

26 April 2017 | 1100 hrs | 072/2017

Total inbound visitors for March were estimated at 141,266 an increase of 22.3 per cent when compared to the corresponding month in 2016.

Inbound Tourism: March 2017

A total of 105,080 inbound tourist trips were carried out for holiday purposes, while a further 20,017 were undertaken for business purposes. Inbound tourists from EU Member States went up by 23.4 per cent to 123,063 when compared to the corresponding month in 2016. The majority of inbound tourists were aged between 45 and 64, closely followed by those within the 25-44 age bracket (Table 1).

Total nights spent went up by 6.8 per cent when compared to March 2016, amounting to 856,920 nights. The largest share of guest nights (70.3 per cent) was spent in collective accommodation establishments (Table 3). Tourist nights in private accommodation increased by 9.2 per cent when compared to March 2016.

Total tourist expenditure was estimated at €96.5 million, an increase of 11.8 per cent over the corresponding month in 2016 (Table 4).

January-March 2017

Inbound tourist trips from January to March 2017 reached 348,890, an increase of 24.0 per cent over the same period in 2016 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists went up by 11.1 per cent, reaching nearly 2.3 million nights (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure was estimated at €237.2 million, 13.3 per cent higher than that recorded for 2016 (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita stood at €680, a decrease of 8.6 per cent when compared to 2016 (Table 11) ■

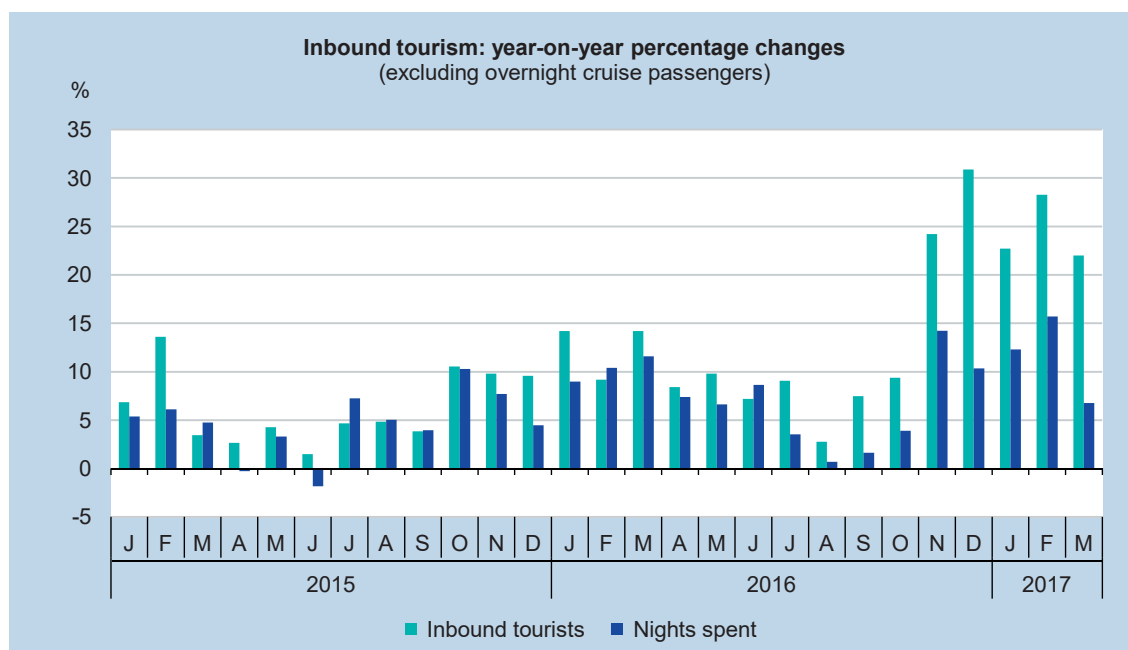


Table 1. Profile of inbound tourists by month of departure

Characteristics	March			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Total inbound visitors	101,160	115,519	141,266	25,747	22.3
Overnight cruise passengers	-	-	344	-	-
Inbound tourists	101,160	115,519	140,922	25,403	22.0
Mode of travel					
Air	98,435	112,143	138,298	26,155	23.3
Sea	2,725	3,376	2,624	-752	-22.3
Sex					
Males	53,123	58,858	75,899	17,040	29.0
Females	48,037	56,660	65,023	8,363	14.8
Age group					
0-24	16,103	18,721	21,671	2,950	15.8
25-44	27,970	34,698	47,295	12,597	36.3
45-64	35,915	40,586	47,783	7,197	17.7
65 or more	21,172	21,514	24,173	2,659	12.4
Markets					
EU	86,582	99,703	123,063	23,359	23.4
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	47,122	52,301	72,619	20,319	38.9
Non-EU	14,578	15,815	17,859	2,044	12.9
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	75,250	94,328	105,080	10,752	11.4
Business and professional	11,675	10,292	20,017	9,725	94.5
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	14,235	10,899	15,825	4,926	45.2
Organisation of stay					
Package	52,374	53,304	55,938	2,634	4.9
Non-package	48,786	62,214	84,984	22,770	36.6
Frequency					
First-time tourists	69,811	80,092	99,122	19,030	23.8
Repeat tourists	31,349	35,427	41,800	6,373	18.0
once a year or less	22,238	23,513	28,353	4,841	20.6
more than once a year	9,111	11,914	13,447	1,533	12.9
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	20,803	24,257	42,347	18,090	74.6
4-6 nights	28,902	36,672	42,067	5,394	14.7
7 nights or more	51,455	54,589	56,508	1,919	3.5
Average length of stay (nights)	7.1	6.9	6.1	-0.8	-

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	March			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017		
Private accommodation	19,970	27,411	33,262	5,852	21.3
Collective accommodation*	81,190	88,108	107,660	19,552	22.2
Total tourists	101,160	115,519	140,922	25,403	22.0

* 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	March			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017		
Private accommodation	196,349	233,313	254,729	21,416	9.2
Collective accommodation*	522,918	569,397	602,191	32,794	5.8
Total nights	719,267	802,711	856,920	54,209	6.8

* 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	March			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017		
Package	28,995	30,416	29,180	-1,236	-4.1
Non-package	20,943	24,458	30,816	6,358	26.0
Air/sea fares	11,013	12,478	15,305	2,827	22.7
Accommodation	9,930	11,980	15,511	3,532	29.5
Other expenditure	27,810	31,382	36,472	5,090	16.2
Total expenditure	77,748	86,256	96,469	10,213	11.8

€ 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	March			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Tourists					
EU	86,582	99,703	123,063	23,359	23.4
<i>of which:</i>					
France	6,903	6,444	7,705	1,261	-
Germany	10,025	11,346	15,803	4,458	39.3
Italy	19,023	18,979	24,064	5,084	26.8
United Kingdom	31,943	36,993	36,989	-3	-
Non-EU	14,578	15,815	17,859	2,044	12.9
Total	101,160	115,519	140,922	25,403	22.0
Nights					
EU	612,472	692,028	720,908	28,880	4.2
<i>of which:</i>					
France	44,992	42,768	40,635	-2,133	-
Germany	82,858	87,978	100,467	12,489	14.2
Italy	106,200	109,649	121,273	11,624	10.6
United Kingdom	256,015	288,279	258,651	-29,627	-
Non-EU	106,795	110,683	136,012	25,330	22.9
Total	719,267	802,711	856,920	54,209	6.8
Expenditure (€000)					
EU	61,938	68,895	76,254	7,359	10.7
<i>of which:</i>					
France	5,275	4,896	5,184	288	-
Germany	9,381	10,031	11,573	1,543	15.4
Italy	10,216	9,983	11,826	1,842	18.5
United Kingdom	22,892	25,411	23,857	-1,554	-
Non-EU	15,810	17,361	20,215	2,854	16.4
Total	77,748	86,256	96,469	10,213	11.8

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-March			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Total inbound visitors	249,629	282,344	349,234	66,890	23.7
Overnight cruise passengers	-	1,003	344	-659	-65.7
Inbound tourists	249,629	281,341	348,890	67,549	24.0
Mode of travel					
Air	243,904	272,695	342,163	69,468	25.5
Sea	5,725	8,646	6,727	-1,919	-22.2
Sex					
Males	134,082	150,811	188,080	37,269	24.7
Females	115,547	130,530	160,810	30,280	23.2
Age group					
0-24	35,438	39,389	54,761	15,372	39.0
25-44	75,002	90,852	123,565	32,713	36.0
45-64	90,747	100,688	118,140	17,452	17.3
65 or more	48,441	50,412	52,423	2,011	4.0
Markets					
EU	211,917	240,050	304,076	64,025	26.7
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	116,001	128,131	180,590	52,459	40.9
Non-EU	37,712	41,290	44,814	3,524	8.5
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	195,686	232,309	278,340	46,031	19.8
Business and professional	28,351	29,075	43,443	14,368	49.4
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	25,593	19,957	27,107	7,150	35.8
Organisation of stay					
Package	120,181	122,193	124,700	2,507	2.1
Non-package	129,448	159,148	224,190	65,042	40.9
Frequency					
First-time tourists	164,828	188,505	238,424	49,918	26.5
Repeat tourists	84,801	92,835	110,466	17,631	19.0
once a year or less	56,794	62,225	74,182	11,957	19.2
more than once a year	28,007	30,611	36,284	5,674	18.5
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	52,785	65,021	100,804	35,783	55.0
4-6 nights	69,900	83,097	104,590	21,494	25.9
7 nights or more	126,944	133,223	143,495	10,273	7.7
Average length of stay (nights)	7.4	7.3	6.5	-0.8	-

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-March			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Private accommodation	52,684	66,813	91,579	24,766	37.1
Collective accommodation*	196,946	214,528	257,311	42,783	19.9
Total tourists	249,629	281,341	348,890	67,549	24.0

* 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-March			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Private accommodation	564,502	656,232	787,560	131,328	20.0
Collective accommodation*	1,283,954	1,384,434	1,479,398	94,964	6.9
Total nights	1,848,456	2,040,665	2,266,957	226,292	11.1

* 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-March			Change	Percentage change
		2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Tourists	Australia	2,112	2,189	2,374	185	-
	Austria	4,446	3,814	4,843	1,029	-
	Belgium	4,743	4,527	15,277	10,750	237.5
	France	16,958	15,713	22,185	6,472	41.2
	Germany	24,595	26,969	35,325	8,356	31.0
	Hungary	1,989	2,445	2,718	273	-
	Ireland	5,277	5,493	5,396	-97	-
	Italy	46,013	50,980	61,188	10,207	20.0
	Netherlands	4,330	4,823	8,560	3,737	77.5
	Poland	4,226	6,316	12,944	6,628	105.0
	Scandinavia*	8,943	13,460	11,277	-2,183	-16.2
	Spain	3,504	7,006	13,372	6,366	90.9
	Switzerland	4,064	3,201	5,031	1,830	57.2
	United Kingdom	77,406	87,034	90,872	3,839	4.4
	USA	3,324	3,899	4,945	1,046	-
	Other	37,700	43,473	52,582	9,110	21.0
Total		249,629	281,341	348,890	67,549	24.0
Nights	Australia	24,210	21,214	29,816	8,602	-
	Austria	30,057	26,660	28,918	2,258	-
	Belgium	31,566	25,365	75,989	50,624	199.6
	France	111,401	109,536	122,048	12,512	11.4
	Germany	198,082	201,722	231,747	30,025	14.9
	Hungary	13,925	23,355	16,201	-7,153	-
	Ireland	35,997	38,938	33,883	-5,055	-
	Italy	263,819	298,025	317,304	19,280	6.5
	Netherlands	28,622	26,509	55,665	29,156	110.0
	Poland	30,560	43,754	77,363	33,609	76.8
	Scandinavia*	69,533	92,482	76,233	-16,248	-17.6
	Spain	24,488	41,831	63,784	21,953	52.5
	Switzerland	23,641	18,961	32,155	13,194	69.6
	United Kingdom	651,011	700,228	678,499	-21,729	-3.1
	USA	25,280	27,739	28,611	871	-
	Other	286,263	344,346	398,740	54,393	15.8
Total		1,848,456	2,040,665	2,266,957	226,292	11.1
Expenditure (€000)	Australia	2,456	2,740	3,689	949	-
	Austria	3,501	2,843	3,982	1,139	-
	Belgium	3,522	3,509	8,715	5,206	148.4
	France	12,573	11,711	14,363	2,653	22.7
	Germany	21,016	22,011	25,457	3,446	15.7
	Hungary	1,188	1,634	1,508	-125	-
	Ireland	3,403	4,069	3,587	-481	-
	Italy	25,267	26,615	30,408	3,793	14.3
	Netherlands	3,133	3,061	5,908	2,847	93.0
	Poland	2,440	3,950	6,709	2,759	69.9
	Scandinavia*	7,877	10,846	9,350	-1,496	-13.8
	Spain	2,496	5,108	7,035	1,927	37.7
	Switzerland	4,179	3,209	4,733	1,524	47.5
	United Kingdom	57,995	60,572	58,284	-2,289	-3.8
	USA	3,748	4,512	4,964	452	-
	Other	36,707	42,965	48,515	5,550	12.9
Total		191,502	209,355	237,208	27,853	13.3

* 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		
	January-March 2017				
Australia	186	1,438	433	1,632	3,689
Austria	1,431	671	644	1,237	3,982
Belgium	1,968	1,414	1,920	3,414	8,715
France	4,170	2,265	2,723	5,206	14,363
Germany	10,226	2,680	3,689	8,863	25,457
Hungary	66	362	413	668	1,508
Ireland	561	544	670	1,811	3,587
Italy	7,253	3,621	5,484	14,049	30,408
Netherlands	1,239	1,060	1,008	2,602	5,908
Poland	1,016	1,095	1,359	3,239	6,709
Scandinavia*	2,831	1,727	1,267	3,526	9,350
Spain	979	1,150	1,605	3,301	7,035
Switzerland	1,328	827	725	1,853	4,733
United Kingdom	19,040	6,547	8,173	24,523	58,284
USA	337	1,948	1,070	1,609	4,964
Other	10,472	10,340	7,680	20,023	48,515
Total	63,102	37,689	38,862	97,555	237,208
January-March 2016					
Australia	15	1,137	376	1,212	2,740
Austria	1,281	338	300	924	2,843
Belgium	1,471	486	355	1,198	3,509
France	4,526	1,411	1,789	3,985	11,711
Germany	10,368	2,269	2,795	6,578	22,011
Hungary	174	264	355	840	1,634
Ireland	1,199	515	672	1,682	4,069
Italy	6,272	3,419	4,837	12,088	26,615
Netherlands	655	561	539	1,306	3,061
Poland	911	565	817	1,657	3,950
Scandinavia*	3,705	1,665	1,646	3,831	10,846
Spain	1,400	805	805	2,099	5,108
Switzerland	920	633	472	1,184	3,209
United Kingdom	21,981	7,259	7,334	23,999	60,572
USA	263	1,426	1,150	1,673	4,512
Other	10,937	8,587	6,474	16,968	42,965
Total	66,078	31,340	30,714	81,223	209,355
January-March 2015					
Australia	60	1,069	329	998	2,456
Austria	1,857	321	196	1,127	3,501
Belgium	1,180	683	372	1,288	3,522
France	5,197	1,632	1,681	4,064	12,573
Germany	10,717	1,683	2,228	6,388	21,016
Hungary	255	191	173	569	1,188
Ireland	710	506	622	1,564	3,403
Italy	8,515	3,092	3,776	9,884	25,267
Netherlands	855	538	476	1,263	3,133
Poland	348	524	504	1,065	2,440
Scandinavia*	2,074	1,542	1,164	3,097	7,877
Spain	455	445	497	1,098	2,496
Switzerland	1,575	777	402	1,425	4,179
United Kingdom	22,685	6,977	6,314	22,019	57,995
USA	380	1,365	710	1,293	3,748
Other	9,132	7,968	4,932	14,676	36,707
Total	65,996	29,311	24,375	71,819	191,502

* 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-March 2017					
Australia	1,037	655	291	687	1,554
Austria	617	266	294	255	822
Belgium	467	128	197	223	570
France	502	163	222	235	647
Germany	547	161	256	251	721
Hungary	225	149	195	246	555
Ireland	423	134	213	336	665
Italy	389	85	164	230	497
Netherlands	439	185	228	304	690
Poland	372	107	141	250	518
Scandinavia*	622	257	252	313	829
Spain	371	107	165	247	526
Switzerland	664	273	274	368	941
United Kingdom	476	129	226	270	641
USA	486	458	310	325	1,004
Other	684	277	257	381	923
Total expenditure per capita	506	168	216	280	680
January-March 2016					
Australia	311	531	247	553	1,252
Austria	558	222	231	242	745
Belgium	728	194	206	265	775
France	567	183	259	254	745
Germany	586	245	328	244	816
Hungary	279	145	223	344	668
Ireland	485	171	271	306	741
Italy	396	97	179	237	522
Netherlands	467	164	206	271	635
Poland	427	135	213	262	625
Scandinavia*	544	251	275	285	806
Spain	552	180	242	300	729
Switzerland	726	328	277	370	1,003
United Kingdom	513	164	231	276	696
USA	870	397	358	429	1,157
Other	687	312	277	390	988
Total expenditure per capita	541	197	242	289	744
January-March 2015					
Australia	315	556	246	472	1,163
Austria	578	261	253	253	787
Belgium	618	241	232	272	743
France	552	216	264	240	741
Germany	592	260	402	260	854
Hungary	389	143	163	286	597
Ireland	385	147	215	296	645
Italy	442	116	185	215	549
Netherlands	447	223	236	292	723
Poland	362	160	165	252	577
Scandinavia*	501	321	314	346	881
Spain	448	179	265	313	712
Switzerland	816	364	234	351	1,028
United Kingdom	566	187	250	284	749
USA	789	480	325	389	1,128
Other	607	352	266	389	974
Total expenditure per capita	549	226	248	288	767

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

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

Characteristics	March		
	2015	2016	2017
Total overnight cruise passengers	-	-	344
Sex:			
Males	-	-	156
Females	-	-	188
Age group:			
0-19	-	-	-
20-39	-	-	5
40-59	-	-	34
60-79	-	-	264
80 or more	-	-	41
Markets:			
EU	-	-	340
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	-	-	340
Non-EU	-	-	4

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

Characteristics	January-March		
	2015	2016	2017
Total overnight cruise passengers	-	1,003	344
Sex:			
Males	-	469	156
Females	-	534	188
Age group:			
0-19	-	3	-
20-39	-	36	5
40-59	-	89	34
60-79	-	792	264
80 or more	-	83	41
Markets:			
EU	-	421	340
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	-	374	340
Non-EU	-	582	4

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.
 - **Average length of stay:** the number of nights spent divided by the number of trips during a specified reference period.
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