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Total outbound tourists for the first quarter in 2017 were estimated at 115,219, an increase of 11.4 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2016.

Outbound Tourism: Q1/2017

During the first quarter of 2017, the number of outbound tourist trips towards EU countries stood at 105,346, an increase of 15.0 per cent over the same quarter in 2016 (Table 1). Italy and the United Kingdom remained the most popular destinations, with a share of 56.5 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 4).

Total nights spent by outbound tourists increased by 6.7 per cent, reaching 705,845 nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights were spent in private accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total estimated outlay by resident tourists between January and March increased by 1.0 per cent over the same quarter of 2016, and stood at €92.8 million, equivalent to an average €806 per trip (Tables 5 and 6) ■

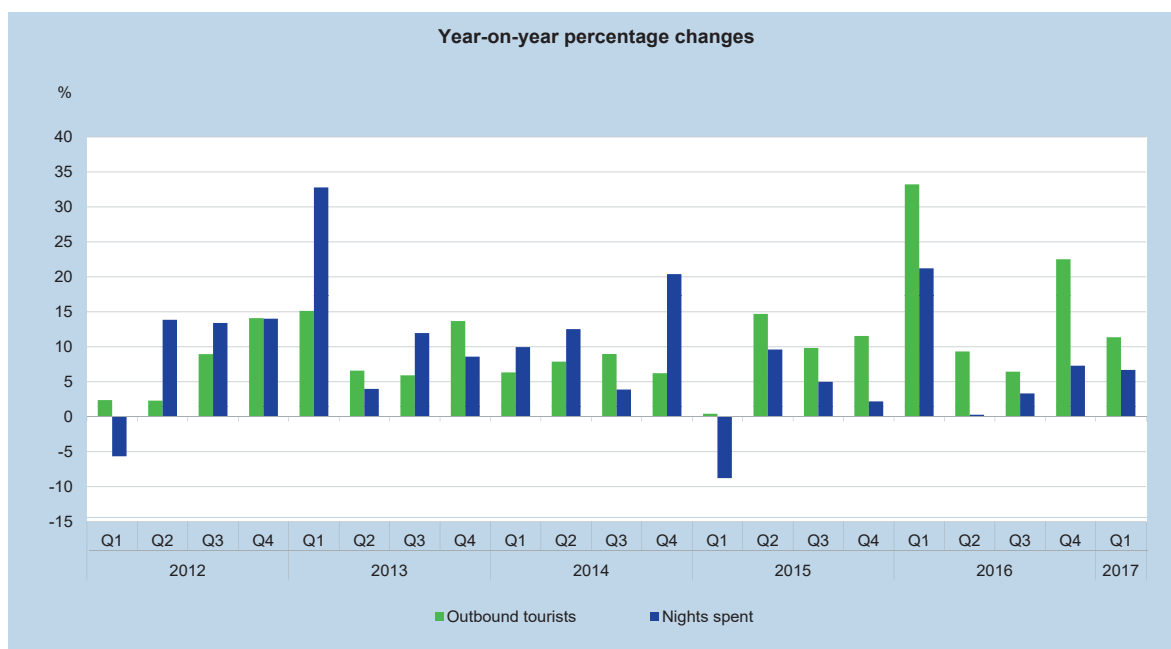


Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Outbound tourists	77,662	103,463	115,219	11,755	11.4
Mode of travel:					
Air	74,082	97,399	109,787	12,387	12.7
Sea	3,580	6,064	5,432	-632	-
Sex:					
Males	45,426	59,179	66,449	7,270	12.3
Females	32,237	44,284	48,770	4,486	10.1
Age group:					
0-24	14,401	19,462	18,920	-543	-
25-44	36,030	47,533	56,940	9,406	19.8
45-64	22,774	29,977	31,162	1,185	-
65 or more	4,458	6,491	8,198	1,706	26.3
Destination:					
EU	68,055	91,572	105,346	13,773	15.0
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	41,068	60,736	69,601	8,864	14.6
Non-EU	9,608	11,891	9,873	-2,018	-17.0
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	36,286	55,168	61,117	5,949	10.8
Visiting relatives and friends	17,384	23,011	24,526	1,515	6.6
Business and professional	17,940	18,225	21,561	3,336	18.3
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	6,053	7,059	8,014	955	-
Organisation of stay:					
Package	11,452	12,406	10,295	-2,112	-17.0
Non-package	66,211	91,057	104,924	13,867	15.2
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	23,706	34,328	41,654	7,325	21.3
4-6 nights	25,275	33,912	40,514	6,602	19.5
7 nights or more	28,682	35,224	33,052	-2,172	-6.2
Average length of stay (nights)	7.0	6.4	6.1	-0.3	-

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Private accommodation	27,927	38,006	43,830	5,824	15.3
Collective accommodation	49,735	65,458	71,389	5,931	9.1
Total tourists	77,662	103,463	115,219	11,755	11.4

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	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Private accommodation	282,237	324,894	377,798	52,904	16.3
Collective accommodation	263,536	336,668	328,047	-8,621	-2.6
Total nights	545,773	661,562	705,845	44,283	6.7

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Destination	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Tourists					
EU	68,055	91,572	105,346	13,773	15.0
<i>of which:</i>					
France	3,127	3,062	3,869	807	-
Germany	3,461	6,009	8,320	2,311	38.5
Italy	22,869	36,174	37,883	1,708	4.7
United Kingdom	22,910	23,721	27,249	3,528	14.9
Non-EU	9,608	11,891	9,873	-2,018	-17.0
Total	77,662	103,463	115,219	11,755	11.4
Nights					
EU	412,681	505,722	550,143	44,421	8.8
<i>of which:</i>					
France	17,583	18,649	21,615	2,965	-
Germany	24,643	35,209	51,102	15,892	45.1
Italy	109,401	156,996	156,513	-483	-0.3
United Kingdom	154,672	152,815	149,170	-3,645	-2.4
Non-EU	133,091	155,840	155,702	-138	-0.1
Total	545,773	661,562	705,845	44,283	6.7

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	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Package	5,788	7,124	4,835	-2,289	-32.1
Non-package	25,341	31,977	34,366	2,389	7.5
Air/sea fares	13,831	16,150	17,357	1,207	7.5
Accommodation	11,510	15,827	17,009	1,182	7.5
Other expenditure	39,717	52,788	53,616	828	1.6
Total expenditure	70,846	91,889	92,817	928	1.0

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	January-March (Q1)					
	per trip			per night		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Package	505	574	470	93	110	97
Non-package	383	351	328	52	54	52
Air/sea fares	209	177	165	29	27	26
Accommodation	259	239	235	43	40	47
Other expenditure	511	510	465	73	80	76
Total	912	888	806	130	139	131

Methodological Notes

1. 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.
2. Outbound tourism trips 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 air passengers. In the first stage, alternate days and nights are selected. In the second stage, within each shift, a sample of passengers is selected systematically. Every crossing passenger is counted and respondents are selected using a pre-defined interval of 1:20 for air.
3. 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.
4. 'Tourist trips' differs from the 'number of tourists' such that the same person can undertake more than one trip during a reference period.
5. Absolute changes between one survey estimate and another must be treated with caution since minor changes (i.e. less than 1,500 trips) might be the result of sampling error. Percentage changes for tourists based on counts of less than 1,500 are not presented due to sampling errors.
6. Expenditure data in this release represent the budgeted expenditure of outbound tourists prior to their departure.
7. **Definitions:**
 - **Residents:** 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 collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.
 - **Tourist trip:** A visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.
 - **Total nights spent:** nights which a guest actually spends or is registered to spend in a collective accommodation establishment or in a private accommodation.
 - **Average length of stay:** the number of nights spent divided by the number of trips during a specified reference period.
 - **Collective accommodation:** comprises hotels, guesthouses, hostels, tourist villages, holiday complex, Bed & Breakfast and campsites.
 - **Private accommodation:** comprises holiday furnished premises (farmhouses, flats and villas), rented accommodation (host families, marinas, paid-convents, rented yachts, student dormitories), 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, timeshare, dockyards (Palumbo), ship (used for work)).
 - **Total expenditure:** comprises the total consumption expenditure made by a visitor or on behalf of a visitor for and during the trip and stay at destination. It is broken down by the following expenditure items: Transport, Accommodation and Other (including shopping, food and drinks and excursions during a tourism trip).
8. 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>
9. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
10. The advanced news release calendar may be accessed at www.nso.gov.mt