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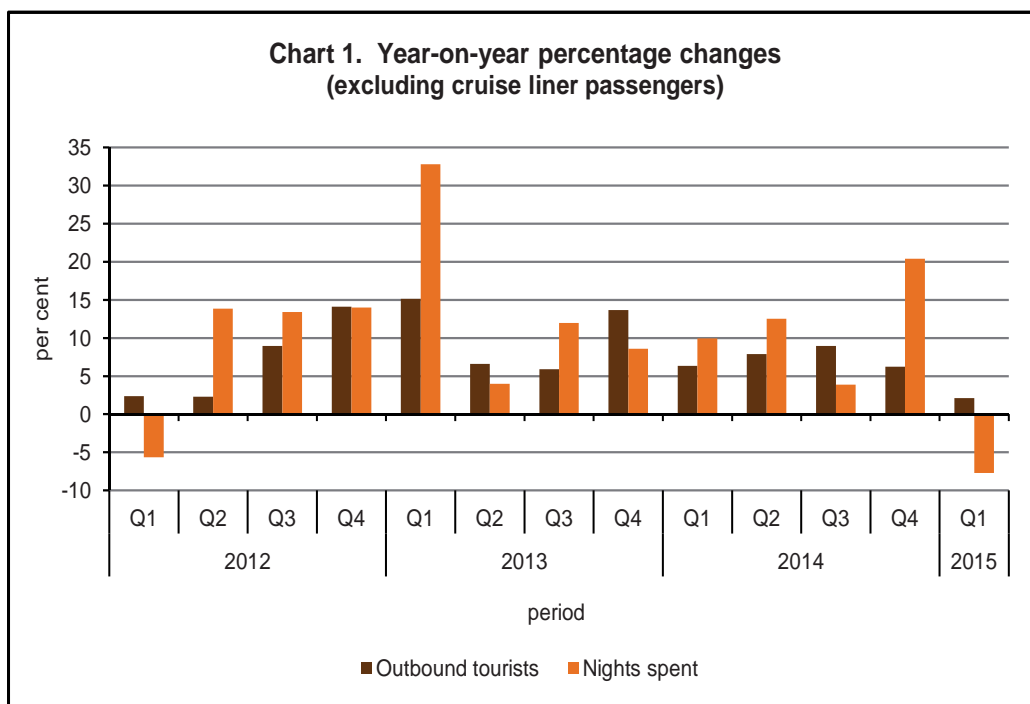
Total outbound tourists for the first quarter in 2015 were estimated at 78,955, an increase of 2.1 per cent when compared to the same quarter in 2014.

Outbound Tourism: Q1/2015

During the first quarter of 2015, the number of outbound tourist trips towards EU countries stood at 69,347, an increase of 4.1 per cent over the same quarter in 2014 (Table 1). Italy and the United Kingdom remained the most popular destinations, with a share of 59.6 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 4).

Total nights spent by outbound tourists decreased by 7.7 per cent, reaching 552,212 nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights were spent in private accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total estimated outlay by resident tourists between January and March remained almost at par with the same quarter last year, and stood at €71.1 million, equivalent to an average €900 per trip (Tables 5 and 6) ■



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Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Outbound tourists	72,725	77,334	78,955	1,621	2.1
Mode of travel:					
Air	67,863	70,937	74,082	3,145	4.4
Sea (see note 2)	4,863	6,397	4,873	-1,524	-23.8
Sex:					
Males	41,952	45,115	45,934	819	-
Females	30,773	32,219	33,020	802	-
Age group:					
0-24	14,855	15,402	15,642	240	-
25-44	30,179	34,804	35,626	821	-
45-64	22,118	22,268	23,262	994	-
65 or more	5,573	4,859	4,424	-435	-
Destination:					
EU	62,845	66,622	69,347	2,725	4.1
<i>of which:</i> Euro area	37,748	39,590	42,360	2,770	7.0
Non-EU	9,880	10,711	9,608	-1,104	-
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	37,332	39,501	36,967	-2,533	-6.4
Visiting relatives and friends	14,626	15,608	18,499	2,891	18.5
Business and professional	15,199	17,370	17,898	528	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	5,568	4,855	5,590	735	-
Organisation of stay:					
Package	12,233	12,094	11,230	-864	-
Non-package	60,492	65,239	67,725	2,485	3.8
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	22,097	25,683	24,675	-1,008	-
4-6 nights	23,892	24,065	25,498	1,433	-
7 nights or more	26,737	27,586	28,782	1,196	-
Average length of stay (nights)	7.5	7.7	7.0	-0.7	-9.1

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Data on sea passengers is provisional. For more information refer to the methodological notes.

Table 2. Outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Private accommodation	25,240	26,340	29,365	3,024	11.5
Collective accommodation*	47,485	50,993	49,590	-1,403	-
Total tourists	72,725	77,334	78,955	1,621	2.1

* 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 outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Private accommodation	276,520	317,354	288,226	-29,128	-9.2
Collective accommodation*	267,604	280,946	263,986	-16,960	-
Total nights	544,124	598,300	552,212	-46,088	-7.7

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

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 4. Outbound tourists and nights spent by period of departure and destination

Destination		January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
		2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Tourists	EU	62,845	66,622	69,347	2,725	4.1
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	3,244	2,392	3,127	735	-
	Germany	3,237	4,063	3,461	-603	-
	Italy	22,251	24,580	24,161	-420	-
	United Kingdom	21,801	23,132	22,910	-222	-
	Non-EU	9,880	10,711	9,608	-1,104	-
	Total	72,725	77,334	78,955	1,621	2.1
Nights	EU	394,561	436,969	419,121	-17,849	-4.1
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	18,056	11,899	17,583	5,684	-
	Germany	19,709	34,640	24,643	-9,996	-
	Italy	108,374	128,253	115,840	-12,413	-
	United Kingdom	143,823	166,369	154,672	-11,698	-
	Non-EU	149,563	161,331	133,091	-28,239	-
	Total	544,124	598,300	552,212	-46,088	-7.7

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 5. Total expenditure by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€000

Expenditure category	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Package	6,695	6,320	5,641	-678	-10.7
Non-package	22,282	25,034	25,325	291	1.2
Air/sea fares	12,560	13,738	13,874	136	1.0
Accommodation	9,721	11,297	11,451	154	1.4
Other expenditure	38,926	39,886	40,107	221	0.6
Total expenditure	67,903	71,240	71,073	-166	-0.2

Notes:

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

Table 6. Average expenditure per capita per night by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€

Expenditure category	January-March (Q1)					
	per trip			per night		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
Package	547	523	502	83	98	92
Non-package	368	384	374	48	47	52
Air/sea fares	208	211	205	27	26	28
Accommodation	249	258	257	40	42	42
Other expenditure	535	516	508	72	67	73
Total	934	921	900	125	119	129

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). Personal interviews are carried out. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
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. 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.
6. Percentage changes for tourists based on counts of less than 1,500 are not presented due to sampling errors.
7. Expenditure data in this release represent the budgeted expenditure of outbound tourists prior to their departure.
9. 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 and March 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.
10. **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
11. 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=39>
Statistical Database: <http://nso.gov.mt/statdb/start>