

During fourth quarter of 2017, passenger and vehicle crossings between Malta and Gozo registered increases despite a decrease in trips, when compared to the corresponding period of 2016.

Sea transport between Malta and Gozo: Q4/2017

A total of 1,253,708 passengers travelled between Malta and Gozo during the fourth quarter in 2017, up by 8.1 per cent when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2016. The highest number of passengers was recorded in October - 486,147 or 38.8 per cent of the total for the quarter. The number of vehicles increased by 6.7 per cent, totalling 365,899 (Tables 1 and 2).

The number of trips stood at 5,438, a decrease of 0.9 per cent over the same period in 2016 (Table 1). Most trips took place in October - 1,964 or 36.1 per cent of total trips for the quarter (Table 2).

Annual perspective: 2017

During 2017, movements between Malta and Gozo continued to increase. Overall the number of trips went up by 125 or 0.6 per cent, over 2016. Vehicle movements between the islands increased by 84,908 or 5.8 per cent, over the previous year, while the number of passengers went up by 250,840 or 4.9 per cent (Tables 1 and 2).

As in previous years, August recorded the highest number of trips, 2,158 or 9.6 per cent of the total. August also registered the largest share of vehicles and passengers crossing between the two islands, 158,981 and 582,199, respectively (Table 2).

During the year 2017, passenger traffic originating from Ċirkewwa was busiest on Friday and Saturday, whereas highest volumes from Mġarr were recorded on Sunday and Saturday (Charts 3 and 4) ■

Chart 1. Passengers and vehicles crossing between Malta and Gozo

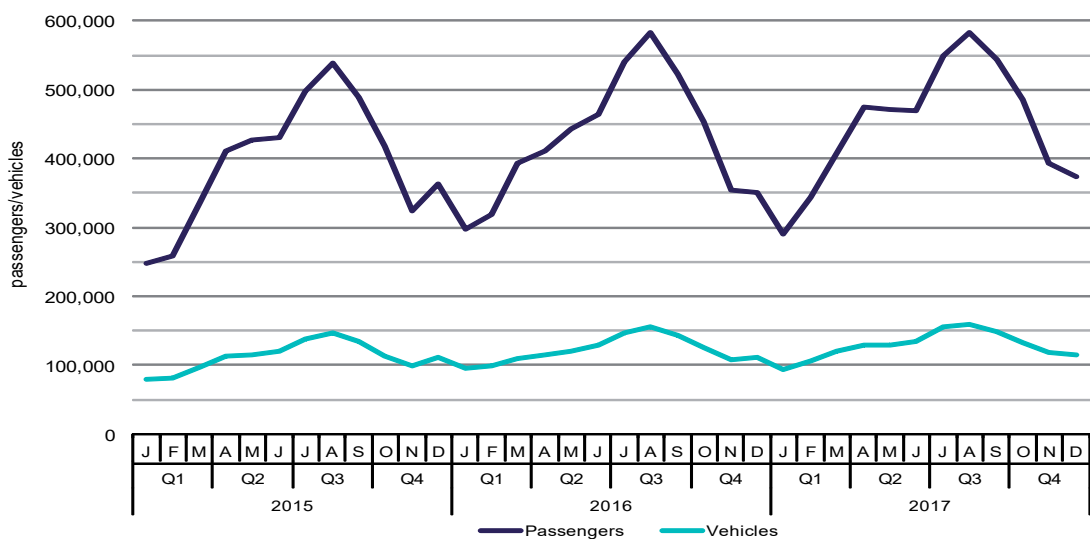


Table 1. Sea transport between Malta and Gozo by quarter

Quarter	2015	2016	2017	Change	Percentage change	
				2017/2016	2017/2016	
Trips	Jan-Mar	4,591	5,164	5,216	52	1.0
	Apr-Jun	5,136	5,426	5,541	115	2.1
	Jul-Sep	5,822	6,324	6,334	10	0.2
	Oct-Dec	5,274	5,490	5,438	-52	-0.9
	Total	20,823	22,404	22,529	125	0.6
Vehicles	Jan-Mar	258,648	305,409	320,432	15,023	4.9
	Apr-Jun	348,456	363,779	394,106	30,327	8.3
	Jul-Sep	418,190	446,890	463,585	16,695	3.7
	Oct-Dec	323,208	343,036	365,899	22,863	6.7
	Total	1,348,502	1,459,114	1,544,022	84,908	5.8
Passengers	Jan-Mar	842,193	1,010,213	1,040,188	29,975	3.0
	Apr-Jun	1,268,551	1,319,541	1,415,326	95,785	7.3
	Jul-Sep	1,525,143	1,643,898	1,674,618	30,720	1.9
	Oct-Dec	1,103,785	1,159,348	1,253,708	94,360	8.1
	Total	4,739,672	5,133,000	5,383,840	250,840	4.9

Chart 2. Passengers and vehicles to and from Malta and Gozo: Quarter 4

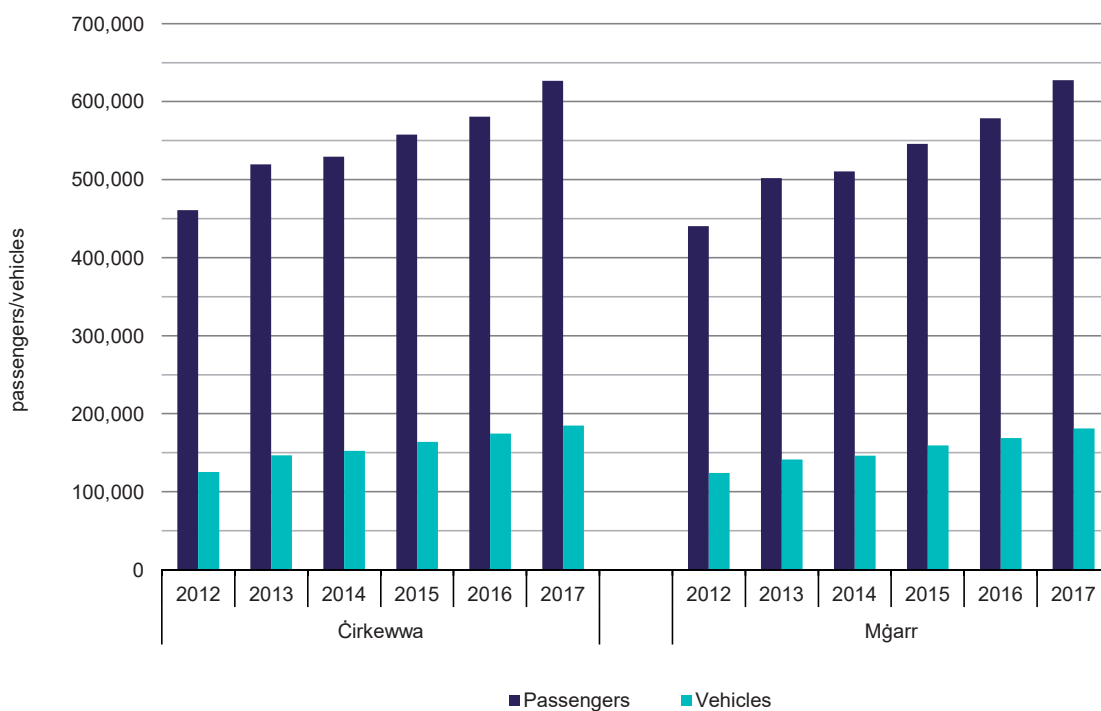


Table 2. Sea transport between Malta and Gozo by month

Month	2015	2016	2017	Change	Percentage change	
				2017/2016	2017/2016	
Trips	January	1,543	1,718	1,717	-1	-0.1
	February	1,448	1,658	1,669	11	0.7
	March	1,600	1,788	1,830	42	2.3
	April	1,614	1,730	1,834	104	6.0
	May	1,750	1,788	1,821	33	1.8
	June	1,772	1,908	1,886	-22	-1.2
	July	1,906	2,082	2,098	16	0.8
	August	2,006	2,178	2,158	-20	-0.9
	September	1,910	2,064	2,078	14	0.7
	October	1,836	1,956	1,964	8	0.4
	November	1,654	1,756	1,729	-27	-1.5
	December	1,784	1,778	1,745	-33	-1.9
	Total	20,823	22,404	22,529	125	0.6
Vehicles	January	80,082	95,996	94,258	-1,738	-1.8
	February	81,210	99,129	106,256	7,127	7.2
	March	97,356	110,284	119,918	9,634	8.7
	April	112,638	114,387	129,837	15,450	13.5
	May	115,440	120,991	129,726	8,735	7.2
	June	120,378	128,401	134,543	6,142	4.8
	July	138,281	146,998	155,624	8,626	5.9
	August	146,127	156,192	158,981	2,789	1.8
	September	133,782	143,700	148,980	5,280	3.7
	October	112,768	124,651	131,779	7,128	5.7
	November	99,582	107,935	118,862	10,927	10.1
	December	110,858	110,450	115,258	4,808	4.4
	Total	1,348,502	1,459,114	1,544,022	84,908	5.8
Passengers	January	247,609	298,071	290,357	-7,714	-2.6
	February	258,233	319,560	343,321	23,761	7.4
	March	336,351	392,582	406,510	13,928	3.5
	April	410,096	411,456	474,647	63,191	15.4
	May	427,338	443,447	471,397	27,950	6.3
	June	431,117	464,638	469,282	4,644	1.0
	July	497,596	539,530	548,452	8,922	1.7
	August	538,016	582,264	582,199	-65	0.0
	September	489,531	522,104	543,967	21,863	4.2
	October	417,869	454,022	486,147	32,125	7.1
	November	323,322	353,830	393,745	39,915	11.3
	December	362,594	351,496	373,816	22,320	6.4
	Total	4,739,672	5,133,000	5,383,840	250,840	4.9

Table 3. Sea transport to and from Malta and Gozo by month

Month	Ċirkewwa - Mġarr		Change	Percentage change	Mġarr - Ċirkewwa		Change	Percentage change	
	2016	2017	2017/2016	2017/2016	2016	2017	2017/2016	2017/2016	
Trips	January	859	858	-1	-0.1	859	859	0	0.0
	February	829	834	5	0.6	829	835	6	0.7
	March	894	915	21	2.3	894	915	21	2.3
	April	865	917	52	6.0	865	917	52	6.0
	May	894	910	16	1.8	894	911	17	1.9
	June	954	943	-11	-1.2	954	943	-11	-1.2
	July	1,041	1,049	8	0.8	1,041	1,049	8	0.8
	August	1,089	1,079	-10	-0.9	1,089	1,079	-10	-0.9
	September	1,032	1,039	7	0.7	1,032	1,039	7	0.7
	October	978	982	4	0.4	978	982	4	0.4
	November	878	864	-14	-1.6	878	865	-13	-1.5
	December	889	873	-16	-1.8	889	872	-17	-1.9
	Total	11,202	11,263	61	0.5	11,202	11,266	64	0.6
Vehicles	January	47,560	46,603	-957	-2.0	48,436	47,655	-781	-1.6
	February	49,795	54,073	4,278	8.6	49,334	52,183	2,849	5.8
	March	56,041	61,906	5,865	10.5	54,243	58,012	3,769	6.9
	April	57,595	65,349	7,754	13.5	56,792	64,488	7,696	13.6
	May	60,219	64,338	4,119	6.8	60,772	65,388	4,616	7.6
	June	65,182	69,380	4,198	6.4	63,219	65,163	1,944	3.1
	July	74,748	78,036	3,288	4.4	72,250	77,588	5,338	7.4
	August	79,340	80,338	998	1.3	76,852	78,643	1,791	2.3
	September	73,003	75,830	2,827	3.9	70,697	73,150	2,453	3.5
	October	62,689	65,742	3,053	4.9	61,962	66,037	4,075	6.6
	November	54,220	59,534	5,314	9.8	53,715	59,328	5,613	10.4
	December	57,448	59,416	1,968	3.4	53,002	55,842	2,840	5.4
	Total	737,840	780,545	42,705	5.8	721,274	763,477	42,203	5.9
Passengers	January	148,318	143,050	-5,268	-3.6	149,753	147,307	-2,446	-1.6
	February	161,957	173,284	11,327	7.0	157,603	170,037	12,434	7.9
	March	199,443	206,317	6,874	3.4	193,139	200,193	7,054	3.7
	April	206,761	237,070	30,309	14.7	204,695	237,577	32,882	16.1
	May	222,332	233,975	11,643	5.2	221,115	237,422	16,307	7.4
	June	237,761	239,320	1,559	0.7	226,877	229,962	3,085	1.4
	July	272,024	275,281	3,257	1.2	267,506	273,171	5,665	2.1
	August	294,794	291,236	-3,558	-1.2	287,470	290,963	3,493	1.2
	September	262,055	274,817	12,762	4.9	260,049	269,150	9,101	3.5
	October	226,493	242,290	15,797	7.0	227,529	243,857	16,328	7.2
	November	175,791	195,268	19,477	11.1	178,039	198,477	20,438	11.5
	December	178,363	188,899	10,536	5.9	173,133	184,917	11,784	6.8
	Total	2,586,092	2,700,807	114,715	4.4	2,546,908	2,683,033	136,125	5.3

Table 4. Sea transport between Malta and Gozo by day of the week

Day of the week		January-December			Change	Percentage change
		2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	2017/2016
Trips	Monday	2,938	3,174	3,159	-15	-0.5
	Tuesday	2,995	3,132	3,141	9	0.3
	Wednesday	2,778	3,054	3,078	24	0.8
	Thursday	2,988	3,170	3,202	32	1.0
	Friday	3,054	3,352	3,305	-47	-1.4
	Saturday	2,886	3,142	3,146	4	0.1
	Sunday	3,184	3,380	3,498	118	3.5
	Total	20,823	22,404	22,529	125	0.6
Vehicles	Monday	185,106	196,993	206,095	9,102	4.6
	Tuesday	180,172	192,794	201,343	8,549	4.4
	Wednesday	178,303	194,482	206,835	12,353	6.4
	Thursday	185,244	198,670	216,759	18,089	9.1
	Friday	212,824	232,290	241,782	9,492	4.1
	Saturday	194,161	211,591	227,711	16,120	7.6
	Sunday	212,692	232,294	243,497	11,203	4.8
	Total	1,348,502	1,459,114	1,544,022	84,908	5.8
Passengers	Monday	632,908	677,161	703,378	26,217	3.9
	Tuesday	614,197	663,806	680,752	16,946	2.6
	Wednesday	640,705	699,760	728,110	28,350	4.1
	Thursday	647,203	694,915	751,769	56,854	8.2
	Friday	705,743	776,656	804,055	27,399	3.5
	Saturday	739,388	795,437	843,878	48,441	6.1
	Sunday	759,528	825,265	871,898	46,633	5.7
	Total	4,739,672	5,133,000	5,383,840	250,840	4.9

Chart 3. Vehicles to and from Malta and Gozo by day of the week: January-December

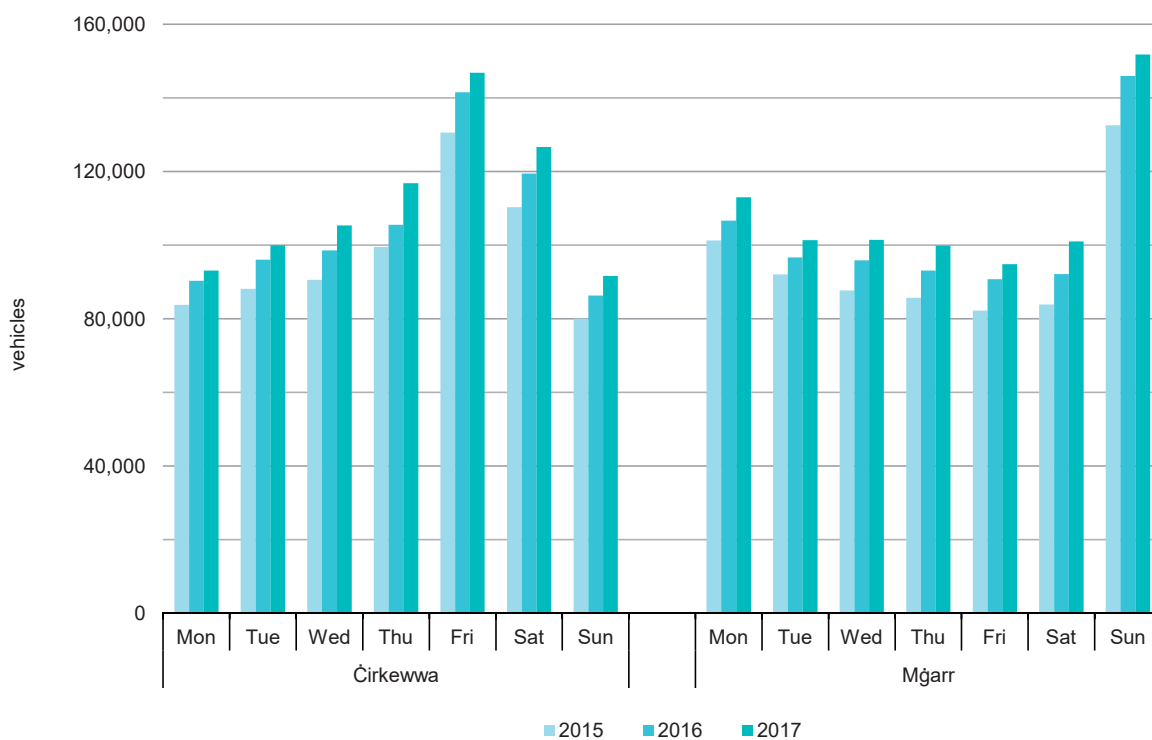
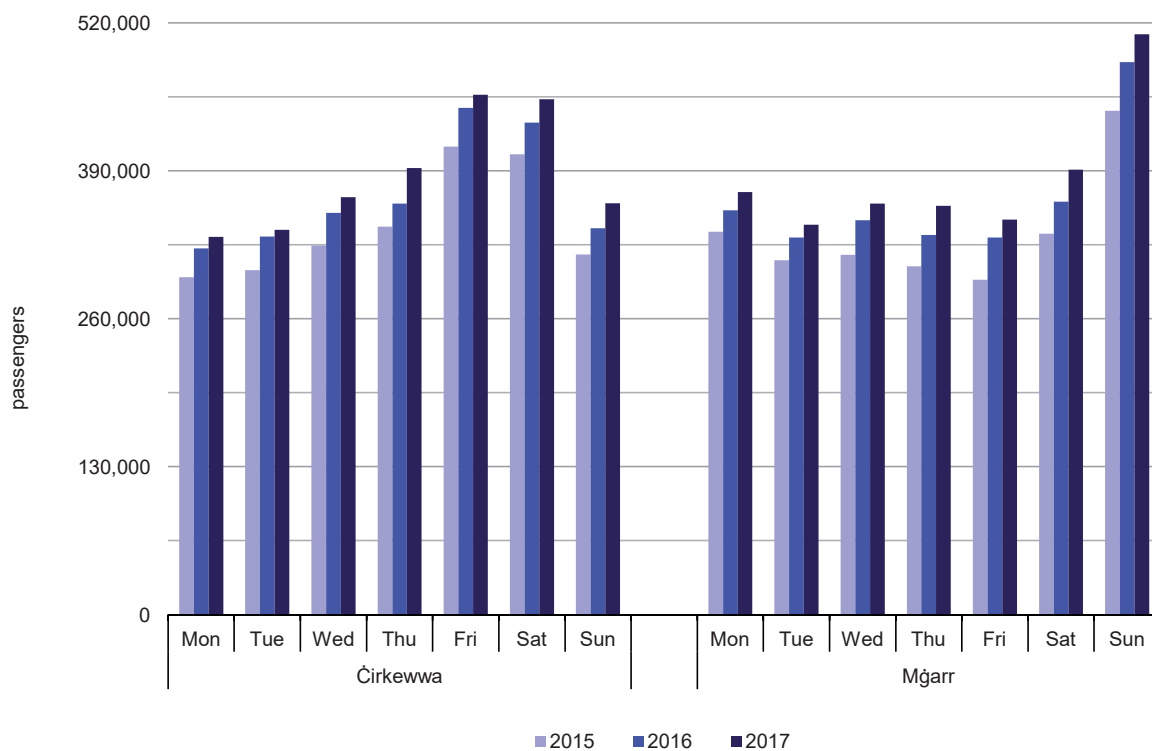


Chart 4. Passengers to and from Malta and Gozo by day of the week: January-December



Methodological Notes

1. The source for the data included in this release is administrative information provided by the Gozo Channel Co. Ltd.
2. The table below illustrates the passenger and vehicle capacity of each Gozo Channel vessel:

Carrying capacity

Vessel	Vehicles	Passengers
MV Gaudos	72	900
MV Malita	138	900
MV Ta' Pinu	138	900

Periods when vessels were out of service for docking puposes:

MV Gaudos: 13/11/2017 - 30/11/2017.

MV Malita: 09/01/2017 - 02/02/2017, 14/02/2017 - 17/02/2017 and 08/05/2017 - 09/05/2017.

MV Ta' Pinu: 03/10/2017 - 05/10/2017.

3. Data for passengers comprise: foot and vehicle passengers and vehicle drivers.
4. Different approaches are applied for the collection of data at the Mġarr and Ċirkewwa Harbours, respectively. While the data source for the Mġarr side is the Automated Ticketing System (ATS), data for the Ċirkewwa side is dependent on the manual clicking system.
5. The data are not normally subject to revision.
6. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced.
7. A detailed news release calendar is available on https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx