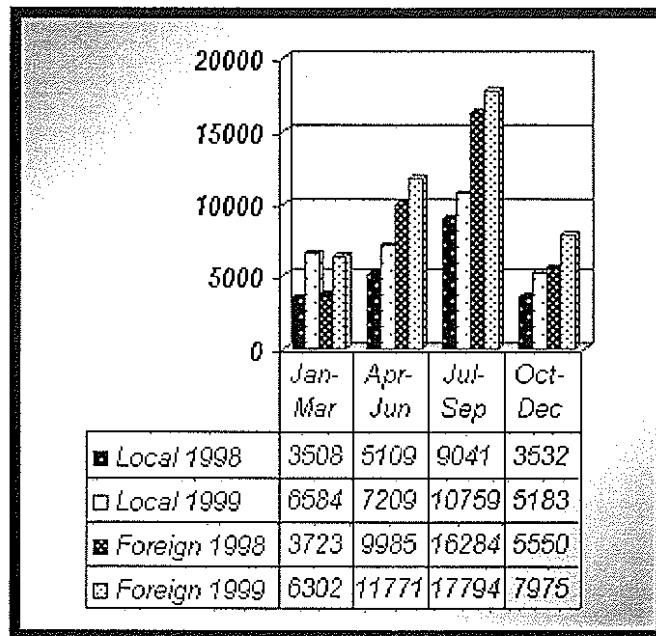


Illiteracy at 7	Diskors ta' I-Istudenti	Strengths and Weaknesses of Small Islands	Trade Schools in Gozo	Theses by Gozitan Students
Profile: Joe Xuereb, sculptor	Aspects of Health of the Gozitan people	Tourists in Gozo	Il-Gwardjani Lokali	Book Profile: The Maltese Migrant Experience
Book Profile: The Placenames of the coast of Gozo	Mini-Medicine in Gozo	Poems	Typing Maltese Characters	Front Cover

The Gozo Tourism Association in its newsletter summarises the tourist situation in Gozo during 1998 and 1999, based on information furnished by the management of the hotels and guesthouses, and obtained provided by the Ministry for Gozo. There was an increase of just under 30% during the year, from a total of 56,732 in 1998, to 73577 in 1999 - inclusive of both local and foreign tourists. (see graph)

As is to be expected, the number of both local and foreign visitors reaches its peak in the summer period of July to September, with much smaller number arriving in the first and last quarter.



Perhaps more significantly to the hotel industry is the fact that the number of bed-nights increased 36 % (from 184,831 to 252,060) The occupancy rate was 31.17 % for 1998 and 36.64% for 1999. Occupancy by local persons accounts for 27% of the total occupancy rates, ie. more than a quarter of the beds in hotels in Gozo are occupied by local (Maltese) visitors.

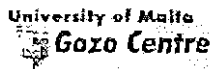
These figures shows that there is still a long way to go before anywhere near full occupancy rates are achieved. The relative value of foreign to local tourist trade, and to the economy of Gozo in general remains to be determined. It is the general impression, that, hotels apart, it is the local visitor from Malta that provides the bulk of the tourist trade in Gozo. This seems to be the overwhelming impression one gets when looking at the restaurant patronage on a Saturday evening.

To be noted that these figure apply only to tourists who stayed in Gozo overnight, and does not include day trippers to Gozo, (local or foreign). It also does not include those who stayed in self-catering establishments.

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