

News Release

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Regional Statistics

Tourism in the Maltese Islands

This release provides a brief overview of tourism in the Maltese Islands from a regional perspective in respect of last year and the first seven months of this year. The data has been retrieved from the Inbound Tourism Survey database.

Tables 1 and 2 show the number tourist air departures by type of accommodation and the number of nights of spent in the Maltese Islands in the course of last year.

Most tourists visiting the Maltese Islands last year stayed in 4-star hotels. These were followed by the 3-star and the 5-star categories. The 4-star hotel group hosted 51.4 per cent of the total number of tourists who visited the Maltese Islands last year, while the 3-star and the 5-star hotel categories hosted 25.4 per cent and 20.0 per cent of all tourists respectively. Hotels were followed by apart hotels and holiday complexes as choice accommodation by tourists.

Tables 3 and 4 provide an overview of the distribution of tourists by type of accommodation and the number of tourist nights for the first seven months of last year. In the first seven months last year, a total of 411,913 of all tourists stayed in hotels. Of these, 6,273 or 1.5 per cent chose to stay in hotel in Gozo. The tourists staying in hotels spent a total of 3,547,673 nights of which 67,289 or 1.9 per cent were spent in Gozo.

Tables 5 and 6 give an overview of the distribution of tourists by type of accommodation and the number of tourist nights for the first seven months of this year. In the period under review, the number of tourists staying in hotels reached 457,487, an increase of 45,574 or 11.1 per cent when compared to the same period last year. A total of 450,015 tourists stayed in hotels in Malta, an increase of almost 10.9 per cent over last year. In the same period an estimated 7,472 tourists stayed in hotels in Gozo, an increase of over 19.1 per cent over the same period last year.

Further analysis for this period indicate that the number of tourist nights in hotel accommodation increased by 9.0 per cent to around 3.9 million nights. The number of tourist nights in hotels in Malta was up by 9.3 per cent to 3.8 million nights. The number of tourist nights in hotels in Gozo dropped by 5.9 per cent to around 64 thousand nights.

The last two tables, 7 and 8, give an account of the amounts spent by tourists last year and in the first seven months this year. This expenditure cannot be equated to local earnings from tourism because some of it is paid by tourists to foreign enterprises. In the course of last year, the tourists opting for Gozo as a destination spent Lm5.9 million for their visit. This accounted for 1.7 per cent of all tourism expenditure. In the first seven months this year, tourists to Gozo spent Lm2.5 million or 1.4 per cent of the estimated total tourism expenditure to the country.

The monthly calendar of NSO News Releases may be consulted on the Office's website at www.nso.gov.mt

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Table 1. Tourist air departures by hotel category and the number of nights spent in January to December 2003

Hotel Category	Number of	Total Maltese Islands	Malta	Gozo & Comino
5 star	Tourists	148,948	143,579	5,369
	Nights	1,005,725	950,861	54,864
4 Star	Tourists	382,265	379,441	2,824
	Nights	3,402,022	3,371,131	30,891
3 Star	Tourists	189,222	186,039	3,183
	Nights	1,850,035	1,823,388	26,647
2 star	Tourists	19,115	18,545	570
	Nights	169,510	164,470	5,040
1 Star	Tourists	1,413	1,413	0
	Nights	12,220	12,220	0
Unclassified	Tourists	3,308	3,308	0
	Nights	31,159	31,159	0

Table 2. Tourist air departures by type of accommodation and the number of nights spent in January to December 2003

Hotel Category	Number of	Total Maltese Islands	Malta	Gozo & Comino
Hotel	Tourists	744,271	736,291	7,980
	Nights	6,470,671	6,391,345	79,326
Guesthouse	Tourists	8,708	8,082	626
	Nights	92,431	86,315	6,116
Tourist village	Tourists	32,074	32,074	0
	Nights	317,461	317,461	0
Holiday complex	Tourists	49,332	49,332	0
	Nights	533,787	533,787	0
Apart hotel	Tourists	69,290	68,376	914
	Nights	707,262	697,803	9,459
Hostel	Tourists	2,319	2,319	0
	Nights	33,887	33,887	0

Table 3. Tourist air departures by hotel category and the number of nights spent in January to July 2003

Hotel Category	Number of	Total Maltese Islands	Malta	Gozo & Comino
5 star	Tourists	83,237	80,552	2,685
	Nights	542,150	507,851	34,299
4 Star	Tourists	216,340	214,250	2,090
	Nights	1,895,375	1,875,667	19,708
3 Star	Tourists	97,009	95,910	1,099
	Nights	969,592	960,220	9,372
2 star	Tourists	11,167	10,768	399
	Nights	101,661	97,751	3,910
1 Star	Tourists	585	585	0
	Nights	5,076	5,076	0
Unclassified	Tourists	3,575	3,575	0
	Nights	33,819	33,819	0

Table 4. Tourist air departures by type of accommodation and the number of nights spent in January to July 2003

Hotel Category	Number of	Total Maltese Islands	Malta	Gozo & Comino
Hotel	Tourists	411,913	405,640	6,273
	Nights	3,547,673	3,480,384	67,289
Guesthouse	Tourists	4,313	4,064	249
	Nights	47,148	45,585	1,563
Tourist village	Tourists	16,177	16,177	0
	Nights	163,124	163,124	0
Holiday complex	Tourists	34,138	34,138	0
	Nights	377,524	377,524	0
Apart hotel	Tourists	37,997	37,461	536
	Nights	384,353	378,801	5,552
Hostel	Tourists	1,467	1,467	0
	Nights	16,611	16,611	0

Table 5. Tourist air departures by hotel category and the number of nights spent in January to July 2004

Hotel Category	Number of	Total Maltese Islands	Malta	Gozo & Comino
5 star	Tourists	93,954	91,462	2,492
	Nights	564,902	547,095	17,807
4 Star	Tourists	238,324	234,058	4,266
	Nights	2,106,327	2,066,170	40,157
3 Star	Tourists	115,412	115,008	404
	Nights	1,119,795	1,116,279	3,516
2 star	Tourists	8,628	8,548	80
	Nights	69,612	69,136	476
1 Star	Tourists	217	217	0
	Nights	1,579	1,579	0
Unclassified	Tourists	952	722	230
	Nights	5,513	3,976	1,537

Table 6. Tourist air departures by type of accommodation and the number of nights spent in January to July 2004

Hotel Category	Number of	Total Maltese Islands	Malta	Gozo & Comino
Hotel	Tourists	457,487	450,015	7,472
	Nights	3,867,728	3,804,235	63,493
Guesthouse	Tourists	3,146	3,017	129
	Nights	32,175	31,015	1,160
Tourist village	Tourists	20,861	20,861	0
	Nights	176,692	176,692	0
Holiday complex	Tourists	988	988	0
	Nights	15,853	15,853	0
Apart hotel	Tourists	28,192	27,995	197
	Nights	333,152	331,890	1,262
Hostel	Tourists	1,340	1,246	94
	Nights	24,081	23,425	656

Table 7. Tourists' expenditure 2003 (Lm)

Month	Malta	Gozo & Comino
January	16,684,646	184,493
February	14,553,614	121,125
March	22,143,030	166,962
April	29,611,963	384,552
May	31,900,624	533,193
June	32,396,309	845,723
July	42,094,285	942,457
August	50,557,007	1,023,580
September	38,467,426	619,275
October	33,356,934	733,936
November	18,866,607	299,045
December	11,519,338	80,555
Total	342,151,783	5,934,896

Table 8. Tourists' expenditure (Lm)

Month	Malta	Gozo & Comino
January to July 2003	189,384,471	3,178,505
January to July 2004	182,230,696	2,502,162

Methodological Notes

1. The data in this release are based from data retrieved from the Inbound Tourism Survey.
2. The data in this release are final and are not, normally, subject to revision.