

Total inbound visitors for March 2021 were estimated at 10,291, a decrease of 86.3 per cent when compared to the corresponding month in 2020.

Inbound Tourism: March 2021

During the month under review, a total of 6,538 inbound tourists visited Malta for holiday purposes, followed by 2,705 tourists for business purposes. Most inbound tourists were aged between 25 and 44 years (48.9 per cent), followed by those within the 45-64 age bracket (27.0 per cent). A general increase in the average length of stay was recorded (Table 1).

Total nights spent went down by 65.2 per cent when compared to March 2020, totalling to 153,672 nights. The largest share of guest nights (59.0 per cent) was spent in rented accommodation establishments (Table 3).

Total tourist expenditure was estimated at €10.4 million, a decrease of 76.1 per cent over the corresponding month in 2020 (Table 4). Italian residents comprised 32.7 per cent of total inbound tourists (Table 5).

January-March 2021

Inbound tourists for the first three months of 2021 amounted to 33,249, a decrease of 91.0 per cent over the same period in 2020 (Table 6). Total nights spent by inbound tourists decreased by 79.6 per cent, totalling 457,822 nights (Table 8).

Total tourism expenditure was estimated at €30.5 million, a decrease of 86.4 per cent when compared to the same period in the previous year (Table 9). Total expenditure per capita stood at €916, increasing from €607 in the same period in 2020, mainly as a result of longer length of stays (Table 11) ■

Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

During the COVID-19 situation, the following tourism-related sequence of events took place in 2020:

28-Feb	Passengers flying in from Italy, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Iran and South Korea, from 26 February onwards were requested to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
8-Mar	Flights from/to Milan were suspended.
10-Mar	Flights from/to Italy were suspended.
10-Mar	Last cruise liner call.
11-Mar	Flights from/to France, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, were suspended.
11-Mar	Passengers flying in from France, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, were requested to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
13-Mar	All passengers flying in from all destinations were requested to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
18-Mar	Last Virtu' Ferries service for passengers between Malta and Sicily was operated.
21-Mar	All flights from/to all destinations were suspended.
1-Jul	Re-opening of Malta International Airport. The first group of destinations that reopened for travel comprised: Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Spain, Poland, Cyprus, Switzerland, Iceland, Slovakia, Norway, Denmark, Hungary, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Greece and Croatia.
15-Jul	Restrictions on all other flight destinations were lifted.
21-Aug	First cruise liner call since March 2020.

Sources: Malta Tourism Authority, Virtu' Ferries, Transport Malta and Valletta Cruise Port

Table 1. Profile of inbound tourists by month of departure

Characteristics	March			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Total inbound visitors	172,971	75,157	10,291	-64,866	-86.3
Overnight cruise passengers	-	-	-	-	-
Inbound tourists	172,971	75,157	10,291	-64,866	-86.3
Mode of travel					
Air	169,579	74,224	8,351	-65,873	-88.7
Sea	3,392	933	1,941	-	-
Sex					
Males	85,514	41,990	6,776	-35,215	-83.9
Females	87,457	33,167	3,516	-29,651	-89.4
Age group					
0-24	26,077	10,863	2,037	-8,825	-81.2
25-44	65,672	29,302	5,035	-24,267	-82.8
45-64	58,520	26,118	2,777	-23,340	-89.4
65 or more	22,702	8,875	442 ^u	-	-
Markets²					
EU	145,229	40,505	8,355	-32,150	-79.4
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	81,967	31,394	7,341	-24,053	-76.6
Non-EU	27,742	34,652	1,936	-32,716	-94.4
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	145,814	64,834	6,538	-58,296	-89.9
Business and professional	16,748	5,360	2,705	-2,655	-49.5
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	10,409	4,963	1,049	-3,914	-78.9
Organisation of stay					
Package	63,592	24,966	1,405 ^u	-	-
Non-package	109,378	50,191	8,887	-41,305	-82.3
Frequency					
First-time tourists	125,671	54,647	5,415	-49,231	-90.1
Repeat tourists	47,300	20,511	4,876	-15,634	-76.2
once a year or less	33,401	14,192	2,547	-11,645	-82.1
more than once a year	13,899	6,319	2,329	-3,990	-63.1
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	49,642	26,259	2,368	-23,892	-91.0
4-6 nights	57,472	23,258	1,649	-21,608	-92.9
7 nights or more	65,857	25,640	6,275	-19,366	-75.5
Average length of stay (nights)	6.4	5.9	14.9	9.1	-

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

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

² Refer to methodological note 8.

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

2. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

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

Type of accommodation	March			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021		
Rented accommodation	154,590	66,108	6,865	-59,243	-89.6
Collective	124,297	51,071	4,093	-46,978	-92.0
Other rented	30,293	15,037	2,772	-12,265	-81.6
Non-rented accommodation	18,380	9,049	3,426	-5,623	-62.1
Total tourists	172,971	75,157	10,291	-64,866	-86.3

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

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	March			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021		
Rented accommodation	959,499	362,568	90,663	-271,904	-75.0
Collective	683,148	261,697	30,160	-231,537	-88.5
Other rented	276,350	100,871	60,504	-40,367	-40.0
Non-rented accommodation	151,775	79,450	63,008	-16,442	-20.7
Total nights	1,111,273	442,018	153,672	-288,346	-65.2

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

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	March			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021		
Package	34,825	10,531	976^u	-	-
Non-package	38,557	15,885	4,607	-11,278	-71.0
Air/sea fares	17,563	8,546	2,396	-6,150	-72.0
Accommodation	20,994	7,338	2,211	-5,127	-69.9
Other expenditure	43,147	17,175	4,822	-12,353	-71.9
Total expenditure	116,528	43,591	10,405	-33,186	-76.1

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

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

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 ²		March			Change	Percentage change
		2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Tourists	EU	145,229	40,505	8,355	-32,150	-79.4
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	12,077	5,766	1,876	-3,890	-67.5
	Germany	17,103	4,982	885 ^u	-	-
	Italy	25,486	4,731	3,367	-	-
	Poland	6,701	2,709 ^u	:	-	-
	Spain	6,313	2,638 ^u	432 ^u	-	-
	United Kingdom	43,033	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Non-EU	27,742	34,652	1,936	-32,716	-94.4
<i>of which:</i>						
United Kingdom	n/a	23,456	:	n/a	n/a	
Total	172,971	75,157	10,291	-64,866	-86.3	
Nights	EU	870,402	222,158	120,452	-101,706	-45.8
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	71,851	33,652	26,126	-7,526	-22.4
	Germany	119,173	31,351	12,556 ^u	-	-
	Italy	136,785	34,429	46,416	-	-
	Poland	40,161	12,154 ^u	:	-	-
	Spain	26,985	11,183 ^u	6,569 ^u	-	-
	United Kingdom	271,337	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Non-EU	240,872	219,860	33,220	-186,640	-84.9
<i>of which:</i>						
United Kingdom	n/a	142,305	:	n/a	n/a	
Total	1,111,273	442,018	153,672	-288,346	-65.2	
Expenditure (€000)	EU	86,348	21,243	8,042	-13,201	-62.1
	<i>of which:</i>					
	France	7,257	3,122	2,273	-849	-27.2
	Germany	12,665	3,124	1,140 ^u	-	-
	Italy	12,099	2,018	2,166	-	-
	Poland	3,764	1,002 ^u	:	-	-
	Spain	2,816	1,307 ^u	470 ^u	-	-
	United Kingdom	27,373	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Non-EU	30,180	22,348	2,362	-19,985	-89.4
<i>of which:</i>						
United Kingdom	n/a	13,568	:	n/a	n/a	
Total	116,528	43,591	10,405	-33,186	-76.1	

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

¹ Refer to methodological note 6.

² Refer to methodological note 8.

Notes:

1. n/a: not applicable.
2. Expenditure estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand Euro.
3. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
4. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

Table 6. Profile of inbound tourists by period of departure

Characteristics	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Total inbound visitors	425,892	371,109	33,249	-337,860	-91.0
Overnight cruise passengers	-	893	-	-	-
Inbound tourists	425,892	370,216	33,249	-336,967	-91.0
Mode of travel					
Air	417,353	363,343	27,599	-335,744	-92.4
Sea	8,538	6,873	5,649	-	-
Sex					
Males	214,873	194,089	21,488	-172,600	-88.9
Females	211,019	176,127	11,760	-164,367	-93.3
Age group					
0-24	68,442	63,415	6,335	-57,080	-90.0
25-44	169,880	143,399	16,521	-126,878	-88.5
45-64	138,316	125,780	8,761	-117,020	-93.0
65 or more	49,253	37,622	1,632	-35,990	-95.7
Markets²					
EU	359,907	222,489	27,487	-195,001	-87.6
<i>of which: Euro area</i>	206,949	174,523	24,468	-150,055	-86.0
Non-EU	65,985	147,727	5,761	-141,966	-96.1
Purpose of visit					
Holiday	364,020	320,897	23,638	-297,259	-92.6
Business and professional	40,985	34,275	6,539	-27,736	-80.9
Other (including educational, religious and health tourism)	20,886	15,043	3,072	-11,972	-79.6
Organisation of stay					
Package	139,693	108,985	3,811	-105,174	-96.5
Non-package	286,199	261,231	29,438	-231,793	-88.7
Frequency					
First-time tourists	305,567	269,022	17,268	-251,754	-93.6
Repeat tourists	120,325	101,194	15,981	-85,214	-84.2
once a year or less	81,507	69,689	7,886	-61,803	-88.7
more than once a year	38,818	31,505	8,095	-23,411	-74.3
Duration of visit					
1-3 nights	129,859	121,427	7,834	-113,593	-93.5
4-6 nights	135,397	121,082	5,331	-115,751	-95.6
7 nights or more	160,636	127,707	20,083	-107,624	-84.3
Average length of stay (nights)	6.6	6.0	13.8	7.7	-

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

² Refer to methodological note 8.

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

Table 7. Inbound tourists by period of departure and type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	January-March			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Rented accommodation	373,144	324,582	21,142	-303,440	-93.5
Collective	295,637	251,231	14,480	-236,751	-94.2
Other rented	77,507	73,351	6,662	-66,688	-90.9
Non-rented accommodation	52,748	45,634	12,107	-33,528	-73.5
Total tourists	425,892	370,216	33,249	-336,967	-91.0

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

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-March			Change	Percentage change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020	
Rented accommodation	2,302,374	1,831,284	231,415	-1,599,869	-87.4
Collective	1,586,149	1,281,560	100,528	-1,181,033	-92.2
Other rented	716,225	549,724	130,887	-418,837	-76.2
Non-rented accommodation	495,908	407,942	226,407	-181,535	-44.5
Total nights	2,798,282	2,239,226	457,822	-1,781,404	-79.6

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

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-March			Change	Percentage change	
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020		
Tourists	Australia	3,276	2,433 ^u	:	-	-
	Austria	4,831	3,295 ^u	:	-	-
	Belgium	12,810	11,553	1,045 ^u	-	-
	France	30,261	28,266	6,439	-21,827	-77.2
	Germany	38,233	26,610	2,649	-23,961	-90.0
	Hungary	4,689	4,454	:	-	-
	Ireland	6,517	7,741	:	-	-
	Italy	65,696	44,049	10,813	-33,236	-75.5
	Netherlands	7,317	8,943	620 ^u	-	-
	Poland	20,911	19,627	1,070 ^u	-	-
	Scandinavia ²	14,897	13,728	852 ^u	-	-
	Spain	17,892	16,671	1,022	-15,649	-93.9
	Switzerland	5,738	4,699	722 ^u	-	-
	United Kingdom	101,478	88,094	1,378	-86,716	-98.4
	USA	8,712	7,439	389 ^u	-	-
	Other	82,635	82,613	5,450	-77,163	-93.4
Total	425,892	370,216	33,249	-336,967	-91.0	
Nights	Australia	30,308	20,572 ^u	:	-	-
	Austria	27,053	20,088 ^u	:	-	-
	Belgium	78,281	57,407	15,756 ^u	-	-
	France	188,554	168,423	69,653	-98,770	-58.6
	Germany	254,553	174,626	33,953	-140,674	-80.6
	Hungary	20,325	20,479	:	-	-
	Ireland	42,452	46,739	:	-	-
	Italy	387,565	258,722	150,445	-108,277	-41.9
	Netherlands	62,179	45,102	13,516 ^u	-	-
	Poland	126,538	110,006	12,269 ^u	-	-
	Scandinavia ²	97,245	87,610	11,237 ^u	-	-
	Spain	84,587	81,324	15,066	-66,259	-81.5
	Switzerland	37,581	23,751	7,468 ^u	-	-
	United Kingdom	642,766	546,013	34,990	-511,024	-93.6
	USA	47,811	45,280	4,437 ^u	-	-
	Other	670,483	533,082	79,907	-453,175	-85.0
Total	2,798,282	2,239,226	457,822	-1,781,404	-79.6	
Expenditure (€000)	Australia	4,518	2,757 ^u	:	-	-
	Austria	3,315	2,438 ^u	:	-	-
	Belgium	6,993	5,861	1,101 ^u	-	-
	France	17,767	16,964	6,122	-10,843	-63.9
	Germany	25,521	17,424	2,844	-14,580	-83.7
	Hungary	2,056	2,011	:	-	-
	Ireland	4,452	5,052	:	-	-
	Italy	30,483	20,739	7,056	-13,683	-66.0
	Netherlands	4,459	4,783	680 ^u	-	-
	Poland	10,861	9,371	818 ^u	-	-
	Scandinavia ²	10,966	9,858	987 ^u	-	-
	Spain	7,428	7,766	905	-6,860	-88.3
	Switzerland	4,750	3,466	747 ^u	-	-
	United Kingdom	61,649	51,259	1,326	-49,933	-97.4
	USA	8,255	7,596	554 ^u	-	-
	Other	68,898	57,241	6,451	-50,790	-88.7
Total	272,371	224,582	30,460	-194,123	-86.4	

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

² 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-March 2021					
Australia	:	:	:	:	:
Austria	:	:	:	:	:
Belgium	:	242 ^u	305 ^u	549 ^u	1,101 ^u
France	736 ^u	1,307	1,392	2,686	6,122
Germany	:	619	580	1,291	2,844
Hungary	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:
Italy	602	1,377	1,091	3,986	7,056
Netherlands	:	151 ^u	135 ^u	394 ^u	680 ^u
Poland	:	146 ^u	205 ^u	425 ^u	818 ^u
Scandinavia ²	:	225 ^u	199 ^u	564 ^u	987 ^u
Spain	:	217	105 ^u	543	905
Switzerland	:	148 ^u	:	416 ^u	747 ^u
United Kingdom	:	298 ^u	:	876	1,326
USA	:	178 ^u	:	248 ^u	554 ^u
Other	744 ^u	1,768	1,334	2,604	6,451
Total	2,633	6,858	5,974	14,994	30,460
January-March 2020¹					
Australia	:	1,134 ^u	430 ^u	933 ^u	2,757 ^u
Austria	1,121 ^u	293 ^u	:	720 ^u	2,438 ^u
Belgium	955 ^u	1,153	1,243	2,511	5,861
France	4,752	2,819	3,187	6,207	16,964
Germany	6,121	2,509	2,905	5,888	17,424
Hungary	:	482	464 ^u	888	2,011
Ireland	837 ^u	899	1,083	2,232	5,052
Italy	3,166	3,696	4,029	9,848	20,739
Netherlands	786 ^u	1,019	867	2,110	4,783
Poland	2,003	1,871	2,060	3,437	9,371
Scandinavia ²	2,073	2,235	1,712	3,837	9,858
Spain	845 ^u	1,682	1,816	3,423	7,766
Switzerland	913 ^u	688	599 ^u	1,266	3,466
United Kingdom	16,706	7,246	7,390	19,916	51,259
USA	:	3,228	1,748	2,009	7,596
Other	8,963	14,914	10,356	23,007	57,241
Total	50,288	45,869	40,192	88,233	224,582
January-March 2019					
Australia	:	1,710	671 ^u	1,478	4,518
Austria	1,139 ^u	449 ^u	477 ^u	1,249	3,315
Belgium	1,418	1,066	1,676	2,833	6,993
France	5,428	2,490	3,423	6,427	17,767
Germany	10,402	2,799	3,828	8,491	25,521
Hungary	:	373	454 ^u	821	2,056
Ireland	881 ^u	628	847	2,096	4,452
Italy	5,472	4,472	6,213	14,326	30,483
Netherlands	780 ^u	809	1,059	1,811	4,459
Poland	2,782	1,284	1,986	4,809	10,861
Scandinavia ²	2,906	1,958	1,805	4,297	10,966
Spain	1,035	1,103	1,714	3,576	7,428
Switzerland	1,307 ^u	661	961 ^u	1,821	4,750
United Kingdom	20,787	6,779	9,137	24,946	61,649
USA	1,291 ^u	2,389	2,055	2,520	8,255
Other	15,233	14,952	13,090	25,624	68,898
Total	71,927	43,920	49,396	107,127	272,371

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

² 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-March 2021					
Australia	:	:	:	:	:
Austria	:	:	:	:	:
Belgium	:	235 ^u	547 ^u	526 ^u	1,054 ^u
France	739 ^u	240	328	417	951
Germany	:	255	341	487	1,074
Hungary	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:
Italy	402	148	251	369	653
Netherlands	:	244 ^u	366 ^u	636 ^u	1,097 ^u
Poland	:	148 ^u	300 ^u	397 ^u	764 ^u
Scandinavia ²	:	264 ^u	395 ^u	662 ^u	1,159 ^u
Spain	:	224	253 ^u	531	886
Switzerland	:	213 ^u	:	576 ^u	1,034 ^u
United Kingdom	:	225 ^u	:	635	962
USA	:	484 ^u	:	637 ^u	1,425 ^u
Other	899 ^u	381	424	478	1,184
Total expenditure per capita	691	233	340	451	916
January-March 2020¹					
Australia	:	537 ^u	261 ^u	384 ^u	1,133 ^u
Austria	631 ^u	193 ^u	:	218 ^u	740 ^u
Belgium	373 ^u	128	161	217	507
France	453	158	193	220	600
Germany	544	163	211	221	655
Hungary	:	127	130 ^u	199	451
Ireland	490 ^u	149	196	288	653
Italy	409	102	153	224	471
Netherlands	310 ^u	159	152	236	535
Poland	353	133	156	175	477
Scandinavia ²	511	231	211	279	718
Spain	324 ^u	120	147	205	466
Switzerland	616 ^u	214	222 ^u	269	737
United Kingdom	422	149	198	226	582
USA	:	465	281	270	1,021
Other	562	223	189	278	693
Total expenditure per capita	461	175	185	238	607
January-March 2019					
Australia	:	577	294 ^u	451	1,379
Austria	520 ^u	170 ^u	189 ^u	259	686
Belgium	454	109	192	221	546
France	460	135	200	212	587
Germany	528	151	235	222	668
Hungary	:	102	143 ^u	175	439
Ireland	403 ^u	145	220	322	683
Italy	401	85	158	218	464
Netherlands	450 ^u	145	239	248	609
Poland	384	93	156	230	519
Scandinavia ²	523	210	239	288	736
Spain	308	76	133	200	415
Switzerland	664 ^u	175	292 ^u	317	828
United Kingdom	472	118	211	246	608
USA	892 ^u	329	309	289	948
Other	750	237	251	310	834
Total expenditure per capita	515	153	209	252	640

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

¹ Refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

² Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

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

Characteristics	January-March		
	2019	2020 ¹	2021
Total overnight cruise passengers	-	893	-
Sex			
Males	-	426	-
Females	-	467	-
Age group			
0-19	-	1	-
20-39	-	19	-
40-59	-	31	-
60-79	-	446	-
80 or more	-	396	-
Markets²			
EU	-	14	-
<i>of which</i> : Euro area	-	11	-
Non-EU	-	879	-

¹ Owing to the COVID-19 situation, for the year 2020, cruise liner calls were stopped from 10th March to 21st August.

² Refer to methodological note 8.

Methodological Notes

1. This release focuses on Inbound Tourism, which comprises of 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 March 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 are collected through a regular survey, conducted during three separate months every year at the Valletta Cruise Port. A quota sample is used to conduct sea passenger departures in which survey interviewers are guided to select people according to fixed quotas. Survey data is supplemented by administrative data provided by ferry operators.
5. 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 (-).
6. In view of the COVID-19 situation, the Tourstat survey was suspended between 12 March and 30 June 2020. Statistical methods were applied to cover the period from 13 March to 20 March 2020, when scheduled passenger flights were still in operation.
7. Malta International Airport reopened on 1 July 2020. The first group of destinations that reopened for travel comprised: Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Spain, Poland, Cyprus, Switzerland, Iceland, Slovakia, Norway, Denmark, Hungary, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Greece and Croatia. Restrictions on all other flight destinations were lifted on 15 July 2020.
8. Owing to the UK's exit from the European Union (with effect from 1st February 2020), UK data is statistically classified as Non-EU from February 2020 in the tables relating to the specific month (Tables 1 - 6). Comparability between monthly and cumulative tables and also between comparative periods should be treated with caution.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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'.
12. 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 (<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=37#>).
13. 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	10,291	1,037	10,291 ± 1,037
Total nights	153,672	13,474	153,672 ± 13,474
Total expenditure (€ 000)	10,405	757	10,405 ± 757

14. 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 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. 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.

15. 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

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

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

Statistical database: <https://statdb.nso.gov.mt/start>

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

17. A detailed news release calendar is available on:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx