

News Release



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Tourism

Departing tourists: June 2007

Inbound tourists in June are estimated to have increased by 7.7 per cent when compared to the same month in 2006. Year-on-year, total nights spent decreased by 8.7 per cent.

June 2007

According to the ongoing frontier survey, tourist departures in June 2007 are estimated at 117,421, implying an increase of 7.7 per cent over the same month in 2006. The increase reflects primarily a rise in holiday-makers, mainly from the British, Scandinavian and Irish markets, contrasted with a decline in tourists from the German, French and Italian markets.

On the other hand, total nights spent fell by 8.7 per cent when compared to the same month in 2006. Year-on-year, tourist nights in private and collective accommodation decreased, by 22.9 and 2.0 per cent respectively. Overall, the average length of stay is calculated at 8.2 nights, shorter by 1.4 nights when compared to June 2006.

Theme:
Industry and Services

January-June 2007

Inbound tourists for the first six months of the year are estimated at 501,802, implying an increase of 6.4 per cent over the corresponding period a year ago. The growth was primarily attributable to an increase in holiday visits, mainly from the British, Scandinavian, Irish and Italian markets. Decreases were recorded in respect of the French, German, Dutch and Austrian markets.

Table 6 shows that 87.0 per cent of all inbound visits comprised tourists coming from EU Member States. Although there was an increase in repeat tourism the data show that the overall increase was primarily characterised by a rise in first-time visits, the latter estimated to account for 66.0 per cent of the total. The largest age bracket comprised tourists aged between 45 and 64, albeit the biggest increase is attributable to tourists aged 24 years and under.

Total nights spent decreased by 3.5 per cent when compared to the same period in 2006, implying shorter stays. Year-on-year, nights spent in private accommodation went down by 11.8 per cent, while those in collective accommodation decreased by 0.8 per cent. Tourist nights in rented and owner-occupied accommodation decreased by 22.9 and 6.6 per cent respectively, while those spent in lodgings with family and friends increased by 2.9 per cent. With regard to guest-nights in collective accommodation there was a significant decrease in the 3-star category contrasted with an increase in the 5-star category. The average length of stay is calculated at 8.3 nights, down by 0.9 nights when compared to last year's level.

During the period under review, total tourist expenditure is estimated at Lm172.7 million, an increase of 3.7 per cent over the same period in 2006. The increase was underpinned by higher non-package expenditure and other expenditure. Although the majority still opt for package travel, direct bookings and non-package stays are showing an increasing trend.

The survey results indicate that the per capita total expenditure is estimated at Lm352, down by 1.9 per cent when compared to the same period in the previous year ■

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Table 1. Profile of departing tourists

	June			absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
	Total	113,931	109,038	117,421	8,383
Mode of travel:					
Air	112,177	107,048	114,021	6,973	6.5
Sea	1,754	1,990	3,400	1,410	70.9
Sex:					
Males	56,521	54,363	57,936	3,573	6.6
Females	57,410	54,675	59,485	4,810	8.8
Age group:					
0-24	10,518	11,800	12,579	779	6.6
25-44	45,132	38,727	44,397	5,670	14.6
45-64	45,997	48,101	50,598	2,497	5.2
65+	12,284	10,410	9,847	-563	-5.4
Markets:					
EU	97,974	96,148	101,848	5,700	5.9
Euro area	38,540	44,302	41,639	-2,663	-6.0
Non-EU	15,957	12,890	15,573	2,683	20.8
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	98,052	93,788	102,090	8,302	8.9
Business and professional	10,363	8,789	10,245	1,456	16.6
Other	5,516	6,461	5,086	-1,375	-21.3
Organisation of stay					
Package	74,346	76,406	63,150	-13,256	-17.3
Non-package	39,585	32,632	54,271	21,639	66.3
Frequency					
First-time tourists	76,249	72,152	78,120	5,968	8.3
Repeat tourists	37,682	36,886	39,301	2,415	6.5
less than once a year	31,117	30,045	30,549	504	1.7
more than twice a year	6,565	6,841	8,752	1,911	27.9
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	8,754	8,767	11,327	2,560	29.2
4-6 nights	13,919	12,889	12,974	85	0.7
7+ nights	91,258	87,382	93,120	5,738	6.6
Average length of stay (nights)	8.9	9.6	8.2	-1.4	-14.6

Table 2. Departing tourists, by type of accommodation

	June			persons	
				absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	113,931	109,038	117,421	8,383	7.7
Private accommodation	21,293	21,493	24,709	3,216	15.0
Collective accommodation	92,638	87,545	92,712	5,167	5.9
Hotels	83,354	80,233	86,541	6,308	7.9
Other collective accommodation *	9,284	7,312	6,171	-1,141	-15.6

Table 3. Total nights spent by departing tourists, by type of accommodation

	June			nights	
				absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	1,018,006	1,051,454	960,484	-90,970	-8.7
Private accommodation	264,409	334,249	257,662	-76,587	-22.9
Collective accommodation	753,597	717,205	702,822	-14,383	-2.0
Hotels	665,956	640,950	647,392	6,442	1.0
Other collective accommodation *	87,641	76,255	55,430	-20,825	-27.3

Table 4. Total expenditure by departing tourists, by expenditure categories

	June			Lm 000s	
				absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	41,048	42,145	42,024	-121	-0.3
Package	18,380	21,033	16,294	-4,739	-22.5
Non-package	8,615	6,390	10,666	4,276	66.9
Air/sea fares	4,887	4,080	6,086	2,006	49.2
Accommodation	3,728	2,310	4,580	2,270	98.3
Other expenditure	14,053	14,722	15,064	342	2.3

* Comprises apart-hotels, guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages

Estimates for expenditure are rounded to the nearest thousand

Table 5. Departing tourists, nights spent and total expenditure, by country of residence

	June			absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total tourists	113,931	109,038	117,421	8,383	7.7
Austria	2,827	2,827	2,249	-578	-20.4
Belgium	2,645	3,358	3,063	-295	-8.8
France	6,250	7,628	6,169	-1,459	-19.1
Germany	11,303	14,033	11,861	-2,172	-15.5
Ireland	2,503	1,774	2,869	1,095	61.7
Italy	6,532	8,171	7,334	-837	-10.2
Libya	1,157	551	858	307	55.7
Netherlands	3,402	3,480	3,601	121	3.5
Russia	3,283	1,965	2,095	130	6.6
Scandinavia*	6,499	7,474	9,457	1,983	26.5
Switzerland	1,931	1,932	1,718	-214	-11.1
United Kingdom	52,174	43,681	49,983	6,302	14.4
USA	2,781	1,948	2,703	755	38.8
Other	10,644	10,216	13,461	3,245	31.8
Total nights	1,018,006	1,051,454	960,484	-90,970	-8.7
Austria	18,663	19,666	17,365	-2,301	-11.7
Belgium	19,395	36,570	23,098	-13,472	-36.8
France	47,709	59,093	44,780	-14,313	-24.2
Germany	87,660	128,060	98,268	-29,792	-23.3
Ireland	21,811	22,916	20,325	-2,591	-11.3
Italy	40,127	50,216	45,647	-4,569	-9.1
Libya	12,107	3,767	6,198	2,431	64.5
Netherlands	26,578	25,488	30,568	5,080	19.9
Russia	24,827	58,674	23,651	-35,023	-59.7
Scandinavia*	69,144	65,505	70,958	5,453	8.3
Switzerland	21,514	18,139	13,313	-4,826	-26.6
United Kingdom	467,164	398,072	436,201	38,129	9.6
USA	30,789	18,949	21,731	2,782	14.7
Other	130,518	146,339	108,381	-37,958	-25.9
Total expenditure (Lm'000s)	41,048	42,145	42,024	-121	-0.3
Austria	846	1,055	631	-424	-40.2
Belgium	976	1,282	1,112	-170	-13.3
France	2,055	2,773	2,101	-672	-24.2
Germany	3,885	5,204	4,310	-894	-17.2
Ireland	1,023	802	1,049	247	30.8
Italy	1,937	2,422	2,160	-262	-10.8
Libya	472	339	319	-20	-5.9
Netherlands	1,304	1,267	1,331	64	5.1
Russia	1,067	1,541	1,103	-438	-28.4
Scandinavia*	2,347	2,889	3,081	192	6.6
Switzerland	993	961	773	-188	-19.6
United Kingdom	18,699	16,107	17,655	1,548	9.6
USA	903	796	886	90	11.3
Other	4,541	4,707	5,513	806	17.1

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Estimates for expenditure are rounded to the nearest thousand

Table 6. Profile of departing tourists

	January-June			absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	483,563	471,728	501,802	30,074	6.4
Mode of travel:					
Air	478,751	467,487	494,593	27,106	5.8
Sea	4,812	4,241	7,209	2,968	70.0
Sex:					
Males	245,750	245,730	258,314	12,584	5.1
Females	237,813	225,998	243,488	17,490	7.7
Age group:					
0-24	39,525	39,134	53,011	13,877	35.5
25-44	170,964	156,632	165,905	9,273	5.9
45-64	205,804	217,235	225,359	8,124	3.7
65+	67,270	58,727	57,527	-1,200	-2.0
Markets:					
EU	420,905	413,464	436,331	22,867	5.5
Euro area	189,491	193,107	193,769	662	0.3
Non-EU	62,658	58,264	65,471	7,207	12.4
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	410,945	391,858	424,670	32,812	8.4
Business and professional	48,239	55,223	49,021	-6,202	-11.2
Other	24,379	24,647	28,111	3,464	14.1
Organisation of stay					
Package	335,740	318,890	278,990	-39,900	-12.5
Non-package	147,823	152,838	222,812	69,974	45.8
Frequency					
First-time tourists	323,771	309,216	331,132	21,916	7.1
Repeat tourists	159,792	162,512	170,670	8,158	5.0
less than once a year	127,148	126,483	127,527	1,044	0.8
more than twice a year	32,644	36,029	43,143	7,114	19.7
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	51,609	56,346	59,857	3,511	6.2
4-6 nights	60,032	66,160	80,926	14,766	22.3
7+ nights	371,922	349,222	361,019	11,797	3.4
Average length of stay (nights)	9.3	9.2	8.3	-0.9	-9.8

Chart 1 Percentage distribution of departing tourists, by purpose of visit

January-June 2005-2007

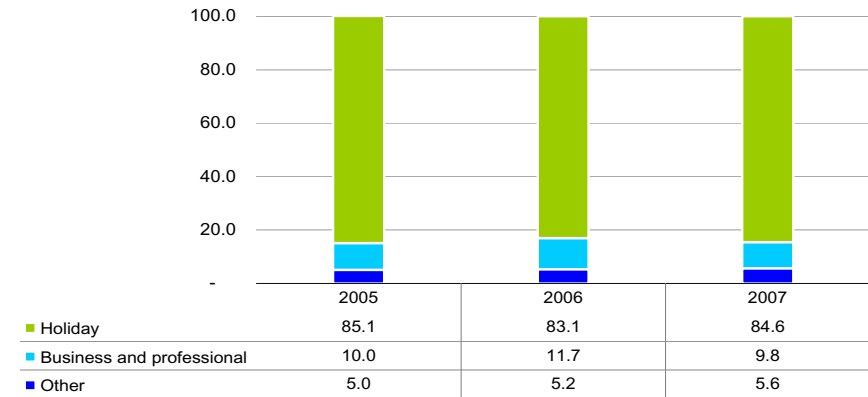


Chart 3 Average length of stay (nights), by type of accommodation

January-June 2005-2007



Chart 2 Average length of stay (nights), by purpose of visit

January-June 2005-2007

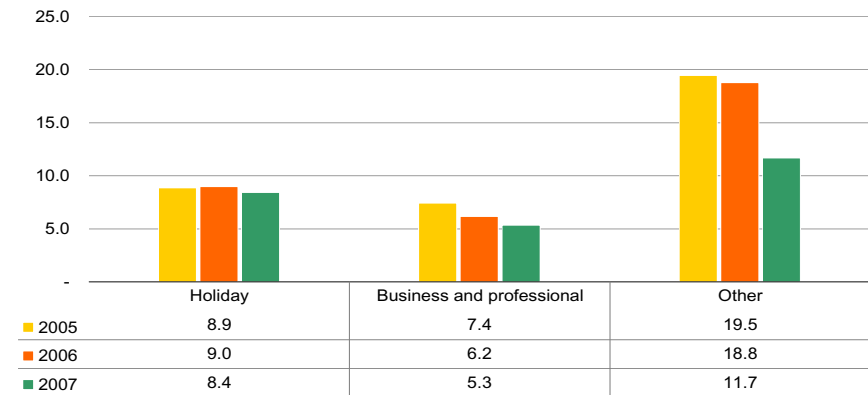


Chart 4 Departing tourists, by night bracket

January-June 2005-2007

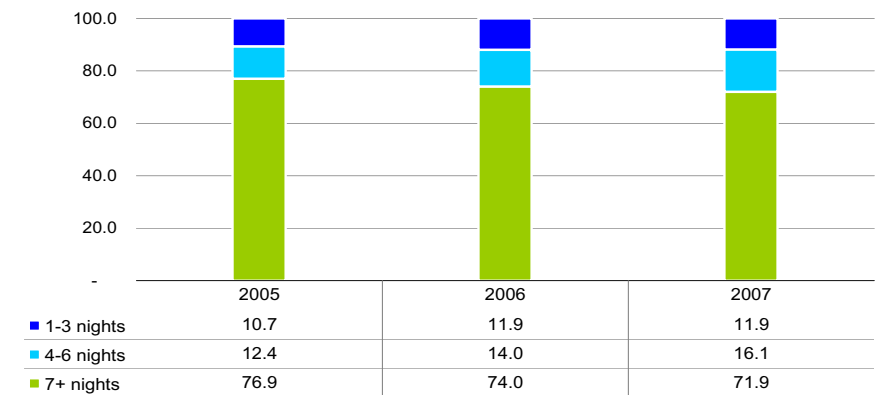


Table 7. Departing tourists, by type of accommodation

	January-June			persons	
				absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	483,563	471,728	501,802	30,074	6.4
Private accommodation	71,659	77,869	88,436	10,567	13.6
Rented	32,927	35,274	37,132	1,858	5.3
Staying with friends/relatives	25,302	30,318	37,777	7,459	24.6
Owner-occupied	13,430	12,277	13,527	1,250	10.2
Collective accommodation	411,904	393,859	413,366	19,507	5.0
Hotels	377,711	366,086	381,298	15,212	4.2
of which:					
5 Star	80,560	88,373	108,942	20,569	23.3
4 Star	188,639	187,538	189,662	2,124	1.1
3 Star	102,898	81,962	69,250	-12,712	-15.5
Other collective accommodation *	34,193	27,773	32,068	4,295	15.5

Table 8. Total nights spent by departing tourists, by type of accommodation

	January-June			nights	
				absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	4,474,072	4,323,696	4,170,973	-152,723	-3.5
Private accommodation	1,058,072	1,080,659	953,024	-127,635	-11.8
Rented	533,829	556,253	428,877	-127,376	-22.9
Staying with friends/relatives	332,292	362,380	372,812	10,432	2.9
Owner-occupied	191,951	162,026	151,335	-10,691	-6.6
Collective accommodation	3,416,000	3,243,037	3,217,949	-25,088	-0.8
Hotels	3,054,426	2,962,869	2,928,690	-34,179	-1.2
of which:					
5 Star	499,796	519,565	641,821	122,256	23.5
4 Star	1,616,143	1,613,171	1,582,407	-30,764	-1.9
3 Star	896,006	766,866	601,647	-165,219	-21.5
Other collective accommodation *	361,574	280,168	289,259	9,091	3.2

* Comprises apart-hotels, guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages

Table 9. Departing tourists, nights spent and total expenditure, by country of residence

	January-June			absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total tourists	483,563	471,728	501,802	30,074	6.4
Austria	11,990	12,194	9,661	-2,533	-20.8
Belgium	10,960	12,010	10,329	-1,681	-14.0
France	37,148	35,243	30,142	-5,101	-14.5
Germany	60,590	58,125	55,064	-3,061	-5.3
Ireland	7,226	5,335	12,520	7,185	134.7
Italy	33,815	39,422	43,244	3,822	9.7
Libya	5,569	4,388	4,705	317	7.2
Netherlands	14,373	15,622	12,911	-2,711	-17.4
Russia	5,813	5,287	6,526	1,239	23.4
Scandinavia*	29,456	26,725	36,213	9,488	35.5
Switzerland	8,873	8,619	9,513	894	10.4
United Kingdom	202,946	194,212	204,665	10,453	5.4
USA	8,696	7,842	9,592	1,750	22.3
Other	46,108	46,704	56,717	10,013	21.4
Total nights	4,474,072	4,323,696	4,170,973	-152,723	-3.5
Austria	78,056	84,156	70,316	-13,840	-16.4
Belgium	75,596	96,834	75,051	-21,783	-22.5
France	270,491	265,625	224,323	-41,302	-15.5
Germany	500,865	512,097	434,294	-77,803	-15.2
Ireland	58,297	52,611	90,187	37,576	71.4
Italy	237,408	227,280	243,731	16,451	7.2
Libya	58,286	32,869	38,575	5,706	17.4
Netherlands	110,948	112,289	100,098	-12,191	-10.9
Russia	64,800	105,874	73,110	-32,764	-30.9
Scandinavia*	249,180	234,721	281,645	46,924	20.0
Switzerland	82,592	72,728	95,108	22,380	30.8
United Kingdom	1,995,690	1,967,516	1,942,142	-25,374	-1.3
USA	76,362	68,158	70,628	2,470	3.6
Other	615,501	490,938	431,765	-59,173	-12.1
Total expenditure (Lm'000s)	168,357	166,569	172,662	6,093	3.7
Austria	3,693	4,067	2,808	-1,259	-31.0
Belgium	3,936	3,922	3,591	-331	-8.4
France	12,655	12,084	10,134	-1,950	-16.1
Germany	20,553	19,843	18,192	-1,651	-8.3
Ireland	2,727	2,254	4,328	2,074	92.0
Italy	10,179	11,641	12,255	614	5.3
Libya	1,736	1,710	1,759	49	2.9
Netherlands	4,818	5,286	4,338	-948	-17.9
Russia	1,939	3,044	2,931	-113	-3.7
Scandinavia*	10,503	10,232	12,009	1,777	17.4
Switzerland	3,501	3,701	4,242	541	14.6
United Kingdom	70,475	67,157	70,340	3,183	4.7
USA	3,670	3,328	3,663	335	10.1
Other	17,972	18,300	22,072	3,772	20.6

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Estimates for expenditure are rounded to the nearest thousand

Table 10. Total expenditure by departing tourists

Lm 000s

	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
January-June 2007					
Total	70,324	23,976	14,985	63,377	172,662
Austria	1,366	255	200	987	2,808
Belgium	1,943	352	230	1,066	3,591
France	4,825	1,340	916	3,053	10,134
Germany	7,838	2,702	2,202	5,450	18,192
Ireland	1,305	461	489	2,073	4,328
Italy	4,407	1,966	1,447	4,435	12,255
Libya	217	520	263	759	1,759
Netherlands	2,253	389	228	1,468	4,338
Russia	976	486	290	1,179	2,931
Scandinavia*	5,988	1,201	680	4,140	12,009
Switzerland	1,848	422	291	1,681	4,242
United Kingdom	29,603	8,219	5,033	27,485	70,340
USA	945	779	486	1,453	3,663
Other	6,810	4,884	2,230	8,148	22,072
January-June 2006					
Total	79,859	18,526	12,185	55,999	166,569
Austria	2,221	387	340	1,119	4,067
Belgium	2,358	268	258	1,038	3,922
France	6,748	1,128	842	3,366	12,084
Germany	11,177	1,518	1,255	5,893	19,843
Ireland	929	227	223	875	2,254
Italy	4,323	2,107	1,713	3,498	11,641
Libya	283	313	281	833	1,710
Netherlands	2,921	407	292	1,666	5,286
Russia	1,200	296	193	1,355	3,044
Scandinavia*	5,637	831	481	3,283	10,232
Switzerland	1,898	337	379	1,087	3,701
United Kingdom	32,481	6,257	3,473	24,946	67,157
USA	1,069	790	424	1,045	3,328
Other	6,614	3,660	2,031	5,995	18,300
January-June 2005					
Total	80,880	19,419	12,758	55,300	168,357
Austria	2,158	367	204	964	3,693
Belgium	2,154	395	274	1,113	3,936
France	7,648	935	665	3,407	12,655
Germany	11,682	1,719	1,232	5,920	20,553
Ireland	1,299	240	169	1,019	2,727
Italy	3,821	1,850	1,392	3,116	10,179
Libya	236	430	407	663	1,736
Netherlands	2,489	430	263	1,636	4,818
Russia	1,066	146	101	626	1,939
Scandinavia*	5,557	800	577	3,569	10,503
Switzerland	1,776	378	246	1,101	3,501
United Kingdom	34,268	6,247	4,301	25,659	70,475
USA	1,258	915	501	996	3,670
Other	5,468	4,567	2,426	5,511	17,972

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Estimates for expenditure are rounded to the nearest thousand

Table 11. Per capita expenditure by departing tourists

Lm

	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other Expenditure	Total ^w
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
January-June 2007					
Total	252	110	82	126	352
Austria	260	114	94	102	347
Belgium	260	124	93	103	351
France	277	116	88	101	349
Germany	258	113	96	99	335
Ireland	229	71	89	166	358
Italy	218	86	69	103	287
Libya	213	147	80	161	385
Netherlands	240	111	85	114	341
Russia	306	146	98	181	455
Scandinavia*	228	128	90	114	340
Switzerland	293	132	95	177	447
United Kingdom	256	92	75	134	352
USA	301	122	85	152	389
Other	246	171	84	144	394
January-June 2006					
Total	250	121	97	119	359
Austria	245	123	112	92	334
Belgium	245	112	115	86	328
France	252	134	113	96	346
Germany	243	125	115	101	344
Ireland	268	121	149	164	433
Italy	220	106	95	89	300
Libya	212	103	100	190	395
Netherlands	232	135	102	107	339
Russia	340	168	113	256	577
Scandinavia*	268	146	97	123	386
Switzerland	309	136	173	126	435
United Kingdom	246	101	81	129	354
USA	387	156	94	133	431
Other	269	165	101	128	396
January-June 2005					
Total	241	131	104	114	354
Austria	230	141	99	80	313
Belgium	271	132	102	102	362
France	253	136	108	92	343
Germany	240	145	114	98	341
Ireland	254	114	94	141	381
Italy	212	117	95	92	304
Libya	249	93	101	119	322
Netherlands	229	124	93	114	339
Russia	235	115	86	108	335
Scandinavia*	236	136	108	121	359
Switzerland	282	147	110	124	399
United Kingdom	238	106	101	126	355
USA	342	182	113	115	430
Other	247	191	110	120	395

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

^w stands for weighted average - further detail can be looked up in the methodological notes - Note 6

Methodological Notes

1. The results in this release are based on the ongoing frontier survey known as TOURSTAT. All the detailed distribution is survey-based. Administrative records are used as a supplementary source for the calibration of the survey aggregates. The exercise is in the main a bottom-up approach including a calibrating weight to re-align the survey results to the true population of total passenger departures (net of transits). Yet we advise our users to exercise caution when analysing details that involve estimates of less than 1,000 tourists since such estimates may suffer from variations attributable to low frequency in the sample frame (sampling errors). There are also limitations related to non-sampling errors, namely those linked to respondents' likelihood and willingness to provide proper information and those related to language barriers.
2. Tourist air departures are collected through a continuous survey carried out at the departure lounge of Malta International Airport (MIA). A two-stage sample design is used for this survey. In 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.
3. Tourist sea departures are collected through a regular survey that is carried out at the Valletta International Seaport Terminal (VISET). 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.

4. The main variables collected in these surveys include the following:

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

5. 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.
6. The total per capita expenditure is a weighted average of the 'package' and 'non-package' expenditure categories based on the respective number of tourists in each category, plus the simple average of the 'other' expenditure categories.
7. The monthly passenger departures data published by the Malta International Airport cannot be equated to departing tourists 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.

8. Definitions:

Usual Environment of a person consists of the direct vicinity of his/her home and place of work or study, and other places frequently visited.

Visitors comprise tourists and same-day visitors. Visitors are distinguished from other travellers 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 to revision.