

Regional Tourism: 2017-2019

1.0 Overview

In 2019, the total number of inbound and domestic tourists who visited the Gozo and Comino region amounted to 396,251 (Tables 1 and 6). Domestic tourists accounted for 54.3 per cent of total tourism demand within this region. The total number of inbound and domestic tourists who visited the Malta region amounted to almost 2.7 million, with inbound tourists accounting for 99.2 per cent of total tourists visiting this region (Charts 1a and 1b).

Chart 1a. Domestic and inbound tourists by region: 2019

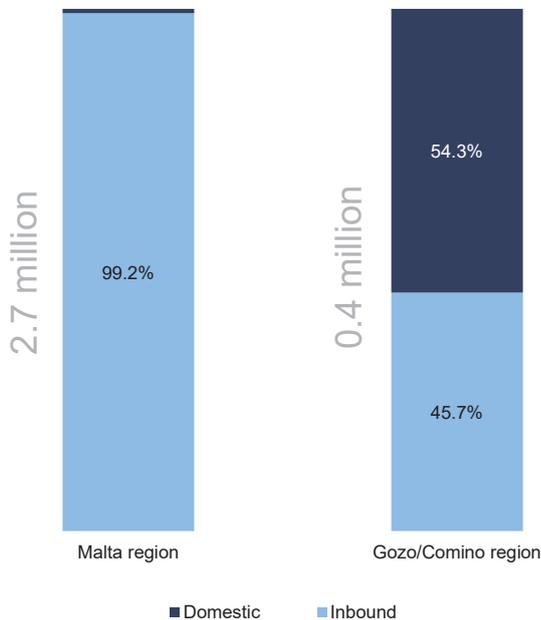
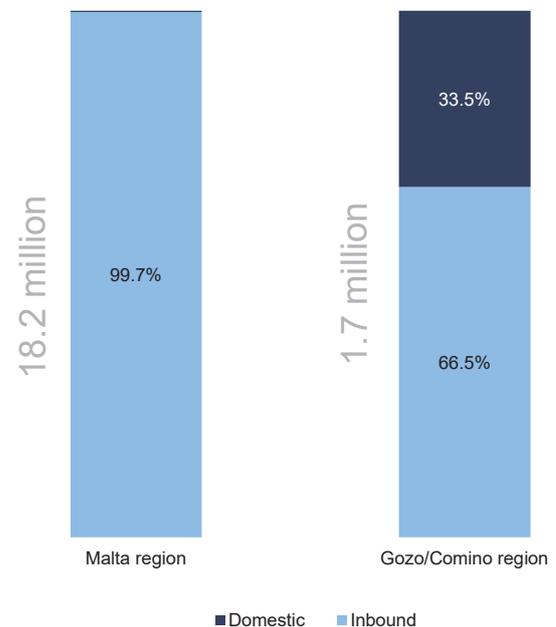


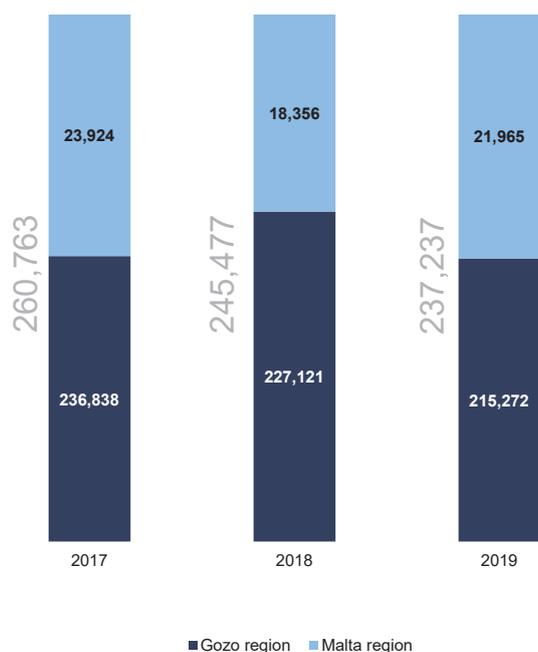
Chart 1b. Nights spent by domestic and inbound tourists by region: 2019



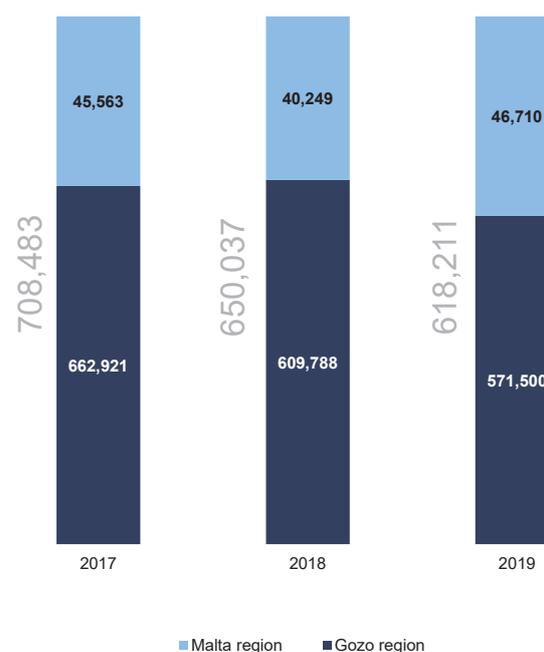
2.0 Domestic tourism

During 2019, domestic tourism across regions stood at 237,237 total arrivals, a decrease of 3.4 per cent when compared to 2018. Malta residents travelling to Gozo and Comino region totalled 215,272, or 90.7 per cent of total domestic tourists. Most of domestic tourists travelled for holiday purposes (85.9 per cent) and spent between one and three nights (84.0 per cent). The average length of stay remained at par with 2018 levels (2.6 nights) (Table 1 and Chart 2a). Domestic tourist nights totalled 618,211, a decrease of 4.9 per cent over 2018 (Table 3). Total expenditure by domestic tourists was estimated at €39.3 million, a drop of 4.0 per cent when compared to the previous year (Table 4). The average expenditure per capita stood at €166, a decrease of €1 over 2018 (Table 5).

**Chart 2a. Domestic tourism by region:
2017-2019**



**Chart 2b. Nights spent by domestic tourists by region:
2017-2019**



2.1 Domestic tourism to Gozo and Comino region

Domestic tourists to Gozo and Comino region, who stayed in rented accommodation amounted to 146,944, a decrease of 6.1 per cent over 2018. More than half of the domestic stays in rented accommodation (60.4 per cent) were in other rented accommodation establishments, such as farmhouses (Table 2).

The majority of domestic tourist nights (72.4 per cent) were spent in rented accommodation, of which 70.0 per cent were spent in other rented accommodation. In 2019, nights in collective accommodation decreased by 12.2 per cent, when compared to 2018 (Table 3).

Domestic tourism expenditure in Gozo and Comino region was estimated at almost €35.9 million, a decline of 6.5 per cent over 2018 (Table 4).

2.2 Domestic tourism to Malta region

Gozo and Comino residents who travelled to Malta region in 2019 as domestic tourists totalled 21,965, an increase of 19.7 per cent over 2018 (Table 1).

More than half (53.7 per cent) of domestic tourism nights by Gozo and Comino residents who travelled to Malta region were spent in rented accommodation (Table 3). In 2019, domestic tourism expenditure in Malta region was estimated at almost €3.5 million, an increase of 33.9 per cent over 2018 (Table 4).

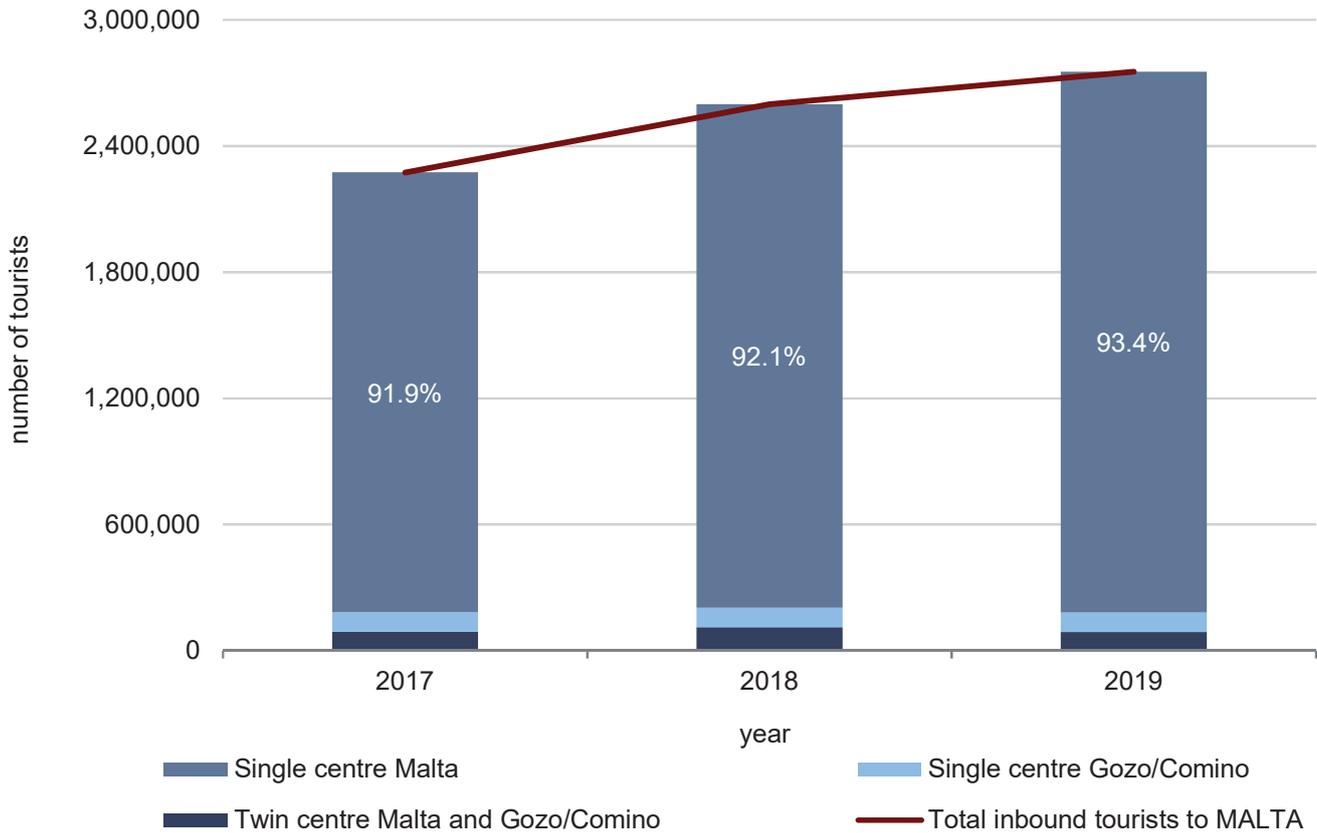
3.0 Inbound tourism

In 2019, inbound tourists in MALTA increased by 5.9 per cent, reaching nearly 2.8 million tourists. Single centre destination inbound tourism (inbound tourism with overnight stays in one region only) accounted for the majority of the trips (96.8 per cent). The rest were twin centre destination trips (Table 6 and Chart 3).

Total nights spent by inbound tourists to MALTA surpassed 19.3 million, an increase of 4.1 per cent over 2018. Nights spent by single centre inbound tourists accounted for 95.5 per cent of total nights spent in MALTA. The remaining were nights spent on twin centre destination trips. Inbound tourist nights in the Malta region accounted for 94.1 per cent of the total, while the Gozo and Comino region accommodated 5.9 per cent of the total nights (Table 6).

In 2019, total expenditure by inbound tourists to MALTA surpassed €2.2 billion, an increase of 5.7 per cent over 2018. Expenditure by inbound tourists on single centre destination trips accounted for 96.2 per cent of the total (Table 12).

Chart 3. Inbound tourists by itinerary, region and year



3.1 Single centre destination trips: Malta region

In 2019, inbound tourists to Malta region as a single centre destination reached almost 2.6 million, an increase of 7.5 per cent over 2018. Most of the inbound tourists were aged between 25 and 44 (40.0 per cent) and came from EU Member States (83.5 per cent), with the strongest market being the United Kingdom. More than half of the single centre inbound tourists (57.3 per cent) travelled by low-cost airlines and 40.8 per cent by other airlines. Travelling by low-cost airlines registered an increase of 13.5 per cent when compared to 2018. First-time tourists accounted for 75.1 per cent of the total inbound tourists (Table 7).

The majority of single centre inbound tourists to Malta region, stayed in collective accommodation (64.1 per cent). Nights spent by inbound tourists to Malta region as a single centre destination went up by 6.3 per cent when compared to 2018, reaching almost 17.7 million nights (Tables 10 and 11).

Total expenditure by inbound tourists to Malta as a single centre destination, reached nearly €2.1 billion, an increase of 7.5 per cent over 2018. Package expenditure by single centre inbound tourists to Malta region registered a decrease of 7.2 per cent, whereas non-package expenditure increased by 19.7 per cent (Table 12).

3.2 Single centre destination trips: Gozo and Comino region

Inbound tourists who visited Gozo and Comino region as a single centre destination amounted to 92,715, a decrease of 1.4 per cent over 2018. This accounted for 51.2 per cent of the total inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region (Table 6). The majority came from EU Member States (88.7 per cent) with the strongest market being the United Kingdom. Most were aged between 45 and 64 (39.8 per cent). Non-package trips accounted for 79.2 per cent of inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region. The single centre package trips to Gozo and Comino region decreased by 10.5 per cent over 2018. More than half of the single centre inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region, travelled by low-cost airlines (56.9 per cent). Low-cost airlines registered a decline of 3.0 per cent over 2018 (Table 8).

In contrast to single centre Malta region tourists, the largest share (48.5 per cent) of single centre tourists to Gozo and Comino region, stayed in other rented accommodation. Nights spent by inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region on single centre trips decreased by 3.4 per cent when compared to 2018, amounting to 815,554 nights (Tables 10 and 11). In 2019, the average length of stay of single centre inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region shortened

to 8.8 nights from 9.0 nights in 2018 (Table 8).

Expenditure by inbound tourists to Gozo and Comino region as single centre destination was estimated at €76.5 million in 2019, a decrease of 2.3 per cent when compared to previous year. This decrease was mostly attributed to decreases in package expenditure (11.2 per cent) and in other expenditure, such as shopping (6.7 per cent) (Table 12).

3.3 Twin centre destination trips

In 2019, inbound tourists who visited Malta, and Gozo and Comino regions as twin centre destination totalled 88,263, a decrease of 20.3 per cent when compared to 2018. The largest share of twin centre inbound tourists was in the 25-44 age bracket (45.9 per cent). The majority of inbound tourists on twin centre trips were first-time tourists (80.2 per cent) and came from EU Member States (81.0 per cent). The strongest markets were the United Kingdom and France. More than half of the twin centre inbound tourists travelled by low-cost airlines (59.0 per cent). Travelling by low cost and other airlines recorded significant decreases of 14.2 and 30.0 per cent respectively when compared to 2018 (Table 9).

A high proportion of twin centre tourists stayed in rented accommodation (89.8 per cent). Total nights spent by twin centre tourists decreased by 22.0 per cent when compared to 2018, amounting to 863,452 nights. The majority of inbound twin centre tourist nights (51.4 per cent) were spent in other rented accommodation, followed by 33.7 per cent in collective accommodation (Tables 10 and 11). In 2019, the average length of stay of inbound tourists visiting both regions stood at 9.8 nights, down by 0.2 of a night when compared to 2018 (Table 9).

Total expenditure spent by twin centre tourists was estimated at almost €84.8 million in 2019, a decrease of 20.8 per cent over 2018. Non-package expenditure by twin centre inbound tourists was almost seven times higher, when compared to package expenditure. Both package and non-package expenditures decreased by 48.4 and 11.5 per cent respectively when compared to 2018. A drop was also recorded in the other expenditure category (23.4 per cent) (Table 12).

Table 1. Profile of domestic tourists

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Regional overview					
Malta residents to Gozo/Comino region	236,838	227,121	215,272	-11,849	-5.2
Gozo/Comino residents to Malta region	23,924	18,356	21,965	3,610	19.7
Sex					
Males	131,891	122,148	128,266	6,118	5.0
Females	128,872	123,329	108,971	-14,357	-11.6
Age group					
15-24	40,786	39,686	42,691	3,005	7.6
25-44	111,235	110,700	102,584	-8,116	-7.3
45-64	81,145	67,317	62,228	-5,090	-7.6
65 or more	27,596	27,772	29,734	1,962	7.1
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	227,827	218,648	203,670	-14,978	-6.9
Visiting relatives and friends	17,398	16,306	19,254	2,948	18.1
Other (including business, educational, religious and health tourism)	15,538 ^u	10,523	14,314	3,791	36.0
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	217,938	202,760	199,355	-3,405	-1.7
4-6 nights	32,666	33,655	31,113	-2,542	-7.6
7 nights or more	10,159 ^u	9,061 ^u	6,769 ^u	-2,292	-25.3
Average length of stay (nights)	2.7	2.6	2.6	0.0	-
Total tourists	260,763	245,477	237,237	-8,239	-3.4

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

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Figures include residents in Malta and Gozo/Comino region.
3. Figures exclude individuals aged 0 to 14 years. Please refer to methodological note 1.

Source: National Tourism Survey, NSO

Table 2. Domestic tourists by year, region of destination and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Malta residents to Gozo/Comino region	236,838	227,121	215,272	-11,849	-5.2
Rented accommodation	164,460	156,472	146,944	-9,527	-6.1
Collective	64,263	59,746	58,152	-1,594	-2.7
Other rented	100,196	96,725	88,792	-7,933	-8.2
Non-rented accommodation	72,379	70,650	68,328	-2,322	-3.3
Gozo/Comino residents to Malta region	23,924	18,356	21,965	3,610	19.7
Rented accommodation	12,042	9,373	12,379	3,006	32.1
Non-rented accommodation	11,882	8,982	9,586	-	-
Total tourists	260,763	245,477	237,237	-8,239	-3.4

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Figures exclude individuals aged 0 to 14 years. Please refer to methodological note 1.
3. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 7.

Source: National Tourism Survey, NSO

Table 3. Total nights spent by domestic tourists by year, region of destination and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Malta residents to Gozo/Comino region	662,921	609,788	571,500	-38,288	-6.3
Rented accommodation	484,091	436,257	413,731	-22,526	-5.2
Collective	137,677	141,510	124,280	-17,230	-12.2
Other rented	346,415	294,747	289,451	-5,296	-1.8
Non-rented accommodation	178,829	173,532	157,769	-15,762	-9.1
Gozo/Comino residents to Malta region	45,563	40,249	46,710	6,461	16.1
Rented accommodation	23,824	20,263	25,102	4,839	23.9
Non-rented accommodation	21,738	19,986	21,608	-	-
Total nights	708,483	650,037	618,211	-31,827	-4.9

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Figures exclude individuals aged 0 to 14 years. Please refer to methodological note 1.
3. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 7.

Source: National Tourism Survey, NSO

Chart 4. Nights spent by Malta residents in Gozo/Comino region by type of accommodation

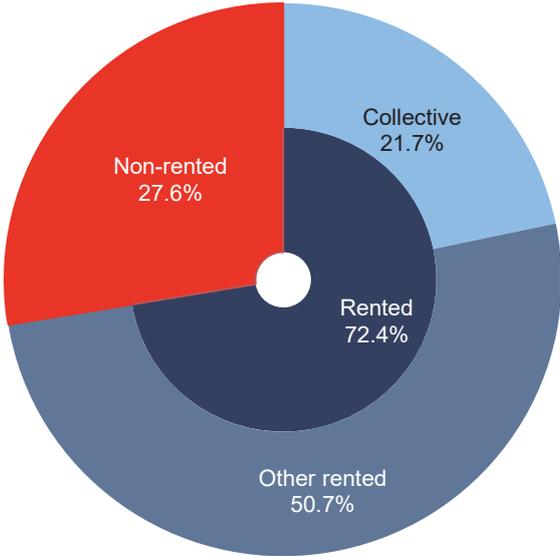


Chart 5. Nights spent by Gozo/Comino residents in Malta region by type of accommodation

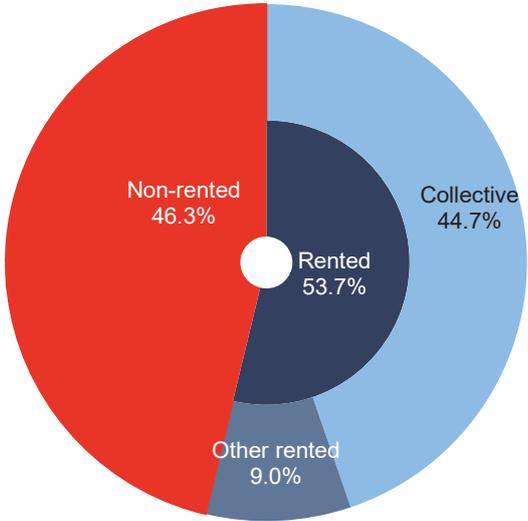


Table 4. Total expenditure by domestic tourists by year, region of destination and expenditure category

€ 000

Expenditure category	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Malta residents to Gozo/Comino region	40,032	38,368	35,876	-2,492	-6.5
Travel ticket	2,624	2,326	2,350	24	1.0
Accommodation	14,178	13,426	12,415	-1,011	-7.5
Other expenditure	23,230	22,616	21,111	-1,505	-6.7
Gozo/Comino residents to Malta region	3,441	2,583	3,457	874	33.9
Total expenditure	43,473	40,951	39,333	-1,618	-4.0

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
3. Figures exclude individuals aged 0 to 14 years. Please refer to methodological note 1.

Source: National Tourism Survey, NSO

Table 5. Average expenditure by year per capita and per night by domestic tourists and expenditure category

€

Expenditure category	January-December					
	per capita			per night		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Travel ticket	11	10	10	4	4	4
Accommodation	58	59	58	21	22	22
Other expenditure	98	98	98	36	37	38
Total	167	167	166	61	63	64

Notes:

1. Figures include expenditure spent by residents in Malta and Gozo/Comino region.
2. Figures exclude individuals aged 0 to 14 years. Please refer to methodological note 1.

Source: National Tourism Survey, NSO

Chart 6. Total expenditure per capita by domestic tourists by region of destination and expenditure category in 2019

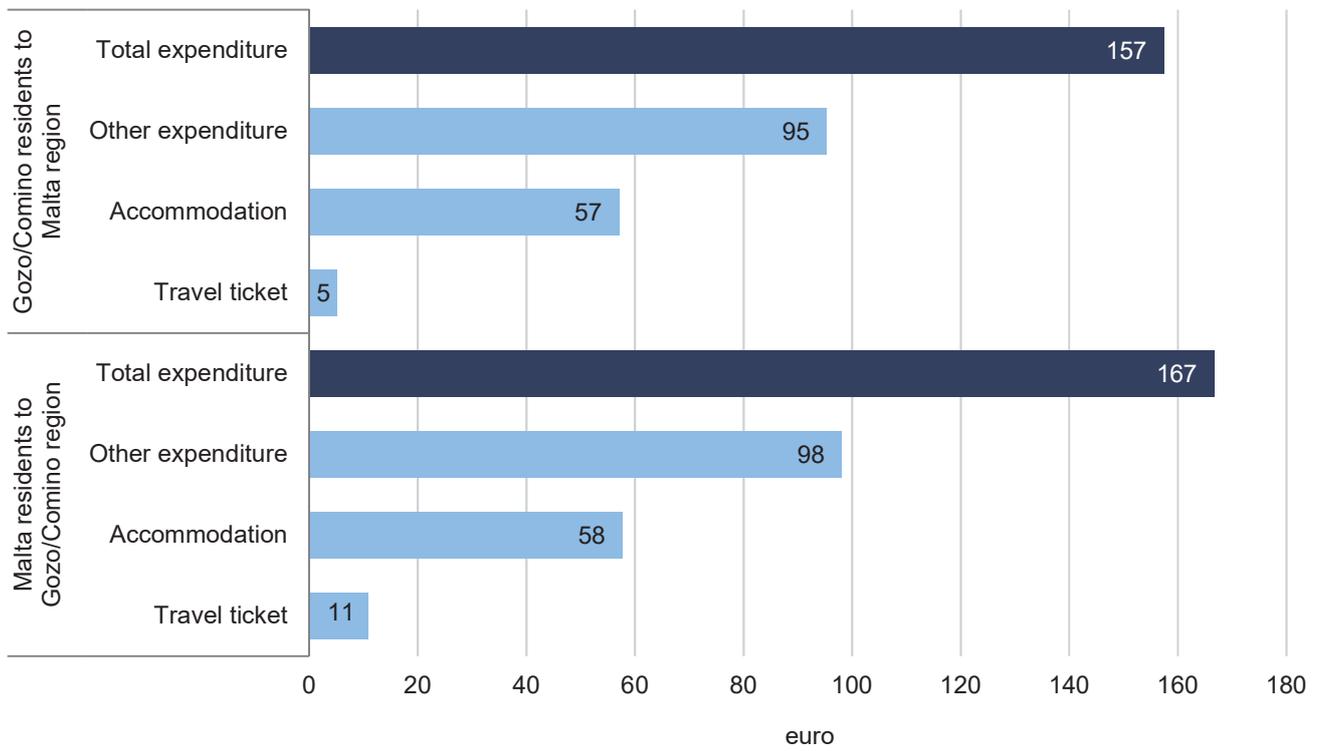


Table 6. General overview of inbound tourism to MALTA by year, itinerary and region

	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Inbound tourists:					
MALTA	2,273,837	2,598,690	2,753,239	154,550	5.9
<i>Single centre destination</i> ¹	2,182,963	2,487,891	2,664,976	177,085	7.1
Malta	2,090,679	2,393,841	2,572,261	178,420	7.5
Gozo/Comino	92,285	94,050	92,715	-	-
<i>Twin centre destination</i> ²	90,874	110,799	88,263	-22,535	-20.3
Malta and Gozo/Comino	90,874	110,799	88,263	-22,535	-20.3
Regional overview ³					
Malta	2,181,553	2,504,640	2,660,524	155,884	6.2
Gozo/Comino	183,159	204,849	180,979	-23,870	-11.7
Nights spent by inbound tourists:					
MALTA	16,509,141	18,569,716	19,338,860	769,144	4.1
<i>Single centre destination</i> ¹	15,500,445	17,462,254	18,475,408	1,013,154	5.8
Malta	14,654,370	16,618,246	17,659,854	1,041,608	6.3
Gozo/Comino	846,075	844,008	815,554	-28,454	-3.4
<i>Twin centre destination</i> ²	1,008,696	1,107,462	863,452	-244,010	-22.0
Malta	702,378	726,749	543,084	-183,665	-25.3
Gozo/Comino	306,318	380,713	320,368	-60,345	-15.9
Regional overview					
Malta	15,356,748	17,344,995	18,202,938	857,943	4.9
Gozo/Comino	1,152,393	1,224,721	1,135,922	-88,799	-7.3

¹ Single centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with overnight stays in one region only.

² Twin centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with combined overnight stays in both Malta and Gozo/Comino regions.

³ The summation of the regions exceeds inbound tourists visiting MALTA, because of double counting of twin centre destination tourists to Malta and Gozo/Comino regions, respectively.

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

2. MALTA gives the sum of residents of Malta and Gozo/Comino regions respectively.

3. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 7.

Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Tourstat), NSO

Table 7. Profile by year of inbound single centre destination tourists to Malta region

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Type and mode of travel					
Air	2,045,260	2,349,795	2,524,292	174,498	7.4
Low-cost airlines	1,087,988	1,298,775	1,473,655	174,880	13.5
Other airlines	957,272	1,051,019	1,050,637	-	-
Sea	45,419	44,046	47,969	3,922	8.9
Sex					
Males	1,079,546	1,203,527	1,280,911	77,384	6.4
Females	1,011,133	1,190,314	1,291,350	101,036	8.5
Age group					
0-14	98,950	89,194	111,312	22,118	24.8
15-24	294,871	349,109	401,319	52,210	15.0
25-44	791,239	926,071	1,029,641	103,570	11.2
45-64	666,791	759,851	764,406	4,556	0.6
65 or more	238,827	269,617	265,583	-4,034	-1.5
Country of residence					
EU	1,799,795	2,030,658	2,147,880	117,222	5.8
<i>of which:</i>					
France	157,310	189,147	216,905	27,758	14.7
Germany	170,805	203,560	190,560	-13,000	-6.4
Italy	345,711	372,939	375,842	2,903	0.8
Spain	70,976	92,700	110,868	18,168	19.6
United Kingdom	512,634	587,184	601,780	14,596	2.5
Non-EU	290,884	363,183	424,381	61,198	16.9
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	1,584,107	1,907,668	2,085,056	177,389	9.3
Visiting relatives and friends	184,455	187,587	188,943	-	-
Other (including business, educational, religious and health tourism)	322,116	298,586	298,261	-	-
Organisation of stay					
Package	763,614	852,411	791,595	-60,817	-7.1
Non-package	1,327,064	1,541,430	1,780,666	239,236	15.5
Frequency					
First-time tourists	1,536,898	1,773,898	1,931,615	157,716	8.9
Repeat tourists	553,781	619,943	640,646	20,703	3.3
once a year or less	391,715	447,118	471,152	24,033	5.4
more than once a year	162,066	172,824	169,495	-3,330	-1.9
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	437,193	526,666	591,666	64,999	12.3
4-6 nights	585,431	706,507	785,848	79,340	11.2
7 nights or more	1,068,055	1,160,667	1,194,748	34,080	2.9
Average length of stay (nights)	7.0	6.9	6.9	0.0	-
Total	2,090,679	2,393,841	2,572,261	178,420	7.5

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Single centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with overnight stays in one region only.
3. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 7.
4. Data for 2018 for the distribution of inbound tourism across age groups (third section of the table) has been revised.

Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Tourstat), NSO

Table 8. Profile by year of inbound single centre destination tourists to Gozo and Comino region

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Type and mode of travel					
Air	92,087	93,868	92,517	-	-
Low-cost airlines	49,917	54,397	52,786	-1,612	-3.0
Other airlines	42,170	39,470	39,731	-	-
Sea	:	:	:	-	-
Sex					
Males	46,629	47,161	46,996	-	-
Females	45,656	46,889	45,719	-	-
Age group					
0-14	6,726	5,210	6,516	-	-
15-24	10,874	12,707	10,283	-2,424	-19.1
25-44	30,641	29,996	31,683	1,688	5.6
45-64	35,128	35,368	36,889	1,521	4.3
65 or more	8,916	10,770	7,345	-3,425	-31.8
Country of residence					
EU	82,401	82,020	82,270	-	-
<i>of which:</i>					
France	5,500	6,649	6,908	-	-
Germany	15,464	13,823	14,141	-	-
Italy	8,585	7,806	8,575	-	-
Spain	:	:	:	-	-
United Kingdom	33,091	33,655	32,323	-	-
Non-EU	9,884	12,030	10,445	-1,585	-13.2
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	72,385	78,272	75,949	-2,322	-3.0
Visiting relatives and friends	13,663	12,218	13,426	-	-
Other (including business, educational, religious and health tourism)	6,236	3,560 ^u	3,340 ^u	-	-
Organisation of stay					
Package	23,700	21,565	19,293	-2,272	-10.5
Non-package	68,584	72,485	73,422	-	-
Frequency					
First-time tourists	53,259	54,284	53,774	-	-
Repeat tourists	39,026	39,766	38,941	-	-
once a year or less	29,691	30,218	29,691	-	-
more than once a year	9,335	9,548	9,250	-	-
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	6,678	7,487	6,644	-	-
4-6 nights	17,021	19,042	18,977	-	-
7 nights or more	68,586	67,521	67,095	-	-
Average length of stay (nights)	9.2	9.0	8.8	-0.2	-
Total	92,285	94,050	92,715	-	-

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Single centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with overnight stays in one region only.
3. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 7.

Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Tourstat), NSO

Table 9. Profile by year of inbound twin centre destination tourists to Malta and Gozo and Comino regions

Characteristics	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
Type and mode of travel					
Air	89,252	108,022	85,218	-22,804	-21.1
Low-cost airlines	45,881	60,719	52,106	-8,613	-14.2
Other airlines	43,372	47,303	33,112	-14,191	-30.0
Sea	1,622	2,776	3,045	-	-
Sex					
Males	42,755	49,996	40,643	-9,352	-18.7
Females	48,119	60,803	47,620	-13,183	-21.7
Age group					
0-14	5,419	5,372	4,237	-	-
15-24	13,310	13,826	10,930	-2,895	-20.9
25-44	38,319	49,835	40,518	-9,317	-18.7
45-64	26,152	31,514	25,521	-5,992	-19.0
65 or more	7,675	10,252	7,056	-3,196	-31.2
Country of residence					
EU	73,312	89,535	71,450	-18,085	-20.2
<i>of which:</i>					
France	13,561	17,503	15,326	-2,177	-12.4
Germany	6,764	9,579	6,845	-2,734	-28.5
Italy	9,372	9,862	8,538	-	-
Spain	3,561	5,578	4,098	-	-
United Kingdom	15,168	19,731	15,520	-4,211	-21.3
Non-EU	17,562	21,263	16,813	-4,450	-20.9
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	73,297	95,288	79,072	-16,216	-17.0
Visiting relatives and friends	10,548	10,594	5,700	-4,894	-46.2
Other (including business, educational, religious and health tourism)	7,030	4,917	3,492	-	-
Organisation of stay					
Package	15,071	12,630	7,126	-5,504	-43.6
Non-package	75,803	98,169	81,137	-17,031	-17.3
Frequency					
First-time tourists	69,860	84,304	70,751	-13,554	-16.1
Repeat tourists	21,014	26,495	17,513	-8,982	-33.9
once a year or less	16,574	20,676	13,948	-6,728	-32.5
more than once a year	4,439	5,818	3,565	-2,254	-38.7
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	5,887 ^u	3,250 ^u	2,570 ^u	-	-
4-6 nights	17,182	20,457	16,440	-4,016	-19.6
7 nights or more	67,806	87,092	69,253	-17,838	-20.5
Average length of stay (nights)	11.1	10.0	9.8	-0.2	-
Total	90,874	110,799	88,263	-22,535	-20.3

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

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Twin centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with combined overnight stays in both Malta and Gozo and Comino regions.
3. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 7.
4. Data for 2018 for the distribution of inbound tourism across age groups (third section of the table) has been revised.

Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Tourstat), NSO

Table 10. Inbound tourists by year, itinerary, region and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
MALTA	2,273,837	2,598,690	2,753,239	154,550	5.9
<i>Single centre destination</i> ¹	2,182,963	2,487,891	2,664,976	177,085	7.1
Malta	2,090,679	2,393,841	2,572,261	178,420	7.5
Rented accommodation	1,860,871	2,100,197	2,273,638	173,441	8.3
Collective	1,446,241	1,577,000	1,650,047	73,048	4.6
Other rented	414,630	523,197	623,590	100,393	19.2
Non-rented accommodation	229,808	293,645	298,623	4,979	1.7
Gozo/Comino	92,285	94,050	92,715	-	-
Rented accommodation	70,207	69,541	71,253	1,712	2.5
Collective	30,190	28,876	26,331	-2,545	-8.8
Other rented	40,016	40,665	44,922	4,257	10.5
Non-rented accommodation	22,078	24,509	21,462	-3,047	-12.4
<i>Twin centre destination</i> ²	90,874	110,799	88,263	-22,535	-20.3
Malta and Gozo/Comino	90,874	110,799	88,263	-22,535	-20.3
Rented accommodation	78,226	96,140	79,232	-16,908	-17.6
Collective	41,954	45,523	33,588	-11,935	-26.2
Other rented	36,272	50,617	45,644	-4,973	-9.8
Non-rented accommodation	12,648	14,659	9,031	-5,628	-38.4

¹ Single centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with overnight stays in one region only.

² Twin centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with combined overnight stays in both Malta and Gozo/Comino regions.

Notes:

1. Tourists visiting Malta and Gozo/Comino regions as twin centre destination provide information only on the main accommodation used in either one of the regions. No information is provided in respect of the accommodation used for the remaining nights which are spent in the other region. In this regard, the nights of twin centre tourists cannot be segregated by the type of accommodation used in each of the respective regions.

2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

3. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 7.

4. MALTA gives the sum of residents of Malta and Gozo/Comino regions respectively.

Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Tourstat), NSO

Table 11. Total nights spent by inbound tourists by year, itinerary, region and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
MALTA	16,509,141	18,569,716	19,338,860	769,144	4.1
<i>Single centre destination</i> ¹	15,500,445	17,462,254	18,475,408	1,013,154	5.8
Malta	14,654,370	16,618,246	17,659,854	1,041,608	6.3
Rented accommodation	12,625,797	14,061,749	14,905,222	843,473	6.0
Collective	8,850,807	9,479,329	9,587,692	108,363	1.1
Other rented	3,774,989	4,582,420	5,317,530	735,110	16.0
Non-rented accommodation	2,028,573	2,556,498	2,754,632	198,135	7.8
Gozo/Comino	846,075	844,008	815,554	-	-
Rented accommodation	584,130	556,475	590,357	33,883	6.1
Collective	221,727	218,001	189,927	-28,074	-12.9
Other rented	362,403	338,474	400,430	61,956	18.3
Non-rented accommodation	261,945	287,533	225,197	-62,337	-21.7
<i>Twin centre destination</i> ²	1,008,696	1,107,462	863,452	-244,010	-22.0
Malta and Gozo/Comino	1,008,696	1,107,462	863,452	-244,010	-22.0
Rented accommodation	807,148	892,990	735,201	-157,789	-17.7
Collective	345,094	384,523	291,014	-93,509	-24.3
Other rented	462,054	508,467	444,187	-64,280	-12.6
Non-rented accommodation	201,548	214,472	128,251	-86,221	-40.2

¹ Single centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with overnight stays in one region only.

² Twin centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with combined overnight stays in both Malta and Gozo and Comino regions.

Notes:

1. Tourists visiting Malta and Gozo and Comino regions as twin centre destination provide information only on the main accommodation used in either one of the regions. No information is provided in respect of the accommodation used for the remaining nights which are spent in the other region. In this regard, the nights of twin centre tourists cannot be segregated by the type of accommodation used in each of the respective regions.

2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

3. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 7.

4. MALTA gives the sum of residents of Malta and Gozo and Comino regions.

Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Tourstat), NSO

Table 12. Total expenditure by inbound tourists by year, itinerary, region and expenditure category

€ 000

Expenditure category	January-December			Change	Percentage change
	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018	
MALTA	1,946,894	2,101,764	2,220,627	118,862	5.7
<i>Single centre destination</i> ¹	1,850,410	1,994,681	2,135,853	141,172	7.1
Malta	1,768,947	1,916,343	2,059,313	142,970	7.5
Package	493,505	579,193	537,396	-41,797	-7.2
Non-package	572,826	646,676	774,089	127,413	19.7
Travel ticket	260,637	304,980	362,329	57,349	18.8
Accommodation	312,189	341,696	411,760	70,063	20.5
Other expenditure	702,616	690,474	747,828	57,354	8.3
Gozo/Comino	81,463	78,338	76,539	-1,798	-2.3
Package	16,622	16,483	14,634	-1,849	-11.2
Non-package	28,923	29,604	31,824	2,220	7.5
Travel ticket	15,573	15,071	16,151	1,081	7.2
Accommodation	13,350	14,533	15,672	1,139	7.8
Other expenditure	35,918	32,252	30,082	-2,170	-6.7
<i>Twin centre destination</i> ²	96,484	107,083	84,774	-22,310	-20.8
Malta and Gozo/Comino	96,484	107,083	84,774	-22,310	-20.8
Package	11,743	12,996	6,710	-6,286	-48.4
Non-package	39,427	50,126	44,385	-5,740	-11.5
Travel ticket	17,146	21,665	18,471	-3,194	-14.7
Accommodation	22,281	28,461	25,915	-2,546	-8.9
Other expenditure	45,314	43,962	33,679	-10,284	-23.4

¹ Single centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with overnight stays in one region only.

² Twin centre destination includes inbound tourism trips with combined overnight stays in both Malta and Gozo and Comino regions.

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
3. MALTA gives the sum of residents of Malta and Gozo and Comino regions.

Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Tourstat), NSO

Methodological Notes

1. This release focuses on domestic and inbound tourism overnight stays. Users should be aware that domestic same-day visits and overnight stays within the same region of origin, such as, day-trips to Gozo and Comino region and weekend breaks in Malta region by Malta residents, are not included within the scope of this news release. Domestic tourism excludes individuals aged 0 to 14 years. Regional flows of inbound tourism exclude same-day visits across regions and classify trips into two components: single centre destination and twin centre destination.
2. Inbound 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 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. Tourist sea departures data is supplemented by administrative data provided by ferry operators. Tourstat measures the number of tourist trips carried out during a reference period. 'Tourist trips' differs from the 'number of tourists' such that the same person can undertake more than one trip during a reference period.
3. In 2014, the National Statistics Office has introduced a new tool to measure National Tourism to satisfy the concepts and definitions as outlined by Eurostat. The collection consists of tourism demand data on domestic and outbound trips as required by Regulation (EC) No. 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning statistics on tourism statistics. The Regulation aims at giving a complete and comprehensive picture of tourism in Europe and allows the comparability of results with other EU member states. Data is collected via a quarterly Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) survey.
4. 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.
5. 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'.
6. Prior to comparing and interpreting differences between demand-side (based on Tourstat and National Tourism surveys) and supply-side (based on Accomstat survey) tourism statistics, users are strongly advised to consult concept 8.3 of the NSO's metadata file (<http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=37>).
7. 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 (-).
8. **Definitions:**
 - **Usual Environment:** The geographical area, though not necessarily a continuous 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.
 - **Residents:** A person is considered to be a resident of Malta/Gozo and Comino if:
 - a. S/he has lived for most of the past 12 months in Malta/Gozo and Comino;
 - 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 collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.
 - **Domestic tourism:** comprises the activities of a resident visitor within the country, i.e. Maltese residents visiting Gozo and Comino and vice versa and staying for not more than 12 consecutive months for personal, business or other purposes.
 - **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.
 - **Single centre destination:** refers to inbound tourism trips with overnight stays in one region only.
 - **Twin centre destination:** refers to inbound tourism trips with combined overnight stays in two regions, i.e., Malta and Gozo and Comino regions.
 - **Total nights spent:** nights which a guest actually spends or is registered to spend in a collective accommodation establishment or in a private 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.
 - 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 a sport event, entrance to a museum or zoo 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. The nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) provides a single, uniform breakdown of the economic territory of the European Union. The NUTS is the territorial classification for the compilation of regional statistics. The economic territory of a country can be divided into regional territories and the extra-regio territory. For the purpose of regional analysis, MALTA is divided as follows:

	NUTS 0	NUTS 1	NUTS 2	NUTS 3
MALTA	MT	MT0	MT00	MT000
Malta				MT001
Gozo and Comino				MT002
Extra-regio		MTZ	MTZZ	MTZZZ

The regional territory includes the region that is part of the geographic territory of a country and any free zones, including bonded warehouses and factories under customs control in the region. The extra-regio territory is made up of parts of the economic territory of a country that cannot be attached directly to a single region.

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/TOURSTAT-Survey.aspx
https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Pages/National-Tourism-Survey.aspx

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

Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=37>

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 domestic tourism are available at:

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

Data Navigation Tree

>Database by themes

>Industry, trade and services

>Tourism (t_tour)

>Annual data on trips of EU residents (t_tour_dem)

For further assistance send a request from:

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