

News Release



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Tourism

Outbound Tourism: December 2007

Outbound Maltese tourists for December are estimated at 25,038, implying an increase of 5.1 per cent over the same month in 2006. Of these 95.8 per cent travelled by air.

December 2007

In the month under review, Maltese residents departing by air and sea are estimated at 25,038. Of these 20,525, travelled to European Union destinations, the most popular being the UK and Italy.

January-December 2007

In the period under review, the number of Maltese passengers departing by air and sea amounted to 279,531, an increase of 8.7 per cent over the previous year. Of these 85.0 per cent travelled to European Union destinations; the most visited countries being Italy and the UK.

During this period, male outbound passengers exceeded female ones, the former accounting for 57.9 per cent of the total.

The largest proportion of outbound passengers - 46.0 per cent - comprised passengers aged between 25 and 44 years, followed by those in the 45-64 age bracket who accounted for 39.6 per cent of the total Maltese travellers ■

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Table 1. Outbound passengers: monthly

persons				
	December		Absolute change	Percentage change
	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006
	Total	23,813	25,038	1,225
Transport:				
Air	21,973	23,988	2,015	9.2
Sea *	1,840	1,050	-790	-42.9
Destination:				
EU	19,480	20,525	1,045	5.4
Italy	6,392	5,653	-739	-11.6
UK	7,198	6,969	-229	-3.2
Non-EU	4,333	4,513	180	4.2
Sex:				
Males	14,274	13,309	-965	-6.8
Females	9,539	11,729	2,190	23.0
Age group:				
0-24	1,858	2,307	449	24.2
25-44	11,673	11,751	78	0.7
45-64	9,550	10,391	841	8.8
65+	732	589	-143	-19.5

* Note: Outbound sea passengers include an element of same-day visitors.

Table 2. Outbound passengers: cumulative

				persons	
	January-December		Absolute change	Percentage change	
	2006	2007	2007/2006	2007/2006	
Total	257,167	279,531	22,364	8.7	
Transport:					
Air	224,189	246,994	22,805	10.2	
Sea *	32,978	32,537	-441	-1.3	
Destination:					
EU	211,296	237,662	26,366	12.5	
Italy	78,652	93,803	15,151	19.3	
UK	59,953	60,154	201	0.3	
Non-EU	45,871	41,869	-4,002	-8.7	
Sex:					
Males	154,789	161,845	7,056	4.6	
Females	102,378	117,686	15,308	15.0	
Age group:					
0-24	21,934	28,518	6,584	30.0	
25-44	120,484	128,497	8,013	6.7	
45-64	104,187	110,667	6,480	6.2	
65+	10,562	11,849	1,287	12.2	

* Note: Outbound sea passengers include an element of same-day visitors.

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.