

28 April 2020 | 1100 hrs | 069/2020

Total cruise passenger traffic during the first quarter of 2020 amounted to 40,175, a decrease of 48.5 per cent over the corresponding period in 2019.

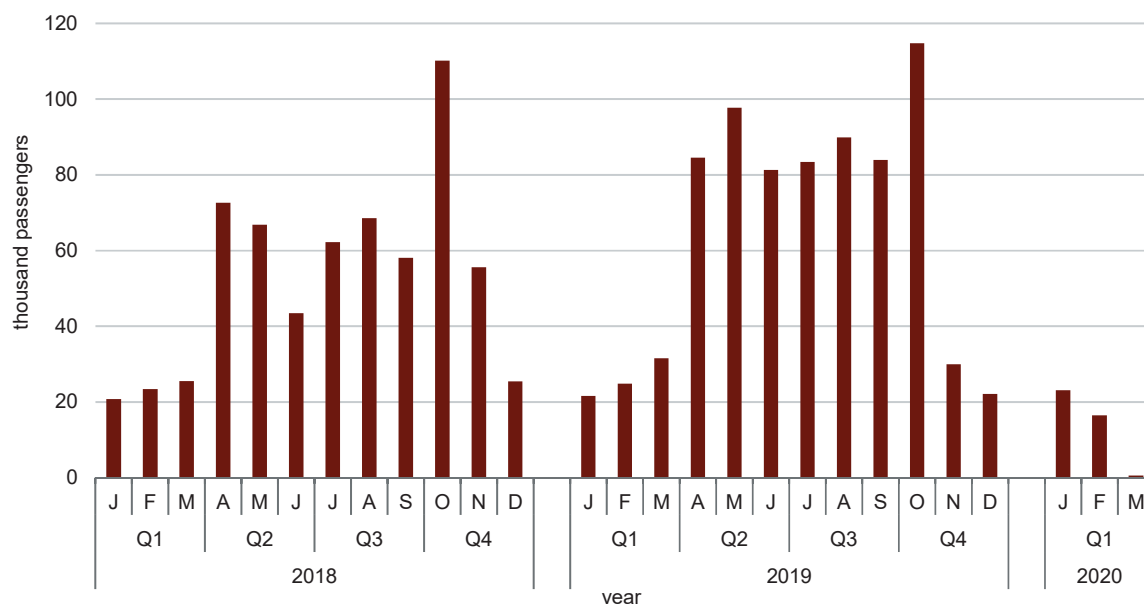
Cruise Passengers: Q1/2020

During the first quarter of 2020, there were 9 cruise liner calls until 10th March 2020, after which cruise liners were no longer allowed to berth in Malta because of COVID-19 health restrictions. This figure is 12 less than the number of cruise liner calls that was recorded during the same quarter last year. On average, every vessel that berthed in Malta carried 4,464 passengers, 747 more than the previous year.

Transit passengers accounted for the absolute majority of total traffic. Passengers from EU Member States comprised 53.5 per cent of total traffic. The major markets were Italy accounting for 22.8 per cent of the total passengers, followed by France and Germany with 10.7 per cent and 6.3 per cent respectively. The total number of passengers from Non-EU countries stood at 18,663, of whom 15.4 per cent came from the United Kingdom and almost the same amount (15.0 per cent) came from the United States.

On a gender basis, female passengers made up 52.9 per cent of the total. The largest share of passengers fell within the 40-59 age bracket and were followed by those aged between 60 and 79 years (Table1) ■

Chart 1. Total cruise passenger traffic



Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in context to the unprecedented developments and restrictions related to COVID-19.

Table 1. Cruise passengers: Quarterly 2018-2020

Characteristics	January-March			Change
	2018	2019	2020	2020/2019
Total traffic¹:	69,742	78,051	40,175	-37,876
Transit	69,624	77,853	40,116	-37,737
Landed	118	198	59	-139
<i>of which:</i>				
Passengers on cruise liners berthed in Gozo	-	-	-	-
Passengers staying overnight	-	-	893	893
Country² of Nationality				
EU	45,810	51,419	21,512	-29,907
<i>of which:</i>				
France	8,891	8,946	4,283	-4,663
Germany	8,818	6,666	2,514	-4,152
Italy	15,413	18,654	9,179	-9,475
Malta	17	76	2	-74
Spain	4,967	5,398	2,287	-3,111
Non-EU	23,932	26,632	18,663	-7,969
<i>of which:</i>				
Australia	682	1,558	507	-1,051
Canada	1,023	1,737	444	-1,293
Japan	3,398	2,491	1,850	-641
United Kingdom ³	n/a	n/a	2,879	n/a
United States	2,749	5,052	2,794	-2,258
Sex:				
Males	32,147	36,421	18,925	-17,496
Females	37,595	41,630	21,250	-20,380
Age group:				
0-19	10,566	12,597	7,507	-5,090
20-39	11,931	13,550	7,761	-5,789
40-59	21,789	24,499	12,988	-11,511
60-79	23,590	25,149	10,690	-14,459
80+	1,866	2,256	1,229	-1,027
Cruise liner calls⁴	17	21	9	-12

¹ See methodological note 5.

² See methodological notes 3 and 4.

³ For 2018 and 2019 United Kingdom figures refer to the News Release: NR063/2019 (https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Documents/2019/News2019_063.pdf)

⁴ In view of the COVID-19 situation, the last Cruise call was on 10th March 2020.

Note: n/a: not applicable

Methodological Notes

1. The data in this release is compiled on the basis of administrative records supplied by Transport Malta.
2. Cruise liners calling at both Malta and Gozo during a single voyage are recorded as one cruise liner call.
3. Owing to the UK's exit from the European Union (with effect from 1st February 2020), UK data is statistically classified as Non-EU from January 2020 for all the tables. Requests for further clarification may be directed to the Tourism and Education Statistics Unit.
4. Due to the UK's re-classification following exit from the European Union on 1st February 2020, comparability of totals between same periods should be treated with caution.
5. 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	2018	2019	2020
January-March	67	144	46

6. 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 in the Maltese Islands, either onboard the cruise ship or on land.
 - **Average number of passengers per vessel:** computed by dividing total cruise passenger traffic by the number of cruise liner calls.
7. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
[Statistical Concepts: http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx](http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx)
 8. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced accordingly.
 9. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx