

Total outbound tourists for the third quarter in 2020 were estimated at 51,855, a decrease of 75.1 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2019.

## Outbound Tourism: Q3/2020

### July-September 2020

During the quarter under review, a total of 16,540 outbound tourist trips were undertaken for holiday purposes, while a further 27,120 were made for visiting friends and relatives (Table 1). Italy remained the most popular destination, with a share of 46.5 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 6).

Total nights spent by outbound tourists decreased by 63.6 per cent, amounting to 553,109 nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights (76.0 per cent) were spent in non-rented accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total estimated expenditure by outbound tourists between July and September decreased by 82.5 per cent over the same quarter of 2019, and stood at €35.2 million, equivalent to an average of €680 per person (Tables 4 and 5).

### January-September 2020

Total outbound tourist trips between January and September 2020 numbered 167,427, a decrease of 67.4 per cent over 2019 (Table 7). Total nights spent by outbound tourists went down by 63.3 per cent, surpassing 1.2 million nights (Table 9). In addition, total estimated outlay by resident tourists stood at €116.6 million, 73.9 per cent lower than that recorded for the same period in 2019 (Table 10) ■

Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

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.
1-Jul	Re-opening of Malta International Airport. The first group of destinations that reopened for travel comprised: Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Spain, Poland, Cyprus, Switzerland, Iceland, Slovakia, Norway, Denmark, Hungary, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Greece and Croatia.
15-Jul	Restrictions on all other flight destinations were lifted.
21-Aug	First cruise liner call since March 2020.

Sources: Malta Tourism Authority, Virtu Ferries, Transport Malta, Valletta Cruise Port

Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	July-September			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019	
<b>Outbound tourists</b>	<b>199,153</b>	<b>208,206</b>	<b>51,855</b>	<b>-156,351</b>	<b>-75.1</b>
<b>Mode and type of travel</b>					
<b>Air</b>	<b>188,691</b>	<b>197,407</b>	<b>45,394</b>	<b>-152,013</b>	<b>-77.0</b>
Low-cost airlines	77,451	85,723	25,982	-59,741	-69.7
Other airlines	111,240	111,684	19,412	-92,271	-82.6
<b>Sea</b>	<b>10,462</b>	<b>10,799</b>	<b>6,460</b>	<b>-4,339</b>	<b>-40.2</b>
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	111,715	112,862	31,207	-81,655	-72.3
Females	87,438	95,344	20,647	-74,696	-78.3
<b>Age group</b>					
0-24	37,663	40,443	8,963	-31,480	-77.8
25-44	87,559	91,578	29,313	-62,265	-68.0
45-64	55,403	57,682	11,541	-46,141	-80.0
65 or more	18,527	18,502	2,038	-16,465	-89.0
<b>Final destination<sup>2</sup></b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>175,821</b>	<b>178,941</b>	<b>44,509</b>	<b>-134,432</b>	<b>-75.1</b>
of which: Euro area	128,507	127,017	39,509	-87,508	-68.9
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>23,332</b>	<b>29,265</b>	<b>7,345</b>	<b>-21,919</b>	<b>-74.9</b>
<b>Purpose of visit</b>					
Holiday	137,170	141,969	16,540	-125,429	-88.3
Visiting relatives and friends	33,726	39,077	27,120	-11,957	-30.6
Business and professional	17,610	18,608	3,770	-14,838	-79.7
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	10,646	8,552	4,425	-4,127	-48.3
<b>Organisation of stay</b>					
Package	48,803	43,929	1,834 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
Non-package	150,350	164,277	50,021	-114,257	-69.6
<b>Duration of visit</b>					
1-3 nights	42,397	42,702	13,341	-29,360	-68.8
4-6 nights	61,377	63,015	10,640	-52,375	-83.1
7 nights or more	95,379	102,489	27,873	-74,616	-72.8
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>-</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological note 7.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to methodological notes 8 and 9.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	July-September			Change 2020/2019	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>151,642</b>	<b>156,156</b>	<b>20,299</b>	<b>-135,858</b>	<b>-87.0</b>
Collective	125,339	119,678	15,864	-103,814	-86.7
Other rented	26,303	36,478	4,435	-32,044	-87.8
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>47,510</b>	<b>52,050</b>	<b>31,556</b>	<b>-20,494</b>	<b>-39.4</b>
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>199,153</b>	<b>208,206</b>	<b>51,855</b>	<b>-156,351</b>	<b>-75.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological note 7.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

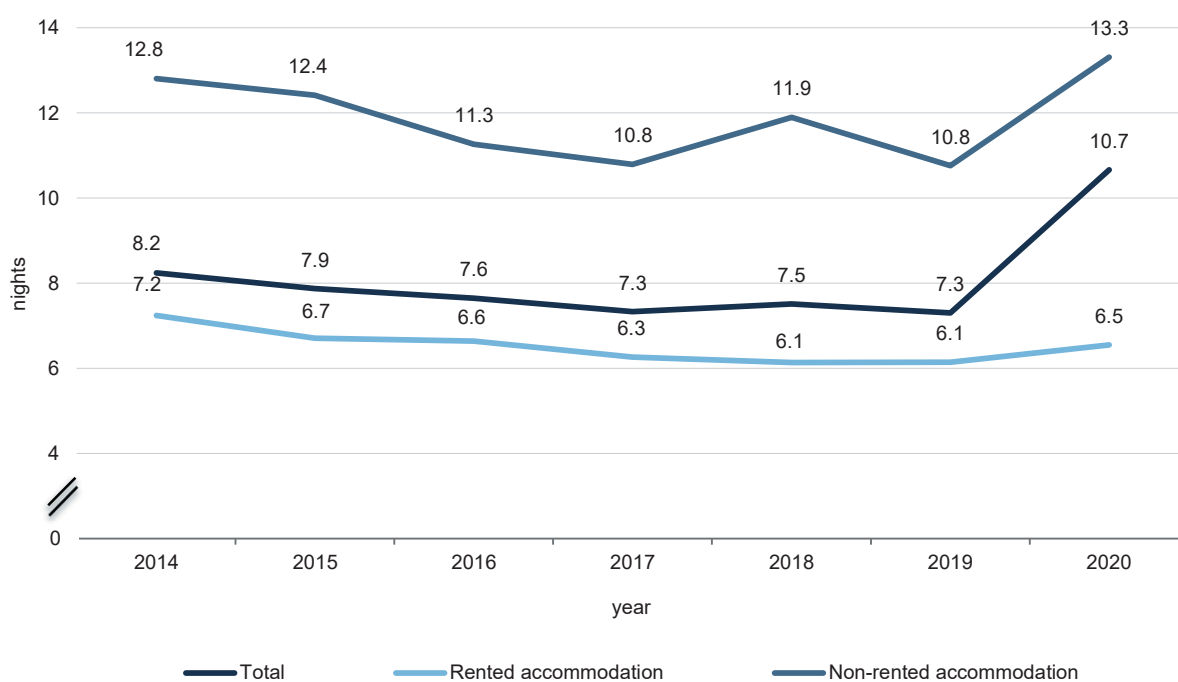
**Table 3. Total nights spent by outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation**

Type of accommodation	July-September			Change 2020/2019	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>931,022</b>	<b>960,171</b>	<b>132,951</b>	<b>-827,220</b>	<b>-86.2</b>
Collective	755,233	698,284	86,489	-611,795	-87.6
Other rented	175,789	261,887	46,462	-215,425	-82.3
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>565,449</b>	<b>560,190</b>	<b>420,157</b>	<b>-140,033</b>	<b>-25.0</b>
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>1,496,471</b>	<b>1,520,361</b>	<b>553,109</b>	<b>-967,253</b>	<b>-63.6</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological note 7.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Chart 1. Average length of stay by type of accommodation: July-September**



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

€000

Expenditure category	July-September			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Package</b>	<b>44,359</b>	<b>38,534</b>	<b>985<sup>u</sup></b>	-	-
<b>Non-package</b>	<b>58,018</b>	<b>68,902</b>	<b>11,745</b>	<b>-57,157</b>	<b>-83.0</b>
Air/sea fares	29,041	33,688	6,437	-27,250	-80.9
Accommodation	28,977	35,214	5,308	-29,907	-84.9
<b>Other expenditure</b>	<b>90,853</b>	<b>94,087</b>	<b>22,519</b>	<b>-71,568</b>	<b>-76.1</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>193,230</b>	<b>201,523</b>	<b>35,249</b>	<b>-166,274</b>	<b>-82.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological note 7.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

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**

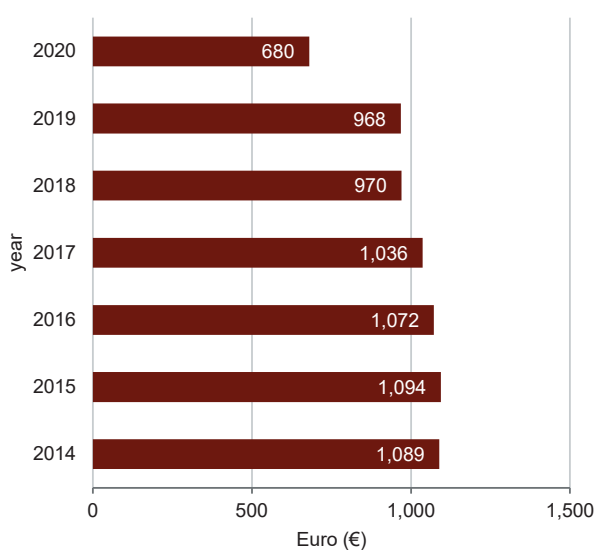
€

Expenditure category	July-September			July-September		
	per capita			per night		
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Package</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>537<sup>u</sup></b>	<b>139</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>145<sup>u</sup></b>
<b>Non-package</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>21</b>
Air/sea fares	193	204	129	25	27	12
Accommodation	279	311	265	46	52	37
<b>Other expenditure</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>64</b>

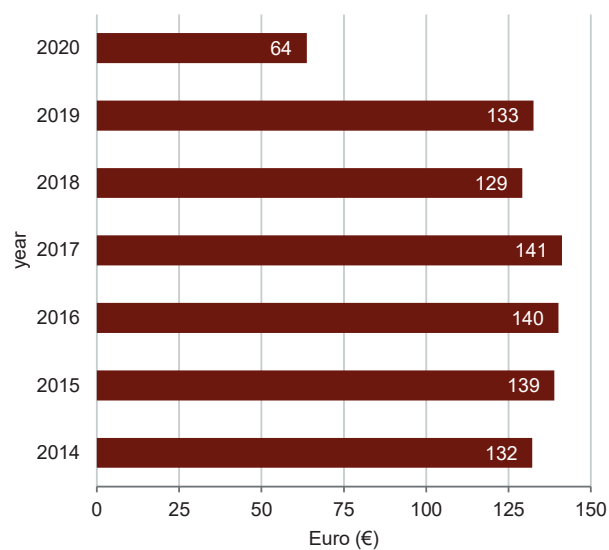
<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological note 7.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

**Chart 2a. Total expenditure per capita by outbound tourists: July-September**



**Chart 2b. Total expenditure per night by outbound tourists: July-September**



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

Final destination <sup>2</sup>	July-September			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019	
<b>Tourists</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>175,821</b>	<b>178,941</b>	<b>44,509</b>	<b>-134,432</b>	<b>-75.1</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	10,326	10,854	2,040	-8,813	-81.2
Germany	14,450	12,769	3,115	-9,654	-75.6
Italy	65,451	61,504	24,125	-37,379	-60.8
Netherlands	4,751	4,327	753 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
Spain	11,676	12,787	2,734	-10,054	-78.6
United Kingdom	27,158	32,354	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>23,332</b>	<b>29,265</b>	<b>7,345</b>	<b>-21,919</b>	<b>-74.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	3,193	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>199,153</b>	<b>208,206</b>	<b>51,855</b>	<b>-156,351</b>	<b>-75.1</b>
<b>Nights</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>1,193,749</b>	<b>1,180,655</b>	<b>411,919</b>	<b>-768,736</b>	<b>-65.1</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	66,645	67,035	22,077	-44,957	-67.1
Germany	105,026	88,220	28,527	-59,693	-67.7
Italy	345,843	343,731	166,384	-177,347	-51.6
Netherlands	30,272	28,430	6,123 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
Spain	77,953	89,149	27,849	-61,301	-68.8
United Kingdom	210,448	227,061	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>302,722</b>	<b>339,706</b>	<b>141,190</b>	<b>-198,517</b>	<b>-58.4</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	57,765	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,496,471</b>	<b>1,520,361</b>	<b>553,109</b>	<b>-967,253</b>	<b>-63.6</b>
<b>Total Expenditure (€000)</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>157,655</b>	<b>157,220</b>	<b>27,882</b>	<b>-129,338</b>	<b>-82.3</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	9,270	9,735	1,650	-8,085	-83.0
Germany	15,191	13,721	2,066	-11,655	-84.9
Italy	48,958	45,578	13,255	-32,323	-70.9
Netherlands	5,486	5,036	464 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
Spain	10,086	12,908	1,526	-11,382	-88.2
United Kingdom	26,936	28,692	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>35,575</b>	<b>44,303</b>	<b>7,368</b>	<b>-36,936</b>	<b>-83.4</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	2,577	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>193,230</b>	<b>201,523</b>	<b>35,249</b>	<b>-166,274</b>	<b>-82.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological note 7.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to methodological notes 8 and 9.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

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.

**Chart 3. Average expenditure per capita by final destination of outbound tourists:  
July-September 2020**

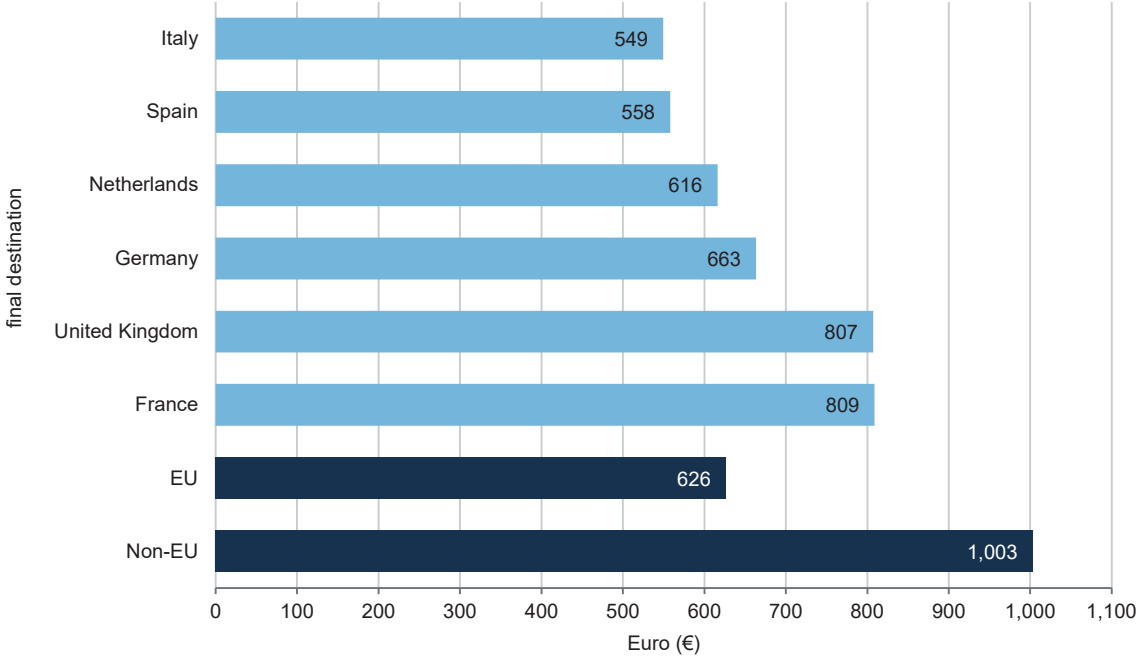


Table 7. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-September			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019	
<b>Outbound tourists</b>	<b>483,044</b>	<b>513,207</b>	<b>167,427</b>	<b>-345,780</b>	<b>-67.4</b>
<b>Mode and type of travel</b>					
<b>Air</b>	<b>460,490</b>	<b>491,025</b>	<b>157,283</b>	<b>-333,742</b>	<b>-68.0</b>
Low-cost airlines	211,690	239,981	90,476	-149,505	-62.3
Other airlines	248,801	251,044	66,807	-184,237	-73.4
<b>Sea</b>	<b>22,554</b>	<b>22,182</b>	<b>10,144</b>	<b>-12,038</b>	<b>-54.3</b>
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	267,542	283,213	96,590	-186,623	-65.9
Females	215,502	229,994	70,838	-159,157	-69.2
<b>Age group</b>					
0-24	81,172	87,800	27,629	-60,171	-68.5
25-44	229,123	245,655	84,986	-160,669	-65.4
45-64	135,174	138,670	44,986	-93,684	-67.6
65 or more	37,574	41,082	9,826	-31,256	-76.1
<b>Final destination<sup>2</sup></b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>427,415</b>	<b>446,867</b>	<b>119,670</b>	<b>-327,197</b>	<b>-73.2</b>
of which: Euro area	300,139	308,451	105,396	-203,055	-65.8
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>55,629</b>	<b>66,341</b>	<b>47,757</b>	<b>-18,584</b>	<b>-28.0</b>
<b>Purpose of visit</b>					
Holiday	292,423	315,008	82,955	-232,052	-73.7
Visiting relatives and friends	99,835	106,237	54,881	-51,356	-48.3
Business and professional	64,367	66,772	21,085	-45,687	-68.4
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	26,420	25,190	8,505	-16,685	-66.2
<b>Organisation of stay</b>					
Package	83,038	75,722	13,227	-62,495	-82.5
Non-package	400,006	437,485	154,200	-283,285	-64.8
<b>Duration of visit</b>					
1-3 nights	139,511	152,400	59,389	-93,011	-61.0
4-6 nights	161,446	165,210	48,841	-116,369	-70.4
7 nights or more	182,086	195,598	59,197	-136,400	-69.7
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to methodological notes 8 and 9.

Notes:

1. Data for the distribution of inbound tourism across age groups (fourth section of the table) for 2018 has been revised.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	January-September			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019	
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>352,062</b>	<b>369,780</b>	<b>97,443</b>	<b>-272,337</b>	<b>-73.6</b>
Collective	295,146	292,993	76,865	-216,128	-73.8
Other rented	56,916	76,787	20,577	-56,209	-73.2
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>130,982</b>	<b>143,428</b>	<b>69,984</b>	<b>-73,443</b>	<b>-51.2</b>
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>483,044</b>	<b>513,207</b>	<b>167,427</b>	<b>-345,780</b>	<b>-67.4</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

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-September			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019	
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>1,951,940</b>	<b>1,993,492</b>	<b>482,815</b>	<b>-1,510,677</b>	<b>-75.8</b>
Collective	1,580,334	1,489,501	349,962	-1,139,539	-76.5
Other rented	371,606	503,991	132,854	-371,137	-73.6
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>1,324,429</b>	<b>1,348,800</b>	<b>743,231</b>	<b>-605,569</b>	<b>-44.9</b>
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>3,276,369</b>	<b>3,342,291</b>	<b>1,226,046</b>	<b>-2,116,245</b>	<b>-63.3</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

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-September			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019	
<b>Package</b>	<b>64,859</b>	<b>59,568</b>	<b>6,579</b>	<b>-52,989</b>	<b>-89.0</b>
<b>Non-package</b>	<b>138,974</b>	<b>162,354</b>	<b>42,864</b>	<b>-119,490</b>	<b>-73.6</b>
Air/sea fares	69,996	81,118	23,888	-57,231	-70.6
Accommodation	68,978	81,235	18,976	-62,259	-76.6
<b>Other expenditure</b>	<b>210,944</b>	<b>224,210</b>	<b>67,138</b>	<b>-157,072</b>	<b>-70.1</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>414,777</b>	<b>446,132</b>	<b>116,581</b>	<b>-329,551</b>	<b>-73.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

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-September					
	per capita			per night		
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Package</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Non-package</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>37</b>
Air/sea fares	175	185	155	25	28	20
Accommodation	254	273	216	47	52	42
<b>Other expenditure</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>95</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

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

Final destination <sup>2</sup>	January-September			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019	
<b>Tourists</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>427,415</b>	<b>446,867</b>	<b>119,670</b>	<b>-327,197</b>	<b>-73.2</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	20,969	21,741	5,997	-15,744	-72.4
Germany	30,066	26,817	9,442	-17,375	-64.8
Italy	158,023	155,991	58,016	-97,975	-62.8
Netherlands	13,093	12,500	3,974	-8,527	-68.2
Spain	27,394	33,691	8,611	-25,080	-74.4
United Kingdom	83,279	93,384	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>55,629</b>	<b>66,341</b>	<b>47,757</b>	<b>-18,584</b>	<b>-28.0</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	26,655	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>483,044</b>	<b>513,207</b>	<b>167,427</b>	<b>-345,780</b>	<b>-67.4</b>
<b>Nights</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>2,584,690</b>	<b>2,590,955</b>	<b>758,892</b>	<b>-1,832,062</b>	<b>-70.7</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	129,719	123,004	40,101	-82,904	-67.4
Germany	202,360	156,767	59,954	-96,813	-61.8
Italy	759,725	784,192	301,225	-482,967	-61.6
Netherlands	77,082	72,923	23,678	-49,245	-67.5
Spain	168,857	196,129	55,633	-140,496	-71.6
United Kingdom	554,506	577,723	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>691,678</b>	<b>751,337</b>	<b>467,154</b>	<b>-284,183</b>	<b>-37.8</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	192,745	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,276,369</b>	<b>3,342,291</b>	<b>1,226,046</b>	<b>-2,116,245</b>	<b>-63.3</b>
<b>Total Expenditure (€000)</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>333,004</b>	<b>347,779</b>	<b>73,390</b>	<b>-274,389</b>	<b>-78.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	17,939	18,251	4,545	-13,706	-75.1
Germany	28,169	24,183	6,292	-17,891	-74.0
Italy	100,883	103,026	31,274	-71,752	-69.6
Netherlands	12,845	12,551	3,089	-9,462	-75.4
Spain	21,457	28,544	4,972	-23,572	-82.6
United Kingdom	71,390	77,406	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>81,773</b>	<b>98,353</b>	<b>43,191</b>	<b>-55,162</b>	<b>-56.1</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	19,606	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>414,777</b>	<b>446,132</b>	<b>116,581</b>	<b>-329,551</b>	<b>-73.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to methodological notes 8 and 9.

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.

## Methodological Notes

1. This release focuses on outbound tourism, which comprises the activities of Maltese residents 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 of 1:20, with the exception of July 2020 where the pre-defined interval was 1:10.
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. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the Tourstat survey was suspended on 12th March 2020. It was assumed that no Maltese residents departed from Malta after 12th March given that airports abroad were suspending flights and in most countries one had to be quarantined upon arrival into the country.
7. Malta International Airport reopened on 1 July 2020. The first group of destinations that reopened for travel comprised: Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Spain, Poland, Cyprus, Switzerland, Iceland, Slovakia, Norway, Denmark, Hungary, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Greece and Croatia. Restrictions on all other flight destinations were lifted on 15 July 2020.
8. 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 January 2020 in all the tables. Requests for further clarification may be directed to the Tourism and Education Statistics Unit.
9. Due to the UK's re-classification following exit from the European Union on 1st February 2020, comparability between comparative periods should be treated with caution.
10. Expenditure data in this release represent the budgeted expenditure of outbound tourists prior to their departure.
11. **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.

12. 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](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>

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

14. A detailed news release calendar is available on:

[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)