

Total outbound tourists for the first quarter in 2018 were estimated at 137,730, an increase of 19.5 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2017.

Outbound Tourism: Q1/2018

January-March 2018

During the first quarter of 2018, outbound tourist trips towards non-EU countries increased by 45.0 per cent over the same quarter in 2017 (Table 1). Italy and the United Kingdom remained the most popular destinations, with a joint share of 55.9 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 4).

Total nights spent by outbound tourists increased by 18.6 per cent, amounting to 836,813 nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights (59.4 per cent) were spent in rented accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total estimated outlay by outbound tourists between January and March increased by 11.2 per cent over the same quarter of 2017, and stood at €103.3 million, equivalent to an average €750 per trip (Tables 5 and 6) ■

Chart 1. Year-on-year percentage changes

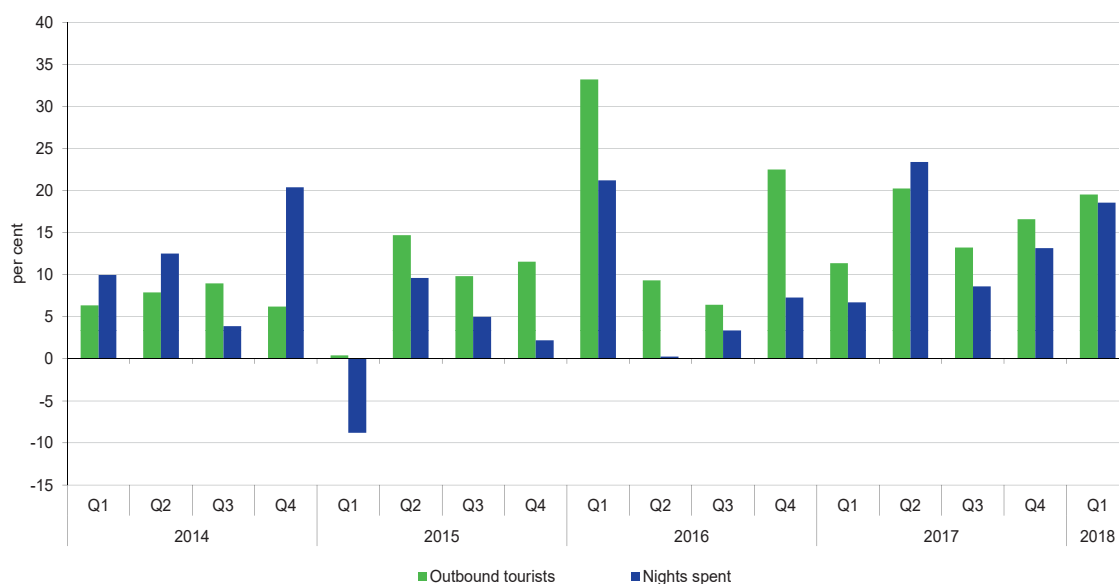


Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017	
Outbound tourists	103,463	115,219	137,730	22,511	19.5
Type and mode of travel					
Air	97,399	109,787	131,691	21,905	20.0
Low-cost airlines	43,820	61,485	68,139	6,654	10.8
Other airlines	53,579	48,302	63,552	15,250	31.6
Sea	6,064	5,432	6,038	-	-
Sex					
Males	59,179	66,449	76,910	10,461	15.7
Females	44,284	48,770	60,820	12,050	24.7
Age group					
0-24	19,462	18,920	24,171	5,251	27.8
25-44	47,533	56,940	66,108	9,168	16.1
45-64	29,977	31,162	39,057	7,895	25.3
65 or more	6,491	8,198	8,395	-	-
Final destination					
EU	91,572	105,346	123,411	18,065	17.1
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	60,736	69,601	81,085	11,484	16.5
Non-EU	11,891	9,873	14,319	4,446	45.0
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	55,168	61,117	77,594	16,477	27.0
Visiting relatives and friends	23,011	24,526	31,940	7,414	30.2
Business and professional	18,225	21,561	21,611	-	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	7,059	8,014	6,584	-	-
Organisation of stay					
Package	12,406	10,295	17,816	7,521	73.1
Non-package	91,057	104,924	119,914	14,990	14.3
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	34,328	41,654	47,858	6,205	14.9
4-6 nights	33,912	40,514	48,142	7,629	18.8
7 nights or more	35,224	33,052	41,729	8,678	26.3
Average length of stay (nights)	6.4	6.1	6.1	0.0	-

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
	2016	2017	2018		
Rented accommodation	74,875	83,449	98,229	14,780	17.7
Collective	65,458	71,389	85,161	13,772	19.3
Other rented	9,417	12,060	13,069	-	-
Non-rented accommodation	28,589	31,770	39,500	7,730	24.3
Total tourists	103,463	115,219	137,730	22,511	19.5

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
	2016	2017	2018		
Rented accommodation	416,944	424,790	497,223	72,434	17.1
Collective	336,668	328,047	409,015	80,968	24.7
Other rented	80,276	96,743	88,208	-	-
Non-rented accommodation	244,618	281,055	339,590	58,534	20.8
Total nights	661,562	705,845	836,813	130,968	18.6

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 2. Average length of stay by type of accommodation: Quarter 1

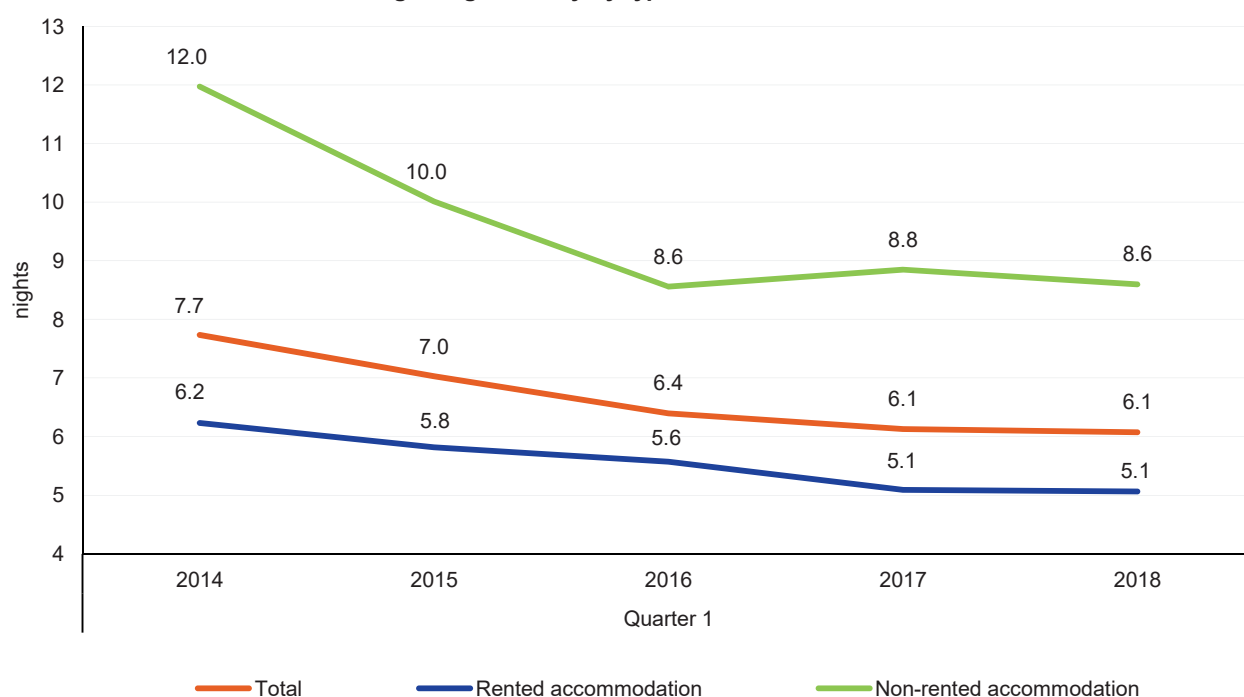


Table 4. Outbound tourists and nights spent by period of departure and final destination

Final destination	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017	
Tourists					
EU	91,572	105,346	123,411	18,065	17.1
<i>of which:</i>					
France	3,062	3,869	4,780	-	-
Germany	6,009	8,320	7,881	-	-
Italy	36,174	37,883	44,877	6,994	18.5
Spain	3,455	5,737	5,748	-	-
United Kingdom	23,721	27,249	32,164	4,914	18.0
Non-EU	11,891	9,873	14,319	4,446	45.0
Total	103,463	115,219	137,730	22,511	19.5
Nights					
EU	505,722	550,143	669,866	119,723	21.8
<i>of which:</i>					
France	18,649	21,615	33,764	-	-
Germany	35,209	51,102	46,212	-	-
Italy	156,996	156,513	193,763	37,250	23.8
Spain	19,952	31,964	34,601	-	-
United Kingdom	152,815	149,170	181,465	32,295	21.7
Non-EU	155,840	155,702	166,947	11,245	7.2
Total	661,562	705,845	836,813	130,968	18.6
Total Expenditure (€000)					
EU	71,070	74,210	82,279	8,069	10.9
<i>of which:</i>					
France	2,950	3,290	4,057	-	-
Germany	5,990	7,073	6,098	-	-
Italy	22,100	21,452	24,118	2,666	12.4
Spain	2,782	4,064	4,016	-	-
United Kingdom	20,704	20,843	23,752	2,909	14.0
Non-EU	20,819	18,607	20,976	2,369	12.7
Total	91,889	92,817	103,255	10,437	11.2

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 3. Average expenditure per capita by final destination: Quarter 1 (2018)

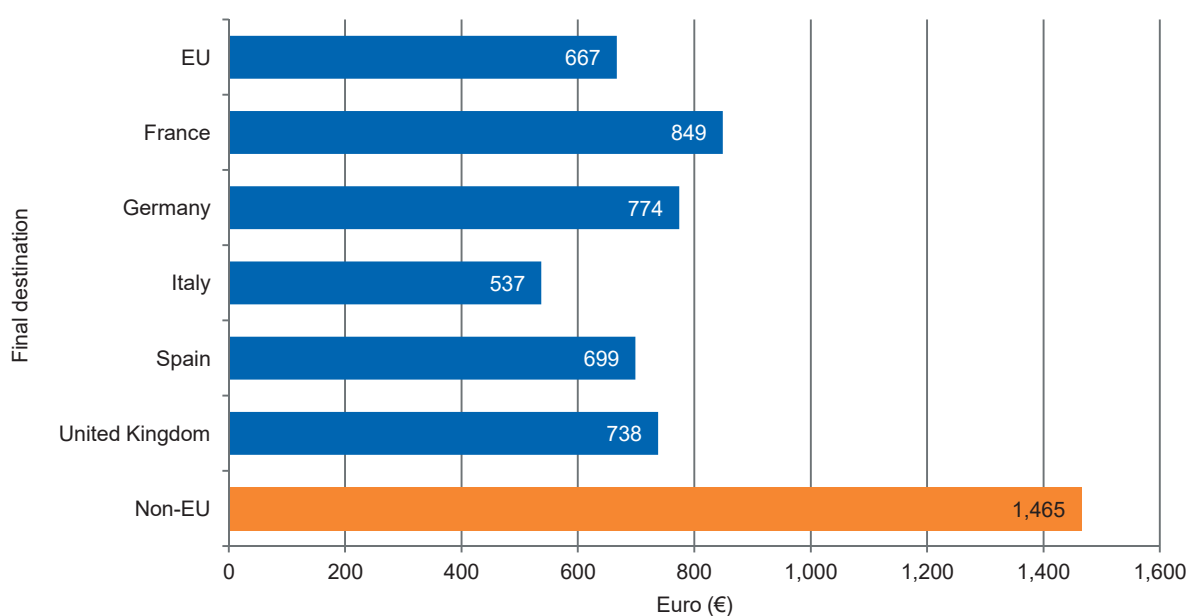


Table 5. Total expenditure by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€000

Expenditure category	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018		
Package	7,124	4,835	9,300	4,465	92.3
Non-package	31,977	34,366	38,062	3,696	10.8
Air/sea fares	16,150	17,357	19,374	2,017	11.6
Accommodation	15,827	17,009	18,687	1,678	9.9
Other expenditure	52,788	53,616	55,894	2,277	4.2
Total expenditure	91,889	92,817	103,255	10,437	11.2

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 capita			per night		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Package	574	470	522	110	97	100
Non-package	351	328	317	54	52	51
Air/sea fares	177	165	161	27	26	26
Accommodation	239	235	231	40	47	46
Other expenditure	510	465	406	80	76	67
Total	888	806	750	139	131	123

Chart 4a. Expenditure per capita: Quarter 1

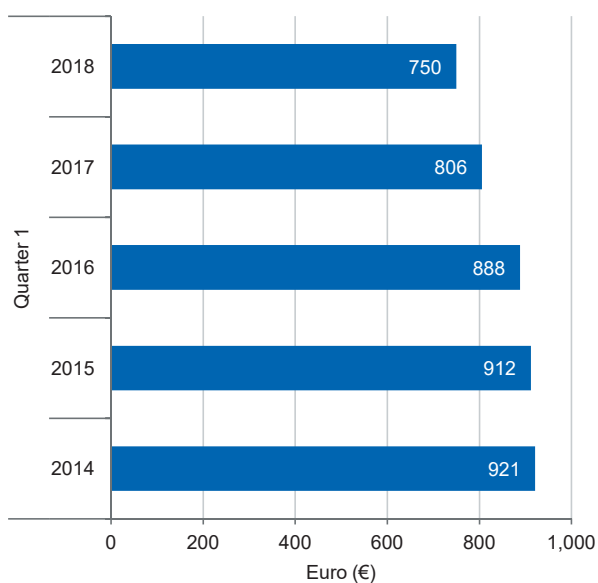
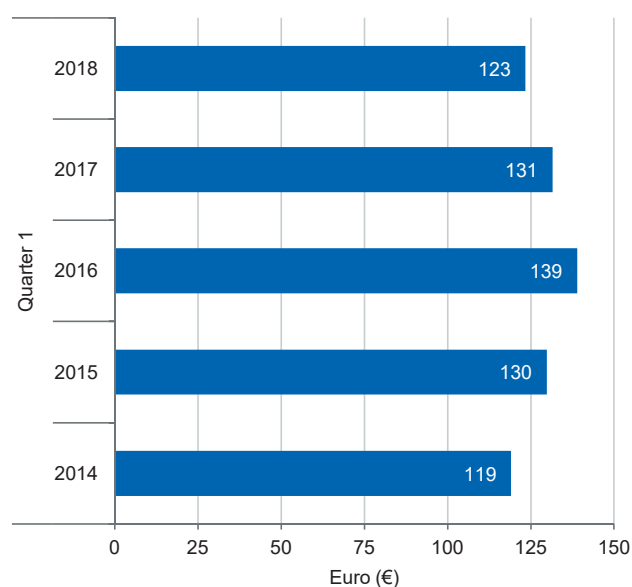


Chart 4b. Expenditure per night: Quarter 1



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 and percentage changes between one survey estimate and another based on less than 1,500 tourists should be treated with caution 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.
- **Rented accommodation:** consists of the following two sub-categories:
 - a. **Collective accommodation:** comprises hotels, guesthouses, hostels, tourist villages, holiday complex, Bed & Breakfast and campsites.
 - b. **Other rented accommodation:** comprises holiday furnished premises (farmhouses, flats and villas), host families, marinas, paid-convents, rented yachts and student dormitories.
- **Non-rented accommodation:** comprises 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:** refers to the amount that is going to be paid for the acquisition of consumption goods and services, as well as valuables during tourism trips. It includes expenditures by visitors themselves, as well as expenses that are paid for or reimbursed by others. Maltese residents are asked to budget the expenditures which they are about to incur when travelling abroad. The total expenditure is broken down by the following expenditure items:
 - a. **Package expenditure:** refers to the whole amount of money spent in transport, accommodation and others services such as rental of a car, activities or outings during the trip.
 - b. **Non-Package expenditure:** is the amount of money spent in transport and accommodation reported separately.
 - c. **Other expenditure:** is the amount spent on shopping, souvenirs, tickets for concerts or a sport event, entrance to a museum or zoo, day excursions during a tourism trip. It also includes durables and valuable goods, that is, the amount spent on cars, computers paintings, jewellery and works of art.

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

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. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
10. A detailed news release calendar is available on https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx