

Total outbound tourists for the third quarter in 2017 were estimated at 171,411, an increase of 13.2 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2016.

Outbound Tourism: Q3/2017

July-September

During the third quarter of 2017, outbound tourist trips towards non-EU countries increased by 44.0 per cent over the same quarter in 2016 (Table 1). Italy and the United Kingdom remained the most popular destinations, with a share of 46.6 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 4).

Total nights spent by outbound tourists increased by 8.6 per cent, surpassing 1.2 million nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights were spent in collective accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total estimated outlay by resident tourists between July and September increased by 9.4 per cent over the same quarter of 2016, and stood at €177.6 million, equivalent to an average €1,036 per trip (Tables 5 and 6).

January-September

Total outbound tourist trips between January and September 2017 numbered 412,083, an increase of 14.7 per cent over 2016 (Table 7). Total nights spent by outbound tourists went up by 12.4 per cent, surpassing 2.8 million nights (Table 9). In addition, total estimated outlay by resident tourists stood at €378.8 million, 10.6 per cent higher than that recorded for the same period in 2016 (Table 11) ■

Year-on-year percentage changes

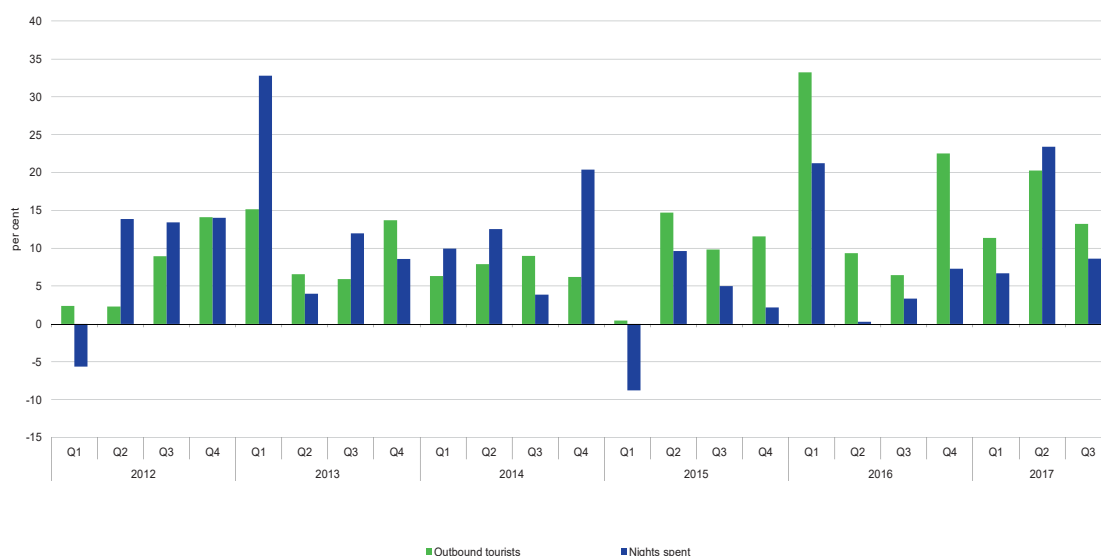


Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	July-September (Q3)			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Outbound tourists	142,228	151,386	171,411	20,024	13.2
Mode of travel:					
Air	132,907	140,589	160,994	20,405	14.5
Sea	9,321	10,797	10,416	-381	-
Sex:					
Males	76,701	81,404	93,711	12,306	15.1
Females	65,527	69,982	77,700	7,718	11.0
Age group:					
0-24	29,858	33,188	34,175	987	-
25-44	57,282	61,739	77,313	15,574	25.2
45-64	41,623	41,203	45,602	4,399	10.7
65 or more	13,464	15,257	14,320	-936	-
Destination:					
EU	126,709	137,513	151,430	13,917	10.1
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	91,681	96,575	104,487	7,911	8.2
Non-EU	15,519	13,873	19,980	6,107	44.0
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	92,424	96,976	111,658	14,682	15.1
Visiting relatives and friends	22,940	24,901	31,275	6,373	25.6
Business and professional	14,688	15,641	15,934	293	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	12,176	13,868	12,544	-1,324	-
Organisation of stay:					
Package	44,320	38,894	36,823	-2,071	-5.3
Non-package	97,908	112,492	134,588	22,095	19.6
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	28,459	29,509	35,101	5,592	18.9
4-6 nights	36,362	42,873	51,174	8,301	19.4
7 nights or more	77,407	79,004	85,135	6,131	7.8
Average length of stay (nights)	7.9	7.6	7.3	-0.3	-

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	July-September (Q3)			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Private accommodation	48,494	53,444	63,359	9,915	18.6
Collective accommodation	93,734	97,942	108,052	10,109	10.3
Total tourists	142,228	151,386	171,411	20,024	13.2

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	July-September (Q3)			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Private accommodation	541,968	559,184	604,756	45,572	8.1
Collective accommodation	578,497	598,578	652,586	54,008	9.0
Total nights	1,120,466	1,157,762	1,257,342	99,580	8.6

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 4. Outbound tourists and nights spent by period of departure and destination

Destination	July-September (Q3)			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
EU	126,709	137,513	151,430	13,917	10.1
<i>of which:</i>					
France	9,381	6,420	7,704	1,284	-
Germany	7,367	10,464	10,951	487	-
Italy	46,232	48,789	53,834	5,045	10.3
United Kingdom	21,181	22,268	26,040	3,773	16.9
Non-EU	15,519	13,873	19,980	6,107	44.0
Total	142,228	151,386	171,411	20,024	13.2
EU	890,233	958,271	974,474	16,202	1.7
<i>of which:</i>					
France	63,244	47,719	52,458	4,740	-
Germany	56,012	76,445	76,307	-139	-
Italy	273,580	250,941	269,652	18,711	7.5
United Kingdom	178,046	195,719	198,463	2,743	1.4
Non-EU	230,233	199,491	282,868	83,378	41.8
Total	1,120,466	1,157,762	1,257,342	99,580	8.6

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	July-September (Q3)			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Package	36,717	29,825	28,132	-1,693	-5.7
Non-package	42,607	47,465	54,073	6,608	13.9
Air/sea fares	22,007	24,377	27,034	2,657	10.9
Accommodation	20,601	23,088	27,039	3,951	17.1
Other expenditure	76,348	85,000	95,380	10,380	12.2
Total expenditure	155,672	162,289	177,585	15,296	9.4

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	July-September (Q3)					
	per trip			per night		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Package	828	767	764	116	118	117
Non-package	435	422	402	53	52	53
Air/sea fares	225	217	201	27	27	27
Accommodation	304	298	292	48	46	48
Other expenditure	537	561	556	68	73	76
Total	1,095	1,072	1,036	139	140	141

Table 7. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-September			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Outbound tourists	315,320	359,181	412,083	52,902	14.7
Mode of travel:					
Air	296,667	336,787	389,997	53,211	15.8
Sea	18,653	22,395	22,086	-308	-
Sex:					
Males	177,461	200,798	231,333	30,535	15.2
Females	137,860	158,384	180,751	22,367	14.1
Age group:					
0-24	60,748	68,891	72,650	3,759	5.5
25-44	137,431	159,650	198,378	38,728	24.3
45-64	90,588	99,470	108,791	9,321	9.4
65 or more	26,554	31,170	32,264	1,095	-
Destination:					
EU	280,894	322,948	369,367	46,419	14.4
<i>of which:</i> Euro area	191,534	222,946	252,217	29,272	13.1
Non-EU	34,426	36,233	42,716	6,483	17.9
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	174,406	204,519	234,842	30,323	14.8
Visiting relatives and friends	62,391	71,859	88,821	16,962	23.6
Business and professional	51,233	51,344	57,115	5,771	11.2
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	27,289	31,459	31,306	-154	-
Organisation of stay:					
Package	68,762	62,731	61,878	-853	-
Non-package	246,558	296,451	350,206	53,755	18.1
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	81,606	99,166	112,875	13,709	13.8
4-6 nights	92,869	110,630	136,096	25,466	23.0
7 nights or more	140,845	149,384	163,112	13,728	9.2
Average length of stay (nights)	7.6	7.1	7.0	-0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	January-September			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Private accommodation	112,623	133,257	158,844	25,587	19.2
Collective accommodation	202,697	225,924	253,240	27,316	12.1
Total tourists	315,320	359,181	412,083	52,902	14.7

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-September			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Private accommodation	1,261,936	1,311,036	1,522,033	210,997	16.1
Collective accommodation	1,142,687	1,248,757	1,354,861	106,103	8.5
Total nights	2,404,623	2,559,794	2,876,894	317,100	12.4

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 10. Outbound tourists and nights spent by destination

Destination	January-September			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Total tourists	315,320	359,181	412,083	52,902	14.7
Austria	5,099	7,008	6,602	-406	-
Belgium	7,833	7,044	12,609	5,565	79.0
France	16,581	13,397	15,722	2,325	17.4
Germany	16,497	22,511	26,973	4,462	19.8
Ireland	3,759	4,416	4,766	350	-
Italy	100,542	121,497	132,580	11,083	9.1
Libya	838 ^u	981 ^u	977 ^u	-5	-
Netherlands	10,522	11,705	10,989	-715	-
Russia	1,535	1,393 ^u	1,868	475	-
Scandinavia*	7,546	7,671	8,633	962	-
Spain	14,569	16,620	20,805	4,185	25.2
Switzerland	6,191	6,074	4,963	-1,111	-
United Kingdom	64,104	65,801	74,582	8,781	13.3
USA	3,180	3,393	4,347	954	-
Other	56,523	69,671	85,666	15,996	23.0
Total nights	2,404,623	2,559,794	2,876,894	317,100	12.4
Austria	35,828	46,529	44,624	-1,906	-
Belgium	40,274	33,866	60,592	26,725	78.9
France	104,246	89,200	101,231	12,031	13.5
Germany	118,075	150,528	173,595	23,067	15.3
Ireland	26,622	35,025	36,026	1,002	-
Italy	552,157	571,411	621,193	49,782	8.7
Libya	12,302 ^u	18,624 ^u	22,380	3,756	-
Netherlands	69,750	75,799	71,989	-3,810	-
Russia	22,116	19,612 ^u	24,579	4,967	-
Scandinavia*	84,179	60,411	81,070	20,659	-
Spain	103,561	120,571	132,615	12,043	10.0
Switzerland	45,724	39,519	31,083	-8,436	-
United Kingdom	492,980	495,233	486,428	-8,805	-1.8
USA	52,544	51,221	80,352	29,131	-
Other	644,265	752,242	909,137	156,895	20.9

* 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-September			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Package	50,824	43,901	42,050	-1,851	-4.2
Non-package	101,150	111,877	127,629	15,752	14.1
Air/sea fares	52,832	56,490	64,666	8,176	14.5
Accommodation	48,319	55,387	62,963	7,576	13.7
Other expenditure	163,892	186,548	209,097	22,549	12.1
Total expenditure	315,866	342,326	378,777	36,451	10.6

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-September					
	per trip			per night		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Package	739	700	680	112	114	113
Non-package	410	377	364	52	51	51
Air/sea fares	214	191	185	27	26	26
Accommodation	290	269	267	47	45	48
Other expenditure	520	519	507	68	73	73
Total	1,002	953	919	131	134	132

Methodological Notes

1. 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.
2. Outbound tourism trips are collected from an ongoing frontier national survey known as Tourstat. Tourist air departures are collected through a continuous survey carried out at the departure lounge of the Malta International Airport. A two-stage sampling design is used to collect air passengers. In the first stage, alternate days and nights are selected. In the second stage, within each shift, a sample of passengers is selected systematically. Every crossing passenger is counted and respondents are selected using a pre-defined interval of 1:20 for air.
3. 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.
4. 'Tourist trips' differs from the 'number of tourists' such that the same person can undertake more than one trip during a reference period.
5. Absolute changes between one survey estimate and another must be treated with caution since minor changes (i.e. less than 1,500 trips) might be the result of sampling error. Percentage changes for tourists based on counts of less than 1,500 are not presented due to sampling errors.
6. Expenditure data in this release represent the budgeted expenditure of outbound tourists prior to their departure.
7. **Definitions:**
 - **Resident:** A person is considered to be a resident of Malta/Gozo if:
 - a. S/he has lived for most of the past 12 months in Malta/Gozo;
 - b. S/he has lived in Malta/Gozo for less than 12 months but intends to return within a year to settle here.
 - **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.
 - **Tourist trips:** Trips with at least one overnight stay in either collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.
 - **Total nights spent:** nights which a guest actually spends or is registered to spend in a collective accommodation establishment or in a private accommodation.
 - **Average length of stay:** the number of nights spent divided by the number of trips during a specified reference period.
 - **Collective accommodation:** comprises hotels, guesthouses, hostels, tourist villages, holiday complex, Bed & Breakfast and campsites.
 - **Private accommodation:** comprises holiday furnished premises (farmhouses, flats and villas), rented accommodation (host families, marinas, paid-convents, rented yachts, student dormitories), own private residence (owned dwellings, owned caravans and yachts), staying with friends or relatives (even if charged - includes also friends' private apartments) and other private accommodation (oil rig, free-convents, timeshare, dockyards (Palumbo), ship (used for work)).
 - **Total expenditure:** comprises the total consumption expenditure that is going to be made by a visitor or on behalf of a visitor for and during the trip and stay at destination. It is broken down by the following expenditure items: Transport, Accommodation and Other (including shopping, food and drinks and excursions during a tourism trip).
8. 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>
Statistical Database: <http://nso.gov.mt/statdb/start>
9. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced.
10. A detailed news release calendar is available on https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx