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Total outbound visitor trips for the first quarter were estimated at 81,398, an increase of 6.7 per cent when compared to the corresponding quarter last year.

Outbound Tourism: January-March 2014

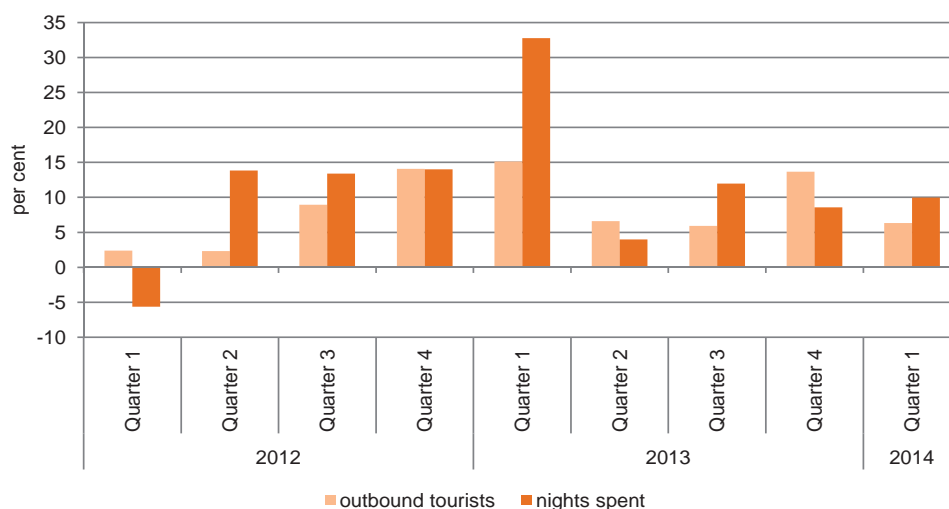
During the quarter under review, there were 77,334 outbound tourist trips, an increase of 6.2 per cent over quarter one in 2013. Excluding cruise liner passengers, this increase stood at 6.3 per cent.

A total of 39,501 outbound visits were carried out for holiday purposes, while a further 17,370 were undertaken for business purposes. The number of outbound tourist trips towards EU countries during the first three months stood at 66,622, an increase of 6.0 per cent over the corresponding quarter last year. Italy and the United Kingdom remained the most popular destinations, with a share of 61.7 per cent of total tourist trips. Trips to Non-EU countries increased by 8.4 per cent (Table 5).

Total nights spent by outbound tourists went up by 10.0 per cent, reaching 598,300 nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights were spent in private accommodation establishments. In percentage terms, an increase of 7.4 per cent was noted in the number of tourists residing in collective accommodation.

Total estimated outlay by resident tourists between January and March rose by 4.3 per cent when compared to the corresponding period last year, and stood at €71.2 million, equivalent to €119 per night ■

Chart 1. Year-on-year percentage changes *



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*These changes exclude cruise liner passengers

Table 1. Outbound visitors

	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2012	2013	2014	2014/2013	2014/2013
Total Outbound Visitors	66,452	76,263	81,398	5,135	6.7
Tourists*	63,180	72,826	77,334	4,507	6.2
<i>of which:</i>					
Outbound Tourists (excluding cruise passengers)	63,169	72,725	77,334	4,608	6.3
Cruise Passengers	11	101	-	-101	-100.0
Same-day Visitors	3,272	3,437	4,064	628	-

* Figures in Tables 2 to 7 refer to Outbound Tourists (excluding cruise passengers). For details on Cruise Passengers refer to Table 8.

Table 2. Profile of outbound tourists

	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2012	2013	2014	2014/2013	2014/2013
Outbound Tourists	63,169	72,725	77,334	4,608	6.3
Mode of travel:					
Air	57,751	67,863	70,937	3,074	4.5
Sea	5,418	4,863	6,397	1,534	31.5
Sex:					
Males	37,941	41,952	45,115	3,163	7.5
Females	25,228	30,773	32,219	1,446	-
Age group:					
0-24	13,347	14,855	15,402	547	-
25-44	25,698	30,179	34,804	4,625	15.3
45-64	20,216	22,118	22,268	150	-
65+	3,908	5,573	4,859	-714	-
Destination:					
EU	54,823	62,845	66,622	3,777	6.0
of which: Euro area	33,521	37,748	39,590	1,841	4.9
Non-EU	8,346	9,880	10,711	831	-
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	32,494	37,332	39,501	2,169	5.8
Visiting Relatives and Friends	10,445	14,626	15,608	981	-
Business and professional	16,512	15,199	17,370	2,171	14.3
Other	3,719	5,568	4,855	-713	-
Organisation of stay:					
Package	12,560	12,233	12,094	-139	-
Non-package	50,608	60,492	65,239	4,747	7.8
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	22,039	22,097	25,683	3,586	16.2
4-6 nights	20,462	23,892	24,065	173	-
7+ nights	20,668	26,737	27,586	849	-
Average length of stay (nights)	6.5	7.5	7.7	0.2	2.7

Table 3. Outbound tourists, by type of accommodation

	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2012	2013	2014	2014/2013	2014/2013
	Total	63,169	72,725	77,334	4,608
Private accommodation	18,851	25,240	26,340	1,100	-
Collective accommodation*	44,318	47,485	50,993	3,508	7.4

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

Table 4. Total nights spent by outbound tourists, by type of accommodation

	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2012	2013	2014	2014/2013	2014/2013
	Total	409,773	544,124	598,300	54,176
Private accommodation	190,289	276,520	317,354	40,834	-
Collective accommodation*	219,484	267,604	280,946	13,342	5.0

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

Table 5. Outbound tourists and nights spent, by destination

	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2012	2013	2014	2014/2013	2014/2013
	Total Tourists	63,169	72,725	77,334	4,608
EU	54,823	62,845	66,622	3,777	6.0
<i>of which:</i>					
Belgium	2,354	2,419	1,888	-531	-
France	2,132	3,244	2,392	-852	-
Germany	3,538	3,237	4,063	826	-
Italy	20,406	22,251	24,580	2,330	10.5
Spain	1,397 ^u	2,298	1,783	-516	-
United Kingdom	19,361	21,801	23,132	1,332	-
Non-EU	8,346	9,880	10,711	831	-
Total Nights	409,773	544,124	598,300	54,176	10.0
EU	300,020	394,561	436,969	42,408	10.7
<i>of which:</i>					
Belgium	6,933	12,952	9,453	-3,499	-
France	13,323	18,056	11,899	-6,156	-
Germany	19,266	19,709	34,640	14,931	-
Italy	84,382	108,374	128,253	19,879	18.3
Spain	9,541 ^u	21,285	13,896	-7,389	-
United Kingdom	125,421	143,823	166,369	22,547	-
Non-EU	109,753	149,563	161,331	11,768	-

u - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 6. Total expenditure by outbound tourists, by expenditure categories

€000s

	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2012	2013	2014	2014/2013	2014/2013
	Total	57,629	68,287	71,227	2,940
Package	6,221	6,695	6,320	-375	-5.6
Non-package	19,649	22,666	25,022	2,356	10.4
Air/sea fares	10,622	12,560	13,738	1,178	9.4
Accommodation	9,027	10,106	11,284	1,179	11.7
Other expenditure	31,759	38,926	39,886	960	2.5

Estimates for expenditure are rounded to the nearest thousand

Table 7. Expenditure per capita and per night by outbound tourists

€

	January-March					
	Average expenditure (€)					
	per person			per night		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Total	912	939	921	141	125	119
Package	495	547	523	95	83	98
Non-package	388	375	384	57	49	47
Air/sea fares	210	208	211	31	27	26
Accommodation	189	249	259	30	39	42
Other expenditure	503	535	516	78	72	67

Table 8. Profile of cruise passengers

	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2012	2013	2014	2014/2013	2014/2013
	Total Cruise Passengers	11	101	0	-101
Sex:					
Males	4	48	-	-48	-100.0
Females	7	53	-	-53	-100.0

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. 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.

10. There are three elementary forms of tourism in relation to a given area:
 - Domestic tourism
 - Inbound tourism
 - Outbound tourism
11. 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.
12. Data on cruise passengers are compiled on the basis of administrative records held by Transport Malta. These data are found in Table 8.