

In 2021, there were 55,950 active business units in Malta.

Business Demography: 2021

Cut-off date:
13 July 2022

Provisional figures for 2021 show that there were 55,950 active business units in Malta, an increase of 8.6 per cent, or 4,430 units, over 2020. The largest increase in the number of active business units, was observed in the Transportation and storage sector (section H) followed by the Professional, scientific and technical activities (section M) and Construction (section F).

The Wholesale, retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles sector (section G) accounted for 18.1 per cent of the active business units; Professional, scientific and technical activities (section M) accounted for 13.4 per cent, whilst Construction (section F) accounted for 9.7 per cent (Table 2).

In 2021, 69.6 per cent of the active business units were sole proprietors and partnerships, 28.1 per cent were limited liability companies or public limited liability companies (Plc), while 2.3 per cent were non-profit organisations, cooperatives, corporations, branches or joint ventures (Chart 2, Table 2).

Chart 1. Active business units in 2021 by employment size

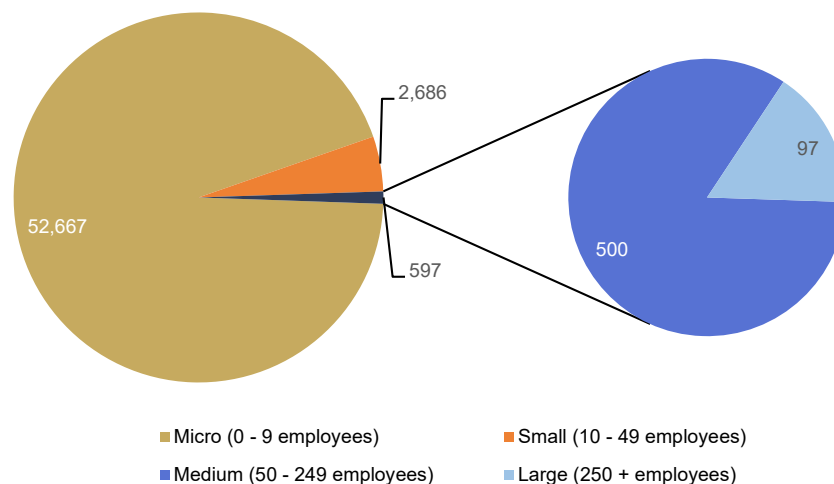
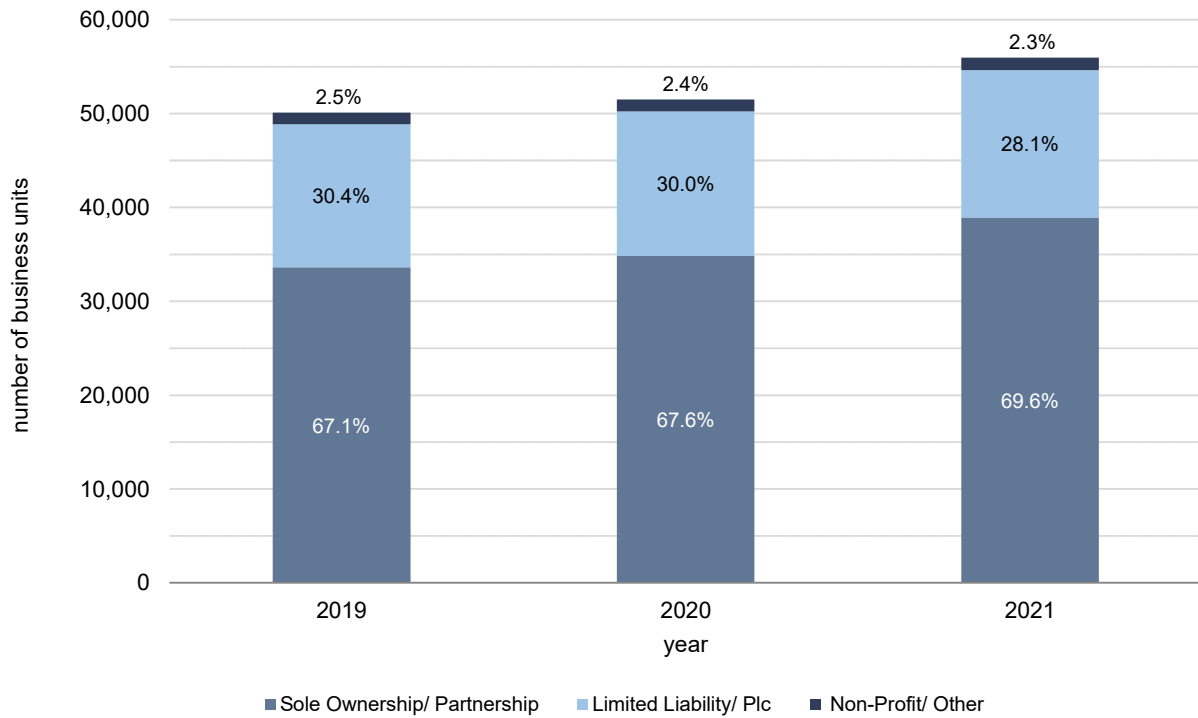


Chart 2. Active business units by type of legal organisation



The number of new registrations within the active business population decreased by 36.0 per cent while deregistrations increased by 26.0 per cent over 2020 (Chart 3, Table 3).

Compared to the situation a year earlier, micro business units employing between 0 and 9 persons increased by 9.0 per cent, while small business units employing between 10 and 49 persons, increased by 2.8 per cent. Medium-sized business units employing between 50 and 249 persons decreased by 2.2 per cent (Table 4).

There were 18,227 employers in Malta in 2021, an increase of 8.5 per cent, over the previous year (Tables 5 and 6).

Chart 3. Newly registered and deregistered business units within the active business population

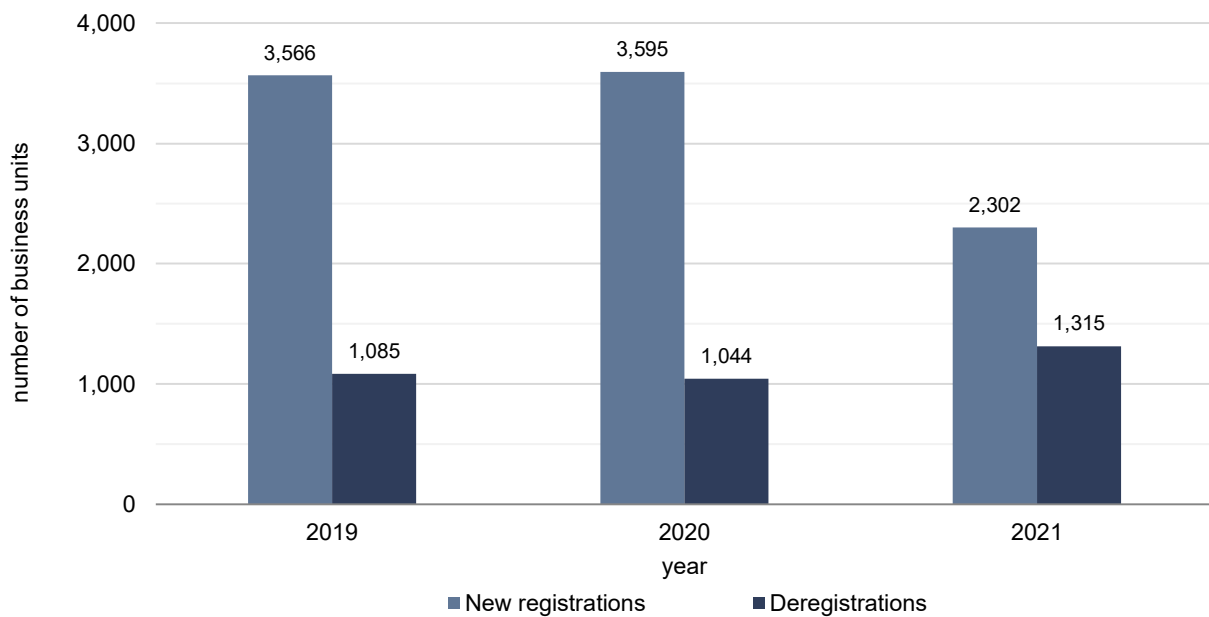


Table 1. NACE Rev. 2 Classification

Section	Description
A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing
B	Mining and quarrying
C	Manufacturing
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
F	Construction
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
H	Transportation and storage
I	Accommodation and food service activities
J	Information and communication
K	Financial and insurance activities
L	Real estate activities
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities
N	Administrative and support service activities
O	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
P	Education
Q	Human health and social work activities
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation
S	Other service activities
T	Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use
U	Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies

Table 2. Structure of active business units by year, type of legal organisation and NACE

