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Total inbound visitors for February 2021 were estimated at 9,151, a decrease of 93.7 per cent when compared to the corresponding month in 2020.

Inbound Tourism: February 2021

During the month under review, a total of 5,564 inbound tourists visited Malta for holiday purposes, followed by 2,281 tourists for business and professional purposes. Most inbound tourists were aged between 25 and 44 years (48.8 per cent), followed by those within the 45-64 age bracket (31.8 per cent). A general increase in the average length of stay was recorded (Table 1).

Total nights spent went down by 86.7 per cent when compared to February 2020, totalling to 113,297 nights. The largest share of guest nights (54.0 per cent) was spent in rented accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total tourist expenditure was estimated at €8.4 million, a decrease of 90.4 per cent over the corresponding month in 2020 (Table 4). The largest share of inbound tourists amounted to 4,212 Italian residents, equivalent to 46.0 per cent of all inbound tourists (Table 5).

January-February 2021

Inbound tourists for the first two months of 2021 amounted to 22,957, a decrease of 92.2 per cent over the same period in 2020 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists decreased by 83.1 per cent, totalling 304,150 nights (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure was estimated at €20.0 million, a decrease of 88.9 per cent when compared to the same period in the previous year (Table 9). Longer stays contributed to an increase in total expenditure per capita, which was estimated at €874 in February 2021 (Table 11) ■

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

During 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 inbound tourists by month of departure

Characteristics	February			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020	2021	2021/2020	
Total inbound visitors	125,198	145,821	9,151	-136,670	-93.7
Overnight cruise passengers	-	-	-	-	-
Inbound tourists	125,198	145,821	9,151	-136,670	-93.7
Mode of travel					
Air	122,617	143,353	7,126	-136,227	-95.0
Sea	2,581	2,468	2,025	-	-
Sex					
Males	62,525	72,474	6,248	-66,226	-91.4
Females	62,674	73,347	2,903	-70,444	-96.0
Age group					
0-24	22,115	29,339	1,379	-27,961	-95.3
25-44	51,420	53,626	4,464	-49,163	-91.7
45-64	39,496	48,757	2,912	-45,846	-94.0
65 or more	12,166	14,098	397 ^u	-	-
Markets¹					
EU	107,744	89,046	7,879	-81,167	-91.2
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	59,751	69,770	6,940	-62,829	-90.1
Non-EU	17,454	56,774	1,272	-55,503	-97.8
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	103,655	124,198	5,564	-118,634	-95.5
Business and professional	14,776	15,074	2,281	-12,793	-84.9
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	6,766	6,549	1,306	-5,243	-80.1
Organisation of stay					
Package	38,659	45,423	1,031 ^u	-	-
Non-package	86,540	100,398	8,120	-92,278	-91.9
Frequency					
First-time tourists	90,414	109,016	4,463	-104,553	-95.9
Repeat tourists	34,784	36,804	4,688	-32,117	-87.3
once a year or less	22,471	25,572	2,219	-23,354	-91.3
more than once a year	12,313	11,232	2,469	-8,763	-78.0
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	43,277	48,191	3,354	-44,837	-93.0
4-6 nights	37,703	50,211	1,296	-48,915	-97.4
7 nights or more	44,218	47,419	4,501	-42,918	-90.5
Average length of stay (nights)	6.2	5.8	12.4	6.5	-

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

¹ Refer to methodological notes 8 and 9.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Inbound tourists by month of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	February			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020	2021	2021/2020	
Rented accommodation	111,246	131,169	6,214	-124,955	-95.3
Collective	88,731	102,030	4,817	-97,213	-95.3
Other rented	22,516	29,139	1,397	-27,742	-95.2
Non-rented accommodation	13,952	14,652	2,937	-11,715	-80.0
Total tourists	125,198	145,821	9,151	-136,670	-93.7

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Total nights spent by inbound tourists by month of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	February			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020	2021	2021/2020	
Rented accommodation	668,043	742,201	61,197	-681,004	-91.8
Collective	453,689	521,116	30,855	-490,261	-94.1
Other rented	214,355	221,085	30,342	-190,743	-86.3
Non-rented accommodation	106,526	110,674	52,100	-58,574	-52.9
Total nights	774,569	852,875	113,297	-739,578	-86.7

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 4. Total expenditure by inbound tourists by month of departure and expenditure category

€ 000

Expenditure category	February			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020	2021	2021/2020	
Package	16,488	20,744	784^u	-	-
Non-package	26,338	32,345	3,558	-28,788	-89.0
Air/sea fares	11,913	16,685	1,918	-14,768	-88.5
Accommodation	14,425	15,660	1,640	-14,020	-89.5
Other expenditure	28,329	33,731	4,009	-29,721	-88.1
Total expenditure	71,156	86,820	8,350	-78,470	-90.4

^u 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. Inbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by month of departure and country of residence

Country of residence ¹	February			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020	2021	2021/2020	
Tourists					
EU	107,744	89,046	7,879	-81,167	-91.2
<i>of which:</i>					
France	10,391	13,107	1,271 ^u	-	-
Germany	9,668	10,622	548 ^u	-	-
Italy	18,316	15,445	4,212	-11,233	-72.7
Poland	8,045	8,956	:	-	-
Spain	5,260	6,567	:	-	-
United Kingdom	32,369	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-EU	17,454	56,774	1,272	-55,503	-97.8
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	33,954	:	n/a	n/a
Total	125,198	145,821	9,151	-136,670	-93.7
Nights					
EU	642,038	498,341	98,076	-400,265	-80.3
<i>of which:</i>					
France	72,765	82,992	14,743 ^u	-	-
Germany	58,879	63,556	4,594 ^u	-	-
Italy	116,280	88,867	49,185	-39,682	-44.7
Poland	51,870	53,310	:	-	-
Spain	28,400	28,230	:	-	-
United Kingdom	182,404	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-EU	132,531	354,534	15,221	-339,314	-95.7
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	201,294	:	n/a	n/a
Total	774,569	852,875	113,297	-739,578	-86.7
Expenditure (€000)					
EU	56,120	47,621	6,592	-41,029	-86.2
<i>of which:</i>					
France	5,535	7,986	1,210 ^u	-	-
Germany	5,464	6,482	514 ^u	-	-
Italy	8,540	7,179	2,795	-4,384	-61.1
Poland	4,050	4,174	:	-	-
Spain	2,061	3,028	:	-	-
United Kingdom	18,010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-EU	15,035	39,199	1,758	-37,441	-95.5
<i>of which:</i>					
United Kingdom	n/a	19,077	:	n/a	n/a
Total	71,156	86,820	8,350	-78,470	-90.4

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

¹ Refer to methodological notes 8 and 9.

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.

Table 6. Profile of inbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-February			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Total inbound visitors	252,921	295,952	22,957	-272,995	-92.2
Overnight cruise passengers	-	893	-	-	-
Inbound tourists	252,921	295,059	22,957	-272,102	-92.2
Mode of travel					
Air	247,775	289,119	19,248	-269,871	-93.3
Sea	5,146	5,940	3,709	-2,231	-37.6
Sex					
Males	129,359	152,098	14,713	-137,385	-90.3
Females	123,562	142,961	8,244	-134,716	-94.2
Age group					
0-24	42,365	52,552	4,297	-48,255	-91.8
25-44	104,208	114,097	11,486	-102,611	-89.9
45-64	79,797	99,663	5,983	-93,679	-94.0
65 or more	26,551	28,747	1,190	-27,557	-95.9
Markets²					
EU	214,678	181,983	19,132	-162,851	-89.5
of which: Euro area	124,982	143,129	17,128	-126,002	-88.0
Non-EU	38,243	113,075	3,825	-109,251	-96.6
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	218,206	256,063	17,100	-238,963	-93.3
Business and professional	24,237	28,915	3,834	-25,081	-86.7
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	10,478	10,080	2,023	-8,057	-79.9
Organisation of stay					
Package	76,100	84,019	2,406	-81,613	-97.1
Non-package	176,821	211,040	20,551	-190,489	-90.3
Frequency					
First-time tourists	179,896	214,375	11,853	-202,522	-94.5
Repeat tourists	73,025	80,684	11,104	-69,579	-86.2
once a year or less	48,107	55,497	5,339	-50,158	-90.4
more than once a year	24,919	25,186	5,766	-19,421	-77.1
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	80,217	95,167	5,466	-89,701	-94.3
4-6 nights	77,925	97,825	3,682	-94,143	-96.2
7 nights or more	94,780	102,067	13,809	-88,258	-86.5
Average length of stay (nights)	6.7	6.1	13.2	7.2	-

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

² Refer to methodological notes 8 and 9.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 7. Inbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-February			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Rented accommodation	218,554	258,473	14,277	-244,197	-94.5
Collective	171,340	200,160	10,386	-189,773	-94.8
Other rented	47,213	58,313	3,890	-54,423	-93.3
Non-rented accommodation	34,368	36,586	8,681	-27,905	-76.3
Total tourists	252,921	295,059	22,957	-272,102	-92.2

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 8. Total nights spent by inbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-February			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Rented accommodation	1,342,875	1,468,717	140,751	-1,327,965	-90.4
Collective	903,000	1,019,864	70,368	-949,496	-93.1
Other rented	439,875	448,853	70,384	-378,469	-84.3
Non-rented accommodation	344,134	328,491	163,399	-165,093	-50.3
Total nights	1,687,009	1,797,208	304,150	-1,493,058	-83.1

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 9. Inbound tourists, nights spent and total expenditure by period of departure and country of residence

Country of residence	January-February			Change	Percentage change	
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020		
Tourists	Australia	2,232 ^u	2,245 ^u	:	-	-
	Austria	2,968 ^u	2,564 ^u	:	-	-
	Belgium	7,620	8,591	816 ^u	-	-
	France	18,184	22,500	4,563	-17,937	-79.7
	Germany	21,130	21,627	1,764	-19,864	-91.8
	Hungary	3,039 ^u	3,322	:	-	-
	Ireland	4,528	6,377	:	-	-
	Italy	40,210	39,318	7,446	-31,872	-81.1
	Netherlands	4,735	7,037	532 ^u	-	-
	Poland	14,210	16,918	585 ^u	-	-
	Scandinavia ²	7,174	10,397	585 ^u	-	-
	Spain	11,579	14,033	590 ^u	-	-
	Switzerland	3,071 ^u	3,629	:	-	-
	United Kingdom	58,445	64,638	1,072 ^u	-	-
	USA	4,680	5,860	:	-	-
	Other	49,116	66,002	3,600	-62,402	-94.5
Total	252,921	295,059	22,957	-272,102	-92.2	
Nights	Australia	21,266 ^u	19,939 ^u	:	-	-
	Austria	16,465 ^u	15,801 ^u	:	-	-
	Belgium	53,348	41,376	10,874 ^u	-	-
	France	116,703	134,771	43,527	-91,244	-67.7
	Germany	135,380	143,275	21,396	-121,879	-85.1
	Hungary	14,050 ^u	15,784	:	-	-
	Ireland	28,976	36,769	:	-	-
	Italy	250,780	224,294	104,029	-120,265	-53.6
	Netherlands	42,121	36,221	12,667 ^u	-	-
	Poland	86,377	97,852	6,398 ^u	-	-
	Scandinavia ²	49,893	69,375	7,182 ^u	-	-
	Spain	57,602	70,142	8,497 ^u	-	-
	Switzerland	20,552 ^u	19,476	:	-	-
	United Kingdom	371,430	403,708	28,253 ^u	-	-
	USA	25,523	30,420	:	-	-
	Other	396,542	438,005	49,139	-388,867	-88.8
Total	1,687,009	1,797,208	304,150	-1,493,058	-83.1	
Expenditure (€000)	Australia	3,020 ^u	2,661 ^u	:	-	-
	Austria	2,061 ^u	1,696 ^u	:	-	-
	Belgium	4,142	4,319	684 ^u	-	-
	France	10,511	13,843	3,849	-9,994	-72.2
	Germany	12,855	14,300	1,704	-12,596	-88.1
	Hungary	1,333 ^u	1,473	:	-	-
	Ireland	3,275	4,028	:	-	-
	Italy	18,384	18,721	4,890	-13,831	-73.9
	Netherlands	3,009	4,027	595 ^u	-	-
	Poland	7,097	8,369	401 ^u	-	-
	Scandinavia ²	5,397	7,807	597 ^u	-	-
	Spain	4,612	6,459	436 ^u	-	-
	Switzerland	2,475 ^u	2,753	:	-	-
	United Kingdom	34,276	37,691	990 ^u	-	-
	USA	4,067	5,741	:	-	-
	Other	39,328	47,105	4,447	-42,658	-90.6
Total	155,842	180,991	20,055	-160,936	-88.9	

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

² 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.

Table 10. Total expenditure of inbound tourists by expenditure category, period of departure and country of residence

€ 000

Country of residence	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
January-February 2021					
Australia	:	:	:	:	:
Austria	:	:	:	:	:
Belgium	:	154 ^u	:	350 ^u	684 ^u
France	555 ^u	803	778	1,714	3,849
Germany	:	418	421 ^u	791	1,704
Hungary	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:
Italy	417	952	720	2,800	4,890
Netherlands	:	137 ^u	:	350 ^u	595 ^u
Poland	:	65 ^u	:	240 ^u	401 ^u
Scandinavia ²	:	164 ^u	:	280 ^u	597 ^u
Spain	:	102 ^u	:	263 ^u	436 ^u
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:
United Kingdom	:	199 ^u	:	725 ^u	990 ^u
USA	:	:	:	:	:
Other	523 ^u	1,129	864	1,931	4,447
Total	1,658	4,462	3,763	10,172	20,055
January-February 2020¹					
Australia	:	1,118 ^u	407 ^u	889 ^u	2,661 ^u
Austria	706 ^u	:	:	539 ^u	1,696 ^u
Belgium	606 ^u	876	954	1,883	4,319
France	3,904	2,319	2,569	5,051	13,843
Germany	5,108	2,057	2,348	4,786	14,300
Hungary	:	374	365 ^u	662	1,473
Ireland	:	797	979	1,865	4,028
Italy	3,034	3,280	3,520	8,887	18,721
Netherlands	635 ^u	865	740	1,786	4,027
Poland	1,803	1,629	1,836	3,101	8,369
Scandinavia ²	1,811	1,679	1,354	2,964	7,807
Spain	577 ^u	1,422	1,591	2,869	6,459
Switzerland	:	552 ^u	508 ^u	937	2,753
United Kingdom	12,034	5,594	5,504	14,559	37,691
USA	:	2,349	1,298	1,538	5,741
Other	7,522	12,185	8,659	18,739	47,105
Total	39,757	37,323	32,854	71,057	180,991
January-February 2019					
Australia	:	1,342 ^u	263 ^u	1,043 ^u	3,020 ^u
Austria	:	341 ^u	314 ^u	819 ^u	2,061 ^u
Belgium	695 ^u	631	1,134	1,683	4,142
France	3,077	1,520	2,167	3,747	10,511
Germany	4,866	1,609	1,893	4,488	12,855
Hungary	:	213 ^u	256 ^u	557 ^u	1,333 ^u
Ireland	552 ^u	449	689 ^u	1,585	3,275
Italy	3,085	2,762	3,695	8,842	18,384
Netherlands	:	552	805	1,146	3,009
Poland	1,706	920	1,282	3,189	7,097
Scandinavia ²	1,410 ^u	1,003	867	2,117	5,397
Spain	579 ^u	662	1,075	2,296	4,612
Switzerland	:	340 ^u	488 ^u	1,085 ^u	2,475 ^u
United Kingdom	10,680	4,002	5,293	14,302	34,276
USA	:	1,208	910	1,457	4,067
Other	7,626	8,805	7,272	15,624	39,328
Total	37,102	26,358	28,402	63,980	155,842

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

² 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.

Table 11. Per capita expenditure of inbound tourists by expenditure category, period of departure and country of residence

€

Country of residence	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total expenditure per capita
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
January-February 2021					
Australia	:	:	:	:	:
Austria	:	:	:	:	:
Belgium	:	192 ^u	:	429 ^u	838 ^u
France	734 ^u	211	257	376	843
Germany	:	252	360 ^u	448	966
Hungary	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:
Italy	411	148	238	376	657
Netherlands	:	258 ^u	:	657 ^u	1,118 ^u
Poland	:	111 ^u	:	411 ^u	686 ^u
Scandinavia ²	:	280 ^u	:	479 ^u	1,020 ^u
Spain	:	186 ^u	:	446 ^u	738 ^u
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:
United Kingdom	:	188 ^u	:	677 ^u	924 ^u
USA	:	:	:	:	:
Other	1,313 ^u	351	405	536	1,235
Total expenditure per capita	689	217	312	443	874
January-February 2020¹					
Australia	:	554 ^u	262 ^u	396 ^u	1,185 ^u
Austria	500 ^u	:	:	210 ^u	661 ^u
Belgium	312 ^u	132	159	219	503
France	471	162	195	224	615
Germany	548	167	216	221	661
Hungary	:	124	131 ^u	199	443
Ireland	:	145	192	292	632
Italy	412	103	151	226	476
Netherlands	339 ^u	168	166	254	572
Poland	365	136	163	183	495
Scandinavia ²	559	235	226	285	751
Spain	331 ^u	116	146	204	460
Switzerland	:	220 ^u	238 ^u	258	759
United Kingdom	423	154	198	225	583
USA	:	432	265	263	980
Other	607	226	195	284	714
Total expenditure per capita	473	176	187	241	613
January-February 2019					
Australia	:	673 ^u	200 ^u	467 ^u	1,353 ^u
Austria	:	184 ^u	180 ^u	276 ^u	694 ^u
Belgium	464 ^u	102	200	221	544
France	468	131	203	206	578
Germany	472	149	201	212	608
Hungary	:	96 ^u	124 ^u	183 ^u	439 ^u
Ireland	388 ^u	145	250 ^u	350	723
Italy	391	85	151	220	457
Netherlands	:	150	264	242	636
Poland	372	96	143	224	499
Scandinavia ²	581 ^u	211	240	295	752
Spain	290 ^u	69	126	198	398
Switzerland	:	166 ^u	298 ^u	353 ^u	806 ^u
United Kingdom	457	114	204	245	586
USA	:	288	244	311	869
Other	675	231	234	318	801
Total expenditure per capita	488	148	196	253	616

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

² Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

Table 12. Profile of overnight cruise passengers by period of departure

Characteristics	January-February		
	2019	2020	2021
Total overnight cruise passengers	-	893	-
Sex			
Males	-	426	-
Females	-	467	-
Age group			
0-19	-	1	-
20-39	-	19	-
40-59	-	31	-
60-79	-	446	-
80 or more	-	396	-
Markets¹			
EU	-	14	-
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	-	11	-
Non-EU	-	879	-

¹ Refer to methodological notes 8 and 9.

Methodological Notes

1. This release focuses on Inbound Tourism, which comprises of activities of non-resident visitors travelling to Malta (i.e. outside their usual environment) and staying for not more than 12 consecutive months for leisure, business or other (corresponding) purposes.
2. Inbound tourism data 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 air 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 2020 and the period October 2020 to February 2021, where the pre-defined interval was 1:10.
3. Tourstat measures the number of tourist trips carried out during a particular reference month. These differ from the number of tourists in that the same person can make more than one trip during the same period.
4. 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 fixed quotas. Survey data is supplemented by administrative data provided by ferry operators.
5. Absolute and percentage changes between one survey estimate and another 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. In view of the COVID-19 situation, the Tourstat survey was suspended between 12 March and 30 June 2020. Statistical methods were applied to cover the period from 13 March to 20 March 2020, when scheduled passenger flights were still in operation.
7. Malta International Airport reopened on 1 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 15 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 February 2020 in the tables relating to the specific month (Tables 1 - 6). 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 monthly and cumulative tables and also between comparative periods should be treated with caution.
10. The monthly passenger departures data published by the Malta International Airport cannot be equated to the number of inbound tourists, because the former is inclusive of departing Maltese and transit passengers.
11. Data on cruise passengers who spent at least one night berthed on board their cruise ship in Malta ('Overnight Cruise Passengers') is compiled on the basis of administrative records supplied by Transport Malta.
12. Arrivals and nights spent in time-share accommodation are being categorised in 'Non-rented Accommodation' instead of 'Collective Accommodation' as per Eurostat recommendation. In this regard, there may be minor differences in these statistics and statistics published in tourism supply due to the fact that hotels report time-share accommodation under 'Collective Accommodation'.
13. Prior to comparing and interpreting differences between demand-side (based on Tourstat) and supply-side (based on Accomstat) tourism statistics, users are strongly advised to consult concept 15.4 of the NSO's metadata file (<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=37#>).
14. Data included in this release are based on sample data and are therefore subject to sampling error. Sampling error is measured by a quantity known as the margin of error, which in turn, expresses the variability between the true population parameters and their corresponding sample estimates. In the table below, the margin of error is used to construct a set of 95 per cent confidence intervals for the main indicators, which gives an indication of where the true population parameters lie.

Sampling variability of inbound tourism figures

	Estimate	Margin of error	95% confidence interval
Inbound tourists	9,151	834	9,151 ± 834
Total nights	113,297	10,760	113,297 ± 10,760
Total expenditure (€ 000)	8,350	733	8,350 ± 733

15. 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:** A visitor who stays at least one night in a rented and non-rented accommodation in the place/country visited.
- **Inbound tourism:** Comprises the activities of non-resident visitors travelling to Malta (i.e. outside their usual environment) and staying for not more than 12 consecutive months for personal, business or other purposes.

- **Total nights spent:** Nights which a guest actually spends or is registered to spend in a rented accommodation establishment or in a non-rented 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. 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 sports 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.

16. 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: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>
 Metadata: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=37>
 Statistical database: <https://statdb.nso.gov.mt/start>

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

18. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx