

Total inbound visitors for May were estimated at 191,967, an increase of 10.1 per cent when compared to the corresponding month of 2015.

Inbound Tourism: May 2016

A total of 164,929 inbound tourist trips were carried out for holiday purposes, while a further 13,072 were undertaken for business purposes. Inbound tourists from EU Member States went up by 9.4 per cent to 166,426 when compared to the corresponding month of 2015. The largest proportion of inbound tourists was aged between 25 and 44, followed by those within the 45-64 age bracket (Table 1).

Total nights spent went up by 6.6 per cent when compared to May 2015, amounting to 1,265,130 nights. The largest share of guest nights (65.1 per cent) was spent in collective accommodation establishments (Table 3).

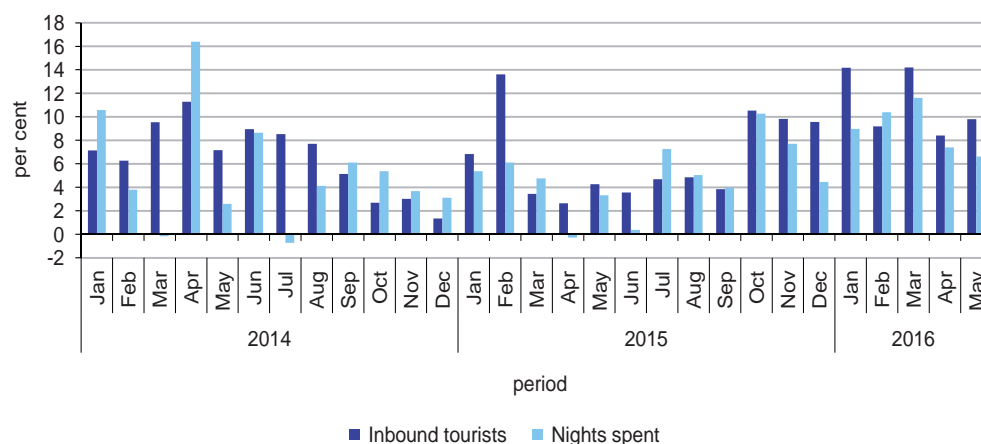
Total tourist expenditure was estimated at €154.4 million, an increase of 5.0 per cent over the corresponding month of 2015 (Table 4).

January-May 2016

Inbound tourist trips from January to May amounted to 636,812, an increase of 10.7 per cent over the same period in 2015 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists went up by 8.5 per cent, surpassing 4.4 million nights (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure was estimated at €486.9 million, 6.4 per cent higher than that recorded for 2015 (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita stood at €765, a decrease of 3.9 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	May			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Total inbound visitors	168,674	174,281	191,967	17,686	10.1
Overnight cruise passengers	2,177	692	1,381	689	99.6
Inbound tourists	166,497	173,589	190,586	16,997	9.8
Mode of travel					
Air	161,888	170,003	186,639	16,636	9.8
Sea (see note 1)	4,609	3,586	3,947	361	10.1
Sex					
Males	84,144	87,513	94,485	6,971	8.0
Females	82,353	86,076	96,102	10,026	11.6
Age group					
0-24	23,464	23,559	26,378	2,819	12.0
25-44	55,815	56,043	66,351	10,308	18.4
45-64	57,337	62,546	65,010	2,465	3.9
65 or more	29,880	31,441	32,847	1,406	-
Markets					
EU	139,541	152,163	166,426	14,263	9.4
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	72,873	82,568	90,514	7,946	9.6
Non-EU	26,955	21,426	24,161	2,734	12.8
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	140,383	150,224	164,929	14,705	9.8
Business and professional	13,883	10,675	13,072	2,397	22.5
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	12,231	12,690	12,585	-105	-
Organisation of stay					
Package	82,729	80,037	75,804	-4,234	-5.3
Non-package	83,768	93,552	114,783	21,231	22.7
Frequency					
First-time tourists	116,715	125,080	133,667	8,586	6.9
Repeat tourists	49,781	48,509	56,920	8,411	17.3
once a year or less	35,907	35,981	42,327	6,345	17.6
more than once a year	13,875	12,527	14,593	2,066	16.5
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	32,247	30,935	41,682	10,746	34.7
4-6 nights	41,243	47,060	50,959	3,898	8.3
7 nights or more	93,007	95,593	97,946	2,353	2.5
Average length of stay (nights)	6.9	6.8	6.6	-0.2	-

Notes:

1. Data on sea passengers for May 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	May			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Private accommodation	39,450	43,019	53,254	10,235	23.8
Collective accommodation*	127,046	130,569	137,332	6,763	5.2
Total tourists	166,497	173,589	190,586	16,997	9.8

* 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	May			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Private accommodation	340,539	365,711	441,608	75,897	20.8
Collective accommodation*	807,929	820,872	823,522	2,650	0.3
Total nights	1,148,469	1,186,583	1,265,130	78,546	6.6

* 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	May			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Package	50,432	52,137	48,734	-3,403	-6.5
Non-package	35,817	40,567	46,665	6,099	15.0
Air/sea fares	17,859	20,104	22,135	2,031	10.1
Accommodation	17,958	20,463	24,531	4,068	19.9
Other expenditure	51,983	54,296	58,993	4,697	8.7
Total expenditure	138,232	146,999	154,392	7,393	5.0

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		May			Change	Percentage change
		2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Tourists	EU	139,541	152,163	166,426	14,263	9.4
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	18,284	18,578	16,906	-1,673	-9.0
	Germany	10,249	12,152	17,603	5,451	44.9
	Italy	19,831	23,031	24,657	1,626	7.1
	United Kingdom	48,856	49,624	51,025	1,401	-
	Non-EU	26,955	21,426	24,161	2,734	12.8
	Total	166,497	173,589	190,586	16,997	9.8
Nights	EU	963,398	1,037,007	1,077,756	40,749	3.9
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	121,065	119,027	105,643	-13,385	-11.2
	Germany	83,885	93,075	133,813	40,738	43.8
	Italy	95,951	121,835	123,625	1,790	1.5
	United Kingdom	374,106	373,727	371,088	-2,639	-
	Non-EU	185,071	149,577	187,374	37,797	25.3
	Total	1,148,469	1,186,583	1,265,130	78,546	6.6
Expenditure (€000)	EU	108,618	122,606	127,527	4,921	4.0
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	15,330	15,314	12,862	-2,452	-16.0
	Germany	9,869	11,729	15,414	3,685	31.4
	Italy	11,137	11,730	12,863	1,134	9.7
	United Kingdom	38,889	43,970	43,449	-521	-
	Non-EU	29,615	24,393	26,865	2,472	10.1
	Total	138,232	146,999	154,392	7,393	5.0

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-May			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Total inbound visitors	551,328	577,654	640,563	62,909	10.9
Overnight cruise passengers	4,019	2,334	3,751	1,417	60.7
Inbound tourists	547,309	575,320	636,812	61,492	10.7
Mode of travel					
Air	530,910	560,330	619,606	59,276	10.6
Sea (see note 1)	16,399	14,990	17,206	2,216	14.8
Sex					
Males	287,634	301,769	325,162	23,393	7.8
Females	259,675	273,551	311,650	38,099	13.9
Age group					
0-24	88,878	90,082	99,659	9,577	10.6
25-44	175,758	180,879	211,933	31,054	17.2
45-64	192,921	200,888	216,288	15,400	7.7
65 or more	89,751	103,471	108,932	5,461	5.3
Markets					
EU	452,581	499,079	552,589	53,510	10.7
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	240,773	273,056	297,646	24,590	9.0
Non-EU	94,728	76,241	84,223	7,982	10.5
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	443,613	471,754	534,299	62,545	13.3
Business and professional	54,981	50,854	54,697	3,842	7.6
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	48,715	52,711	47,816	-4,895	-9.3
Organisation of stay					
Package	256,339	267,011	264,025	-2,986	-1.1
Non-package	290,969	308,308	372,786	64,478	20.9
Frequency					
First-time tourists	364,873	396,382	439,877	43,495	11.0
Repeat tourists	182,436	178,937	196,935	17,998	10.1
once a year or less	121,464	123,044	136,153	13,110	10.7
more than once a year	60,972	55,894	60,781	4,888	8.7
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	117,320	113,564	138,624	25,060	22.1
4-6 nights	145,064	164,106	184,985	20,879	12.7
7 nights or more	284,925	297,649	313,203	15,553	5.2
Average length of stay (nights)	7.2	7.0	6.9	-0.1	-

Notes:

1. Data on sea passengers for May 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-May			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Private accommodation	122,695	133,937	168,416	34,478	25.7
Collective accommodation*	424,614	441,382	468,396	27,014	6.1
Total tourists	547,309	575,320	636,812	61,492	10.7

* 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-May			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Private accommodation	1,172,594	1,248,516	1,492,056	243,540	19.5
Collective accommodation*	2,753,562	2,806,775	2,909,492	102,717	3.7
Total nights	3,926,156	4,055,291	4,401,548	346,257	8.5

* 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-May			Change	Percentage change	
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015		
Tourists	Austria	10,035	11,797	8,600	-3,197	-27.1
	Belgium	10,827	12,828	13,109	282	-
	France	43,819	47,481	49,450	1,969	4.1
	Germany	46,449	51,671	57,954	6,283	12.2
	Ireland	11,228	11,946	12,277	331	-
	Italy	82,083	92,936	100,921	7,986	8.6
	Libya	20,119	2,879	1,353 ^u	-1,526	-53.0
	Netherlands	13,690	14,130	15,812	1,682	11.9
	Russia	10,097	4,757	5,991	1,234	-
	Scandinavia*	31,229	32,055	38,579	6,524	20.4
	Spain	9,732	12,385	14,865	2,480	20.0
	Switzerland	10,130	10,715	10,087	-627	-
	United Kingdom	165,646	171,651	185,523	13,872	8.1
	USA	8,331	6,922	8,648	1,726	24.9
	Other	73,892	91,168	113,642	22,475	24.7
Total	547,309	575,320	636,812	61,492	10.7	
Nights	Austria	69,967	79,521	54,695	-24,826	-31.2
	Belgium	73,357	85,345	77,473	-7,872	-
	France	284,154	304,868	324,197	19,329	6.3
	Germany	370,005	405,675	438,349	32,673	8.1
	Ireland	89,591	84,736	84,722	-14	-
	Italy	398,951	512,419	554,813	42,394	8.3
	Libya	132,448	20,822	9,293 ^u	-11,529	-55.4
	Netherlands	90,035	93,369	98,886	5,517	5.9
	Russia	107,653	38,742	56,840	18,097	-
	Scandinavia*	213,762	227,616	253,491	25,875	11.4
	Spain	62,195	75,705	86,142	10,437	13.8
	Switzerland	65,596	69,013	60,710	-8,303	-
	United Kingdom	1,357,975	1,358,191	1,417,657	59,466	4.4
	USA	50,089	46,488	57,100	10,612	22.8
	Other	560,380	652,780	827,181	174,401	26.7
Total	3,926,156	4,055,291	4,401,548	346,257	8.5	
Expenditure (€000)	Austria	8,858	10,032	6,604	-3,428	-34.2
	Belgium	9,734	10,638	10,986	348	-
	France	34,090	36,994	37,551	556	1.5
	Germany	41,189	46,162	48,480	2,319	5.0
	Ireland	8,587	9,522	9,594	72	-
	Italy	43,165	49,379	52,383	3,004	6.1
	Libya	19,876	3,187	1,902 ^u	-1,285	-40.3
	Netherlands	9,919	10,992	10,948	-43	-0.4
	Russia	12,650	5,427	6,904	1,476	-
	Scandinavia*	25,865	26,984	32,464	5,480	20.3
	Spain	6,844	8,590	10,673	2,083	24.3
	Switzerland	10,704	11,548	9,873	-1,675	-
	United Kingdom	122,832	138,582	140,316	1,734	1.3
	USA	8,823	8,478	9,256	778	9.2
	Other	66,257	81,232	98,941	17,710	21.8
Total	429,395	457,748	486,875	29,127	6.4	

* 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-May 2016				
Austria	3,081	704	567	2,253	6,604
Belgium	4,641	1,442	1,504	3,399	10,986
France	15,396	4,449	5,347	12,359	37,551
Germany	22,233	5,133	6,166	14,948	48,480
Ireland	2,518	1,250	1,538	4,288	9,594
Italy	12,751	6,577	9,578	23,477	52,383
Libya	193	453	450	806	1,902
Netherlands	3,083	1,684	1,726	4,454	10,948
Russia	1,377	1,281	1,183	3,063	6,904
Scandinavia*	11,399	4,336	4,456	12,273	32,464
Spain	2,955	1,509	1,712	4,497	10,673
Switzerland	3,086	1,459	1,617	3,711	9,873
United Kingdom	47,389	18,290	18,987	55,650	140,316
USA	600	3,042	2,325	3,288	9,256
Other	21,657	20,537	16,510	40,237	98,941
Total	152,359	72,148	73,666	188,703	486,875
	January-May 2015				
Austria	5,235	938	709	3,150	10,032
Belgium	4,681	1,454	1,040	3,462	10,638
France	17,606	4,074	4,160	11,154	36,994
Germany	23,105	4,283	4,981	13,793	46,162
Ireland	2,300	1,260	1,653	4,309	9,522
Italy	14,248	6,251	8,319	20,561	49,379
Libya	166	1,028	697	1,296	3,187
Netherlands	3,882	1,560	1,428	4,122	10,992
Russia	885	1,362	836	2,344	5,427
Scandinavia*	7,770	4,251	3,950	11,014	26,984
Spain	2,097	1,264	1,392	3,837	8,590
Switzerland	4,314	1,805	1,295	4,134	11,548
United Kingdom	52,465	17,802	16,310	52,004	138,582
USA	1,389	2,653	1,609	2,828	8,478
Other	18,559	17,454	12,398	32,820	81,232
Total	158,703	67,440	60,777	170,828	457,748
	January-May 2014				
Austria	4,142	887	834	2,995	8,858
Belgium	4,023	1,252	1,185	3,274	9,734
France	15,806	4,156	3,786	10,343	34,090
Germany	21,526	3,461	3,817	12,385	41,189
Ireland	2,060	1,235	1,395	3,897	8,587
Italy	12,191	5,886	6,858	18,229	43,165
Libya	1,255	4,985	3,639	9,997	19,876
Netherlands	2,979	1,661	1,469	3,811	9,919
Russia	2,622	2,100	1,977	5,951	12,650
Scandinavia*	8,160	3,857	3,564	10,284	25,865
Spain	1,532	1,094	1,216	3,002	6,844
Switzerland	4,533	1,420	1,128	3,623	10,704
United Kingdom	46,849	15,482	12,821	47,680	122,832
USA	2,097	2,411	1,642	2,673	8,823
Other	16,029	13,266	10,219	26,744	66,257
Total	145,806	63,153	55,548	164,888	429,395

* 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-May 2016					
Austria	567	222	234	262	768
Belgium	719	217	285	259	838
France	611	183	252	250	759
Germany	669	208	296	258	837
Ireland	505	171	254	349	781
Italy	411	94	179	233	519
Libya	1,093	385	468	596	1,405
Netherlands	525	169	214	282	692
Russia	784	303	329	511	1,152
Scandinavia*	568	234	285	319	842
Spain	561	157	236	303	718
Switzerland	755	243	297	368	979
United Kingdom	565	180	267	300	756
USA	1,217	373	338	380	1,070
Other	600	265	257	354	871
Total expenditure per capita	577	194	252	296	765
January-May 2015					
Austria	639	261	279	267	850
Belgium	743	223	235	270	829
France	613	217	256	235	779
Germany	673	247	357	267	893
Ireland	474	178	273	361	797
Italy	426	105	181	221	531
Libya	476	406	323	450	1,107
Netherlands	580	210	241	292	778
Russia	803	373	283	493	1,141
Scandinavia*	542	240	277	344	842
Spain	476	158	240	310	694
Switzerland	841	323	275	386	1,078
United Kingdom	608	209	278	303	807
USA	1,318	452	342	409	1,225
Other	584	294	259	360	891
Total expenditure per capita	594	219	257	297	796
January-May 2014					
Austria	631	255	279	298	883
Belgium	702	246	316	302	899
France	641	217	238	236	778
Germany	669	242	337	267	887
Ireland	458	184	261	347	765
Italy	379	118	172	222	526
Libya	460	287	240	497	988
Netherlands	524	208	225	278	725
Russia	707	329	359	589	1,253
Scandinavia*	551	235	262	329	828
Spain	475	168	227	308	703
Switzerland	835	302	314	358	1,057
United Kingdom	553	191	247	288	742
USA	868	408	348	321	1,059
Other	574	288	287	362	898
Total expenditure per capita	569	217	251	301	785

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

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

Characteristics	May			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Total overnight cruise passengers	2,177	692	1,381	689	99.6
Sex:					
Males	1,010	333	622	289	86.8
Females	1,167	359	759	400	111.4
Age group:					
0-19	45	3	2	-1	-33.3
20-39	198	26	30	4	15.4
40-59	583	141	171	30	21.3
60-79	1,205	463	986	523	113.0
80 or more	146	59	192	133	225.4
Markets:					
EU	1,608	181	1,119	938	518.2
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	1,454	88	990	902	1025.0
Non-EU	569	511	262	-249	-48.7

Table 13. Profile of overnight cruise passengers by period of departure

Characteristics	January-May			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Total overnight cruise passengers	4,019	2,334	3,751	1,417	60.7
Sex:					
Males	1,871	1,097	1,740	643	58.6
Females	2,148	1,237	2,011	774	62.6
Age group:					
0-19	149	33	193	160	484.8
20-39	295	85	292	207	243.5
40-59	973	322	827	505	156.8
60-79	2,312	1,564	2,147	583	37.3
80 or more	290	330	292	-38	-11.5
Markets:					
EU	3,361	1,317	2,890	1,573	119.4
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	3,173	1,182	2,710	1,528	129.3
Non-EU	658	1,017	861	-156	-15.3

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 a system overhaul, sea passenger data for May 2015 were provided as provisional. 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>