NACE Section ¹	2019				2020				2021 ^P			
	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Non-profit/ Other ²	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Non-profit/ Other ²	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Non-profit/ Other ²	Total
A	2,234	c	c	2,300	2,183	c	c	2,251	2,305	c	c	2,373
B	41	21	-	62	47	20	-	67	44	21	-	65
C	1,712	810	17	2,539	1,766	820	17	2,603	1,937	837	17	2,791
D	-	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
E	116	45	4	165	121	43	3	167	124	47	3	174
F	3,775	1,076	12	4,863	3,876	1,132	16	5,024	4,256	1,163	16	5,435
G	6,859	2,859	48	9,766	6,823	2,833	48	9,704	7,207	2,844	54	10,105
H	1,981	445	29	2,455	2,286	462	27	2,775	2,846	485	29	3,360
I	2,160	895	16	3,071	2,111	908	16	3,035	2,424	961	16	3,401
J	895	1,070	34	1,999	1,000	1,111	36	2,147	1,211	1,149	36	2,396
K	70	2,267	58	2,395	100	2,175	46	2,321	97	2,164	40	2,301
L	1,486	1,604	6	3,096	1,457	1,731	11	3,199	1,735	1,728	11	3,474
M	4,318	2,178	49	6,545	4,694	2,160	51	6,905	5,216	2,215	50	7,481
N	1,624	1,002	43	2,669	1,723	1,014	51	2,788	1,956	1,053	52	3,061
P	815	217	84	1,116	741	228	83	1,052	1,025	242	85	1,352
Q	1,155	117	142	1,414	1,282	127	145	1,554	1,322	137	148	1,607
R	1,223	452	331	2,006	1,263	465	333	2,061	1,527	470	338	2,335
S	2,909	118	378	3,405	3,057	125	381	3,563	3,359	125	415	3,899
T	238	-	-	238	289	-	-	289	323	-	-	323
U	-	c	-	c	c	-	-	c	c	c	-	c
Total	33,611	15,249	1,255	50,115	34,821	15,431	1,268	51,520	38,916	15,720	1,314	55,950

^c confidential

^P Data for 2021 is to be considered as provisional

¹ Refer to Table 1

² Refer to Methodological Note 5

The time series data from year 2017 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.

Table 3. Newly registered and deregistered business units within the active business population by year and NACE

NACE Section ¹	New registrations			Deregistrations		
	2019	2020	2021 ^P	2019	2020	2021 ^P
A	46	73	47	55	28	39
B	4	7	-	-	c	c
C	155	150	93	46	45	74
D	-	-	c	-	-	-
E	4	5	c	c	c	c
F	380	287	175	57	69	132
G	407	416	361	206	204	211
H	348	379	289	46	55	98
I	279	199	169	73	72	92
J	180	201	150	55	46	64
K	78	87	16	38	32	20
L	209	184	107	51	44	95
M	633	612	385	134	204	181
N	300	313	187	77	115	109
P	57	96	45	60	11	37
Q	36	109	46	12	10	c
R	163	159	90	63	47	48
S	245	269	119	109	55	94
T	42	49	19	c	3	-
U	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3,566	3,595	2,302	1,085	1,044	1,315

^c confidential

^P Data for 2021 is to be considered as provisional

¹ Refer to Table 1

Table 4. Structure of active business units by year, employment size and NACE

NACE Section ¹	2019					2020					2021 ^P				
	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total
A	2,290	c	c	-	2,300	2,239	c	c	-	2,251	2,361	c	c	-	2,373
B	57	5	-	-	62	63	4	-	-	67	59	6	-	-	65
C	2,213	257	56	13	2,539	2,276	252	61	14	2,603	2,458	255	65	13	2,791
D	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	c	-	c
E	152	c	-	c	165	152	13	c	c	167	159	13	c	c	174
F	4,689	144	26	4	4,863	4,827	163	29	5	5,024	5,234	169	27	5	5,435
G	9,088	576	99	3	9,766	9,028	577	96	3	9,704	9,431	576	92	6	10,105
H	2,297	130	20	8	2,455	2,621	128	18	8	2,775	3,197	137	17	9	3,360
I	2,674	334	54	9	3,071	2,641	334	53	7	3,035	3,008	339	46	8	3,401
J	1,831	132	31	5	1,999	1,961	155	25	6	2,147	2,203	158	29	6	2,396
K	2,241	123	24	7	2,395	2,164	124	27	6	2,321	2,135	133	26	7	2,301
L	3,056	37	3	-	3,096	3,165	31	3	-	3,199	3,440	31	3	-	3,474
M	6,184	313	43	5	6,545	6,555	304	40	6	6,905	7,127	310	38	6	7,481
N	2,419	166	64	20	2,669	2,519	177	69	23	2,788	2,783	191	68	19	3,061
P	1,013	66	33	4	1,116	950	67	30	5	1,052	1,247	70	29	6	1,352
Q	1,298	87	26	3	1,414	1,423	102	24	5	1,554	1,476	103	23	5	1,607
R	1,853	116	31	6	2,006	1,906	122	26	7	2,061	2,168	133	29	5	2,335
S	3,359	39	c	c	3,405	3,508	49	c	c	3,563	3,845	49	c	c	3,899
T	238	-	-	-	238	289	-	-	-	289	323	-	-	-	323
U	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
Total	46,959	2,548	519	89	50,115	48,298	2,614	511	97	51,520	52,667	2,686	500	97	55,950

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^P Data for 2021 is to be considered as provisional

¹ Refer to Table 1

The time series data from year 2017 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.

Table 5. Structure of employers by year, type of legal organisation and NACE

NACE Section ¹	2019				2020				2021 ^P			
	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Non-profit/ Other ²	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Non-profit/ Other ²	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Non-profit/ Other ²	Total
A	226	45	-	271	184	44	-	228	244	48	-	292
B	9	16	-	25	11	13	-	24	8	14	-	22
C	390	713	8	1,111	373	720	8	1,101	386	738	7	1,131
D	-	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	-	c	c	c
E	36	c	c	c	38	c	c	c	36	c	c	c
F	603	640	7	1,250	565	670	9	1,244	659	763	10	1,432
G	2,223	2,234	30	4,487	2,101	2,224	28	4,353	2,177	2,306	31	4,514
H	226	341	24	591	250	357	24	631	336	381	25	742
I	802	765	7	1,574	822	779	8	1,609	898	849	8	1,755
J	45	725	18	788	50	771	19	840	65	832	21	918
K	14	629	18	661	13	632	21	666	17	728	20	765
L	74	619	5	698	73	656	5	734	92	715	5	812
M	579	1,446	25	2,050	588	1,509	26	2,123	665	1,597	26	2,288
N	141	676	21	838	148	714	24	886	173	765	29	967
P	80	148	48	276	90	163	48	301	110	181	51	342
Q	139	95	85	319	178	106	85	369	195	114	89	398
R	72	307	101	480	99	338	101	538	113	347	118	578
S	533	89	122	744	592	98	125	815	624	101	170	895
T	212	-	-	212	259	-	-	259	287	-	-	287
U	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	c	-	c
Total	6,404	9,529	523	16,456	6,434	9,835	535	16,804	7,085	10,528	614	18,227

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^P Data for 2021 is to be considered as provisional

¹ Refer to Table 1

² Refer to Methodological Note 5

The time series data from year 2017 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.

Table 6. Structure of employers by year, employment size and NACE

NACE Section ¹	2019					2020					2021 ^P				
	1-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	1-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	1-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total
A	261	c	c	-	271	216	c	c	-	228	280	c	c	-	292
B	20	5	-	-	25	20	4	-	-	24	16	6	-	-	22
C	785	257	56	13	1,111	774	252	61	14	1,101	798	255	65	13	1,131
D	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	c	-	c
E	c	c	-	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
F	1,076	144	26	4	1,250	1,047	163	29	5	1,244	1,231	169	27	5	1,432
G	3,809	576	99	3	4,487	3,677	577	96	3	4,353	3,840	576	92	6	4,514
H	433	130	20	8	591	477	128	18	8	631	579	137	17	9	742
I	1,177	334	54	9	1,574	1,215	334	53	7	1,609	1,362	339	46	8	1,755
J	620	132	31	5	788	654	155	25	6	840	725	158	29	6	918
K	507	123	24	7	661	509	124	27	6	666	599	133	26	7	765
L	658	37	3	-	698	700	31	3	-	734	778	31	3	-	812
M	1,689	313	43	5	2,050	1,773	304	40	6	2,123	1,935	309	38	6	2,288
N	588	166	64	20	838	617	177	69	23	886	689	191	68	19	967
P	173	66	33	4	276	199	67	30	5	301	237	70	29	6	342
Q	203	87	26	3	319	238	102	24	5	369	267	103	23	5	398
R	327	116	31	6	480	383	122	26	7	538	411	133	29	5	578
S	700	38	c	c	744	761	49	c	c	815	842	49	c	c	895
T	212	-	-	-	212	259	-	-	-	259	287	-	-	-	287
U	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	c	-	-	-	c
Total	13,302	2,547	518	89	16,456	13,583	2,614	510	97	16,804	14,946	2,685	499	97	18,227

c confidential

^P Data for 2021 is to be considered as provisional¹ Refer to Table 1

The time series data from year 2017 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.

Methodological Notes

1. The business demography data is based on the concept of active business units in a reference year. These are defined as businesses that had either turnover or employment at any time during the reference period. The statistical business register is the source of the data provided in this news release. New business registrations are identified through Value-added tax (VAT) registrations as well as through Malta Business Registry (MBR) new companies registrations.
2. Business registrations are based on administrative data. Registrations and/or deregistrations do not precisely record commencement or cessation of an activity by a unit. Demographic events such as takeovers, mergers, split-offs are not catered for and may affect the data presented.
3. The data is classified by economic activity according to the NACE (Nomenclature Statistique des Activités Économiques dans la Communauté Européenne) Rev.2 classification of economic activities in the European Union.
4. The time series data from year 2017 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.
5. Other types of legal structures may include public corporations, cooperatives, joint ventures and branches. Public corporations are all the government-controlled units that are often established by government as market producers principally engaged in the production of goods, non-financial and financial services, and as such they are classified in non-financial and financial sectors.
6. For the purpose of this release, the term "active business unit" is used to represent an active sole legal unit. A business unit carries out one or more activities at one or more locations.
7. Business units that have ceased operations as indicated in Table 3, are also included in Tables 2 and 4. These are also included in Tables 5 and 6 if deemed as employers in the cessation year.
8. Data is deemed as confidential when there is a count of less than 3 business units. Secondary confidentiality is applied.
9. Updates in the statistical business register are ongoing and all figures reported are subject to revision. Data for 2021 is to be considered as provisional.
10. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical concepts: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_B4/Business_Registers/Pages/Business-Demography.aspx
Classifications: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE%20Rev.%20202>
11. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
12. The advanced news release calendar may be accessed at:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx

Definitions

The number of **persons employed** is defined, within the context of structural business statistics, as the total number of persons who work in the observation unit (inclusive of working proprietors, partners working regular in the unit and unpaid family workers), as well as persons who work outside the unit who belong to it and are paid by it (e.g. sales representatives, delivery personnel, repair and maintenance teams). It excludes manpower supplied to the unit by other enterprises and persons carrying out repair and maintenance work in the enquiry unit on behalf of other enterprises.

A worker is considered to be an employee of a particular unit if he or she receives a wage or salary from the unit regardless of where the work is performed (even from remote locations). A worker from a temporary employment agency is considered to be the agency's employee and not that of the business unit to which he or she is assigned.

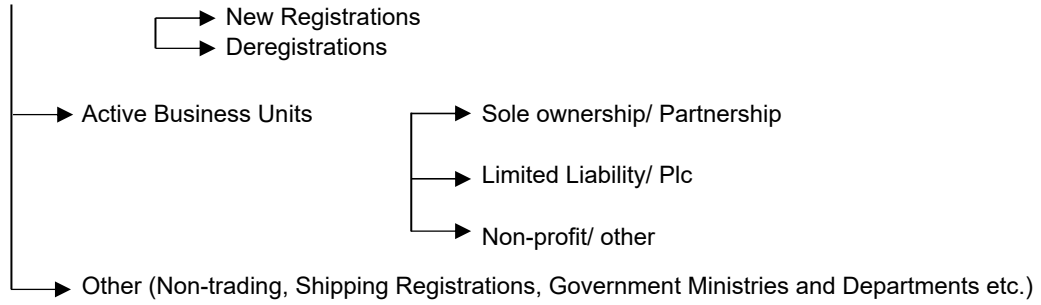
Part-time workers, seasonal workers, persons on strike or on short-term leave are all considered employees while volunteers or workers on long-term leave are excluded.

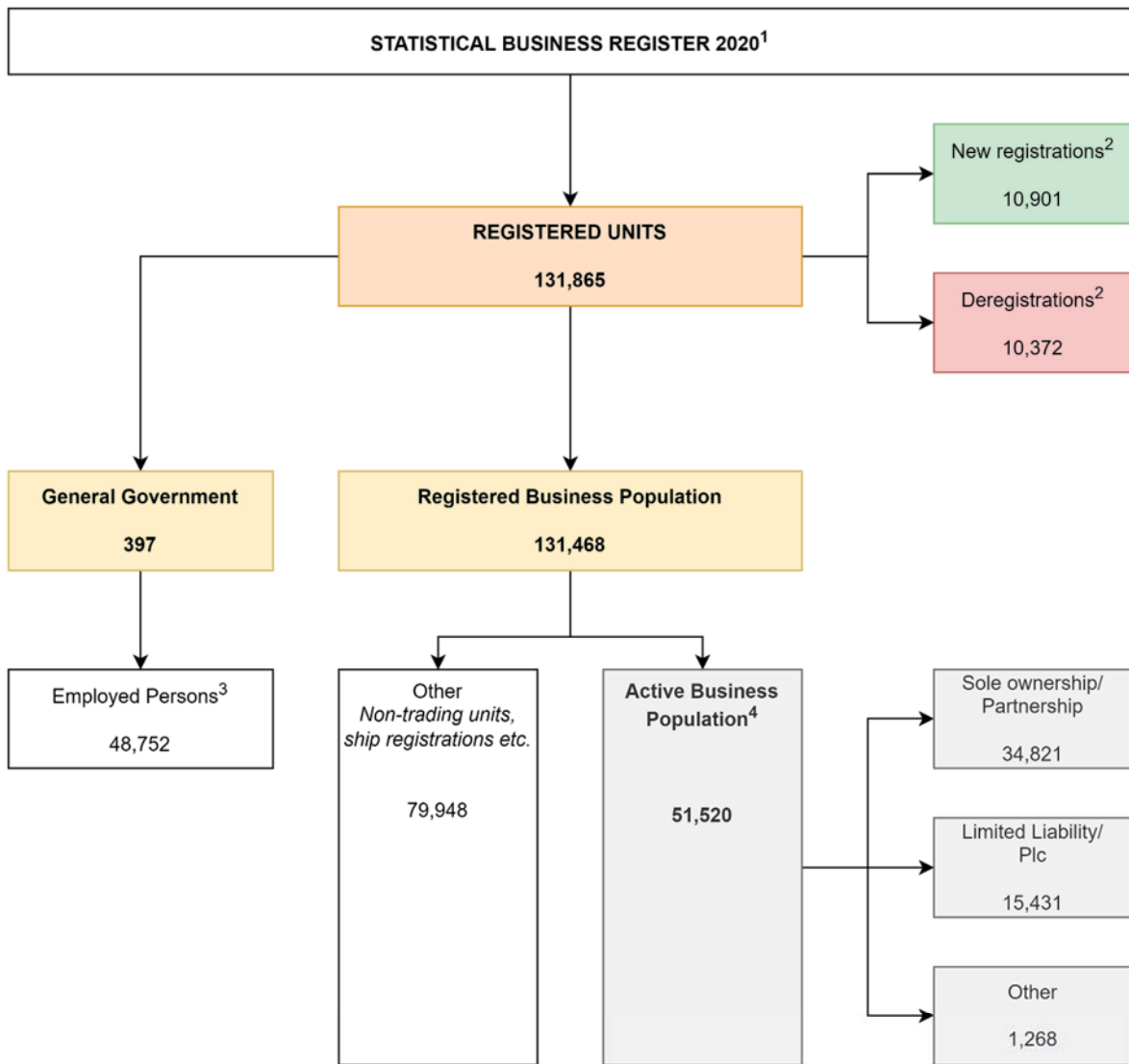
Employers refer to businesses with more than one employee.

The following are the definitions of the employment size class breakdowns shown in Table 4 and Table 6:

Size class	Persons employed
Micro	0-9
Small	10-49
Medium	50-249
Large	250 or more

Total Registered Business Units





¹ The data in this chart refers to 2020 since 2021 active population is still provisional.

² **New registrations and deregistrations** include active and dormant business units.

³ **Employed Persons** (head count) is defined as the total number of both self-employed and employees. Employment is in terms of jobs, i.e. comprising full-time and part-time (primary and secondary) workers. Thus, if a person is engaged with 2 different business units s/he is counted twice. (provisional)

⁴ **Active Business Population** includes public corporations and non-profit enterprises.

Employment size class	Business Units	Employed persons ²
0-9	48,298	72,833
10-49	2,614	51,350
50-249	511	51,333
250+	97	50,936