

Total cruise passenger traffic during the fourth quarter of 2021 amounted to 44,994.

Cruise Passengers: Q4/2021

During the fourth quarter of 2021, there were 34 cruise liner calls in Malta. Transit passengers accounted for the absolute majority of total traffic, reaching 42,166 passengers. On average, every vessel that berthed in Malta carried 1,323 passengers (Table 1).

EU nationals comprised the largest share of total cruise passengers during the period under review, at 82.3 per cent. The major market was Italy with 13,586 passengers, accounting for 30.2 per cent of the total passengers. The total number of cruise passengers from Non-EU countries during the quarter under review stood at 7,984 (Table 1).

Female passengers amounted to 23,771 and comprised 52.8 per cent of the total traffic. The largest share of passengers, fell within the 60 to 79 age bracket with 33.7 per cent, followed by the 40 to 59 age category, at 31.1 per cent (Table 1).

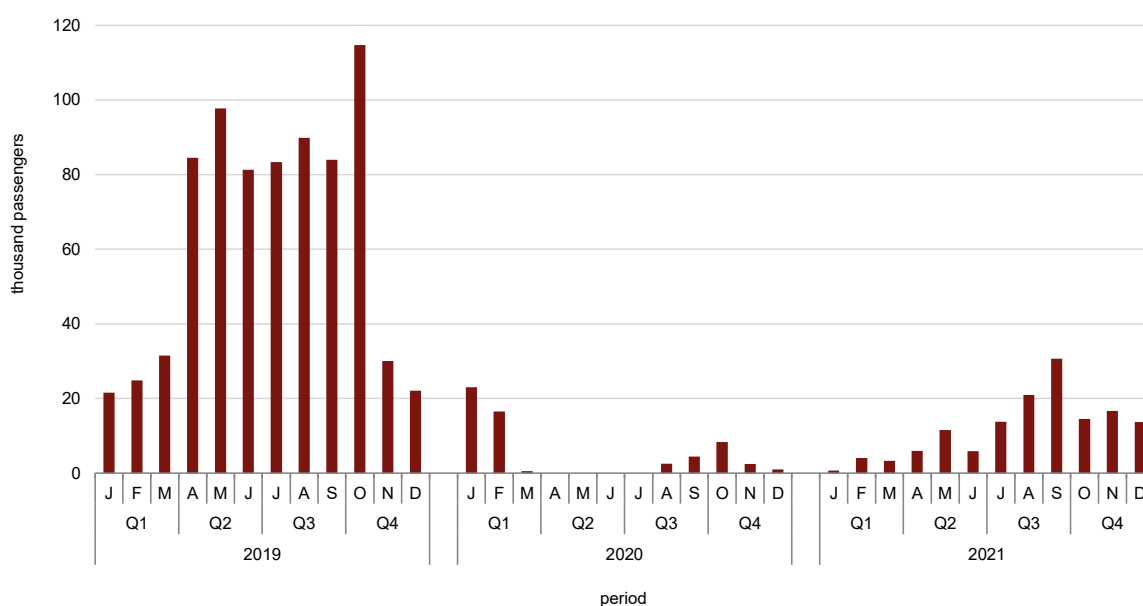
January-December 2021

Total cruise passengers for 2021 stood at 141,917. Of these, 87.1 per cent came from EU Member States (Table 2). This represents a significant increase in cruise passengers when compared to 2020, although pre-COVID-19 levels have yet to be attained.

The majority of the passengers were females amounting to 74,000 or 52.1 per cent of the total. Most passengers were between 40 and 59 years old, totalling 45,281. These were followed by passengers aged 60-79 years, reaching 34,888 (Table 2).

There were 106 cruise liner calls in 2021, with an average of 1,339 passengers per vessel, compared to 32 calls and an average of 1,844 passengers per vessel in the comparative period of 2020 (Table 2) ■

Chart 1. Total cruise passenger traffic



Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

Table 1. Cruise passengers by period and passenger characteristics

Characteristics	October-December			Change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020
Total traffic²	166,859	11,825	44,994	33,169
Transit	149,283	11,695	42,166	30,471
Landed	17,576	130	2,828	2,698
<i>of which:</i>				
Passengers on cruise liners berthed in Gozo	151	0	372	372
Passengers staying overnight	5,781	53	2,448	2,395
Country of Nationality				
EU	97,940	11,239	37,010	25,771
<i>of which:</i>				
France	10,187	1,367	5,032	3,665
Germany	26,418	1,518	8,882	7,364
Italy	22,649	7,418	13,586	6,168
Malta	1,565	8	712	704
Spain	7,383	168	5,720	5,552
United Kingdom	20,195	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-EU	68,919	586	7,984	7,398
<i>of which:</i>				
Switzerland	2,953	330	652	322
Ukraine	856	28	374	346
United Kingdom	n/a	14	3,843	3,829
United States	29,154	17	1,912	1,895
Sex				
Males	76,245	5,775	21,223	15,448
Females	90,614	6,050	23,771	17,721
Age group				
0-19	15,402	1,771	5,766	3,995
20-39	20,642	3,386	8,465	5,079
40-59	47,591	4,408	14,010	9,602
60-79	76,368	2,112	15,141	13,029
80+	6,856	148	1,612	1,464
Cruise liner calls	86	16	34	18

¹Owing to the COVID-19 situation, in 2020 there were no cruise liner calls from 10 March until 21 August.

² See methodological note 3.

Note: Cruise passengers data for quarter 3-2021 can be accessed from:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Documents/2022/03/Cruise-Q3-2021.xls

Table 2. Cruise passengers by period and passenger characteristics: Cumulative 2019-2021

Characteristics	January-December			Change
	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2021/2020
Total traffic²	765,696	59,018	141,917	82,899
Transit	629,276	58,827	131,955	73,128
Landed	136,420	191	9,962	9,771
<i>of which:</i>				
Passengers on cruise liners berthed in Gozo	8,160	0	3,229	3,229
Passengers staying overnight	18,649	946	9,263	8,317
Country of Nationality				
EU	491,599	39,553	123,627	84,074
<i>of which:</i>				
France	41,209	6,301	14,823	8,522
Germany	141,564	4,278	14,623	10,345
Italy	86,702	22,131	68,086	45,955
Malta	11,697	10	3,327	3,317
Spain	38,672	2,529	12,943	10,414
United Kingdom	123,088	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-EU	274,097	19,465	18,290	-1,175
<i>of which:</i>				
Switzerland	9,033	766	2,394	1,628
Ukraine	2,582	576	604	28
United Kingdom	n/a	2,907	5,560	2,653
United States	115,658	2,814	7,188	4,374
Sex				
Males	351,788	28,123	67,917	39,794
Females	413,908	30,895	74,000	43,105
Age group				
0-19	94,487	10,842	25,911	15,069
20-39	103,403	13,245	32,684	19,439
40-59	243,384	19,858	45,281	25,423
60-79	298,009	13,617	34,888	21,271
80+	26,413	1,456	3,153	1,697
Cruise liner calls	359	32	106	74

¹Owing to the COVID-19 situation, in 2020 there were no cruise liner calls from 10 March until 21 August.

² See methodological note 3.

Note: Cruise passengers data for quarter 3-2021 can be accessed from:
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Methodological Notes

1. The data in this release is compiled on the basis of administrative records supplied by Transport Malta.
2. Cruise liners calling at both Malta and Gozo during a single voyage are recorded as one cruise liner call.
3. The majority of passengers embarking on cruise liners from Malta generally end their trip at the same destination. Embarkations are therefore not included in total traffic figures, in order to avoid double counting. This measure was adopted as from News Release no. 079/2013, dated 23 April 2013. The referred news release also includes figures for 2011 and 2012.
4. For clarity, embarkation figures for the period under review are being provided:

Embarkations	2019	2020	2021
October-December	17,131	58	2,184
January-December	134,691	165	8,057

5. Definitions:

- **Cruise passenger traffic:** comprises transit passengers and passengers who land in Malta.
 - **Embarkations:** comprise all cruise passengers who are either Maltese or who are foreigners who arrive in Malta by other means of transport.
 - **Transit passengers:** comprise all cruise passengers who arrive in and leave Malta on the same cruise ship.
 - **Landed passengers:** comprise all cruise passengers who arrive in Malta on a cruise ship and leave by other means of transport, or alternatively, stay in Malta.
 - **Passengers staying overnight:** comprise passengers who spend at least one night in the Maltese Islands, either onboard the cruise ship or on land.
 - **Average number of passengers per vessel:** computed by dividing total cruise passenger traffic by the number of cruise liner calls.
6. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
 7. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=388>
 8. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx