

3 April 2017 | 1100 hrs | 059/2017

Total inbound visitors for February were estimated at 103,899 an increase of 27.7 per cent when compared to the corresponding month in 2016.

Inbound Tourism: February 2017

A total of 81,706 inbound tourist trips were carried out for holiday purposes, while a further 14,691 were undertaken for business purposes. Inbound tourists from EU Member States went up by 30.6 per cent to 90,472 when compared to the corresponding month in 2016. 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 15.7 per cent when compared to February 2016, amounting to 672,727 nights. The largest share of guest nights (67.5 per cent) was spent in collective accommodation establishments. Tourist nights in private accommodation increased by 24.8 per cent when compared to February 2016 (Table 3).

Total tourist expenditure was estimated at €69.9 million, an increase of 20.8 per cent over the corresponding month in 2016 (Table 4).

January-February 2017

Inbound tourist trips for the first two months of 2017 reached 207,968, an increase of 25.4 per cent over the same period in 2016 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists went up by 13.9 per cent, surpassing 1.4 million nights (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure was estimated at €140.7 million, 14.3 per cent higher than that recorded in 2016 (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita stood at €677, a decrease of 8.8 per cent when compared to 2016 (Table 11) ■

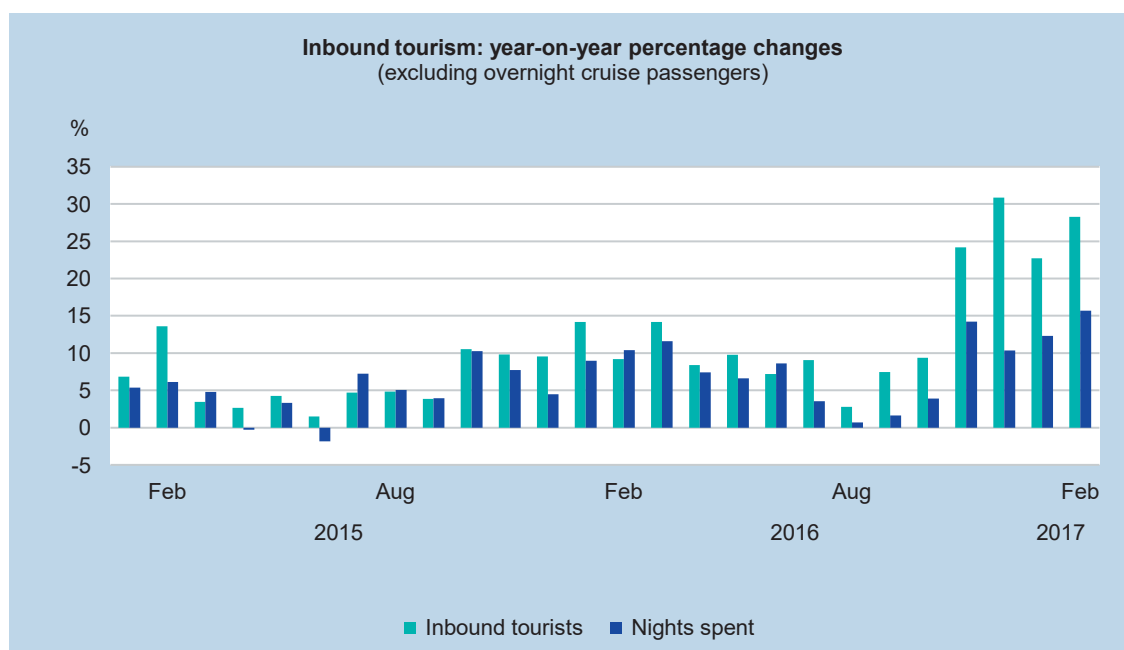


Table 1. Profile of inbound tourists by month of departure

Characteristics	February			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Total inbound visitors	74,189	81,386	103,899	22,513	27.7
Overnight cruise passengers	-	381	-	-	-
Inbound tourists	74,189	81,005	103,899	22,894	28.3
Mode of travel					
Air	72,143	78,338	101,849	23,511	30.0
Sea	2,046	2,667	2,050	-617	-23.1
Sex					
Males	39,545	43,847	56,070	12,223	27.9
Females	34,644	37,158	47,829	10,671	28.7
Age group					
0-24	11,808	11,076	17,046	5,970	53.9
25-44	22,037	24,338	37,305	12,967	53.3
45-64	26,923	30,604	35,129	4,525	14.8
65 or more	13,421	14,987	14,419	-568	-
Markets					
EU	64,172	69,264	90,472	21,208	30.6
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	34,129	36,430	53,007	16,577	45.5
Non-EU	10,016	11,741	13,427	1,686	14.4
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	57,343	66,137	81,706	15,569	23.5
Business and professional	8,238	9,291	14,691	5,400	58.1
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	8,608	5,577	7,502	1,925	34.5
Organisation of stay					
Package	34,882	35,111	36,081	970	-
Non-package	39,307	45,894	67,818	21,923	47.8
Frequency					
First-time tourists	47,939	53,959	70,285	16,326	30.3
Repeat tourists	26,250	27,046	33,614	6,568	24.3
once a year or less	17,800	18,792	23,582	4,790	25.5
more than once a year	8,450	8,254	10,032	1,777	21.5
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	16,339	21,140	30,746	9,606	45.4
4-6 nights	20,149	22,236	31,848	9,612	43.2
7 nights or more	37,700	37,630	41,305	3,675	9.8
Average length of stay (nights)	7.1	7.2	6.5	-0.7	-

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	February			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017		
Private accommodation	15,369	17,736	25,851	8,115	45.8
Collective accommodation*	58,820	63,269	78,048	14,779	23.4
Total tourists	74,189	81,005	103,899	22,894	28.3

