

Absenteeism 2013

National Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS)

National Statistics Office (NSO)

Time Dimension: 2013

Data Flow: MALTA_ABSES_A_MT

Concept name	
1 Contact	
1.1 Contact organisation	National Statistics Office (NSO)
1.2 Contact organisation unit	Unit C4: Education and Information Society Statistics, Directorate C - Social Statistics
1.3 Contact name	Mr. SueAnn Scott Drago
1.4 Contact person function	Manager
1.5 Contact mail address	National Statistics Office (NSO), Unit C4: Education and Information Society Statistics, Lascaris, Valletta, VLT2000, Malta
1.6 Contact email address	sueann.scott-drago@gov.mt
1.7 Contact phone number	+356 2599 7611
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2 Metadata update	
2.1 Metadata last certified	30/06/2015
2.2 Metadata last posted	30/06/2015
2.3 Metadata last update	30/06/2015
3 Statistical presentation	
3.1 Data description	Absenteeism may be described as the students' absence from school, be this authorised or unauthorised. Students attending primary and secondary schools are all in scope for this exercise. Information on students attending state schools is based on administrative records obtained from the Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE). Data on the non-state sector are collected directly from schools by means of a survey carried out among all schools.

3.2 Classification system	<p>Students are classified according to the common thresholds adopted in local schools (Year1, Year2, ..., Form1, Form2, etc.) or according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 11).</p> <p>Different types of absenteeism are described according to the criteria set in the MEDE document "Addressing Attendance in Schools Policy - October 2014".</p>
3.3 Coverage - sector	NSO has full coverage of education institutions: State, State dependent, and Independent schools.
3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions	Absenteeism is not covered by any EU regulations, thus local policy documents were used to set the defining criteria (refer to concept 3.2).
3.5 Statistical unit	The students enrolled in schools.
3.6 Statistical population	Students in primary and secondary school levels.
3.7 Reference area	Full coverage of Malta & Gozo is achieved.
3.8 Coverage - Time	Absenteeism data has been produced using the same methodology since academic year 2010/2011, while the most recent data refers to academic year 2012/2013.
3.9 Base period	Not applicable.
4 Unit of measure	Number of students.
5 Reference Period	Academic year 2012/2013.
6 Institutional Mandate	
6.1 Institutional Mandate - legal acts and other agreements	Statistics collected by NSO are mandatory under the Malta statistics Authority Act of 2000, which can be accessed through: www.msa.gov.mt/Other/MaltaStatisticsAuthorityAct.pdf .
6.2 Institutional Mandate - data sharing	Not applicable. Absenteeism statistics are only disseminated through local news releases.
7 Confidentiality	
7.1 Confidentiality - policy	<p><u>At National level</u>: Confidentiality is one of the major principles guiding the activities of the NSO.</p> <p>Article 40 of the MSA Act stipulates the restrictions on the use of information and in Article 41, the prohibition of disclosure of information. Furthermore, Section IX of the Act (Offences and Penalties) lays down the measures to be taken in case of unlawful exercise of any officer of statistics regarding confidentiality of data. No cases of breaches in the law have been recorded to date.</p> <p>Since its inception, the NSO has always operated within a culture of strict confidentiality to which it is also</p>

	<p>bound by the provisions of the Data Protection Act. This Act, which came fully into effect on July 15, 2003, seeks to protect individuals against the violation of their privacy by the processing of personal data.</p> <p>Refer also to the NSO policy "Confidentiality of Personal and Commercial Data" https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/About_NSO/Documents/NSO_Policies/Confidentiality_of_personal_and_commercial_data.pdf.</p> <p>Further information on access to microdata is available on the NSO's website through: https://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Microdata/Pages/Access-to-Microdata.aspx.</p> <p>During 2009, the NSO has set up a Statistical Disclosure Committee to ensure that statistical confidentiality is observed, especially when requests for microdata are received by the NSO.</p> <p>Upon employment, NSO employees are informed of the rules and duties pertaining to confidential information and its treatment. According to the MSA Act, before commencing work, every employee is required to take an oath of secrecy whose text is included in the Act.</p> <p><u>At European level:</u> Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics (recital 24 and Article 20(4) of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87, p. 164), stipulates the need to establish common principles and guidelines ensuring the confidentiality of data used for the production of European statistics and the access to those confidential data with due account for technical developments and the requirements of users in a democratic society.</p>
7.2 Confidentiality - data treatment	Data on absenteeism is never released albeit in aggregated format.
8 Release policy	
8.1 Release calendar	A news release on absenteeism in schools is published by the NSO. In general, all news releases published by the NSO are scheduled in a release calendar with a three-month advance notice.
8.2 Release calendar access	The NSOs news release calendar can be accessed online through: https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx .
8.3 Release policy - user access	<p>Absenteeism statistics are available through local news releases.</p> <p>Users also have the option of contacting NSO and request specific data. This is provided subject to confidentiality constraints. User requests for data can be made online through http://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Pages/Request-for-Information.aspx.</p>
9 Frequency of dissemination	Annual.
10 Dissemination format	
10.1 Dissemination format - News release	One news release entitled "Absenteeism in Schools" was released for the first time in 2015 and will from now on be released annually. This news release can be accessed through: https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C4/Education_and_Information_Society_Statistics/Pages/Absenteeism-in-Schools.aspx .
10.2 Dissemination	Not applicable.

format - Publications	
10.3 Dissemination format - online database	Not applicable. No data tables are made available.
10.4 Dissemination format - microdata access	No micro-data access on absenteeism data has ever been requested. However, the NSO grants access to microdata under strict conditions to institutions or persons regarded as research entities or researchers. Further information about access to microdata can be retrieved through: http://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Microdata/Pages/Access-to-Microdata.aspx .
10.5 Dissemination format - other	Tailor-made requests for statistical information can be made through: http://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Pages/Request-for-Information.aspx .
11 Accessibility of documentation	
11.1 Documentation on methodology	The policy document Addressing Attendance in School Policy - October 2014 is adhered to. In addition, documentation of work processes relating to the different steps carried out in the compilation and analysis of this data are available for internal purposes.
11.2 Quality management - documentation	Not available.
12 Quality management	
12.1 Quality assurance	Efforts are made to ensure full response from education institutions, with the knowledge that non-response would automatically result in the under reporting of absenteeism figures. Furthermore data is compared with that from previous years with the intent of querying any noticeable inconsistencies directly with the data providers.
12.2 Quality management - assessment	Data that is not obtained directly from schools is based on administrative sources. These are thought to be of a good accuracy level since their intent is to keep record of students' behaviour, including their absence record.
13 Relevance	
13.1 Relevance - User Needs	The main user of absenteeism data is the Ministry for Education and Employment.
13.2 Relevance - User Satisfaction	A user satisfaction survey was carried out by the NSO to measure the degree with which it meets its obligations towards its users. The survey was held in 2014, and results for the total statistical output for Unit C4 (Education and Information Society Statistics), not specifically for Education statistics, were as follows: <u>News Releases:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality 62.9 % high/good • Timeliness 77 % timely

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usefulness 80.3 % useful <p><u>Requested data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality 54.8 % high/good Frequency 5.4 % regular Timeliness 73.1 % timely <p>A dedicated news release outlines main results from this survey, and can be accessed through: http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_01/Methodology_and_Research/Pages/User-Satisfaction-Survey.aspx.</p>
13.3 Completeness	NSO has full coverage of all education institutions. Micro data is collected in sufficient detail to cater for a variety of users' requests.
14 Accuracy	
14.1 Accuracy - overall	The NSO has full coverage of all education institutions in the target population. Consistency checks are carried out with data provided from previous academic years and coherence tests are made with other auxiliary sources.
14.2 Sampling error	Not applicable. Information is gathered from all schools.
14.3 Non-sampling error	<p>Every effort is made to minimise the incidence of non-sampling error. Nevertheless, errors related to data entry or to respondents' bias are impossible to eliminate completely.</p> <p>Furthermore data coming directly from the institutions may suffer from a problem of under reporting, meaning that fewer absences are reported by the education institutions.</p>
15 Timeliness and punctuality	
15.1 Timeliness	The first news release on absenteeism in schools was published after 2 years from the reference academic year, yet every effort is being made to significantly cut down this time.
15.2 Punctuality	The first news release on absenteeism was published as scheduled in the Advance Release Calendar.
16 Comparability	
16.1 Comparability - geographical	Absenteeism in schools is a local news release. This data is not measured against any other national or international platforms. Nonetheless, locally data is comparable at NUTS 2 level.
16.2 Comparability - over time	Consistent and comparable data is available for academic years: 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013.
17 Coherence	
17.1 Coherence - cross domain	This data is unique and thus cross-checking with other domains is not possible.
17.2 Coherence - internal	Data is not shared with other units within NSO.

18 Cost and Burden	<p>Absenteeism data finds its basis in other education statistics for which the unit is responsible. Thus having completed the latter, the actual work on absenteeism figures will take a trained statistician approximately 2 months to finalise.</p> <p>Significant investment has been made in order to improve the quality of education statistics and the efficiency with which these are produced.</p> <p>The Office acknowledges that the questionnaire in place may be burdensome on the institutions and it strives to make use of administrative sources, whenever these are available, and to streamline the content of its questionnaires to the strictest essential.</p>
19 Data revision	
19.1 Data revision - policy	<p>Data is considered as final once it is published. However, the NSO adopts a general revision policy which can be accessed through: https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/About_NSO/Documents/NSO_Policies/Revisions_of_Official_Statistics.pdf.</p>
19.2 Data revision - practice	Not applicable. Data is not normally revised.
20 Statistical processing	
20.1 Source data	A request for data is sent to all institutions offering tuition in the non-state sector by means of a questionnaire, while state (administrative) data is obtained through MEDE.
20.2 Frequency of data collection	Annual.
20.3 Data collection	<p>Information regarding state owned pre-primary to secondary schools is received from MEDE, while paper questionnaires are sent to all church and independent schools.</p> <p>Following intensive quality checks, data from the various institutions is merged before being analysed.</p>
20.4 Data validation	<p>Data checking and validation takes place at different stages of production. In the first instance data is checked for completeness and a broad comparison with data from the previous academic year is carried out. Subsequently data is appropriately coded, imputed, and first aggregated results extracted.</p> <p>Whenever imputations are needed, these are carried out using the appropriate statistics methods such as Hot Deck Imputation or the median within strata.</p>
20.5 Data compilation	<p>The absenteeism dataset is a satellite dataset of the pre-primary to secondary dataset also compiled by the unit. It thus shares an identical structure and coding system. The main distinction between the two is that the absenteeism dataset only contains information for students that incurred any absences in the year.</p> <p>Absenteeism data is also more likely to require imputation in particular to cover both authorised and unauthorised absences. In either case, these are carried out using the hot Deck imputation method.</p>
20.6 Adjustment	Not applicable.
21 Comment	Not applicable.