

Total inbound visitors for September were estimated at 208,321, an increase of 7.3 per cent when compared to the corresponding month of 2015.

Inbound Tourism: September 2016

A total of 180,734 inbound tourist trips were carried out for holiday purposes, while a further 11,509 were undertaken for business purposes. Inbound tourists from EU Member States went up by 8.2 per cent to 175,793 when compared to the corresponding month of 2015. The majority of inbound tourists were aged between 25 and 44, followed by those within the 45-64 age bracket (Table 1).

Total nights spent went up by 1.6 per cent when compared to September 2015, amounting to 1,634,155 nights. The largest share of guest nights (56.0 per cent) was spent in collective accommodation establishments (Table 3).

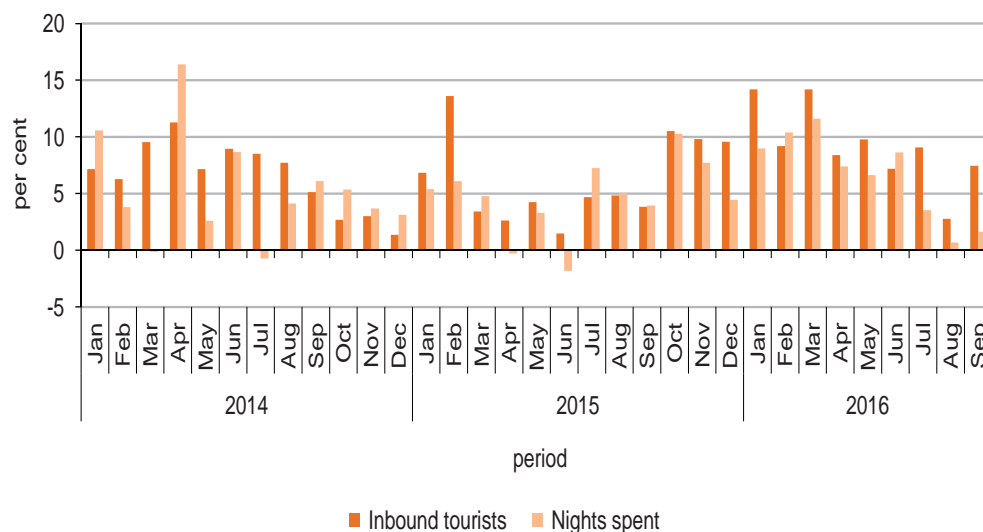
Total tourist expenditure was estimated at €198.4 million, an increase of 1.3 per cent over the corresponding month of 2015 (Table 4).

January-September 2016

Inbound tourist trips from January to September amounted to 1,515,439, an increase of 8.2 per cent over the same period in 2015 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists went up by 5.1 per cent, almost 11.8 million nights (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure was estimated at €1,355.3 million, 3.2 per cent higher than that recorded for 2015 (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita stood at €894, a decrease of 4.6 per cent when compared to 2015 (Table 11) ■

Chart 1. Inbound tourism: year-on-year percentage changes
(excluding overnight cruise passengers)



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Table 1. Profile of inbound tourists by month of departure

Characteristics	September			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Total inbound visitors	193,138	194,189	208,321	14,132	7.3
Overnight cruise passengers	7,700	1,639	1,401	-238	-14.5
Inbound tourists	185,438	192,550	206,920	14,370	7.5
Mode of travel					
Air	179,402	186,871	201,594	14,723	7.9
Sea	6,036	5,679	5,326	-353	-6.2
Sex					
Males	96,095	98,288	108,900	10,612	10.8
Females	89,344	94,262	98,020	3,758	4.0
Age group					
0-24	31,852	32,041	38,118	6,076	19.0
25-44	63,484	67,175	74,340	7,165	10.7
45-64	63,316	66,041	66,548	507	-
65 or more	26,787	27,292	27,914	622	-
Markets					
EU	158,545	162,429	175,793	13,364	8.2
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	82,036	80,655	86,493	5,838	7.2
Non-EU	26,893	30,121	31,128	1,006	-
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	164,579	169,108	180,734	11,626	6.9
Business and professional	12,739	11,867	11,509	-358	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	8,121	11,574	14,677	3,103	26.8
Organisation of stay					
Package	89,012	80,508	78,519	-1,989	-2.5
Non-package	96,426	112,042	128,401	16,359	14.6
Frequency					
First-time tourists	129,903	133,816	146,647	12,832	9.6
Repeat tourists	55,535	58,734	60,273	1,539	2.6
once a year or less	41,918	44,994	44,091	-904	-
more than once a year	13,618	13,740	16,182	2,442	17.8
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	24,783	23,821	30,843	7,021	29.5
4-6 nights	39,120	41,639	50,246	8,607	20.7
7 nights or more	121,535	127,089	125,832	-1,257	-
Average length of stay (nights)	8.3	8.4	7.9	-0.5	-

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	September			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Private accommodation	48,414	61,765	70,985	9,220	14.9
Collective accommodation*	137,025	130,784	135,935	5,150	3.9
Total tourists	185,438	192,550	206,920	14,370	7.5

* 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 inbound tourists by month of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	September			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Private accommodation	554,656	677,343	719,102	41,759	6.2
Collective accommodation*	992,093	930,555	915,053	-15,502	-1.7
Total nights	1,546,749	1,607,898	1,634,155	26,257	1.6

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

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Expenditure category	September			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Package	65,384	61,388	57,718	-3,671	-6.0
Non-package	51,225	57,931	62,937	5,006	8.6
Air/sea fares	26,439	28,396	30,240	1,844	6.5
Accommodation	24,786	29,535	32,697	3,162	10.7
Other expenditure	69,661	76,599	77,778	1,179	1.5
Total expenditure	186,271	195,918	198,432	2,514	1.3

€ 000

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		September			Change	Percentage change
		2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Tourists	EU	158,545	162,429	175,793	13,364	8.2
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	10,953	10,412	13,489	3,077	29.5
	Germany	17,539	14,368	14,298	-71	-
	Italy	28,274	28,984	32,047	3,064	10.6
	United Kingdom	55,503	59,998	64,071	4,073	6.8
	Non-EU	26,893	30,121	31,128	1,006	-
	Total	185,438	192,550	206,920	14,370	7.5
Nights	EU	1,242,182	1,312,055	1,340,861	28,806	2.2
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	86,116	88,395	93,564	5,169	5.8
	Germany	142,801	135,814	130,642	-5,172	-
	Italy	180,976	205,672	204,759	-913	-0.4
	United Kingdom	475,494	519,527	529,527	10,000	1.9
	Non-EU	304,567	295,843	293,294	-2,549	-
	Total	1,546,749	1,607,898	1,634,155	26,257	1.6
Expenditure (€000)	EU	145,920	158,118	157,428	-690	-0.4
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	9,993	10,649	11,638	989	9.3
	Germany	18,120	15,525	14,068	-1,457	-
	Italy	18,913	19,657	21,243	1,586	8.1
	United Kingdom	57,358	66,837	65,151	-1,686	-2.5
	Non-EU	40,351	37,800	41,004	3,204	-
	Total	186,271	195,918	198,432	2,514	1.3

Notes:

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

Table 6. Profile of inbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-September			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Total inbound visitors	1,363,859	1,411,602	1,529,857	118,256	8.4
Overnight cruise passengers	21,183	10,539	14,418	3,879	36.8
Inbound tourists	1,342,676	1,401,063	1,515,439	114,377	8.2
Mode of travel					
Air	1,305,115	1,365,998	1,477,773	111,775	8.2
Sea	37,561	35,065	37,666	2,601	7.4
Sex					
Males	698,513	721,740	767,241	45,500	6.3
Females	644,163	679,323	748,199	68,876	10.1
Age group					
0-24	292,184	296,312	322,784	26,472	8.9
25-44	457,739	477,241	533,568	56,327	11.8
45-64	428,858	446,912	469,611	22,699	5.1
65 or more	163,895	180,599	189,477	8,878	4.9
Markets					
EU	1,123,459	1,202,963	1,301,815	98,852	8.2
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	600,451	644,253	690,753	46,500	7.2
Non-EU	219,218	198,100	213,625	15,525	7.8
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	1,142,083	1,193,708	1,306,837	113,129	9.5
Business and professional	97,516	90,528	96,871	6,343	7.0
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	103,077	116,827	111,732	-5,095	-4.4
Organisation of stay					
Package	615,453	617,719	593,933	-23,785	-3.9
Non-package	727,223	783,344	921,506	138,162	17.6
Frequency					
First-time tourists	930,856	990,818	1,074,383	83,564	8.4
Repeat tourists	411,820	410,245	441,057	30,812	7.5
once a year or less	295,981	301,230	320,933	19,703	6.5
more than once a year	115,839	109,015	120,124	11,109	10.2
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	212,615	201,267	251,724	50,456	25.1
4-6 nights	301,358	335,894	380,111	44,217	13.2
7 nights or more	828,704	863,901	883,605	19,703	2.3
Average length of stay (nights)	8.1	8.0	7.8	-0.2	-

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	January-September			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Private accommodation	344,152	397,803	475,756	77,953	19.6
Collective accommodation*	998,524	1,003,260	1,039,683	36,423	3.6
Total tourists	1,342,676	1,401,063	1,515,439	114,377	8.2

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

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-September			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Private accommodation	3,736,354	4,239,450	4,832,089	592,640	14.0
Collective accommodation*	7,074,197	6,975,989	6,952,748	-23,241	-0.3
Total nights	10,810,551	11,215,439	11,784,837	569,399	5.1

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

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-September			Change	Percentage change	
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015		
Tourists	Austria	21,683	24,746	19,647	-5,099	-20.6
	Belgium	25,332	29,258	29,389	131	-
	France	102,820	104,741	114,302	9,562	9.1
	Germany	105,786	104,421	111,774	7,354	7.0
	Ireland	24,265	28,221	25,526	-2,695	-9.6
	Italy	212,229	231,964	247,950	15,986	6.9
	Libya	28,305	5,711	2,500	-3,211	-56.2
	Netherlands	36,439	36,202	40,575	4,373	12.1
	Russia	28,992	17,367	12,728	-4,639	-26.7
	Scandinavia*	86,246	89,249	94,672	5,422	6.1
	Spain	36,179	38,242	43,698	5,456	14.3
	Switzerland	24,114	26,766	29,563	2,797	10.5
	United Kingdom	383,209	409,533	435,115	25,583	6.2
	USA	17,762	18,158	21,287	3,129	17.2
	Other	209,315	236,483	286,712	50,229	21.2
	Total	1,342,676	1,401,063	1,515,439	114,377	8.2
Nights	Austria	158,758	184,286	139,910	-44,376	-24.1
	Belgium	193,725	227,644	201,117	-26,527	-
	France	816,159	859,193	917,714	58,521	6.8
	Germany	909,482	895,372	903,778	8,406	0.9
	Ireland	200,458	218,575	195,441	-23,134	-10.6
	Italy	1,284,304	1,534,494	1,580,692	46,198	3.0
	Libya	187,225	46,716	21,946	-24,770	-53.0
	Netherlands	283,219	289,463	315,180	25,718	8.9
	Russia	370,445	208,247	142,306	-65,942	-31.7
	Scandinavia*	661,046	660,650	684,941	24,291	3.7
	Spain	269,233	296,202	317,210	21,008	7.1
	Switzerland	194,186	200,481	220,631	20,151	10.1
	United Kingdom	3,250,904	3,430,093	3,539,006	108,913	3.2
	USA	139,074	153,259	163,780	10,522	6.9
	Other	1,892,333	2,010,764	2,441,184	430,419	21.4
	Total	10,810,551	11,215,439	11,784,837	569,399	5.1
Expenditure (€000)	Austria	20,902	23,615	17,747	-5,868	-24.8
	Belgium	25,978	28,712	27,625	-1,088	-
	France	94,923	98,171	102,898	4,726	4.8
	Germany	104,916	102,015	100,174	-1,841	-1.8
	Ireland	21,770	26,999	24,373	-2,626	-9.7
	Italy	134,712	151,954	159,430	7,476	4.9
	Libya	29,294	7,959	3,584	-4,375	-55.0
	Netherlands	32,444	33,800	36,223	2,423	7.2
	Russia	46,359	25,936	17,580	-8,356	-32.2
	Scandinavia*	83,263	85,320	90,350	5,030	5.9
	Spain	30,798	33,068	36,736	3,668	11.1
	Switzerland	30,125	31,354	35,195	3,841	12.2
	United Kingdom	337,499	394,842	388,174	-6,669	-1.7
	USA	22,558	24,245	25,611	1,366	5.6
	Other	221,140	245,119	289,645	44,526	18.2
	Total	1,236,682	1,313,109	1,355,342	42,233	3.2

* 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 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-September 2016				
Austria	7,761	1,855	2,189	5,942	17,747
Belgium	11,687	3,150	3,832	8,956	27,625
France	38,699	11,977	17,164	35,058	102,898
Germany	43,028	10,841	14,567	31,736	100,174
Ireland	5,642	3,540	4,813	10,378	24,373
Italy	39,265	19,828	31,246	69,091	159,430
Libya	218	967	827	1,572	3,584
Netherlands	12,621	3,968	4,930	14,704	36,223
Russia	3,937	2,967	2,867	7,810	17,580
Scandinavia*	31,794	10,949	13,477	34,130	90,350
Spain	9,060	5,036	7,382	15,258	36,736
Switzerland	11,075	4,824	5,985	13,311	35,195
United Kingdom	132,723	51,662	56,206	147,582	388,174
USA	1,751	9,025	5,247	9,587	25,611
Other	56,903	60,023	49,775	122,944	289,645
Total	406,164	200,611	220,507	528,060	1,355,342
January-September 2015					
Austria	11,031	2,157	2,509	7,919	23,615
Belgium	12,821	3,083	3,637	9,172	28,712
France	40,404	11,185	14,469	32,113	98,171
Germany	49,693	9,551	12,591	30,179	102,015
Ireland	6,384	3,812	5,059	11,744	26,999
Italy	41,916	18,655	27,656	63,727	151,954
Libya	310	2,213	2,168	3,268	7,959
Netherlands	12,517	3,678	4,429	13,176	33,800
Russia	6,477	4,160	4,157	11,143	25,936
Scandinavia*	26,330	11,817	13,210	33,963	85,320
Spain	9,896	3,994	5,463	13,715	33,068
Switzerland	10,288	4,701	4,908	11,457	31,354
United Kingdom	149,512	53,285	49,248	142,798	394,842
USA	2,574	8,153	4,591	8,927	24,245
Other	54,627	49,718	38,920	101,854	245,119
Total	434,778	190,162	193,015	495,153	1,313,109
January-September 2014					
Austria	9,341	2,153	2,374	7,034	20,902
Belgium	11,726	2,604	3,094	8,554	25,978
France	42,314	10,392	11,974	30,243	94,923
Germany	51,807	9,436	11,359	32,314	104,916
Ireland	5,373	3,262	3,547	9,588	21,770
Italy	37,013	17,817	23,294	56,588	134,712
Libya	2,245	7,549	5,270	14,231	29,294
Netherlands	12,559	3,679	3,580	12,626	32,444
Russia	15,315	5,639	5,366	20,039	46,359
Scandinavia*	26,308	11,350	12,470	33,134	83,263
Spain	9,576	3,748	4,722	12,752	30,798
Switzerland	12,372	3,733	3,825	10,195	30,125
United Kingdom	125,562	43,725	39,496	128,716	337,499
USA	3,888	6,889	4,343	7,438	22,558
Other	51,378	43,884	33,401	92,477	221,140
Total	416,778	175,859	168,115	475,930	1,236,682

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Notes:

1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand.
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-September 2016					
Austria	673	229	332	302	903
Belgium	807	211	313	305	940
France	743	193	316	307	900
Germany	740	202	324	284	896
Ireland	623	215	352	407	955
Italy	522	115	228	279	643
Libya	906	428	464	629	1,433
Netherlands	666	184	285	362	893
Russia	988	339	384	614	1,381
Scandinavia*	676	230	338	361	954
Spain	644	170	296	349	841
Switzerland	944	270	375	450	1,190
United Kingdom	687	214	333	339	892
USA	823	471	341	450	1,203
Other	694	293	305	429	1,010
Total expenditure per capita	684	218	305	348	894
January-September 2015					
Austria	693	244	347	320	954
Belgium	868	213	347	313	981
France	732	226	345	307	937
Germany	754	248	407	289	977
Ireland	600	217	330	416	957
Italy	514	124	233	275	655
Libya	444	441	522	572	1,394
Netherlands	686	205	307	364	934
Russia	1,083	365	439	642	1,493
Scandinavia*	661	239	317	381	956
Spain	646	174	305	359	865
Switzerland	896	308	374	428	1,171
United Kingdom	749	254	353	349	964
USA	1,267	506	386	492	1,335
Other	680	318	321	431	1,037
Total expenditure per capita	704	243	323	353	937
January-September 2014					
Austria	680	271	348	324	964
Belgium	815	238	363	338	1,026
France	742	227	313	294	923
Germany	748	258	388	305	992
Ireland	576	218	299	395	897
Italy	469	134	215	267	635
Libya	578	309	245	503	1,035
Netherlands	660	211	263	347	890
Russia	1,127	366	399	691	1,599
Scandinavia*	681	238	312	384	965
Spain	622	180	263	352	851
Switzerland	967	330	411	423	1,249
United Kingdom	668	224	314	336	881
USA	962	502	423	419	1,270
Other	661	333	328	442	1,057
Total expenditure per capita	677	242	302	354	921

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Table 12. Profile of overnight cruise passengers by month of departure

Characteristics	September			Change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015
Total overnight cruise passengers	7,700	1,639	1,401	-238
Sex:				
Males	3,877	776	641	-135
Females	3,823	863	760	-103
Age group:				
0-19	56	10	4	-6
20-39	1,984	178	52	-126
40-59	3,847	379	203	-176
60-79	1,468	927	960	33
80 or more	345	145	182	37
Markets:				
EU	7,450	247	787	540
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	6,766	66	331	265
Non-EU	250	1,392	614	-778

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

Characteristics	January-September			Change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015
Total overnight cruise passengers	21,183	10,539	14,418	3,879
Sex:				
Males	10,162	4,934	6,739	1,805
Females	11,021	5,605	7,679	2,074
Age group:				
0-19	1,424	421	1,097	676
20-39	3,359	712	1,685	973
40-59	7,970	2,576	4,106	1,530
60-79	7,375	5,909	6,677	768
80 or more	1,055	921	853	-68
Markets:				
EU	19,619	4,401	7,357	2,956
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	18,604	2,474	4,583	2,109
Non-EU	1,564	6,138	7,061	923

Methodological Notes

1. This release focuses on Inbound Tourism, which 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 leisure, business or other (corresponding) purposes.
2. The results in this release are based on the ongoing frontier survey known as Tourstat. Data for tourist air departures is collected by means of personal interviews through a continuous survey at the departure lounge of the Malta International Airport (MIA). A two-stage sampling design is used to survey air passengers. In the first stage alternate days are selected, whereby a sample of passengers is selected systematically within each shift.
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. Under-represented figures are indicated where applicable for each table and should be treated with caution. Users should also exercise caution when analysing figures that involve estimates relating to less than 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 those 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. The expenditure data in this release should not be equated to national tourism earnings.
8. 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.
9. Data on cruise passengers who spent at least one night berthed on board their cruiseship is compiled on the basis of administrative records held by Transport Malta.
10. Arrivals and nights spent in time-share accommodation are being categorised in 'Private 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'.
11. 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 8.3 of the NSO's metadata file (<http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=37>).
12. **Definitions:**
 - **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.

Visitors (domestic/international) comprise tourists and same-day visitors.

 - **Tourist:** A visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.
 - **Same-day visitor:** A visitor who does not spend the night in collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.
13. 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=37>

Statistical Database: <http://nso.gov.mt/statdb/start>