* 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	February			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017		
Private accommodation	151,563	175,517	218,971	43,454	24.8
Collective accommodation*	375,116	405,877	453,755	47,878	11.8
Total nights	526,678	581,394	672,727	91,333	15.7

* 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	February			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017		
Package	17,730	17,742	18,299	557	3.1
Non-package	14,661	17,537	22,714	5,177	29.5
Air/sea fares	7,859	8,616	10,601	1,986	23.0
Accommodation	6,802	8,922	12,113	3,191	35.8
Other expenditure	20,395	22,558	28,878	6,320	28.0
Total expenditure	52,787	57,837	69,891	12,054	20.8

€ 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		February			Change	Percentage change
		2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Tourists	EU	64,172	69,264	90,472	21,208	30.6
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	4,980	5,497	8,090	2,593	47.2
	Germany	7,114	7,729	10,052	2,323	30.1
	Italy	13,295	14,531	17,002	2,471	17.0
	United Kingdom	24,158	26,800	27,510	710	-
	Non-EU	10,016	11,741	13,427	1,686	14.4
	Total	74,189	81,005	103,899	22,894	28.3
Nights	EU	450,335	493,679	559,588	65,909	13.4
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	34,794	41,615	50,137	8,522	20.5
	Germany	52,661	55,706	65,374	9,668	17.4
	Italy	75,042	83,644	84,926	1,282	1.5
	United Kingdom	194,112	215,700	206,982	-8,718	-
	Non-EU	76,343	87,715	113,139	25,424	29.0
	Total	526,678	581,394	672,727	91,333	15.7
Expenditure (€000)	EU	42,734	45,641	55,278	9,637	21.1
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	3,610	3,848	4,670	822	21.4
	Germany	5,276	5,809	7,692	1,883	32.4
	Italy	7,051	7,192	9,075	1,883	26.2
	United Kingdom	17,199	18,162	16,793	-1,369	-
	Non-EU	10,052	12,197	14,613	2,417	19.8
	Total	52,787	57,837	69,891	12,054	20.8

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-February			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Total inbound visitors	148,469	166,825	207,968	41,143	24.7
Overnight cruise passengers	-	1,003	-	-	-
Inbound tourists	148,469	165,822	207,968	42,146	25.4
Mode of travel					
Air	145,469	160,552	203,865	43,313	27.0
Sea	3,000	5,270	4,103	-1,167	-22.1
Sex					
Males	80,959	91,953	112,181	20,229	22.0
Females	67,510	73,869	95,786	21,917	29.7
Age group					
0-24	19,335	20,668	33,091	12,422	60.1
25-44	47,032	56,154	76,270	20,116	35.8
45-64	54,833	60,102	70,357	10,255	17.1
65 or more	27,269	28,898	28,250	-648	-
Markets					
EU	125,335	140,347	181,013	40,666	29.0
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	68,879	75,831	107,970	32,140	42.4
Non-EU	23,134	25,475	26,955	1,480	-
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	120,435	137,981	173,260	35,278	25.6
Business and professional	16,675	18,783	23,426	4,643	24.7
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	11,358	9,058	11,282	2,224	24.6
Organisation of stay					
Package	67,807	68,888	68,761	-127	-
Non-package	80,663	96,934	139,206	42,273	43.6
Frequency					
First-time tourists	95,017	108,414	139,302	30,888	28.5
Repeat tourists	53,452	57,409	68,666	11,257	19.6
once a year or less	34,556	38,712	45,828	7,116	18.4
more than once a year	18,896	18,696	22,837	4,141	22.1
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	31,982	40,764	58,457	17,693	43.4
4-6 nights	40,998	46,424	62,524	16,099	34.7
7 nights or more	75,489	78,634	86,987	8,354	10.6
Average length of stay (nights)	7.6	7.5	6.8	-0.7	-

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-February			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Private accommodation	32,713	39,402	58,316	18,914	48.0
Collective accommodation*	115,756	126,420	149,652	23,232	18.4
Total tourists	148,469	165,822	207,968	42,146	25.4

* 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-February			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Private accommodation	368,153	422,918	532,831	109,912	26.0
Collective accommodation*	761,035	815,036	877,207	62,170	7.6
Total nights	1,129,188	1,237,955	1,410,037	172,083	13.9

* 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-February			Change	Percentage change
		2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Tourists	Austria	2,486	1,481 ^u	2,991	1,510	102.0
	Belgium	2,830	2,595	8,823	6,228	240.0
	France	10,054	9,269	14,480	5,211	56.2
	Germany	14,570	15,624	19,522	3,898	25.0
	Ireland	3,375	2,921	3,207	285	-
	Italy	26,990	32,001	37,124	5,123	16.0
	Libya	1,364 ^u	475 ^u	270 ^u	-205	-
	Netherlands	2,672	2,726	4,750	2,024	74.2
	Russia	1,472 ^u	1,942	1,576	-366	-
	Scandinavia*	5,380	6,476	6,387	-89	-
	Spain	2,100	3,979	8,119	4,141	104.1
	Switzerland	2,290	1,861	2,662	801	-
	United Kingdom	45,464	50,041	53,883	3,842	7.7
	USA	1,918	2,027	2,916	889	-
	Other	25,503	32,407	41,260	8,853	27.3
Total		148,469	165,822	207,968	42,146	25.4
Nights	Austria	16,262	12,207 ^u	19,528	7,321	60.0
	Belgium	19,739	14,052	43,199	29,147	207.4
	France	66,409	66,769	81,413	14,645	21.9
	Germany	115,224	113,744	131,280	17,536	15.4
	Ireland	22,576	21,758	22,348	590	-
	Italy	157,619	188,375	196,031	7,656	4.1
	Libya	11,443 ^u	4,147 ^u	982 ^u	-3,165	-
	Netherlands	17,993	15,242	33,181	17,939	117.7
	Russia	14,783 ^u	22,788	13,796	-8,992	-
	Scandinavia*	43,623	46,799	46,447	-352	-
	Spain	15,296	22,797	39,699	16,902	74.1
	Switzerland	14,916	11,775	18,909	7,134	-
	United Kingdom	394,995	411,949	419,848	7,898	1.9
	USA	14,717	16,163	17,041	878	-
	Other	203,593	269,389	326,335	56,947	21.1
Total		1,129,188	1,237,955	1,410,037	172,083	13.9
Expenditure (€000)	Austria	1,825	1,040 ^u	2,583	1,543	148.3
	Belgium	2,027	2,060	4,667	2,607	126.6
	France	7,299	6,815	9,179	2,364	34.7
	Germany	11,635	11,980	13,884	1,904	15.9
	Ireland	1,956	2,168	2,141	-27	-
	Italy	15,051	16,632	18,583	1,951	11.7
	Libya	1,478 ^u	730 ^u	156 ^u	-574	-
	Netherlands	1,921	1,812	3,197	1,384	76.4
	Russia	1,653 ^u	2,441	1,903	-538	-
	Scandinavia*	4,418	5,210	5,425	215	-
	Spain	1,476	2,741	4,038	1,296	47.3
	Switzerland	2,240	1,967	2,142	175	-
	United Kingdom	35,104	35,161	34,426	-735	-2.1
	USA	2,140	2,824	2,612	-212	-
	Other	23,531	29,517	35,804	6,286	21.3
Total		113,754	123,099	140,739	17,640	14.3

* 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-February 2017				
Austria	719	503	528	833	2,583
Belgium	698	854	1,109	2,005	4,667
France	2,552	1,455	1,733	3,439	9,179
Germany	4,845	1,522	2,146	5,371	13,884
Ireland	347	297	328	1,170	2,141
Italy	3,115	2,464	3,742	9,261	18,583
Libya	34	53	15	55	156
Netherlands	408	669	602	1,518	3,197
Russia	455	287	222	939	1,903
Scandinavia*	1,519	1,061	695	2,149	5,425
Spain	557	534	888	2,058	4,038
Switzerland	357	395	448	942	2,142
United Kingdom	10,920	4,047	4,695	14,764	34,426
USA	203	951	562	896	2,612
Other	7,193	7,293	5,637	15,682	35,804
Total	33,922	22,384	23,351	61,082	140,739
	January-February 2016				
Austria	347	118	130	446	1,040
Belgium	799	299	241	721	2,060
France	2,627	872	1,129	2,187	6,815
Germany	5,351	1,266	1,618	3,744	11,980
Ireland	625	224	378	941	2,168
Italy	3,227	2,208	3,231	7,966	16,632
Libya	136	148	149	296	730
Netherlands	438	294	273	808	1,812
Russia	717	402	319	1,004	2,441
Scandinavia*	1,368	940	978	1,923	5,210
Spain	701	447	429	1,164	2,741
Switzerland	490	447	300	731	1,967
United Kingdom	12,408	4,046	4,337	14,370	35,161
USA	180	862	703	1,079	2,824
Other	6,249	6,288	4,521	12,460	29,517
Total	35,661	18,862	18,734	49,841	123,099
	January-February 2015				
Austria	884	234	109	598	1,825
Belgium	540	430	234	823	2,027
France	2,897	960	988	2,453	7,299
Germany	5,783	1,029	1,161	3,662	11,635
Ireland	399	324	343	891	1,956
Italy	4,369	2,040	2,457	6,186	15,051
Libya	159	459	246	614	1,478
Netherlands	573	322	249	776	1,921
Russia	237	455	258	703	1,653
Scandinavia*	1,135	911	620	1,752	4,418
Spain	143	307	353	673	1,476
Switzerland	629	520	235	855	2,240
United Kingdom	13,237	4,505	3,954	13,407	35,104
USA	183	766	391	800	2,140
Other	5,832	5,035	2,848	9,816	23,531
Total	37,001	18,298	14,445	44,010	113,754

* 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

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Country of residence	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total expenditure per capita
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
	January-February 2017				
Austria	669	262	319	278	864
Belgium	361	124	185	227	529
France	485	158	215	238	634
Germany	504	154	255	275	711
Ireland	383	129	199	365	668
Italy	367	86	164	249	501
Libya	441	271	76	203	577
Netherlands	366	184	219	320	673
Russia	767	292	305	596	1,208
Scandinavia*	647	263	249	336	849
Spain	348	82	150	253	497
Switzerland	438	214	284	354	805
United Kingdom	469	132	223	274	639
USA	546	374	269	307	896
Other	637	243	233	380	868
Total expenditure per capita	493	161	213	294	677
	January-February 2016				
Austria	410	185	233	301	703
Belgium	790	189	247	278	794
France	580	184	261	236	735
Germany	510	247	334	240	767
Ireland	427	154	345	322	742
Italy	376	94	177	249	520
Libya	2,000	363	488	624	1,535
Netherlands	486	161	180	296	665
Russia	993	329	306	517	1,257
Scandinavia*	495	253	302	297	804
Spain	557	165	223	293	689
Switzerland	826	352	260	393	1,057
United Kingdom	509	158	239	287	703
USA	769	481	443	533	1,394
Other	567	294	256	384	911
Total expenditure per capita	518	195	245	301	742
	January-February 2015				
Austria	552	264	198	240	734
Belgium	485	250	259	291	716
France	537	206	261	244	726
Germany	549	255	339	251	799
Ireland	350	145	185	264	580
Italy	441	119	188	229	558
Libya	539	429	257	450	1,083
Netherlands	436	237	235	290	719
Russia	880	378	276	478	1,123
Scandinavia*	482	301	282	326	821
Spain	380	178	300	321	703
Switzerland	697	375	218	373	978
United Kingdom	605	191	246	295	772
USA	595	476	306	417	1,116
Other	560	334	247	385	923
Total expenditure per capita	546	227	241	296	766

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

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

Characteristics	February		
	2015	2016	2017
Total overnight cruise passengers	-	381	-
Sex:			
Males	-	183	-
Females	-	198	-
Age group:			
0-19	-	-	-
20-39	-	4	-
40-59	-	18	-
60-79	-	321	-
80 or more	-	38	-
Markets:			
EU	-	376	-
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	-	373	-
Non-EU	-	5	-

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

Characteristics	January-February		
	2015	2016	2017
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. 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>
14. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
15. The advanced news release calendar may be accessed at www.nso.gov.mt