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Total inbound visitors for March were estimated at 115,519, an increase of 14.2 per cent when compared to the corresponding month of 2015.

Inbound Tourism: March 2016

A total of 94,328 inbound tourist trips were carried out for holiday purposes, while a further 10,292 were undertaken for business purposes. Inbound tourists from EU Member States went up by 15.2 per cent to 99,703 when compared to the corresponding month of 2015. The largest proportion of inbound tourists was aged between 45 and 64, followed by those within the 25-44 age bracket (Table 1).

Total nights spent went up by 11.6 per cent when compared to March 2015, amounting to 802,711 nights. The largest share of guest nights (70.9 per cent) was spent in collective accommodation establishments (Table 3).

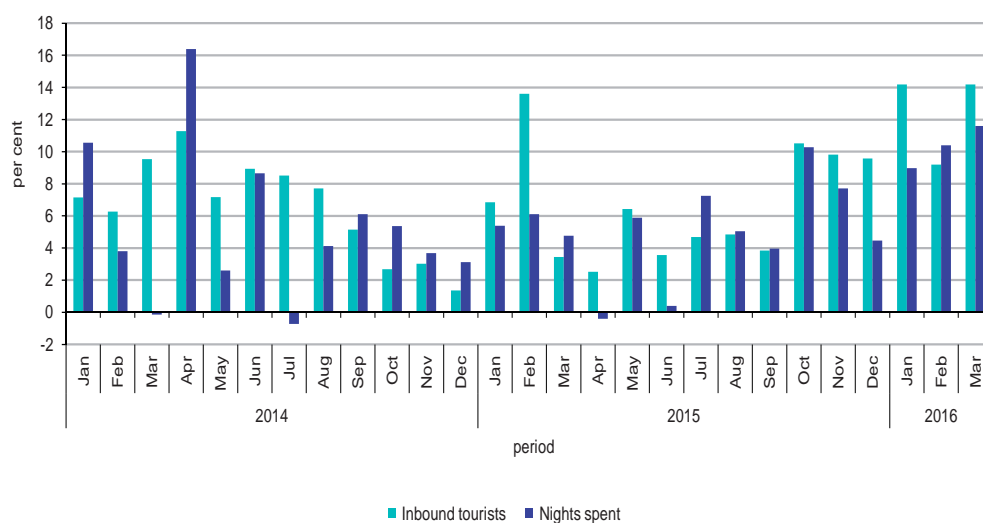
Total tourist expenditure was estimated at €86.3 million, an increase of 10.9 per cent over the corresponding month of 2015 (Table 4).

January-March 2016

Inbound tourist trips from January to March amounted to 281,341, an increase of 12.7 per cent over the same period in 2015 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists went up by 10.4 per cent, surpassing 2.0 million nights (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure was estimated at €209.4 million, 9.3 per cent higher than that recorded for 2015 (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita stood at €744, a decrease of 3.0 per cent when compared to 2015 (Table 11) ■

Chart 1. Inbound tourism: year-on-year percentage changes
(excluding overnight cruise passengers)



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Table 1. Profile of inbound tourists by month of departure

Characteristics	March			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Total inbound visitors	97,800	101,160	115,519	14,358	14.2
Overnight cruise passengers	-	-	-	-	-
Inbound tourists	97,800	101,160	115,519	14,358	14.2
Mode of travel					
Air	94,750	98,435	112,143	13,707	13.9
Sea (see note 1)	3,050	2,725	3,376	651	23.9
Sex					
Males	51,942	53,123	58,858	5,735	10.8
Females	45,858	48,037	56,660	8,623	18.0
Age group					
0-24	15,132	16,103	18,721	2,618	16.3
25-44	27,301	27,970	34,698	6,727	24.1
45-64	36,234	35,915	40,586	4,671	13.0
65 or more	19,133	21,172	21,514	342	-
Markets					
EU	81,157	86,582	99,703	13,121	15.2
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	45,765	47,122	52,301	5,178	11.0
Non-EU	16,644	14,578	15,815	1,237	-
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	74,445	75,250	94,328	19,078	25.4
Business and professional	12,525	11,675	10,292	-1,383	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	10,831	14,235	10,899	-3,336	-23.4
Organisation of stay					
Package	48,266	52,374	53,304	930	-
Non-package	49,534	48,786	62,214	13,428	27.5
Frequency					
First-time tourists	64,960	69,811	80,092	10,281	14.7
Repeat tourists	32,840	31,349	35,427	4,078	13.0
once a year or less	21,280	22,238	23,513	1,275	-
more than once a year	11,560	9,111	11,914	2,803	30.8
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	22,348	20,803	24,257	3,454	16.6
4-6 nights	27,191	28,902	36,672	7,770	26.9
7 nights or more	48,262	51,455	54,589	3,134	6.1
Average length of stay (nights)	7.0	7.1	6.9	-0.2	-

Notes:

1. Data on sea passengers for March 2015 has been revised. For more information refer to methodological note 13.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Inbound tourists by month of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	March			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Private accommodation	19,764	19,970	27,411	7,440	37.3
Collective accommodation*	78,036	81,190	88,108	6,918	8.5
Total tourists	97,800	101,160	115,519	14,358	14.2

* 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 month of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	March			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Private accommodation	179,497	196,349	233,313	36,964	18.8
Collective accommodation*	507,061	522,918	569,397	46,479	8.9
Total nights	686,558	719,267	802,711	83,443	11.6

* 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 month of departure and expenditure category

Expenditure category	March			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Package	26,747	28,995	30,416	1,421	4.9
Non-package	20,213	20,943	24,458	3,515	16.8
Air/sea fares	10,604	11,013	12,478	1,465	13.3
Accommodation	9,608	9,930	11,980	2,050	20.6
Other expenditure	26,463	27,810	31,382	3,572	12.8
Total expenditure	73,423	77,748	86,256	8,509	10.9

€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 month of departure and country of residence

Country of residence		March			Change	Percentage change
		2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Tourists	EU	81,157	86,582	99,703	13,121	15.2
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	6,655	6,903	6,444	-459	-
	Germany	12,474	10,025	11,346	1,321	-
	Italy	16,406	19,023	18,979	-44	-
	United Kingdom	29,478	31,943	36,993	5,050	15.8
	Non-EU	16,644	14,578	15,815	1,237	-
	Total	97,800	101,160	115,519	14,358	14.2
Nights	EU	568,507	612,472	692,028	79,556	13.0
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	45,292	44,992	42,768	-2,224	-
	Germany	93,108	82,858	87,978	5,120	-
	Italy	89,157	106,200	109,649	3,449	-
	United Kingdom	234,553	256,015	288,279	32,263	12.6
	Non-EU	118,050	106,795	110,683	3,887	-
	Total	686,558	719,267	802,711	83,443	11.6
Expenditure (€000)	EU	56,215	61,938	68,895	6,957	11.2
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	4,519	5,275	4,896	-379	-
	Germany	10,629	9,381	10,031	649	-
	Italy	8,639	10,216	9,983	-232	-
	United Kingdom	19,929	22,892	25,411	2,520	11.0
	Non-EU	17,207	15,810	17,361	1,552	-
	Total	73,423	77,748	86,256	8,508	10.9

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 by period of departure

Characteristics	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Total inbound visitors	232,624	249,629	282,344	32,714	13.1
Overnight cruise passengers	-	-	1,003	-	-
Inbound tourists	232,624	249,629	281,341	31,711	12.7
Mode of travel					
Air	226,031	243,904	272,695	28,790	11.8
Sea (see note 1)	6,593	5,725	8,646	2,921	51.0
Sex					
Males	128,859	134,082	150,811	16,729	12.5
Females	103,766	115,547	130,530	14,982	13.0
Age group					
0-24	33,618	35,438	39,389	3,951	11.1
25-44	74,118	75,002	90,852	15,849	21.1
45-64	84,986	90,747	100,688	9,941	11.0
65 or more	39,902	48,441	50,412	1,971	4.1
Markets					
EU	186,358	211,917	240,050	28,133	13.3
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	99,281	116,001	128,131	12,130	10.5
Non-EU	46,267	37,712	41,290	3,578	9.5
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	181,101	195,686	232,309	36,624	18.7
Business and professional	29,995	28,351	29,075	724	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	21,528	25,593	19,957	-5,636	-22.0
Organisation of stay					
Package	103,142	120,181	122,193	2,012	1.7
Non-package	129,483	129,448	159,148	29,700	22.9
Frequency					
First-time tourists	145,656	164,828	188,505	23,677	14.4
Repeat tourists	86,968	84,801	92,835	8,034	9.5
once a year or less	53,309	56,794	62,225	5,431	9.6
more than once a year	33,660	28,007	30,611	2,603	9.3
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	56,575	52,785	65,021	12,236	23.2
4-6 nights	60,720	69,900	83,097	13,197	18.9
7 nights or more	115,330	126,944	133,223	6,278	4.9
Average length of stay (nights)	7.5	7.4	7.3	-0.1	-

Notes:

1. Data on sea passengers for March 2015 has been revised. For more information refer to methodological note 13.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 7. Inbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Private accommodation	49,719	52,684	66,813	14,129	26.8
Collective accommodation*	182,905	196,946	214,528	17,582	8.9
Total tourists	232,624	249,629	281,341	31,711	12.7

* 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 period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Private accommodation	549,895	564,502	656,232	91,730	16.2
Collective accommodation*	1,204,757	1,283,954	1,384,434	100,480	7.8
Total nights	1,754,652	1,848,456	2,040,665	192,210	10.4

* 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 period of departure and country of residence

Country of residence	January-March			Change	Percentage change	
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015		
Tourists	Austria	3,866	4,446	3,814	-632	-
	Belgium	4,198	4,743	4,527	-216	-
	France	13,660	16,958	15,713	-1,245	-
	Germany	22,668	24,595	26,969	2,375	9.7
	Ireland	4,120	5,277	5,493	216	-
	Italy	37,565	46,013	50,980	4,967	10.8
	Libya	12,638	1,836	651 ^u	-1,185	-
	Netherlands	5,021	4,330	4,823	493	-
	Russia	4,851	2,013	2,774	761	-
	Scandinavia*	8,404	8,943	13,460	4,518	50.5
	Spain	3,499	3,504	7,006	3,503	100.0
	Switzerland	4,108	4,064	3,201	-864	-
	United Kingdom	72,929	77,406	87,034	9,628	12.4
	USA	3,653	3,275	3,899	623	-
	Other	31,443	42,227	50,997	8,770	20.8
Total	232,624	249,629	281,341	31,711	12.7	
Nights	Austria	26,536	30,057	26,660	-3,397	-
	Belgium	30,885	31,566	25,365	-6,201	-
	France	86,511	111,401	109,536	-1,865	-
	Germany	173,088	198,082	201,722	3,640	1.8
	Ireland	39,228	35,997	38,938	2,941	-
	Italy	185,685	263,819	298,025	34,205	13.0
	Libya	88,103	12,681	5,582 ^u	-7,099	-
	Netherlands	31,055	28,622	26,509	-2,113	-
	Russia	59,399	18,788	30,847	12,060	-
	Scandinavia*	65,418	69,533	92,482	22,949	33.0
	Spain	21,935	24,488	41,831	17,343	70.8
	Switzerland	24,935	23,641	18,961	-4,679	-
	United Kingdom	636,890	651,011	700,228	49,217	7.6
	USA	28,364	24,940	27,739	2,800	-
	Other	256,620	323,830	396,239	72,410	22.4
Total	1,754,652	1,848,456	2,040,665	192,210	10.4	
Expenditure (€000)	Austria	3,235	3,501	2,843	-658	-
	Belgium	3,545	3,522	3,509	-13	-
	France	9,388	12,573	11,711	-863	-
	Germany	18,945	21,016	22,011	995	4.7
	Ireland	3,298	3,403	4,069	666	-
	Italy	18,679	25,267	26,615	1,348	5.3
	Libya	12,434	1,856	1,007 ^u	-849	-
	Netherlands	3,502	3,133	3,061	-72	-
	Russia	5,753	2,271	3,378	1,106	-
	Scandinavia*	7,515	7,877	10,846	2,970	37.7
	Spain	2,313	2,496	5,108	2,613	104.7
	Switzerland	4,248	4,179	3,209	-970	-
	United Kingdom	50,802	57,995	60,572	2,577	4.4
	USA	4,097	3,711	4,512	802	-
	Other	28,665	38,702	46,904	8,202	21.2
Total	176,420	191,502	209,355	17,853	9.3	

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

^u 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 of inbound tourists by expenditure category, period of departure and country of residence

€ 000

Country of residence	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
January-March 2016					
Austria	1,281	338	300	924	2,843
Belgium	1,471	486	355	1,198	3,509
France	4,526	1,411	1,789	3,985	11,711
Germany	10,368	2,269	2,795	6,578	22,011
Ireland	1,199	515	672	1,682	4,069
Italy	6,272	3,419	4,837	12,088	26,615
Libya	136	243	203	425	1,007
Netherlands	655	561	539	1,306	3,061
Russia	846	597	448	1,487	3,378
Scandinavia*	3,705	1,665	1,646	3,831	10,846
Spain	1,400	805	805	2,099	5,108
Switzerland	920	633	472	1,184	3,209
United Kingdom	21,981	7,259	7,334	23,999	60,572
USA	263	1,426	1,150	1,673	4,512
Other	11,055	9,713	7,372	18,764	46,904
Total	66,078	31,340	30,714	81,223	209,355
January-March 2015					
Austria	1,857	321	196	1,127	3,501
Belgium	1,180	683	372	1,288	3,522
France	5,197	1,632	1,681	4,064	12,573
Germany	10,717	1,683	2,228	6,388	21,016
Ireland	710	506	622	1,564	3,403
Italy	8,515	3,092	3,776	9,884	25,267
Libya	166	623	302	765	1,856
Netherlands	855	538	476	1,263	3,133
Russia	385	582	402	903	2,271
Scandinavia*	2,074	1,542	1,164	3,097	7,877
Spain	455	445	497	1,098	2,496
Switzerland	1,575	777	402	1,425	4,179
United Kingdom	22,685	6,977	6,314	22,019	57,995
USA	380	1,359	702	1,269	3,711
Other	9,244	8,551	5,242	15,665	38,702
Total	65,996	29,311	24,375	71,819	191,502
January-March 2014					
Austria	1,598	369	203	1,065	3,235
Belgium	1,066	590	487	1,402	3,545
France	3,463	1,397	1,329	3,200	9,388
Germany	9,614	1,588	1,818	5,924	18,945
Ireland	901	434	517	1,446	3,298
Italy	4,776	2,799	3,177	7,928	18,679
Libya	835	3,120	2,021	6,459	12,434
Netherlands	776	734	584	1,408	3,502
Russia	1,196	1,046	864	2,647	5,753
Scandinavia*	2,232	1,339	1,105	2,840	7,515
Spain	271	484	527	1,031	2,313
Switzerland	1,926	607	376	1,340	4,248
United Kingdom	18,924	5,902	5,311	20,665	50,802
USA	455	1,232	942	1,469	4,097
Other	6,279	6,544	4,240	11,601	28,665
Total	54,312	28,184	23,500	70,424	176,420

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Notes:

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

Table 11. Per capita expenditure of inbound tourists by expenditure category, period of departure and country of residence

€

Country of residence	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total expenditure per capita
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
January-March 2016					
Austria	558	222	231	242	745
Belgium	728	194	206	265	775
France	567	183	259	254	745
Germany	586	245	328	244	816
Ireland	485	171	271	306	741
Italy	396	97	179	237	522
Libya	2,000	416	420	653	1,545
Netherlands	467	164	206	271	635
Russia	900	326	290	536	1,218
Scandinavia*	544	251	275	285	806
Spain	552	180	242	300	729
Switzerland	726	328	277	370	1,003
United Kingdom	513	164	231	276	696
USA	870	397	358	429	1,157
Other	624	292	261	368	920
Total expenditure per capita	541	197	242	289	744
January-March 2015					
Austria	578	261	253	253	787
Belgium	618	241	232	272	743
France	552	216	264	240	741
Germany	592	260	402	260	854
Ireland	385	147	215	296	645
Italy	442	116	185	215	549
Libya	476	419	226	417	1,011
Netherlands	447	223	236	292	723
Russia	905	367	305	449	1,129
Scandinavia*	501	321	314	346	881
Spain	448	179	265	313	712
Switzerland	816	364	234	351	1,028
United Kingdom	566	187	250	284	749
USA	789	487	329	388	1,133
Other	575	327	245	371	917
Total expenditure per capita	549	226	248	288	767
January-March 2014					
Austria	607	300	199	275	837
Belgium	566	255	299	334	845
France	537	194	224	234	687
Germany	614	227	297	261	836
Ireland	465	199	280	351	800
Italy	349	117	165	211	498
Libya	488	286	213	511	984
Netherlands	525	207	215	280	697
Russia	652	347	334	546	1,186
Scandinavia*	643	271	286	338	894
Spain	334	180	228	295	661
Switzerland	857	326	268	326	1,034
United Kingdom	502	167	231	283	697
USA	588	428	399	402	1,122
Other	577	318	268	369	915
Total expenditure per capita	527	218	237	303	759

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Table 12. Profile of overnight cruise passengers by period of departure

Characteristics	January-March		
	2014	2015	2016
Total overnight cruise passengers	-	-	1,003
Sex			
Males	-	-	469
Females	-	-	534
Age group			
0-19	-	-	3
20-39	-	-	36
40-59	-	-	89
60-79	-	-	792
80 or more	-	-	83
Markets			
EU	-	-	421
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	-	-	374
Non-EU	-	-	582

Methodological Notes

1. 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 not more than 12 consecutive months for leisure, business or other (corresponding) purposes.
2. The results in this release are based on the ongoing frontier survey known as Tourstat. Data for tourist air departures is collected by means of personal interviews through a continuous survey at the departure lounge of the Malta International Airport (MIA). A two-stage sampling design is used to survey air passengers. In the first stage alternate days are selected, whereby a sample of passengers is selected systematically within each shift.
3. Tourstat 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.
4. 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 fixed quotas. Survey data is supplemented by administrative data provided by ferry operators.
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. 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. Data on cruise passengers who spent at least one night berthed on board their cruiseship is compiled on the basis of administrative records held by Transport Malta.
10. 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, there may be minor differences in these statistics and statistics published in tourism supply due to the fact that hotels report time-share accommodation under 'Collective Accommodation'.
11. Prior to comparing and interpreting differences between demand-side (based on Tourstat) and supply-side (based on Accomstat) tourism statistics, users are strongly advised to consult concept 8.3 of the NSO's metadata file (<http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=37>).
12. **Definitions:**
 - **Traveller:** A person 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:** A visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.
 - **Same-day visitor:** A visitor who does not spend the night in collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.
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 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. Following the final data received from the source, the data have been revised and can be considered as final.
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>