

Cruise Passengers: Q2/2024

NR 135/2024

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Total cruise passenger traffic during the second quarter of 2024 amounted to 273,900, an increase of 21.6 per cent over the same quarter of last year.



There were 128 cruise liner calls during the second quarter of 2024, an increase of 30 when compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Transit passengers accounted for the absolute majority of total traffic, reaching 223,990 (81.8 per cent). On average, every vessel that berthed in Malta carried 2,140 passengers, 159 less than the previous year (Table 1).

Passengers from EU Member States comprised 35.3 per cent of total traffic. The major markets were Italy, accounting for 10.3 per cent of the total passengers, followed by Germany, with 8.6 per cent. The total number of passengers from non-EU countries stood at 177,150, of whom 39.1 per cent came from the United States and 35.6 per cent came from the United Kingdom (Table 1).

On a gender basis, female passengers made up 54.2 per cent of the total. The largest share of passengers fell within the 60-79 age bracket (42.5 per cent) and were followed by those aged between 40 and 59 years (28.5 per cent) (Table1).

January-June 2024

During the first half of 2024, total cruise passengers stood at 350,462. Of these, 41.3 per cent came from EU Member States (Table 2).

The majority of the passengers were females amounting to 188,641 or 53.8 per cent of the total. Most passengers were between 60 and 79 years old, totalling 136,137 (38.8 per cent). These were followed by passengers aged 40-59 years, reaching 102,931 (29.4 per cent) (Table 2).

There were 147 cruise liner calls during the first half of 2024, with an average of 2,384 passengers per vessel, compared to 119 calls and an average of 2,498 passengers per vessel in the comparative period of 2023 (Table 2).

Chart 1. Total cruise passenger traffic

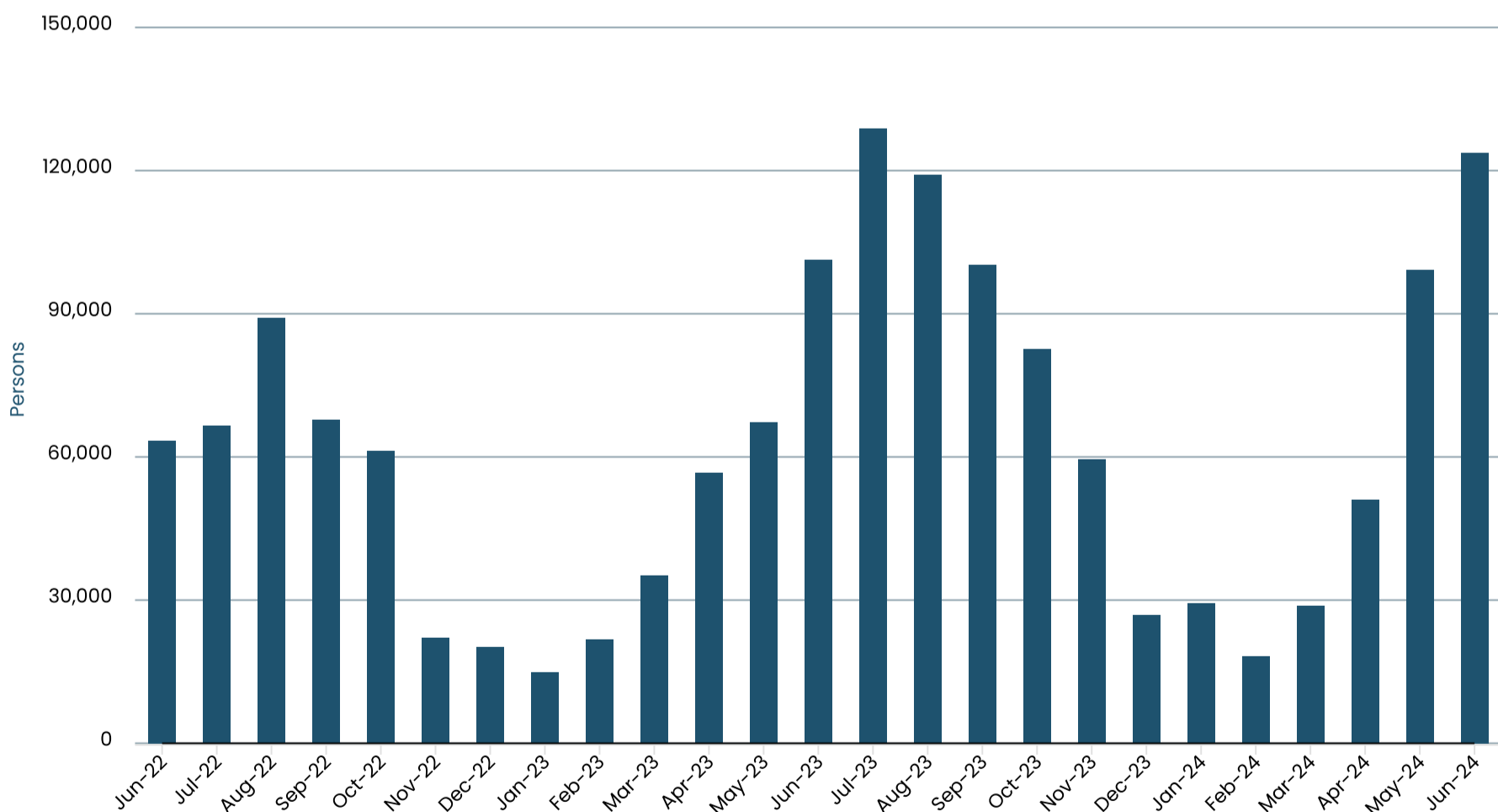


Table 1. Cruise passengers by quarter and passenger characteristics

Characteristics	April-June			Change
	2022	2023	2024	2024/2023
Total traffic¹:	137,338	225,313	273,900	48,587
Transit	113,367	186,149	223,990	37,841
Landed	23,971	39,164	49,910	10,746
<i>of which:</i>				
Passengers on cruise liners anchored off Mgarr, Gozo	818	904 ^R	7,522	6,618
Passengers staying overnight	21,125	6,379	10,302	3,923
Country of Nationality				
EU	67,043	114,751	96,750	-18,001
<i>of which:</i>				
France	9,098	14,878	12,358	-2,520
Germany	24,305	28,343	23,615	-4,728
Italy	17,988	38,088	28,337	-9,751
Malta	1,527	4,508	3,333	-1,175
Spain	6,445	12,272	13,176	904
Non-EU	70,295	110,562	177,150	66,588
<i>of which:</i>				
Australia	562	3,704	7,739	4,035
Canada	1,391	4,736	9,479	4,743
Japan	33	583	769	186
United Kingdom	45,854	55,855	63,075	7,220
United States	15,549	27,424	69,210	41,786
Sex:				
Males	63,821	103,672	125,377	21,705
Females	73,517	121,641	148,523	26,882
Age group:				
0-19	16,962	31,726	29,571	-2,155
20-39	20,616	35,299	38,538	3,239
40-59	47,253	75,894	78,123	2,229
60-79	49,745	78,342	116,329	37,987
80+	2,762	4,052	11,339	7,287
Cruise liner calls	102	98	128	30

^R Revised: refer to methodological note 3.

¹ See methodological note 4.

Table 2. Cruise passengers by period and passenger characteristics

Characteristics	January-June			Change
	2022	2023	2024	2024/2023
Total traffic¹:	162,538	297,299	350,462	53,163
Transit	137,926	254,711	297,362	42,651
Landed	24,612	42,588	53,100	10,512
<i>of which:</i>				
Passengers on cruise liners anchored off Mgarr, Gozo	818	904 ^R	7,522	6,618
Passengers staying overnight	22,805	6,508	10,434	3,926
Country of Nationality				
EU	86,967	166,993	144,728	-22,265
<i>of which:</i>				
France	12,782	23,895	19,733	-4,162
Germany	31,403	41,591	26,787	-14,804
Italy	22,597	55,426	50,098	-5,328
Malta	1,673	5,220	3,356	-1,864
Spain	9,105	19,326	21,841	2,515
Non-EU	75,571	130,306	205,734	75,428
<i>of which:</i>				
Australia	596	4,382	8,779	4,397
Canada	1,464	5,341	10,403	5,062
Japan	50	886	1,606	720
United Kingdom	47,823	62,199	69,346	7,147
United States	17,600	30,175	73,356	43,181
Sex:				
Males	75,779	137,354	161,821	24,467
Females	86,759	159,945	188,641	28,696
Age group:				
0-19	21,062	47,270	44,111	-3,159
20-39	25,838	50,234	54,148	3,914
40-59	56,105	100,437	102,931	2,494
60-79	56,346	94,554	136,137	41,583
80+	3,187	4,804	13,135	8,331
Cruise liner calls	125	119	147	28

^R Revised: refer to methodological note 3.

¹ See methodological note 4.

Methodological Notes

1. The data in this release is compiled on the basis of administrative records supplied by Transport Malta.
2. Cruise liners calling at both Malta and Gozo during a single voyage are recorded as one cruise liner call.
3. Data regarding passengers on cruise liners anchored off Mgarr, Gozo for the period September 2022 to December 2023 has been revised from the source. This revision is reflected in all the 2023 figures in this release.
4. The majority of passengers embarking on cruise liners from Malta generally end their trip at the same destination. Embarkations are therefore not included in total traffic figures, in order to avoid double counting. This measure was adopted as from News Release no. 079/2013, dated 23 April 2013. The referred news release also includes figures for 2011 and 2012.
5. For clarity, embarkation figures for the period under review are being provided:

Embarkations	2022	2023	2024
April-June	22,383	36,533	50,271
January-June	24,118	40,234	53,443

6. Definitions:

- **Cruise passenger traffic:** comprises transit passengers and passengers who land in Malta.
- **Embarkations:** comprise all cruise passengers who are either Maltese or who are foreigners who arrive in Malta by other means of transport.
- **Transit passengers:** comprise all cruise passengers who arrive in and leave Malta on the same cruise ship.
- **Landed passengers:** comprise all cruise passengers who arrive in Malta on a cruise ship and leave by other means of transport, or alternatively, stay in Malta.
- **Passengers staying overnight:** comprise passengers who spend at least one night on the Maltese Islands, either onboard the cruise ship or on land.
- **Average number of passengers per vessel:** computed by dividing total cruise passenger traffic by the number of cruise liner calls.

7. A detailed news release calendar is available [online](#).
8. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately. For guidance on access and re-use of data please visit our [dedicated webpage](#).
9. For further assistance send your request through our [online request form](#).

