

15 February 2021 | 1100 hrs | 025/2021

Total outbound tourists for the fourth quarter in 2020 were estimated at 29,080, a decrease of 85.0 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2019.

## Outbound Tourism: Q4/2020

### October-December 2020

During the quarter under review, a total of 18,614 outbound tourist trips were undertaken for visiting relatives and friends, while a further 4,836 were made for holiday purposes. The largest share of outbound tourists (60.5 per cent) were aged between 25 and 44 years, and males accounted for most outbound tourists (59.9 per cent) (Table 1).

Total nights spent by outbound tourists decreased by 66.2 per cent, amounting to 427,576 nights. In absolute terms, the majority of guest nights (87.3 per cent) were spent in non-rented accommodation establishments (Table 3). A general increase in the average length of stay was recorded, especially among tourists staying in non-rented accommodation (Chart 1).

Total estimated expenditure by outbound tourists between October and December decreased by 85.6 per cent over the same quarter of 2019, and stood at €23.0 million, equivalent to an average €793 per person (Tables 4 and 5). Italy remained the most popular destination, with a share of 32.1 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 6).

### January-December 2020

Total outbound tourist trips in 2020 numbered 196,508, a decrease of 72.2 per cent over 2019 (Table 7). Total nights spent by outbound tourists went down by 64.1 per cent, reaching nearly 1.7 million nights (Table 9). In addition, total estimated expense by resident tourists stood at €139.6 million, 77.0 per cent lower than that recorded in 2019 (Table 10) ■

Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the following tourism-related sequence of events took place in 2020:

28-Feb	Passengers flying in from Italy, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Iran and South Korea, from 26 February onwards were requested to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
8-Mar	Flights from/to Milan were suspended.
10-Mar	Flights from/to Italy were suspended.
10-Mar	Last cruise liner call.
11-Mar	Flights from/to France, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, were suspended.
11-Mar	Passengers flying in from France, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, were requested to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
13-Mar	All passengers flying in from all destinations were requested to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
18-Mar	Last Virtu' Ferries service for passengers between Malta and Sicily was operated.
21-Mar	All flights from/to all destinations were suspended.
1-Jul	Re-opening of Malta International Airport. The first group of destinations that reopened for travel comprised: Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Spain, Poland, Cyprus, Switzerland, Iceland, Slovakia, Norway, Denmark, Hungary, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Greece and Croatia.
15-Jul	Restrictions on all other flight destinations were lifted.
21-Aug	First cruise liner call since March 2020.

Sources: Malta Tourism Authority, Virtu' Ferries, Transport Malta and Valletta Cruise Port

Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	October-December			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020	2020/2019	
<b>Outbound tourists</b>	<b>184,004</b>	<b>193,590</b>	<b>29,080</b>	<b>-164,509</b>	<b>-85.0</b>
<b>Mode and type of travel</b>					
<b>Air</b>	<b>177,602</b>	<b>185,979</b>	<b>26,983</b>	<b>-158,995</b>	<b>-85.5</b>
Low-cost airlines	86,919	101,780	8,791	-92,990	-91.4
Other airlines	90,683	84,198	18,192	-66,006	-78.4
<b>Sea</b>	<b>6,401</b>	<b>7,611</b>	<b>2,097</b>	<b>-5,514</b>	<b>-72.4</b>
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	96,164	104,710	17,429	-87,281	-83.4
Females	87,839	88,880	11,652	-77,229	-86.9
<b>Age group</b>					
0-24	31,352	30,296	4,066	-26,229	-86.6
25-44	82,305	92,637	17,586	-75,051	-81.0
45-64	56,917	55,685	6,045	-49,639	-89.1
65 or more	13,429	14,972	1,383	-13,589	-90.8
<b>Final destination<sup>1</sup></b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>160,760</b>	<b>163,945</b>	<b>21,439</b>	<b>-142,506</b>	<b>-86.9</b>
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	110,654	114,541	18,795	-95,746	-83.6
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>23,243</b>	<b>29,645</b>	<b>7,642</b>	<b>-22,003</b>	<b>-74.2</b>
<b>Purpose of visit</b>					
Holiday	104,447	110,512	4,836	-105,676	-95.6
Visiting relatives and friends	48,570	52,365	18,614	-33,750	-64.5
Business and professional	24,592	23,446	2,686	-20,761	-88.5
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	6,394	7,267	2,945	-4,322	-59.5
<b>Organisation of stay</b>					
Package	19,055	20,474	766 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
Non-package	164,949	173,116	28,314	-144,802	-83.6
<b>Duration of visit</b>					
1-3 nights	59,727	62,233	5,568	-56,665	-91.1
4-6 nights	65,315	66,574	4,899	-61,676	-92.6
7 nights or more	58,961	64,783	18,613	-46,169	-71.3
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>-</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 8 and 9.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	October-December			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020		
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>122,677</b>	<b>124,138</b>	<b>7,821</b>	<b>-116,317</b>	<b>-93.7</b>
Collective	99,870	100,309	6,001	-94,308	-94.0
Other rented	22,806	23,829	1,820	-22,009	-92.4
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>61,327</b>	<b>69,452</b>	<b>21,260</b>	<b>-48,192</b>	<b>-69.4</b>
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>184,004</b>	<b>193,590</b>	<b>29,080</b>	<b>-164,509</b>	<b>-85.0</b>

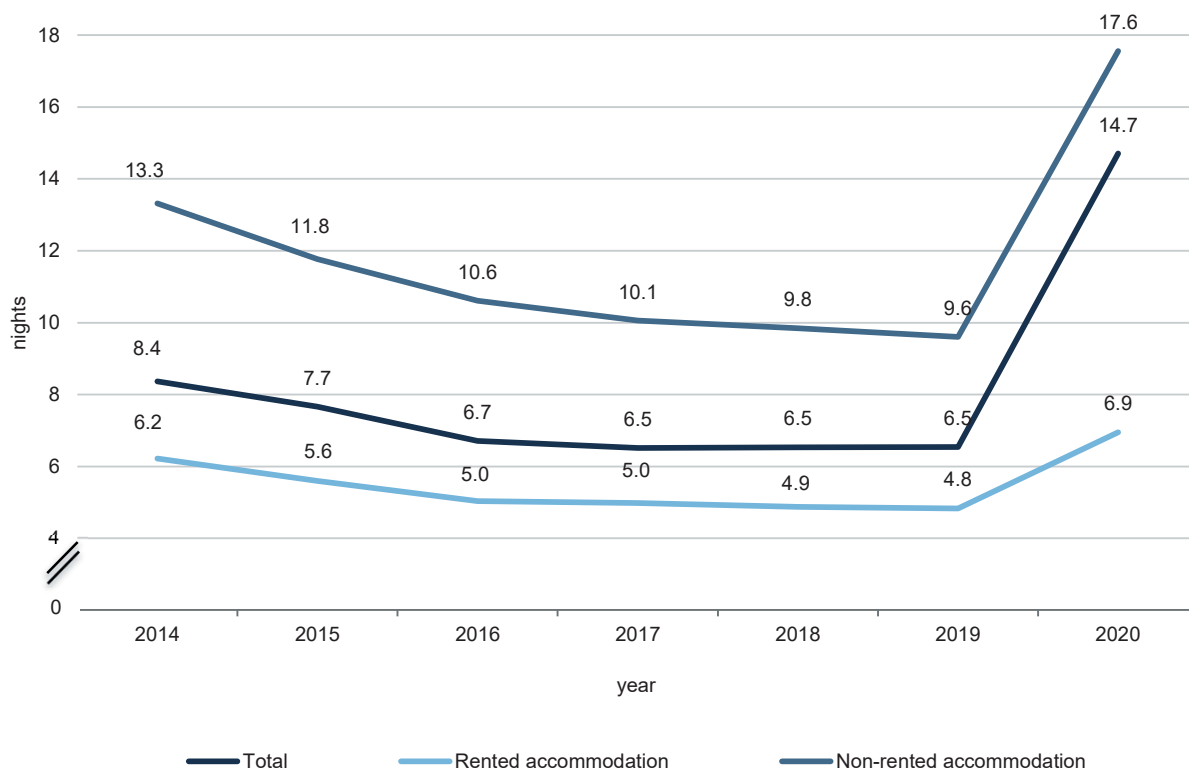
Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	October-December			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020		
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>597,510</b>	<b>599,709</b>	<b>54,337</b>	<b>-545,373</b>	<b>-90.9</b>
Collective	463,500	464,163	30,764	-433,399	-93.4
Other rented	134,010	135,546	23,573	-111,974	-82.6
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>603,668</b>	<b>666,642</b>	<b>373,239</b>	<b>-293,403</b>	<b>-44.0</b>
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>1,201,178</b>	<b>1,266,352</b>	<b>427,576</b>	<b>-838,776</b>	<b>-66.2</b>

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Chart 1. 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 2020/2019	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020		
<b>Package</b>	<b>11,395</b>	<b>14,368</b>	<b>329<sup>u</sup></b>	-	-
<b>Non-package</b>	<b>55,578</b>	<b>60,030</b>	<b>7,427</b>	<b>-52,604</b>	<b>-87.6</b>
Air/sea fares	29,661	31,451	5,499	-25,952	-82.5
Accommodation	25,917	28,580	1,928	-26,652	-93.3
<b>Other expenditure</b>	<b>81,451</b>	<b>85,690</b>	<b>15,293</b>	<b>-70,397</b>	<b>-82.2</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>148,423</b>	<b>160,089</b>	<b>23,048</b>	<b>-137,040</b>	<b>-85.6</b>

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Notes:

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

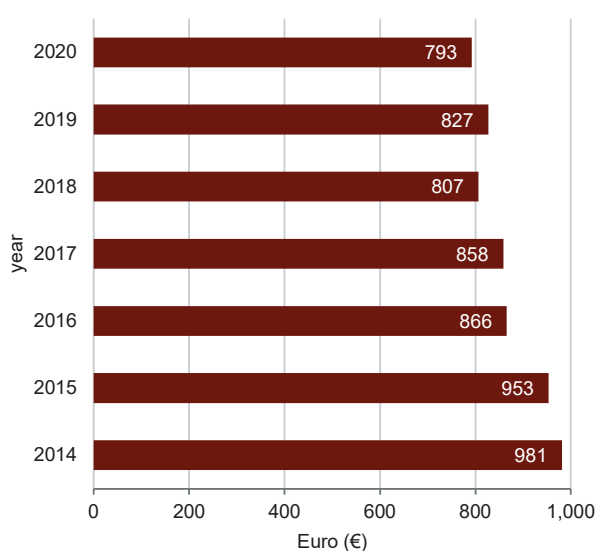
**Table 5. Average expenditure per capita and per night by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category**

€

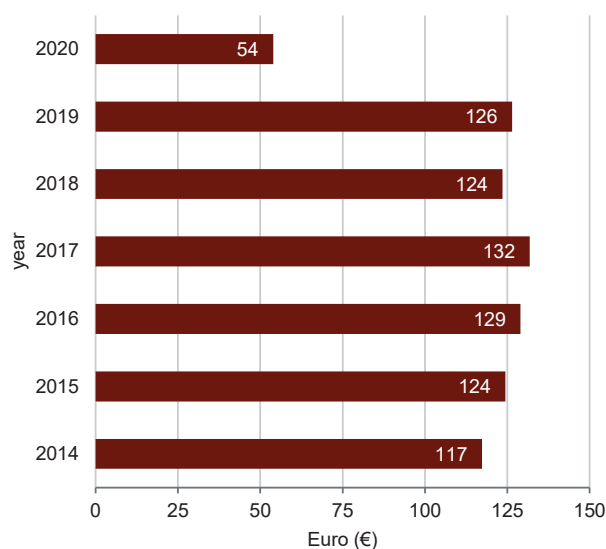
Expenditure category	October-December					
	per capita			per night		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
<b>Package</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>429<sup>u</sup></b>	<b>118</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>114<sup>u</sup></b>
<b>Non-package</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>17</b>
Air/sea fares	179	181	194	27	27	13
Accommodation	248	245	276	50	46	39
<b>Other expenditure</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>54</b>

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

**Chart 2a. Total expenditure per capita by outbound tourists: October-December**



**Chart 2b. Total expenditure per night by outbound tourists: October-December**



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

Final destination <sup>1</sup>	October-December			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020	2020/2019	
<b>Tourists</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>160,760</b>	<b>163,945</b>	<b>21,439</b>	<b>-142,506</b>	<b>-86.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	7,487	6,319	1,683	-4,636	-73.4
Germany	12,055	10,903	1,810	-9,094	-83.4
Italy	54,196	58,161	9,330	-48,831	-84.0
Netherlands	3,098	4,330	1,293 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
Spain	10,166	11,225	1,394	-9,831	-87.6
United Kingdom	35,433	32,993	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>23,243</b>	<b>29,645</b>	<b>7,642</b>	<b>-22,003</b>	<b>-74.2</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	2,416	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>184,004</b>	<b>193,590</b>	<b>29,080</b>	<b>-164,509</b>	<b>-85</b>
<b>Nights</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>909,780</b>	<b>923,833</b>	<b>250,389</b>	<b>-673,444</b>	<b>-72.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	38,736	42,394	22,789	-19,606	-46.2
Germany	65,264	62,742	23,163	-39,578	-63.1
Italy	264,407	279,045	85,293	-193,752	-69.4
Netherlands	15,645	23,491	12,644 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
Spain	62,180	65,537	18,287	-47,250	-72.1
United Kingdom	215,904	188,501	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>291,399</b>	<b>342,519</b>	<b>177,187</b>	<b>-165,332</b>	<b>-48.3</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	44,242	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,201,178</b>	<b>1,266,352</b>	<b>427,576</b>	<b>-838,776</b>	<b>-66.2</b>
<b>Total Expenditure (€000)</b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>113,864</b>	<b>118,317</b>	<b>13,797</b>	<b>-104,521</b>	<b>-88.3</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
France	5,927	4,907	1,016	-3,891	-79.3
Germany	8,269	9,119	1,392	-7,727	-84.7
Italy	31,998	34,829	4,914	-29,915	-85.9
Netherlands	2,334	3,678	1,094 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
Spain	7,062	7,762	974	-6,789	-87.5
United Kingdom	29,303	26,560	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>34,559</b>	<b>41,772</b>	<b>9,252</b>	<b>-32,520</b>	<b>-77.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a	1,498	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>148,423</b>	<b>160,089</b>	<b>23,048</b>	<b>-137,040</b>	<b>-85.6</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 8 and 9.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Notes:

1. n/a: not applicable.
2. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
3. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Chart 3. Average expenditure per capita by final destination of outbound tourists:  
October-December 2020**

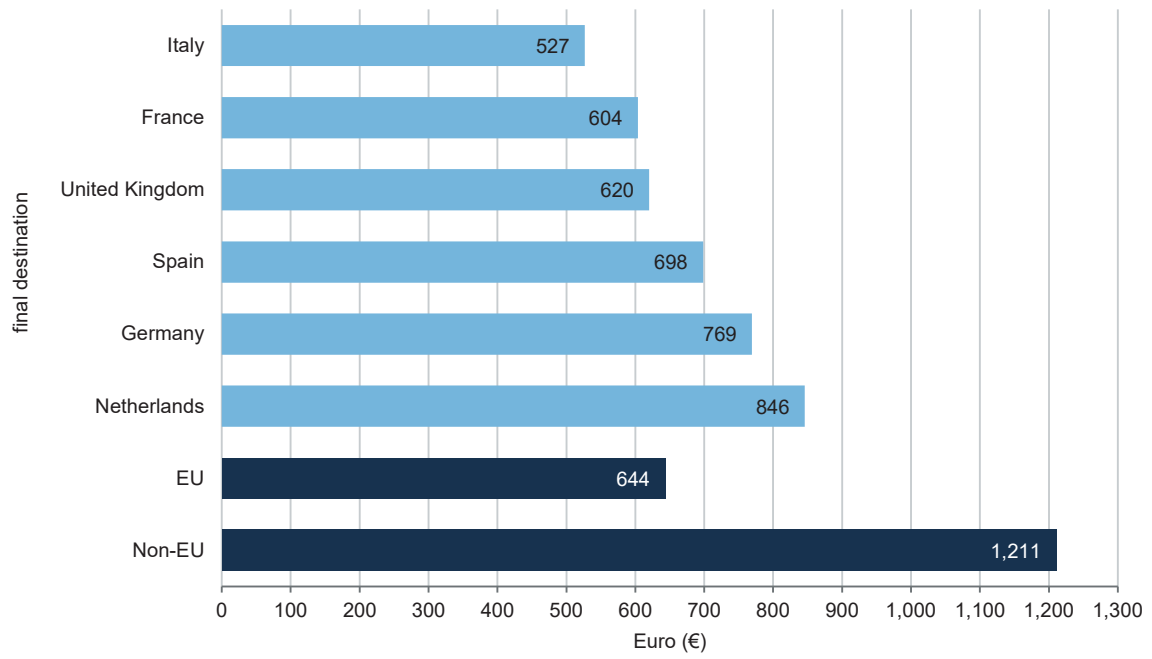


Table 7. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019	
<b>Outbound tourists</b>	<b>667,048</b>	<b>706,797</b>	<b>196,508</b>	<b>-510,290</b>	<b>-72.2</b>
<b>Mode and type of travel</b>					
<b>Air</b>	<b>638,093</b>	<b>677,004</b>	<b>184,266</b>	<b>-492,737</b>	<b>-72.8</b>
Low-cost airlines	298,608	341,762	99,266	-242,495	-71.0
Other airlines	339,484	335,242	85,000	-250,242	-74.6
<b>Sea</b>	<b>28,955</b>	<b>29,793</b>	<b>12,241</b>	<b>-17,552</b>	<b>-58.9</b>
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	363,706	387,923	114,018	-273,904	-70.6
Females	303,342	318,875	82,489	-236,385	-74.1
<b>Age group</b>					
0-24	112,525	118,096	31,695	-86,401	-73.2
25-44	311,428	338,292	102,572	-235,721	-69.7
45-64	192,092	194,354	51,031	-143,323	-73.7
65 or more	51,003	56,054	11,209	-44,845	-80.0
<b>Final destination<sup>2</sup></b>					
<b>EU</b>	<b>588,175</b>	<b>610,811</b>	<b>141,109</b>	<b>-469,702</b>	<b>-76.9</b>
<i>of which:</i> Euro area	410,793	422,991	124,190	-298,801	-70.6
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>78,872</b>	<b>95,986</b>	<b>55,399</b>	<b>-40,587</b>	<b>-42.3</b>
<b>Purpose of visit</b>					
Holiday	396,870	425,520	87,791	-337,728	-79.4
Visiting relatives and friends	148,405	158,602	73,496	-85,106	-53.7
Business and professional	88,959	90,219	23,771	-66,448	-73.7
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	32,814	32,457	11,450	-21,007	-64.7
<b>Organisation of stay</b>					
Package	102,093	96,197	13,993	-82,203	-85.5
Non-package	564,954	610,601	182,514	-428,087	-70.1
<b>Duration of visit</b>					
1-3 nights	199,238	214,633	64,957	-149,675	-69.7
4-6 nights	226,762	231,784	53,739	-178,045	-76.8
7 nights or more	241,047	260,380	77,811	-182,569	-70.1
<b>Average length of stay (nights)</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>-</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to methodological notes 8 and 9.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019	
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>474,739</b>	<b>493,917</b>	<b>105,263</b>	<b>-388,654</b>	<b>-78.7</b>
Collective	395,016	393,302	82,866	-310,436	-78.9
Other rented	79,723	100,615	22,397	-78,218	-77.7
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>192,308</b>	<b>212,880</b>	<b>91,244</b>	<b>-121,636</b>	<b>-57.1</b>
<b>Total tourists</b>	<b>667,048</b>	<b>706,797</b>	<b>196,508</b>	<b>-510,290</b>	<b>-72.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

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
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019	
<b>Rented accommodation</b>	<b>2,549,450</b>	<b>2,593,201</b>	<b>537,152</b>	<b>-2,056,049</b>	<b>-79.3</b>
Collective	2,043,834	1,953,664	380,726	-1,572,938	-80.5
Other rented	505,616	639,537	156,426	-483,111	-75.5
<b>Non-rented accommodation</b>	<b>1,928,097</b>	<b>2,015,442</b>	<b>1,116,470</b>	<b>-898,972</b>	<b>-44.6</b>
<b>Total nights</b>	<b>4,477,547</b>	<b>4,608,643</b>	<b>1,653,622</b>	<b>-2,955,021</b>	<b>-64.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

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
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019	
<b>Package</b>	<b>76,254</b>	<b>73,936</b>	<b>6,908</b>	<b>-67,029</b>	<b>-90.7</b>
<b>Non-package</b>	<b>194,551</b>	<b>222,384</b>	<b>50,291</b>	<b>-172,093</b>	<b>-77.4</b>
Air/sea fares	99,657	112,569	29,387	-83,183	-73.9
Accommodation	94,895	109,815	20,904	-88,911	-81.0
<b>Other expenditure</b>	<b>292,395</b>	<b>309,900</b>	<b>82,431</b>	<b>-227,469</b>	<b>-73.4</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>563,200</b>	<b>606,220</b>	<b>139,629</b>	<b>-466,591</b>	<b>-77.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

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		
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Package</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Non-package</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>32</b>
Air/sea fares	176	184	161	26	28	18
Accommodation	252	265	221	48	50	42
<b>Other expenditure</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>84</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

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

Final destination	January-December			Change	Percentage change	
	2018	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>	2020/2019		
<b>Tourists</b>	Austria	12,567	14,903	3,899	-11,004	-73.8
	Belgium	18,525	16,572	5,355	-11,216	-67.7
	Bulgaria	8,514	9,521	3,525	-5,996	-63.0
	France	28,455	28,061	7,680	-20,380	-72.6
	Germany	42,121	37,721	11,252	-26,469	-70.2
	Greece	8,214	11,159	3,519	-7,640	-68.5
	Hungary	9,930	11,247	3,425	-7,822	-69.5
	Ireland	5,908	6,483	2,129	-4,354	-67.2
	Italy	212,219	214,152	67,346	-146,807	-68.6
	Netherlands	16,190	16,830	5,267	-11,564	-68.7
	Poland	16,237	16,031	4,191	-11,840	-73.9
	Scandinavia <sup>2</sup>	13,950	14,275	3,340	-10,935	-76.6
	Romania	5,343	6,254	1,789 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
	Spain	37,560	44,916	10,006	-34,911	-77.7
	Switzerland	8,812	7,559	2,218	-5,340	-70.7
	Turkey	8,600	9,061	3,991	-5,070	-56.0
	United Kingdom	118,712	126,376	29,070	-97,306	-77.0
	USA	5,726	5,960	:	-	-
Other	89,466	109,715	27,782	-81,933	-74.7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>667,048</b>	<b>706,797</b>	<b>196,508</b>	<b>-510,290</b>	<b>-72.2</b>	
<b>Nights</b>	Austria	75,638	83,614	35,588	-48,026	-57.4
	Belgium	79,176	71,648	30,288	-41,360	-57.7
	Bulgaria	83,447	88,377	40,702	-47,675	-53.9
	France	168,454	165,399	62,889	-102,509	-62.0
	Germany	267,623	219,508	83,117	-136,391	-62.1
	Greece	57,616	78,645	33,031	-45,614	-58.0
	Hungary	69,661	76,263	28,380	-47,883	-62.8
	Ireland	48,784	41,673	22,065	-19,608	-47.1
	Italy	1,024,131	1,063,237	386,517	-676,720	-63.6
	Netherlands	92,727	96,414	36,321	-60,093	-62.3
	Poland	114,440	108,436	36,147	-72,289	-66.7
	Scandinavia <sup>2</sup>	134,030	114,922	47,817	-67,105	-58.4
	Romania	53,855	61,343	30,835 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
	Spain	231,037	261,666	73,920	-187,746	-71.8
	Switzerland	60,183	47,758	21,578	-26,180	-54.8
	Turkey	75,003	72,647	39,727	-32,919	-45.3
	United Kingdom	770,410	766,224	236,987	-529,237	-69.1
	USA	100,687	76,684	:	-	-
Other	970,646	1,114,184	394,984	-719,200	-64.5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,477,547</b>	<b>4,608,643</b>	<b>1,653,622</b>	<b>-2,955,021</b>	<b>-64.1</b>	
<b>Expenditure (€000)</b>	Austria	11,718	12,395	2,785	-9,610	-77.5
	Belgium	12,161	10,978	2,982	-7,996	-72.8
	Bulgaria	6,090	6,774	2,505	-4,270	-63.0
	France	23,866	23,158	5,561	-17,596	-76.0
	Germany	36,437	33,302	7,684	-25,618	-76.9
	Greece	6,931	8,576	2,597	-5,979	-69.7
	Hungary	6,954	8,332	2,176	-6,156	-73.9
	Ireland	6,514	5,790	1,366	-4,424	-76.4
	Italy	132,881	137,855	36,188	-101,666	-73.7
	Netherlands	15,179	16,229	4,183	-12,046	-74.2
	Poland	11,675	12,207	2,713	-9,494	-77.8
	Scandinavia <sup>2</sup>	14,067	13,064	2,839	-10,225	-78.3
	Romania	3,745	4,817	1,703 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
	Spain	28,519	36,307	5,946	-30,361	-83.6
	Switzerland	9,544	8,142	2,146	-5,996	-73.6
	Turkey	9,729	11,033	4,553	-6,479	-58.7
	United Kingdom	100,693	103,966	21,104	-82,862	-79.7
	USA	16,143	14,923	:	-	-
Other	110,351	138,375	29,180	-109,195	-78.9	
<b>Total</b>	<b>563,200</b>	<b>606,220</b>	<b>139,629</b>	<b>-466,591</b>	<b>-77.0</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

<sup>2</sup> Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

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 Maltese residents 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, with the exception of July, October, November and December 2020 where the pre-defined interval was 1:10.
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. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the Tourstat survey was suspended on 12th March 2020. It was assumed that no Maltese residents departed from Malta after 12th March given that airports abroad were suspending flights and in most countries one had to be quarantined upon arrival into the country.
7. Malta International Airport reopened on 1st July 2020. The first group of destinations that reopened for travel comprised: Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Spain, Poland, Cyprus, Switzerland, Iceland, Slovakia, Norway, Denmark, Hungary, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Greece and Croatia. Restrictions on all other flight destinations were lifted on 15th July 2020.
8. 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 in all the tables. Requests for further clarification may be directed to the Tourism and Education Statistics Unit.
9. Due to the UK's re-classification following exit from the European Union on 1st February 2020, comparability between comparative periods should be treated with caution.
10. Expenditure data in this release represent the budgeted expenditure of outbound tourists prior to their departure.
11. **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 12 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 rented or non-rented accommodation in the place/country visited.
  - **Total nights spent:** nights which a guest actually spends or is registered to spend in a rented accommodation or in a non-rented accommodation.
  - **Average length of stay:** the number of nights spent divided by the number of tourists during a specified reference period.
  - **Rented accommodation:** consists of the following two sub-categories:
    - a. **Collective accommodation:** comprises hotels, guesthouses, hostels, tourist villages, holiday complexes, Bed & Breakfast establishments 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 categories:
  - a. **Package expenditure:** 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:** the amount of money spent on transport and accommodation reported separately;
  - c. **Other expenditure:** the amount spent on shopping, souvenirs, tickets for concerts or sport events, entrance to museums or zoos 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.

12. 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: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>

Metadata: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=39>

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

14. 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)