

19 November 2018 | 1300 hrs | 184/2018

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund celebrates World Children's Day every year on November 20, with the aim of highlighting children's rights.

## World Children's Day: 2018

As at the end of 2017, total resident population stood at 475,701. Nearly 17 per cent of the resident population were children aged between 0 and 17 years. Statistics compiled by the NSO show that the total number of children stood at 79,163, of these, 70,709 were Maltese (Table 1). The 0-17 population segment saw a decrease of 16.4 per cent over the past 17 years (Chart 1). The majority of persons aged 0-17 resided in the Northern Harbour District (29.9 per cent), followed by the Northern District (17.5 per cent) and the Southern Harbour District (16.8 per cent) (Chart 2).

During 2017, more than 95 per cent of fathers with children between the age of 0 and 17 years were employed. On the contrary, 61.1 per cent of mothers were estimated to be employed and a further 35.6 per cent were inactive (Table 2). Additional results from the Labour Force Survey also indicate that 47.0 per cent of children between 0 and 17 years lived in private households where both parents work (Table 3).

Data collected through European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey in 2017 estimates that 21.2 per cent of children aged up to 17 were at-risk-of-poverty. Of the mentioned age group, the highest poverty rates were among those aged 10 to 14 and 15 to 17 at 28.5 and 23.6 per cent, respectively.

Furthermore, 22.8 per cent of those aged 0-17 were at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion. The most vulnerable children were aged 10-14, in which case the rate was of 30.6 per cent (Table 4). The data also shows that most households with children aged 0-17 lived either in an apartment or a flat. There were only 1,790 households with children within the mentioned age group living in detached houses (Chart 3).

Analysing expenditure patterns of households without children and households with at least one child aged 0-17, as extracted from the 2015 Household Budgetary Survey, reveals that the latter group spends more on almost every item. Households with children spent approximately 18.3 per cent of their total expenditure on Food and non-alcoholic beverages, followed by Transport (15.7 per cent) and Clothing and footwear (8.9 per cent) (Table 5, Chart 4).

During academic year 2016/2017, a total of 55,471 children aged between 0 and 16 were enrolled in Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Education. More than half of these (31,851) were enrolled in State schools, followed by 16,264 in Church schools and 7,356 in Independent schools (Table 6). The majority of students (50,069) were of Maltese nationality. Out of a total of 5,371 students of a foreign nationality, 764 were British, 739 were Italian and 627 were Libyan (Table 7).

The number of absent days in compulsory education during academic year 2016/2017 totalled 531,729, an increase of 4.6 per cent when compared to the previous academic year. The highest number of absent days were recorded in secondary education (Table 8, Chart 5).

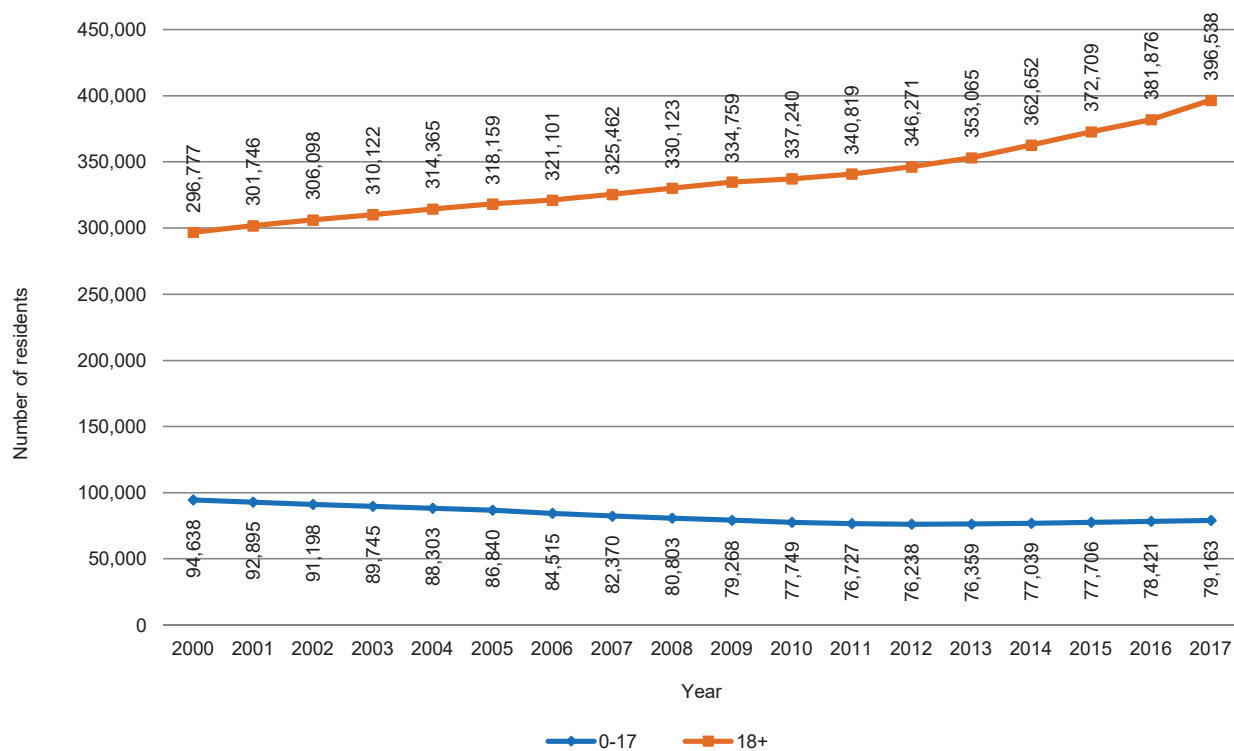
Total trips undertaken by outbound tourists for 2017 amounted to 572,500. Of these, 4.9 per cent or 28,245 trips were carried out by children aged 0-14. A decrease of 10.5 per cent was noted in this age category when compared to 2016. In 2017, Italy and the United Kingdom remained the two most popular destinations, with a joint share of 57.3 per cent of total outbound tourist trips carried out by those aged between 0 and 14 (Tables 9 and 10) ■

**Table 1. Total resident population aged 0-17 years by citizenship and age: as at end December 2017**

Age	Maltese	Foreign	Total
0	3,563	893	4,456
1	3,823	953	4,776
2	3,825	918	4,743
3	3,800	726	4,526
4	3,809	661	4,470
5	4,031	607	4,638
6	4,141	474	4,615
7	3,971	364	4,335
8	4,077	378	4,455
9	4,067	377	4,444
10	3,870	282	4,152
11	3,830	288	4,118
12	3,850	306	4,156
13	3,844	244	4,088
14	3,994	263	4,257
15	3,910	227	4,137
16	3,941	236	4,177
17	4,363	257	4,620
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,709</b>	<b>8,454</b>	<b>79,163</b>

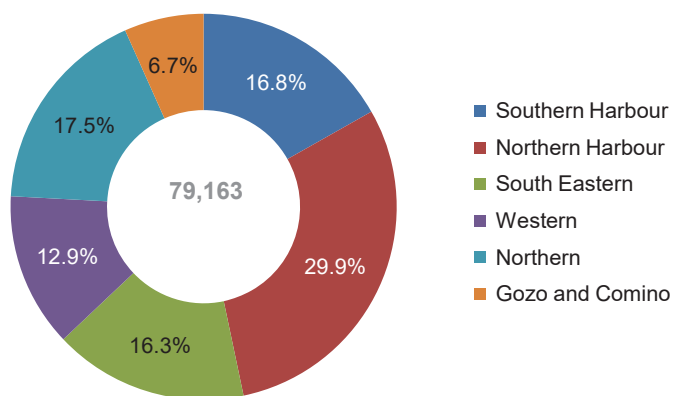
Source: Population, Migration and Crime Statistics, NSO

**Chart 1. Total resident population by age category: 2000-2017**



Source: Population, Migration and Crime Statistics, NSO

Chart 2. Percentage distribution of population aged 0-17 years by district: 2017



Source: Population, Migration and Crime Statistics, NSO

Table 2. Parents with children aged 0-17 years by labour status: 2017

Labour status	All parents <sup>1</sup>		
	Fathers	Mothers	Total
Employed	40,599	29,352	<b>69,951</b>
Unemployed	626	1,586	<b>2,212</b>
Inactive	1,420	17,100	<b>18,520</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,645</b>	<b>48,038</b>	<b>90,683</b>
	% total		
Employed	95.2	61.1	<b>77.1</b>
Unemployed	1.5	3.3	<b>2.4</b>
Inactive	3.3	35.6	<b>20.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Percentage totals may not add up due to rounding.

<sup>1</sup> This data includes single parents

Source: Labour Force Survey

Table 3. Number of children aged 0-17 years living in private households by age group: 2017

Age group	Total	Children with both parents in employment	% total
0-4	16,670	8,456	50.7
5-9	23,825	12,079	50.7
10-14	25,040	11,088	44.3
15-17	13,011	5,258	40.4
<b>Total children</b>	<b>78,546</b>	<b>36,881</b>	<b>47.0</b>

Source: Labour Force Survey

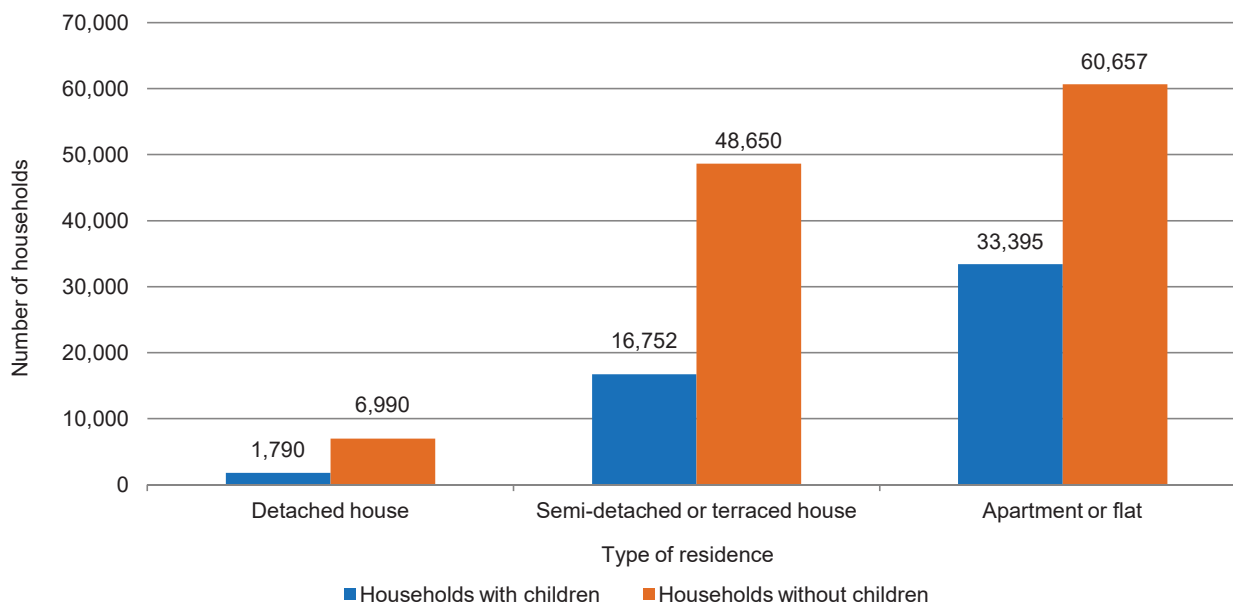
**Table 4. Percentage distribution of persons 'at-risk-of-poverty' and 'at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion' by age group: 2017**

Age group	at-risk-of-poverty			at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
<b>0-17</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>22.8</b>
0-4	[18.8]	[14.6]	16.8	[19.2]	[17.4]	18.3
5-9	[16.9]	[17.3]	17.1	[17.6]	[19.3]	18.4
10-14	31.8	25.0	28.5	33.5	27.5	30.6
15-17	[28.0]	[19.4]	23.6	[30.0]	[21.1]	25.4
<b>18+</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>18.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>19.2</b>

[ ] Figures to be used with caution: figures with between 20 and 49 reporting households or with non-response for the item concerned that exceeds 20% and is lower or equal to 50%.

Source: European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey

**Chart 3. Households with and without children aged 0-17 years by type of dwelling: 2017**



Source: European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey

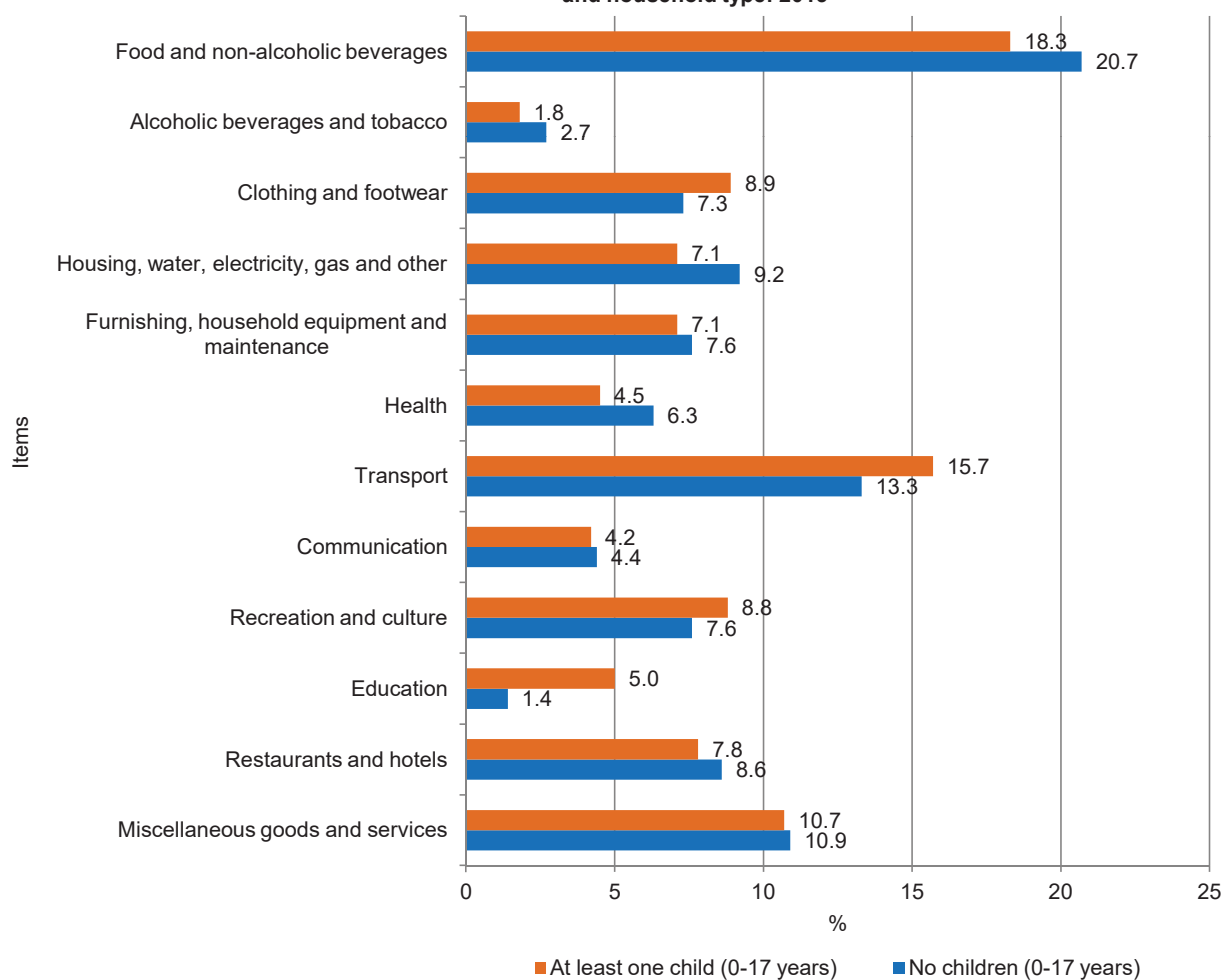
**Table 5. Households' average annual expenditure by household type: 2015**

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	No children (0-17)	At least one child (0-17)
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	4,068	5,224
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	528	518
Clothing and footwear	1,432	2,547
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other	1,807	2,033
Furnishing, household equipment and maintenance	1,499	2,016
Health	1,237	1,287
Transport	2,628	4,466
Communication	872	1,195
Recreation and culture	1,496	2,502
Education	276	1,430
Restaurants and hotels	1,700	2,222
Miscellaneous goods and services	2,148	3,061

Source: Household Budgetary Survey

**Chart 4. Percentage distribution of households' expenditure by item and household type: 2015**



Source: Household Budgetary Survey

**Table 6. Students enrolled in pre-primary, primary and secondary education by economic sector:  
Academic year 2016/2017**

	State	Church	Independent	Total
<b>Number of students<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>31,851</b>	<b>16,264</b>	<b>7,356</b>	<b>55,471</b>
Pre-primary	6,638	1,032	1,554	9,224
Primary	14,461	7,813	3,477	25,751
Secondary	10,752	7,419	2,325	20,496

<sup>1</sup> excluding special schools and reception classes

Source: Tourism and Education Statistics, NSO

**Table 7. Students enrolled in pre-primary, primary and secondary education by nationality:  
Academic year 2016/2017**

<b>Number of students<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>55,471</b>
Maltese	50,069
Foreign	5,371
... of which:	
British	764
Italian	739
Libyan	627
Bulgarian	307
Serbian	224
Missing nationality	31

<sup>1</sup> excluding special schools and reception classes

Source: Tourism and Education Statistics, NSO

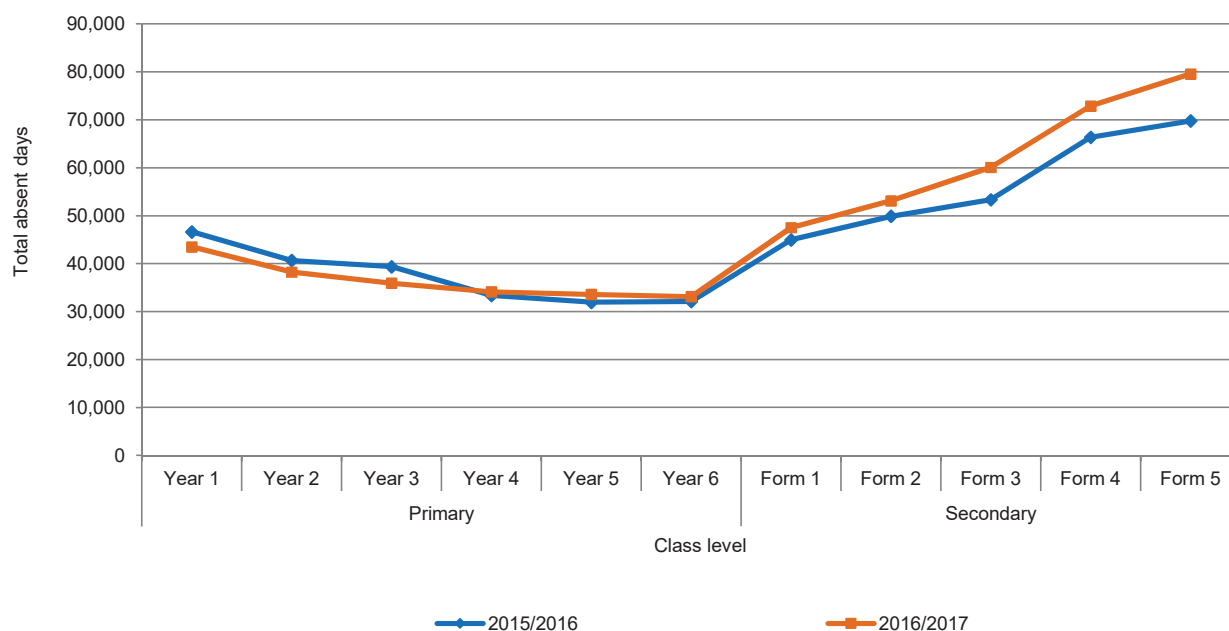
**Table 8. Total number of absent days by class level in primary and secondary education:  
Academic years 2015/2016 and 2016/2017**

Class level	Total absences		
	2015/2016	2016/2017	
Primary	Year 1	46,638	43,511
	Year 2	40,677	38,247
	Year 3	39,370	35,936
	Year 4	33,370	34,139
	Year 5	31,959	33,617
	Year 6	32,150	33,149
	<b>Total</b>	<b>224,164</b>	<b>218,599</b>
Secondary	Form 1	44,976	47,522
	Form 2	49,900	53,115
	Form 3	53,342	60,083
	Form 4	66,371	72,866
	Form 5	69,779	79,544
	<b>Total</b>	<b>284,368</b>	<b>313,130</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>508,532</b>	<b>531,729</b>	

\*Only mandatory education levels are included. Pre-primary level and special schools are excluded.

Source: Tourism and Education Statistics, NSO

**Chart 5. Total number of absent days by class level in primary and secondary education:  
Academic years 2015/2016 and 2016/2017**



Source: Tourism and Education Statistics, NSO

**Table 9. Outbound tourism**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>% change</b>
Total tourists	496,767	572,500	75,733	15.2
<i>of which:</i>				
0-14 years	31,571	28,245	-3,326	-10.5
Percentage share	6.4%	4.9%		

Source: Tourstat

**Table 10. Top 3 destinations amongst outbound tourists aged 0-14 years**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>% change</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>29,386</b>	<b>25,287</b>	<b>-4,099</b>	<b>-13.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>				
Italy	13,114	11,241	-1,873	-14.3
United Kingdom	5,437	4,950	-	-
Germany	2,433 <sup>u</sup>	1,392 <sup>u</sup>	-	-
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>2,185<sup>u</sup></b>	<b>2,958</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,571</b>	<b>28,245</b>	<b>-3,326</b>	<b>-10.5</b>

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Note: Changes denoted by the dash symbol (-) should be treated with caution. For more information, please refer to methodological note 6.3.

Source: Tourstat



## Methodological Notes

### 1. POPULATION:

1.1 Population estimates are calculated using components based on definitions provided for in the European Regulation (EU) No. 1260/2013 on European demographic statistics.

#### 1.2 Definitions

- **Crude birth rate:** <https://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=382>
- **Mid-year population:** <https://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=1276>
- **Total population:** <https://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=1967>

1.3 Local Administrative Units: For aggregation purposes, all localities are grouped in six districts, in line with the Local Administrative Unit classification (LAU): <https://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=2158>

1.4 Timely population estimates are published in order to meet user needs. These estimates are subject to further quality assurance processes and may be subject to revision in subsequent demographic publications.

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

- Metadata (Demography): <http://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/reports.aspx?id=36>
- Metadata (Migration): <http://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/reports.aspx?id=38>

### 2. LABOUR MARKET:

2.1 **Employment:** <https://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=821>

2.2 **Inactive persons:** All persons who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as inactive.

2.3 **Unemployment:** <https://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=2022>

### 3. SURVEY ON INCOME AND LIVING CONDITIONS:

3.1 The Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) survey is an annual enquiry conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) among persons residing in private households in Malta and Gozo. This survey was carried out under EU regulation (EU. No. 1177/2003). The main scope of this survey is to enable the compilation of statistics on income distribution and indicators on monetary poverty. SILC also serves to produce reliable quantitative information on social exclusion and material deprivation.

3.2 This survey has been carried out in Malta since 2005 and is carried out annually by all European Union Member States under a European framework regulation that came into force in 2004. Consequently, all work related to the SILC survey is coordinated by Eurostat which, in particular, provides guidelines on the methodology that is implemented.

3.3 In 2017, the gross sample size was 4,638 households. Of these, 148 households turned out to be ineligible for the survey (i.e. addresses that did not actually exist, could not be located, non-residential addresses, permanently vacant dwellings or institutional households). Consequently, 4,490 households were approached for the interview. Of these, 3,902 completed the survey, resulting in an effective response rate of 86.9 per cent. These households comprised of 10,148 residents, of which 8,755 were aged 16 and over.

3.4 The income reference year of the SILC survey is one calendar year prior to the survey year. Consequently, the income collected in SILC 2017 refers to the calendar year 2016.

#### 3.5 Definitions

- A person is defined as a **child** if s/he is under 18. Otherwise, the person is referred to as an adult.
- **Household disposable income:** <https://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=1951>
- **Equivalent household size:** <https://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=695>
- **Equivalent disposable income:** <https://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=697>
- **At-risk-of-poverty threshold:** <https://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=155>
- The **at-risk-of-poverty rate** refers to the share of persons with an equivalised disposable income below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold.
- **At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate:** <https://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=154>

### 3.6 Key

: Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of:

1. less than 20 reporting households; or
2. the non-response for the item concerned exceeds 50%.

[ ] Figures to be used with caution: figures with between 20 and 49 reporting households or with non-response for the item concerned that exceeds 20% and is lower or equal to 50%.

**N/A** Not applicable

3.7 Sample used for the SILC survey was extracted from a database based on the Census of Population and Housing 2011.

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

3.9 Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=27>

## 4. HOUSEHOLD BUDGETARY SURVEY:

4.1 The consumption expenditure tables covered in this news release illustrate the main commodity and service groups of expenditure at different hierarchical levels based on the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) <https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=COICOP%201999>.

## 5. EDUCATION:

5.1 Data collection is carried out during the second quarter of each academic year. The reference period for the information provided being the end of March.

5.2 Questionnaires sent to pre-primary to secondary schools, are sent via email using the soft-copy version of the questionnaire. All incoming questionnaires are processed through a custom-made computer software.

### 5.3 Definitions:

- **Formal education:** <https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=787>
- **Class:** refers to a group of students who are physically following a common course of study in the same space.
- In its policy document entitled "Addressing Attendance in School Policy - October 2014", MEDE identifies the following five varieties of absence:
  - **i. Authorised Absence**
    - School refusal/school phobia
    - Authorised non-attendance
  - **ii. Unauthorised Absence**
    - Unauthorised non-attendance with parental knowledge
    - Truancy
    - School transience

5.4 The quoted policy document is available on the MEDE website:

<http://education.gov.mt/en/resources/news/documents/attendance%20policy%20document.pdf>

## 6. TOURISM:

6.1 Outbound tourism trips are collected from an ongoing frontier national survey known as Tourstat. Tourist air departures are collected through a continuous survey carried out at the departure lounge of the Malta International Airport. A two-stage sampling design is used to collect air passengers. In the first stage, alternate days and nights are selected. In the second stage, within each shift, a sample of passengers is selected systematically. Every crossing passenger is counted and respondents are selected using a pre-defined interval of 1:20 for air.

6.2 Tourist sea departures are collected through a regular survey, conducted during three separate months every year at the Valletta Cruise Port. A quota sample is used to conduct sea passenger departures in which survey interviewers are guided to select people according to some fixed quota. Survey data is supplemented by administrative data provided by ferry operators.

6.3 Absolute and percentage changes between one survey estimate and another based on less than 1,500 tourists should be treated with caution and are represented in this news release by means of the dash symbol (-).

### 6.4 Definitions:

- **Tourist trips:** Trips with at least one overnight stay in either collective or private accommodation in the place/country visited.
- **Outbound tourism:** <https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/ConceptDetails.aspx?id=1457>