Outbound Tourism: Q3/2026

NR 200/2026 | Tourism | Release Date: 04/11/2026



Salient Points

- Outbound tourist trips from July to September 2026 reached 284,486 (+5.1 per cent), while total nights spent amounted to 2,121,162 nights (+1.3 per cent).
- Italy remained the most popular destination with a share of 38.9 per cent.
- The majority of guest nights (53.8 per cent) were spent in rented accommodation establishments.
- In the first nine months of 2026, outbound tourist trips reached 704,426 (+6.6 per cent) while total nights spent surpassed 5.2 million nights (+6.6 per cent).
- Total tourism expenditure from January to September 2026 was estimated at €691.4 million (+1.4 per cent) while expenditure per capita stood at €982 (-4.8 per cent).

Commentary

Total outbound tourist trips for the third quarter in 2026 were estimated at 284,486, an increase of 5.1 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2025. Total nights spent increased by 1.3 per cent and amounted to 2,121,162.

July-September 2026

During the quarter under review, a total of 200,558 outbound tourist trips were undertaken for holiday purposes, followed by 53,021 trips for visiting friends and relatives. Most outbound tourists were aged between 25 and 44 years (44.4 per cent), followed by those within the 45-64 age bracket (31.2 per cent) (Table 1).

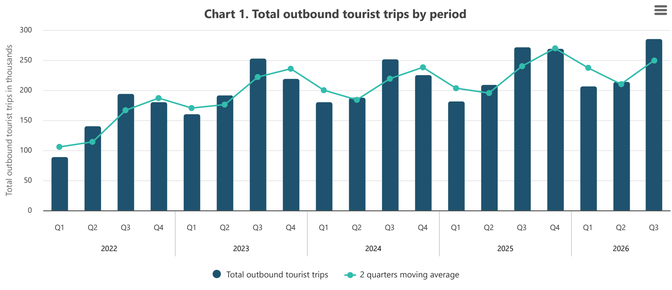
Outbound tourists towards EU and non-EU countries increased by 3.1 and 11.5 per cent respectively, when compared to the same quarter of 2025 (Table 1). Italy remained the most popular destination, with a share of 38.9 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 5).

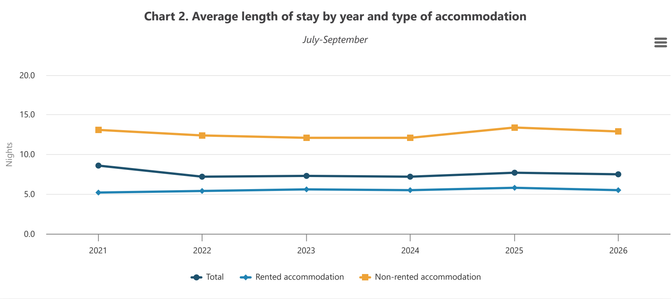
Total nights spent by outbound tourists in the third quarter of 2026 reached 2.1 million nights. The largest share of guest nights (53.8 per cent) was spent in rented accommodation establishments (Table 2). The average length of stay of total outbound tourists stood at 7.5 nights (Table 1 and Chart 2).

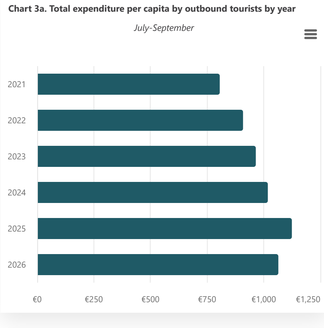
Total estimated expenditure by outbound tourists between July and September stood at €303.0 million, equivalent to an average of €1,065 per capita and €143 per night (Tables 3 and 4, and Charts 3a and 3b).

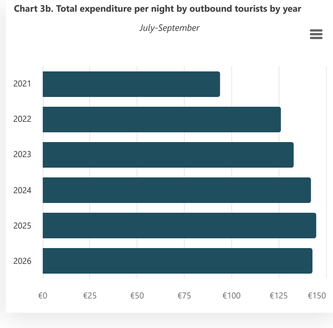
January-September 2026

Total outbound tourist trips in the first nine months of 2026 numbered 704,426, an increase of 6.6 per cent over 2025 (Table 1). Total nights spent by outbound tourists went up by 6.6 per cent, reaching 5.2 million nights (Table 2). In addition, total estimated outlay by resident tourists stood at €691.4 million, 1.4 per cent higher than that recorded in 2025 (Table 3).









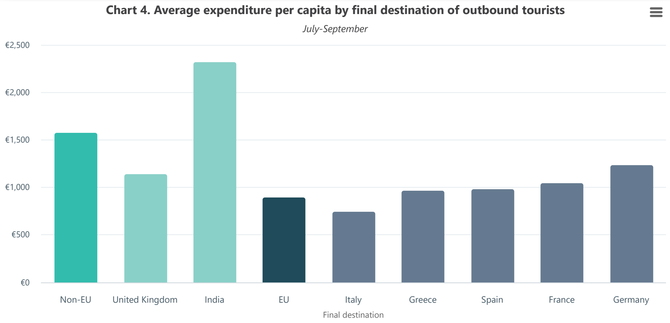


Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	July-September					January-September				
	2024	2025	2026	Change	Percentage change	2024	2025	2026	Change	Percentage change
				2026/2025					2026/2025	
Outbound tourists	**250,866**	**270,635**	**284,486**	**13,851**	**5.1**	**618,762**	**661,026**	**704,426**	**43,400**	**6.6**
Mode and type of travel										
Air	**221,907**	**236,808**	**250,070**	**13,262**	**5.6**	**567,102**	**604,765**	**644,803**	**40,038**	**6.6**
Low-cost airlines	133,518	145,685	166,285	20,600	14.1	350,252	379,671	432,615	52,944	13.9
Other airlines	88,388	91,123	83,785	-7,338	-8.1	216,850	225,094	212,188	-12,906	-5.7
Sea	**28,959**	**33,827**	**34,416**	**-**	**-**	**51,660**	**56,261**	**59,623**	**3,362**	**6.0**
Sex										
Males	126,366	136,762	149,699	12,936	9.5	323,592	344,264	375,564	31,300	9.1
Females	124,500	133,873	134,787	-	-	295,170	316,762	328,862	12,100	3.8
Age group										
0-24	48,537	45,343	43,417	-1,926	-4.2	100,845	94,082	99,174	5,092	5.4
25-44	112,785	117,708	126,370	8,662	7.4	290,869	305,236	331,158	25,922	8.5
45-64	68,399	82,693	88,630	5,937	7.2	175,266	201,066	213,820	12,754	6.3
65 or more	21,145	24,891	26,070	-	-	51,782	60,642	60,274	-	-
Final destination										
EU	**194,747**	**206,601**	**213,060**	**6,459**	**3.1**	**464,313**	**494,343**	**523,095**	**28,751**	**5.8**
of which: Euro area[1]	174,956	187,671	194,408	6,737	3.6	417,399	445,166	473,191	28,025	6.3
Non-EU	**56,119**	**64,033**	**71,426**	**7,392**	**11.5**	**154,448**	**166,683**	**181,331**	**14,648**	**8.8**
Purpose of visit										
Holiday	184,026	193,557	200,558	7,001	3.6	422,898	441,310	469,950	28,640	6.5
Visiting relatives and friends	41,449	48,474	53,021	4,547	9.4	117,537	137,385	148,363	10,978	8.0
Business and professional	14,796	16,046	16,479	-	-	52,192	56,992	56,299	-	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	10,595	12,558	14,428	1,870	14.9	26,135	25,340	29,814	4,474	17.7
Organisation of stay										
Package	40,152	46,447	38,472	-7,975	-17.2	75,309	90,153	73,061	-17,091	-19.0
Non-package	210,714	224,188	246,014	21,826	9.7	543,453	570,874	631,365	60,491	10.6
Duration of visit										
1-3 nights	62,807	65,598	79,816	14,218	21.7	202,176	204,659	239,521	34,862	17.0
4-6 nights	91,995	92,509	99,971	7,462	8.1	216,830	227,450	240,597	13,146	5.8
7 nights or more	96,064	112,528	104,700	-7,828	-7.0	199,756	228,917	224,308	-4,609	-2.0
Average length of stay (nights)	**7.2**	**7.7**	**7.5**	**-0.2**	**-**	**6.8**	**7.4**	**7.4**	**0.0**	**-**

[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.

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

Type of accommodation	July-September									
	Outbound tourists					Total nights spent				
	2024	2025	2026	Change	Percentage change	2024	2025	2026	Change	Percentage change
				2026/2025					2026/2025	
Rented accommodation	**187,746**	**201,251**	**208,262**	**7,011**	**3.5**	**1,032,898**	**1,162,684**	**1,140,501**	**-22,183**	**-1.9**
Collective	135,422	146,238	151,584	5,346	3.7	702,628	810,067	801,273	-8,795	-1.1
Other rented	52,324	55,013	56,678	1,664	3.0	330,270	352,616	339,228	-13,388	-3.8
Non-rented accommodation	**63,120**	**69,384**	**76,224**	**6,841**	**9.9**	**761,409**	**931,201**	**980,662**	**49,461**	**5.3**
Total	**250,866**	**270,635**	**284,486**	**13,851**	**5.1**	**1,794,307**	**2,093,884**	**2,121,162**	**27,278**	**1.3**
Type of accommodation	**January-September**									
	Outbound tourists					**Total nights spent**				
	2024	**2025**	**2026**	**Change**	**Percentage change**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**Change**	**Percentage change**
				2026/2025					**2026/2025**	
Rented accommodation	**450,782**	**475,557**	**496,189**	**20,632**	**4.3**	**2,265,599**	**2,449,685**	**2,439,344**	**-10,341**	**-0.4**
Collective	326,803	349,775	359,942	10,167	2.9	1,559,630	1,740,800	1,708,323	-32,477	-1.9
Other rented	123,978	125,782	136,248	10,466	8.3	705,969	708,885	731,021	22,136	3.1
Non-rented accommodation	**167,980**	**185,469**	**208,237**	**22,768**	**12.3**	**1,938,152**	**2,459,489**	**2,796,166**	**336,677**	**13.7**
Total	**618,762**	**661,026**	**704,426**	**43,400**	**6.6**	**4,203,751**	**4,909,174**	**5,235,510**	**326,336**	**6.6**

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

€000

Expenditure category	July-September					January-September				
	2024	2025	2026	Change	Percentage change	2024	2025	2026	Change	Percentage change
				2026/2025					2026/2025	
Package	**42,872**	**49,706**	**45,268**	**-4,437**	**-8.9**	**73,802**	**93,575**	**75,944**	**-17,631**	**-18.8**
Non-package	**95,043**	**120,148**	**117,320**	**-2,828**	**-2.4**	**223,531**	**264,884**	**272,816**	**7,932**	**3.0**
Air/sea fares	46,354	53,735	59,150	5,415	10.1	111,994	132,890	145,654	12,765	9.6
Accommodation	48,690	66,413	58,170	-8,243	-12.4	111,537	131,995	127,161	-4,833	-3.7
Other expenditure	**117,394**	**134,488**	**140,364**	**5,876**	**4.4**	**287,646**	**323,333**	**342,685**	**19,352**	**6.0**
Total expenditure	**255,309**	**304,341**	**302,952**	**-1,389**	**-0.5**	**584,979**	**681,792**	**691,445**	**9,653**	**1.4**

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	July-September					
	per capita			per night		
	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026
Package	**1,068**	**1,070**	**1,177**	**173**	**172**	**185**
Non-package	**449**	**532**	**475**	**61**	**66**	**62**
Air/sea fares	219	238	239	n/a	n/a	n/a
Accommodation	326	373	339	60	54	63
Other expenditure	**468**	**497**	**493**	**65**	**64**	**66**
Total	**1,018**	**1,125**	**1,065**	**142**	**145**	**143**
Expenditure category	**January-September**					
	per capita			**per night**		
	2024	**2025**	**2026**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Package	**980**	**1,038**	**1,039**	**173**	**177**	**180**
Non-package	**410**	**462**	**430**	**59**	**60**	**56**
Air/sea fares	205	232	230	n/a	n/a	n/a
Accommodation	292	315	298	58	54	61
Other expenditure	**465**	**489**	**486**	**68**	**66**	**65**
Total	**945**	**1,031**	**982**	**139**	**139**	**132**

Note: n/a: not applicable

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

Final destination		July-September			Change	Percentage change
		2024	2025	2026	2026/2025	
Tourists	**EU**	**194,747**	**206,601**	**213,060**	**6,459**	**3.1**
	of which:					
	France	11,813	13,840	12,082	-1,759	-12.7
	Germany	10,871	11,518	9,288	-2,230	-19.4
	Greece	14,915	14,432	11,807	-2,625	-18.2
	Italy	98,085	104,823	110,575	5,752	5.5
	Spain	11,440	15,214	20,294	5,079	33.4
	Non-EU	**56,119**	**64,033**	**71,426**	**7,392**	**11.5**
	of which:					
	United Kingdo	22,292	25,840	26,422	-	-
	India	2,485	5,089	6,186	-	-
	Total	**250,866**	**270,635**	**284,486**	**13,851**	**5.1**
Nights	**EU**	**1,131,345**	**1,246,469**	**1,218,715**	**-27,754**	**-2.2**
	of which:					
	France	67,299	84,823	80,295	-4,528	-5.3
	Germany	70,982	95,057	65,445	-29,612	-31.2
	Greece	85,883	100,664	72,373	-28,291	-28.1
	Italy	484,602	519,317	527,167	7,849	1.5
	Spain	72,892	100,532	123,326	22,795	22.7
	Non-EU	**662,962**	**847,416**	**902,447**	**55,032**	**6.5**
	of which:					
	United Kingdo	172,100	195,928	176,432	-	-
	India	89,667	166,180	191,932	-	-
	Total	**1,794,307**	**2,093,884**	**2,121,162**	**27,278**	**1.3**
Total Expenditure[1] (€000)	**EU**	**171,068**	**192,751**	**190,290**	**-2,460**	**-1.3**
	of which:					
	France	11,509	14,431	12,611	-1,820	-12.6
	Germany	12,524	16,518	11,450	-5,068	-30.7
	Greece	12,763	14,179	11,353	-2,826	-19.9
	Italy	71,969	80,847	82,108	1,261	1.6
	Spain	12,393	15,270	19,972	4,702	30.8
	Non-EU	**84,241**	**111,590**	**112,662**	**1,072**	**1.0**
	of which:					
	United Kingdo	25,664	34,230	30,016	-	-
	India	4,724	11,455	14,327	-	-
	Total	**255,309**	**304,341**	**302,952**	**-1,389**	**-0.5**

[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-September			Change	Percentage change
		2024	2025	2026	2026/2025	
Tourists	Austria	11,574	9,915	11,328	-	-
	Belgium	8,657	8,520	10,667	2,147	25.2
	Croatia	8,227	9,345	11,775	2,430	26.0
	France	25,489	29,969	28,495	-	-
	Germany	23,830	26,065	25,287	-	-
	Greece	25,251	24,598	21,743	-2,855	-11.6
	Hungary	11,948	12,317	13,881	1,564	12.7
	India	8,463	15,136	20,438	5,303	35.0
	Italy	233,916	246,517	256,560	10,043	4.1
	Netherlands	9,008	8,482	9,805	-	-
	Poland	14,226	15,900	18,262	2,362	14.9
	Portugal	11,111	11,393	10,306	-	-
	Scandinavia[2]	9,235	9,118	11,071	1,954	21.4
	Serbia	11,800	11,037	11,010	-	-
	Spain	36,429	48,002	60,218	12,217	25.5
	Switzerland	9,045	6,612	6,677	-	-
	Turkey	11,307	13,448	10,366	-3,082	-22.9
	United Kingdom	66,237	65,670	65,399	-	-
	Other	83,010	88,984	101,136	12,153	13.7
	Total	**618,762**	**661,026**	**704,426**	**43,400**	**6.6**
Nights	Austria	57,710	51,973	57,684	-	-
	Belgium	45,422	48,281	52,918	4,637	9.6
	Croatia	45,264	57,610	62,965	5,355	9.3
	France	146,858	165,365	164,430	-	-
	Germany	139,602	197,259	164,971	-	-
	Greece	141,556	152,111	130,375	-21,736	-14.3
	Hungary	66,377	77,093	62,410	-14,684	-19.0
	India	268,200	504,986	670,140	165,154	32.7
	Italy	1,041,971	1,102,984	1,125,234	22,250	2.0
	Netherlands	57,317	53,537	60,968	-	-
	Poland	105,159	101,294	107,738	6,444	6.4
	Portugal	74,573	72,227	75,120	-	-
	Scandinavia[2]	73,615	72,969	85,951	12,982	17.8
	Serbia	104,197	83,132	89,068	-	-
	Spain	210,804	261,490	321,724	60,234	23.0
	Switzerland	58,739	47,817	42,422	-	-
	Turkey	107,913	131,775	93,576	-38,199	-29.0
	United Kingdom	457,653	445,349	389,450	-	-
	Other	1,000,822	1,281,921	1,478,368	196,446	15.3
	Total	**4,203,751**	**4,909,174**	**5,235,510**	**326,336**	**6.6**
Expenditure[3] (€000)	Austria	10,250	8,291	9,736	-	-
	Belgium	6,593	7,188	8,714	1,525	21.2
	Croatia	6,840	8,446	11,333	2,887	34.2
	France	22,917	28,821	28,429	-	-
	Germany	24,974	31,323	28,271	-	-
	Greece	20,383	22,011	18,703	-3,308	-15.0
	Hungary	8,820	9,601	9,605	4	0.0
	India	17,613	33,032	43,695	10,663	32.3
	Italy	156,291	174,472	175,791	1,319	0.8
	Netherlands	10,244	9,312	10,458	-	-
	Poland	12,445	13,519	13,926	406	3.0
	Portugal	10,443	11,245	11,029	-	-
	Scandinavia[2]	10,212	11,967	13,461	1,495	12.5
	Serbia	9,357	9,757	8,112	-	-
	Spain	33,383	41,552	50,472	8,920	21.5
	Switzerland	10,158	8,986	8,755	-	-
	Turkey	16,579	22,321	14,410	-7,911	-35.4
	United Kingdom	65,484	71,849	64,405	-	-
	Other	131,992	158,102	162,142	4,040	2.6
	Total	**584,979**	**681,792**	**691,445**	**9,653**	**1.4**

[1] Top 18 final destinations for the reference year 2025.

[2] Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

[3] 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.

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 tourist trips	284,486	1,928	284,486 ± 1,928
Total nights	2,121,162	80,113	2,121,162 ± 80,113
Total expenditure (€ 000)	302,952	8,160	302,952 ± 8,160

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:

Sources and methods
Statistical concepts
Metadata

11. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately. For guidance on access and re-use of data please visit our dedicated webpage.

12. For further assistance send your request through our online request form.

13. A detailed news release calendar is available online.