

News Release



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Tourism

Outbound Tourism: February 2008

Outbound Maltese tourists for February are estimated at 17,042, implying an increase of 31.3 per cent over the same month in 2007. Of these 96.4 per cent travelled by air.

February 2008

In the month under review, Maltese residents departing by air and sea are estimated at 17,042. Of these 14,963, travelled to European Union destinations, the most popular being Italy and the UK.

January-February 2008

In the period under review, the number of Maltese passengers departing by air and sea amounted to 35,441, an increase of 29.6 per cent over the previous year. Of these 86.6 per cent travelled to European Union destinations; the most visited countries being the UK and Italy.

During this period, male outbound passengers exceeded female ones, the former accounting for 61.4 per cent of the total.

Half of the outbound passengers 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 total Maltese travellers ■

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Table 1. Outbound passengers: monthly

	February		Absolute change	Percentage change
	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
	Total	12,978	17,042	4,064
Transport:				
Air	12,123	16,426	4,303	35.5
Sea *	855	616	-239	-28.0
Destination:				
EU	11,371	14,963	3,592	31.6
Italy	4,071	5,599	1,528	37.5
UK	3,695	4,617	922	25.0
Non-EU	1,607	2,079	472	29.4
Sex:				
Males	8,330	10,989	2,659	31.9
Females	4,648	6,053	1,405	30.2
Age group:				
0-24	1,768	1,239	-529	-29.9
25-44	6,328	8,362	2,034	32.1
45-64	4,378	6,977	2,599	59.4
65+	504	464	-40	-7.9

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

Table 2. Outbound passengers: cumulative

		persons			
	January-February		Absolute change	Percentage change	
	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007	
Total	27,350	35,441	8,091	29.6	
Transport:					
Air	26,142	34,397	8,255	31.6	
Sea *	1,208	1,044	-164	-13.6	
Destination:					
EU	23,202	30,684	7,482	32.2	
Italy	7,130	9,456	2,326	32.6	
UK	8,614	11,672	3,058	35.5	
Non-EU	4,148	4,757	609	14.7	
Sex:					
Males	17,716	21,755	4,039	22.8	
Females	9,634	13,686	4,052	42.1	
Age group:					
0-24	2,919	2,466	-453	-15.5	
25-44	14,111	17,729	3,618	25.6	
45-64	9,447	14,023	4,576	48.4	
65+	873	1,223	350	40.1	

* 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.