

Total outbound tourists for the third quarter in 2019 were estimated at 208,206, an increase of 4.5 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2018.

## Outbound Tourism: Q3/2019

### July-September 2019

During the third quarter of 2019, outbound tourist trips towards EU and non-EU countries increased by 1.8 and 25.4 per cent respectively, when compared to the same quarter in 2018 (Table 1). Italy and the United Kingdom remained the most popular destinations, with a joint share of 45.1 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 6).

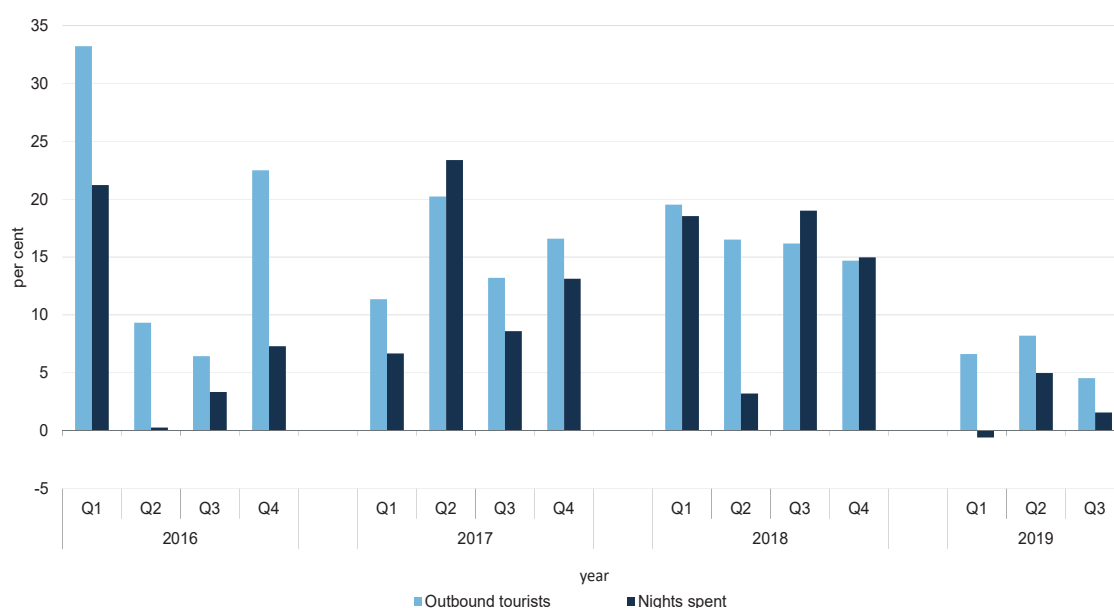
Total nights spent by outbound tourists increased by 1.6 per cent, amounting to 1,520,361 nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights (63.2 per cent) were spent in rented accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total estimated outlay by outbound tourists between July and September increased by 4.3 per cent over the same quarter of 2018, and stood at €201.5 million, equivalent to an average of €968 per trip (Tables 4 and 5).

### January-September 2019

Total outbound tourist trips between January and September 2019 numbered 513,207, an increase of 6.2 per cent over 2018 (Table 7). Total nights spent by outbound tourists went up by 2.0 per cent, surpassing 3.3 million nights (Table 9). In addition, total estimated outlay by resident tourists stood at €446.1 million, 7.6 per cent higher than that recorded for the same period in 2018 (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
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
<b>Outbound tourists</b>	<b>171,411</b>	<b>199,153</b>	<b>208,206</b>	<b>9,053</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>Type and mode of travel</b>					
Air	160,994	188,691	197,407	8,716	4.6
Low-cost airlines	72,139	77,451	85,723	8,272	10.7
Other airlines	88,855	111,240	111,684	-	-
Sea	10,416	10,462	10,799	-	-
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	93,711	111,715	112,862	-	-
Females	77,700	87,438	95,344	7,906	9.0
<b>Age group</b>					
0-24	34,175	37,663	40,443	2,780	7.4
25-44	77,313	87,559	91,578	4,019	4.6
45-64	45,602	55,403	57,682	2,279	4.1
65 or more	14,320	18,527	18,502	-	-
<b>Final destination</b>					
EU	151,430	175,821	178,941	3,121	1.8
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	104,487	128,507	127,017	-	-
Non-EU	19,980	23,332	29,265	5,933	25.4
<b>Purpose of visit</b>					
Holiday	111,658	137,170	141,969	4,799	3.5
Visiting relatives and friends	31,275	33,726	39,077	5,351	15.9
Business and professional	15,934	17,610	18,608	-	-
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	12,544	10,646	8,552	-2,094	-19.7
<b>Organisation of stay</b>					
Package	36,823	48,803	43,929	-4,875	-10.0
Non-package	134,588	150,350	164,277	13,928	9.3
<b>Duration of visit</b>					
1-3 nights	35,101	42,397	42,702	-	-
4-6 nights	51,174	61,377	63,015	1,638	2.7
7 nights or more	85,135	95,379	102,489	7,110	7.5
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.3</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 2. Outbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation**

Type of accommodation	July-September			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Rented accommodation	130,962	151,642	156,156	4,514	3.0
Collective	108,052	125,339	119,678	-5,661	-4.5
Other rented	22,910	26,303	36,478	10,175	38.7
Non-rented accommodation	40,449	47,510	52,050	4,539	9.6
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>171,411</b>	<b>199,153</b>	<b>208,206</b>	<b>9,053</b>	<b>4.5</b>

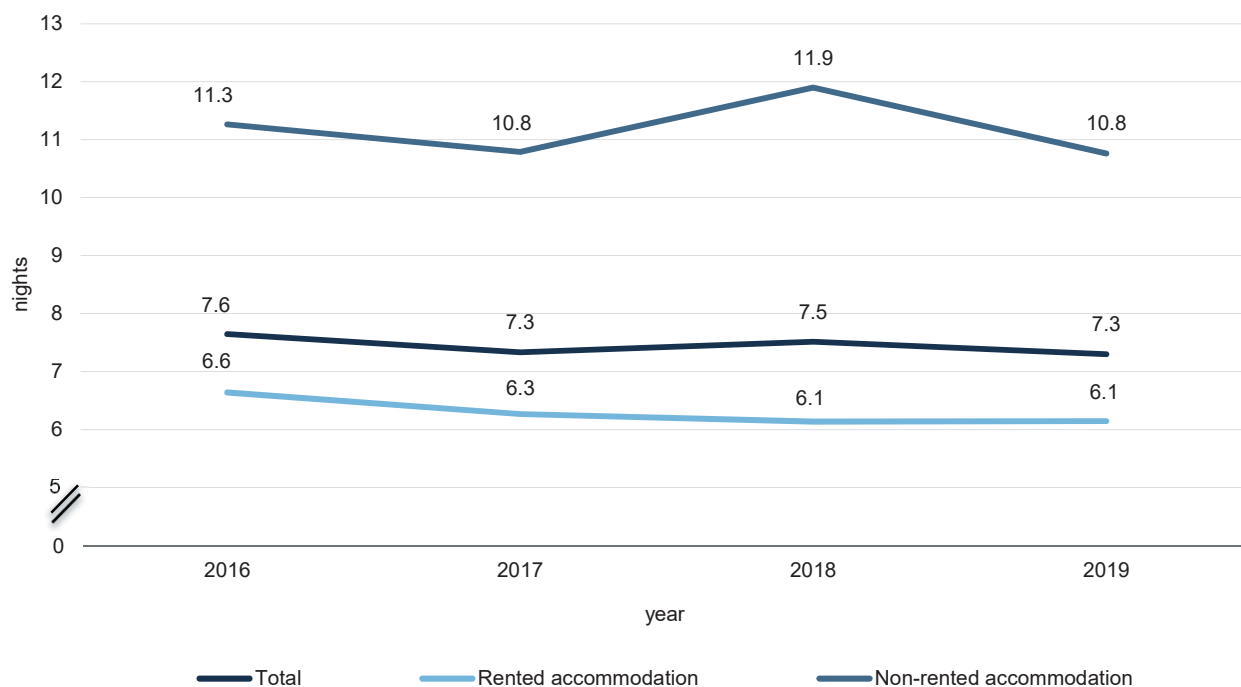
Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	July-September			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Rented accommodation	820,899	931,022	960,171	29,149	3.1
Collective	652,586	755,233	698,284	-56,948	-7.5
Other rented	168,313	175,789	261,887	86,097	49.0
Non-rented accommodation	436,444	565,449	560,190	-5,258	-0.9
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>1,257,342</b>	<b>1,496,471</b>	<b>1,520,361</b>	<b>23,891</b>	<b>1.6</b>

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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



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

€000

Expenditure category	July-September			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019		
Package	28,132	44,359	38,534	-5,825	-13.1
Non-package	54,073	58,018	68,902	10,884	18.8
Air/sea fares	27,034	29,041	33,688	4,647	16.0
Accommodation	27,039	28,977	35,214	6,237	21.5
Other expenditure	95,380	90,853	94,087	3,234	3.6
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>177,585</b>	<b>193,230</b>	<b>201,523</b>	<b>8,293</b>	<b>4.3</b>

Notes:

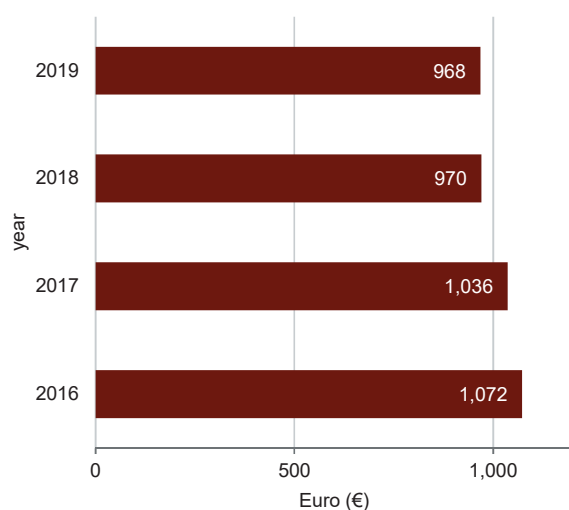
1. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

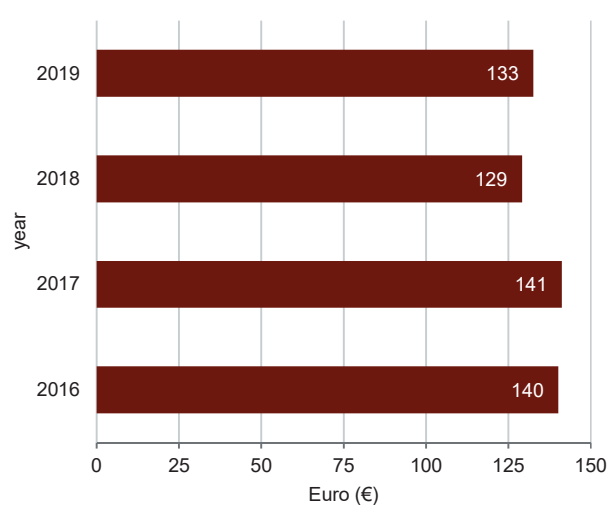
€

Expenditure category	July-September					
	per capita			per night		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Package	764	909	877	117	139	132
Non-package	402	385	418	53	49	36
Air/sea fares	201	193	204	27	25	27
Accommodation	292	279	311	48	46	52
Other expenditure	556	456	452	76	61	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>133</b>

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



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



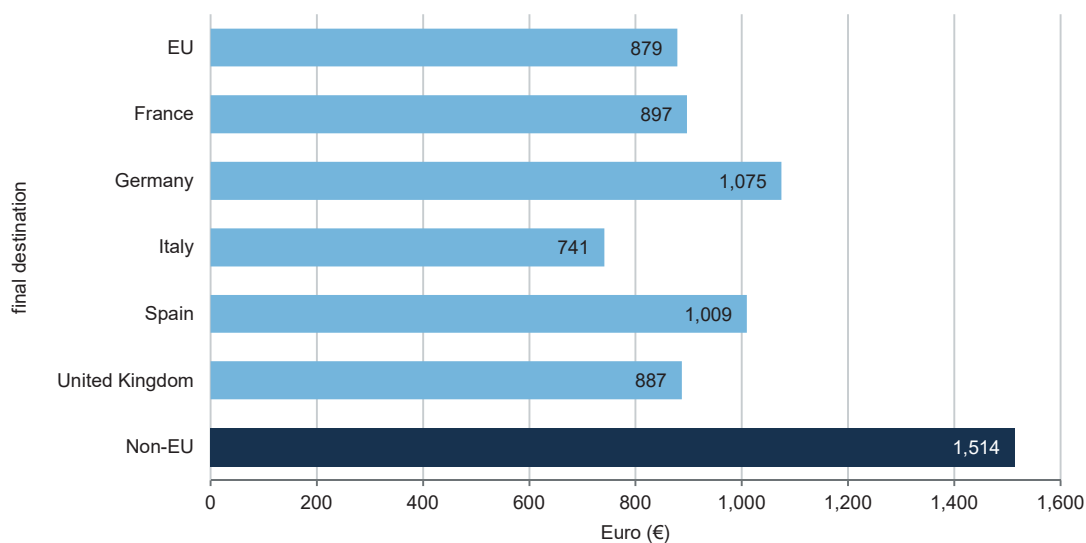
**Table 6. Outbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by period of departure and final destination**

Final destination		July-September			Change	Percentage change
		2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Tourists	<b>EU</b>	<b>151,430</b>	<b>175,821</b>	<b>178,941</b>	<b>3,121</b>	<b>1.8</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	7,704	10,326	10,854	-	-
	Germany	10,951	14,450	12,769	-1,681	-11.6
	Italy	53,834	65,451	61,504	-3,947	-6.0
	Spain	7,479	11,676	12,787	-	-
	United Kingdom	26,040	27,158	32,354	5,196	19.1
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>19,980</b>	<b>23,332</b>	<b>29,265</b>	<b>5,933</b>	<b>25.4</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>171,411</b>	<b>199,153</b>	<b>208,206</b>	<b>9,053</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Nights	<b>EU</b>	<b>974,474</b>	<b>1,193,749</b>	<b>1,180,655</b>	<b>-13,094</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	52,458	66,645	67,035	-	-
	Germany	76,307	105,026	88,220	-16,806	-16.0
	Italy	269,652	345,843	343,731	-2,113	-0.6
	Spain	48,341	77,953	89,149	-	-
	United Kingdom	198,463	210,448	227,061	16,614	7.9
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>282,868</b>	<b>302,722</b>	<b>339,706</b>	<b>36,985</b>	<b>12.2</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,257,342</b>	<b>1,496,471</b>	<b>1,520,361</b>	<b>23,891</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Total Expenditure (€000)	<b>EU</b>	<b>142,349</b>	<b>157,655</b>	<b>157,220</b>	<b>-435</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	7,915	9,270	9,735	-	-
	Germany	12,234	15,191	13,721	-1,471	-9.7
	Italy	40,212	48,958	45,578	-3,380	-6.9
	Spain	7,481	10,086	12,908	-	-
	United Kingdom	25,835	26,936	28,692	1,756	6.5
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>35,236</b>	<b>35,575</b>	<b>44,303</b>	<b>8,729</b>	<b>24.5</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>177,585</b>	<b>193,230</b>	<b>201,523</b>	<b>8,293</b>	<b>4.3</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 2019**



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

Characteristics	January-September			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
<b>Outbound tourists</b>	<b>412,083</b>	<b>483,044</b>	<b>513,207</b>	<b>30,163</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Type and mode of travel</b>					
Air	389,997	460,490	491,025	30,535	6.6
Low-cost airlines	195,649	211,690	239,981	28,292	13.4
Other airlines	194,348	248,801	251,044	2,243	0.9
Sea	22,086	22,554	22,182	-	-
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	231,333	267,542	283,213	15,672	5.9
Females	180,751	215,502	229,994	14,492	6.7
<b>Age group</b>					
0-24	72,650	81,172	87,800	6,628	8.2
25-44	198,378	229,123	245,655	16,532	7.2
45-64	108,791	135,174	138,670	3,495	2.6
65 or more	32,264	37,574	41,082	3,508	9.3
<b>Final destination</b>					
EU	369,367	427,415	446,867	19,452	4.6
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	252,217	300,139	308,451	8,312	2.8
Non-EU	42,716	55,629	66,341	10,712	19.3
<b>Purpose of visit</b>					
Holiday	234,842	292,423	315,008	22,585	7.7
Visiting relatives and friends	88,821	99,835	106,237	6,402	6.4
Business and professional	57,115	64,367	66,772	2,406	3.7
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	31,306	26,420	25,190	-	-
<b>Organisation of stay</b>					
Package	61,878	83,038	75,722	-7,316	-8.8
Non-package	350,206	400,006	437,485	37,480	9.4
<b>Duration of visit</b>					
1-3 nights	112,875	139,511	152,400	12,889	9.2
4-6 nights	136,096	161,446	165,210	3,763	2.3
7 nights or more	163,112	182,086	195,598	13,511	7.4
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-</b>

Notes:

1. Data for the distribution of inbound tourism across age groups (third section of the table) for 2018 has been revised.
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.

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

Type of accommodation	January-September			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Rented accommodation	300,194	352,062	369,780	17,717	5.0
Collective	253,240	295,146	292,993	-2,153	-0.7
Other rented	46,954	56,916	76,787	19,870	34.9
Non-rented accommodation	111,890	130,982	143,428	12,446	9.5
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>412,083</b>	<b>483,044</b>	<b>513,207</b>	<b>30,163</b>	<b>6.2</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
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Rented accommodation	1,711,428	1,951,940	1,993,492	41,552	2.1
Collective	1,354,861	1,580,334	1,489,501	-90,833	-5.7
Other rented	356,567	371,606	503,991	132,385	35.6
Non-rented accommodation	1,165,466	1,324,429	1,348,800	24,371	1.8
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>2,876,894</b>	<b>3,276,369</b>	<b>3,342,291</b>	<b>65,923</b>	<b>2.0</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
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Package	42,050	64,859	59,568	-5,290	-8.2
Non-package	127,629	138,974	162,354	23,380	16.8
Air/sea fares	64,666	69,996	81,118	11,123	15.9
Accommodation	62,963	68,978	81,235	12,257	17.8
Other expenditure	209,097	210,944	224,210	13,266	6.3
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>378,777</b>	<b>414,777</b>	<b>446,132</b>	<b>31,355</b>	<b>7.6</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		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Package	680	781	787	113	126	129
Non-package	364	347	370	51	50	56
Air/sea fares	185	175	185	26	25	28
Accommodation	267	254	273	48	47	52
Other expenditure	507	437	437	73	64	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>133</b>



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

Final destination		January-September			Change	Percentage change
		2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Tourists	<b>EU</b>	<b>369,367</b>	<b>427,415</b>	<b>446,867</b>	<b>19,452</b>	<b>4.6</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	15,722	20,969	21,741	-	-
	Germany	26,973	30,066	26,817	-3,249	-10.8
	Italy	132,580	158,023	155,991	-2,032	-1.3
	Spain	20,805	27,394	33,691	6,298	23.0
	United Kingdom	74,582	83,279	93,384	10,105	12.1
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>42,716</b>	<b>55,629</b>	<b>66,341</b>	<b>10,712</b>	<b>19.3</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>412,083</b>	<b>483,044</b>	<b>513,207</b>	<b>30,163</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Nights	<b>EU</b>	<b>2,212,266</b>	<b>2,584,690</b>	<b>2,590,955</b>	<b>6,264</b>	<b>0.2</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	101,231	129,719	123,004	-	-
	Germany	173,595	202,360	156,767	-45,593	-22.5
	Italy	621,193	759,725	784,192	24,468	3.2
	Spain	132,615	168,857	196,129	27,272	16.2
	United Kingdom	486,428	554,506	577,723	23,217	4.2
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>664,628</b>	<b>691,678</b>	<b>751,337</b>	<b>59,658</b>	<b>8.6</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,876,894</b>	<b>3,276,369</b>	<b>3,342,291</b>	<b>65,923</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Total Expenditure (€000)	<b>EU</b>	<b>304,381</b>	<b>333,004</b>	<b>347,779</b>	<b>14,775</b>	<b>4.4</b>
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	15,197	17,939	18,251	-	-
	Germany	25,959	28,169	24,183	-3,985	-14.1
	Italy	88,456	100,883	103,026	2,142	2.1
	Spain	17,760	21,457	28,544	7,087	33.0
	United Kingdom	65,024	71,390	77,406	6,016	8.4
	<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>74,395</b>	<b>81,773</b>	<b>98,353</b>	<b>16,580</b>	<b>20.3</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>378,777</b>	<b>414,777</b>	<b>446,132</b>	<b>31,355</b>	<b>7.6</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.

## 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 air passenger is counted and respondents are selected using a pre-defined interval of 1:20.
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 and 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 on transport, accommodation and other services such as rental of a car, activities or outings during the trip;
  - b. **Non-Package expenditure:** is the amount of money spent on 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)