

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

Sea Transport between Malta and Gozo: Q4/2022

Sea transport between Malta and Gozo

Between October and December 2022, a total of 9,566 trips were carried out, carrying a total of 1,397,409 passengers (Table 1). October was the busiest month recording a total of 3,325 trips or 34.8 per cent of total trips for the quarter (Tables 3 and 7).

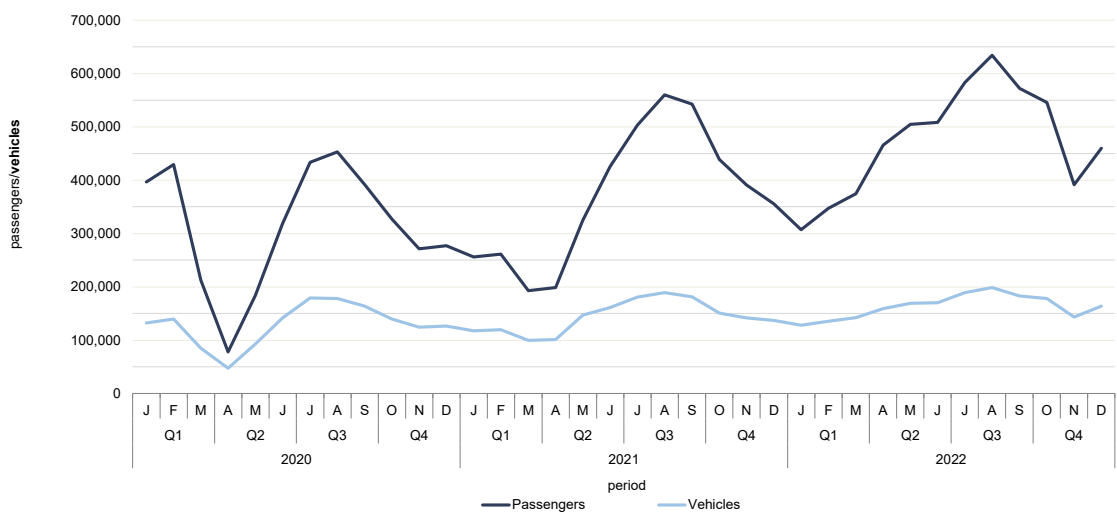
Sea transport between Mġarr and Ċirkewwa

A total of 1,314,039 passengers travelled between Mġarr and Ċirkewwa during the fourth quarter of 2022, an increase of 23.2 per cent when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021. The highest number of passengers was recorded in October totalling 508,840 or 38.7 per cent of the total for the quarter. When compared to the previous year, the number of vehicles increased by 12.9 per cent, totalling 485,191 (Tables 2 and 3).

The number of trips during the fourth quarter amounted to 8,886, an increase of 4.8 per cent over the same period in 2021 (Table 2). October registered the highest number of trips totalling 3,074 or 34.6 per cent of total trips for the quarter (Table 3).

During January-December 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 fourth quarter of 2022, a total of 680 trips were carried out carrying a total of 83,370 passengers. When compared to same quarter in 2021, the number of trips and passengers decreased by 75.1 and 29.8 per cent respectively (Table 6). December registered the highest number of trips, 258 or 37.9 per cent of total trips for the quarter, while October recorded the highest number of passengers, 36,926 or 44.3 per cent for the quarter (Table 7).

Annual perspective

Including both the Gozo Channel ferry service and the fast ferry service, during 2022, the number of trips went up by 2,286 or 5.9 per cent, when compared to 2021. Vehicle movements between the islands increased by 233,186 or 13.5 per cent, over the previous year, while the number of passengers went up by 1,243,112 or 27.9 per cent (Table 1). During 2022, July recorded the highest number of trips totalling 3,892, while August recorded the highest number of passengers and vehicles, with 634,335 and 198,795 respectively (Tables 3 and 7).

Map 1. Distribution of trips between Malta and Gozo during Q4/2022

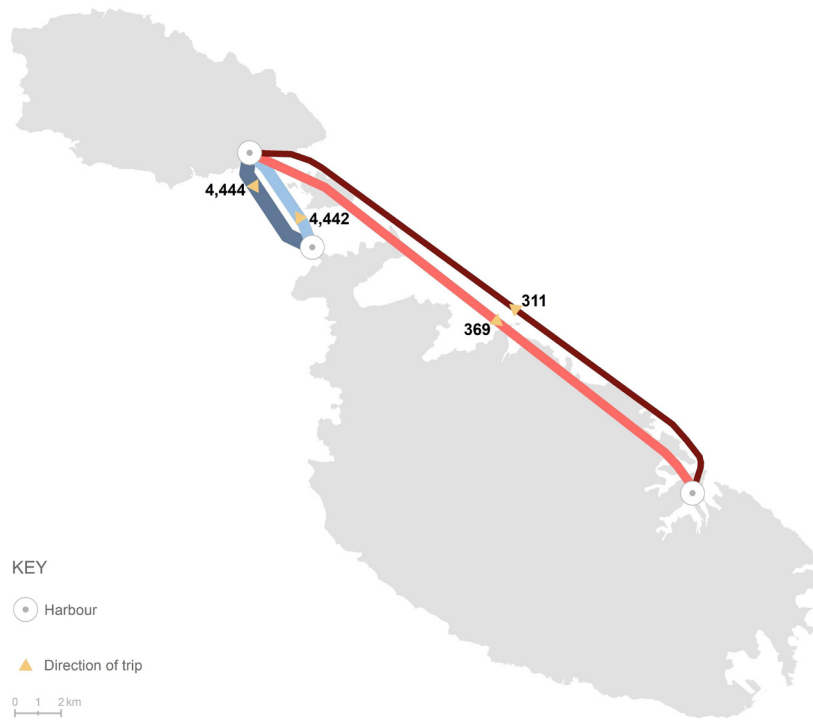


Chart 2. Distribution of passengers by type of transport between Malta and Gozo during Q4/2022

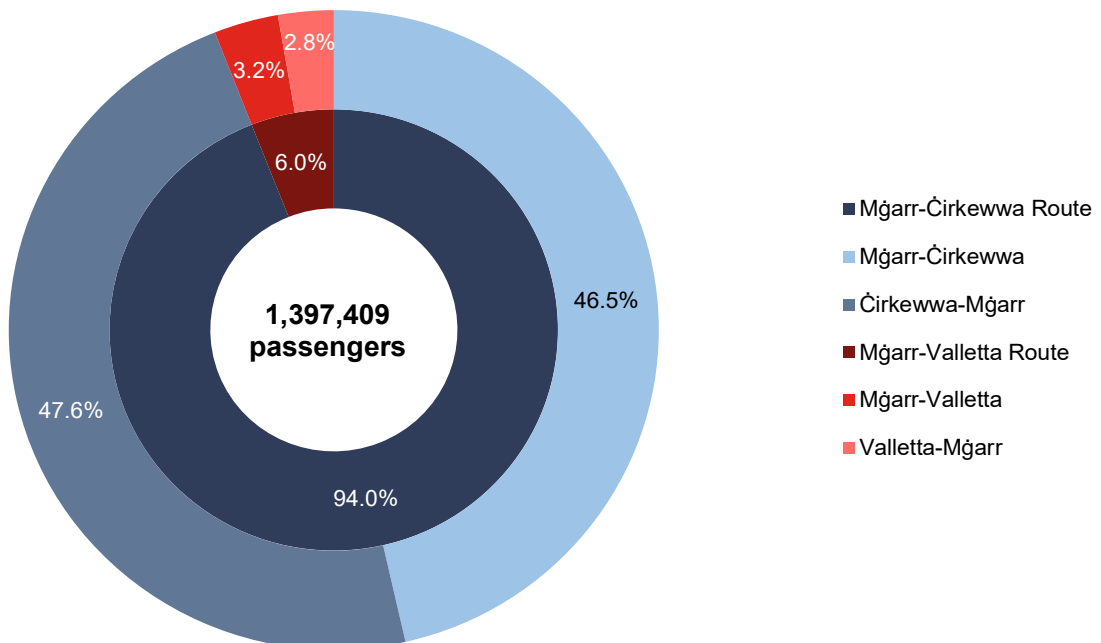


Table 1. Total sea transport between Malta and Gozo by year and quarter

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	11,433	-1,325	-10.4
	Q4	8,094	11,215	9,566	-1,649	-14.7
	Total	29,052	38,453	40,739	2,286	5.9
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	571,125	19,687	3.6
	Q4	390,781	429,806	485,191	55,385	12.9
	Total	1,552,138	1,727,629	1,960,815	233,186	13.5
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	1,789,532	183,928	11.5
	Q4	876,054	1,185,502	1,397,409	211,907	17.9
	Total	3,773,981	4,451,692	5,694,804	1,243,112	27.9

Notes:

1. 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.
2. Data for the fast ferry service between Mġarr and Valletta was revised for Q3/2022.

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	9,138	586	6.9
	Q4	8,094	8,479	8,886	407	4.8
	Total	29,052	30,425	34,582	4,157	13.7
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	571,125	19,687	3.6
	Q4	390,781	429,806	485,191	55,385	12.9
	Total	1,552,138	1,727,629	1,960,815	233,186	13.5
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	1,590,386	188,356	13.4
	Q4	876,054	1,066,788	1,314,039	247,251	23.2
	Total	3,773,981	4,087,020	5,218,624	1,131,604	27.7

Chart 3. Passengers and vehicles to and from Mġarr and Ċirkewwa: October-December

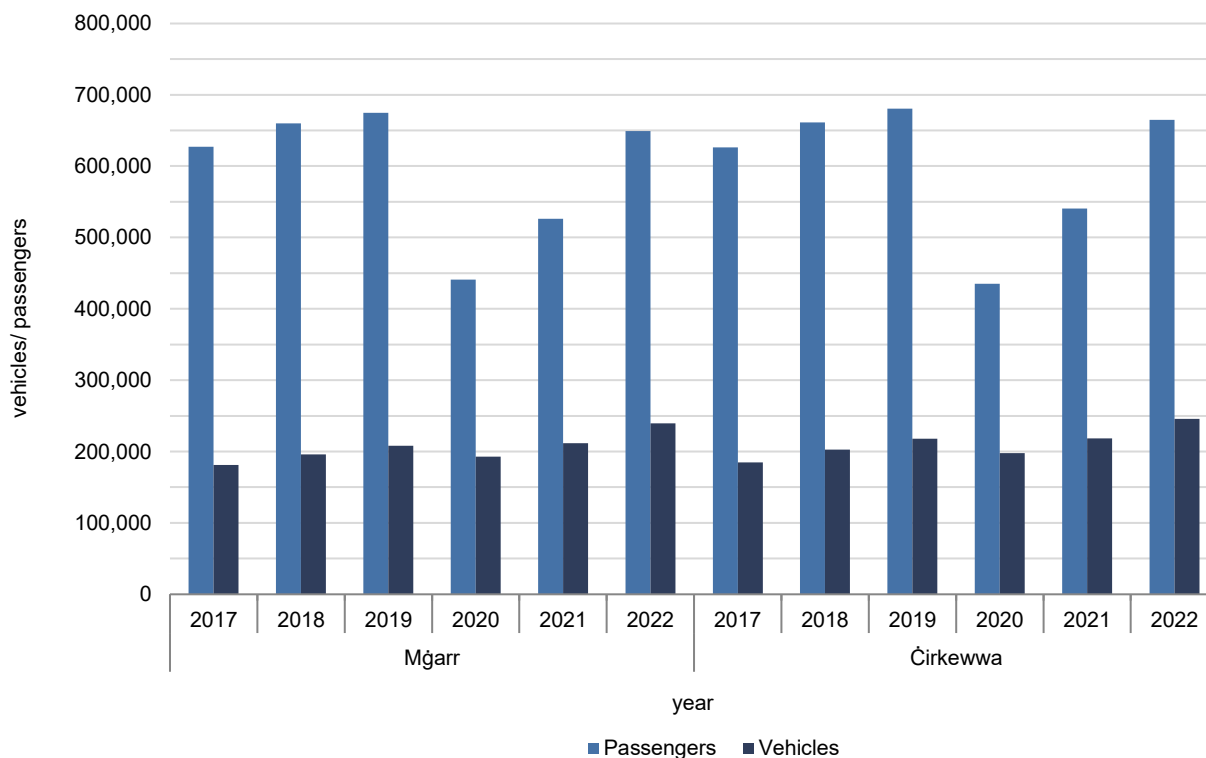


Table 3. Sea transport between Mġarr and Ċirkewwa by year and month

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	3,068	210	7.3
August	2,788	2,876	3,084	208	7.2
September	2,722	2,818	2,986	168	6.0
October	2,760	2,826	3,074	248	8.8
November	2,642	2,793	2,800	7	0.3
December	2,692	2,860	3,012	152	5.3
Total	29,052	30,425	34,582	4,157	13.7
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	189,129	8,494	4.7
August	178,527	189,183	198,795	9,612	5.1
September	163,962	181,620	183,201	1,581	0.9
October	139,860	150,688	178,232	27,544	18.3
November	124,499	141,927	143,231	1,304	0.9
December	126,422	137,191	163,728	26,537	19.3
Total	1,552,138	1,727,629	1,960,815	233,186	13.5
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	514,883	70,392	15.8
August	452,929	487,074	562,464	75,390	15.5
September	392,090	470,465	513,039	42,574	9.0
October	327,214	392,221	508,840	116,619	29.7
November	271,499	345,719	370,547	24,828	7.2
December	277,341	328,848	434,652	105,804	32.2
Total	3,773,981	4,087,020	5,218,624	1,131,604	27.7

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
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	1,534	105	7.3	1,429	1,534	105	7.3
August	1,438	1,542	104	7.2	1,438	1,542	104	7.2
September	1,409	1,493	84	6.0	1,409	1,493	84	6.0
October	1,411	1,537	126	8.9	1,415	1,537	122	8.6
November	1,397	1,399	2	0.1	1,396	1,401	5	0.4
December	1,430	1,506	76	5.3	1,430	1,506	76	5.3
Total	15,211	17,290	2,079	13.7	15,214	17,292	2,078	13.7
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	95,949	3,137	3.4	87,823	93,180	5,357	6.1
August	94,287	99,799	5,512	5.8	94,896	98,996	4,100	4.3
September	91,369	92,417	1,048	1.1	90,251	90,784	533	0.6
October	76,734	89,786	13,052	17.0	73,954	88,446	14,492	19.6
November	70,945	71,641	696	1.0	70,982	71,590	608	0.9
December	70,568	84,269	13,701	19.4	66,623	79,459	12,836	19.3
Total	872,615	988,955	116,340	13.3	855,014	971,860	116,846	13.7
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	261,973	37,382	16.6	219,900	252,910	33,010	15.0
August	242,205	282,137	39,932	16.5	244,869	280,327	35,458	14.5
September	234,581	258,425	23,844	10.2	235,884	254,614	18,730	7.9
October	200,367	256,895	56,528	28.2	191,854	251,945	60,091	31.3
November	171,527	186,231	14,704	8.6	174,192	184,316	10,124	5.8
December	168,566	221,610	53,044	31.5	160,282	213,042	52,760	32.9
Total	2,048,119	2,626,894	578,775	28.3	2,038,901	2,591,730	552,829	27.1

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

Day of the week		January-December			Change	Percentage change
		2020	2021	2022	2022/2021	2022/2021
Trips	Monday	4,068	4,327	4,950	623	14.4
	Tuesday	4,054	4,230	4,893	663	15.7
	Wednesday	4,081	4,260	4,911	651	15.3
	Thursday	4,231	4,284	4,942	658	15.4
	Friday	4,315	4,673	5,085	412	8.8
	Saturday	4,031	4,150	4,902	752	18.1
	Sunday	4,272	4,501	4,899	398	8.8
	Total	29,052	30,425	34,582	4,157	13.7
Vehicles	Monday	216,515	235,626	264,320	28,694	12.2
	Tuesday	203,008	228,356	257,152	28,796	12.6
	Wednesday	213,155	235,993	273,222	37,229	15.8
	Thursday	222,535	239,956	274,578	34,622	14.4
	Friday	251,282	281,471	311,736	30,265	10.8
	Saturday	218,130	251,725	292,811	41,086	16.3
	Sunday	227,513	254,502	286,996	32,494	12.8
	Total	1,552,138	1,727,629	1,960,815	233,186	13.5
Passengers	Monday	511,969	542,305	685,500	143,195	26.4
	Tuesday	464,347	518,651	648,714	130,063	25.1
	Wednesday	499,009	545,468	709,099	163,631	30.0
	Thursday	522,605	541,066	719,242	178,176	32.9
	Friday	594,194	646,132	803,093	156,961	24.3
	Saturday	558,571	626,484	821,966	195,482	31.2
	Sunday	623,286	666,914	831,010	164,096	24.6
	Total	3,773,981	4,087,020	5,218,624	1,131,604	27.7

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

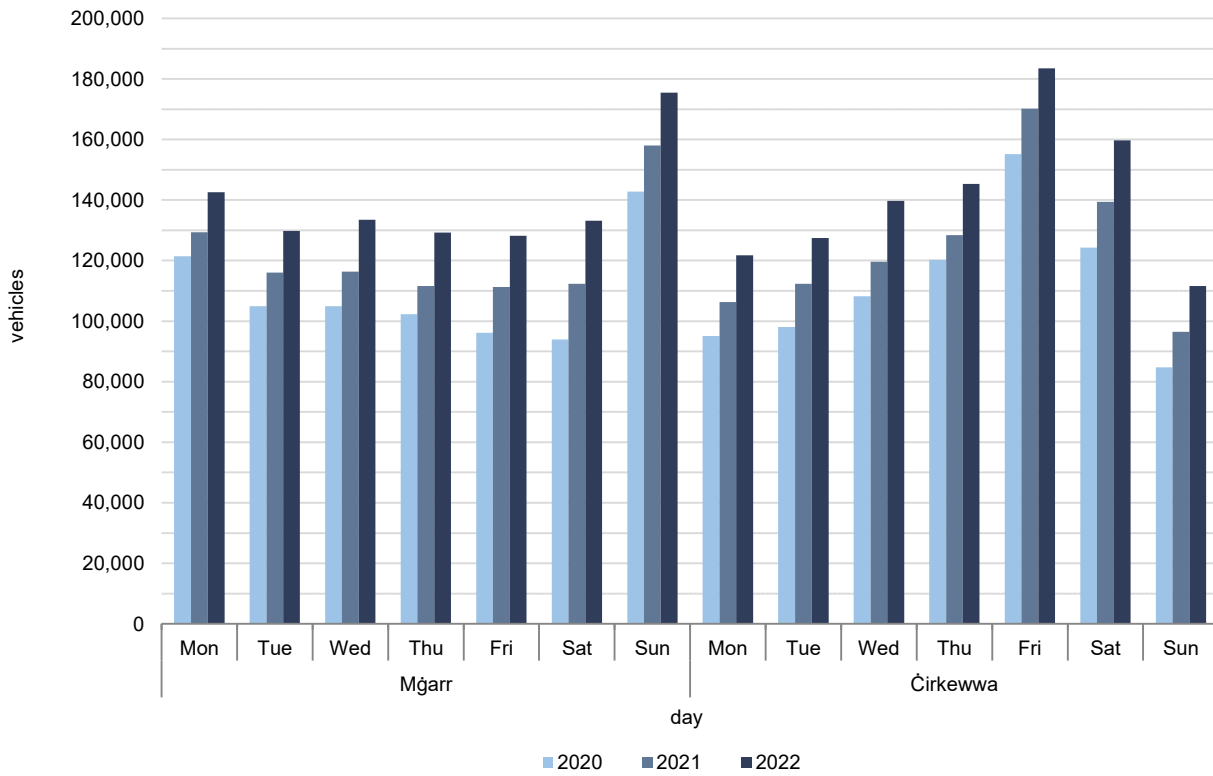


Chart 5. Passengers to and from Mġarr and Ċirkewwa by day of the week: January-December

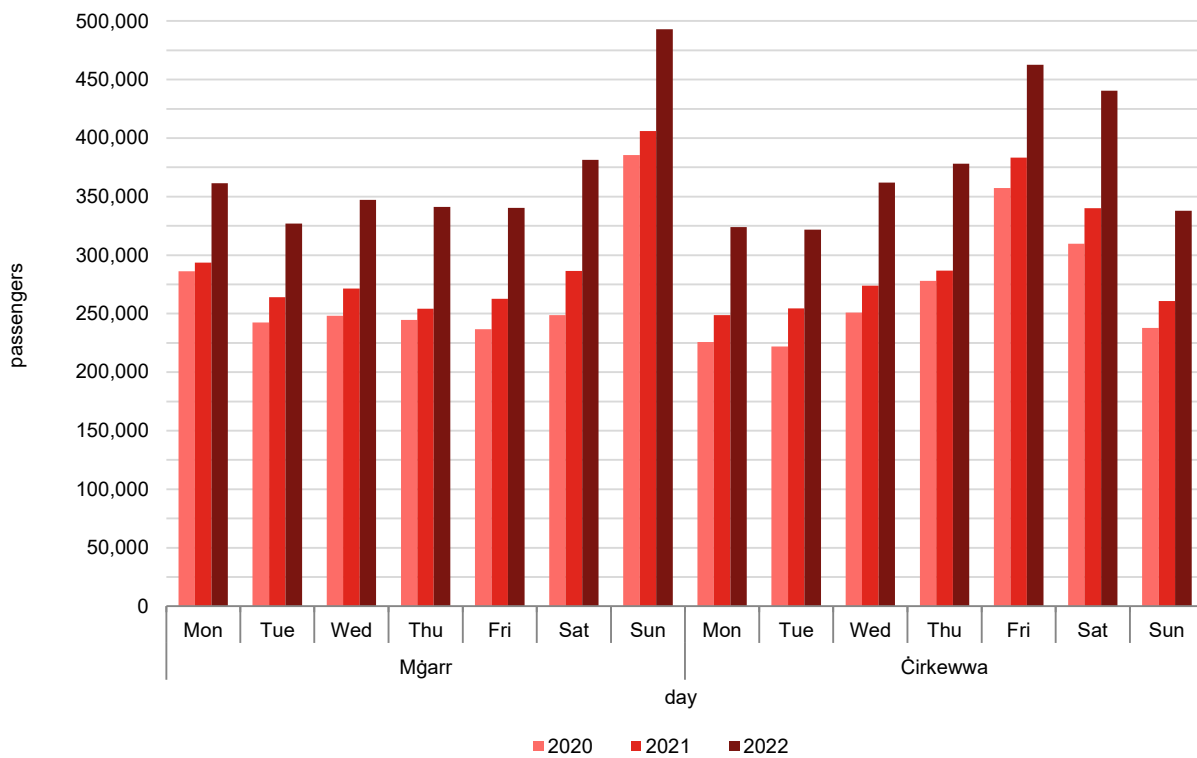


Table 6. Sea transport between Mġarr and Valletta by year and quarter

Quarter	2021	2022	Change	Percentage change
			2022/2021	2022/2021
Trips	Q1	-	1,519	-
	Q2	1,086	1,663	577
	Q3	4,206	2,295	-1,911
	Q4	2,736	680	-2,056
	Total	8,028	6,157	-1,871
Passengers	Q1	-	67,259	-
	Q2	42,384	126,405	84,021
	Q3	203,574	199,146	-4,428
	Q4	118,714	83,370	-35,344
	Total	364,672	476,180	111,508

Notes:

1. The fast ferry service does not allow for the transport of vehicles, thus, only foot passengers are included.
2. Data for the fast ferry service between Mġarr and Valletta was revised for Q3/2022.

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

Month	Valletta-Mġarr		Change 2022/2021	Percentage change 2022/2021	Mġarr-Valletta		Change 2022/2021	Percentage change 2022/2021	
	2021	2022			2021	2022			
Trips	January	-	231	-	-	259	-	-	
	February	-	213	-	-	236	-	-	
	March	-	292	-	-	288	-	-	
	April	-	216	-	-	208	-	-	
	May	-	331	-	-	306	-	-	
	June	530	311	-219	-41.3	556	291	-265	-47.7
	July	664	396	-268	-40.4	717	428	-289	-40.3
	August	672	375	-297	-44.2	734	407	-327	-44.6
	September	682	321	-361	-52.9	737	368	-369	-50.1
	October	481	115	-366	-76.1	525	136	-389	-74.1
	November	486	77	-409	-84.2	539	94	-445	-82.6
	December	332	119	-213	-64.2	373	139	-234	-62.7
	Total	3,847	2,997	-850	-22.1	4,181	3,160	-1,021	-24.4
Passengers	January	-	8,210	-	-	9,490	-	-	
	February	-	11,124	-	-	11,927	-	-	
	March	-	12,806	-	-	13,702	-	-	
	April	-	15,014	-	-	14,714	-	-	
	May	-	23,654	-	-	24,418	-	-	
	June	21,102	23,547	2,445	11.6	21,282	25,058	3,776	17.7
	July	28,890	31,923	3,033	10.5	29,678	36,360	6,682	22.5
	August	35,613	33,771	-1,842	-5.2	37,491	38,100	609	1.6
	September	34,398	27,381	-7,017	-20.4	37,504	31,611	-5,893	-15.7
	October	21,901	17,222	-4,679	-21.4	24,952	19,704	-5,248	-21.0
	November	21,633	9,725	-11,908	-55.0	23,512	11,390	-12,122	-51.6
	December	12,656	11,683	-973	-7.7	14,060	13,646	-414	-2.9
	Total	176,193	226,060	49,867	28.3	188,479	250,120	61,641	32.7

Notes:

1. The fast ferry service does not allow for the transport of vehicles, thus, only foot passengers are included.
2. Data for the fast ferry service between Mġarr and Valletta was revised for Q3/2022.

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