

26 May 2021 | 1100 hrs | 095/2021

Total guests and nights spent in collective accommodation establishments during the first quarter of 2021 decreased by 73.3 per cent and 77.1 per cent respectively, when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2020.

Collective Accommodation Establishments: Q1/2021

Cut-off date:
20 May 2021

In the first quarter of 2021, total guests in collective accommodation establishments numbered 81,395, while total nights accounted for 304,583. The largest share of guest nights was reported in 3-star hotels and 4-star hotels, with 34.4 per cent and 29.5 per cent of the total respectively (Tables 1 and 2).

The average length of stay, in collective accommodation establishments, went down to 3.7 nights in the first quarter of 2021 from the average of 4.4 nights registered during the same quarter of 2020. The net use of bed-places stood at 10.2 per cent, down by 27.2 percentage points when compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year (Table 3).

On a national level, during March 2021, there were 167 active collective accommodation establishments with a net capacity of 14,666 bedrooms and 33,857 bed-places (Table 4).

Regional breakdown

On a regional level, total guests in Malta numbered 74,332, down by 74.7 per cent over the first quarter of 2020. Additionally, a decrease of 77.8 per cent was recorded in the number of nights spent. Gozo and Comino also registered a decreased in total guests and nights spent by 36.6 per cent and 49.0 per cent, to 7,063 and 14,717 respectively (Tables 1 and 2).

When compared to the same quarter of the previous year, in Malta, the average length of stay went down by 0.5 of a night to 3.9 nights. In Gozo and Comino the average length of stay also decreased by 0.5 of a night to 2.1 nights. The net occupancy rate in Malta decreased by 27.9 percentage points, reaching 10.1 per cent, and that in Gozo and Comino decreased by 8.9 percentage points to 12.4 per cent (Table 3) ■



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

Total guests and nights spent

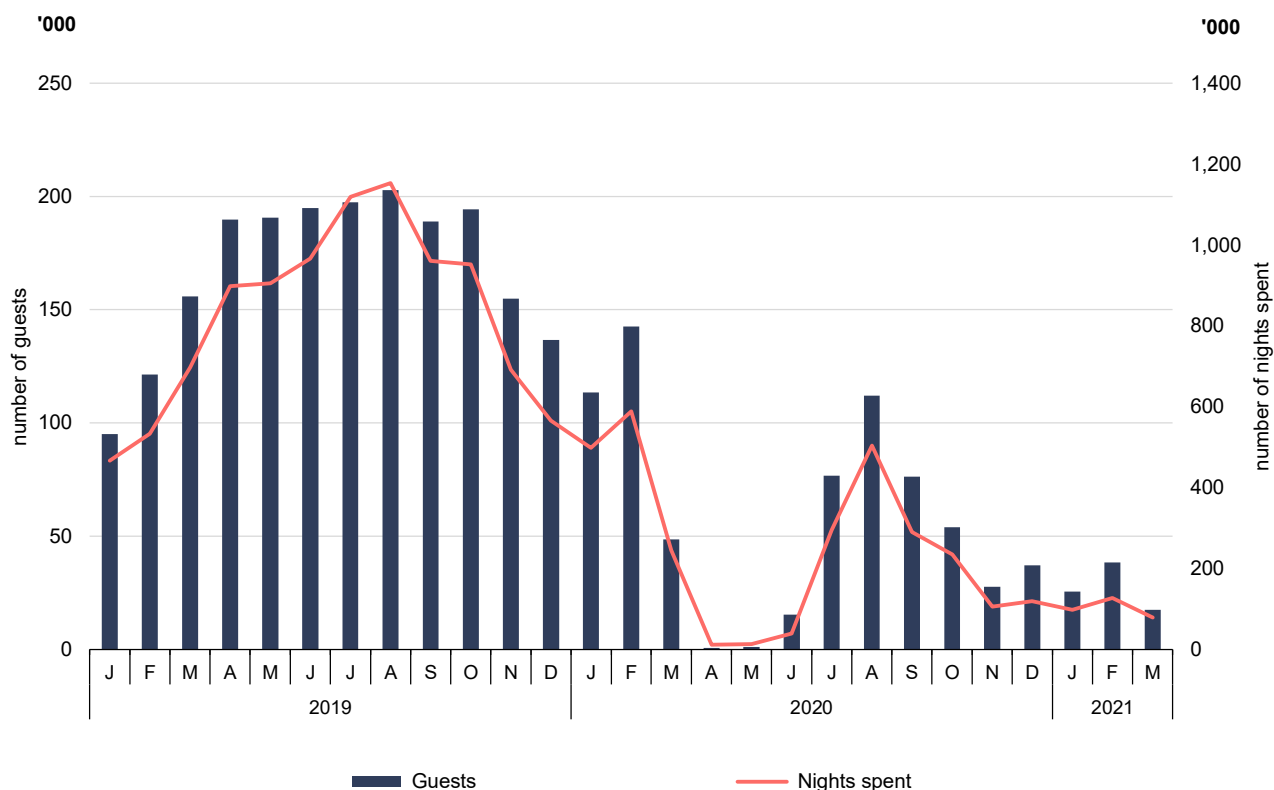


Table 1. Total guests (residents and non-residents) by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	October-December 2020 ¹	January-March	
		2020	2021
MALTA			
Hotel	107,521	281,253	74,069
5 Star	26,744	55,795	20,066
4 Star	51,040	147,072	33,669
3 Star	26,639	69,359	18,744
2 Star	3,098	9,027	1,590
Other collective accommodation²	11,338	23,319	7,326
Total	118,859	304,572	81,395
Malta			
Hotel	95,410	271,432	67,528
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	22,211	52,977	17,772
4 Star	46,819	143,405	31,394
3 Star	24,411	66,821	17,475
Other collective accommodation²	10,327	21,998	6,804
Total	105,737	293,430	74,332
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	12,111	9,821	6,541
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	4,533	2,818	2,294
4 Star	4,221	3,667	2,275
3 Star	2,228	2,538	1,269
Other collective accommodation²	1,011	1,321	522
Total	13,122	11,142	7,063

¹ Revised.

² Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Note: Monthly tables available on the excel version of this news release (Table 1a):

https://inso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Pages/Collective-Accommodation-Establishments.aspx

Table 2. Total nights spent (residents and non-residents) by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	October-December 2020 ¹	January-March	
		2020	2021
MALTA			
Hotel	415,256	1,230,899	272,258
5 Star	80,447	185,734	65,324
4 Star	182,383	679,215	89,908
3 Star	134,414	309,525	104,865
2 Star	18,012	56,425	12,161
Other collective accommodation²	44,791	101,087	32,325
Total	460,047	1,331,986	304,583
Malta			
Hotel	389,221	1,204,567	258,650
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	70,544	177,408	59,654
4 Star	172,210	668,014	85,399
3 Star	130,325	304,173	102,565
Other collective accommodation²	42,325	98,563	31,216
Total	431,546	1,303,130	289,866
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	26,035	26,332	13,608
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	9,903	8,326	5,670
4 Star	10,173	11,201	4,509
3 Star	4,089	5,352	2,300
Other collective accommodation²	2,466	2,524	1,109
Total	28,501	28,856	14,717

¹ Revised.

² Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Note: Monthly tables available on the excel version of this news release (Table 2a):

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Pages/Collective-Accommodation-Establishments.aspx

Table 3. Net use of bed-places by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	October-December 2020 ¹	January-March		per cent
		2020		2021
		MALTA		
Hotel	13.6	38.3	10.2	
5 Star	12.6	30.4	10.5	
4 Star	12.8	46.4	7.8	
3 Star	15.0	30.9	13.3	
2 Star	17.3	42.3	12.9	
Other collective accommodation²	12.6	28.7	9.8	
Total	13.5	37.4	10.2	
		Malta		
Hotel	13.3	38.9	10.1	
<i>of which:</i>				
5 Star	11.8	30.7	10.1	
4 Star	12.7	47.5	7.7	
3 Star	14.7	30.9	13.2	
Other collective accommodation²	12.9	29.7	10.1	
Total	13.2	38.0	10.1	
		Gozo and Comino		
Hotel	20.1	22.9	13.7	
<i>of which:</i>				
5 Star	23.7	24.9	19.5	
4 Star	15.3	18.7	8.7	
3 Star	31.7	34.0	20.8	
Other collective accommodation²	9.5	12.3	5.8	
Total	18.4	21.3	12.4	

¹ Revised.

² Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Note: Monthly tables available on the excel version of this news release (Table 3a):

https://ins0.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Pages/Collective-Accommodation-Establishments.aspx

Table 4. Number of establishments, net bedrooms and net bed-places by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	March					
	Establishments		Bedrooms		Bed-places	
	2020 ¹	2021	2020 ¹	2021	2020 ¹	2021
	MALTA					
Hotel	126	95	17,390	13,335	39,304	30,137
5 Star	15	14	3,495	3,366	7,223	7,020
4 Star	44	33	8,236	5,802	18,840	13,176
3 Star	48	35	4,963	3,689	11,659	8,859
2 Star	19	13	696	478	1,582	1,082
Other collective accommodation²	86	72	1,487	1,331	4,202	3,720
Total	212	167	18,877	14,666	43,506	33,857
	Malta					
Hotel	113	83	16,695	12,682	37,821	28,742
<i>of which:</i>						
5 Star	13	12	3,278	3,149	6,768	6,565
4 Star	40	29	7,899	5,465	18,116	12,452
3 Star	44	32	4,857	3,625	11,441	8,729
Other collective accommodation²	76	64	1,363	1,224	3,926	3,480
Total	189	147	18,058	13,906	41,747	32,222
	Gozo and Comino					
Hotel	13	12	695	653	1,483	1,395
<i>of which:</i>						
5 Star	2	2	217	217	455	455
4 Star	4	4	337	337	724	724
3 Star	4	3	106	64	218	130
Other collective accommodation²	10	8	124	107	276	240
Total	23	20	819	760	1,759	1,635

¹ Revised.

² Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Table 5. Non-resident guests by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	October-December 2020 ¹	January-March	
		2020	2021
MALTA			
Hotel	56,550	232,978	29,696
5 Star	10,271	42,363	6,488
4 Star	29,243	120,699	13,133
3 Star	15,474	61,838	9,490
2 Star	1,562	8,078	585
Other collective accommodation²	6,041	20,456	2,674
Total	62,591	253,434	32,370
Malta			
Hotel	54,720	230,079	29,060
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	9,820	41,746	6,375
4 Star	28,569	119,300	12,957
3 Star	14,784	61,017	9,148
Other collective accommodation²	5,741	19,934	2,610
Total	60,461	250,013	31,670
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	1,830	2,899	636
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	451	617	113
4 Star	674	1,399	176
3 Star	690	821	342
Other collective accommodation²	300	522	64
Total	2,130	3,421	700

¹ Revised.

² Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Table 6. Resident guests by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	October-December 2020 ¹	January-March	
		2020	2021
MALTA			
Hotel	50,971	48,275	44,373
5 Star	16,473	13,432	13,578
4 Star	21,797	26,373	20,536
3 Star	11,165	7,521	9,254
2 Star	1,536	949	1,005
Other collective accommodation²	5,297	2,863	4,652
Total	56,268	51,138	49,025
Malta			
Hotel	40,690	41,353	38,468
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	12,391	11,231	11,397
4 Star	18,250	24,105	18,437
3 Star	9,627	5,804	8,327
Other collective accommodation²	4,586	2,064	4,194
Total	45,276	43,417	42,662
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	10,281	6,922	5,905
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	4,082	2,201	2,181
4 Star	3,547	2,268	2,099
3 Star	1,538	1,717	927
Other collective accommodation²	711	799	458
Total	10,992	7,721	6,363

¹ Revised.

² Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Table 7. Non-resident nights spent by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	October-December 2020 ¹	January-March	
		2020	2021
MALTA			
Hotel	282,964	1,123,772	158,027
5 Star	45,881	155,930	33,935
4 Star	141,547	621,479	51,794
3 Star	83,751	291,788	64,221
2 Star	11,785	54,575	8,077
Other collective accommodation²	34,163	94,370	23,585
Total	317,127	1,218,142	181,612
Malta			
Hotel	276,058	1,111,835	155,872
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	43,839	152,866	32,901
4 Star	138,326	614,994	51,368
3 Star	82,164	289,563	63,558
Other collective accommodation²	33,179	93,205	23,422
Total	309,237	1,205,040	179,294
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	6,906	11,937	2,155
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	2,042	3,064	1,034
4 Star	3,221	6,485	426
3 Star	1,587	2,225	663
Other collective accommodation²	984	1,165	163
Total	7,890	13,102	2,318

¹ Revised.

² Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Table 8. Resident nights spent by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	October-December 2020 ¹	January-March	
		2020	2021
MALTA			
Hotel	132,292	107,127	114,231
5 Star	34,566	29,804	31,389
4 Star	40,836	57,736	38,114
3 Star	50,663	17,737	40,644
2 Star	6,227	1,850	4,084
Other collective accommodation²	10,628	6,717	8,740
Total	142,920	113,844	122,971
Malta			
Hotel	113,163	92,732	102,778
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	26,705	24,542	26,753
4 Star	33,884	53,020	34,031
3 Star	48,161	14,610	39,007
Other collective accommodation²	9,146	5,358	7,794
Total	122,309	98,090	110,572
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	19,129	14,395	11,453
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	7,861	5,262	4,636
4 Star	6,952	4,716	4,083
3 Star	2,502	3,127	1,637
Other collective accommodation²	1,482	1,359	946
Total	20,611	15,754	12,399

¹ Revised.

² Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Methodological Notes

- The objective of the Survey on Collective Accommodation Establishments is to estimate the utilisation rate of bed-places of all active collective accommodation establishments in Malta, Gozo and Comino. The variables collected from the survey include:
 - Number of residents;
 - Number of non-residents;
 - Nights spent by residents;
 - Nights spent by non-residents;
 - Number of room nights sold to non-residents;
 - Number of room nights sold to residents;
 - Number of bedrooms;
 - Number of bed-places;
 - Number of days the establishment was closed during the month under review.

The collection of the above variables and the calculation of occupancy levels are in line with Regulation (EU) No. 692/2011.

- The survey is distributed monthly to all collective accommodation establishments, namely hotels, guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.
- Response rates:

January 2020	96.4%	January 2021	89.9%
February 2020	95.5%	February 2021	91.1%
March 2020	88.0%	March 2021	89.7%
- In this release, figures for October–December 2020 should be considered as a second estimate while those relating to January–March 2021 are a first estimate, therefore subject to revision in the ensuing release.
- The Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) classification of all accommodation categories are found in Legal Notice 351 of 2012. <http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lp&itemid=23956&l=1>
- Users are advised that comparisons between non-resident arrivals recorded in the Inbound Tourism survey (Tourstat, demand-side) and the Collective Accommodation survey (Accomstat, supply-side), should be undertaken in the knowledge that discrepancies will be found. These are mainly due to differences in definitions and methodologies. For more details, one can consult Concept 15.4 of the NSO's metadata file (<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=35>).
- In view of the COVID-19 situation, guests accommodated in any collective accommodation establishment, and for which their stay was related to health or safety reasons (not related to tourism purposes), have been considered out-of-scope for tourist accommodation statistics and therefore, not recorded for March 2020 - March 2021.
- Due to the COVID-19 situation the following tourism-related chronology of events happened:

28th February	People flying in from Italy, China (including Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Iran, South Korea) from 26th February onwards needed to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
8th March	Flights from/to Milan were suspended.
10th March	Flights from/to Italy were suspended.
10th March	The last Cruise call.
11th March	Flights from/to France, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, were suspended.
11th March	People flying in from France, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, needed to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
13th March	All people flying in from all destinations needed to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
18th March	The last Virtu' Ferries service for passengers between Malta and Sicily.
21st March	All flights from/to all destinations were suspended.
1st July	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.
15th July	Restrictions on all other flight destinations were lifted.
21st August	First cruise liner call since March 2020.

Sources: Malta Tourism Authority, Virtu Ferries and Transport Malta

9. **Definitions:**

- **Bedroom:** a unit formed by one room or group of rooms constituting an indivisible rental whole in an accommodation establishment or dwelling.
- **Bed-place:** in an establishment, this is determined by the number of persons who can stay overnight in the establishment, not taking into account any extra beds that may be provided to clients on request.
- **Residents:** Maltese/Gozitan residents who check into/out of a collective accommodation establishment. A person is considered to be a Maltese/Gozitan resident 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.
- **Non-residents:** foreigners who do not necessarily follow the definition of a tourist and check into/out of a collective accommodation establishment.
- **Total guests:** the total number of residents and non-residents.
- **Total nights spent:** the total number of nights which guests actually spend or are registered to spend in a collective accommodation establishment.
- **Net use of bed-places:** the net occupancy rate calculated for all active accommodation establishments, net of seasonal closures and other temporary closures. The occupancy of bed-places is calculated by dividing the total nights during the reference period by the number of bed-places and the number of days when the bed-places are actually available for use during the reference period. The result is then multiplied by 100 to express the occupancy rate as a percentage.
- **Average length of stay:** this is calculated as follows:
$$\frac{\text{total number of nights}}{\text{total number of guests}}$$
- **Tourist:** a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.

10. 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/Collective-Accommodation-Establishments.aspx

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

Metadata: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=35>

Statistical Database: <https://statdb.nso.gov.mt/start>

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

12. A detailed news release calendar is available on:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx

European statistics data on collective accommodation by NACE Rev.2 are available at:

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Statistics Database](#)

Data Navigation Tree

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>Tourism (tour)

>Monthly data on tourism industries (tour_indm)

>Annual data on tourism industries (tour_inda)

13. For further assistance send a request from:

<http://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Pages/Request-for-Information.aspx>