

19 November 2013 | 1100 hrs | 223/2013

A survey carried out among 72 theatres across Malta and Gozo revealed that 429 productions were organised last year with a total audience of 293,772.

## Theatres: 2011-2012

The majority of theatres (57 per cent) had a seating capacity of less than 300. The share of theatres with a capacity ranging from 301 to 900 stood at 33 per cent, while the remaining 10 per cent could host events with an attendance of more than 900 (Table 1). From all the surveyed theatres, 44 per cent were owned or run by the ecclesiastical authorities. Another 35 per cent were owned by public entities. The remaining theatres were either managed by the private sector or by voluntary organisations (Table 2).

In 2012, these theatres collectively put up 429 productions - an average of six per theatre. Forty-five per cent of productions were produced by the theatre itself (Table 3). The total number of performances held during the period under review stood at 843, an increase of 8.1 per cent over the previous year (Table 4). On average, there were two performances per production.

Total attendance in theatres during 2012 stood at 293,772, with an average 348 attendees per performance. At 36 per cent, concerts turned out to be the most preferred among audiences. Comedies and school performances came next, at 34 and 12 per cent respectively (Table 5). The average theatre-seat utilisation rate went down from 62 per cent in 2011 to 58 per cent last year (Table 7).

These theatres employed 152 persons on a full-time basis in 2012. Another 105 persons were hired on a part-time or sub-contracting basis. Last year 665 were registered as voluntary workers with these theatres (Table 9).

Excluding dance and concerts, performances in 2012 reached 600, of which 337 were in Maltese. Maltese-language performances were attended by 127,718 (Table 6) ■



Compiled by:

**Unit C1: Living Conditions  
and Culture Statistics**

**Directorate C: Social  
Statistics**

Further information on data:

**Mr Keith GRECH**

T. +356 2599 7527

E. keith.grech@gov.mt

Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.  
The advance release calendar may be consulted at [www.nso.gov.mt](http://www.nso.gov.mt)

Issued by: **External Cooperation and Communication Unit, National Statistics Office, Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta.**  
T. +356 2599 7219 F. +356 2599 7205 E. [nso@gov.mt](mailto:nso@gov.mt)

**Table 1. Number of theatres by capacity**

| Capacity          | 2011      |              | 2012      |              |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
|                   | Number    | % total      | Number    | % total      |
| 300 seats or less | 43        | 60.6         | 41        | 56.9         |
| 301 - 600         | 15        | 21.1         | 16        | 22.2         |
| 601 - 900         | 6         | 8.5          | 8         | 11.1         |
| Over 900          | 7         | 9.9          | 7         | 9.7          |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>71</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>72</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

**Table 2. Theatre ownership**

| Type  | 2011      |              | 2012      |              |
|---|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
|   | Number    | %            | Number    | %            |
| Public entity   | 25        | 35.2         | 25        | 34.7         |
| Church or Church-run organisation                           | 30        | 42.3         | 32        | 44.4         |
| Private enterprises; Voluntary and Non-profit Organisations | 16        | 22.5         | 15        | 20.8         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>71</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>72</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 3. Productions by category

| Type                   | 2011                                  |   |              | 2012       |   |              |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|------------|---|--------------|
|                        | Number                                | Average number of productions per theatre | % total      | Number     | Average number of productions per theatre | % total      |
|                        | Total productions                     |   |              |            |   |              |
| Dance                  | 19                                    | 0.3                                       | 4.6          | 25         | 0.3                                       | 5.8          |
| Concert                | 181                                   | 2.5                                       | 43.8         | 163        | 2.3                                       | 38.0         |
| Comedy                 | 67                                    | 0.9                                       | 16.2         | 64         | 0.9                                       | 14.9         |
| Drama                  | 38                                    | 0.5                                       | 9.2          | 43         | 0.6                                       | 10.0         |
| Opera/Operetta/Musical | 9                                     | 0.1                                       | 2.2          | 12         | 0.2                                       | 2.8          |
| Schools                | 53                                    | 0.7                                       | 12.8         | 69         | 1.0                                       | 16.1         |
| Other                  | 46                                    | 0.6                                       | 11.1         | 53         | 0.7                                       | 12.4         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>413</b>                            | <b>5.8</b>                                | <b>100.0</b> | <b>429</b> | <b>6.0</b>                                | <b>100.0</b> |
|                        | Own productions by theatre            |   |              |            |   |              |
| Dance                  | 6                                     | 0.1                                       | 2.8          | 7          | 0.1                                       | 3.6          |
| Concert                | 106                                   | 1.5                                       | 50.0         | 71         | 1.0                                       | 36.8         |
| Comedy                 | 23                                    | 0.3                                       | 10.8         | 27         | 0.4                                       | 14.0         |
| Drama                  | 17                                    | 0.2                                       | 8.0          | 23         | 0.3                                       | 11.9         |
| Opera/Operetta/Musical | 4                                     | 0.1                                       | 1.9          | 5          | 0.1                                       | 2.6          |
| Schools                | 14                                    | 0.2                                       | 6.6          | 21         | 0.3                                       | 10.9         |
| Other                  | 42                                    | 0.6                                       | 19.8         | 39         | 0.5                                       | 20.2         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>212</b>                            | <b>3.0</b>                                | <b>100.0</b> | <b>193</b> | <b>2.7</b>                                | <b>100.0</b> |
|                        | Productions by external organisations |   |              |            |   |              |
| Dance                  | 13                                    | 0.2                                       | 6.5          | 18         | 0.3                                       | 7.6          |
| Concert                | 75                                    | 1.1                                       | 37.3         | 92         | 1.3                                       | 39.0         |
| Comedy                 | 44                                    | 0.6                                       | 21.9         | 37         | 0.5                                       | 15.7         |
| Drama                  | 21                                    | 0.3                                       | 10.4         | 20         | 0.3                                       | 8.5          |
| Opera/Operetta/Musical | 5                                     | 0.1                                       | 2.5          | 7          | 0.1                                       | 3.0          |
| Schools                | 39                                    | 0.5                                       | 19.4         | 48         | 0.7                                       | 20.3         |
| Other                  | 4                                     | 0.1                                       | 2.0          | 14         | 0.2                                       | 5.9          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>201</b>                            | <b>2.8</b>                                | <b>100.0</b> | <b>236</b> | <b>3.3</b>                                | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 4. Performances by category

| Type                   | 2011                                   |   |              | 2012       |   |              |
|------------------------|--|---|--------------|------------|---|--------------|
|                        | Number                                 | Average number of performances per production | % total      | Number     | Average number of performances per production | % total      |
|                        | Total performances                     |   |              |            |   |              |
| Dance                  | 26                                     | 1.4   | 3.3          | 33         | 1.3   | 3.9          |
| Concert                | 204                                    | 1.1   | 26.2         | 210        | 1.3   | 24.9         |
| Comedy                 | 237                                    | 3.5   | 30.4         | 247        | 3.9   | 29.3         |
| Drama                  | 151                                    | 4.0   | 19.4         | 159        | 3.7   | 18.9         |
| Opera/Operetta/Musical | 20                                     | 2.2   | 2.6          | 19         | 1.6   | 2.3          |
| Schools                | 78                                     | 1.5   | 10.0         | 111        | 1.6   | 13.2         |
| Other                  | 64                                     | 1.4   | 8.2          | 64         | 1.2   | 7.6          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>780</b>                             | <b>1.9</b>                                    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>843</b> | <b>2.0</b>                                    | <b>100.0</b> |
|                        | Own performances by theatre            |   |              |            |   |              |
| Dance                  | 6                                      | 1.0   | 1.8          | 8          | 1.1   | 2.3          |
| Concert                | 113                                    | 1.1   | 33.2         | 80         | 1.1   | 23.1         |
| Comedy                 | 60                                     | 2.6   | 17.6         | 80         | 3.0   | 23.1         |
| Drama                  | 85                                     | 5.0   | 25.0         | 88         | 3.8   | 25.4         |
| Opera/Operetta/Musical | 10                                     | 2.5   | 2.9          | 11         | 2.2   | 3.2          |
| Schools                | 14                                     | 1.0   | 4.1          | 38         | 1.8   | 11.0         |
| Other                  | 52                                     | 1.2   | 15.3         | 42         | 1.1   | 12.1         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>340</b>                             | <b>1.6</b>                                    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>347</b> | <b>1.8</b>                                    | <b>100.0</b> |
|                        | Performances by external organisations |   |              |            |   |              |
| Dance                  | 20                                     | 1.5   | 4.5          | 25         | 1.4   | 5.0          |
| Concert                | 91                                     | 1.2   | 20.7         | 130        | 1.4   | 26.2         |
| Comedy                 | 177                                    | 4.0   | 40.2         | 167        | 4.5   | 33.7         |
| Drama                  | 66                                     | 3.1   | 15.0         | 71         | 3.6   | 14.3         |
| Opera/Operetta/Musical | 10                                     | 2.0   | 2.3          | 8          | 1.1   | 1.6          |
| Schools                | 64                                     | 1.6   | 14.5         | 73         | 1.5   | 14.7         |
| Other                  | 12                                     | 3.0   | 2.7          | 22         | 1.6   | 4.4          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>440</b>                             | <b>2.1</b>                                    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>496</b> | <b>2.1</b>                                    | <b>100.0</b> |

Table 5. Attendance by category

| Type                   | 2011   |                                    |              | 2012           |                                    |              |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
|                        | Number   | Average attendance per performance | % total      | Number         | Average attendance per performance | % total      |
|                        | Total attendances                                  |                                    |              |                |                                    |              |
| Dance                  | 9,902  | 381                                | 4.1          | 15,499         | 470                                | 5.3          |
| Concert                | 58,550   | 287                                | 24.1         | 105,430        | 502                                | 35.9         |
| Comedy                 | 106,689  | 450                                | 44.0         | 99,783         | 404                                | 34.0         |
| Drama                  | 13,439   | 89                                 | 5.5          | 15,058         | 95                                 | 5.1          |
| Opera/Operetta/Musical | 10,187   | 509                                | 4.2          | 10,415         | 548                                | 3.5          |
| Schools                | 32,637   | 418                                | 13.5         | 35,622         | 321                                | 12.1         |
| Other                  | 11,246   | 176                                | 4.6          | 11,965         | 187                                | 4.1          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>242,650</b>                                     | <b>311</b>                         | <b>100.0</b> | <b>293,772</b> | <b>348</b>                         | <b>100.0</b> |
|                        | Attendances for own performances by theatre        |                                    |              |                |                                    |              |
| Dance                  | 1,427  | 238                                | 2.4          | 1,825          | 228                                | 3.0          |
| Concert                | 14,137   | 125                                | 23.8         | 10,530         | 132                                | 17.3         |
| Comedy                 | 25,094   | 418                                | 42.3         | 25,236         | 315                                | 41.4         |
| Drama                  | 7,339  | 86                                 | 12.4         | 8,206          | 93                                 | 13.5         |
| Opera/Operetta/Musical | 3,439  | 344                                | 5.8          | 6,496          | 591                                | 10.7         |
| Schools                | 1,852  | 132                                | 3.1          | 3,738          | 98                                 | 6.1          |
| Other                  | 6,096  | 117                                | 10.3         | 4,940          | 118                                | 8.1          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>59,384</b>                                      | <b>175</b>                         | <b>100.0</b> | <b>60,971</b>  | <b>176</b>                         | <b>100.0</b> |
|                        | Attendances for performances external organisation |                                    |              |                |                                    |              |
| Dance                  | 8,475  | 424                                | 4.6          | 13,674         | 547                                | 5.9          |
| Concert                | 44,413   | 488                                | 24.2         | 94,900         | 730                                | 40.8         |
| Comedy                 | 81,595   | 461                                | 44.5         | 74,547         | 446                                | 32.0         |
| Drama                  | 6,100  | 92                                 | 3.3          | 6,852          | 97                                 | 2.9          |
| Opera/Operetta/Musical | 6,748  | 675                                | 3.7          | 3,919          | 490                                | 1.7          |
| Schools                | 30,785   | 481                                | 16.8         | 31,884         | 437                                | 13.7         |
| Other                  | 5,150  | 429                                | 2.8          | 7,025          | 319                                | 3.0          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>183,266</b>                                     | <b>417</b>                         | <b>100.0</b> | <b>232,801</b> | <b>469</b>                         | <b>100.0</b> |

**Table 6. Productions, performances and attendance by various characteristics**

| Type                   | 2011                  |           |                        |            |                  |               |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
|                        | Number of productions |           | Number of performances |            | Total attendance |               |
| Dance                  | 19                    |           | 26                     |            | 9,902            |               |
| Concert                | 181                   |           | 204                    |            | 58,550           |               |
|                        | Language              |           |                        |            |                  |               |
|                        | Maltese               | Other     | Maltese                | Other      | Maltese          | Other         |
| Comedy                 | 54                    | 13        | 154                    | 83         | 85,959           | 20,730        |
| Drama                  | 30                    | 8         | 90                     | 61         | 10,491           | 2,948         |
| Opera/Operetta/Musical | 4                     | 5         | 9                      | 11         | 3,611            | 6,576         |
| Schools                | 49                    | 4         | 60                     | 18         | 31,437           | 1,200         |
| Other                  | 11                    | 35        | 21                     | 43         | 4,856            | 6,390         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>148</b>            | <b>65</b> | <b>334</b>             | <b>216</b> | <b>136,354</b>   | <b>37,844</b> |
| Type                   | 2012                  |           |                        |            |                  |               |
|                        | Number of productions |           | Number of performances |            | Total attendance |               |
| Dance                  | 25                    |           | 33                     |            | 15,499           |               |
| Concert                | 163                   |           | 210                    |            | 105,430          |               |
|                        | Language              |           |                        |            |                  |               |
|                        | Maltese               | Other     | Maltese                | Other      | Maltese          | Other         |
| Comedy                 | 52                    | 12        | 154                    | 93         | 77,763           | 22,020        |
| Drama                  | 31                    | 12        | 94                     | 65         | 10,312           | 4,746         |
| Opera/Operetta/Musical | 4                     | 8         | 7                      | 12         | 3,590            | 6,825         |
| Schools                | 53                    | 16        | 64                     | 47         | 30,653           | 4,969         |
| Other                  | 15                    | 38        | 18                     | 46         | 5,400            | 6,565         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>155</b>            | <b>86</b> | <b>337</b>             | <b>263</b> | <b>127,718</b>   | <b>45,125</b> |

**Table 7. Theatre-seat utilisation by category**

| Type                    | 2011          | 2012        |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|
|                         | % utilisation |             |
| Dance                   | 52.4          | 60.0        |
| Concert                 | 49.0          | 44.5        |
| Comedy                  | 68.1          | 61.4        |
| Drama                   | 48.5          | 50.0        |
| Musical/ Operetta/Opera | 60.1          | 67.4        |
| School                  | 62.1          | 58.6        |
| Other                   | 38.9          | 38.9        |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>61.6</b>   | <b>57.7</b> |

**Table 8. Theatre equipment and related facilities**

| Item                                  | 2011           | 2012 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------|
|                                       | % availability |      |
| Lighting system                       | 71.8           | 75.0 |
| Lights control board                  | 85.9           | 88.9 |
| Sound system                          | 60.6           | 65.3 |
| Flying system for scenery             | 16.9           | 19.4 |
| Trap doors                            | 35.2           | 34.7 |
| Orchestra pit                         | 15.5           | 19.4 |
| Box office                            | 32.4           | 33.3 |
| Website                               | 42.3           | 43.1 |
| Platea accessible to wheelchair users | 64.8           | 65.3 |
| Stage accessible to wheelchair users  | 19.7           | 19.4 |

**Table 9. Staff employed by theatre**

| Type                      | 2011       |            |            | 2012       |            |            |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                           | Males      | Females    | Total      | Males      | Females    | Total      |
| Paid staff                | 173        | 101        | 274        | 155        | 102        | 257        |
| Full-time                 | 101        | 50         | 151        | 101        | 51         | 152        |
| Part-time/Sub-contracting | 72         | 51         | 123        | 54         | 51         | 105        |
| Voluntary staff           | 365        | 348        | 713        | 338        | 327        | 665        |
| <b>Total staff</b>        | <b>538</b> | <b>449</b> | <b>987</b> | <b>493</b> | <b>429</b> | <b>922</b> |

**Table 10. Non-arts related activities**

| Type                                       | 2011         | 2012         |
|--|--------------|--------------|
|  | %            |              |
| <b>Organised by theatre</b>                |              |              |
| Conferences                                | 14.9         | 15.3         |
| Social events                              | 21.8         | 18.0         |
| Prize-giving ceremonies                    | 2.8          | 2.8          |
| Religious services                         | 12.0         | 11.1         |
| Fairs                                      | 1.0          | 0.9          |
| Other                                      | 47.5         | 51.8         |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>Organised by external organisations</b> |              |              |
| Conferences                                | 17.0         | 18.8         |
| Social events                              | 23.0         | 21.6         |
| Prize-giving ceremonies                    | 5.3          | 4.1          |
| Religious services                         | 8.0          | 10.0         |
| Fairs                                      | 2.3          | 0.8          |
| Other                                      | 44.4         | 44.7         |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |



## Methodological Notes

1. Information in this news release was obtained through a theatre survey across Malta and Gozo. The survey covered all established theatres and community groups which may serve such a purpose (such as parishes, schools and community halls). Furthermore, for the purposes of this news release, a theatre is defined as a dedicated performance space, having a stage and seating, and open to the general public. Theatres situated in hotels are not included.
2. A list of theatres on the basis of the above definition was compiled from various records.
3. The global response rate for this survey stood at 90 per cent.
4. The survey relies on reported figures. While every effort has been made to minimise the extent of under-reporting, the National Statistics Office is not responsible for inaccuracies that may emerge as a result of this.
5. The theatre target population in 2012 comprised:
  - Parish halls = 27 units
  - School halls = 16 units
  - Others (inclusive of established theatres) = 29 units
6. Utilisation ratio is estimated as the sum of performances, multiplied by the maximum capacity of each theatre and divided by the total number of attendees.
7. Totals in tables may not add up due to rounding.