

Total cruise passenger traffic during the fourth quarter of 2022 amounted to 103,553.

## Cruise Passengers: Q4/2022

There were 61 cruise liner calls during the fourth quarter of 2022, an increase of 27 when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021. Transit passengers accounted for the absolute majority of total traffic, reaching 96,435. On average, every vessel that berthed in Malta carried 1,698 passengers, 374 more than in 2021 (Table 1).

Passengers from EU Member States made up 58.3 per cent of total traffic. The major markets were Italy, accounting for 16.8 per cent of the total passengers, followed by Germany, with 16.1 per cent. The total number of passengers from Non-EU countries stood at 43,203, of whom 35.3 per cent came from the United Kingdom and 31.7 per cent came from the United States (Table 1).

On a gender basis, female passengers made up 52.9 per cent of the total. The largest share of passengers fell within the 60-79 age bracket and were followed by those aged between 40 and 59 years (Table 1).

### January-December 2022

During 2022, total cruise passengers stood at 489,571. Of these, 59.3 per cent came from EU Member States (Table 2).

The majority of the passengers were females amounting to 259,916 or 53.1 per cent of the total. Most passengers were between 40 and 59 years old, totalling 170,857. These were followed by passengers aged 60-79 years, reaching 144,695 (Table 2).

There were 283 cruise liner calls in 2022, with an average of 1,730 passengers per vessel, compared to 106 calls and an average of 1,339 passengers per vessel in the comparative period of 2021 (Table 2) ■

**Chart 1. Total cruise passenger traffic**

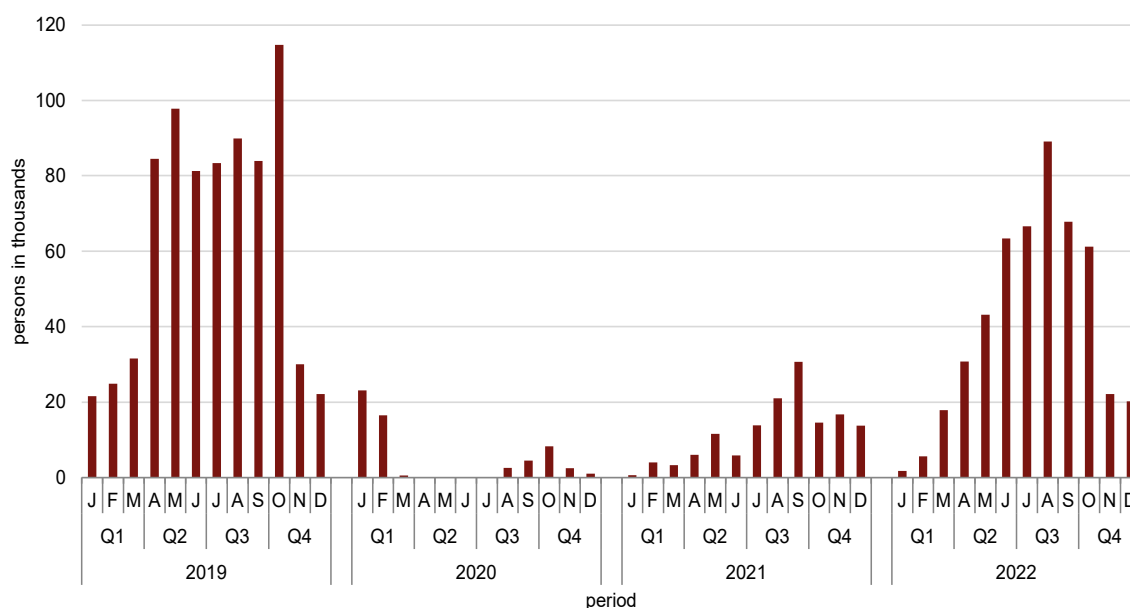


Table 1. Cruise passengers by period and passenger characteristics

Characteristics	October-December				Change
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022/2021
<b>Total traffic<sup>1</sup>:</b>	<b>166,859</b>	<b>11,825</b>	<b>44,994</b>	<b>103,553</b>	<b>58,559</b>
<b>Transit</b>	<b>149,283</b>	<b>11,695</b>	<b>42,166</b>	<b>96,435</b>	<b>54,269</b>
<b>Landed</b>	<b>17,576</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>2,828</b>	<b>7,118</b>	<b>4,290</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
Passengers on cruise liners berthed in Gozo	151	-	372	-	-372
Passengers staying overnight	5,781	53	2,448	7,772	5,324
<b>Country of Nationality</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>97,940</b>	<b>11,239</b>	<b>37,010</b>	<b>60,350</b>	<b>23,340</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	10,187	1,367	5,032	7,974	2,942
Germany	26,418	1,518	8,882	16,696	7,814
Italy	22,649	7,418	13,586	17,403	3,817
Malta	1,565	8	712	1,756	1,044
Spain	7,383	168	5,720	9,610	3,890
United Kingdom	20,195	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>68,919</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>7,984</b>	<b>43,203</b>	<b>35,219</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
Australia	4,711	-	14	931	917
Canada	8,362	-	69	2,789	2,720
Japan	2,889	4	12	137	125
United Kingdom	n/a	14	3,843	15,251	11,408
United States	29,154	17	1,912	13,716	11,804
<b>Sex:</b>					
Males	76,245	5,775	21,223	48,753	27,530
Females	90,614	6,050	23,771	54,800	31,029
<b>Age group:</b>					
0-19	15,402	1,771	5,766	13,741	7,975
20-39	20,642	3,386	8,465	17,272	8,807
40-59	47,591	4,408	14,010	33,514	19,504
60-79	76,368	2,112	15,141	37,041	21,900
80+	6,856	148	1,612	1,985	373
<b>Cruise liner calls<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>86</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>27</b>

<sup>1</sup> See methodological note 3.

<sup>2</sup> Owing to the COVID-19 situation, in 2020 there were no cruise liner calls from 10 March until 21 August.

**Table 2. Cruise passengers by period and passenger characteristics**

Characteristics	January-December				Change
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022/2021
<b>Total traffic<sup>1</sup>:</b>	<b>765,696</b>	<b>59,018</b>	<b>141,917</b>	<b>489,571</b>	<b>347,654</b>
<b>Transit</b>	<b>629,276</b>	<b>58,827</b>	<b>131,955</b>	<b>417,250</b>	<b>285,295</b>
<b>Landed</b>	<b>136,420</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>9,962</b>	<b>72,321</b>	<b>62,359</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
Passengers on cruise liners berthed in Gozo	8,160	-	3,229	2,656	-573
Passengers staying overnight	18,649	946	9,263	43,723	34,460
<b>Country of Nationality</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>491,599</b>	<b>39,553</b>	<b>123,627</b>	<b>290,182</b>	<b>166,555</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	41,209	6,301	14,823	29,744	14,921
Germany	141,564	4,278	14,623	94,020	79,397
Italy	86,702	22,131	68,086	89,810	21,724
Malta	11,697	10	3,327	11,665	8,338
Spain	38,672	2,529	12,943	36,680	23,737
United Kingdom	123,088	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>274,097</b>	<b>19,465</b>	<b>18,290</b>	<b>199,389</b>	<b>181,099</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
Australia	25,526	507	18	2,658	2,640
Canada	29,695	444	106	7,729	7,623
Japan	9,581	1,858	59	397	338
United Kingdom	n/a	2,907	5,560	108,804	103,244
United States	115,658	2,814	7,188	49,171	41,983
<b>Sex:</b>					
Males	351,788	28,123	67,917	229,655	161,738
Females	413,908	30,895	74,000	259,916	185,916
<b>Age group:</b>					
0-19	94,487	10,842	25,911	79,303	53,392
20-39	103,403	13,245	32,684	87,140	54,456
40-59	243,384	19,858	45,281	170,857	125,576
60-79	298,009	13,617	34,888	144,695	109,807
80+	26,413	1,456	3,153	7,576	4,423
<b>Cruise liner calls<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>359</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>177</b>

<sup>1</sup> See methodological note 3.

<sup>2</sup> Owing to the COVID-19 situation, in 2020 there were no cruise liner calls from 10 March until 21 August.

## Methodological Notes

1. The data in this release is compiled on the basis of administrative records supplied by Transport Malta.
2. Cruise liners calling at both Malta and Gozo during a single voyage are recorded as one cruise liner call.
3. The majority of passengers embarking on cruise liners from Malta generally end their trip at the same destination. Embarkations are therefore not included in total traffic figures, in order to avoid double counting. This measure was adopted as from News Release no. 079/2013, dated 23 April 2013. The referred news release also includes figures for 2011 and 2012.
4. For clarity, embarkation figures for the period under review are being provided:

Embarkations	2019	2020	2021	2022
October-December	17,131	58	2,184	6,742
January-December	134,691	165	8,057	71,244

### 5. Definitions:

- **Cruise passenger traffic:** comprises transit passengers and passengers who land in Malta.
  - **Embarkations:** comprise all cruise passengers who are either Maltese or who are foreigners who arrive in Malta by other means of transport.
  - **Transit passengers:** comprise all cruise passengers who arrive in and leave Malta on the same cruise ship.
  - **Landed passengers:** comprise all cruise passengers who arrive in Malta on a cruise ship and leave by other means of transport, or alternatively, stay in Malta.
  - **Passengers staying overnight:** comprise passengers who spend at least one night in the Maltese Islands, either onboard the cruise ship or on land.
  - **Average number of passengers per vessel:** computed by dividing total cruise passenger traffic by the number of cruise liner calls.
6. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:  
<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=388>
  7. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced accordingly.
  8. A detailed news release calendar is available on:  
[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)