

1 February 2017 | 1100 hrs | 020/2017

Total inbound visitors for December were estimated at 96,395 an increase of 32.8 per cent when compared to the corresponding month in 2015.

## Inbound Tourism: December 2016

A total of 80,443 inbound tourist trips were carried out for holiday purposes, while a further 8,802 were undertaken for business purposes. Inbound tourists from EU Member States went up by 34.5 per cent to 82,518 when compared to the corresponding month in 2015. The majority of inbound tourists were aged between 25 and 44, followed by those within the 45-64 age bracket (Table 1).

Total nights spent went up by 10.3 per cent when compared to December 2015, amounting to 674,521 nights. The largest share of guest nights (55.7 per cent) was spent in collective accommodation establishments. Tourist nights in private accommodation increased by 9.8 per cent when compared to December 2015 (Table 3).

Total tourist expenditure was estimated at €62.3 million, an increase of 16.0 per cent over the corresponding month in 2015 (Table 4).

### January-December 2016

Inbound tourist trips from January to December 2016 reached nearly 2.0 million, an increase of 10.2 per cent over the same period in 2015 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists went up by 5.7 per cent, reaching almost 15.0 million nights (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure was estimated at €1.71 billion, 4.3 per cent higher than that recorded for 2015 (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita stood at €869, a decrease of 5.4 per cent when compared to 2015 (Table 11) ■

**Inbound tourism: year-on-year percentage changes**  
(excluding overnight cruise passengers)



Compiled by:

**Unit C3: Tourism,  
Education and Information  
Society Statistics**

Further information on data:

**Mr Matthew ZERAFA**

T. +356 2599 7630

E. matthew.zerafa@gov.mt

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Issued by: **Dissemination Unit, National Statistics Office, Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta.**

T. +356 2599 7219 F. +356 2599 7205 E. [nso@gov.mt](mailto:nso@gov.mt)

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Table 1. Profile of inbound tourists by month of departure

Characteristics	December			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
<b>Total inbound visitors</b>	<b>66,619</b>	<b>72,568</b>	<b>96,395</b>	<b>23,826</b>	<b>32.8</b>
Overnight cruise passengers	387	-	1,429	-	-
<b>Inbound tourists</b>	<b>66,232</b>	<b>72,568</b>	<b>94,966</b>	<b>22,397</b>	<b>30.9</b>
<b>Mode of travel</b>					
Air	62,083	68,277	91,306	23,028	33.7
Sea	4,149	4,291	3,660	-631	-14.7
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	37,592	39,656	52,966	13,309	33.6
Females	28,639	32,912	42,000	9,088	27.6
<b>Age group</b>					
0-24	9,053	9,360	14,007	4,647	49.6
25-44	20,960	25,354	35,737	10,384	41.0
45-64	22,831	24,353	31,529	7,176	29.5
65 or more	13,388	13,501	13,692	191	-
<b>Markets</b>					
EU	55,512	61,346	82,518	21,172	34.5
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	30,360	33,676	46,948	13,272	39.4
Non-EU	10,720	11,222	12,447	1,225	-
<b>Purpose of visit</b>					
Holiday	53,136	60,728	80,443	19,715	32.5
Business and professional	8,176	6,818	8,802	1,984	29.1
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	4,919	5,022	5,720	698	-
<b>Organisation of stay</b>					
Package	28,126	27,763	29,364	1,602	5.8
Non-package	38,105	44,806	65,601	20,795	46.4
<b>Frequency</b>					
First-time tourists	39,599	43,952	62,758	18,806	42.8
Repeat tourists	26,632	28,616	32,208	3,591	12.6
once a year or less	14,989	16,112	18,538	2,426	15.1
more than once a year	11,643	12,505	13,670	1,165	-
<b>Duration of visit</b>					
1-3 nights	15,400	18,164	27,500	9,336	51.4
4-6 nights	15,578	18,893	27,218	8,325	44.1
7 nights or more	35,253	35,511	40,247	4,736	13.3
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	8.8	8.4	7.1	-1.3	-

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	December			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Private accommodation	17,512	20,876	27,982	7,107	34.0
Collective accommodation*	48,719	51,693	66,983	15,291	29.6
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>66,232</b>	<b>72,568</b>	<b>94,966</b>	<b>22,397</b>	<b>30.9</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 month of departure and type of accommodation**

Type of accommodation	December			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Private accommodation	234,079	272,378	298,970	26,592	9.8
Collective accommodation*	351,186	338,975	375,551	36,576	10.8
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>585,264</b>	<b>611,353</b>	<b>674,521</b>	<b>63,168</b>	<b>10.3</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 month of departure and expenditure category**

Expenditure category	December			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Package	15,453	14,632	15,085	453	3.1
Non-package	15,644	16,985	20,066	3,081	18.1
Air/sea fares	7,825	8,683	9,516	832	9.6
Accommodation	7,819	8,302	10,551	2,249	27.1
Other expenditure	20,560	22,119	27,186	5,068	22.9
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>51,657</b>	<b>53,736</b>	<b>62,338</b>	<b>8,602</b>	<b>16.0</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 month of departure and country of residence**

Country of residence		December			Change	Percentage change
		2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Tourists	<b>EU</b>	<b>55,512</b>	<b>61,346</b>	<b>82,518</b>	<b>21,172</b>	<b>34.5</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	2,990	3,768	6,666	2,898	76.9
	Germany	7,447	6,667	6,986	320	-
	Italy	13,079	13,730	18,275	4,545	33.1
	United Kingdom	19,613	21,393	26,796	5,404	25.3
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>10,720</b>	<b>11,222</b>	<b>12,447</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>66,232</b>	<b>72,568</b>	<b>94,966</b>	<b>22,397</b>	<b>30.9</b>
Nights	<b>EU</b>	<b>479,553</b>	<b>494,402</b>	<b>579,681</b>	<b>85,279</b>	<b>17.2</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	26,783	39,360	54,343	14,983	38.1
	Germany	74,345	66,407	46,126	-20,281	-
	Italy	97,459	97,757	97,076	-681	-0.7
	United Kingdom	172,720	168,809	191,079	22,270	13.2
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>105,711</b>	<b>116,951</b>	<b>94,841</b>	<b>-22,110</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>585,264</b>	<b>611,353</b>	<b>674,521</b>	<b>63,168</b>	<b>10.3</b>
Expenditure (€000)	<b>EU</b>	<b>39,533</b>	<b>42,827</b>	<b>50,882</b>	<b>8,056</b>	<b>18.8</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	2,301	3,179	5,559	2,380	74.9
	Germany	6,599	6,165	4,772	-1,393	-
	Italy	6,949	6,952	8,245	1,293	18.6
	United Kingdom	13,780	14,853	16,556	1,703	11.5
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>12,124</b>	<b>10,909</b>	<b>11,456</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51,657</b>	<b>53,736</b>	<b>62,338</b>	<b>8,602</b>	<b>16.0</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 by period of departure**

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
<b>Total inbound visitors</b>	<b>1,714,533</b>	<b>1,799,213</b>	<b>1,988,447</b>	<b>189,234</b>	<b>10.5</b>
Overnight cruise passengers	24,724	15,847	22,519	6,672	42.1
<b>Inbound tourists</b>	<b>1,689,809</b>	<b>1,783,366</b>	<b>1,965,928</b>	<b>182,562</b>	<b>10.2</b>
<b>Mode of travel</b>					
Air	1,641,344	1,737,753	1,917,950	180,197	10.4
Sea	48,465	45,613	47,978	2,365	5.2
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	884,292	919,289	1,003,768	84,480	9.2
Females	805,517	864,077	962,160	98,083	11.4
<b>Age group</b>					
0-24	335,467	343,803	382,671	38,868	11.3
25-44	570,271	600,364	690,082	89,718	14.9
45-64	553,400	587,726	627,450	39,724	6.8
65 or more	230,672	251,473	265,725	14,252	5.7
<b>Markets</b>					
EU	1,417,237	1,526,914	1,691,055	164,142	10.7
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	752,676	808,455	903,182	94,728	11.7
Non-EU	272,572	256,452	274,873	18,421	7.2
<b>Purpose of visit</b>					
Holiday	1,435,055	1,512,437	1,691,193	178,756	11.8
Business and professional	130,173	126,858	136,770	9,912	7.8
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	124,582	144,071	137,965	-6,106	-4.2
<b>Organisation of stay</b>					
Package	776,192	781,726	755,769	-25,957	-3.3
Non-package	913,618	1,001,640	1,210,159	208,519	20.8
<b>Frequency</b>					
First-time tourists	1,158,649	1,240,990	1,374,317	133,327	10.7
Repeat tourists	531,161	542,376	591,611	49,235	9.1
once a year or less	374,728	390,214	421,378	31,164	8.0
more than once a year	156,432	152,162	170,233	18,071	11.9
<b>Duration of visit</b>					
1-3 nights	276,335	272,007	349,146	77,139	28.4
4-6 nights	385,090	429,187	497,409	68,222	15.9
7 nights or more	1,028,384	1,082,172	1,119,373	37,201	3.4
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	8.0	7.9	7.6	-0.3	-

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Private accommodation	428,305	503,105	611,806	108,701	21.6
Collective accommodation*	1,261,504	1,280,261	1,354,122	73,861	5.8
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>1,689,809</b>	<b>1,783,366</b>	<b>1,965,928</b>	<b>182,562</b>	<b>10.2</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 period of departure and type of accommodation**

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016		
Private accommodation	4,655,208	5,350,472	6,075,001	724,529	13.5
Collective accommodation*	8,866,904	8,801,128	8,886,365	85,237	1.0
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>13,522,112</b>	<b>14,151,599</b>	<b>14,961,366</b>	<b>809,766</b>	<b>5.7</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 period of departure and country of residence**

Country of residence	January-December			Change	Percentage change	
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015		
<b>Tourists</b>	Austria	27,567	30,246	24,319	-5,927	-19.6
	Belgium	31,399	35,937	41,759	5,822	16.2
	France	125,511	127,953	144,804	16,851	13.2
	Germany	143,053	141,855	156,786	14,930	10.5
	Ireland	30,722	35,382	33,175	-2,207	-6.2
	Italy	262,631	282,815	315,223	32,408	11.5
	Libya	30,770	6,651	3,415	-3,236	-48.7
	Netherlands	44,697	44,962	52,642	7,680	17.1
	Russia	34,220	21,584	16,370	-5,214	-24.2
	Scandinavia*	108,647	117,388	123,963	6,575	5.6
	Spain	42,285	47,237	55,023	7,787	16.5
	Switzerland	31,797	35,293	40,504	5,211	14.8
	United Kingdom	487,714	525,996	559,987	33,991	6.5
	USA	22,402	25,887	26,454	567	-
	Other	266,395	304,178	371,503	67,325	22.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,689,809</b>	<b>1,783,366</b>	<b>1,965,928</b>	<b>182,562</b>	<b>10.2</b>
<b>Nights</b>	Austria	200,997	225,231	167,678	-57,554	-25.6
	Belgium	230,309	270,192	277,755	7,563	2.8
	France	982,021	1,030,839	1,123,591	92,753	9.0
	Germany	1,210,790	1,212,572	1,246,556	33,985	2.8
	Ireland	248,036	274,811	252,559	-22,252	-8.1
	Italy	1,596,151	1,840,241	1,921,435	81,194	4.4
	Libya	215,905	58,272	25,808	-32,463	-55.7
	Netherlands	348,194	348,137	392,864	44,727	12.8
	Russia	427,504	256,380	181,919	-74,461	-29.0
	Scandinavia*	817,693	860,091	899,026	38,935	4.5
	Spain	321,464	360,272	399,720	39,449	10.9
	Switzerland	262,365	265,885	313,572	47,688	17.9
	United Kingdom	4,122,976	4,366,663	4,499,760	133,096	3.0
	USA	178,434	206,929	200,705	-6,225	-
	Other	2,359,273	2,575,085	3,058,416	483,332	18.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,522,112</b>	<b>14,151,599</b>	<b>14,961,366</b>	<b>809,766</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>Expenditure (€000)</b>	Austria	26,117	28,519	21,620	-6,898	-24.2
	Belgium	31,333	34,734	36,487	1,753	5.0
	France	113,593	117,709	126,091	8,382	7.1
	Germany	138,931	136,440	137,917	1,477	1.1
	Ireland	27,024	33,301	30,840	-2,461	-7.4
	Italy	163,181	178,866	193,065	14,199	7.9
	Libya	32,606	9,205	4,467	-4,739	-51.5
	Netherlands	39,457	40,526	44,833	4,307	10.6
	Russia	53,019	30,320	21,579	-8,741	-28.8
	Scandinavia*	102,838	111,170	117,764	6,595	5.9
	Spain	35,751	39,944	43,485	3,541	8.9
	Switzerland	38,996	40,443	47,664	7,221	17.9
	United Kingdom	422,402	495,782	485,143	-10,639	-2.1
	USA	28,560	33,294	31,574	-1,720	-
	Other	274,765	308,815	366,423	57,608	18.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,528,572</b>	<b>1,639,067</b>	<b>1,708,952</b>	<b>69,885</b>	<b>4.3</b>

\* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

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		
<b>January-December 2016</b>					
Austria	9,229	2,383	2,659	7,350	21,620
Belgium	14,651	4,216	5,272	12,348	36,487
France	47,304	14,770	20,731	43,286	126,091
Germany	57,882	15,514	20,283	44,238	137,917
Ireland	6,964	4,530	6,078	13,268	30,840
Italy	46,055	24,243	38,133	84,634	193,065
Libya	306	1,213	1,013	1,934	4,467
Netherlands	15,071	5,122	6,296	18,343	44,833
Russia	4,503	3,663	3,599	9,814	21,579
Scandinavia*	40,375	15,344	17,515	44,530	117,764
Spain	10,101	5,943	8,857	18,584	43,485
Switzerland	14,488	6,691	8,574	17,911	47,664
United Kingdom	165,928	64,137	70,271	184,807	485,143
USA	2,288	10,983	6,418	11,885	31,574
Other	70,673	75,411	65,234	155,105	366,423
<b>Total</b>	<b>505,820</b>	<b>254,163</b>	<b>280,932</b>	<b>668,037</b>	<b>1,708,952</b>
<b>January-December 2015</b>					
Austria	13,394	2,657	2,930	9,537	28,519
Belgium	15,383	3,836	4,371	11,145	34,734
France	48,697	13,157	17,140	38,715	117,709
Germany	66,807	12,901	16,095	40,637	136,440
Ireland	7,841	4,767	6,267	14,426	33,301
Italy	46,827	22,156	33,258	76,624	178,866
Libya	352	2,595	2,470	3,789	9,205
Netherlands	14,264	4,807	5,559	15,896	40,526
Russia	6,973	5,225	4,882	13,240	30,320
Scandinavia*	34,369	15,956	16,938	43,907	111,170
Spain	11,797	4,904	6,606	16,638	39,944
Switzerland	13,012	6,075	6,762	14,594	40,443
United Kingdom	188,594	66,861	61,075	179,252	495,782
USA	4,151	10,970	6,391	11,781	33,294
Other	68,505	63,357	49,830	127,123	308,815
<b>Total</b>	<b>540,965</b>	<b>240,223</b>	<b>240,574</b>	<b>617,304</b>	<b>1,639,067</b>
<b>January-December 2014</b>					
Austria	11,403	2,749	2,896	9,068	26,117
Belgium	13,822	3,290	3,694	10,526	31,333
France	50,282	12,405	14,529	36,377	113,593
Germany	69,466	12,461	14,271	42,732	138,931
Ireland	6,934	3,861	4,252	11,977	27,024
Italy	43,962	21,564	28,657	68,998	163,181
Libya	2,413	8,452	6,134	15,606	32,606
Netherlands	14,753	4,668	4,568	15,468	39,457
Russia	16,661	6,750	6,507	23,100	53,019
Scandinavia*	32,255	14,612	15,219	40,751	102,838
Spain	10,608	4,403	5,739	15,000	35,751
Switzerland	16,294	4,679	4,945	13,078	38,996
United Kingdom	159,477	54,110	48,726	160,089	422,402
USA	4,474	8,702	5,689	9,695	28,560
Other	63,534	54,546	42,194	114,492	274,765
<b>Total</b>	<b>516,339</b>	<b>217,255</b>	<b>208,023</b>	<b>586,956</b>	<b>1,528,572</b>

\* 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		
<b>January-December 2016</b>					
Austria	665	228	317	302	<b>889</b>
Belgium	750	190	292	296	<b>874</b>
France	724	186	300	299	<b>871</b>
Germany	719	203	315	282	<b>880</b>
Ireland	608	209	343	400	<b>930</b>
Italy	505	108	218	268	<b>612</b>
Libya	673	410	432	566	<b>1,308</b>
Netherlands	633	178	278	348	<b>852</b>
Russia	936	317	376	599	<b>1,318</b>
Scandinavia*	689	235	322	359	<b>950</b>
Spain	616	154	272	338	<b>790</b>
Switzerland	937	267	388	442	<b>1,177</b>
United Kingdom	669	206	326	330	<b>866</b>
USA	802	465	337	449	<b>1,194</b>
Other	682	282	303	418	<b>986</b>
<b>Total expenditure per capita</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>869</b>
<b>January-December 2015</b>					
Austria	683	250	335	315	<b>943</b>
Belgium	846	216	344	310	<b>967</b>
France	718	219	340	303	<b>920</b>
Germany	740	250	387	286	<b>962</b>
Ireland	600	214	328	408	<b>941</b>
Italy	495	118	225	271	<b>632</b>
Libya	467	440	511	570	<b>1,384</b>
Netherlands	669	203	295	354	<b>901</b>
Russia	1,051	350	400	613	<b>1,405</b>
Scandinavia*	650	247	316	374	<b>947</b>
Spain	629	172	301	352	<b>846</b>
Switzerland	863	301	392	414	<b>1,146</b>
United Kingdom	734	249	347	341	<b>943</b>
USA	1,199	489	373	455	<b>1,286</b>
Other	671	314	314	418	<b>1,015</b>
<b>Total expenditure per capita</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>919</b>
<b>January-December 2014</b>					
Austria	663	265	342	329	<b>947</b>
Belgium	796	234	344	335	<b>998</b>
France	731	219	304	290	<b>905</b>
Germany	730	260	378	299	<b>971</b>
Ireland	552	213	296	390	<b>880</b>
Italy	464	128	213	263	<b>621</b>
Libya	572	318	262	507	<b>1,060</b>
Netherlands	653	211	269	346	<b>883</b>
Russia	1,076	360	402	675	<b>1,549</b>
Scandinavia*	665	243	306	375	<b>947</b>
Spain	606	178	271	355	<b>845</b>
Switzerland	944	322	416	411	<b>1,226</b>
United Kingdom	660	220	312	328	<b>866</b>
USA	880	502	432	433	<b>1,275</b>
Other	647	324	321	430	<b>1,032</b>
<b>Total expenditure per capita</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>905</b>

\* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

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

Characteristics	December		
	2014	2015	2016
<b>Total overnight cruise passengers</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,429</b>
<b>Sex:</b>			
Males	165	-	648
Females	222	-	781
<b>Age group:</b>			
0-19	-	-	6
20-39	8	-	44
40-59	16	-	135
60-79	231	-	975
80 or more	132	-	269
<b>Markets:</b>			
EU	384	-	562
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	7	-	10
Non-EU	3	-	867

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

Characteristics	January-December			Change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015
<b>Total overnight cruise passengers</b>	<b>24,724</b>	<b>15,847</b>	<b>22,519</b>	<b>6,672</b>
<b>Sex:</b>				
Males	11,852	7,447	10,512	3,065
Females	12,872	8,400	12,007	3,607
<b>Age group:</b>				
0-19	1,434	613	1,128	515
20-39	3,568	1,073	1,920	847
40-59	8,559	3,538	5,234	1,696
60-79	9,584	9,255	12,556	3,301
80 or more	1,579	1,368	1,681	313
<b>Markets:</b>				
EU	22,344	7,223	10,218	2,995
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	18,976	4,747	5,839	1,092
Non-EU	2,380	8,624	12,301	3,677

## 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. 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>