

During the second quarter of 2022, sea transport between Malta and Gozo registered increases in trips, passengers and vehicles when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021.

Sea Transport between Malta and Gozo: Q2/2022

Sea transport between Malta and Gozo

Between April and June 2022, a total of 10,338 trips were carried out, carrying a total of 1,478,626 passengers (Table 1). June was the busiest month recording a total of 3,566 trips or 34.5 per cent of total trips for the quarter (Tables 3 and 7).

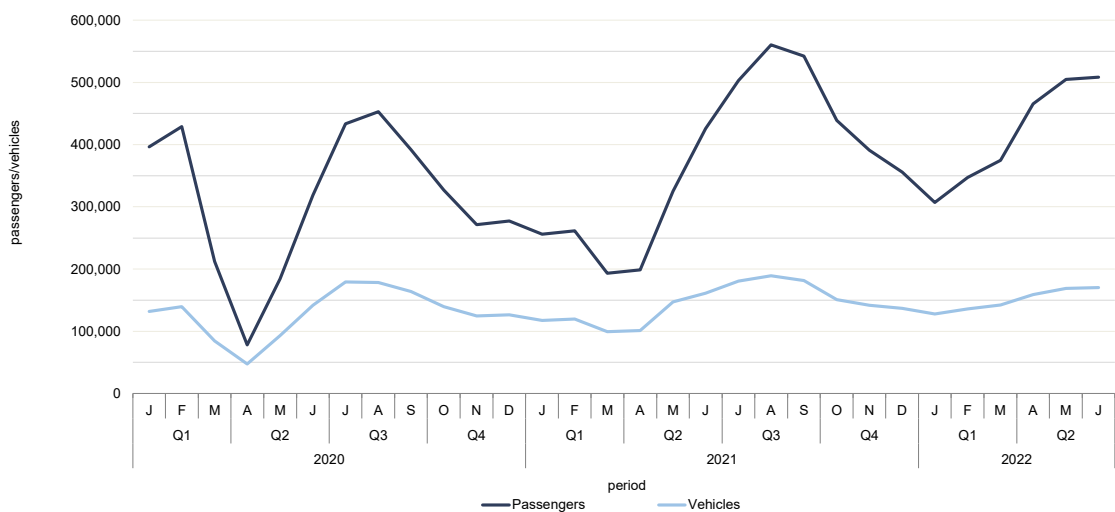
Sea transport between Mġarr and Ċirkewwa

A total of 1,352,221 passengers travelled between Mġarr and Ċirkewwa during the second quarter of 2022, an increase of 49.0 per cent when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021. The highest number of passengers was recorded in June - 459,524 or 34.0 per cent of the total for the quarter. When compared to the previous year, the number of vehicles increased by 21.6 per cent, totalling 498,214 (Tables 2 and 3).

The number of trips during the second quarter amounted to 8,675, an increase of 19.6 per cent over the same period in 2021 (Table 2). June registered the highest number of trips - 2,964 or 34.2 per cent of total trips for the quarter (Table 3).

During January-June 2022, both passenger and vehicle traffic originating from Ċirkewwa was busiest on Fridays and Saturdays. On the other hand, from the Mġarr terminal, passenger traffic was highest on Sundays and Saturdays, while the highest number of vehicles were recorded on Sundays and Mondays (Charts 4 and 5).

Chart 1. Passengers and vehicles crossing between Malta and Gozo



Sea transport between Mġarr and Valletta

During the second quarter of 2022, a total of 1,663 trips were carried out carrying a total of 126,405 passengers (Table 6). May registered the highest number of trips - 637 or 38.3 per cent of total trips for the quarter while June recorded the highest number of passengers - 48,605 or 38.5 per cent for the quarter. (Table 7).

Map 1. Distribution of trips between Malta and Gozo during Q2/2022

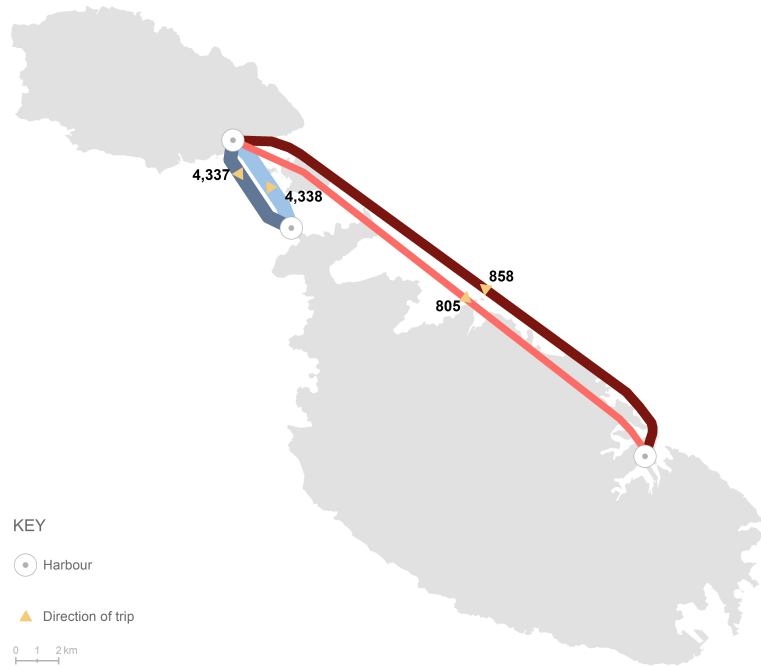


Chart 2. Distribution of passengers by type of transport between Malta and Gozo during Q2/2022

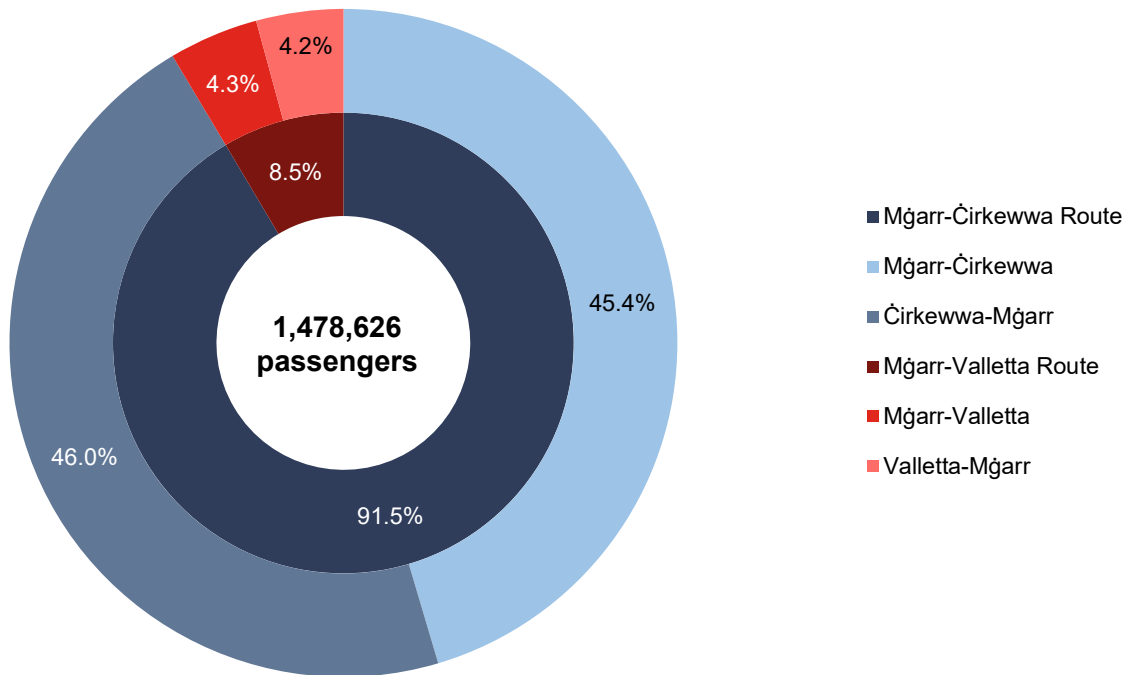


Table 1. Total sea transport between Malta and Gozo by year and quarter

Quarter	2020	2021	2022	Change	Percentage change	
				2022/2021	2022/2021	
Trips	Q1	7,324	6,139	9,402	3,263	53.2
	Q2	5,334	8,341	10,338	1,997	23.9
	Q3	8,300	12,758			
	Q4	8,094	11,215			
	Total	29,052	38,453			
Vehicles	Q1	356,997	336,816	406,285	69,469	20.6
	Q2	282,446	409,569	498,214	88,645	21.6
	Q3	521,914	551,438			
	Q4	390,781	429,806			
	Total	1,552,138	1,727,629			
Passengers	Q1	1,038,142	710,749	1,029,237	318,488	44.8
	Q2	581,311	949,837	1,478,626	528,789	55.7
	Q3	1,278,474	1,605,604			
	Q4	876,054	1,185,502			
	Total	3,773,981	4,451,692			

Note: The Fast Ferry service between Mġarr and Valletta commenced on 1 June 2021. As from second quarter of 2021 aggregate values comprising of trips and passengers carried by both the fast ferry service and the Gozo Channel are included in the above table.

Table 2. Sea transport between Mġarr and Ċirkewwa by year and quarter

Quarter	2020	2021	2022	Change	Percentage change	
				2022/2021	2022/2021	
Trips	Q1	7,324	6,139	7,883	1,744	28.4
	Q2	5,334	7,255	8,675	1,420	19.6
	Q3	8,300	8,552			
	Q4	8,094	8,479			
	Total	29,052	30,425			
Vehicles	Q1	356,997	336,816	406,285	69,469	20.6
	Q2	282,446	409,569	498,214	88,645	21.6
	Q3	521,914	551,438			
	Q4	390,781	429,806			
	Total	1,552,138	1,727,629			
Passengers	Q1	1,038,142	710,749	961,978	251,229	35.3
	Q2	581,311	907,453	1,352,221	444,768	49.0
	Q3	1,278,474	1,402,030			
	Q4	876,054	1,066,788			
	Total	3,773,981	4,087,020			

Chart 3. Passengers and vehicles to and from Mġarr and Ċirkewwa: April-June

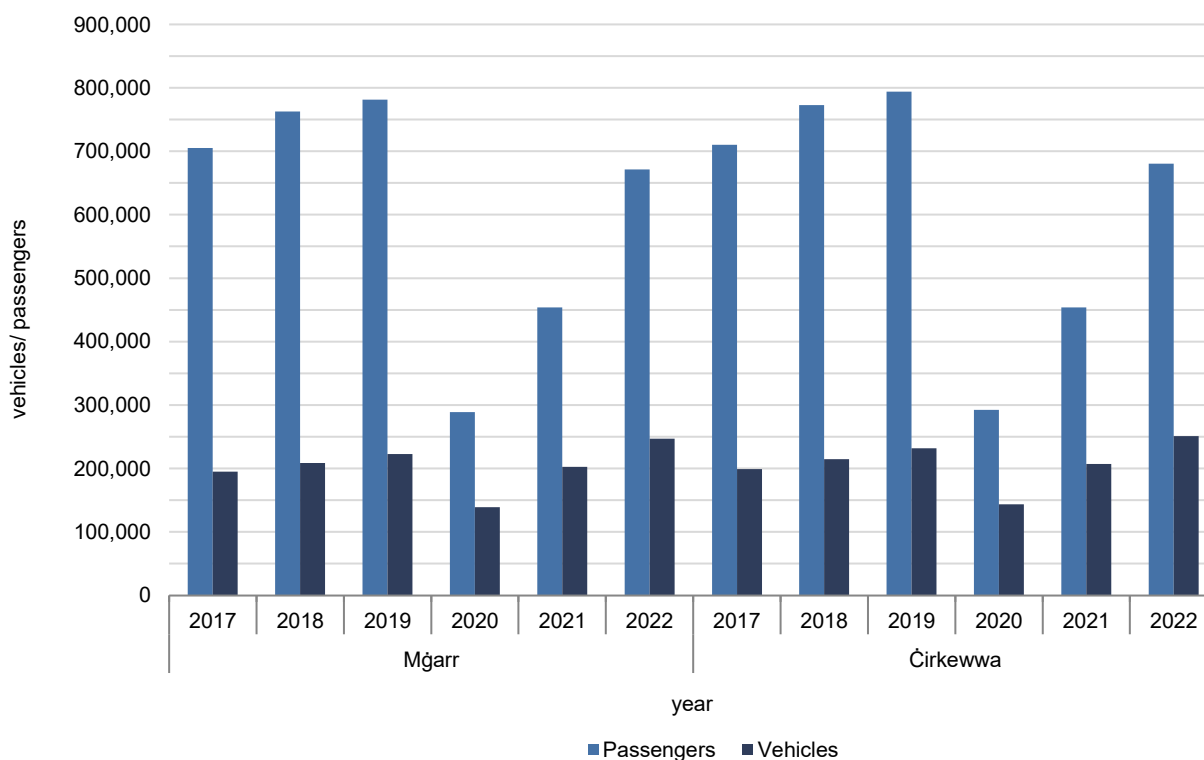


Table 3. Sea transport between Mġarr and Ċirkewwa by year and month

Month	2020	2021	2022	Change	Percentage change	
				2022/2021	2022/2021	
Trips	January	2,454	2,090	2,329	239	11.4
	February	2,494	1,939	2,542	603	31.1
	March	2,376	2,110	3,012	902	42.7
	April	1,534	2,034	2,899	865	42.5
	May	1,664	2,504	2,812	308	12.3
	June	2,136	2,717	2,964	247	9.1
	July	2,790	2,858			
	August	2,788	2,876			
	September	2,722	2,818			
	October	2,760	2,826			
	November	2,642	2,793			
	December	2,692	2,860			
	Total	29,052	30,425			
Vehicles	January	132,191	117,519	128,063	10,544	9.0
	February	139,905	119,878	135,705	15,827	13.2
	March	84,901	99,419	142,517	43,098	43.3
	April	47,805	101,106	158,997	57,891	57.3
	May	93,064	147,322	168,949	21,627	14.7
	June	141,577	161,141	170,268	9,127	5.7
	July	179,425	180,635			
	August	178,527	189,183			
	September	163,962	181,620			
	October	139,860	150,688			
	November	124,499	141,927			
	December	126,422	137,191			
	Total	1,552,138	1,727,629			
Passengers	January	396,542	255,979	289,539	33,560	13.1
	February	429,259	261,636	324,268	62,632	23.9
	March	212,341	193,134	348,171	155,037	80.3
	April	78,407	198,964	436,079	237,115	119.2
	May	184,082	325,103	456,618	131,515	40.5
	June	318,822	383,386	459,524	76,138	19.9
	July	433,455	444,491			
	August	452,929	487,074			
	September	392,090	470,465			
	October	327,214	392,221			
	November	271,499	345,719			
	December	277,341	328,848			
	Total	3,773,981	4,087,020			

Table 4. Sea transport to and from Mġarr and Ċirkewwa by year and month

Month	Ċirkewwa - Mġarr		Change		Percentage change		Mġarr - Ċirkewwa		Change		Percentage change	
	2021	2022	2022/2021	2022/2021	2021	2022	2022/2021	2022/2021	2021	2022	2022/2021	2022/2021
Trips	January	1,045	1,164	119	11.4	1,045	1,165	120	11.5			
	February	969	1,271	302	31.2	970	1,271	301	31.0			
	March	1,055	1,506	451	42.7	1,055	1,506	451	42.7			
	April	1,017	1,450	433	42.6	1,017	1,449	432	42.5			
	May	1,253	1,406	153	12.2	1,251	1,406	155	12.4			
	June	1,358	1,482	124	9.1	1,359	1,482	123	9.1			
	July	1,429				1,429						
	August	1,438				1,438						
	September	1,409				1,409						
	October	1,411				1,415						
	November	1,397				1,396						
	December	1,430				1,430						
	Total	15,211				15,214						
Vehicles	January	57,777	63,154	5,377	9.3	59,742	64,909	5,167	8.6			
	February	60,569	68,659	8,090	13.4	59,309	67,046	7,737	13.0			
	March	50,526	72,266	21,740	43.0	48,893	70,251	21,358	43.7			
	April	51,166	80,481	29,315	57.3	49,940	78,516	28,576	57.2			
	May	74,198	84,328	10,130	13.7	73,124	84,621	11,497	15.7			
	June	81,664	86,206	4,542	5.6	79,477	84,062	4,585	5.8			
	July	92,812				87,823						
	August	94,287				94,896						
	September	91,369				90,251						
	October	76,734				73,954						
	November	70,945				70,982						
	December	70,568				66,623						
	Total	872,615				855,014						
Passengers	January	124,175	141,940	17,765	14.3	131,804	147,599	15,795	12.0			
	February	131,298	162,682	31,384	23.9	130,338	161,586	31,248	24.0			
	March	97,122	174,337	77,215	79.5	96,012	173,834	77,822	81.1			
	April	101,177	218,856	117,679	116.3	97,787	217,223	119,436	122.1			
	May	160,611	229,081	68,470	42.6	164,492	227,537	63,045	38.3			
	June	191,899	232,727	40,828	21.3	191,487	226,797	35,310	18.4			
	July	224,591				219,900						
	August	242,205				244,869						
	September	234,581				235,884						
	October	200,367				191,854						
	November	171,527				174,192						
	December	168,566				160,282						
	Total	2,048,119				2,038,901						

Table 5. Sea transport between Mġarr and Ċirkewwa by year and day of the week: January-June

Day of the week		January-June			Change	Percentage change
		2020	2021	2022	2022/2021	2022/2021
Trips	Monday	1,756	1,911	2,378	467	24.4
	Tuesday	1,758	1,895	2,364	469	24.7
	Wednesday	1,725	1,898	2,361	463	24.4
	Thursday	1,821	1,815	2,356	541	29.8
	Friday	1,921	2,066	2,387	321	15.5
	Saturday	1,789	1,766	2,314	548	31.0
	Sunday	1,888	2,043	2,398	355	17.4
	Total	12,658	13,394	16,558	3,164	23.6
Vehicles	Monday	89,301	101,082	121,033	19,951	19.7
	Tuesday	83,227	100,525	118,995	18,470	18.4
	Wednesday	85,000	102,940	126,797	23,857	23.2
	Thursday	92,092	101,853	126,532	24,679	24.2
	Friday	104,415	121,132	138,032	16,900	14.0
	Saturday	90,775	110,070	136,000	25,930	23.6
	Sunday	94,633	108,783	137,110	28,327	26.0
	Total	639,443	746,385	904,499	158,114	21.2
Passengers	Monday	218,662	213,365	300,610	87,245	40.9
	Tuesday	191,988	209,129	290,998	81,869	39.1
	Wednesday	205,886	216,533	315,914	99,381	45.9
	Thursday	228,380	206,460	320,083	113,623	55.0
	Friday	258,860	254,793	339,163	84,370	33.1
	Saturday	243,642	250,803	362,436	111,633	44.5
	Sunday	272,035	267,119	384,995	117,876	44.1
	Total	1,619,453	1,618,202	2,314,199	695,997	43.0

Chart 4. Vehicles to and from Mġarr and Ċirkewwa by day of the week: January-June

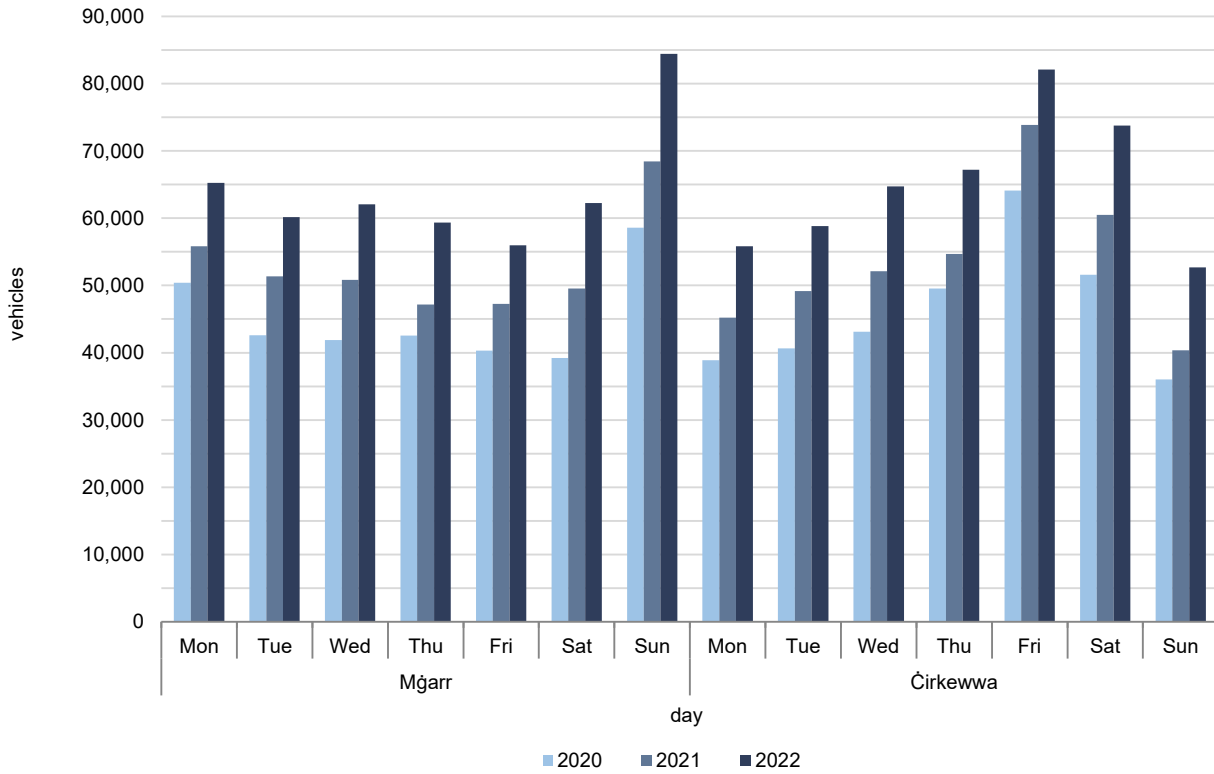


Chart 5. Passengers to and from Mġarr and Ċirkewwa by day of the week: January-June

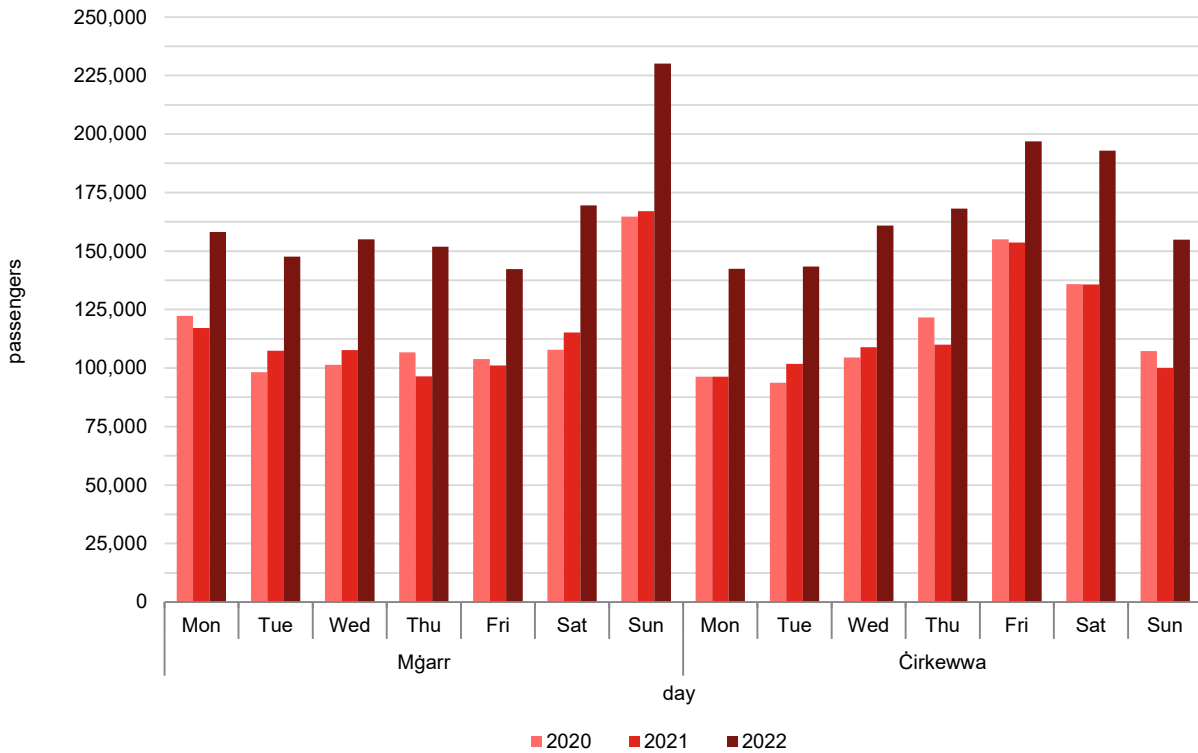


Table 6. Sea transport between Mġarr and Valletta by year and quarter

Quarter		2021	2022
Trips	Q1	-	1,519
	Q2	1,086	1,663
	Q3	4,206	
	Q4	2,736	
	Total	8,028	
Passengers	Q1	-	67,259
	Q2	42,384	126,405
	Q3	203,574	
	Q4	118,714	
	Total	364,672	

Note: The fast ferry service does not allow for the transport of vehicles, thus, only foot passengers are included.

Table 7. Sea transport to and from Mġarr and Valletta by month: 2022

Month	Valletta-Mġarr	Mġarr-Valletta	Total	
Trips	January	231	259	490
	February	213	236	449
	March	292	288	580
	April	216	208	424
	May	331	306	637
	June	311	291	602
	July			
	August			
	September			
	October			
	November			
	December			
	Total			
Passengers	January	8,210	9,490	17,700
	February	11,124	11,927	23,051
	March	12,806	13,702	26,508
	April	15,014	14,714	29,728
	May	23,654	24,418	48,072
	June	23,547	25,058	48,605
	July			
	August			
	September			
	October			
	November			
	December			
	Total			

Note: The fast ferry service does not allow for the transport of vehicles, thus, only foot passengers are included.

Methodological Notes

1. The source of the data included in this release is administrative information provided by the Gozo Channel Co. Ltd and Transport Malta.
2. The fast ferry service operating between Mġarr and Valletta commenced on 1 June 2021.
3. The table below illustrates the vehicle and passenger 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 purposes:

MV Gaudos: 04/01/2021 - 11/02/2021.

MV Malita: 09/01/2019-31/01/2019, 06/02/2019-13/02/2019, 07/03/2019-08/03/2019, 25/11/2019-02/12/2019 and 06/01/2022-10/02/2022.

MV Ta' Pinu: 06/01/2020-10/02/2020.

MV Nikolaos started operating on 13/06/2019.

MV Nikolaos was put temporarily out of service as from 27/04/2020-02/07/2020 and 25/04/2022-29/05/2022.

4. The table below illustrates the passenger capacity of each fast ferry service vessel:

Carrying capacity

Vessel	Passengers
Your Wisdom (Gozo Fast Ferry Ltd)	296
Your Faith (Gozo Fast Ferry Ltd)	296
Gozo Express (Virtu Ferries Ltd)*	308
San Franġisk (Virtu Ferries Ltd)	316

*The fast ferry service vessel, Gozo Express (Virtu Ferries Ltd) replaced San Pawl (Virtu Ferries Ltd) on 17/05/2022.

5. Data for passengers travelling between Mġarr and Ċirkewwa comprises of foot and vehicle passengers and vehicle drivers. The fast ferry service does not allow for the transport of vehicles thus, only foot passengers are included.
6. Different approaches to data collection are being applied at the Mġarr and Ċirkewwa harbours with regards to the Gozo Channel service. Data source for the Mġarr side includes Automated Ticketing System (ATS), while data for the Ċirkewwa side is dependent on the manual clicking system.
7. The data is not normally subject to revision.
8. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
9. 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

10. Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.
11. A detailed news release calendar is available on https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx