

Total inbound visitors for March were estimated at 75,157, a decrease of 56.5 per cent when compared to the corresponding month in 2019.

Inbound Tourism: March 2020

During the month under review, a total of 64,834 inbound tourist trips were undertaken for holiday purposes, while a further 5,360 were made for business purposes. Most inbound tourists were aged between 25 and 44 years (39.0 per cent), followed by those within the 45-64 age bracket (34.8 per cent) (Table 1). Inbound tourists coming from the United Kingdom remained the most popular, with a share of 31.2 per cent of the total inbound tourists (Table 5).

Total nights spent went down by 60.2 per cent when compared to March 2019, amounting to 442,018 nights. The largest share of guest nights (59.2 per cent) was spent in collective accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total tourist expenditure was estimated at €43.6 million, a decrease of 62.6 per cent over the corresponding month in 2019 (Table 4).

January-March 2020

Inbound tourist trips for the first quarter of 2020 amounted to 370,216, a decrease of 13.1 per cent over the same period in 2019 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists surpassed the 2.2 million nights, a drop of 20.0 per cent when compared to the same quarter of last year (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure was estimated at €224.6 million, 17.5 per cent less than that recorded during the same period in 2019 (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita stood at €607, a decrease of 5.2 per cent when compared to the first quarter of 2019 (Table 11) ■

Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in context to the unprecedented developments and restrictions related to COVID-19.

During the COVID-19 situation, the following tourism-related sequence of events took place:

28-Feb	Passengers flying in from Italy, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Iran and South Korea, from 26 February onwards were requested to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
8-Mar	Flights from/to Milan were suspended.
10-Mar	Flights from/to Italy were suspended.
10-Mar	Last cruise liner call.
11-Mar	Flights from/to France, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, were suspended.
11-Mar	Passengers flying in from France, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, were requested to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
13-Mar	All passengers flying in from all destinations were requested to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
18-Mar	Last Virtu' Ferries service for passengers between Malta and Sicily was operated.
21-Mar	All flights from/to all destinations were suspended.

Sources: Malta Tourism Authority, Virtu Ferries and Transport Malta

Table 1. Profile of inbound tourists by month of departure

Characteristics	March			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 ¹	2020/2019	
Total inbound visitors	167,197	172,971	75,157	-97,813	-56.5
Overnight cruise passengers	-	-	-	-	-
Inbound tourists	167,197	172,971	75,157	-97,813	-56.5
Mode of travel					
Air	164,334	169,579	74,224	-95,354	-56.2
Sea	2,863	3,392	933	-2,459	-72.5
Sex					
Males	83,453	85,514	41,990	-43,523	-50.9
Females	83,745	87,457	33,167	-54,290	-62.1
Age group					
0-24	29,835	26,077	10,863	-15,214	-58.3
25-44	58,245	65,672	29,302	-36,370	-55.4
45-64	54,520	58,520	26,118	-32,402	-55.4
65 or more	24,597	22,702	8,875	-13,827	-60.9
Markets²					
EU	144,345	145,229	40,505	-104,723	-72.1
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	83,883	81,967	31,394	-50,573	-61.7
Non-EU	22,853	27,742	34,652	6,910	24.9
<i>of which: United Kingdom³</i>	n/a	n/a	23,456	n/a	n/a
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	137,504	145,814	64,834	-80,980	-55.5
Business and professional	15,673	16,748	5,360	-11,388	-68.0
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	14,020	10,409	4,963	-5,446	-52.3
Organisation of stay					
Package	66,403	63,592	24,966	-38,626	-60.7
Non-package	100,794	109,378	50,191	-59,187	-54.1
Frequency					
First-time tourists	125,180	125,671	54,647	-71,024	-56.5
Repeat tourists	42,017	47,300	20,511	-26,789	-56.6
once a year or less	29,053	33,401	14,192	-19,209	-57.5
more than once a year	12,965	13,899	6,319	-7,580	-54.5
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	41,487	49,642	26,259	-23,382	-47.1
4-6 nights	54,972	57,472	23,258	-34,215	-59.5
7 nights or more	70,738	65,857	25,640	-40,217	-61.1
Average length of stay (nights)	6.5	6.4	5.9	-0.5	-

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

² Refer to methodological notes 7 and 8.

³ For the United Kingdom figures of 2018 and 2019, refer to the news release: NR069/2019 (https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Documents/2019/News2019_069.pdf).

Notes:

1. n/a: not applicable
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
3. For the purpose of this news release, humanitarian flights are excluded. According to data provided by Malta International Airport, 60 humanitarian flights were operated during March 2020.

Table 2. Inbound tourists by month of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	March			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 ¹	2020/2019	
Rented accommodation	147,282	154,590	66,108	-88,482	-57.2
Collective	117,730	124,297	51,071	-73,226	-58.9
Other rented	29,552	30,293	15,037	-15,256	-50.4
Non-rented accommodation	19,915	18,380	9,049	-9,331	-50.8
Total tourists	167,197	172,971	75,157	-97,813	-56.5

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding

Table 3. Total nights spent by inbound tourists by month of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	March			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 ¹	2020/2019	
Rented accommodation	935,698	959,499	362,568	-596,931	-62.2
Collective	690,095	683,148	261,697	-421,452	-61.7
Other rented	245,603	276,350	100,871	-175,479	-63.5
Non-rented accommodation	152,119	151,775	79,450	-72,324	-47.7
Total nights	1,087,817	1,111,273	442,018	-669,255	-60.2

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding

Table 4. Total expenditure by inbound tourists by month of departure and expenditure category

Expenditure category	March			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 ¹	2020/2019	
Package	37,132	34,825	10,531	-24,294	-69.8
Non-package	36,911	38,557	15,885	-22,672	-58.8
Air/sea fares	17,608	17,563	8,546	-9,017	-51.3
Accommodation	19,303	20,994	7,338	-13,656	-65.0
Other expenditure	41,954	43,147	17,175	-25,972	-60.2
Total expenditure	115,997	116,528	43,591	-72,938	-62.6

€ 000

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

Notes:

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

Table 5. Inbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by month of departure and country of residence

Country of residence ²	March			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 ¹	2020/2019	
Tourists					
EU	144,345	145,229	40,505	-104,723	-72.1
<i>of which:</i>					
France	10,765	12,077	5,766	-6,311	-52.3
Germany	19,518	17,103	4,982	-12,121	-70.9
Italy	27,293	25,486	4,731	-20,754	-81.4
Poland	6,870	6,701	2,709 ^u	-	-
Spain	5,180	6,313	2,638 ^u	-	-
Non-EU	22,853	27,742	34,652	6,910	24.9
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom ³	n/a	n/a	23,456	n/a	n/a
Total	167,197	172,971	75,157	-97,813	-56.5
Nights					
EU	882,698	870,402	222,158	-648,243	-74.5
<i>of which:</i>					
France	62,155	71,851	33,652	-38,199	-53.2
Germany	131,057	119,173	31,351	-87,821	-73.7
Italy	144,191	136,785	34,429	-102,357	-74.8
Poland	40,527	40,161	12,154 ^u	-	-
Spain	28,547	26,985	11,183 ^u	-	-
Non-EU	205,120	240,872	219,860	-21,012	-8.7
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom ³	n/a	n/a	142,305	n/a	n/a
Total	1,087,817	1,111,273	442,018	-669,255	-60.2
Expenditure (€000)					
EU	90,233	86,348	21,243	-65,105	-75.4
<i>of which:</i>					
France	7,190	7,257	3,122	-4,135	-57.0
Germany	14,479	12,665	3,124	-9,541	-75.3
Italy	13,251	12,099	2,018	-10,081	-83.3
Poland	3,279	3,764	1,002 ^u	-	-
Spain	3,041	2,816	1,307 ^u	-	-
Non-EU	25,763	30,180	22,348	-7,833	-26.0
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom ³	n/a	n/a	13,568	n/a	n/a
Total	115,997	116,528	43,591	-72,938	-62.6

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

² Refer to methodological notes 7 and 8.

³ For the United Kingdom figures of 2018 and 2019, refer to the news release: NR069/2019 (https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Documents/2019/News2019_069.pdf)

Notes:

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

Table 6. Profile of inbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 ¹	2020/2019	
Total inbound visitors	414,400	425,892	371,109	-54,783	-12.9
Overnight cruise passengers	-	-	893	893	100.0
Inbound tourists	414,400	425,892	370,216	-55,676	-13.1
Mode of travel					
Air	407,215	417,353	363,343	-54,010	-12.9
Sea	7,185	8,538	6,873	-1,665	-19.5
Sex					
Males	214,410	214,873	194,089	-20,785	-9.7
Females	199,990	211,019	176,127	-34,891	-16.5
Age group					
0-24	66,002	68,442	63,415	-5,027	-7.3
25-44	153,442	169,880	143,399	-26,481	-15.6
45-64	137,986	138,316	125,780	-12,536	-9.1
65 or more	56,971	49,253	37,622	-11,631	-23.6
Markets²					
EU	356,906	359,907	222,489	-137,418	-38.2
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	207,497	206,949	174,523	-32,425	-15.7
Non-EU	57,494	65,985	147,727	81,742	123.9
<i>of which: United Kingdom³</i>	n/a	n/a	88,094	n/a	n/a
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	347,174	364,020	320,897	-43,123	-11.8
Business and professional	41,439	40,985	34,275	-6,710	-16.4
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	25,787	20,886	15,043	-5,843	-28.0
Organisation of stay					
Package	155,581	139,693	108,985	-30,708	-22.0
Non-package	258,820	286,199	261,231	-24,968	-8.7
Frequency					
First-time tourists	304,163	305,567	269,022	-36,545	-12.0
Repeat tourists	110,237	120,325	101,194	-19,131	-15.9
once a year or less	74,933	81,507	69,689	-11,818	-14.5
more than once a year	35,303	38,818	31,505	-7,312	-18.8
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	111,524	129,859	121,427	-8,432	-6.5
4-6 nights	132,543	135,397	121,082	-14,314	-10.6
7 nights or more	170,333	160,636	127,707	-32,929	-20.5
Average length of stay (nights)	6.5	6.6	6.0	-0.6	-

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

² Refer to methodological notes 7 and 8.

³ For the United Kingdom figures of 2018 and 2019, refer to the news release: NR069/2019 (https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Documents/2019/News2019_069.pdf)

Notes:

1. n/a: not applicable
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
3. For the purpose of this news release, humanitarian flights are excluded. According to data provided by Malta International Airport, 60 humanitarian flights were operated during March 2020.

Table 7. Inbound tourists by month of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 ¹	2020/2019	
Rented accommodation	362,804	373,144	324,582	-48,562	-13.0
Collective	296,919	295,637	251,231	-44,406	-15.0
Other rented	65,885	77,507	73,351	-4,156	-5.4
Non-rented accommodation	51,596	52,748	45,634	-7,113	-13.5
Total tourists	414,400	425,892	370,216	-55,676	-13.1

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding

Table 8. Total nights spent by inbound tourists by month of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 ¹	2020/2019	
Rented accommodation	2,228,036	2,302,374	1,831,284	-471,089	-20.5
Collective	1,679,098	1,586,149	1,281,560	-304,588	-19.2
Other rented	548,938	716,225	549,724	-166,501	-23.2
Non-rented accommodation	456,205	495,908	407,942	-87,967	-17.7
Total nights	2,684,241	2,798,282	2,239,226	-559,056	-20.0

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding

Table 9. Inbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by period of departure and country of residence

Country of residence	January-March			Change	Percentage change	
	2018	2019	2020 ¹	2020/2019		
Tourists	Australia	2,847	3,276	2,433 ^u	-	-
	Austria	7,697	4,831	3,295 ^u	-	-
	Belgium	12,984	12,810	11,553	-	-
	France	26,317	30,261	28,266	-1,994	-6.6
	Germany	46,522	38,233	26,610	-11,623	-30.4
	Hungary	3,988	4,689	4,454	-	-
	Ireland	6,778	6,517	7,741	-	-
	Italy	69,627	65,696	44,049	-21,647	-32.9
	Netherlands	9,294	7,317	8,943	1,626	22.2
	Poland	19,810	20,911	19,627	-	-
	Scandinavia ²	15,658	14,897	13,728	-	-
	Spain	11,614	17,892	16,671	-	-
	Switzerland	5,756	5,738	4,699	-	-
	United Kingdom	100,602	101,478	88,094	-13,384	-13.2
	USA	6,227	8,712	7,439	-	-
Other	68,680	82,635	82,613	-	-	
Total	414,400	425,892	370,216	-55,676	-13.1	
Nights	Australia	53,386	30,308	20,572 ^u	-	-
	Austria	46,584	27,053	20,088 ^u	-	-
	Belgium	66,596	78,281	57,407	-	-
	France	156,042	188,554	168,423	-20,131	-10.7
	Germany	313,249	254,553	174,626	-79,926	-31.4
	Hungary	20,785	20,325	20,479	-	-
	Ireland	42,559	42,452	46,739	-	-
	Italy	368,538	387,565	258,722	-128,843	-33.2
	Netherlands	52,824	62,179	45,102	-17,077	-27.5
	Poland	117,204	126,538	110,006	-	-
	Scandinavia ²	112,969	97,245	87,610	-	-
	Spain	57,567	84,587	81,324	-	-
	Switzerland	43,252	37,581	23,751	-	-
	United Kingdom	672,612	642,766	546,013	-96,753	-15.1
	USA	39,031	47,811	45,280	-	-
Other	521,045	670,483	533,082	-	-	
Total	2,684,241	2,798,282	2,239,226	-559,056	-20.0	
Expenditure (€000)	Australia	3,829	4,518	2,757 ^u	-	-
	Austria	6,221	3,315	2,438 ^u	-	-
	Belgium	7,228	6,993	5,861	-	-
	France	17,109	17,767	16,964	-803	-4.5
	Germany	31,874	25,521	17,424	-8,097	-31.7
	Hungary	2,085	2,056	2,011	-	-
	Ireland	4,486	4,452	5,052	-	-
	Italy	33,520	30,483	20,739	-9,744	-32.0
	Netherlands	5,481	4,459	4,783	323	7.2
	Poland	10,278	10,861	9,371	-	-
	Scandinavia ²	12,746	10,966	9,858	-	-
	Spain	6,543	7,428	7,766	-	-
	Switzerland	5,639	4,750	3,466	-	-
	United Kingdom	61,051	61,649	51,259	-10,390	-16.9
	USA	6,308	8,255	7,596	-	-
Other	57,057	68,898	57,241	-	-	
Total	271,456	272,371	224,582	-47,788	-17.5	

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

² 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.

Table 10. Total expenditure of inbound tourists by expenditure category, period of departure and country of residence

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Country of residence	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
January-March 2020¹					
Australia	:	1,134 ^u	430 ^u	933 ^u	2,757^u
Austria	1,121 ^u	293 ^u	:	720 ^u	2,438^u
Belgium	955 ^u	1,153	1,243	2,511	5,861
France	4,752	2,819	3,187	6,207	16,964
Germany	6,121	2,509	2,905	5,888	17,424
Hungary	:	482	464	888	2,011
Ireland	837 ^u	899	1,083	2,232	5,052
Italy	3,166	3,696	4,029	9,848	20,739
Netherlands	786 ^u	1,019	867	2,110	4,783
Poland	2,003	1,871	2,060	3,437	9,371
Scandinavia ²	2,073	2,235	1,712	3,837	9,858
Spain	845 ^u	1,682	1,816	3,423	7,766
Switzerland	913 ^u	688	599 ^u	1,266	3,466
United Kingdom	16,706	7,246	7,390	19,916	51,259
USA	:	3,228	1,748	2,009	7,596
Other	8,963	14,914	10,356	23,007	57,241
Total	50,288	45,869	40,192	88,233	224,582
January-March 2019					
Australia	:	1,710	671 ^u	1,478	4,518
Austria	1,139 ^u	449 ^u	477 ^u	1,249	3,315
Belgium	1,418	1,066	1,676	2,833	6,993
France	5,428	2,490	3,423	6,427	17,767
Germany	10,402	2,799	3,828	8,491	25,521
Hungary	:	373	454 ^u	821	2,056
Ireland	881 ^u	628	847	2,096	4,452
Italy	5,472	4,472	6,213	14,326	30,483
Netherlands	780 ^u	809	1,059	1,811	4,459
Poland	2,782	1,284	1,986	4,809	10,861
Scandinavia ²	2,906	1,958	1,805	4,297	10,966
Spain	1,035	1,103	1,714	3,576	7,428
Switzerland	1,307 ^u	661	961 ^u	1,821	4,750
United Kingdom	20,787	6,779	9,137	24,946	61,649
USA	1,291 ^u	2,389	2,055	2,520	8,255
Other	15,233	14,952	13,090	25,624	68,898
Total	71,927	43,920	49,396	107,127	272,371
January-March 2018					
Australia	:	1,821	462 ^u	1,502	3,829
Austria	3,099	611 ^u	625 ^u	1,886	6,221
Belgium	2,077	980	1,441	2,731	7,228
France	5,997	2,270	3,343	5,499	17,109
Germany	13,596	3,506	4,684	10,089	31,874
Hungary	:	517 ^u	520 ^u	773	2,085
Ireland	1,102 ^u	622	890	1,871	4,486
Italy	7,834	4,697	6,861	14,129	33,520
Netherlands	1,438	981	946	2,116	5,481
Poland	2,163	1,521	2,510	4,085	10,278
Scandinavia ²	3,777	2,371	2,112	4,487	12,746
Spain	1,322	1,329	1,301	2,591	6,543
Switzerland	1,393 ^u	858 ^u	1,518 ^u	1,870	5,639
United Kingdom	20,428	6,877	9,028	24,719	61,051
USA	748 ^u	2,559	1,407	1,593	6,308
Other	13,399	13,090	9,786	20,783	57,057
Total	78,691	44,610	47,432	100,723	271,456

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.¹ Refer to methodological note 6.² 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.

Table 11. Per capita expenditure of inbound tourists by expenditure category, period of departure and country of residence

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Country of residence	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total expenditure per capita
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
January-March 2020¹					
Australia	:	537 ^u	261 ^u	384 ^u	1,133 ^u
Austria	631 ^u	193 ^u	:	218 ^u	740 ^u
Belgium	373 ^u	128	161	217	507
France	453	158	193	220	600
Germany	544	163	211	221	655
Hungary	:	127	130	199	451
Ireland	490 ^u	149	196	288	653
Italy	409	102	153	224	471
Netherlands	310 ^u	159	152	236	535
Poland	353	133	156	175	477
Scandinavia ²	511	231	211	279	718
Spain	324 ^u	120	147	205	466
Switzerland	616 ^u	214	222 ^u	269	737
United Kingdom	422	149	198	226	582
USA	:	465	281	270	1,021
Other	562	223	189	278	693
Total expenditure per capita	461	175	185	238	607
January-March 2019					
Australia	:	577	294 ^u	451	1,379
Austria	520 ^u	170 ^u	189 ^u	259	686
Belgium	454	109	192	221	546
France	460	135	200	212	587
Germany	528	151	235	222	668
Hungary	:	102	143 ^u	175	439
Ireland	403 ^u	145	220	322	683
Italy	401	85	158	218	464
Netherlands	450 ^u	145	239	248	609
Poland	384	93	156	230	519
Scandinavia ²	523	210	239	288	736
Spain	308	76	133	200	415
Switzerland	664 ^u	175	292 ^u	317	828
United Kingdom	472	118	211	246	608
USA	892 ^u	329	309	289	948
Other	750	237	251	310	834
Total expenditure per capita	515	153	209	252	640
January-March 2018					
Australia	:	655	280 ^u	528	1,345
Austria	657	205 ^u	235 ^u	245	808
Belgium	460	115	201	210	557
France	551	146	236	209	650
Germany	529	167	265	217	685
Hungary	:	167 ^u	199 ^u	194	523
Ireland	383 ^u	160	283	276	662
Italy	403	93	179	203	481
Netherlands	409	170	198	228	590
Poland	362	109	198	206	519
Scandinavia ²	587	257	272	287	814
Spain	409	159	184	223	563
Switzerland	577 ^u	246 ^u	565 ^u	325	980
United Kingdom	446	125	222	246	607
USA	543 ^u	528	338	256	1,013
Other	757	256	234	303	831
Total expenditure per capita	506	171	227	243	655

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

² Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Table 12. Profile of overnight cruise¹ passengers by period of departure

Characteristics	January-March ²		
	2018	2019	2020
Total overnight cruise passengers	-	-	893
Sex			
Males	-	-	426
Females	-	-	467
Age group			
0-19	-	-	1
20-39	-	-	19
40-59	-	-	31
60-79	-	-	446
80 or more	-	-	396
Markets³			
EU	-	-	14
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	-	-	11
Non-EU	-	-	879
<i>of which</i> : United Kingdom	-	-	874

¹ In the view of the COVID-19 situation, the last cruise liner call was on 10th March 2020.

² No overnight cruise passengers were recorded for the month of March for the years under review.

³ Refer to methodological notes 7 and 8.

Methodological Notes

1. This release focuses on Inbound Tourism, which comprises of activities of non-resident visitors travelling to Malta (i.e. outside their usual environment) and staying for not more than 12 consecutive months for leisure, business or other (corresponding) purposes.
2. Inbound 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 air passengers is selected systematically. Every crossing air passenger is counted and respondents are selected using a pre-defined interval of 1:20.
3. Tourstat measures the number of tourist trips carried out during a particular reference month. These differ from the number of tourists in that the same person can make more than one trip during the same period.
4. 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 fixed quotas. Survey data is supplemented by administrative data provided by ferry operators.
5. Absolute and percentage changes between one survey estimate and another 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. In view of the COVID-19 situation, the Tourstat survey was suspended on 12 March 2020. Statistical methods were applied to cover the period from 13 March to 20 March 2020, when scheduled passenger flights were still in operation.
7. Owing to the UK's exit from the European Union (with effect from 1st February 2020), UK data is statistically classified as Non-EU from February 2020 in the tables relating to the specific month (Tables 1 and 5), and from January 2020 in the cumulative tables (Tables 6 and 12). Requests for further clarification may be directed to the Tourism and Education Statistics Unit.
8. Due to the UK's re-classification following exit from the European Union on 1st February 2020, comparability between monthly and cumulative tables and also between comparative periods should be treated with caution.
9. The monthly passenger departures data published by the Malta International Airport cannot be equated to the number of inbound tourists, because the former is inclusive of departing Maltese and transit passengers.
10. Data on cruise passengers who spent at least one night berthed on board their cruise ship in Malta ('Overnight Cruise Passengers') is compiled on the basis of administrative records supplied by Transport Malta.
11. Arrivals and nights spent in time-share accommodation are being categorised in 'Non-rented Accommodation' instead of 'Collective Accommodation' as per Eurostat recommendation. In this regard, there may be minor differences in these statistics and statistics published in tourism supply due to the fact that hotels report time-share accommodation under 'Collective Accommodation'.
12. Prior to comparing and interpreting differences between demand-side (based on Tourstat) and supply-side (based on Accomstat) tourism statistics, users are strongly advised to consult concept 8.3 of the NSO's metadata file (<http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=37>).
13. **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, 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 twelve 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:** A visitor who stays at least one night in a rented and non-rented accommodation in the place/country visited.
 - **Inbound tourism:** Comprises the activities of non-resident visitors travelling to Malta (i.e. outside their usual environment) and staying for not more than 12 consecutive months for personal, business or other purposes.
 - **Total nights spent:** Nights which a guest actually spends or is registered to spend in a rented accommodation establishment or in a non-rented accommodation.
 - **Average length of stay:** The number of nights spent divided by the number of trips during a specified reference period.
 - **Rented accommodation:** Consists of the following two sub-categories:
 - a. **Collective accommodation:** comprises hotels, guesthouses, hostels, tourist villages, holiday complex, Bed & Breakfast 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. The total expenditure is broken down by the following expenditure items:
 - a. **Package expenditure:** refers to 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:** is the amount of money spent on transport and accommodation reported separately.
 - c. **Other expenditure:** is the amount spent on shopping, souvenirs, tickets for concerts or sports 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.

14. 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=37>

Statistical database: <http://nso.gov.mt/statdb/start>

15. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.

16. A detailed news release calendar is available on:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx