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Last year, foreign students attending English language courses at local licensed English Language Teaching (ELT) schools numbered 87,112, equivalent to a decrease of 0.1 per cent over 2017.

## Teaching English as a Foreign Language: 2018

The majority of students attending English language courses in Malta came from Italy (27.0 per cent), Germany (11.5 per cent) and France (10.2 per cent). Together these accounted for 48.7 per cent of total students (Table 1).

The largest share of language students were aged 15 years or less, accounting for 34.2 per cent of total student visits. Students aged 50 years and over were in the minority and numbered 6,159. Female students outnumbered males, and accounted for 61.3 per cent of the entire student population (Table 3).

July was the busiest month for local licensed ELT schools with 20,330 arrivals, or 23.3 per cent of the annual total. This was followed by June and August with 11.7 and 10.8 per cent of total arrivals respectively (Table 4).

The most popular course offered by local licensed ELT schools is General English. A total of 60,587 students (69.6 per cent) opted for this course during 2018. This was followed by the Intensive English course, with 19.0 per cent of total students (Table 5).

The share of foreign students attending English language courses in 2018 when compared to the total inbound tourists for the same year, stood at 3.4 per cent (Table 6).

Foreign students enrolled in local licensed ELT schools spent a total of 215,252 weeks in Malta. The average length of stay during the year under review stood at 2.5 weeks, down by 0.3 weeks when compared to 2017 (Table 8). With an average of 11.0 weeks, students from Colombia recorded the highest average duration. These were followed by South Korean and Turkish students with an average duration of 7.9 and 6.4 weeks respectively (Table 10).

In 2018, teaching staff in local licensed ELT schools numbered 1,028. The largest share of teaching staff (33.1 per cent) was aged between 18 and 24 years. Female teachers accounted for 71.9 per cent of the total teaching staff. Non-teaching staff amounted to 721, of which 52.1 per cent were employed on a full-time basis (Tables 11 and 12) ■

**Table 1. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by sex and citizenship<sup>1</sup>**

Citizenship	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	2017			2018		
Italy	11,209	14,385	25,594	9,880	13,602	23,482
Germany	4,275	6,002	10,277	4,014	5,977	9,991
France	3,572	5,566	9,138	3,450	5,394	8,844
Russia	1,876	2,942	4,818	2,006	3,390	5,396
Poland	1,513	2,999	4,512	1,497	3,004	4,501
Austria	1,436	1,671	3,107	2,002	2,361	4,363
Brazil	1,594	2,925	4,519	1,409	2,951	4,360
Spain	1,380	2,231	3,611	1,454	2,517	3,971
Japan	744	2,180	2,924	906	2,602	3,508
Switzerland	995	1,387	2,382	814	1,193	2,007
Turkey	1,363	966	2,329	1,046	691	1,737
Czech Republic	518	957	1,475	542	1,016	1,558
Colombia	523	765	1,288	514	783	1,297
Ukraine	326	456	782	426	637	1,063
South Korea	305	726	1,031	287	717	1,004
Netherlands	357	822	1,179	276	671	947
Slovakia	251	413	664	307	552	859
Sweden	116	514	630	193	665	858
Hungary	222	371	593	256	406	662
Other countries <sup>2</sup>	2,537	3,800	6,337	2,469	4,235	6,704
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,112</b>	<b>52,078</b>	<b>87,190</b>	<b>33,748</b>	<b>53,364</b>	<b>87,112</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> includes students arriving in 2017 and 2018

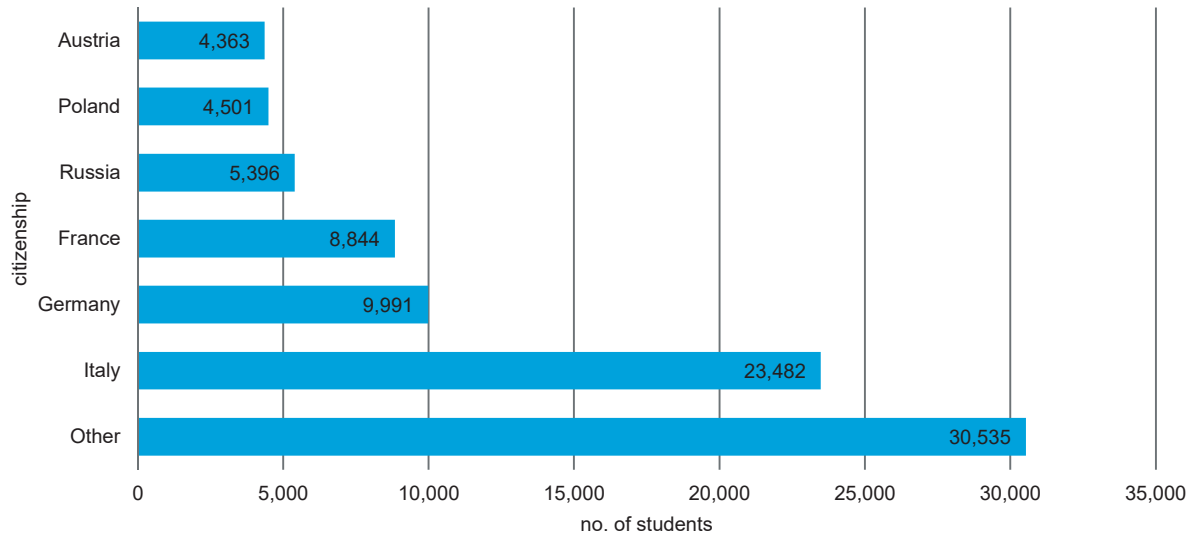
<sup>(2)</sup> includes students whose citizenship is unknown

**Table 2. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by citizenship and age group<sup>1</sup> - top six countries: 2018**

Age group	Citizenship					
	Italy	Germany	France	Russia	Poland	Austria
15 and under	10,118	3,103	4,233	2,251	1,819	1,937
16-17	7,153	1,427	1,902	454	678	1,380
18-25	2,196	1,360	1,478	704	226	728
26-35	1,042	966	355	1,085	396	70
36-49	1,707	1,503	445	726	967	123
50 and over	1,266	1,632	430	176	415	125
Unspecified	-	-	1	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,482</b>	<b>9,991</b>	<b>8,844</b>	<b>5,396</b>	<b>4,501</b>	<b>4,363</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> includes only students arriving in 2018

**Chart 1. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by citizenship<sup>1</sup>: 2018**



<sup>(1)</sup> includes only students arriving in 2018

**Table 3. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools  
by sex and age group<sup>1</sup>**

Age group	2017	2018	Change	Percentage change
	<b>Males</b>			
15 and under	11,576	12,134	558	4.8
16-17	7,230	6,507	-723	-10.0
18-25	7,062	6,164	-898	-12.7
26-35	3,790	3,656	-134	-3.5
36-49	3,386	3,225	-161	-4.8
50 and over	2,043	2,056	13	0.6
Unspecified	25	6	-19	-76.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,112</b>	<b>33,748</b>	<b>-1,364</b>	<b>-3.9</b>
<b>Females</b>				
15 and under	16,484	17,678	1,194	7.2
16-17	9,866	9,568	-298	-3.0
18-25	9,796	9,086	-710	-7.2
26-35	6,337	6,497	160	2.5
36-49	5,867	6,427	560	9.5
50 and over	3,698	4,103	405	11.0
Unspecified	30	5	-25	-83.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,078</b>	<b>53,364</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Total</b>				
15 and under	28,060	29,812	1,752	6.2
16-17	17,096	16,075	-1,021	-6.0
18-25	16,858	15,250	-1,608	-9.5
26-35	10,127	10,153	26	0.3
36-49	9,253	9,652	399	4.3
50 and over	5,741	6,159	418	7.3
Unspecified	55	11	-44	-80.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>87,190</b>	<b>87,112</b>	<b>-78</b>	<b>-0.1</b>

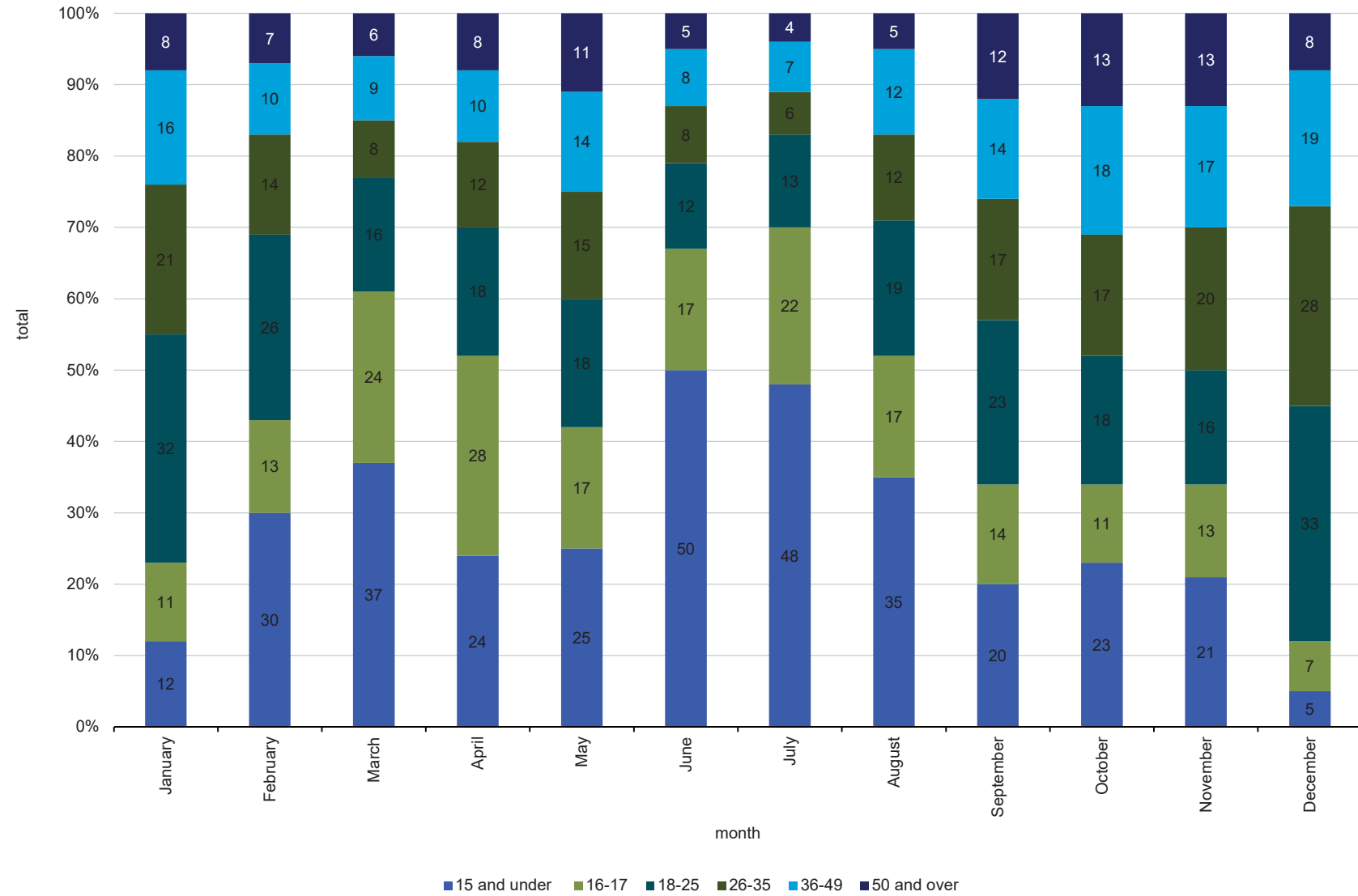
<sup>(1)</sup> includes students arriving in 2017 and 2018

**Table 4. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools  
by sex and month of arrival<sup>1</sup>**

Month of arrival	2017	2018	Change	Percentage change
	Males			
January	1,483	1,373	-110	-7.4
February	1,949	1,864	-85	-4.4
March	3,841	3,347	-494	-12.9
April	3,182	3,216	34	1.1
May	3,024	2,377	-647	-21.4
June	3,365	3,921	556	16.5
July	8,151	7,495	-656	-8.0
August	3,575	3,582	7	0.2
September	2,441	2,524	83	3.4
October	2,387	2,170	-217	-9.1
November	1,300	1,339	39	3.0
December	414	540	126	30.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,112</b>	<b>33,748</b>	<b>-1,364</b>	<b>-3.9</b>
	Females			
January	2,021	2,018	-3	-0.1
February	2,643	2,661	18	0.7
March	4,864	4,978	114	2.3
April	4,225	4,775	550	13.0
May	4,234	3,498	-736	-17.4
June	5,287	6,265	978	18.5
July	13,416	12,835	-581	-4.3
August	5,822	5,802	-20	-0.3
September	3,920	4,156	236	6.0
October	3,444	3,607	163	4.7
November	1,667	1,958	291	17.5
December	535	811	276	51.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,078</b>	<b>53,364</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>2.5</b>
	Total			
January	3,504	3,391	-113	-3.2
February	4,592	4,525	-67	-1.5
March	8,705	8,325	-380	-4.4
April	7,407	7,991	584	7.9
May	7,258	5,875	-1,383	-19.1
June	8,652	10,186	1,534	17.7
July	21,567	20,330	-1,237	-5.7
August	9,397	9,384	-13	-0.1
September	6,361	6,680	319	5.0
October	5,831	5,777	-54	-0.9
November	2,967	3,297	330	11.1
December	949	1,351	402	42.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>87,190</b>	<b>87,112</b>	<b>-78</b>	<b>-0.1</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> includes students arriving in 2017 and 2018

Chart 2. Percentage of foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools  
by month of arrival and age-group: 2018



**Table 5. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by type of course followed and citizenship<sup>1</sup>: 2018**

Citizenship	General English	Intensive English	English specific purposes <sup>2</sup>	Other <sup>3</sup>	Total
Italy	17,333	2,404	417	3,328	<b>23,482</b>
Germany	5,462	3,043	532	954	<b>9,991</b>
France	6,298	1,890	401	255	<b>8,844</b>
Russia	3,849	1,109	79	359	<b>5,396</b>
Poland	3,092	894	232	283	<b>4,501</b>
Austria	3,974	325	24	40	<b>4,363</b>
Brazil	3,366	815	28	151	<b>4,360</b>
Spain	2,680	848	56	387	<b>3,971</b>
Japan	2,439	894	37	138	<b>3,508</b>
Switzerland	1,099	584	63	261	<b>2,007</b>
Turkey	1,310	325	37	65	<b>1,737</b>
Czech Republic	1,111	324	42	81	<b>1,558</b>
Colombia	615	564	47	71	<b>1,297</b>
Ukraine	750	192	28	93	<b>1,063</b>
South Korea	699	252	8	45	<b>1,004</b>
Netherlands	593	262	16	76	<b>947</b>
Slovakia	577	179	35	68	<b>859</b>
Sweden	800	32	8	18	<b>858</b>
Hungary	348	210	31	73	<b>662</b>
Other countries <sup>4</sup>	4,192	1,421	407	684	<b>6,704</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,587</b>	<b>16,567</b>	<b>2,528</b>	<b>7,430</b>	<b>87,112</b>

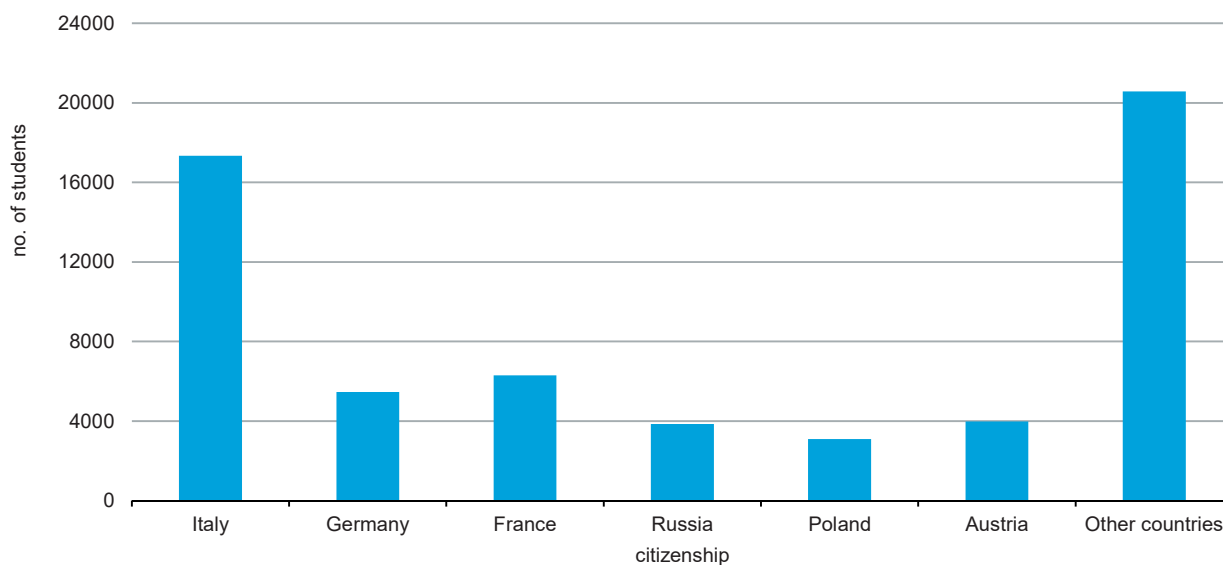
<sup>(1)</sup> includes only students arriving in 2018

<sup>(2)</sup> includes Business English

<sup>(3)</sup> includes Exam Preparation Courses, One to One lessons and other courses

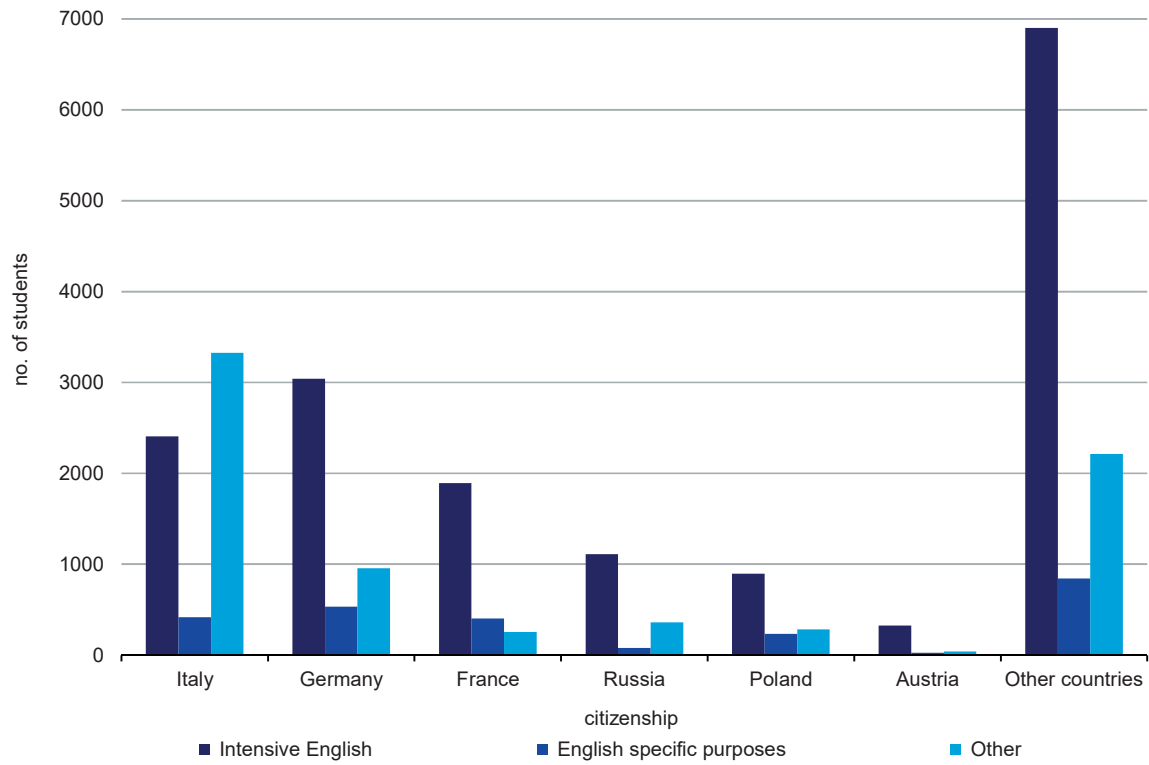
<sup>(4)</sup> includes students whose citizenship is unknown

**Chart 3. Foreign students attending local licensed ELT schools by citizenship following the General English course<sup>1</sup>: 2018**



<sup>(1)</sup> includes only students arriving in 2018

**Chart 4. Foreign students attending local licensed ELT schools by citizenship and course followed (excluding General English)<sup>1</sup>: 2018**



<sup>(1)</sup> includes only students arriving in 2018



**Table 6. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools  
and inbound tourists by sex and month: 2018**

Month	Students <sup>1</sup>			Inbound tourists <sup>2</sup>			% of students per inbound tourists		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
January	1,373	2,018	3,391	67,999	56,770	124,769	2.0	3.6	2.7
February	1,864	2,661	4,525	62,958	59,475	122,433	3.0	4.5	3.7
March	3,347	4,978	8,325	83,453	83,745	167,197	4.0	5.9	5.0
April	3,216	4,775	7,991	113,931	119,590	233,520	2.8	4.0	3.4
May	2,377	3,498	5,875	122,491	134,388	256,879	1.9	2.6	2.3
June	3,921	6,265	10,186	128,644	128,901	257,545	3.0	4.9	4.0
July	7,495	12,835	20,330	136,038	153,145	289,183	5.5	8.4	7.0
August	3,582	5,802	9,384	159,696	154,179	313,875	2.2	3.8	3.0
September	2,524	4,156	6,680	143,803	127,636	271,439	1.8	3.3	2.5
October	2,170	3,607	5,777	131,119	134,300	265,419	1.7	2.7	2.2
November	1,339	1,958	3,297	89,019	86,151	175,170	1.5	2.3	1.9
December	540	811	1,351	61,533	59,727	121,259	0.9	1.4	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,748</b>	<b>53,364</b>	<b>87,112</b>	<b>1,300,684</b>	<b>1,298,006</b>	<b>2,598,690</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.4</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> includes only students arriving in 2018

<sup>(2)</sup> inbound tourists by month of departure

**Table 7. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools  
by sex and type of accommodation<sup>1</sup>**

Type of accommodation	2017	2018	Change	Percentage change
	Males			
Hotel	5,880	7,321	1,441	24.5
5 Star	18	45	27	150.0
4 Star	2,559	3,329	770	30.1
3 Star	3,303	3,947	644	19.5
Other collective accommodation <sup>2</sup>	6,414	5,957	-457	-7.1
Host families	9,945	8,957	-988	-9.9
Self catering accommodation	4,303	3,452	-851	-19.8
Other <sup>3</sup>	8,570	8,061	-509	-5.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,112</b>	<b>33,748</b>	<b>-1,364</b>	<b>-3.9</b>
	Females			
Hotel	8,278	11,090	2,812	34.0
5 Star	25	59	34	136.0
4 Star	3,262	4,358	1,096	33.6
3 Star	4,991	6,673	1,682	33.7
Other collective accommodation <sup>2</sup>	10,014	9,419	-595	-5.9
Host families	16,585	14,598	-1,987	-12.0
Self catering accommodation	6,258	6,511	253	4.0
Other <sup>3</sup>	10,943	11,746	803	7.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,078</b>	<b>53,364</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>2.5</b>
	Total			
Hotel	14,158	18,411	4,253	30.0
5 Star	43	104	61	141.9
4 Star	5,821	7,687	1,866	32.1
3 Star	8,294	10,620	2,326	28.0
Other collective accommodation <sup>2</sup>	16,428	15,376	-1,052	-6.4
Host families	26,530	23,555	-2,975	-11.2
Self catering accommodation	10,561	9,963	-598	-5.7
Other <sup>3</sup>	19,513	19,807	294	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>87,190</b>	<b>87,112</b>	<b>-78</b>	<b>-0.1</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> includes students arriving in 2017 and 2018

<sup>(2)</sup> includes residences, hostels and guesthouses

<sup>(3)</sup> includes accommodation not provided by the school

Table 8. Total number of weeks spent by foreign students by sex and month<sup>1</sup>

Month	Number of weeks <sup>2</sup>			Average number of weeks per student <sup>3</sup>		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	2018					
January	2,492	3,588	6,079	1.8	1.8	1.8
February	4,202	5,955	10,157	2.3	2.2	2.2
March	6,464	9,455	15,919	1.9	1.9	1.9
April	6,589	9,633	16,222	2.0	2.0	2.0
May	6,689	10,212	16,901	2.8	2.9	2.9
June	8,048	12,240	20,288	2.1	2.0	2.0
July	16,774	28,079	44,854	2.2	2.2	2.2
August	11,850	17,848	29,698	3.3	3.1	3.2
September	6,088	9,265	15,353	2.4	2.2	2.3
October	6,583	10,615	17,198	3.0	2.9	3.0
November	5,573	7,813	13,385	4.2	4.0	4.1
December	4,004	5,194	9,198	7.4	6.4	6.8
<b>Total<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>85,356</b>	<b>129,897</b>	<b>215,252</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
2017						
January	2,954	3,972	6,925	2.0	2.0	2.0
February	4,898	6,444	11,343	2.5	2.4	2.5
March	7,686	9,984	17,670	2.0	2.1	2.0
April	7,899	10,609	18,508	2.5	2.5	2.5
May	8,366	12,197	20,562	2.8	2.9	2.8
June	8,806	13,038	21,844	2.6	2.5	2.5
July	18,348	30,021	48,369	2.3	2.2	2.2
August	13,659	20,572	34,232	3.8	3.5	3.6
September	7,623	11,478	19,101	3.1	2.9	3.0
October	8,008	11,857	19,865	3.4	3.4	3.4
November	6,894	8,825	15,720	5.3	5.3	5.3
December	4,610	5,453	10,062	11.1	10.2	10.6
<b>Total<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>99,752</b>	<b>144,450</b>	<b>244,202</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> includes students arriving in 2017 and 2018.

<sup>(2)</sup> the number of weeks are distributed according to students' stay

<sup>(3)</sup> based on student figures as presented in Table 4

<sup>(4)</sup> total **excludes 9,705 weeks** spent by foreign students during 2018 who arrived in Malta during the previous year

<sup>(5)</sup> total **excludes 13,647 weeks** spent by foreign students during 2017 who arrived in Malta during the previous year

Table 9. Total number of foreign student weeks by age group and citizenship<sup>1</sup>: 2018

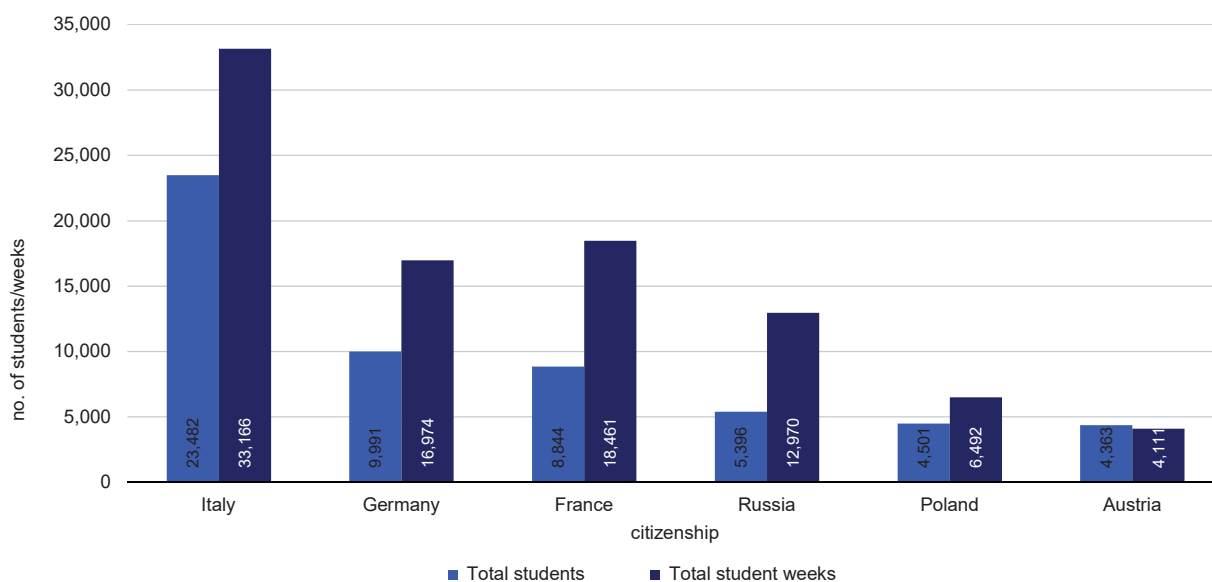
Citizenship	15 and under	16-17	18-25	26-35	36-49	50 and over	Unspecified	Total
Italy	11,506	8,648	5,494	3,252	2,646	1,621	-	33,166
Germany	4,598	2,439	3,745	1,798	2,113	2,281	-	16,974
France	7,310	3,609	5,086	890	804	746	16	18,461
Russia	4,694	1,017	2,281	2,893	1,742	343	-	12,970
Poland	2,204	981	481	675	1,522	629	-	6,492
Austria	1,762	1,199	703	109	158	180	-	4,111
Brazil	245	431	6,193	7,712	2,958	1,599	-	19,137
Spain	2,278	1,064	2,860	2,503	1,206	551	3	10,465
Japan	784	711	9,008	3,181	1,021	481	1	15,188
Switzerland	663	769	2,159	530	633	913	-	5,667
Turkey	578	274	6,602	2,650	871	224	-	11,199
Czech Republic	664	497	534	398	691	291	-	3,076
Colombia	120	649	5,784	5,949	1,618	102	8	14,229
Ukraine	919	234	546	630	394	81	-	2,805
South Korea	220	73	4,133	2,222	1,031	205	-	7,884
Netherlands	157	370	750	111	109	79	-	1,577
Slovakia	363	319	345	353	355	129	-	1,864
Sweden	1,381	383	209	47	46	69	-	2,135
Hungary	260	157	258	283	501	143	-	1,603
Other countries <sup>2</sup>	4,224	2,347	9,979	6,122	2,694	884	2	26,251
<b>Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>44,928</b>	<b>26,171</b>	<b>67,149</b>	<b>42,309</b>	<b>23,113</b>	<b>11,551</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>215,252</b>

(<sup>1</sup>) includes only students arriving in 2018

(<sup>2</sup>) includes students whose citizenship is unknown

(<sup>3</sup>) total excludes 9,705 weeks spent by foreign students during 2018 who arrived in Malta during the previous year

Chart 5. Number of foreign students and student weeks by citizenship<sup>1</sup>: 2018



(<sup>1</sup>) includes only students arriving in 2018

Table 10. Total number of foreign student weeks by sex and citizenship<sup>1</sup>: 2018

Citizenship	Number of weeks <sup>2</sup>			Average number of weeks per student <sup>3</sup>		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Italy	14,774	18,392	33,166	1.5	1.4	1.4
Germany	6,711	10,263	16,974	1.7	1.7	1.7
France	7,317	11,144	18,461	2.1	2.1	2.1
Russia	4,836	8,134	12,970	2.4	2.4	2.4
Poland	2,225	4,266	6,492	1.5	1.4	1.4
Austria	1,743	2,367	4,111	0.9	1.0	0.9
Brazil	6,400	12,737	19,137	4.5	4.3	4.4
Spain	3,839	6,626	10,465	2.6	2.6	2.6
Japan	3,621	11,567	15,188	4.0	4.4	4.3
Switzerland	2,220	3,446	5,667	2.7	2.9	2.8
Turkey	7,043	4,156	11,199	6.7	6.0	6.4
Czech Republic	1,124	1,951	3,076	2.1	1.9	2.0
Colombia	5,715	8,514	14,229	11.1	10.9	11.0
Ukraine	1,127	1,678	2,805	2.6	2.6	2.6
South Korea	2,262	5,622	7,884	7.9	7.8	7.9
Netherlands	446	1,131	1,577	1.6	1.7	1.7
Slovakia	679	1,184	1,864	2.2	2.1	2.2
Sweden	519	1,616	2,135	2.7	2.4	2.5
Hungary	713	890	1,603	2.8	2.2	2.4
Other countries <sup>4</sup>	12,040	14,211	26,251	4.9	3.4	3.9
<b>Total<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>85,356</b>	<b>129,897</b>	<b>215,252</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> includes only students arriving in 2018

<sup>(2)</sup> the number of weeks are distributed according to students' stay

<sup>(3)</sup> based on student figures as presented in Table 1

<sup>(4)</sup> includes students whose citizenship is unknown

<sup>(5)</sup> total excludes 9,705 weeks spent by foreign students during 2018 who arrived in Malta during the previous year

**Table 11. Staff employed in local licensed ELT schools by sex and age group: 2018**

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	Teaching staff <sup>1</sup>		
18-24	89	251	340
25-34	78	142	220
35-44	32	82	114
45-54	32	95	127
55 and over	58	169	227
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>1,028</b>
	Non-teaching staff		
15-24	150	154	304
25-34	85	117	202
35-44	39	56	95
45-54	25	32	57
55 and over	34	29	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>721</b>
	Total		
15-24	239	405	644
25-34	163	259	422
35-44	71	138	209
45-54	57	127	184
55 and over	92	198	290
<b>Total</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>1,749</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> This category does not apply for persons aged 15-17 years

**Table 12. Staff in local licensed ELT schools by sex and type of employment: 2018**

Type of employment	Teaching staff			Non-teaching staff			Total		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Full-time	41	86	127	146	230	376	187	316	503
Part-time	96	243	339	24	31	55	120	274	394
Casual part-time	152	410	562	163	127	290	315	537	852
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>1,749</b>

**Methodological Notes:**

1. Data used in this News Release were based on information collected by the Ministry for Education and Employment which was subsequently analysed by NSO.
2. All local licensed English Language Teaching (ELT) schools operating in 2018 responded to this questionnaire.
3. Breakdowns by country are based on the students' citizenship as provided in their passport. Thus, figures for foreign citizens are not directly comparable to other tourism figures published by NSO.
4. Only students arriving during 2018 are considered in this release.
5. Persons employed with different schools carrying out the same role are counted once in this release.
6. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
7. A detailed news release calendar is available on:  
[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)