

News Release



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Tourism

Outbound Tourism: August 2006

In August 2006, outbound passengers increased by 3.7 per cent to a total of 31,129. Over 80 per cent of the increase was attributable to departures by sea (catamaran), the majority being same-day visitors.

August 2006

Maltese passengers during the month under review reached a total of 31,129. Of these, 26,295 travelled by air, implying virtually no change from the same month last year.

January-August 2006

During the first eight months of the year, the number of Maltese passengers departing by air and sea amounted to 167,851, an increase of 7.1 per cent over the same period a year ago.

In the period under review, the most frequent destination was Italy, accounting for 30.6 per cent of the total number of Maltese travelling abroad by air and sea.

In the first eight months of 2006, male outbound passengers significantly exceeded female ones, the former accounting for 59.8 per cent of the total.

The greatest proportion of outbound passengers - 46.3 per cent - comprised passengers aged between 25 and 44 years, followed by those in the 45-64 age bracket ■

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Table 1. Outbound passengers: August

persons

	August		Absolute change	Percentage change
	2005	2006	2006/2005	2006/2005
Total	30,022	31,129	1,107	3.7
Transport:				
Air	26,076	26,295	219	0.8
Sea	3,946	4,834	888	22.5
Destination:				
EU	23,827	24,727	900	3.8
Italy	7,713	8,076	363	4.7
UK	4,688	6,171	1,483	31.6
Non-EU	6,195	6,402	207	3.3
Sex:				
Males	17,774	17,483	-291	-1.6
Females	12,248	13,646	1,398	11.4
Age group:				
0-24	3,716	2,926	-790	-21.3
25-44	11,741	14,146	2,405	20.5
45-64	13,146	12,265	-881	-6.7
65+	1,419	1,792	373	26.3

Table 2. Outbound passengers: January-August

persons

	January-August		Absolute change	Percentage change
	2005	2006	2006/2005	2006/2005
Total	156,741	167,851	11,110	7.1
Transport:				
Air	137,631	144,568	6,937	5.0
Sea	19,110	23,283	4,173	21.8
Destination:				
EU	120,008	138,035	18,027	15.0
Italy	47,522	51,324	3,802	8.0
UK	30,575	37,731	7,156	23.4
Non-EU	36,733	29,816	-6,917	-18.8
Sex:				
Males	93,412	100,458	7,046	7.5
Females	63,329	67,393	4,064	6.4
Age group:				
0-24	17,144	13,904	-3,240	-18.9
25-44	70,043	77,633	7,590	10.8
45-64	62,307	69,397	7,090	11.4
65+	7,247	6,917	-330	-4.6

Methodological Notes

1. Maltese air departures are collected through a continuous survey carried out at the departure lounge of Malta International Airport. A two-stage sample design is used for this survey. At the first stage alternate days are selected. Then within each shift a sample of passengers is selected systematically. Personal interviews are carried out. Monthly response rates of around 90 per cent are achieved.
2. Maltese sea departures are collected through a regular survey that is carried out at the seaport. Ferry sailings on every alternate day are selected. Departing passengers are interviewed personally. On average a response rate of 93 per cent is recorded for this survey.
3. The survey which is carried out at the seaport commenced in April 2004. No data for Maltese sea departures is available for the period January - March 2004.
4. The variables with respect to Maltese departures that are collected in this survey include the following:
Age
Sex
Destination
5. The surveys carried out at the airport and the seaport are grossed up using the monthly passenger departures data in respect of each port after removing the number of transit passengers from the data sets.
6. Definitions

Outbound tourism comprises the activities of residents of a given country travelling to and staying in places outside that country and outside their usual environment.

Usual environment consists of the direct vicinity of his/her home and place of work and other places frequently visited.
7. The data in this release are not normally subject revision.
8. Further methodological notes are available at www.nso.gov.mt/publications/Tourstat/Tourstat2003.pdf