

Total inbound visitors for December 2021 were estimated at 75,738, while total nights spent amounted to 775,189.

Inbound Tourism: December 2021

During the month under review, a total of 63,609 inbound tourists visited Malta for holiday purposes, followed by 7,140 tourists for business purposes. The largest share of inbound tourists were aged between 25-44 (41.4 per cent), followed by the age bracket 45-64 (28.8 per cent) (Table 1). French, German and Italian residents comprised 36.6 per cent of total inbound tourists (Table 5).

The largest share of guest nights (76.7 per cent) was spent in rented accommodation establishments (Table 3). The average length of stay of total inbound tourists stood at 10.2 nights (Table 1).

Total tourist expenditure reached almost €55.0 million. The average expenditure per night was estimated at €70.8 (Table 4).

January-December 2021

Inbound tourists for the year 2021 amounted to 968,136, an increase of 47.0 per cent over the year 2020 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists increased by 60.5 per cent, surpassing 8.3 million nights (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure was estimated at €870.7 million, an increase of 91.3 per cent when compared to the previous year (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita stood at €899, increasing from €691 in 2020 (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		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021
Total inbound visitors	144,706	12,940	75,738
Overnight cruise passengers ²	0	0	0 ^P
Inbound tourists	144,706	12,940	75,738
Mode of travel			
Air	141,565	11,671	73,546
Sea	3,141	1,269	2,192
Sex			
Males	77,024	8,463	42,774
Females	67,682	4,478	32,963
Age group			
0-24	22,155	2,702	16,023
25-44	59,487	6,032	31,373
45-64	46,910	3,290	21,804
65 or more	16,154	917 ^u	6,538
Markets³			
EU	120,689	9,587	57,924
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	70,696	8,678	44,390
Non-EU	24,017	3,354	17,814
Purpose of visit			
Holiday	123,721	8,525	63,609
Business and professional	14,416	2,740	7,140
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	6,569	1,676	4,989
Organisation of stay			
Package	38,980	1,051 ^u	14,352
Non-package	105,726	11,890	61,386
Frequency			
First-time tourists	98,492	6,209	52,232
Repeat tourists	46,214	6,731	23,506
once a year or less	28,674	3,324	14,109
more than once a year	17,540	3,407	9,397
Duration of visit			
1-3 nights	49,693	3,372	24,134
4-6 nights	44,397	2,035	21,458
7 nights or more	50,616	7,534	30,146
Average length of stay (nights)	6.9	17.6	10.2

^P Provisional

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

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 December 2021 is to be considered provisional as a result of delays in data provision from source.

³ 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	December		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021
Rented accommodation	123,411	7,790	61,775
Collective	89,985	5,279	48,113
Other rented	33,426	2,511	13,663
Non-rented accommodation	21,295	5,151	13,962
Total tourists	144,706	12,940	75,738

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.

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		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021
Rented accommodation	825,041	110,530	594,374
Collective	471,935	38,234	308,053
Other rented	353,106	72,296	286,321
Non-rented accommodation	176,822	117,650	180,814
Total nights	1,001,863	228,180	775,189

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.

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		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021
Package	20,761	967^u	9,452
Non-package	39,655	5,412	19,763
Air/sea fares	20,308	2,809	8,080
Accommodation	19,346	2,603	11,683
Other expenditure	37,843	6,794	25,663
Total expenditure	98,259	13,173	54,878

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

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	December		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021
Tourists			
EU	120,689	9,587	57,924
<i>of which:</i>			
France	11,509	1,982	9,829
Germany	10,198	979 ^u	4,874
Italy	21,038	3,411	13,017
Poland	7,001	:	6,771
Spain	7,379	:	3,207
United Kingdom	32,695	n/a	n/a
Non-EU	24,017	3,354	17,814
<i>of which:</i>			
United Kingdom	n/a	1,344 ^u	10,865
Total	144,706	12,940	75,738
Nights			
EU	748,850	144,504	491,429
<i>of which:</i>			
France	81,267	32,772	97,591
Germany	68,378	12,536 ^u	42,008
Italy	126,474	51,809	110,557
Poland	36,309	:	41,398
Spain	46,630	:	35,277
United Kingdom	200,623	n/a	n/a
Non-EU	253,014	83,675	283,760
<i>of which:</i>			
United Kingdom	n/a	25,227 ^u	88,059
Total	1,001,863	228,180	775,189
Expenditure (€ 000)			
EU	72,111	8,437	37,872
<i>of which:</i>			
France	7,663	2,007	7,179
Germany	7,089	964 ^u	4,093
Italy	10,639	2,283	6,890
Poland	3,526	:	3,437
Spain	3,872	:	2,013
United Kingdom	21,085	n/a	n/a
Non-EU	26,147	4,737	17,005
<i>of which:</i>			
United Kingdom	n/a	1,458 ^u	7,514
Total	98,259	13,173	54,878

: Unreliable, less than 20 sample observations.

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

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.

Table 6. Profile of inbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Total inbound visitors	2,771,888	659,513	969,246	309,733	47.0
Overnight cruise passengers ²	18,649	946	1,110 ^P	-	-
Inbound tourists	2,753,239	658,567	968,136	309,570	47.0
Mode of travel					
Air	2,702,028	639,987	943,947	303,959	47.5
Sea	51,212	18,579	24,189	5,610	30.2
Sex					
Males	1,368,550	351,402	502,914	151,511	43.1
Females	1,384,689	307,164	465,223	158,059	51.5
Age group					
0-24	544,597	145,789	211,890	66,102	45.3
25-44	1,101,842	272,746	408,670	135,923	49.8
45-64	826,816	190,396	274,576	84,180	44.2
65 or more	279,984	49,635	73,000	23,365	47.1
Markets³					
EU	2,301,601	449,422	685,691	236,268	52.6
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	1,335,480	363,513	547,098	183,585	50.5
Non-EU	451,639	209,144	282,445	73,301	35.0
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	2,448,146	581,722	861,268	279,546	48.1
Business and professional	189,086	50,133	62,831	12,698	25.3
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	116,007	26,712	44,038	17,326	64.9
Organisation of stay					
Package	818,014	161,078	221,645	60,567	37.6
Non-package	1,935,226	497,489	746,491	249,002	50.1
Frequency					
First-time tourists	2,056,139	465,565	695,562	229,997	49.4
Repeat tourists	697,100	193,002	272,574	79,573	41.2
once a year or less	514,791	128,808	194,205	65,397	50.8
more than once a year	182,310	64,193	78,369	14,176	22.1
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	600,879	161,821	174,627	12,805	7.9
4-6 nights	821,265	189,588	257,584	67,996	35.9
7 nights or more	1,331,096	307,157	535,925	228,769	74.5
Average length of stay (nights)	7.0	7.9	8.7	0.7	-

^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-December 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-December			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Rented accommodation	2,424,123	552,737	824,270	271,533	49.1
Collective	1,709,966	407,938	623,186	215,249	52.8
Other rented	714,157	144,800	201,084	56,284	38.9
Non-rented accommodation	329,117	105,829	143,866	38,037	35.9
Total tourists	2,753,239	658,567	968,136	309,570	47.0

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-December			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Rented accommodation	16,230,780	3,760,383	6,534,367	2,773,984	73.8
Collective	10,068,632	2,361,970	4,115,955	1,753,984	74.3
Other rented	6,162,148	1,398,413	2,418,413	1,020,000	72.9
Non-rented accommodation	3,108,080	1,466,846	1,855,178	388,332	26.5
Total nights	19,338,860	5,227,229	8,389,545	3,162,316	60.5

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-December			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Tourists					
Australia	49,807	2,806	1,341	-	-
Austria	33,251	11,667	16,445	4,778	41.0
Belgium	70,886	19,015	31,768	12,753	67.1
France	239,140	70,875	133,912	63,038	88.9
Germany	211,546	72,470	96,514	24,045	33.2
Hungary	37,976	9,683	11,016	-	-
Ireland	53,089	13,164	13,787	-	-
Italy	392,955	93,977	127,774	33,797	36.0
Netherlands	59,528	14,702	21,975	7,273	49.5
Poland	104,228	40,647	68,172	27,524	67.7
Scandinavia ²	124,411	18,271	31,279	13,008	71.2
Spain	116,295	27,480	35,787	8,306	30.2
Switzerland	48,954	9,794	20,538	10,744	109.7
United Kingdom	649,624	135,944	214,267	78,323	57.6
USA	50,525	8,612	13,321	4,710	54.7
Other	511,025	109,461	130,241	20,779	19.0
Total	2,753,239	658,567	968,136	309,570	47.0
Nights					
Australia	477,105	26,007	19,914	-	-
Austria	199,710	87,609	123,928	36,319	41.5
Belgium	458,266	123,713	236,981	113,268	91.6
France	1,768,292	528,201	1,156,078	627,877	118.9
Germany	1,519,440	576,003	786,629	210,626	36.6
Hungary	226,736	53,175	75,375	-	-
Ireland	347,940	87,516	109,500	-	-
Italy	2,524,847	980,009	1,295,503	315,494	32.2
Netherlands	433,665	102,027	183,148	81,121	79.5
Poland	687,924	269,083	464,544	195,460	72.6
Scandinavia ²	881,690	160,527	270,967	110,440	68.8
Spain	726,039	175,533	312,331	136,798	77.9
Switzerland	352,216	80,892	188,166	107,274	132.6
United Kingdom	4,439,274	1,036,765	1,730,720	693,954	66.9
USA	313,337	71,603	97,476	25,873	36.1
Other	3,982,379	868,566	1,338,286	469,721	54.1
Total	19,338,860	5,227,229	8,389,545	3,162,316	60.5
Expenditure (€ 000)					
Australia	74,823	3,015	2,180	-	-
Austria	27,622	9,345	14,435	5,091	54.5
Belgium	51,517	11,730	27,702	15,972	136.2
France	192,285	51,536	120,764	69,228	134.3
Germany	175,592	56,685	96,532	39,847	70.3
Hungary	21,639	4,803	6,989	-	-
Ireland	46,144	10,120	14,933	-	-
Italy	236,400	52,788	80,798	28,010	53.1
Netherlands	46,880	9,482	21,905	12,423	131.0
Poland	69,433	22,998	46,370	23,372	101.6
Scandinavia ²	112,252	15,273	31,648	16,375	107.2
Spain	76,015	14,266	26,208	11,943	83.7
Switzerland	50,585	10,284	25,750	15,466	150.4
United Kingdom	514,388	92,239	220,879	128,640	139.5
USA	58,579	9,584	18,709	9,125	95.2
Other	466,473	80,961	114,907	33,947	41.9
Total	2,220,627	455,108	870,710	415,601	91.3

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-December 2021					
Australia	:	352	803	1,025	2,180
Austria	3,551	1,730	3,654	5,500	14,435
Belgium	3,816	4,689	7,902	11,295	27,702
France	23,276	18,172	29,772	49,544	120,764
Germany	25,262	14,537	22,268	34,465	96,532
Hungary	1,096 ^u	1,016	1,898	2,979	6,989
Ireland	1,849 ^u	2,093	4,012	6,979	14,933
Italy	10,579	10,103	17,400	42,715	80,798
Netherlands	3,949	3,295	4,750	9,911	21,905
Poland	8,804	6,790	11,452	19,324	46,370
Scandinavia ²	6,842	5,225	5,760	13,820	31,648
Spain	3,184	3,359	6,428	13,238	26,208
Switzerland	5,439	3,500	7,150	9,660	25,750
United Kingdom	63,254	25,378	47,028	85,219	220,879
USA	4,095	5,087	4,101	5,426	18,709
Other	15,268	20,713	28,101	50,826	114,907
Total	180,265	126,040	202,479	361,926	870,710
January-December 2020¹					
Australia	:	1,167	500	1,082	3,015
Austria	2,401	1,192	1,958	3,794	9,345
Belgium	2,012	1,909	2,691	5,118	11,730
France	12,086	7,342	10,989	21,118	51,536
Germany	15,426	7,902	11,267	22,089	56,685
Hungary	:	966	1,237	2,228	4,803
Ireland	1,227 ^u	1,604	2,649	4,639	10,120
Italy	6,147	8,015	11,480	27,146	52,788
Netherlands	1,206	1,802	1,928	4,546	9,482
Poland	4,293	3,980	5,313	9,412	22,998
Scandinavia ²	2,888	3,198	2,954	6,233	15,273
Spain	1,411	2,700	3,356	6,798	14,266
Switzerland	2,094 ^u	1,289	2,193	4,708	10,284
United Kingdom	22,056	13,496	17,270	39,417	92,239
USA	:	3,832	2,138	2,971	9,584
Other	11,849	19,576	15,576	33,960	80,961
Total	86,379	79,970	93,498	195,261	455,108
January-December 2019					
Australia	7,635	26,698	14,264	26,226	74,823
Austria	9,577	3,539	5,592	8,913	27,622
Belgium	12,282	7,805	12,328	19,102	51,517
France	55,632	29,191	41,998	65,464	192,285
Germany	67,323	23,002	31,173	54,094	175,592
Hungary	2,704	4,254	5,854	8,827	21,639
Ireland	9,653	7,337	10,297	18,857	46,144
Italy	39,108	38,163	54,079	105,050	236,400
Netherlands	11,853	7,514	9,567	17,946	46,880
Poland	16,231	10,736	15,426	27,041	69,433
Scandinavia ²	31,668	18,383	21,126	41,074	112,252
Spain	16,088	12,837	17,556	29,533	76,015
Switzerland	14,214	7,742	11,149	17,480	50,585
United Kingdom	168,406	67,512	92,180	186,290	514,388
USA	7,777	21,075	13,068	16,660	58,579
Other	88,591	111,162	97,689	169,031	466,473
Total	558,740	396,951	453,347	811,589	2,220,627

: 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-December 2021					
Australia	:	263	670	764	1,625
Austria	734	149	367	334	878
Belgium	785	173	339	356	872
France	845	170	311	370	902
Germany	861	215	380	357	1,000
Hungary	700 ^u	107	244	270	634
Ireland	659 ^u	190	419	506	1,083
Italy	720	89	239	334	632
Netherlands	747	197	353	451	997
Poland	578	128	240	283	680
Scandinavia ²	689	244	369	442	1,012
Spain	743	106	261	370	732
Switzerland	1,257	215	497	470	1,254
United Kingdom	824	184	431	398	1,031
USA	1,287	498	490	407	1,404
Other	898	182	296	390	882
Total expenditure per capita	813	168	334	374	899
January-December 2020¹					
Australia	:	470	252	386	1,074
Austria	625	152	275	325	801
Belgium	564	124	208	269	617
France	571	147	244	298	727
Germany	657	161	264	305	782
Hungary	:	111	163	230	496
Ireland	531 ^u	147	275	352	769
Italy	444	100	218	289	562
Netherlands	367	158	213	309	645
Poland	448	128	186	232	566
Scandinavia ²	607	237	274	341	836
Spain	416	112	165	247	519
Switzerland	775	182	366	481	1,050
United Kingdom	461	153	270	290	679
USA	:	476	308	345	1,113
Other	610	217	215	310	740
Total expenditure per capita	536	160	235	296	691
January-December 2019					
Australia	1,033	620	393	527	1,502
Austria	722	174	304	268	831
Belgium	694	146	259	269	727
France	693	183	286	274	804
Germany	712	196	306	256	830
Hungary	441	133	215	232	570
Ireland	625	195	312	355	869
Italy	515	120	215	267	602
Netherlands	634	184	274	301	788
Poland	542	144	227	259	666
Scandinavia ²	724	228	314	330	902
Spain	567	145	219	254	654
Switzerland	895	233	377	357	1,033
United Kingdom	657	171	305	287	792
USA	1,092	485	344	330	1,159
Other	825	274	284	331	913
Total expenditure per capita	683	204	279	295	807

: 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 period of departure

Characteristics	January-December		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021 ^P
Total overnight cruise passengers	18,649	946	1,110
Sex			
Males	8,594	452	528
Females	10,055	494	582
Age group			
0-19	944	1	236
20-39	1,303	19	358
40-59	4,108	43	385
60-79	10,748	480	125
80 or more	1,546	403	6
Markets²			
EU	10,150	65	1,018
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	7,077	62	1,010
Non-EU	8,499	881	92

^P Data for January-December 2021 is to be considered provisional as a result of delays from source.

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 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, 5, 6 and 12). 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	75,738	3,500	75,738 ± 3,500
Total nights	775,189	104,691	775,189 ± 104,691
Total expenditure (€ 000)	54,878	4,529	54,878 ± 4,529

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