

During the first quarter of 2020, sea transport between Malta and Gozo registered increases in trips and decreases in passengers and vehicles when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2019.

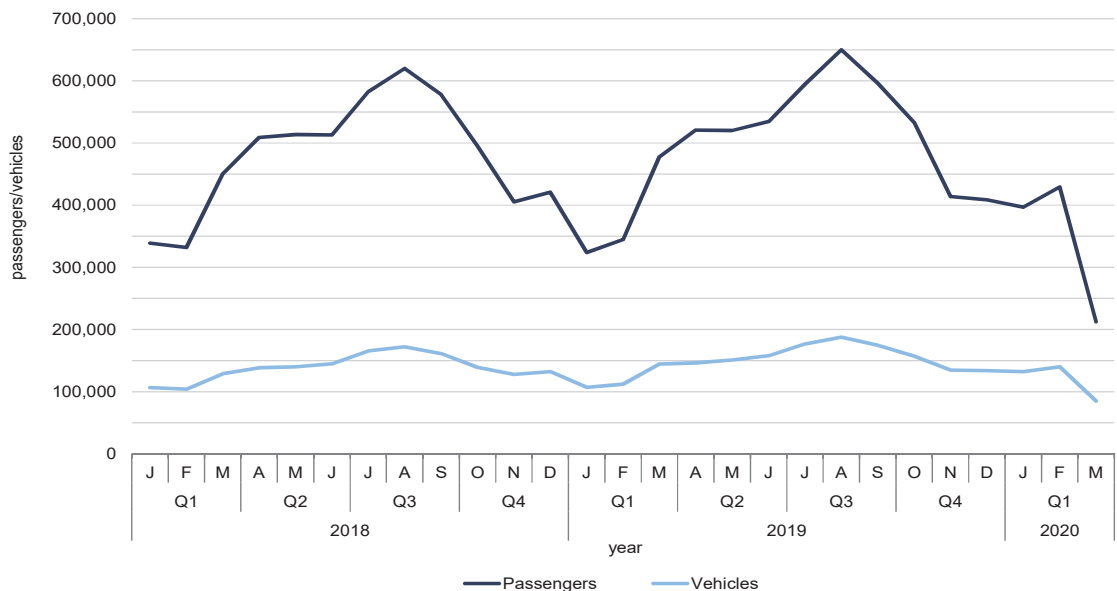
## Sea Transport between Malta and Gozo: Q1/2020

A total of 1,038,142 passengers travelled between Malta and Gozo during the first quarter this year, down by 9.5 per cent when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2019. The highest number of passengers was recorded in February at 429,259 or 41.4 per cent of the total for the quarter. When comparing to the previous year, the number of vehicles decreased by 1.8 per cent, totalling 356,997 (Tables 1 and 2, Chart 1).

The number of trips amounted to 7,324, an increase of 34.4 per cent over the same period in 2019 (Table 1). The majority of trips took place in February, amounting to 2,494 or 34.1 per cent of total trips for the quarter (Table 2).

During January-March, passenger traffic originating from Cirkewwa was busiest on Fridays (97,881) and Saturdays (88,140), whereas highest numbers from Mgarr were recorded on Sundays (102,606) and Mondays (73,494) (Charts 3 and 4) ■

**Chart 1. Passengers and vehicles crossing between Malta and Gozo**



Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in context to the unprecedented developments and restrictions related to COVID-19.

Table 1. Sea transport between Malta and Gozo by quarter

Quarter	2018	2019	2020	Change	Percentage change	
				2020/2019	2020/2019	
<b>Trips</b>	Jan-Mar	5,259	5,449	7,324	1,875	34.4
	Apr-Jun	5,776	6,289			
	Jul-Sep	6,764	8,240			
	Oct-Dec	5,820	7,653			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23,619</b>	<b>27,631</b>			
<b>Vehicles</b>	Jan-Mar	339,266	363,460	356,997	-6,463	-1.8
	Apr-Jun	423,152	454,818			
	Jul-Sep	498,888	538,864			
	Oct-Dec	398,596	425,767			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,659,902</b>	<b>1,782,909</b>			
<b>Passengers</b>	Jan-Mar	1,121,001	1,146,490	1,038,142	-108,348	-9.5
	Apr-Jun	1,535,414	1,575,472			
	Jul-Sep	1,780,474	1,840,575			
	Oct-Dec	1,321,429	1,355,243			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,758,318</b>	<b>5,917,780</b>			

Chart 2. Passengers and vehicles to and from Malta and Gozo: January-March

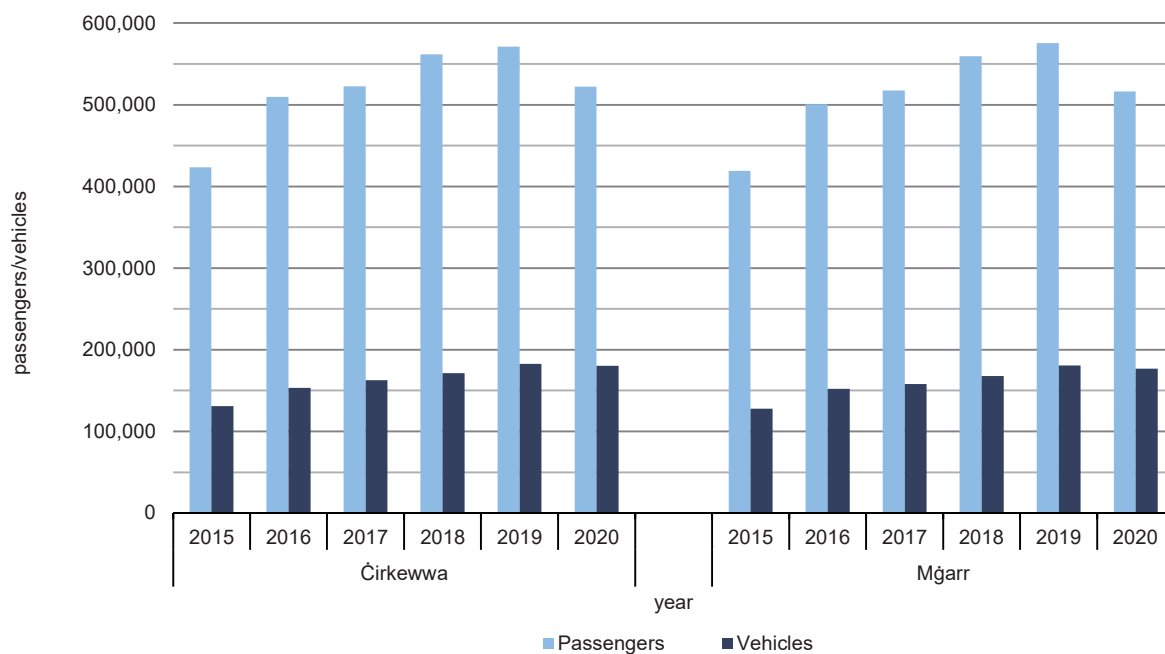


Table 2. Sea transport between Malta and Gozo by month

Month	2018	2019	2020	Change	Percentage change	
				2020/2019	2020/2019	
<b>Trips</b>	January	1,771	1,739	2,454	715	41.1
	February	1,614	1,676	2,494	818	48.8
	March	1,874	2,034	2,376	342	16.8
	April	1,870	1,957			
	May	1,898	2,014			
	June	2,008	2,318			
	July	2,252	2,716			
	August	2,292	2,802			
	September	2,220	2,722			
	October	2,088	2,712			
	November	1,822	2,421			
	December	1,910	2,520			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23,619</b>	<b>27,631</b>			
<b>Vehicles</b>	January	106,556	107,174	132,191	25,017	23.3
	February	103,893	112,014	139,905	27,891	24.9
	March	128,817	144,272	84,901	-59,371	-41.2
	April	138,464	146,216			
	May	140,028	150,984			
	June	144,660	157,618			
	July	165,538	176,767			
	August	172,120	187,536			
	September	161,230	174,561			
	October	138,973	157,109			
	November	127,404	134,764			
	December	132,219	133,894			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,659,902</b>	<b>1,782,909</b>			
<b>Passengers</b>	January	338,780	323,772	396,542	72,770	22.5
	February	331,858	344,773	429,259	84,486	24.5
	March	450,363	477,945	212,341	-265,604	-55.6
	April	508,880	520,755			
	May	513,598	520,284			
	June	512,936	534,433			
	July	582,541	594,610			
	August	620,042	649,878			
	September	577,891	596,087			
	October	494,964	533,020			
	November	405,514	413,684			
	December	420,951	408,539			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,758,318</b>	<b>5,917,780</b>			

Table 3. Sea transport to and from Malta and Gozo by month

Month		Ċirkewwa - Mġarr		Change	Percentage change	Mġarr - Ċirkewwa		Change	Percentage change
		2019	2020	2020/2019	2020/2019	2019	2020	2020/2019	2020/2019
<b>Trips</b>	January	869	1,227	358	41.2	870	1,227	357	41.0
	February	838	1,249	411	49.0	838	1,245	407	48.6
	March	1,017	1,187	170	16.7	1,017	1,189	172	16.9
	April	978				979			
	May	1,007				1,007			
	June	1,159				1,159			
	July	1,358				1,358			
	August	1,401				1,401			
	September	1,362				1,360			
	October	1,356				1,356			
	November	1,210				1,211			
	December	1,261				1,259			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,816</b>				<b>13,815</b>			
<b>Vehicles</b>	January	52,901	66,433	13,532	25.6	54,273	65,758	11,485	21.2
	February	57,189	71,525	14,336	25.1	54,825	68,380	13,555	24.7
	March	72,792	42,265	-30,527	-41.9	71,480	42,636	-28,844	-40.4
	April	74,407				71,809			
	May	77,120				73,864			
	June	80,304				77,314			
	July	89,926				86,841			
	August	96,782				90,754			
	September	87,007				87,554			
	October	80,150				76,959			
	November	68,681				66,083			
	December	69,015				64,879			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>906,274</b>				<b>876,635</b>			
<b>Passengers</b>	January	158,525	199,295	40,770	25.7	165,247	197,247	32,000	19.4
	February	173,170	217,473	44,303	25.6	171,603	211,786	40,183	23.4
	March	239,360	105,273	-134,087	-56.0	238,585	107,068	-131,517	-55.1
	April	262,868				257,887			
	May	262,079				258,205			
	June	269,203				265,230			
	July	297,849				296,761			
	August	327,485				322,393			
	September	294,770				301,317			
	October	267,441				265,579			
	November	206,789				206,895			
	December	206,125				202,414			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,965,664</b>				<b>2,952,116</b>			

Table 4. Sea transport between Malta and Gozo by day of the week

Day of the week		January-March			Change	Percentage change
		2018	2019	2020	2020/2019	2020/2019
<b>Trips</b>	Monday	764	710	1,012	302	42.5
	Tuesday	738	774	1,002	228	29.5
	Wednesday	722	757	1,025	268	35.4
	Thursday	752	762	1,051	289	37.9
	Friday	802	818	1,114	296	36.2
	Saturday	734	750	1,028	278	37.1
	Sunday	747	878	1,092	214	24.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,259</b>	<b>5,449</b>	<b>7,324</b>	<b>1,875</b>	<b>34.4</b>
<b>Vehicles</b>	Monday	46,591	46,750	48,258	1,508	3.2
	Tuesday	43,977	49,150	44,203	-4,947	-10.1
	Wednesday	45,648	48,512	46,828	-1,684	-3.5
	Thursday	46,639	49,127	51,511	2,384	4.9
	Friday	55,168	57,833	59,587	1,754	3.0
	Saturday	51,593	53,338	52,253	-1,085	-2.0
	Sunday	49,650	58,750	54,357	-4,393	-7.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>339,266</b>	<b>363,460</b>	<b>356,997</b>	<b>-6,463</b>	<b>-1.8</b>
<b>Passengers</b>	Monday	151,796	141,915	135,583	-6,332	-4.5
	Tuesday	135,399	147,649	117,484	-30,165	-20.4
	Wednesday	150,652	148,152	133,624	-14,528	-9.8
	Thursday	152,873	148,692	152,398	3,706	2.5
	Friday	176,893	179,425	168,113	-11,312	-6.3
	Saturday	183,802	182,806	159,454	-23,352	-12.8
	Sunday	169,586	197,851	171,486	-26,365	-13.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,121,001</b>	<b>1,146,490</b>	<b>1,038,142</b>	<b>-108,348</b>	<b>-9.5</b>

Chart 3. Vehicles to and from Malta and Gozo by day of the week: January-March

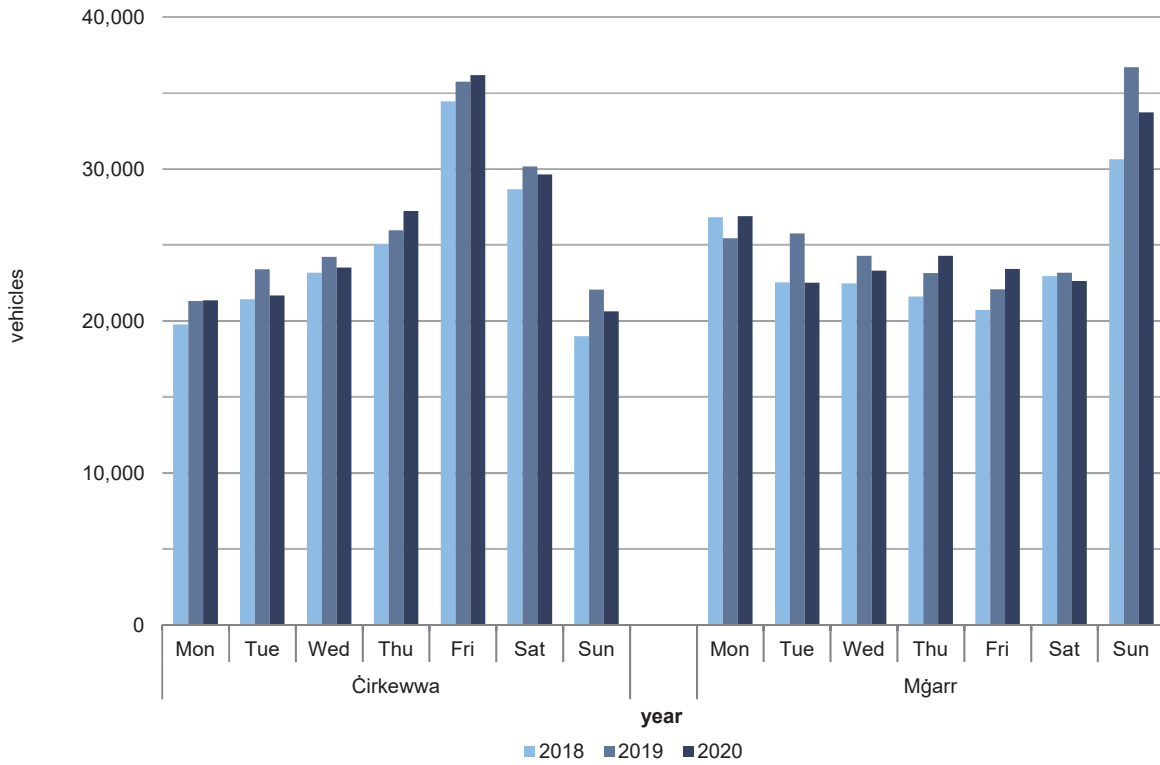
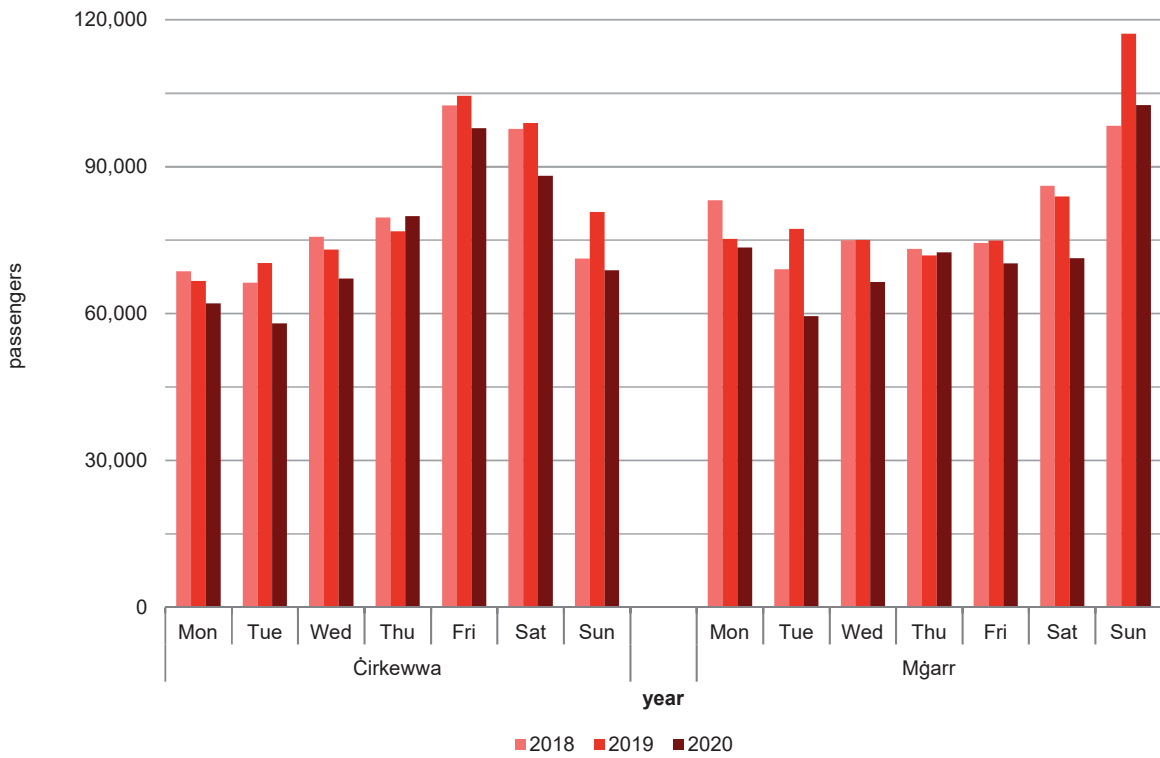


Chart 4. Passengers to and from Malta and Gozo by day of the week: January-March



## Methodological Notes

1. The source for the data included in this release is administrative information provided by the Gozo Channel Co. Ltd.
2. The table below illustrates the passenger and vehicle capacity of each Gozo Channel vessel:

### Carrying capacity

Vessel	Vehicles	Passengers
MV Gaudos	72	900
MV Malita	138	900
MV Ta' Pinu	138	900
MV Nikolaos	160	650 (Summer)/ 350 (Winter)

Periods when vessels were out of service for docking puposes:

MV Malita: 07/05/2018 - 11/05/2018, 09/01/2019 - 31/01/2019, 06/02/2019 - 13/02/2019, 07/03/2019 - 08/03/2019 and 25/11/2019-02/12/2019.

MV Ta' Pinu: 08/01/2018 - 30/01/2018, 06/01/2020-10/02/2020

MV Nikolaos started operating on 13/06/2019

3. Data for passengers comprise: foot and vehicle passengers and vehicle drivers.
4. Different approaches are applied for the collection of data at the Mġarr and Ċirkewwa Harbours, respectively. While the data source for the Mġarr side is the Automated Ticketing System (ATS), data for the Ċirkewwa side is dependent on the manual clicking system.
5. The data is not normally subject to revision.
6. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
7. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Sources and Methods:

[https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources\\_and\\_Methods/Unit\\_02/Regional\\_and\\_Geospatial\\_Statistics/Pages/Sea-Transport-between-Malta-and-Gozo.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_02/Regional_and_Geospatial_Statistics/Pages/Sea-Transport-between-Malta-and-Gozo.aspx)

8. 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)