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Total outbound tourists for the fourth quarter in 2016 were estimated at 137,586, an increase of 22.5 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2015.

Outbound Tourism: Q4/2016

October-December 2016

During the fourth quarter of 2016, the number of outbound tourist trips towards EU countries stood at 123,745, an increase of 23.8 per cent over the same quarter in 2015 (Table 1). Italy and the United Kingdom remained the most popular destinations, with a share of 54.1 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 4).

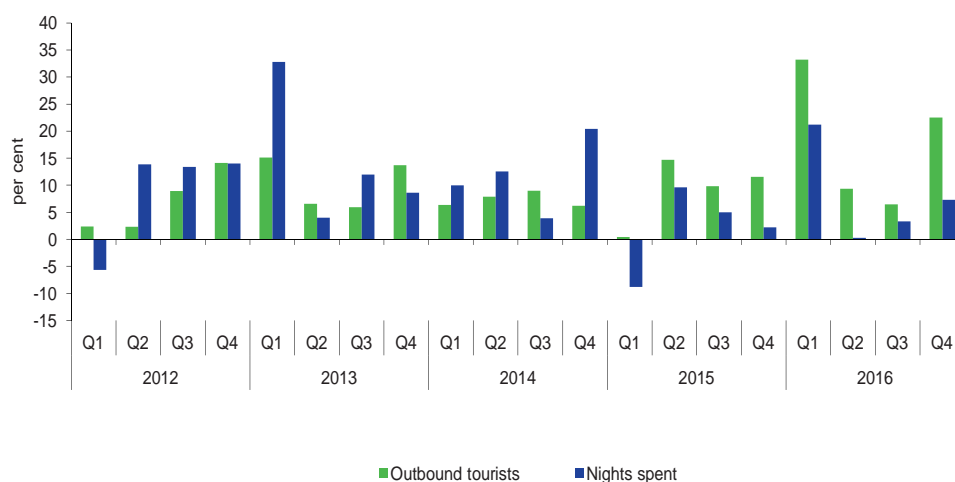
Total nights spent by outbound tourists increased by 7.3 per cent, reaching 923,403 nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights were spent in private accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total estimated outlay by resident tourists between October and December increased by 11.2 per cent over the same quarter of 2015, and stood at €119.1 million, equivalent to an average €866 per trip (Tables 5 and 6).

January-December 2016

Total outbound tourist trips between January and December 2016 numbered 496,767, an increase of 16.2 per cent over 2015 (Table 7). Total nights spent by outbound tourists went up by 6.7 per cent, reaching almost 3.5 million nights (Table 9). In addition, total estimated outlay by resident tourists stood at €461.4 million, 9.1 per cent higher than that recorded for the same period in 2015 (Table 11) ■

Year-on-year percentage changes



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Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	October-December (Q4)			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Outbound tourists	100,675	112,301	137,586	25,285	22.5
Mode of travel:					
Air	95,110	106,259	131,468	25,209	23.7
Sea (see note 1)	5,565	6,042	6,118	76	-
Sex:					
Males	57,218	64,393	78,845	14,452	22.4
Females	43,457	47,908	58,742	10,833	22.6
Age group:					
0-24	17,133	18,474	23,496	5,022	27.2
25-44	44,684	51,862	64,922	13,060	25.2
45-64	29,582	32,896	37,639	4,743	14.4
65 or more	9,276	9,069	11,529	2,460	27.1
Destination:					
EU	89,865	99,949	123,745	23,797	23.8
<i>of which:</i> Euro area	55,731	66,196	81,949	15,753	23.8
Non-EU	10,810	12,353	13,841	1,488	-
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	50,574	56,424	75,724	19,299	34.2
Visiting relatives and friends	25,758	31,621	32,607	987	-
Business and professional	17,963	17,270	20,097	2,826	16.4
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	6,380	6,986	9,158	2,173	31.1
Organisation of stay:					
Package	17,463	14,667	18,139	3,472	23.7
Non-package	83,212	97,634	119,447	21,813	22.3
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	29,732	32,846	43,835	10,989	33.5
4-6 nights	30,550	33,508	46,383	12,875	38.4
7 nights or more	40,394	45,947	47,368	1,421	-
Average length of stay (nights)	8.4	7.7	6.7	-1.0	-

Notes:

1. Data on sea passengers for Quarter 4 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	October-December (Q4)			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Private accommodation	38,360	46,912	53,892	6,980	14.9
Collective accommodation*	62,315	65,389	83,694	18,305	28.0
Total tourists	100,675	112,301	137,586	25,285	22.5

* 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	October-December (Q4)			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Private accommodation	482,116	518,408	521,241	2,833	0.5
Collective accommodation*	360,072	342,210	402,162	59,951	17.5
Total nights	842,188	860,619	923,403	62,784	7.3

* 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	October-December (Q4)			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Tourists					
EU	89,865	99,949	123,745	23,797	23.8
<i>of which:</i>					
France	5,366	4,365	3,609	-755	-
Germany	5,704	7,368	9,791	2,422	32.9
Italy	30,174	36,106	44,059	7,953	22.0
United Kingdom	27,379	25,162	30,353	5,191	20.6
Non-EU	10,810	12,353	13,841	1,488	-
Total	100,675	112,301	137,586	25,285	22.5
Nights					
EU	611,092	658,685	723,394	64,709	9.8
<i>of which:</i>					
France	30,788	34,917	18,799	-16,118	-
Germany	39,588	47,348	61,171	13,823	29.2
Italy	149,082	180,586	203,753	23,167	12.8
United Kingdom	202,088	183,770	200,906	17,135	9.3
Non-EU	231,096	201,934	200,009	-1,925	-
Total	842,188	860,619	923,403	62,784	7.3

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	October-December (Q4)			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Package	9,555	9,674	10,927	1,253	13.0
Non-package	32,548	36,149	38,547	2,398	6.6
Air/sea fares	18,690	20,389	20,681	292	1.4
Accommodation	13,858	15,760	17,866	2,105	13.4
Other expenditure	56,696	61,271	69,609	8,338	13.6
Total expenditure	98,799	107,093	119,083	11,989	11.2

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	October-December (Q4)					
	per trip			per night		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Package	547	660	602	90	116	107
Non-package	391	370	323	44	47	47
Air/sea fares	225	209	173	25	26	25
Accommodation	267	265	233	44	47	47
Other expenditure	563	546	506	67	71	75
Total	981	954	866	117	124	129

Table 7. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Outbound tourists	390,701	427,621	496,767	69,146	16.2
Mode of travel:					
Air	365,454	402,926	468,254	65,328	16.2
Sea (see note 1)	25,247	24,695	28,513	3,818	15.5
Sex:					
Males	219,537	241,854	279,642	37,788	15.6
Females	171,164	185,768	217,125	31,357	16.9
Age group:					
0-24	76,750	79,223	92,387	13,165	16.6
25-44	166,237	189,293	224,572	35,279	18.6
45-64	113,527	123,484	137,109	13,625	11.0
65 or more	34,186	35,622	42,699	7,076	19.9
Destination:					
EU	346,727	380,843	446,693	65,851	17.3
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	226,268	257,730	304,894	47,165	18.3
Non-EU	43,974	46,779	50,074	3,295	7.0
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	219,703	230,831	280,242	49,412	21.4
Visiting relatives and friends	77,623	94,012	104,466	10,454	11.1
Business and professional	66,493	68,504	71,441	2,937	4.3
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	26,882	34,275	40,618	6,343	18.5
Organisation of stay:					
Package	89,543	83,429	80,869	-2,560	-3.1
Non-package	301,158	344,192	415,898	71,706	20.8
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	102,790	114,452	143,001	28,549	24.9
4-6 nights	113,640	126,377	157,014	30,637	24.2
7 nights or more	174,272	186,792	196,752	9,960	5.3
Average length of stay (nights)	8.1	7.6	7.0	-0.6	-

Notes:

1. Data on sea passengers for Quarter 4 2015 has been revised. For more information refer to methodological note 8.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 8. Outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Private accommodation	138,635	159,535	187,149	27,614	17.3
Collective accommodation*	252,066	268,086	309,618	41,532	15.5
Total tourists	390,701	427,621	496,767	69,146	16.2

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

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 9. Total nights spent by outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Private accommodation	1,682,363	1,780,344	1,832,278	51,934	2.9
Collective accommodation*	1,498,988	1,484,898	1,650,919	166,021	11.2
Total nights	3,181,351	3,265,242	3,483,197	217,955	6.7

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

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 10. Outbound tourists and nights spent by destination

Destination	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Total tourists	390,701	427,621	496,767	69,146	16.2
Austria	5,156	7,219	9,712	2,494	34.5
Belgium	9,752	10,792	12,326	1,534	14.2
France	21,853	20,946	17,006	-3,940	-18.8
Germany	21,929	23,866	32,302	8,436	35.3
Ireland	3,274	5,517	6,381	864	-
Italy	122,678	136,648	165,556	28,907	21.2
Libya	3,918	1,007 ^u	1,399 ^u	392	-
Netherlands	10,380	13,756	15,583	1,827	13.3
Russia	2,084	2,410	1,944	-466	-
Scandinavia*	8,000	9,963	10,306	343	-
Spain	17,895	19,408	23,067	3,659	18.9
Switzerland	5,004	7,438	7,909	471	-
United Kingdom	91,822	89,266	96,154	6,888	7.7
USA	4,248	4,458	4,869	412	-
Other	62,709	74,928	92,253	17,325	23.1
Total nights	3,181,351	3,265,242	3,483,197	217,955	6.7
Austria	37,465	50,980	63,682	12,702	24.9
Belgium	52,805	53,052	58,374	5,323	10.0
France	142,091	139,164	107,999	-31,165	-22.4
Germany	163,492	165,424	211,699	46,276	28.0
Ireland	35,404	41,713	48,178	6,465	-
Italy	662,722	732,743	775,164	42,421	5.8
Libya	50,346	16,452 ^u	25,416 ^u	8,964	-
Netherlands	83,690	94,434	98,777	4,343	4.6
Russia	32,685	35,166	28,341	-6,825	-
Scandinavia*	85,909	107,393	82,482	-24,911	-
Spain	135,684	134,984	158,968	23,984	17.8
Switzerland	34,246	54,751	53,947	-804	-
United Kingdom	734,171	676,750	696,139	19,389	2.9
USA	89,065	81,014	72,423	-8,591	-
Other	841,574	881,222	1,001,607	120,385	13.7

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

^u under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 11. Total expenditure by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€000

Expenditure category	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015	
Package	58,510	60,497	54,828	-5,669	-9.4
Non-package	124,763	137,299	150,424	13,124	9.6
Air/sea fares	68,115	73,220	77,171	3,951	5.4
Accommodation	56,648	64,079	73,252	9,174	14.3
Other expenditure	204,416	225,163	256,156	30,994	13.8
Total expenditure	387,689	422,959	461,408	38,449	9.1

Notes:

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

Table 12. Average expenditure per capita per night by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€

Expenditure category	January-December					
	per trip			per night		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Package	653	725	678	103	113	113
Non-package	414	399	362	48	50	50
Air/sea fares	226	213	186	26	27	26
Accommodation	282	283	259	44	47	45
Other expenditure	523	527	516	64	69	74
Total	992	989	929	122	130	132

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 a system overhaul, sea passenger data for Quarter 4 2015 were provided as provisional. 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>
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