

1 April 2015 | 1100hrs | 062/2015

Total inbound tourist trips for February were estimated at 74,516, an increase of 14.1 per cent when compared to the corresponding month of 2014.

## Inbound Tourism: February 2015

A total of 57,603 inbound visits were carried out for holiday purposes, while a further 8,282 were undertaken for business purposes. Inbound tourists from EU Member States went up by 22.9 per cent to 64,457. The largest proportion of inbound tourists were aged between 45 and 64, followed by those within the 25-44 age bracket (Table 1).

Total nights spent went up by 6.6 per cent when compared to February 2014, reaching 529,340 nights. The largest share of guest nights (71.1 per cent) was spent in collective accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total tourist expenditure was estimated at €53.0 million, an increase of 12.8 per cent over the corresponding month of 2014 (Table 4).

### January-February 2015

Inbound tourism from January to February amounted to 148,796, an increase of 10.4 per cent over the same period in 2014 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists went up by 6.0 per cent, reaching 1.1 million nights (Table 8).

During January-February, total tourism expenditure was estimated at €114.0 million, 10.6 per cent higher than that recorded for the same period in 2014 (Table 9). Total per capita expenditure stood at €766, an increase of 0.3 per cent when compared to 2014 (Table 11) ■

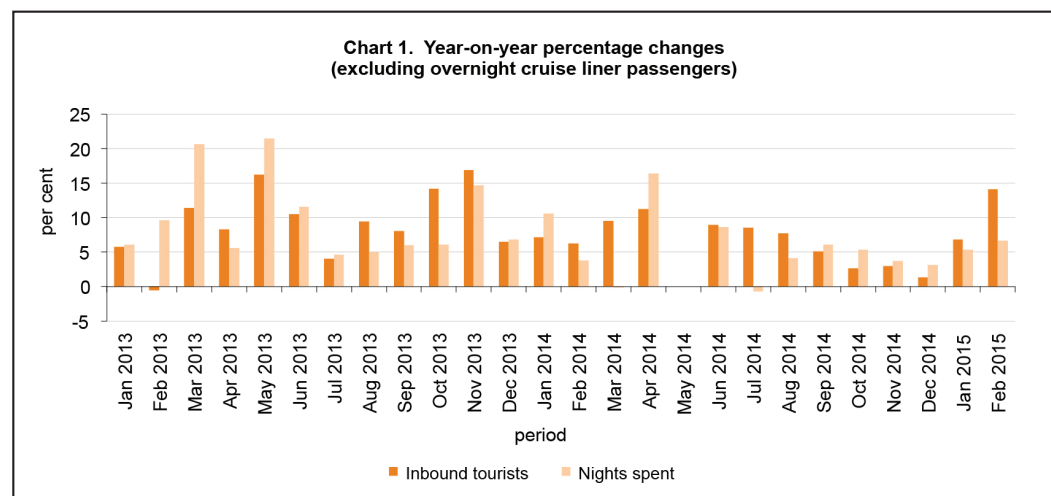
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**Table 1. Profile of inbound tourists**

Characteristics	February			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
<b>Total inbound visitors</b>	<b>61,442</b>	<b>65,299</b>	<b>74,516</b>	<b>9,216</b>	<b>14.1</b>
Overnight cruise passengers	see note 2				
<b>Inbound tourists</b>	<b>61,442</b>	<b>65,299</b>	<b>74,516</b>	<b>9,216</b>	<b>14.1</b>
<b>Mode of travel:</b>					
Air	59,516	63,035	72,143	9,107	14.4
Sea (see note 5)	1,926	2,264	2,373	109	4.8
<b>Sex:</b>					
Males	34,526	36,327	39,738	3,411	9.4
Females	26,916	28,972	34,778	5,805	20.0
<b>Age group:</b>					
0-24	6,689	9,342	11,858	2,516	26.9
25-44	16,929	22,004	22,170	165	-
45-64	22,844	23,729	27,030	3,301	13.9
65 or more	14,980	10,224	13,457	3,233	31.6
<b>Markets:</b>					
EU	50,958	52,457	64,457	12,000	22.9
<i>of which: euro area</i>	26,135	25,221	34,406	9,185	36.4
Non-EU	10,485	12,842	10,059	-2,783	-21.7
<b>Purpose of visit:</b>					
Holiday	49,894	51,216	57,603	6,387	12.5
Business and professional	7,263	7,695	8,282	587	-
Other	4,285	6,388	8,630	2,242	35.1
<b>Organisation of stay:</b>					
Package	30,101	28,205	34,963	6,758	24.0
Non-package	31,341	37,094	39,553	2,458	6.6
<b>Frequency:</b>					
First-time tourists	37,922	40,860	48,144	7,284	17.8
Repeat tourists	23,520	24,439	26,372	1,932	7.9
less than or equal to once a year	15,108	14,905	17,883	2,978	20.0
twice a year or more	8,412	9,534	8,488	-1,046	-
<b>Duration of visit:</b>					
1-3 nights	13,613	18,357	16,491	-1,866	-10.2
4-6 nights	15,106	16,318	20,228	3,910	24.0
7 nights or more	32,724	30,624	37,797	7,173	23.4
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-6.6</b>

Notes:

1. Figures in Tables 1 to 11 refer to Inbound Tourists.
2. In February no overnight cruise passengers were recorded.
3. 'Other purpose of visit' may include educational, religious and health tourism.
4. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
5. Data on sea passengers is provisional. For more information refer to methodological note 13.

**Table 2. Inbound tourists by type of accommodation**

Type of accommodation	February			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Private accommodation	12,730	13,366	15,498	2,132	15.9
Collective accommodation*	48,713	51,933	59,018	7,085	13.6
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>61,442</b>	<b>65,299</b>	<b>74,516</b>	<b>9,216</b>	<b>14.1</b>

\* Comprises hotels, guesthouses, tourist villages, hostels, B&Bs and campsites

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table 3. Total nights spent by inbound tourists by type of accommodation**

Type of accommodation	February			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Private accommodation	135,268	148,302	153,179	4,877	3.3
Collective accommodation*	342,881	348,048	376,161	28,113	8.1
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>478,149</b>	<b>496,350</b>	<b>529,340</b>	<b>32,990</b>	<b>6.6</b>

\* Comprises hotels, guesthouses, tourist villages, hostels, B&Bs and campsites

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table 4. Total expenditure by inbound tourists by expenditure category**

Expenditure category	February			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Package	15,423	13,078	17,762	4,684	35.8
Non-package	11,286	14,511	14,722	212	1.5
Air/sea fares	6,422	7,324	7,880	556	7.6
Accommodation	4,864	7,187	6,843	-344	-4.8
Other expenditure	18,203	19,379	20,500	1,122	5.8
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>44,912</b>	<b>46,967</b>	<b>52,985</b>	<b>6,017</b>	<b>12.8</b>

€000

Notes:

1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand euro.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table 5. Inbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by country of residence**

Country of residence	February			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
<b>Tourists</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>50,958</b>	<b>52,457</b>	<b>64,457</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>22.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	2,559	3,444	4,983	1,538	44.7
Germany	7,719	4,636	7,120	2,484	53.6
Italy	9,929	9,869	13,547	3,678	37.3
United Kingdom	21,882	23,738	24,161	423	-
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>10,485</b>	<b>12,842</b>	<b>10,059</b>	<b>-2,783</b>	<b>-21.7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,442</b>	<b>65,299</b>	<b>74,516</b>	<b>9,216</b>	<b>14.1</b>
<b>Nights</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>392,110</b>	<b>366,209</b>	<b>452,711</b>	<b>86,502</b>	<b>23.6</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	17,198	18,614	34,858	16,244	87.3
Germany	56,540	30,471	52,739	22,269	73.1
Italy	46,524	42,315	77,095	34,780	82.2
United Kingdom	205,728	197,195	194,206	-2,989	-
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>86,040</b>	<b>130,141</b>	<b>76,629</b>	<b>-53,512</b>	<b>-41.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>478,149</b>	<b>496,350</b>	<b>529,340</b>	<b>32,990</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>33,014</b>	<b>33,646</b>	<b>42,902</b>	<b>9,256</b>	<b>27.5</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	1,609	2,195	3,617	1,421	64.7
Germany	6,030	3,513	5,280	1,767	50.3
Italy	4,499	4,056	7,193	3,137	77.3
United Kingdom	14,444	16,023	17,203	1,180	-
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>11,899</b>	<b>13,321</b>	<b>10,082</b>	<b>-3,239</b>	<b>-24.3</b>
<b>Total (€000)</b>	<b>44,912</b>	<b>46,967</b>	<b>52,985</b>	<b>6,017</b>	<b>12.8</b>

Notes:

1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand euro.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table 6. Profile of inbound tourists**

Characteristics	January-February			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
<b>Total inbound visitors</b>	<b>126,330</b>	<b>134,824</b>	<b>148,796</b>	<b>13,972</b>	<b>10.4</b>
Overnight cruise passengers	see note 1				
<b>Inbound tourists</b>	<b>126,330</b>	<b>134,824</b>	<b>148,796</b>	<b>13,972</b>	<b>10.4</b>
<b>Mode of travel:</b>					
Air	123,103	131,281	145,469	14,188	10.8
Sea (see note 4)	3,227	3,543	3,327	-216	-6.1
<b>Sex:</b>					
Males	70,046	76,916	81,152	4,236	5.5
Females	56,284	57,908	67,644	9,737	16.8
<b>Age group:</b>					
0-24	15,262	18,486	19,385	900	-
25-44	35,698	46,817	47,165	347	-
45-64	48,364	48,752	54,941	6,188	12.7
65 or more	27,006	20,769	27,306	6,537	31.5
<b>Markets:</b>					
EU	104,269	105,201	125,620	20,419	19.4
<i>of which: euro area</i>	57,047	53,515	69,156	15,641	29.2
Non-EU	22,061	29,623	23,177	-6,446	-21.8
<b>Purpose of visit:</b>					
Holiday	106,014	106,656	120,696	14,040	13.2
Business and professional	12,806	17,470	16,719	-751	-
Other	7,510	10,698	11,381	683	-
<b>Organisation of stay:</b>					
Package	60,696	54,875	67,888	13,013	23.7
Non-package	65,634	79,949	80,908	959	-
<b>Frequency:</b>					
First-time tourists	74,861	80,696	95,223	14,527	18.0
Repeat tourists	51,469	54,128	53,573	-555	-
less than or equal to once a year	33,312	32,028	34,639	2,610	8.1
twice a year or more	18,157	22,100	18,935	-3,165	-14.3
<b>Duration of visit:</b>					
1-3 nights	26,710	34,227	32,134	-2,093	-6.1
4-6 nights	31,263	33,529	41,077	7,548	22.5
7 nights or more	68,357	67,068	75,586	8,518	12.7
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-3.8</b>

Notes:

1. In January and February no overnight cruise passengers were recorded.
2. 'Other purpose of visit' may include educational, religious and health tourism.
3. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
4. Data on sea passengers is provisional. For more information refer to methodological note 13.

**Table 7. Inbound tourists by type of accommodation**

Type of accommodation	January-February			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Private accommodation	27,240	29,955	32,843	2,888	9.6
Collective accommodation*	99,090	104,869	115,954	11,084	10.6
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>126,330</b>	<b>134,824</b>	<b>148,796</b>	<b>13,972</b>	<b>10.4</b>

\* Comprises hotels, guesthouses, tourist villages, hostels, B&Bs and campsites

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table 8. Total nights spent by inbound tourists by type of accommodation**

Type of accommodation	January-February			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Private accommodation	292,890	370,398	369,769	-629	-0.2
Collective accommodation*	702,363	697,696	762,080	64,384	9.2
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>995,253</b>	<b>1,068,095</b>	<b>1,131,849</b>	<b>63,755</b>	<b>6.0</b>

\* Comprises hotels, guesthouses, tourist villages, hostels, B&Bs and campsites

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table 9. Inbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by country of residence**

Country of residence	January-February			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
<b>Tourists</b>					
Austria	1,490 <sup>u</sup>	2,074	2,488	413	-
Belgium	2,396	2,329	2,831	502	-
France	6,268	7,005	10,057	3,052	43.6
Germany	15,659	10,194	14,576	4,382	43.0
Ireland	3,075	3,041	3,375	334	-
Italy	22,050	21,159	27,242	6,083	28.8
Libya	3,959	8,867	1,366 <sup>u</sup>	-7,501	-84.6
Netherlands	2,523	3,065	2,676	-389	-
Russia	2,182	3,759	1,473 <sup>u</sup>	-2,286	-60.8
Scandinavia*	3,653	4,524	5,383	858	-
Spain	1,642	2,060	2,110	51	-
Switzerland	1,448 <sup>u</sup>	2,338	2,290	-48	-
United Kingdom	40,174	43,451	45,467	2,016	4.6
USA	1,286 <sup>u</sup>	2,467	1,926	-541	-
Other	18,525	18,491	25,536	7,045	38.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>126,330</b>	<b>134,824</b>	<b>148,796</b>	<b>13,972</b>	<b>10.4</b>
<b>Nights</b>					
Austria	11,088 <sup>u</sup>	15,202	16,275	1,072	-
Belgium	16,822	19,382	19,747	365	-
France	40,482	41,219	66,473	25,254	61.3
Germany	121,760	79,981	115,303	35,322	44.2
Ireland	21,975	28,680	22,576	-6,104	-
Italy	99,642	96,528	159,673	63,145	65.4
Libya	18,853	67,826	11,447 <sup>u</sup>	-56,379	-83.1
Netherlands	16,496	18,886	18,009	-877	-
Russia	24,237	50,661	14,787 <sup>u</sup>	-35,875	-70.8
Scandinavia*	34,675	36,499	43,658	7,159	-
Spain	11,601	11,574	15,333	3,759	-
Switzerland	16,262 <sup>u</sup>	13,963	14,916	953	-
United Kingdom	397,940	402,337	395,089	-7,248	-1.8
USA	10,294 <sup>u</sup>	19,546	14,762	-4,784	-
Other	153,125	165,813	203,803	37,990	22.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>995,253</b>	<b>1,068,095</b>	<b>1,131,849</b>	<b>63,755</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Austria	1,168 <sup>u</sup>	1,613	1,826	213	-
Belgium	1,824	1,871	2,028	157	-
France	4,397	4,869	7,305	2,436	50.0
Germany	12,496	8,316	11,639	3,323	40.0
Ireland	2,142	2,475	1,956	-518	-
Italy	10,594	10,040	15,194	5,153	51.3
Libya	3,982	9,023	1,479 <sup>u</sup>	-7,544	-83.6
Netherlands	1,803	1,937	1,924	-13	-
Russia	3,096	4,468	1,653 <sup>u</sup>	-2,815	-63.0
Scandinavia*	3,219	4,242	4,421	179	-
Spain	1,151	1,308	1,481	173	-
Switzerland	1,564 <sup>u</sup>	2,307	2,240	-67	-
United Kingdom	28,625	30,872	35,108	4,236	13.7
USA	1,875 <sup>u</sup>	2,819	2,145	-674	-
Other	18,198	16,837	23,553	6,716	39.9
<b>Total (€000)</b>	<b>96,135</b>	<b>102,998</b>	<b>113,952</b>	<b>10,955</b>	<b>10.6</b>

\* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

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

Notes:

1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand euro.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 10. Total expenditure by inbound tourists

€000

Country of residence	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
<b>January-February 2015</b>					
Austria	884	234	109	598	1,826
Belgium	540	430	234	823	2,028
France	2,897	960	992	2,456	7,305
Germany	5,783	1,029	1,163	3,663	11,639
Ireland	399	324	343	891	1,956
Italy	4,398	2,053	2,482	6,260	15,194
Libya	159	459	246	615	1,479
Netherlands	573	324	250	778	1,924
Russia	237	455	258	703	1,653
Scandinavia*	1,135	911	621	1,755	4,421
Spain	144	308	353	676	1,481
Switzerland	629	520	235	855	2,240
United Kingdom	13,237	4,506	3,955	13,410	35,108
USA	184	766	392	803	2,145
Other	5,832	5,038	2,853	9,831	23,553
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,033</b>	<b>18,319</b>	<b>14,486</b>	<b>44,115</b>	<b>113,952</b>
<b>January-February 2014</b>					
Austria	642	199	150	622	1,613
Belgium	606	265	172	828	1,871
France	1,685	732	747	1,705	4,869
Germany	3,378	880	967	3,091	8,316
Ireland	612	354	391	1,118	2,475
Italy	1,719	1,844	1,807	4,671	10,040
Libya	547	2,155	1,428	4,893	9,023
Netherlands	401	413	305	818	1,937
Russia	993	789	617	2,070	4,468
Scandinavia*	1,161	816	506	1,760	4,242
Spain	176	269	276	586	1,308
Switzerland	809	426	251	820	2,307
United Kingdom	11,242	3,510	3,133	12,987	30,872
USA	185	853	751	1,030	2,819
Other	3,409	4,076	2,391	6,962	16,837
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,566</b>	<b>17,580</b>	<b>13,892</b>	<b>43,960</b>	<b>102,998</b>
<b>January-February 2013</b>					
Austria	587	80	112	389	1,168
Belgium	602	310	116	796	1,824
France	1,398	708	688	1,603	4,397
Germany	7,295	687	676	3,838	12,496
Ireland	485	279	240	1,137	2,142
Italy	3,160	1,356	1,595	4,483	10,594
Libya	116	835	644	2,387	3,982
Netherlands	610	312	269	612	1,803
Russia	1,117	370	305	1,305	3,096
Scandinavia*	998	532	227	1,462	3,219
Spain	6	265	242	639	1,151
Switzerland	379	248	239	698	1,564
United Kingdom	10,602	3,603	2,505	11,915	28,625
USA	0	847	328	700	1,875
Other	3,797	3,566	2,077	8,758	18,198
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,152</b>	<b>13,996</b>	<b>10,265</b>	<b>40,722</b>	<b>96,135</b>

\* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden



Table 11. Per capita expenditure by inbound tourists

€

Country of residence	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
<b>January-February 2015</b>					
Austria	552	264	198	241	734
Belgium	485	250	259	291	716
France	537	206	261	244	726
Germany	549	255	339	251	798
Ireland	350	145	185	264	580
Italy	440	119	189	230	558
Libya	539	429	257	450	1,083
Netherlands	436	237	235	291	719
Russia	880	378	276	477	1,122
Scandinavia*	482	301	282	326	821
Spain	380	178	300	320	702
Switzerland	697	375	218	373	978
United Kingdom	605	191	246	295	772
USA	595	474	306	417	1,114
Other	560	333	247	385	922
<b>Total</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>766</b>
<b>January-February 2014</b>					
Austria	510	244	214	300	778
Belgium	585	205	224	356	803
France	532	191	221	243	695
Germany	544	221	286	303	816
Ireland	468	204	268	368	814
Italy	287	122	148	221	475
Libya	499	277	213	552	1,018
Netherlands	471	187	173	267	632
Russia	668	347	344	551	1,189
Scandinavia*	686	288	246	389	938
Spain	367	171	203	284	635
Switzerland	732	345	301	351	987
United Kingdom	504	166	227	299	710
USA	489	409	413	418	1,143
Other	523	340	272	377	911
<b>Total</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>764</b>
<b>January-February 2013</b>					
Austria	521	220	308	261	784
Belgium	467	280	285	332	761
France	566	186	220	256	701
Germany	586	214	267	245	798
Ireland	330	174	222	370	697
Italy	356	103	149	203	480
Libya	317	232	192	603	1,006
Netherlands	647	198	189	242	715
Russia	1,312	278	306	598	1,419
Scandinavia*	599	268	262	400	881
Spain	87	168	188	389	701
Switzerland	579	312	431	482	1,080
United Kingdom	502	189	212	297	713
USA	0	658	324	544	1,458
Other	518	318	254	473	982
<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>761</b>

\* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

## Methodological Notes

1. The results in this release are based on the ongoing frontier survey known as Tourstat. Tourist air departures are collected through a continuous survey carried out at the departure lounge of Malta International Airport (MIA). A two-stage sampling design is used to survey air passengers. In the first stage alternate days are selected. Then within each shift a sample of passengers is selected systematically. Personal interviews are carried out.
2. This release focuses on Inbound Tourism, which comprises the activities of non-resident visitors travelling to Malta (i.e. outside their usual environment), and staying for no longer than 12 consecutive months for leisure, business or other (corresponding) purpose.
3. Tourist sea departures are collected through a regular survey, conducted during three separate months every year at the Valletta Cruise Port. A quota sample is used to conduct sea passenger departures in which survey interviewers are guided to select people according to some fixed quota. Survey data is supplemented by administrative data provided by ferry operators.
4. 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.
5. 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).
6. Under-represented figures are indicated where applicable for each table and should be treated with caution. Users should also exercise caution when analysing figures that involve estimates relating to less than 1,500 tourists. Such estimates may be subject to variations attributable to low frequency in the sample (sampling errors). Other limitations may involve non-sampling errors, namely those linked to respondents' willingness to provide proper information and those related to language barriers.
7. The expenditure data in this release should not be equated to national tourism earnings.
8. The monthly passenger departures data published by the Malta International Airport cannot be equated to the number of inbound tourists because the former is inclusive of departing Maltese and transit passengers.
9. **Definitions:**
  - **Traveller:** Someone who moves between different geographic locations, for any purpose and any duration.
  - **Visitor:** The three fundamental criteria used to distinguish visitors from travellers are:
    - a. **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;
    - b. **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);
    - c. **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. Data on cruise passengers who spent at least one night berthed on board their cruiseship are compiled on the basis of administrative records held by Transport Malta.
12. Arrivals and nights spent in time-share accommodation are being categorised in 'Private Accommodation' instead of 'Collective Accommodation' as per Eurostat recommendation. In this regard, one should note that there might be minor differences in these statistics and statistics published in tourism supply due to the fact that hotels report time-share under 'Collective Accommodation'.
13. Administrative data on sea passengers are provided on a monthly basis by ferry operators. Due to unforeseen circumstances these data were not available for February 2015. In view of this, sea passenger data have been estimated using a first-order autoregression time series model with a seasonal difference of order one. These data should thus be treated as provisional and are subject to revision in forthcoming news releases.
14. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:  
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>  
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=37>  
Statistical Database: <http://nso.gov.mt/statdb/start>