

Census of Agriculture 2020

The National Statistics Office (NSO) in collaboration with the Agriculture Directorate within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal rights (MAFA) conducted the Census of Agriculture for the reference year 2020 to take stock of the activities being carried out by farmers, livestock breeders and beekeepers in both Malta and Gozo. This statistical exercise is used to analyse the changes that this sector may have gone through since the last comparable exercise in 2010.

The 2020 Census of Agriculture was carried out in conformity with the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1874, and was co-financed by the same European Commission. The relevant statistical data was collected from all the registered agricultural holdings over a five-month period starting from October 2020. The reference date for livestock statistics was set at 30 September 2020, while the reference period for crop cultivation, land use and the agricultural labour force covered the period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020.

Key findings:

- Over the 10-year period since the last census, the number of agricultural holdings decreased by 14.8 per cent from 12,268 in 2010 to 10,449 in 2020.
- There were 4,327 agricultural holdings (41.4 per cent) whose produce was solely for their own consumption, while the remaining 6,122 holdings (58.6 per cent) sold all or a share of their produce. The former were responsible for the cultivation of 1,835 hectares (17.1 per cent) of all utilised agricultural area, while the latter cultivated the remaining 8,895 hectares (82.9 per cent).
- The amount of utilised agricultural area decreased by 6.2 per cent from 11,445 hectares in 2010 to 10,730 hectares in 2020.
- The number of reared pigs, broilers and cattle decreased by 43.2, 17.7 and 7.9 per cent, respectively whereas the number of reared sheep, goats and laying hens increased by 36.3, 31.5 and 12.6 per cent, respectively.
- The agricultural labour force declined by 25.8 per cent, from 18,212 persons in 2010 to 13,511 persons in 2020.
- The ageing factor was evident in the agricultural labour force as 23.7 per cent of the workers were under the age of 45 years.
- A share of 45.8 per cent of the agricultural holdings had a succession plan for someone else to continue their agricultural work upon retirement.

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

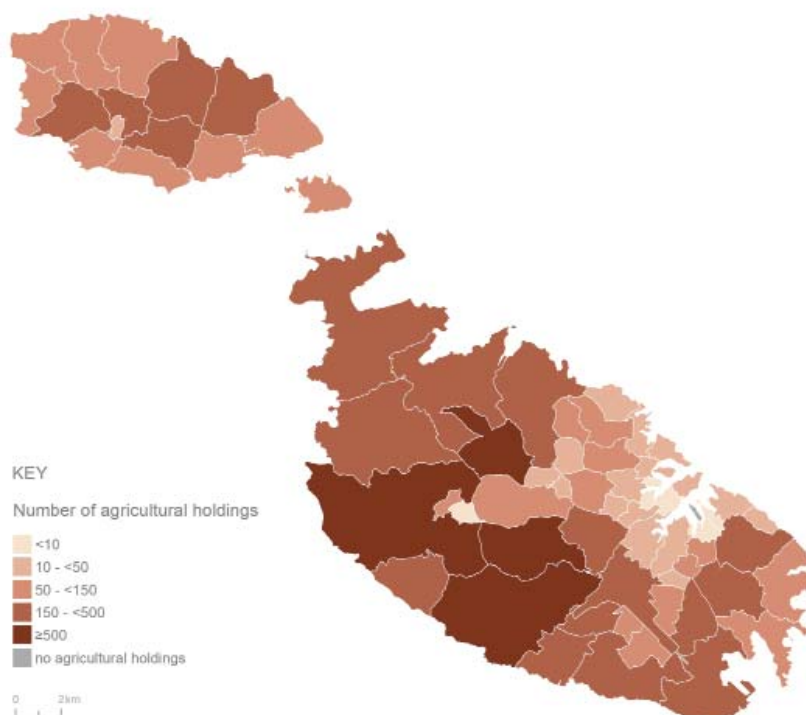
Table 1. Key findings: a comparison with 2010

	2010	2020	% change
Number of holdings	12,268	10,449	-14.8
Utilised agricultural area (ha)	11,445	10,730	-6.2
Unutilised agricultural area (ha)	242	346	43.0
Number of workers: ≥ 1800 hours	1,300	1,798	38.3
Number of workers: < 1800 hours	16,912	11,713	-30.7
Livestock population in heads:			
Cattle	15,688	14,447	-7.9
Sheep	11,873	16,177	36.3
Goats	4,384	5,764	31.5
Pigs	70,593	40,090	-43.2
Broilers	846,143	696,010	-17.7
Laying hens	300,667	338,516	12.6

Geographical distribution, legal personality and management of the holding

During 2020, the total number of agricultural holdings in MALTA amounted to 10,449. A total of 2,514 holdings or 24.1 per cent originated from the Western district. This was followed by the Northern and Gozo and Comino districts with 2,174 (20.8 per cent) and 2,115 holdings (20.2 per cent), respectively. The Northern Harbour district had the lowest number of agricultural holdings at 768 or 7.3 per cent of the total (Map 1, Table 2).

Map 1. Distribution of agricultural holdings by locality: 2020



The majority of the agricultural holdings (98.7 per cent) were found to be run by sole holders. Holdings that were found to be managed by groups, partnerships and companies accounted for 1.3 per cent (Table 2). Farmers who were both the farm manager and the sole holder of the activity accounted for 93.8 per cent of all the sole-holder agricultural holdings interviewed in the census (Table 3).

Agricultural managers were mostly male, with 11.1 per cent being female. Moreover, managers aged 44 years and younger amounted to 17.6 per cent of the total (Chart 2), compared to 16.8 per cent in 2010 (Chart 1). Managers aged 65 years and over accounted for 35.9 per cent of the total (Table 4, Chart 2).

The 2020 Census of Agriculture revealed that most of the holdings in MALTA were relatively small, with 7,280 holdings (69.7 per cent) managed a Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA) of less than one hectare. Medium-sized agricultural holdings that managed between one to five hectares of land amounted to 2,904 (27.8 per cent), while 265 holdings (2.5 per cent) were considered large, managing over five hectares of UAA (Table 5).

Moreover, it resulted that a total of 4,327 agricultural holdings, accounting for 41.4 per cent of all holdings, produced products for their own consumption while the remaining 6,122 holdings, or 58.6 per cent, sold all or a share of their produce through the various available market niches (Table 6).

Table 2. Distribution of the legal personality of the agricultural holdings by region/district and type of holding

Type of holding	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total agricultural holdings	10,449	8,334	796	768	2,082	2,514	2,174	2,115
<i>of which:</i>								
Sole-holder holdings	10,309	8,225	780	752	2,055	2,492	2,146	2,084
Group or partnership	92	67	9	8	23	9	18	25
Company	48	42	7	8	4	13	10	6

Table 3. Distribution of managers of sole-holder agricultural holdings by region/district and type of holding

Type of sole holding	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total sole holder holdings	10,309	8,225	780	752	2,055	2,492	2,146	2,084
<i>of which:</i>								
Manager is the sole holder	9,665	7,727	719	700	1,925	2,329	2,054	1,938
Manager is a family member of sole holder	585	454	55	43	122	150	84	131
Manager is not a family member of sole holder	59	44	6	9	8	13	8	15

Table 4. Distribution of managers by region/district, sex and age group

Sex/age group	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total managers	10,449	8,334	796	768	2,082	2,514	2,174	2,115
Males - by age group	9,288	7,377	723	696	1,868	2,163	1,927	1,911
<25	45	31	3	0	9	11	8	14
25-34	422	313	29	30	63	106	85	109
35-44	1,179	955	110	102	263	257	223	224
45-54	1,733	1,348	131	135	325	381	376	385
55-64	2,584	2,058	183	191	500	617	567	526
65+	3,325	2,672	267	238	708	791	668	653
Females - by age group	1,161	957	73	72	214	351	247	204
<25	6	4	0	1	1	0	2	2
25-34	38	30	5	3	6	8	8	8
35-44	148	127	10	13	27	53	24	21
45-54	204	178	15	9	35	61	58	26
55-64	335	294	12	22	71	111	78	41
65+	430	324	31	24	74	118	77	106

Chart 1. Distribution of managers by age and sex: 2010

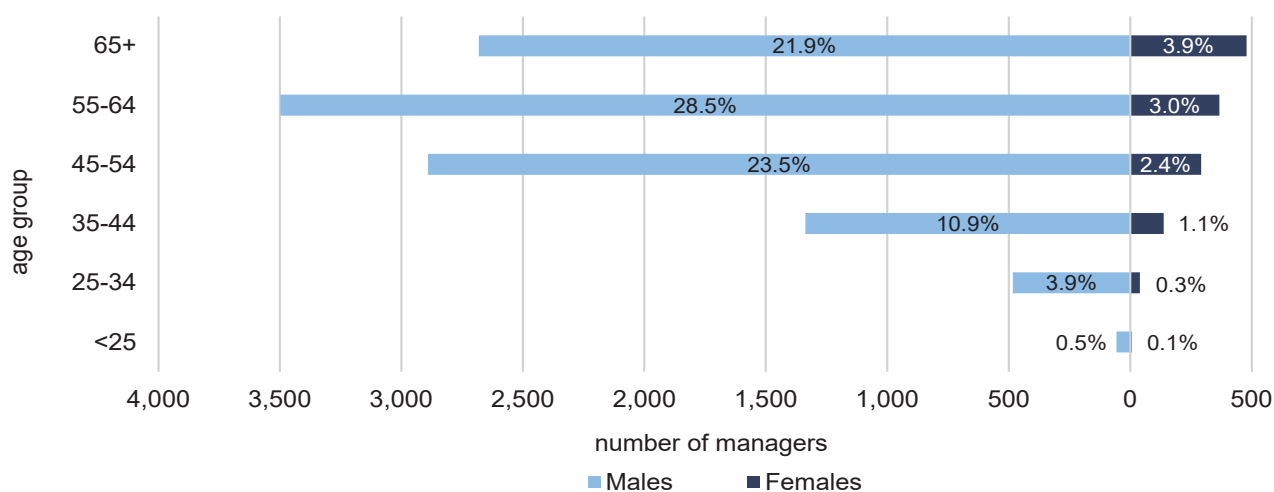


Chart 2. Distribution of managers by age and sex: 2020

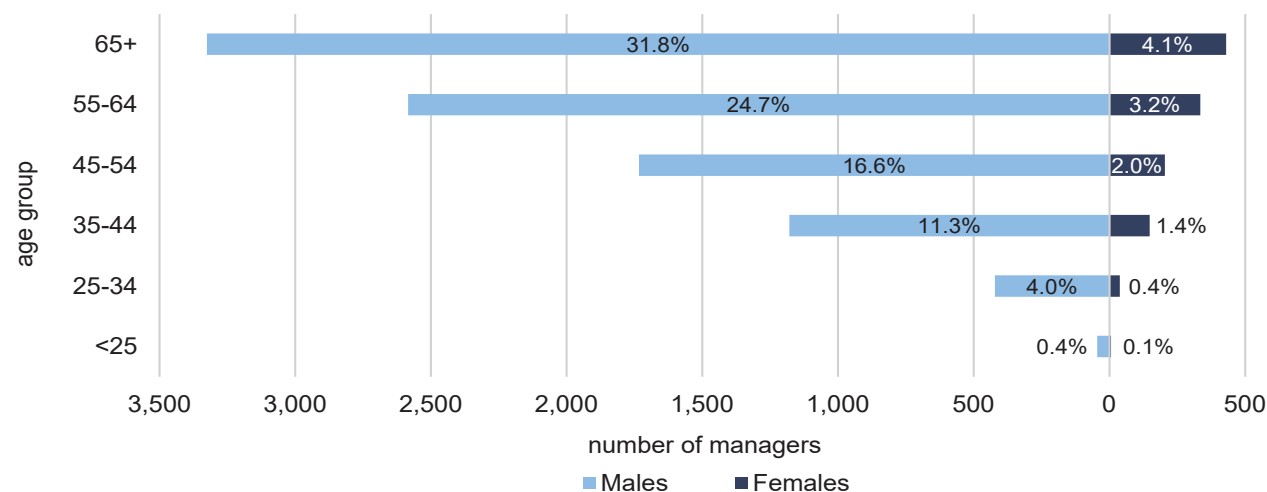


Table 5. Distribution of agricultural holdings by region/district and size class of utilised agricultural area (UAA)

	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total agricultural holdings	10,449	8,334	796	768	2,082	2,514	2,174	2,116
size class of UAA (ha):								
0	462	375	55	51	104	96	69	87
> 0 - < 0.5	4,487	3,659	392	378	1,005	1,028	856	828
≥ 0.5 - < 1	2,331	1,814	170	167	436	582	459	517
≥ 1 - < 2	1,795	1,427	111	105	342	472	397	369
≥ 2 - < 5	1,109	877	60	59	167	291	300	232
≥ 5 - < 10	265	182	8	8	28	45	93	83

Table 6. Distribution of agricultural holdings by region/district and the use of production

Use of production	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total agricultural holdings	10,449	8,334	796	768	2,082	2,514	2,174	2,115
of which:								
Own consumption	4,327	3,578	384	430	884	960	920	749
Sold a share of their produce ¹	6,122	4,756	412	338	1,198	1,554	1,254	1,366

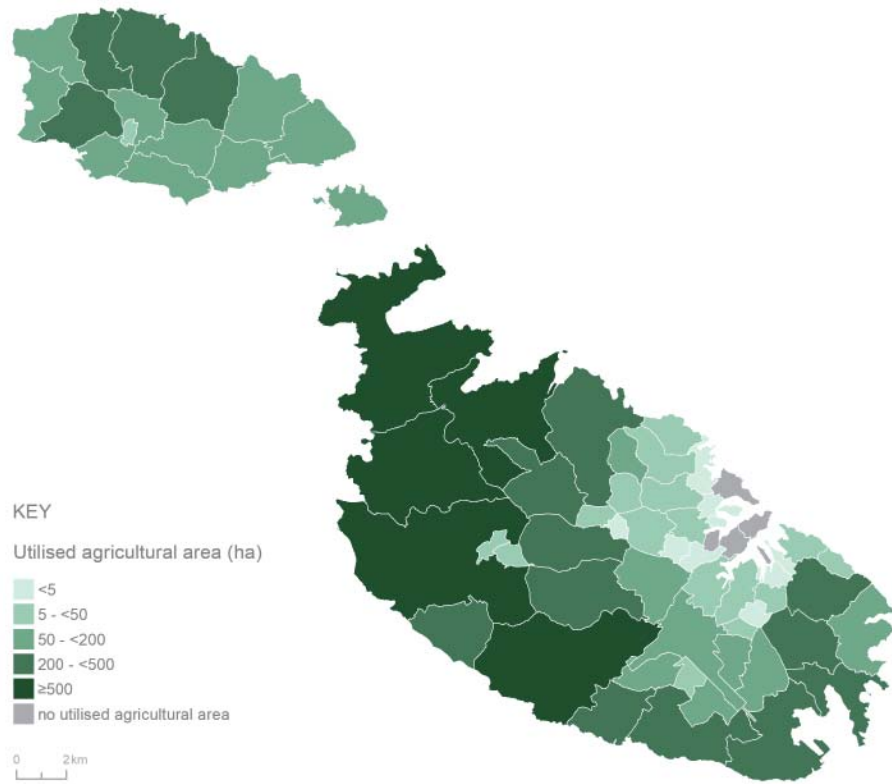
¹ A share of the produce sold through different market niches

Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA)

In 2020, the total UAA in MALTA amounted to 10,730 hectares. A total of 3,252 hectares or 30.3 per cent of the entire UAA, were found to be situated in the Western district. This was followed by the Northern and Gozo and Comino districts with 2,541 (23.7 per cent) and 2,449 hectares (22.8 per cent) respectively (Map 2, Table 7).

Regarding the type of tenure of the agricultural land areas, the results showed that these were predominantly rented from the Government (49.6 per cent). The rest of the agricultural land areas were either owner occupied (27.9 per cent) or rented from private owners (22.5 per cent) (Table 8, Chart 3).

Map 2. Distribution of utilised agricultural area by locality: 2020



Map 3. Percentage distribution of utilised agricultural area by locality: 2020

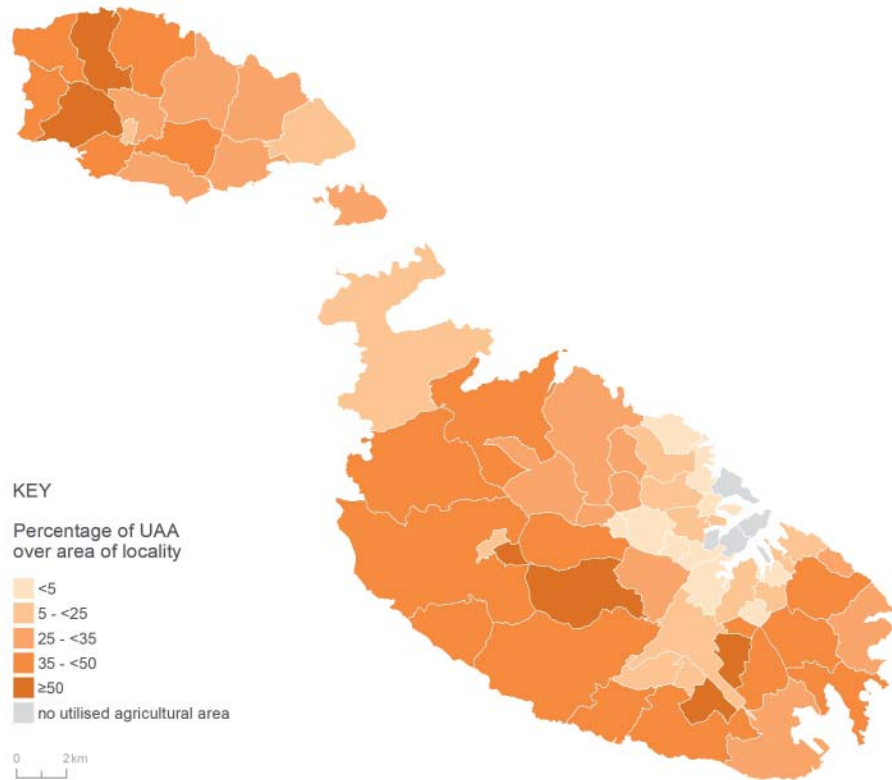


Table 7. Distribution of land by region/district and type of land

Type of land	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total land declared (ha)	11,402	8,785	440	257	1,915	3,475	2,698	2,617
<i>of which:</i>								
Utilised agricultural area	10,730	8,281	410.29	243	1,834	3,252	2,541	2,449
Unutilised agricultural area	346	250	20	3	32	113	82	96
Other land ¹	326	254	10	10	49	110	75	72

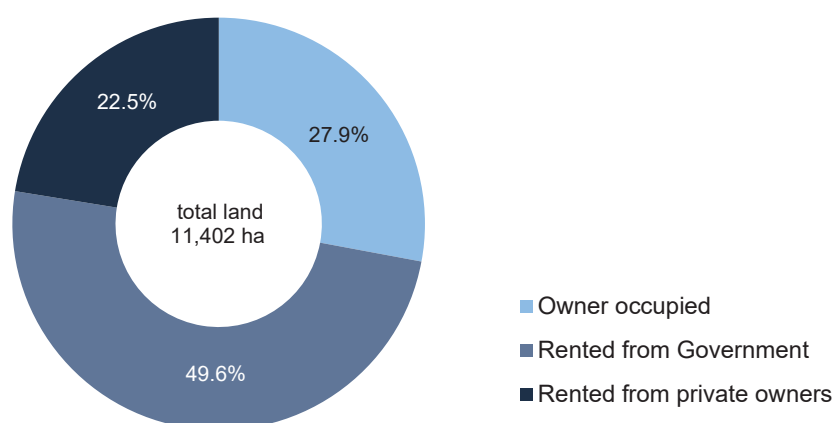
¹ Other land mainly includes infertile land.
 Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 8. Distribution of land by region/district and type of tenure

Type of tenure	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total land declared (ha)	11,402	8,785	440	257	1,915	3,475	2,698	2,617
<i>of which:</i>								
Owner occupied	3,184	2,295	131	82	588	901	594	888
Rented from Government	5,656	4,510	166	95	767	1,808	1,675	1,146
Rented from private owners	2,562	1,979	144	80	560	766	429	583

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 3. Percentage distribution of agricultural land by type of tenure: 2020



Arable land accounted for 72.5 per cent of the total UAA, while permanent crops and kitchen gardens made up the remaining 8.9 and 18.6 per cent of the UAA respectively (Table 9). Over the last 10 years, there has been a downward trend in arable land and permanent crops cultivation areas, while the area used for kitchen gardens has increased (Chart 4). Moreover, it resulted that the cultivation of forage crops (67.5 per cent) was predominant in the use of arable land (Table 10, Chart 5).

The total area designated for permanent crops in 2020 amounted to 953 hectares, of which 456 hectares were dedicated to vineyards and whose cultivation declined by 158 hectares when compared to 2010. Similarly, areas of fruit and berry plantations decreased by an area of 143 hectares over the 10-year span. On the contrary, areas of olive plantations increased by 14 hectares (Chart 6).

Table 9. Distribution of utilised agricultural area (UAA) by region/district and type

Type of UAA	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total UAA (ha)	10,730	8,281	410	243	1,834	3,252	2,541	2,449
<i>of which:</i>								
Arable land	7,782	5,891	304	163	1,378	2,220	1,825	1,891
Permanent crops	953	791	12	11	58	404	306	162
Kitchen gardens	1,995	1,599	94	69	398	629	410	396

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 4. Distribution of utilised agricultural area by type and year

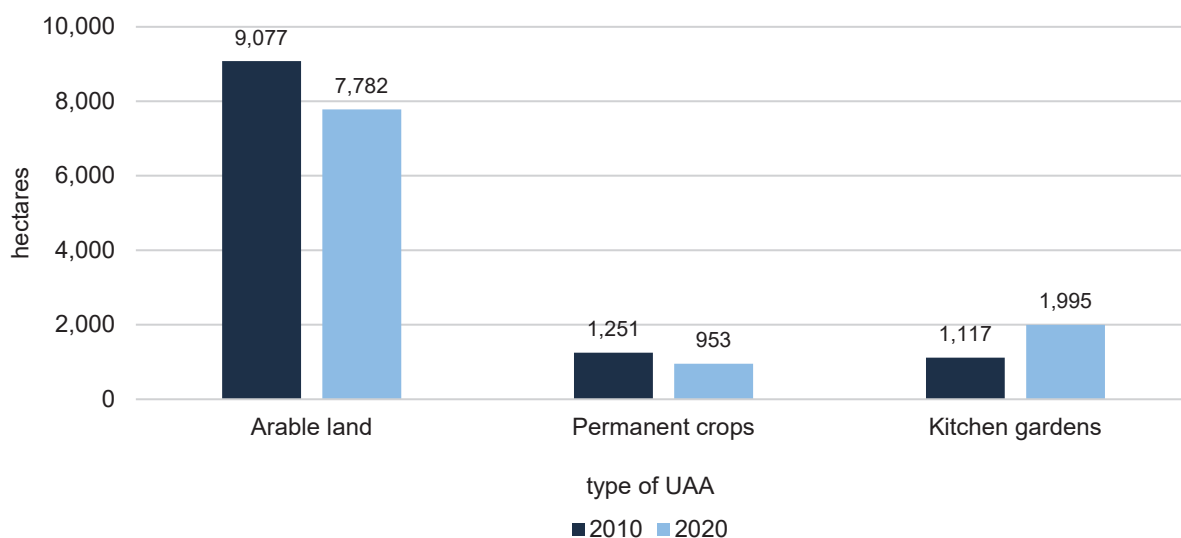


Table 10. Distribution of arable land by region/district and type

Type of arable land	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total arable land (ha)	7,782	5,891	304	163	1,378	2,220	1,825	1,891
<i>of which:</i>								
Forage plants	5,251	3,635	137	101	1,041	1,332	1,025	1,615
Potatoes	570	542	88	13	194	151	97	28
Vegetables in the open	1,090	942	40	28	64	400	410	148
Vegetables under greenhouse	78	65	3	3	2	18	39	13
Flowers and ornamental plants in the open	61	53	2	4	2	40	6	7
Flowers and ornamental plants under greenhouse	7	7	2	1	1	1	2	0
Fallow land	725	646	33	14	76	277	247	79

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 5. Distribution of arable land by type and year

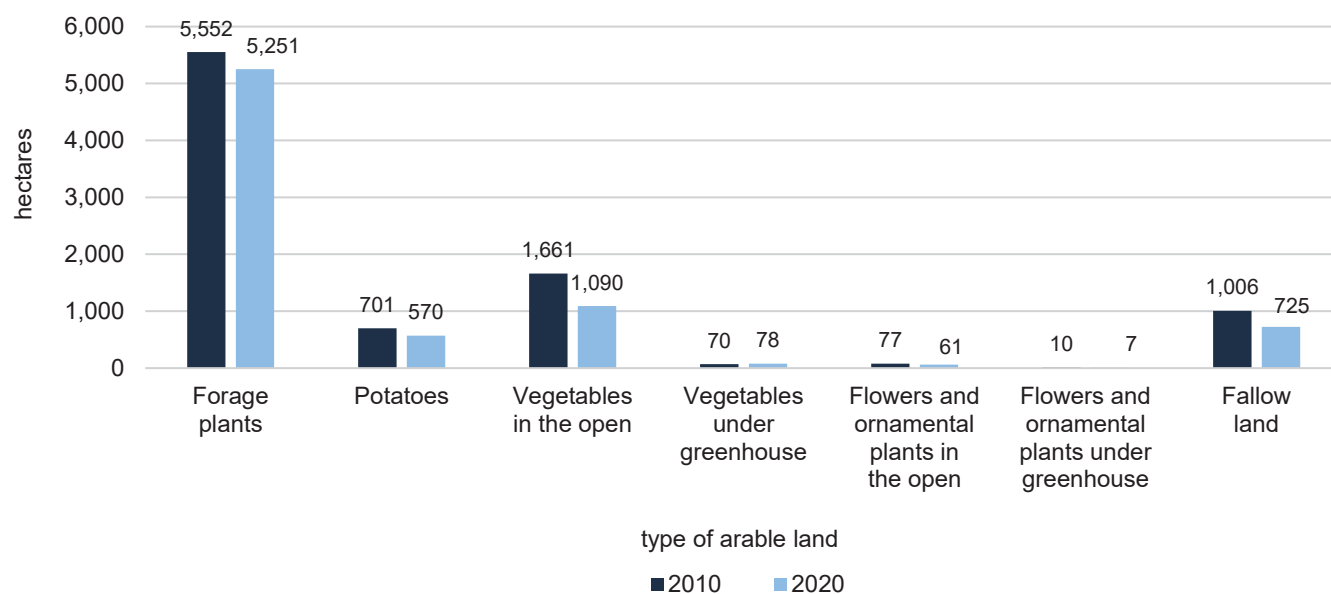
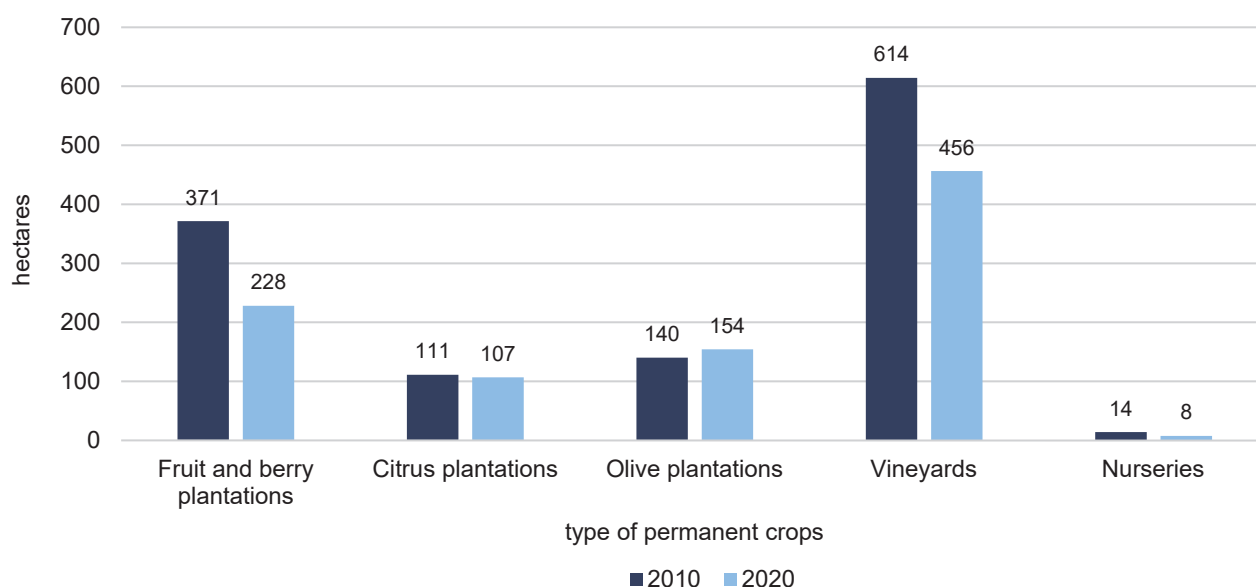


Table 11. Distribution of permanent crops by region/district and type

Type of permanent crop	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total permanent crops (ha)	953	791	12	11	58	404	306	162
<i>of which:</i>								
Fruit and berry plantations	228	197	3	3	4	116	71	31
Citrus plantations	107	57	1	2	3	40	11	49
Olive plantations	154	121	4	3	19	43	53	33
Vineyards	456	408	3	2	31	203	170	48
Nurseries	8	6	1	0	0	3	1	1

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 6. Distribution of permanent crops by type and year



Livestock

In 2020, MALTA had a total of 241 cattle farms with a cattle population of 14,447 heads of which, 5,996 were dairy cows (Table 12). This figure represents a decline of 7.9 per cent in the cattle population from 15,688 heads in 2010 (Chart 8). A decrease of 17.2 per cent was also recorded over the 10-year period in the number of cattle farms, from 291 farms in 2010 to 241 in 2020 (Chart 7).

Moreover, during 2020, the number of reared sheep stood at 16,177 heads (Table 13). Although there was a decline of 11.8 per cent in the holdings engaged in this activity from 1,081 holdings in 2010 to 953 holdings in 2020 (Chart 7), the sheep population increased by 36.3 per cent over this 10-year span. Similarly, the number of reared goats increased by 31.5 per cent, from 4,384 heads in 2010 to 5,764 in 2020 (Chart 8, Table 14), whereas the number of holdings in this activity declined by 15.5 per cent, from 595 holdings in 2010 to 503 in 2020 (Chart 7).

On a similar trend, the pig population stood at 40,090 in 2020 (Table 15), marking a decline of 43.2 per cent over 2010. Also, the number of pig farms in Malta declined by 29.5 per cent over the same 10-year period, from 132 farms in 2010 to 93 farms in 2020 (Chart 7).

A total of one million poultry heads was recorded in 2020; of which, 696,010 (67.3 per cent) were broilers (Table 16). This figure decreased by 17.7 per cent over that of 2010 when 846,143 heads were recorded. A similar decline of 27.9 per cent was also registered in the number of holdings in this agricultural activity, from 154 in 2010 to 111 in 2020 (Chart 7). On the contrary, however, the number of laying hens increased by 12.6 per cent in the 10-year period under review, from 300,667 in 2010 to 338,516 in 2020. Notwithstanding this, the number of holdings engaged in the latter agricultural activity dropped by 27.1 per cent, from 652 in 2010 to 475 in 2020 (Chart 7).

A total of 7,326 breeding female rabbits were recorded as being reared in 2020 (Table 17), whereas the total number of kept beehives amounted to 3,625 (Table 18).

Chart 7. Distribution of farms by type of livestock and year

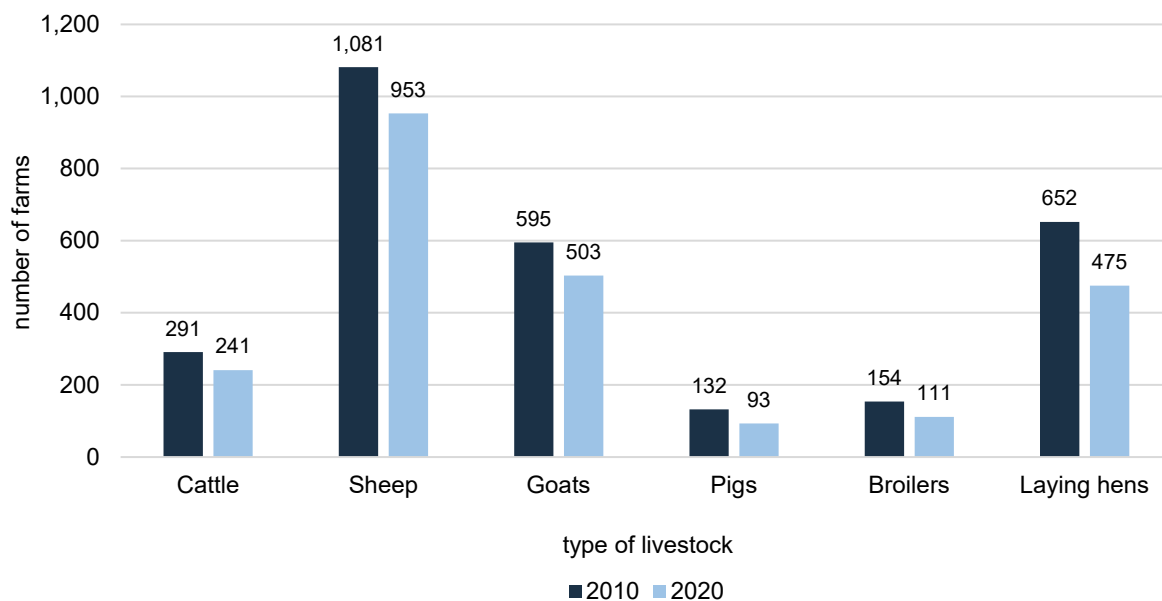


Chart 8. Distribution of livestock by type and year

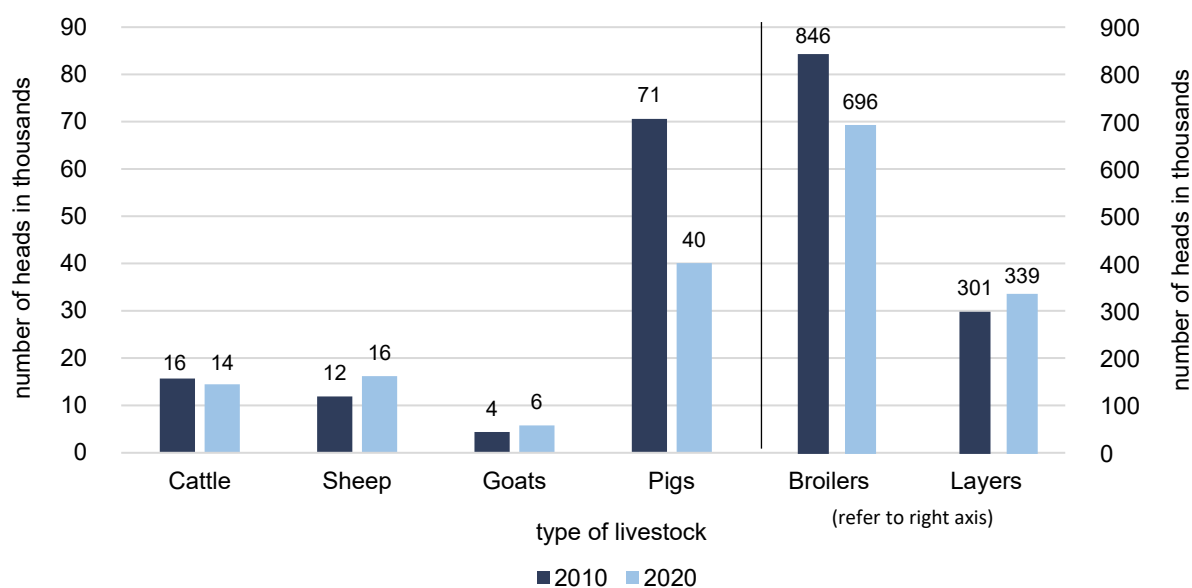


Table 12. Distribution of cattle by region/district and type

Type of cattle	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total cattle	14,447	9,028	922	1,019	3,388	1,891	1,808	5,419
<i>of which:</i>								
Cattle under 1 year	4,273	2,778	287	275	1,187	497	532	1,495
Cattle between one and two years	3,288	2,030	196	291	764	433	346	1,258
Cattle over two years	6,886	4,220	439	453	1,437	961	930	2,666
<i>of which:</i>								
Dairy cows	5,996	3,662	353	352	1,275	870	812	2,334

Note: Cattle are recorded according to farm location.

Table 13. Distribution of sheep by region/district and type

Type of sheep	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total sheep	16,177	11,295	642	1,244	3,469	3,713	2,227	4,882
<i>of which:</i>								
Breeding female sheep	10,227	6,947	347	751	2,171	2,303	1,375	3,280
Other sheep	5,950	4,348	295	493	1,298	1,410	852	1,602

Note: Sheep are recorded according to farm location.

Table 14. Distribution of goats by region/district and type

Type of goat	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total goats	5,764	4,340	740	698	1,415	992	495	1,424
<i>of which:</i>								
Breeding female goats	2,796	1,994	329	279	621	535	230	802
Other goats	2,968	2,346	411	419	794	457	265	622

Note: Goats are recorded according to farm location.

Table 15. Distribution of pigs by region/district and type

Type of pig	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total pigs	40,090	37,681	2,337	3,034	7,707	15,424	9,179	2,409
<i>of which:</i>								
Piglets <20 kgs	10,003	9,400	393	953	1,911	3,865	2,278	603
Breeding Sows	4,421	4,115	354	313	898	1,605	945	306
Other pigs	25,666	24,166	1,590	1,768	4,898	9,954	5,956	1,500

Note: Pigs are recorded according to farm location.

Table 16. Distribution of poultry by region/district and type

Type of poultry	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total poultry	1,034,526	836,573	55,372	45,731	112,885	382,027	240,558	197,953
<i>of which:</i>								
Broilers	696,010	564,962	40,336	28,682	86,101	286,943	122,900	131,048
Laying hens	338,516	271,611	15,036	17,049	26,784	95,084	117,658	66,905

Note: Broilers and laying hens are recorded according to farm location.

Table 17. Distribution of rabbits (breeding females) by region/district and type

	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total breeding females	7,326	6,500	361	761	1,486	632	3,260	826

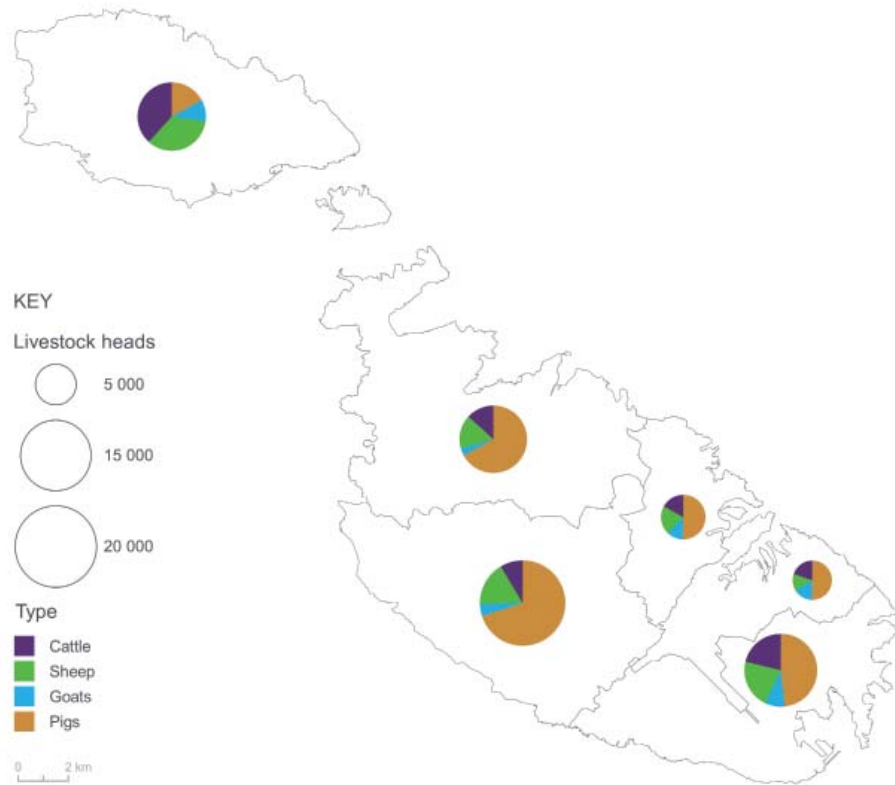
Note: Rabbits are recorded according to the holder's residence.

Table 18. Distribution of beehives by region/district

	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total beehives	3,625	2,808	57	153	283	1,207	1,108	817

Note: Beehives are recorded according to the holder's residence.

Map 4. Distribution of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs by district: 2020



Map 5. Distribution of broilers and laying hens by district: 2020



Labour force

During the reference period, the agricultural labour force in MALTA comprised 13,511 persons. Male workers accounted for 86.5 per cent of the total agricultural labour force (Table 19). Over the 12-month period, a total of 1,798 persons (13.3 per cent) reported that they worked for 1,800 hours or more, while the absolute majority of the respondents, or 11,713 persons (86.7 per cent) declared that they worked for less than 1,800 hours (Table 20). The ageing factor was evident in the agricultural labour force. During 2010, 49.7 per cent of the workers were over 55 years old while in 2020, these accounted for 57.9 per cent of the total workers (Chart 9, Chart 10). Moreover, it was found that less than half (45.8 per cent) of the agricultural holdings were coaching someone else to continue their agricultural work following their retirement.

Table 19. Distribution of total agricultural labour force by region/district and sex

Sex	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total agricultural labour force	13,511	10,921	1,005	928	2,925	3,146	2,917	2,590
<i>of which:</i>								
Males	11,683	9,386	903	827	2,571	2,616	2,469	2,297
Females	1,828	1,535	102	101	354	530	448	293

Table 20. Distribution of total agricultural labour force by region/district, annual hours worked and age group

Hours worked/age group	MALTA	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Total agricultural labour force	13,511	10,921	1,005	928	2,925	3,146	2,917	2,590
< 1800 hours by age group	11,713	9,412	858	813	2,566	2,722	2,453	2,301
<25	208	171	8	1	79	41	42	37
25-34	866	688	58	44	199	201	186	178
35-44	1,680	1,381	140	129	422	383	307	299
45-54	2,155	1,706	162	153	446	481	464	449
55-64	2,980	2,407	200	217	611	714	665	573
65+	3,824	3,059	290	269	809	902	789	765
≥ 1800 hours by age group	1,798	1,509	147	115	359	424	464	289
<25	44	33	4	1	7	8	13	11
25-34	141	112	17	8	17	27	43	29
35-44	277	231	28	24	49	52	78	46
45-54	319	253	19	24	52	66	92	66
55-64	502	429	33	31	93	137	135	73
65+	515	451	46	27	141	134	103	64

Note: In statistical terms, 1,800 hours is equivalent to one annual work unit.

Chart 9. Distribution of agricultural labour force by annual hours worked and age: 2010

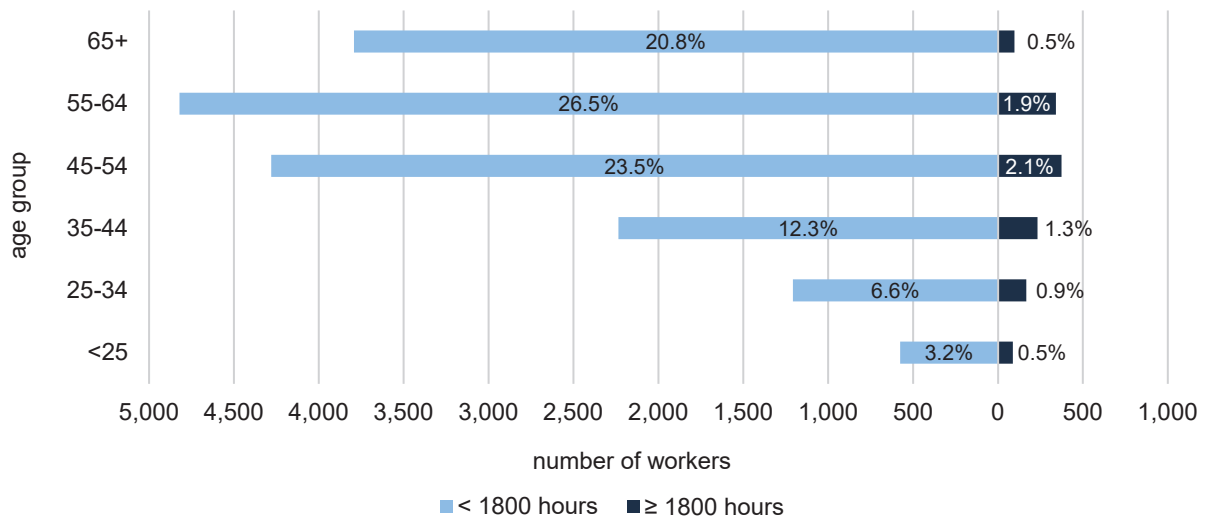
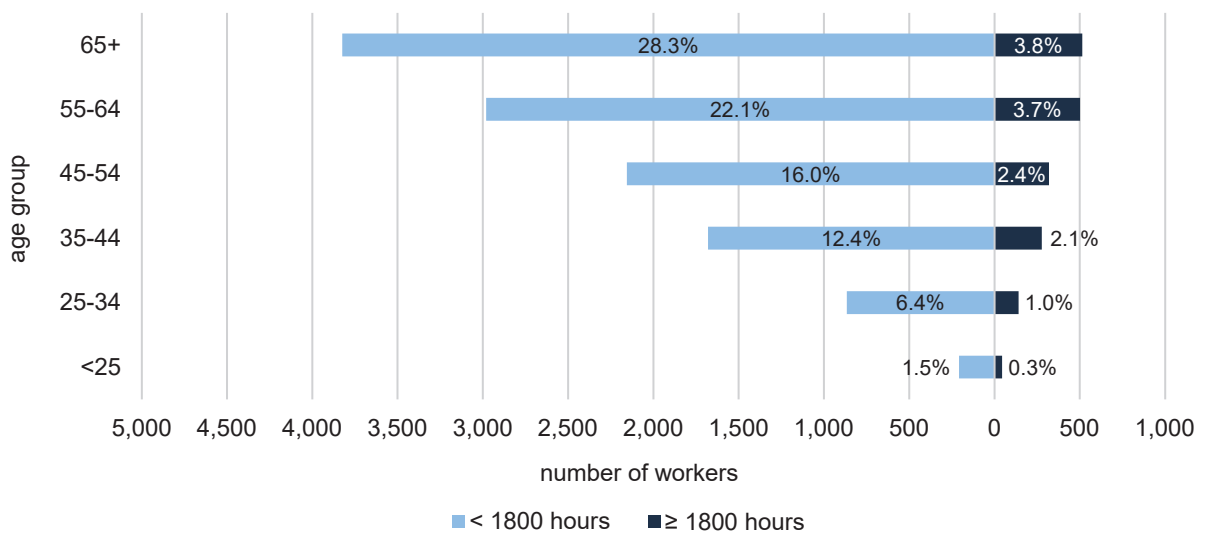
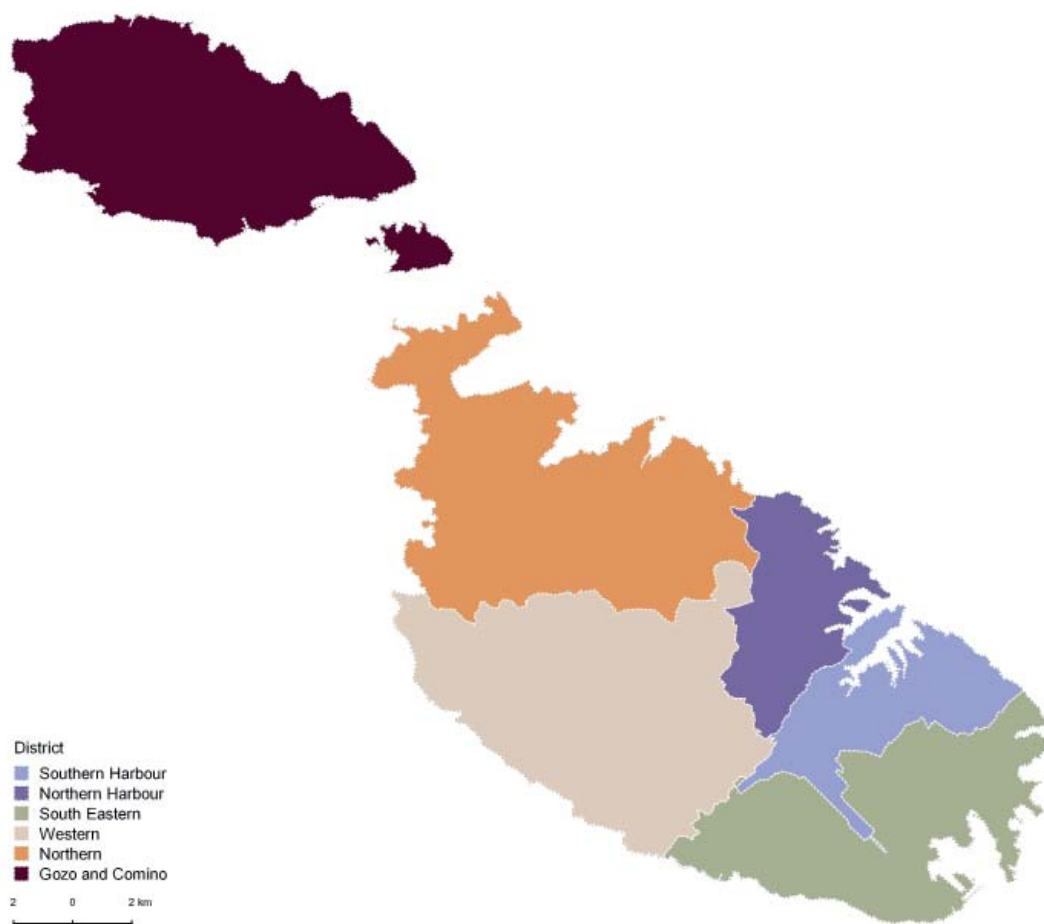


Chart 10. Distribution of agricultural labour force by annual hours worked and age: 2020



Graphical Illustration of MALTA by NUTS Classification



Districts classification

Southern Harbour

Bormla; Il-Fgura; Floriana; Ғal Luqa; Ғaḏ-Ḑabbar; Il-Kalkara; Il-Marsa; Raḡal Ġdid; Santa Luċija; L-Isla; Ғal Tarxien; Valletta; Il-Birgu; Ix-Xgħajra.

Northern Harbour

Birkirkara; Il-Gżira; Ғal Qormi; Il-Ғamrun; L-Imsida; Pembroke; San Ġwann; Santa Venera; San Ġiljan; Is-Swieqi; Ta' Xbiex; Tal-Pietà; Tas-Sliema.

South Eastern

Birżebbuġa; Il-Gudja; Ғal Għaxaq; Ғal Kirkop; Ғal Safi; Marsaskala; Marsaxlokk; L-Imqabba; Il-Qrendi; Iz-Ḑejtun; iz-Ḑurrieq.

Western

Ғad-Dingli; Ғal Balzan; Ғal Lija; Ғ'Attard; Ғaḏ-Ḑebbuġ; L-Iklin; L-Imdina; L-Imtarfa; Ir-Rabat; Is-Siġġiewi.

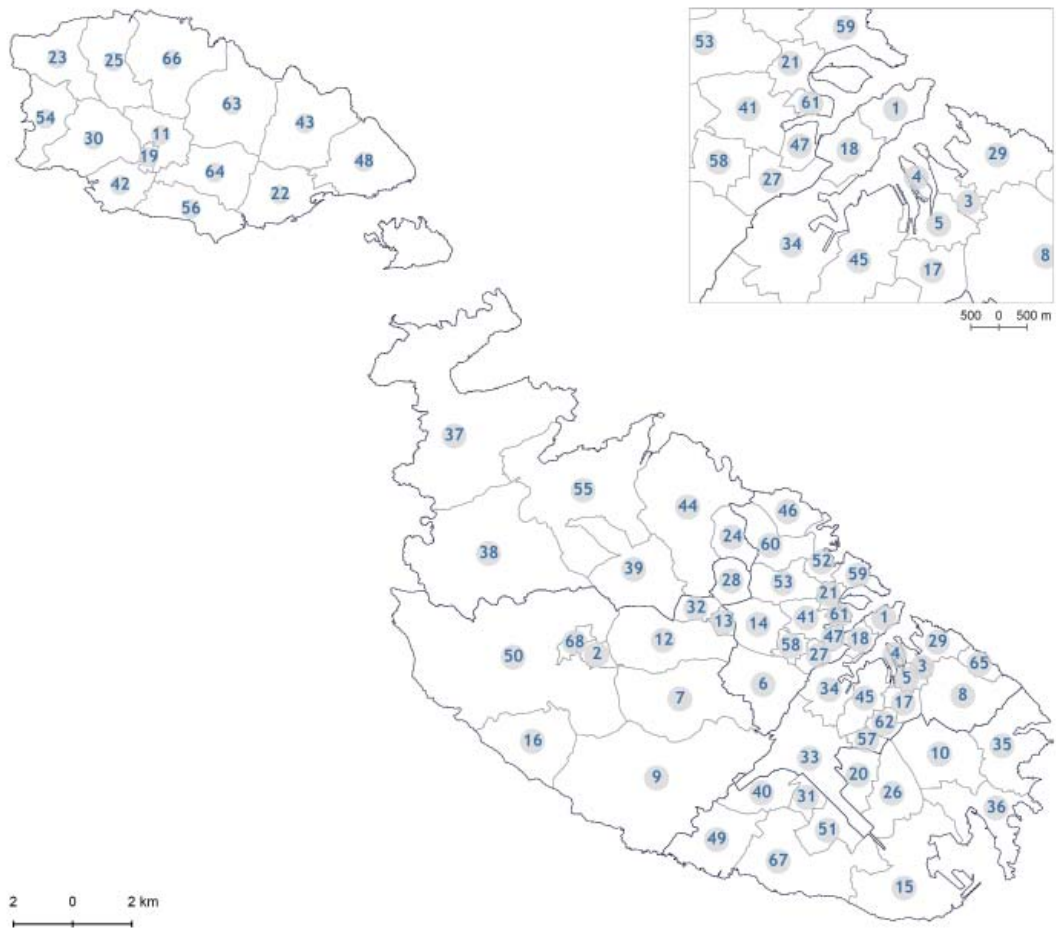
Northern

Ғal Għargħur; Il-Mellieħa; L-Imġarr; Il-Mosta; In-Naxxar; San Pawl Il-Baħar .

Gozo and Comino

Il-Fontana; Għajnsielem and Comino; L-Għarb; L-Għasri; Il-Munxar; In-Nadur; Il-Qala; San Lawrenz; Ta' Kerċem; Ta' Sannat; Ir-Rabat; Ix-Xagħra; Ix-Xewkija; Iḏ-Ḑebbuġ.

Graphical Illustration of MALTA by LAU2 Classification



Key

1 Valletta	18 Floriana	35 Marsaskala	52 San Ġiljan
2 L-Imdina	19 Il-Fontana	36 Marsaxlokk	53 San Ġwann
3 Il-Birgu	20 Il-Gudja	37 Il-Mellieħa	54 San Lawrenz
4 L-Isla	21 Il-Gżira	38 L-Imġarr	55 San Pawl Il-Baħar
5 Bormla	22 Għajnsielem and Comino	39 Il-Mosta	56 Ta' Sannat
6 Ғal Qormi	23 L-Għarb	40 L-Imqabba	57 Santa Luċija
7 Ғaž-Żebbuġ	24 Ғal Għargħur	41 L-Imsida	58 Santa Venera
8 Ғaž-Żabbar	25 L-Għasri	42 Il-Munxar	59 Tas-Sliema
9 Is-Siġġiewi	26 Ғal Għaxaq	43 In-Nadur	60 Is-Swieqi
10 Iż-Żejtun	27 Il-Ғamrun	44 In-Naxxar	61 Ta' Xbiex
11 Ir-Rabat, Għawdex	28 L-Iklin	45 Raħal Ġdid	62 Ғal Tarxien
12 Ғ'Attard	29 Il-Kalkara	46 Pembroke	63 Ix-Xagħra
13 Ғal Balzan	30 Ta' Kerċem	47 Tal-Pieta'	64 Ix-Xewkija
14 Birkirkara	31 Ғal Kirkop	48 Il-Qala	65 Ix-Xgħajra
15 Birżebbuġa	32 Ғal Lija	49 Il-Qrendi	66 Iż-Żebbuġ, Għawdex
16 Ғad-Dingli	33 Ғal Luqa	50 Ir-Rabat, Malta	67 Iż-Żurrieq
17 Il-Fgura	34 Il-Marsa	51 Ғal Safi	68 L-Imtarfa

Methodological Notes

1. The 2020 Census of Agriculture was conducted in collaboration with the Agriculture Directorate within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Rights (MAFA).
2. The aim of the Census was to identify and measure any changes that took place over the last 10 years; thereby enabling the planning and carrying out of agricultural policies that are beneficial to the sector.
3. The Census was conducted in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1874 of 29 November 2018 on data to be provided for 2020 under Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 on integrated farm statistics.
4. For the Census, agricultural registers pertaining to agricultural land and livestock held at MAFA were used. These have been linked to the register held by NSO in order to ensure a comprehensive list of agricultural holdings.
5. The Census was carried out between October 2020 and February 2021. The data collection was carried out through CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) through either face-to-face or telephone interviewing in conformity with the health measures implemented due to COVID-19. The reference date for livestock statistics was set at 30 September 2020, while the reference period for crop cultivation, land use and the agricultural labour force covered the period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020.
6. In the 2020 Census, those holdings having less than 0.056 hectares were not taken into consideration. Hence the same threshold has been applied for the results of the 2010 census to have comparable data sets.
7. The data collected in the Census is as declared by the farmer.
8. Definitions:
 - **Agricultural holding:** An agricultural holding, is a single unit, both technically and economically, operating under a single management and which undertakes economic activities either as its primary or secondary activity.
 - **Legal personality and management of the holding:** The legal personality of the holding depends on the holder's status. Holdings are classified as Sole holder holding, group or partnership, and company.
 - **Holder of the agricultural holding:** Holder is the natural person, group of natural persons or legal person on whose account and in whose name the holding is operated and who is legally and economically responsible for the holding, i.e. who takes the economic risks of the holding.
 - **Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA):** Hectares of land area used for farming, including arable land, permanent crops and other utilised agricultural land.
 - **Unutilised agricultural land:** Hectares of previously used land for an agricultural purpose which during the reference year of the census is no longer worked and which is not used in the crop rotation system, i.e. land where no agricultural use is intended. This land could be brought back into cultivation using the resources normally available on an agricultural holding.
 - **Other land:** Hectares of land which are part of the total area belonging to the agricultural holding but constitute neither utilised agricultural area nor unutilised agricultural area, such as infertile land.
 - **Arable land:** Hectares of land which is worked (ploughed or tilled) regularly, generally under a system of crop rotation. The area under greenhouses is included under this heading.
 - **Permanent crops:** Hectares of all fruit trees, all citrus fruit trees, all berry plantations, all vineyards, all olive trees and all other permanent crops used for human consumption.
 - **Kitchen gardens:** Hectares of land devoted to the cultivation of agricultural products mainly intended for consumption by the holder and his household.
 - **Fallow land:** Hectares of arable land which is either included in the crop rotation system or maintained in good agricultural and environment condition but which will not be harvested for the duration of a crop year.
 - **Cattle:** Domestic animals of the species *Bos taurus*, L.
 - **Cattle under one year:** Heads of cattle, male and female, under 1 year old.
 - **Cattle between one and two years:** Heads of cattle with at least 1 but less than 2 years old.

- **Cattle over two years:** Heads of all cattle that are 2 years old and over.
- **Dairy cows:** Heads of female bovine animals which have already calved and which, by reason of their breed or particular qualities, are kept exclusively or principally to produce milk for human consumption or for processing into dairy products.
- **Sheep:** Domestic animals of the species *Ovis aries*, L. kept in flocks mainly for their milk or meat.
 - **Breeding female sheep:** Heads of ewes and ewe lambs put to the ram, regardless of dairy/meat aptitude.
 - **Other sheep:** Heads of all sheep other than breeding females. It includes ram, male and female lambs under 12 months and female sheep which have not been put to the ram.
- **Goats:** Domestic animals of the subspecies *Capra aegagrus hircus* L.
 - **Breeding female goats:** Heads of female goats which have already kidded and goats which have been mated.
 - **Other goats:** Heads of all goats other than breeding females. It includes all male breeding goats, male and female kids under 12 months and female goats which have not been mated yet.
- **Pigs:** Domestic animals of the species *Sus scrofa domestica*.
 - **Piglets <20 kgs:** Heads of piglets having a live weight of under 20 kilograms.
 - **Breedings sows:** Heads of female pigs weighing 50 kilograms and over intended for breeding purposes, regardless of whether they have farrowed or not.
 - **Other pigs:** Heads of pigs (male or female) with a live weight from 20 kilograms to less than 50 kilograms, fattening pigs (including cull boars and cull sows) with a live weight of 50 kilograms and more, whether or not fattened before their slaughter and breeding boars of a live weight of 50 kilograms and more.
- **Broilers:** Heads of domestic animals of the species *Gallus gallus* L., which are kept for the production of meat.
- **Laying hens:** Heads of domestic animals of the domestic species *Gallus gallus* L., which have reached laying maturity and are kept for the production of eggs.
- **Breeding rabbits (females):** Heads of female rabbits (*Oryctolagus spp.*) for producing rabbits for meat and which have littered.
- **Beehives:** Number of hives occupied by bees kept for the production of honey.
- **Annual Work Unit (AWU):** The annual work unit corresponds to the work performed by one person who is occupied in an agricultural holding on a full-time basis. Persons with a minimum working time of 1,800 hours annually are considered full-time workers and count as one AWU. The performance of part-time workers is converted into AWU on a pro rata basis.

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

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

Sources and methods:

https://nsocms.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_B3/Environment_Energy_Transport_and_Agriculture_Statistics/Pages/Structure_of_agricultural_holdings.aspx

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