

Outbound Maltese tourists for August were estimated at 32,793, down by 12.2 per cent when compared to the corresponding month last year. Of these, 86.6 per cent travelled by air.

Outbound Tourism: August 2009

August 2009

In the month under review, Maltese residents departing by air and sea were estimated at 32,793, the majority of whom - 82.8 per cent - travelled to EU destinations, the most popular remaining Italy and the UK. In addition, an estimated 5,643 outbound tourists opted for non-EU destinations. The 25-44 age bracket accounted for the majority of travellers.

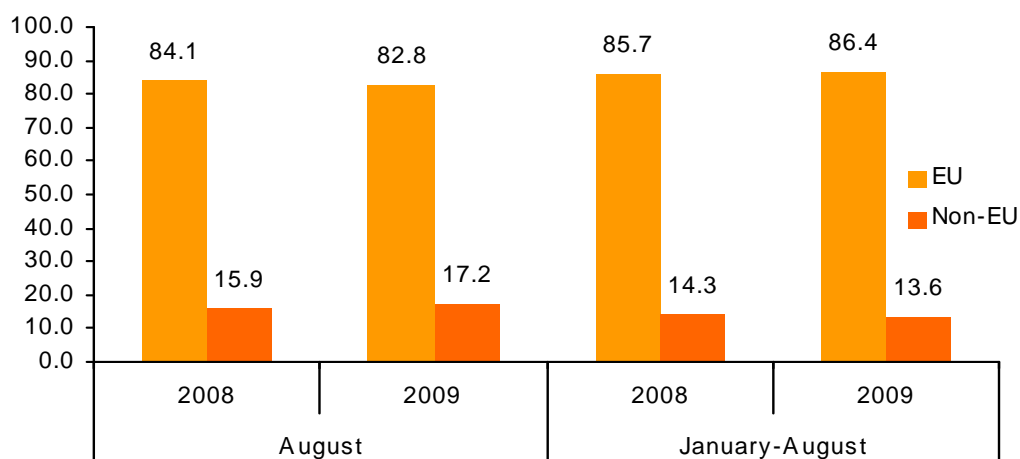
January-August 2009

The number of Maltese passengers departing by air and sea during this period amounted to 195,903, down by 2.6 per cent in comparison with last year. Of these 86.4 per cent travelled to EU destinations; the most visited countries were Italy and the UK.

Male outbound passengers accounted for 57.0 per cent of the total.

The largest proportion of outbound passengers - 46.1 per cent - comprised passengers aged between 25 and 44, followed by those in the 45-64 age bracket who accounted for 36.9 per cent of total outbound tourists ■

Outbound Tourism by main destination



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Table 1. Outbound passengers: monthly

		persons		
	August		Absolute change	Percentage change
	2008	2009	2009/2008	2009/2008
Total	37,337	32,793	-4,544	-12.2
Transport:				
Air	33,531	28,399	-5,132	-15.3
Sea *	3,806	4,394	588	-
Destination:				
EU	31,386	27,150	-4,236	-13.5
<i>of which:</i>				
France	3,063	2,699	-364	-
Germany	2,057	1,593	-464	-
Italy	10,483	9,228	-1,255	-
UK	6,832	6,894	62	-
Non-EU	5,951	5,643	-308	-
Sex:				
Males	19,565	16,127	-3,438	-17.6
Females	17,772	16,666	-1,106	-
Age group:				
0-24	5,898	4,720	-1,178	-
25-44	13,674	14,277	603	-
45-64	15,203	11,336	-3,867	-25.4
65+	2,562	2,460	-102	-

* Note: Outbound sea passengers include an element of same-day visitors.

Table 2. Outbound passengers: cumulative

				persons	
		January - August		Absolute change	Percentage change
		2008	2009	2009/2008	2009/2008
Total		201,126	195,903	-5,223	-2.6
Transport:					
Air		175,573	174,008	-1,565	-0.9
Sea *		25,553	21,895	-3,658	-14.3
Destination:					
EU		172,458	169,175	-3,283	-1.9
<i>of which:</i>					
France		12,667	9,411	-3,256	-25.7
Germany		10,824	8,689	-2,135	-19.7
Italy		63,201	56,371	-6,830	-10.8
UK		45,121	53,226	8,105	18.0
Non-EU		28,668	26,728	-1,940	-6.8
Sex:					
Males		114,716	111,574	-3,142	-2.7
Females		86,410	84,329	-2,081	-2.4
Age group:					
0-24		24,405	24,414	9	-
25-44		90,251	90,239	-12	-
45-64		76,344	72,373	-3,971	-5.2
65+		10,126	8,877	-1,249	-

* Note: Outbound sea passengers include an element of same-day visitors.

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 are 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. Under represented figures are indicated for each table and should be treated with caution. We advise our users to exercise caution when analysing details that involve estimates of less than 1,500 tourists since such estimates may be subject to 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.
6. Absolute changes between one survey and another must be treated with caution since minor changes (ie, less than 1,500 persons) might be the result of sampling error. Consequently, the percentage change for minor year-on-year shifts (less than 1,500 persons) are not presented so as not to give a misleading picture of the numbers involved.
7. 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.
8. The Tourstat survey 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.
9. Definitions
Maltese residents refers to those persons that have been living (studying or working) in Malta for the last 12 months.
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 refers to the direct vicinity of his/her home and place of work and other places frequently visited.
10. The data in this release are not normally subject to revision. A slight revision was carried out for June 2008; consequently cumulative figures in this release supersede figures already published.