

media release

Date: 14th July 2017

Ref: 46-2017

GROWTH OF 15.1% IN REVENUE DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

Statistics released today by the National Statistics Office show that inbound tourism to Malta continues to exhibit a positive performance with the total inbound visitors in May 2017 reaching 220,918, an increase of 15.1% when compared to the same month last year.

Total inbound tourists (excluding overnight cruise passengers) increased by 13.0% or 24,787 more tourists. Substantial growth was registered in the number of tourists visiting Malta for business and professional reasons (+68.2%), non-package type of travellers (+23.4%) and first time visitors (+18.8%). The largest absolute growth came from tourists aged 25 to 44 years (+20,014). With an average length of stay of 6.6 nights, the number of nights stayed by tourists reached the figure of 1.4 million increasing by 11.9%. Tourists spent a total of €169.0 million, €14.6 million more compared to May 2016.

Cumulative data for the period January to May 2016 points to an extraordinary performance, with the number of inbound tourists recording a double-digit growth of 19.9%, reaching the figure of 763,849. During this period, the number of nights stayed by tourists increased by 12.3%, whilst tourist expenditure grew by 15.0%, which is equivalent to an increase of over €73 million. Increases were registered in the number of tourists staying in both collective and private type accommodation.

During the first five months of year, business tourism increased by 56.4% which represents about one quarter of the total increase in arrivals. This growth partly reflects the business related tourism generated by the EU Presidency of Malta. Tourists visiting Malta for leisure increased by 15.7%.

The large majority of source markets featured increased tourism flows, with Italy recording the largest absolute increase of 27,157, followed by Belgium (+17,806), France (+10,423), Germany (+10,041), Poland (+9,796) and Spain (+9,398).

Commenting on these latest figures, MTA CEO Mr. Paul Bugeja expressed the Authority's satisfaction with the sustained growth in inbound tourism performance. *"We are pleased with the overall results, and in particular with the double-digit growth rate in tourist expenditure, which permeates deeply in the local economy and is beneficial to the tourism industry and the community at large,"* said Mr. Bugeja.