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Total inbound visitors for December 2020 were estimated at 12,940, a decrease of 91.1 per cent when compared to the corresponding month in 2019.

## Inbound Tourism: December 2020

During the month under review, a total of 8,525 inbound tourist trips were undertaken for holiday purposes, while a further 2,740 were made for business purposes. Most inbound tourists were aged between 25 and 44 years (46.6 per cent), followed by those within the 45-64 age bracket (25.4 per cent) (Table 1). Italian residents comprised 26.4 per cent of total inbound tourists (Table 5).

Total nights spent went down by 77.2 per cent when compared to December 2019, totalling to 228,180 nights. The largest share of guest nights (51.6 per cent) was spent in non-rented accommodation establishments (Table 3). A general increase in the average length of stay was recorded, especially among tourists staying in other rented and non-rented accommodation (Table 1).

Total tourist expenditure was estimated at €13.2 million, a decrease of 86.6 per cent over the corresponding month in 2019 (Table 4).

### January-December 2020

In 2020, inbound tourist trips totalled to 658,567, a decrease of 76.1 per cent over the same period in 2019 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists decreased by 73.0 per cent, surpassing 5.2 million nights (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure was estimated at €455.1 million, a decrease of 79.5 per cent when compared to the previous year (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita stood at €691, a decrease of 14.4 per cent when compared to 2019 (Table 11) ■

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 in 2020:

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 and Valletta Cruise Port

Table 1. Profile of inbound tourists by month of departure

Characteristics	December			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020	2020/2019	
<b>Total inbound visitors</b>	<b>122,759</b>	<b>144,706</b>	<b>12,940</b>	<b>-131,766</b>	<b>-91.1</b>
Overnight cruise passengers	1,500	-	-	-	-
<b>Inbound tourists</b>	<b>121,259</b>	<b>144,706</b>	<b>12,940</b>	<b>-131,766</b>	<b>-91.1</b>
<b>Mode of travel</b>					
Air	117,758	141,565	11,671	-129,894	-91.8
Sea	3,501	3,141	1,269	-1,872	-59.6
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	61,533	77,024	8,463	-68,561	-89.0
Females	59,727	67,682	4,478	-63,204	-93.4
<b>Age group</b>					
0-24	16,113	22,155	2,702	-19,453	-87.8
25-44	48,627	59,487	6,032	-53,455	-89.9
45-64	40,675	46,910	3,290	-43,621	-93.0
65 or more	15,843	16,154	917 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
<b>Markets<sup>1</sup></b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>101,792</b>	<b>120,689</b>	<b>9,587</b>	<b>-111,102</b>	<b>-92.1</b>
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	60,717	70,696	8,678	-62,017	-87.7
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>19,467</b>	<b>24,017</b>	<b>3,354</b>	<b>-20,664</b>	<b>-86.0</b>
<b>Purpose of visit</b>					
Holiday	105,766	123,721	8,525	-115,196	-93.1
Business and professional	10,332	14,416	2,740	-11,677	-81.0
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	5,161	6,569	1,676	-4,893	-74.5
<b>Organisation of stay</b>					
Package	35,757	38,980	1,051 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
Non-package	85,502	105,726	11,890	-93,837	-88.8
<b>Frequency</b>					
<b>First-time tourists</b>	<b>80,534</b>	<b>98,492</b>	<b>6,209</b>	<b>-92,283</b>	<b>-93.7</b>
<b>Repeat tourists</b>	<b>40,726</b>	<b>46,214</b>	<b>6,731</b>	<b>-39,483</b>	<b>-85.4</b>
once a year or less	22,428	28,674	3,324	-25,349	-88.4
more than once a year	18,298	17,540	3,407	-14,133	-80.6
<b>Duration of visit</b>					
1-3 nights	39,387	49,693	3,372	-46,321	-93.2
4-6 nights	35,244	44,397	2,035	-42,362	-95.4
7 nights or more	46,629	50,616	7,534	-43,083	-85.1
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>-</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 8 and 9.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	December			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020	2020/2019	
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>98,939</b>	<b>123,411</b>	<b>7,790</b>	<b>-115,621</b>	<b>-93.7</b>
Collective	77,706	89,985	5,279	-84,706	-94.1
Other rented	21,233	33,426	2,511	-30,915	-92.5
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>22,320</b>	<b>21,295</b>	<b>5,151</b>	<b>-16,144</b>	<b>-75.8</b>
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>121,259</b>	<b>144,706</b>	<b>12,940</b>	<b>-131,766</b>	<b>-91.1</b>

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	December			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020	2020/2019	
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>724,212</b>	<b>825,041</b>	<b>110,530</b>	<b>-714,511</b>	<b>-86.6</b>
Collective	429,270	471,935	38,234	-433,701	-91.9
Other rented	294,942	353,106	72,296	-280,811	-79.5
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>146,326</b>	<b>176,822</b>	<b>117,650</b>	<b>-59,172</b>	<b>-33.5</b>
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>870,538</b>	<b>1,001,863</b>	<b>228,180</b>	<b>-773,684</b>	<b>-77.2</b>

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

€ 000

Expenditure category	December			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020	2020/2019	
<b>Package</b>	<b>19,243</b>	<b>20,761</b>	<b>967<sup>u</sup></b>	-	-
<b>Non-package</b>	<b>28,062</b>	<b>39,655</b>	<b>5,412</b>	<b>-34,242</b>	<b>-86.4</b>
Air/sea fares	13,774	20,308	2,809	-17,499	-86.2
Accommodation	14,288	19,346	2,603	-16,743	-86.5
<b>Other expenditure</b>	<b>31,024</b>	<b>37,843</b>	<b>6,794</b>	<b>-31,049</b>	<b>-82.0</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>78,329</b>	<b>98,259</b>	<b>13,173</b>	<b>-85,085</b>	<b>-86.6</b>

<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. Inbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by month of departure and country of residence**

Country of residence <sup>1</sup>	December			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020	2020/2019	
<b>Tourists</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>101,792</b>	<b>120,689</b>	<b>9,587</b>	<b>-111,102</b>	<b>-92.1</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	8,248	11,509	1,982	-9,527	-82.8
Germany	12,063	10,198	979 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
Italy	19,649	21,038	3,411	-17,627	-83.8
Poland	5,120	7,001	:	-	-
Spain	5,598	7,379	:	-	-
United Kingdom	29,155	32,695	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>19,467</b>	<b>24,017</b>	<b>3,354</b>	<b>-20,664</b>	<b>-86.0</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	1,344 <sup>u</sup>	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,259</b>	<b>144,706</b>	<b>12,940</b>	<b>-131,766</b>	<b>-91.1</b>
<b>Nights</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>714,660</b>	<b>748,850</b>	<b>144,504</b>	<b>-604,345</b>	<b>-80.7</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	68,405	81,267	32,772	-48,495	-59.7
Germany	77,562	68,378	12,536 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
Italy	142,624	126,474	51,809	-74,665	-59.0
Poland	28,796	36,309	:	-	-
Spain	47,346	46,630	:	-	-
United Kingdom	201,680	200,623	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>155,879</b>	<b>253,014</b>	<b>83,675</b>	<b>-169,339</b>	<b>-66.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	25,227 <sup>u</sup>	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>870,538</b>	<b>1,001,863</b>	<b>228,180</b>	<b>-773,684</b>	<b>-77.2</b>
<b>Expenditure (€000)</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>60,264</b>	<b>72,111</b>	<b>8,437</b>	<b>-63,675</b>	<b>-88.3</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	5,586	7,663	2,007	-5,655	-73.8
Germany	8,474	7,089	964 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
Italy	9,039	10,639	2,283	-8,356	-78.5
Poland	2,463	3,526	:	-	-
Spain	3,566	3,872	:	-	-
United Kingdom	18,352	21,085	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>18,065</b>	<b>26,147</b>	<b>4,737</b>	<b>-21,411</b>	<b>-81.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	1,458 <sup>u</sup>	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,329</b>	<b>98,259</b>	<b>13,173</b>	<b>-85,085</b>	<b>-86.6</b>

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

<sup>1</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.

**Table 6. Profile of inbound tourists by period of departure**

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019	
<b>Total inbound visitors</b>	<b>2,633,919</b>	<b>2,771,888</b>	<b>659,513</b>	<b>-2,112,376</b>	<b>-76.2</b>
Overnight cruise passengers	35,229	18,649	946	-17,703	-94.9
<b>Inbound tourists</b>	<b>2,598,690</b>	<b>2,753,239</b>	<b>658,567</b>	<b>-2,094,673</b>	<b>-76.1</b>
<b>Mode of travel</b>					
Air	2,551,685	2,702,028	639,987	-2,062,040	-76.3
Sea	47,005	51,212	18,579	-32,633	-63.7
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	1,300,684	1,368,550	351,402	-1,017,148	-74.3
Females	1,298,006	1,384,689	307,164	-1,077,525	-77.8
<b>Age group</b>					
0-24	475,417	544,597	145,789	-398,808	-73.2
25-44	1,005,901	1,101,842	272,746	-829,096	-75.2
45-64	826,732	826,816	190,396	-636,420	-77.0
65 or more	290,639	279,984	49,635	-230,349	-82.3
<b>Markets<sup>2</sup></b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>2,202,214</b>	<b>2,301,601</b>	<b>449,422</b>	<b>-1,852,179</b>	<b>-80.5</b>
<i>of which:</i> Euro area	1,265,168	1,335,480	363,513	-971,966	-72.8
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>396,476</b>	<b>451,639</b>	<b>209,144</b>	<b>-242,494</b>	<b>-53.7</b>
<b>Purpose of visit</b>					
Holiday	2,291,628	2,448,146	581,722	-1,866,424	-76.2
Business and professional	180,279	189,086	50,133	-138,954	-73.5
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	126,783	116,007	26,712	-89,295	-77.0
<b>Organisation of stay</b>					
Package	886,606	818,014	161,078	-656,936	-80.3
Non-package	1,712,084	1,935,226	497,489	-1,437,737	-74.3
<b>Frequency</b>					
<b>First-time tourists</b>	<b>1,912,486</b>	<b>2,056,139</b>	<b>465,565</b>	<b>-1,590,574</b>	<b>-77.4</b>
<b>Repeat tourists</b>	<b>686,203</b>	<b>697,100</b>	<b>193,002</b>	<b>-504,099</b>	<b>-72.3</b>
once a year or less	498,012	514,791	128,808	-385,982	-75.0
more than once a year	188,191	182,310	64,193	-118,116	-64.8
<b>Duration of visit</b>					
1-3 nights	537,404	600,879	161,821	-439,057	-73.1
4-6 nights	746,006	821,265	189,588	-631,676	-76.9
7 nights or more	1,315,280	1,331,096	307,157	-1,023,939	-76.9
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-</b>

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

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

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table 7. Inbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation**

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019	
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>2,265,877</b>	<b>2,424,123</b>	<b>552,737</b>	<b>-1,871,385</b>	<b>-77.2</b>
Collective	1,651,398	1,709,966	407,938	-1,302,028	-76.1
Other rented	614,480	714,157	144,800	-569,357	-79.7
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>332,812</b>	<b>329,117</b>	<b>105,829</b>	<b>-223,288</b>	<b>-67.8</b>
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>2,598,690</b>	<b>2,753,239</b>	<b>658,567</b>	<b>-2,094,673</b>	<b>-76.1</b>

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

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019	
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>15,511,213</b>	<b>16,230,780</b>	<b>3,760,383</b>	<b>-12,470,397</b>	<b>-76.8</b>
Collective	10,081,852	10,068,632	2,361,970	-7,706,662	-76.5
Other rented	5,429,361	6,162,148	1,398,413	-4,763,734	-77.3
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>3,058,503</b>	<b>3,108,080</b>	<b>1,466,846</b>	<b>-1,641,234</b>	<b>-52.8</b>
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>18,569,716</b>	<b>19,338,860</b>	<b>5,227,229</b>	<b>-14,111,631</b>	<b>-73.0</b>

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

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-December			Change	Percentage change	
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019		
<b>Tourists</b>	Australia	45,859	49,807	2,806	-47,001	-94.4
	Austria	39,029	33,251	11,667	-21,584	-64.9
	Belgium	70,191	70,886	19,015	-51,871	-73.2
	France	213,299	239,140	70,875	-168,265	-70.4
	Germany	226,962	211,546	72,470	-139,076	-65.7
	Hungary	28,294	37,976	9,683	-28,294	-74.5
	Ireland	40,721	53,089	13,164	-39,925	-75.2
	Italy	390,607	392,955	93,977	-298,978	-76.1
	Netherlands	57,355	59,528	14,702	-44,826	-75.3
	Poland	96,362	104,228	40,647	-63,580	-61.0
	Scandinavia <sup>2</sup>	128,320	124,411	18,271	-106,140	-85.3
	Spain	99,046	116,295	27,480	-88,815	-76.4
	Switzerland	45,572	48,954	9,794	-39,160	-80.0
	United Kingdom	640,570	649,624	135,944	-513,680	-79.1
	USA	47,170	50,525	8,612	-41,914	-83.0
	Other	429,334	511,025	109,461	-401,564	-78.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,598,690</b>	<b>2,753,239</b>	<b>658,567</b>	<b>-2,094,673</b>	<b>-76.1</b>
<b>Nights</b>	Australia	472,067	477,105	26,007	-451,097	-94.5
	Austria	258,587	199,710	87,609	-112,101	-56.1
	Belgium	431,321	458,266	123,713	-334,554	-73.0
	France	1,665,788	1,768,292	528,201	-1,240,090	-70.1
	Germany	1,672,231	1,519,440	576,003	-943,437	-62.1
	Hungary	183,285	226,736	53,175	-173,561	-76.5
	Ireland	307,559	347,940	87,516	-260,425	-74.8
	Italy	2,411,465	2,524,847	980,009	-1,544,838	-61.2
	Netherlands	425,436	433,665	102,027	-331,638	-76.5
	Poland	630,548	687,924	269,083	-418,841	-60.9
	Scandinavia <sup>2</sup>	941,335	881,690	160,527	-721,163	-81.8
	Spain	638,030	726,039	175,533	-550,506	-75.8
	Switzerland	324,967	352,216	80,892	-271,324	-77.0
	United Kingdom	4,611,841	4,439,274	1,036,765	-3,402,509	-76.6
	USA	286,258	313,337	71,603	-241,734	-77.1
	Other	3,308,998	3,982,379	868,566	-3,113,813	-78.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,569,716</b>	<b>19,338,860</b>	<b>5,227,229</b>	<b>-14,111,631</b>	<b>-73.0</b>
<b>Expenditure (€000)</b>	Australia	71,262	74,823	3,015	-71,808	-96.0
	Austria	31,278	27,622	9,345	-18,277	-66.2
	Belgium	52,044	51,517	11,730	-39,787	-77.2
	France	172,237	192,285	51,536	-140,749	-73.2
	Germany	191,776	175,592	56,685	-118,907	-67.7
	Hungary	16,581	21,639	4,803	-16,836	-77.8
	Ireland	35,476	46,144	10,120	-36,025	-78.1
	Italy	233,112	236,400	52,788	-183,612	-77.7
	Netherlands	47,455	46,880	9,482	-37,398	-79.8
	Poland	59,504	69,433	22,998	-46,436	-66.9
	Scandinavia <sup>2</sup>	118,185	112,252	15,273	-96,979	-86.4
	Spain	65,048	76,015	14,266	-61,749	-81.2
	Switzerland	47,865	50,585	10,284	-40,301	-79.7
	United Kingdom	517,306	514,388	92,239	-422,148	-82.1
	USA	56,351	58,579	9,584	-48,995	-83.6
	Other	386,285	466,473	80,961	-385,512	-82.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,101,765</b>	<b>2,220,627</b>	<b>455,108</b>	<b>-1,765,518</b>	<b>-79.5</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 10. Total expenditure of inbound tourists by expenditure category, period of departure and country of residence**

€ 000

Country of residence	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
<b>January-December 2020<sup>1</sup></b>					
Australia	:	1,167	500	1,082	<b>3,015</b>
Austria	2,401	1,192	1,958	3,794	<b>9,345</b>
Belgium	2,012	1,909	2,691	5,118	<b>11,730</b>
France	12,086	7,342	10,989	21,118	<b>51,536</b>
Germany	15,426	7,902	11,267	22,089	<b>56,685</b>
Hungary	:	966	1,237	2,228	<b>4,803</b>
Ireland	1,227 <sup>u</sup>	1,604	2,649	4,639	<b>10,120</b>
Italy	6,147	8,015	11,480	27,146	<b>52,788</b>
Netherlands	1,206	1,802	1,928	4,546	<b>9,482</b>
Poland	4,293	3,980	5,313	9,412	<b>22,998</b>
Scandinavia <sup>2</sup>	2,888	3,198	2,954	6,233	<b>15,273</b>
Spain	1,411	2,700	3,356	6,798	<b>14,266</b>
Switzerland	2,094 <sup>u</sup>	1,289	2,193	4,708	<b>10,284</b>
United Kingdom	22,056	13,496	17,270	39,417	<b>92,239</b>
USA	:	3,832	2,138	2,971	<b>9,584</b>
Other	11,849	19,576	15,576	33,960	<b>80,961</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,379</b>	<b>79,970</b>	<b>93,498</b>	<b>195,261</b>	<b>455,108</b>
<b>January-December 2019</b>					
Australia	7,635	26,698	14,264	26,226	<b>74,823</b>
Austria	9,577	3,539	5,592	8,913	<b>27,622</b>
Belgium	12,282	7,805	12,328	19,102	<b>51,517</b>
France	55,632	29,191	41,998	65,464	<b>192,285</b>
Germany	67,323	23,002	31,173	54,094	<b>175,592</b>
Hungary	2,704	4,254	5,854	8,827	<b>21,639</b>
Ireland	9,653	7,337	10,297	18,857	<b>46,144</b>
Italy	39,108	38,163	54,079	105,050	<b>236,400</b>
Netherlands	11,853	7,514	9,567	17,946	<b>46,880</b>
Poland	16,231	10,736	15,426	27,041	<b>69,433</b>
Scandinavia <sup>2</sup>	31,668	18,383	21,126	41,074	<b>112,252</b>
Spain	16,088	12,837	17,556	29,533	<b>76,015</b>
Switzerland	14,214	7,742	11,149	17,480	<b>50,585</b>
United Kingdom	168,406	67,512	92,180	186,290	<b>514,388</b>
USA	7,777	21,075	13,068	16,660	<b>58,579</b>
Other	88,591	111,162	97,689	169,031	<b>466,473</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>558,740</b>	<b>396,951</b>	<b>453,347</b>	<b>811,589</b>	<b>2,220,627</b>
<b>January-December 2018</b>					
Australia	8,089	25,198	11,374	26,601	<b>71,262</b>
Austria	11,870	3,995	5,187	10,226	<b>31,278</b>
Belgium	15,924	6,853	10,686	18,581	<b>52,044</b>
France	57,291	24,470	34,211	56,265	<b>172,237</b>
Germany	81,252	22,050	30,760	57,714	<b>191,776</b>
Hungary	3,323	3,066	3,552	6,640	<b>16,581</b>
Ireland	7,402	5,678	7,649	14,746	<b>35,476</b>
Italy	51,552	31,833	48,836	100,891	<b>233,112</b>
Netherlands	14,833	6,023	7,821	18,777	<b>47,455</b>
Poland	11,807	9,331	14,120	24,246	<b>59,504</b>
Scandinavia <sup>2</sup>	37,336	19,102	19,945	41,801	<b>118,185</b>
Spain	14,086	9,466	15,165	26,332	<b>65,048</b>
Switzerland	14,429	7,364	9,249	16,824	<b>47,865</b>
United Kingdom	187,525	63,429	80,075	186,277	<b>517,306</b>
USA	8,589	20,355	11,370	16,037	<b>56,351</b>
Other	83,362	83,502	74,690	144,732	<b>386,285</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>608,671</b>	<b>341,715</b>	<b>384,690</b>	<b>766,688</b>	<b>2,101,765</b>

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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**

€

Country of residence	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total expenditure per capita
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
<b>January-December 2020<sup>1</sup></b>					
Australia	:	470	252	386	<b>1,074</b>
Austria	625	152	275	325	<b>801</b>
Belgium	564	124	208	269	<b>617</b>
France	571	147	244	298	<b>727</b>
Germany	657	161	264	305	<b>782</b>
Hungary	:	111	163	230	<b>496</b>
Ireland	531 <sup>u</sup>	147	275	352	<b>769</b>
Italy	444	100	218	289	<b>562</b>
Netherlands	367	158	213	309	<b>645</b>
Poland	448	128	186	232	<b>566</b>
Scandinavia <sup>2</sup>	607	237	274	341	<b>836</b>
Spain	416	112	165	247	<b>519</b>
Switzerland	775 <sup>u</sup>	182	366	481	<b>1,050</b>
United Kingdom	461	153	270	290	<b>679</b>
USA	:	476	308	345	<b>1,113</b>
Other	610	217	215	310	<b>740</b>
<b>Total expenditure per capita</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>691</b>
<b>January-December 2019</b>					
Australia	1,033	620	393	527	<b>1,502</b>
Austria	722	174	304	268	<b>831</b>
Belgium	694	146	259	269	<b>727</b>
France	693	183	286	274	<b>804</b>
Germany	712	196	306	256	<b>830</b>
Hungary	441	133	215	232	<b>570</b>
Ireland	625	195	312	355	<b>869</b>
Italy	515	120	215	267	<b>602</b>
Netherlands	634	184	274	301	<b>788</b>
Poland	542	144	227	259	<b>666</b>
Scandinavia <sup>2</sup>	724	228	314	330	<b>902</b>
Spain	567	145	219	254	<b>654</b>
Switzerland	895	233	377	357	<b>1,033</b>
United Kingdom	657	171	305	287	<b>792</b>
USA	1,092	485	344	330	<b>1,159</b>
Other	825	274	284	331	<b>913</b>
<b>Total expenditure per capita</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>807</b>
<b>January-December 2018</b>					
Australia	1,320	631	359	580	<b>1,554</b>
Austria	701	181	269	262	<b>801</b>
Belgium	696	144	263	265	<b>741</b>
France	724	181	282	264	<b>807</b>
Germany	728	190	306	254	<b>845</b>
Hungary	509	141	240	235	<b>586</b>
Ireland	586	202	329	362	<b>871</b>
Italy	518	109	214	258	<b>597</b>
Netherlands	608	183	278	327	<b>827</b>
Poland	479	129	222	252	<b>618</b>
Scandinavia <sup>2</sup>	715	250	314	326	<b>921</b>
Spain	549	128	233	266	<b>657</b>
Switzerland	855	254	371	369	<b>1,050</b>
United Kingdom	683	173	298	291	<b>808</b>
USA	1,145	510	334	340	<b>1,195</b>
Other	792	257	279	337	<b>900</b>
<b>Total expenditure per capita</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>809</b>

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

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

<sup>2</sup> Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

**Table 12. Profile of overnight cruise passengers by month of departure**

Characteristics	December		
	2018	2019	2020
<b>Total overnight cruise passengers</b>	<b>1,500</b>	-	-
<b>Sex</b>			
Males	719	-	-
Females	781	-	-
<b>Age group</b>			
0-19	237	-	-
20-39	234	-	-
40-59	404	-	-
60-79	395	-	-
80 or more	230	-	-
<b>Markets<sup>1</sup></b>			
EU	624	-	-
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	54	-	-
Non-EU	876	-	-

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 8 and 9.

**Table 13. Profile of overnight cruise passengers by period of departure**

Characteristics	January-December		
	2018	2019	2020
<b>Total overnight cruise passengers</b>	<b>35,229</b>	<b>18,649</b>	<b>946</b>
<b>Sex</b>			
Males	16,133	8,594	452
Females	19,096	10,055	494
<b>Age group</b>			
0-19	1,400	944	1
20-39	2,272	1,303	19
40-59	8,264	4,108	43
60-79	20,919	10,748	480
80 or more	2,374	1,546	403
<b>Markets<sup>1</sup></b>			
EU	<b>17,757</b>	<b>10,150</b>	<b>65</b>
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	6,684	7,077	62
Non-EU	<b>17,472</b>	<b>8,499</b>	<b>881</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 8 and 9.

## 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, with the exception of July, October, November and December 2020 where the pre-defined interval was 1:10.
- 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 between 12 March and 30 June 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 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 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.
- 9 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.
- 10 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.
- 11 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.
- 12 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'.
- 13 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 15.4 of the NSO's metadata file (<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=37#>).
- 14 Data included in this release are based on sample data and are therefore subject to sampling error. Sampling error is measured by a quantity known as the margin of error, which in turn, expresses the variability between the true population parameters and their corresponding sample estimates. In the table below, the margin of error is used to construct a set of 95 per cent confidence intervals for the main indicators, which gives an indication of where the true population parameters lie.

**Sampling variability of inbound tourism figures**

	Estimate	Margin of error	95% confidence interval
Inbound tourists	12,940	1,379	12,940 ± 1,379
Total nights	228,180	36,739	228,180 ± 36,739
Total expenditure (€ 000)	13,173	1,635	13,173 ± 1,635

### 15 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.

15 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: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>

Metadata: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=37>

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

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

17 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)