

17 February 2014 | 1100 hrs | 031/2014

Outbound tourist trips during December amounted to 39,854, an increase of 13.2 per cent over the corresponding month in 2012.

Outbound Tourism: December 2013

The number of outbound tourist trips towards EU countries in December stood at 35,298, an increase of 14.8 per cent over December 2012. Italy and the United Kingdom remained the most popular destinations, with a share of 58.9 per cent of total tourist trips. Almost all major European markets recorded increases when compared to December 2012, except for the French market, which dropped by 22.3 per cent. Trips to Non-EU countries increased by 2.6 per cent (Table 1).

The majority of outbound tourists were males (53.8 per cent). Most outbound tourists were in the 25-44 age bracket (46.4 per cent), followed by the 45-64 age group (25.2 per cent). During the month under review, there were 42,036 outbound visitor trips, of which 2,182 were same-day visits.

January-December 2013

Outbound tourist trips last year totalled 363,463, an increase of 9.8 per cent when compared to 2012. Total nights spent amounted to 2.9 million and the average length of stay stood at 7.9 nights. An estimated 87.5 per cent of outbound tourists chose to visit EU destinations, with Italy and the United Kingdom ranking as the most popular. In total, EU trips registered an increase of 11.3 per cent, reaching 318,083. Trips towards Non-EU countries remained almost at par with 2012 levels.

More than half the total outbound trips were carried out for holiday purposes, while a further 17.5 per cent were undertaken for business and professional reasons. The number of same-day visitors amounted to 40,566.

Non-package travel was significantly higher than package travel, accounting for 75.9 per cent of total trips (Table 8). The largest share of outbound tourists made use of collective accommodation establishments while abroad. The average length of stay in collective accommodation stood at 6.1 nights, while that recorded for private accommodation stood at 11.6 nights (Table 5).

Total estimated outlay by resident tourists during 2013 was €370.0 million, equivalent to €129 per night. Package expenditure stood at €58.0 million (€103 per night), while that for non-package trips was estimated at €116.4 million (€51 per night) ■

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Table 1. Outbound tourist trips: Monthly

	December			Change
	2011	2012	2013	2013/2012
Total	31,095	35,202	39,854	4,652
Mode of travel:				
Air	29,545	33,687	37,943	4,255
Sea	1,550	1,514	1,911	397
Gender:				
Males	16,109	18,629	21,449	2,820
Females	14,986	16,573	18,405	1,832
Destination:				
EU	26,961	30,760	35,298	4,538
<i>of which:</i>				
France	923	2,186	1,698	-488
Germany	2,795	2,831	3,314	483
Italy	7,860	9,509	10,428	919
UK	8,573	9,514	13,055	3,542
Non-EU	4,134	4,442	4,556	114
Age group:				
0-24	6,911	7,336	8,356	1,020
25-44	11,722	14,730	18,483	3,753
45-64	10,249	9,490	10,037	547
65+	2,213	3,645	2,978	-668

Table 2. Outbound visitors: Monthly*

	December			Change
	2011	2012	2013	2013/2012
Total	33,301	36,952	42,036	5,084
Tourists	31,095	35,202	39,854	4,652
Same-day Visitors	2,206	1,750	2,182	432

* Refer to methodological notes 10 and 11

Table 3. Outbound tourist trips: Cumulative

	January-December			Change
	2011	2012	2013	2013/2012
Total	308,483	331,096	363,463	32,367
Mode of travel:				
Air	287,380	309,395	340,478	31,083
Sea	21,103	21,701	22,985	1,284
Gender:				
Males	171,660	189,796	206,205	16,409
Females	136,823	141,300	157,259	15,958
Destination:				
EU	274,763	285,755	318,083	32,328
<i>of which:</i>				
France	14,057	16,668	17,374	706
Germany	17,334	18,698	18,825	127
Italy	90,947	97,713	109,413	11,700
UK	80,246	78,261	89,482	11,221
Non-EU	33,720	45,341	45,380	39
Age group:				
0-24	63,418	62,661	66,616	3,955
25-44	124,403	133,748	151,329	17,581
45-64	96,499	106,264	112,502	6,238
65+	24,163	28,423	33,016	4,593

Table 4. Outbound visitors: Cumulative*

	January-December			Change
	2011	2012	2013	2013/2012
Total	347,302	368,409	404,029	35,620
Tourists	308,483	331,096	363,463	32,367
Same-day Visitors	38,819	37,313	40,566	3,253

* Refer to methodological notes 10 and 11

Table 5. Type of Accommodation

January-December 2013			
	Tourists	Nights	Average length of stay (nights)
Total	363,463	2,869,647	7.9
Private Accommodation	119,042	1,379,916	11.6
Collective Accommodation	244,421	1,489,730	6.1
Hotel	224,741	1,340,819	6.0
Other Collective Accommodation ¹	19,680	148,912	7.6

¹ Comprises Guesthouses, Tourist Villages, Aparthotels/Motels, Hostels, B&Bs and Campsites

Table 6. Purpose of Trip

January-December 2013			
	Tourists	Nights	Average length of stay (nights)
Total	363,463	2,869,647	7.9
Holiday and Leisure	208,092	1,352,944	6.5
Business and Professional	63,650	432,935	6.8
Visiting Relatives and Friends	66,021	846,474	12.8
Other	25,700	237,292	9.2

Table 7. Trip Destination and Duration

January-December 2013			
	Tourists	Nights	Average length of stay (nights)
Total	363,463	2,869,647	7.9
EU	318,083	2,203,481	6.9
<i>of which:</i>			
Belgium	10,103	48,512	4.8
France	17,374	113,786	6.5
Germany	18,825	146,526	7.8
Italy	109,413	592,966	5.4
Spain	19,999	137,409	6.9
UK	89,482	711,711	8.0
Non-EU	45,380	666,166	14.7

Table 8. Type of Trip

January-December 2013			
	Tourists	Nights	Average length of stay (nights)
Total	363,463	2,869,647	7.9
Package	87,600	565,059	6.5
Non-Package	275,863	2,304,587	8.4

Table 9. Outbound Tourism Expenditure

January-December 2013			
	Expenditure (€000)	Average expenditure (€)	
		per person	per night
Total	369,964	1,018	129
Package	58,034	662	103
Non-Package	116,423	422	51
Air/Sea Fare	62,520	227	27
Accommodation*	53,903	284	42
Other	195,507	538	68

* Refer to methodological note 9

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. Tourist air departures are collected through a continuous survey carried out at the Malta International Airport (MIA). A two-stage sample design is used for this survey. Monthly response rates of around 85 per cent are achieved.
2. Maltese sea departures are collected through a regular survey carried out at the seaport. Approximately 20 per cent of catamaran sailings are randomly chosen. Within this sample passengers are systematically selected and interviewed.
3. Administrative records are used as a supplementary source for the calibration of the survey aggregates. The exercise is mainly 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).
4. Under-represented figures are indicated for each table and should be treated with caution. NSO advises users to exercise caution when analysing details that involve estimates of less than 1,500 tourists since such estimates may be subject to 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.
5. Net changes between one survey and another must be treated with caution since minor changes (i.e. less than 1,500 persons) might be the result of sampling error.
6. The Tourstat survey measures the number of tourist trips carried out during a particular reference month. These differ from the number of tourists in that the same person can make more than one trip during the same period.
7. The main variables collected in these surveys include the following:

Nationality	Number of nights stayed
Country of residence	Type of accommodation
Flight/Sailing	Organisation of trip
Final destination	Expenditure (package/non-package/other)
Purpose of trip	Sex and age
8. Expenditure data in this release represents the budgeted expenditure of outbound tourists prior to their departure.
9. The methodology by which accommodation expenditure per night and per person is computed in Table 9 has been revised from 2012. In fact, the new figure gives the average expenditure on accommodation for each person who has resided in paid accommodation establishments (excl. private residence), whereas the 2012 average gave the average expenditure per outbound tourist who opted for non-package travel.
10. Users are advised to familiarise themselves with statistical definitions used in this release. A distinction is made between a visitor and a tourist.

Visitor

The three fundamental criteria used to distinguish visitors from other travellers are:

- (i) *The trip should be to a place other than that of the usual environment*, which would exclude short-distance local transport and commuting, i.e. more or less regular trips between the place of work/study and the place of residence;
- (ii) *The stay in the place visited should not last more than twelve consecutive months*, beyond which the visitor would become a resident of that place (from the statistical standpoint);
- (iii) *The main purpose of the visit should be other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited*, which would exclude migratory movements for work purposes.

Visitors (domestic/international) comprise tourists and same-day visitors.

Tourist

Visitors who stay at least one night in a collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.

Same-day visitor

Visitors who do not spend the night in a collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.

The totals in Table 2, which encompass visitors, are always higher than those in Table 1, which focus on outbound tourists.

11. There are three elementary forms of tourism in relation to a given area:
 - Domestic tourism
 - Inbound tourism
 - Outbound tourism
12. This release focuses on Outbound Tourism, which comprises the activities of residents of Malta travelling to, and staying in places outside Malta and therefore outside their usual environment.