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Inbound Tourism: May 2023

NR123/2023

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Total inbound tourists for May 2023 were estimated at 284,944, while total nights spent amounted to 1,678,200.



During the month under review, a total of 257,059 inbound tourists visited Malta for holiday purposes, and 16,857 tourists came for business purposes. The largest share of inbound tourists were aged between 25 and 44 (41.5 per cent), followed by the 45-64 age bracket (30.4 per cent) (Table 1). Italian, United Kingdom, and French residents made up 47.1 per cent of total inbound tourists (Table 5).

Total nights spent went up by 24.1 per cent when compared to May 2022, almost reaching 1.7 million nights. The largest share of guest nights (86.8 per cent) was spent in rented accommodation establishments (Table 3). The average length of stay of total inbound tourists stood at 5.9 nights (Table 1).

Total tourist expenditure surpassed €237.8 million, an increase of 36.1 per cent over the corresponding month in 2022 (Table 4). The average expenditure per night was estimated at

€141.7 (Chart 2b).

January-May 2023

Inbound tourists for the first four months of 2023 amounted to 994,804, while the total nights spent almost reached 6.2 million nights (Tables 6 and 8).

Total tourist expenditure was estimated at €750.3 million (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita increased to €754 from €737 in 2022 (Table 11).

Chart 1. Total inbound tourists by month

May 2020 – May 2023



Chart 2a. Total expenditure per capita by inbound tourists

May 2021 - May 2023

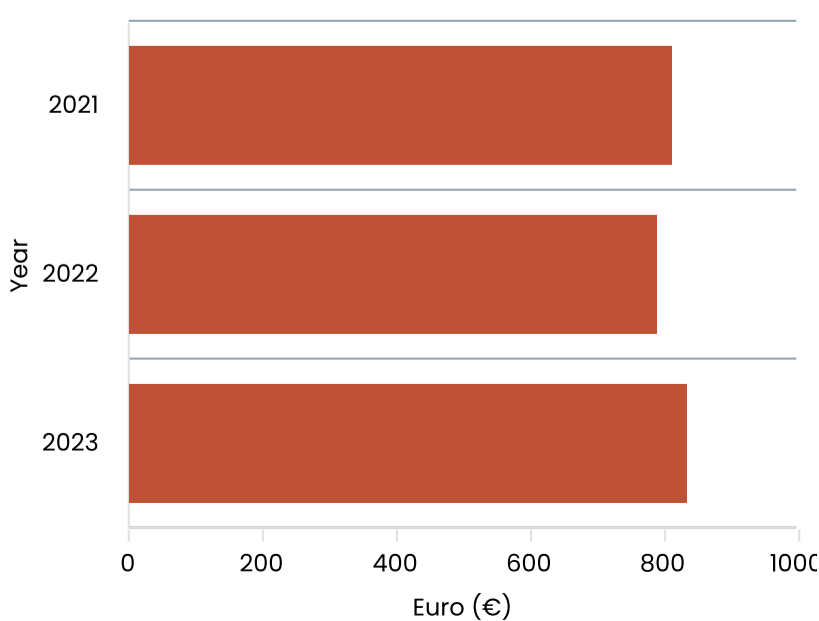


Chart 2b. Total expenditure per night by inbound tourists

May 2021 - May 2023

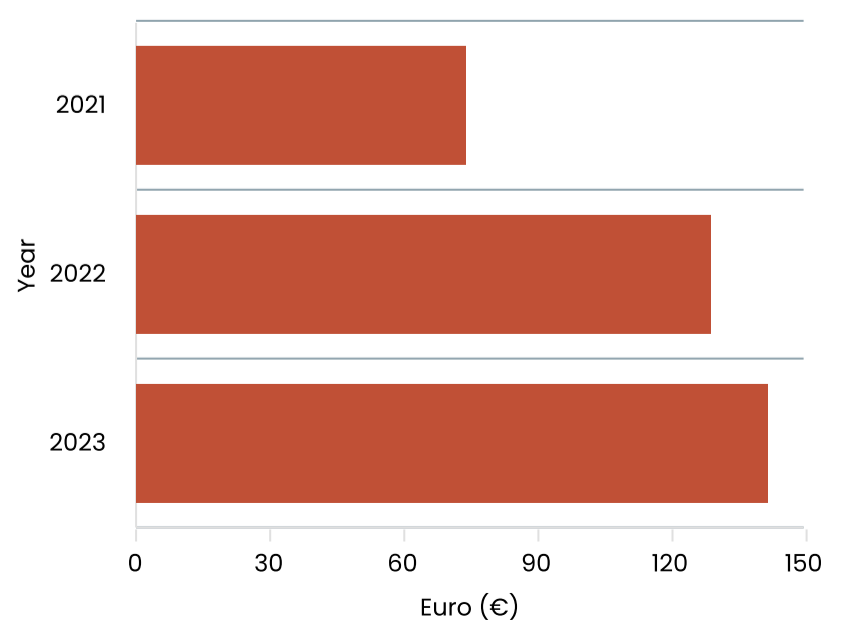


Table 1. Profile of inbound tourists by month of departure

Characteristics	May		
	2021	2022	2023
Total inbound visitors	25,954	226,852	286,681
Overnight cruise passengers	-	5,688	1,737
Inbound tourists	25,954	221,164	284,944
Mode of travel			
Air	23,556	218,038	280,479
Sea	2,398	3,126 ^R	4,465
Sex			
Males	15,175	110,588	135,082
Females	10,779	110,576	149,862
Age group			
0-24	5,856	40,273	44,983
25-44	12,014	93,957	118,335
45-64	6,935	62,950	86,727
65 or more	1,149 ^u	23,983	34,900
Markets			
EU	23,000	157,065	197,526
<i>of which: Euro area¹</i>	19,813	123,714	163,126
Non-EU	2,954	64,099	87,418
Purpose of visit			
Holiday	20,105	196,900	257,059
Business and professional	4,126	17,250	16,857
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	1,723	7,015	11,028
Organisation of stay			
Package	3,446 ^u	51,136	70,200
Non-package	22,508	170,028	214,744
Frequency			
First-time tourists	16,372	173,876	227,820
Repeat tourists	9,582	47,288	57,124
once a year or less	5,456	34,916	44,146
more than once a year	4,126	12,372	12,978
Duration of visit			
1-3 nights	6,047	64,012	79,532
4-6 nights	5,639	77,736	107,048
7 nights or more	14,268	79,416	98,364
Average length of stay (nights)	10.9	6.1	5.9

^R Revised: refer to methodological note 5.

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

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Type of accommodation	May		
	2021	2022	2023
Rented accommodation	19,018	198,808	256,780
Collective	13,944	147,172	181,662
Other rented	5,074	51,636	75,118
Non-rented accommodation	6,936	22,356	28,164
Total tourists	25,954	221,164	284,944

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	May		
	2021	2022	2023
Rented accommodation	169,513	1,174,183	1,456,980
Collective	87,880	804,809	973,231
Other rented	81,633	369,374	483,749
Non-rented accommodation	114,255	178,160	221,220
Total nights	283,769	1,352,343	1,678,200

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	May		
	2021	2022	2023
Package	2,503^u	37,207	55,157
Non-package	9,244	69,658	98,286
Air/sea fares	4,285	27,217	39,643
Accommodation	4,959	42,441	58,643
Other expenditure	9,346	67,833	84,405
Total expenditure	21,093	174,699	237,848

^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		May		
		2021	2022	2023
Tourists	EU	23,000	157,065	197,526
	<i>of which:</i>			
	France	6,076	29,176	35,654
	Germany	3,824	15,769	18,855
	Italy	5,895	32,833	49,916
	Poland	2,069	14,835	14,587
	Spain	1,023 ^u	8,185	11,389
	Non-EU	2,954	64,099	87,418
	<i>of which:</i>			
United Kingdom	679 ^u	42,590	48,740	
Total	25,954	221,164	284,944	
Nights	EU	237,387	907,765	1,113,539
	<i>of which:</i>			
	France	51,275	170,851	228,178
	Germany	30,721	110,518	126,245
	Italy	88,529	168,445	231,643
	Poland	15,283	83,597	91,948
	Spain	12,554 ^u	51,509	52,173
	Non-EU	46,382	444,578	564,661
	<i>of which:</i>			
United Kingdom	15,168 ^u	287,090	312,302	
Total	283,769	1,352,343	1,678,200	
Expenditure (€ 000)	EU	17,100	110,002	146,498
	<i>of which:</i>			
	France	4,098	21,045	30,154
	Germany	3,303	15,931	17,951
	Italy	4,133	16,129	25,554
	Poland	1,218	9,939	11,705
	Spain	777 ^u	5,786	6,923
	Non-EU	3,992	64,697	91,349
	<i>of which:</i>			
United Kingdom	685 ^u	41,517	48,319	
Total	21,093	174,699	237,848	

^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 6. Profile of inbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-May		
	2021	2022	2023
Total inbound visitors	70,497	670,358	997,640
Overnight cruise passengers	1,110	19,353	2,836
Inbound tourists	69,387	651,005	994,804
Mode of travel			
Air	59,810	637,810	973,760
Sea	9,577	13,195 ^R	21,044
Sex			
Males	43,234	328,251	481,001
Females	26,153	322,754	513,802
Age group			
0-24	14,278	131,099	183,189
25-44	33,674	268,720	392,557
45-64	18,137	191,294	314,999
65 or more	3,299	59,892	104,058
Markets			
EU	59,391	469,771	688,149
<i>of which: Euro area¹</i>	52,145	361,174	551,284
Non-EU	9,996	181,233	306,655
Purpose of visit			
Holiday	50,320	574,889	891,031
Business and professional	13,191	45,865	57,865
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	5,876	30,251	45,908
Organisation of stay			
Package	8,056	151,263	269,169
Non-package	61,331	499,742	725,635
Frequency			
First-time tourists	38,923	483,717	771,765
Repeat tourists	30,464	167,288	223,039
once a year or less	15,918	113,812	165,313
more than once a year	14,546	53,476	57,726
Duration of visit			
1-3 nights	16,039	179,504	280,072
4-6 nights	12,850	227,944	364,284
7 nights or more	40,498	243,558	350,447
Average length of stay (nights)	13.2	6.8	6.2

^R Revised: refer to methodological note 5.

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

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-May		
	2021	2022	2023
Rented accommodation	46,479	571,823	886,553
Collective	32,402	439,319	660,849
Other rented	14,077	132,504	225,704
Non-rented accommodation	22,908	79,182	108,250
Total tourists	69,387	651,005	994,804

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-May		
	2021	2022	2023
Rented accommodation	495,489	3,659,386	5,237,172
Collective	228,986	2,432,476	3,474,116
Other rented	266,503	1,226,910	1,763,056
Non-rented accommodation	421,708	744,180	962,119
Total nights	917,196	4,403,566	6,199,291

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-May		
	2021	2022	2023
Tourists			
Australia	242 ^u	2,066 ^u	7,973
Austria	596 ^u	11,080	18,575
Belgium	2,322	18,999	24,895
France	14,206	80,436	104,113
Germany	7,006	48,882	71,893
Hungary	:	11,258	17,454
Ireland	:	11,105	17,842
Italy	20,857	96,268	175,468
Netherlands	1,044	19,162	19,758
Poland	3,444	51,324	62,839
Scandinavia ¹	1,714	21,396	28,457
Spain	2,376	24,265	37,185
Switzerland	1,539	8,570	17,676
United Kingdom	2,197	128,393	180,100
USA	692 ^u	10,044	17,427
Other	10,669	107,758	193,150
Total	69,387	651,005	994,804
Nights			
Australia	2,888 ^u	18,466 ^u	74,179
Austria	6,962 ^u	58,648	112,041
Belgium	28,196	122,876	152,848
France	149,314	526,206	694,265
Germany	72,359	355,944	501,724
Hungary	:	57,012	81,058
Ireland	:	64,347	107,845
Italy	312,374	631,779	993,315
Netherlands	17,937	178,851	143,309
Poland	30,883	281,216	380,240
Scandinavia ¹	21,568	162,856	213,605
Spain	31,860	174,912	181,271
Switzerland	18,890	55,872	112,612
United Kingdom	52,723	850,403	1,134,294
USA	8,611 ^u	79,438	107,846
Other	153,677	784,741	1,208,839
Total	917,196	4,403,566	6,199,291
Expenditure (€ 000)			
Australia	213 ^u	3,745 ^u	11,328
Austria	572 ^u	7,485	15,348
Belgium	2,084	13,701	20,369
France	11,845	56,786	80,436
Germany	6,579	43,259	64,297
Hungary	:	5,100	9,009
Ireland	:	8,628	14,642
Italy	13,696	48,994	89,826
Netherlands	1,060	16,158	17,192
Poland	2,214	28,659	42,119
Scandinavia ¹	1,930	20,937	25,340
Spain	2,017	15,212	22,256
Switzerland	2,159	8,983	17,060
United Kingdom	2,197	108,681	148,634
USA	1,175 ^u	13,863	21,417
Other	11,920	79,653	151,068
Total	60,372	479,844	750,342

: Unreliable, less than 20 sample observations.

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

¹ 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-May 2023					
Australia	:	3,632	1,749	4,196	11,328
Austria	5,491	2,013	2,895	4,949	15,348
Belgium	5,262	3,278	4,482	7,347	20,369
France	20,683	12,614	19,069	28,070	80,436
Germany	19,246	10,422	14,080	20,549	64,297
Hungary	1,211 ^u	1,498	2,626	3,674	9,009
Ireland	2,362	2,558	3,515	6,207	14,642
Italy	17,497	12,572	19,611	40,146	89,826
Netherlands	4,164	2,739	3,392	6,897	17,192
Poland	10,320	6,387	8,688	16,724	42,119
Scandinavia ¹	6,139	4,725	4,931	9,544	25,340
Spain	3,793	3,875	5,742	8,846	22,256
Switzerland	2,735 ^u	3,124	4,500	6,701	17,060
United Kingdom	48,166	19,655	27,144	53,669	148,634
USA	2,615 ^u	7,273	5,220	6,308	21,417
Other	24,360	30,772	34,685	61,251	151,068
Total	175,795	127,137	162,331	285,079	750,342
January-May 2022					
Australia	:	1,327	617 ^u	1,711	3,745
Austria	1,643 ^u	953	1,946	2,944	7,485
Belgium	1,883 ^u	2,499	3,608	5,710	13,701
France	13,135	8,227	12,496	22,929	56,786
Germany	11,548	6,727	9,331	15,654	43,259
Hungary	:	724	1,251	2,765	5,100
Ireland	1,166 ^u	1,562	1,997	3,903	8,628
Italy	6,039	5,995	11,834	25,125	48,994
Netherlands	2,737	2,620	3,625	7,176	16,158
Poland	5,875	3,579	6,286	12,918	28,659
Scandinavia ¹	5,169	3,538	3,784	8,445	20,937
Spain	1,859 ^u	2,335	3,991	7,026	15,212
Switzerland	1,916 ^u	1,393	2,254	3,421	8,983
United Kingdom	30,419	14,032	22,582	41,647	108,681
USA	:	5,448	3,016	4,690	13,863
Other	8,106	14,470	20,613	36,465	79,653
Total	92,654	75,429	109,232	202,528	479,844
January-May 2021					
Australia	:	20 ^u	79 ^u	114 ^u	213 ^u
Austria	:	143	:	239	572
Belgium	:	481 ^u	556 ^u	957	2,084
France	1,335 ^u	2,472	2,818	5,220	11,845
Germany	1,123	1,459	1,371	2,626	6,579
Hungary	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:
Italy	1,273	2,490	2,344	7,589	13,696
Netherlands	:	250 ^u	243 ^u	561 ^u	1,060 ^u
Poland	225	382	501 ^u	1,106	2,214
Scandinavia ¹	:	395 ^u	490 ^u	1,014 ^u	1,930 ^u
Spain	:	456	392 ^u	1,070	2,017
Switzerland	:	358 ^u	411 ^u	908 ^u	2,159 ^u
United Kingdom	:	435	423	1,258	2,197
USA	:	302 ^u	484 ^u	368 ^u	1,175 ^u
Other	1,204 ^u	3,199	2,587	4,931	11,920
Total	5,996	12,965	13,021	28,390	60,372

: Unreliable, less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.¹ 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-May 2023					
Australia	:	506	315	526	1,421
Austria	780	171	278	266	826
Belgium	704	188	293	295	818
France	706	168	271	270	773
Germany	774	220	333	286	894
Hungary	382 ^u	104	201	210	516
Ireland	510	193	305	348	821
Italy	497	89	176	229	512
Netherlands	609	212	305	349	870
Poland	533	146	220	266	670
Scandinavia ¹	563	269	326	335	890
Spain	584	126	220	238	599
Switzerland	731 ^u	224	366	379	965
United Kingdom	671	181	319	298	825
USA	1,327 ^u	471	388	362	1,229
Other	684	194	248	317	782
Total expenditure per capita	653	174	261	287	754
January-May 2022					
Australia	:	667	397 ^u	828	1,812
Austria	601 ^u	114	259	266	676
Belgium	620 ^u	157	263	301	721
France	580	142	233	285	706
Germany	833	191	299	320	885
Hungary	:	71	141	246	453
Ireland	626 ^u	169	263	351	777
Italy	486	71	184	261	509
Netherlands	619	176	275	374	843
Poland	409	97	175	252	558
Scandinavia ¹	603	276	371	395	979
Spain	599 ^u	110	220	290	627
Switzerland	697 ^u	230	410	399	1,048
United Kingdom	638	173	360	324	846
USA	:	597	398	467	1,380
Other	700	150	246	338	739
Total expenditure per capita	613	150	257	311	737
January-May 2021					
Australia	:	82 ^u	326 ^u	469 ^u	877 ^u
Austria	:	252 ^u	:	402 ^u	959
Belgium	:	220	400	412	898
France	707	200	288	367	834
Germany	904 ^u	251	320	375	939
Hungary	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:
Italy	502	136	266	364	657
Netherlands	:	243	365 ^u	538	1,015
Poland	446 ^u	130	223	321	643
Scandinavia ¹	:	240	546 ^u	592	1,126
Spain	:	203	288	450	849
Switzerland	:	255	377 ^u	590	1,403
United Kingdom	:	206	658 ^u	573	1,000
USA	:	461 ^u	945 ^u	531 ^u	1,699 ^u
Other	983 ^u	338	399	462	1,117
Total expenditure per capita	544	211	333	409	870

: Unreliable, less than 20 sample observations.

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

¹ Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

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

Characteristics	May		
	2021	2022	2023
Total overnight cruise passengers	-	5,688	1,737
Sex			
Males	-	2,690	804
Females	-	2,998	933
Age group			
0-19	-	278	20
20-39	-	950	208
40-59	-	2,113	640
60-79	-	2,223	818
80 or more	-	124	51
Markets¹			
EU	-	3,016	364
<i>of which</i> : Euro area ¹	-	2,940	348
Non-EU	-	2,672	1,373

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

Table 13. Profile of overnight cruise passengers by period of departure

Characteristics	January-May		
	2021	2022	2023
Total overnight cruise passengers	1,110	19,353	2,836
Sex			
Males	528	8,932	1,280
Females	582	10,421	1,556
Age group			
0-19	236	1,851	39
20-39	358	2,310	315
40-59	385	6,447	731
60-79	125	8,236	1,609
80 or more	6	509	142
Markets¹			
EU	1,018	4,403	1,330
<i>of which</i> : Euro area ¹	1,010	4,291	1,312
Non-EU	92	14,950	1,506

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

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Methodological Notes

1. This release focuses on Inbound Tourism, which comprises 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 June 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 is supplemented by administrative data provided by ferry operators.

5. Sea tourist data for the period May-October 2022 has been revised since it was previously an estimation resulting from delayed data communication from the source. This revision is reflected in all the 2022 figures in this release.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Arrivals and nights spent in time-share accommodation are being categorised as 'Non-rented Accommodation' instead of 'Collective Accommodation' as per Eurostat's recommendation. In this regard, there may be minor differences between these statistics and statistics published in tourism supply due to the fact that hotels report time-share accommodation under 'Collective Accommodation'.

10. 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](#).

11. 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	284,944	2,566	284,944 ± 2,566
Total nights	1,678,200	62,045	1,678,200 ± 62,045
Total expenditure (€ 000)	237,848	6,792	237,848 ± 6,792

12. 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 complexes, 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.

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

[Sources and methods](#)

[Statistical concepts](#)

[Metadata](#)

[Statistical database](#)

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

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

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