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Total cruise passenger traffic during the fourth quarter of 2018 amounted to 191,192, an increase of 2.1 per cent over the corresponding period in 2017.

Cruise Passengers: Q4/2018

There were 95 cruise liner calls during the fourth quarter of 2018, one more than the previous year. At 94.2 per cent, transit passengers accounted for the absolute majority of total traffic, reaching 180,174. A total of 1,641 passengers visited Gozo, while 8,613 passengers spent at least one night on board their berthed cruise liner. On average, every vessel that berthed in Malta carried 2,013 passengers, 21 more than the previous year.

Passengers from EU Member States comprised 66.6 per cent of total traffic, the major markets being Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom and France. The total number of passengers from Non-EU countries stood at 63,949, of whom 38.2 per cent came from the United States.

On a gender basis, female passengers made up 54.0 per cent of the total. The largest share of passengers fell within the 60-79 age bracket and were followed by those aged between 40 and 59 (Table1).

January-December 2018

Total cruise passengers for 2018 stood at 632,739, a drop of 5.6 per cent over 2017. Of these, 66.9 per cent came from EU Member States.

Female passengers numbered 338,096 and were in the majority. Most passengers were between 60 and 79 years old, amounting to 252,071. These were followed by passengers aged 40-59, reaching 199,803.

There were 310 cruise liner calls in 2018, with an average 2,041 passengers per vessel, compared to 342 calls and an average 1,959 passengers per vessel in 2017 (Table 2) ■

Chart 1. Total cruise passenger traffic

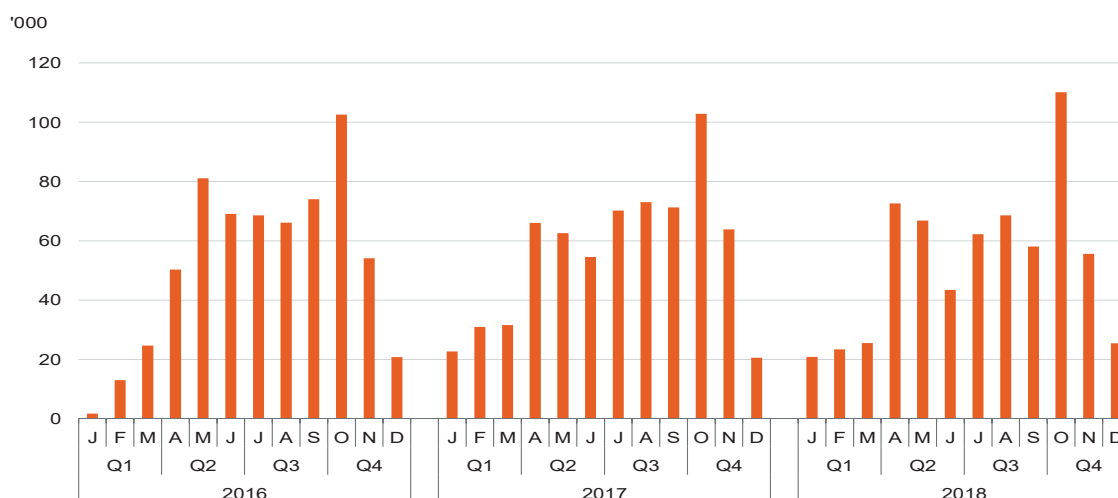


Table 1. Cruise passengers: Quarterly 2016-2018

	October-December			Change
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017
Total traffic¹:	177,441	187,280	191,192	3,912
Transit	167,437	172,601	180,174	7,573
Landed	10,004	14,679	11,018	-3,661
<i>of which:</i>				
Passengers visiting Gozo	1,707	2,858	1,641	-1,217
Passengers staying overnight	8,101	11,769	8,613	-3,156
Nationality:				
EU	125,909	126,013	127,243	1,230
<i>of which:</i>				
French	26,322	19,859	15,705	-4,154
German	28,427	28,937	29,859	922
Italian	31,538	33,551	35,684	2,133
Maltese	1,622	1,801	1,870	69
Spanish	7,570	8,634	9,969	1,335
British	15,877	19,811	21,605	1,794
Non-EU	51,532	61,267	63,949	2,682
<i>of which:</i>				
Australian	2,659	3,955	6,134	2,179
Canadian	5,748	6,893	7,828	935
Japanese	1,930	2,586	2,126	-460
American	18,413	23,617	24,412	795
Sex:				
Males	82,152	86,368	88,029	1,661
Females	95,289	100,912	103,163	2,251
Age group:				
0-19	19,129	18,406	19,380	974
20-39	24,200	24,277	24,130	-147
40-59	54,983	56,903	56,959	56
60-79	72,942	80,583	83,241	2,658
80+	6,187	7,111	7,482	371
Cruise liner calls	85	94	95	1

⁽¹⁾ See methodological note 3

Table 2. Cruise passengers: Cumulative 2016-2018

	January-December			Change
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017
Total traffic¹:	626,082	670,135	632,739	-37,396
Transit	567,906	566,475	554,201	-12,274
Landed	58,176	103,660	78,538	-25,122
<i>of which:</i>				
Passengers visiting Gozo	6,930	14,503	12,950	-1,553
Passengers staying overnight	22,519	40,759	35,229	-5,530
Nationality:				
EU	465,986	473,887	423,134	-50,753
<i>of which:</i>				
French	90,506	58,018	50,311	-7,707
German	105,373	115,358	96,719	-18,639
Italian	107,456	99,927	88,579	-11,348
Maltese	10,884	11,932	9,363	-2,569
Spanish	39,172	28,822	29,523	701
British	57,680	113,387	105,978	-7,409
Non-EU	160,096	196,248	209,605	13,357
<i>of which:</i>				
Australian	10,258	16,933	23,948	7,015
Canadian	14,680	20,870	21,427	557
Japanese	4,993	7,064	8,135	1,071
American	55,309	72,612	77,821	5,209
Sex:				
Males	291,713	313,333	294,643	-18,690
Females	334,369	356,802	338,096	-18,706
Age group:				
0-19	83,477	82,977	75,414	-7,563
20-39	96,128	93,645	83,166	-10,479
40-59	204,792	216,487	199,803	-16,684
60-79	221,929	254,242	252,071	-2,171
80+	19,756	22,784	22,285	-499
Cruise liner calls	316	342	310	-32

⁽¹⁾ See methodological note 3

Methodological Notes

1. The data in this release is compiled on the basis of administrative records held by Transport Malta.
2. Cruise liners calling at both Malta and Gozo during a single voyage are recorded as one cruise liner call.
3. The majority of passengers embarking on cruise liners from Malta generally end their trip at the same destination. Embarkations are therefore not included in total traffic figures, in order to avoid double counting. This measure was adopted as from News Release no. 079/2013 dated 23 April 2013. The referred news release also includes figures for 2011 and 2012.

For clarity, embarkation figures for the period under review are being provided:

Embarkations	2016	2017	2018
October-December	7,971	14,853	10,539
January-December	56,140	107,359	77,240

4. Definitions:

- **Cruise passenger traffic:** comprises transit passengers and passengers who land in Malta.
 - **Embarkations:** comprise all cruise passengers who are either Maltese or who are foreigners who arrive in Malta by other means of transport.
 - **Transit passengers:** comprise all cruise passengers who arrive in and leave Malta on the same cruise ship.
 - **Landed passengers:** comprise all cruise passengers who arrive in Malta on a cruise ship and leave by other means of transport, or alternatively, stay in Malta.
 - **Passengers staying overnight:** comprise passengers who spend at least one night on board their berthed cruise
 - **Average number of passengers per vessel:** computed by dividing total cruise passenger traffic by the number of cruise liner calls.
5. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>
 6. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced.
 7. A detailed news release calendar is available on: https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx