

Outbound Tourism: Q2/2026

NR 138/2026

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Total outbound tourist trips for the second quarter in 2026 were estimated at 214,123, an increase of 2.5 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2025. Total nights spent decreased by 0.5 per cent and amounted to 1,486,597.



April-June 2026

During the quarter under review, a total of 139,802 outbound tourist trips were undertaken for holiday purposes, followed by 46,869 trips for visiting friends and relatives. Most outbound tourists were aged between 25 and 44 years (47.4 per cent), followed by those within the 45-64 age bracket (30.7 per cent) (Table 1).

Outbound tourists towards EU and non-EU countries increased by 2.5 and 2.4 per cent respectively, when compared to the same quarter of 2025 (Table 1). Italy remained the most popular destination, with a share of 37.7 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 5).

Total nights spent by outbound tourists in the second quarter of 2026 reached 1.5 million nights. The largest share of guest nights (54.2 per cent) was spent in non-rented accommodation establishments (Table 2). The average length of stay of total outbound tourists stood at 6.9 nights (Table 1).

Total estimated expenditure by outbound tourists between April and June stood at €195.1 million, equivalent to an average €911 per capita (Tables 3 and 4).

January-June 2026

Total outbound tourist trips in the first half of 2026 numbered 419,940, an increase of 7.6 per cent over 2025 (Table 1). Total nights spent by outbound tourists went up by 10.6 per cent, reaching 3.1 million nights (Table 2). In addition, total estimated outlay by resident tourists stood at €388.5 million, 2.9 per cent higher than that recorded in 2025 (Table 3).

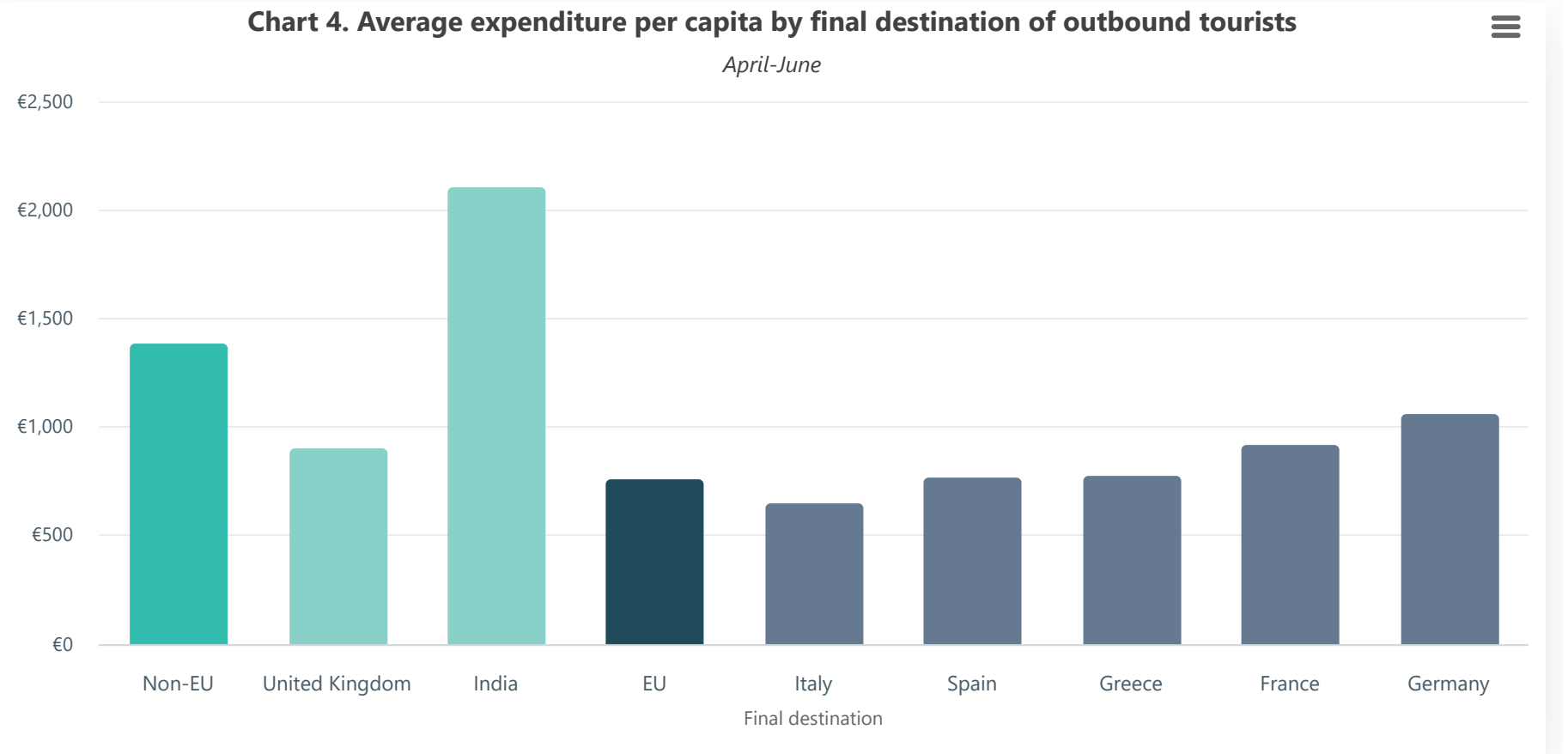
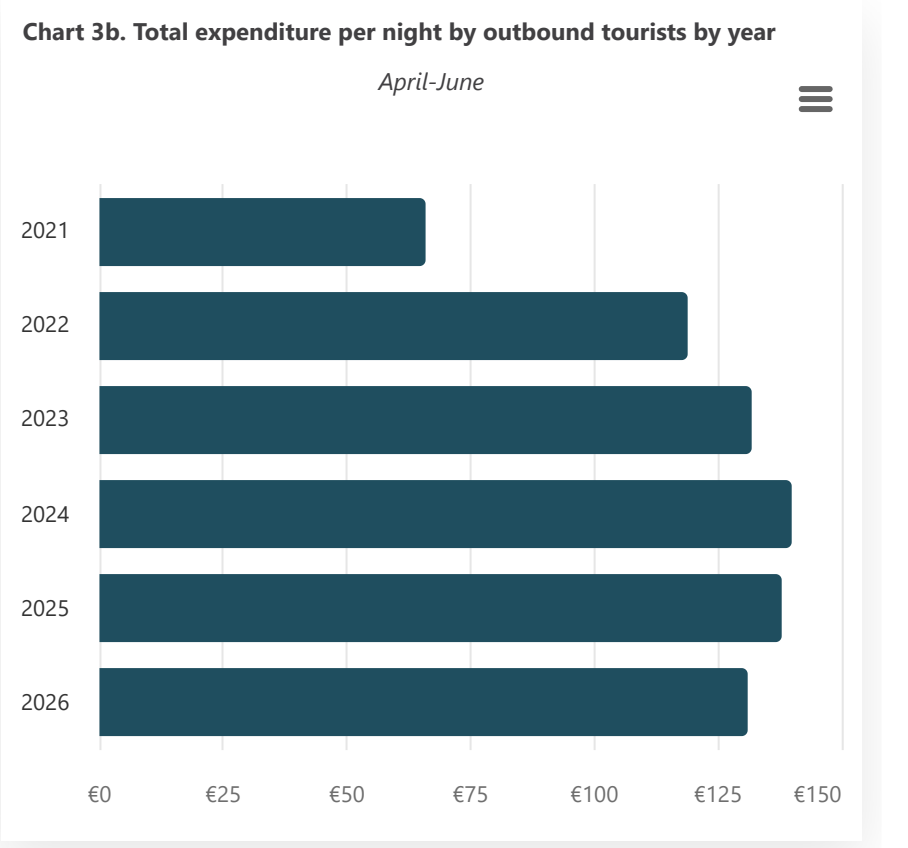
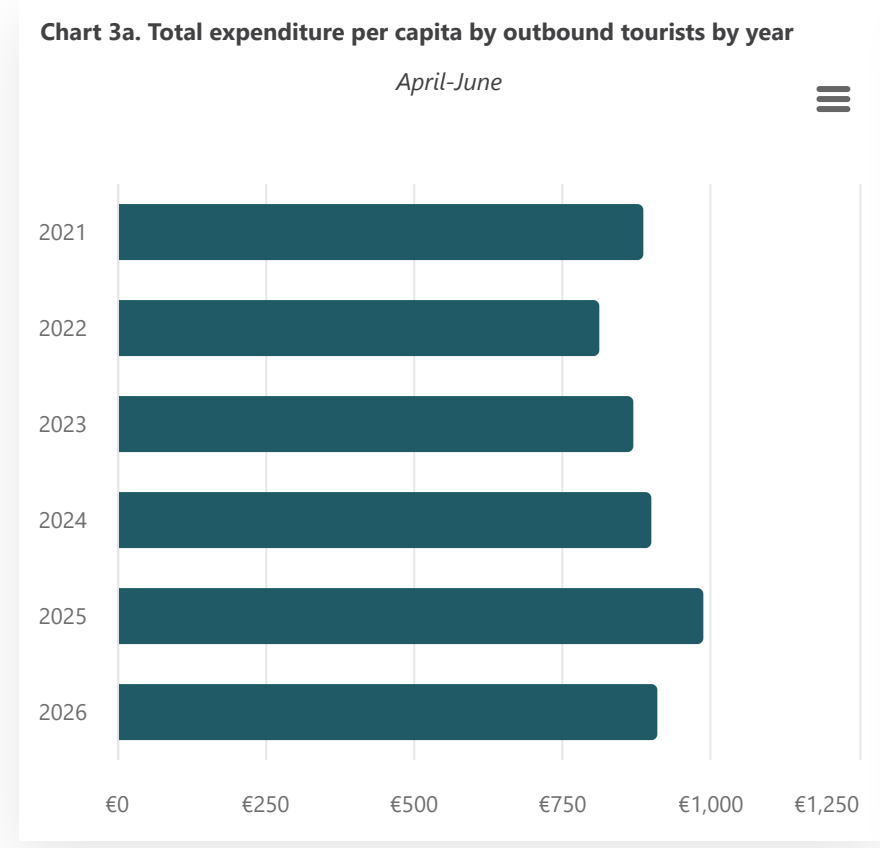
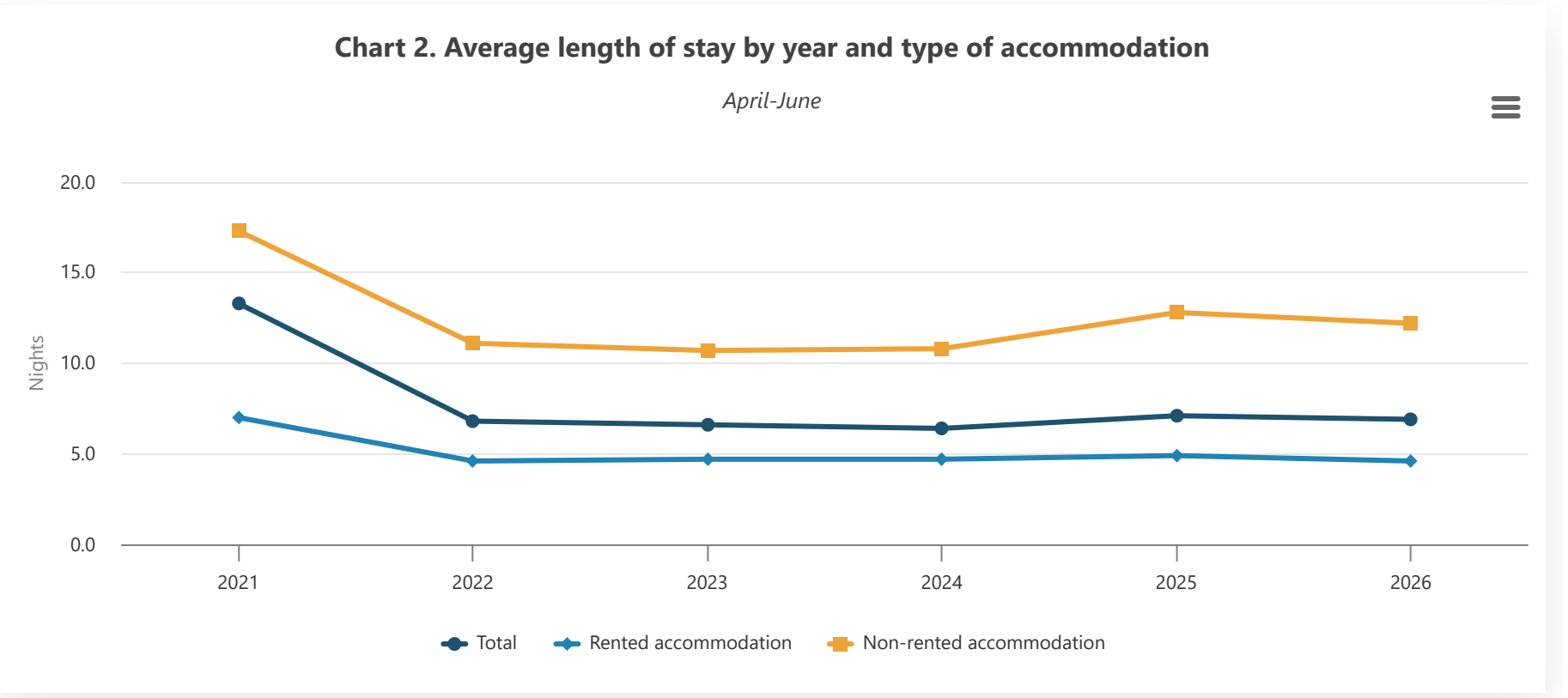
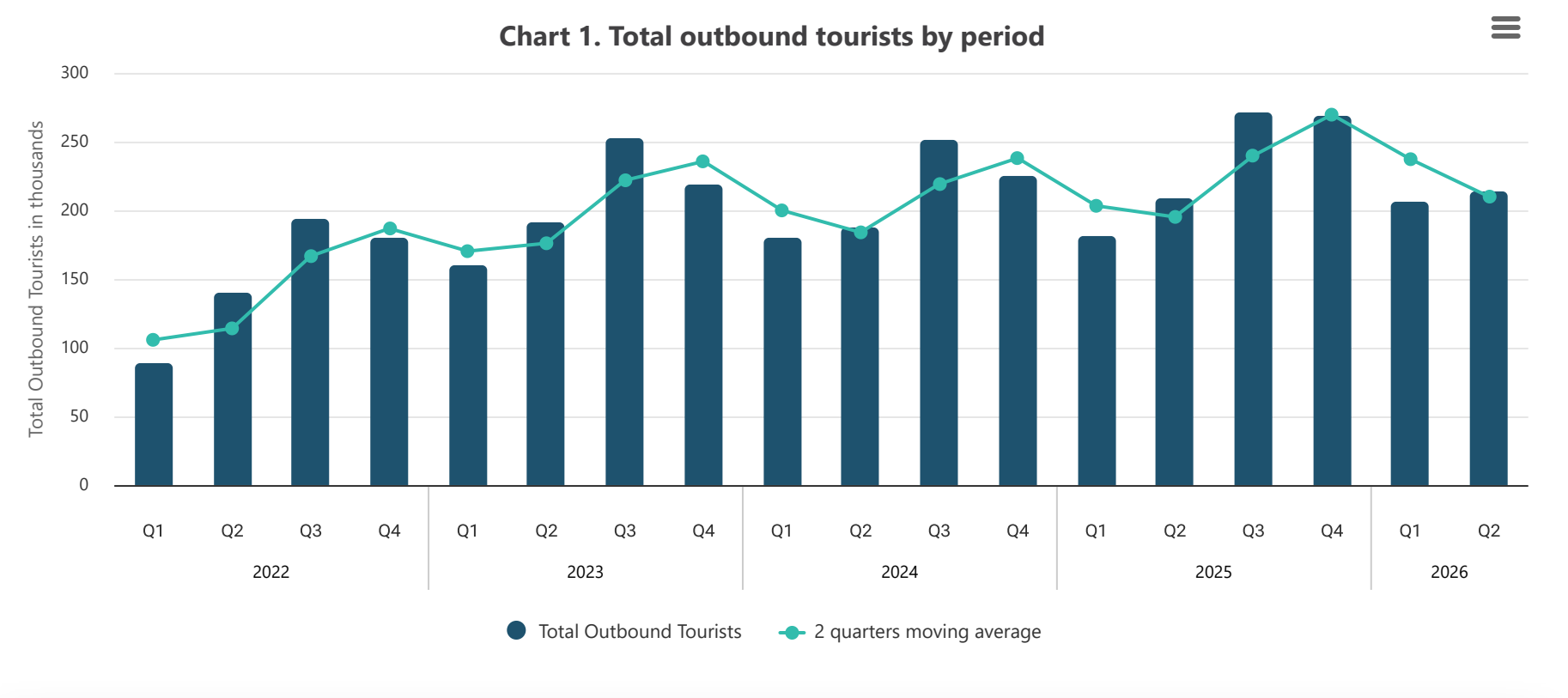


Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	April-June				
	2024	2025	2026	Change	Percentage change
				2026/2025	
Outbound tourists	187,313	208,988	214,123	5,135	2.5
Mode and type of travel					
Air	175,802	196,890	200,236	3,346	1.7
Low-cost airlines	117,653	127,200	138,354	11,154	8.8
Other airlines	58,148	69,689	61,882	-7,808	-11.2
Sea	11,511	12,098	13,887	1,789	14.8
Sex					
Males	98,322	105,280	111,688	6,407	6.1
Females	88,991	103,708	102,435	-	-
Age group					
0-24	26,239	27,319	27,509	-	-
25-44	89,419	93,201	101,587	8,386	9.0
45-64	55,039	65,052	65,840	-	-
65 or more	16,615	23,416	19,187	-4,229	-18.1
Final destination					
EU	142,718	158,105	162,003	3,898	2.5
<i>of which: Euro area¹</i>	130,004	141,518	148,016	6,498	4.6
Non-EU	44,595	50,883	52,120	-	-
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	121,673	135,788	139,802	4,014	3.0
Visiting relatives and friends	37,682	46,813	46,869	-	-
Business and professional	20,354	20,399	19,322	-	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	7,604	5,988	8,130	2,142	35.8
Organisation of stay					
Package	16,943	29,374	18,416	-10,958	-37.3
Non-package	170,370	179,614	195,707	16,093	9.0
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	69,909	68,660	78,075	9,415	13.7
4-6 nights	65,704	74,227	78,879	4,652	6.3
7 nights or more	51,699	66,101	57,169	-8,932	-13.5
Average length of stay (nights)	6.4	7.1	6.9	-0.2	-

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

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.

January-June				
2024	2025	2026	Change	Percentage change
			2026/2025	
367,896	390,391	419,940	29,549	7.6
345,195	367,957	394,733	26,776	7.3
216,734	233,986	266,330	32,344	13.8
128,462	133,971	128,403	-5,568	-4.2
22,701	22,434	25,207	2,773	12.4
197,226	207,502	225,865	18,364	8.8
170,670	182,890	194,075	11,185	6.1
52,308	48,739	55,758	7,018	14.4
178,084	187,528	204,788	17,260	9.2
106,867	118,373	125,190	6,817	5.8
30,637	35,751	34,204	-1,547	-4.3
269,567	287,742	310,035	22,293	7.7
242,443	257,495	278,783	21,288	8.3
98,329	102,650	109,905	7,256	7.1
238,872	247,753	269,392	21,639	8.7
76,087	88,911	95,341	6,431	7.2
37,396	40,946	39,820	-	-
15,540	12,782	15,387	2,605	20.4
35,156	43,706	34,589	-9,117	-20.9
332,739	346,686	385,351	38,665	11.2
139,369	139,061	159,706	20,644	14.8
124,835	134,941	140,626	5,685	4.2
103,692	116,389	119,608	3,219	2.8
6.5	7.2	7.4	0.2	-

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

Type of accommodation	April-June									
	Outbound tourists					Total nights spent				
	2024	2025	2026	Change	Percentage change	2024	2025	2026	Change	Percentage change
				2026/2025					2026/2025	
Rented accommodation	133,643	148,884	148,080	-	-	623,068	722,660	680,697	-	-
Collective	94,153	107,913	106,487	-	-	415,996	502,342	469,819	-	-
Other rented	39,490	40,972	41,593	-	-	207,072	220,318	210,878	-	-
Non-rented accommodation	53,670	60,104	66,043	5,940	9.9	582,074	771,024	805,900	34,876	4.5
Total	187,313	208,988	214,123	5,135	2.5	1,205,142	1,493,684	1,486,597	-7,087	-0.5

Type of accommodation	January-June									
	Outbound tourists					Total nights spent				
	2024	2025	2026	Change	Percentage change	2024	2025	2026	Change	Percentage change
				2026/2025					2026/2025	
Rented accommodation	263,036	274,306	287,928	13,622	5.0	1,232,702	1,287,001	1,298,843	11,842	0.9
Collective	191,381	203,538	208,358	4,820	2.4	857,003	930,732	907,050	-23,682	-2.5
Other rented	71,655	70,769	79,570	8,801	12.4	375,699	356,269	391,793	35,524	10.0
Non-rented accommodation	104,860	116,085	132,012	15,927	13.7	1,176,742	1,528,289	1,815,504	287,215	18.8
Total	367,896	390,391	419,940	29,549	7.6	2,409,444	2,815,290	3,114,348	299,058	10.6

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 3. Total expenditure by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€000

Expenditure category	April-June					January-June				
	2024	2025	2026	Change	Percentage change	2024	2025	2026	Change	Percentage change
				2026/2025					2026/2025	
Package	15,351	31,552	16,038	-15,515	-49.2	30,929	43,869	30,676	-13,194	-30.1
Non-package	65,873	76,877	80,494	3,617	4.7	128,488	144,737	155,496	10,759	7.4
Air/sea fares	33,552	40,497	42,677	2,180	5.4	65,640	79,155	86,505	7,349	9.3
Accommodation	32,321	36,380	37,818	1,438	4.0	62,848	65,582	68,991	3,410	5.2
Other expenditure	87,274	97,833	98,559	726	0.7	170,253	188,845	202,321	13,476	7.1
Total expenditure	168,498	206,263	195,092	-11,171	-5.4	329,670	377,452	388,493	11,041	2.9

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

Table 4. Average expenditure per capita and per night by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€

Expenditure category	April-June					
	per capita			per night		
	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026
Package	906	1,074	871	178	194	170
Non-package	385	426	410	59	58	58
Air/sea fares	196	224	217	n/a	n/a	n/a
Accommodation	277	290	289	60	55	63
Other expenditure	466	468	460	72	65	66
Total	900	987	911	140	138	131
Expenditure category	January-June					
	per capita			per night		
	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026
Package	880	1,004	887	172	184	174
Non-package	385	416	402	57	56	53
Air/sea fares	197	227	224	n/a	n/a	n/a
Accommodation	271	272	270	57	54	60
Other expenditure	463	484	482	71	67	65
Total	896	967	925	137	134	125

Note: n/a: not applicable

Table 5. Outbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by period of departure and final destination

Final destination		April-June			Change	Percentage change
		2024	2025	2026	2026/2025	
Tourists	EU	142,718	158,105	162,003	3,898	2.5
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	7,868	9,307	9,708	-	-
	Germany	7,042	8,875	8,399	-	-
	Greece	7,486	6,884	5,935	-	-
	Italy	72,412	79,131	80,648	1,517	1.9
	Spain	12,684	15,353	19,199	3,846	25.1
	Non-EU	44,595	50,883	52,120	-	-
	<i>of which:</i>					
	United Kingdom	20,061	20,110	19,685	-	-
	India	2,706	4,455	5,153	-	-
Total		187,313	208,988	214,123	5,135	2.5
Nights	EU	715,737	813,129	794,079	-19,050	-2.3
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	46,415	48,072	48,495	-	-
	Germany	39,691	65,175	52,392	-	-
	Greece	37,891	36,656	33,837	-	-
	Italy	303,551	337,127	345,119	7,992	2.4
	Spain	71,262	82,162	88,704	6,542	8.0
	Non-EU	489,406	680,555	692,518	-	-
	<i>of which:</i>					
	United Kingdom	138,959	130,367	106,968	-	-
	India	77,010	143,335	174,284	-	-
Total		1,205,142	1,493,684	1,486,597	-7,087	-0.5
Total Expenditure ¹ (€000)	EU	107,230	127,050	122,848	-4,202	-3.3
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	6,426	8,911	8,884	-	-
	Germany	7,233	9,585	8,899	-	-
	Greece	5,796	5,973	4,596	-	-
	Italy	45,042	55,328	52,303	-3,025	-5.5
	Spain	11,322	13,014	14,716	1,702	13.1
	Non-EU	61,268	79,212	72,244	-	-
	<i>of which:</i>					
	United Kingdom	18,824	20,176	17,758	-	-
	India	5,971	9,240	10,862	-	-
Total		168,498	206,263	195,092	-11,171	-5.4

¹ Refer to methodological note 7.

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.

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

Final destination ¹		January-June			Change	Percentage change
		2024	2025	2026	2026/2025	
Tourists	Austria	6,973	6,564	8,283	1,719	26.2
	Belgium	7,133	6,623	8,085	-	-
	Croatia	4,021	5,376	5,910	-	-
	France	13,676	16,129	16,413	-	-
	Germany	12,959	14,547	15,999	-	-
	Greece	10,337	10,165	9,935	-	-
	Hungary	7,786	7,872	9,607	1,735	22.0
	India	5,978	10,047	14,252	4,206	41.9
	Italy	135,830	141,695	145,986	4,291	3.0
	Netherlands	5,201	4,592	5,858	-	-
	Poland	8,675	9,922	12,047	2,125	21.4
	Portugal	8,466	8,028	7,031	-	-
	Scandinavia ²	4,848	4,432	5,660	-	-
	Serbia	6,531	6,400	7,379	-	-
	Spain	24,989	32,787	39,924	7,137	21.8
	Switzerland	4,869	3,385 ^u	3,513 ^u	-	-
	Turkey	6,930	7,545	5,860	-1,685	-22.3
	United Kingdom	43,945	39,829	38,977	-	-
	Other	48,751	54,450	59,218	4,768	8.8
Total		367,896	390,391	419,940	29,549	7.6
Nights	Austria	31,767	33,431	36,785	3,354	10.0
	Belgium	33,089	34,712	35,484	-	-
	Croatia	18,665	28,604	30,351	-	-
	France	79,559	80,542	84,134	-	-
	Germany	68,620	102,202	99,526	-	-
	Greece	55,672	51,446	58,002	-	-
	Hungary	40,771	43,732	41,594	-2,138	-4.9
	India	178,533	338,806	478,209	139,402	41.1
	Italy	557,369	583,666	598,067	14,401	2.5
	Netherlands	29,672	26,291	34,034	-	-
	Poland	55,777	57,088	66,882	9,793	17.2
	Portugal	52,621	44,658	48,662	-	-
	Scandinavia ²	40,015	32,288	40,317	-	-
	Serbia	54,849	46,983	57,381	-	-
	Spain	137,913	160,958	198,397	37,439	23.3
	Switzerland	30,291	21,533 ^u	23,931 ^u	-	-
	Turkey	63,216	73,428	45,500	-27,928	-38.0
	United Kingdom	285,554	249,421	213,017	-	-
	Other	595,492	805,498	924,074	118,575	14.7
Total		2,409,444	2,815,290	3,114,348	299,058	10.6
Expenditure ³ (€000)	Austria	5,616	5,199	6,408	1,209	23.3
	Belgium	5,234	5,598	5,988	-	-
	Croatia	2,663	4,261	5,149	-	-
	France	11,408	14,389	15,818	-	-
	Germany	12,450	14,805	16,821	-	-
	Greece	7,621	7,831	7,350	-	-
	Hungary	5,298	5,005	6,380	1,375	27.5
	India	12,889	21,577	29,368	7,791	36.1
	Italy	84,322	93,624	93,683	58	0.1
	Netherlands	5,582	4,523	5,998	-	-
	Poland	7,423	7,696	8,037	341	4.4
	Portugal	6,869	6,618	6,819	-	-
	Scandinavia ²	5,233	4,782	5,721	-	-
	Serbia	4,547	4,645	5,173	-	-
	Spain	20,990	26,282	30,500	4,218	16.0
	Switzerland	4,758	4,421 ^u	4,511 ^u	-	-
	Turkey	9,844	11,981	7,293	-4,689	-39.1
	United Kingdom	39,820	37,619	34,389	-	-
	Other	77,103	96,595	93,088	-3,507	-3.6
Total		329,670	377,452	388,493	11,041	2.9

¹ Top 18 final destinations for the reference year 2025.² Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden³ Refer to methodological note 7.^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

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.

Methodological Notes

1. This release focuses on outbound tourism, which comprises the activities of Maltese residents 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 air passenger is counted and respondents are selected using a pre-defined interval of 1:20.
3. Tourist Sea departures 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. Owing to Bulgaria’s entry into the Eurozone (with effect from 1 January 2026), Bulgarian data is statistically classified as being in the Euro area from January 2026. Comparability between comparative periods should be treated with caution.
7. Expenditure data in this release represent the budgeted expenditure of outbound tourists prior to their departure.
8. Data included in this release are based on sample data and are therefore subject to sampling error. Sampling error is measured by a quantity known as the margin of error, which in turn, expresses the variability between the true population parameters and their corresponding sample estimates. In the table below, the margin of error is used to construct a set of 95 per cent confidence intervals for the main indicators, which gives an indication of where the true population parameters lie.

Sampling variability of outbound tourism figures

	Estimate	Margin of error	95% confidence interval
Outbound tourists	214,123	2,391	214,123 ± 2,391
Total nights	1,486,597	75,983	1,486,597 ± 75,983
Total expenditure (€ 000)	195,092	6,135	195,092 ± 6,135

9. 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 12 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 rented or non-rented accommodation in the place/country visited.
- **Total nights spent:** nights which a guest actually spends or is registered to spend in a rented accommodation or in a non-rented accommodation.
- **Average length of stay:** the number of nights spent divided by the number of tourists during a specified reference period.
- **Rented accommodation:** consists of the following two sub-categories:
 - a. **Collective accommodation:** comprises hotels, guesthouses, hostels, tourist villages, holiday complexes, Bed & Breakfast establishments 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 categories:
 - a. **Package expenditure:** 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:** the amount of money spent on transport and accommodation reported separately;
 - c. **Other expenditure:** the amount spent on shopping, souvenirs, tickets for concerts or sport events, entrance to museums or zoos 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.

10. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

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