

News Release



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Tourism

Departing tourists: January 2006

In January 2006, the number of tourists departing from Malta decreased by 4.9 per cent when compared to the corresponding month a year earlier, reaching a total of 50,520. Tourist departures by air were estimated at 50,092, a drop of 4.2 per cent when compared to January 2005. Tourist departures by sea declined to 428, a drop of 427 when compared to the same month a year ago.

Air tourists from the UK market increased by 5.1 per cent, when compared to same month last year, reaching a share of 46.6 per cent of the total. Other increases in tourist departures by air were recorded from France, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway.

On the other hand, the German market registered an decrease of 29.1 per cent when compares to January 2005 reaching a total of 4,596 tourists. Other decreases in tourist departures included those from Austria, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Russia, Libya, the USA and a group of 'other' markets.

Purpose of visit

When compared to January 2005, the number of holiday tourists went down by 6.8 per cent to 39,499 whereas business tourists went up by 5.3 per cent to 6,670.

Accommodation

In the period under review, the number of nights spent by tourists departing by air was estimated at 485,061 a decrease of 13.2 per cent when compared to January 2005. The number of nights spent in hotel accommodation establishments decreased by 11.3 per cent and accounted for 67.9 per cent of the total nights spent. Tourists opting for a stay in Gozo reached 1,351 - 2.7 per cent of the total - a decrease of 86 tourists when compared to the same month last year.

Tourism expenditure

During the month under review, expenditure on package tours was estimated at Lm7.4 million, a decrease of Lm1.5 million or 16.6 per cent when compared to January last year. Non-package tourists spent Lm2.4 million on airfares and Lm1.7 million on accommodation thereby increasing total expenditure on non-package travel by approximately Lm0.5 million or 14.1 per cent.

Other expenditure from both package and non-package tourists altogether increased by Lm0.3 million to Lm6.3 million from Lm6 million in January 2005. Total expenditure decreased by Lm0.6 million or 3.4 per cent ■

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Table 1. Distribution of tourist departures: January 2004-2006

Country of residence	Air					Sea	
	2004	2005		2006		2005	2006
	Nationality distribution						
	No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.
Austria	884	764	1.5	674	1.3	-	-
Belgium	538	771	1.5	935	1.9	-	-
Denmark	422	661	1.3	674	1.3	-	-
France	1,613	1,710	3.3	2,852	5.7	-	-
Germany	5,966	6,481	12.4	4,596	9.2	-	-
Italy	6,880	5,407	10.3	4,547	9.1	799	428
Netherlands	769	830	1.6	870	1.7	-	-
Sweden	500	992	1.9	156	0.3	-	-
United Kingdom	20,183	22,215	42.5	23,344	46.6	19	-
Norway	424	167	0.3	257	0.5	-	-
Switzerland	921	661	1.3	570	1.1	-	-
Russia	729	835	1.6	461	0.9	-	-
Libya	960	1,267	2.4	1,039	2.1	-	-
USA	885	1,051	2.0	821	1.6	-	-
Other	7,147	8,458	16.2	8,296	16.6	37	-
Total	48,821	52,270	100.0	50,092	100.0	855	428

Figures below 1,000 should be treated with caution

Table 2. Tourist air departures by country of residence and purpose of visit: January 2005

Country of residence	Holiday		Business		Visiting friends / Family		Other		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Austria	551	1.3	158	2.5	-	-	55	3.8	764	1.5
Belgium	440	1.0	220	3.5	55	2.6	56	3.9	771	1.5
Denmark	551	1.3	55	0.9	55	2.6	-	-	661	1.3
France	1,434	3.4	166	2.6	55	2.6	55	3.8	1,710	3.3
Germany	5,318	12.5	664	10.5	167	8.0	332	23.1	6,481	12.4
Italy	3,539	8.3	1,371	21.6	385	18.3	112	7.8	5,407	10.3
Netherlands	720	1.7	55	0.9	55	2.6	-	-	830	1.6
Sweden	826	1.9	111	1.8	-	-	55	3.8	992	1.9
United Kingdom	19,893	46.9	1,326	20.9	721	34.3	275	19.1	22,215	42.5
Norway	111	0.3	56	0.9	-	-	-	-	167	0.3
Switzerland	606	1.4	-	-	-	-	55	3.8	661	1.3
Russia	724	1.7	55	0.9	-	-	56	3.9	835	1.6
Libya	882	2.1	275	4.3	55	2.6	55	3.8	1,267	2.4
USA	664	1.6	221	3.5	166	7.9	-	-	1,051	2.0
Other	6,139	14.5	1,602	25.3	386	18.4	331	23.0	8,458	16.2
Total	42,398	100.0	6,335	100.0	2,100	100.0	1,437	100.0	52,270	100.0

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Table 3. Tourist air departures by country of residence and purpose of visit: January 2006

Country of residence	Holiday		Business		Visiting friends / Family		Other		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Austria	570	1.4	104	1.6	-	-	-	-	674	1.3
Belgium	572	1.4	312	4.7	51	1.9	-	-	935	1.9
Denmark	622	1.6	52	0.8	-	-	-	-	674	1.3
France	1,555	3.9	1,245	18.7	52	1.9	-	-	2,852	5.7
Germany	3,513	8.9	673	10.1	155	5.8	255	20.7	4,596	9.2
Italy	3,354	8.5	726	10.9	312	11.6	155	12.6	4,547	9.1
Netherlands	665	1.7	-	-	205	7.6	-	-	870	1.7
Sweden	104	0.3	52	0.8	-	-	-	-	156	0.3
United Kingdom	20,612	52.2	1,235	18.5	1,238	46.0	259	21.0	23,344	46.6
Norway	155	0.4	51	0.8	-	-	51	4.1	257	0.5
Switzerland	518	1.3	-	-	-	-	52	4.2	570	1.1
Russia	308	0.8	-	-	52	1.9	101	8.2	461	0.9
Libya	676	1.7	260	3.9	-	-	103	8.3	1,039	2.1
USA	616	1.6	153	2.3	-	-	52	4.2	821	1.6
Other	5,659	14.3	1,807	27.1	624	23.2	206	16.7	8,296	16.6
Total	39,499	100.0	6,670	100.0	2,689	100.0	1,234	100.0	50,092	100.0

Table 4. Tourist air departures by country of residence and locality stayed: January 2005

Country of residence	Marsascala	Mellieha	St. Julians	St. Paul's Bay	Sliema	Valletta	Gozo	Other	No Primary Location	Total
Austria	55	-	330	165	110	104	-	-	-	764
Belgium	-	55	220	110	110	165	-	111	-	771
Denmark	-	496	55	-	-	-	-	110	-	661
France	-	111	386	606	276	165	55	111	-	1,710
Germany	111	443	1,273	2,329	1,607	166	110	442	-	6,481
Italy	-	-	2,099	1,104	1,098	275	55	776	-	5,407
Netherlands	-	56	110	332	167	110	-	-	55	830
Sweden	-	-	165	606	166	-	-	55	-	992
United Kingdom	552	2,594	1,491	10,390	4,698	277	720	1,493	-	22,215
Norway	112	-	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	167
Switzerland	-	-	440	-	55	-	110	56	-	661
Russia	222	-	56	167	335	-	-	55	-	835
Libya	110	-	330	-	606	55	-	166	-	1,267
USA	-	56	277	166	110	-	56	277	109	1,051
Other	112	554	3,146	1,110	2,046	165	331	940	54	8,458
Total	1,274	4,365	10,433	17,085	11,384	1,482	1,437	4,592	218	52,270

Figures below 1,000 should be treated with caution

Table 5. Tourist air departures by country of residence and locality stayed: January 2006

Country of residence	Marsascala	Mellieha	St. Julians	St. Paul's Bay	Sliema	Valletta	Gozo	Other	No Primary Location	Total
Austria	52	104	207	52	104	-	104	51	-	674
Belgium	-	-	312	156	156	208	52	51	-	935
Denmark	52	416	-	52	104	-	-	-	50	674
France	52	364	935	673	312	257	52	155	52	2,852
Germany	156	620	725	1,034	880	256	103	822	-	4,596
Italy	104	104	1,345	874	1,237	260	104	519	-	4,547
Netherlands	-	52	51	355	257	-	52	103	-	870
Sweden	-	-	156	-	-	-	-	-	-	156
United Kingdom	310	2,437	4,321	8,932	3,618	310	468	2,637	311	23,344
Norway	51	52	52	-	52	-	-	50	-	257
Switzerland	-	103	208	52	156	-	-	51	-	570
Russia	-	-	103	207	51	-	-	100	-	461
Libya	-	52	260	104	364	52	-	207	-	1,039
USA	52	-	153	51	204	153	104	104	-	821
Other	465	309	2,212	1,591	1,750	516	312	1,141	-	8,296
Total	1,294	4,613	11,040	14,133	9,245	2,012	1,351	5,991	413	50,092

Figures below 1,000 should be treated with caution

Table 6. Tourist air departures by country of residence, type of accommodation and number of nights spent: January 2005

Country of residence	Hotels									
	5-star		4-star		3-star		2-star		Unclassified	
	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights
Austria	-	-	488	2,236	55	385	55	275	-	-
Belgium	330	1,679	165	1,266	55	385	55	385	-	-
Denmark	55	110	165	1,156	55	385	-	-	-	-
France	607	3,890	772	6,175	55	165	-	-	-	-
Germany	941	5,266	3,601	31,832	719	5,697	56	391	-	-
Italy	1,437	7,467	1,931	10,308	774	5,200	55	220	-	-
Netherlands	387	2,763	167	1,277	55	826	-	-	-	-
Sweden	55	220	716	6,167	111	994	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	1,269	8,053	10,492	110,511	6,578	78,110	111	888	-	-
Norway	55	165	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switzerland	110	771	275	3,579	165	1,156	-	-	-	-
Russia	167	1,111	222	10,930	167	1,562	56	391	-	-
Libya	-	-	385	2,836	386	3,584	165	2,423	-	-
USA	443	2,607	331	2,210	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2,315	14,026	2,938	20,188	1,271	8,668	55	220	-	-
Total	8,171	48,128	22,648	210,671	10,446	107,117	608	5,193	-	-
Country of residence	Own private residence		Apart-Hotel		Furnished premises		Other		Total	
	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights
Austria	-	-	-	-	-	-	166	880	764	3,776
Belgium	-	-	-	-	55	551	111	1,156	771	5,422
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	-	386	3,083	661	4,734
France	-	-	55	385	55	4,790	166	2,312	1,710	17,717
Germany	220	3,359	279	1,953	55	771	610	17,487	6,481	66,756
Italy	111	943	55	385	221	2,263	823	9,721	5,407	36,507
Netherlands	-	-	167	1,722	54	440	-	-	830	7,028
Sweden	55	385	-	-	-	-	55	551	992	8,317
United Kingdom	553	11,566	887	12,875	609	4,561	1,716	22,155	22,215	248,719
Norway	56	2,120	-	-	-	-	56	223	167	2,508
Switzerland	55	385	-	-	-	-	56	771	661	6,662
Russia	56	1,562	56	391	55	193	56	781	835	16,921
Libya	55	220	-	-	-	-	276	2,147	1,267	11,210
USA	56	781	-	-	-	-	221	2,994	1,051	8,592
Other	276	9,170	277	1,826	166	995	1,160	59,211	8,458	114,304
Total	1,493	30,491	1,776	19,537	1,270	14,564	5,858	123,472	52,270	559,173

Table 7. Tourist air departures by country of residence, type of accommodation and number of nights spent: January 2006

Country of residence	Hotels									
	5-star		4-star		3-star		2-star		Unclassified	
	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights
Austria	51	253	364	1,351	52	104	-	-	-	-
Belgium	364	1,663	156	1,065	52	416	-	-	-	-
Denmark	52	364	52	364	-	-	-	-	-	-
France	1,711	5,930	416	2,728	466	3,109	-	-	-	-
Germany	725	4,286	2,535	25,137	721	7,040	-	-	-	-
Italy	1,243	5,983	1,802	8,497	672	3,182	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	51	355	101	1,064	307	2,302	-	-	-	-
Sweden	-	-	-	-	156	727	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	2,528	22,798	10,446	119,630	4,744	52,570	52	364	-	-
Norway	104	416	51	1,064	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switzerland	104	4,781	155	1,233	260	1,611	-	-	-	-
Russia	52	312	51	709	103	1,082	-	-	-	-
Libya	52	104	572	4,625	104	312	52	312	-	-
USA	563	3,659	104	779	51	253	52	779	-	-
Other	1,807	9,315	2,526	14,396	1,541	11,788	51	304	-	-
Total	9,407	60,219	19,331	182,642	9,229	84,496	207	1,759	-	-
Country of residence	Own private residence		Apart-Hotel		Furnished premises		Other		Total	
	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights	No. of tourists	No. of nights
Austria	52	572	52	104	103	727	-	-	674	3,111
Belgium	104	520	52	364	-	-	207	1,092	935	5,120
Denmark	52	364	52	364	-	-	466	3,603	674	5,059
France	-	-	-	-	-	-	259	1,581	2,852	13,348
Germany	103	511	51	355	153	6,800	308	3,515	4,596	47,644
Italy	52	156	-	-	52	260	726	6,486	4,547	24,564
Netherlands	52	364	-	-	51	456	308	3,295	870	7,836
Sweden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	156	727
United Kingdom	1,339	14,877	1,034	8,538	1,030	8,394	2,171	28,431	23,344	255,602
Norway	-	-	-	-	-	-	102	1,446	257	2,926
Switzerland	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	364	570	7,989
Russia	-	-	52	312	-	-	203	5,303	461	7,718
Libya	52	182	-	-	207	2,130	-	-	1,039	7,665
USA	51	779	-	-	-	-	-	-	821	6,249
Other	205	2,763	52	260	716	11,524	1,398	39,153	8,296	89,503
Total	2,062	21,088	1,345	10,297	2,312	30,291	6,199	94,269	50,092	485,061

Table 8. Breakdown of expenditure by package and non-package air tourists

January 2005					
Country of residence	Package Expenditure	Non-package		Other expenditure	Total
		Airfares	Accommodation		
(Lm)					
Austria	103,797	38,526	13,844	52,592	208,759
Belgium	83,703	49,000	20,122	110,002	262,827
Denmark	90,047	13,679	3,854	70,080	177,660
France	292,529	64,926	35,930	175,504	568,889
Germany	1,260,212	256,061	82,737	625,544	2,224,554
Italy	710,557	363,361	126,697	454,706	1,655,321
Netherlands	119,339	47,126	22,083	128,650	317,198
Sweden	170,215	48,088	13,907	87,258	319,468
United Kingdom	4,763,180	554,051	237,289	2,830,970	8,385,490
Norway	10,259	11,114	1,125	42,064	64,562
Switzerland	112,882	18,642	4,518	89,305	225,347
Russia	141,891	28,881	6,326	127,674	304,772
Libya	4,959	95,500	71,037	130,536	302,032
USA	97,590	88,722	27,702	81,740	295,754
Other	919,807	861,474	351,541	929,533	3,062,355
Total	8,880,967	2,539,151	1,018,712	5,936,158	18,374,988
January 2006					
Austria	70,585	21,278	19,250	47,731	158,844
Belgium	141,924	40,057	18,232	79,290	279,503
Denmark	103,027	15,184	10,912	70,918	200,041
France	249,198	258,364	185,081	265,047	957,690
Germany	532,992	248,518	264,395	479,944	1,525,849
Italy	526,652	241,300	192,496	422,443	1,382,891
Netherlands	119,254	40,415	4,157	95,241	259,067
Sweden	11,056	15,026	11,761	17,608	55,451
United Kingdom	4,343,607	728,119	413,465	3,235,951	8,721,142
Norway	38,430	21,374	15,484	21,583	96,871
Switzerland	119,605	4,330	3,922	56,567	184,424
Russia	75,239	32,550	43,246	79,167	230,202
Libya	57,352	53,780	77,592	164,242	352,966
USA	80,746	64,436	61,872	130,847	337,901
Other	935,491	607,595	344,075	1,112,991	3,000,152
Total	7,405,158	2,392,326	1,665,940	6,279,570	17,742,994

Table 9. Per capita expenditure by package and non-package air tourists

January 2005					
Country of residence	Package Expenditure	Non-package		Other expenditure	Total *
		Airfares	Accommodation		
(Lm)					
Austria	209.3	143.8	51.7	68.8	273.2
Belgium	217.4	127.3	52.3	142.7	341.1
Denmark	163.4	124.4	35.0	106.0	268.8
France	241.2	130.9	72.4	102.6	332.8
Germany	258.4	159.6	59.8	96.5	345.3
Italy	237.9	150.1	53.6	84.1	306.7
Netherlands	239.2	142.4	80.3	155.0	387.6
Sweden	237.7	174.2	62.9	88.0	325.5
United Kingdom	275.4	112.6	57.2	127.4	379.5
Norway	186.5	99.2	20.1	251.9	393.3
Switzerland	227.6	113.0	41.1	135.1	344.3
Russia	231.8	130.1	37.9	152.9	367.7
Libya	90.2	78.8	64.5	103.0	244.0
USA	251.5	133.6	50.1	77.8	286.5
Other	237.1	188.1	82.8	109.9	365.3
Total	257.4	142.9	64.1	113.6	353.8
January 2006					
Austria	170.5	81.8	92.5	70.8	242.8
Belgium	248.1	110.0	87.7	84.8	313.3
Denmark	198.1	98.0	209.8	105.2	328.5
France	218.2	151.1	123.1	92.9	344.7
Germany	215.0	117.3	131.2	104.4	334.9
Italy	237.4	103.6	84.5	92.9	305.1
Netherlands	213.0	130.4	16.1	109.5	298.7
Sweden	212.6	144.5	113.1	112.9	355.5
United Kingdom	267.0	102.9	84.2	138.6	381.4
Norway	369.5	139.7	101.2	84.0	376.9
Switzerland	230.9	83.3	75.4	99.2	323.6
Russia	292.8	159.6	212.0	171.7	499.4
Libya	183.8	74.0	114.8	158.1	345.4
USA	224.9	139.2	150.5	159.4	420.8
Other	224.7	147.0	92.5	134.2	366.2
Total	247.3	118.7	99.4	125.4	360.9

* Weighted average

Methodological Notes

1. Tourist 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. Tourist 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 variables collected in these surveys include the following:

Nationality	Number of nights stayed
Country of residence	Locality in Malta stayed longest
Flight/Sailing	Organisation of trip
Final destination	Form of transport used
Purpose of visit	Expenditure (package/non-package/other)
Frequency of visit	Age
Gender	

4. The expenditure data contained in this release should not be equated to national tourism earnings. Such expenditure includes elements that are earned by enterprises outside the Maltese economic territory.
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. The monthly passenger departures data published by the Malta International Airport cannot be equated to tourism statistics because the former is inclusive of departing Maltese and transit passengers. As a result, the monthly tourism statistics published by the NSO are always lower than the combined passenger departures data available from the airport and seaport.
6. Definitions

Usual Environment consists of the direct vicinity of his/her home and place of work and other places frequently visited

Visitors comprise tourists and same-day visitors. Visitors are distinguished from other travelers according to the following criteria:

- The trip should be to a place other than that of the usual environment.
- The stay in the place visited should not last more than 12 consecutive months.
- The main purpose of visit should be other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

International tourist satisfies the criteria mentioned earlier regarding visitors. Additionally, international tourists must stay at least one night in a collective or private accommodation in the country visited.

International same-day visitor is an international visitor who does not spend at least one night in collective or private accommodation.

7. The data in this release are not normally subject revision.