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Total outbound tourists for the fourth quarter in 2015 were estimated at 110,924, an increase of 10.2 per cent when compared to the same quarter in 2014.

Outbound Tourism: Q4/2015

October-December 2015

During the fourth quarter of 2015, the number of outbound tourist trips towards EU countries stood at 98,571, an increase of 9.7 per cent over the same quarter in 2014 (Table 1). Italy and the United Kingdom remained the most popular destinations, with a share of 54.0 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 4).

Total nights spent by outbound tourists increased by 1.7 per cent, reaching 856,303 nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights were spent in private accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total estimated outlay by resident tourists between October and December increased by 7.7 per cent over the same quarter of 2014, and stood at €106.5 million, equivalent to an average €960 per trip (Tables 5 and 6).

January-December 2015

Total outbound tourist trips between January and December 2015 numbered 428,033, an increase of 9.6 per cent over 2014 (Table 7). Total nights spent by outbound tourists went up by 2.7 per cent, reaching almost 3.3 million nights (Table 9). In addition, total estimated outlay by resident tourists stood at €422.7 million, 9.0 per cent higher than that recorded for the same period in 2014 (Table 11) ■

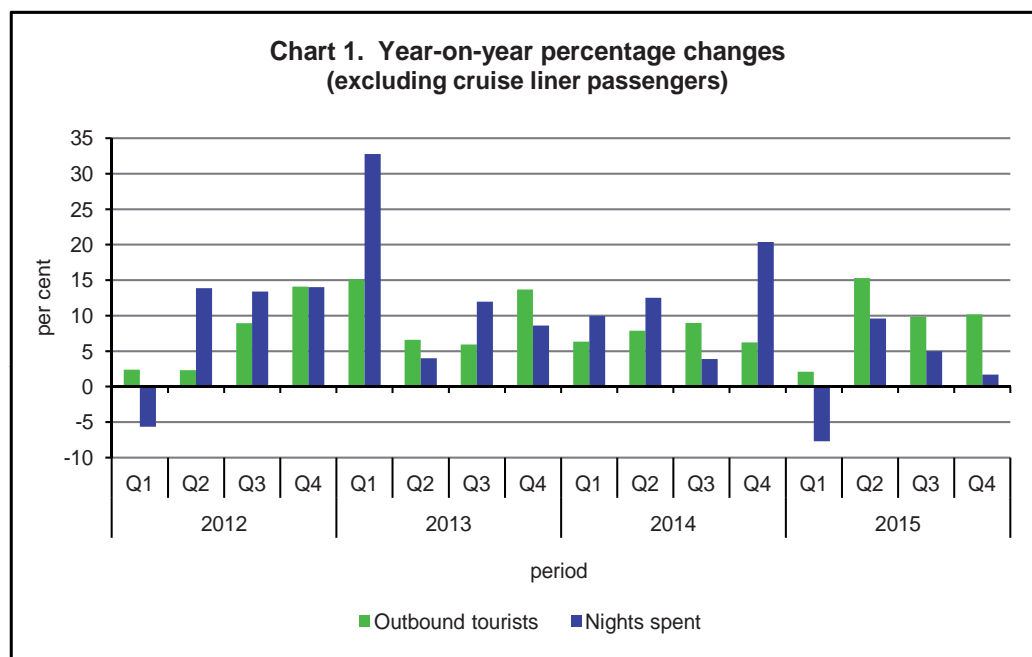
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Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	October-December (Q4)			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Outbound tourists	94,779	100,675	110,924	10,249	10.2
Mode of travel:					
Air	90,168	95,110	106,259	11,149	11.7
Sea (see note 2)	4,611	5,565	4,665	-900	-
Sex:					
Males	53,678	57,218	63,581	6,363	11.1
Females	41,101	43,457	47,343	3,886	8.9
Age group:					
0-24	14,744	17,133	18,107	974	-
25-44	44,625	44,684	51,297	6,613	14.8
45-64	27,704	29,582	32,599	3,017	10.2
65 or more	7,707	9,276	8,920	-356	-
Destination:					
EU	82,722	89,865	98,571	8,706	9.7
<i>of which:</i> Euro area	50,959	55,731	64,819	9,087	16.3
Non-EU	12,057	10,810	12,353	1,542	14.3
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	49,835	50,574	55,542	4,967	9.8
Visiting relatives and friends	20,700	25,758	31,472	5,714	22.2
Business and professional	18,415	17,963	17,186	-778	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	5,829	6,380	6,724	345	-
Organisation of stay:					
Package	17,301	17,463	14,370	-3,093	-17.7
Non-package	77,478	83,212	96,554	13,341	16.0
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	29,041	29,732	31,787	2,055	6.9
4-6 nights	28,157	30,550	33,275	2,726	8.9
7 nights or more	37,581	40,394	45,862	5,468	13.5
Average length of stay (nights)	7.4	8.4	7.7	-0.7	-

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Data on sea passengers is provisional. For more information refer to the methodological notes.

Table 2. Outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	October-December (Q4)			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Private accommodation	31,924	38,360	46,523	8,164	21.3
Collective accommodation*	62,855	62,315	64,400	2,085	3.3
Total tourists	94,779	100,675	110,924	10,249	10.2

* Comprises hotels, guesthouses, tourist villages, hostels, B&Bs and campsites

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Total nights spent by outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	October-December (Q4)			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Private accommodation	351,818	482,116	516,551	34,435	7.1
Collective accommodation*	347,729	360,072	339,752	-20,320	-5.6
Total nights	699,547	842,188	856,303	14,115	1.7

* Comprises hotels, guesthouses, tourist villages, hostels, B&Bs and campsites

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 4. Outbound tourists and nights spent by period of departure and destination

Destination	October-December (Q4)			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Tourists					
EU	82,722	89,865	98,571	8,706	9.7
<i>of which:</i>					
France	3,472	5,366	4,365	-1,002	-
Germany	5,554	5,704	7,368	1,665	29.2
Italy	27,901	30,174	34,729	4,555	15.1
United Kingdom	27,129	27,379	25,162	-2,217	-8.1
Non-EU	12,057	10,810	12,353	1,542	14.3
Total	94,779	100,675	110,924	10,249	10.2
Nights					
EU	528,573	611,092	654,369	43,277	7.1
<i>of which:</i>					
France	21,256	30,788	34,917	4,129	-
Germany	39,718	39,588	47,348	7,760	19.6
Italy	135,925	149,082	176,270	27,188	18.2
United Kingdom	198,843	202,088	183,770	-18,318	-9.1
Non-EU	170,974	231,096	201,934	-29,162	-12.6
Total	699,547	842,188	856,303	14,115	1.7

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 5. Total expenditure by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€000

Expenditure category	October-December (Q4)			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Package	9,768	9,555	9,577	22	0.2
Non-package	30,977	32,548	35,995	3,447	10.6
Air/sea fares	17,289	18,690	20,305	1,614	8.6
Accommodation	13,688	13,858	15,690	1,832	13.2
Other expenditure	50,872	56,696	60,880	4,184	7.4
Total expenditure	91,616	98,799	106,452	7,653	7.7

Notes:

1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand euro.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 6. Average expenditure per capita per night by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€

Expenditure category	October-December (Q4)					
	per trip			per night		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
Package	565	547	666	100	90	116
Non-package	400	391	373	51	44	47
Air/sea fares	223	225	210	29	25	26
Accommodation	264	267	267	44	44	47
Other expenditure	537	563	549	73	67	71
Total	967	981	960	131	117	124

Table 7. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Outbound tourists	363,463	390,701	428,033	37,332	9.6
Mode of travel:					
Air	340,478	365,454	402,926	37,472	10.3
Sea (see note 2)	22,985	25,247	25,107	-140	-
Sex:					
Males	206,205	219,537	241,889	22,352	10.2
Females	157,259	171,164	186,144	14,980	8.8
Age group:					
0-24	66,616	76,750	80,344	3,594	4.7
25-44	151,329	166,237	188,489	22,251	13.4
45-64	112,502	113,527	123,854	10,326	9.1
65 or more	33,016	34,186	35,346	1,160	-
Destination:					
EU	318,083	346,727	381,254	34,527	10.0
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	205,202	226,268	258,141	31,873	14.1
Non-EU	45,380	43,974	46,779	2,804	6.4
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	208,092	219,703	231,784	12,080	5.5
Visiting relatives and friends	66,021	77,623	94,784	17,161	22.1
Business and professional	63,650	66,493	68,283	1,790	2.7
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	25,700	26,882	33,182	6,300	23.4
Organisation of stay:					
Package	87,600	89,543	82,829	-6,714	-7.5
Non-package	275,863	301,158	345,204	44,046	14.6
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	92,224	102,790	114,750	11,960	11.6
4-6 nights	106,179	113,640	126,590	12,950	11.4
7 nights or more	165,060	174,272	186,693	12,422	7.1
Average length of stay (nights)	7.9	8.1	7.6	-0.5	-

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Data on sea passengers is provisional. For more information refer to the methodological notes.

Table 8. Outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Private accommodation	119,042	138,635	160,652	22,017	15.9
Collective accommodation*	244,421	252,066	267,381	15,315	6.1
Total tourists	363,463	390,701	428,033	37,332	9.6

* Comprises hotels, guesthouses, tourist villages, hostels, B&Bs and campsites

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 9. Total nights spent by outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Private accommodation	1,379,916	1,682,363	1,783,209	100,847	6.0
Collective accommodation*	1,489,730	1,498,988	1,483,953	-15,035	-1.0
Total nights	2,869,647	3,181,351	3,267,163	85,812	2.7

* Comprises hotels, guesthouses, tourist villages, hostels, B&Bs and campsites

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 10. Outbound tourists and nights spent by destination

Destination	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Total tourists	363,463	390,701	428,033	37,332	9.6
Austria	4,985	5,156	7,219	2,063	40.0
Belgium	10,103	9,752	10,792	1,041	-
France	17,374	21,853	20,946	-907	-
Germany	18,825	21,929	23,866	1,937	8.8
Ireland	3,647	3,274	5,517	2,243	68.5
Italy	109,413	122,678	137,060	14,382	11.7
Libya	8,665	3,918	1,007 ^u	-2,911	-74.3
Netherlands	8,550	10,380	13,756	3,376	32.5
Russia	2,326	2,084	2,410	325	-
Scandinavia*	8,837	8,000	9,963	1,963	24.5
Spain	19,999	17,895	19,408	1,512	8.5
Switzerland	5,977	5,004	7,438	2,434	48.6
United Kingdom	89,482	91,822	89,266	-2,555	-2.8
USA	3,234	4,248	4,458	210	-
Other	52,047	62,709	74,928	12,219	19.5
Total nights	2,869,647	3,181,351	3,267,163	85,812	2.7
Austria	31,854	37,465	50,980	13,515	36.1
Belgium	48,512	52,805	53,052	247	-
France	113,786	142,091	139,164	-2,927	-
Germany	146,526	163,492	165,424	1,932	1.2
Ireland	31,437	35,404	41,713	6,309	17.8
Italy	592,966	662,722	734,664	71,943	10.9
Libya	110,115	50,346	16,452 ^u	-33,894	-67.3
Netherlands	65,320	83,690	94,434	10,744	12.8
Russia	30,143	32,685	35,166	2,481	-
Scandinavia*	82,703	85,909	107,393	21,484	25.0
Spain	137,409	135,684	134,984	-700	-0.5
Switzerland	58,919	34,246	54,751	20,505	59.9
United Kingdom	711,711	734,171	676,750	-57,421	-7.8
USA	64,111	89,065	81,014	-8,050	-
Other	644,134	841,574	881,222	39,647	4.7

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

^u under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 11. Total expenditure by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€000

Expenditure category	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Package	58,034	58,510	60,183	1,673	2.9
Non-package	116,039	124,763	137,215	12,452	10.0
Air/sea fares	62,520	68,115	73,222	5,107	7.5
Accommodation	53,519	56,648	63,993	7,345	13.0
Other expenditure	195,507	204,416	225,302	20,885	10.2
Total expenditure	369,580	387,689	422,700	35,011	9.0

Notes:

1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand euro.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 12. Average expenditure per capita per night by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€

Expenditure category	January-December					
	per trip			per night		
Package	662	653	727	103	103	113
Non-package	421	414	397	50	48	50
Air/sea fares	227	226	212	27	26	27
Accommodation	282	282	283	42	44	47
Other expenditure	538	523	526	68	64	69
Total	1,017	992	988	129	122	129

Methodological Notes

1. The results in this release are based on the ongoing frontier survey known as Tourstat. Tourist air departures are collected through a continuous survey carried out at the departure lounge of Malta International Airport (MIA). Personal interviews are carried out. A two-stage sampling design is used to survey air passengers. In the first stage alternate days are selected. Then within each shift a sample of passengers is selected systematically.
2. 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 some fixed quota. Survey data is supplemented by administrative data provided by ferry operators.
3. This release focuses on Outbound Tourism, which comprises the activities of residents of Malta travelling to, and staying in places outside Malta and therefore outside their usual environment.
4. The Tourstat survey measures the number of tourist trips carried out during a particular reference month. These differ from the number of tourists as the same person can embark on more than one trip during the same period.
5. Under-represented figures are indicated where applicable for each table and should be treated with caution. Users should also exercise discretion when analysing figures that involve estimates below 1,500 tourists. Such estimates may be subject to variations attributable to low frequency in the sample (sampling errors). Other limitations may involve non-sampling errors, namely those linked to respondents' willingness to provide proper information and others related to language barriers.
6. Percentage changes for tourists based on counts of less than 1,500 are not presented due to sampling errors.
7. Expenditure data in this release represent the budgeted expenditure of outbound tourists prior to their departure.
8. Administrative data on sea passengers are provided on a monthly basis by ferry operators. Due to unforeseen circumstances these data were not available for February and March 2015. In view of this, sea passenger data have been estimated using a first-order autoregression time series model with a seasonal difference of order one. These data should thus be treated as provisional and are subject to revision in forthcoming news releases.
9. **Definitions:**
 - **Traveller:** Someone 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. 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 exclude the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited**, which would exclude migratory movements for work purposes.Visitors (domestic/international) comprise tourists and same-day visitors.
 - **Tourist:** Visitors who stay at least one night in a collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.
 - **Same-day visitor:** Visitors who do not spend the night in a collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.
10. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=39>
Statistical Database: <http://nso.gov.mt/statdb/start>