

Total inbound visitors for August 2021 were estimated at 165,932, an increase of 45.0 per cent when compared to the corresponding month in 2020.

Inbound Tourism: August 2021

During the month under review, a total of 157,593 inbound tourists visited Malta for holiday purposes, followed by 3,621 tourists for business purposes. The largest share of inbound tourists were aged between 25-44 (41.8 per cent), followed by those within the 0-24 age bracket (29.5 per cent) (Table 1). French and Italian residents comprised 29.9 per cent of total inbound tourists (Table 5).

Total nights went up by 33.1 per cent compared to August 2020, reaching 1.4 million nights. The largest share of guest nights (81.3 per cent) was spent in rented accommodation establishments (Table 3). The average length of stay of total inbound tourists stood at 8.6 nights (Table 1).

Total tourist expenditure reached €169.4 million, an increase of 79.0 per cent over the corresponding month in 2020. The average expenditure per night was estimated at €118.3 (Table 4).

January-August 2021

Inbound tourists for the first eight months of 2021 amounted to 426,930, a decrease of 20.0 per cent over the same period in 2020 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists increased by 5.0 per cent, surpassing 4.1 million nights (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure was estimated at 416.3 million, an increase of 17.9 per cent when compared to the same period in the previous year (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita stood at €975, increasing from €662 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	August			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Total inbound visitors	338,758	114,458	165,932	51,474	45.0
Overnight cruise passengers ²	2,211	0	0 ^P	-	-
Inbound tourists	336,547	114,458	165,932	51,474	45.0
Mode of travel					
Air	330,023	112,051	164,290	52,239	46.6
Sea	6,524	2,407	1,642	-	-
Sex					
Males	168,600	60,084	83,785	23,701	39.4
Females	167,947	54,374	82,147	27,773	51.1
Age group					
0-24	112,223	41,630	49,021	7,391	17.8
25-44	136,518	48,776	69,321	20,545	42.1
45-64	75,847	20,740	39,726	18,986	91.5
65 or more	11,958	3,311	7,865	4,553	137.5
Markets³					
EU	285,247	85,552	110,917	25,366	29.6
of which: Euro area	177,066	70,213	93,053	22,840	32.5
Non-EU	51,300	28,906	55,015	26,109	90.3
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	313,506	107,908	157,593	49,686	46.0
Business and professional	9,656	2,318	3,621	-	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	13,385	4,232	4,717	-	-
Organisation of stay					
Package	94,426	22,211	41,104	18,893	85.1
Non-package	242,121	92,247	124,828	32,581	35.3
Frequency					
First-time tourists	264,677	82,992	127,054	44,062	53.1
Repeat tourists	71,870	31,466	38,878	7,412	23.6
once a year or less	59,479	21,603	30,883	9,280	43.0
more than once a year	12,391	9,863	7,995	-1,868	-18.9
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	31,703	10,203	17,145	6,942	68.0
4-6 nights	85,705	28,152	41,533	13,381	47.5
7 nights or more	219,139	76,103	107,254	31,151	40.9
Average length of stay (nights)	8.6	9.4	8.6	-0.8	-

^P Provisional

¹ In view of the COVID-19 situation, all passenger flights were suspended from 21 March to 30 June 2020. Malta International Airport reopened on 1 July 2020. Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7 for further information.

² Data for August 2021 is to be considered provisional as a result of delays in data provision from source.

³ Refer to methodological note 8.

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

2. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

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

Type of accommodation	August			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021		
Rented accommodation	298,198	94,153	146,073	51,920	55.1
Collective	187,165	62,015	105,703	43,688	70.4
Other rented	111,033	32,138	40,370	8,232	25.6
Non-rented accommodation	38,349	20,305	19,859	-	-
Total tourists	336,547	114,458	165,932	51,474	45.0

¹ In view of the COVID-19 situation, all passenger flights were suspended from 21 March to 30 June 2020. Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7 for further information.

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

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

Type of accommodation	August			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021		
Rented accommodation	2,412,129	787,045	1,163,823	376,778	47.9
Collective	1,317,321	435,436	765,272	329,837	75.7
Other rented	1,094,808	351,610	398,551	46,941	13.4
Non-rented accommodation	467,938	288,778	268,562	-	-
Total nights	2,880,066	1,075,823	1,432,385	356,562	33.1

¹ In view of the COVID-19 situation, all passenger flights were suspended from 21 March to 30 June 2020. Malta International Airport reopened on 1 July 2020. Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7 for further information.

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

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

Expenditure category	August			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021		
Package	81,621	16,731	37,928	21,197	126.7
Non-package	131,092	37,298	63,142	25,844	69.3
Air/sea fares	55,740	13,172	21,330	8,157	61.9
Accommodation	75,352	24,126	41,813	17,687	73.3
Other expenditure	116,878	40,603	68,320	27,717	68.3
Total expenditure	329,591	94,632	169,391	74,759	79.0

€ 000

¹ In view of the COVID-19 situation, all passenger flights were suspended from 21 March to 30 June 2020. Malta International Airport reopened on 1 July 2020. Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7 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		August			Change	Percentage change
		2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Tourists	EU	285,247	85,552	110,917	25,366	29.6
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	38,129	15,963	30,213	14,251	89.3
	Germany	19,598	13,144	15,856	2,712	20.6
	Italy	62,537	20,041	19,313	-	-
	Poland	10,943	8,356	10,586	2,229	26.7
	Spain	15,375	5,052	4,335	-	-
	United Kingdom	74,186	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Non-EU	51,300	28,906	55,015	26,109	90.3
	<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	24,794	46,856	22,062	89.0	
Total	336,547	114,458	165,932	51,474	45.0	
Nights	EU	2,372,955	774,402	938,813	164,411	21.2
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	402,299	128,961	271,396	142,435	110.4
	Germany	177,076	122,385	121,843	-542	-0.4
	Italy	486,003	227,760	178,717	-	-
	Poland	93,047	62,562	82,293	19,732	31.5
	Spain	112,873	34,404	34,058	-	-
	United Kingdom	600,873	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Non-EU	507,111	301,421	493,572	192,150	63.7
	<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	248,839	393,206	144,367	58.0	
Total	2,880,066	1,075,823	1,432,385	356,562	33.1	
Expenditure (€ 000)	EU	261,501	68,713	103,898	35,185	51.2
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	40,768	13,789	32,460	18,671	135.4
	Germany	19,564	12,576	17,543	4,968	39.5
	Italy	49,648	14,213	13,668	-	-
	Poland	9,669	5,924	8,322	2,398	40.5
	Spain	12,836	3,321	3,814	-	-
	United Kingdom	71,103	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Non-EU	68,090	25,920	65,493	39,574	152.7
	<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	21,117	53,775	n/a	n/a	
Total	329,591	94,632	169,391	74,759	79.0	

¹ In view of the COVID-19 situation, all passenger flights were suspended from 21 March to 30 June 2020. Malta International Airport reopened on 1 July 2020. Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7 for further information.

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.
4. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

Table 6. Profile of inbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-August			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Total inbound visitors	1,860,833	534,310	428,040	-106,270	-19.9
Overnight cruise passengers ²	11,898	893	1110 ^P	217	24.3
Inbound tourists	1,848,935	533,417	426,930	-106,487	-20.0
Mode of travel					
Air	1,814,208	520,573	411,445	-109,128	-21.0
Sea	34,727	12,844	15,485	2,641	20.6
Sex					
Males	912,236	280,676	226,252	-54,425	-19.4
Females	936,698	252,741	200,678	-52,062	-20.6
Age group					
0-24	413,744	120,055	120,163	-	-
25-44	742,464	212,601	182,618	-29,982	-14.1
45-64	527,053	157,979	103,227	-54,752	-34.7
65 or more	165,673	42,782	20,921	-21,861	-51.1
Markets³					
EU	1,549,045	349,719	324,531	-25,188	-7.2
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	910,660	276,857	263,936	-12,921	-4.7
Non-EU	299,890	183,698	102,399	-81,299	-44.3
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	1,654,716	473,362	373,494	-99,868	-21.1
Business and professional	111,533	39,558	28,516	-11,042	-27.9
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	82,685	20,497	24,920	4,422	21.6
Organisation of stay					
Package	556,415	138,995	87,733	-51,262	-36.9
Non-package	1,292,520	394,422	339,197	-55,225	-14.0
Frequency					
First-time tourists	1,399,725	383,438	308,169	-75,268	-19.6
Repeat tourists	449,210	149,979	118,761	-31,219	-20.8
once a year or less	333,855	102,541	82,880	-19,660	-19.2
more than once a year	115,355	47,439	35,880	-11,559	-24.4
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	389,378	140,999	59,178	-81,821	-58.0
4-6 nights	551,304	162,041	102,452	-59,589	-36.8
7 nights or more	908,252	230,377	265,300	34,923	15.2
Average length of stay (nights)	7.1	7.3	9.6	2.3	-

