

A total of 13,306 children aged five and less were enrolled in the non-compulsory sector. The number of children attending formal childcare stood at 4,037, while children attending pre-primary education during the scholastic year 2016/17 amounted to 9,269.

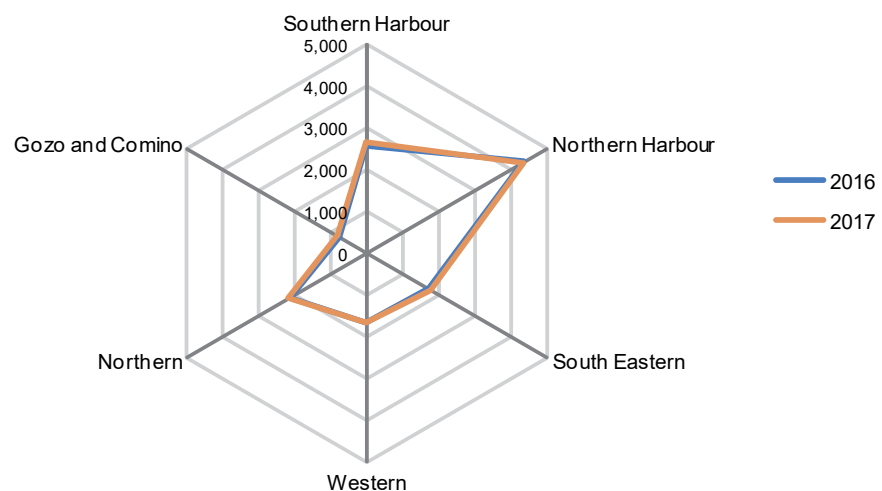
## Childcare and Early Years in MALTA: 2017

The largest proportion of children in non-compulsory education attended school in the Northern Harbour and Southern Harbour districts, at 32 and 20 per cent, respectively (Tables 1-2, Chart 1 and Map 1). Total number of children in Free Childcare Scheme ('the Scheme') amounted to 3,195 or 79 per cent of the total children attending childcare centres (Tables 1-3 and Chart 2). Enrolments in the Scheme increased by 14 per cent when compared to situation in 2016 (Table 1 and Chart 4). Overall, the Scheme resulted to be most popular (78 per cent) with children between the ages of 1 and 2 (Table 2).

Over 63 per cent of free childcare was provided through centres located in the Northern Harbour and Southern Harbour districts (Tables 1-3, Chart 2 and Map 2). Paid childcare was mainly concentrated in centres located in the Northern Harbour district (Tables 1-2 and Chart 2). The peak drop-off and pick-up time brackets were between 08:00 to 09:00 and 13:00 to 14:00 hours, respectively (Chart 5). Highest incidence was observed in the average duration of 6 and 5 hours, at 21 and 19 per cent, respectively (Chart 6).

The share of pre-primary children enrolled in state and independent schools amounted to 72 and 17 per cent, respectively; the remaining attended church schools (Tables 1,2,5 and Chart 3). The most popular age in state schools was that of 3 years, whereas in the case of independent and church schools, the majority were 4 years of age (Table 2). Most children attending state schools resided in the same locality of the school; the contrary prevailed in the case of church and independent schools (Table 5 and Map 3) ■

**Chart 1. Non-compulsory education by district of institution**



**Table 1. Non-compulsory education by type, district of institution and year**

National NUTS 3 LAU 1	Institution							
	MALTA							Gozo and Comino
	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo and Comino	
<b>Total</b>								
2017	<b>13,306</b>	<b>12,511</b>	<b>2,632</b>	<b>4,310</b>	<b>1,753</b>	<b>1,661</b>	<b>2,155</b>	<b>795</b>
2016	<b>13,164</b>	<b>12,429</b>	<b>2,561</b>	<b>4,348</b>	<b>1,723</b>	<b>1,661</b>	<b>2,136</b>	<b>735</b>
<b>Childcare</b>								
2017	4,037	3,916	962	1,605	418	364	567	121
2016	3,578	3,483	798	1,438	347	309	591	95
<i>Free Childcare Scheme</i>								
2017	3,195	3,088	785	1,237	364	240	462	107
2016	2,805	2,738	685	1,120	305	207	421	67
<i>Paid Childcare</i>								
2017	842	828	177	368	54	124	105	14
2016	773	745	113	318	42	102	170	28
<b>Pre-primary</b>								
2017	9,269	8,595	1,670	2,705	1,335	1,297	1,588	674
2016	9,586	8,946	1,763	2,910	1,376	1,352	1,545	640
<i>State</i>								
2017	6,648	6,208	1,289	1,608	1,250	928	1,133	440
2016	6,727	6,314	1,337	1,686	1,290	929	1,072	413
<i>Independent</i>								
2017	1,570	1,570	215	747	50	182	376	-
2016	1,857	1,857	260	917	50	234	396	-
<i>Church</i>								
2017	1,051	817	166	350	35	187	79	234
2016	1,002	775	166	307	36	189	77	227

Notes:

1. Data as at 31 March.
2. Children under 3 years of age who attend independent institutions licensed to operate a childcare centre are being excluded from the total children in pre-primary level.
3. In Gozo and Comino there were no independent institutions.

**Table 2. Children in non-compulsory education by type, age and district of institution: 2016/17**

NATIONAL NUTS 3 LAU 1	Institution							
	MALTA							Gozo and Comino
	Malta	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo and Comino	
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,306</b>	<b>12,511</b>	<b>2,632</b>	<b>4,310</b>	<b>1,753</b>	<b>1,661</b>	<b>2,155</b>	<b>795</b>
<b>Childcare</b>	<b>4,037</b>	<b>3,916</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>121</b>
<i>Free Childcare Scheme</i>	3,195	3,088	785	1,237	364	240	462	107
years								
3	632	610	143	245	73	49	100	22
2	1,709	1,649	421	646	200	133	249	60
1	793	769	211	320	79	53	106	24
<1	61	60	10	26	12	5	7	1
<i>Paid Childcare*</i>	842	828	177	368	54	124	105	14
<b>Pre-primary</b>	<b>9,269</b>	<b>8,595</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>2,705</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>674</b>
<i>State</i>	6,648	6,208	1,289	1,608	1,250	928	1,133	440
years								
5	31	28	9	8	7	3	1	3
4	2,886	2,683	543	740	541	395	464	203
3	2,929	2,753	578	692	540	420	523	176
<3	802	744	159	168	162	110	145	58
<i>Independent</i>	1,570	1,570	215	747	50	182	376	-
years								
5	11	11	5	2	-	2	2	-
4	768	768	105	363	21	75	204	-
3	739	739	100	339	26	105	169	-
<3	52	52	5	43	3	-	1	-
<i>Church</i>	1,051	817	166	350	35	187	79	234
years								
5	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
4	728	615	108	263	35	144	65	113
3	309	201	58	86	-	43	14	108
<3	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	12

Notes:

1. Data as at 31 March.
2. \*Data for paid childcare is not available by age.
3. Children under 3 years of age who attend independent institutions licensed to operate a childcare centre are being excluded from the total children in pre-primary level.
4. In Gozo and Comino there were no independent institutions.

**Table 3. Children in Free Childcare Scheme by district of residence and childcare centre: 2017**

NATIONAL		Institution							Gozo and Comino
		MALTA							
		Malta						Gozo and Comino	
NUTS 3	LAU 1		Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo and Comino	
Residence	<b>MALTA</b>	<b>3,195</b>	<b>3,088</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>1,237</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>107</b>
	<b>Malta</b>	<b>3,084</b>	<b>3,083</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>1</b>
	Southern Harbour	557	557	406	67	69	12	3	-
	Northern Harbour	857	857	86	707	3	18	43	-
	South Eastern	606	606	238	71	278	13	6	-
	Western	427	426	38	177	10	159	42	1
	Northern	637	637	17	212	4	38	366	-
	<b>Gozo and Comino</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>106</b>
Gozo and Comino	111	5	-	3	-	-	2	106	

Note:

Data as at 31 March.

**Table 4. Children in pre-primary level by district of residence and school: 2016/17**

NATIONAL		Institution							Gozo and Comino
		MALTA							
		Malta						Gozo and Comino	
NUTS 3	LAU 1		Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo and Comino	
Residence	<b>MALTA</b>	<b>9,269</b>	<b>8,595</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>2,705</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>674</b>
	<b>Malta</b>	<b>8,594</b>	<b>8,594</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>-</b>
	Southern Harbour	1,541	1,541	1,296	116	88	27	14	-
	Northern Harbour	2,543	2,543	111	2,105	13	156	158	-
	South Eastern	1,579	1,579	212	86	1,213	53	15	-
	Western	1,248	1,248	23	144	12	937	132	-
	Northern	1,683	1,683	28	253	9	124	1,269	-
	<b>Gozo and Comino</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>674</b>
Gozo and Comino	675	1	-	1	-	-	-	674	

Note:

Data as at 31 March.

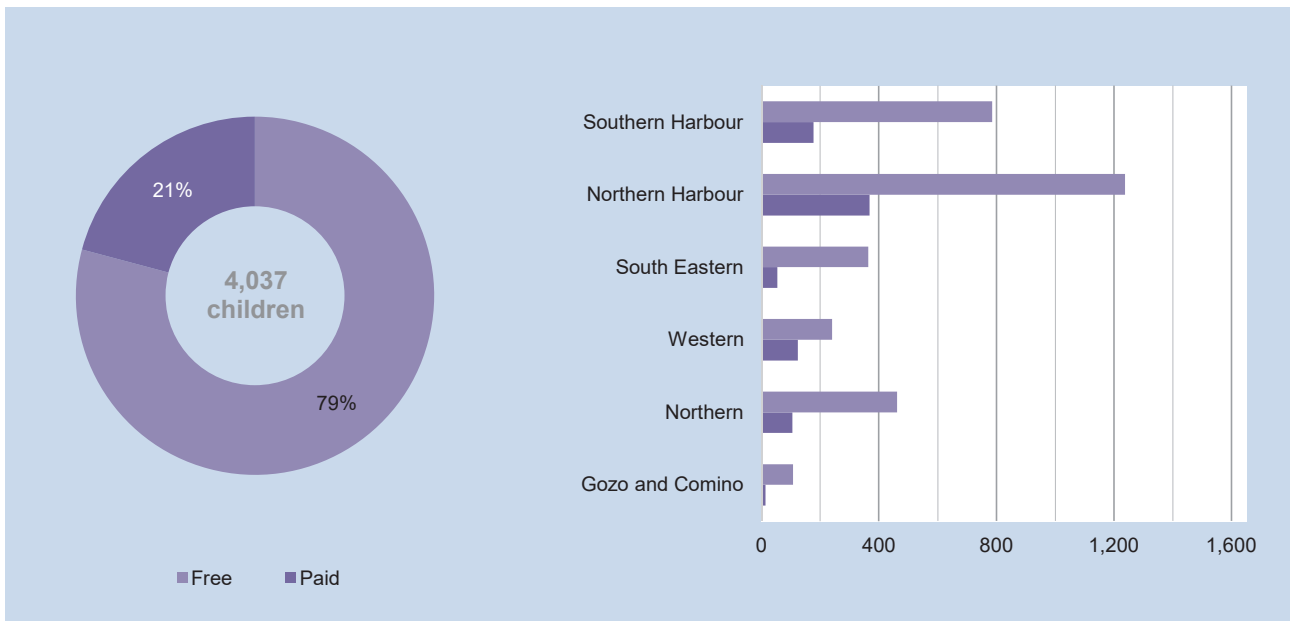
**Table 5. Children in pre-primary level by type of school, district of residence and school: 2016/17**

