

News Release



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Tourism

Outbound Tourism: September 2006

Outbound tourists amounted to 29,738 in September 2006, bringing the total for the first nine months of the year to 197,589.

September 2006

Outbound tourists reached a total of 29,738 in September 2006. Of these, 25,430 travelled by air, while 4,308 travelled by sea. Over 24,500 outbound tourists left for EU destinations, predominantly Italy and the UK.

January-September 2006

During the first nine months of the year, the number of Maltese passengers departing by air and sea amounted to 197,589, implying a 10.0 per cent increase over the same period a year ago.

The most frequent destination was Italy, accounting for 31.0 per cent of the total number of Maltese travelling abroad by both air and sea.

Male outbound passengers significantly exceeded female ones, the former accounting for 59.4 per cent of the total number of travellers.

The greatest proportion of outbound passengers - 46.5 per cent - were aged between 25 and 44 years, followed by those in the 45-64 age bracket ■

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Table 1. Outbound passengers: September

persons				
	September		Absolute change	Percentage change
	2005	2006	2006/2005	2006/2005
Total	22,828	29,738	6,910	30.3
Transport:				
Air	20,089	25,430	5,341	26.6
Sea	2,739	4,308	1,569	57.3
Destination:				
EU	17,847	24,539	6,692	37.5
Italy	7,473	9,970	2,497	33.4
UK	4,528	5,796	1,268	28.0
Non-EU	4,981	5,199	218	4.4
Sex:				
Males	13,948	16,852	2,904	20.8
Females	8,880	12,886	4,006	45.1
Age group:				
0-24	3,028	3,441	413	13.6
25-44	9,511	14,299	4,788	50.3
45-64	9,441	10,752	1,311	13.9
65+	848	1,246	398	46.9

Table 2. Outbound passengers: January-September

persons				
	January-September		Absolute change	Percentage change
	2005	2006	2006/2005	2006/2005
Total	179,569	197,589	18,020	10.0
Transport:				
Air	157,720	169,998	12,278	7.8
Sea	21,849	27,591	5,742	26.3
Destination:				
EU	137,855	162,573	24,718	17.9
Italy	54,995	61,294	6,299	11.5
UK	35,103	43,527	8,424	24.0
Non-EU	41,714	35,016	-6,698	-16.1
Sex:				
Males	107,359	117,310	9,951	9.3
Females	72,210	80,279	8,069	11.2
Age group:				
0-24	20,171	17,347	-2,824	-14.0
25-44	79,554	91,933	12,379	15.6
45-64	71,748	80,148	8,400	11.7
65+	8,096	8,163	67	0.8

Methodological Notes

1. Maltese air departures are collected through a continuous survey carried out at the departure lounge of Malta International Airport. A two-stage sample design is used for this survey. At the first stage alternate days are selected. Then within each shift a sample of passengers is selected systematically. Personal interviews are carried out. Monthly response rates of around 90 per cent are achieved.
2. Maltese sea departures are collected through a regular survey that is carried out at the seaport. Ferry sailings on every alternate day are selected. Departing passengers are interviewed personally. On average a response rate of 93 per cent is recorded for this survey.
3. The survey which is carried out at the seaport commenced in April 2004. No data for Maltese sea departures is available for the period January - March 2004.
4. The variables with respect to Maltese departures that are collected in this survey include the following:
 - Age
 - Sex
 - Destination
5. The surveys carried out at the airport and the seaport are grossed up using the monthly passenger departures data in respect of each port after removing the number of transit passengers from the data sets.
6. Definitions

Outbound tourism comprises the activities of residents of a given country travelling to and staying in places outside that country and outside their usual environment.

Usual environment consists of the direct vicinity of his/her home and place of work and other places frequently visited.
7. The data in this release are not normally subject revision.