

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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March 2026

The Chairman
Malta Statistics Authority

In accordance with the provisions of Article 9(5)(g) of the Malta Statistics Authority Act XXIV of 2000, I hereby submit to you this report on the operations of the National Statistics Office for the year ending 31 December 2025.



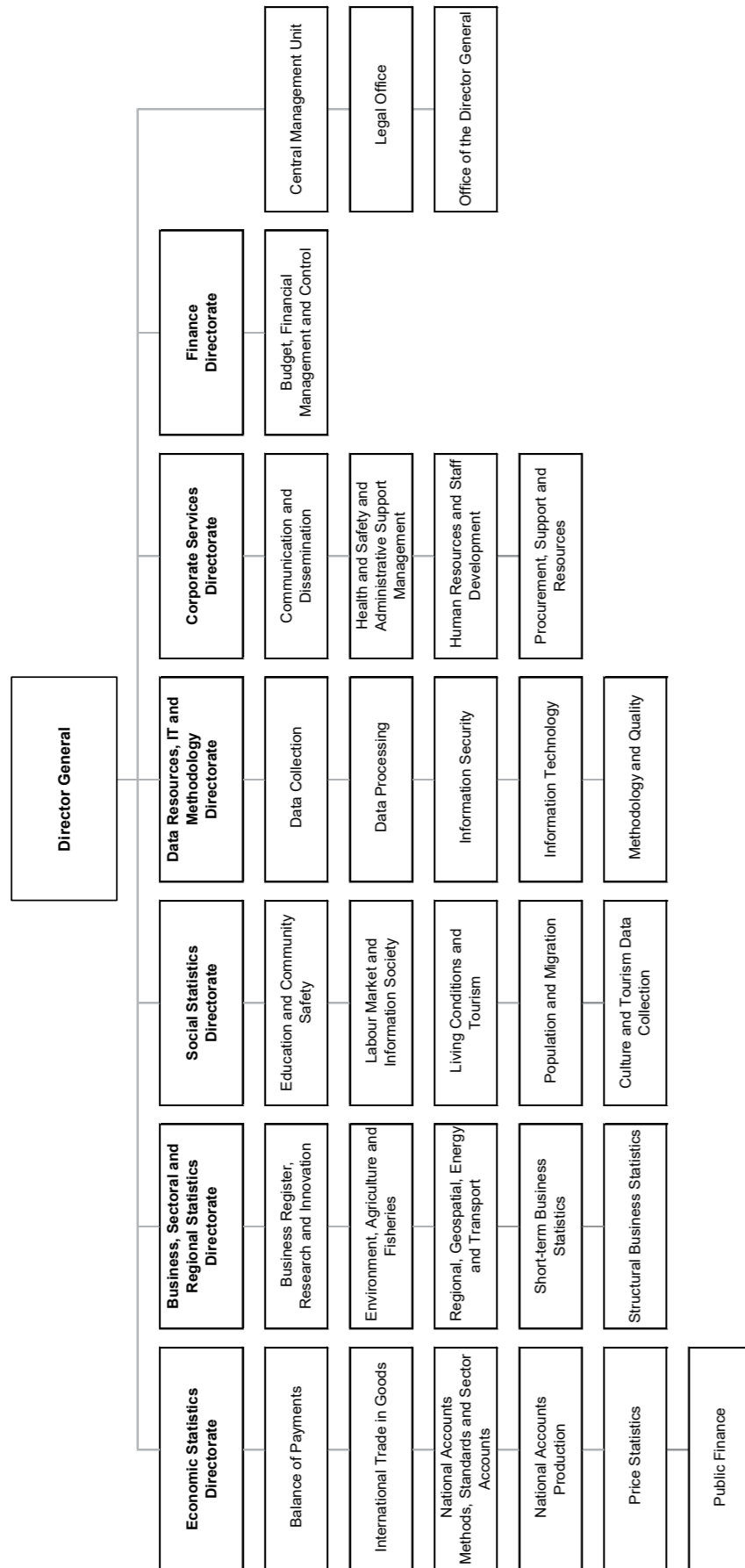
Etienne Caruana
Director General

MISSION STATEMENT

“Committed to producing independent, high-quality and relevant official statistics.”

CORE VALUES

Independence	Produce scientific statistics and analysis that are trustworthy.
Objectivity	Provide an impartial representation of socio-economic and environmental spheres through official statistics, and ensure equal access to all users.
Relevance	Produce statistics that meet the needs of all users.
Quality	Ensure that the statistical output is of high quality through sound and harmonised methodologies.
Transparency	Produce and disseminate official statistics, methods, procedures and quality reports to the public through the proper channels which are subject to review.
Confidentiality	Ensure the privacy of respondents and sources through rigorous information security measures.
Collaboration	Cooperation with all national and international stakeholders and strengthen the national statistics system.



DIRECTOR GENERAL'S FOREWORD



ETIENNE CARUANA
Director General

I am pleased to present the NSO's annual report highlighting its accomplishments and milestones in 2025. The organisation continued to enhance its capabilities in response to rising user demands. All major objectives from last year's programme were addressed, with minor exceptions explained in this report.

This year marked the launch of the Household Budget Survey, which will serve as an important source for the updating of the basket of goods for the compilation of the Retail Price Index. The NSO's modernisation strategy progressed as more surveys were integrated. Many Units shifted from manual to automated processes for efficiency, while others tested new data sources and technologies for official statistics collection and processing.

We remain committed to improving the coherence of our statistical products through increased cross-unit collaboration and consultation with technical users. Their feedback has been vital in ensuring our data remains relevant and high quality. Following intensive audits by Eurostat, I am happy to note our continued success. We addressed practically all recommended improvements in 2025 and expect to resolve the final few by mid-2026.

I am proud to share that the NSO has continued to make great strides in addressing the 2022 Peer Review recommendations, with nearly all improvement actions successfully underway or completed. In 2025, the National Audit Office also audited our financial governance. I am delighted to note that the NSO performed exceptionally, even earning a national award for good governance—a testament to our team's hard work.

The NSO relies on its skilled employees, supporting them with targeted training and clear career paths. Flexible work options and measures for staff with special needs help retain experienced staff and attract new talent. The recent collective agreement has further enhanced recruitment and retention.

I am grateful for the support and guidance of Dr Carl Camilleri, Chairman of the Malta Statistics Authority, Dr Aaron G. Grech, Deputy Chairman, the other Board members, and the Ministry for Finance, whose investment is essential. I also appreciate the management and all employees for their dedication and hard work. Additionally, I want to recognise the valuable assistance provided by the NSO's statistical partners and the active participation of respondents in various statistical activities.

Etienne Caruana
Director General
March 2026

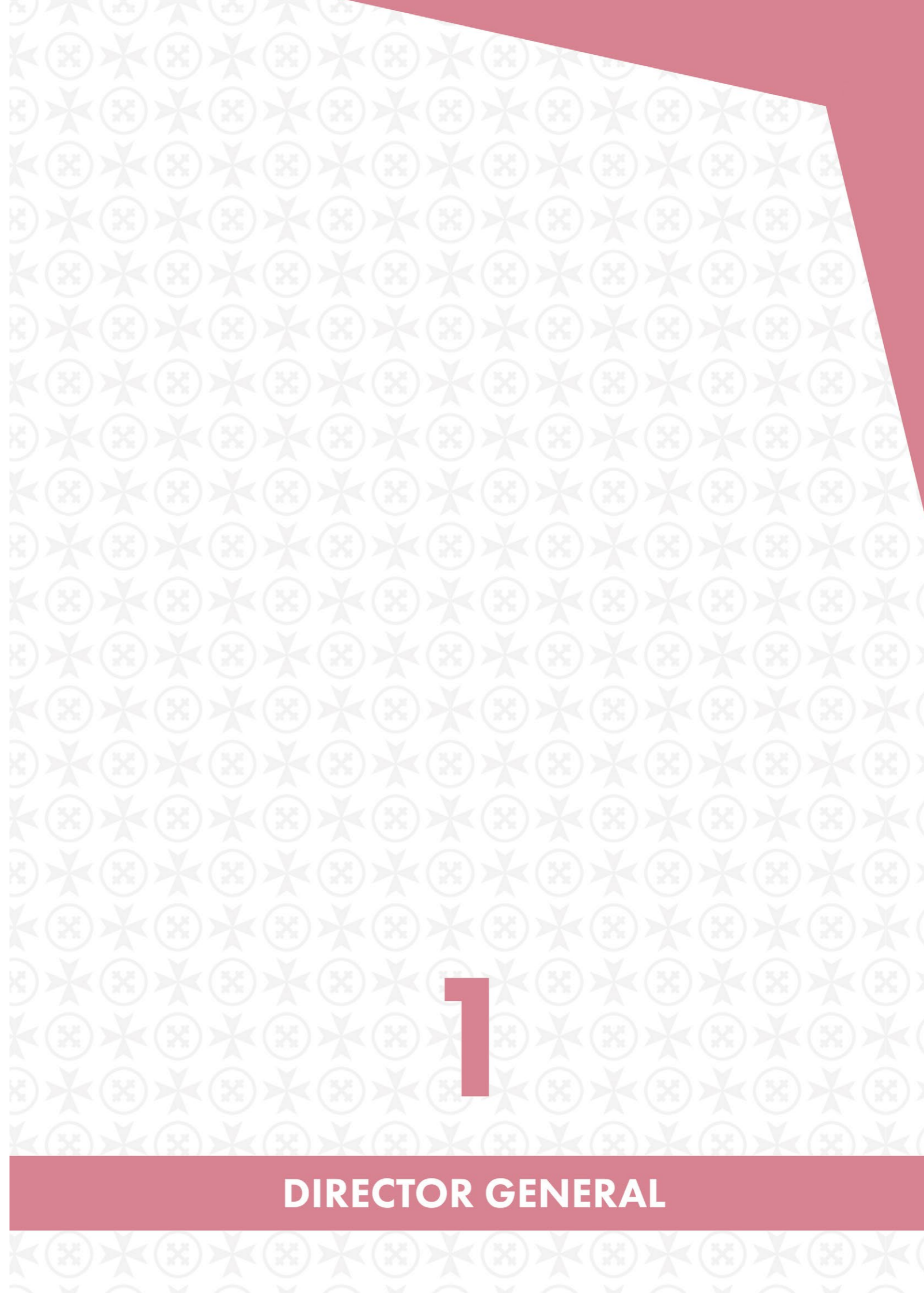
Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACCOMSTAT	Accommodation Statistics Survey
AEA	Air Emissions Accounts
ASA	Annual Sector Accounts
BoP	Balance of Payments
CDIS	Coordinated Direct Investment Survey
CMU	Central Management Unit
COMEXT	Community External Trade Statistics
CompNet	Competitiveness Research Network
CPIS	Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey
CPPI	Commercial Property Price Index
CREI	Commercial Real Estate Indicators
CVTS	Continuing Vocational Training Survey
CWPS	Council Working Party on Statistics
DAKAR	Internal Human Resources Information System
DGINS	<i>Directeurs Généraux des Instituts Nationaux Statistiques</i>
EBS	European Business Statistics
ECB	European Central Bank
ECOICOP	European Classification Of Individual Consumption by Purpose
EDP	Excessive Deficit Procedure
EGR	EuroGroups Register
EHIS	European Health Interview Survey
ESA	European System of Accounts
ESOP	European Statistics on Population and Housing
ESS	European Statistical System
ESSC	European Statistical System Committee
ESSPROS	European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics
ESTP	European Statistical Training Programme
EU	European Union
EWA	Energy and Water Agency

FADN	Farm Accountancy Data Network
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FISIM	Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured
FoI	Freedom of Information
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GFS	Government Finance Statistics
GNI	Gross National Income
GSBPM	Generic Statistical Business Process Model
GVC	Global Value Chain
HBS	Household Budget Survey
HFCS	Household Finance and Consumption Survey
HICP	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices
HPI	House Price Index
HR	Human Resources
HRIS	Human Resources Information System
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
ICCS	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFATS	Inward Foreign Affiliates Statistics
IFS	Integrated Farm Statistics
IIP	International Investment Position
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INFOSTAT	A Statistical Software Platform
IOT	Input-Output Tables
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISMS	Information Security Management System

ITSS	International Trade in Services Statistics
JQ-IW	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/Eurostat Joint Questionnaire on Inland Waters
JVS	Job Vacancy Survey
LAU	Local Administrative Unit
LCI	Labour Cost Index
LCS	Labour Cost Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MDE	Micro Data Exchange
MDI	Micro Data Infrastructure
MDL	Micro Data Linking
MMLA	Malta Maritime Law Association
MNENet	Multinational Enterprise Network
MoS	Modes of Supply
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSA	Malta Statistics Authority
MTCA	Malta Tax and Customs Administration
NACE	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPISH	Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households
NSI	National Statistical Institutes
NSO	National Statistical Office
NTTS	New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
OCVO	Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFATS	Outward Foreign Affiliate Statistics
OOHPI	Owner-Occupied Housing Price Index
PMP	Performance Management Programme
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity

PRODCOM	Community Production
QMF	Quality Management Framework
QSA	Quarterly Sector Accounts
R&D	Research and Development
ReBuDs	Realistic Buildings Defined Street
RPI	Retail Price Index
RPPI	Residential Property Price Index
SAIO	Statistics on Agriculture Input and Output
SBR	Statistical Business Register
SBS	Structural Business Statistics
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SILC	Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
SPEs	Special Purpose Entities
SPSA	Statistical Production Service Architecture
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SSC	Staff Social Committee
STEC	Services Trade by Enterprise Characteristics
SUT	Supply and Use Tables
TEC	Trade by Enterprise Characteristics
TEFL	Teaching English as a Foreign Language
TIC	Trade by Invoicing
TOURSTAT	Survey on inbound and outbound tourism
TSA	Tourism Satellite Accounts
TSR	Transaction-Specific Reservation
UNECE	United National Economic Commission for Europe
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
VAT	Value Added Tax
VIIES	VAT Information Exchange System
VNR	Voluntary National Report (SDGs)



1

DIRECTOR GENERAL

1.1 CENTRAL MANAGEMENT

Objectives for 2025

- Represent Malta in the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS) and follow all non-statistical legislation discussed in other Council Working Parties that have statistical implications on the work of the NSO.
- Work on the NSO's Annual Reports and rolling multi-annual Work Programmes.
- Develop, manage and keep updated a website dedicated to the national monitoring of the Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs).
- Assist the Government of Malta with the preparation of the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and publish the statistical annex of the VNR.
- Monitor and coordinate the implementation of the improvement actions to address the recommendations of the peer review recommendations.
- Coordinate and manage the governance aspect of the National Statistical System.
- Lead the organisation of the *Directeurs Généraux des Instituts Nationaux Statistiques* (DGINS) Conference 2027, which will be hosted by the NSO in Malta.

Work Carried Out

The year under review was marked by significant progress for the Unit, which continued to serve as a central policy and coordinating body within the National Statistics Office. Guided by its strategic objectives, the Unit remained committed to strengthening Malta's presence within European statistical governance structures, enhancing national statistical coordination, and advancing major institutional initiatives such as the development of the SDG monitoring framework, the preparation of the statistical annex of the national VNR on the implementation of the SDGs, and the groundwork for hosting the 2027 DGINS Conference.

Representation in the Council Working Party on Statistics and related EU fora

Throughout 2025, the Unit ensured consistent and effective representation of Malta in the CWPS. Its work in this area extended beyond direct statistical legislation, encompassing a wide range of cross cutting EU initiatives with implications for national statistical production. The Unit's participation spanned the full legislative cycle, from the monitoring of early technical discussions by the European Commission to the evolving negotiations at the Council of the European Union and with the European Parliament. The continuity of the Unit's engagement, supported by timely national consultations and written position papers, ensured that the NSO's technical perspective was consistently reflected in EU deliberations.

Beyond the CWPS, the Unit also played an active role high-level European and international statistical groups. It contributed to the meetings of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC), supported internal coordination for the Conference of European Statisticians, participated in the UN Statistical Commission's discussions on global statistical frameworks, and responded to several consultations launched by UNECE, Eurostat and other bodies. Its sustained involvement in these fora ensured that the NSO remained aligned with evolving statistical standards while also contributing to their development.

Sustainable Development Goals

A significant milestone for the year was the launch of the national SDG data portal, which became publicly accessible in April 2025. This platform, prepared and managed by the Unit, centralised Malta's SDG indicators and provided an accessible interface for policymakers, researchers, and the public. Following its launch, the Unit devoted substantial effort to improving the platform's functionality, expanding the range of available indicators, and enhancing data visualisation features. These updates included the integration of interactive maps, district-level breakdowns for various indicators, and regular data refreshes as new information became available.

The SDG website became a cornerstone of national reporting and visibility, supporting both domestic users and international stakeholders in monitoring Malta's progress toward the 2030 Agenda. The Unit continued coordinating the national flow of data related to the monitoring of the SDGs and continued refining the SDG portal throughout the year, ensuring it remained accurate, user friendly, and aligned with evolving global methodologies.

Furthermore, the Unit played a central role in assisting the Government with the preparation of Malta's second VNR on the SDGs. Its contribution spanned indicator compilation, dataset consolidation, methodological checks, drafting of thematic components, and the preparation of the VNR's Statistical Annex. The work culminated in the national launch of the VNR in July, followed by its presentation at the High Level Political Forum in New York. Members of the Unit participated in the official delegation, supporting technical presentations and engaging with international partners.

Monitoring of Peer Review improvement actions

Throughout 2025, the Unit continued coordinating the implementation of improvement actions resulting from the European Statistical System's peer review. This involved liaising across NSO units, monitoring commitments related to governance, quality, and transparency, and following up on recommendations requiring inter-institutional collaboration. The Unit supported the rollout of improvements such as the refinement of internal governance processes, ensuring ongoing compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Annual Reports and Multi-Annual Work Programmes

The Unit oversaw the full cycle of work related to the NSO's annual reports and multi-annual work programmes. Early in the year, it coordinated the collection and consolidation of inputs for the 2024 Annual Report, eventually finalising the document following several rounds of internal consultation. Parallel to this, the Unit initiated and carried forward work on the NSO's Multi Annual Work Programme for 2026–2028, which was published mid year. This programme serves as the Office's medium term strategic framework and provides stakeholders with a clear roadmap of planned statistical outputs and priorities.

By the end of the year, the Unit also prepared the groundwork for the 2025 Annual Report, setting in motion the drafting process. The Unit continued to liaise extensively with other NSO directorates to ensure coherent presentation, adherence to international quality commitments, and alignment with the NSO's longer term strategic vision.

Coordination and Governance of the National Statistical System

The governance of Malta's Statistical System remained a central responsibility of the Unit. Throughout the year, it handled a steady flow of requests from ministries, agencies, and external bodies, ensuring coherence in the national production of statistics and alignment with European obligations. The Unit frequently coordinated responses to Parliamentary Questions, took the lead in reviewing methodological issues raised by external stakeholders, and supported other units on matters concerning statistical governance, cooperation with Other National Authorities, and cross ministry coordination.

The Unit also coordinated official study visits and inter-agency exchanges, including the hosting of delegations from Bosnia and Herzegovina's statistical authorities. Such engagements strengthened Malta's relationships within the international statistical community and contributed to capacity-building efforts.

Preparation for hosting DGINS 2027

A major forward-looking responsibility for the Unit in 2025 was the initiation of preparations for hosting the DGINS Conference in 2027, alongside the 66th ESSC meeting. Work began with the establishment of a dedicated task force to discuss logistical and thematic aspects, followed by a series of preparatory activities throughout the latter part of the year. These steps marked the beginning of a multi year effort that will position the NSO as host of one of the ESS's most important annual events, strengthening Malta's role within the European statistical community.

Additional Work Carried Out

The Unit dedicated substantial effort throughout the year to the organisation of the Users' Conference, "*Data for the Future: NSO's Multiannual Plan 2027–2029*," held on 17 November 2025. Preparatory work began earlier during the year, when the Unit assumed responsibility for coordinating the event and initiated consultations with key stakeholders and prospective contributors. The event successfully brought together data partners and stakeholders to discuss strategic priorities for the coming years, reinforcing the NSO's commitment to transparency, collaboration, and forward-looking statistical development. Additionally, the Unit launched a SharePoint page, designed to facilitate the sharing of information and provide regular updates to all NSO employees regarding statistical collaboration, partnerships, and the activities of international organisations involved in the production of official statistics.

1.2 LEGAL AFFAIRS**Objectives for 2025**

- Support the Malta Statistics Authority (MSA) and the National Statistics Office (NSO) by providing legal advice, conducting legal research, and drafting and reviewing all necessary documentation. Lead the process of updating the proposal for a new MSA Act, including the accompanying documentation for presentation to the lead Ministry.
- Draft contracts, agreements including Terms of References and Pre-release agreements for the NSO and the MSA.
- Train new recruits on the implementation of the MSA Act and the obligations emanating from it, especially the Oath of Secrecy. Training also includes the application of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) within the NSO's context.
- Execute the roles of Data Protection Officer and Freedom of Information (Fol) Officer. Manage data protection impact assessments and annual checklist of GDPR.
- Lead processes for researchers' access to microdata.
- Assist NSO units in establishing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with public entities who are data owners, with the aim to ensure sustainable transmission of data to the NSO.
- Strengthen the processing of employment contracts for Casual Field Officers, continuously maintain filing system and database.

Work Carried Out*Legal Advice and Services*

The Legal Unit assisted the MSA and the Director General, NSO with various HR-related issues, including disciplinary matters, and procedures related to the Collective Agreement and employment law.

The Legal Unit advised senior management and Units with the drafting of communications to data-producing entities and non-respondents. In 2025, the Legal Unit sent administrative fines to non-respondents which fines were waived after requested data was forwarded to the NSO within the grace period.

Furthermore, it was also involved in discussions held internally, with stakeholders, and the public on requests for data from the NSO. The Legal Unit evaluated the requests and provided advice to senior management in line with the MSA Act and its subsidiary legislation, EC Regulation 223/2009, the GDPR and other applicable legislation.

In 2025, the Unit was successfully internally and externally audited as part of the ISO certification. Furthermore, it also participated in the yearly Peer Review.

Legislation

The Unit drafted, prepared the documentation, and led the process for the coming into force of the yearly legal notices relating to the Retail Price Index and the Immovable Property Price Index. In the year under review, the Unit held a meeting with the Ministry for Finance to discuss the new amendments proposed in the draft MSA Act. The Legal Unit liaised with the MSA Board, and senior management to update the proposal of the MSA Act to cater for the NSO's needs and carried out an assessment of comparing the new proposed draft with the amending act of Regulation 223/2009.

In 2025, the Legal Unit participated in a two-day workshop in Belgrade, Serbia organised by UNECE on the modernisation of statistical legislation. The Legal Unit also participated in the study visit from Bosnia and Herzegovina's statistical authorities and conducted a workshop on the MSA Act in the Maltese sphere.

The Legal Unit continued to maintain the Oath of Secrecy database including liaising with other public entities whose officials are part of this database and coordinated internally the NSO's representation in Court whenever the NSO was summoned to give evidence on statistical data.

Contracts and Agreements

The Unit drafted and concluded several contracts involving MSA and/or the NSO as a party. These ranged from contracts relating to the organisation of the *Directeurs Généraux des Instituts Nationaux Statistiques* (DGINS) Conference in 2027, employment and procurement, as well as contracts with the EU's statistical organisations and researchers. Timely assistance enabled the NSO to observe set deadlines.

Furthermore, the Legal Unit drafted, prepared, processed and filed employment contracts for Casual Field Officers and adopted a new procedure on the engagement of Casual Field Officers. The Legal Unit constantly maintained a filing system for these contracts and a database recording all employment contracts and the surveys carried out by the officers during the year or before.

The Unit also prepared pre-release agreements with Ministries according to the European Code of Conduct.

Data Protection and Freedom of Information

With regard to Data Protection, the Legal Unit participated in the yearly Data Protection Day conference organised by the Ministry for Justice for all Data Protection Officers in the public sector. The Unit provided guidance on all data protection matters, ranging from personal data of employees to data subjects participating in surveys. It continuously liaised with the Information and Data Protection Commissioner's office on data protection issues and assisted technical units with such issues in relation to the collection and retention of data. Furthermore, the Legal Unit carried out Data Protection Impact Assessments, an annual checklist of the NSO's of GDPR compliance, reviewed existing policies and drafted new ones to ensure GDPR compliance.

The Unit was also part of the yearly audit on compliance with internal procedures and participated in meetings with individual units on establishing retention periods of working files and the pseudonymisation of final files. In 2025,

the Legal Unit provided training to new recruits on the implementation of the GDPR within the NSO's context.

With regard to FoI, the Unit communicated with the lead Ministry on FoI requests and followed up and prepared necessary documentation as needed. The Legal Unit attended a workshop organised by the Ministry for Justice on the new online FoI platform on which requests and responses will now be channelled through.

Microdata Requests

The Unit continued to lead processes for access to microdata requests. It liaised with the researchers and the domain Units to draw up agreements and to follow data destruction procedures on termination of the research projects.

Memoranda of Understanding

The Legal Unit led meetings with administrative sources and discussed way forward on cooperation on the provision of data. Moreover, MoUs with newly identified administrative sources were drawn up and coordinated, while existing MoUs were renewed, taking care of proper recording and retention of records. This is an ongoing task.



2

ECONOMIC STATISTICS

2.1 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS METHODS, STANDARDS AND SECTOR ACCOUNTS

Objectives for 2025

- Compilation of annual and quarterly non-financial sector accounts, the dissemination of annual sector accounts for reference years 1995 to 2024, including a new release on the Household sector, new metadata and quality reports, the analysis of vertical discrepancies, the disaggregation of the financial sector, the publication of the Annual institutional sector accounts inventory.
- Compilation of main aggregates with respect to the financial sector, inclusive of Special Purpose Entities (SPEs) and the integration of IFRS 17, Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH), exhaustiveness, and the rest of the world account.
- Address the Gross National Income (GNI) reservations and provide the necessary feedback during the GNI information visits.
- Provide feedback to Eurostat on the new European System of Accounts (ESA) chapters and proposed transmission programme during the dedicated meetings held in 2025.
- Compile Household Distributional Accounts (new ESA).
- Land valuation for the household sector as part of the Balance sheets for non-financial assets.
- Compile the GNI Questionnaire (GNIQ), GNI inventory and process tables, the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) in collaboration with the National Accounts Production Unit.

Work Carried Out

Compilation of annual and quarterly non-financial sector accounts and the dissemination of annual sector accounts for reference years 1995 to 2024

In 2025, Malta met all transmission deadlines for non-financial sector accounts – both annual (ASA) and quarterly (QSA). The ASA release was complemented by a new household sector publication providing enhanced insights, including counterparty data not usually included in Eurostat templates. During the first quarter, the ASA inventory by institutional sector was published. The National Reference Metadata for ASA and QSA were submitted to Eurostat on time and will be published for the first time in 2026, with corresponding updates planned for the NSO website. Throughout the year, the NSO and the Central Bank of Malta continued their collaboration through the task force on vertical discrepancies, with work in the fourth quarter focused mainly on the banking sector as part of a four-year project.

Compilation of main aggregates with respect to the financial sector, inclusive of Special Purpose Entities, Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households and the rest of the world account

Administrative data were used to update financial service activities (except insurance and pension funding), auxiliary financial services and special purpose entities for 2021-2022, and pension funding for 2023. Quarterly data from the Central Bank of Malta on monetary financial intermediation and investment funds were incorporated and regular quarterly adjustments were made to Balance of Payments data to align the primary and secondary income accounts and the capital account with national accounts and public finance in the rest of the world account. Following the implementation

of IFRS 17 by the insurance sub-sector in January 2023, significant analytical work was undertaken to ensure consistency with ESA 2010, including a major project in 2025 analysing 2023 financial statements with restated 2022 figures, compiling and reviewing the full sequence of non-financial accounts in collaboration with an audit firm, with the final 2022-2024 series scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2026 and integration into the national accounts framework by August 2026. In parallel, efforts to improve the measurement of NPISH involved a comprehensive data collection exercise using information from the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO), manually compiling 2022 financial data, mapping income and expenditure to ESA 2010 codes, calculating weights using the Statistical Business Register to address coverage gaps. OCVO data for 2018-2022 were integrated and interpolated to reflect COVID-19 impacts. The first OCVO-based figures were published in the second quarter of 2025 with extrapolations from 2022 onwards.

Address the Gross National Income reservations and provide the necessary feedback during the GNI information visits

The transaction-specific reservations from 2016-2019 verification cycle (TSR 7 and TSR 12) have been completed and implemented in the GNIQ 2025. The unit was involved in the transaction-specific reservation in relation to ships and aircraft (TSR 7). Following extensive discussions with Eurostat over the past years, a decision has been taken whereby Malta will assume the economic ownership of ships and aircraft held by SPEs engaged in operating leasing activities. While Malta acknowledges the outcome, it maintains certain reservations regarding the implications of this arrangement. Output will be valued using the sum of costs method which will now include consumption of fixed capital. This option was preferred over leasing fees to avoid volatility in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth by entities with little or no physical presence in the country. This latter decision does not impact the level of the GNI. It has been addressed for reference years 2010 to 2023. On average, this had an impact on the GNI of 2.4% between 2010 and 2023.

New ESA related projects

During 2025 the unit participated actively in the meetings held by Eurostat on the ESA review which will be implemented in 2030. Countries were requested to provide oral and written feedback on the proposed amendments to the ESA chapters and the new transmission programme. In preparation of the upcoming projects, the unit is following closely the new ESA related guidelines namely, Measuring natural resources in the national accounts: a compilation guide, Compilation Guidance on Crypto Assets, Handbook on measuring data in the System of National Accounts and Guidelines for estimating the net return to capital for non-market production. Furthermore, the unit has launched two projects related to the new ESA, namely: Household Distributional Accounts and Data as a new asset category.

Land valuation for the household sector as part of the Balance sheets for non-financial assets

As part of the ESA transmission program Malta is obliged to compile the Balance sheets for non-financial assets which includes Land. Data compilation is obligatory for the household sector and NPISH. As a result of data limitations, the residual approach suggested by the Eurostat-OECD compilation guide on land estimation is being applied in case of land underlying dwellings. The results were published in September 2025. Data submitted to Eurostat in December 2025 also includes estimates for land owned by sole proprietors which was partly derived from the Structural Business Survey and partly estimated using the Census of Agriculture and agricultural land prices.

Compilation of the GNI questionnaire, GNI inventory and process tables, the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) in collaboration with the National Accounts Production Unit

In line with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2019/516, which establishes the procedures to facilitate verification and, where necessary, improvement of the comparability, reliability, and exhaustiveness of Member States' estimates of GNI and lays down the rules for the definition and calculation of GNI data for own resource purposes, the Unit submitted the annual questionnaire and quality report to Eurostat by the established deadline.

In collaboration with other units the quality report on the data relating to national and regional accounts was submitted in May 2025 and PPP tables in September 2025.

Additional Work Carried Out

A new initiative aimed at enhancing the measurement of non-produced non-financial assets through the use of administrative data sources was launched in the second half of the year. This work is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2026.

In addition, the unit has initiated a new project related to the upcoming ESA revision, which will be supported by a Eurostat grant in 2026. The NSO has also begun compiling data as a new asset category, in accordance with the Handbook on Measuring Data in the System of National Accounts.

2.2 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS PRODUCTION

Objectives for 2025

- Compile and transmit annual and quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Income (GNI) statistics.
- Compile investment matrix (including internal data collection for industries not covered by NSO surveys).
- Compile and transmit Supply and Use Tables (SUT) for the reference year 2020.
- Compile Input-Output Tables (IOT) for the reference year 2020: Tables 17 and 18, including all supplementary tables T1610 to T1634.
- Compile the GNI quality report and the European Statistical System (ESS) Metadata report.
- Compile the GNI Inventory for the reference period 2019 in line with the National Accounts 2024 Benchmark Revision.
- Contribute to work addressing Eurostat's reservations and action points.
- Compile Reference metadata for national accounts for gross fixed capital formation, capital stocks, and balance sheets and Supply, Use, and Input-Output Tables.
- Improve price and volume estimates by implementing double indicator methods.

Work Carried Out

Annual and Quarterly Gross Domestic Product and Gross National Income statistics

The Unit produced four quarterly GDP news releases within two months following the end of the reference quarter. The quarterly GDP estimation of the production, expenditure, and income approaches, in nominal and volume terms, and for non-adjusted and seasonally adjusted series, involved the analysis of various datasets. Important internal data sources included government finance statistics, balance of payments statistics, international trade in goods statistics, price statistics, short-term statistics, and inbound and outbound tourism statistics. Some important external sources included employment data from Jobsplus and information on the financial sector from the Central Bank of Malta. Several large enterprises were also surveyed by the Unit on a quarterly basis.

The compilation of annual GDP is more detailed and uses NSO surveys such as the Structural Business Statistics (SBS) survey, census on aquaculture, surveys on private and church schools, and administrative records such as financial statements. The investment matrix is an industry-by-product matrix, and its compilation is partly based on SBS data and partly on an extensive data collection exercise performed by the Unit. The latter exercise is intended to collect data on several industries which are not covered by other NSO surveys, such as financial and insurance activities; human health and social work activities; arts, entertainment and recreation activities; and other service activities.

The Unit also provides data to the Regional Gozo unit to compile annual regional GDP at NUTS III level at t+2 years.

Compilation of Supply and Use Tables and Input-Output Tables

The SUT in both nominal and volume terms were finalised for the reference year 2020, together with five additional tables. These comprised tables on taxes, subsidies, trade margins, the use of imports, and domestic production by industry and product. Together, these tables form the basis for compiling the 2020 Input-Output Table (IOT). All results were transmitted to Eurostat in September of the year under review. The compilation of prices and volumes within the SUT accounting framework enables the derivation of volume growth and inflation at the sectoral level for the total economy. Furthermore, price changes and volume growth can be analysed by product, industry, and final demand category, thereby facilitating detailed analyses, including those related to productivity.

Update of GNI Inventory and Process Tables

Following the 2024 benchmark revision of the main GDP aggregates, the European System of Accounts (ESA) 2010 GNI Inventory and Process Tables for the reference year 2019 were updated to reflect the integration of new data sources and changes in methodology. The GNI Inventory and Process Tables will be transmitted to Eurostat in January 2026.

Reference metadata

Reference metadata (generic) for national accounts were compiled for annual GDP, quarterly GDP, population and employment and household's consumption. This metadata has been transmitted to ESTAT for the first time in October 2025.

Progress on Eurostat Reservations and GNI Direct Verification

Substantial progress was made in 2025 in addressing Eurostat reservations and own-resources requirements. The unit supported and participated in a GNI own-resources direct verification visit, responding to all follow-up questions within the agreed deadlines and providing detailed methodological clarifications. As a result of this sustained engagement and related methodological improvements, two reservations – TSR 3 (Dwelling Services) and TSR 5 (Cross-border flows) – were lifted, marking a significant step forward in strengthening compliance and data quality.

Improvements in price and volume estimates

Further methodological work on the calculation of deflators for aquaculture and subsequent integration into GDP production was carried out during 2025. During this year, research into improving FISIM deflators was initiated.

Additional Work Carried Out*High Value Datasets*

In 2025, the National Accounts Production Unit completed a major milestone with the first-time compilation and dissemination of 18 high-value datasets in the field of national accounts. These datasets were prepared in line with ESA 2010 and made available on the NSO data portal, significantly enhancing data accessibility, transparency and analytical usability for users locally.

2.3 PUBLIC FINANCE**Objectives for 2025**

- Compile quarterly and annual Government Finance Statistics (GFS) data, the excessive deficit procedure (EDP) notification, mainly the fiscal balance and debt aggregates, Social Protection accounts and R&D activity indicators for government and higher education.
- Follow the methodological guidance provided by Eurostat through participation in various fora.
- In connection with Eurostat's EDP Mission to Malta held every two years, ensure that GFS and EDP data is compiled in line with established methodological guidance while also addressing remaining and emerging action points.
- Scrutinise the statistical discrepancies between net lending / borrowing from non-financial and financial accounts, especially in Corporate Financial Management System data.
- Improve the recording of Government's deposits held at public and commercial banks.
- Follow closely the review of the new European System of Accounts (ESA) and the update of the new Manual on Government Deficit and Debt following the publication of the new System of National Accounts (SNA) 2025.
- Maintain the financial accounts IT system in line with the new ESA tables 6 & 7.
- Provide technical and methodological assistance on classification of government decisions which impact fiscal balance.
- Improve internal and external collaboration towards having full coverage and quality in R&D statistics.
- Update the R&D IT system in line with the new transmission reports and to improve compilation of statistics on the higher education sector.
- Improve internal and external collaboration toward having full coverage and quality in R&D statistics.

Work Carried Out*Malta's Excessive Deficit Procedure and Notification System*

The Unit compiled the EDP notification, which consists of the general government deficit/surplus and debt aggregate data for the previous year, as well as revisions to past data as necessary. In addition to the EDP questionnaires, supporting documents, and the explanatory note, the Unit also provided the supplementary table on the government measures to mitigate the high energy prices, the Recovery and Resilience Facility questionnaire and the new tables on military expenditure and government expenditure on co-financing of programmes funded by the EU.

Eurostat EDP dialogue visit to Malta

The last EDP dialogue visit was held in Malta in May 2024, with the next one scheduled for 2026. The overall purpose of this EDP dialogue visit is to review EDP arrangements in place and to ensure that the provisions of Eurostat's methodological manuals, as well as Eurostat's decisions, are duly implemented in the production of the Maltese EDP statistics. During 2025, six action points were successfully closed, leaving 11 still open: eight stemming from the latest mission and five from earlier visits.

ESA Transmission Programme

The Unit provided GFS data for the ESA transmission programme, consisting of the main aggregates of the General Government sector and all the relevant indicators. The methodological and fact-finding questionnaires, as well as the questionnaires on the structure of debt and government-controlled entities classified outside the General Government, were compiled and transmitted in a timely manner.

Annual Financial Account

For the first time, the Unit in collaboration with the Central Bank of Malta, compiled and transmitted the preliminary ESA tables 6&7 'Annual financial accounts for the total economy' at t+4 months. A metadata report accompanied the tables. In preparation, the Unit updated and fixed all the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange coding issues it dealt with in September 2024, and contributed to a smooth transmission of data, with no major issues reported by Eurostat.

New European System of Accounts

During 2025, the Unit participated in meetings, in written consultations and compiled dedicated questionnaires, on the update of the new ESA. In the area of GFS, there are five types of changes: typos, methodology developed after ESA 2010 but included in the Manual on Government deficit and debt, updates from the new SNA review, new issues and changes which are not found in existing guidance but in bilateral Member State advice. Subsequently, the Manual on Government Debt and Deficit will be updated, by the end of 2027.

Data input to other Units

The Unit estimated the General Government sector's quarterly contribution to the GDP, comprising value-added, final consumption expenditure, taxes and subsidies, gross fixed capital formation, and employment. The Unit managed to provide timely quarterly data to the National Accounts Production Unit. Other data provided were the General Government sector's counterpart information for the compilation of the institutional sector accounts, data for deflation purposes, and data used to compile Supply and Use tables for 2021 and 2022. The Unit also provided various input data to several Units across the NSO and to stakeholders. In addition, the Unit provided valuable technical and methodological assistance to government on the classification of various government initiatives which impact fiscal balance.

ESSPROS

The Unit worked on the compilation of gross and net figures within the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS) data collection and statistics on pension beneficiaries. The data was compiled, validated, and transmitted for reference period 2023. The Unit participated in another round of data collection, concerning early estimates of the ESSPROS main indicators for 2024. Moreover, despite being an objective set for 2026, the Unit published the Social Protection publication online in the format of a Statistical Portal for reference year 2024, thus shortening the deadline by about six months. Additionally, it updated and resubmitted the tax and benefit report for 2025 to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Research and Development

The Unit carried out the annual data collection and transmission of R&D data for the Government and higher education sectors, and for the Government Budget Allocation for R&D. This work was carried out in collaboration with the Business

Registers Unit. The R&D IT System has been upgraded to cater for the new extended transmission tables.

Additional Work Carried Out*Outreach*

In June, the Unit delivered a presentation during the session titled "Eurostat and the NSO – An Introduction to Statistics at the EU and National Levels." The session was attended by 45 Maltese translators working at the European Commission. The presentation focused on the methodology and requirements of the government finance statistics, as well as the updates introduced under the new ESA framework.

Projects Carried Forward

The following project was not completed in 2025 and will be carried over to 2026:

- Improve the recording of Government's deposits held at public and commercial banks. The Unit expects to kick-start this project in 2026 as in 2025 the Unit did not manage to work on this project due to other tasks.