^P Provisional

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

² Data refers to January-June 2021 as a result of delays in data provision from source for July-August 2021.

³ Refer to methodological note 8.

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

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

Type of accommodation	January-August			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Rented accommodation	1,627,515	455,943	354,085	-101,858	-22.3
Collective	1,154,810	339,434	256,992	-82,443	-24.3
Other rented	472,705	116,509	97,094	-19,415	-16.7
Non-rented accommodation	221,419	77,474	72,845	-4,629	-6.0
Total tourists	1,848,935	533,417	426,930	-106,487	-20.0

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-August			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Rented accommodation	11,056,969	2,932,730	3,042,202	109,472	3.7
Collective	6,860,195	1,886,529	1,831,576	-54,953	-2.9
Other rented	4,196,774	1,046,201	1,210,626	164,425	15.7
Non-rented accommodation	2,104,824	978,458	1,066,017	87,560	8.9
Total nights	13,161,794	3,911,188	4,108,220	197,032	5.0

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-August			Change	Percentage change	
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020		
Tourists	Australia	33,271	2,602	468	-2,133	-82.0
	Austria	23,200	7,408	7,406	-	-
	Belgium	47,647	14,782	11,812	-2,970	-20.1
	France	167,744	49,451	77,083	27,632	55.9
	Germany	137,202	46,441	43,826	-2,614	-5.6
	Hungary	25,067	9,196	5,476	-3,720	-40.5
	Ireland	34,879	11,103	3,691	-7,412	-66.8
	Italy	278,787	76,557	67,402	-9,154	-12.0
	Netherlands	39,608	12,759	7,861	-4,897	-38.4
	Poland	70,399	32,694	30,702	-1,992	-6.1
	Scandinavia ²	82,319	16,219	11,560	-4,659	-28.7
	Spain	80,871	23,670	15,916	-7,755	-32.8
	Switzerland	33,408	8,950	9,305	-	-
	United Kingdom	428,471	117,090	72,785	-44,305	-37.8
	USA	33,359	7,748	5,051	-2,697	-34.8
	Other	332,702	96,748	56,585	-40,163	-41.5
Total	1,848,935	533,417	426,930	-106,487	-20.0	
Nights	Australia	317,628	25,160	4,258	-20,902	-83.1
	Austria	142,909	54,981	57,462	-	-
	Belgium	325,397	93,867	109,950	16,083	17.1
	France	1,300,541	335,348	724,378	389,030	116.0
	Germany	991,116	354,149	370,366	16,217	4.6
	Hungary	136,897	49,974	40,331	-9,643	-19.3
	Ireland	234,774	70,348	29,428	-40,920	-58.2
	Italy	1,786,831	727,691	786,382	58,690	8.1
	Netherlands	295,846	83,120	72,520	-10,600	-12.8
	Poland	481,819	207,313	237,036	29,724	14.3
	Scandinavia ²	583,933	126,371	109,782	-16,589	-13.1
	Spain	521,018	131,449	161,602	30,153	22.9
	Switzerland	234,186	65,563	102,797	-	-
	United Kingdom	2,937,873	832,201	653,506	-178,696	-21.5
	USA	201,290	47,744	40,385	-7,360	-15.4
	Other	2,669,734	705,908	608,038	-97,870	-13.9
Total	13,161,794	3,911,188	4,108,220	197,032	5.0	
Expenditure (€000)	Australia	49,062	2,884	389	-2,495	-86.5
	Austria	19,769	5,911	6,821	-	-
	Belgium	35,071	8,771	11,719	2,948	33.6
	France	138,397	34,506	76,117	41,611	120.6
	Germany	113,365	35,051	46,831	11,780	33.6
	Hungary	14,081	4,488	3,912	-576	-12.8
	Ireland	30,766	8,199	3,943	-4,256	-51.9
	Italy	171,424	42,083	47,931	5,848	13.9
	Netherlands	31,203	8,096	8,647	551	6.8
	Poland	47,683	17,997	23,886	5,889	32.7
	Scandinavia ²	74,363	12,519	12,437	-82	-0.7
	Spain	54,344	12,090	13,285	1,195	9.9
	Switzerland	34,327	8,673	14,211	-	-
	United Kingdom	338,038	75,540	82,172	6,632	8.8
	USA	37,933	7,811	8,369	559	7.2
	Other	308,221	68,405	55,606	-12,798	-18.7
Total	1,498,045	353,022	416,276	63,254	17.9	

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-August 2021					
Australia	:	43	145	201	389
Austria	1,405 ^u	967	1,845	2,604	6,821
Belgium	1,504 ^u	2,102	3,273	4,839	11,719
France	12,837	11,948	19,309	32,024	76,117
Germany	12,175	7,009	10,558	17,089	46,831
Hungary	:	562	949	1,627	3,912
Ireland	:	495	1,174	1,890	3,943
Italy	7,638	6,284	10,065	23,944	47,931
Netherlands	1,284 ^u	1,385	1,994	3,984	8,647
Poland	4,519	3,611	6,203	9,553	23,886
Scandinavia ²	2,193	2,138	2,476	5,629	12,437
Spain	1,510	1,664	3,252	6,859	13,285
Switzerland	3,116 ^u	1,700	3,852	5,544	14,211
United Kingdom	21,907	8,882	19,037	32,346	82,172
USA	2,682 ^u	1,814	1,711	2,162	8,369
Other	5,925	10,753	14,688	24,240	55,606
Total	79,853	61,357	100,530	174,536	416,276
January-August 2020¹					
Australia	:	1,151	458	1,015	2,884
Austria	1,832 ^u	784	1,141	2,155	5,911
Belgium	1,569 ^u	1,499	2,070	3,633	8,771
France	8,695	5,230	7,382	13,199	34,506
Germany	10,402	4,879	6,575	13,196	35,051
Hungary	:	917	1,139	2,076	4,488
Ireland	1,113 ^u	1,337	2,112	3,638	8,199
Italy	5,556	6,507	9,365	20,654	42,083
Netherlands	1,121 ^u	1,572	1,604	3,798	8,096
Poland	3,611	3,198	4,108	7,079	17,997
Scandinavia ²	2,590	2,611	2,321	4,996	12,519
Spain	1,272	2,369	2,949	5,501	12,090
Switzerland	1,837	1,176	2,002	3,658	8,673
United Kingdom	20,588	11,093	13,454	30,404	75,540
USA	:	3,262	1,798	2,125	7,811
Other	10,347	16,658	13,236	28,163	68,405
Total	71,775	64,243	71,714	145,291	353,022
January-August 2019					
Australia	4,573	17,561	9,364	17,563	49,062
Austria	7,346	2,319	3,718	6,385	19,769
Belgium	9,385	5,176	7,809	12,701	35,071
France	39,301	21,254	30,594	47,248	138,397
Germany	43,763	14,263	20,024	35,314	113,365
Hungary	1,763 ^u	2,972	3,844	5,502	14,081
Ireland	5,603	5,223	7,261	12,678	30,766
Italy	30,751	27,442	39,044	74,187	171,424
Netherlands	7,642	5,158	6,668	11,735	31,203
Poland	11,664	7,172	10,689	18,158	47,683
Scandinavia ²	20,807	11,948	14,181	27,427	74,363
Spain	12,391	8,793	12,305	20,854	54,344
Switzerland	9,014	5,471	7,701	12,141	34,327
United Kingdom	109,496	44,578	60,543	123,421	338,038
USA	4,312	14,238	8,751	10,632	37,933
Other	60,796	71,174	64,320	111,931	308,221
Total	378,609	264,743	306,815	547,878	1,498,045

: 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-August 2021					
Australia	:	91	322	430	831
Austria	778 ^u	173	390	352	921
Belgium	959 ^u	204	392	410	992
France	984	186	338	415	987
Germany	926	226	405	390	1,069
Hungary	:	125	267	297	714
Ireland	:	154	417	512	1,068
Italy	816	108	278	355	711
Netherlands	756 ^u	225	432	507	1,100
Poland	686	150	292	311	778
Scandinavia ²	694	255	429	487	1,076
Spain	697	119	302	431	835
Switzerland	1,668 ^u	228	584	596	1,527
United Kingdom	914	180	500	444	1,129
USA	2,193 ^u	464	574	428	1,657
Other	889	214	362	428	983
Total expenditure per capita	910	180	372	409	975
January-August 2020¹					
Australia	:	505	257	390	1,109
Austria	668 ^u	168	272	291	798
Belgium	524 ^u	127	206	246	593
France	553	154	236	267	698
Germany	625	163	255	284	755
Hungary	:	111	158	226	488
Ireland	517 ^u	148	258	328	738
Italy	445	102	205	270	550
Netherlands	362 ^u	163	201	298	635
Poland	443	130	181	217	550
Scandinavia ²	566	224	241	308	772
Spain	397	116	166	232	511
Switzerland	702	186	362	409	969
United Kingdom	456	154	252	260	645
USA	:	452	278	274	1,008
Other	588	210	205	291	707
Total expenditure per capita	516	163	223	272	662
January-August 2019					
Australia	1,076	597	383	528	1,475
Austria	748	169	298	275	852
Belgium	723	148	255	267	736
France	696	190	297	282	825
Germany	705	188	306	257	826
Hungary	455 ^u	140	214	219	562
Ireland	616	203	323	363	882
Italy	534	124	221	266	615
Netherlands	637	186	284	296	788
Poland	545	146	240	258	677
Scandinavia ²	704	226	326	333	903
Spain	555	149	231	258	672
Switzerland	850	238	378	363	1,028
United Kingdom	658	170	303	288	789
USA	1,002	489	346	319	1,137
Other	826	273	294	336	926
Total expenditure per capita	680	204	284	296	810

: 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	August		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021 ^P
Total overnight cruise passengers	2,211	0	0
Sex			
Males	1,044	0	0
Females	1,167	0	0
Age group			
0-19	202	0	0
20-39	210	0	0
40-59	558	0	0
60-79	1,104	0	0
80 or more	137	0	0
Markets²			
EU	626	0	0
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	335	0	0
Non-EU	1,585	0	0

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

² Refer to methodological note 8.

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

Characteristics	January-August		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021 ^P
Total overnight cruise passengers	11,898	893	1,110
Sex			
Males	5501	426	528
Females	6397	467	582
Age group			
0-19	866	1	236
20-39	1,081	19	358
40-59	3,117	31	385
60-79	5,943	446	125
80 or more	891	396	6
Markets²			
EU	7,033	14	1,018
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	6,131	11	1,010
Non-EU	4,865	879	92

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

² Refer to methodological note 8.

Methodological Notes

1. This release focuses on Inbound Tourism, which comprises 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 June 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 1 February 2020), UK data is statistically classified as Non-EU from February 2020 in the tables relating to the specific month (Tables 1 and 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	165,932	4,452	165,932 ± 4,452
Total nights	1,432,385	57,467	1,432,385 ± 57,467
Total expenditure (€ 000)	169,391	4,456	169,391 ± 4,456

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 complexes, 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