

Total outbound tourists for the fourth quarter of 2019 were estimated at 193,590, an increase of 5.2 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2018.

Outbound Tourism: Q4/2019

October-December 2019

During the fourth quarter of 2019, outbound tourists towards EU and non-EU countries increased by 2.0 and 27.5 per cent respectively, when compared to the same quarter of 2018 (Table 1). Italy and the United Kingdom remained the most popular destinations, with a joint share of 47.1 per cent of the total outbound tourists (Table 6).

Total nights spent by outbound tourists increased by 5.4 per cent, amounting to almost 1.3 million nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights (52.6 per cent) were spent in non-rented accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total estimated expenditure by outbound tourists between October and December of 2019 increased by 7.9 per cent over the same quarter of 2018, and stood at €160.1 million, equivalent to an average of €827 per capita (Tables 4 and 5).

January-December 2019

Total outbound tourists in 2019 numbered 706,797, an increase of 6.0 per cent over 2018 (Table 7). Total nights spent by outbound tourists went up by 2.9 per cent, surpassing 4.6 million nights (Table 9). In addition, the total estimated expenditure by outbound tourists stood at €606.2 million, 7.6 per cent higher than that recorded for the same period of 2018 (Table 10) ■

Chart 1. Year-on-year percentage changes in outbound tourists and nights spent

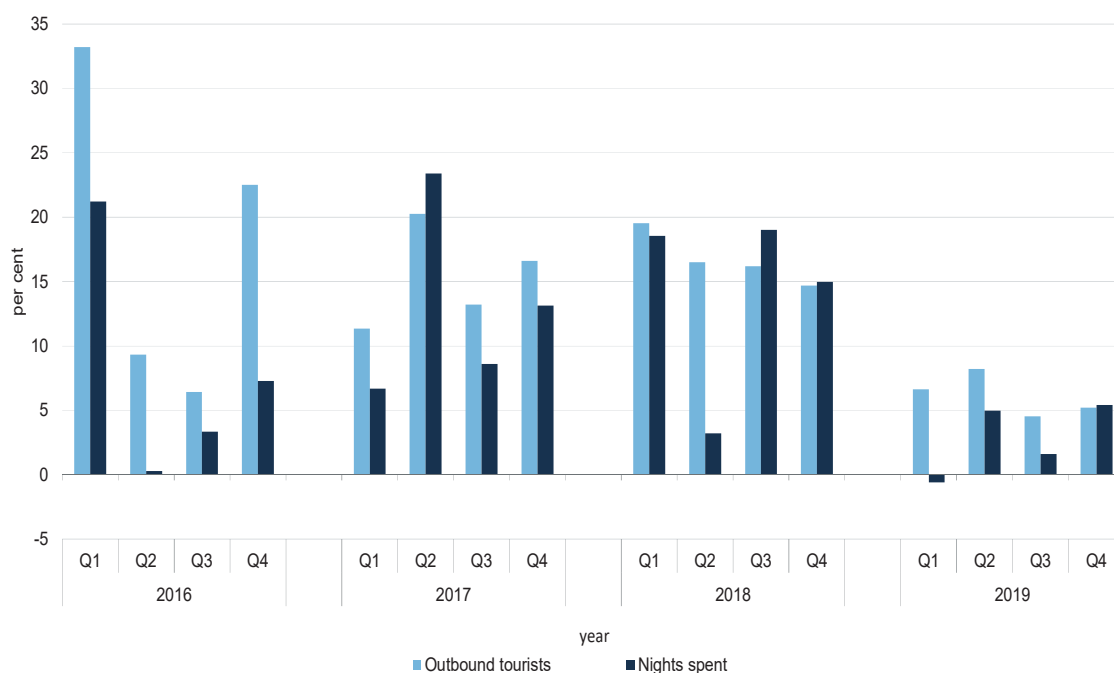


Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	October-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Outbound tourists	160,416	184,004	193,590	9,586	5.2
Mode and type of travel					
Air	154,153	177,602	185,979	8,376	4.7
Low-cost airlines	76,210	86,919	101,780	14,862	17.1
Other airlines	77,943	90,683	84,198	-6,485	-7.2
Sea	6,263	6,401	7,611	-	-
Sex					
Males	89,343	96,164	104,710	8,545	8.9
Females	71,073	87,839	88,880	-	-
Age group					
0-24	25,313	31,352	30,296	-	-
25-44	75,947	82,305	92,637	10,332	12.6
45-64	48,306	56,917	55,685	-	-
65 or more	10,851	13,429	14,972	1,543	11.5
Final destination					
EU	141,834	160,760	163,945	3,184	2.0
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	96,150	110,654	114,541	3,887	3.5
Non-EU	18,582	23,243	29,645	6,402	27.5
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	84,897	104,447	110,512	6,065	5.8
Visiting relatives and friends	41,778	48,570	52,365	3,795	7.8
Business and professional	25,934	24,592	23,446	-	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	7,807	6,394	7,267	-	-
Organisation of stay					
Package	21,506	19,055	20,474	-	-
Non-package	138,910	164,949	173,116	8,167	5.0
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	52,367	59,727	62,233	2,506	4.2
4-6 nights	54,827	65,315	66,574	-	-
7 nights or more	53,223	58,961	64,783	5,822	9.9
Average length of stay (nights)	6.5	6.5	6.5	0.0	-

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

Table 2. Outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	October-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019		
Rented accommodation	111,937	122,677	124,138	-	-
Collective	97,923	99,870	100,309	-	-
Other rented	14,014	22,806	23,829	-	-
Non-rented accommodation	48,479	61,327	69,452	8,125	13.2
Total tourists	160,416	184,004	193,590	9,586	5.2

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

Table 3. Total nights spent by outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	October-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019		
Rented accommodation	557,352	597,510	599,709	-	-
Collective	467,729	463,500	464,163	-	-
Other rented	89,623	134,010	135,546	-	-
Non-rented accommodation	487,397	603,668	666,642	62,974	10.4
Total nights	1,044,749	1,201,178	1,266,352	65,173	5.4

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

Chart 2. Average length of stay by type of accommodation: October-December

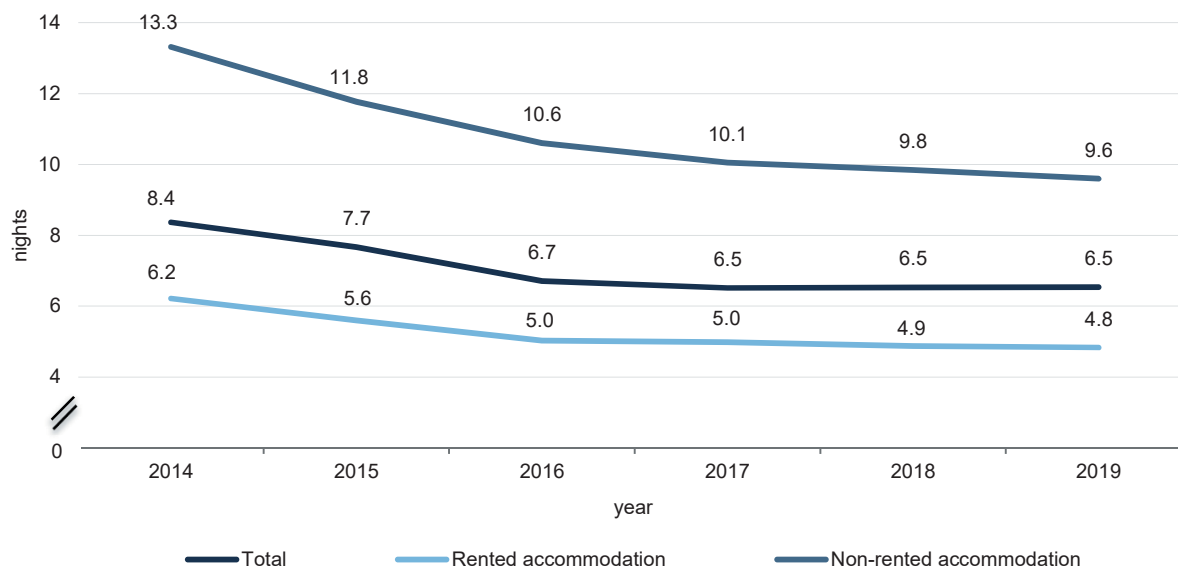


Table 4. Total expenditure by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€000

Expenditure category	October-December			Change 2019/2018	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019		
Package	13,736	11,395	14,368	2,973	26.1
Non-package	44,347	55,578	60,030	4,453	8.0
Air/sea fares	22,499	29,661	31,451	1,790	6.0
Accommodation	21,849	25,917	28,580	2,663	10.3
Other expenditure	79,631	81,451	85,690	4,240	5.2
Total expenditure	137,714	148,423	160,089	11,665	7.9

Notes:

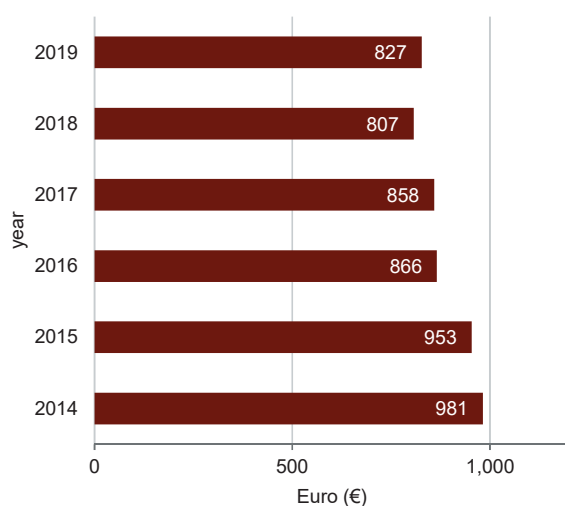
1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 5. Average expenditure per capita and per night by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€

Expenditure category	October-December					
	per capita			per night		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Package	639	598	702	119	118	131
Non-package	319	336	346	48	50	52
Air/sea fares	162	179	181	24	27	27
Accommodation	244	248	245	50	50	46
Other expenditure	496	443	443	76	68	68
Total	858	807	827	132	124	126

**Chart 3a. Expenditure per capita:
October-December**



**Chart 3b. Expenditure per night:
October - December**

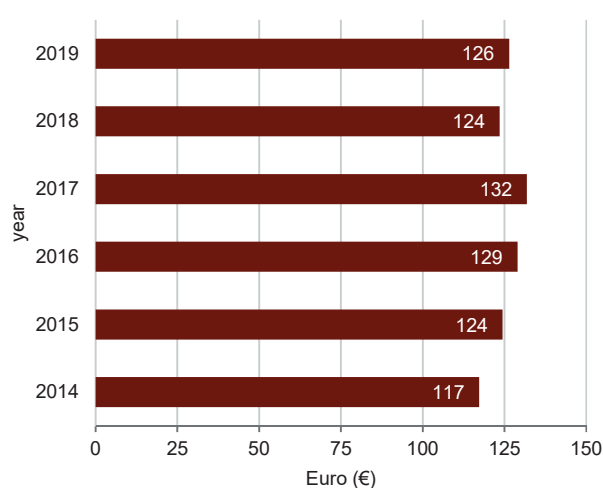


Table 6. Outbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by period of departure and final destination

Final destination	October-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Tourists					
EU	141,834	160,760	163,945	3,184	2.0
<i>of which:</i>					
France	5,788	7,487	6,319	-	-
Germany	11,459	12,055	10,903	-	-
Italy	48,473	54,196	58,161	3,965	7.3
Spain	7,100	10,166	11,225	-	-
United Kingdom	31,230	35,433	32,993	-2,440	-6.9
Non-EU	18,582	23,243	29,645	6,402	27.5
Total	160,416	184,004	193,590	9,586	5.2
Nights					
EU	821,104	909,780	923,833	14,053	1.5
<i>of which:</i>					
France	29,433	38,736	42,394	-	-
Germany	69,264	65,264	62,742	-	-
Italy	226,709	264,407	279,045	14,638	5.5
Spain	46,257	62,180	65,537	-	-
United Kingdom	198,508	215,904	188,501	-27,403	-12.7
Non-EU	223,645	291,399	342,519	51,120	17.5
Total	1,044,749	1,201,178	1,266,352	65,173	5.4
Total Expenditure (€000)					
EU	110,151	113,864	118,317	4,453	3.9
<i>of which:</i>					
France	4,520	5,927	4,907	-	-
Germany	10,095	8,269	9,119	-	-
Italy	30,966	31,998	34,829	2,831	8.8
Spain	5,426	7,062	7,762	-	-
United Kingdom	26,470	29,303	26,560	-2,742	-9.4
Non-EU	27,564	34,559	41,772	7,212	20.9
Total	137,714	148,423	160,089	11,665	7.9

Notes:

1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
3. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

Chart 4. Average expenditure per capita by final destination: October-December 2019

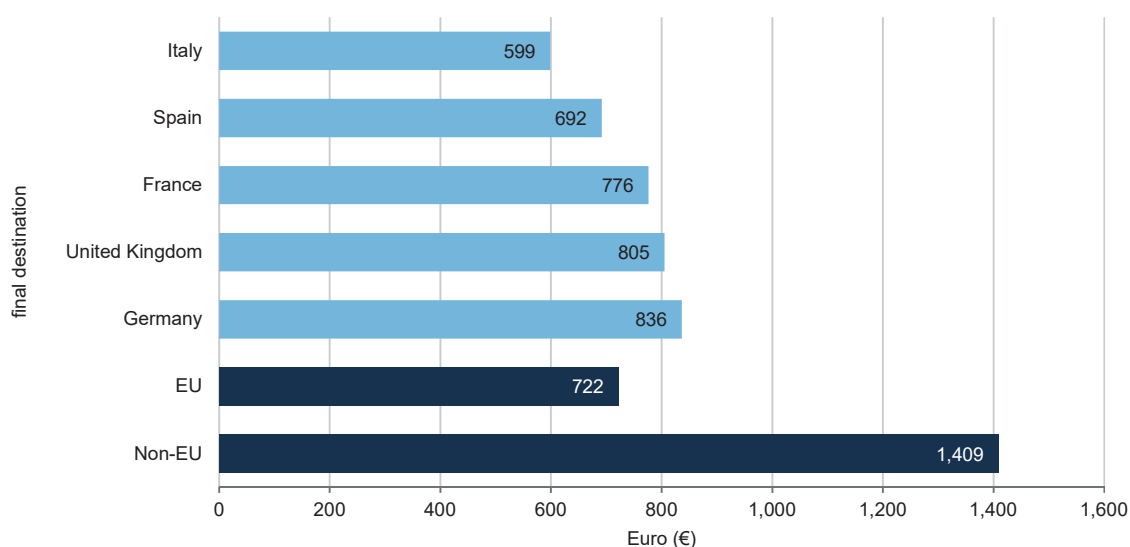


Table 7. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Outbound tourists	572,500	667,048	706,797	39,750	6.0
Mode and type of travel					
Air	544,150	638,093	677,004	38,911	6.1
Low-cost airlines	271,859	298,608	341,762	43,153	14.5
Other airlines	272,291	339,484	335,242	-4,242	-1.2
Sea	28,350	28,955	29,793	-	-
Sex					
Males	320,676	363,706	387,923	24,217	6.7
Females	251,824	303,342	318,875	15,533	5.1
Age group					
0-24	97,963	112,525	118,096	5,572	5.0
25-44	274,325	311,428	338,292	26,864	8.6
45-64	157,096	192,092	194,354	2,262	1.2
65 or more	43,116	51,003	56,054	5,051	9.9
Final destination					
EU	511,201	588,175	610,811	22,636	3.8
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	348,367	410,793	422,991	12,199	3.0
Non-EU	61,299	78,872	95,986	17,114	21.7
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	319,739	396,870	425,520	28,649	7.2
Visiting relatives and friends	130,599	148,405	158,602	10,197	6.9
Business and professional	83,049	88,959	90,219	-	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	39,113	32,814	32,457	-	-
Organisation of stay					
Package	83,384	102,093	96,197	-5,897	-5.8
Non-package	489,116	564,954	610,601	45,647	8.1
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	165,242	199,238	214,633	15,394	7.7
4-6 nights	190,923	226,762	231,784	5,022	2.2
7 nights or more	216,335	241,047	260,380	19,333	8.0
Average length of stay (nights)	6.9	6.7	6.5	-0.2	-

Notes:

1. Data for the distribution of outbound tourism across age groups (third section of the table) for 2018 has been revised.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
3. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

Table 8. Outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019		
Rented accommodation	412,131	474,739	493,917	19,178	4.0
Collective	351,163	395,016	393,302	-1,714	-0.4
Other rented	60,968	79,723	100,615	20,892	26.2
Non-rented accommodation	160,369	192,308	212,880	20,572	10.7
Total tourists	572,500	667,048	706,797	39,750	6.0

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 9. Total nights spent by outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019		
Rented accommodation	2,268,780	2,549,450	2,593,201	43,751	1.7
Collective	1,822,590	2,043,834	1,953,664	-90,170	-4.4
Other rented	446,190	505,616	639,537	133,921	26.5
Non-rented accommodation	1,652,863	1,928,097	2,015,442	87,345	4.5
Total nights	3,921,643	4,477,547	4,608,643	131,096	2.9

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 10. Total expenditure by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€000

Expenditure category	January-December			Change 2019/2018	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019		
Package	55,786	76,254	73,936	-2,317	-3.0
Non-package	171,976	194,551	222,384	27,833	14.3
Air/sea fares	87,165	99,657	112,569	12,913	13.0
Accommodation	84,811	94,895	109,815	14,920	15.7
Other expenditure	288,728	292,395	309,900	17,505	6.0
Total expenditure	516,491	563,200	606,220	43,020	7.6

Notes:

1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 11. Average expenditure per capita and per night by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€

Expenditure category	January-December					
	per capita			per night		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Package	669	747	769	115	125	129
Non-package	352	344	364	50	50	55
Air/sea fares	178	176	184	25	26	28
Accommodation	261	252	265	49	48	50
Other expenditure	504	438	438	74	65	67
Total	902	844	858	132	126	132

Table 12. Outbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by period of departure and final destination

Final destination	January-December			Change	Percentage change	
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018		
Tourists	Austria	10,928	12,567	14,903	2,337	18.6
	Belgium	19,150	18,525	16,572	-1,953	-10.5
	Bulgaria	8,273	8,514	9,521	-	-
	France	21,510	28,455	28,061	-	-
	Germany	38,432	42,121	37,721	-4,401	-10.4
	Greece	10,750	8,214	11,159	2,945	35.9
	Hungary	9,297	9,930	11,247	-	-
	Ireland	6,743	5,908	6,483	-	-
	Italy	181,053	212,219	214,152	1,933	0.9
	Netherlands	15,591	16,190	16,830	-	-
	Poland	16,092	16,237	16,031	-	-
	Scandinavia ¹	11,993	13,950	14,275	-	-
	Romania	5,876	5,343	6,254	-	-
	Spain	27,906	37,560	44,916	7,356	19.6
	Switzerland	7,302	8,812	7,559	-	-
	Turkey	6,458	8,600	9,061	-	-
	United Kingdom	105,812	118,712	126,376	7,664	6.5
	USA	5,897	5,726	5,960	-	-
Other	63,437	89,466	109,715	20,249	22.6	
Total	572,500	667,048	706,797	39,750	6.0	
Nights	Austria	70,093	75,638	83,614	7,976	10.5
	Belgium	87,554	79,176	71,648	-7,527	-9.5
	Bulgaria	80,956	83,447	88,377	-	-
	France	130,664	168,454	165,399	-	-
	Germany	242,859	267,623	219,508	-48,115	-18.0
	Greece	76,260	57,616	78,645	21,029	36.5
	Hungary	69,405	69,661	76,263	-	-
	Ireland	47,481	48,784	41,673	-	-
	Italy	847,902	1,024,131	1,063,237	39,106	3.8
	Netherlands	99,423	92,727	96,414	-	-
	Poland	108,550	114,440	108,436	-	-
	Scandinavia ¹	107,437	134,030	114,922	-	-
	Romania	52,514	53,855	61,343	-	-
	Spain	178,872	231,037	261,666	30,629	13.3
	Switzerland	44,715	60,183	47,758	-	-
	Turkey	59,310	75,003	72,647	-	-
	United Kingdom	684,936	770,410	766,224	-4,186	-0.5
	USA	105,434	100,687	76,684	-	-
Other	827,278	970,646	1,114,184	143,539	14.8	
Total	3,921,643	4,477,547	4,608,643	131,096	2.9	
Expenditure (€000)	Austria	11,023	11,718	12,395	676	5.8
	Belgium	13,769	12,161	10,978	-1,183	-9.7
	Bulgaria	6,583	6,090	6,774	-	-
	France	19,717	23,866	23,158	-	-
	Germany	36,054	36,437	33,302	-3,136	-8.6
	Greece	10,286	6,931	8,576	1,645	23.7
	Hungary	7,898	6,954	8,332	-	-
	Ireland	5,964	6,514	5,790	-	-
	Italy	119,422	132,881	137,855	4,973	3.7
	Netherlands	13,996	15,179	16,229	-	-
	Poland	13,006	11,675	12,207	-	-
	Scandinavia ¹	12,719	14,067	13,064	-	-
	Romania	5,757	3,745	4,817	-	-
	Spain	23,187	28,519	36,307	7,787	27.3
	Switzerland	7,072	9,544	8,142	-	-
	Turkey	7,216	9,729	11,033	-	-
	United Kingdom	91,494	100,693	103,966	3,273	3.3
	USA	15,107	16,143	14,923	-	-
Other	96,218	110,351	138,375	28,024	25.4	
Total	516,491	563,200	606,220	43,020	7.6	

¹ Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Notes:

1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
3. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

Methodological Notes

1. This release focuses on outbound tourism, which comprises the activities of residents of Malta travelling to, and staying in places outside Malta (i.e. outside their usual environment), and staying for not more than 12 consecutive months for personal, business or other purposes.
2. Data on outbound tourism trips are collected from an ongoing frontier national survey known as Tourstat. Tourist air departures are collected through a continuous survey carried out at the departure lounge of the Malta International Airport. A two-stage sampling design is used to collect data on air passengers. In the first stage, alternate days and nights are selected. In the second stage, within each shift, a sample of passengers is selected systematically. Every crossing air passenger is counted and respondents are selected using a pre-defined interval. For the years 2017, 2019 and January to October 2018 this counting interval was of 1:20. Due to a special circumstance this interval was changed to 1:50 for the months of November and December 2018.
3. Tourist sea departures are collected through a regular survey conducted during three separate months every year at the Valletta Cruise Port. A quota sample is used to conduct sea passenger departures in which survey interviewers are guided to select people according to some fixed quota. Survey data is supplemented by administrative data provided by ferry operators.
4. 'Tourist trips' differs from the 'number of tourists' such that the same person can undertake more than one trip during a reference period.
5. Absolute and percentage changes between one survey estimate and another, which are based on less than 1,500 tourists should be treated with caution and are represented in this news release by means of the dash symbol (-).
6. Expenditure data in this release represent the budgeted expenditure of outbound tourists prior to their departure.
7. **Definitions:**
 - **Usual environment:** the geographical area, though not necessarily a contiguous one, within which an individual conducts his regular life routines and shall be determined on the basis of the following criteria: the crossing of administrative borders or the distance from the place of usual residence, the duration of visit, the frequency of visit and the purpose of visit.
 - **Resident:** a person is considered to be a resident of Malta/Gozo if:
 - a. S/he has lived for most of the past 12 months in Malta/Gozo;
 - b. S/he has lived in Malta/Gozo for less than 12 months but intends to return within a year to settle here.
 - **Traveller:** a person who moves between different geographic locations, for any purpose and any duration.
 - **Visitor:** the three fundamental criteria used to distinguish visitors from travellers are:
 - a. **The trip should be to a place other than that of the usual environment**, which would exclude short-distance local transport and commuting, i.e. more or less regular trips between the place of work/study and the place of residence;
 - b. **The stay in the place visited should not last more than 12 consecutive months**, beyond which the visitor would become a resident of that place (from the statistical standpoint);
 - c. **The main purpose of the visit should be other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited**, which would exclude migratory movements for work purposes.
 - **Tourist trips:** trips with at least one overnight stay in either rented or non-rented accommodation in the place/country visited.
 - **Total nights spent:** nights which a guest actually spends or is registered to spend in a rented accommodation or in a non-rented accommodation.
 - **Average length of stay:** the number of nights spent divided by the number of tourists during a specified reference period.
 - **Rented accommodation:** consists of the following two sub-categories:
 - a. **Collective accommodation:** comprises hotels, guesthouses, hostels, tourist villages, holiday complexes, Bed & Breakfast establishments and campsites;
 - b. **Other rented accommodation:** comprises holiday furnished premises (farmhouses, flats and villas), host families, marinas, paid-convents, rented yachts and student dormitories.
 - **Non-rented accommodation:** comprises own private residence (owned dwellings, owned caravans and yachts), staying with friends or relatives (even if charged - includes also friends' private apartments) and other private accommodation (oil rig, free-convents or timeshare, etc.).
 - **Total expenditure:** refers to the amount that is going to be paid for the acquisition of consumption goods and services, as well as valuables during tourism trips. It includes expenditures by visitors themselves, as well as expenses that are paid for or reimbursed by others. Maltese residents are asked to budget the expenditures which they are about to incur when travelling abroad. The total expenditure is broken down by the following expenditure categories:
 - a. **Package expenditure:** the whole amount of money spent on transport, accommodation and other services such as rental of a car, activities or outings during the trip;
 - b. **Non-Package expenditure:** the amount of money spent on transport and accommodation reported separately;
 - c. **Other expenditure:** the amount spent on shopping, souvenirs, tickets for concerts or sport events, entrance to museums or zoos and day excursions during a tourism trip. It also includes durables and valuable goods, that is, the amount spent on cars, computers, paintings, jewellery and works of art.

8. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Sources and methods: https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Pages/TOURSTAT-Survey.aspx
Statistical concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=39>
Statistical database: <http://nso.gov.mt/statdb/start>
9. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
10. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx