

More than 31,000 persons aged 12 and over and living in private households were involved in some form of voluntary work last year.

International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development: 5 December 2015

The 2014 Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey revealed that 31,578 persons aged 12 and over and living in private households did some form of voluntary work on a regular basis. The largest share of these volunteers dedicated their time to a voluntary organisation, while just 0.4 per cent did informal voluntary work, such as helping out a neighbour or relative (Table 1).

The majority of persons doing formal voluntary work were aged between 25 and 49 (Table 2). Nearly 30 per cent of volunteers were conducting voluntary work related to institutional care, while 20.0 per cent carried out activities within voluntary organisations that have a religious affinity (Table 3).

The shares of male and female volunteers who had been carrying out voluntary work for more than a decade were estimated at 45.4 per cent and 33.7 per cent respectively (Table 4). Nearly one-third of respondents volunteered for less than 10 hours per week. Just over a quarter of volunteers dedicated more than 30 hours per week for such endeavours (Table 6).

When compared to 2013, the average number of hours spent in voluntary work remained relatively stable for all age categories (Chart 2). On average, in 2014, male voluntary workers spent seven more hours in voluntary activities than their female counterparts (Chart 1). Furthermore, the average number of hours spent in voluntary work varied according to the main activity status, from an average of 24 hours per month for working persons to 48 hours per month for unemployed persons (Chart 4).

A share of 46.7 per cent of volunteers said they were doing this work because they felt it was their moral duty, while 22.0 per cent said to be doing so because of sympathy for the needy (Table 5).

Nearly 5 per cent of the respondents said that they were either paying or non-paying members of voluntary organisations (Table 7) ■

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Table 1. Respondents by sex and main type of voluntary work done

| Type of voluntary work | Males | | Females | | Total | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Within a voluntary organisation | 8,229 | 4.5 | 6,843 | 3.7 | 15,073 | 4.1 |
| Within another entity | 6,996 | 3.8 | 7,887 | 4.3 | 14,883 | 4.0 |
| Informal (e.g. helping a neighbour) | : | : | [1,085] | [0.6] | 1,622 | 0.4 |
| Do not do any voluntary work | 167,567 | 91.4 | 169,216 | 91.5 | 336,783 | 91.4 |
| Total | 183,330 | 100.0 | 185,031 | 100.0 | 368,361 | 100.0 |

: Under-represented: estimate based on less than 20 counts; figure not provided.

[] Under-represented: estimate based on 20-49 counts.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Persons doing voluntary work by age group and type of work done

| Type of voluntary work | 12-24 | 25-49 | 50-64 | 65+ | Total |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Number | | | | |
| Within a voluntary organisation | 1,939 | 6,015 | 4,737 | 2,381 | 15,073 |
| Within another entity | 2,022 | 4,663 | 4,164 | 4,035 | 14,883 |
| Informal (e.g. helping a neighbour) | : | : | [527] | [623] | 1,622 |
| Total | 4,004 | 11,107 | 9,429 | 7,039 | 31,578 |
| | % | | | | |
| Within a voluntary organisation | 12.9 | 39.9 | 31.4 | 15.8 | 100.0 |
| Within another entity | 13.6 | 31.3 | 28.0 | 27.1 | 100.0 |
| Informal (e.g. helping a neighbour) | : | : | [39.5] | [38.4] | 100.0 |
| Total | 12.7 | 35.2 | 29.9 | 22.3 | 100.0 |

: Under-represented: estimate based on less than 20 counts; figure not provided.

[] Under-represented: estimate based on 20-49 counts.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Persons doing voluntary work with a voluntary organisation by organisation's type of activity

| Organisation's type of activity | No. | % |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| Work related to institutional care | 4,485 | 29.8 |
| Religious activities (excl. institutional care) | 3,019 | 20.0 |
| Other | 7,569 | 50.2 |
| Total | 15,073 | 100.0 |

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 4. Persons doing voluntary work by sex and number of years of engagement

| Number of years | Males | | Females | | Total | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Less than 5 years | 4,570 | 29.0 | 5,558 | 35.1 | 10,128 | 32.1 |
| 5-10 years | 4,031 | 25.6 | 4,928 | 31.2 | 8,959 | 28.4 |
| More than 10 years | 7,163 | 45.4 | 5,329 | 33.7 | 12,491 | 39.6 |
| Total | 15,763 | 100.0 | 15,815 | 100.0 | 31,578 | 100.0 |

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 5. Persons doing voluntary work by sex and main reason

| Reason | Males | | Females | | Total | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Meeting new people/recreation | 4,146 | 26.3 | 2,614 | 16.5 | 6,760 | 21.4 |
| Moral duty | 6,689 | 42.4 | 8,069 | 51.0 | 14,758 | 46.7 |
| Sympathy for the needy | 3,281 | 20.8 | 3,651 | 23.1 | 6,932 | 22.0 |
| Other reason | [1,647] | [10.4] | [1,481] | [9.4] | 3,128 | 9.9 |
| Total | 15,763 | 100.0 | 15,815 | 100.0 | 31,578 | 100.0 |

[] Under-represented: estimate based on 20-49 counts.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 6. Persons doing voluntary work by sex and number of hours spent in a typical month

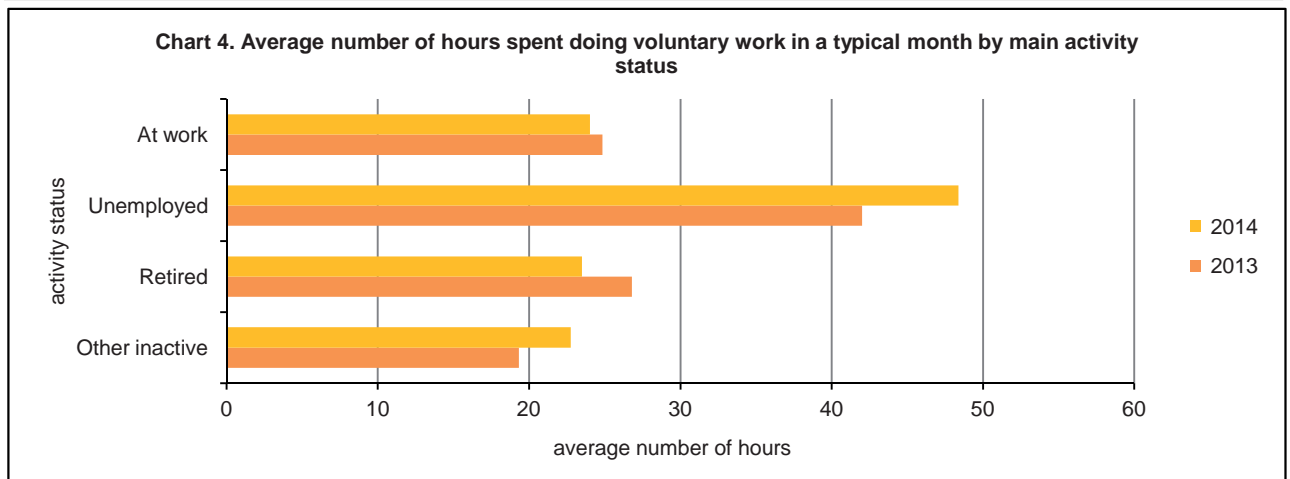
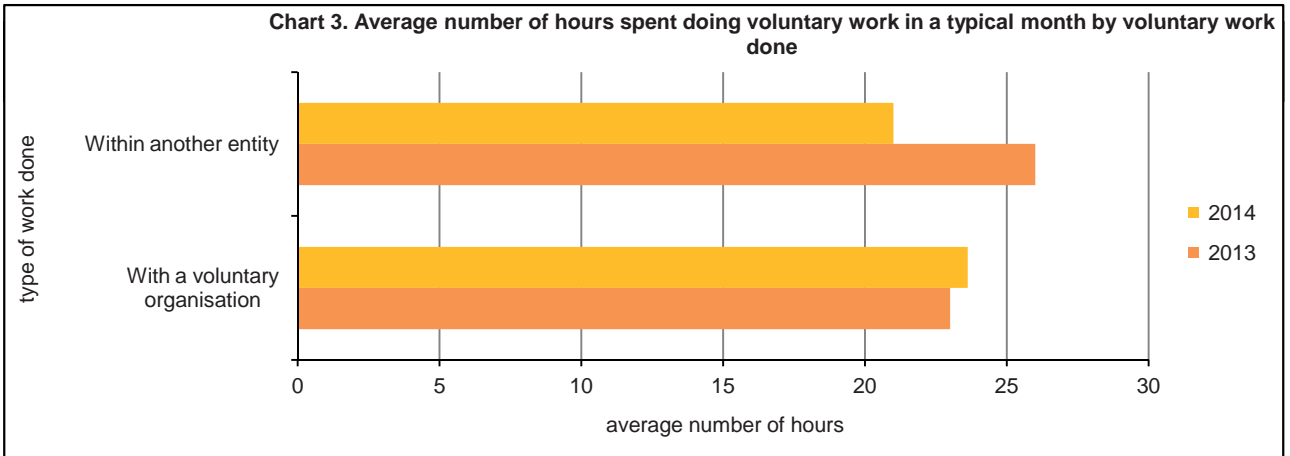
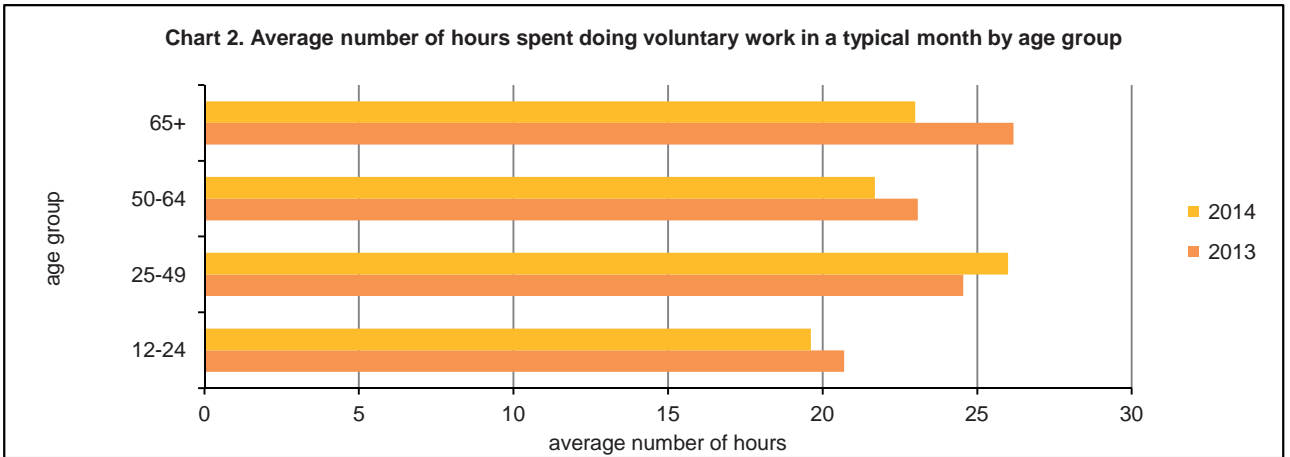
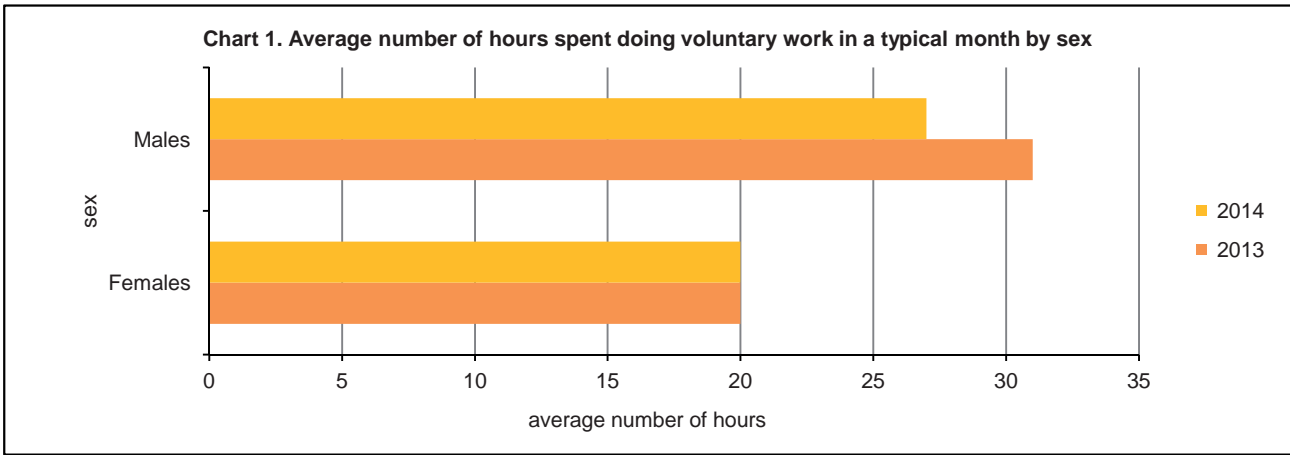
| Number of hours | Males | | Females | | Total | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Less than 10 | 4,178 | 26.5 | 6,185 | 39.1 | 10,363 | 32.8 |
| 10-19 | 3,995 | 25.3 | 4,475 | 28.3 | 8,470 | 26.8 |
| 20-29 | 2,254 | 14.3 | 2,429 | 15.4 | 4,683 | 14.8 |
| 30 or more | 5,336 | 33.8 | 2,726 | 17.2 | 8,062 | 25.5 |
| Total | 15,763 | 100.0 | 15,815 | 100.0 | 31,578 | 100.0 |

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 7. Respondents by sex and type of membership

| Membership | Males | | Females | | Total | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Paying member | 5,673 | 3.1 | 3,133 | 1.7 | 8,806 | 2.4 |
| Non-paying member | 4,424 | 2.4 | 4,023 | 2.2 | 8,447 | 2.3 |
| Not a member | 173,234 | 94.5 | 177,874 | 96.1 | 351,108 | 95.3 |
| Total | 183,330 | 100.0 | 185,031 | 100.0 | 368,361 | 100.0 |

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.



Methodological notes

1. All figures presented in this news release have been derived from the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) Survey, which was carried out during 2014. SILC is an annual survey carried out by the NSO mainly for the cope of the production of statistics on poverty, social exclusion, income distribution and material deprivation. Questionnaire design, data collection and analysis are all carried out in line with Eurostat methodologies.

Further details on SILC methodology can be found at:

http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_C1/Living_Conditions_and_Culture_Statistics/Pages/Statistics-on-Income-and-Living-Conditions.aspx

2. All data refers to the respondents' current situation at the time of the survey.
3. Data in this release refers to persons aged 12 years and over who were living in private households.
4. The term 'volunteers' is taken to mean persons working for no remuneration. Type of voluntary work done refers to the main type of voluntary work undertaken by each individual surveyed. For the purposes of this release, voluntary work not undertaken on a regular basis has been excluded.
5. In Table 1, Table 2 and Chart 3, the following classification applies:
 - **Voluntary organisation:** Voluntary work within a voluntary organisation;
 - **Another entity:** Voluntary work done outside an organisation;
 - **Informal:** Informal voluntary work, for e.g. helping a neighbour.

Due to a change in classification, data in this release pertaining to voluntary organisations and other entities may not be comparable to that in releases prior to the year 2013.
6. For Table 3, the categories used to define the main activities of organisations include the following activities:
 - **Work related to institutional care:** Includes children and elderly homes, hospital and medical practice activities and other human health activities;
 - **Religious activities (excl. institutional care):** Includes those organisations whose role is of a religious nature;
 - **Other social activities:** Includes school associations, band clubs, scouts and philanthropic organisations.
7. The following key has been applied throughout this release:
 - [] Under-represented: estimate based on 20-49 counts.
 - : Under-represented: estimate based on less than 20 counts; figure not provided.
8. Totals in tables may not tally due to rounding.
9. Sample used for the SILC survey was extracted from a database based on the Census of Population and Housing 2011, upon which household and personal weights were compiled.
10. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

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

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