

24 February 2021 | 1100 hrs | 035/2021

Total guests and nights spent in collective accommodation establishments during the fourth quarter of 2020 decreased by 75.6 per cent and 79.2 per cent respectively when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2019.

Collective Accommodation Establishments: Q4/2020

Cut-off date:
19 February 2021

In the fourth quarter of 2020, total guests in collective accommodation establishments numbered 118,482, while total nights stood at 459,381. The largest share of guest nights was reported in 4-star hotels with 39.6 per cent of the total (Tables 1 and 2).

The average length of stay in collective accommodation establishments went down to 3.9 nights in the fourth quarter of 2020 from the average of 4.5 nights registered during the same quarter of 2019. The net use of bed-places stood at 13.4 per cent, down by 43.7 percentage points when compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year (Table 3).

On a national level, during December 2020, there were 176 active collective accommodation establishments with a net capacity of 15,308 bedrooms and 35,419 bed-places (Table 4).

Regional breakdown

On a regional level, total guests in Malta numbered 105,360, down by 77.3 per cent over the fourth quarter of 2019. Additionally, a decrease of 79.9 per cent was recorded in the number of nights spent. Total guests and nights in Gozo and Comino decreased by 38.3 per cent and 55.4 per cent, to 13,122 and 28,501 respectively (Tables 1 and 2).

When compared with the same quarter of the previous year, in Malta, the average length of stay went down by 0.5 of a night to 4.1 nights. In Gozo and Comino the average length of stay also decreased by 0.8 of a night to 2.2 nights. The net occupancy rate in Malta decreased by 44.9 percentage points, reaching 13.2 per cent, and that in Gozo and Comino decreased by 18.6 percentage points to 18.4 per cent (Table 3).

January-December 2020

Total guests in 2020 amounted to 705,337, a decrease of 65.1 per cent over the same period in 2019 (Table 1). Total nights spent went down by 70.3 per cent, surpassing 2.9 million (Table 2). The net use of bed-places declined by 40.3 percentage points to 25.4 per cent (Table 3) ■

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

Total guests and nights spent (residents and non-residents)

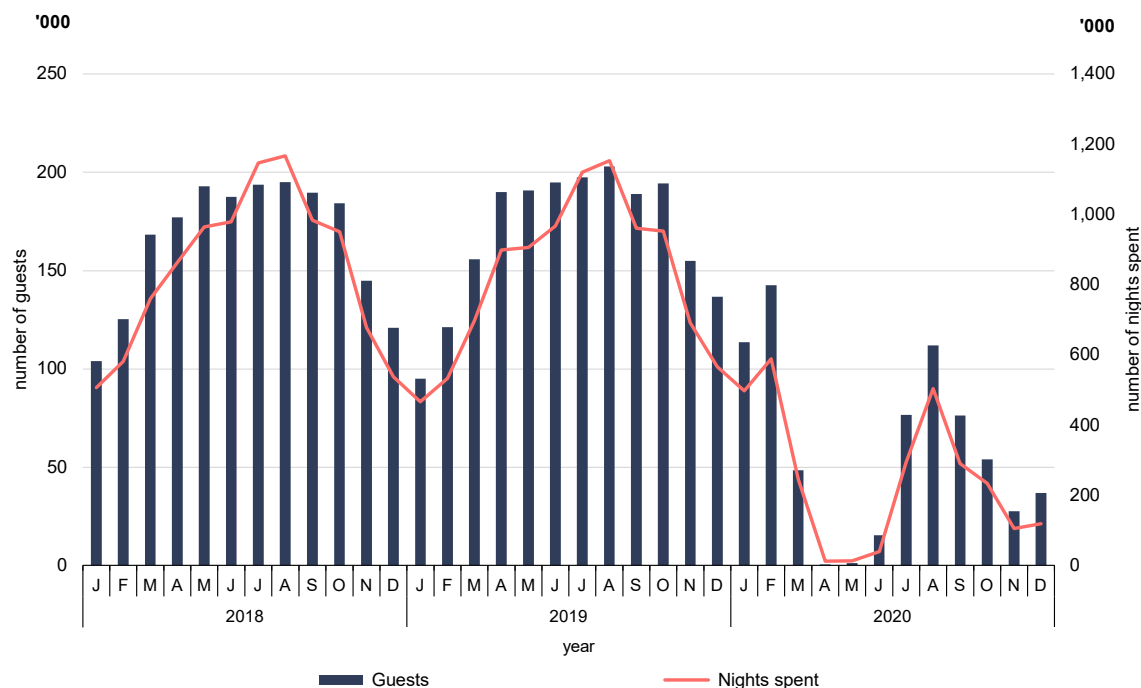


Table 1. Total guests (residents and non-residents) by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	July-September 2020 ^{1,2}	October-December		January-December	
		2019	2020 ²	2019	2020 ²
MALTA					
Hotel	241,853	447,893	107,348	1,874,959	646,451
5 Star	50,020	100,100	26,744	399,094	137,280
4 Star	124,694	217,881	50,867	919,220	331,082
3 Star	61,546	114,970	26,639	497,553	159,886
2 Star	5,593	14,942	3,098	59,092	18,203
Other collective accommodation³	23,273	38,396	11,134	147,953	58,886
Total	265,126	486,289	118,482	2,022,912	705,337
Malta					
Hotel	220,196	428,813	95,237	1,786,318	599,829
<i>of which:</i>					
5 Star	42,980	94,465	22,211	374,119	121,965
4 Star	115,653	211,046	46,646	888,835	313,100
3 Star	57,616	109,603	24,411	469,393	150,483
Other collective accommodation³	20,477	36,209	10,123	137,520	53,314
Total	240,673	465,022	105,360	1,923,838	653,143
Gozo and Comino					
Hotel	21,657	19,080	12,111	88,641	46,622
<i>of which:</i>					
5 Star	7,040	5,635	4,533	24,975	15,315
4 Star	9,041	6,835	4,221	30,385	17,982
3 Star	3,930	5,367	2,228	28,160	9,403
Other collective accommodation³	2,796	2,187	1,011	10,433	5,572
Total	24,453	21,267	13,122	99,074	52,194

¹ Revised.

² Refer to methodological note 7.

³ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Note: Monthly tables available on the excel version of this news release (Table 1a):

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Pages/Collective-Accommodation-Establishments.aspx

Table 2. Total nights spent (residents and non-residents) by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	July-September 2020 ^{1,2}	October-December		January-December	
		2019	2020 ²	2019	2020 ²
MALTA					
Hotel	1,003,200	2,045,343	414,802	9,190,590	2,703,835
5 Star	191,566	358,668	80,447	1,567,644	471,366
4 Star	521,944	1,072,194	181,929	4,841,789	1,400,854
3 Star	263,482	538,965	134,414	2,476,372	723,918
2 Star	26,208	75,516	18,012	304,785	107,697
Other collective accommodation³	85,766	166,275	44,579	720,692	240,683
Total	1,088,966	2,211,618	459,381	9,911,282	2,944,518
Malta					
Hotel	944,133	1,987,247	388,767	8,899,593	2,584,497
<i>of which:</i>					
5 Star	168,885	343,427	70,544	1,493,173	426,628
4 Star	497,835	1,047,754	171,756	4,721,566	1,353,205
3 Star	254,407	522,988	130,325	2,391,263	704,090
Other collective accommodation³	78,022	160,535	42,113	691,065	227,057
Total	1,022,155	2,147,782	430,880	9,590,658	2,811,554
Gozo and Comino					
Hotel	59,067	58,096	26,035	290,997	119,338
<i>of which:</i>					
5 Star	22,681	15,241	9,903	74,471	44,738
4 Star	24,109	24,440	10,173	120,223	47,649
3 Star	9,075	15,977	4,089	85,109	19,828
Other collective accommodation³	7,744	5,740	2,466	29,627	13,626
Total	66,811	63,836	28,501	320,624	132,964

¹ Revised.

² Refer to methodological note 7.

³ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Note: Monthly tables available on the excel version of this news release (Table 2a):

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Pages/Collective-Accommodation-Establishments.aspx

Table 3. Net use of bed-places by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	July-September 2020 ^{1,2}	per cent			
		October-December		January-December	
		2019	2020 ²	2019	2020 ²
MALTA					
Hotel	30.7	58.7	13.5	67.3	26.0
5 Star	32.2	61.1	12.6	67.6	22.4
4 Star	33.8	62.8	12.8	70.4	29.8
3 Star	26.2	51.6	15.0	63.0	22.7
2 Star	22.4	52.8	17.3	58.3	26.7
Other collective accommodation³	23.5	42.7	12.5	50.1	19.9
Total	30.0	57.1	13.4	65.7	25.4
Malta					
Hotel	30.2	59.6	13.2	68.1	25.9
<i>of which:</i>					
5 Star	30.5	63.0	11.8	68.9	21.6
4 Star	33.7	63.8	12.6	71.3	30.2
3 Star	25.7	51.6	14.7	63.2	22.4
Other collective accommodation³	23.5	44.2	12.8	51.8	20.2
Total	29.5	58.1	13.2	66.6	25.3
Gozo and Comino					
Hotel	44.6	39.7	20.1	49.4	28.5
<i>of which:</i>					
5 Star	54.2	36.4	23.7	49.0	34.4
4 Star	36.2	36.7	15.3	46.7	22.3
3 Star	56.6	53.5	31.7	57.0	38.9
Other collective accommodation³	24.4	21.8	9.5	28.6	15.9
Total	40.7	37.0	18.4	46.3	26.4

¹ Revised.

² Refer to methodological note 7.

³ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Note: Monthly tables available on the excel version of this news release (Table 3a):

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Pages/Collective-Accommodation-Establishments.aspx

Table 4. Number of establishments, net bedrooms and net bed-places by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	December					
	Establishments		Bedrooms		Bed-places	
	2019 ¹	2020	2019 ¹	2020	2019 ¹	2020
MALTA						
Hotel	125	101	16,969	13,972	38,280	31,638
5 Star	14	15	3,196	3,375	6,377	7,030
4 Star	42	36	8,019	6,247	18,444	14,244
3 Star	49	38	5,028	3,887	11,821	9,312
2 Star	20	12	726	463	1,638	1,052
Other collective accommodation²	92	75	1,559	1,336	4,337	3,781
Total	217	176	18,528	15,308	42,617	35,419
Malta						
Hotel	112	89	16,274	13,313	36,797	30,231
<i>of which:</i>						
5 Star	12	13	2,979	3,158	5,922	6,575
4 Star	38	32	7,682	5,910	17,720	13,520
3 Star	45	35	4,922	3,817	11,603	9,170
Other collective accommodation²	84	66	1,440	1,219	4,077	3,521
Total	196	155	17,714	14,532	40,874	33,752
Gozo and Comino						
Hotel	13	12	695	659	1,483	1,407
<i>of which:</i>						
5 Star	2	2	217	217	455	455
4 Star	4	4	337	337	724	724
3 Star	4	3	106	70	218	142
Other collective accommodation²	8	9	119	117	260	260
Total	21	21	814	776	1,743	1,667

¹ Revised.

² Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Table 5. Non-resident guests by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	July-September 2020 ^{1, 2}	October-December	
		2019	2020 ²
MALTA			
Hotel	152,136	391,085	56,578
5 Star	23,178	82,268	10,271
4 Star	77,500	190,617	29,271
3 Star	47,946	104,902	15,474
2 Star	3,512	13,298	1,562
Other collective accommodation³	15,110	34,943	5,941
Total	167,246	426,028	62,519
Malta			
Hotel	147,651	382,415	54,748
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	22,142	80,227	9,820
4 Star	75,605	187,013	28,597
3 Star	46,473	102,065	14,784
Other collective accommodation³	14,271	33,583	5,641
Total	161,922	415,998	60,389
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	4,485	8,670	1,830
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	1,036	2,041	451
4 Star	1,895	3,604	674
3 Star	1,473	2,837	690
Other collective accommodation³	839	1,360	300
Total	5,324	10,030	2,130

¹ Revised.

² Refer to methodological note 7.

³ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Table 6. Resident guests by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	July-September 2020 ^{1, 2}	October-December	
		2019	2020 ²
MALTA			
Hotel	89,717	56,808	50,770
5 Star	26,842	17,832	16,473
4 Star	47,194	27,264	21,596
3 Star	13,600	10,068	11,165
2 Star	2,081	1,644	1,536
Other collective accommodation³	8,163	3,453	5,193
Total	97,880	60,261	55,963
Malta			
Hotel	72,545	46,398	40,489
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	20,838	14,238	12,391
4 Star	40,048	24,033	18,049
3 Star	11,143	7,538	9,627
Other collective accommodation³	6,206	2,626	4,482
Total	78,751	49,024	44,971
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	17,172	10,410	10,281
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	6,004	3,594	4,082
4 Star	7,146	3,231	3,547
3 Star	2,457	2,530	1,538
Other collective accommodation³	1,957	827	711
Total	19,129	11,237	10,992

¹ Revised.

² Refer to methodological note 7.

³ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Table 7. Non-resident nights spent by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	July-September 2020 ^{1, 2}	October-December	
		2019	2020 ²
MALTA			
Hotel	763,653	1,917,287	282,945
5 Star	119,793	317,991	45,881
4 Star	413,485	1,012,929	141,528
3 Star	213,951	514,017	83,751
2 Star	16,424	72,350	11,785
Other collective accommodation³	64,803	158,547	34,076
Total	828,456	2,075,834	317,021
Malta			
Hotel	746,079	1,879,508	276,039
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	114,443	309,662	43,839
4 Star	405,588	995,343	138,307
3 Star	209,895	502,751	82,164
Other collective accommodation³	61,797	154,190	33,092
Total	807,876	2,033,698	309,131
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	17,574	37,779	6,906
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	5,350	8,329	2,042
4 Star	7,897	17,586	3,221
3 Star	4,056	11,266	1,587
Other collective accommodation³	3,006	4,357	984
Total	20,580	42,136	7,890

¹ Revised.

² Refer to methodological note 7.

³ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Table 8. Resident nights spent by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	July-September 2020 ^{1, 2}	October-December	
		2019	2020 ²
MALTA			
Hotel	239,547	128,056	131,857
5 Star	71,773	40,677	34,566
4 Star	108,459	59,265	40,401
3 Star	49,531	24,948	50,663
2 Star	9,784	3,166	6,227
Other collective accommodation³	20,963	7,728	10,503
Total	260,510	135,784	142,360
Malta			
Hotel	198,054	107,739	112,728
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	54,442	33,765	26,705
4 Star	92,247	52,411	33,449
3 Star	44,512	20,237	48,161
Other collective accommodation³	16,225	6,345	9,021
Total	214,279	114,084	121,749
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	41,493	20,317	19,129
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	17,331	6,912	7,861
4 Star	16,212	6,854	6,952
3 Star	5,019	4,711	2,502
Other collective accommodation³	4,738	1,383	1,482
Total	46,231	21,700	20,611

¹ Revised.

² Refer to methodological note 7.

³ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Methodological Notes

- The objective of the Survey on Collective Accommodation Establishments is to estimate the utilisation rate of bed-places of all active collective accommodation establishments in Malta and Gozo. The variables collected from the survey include:
 - Number of residents;
 - Number of non-residents;
 - Nights spent by residents;
 - Nights spent by non-residents;
 - Number of room nights sold to non-residents;
 - Number of room nights sold to residents;
 - Number of bedrooms;
 - Number of bed-places;
 - Number of days the establishment was closed during the month under review.

The collection of the above variables and the calculation of occupancy levels are in line with Regulation (EU) No. 692/2011.

- The survey is distributed monthly to all collective accommodation establishments, namely hotels, guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

- Response rates:

October 2019	92.3%	October 2020	96.5%
November 2019	93.3%	November 2020	95.9%
December 2019	98.0%	December 2020	94.4%

- In this release, figures for July-September 2020 should be considered as a second estimate while those relating to October-December 2020 are a first estimate, therefore subject to revision in the ensuing release.
- The Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) classification of all accommodation categories are found in Legal Notice 351 of 2012. <http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lp&itemid=23956&l=1>
- Users are advised that comparisons between non-resident arrivals recorded in the Inbound Tourism survey (Tourstat, demand-side) and the Collective Accommodation survey (Accomstat, supply-side), should be undertaken in the knowledge that discrepancies will be found. These are mainly due to differences in definitions and methodologies. For more details, one can consult Concept 8.3 of the NSO's metadata file (<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=35>).
- In view of the COVID-19 situation, guests accommodated in any collective accommodation establishment, and for which their stay was related to health or safety reasons (not related to tourism purposes), have been considered out-of-scope for tourist accommodation statistics and therefore, not recorded for March-December 2020.
- Due to the COVID-19 situation the following tourism-related chronology of events happened:

28th February	People flying in from Italy, China (including Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Iran, South Korea) from 26th February onwards needed to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
8th March	Flights from/to Milan were suspended.
10th March	Flights from/to Italy were suspended.
10th March	The last Cruise call.
11th March	Flights from/to France, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, were suspended.
11th March	People flying in from France, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, needed to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
13th March	All people flying in from all destinations needed to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
18th March	The last Virtu' Ferries service for passengers between Malta and Sicily.
21st March	All flights from/to all destinations were suspended.
1st July	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.
15th July	Restrictions on all other flight destinations were lifted.
21st August	First cruise liner call since March 2020.

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

9. **Definitions:**

- **Bedroom:** a unit formed by one room or group of rooms constituting an indivisible rental whole in an accommodation establishment or dwelling.
- **Bed-place:** in an establishment, this is determined by the number of persons who can stay overnight in the establishment, not taking into account any extra beds that may be provided to clients on request.
- **Residents:** Maltese/Gozitan residents who check into/out of a collective accommodation establishment. A person is considered to be a Maltese/Gozitan resident 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.
- **Non-residents:** foreigners who do not necessarily follow the definition of a tourist and check into/out of a collective accommodation establishment.
- **Total guests:** the total number of residents and non-residents.
- **Total nights spent:** the total number of nights which guests actually spend or are registered to spend in a collective accommodation establishment.
- **Net use of bed-places:** the net occupancy rate calculated for all active accommodation establishments, net of seasonal closures and other temporary closures. The occupancy of bed-places is calculated by dividing the total nights during the reference period by the number of bed-places and the number of days when the bed-places are actually available for use during the reference period. The result is then multiplied by 100 to express the occupancy rate as a percentage.
- **Average length of stay:** this is calculated as follows:
$$\frac{\text{total number of nights}}{\text{total number of guests}}$$
- **Tourist:** a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.

10. 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/Collective-Accommodation-Establishments.aspx

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

Metadata: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/searchresults.aspx?id=collective%20accommodation%20establishments>

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

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

12. A detailed news release calendar is available on:

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

European statistics data on collective accommodation by NACE Rev.2 are available at:

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Statistics Database](#)

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