

Total inbound visitors for December were estimated at 110,611, an increase of 14.7 per cent when compared to the corresponding month in 2016.

## Inbound Tourism: December 2017

A total of 96,186 inbound tourist trips were carried out for holiday purposes, while a further 7,768 were undertaken for business purposes. Inbound tourists from EU Member States went up by 13.2 per cent to 93,435 when compared to the corresponding month in 2016. Most inbound tourists were aged between 25 and 44 (39.5 per cent), followed by those within the 45-64 age bracket (35.1 per cent) (Table 1).

Total nights spent went up by 17.3 per cent when compared to December 2016, amounting to 790,947 nights. The largest share of guest nights (57.0 per cent) was spent in collective accommodation establishments. Tourist nights in collective accommodation increased by 20.0 per cent when compared to December 2016 (Table 3).

Total tourist expenditure was estimated at €77.5 million, an increase of 24.3 per cent over the corresponding month in 2016 (Table 4).

### January-December 2017

Inbound tourist trips from January to December 2017 reached 2,273,837, an increase of 15.7 per cent over the same period in 2016 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists went up by 10.3 per cent, surpassing 16.5 million nights (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure surpassed €1.9 billion, 13.9 per cent higher than that recorded for 2016 (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita stood at €856, a decrease of 1.5 per cent when compared to 2016 (Table 11) ■

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

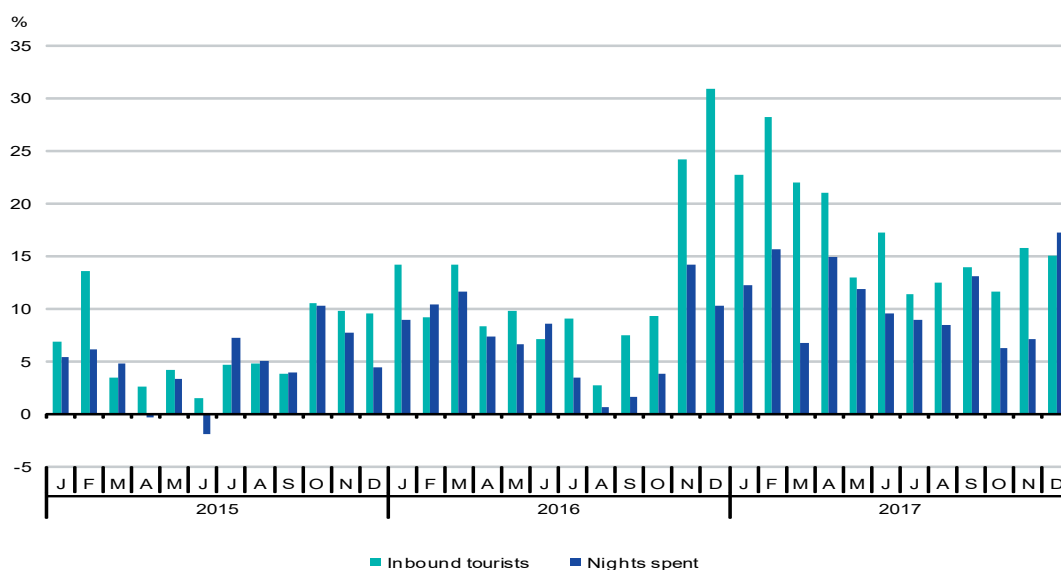


Table 1. Profile of inbound tourists by month of departure

Characteristics	December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
<b>Total inbound visitors</b>	<b>72,568</b>	<b>96,395</b>	<b>110,611</b>	<b>14,216</b>	<b>14.7</b>
Overnight cruise passengers	-	1,429	1,389	-40	-2.8
<b>Inbound tourists</b>	<b>72,568</b>	<b>94,966</b>	<b>109,222</b>	<b>14,256</b>	<b>15.0</b>
<b>Mode of travel</b>					
Air	68,277	91,306	105,814	14,508	15.9
Sea	4,291	3,660	3,408	-252	-6.9
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	39,656	52,966	57,333	4,367	8.2
Females	32,912	42,000	51,889	9,889	23.5
<b>Age group</b>					
0-24	9,360	14,007	12,851	-1,156	-
25-44	25,354	35,737	43,155	7,418	20.8
45-64	24,353	31,529	38,372	6,843	21.7
65 or more	13,501	13,692	14,843	1,151	-
<b>Markets</b>					
EU	61,346	82,518	93,435	10,916	13.2
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	33,676	46,948	51,819	4,871	10.4
Non-EU	11,222	12,447	15,787	3,340	26.8
<b>Purpose of visit</b>					
Holiday	60,728	80,443	96,186	15,743	19.6
Business and professional	6,818	8,802	7,768	-1,034	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	5,022	5,720	5,268	-453	-
<b>Organisation of stay</b>					
Package	27,763	29,364	39,011	9,647	32.9
Non-package	44,806	65,601	70,210	4,609	7.0
<b>Frequency</b>					
First-time tourists	43,952	62,758	76,308	13,550	21.6
Repeat tourists	28,616	32,208	32,914	706	-
once a year or less	16,112	18,538	19,752	1,214	-
more than once a year	12,505	13,670	13,162	-508	-
<b>Duration of visit</b>					
1-3 nights	18,164	27,500	33,236	5,736	20.9
4-6 nights	18,893	27,218	31,837	4,619	17.0
7 nights or more	35,511	40,247	44,149	3,902	9.7
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	8.4	7.1	7.2	0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017		
Private accommodation	20,876	27,982	32,419	4,437	15.9
Collective accommodation	51,693	66,983	76,803	9,819	14.7
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>72,568</b>	<b>94,966</b>	<b>109,222</b>	<b>14,256</b>	<b>15.0</b>

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	December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017		
Private accommodation	272,378	298,970	340,208	41,237	13.8
Collective accommodation	338,975	375,551	450,740	75,188	20.0
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>611,353</b>	<b>674,521</b>	<b>790,947</b>	<b>116,426</b>	<b>17.3</b>

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	December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017		
Package	14,632	15,085	18,258	3,173	21.0
Non-package	16,985	20,066	24,846	4,780	23.8
Air/sea fares	8,683	9,516	10,799	1,284	13.5
Accommodation	8,302	10,551	14,047	3,496	33.1
Other expenditure	22,119	27,186	34,377	7,190	26.4
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>53,736</b>	<b>62,338</b>	<b>77,481</b>	<b>15,143</b>	<b>24.3</b>

€ 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		December			Change	Percentage change
		2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Tourists	<b>EU</b>	<b>61,346</b>	<b>82,518</b>	<b>93,435</b>	<b>10,916</b>	<b>13.2</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	3,768	6,666	5,602	-1,064	-
	Germany	6,667	6,986	8,890	1,904	27.2
	Italy	13,730	18,275	19,863	1,588	8.7
	United Kingdom	21,393	26,796	28,122	1,326	-
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>11,222</b>	<b>12,447</b>	<b>15,787</b>	<b>3,340</b>	<b>26.8</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>72,568</b>	<b>94,966</b>	<b>109,222</b>	<b>14,256</b>	<b>15.0</b>
Nights	<b>EU</b>	<b>494,402</b>	<b>579,681</b>	<b>651,974</b>	<b>72,293</b>	<b>12.5</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	39,360	54,343	47,062	-7,282	-
	Germany	66,407	46,126	64,109	17,983	39.0
	Italy	97,757	97,076	119,089	22,013	22.7
	United Kingdom	168,809	191,079	196,062	4,983	-
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>116,951</b>	<b>94,841</b>	<b>138,973</b>	<b>44,133</b>	<b>46.5</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>611,353</b>	<b>674,521</b>	<b>790,947</b>	<b>116,426</b>	<b>17.3</b>
Expenditure (€000)	<b>EU</b>	<b>42,827</b>	<b>50,882</b>	<b>59,538</b>	<b>8,656</b>	<b>17.0</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	3,179	5,559	4,198	-1,361	-
	Germany	6,165	4,772	6,902	2,130	44.6
	Italy	6,952	8,245	10,524	2,280	27.6
	United Kingdom	14,853	16,556	18,576	2,020	-
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>10,909</b>	<b>11,456</b>	<b>17,943</b>	<b>6,487</b>	<b>56.6</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>53,736</b>	<b>62,338</b>	<b>77,481</b>	<b>15,143</b>	<b>24.3</b>

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-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
<b>Total inbound visitors</b>	<b>1,799,213</b>	<b>1,988,447</b>	<b>2,314,596</b>	<b>326,149</b>	<b>16.4</b>
Overnight cruise passengers	15,847	22,519	40,759	18,240	81.0
<b>Inbound tourists</b>	<b>1,783,366</b>	<b>1,965,928</b>	<b>2,273,837</b>	<b>307,909</b>	<b>15.7</b>
<b>Mode of travel</b>					
Air	1,737,753	1,917,950	2,226,599	308,650	16.1
Sea	45,613	47,978	47,238	-740	-1.5
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	919,289	1,003,768	1,168,929	165,161	16.5
Females	864,077	962,160	1,104,908	142,749	14.8
<b>Age group</b>					
0-24	343,803	382,671	430,150	47,479	12.4
25-44	600,364	690,082	860,200	170,118	24.7
45-64	587,726	627,450	728,071	100,621	16.0
65 or more	251,473	265,725	255,417	-10,308	-3.9
<b>Markets</b>					
EU	1,526,914	1,691,055	1,955,508	264,453	15.6
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	808,455	903,182	1,110,386	207,204	22.9
Non-EU	256,452	274,873	318,330	43,457	15.8
<b>Purpose of visit</b>					
Holiday	1,512,437	1,691,193	1,938,456	247,263	14.6
Business and professional	126,858	136,770	180,560	43,790	32.0
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	144,071	137,965	154,821	16,856	12.2
<b>Organisation of stay</b>					
Package	781,726	755,769	802,386	46,617	6.2
Non-package	1,001,640	1,210,159	1,471,452	261,292	21.6
<b>Frequency</b>					
First-time tourists	1,240,990	1,374,317	1,660,017	285,700	20.8
Repeat tourists	542,376	591,611	613,820	22,209	3.8
once a year or less	390,214	421,378	437,981	16,602	3.9
more than once a year	152,162	170,233	175,840	5,607	3.3
<b>Duration of visit</b>					
1-3 nights	272,007	349,146	449,757	100,611	28.8
4-6 nights	429,187	497,409	619,634	122,225	24.6
7 nights or more	1,082,172	1,119,373	1,204,447	85,074	7.6
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-</b>

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-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Private accommodation	503,105	611,806	755,452	143,646	23.5
Collective accommodation	1,280,261	1,354,122	1,518,385	164,263	12.1
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>1,783,366</b>	<b>1,965,928</b>	<b>2,273,837</b>	<b>307,909</b>	<b>15.7</b>

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-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Private accommodation	5,350,472	6,075,001	7,091,513	1,016,512	16.7
Collective accommodation	8,801,128	8,886,365	9,417,628	531,264	6.0
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>14,151,599</b>	<b>14,961,366</b>	<b>16,509,141</b>	<b>1,547,776</b>	<b>10.3</b>

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-December			Change	Percentage change
		2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Tourists	Australia	27,207	32,611	35,875	3,264	10.0
	Austria	30,246	24,319	29,624	5,305	21.8
	Belgium	35,937	41,759	73,429	31,670	75.8
	France	127,953	144,804	176,371	31,567	21.8
	Germany	141,855	156,786	193,033	36,247	23.1
	Hungary	17,719	20,988	26,875	5,887	28.0
	Ireland	35,382	33,175	36,177	3,002	9.0
	Italy	282,815	315,223	363,668	48,445	15.4
	Netherlands	44,962	52,642	64,000	11,358	21.6
	Poland	46,231	70,563	89,335	18,772	26.6
	Scandinavia*	117,388	123,963	135,273	11,310	9.1
	Spain	47,237	55,023	75,511	20,487	37.2
	Switzerland	35,293	40,504	44,065	3,561	8.8
	United Kingdom	525,996	559,987	560,893	905	-
	USA	25,936	26,454	35,758	9,304	35.2
	Other	241,208	267,126	333,951	66,825	25.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,783,366</b>	<b>1,965,928</b>	<b>2,273,837</b>	<b>307,909</b>	<b>15.7</b>
Nights	Australia	333,402	370,382	413,400	43,018	11.6
	Austria	225,231	167,678	196,651	28,974	17.3
	Belgium	270,192	277,755	436,701	158,945	57.2
	France	1,030,839	1,123,591	1,400,526	276,935	24.6
	Germany	1,212,572	1,246,556	1,434,054	187,497	15.0
	Hungary	123,805	155,629	177,276	21,647	13.9
	Ireland	274,811	252,559	255,471	2,912	1.2
	Italy	1,840,241	1,921,435	2,167,079	245,645	12.8
	Netherlands	348,137	392,864	471,066	78,202	19.9
	Poland	353,821	515,367	601,461	86,093	16.7
	Scandinavia*	860,091	899,026	961,618	62,592	7.0
	Spain	360,272	399,720	497,551	97,831	24.5
	Switzerland	265,885	313,572	324,179	10,606	3.4
	United Kingdom	4,366,663	4,499,760	4,262,303	-237,456	-
	USA	207,270	200,705	234,773	34,068	17.0
	Other	2,078,368	2,224,765	2,675,033	450,268	20.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>14,151,599</b>	<b>14,961,366</b>	<b>16,509,141</b>	<b>1,547,776</b>	<b>10.3</b>
Expenditure (€000)	Australia	42,413	49,223	51,992	2,769	5.6
	Austria	28,519	21,620	28,517	6,896	31.9
	Belgium	34,734	36,487	56,616	20,130	55.2
	France	117,709	126,091	154,444	28,353	22.5
	Germany	136,440	137,917	168,739	30,822	22.3
	Hungary	13,487	15,116	19,923	4,807	31.8
	Ireland	33,301	30,840	32,252	1,412	4.6
	Italy	178,866	193,065	225,722	32,657	16.9
	Netherlands	40,526	44,833	54,524	9,692	21.6
	Poland	34,848	49,931	63,513	13,582	27.2
	Scandinavia*	111,170	117,764	133,725	15,960	13.6
	Spain	39,944	43,485	59,054	15,569	35.8
	Switzerland	40,443	47,664	50,111	2,447	5.1
	United Kingdom	495,782	485,143	473,068	-12,075	-
	USA	33,331	31,574	39,866	8,292	26.3
	Other	257,553	278,199	334,830	56,631	20.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,639,067</b>	<b>1,708,952</b>	<b>1,946,894</b>	<b>237,942</b>	<b>13.9</b>

\* 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		
<b>January-December 2017</b>					
Australia	3,049	17,279	8,478	23,186	<b>51,992</b>
Austria	9,701	3,663	4,925	10,228	<b>28,517</b>
Belgium	16,390	7,765	11,920	20,541	<b>56,616</b>
France	50,836	19,300	28,701	55,607	<b>154,444</b>
Germany	65,749	18,550	26,758	57,682	<b>168,739</b>
Hungary	2,876	3,256	4,382	9,408	<b>19,923</b>
Ireland	6,574	4,901	6,717	14,061	<b>32,252</b>
Italy	49,425	29,266	46,199	100,832	<b>225,722</b>
Netherlands	15,993	6,935	8,979	22,619	<b>54,524</b>
Poland	12,603	9,135	13,327	28,448	<b>63,513</b>
Scandinavia*	41,861	18,289	20,900	52,674	<b>133,725</b>
Spain	11,671	8,666	12,649	26,068	<b>59,054</b>
Switzerland	13,815	7,874	9,479	18,942	<b>50,111</b>
United Kingdom	151,863	60,017	72,931	188,257	<b>473,068</b>
USA	5,035	12,078	8,481	14,271	<b>39,866</b>
Other	64,429	66,382	62,994	141,025	<b>334,830</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>521,870</b>	<b>293,356</b>	<b>347,820</b>	<b>783,848</b>	<b>1,946,894</b>
<b>January-December 2016</b>					
Australia	3,213	15,903	8,635	21,471	<b>49,223</b>
Austria	9,229	2,383	2,659	7,350	<b>21,620</b>
Belgium	14,651	4,216	5,272	12,348	<b>36,487</b>
France	47,304	14,770	20,731	43,286	<b>126,091</b>
Germany	57,882	15,514	20,283	44,238	<b>137,917</b>
Hungary	3,131	2,271	2,761	6,953	<b>15,116</b>
Ireland	6,964	4,530	6,078	13,268	<b>30,840</b>
Italy	46,055	24,243	38,133	84,634	<b>193,065</b>
Netherlands	15,071	5,122	6,296	18,343	<b>44,833</b>
Poland	9,713	7,354	10,633	22,230	<b>49,931</b>
Scandinavia*	40,375	15,344	17,515	44,530	<b>117,764</b>
Spain	10,101	5,943	8,857	18,584	<b>43,485</b>
Switzerland	14,488	6,691	8,574	17,911	<b>47,664</b>
United Kingdom	165,928	64,137	70,271	184,807	<b>485,143</b>
USA	2,288	10,983	6,418	11,885	<b>31,574</b>
Other	59,425	54,759	47,816	116,198	<b>278,199</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>505,820</b>	<b>254,163</b>	<b>280,932</b>	<b>668,037</b>	<b>1,708,952</b>
<b>January-December 2015</b>					
Australia	2,228	14,813	7,153	18,220	<b>42,413</b>
Austria	13,394	2,657	2,930	9,537	<b>28,519</b>
Belgium	15,383	3,836	4,371	11,145	<b>34,734</b>
France	48,697	13,157	17,140	38,715	<b>117,709</b>
Germany	66,807	12,901	16,095	40,637	<b>136,440</b>
Hungary	3,438	2,065	1,948	6,036	<b>13,487</b>
Ireland	7,841	4,767	6,267	14,426	<b>33,301</b>
Italy	46,827	22,156	33,258	76,624	<b>178,866</b>
Netherlands	14,264	4,807	5,559	15,896	<b>40,526</b>
Poland	7,604	5,188	6,872	15,185	<b>34,848</b>
Scandinavia*	34,369	15,956	16,938	43,907	<b>111,170</b>
Spain	11,797	4,904	6,606	16,638	<b>39,944</b>
Switzerland	13,012	6,075	6,762	14,594	<b>40,443</b>
United Kingdom	188,594	66,861	61,075	179,252	<b>495,782</b>
USA	4,151	10,975	6,399	11,805	<b>33,331</b>
Other	62,560	49,105	41,201	104,687	<b>257,553</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>540,965</b>	<b>240,223</b>	<b>240,574</b>	<b>617,304</b>	<b>1,639,067</b>

\* 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		
<b>January-December 2017</b>					
Australia	941	529	362	646	1,449
Austria	684	237	362	345	963
Belgium	693	156	276	280	771
France	710	184	305	315	876
Germany	690	190	323	299	874
Hungary	473	157	266	350	741
Ireland	610	193	337	389	892
Italy	492	111	223	277	621
Netherlands	590	188	298	353	852
Poland	525	140	229	318	711
Scandinavia*	722	237	329	389	989
Spain	562	158	266	345	782
Switzerland	881	277	383	430	1,137
United Kingdom	641	185	324	336	843
USA	1,010	393	340	399	1,115
Other	718	272	319	422	1,003
<b>Total expenditure per capita</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>856</b>
<b>January-December 2016</b>					
Australia	925	546	387	658	1,509
Austria	665	228	317	302	889
Belgium	750	190	292	296	874
France	724	186	300	299	871
Germany	719	203	315	282	880
Hungary	509	153	241	331	720
Ireland	608	209	343	400	930
Italy	505	108	218	268	612
Netherlands	633	178	278	348	852
Poland	534	140	233	315	708
Scandinavia*	689	235	322	359	950
Spain	616	154	272	338	790
Switzerland	937	267	388	442	1,177
United Kingdom	669	206	326	330	866
USA	802	465	337	449	1,194
Other	732	294	324	435	1,041
<b>Total expenditure per capita</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>869</b>
<b>January-December 2015</b>					
Australia	787	608	399	670	1,559
Austria	683	250	335	315	943
Belgium	846	216	344	310	967
France	718	219	340	303	920
Germany	740	250	387	286	962
Hungary	546	181	241	341	761
Ireland	600	214	328	408	941
Italy	495	118	225	271	632
Netherlands	669	203	295	354	901
Poland	588	156	231	328	754
Scandinavia*	650	247	316	374	947
Spain	629	172	301	352	846
Switzerland	863	301	392	414	1,146
United Kingdom	734	249	347	341	943
USA	1,199	488	372	455	1,285
Other	715	319	343	434	1,068
<b>Total expenditure per capita</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>919</b>

\* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

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

Characteristics	December		
	2015	2016	2017
<b>Total overnight cruise passengers</b>	-	<b>1,429</b>	<b>1,389</b>
<b>Sex:</b>			
Males	-	648	706
Females	-	781	683
<b>Age group:</b>			
0-19	-	6	256
20-39	-	44	298
40-59	-	135	429
60-79	-	975	251
80 or more	-	269	155
<b>Markets:</b>			
EU	-	562	382
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	-	10	68
Non-EU	-	867	1,007

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

Characteristics	January-December		
	2015	2016	2017
<b>Total overnight cruise passengers</b>	<b>15,847</b>	<b>22,519</b>	<b>40,759</b>
<b>Sex:</b>			
Males	7,447	10,512	18,828
Females	8,400	12,007	21,931
<b>Age group:</b>			
0-19	613	1,128	1,801
20-39	1,073	1,920	3,200
40-59	3,538	5,234	10,290
60-79	9,255	12,556	22,616
80 or more	1,368	1,681	2,852
<b>Markets:</b>			
EU	7,223	10,218	19,880
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	4,747	5,839	10,118
Non-EU	8,624	12,301	20,879

## 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, and are represented in this news release by means of the dash symbol (-).
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.
  - **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:

Sources and Methods: [https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources\\_and\\_Methods/Unit\\_C3/Tourism\\_Statistics/Pages/TOURSTAT-Survey.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Pages/TOURSTAT-Survey.aspx)

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. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced.

15. A detailed news release calendar is available on

[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)