

Regional Tourism Demand: 2015-2017

The following are the salient points of a statistical compendium conducted by the National Statistics Office, which sheds light on the regional tourism demand.

Domestic Tourism

In 2017, total domestic trips to and from the Malta, and Gozo and Comino regions amounted to 260,763, an increase of 10.3 per cent when compared to 2016.

- Malta residents who visited the Gozo and Comino region for duration of at least one night...
- ... accounted for 52.4 per cent of total tourists (domestic + inbound) visiting this region.
- ...on average stayed 2.8 nights.
- ...mainly belonged to the 25 to 44 age bracket (43.6 per cent).
- ...travelled for holiday purposes (89.9 per cent).
- ...and stayed in private accommodation establishments (including rented accommodation) increased by 1.0 per cent over 2016, whereas those who stayed in collective accommodation increased 35.6 per cent over the same period.
- ...spent an estimate of €40 million, 8.9 per cent more when compared to 2016.

Gozo and Comino residents who travelled to Malta region amounted to 23,924, an increase of 32.0 per cent when compared to 2016.

Inbound Tourism

In 2017, inbound tourism stood at 2,273,837, an increase of 15.7 per cent when compared to 2016. More than half of these tourists came to MALTA using low-cost airlines (52.1 per cent).

Inbound tourists visiting Malta region only (single centre destination)...

- ...surpassed the 2.0 million, increasing by 15.9 per cent when compared to 2016.
- ...were more likely to stay in collective accommodation establishments (69.4 per cent).
- ...on average stayed 7.0 nights, down by 0.3 of a night when compared to 2016.

Inbound tourists visiting Gozo and Comino region only (single centre destination)...

- ...amounted to 92,285, an increase of 9.0 per cent over 2016.
- ...were more likely to stay in private accommodation (67.3 per cent); the majority (64.4 per cent) opted for rented accommodation.
- ...on average stayed 9.2 nights, down by 0.5 of a night when compared to 2016.

Inbound tourists visiting both regions during their stay (twin centre destination)...

- ...accounted for 5.4 per cent of the total inbound tourism trips.
- ... totalled 122,611, an increase of 16.6 per cent over 2016.
- ...were more likely to stay in private accommodation establishments (51.6 per cent).
- ...on average stayed 11.0 nights, down by 0.3 of a night compared to 2016.

Overview

This news release is intended to provide a comprehensive statistical review of regional tourism demand in MALTA at NUTS 3 level. Regional tourism demand comprises of: i) domestic tourist trips; and ii) inbound tourist trips. Users should be aware that domestic same-day visits and overnight stays within the same region of origin, such as, day-trips to Gozo and Comino region and weekend breaks in Malta region by Malta residents, are not included within the scope of this news release. Regional flows of inbound tourism exclude same-day visits across regions and classify trips into two components: single centre destination and twin centre destination.

Statistics in this news release are based on the Tourstat Survey and on the National Tourism Survey. The former sourcing the inbound component whereas the latter was purposely developed to produce tourism statistics related to domestic and outbound trips. The National Tourism Survey was structured in accordance with the Tourism Statistics Regulation (EU) No 692/2011, and follows Eurostat definitions and requirements. Domestic tourism demand figures, along with profiles on inbound tourism, are presented in this news release. Definitions and other methodological information can be found at the end of this release.

1. Domestic tourism

Domestic tourism, as compiled by the National Tourism Survey comprises the activities of:

- i) Malta residents visiting Gozo and Comino region; or
- ii) Gozo residents visiting Malta region; and

staying for not more than 12 consecutive months for personal, business or other purposes. This news release excludes domestic trips: (i) conducted within same region of residence; and (ii) made routinely by respective residents, at least once a week.

During the period under review, domestic tourism across regions increased, reaching 260,763 domestic tourist arrivals in 2017.

Chart 1a. Domestic and inbound tourists by region: 2017

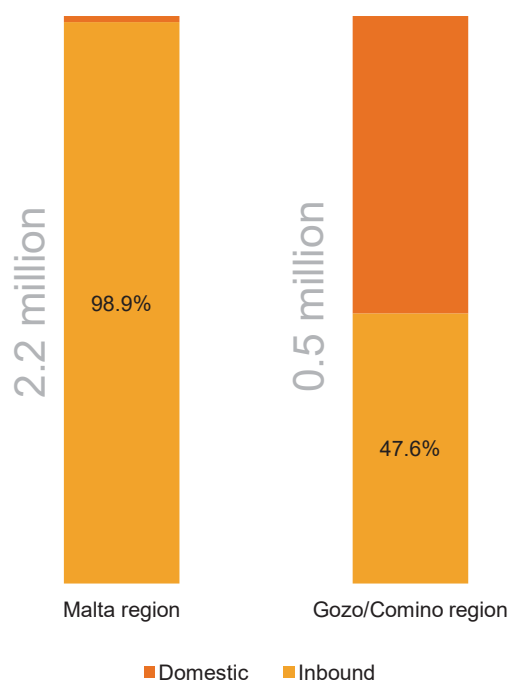
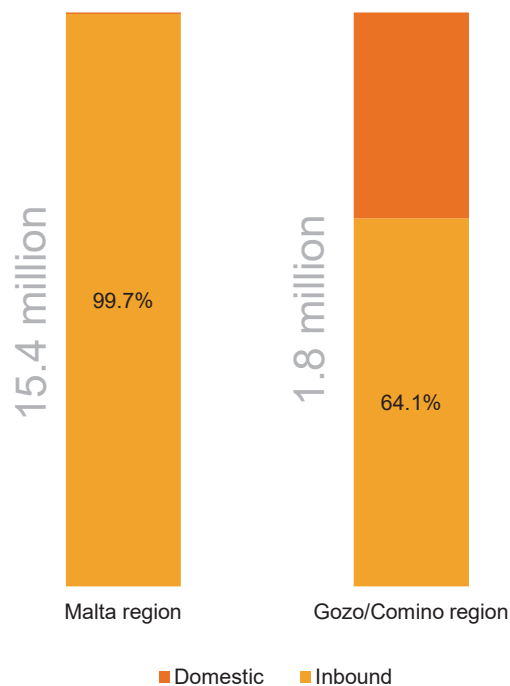


Chart 1b. Nights spent by domestic and inbound

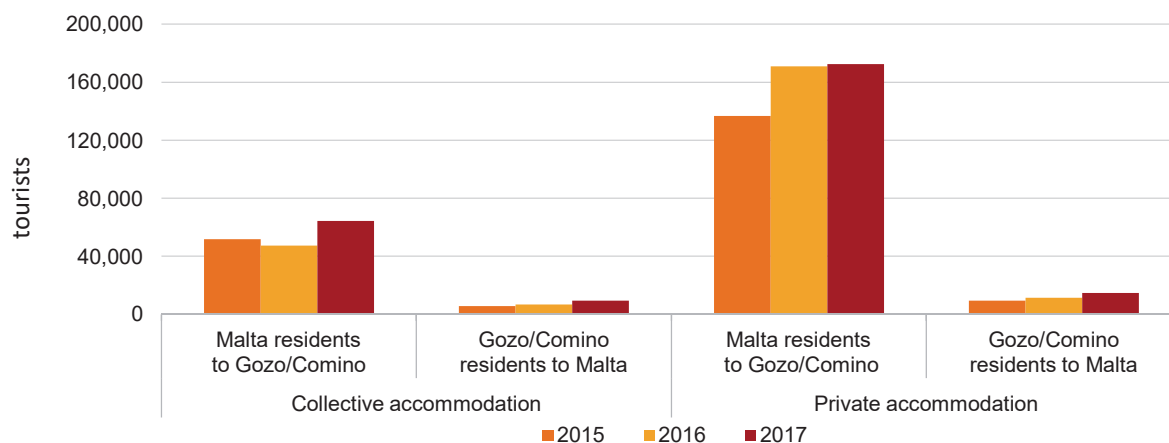


1.1. Domestic tourism to Gozo and Comino region

Domestic tourists to Gozo and Comino region assumed a share of 52.4 per cent of total tourism demand within the same region. In 2017, Gozo and Comino region received 236,838 domestic tourists, an increase of 8.5 per cent over 2016 (Table 1 and Chart 1a).

The largest share was registered in the 25-44 age bracket (43.6 per cent), however the 45-64 bracket accounted for the highest increase over 2016. The majority of domestic tourists travelled for holiday purposes (89.9 per cent) and spent 1-3 nights (82.5 per cent). The average length of stay of Malta residents in Gozo and Comino region increased by 0.1 of a night to 2.8 nights (Table 1).

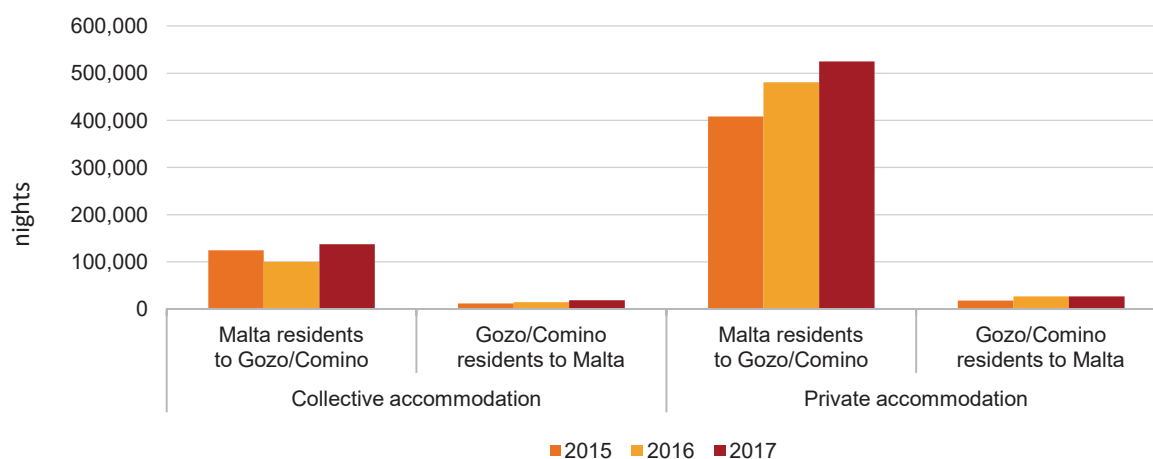
Chart 2a. Domestic tourists by type of accommodation, region and year



Domestic tourists to Gozo and Comino region, who stayed in private accommodation establishments amounted to 172,575, an increase of 1.0 per cent over 2016. More than half of the domestic stays in private accommodation (58.1 per cent) were in rented accommodation establishments. Nevertheless, domestic tourists who stayed in collective accommodation increased by 35.6 per cent (Table 3 and Chart 2a).

Domestic tourist nights spent in Gozo and Comino region totalled 662,921, an increase of 14.0 per cent over 2016. This accounted for 35.9 per cent of total overnights spent in Gozo and Comino region (Chart 1b). The majority of the nights (79.2 per cent) were in private accommodation, of which 66.0 per cent were spent in rented accommodation. In 2017, nights in collective accommodation increased by 37.3 per cent, when compared to 2016 (Table 4 and Chart 2b).

Chart 2b. Nights spent by domestic tourists by type of accommodation, region and year



Domestic tourism expenditure in Gozo and Comino region was estimated at €40.0 million, an increase of 8.9 per cent over 2016. The highest percentage increase (16.3 per cent) was recorded in the 'accommodation expenditure' category (Table 5).

1.2. Domestic tourism to Malta region

Gozo and Comino residents who travelled to Malta region in 2017 as domestic tourists totalled 23,924, an increase of 32.0 per cent over 2016. The average length of stay of domestic tourists in Malta region in 2017 declined to 1.9 nights from 2.3 nights in 2016 (Table 2).

The largest proportion (61.1 per cent) of the Gozo and Comino residents who travelled to Malta region stayed in private accommodation, of which 81.3 per cent stayed in non-rented accommodation (Table 3 and Chart 2a).

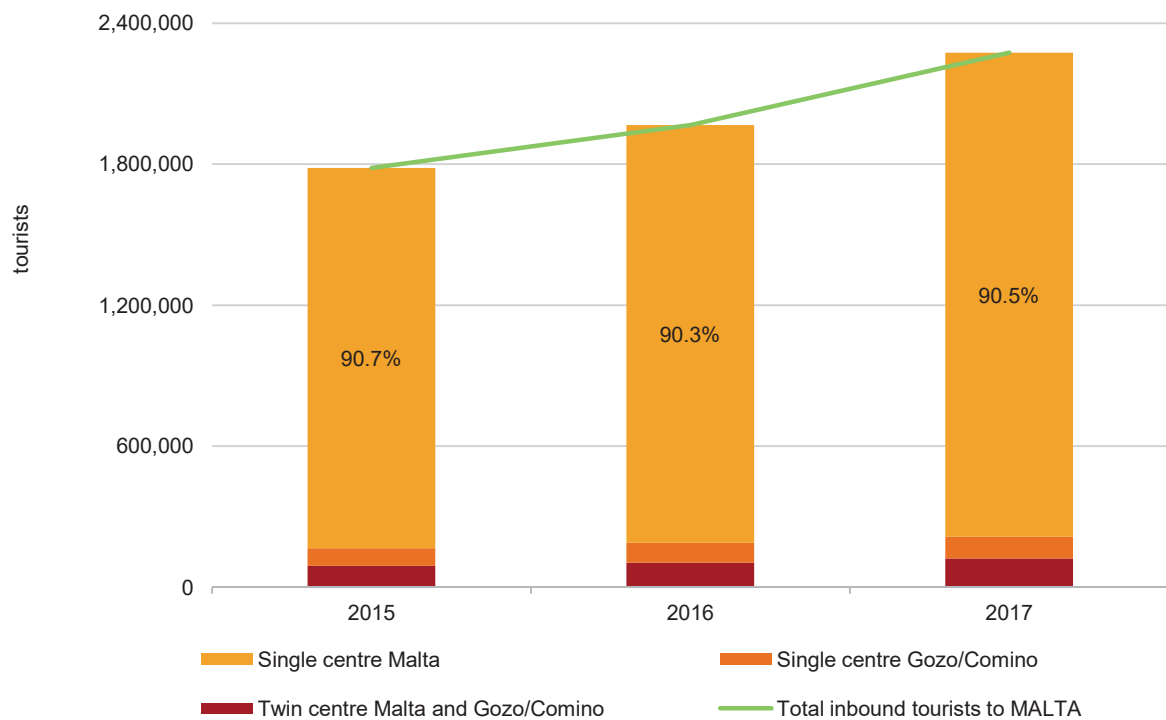
Domestic tourist nights spent in Malta region amounted to 45,563 nights, an increase of 10.3 per cent over 2016. Nights spent in private accommodation accounted for 59.3 per cent of total domestic tourist nights. (Table 4 and Chart 2b).

In 2017, domestic tourism expenditure in Malta region was estimated at €3.4 million, an increase of 39.4 per cent over 2016. The 'other expenditure' category accounted for 66.5 per cent of the total (Table 5).

2. Inbound tourism

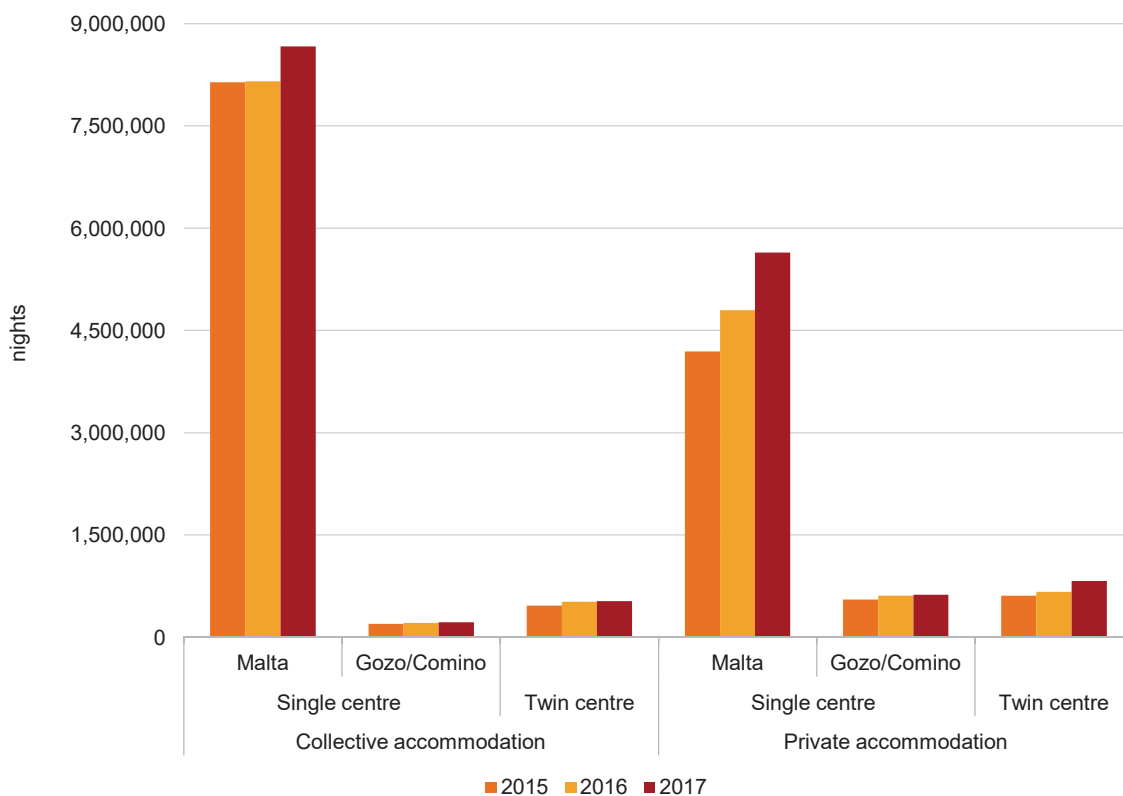
In 2017, inbound tourist arrivals increased by 15.7 per cent, reaching close to 2.3 million tourist arrivals. Single centre destination inbound tourism accounted for the majority of the trips, 94.6 per cent, the rest being twin centre destination trips (Table 6 and Charts 1a, 3).

Chart 3. Inbound tourists by itinerary, region and year



Total nights spent by inbound tourists to MALTA surpassed 16.5 million, an increase of 10.3 per cent over 2016. Inbound tourist nights in the Malta region accounted for 92.8 per cent of the total, while the Gozo and Comino region accommodated the remainder. In 2017, Gozo and Comino region registered a growth of 6.4 per cent, reaching almost 1.2 million nights. Nights spent by single centre inbound tourists accounted for 91.8 per cent of total nights spent in MALTA. The remaining 8.2 per cent were nights spent on twin centre destination trips (Table 6 and Charts 4, 5b).

Chart 4. Nights spent by inbound tourists by type of accommodation, itinerary, region and year



In 2017, total expenditure by inbound tourists to MALTA reached an estimate of €1.9 billion, an increase of 13.9 per cent over 2016. Package and non-package expenditure constituted 26.8 and 32.9 per cent of the total, respectively, while 'other expenditure' accounted for the remaining 40.3 per cent. Accommodation expenditure amount to 54.2 per cent of the total non-package expenditure. Expenditure by inbound tourists on single centre destination trips accounted for 93.0 per cent of total (Table 12).

2.1. Single centre destination trips, nights and expenditure

2.1.1. Malta region

Malta region recorded the highest demand in terms of inbound tourist arrivals. In 2017, inbound tourists to Malta region as a single centre destination reached almost 2.1 million, an increase of 15.9 per cent over 2016 (Tables 6, 7 and Charts 3, 5a).

Most of the inbound tourists were aged between 25 and 44 (37.9 per cent) and came from EU Member States (86.1 per cent) with strongest market being the UK. Three-fourths of single centre trips (almost 1.6 million) to Malta region were done for holiday purposes.

Chart 5a. Inbound tourism by itinerary and region: 2017

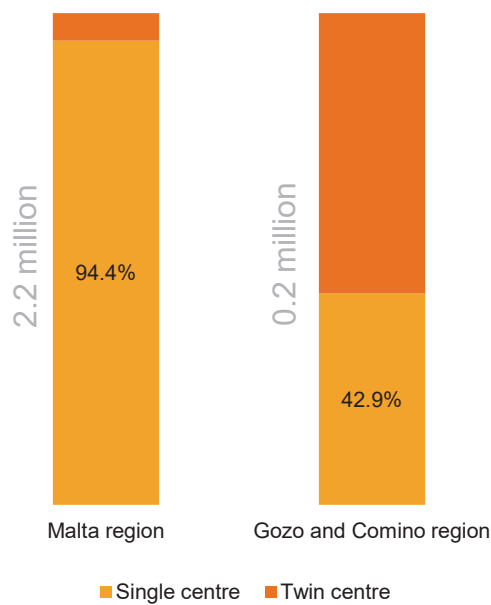


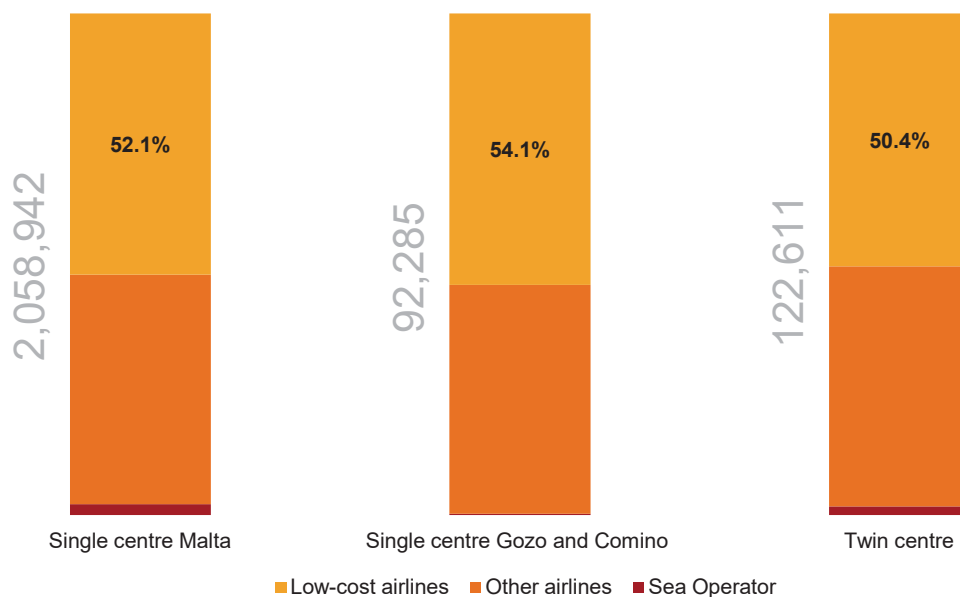
Chart 5b. Nights spent by inbound tourists by itinerary and region: 2017



First-time tourists accounted for 73.4 per cent while the remainder were repeat tourists. When compared to 2016, non-package trips increased by 22.5 per cent, implying that five out of eight trips were non-package; the package trips increased by 6.3 per cent when compared to 2016 (Table 7).

More than half of the single centre inbound tourists, 52.1 per cent, travelled by low-cost airlines and 45.8 per cent by other airlines. Travelling by low-cost airlines registered an increase of 24.1 per cent while travelling by other airlines increased by 8.7 per cent, compared to 2016 (Table 7 and Chart 6).

Chart 6. Inbound tourists to MALTA by itinerary, region and mode of travel: 2017



Almost 70 per cent of single centre inbound tourists to Malta region, stayed in collective accommodation (1.4 million) while the remaining 30.6 per cent opted to stay in private accommodation. The majority of those staying in the private accommodation, 64.3 per cent, preferred to stay in rented accommodation (Table 10).

In 2017, the average length of stay stood at 7.0 nights down by 0.3 of a night. The largest percentage increase (28.7%) was registered in the category of single centre inbound tourists to Malta region who spent between 1 to 3 nights (Table 7).

Nights spent by inbound tourists to Malta region as a single centre destination went up by 10.5 per cent when compared to 2016, exceeding 14.3 million nights (Tables 6, 11 and Chart 5b). Nights spent in collective accommodation amounted to 60.6 per cent of the total. The majority of those opting to stay in private accommodation spent their nights in rented accommodation, accounting to 64.9 per cent (Table 11 and Chart 4).

Total expenditure by inbound tourists to Malta as single centre destination, exceeded €1.7 billion. The largest proportions of total package and non-package expenditure were spent by single centre tourists to Malta region. The non-package expenditure by single centre inbound tourists to Malta region was higher compared to the package component (Table 12).

2.1.2 Gozo and Comino region

In 2017, the Gozo and Comino region recorded an increase in inbound tourist arrivals (single centre and twin centre) of 13.2 per cent over previous year, totalling to 214,895 (Table 6 and Charts 3, 5a).

Inbound tourists who visited Gozo and Comino region as a single centre destination amounted to 92,285, an increase of 9.0 per cent over 2016. This accounted for 42.9 per cent, of the total inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region (Tables 6, 8 and Chart 5a). The majority came from EU Member States (89.3 per cent) with the strongest market being the UK. Most were aged between 45 and 64 (38.1 per cent). Trips for holiday purposes accounted for 78.4 per cent of the total and another 14.8 per cent were undertaken to visit relatives and friends (Table 8).

Non-package trips accounted for 74.3 per cent or 68,584 inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region, an increase of 8.8 per cent over previous year. The single centre package trips to Gozo and Comino region grew by 9.4 per cent over 2016. More than half of the single centre inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region, 57.7 per cent were first-time tourists. Slightly over half, of the single centre inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region, travelled by low-cost airlines (54.1 per cent), 45.7 per cent by other type of airlines and the remaining by sea. Single centre trips by low-cost airlines posted a growth of 15.5 per cent in 2017 (Table 8 and Chart 6).

In contrast to single centre Malta region, the majority of single centre tourists to Gozo and Comino region, 67.3 per cent, stayed in private accommodation, with 64.4 per cent of them opting to stay in rented accommodation (Table 10).

Most of the inbound single centre trips to Gozo and Comino region were within the bracket of 7 nights or more. In 2017, the average length of stay of single centre inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region shortened to 9.2 nights from 9.7 nights in 2016 (Table 8).

Nights spent by inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region on single centre trips went up by 3.1 per cent when compared to 2016, amounting to 846,075 nights (Tables 6, 11 and Chart 5b). The largest share of single centre nights in Gozo and Comino region, 73.8 per cent, were spent in private accommodation with 58.0 per cent spent in rented accommodation (Table 11 and Chart 4).

Expenditure by inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region as single centre destination was estimated at €81.5 million in 2017, an increase of 7.3 per cent when compared to previous year. Non-package expenditure by single centre inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region was 74.0 per cent higher than the package component (Table 12).

2.2 Twin centre destination trips, nights and expenditure

In 2017, inbound tourists who visited Malta and Gozo and Comino regions as twin centre destination totalled 122,611, an increase of 16.6 per cent when compared to 2016 (Tables 6, 9 and Charts 3, 5a).

The majority of inbound tourists on twin centre trips were first-time tourists (77.4 per cent) and came from EU Member States (81.7 per cent) with the strongest market being the UK. The largest share of twin centre inbound tourists were in the 25-44 age bracket (39.4 per cent). Four out of every five twin centre trips were carried out for holiday purposes. Non-package twin centre trips accounted for 87.4 per cent, an increase of 19.9 per cent over 2016. Half of the twin centre inbound tourists travelled by low-cost airlines, 47.9 per cent by other airlines and the remaining by sea. Travelling by low-cost airlines recorded the highest increase, 22.6 per cent when compared to 2016 (Table 9 and Chart 6).

Over half of the twin centre tourists stayed in private accommodation while the remaining 48.4 per cent stayed in collective accommodation. The majority (71.9 per cent) of those opting for private accommodation chose rented accommodation (Table 10).

Total nights spent by twin centre tourists went up by 13.9 per cent when compared to 2016, amounting to nearly 1.4 million nights (Tables 6, 11 and Chart 4). The majority of inbound twin centre tourist nights, 60.8 per cent, were spent in private accommodation, 69.6 per cent of which sought rented accommodation (Table 11 and Chart 4).

Expenditure by twin centre tourists amounted to €136.8 million in 2017. Non-package expenditure by twin centre inbound tourists was four times higher, when compared to package expenditure. The package expenditure component dropped by 8.4 per cent when compared to 2016 (Table 12).

Table 1. Profile of domestic tourists travelling to Gozo and Comino region

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Total	188,600	218,272	236,838	18,566	8.5
Sex					
Males	91,729	119,500	118,741	-	-
Females	96,871	98,772	118,097	19,325	19.6
Age group					
15-24	34,378	46,226	37,285	-8,941	-19.3
25-44	83,991	90,219	103,220	13,001	14.4
45-64	45,022	56,272	71,929	15,658	27.8
65 or more	25,210	25,556	24,404	-	-
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	168,715	203,079	212,953	9,874	4.9
Visiting relatives and friends	13,637	9,680	13,699	4,019	41.5
Other (including business, educational, religious and health tourism)	6,249 ^u	5,513 ^u	10,186 ^u	-	-
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	157,012	185,835	195,491	9,656	5.2
4-6 nights	21,684	24,599	31,650	7,051	28.7
7 nights or more	9,903 ^u	7,839 ^u	9,698 ^u	-	-
Average length of stay (nights)	2.8	2.7	2.8	0.1	-

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

(-) Change is not statistically significant.

Notes:

1. Figures include residents in Malta region only.
2. Figures exclude individuals aged 0 to 14 years. Please refer to methodological note 1.
3. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: National Tourism Survey, NSO

Table 2. Profile of domestic tourists travelling to Malta region

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Total	14,984	18,131	23,924	5,794	32.0
Sex					
Males	7,203	9,613	13,150	3,537	36.8
Females	7,781	8,518	10,774	2,256	26.5
Age group					
15-24	3,927	4,552	3,501 ^u	-	-
25-44	4,617	4,885	8,015	3,130	64.1
45-64	4,145 ^u	4,710 ^u	9,216 ^u	-	-
65 or more	:	:	:	:	:
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	9,843	13,776	14,873	-	-
Visiting relatives and friends	3,409 ^u	3,260 ^u	3,699 ^u	-	-
Other (including business, educational, religious and health tourism)	1,732 ^u	:	5,352 ^u	:	:
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	14,297	17,521	22,447	4,926	28.1
4-6 nights	:	:	:	:	:
7 nights or more	:	:	:	:	:
Average length of stay (nights)	2.0	2.3	1.9	-0.4	-

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

(-) Change is not statistically significant.

Notes:

1. Figures include residents in Gozo and Comino region only.
2. Figures exclude individuals aged 0 to 14 years. Please refer to methodological note 1.
3. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: National Tourism Survey, NSO

Table 3. Domestic tourists by region of destination and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Malta residents to Gozo/Comino region	188,600	218,272	236,838	18,566	8.5
Collective accommodation	51,749	47,397	64,263	16,866	35.6
Private accommodation	136,851	170,875	172,575	1,700	1.0
Rented	76,364	96,728	100,196	3,468	3.6
Non-rented	60,487	74,147	72,379	-1,768	-2.4
Gozo/Comino residents to Malta region	14,984	18,131	23,924	5,794	32.0
Collective accommodation	5,606	6,654	9,315	2,661	40.0
Private accommodation	9,378	11,476	14,610	3,133	27.3
Rented	:	:	:	:	:
Non-rented	8,391	10,307	11,882	1,575	15.3

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

Notes:

1. Figures exclude individuals aged 0 to 14 years. Please refer to methodological note 1.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: National Tourism Survey, NSO

Table 4. Total nights spent by domestic tourists by region of destination and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Malta residents to Gozo/Comino region	532,590	581,418	662,921	81,503	14.0
Collective accommodation	124,459	100,303	137,677	37,374	37.3
Private accommodation	408,131	481,115	525,244	44,129	9.2
Rented	230,487	298,072	346,415	48,343	16.2
Non-rented	177,645	183,043	178,829	-4,214	-2.3
Gozo/Comino residents to Malta region	30,100	41,320	45,563	4,243	10.3
Collective accommodation	11,916	14,340	18,533	4,193	29.2
Private accommodation	18,184	26,980	27,029	49	0.2
Rented	:	:	:	:	:
Non-rented	15,433	24,194	21,738	-2,456	-10.1

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

Notes:

1. Figures exclude individuals aged 0 to 14 years. Please refer to methodological note 1.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: National Tourism Survey, NSO

Table 5. Total expenditure by domestic tourists by region of destination and expenditure category

€ 000

Expenditure category	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Malta residents to Gozo/Comino region	27,634	36,754	40,032	3,278	8.9
Travel ticket	1,875	2,350	2,624	274	11.6
Accommodation	9,756	12,187	14,178	1,991	16.3
Other expenditure	16,003	22,217	23,230	1,013	4.6
Gozo/Comino residents to Malta region	2,007	2,469	3,441	972	39.4
Travel ticket	74	82	130	47	57.6
Accommodation	653	783	1,025	241	30.8
Other expenditure	1,280	1,603	2,287	683	42.6

Notes:

1. Figures exclude individuals aged 0 to 14 years. Please refer to methodological note 1.
2. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
3. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: National Tourism Survey, NSO

Table 6. General overview of inbound tourism to MALTA by itinerary, region and year

	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	2017/2016
Inbound tourists:					
MALTA	1,783,366	1,965,928	2,273,837	307,909	15.7
<i>Single centre destination</i> ¹	1,692,334	1,860,754	2,151,227	290,473	15.6
Malta	1,617,785	1,776,069	2,058,942	282,873	15.9
Gozo/Comino	74,549	84,684	92,285	7,600	9.0
<i>Twin centre destination</i> ²	91,032	105,174	122,611	17,436	16.6
Malta and Gozo/Comino	91,032	105,174	122,611	17,436	16.6
Regional overview ³					
Malta	1,708,816	1,881,244	2,181,553	300,309	16.0
Gozo/Comino	165,581	189,859	214,895	25,037	13.2
Nights by inbound tourists:					
MALTA	14,151,599	14,961,366	16,509,141	1,547,776	10.3
<i>Single centre destination</i> ¹	13,081,628	13,774,149	15,156,586	1,382,437	10.0
Malta	12,334,748	12,953,431	14,310,511	1,357,080	10.5
Gozo/Comino	746,879	820,718	846,075	25,357	3.1
<i>Twin centre destination</i> ²	1,069,972	1,187,216	1,352,555	165,339	13.9
Malta and Gozo/Comino	813,108	895,455	1,014,495	119,040	13.3
Gozo/Comino	256,863	291,761	338,060	46,299	15.9
Regional overview					
Malta	13,147,857	13,848,886	15,325,007	1,476,120	10.7
Gozo/Comino	1,003,743	1,112,479	1,184,135	71,655	6.4

Notes:

1. ¹ Single centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with overnight stays in one region only.
2. ² Twin centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with combined overnight stays in both Malta and Gozo and Comino regions.
3. ³ The summation of the regions exceeds inbound tourists visiting MALTA, due to double counting of twin centre destination tourists to Malta and Gozo and Comino regions, respectively.
4. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Tourstat), NSO

Table 7. Profile of inbound tourists to Malta region: single centre destination

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Total	1,617,785	1,776,069	2,058,942	282,873	15.9
Type and mode of travel					
Air	1,575,143	1,730,311	2,014,010	283,699	16.4
Low-cost airlines	681,988	863,931	1,072,036	208,104	24.1
Other airlines	893,155	866,380	941,974	75,594	8.7
Sea	42,642	45,758	44,932	-	-
Sex					
Males	835,605	909,443	1,064,307	154,864	17.0
Females	782,180	866,627	994,636	128,009	14.8
Age group					
0-14	85,619	94,515	96,509	1,995	2.1
15-24	225,132	249,260	288,353	39,093	15.7
25-44	541,020	622,582	781,272	158,690	25.5
45-64	530,306	564,347	658,771	94,424	16.7
65 or more	235,709	245,366	234,037	-11,329	-4.6
Markets					
EU	1,386,339	1,531,336	1,772,960	241,624	15.8
<i>of which:</i>					
France	111,727	128,166	153,687	25,521	19.9
Germany	122,247	134,465	167,855	33,390	24.8
Italy	266,830	296,202	343,066	46,864	15.8
Spain	42,854	49,424	69,052	19,628	39.7
United Kingdom	476,896	507,140	507,963	-	-
Non-EU	231,445	244,733	285,983	41,249	16.9
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	1,216,301	1,355,675	1,560,534	204,859	15.1
Visiting relatives and friends	144,186	159,699	180,157	20,458	12.8
Other (including business, educational, religious and health tourism)	257,298	260,696	318,252	57,556	22.1
Organisation of stay					
Package	747,435	718,289	763,249	44,960	6.3
Non-package	870,350	1,057,780	1,295,693	237,913	22.5
Frequency					
First-time tourists	1,136,733	1,248,646	1,511,865	263,219	21.1
Repeat tourists	481,052	527,423	547,077	19,654	3.7
once a year or less	346,075	374,135	386,803	12,669	3.4
more than once a year	134,977	153,289	160,274	6,985	4.6
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	267,181	342,143	440,435	98,292	28.7
4-6 nights	411,583	471,948	589,320	117,372	24.9
7 nights or more	939,020	961,979	1,029,188	67,209	7.0
Average length of stay (nights)	7.6	7.3	7.0	-0.3	-

(-) Change is not statistically significant.

Notes:

1. Single centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with overnight stays in one region only.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Tourstat), NSO

Table 8. Profile of inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region: single centre destination

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Total	74,549	84,684	92,285	7,600	9.0
Type and mode of travel					
Air	74,375	84,481	92,087	7,606	9.0
Low-cost airlines	31,894	43,211	49,917	6,706	15.5
Other airlines	42,481	41,270	42,170	-	-
Sea	175	203	198	-	-
Sex					
Males	38,372	41,977	46,629	4,652	11.1
Females	36,177	42,707	45,656	2,949	6.9
Age group					
0-14	6,183	6,696	6,726	-	-
15-24	7,312	9,191	10,874	1,683	18.3
25-44	23,479	26,681	30,641	3,960	14.8
45-64	30,915	33,110	35,128	2,018	6.1
65 or more	6,660	9,006	8,916	-	-
Markets					
EU	66,138	73,631	82,401	8,770	11.9
<i>of which:</i>					
France	4,154	3,615	5,500	1,886	52.2
Germany	12,652	12,317	15,464	3,147	25.5
Italy	6,069	8,250	8,585	-	-
Spain	:	:	:	:	:
United Kingdom	29,603	32,520	33,091	-	-
Non-EU	8,411	11,053	9,884	-	-
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	58,220	65,857	72,385	6,528	9.9
Visiting relatives and friends	11,473	13,351	13,663	-	-
Other (including business, educational, religious and health tourism)	4,856	5,476	6,236	-	-
Organisation of stay					
Package	20,208	21,668	23,700	2,032	9.4
Non-package	54,341	63,016	68,584	5,568	8.8
Frequency					
First-time tourists	38,984	45,190	53,259	8,068	17.9
Repeat tourists	35,565	39,494	39,026	-	-
once a year or less	25,568	29,135	29,691	-	-
more than once a year	9,998	10,359	9,335	-	-
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	3,641	5,427	6,678	-	-
4-6 nights	10,780	14,152	17,021	2,869	20.3
7 nights or more	60,129	65,105	68,586	3,481	5.3
Average length of stay (nights)	10.0	9.7	9.2	-0.5	-

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

(-) Change is not statistically significant.

Notes:

1. Single centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with overnight stays in one region only.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Tourstat), NSO

Table 9. Profile of inbound tourists to Malta and Gozo and Comino regions: twin centre destination

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
Total	91,032	105,174	122,611	17,436	16.6
Type and mode of travel					
Air	88,235	103,158	120,503	17,345	16.8
Low-cost airlines	36,856	50,418	61,833	11,415	22.6
Other airlines	51,380	52,740	58,670	5,930	11.2
Sea	2,796	2,016	2,108	-	-
Sex					
Males	45,312	52,349	57,994	5,645	10.8
Females	45,720	52,825	64,616	11,791	22.3
Age group					
0-14	6,424	6,952	7,859	-	-
15-24	13,132	16,057	19,828	3,771	23.5
25-44	35,865	40,820	48,287	7,467	18.3
45-64	26,505	29,993	34,172	4,179	13.9
65 or more	9,105	11,353	12,464	-	-
Markets					
EU	74,436	86,088	100,147	14,059	16.3
<i>of which:</i>					
France	12,072	13,023	17,184	4,161	32.0
Germany	6,957	10,004	9,714	-	-
Italy	9,916	10,772	12,017	-	-
Spain	3,649	4,758	5,484	-	-
United Kingdom	19,496	20,328	19,839	-	-
Non-EU	16,596	19,086	22,463	3,377	17.7
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	69,203	84,746	96,871	12,125	14.3
Visiting relatives and friends	13,054	11,865	14,846	2,981	25.1
Other (including business, educational, religious and health tourism)	8,774	8,563	10,893	2,330	27.2
Organisation of stay					
Package	14,082	15,812	15,437	-	-
Non-package	76,949	89,363	107,174	17,811	19.9
Frequency					
First-time tourists	65,273	80,480	94,894	14,413	17.9
Repeat tourists	25,759	24,694	27,717	3,023	12.2
once a year or less	18,572	18,109	21,486	3,377	18.7
more than once a year	7,187	6,585	6,231	-	-
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	1,185 ^u	1,576 ^u	2,645	-	-
4-6 nights	6,824	11,309	13,293	1,984	17.5
7 nights or more	83,023	92,289	106,673	14,384	15.6
Average length of stay (nights)	11.8	11.3	11.0	-0.3	-

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

(-) Change is not statistically significant.

Notes:

1. Twin centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with combined overnight stays in both Malta and Gozo and Comino regions.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Tourstat), NSO

Table 10. Inbound tourists by itinerary, region and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
MALTA	1,783,366	1,965,928	2,273,837	307,909	15.7
<i>Single centre destination</i> ¹	1,692,334	1,860,754	2,151,227	290,473	15.6
Malta	1,617,785	1,776,069	2,058,942	282,873	15.9
Collective accommodation	1,208,127	1,270,508	1,428,888	158,380	12.5
Private accommodation	409,658	505,562	630,054	124,493	24.6
Rented	236,637	309,446	405,401	95,955	31.0
Non-rented	173,021	196,115	224,654	28,538	14.6
Gozo/Comino	74,549	84,684	92,285	7,600	9.0
Collective accommodation	24,464	26,936	30,190	3,254	12.1
Private accommodation	50,085	57,748	62,094	4,346	7.5
Rented	30,507	36,457	40,016	3,559	9.8
Non-rented	19,578	21,290	22,078	-	-
<i>Twin centre destination</i> ²	91,032	105,174	122,611	17,436	16.6
Malta and Gozo/Comino	91,032	105,174	122,611	17,436	16.6
Collective accommodation	47,670	56,677	59,307	2,629	4.6
Private accommodation	43,362	48,497	63,304	14,807	30.5
Rented	27,411	33,190	45,501	12,311	37.1
Non-rented	15,951	15,306	17,802	2,496	16.3

(-) Change is not statistically significant.

Notes:

- ¹ Single centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with overnight stays in one region only.
- ² Twin centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with combined overnight stays in both Malta and Gozo and Comino regions.
- Tourists visiting Malta and Gozo and Comino regions as twin centre destination provide information only on the main accommodation used in either one of the regions. No information is provided in respect of the accommodation used for the remaining nights which are spent in the other region. In this regard, the nights of twin centre tourists cannot be segregated by the type of accommodation used in each of the respective regions.
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Tourstat), NSO

Table 11. Total nights spent by inbound tourists by itinerary, region and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
MALTA	14,151,599	14,961,366	16,509,141	1,547,776	10.3
<i>Single centre destination</i>¹	13,081,628	13,774,149	15,156,586	1,382,437	10.0
Malta	12,334,748	12,953,431	14,310,511	1,357,080	10.5
Collective accommodation	8,142,493	8,154,930	8,666,218	511,289	6.3
Private accommodation	4,192,255	4,798,502	5,644,293	845,791	17.6
Rented	2,519,232	2,995,895	3,664,527	668,632	22.3
Non-rented	1,673,023	1,802,606	1,979,766	177,160	9.8
Gozo/Comino	746,879	820,718	846,075	25,357	3.1
Collective accommodation	195,718	210,158	221,727	11,569	5.5
Private accommodation	551,161	610,560	624,348	13,788	2.3
Rented	307,546	346,531	362,403	15,872	4.6
Non-rented	243,616	264,029	261,945	-	-
<i>Twin centre destination</i>²	1,069,972	1,187,216	1,352,555	165,339	13.9
Malta and Gozo/Comino	1,069,972	1,187,216	1,352,555	165,339	13.9
Collective accommodation	462,917	521,277	529,683	8,406	1.6
Private accommodation	607,055	665,939	822,872	156,932	23.6
Rented	352,478	435,473	572,516	137,043	31.5
Non-rented	254,577	230,466	250,355	19,889	8.6

(-) Change is not statistically significant.

Notes:

- ¹ Single centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with overnight stays in one region only.
- ² Twin centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with combined overnight stays in both Malta and Gozo and Comino regions.
- Tourists visiting Malta and Gozo and Comino regions as twin centre destination provide information only on the main accommodation used in either one of the regions. No information is provided in respect of the accommodation used for the remaining nights which are spent in the other region. In this regard, the nights of twin centre tourists cannot be segregated by the type of accommodation used in each of the respective regions.
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Tourstat), NSO

Table 12. Total expenditure by inbound tourists by itinerary, region and expenditure category

€ 000

Expenditure category	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
MALTA	1,639,067	1,708,952	1,946,894	237,942	13.9
<i>Single centre destination</i> ¹	1,531,624	1,591,483	1,810,118	218,634	13.7
Malta	1,459,260	1,515,539	1,728,655	213,115	14.1
Package	510,085	474,838	491,231	16,394	3.5
Non-package	411,992	460,310	556,406	96,096	20.9
Travel ticket	206,180	218,750	254,502	35,753	16.3
Accommodation	205,812	241,561	301,904	60,343	25.0
Other expenditure	537,184	580,391	681,017	100,626	17.3
Gozo/Comino	72,363	75,944	81,463	5,519	7.3
Package	15,818	15,685	16,622	936	6.0
Non-package	25,887	27,510	28,923	1,413	5.1
Travel ticket	14,846	15,301	15,573	271	1.8
Accommodation	11,041	12,208	13,350	1,142	9.4
Other expenditure	30,658	32,749	35,918	3,170	9.7
<i>Twin centre destination</i> ²	107,444	117,469	136,776	19,308	16.4
Malta and Gozo/Comino	107,444	117,469	136,776	19,308	16.4
Package	15,062	15,296	14,017	-1,280	-8.4
Non-package	42,919	47,275	55,847	8,572	18.1
Travel ticket	19,198	20,112	23,281	3,169	15.8
Accommodation	23,721	27,163	32,566	5,403	19.9
Other expenditure	49,463	54,897	66,912	12,015	21.9

Notes:

1. ¹ Single centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with overnight stays in one region only.
2. ² Twin centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with combined overnight stays in both Malta and Gozo and Comino regions.
3. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
4. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Tourstat), NSO

Methodological Notes

1. This release focuses on domestic and inbound tourism overnight stays. Domestic tourism excludes individuals aged 0 to 14 years and overnight stays within the same region of origin, such as, weekend breaks in Malta region by Malta residents.
2. Inbound 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. Tourist sea departures data is supplemented by administrative data provided by ferry operators. Tourstat measures the number of tourist trips carried out during a reference period. 'Tourist trips' differs from the 'number of tourists' such that the same person can undertake more than one trip during a reference period.
3. In 2014, the National Statistics Office has introduced a new tool to measure National Tourism to satisfy the concepts and definitions as outlined by Eurostat. The collection consists of tourism demand data on domestic and outbound trips as required by Regulation (EC) No. 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning statistics on tourism statistics. The Regulation aims at giving a complete and comprehensive picture of tourism in Europe and allows the comparability of results with other EU member states. Data is collected via a quarterly Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) survey.
4. **Definitions:**
 - **Usual Environment:** The geographical area, though not necessarily a contiguous one, within which an individual conducts his regular life routines and shall be determined on the basis of the following criteria: the crossing of administrative borders or the distance from the place of usual residence, the duration of visit, the frequency of visit, the purpose of visit.
 - **Residents:** A person is considered to be a resident of Malta/Gozo and Comino if:
 - a. S/he has lived for most of the past 12 months in Malta/Gozo and Comino;
 - 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:** A visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.
 - **Tourist trip:** A visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.
 - **Domestic tourism:** comprises the activities of a resident visitor within the country, i.e. Maltese residents visiting Gozo and Comino and vice versa and staying for not more than 12 consecutive months for personal, business or other purposes.
 - **Inbound tourism:** 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 personal, business or other purposes.
 - **Outbound tourism:** comprises the activities of residents of Malta travelling to, and staying in places outside Malta and therefore outside their usual environment.
 - **Single centre destination:** refers to inbound tourism trips with overnight stays in one region only.
 - **Twin centre destination:** refers to inbound tourism trips with combined overnight stays in two regions, i.e., Malta and Gozo and Comino regions.
 - **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 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).

5. 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'.
6. Prior to comparing and interpreting differences between demand-side (based on Tourstat and National Tourism surveys) and supply-side (based on Accomstat survey) 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>).
7. 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.
8. Percentage changes for tourists based on counts of less than 1,500 are not presented due to sampling errors, and are represented in this news release by means of the dash symbol (-).
9. The expenditure data in this release should not be equated to national tourism earnings.
10. The nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) provides a single, uniform breakdown of the economic territory of the European Union. The NUTS is the territorial classification for the compilation of regional statistics. The economic territory of a country can be divided into regional territories and the extra-regio territory. For the purpose of regional analysis, MALTA is divided as follows:

	NUTS 0	NUTS 1	NUTS 2	NUTS 3
MALTA	MT	MT0	MT00	MT000
Malta				MT001
Gozo and Comino				MT002
Extra-regio		MTZ	MTZZ	MTZZZ

The regional territory includes the region that is part of the geographic territory of a country and any free zones, including bonded warehouses and factories under customs control in the region. The extra-regio territory is made up of parts of the economic territory of a country that cannot be attached directly to a single region.

11. National Tourism survey data for 2015 and 2016 have been revised in line with the demographic updates published on the 12th of February 2018 (Release No: 022/2018). These updates are reflected in the grossing up methodology used for the National Tourism survey.
12. More information is available from the NSO upon written request form: <https://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Pages/Request-for-Information.aspx>
13. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
14. A detailed news release calendar is available on https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx