

Total outbound tourists for the fourth quarter in 2018 were estimated at 184,004, an increase of 14.7 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2017.

Outbound Tourism: Q4/2018

October-December 2018

During the fourth quarter of 2018, outbound tourists towards EU and non-EU countries increased by 13.3 and 25.1 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 48.7 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 6).

Total nights spent by outbound tourists increased by 15.0 per cent, amounting over 1.2 million nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights (50.3 per cent) were spent in non-rented accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total estimated outlay by outbound tourists between October and December increased by 7.8 per cent over the same quarter of 2017, and stood at €148.4 million, equivalent to an average €807 per trip (Tables 4 and 5).

January-December 2018

Total outbound tourist trips between January and December 2018 numbered 667,048, an increase of 16.5 per cent over 2017 (Table 7). Total nights spent by outbound tourists went up by 14.2 per cent, reaching almost 4.5 million nights (Table 9). In addition, the total estimated outlay by resident tourists stood at €563.2 million, 9.0 per cent higher than that recorded for the same period in 2017 (Table 10) ■

Chart 1. Year-on-year percentage changes

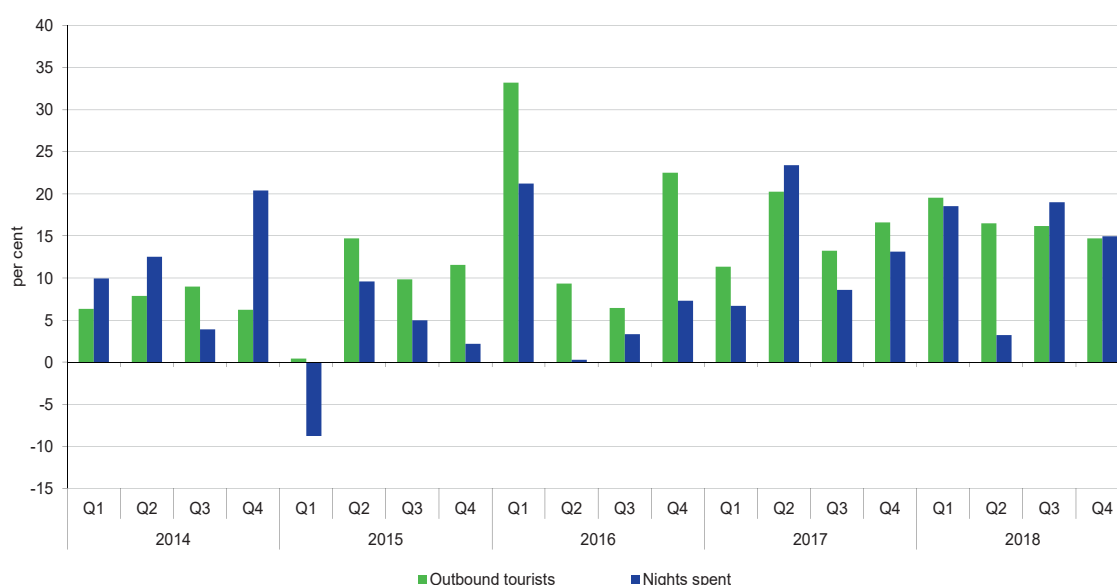


Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	October-December			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017	
Outbound tourists	137,586	160,416	184,004	23,587	14.7
Type and mode of travel					
Air	131,468	154,153	177,602	23,449	15.2
Low-cost airlines	67,235	76,210	86,919	10,709	14.1
Other airlines	64,232	77,943	90,683	12,740	16.3
Sea	6,118	6,263	6,401	-	-
Sex					
Males	78,845	89,343	96,164	6,821	7.6
Females	58,742	71,073	87,839	16,766	23.6
Age group					
0-24	23,496	25,313	31,352	6,039	23.9
25-44	64,922	75,947	82,305	6,358	8.4
45-64	37,639	48,306	56,917	8,612	17.8
65 or more	11,529	10,851	13,429	2,578	23.8
Final destination					
EU	123,745	141,834	160,760	18,926	13.3
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	81,949	96,150	110,654	14,504	15.1
Non-EU	13,841	18,582	23,243	4,661	25.1
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	75,724	84,897	104,447	19,550	23.0
Visiting relatives and friends	32,607	41,778	48,570	6,792	16.3
Business and professional	20,097	25,934	24,592	-	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	9,158	7,807	6,394	-	-
Organisation of stay					
Package	18,139	21,506	19,055	-2,451	-11.4
Non-package	119,447	138,910	164,949	26,038	18.7
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	43,835	52,367	59,727	7,361	14.1
4-6 nights	46,383	54,827	65,315	10,488	19.1
7 nights or more	47,368	53,223	58,961	5,738	10.8
Average length of stay (nights)	6.7	6.5	6.5	0.0	-

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	October-December			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018		
Rented accommodation	96,124	111,937	122,677	10,740	9.6
Collective	83,694	97,923	99,870	1,947	2.0
Other rented	12,430	14,014	22,806	8,792	62.7
Non-rented accommodation	41,463	48,479	61,327	12,847	26.5
Total tourists	137,586	160,416	184,004	23,587	14.7

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	October-December			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018		
Rented accommodation	483,581	557,352	597,510	40,158	7.2
Collective	402,162	467,729	463,500	-4,229	-0.9
Other rented	81,419	89,623	134,010	44,387	49.5
Non-rented accommodation	439,822	487,397	603,668	116,272	23.9
Total nights	923,403	1,044,749	1,201,178	156,430	15.0

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 2. Average length of stay by type of accommodation: October-December

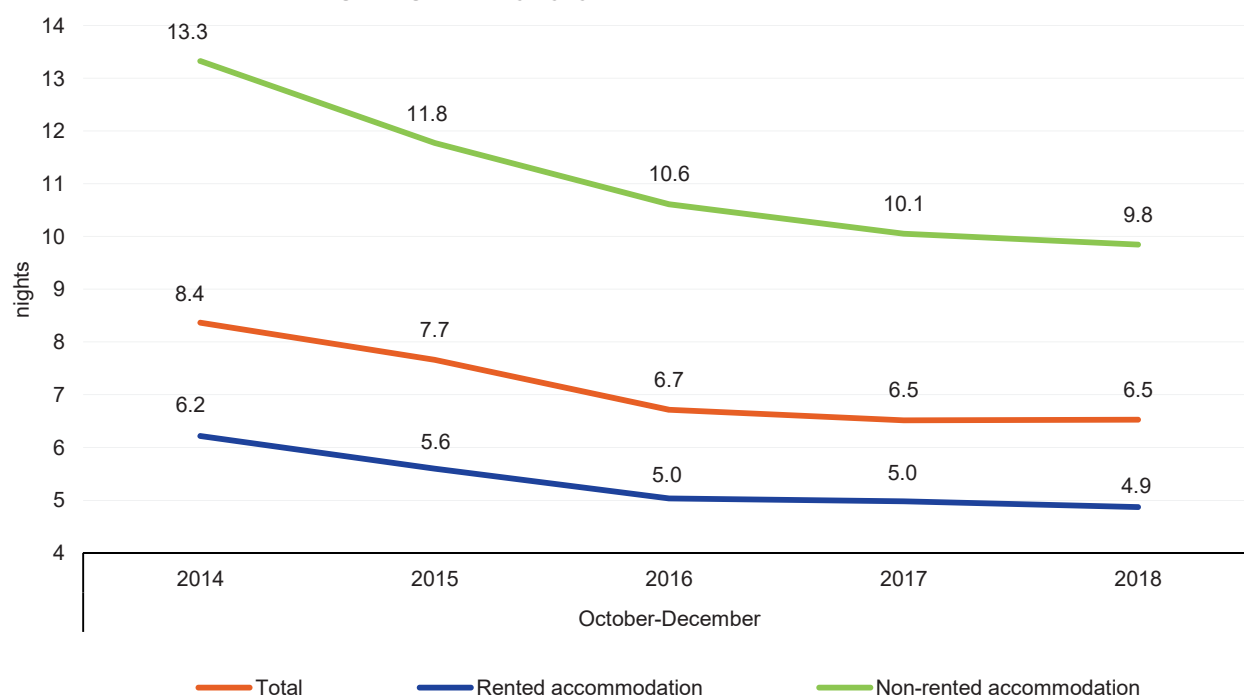


Table 4. Total expenditure by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€000

Expenditure category	October-December			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018		
Package	10,927	13,736	11,395	-2,341	-17.0
Non-package	38,547	44,347	55,578	11,231	25.3
Air/sea fares	20,681	22,499	29,661	7,162	31.8
Accommodation	17,866	21,849	25,917	4,068	18.6
Other expenditure	69,609	79,631	81,451	1,819	2.3
Total expenditure	119,083	137,714	148,423	10,709	7.8

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	October-December					
	per capita			per night		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Package	602	639	598	107	119	118
Non-package	323	319	336	47	48	50
Air/sea fares	173	162	179	25	24	27
Accommodation	233	244	248	47	50	50
Other expenditure	506	496	443	75	76	68
Total	866	858	807	129	132	124

Chart 3a. Expenditure per capita: Quarter 4

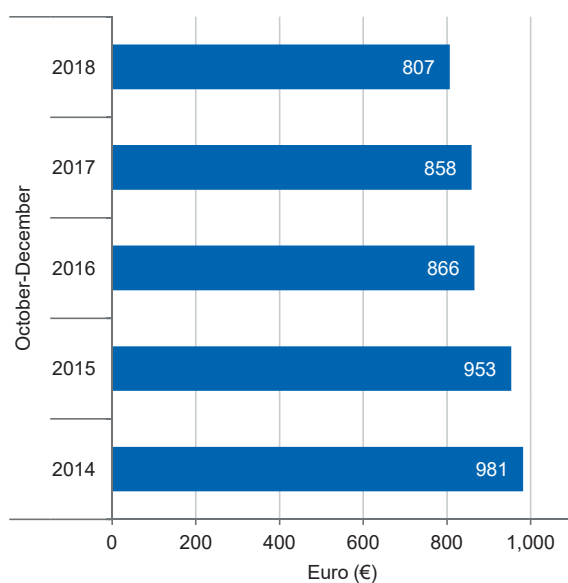


Chart 3b. Expenditure per night: Quarter 4

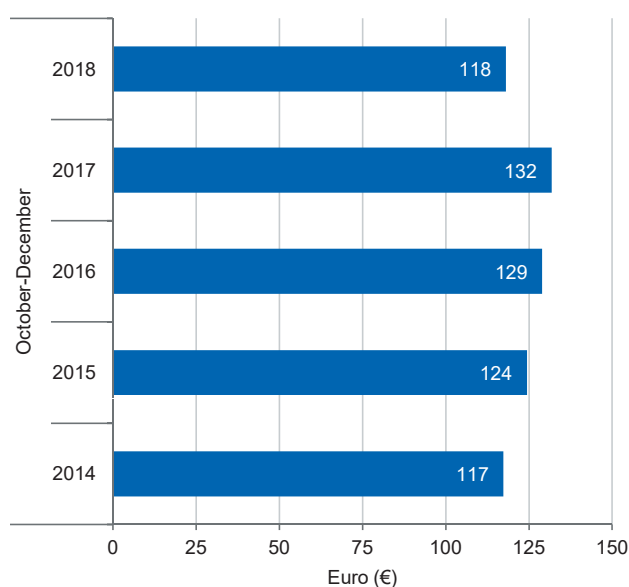


Table 6. Outbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by period of departure and final destination

Final destination	October-December			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017	
Tourists					
EU	123,745	141,834	160,760	18,926	13.3
<i>of which:</i>					
France	3,609	5,788	7,487	1,699	29.4
Germany	9,791	11,459	12,055	-	-
Italy	44,059	48,473	54,196	5,723	11.8
Spain	6,447	7,100	10,166	3,066	43.2
United Kingdom	30,353	31,230	35,433	4,203	13.5
Non-EU	13,841	18,582	23,243	4,661	25.1
Total	137,586	160,416	184,004	23,587	14.7
Nights					
EU	723,394	821,104	909,780	88,676	10.8
<i>of which:</i>					
France	18,799	29,433	38,736	9,302	31.6
Germany	61,171	69,264	65,264	-	-
Italy	203,753	226,709	264,407	37,698	16.6
Spain	38,397	46,257	62,180	15,923	34.4
United Kingdom	200,906	198,508	215,904	17,396	8.8
Non-EU	200,009	223,645	291,399	67,754	30.3
Total	923,403	1,044,749	1,201,178	156,430	15.0
Total Expenditure (€000)					
EU	94,837	110,151	113,864	3,713	3.4
<i>of which:</i>					
France	2,889	4,520	5,927	1,406	31.1
Germany	9,302	10,095	8,269	-	-
Italy	27,238	30,966	31,998	1,032	3.3
Spain	4,653	5,426	7,062	1,636	30.2
United Kingdom	25,974	26,470	29,303	2,833	10.7
Non-EU	24,203	27,564	34,559	6,996	25.4
Total	119,040	137,714	148,423	10,709	7.8

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: October-December 2018

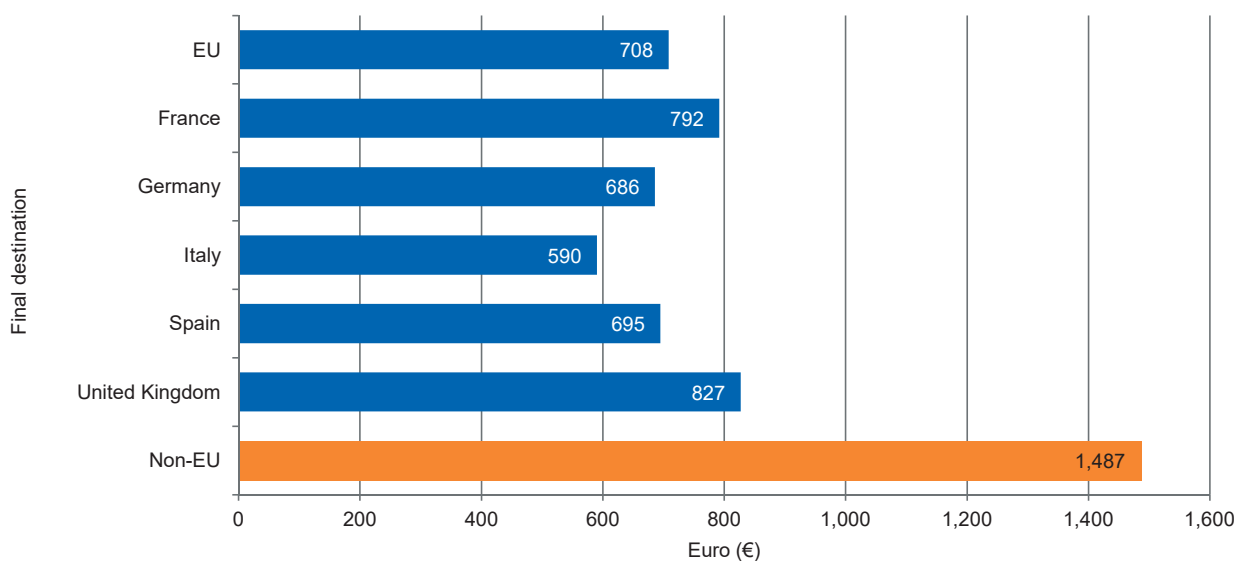


Table 7. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017	
Outbound tourists	496,767	572,500	667,048	94,548	16.5
Type and mode of travel					
Air	468,254	544,150	638,093	93,942	17.3
Low-cost airlines	213,092	271,859	298,608	26,749	9.8
Other airlines	255,162	272,291	339,484	67,193	24.7
Sea	28,513	28,350	28,955	-	-
Sex					
Males	279,642	320,676	363,706	43,030	13.4
Females	217,125	251,824	303,342	51,517	20.5
Age group					
0-24	92,387	97,963	112,274	14,311	14.6
25-44	224,572	274,325	310,089	35,764	13.0
45-64	137,109	157,096	191,500	34,404	21.9
65 or more	42,699	43,116	53,185	10,069	23.4
Final destination					
EU	446,693	511,201	588,175	76,974	15.1
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	304,894	348,367	410,793	62,425	17.9
Non-EU	50,074	61,299	78,872	17,574	28.7
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	280,242	319,739	396,870	77,131	24.1
Visiting relatives and friends	104,466	130,599	148,405	17,806	13.6
Business and professional	71,441	83,049	88,959	5,909	7.1
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	40,618	39,113	32,814	-6,299	-16.1
Organisation of stay					
Package	80,869	83,384	102,093	18,710	22.4
Non-package	415,898	489,116	564,954	75,838	15.5
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	143,001	165,242	199,238	33,996	20.6
4-6 nights	157,014	190,923	226,762	35,839	18.8
7 nights or more	196,752	216,335	241,047	24,712	11.4
Average length of stay (nights)	7.0	6.9	6.7	-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 8. Outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017	
Rented accommodation	363,081	412,131	474,739	62,608	15.2
Collective	309,618	351,163	395,016	43,854	12.5
Other rented	53,463	60,968	79,723	18,755	30.8
Non-rented accommodation	133,687	160,369	192,308	31,939	19.9
Total tourists	496,767	572,500	667,048	94,548	16.5

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-December			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017	
Rented accommodation	2,098,480	2,268,780	2,549,450	280,670	12.4
Collective	1,650,919	1,822,590	2,043,834	221,244	12.1
Other rented	447,560	446,190	505,616	59,426	13.3
Non-rented accommodation	1,384,717	1,652,863	1,928,097	275,234	16.7
Total nights	3,483,197	3,921,643	4,477,547	555,905	14.2

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-December			Change	Percentage change
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017	
Package	54,828	55,786	76,254	20,468	36.7
Non-package	150,424	171,976	194,551	22,575	13.1
Air/sea fares	77,171	87,165	99,657	12,492	14.3
Accommodation	73,252	84,811	94,895	10,083	11.9
Other expenditure	256,156	288,728	292,395	3,667	1.3
Total expenditure	461,408	516,491	563,200	46,709	9.0

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-December					
	per capita			per night		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Package	678	669	747	113	115	125
Non-package	362	352	344	50	50	50
Air/sea fares	186	178	176	26	25	26
Accommodation	259	261	252	45	49	48
Other expenditure	516	504	438	74	74	65
Total	929	902	844	132	132	126

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

Final destination	January-December			Change	Percentage change	
	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017		
Tourists	Austria	9,712	10,928	12,567	1,639	15.0
	Belgium	12,326	19,150	18,525	-	-
	Bulgaria	6,275	8,273	8,514	-	-
	France	17,006	21,510	28,455	6,945	32.3
	Germany	32,302	38,432	42,121	3,689	9.6
	Greece	9,465	10,750	8,214	-2,536	-23.6
	Hungary	11,027	9,297	9,930	-	-
	Ireland	6,381	6,743	5,908	-	-
	Italy	165,556	181,053	212,219	31,166	17.2
	Netherlands	15,583	15,591	16,190	-	-
	Poland	9,804	16,092	16,237	-	-
	Scandinavia ¹	10,306	11,993	13,950	1,957	16.3
	Romania	4,390	5,876	5,343	-	-
	Spain	23,067	27,906	37,560	9,655	34.6
	Switzerland	7,909	7,302	8,812	1,510	20.7
	Turkey	5,686	6,458	8,600	2,142	33.2
	United Kingdom	96,154	105,812	118,712	12,900	12.2
	USA	4,869	5,897	5,726	-	-
	Other	48,949	63,437	89,466	26,028	41.0
Total	496,767	572,500	667,048	94,548	16.5	
Nights	Austria	63,682	70,093	75,638	5,546	7.9
	Belgium	58,374	87,554	79,176	-	-
	Bulgaria	67,635	80,956	83,447	-	-
	France	107,999	130,664	168,454	37,790	28.9
	Germany	211,699	242,859	267,623	24,764	10.2
	Greece	75,966	76,260	57,616	-18,644	-24.4
	Hungary	75,820	69,405	69,661	-	-
	Ireland	48,178	47,481	48,784	-	-
	Italy	775,164	847,902	1,024,131	176,230	20.8
	Netherlands	98,777	99,423	92,727	-	-
	Poland	70,839	108,550	114,440	-	-
	Scandinavia ¹	82,482	107,437	134,030	26,593	24.8
	Romania	44,984	52,514	53,855	-	-
	Spain	158,968	178,872	231,037	52,165	29.2
	Switzerland	53,947	44,715	60,183	15,468	34.6
	Turkey	59,319	59,310	75,003	15,693	26.5
	United Kingdom	696,139	684,936	770,410	85,474	12.5
	USA	72,423	105,434	100,687	-	-
	Other	660,802	827,278	970,646	143,367	17.3
Total	3,483,197	3,921,643	4,477,547	555,905	14.2	
Expenditure (€000)	Austria	10,290	11,023	11,718	695	6.3
	Belgium	9,698	13,769	12,161	-	-
	Bulgaria	5,313	6,583	6,090	-	-
	France	15,921	19,717	23,866	4,149	21.0
	Germany	31,752	36,054	36,437	383	1.1
	Greece	9,316	10,286	6,931	-3,355	-32.6
	Hungary	8,728	7,898	6,954	-	-
	Ireland	6,064	5,964	6,514	-	-
	Italy	109,740	119,422	132,881	13,460	11.3
	Netherlands	15,746	13,996	15,179	-	-
	Poland	8,633	13,006	11,675	-	-
	Scandinavia ¹	10,624	12,719	14,067	1,348	10.6
	Romania	3,766	5,757	3,745	-	-
	Spain	20,037	23,187	28,519	5,332	23.0
	Switzerland	8,669	7,072	9,544	2,472	35.0
	Turkey	7,088	7,216	9,729	2,513	34.8
	United Kingdom	88,913	91,494	100,693	9,199	10.1
	USA	12,191	15,107	16,143	-	-
	Other	78,921	96,218	110,351	14,133	14.7
Total	461,408	516,491	563,200	46,709	9.0	

⁽¹⁾ 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.
3. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

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. Data on 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 data on 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. During October 2018, respondents were selected using a pre-defined interval of 1:20, whereas during November and December 2018, respondents were selected every 1:50.
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, which are 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

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