

News Release

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Tourism

Departing tourists: April 2007

Inbound tourists in April are estimated to have increased by 4.1 per cent when compared to the same month in 2006. Year-on-year, total nights spent increased by 3.6 per cent.

April 2007

According to the ongoing frontier survey, tourist departures in April 2007 are estimated at 101,792, implying an increase of 4.1 per cent over the same month in 2006. The increase reflects primarily a rise in holiday makers, mainly from the Scandinavian and Irish markets, contrasted with a decline in tourists from Italy and France.

Total nights spent registered a 3.6 per cent increase when compared to the same month in 2006. Year-on-year, nights spent in private and collective accommodation registered increases, by 4.0 and 3.5 per cent respectively. Overall, the average length of stay remained unchanged at 8.8 nights.

Theme:
Industry and Services

January-April 2007

Inbound tourists for the first four months of the year are estimated at 275,354, implying an increase of 5.9 per cent over the corresponding period a year ago. The growth was primarily attributable to an increase in holiday visits, mainly from the Scandinavian, Irish, Italian and British markets. Main decreases included tourists coming from France, Germany, Belgium and Austria.

Table 6 shows that 87.2 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 65.0 per cent of the total. The largest age bracket comprised tourists aged between 45 and 64, albeit the overall increase is attributable to tourists aged 24 years and under.

Total nights spent decreased by 0.9 per cent when compared to the same period in 2006, implying shorter stays. Year-on-year, nights spent in private accommodation went down by 4.7 per cent, whilst those in collective accommodation increased marginally. Less nights in private accommodation were manifested across all categories, the largest decline prevailing in rented accommodation. For collective accommodation the decrease was category-specific. The drop in nights spent in the three-star hotel category offset all increases recorded in the remaining collective accommodation categories. The average length of stay is calculated at 8.7 nights, down by 0.6 nights when compared to last year's level.

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During the period under review, total tourist expenditure is estimated at Lm94.2 million, an increase of 7.9 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 exhibiting an increasing trend.

The survey results indicate that the per capita total expenditure is estimated at Lm349, up by 2.3 per cent when compared to the previous year ■

The monthly calendar of NSO News Releases may be consulted on the Office's website at www.nso.gov.mt

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Table 1. Profile of departing tourists

	April			absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	88,279	97,784	101,792	4,008	4.1
Mode of travel:					
Air	87,433	97,124	99,755	2,631	2.7
Sea	846	660	2,037	1,377	208.6
Sex:					
Males	45,274	50,352	52,212	1,860	3.7
Females	43,005	47,432	49,580	2,148	4.5
Age group:					
0-24	9,044	12,612	16,739	4,127	32.7
25-44	30,181	34,137	30,132	-4,005	-11.7
45-64	37,379	40,832	43,783	2,951	7.2
65+	11,675	10,203	11,138	935	9.2
Markets:					
EU	78,712	88,118	90,488	2,370	2.7
Euro area	40,811	46,841	44,409	-2,432	-5.2
Non-EU	9,567	9,666	11,304	1,638	16.9
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	73,827	80,915	86,735	5,820	7.2
Business and professional	9,138	10,467	7,531	-2,936	-28.1
Other	5,314	6,402	7,526	1,124	17.6
Organisation of stay					
Package	65,607	69,376	59,148	-10,228	-14.7
Non-package	22,672	28,408	42,644	14,236	50.1
Frequency					
First-time tourists	60,417	67,099	70,579	3,480	5.2
Repeat tourists	27,862	30,685	31,213	528	1.7
less than once a year	21,121	24,888	23,076	-1,812	-7.3
more than twice a year	6,741	5,797	8,137	2,340	40.4
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	10,568	12,058	9,422	-2,636	-21.9
4-6 nights	13,186	15,364	16,578	1,214	7.9
7+ nights	64,525	70,362	75,792	5,430	7.7
Average length of stay (nights)	8.2	8.8	8.8	0.0	0.0

Table 2. Departing tourists, by type of accommodation

				persons	
	April			absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	88,279	97,784	101,792	4,008	4.1
Private accommodation	12,805	16,760	17,452	692	4.1
Collective accommodation	75,474	81,024	84,340	3,316	4.1
Hotels	69,152	75,582	75,188	-394	-0.5
Other collective accommodation *	6,322	5,442	9,152	3,710	68.2

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

				nights	
	April			absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	726,766	859,853	890,784	30,931	3.6
Private accommodation	174,772	217,322	226,073	8,751	4.0
Collective accommodation	551,994	642,531	664,711	22,180	3.5
Hotels	493,708	590,645	576,090	-14,555	-2.5
Other collective accommodation *	58,286	51,886	88,621	36,735	70.8

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

				Lm 000s	
	April			absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	31,791	34,198	35,821	1,620	4.7
Package	16,389	17,303	15,483	-1,823	-10.5
Non-package	5,425	6,114	7,365	1,251	20.5
Air/sea fares	3,234	3,641	4,759	1,118	30.7
Accommodation	2,191	2,473	2,606	133	5.4
Other expenditure	9,977	10,781	12,973	2,192	20.3

* 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

	April			absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
	Total tourists	88,279	97,784	101,792	4,008
Austria	2,247	2,442	2,237	-205	-8.4
Belgium	2,597	2,869	2,414	-455	-15.9
France	11,035	8,480	7,026	-1,454	-17.1
Germany	11,734	12,854	11,947	-907	-7.1
Ireland	1,098	811	2,869	2,058	253.8
Italy	6,557	12,061	10,507	-1,554	-12.9
Libya	1,099	548	957	409	74.6
Netherlands	2,447	2,244	1,598	-646	-28.8
Russia	250	684	919	235	34.4
Scandinavia*	7,990	6,801	10,266	3,465	50.9
Switzerland	2,097	1,804	2,228	424	23.5
United Kingdom	31,807	36,321	36,557	236	0.6
USA	1,298	1,378	1,189	-189	-13.7
Other	6,023	8,487	11,078	2,591	30.5
Total nights	726,766	859,853	890,784	30,931	3.6
Austria	14,131	17,556	21,934	4,378	24.9
Belgium	18,277	19,041	16,398	-2,643	-13.9
France	72,204	60,704	63,316	2,612	4.3
Germany	98,819	104,984	99,032	-5,952	-5.7
Ireland	7,988	8,794	21,639	12,845	146.1
Italy	49,650	78,076	66,278	-11,798	-15.1
Libya	19,775	3,405	14,447	11,042	324.3
Netherlands	16,128	15,405	14,306	-1,099	-7.1
Russia	2,097	14,898	10,705	-4,193	-28.1
Scandinavia*	55,529	55,105	79,392	24,287	44.1
Switzerland	18,727	12,680	34,540	21,860	172.4
United Kingdom	295,648	360,432	356,272	-4,160	-1.2
USA	9,486	13,355	9,473	-3,882	-29.1
Other	48,307	95,418	83,052	-12,366	-13.0
Total expenditure (Lm'000s)	31,791	34,198	35,821	1,623	4.7
Austria	691	833	642	-191	-22.9
Belgium	951	862	838	-24	-2.8
France	3,670	2,875	2,533	-342	-11.9
Germany	4,298	4,539	4,147	-392	-8.6
Ireland	374	390	1,105	715	183.3
Italy	2,065	3,896	3,143	-753	-19.3
Libya	374	250	327	77	30.8
Netherlands	772	714	476	-238	-33.3
Russia	71	307	365	58	18.9
Scandinavia*	3,191	2,596	3,387	791	30.5
Switzerland	755	800	1,300	500	62.5
United Kingdom	11,288	12,149	12,783	634	5.2
USA	762	592	517	-75	-12.7
Other	2,529	3,395	4,258	863	25.4

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Estimates for expenditure are rounded to the nearest thousand

Table 6. Profile of departing tourists

	January-April			absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
	Total	257,073	259,950	275,354	15,404
Mode of travel:					
Air	254,573	258,499	272,404	13,905	5.4
Sea	2,500	1,451	2,950	1,499	103.3
Sex:					
Males	134,020	139,580	144,704	5,124	3.7
Females	123,053	120,370	130,650	10,280	8.5
Age group:					
0-24	22,067	20,322	31,603	11,281	55.5
25-44	85,290	84,052	85,085	1,033	1.2
45-64	109,913	121,499	123,851	2,352	1.9
65+	39,803	34,077	34,815	738	2.2
Markets:					
EU	223,511	226,599	240,209	13,610	6.0
Euro area	99,957	104,001	108,241	4,240	4.1
Non-EU	33,562	33,351	35,145	1,794	5.4
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	216,013	211,016	228,529	17,513	8.3
Business and professional	27,607	35,216	28,901	-6,315	-17.9
Other	13,453	13,718	17,924	4,206	30.7
Organisation of stay					
Package	185,227	172,411	155,822	-16,589	-9.6
Non-package	71,846	87,539	119,532	31,993	36.5
Frequency					
First-time tourists	167,765	167,565	179,003	11,438	6.8
Repeat tourists	89,308	92,385	96,351	3,966	4.3
less than once a year	69,742	71,100	70,299	-801	-1.1
more than twice a year	19,566	21,285	26,052	4,767	22.4
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	30,244	36,712	34,899	-1,813	-4.9
4-6 nights	33,405	39,228	49,295	10,067	25.7
7+ nights	193,424	184,010	191,160	7,150	3.9
Average length of stay (nights)	9.6	9.3	8.7	-0.6	-6.5

Chart 1 Percentage distribution of departing tourists, by purpose of visit
January-April 2005-2007

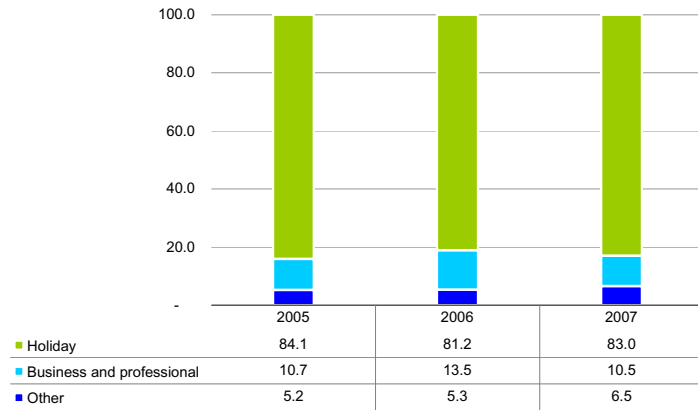


Chart 3 Average length of stay (nights), by type of accommodation
January-April 2005-2007

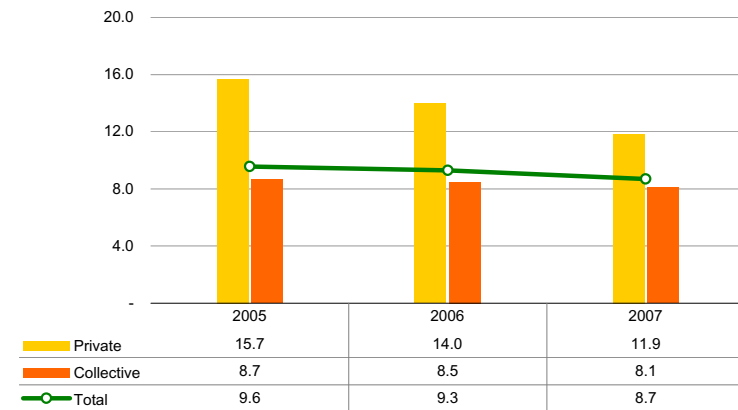


Chart 2 Average length of stay (nights), by purpose of visit
January-April 2005-2007

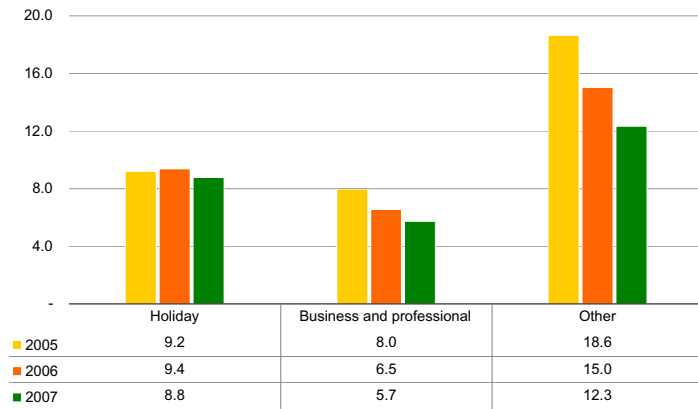


Chart 4 Departing tourists, by night bracket
January-April 2005-2007

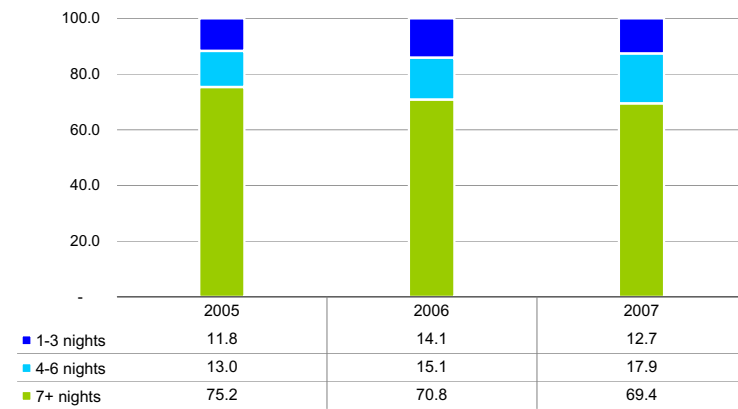


Table 7. Departing tourists, by type of accommodation

	January-April			persons	
				absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	257,073	259,950	275,354	15,404	5.9
Private accommodation	32,947	38,567	43,327	4,760	12.3
Rented	14,666	16,326	16,896	570	3.5
Staying with friends/relatives	11,392	15,821	19,451	3,630	22.9
Owner occupied	6,889	6,420	6,980	560	8.7
Collective accommodation	224,126	221,383	232,027	10,644	4.8
Hotels	208,815	208,492	213,385	4,893	2.3
of which:					
5 Star	43,851	54,009	57,750	3,741	6.9
4 Star	106,474	104,524	108,717	4,193	4.0
3 Star	55,474	46,141	39,864	-6,277	-13.6
Other collective accommodation *	15,311	12,891	18,642	5,751	44.6

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

	January-April			nights	
				absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total	2,456,245	2,417,788	2,394,820	-22,968	-0.9
Private accommodation	516,476	538,939	513,674	-25,265	-4.7
Rented	227,454	261,515	239,921	-21,594	-8.3
Staying with friends/relatives	179,363	192,571	192,121	-450	-0.2
Owner occupied	109,659	84,853	81,632	-3,221	-3.8
Collective accommodation	1,939,769	1,878,849	1,881,146	2,297	0.1
Hotels	1,749,999	1,742,460	1,706,438	-36,022	-2.1
of which:					
5 Star	282,585	307,704	332,881	25,177	8.2
4 Star	943,162	939,241	955,337	16,096	1.7
3 Star	499,082	468,185	364,596	-103,589	-22.1
Other collective accommodation *	189,770	136,389	174,708	38,319	28.1

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

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

	January-April			absolute change	percentage change
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
Total tourists	257,073	259,950	275,354	15,404	5.9
Austria	5,546	5,293	4,556	-737	-13.9
Belgium	5,294	5,918	4,766	-1,152	-19.5
France	18,780	16,882	15,349	-1,533	-9.1
Germany	32,588	33,859	32,648	-1,211	-3.6
Ireland	3,457	2,297	7,104	4,807	209.3
Italy	21,548	24,774	27,461	2,687	10.8
Libya	3,583	3,057	3,120	63	2.1
Netherlands	5,099	5,471	5,206	-265	-4.8
Russia	1,736	2,010	2,904	894	44.5
Scandinavia*	16,133	11,896	17,200	5,304	44.6
Switzerland	4,786	4,341	5,522	1,181	27.2
United Kingdom	108,857	111,897	113,402	1,505	1.3
USA	3,689	4,257	3,768	-489	-11.5
Other	25,977	27,998	32,348	4,350	15.5
Total nights	2,456,245	2,417,788	2,394,820	-22,968	-0.9
Austria	37,687	35,800	36,499	699	2.0
Belgium	37,636	41,617	36,135	-5,482	-13.2
France	139,983	130,148	125,022	-5,126	-3.9
Germany	282,312	298,656	259,356	-39,300	-13.2
Ireland	27,646	20,700	53,257	32,557	157.3
Italy	157,654	142,047	155,076	13,029	9.2
Libya	41,092	21,245	27,653	6,408	30.2
Netherlands	38,951	40,889	39,347	-1,542	-3.8
Russia	24,862	29,413	36,528	7,115	24.2
Scandinavia*	130,804	106,031	143,564	37,533	35.4
Switzerland	40,730	34,432	63,419	28,987	84.2
United Kingdom	1,147,878	1,204,130	1,140,558	-63,572	-5.3
USA	32,028	34,366	29,900	-4,466	-13.0
Other	316,982	278,314	248,506	-29,808	-10.7
Total expenditure (Lm'000s)	88,379	87,347	94,223	6,876	7.9
Austria	1,747	1,677	1,297	-380	-22.7
Belgium	1,882	1,748	1,638	-110	-6.3
France	6,249	5,609	5,191	-418	-7.5
Germany	11,113	11,006	10,495	-511	-4.6
Ireland	1,189	982	2,472	1,490	151.7
Italy	6,404	7,352	7,833	481	6.5
Libya	1,017	1,084	1,143	59	5.4
Netherlands	1,628	1,796	1,589	-207	-11.5
Russia	573	878	1,195	317	36.1
Scandinavia*	5,792	4,444	5,771	1,327	29.9
Switzerland	1,677	1,742	2,593	851	48.9
United Kingdom	37,806	37,236	38,522	1,286	3.5
USA	1,689	1,685	1,633	-52	-3.1
Other	9,613	10,108	12,851	2,743	27.1

* 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-April 2007					
Total	38,784	13,063	7,595	34,781	94,223
Austria	639	128	64	466	1,297
Belgium	931	134	87	486	1,638
France	2,127	880	522	1,662	5,191
Germany	4,648	1,563	1,147	3,137	10,495
Ireland	712	284	274	1,202	2,472
Italy	2,720	1,254	878	2,981	7,833
Libya	125	347	167	504	1,143
Netherlands	627	265	160	537	1,589
Russia	428	222	92	453	1,195
Scandinavia*	2,990	557	296	1,928	5,771
Switzerland	1,043	271	163	1,116	2,593
United Kingdom	17,331	4,193	2,414	14,584	38,522
USA	276	343	238	776	1,633
Other	4,187	2,622	1,093	4,949	12,851
January-April 2006					
Total	40,707	10,362	7,036	29,242	87,347
Austria	1,021	106	88	462	1,677
Belgium	981	147	145	475	1,748
France	2,742	731	567	1,569	5,609
Germany	6,141	910	804	3,151	11,006
Ireland	322	134	180	346	982
Italy	2,724	1,313	1,118	2,197	7,352
Libya	227	207	152	498	1,084
Netherlands	935	177	104	580	1,796
Russia	225	188	133	332	878
Scandinavia*	2,219	546	277	1,402	4,444
Switzerland	839	172	231	500	1,742
United Kingdom	18,526	3,281	1,778	13,651	37,236
USA	482	416	243	544	1,685
Other	3,323	2,034	1,216	3,535	10,108
January-April 2005					
Total	44,055	9,846	6,013	28,465	88,379
Austria	1,070	150	104	423	1,747
Belgium	1,029	177	102	574	1,882
France	3,814	489	311	1,635	6,249
Germany	6,404	973	588	3,148	11,113
Ireland	499	171	113	406	1,189
Italy	2,645	1,035	760	1,964	6,404
Libya	97	270	224	426	1,017
Netherlands	752	206	133	537	1,628
Russia	243	74	44	212	573
Scandinavia*	3,087	471	287	1,947	5,792
Switzerland	798	215	141	523	1,677
United Kingdom	19,920	2,741	1,848	13,297	37,806
USA	728	328	145	488	1,689
Other	2,969	2,546	1,213	2,885	9,613

* 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-April 2007					
Total	249	111	75	126	349
Austria	267	120	60	102	342
Belgium	253	124	84	102	345
France	267	121	82	108	345
Germany	248	116	88	96	326
Ireland	218	74	84	169	354
Italy	213	85	65	109	288
Libya	206	146	75	162	380
Netherlands	217	114	95	103	317
Russia	272	167	72	156	413
Scandinavia*	230	141	88	112	342
Switzerland	292	139	90	202	472
United Kingdom	256	92	68	129	346
USA	321	120	94	206	445
Other	248	172	76	153	401
January-April 2006					
Total	236	118	96	113	341
Austria	240	102	89	87	318
Belgium	217	105	117	80	298
France	236	138	119	93	336
Germany	230	126	121	93	327
Ireland	262	126	185	151	435
Italy	219	107	98	89	300
Libya	197	109	85	163	358
Netherlands	228	128	85	106	331
Russia	270	160	113	165	437
Scandinavia*	260	163	99	118	378
Switzerland	271	138	211	115	409
United Kingdom	236	99	76	122	340
USA	340	146	95	128	402
Other	239	145	94	126	365
January-April 2005					
Total	238	137	99	111	348
Austria	234	154	127	76	319
Belgium	257	137	99	109	360
France	252	135	91	87	334
Germany	238	171	113	97	343
Ireland	245	120	97	117	351
Italy	201	123	95	91	299
Libya	191	88	84	119	294
Netherlands	217	126	93	105	323
Russia	218	120	86	122	336
Scandinavia*	233	164	112	121	362
Switzerland	249	136	96	109	353
United Kingdom	239	107	99	122	354
USA	394	178	91	132	464
Other	234	191	100	111	374

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

_w stands for weighted average - further details 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.