		Institution							
National NUTS 3 LAU 1	<b>MALTA</b>								
	Malta							Gozo and Comino	
	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo and Comino			
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,269</b>	<b>8,595</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>2,705</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>674</b>	
<b>STATE</b>									
Residence	<b>MALTA</b>	<b>6,648</b>	<b>6,208</b>	<b>1,289</b>	<b>1,608</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>440</b>
	<b>Malta</b>	<b>6,208</b>	<b>6,208</b>	<b>1,289</b>	<b>1,608</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>1,133</b>	-
	Southern Harbour	1,277	1,277	1,168	41	56	11	1	-
	Northern Harbour	1,600	1,600	33	1,481	4	63	19	-
	South Eastern	1,285	1,285	74	18	1,179	12	2	-
	Western	866	866	6	24	9	807	20	-
	Northern	1,180	1,180	8	44	2	35	1,091	-
	<b>Gozo and Comino</b>	<b>440</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>440</b>
Gozo and Comino	440	-	-	-	-	-	-	440	
<b>INDEPENDENT</b>									
Residence	<b>MALTA</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>376</b>	-
	<b>Malta</b>	<b>1,569</b>	<b>1,569</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>376</b>	-
	Southern Harbour	138	138	73	31	18	7	9	-
	Northern Harbour	704	704	54	472	7	48	123	-
	South Eastern	140	140	64	31	18	14	13	-
	Western	253	253	8	78	1	69	97	-
	Northern	334	334	16	134	6	44	134	-
	<b>Gozo and Comino</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	-	-
Gozo and Comino	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	
<b>CHURCH</b>									
Residence	<b>MALTA</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>234</b>
	<b>Malta</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>79</b>	-
	Southern Harbour	126	126	55	44	14	9	4	-
	Northern Harbour	239	239	24	152	2	45	16	-
	South Eastern	154	154	74	37	16	27	0	-
	Western	129	129	9	42	2	61	15	-
	Northern	169	169	4	75	1	45	44	-
	<b>Gozo and Comino</b>	<b>234</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>234</b>
Gozo and Comino	234	-	-	-	-	-	-	234	

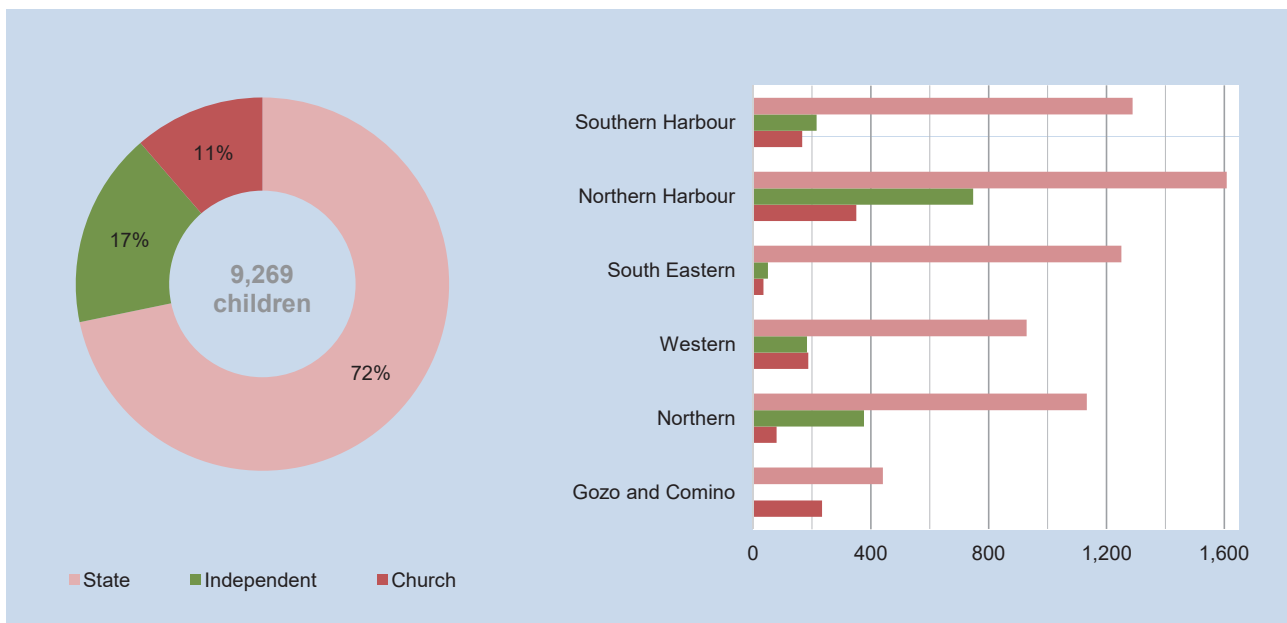
Notes:

1. Data as at 31 March.
2. In Gozo and Comino there were no independent institutions.

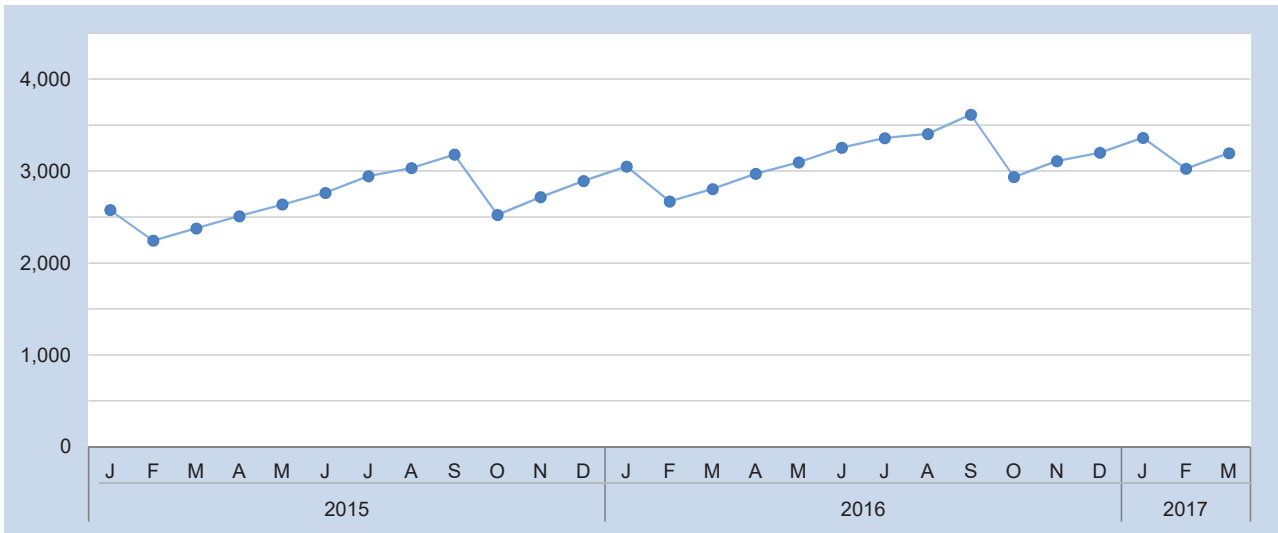
**Chart 2. Children in free and paid childcare by district of institution: 2017**



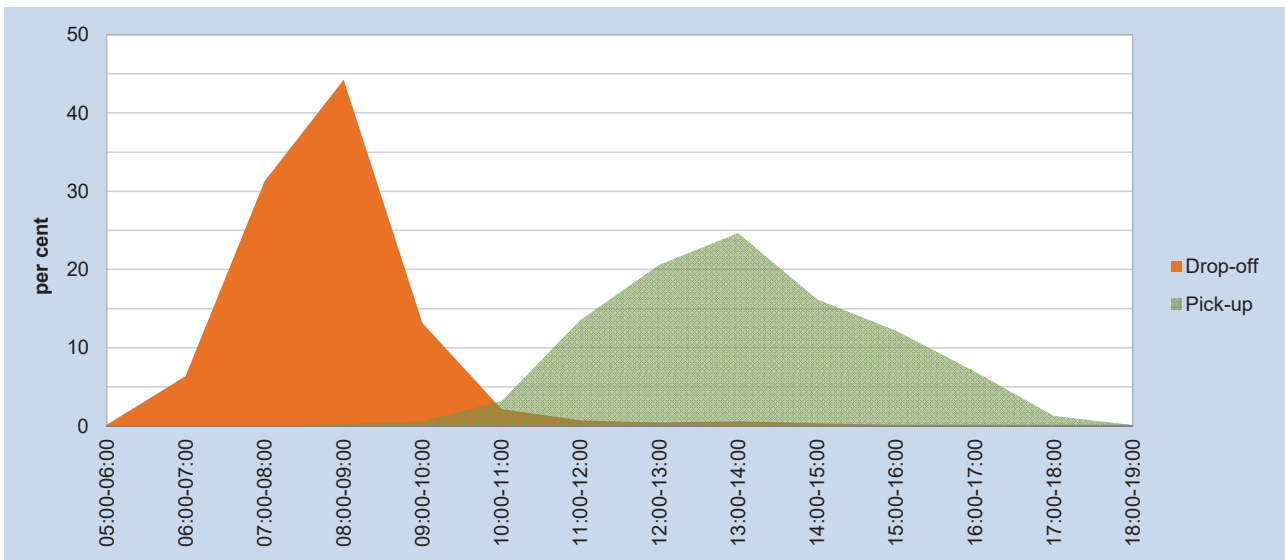
**Chart 3. Children in pre-primary education by type and district of institution: 2017**



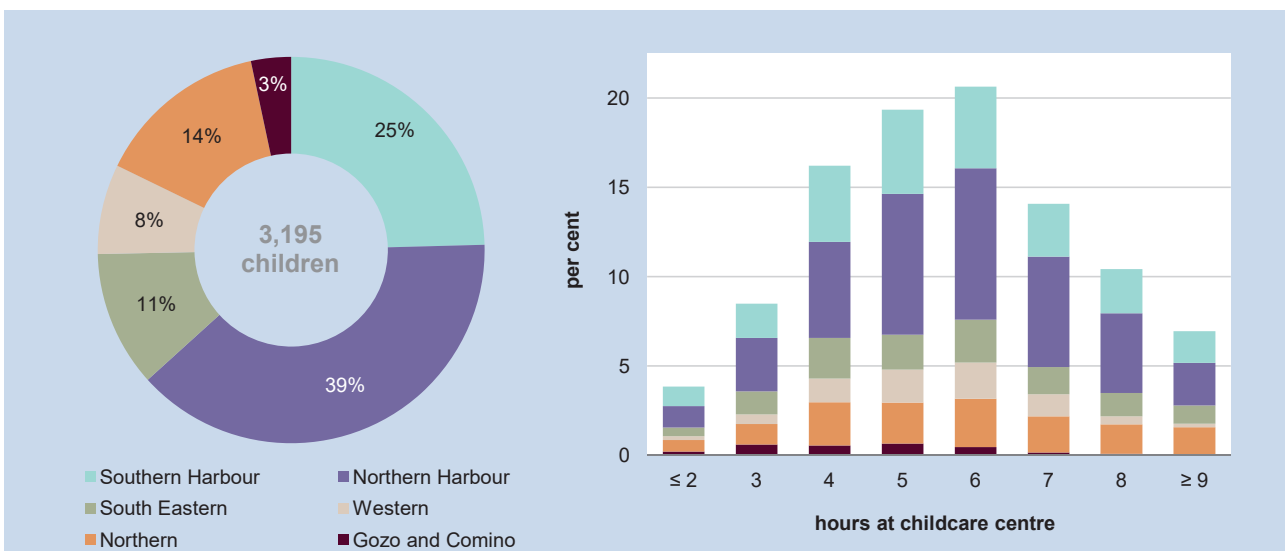
**Chart 4. Children in Free Childcare Scheme by month: 2015-2017**



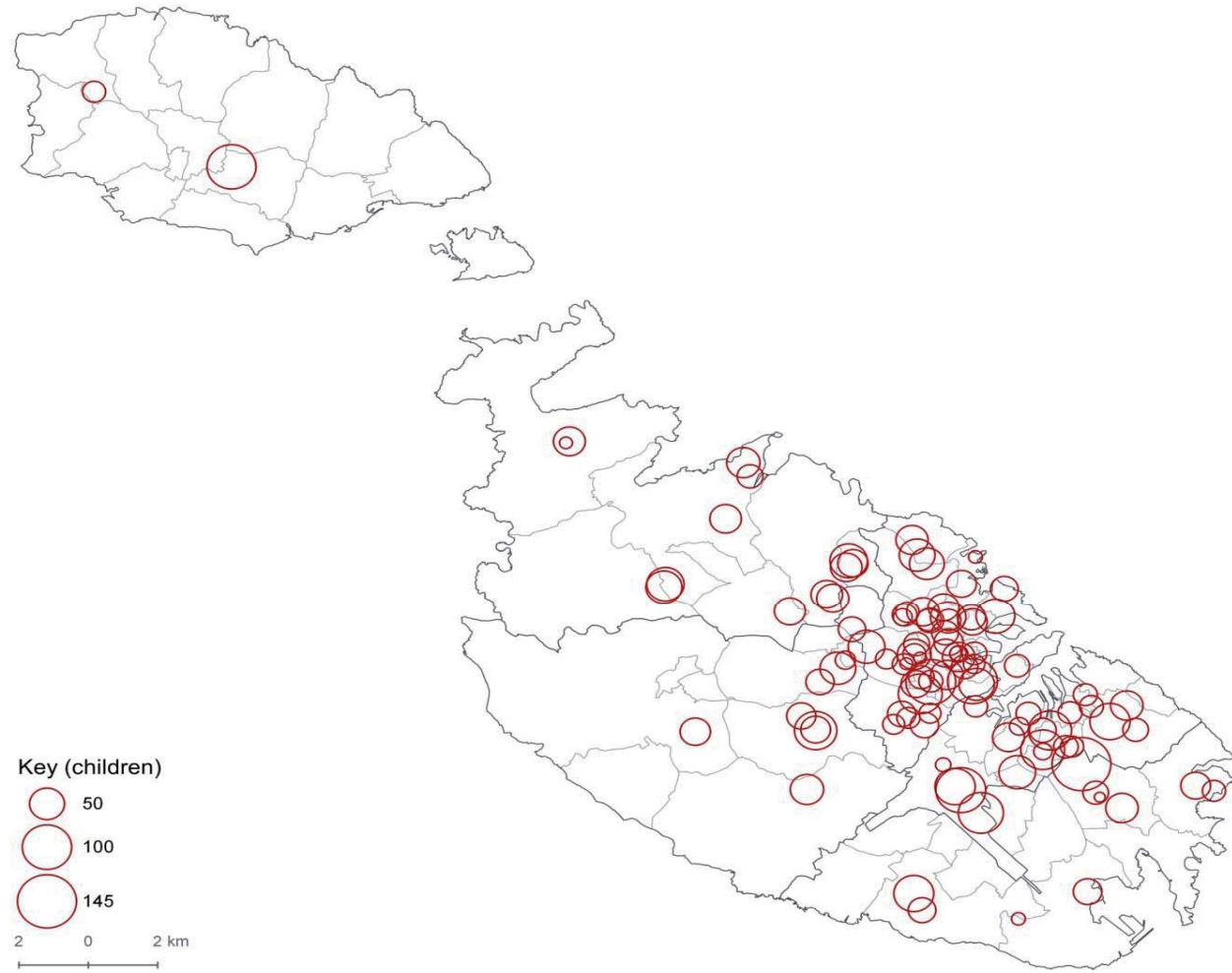
**Chart 5. Drop-off and pick-up times at childcare centres: March 2017**



**Chart 6. Average duration in hours of free childcare by district of institution: March 2017**

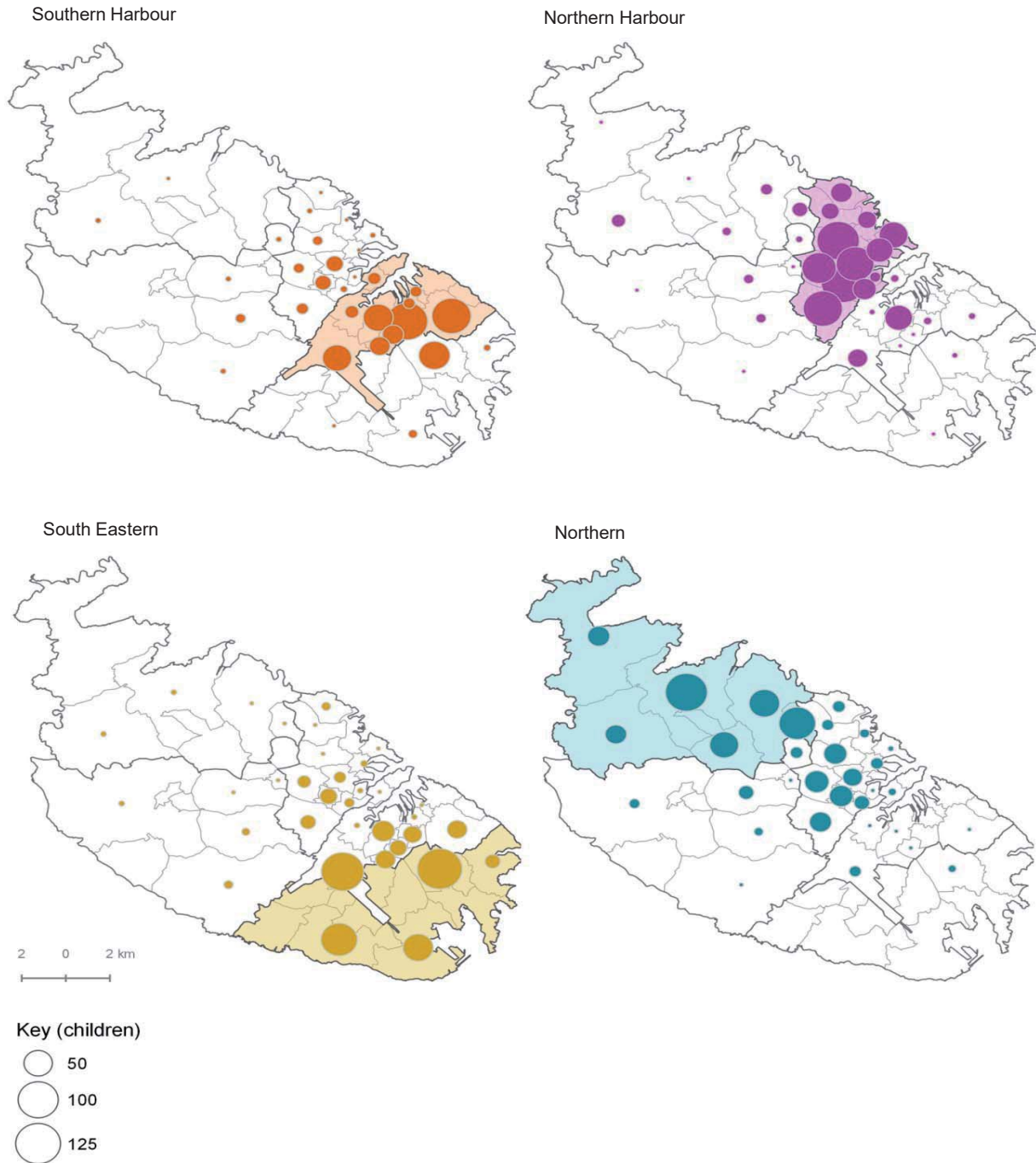


Map 1. Number of registered children in formal childcare by location of childcare centre: 2017





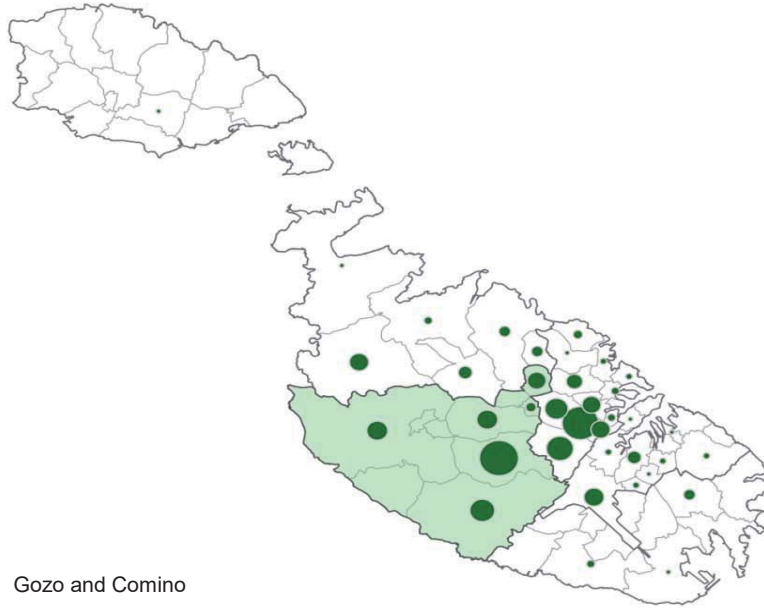
**Map 2. Children in free childcare scheme by district of residence (LAU1) and locality of childcare centre (LAU2): 2017**



**Notes:**

1. Highlighted areas indicate the district of residence.
2. Gozo and Comino district is omitted in maps where no presence is registered.

Western



Gozo and Comino



3 0 3 km

—|—|—|

Key (children)

○ 50

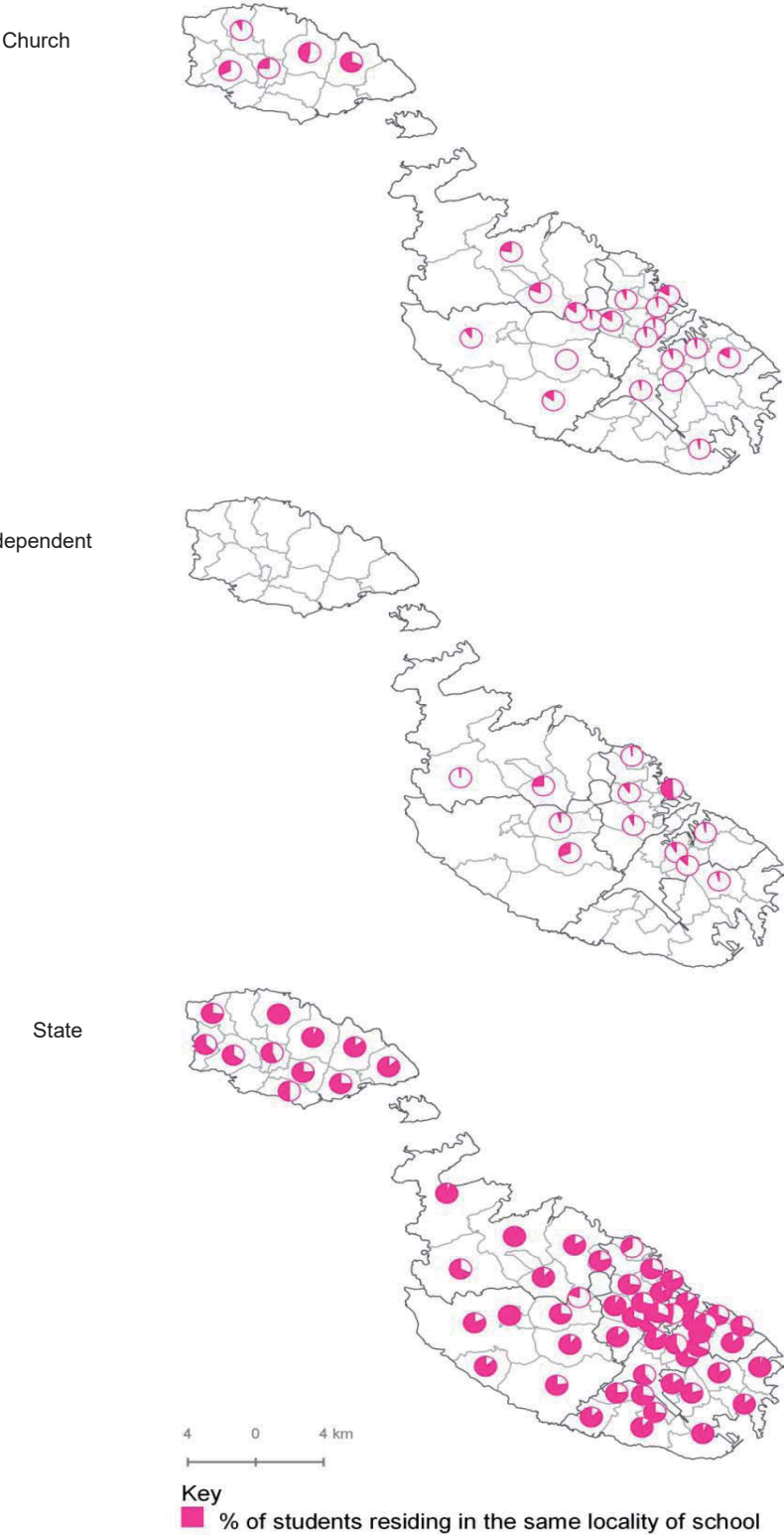
○ 100

○ 125

Note:

1. Highlighted areas indicate the district of residence.

Map 3. Pre-primary students by locality and type of school



## Methodological Notes

1. Data collection with regard to education institutions is carried out by the National Statistics Office during the second quarter of each academic year. The reference period for the data provided being the 31 March. Information on students attending state schools is based on administrative records obtained from the Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE) via the School Information System (SIS).
2. Data collection from childcare centres is carried out by the Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE).

**Records of registered children** are collected through direct enquiries with all temporary and provisionally registered childcare facilities during the second quarter of the year. The reference period for the information provided being the 31 March. Data collection of children benefiting from the Free Childcare Scheme is collected electronically by each childcare centre on a daily basis.

3. Paid childcare is being estimated by the National Statistics Office (NSO) as the residual between the total number of registered children attending childcare centres and the number of children in the Free Childcare Scheme. Parents/Guardians of these children pay the childcare centre according to the number of hours attended.
4. Provision of education for early years in Malta consists of the non-compulsory and compulsory sectors. The non-compulsory sector is subdivided into two sections – childcare for children aged between three months to three years old and pre-primary education for three to five-year-olds, Kinder 1 and Kinder 2. The compulsory sector comprises the first two years of primary education for five to seven-year-olds.
5. The Free Childcare Scheme is available to parents/guardians who are in employment or are pursuing their education, and whose children are aged between 0 to 3 years of age, or until the child is eligible for Kinder I, whichever comes first. Kinder I intake in state schools takes place twice a year, in February and October. In order for a child to be eligible for Kinder I, their 3rd birthday must be as follows: between January and April, the child will be eligible for the February intake, whilst children who turn 3 years of age between May and December, will be eligible for the October intake.
6. Free childcare is terminated once the child is eligible to enrol into Kinder 1 of state schools. State pre-primary has two intakes during the scholastic year: 1 October and 1 February. Children are admitted to Kinder 1 on the 1 February provided that the child would have attained three years of age by the end of April. This applies to all children, even those whose parents/guardians intend sending their children to church or independent kindergarten.
7. The locality of the Institution is established on the basis of its registered address and residence of the child/student is based on the home address as declared upon registration/enrolment.

### 8. Definitions:

**Childcare** is offered to children aged between three months and three years. Although childcare is characterised as formal or informal; **for the purposes of this News Release data refers strictly to formal childcare.**

**Formal childcare** often encompasses education at pre-school or compulsory school, childcare at centre-based services before or after school hours and childcare at daycare centres.

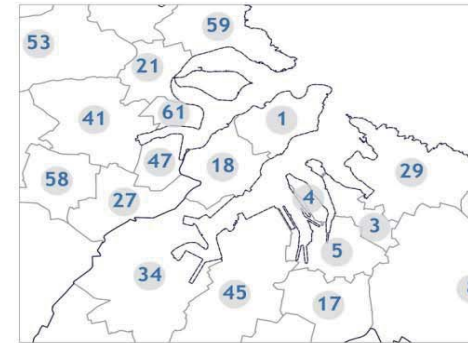
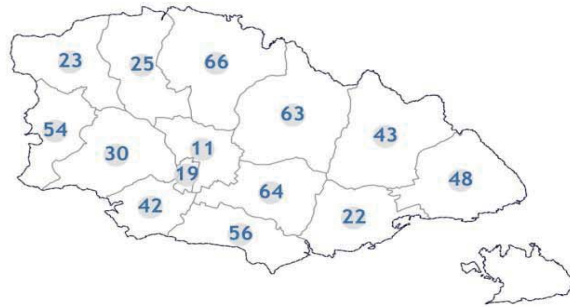
**Informal childcare** comprises childcare offered by grandparents, other relations, older brothers and sisters of the child, neighbours and friends of the child's parents, babysitters who provide short term homebased childcare for financial reward and unregistered nannies.

**Free Childcare Scheme** is a system whereby government provides free childcare services to children whose parents are in work or in education. Parents are entitled to free childcare for all children of childcare-age, at a rate which is pro-rata to the mother's (or single father) employment hours. The childcare service is either provided directly through government services or alternatively through registered childcare centres.

**Age** is calculated as at 1 January 2017.

9. More information is available from the NSO upon written request form: <https://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Pages/Request-for-Information.aspx>
10. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
11. The advanced news release calendar may be accessed at [www.nso.gov.mt](http://www.nso.gov.mt)

Graphical illustration of MALTA by district (LAU1) and locality (LAU2)



500 0 500 m

- |                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Valletta                | 35 Marsaskala    |
| 2 Mdina                   | 36 Marsaxlokk    |
| 3 Vittoriosa              | 37 Mellieha      |
| 4 Senglea                 | 38 Mġarr         |
| 5 Cospicua                | 39 Mosta         |
| 6 Ħal Qormi               | 40 Mqabba        |
| 7 Ħaż-Żebbuġ              | 41 Msida         |
| 8 Ħaż-Żabbar              | 42 Munxar        |
| 9 Siġġiewi                | 43 Nadur         |
| 10 Żejtun                 | 44 Naxxar        |
| 11 Victoria               | 45 Paola         |
| 12 Ħ'Attard               | 46 Pembroke      |
| 13 Ħal Balzan             | 47 Tal-Pieta'    |
| 14 Birkirkara             | 48 Qala          |
| 15 Birżebbuġa             | 49 Qrendi        |
| 16 Ħad-Dingli             | 50 Rabat (Malta) |
| 17 Fgura                  | 51 Ħal Safi      |
| 18 Floriana               | 52 St Julian's   |
| 19 Fontana                | 53 San Ġwann     |
| 20 Gudja                  | 54 San Lawrenz   |
| 21 Gżira                  | 55 St Paul's Bay |
| 22 Ghajnsielem and Comino | 56 Ta' Sannat    |
| 23 Għarb                  | 57 Santa Luċija  |
| 24 Ħal Għarghur           | 58 Santa Venera  |
| 25 Għasri                 | 59 Tas-Sliema    |
| 26 Ħal Għaxaq             | 60 Swieqi        |
| 27 Ħamrun                 | 61 Ta' Xbiex     |
| 28 Iklin                  | 62 Ħal Tarxien   |
| 29 Kalkara                | 63 Xagħra        |
| 30 Ta' Kerċem             | 64 Xewkija       |
| 31 Ħal Kirkop             | 65 Xgħajra       |
| 32 Ħal Lija               | 66 Żebbuġ (Gozo) |
| 33 Ħal Luqa               | 67 Żurrieq       |
| 34 Marsa                  | 68 Mtarfa        |

2 0 2 km

