

Total outbound tourists for the first quarter in 2019 were estimated at 146,841, an increase of 6.6 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2018.

Outbound Tourism: Q1/2019

January-March

During the first quarter of 2019, outbound tourists towards EU and non-EU countries increased by 4.5 and 25.0 per cent respectively, when compared to the same quarter in 2018 (Table 1). Italy and the United Kingdom remained the most popular destinations, with a joint share of 49.9 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 6).

Total nights spent by outbound tourists decreased by 0.6 per cent, amounting to 831,885 nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights (58.3 per cent) were spent in rented accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total estimated outlay by outbound tourists between January and March increased by 9.3 per cent over the same quarter of 2018, and stood at €112.9 million, equivalent to an average €769 per trip (Tables 4 and 5) ■

Chart 1. Year-on-year percentage changes

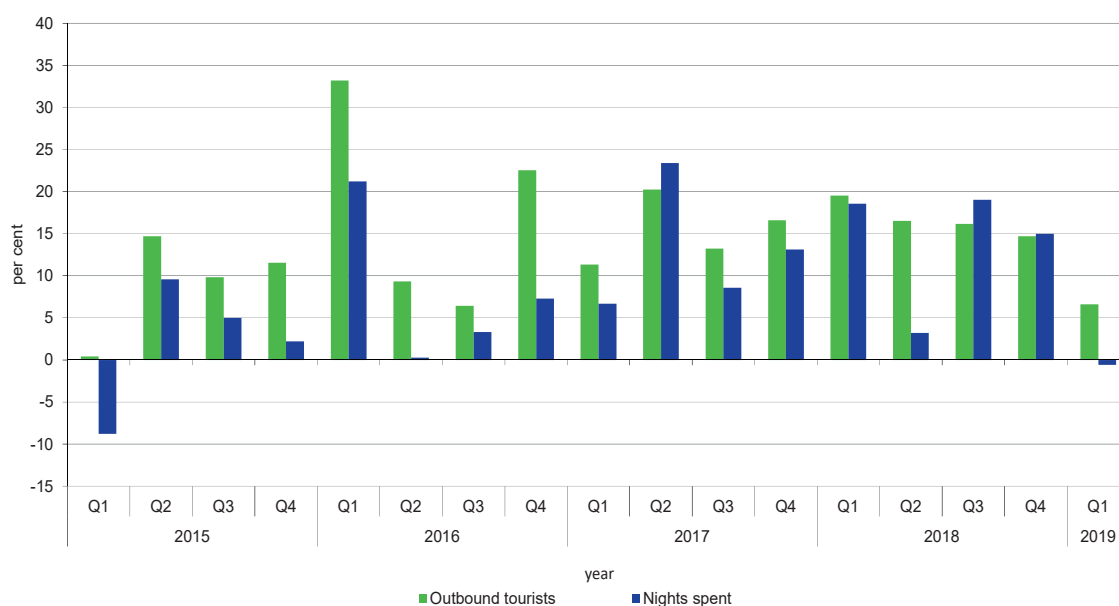


Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

| Characteristics | January-March | | | Change | Percentage change |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2019/2018 | |
| Outbound tourists | 115,219 | 137,730 | 146,841 | 9,111 | 6.6 |
| Type and mode of travel | | | | | |
| Air | 109,787 | 131,691 | 142,034 | 10,343 | 7.9 |
| Low-cost airlines | 61,485 | 68,139 | 75,220 | 7,081 | 10.4 |
| Other airlines | 48,302 | 63,552 | 66,814 | 3,261 | 5.1 |
| Sea | 5,432 | 6,038 | 4,807 | - | - |
| Sex | | | | | |
| Males | 66,449 | 76,910 | 83,028 | 6,118 | 8.0 |
| Females | 48,770 | 60,820 | 63,813 | 2,993 | 4.9 |
| Age group | | | | | |
| 0-24 | 18,920 | 24,171 | 23,545 | - | - |
| 25-44 | 56,940 | 66,108 | 75,522 | 9,414 | 14.2 |
| 45-64 | 31,162 | 39,057 | 39,102 | - | - |
| 65 or more | 8,198 | 8,395 | 8,672 | - | - |
| Final destination | | | | | |
| EU | 105,346 | 123,411 | 128,936 | 5,525 | 4.5 |
| <i>of which: Euro area</i> | 69,601 | 81,085 | 86,617 | 5,532 | 6.8 |
| Non-EU | 9,873 | 14,319 | 17,905 | 3,586 | 25.0 |
| Purpose of visit | | | | | |
| Holiday | 61,117 | 77,594 | 84,783 | 7,189 | 9.3 |
| Visiting relatives and friends | 24,526 | 31,940 | 29,910 | -2,031 | -6.4 |
| Business and professional | 21,561 | 21,611 | 25,014 | 3,402 | 15.7 |
| Other (including educational, religious and health tourism) | 8,014 | 6,584 | 7,135 | - | - |
| Organisation of stay | | | | | |
| Package | 10,295 | 17,816 | 15,326 | -2,490 | -14.0 |
| Non-package | 104,924 | 119,914 | 131,515 | 11,601 | 9.7 |
| Duration of visit | | | | | |
| 1-3 nights | 41,654 | 47,858 | 57,488 | 9,629 | 20.1 |
| 4-6 nights | 40,514 | 48,142 | 49,260 | - | - |
| 7 nights or more | 33,052 | 41,729 | 40,093 | -1,636 | -3.9 |
| Average length of stay (nights) | 6.1 | 6.1 | 5.7 | -0.4 | - |

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

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

| Type of accommodation | January-March | | | Change | Percentage change |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2019/2018 | |
| Rented accommodation | 83,449 | 98,229 | 104,855 | 6,625 | 6.7 |
| Collective | 71,389 | 85,161 | 87,150 | 1,989 | 2.3 |
| Other rented | 12,060 | 13,069 | 17,705 | 4,636 | 35.5 |
| Non-rented accommodation | 31,770 | 39,500 | 41,986 | 2,486 | 6.3 |
| Total tourists | 115,219 | 137,730 | 146,841 | 9,111 | 6.6 |

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 | | | Change | Percentage change |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2019/2018 | |
| Rented accommodation | 424,790 | 497,223 | 485,246 | -11,977 | -2.4 |
| Collective | 328,047 | 409,015 | 390,107 | -18,908 | -4.6 |
| Other rented | 96,743 | 88,208 | 95,139 | 6,931 | 7.9 |
| Non-rented accommodation | 281,055 | 339,590 | 346,639 | 7,049 | 2.1 |
| Total nights | 705,845 | 836,813 | 831,885 | -4,928 | -0.6 |

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 2. Average length of stay by type of accommodation: January-March

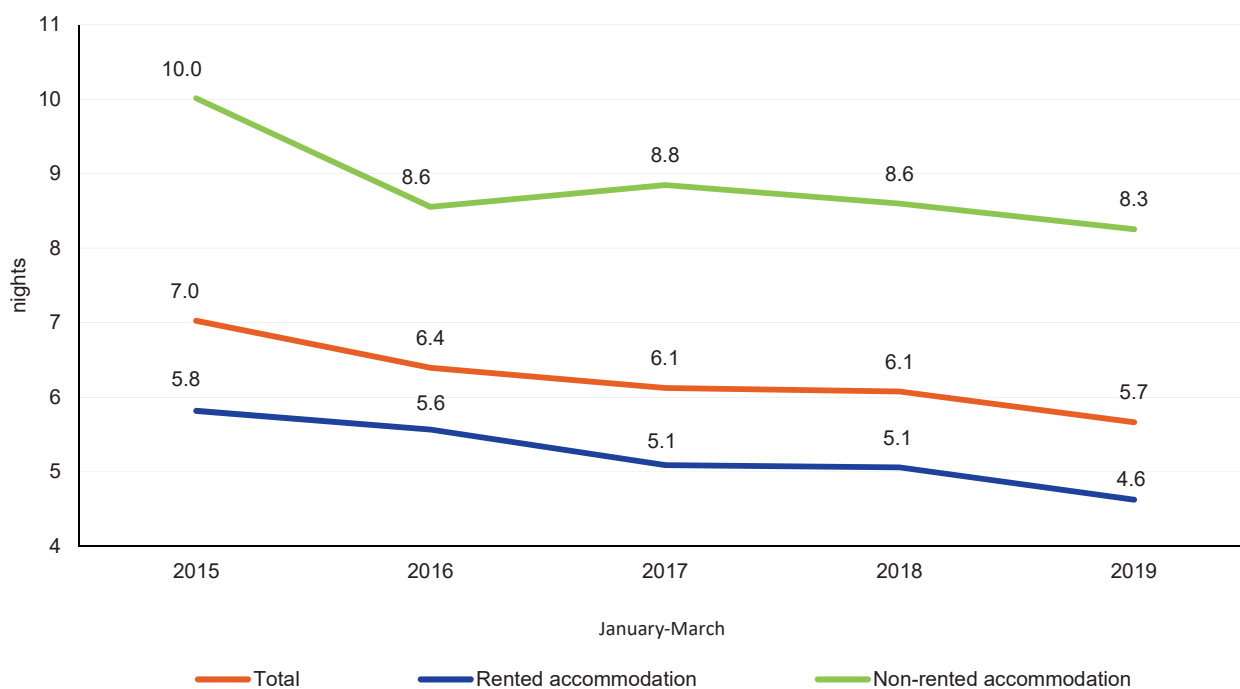


Table 4. Total expenditure by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€000

| Expenditure category | January-March | | | Change | Percentage change |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2019/2018 | |
| Package | 4,835 | 9,300 | 8,664 | -636 | -6.8 |
| Non-package | 34,366 | 38,062 | 40,456 | 2,395 | 6.3 |
| Air/sea fares | 17,357 | 19,374 | 20,039 | 665 | 3.4 |
| Accommodation | 17,009 | 18,687 | 20,417 | 1,730 | 9.3 |
| Other expenditure | 53,616 | 55,894 | 63,750 | 7,857 | 14.1 |
| Total expenditure | 92,817 | 103,255 | 112,870 | 9,615 | 9.3 |

Notes:

1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 5. Average expenditure per capita and per night by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€

| Expenditure category | January-March | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | per capita | | | per night | | |
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Package | 470 | 522 | 565 | 97 | 100 | 115 |
| Non-package | 328 | 317 | 307 | 52 | 51 | 53 |
| Air/sea fares | 165 | 161 | 152 | 26 | 26 | 26 |
| Accommodation | 235 | 231 | 225 | 47 | 46 | 48 |
| Other expenditure | 465 | 406 | 434 | 76 | 67 | 77 |
| Total | 806 | 750 | 769 | 131 | 123 | 136 |

Chart 3a. Expenditure per capita: January-March

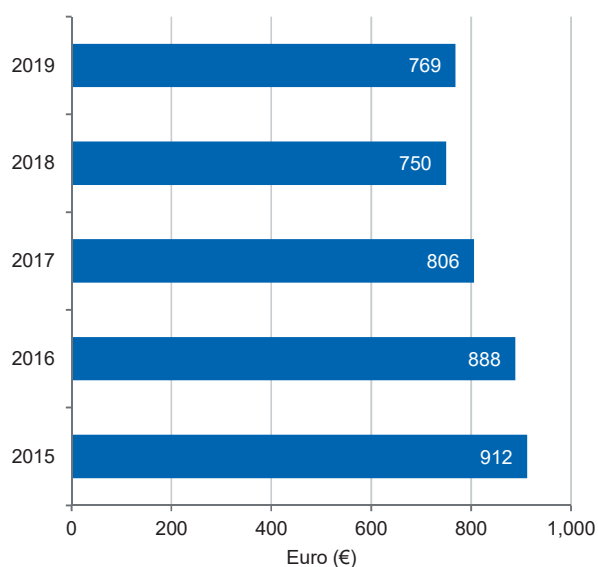


Chart 3b. Expenditure per night: January-March

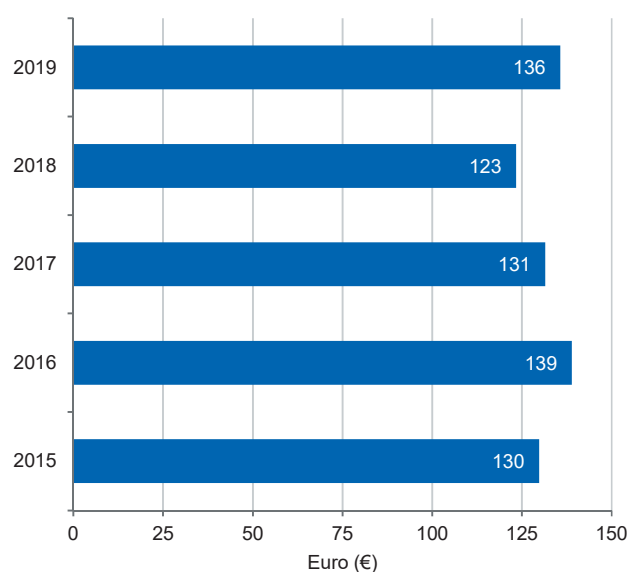


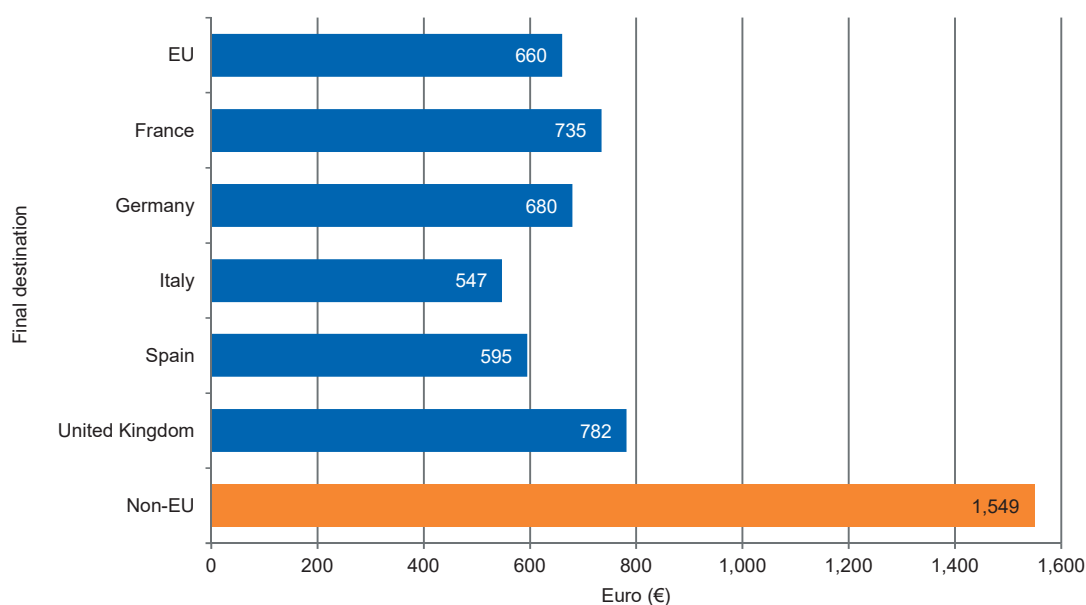
Table 6. Outbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by period of departure and final destination

| Final destination | | January-March | | | Change | Percentage change |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2019/2018 | |
| Tourists | EU | 105,346 | 123,411 | 128,936 | 5,525 | 4.5 |
| | <i>of which:</i> | | | | | |
| | France | 3,869 | 4,780 | 5,818 | - | - |
| | Germany | 8,320 | 7,881 | 8,145 | - | - |
| | Italy | 37,883 | 44,877 | 42,843 | -2,033 | -4.5 |
| | Spain | 5,737 | 5,748 | 9,286 | 3,538 | 61.5 |
| | United Kingdom | 27,249 | 32,164 | 30,445 | -1,719 | -5.3 |
| | Non-EU | 9,873 | 14,319 | 17,905 | 3,586 | 25.0 |
| | Total | 115,219 | 137,730 | 146,841 | 9,111 | 6.6 |
| Nights | EU | 550,143 | 669,866 | 619,763 | -50,103 | -7.5 |
| | <i>of which:</i> | | | | | |
| | France | 21,615 | 33,764 | 26,002 | - | - |
| | Germany | 51,102 | 46,212 | 37,042 | - | - |
| | Italy | 156,513 | 193,763 | 183,262 | -10,501 | -5.4 |
| | Spain | 31,964 | 34,601 | 44,601 | 10,000 | 28.9 |
| | United Kingdom | 149,170 | 181,465 | 156,439 | -25,026 | -13.8 |
| | Non-EU | 155,702 | 166,947 | 212,122 | 45,175 | 27.1 |
| | Total | 705,845 | 836,813 | 831,885 | -4,928 | -0.6 |
| Total Expenditure (€000) | EU | 74,210 | 82,279 | 85,135 | 2,856 | 3.5 |
| | <i>of which:</i> | | | | | |
| | France | 3,290 | 4,057 | 4,273 | - | - |
| | Germany | 7,073 | 6,098 | 5,536 | - | - |
| | Italy | 21,452 | 24,118 | 23,449 | -669 | -2.8 |
| | Spain | 4,064 | 4,016 | 5,523 | 1,506 | 37.5 |
| | United Kingdom | 20,843 | 23,752 | 23,803 | 51 | 0.2 |
| | Non-EU | 18,607 | 20,976 | 27,735 | 6,760 | 32.2 |
| | Total | 92,817 | 103,255 | 112,870 | 9,615 | 9.3 |

Notes:

1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
3. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

Chart 4. Average expenditure per capita by final destination: January-March 2019



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 (i.e. outside their usual environment), and staying for not more than 12 consecutive months for personal, business or other purposes.
2. Data on 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 data on 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 passengers.
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, which are 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:**

- **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 and the purpose of visit.
- **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 or timeshare, etc.).
- **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 on transport, accommodation and other services such as rental of a car, activities or outings during the trip;
 - b. **Non-Package expenditure:** is the amount of money spent on 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 and 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