

News Release



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Tourism

Departing tourists: November 2008

Inbound tourists in November 2008 were estimated at 73,608, a decrease of 10.8 per cent when compared to the same month in 2007. Year on year, total nights spent decreased by 14.6 per cent.

November 2008

The TOURSTAT survey indicated that tourist departures in November were estimated at 73,608, implying a decrease of 10.8 per cent over the same month in 2007. The majority, or 72,559 of tourists, came to Malta by air. There was a decrease of 11.3 per cent in the number of air passengers when compared to November 2007. Results also show that 78.7 per cent of inbound tourists in November came to Malta on holiday, while a further 15.8 per cent visited the island for business purposes.

Meanwhile, total nights spent decreased by 14.6 per cent when compared to the same month in 2007. Year on year, total nights spent in private accommodation increased by 21.1 per cent, while guest nights in collective accommodation registered a drop of 23.5 per cent. Overall, the average length of stay is calculated at 7.3 nights, down by 0.4 nights when compared to November 2007.

January-November 2008

Inbound tourists for the past eleven months are estimated at 1,245,717, implying an increase of 4.5 per cent over the corresponding period a year ago. In absolute terms, the growth is mostly attributable to an increase in holiday visits, mainly from the Italian, German and Spanish markets. On the other hand decreases were recorded in the British, American and Scandinavian markets.

Table 6 shows that 88.0 per cent of all inbound visits comprised tourists coming from EU Member States. For the period under review, the main increase was registered among tourists having non-package holidays. On the other hand, the number of tourists having a package holiday decreased by 12.8 per cent. The largest age bracket comprised tourists aged 45 and 64, followed by those in the 25 to 44 age bracket, albeit the largest increase can be attributed to the 0 to 24 age bracket.

Total nights spent increased by 1.7 per cent when compared to the same period in 2007. Nights spent in private accommodation increased by 6.7 per cent, while guest nights in collective accommodation registered a marginal drop. With regards to hotel accommodation, guest nights in the 5- and 4-star categories increased respectively by 4.8 and 0.2 per cent, while the 3-star category registered a drop of 13.5 per cent. The average length of stay is calculated at 8.7 nights, down by 0.2 nights when compared to last year's level.

In the period under review, total tourist expenditure is estimated at €1,011.2 million, resulting in a decrease of 1.5 per cent over the same period last year. The growth in non-package expenditure was contrasted by a reduction in package and other expenditure.

The survey results indicate that the per capita total expenditure is estimated at €824, down by 6.3 per cent when compared to the corresponding period last year ■

Theme:
Industry and Services

Compiled by:

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Table 1. Profile of departing tourists

	November			absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
	Total	71,536	82,474	73,608	-8,866
Mode of travel:					
Air	71,023	81,784	72,559	-9,225	-11.3
Sea	513	690	1,049	359	52.0
Sex:					
Males	36,749	44,604	41,075	-3,529	-7.9
Females	34,787	37,870	32,533	-5,337	-14.1
Age group:					
0-24	4,790	6,191	6,669	478	7.7
25-44	24,341	30,731	23,561	-7,170	-23.3
45-64	32,691	37,030	34,535	-2,495	-6.7
65+	9,714	8,522	8,843	321	3.8
Markets:					
EU	61,748	71,378	64,059	-7,319	-10.3
of which: Euro area	28,531	31,671	28,604	-3,067	-9.7
Non-EU	9,788	11,096	9,549	-1,547	-13.9
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	58,819	67,504	57,914	-9,590	-14.2
Business and professional	9,239	10,465	11,613	1,148	11.0
Other	3,478	4,505	4,081	-424	-9.4
Organisation of stay					
Package	45,644	36,898	33,012	-3,886	-10.5
Non-package	25,892	45,576	40,596	-4,980	-10.9
Frequency					
First-time tourists	45,564	53,535	44,276	-9,259	-17.3
Repeat tourists	25,972	28,939	29,332	393	1.4
less than once a year	18,252	19,831	20,006	175	0.9
more than twice a year	7,720	9,108	9,326	218	2.4
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	7,825	10,674	12,895	2,221	20.8
4-6 nights	15,921	17,851	23,012	5,161	28.9
7+ nights	47,790	53,949	37,701	-16,248	-30.1
Average length of stay (nights)	8.2	7.7	7.3	-0.4	-5.2

Table 2. Departing tourists, by type of accommodation

	November			persons	
				absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
Total	71,536	82,474	73,608	-8,866	-10.8
Private accommodation	8,148	13,093	14,556	1,463	11.2
Collective accommodation	63,388	69,381	59,052	-10,329	-14.9
Hotels	59,656	62,943	53,231	-9,712	-15.4
Other collective accommodation *	3,732	6,438	5,821	-617	-9.6

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

	November			nights	
				absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
Total	587,448	632,618	540,062	-92,556	-14.6
Private accommodation	116,525	125,949	152,587	26,638	21.1
Collective accommodation	470,923	506,669	387,475	-119,194	-23.5
Hotels	436,054	449,288	339,075	-110,213	-24.5
Other collective accommodation *	34,869	57,381	48,400	-8,981	-15.7

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

	November			€ 000s	
				absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
Total	56,469	55,317	54,554	-763	-1.4
Package	25,315	20,101	16,642	-3,459	-17.2
Non-package	10,463	14,180	16,508	2,328	16.4
Air/sea fares	6,824	8,286	9,919	1,633	19.7
Accommodation	3,639	5,894	6,589	695	11.8
Other expenditure	20,691	21,036	21,404	368	1.7

* 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

	November			absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
	Total tourists	71,536	82,474	73,608	-8,866
Austria	1,586	1,491	884	-607	-40.7
Belgium	1,585	1,874	874	-1,000	-53.4
France	3,784	4,228	2,873	-1,355	-32.0
Germany	10,787	11,557	10,165	-1,392	-12.0
Ireland	1,261	1,584	2,495	911	57.5
Italy	5,593	5,226	7,775	2,549	48.8
Libya	563	626	1,257	631	100.8
Netherlands	1,687	1,513	1,269	-244	-16.1
Russia	1,380	986	899	-87	-8.8
Scandinavia*	4,398	7,292	4,716	-2,576	-35.3
Spain	460	2,015	939	-1,076	-53.4
Switzerland	1,227	1,460	1,012	-448	-30.7
United Kingdom	27,609	32,936	29,426	-3,510	-10.7
USA	1,465	1,171	1,440	269	23.0
Other	8,151	8,515	7,584	-931	-10.9
Total nights	587,448	632,618	540,062	-92,556	-14.6
Austria	9,617	9,482	7,614	-1,868	-19.7
Belgium	9,973	12,253	5,027	-7,226	-59.0
France	25,827	26,357	17,335	-9,022	-34.2
Germany	94,833	91,976	70,297	-21,679	-23.6
Ireland	16,129	13,509	17,140	3,631	26.9
Italy	30,689	25,994	31,224	5,230	20.1
Libya	2,558	2,649	5,246	2,597	98.0
Netherlands	12,423	12,681	8,090	-4,591	-36.2
Russia	9,554	7,035	12,415	5,380	76.5
Scandinavia*	30,791	46,993	31,869	-15,124	-32.2
Spain	2,814	17,786	5,886	-11,900	-66.9
Switzerland	10,688	12,765	13,582	817	6.4
United Kingdom	249,217	282,934	237,676	-45,258	-16.0
USA	10,340	7,730	9,774	2,044	26.4
Other	71,995	62,474	66,887	4,413	7.1
Total expenditure (€ '000s)	56,469	55,317	54,554	-763	-1.4
Austria	1,185	1,157	723	-434	-37.5
Belgium	1,264	1,437	639	-798	-55.5
France	2,846	2,851	2,289	-562	-19.7
Germany	8,605	7,315	7,807	492	6.7
Ireland	1,738	1,275	1,794	519	40.7
Italy	3,600	2,732	4,878	2,146	78.6
Libya	365	406	1,360	954	235.0
Netherlands	1,245	1,120	1,150	30	2.7
Russia	1,090	602	912	310	51.5
Scandinavia*	3,336	5,718	2,749	-2,969	-51.9
Spain	243	1,164	558	-606	-52.1
Switzerland	1,068	1,008	1,153	145	14.4
United Kingdom	21,210	21,796	19,472	-2,324	-10.7
USA	1,206	741	1,486	745	100.5
Other	7,468	5,995	7,584	1,589	26.5

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Estimates for expenditure are rounded to the nearest thousand

Table 6. Profile of departing tourists

	January-November			absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
	Total	1,077,753	1,191,978	1,245,717	53,739
Mode of travel:					
Air	1,058,189	1,173,037	1,225,980	52,943	4.5
Sea	19,564	18,941	19,737	796	4.2
Sex:					
Males	547,113	600,532	647,912	47,380	7.9
Females	530,640	591,446	597,805	6,359	1.1
Age group:					
0-24	148,094	183,888	214,447	30,559	16.6
25-44	383,958	429,704	449,948	20,244	4.7
45-64	446,635	471,581	463,336	-8,245	-1.7
65+	99,066	106,805	117,986	11,181	10.5
Markets:					
EU	933,503	1,037,726	1,096,193	58,467	5.6
of which: Euro area	444,585	475,972	563,698	87,726	18.4
Non-EU	144,250	154,252	149,524	-4,728	-3.1
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	902,114	1,003,687	1,044,787	41,100	4.1
Business and professional	95,755	92,417	106,884	14,467	15.7
Other	79,884	95,874	94,046	-1,828	-1.9
Organisation of stay					
Package	727,470	662,311	577,656	-84,655	-12.8
Non-package	350,283	529,667	668,061	138,394	26.1
Frequency					
First-time tourists	731,244	812,333	860,983	48,650	6.0
Repeat tourists	346,509	379,645	384,734	5,089	1.3
less than once a year	275,132	292,139	287,420	-4,719	-1.6
more than twice a year	71,377	87,506	97,314	9,808	11.2
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	98,477	109,107	138,674	29,567	27.1
4-6 nights	125,741	151,481	208,310	56,829	37.5
7+ nights	853,535	931,390	898,733	-32,657	-3.5
Average length of stay (nights)	9.5	8.9	8.7	-0.2	-2.2

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

January-November 2006-2008

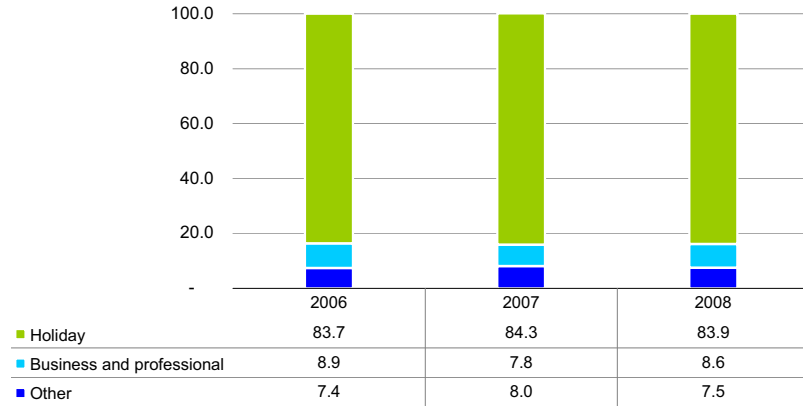


Chart 3 Average length of stay (nights), by type of accommodation

January-November 2006-2008

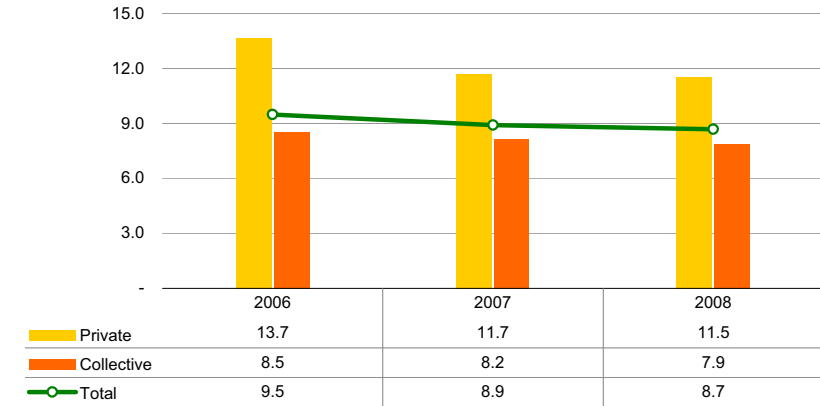


Chart 2 Average length of stay (nights), by purpose of visit

January-November 2006-2008

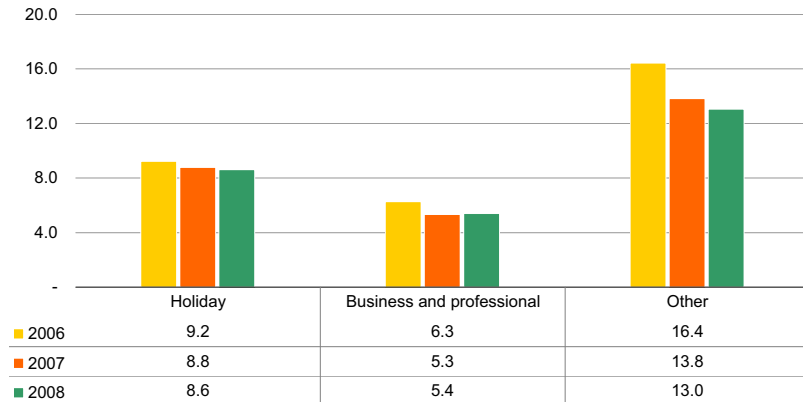


Chart 4 Departing tourists, by night bracket

January-November 2006-2008

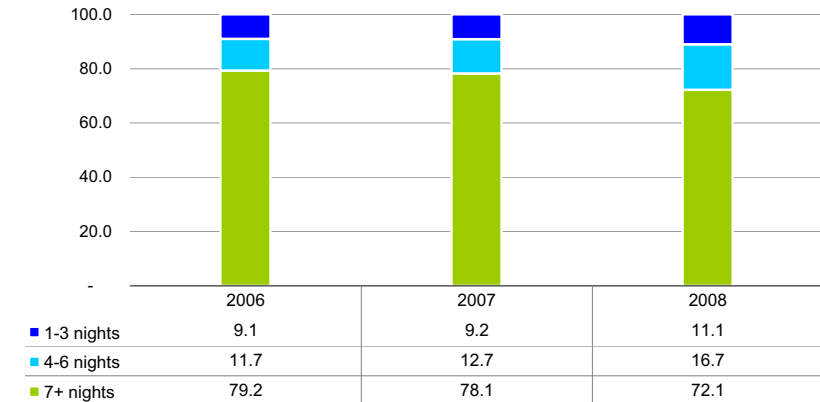


Table 7. Departing tourists, by type of accommodation

	January-November			persons	
				absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
Total	1,077,753	1,191,978	1,245,717	53,739	4.5
Private accommodation	202,983	252,669	273,312	20,643	8.2
Rented	103,282	128,658	136,303	7,645	5.9
Staying with friends/relatives	69,187	91,845	97,804	5,959	6.5
Owner-occupied	30,514	32,166	39,205	7,039	21.9
Collective accommodation	874,770	939,309	972,405	33,096	3.5
Hotels	801,378	855,760	877,061	21,301	2.5
of which:					
5 Star	184,331	228,656	244,305	15,649	6.8
4 Star	412,614	420,060	427,367	7,307	1.7
3 Star	182,443	180,532	170,434	-10,098	-5.6
Other collective accommodation *	73,392	83,549	95,344	11,795	14.1

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

	January-November			nights	
				absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
Total	10,226,835	10,624,324	10,804,522	180,198	1.7
Private accommodation	2,770,906	2,957,321	3,155,861	198,540	6.7
Rented	1,502,949	1,533,738	1,609,578	75,840	4.9
Staying with friends/relatives	873,392	1,043,261	1,066,563	23,302	2.2
Owner-occupied	394,565	380,322	479,720	99,398	26.1
Collective accommodation	7,455,929	7,667,003	7,648,661	-18,342	-0.2
Hotels	6,712,986	6,867,498	6,769,880	-97,618	-1.4
of which:					
5 Star	1,201,408	1,476,770	1,547,456	70,686	4.8
4 Star	3,608,554	3,548,721	3,557,469	8,748	0.2
3 Star	1,707,743	1,625,326	1,405,886	-219,440	-13.5
Other collective accommodation *	742,943	799,505	878,781	79,276	9.9

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

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

	January-November			absolute	percentage
				change	change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
Total tourists	1,077,753	1,191,978	1,245,717	53,739	4.5
Austria	23,289	19,678	19,620	-58	-0.3
Belgium	28,222	25,540	29,693	4,153	16.3
France	71,783	72,971	79,160	6,189	8.5
Germany	119,751	123,523	147,721	24,198	19.6
Ireland	14,570	27,213	29,320	2,107	7.7
Italy	107,504	108,971	138,092	29,121	26.7
Libya	8,494	8,500	8,733	233	2.7
Netherlands	36,869	33,723	35,417	1,694	5.0
Russia	21,357	22,253	22,971	718	3.2
Scandinavia*	72,323	83,780	82,706	-1,074	-1.3
Spain	18,605	34,975	48,278	13,303	38.0
Switzerland	20,447	21,417	21,493	76	0.4
United Kingdom	411,604	463,389	437,019	-26,370	-5.7
USA	16,366	19,736	17,073	-2,663	-13.5
Other	106,569	126,309	128,421	2,112	1.7
Total nights	10,226,835	10,624,324	10,804,522	180,198	1.7
Austria	180,381	161,774	144,651	-17,123	-10.6
Belgium	234,889	196,295	222,718	26,423	13.5
France	613,034	593,871	621,711	27,840	4.7
Germany	1,115,463	1,051,080	1,230,134	179,054	17.0
Ireland	144,606	219,449	228,905	9,456	4.3
Italy	819,034	793,255	999,520	206,265	26.0
Libya	76,763	72,263	75,143	2,880	4.0
Netherlands	303,784	279,714	291,601	11,887	4.2
Russia	326,064	270,888	281,902	11,014	4.1
Scandinavia*	651,501	688,816	664,779	-24,037	-3.5
Spain	186,710	421,178	404,865	-16,313	-3.9
Switzerland	187,818	219,164	195,779	-23,385	-10.7
United Kingdom	4,038,643	4,339,427	4,036,456	-302,971	-7.0
USA	157,153	164,601	141,337	-23,264	-14.1
Other	1,190,992	1,152,549	1,265,021	112,472	9.8
Total expenditure (€ '000s)	964,975	1,026,094	1,011,157	-14,937	-1.5
Austria	19,832	15,484	15,280	-204	-1.3
Belgium	24,131	21,966	24,531	2,565	11.7
France	63,340	64,615	67,925	3,310	5.1
Germany	102,418	99,176	115,730	16,554	16.7
Ireland	16,223	23,440	26,849	3,409	14.5
Italy	86,195	84,108	97,487	13,379	15.9
Libya	7,594	6,988	7,116	128	1.8
Netherlands	31,736	28,805	30,334	1,529	5.3
Russia	26,351	26,110	28,303	2,193	8.4
Scandinavia*	68,587	73,375	69,837	-3,538	-4.8
Spain	17,775	37,743	39,988	2,245	5.9
Switzerland	21,013	21,870	19,425	-2,445	-11.2
United Kingdom	354,929	381,528	325,307	-56,221	-14.7
USA	16,236	16,899	15,611	-1,288	-7.6
Other	108,615	123,987	127,434	3,447	2.8

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Estimates for expenditure are rounded to the nearest thousand

Table 10. Total expenditure by departing tourists

€ 000s

	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
January-November 2008					
Total	375,023	156,176	122,278	357,680	1,011,157
Austria	8,766	1,238	843	4,433	15,280
Belgium	12,686	2,876	2,241	6,728	24,531
France	33,523	8,176	7,227	18,999	67,925
Germany	44,967	18,085	17,340	35,338	115,730
Ireland	7,660	3,437	3,403	12,349	26,849
Italy	32,088	15,568	15,872	33,959	97,487
Libya	519	1,602	1,631	3,364	7,116
Netherlands	12,926	3,520	2,834	11,054	30,334
Russia	13,951	3,059	1,857	9,436	28,303
Scandinavia*	31,742	7,912	6,983	23,200	69,837
Spain	15,349	4,596	6,196	13,847	39,988
Switzerland	8,129	2,846	2,501	5,949	19,425
United Kingdom	115,666	47,331	35,089	127,221	325,307
USA	2,387	4,761	2,989	5,474	15,611
Other	34,664	31,169	15,272	46,329	127,434
January-November 2007					
Total	430,681	136,213	97,839	361,361	1,026,094
Austria	8,262	1,261	936	5,025	15,484
Belgium	12,077	2,044	1,573	6,272	21,966
France	29,016	9,085	8,032	18,482	64,615
Germany	46,161	12,318	11,602	29,095	99,176
Ireland	8,031	2,429	2,545	10,435	23,440
Italy	34,024	11,153	10,585	28,346	84,108
Libya	892	1,807	1,191	3,098	6,988
Netherlands	15,065	2,381	1,734	9,625	28,805
Russia	13,749	2,224	1,507	8,630	26,110
Scandinavia*	35,372	7,540	5,276	25,187	73,375
Spain	19,193	3,373	4,590	10,587	37,743
Switzerland	9,518	2,751	2,121	7,480	21,870
United Kingdom	155,833	46,286	31,375	148,034	381,528
USA	3,798	4,109	2,634	6,358	16,899
Other	39,690	27,452	12,138	44,707	123,987
January-November 2006					
Total	472,138	104,528	65,682	322,627	964,975
Austria	11,341	1,712	1,299	5,480	19,832
Belgium	15,414	1,406	1,114	6,197	24,131
France	37,097	5,405	4,048	16,790	63,340
Germany	58,311	7,989	6,467	29,651	102,418
Ireland	6,926	1,336	990	6,971	16,223
Italy	40,893	10,651	8,572	26,079	86,195
Libya	962	1,419	1,564	3,649	7,594
Netherlands	17,769	2,106	1,596	10,265	31,736
Russia	13,725	2,013	1,637	8,976	26,351
Scandinavia*	38,834	4,598	2,877	22,278	68,587
Spain	9,584	1,514	1,210	5,467	17,775
Switzerland	10,998	2,054	1,673	6,288	21,013
United Kingdom	166,049	36,052	20,755	132,073	354,929
USA	4,253	4,523	2,241	5,219	16,236
Other	39,982	21,750	9,639	37,244	108,615

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Estimates for expenditure are rounded to the nearest thousand

Table 11. Per capita expenditure by departing tourists

€

	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other Expenditure	Total ^w
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
January-November 2008					
Total	649	234	207	287	824
Austria	613	241	201	226	794
Belgium	707	258	233	227	850
France	742	240	229	240	865
Germany	639	238	240	239	795
Ireland	609	205	227	421	929
Italy	590	186	204	246	715
Libya	517	207	231	385	833
Netherlands	653	225	200	312	865
Russia	945	373	239	411	1,237
Scandinavia*	647	217	206	281	832
Spain	817	156	221	287	835
Switzerland	825	245	241	277	918
United Kingdom	587	197	191	291	769
USA	730	345	244	321	936
Other	703	399	182	361	989
January-November 2007					
Total	650	261	221	303	879
Austria	683	255	198	255	872
Belgium	669	288	241	246	876
France	717	293	282	253	908
Germany	636	245	243	236	811
Ireland	591	185	234	384	890
Italy	639	201	213	260	784
Libya	519	273	199	364	846
Netherlands	608	266	227	285	863
Russia	871	343	252	388	1,179
Scandinavia*	631	285	222	301	892
Spain	947	236	333	303	1,093
Switzerland	752	314	267	349	1,031
United Kingdom	616	220	198	320	846
USA	645	298	210	322	871
Other	638	427	208	354	991
January-November 2006					
Total	649	300	229	299	909
Austria	642	312	251	235	859
Belgium	661	286	250	220	859
France	680	315	262	234	890
Germany	631	294	261	248	862
Ireland	687	298	281	478	1,132
Italy	642	243	220	243	812
Libya	511	215	252	430	906
Netherlands	598	295	268	278	869
Russia	885	344	292	420	1,237
Scandinavia*	675	326	227	308	959
Spain	704	310	282	294	968
Switzerland	780	323	290	308	1,036
United Kingdom	618	253	205	321	883
USA	763	419	240	319	1,013
Other	678	457	225	350	1,029

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

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

9. The data in this release are not normally subject to revision.