

Total guests and nights spent in collective accommodation establishments during the first quarter of 2020 decreased by 18.2 per cent and 21.5 per cent respectively, when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2019.

Collective Accommodation Establishments: Q1/2020

Cut-off date:
14 May 2020

In the first quarter of 2020, total guests in collective accommodation establishments numbered 304,564, while total nights surpassed 1.3 million. The largest share of guest nights was reported in 4-star hotels, accounting for 679,215 nights, or 51.0 per cent of the total (Tables 1 and 2).

The average length of stay, in collective accommodation establishments, went down to 4.4 nights in the first quarter of 2020 from the average of 4.6 nights registered during the same quarter of 2019. The net use of bed-places stood at 37.4 per cent, down by 10.3 percentage points when compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year (Table 3).

On a national level, during March 2020, there were 212 active collective accommodation establishments with a net capacity of 18,881 bedrooms and 43,506 bed-places (Table 4).

Regional breakdown

On a regional level, total guests in Malta numbered 293,422, down by 17.9 per cent over the first quarter of 2019. Additionally, a decrease of 21.6 per cent was recorded in the number of nights spent. Total guests and nights in Gozo and Comino decreased by 24.9 per cent and 18.6 per cent, to 11,142 and 28,856 respectively (Tables 1 and 2).

In Malta, the average length of stay went down by 0.2 of a night to 4.4 nights. On the other hand in Gozo and Comino the average length of stay increased by 0.2 of a night to 2.6 nights, when compared with the same quarter of the previous year. The net occupancy rate in Malta decreased by 10.6 percentage points, reaching 38.0 per cent, and that in Gozo and Comino decreased by 4.6 percentage points to 21.3 per cent over the same quarter of 2019 (Table 3) ■

Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in context of the unprecedented developments and restrictions related to COVID-19.

Due to the COVID-19 situation the following tourism-related sequence of events happened:

28-Feb	Passengers flying in from Italy, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Iran and South Korea, from 26 February onwards were requested to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
8-Mar	Flights from/to Milan were suspended.
10-Mar	Flights from/to Italy were suspended.
10-Mar	Last cruise liner call.
11-Mar	Flights from/to France, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, were suspended.
11-Mar	Passengers flying in from France, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, were requested to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
13-Mar	All passengers flying in from all destinations were requested to stay in quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
18-Mar	Last Virtu' Ferries service for passengers between Malta and Sicily was operated.
21-Mar	All flights from/to all destinations were suspended.

Sources: Malta Tourism Authority, Transport Malta and Virtu' Ferries

Total guests and nights spent

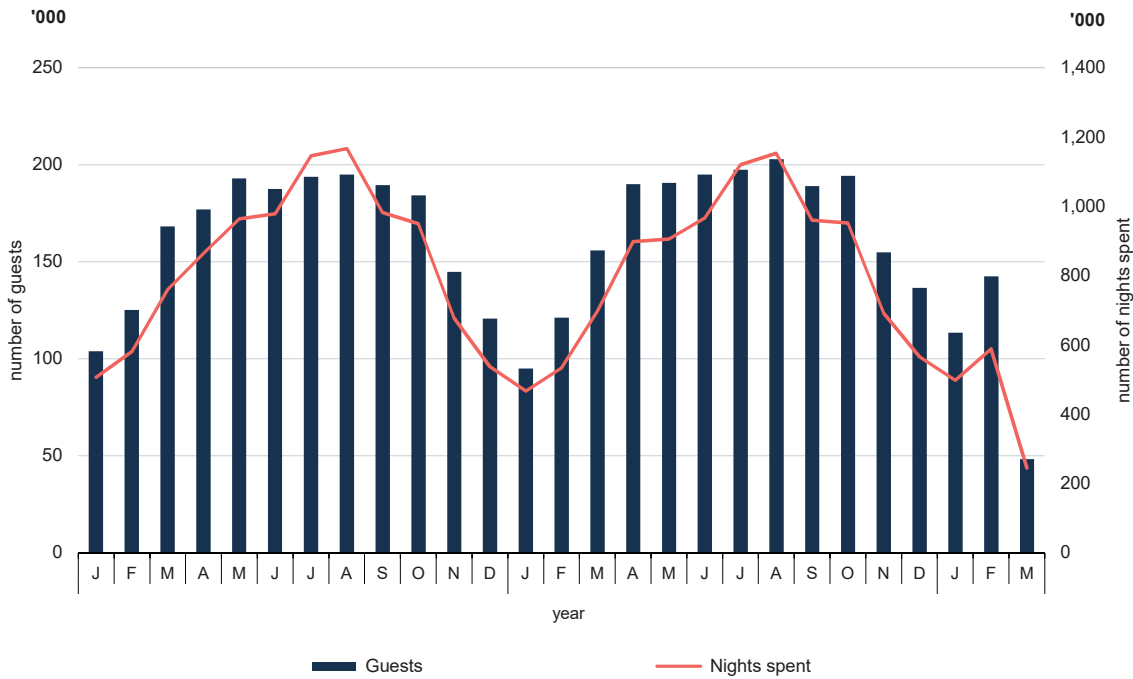


Table 1. Total guests (residents and non-residents) by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	October-December 2019 ¹	January-March	
		2019	2020 ²
MALTA			
Hotel	447,893	349,380	281,253
5 Star	100,100	70,505	55,795
4 Star	217,881	191,221	147,072
3 Star	114,970	77,836	69,359
2 Star	14,942	9,818	9,027
Other collective accommodation³	38,396	22,830	23,311
Total	486,289	372,210	304,564
Malta			
Hotel	428,813	335,779	271,432
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	94,465	66,224	52,977
4 Star	211,046	185,956	143,405
3 Star	109,603	74,755	66,821
Other collective accommodation³	36,209	21,596	21,990
Total	465,022	357,375	293,422
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	19,080	13,601	9,821
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	5,635	4,281	2,818
4 Star	6,835	5,265	3,667
3 Star	5,367	3,081	2,538
Other collective accommodation³	2,187	1,234	1,321
Total	21,267	14,835	11,142

¹ Revised.

² Refer to methodological note 7.

³ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Note: Monthly tables available on the excel version of this news release (Table 1a):

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Pages/Collective-Accommodation-Establishments.aspx

Table 2. Total nights spent (residents and non-residents) by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	October-December 2019 ¹	January-March	
		2019	2020 ²
MALTA			
Hotel	2,045,343	1,573,651	1,230,899
5 Star	358,668	238,047	185,734
4 Star	1,072,194	904,043	679,215
3 Star	538,965	375,763	309,525
2 Star	75,516	55,798	56,425
Other collective accommodation³	166,275	123,492	101,072
Total	2,211,618	1,697,143	1,331,971
Malta			
Hotel	1,987,247	1,540,523	1,204,567
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	343,427	228,435	177,408
4 Star	1,047,754	888,464	668,014
3 Star	522,988	369,483	304,173
Other collective accommodation³	160,535	121,167	98,548
Total	2,147,782	1,661,690	1,303,115
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	58,096	33,128	26,332
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	15,241	9,612	8,326
4 Star	24,440	15,579	11,201
3 Star	15,977	6,280	5,352
Other collective accommodation³	5,740	2,325	2,524
Total	63,836	35,453	28,856

¹ Revised.

² Refer to methodological note 7.

³ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Note: Monthly tables available on the excel version of this news release (Table 2a):

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Pages/Collective-Accommodation-Establishments.aspx

Table 3. Net use of bed-places by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	October-December 2019 ¹	January-March	
		per cent	
		2019	2020 ²
MALTA			
Hotel	58.7	48.6	38.3
5 Star	61.1	44.0	30.4
4 Star	62.8	53.4	46.4
3 Star	51.6	42.4	30.9
2 Star	52.8	47.9	42.3
Other collective accommodation³	42.7	38.6	28.7
Total	57.1	47.7	37.4
Malta			
Hotel	59.6	49.4	38.9
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	63.0	44.5	30.7
4 Star	63.8	54.5	47.5
3 Star	51.6	42.8	30.9
Other collective accommodation³	44.2	40.0	29.7
Total	58.1	48.6	38.0
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	39.7	27.7	22.9
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	36.4	35.7	24.9
4 Star	36.7	25.1	18.7
3 Star	53.5	26.6	34.0
Other collective accommodation³	21.8	13.3	12.3
Total	37.0	25.9	21.3

¹ Revised.

² Refer to methodological note 7.

³ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Note: Monthly tables available on the excel version of this news release (Table 3a):

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Pages/Collective-Accommodation-Establishments.aspx

Table 4. Number of establishments, net bedrooms and net bed-places by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	March					
	Establishments		Bedrooms		Bed-places	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
MALTA						
Hotel	119	126	16,402	17,394	36,835	39,304
5 Star	13	15	3,170	3,495	6,352	7,223
4 Star	43	44	8,277	8,236	19,020	18,840
3 Star	48	48	4,361	4,967	10,159	11,659
2 Star	15	19	594	696	1,304	1,582
Other collective accommodation¹	71	86	1,321	1,487	3,685	4,202
Total	190	212	17,723	18,881	40,520	43,506
Malta						
Hotel	105	113	15,694	16,699	35,299	37,821
<i>of which:</i>						
5 Star	11	13	2,950	3,278	5,884	6,768
4 Star	39	40	7,961	7,899	18,328	18,116
3 Star	43	44	4,224	4,861	9,869	11,441
Other collective accommodation¹	61	76	1,198	1,363	3,426	3,926
Total	166	189	16,892	18,062	38,725	41,747
Gozo and Comino						
Hotel	14	13	708	695	1,536	1,483
<i>of which:</i>						
5 Star	2	2	220	217	468	455
4 Star	4	4	316	337	692	724
3 Star	5	4	137	106	290	218
Other collective accommodation¹	10	10	123	124	259	276
Total	24	23	831	819	1,795	1,759

¹ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Table 5. Non-resident guests by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	October-December 2019 ¹	January-March	
		2019	2020 ²
MALTA			
Hotel	391,085	294,558	232,978
5 Star	82,268	55,830	42,363
4 Star	190,617	158,614	120,699
3 Star	104,902	71,369	61,838
2 Star	13,298	8,745	8,078
Other collective accommodation³	34,943	20,904	20,448
Total	426,028	315,462	253,426
Malta			
Hotel	382,415	290,326	230,079
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	80,227	54,912	41,746
4 Star	187,013	156,560	119,300
3 Star	102,065	70,195	61,017
Other collective accommodation³	33,583	20,399	19,926
Total	415,998	310,725	250,005
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	8,670	4,232	2,899
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	2,041	918	617
4 Star	3,604	2,054	1,399
3 Star	2,837	1,174	821
Other collective accommodation³	1,360	505	522
Total	10,030	4,737	3,421

¹ Revised.

² Refer to methodological note 7.

³ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Table 6. Resident guests by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	October-December 2019 ¹	January-March	
		2019	2020 ²
MALTA			
Hotel	56,808	54,822	48,275
5 Star	17,832	14,675	13,432
4 Star	27,264	32,607	26,373
3 Star	10,068	6,467	7,521
2 Star	1,644	1,073	949
Other collective accommodation³	3,453	1,926	2,863
Total	60,261	56,748	51,138
Malta			
Hotel	46,398	45,453	41,353
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	14,238	11,312	11,231
4 Star	24,033	29,396	24,105
3 Star	7,538	4,560	5,804
Other collective accommodation³	2,626	1,197	2,064
Total	49,024	46,650	43,417
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	10,410	9,369	6,922
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	3,594	3,363	2,201
4 Star	3,231	3,211	2,268
3 Star	2,530	1,907	1,717
Other collective accommodation³	827	729	799
Total	11,237	10,098	7,721

¹ Revised.

² Refer to methodological note 7.

³ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Table 7. Non-resident nights spent by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	October-December 2019 ¹	January-March	
		2019	2020 ²
MALTA			
Hotel	1,917,287	1,458,004	1,123,772
5 Star	317,991	206,322	155,930
4 Star	1,012,929	836,560	621,479
3 Star	514,017	361,205	291,788
2 Star	72,350	53,917	54,575
Other collective accommodation³	158,547	119,511	94,355
Total	2,075,834	1,577,515	1,218,127
Malta			
Hotel	1,879,508	1,442,260	1,111,835
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	309,662	202,921	152,866
4 Star	995,343	827,470	614,994
3 Star	502,751	358,167	289,563
Other collective accommodation³	154,190	118,413	93,190
Total	2,033,698	1,560,673	1,205,025
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	37,779	15,744	11,937
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	8,329	3,401	3,064
4 Star	17,586	9,090	6,485
3 Star	11,266	3,038	2,225
Other collective accommodation³	4,357	1,098	1,165
Total	42,136	16,842	13,102

¹ Revised.

² Refer to methodological note 7.

³ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Table 8. Resident nights spent by type of accommodation, period and region

Type of accommodation	October-December 2019 ¹	January-March	
		2019	2020 ²
MALTA			
Hotel	128,056	115,647	107,127
5 Star	40,677	31,725	29,804
4 Star	59,265	67,483	57,736
3 Star	24,948	14,558	17,737
2 Star	3,166	1,881	1,850
Other collective accommodation³	7,728	3,981	6,717
Total	135,784	119,628	113,844
Malta			
Hotel	107,739	98,263	92,732
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	33,765	25,514	24,542
4 Star	52,411	60,994	53,020
3 Star	20,237	11,316	14,610
Other collective accommodation³	6,345	2,754	5,358
Total	114,084	101,017	98,090
Gozo and Comino			
Hotel	20,317	17,384	14,395
<i>of which:</i>			
5 Star	6,912	6,211	5,262
4 Star	6,854	6,489	4,716
3 Star	4,711	3,242	3,127
Other collective accommodation³	1,383	1,227	1,359
Total	21,700	18,611	15,754

¹ Revised.

² Refer to methodological note 7.

³ Comprises guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.

Methodological Notes

1. The objective of the Survey on Collective Accommodation Establishments is to estimate the utilisation rate of bed-places of all active collective accommodation establishments in Malta and Gozo. The variables collected from the survey include:
 - Number of residents;
 - Number of non-residents;
 - Nights spent by residents;
 - Nights spent by non-residents;
 - Number of room nights sold to foreign residents;
 - Number of room nights sold to Maltese residents;
 - Number of bedrooms;
 - Number of bed-places;
 - Number of days the establishment was closed during the month under review.

The collection of the above variables and the calculation of occupancy levels are in line with Regulation (EU) No.

2. The survey is distributed monthly to all collective accommodation establishments, namely hotels, guesthouses, hostels and tourist villages.
3. Response rates:

January 2019	88.8%	January 2020	96.4%
February 2019	91.0%	February 2020	95.5%
March 2019	90.7%	March 2020	88.0%

4. In this release, figures for October-December 2019 should be considered as a second estimate while those relating to January-March 2020 are a first estimate, therefore subject to revision in the ensuing release.
5. The Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) classification of all accommodation categories are found in Legal Notice 351 of 2012. <http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lp&itemid=23956&l=1>
6. Users are advised that comparisons between non-resident arrivals recorded in the Inbound Tourism survey (Tourstat, demand-side) and the Collective Accommodation survey (Accomstat, supply-side), should be undertaken in the knowledge that discrepancies will be found. These are mainly due to differences in definitions and methodologies. For more details, one can consult Concept 8.3 of the NSO's metadata file (<http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=35>).
7. In view of the COVID-19 situation, guests accommodated in any collective accommodation establishment, and for which their stay was related to health or safety reasons (not related to tourism purposes), have been considered out-of-scope for tourist accommodation statistics and therefore, not recorded for the reference months.
8. **Definitions:**

- **Bedroom:** a unit formed by one room or group of rooms constituting an indivisible rental whole in an accommodation establishment or dwelling.
- **Bed-place:** in an establishment, this is determined by the number of persons who can stay overnight in the establishment, not taking into account any extra beds that may be provided to clients on request.
- **Residents:** Maltese/Gozitan residents who check into/out of a collective accommodation establishment. A person is considered to be a Maltese/Gozitan resident if:
 - (a) S/he has lived for most of the past 12 months in Malta/Gozo;
 - (b) S/he has lived in Malta/Gozo for less than 12 months but intends to return within a year to settle here.
- **Non-residents:** foreigners who do not necessarily follow the definition of a tourist and check into/out of a collective accommodation establishment.
- **Total guests:** the total number of residents and non-residents.
- **Total nights spent:** the total number of nights which guests actually spend or are registered to spend in a collective accommodation establishment.
- **Net use of bed-places:** the net occupancy rate calculated for all active accommodation establishments, net of seasonal closures and other temporary closures. The occupancy of bed-places is calculated by dividing the total nights during the reference period by the number of bed-places and the number of days when the bed-places are actually available for use during the reference period. The result is then multiplied by 100 to express the occupancy rate as a percentage.
- **Average length of stay:** this is calculated as follows:
$$\frac{\text{total number of nights}}{\text{total number of guests}}$$
- **Tourist:** a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.

9. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Sources and Methods: https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_C3/Tourism_Statistics/Pages/Collective-Accommodation-Establishments.aspx

Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>

Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=35>

Statistical Database: <http://nso.gov.mt/statdb/start>

10. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.

11. A detailed news release calendar is available on:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx

European statistics data on collective accommodation by NACE Rev.2 are available at:

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Statistics Database](#)

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