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Total outbound tourists during the first quarter of 2016 were estimated at 103,463, an increase of 33.2 per cent over the corresponding quarter last year.

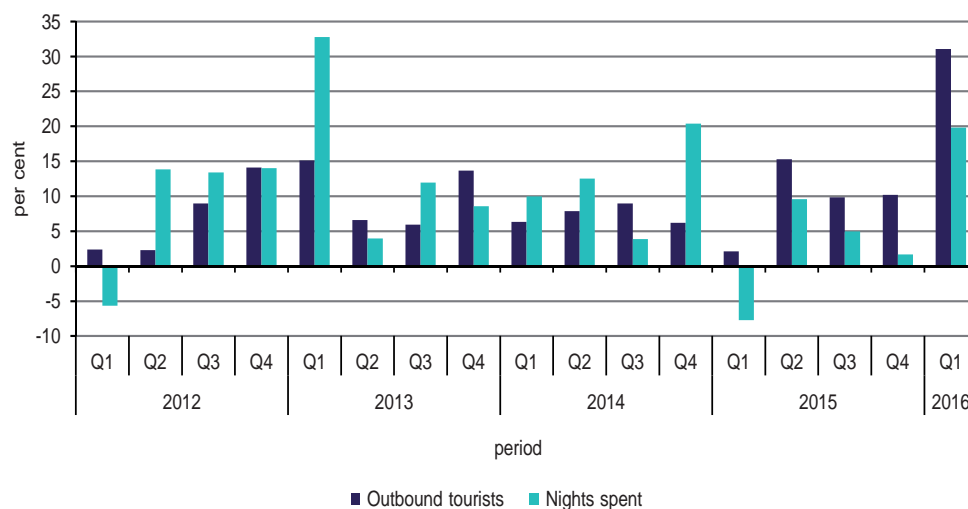
Outbound Tourism: Q1/2016

During the first quarter of 2016, the number of outbound tourist trips towards EU countries during this period stood at 91,572, an increase of 34.6 per cent over the same quarter in 2015 (Table 1). Italy and the United Kingdom remained the most popular destinations, with a share of 57.9 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 4).

Total nights spent by outbound tourists increased by 21.2 per cent, reaching 661,562 nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights were spent in collective accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total estimated outlay by resident tourists between January and March increased by 29.7 per cent over the same quarter of 2015, and stood at €91.9 million, equivalent to an average €888 per trip (Tables 5 and 6) ■

Chart 1. Year-on-year percentage changes



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Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Outbound tourists	77,334	77,662	103,463	25,801	33.2
Mode of travel:					
Air	70,937	74,082	97,399	23,317	31.5
Sea (see note 1)	6,397	3,580	6,064	2,484	69.4
Sex:					
Males	45,115	45,426	59,179	13,754	30.3
Females	32,219	32,237	44,284	12,047	37.4
Age group:					
0-24	15,402	14,401	19,462	5,062	35.2
25-44	34,804	36,030	47,533	11,503	31.9
45-64	22,268	22,774	29,977	7,203	31.6
65 or more	4,859	4,458	6,491	2,034	45.6
Destination:					
EU	66,622	68,055	91,572	23,518	34.6
<i>of which:</i> Euro area	39,590	41,068	60,736	19,668	47.9
Non-EU	10,711	9,608	11,891	2,283	23.8
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	39,501	36,286	55,168	18,882	52.0
Visiting relatives and friends	15,608	17,384	23,011	5,627	32.4
Business and professional	17,370	17,940	18,225	286	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	4,855	6,053	7,059	1,006	-
Organisation of stay:					
Package	12,094	11,452	12,406	954	-
Non-package	65,239	66,211	91,057	24,847	37.5
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	25,683	23,706	34,328	10,623	44.8
4-6 nights	24,065	25,275	33,912	8,636	34.2
7 nights or more	27,586	28,682	35,224	6,542	22.8
Average length of stay (nights)	7.7	7.0	6.4	-0.6	-

Notes:

1. Data on sea passengers for February and March 2015 has been revised. For more information refer to methodological note 8.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Private accommodation	26,340	27,927	38,006	10,078	36.1
Collective accommodation*	50,993	49,735	65,458	15,723	31.6
Total tourists	77,334	77,662	103,463	25,801	33.2

* 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 outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-March (Q1)			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Private accommodation	317,354	282,237	324,894	42,657	15.1
Collective accommodation*	280,946	263,536	336,668	73,132	27.8
Total nights	598,300	545,773	661,562	115,789	21.2

* 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
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Tourists					
EU	66,622	68,055	91,572	23,518	34.6
of which:					
France	2,392	3,127	3,062	-65	-
Germany	4,063	3,461	6,009	2,548	73.6
Italy	24,580	22,869	36,174	13,306	58.2
United Kingdom	23,132	22,910	23,721	811	-
Non-EU	10,711	9,608	11,891	2,283	23.8
Total	77,334	77,662	103,463	25,801	33.2
Nights					
EU	436,969	412,681	505,722	93,040	22.5
of which:					
France	11,899	17,583	18,649	1,066	-
Germany	34,640	24,643	35,209	10,566	42.9
Italy	128,253	109,401	156,996	47,595	43.5
United Kingdom	166,369	154,672	152,815	-1,856	-1.2
Non-EU	161,331	133,091	155,840	22,749	17.1
Total	598,300	545,773	661,562	115,789	21.2

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
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Package	6,320	5,788	7,124	1,335	23.1
Non-package	25,034	25,341	31,977	6,637	26.2
Air/sea fares	13,738	13,831	16,150	2,320	16.8
Accommodation	11,297	11,510	15,827	4,317	37.5
Other expenditure	39,886	39,717	52,788	13,072	32.9
Total expenditure	71,240	70,846	91,889	21,043	29.7

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		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Package	523	505	574	98	93	110
Non-package	384	383	351	47	52	54
Air/sea fares	211	209	177	26	29	27
Accommodation	258	259	239	42	43	40
Other expenditure	516	511	510	67	73	80
Total	921	912	888	119	130	139

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 as the same person can embark on 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 discretion when analysing figures that involve estimates below 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 others 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.
8. 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 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. Following the final data received from the source, the data have been revised and can be considered as final.
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. 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 exclude 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. 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>