

News Release



Date: 28 March 2007
No. : 50/2007
Time of release: 11.00 hrs

Theme:
Industry and Services

Compiled by:

Tourism Statistics Unit
e-mail: tourism.nso@gov.mt
Tel: 25997329

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Tourism

Departing tourists: February 2007

Inbound tourists during February 2007 are estimated to have increased by 6.9 per cent when compared to the same month in 2006. Over the same period, total tourist expenditure increased by 13.1 per cent.

Tourists

According to the ongoing frontier survey, tourist departures in February 2007 are estimated at 50,547, implying an increase of 6.9 per cent over the same month in 2006. The increase reflects primarily a rise in holiday makers; mainly from the Scandinavian, British and Italian markets, contrasted with a decline in tourists from Germany, France and the Netherlands.

Tourists staying in both collective and private accommodation establishments registered increases when compared to February 2006.

Nights spent

The ongoing frontier survey indicates a 3.4 per cent decrease in total nights spent during February 2007, in the main, attributable to shorter stays. However, nights spent in private accommodation increased by 8.9 per cent. Overall, the average length of stay decreased by 0.9 nights to 9.1 nights when compared to the same month last year.

Expenditure

Year-on-year, total tourist expenditure is estimated at Lm16.2 million, an increase of 13.1 per cent over the same month in 2006. This increase was underpinned by higher non-package expenditure and other expenditure ■

In this release all tables refer to air and sea departing tourists and as such, are not comparable to tables in previous news releases that referred to air departures only.

Monthly news releases on tourism statistics will henceforth be complemented by quarterly releases that will comprise a greater level of detail.

National Statistics Office
Library & Information Unit
Lascaris, Valletta CMR 02, Malta
Tel: (+356) 25997219
Fax: (+356) 25997205
e-mail: nso@gov.mt
<http://www.nso.gov.mt>

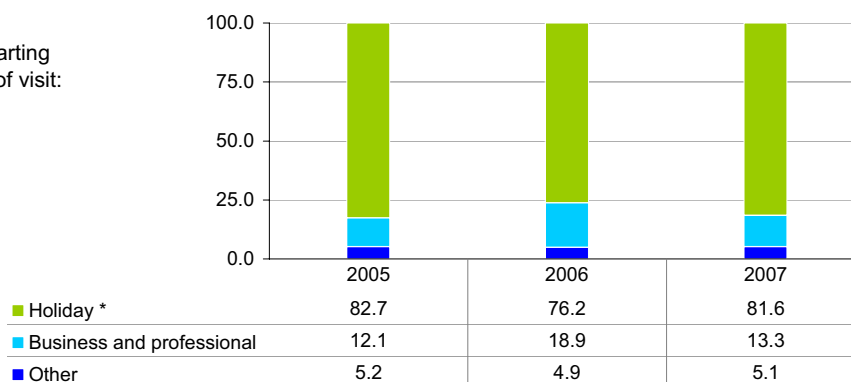
Table 1. Departing tourists, by mode of travel, sex and age group

	February			Absolute change	Percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	44,393	47,301	50,547	3,246	6.9
Mode of travel					
Air	44,309	47,263	50,187	2,924	6.2
Sea	84	38	360	322	—
Sex:					
Males	24,743	27,783	27,832	49	0.2
Females	19,650	19,518	22,715	3,197	16.4
Age group:					
0-24	2,525	2,318	4,023	1,705	73.6
25-44	14,650	15,474	16,154	680	4.4
45-64	19,114	22,164	23,240	1,076	4.9
65+	8,104	7,345	7,130	-215	-2.9

Table 2. Departing tourists, by purpose of visit

	February			Absolute change	Percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	44,393	47,301	50,547	3,246	6.9
Holiday *	36,708	36,035	41,228	5,193	14.4
Business and professional	5,382	8,951	6,716	-2,235	-25.0
Other	2,303	2,315	2,603	288	12.4

Chart 1
% distribution of departing tourists, by purpose of visit: February 2005-2007



* Including visiting family and friends

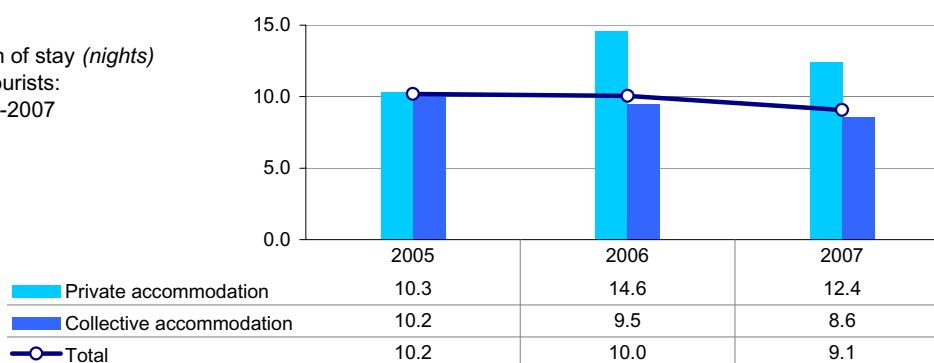
Table 3. Departing tourists, by type of accommodation

	February			Absolute change	Percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	44,393	47,301	50,547	3,246	6.9
Private accommodation	4,660	5,255	6,732	1,477	28.1
Collective accommodation	39,733	42,046	43,815	1,769	4.2
Hotels	37,384	40,257	41,317	1,060	2.6
Other collective accommodation *	2,351	1,789	2,498	709	39.6

Table 4. Total nights spent by departing tourists, by type of accommodation

	February			Absolute change	Percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	451,799	474,985	458,672	-16,313	-3.4
Private accommodation	48,215	76,759	83,586	6,827	8.9
Collective accommodation	403,584	398,226	375,086	-23,140	-5.8
Hotels	372,575	372,790	347,977	-24,813	-6.7
Other collective accommodation *	31,009	25,436	27,109	1,673	6.6

Chart 2
Average length of stay (*nights*)
by departing tourists:
February 2005-2007



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

Table 5. Total expenditure by departing tourists, by expenditure categories

Lm 000s

	February			Absolute change	Percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	13,876.1	14,329.2	16,210.3	1,881	13.1
Package	6,597.9	6,744.8	5,953.1	-792	-11.7
Non-package	2,513.8	2,668.8	4,263.9	1,595	59.8
Air/sea fares	1,652.4	1,540.4	2,613.7	1,073	69.7
Accommodation	861.5	1,128.4	1,650.2	522	46.2
Other expenditure	4,764.5	4,915.5	5,993.3	1,078	21.9

Note: refer to methodological note 4.

Table 6. Departing tourists, by country of residence

persons

	February			Absolute change	Percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	44,393	47,301	50,547	3,246	6.9
Austria	760	965	889	-76	-7.9
Belgium	610	582	618	36	6.2
France	2,842	2,517	2,275	-242	-9.6
Germany	5,476	6,810	6,155	-655	-9.6
Italy	3,117	3,332	3,854	522	15.7
Libya	610	679	523	-156	-23.0
Netherlands	552	1,014	853	-161	-15.9
Russia	396	432	470	38	8.8
Scandinavia*	1,903	1,064	1,943	879	82.6
Switzerland	661	534	1,042	508	95.1
United Kingdom	21,935	23,814	24,411	597	2.5
USA	478	723	755	32	4.4
Other	5,053	4,835	6,759	1,924	39.8

* Comprises Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Note: figures below 1,000 should be treated with caution

Table 7. Total nights spent by departing tourists, by country of residence

nights

	February			Absolute change	Percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
	Total	451,799	474,985	458,672	-16,313
Austria	8,903	7,343	5,370	-1,973	-26.9
Belgium	4,879	7,996	5,463	-2,533	-31.7
France	18,746	17,881	20,852	2,971	16.6
Germany	48,863	66,739	41,893	-24,846	-37.2
Italy	37,293	12,500	16,998	4,498	36.0
Libya	2,745	6,939	2,375	-4,564	-65.8
Netherlands	3,260	8,554	6,060	-2,494	-29.2
Russia	3,858	4,166	9,260	5,094	122.3
Scandinavia*	22,579	7,296	15,453	8,157	111.8
Switzerland	4,523	3,882	6,246	2,364	60.9
United Kingdom	246,604	283,822	270,736	-13,086	-4.6
USA	2,691	5,927	4,342	-1,585	-26.7
Other	46,855	41,940	53,624	11,684	27.9

Table 8. Total expenditure by departing tourists, by country of residence

Lm'000s

	February			Absolute change	Percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
	Total	13,876.1	14,329.2	16,210.3	1,881.1
Austria	222.7	279.6	279.3	-0.3	-0.1
Belgium	213.3	147.0	222.8	75.8	51.6
France	815.6	783.3	775.5	-7.8	-1.0
Germany	1,613.8	1,982.5	1,691.7	-290.8	-14.7
Italy	861.0	785.5	908.1	122.6	15.6
Libya	151.7	178.6	283.9	105.3	59.0
Netherlands	158.6	360.8	287.0	-73.8	-20.5
Russia	112.0	140.8	183.8	43.0	30.6
Scandinavia*	513.0	341.4	603.8	262.5	76.9
Switzerland	193.6	171.3	351.1	179.8	105.0
United Kingdom	7,072.8	7,328.6	7,972.9	644.2	8.8
USA	240.1	223.5	235.5	12.0	5.4
Other	1,707.9	1,606.3	2,414.9	808.6	50.3

* Includes Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Note: refer to methodological note 4.

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 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.