

Total cruise passenger traffic during the fourth quarter of 2017 amounted to 187,280, an increase of 5.5 per cent over the corresponding period in 2016.

Cruise Passengers: Q4/2017

There were 94 cruise liner calls during the fourth quarter of 2017, 9 more than the previous year. At 92.2 per cent, transit passengers accounted for the absolute majority of total traffic, reaching 172,601. A total of 2,858 passengers visited Gozo, while 11,769 passengers spent at least one night on board their berthed cruise liner. On average, every vessel that berthed in Malta carried 1,992 passengers, 96 less than the previous year.

Visitors from EU Member States comprised 67.3 per cent of total traffic, the major markets being Italy, Germany, France and the United Kingdom. The total number of passengers from Non-EU countries stood at 61,267, of whom 38.5 per cent came from the United States.

On a gender basis, female passengers made up 53.9 per cent of the total. The largest share of passengers fell within the 60-79 age bracket and were followed by those aged between 40 and 59 (Table1).

January-December 2017

Total cruise passengers for 2017 stood at 670,135, a rise of 7.0 per cent over 2016. Of these, 70.7 per cent came from EU Member States. The biggest increase was recorded from the British market, which advanced by 55,707 passengers.

Female passengers numbered 356,802 and were in the majority. Most passengers were between 60 and 79 years old, amounting to 254,242. These were followed by passengers aged 40-59, reaching 216,487.

There were 342 cruise liner calls in 2017, with an average 1,959 passengers per vessel, compared to 316 calls and an average 1,981 passengers per vessel in 2016 (Table 2) ■

Total cruise passenger traffic

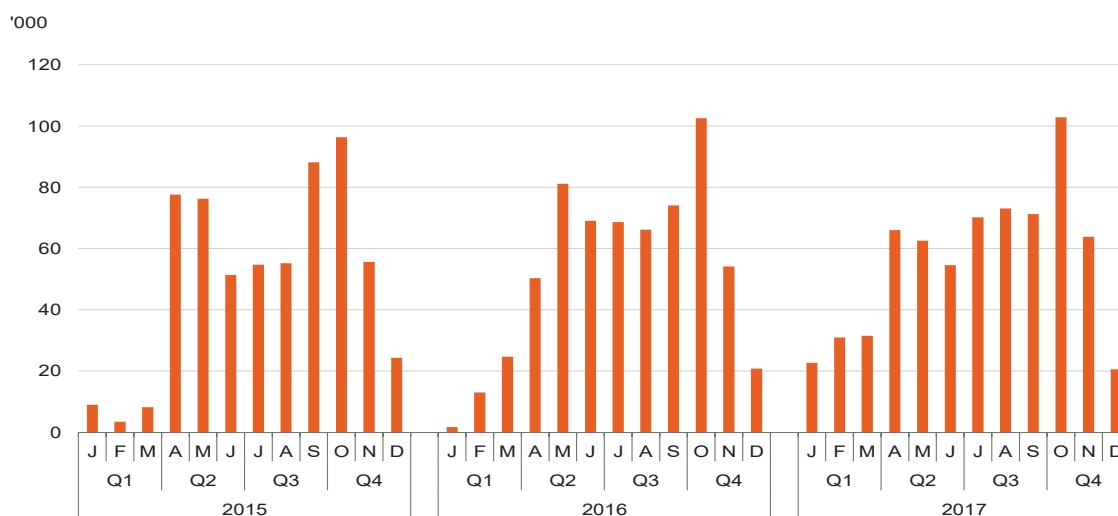


Table 1. Cruise passengers: Quarterly 2015-2017

| | October-December | | | Change |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Oct-Dec 2017/ Oct-Dec 2016 |
| Total traffic*: | 176,295 | 177,441 | 187,280 | 9,839 |
| Transit | 166,989 | 167,437 | 172,601 | 5,164 |
| Landed | 9,306 | 10,004 | 14,679 | 4,675 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | |
| Passengers visiting Gozo | 2,226 | 1,707 | 2,858 | 1,151 |
| Passengers staying overnight | 5,308 | 8,101 | 11,769 | 3,668 |
| Nationality: | | | | |
| EU | 131,330 | 125,909 | 126,013 | 104 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | |
| French | 21,381 | 26,322 | 19,859 | -6,463 |
| German | 32,550 | 28,427 | 28,937 | 510 |
| Italian | 40,809 | 31,538 | 33,551 | 2,013 |
| Maltese | 940 | 1,622 | 1,801 | 179 |
| Spanish | 8,437 | 7,570 | 8,634 | 1,064 |
| British | 12,493 | 15,877 | 19,811 | 3,934 |
| Non-EU | 44,965 | 51,532 | 61,267 | 9,735 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | |
| Australian | 1,833 | 2,659 | 3,955 | 1,296 |
| Canadian | 3,711 | 5,748 | 6,893 | 1,145 |
| Japanese | 1,201 | 1,930 | 2,586 | 656 |
| American | 12,100 | 18,413 | 23,617 | 5,204 |
| Sex: | | | | |
| Males | 82,717 | 82,152 | 86,368 | 4,216 |
| Females | 93,578 | 95,289 | 100,912 | 5,623 |
| Age group: | | | | |
| 0-19 | 20,675 | 19,129 | 18,406 | -723 |
| 20-39 | 26,792 | 24,200 | 24,277 | 77 |
| 40-59 | 56,313 | 54,983 | 56,903 | 1,920 |
| 60-79 | 66,763 | 72,942 | 80,583 | 7,641 |
| 80+ | 5,752 | 6,187 | 7,111 | 924 |
| Cruise liner calls | 88 | 85 | 94 | 9 |

* See methodological note 3

Table 2. Cruise passengers: Cumulative 2015-2017

| | January-December | | | Change |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Jan-Dec 2017/ Jan-Dec 2016 |
| Total traffic*: | 600,156 | 626,082 | 670,135 | 44,053 |
| Transit | 529,784 | 567,906 | 566,475 | -1,431 |
| Landed | 70,372 | 58,176 | 103,660 | 45,484 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | |
| Passengers visiting Gozo | 9,868 | 6,930 | 14,503 | 7,573 |
| Passengers staying overnight | 15,847 | 22,519 | 40,759 | 18,240 |
| Nationality: | | | | |
| EU | 455,115 | 465,986 | 473,887 | 7,901 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | |
| French | 72,896 | 90,506 | 58,018 | -32,488 |
| German | 124,285 | 105,373 | 115,358 | 9,985 |
| Italian | 111,535 | 107,456 | 99,927 | -7,529 |
| Maltese | 8,474 | 10,884 | 11,932 | 1,048 |
| Spanish | 28,239 | 39,172 | 28,822 | -10,350 |
| British | 59,139 | 57,680 | 113,387 | 55,707 |
| Non-EU | 145,041 | 160,096 | 196,248 | 36,152 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | |
| Australian | 14,930 | 10,258 | 16,933 | 6,675 |
| Canadian | 12,380 | 14,680 | 20,870 | 6,190 |
| Japanese | 3,462 | 4,993 | 7,064 | 2,071 |
| American | 40,178 | 55,309 | 72,612 | 17,303 |
| Sex: | | | | |
| Males | 285,146 | 291,713 | 313,333 | 21,620 |
| Females | 315,010 | 334,369 | 356,802 | 22,433 |
| Age group: | | | | |
| 0-19 | 75,523 | 83,477 | 82,977 | -500 |
| 20-39 | 87,299 | 96,128 | 93,645 | -2,483 |
| 40-59 | 196,775 | 204,792 | 216,487 | 11,695 |
| 60-79 | 220,619 | 221,929 | 254,242 | 32,313 |
| 80+ | 19,940 | 19,756 | 22,784 | 3,028 |
| Cruise liner calls | 307 | 316 | 342 | 26 |

* See methodological note 3

Methodological Notes

1. The data in this release is compiled on the basis of administrative records held by Transport Malta.
2. Cruise liners calling at both Malta and Gozo during a single voyage are recorded as one cruise liner call.
3. The majority of passengers embarking on cruise liners from Malta generally end their trip at the same destination. Embarkations are therefore not included in total traffic figures, in order to avoid double counting. This measure was adopted as from News Release no. 079/2013 dated 23 April 2013. The referred news release also includes figures for 2012 and 2011.

For clarity, embarkation figures for the period under review are being provided:

| Embarkations | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| October-December (Q4) | 9,329 | 7,971 | 14,853 |
| January-December | 70,088 | 56,140 | 107,359 |

4. Definitions:

- **Cruise passenger traffic:** comprises transit passengers and passengers who land in Malta.
 - **Embarkations:** comprise all cruise passengers who are either Maltese or who are foreigners who arrive in Malta by other means of transport.
 - **Transit passengers:** comprise all cruise passengers who arrive in and leave Malta on the same cruise ship.
 - **Landings:** comprise all cruise passengers who arrive in Malta on a cruise ship and leave by other means of transport, or alternatively, stay in Malta.
 - **Passengers staying overnight:** passengers who spend at least one night on-board their berthed cruise liner.
 - **Average number of passengers per vessel:** computed by dividing total cruise passenger traffic with the number of cruise liner calls.
5. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>
 6. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced.
 7. A detailed news release calendar is available on: https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx