

Total outbound tourists for the fourth quarter in 2017 were estimated at 160,416, an increase of 16.6 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2016.

## Outbound Tourism: Q4/2017

### October-December 2017

During the fourth quarter of 2017, outbound tourist trips towards non-EU countries increased by 34.3 per cent over the same quarter in 2016 (Table 1). Italy and the United Kingdom remained the most popular destinations, with a share of 49.7 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 4).

Total nights spent by outbound tourists increased by 13.1 per cent, surpassing 1.0 million nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights (55.2 per cent) were spent in private accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total estimated outlay by outbound tourists between October and December increased by 15.6 per cent over the same quarter of 2016, and stood at €137.7 million, equivalent to an average €858 per trip (Tables 5 and 6).

### January-December 2017

Total outbound tourist trips between January and December 2017 numbered 572,500, an increase of 15.2 per cent over 2016 (Table 7). Total nights spent by outbound tourists went up by 12.6 per cent, surpassing 3.9 million nights (Table 9). In addition, total estimated outlay by resident tourists stood at €516.5 million, 11.9 per cent higher than that recorded for the same period in 2016 (Table 11) ■

### Year-on-year percentage changes

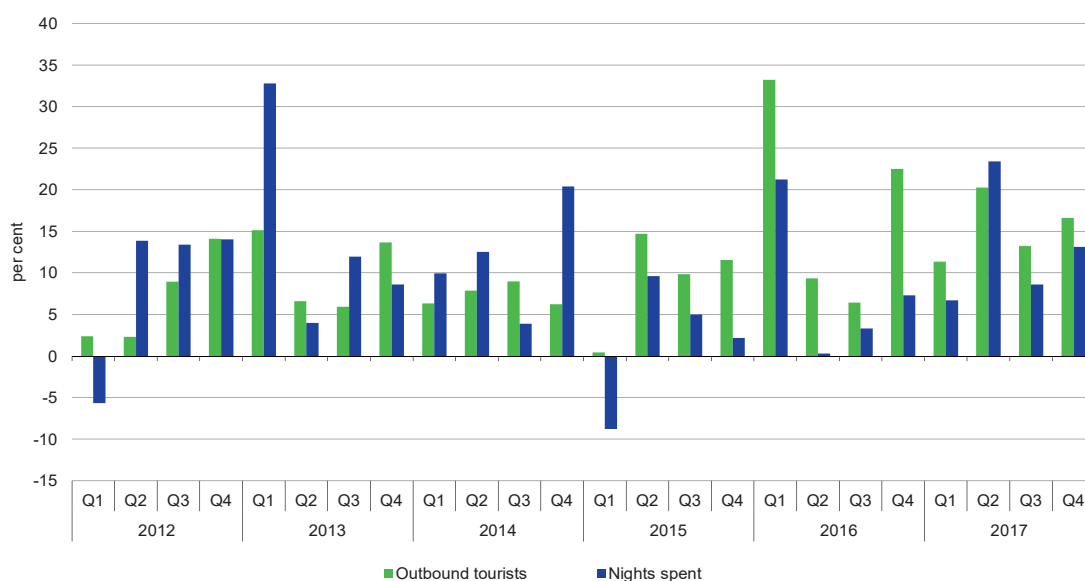


Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

| Characteristics   | October-December (Q4) |                |                | Change        | Percentage change |
|---|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
|   | 2015                  | 2016           | 2017           | 2017/2016     |                   |
| <b>Outbound tourists</b>                                    | <b>112,301</b>        | <b>137,586</b> | <b>160,416</b> | <b>22,830</b> | <b>16.6</b>       |
| <b>Mode of travel:</b>                                      |                       |                |                |               |                   |
| Air   | 106,259               | 131,468        | 154,153        | 22,685        | 17.3              |
| Sea   | 6,042                 | 6,118          | 6,263          | 145           | -                 |
| <b>Sex:</b>   |                       |                |                |               |                   |
| Males   | 64,393                | 78,845         | 89,343         | 10,498        | 13.3              |
| Females   | 47,908                | 58,742         | 71,073         | 12,332        | 21.0              |
| <b>Age group:</b>   |                       |                |                |               |                   |
| 0-24  | 18,474                | 23,496         | 25,313         | 1,817         | 7.7               |
| 25-44   | 51,862                | 64,922         | 75,947         | 11,025        | 17.0              |
| 45-64   | 32,896                | 37,639         | 48,306         | 10,666        | 28.3              |
| 65 or more  | 9,069                 | 11,529         | 10,851         | -677          | -                 |
| <b>Destination:</b>   |                       |                |                |               |                   |
| EU  | 99,949                | 123,745        | 141,834        | 18,089        | 14.6              |
| <i>of which:</i> Euro area                                  | 66,196                | 81,949         | 96,150         | 14,201        | 17.3              |
| Non-EU  | 12,353                | 13,841         | 18,582         | 4,741         | 34.3              |
| <b>Purpose of visit:</b>                                    |                       |                |                |               |                   |
| Holiday   | 56,424                | 75,724         | 84,897         | 9,174         | 12.1              |
| Visiting relatives and friends                              | 31,621                | 32,607         | 41,778         | 9,171         | 28.1              |
| Business and professional                                   | 17,270                | 20,097         | 25,934         | 5,837         | 29.0              |
| Other (including educational, religious and health tourism) | 6,986                 | 9,158          | 7,807          | -1,351        | -                 |
| <b>Organisation of stay:</b>                                |                       |                |                |               |                   |
| Package   | 14,667                | 18,139         | 21,506         | 3,368         | 18.6              |
| Non-package   | 97,634                | 119,447        | 138,910        | 19,463        | 16.3              |
| <b>Duration of visit:</b>                                   |                       |                |                |               |                   |
| 1-3 nights  | 32,846                | 43,835         | 52,367         | 8,532         | 19.5              |
| 4-6 nights  | 33,508                | 46,383         | 54,827         | 8,444         | 18.2              |
| 7 nights or more  | 45,947                | 47,368         | 53,223         | 5,855         | 12.4              |
| <b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>                      | <b>7.7</b>            | <b>6.7</b>     | <b>6.5</b>     | <b>-0.2</b>   | <b>-</b>          |

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

| Type of accommodation    | October-December (Q4) |                |                | Change        | Percentage change |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
|                          | 2015                  | 2016           | 2017           | 2017/2016     |                   |
| Private accommodation    | 46,912                | 53,892         | 62,493         | 8,601         | 16.0              |
| Collective accommodation | 65,389                | 83,694         | 97,923         | 14,229        | 17.0              |
| <b>Total tourists</b>    | <b>112,301</b>        | <b>137,586</b> | <b>160,416</b> | <b>22,830</b> | <b>16.6</b>       |

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 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
|                          | 2015                  | 2016           | 2017             | 2017/2016      |                   |
| Private accommodation    | 518,408               | 521,241        | 577,020          | 55,778         | 10.7              |
| Collective accommodation | 342,210               | 402,162        | 467,729          | 65,567         | 16.3              |
| <b>Total nights</b>      | <b>860,619</b>        | <b>923,403</b> | <b>1,044,749</b> | <b>121,345</b> | <b>13.1</b>       |

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 |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
|                  | 2015                  | 2016           | 2017             | 2017/2016      |                   |
| <b>Tourists</b>  |                       |                |                  |                |                   |
| <b>EU</b>        | <b>99,949</b>         | <b>123,745</b> | <b>141,834</b>   | <b>18,089</b>  | <b>14.6</b>       |
| <i>of which:</i> |                       |                |                  |                |                   |
| France           | 4,365                 | 3,609          | 5,788            | 2,179          | 60.4              |
| Germany          | 7,368                 | 9,791          | 11,459           | 1,668          | 17.0              |
| Italy            | 36,106                | 44,059         | 48,473           | 4,415          | 10.0              |
| United Kingdom   | 25,162                | 30,353         | 31,230           | 877            | -                 |
| <b>Non-EU</b>    | <b>12,353</b>         | <b>13,841</b>  | <b>18,582</b>    | <b>4,741</b>   | <b>34.3</b>       |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>112,301</b>        | <b>137,586</b> | <b>160,416</b>   | <b>22,830</b>  | <b>16.6</b>       |
| <b>Nights</b>    |                       |                |                  |                |                   |
| <b>EU</b>        | <b>658,685</b>        | <b>723,394</b> | <b>821,104</b>   | <b>97,710</b>  | <b>13.5</b>       |
| <i>of which:</i> |                       |                |                  |                |                   |
| France           | 34,917                | 18,799         | 29,433           | 10,634         | 56.6              |
| Germany          | 47,348                | 61,171         | 69,264           | 8,093          | 13.2              |
| Italy            | 180,586               | 203,753        | 226,709          | 22,956         | 11.3              |
| United Kingdom   | 183,770               | 200,906        | 198,508          | -2,398         | -                 |
| <b>Non-EU</b>    | <b>201,934</b>        | <b>200,009</b> | <b>223,645</b>   | <b>23,635</b>  | <b>11.8</b>       |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>860,619</b>        | <b>923,403</b> | <b>1,044,749</b> | <b>121,345</b> | <b>13.1</b>       |

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 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
|                          | 2015                  | 2016           | 2017           | 2017/2016     |                   |
| Package                  | 9,674                 | 10,927         | 13,736         | 2,809         | 25.7              |
| Non-package              | 36,149                | 38,547         | 44,347         | 5,800         | 15.0              |
| Air/sea fares            | 20,389                | 20,681         | 22,499         | 1,818         | 8.8               |
| Accommodation            | 15,760                | 17,866         | 21,849         | 3,983         | 22.3              |
| Other expenditure        | 61,271                | 69,609         | 79,631         | 10,022        | 14.4              |
| <b>Total expenditure</b> | <b>107,093</b>        | <b>119,083</b> | <b>137,714</b> | <b>18,632</b> | <b>15.6</b>       |

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  |            |            |
|                      | 2015                  | 2016       | 2017       | 2015       | 2016       | 2017       |
| Package              | 660                   | 602        | 639        | 116        | 107        | 119        |
| Non-package          | 370                   | 323        | 319        | 47         | 47         | 48         |
| Air/sea fares        | 209                   | 173        | 162        | 26         | 25         | 24         |
| Accommodation        | 265                   | 233        | 244        | 47         | 47         | 50         |
| Other expenditure    | 546                   | 506        | 496        | 71         | 75         | 76         |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>954</b>            | <b>866</b> | <b>858</b> | <b>124</b> | <b>129</b> | <b>132</b> |

**Table 7. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure**

| Characteristics   | January-December |                |                | Change        | Percentage change |
|---|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
|   | 2015             | 2016           | 2017           | 2017/2016     |                   |
| <b>Outbound tourists</b>                                    | <b>427,621</b>   | <b>496,767</b> | <b>572,500</b> | <b>75,733</b> | <b>15.2</b>       |
| <b>Mode of travel:</b>                                      |                  |                |                |               |                   |
| Air   | 402,926          | 468,254        | 544,150        | 75,896        | 16.2              |
| Sea   | 24,695           | 28,513         | 28,350         | -163          | -                 |
| <b>Sex:</b>   |                  |                |                |               |                   |
| Males   | 241,854          | 279,642        | 320,676        | 41,034        | 14.7              |
| Females   | 185,768          | 217,125        | 251,824        | 34,699        | 16.0              |
| <b>Age group:</b>   |                  |                |                |               |                   |
| 0-24  | 79,223           | 92,387         | 97,963         | 5,575         | 6.0               |
| 25-44   | 189,293          | 224,572        | 274,325        | 49,753        | 22.2              |
| 45-64   | 123,484          | 137,109        | 157,096        | 19,987        | 14.6              |
| 65 or more  | 35,622           | 42,699         | 43,116         | 417           | -                 |
| <b>Destination:</b>   |                  |                |                |               |                   |
| EU  | 380,843          | 446,693        | 511,201        | 64,508        | 14.4              |
| <i>of which:</i> Euro area                                  | 257,730          | 304,894        | 348,367        | 43,473        | 14.3              |
| Non-EU  | 46,779           | 50,074         | 61,299         | 11,225        | 22.4              |
| <b>Purpose of visit:</b>                                    |                  |                |                |               |                   |
| Holiday   | 230,831          | 280,242        | 319,739        | 39,497        | 14.1              |
| Visiting relatives and friends                              | 94,012           | 104,466        | 130,599        | 26,133        | 25.0              |
| Business and professional                                   | 68,504           | 71,441         | 83,049         | 11,608        | 16.2              |
| Other (including educational, religious and health tourism) | 34,275           | 40,618         | 39,113         | -1,505        | -3.7              |
| <b>Organisation of stay:</b>                                |                  |                |                |               |                   |
| Package   | 83,429           | 80,869         | 83,384         | 2,515         | 3.1               |
| Non-package   | 344,192          | 415,898        | 489,116        | 73,218        | 17.6              |
| <b>Duration of visit:</b>                                   |                  |                |                |               |                   |
| 1-3 nights  | 114,452          | 143,001        | 165,242        | 22,241        | 15.6              |
| 4-6 nights  | 126,377          | 157,014        | 190,923        | 33,909        | 21.6              |
| 7 nights or more  | 186,792          | 196,752        | 216,335        | 19,583        | 10.0              |
| <b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>                      | <b>7.6</b>       | <b>7.0</b>     | <b>6.9</b>     | <b>-0.1</b>   | <b>-</b>          |

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

| Type of accommodation    | January-December |                |                | Change        | Percentage change |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
|                          | 2015             | 2016           | 2017           | 2017/2016     |                   |
| Private accommodation    | 159,535          | 187,149        | 221,337        | 34,188        | 18.3              |
| Collective accommodation | 268,086          | 309,618        | 351,163        | 41,545        | 13.4              |
| <b>Total tourists</b>    | <b>427,621</b>   | <b>496,767</b> | <b>572,500</b> | <b>75,733</b> | <b>15.2</b>       |

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 |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
|                          | 2015             | 2016             | 2017             | 2017/2016      |                   |
| Private accommodation    | 1,780,344        | 1,832,278        | 2,099,053        | 266,775        | 14.6              |
| Collective accommodation | 1,484,898        | 1,650,919        | 1,822,590        | 171,671        | 10.4              |
| <b>Total nights</b>      | <b>3,265,242</b> | <b>3,483,197</b> | <b>3,921,643</b> | <b>438,446</b> | <b>12.6</b>       |

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table 10. Outbound tourists and nights spent by destination**

| Destination           | January-December    |                     |                     | Change         | Percentage change |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|
|                       | 2015                | 2016                | 2017                | 2017/2016      |                   |
| <b>Total tourists</b> | <b>427,621</b>      | <b>496,767</b>      | <b>572,500</b>      | <b>75,733</b>  | <b>15.2</b>       |
| Austria               | 7,219               | 9,712               | 10,928              | 1,215          | -                 |
| Belgium               | 10,792              | 12,326              | 19,150              | 6,824          | 55.4              |
| France                | 20,946              | 17,006              | 21,510              | 4,504          | 26.5              |
| Germany               | 23,866              | 32,302              | 38,432              | 6,130          | 19.0              |
| Ireland               | 5,517               | 6,381               | 6,743               | 362            | -                 |
| Italy                 | 136,648             | 165,556             | 181,053             | 15,498         | 9.4               |
| Libya                 | 1,007 <sup>u</sup>  | 1,399 <sup>u</sup>  | 1,480 <sup>u</sup>  | 81             | -                 |
| Netherlands           | 13,756              | 15,583              | 15,591              | 8              | -                 |
| Russia                | 2,410               | 1,944               | 2,709               | 765            | -                 |
| Scandinavia*          | 9,963               | 10,306              | 11,993              | 1,687          | 16.4              |
| Spain                 | 19,408              | 23,067              | 27,906              | 4,839          | 21.0              |
| Switzerland           | 7,438               | 7,909               | 7,302               | -608           | -                 |
| United Kingdom        | 89,266              | 96,154              | 105,812             | 9,658          | 10.0              |
| USA                   | 4,458               | 4,869               | 5,897               | 1,027          | -                 |
| Other                 | 74,928              | 92,253              | 115,994             | 23,741         | 25.7              |
| <b>Total nights</b>   | <b>3,265,242</b>    | <b>3,483,197</b>    | <b>3,921,643</b>    | <b>438,446</b> | <b>12.6</b>       |
| Austria               | 50,980              | 63,682              | 70,093              | 6,411          | -                 |
| Belgium               | 53,052              | 58,374              | 87,554              | 29,180         | 50.0              |
| France                | 139,164             | 107,999             | 130,664             | 22,665         | 21.0              |
| Germany               | 165,424             | 211,699             | 242,859             | 31,160         | 14.7              |
| Ireland               | 41,713              | 48,178              | 47,481              | -698           | -                 |
| Italy                 | 732,743             | 775,164             | 847,902             | 72,738         | 9.4               |
| Libya                 | 16,452 <sup>u</sup> | 25,416 <sup>u</sup> | 29,525 <sup>u</sup> | 4,109          | -                 |
| Netherlands           | 94,434              | 98,777              | 99,423              | 646            | -                 |
| Russia                | 35,166              | 28,341              | 32,720              | 4,379          | -                 |
| Scandinavia*          | 107,393             | 82,482              | 107,437             | 24,954         | 30.3              |
| Spain                 | 134,984             | 158,968             | 178,872             | 19,904         | 12.5              |
| Switzerland           | 54,751              | 53,947              | 44,715              | -9,231         | -                 |
| United Kingdom        | 676,750             | 696,139             | 684,936             | -11,203        | -1.6              |
| USA                   | 81,014              | 72,423              | 105,434             | 33,011         | -                 |
| Other                 | 881,222             | 1,001,607           | 1,212,028           | 210,421        | 21.0              |

\* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

<sup>u</sup> 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 |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
|                          | 2015             | 2016           | 2017           | 2017/2016     |                   |
| Package                  | 60,497           | 54,828         | 55,786         | 958           | 1.7               |
| Non-package              | 137,299          | 150,424        | 171,976        | 21,553        | 14.3              |
| Air/sea fares            | 73,220           | 77,171         | 87,165         | 9,994         | 13.0              |
| Accommodation            | 64,079           | 73,252         | 84,811         | 11,559        | 15.8              |
| Other expenditure        | 225,163          | 256,156        | 288,728        | 32,572        | 12.7              |
| <b>Total expenditure</b> | <b>422,959</b>   | <b>461,408</b> | <b>516,491</b> | <b>55,083</b> | <b>11.9</b>       |

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  |            |            |
|                      | 2015             | 2016       | 2017       | 2015       | 2016       | 2017       |
| Package              | 725              | 678        | 669        | 113        | 113        | 115        |
| Non-package          | 399              | 362        | 352        | 50         | 50         | 50         |
| Air/sea fares        | 213              | 186        | 178        | 27         | 26         | 25         |
| Accommodation        | 283              | 259        | 261        | 47         | 45         | 49         |
| Other expenditure    | 527              | 516        | 504        | 69         | 74         | 74         |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>989</b>       | <b>929</b> | <b>902</b> | <b>130</b> | <b>132</b> | <b>132</b> |



## 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, and are represented in this news release by means of the dash symbol (-).
6. Expenditure data in this release represent the budgeted expenditure of outbound tourists prior to their departure.
7. **Definitions:**
  - **Resident:** 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 trips:** Trips with at least one overnight stay in either 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 that is going to be 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:  
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=39>  
Statistical Database: <http://nso.gov.mt/statdb/start>
9. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced.
10. 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)