

Total inbound visitors for May were estimated at 220,918 an increase of 15.1 per cent when compared to the corresponding month in 2016.

Inbound Tourism: May 2017

A total of 177,527 inbound tourist trips were carried out for holiday purposes, while a further 21,984 were undertaken for business purposes. A significant increase of 68.2 per cent was registered in the number of business trips when compared to May 2016. Inbound tourists from EU Member States went up by 12.6 per cent to 187,315 when compared to the corresponding month in 2016. The largest share of inbound tourists (40.1 per cent) were aged between 25 and 44, followed by those within the 45-64 age bracket with 31.9 per cent (Table 1).

Total nights spent went up by 11.9 per cent when compared to May 2016, surpassing 1.4 million nights. The largest share of guest nights (59.1 per cent) was spent in collective accommodation establishments (Table 3). Tourist nights in private accommodation increased by 31.2 per cent when compared to May 2016.

Total tourist expenditure was estimated at €169.0 million, an increase of 9.5 per cent over the corresponding month in 2016 (Table 4).

January-May 2017

Inbound tourist trips from January to May 2017 reached 763,849, an increase of 19.9 per cent over the same period in 2016 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists went up by 12.3 per cent, reaching nearly 5.0 million nights (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure reached nearly €560.0 million, 15.0 per cent higher than that recorded for 2016 (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita stood at €733, a decrease of 4.2 per cent when compared to 2016 (Table 11) ■

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

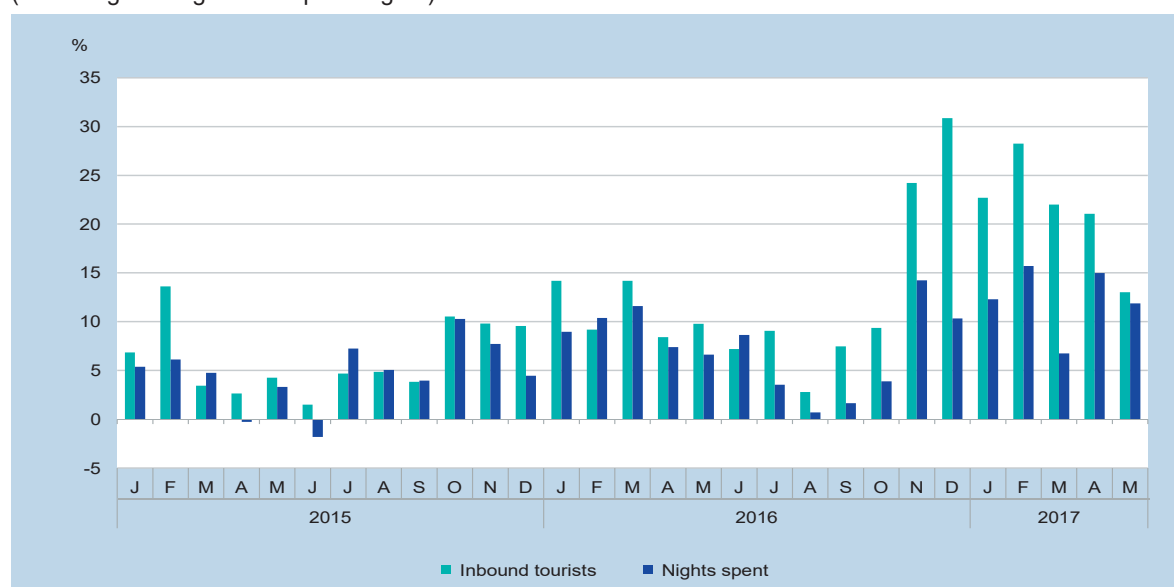


Table 1. Profile of inbound tourists by month of departure

Characteristics	May			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Total inbound visitors	174,281	191,967	220,918	28,951	15.1
Overnight cruise passengers	692	1,381	5,545	4,164	301.5
Inbound tourists	173,589	190,586	215,373	24,787	13.0
Mode of travel					
Air	170,003	186,639	211,252	24,613	13.2
Sea	3,586	3,947	4,121	174	4.4
Sex					
Males	87,513	94,485	110,733	16,248	17.2
Females	86,076	96,102	104,640	8,539	8.9
Age group					
0-24	23,559	26,378	29,610	3,232	12.3
25-44	56,043	66,351	86,365	20,014	30.2
45-64	62,546	65,010	68,710	3,700	5.7
65 or more	31,441	32,847	30,688	-2,158	-6.6
Markets					
EU	152,163	166,426	187,315	20,889	12.6
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	82,568	90,514	106,683	16,169	17.9
Non-EU	21,426	24,161	28,058	3,898	16.1
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	150,224	164,929	177,527	12,598	7.6
Business and professional	10,675	13,072	21,984	8,911	68.2
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	12,690	12,585	15,863	3,278	26.0
Organisation of stay					
Package	80,037	75,804	73,679	-2,124	-2.8
Non-package	93,552	114,783	141,694	26,912	23.4
Frequency					
First-time tourists	125,080	133,667	158,771	25,105	18.8
Repeat tourists	48,509	56,920	56,602	-318	-
once a year or less	35,981	42,327	40,430	-1,897	-4.5
more than once a year	12,527	14,593	16,172	1,579	10.8
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	30,935	41,682	53,696	12,014	28.8
4-6 nights	47,060	50,959	64,679	13,721	26.9
7 nights or more	95,593	97,946	96,998	-948	-
Average length of stay (nights)	6.8	6.6	6.6	0.0	-

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	May			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017		
Private accommodation	43,019	53,254	66,804	13,550	25.4
Collective accommodation	130,569	137,332	148,569	11,237	8.2
Total tourists	173,589	190,586	215,373	24,787	13.0

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	May			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017		
Private accommodation	365,711	441,608	579,248	137,640	31.2
Collective accommodation	820,872	823,522	836,122	12,600	1.5
Total nights	1,186,583	1,265,130	1,415,370	150,240	11.9

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	May			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017		
Package	52,137	48,734	45,636	-3,098	-6.4
Non-package	40,567	46,665	58,581	11,916	25.5
Air/sea fares	20,104	22,135	26,840	4,706	21.3
Accommodation	20,463	24,531	31,741	7,210	29.4
Other expenditure	54,296	58,993	64,812	5,819	9.9
Total expenditure	146,999	154,392	169,029	14,637	9.5

€ 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		May			Change	Percentage change
		2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Tourists	EU	152,163	166,426	187,315	20,889	12.6
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	18,578	16,906	19,707	2,801	16.6
	Germany	12,152	17,603	16,285	-1,318	-
	Italy	23,031	24,657	33,595	8,938	36.2
	United Kingdom	49,624	51,025	51,197	172	-
	Non-EU	21,426	24,161	28,058	3,898	16.1
	Total	173,589	190,586	215,373	24,787	13.0
Nights	EU	1,037,007	1,077,756	1,191,532	113,777	10.6
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	119,027	105,643	134,849	29,206	27.6
	Germany	93,075	133,813	111,516	-22,297	-
	Italy	121,835	123,625	177,507	53,882	43.6
	United Kingdom	373,727	371,088	357,973	-13,115	-
	Non-EU	149,577	187,374	223,838	36,464	19.5
	Total	1,186,583	1,265,130	1,415,370	150,240	11.9
Expenditure (€000)	EU	122,606	127,527	137,471	9,944	7.8
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	15,314	12,862	15,866	3,004	23.4
	Germany	11,729	15,414	13,877	-1,538	-
	Italy	11,730	12,863	16,973	4,110	32.0
	United Kingdom	43,970	43,449	41,268	-2,181	-
	Non-EU	24,393	26,865	31,558	4,693	17.5
	Total	146,999	154,392	169,029	14,637	9.5

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-May			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Total inbound visitors	577,654	640,563	772,850	132,287	20.7
Overnight cruise passengers	2,334	3,751	9,001	5,250	140.0
Inbound tourists	575,320	636,812	763,849	127,037	19.9
Mode of travel					
Air	560,330	619,606	747,700	128,094	20.7
Sea	14,990	17,206	16,149	-1,057	-6.1
Sex					
Males	301,769	325,162	403,060	77,898	24.0
Females	273,551	311,650	360,789	49,138	15.8
Age group					
0-24	90,082	99,659	123,102	23,444	23.5
25-44	180,879	211,933	282,033	70,100	33.1
45-64	200,888	216,288	252,808	36,520	16.9
65 or more	103,471	108,932	105,905	-3,027	-2.8
Markets					
EU	499,079	552,589	668,105	115,516	20.9
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	273,056	297,646	388,762	91,116	30.6
Non-EU	76,241	84,223	95,744	11,521	13.7
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	471,754	534,299	617,933	83,633	15.7
Business and professional	50,854	54,697	85,568	30,871	56.4
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	52,711	47,816	60,348	12,532	26.2
Organisation of stay					
Package	267,011	264,025	268,650	4,625	1.8
Non-package	308,308	372,786	495,199	122,412	32.8
Frequency					
First-time tourists	396,382	439,877	542,907	103,030	23.4
Repeat tourists	178,937	196,935	220,942	24,007	12.2
once a year or less	123,044	136,153	153,230	17,077	12.5
more than once a year	55,894	60,781	67,712	6,930	11.4
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	113,564	138,624	200,633	62,009	44.7
4-6 nights	164,106	184,985	232,594	47,608	25.7
7 nights or more	297,649	313,203	330,622	17,420	5.6
Average length of stay (nights)	7.0	6.9	6.5	-0.4	-

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-May			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Private accommodation	133,937	168,416	219,161	50,745	30.1
Collective accommodation	441,382	468,396	544,687	76,291	16.3
Total tourists	575,320	636,812	763,849	127,037	19.9

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-May			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Private accommodation	1,248,516	1,492,056	1,845,316	353,260	23.7
Collective accommodation	2,806,775	2,909,492	3,096,934	187,442	6.4
Total nights	4,055,291	4,401,548	4,942,251	540,702	12.3

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-May			Change	Percentage change	
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016		
Tourists	Australia	5,617	6,037	6,680	643	-
	Austria	11,797	8,600	10,849	2,249	26.2
	Belgium	12,828	13,109	30,916	17,806	135.8
	France	47,481	49,450	59,873	10,423	21.1
	Germany	51,671	57,954	67,994	10,041	17.3
	Hungary	3,793	6,231	7,038	807	-
	Ireland	11,946	12,277	12,068	-209	-
	Italy	92,936	100,921	128,078	27,157	26.9
	Netherlands	14,130	15,812	21,585	5,774	36.5
	Poland	14,186	20,695	30,492	9,796	47.3
	Scandinavia*	32,055	38,579	36,717	-1,861	-4.8
	Spain	12,385	14,865	24,263	9,398	63.2
	Switzerland	10,715	10,087	12,977	2,890	28.7
	United Kingdom	171,651	185,523	191,218	5,694	3.1
	USA	6,970	8,648	12,043	3,395	39.3
Other	75,158	88,023	111,057	23,034	26.2	
Total	575,320	636,812	763,849	127,037	19.9	
Nights	Australia	53,245	50,747	65,142	14,395	-
	Austria	79,521	54,695	65,855	11,160	20.4
	Belgium	85,345	77,473	165,479	88,006	113.6
	France	304,868	324,197	374,934	50,737	15.7
	Germany	405,675	438,349	465,161	26,812	6.1
	Hungary	23,894	47,877	39,474	-8,403	-
	Ireland	84,736	84,722	79,505	-5,217	-
	Italy	512,419	554,813	653,670	98,857	17.8
	Netherlands	93,369	98,886	138,471	39,585	40.0
	Poland	94,834	130,672	180,357	49,685	38.0
	Scandinavia*	227,616	253,491	235,812	-17,679	-7.0
	Spain	75,705	86,142	135,585	49,443	57.4
	Switzerland	69,013	60,710	82,537	21,827	36.0
	United Kingdom	1,358,191	1,417,657	1,377,960	-39,697	-2.8
	USA	46,828	57,100	68,917	11,817	20.7
Other	540,030	664,018	813,391	149,373	22.5	
Total	4,055,291	4,401,548	4,942,251	540,702	12.3	
Expenditure (€000)	Australia	6,913	7,872	8,800	928	-
	Austria	10,032	6,604	9,276	2,672	40.5
	Belgium	10,638	10,986	20,734	9,748	88.7
	France	36,994	37,551	44,806	7,255	19.3
	Germany	46,162	48,480	53,235	4,754	9.8
	Hungary	2,400	3,942	4,204	262	-
	Ireland	9,522	9,594	9,202	-391	-
	Italy	49,379	52,383	65,481	13,098	25.0
	Netherlands	10,992	10,948	15,832	4,884	44.6
	Poland	8,575	12,915	18,814	5,899	45.7
	Scandinavia*	26,984	32,464	30,923	-1,541	-4.7
	Spain	8,590	10,673	15,049	4,376	41.0
	Switzerland	11,548	9,873	13,055	3,182	32.2
	United Kingdom	138,582	140,316	137,017	-3,299	-2.4
	USA	8,515	9,256	12,584	3,327	35.9
Other	71,921	83,018	100,979	17,961	21.6	
Total	457,748	486,875	559,990	73,115	15.0	

* 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-May 2017					
Australia	762	3,050	1,338	3,650	8,800
Austria	3,154	1,460	1,691	2,972	9,276
Belgium	5,050	3,566	4,918	7,199	20,734
France	14,698	6,475	7,895	15,737	44,806
Germany	20,730	6,221	8,216	18,067	53,235
Hungary	377	869	1,036	1,922	4,204
Ireland	1,465	1,517	2,002	4,218	9,202
Italy	15,765	8,282	12,062	29,371	65,481
Netherlands	3,931	2,697	2,782	6,422	15,832
Poland	3,999	2,785	3,776	8,254	18,814
Scandinavia*	9,365	5,123	4,702	11,733	30,923
Spain	3,123	2,205	3,052	6,669	15,049
Switzerland	3,237	2,349	2,703	4,766	13,055
United Kingdom	43,485	17,193	20,715	55,624	137,017
USA	2,161	3,766	2,860	3,796	12,584
Other	19,406	22,192	18,386	40,996	100,979
Total	150,708	89,751	98,134	221,397	559,990
January-May 2016					
Australia	506	3,154	1,231	2,981	7,872
Austria	3,081	704	567	2,253	6,604
Belgium	4,641	1,442	1,504	3,399	10,986
France	15,396	4,449	5,347	12,359	37,551
Germany	22,233	5,133	6,166	14,948	48,480
Hungary	688	593	701	1,960	3,942
Ireland	2,518	1,250	1,538	4,288	9,594
Italy	12,751	6,577	9,578	23,477	52,383
Netherlands	3,083	1,684	1,726	4,454	10,948
Poland	2,542	1,958	2,634	5,781	12,915
Scandinavia*	11,399	4,336	4,456	12,273	32,464
Spain	2,955	1,509	1,712	4,497	10,673
Switzerland	3,086	1,459	1,617	3,711	9,873
United Kingdom	47,389	18,290	18,987	55,650	140,316
USA	600	3,042	2,325	3,288	9,256
Other	19,491	16,567	13,577	33,384	83,018
Total	152,359	72,148	73,666	188,703	486,875
January-May 2015					
Australia	404	2,800	1,090	2,619	6,913
Austria	5,235	938	709	3,150	10,032
Belgium	4,681	1,454	1,040	3,462	10,638
France	17,606	4,074	4,160	11,154	36,994
Germany	23,105	4,283	4,981	13,793	46,162
Hungary	479	431	349	1,141	2,400
Ireland	2,300	1,260	1,653	4,309	9,522
Italy	14,248	6,251	8,319	20,561	49,379
Netherlands	3,882	1,560	1,428	4,122	10,992
Poland	1,397	1,554	1,797	3,826	8,575
Scandinavia*	7,770	4,251	3,950	11,014	26,984
Spain	2,097	1,264	1,392	3,837	8,590
Switzerland	4,314	1,805	1,295	4,134	11,548
United Kingdom	52,465	17,802	16,310	52,004	138,582
USA	1,389	2,658	1,617	2,852	8,515
Other	17,330	15,054	10,687	28,850	71,921
Total	158,703	67,440	60,777	170,828	457,748

* 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 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-May 2017					
Australia	974	517	325	546	1,317
Austria	643	246	327	274	855
Belgium	596	159	247	233	671
France	608	181	247	263	748
Germany	621	180	284	266	783
Hungary	331	147	204	273	597
Ireland	460	171	289	350	763
Italy	406	93	172	229	511
Netherlands	524	191	241	298	733
Poland	447	129	185	271	617
Scandinavia*	641	232	264	320	842
Spain	461	126	198	275	620
Switzerland	732	274	363	367	1,006
United Kingdom	538	156	265	291	717
USA	1,250	365	328	315	1,045
Other	671	270	270	369	909
Total expenditure per capita	561	181	245	290	733
January-May 2016					
Australia	546	617	306	494	1,304
Austria	567	222	234	262	768
Belgium	719	217	285	259	838
France	611	183	252	250	759
Germany	669	208	296	258	837
Hungary	364	137	215	315	633
Ireland	505	171	254	349	781
Italy	411	94	179	233	519
Netherlands	525	169	214	282	692
Poland	439	131	196	279	624
Scandinavia*	568	234	285	319	842
Spain	561	157	236	303	718
Switzerland	755	243	297	368	979
United Kingdom	565	180	267	300	756
USA	1,217	373	338	380	1,070
Other	662	283	282	379	943
Total expenditure per capita	577	194	252	296	765
January-May 2015					
Australia	520	578	301	466	1,231
Austria	639	261	279	267	850
Belgium	743	223	235	270	829
France	613	217	256	235	779
Germany	673	247	357	267	893
Hungary	396	167	180	301	633
Ireland	474	178	273	361	797
Italy	426	105	181	221	531
Netherlands	580	210	241	292	778
Poland	425	143	182	270	604
Scandinavia*	542	240	277	344	842
Spain	476	158	240	310	694
Switzerland	841	323	275	386	1,078
United Kingdom	608	209	278	303	807
USA	1,318	449	340	409	1,222
Other	620	319	285	384	957
Total expenditure per capita	594	219	257	297	796

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

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

Characteristics	May		
	2015	2016	2017
Total overnight cruise passengers	692	1,381	5,545
Sex:			
Males	333	622	2,501
Females	359	759	3,044
Age group:			
0-19	3	2	115
20-39	26	30	415
40-59	141	171	1,522
60-79	463	986	3,085
80 or more	59	192	408
Markets:			
EU	181	1,119	5,085
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	88	990	3,029
Non-EU	511	262	460

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

Characteristics	January-May		
	2015	2016	2017
Total overnight cruise passengers	2,334	3,751	9,001
Sex:			
Males	1,097	1,740	4,170
Females	1,237	2,011	4,831
Age group:			
0-19	33	193	131
20-39	85	292	550
40-59	322	827	1,896
60-79	1,564	2,147	5,503
80 or more	330	292	921
Markets:			
EU	1,317	2,890	7,048
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	1,182	2,710	4,235
Non-EU	1,017	861	1,953

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. Inbound 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. 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:**
 - **Usual Environment:** The geographical area, though not necessarily a contiguous one, within which an individual conducts his regular life routines and shall be determined on the basis of the following criteria: the crossing of administrative borders or the distance from the place of usual residence, the duration of visit, the frequency of visit, the purpose of visit.
 - **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.
 - **Inbound tourism:** 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 personal, business or other purposes.
 - **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).

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>

14. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.

15. The advanced news release calendar may be accessed at www.nso.gov.mt.