

News Release



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Tourism

Outbound Tourism: December 2006

Outbound tourists for the month of December amounted to 23,813, bringing the total for the period January-December 2006 to 257,167. Of these 87.2 per cent travelled by air.

December 2006

Maltese passengers during December 2006 reached a total of 23,813. Of these 19,480 travelled to European Union destinations, the most frequent destinations being the UK and Italy.

January-December 2006

In 2006, the number of Maltese passengers departing by air and sea amounted to 257,167, a 14.3 per cent increase over the previous year.

During this period, the most frequent destination was Italy, accounting for 30.6 per cent of the total number of Maltese going abroad by both air and sea.

For the period January-December 2006, male outbound passengers exceeded female passengers, the former accounting for 60.2 per cent of the total number of Maltese travellers.

The greatest proportion of outbound passengers - 46.9 per cent - comprised passengers aged between 25 and 44 years, followed by those in the 45-64 age bracket who accounted for 40.5 per cent of total Maltese travellers ■

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Table 1. Outbound passengers: December

persons				
	December		Absolute change	Percentage change
	2005	2006	2006/2005	2006/2005
Total	19,158	23,813	4,655	24.3
Transport:				
Air	18,630	21,973	3,343	17.9
Sea	528	1,840	1,312	—
Destination:				
EU	15,499	19,480	3,981	25.7
Italy	4,603	6,392	1,789	38.9
UK	5,863	7,198	1,335	22.8
Non-EU	3,659	4,333	674	18.4
Sex:				
Males	10,718	14,274	3,556	33.2
Females	8,440	9,539	1,099	13.0
Age group:				
0-24	1,893	1,858	-35	-1.8
25-44	8,532	11,673	3,141	36.8
45-64	7,693	9,550	1,857	24.1
65+	1,040	732	-308	-29.6

— datum is not relevant

Table 2. Outbound passengers: January-December

persons				
	January-December		Absolute change	Percentage change
	2005	2006	2006/2005	2006/2005
Total	224,929	257,167	32,238	14.3
Transport:				
Air	200,744	224,189	23,445	11.7
Sea	24,185	32,978	8,793	36.4
Destination:				
EU	175,146	211,296	36,150	20.6
Italy	67,468	78,652	11,184	16.6
UK	47,329	59,953	12,624	26.7
Non-EU	49,783	45,871	-3,912	-7.9
Sex:				
Males	133,698	154,789	21,091	15.8
Females	91,231	102,378	11,147	12.2
Age group:				
0-24	23,795	21,934	-1,861	-7.8
25-44	101,256	120,484	19,228	19.0
45-64	89,609	104,187	14,578	16.3
65+	10,269	10,562	293	2.9

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 to revision.