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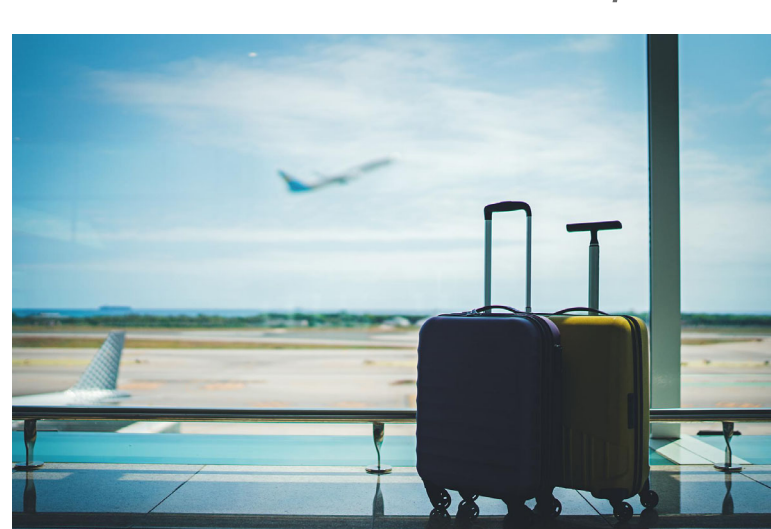


Salient Points **News** Data Methodology

Outbound Tourism: Q1/2023

NR085/2023 Release Date: 16 May 2023

Total outbound tourists for the first quarter in 2023 were estimated at 158,180, while total nights spent amounted to 1,082,039.



January-March 2023

During the quarter under review, a total of 90,851 outbound tourist trips were undertaken for holiday purposes, followed by 43,664 trips for visiting friends and relatives. Most outbound tourists were aged between 25 and 44 years (52.5 per cent), followed by those within the 45-64 age bracket (27.5 per cent) (Table 1). Italy remained the most popular destination, with a share of 35.4 per cent of total tourist trips (Table 6).

The largest share of guest nights (54.9 per cent) was spent in non-rented accommodation establishments (Table 3). The average length of stay of total outbound tourists stood at 6.8 nights (Chart 2).

Total expenditure by outbound tourists between January and March surpassed €131.6 million, equivalent to an average €832 per person (Tables 4 and 5).

Chart 1. Total outbound tourists

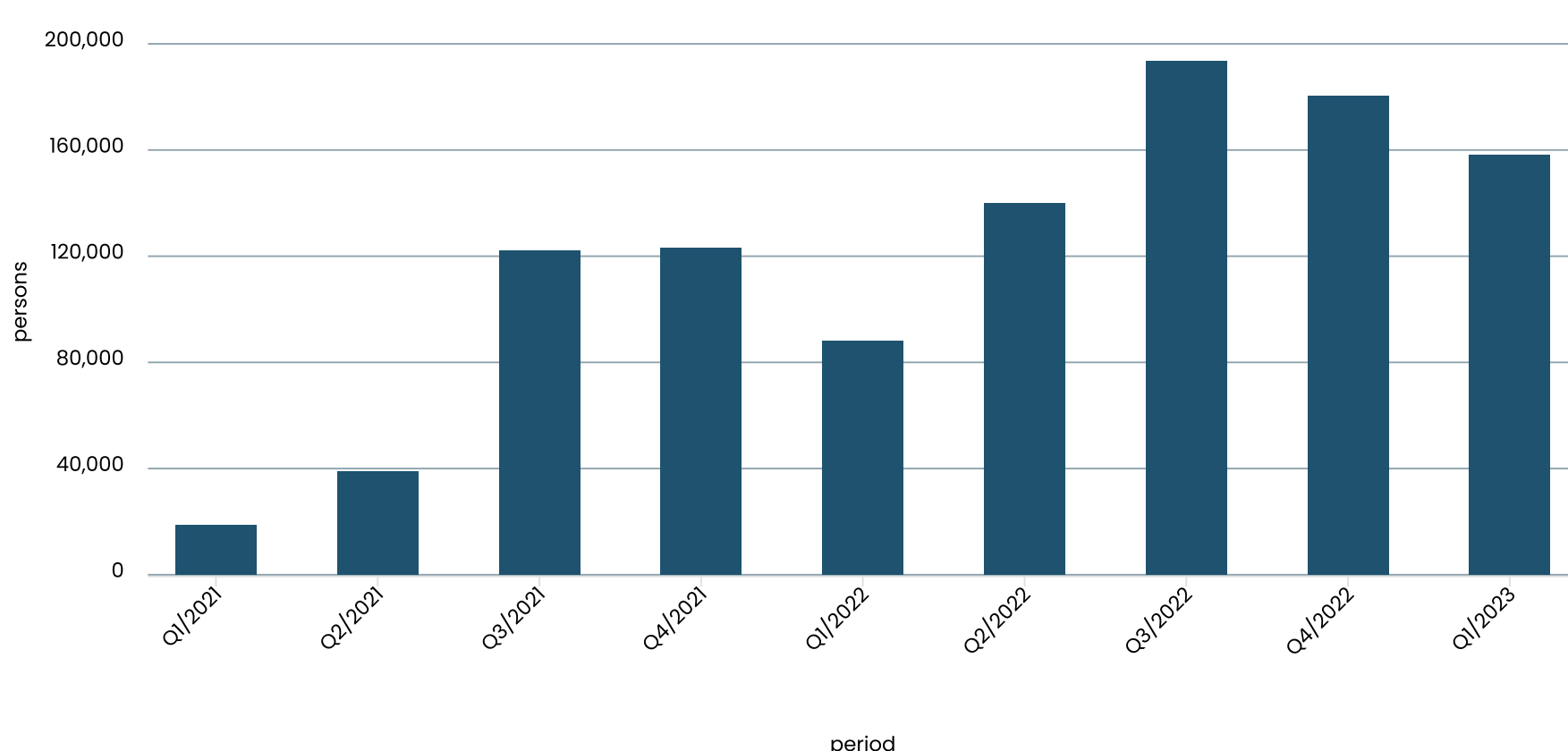


Chart 2. Average length of stay by year and type of accommodation

January-March

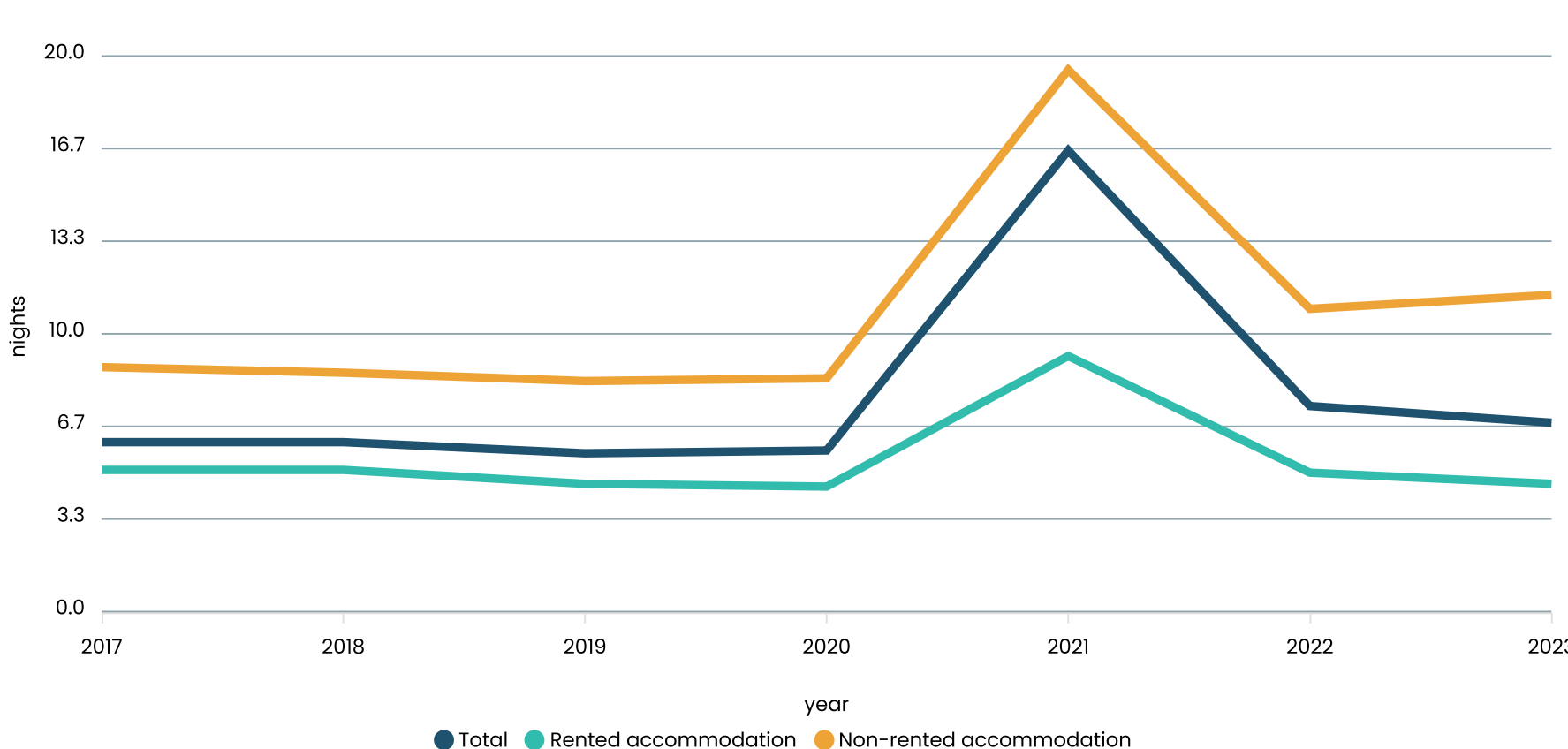


Chart 3a. Total expenditure per capita by outbound tourists

January-March

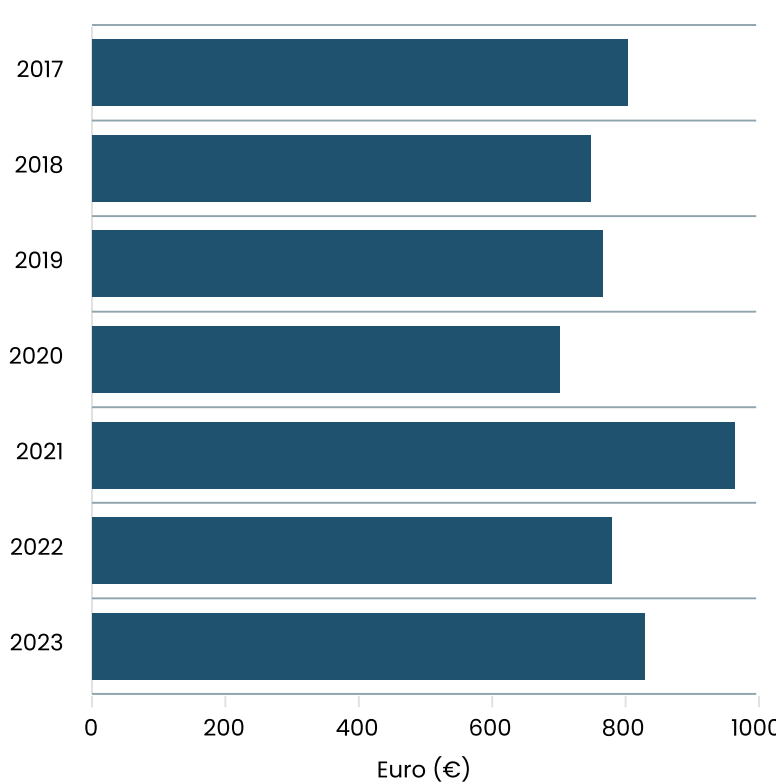


Chart 3b. Total expenditure per night by outbound tourists

January-March

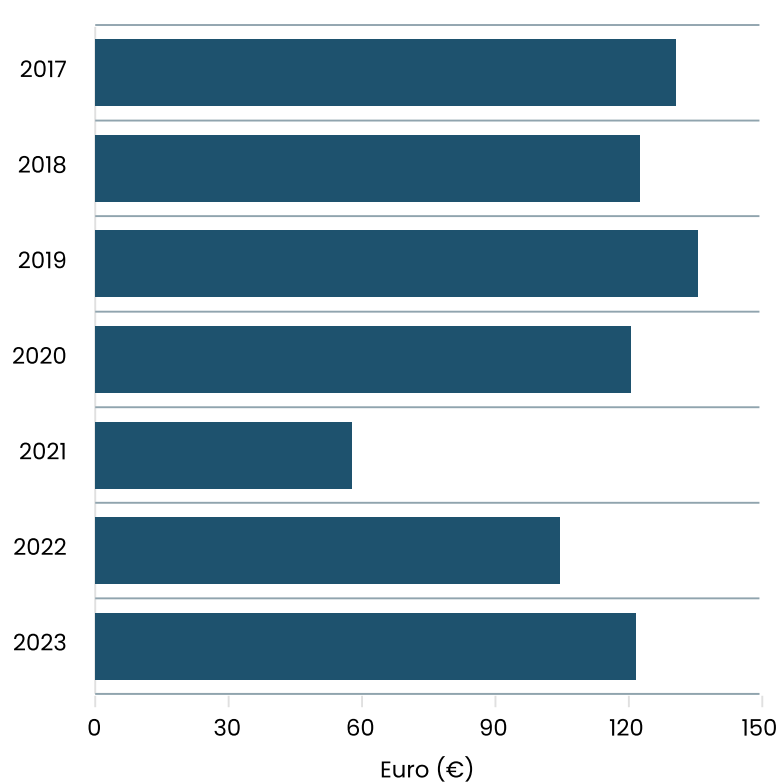


Chart 4. Average expenditure per capita by final destination of outbound tourists

January-March

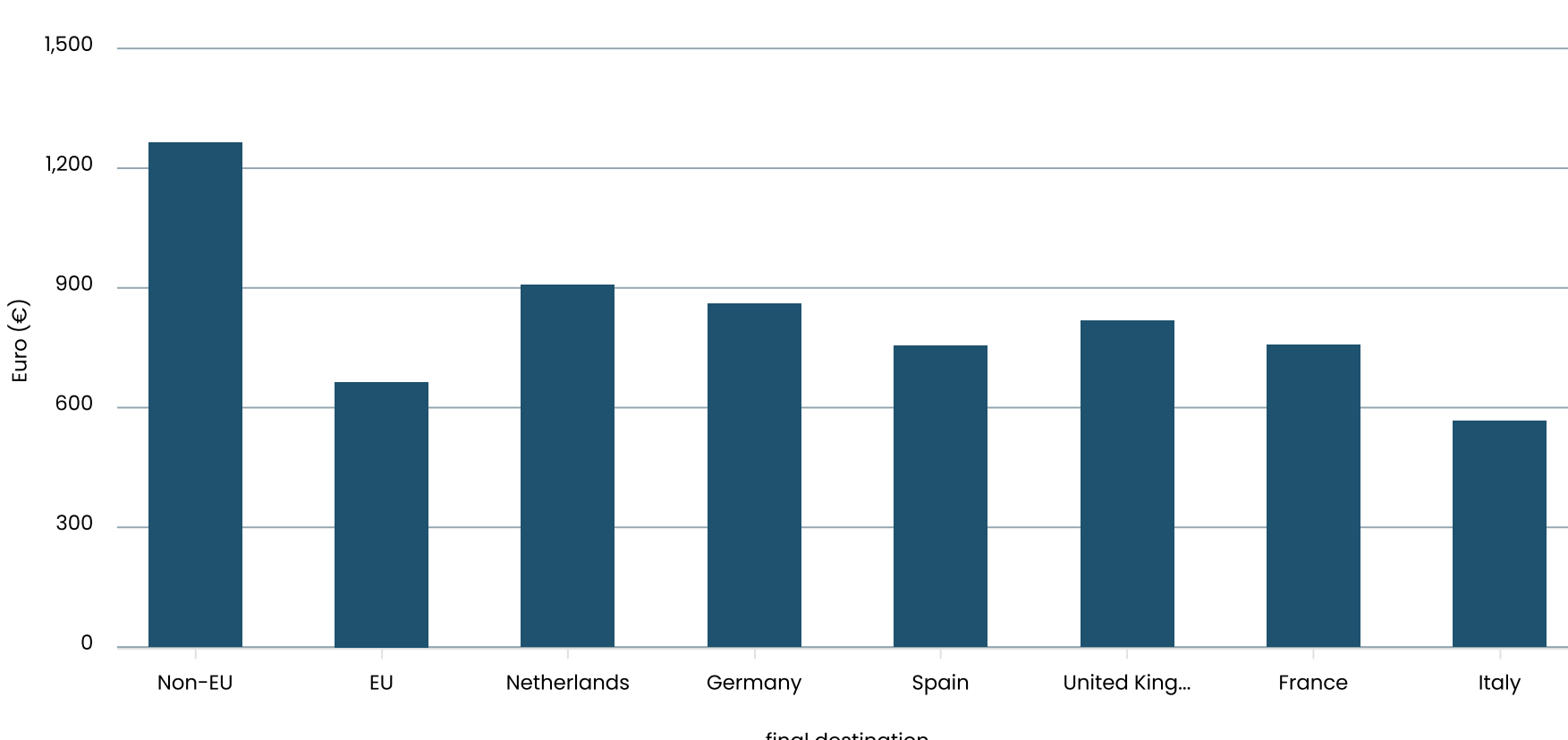


Table 1. Profile of outbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-March		
	2021	2022	2023
Outbound tourists	18,717	88,196	158,180
Mode and type of travel			
Air	17,215	82,328	151,076
Low-cost airlines	3,767	51,319	84,336
Other airlines	13,448	31,008	66,740
Sea	1,502	5,868	7,104
Sex			
Males	12,922	51,249	89,301
Females	5,795	36,947	68,879
Age group			
0-24	2,346	13,022	21,919
25-44	11,571	48,196	82,990
45-64	4,115	21,940	43,447
65 or more	684	5,037	9,824
Final destination			
EU	12,282	65,978	113,871
of which: Euro area ¹	10,430	57,842	101,864
Non-EU	6,435	22,218	44,309
Purpose of visit			
Holiday	2,423	42,035	90,851
Visiting relatives and friends	11,601	28,498	43,664
Business and professional	2,356	10,705	16,785
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	2,338	6,958	6,880
Organisation of stay			
Package	635 ^u	4,257	12,525
Non-package	18,082	83,939	145,655
Duration of visit			
1-3 nights	3,512	32,360	59,380
4-6 nights	1,892	27,025	51,715
7 nights or more	13,313	28,811	47,085
Average length of stay (nights)	16.6	7.4	6.8

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

¹ Refer to methodological notes 5.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	January-March		
	2021	2022	2023
Rented accommodation	5,152	51,958	106,207
Collective	3,775	41,504	85,850
Other rented	1,378	10,454	20,357
Non-rented accommodation	13,564	36,238	51,973
Total tourists	18,717	88,196	158,180

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	January-March		
	2021	2022	2023
Rented accommodation	47,658	257,401	488,435
Collective	27,763	173,335	381,142
Other rented	19,895	84,066	107,293
Non-rented accommodation	263,971	396,693	593,604
Total nights	311,629	654,094	1,082,039

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

€000

Expenditure category	January-March		
	2021	2022	2023
Package	539^u	4,017	9,469
Non-package	6,978	24,547	50,549
Air/sea fares	5,335	12,788	27,478
Accommodation	1,643	11,758	23,070
Other expenditure	10,605	40,439	71,611
Total expenditure	18,121	69,003	131,629

^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. Average expenditure per capita and per night by outbound tourists by period of departure and expenditure category

€

Expenditure category	January-March					
	per capita			per night		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Package	848^u	944	756	95^u	134	151
Non-package	386	291	346	23	39	49
Air/sea fares	295	152	188	n/a	n/a	n/a
Accommodation	357	245	246	39	49	54
Other expenditure	567	459	453	34	62	66
Total	968	782	832	58	105	122

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

Note: n/a: not applicable

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

Final destination ¹		January-March		
		2021	2022	2023
Tourists	EU	12,282	65,978	113,871
	<i>of which:</i>			
	France	797 ^u	4,872	7,768
	Germany	807 ^u	2,092	5,663
	Italy	6,974	32,369	56,047
	Netherlands	:	2,209	3,215
	Spain	744 ^u	5,657	9,929
	Non-EU	6,435	22,218	44,309
	<i>of which:</i>			
United Kingdom	846 ^u	10,248	21,819	
Total	18,717	88,196	158,180	
Nights	EU	154,160	380,423	586,728
	<i>of which:</i>			
	France	13,193 ^u	26,115	39,171
	Germany	14,290 ^u	19,988	35,336
	Italy	68,264	156,577	240,763
	Netherlands	:	13,404 ^u	22,662
	Spain	10,526 ^u	29,487	57,102
	Non-EU	157,469	273,670	495,311
	<i>of which:</i>			
United Kingdom	19,484 ^u	98,159	135,661	
Total	311,629	654,094	1,082,039	
Total Expenditure (€000)	EU	8,667	41,969	75,630
	<i>of which:</i>			
	France	855 ^u	3,817	5,885
	Germany	599 ^u	1,901	4,871
	Italy	3,850	18,167	31,791
	Netherlands	:	1,667	2,915
	Spain	685 ^u	3,556	7,493
	Non-EU	9,454	27,034	55,999
	<i>of which:</i>			
United Kingdom	1,037 ^u	8,128	17,855	
Total	18,121	69,003	131,629	

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6.

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.

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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.

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. Owing to Croatia's entry into the Eurozone (with effect from 1 January 2023), Croatian data is statistically classified as being in the Euro area from January 2023. Comparability between comparative periods should be treated with caution.

6. Expenditure data in this release represent the budgeted expenditure of outbound tourists prior to their departure.

7. 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 outbound tourism figures

	Estimate	Margin of error	95% confidence interval
Outbound tourists	158,180	1,740	158,180 ± 1,740
Total nights	1,082,039	50,0352	1,082,039 ± 50,035
Total expenditure (€ 000)	131,629	5,085	131,629 ± 5,085

8. 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.

9. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

[Sources and methods](#)

[Statistical concepts](#)

[Metadata](#)

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

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

12. For further assistance send your request through our [online request form](#).

13. A detailed news release calendar is available [online](#).