

Total outbound tourists for the third quarter in 2018 were estimated at 199,153, an increase of 16.2 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2017.

## Outbound Tourism: Q3/2018

### July-September 2018

During the third quarter of 2018, outbound tourist trips towards EU and non-EU countries increased by 16.1 and 16.8 per cent respectively, when compared to the same quarter in 2017 (Table 1). Italy and the United Kingdom remained the most popular destinations, with a joint share of 46.5 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 6).

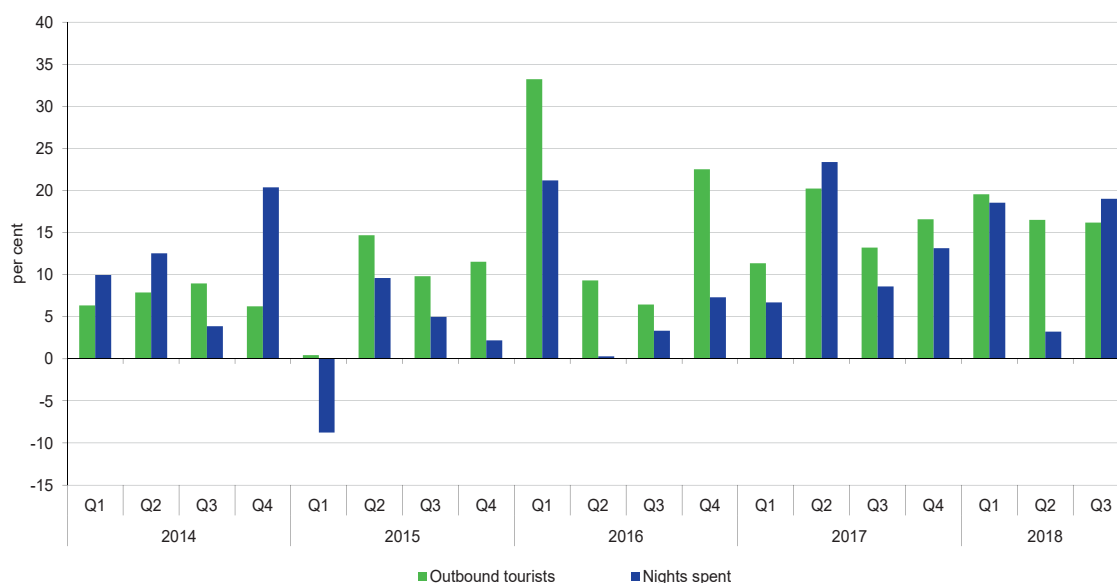
Total nights spent by outbound tourists increased by 19.0 per cent, amounting to 1,496,471 nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights (62.2 per cent) were spent in rented accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total estimated outlay by outbound tourists between July and September increased by 8.8 per cent over the same quarter of 2017, and stood at €193.2 million, equivalent to an average €970 per trip (Tables 4 and 5).

### January-September 2018

Total outbound tourist trips between January and September 2018 numbered 483,044, an increase of 17.2 per cent over 2017 (Table 7). Total nights spent by outbound tourists went up by 13.9 per cent, reaching nearly 3.3 million nights (Table 9). In addition, total estimated outlay by resident tourists stood at €414.8 million, 9.5 per cent higher than that recorded for the same period in 2017 (Table 10) ■

**Chart 1. Year-on-year percentage changes**



**Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure**

Characteristics	July-September			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017	
<b>Outbound tourists</b>	<b>151,386</b>	<b>171,411</b>	<b>199,153</b>	<b>27,742</b>	<b>16.2</b>
<b>Type and mode of travel</b>					
<b>Air</b>	<b>140,589</b>	<b>160,994</b>	<b>188,691</b>	<b>27,697</b>	<b>17.2</b>
Low-cost airlines	56,054	72,139	77,451	5,312	7.4
Other airlines	84,536	88,855	111,240	22,385	25.2
<b>Sea</b>	<b>10,797</b>	<b>10,416</b>	<b>10,462</b>	-	-
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	81,404	93,711	111,715	18,004	19.2
Females	69,982	77,700	87,438	9,738	12.5
<b>Age group</b>					
0-24	33,188	34,175	37,663	3,488	10.2
25-44	61,739	77,313	87,559	10,246	13.3
45-64	41,203	45,602	55,403	9,801	21.5
65 or more	15,257	14,320	18,527	4,207	29.4
<b>Final destination</b>					
EU	137,513	151,430	175,821	24,391	16.1
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	96,575	104,487	128,507	24,021	23.0
Non-EU	13,873	19,980	23,332	3,352	16.8
<b>Purpose of visit</b>					
Holiday	96,976	111,658	137,170	25,512	22.8
Visiting relatives and friends	24,901	31,275	33,726	2,451	7.8
Business and professional	15,641	15,934	17,610	1,676	10.5
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	13,868	12,544	10,646	-1,898	-15.1
<b>Organisation of stay</b>					
Package	38,894	36,823	48,803	11,980	32.5
Non-package	112,492	134,588	150,350	15,762	11.7
<b>Duration of visit</b>					
1-3 nights	29,509	35,101	42,397	7,296	20.8
4-6 nights	42,873	51,174	61,377	10,203	19.9
7 nights or more	79,004	85,135	95,379	10,244	12.0
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	7.6	7.3	7.5	0.2	-

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

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

Type of accommodation	July-September			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018		
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>118,469</b>	<b>130,962</b>	<b>151,642</b>	<b>20,681</b>	<b>15.8</b>
Collective	97,942	108,052	125,339	17,287	16.0
Other rented	20,526	22,910	26,303	3,393	14.8
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>32,918</b>	<b>40,449</b>	<b>47,510</b>	<b>7,061</b>	<b>17.5</b>
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>151,386</b>	<b>171,411</b>	<b>199,153</b>	<b>27,742</b>	<b>16.2</b>

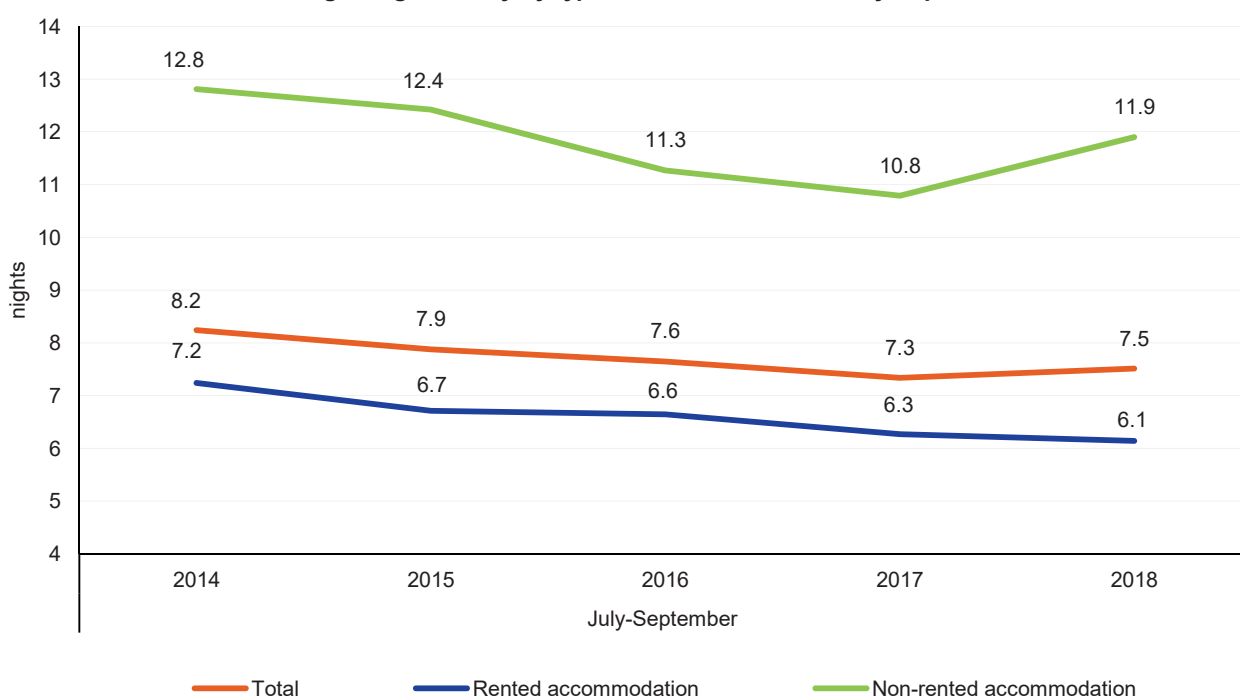
Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table 3. Total nights spent by outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation**

Type of accommodation	July-September			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018		
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>786,897</b>	<b>820,899</b>	<b>931,022</b>	<b>110,123</b>	<b>13.4</b>
Collective	598,578	652,586	755,233	102,647	15.7
Other rented	188,319	168,313	175,789	7,477	4.4
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>370,865</b>	<b>436,444</b>	<b>565,449</b>	<b>129,005</b>	<b>29.6</b>
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>1,157,762</b>	<b>1,257,342</b>	<b>1,496,471</b>	<b>239,128</b>	<b>19.0</b>

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Chart 2. Average length of stay by type of accommodation: July-September 2018**



**Table 4. Total expenditure by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category**

€000

Expenditure category	July-September			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018		
<b>Package</b>	<b>29,825</b>	<b>28,132</b>	<b>44,359</b>	<b>16,227</b>	<b>57.7</b>
<b>Non-package</b>	<b>47,465</b>	<b>54,073</b>	<b>58,018</b>	<b>3,945</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Air/sea fares	24,377	27,034	29,041	2,006	7.4
Accommodation	23,088	27,039	28,977	1,938	7.2
<b>Other expenditure</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>95,380</b>	<b>90,853</b>	<b>-4,527</b>	<b>-4.7</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>162,289</b>	<b>177,585</b>	<b>193,230</b>	<b>15,644</b>	<b>8.8</b>

Notes:

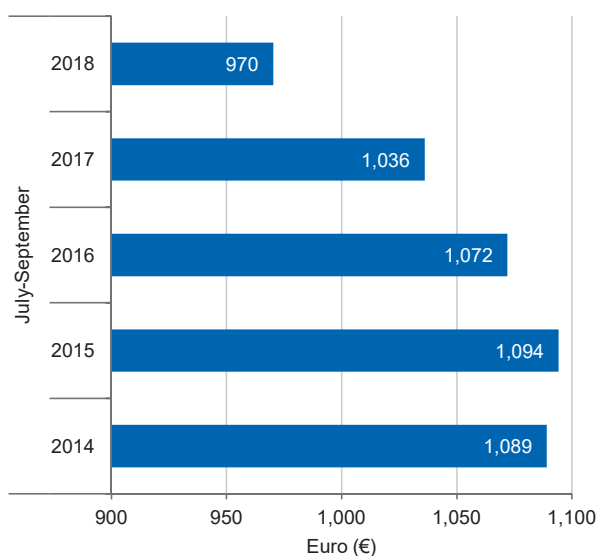
1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table 5. Average expenditure per capita and per night by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category**

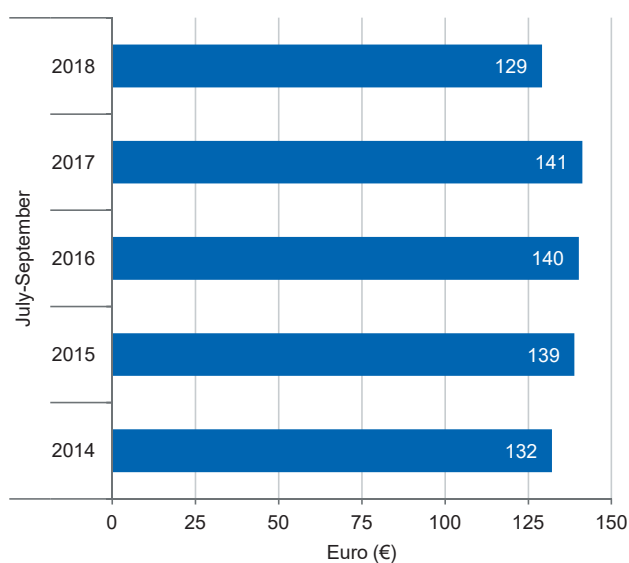
€

Expenditure category	July-September					
	per capita			per night		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Package	767	764	909	118	117	139
Non-package	422	402	385	52	53	49
Air/sea fares	217	201	193	27	27	25
Accommodation	298	292	279	46	48	46
Other expenditure	561	556	456	73	76	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>129</b>

**Chart 3a. Expenditure per capita:  
July-September 2018**



**Chart 3b. Expenditure per night:  
July-September 2018**



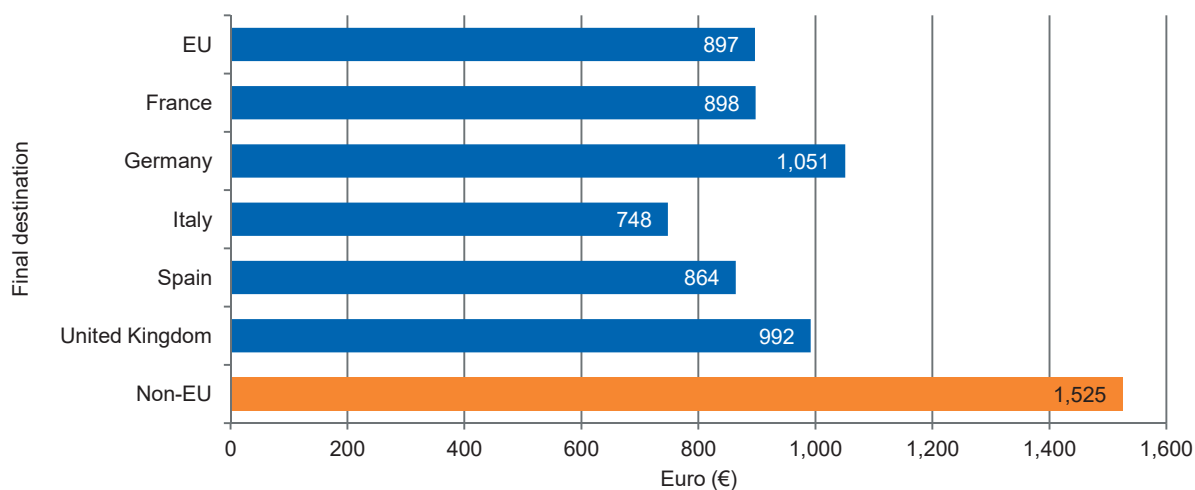
**Table 6. Outbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by period of departure and final destination**

Final destination	July-September			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017	
<b>Tourists</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>137,513</b>	<b>151,430</b>	<b>175,821</b>	<b>24,391</b>	<b>16.1</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	6,420	7,704	10,326	2,622	34.0
Germany	10,464	10,951	14,450	3,499	32.0
Italy	48,789	53,834	65,451	11,617	21.6
Spain	7,596	7,479	11,676	4,197	56.1
United Kingdom	22,268	26,040	27,158	-	-
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>13,873</b>	<b>19,980</b>	<b>23,332</b>	<b>3,352</b>	<b>16.8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>151,386</b>	<b>171,411</b>	<b>199,153</b>	<b>27,742</b>	<b>16.2</b>
<b>Nights</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>958,271</b>	<b>974,474</b>	<b>1,193,749</b>	<b>219,275</b>	<b>22.5</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	47,719	52,458	66,645	14,187	27.0
Germany	76,445	76,307	105,026	28,719	37.6
Italy	250,941	269,652	345,843	76,191	28.3
Spain	62,678	48,341	77,953	29,611	61.3
United Kingdom	195,719	198,463	210,448	-	-
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>199,491</b>	<b>282,868</b>	<b>302,722</b>	<b>19,853</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,157,762</b>	<b>1,257,342</b>	<b>1,496,471</b>	<b>239,128</b>	<b>19.0</b>
<b>Total Expenditure (€000)</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>135,010</b>	<b>142,349</b>	<b>157,655</b>	<b>15,306</b>	<b>10.8</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	6,573	7,915	9,270	1,354	17.1
Germany	11,462	12,234	15,191	2,958	24.2
Italy	37,374	40,212	48,958	8,745	21.7
Spain	8,071	7,481	10,086	2,605	34.8
United Kingdom	25,086	25,835	26,936	-	-
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>27,279</b>	<b>35,236</b>	<b>35,575</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>162,289</b>	<b>177,585</b>	<b>193,230</b>	<b>15,644</b>	<b>8.8</b>

Notes:

1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
3. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

**Chart 4. Average expenditure per capita by final destination: July-September 2018**



**Table 7. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure**

Characteristics	January-September			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017	
<b>Outbound tourists</b>	<b>359,181</b>	<b>412,083</b>	<b>483,044</b>	<b>70,961</b>	<b>17.2</b>
<b>Type and mode of travel</b>					
<b>Air</b>	<b>336,787</b>	<b>389,997</b>	<b>460,490</b>	<b>70,493</b>	<b>18.1</b>
Low-cost airlines	145,857	195,649	211,690	16,040	8.2
Other airlines	190,930	194,348	248,801	54,453	28.0
<b>Sea</b>	<b>22,395</b>	<b>22,086</b>	<b>22,554</b>	-	-
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	200,798	231,333	267,542	36,209	15.7
Females	158,384	180,751	215,502	34,752	19.2
<b>Age group</b>					
0-24	68,891	72,650	80,922	8,272	11.4
25-44	159,650	198,378	227,784	29,406	14.8
45-64	99,470	108,791	134,583	25,792	23.7
65 or more	31,170	32,264	39,756	7,491	23.2
<b>Final destination</b>					
EU	322,948	369,367	427,415	58,048	15.7
of which: Euro area	222,946	252,217	300,139	47,922	19.0
Non-EU	36,233	42,716	55,629	12,913	30.2
<b>Purpose of visit</b>					
Holiday	204,519	234,842	292,423	57,581	24.5
Visiting relatives and friends	71,859	88,821	99,835	11,014	12.4
Business and professional	51,344	57,115	64,367	7,252	12.7
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	31,459	31,306	26,420	-4,886	-15.6
<b>Organisation of stay</b>					
Package	62,731	61,878	83,038	21,161	34.2
Non-package	296,451	350,206	400,006	49,800	14.2
<b>Duration of visit</b>					
1-3 nights	99,166	112,875	139,511	26,636	23.6
4-6 nights	110,630	136,096	161,446	25,350	18.6
7 nights or more	149,384	163,112	182,086	18,974	11.6
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-</b>

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

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

Type of accommodation	January-September			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017	
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>266,957</b>	<b>300,194</b>	<b>352,062</b>	<b>51,869</b>	<b>17.3</b>
Collective	225,924	253,240	295,146	41,906	16.5
Other rented	41,033	46,954	56,916	9,962	21.2
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>92,224</b>	<b>111,890</b>	<b>130,982</b>	<b>19,092</b>	<b>17.1</b>
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>359,181</b>	<b>412,083</b>	<b>483,044</b>	<b>70,961</b>	<b>17.2</b>

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
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017	
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>1,614,899</b>	<b>1,711,428</b>	<b>1,951,940</b>	<b>240,512</b>	<b>14.1</b>
Collective	1,248,757	1,354,861	1,580,334	225,473	16.6
Other rented	366,141	356,567	371,606	15,039	4.2
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>944,895</b>	<b>1,165,466</b>	<b>1,324,429</b>	<b>158,963</b>	<b>13.6</b>
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>2,559,794</b>	<b>2,876,894</b>	<b>3,276,369</b>	<b>399,475</b>	<b>13.9</b>

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table 10. Total expenditure by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category**

€000

Expenditure category	January-September			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018		
<b>Package</b>	<b>43,901</b>	<b>42,050</b>	<b>64,859</b>	<b>22,809</b>	<b>54.2</b>
<b>Non-package</b>	<b>111,877</b>	<b>127,629</b>	<b>138,974</b>	<b>11,344</b>	<b>8.9</b>
Air/sea fares	56,490	64,666	69,996	5,329	8.2
Accommodation	55,387	62,963	68,978	6,015	9.6
<b>Other expenditure</b>	<b>186,548</b>	<b>209,097</b>	<b>210,944</b>	<b>1,847</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>342,326</b>	<b>378,777</b>	<b>414,777</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>9.5</b>

Notes:

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

**Table 11. Average expenditure per capita and per night by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category**

€

Expenditure category	January-September					
	per capita			per night		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Package	700	680	781	114	113	126
Non-package	377	364	347	51	51	50
Air/sea fares	191	185	175	26	26	25
Accommodation	269	267	254	45	48	47
Other expenditure	519	507	437	73	73	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>127</b>



**Table 12. Outbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by period of departure and final destination**

Final destination		January-September			Change	Percentage change
		2016	2017	2018	2018/2017	
Tourists	<b>EU</b>	<b>322,948</b>	<b>369,367</b>	<b>427,415</b>	<b>58,048</b>	<b>15.7</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	13,397	15,722	20,969	5,247	33.4
	Germany	22,511	26,973	30,066	3,093	11.5
	Italy	121,497	132,580	158,023	25,443	19.2
	Spain	16,620	20,805	27,394	6,589	31.7
	United Kingdom	65,801	74,582	83,279	8,697	11.7
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>36,233</b>	<b>42,716</b>	<b>55,629</b>	<b>12,913</b>	<b>30.2</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>359,181</b>	<b>412,083</b>	<b>483,044</b>	<b>70,961</b>	<b>17.2</b>
Nights	<b>EU</b>	<b>2,044,024</b>	<b>2,212,266</b>	<b>2,584,690</b>	<b>372,424</b>	<b>16.8</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	89,200	101,231	129,719	28,488	28.1
	Germany	150,528	173,595	202,360	28,764	16.6
	Italy	571,411	621,193	759,725	138,531	22.3
	Spain	120,571	132,615	168,857	36,242	27.3
	United Kingdom	495,233	486,428	554,506	68,078	14.0
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>515,770</b>	<b>664,628</b>	<b>691,678</b>	<b>27,051</b>	<b>4.1</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,559,794</b>	<b>2,876,894</b>	<b>3,276,369</b>	<b>399,475</b>	<b>13.9</b>
Total Expenditure (€000)	<b>EU</b>	<b>278,774</b>	<b>304,381</b>	<b>333,004</b>	<b>28,623</b>	<b>9.4</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	13,032	15,197	17,939	2,742	18.0
	Germany	22,449	25,959	28,169	2,209	8.5
	Italy	82,502	88,456	100,883	12,427	14.0
	Spain	15,383	17,760	21,457	3,696	20.8
	United Kingdom	62,939	65,024	71,390	6,367	9.8
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>63,548</b>	<b>74,395</b>	<b>81,773</b>	<b>7,377</b>	<b>9.9</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>342,322</b>	<b>378,777</b>	<b>414,777</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>9.5</b>

Notes:

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

## 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 (i.e. outside their usual environment), and staying for not more than 12 consecutive months for personal, business or other purposes.
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 and percentage changes between one survey estimate and another based on less than 1,500 tourists should be treated with caution and are represented in this news release by means of the dash symbol (-).
6. Expenditure data in this release represent the budgeted expenditure of outbound tourists prior to their departure.
7. **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.
  - **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.
  - **Rented accommodation:** consists of the following two sub-categories:
    - a. **Collective accommodation:** comprises hotels, guesthouses, hostels, tourist villages, holiday complex, Bed & Breakfast and campsites.
    - b. **Other rented accommodation:** comprises holiday furnished premises (farmhouses, flats and villas), host families, marinas, paid-convents, rented yachts and student dormitories.
  - **Non-rented accommodation:** comprises 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 or timeshare, etc.).
  - **Total expenditure:** refers to the amount that is going to be paid for the acquisition of consumption goods and services, as well as valuables during tourism trips. It includes expenditures by visitors themselves, as well as expenses that are paid for or reimbursed by others. Maltese residents are asked to budget the expenditures which they are about to incur when travelling abroad. The total expenditure is broken down by the following expenditure items:
    - a. **Package expenditure:** refers to the whole amount of money spent in transport, accommodation and others services such as rental of a car, activities or outings during the trip.

- b. **Non-Package expenditure:** is the amount of money spent in transport and accommodation reported separately.
- c. **Other expenditure:** is the amount spent on shopping, souvenirs, tickets for concerts or a sport event, entrance to a museum or zoo and day excursions during a tourism trip. It also includes durables and valuable goods, that is, the amount spent on cars, computers, paintings, jewellery and works of art.

8. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Sources and Methods: [https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources\\_and\\_Methods/Unit\\_C3/Tourism\\_Statistics/Pages/TOURSTAT-Survey.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Pages/TOURSTAT-Survey.aspx)

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. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.

10. A detailed news release calendar is available on  
[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)