest rooms than they would have paid in the absence of Defendants' illegal contract, combination, or conspiracy and as a result have suffered damages.
207. This is an antitrust injury of the type that the antitrust laws were meant to punish and prevent.

\section*{VII. CAUSES OF ACTION}

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF VIOLATION OF SECTION 1 OF THE SHERMAN ACT FOR CONSPIRACY TO EXCHANGE COMPETITIVE INFORMATION 15 U.S.C. § 1
(ON BEHALF OF NATIONWIDE CLASS FOR INJUNCTIVE AND EQUITABLE RELIEF AND DAMAGES)
208. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
209. Since at least February 2020, Defendants and their co-conspirators entered into a continuing agreement to regularly exchange detailed, timely, competitively sensitive and nonpublic information about their operations. This agreement is an unreasonable restraint of trade in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.
210. Defendants' acts in furtherance of their combination or conspiracy were authorized, ordered, or done by their officers, agents, employees, or representatives while actively engaged in the management of Defendants' affairs.
211. Defendants' anticompetitive acts involved United States domestic commerce and import commerce, and had a direct, substantial, and foreseeable effect on interstate commerce by raising and fixing prices for hotel room prices in the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets.
212. The relevant product market is the Luxury Hotel Markets, and the relevant geographic markets are the metropolitan areas as defined above.
213. Defendant Hotel Operators possess market power in the Relevant Markets. Defendant Hotel Operators and their co-conspirators controlled at least 70\% percent of the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets. Defendant Hotel Operators' collective market power includes the power to artificially inflate the prices for hotel rooms in the Relevant Market above competitive levels.
214. Defendants could impose an increase in the price of hotel rooms collectively without causing many consumers to switch their purchases to other hotels. The Luxury Hotel Market constitutes a unique product market.
215. The information regularly exchanged by Defendants pursuant to the agreement has consisted of competitively sensitive and non-public information about current and forwardlooking supply and pricing data.
216. Defendants' regular information exchanges through STR reflected concerted action between horizontal competitors in the market for hotel rooms.
217. Each Defendant Hotel Operator furnished competitively sensitive information to other Defendant Hotel Operators with the understanding that it would be reciprocated. STR enforced this understanding by requiring Defendants to share data in order to receive comparable data.
218. The agreement to regularly exchange detailed and non-public information about current supply and pricing suppressed competition between the Defendants. The information exchanges allowed Defendant Hotel Operators to compare their prices and occupancy with their competitors and to raise prices when they were lower than competitors.
219. When Defendant Hotel Operator that are competing for the same consumers exchange competitive information like they do it here, it reduces the incentives to compete on price. Accordingly, Defendant Hotel Operators used the data obtained through STR to reduce the uncertainty that they each should have faced from not knowing what their competitors were offering and providing in the Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets. This strategic information was a material factor in Defendant Hotel Operators' decisions to inflate the prices that Plaintiffs paid for hotel rooms during the Class Period.
220. There are no procompetitive justifications for the Defendants' unlawful agreements to exchange timely, nonpublic data focused solely on price and supply, and any proffered justifications, to the extent legitimate, could have been achieved through less restrictive means.
221. The information-exchange agreement has had the effect of inflating the prices of hotel rooms during the Class Period.
222. As a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have been harmed by being forced to pay inflated, supracompetitive prices for hotel rooms.
223. Defendants' combination violates section 1 of the Sherman Act under either a Quick Look or full Rule of Reason analysis.

\section*{REQUEST FOR RELIEF}

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Class of all others so similarly situated, respectfully request judgment against Defendants as follows:
A. The Court determine that this action may be maintained as a class action under Rule 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, appoint Plaintiffs as Class Representatives and their counsel of record as Class Counsel, and direct that notice of this action, as provided by Rule 23(c)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, be given to the Class, once certified;
B. The unlawful conduct, conspiracy, or combination alleged herein be adjudged and decreed in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act;
C. Plaintiffs and the Class recover damages, to the maximum extent allowed under the applicable laws, and that joint and several judgments in favor of Plaintiffs and the members of the Class be entered against Defendants in an amount to be trebled to the extent such laws permit;
D. Defendants, their affiliates, successors, transferees, assignees and other officers, directors, partners, agents, and employees thereof, and all other persons acting or claiming to act on their behalf or in concert with them, be permanently enjoined and restrained from in any manner continuing, maintaining, or renewing the conduct, conspiracy, or combination alleged herein, or from entering into any other conspiracy or combination having a similar purpose or effect, and from adopting or following any practice, plan, program, or device having a similar purpose or effect;
E. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class be awarded pre- and post- judgment interest as provided by law, and that such interest be awarded at the highest legal rate from and after the date of service of this Complaint;
F. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class recover their costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, as provided by law; and
G. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have such other and further relief as the case may require and the Court may deem just and proper.

\section*{JURY TRIAL DEMANDED}

Plaintiffs demands a trial by jury, pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil
Procedure, of all issues so triable.
DATED this 20th day of February, 2024. Respectfully submitted,
HAGENS BERMAN SOBOL SHAPIRO LLP
/s/Steve W. Berman
Steve W. Berman (WSBA No. 12536)
/s/ Theodore Wojcik
Theodore Wojcik (WSBA No. 55553)
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Xiaoyi Fan (WSBA No. 56703)
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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

\section*{Appendix A}

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\section*{Tab 2 －Weekly Performance at a Glance－My Property vs．Competitive Set \(\begin{array}{lcccccc:l}\text { Acme Hotel } & 1000 \text { Msin St Chicago，IL } 60660 \quad \text { Phone：（312）111－1111 } \\ \text { STR \＃} 123456 & \text { Chsin ID：} 123 A B C \quad \text { Mgt Co：None Owner：None }\end{array}\) \\ For the week of：June 19， 2016 －June 25， 2016 Date Created：June 28， 2016 Competitive Set Data Excludez Subject Property \\ June 19， 2016 －June 25， 2016}

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Tab 5-Occupancy Perspectives
Acme Hotet 1000 Main St Chicago.IL 60660 Phone: (312) III-1111
For the Week of: June 19, 2016 - June 25, 2016 Date Created: June 28, 2016 Competitive Set Data Excludes Subject Froperty
Weekly Occupancy (\%) - Apr 03, 2016 to Jun 25, 2016
Tab 12 - Response Report
Acme Hotel 1000 Main St Chicago, IL 60660 Phone: (312) 111-1111 STR \# 123456 Chain ID: 123ABC Mot co: None Owner: None For the Week of. June 19, 2016 - June 25, 2016 Date Created: June 28, 2016 This Year Way 30 th - Memorial Day
Jun 7th - First Day of Ramadan Jun 19th - Father's Day Last Year May 25 th Jun 18th - First Day of Ramadan
Jun 21st - Father's Day
Jul 4th - - Independence Day
Sep 7th - Labor Day
Sep 14th - Rosh Hashanah
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Segmentation version shows current week and three different types of data.
Non-segmentation version shows four weeks of STAR data.

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multicolumn{13}{|l|}{June 19, 2016 - June 25, 2016} \\
\hline & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Transient} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Group} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Contract} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Total} \\
\hline & & & \% Chg & & & \% Chg & & & \% Chg & & & \% Chg \\
\hline \multirow[t]{3}{*}{Occupancy} & My Property & 33.4\% & -0.3 & My Property & 37.2\% & 26.1 & My Property & 0.0\% & 0.0 & My Property & 70.6\% & 12.0 \\
\hline & Comp set & 30.9\% & -21.6 & Comp set & 42.6\% & 66.5 & Comp set & 2.6\% & 869.5 & Comp set & 76.1\% & 16.6 \\
\hline & Index (MPI) & 108.1 & 27.1 & Index (MPI) & 87.1 & -24.3 & Index (MPI) & 0.0 & 0.0 & Index (MPI) & 92.7 & -4.0 \\
\hline \multirow[t]{3}{*}{ADR} & My Property & 196.13 & 4.2 & My Property & 184.81 & 3.4 & My Property & 0.00 & 0.0 & My Property & 190.17 & 3.5 \\
\hline & Comp set & 182.97 & 7.2 & Comp set & 193.70 & 11.0 & Comp set & 90.63 & 24.1 & Comp set & 185.83 & 8.2 \\
\hline & Index (ARI) & 107.2 & -2.8 & Index (ARI) & 95.4 & -6.9 & Index (ARI) & 0.0 & 0.0 & Index (ARI) & 102.3 & -4.4 \\
\hline \multirow[t]{3}{*}{RevPAR} & My Property & 65.54 & 3.9 & My Property & 68.67 & 30.4 & My Property & 0.00 & 0.0 & My Property & 134.22 & 15.9 \\
\hline & Comp set & 56.54 & -15.9 & Comp set & 82.60 & 84.9 & Comp set & 2.35 & 1103.1 & Comp set & 141.50 & 26.2 \\
\hline & Index (RGI) & 115.9 & 23.5 & Index (RGI) & 83.1 & -29.5 & Index (RGI) & 0.0 & 0.0 & Index (RGI) & 94.9 & -8.1 \\
\hline \multicolumn{13}{|l|}{Running 28 Days} \\
\hline & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Transient} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Group} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Contract} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Total} \\
\hline & & & \% Chg & & & \% Chg & & & \% Chg & & & \% Chg \\
\hline \multirow[t]{3}{*}{Occupancy} & My Property & 29.7\% & -8.2 & My Property & 34.7\% & -0.6 & My Property & 0.0\% & 0.0 & My Property & 64.4\% & -4.3 \\
\hline & Comp set & 36.2\% & -0.7 & Comp set & 31.9\% & 0.9 & Comp set & 2.4\% & 645.4 & Comp set & 70.4\% & 3.0 \\
\hline & Index (MPI) & 82.2 & -7.5 & Index (MPI) & 108.8 & -1.5 & Index (MPI) & 0.0 & 0.0 & Index (MPI) & 91.4 & -7.1 \\
\hline \multirow[t]{3}{*}{ADR} & My Property & 190.15 & 0.6 & My Property & 179.02 & 4.2 & My Property & 0.00 & 0.0 & My Property & 184.16 & 2.3 \\
\hline & Comp set & 168.71 & -2.5 & Comp set & 182.92 & 10.5 & Comp set & 88.82 & 3.2 & Comp set & 172.43 & 2.0 \\
\hline & Index (ARI) & 112.7 & 3.2 & Index (ARI) & 97.9 & -5.7 & Index (ARI) & 0.0 & 0.0 & Index (ARI) & 106.8 & 0.3 \\
\hline \multirow[t]{3}{*}{RevPAR} & My Property & 56.54 & -7.6 & My Property & 62.07 & 3.6 & My Property & 0.00 & 0.0 & My Property & 118.61 & -2.1 \\
\hline & Comp set & 61.04 & -3.2 & Comp set & 58.31 & 11.5 & Comp set & 2.12 & 669.1 & Comp set & 121.47 & 5.1 \\
\hline & Index (RGI) & 92.6 & -4.6 & Index (RGI) & 106.5 & -7.1 & Index (RGI) & 0.0 & 0.0 & Index (RGI) & 97.6 & -6.8 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
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\section*{Tab 3 - Segmentation at a Glance - My Property vs. Competitive Set} Acme Hotel 1000 Main St Chicago, IL 60660 Phone: (312) 111-1111
For the Week of: June 19, 2016 - June 25, 2016 Date Created: June 28, 2016 Competive Set Data Exoludes Subiect Property
\[
\text { June 19, } 2016 \text { - June 25, } 2016
\]
 without writen permission is prohibited and subiect to legal action. If you have received this report and are NOT a subscriber to the STR STAR report, please contact us immediately. Source:
2016 STR, Inc. ISTR Global, Ltd. trading as "STR".
\[
\begin{aligned}
&
\end{aligned}
\]

Tab 2 - Daily Performance at a Glance - My Property vs. Competitive Set
Paramount Hotel 10000 Main St Chicago, IL 60660 Phone: (312) 111-1111
STR \# 123456 Chain ID: Mgt Co:None Owner: None
Feriod Ending: June 26, 2016 Date Created: July 7, 2016 Competitive Set Data Excludes Subject Property


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taleaslactian. If yauhave reseived thir repart and are HOT aruberiber ta the STR STAR repart, pleare eantact wrimmediately. Saurse: 2016 STR, Ine. ISTR Glabal, Ltd.tradina ar "STR"
}
(\%) Кэuednээ๐
\begin{tabular}{ccc} 
My Prop & Comp Set & Index (MPI) \\
95.0 & 95.1 & 99.9 \\
95.0 & 92.1 & 103.1 \\
\hline 96.6 & 94.9 & 101.8
\end{tabular}


\section*{Appendix B}


\section*{Tab 2 - Monthly Performance at a Glance - My Property vs. Competitive Set}
Any Hotel 123 Any Street Any City, Any State \(99999 \quad\) (555) 555-5555
STR\#98765 ChainID: 999999 MgtCo: None Owner: None
For the Month of: July 2006 Date Created: August 24, 2006 Monthly Competitive Set Data Excludes Subject Property
\[
\begin{array}{cc}
\text { ADR (\$) } & \\
\text { Comp Set } & \text { Index } \\
229.88 & 102.2 \\
241.02 & 103.1 \\
255.11 & 104.6 \\
254.12 & 102.3 \\
\hline \text { ADR } & \\
\hline \text { Comp Set } & \text { Index } \\
8.8 & 1.1 \\
\hline 10.8 & 3.2 \\
\hline 11.7 & 3.1 \\
\hline 13.8 & 1.2 \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]
Is my hotel included or excluded from the comp set numbers? Our default is to include your hotel's numbers in the comp set data on the STAR report. However,

 of your report under the title to determine





\[
\begin{gathered}
\text { RevPAR (\$) } \\
\text { Comp Set } \\
207.93 \\
208.60 \\
233.50 \\
222.92
\end{gathered}
\] data from at least four hotels in your selected set to calculate comp set
 your comparison will default first to



 the title to determine which comparison is
being made. being made.
STAR Summary: Subject property vs. STAR Summary: Subject property vs segments for current month, year-to-date,
running 3 month and running 12 month
 of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (i.e. Atlanta, GA). There are currently 162 U.S. STR
markets.
Market Class: Class is an industry
categorization which includes chain-affiliated and independent hotels. The class for a chainaffiliated hotel is the same as its chain scale. An independent hotel is assigned a class based on its room rate, relative to that of the chain hotels in their geographic proximity.
 an STR market. There are currently 613 U.S. tracts.

\footnotetext{
 STR chain scale segments.
pue əןeכsdn ıəddn ‘Kınxn| = əןeכsdn łכeג』 upscale chains

Tract Midscale \(=\) midscale with F\&B and midscale chains w/o F\&B chains Tract Economy = economy chains

report will correspond with the subject hotel's tract scale classification.

Census: The total number of properties and rooms in a segment.

Sample: The number of segment rooms that report data to STR.
}
 is calculated using the following formula: (This Year-Last Year) / Last Year * 100 Why do my percent change numbers have such a large range? The data for
Rank: We utilize ranking to measure a property's performance in three key areas: Occupancy, ADR and RevPar. Property performance is ranked versus hotels in the competitive set Example: "3 of 6" ADR ranking means the subject hotel's absolute ADR is the third highest of the six competitors
Year To Date: Compares the same year-to-date period from the past three years.
Tab 5 - Response Report
Any Hotel 123 Any Street Any Clly, Any Slate 99999 (555) 555-5555


\section*{Jul 4th - Independence Day}
This Year
Last Year
\(\mathrm{O}=\) Only monthly data received.
- = Monthly \& daily data received.
STR is continually soliciting hotels to participate in our programs. Non-reporting hotel performance is estimated by using the average of reporting hotels in the comp set.
How can I change my comp set? Branded hotels must contact their corporate office to make any changes. Independent hotels may contact us directly at indv@smithtravelresearch. com. Any request to modify your comp set must include at least two changes to protect confidentiality. Response Report: Details properties in the competitive set that have reported data to STR over the past 24 months.
Calendars: For accurate date-to-date and day-to-day comparison, STR has included calendars from this year and last year, highlighting key events and holidays. Chart legend:
\begin{tabular}{l} 
Name \\
\hline Any Hotel
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{|l|}
\hline STR\# \\
\hline 98765 \\
\hline 99876 \\
\hline 99987 \\
\hline 99998 \\
\hline 99999 \\
\hline 9876 \\
\hline 98887 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multicolumn{7}{|l|}{July 2006 (This Year)} \\
\hline Sun & Mon & Tue & Wed & Thu & Fri & Sat \\
\hline & & & & & & 1 \\
\hline 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\
\hline 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 & 13 & 14 & 15 \\
\hline 16 & 17 & 18 & 19 & 20 & 21 & 22 \\
\hline 23 & 24 & 25 & 26 & 27 & 28 & 28 \\
\hline 30 & 31 & & & & & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
What happens if a hotel in my comp set does not participate? We are continually soliciting hotels to participate in our programs. If a hotel in your comp set fails to report data,
 comp set hotel count to less than four, the comp set will be insufficient and the column will be blank. Please contact us for more specific methodology questions.
Tab 6 －Segmentation Summary－My Property vs．Competitive Set Any Hotel 123 Any Street Any City，Any State 99999 （555）555－5555

\section*{July 2006}

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\footnotetext{
STR \＃98765 ChainID： \(999999 \quad\) MgtCo：None Owner：None
For the Month of：July \(2006 \quad\) Date Created：August 24， \(2006 \quad\) Monthly
For the Month of：July 2006 Date Created：August 24， 2006 Monthly Competitive Set Data Excludes Subject Property
}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Transient} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Group} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Contract} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Total} \\
\hline & & \％Chg & & & \％Chg & & & \％Chg & & & \％Chg \\
\hline My Property & 53.8 & 20.5 & My Property & 23.7 & －41．4 & My Property & 3.4 & 2.2 & My Property & 80.9 & －8．5 \\
\hline Comp set & 58.8 & 11.1 & Comp set & 26.2 & －4．5 & Comp set & 1.6 & －54．9 & Comp set & 86.5 & 3.2 \\
\hline Index & 91.5 & 8.4 & Index & 90.5 & －38．6 & Index & 210.6 & 126.4 & Index & 93.4 & －11．3 \\
\hline My Property & 258.47 & 7.4 & My Property & 233.07 & 17.7 & My Property & 199.05 & 40.8 & My Property & 248.55 & 14.3 \\
\hline Comp set & 250.17 & 8.0 & Comp set & 224.98 & 12.0 & Comp set & 167.55 & 20.1 & Comp set & 241.02 & 10.8 \\
\hline Index & 103.3 & －0．6 & Index & 103.6 & 5.0 & Index & 118.8 & 17.2 & Index & 103.1 & 3.2 \\
\hline My Property & 139.04 & 29.4 & My Property & 55.26 & －31．0 & My Property & 6.71 & 43.9 & My Property & 201.01 & 4.6 \\
\hline Comp set & 147.01 & 20.1 & Comp set & 58.90 & 6.9 & Comp set & 2.68 & －45．8 & Comp set & 208.60 & 14.3 \\
\hline Index & 94.6 & 7.8 & Index & 93.8 & －35．5 & Index & 250.2 & 165.5 & Index & 96.4 & －8．5 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
Tab 7 - Segmentation Occupancy Analysis \(\begin{array}{llll}\text { Any Hotel } & \text { 123 Any Street } & \text { Any City, Any State } 99999 \quad \text { ( } 555 \text { ) } 555-5555 \\ \text { STR \# } 98765 \quad \text { ChainlD: } 999999 \quad \text { MgtCo: None } & \text { Ouner: None }\end{array}\)
For the Month of: July 2006 Date Created: August 24, 2006 Monthly Competitive Set Data Excludes Subject Property

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multicolumn{13}{|l|}{Year To Date} & \multicolumn{12}{|l|}{} \\
\hline 2004 & 46.8 & 50.9 & 54.0 & 37.2 & 29.0 & 24.1 & 1.9 & 3.9 & 3.6 & 85.9 & 83.9 & 81.8 & -3.0 & 5.6 & 6.1 & 10.7 & 29.9 & 12.7 & 0.0 & 6.8 & 126.7 & 4.9 & 13.0 & 10.6 \\
\hline 2005 & 44.6 & 52.9 & 57.0 & 40.4 & 27.4 & 22.8 & 3.3 & 3.5 & 4.3 & 88.4 & 83.9 & 84.1 & -4.7 & 3.8 & 5.5 & 8.8 & -5.6 & -5.5 & 73.7 & -8.2 & 18.0 & 2.9 & 0.0 & 2.8 \\
\hline 2006 & 53.8 & 58.8 & 59.7 & 23.7 & 26.2 & 21.7 & 3.4 & 1.6 & 2.8 & 80.9 & 86.5 & 84.2 & 20.5 & 11.1 & 4.7 & -41.4 & -4.5 & -5.0 & 2.2 & -54.9 & -33.9 & -8.5 & 3.2 & 0.1 \\
\hline \multicolumn{25}{|l|}{Running 3 Month} \\
\hline 2004 & 46.2 & 52.9 & 55.6 & 39.2 & 32.7 & 26.5 & 3.5 & 4.2 & 4.3 & 88.9 & 89.8 & 86.4 & -12.1 & -2.0 & 1.2 & 17.0 & 34.6 & 11.9 & 0.0 & -6.8 & 105.5 & 3.3 & 8.4 & 7.0 \\
\hline 2005 & 44.5 & 56.1 & 58.2 & 42.8 & 31.6 & 25.6 & 3.6 & 2.9 & 4.3 & 90.8 & 90.6 & 88.1 & -3.6 & 5.9 & 4.8 & 9.0 & -3.1 & -3.7 & 3.5 & -32.4 & 1.5 & 2.2 & 0.8 & 2.0 \\
\hline 2006 & 57.3 & 61.5 & 61.9 & 21.0 & 28.4 & 23.2 & 3.7 & 1.7 & 3.0 & 82.0 & 91.5 & 88.0 & 28.7 & 9.6 & 6.2 & -50.9 & -10.2 & -9.4 & 3.6 & -41.8 & -30.2 & -9.8 & 1.1 & -0.1 \\
\hline \multicolumn{25}{|l|}{Running 12 Month} \\
\hline 2004 & 50.6 & 53.5 & 55.6 & 35.2 & 25.9 & 23.1 & 1.1 & 3.9 & 3.3 & 86.9 & 83.3 & 82.0 & -1.6 & 8.1 & 5.9 & 8.4 & 9.1 & 4.7 & 23.2 & 16.8 & 82.7 & 2.5 & 8.8 & 7.4 \\
\hline 2005 & 46.5 & 53.9 & 56.5 & 40.1 & 28.0 & 23.8 & 3.3 & 3.8 & 4.5 & 89.9 & 85.7 & 84.8 & -8.2 & 0.8 & 1.6 & 14.1 & 8.3 & 3.3 & 188.0 & -3.0 & 35.9 & 3.5 & 2.9 & 3.4 \\
\hline 2006 & 52.5 & 59.6 & 60.1 & 29.1 & 26.3 & 22.4 & 3.3 & 1.8 & 2.9 & 84.9 & 87.7 & 85.4 & 12.9 & 10.6 & 6.4 & -27.5 & -6.2 & -6.0 & 0.1 & . 51.9 & -35.4 & -5.6 & 2.4 & 0.7 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\footnotetext{
 property data to competitive set and market scale.
}

\section*{Tab 12 - Segmentation Day Of Week - Current Month} Any Hotel \({ }^{23}\) Any Street Any clly. Any State 99999 (555) \(555-\)-5555 STR \# 98765 Chainl:: 999999
For the Month of. July 2006 Date Created: August 24,2006 Monthly Compeetitive Set Data Excludes Subject Property
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multirow[t]{3}{*}{} & \multicolumn{12}{|l|}{Current Month} & \multicolumn{12}{|l|}{Percent Change (\%)} \\
\hline & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Transient} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Group} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Contract} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Total} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Transient} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Group} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Contract} & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{Total} \\
\hline & mp Prop & Comp see & \[
\begin{gathered}
\text { Mark et } \\
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\] & mp Prop & Comp Ser & \[
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\text { Market } \\
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\] & M, Prop & Comp Sek & \[
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& \text { Market } \\
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\end{aligned}
\] & M, Prop & comp s & \[
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\] & My Prop & Comp seer & \[
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\text { Market } \\
\text { Scale }
\end{gathered}
\] & My Prop & Comp & \[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Market } \\
& \text { Scale }
\end{aligned}
\] & My Prop & Comp & Marcee \\
\hline \multicolumn{25}{|l|}{Occupancy (\%)} \\
\hline Sunday & 57.4 & 50.9 & 53.2 & 19.7 & 31.2 & 21.2 & 4.6 & 1.7 & 3.2 & 81.7 & 83.5 & 77.6 & 72.3 & 4.2 & 5.0 & -59.6 & -10.7 & -14.1 & 8.9 & -23.1 & -25.8 & -5.4 & -2.9 & -2.5 \\
\hline Monday & 63.3 & 0.9 & 62.0 & 22.8 & 26.7 & 20.9 & 4.3 & 1.5 & 3.0 & 90.3 & 89.1 & 86.0 & 73.7 & 17.2 & 11.2 & -52.8 & -28.9 & -21.7 & 23.0 & -29.5 & -28.9 & 2.4 & -2.5 & -0.8 \\
\hline Tuesday & 59.3 & 65.0 & 64.0 & 26.6 & 24.8 & 21.4 & 4.6 & 1.6 & 3.2 & 90.5 & 91.6 & 88.6 & 38.1 & 15.2 & 6.7 & -39.9 & -28.9 & -16.7 & 38.3 & -25.5 & -25.3 & 0.0 & -1.9 & -1.5 \\
\hline Wednesday & 64.4 & 67.8 & 67.1 & 23.8 & 23.8 & 20.5 & 4.3 & 1.6 & 3.2 & 92.5 & 93.6 & 90.8 & 28.4 & 11.7 & 4.4 & -31.5 & -17.6 & -6.8 & 21.7 & -26.2 & -27.8 & 4.6 & 1.8 & -0.1 \\
\hline Thursday & 69.3 & 64.6 & 63.5 & 19.5 & 26.5 & 23.2 & 3.4 & 1.4 & 3.1 & 92.2 & 92.7 & 89.8 & 28.2 & 11. & 4.0 & -36.5 & -6.3 & 7.1 & 6.4 & -35.7 & -28.8 & 4.8 & 4.7 & 3.0 \\
\hline Weekday & 62.5 & 61.3 & 61.6 & 22.4 & 26.8 & 21.4 & 4.3 & 1.6 & 3.1 & 89.1 & 89.8 & 86.1 & 45.7 & 11.7 & 6.2 & -46.4 & -18.8 & -11.5 & 18.6 & -27.9 & -27.3 & 1.1 & -0.3 & -0.4 \\
\hline Friday & 67.1 & 57.0 & 60.6 & 18.6 & 31.6 & 23.8 & 4.0 & 1.9 & 3.1 & 89.7 & 90.2 & \({ }^{87.6}\) & 50.9 & 6.1 & 6.2 & -46.4 & 7.9 & 7.6 & 15.9 & -19.7 & -27.8 & 8.6 & 5.7 & 4.7 \\
\hline Saturday & 9.3 & 60.1 & 63.7 & 19.0 & 31.9 & 23.4 & 4.4 & 1.9 & 3.1 & 92.7 & 93.7 & 90.2 & 81.9 & 7.7 & 6.4 & -59.9 & -9.7 & -13.8 & 21.1 & -22.3 & -28.3 & 3.9 & 0.2 & -1.2 \\
\hline Weekend & 68.3 & 58.7 & 62.3 & 18.8 & 31.8 & 23.6 & 4.2 & 1.9 & 3.1 & 91.3 & 92.1 & 89.1 & 65.5 & 7.2 & 6.6 & -54.2 & -1.7 & 4.3 & 19.2 & -21.0 & -28.0 & 6.4 & 3.0 & 1.8 \\
\hline Total & 64.2 & 60.6 & 61.8 & 21.3 & 28.2 & 22.0 & 4.2 & 1.7 & 3.1 & 89.8 & 90.5 & 87.0 & 51.5 & 10.4 & 6.3 & -48.6 & -13.8 & -9.4 & 18.9 & -26.0 & -27.5 & 2.7 & 0.7 & 0.2 \\
\hline \multicolumn{25}{|l|}{ADR (S)} \\
\hline Sunday & 223.91 & 221.13 & 228.79 & 231.70 & 199.21 & 205.06 & 236.39 & 174.37 & 174.36 & 226.49 & 212.02 & 220.06 & -1.2 & 4.8 & 5.0 & 17.7 & 3.9 & 5.1 & 68.9 & 31.7 & 27.0 & 10.2 & 5.4 & 6.6 \\
\hline Monday & 246.96 & 246.72 & 258.29 & 234.92 & 205.19 & 214.54 & 232.28 & 174.56 & 173.77 & 243.23 & 233.01 & 244.66 & -4.0 & 4.4 & 5.8 & 15.3 & 9.1 & 8.7 & 59.6 & 33.3 & 27.5 & 8.8 & 8.8 & 9.0 \\
\hline Tuesday & 257.60 & 264.35 & 272.99 & 237.77 & 213.38 & 220.84 & 235.02 & 172.07 & 186.21 & 25.63 & 248.81 & 257.26 & -1.4 & 6.0 & 7.7 & 16.4 & 14.8 & 10.9 & 60.2 & 31.9 & 35.1 & 9.4 & 11.6 & 10.6 \\
\hline Wednesday & 261.75 & 267.25 & 275.19 & 234.55 & 210.03 & 216.20 & 232 & 174.60 & 171.59 & 25.38 & 250.91 & 258.21 & 6.8 & 10.5 & 9.9 & 14.2 & 6.8 & 7.1 & 59.2 & 34.6 & 25.1 & 12.3 & 11.6 & 10.8 \\
\hline Thursday & 243.02 & 247.63 & 255.44 & 22.38 & 209.71 & 209.33 & 235.5 & 175.28 & 70.21 & 239.22 & 235.50 & 240.62 & 11.8 & 8.5 & 7.4 & 16.5 & 9.6 & 6.4 & 76.4 & 28.4 & 25.6 & 16.0 & 10.0 & 8.1 \\
\hline Weekday & 245.97 & 24.59 & 258.09 & 233.47 & 206.58 & 212.82 & 234.32 & 174.17 & 175.18 & 242.27 & 235.37 & 243.81 & 2.4 & 7.1 & 7.3 & 16.2 & 8.4 & 7.6 & 64.8 & 31.9 & 28.0 & 11.4 & 9.5 & 9.1 \\
\hline Friday & 215.54 & 230.35 & 229.77 & 233.07 & 194.47 & 194.76 & 231.85 & 172.23 & 171.44 & 219.90 & 216.72 & 218.17 & 0.0 & 7.2 & 6.1 & 20.7 & 6.4 & 5.0 & 57.4 & 28.3 & 24.1 & \({ }^{8.1}\) & 7.5 & 6.9 \\
\hline Saturday & 210.18 & 228.94 & 224.97 & 229.97 & 196.84 & 194.12 & 232.09 & 170.69 & 172.62 & 215.27 & 216.87 & 215.15 & -7.3 & 4.7 & 3.0 & 17.7 & 4.2 & 3.5 & 59.6 & 25.8 & 24.6 & 4.1 & 5.7 & 4.8 \\
\hline Weekend & 212. & 229.55 & 227.05 & 231.33 & 195.79 & 194.40 & 231 & 1.37 & 172.10 & 217.29 & 216.81 & 216.47 & -3.7 & 5.9 & 4.4 & 18.9 & 5.2 & 4.2 & 58.5 & 27.0 & 24.4 & 5.9 & 6.5 & 5.7 \\
\hline Total & 235.63 & 243.95 & 249.00 & 232.92 & 203.06 & 207.09 & 233.65 & 173.25 & 174.28 & 234.89 & 229.88 & 235.68 & 0.7 & 7.1 & 6.8 & 17.2 & 7.4 & 6.7 & 62.8 & 30.2 & 26.9 & 10.0 & 8.8 & 8.4 \\
\hline \multicolumn{25}{|l|}{RevPAR (s)} \\
\hline Sunday & 128.44 & 112.65 & 121.65 & 45.68 & 62 & 43.43 & 10.89 & 3.02 & 5.63 & 185.01 & 177.01 & 170.72 & 70.2 & 9.2 & 10.3 & -52.5 & -7.2 & -9.8 & 84.0 & 1.3 & -5.8 & 4.2 & 2.4 & 4.0 \\
\hline Monday & 156.24 & 150.20 & 160.21 & 53.51 & 54.70 & 44.83 & 9.88 & 2.60 & 5.29 & 219.63 & 207.66 & 210.33 & 66.8 & 22.4 & 17.7 & -45.6 & -22.4 & -14.9 & 96.4 & -6.0 & -9.3 & 11.4 & 6.0 & 8.1 \\
\hline Tuesday & 152.88 & 171.74 & 174.66 & 63.31 & 2.84 & 47.23 & 10.75 & 2.78 & 5.96 & 226.94 & 227.92 & 227 & 36.2 & 22.2 & 4.9 & -30.0 & -18.5 & -7.6 & 121.5 & -1.7 & 0.9 & 9.3 & 9.4 & 8.9 \\
\hline Wednesday & 168.54 & 181.23 & 184.66 & 55.82 & 49.99 & 44.40 & 10.10 & 2.85 & 5.44 & 23446 & 234.87 & 234.48 & 37.1 & 23.4 & 14.7 & -21.8 & -12.1 & -0.3 & 93.7 & -0.6 & -9.6 & 17.5 & 13.6 & 10.7 \\
\hline Thursday & 168.39 & 160.02 & 162.27 & 44.21 & 55.57 & 48.58 & 8.06 & 2.44 & 5.22 & 220.66 & 218.34 & 216.07 & 43.3 & 20.9 & 11.7 & -26.0 & 2.7 & 14.0 & 87.6 & -17.4 & -10.5 & 21.6 & 15.2 & 11.4 \\
\hline Weekday & 153.76 & 153.01 & 158.89 & 52.24 & 55.34 & 45.55 & 9.98 & 2.74 & 5.50 & 215.98 & 211.27 & 209.94 & 49.3 & 19.6 & 13.9 & -37.7 & -11.9 & 4.8 & 95.5 & 4.9 & -7.0 & 12.5 & 9.1 & 8.6 \\
\hline Friday & 144.67 & 131.30 & 139.29 & 43.28 & 61.41 & 46.41 & 9.20 & 3.26 & 5.37 & 197.14 & 195.51 & 191.08 & 50.9 & 13.7 & 12.6 & -35.4 & 14.8 & 13.0 & \({ }^{82} 3\) & 3.1 & -10.3 & 17.4 & \({ }^{13.6}\) & 11.9 \\
\hline Saturday & 145.67 & 137.52 & 143.28 & 43.74 & 62.85 & 45.43 & 10.13 & 3.24 & 5.44 & 19.54 & 203.21 & 194.16 & 68.6 & 12.8 & 9.6 & -52.9 & -5.9 & -10.8 & 93.3 & -2.3 & -10.7 & 8.2 & 5.9 & 3.5 \\
\hline Weekend & 145.22 & 134.75 & 141.51 & 43.53 & 62.21 & 45.87 & 9.72 & 3.24 & 5.41 & 198.47 & 199.79 & 192.79 & 59.3 & 13.5 & 11.3 & -45.5 & 3.4 & -0.3 & 88.9 & 0.3 & -10.4 & 12.7 & 9.7 & 7.6 \\
\hline Total & 151.28 & 147.71 & 153.85 & 49.71 & 57.33 & 45.64 & 9.90 & 2.89 & 5.48 & 210.89 & 207.93 & 204.96 & 52.5 & 18.2 & 13.5 & -39.8 & -7.5 & -3.4 & 93.5 & -3.6 & -8.1 & 12.9 & 9.5 & 8.6 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}


\section*{Tab 14 －Additional Revenue ADR Analysis}
For the Month ot July 2006 Dato Crozed August 24,2006 Monthy Comperibve Son Drao Excudes Subject Propenty
䓂藻品宸 兑 Compares subject property data to competitive set and market scale．
Additional Revenue RevPAR Analysis（Tab 15）：Monthly revenue analysis for room，F\＆B，other and total for the past 18 months．Revenue shown is divided by number of rooms available．Compares subject property data to competitive set and market scale
Additional Revenue ADR Analysis（Tab 14）：Monthly revenue analysis for room，F\＆B，other and total for the past 18 months．Revenue shown is divided by number of rooms sold． Room：Room revenue reported to STR should exclude rebates，refunds，overcharges and taxes．Fees received due to cancellations（generally advance deposits for meetings， conventions，groups，guest sleeping room blocks，etc．）should not be included in room revenue reported to STR．Revenue of this nature is usually credited to the＂rentals and other income＂section of the property＇s financial statement．Fees received due to early departures should not be included in room revenue reported to STR．

Food \＆Beverage（F\＆B）：Revenues derived from the sale of food，including coffee，milk，tea and soft drinks．Revenues derived from the sale of beverages including beer，wine，
liquors and ale，including banquet beverage revenues．Revenues derived from other sources such as meeting room rentals，audio－visual equipment rentals，cover or service charges

Tab 16 - Segmentation Response Report Any Hotel 123 Any Street Any Clit, Any State \(99999 \quad(555) 555-5555\) STR \# 98765 Chainlo: 999999 Mgito: None Owner: None For the Month of: July 2006 Date Created: August 24, 2006

Jul 4th - Independence Day

This Year

\section*{Jul 4th - Independence Day}

Last Year


Data received

\section*{B \(=\) Both Segmentation \& Additional Revenue}

Segmentation Response Report: Details properties in the competitive set that have reported data to STR over the past 24 months. Chart legend:
\(\mathrm{s}=\) Only segmentation data (transient, group, contract) received.
\(r=\) Only additional revenue received
\(B=\) Both segmentation \& additional revenue received

\begin{tabular}{|l|l|} 
& Jul 4th - Independence Day \\
& \\
& \\
\\
STR\# & Name \\
\hline 98765 & Any Hotel \\
\hline 99876 & Hotel A \\
\hline 99987 & Hotel B \\
\hline 99998 & Hotel C \\
\hline 99999 & Hotel D \\
\hline 98876 & Hotel E \\
\hline 98887 & Hotel F \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
 free to contact STR Sales Department (ideas@smithtravelresearch.com) if a hotel in your competitive set is not or has not been reporting data.

\section*{Tab 17 - Daily Data for the Month}
Any Hotel 123 Any Street Any City, Any State 99999 (555) \(555-5555\)
STR \# 98765 ChainID: 999999 Mgtco: None Oumer: None
For the Month of: July 2006 Date Created: August 24, 2006 Daily Competitive Set Data Excludes Subject Property
Daily Indexes for the Month of July

Tab 18 －Day of Week and Weekday／Weekend Report

For the Month of．July 2006 Date Created．August 24， 2006 Monthly Cormpetitive Set Dota Excludes Subject Property

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－My Property
－Competive Set


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88.3

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92.2
82.8
83.6
87.1
：
897
783
81.5 ning 12 Month
82.8
848
897
\(\square\)
\(\stackrel{\circ}{8}\)
\begin{tabular}{l}
84.5 \\
\hline 91.3
\end{tabular}


\begin{tabular}{l}
\begin{tabular}{l|l|l|}
\hline \(\begin{array}{l}\text { Weekend } \\
\text {（Fn－Sat）}\end{array}\) & \(\begin{array}{l}\text { Current Month } \\
\text { Year To Date } \\
\text { Running 3 M Month } \\
\text { Running 12 Morah }\end{array}\) & \\
\hline
\end{tabular} \\
\hline \(\begin{array}{l}\text { Total } \\
\text { Current Month } \\
\text { Year To Date } \\
\text { Running 3 Month } \\
\text { Running 12 Month }\end{array}\) \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{Appendix C}
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Defendants Market Share
Aggregate for all 15 Cities
Case 2:24-cv-00229 Document 1 Filed 02/20/24 Page 104 of 118
Defendants Market Share
Austin

Case 2:24-cv-00229 Document 1 Filed 02/20/24 Page 105 of 118
Defendants Market Share
Boston

Case 2:24-cv-00229 Document 1 Filed 02/20/24 Page 106 of 118
Defendants Market Share
Chicago
Defendant
Non-Defendant Luxury
Case 2:24-cv-00229 Document 1 Filed 02/20/24 Page 107 of 118
Defendants Market Share
Denver

Case 2:24-cv-00229 Document 1 Filed 02/20/24 Page 108 of 118
Defendants Market Share
Kansas City

Case 2:24-cv-00229 Document 1 Filed 02/20/24 Page 109 of 118
Defendants Market Share
Los Angeles

Case 2:24-cv-00229 Document 1 Filed 02/20/24 Page 110 of 118
Defendants Market Share
Miami

Case 2:24-cv-00229 Document 1 Filed 02/20/24 Page 111 of 118
Defendants Market Share
Nashville

Case 2:24-cv-00229 Document 1 Filed 02/20/24 Page 112 of 118
Defendants Market Share
Defendants Market Share
New York

Case 2:24-cv-00229 Document 1 Filed 02/20/24 Page 113 of 118
Defendants Market Share
Phoenix

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Defendants Market Share

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Defendants Market Share
San Diego

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Defendants Market Share
San Francisco

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Defendants Market Share
Seattle

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Defendants Market Share
Washington D.C.
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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ The "Luxury Hotel Metropolitan Markets" consist of four- and five-star hotels in the following U.S. Metropolitan areas: Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, Nashville, New York, Phoenix, Portland, San Diego, San Francisco, Washington D.C., and Seattle.
    ${ }^{2}$ Defendant Hotel Operators together with Defendants STR, Inc. and CoStar Group are the "Defendants." As discussed below, Defendant CoStar acquired STR in 2019 for $\$ 450$ million and today operates STR as a division of CoStar Group.
    ${ }^{3}$ Defendant Hotel Operators are Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc., Hyatt Hotels Corporation, Inter-Continental Hotels Corporation, Loews Hotels Holding Corporation, Marriott International, Inc., and Accor Management US Inc. Conspirator Hotel Operators are Choice Hotels International, Inc., Great Eagle Holdings Limited, Wyndham Hotels \& Resorts, Inc., and Omni Hotels Management Corporation. Defendant Hotel Operators together with the Conspirator Hotel Operators are collectively referred to as "Hotel Operators." CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 1

[^1]:    ${ }^{4}$ CoStar, Hotel Benchmarking Product Terms and Conditions, https://www.costar.com/CoStarTerms-and-Conditions/HotelBenchmarking (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{5} I d$.
    ${ }^{6}$ CoStar, December 31, 2022, Form 10-K:
    https://www.sec.gov/ix?doc=/Archives/edgar/data/1057352/000105735223000030/csgp20221231.htm (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{7}$ CW 1 worked as a market director of revenue management at Marriott Ritz-Carlton Hotels. CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 2

[^2]:    ${ }^{8}$ Hotel Data Giant STR Acquired for $\$ 450$ Million, Skift (October 1st, 2019), https://skift.com/2019/10/01/hotel-data-giant-str-acquired-for-450-million/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{9} \mathrm{CW} 2$ worked for STR and later CoStar as a software engineer.
    ${ }^{10} \mathrm{CW} 3$ worked at STR as a technical writer.
    ${ }^{11}$ STR, Testimonials, https://str.com/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).

[^3]:    ${ }^{14}$ United States v. Container Corp. of Am., 393 U.S. 333, 337 (1969). CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 5

[^4]:    ${ }^{15}$ Hotel Data Giant STR Acquired for $\$ 450$ Million (October 1, 2019), supra n.8.
    ${ }^{16}$ Costar Q3 2023 earnings call (October 24, 2023).

[^5]:    ${ }^{17}$ Revenue Experts: ‘Don’t Be Afraid To Take Risk’ on Hotel Rates, CoStar, August 24, 2022, https://www.costar.com/article/631164910/revenue-experts-dont-be-afraid-to-take-risk-on-hotel-rates (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{18} I d$.
    ${ }^{19}$ Id.
    ${ }^{20}$ STR, What is benchmarking? https://str.com/data-insights/resources/faq (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).

[^6]:    ${ }^{29}$ Lowe operated Hotel 1000 in Seattle during the relevant class period. The hotel has since been sold in June 2021. See Loews Hotels and Resorts Sells Hotel 1000 in Seattle for \$55MM (June 4, 2021), supra n. 28.
    ${ }^{30}$ STR, Understanding your STR reports: The Basics (January 5, 2022), https://str.com/data-insights-blog/understanding-your-str-reports-basics (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{31}$ STR, About STR, https://str.com/about ((last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{32}$ Smith, R.A. and Zheng, L. (2011). A Look at Comp Sets: A Historical Perspective That Shapes Today's Way of Thinking. Cornell Hospitality Quarterly, 52(4), 371-373.

[^7]:    ${ }^{38}$ STR, https://str.com/benchmarking (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{39}$ Hotel Data Giant STR Acquired for $\$ 450$ Million, supra n.8.
    ${ }^{40}$ Id.
    ${ }^{41}$ STR Testimonials, supra n. 11.

[^8]:    ${ }^{42}$ On information and belief, STR created a platform called "dSTAR" in 2019 where hotels can access their STAR reports data through a dashboard with different data visualization. See https://tiak.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/dSTAR-Snapshots-2019.pdf. As more information provided below, in 2023, the STAR reports program has been renamed as "STR Benchmarking." See https://str.com/data-insights/resources/faq. Under the section titled "are there different options for participating with STR," the dSTAR URL redirects users to the STR benchmarking page https://str.com/benchmarking. All references herein to "STAR reports" in this complaint also include by reference the dSTAR and STR benchmarking.
    ${ }^{43}$ CoStar, STR: https://www.costargroup.com/about-us/brands/str (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{44}$ See STR has over 44,000 participating hotels globally representing over 5.8 million rooms. Are you one of them? https://www.sdinnkeepers.com/pdf/doc-str-flyer-april-20121335286584.pdf (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{45} I d$.
    ${ }^{46}$ STR, Frequently Asked Questions, https://str.com/data-insights/resources/faq (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).

[^9]:    ${ }^{47}$ STR explains that "transient rooms revenue" includes "includes revenue derived from rental of rooms and suites by individuals or groups occupying less than 10 rooms per night." "Group rooms revenue" includes revenue derived from renting blocks of 10 or more rooms or suites to a group. "Contract rooms revenue" includes revenue "derived from a contract with another entity for a consistent block of rooms for an extended period over 30 days." See STR, Historical Benchmarking Data Reporting Guidelines: https://str.com/historical-benchmarking-guidelines (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{48}$ Other revenue includes "all revenues collected by the property that are not defined above as Rooms Revenue or Food and Beverage Revenue," such as parking, spa, telecommunications. Id. CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 20

[^10]:    ${ }^{64}$ What Is Average Daily Rate (ADR) and How to Calculate It, supra n.54.
    ${ }^{65}$ What is benchmarking?, supra n. 20 .
    ${ }^{66}$ What Is Average Daily Rate (ADR) and How to Calculate It, supra n. 54.
    ${ }^{67}$ Id.

[^11]:    ${ }^{71}$ STR, What is Hotel Benchmarking?(July 30, 2019), https://str.com/data-insights-blog/what-is-benchmarking (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{72}$ CoStar, Careful Comp Set Selection Key to Performance (February 14, 2012) https://www.costar.com/article/1917132465/careful-comp-set-selection-key-to-performance_(last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{73}$ What is Hotel Benchmarking? Supra n.71.
    ${ }^{74}$ Id.

[^12]:    ${ }^{77}$ STR, Forward STAR Data Reporting Guidelines, https://str.com/forward-star-data-reporting-guidelines (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{78}$ Id.
    ${ }^{79}$ Using business on the books in a complete benchmarking approach, supra n.76.

[^13]:    ${ }^{82}$ What Is Average Daily Rate (ADR) and How to Calculate It, supra n. 54.
    ${ }^{83} \mathrm{Id}$.

[^14]:    ${ }^{84}$ CoStar, Bandwidth Reports Provide Complete View (November 22, 2011), https://www.costar.com/article/1080046246/bandwidth-reports-provide-complete-view (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{85}$ STR, Bandwidth "Daily ranking" is another feature of the report, https://str.com/resourcesglossary/bandwidth (last visited Feb. 20, 2024). CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 31

[^15]:    ${ }^{86}$ STR Analytics, RPM Tutorial, https://www.youtube.com/watch? $\mathrm{v}=\mathrm{PJfBl}-\mathrm{Y} 1 \mathrm{YXY}$ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).

[^16]:    ${ }^{87}$ CoStart, December 31, 2022, Form 10-K: https://www.sec.gov/ix?doc=/Archives/edgar/data/1057352/000105735223000030/csgp20221231.htm (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{88}$ Forward STAR Data Reporting Guidelines, supra n. 77.
    ${ }^{89}$ CoStar, Hotel Benchmarking Product Terms and Conditions, https://www.costar.com/CoStarTerms-and-Conditions/HotelBenchmarking (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).

[^17]:    ${ }^{92}$ STR, Our clients, https://str.com/who-we-serve/hotel-operators (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{93} \mathrm{https}: / / \mathrm{www} . l i n k e d i n . c o m / j o b s / v i e w / r e v e n u e-m a n a g e r-f u l l-s e r v i c e-r m c c-a m e r i c a s-a t-~$ hilton-3804835593/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{94} \mathrm{https}: / / \mathrm{www} . l i n k e d i n . c o m / \mathrm{in} / \mathrm{minalpatel1/} \mathrm{("Analyzing} \mathrm{and} \mathrm{reviewing} \mathrm{monthly} \mathrm{and} \mathrm{weekly}$ STAR Report results, understanding gains or losses of RevPAR Index and apply this knowledge to impact and forecast future results"); https://www.linkedin.com/in/lisa-silverstein-a141b433/

[^18]:    ${ }^{102} \mathrm{https}: / / \mathrm{www} . l i n k e d i n . c o m / \mathrm{in} /$ stuart-schwartz-523b558/ (working as a managing director at Loews, a key metric listed on the LinkedIn profile is that the hotel property is "consistently ranted \#1 or \#2 within competitive set" in the STR reports).
    ${ }^{103}$ CoStar, 2021 Hotel Data Conference (August 17, 2021) https://www.costar.com/article/249903448/2021-hotel-data-conference (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{104}$ See https://www.linkedin.com/posts/the-fairmont-winnipeg_experience-luxury-opportunity-activity-6896546265513959424-wRvO/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{105}$ Accor Fairmount Hotels job posting, https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/revenue-analyst-at-fairmont-hotels-resorts-153576177/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024). CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 39

[^19]:    ${ }^{110}$ Equal Emp't Opportunity Com. v. Omni Hotels Mgt., 516 F. Supp. 2d 678, 686 (N.D. Tex. 2007).

[^20]:    ${ }^{115}$ Wyndham job posting, https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/coordinator-revenue-management-services-operations-at-wyndham-hotels-resorts-3815108056/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{116}$ CoStar, Hotel Data Conference Set To Take the Global Stage (March 18, 2021) https://www.costar.com/article/16690834/hotel-data-conference-set-to-take-the-global-stage (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{117}$ Hotel Data Conference 2022, https://www.breakingtravelnews.com/events/details/hotel-data-conference-2022/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{118}$ STR Hotel Data Conference Video, https://www.hoteldataconference.com/event/e75685fe-d11d-448e-8ca7-13cb52b2ddf9 (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{119} 2016$ Hotel Data Conference Attendee List, https://docplayer.net/62404523-2016-hotel-data-conference-attendee-list-first-name-last-name-company-title-lori-albright-red-roof-inns-inc-sr-revenue-manager-brad-aldrich-ahla.html (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).

[^21]:    ${ }^{120}$ Updates announced to 2020 Hotel Data Conference, Hospitalitynet (June 16, 2020) https://www.hospitalitynet.org/news/4099206.html (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{121}$ Hotel Data Conference sold out for first time since 2019, Hospitalitynet (August 9, 2022) https://www.hospitalitynet.org/news/4111891.html (last visited Feb. 20, 2024).
    ${ }^{122} 5$ Lessons Learned at The 2023 Hotel Data Conference (August 16, 2023), https://mdo.io/5-lessons-learned-at-the-2023-hotel-data-conference/ (last visited Feb. 20, 2024). CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 43

[^22]:    ${ }^{123}$ Hotel Data Conference sold out for first time since 2019, supra n. 121.