2.4 BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Objectives for 2025

- Following the full adoption of INFOSTAT IT solution in 2023, work on ironing out pending mapping and programming issues within INFOSTAT.
- Continue improving the quality of the data from 2019 onwards.
- Continue developing a sound methodology for the compilation of Balance of Payments (BoP)/International Investment Position (IIP) statistics, focusing on groups of companies registered in Malta, with special attention on Special Purpose Entities (SPEs) and intra-group transactions of non-financial corporations.
- Transmit monthly and quarterly BoP and IIP statistics to Eurostat and the European Central Bank (ECB).
- Transmit annual Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and International Trade in Services Statistics (ITSS), Services Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (STEC) and Modes of Supply (MoS) to Eurostat.
- Complete and submit the Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS) and the Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS) to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Continue working toward meeting set deadlines regarding STEC and MoS.
- Enhance the quality of BoP data and integrate these improvements into the compiled statistics aiming for improved coherence with National Accounts and Public Finance.
- Utilise microdata linking and administrative data to refine the estimation of BoP and IIP statistics, in particular the primary income estimates.
- Enhance the methodology for compiling trade in services statistics by integrating administrative sources data, with a view to launch a complementary survey in 2025.
- Provide all necessary support to address Eurostat's reservations and action points.

Work Carried Out

Refining the compilation process in INFOSTAT

During 2024, the BoP Unit proposed a number of enhancements to INFOSTAT aimed at strengthening the compilation of BoP/IIP statistics, reducing redundancy, and improving efficiency in data flows through the review and streamlining of long-standing procedures, while also ensuring full compliance with ECB statistical reporting requirements. The compilation of statistics for non-financial corporations and SPEs will be split into three distinct processes: one covering non-financial corporations excluding the gaming sector, one dedicated to the gaming sector, and one for SPEs. This split will allow the statisticians responsible for each area to operate independently and work more autonomously. In January 2025, the direct order was approved by the Ministry of Finance, and implementation commenced later in the year as planned. In close coordination with the Central Bank of Malta's Statistics Department, development work and user acceptance testing were carried out. By the end of the year, testing was nearly completed, and Banca d'Italia was informed of the Unit's intention to implement the changes in the live environment.

In addition, work has been carried out in INFOSTAT to resolve validation errors across all datasets, including Quarterly BoP, Quarterly IIP, Monthly BoP, Other Flows, and ITSS. This has enhanced the quality and consistency of the series keys transmitted to Eurostat and the ECB. Further efforts will be required in 2026 to address the remaining issues; however, the most critical errors – particularly those affecting the primary income estimates – have been successfully resolved.

Transmission of data and timeliness

The Unit compiled the BoP and IIP quarterly statistics (and monthly BoP) in line with the relevant EU regulation and ensured that the data were duly transmitted to both Eurostat and ECB according to a set timetable. Furthermore, in the second half of the year, the ITSS and FDI data were submitted to Eurostat, and the Unit also completed and submitted the CDIS and the CPIS to the IMF. When it comes to trade in services, apart from the ITSS dataset, the unit submitted the STEC and MoS data.

Methodology for compiling trade in services statistics

During the last quarter of the year, discussions began on how to make optimal use of the available administrative data sources and microdata linking – namely the VAT Information Exchange System (VIES) and VAT databases – in the compilation of Malta's trade in services official estimates. These discussions involved the National Accounts Production Unit, with the aim of aligning the trade in services figures and minimising revisions as much as possible between the two domains.

Addressing Eurostat's reservations and action points

In June 2025, the Unit took part in an audit conducted by Eurostat's Gross National Income audit team, during which the compilation of balance of payments primary income for non-financial corporations was examined in detail. This process required substantial analytical and preparatory work, with particular focus placed on:

- the microdata linking used to get information about the shareholding and ultimate beneficiary owner;
- on the compilation of the gaming sector (NACE 92).

The microdata linking process for NFCs primary income estimates has been automated using Python to improve efficiency and streamline workflows. The quality of this process has now been indirectly validated by the GNI team through the lifting of the transversal reservations noted below. As a result, the team is now better positioned to focus on refining country-level detail for these estimates. In December, Eurostat announced that transversal reservations 5 (Clarification of the new methods for the estimates of cross-border property income of non-financial and financial corporations) and 12 (Integration of the data from the final annual sources in the estimates of gambling and betting activities), have been addressed by Malta and consequently lifted. In parallel, the unit has launched efforts to address the general reservation on Non-Resident VAT Traders; this is a transversal reservation placed on all EU member states, with an implementation deadline for September 2026.

2.5 INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS STATISTICS

Objectives for 2025

- Design automation of processes, implement new requirements in Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC), and improve data processing timeframes.
- Analyse and use Micro Data Exchange (MDE) data received from other countries together with the VAT Information Exchange System (VIES) to identify non-respondents, and intensify work on the exercise of contacting non-compliant traders.
- Continue collaboration with the Commissioner for Revenue (CfR) to use VAT data to cross-check intra-EU data in Intrastat.
- Undertake further automation of data analysis and validations to new requirements for the biannual Trade by Invoicing Currency (TIC). TIC data will be submitted annually on a voluntary basis.
- Develop and implement the Customs Data Exchange.
- Design and implement a modern Intrastat and a database management system for all international trade in goods statistics.
- Further invest in economic analysis of International Trade statistics, particularly in relation to other macroeconomic aggregates, and initiate the writing of papers on aspects of trade in goods.
- Microdata linking with the Structural Business Statistics (SBS) Unit.
- Compile and publish various Selected Indicators.
- Raise the Imports/Exports Traders Threshold for the Intrastat reporting obligation.

Work Carried Out

Transmissions to Eurostat

The Unit continued working on the TEC and on the development of a dataset based on the enterprise level, using the VAT database as a source. Moreover, apart from revisions from 2025 (reference TEC 2024) the unit included estimations in the TEC transmissions. This will be enhanced further with the aim to pre-validate the datasets before they are transmitted to Eurostat. Community External Trade Statistics (COMEXT) and TIC were successfully fully implemented fulfilling new requirements by Eurostat.

Addressed Non-compliance

In collaboration with the Malta Tax and Customs Administration (MTCA) and with the use of MDE and VIES, the Unit continued with an intensified exercise to follow up on non-compliant traders. The exercise continued to increase the response rate.

Automation and Cross-Unit Collaboration

During 2025, the Unit continued to automate as many processes as possible. This resulted in higher efficiency, shorter processing time and more reliability. The Unit also improved the process to estimate the Below Threshold and late declarations. These will be tested with the latest VAT returns before being implemented in the COMEXT. The Unit collaborated with other Units to streamline certain processes as well. More data checks were introduced to minimise data input errors. Furthermore, the unit collaborated with the SBS unit on the Micro Data Linking project.

From 2025 the Unit started publishing Selected indicators on the NSO website, which are updated on a monthly basis. Moreover, a yearly task carried out was the transmission of TIC data to Eurostat. This data is submitted voluntarily (i.e. not required by EU law) after carrying out the necessary analysis and validation.

Additional Work Carried Out

Meetings with various stakeholders

In 2025, the Unit held several meetings with important stakeholders, such as airline and shipping companies, to ensure that their transactions are properly recorded in the ITGS declarations. Online training sessions have been held with multiple stakeholders organised by their representative associations. Additionally, given the importance and notable presence of the maritime sector in Malta and the striking impact it has on ITGS, meetings were held with Malta Maritime Law Association (MMLA) for further collaboration. The unit has delivered a live presentation at their first annual Meeting and subsequently held two online training sessions which were attended by a numerous amount of MMLA members.

Optimisation and automation of processes

A number of periodic tasks have been automated using R to make the processes more efficient and very much less time consuming. Furthermore, the Unit designed a new process to analyse and clean data of important HS Chapters. This was implemented during 2025, resulting in better data quality.

National minimum Threshold

An analysis and conclusion regarding the National Minimum Threshold for traders to be obliged to submit Intrastat declarations, have been done and presented to the upper management and to MTCA. A conclusion has been agreed upon, and the Subsidiary legislation is in process of being updated in collaboration with MTCA. The latter are finalising the Legislation and will move it forward for approval by parliament in the coming months. Once the legislation is approved in Parliament, the Unit will start working toward raising the Imports/Exports traders' threshold for the Intrastat reporting obligation.

Projects Carried Forward

For 2025, the Unit had planned to develop and implement the Customs Data Exchange. This work has been temporarily deferred and will resume once the necessary data sources are in place. Also, progress on the project to design and implement a modern Intrastat system and an integrated database management solution was similarly paused due to resource considerations. To manage ongoing priorities efficiently, the Unit deferred its scheduled work on papers concerning aspects of Trade in Goods in order to focus on fulfilling EU regulatory requirements.

Moreover, a study about the calculation of Trade indices together with a process design was started in 2025. However, because of other commitments, this project had to be put on hold and is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

The Unit remains committed to advancing these initiatives when conditions allow, ensuring that they are implemented effectively and sustainably. The completion of these projects would also enable the Unit to dedicate further attention to research on aspects of Trade in Goods.

2.6 PRICE STATISTICS

Objectives for 2025

- Compile the Commercial Property Price Index (CPPI) weights and indices and subsequently publish the data.
- Produce the House Price Index (HPI) Flash Estimates.
- Conduct the Commercial Rents survey 2025 and explore the most suitable methodology to compile the Commercial Property Rental Index.
- Rebase the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) Indices to 2025=100.
- Complete all the work in relation to the implementation of ECOICOP ver. 2 in the HICP.
- Include Games of Chance Index in the HICP. Come up with a methodology to compile the CPPI and produce the final indices.
- Update the Retail Price Index (RPI) weights by devising a weighting structure based on Household Budget Survey (HBS) data.

Work Carried Out

Real Estate Statistics

Commercial Property Price Index

The data used for the compilation of the CPPI were assembled after obtaining additional information to address data gaps. The dataset was continuously maintained, cleaned, and filtered to remove out-of-scope transactions. Following this process, the Price Statistics Unit selected the most appropriate methodology after testing several alternative approaches. Transactions were classified by location into prime and non-prime categories. In addition, indices by purpose type were compiled using hedonic regression techniques, with transaction values used as weights.

HPI Flash Estimates (t+45 and t+60)

The Prices Unit decided to participate in the Task Force on HPI flash estimates and is transmitting these indices to Eurostat on a voluntary basis. The methodology applied is the same as that used for the HPI actuals. Indices for t+45 and t+60 are compiled in line with the cut-off dates stipulated by Eurostat. No new data updates are incorporated for the t+60 flash estimate; therefore, although the transmission procedures for both t+45 and t+60 are in place and deadlines are met, the same indices are transmitted at both reference points.

Commercial Rents Survey 2025

This survey is being conducted through an online platform developed by the IT team. The sample comprises companies that previously participated in the 2021 or 2023 surveys. The platform includes respondents' previously submitted data and several built-in validation rules, facilitating both data entry by respondents and validation. Data collection for this survey will continue in 2026.

HICP*ECOICOP ver. 2*

In the year under review, all indices were reclassified to ECOICOP ver. 2 in the HICP. Additional detail was added to the time-series, with 5- and 6-digit indices being available from Dec-1995 to date (previously, 5-digit indices were only available from Dec-2015 onwards). Additional detail was also added to the HICP-CT, which in ECOICOP ver. 1 was only published at 4-digit (now 5- and 6-digit). The all-items index obtained from this conversion is identical to ECOICOP across the entire time series. The ECOICOP ver.2 timeseries was transmitted to Eurostat and successfully validated.

The HICP indices in ECOICOP ver. 2 were rebased to the new reference year 2025=100. This was done for both the HICP index and HICP-CT indices, from December 2025 up to December 1995 and December 2002, respectively.

Furthermore, the update to the RPI weights, based on new HBS data, will be finalised in 2026 in line with the timeline set in multi-annual Work Programme.

Inclusion of Games of Chance Index in the HICP

Data for this index was obtained from a number of sources. Based on these data, the Price Statistics Unit have started working on the compilation of the preliminary estimates. This index will be integrated into the HICP as from January 2026 publication.

Additional Work Carried Out*Owner-Occupied Housing Price Index (OOHPI)*

This exercise focuses on enhancing the weighting structure and refining the indices calculated at the most granular level. In 2025, the Unit explored additional data sources to support the development of an improved weighting structure. Consultations were held to expand coverage and identify additional items and services for inclusion in the OOHPI basket. Price data for the newly proposed items were collected for the year 2024. This project will continue in 2026.

Note: All the projects above, formed part of grant agreements.

3

**BUSINESS, SECTORAL &
REGIONAL STATISTICS**

3.1 STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS

Objectives for 2025

- Modernise Structural Business Statistics (SBS) data collection through strategic business engagement and burden reduction.
- Fulfil the relevant requirements of the European Business Statistics (EBS) regulation by conducting the SBS Survey, as well as the Outward Foreign Affiliates Statistics (OFATS) survey, and deriving the Inward Foreign Affiliates Statistics (IFATS).
- Advance the integration of card transaction data into official statistics.
- Strengthen participation in the Competitiveness Research Network (CompNet) to develop a robust Micro-Data Infrastructure (MDI) within the business statistics domain.
- Undertake annual review of SBS and IFATS Statistics.
- Support the FATS Asymmetry Resolution Mechanism.
- Assess the feasibility of compiling national PRODCOM statistics by exploring potential methodologies and applications within the manufacturing industries.
- Expand on the existing Global Value Chain (GVC) statistics.
- Maintain and enhance the Statistical Unit 'Enterprise' across the domains under the responsibility of the Unit, including refining the design of tailored questionnaires to meet specific requirements.
- Follow the economic globalisation-related issues and fulfil the duties of a coordinator in the Large Cases Units network – European Network of Multinational Enterprise coordinators MNEnet.
- Assist in NACE Rev 2.1 profiling and back cast the SBS EBS data in alignment with the NACE Rev 2.1 classification.

Work Carried Out

Modernisation of SBS data collection

During 2025, the Unit worked on the modernisation of the SBS data collection framework through the integration of a Business Interaction Module. This enabled enterprises to respond to a short set of annually rotating, policy-relevant questions alongside their core statistical submission. This enhancement increases the responsiveness of the NSO to emerging information needs and, for the first year, will capture expectations on business outlook shaped by local and global developments, as well as insights on technology adoption including the uptake of AI, automation tools, and reliance on space-based infrastructure.

In addition, a predictive burden reduction model was introduced to assess the necessity of direct data collection at firm observation level by estimating the likely timing of financial submissions. The increased alignment of administrative data flows with statistical production requirements is intended for more efficient planning to make respondent burden leaner. This forms part of a wider institutional effort and represents the third SBS-related initiative since 2020 to enhance the efficiency of data collection while maintaining statistical quality.

Fulfil the relevant requirements of the EBS regulation and increasing accessibility to data users

In line with the EBS regulation, the SBS, IFATS, and OFATS were compiled and made available to users. This work was supplemented by an update to the quality assessment methodology based on the Coefficient of Variation to better reflect Malta's statistical grossing-up methods. In parallel, Malta continued its voluntary transmission of the 'Small Mid-Caps' data series, as well as a linked SBS dataset based on enterprise group structures drawn from the EuroGroups Register to extend the SBS coverage beyond mandatory requirements.

Beyond the statistical results, the NSO continued to improve data dissemination by removing unnecessary confidentiality restrictions, with the aim of increasing the relevance and accessibility of published outputs. This approach was also presented by Malta during the SBS Working Group, where it was recognised as an example of good practice. The aim is to remain focused on being relevant to users.

Setting up card transaction data for the use of official statistics

The structure for using card transaction data in business statistics reached a stable and operational stage. A dedicated Statistical Insight, titled 'Card Payment Habits in Malta', was published, presenting trends across key client-facing sectors. Malta's experience was also presented at the New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics (NTTS) 2025 Conference held in Brussels, to present for the first time, the key features of this source to the wider global statistical community.

CompNet and firm-level productivity analysis

Malta began its onboarding process to the Micro-Data Infrastructure (MDI) through the development of the ProdTool (NPB 2.0: Micro-Data Analysis Tool 2.0 for comparative productivity studies at National Productivity Boards), supported by the EU's Technical Support Instrument led by the CompNet and the Leibniz Institute for Economic Research Halle (IWH). Discussions focused on laying the groundwork for Malta's integration into the platform. At national level, the NSO promoted the concept of microdata-based analytics to the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development and the National Productivity Board (NPB), in support of the Board's focus on producing a microdata-driven productivity report. For the first time, SBS, FATS, International Trade in Goods Statistics, and GVC data were jointly utilised to feed into such work.

Support the FATS Asymmetry Resolution Mechanism

Through the SBS Unit, Malta contributed to Eurostat's FATS Asymmetry Resolution Mechanism (ARM) and presented its approach at the FATS Working Group. Proposals were put forward to expand into multi-nation asymmetry handling, encourage earlier cooperation between compilers in different member states, and promote recycling of IFATS for the compilation of OFATS to reduce the burden on the businesses community and achieve more consistency at EU level.

Explore the feasibility of compiling national PRODCOM statistics

An internal scoping exercise was initiated to assess the feasibility of adopting a Malta-based approach to compiling PRODCOM statistics, despite the country's exemption from producing this statistical domain. The concept was to compile such statistics for national priorities, not necessarily limited to the requirements of EU legislation. The focus was

on identifying suitable methodologies, staff training needs, and resource implications to support capacity building in this domain.

GVC Statistics and Micro-Data Linking projects

The GVC dataset for reference years 2021 to 2023 was compiled and transmitted, concluding a work programme that spanned from 2022 to 2025 and primarily focused on new additional variables supported under an EU grant. Malta also submitted the associated metadata and quality indicators, completing the final set of deliverables under the respective grant agreement. Separately, Malta continued its participation in the Multi-Beneficiary Grant Agreement, launched in 2024, aimed at developing a standardised pan-European syntax framework for the production of integrated statistical indicators. The project progressed during the year and was extended further through an additional grant, with Malta retaining its role in the consortium.

Developments in the Statistical Unit 'Enterprise'

Enhancements were introduced to the process of converting legal units to the statistical unit 'Enterprise', including improvements to manual profiling and new rules to group legal units serving as ancillary to each other. The workflow for the Enterprise Statistical Unit moved closer to full automation with reduced reliance on manual consolidation.

Additional Work Carried Out

Estimating the economic contribution of superyacht-related activities

A dedicated statistical exercise was carried out to estimate the economic contribution of the superyacht-related activities to the Maltese economy for reference year 2022. Data was collected from a wide range of industry players, including marinas, refit yards, intermediaries, fuel suppliers, legal and accountancy firms, and crew service providers. The results were compiled by the NSO on behalf of the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, in collaboration with Yachting Malta, the Malta Chamber, and relevant directorates within Transport Malta.

3.2 BUSINESS REGISTER, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Objectives for 2025

- Improve the processes for updating the Statistical Business Register (SBR).
- Work on the identification of Special Purpose Entities (SPEs).
- Compile local unit population 2023, and launch work on the 2024 local unit population.
- Compute and disseminate Business Demography statistics in line with the European Business Statistics (EBS) Regulation, including the regional dimension and short-term BD data on new registrations and bankruptcies.
- Complete group data in line with EuroGroups Register (EGR) requirements, including globalisation aspects such as European profiling.
- Compile Business Innovation Statistics through the Innovation Survey.
- Undertake yearly R&D survey data collection and reporting, including new Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) required variables.
- Implement the conversion to NACE Rev.2.1 in the SBR, data optimisation through micro data linking (MDL) of existing registers, and continue dual coding for a number of years, and back cast till 2021.

Work Carried Out

Business Register and Business Demography

Throughout 2025 the Business Register Unit kept up to date with all the new registrations, reactivations, and de-registrations of legal units, while maintaining the required unit characteristics, such as the legal form, the economic activity (NACE), and financial variables such as employment and turnover. Where possible most of the processes were standardised and automated. Additionally, the Unit carried out work on the identification of Special Purpose Entities (SPEs). This exercise is done biannually via the available data sources which identify the national footprint.

Updates to the SBR enterprise characteristics were carried out through MDL using a combination of administrative sources and internal data. Moreover, work on the concepts and definitions of statistical units continued, both in terms of legal and enterprise units, as well as at the local unit and kind-of-activity levels. The Unit finalised the local units' population for reference year 2023 and commenced work related to reference year 2024. Work on the 2024 local units population continued to improve by the utilisation of plastic money data points, a new data source obtained by the NSO.

Regarding Business Demography, the Unit produced statistics at enterprise level, using the complex enterprise definition in line with the EBS framework. Mandatory annual BD datasets were compiled and transmitted to Eurostat, covering key topics such as active enterprises, enterprise birth and deaths, survivals, and high-growth enterprises, together with the corresponding metadata reports. In addition, the Unit provided both quarterly and voluntary monthly BD data on new registrations and bankruptcies. Regional BD statistics at NUTS 3 level were also transmitted on an annual basis. The Unit also published news releases relating to both registered business units and enterprise business demography.

EuroGroups Register and European profiling programme

The Unit transmitted all the required data under the EBS regulation, relating to the EGR, which is the statistical business register of multinational enterprise groups in EU and EFTA territory maintained by Eurostat. Furthermore, the Unit participated in the European Profiling programme, which involved the process of analysing the legal, organisational, and economic structures of a selection of Multinational Enterprise Groups in a dedicated application called the Interactive Profiling Tool.

Business Innovation

The data collection process for the production of Business Innovation Statistics 2024 commenced in September and transitioned to a fully web-based system for the first time. This survey is based on two structures of innovation types – ‘product’ and ‘business process’ – and covers the three-year period between 2022 and 2024.

Research and Development

The target population of the R&D survey within the business sector was reviewed and updated. The survey for reference year 2023 was finalised and data was transmitted to Eurostat in June. The Unit then started work on the data collection process for R&D reference year 2024, with preliminary figures being reported in mid-October. The data collection process for the 2024 R&D cycle was also web-based for the first time.

NACE Rev. 2.1

During 2025, the Unit finalised the implementation of new NACE Rev.2.1 classification based on the last version of the correspondence tables. Back casting was carried all the way till reference year 2021 while dual coding is being maintained for the time being. The project was partly covered by a grant. Discussions with various stakeholders were held to keep them updated with all the relevant developments. An internal project was carried out to assist the BRRI Unit in the classification process, utilising machine learning.

3.3 SHORT-TERM BUSINESS STATISTICS**Objectives for 2025**

- Commence work on assessing the feasibility of using bank card transaction data to produce monthly retail trade turnover estimates
- Automation and efficiency: Collaborate internally with the IT Unit and the Methodology and Quality Unit to automate the Unit’s processes in line with the Statistical Production Service Architecture (SPSA) project.
- Work on Eurostat’s grant on the commercial real estate indicator: ‘construction starts’.
- Carry out research on data related to ‘construction works completions’.
- Explore feasibility to compute new statistics on construction lead time classified by permit type and location.
- Core deliverables: Transmit monthly and quarterly data to Eurostat and publish local news releases.

Work Carried Out*Monthly bank card data on retail trade*

During 2025, the Unit began assessing the feasibility of a mixed-mode approach that integrates primary survey data with administrative bank card transaction data. This will help reduce respondent burden, enable the publication of retail trade turnover (and possibly hotels and restaurants) at more detailed levels including NUTS 3 and LAU 1, and potentially allow earlier data release from t+30 to around t+25 days.

SPSA – STS Automation project

Throughout 2025, the Unit worked closely with the IT and Methodology and Quality Units to prepare for the implementation of the SPSA digital transformation project. Phase 1 (data collection) was fully implemented, resulting in a completely paperless process. Discussions were also held on the subsequent phases, including outlier detection and imputations.

Commercial real-estate indicators

Following bilateral meetings and agreements with the Planning Authority and the Building and Construction Authority respectively, the construction starts dataset and its corresponding grant were finalised. A draft of the works completion time series was also completed. Additionally, work commenced on linking the building permits data with the construction starts dataset and the works completion series. Furthermore, the Unit began investigating the possibility of calculating new statistics on construction lead time, categorised by permit type and location.

Core deliverables

The Unit produced and transmitted to Eurostat, a range of short-term business statistics covering turnover, production volumes, producer prices, labour market measures (employment, hours worked, and wages). A selection of these indicators was also disseminated nationally through press releases. The Unit was responsible for the entire end-to-end statistical workflow, including the collection of survey and administrative data, validation and quality checks, follow-up of missing responses, imputation, data integration, index calculation, and the application of seasonal adjustment methods.

Additional Work Carried Out

An analysis was initiated to explore the extent of the integration of administrative monthly FS5 data into the quarterly employment and wages indicators. A python script with integrated prompts was also developed and further enhancements are planned. Preliminary findings were encouraging and several high-level meetings with tax authorities were conducted by NSO's senior management.

3.4 ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES**Objectives for 2025****Environment**

- Compile the monetary environmental accounts and the physical accounts: economy-wide material flow accounts and air emissions accounts.
- Continue the production of waste and water statistics.
- Gather climate data from the Meteorological Office.
- Carry out the mineral production survey.

Agriculture and Fisheries

- Update the Statistical Farm Register using different administrative sources.
- Produce agricultural statistics and economic accounts for agriculture.
- Collect data on the sales of pesticides from importers.
- Conduct the Pesticide Use survey among agricultural holdings.
- Compile data on mineral and artificial fertilisers in the context of the Statistics on Agriculture Input and Output (SAIO) Regulation.
- Assist the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal rights in the compilation of the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) survey.
- Produce and publish fishery and aquaculture statistics.

Work Carried Out**Environment***Monetary Modules*

The Unit compiled the five monetary modules of the environmental accounts for reference year 2023 and updated the data for previous years: environmental taxes by economic activity, environment protection expenditure accounts, environmental goods and services sector accounts, environmental subsidies and similar transfers, and potential environmentally damaging subsidies. The corresponding quality reports were compiled and transmitted to Eurostat. Data related to environment taxes by economic activity was published on the database available on the NSO website. During the year under review, the Unit finalised the transition from the Classification of Environmental Protection Activities to the Classification of Environmental Purposes for the respective monetary module. Moreover, the climate change mitigation investments were compiled for the reference years 2021 to 2023.

Physical modules

In 2025, the Unit compiled the Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts and the Air Emissions Accounts (AEA) for reference year 2023 and revised the timeseries where applicable. Both modules were transmitted to Eurostat together with the quality report. Furthermore, AEA data was made available on the database available on the NSO website.

Waste Statistics

During 2025, the Unit continued the compilation and reporting of waste generation and treatment statistics. Solid waste management for reference year 2023 was released in February 2025, while Municipal data for reference year 2024 was published in December. The waste generation and treatment data for reference years 2010 to 2023 was made available on the database available on the NSO website.

Water Statistics

The Unit continued to update the wastewater statistics together with the water production and consumption statistics for reference year 2024. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' Aquastat questionnaire and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/Eurostat Joint Questionnaire on Inland Waters (JQ-IW) were compiled and transmitted accordingly. Furthermore, the Unit held meetings with the Energy and Water Agency to enhance the data compilation process for the JQ-IW.

Mineral production survey

During the second half of 2025, the Unit conducted the bi-annual Census on the operations of the quarrying industry for reference years 2023 and 2024. The aim was to obtain information on the annual production of hardstone and softstone products. The results are used primarily for the EW-MFA reporting as well as for producing estimates of the mineral waste generation from quarrying activities which are then used in waste statistics.

Agriculture and Fisheries*Statistical Farm Register*

The statistical farm register was updated with administrative data from the national livestock database and the land parcel identification system. This served as a basis for the population of the Farm Accountancy Data Network survey conducted during the year by the Agriculture Directorate within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights.

General Agriculture statistics

The Unit compiled monthly and annual data on crop production, livestock, animal products, agricultural prices, and indices (2020=100). Such data was transmitted to Eurostat in accordance with the respective EU Regulations. These statistics were also used in the compilation of the Economic Accounts of Agriculture for 2024. An annual news release was published in September, and data was also transmitted to Eurostat.

During the year, the Unit and the Agriculture Directorate agreed on a framework to strengthen cooperation by fostering a collaborative working relationship and mutual technical assistance, intended to facilitate reporting in line with each entity's national and international remits.

Statistics on Agriculture Input and Output

In view of the SAIO Regulation, the Unit reviewed the administrative data on the sale and acquisition of local agricultural land and the corresponding transaction values declared for 2024. The data was analysed, and the average price of agricultural land was compiled and transmitted to Eurostat.

Moreover, with regard to organic statistics, the Unit validated the data for reference year 2024 collected by the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority, which is the control authority responsible for organic certification, and reviewed by the Agricultural Directorate which is the competent authority responsible for the implementation of the organic production and organic labelling regulations. Following this process, data was flagged for confidentiality and then transmitted to Eurostat.

Furthermore, regarding the Eurostat grant related to the Modernisation of Agricultural Statistics, to collect data on the sales of inorganic fertilisers as well as their use by local farmers, the Unit collected, validated and analysed the sales data for reference years 2022, 2023 and 2024 together with the use data for 2024. The main findings were published in a statistical insight available on the NSO website.

The Unit validated and analysed the data collected from the survey on the use of plant protection products among agricultural holdings for the crop year 2023/2024. As a result, the quantity of pesticides applied to the selected crops has been compiled and submitted to Eurostat. During the year, the Unit applied for a Eurostat grant to carry another survey in 2026 covering the same calendar year.

During 2025, the Unit also carried out a survey among authorised importers of plant protection products, to collect information about the amount of active substances contained in such products placed on the market during the reference year 2024. The collected data was validated, flagged for confidentiality, and transmitted to Eurostat. The data was also used for the compilation of the Harmonised Risk Indicator.

Farm Accountancy Data Network survey

In relation to the FADN survey (reference year 2024), the Unit provided the necessary technical support to the Agricultural Directorate within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal rights, both for the compilation of the FADN survey and for its validation.

Fisheries and Aquaculture statistics

The Unit continued with the production and publication of fish catches, fish landings, and aquaculture. The latter comprised an annual census conducted in collaboration with the Aquatic Resources Malta, covering up until reference year 2024. The results were published in the annual news release Aquaculture: 2024. The annual data related to fish catches, landings, and aquaculture was also transmitted to Eurostat.

3.5 REGIONAL, GEOSPATIAL, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

Objectives for 2025

Energy

- Produce Energy statistics, including physical energy flow accounts at the national level, monthly, biannually, and annually.
- Produce and publish a news release on renewable energy from photovoltaic panels.
- Maintain and improve annual statistics on electricity consumption by industry.
- Finalise the microdata linking project, to pair electricity consumption to the Business Register characteristics (including NACE class) using data provided by ARMS Ltd, Enemalta, the Water Services Corporation (WSC) and the Regulator for Energy and Water Services (REWS).

Transport

- Compile and publish quarterly data related to all modes of transport relevant to Malta.
- Explore new data sources that can be used to improve the quality of transport statistics.
- Work with data holders to continue strengthening their data registers.
- Maintain the compilation of the microdata regarding electric-vehicles public charging infrastructure.
- Develop the Transport Statistics Portal which will include an array of data, interactive charts and maps.
- Integrate Energy and Transport statistics in line with the requirements of the European Green Deal.

Regional and Geospatial

- Maintain coverage of annual time series data to year 2000 on regional employment statistics by sector, industry, place of work and residence.
- Undertake an exercise to establish the amount of commuter workers across regions.
- Work on the in-house point spatial layer (ReBUDS).
- Work on the integration of geospatial information and statistics.
- Work on two Eurostat grant projects: (i) Data Collection for City and Subnational Statistics, and (ii) A spatio-temporal analysis of the last three Population and Housing censuses (2005-2021) through the 1km² grid. Develop the Regional Statistics Portal which will include an array of data, interactive charts and maps.
- Support further the enrichment of the NSO's dissemination strategy by producing all maps which feature in the NSO's news releases in an interactive manner.
- Conduct further research to maintain and enhance methodology used for the compilation of regional GDP based on the residence principle.

Work Carried Out

Energy

The Unit collaborated with several data sources as part of its efforts to continue developing the relevance and granularity of Energy statistics. During 2025, the Unit collaborated with the Regulator for Energy and Water Services (REWS), the Energy and Water Agency, Enemalta plc, and ARMS Ltd. Physical Energy Flow Accounts were compiled for reference years 2021-2023 and these were submitted to Eurostat. Moreover, the Unit produced detailed news releases on renewable energy from photovoltaic panels and electricity supply, with corresponding data transmissions to the EU organisations and entities concerned.

The Unit also worked on the microdata linking project to pair electricity consumption to the Business Register characteristics (including NACE) using data provided by ARMS Ltd, Enemalta, the WSC and REWS, to improve Electricity and Water Consumption statistics classified by industry. Several meetings were held with the stakeholders involved to discuss progress, challenges and limitations of the project.

Transport

The Unit collaborated with the key stakeholders, namely: Transport Malta, Malta International Airport plc, Malta Insurance Association, and the Malta Police. In addition, the Unit maintained the compilation of data on the stock and type of electric-vehicles public charging infrastructure systems from REWS which data was also transmitted to Eurostat. Furthermore, it also initiated the compilation of data on cycling infrastructure from Infrastructure Malta which data was also transmitted to Eurostat.

Moreover, the Unit produced quarterly news releases on a range of transport topics, namely: sea transport between Malta and Gozo, motor vehicles, and road traffic accidents with corresponding data transmissions at the EU level. Furthermore, it also developed the Transport Statistics Portal on the NSO's website which includes an array of data, interactive charts and maps covering air, sea and road transport statistics. The Unit has also been actively involved in a newly formed Eurostat Taskforce on Road Vehicle-Kilometres Travelled wherein a presentation was delivered and a methodological report on the national practice was provided.

Regional and Geospatial*Regional statistics*

The Unit finalised work on regional employment estimates by place of residence and work, broken down by sex, for reference years 2022, 2023 and 2024. This also included an exercise to establish the amount of commuter workers across the regions, which was published in the news release Regional Labour Supply by Place of Residence and Work. The indicators: regional Gross Value Added at basic prices, and regional Gross Domestic Product at market prices were produced for the period 2020-2024. Simultaneously, improvements were made to regional allocations in respect of National Accounts and Structural Business statistics in view of the efforts to enhance the methodology used for the compilation of regional GDP based on the residence principle. The Unit also produced data for the Urban Audit Report covering reference year 2024, whereby official statistics for city and subnational statistics were submitted to Eurostat.

Moreover, the Unit developed the Regional Statistics Portal on the NSO's website which include an array of data, interactive charts and maps, thus replacing the publication Regional Statistics MALTA. Several domains at various geographical levels were covered and these included population, income and living conditions, social protection, education, labour market, economy, transport, tourism, and the environment. Further, a presentation on Regional Statistics and Key Insights was delivered during the Gozo Regional Development Authority's Business Breakfast on the Gozo's Policy Priorities for 2026.

Geospatial

The Unit developed a geospatial programme that could be applied to all the relevant output of the NSO, producing data at different territorial levels such as the LAU 1 (district) and LAU 2 (locality), as well as the statistical grids of 1km² and 0.25km². The Unit also shared geospatial data on the Malta GeoHub portal while it was also active in the Malta GeoHub Geospatial Committee which meets on a monthly basis.

During the year, the Unit worked on the grant: A spatio-temporal analysis of the last three Population and Housing censuses (2005-2021) through the 1km² grid. It also continued working on the inhouse point-based spatial layer ReBuDs, which has been fundamental in the work of integration of geospatial information and statistics. Furthermore, the Unit continued to support the enrichment of NSO's dissemination strategy for more useful and relevant statistical output by producing all the maps which feature in NSO's news releases in an interactive format.

4

SOCIAL STATISTICS

4.1 CULTURE AND TOURISM DATA COLLECTION

Objectives for 2025

- Supervise data collection operations for the tourism border survey (TOURSTAT).
- Develop and implement the four-year national culture plan through engagement with relevant stakeholders.
- Collect and produce Cinema and Library statistics for 2024.
- Update Voluntary Organisations Register and work toward the launch of a survey among such organisations.

Work Carried Out

Tourism Data Collection

One of the main responsibilities of the Unit was to coordinate and supervise the work of survey interviewers stationed at the Malta International Airport. The TOURSTAT border survey, the primary tourism statistics project conducted by the NSO, enables the office to publish regular and timely data on inbound and outbound tourism. To ensure strict adherence to established survey methodology, regular on-site meetings are held with survey interviewers throughout the year. Additionally, a number of quality checks were introduced to effectively monitor the quality and completeness of data.

Culture Plan

During 2025, the Unit contributed to the development and initial implementation of the four year national culture plan, with particular emphasis on its statistical and data related components. Engagements were held with key stakeholders, including cultural agencies, sector representatives, and relevant public entities, to identify data gaps and priority information needs across the culture sector.

This work is currently at an initial phase and is aimed at laying the groundwork for a structured framework for the regular collection, analysis, and dissemination of cultural statistics, aligned with national policy objectives and international reporting requirements. At this stage, the Unit has focused on exploratory assessment, including the identification of data needs and the mapping of potential data sources. In parallel, opportunities for the future integration of existing administrative data sources and survey-based information are being examined to support the medium term monitoring of the culture plan.

Culture sector data

The Unit engaged in the development of a new dissemination product focusing on the culture sector in Malta. To support this work, data inputs were requested from other NSO units, including information relating to the labour market, business statistics, and international trade, among others. The output of this work is intended to form the basis of a dedicated news release, planned for publication in 2026.

Band Clubs survey

The Unit completed the preparatory work required for the launch of the Band Clubs Survey, in consultation with the President of the Malta Band Clubs Association. This work was supported by the IT and Methodology Units, particularly in relation to questionnaire design, programming and system testing. The Communication and Dissemination Unit was also roped in to coordinate respondent engagement. An online presentation was delivered during the Annual General Meeting of band clubs to introduce the survey and outline the planned Band Clubs Survey for the 2024-2025 reference period.

Cinema and Library Statistics

The annual survey among cinemas was carried out, and results were published in a dedicated news release. Additionally, this information was also utilised in the compilation of the Cinemas Admissions Survey questionnaire, carried out by Creative Europe. Throughout 2025, the Unit maintained regular communication with the Malta Film Commission with the aim of enhancing data quality and availability within this sector.

During the year under review, the Unit also published the annual news release on Libraries, based on administrative data provided by Malta Libraries.

Register on Voluntary organisations

Throughout the year, the Unit collaborated with the National Accounts team to compile and integrate financial data related to Voluntary Organisations. This cooperation supported improved consistency and coverage of financial information within the national accounts framework and contributed to enhanced analysis and reporting of the voluntary sector's economic contribution. Furthermore, internal meetings were held to pave the groundwork leading to an eventual launch of a survey among such organisations.

Additional work carried out

Public Social Partnership Survey

Analytical work was carried out on data collected by the Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights through the Public Social Partnership Survey. The outputs from this survey were reviewed to identify key trends relating to the involvement of voluntary organisations in publicly supported cultural and social initiatives. The results of this analysis are intended to support evidence-based policy development and to strengthen the statistical evidence base on partnerships between public authorities and civil society organisations.

Opportunity for All directory

Meetings were held with the Malta Film Commission to coordinate new initiatives and to discuss data collection within the framework of the Opportunity for All directory. These discussions focused on the use of the directory as a monitoring tool for tracking activities within the film sector. An overview of the associated dashboard was provided, outlining the scope and types of data submitted by film crews and service providers, with a view to clarifying data availability and existing reporting parameters.

4.2 LIVING CONDITIONS AND TOURISM

Objectives for 2025

Living Conditions

- Analyse, finalise, and disseminate the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) 2024, and publish ad hoc reports/articles.
- Collect data for the EU-SILC 2025 and transmit the final datasets with provisional income by the end of year.
- Work on the preparations for the Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS) 2026.
- Collaborate on the wellbeing project with the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society.
- Assist the Pensions Strategy Group and Basic Expenditure Needs projects.
- Assist the Committee working on the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion 2025-2035.
- Assist and provide technical support in the preparations and during the data collection for the Household Budget Survey (HBS) 2024/2025.

Tourism

- Carry out the TOURSTAT survey.
- Carry out the ACCOMSTAT census.
- Produce Cruise Passenger statistics.
- Carry out a National Tourism survey.
- Produce statistics on Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL).
- Compile monthly and quarterly news releases on tourism supply and demand and transmit the data to Eurostat and quality reporting for Tourism Statistics.
- Finalise the work on the pilot project with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on the implementation of a new set of Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) tables.

Work Carried Out

Living Conditions

EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions

The Unit analysed the findings of the EU-SILC survey for reference year 2024. The analysis generated three news releases on different topics. The full datasets, including the income variables, were transmitted to Eurostat by the end of March 2025. Moreover, the Unit initiated data collection in relation to the EU-SILC survey, for reference year 2025. The process was carried out completely through Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviews. Income data was collected entirely from administrative sources. The datasets for EU-SILC 2025 were transmitted with provisional income by the end of year.

Household Finance and Consumption Survey

The Unit worked on the preparations of the HFCS 2026 survey, which will be conducted in 2026 on behalf of the Central Bank of Malta.

Wellbeing project with the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society

During 2025, the Unit worked on the joint project with the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society. The primary goal of this project is to create a set of wellbeing variables and indicators that will be used to compute the wellbeing index.

Household Budget Survey 2024/2025

Preparations for the next round of the HBS 2024/2025 were undertaken during the year under review, with a focus on refining the questionnaire, updating code book classifications, training interviewers, and providing technical support during the data collection.

Tourism

TOURSTAT and ACCOMSTAT

The TOURSTAT survey collects information on tourism demand, for both inbound and outbound trips with at least one overnight stay outside the usual environment. Such tourism demand statistics were published in the Inbound Tourism monthly news release, the Outbound Tourism quarterly news release, and the Regional Tourism annual news release.

The ACCOMSTAT is a census of accommodation establishments, for which data was collected primarily through Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing and then cross-validated to ensure consistency. The Collective Accommodation Establishments news release was published every quarter. Additionally, at the international level, the characteristics of residents and non-residents were transmitted to Eurostat on a monthly and an annual basis, respectively.

Cruise Passengers

The Unit collected and processed data on cruise passengers using administrative records provided by Transport Malta. The statistics produced were published in a quarterly news release.

National Tourism

As in previous years, the Unit worked on the National Tourism survey, which is carried out every quarter among Maltese residents aged 15 and over who reside in private households. This survey collects information on outbound and domestic tourism trips. Such national tourism statistics were published in the Regional Tourism news release, and several variables were transmitted to Eurostat.

Teaching English as a Foreign Language

The Unit used data collected annually by the English Language Teaching Council from all licensed ELT schools to produce the TEFL news release, which was published in April 2025.

Tourism Satellite Accounts Project

In collaboration with the OECD, the Unit finalised the work on the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) project. This was implemented through the Technical Support Instrument and in cooperation with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support. The project was led by the Ministry for Tourism and aimed to strengthen Malta's tourism statistics through the sustainable compilation of the TSA. This project was successfully concluded, and during 2025 the Unit built on its results by developing a new statistical product informed by the outcomes of the TSA project.

Additional Work Carried Out

During the year under review, the Unit focused on enhancing the National Tourism questionnaire, making improvements to the data cleaning processes involved in analysis. Additionally, several procedures related to the data cleaning of the TOURSTAT survey were fully automated to reduce any manual intervention, significantly boosting efficiency and effectiveness in the workflow.

Projects Carried Forward

The Unit had planned to publish ad hoc reports and articles providing a more detailed analysis of the EU-SILC data. However, the need to prioritise another technical task required the temporary reallocation of resources, and this objective was consequently put on hold.

As in previous years, the Unit intended to assist the Committee working on the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion 2025-2035. The Committee, however, did not require any additional data/information during the year under review. The Unit remains committed to lend its support if, and when asked.

4.3 LABOUR MARKET AND INFORMATION SOCIETY**Objectives for 2025****Labour Market**

- Produce, transmit and disseminate statistics from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in line with the Integrated European Social Statistics framework regulation.
- Compile and disseminate statistics on registered employment and unemployment.
- Collect data, transmit and disseminate the Job Vacancy Survey (JVS) results.
- Compile, disseminate and transmit results of the Labour Cost Survey (LCS) 2024.
- Produce and transmit Labour Cost Indices (LCIs), and explore a new methodology for working out these indices.
- Work on the production of an employment register using a combination of administrative sources.
- Compile, transmit and disseminate statistics on accidents and fatalities at work.
- Further analysis of LFS data and publication of ad hoc reports/articles.

Disability

- Compile statistics on disability.

Information Society

- Produce, transmit and disseminate the survey on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in households and that of enterprises.
- Further analysis of ICT household data and publication of ad hoc reports/articles.

Work Carried Out**Labour Market***Labour Force Survey*

During 2025, all national deliverables and Eurostat data transmissions related to the LFS were completed within the stipulated deadlines. Additionally, data on young people in the labour market were analysed and transmitted to Eurostat.

Work also focused on simplifying education-related questions in the LFS questionnaire, with the aim of improving respondent understanding and aligning responses closer to actual educational outcomes. This initiative is expected to enhance overall data quality for this variable and the revised questions shall be integrated in the 2026 LFS questionnaire.

The Unit provided feedback to the Data Processing Unit on validation checks, including the application of hard and soft error rules, to further enhance data reliability of the survey. Technical meetings were held with the Methodology and Quality Unit to clarify the compilation of full-time equivalent estimates derived from the LFS and the LCS. Discussions

were also held with the Data Collection Unit in order to address the treatment of unreachable households in Panel 1 of the LFS, resulting in an agreement to replace these households with similar units from Panel 2 to improve response rates.

Substantial work was undertaken to transcode LFS economic activity data from NACE Rev. 2.0 to NACE Rev. 2.1. While many records were converted through one-to-one mappings, more complex cases required a tailored approach. Free-text responses, existing NACE codes, and Business Register company names were used to minimise manual coding. In preparation for the full implementation of NACE Rev. 2.1 in 2026, a comprehensive coding list for LFS coders was developed, which will also be applicable to other LMU managed surveys.

Moreover, the Unit participated in a Eurostat-led Task Force on LFS publication thresholds, contributing to the perspective of small NSIs and engaging in discussions on the harmonisation of dissemination practices across Member States. Further meetings of this task force are planned to take place during 2026.

Registered Employment and Registered Unemployment

Registered employment and unemployment statistics were compiled using administrative data provided by Jobsplus. Weekly administrative reports from Jobsplus were used to assess short-term labour market developments.

Throughout 2025, related news releases were produced and disseminated within the required timeframes. Complementary information on engagements and terminations was also analysed to monitor employment dynamics and support other NSO statistical outputs.

During the year, the Unit initiated a revamp of the registered unemployed news release, producing revised and more user-friendly tables to better exploit the available administrative data. This exercise is ongoing and additional developments are expected to take place in 2026.

Monthly Unemployment Rates

Monthly unemployment rates were compiled and disseminated at both national and European levels within the established deadlines. In addition, unemployment rates were revised to reflect updated LFS weights.

Job Vacancy Survey

Job vacancy data were compiled quarterly and within the required timeframes. Data collection was carried out through email and telephone interviews, supported by follow-ups to encourage responses from non-responding units. Results were published on a quarterly basis.

During 2025, preparatory work began on transitioning the JVS to a web-based data collection environment, in line with the implementation of the Statistical Production Service Architecture (SPSA). Meetings with IT focused on the development and enhancement of the web application. The questionnaire was also revised to improve clarity for respondents and reduce the need for complex validation checks. The web-based collection is expected to be launched in the first quarter of 2026.

Additionally, work commenced on the coding of vacated occupations, with the aim of producing new statistics in this area.

Labour Cost Survey 2024

In 2025, work commenced on the Labour Cost Survey 2024. The primary activities undertaken during the year included drafting the questionnaire for field use and initiating the data collection process. A sample of units was selected by the Methodology Unit, and emails and letters were issued to the selected respondents. Further work on the survey is scheduled to continue in 2026.

Labour Cost Index

Quarterly LCIs were compiled and transmitted to Eurostat. The main data sources included national accounts data on employment and compensation of employees, as well as LFS estimates on hours worked. These inputs were used to calculate hourly labour cost components, which were then transformed into chain-linked, seasonally adjusted, and calendar-adjusted indices.

Work was also initiated to review the methodology applied in the compilation of the index. Following this assessment, it was decided to retain the current methodological approach for the time being, while keeping potential enhancements under consideration for future implementation.

Employment register

Development work on the employment register commenced in 2025, supported by the recruitment of an additional statistician allocated primarily to this activity. Initial tasks focused on the assessment of relevant administrative data sources from the Social Security Department and the Malta Tax and Customs Administration, with particular attention to data coverage, content, and quality. Preliminary data integration exercises were conducted, together with validation checks aimed at identifying data limitations and quality issues to be addressed in subsequent phases.

Further work focused on assessing the feasibility of linking employer identifiers (PE numbers) across tax records, Jobsplus data, and the NSO's statistical business register information. Issues identified during this exploratory linkage phase were discussed with the Business Register Unit, and further checks and methodological refinements to the linkage process are ongoing. Work on the employment register will continue in 2026, supporting its further development and progressive consolidation as a statistical infrastructure.

Accidents and Fatalities at Work

Statistics on accidents at work and fatalities at the place of work were produced in a timely manner and disseminated by means of data transmissions and news releases.

Disability Statistics

The Unit continued consolidating administrative data related to disability statistics. Preliminary results that have been compiled are being checked and validated and this work is expected to be finalised in 2026.

Methodological and quality-assurance work also continued. To this end, the Unit provided feedback to the Ministry for Inclusion, and the Voluntary Sector on UN guidelines for making surveys more accessible to persons with disabilities, contributing to international efforts on inclusive data collection.

Information Society

Information and Communication Technology Surveys

Both household and enterprise ICT surveys were conducted within the established timeframes. During 2025, a complete overhaul of data collection for the ICT Enterprise Survey was implemented, with all collection shifting to a fully web-based mode. In this regard, the Unit worked closely with the IT team to manage administrative and operational aspects of the survey, including the handling of undelivered emails, issuing invitation letters to enterprises with updated contact details, and monitoring response rates. Discussions were also held with the Methodology and Quality Unit covering the procedures carried out at post collection stage with a view for integration into the web-based processing framework in due course.

In addition, the data transmission parameters for the ICT Enterprise Survey were finalised, the relevant code was tested, and data were successfully transmitted to Eurostat. The Unit also covered work on the revision of the turnover related variables and turnover grossing-up factors to improve alignment with Structural Business Statistics.

Additional Work Carried Out

During the year, the Unit completed several other key statistical and methodological initiatives. An OECD questionnaire on PhD and Master's degree holders was compiled and submitted, covering reference years 2022 to 2024, while work on historical data for 2015-2020 is scheduled for 2026. Moreover, the publication *Measuring Gender Equality*, developed jointly with the Human Rights Directorate, was finalised and released. The Unit also concluded and submitted feedback on a bilingual glossary of labour market and ICT terminology to the Dissemination Unit.

Collaboration with external entities continued to feature prominently in the Unit's work. Engagements with the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations focused on assessing data needs related to the Minimum Wage Directive, leading to the compilation and analysis of information on collective bargaining coverage and minimum wage earners. Work on the Gender Pay Gap also progressed, with revisions to the 2019-2021 series, the preparation of 2023 estimates, and the introduction of methodological enhancements to better align with the Structure of Earnings framework.

Furthermore, the Labour Market Unit was entrusted with the analysis of data collected from a survey on participants of ESF+ funded projects, commissioned by the Strategy and Implementation Division. The main objective of the survey was to assess the impact of ESF+ training on participants, including training quality and labour market outcomes following the completion.

The Unit also developed a methodological paper examining the effects of proxy respondents on survey outcomes. This research was presented by LMU staff at the LFS Methodology Workshop in June 2025, providing insights into potential biases and limitations arising from the use of proxy data in labour market estimates.

Projects Carried Forward

Due to limited resources available for administrative support, certain administrative duties were undertaken by staff primarily assigned to analytical work. This reduced the time available for analytical activities and, consequently, constrained the Unit's capacity to deliver additional statistical outputs as originally planned.

4.4 POPULATION AND MIGRATION

Objectives for 2025

- Produce demographic statistics, including population estimates, migration flows, and natural increase, and transmit full and final demographic statistics to Eurostat.
- Disseminate Demographic statistics.
- Collect and verify the quality of available administrative registers in demography and migration.
- Maintain administrative registers used to produce Demographic statistics.
- Compile population and household counts for internal consumption purposes, such as survey weighting.
- Maintain and update the register of persons and households.
- Collect Residence Permit statistics and International Protection statistics, and transmit them to Eurostat.
- Coordinate with the Central Management Unit (CMU) on all issues related to the negotiations on the new framework regulation for population and housing statistics – European Statistics on Population and Housing (ESOP).
- Work on the grant project on the development and testing of a statistical population register and the implementation of the signs-of-life method for population estimation.
- Compile population projections.
- Preparatory work, data validation, compilation, and submission of European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) dataset, and quality report.

Work Carried Out

Demographic Statistics

Demographic statistics were produced for reference year 2024. Indicators produced included fertility rates, crude birth rates, mortality rates, life expectancy, migration flows, and outputs on family formation and dissolution. These statistics are compiled using administrative registers maintained by the Unit. As part of this process, the Unit collects and verifies the quality of available administrative registers relating to demography and migration. The main dissemination output was a news release in July to mark World Population Day. The Unit also updated and disseminated selected indicator tables on demographic statistics on the NSO website. All annual demographic outputs for the reference year 2024 were submitted to Eurostat.

Provisional and Final Population and Household Estimates

The Unit produced provisional and final population and household counts for 2024 and 2025 for internal use. All requests related to these estimates were fulfilled.

Maintain and update the register of persons and households.

The Unit worked on maintaining and updating the register of persons and households. A new methodology was developed to improve the updating of the sampling frame for persons and residential addresses. This work involved the use and integration of multiple administrative data sources, including the Public Registry, Jobsplus, the International

Protection Agency, and the Department of Social Security, among others. The implementation of this methodology ensured the availability of an updated sampling frame with a more recent reference date, while placing greater emphasis on timeliness. This approach supports more frequent and timely updates going forward, particularly in the context of a highly mobile population.

Asylum and Managed Migration Statistics

The Unit collaborated with the respective government entities to compile statistics on residence permits, international protection, forced returns, and repatriations. Data tables were submitted monthly, quarterly, and annually based on deadlines stipulated by Regulation (EC) No 862/2007.

Furthermore, the Unit continued with monthly submissions of data on flows and stocks of persons benefiting from temporary protection, an exercise initiated by Eurostat following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The main outputs on asylum statistics were disseminated through the annual news release for World Refugee Day, published in June.

New Regulation on European Statistics on Population and Housing

The Unit had an active role in the discussions and negotiations on the proposed new framework regulation for population and housing statistics. Apart from the input provided to the CMU in relation to the written consultations and national position, the Unit also provided feedback through participation in two Eurostat task forces established specifically for this purpose: the Task Force on Technical Specifications and Data Requirements, and the Task Force on Implementation Guidelines for a Harmonised Population Base. The regulation was adopted in November 2025.

Grant proposal on the development of a Statistical Population Register and the implementation of the Signs-of-life method for Population Estimation

Throughout 2025, the Unit worked on a grant-funded project focusing on the development of a statistical population register and the testing of the signs of life method at individual record level for the estimation of population counts based on the usual residence definition. The project was originally planned to run for a period of 24 months, concluding in December 2025. However, in view of a transitional period experienced by the Unit, associated with limited resource availability, a request for an extension was submitted and subsequently approved by Eurostat. The revised project completion date has been set for June 2026.

Compilation of Population Projections

During 2025, the Unit continued its work on developing several projection scenarios, while fine-tuning the various assumptions and targets used to test the main components of the projections – fertility, mortality, and migration. The Population Projections are expected to be published in 2026.

European Health Interview Survey

The Unit coordinated the work related to EHIS, liaising with the relevant NSO units responsible for the questionnaire design, sampling, data collection, and data validation, ensuring a coherent and timely implementation of the survey.

4.5 EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Objectives for 2025

Education

- Collect, produce, and disseminate education-related statistics, with a focus on modernising the collection and production processes.
- Perform data cleaning and analysis on various aspects, including enrolments, entrants, finance, personnel, graduates, mobility, ISCED mapping, and field classifications.
- Conduct exploratory analysis of childcare statistics, particularly for children benefiting from the free childcare scheme.
- Compile comprehensive registers on education personnel, student enrolments, and exams.
- Publish flash estimates on student enrolment in compulsory education for academic year 2024-2025.
- Commence preparations for the Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS 2025).

Community Safety

- Collect and disseminate data on crime statistics and domestic violence.
- Collect crime statistics and transmit them to Eurostat/UNODC.
- Explore and develop new areas in crime statistics.
- Commence preparations for the next wave of the EU-GBV survey.
- Mapping of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) to police recorded offences and inmate data.

Work Carried Out

Education

Education Statistics

In line with European Regulations (EC) 452/2008 and (EU) 912/2013, the Unit collaborated with various data sources to collect and analyse information on student enrolments, graduates, credit mobility, degree mobility, education finance, and education personnel. The registers compiled through this process not only ensure compliance with the legislative requirements but also serve as a valuable resource, supporting other units within the NSO in their statistical and analytical work. Work commenced on automating education data collection and processing through R scripts, reducing manual repetition and error risk. In 2025, four news releases were issued, presenting annual data on student enrolments spanning pre-primary education to tertiary education, as well as information on tertiary graduates and education personnel. The statistics were submitted to Eurostat within the required deadlines. The Unit compiled data on students, graduates, education personnel, and education finance to be provided to the European Commission as part of the funded project titled 'European Higher Education Sector Observatory' (previously known as the 'European Tertiary Education Register'). This initiative provides a register of European higher education institutions using comparable data with other countries contributing to this ongoing project. Furthermore, flash estimates concerning student enrolments in

compulsory education during academic year 2024-2025 were developed and published, providing a timelier indication of enrolment trends. Preparations for the CVTS 2025 commenced, with the launch of the survey planned for the first quarter of 2026.

Additionally, progress was made in organising and processing data related to early childhood education and care, providing a basis for the subsequent development of statistical indicators.

Community Safety

Crime statistics

The Unit submitted the annual United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS) questionnaire for the reference year 2024. This data collection is administered jointly by UNODC and Eurostat. The Unit collaborates with various stakeholders in this area, including the Malta Police Force, the Court Services Agency, and the Correctional Services Agency.

Furthermore, statistics on offences and persons held in prison – compiled and provided for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to the UN, and Eurostat – were extracted from data received from the Malta Police Force and the Correctional Services Agency, in accordance with the ICCS.

Dissemination of data on police reports, initially planned for 2025, was postponed allowing for further improvements in data quality. Dissemination is now expected to take place in 2026.

Domestic Violence

A new round of data collection was launched to cover the reference year 2024. In 2025, the Unit produced statistics for the reference year 2024 to mark the '16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence', which is held annually during November and December.

The Unit also attended a meeting with the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence delegation, during which it provided insights into data available in this field.

Human Trafficking

Related statistics were disseminated to Eurostat in accordance with Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. For this data collection exercise, the Unit cooperated with the Human Rights Directorate and other organisations.

In addition, the Unit attended a meeting with a delegation from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to support the development of Malta's National Referral Mechanism (NRM) as part of the national strategy on human trafficking. Discussions were held with the HRD on assisting them with taking over the data collection.

Hate Crime

The Unit collaborated with the Human Rights Directorate and other organisations to collect data on hate crimes. Relevant data were transmitted to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for inclusion in the annual Hate Crime Report. The Unit has assumed a consultative role in data collection within this area, also in relation to the END-RACISM-MT project which was coordinated by the Human Rights Directorate.

Preparations for the next wave of the EU-GBV survey

Preparatory work for the next wave of the EU-GBV survey commenced in 2025. The Unit coordinated with other relevant units to enhance the project implementation, including by taking on board best practices implemented by other countries.

Additional Work Carried Out

An Omnibus Survey was carried out to address a number of data gaps, some of which relevant for the monitoring of the SDGs. The survey covered a range of social topics, including safety in the local area, experiences of discrimination, household roles and responsibilities, social tolerance, and satisfaction with public services. The collected data have been analysed, and a series of analytical articles covering the different topics included in the survey are planned for publication in 2026.

5

**DATA RESOURCES, IT
& METHODOLOGY**

5.1 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Objectives for 2025

- Onboard statistical domains onto the Statistical Production Service Architecture (SPSA) platform.
- Implement a new online statistical database.
- Provide IT assistance to production units in several ongoing surveys.
- Provide continuous maintenance and support to the IT infrastructure and to all NSO Units, including the upgrading of hardware.
- Research emerging technologies to explore their potential applications within the NSO.

Work Carried Out

Statistical Production Service Architecture Transformation Project

The SPSA project continued to mature during 2025, with a strong emphasis on onboarding statistical domains onto the platform. The IT team initiated the onboarding of 10 domains, successfully completing the data collection phase for all of them. Most surveys were launched during the year, with two surveys scheduled for launch in early 2026.

In parallel, progress was made on the production phase for three statistical domains, with the development and implementation of production pipelines covering data validation and transformation. These pipelines were tested in collaboration with the respective domain units to ensure they met production requirements.

An online statistical database was implemented and integrated with the SPSA platform to provide external users with access to public datasets stored within the data warehouse. By the end of the year, the development and associated technical work had been completed, however, data migration and the graphical design work, including branding and visual presentation, were still ongoing. The database is planned to be launched in early 2026.

Software Development

The objective of supporting the modernisation of data collection systems and facilitating statistical processes through bespoke software was actively pursued. In the year under review, 14 software projects were undertaken.

Significant effort was dedicated to the Commercial Rents Survey, covering the full lifecycle of the supporting IT system from initial design through development, testing, and deployment. The system comprised a web-based questionnaire that enabled respondents to submit data online, alongside a back-office application designed to support survey administration and operational monitoring.

Other projects included the development of Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing tools for the Labour Force Survey, Statistics on Income and Living Conditions survey, ICT usage in Households Survey and the European Health Interview Survey.

IT infrastructure and support

Maintenance and support were provided for the NSO IT infrastructure, by supplying staff members with hardware and software as required, and assisting with IT problem-solving for employees working both from the office or remotely. In this regard, over 1,500 calls for assistance were handled. Efforts were also made to ensure the reliability and upkeep of the network and servers.

Artificial intelligence

Throughout the year, exploratory and experimental work was undertaken to assess how artificial intelligence could be leveraged within the statistical domain. This included proof-of-concept testing of machine learning models and large language models for the automatic coding of NACE and ISCO classifications. In addition, large language models were evaluated for the development of an internal chatbot to address staff queries related to internal policies and procedures, as well as for a chatbot aimed at supporting external users in accessing and understanding published statistics. This work laid the groundwork for further experimentation and refinement, which will continue in 2026.

Additional Work Carried Out

In addition to the tasks outlined in the Work Programme, the Unit was involved in devising the IT budget for the year under review, covering both software and hardware costs. Considerable effort was also dedicated to supporting the 2024 Household Budget Survey, data collection to which extended throughout 2025. The IT staff actively maintained the underlying data collection system and provided assistance to survey interviewers and back office personnel in resolving IT-related issues.

5.2 INFORMATION SECURITY

Objectives for 2025

- Continuation and implementation of the Information Security Management System (ISMS) latest version 2022.
- Coordinate and follow-up on internal and external audits, as well as internal spot checks.
- Implement periodic information security awareness training.

Work Carried Out

Review and update the Information Security Management System

More structured work practices were implemented to ensure continuous compliance with the latest ISMS requirements and alignment with established timelines. A thorough internal review of policies, procedures, and supporting documentation was carried out, accompanied by a comprehensive risk assessment to identify, analyse, and evaluate information security risks and to define appropriate controls for effective risk treatment. This remains an ongoing process aimed at sustaining a proactive security posture, addressing the evolving threat landscape, and continually enhancing the organisation's information security maturity.

Vulnerability assessments of all client-facing websites were carried out throughout the year in a structured and systematic manner. Any identified issues were either remediated internally or resolved in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders. A quarterly assessment cycle was maintained to ensure continuous visibility of emerging threats and to enable timely action on newly identified vulnerabilities.

Internal and external audits

A comprehensive internal audit, along with a separate external surveillance audit, were carried out by independent contractors. Following each audit, a structured action plan was developed to address any identified gaps, mitigate information security risks, and strengthen the NSO's overall security posture. These activities were undertaken in preparation for certification against the latest standard, ISO/IEC 27001:2022, ensuring alignment with updated requirements and best practices.

Information Security Training

Quarterly online training sessions were delivered to all staff through the internal Information Security Training platform. These were complemented by in person information security sessions featuring practical demonstrations and awareness activities on topics such as Evil Twin Wi-Fi attacks, cookie hijacking, common booking and fraud scams, and key concepts from ISO information security standards. Role based audiovisual training material was also developed in-house and assigned to staff in line with their specific roles and responsibilities. In addition, quarterly security awareness infographics were produced and distributed to all personnel, including interns, survey interviewers, and external casual field officers.

Clear-desk awareness activities, software vulnerability spot checks, and business continuity exercises related to patch management were carried out to reinforce secure practices, identify potential weaknesses, and ensure appropriate access levels and the timely application of security updates.

To further strengthen situational awareness and timely communication, a dedicated Microsoft Teams channel was established to function as an internal online information security noticeboard. The channel provides daily updates on security breaches, emerging vulnerabilities, and relevant local alerts issued by banks, law enforcement agencies, and government entities.

Additional Work Carried Out

In addition to the initiatives outlined in the Work Programme, active efforts were undertaken to progress compliance in line with the Network and Information Systems Directive (NIS2) and the Cyber Resilience Act. Enhanced and follow-up controls aligned with NIS2 requirements were implemented, with particular emphasis on strengthening the security supply chain.

To enhance and strengthen security operations management, log monitoring capabilities were established to improve visibility across systems and to enable timely detection, analysis, and response to malicious activity and threat actor behaviour.

5.3 METHODOLOGY AND QUALITY

Objectives for 2025

- Publish and Implement the Quality Management Framework (QMF).
- Review internal work processes and methodological aspects in various domains.
- Assist production units with data mining, methodological issues and metadata.
- Set up a repository for harmonised structural metadata.
- Setting up of internal workshops.

Work Carried Out

Quality Management Framework

The QMF was published, defining how statistical quality is understood, measured, and assured. This publication – the first of its kind for the NSO – brings together the principles, standards, processes, and tools that underpin the planning, collection, processing, validation, dissemination, and continuous improvement of official statistics. These principles form the basis for the quality reviews conducted by the Unit throughout the year and provides the overarching principles and standards that guide and support NSO staff in their day-to-day statistical operations.

Review of internal work processes and methodological aspects

As part of the Statistical Production Service Architecture (SPSA) Transformation Project, the Unit reviewed the production methods for four different domains. The exercise focused on strengthening methodological consistency through enhanced logical checks, more refined weighting, outlier detection and imputation procedures, and more robust validation processes to ensure alignment with international standards. Moreover, a total of six questionnaires were revised to support this modernisation and to facilitate online data collection. Metadata for each questionnaire were also established to feed into the central repository required for the implementation of the metadata-driven system.

Work was also undertaken to establish more coherent cross-unit employment data from multiple perspectives. This involved integrating various data sources to assess the consistency of employment and hours worked indicators, as well as evaluating the feasibility of introducing quarterly employment benchmarks for sub annual surveys.

Data mining, methodological issues and metadata

A total of 13 questionnaires were reviewed to ensure compliance with European standards, national regulations, and internal metadata protocols. In parallel, 53 standardised metadata and quality reports were compiled and reviewed and are scheduled for publication on the designated metadata platform.

The process of updating documentation in line with the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) was initiated for 36 domains, ensuring that the necessary input is collected from all production units. These initiatives form a key component of the NSO's modernisation strategy, aimed at strengthening transparency and enhancing data quality.

Sampling

Standardised methodologies were applied to draw a total of 21 representative samples for both social and business surveys, ensuring compliance with European precision requirements and accurate population coverage. A new sampling framework for individual and household surveys was also implemented, incorporating response burden indicators to support rotational sampling and integrating updated contact information to improve survey efficiency and reduce response burden.

Workshops

Effort was also dedicated to the 'Power Hour' workshops launched throughout the year following an internal consultation process. These sessions, targeted at NSO staff, were designed to strengthen staff capabilities and support professional development. Two workshops were successfully delivered, focusing on Presentation and Public Speaking Skills and on the SPSA Transformation Project.

Additional Work Carried Out

The process of statistical data disclosure control – through which personal and business survey data are checked for confidentiality prior to dissemination – was automated and implemented in Python. This automation streamlined the application of existing methodologies and enabled the Unit to meet the growing demand for anonymised datasets for research purposes, which totalled 13 over the year.

5.4 DATA COLLECTION

Objectives for 2025

- Oversee the collection, verification, and coding of social surveys.
- Support external organisations with specific research projects.
- Recruit field officers and deliver training in personal interviewing techniques.
- Develop a set of standard operating procedures for major projects.

Work Carried Out

Collection and verification of NSO surveys

A total of seven internal surveys were conducted, comprising more than 34,000 interviews. Fieldwork for the main project – the 2024 Household Budget Survey, officially launched in October 2024 and designed to run over a 52-week period – was completed in December 2025. Other key NSO surveys included the: Labour Force Survey, Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, ICT in Households Survey, National Tourism Survey, Omnibus Survey, and the Consumer Purchases Survey. All data were collected electronically via laptop, tablet, or telephone and coded according to pre-established classifications.

Collection and verification of third-party surveys

- The European Health Interview Survey 2025 done on behalf of the Department of Health Information and Research;
- A survey conducted with participants in European Social Fund projects for the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division.

Support was provided through ongoing coordination and liaison with these parties on various aspects, including timelines, service contracts, questionnaire design (undertaken by the Methodology and Quality Unit), delivery of outputs (such as statistical tables, anonymised microdata for research purposes, reports produced and invoicing). For these ad hoc projects, data were collected using different methodologies to meet the specific requirements of each initiative.

Recruitment and training of casual field officers

Recruitment and training of casual field officers and auditors were carried out continuously throughout the year to meet the operational demands of the Office. The recruitment process involved screening and interviewing prospective candidates to assess their competencies and soft skills, including communication and organisational abilities, and their suitability for fieldwork and data collection tasks.

Prior to the launch of each project, newly recruited Survey Interviewers received comprehensive training aimed at strengthening their understanding of survey objectives, data collection methodologies, work practices, and ethical standards. The training covered key areas such as the use of data collection tools (tablets and dedicated software), questionnaire content, interviewing techniques, respondent engagement, informed consent procedures (particularly for surveys involving minors), data quality assurance, information security, and confidentiality requirements.

Development of Standard Operating Procedures documenting data collection processes

Assistance was also provided to the Data Processing Unit in the development and documentation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that formally outline the Unit's work processes. DCU staff contributed by supplying on-the-job evidence of the operational tasks, processes, and tools used in their day-to-day work. The SOPs are designed to serve multiple purposes, including supporting the training of new recruits, promoting consistency and efficiency in work practices, and providing a reference framework for internal reviews and compliance audits.

5.5 DATA PROCESSING

Objectives for 2025

- Validate all primary social data collected by the NSO.
- Provide technical support during fieldwork and prepare methodological reports.
- Develop a set of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for major projects.
- Serve as the central hub for receiving administrative data.
- Implement data pseudonymisation across relevant domains.
- Catalogue all data sources and conduct regular updates of a centralised Data Inventory.

Work Carried Out

Data validation activities, preparation of data collection tool requirements and testing documentation

Data validation logic, criteria, and test case documentation were developed to support the systematic testing of IT applications across nine centralised data collection projects, including the:

- Labour Force Survey;
- Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC);
- Household Budget Survey (HBS);
- Survey on Information and Communication Technology usage in households and by individuals;
- Consumer Purchases Survey;
- National Tourism Survey;
- Omnibus Survey;
- European Health Interview Survey;
- Survey for participants in ESF+ funded projects.

An in-depth review of existing data collection applications was undertaken to reverse engineer IT requirements, address documentation gaps, and ensure alignment with survey questionnaires. Data processing activities were carried out for all projects and included data cleaning, routing and consistency checks, assessment of item non-response, data labelling, and the sampling of survey cases for audit purposes.

Technical support provided during and after fieldwork

Technical support was provided across multiple surveys through the analysis of collected data by key demographic variables, identification of atypical response patterns, interviewer bias, and irregular questionnaire flow, enabling timely mitigation during fieldwork. Benchmarking activities for periodic surveys, such as the National Tourism and Consumer Purchases Surveys, informed decisions on questionnaire refinement to improve clarity and revised collection patterns to capture seasonality. Expenditure data from the HBS was monitored and analysed by expenditure categories to support ongoing fieldwork.

Methodological reporting was also prepared for the Omnibus Survey as well as the Survey for participants in ESF+ funded projects, providing the commissioning third party with structured information on survey design, data collection, response rates, error estimation, and guidance for interpreting results.

Development of Standard Operating Procedures documenting data collection processes

The data collection process for two main surveys was documented in a SOP, in collaboration with the Data Collection Unit. This served a dual purpose: business continuity and a basis for improving process efficiency. In addition, a separate SOP was developed to formally document the pseudonymisation process, strengthening business continuity and standardisation within the Data Processing Unit.

Centralisation of the Collection of Administrative Data

Preparatory work was undertaken to support the future centralisation of administrative data, focusing on organisational, legal, and technical readiness. This included coordination with the Legal Unit, consultations with domain units to map the use of administrative data sources, and preliminary discussions on technical solutions for secure data sharing and the subsequent transition towards centralised data storage, laying the groundwork for future implementation.

Pseudonymisation and Data Inventory Management

Pseudonymisation of data files was completed across all relevant domains. A comprehensive database was developed to consolidate information on all NSO data sources, supported by a review of Memoranda of Understanding. Automated processes using SQL and SharePoint were implemented to publish a dynamic Data Inventory on the NSO intranet, cataloguing available data sources. An additional automated process streamlined unit-specific data inventory reviews and updates, improving efficiency and coverage. The database was further enhanced through mapping of data source usage across units, providing a robust evidence base for future administrative data centralisation initiatives.

Additional Work Carried Out

Additional support was provided to other horizontal units through contributions aimed at improving the efficiency of the data audit process, alongside a comprehensive review and the enhancement of the SILC questionnaire. At an international level, knowledge-sharing exchanges were conducted with other national statistical institutes, focusing on pseudonymisation, administrative data centralisation, and tools for questionnaire development and testing.

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CORPORATE SERVICES

6.1 HUMAN RESOURCES AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Objectives for 2025

- Draft or review and update HR policies and procedures in line with new Collective Agreement.
- Implementation of a new policy aimed at strengthening NSO's Performance Management Programme (PMP).
- Conduct a comprehensive skills gap analysis and implement a training strategy plan for all NSO employees based on a refreshed skills analysis performed during 2024. The strategy should also encompass job shadowing initiatives in all units.
- Support staff well-being initiatives by collaborating with the Staff Social Committee (SSC) on organised activities.
- Ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements by maintaining accurate and secure personal files, including records of vacation leave, sick leave, and other staff-related data.
- Draft a report on the results of the Staff Satisfaction Survey 2024, including a list of proposals and/or recommendations.
- Coordinate and implement Employee Induction Experience seminars for both new and intermediate NSO members of staff.
- Intensify recruitment efforts across all employment streams, including full-time employees, casual part-time officers, and interns.
- Enhance the features for better user experience of the Human Resources Information System (HRIS).

Work Carried Out

Review of HR policies and procedures

During 2025, 29 interviewing sessions were held, through which 31 new recruits joined the NSO in the following grades:

- Senior Administrative Executive: 1;
- Statistician/Statistical Officer: 13;
- Administration Officer 5: 3;
- Survey Interviewer: 4;
- Intern: 10.

All recruits attended an induction and onboarding session on their first day of employment. Additionally, the Oath of Secrecy was administered to them. Moreover, two employees retired from their service with the Office. These were presented with a memento to commemorate the occasion during the NSO end-of-year Awards Night.

During 2025, 15 staff members resigned from their positions in the following grades:

- Manager: 1;
- Principal Statistical Officer: 1;
- Senior Statistical Officer: 2;
- Statistical Officer: 3;

- Administration Officer 5: 3;
- Intern: 4;
- Survey Interviewer: 1.

Recruitment for Key Vacant Positions

Key vacancies within various NSO units were identified in collaboration with senior management. Priority was given to roles critical to operational efficiency and service delivery. Recruitment campaigns were planned and executed, utilising a variety of channels, including job boards, social media, and professional networks like LinkedIn. Efforts were made to attract candidates whose qualifications and experience matched the job descriptions while enhancing the NSO's reputation as an employer of choice. Certain recruitment processes included structured interviews and test scenarios, which allowed the NSO to secure high-quality hires efficiently and effectively. The HR team also developed and coordinated a streamlined recruitment process for casual field officers, ensuring it was efficient, scalable, and tailored to the NSO's operational demands.

Moreover, during this two-year plan, the HR Unit structured an internship program which was designed and implemented to attract high-potential talent from the University of Malta, MCAST or other training institutes. Interns were given meaningful projects and paired with mentors to gain a clear understanding of the NSO's operations. This initiative successfully addressed future recruitment needs by creating a pipeline of trained and qualified candidates familiar with the NSO's objectives.

Introduction of induction meetings for new recruits and intermediate members of staff

Quarterly induction sessions were introduced for newly recruited staff and intermediate members of staff, offering an overview of the NSO's structure and an introduction to the work of various units and directorates beyond their own. These sessions promoted organisational integration and supported a smoother onboarding experience.

Drafting and review of HR policies and procedures

As part of its ongoing commitment to strengthen governance and internal frameworks, the HR Unit drafted and reviewed a number of HR policies and procedures during the year. This included the presentation and publication of the PMP Policy, as well as the publication of the Internship Programme Policy, and the presentation of a Professional Development, Sponsorship and Study Leave Policy and a Policy on Drug and Alcohol Abuse. In addition, the Alternative Working Arrangements Policy was reviewed to ensure alignment with current operational needs and best practices.

Skills Gap Analysis and Strategy Plan

The HR Unit developed and presented a comprehensive Training Strategy Plan aimed at aligning employee capabilities with organisational needs. The process began with the identification and mapping of existing employee skillsets against the competencies required by middle management. This exercise enabled the HR Unit to conduct a skills gap analysis, the findings of which were presented to the NSO Director General in the form of a detailed report highlighting priority training areas. One key outcome of this analysis was the identified need for Python programming skills among staff. In response, the HR Unit sourced a specialised trainer and coordinated the implementation of a tailored training programme, scheduled to be delivered in Q2 of 2026.

Continuous training

The HR Unit collaborated with external training suppliers to organise a number of technical training sessions for NSO management staff. Indeed, the HR Unit facilitated two leadership workshops titled “The Mindful Leader” and “The Power of Emotional Intelligence in Leadership”. The HR Unit also assisted the Information Security Unit with the organisation of the mandatory training sessions on Information Security.

Human Resources Information System

During 2025, the Unit worked on improving the HRIS and on automated processes to improve the user experience and simplify HR processes. Enhancements were made to the existing PMP system, allowing the appraiser to upload supporting documentation in the appraisee’s dashboard. These documents are automatically appended to the PMP form when printed, providing a more comprehensive and contextualised view of individual performance. Moreover, both appraisers and confirming appraisers now have the ability to generate an audit report for any objective changes through the Performance Appraisal menu.

Moreover, in collaboration with the Information Technology Systems Unit, the HR team designed and rolled out a digital system for the management of overtime sheets. The new platform automates the overtime approval workflow and ensures that records are retained electronically, reducing manual processing and enhancing traceability.

NSO Staff Satisfaction Survey

The HR Unit drafted and presented a report on the Staff Satisfaction Survey conducted between December 2024 and January 2025 titled “Your Voice Matters”. The findings provided valuable insights into staff perceptions and informed the formulation of targeted actions to address identified areas for improvement.

GDPR Compliance and Records Maintenance

Personal staff files were updated regularly to ensure compliance with GDPR requirements. Sensitive employee information, including vacation and sick leave records, were also securely maintained. A digital record-keeping system on both Dakar and OneDrive was implemented, streamlining processes and ensuring accuracy and accessibility while maintaining confidentiality.

The Staff Social Committee

The HR Unit actively supported staff well-being by organising and participating in activities led by the SSC. Initiatives included a team-building Scavenger Hunt, simple internal food catering sales, a summer night gathering, and the end-of-year NSO Awards Night event. On average, 150 employees attended and participated in the SSC events throughout the 2025. Furthermore, ample staff members provided suggestions and ideas for future events, which the SSC is committed to organise and keep up accordingly.

Additional Work Carried Out*Collective Agreement Arrears calculation and renumeration*

The HR Unit undertook the calculation and disbursement of arrears emanating from the implementation of the new Collective Agreement. This exercise ensured the timely and accurate remuneration of employees in line with the updated salary structures and entitlements.

Probationary Review Processes

A standardised probationary review process was established to support new employees during their initial months at the NSO. Feedback sessions and regular check-ins were conducted to identify areas for improvement and provide necessary support. This process enhanced the retention rate of new recruits by addressing potential challenges early and fostering a supportive and development-focused work environment.

NSO Employee Experience Meetings

Eight in-depth employee experience meetings were conducted with employees in their third year at the NSO to gain insights into their experiences, challenges, and long-term aspirations. These interviews provided valuable feedback, enabling the HR team and the Corporate Services Directorate to address employee concerns on the spot, enhance a retention strategy, and produce a more engaged workforce.

6.2 PROCUREMENT, SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Objectives for 2025

- Undertake procurement processes that are within the Unit's remit.
- Provide logistical support to NSO units, including travel, and related expenditures, in connection with overseas meetings.
- Prepare a refurbishment/renovation time plan for NSO HQ.
- Maintain and upgrade the Office's assets and premises.
- Maintain and continue to develop the Voice over Internet Protocol telecommunication system.

Work Carried Out

NSO Premises

In 2025, the Unit worked on the refurbishment of the new Regional Office in Ghajnsielem, Gozo. The works mostly consisted of embellishments to the Gozo Conference Room. Regarding the NSO's Malta office, during the year under review, the Unit was involved in discussions with architects and lift engineers about the planned restoration and renovation works. These discussions are expected to result in updated and actual NSO Valletta survey plans. Works are scheduled to be carried out in 2026.

Procurement support and logistical services

During 2025, the Unit provided support to the Office in terms of all procurement below €10,000, including: issuance of Calls for Quotations such as those related to the *Directeurs Généraux des Instituts Nationaux Statistiques* (DGINS) Conference 2027, petty cash purchases, as well as logistical support to all units in carrying out their work. This mainly included the supply of stationery and any other consumable items, uniforms (where applicable), transport and deliveries, travel abroad, and telecommunication. Furthermore, the Unit worked on replacing the seven-seater internal combustion engine vehicle with an eight-seater electric vehicle.

In addition, the Unit administered the Office's premises, including the physical security in both the Malta and Gozo offices, asset management and maintenance, and the secure shredding of and disposal of documents. It was also responsible for maintaining the telephony and other communication services.

Training Abroad

During the year under review a total of four training initiatives were undertaken all of which required physical attendance. The Unit handled the arrangements to enable participation by notifying staff members of invitations and completing the required documentation.

Table 1. Foreign Training – Physical and Virtual: 2025

ESTP courses and other training	Physical participants	Virtual participants	% of Total
CREI Training Course	1	0	12.50
ESTP Course: Artificial Intelligence Machine and Statistical Learning	1	0	12.50
Study Visit: Signs of Life EU	4	0	50.00
ESTP Course: Government Finance Statistics and Excessive Deficit Procedure	2	0	25.00
Total 2025	8	0	100.00

EU and International meetings

The Unit secured flights, booked accommodation, and procured travel insurance for staff who attended conferences, seminars, fora, EU Council meetings, working groups, workshops, and other events. Furthermore, in 2025 the first draft of The Policy on Travel Abroad was finalised.

Physical participants amounted to 149, with a corresponding 303 meeting days and 534 business days. Based on the 149 physical attendances, the average duration of a meeting in terms of meeting days was 2.03 days, whereas in terms of business days it was 3.58 days. Moreover 51 participants attended virtual meetings, with a corresponding 73 business days.

Table 2a. International Physical Meetings

Participation by function	2024			2025		
	Physical participants	Physical meeting days	Physical business days	Physical participants	Physical meeting days	Physical business days
Management Team	73	149	256	89	187	328
Statisticians, AO5s & Principal Business Analyst	38	77	135	47	97	176
Executive Staff	0	0	0	13	19	30
Total	111	226	391	149	303	534
<i>Description by type</i>						
Conferences, Seminars, Forums, Summits and Discussions	15	36	58	18	51	80
Expert Groups, High Level and Task Force Meetings	50	103	175	60	117	214
Study Visits and Training	1	3	5	8	28	44
Working Groups/Parties and Workshops	45	84	153	63	107	196
Total	111	226	391	149	303	534
<i>Distribution by month</i>						
January	4	6	8	3	4	9
February	8	20	36	6	12	20
March	6	14	25	27	64	112
April	13	27	48	13	24	40
May	18	33	57	13	21	42
June	20	45	71	23	50	93
July	3	4	8	7	15	29
August	0	0	0	2	8	10
September	3	6	11	7	17	29
October	18	37	65	22	40	68
November	10	20	36	15	28	46
December	8	14	26	11	20	36

Table 2b. International Virtual Meetings

Participation by function	2024			2025		
	Virtual participants	Virtual meeting days	Virtual business days	Virtual participants	Virtual meeting days	Virtual business days
Management Team	8	14	14	19	30	30
Statisticians, AO5s & Principal Business Analyst	12	10	10	32	43	43
Executive Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	20	24	24	51	73	73
<i>Description by type</i>						
Conferences, Seminars, Forums, Summits and Discussions	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expert Groups, High Level and Task Force Meetings	10	12	12	34	47	47
Study Visits and Training	0	0	0	0	0	0
Working Groups/Parties and Workshops	10	12	12	17	26	26
Total	20	24	24	51	73	73
<i>Distribution by month</i>						
January	1	1	1	0	0	0
February	2	1	1	0	0	0
March	3	5	5	0	0	0
April	1	2	2	1	2	2
May	0	0	0	11	18	18
June	6	8	8	3	3	3
July	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	2	2	2	5	6	6
October	2	2	2	4	8	8
November	3	3	3	22	31	31
December	0	0	0	5	5	5

Travel Expenditure

The Unit managed and recorded travel-related expenditures including, but not limited to, airfares, *per diem* allowances, travel insurance. In addition, the Unit completed and submitted travel documentation post-participation, facilitating the recuperation of travel funding by the Office. Although the NSO is reimbursed by the EU Commission for participation at Eurostat technical meetings, it still contributes a proportion of its budget, mainly in terms of subsistence allowance and insurance. In 2025, total travel expenditure comprising airfares, accommodation, subsistence allowance, insurance, and other related expenses amounted to approximately €160,715. The Office contributed €96,282 in terms of *per diem* expenses, relative to 380 travel nights, while insurance expenditure amounted to €6,116 for the 149 persons travelling.

Table 3a. Travel Expenditure: Comparative Analysis

Month	<i>Per diem</i>		Travel		Insurance		Total Cost	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
	January	1,136.20	1,840.00	969.74	936.00	170.00	127.50	2,275.94
February	6,048.00	2,827.00	3,528.42	1,869.00	411.50	212.50	9,987.92	4,908.50
March	4,790.46	22,484.00	2,993.00	10,960.87	255.00	1,183.00	8,038.46	34,627.87
April	8,521.22	7,270.52	4,569.00	5,313.00	552.50	555.50	13,642.72	13,139.02
May	9,773.35	6,896.60	6,206.00	4,877.00	680.00	510.00	16,659.35	12,283.60
June	12,740.22	16,610.68	5,980.67	10,538.00	722.50	850.00	19,443.39	27,998.68
July	1,203.96	6,659.00	1,183.00	4,058.00	127.50	297.50	2,514.46	11,014.50
August	0.00	2,400.00	0.00	1,396.00	0.00	85.00	0.00	3,881.00
September	1,771.86	4,675.65	1,210.00	2,209.00	127.50	297.50	3,109.36	7,182.15
October	9,905.62	10,625.40	6,557.50	7,771.00	637.50	935.00	17,100.62	19,331.40
November	5,612.60	8,604.80	3,877.00	4,701.00	425.00	595.00	9,914.60	13,900.80
December	3,672.66	5,388.80	4,781.25	3,688.00	340.00	467.50	8,793.91	9,544.30
Total	65,176.15	96,282.45	41,855.58	58,316.87	4,449.00	6,116.00	111,480.73	160,715.32

Note: Includes weekends and public holidays.

Table 3b. Other Travel Details: Comparative Analysis

Month	<i>Per diem</i> nights		Travel trips		No. of persons insured	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
January	4	6	5	3	4	3
February	28	11	9	6	8	6
March	19	82	9	27	6	27
April	35	27	14	13	13	13
May	41	30	18	13	18	13
June	53	70	25	23	20	23
July	5	22	3	7	3	7
August	0	8	0	2	0	2
September	8	22	4	7	3	7
October	47	46	20	22	18	22
November	26	32	12	15	10	15
December	18	24	8	11	8	11
Total	284	380	127	149	111	149

Note: Includes weekends and public holidays.

6.3 HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT MANAGEMENT

Objectives for 2025

- Chair the Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Employee Committee and convene regular meetings.
- Update the Occupational Health and Safety report for the Valletta, Gozo, and Malta International Airport offices, incorporating environmental considerations and comprehensive risk assessments.
- Conduct fire drills and provision of safety training.
- Initiation of a Disaster Recovery Plan for the NSO.
- Initiate the systematic transfer of archival files to the National Archives of Malta, starting with records from 1986, while continuing the digitisation project, including scanning legacy registry files and clearing the machine room.
- Manage daily cleaning and security services provided by third-party contractors.

Work Carried Out

Health, Safety and Environment

The HSE Employee Committee convened quarterly to address staff well-being and workplace safety. Informational circulars on Alzheimer's and Dementia were distributed to all employees, and a mobility questionnaire was conducted to assess accessibility needs.

Well-being of staff

In collaboration with the Human Resources and Staff Development Unit, all matters concerning employee well-being were managed with strict confidentiality. The NSO successfully concluded the third year of its partnership with the Richmond Foundation, providing anonymous and confidential support services, which received positive feedback and significant uptake among staff. During 2025, a total of 96 sessions were delivered across the three levels, comprising four Level 1 (First assessment), eight Level 2 sessions (focused on emotional support), and 84 Level 3 (providing individual counselling). The overall cost for these services amounted to €5,090, reflecting the organisation's ongoing commitment to fostering a supportive and resilient workforce. Additional NGOs were engaged as required to address specific needs. Following the results of the Well-being Survey, and the drafting of a report, a three-year plan including recommendations was approved by the MSA in December 2025. The Unit also contributed to the development of the Drug and Alcohol Policy and the Mobile Device and Remote Working Policy.

Evacuation Plan and Disaster Recovery Plan

During 2025 two evacuation drills were conducted at the Valletta and Ghajnsielem offices respectively. A draft Disaster Recovery Plan has been finalised and submitted to the Information Security Unit for review.

Digitisation Project

The Unit and established taskforce continued testing the Electronic Data Management System and presented findings to Senior Management for feasibility assessment. Registry files from 1986, 1987 and 1988 were transferred to the National Archives in compliance with the National Archives Act (Cap. 477), following a verification and scanning procedure. This process will continue in 2026 to complete the clearance of the legacy registry files.

Management of the NSO's premises and security

The Unit maintained ongoing coordination with service providers to ensure the security of all NSO premises and efficient management of reception areas. Additionally, the Unit supervised cleaning and maintenance services across all locations.

6.4 COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

Objectives for 2025

- Ensure that the re-branding goals are retained and identify opportunities for continued enhancements.
- Continuous monitoring of the NSO website for improvements to ensure it remains effective, engaging, and aligned with the NSO's goals.
- Ensure adherence to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) Plus and enhance the existing datasets with the inclusion of any additional indicators proposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Promote data literacy with a focus on the younger generation, in particular through participation in the European Statistics Competition.
- Undertake processes to improve disseminated products: news releases, publications, and data visualisations.
- Enhance the new intranet portal and induce improvement in internal communication.
- Maintain a good relationship with stakeholders and set up a media committee to assist the NSO identify areas for improvement and enhance the presentation of data to our audiences.
- Reorganise and administer library collection and related services.
- Populate the new online database, facilitating access to meaningful statistics for all our users.
- Improve social media presence.
- Translate statistical products into Maltese and create a Statistical Glossary featuring a list of statistical terms.
- Create and implement a marketing campaign, also tailored for individuals with a foreign background, with the aim of raising awareness, fostering trust and increasing their response rate to our surveys.

Work Carried Out

Rebranding Project

Although the NSO's new branding was officially unveiled in April 2023, the Unit continued working to ensure that the new image was consistently maintained across the Office.

The new NSO website and the initiative to promote data literacy also formed part of the rebranding project. While several improvements were implemented at the introduction stage of the new website, further opportunities for enhancement were identified subsequent to this process. With a new website administrator joining the Unit, a number of upgrades were carried out, including – but not limited to – the introduction of online data portals to replace traditional publications, the development of an inflation calculator, the inclusion of widgets in pages of online news releases to provide users with easier access to related information, the resolution of issues with the online payment system in the online request form, and the conversion of all graphs to HTML, thereby eliminating previous limitations on chart types in news releases, as well as other enhancements.

During 2025, the Unit continued collaborating with the IT Systems unit to integrate all data pertaining to high-value datasets. Additionally, two in-house educational videos on business registers and GIS statistics were created and shared with schools and on social media platforms.

SDDS Plus Dissemination Standard

The Unit ensured that adherence to the SDDS was retained. This was complemented by the inclusion of the remaining indicators proposed under the IMF's tenth review.

European Statistics Competition 2025/2026

The NSO joined the European Statistics Competition for the academic year 2025/2026 with the main aim of promoting data literacy among the younger generation. The competition consists of two phases: the National phase and the European phase. This will be the second time that the Office will be organising the National phase of this competition. For the national phase, the Unit retained its distinct identity called the 'Data Smackdown' Competition, complete with a mascot. A promotional campaign was planned and executed by the Unit. This included the creation of a new video. Preparatory work took place in 2025, but the competition will commence with the first assignment in January 2026. Promotion was carried out via television, school transport vans, milk cartons, social media, school visits, direct communication with individual schools, and participation in Junior College Freshers' Week.

Dissemination and Communication

The Unit plays a major role in the dissemination of news releases and statistical publications. In 2025, a total of 240 news releases, two publications and three internal reports were produced in collaboration with the respective domain units. In addition, three online data portals were launched to replace the Regional, Transport, and Social Security Benefits publications. In contrast to printed matter, these portals allow data to be kept up to date, enable more timely dissemination of new information, facilitate easy downloading of data in Excel format, and feature animated charts. Moreover, for each news release, a banner was produced, which was then shared on social media. The full list of news releases is shown in Annex 1, and the list of publications is presented in Annex 2. The Unit continued producing infographics, with 36 visuals and three animations being produced in 2025, focusing on the production of high-quality and standardised products. Additionally, the Unit collaborated internally for the design and production of posters, including vacancy posters and the creation of internal information security videos. Six Statistical Insights articles and one Statistical paper were also published.

Furthermore, the Unit managed internal communication and the Intranet. In 2025, the Unit continued enhancing the usefulness of the Intranet, creating further internal Teams channels linked to the NSO Intranet to facilitate internal communication. Also, the shelving of books continued. Once completed, the catalogue will be reviewed and verified.

As part of its responsibilities, the Unit monitored media coverage to identify and address any inaccuracies in journalists' use of NSO data. In collaboration with the IT Systems Unit, a web-scraping tool was developed for a media outlet to support this activity, improving efficiency and reducing manual effort. Subject to obtaining the necessary consent, similar web-scraping solutions will be implemented for additional news portals in the future.

Public Relations and social media presence

During 2025, the Unit handled 495 requests which were either submitted through the NSO's online request form or

received through the Unit's generic email address. A database was established to record all requests received from various sources, thereby facilitating internal coordination.

In addition, a plan was developed to revamp the NSO's social media presence. Efforts are being explored to increase reach among the general public and grow the number of followers. As part of this initiative, the use of stories to complement posts was introduced, alongside a more human-centred approach to content. A comprehensive plan has been put in place for implementation in 2026.

Furthermore, a user satisfaction survey was conducted and distributed to stakeholders via email, published on the NSO website, shared across social media channels, and sent by SMS to 2,000 randomly selected numbers. A report analysing the survey results was subsequently prepared and published.

Maltese Translations

Translation into Maltese continued for all news releases, press information notices, social media posts, and the NSO website. Moreover, work on the Statistical Glossary in Maltese continued, with the compilation of statistical terms for inclusion starting in 2024.

Promotional campaigns

In 2025, a series of in-house videos featuring NSO staff was produced, focusing on why users can trust the NSO and how the data shared with the Office are handled. This campaign marked the beginning of a broader trust-building communication initiative. During the same year, planning also commenced for a promotional campaign aimed at foreigners residing in Malta, with the objective of raising awareness about the importance of their contribution to NSO statistics.

Furthermore, internal discussions were held regarding the establishment of a media committee, together with the new communication officer who joined the Unit in December. The purpose of this committee is to identify aspects of the Office's News Releases that stakeholders may find lacking or complex. The terms of reference for the media committee were drawn up, an online application form was drafted, and the invitation finalised. However, the setting up of this committee had to be postponed following the lateral movement of the communication officer from the Unit in early 2025, and it is now planned to be established in 2026.

Additional Work Carried Out

In addition to its planned tasks, during 2025, the Unit actively participated in the taskforce overseeing preparations for the *Directeurs Généraux des Instituts Nationaux Statistiques* (DGINS) Conference planned for October 2027. To date, the event venue has been confirmed, meetings have been held with several audiovisual service providers, and the evening events have been planned and secured.

Moreover, a users' conference was organised in collaboration with the Central Management Unit, with the Unit responsible for the venue, webpage, registrations, and promotion of the conference.

7

FINANCE

7 BUDGET, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

During the reporting year, the Budget, Financial Management and Control Unit continued to play a central role in ensuring sound financial governance, effective budgetary planning, and strict financial control within the organisation. Throughout the year, the Unit strengthened its financial control mechanisms by regularly reviewing commitments and interview payments. Directors were also kept more up to date through the provision of timely and reliable financial information for their respective directorates. Continuous monitoring of expenditure contributed to improved cost control, transparency, and accountability.

In addition, the Unit coordinated and oversaw procurement and tendering processes in line with public procurement regulations. This included the preparation of tender documentation, evaluation of bids, contract awards, and ongoing financial monitoring of awarded contracts.

Objectives for 2025

- Draft and coordinate tenders and procurement processes.
- Assist the Human Resources and Staff Development Unit in the calculation of salary arrears.
- Issue payments to households for their participation in the Household Budget Survey.
- Audit payments to household and casual survey interviewers and maintain up to date contracts.
- Liaise with the domain Units on EU grants, making sure records are updated and sent to Eurostat, and manage Financial Statements in connection with Grants.
- Maintain up-to-date accounting records and bank statements, and analyse salaries, travel, and overtime expenditure on a quarterly basis to ensure effective control.
- Prepare the annual budget plan, monthly Management Accounts and financial statements for external audits.
- Submit financial reports, VAT returns, requests for funds, and financial questionnaires to the Ministry for Finance.

Work Carried Out

Tenders and Quotations Processes

The Framework Contract for the Provision of General/Preventive Maintenance (Handyman) Service at the MSA was published in June 2025. Following the evaluation process, the contract was awarded and signed with the successful bidder in October 2025. In parallel, quotations were obtained for the supply of bathroom tiles and sanitaryware. Meetings were held with the contractor to discuss the proposed work plan and the way forward. However, the execution of the refurbishment works is scheduled to commence in 2026.

Additional procurement-related work included the preparation and submission of requests for Direct Orders to the MSA Board and the Ministry for Finance, in cases where the value of the Direct Order exceeded €10,000. The following Direct Orders were requested and approved by the Ministry for Finance during 2025:

- Enhancement and five-year maintenance to the Balance of Payments Infostat system to be carried out by Banca d'Italia;
- Provision of HR Outsourcing and Temping Services for two Administrative Officers for a period of six months, to support survey coordination for the Household Budget Survey, awarded to MISCO;
- Hotel reservation for the *Directeurs Généraux des Instituts Nationaux Statistiques* (DGINS) Conference 2027 and European Statistical System Committee meetings to be held in Malta in 2027 contracted with the Hilton hotel;
- Delivery of a specialised training programme in Python for NSO employees, conducted by Mr Christian Kauth.

In addition, the MSA Board approved the following Direct Orders:

- Organisation of two social events in connection with the DGINS 2027, to be held at Villa Bighi and Casino Maltese;
- Retainer agreements for Dr Chris Vella as the MSA Board's Legal Consultant and Prof. Vincent Cassar as Chairperson of the Performance Advisory Board;
- Provision of consultancy services by Mr David Spiteri Gingell;
- Consultancy Services on EU-SILC technical challenges and quality limitations, awarded to Profs. Gianni Betti.

A comprehensive list of quotations, tenders and direct orders was published bi-annually in the Government Gazette, in accordance with the relevant Circular. This publication, together with the required report, was also submitted to the Department of Contracts and the Ministry for Finance and Employment.

Collective Agreement Negotiations

Following a series of meetings, the Collective Agreement negotiations for junior staff were successfully concluded, and the agreement was signed in the first quarter of 2025. Salary arrears dating back to 1 January 2023 were calculated in collaboration with the Human Resources and Staff Development Unit, and the outstanding payments were disbursed with the April salary. Although the calculations were complex and time-consuming, the process was carried out smoothly, with excellent coordination between the two units.

Furthermore, discussions regarding the Managerial Stream package commenced during 2025 and are expected to be concluded in 2026.

Upkeep of Contracts and Audits of Payments

During 2025, the Unit audited all survey-related payments prior to their issuance by the Human Resources unit to interviewers. In addition, the Unit audited all interviewer payments related to the Household Budget Survey and issued all payments to the participating households.

The Unit serves as the primary point for all agreements signed with third parties, including contracts with service providers engaged by the NSO and agreements with external entities requesting survey services. Following review by the Legal

Unit, the Unit coordinates with the MSA Secretariat for the signing of contracts by the Chairperson. Once signed, contracts are forwarded to the respective third party and hard copies are duly filed.

During the year, the Unit also assumed responsibility for verifying and issuing quotations to third parties for externally commissioned surveys in collaboration with the Data Collection Unit.

European Commission Grants

In 2025, the NSO successfully secured eight new grants from the European Commission. Moreover, the NSO also joined forces with Statistics Denmark, becoming a project partner for an additional grant. These awards amount to a total funding allocation of €563,179, to be implemented and finalised over the coming years. A detailed breakdown of these grants is provided in Table 1, below.

Table 1. European Commission Grants received in 2025

Description of grant	Total cost of project	NSO contribution	€
			EU contribution
ESC Competition	62,171	0	62,171
LFS 2026 module	77,214	7,721	69,493
Integrated Farm Statistics (IFS) 2026	24,725	0	24,725
Digitisation Grants	55,248	0	55,248
Use of Plant Protection Products 2026 Data Collection	48,222	2,411	45,811
PPP Data Collection 2026	150,415	0	150,415
Improving Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP)	102,870	0	102,870
Methodological, quality and transmission improvements to ESA2010 and BPM6 data and execution of GNI cycle	29,422	0	29,422
New/Experimental statistics in the area of globalisation or other policy priority areas for businesses	25,582	2,558	23,024
Total			563,179

Furthermore, during the year, 10 grant-funded projects were successfully concluded (Table 2). As a result, the NSO received €515,355 in European Union funding from these completed projects.

Table 2. Grant-funded projects concluded in 2025

Description of grant	EU contribution
Integrated Farm Statistics (IFS) 2023	25,000
Improving Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices	47,377
Statistics on the usage of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) 2023-24	52,369
Real Estate Statistics	76,927
Further improving the quality and methodological infrastructure of NA in the field of GNI	45,111
PPP data collection 2024	67,789
Registers, micro-data linking and MNEs in business statistics	53,903
Timelier, more relevant and more integrated European Business Statistics	8,596
Modernisation of Agriculture Statistics compiling fertiliser sales and use data	58,685
Labour domain - LFS statistical infrastructure under IESS - LFS 2024 module - ICSE-18 testing	79,598
Total	515,355

Budget Plan and Monthly Management Accounts

The Ministry for Finance requires the submission of a detailed Business and Financial Plan on an annual basis, covering the subsequent three-year period. This plan is to be submitted to the Budget Office by April of each year. During 2025, the Business and Financial Plan covering the year. Table 3 below illustrates all the funds received from the Central Government for 2025. However, an additional amount of €355,435 relating to Household Budget Survey expenditure, had not been reimbursed by the end of the year.

Table 3. Management of Funds

	Actual 2025
Subvention	8,300,000
Statistical programmes	998,342
Household Budgetary Survey	644,565
Malta Statistics Authority secretariat	170,000
Malta Statistics Authority (Gozo office)	351,658
Income from Government	10,464,565
Capital Votes:	
Upgrading of IT and re-engineering plan	200,000
IT related expenses	250,000
Property, plant and equipment (NSO)	150,000
Property, plant and equipment (MSA)	50,000
Income from Capital Votes	650,000

Moreover, management accounts are prepared monthly, and the Income and Expenditure Account is also submitted monthly through the Financial Data Reporting System. Additionally, a detailed Statement of Financial Position and quarterly employment report are submitted through the same system on a quarterly basis.

External Financial Audit and other Financial Reports

The final Financial Statements for 2024 were prepared in January 2025 and submitted to the external auditors for their review and opinion. The external auditors presented their findings to the MSA Board at the end of March, and the audited Financial Statements were approved during the same Board meeting. These Financial Statements were subsequently tabled in Parliament.

The Unit prepared several financial reports for both internal and external use. At the beginning of the year, the final actual Cashflow for 2024 and the budgeted Cashflow for 2025 were submitted to the Ministry for Finance. Thereafter, on a quarterly basis, an updated Cashflow statement, together with details of actual expenditure incurred against government votes, was submitted to the Ministry for Finance to request the subvention for the subsequent quarter and the reimbursement of funds from other votes.

Furthermore, VAT Returns were prepared, and any VAT due was paid on a quarterly basis. Internal reports to monitor travel and overtime expenditure were updated every quarter and circulated to the respective Director, highlighting any discrepancies from the approved budget.

The thorough operational procedures were formally recognised, as the MSA was awarded the Best Practice in Good Governance Award during the year. The award acknowledged the Authority's robust internal controls, comprehensive documentation, and well-maintained supporting evidence for each transaction audited by the National Audit Office during the Finance and Compliance Audit conducted in 2024.



8

ANNEX

Table A1. News Releases published in 2025

Number	Release name	Date of publication
1	Unemployment Rate: November 2024	08/01/2025
2	International Trade in Goods: November 2024	09/01/2025
3	Index of Industrial Production: November 2024	10/01/2025
4	Residential Property Price Index: Q3/2024	10/01/2025
5	International Economic and Financial Transactions: Q3/2024	13/01/2025
6	Quarterly Accounts for General Government: Q3/2024	14/01/2025
7	Residential Property Transactions: December 2024	15/01/2025
8	Inbound Tourism: November 2024	16/01/2025
9	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: December 2024	17/01/2025
10	Cruise Passengers: Q4/2024	20/01/2025
11	Registered Employment: August 2024	21/01/2025
12	Retail Price Index: December 2024	22/01/2025
13	Sea Transport between Malta and Gozo: Q4/2024	23/01/2025
14	ICT usage and e-Commerce in Enterprises: 2024	24/01/2025
15	Unemployment Rate: December 2024	28/01/2025
16	Registered Unemployment: November and December 2024	30/01/2025
17	Industrial Producer Price Indices: December 2024	31/01/2025
18	Motor Vehicles: Q4/2024	05/02/2025
19	Index of Industrial Production: December 2024	07/02/2025
20	International Trade in Goods: December 2024	11/02/2025
21	Inbound Tourism: December 2024	12/02/2025
22	Residential Property Transactions: January 2025	13/02/2025
23	Road Traffic Accidents: Q4/2024	14/02/2025
24	Direct Investment in Malta and Abroad: January-June 2024	17/02/2025

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Table A1. News Releases published in 2025

Number	Release name	Date of publication
50	Government Finance Data: January-February 2025	24/03/2025
51	Retail Price Index: February 2025	25/03/2025
52	Unemployment Rate: February 2025	26/03/2025
53	Industrial Producer Price Indices: February 2025	27/03/2025
54	Government Finance Data: January-December 2024	28/03/2025
55	International Investment Position: Q4/2024	01/04/2025
56	International Economic and Financial Transactions: Q4/2024	02/04/2025
57	Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: Jan-Dec 2024	03/04/2025
58	Registered Unemployment: February 2025	04/04/2025
59	Inbound Tourism: February 2025	07/04/2025
60	Social Protection Expenditure: 2023	08/04/2025
61	Residential Property Price Index: Q4/2024	08/04/2025
62	International Trade in Goods: February 2025	09/04/2025
63	Residential Property Transactions: March 2025	10/04/2025
64	Index of Industrial Production: February 2025	11/04/2025
65	Cinema Statistics: 2025	14/04/2025
66	Sea Transport between Malta and Gozo: Q1/2025	15/04/2025
67	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: March 2025	16/04/2025
68	Registered Employment: November 2024	17/04/2025
69	Quarterly Accounts for General Government: Q4/2024	18/04/2025
70	Government Debt and Deficit under the Maastricht Treaty, first reporting of 2025	18/04/2025
71	Retail Price Index: March 2025	23/04/2025
72	Teaching English as a Foreign Language: 2024	24/04/2025
73	Government Finance Data: January-March 2025	25/04/2025
74	EU-SILC 2024: Salient Indicators	28/04/2025

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Table A1. News Releases published in 2025

Number	Release name	Date of publication
50	Government Finance Data: January-February 2025	24/03/2025
51	Retail Price Index: February 2025	25/03/2025
52	Unemployment Rate: February 2025	26/03/2025
53	Industrial Producer Price Indices: February 2025	27/03/2025
54	Government Finance Data: January-December 2024	28/03/2025
55	International Investment Position: Q4/2024	01/04/2025
56	International Economic and Financial Transactions: Q4/2024	02/04/2025
57	Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: Jan-Dec 2024	03/04/2025
58	Registered Unemployment: February 2025	04/04/2025
59	Inbound Tourism: February 2025	07/04/2025
60	Social Protection Expenditure: 2023	08/04/2025
61	Residential Property Price Index: Q4/2024	08/04/2025
62	International Trade in Goods: February 2025	09/04/2025
63	Residential Property Transactions: March 2025	10/04/2025
64	Index of Industrial Production: February 2025	11/04/2025
65	Cinema Statistics: 2025	14/04/2025
66	Sea Transport between Malta and Gozo: Q1/2025	15/04/2025
67	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: March 2025	16/04/2025
68	Registered Employment: November 2024	17/04/2025
69	Quarterly Accounts for General Government: Q4/2024	18/04/2025
70	Government Debt and Deficit under the Maastricht Treaty, first reporting of 2025	18/04/2025
71	Retail Price Index: March 2025	23/04/2025
72	Teaching English as a Foreign Language: 2024	24/04/2025
73	Government Finance Data: January-March 2025	25/04/2025
74	EU-SILC 2024: Salient Indicators	28/04/2025

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Table A1. News Releases published in 2025

Number	Release name	Date of publication
75	Registered Unemployment: March 2025	29/04/2025
76	Unemployment Rate: March 2025	30/04/2025
77	Industrial Producer Price Indices: March 2025	30/04/2025
78	Inbound Tourism: March 2025	02/05/2025
79	Motor Vehicles: Q1/2025	05/05/2025
80	Registered Business Units: 2024	06/05/2025
81	Outbound Tourism: Q1/2025	06/05/2025
82	Road Traffic Accidents: Q1/2025	07/05/2025
83	Structure of General Government Debt: 2024	07/05/2025
84	Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-March 2025	08/05/2025
85	Cruise Passengers: Q1/2025	09/05/2025
86	Index of Industrial Production: March 2025	09/05/2025
87	International Trade in Goods: March 2025	12/05/2025
88	Residential Property Transactions: April 2025	13/05/2025
89	Registered Employment: December 2024	14/05/2025
90	Residential Building Permits: Q1/2025	15/05/2025
91	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: April 2025	19/05/2025
92	Short-term Industrial Indicators: Q1/2025	21/05/2025
93	Retail Price Index: April 2025	22/05/2025
94	Short-term Services Indicators: Q1/2025	23/05/2025
95	Unemployment Rate: April 2025	26/05/2025
96	Collective Accommodation Establishments: Q1/2025	27/05/2025
97	Industrial Producer Price Indices: April 2025	28/05/2025
98	Gross Domestic Product: Q1/2025	29/05/2025
99	Government Finance Data: January-April 2025	30/05/2025

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Table A1. News Releases published in 2025

Number	Release name	Date of publication
100	Registered Unemployment: April 2025	30/05/2025
101	Inbound Tourism: April 2025	03/06/2025
102	International Trade in Goods: April 2025	09/06/2025
103	Index of Industrial Production: April 2025	10/06/2025
104	Residential Property Transactions: May 2025	11/06/2025
105	Labour Force Survey: Q1/2025	13/06/2025
106	Job Vacancy Survey: Q1/2025	13/06/2025
107	Registered Employment: January 2025	16/06/2025
108	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: May 2025	18/06/2025
109	World Refugee Day: 20 June 2025	19/06/2025
110	Retail Price Index: May 2025	20/06/2025
111	Renewable Energy from Photovoltaic Panels (PVs): 2024	24/06/2025
112	Unemployment Rate: May 2025	25/06/2025
113	International Economic and Financial Transactions: Q1/2025	26/06/2025
114	Government Finance Data: January-May 2025	27/06/2025
115	Industrial Producer Price Indices: May 2025	30/06/2025
116	Registered Unemployment: May 2025	30/06/2025
117	Statistics on Libraries: 2024	03/07/2025
118	Residential Property Price Index (RPPI): Q1/2025	04/07/2025
119	Quarterly Accounts for General Government: Q1/2025	07/07/2025
120	Structural Business Statistics: 2023	08/07/2025
121	Residential Property Transactions: June 2025	09/07/2025
122	World Population Day: 11 July 2025	10/07/2025
123	International Trade in Goods: May 2025	10/07/2025
124	Index of Industrial Production: May 2025	11/07/2025

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Table A1. News Releases published in 2025

Number	Release name	Date of publication
125	Inbound Tourism: May 2025	14/07/2025
126	Sea Transport between Malta and Gozo: Q2/2025	15/07/2025
127	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: June 2025	17/07/2025
128	Research and Development in Malta: 2023	18/07/2025
129	Registered Employment: February 2025	21/07/2025
130	Retail Price Index: June 2025	22/07/2025
131	Cruise Passengers: Q2/2025	23/07/2025
132	Regional Tourism: 2024	24/07/2025
133	Government Finance Data: January-June 2025	25/07/2025
134	Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-June 2025	28/07/2025
135	Unemployment Rate: June 2025	29/07/2025
136	Motor Vehicles: Q2/2025	30/07/2025
137	Inbound Tourism: June 2025	30/07/2025
138	Industrial Producer Price Indices: June 2025	31/07/2025
139	Registered Unemployment: June 2025	01/08/2025
140	Outbound Tourism: Q2/2025	04/08/2025
141	Road Traffic Accidents: Q2/2025	05/08/2025
142	Index of Industrial Production: June 2025	08/08/2025
143	International Trade in Goods: June 2025	11/08/2025
144	Residential Property Transactions: July 2025	12/08/2025
145	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: July 2025	20/08/2025
146	Residential Building Permits: Q2/2025	21/08/2025
147	Short-term Industrial Indicators: Q2/2025	22/08/2025
148	Registered Employment: March 2025	22/08/2025
149	Retail Price Index: July 2025	25/08/2025

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Table A1. News Releases published in 2025

Number	Release name	Date of publication
150	Short-term Services Indicators: Q2/2025	25/08/2025
151	Collective Accommodation Establishments: Q2/2025	26/08/2025
152	Registered Unemployment: July 2025	26/08/2025
153	Accidents at Work: January-June 2025	27/08/2025
154	Unemployment Rate: July 2025	27/08/2025
155	Gross Domestic Product: Q2/2025	28/08/2025
156	Government Finance Data: January-July 2025	29/08/2025
157	Industrial Producer Price Indices: July 2025	29/08/2025
158	International Trade in Goods: July 2025	09/09/2025
159	Index of Industrial Production: July 2025	10/09/2025
160	Residential Property Transactions: August 2025	11/09/2025
161	Inbound Tourism: July 2025	12/09/2025
162	Labour Force Survey: Q2/2025	15/09/2025
163	Job Vacancy Survey: Q2:2025	16/09/2025
164	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: August 2025	17/09/2025
165	Registered Employment: April 2025	19/09/2025
166	Retail Price Index: August 2025	22/09/2025
167	Economic Accounts for Agriculture: 2024	24/09/2025
168	Unemployment Rate: August 2025	25/09/2025
169	Government Finance Data: January-August 2025	26/09/2025
170	Registered Unemployment: August 2025	29/09/2025
171	Industrial Producer Price Indices: August 2025	30/09/2025
172	International Economic and Financial Transactions: Q2/2025	01/10/2025
173	Inbound Tourism: August 2025	01/10/2025
174	Regional Labour Supply by Place of Residence and Work: 2024	02/10/2025

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Table A1. News Releases published in 2025

Number	Release name	Date of publication
175	Residential Property Price Index: Q2/2025	03/10/2025
176	Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS): 2023	06/10/2025
177	Direct Investment in Malta and Abroad: January-December 2024	07/10/2025
178	Electricity Supply: 2024	08/10/2025
179	Index of Industrial Production: August 2025	09/10/2025
180	International Trade in Goods: August 2025	10/10/2025
181	Residential Property Transactions: September 2025	10/10/2025
182	EU-SILC 2024: Main Dwellings	13/10/2025
183	Key Indicators on the Labour Market: 2024	14/10/2025
184	Tourism Intensity 2024	15/10/2025
185	Sea Transport between Malta and Gozo: Q3/2025	16/10/2025
186	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: September 2025	17/10/2025
187	Retail Price Index: September 2025	20/10/2025
188	Quarterly Accounts for General Government: Q2/2025	21/10/2025
189	Government Debt and Deficit under the Maastricht Treaty, Second Reporting of 2025	21/10/2025
190	Annual non-financial accounts by institutional sectors: 2020-2024	22/10/2025
191	Registered Employment: May 2025	23/10/2025
192	Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Formal Education: 2023-2024	24/10/2025
193	Registered Unemployment: September 2025	27/10/2025
194	Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-September 2025	28/10/2025
195	Cruise Passengers: Q3/2025	28/10/2025
196	Unemployment Rate: September 2025	29/10/2025
197	Tax Revenues: 2024	29/10/2025
198	Industrial Producer Price Indices: September 2025	30/10/2025
199	Inbound Tourism: September 2025	30/10/2025

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Table A1. News Releases published in 2025

Number	Release name	Date of publication
200	Government Finance Data: January-September 2025	31/10/2025
201	Outbound Tourism: Q3/2025	05/11/2025
202	Students in Post-secondary and Tertiary Education: 2023-2024	06/11/2025
203	Index of Industrial Production: September 2025	07/11/2025
204	Road Traffic Accidents: Q3/2025	07/11/2025
205	International Trade in Goods: September 2025	10/11/2025
206	Motor Vehicles: Q3/2025	11/11/2025
207	Residential Property Transactions: October 2025	12/11/2025
208	Personnel in Education: 2023-2024	14/11/2025
209	Domestic Violence: 2024	17/11/2025
210	Registered Employment: June 2025	18/11/2025
211	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: October 2025	19/11/2025
212	Short-term Services Indicators: Q3/2025	20/11/2025
213	Aquaculture: 2024	20/11/2025
214	Residential Building Permits: Q3/2025	21/11/2025
215	Retail Price Index: October 2025	24/11/2025
216	Collective Accommodation Establishments: Q3/2025	24/11/2025
217	Short-term Industrial Indicators: Q3/2025	25/11/2025
218	Business Demography: 2024	26/11/2025
219	Registered Unemployment: October 2025	26/11/2025
220	Gross Domestic Product: Q3/2025	27/11/2025
221	Government Finance Data: January-October 2025	28/11/2025
222	Industrial Producer Price Indices: October 2025	28/11/2025
223	Inbound Tourism: October 2025	01/12/2025
224	Unemployment Rate: October 2025	01/12/2025

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Table A1. News Releases published in 2025

Number	Release name	Date of publication
225	Municipal Waste: 2023	02/12/2025
226	Annual Non-Financial Accounts of the Household Sector: 2024	05/12/2025
227	Index of Industrial Production: October 2025	09/12/2025
228	International Trade in Goods: October 2025	10/12/2025
229	Residential Property Transactions: November 2025	11/12/2025
230	Labour Force Survey: Q3/2025	11/12/2025
231	Graduates: 2024	12/12/2025
232	Job Vacancy Survey: Q3/2025	12/12/2025
233	Registered Employment: July 2025	15/12/2025
234	Global Value Chains and International Sourcing: 2021-2023	16/12/2025
235	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: November 2025	17/12/2025
236	Expenditure of General Government Sector by Function: 2024	18/12/2025
237	Regional Gross Domestic Product: 2024	19/12/2025
238	Retail Price Index: November 2025	22/12/2025
239	Industrial Producer Price Indices: November 2025	23/12/2025
240	Government Finance Data: January-November 2025	23/12/2025

Table A2. Full Publications in 2025

Online Data Portals	Date of publication
Transport Statistics	14/05/2025
Regional Statistics	04/09/2025
Social Protection Statistics	10/12/2025