

Total inbound visitors for May 2021 were estimated at 25,954, while total nights spent amounted to 283,769.

Inbound Tourism: May 2021

During the month under review, a total of 20,105 inbound tourists visited Malta for holiday purposes, followed by 4,126 tourists for business purposes. Almost half of the inbound tourists were aged between 25 and 44 years (46.3 per cent), followed by those within the 45-64 age bracket (26.7 per cent) (Table 1). French and Italian residents comprised 46.1 per cent of total inbound tourists (Table 5).

The average length of stay of the total inbound tourists stood at 10.9 nights (Table 1). The largest share of guest nights (59.7 per cent) was spent in rented accommodation establishments, with 31.0 per cent of the nights spent in collective accommodation and 28.8 per cent in other rented accommodation (Table 3).

Total tourist expenditure reached nearly €21.1 million (Table 4), of which €9.2 million were spent in non-package expenditure and €9.3 million were spent in other expenditure.

January-May 2021

Inbound tourists for the first five months of 2021 amounted to 69,387, a decrease of 81.3 per cent over the same period in 2020 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists decreased by 59.0 per cent, totalling 917,196 nights (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure was estimated at €60.4 million, a decrease of 73.1 per cent when compared to the same period in the previous year (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita stood at €870, increasing from €607 in the same period in 2020, mainly as a result of longer length of stays (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	May		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021
Total inbound visitors	265,701	0	25,954
Overnight cruise passengers	3,627	0	0
Inbound tourists	262,074	0	25,954
Mode of travel			
Air	257,387	0	23,556
Sea	4,687	0	2,398
Sex			
Males	129,739	0	15,175
Females	132,335	0	10,779
Age group			
0-24	39,495	0	5,856
25-44	112,027	0	12,014
45-64	77,229	0	6,935
65 or more	33,323	0	1,149
Markets²			
EU	219,890	0	23,000
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	125,633	0	19,813
Non-EU	42,184	0	2,954
Purpose of visit			
Holiday	233,139	0	20,105
Business and professional	18,204	0	4,126
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	10,732	0	1,723
Organisation of stay			
Package	76,310	0	3,446
Non-package	185,764	0	22,508
Frequency			
First-time tourists	195,753	0	16,372
Repeat tourists	66,321	0	9,582
once a year or less	51,531	0	5,456
more than once a year	14,790	0	4,126
Duration of visit			
1-3 nights	66,839	0	6,047
4-6 nights	86,997	0	5,639
7 nights or more	108,239	0	14,268
Average length of stay (nights)	6.3	-	10.9

¹ In view of the COVID-19 situation, all passenger flights were suspended from 21 March to 30 June 2020. Refer to methodological note 6 for further information.

² Refer to methodological note 8.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	May		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021
Rented accommodation	229,163	0	19,018
Collective	166,251	0	13,944
Other rented	62,912	0	5,074
Non-rented accommodation	32,912	0	6,936
Total tourists	262,074	0	25,954

¹ In view of the COVID-19 situation, all passenger flights were suspended from 21 March to 30 June 2020. Refer to methodological note 6 for further information.

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	May		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021
Rented accommodation	1,385,809	0	169,513
Collective	892,449	0	87,880
Other rented	493,360	0	81,633
Non-rented accommodation	254,449	0	114,255
Total nights	1,640,258	0	283,769

¹ In view of the COVID-19 situation, all passenger flights were suspended from 21 March to 30 June 2020. Refer to methodological note 6 for further information.

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	May		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021
Package	47,830	0	2,503
Non-package	80,230	0	9,244
Air/sea fares	40,360	0	4,285
Accommodation	39,870	0	4,959
Other expenditure	75,481	0	9,346
Total expenditure	203,541	0	21,093

¹ In view of the COVID-19 situation, all passenger flights were suspended from 21 March to 30 June 2020. Refer to methodological note 6 for further information.

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		May		
		2019	2020 ¹	2021
Tourists	EU	219,890	0	23,000
	<i>of which:</i>			
	France	26,286	0	6,076
	Germany	18,408	0	3,824
	Italy	34,406	0	5,895
	Poland	9,654	0	2,069
	Spain	10,026	0	1,023 ^u
	United Kingdom	64,620	n/a	n/a
	Non-EU	42,184	0	2,954
	<i>of which:</i>			
United Kingdom	n/a	0	679 ^u	
Total	262,074	0	25,954	
Nights	EU	1,331,626	0	237,387
	<i>of which:</i>			
	France	165,535	0	51,275
	Germany	117,061	0	30,721
	Italy	193,372	0	88,529
	Poland	59,827	0	15,283
	Spain	47,297	0	12,554 ^u
	United Kingdom	409,107	n/a	n/a
	Non-EU	308,632	0	46,382
	<i>of which:</i>			
United Kingdom	n/a	0	15,168 ^u	
Total	1,640,258	0	283,769	
Expenditure (€000)	EU	159,461	0	17,100
	<i>of which:</i>			
	France	19,850	0	4,098
	Germany	15,047	0	3,303
	Italy	19,057	0	4,133
	Poland	6,318	0	1,218
	Spain	5,721	0	777 ^u
	United Kingdom	52,350	n/a	n/a
	Non-EU	44,080	0	3,992
	<i>of which:</i>			
United Kingdom	n/a	0	685 ^u	
Total	203,541	0	21,093	

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

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

² Refer to methodological note 8.

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-May			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Total inbound visitors	935,965	371,109	70,497	-300,612	-81.0
Overnight cruise passengers	5,986	893	1,110	217	24.3
Inbound tourists	929,979	370,216	69,387	-300,829	-81.3
Mode of travel					
Air	911,901	363,343	59,810	-303,533	-83.5
Sea	18,079	6,873	9,577	2,704	39.3
Sex					
Males	458,150	194,089	43,234	-150,855	-77.7
Females	471,830	176,127	26,153	-149,974	-85.2
Age group					
0-24	155,301	63,415	14,278	-49,137	-77.5
25-44	371,983	143,399	33,674	-109,725	-76.5
45-64	293,257	125,780	18,137	-107,644	-85.6
65 or more	109,438	37,622	3,299	-34,323	-91.2
Markets²					
EU	790,375	222,489	59,391	-163,098	-73.3
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	458,711	174,523	52,145	-122,378	-70.1
Non-EU	139,604	147,727	9,996	-137,731	-93.2
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	813,796	320,897	50,320	-270,577	-84.3
Business and professional	74,022	34,275	13,191	-21,085	-61.5
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	42,162	15,043	5,876	-9,168	-60.9
Organisation of stay					
Package	291,281	108,985	8,056	-100,929	-92.6
Non-package	638,699	261,231	61,331	-199,900	-76.5
Frequency					
First-time tourists	689,240	269,022	38,923	-230,099	-85.5
Repeat tourists	240,739	101,194	30,464	-70,730	-69.9
once a year or less	171,514	69,689	15,918	-53,771	-77.2
more than once a year	69,226	31,505	14,546	-16,960	-53.8
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	251,875	121,427	16,039	-105,388	-86.8
4-6 nights	304,416	121,082	12,850	-108,232	-89.4
7 nights or more	373,688	127,707	40,498	-87,209	-68.3
Average length of stay (nights)	6.4	6.0	13.2	7.2	-

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

² Refer to methodological note 8.

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-May			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Rented accommodation	817,869	324,582	46,479	-278,102	-85.7
Collective	619,200	251,231	32,402	-218,828	-87.1
Other rented	198,669	73,351	14,077	-59,274	-80.8
Non-rented accommodation	112,110	45,634	22,908	-22,727	-49.8
Total tourists	929,979	370,216	69,387	-300,829	-81.3

¹ 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-May			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Rented accommodation	4,988,468	1,831,284	495,489	-1,335,796	-72.9
Collective	3,355,275	1,281,560	228,986	-1,052,574	-82.1
Other rented	1,633,193	549,724	266,503	-283,222	-51.5
Non-rented accommodation	961,142	407,942	421,708	13,766	3.4
Total nights	5,949,610	2,239,226	917,196	-1,322,030	-59.0

¹ 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-May			Change	Percentage change	
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020		
Tourists	Australia	9,253	2,433 ^u	242 ^u	-	-
	Austria	12,993	3,295 ^u	596 ^u	-	-
	Belgium	26,679	11,553	2,322	-9,232	-79.9
	France	82,106	28,266	14,206	-14,061	-49.7
	Germany	76,948	26,610	7,006	-19,604	-73.7
	Hungary	10,814	4,454	:	-	-
	Ireland	16,939	7,741	:	-	-
	Italy	134,000	44,049	20,857	-23,192	-52.6
	Netherlands	19,407	8,943	1,044	-7,899	-88.3
	Poland	39,102	19,627	3,444	-16,183	-82.5
	Scandinavia ²	39,389	13,728	1,714	-12,014	-87.5
	Spain	36,958	16,671	2,376	-14,295	-85.7
	Switzerland	15,001	4,699	1,539	-3,161	-67.3
	United Kingdom	223,088	88,094	2,197	-85,897	-97.5
	USA	17,031	7,439	692 ^u	-	-
	Other	170,271	82,613	10,669	-71,944	-87.1
Total	929,979	370,216	69,387	-300,829	-81.3	
Nights	Australia	81,667	20,572 ^u	2,888 ^u	-	-
	Austria	73,981	20,088 ^u	6,962 ^u	-	-
	Belgium	159,985	57,407	28,196	-29,211	-50.9
	France	515,819	168,423	149,314	-19,110	-11.3
	Germany	503,789	174,626	72,359	-102,267	-58.6
	Hungary	53,309	20,479	:	-	-
	Ireland	108,778	46,739	:	-	-
	Italy	764,084	258,722	312,374	53,652	20.7
	Netherlands	131,762	45,102	17,937	-27,165	-60.2
	Poland	235,568	110,006	30,883	-79,123	-71.9
	Scandinavia ²	264,524	87,610	21,568	-66,042	-75.4
	Spain	180,637	81,324	31,860	-49,464	-60.8
	Switzerland	100,255	23,751	18,890	-4,862	-20.5
	United Kingdom	1,417,783	546,013	52,723	-493,290	-90.3
	USA	93,145	45,280	8,611 ^u	-	-
	Other	1,264,524	533,082	153,677	-379,405	-71.2
Total	5,949,610	2,239,226	917,196	-1,322,030	-59.0	
Expenditure (€000)	Australia	12,918	2,757 ^u	213 ^u	-	-
	Austria	10,213	2,438 ^u	572 ^u	-	-
	Belgium	17,074	5,861	2,084	-3,776	-64.4
	France	55,932	16,964	11,845	-5,120	-30.2
	Germany	56,062	17,424	6,579	-10,844	-62.2
	Hungary	5,453	2,011	:	-	-
	Ireland	12,709	5,052	:	-	-
	Italy	67,184	20,739	13,696	-7,043	-34.0
	Netherlands	13,185	4,783	1,060	-3,723	-77.8
	Poland	22,101	9,371	2,214	-7,157	-76.4
	Scandinavia ²	30,535	9,858	1,930	-7,928	-80.4
	Spain	18,349	7,766	2,017	-5,749	-74.0
	Switzerland	14,512	3,466	2,159	-1,307	-37.7
	United Kingdom	152,307	51,259	2,197	-49,061	-95.7
	USA	17,970	7,596	1,175 ^u	-	-
	Other	141,569	57,241	11,920	-45,320	-79.2
Total	648,073	224,582	60,372	-164,210	-73.1	

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

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

€ 000

Country of residence	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
January-May 2021					
Australia	:	20 ^u	79 ^u	114 ^u	213 ^u
Austria	:	143 ^u	:	239 ^u	572
Belgium	:	481	556	957	2,084
France	1,335	2,472	2,818	5,220	11,845
Germany	1,123 ^u	1,459	1,371	2,626	6,579
Hungary	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:
Italy	1,273	2,490	2,344	7,589	13,696
Netherlands	:	250	243 ^u	561	1,060
Poland	225 ^u	382	501	1,106	2,214
Scandinavia ²	:	395	490 ^u	1,014	1,930
Spain	:	456	392	1,070	2,017
Switzerland	:	358	411 ^u	908	2,159
United Kingdom	:	435	423 ^u	1,258	2,197
USA	:	302 ^u	484 ^u	368 ^u	1,175 ^u
Other	1,204 ^u	3,199	2,587	4,931	11,920
Total	5,996	12,965	13,021	28,390	60,372
January-May 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-May 2019					
Australia	1,784 ^u	4,653	2,034	4,447	12,918
Austria	3,397	1,341	1,820	3,655	10,213
Belgium	4,751	2,576	3,616	6,131	17,074
France	17,085	8,992	10,787	19,067	55,932
Germany	21,625	7,240	9,237	17,960	56,062
Hungary	641 ^u	1,261	1,315	2,236	5,453
Ireland	2,214	2,189	2,634	5,672	12,709
Italy	11,882	11,363	13,753	30,186	67,184
Netherlands	2,967	2,435	2,662	5,121	13,185
Poland	5,193	3,433	4,196	9,280	22,101
Scandinavia ²	8,175	5,208	5,116	12,036	30,535
Spain	3,384	3,256	3,954	7,754	18,349
Switzerland	4,253	2,175	3,067	5,016	14,512
United Kingdom	48,611	19,603	25,093	59,000	152,307
USA	1,703 ^u	6,912	4,198	5,156	17,970
Other	24,658	36,168	28,774	51,969	141,569
Total	162,323	118,805	122,257	244,688	648,073

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

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

€

Country of residence	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total expenditure per capita
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
January-May 2021					
Australia	:	82 ^u	326 ^u	469 ^u	877 ^u
Austria	:	252 ^u	:	402 ^u	959
Belgium	:	220	400	412	898
France	707	200	288	367	834
Germany	904 ^u	251	320	375	939
Hungary	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:
Italy	502	136	266	364	657
Netherlands	:	243	365 ^u	538	1,015
Poland	446 ^u	130	223	321	643
Scandinavia ²	:	240	546 ^u	592	1,126
Spain	:	203	288	450	849
Switzerland	:	255	377 ^u	590	1,403
United Kingdom	:	206	658 ^u	573	1,000
USA	:	461 ^u	945 ^u	531 ^u	1,699 ^u
Other	983 ^u	338	399	462	1,117
Total expenditure per capita	544	211	333	409	870
January-May 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-May 2019					
Australia	1,266 ^u	579	304	481	1,396
Austria	620	172	250	281	786
Belgium	605	135	212	230	640
France	565	173	226	232	681
Germany	586	180	261	233	729
Hungary	351 ^u	140	171	207	504
Ireland	488	177	245	335	750
Italy	422	107	170	225	501
Netherlands	538	174	233	264	679
Poland	425	127	170	237	565
Scandinavia ²	547	213	261	306	775
Spain	382	116	157	210	496
Switzerland	831	220	354	334	967
United Kingdom	541	147	247	264	683
USA	922 ^u	455	311	303	1,055
Other	675	268	253	305	831
Total expenditure per capita	557	185	230	263	697

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

² Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

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

Characteristics	May		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021
Total overnight cruise passengers	3,627	0	0
Sex			
Males	1,628	0	0
Females	1,999	0	0
Age group			
0-19	53	0	0
20-39	254	0	0
40-59	939	0	0
60-79	1,962	0	0
80 or more	419	0	0
Markets²			
EU	3,436	0	0
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	3,420	0	0
Non-EU	191	0	0

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

² Refer to methodological note 8.

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

Characteristics	January-May		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021
Total overnight cruise passengers	5,986	893	1,110
Sex			
Males	2,699	426	528
Females	3,287	467	582
Age group			
0-19	486	1	236
20-39	572	19	358
40-59	1,792	31	385
60-79	2,626	446	125
80 or more	510	396	6
Markets²			
EU	5,456	14	1,018
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	5,416	11	1,010
Non-EU	530	879	92

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

² Refer to methodological note 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 data 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 2020 and the period October 2020 to May 2021, 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 - 6). 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 15.4 of the NSO's metadata file (<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=37#>).
13. 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	25,954	1,412	25,954 ± 1,412
Total nights	283,769	22,415	283,769 ± 22,415
Total expenditure (€ 000)	21,093	1,207	21,093 ± 1,207

14. 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

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