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Total cruise passenger traffic during the fourth quarter of 2014 amounted to 153,251, an increase of 27.0 per cent over the corresponding period in 2013. There were 100 cruise liner calls during the quarter, in comparison with 92 in the previous year.

Cruise Passengers: Q4/2014

Transit passengers accounted for the vast majority of total traffic (92.7 per cent), reaching 142,066. Around 524 passengers visited Gozo, while 3,541 passengers spent at least one night on board their berthed cruise liner.

Visitors from EU Member States accounted for 80.7 per cent of total traffic, the major markets being Germany, Italy and France. On the other hand, the total number of passengers from Non-EU countries stood at 29,604; of these, 33.7 per cent came from the United States.

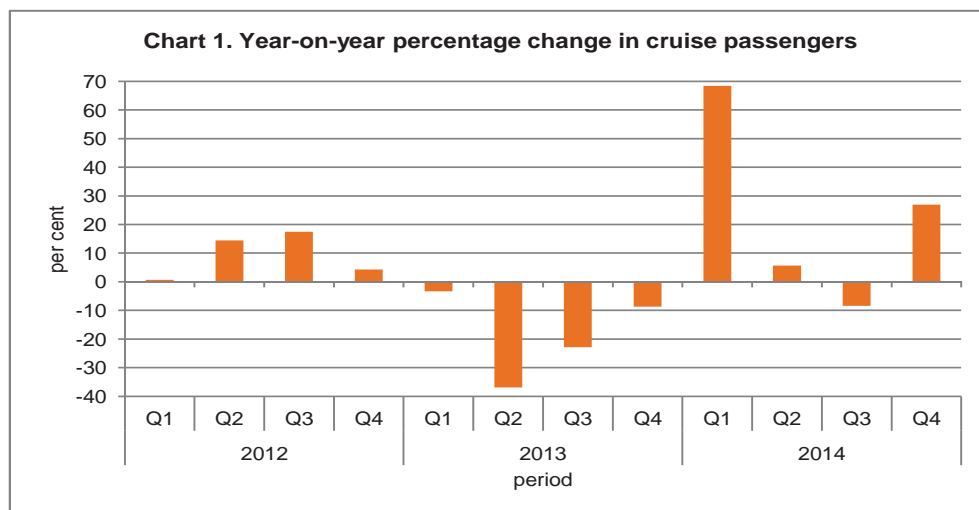
On a gender basis, female passengers made up 53.0 per cent of the total. The largest share of passengers were in the 60-79 age bracket and were followed by those aged between 40 and 59 (Table 1).

January-December 2014

Cruise passengers for 2014 stood at 471,554, a rise of 9.3 per cent over 2013. Of these, 77.9 per cent came from EU Member States. The biggest increases were recorded from the German and French markets, which advanced by 29,314 and 28,508 passengers respectively. In contrast, passengers from the United Kingdom and Spain dropped by 24,062 and 12,496 respectively.

The majority of cruise passengers were females, amounting to 247,687. Most passengers were between 60 and 79 years old, totalling 189,422. These were followed by passengers aged 40-59, reaching 147,740.

There were 303 cruise liner calls in 2014, with an average 1,556 passengers per vessel, compared to 286 calls and an average 1,508 passengers per vessel in 2013 (Table 2) ■



Compiled by:

**Unit C3: Population and
Tourism Statistics**

**Directorate C: Social
Statistics**

Further information on data:

Mr Matthew ZERAFA
T. +356 2599 7630
E. matthew.zerafa@gov.mt

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Issued by: **External Cooperation and Communication Unit, National Statistics Office, Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta.**
T. +356 2599 7219 F. +356 2599 7205 E. nso@gov.mt

Table 1. Cruise passengers: Quarterly 2012-2014

	October-December			Change
	2012	2013	2014	2014/2013
Total traffic:	132,157	120,707	153,251	32,544
Transit	129,187	112,682	142,066	29,384
Landed	2,970	8,025	11,185	3,160
<i>of which:</i>				
Passengers visiting Gozo	581	1,085	524	-561
Passengers staying overnight	6,566	1,682	3,541	1,859
Nationality:				
EU	99,007	93,465	123,647	30,182
<i>of which:</i>				
France	11,725	10,189	23,185	12,996
Germany	22,640	22,658	42,203	19,545
Italy	21,389	18,790	29,038	10,248
Malta	1,212	1,224	1,052	-172
Spain	10,917	8,850	2,713	-6,137
United Kingdom	20,591	24,053	15,277	-8,776
Non-EU	33,150	27,242	29,604	2,362
<i>of which:</i>				
Australia	1,543	2,563	2,011	-552
Canada	2,812	3,707	3,319	-388
Japan	1,466	598	730	132
United States	10,710	11,542	9,976	-1,566
Sex:				
Males	63,961	56,651	72,077	15,426
Females	68,196	64,056	81,174	17,118
Age group:				
0-19	12,034	9,751	15,649	5,898
20-39	18,757	13,837	21,145	7,308
40-59	38,911	34,163	46,575	12,412
60-79	57,087	57,189	63,716	6,527
80+	5,368	5,767	6,166	399
Cruise liner calls	84	92	100	8

Table 2. Cruise passengers: Yearly 2012-2014

	January-December			Change
	2012	2013	2014	2014/2013
Total traffic:	562,812	431,397	471,554	40,157
Transit	516,391	380,277	425,134	44,857
Landed	46,421	51,120	46,420	-4,700
<i>of which:</i>				
Passengers visiting Gozo	3,544	2,482	648	-1,834
Passengers staying overnight	12,201	8,838	24,724	15,886
Nationality:				
EU	444,039	328,717	367,435	38,718
<i>of which:</i>				
France	62,743	42,127	70,635	28,508
Germany	124,420	83,366	112,680	29,314
Italy	99,602	66,425	76,261	9,836
Malta	7,132	6,831	6,181	-650
Spain	43,587	21,841	9,345	-12,496
United Kingdom	62,068	83,137	59,075	-24,062
Non-EU	118,773	102,680	104,119	1,439
<i>of which:</i>				
Australia	6,413	8,673	10,504	1,831
Canada	12,318	12,476	12,521	45
Japan	2,757	2,038	2,263	225
United States	37,843	42,514	38,391	-4,123
Sex:				
Males	273,970	201,530	223,867	22,337
Females	288,842	229,867	247,687	17,820
Age group:				
0-19	79,730	50,101	51,532	1,431
20-39	93,092	58,931	63,319	4,388
40-59	188,336	137,789	147,740	9,951
60-79	185,010	168,385	189,422	21,037
80+	16,644	16,191	19,541	3,350
Cruise liner calls	322	286	303	17

Methodological Notes

1. The data in this release are compiled on the basis of administrative records held by Transport Malta.
2. Cruise liners calling at both Malta and Gozo during a single voyage are recorded as one cruise liner call.
3. The majority of passengers embarking on cruise liners from Malta generally end their trip at the same destination. Embarkations are therefore not included in total traffic figures in order to avoid double counting.

Definitions:

- Cruise passenger traffic comprises transit passengers and passengers who landed in Malta.
 - Embarkations comprise all cruise passengers who are either Maltese and who leave Malta on a cruise ship, or alternatively, foreigners who come to Malta by other means of transport and leave on a cruise ship.
 - Transit passengers comprise all cruise passengers who arrive in and leave Malta on the same cruise ship.
 - Landings comprise all cruise passengers who arrive in Malta on a cruise ship and leave by other means of transport, or alternatively, stay in Malta.
 - Same-day visitors comprise visitors to Malta who do not spend at least one night in collective or private accommodation.
 - Overnight visitors (tourists) comprise visitors to Malta who spend at least one night in collective or private accommodation.
4. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>