

News Release



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Tourism

Departing tourists: May 2008

Inbound tourists in May 2008 are estimated to have increased by 20.5 per cent when compared to the same month in 2007. Year on year, total nights spent increased by 16.8 per cent.

May 2008

According to the ongoing frontier survey, tourist departures in May are estimated at 131,354, implying an increase of 20.5 per cent over the same month in 2007. The increase reflects primarily a rise in the British, German and Spanish markets, while tourists coming from the USA, Russia and Switzerland registered decreases (see Table 5). Results also show that 87.3 per cent of inbound tourists in May came to Malta on holiday.

Meanwhile, total nights spent increased by 16.8 per cent when compared to the same month in 2007. Year on year, total nights spent in private and collective accommodation increased by 9.0 and 19.0 per cent respectively. Overall, the average length of stay is calculated at 7.3 nights, shorter by 0.2 nights when compared to May 2007.

Theme:
Industry and Services

January-May 2008

Inbound tourists for the first five months of 2008 are estimated at 447,935, implying an increase of 16.5 per cent over the corresponding period a year ago. In absolute terms, the growth is mostly attributable to an increase in holiday visits, mainly from the German, Italian and Spanish markets. On the other hand decreases were recorded in the Libyan, Swiss and American markets.

Table 6 shows that 89.4 per cent of all inbound visits comprised tourists coming from EU Member States. Although there was an increase in repeat tourism, data show that the overall increase in the period under review was mainly brought about by a rise in first-time visits, with the latter estimated to account for 68.2 per cent of total visits. The largest age bracket comprised tourists aged 45-64, albeit the strongest increase is attributable to the 25-44 age bracket.

Total nights spent increased by 6.3 per cent when compared to the same period in 2007. Nights spent in private accommodation registered an increase of 11.1 per cent, while guest nights in collective accommodation increased by 4.9 per cent. More specifically, guest nights in rented accommodation and in lodging with family or friends increased respectively by 7.0 and 21.4 per cent while total nights spent in owner occupied accommodation registered a minor decrease. Regarding collective accommodation, a 13.3 per cent increase was recorded in 5-star hotel nights, with lesser increases in the 'other collective' and 4-star categories, while 3-star hotel nights registered a decrease. The average length of stay is calculated at 7.6 nights, down by 0.8 nights when compared to last year's level.

In the period under review, total tourist expenditure is estimated at €306.3 million, an increase of 0.7 per cent over 2007. The growth in non-package was contrasted by a reduction in package expenditure.

The survey results indicate that the per capita total expenditure is estimated at €695, down by 14.0 per cent when compared to the corresponding period last year ■

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Table 1. Profile of departing tourists

	May			absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
	Total	102,737	109,027	131,354	22,327
Mode of travel:					
Air	101,940	108,168	130,291	22,123	20.5
Sea	797	859	1,063	204	23.7
Sex:					
Males	51,783	55,674	68,156	12,482	22.4
Females	50,954	53,353	63,198	9,845	18.5
Age group:					
0-24	7,012	8,829	13,925	5,096	57.7
25-44	33,853	36,423	43,342	6,919	19.0
45-64	47,632	50,910	58,249	7,339	14.4
65+	14,240	12,865	15,838	2,973	23.1
Markets:					
EU	90,714	94,274	117,312	23,038	24.4
Euro area	44,804	43,889	61,865	17,976	41.0
Non-EU	12,023	14,753	14,042	-711	-4.8
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	87,051	94,051	114,694	20,643	21.9
Business and professional	11,218	9,875	11,174	1,299	13.2
Other	4,468	5,101	5,486	385	7.5
Organisation of stay					
Package	70,073	60,018	59,718	-300	-0.5
Non-package	32,664	49,009	71,636	22,627	46.2
Frequency					
First-time tourists	69,497	74,009	92,167	18,158	24.5
Repeat tourists	33,240	35,018	39,187	4,169	11.9
less than once a year	25,338	26,679	29,643	2,964	11.1
more than twice a year	7,902	8,339	9,544	1,205	14.5
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	10,867	13,631	17,292	3,661	26.9
4-6 nights	14,043	18,657	30,319	11,662	62.5
7+ nights	77,827	76,739	83,743	7,004	9.1
Average length of stay (nights)	8.3	7.5	7.3	-0.2	-2.7

Table 2. Departing tourists, by type of accommodation

				persons	
	May			absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
Total	102,737	109,027	131,354	22,327	20.5
Private accommodation	17,809	20,399	22,501	2,102	10.3
Collective accommodation	84,928	88,628	108,853	20,225	22.8
Hotels	77,358	81,373	98,859	17,486	21.5
Other collective accommodation *	7,570	7,255	9,994	2,739	37.8

Table 3. Total nights spent by departing tourists, by type of accommodation

				nights	
	May			absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
Total	854,455	815,664	952,770	137,106	16.8
Private accommodation	207,471	181,688	198,059	16,371	9.0
Collective accommodation	646,984	633,976	754,711	120,735	19.0
Hotels	579,460	574,855	677,055	102,200	17.8
Other collective accommodation *	67,524	59,121	77,656	18,535	31.4

Table 4. Total expenditure by departing tourists, by expenditure categories

				€ 000s	
	May			absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
Total	86,379	84,834	96,122	11,289	13.3
Package	42,215	35,517	32,768	-2,748	-7.7
Non-package	16,131	17,794	28,664	10,870	61.1
Air/sea fares	9,517	11,248	14,881	3,633	32.3
Accommodation	6,614	6,546	13,783	7,237	110.6
Other expenditure	28,033	31,523	34,690	3,167	10.0

* Comprises apart-hotels, guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages
 Estimates for expenditure are rounded to the nearest thousand

Table 5. Departing tourists, nights spent and total expenditure, by country of residence

	May			absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
Total tourists	102,737	109,027	131,354	22,327	20.5
Austria	4,075	2,856	3,241	385	13.5
Belgium	2,734	2,500	3,491	991	39.6
France	10,733	8,624	9,854	1,230	14.3
Germany	10,231	10,556	16,268	5,712	54.1
Ireland	1,264	2,547	2,606	59	2.3
Italy	6,478	8,449	11,310	2,861	33.9
Libya	780	727	796	69	9.5
Netherlands	6,671	4,104	6,314	2,210	53.8
Russia	1,312	1,527	1,154	-373	-24.4
Scandinavia*	7,355	9,556	10,033	477	5.0
Spain	391	955	4,118	3,163	331.2
Switzerland	2,346	2,273	2,165	-108	-4.8
United Kingdom	38,632	41,280	47,544	6,264	15.2
USA	1,637	3,121	1,866	-1,255	-40.2
Other	8,098	9,952	10,594	642	6.5
Total nights	854,455	815,664	952,770	137,106	16.8
Austria	28,690	16,452	20,875	4,423	26.9
Belgium	18,647	15,818	21,600	5,782	36.6
France	76,384	54,521	61,875	7,354	13.5
Germany	85,381	76,670	126,994	50,324	65.6
Ireland	8,995	16,605	17,865	1,260	7.6
Italy	35,017	43,008	58,816	15,808	36.8
Libya	7,857	4,724	6,286	1,562	33.1
Netherlands	45,912	30,183	46,205	16,022	53.1
Russia	17,787	12,931	9,079	-3,852	-29.8
Scandinavia*	63,185	67,123	69,033	1,910	2.8
Spain	2,566	5,232	20,513	15,281	292.1
Switzerland	20,157	18,376	17,162	-1,214	-6.6
United Kingdom	365,315	365,377	390,536	25,159	6.9
USA	14,843	18,997	14,612	-4,385	-23.1
Other	63,719	69,647	71,319	1,672	2.4
Total expenditure (€ '000s)	86,379	84,834	96,122	11,288	13.3
Austria	3,107	2,050	2,229	179	8.7
Belgium	2,078	1,960	2,704	744	38.0
France	8,623	6,621	8,583	1,962	29.6
Germany	8,464	7,890	12,681	4,791	60.7
Ireland	1,095	1,879	2,489	610	32.5
Italy	4,353	5,270	6,862	1,592	30.2
Libya	666	693	826	133	19.2
Netherlands	5,182	3,304	4,332	1,028	31.1
Russia	1,455	1,475	1,216	-259	-17.6
Scandinavia*	6,753	7,356	7,530	174	2.4
Spain	336	710	2,238	1,528	-
Switzerland	2,327	2,042	1,883	-159	-7.8
United Kingdom	32,182	32,993	32,235	-758	-2.3
USA	1,975	2,665	1,453	-1,212	-45.5
Other	7,783	7,926	8,861	935	11.8

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Estimates for expenditure are rounded to the nearest thousand

Table 6. Profile of departing tourists

	January-May			absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
Total	362,689	384,381	447,935	63,554	16.5
Mode of travel:					
Air	360,440	380,572	443,272	62,700	16.5
Sea	2,249	3,809	4,663	854	22.4
Sex:					
Males	191,365	200,378	238,251	37,873	18.9
Females	171,324	184,003	209,684	25,681	14.0
Age group:					
0-24	27,334	40,432	53,337	12,905	31.9
25-44	117,905	121,508	152,534	31,026	25.5
45-64	169,133	174,761	186,798	12,037	6.9
65+	48,317	47,680	55,266	7,586	15.9
Markets:					
EU	317,315	334,483	400,331	65,848	19.7
Euro area	148,805	152,130	214,210	62,080	40.8
Non-EU	45,374	49,898	47,604	-2,294	-4.6
Purpose of visit:					
Holiday	298,069	322,580	372,360	49,780	15.4
Business and professional	46,434	38,776	47,808	9,032	23.3
Other	18,186	23,025	27,767	4,742	20.6
Organisation of stay					
Package	242,484	215,840	202,288	-13,552	-6.3
Non-package	120,205	168,541	245,647	77,106	45.7
Frequency					
First-time tourists	237,063	253,012	305,475	52,463	20.7
Repeat tourists	125,626	131,369	142,460	11,091	8.4
less than once a year	96,438	96,978	102,262	5,284	5.4
more than twice a year	29,188	34,391	40,198	5,807	16.9
Duration of visit:					
1-3 nights	47,579	48,530	65,651	17,121	35.3
4-6 nights	53,271	67,952	106,631	38,679	56.9
7+ nights	261,839	267,899	275,653	7,754	2.9
Average length of stay (nights)	9.0	8.4	7.6	-0.8	-9.5

Chart 1 Percentage distribution of departing tourists, by purpose of visit

January-May 2006-2008

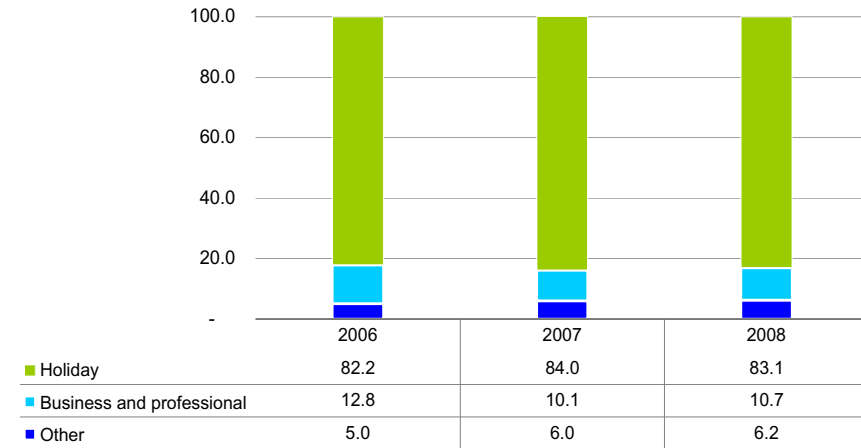


Chart 3 Average length of stay (nights), by type of accommodation

January-May 2006-2008

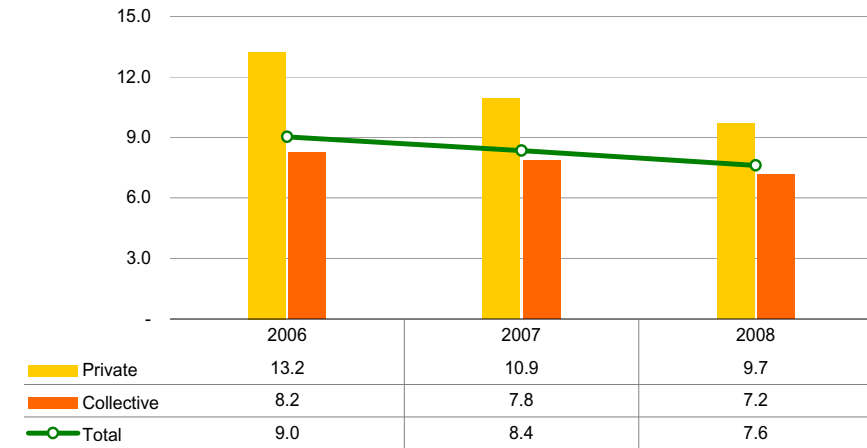


Chart 2 Average length of stay (nights), by purpose of visit

January-May 2006-2008

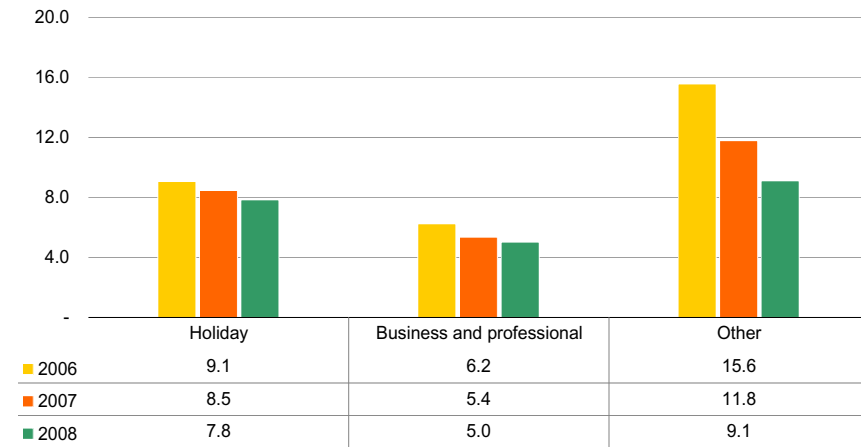


Chart 4 Departing tourists, by night bracket

January-May 2006-2008

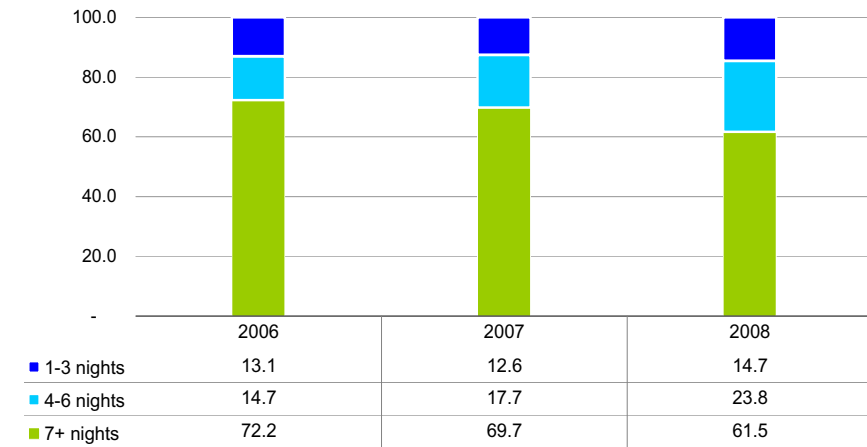


Table 7. Departing tourists, by type of accommodation

				persons	
	January-May			absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
Total	362,689	384,381	447,935	63,554	16.5
Private accommodation	56,376	63,727	79,632	15,905	25.0
Rented	24,754	25,329	34,550	9,221	36.4
Staying with friends/relatives	22,958	27,792	33,551	5,759	20.7
Owner-occupied	8,664	10,606	11,531	925	8.7
Collective accommodation	306,313	320,654	368,303	47,649	14.9
Hotels	285,852	294,757	337,301	42,544	14.4
of which:					
5 Star	71,951	83,637	97,332	13,695	16.4
4 Star	144,462	147,506	160,491	12,985	8.8
3 Star	63,463	53,473	63,130	9,657	18.1
Other collective accommodation *	20,461	25,897	31,002	5,105	19.7

Table 8. Total nights spent by departing tourists, by type of accommodation

				nights	
	January-May			absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
Total	3,272,245	3,210,486	3,411,258	200,772	6.3
Private accommodation	746,410	695,362	772,650	77,288	11.1
Rented	352,943	315,945	337,993	22,048	7.0
Staying with friends/relatives	276,600	262,260	318,501	56,241	21.4
Owner-occupied	116,867	117,157	116,156	-1,001	-0.9
Collective accommodation	2,525,835	2,515,124	2,638,608	123,484	4.9
Hotels	2,321,922	2,281,295	2,384,126	102,831	4.5
of which:					
5 Star	411,348	479,773	543,542	63,769	13.3
4 Star	1,254,354	1,255,370	1,280,736	25,366	2.0
3 Star	610,659	469,689	451,908	-17,781	-3.8
Other collective accommodation *	203,913	233,829	254,482	20,653	8.8

* Comprises Aparthotels, guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages

Table 9. Departing tourists, nights spent and total expenditure, by country of residence

	January-May			absolute change	percentage change
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007
Total tourists	362,689	384,381	447,935	63,554	16.5
Austria	9,368	7,412	8,420	1,008	13.6
Belgium	8,652	7,266	11,365	4,099	56.4
France	27,615	23,973	28,187	4,214	17.6
Germany	44,092	43,203	64,937	21,734	50.3
Ireland	3,561	9,651	9,229	-422	-4.4
Italy	31,252	35,910	48,696	12,786	35.6
Libya	3,837	3,847	2,978	-869	-22.6
Netherlands	12,142	9,310	12,746	3,436	36.9
Russia	3,322	4,431	3,698	-733	-16.5
Scandinavia*	19,251	26,756	26,552	-204	-0.8
Spain	4,751	5,656	16,536	10,880	192.4
Switzerland	6,687	7,795	6,936	-859	-11.0
United Kingdom	150,529	154,683	159,950	5,267	3.4
USA	5,894	6,889	6,077	-812	-11.8
Other	31,736	37,599	41,628	4,029	10.7
Total nights	3,272,245	3,210,486	3,411,258	200,772	6.3
Austria	64,490	52,951	50,498	-2,453	-4.6
Belgium	60,264	51,953	65,314	13,361	25.7
France	206,532	179,543	198,905	19,362	10.8
Germany	384,037	336,026	463,932	127,906	38.1
Ireland	29,695	69,862	64,979	-4,883	-7.0
Italy	177,063	198,085	267,627	69,542	35.1
Libya	29,102	32,377	18,780	-13,597	-42.0
Netherlands	86,801	69,530	93,688	24,158	34.7
Russia	47,200	49,458	29,247	-20,211	-40.9
Scandinavia*	169,217	210,687	191,749	-18,938	-9.0
Spain	34,896	28,786	89,127	60,341	209.6
Switzerland	54,589	81,795	55,841	-25,954	-31.7
United Kingdom	1,569,446	1,505,938	1,464,622	-41,316	-2.7
USA	49,209	48,897	47,637	-1,260	-2.6
Other	309,704	294,598	309,312	14,714	5.0
Total expenditure (€ '000s)	289,838	304,312	306,328	2,016	0.7
Austria	7,012	5,074	5,534	460	9.1
Belgium	6,149	5,774	7,561	1,787	30.9
France	21,687	18,712	22,501	3,789	20.2
Germany	34,101	32,337	42,070	9,733	30.1
Ireland	3,382	7,637	7,294	-343	-4.5
Italy	21,476	23,514	27,294	3,780	16.1
Libya	3,193	3,354	2,265	-1,089	-32.5
Netherlands	9,365	7,005	9,257	2,252	32.1
Russia	3,502	4,259	3,373	-886	-20.8
Scandinavia*	17,105	20,799	18,558	-2,241	-10.8
Spain	3,651	3,911	8,605	4,694	120.0
Switzerland	6,385	8,081	5,452	-2,629	-32.5
United Kingdom	118,917	122,725	107,252	-15,473	-12.6
USA	5,899	6,470	4,291	-2,179	-33.7
Other	28,014	34,660	35,021	361	1.0

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Estimates for expenditure are rounded to the nearest thousand

Table 10. Total expenditure by departing tourists

€ 000s

	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other expenditure	Total
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
January-May 2008					
Total	107,144	48,566	38,063	112,555	306,328
Austria	2,663	692	518	1,661	5,534
Belgium	3,057	1,338	1,016	2,150	7,561
France	10,267	2,926	2,512	6,796	22,501
Germany	15,857	6,573	6,041	13,599	42,070
Ireland	1,716	978	1,065	3,535	7,294
Italy	8,243	5,094	4,711	9,246	27,294
Libya	121	624	419	1,101	2,265
Netherlands	3,065	1,498	1,152	3,542	9,257
Russia	1,112	686	401	1,174	3,373
Scandinavia*	7,152	2,576	2,189	6,641	18,558
Spain	1,966	1,355	1,614	3,670	8,605
Switzerland	2,346	804	654	1,648	5,452
United Kingdom	38,890	14,458	10,778	43,126	107,252
USA	594	1,295	822	1,580	4,291
Other	10,095	7,669	4,171	13,086	35,021
January-May 2007					
Total	125,858	41,674	24,238	112,542	304,312
Austria	2,736	438	216	1,684	5,074
Belgium	3,222	534	314	1,704	5,774
France	8,500	2,681	1,695	5,836	18,712
Germany	14,305	4,853	3,456	9,723	32,337
Ireland	2,211	864	794	3,768	7,637
Italy	8,179	3,829	2,727	8,779	23,514
Libya	453	957	452	1,492	3,354
Netherlands	3,418	799	471	2,317	7,005
Russia	1,438	786	358	1,677	4,259
Scandinavia*	10,239	2,201	1,171	7,188	20,799
Spain	1,944	562	271	1,134	3,911
Switzerland	3,417	876	573	3,215	8,081
United Kingdom	53,502	13,603	7,746	47,874	122,725
USA	1,633	1,310	814	2,713	6,470
Other	10,661	7,381	3,180	13,438	34,660
January-May 2006					
Total	137,031	33,651	23,008	96,148	289,838
Austria	3,865	646	579	1,922	7,012
Belgium	3,518	515	492	1,624	6,149
France	11,618	2,212	1,681	6,176	21,687
Germany	19,033	2,866	2,401	9,801	34,101
Ireland	1,326	405	467	1,184	3,382
Italy	7,855	3,993	3,245	6,383	21,476
Libya	555	651	552	1,435	3,193
Netherlands	5,065	809	597	2,894	9,365
Russia	1,342	561	336	1,263	3,502
Scandinavia*	9,156	1,635	930	5,384	17,105
Spain	1,749	472	287	1,143	3,651
Switzerland	3,136	598	740	1,911	6,385
United Kingdom	58,029	10,825	6,334	43,729	118,917
USA	2,088	1,293	759	1,759	5,899
Other	8,696	6,170	3,608	9,540	28,014

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

Estimates for expenditure are rounded to the nearest thousand

Table 11. Per capita expenditure by departing tourists

€

	Package expenditure	Non-package expenditure		Other Expenditure	Total ^w
		Air/sea fares	Accommodation		
January-May 2008					
Total	530	198	176	251	695
Austria	521	236	211	197	691
Belgium	608	247	213	189	720
France	598	228	207	241	769
Germany	557	201	194	209	679
Ireland	488	171	202	383	800
Italy	426	174	166	190	564
Libya	610	224	159	370	768
Netherlands	557	207	173	278	734
Russia	590	379	233	317	918
Scandinavia*	489	203	180	250	690
Spain	395	117	149	222	527
Switzerland	698	225	200	238	795
United Kingdom	528	168	163	270	691
USA	552	259	191	260	728
Other	549	299	173	314	818
January-May 2007					
Total	583	252	174	293	808
Austria	604	271	134	227	779
Belgium	596	288	193	235	801
France	621	273	192	244	799
Germany	587	267	200	225	761
Ireland	512	162	184	390	810
Italy	495	197	152	245	661
Libya	518	339	174	388	902
Netherlands	550	259	200	249	768
Russia	710	327	172	378	973
Scandinavia*	549	300	195	269	802
Spain	541	273	141	201	695
Switzerland	686	311	215	412	1,041
United Kingdom	597	209	160	310	811
USA	802	273	189	394	957
Other	559	394	182	357	925
January-May 2006					
Total	565	280	229	265	812
Austria	544	286	268	205	752
Belgium	532	253	262	188	715
France	563	316	267	224	792
Germany	555	293	267	222	778
Ireland	616	288	384	332	971
Italy	507	253	225	204	697
Libya	462	247	226	374	844
Netherlands	536	300	235	238	774
Russia	744	370	228	380	1,058
Scandinavia*	623	359	235	280	896
Spain	551	299	194	241	772
Switzerland	652	318	440	286	968
United Kingdom	559	232	190	291	807
USA	938	352	228	299	1,014
Other	580	368	237	301	894

* Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

^w stands for weighted average - further detail can be looked up in the methodological notes - Methodological note 6

Methodological Notes

1. The results in this release are based on the ongoing frontier survey known as TOURSTAT. All the detailed distribution is survey-based. Administrative records are used as a supplementary source for the calibration of the survey aggregates. The exercise is in the main a bottom-up approach including a calibrating weight to re-align the survey results to the true population of total passenger departures (net of transits). Yet we advise our users to exercise caution when analysing details that involve estimates of less than 1,000 tourists since such estimates may suffer from variations attributable to low frequency in the sample frame (sampling errors). There are also limitations related to non-sampling errors, namely those linked to respondents' likelihood and willingness to provide proper information and those related to language barriers.
2. Tourist air departures are collected through a continuous survey carried out at the departure lounge of Malta International Airport (MIA). A two-stage sample design is used for this survey. In 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.
3. Tourist sea departures are collected through a regular survey that is carried out at the Valletta International Seaport Terminal (VISET). 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.
4. The main variables collected in these surveys include the following:

Nationality	Number of nights stayed
Country of residence	Type of accommodation used
Flight/Sailing	Locality in Malta stayed longest
Final destination	Organisation of trip
Sex and age	Form of transport used
Purpose of visit	Expenditure (package/non-package/other)
Frequency of visit	
5. The expenditure data contained in this release should not be equated to national tourism earnings. Such expenditure includes elements that are earned by enterprises outside the Maltese economic territory.
6. The total per capita expenditure is a weighted average of the 'package' and 'non-package' expenditure categories based on the respective number of tourists in each category, plus the simple average of the 'other' expenditure categories.
7. The monthly passenger departures data published by the Malta International Airport cannot be equated to departing tourists because the former is inclusive of departing Maltese and transit passengers. As a result, the monthly tourism statistics published by the NSO are always lower than the combined passenger departures data available from the airport and seaport.
8. **Definitions:**

Usual environment of a person consists of the direct vicinity of his/her home and place of work or study, and other places frequently visited.

Visitors comprise tourists and same-day visitors. Visitors are distinguished from other travellers according to the following criteria:

 - the trip should be to a place other than that of the usual environment;
 - the stay in the place visited should not last more than 12 consecutive months;
 - the main purpose of visit should be other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

International tourist satisfies the criteria mentioned earlier regarding visitors. Additionally, international tourists must stay at least one night in a collective or private accommodation in the country visited.

International same-day visitor is an international visitor who does not spend at least one night in collective or private accommodation.
7. The data in this release are not normally subject to revision.