

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024



National Statistics Office  
Uffiċċju Nazzjonali tal-Istatistika

Published by  
National Statistics Office  
Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000  
Malta  
Tel.: (+356) 2599 7000  
e-mail: [nso@gov.mt](mailto:nso@gov.mt)  
website: <http://www.nso.gov.mt>

CIP Data

Annual Report 2024 – Valletta: National Statistics Office, Malta, 2025  
**123p.**

Print: ISBN: 978-9918-605-50-7  
PDF: ISBN: 978-9918-605-51-4

The logo for the Annual Report 2024 features the words "ANNUAL REPORT" in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. A stylized blue triangle is positioned to the left of the text. Below "REPORT", the year "2024" is displayed in white text within a dark blue rectangular box.

National Statistics Office, Malta  
2025

NSO publications are available from:

Communication and Dissemination Unit  
National Statistics Office  
Lascaris  
Valletta VLT 2000  
Malta  
Tel: (+356) 2599 7219  
email: [nso@gov.mt](mailto:nso@gov.mt)

For further information about the content of this publication, please contact:

Central Management Unit  
Office of the Director General  
National Statistics Office  
Lascaris  
Valletta  
Tel: (+356) 25 99 72 02  
email: [cmu.nso@gov.mt](mailto:cmu.nso@gov.mt)

# CONTENTS

	Page		Page
<b>Letter to the Chairman</b>	6	<b>6. Corporate Services</b>	87
<b>Mission Statement</b>	7	6.1 Human Resources and Staff Development	89
<b>Organisation Chart</b>	8	6.2 Procurement, Support and Resources	93
<b>Director General's Foreword</b>	9	6.3 Health and Safety and Administrative Support Management	99
<b>Abbreviations</b>	11	6.4 Communication and Dissemination	101
<b>1. Director General</b>	17	<b>7. Finance</b>	105
1.1 Central Management	19	7.1 Budget, Financial Management and Control	107
1.2 Legal Affairs	22	 	
 		<b>8. Annex</b>	111
<b>2. Economic Statistics</b>	25		
2.1 National Accounts Methods, Standards and Sector Accounts	27		
2.2 National Accounts Production	31		
2.3 Public Finance	33		
2.4 Balance of Payments	36		
2.5 International Trade in Goods Statistics	38		
2.6 Price Statistics	40		
<b>3. Business, Sectoral and Regional Statistics</b>	43		
3.1 Structural Business Statistics	45		
3.2 Business Register, Research and Innovation	48		
3.3 Short-term Business Statistics	50		
3.4 Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries	52		
3.5 Regional, Geospatial, Energy and Transport	55		
<b>4. Social Statistics</b>	59		
4.1 Culture and Tourism Data Collection	61		
4.2 Living Conditions and Tourism	63		
4.3 Labour Market and Information Society	66		
4.4 Population and Migration	70		
4.5 Education and Community Safety	72		
<b>5. Data Resources, IT and Methodology</b>	75		
5.1 Information Technology	77		
5.2 Information Security	79		
5.3 Methodology and Quality	81		
5.4 Data Collection	83		
5.5 Data Processing	85		

May 2025

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 2024.



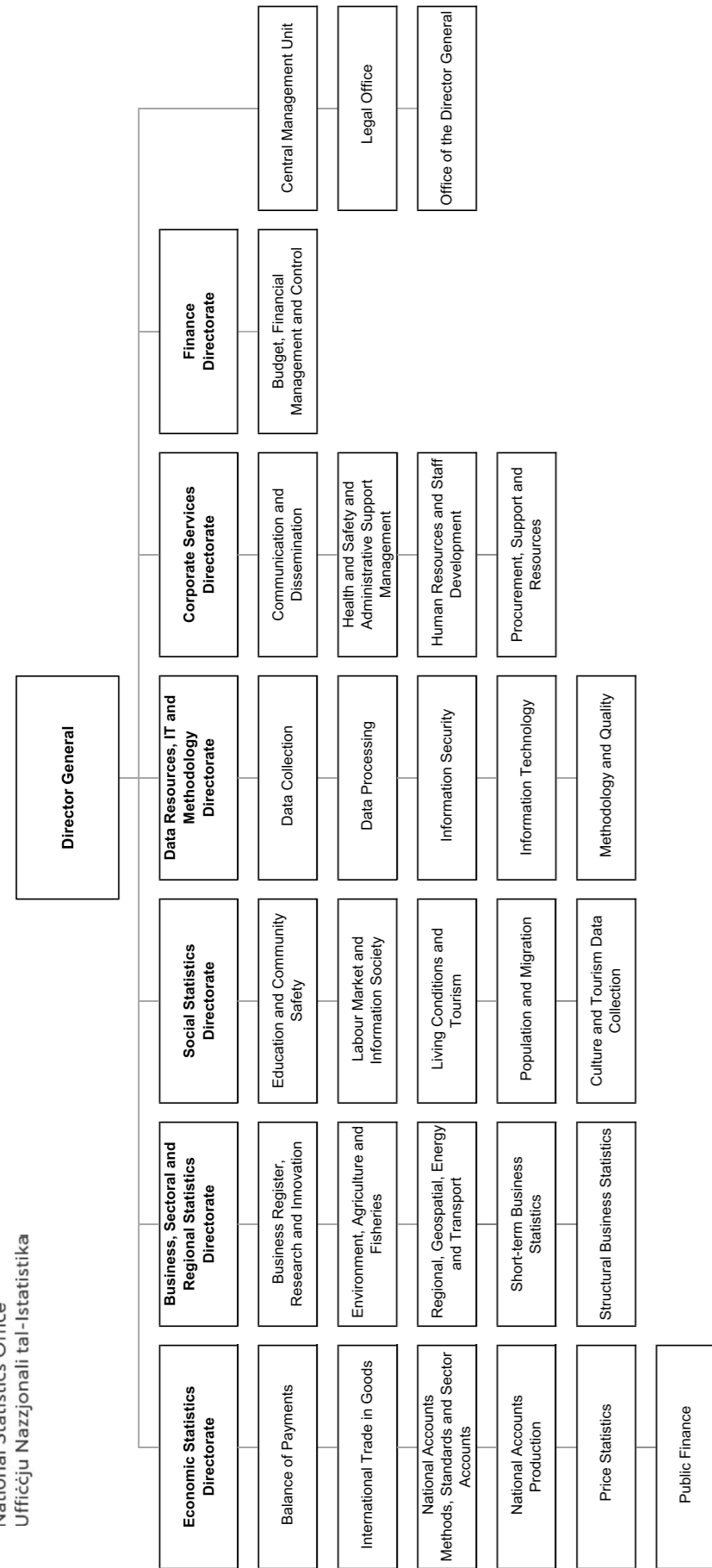
Etienne Caruana  
Director General

## 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 annual report detailing the accomplishments and key milestones accomplished by the NSO in 2024. The NSO built upon the progress made in 2023 by successfully finalising key projects, which significantly enhanced the quality and utility of its statistical products for all users.

This report summarises the achievements made by all the units at the NSO, whether involved in the statistical production or having a support functions. All objectives outlined in the previous year's work programme are addressed, with clear justifications provided in the few instances where certain objectives were not met. This measure was implemented to enhance transparency with our users and strengthen trust in our Office.

I would like to highlight the work on the NSO's modernisation strategy, which is already delivering many results. The quality of the NSO's dissemination products continues to improve, and, just as in previous years, the NSO managed to publish more information of interest to the public. The NSO continued to invest in both the quality and timeliness of its statistical products. Statistical production is becoming less reliant on traditional surveys and more on administrative data, which has improved efficiency and reduced the burden on both households and businesses.

Efforts to enhance consistency and coherence in statistical products continue, with more units collaborating to achieve this goal. These efforts extend beyond internal processes and include the NSO's statistical partners, who actively contribute to the NSO's statistical activities. In return, the NSO has consistently been available to provide technical assistance to all its partners on statistical matters.

Following Eurostat's Peer Review exercise carried out in 2022, the NSO prioritised addressing the recommendations made in the final Peer Review report. I am pleased to note that work on the improvement actions identified for the implementation of all the recommendations have already started and some of these recommendations have already been implemented. Work on the remaining actions is ongoing according to a timeline agreed upon with Eurostat.

Moreover, the IT Transformation project has made substantial progress during 2024. The work on the IT infrastructure is now complete, and statistical processes have begun to be integrated into this new framework. This initiative will enhance process automation, thereby improving the efficiency of the NSO's statistical processes.

The NSO's human resources remain the backbone of all its activities. The Office continues to invest in its personnel by providing training opportunities and pathways for career progression for all staff. The NSO has maintained its flexible working arrangements and extended additional measures to support staff with special requirements. These initiatives have helped retain experienced staff and attract talented individuals to the NSO. Additionally, negotiations for the new collective agreement were successfully concluded before the end of the year.

I would like to express my gratitude and acknowledge the support and guidance I received from Dr Carl Camilleri, Chairman of the Malta Statistics Authority, Dr Aaron G. Grech, Deputy Chairman, and the other members of the Malta Statistics Authority Board. I also extend my appreciation to the management and all employees for their unwavering 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 2025

**Abbreviations and Acronyms**

ACCOMSTAT	Accommodation Statistics Survey
AEA	Air Emissions Accounts
AES	Adult Education Survey
ASA	Annual Sector Accounts
BoP	Balance of Payments
BCA	Building and Construction Authority
CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interview
CATI	Computer Assisted Telephone Interview
CBM	Central Bank of Malta
CDIS	Coordinated Direct Investment Survey
CES	Conference of European Statisticians
CFMS	Corporate Financial Management System
CMU	Central Management Unit
CoE	Council of Europe
COFOG	Government Expenditure by Function
COICOP	Classification Of Individual Consumption by Purpose
COMEXT	Community External Trade Statistics
CompNet	Competitiveness research Network
CPIS	Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey
CPRI	Commercial Property Rental Index
CREI	Commercial Real Estate Indicators
CWPS	Council Working Party on Statistics
DAKAR	Internal Human Resources Information System
DPO	Data Protection Officer
EBS	European Business Statistics
ECB	European Central Bank
ECOICOP	Classification Of Individual Consumption by Purpose
EDP	Excessive Deficit Procedure
EGR	EuroGroups Register

ESA	European System of Accounts
ESF	European Social Fund
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
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
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IESS	Integrated European Social Statistics
IFATS	Inward Foreign Affiliates Statistics
IFS	Integrated Farm Statistics
IIP	International Investment Position
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INFOSTAT	Statistical Information Tool

ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
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
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
LAU	Local Administrative Unit
LCI	Labour Cost Index
LCS	Labour Cost Survey
LCU	Large Cases Unit
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MDE	Micro Data Exchange
MDI	Micro Data Infrastructure
MDL	Micro Data Linking
MNENet	Multinational Enterprise Network
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSA	Malta Statistics Authority
MTCA	Malta Tax and Customs Administration
NACE	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community
NCPE	National Commission for the Promotion of Equality
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
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFATS	Outward Foreign Affiliate Statistics
PA	Planning Authority

PMP	Performance Management Programme
POPSTAT	Population Statistics
PPCD	Planning and Priorities Co-Ordination Division
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PRODCOM	Community Production
QMF	Quality Management Framework
R&D	Research and Development
ReBuDs	Realistic Buildings Defined Street
RoW	Rest of the World
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
SES	Structure of Earnings Survey
SILC	Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
SPEs	Special Purpose Entities
SPPI	Service Producer Price Indices
SPSA	Statistical Production Service Architecture
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SSC	Staff Social Committee
SUT	Supply and Use Tables
TEC	Trade by Enterprise Characteristics
TEFL	Teaching English as a Foreign Language
TF	Task Force
TOURSTAT	Survey on inbound and outbound tourism
TSA	Tourism Satellite Accounts
UN	United Nations

UN-CTS	United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems
UNECE	United National Economic Commission for Europe
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSC	UN Statistical Commission
VAT	Value Added Tax
VIES	VAT Information Exchange System
VNR	Voluntary National Report (SDGs)
WSC	Water Services Corporation





1

**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

## 1.1 CENTRAL MANAGEMENT

In July 2023, the International Affairs and Sustainable Development Unit merged with the Office of the DG and absorbed all work related to institutional issues. The Unit was renamed Central Management Unit.

### Objectives for 2024

- Coordinate all issues related to the work of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) and participate as representatives of the NSO.
- Represent Malta at the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS).
- Coordinate Malta's position on all statistical legislation and other legislation with implications for the production of statistics discussed at the Council of the European Union.
- Participate in international conferences.
- Act as focal point for external information request on EU and international statistical matters.
- Coordinate all work related to the national monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Monitor the improvements actions addressing the recommendations of the 2022 Peer Review.
- Coordinate and manage the governance aspect of the National Statistical System.
- Foster working relationships and collaboration with counterpart NSIs, EU institutions, and international organisations.
- Act as focal point for the statistical chapter during Malta's accession process with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (OECD).

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *European Statistical System Committee*

The ESSC is a partnership between the EU's statistical authority, Eurostat, and the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) of the Member States. The ESSC is the highest-level executive statistical forum, after which statistical proposals move to the legislative bodies of the EU. Participation in the ESSC allows the NSO to state its position on all statistical matters of European relevance and consolidate the positions of the NSO conveyed in Eurostat's technical working group meetings. By closely following issues discussed at the ESSC and participate in priority areas, the Unit strengthens the relevance of the NSO in EU statistical decision-making and prepares the NSO with the necessary technical and legal information needed for continued political discussions within the European Council and foresight on new priority areas for official EU statistics.

#### *Council Working Party on Statistics, and other non-statistical legislation*

During 2024, the Unit represented Malta at the Council Working Party on Statistics under the Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies where a number of legislative statistical proposals were discussed and negotiated. Throughout the year, the Unit had a number of dossiers under its responsibility where it had to provide guidance and feedback on various implications which these might impose on official statistics. Such proposed regulations included the regulation on Labour Market Statistics on Businesses and a new regulation on population and housing. The Unit ensured that Malta's

interests were reflected during the Council meetings while also safeguarding and upholding the NSO's interests.

#### *International Conferences*

The Unit participated in two principal conferences: the 55th UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) and the UNECE 72nd Conference of European Statisticians (CES). The UNSC compiles and disseminates global statistical information, develops standards and norms for statistical activities and supports countries' efforts to strengthen their national statistical systems. The CES convenes national and international statistical experts to identify and work on areas where cooperation adds most value for the members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The Unit also participated at the UNECE 8<sup>th</sup> Expert Meeting for Statistics on SDGs.

#### *SDG monitoring*

Custodian agencies appointed by the UN to monitor and report on the SDGs correspond regularly with the NSO and other stakeholders with requests to collect data from Malta or to validate their statistical estimates. The Unit monitored and coordinated such requests by conducting internal and external consultations with the relevant experts and stakeholders and submitting timely data or feedback by the stipulated deadlines. The Unit kept an updated record of Malta's submissions to be used as a reference for the National Expert Group on Sustainable Development Indicators meetings.

During 2024, the Unit continued its work in relation to the National Expert Group on Sustainable Development Indicators. In the year under review, the National Expert Group met in eleven different Task Forces (TF), to discuss the SDG indicators and the corresponding data published for Malta for SDGs 7 to 17. These meetings were held at the NSO premises (except for SDG 13 which was held online) and involved all stakeholders as nominated by their respective ministries. Preparation work related to this Expert Group included a detailed report on the definitions, sources, data collection processes, and the data published for Malta for each indicator under the respective SDG. Following the TF meetings, the Unit produced reports documenting the discussions and the conclusions reached. Furthermore, the Unit worked on the follow-up actions as decided by the Task Force. The Unit will prepare a report on the work done by the National Expert group during 2024 and present it to Cabinet during the first quarter of 2025. The package to be sent to the Cabinet will include the technical reports, meeting agendas and reports, participants' lists, as well as follow-up reports pertaining to the respective SDGs.

Also during 2024, the Unit continued working on the SDG webpage for Malta, which will act as a centralised database with accurate and updated SDG-related data. The website will feature global UN-produced statistics and also national data – both of which aim to track Malta's progress toward achieving the SDGs. In parallel to this, the Unit collaborated with the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Public Cleanliness on the statistical annex of the SDG Voluntary National Contribution (VNR) which the government committed to produce and present at the UN High Level Political Form in July 2025. The statistical annex of the VNR will be published as a standalone publication and will serve as a second edition of the NSO's publication on the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Indicators.

#### *Statistical governance*

Following the publication of the Peer Review recommendations, the Unit was mandated with the implementation of a set of improvement actions to address the recommendations. These related mainly to the governance of the National Statistical System. During 2024, through advocating the importance of official statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice, the Unit managed to consolidate the National Statistical System by signing Memoranda of Understanding with the Directorate of Public Health and with the Environment and Resources Authority wherein establishing them as Other National Authority, in terms of official statistics as per Regulation (EU) 223/2009 on European Statistics. The Unit also coordinated all aspects related to the development of the improvement actions and is also responsible to coordinate the monitoring of all peer review improvement actions.

#### *Focal Point on statistical issues and collaboration with other statistical offices*

The Unit acted as the focal point for external requests relating to EU and international matters. Such requests originated either directly from the EU and international organisations or from national ministries, departments, and agencies. The central nature of the role ensures that the NSO submits one coordinated response, and that it incorporates feedback from the relevant domain Units within the NSO.

During 2024, the Unit continued strengthening collaboration with other statistical authorities. It facilitated the organisation of technical workshops at the NSO, and also participated at the second High Level Meeting – organised within a framework of collaboration initiated by the NSO with the statistical authorities of Croatia, Cyprus, and Greece. In cooperation with the Malta Tourism Authority, the Unit organised a follow-up bi-lateral meeting in Malta on Tourism Statistics.

While the Unit actively monitored Malta's interest to become a member of the OECD, in particular regarding the implications on the NSO, the NSO was not approached in relation to concrete actions on OECD membership and the accession procedures. Indeed, during 2024 Malta did not apply to become a member of the OECD.

#### *Additional work*

The Unit upheld its ongoing tasks to coordinate: (i) the UN Monthly Bulletin of Statistics questionnaire data (collected from the respective NSO Units); (ii) the preparation of Briefing Notes for working groups/task forces represented by NSO officials, and; (iii) the meeting reports from NSO participants. The Unit monitors institutional developments, the coordination of communication from the DG's office, internal coordination for Parliamentary Questions, and also the preparation on the NSO's work plans and annual reports.

## 1.2 LEGAL AFFAIRS

### Objectives for 2024

- 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.
- Assist management in external meetings.
- Draft contracts, agreements including Terms of References and Pre-release agreements for the NSO and the MSA.
- Execute the roles of Data Protection Officer (DPO) and Freedom of Information (FoI) Officer. Provide training to all members of staff on the General Data Protection Regulations.
- Assist in the process of drafting and renewing policies and procedures, and conduct the yearly review of existing policies and procedures owned by the Legal Unit.
- Lead processes for researchers' access to microdata.
- Assist NSO units in establishing 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.
- Provide timely legal support to the domain units.
- Initiate the process of issuance of fines to non-respondents and assist Units in contacting non-respondents.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *Legal Advice and Services*

The Legal Unit assisted the MSA and the Director General, NSO with various HR-related issues, including investigations by the Ombudsman, disciplinary matters, and procedures related to the Collective Agreement and employment law. The Unit participated in a conference on Employment Law and recent developments in caselaw.

Additionally, the Unit collected information and prepared documentation requested by the Ombudsman and assisted the Director General in disciplinary proceedings hearings including meetings with the Trade Union.

The Legal Unit advised senior management and units with the drafting of communications to data-producing entities and non-respondents. In 2024, the Legal Unit sent administrative fines to non-respondents in Innovation, Business Statistics and Research and Developments survey. The judicial process against non-respondents who have not yet provided the data, is ongoing.

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 2024, the Unit was successfully audited and 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 Ministry to discuss the new amendments proposed in the draft MSA Act. The Legal Unit liaised with the MSA 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 2024, the Legal Unit participated in a two-day workshop in Albania organised by UNECE on the modernisation of statistical legislation.

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 the MSA and the NSO as a party. These ranged from contracts relating to employment and procurement, as well as contracts with the EU's statistical organisations and with 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 their engagement. 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 data protection 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 2024, the Legal Unit provided training to all members of staff on the requirements of the GDPR and how it is applied together with the MSA Act.

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 updated the write-ups of the FoI pages on both the MSA and the NSO websites.

#### *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 2024

- Publish a benchmark revision in national accounts statistics covering reference years 1995 to 2024Q2 in collaboration with the National Accounts (Production), Public Finance and Balance of Payments (BoP).
- Publish a paper on the 2024 benchmark revision.
- Compile the annual and quarterly non-financial sector accounts and the dissemination of annual sector accounts for reference years 1995 to 2023.
- Compile the annual sector accounts inventory.
- Compile Special Purpose Entities (SPEs).
- Compile main aggregates with respect to the Financial sector and Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH).
- Compile the rest of the world account.
- Refine the derivation of wages in kind and the breakdown of employer's social contributions into actual and imputed social contributions for the whole series.
- Address the Gross National Income (GNI) reservations.
- Provide the necessary feedback during the GNI visit held in March 2024 and address the resulting action points in collaboration with other units in the Economics Directorate.
- Land valuation for the household sector as part of the Balance sheets for non-financial assets.
- Follow the methodological guidance provided by Eurostat through participation in various fora.
- Compile the GNI questionnaire and on the quality exercise for national and regional accounts for 2024.
- Coordinate work on purchasing power parity tables.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *Benchmark revision 2024*

The National Statistics Office published a benchmark revision in August 2024 for reference years 1995 to 2024Q2, as required by the ESA 2010 Transmission Programme. Almost all European Union member states were planning a benchmark revision in 2024. The Unit was responsible for the development of methodological enhancements in the following areas:

- Reservation 3. Cross-border flows of dividends;
- Reservation 4. Issues relating to the exhaustiveness of National Accounts;
- Reservation II. Margins on trading financial assets;
- Reservation V. Recording of daily allowances;
- Action point A2. Non-profit institutions serving households;
- Action point A8. The exclusion of rent on land from intermediate consumption;
- Action point A9. Reclassifications in the subsidies received from the institutions of the European Union between subsidies on production and capital transfers;

- Action point A10. Update in wages and salaries in kind with the Labour Cost Survey (LCS) of 2020. This had an impact on 2017 to 2019 since this is a four-yearly survey;
- A new methodology for the disclosure of SPEs in national accounts and the Rest of the World (RoW) account;
- The integration of pension funds in national accounts and the RoW account;
- New exhaustiveness measures relating to the reference income method for households and the employment method for non-financial corporations and households;
- A new methodology was developed in 2024 to ensure that the employers' actual social contributions disclosed in national accounts is equivalent to the actual social contributions paid to the central government sector and pension funds;
- A new methodology was developed in 2024 for employers' imputed social contributions based on information obtained from the LCS.;
- A new methodology for wages in kind based on coefficients derived at NACE division level from the LCS ensures that enterprises employing less than 10 employees are also covered. This procedure was applied to non-financial corporations, financial corporations, households and NPISH.

The Unit ensured that this methodology is adopted in main aggregates, institutional sector accounts including the RoW account since 1995.

A user-friendly publication detailing the 2024 benchmark revision was co-ordinated and authored by the Unit.

#### *Compilation of annual and quarterly non-financial sector accounts and the dissemination of annual sector accounts for reference years 1995 to 2023*

Following the benchmark revision in main aggregates, the National Accounts Methods, Standards and Sector Accounts Unit published the national accounts series by institutional sector in October 2024. This was a major achievement for the NSO. This new publication provides a new insight on the structure of the Maltese economy and presents the full sequence of non-financial accounts from 1995 to 2023. This release was consistent with the national accounts main aggregates as published on the 28th of August 2024 and government finance statistics as published on the 22nd of October 2024. Moreover, in preparation for this new publication the Unit compiled the related metadata report which was published in September 2024.

During the year, the Unit almost completed the non-financial Annual Accounts (ASA) inventory by institutional sector, planned to be published in the first quarter of 2025. The ASA Inventory aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the national compilation procedures of annual non-financial accounts by institutional sector according to the European System of Accounts (ESA 2010). ASA inventories follow a standard structure established by Eurostat and define the organisation of annual sector accounts production, consistency with related datasets, data sources, compilation methods, and a detailed view by transaction and sector. Compliance with the set guidelines of the ASA Inventory ensures that the necessary level of detail, cross-country comparability, and user friendliness are guaranteed.

In 2024, Malta respected the transmission deadlines for annual and quarterly non-financial sector accounts.

#### *Compilation of main aggregates with respect to the Financial sector and NPISH*

During the year under review, administrative data was used to update Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding and Activities auxiliary to financial services for 2021, special purpose entities for 2020 and 2021 and Insurance, reinsurance and pension funding, except compulsory social security for the reference year 2022. Quarterly data provided by the Central Bank of Malta on monetary financial intermediation and investment funds were taken over.

NPISH data is updated using various sources, including the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) survey compiled intermittently by the NSO. A 2017 NGO survey update, partially included since 2018, was incorporated in the benchmark revision, with data backcast to 2008. Since the last NGO survey is over five years old, Eurostat requested the NSO to find more current sources. The NSO now uses an annual administrative source for updates from 2018 onward, linking microdata to calculate actual employee compensation. For unmatched data, average compensation at the NACE division level is applied. This new method, addressing a 2024 action point, was implemented in the 2024 benchmark revision.

#### *Compilation of the rest of the world account*

In this benchmark revision BoP data was provided since 2017. All the methodological improvements which required adjustments in BoP have been integrated by the National Accounts Methods, Standards and Sector Accounts Unit in the back series i.e. 1995-2016. Some other methodological improvements were also added from 2017 onwards to align BoP data with national accounts. These adjustments involved services, primary, secondary income accounts and the capital account. This led to discrepancies between the RoW published and submitted by the National Accounts Unit and data as published and submitted by the BoP Unit in the non-financial accounts. A consistent time series since 1995 in BOP data can only be obtained through the National Accounts domain.

#### *GNI Reservations*

Malta has two pending reservations. Reservation 12 falls under the responsibility of the National Accounts Production Unit. This was addressed during the benchmark revision and is currently being assessed by Eurostat. Reservation 7 relates to transactions on ships and aircrafts and falls under the responsibility of the National Accounts Methods, Standards and Sector Accounts Unit. In December 2023, Eurostat circulated an assessment note putting forward its view on the correct recording of transactions on ships and aircraft in national accounts as part of a pan-European solution to the recording of multinationals in National Accounts. Malta together with another Member State objected the proposed treatment. A coordinated meeting was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 involving Member States, with Eurostat officials moderating the discussion on the subject. On Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, Eurostat sent a communication to sustain its original decisions. Malta submitted its counter arguments in November 2024 and is awaiting feedback from Eurostat.

*GNI Audit Mission*

As a result of the October 2023 GNI visit, Eurostat placed five action points A and 97 action points B. Action points addressed to NSIs concern issues requiring possible methodological changes or correction of compilation errors (action points “A”), or clarification, correction or supplementation of the information contained in the GNI inventory (action points “B”). Specific deadlines have been proposed for implementation in 2024. Eurostat converts action points “A” into reservations when it considers that they may have a material impact (above 0.1 % of GNI) and have not been addressed by the Member States before the deadline. The Unit provided feedback for three action points A and 39 action points B in 2024.

In March 2024, the NSO hosted Eurostat for a GNI Audit visit. In the run-up for this visit Eurostat requested 150 clarifications on Chapters 4 and 7 of the GNI inventory, taxes and subsidies, Compensation of employees for the RoW and business registers. The Unit provided feedback mainly on taxes and subsidies and business registers. As a result of the 2024 visit, the final list of action points included, 10 action points A and 29 action points B. Specific deadlines were proposed for implementation in 2024. The Unit provided feedback for four action points A and 12 action points B. Moreover, the action points with a material impact on GNI were incorporated in the 2024 benchmark revision.

*Compilation of the GNI Questionnaire and on the quality exercise for national and regional accounts for 2024, 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 before the deadline. The 2024 questionnaire was particularly challenging because of a detailed annex Member States were required to fill for on each reservation, action point and methodological change addressed during the benchmark revision. The Unit wrote the report, co-ordinated and compiled most of the annex and provided feedback and re-submissions in October and November 2024.

In the year under review, the Unit sent a quality report on the data relating to national and regional accounts, which included a review of the quantitative data and the provision of additional information on the qualitative indicators in collaboration with the other units within the Economics Directorate and the Regional, Geospatial, Energy and Transport Statistics.

*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. As a result of data limitations, the residual approach suggested by the Eurostat-OECD compilation guide on land estimation is being applied. Preliminary results for land underlying dwellings have been derived from 2015 onwards. In 2025 the full time series up to 1995 will be drawn. As a next step the project will have to delve into the ownership of other types of land use.

**2.2 NATIONAL ACCOUNTS PRODUCTION****Objectives for 2024**

- Compile and transmit annual and quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Income (GNI) statistics.
- Integrate revised aggregates for the 2024 Benchmark revision of the national accounts.
- Integrate work carried out by the National Accounts Methods, Standards, and Sector Accounts Unit relating to their improvement projects.
- Compile and transmit Supply and Use Tables (SUT) for the reference year 2019.
- Compile the GNI quality report and the ESS Metadata report.
- Contribute to work addressing Eurostat’s reservations and action points.
- Carry out quality exercises for national and regional GDP statistics.
- Update the GNI Inventory of 2015 with the pending action points.
- Assist direct verification from Eurostat.
- Compile investment matrix (including internal data collection for industries not covered by NSO surveys).
- Annually assess seasonally (and calendar) adjusted variables.
- Estimate household final consumption expenditure with the new classification of individual consumption by purpose (COICOP 2018).
- Complete the quarterly national accounts including 1995Q1 to 1999Q4 at current prices and previous year’s prices as well as in chain-linked volumes.

**Work Carried Out and Achievements***Annual and Quarterly GDP and GNI 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 Unit carried out its annual survey of English Language Schools. 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 SUT*

The SUT for the reference year 2019 were published in September of the year under review, both in nominal and volume terms. The compilation of prices and volumes within the SUT accounting framework makes it possible to derive growth in volume terms and inflation at the sectoral level of the total economy. In addition, price changes and volume growth can be derived from products and industries and final demand categories, offering the opportunity to perform detailed analyses such as those relating to productivity. Moreover, the Unit provided support for the compilation of the Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA).

#### *Update of GNI Inventory and Process Tables*

The European System of Accounts (ESA) 2010 GNI Inventory and Process Tables for the reference year 2015 were submitted to Eurostat in December 2022 and these were made available to users in August 2023. The GNI Inventory provides a detailed explanation of the sources and methods used for estimating GNI in a country. It is the basis for the Eurostat assessment of the quality and exhaustiveness of the GNI data and its compliance with ESA 2010. Following the two direct verifications, which took place in October 2023 and March 2024, the GNI Inventory has been reviewed for completeness and minor corrections.

#### *2024 benchmark revisions*

Revised national accounts data were published during the third quarter of 2024. Benchmark revisions reflect improvements resulting from changes in statistical methodologies, concepts, data sources, definitions and classifications used in data collection and compilation. They aim to ensure a maximum degree of consistency within and between national accounts domain for the longest possible time series, across EU countries.

The Census of Population and Housing 2021 results have been integrated into the national accounts statistics. Gross fixed capital formation in dwellings, actual rents and imputed rents series have been revised for the period 2012-2024. Nine NACEs relating to personal services were revised for the period 1995 to 2019 to avoid breaks in series. The new COICOP 2018 classification was implemented to reflect the changes in goods and services in some areas as well as improve the links of COICOP to other classifications. A new methodology for the compilation of employment statistics in persons was also implemented to better take into consideration secondary jobs.

Additionally, quarterly data for main aggregates in nominal terms and employment figures for the period 1995-1999 have been published to align with the ESA 2010 Transmission Programme. The main aggregates at previous year's prices and in chain-linked volumes for the period 1995-1999 are still being compiled.

Detailed documentation about the benchmark revision is available on the NSO website.

## 2.3 PUBLIC FINANCE

### Objectives for 2024

- 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.
- Organisation and participation to Eurostat Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) dialogue visit to Malta in May 2024. Compile GFS and EDP data is in line with established methodological guidance, and address 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.
- Prepare documentation of the process of uploading Corporate Financial Management System (CFMS) data and Financial Data Reporting System (FDRS) data into the NSO's systems and work together with National Accounts to find new solutions to expedite this process.
- Implement the requested changes for the benchmark revision of 2024.
- Start following closely the review of the new System of National Accounts (SNA) and the subsequent update of the new European System of Accounts (ESA).
- Maintain the financial accounts IT system in line with the new ESA tables 6 & 7 following the ESA mid-review.
- Shorten compilation process of government expenditure by function (COFOG) by one month, such that the data is published locally at t+12 by 2024.
- Provide technical and methodological assistance on classification of government decisions which impact fiscal balance.
- Publish the comprehensive Social Protection publication every two years and introduce a new European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS) news release.
- 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.
- Publish an annual news release on the annual financial accounts of total economy.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *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 new supplementary table on the government measures to mitigate the high energy prices and the Recovery and Resilience Facility questionnaire.

*Eurostat EDP dialogue visit to Malta*

An EDP dialogue visit was held in Malta in May 2024. The overall purpose of this EDP dialogue visit was 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 2024, nine action points were successfully closed, leaving 17 still open: 12 stemming from the latest mission and five from earlier visits.

*Benchmark revision September 2024*

The main adjustments implemented during the benchmark revision in September 2024 were: reclassification of the individual investment programme receipts from payments for other non-market output to other current taxes, reclassification of the payments made to Government by residents of state-financed residential homes from negative social security benefits in cash to payments for other non-market output, and other revisions linked with implemented EDP action points.

*Project to increase the Degree of Automation*

In 2024, the Unit used 'power query' created to automate the compilation process of the Budgetary Central Government data using cash data extracted from the CFMS. The compilation process was reduced by approximately two days per quarter.

*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. The Unit also provided various input data to several Units across the NSO and to stakeholders. In addition, the Unit provided technical and methodological assistance on classification of government decisions which impact fiscal balance.

*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. In 2024, the transmission of the COFOG was anticipated the deadline by one month. By the third week of December the data were published locally. The methodological and fact-finding questionnaires, the Annual Financial Accounts of the total economy, 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.

*ESSPROS*

The Unit worked on the compilation of gross and net figures within the ESSPROS data collection and statistics on pension beneficiaries. The data was compiled, validated, and transmitted for reference period 2022. The Unit participated in another round of data collection, concerning early estimates of the ESSPROS main indicators for 2023. In 2024, the Unit published the Social Protection publication for reference year 2022 and the accrued-to-date pension liabilities for 2021.

*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.

*System of National Accounts*

During 2024, the Unit monitored the developments of the review of the new SNA and the subsequent updates to the ESA and to the Manual on Government Debt and Deficit by the end of 2027. The Unit will continue monitoring the development of the new methodological guidelines necessary to implement the revised ESA.

*Projects carried forward to 2025*

The following projects were not completed in 2024 and will be carried over to 2025:

- The high statistical discrepancies in 2020 caused by the introduction of CFMS and the open EDP action point;
- The Unit is awaiting direction from the Treasury Department and from Eurostat. As a result, the scrutinisation of the statistical discrepancies between net lending/borrowing from non-financial and financial accounts, especially in CFMS data had to be postponed to 2025;
- The Unit postponed the publication of an annual news release on the annual financial accounts of total economy. It will await the addressing of the vertical discrepancies prior to publication;
- The preparation of documentation of the process of uploading CFMS and FDRS data into NSO's systems and work together with National Accounts to find new solutions to expedite this process.

## 2.4 BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

### Objectives for 2024

- 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.
- Enhance the quality of BoP data and integrate these improvements into the compiled statistics in preparation for the benchmark revision, aiming for improved coherence with National Accounts.
- 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.
- 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) to Eurostat.
- Complete and submit the Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS) and the Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS) to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Provide all necessary support to address Eurostat's reservations and action points.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *Extending the BoP/IIP methodological improvements across a longer time series*

The timeseries with BoP/IIP methodological improvements was extended till 2017. Refinements were also carried out in terms of the compilation processes, especially those relating to microdata linking of administrative data sources. The improved BoP time series from 2017 onwards was used for GNI estimates in the benchmark revision by the National Accounts. Data for SPEs was also integrated into the statistics from 2017 onwards and sent to Eurostat and the ECB. Contrary to the situation with Eurostat, the requirement to provide SPEs data to the ECB is mandatory. Extending the methodological improvements to cover a longer time series entailed constant collaboration with the BoP team at the Statistics department of the Central Bank of Malta (CBM).

#### *Refining the compilation process in INFOSTAT*

Following the full adoption of INFOSTAT in 2023, a process was initiated in collaboration with the CBM to address a number of pending issues. This entailed testing solutions in INFOSTAT (amending the mapping in configuration tables and/or amending SQL views) and instructing Banca d'Italia to implement these solutions in INFOSTAT's live environment through the CBM channel. Significant progress has been achieved in 2024, with the pending issues expected to be solved in 2025.

#### *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. Compilation and transmission of the FDI datasets covered the periods from 2017 onwards (on an annual basis) with these statistics now in line with the implemented revisions in the BoP and IIP datasets. A code was developed to transform FDI data in tabular form extracted from INFOSTAT, into the required format.

#### *Methodology for compiling trade in services statistics*

For the first time, the Unit gained access to the VAT Information Exchange System (VIES) database. As a result, the possibility of integrating this data source in the compilation of trade in services is being explored. Going forward, the BoP Unit intends to rely on VAT and VIES databases apart from survey data in the compilation of statistics recorded in the services account, with the latter expected to be launched in 2025 and intended to complement the information available through administrative sources.

#### *Statistical coherence*

The methodology applied in the compilation of property income, which entails microdata linking of administrative sources, has been enhanced. These refinements have contributed to bridge the gap between BoP and National Accounts statistics. Moreover, during 2024 the Unit engaged with Eurostat in answering a number of questions raised by the GNI audit team. The momentum to improve coherence between BoP and National Accounts is expected to intensify in 2025 with the setting up of two task forces.

## 2.5 INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS STATISTICS

### Objectives for 2024

- Optimise more work processes towards better efficiency and data quality.
- Analyse and use Micro Data Exchange (MDE) data received from other countries.
- Design automation of processes, implement new requirements in Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC), and improve data processing timeframes. Included estimations in the transmission of TEC data as from TEC 2023.
- Collaborate with the Malta Tax and Customs Administration (MTCA) for the use of VAT data to validate intra-EU data in Intrastat.
- Design and implement a modern, and enhanced, Intrastat and a database management system for all international trade in goods statistics.
- Publish the first International Trade in Goods publication.
- Further invest in economic analysis of International Trade statistics, particularly in relation to other macroeconomic aggregates.
- Intensify work on the exercise of contacting non-compliant traders.
- Hold various meetings with important stakeholders to ensure the proper recording of their reported transactions.
- Study, design and implement Trade Indices.
- Finalise the StatDB.
- Clean data especially in sensitive sectors such as food, fuel, etc. to ensure good quality of Trade Indices calculation.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *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 2024 (reference TEC 2023) 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 Trade by Invoicing Currency were successfully fully implemented using an R code covering new requirements by Eurostat.

#### *New Publication*

During the year under review, the Unit worked on a new publication by developing the required tables and other content, including the R code, to automate the processes as much as possible. This publication was published in October 2024.

#### *Address non-compliance*

In collaboration with the MTCA and with the use of MDE, 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 2024, the Unit continued to automate as many processes as possible using R. This resulted in higher efficiency, shorter processing time and more reliability. The Unit has also used R to estimate the Below Threshold and the 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.

#### *StatDB and New Intrastat Declaration System*

During 2024, the StatDB was finalised and loaded on the NSO website. The Unit also worked on the design of the new Intrastat declaration system, but the project was halted due to high costs requested by the sub-contractor.

#### *Meeting with various Airline Companies*

In 2024, the Unit held several meetings with important stakeholders to ensure that the way in which their transactions are recorded in the International Trade in Goods Statistics (ITGS) declarations is appropriate.

#### *Study, Design and Implement Trade indices*

A study about the calculation of Trade indices together with a process design was started in 2024. However, because of other commitments, this project has been postponed.

#### *Data cleaning of sensitive HS Chapters*

The Unit studies a process to analyse and clean data of important HS Chapters. This was eventually implemented during 2024, resulting in better data quality and avoidance of future incorrect data entry.

## 2.6 PRICE STATISTICS

### Objectives for 2024

- Complete work related to the Residential Property Price Index (RPPI) and House Price Index (HPI) – computing a quality adjusted index.
- House Sales: this indicator was based on the same dataset that is used for the computation of the RPPI.
- Commercial Property Price Index (CPPI): generate preliminary estimates.
- Adoption of the ECOICOP ver.2 in the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP).
- Develop the Commercial Property Rental Index (CPRI) by obtaining additional data, analysing the datasets, and computing a rental index for commercial properties.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *Real Estate Statistics*

The Unit completed the work related to the calculation of a quality adjusted RPPI and HPI. The RPPI hedonic index was published mid-last year and was revised from 2023 Q1 onwards. Due to its relevance to the users, this index has been published at a quarterly frequency. Furthermore, the Unit was involved in the production of the HPI index monthly. Results derived from this exercise were submitted to Eurostat.

In recent years, the House Sales figures for Malta were being flagged as confidential on Eurostat's database in view of the revisions due to newly available datasets. The process for its compilation involved: a) the integration of all datasets, b) the cleaning of these datasets and queries with administrative source to obtain more information, if necessary, while minimising data gaps, c) maintaining these datasets so that data is obtained on a regular basis and d) the customisation of R code in order to carry out the necessary processes to generate the required estimates. The revised timeseries was transmitted to Eurostat in September 2024.

An initiative was launched to regularly produce the CPPI. It is important to note that the administrative data classified as 'commercial' is very limited in number. Hence, the Prices Unit liaised with source to obtain more transactions and further information, deemed necessary in the computation of such an index. The information obtained for the transacted properties enabled the use of a quality adjusted methodology. Further improvements in this index are to be carried out in 2025.

Meetings were held with data source to obtain data for the CPRI index. Rents data going back to 2018 was provided to the Prices Unit. This will be used to compile the new rents index.

#### *ECOICOP ver. 2*

In the year under review, the Unit converted the HICP timeseries from ECOICOP to COICOP 2018, which was also integrated in the National Accounts framework. The HICP back-series will be transmitted to Eurostat in early 2025. Furthermore, the HICP-CT and HICP-AT series are to be computed and transmitted in 2025, once the HICP series is validated and confirmed by Eurostat that any errors/inconsistencies are resolved.

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





# 3

**BUSINESS, SECTORAL &  
REGIONAL STATISTICS**

### 3.1 STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS

#### Objectives for 2024

- Strengthen participation in Competitiveness Research Network (CompNet) and develop a robust Micro-Data Infrastructure (MDI) within the business statistics domain.
- Fulfil the relevant requirements of the European Business Statistics (EBS) regulation by conducting the Structural Business Statistics (SBS) Survey, as well as the Outward Foreign Affiliates Statistics (OFATS) survey, and deriving the Inward Foreign Affiliates Statistics (IFATS).
- Undertake annual review of SBS and IFATS Statistics and re-transmit at T+30 and T+32 months respectively.
- Carry out initiatives focused on the targeted reduction of unnecessary data suppression flags; making granular statistical outputs more accessible and relevant to users.
- Fulfil the role of a correspondent Unit within Eurostat's Multinational Enterprise Network (MNENet).
- Expand on the existing Global Value Chain (GVC) statistics.
- Explore and incorporate bank card data to fill information gaps and enhance the depth of national statistics.
- Assist in the NACE Rev 2.1 profiling and backcast the SBS EBS data in alignment with the NACE Rev 2.1 classification.
- Explore and incorporate bank card data to fill information gaps and enhance the depth of national 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.
- Set up structured task force groups as communication channels to improve coherence between the output of Structural Business Statistics, Business Register, Short-term Business Statistics, Labour Market, and National Accounts.
- Assemble an internal quality management system based on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to supplement the GSBPM.
- Explore national compilation of PRODCOM statistics which is a project aimed at investigating the potential of data compilation and uses in this area.

#### Work Carried Out and Achievements

##### *CompNet Network*

Malta joined the CompNet in 2020, and in 2024, the NSO, through the collaboration of the SBS Unit, further strengthened its engagement by co-hosting the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual CompNet Conference. Organised alongside the Central Bank of Malta, the Halle Institute of Economic Research, and the Centre for Economic Policy Research, the conference focused on 'Competitiveness and Firm Productivity in a Disintegrating Global Economy.' This event provided a platform for international collaboration, bringing together leading European researchers in firm productivity and competitiveness. Malta also transmitted the results for the 10<sup>th</sup> vintage of CompNet productivity and competitiveness reporting, reinforcing its commitment to high-quality micro-data integration for advanced research and policy analysis. The Unit also assisted in the Malta's preparatory work and application for the Technical Support Instrument Programme ProdTool - NPB 2.0: Micro-Data Analysis Tool 2.0 for comparative productivity studies at National Productivity Boards. The application was

spearheaded by the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (MCESD), also representing Malta's National Productivity Board.

#### *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, including the review of the preceding year in line with the revisions policy. Additionally, Malta joined a number of EU countries in voluntarily transmitting a new data series on 'Small Mid-Caps', responding to a request from EU policymakers to enhance data availability in this area. A key development during the year was the introduction of a FATS news release, which will now be published annually, offering structured insights into the influence of foreign business owners in Malta and the role of Maltese residents in business activities abroad.

Beyond the statistical results, the NSO continued to improve its data collection mechanisms by refining suppression policies and removing unnecessary confidentiality restrictions, thus promoting relevance and ensuring that statistical outputs are more accessible to users. In addition, progress was made to enhance the data collection process, with the SBS questionnaire now being made available in both Maltese and English, in both paper and web formats, facilitating the ease of response by businesses.

#### *Backcasting model for the adoption of NACE Rev. 2.1*

Malta presented its methodology for backcasting SBS and FATS at the FATS Working Group in Luxembourg. The proposed method employs a structural decomposition approach to SBS data and outlines two potential options for deriving slightly differing results. This initiative aims to provide solutions to other member states and facilitates the transition to NACE Rev. 2.1.

#### *Enhanced capacity in plastic money data processing*

Malta has made significant progress in acquiring, processing, and integrating bank card information into statistical analysis, positioning itself at the forefront of this emerging field. A key aspect of Malta's approach is its unique access to granularity with monthly updates, enabling the NSO, in collaboration with the Central Bank of Malta, to refine methodologies and develop novel metrics. This effort was highlighted in a series of high-profile presentations, including at the Business Statistics Directors Group Task Force meeting on Bank Card Data and Eurostat's Innovative Statistics meeting group. Additionally, the Unit will also be presenting such innovative work in the New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics (NTTS) 2025 conference in Brussels. NTTS is an international biennial scientific conference series, organized by Eurostat, on new techniques and methods for official statistics.

#### *Participation in Eurostat's MNENet*

The NSO hosted a Large Cases Unit (LCU) mission led by the Irish Statistical Office, with financial support from Eurostat's MNENet. Several NSO units were involved, and a key document on the current state of play was compiled, including direct reference to the 2019 LCU Action Plan drafted by the SBS Unit. As part of the mission, the NSO welcomed Irish LCU experts for a Consortium Training Visit, where key units involved in handling Multi-National Enterprises participated in training and interview sessions. These discussions focused on the

potential establishment of an LCU within the NSO, building on the concepts outlined in the 2019 Action Plan.

#### *GVC Statistics and Micro-Data Linking (MDL) projects*

The SBS Unit conducted the GVC Survey, covering the years 2021-2023, with the support of a grant agreement from the European Commission, to enhance Malta's understanding of locally adopted aspects of economic globalisation and international trade dynamics. In addition, Malta contributed to the GVC Working Group by presenting the methodology for implementing additional optional questions, which were integrated into Malta's web-based data collection tool. As part of the same grant, Malta developed a new set of indicators within the MDL framework, integrating enterprises engaged in GVC with various economic factors and statistical domains. The NSO voluntarily compiled and transmitted innovative indicators by linking performance data from SBS with ownership information from the EuroGroups Register (EGR) and FATS. Furthermore, Malta joined a consortium of six EU countries to develop a standardised syntax infrastructure, to eventually enable streamlined data processing and compilation across all participating member states engaging in MDL-based statistical production.

#### *Developments in the Statistical Unit 'Enterprise'*

The SBS questionnaire was enhanced to capture intra-group expenses in addition to the already existing intra-group revenues, providing deeper insight into the flow of goods and services between subsidiaries within enterprise groups. Additionally, work was carried out to further enhance automation, reducing manual intervention and streamlining data integration processes for improved efficiency and accuracy.

#### *Changes from the 2024 Work Programme*

The coordination of structured task forces was partially completed and concluded in 2024. The Task Force on Employment Coherence has now shifted toward a more institutional direction, extending its approach to other statistical domains. Both the development of additional QMF SOPs and the PRODCOM plan were realigned due to emerging priorities and resource shortages. Nevertheless, steady progress was made on PRODCOM, with certain points of the Action Plan drafted in preparation for its targeted completion in 2025.



### 3.2 BUSINESS REGISTER, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

#### Objectives for 2024

- Manage and update the Statistical Business Register (SBR).
- Undertake work on the identification of Special Purpose Entities (SPEs).
- Compile local unit population 2022, and launch work on the 2023 local unit population.
- Compute and disseminate Business Demography (BD) statistics in line with the European Business Statistics (EBS) Regulation.
- Develop and maintain the EuroGroups Register (EGR).
- Participate in the European profiling programme to improve alignment with enterprise definition as per European Council Regulation (EEC) 696/93.
- Compile Business Innovation statistics.
- Produce Research and Development (R&D) statistics in the business sector.
- Work on the implementation of NACE Rev 2.1 in the SBR.

#### Work Carried Out and Achievements

##### *Business Register and Business Demography*

Throughout 2024 the Business Register Unit kept up to date with all the new registrations, reactivations, and de-registrations of legal units, while maintaining specific unit characteristics, such as the legal form, the economic activity (NACE), and other variables such as employment and turnover. The Unit also carries out the identification of SPEs. This exercise is carried out biannual through the available data sources to identify the national footprint. Updates to the SBR enterprise characteristics were carried out using a combination of administrative sources and internal data, through micro data linking (MDL). 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 2022 and commenced work related to reference year 2023. The 2023 local units population continued improving by utilising plastic money data points, a new data source that the NSO obtained.

Regarding BD, the Unit worked out annual BD data at enterprise level, using the complex enterprise definition. Such datasets and the corresponding metadata reports were transmitted to Eurostat in line with the EBS regulation. The Unit also published news releases relating to both registered business units and enterprise business demography. The latter was completely revamped by the official reporting of statistical unit enterprise.

##### *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.

Moreover, through a grant, 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 Business Innovation Statistics for 2022 were finalised by June 2024 and a news release was published on Business Innovation 2020-2022. This survey was based on two structures of innovation types – 'product' and 'business process' – and covered the three-year period between 2020 and 2022.

##### *Research and Development*

The target population of the R&D survey within the business sector is reviewed and updated annually. The survey for reference year 2022 was finalised and data was transmitted to Eurostat in June 2024. Subsequently, the Unit also initiated work on the data collection process for R&D reference year 2023, with preliminary figures being reported in mid-October.

##### *NACE Rev. 2.1*

During 2024, the Unit continued to follow updates on the new NACE rev.2.1 classification. The correspondence tables were finalised, and the implementation process is underway. The SBR application was enhanced to cater for the new NACE classification including dual coding and back casting. Multiple data sources are being used to assist in the recoding through microdata linking. The Unit is participating in a grant project on the implementation of the new NACE in the SBR. Additionally, discussions with various stakeholders were held to keep them abreast with the relevant developments.

### 3.3 SHORT-TERM BUSINESS STATISTICS

#### Objectives for 2024

- Initiate the digital transformation of the Unit's data collection system.
- Investigate the use of plastic money for the monthly retail trade turnover indicator.
- Service Producer Price Indices: Resolve all outstanding issues of non-compliance, finalise the indices and transmit data to Eurostat.
- European Business Statistics (EBS) Regulation: Complete all the requirements, particularly the transformation of the quarterly services turnover indicator into a monthly index from 2021 onwards, the development of a new monthly production (volume) Index for Services and the re-basing of indices from 2015 to 2021=100.
- Collaborate internally with the IT and Methodology and Quality Units to automate the Unit's processes in line with the Statistical Production Service Architecture (SPSA) project.
- Commercial Real Estate Indicators (CREI): Continue to advance the development of CREI indicators, with a focus on construction starts and work completions.
- Core deliverables: Transmit monthly and quarterly data to Eurostat and publish local news releases, including:
  - Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and other related volume indicators;
  - Industrial and Services Producer Price Indices;
  - Monthly turnover indicators;
  - Quarterly employment, hours worked and wages indicators;
  - Data on building permits, including total numbers and square metres.

#### Work Carried Out and Achievements

##### *Digital transformation and investigating the use of plastic money*

Throughout 2024, the Unit had multiple meetings with the IT and Methodology and Quality Units to prepare for the implementation of the SPSA digital transformation project. In parallel, internal discussions were held to develop a plan for automating additional processes not covered by the SPSA project. An initial investigation was also conducted to analyse the use of plastic money in the monthly retail trade indicator. This analysis will continue into 2025.

##### *Service Producer Price Indices (SPPIs)*

The Unit dedicated significant effort to one of its top priority projects – SPPIs. This included addressing all outstanding non-compliance issues and focusing on the new NACE categories introduced under the European Business Statistics (EBS) Regulation. The work for each NACE category was divided into four main phases: conducting desk research, scheduling and holding bilateral meetings with businesses, gathering and following up on data, and compiling the indices. The project was successfully completed by mid-2024, with further refinements and enhancements planned to continue throughout 2025.

##### *New EBS Regulation – monthly index of services turnover*

The Unit took the necessary steps to transform the quarterly services turnover into a monthly index. An index was compiled using backdated raw data for the period 2021-2023, and a new database and index calculation system were developed to support the implementation of the new monthly survey. This process is now part of the Unit's monthly routine core requirements.

##### *New EBS Regulation – monthly volume indicator for services*

The Unit developed a new volume indicator for services, utilising the services producer prices to deflate the monthly services turnover. All work related to this indicator was completed and data is now being sent to Eurostat on a monthly basis. This new volume indicator complements those already produced by the Unit for industry, construction, and wholesale and retail trade. Additionally, a total production volume indicator encompassing all domains can now be compiled as a comprehensive short-term indicator.

##### *New EBS Regulation – re-basing from 2015 to 2021=100*

The Unit implemented the re-basing exercise that involved re-weighting and re-referencing the indices from 2015 to 2021=100 and chain-linking. This process also included significant enhancements, such as the introduction of new samples for key variables, methodological reviews of certain key indicators and the transition of the statistical unit definition from legal unit to enterprise or kind-of-activity unit, where applicable.

##### *Commercial Real Estate Indicators – construction starts and work completions*

Throughout the year, the quarterly construction starts data provided by the Planning Authority (PA) was analysed, and a provisional index was drafted. In addition, recognising that the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) holds similar data, including information on work completions, several bilateral meetings were conducted with the BCA, resulting in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a regular data flow from the BCA to the NSO. Progress was also made on a Eurostat grant focused on finalising the definitive series and ensuring the regular transmission of construction starts data. The grant is expected to be completed in 2025.

##### *Core deliverables*

The short-term indicators for turnover, production (volume), producer prices, labor indicators (employment, hours worked, and wages), and building permits across the domains of industry, construction, wholesale and retail trade, and services were compiled and submitted to Eurostat in compliance with regulated deadlines. Additionally, selected indicators were published locally through news releases. The Unit undertakes the complete statistical process to compile this data. This process encompasses primary and secondary data collection, data verification, follow-ups with non-respondents, imputations, integration of administrative data with primary data, index compilation, and seasonal adjustment procedures.

### 3.4 ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

#### Objectives for 2024

##### Environment

- Compile and transmit to Eurostat the five monetary modules: environmental taxes by economic activity, environmental protection expenditure accounts, environmental goods and services sector, environmental subsidies and similar transfers, and potential environmentally damaging subsidies.
- Compile the two physical modules: economy-wide material flow accounts and air emissions accounts.
- Continue the production of waste and water statistics.
- Gather climate data from the Meteorological Office.

##### Agriculture and Fisheries

- Finalise the Integrated Farm Statistics survey.
- Update the Statistical Farm Register using different administrative sources.
- Reassess the methodology behind the compilation of various themes within Agriculture and Fisheries statistics.
- Collect data on the sales of pesticides from importers.
- 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 survey.
- Produce agricultural statistics, economic accounts for agriculture, and agro-environmental statistics.
- Produce and publish fishery and aquaculture statistics.
- Conduct the Pesticide Use survey among agricultural holdings to estimate the amount of pesticides used on selected crops.

#### Work Carried Out and Achievements

##### Environment

###### Monetary Modules

The Unit compiled the five monetary modules for reference year 2022 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 initiated the work related to the climate change mitigation investments that will need to be reported to Eurostat by October 2025.

##### Physical modules

In 2024, the Unit compiled the Economy Wide – Material Flow Accounts for 2022 and the Air Emissions Accounts (AEA) for reference years 1995 to 2022. Both modules were transmitted to Eurostat together with the quality report. Additionally, in efforts to improve the compilation of the AEA, the Unit held a meeting with OECD and Eurostat concerning the emissions of the subsidiary airlines registered in Malta. Furthermore, AEA data was made available on the database available on the NSO website.

##### Waste Statistics

During 2024 the Unit continued the compilation and reporting of waste generation and treatment statistics. The Unit reported the waste generation and treatment for reference year 2022 in line with the Waste Statistics Regulation (WstatR) and published the data on the database available on the NSO website. Solid waste management for reference year 2022 was released in February 2024, while Municipal data for reference year 2023 was published in December. In addition to the 2024 objectives set in the Work Plan, the Unit also completed and presented the key findings of a comprehensive survey on commercial waste generation and management among businesses, which was commissioned by the Ministry for Environment, Energy and the Regeneration of the Grand Harbour. Also, the Unit concluded work on a Eurostat Grant, carried out in collaboration with the Environment and Resources Authority, focusing on reconciling waste generation and treatment.

##### Water Statistics

The Unit continued to update the wastewater statistics together with the water production and consumption statistics for reference year 2023. 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 (EWA) to enhance the data compilation process for the JQ-IW.

##### Agriculture and Fisheries

###### Integrated Farm Statistics

The Unit finalised the data collection and validation process, which included follow-up contacts with selected farmers to check and confirm relevant details. Subsequently, the Unit compiled and transmitted the validated IFS microdata to Eurostat in the required format, together with the quality report as stipulated in the Eurostat Grant. Additionally, a set of tables were published as part of the agricultural indicators on the NSO website. These tables cover various aspects, including types of agricultural holdings, land use, animal husbandry and beekeeping activities, a profile of the workforce, and the machinery and equipment used in agriculture.

###### Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) survey

In relation to the FADN survey (reference year 2023), 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.

*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 2023. An annual news release was published in September and data was also transmitted to Eurostat.

The statistical farm register was updated with data collected from the IFS and other administrative sources. This served as a basis for the population of the pesticides and fertiliser use surveys conducted during the year.

*Statistics on Agriculture Input and Output*

In view of the new Statistics required from 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 2023. 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 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 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 and validated the sales data for reference years 2022 and 2023. Additionally, for the fertiliser use by the local farmers, the Unit prepared the questionnaire and related guidelines, and the updating and testing of the data capture system, developed internally by the IT Unit. This was followed by the selection of the interviewers and a sample of 798 agricultural holdings. Data collection commenced in November and should be finalised by February 2025. Additionally, this survey is also gathering data on pesticide use for selected crops.

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 2023. 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.

*Fisheries and Aquaculture statistics*

The Unit continued with the production and publication of fish catches, fish landings, and aquaculture. The latter collection entails an annual census, which in the year under review covered reference year 2023 and was carried out by the Aquatic Resources Malta. The results were published in the annual news release Aquaculture: 2023. The annual data related to fish catches, landings, and aquaculture was also transmitted to Eurostat.

**3.5 REGIONAL, GEOSPATIAL, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT****Objectives for 2024****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.
- Advance the microdata linking project, to pair electricity consumption to the Business Register characteristics (including NACE class) using data provided by ARMS Ltd, Enemalta and the Water Services Corporation (WSC).

**Transport**

- Compile and publish quarterly data on the stock of motor vehicles and traffic accidents.
- Compile and publish a quarterly news release on sea transport between Malta and Gozo, and work to improve the quality of data.
- To produce Transport statistics on all modes relevant to Malta.
- Strengthen administrative registers in collaboration with Transport Malta.
- Initiate the compilation of the microdata regarding electric-vehicles public charging infrastructure.
- Integrate Energy and Transport statistics in line with the requirements of the European Green Deal.

**Regional and Geospatial**

- Sustain and prioritise improvements in key domains covered by official regional statistics.
- 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 the Eurostat grant project: A spatio-temporal analysis of the last three Population and Housing censuses (2005-2021) through the 1km<sup>2</sup> grid.
- Publish Regional Statistics, and thematic news releases.
- Launch the interactive geospatial statistics on the official website of the NSO.
- Conduct further research to maintain and enhance methodology used for the compilation of regional GDP based on the residence principle.



**Work Carried Out and Achievements****Energy**

The Unit collaborated with several data sources as part of its efforts to continue developing the relevance and granularity of Energy statistics. During 2024, the Unit collaborated with the Regulator for Energy and Water Services (REWS), the Energy and Water Agency (EWA), Enemalta plc, and ARMS Ltd. Physical Energy Flow Accounts were compiled for reference years 2018-2022 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.

Apart from the objectives set in the Work Programme, the Unit also finalised the survey on the Use of Air Conditioners Systems by Economic Activity. In addition, 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 and the WSC, 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. Carried out the Household Energy Consumption Survey which data was used for the compilation of the annual energy consumption questionnaire.

**Transport**

The Unit collaborated with the key stakeholders, namely: Transport Malta, Malta International Airport plc, Malta Insurance Association, and the Malta Police. Furthermore, meetings were held with the Ports and Yachting Directorate within Transport Malta to strengthen and maintain quality and timeliness in data on maritime cargo. In addition, the Unit initiated 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.

The Unit also produced quarterly news releases on a range of transport topics, namely: sea transport between Malta and Gozo, motor vehicles, and road traffic accidents, and published an annual publication covering air, sea, and road transport statistics for reference year 2022, with corresponding data transmissions at the EU level. Further to the objectives for 2024, as set in the WP, 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 2010, 2021 and 2022. 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 2018-2022. Simultaneously, improvements were made to regional allocations in respect of

National Accounts and Structural Business statistics. The Unit also produced data for the Urban Audit Report covering reference year 2022, whereby official statistics for city and subnational statistics were submitted to Eurostat.

Moreover, the Unit compiled the publication 'Regional Statistics MALTA 2023 edition', providing a range of statistics from 2016 to 2022. Several domains at various geographical levels were covered: including population, income and living conditions, social protection, education, labour market, economy, transport, tourism, and the environment.

*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 1km<sup>2</sup> and 0.25km<sup>2</sup>. 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. In addition, delivered a presentation relating to the creation of the ReBuDS (Realistic Buildings Defined Street) layer for the geocoding of street-based databases during the European Forum for Geography and Statistics 2024 Conference.

The Unit initiated work on the grant: A spatio-temporal analysis of the last three Population and Housing censuses (2005-2021) through the 1km<sup>2</sup> grid. The Unit maintained work on the ReBuDs, which has been fundamental in the work of integration of geospatial information and statistics. Furthermore, the Unit launched the interactive geospatial statistics on the official website of the NSO to support the enrichment of the NSO's dissemination strategy for more useful and relevant statistical output.



# 4

**SOCIAL STATISTICS**

## 4.1 CULTURE AND TOURISM DATA COLLECTION

### Objectives for 2024

- Supervise data collection operations for the tourism border survey (TOURSTAT).
- Collect and produce Cinema and Library statistics for 2023.
- Work on the Culture Participation Survey from the practitioner's perspective.
- Work on a new four-year culture plan with stakeholders.
- Carry out ad hoc culture surveys with cinemas, band clubs, and libraries.
- Collect data, analyse and disseminate results of the Publishing Entities Survey.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *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.

#### *Cinema Statistics Survey*

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 2024, the Unit maintained regular communication with the Malta Film Commission with the aim of enhancing data quality and availability within this sector.

#### *Statistics on Libraries*

The Unit published the annual news release on Libraries, based on administrative data provided by Malta Libraries.

#### *Publishing Entities Survey*

The Unit published a news release on the book publishing industry in Malta. The findings, derived from a survey conducted among all active publishers in Malta and Gozo, pertain to the reference year 2022. This project was executed in collaboration with the National Book Council.

*Culture and Creative Practice Survey*

The Culture and Creative Practice Survey was undertaken jointly with the Arts Council Malta, focusing on the perspective of culture practitioners. During 2024, the Unit analysed the collected data and compiled a publication with salient results, which was issued in October 2024 by both entities. Additionally, the Unit commenced work on launching a survey among band clubs, with the objective of collecting and publishing data in 2025. Moreover, the Unit initiated discussions with key stakeholders in the cultural sector to design and implement a four-year culture plan for the period 2025-2028. This project aims to identify priority areas within Malta's cultural sector and enhance data availability through the implementation of various ad hoc projects.

*Additional Tasks*

During 2024 the objective to update register on Voluntary Organisations and work toward the launch of a survey among such organisations was assigned to the Unit. Work on this objective will start in 2025.

**4.2 LIVING CONDITIONS AND TOURISM****Objectives for 2024*****Living Conditions***

- Analyse, finalise, and disseminate the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) 2023.
- Collect data for the EU-SILC 2024 and transmit the final datasets with provisional income by the end of year.
- Work on the EU-SILC weights revisions based on the Census 2021 results.
- Finalise Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS) 2023.
- Collaborate on the wellbeing project with the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society.
- Assist the Pensions Strategy Group and Basic Expenditure Needs projects.
- Finalise the work on the Household Budgetary Survey (HBS) 2024/2025 questionnaire and the HBS code book and launch the survey by the end of year.

***Tourism***

- Carry out the TOURSTAT survey.
- Carry out the ACCOMSTAT census.
- Carry out a National Tourism survey.
- Enhance all Tourism surveys.
- Compile monthly and quarterly news releases on tourism supply and demand.
- 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.
- Transmit data to Eurostat and quality reporting for Tourism statistics.
- Produce Cruise Passenger statistics.
- Produce statistics on Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL).

**Work Carried Out and Achievements*****Living Conditions****EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions*

The Unit analysed the findings of the EU-SILC survey for reference year 2023. The analysis generated three news releases on different topics. The full datasets, including the income variables, were transmitted to Eurostat by the end of April 2024. Moreover, the Unit initiated data collection in relation to the EU-SILC survey, for reference year 2024. The process was carried out completely through Computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI). Income data was collected entirely from administrative sources. The datasets for EU-SILC 2024 were transmitted with provisional income by the end of year.



*EU-SILC weights revisions based on the Census 2021 results*

The Unit worked on the revision of the weights to update EU-SILC weights in line with the post-census population figures. The Unit also analysed the impact of these revisions on the main indicators for the reference years 2013 to 2022.

*Household Finance and Consumption Survey*

The Unit finalised the analysis of the HFCS 2023 survey, which was conducted on behalf of the Central Bank of Malta.

*Wellbeing project with the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society*

During 2024, 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 Budgetary Survey 2024/2025*

Preparations for the HBS 2024/2025, focusing on refining the questionnaire, updating code book classifications, and training interviewers to ensure a successful launch by the end of 2024 were undertaken during the year under review.

**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 (CAWI) 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. 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.

*Enhancement of Tourism Surveys*

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 automated and fully transitioned into R, significantly boosting efficiency and effectiveness in the workflow.

*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 May 2024.

*Tourism Satellite Accounts Project*

Together with the OECD, the Unit worked on the TSA project. This was done via the Technical Support Instrument and in cooperation with the European Commission's DG Structural Reform Support. The overall project was led by the Ministry for Tourism. The main aim of this project was to strengthen Malta's tourism statistics through the sustainable compilation of the TSA.

### 4.3 LABOUR MARKET AND INFORMATION SOCIETY

#### Objectives for 2023

##### *Labour Market*

- Produce, transmit and disseminate statistics from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).
- Compile and disseminate statistics on registered employment and unemployment.
- Produce, transmit and disseminate monthly unemployment rates.
- Collect data, transmit and disseminate the Job Vacancy Survey (JVS) results.
- Collect data and transmit the results of the Structure of Earnings Survey (SES).
- Produce and transmit Labour Cost Indices (LCIs).
- Compile, transmit and disseminate statistics on accidents and fatalities at work.

##### *Information Society*

- Produce, transmit and disseminate the survey on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in households.
- Produce, transmit and disseminate the survey on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in enterprises.

##### *Malta Skills Survey*

- Produce the final results of the Malta Skills Survey.

##### *Disability*

- Collaborate with the Ministry for inclusion and the voluntary sector in order to create a register of disabled persons.
- Compile statistics on disability using administrative data.

#### Work Carried Out and Achievements

##### **Labour Market**

###### *Labour Force Survey*

During 2024, all data transmissions and national deliverables related to the LFS were successfully completed within the stipulated deadlines. Additionally, data on pensions and labour market participation was analysed and transmitted to Eurostat, with results disseminated at the national level during the third quarter.

In addition to the objectives set in the Work Programme, the Unit produced the revised LFS time series based on Census 2021 data. To support this release, a technical paper titled “The Impact of the 2021 Census on Labour Force Survey Headline Indicators” was published in the Statistical Papers section of the NSO website. In this paper the Unit outlined

the methodology and statistical tests which were conducted in order to assess the need for conducting the revisions.

Moreover, the Unit started collaborating with XjenzaMalta and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation (OECD) on a new project on statistics related to researchers' careers. The role of the Unit is to compile data related to PhD, Doctorate and Masters holders and provide the information to XjenzaMalta and OECD.

During 2024 the Unit also participated in a conference on Women and Gender Studies wherein delivered a presentation titled “An Overview of the Care Workforce in Malta” at a conference on Women and Gender Studies. The event was organised by the Gender and Sexualities Department at the University of Malta, in collaboration with the Gender Mainstreaming Unit within the Human Rights Directorate. Moreover, as part of ongoing research efforts that the Unit undertakes from time to time, an article on digital platform employment based on data collected during 2022 was published in the ‘Statistical Insights’ section of the NSO website. The findings were the result of a pilot project which was partly financed by Eurostat.

The Unit also worked on another research topic related to employment income. In this regard a paper on the ‘Use of administrative data for the compilation of the monthly gross income variable in the MT LFS’ was presented in the LFS methodology workshop held in Switzerland.

##### *Registered Employment and Registered Unemployment*

These two sub-domains draw on administrative data provided by Jobsplus. In 2024, registered employment and unemployment news releases were produced and disseminated within the stipulated timeframes. Complementing this data the Unit also receives information on the number of engagements and terminations and this data is used to gauge the employment levels on a regular basis. This information is also being used as an input to other NSO statistical products.

##### *Monthly Unemployment Rates*

The Unit issued monthly unemployment rates at both national and European level. Data was submitted within the set timeframes and all national releases were disseminated on time. The Unit also made use of weekly reports provided by Jobsplus to assess the short-term effects of unemployment on the labour market. Additionally, monthly unemployment rates were adjusted to reflect the updated LFS weights, and a release covering the revised rates was also published.

##### *Labour Cost Index*

The Unit produced quarterly LCIs, which were subsequently transmitted to Eurostat. The main sources used for this indicator were national accounts data on employment and compensation of employees, and LFS estimates on hours worked. The information provided was used to compile hourly rates related to wages and salaries, other social contributions, and total labour costs. The results were then transformed into chain-linked indices and seasonally and calendar-adjusted indices. During 2024, the Unit collaborated with Eurostat in order to address a technical issue related to the computation of the ‘OTH\_LCI’. The method adopted was the residual method and the computed results were of higher quality.

*Job Vacancy Survey*

During 2024, job vacancy data was compiled within the set timeframes. Information for the survey was collected quarterly via email and telephone interviews, with follow-ups conducted by survey interviewers to encourage responses from non-responding units. In March, the Unit published JVS results for the first time. The release included a quarterly time series of job vacancy statistics dating back to 2017. Moving forward, this release is planned to be issued on a quarterly basis.

*Structure of Earnings Survey*

In 2024, the collection and compilation of SES data was successfully completed, followed by the transmission of results to Eurostat. Additionally, a quality report was prepared as part of the process.

This enterprise survey targets units with 10 or more employees engaged in NACE activities B to S. For this cycle, the optional NACE 'O' (Public Administration and Defence) was included using administrative records. This approach was adopted to minimise the response burden on selected units operating within this sector.

*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 on the consolidation of administrative data on this domain. Talks with the Office of the Permanent Secretary within the Ministry for Inclusion, and the Voluntary Sector continued with a view on collaborating on the compilation of disability statistics.

*Green Jobs Survey*

During 2024 the Unit was once more tasked with the analysis of the Green Jobs Survey. The study was commissioned by the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Public Cleanliness. The results and report were submitted during the second quarter of 2024.

**Information Society***Information and Communication Technology Surveys*

Both household and enterprise ICT surveys were carried out within the set timeframes. The sample size of the ICT households survey was increased, in line with the framework regulation on Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) requirements. The data collection for this survey was conducted using computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI), while ICT enterprise data was collected through email and telephone. Deadlines for both surveys were respected.

**Malta Skills Survey 2022**

In May, the Unit published a news release presenting the final results of the Malta Skills Survey. The release provided insights into the most common skills, an overview of individuals holding various licenses, and the proficiency levels of the target population in different languages.

In June, the Unit worked on the publication of the full Malta Skills Survey results. This comprehensive report covered five key topics: Skills, Languages, Licenses, Education, and Continuous Skills Improvement. The data produced was disaggregated by sex, age group, district, perceived labour status, broad nationality, and major occupational groups to provide deeper analytical insights.

## 4.4 POPULATION AND MIGRATION

### Objectives for 2024

- Produce demographic statistics including population estimates, migration flows, and natural increase, and transmit full and final demographic statistics to Eurostat.
- Disseminate Demographic statistics.
- Maintain administrative registers used to produce Demographic statistics.
- Compile population and household counts for internal consumption purposes such as survey weighting.
- Collect Residence Permit statistics and International Protection statistics, and transmit them to Eurostat.
- Maintain and update the register of persons and households.
- Disseminate demographic statistic time series 2012-2021: total population and household estimates.
- 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 (ESPH).
- Work on the pilot study on asylum seekers' access to the job market.
- 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.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *Demographic Statistics*

Demographic statistics were produced for reference year 2023. Indicators produced included fertility rates, crude birth rates, mortality rates, life expectancy, migration flows, and outputs on family formation and dissolution. The main dissemination output was a news release in July on the occasion of World Population Day. The Unit also published an article on population data by citizenship, as well as updated and disseminated selected indicator tables on demographic statistics on the NSO website. The Unit submitted all annual demographic outputs to Eurostat for reference year 2023.

#### *Provisional and Final Population and Household Estimates*

The Unit produced provisional and final population and household counts for 2023 and 2024 to be used for internal purposes. All requests related to these estimates were fulfilled.

#### *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. Additionally, apart from the routine work as part of the regulated submissions, the Unit finalised the development of extraction procedures to compile the annual data tables related to Dublin Statistics. This was initiated following a request to the NSO by the Dublin Unit within the International Protection Agency to assist in data extraction due to human resource constraints. Furthermore, the Unit continued with monthly

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

#### *Maintain and update the register of persons and households.*

The Unit developed a methodology to update the sampling frame in terms of persons and address location. The process uses the annual population components to update the stock at the micro-level and the Common Database (CdB) to update address location. The sampling frame, using the 2021 Census of Population and Housing as a base, was updated as at end reference year 2022 and provided to the Methodology and Quality Unit. The next update will be initiated in 2025 following the next update of the population count as at end 2024.

#### *Intercensal Population Revisions*

The Unit disseminated the revised population and migration time series from 2012 to 2021 following intercensal population revisions through a news release published in January. This included the revision of all population counts and migration flows. The Unit also submitted the revised data series for the annual POPSTAT data submission to Eurostat in February as per requirements stipulated in regulation 1260/2013.

#### *New Framework Regulation for Population and Housing Statistics*

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 Central Management Unit in relation to the written consultations and national position, the Unit also provided feedback as part of two task forces set up by Eurostat 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.

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

The Unit commenced the grant-funded project in January 2024. The project, with a duration of 24 months, relates to the development of a statistical population register and the testing of the signs-of-life method to individual level record data for the estimation of population counts based on the usual residence definition. The intermediate report was submitted to Eurostat at the end of the year. The project will continue through 2025.

#### *Compilation of Population Projections*

The Unit tested the preliminary methodology for the estimation of population projections using the revised 2012-2021 population time series, as well as the most recent updates to the population count. Several scenarios with varying assumptions and targets were tested for the main components of the projections – fertility, mortality, and migration. Work will continue on the testing and implementation of the methodology in 2025.



## 4.5 EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

### Objectives for 2024

#### Education

- Collect, produce, and disseminate education-related statistics.
- Perform data cleaning and analysis on various aspects, including enrolments, entrants, finance, personnel, graduates, mobility, ISCED mapping, and field classifications.
- Focus on improving the coverage and content of current data, particularly for children benefiting from the free childcare scheme.
- Compile comprehensive registers on education personnel, student enrolments, and exams.
- Publish statistics from the Adult Education Survey 2022.

#### Community Safety

- Collect and disseminate data on crime statistics and domestic violence.
- Cooperate with the Malta Police Force on data collection and data provision.
- Support stakeholders to improve current data collection on domestic violence while ensuring comprehensiveness through the inclusion of new data providers or services.
- Collect and disseminate results of the data collection on human trafficking, and on national correctional institutions.
- Coordinate data requests on hate crime.
- Collaborate with the Human Rights Directorate in the END-RACISM-MT project and the TSI project “Supporting Malta in the design and implementation of a new national Anti-Trafficking Strategy.”
- Coordinate ad-hoc requests from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other international agencies.
- Update register on Voluntary Organisations and work toward the launch of a survey among such organisations.
- Collect and disseminate data on police reports.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### Education

##### Education Statistics

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. These activities are mandated by European Regulations (EC) 452/2008 and (EU) 912/2013. 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. In 2024, four news releases were issued, presenting annual data on student enrolments across different levels, as well as information on graduates and education personnel. The statistics were submitted to Eurostat within the required deadlines. Furthermore, the methodology used in relation to statistics on personnel in

education was enhanced through the securing of better data access. 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. Moreover, the AES 2022 was released nationally in October 2024.

#### Exploratory areas

Additionally, available data was evaluated, while a potential methodology was drafted with regard to the development of flash estimates for children in mandatory education during the current academic year. Preliminary work was undertaken in an attempt to draft the foundations for the development of statistical indicators focussing on early childhood education and care.

#### Community Safety

##### Crime statistics

The Unit postponed the submission of the annual United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS) questionnaire for the reference year 2023 due to unforeseen delays from the data providers. Submission is foreseen for early 2025. This data collection is administered jointly by the UNODC and Eurostat. The Unit collaborates with various stakeholders in the area, including the Malta Police Force, the Court Services Agency, and the Correctional Services Agency. During 2024, a new dissemination product was published focusing on a 10-year analysis of homicides in Malta. Moreover, 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 according to the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) classification. Furthermore, a proposed methodology was finalised with regard to the processing and dissemination of data on police reports. Further work on this, is expected during 2025.

##### Domestic Violence

A new round of data collection was launched to cover the year 2023. In 2024, the Unit produced statistics for the reference years 2023 to mark the ‘16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence, which is held during November and December each year. The Unit held several meetings with new stakeholders that provide services in this domain with the aim to improve the coverage of data collection.

##### 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. The Unit also participated in the EU-CoE Joint Project on “Supporting Malta in the design and implementation of a new Anti-Trafficking Strategy” (European Commission and Council of Europe), as part of Malta’s national strategy on human trafficking. The Unit has taken on a consultative role on data collection in this area.

*Hate Crime*

The Unit collaborated with the Human Rights Directorate and other organisations in order to collect data on hate crimes. Relevant data was 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.

*Additional Tasks*

In March, the results of the Survey on Safety and Wellbeing, which was carried out during 2022, were disseminated nationally through a publication. This Survey was a grant project involving other units in the Data Resources, IT and Methodology Directorate. The Unit followed up on this work participating in Eurostat's Task Force during which topics, indicators, structure and mode were discussed with the aim of improving and preparing for the next cycle of this survey.

Moreover, during 2024 the first version of the mapping of the ICCS to police recorded offences and inmate data was finalised. This classification system is an international classification system which is used to compare data on criminal offences. Maintenance of this mapping is expected annually. Furthermore, toward the end of 2024, the Unit also initiated preparations for the next cycle of the Continuous Vocational Training Survey, scheduled to be launched in 2026.

The objective set in the Work Programme on updating the register on Voluntary Organisations and to work towards the launch of a survey among such organisations was transferred to the Culture and Tourism Data Collection Unit.

**5****DATA RESOURCES, IT  
& METHODOLOGY**

## 5.1 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### Objectives for 2024

- Finalise the implementation of the Statistical Production Service Architecture (SPSA) Transformation Project and initiate the onboarding of statistical domains.
- 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.
- Migrate a number of IT services to a new server environment as part of a technology-refresh exercise.
- Census Hub.
- Web scraping.
- IT budget.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *Statistical Production Service Architecture Transformation Project*

The SPSA project saw substantial progress, moving from the testing phase to live deployment and onboarding of statistical domains. Comprehensive end-to-end testing was conducted, yielding promising results while highlighting the need for further refinements. This involved developing interfacing components to integrate various parts of the system, which the contractor successfully completed before deploying the system to the live environment.

A penetration test commissioned to an external party confirmed the system's robustness, with minor vulnerabilities identified and addressed. Collaboration with Istat (the Italian national statistical office) also took place on training for the StatKit SDMX platform, which will be integrated into the SPSA system as a dissemination tool.

Discussions were held with some production units to analyse and re-engineer statistical processes and onboard them onto the SPSA platform. The data collection component for the Short-term Business Statistics was completed and passed on for testing by the domain unit, while the production processes were being developed. The onboarding of the Job Vacancy Statistics and Collective Accommodation Establishments Statistics were also in progress.

#### *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, 15 software projects were undertaken.

Significant effort was dedicated to the 2024 Household Budget Survey (HBS) project, covering its entire lifecycle from initial infrastructure design to software development, testing, and deployment. The software architecture for the HBS consisted of a Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) tool for the interviewers to collect the data, as well as tools to assist coders and vetters in fulfilling their tasks. An administration module was also developed for the back-office team.

During the survey, the IT team ensured the smooth operation of the software platform and provided assistance to the back-office team with data management tasks.

Other projects included the development of CAPI tools for the Labour Force Survey, Statistics on Income and Living Conditions survey, ICT usage in Households Survey and the Fertilizer Use Survey, as well as a web collection tool for the Outward Foreign Affiliates Statistics 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 both for office and remote employees. 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, while actively contributing to the implementation of IT and security equipment at the Gozo office. Additionally, assistance was provided to the Methodology and Quality Unit in transmitting all Census hypercubes via the Census Hub portal.

#### *Migration of Servers*

During the year under review, several IT services were successfully migrated from legacy servers to new infrastructure. This initiative was undertaken to ensure systems remained up-to-date and aligned with technological advancements. Additionally, new servers were deployed to support the implementation of the SPSA platform and the HBS.

#### *Additional Tasks carried out in 2024*

Further to the tasks highlighted in the Work Programme, the Unit was involved in devising the IT budget for the year under review covering both software and hardware costs and the publication of High-Value Datasets through the online statistical database. The Unit designed and developed the necessary data structures to hold these datasets. Once finalised, the datasets were made publicly accessible on the statistical database. In addition, the Unit conducted preliminary work on web scraping, a technique for extracting data from websites, in-line with the developments by the Web Intelligence Hub at the EU level.

## 5.2 INFORMATION SECURITY

### Objectives for 2024

- Review and update the Information Security Management System (ISMS).
- Coordinate and follow-up on internal and external audits, as well as internal spot checks.
- Implement periodic information security awareness training.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *Review and update the Information Security Management System*

Structured work routines were followed to ensure the guidelines and timeliness of the ISMS were maintained. A thorough internal review of policies, procedures, and relevant documentation was carried out, along with a comprehensive risk assessment to identify and evaluate potential threats to information security and develop corresponding control measures for mitigation.

Vulnerability assessments and analyses of client-facing web portals, including the Statistical Production Service Architecture platform, were conducted to identify and address security weaknesses. These efforts were also incorporated into the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan, which led to the implementation of various security improvements.

#### *Internal and external audits*

As part of the ISO/IEC 27001:2013 process, a thorough internal audit was conducted on the domains planned for this year. An external surveillance audit was also performed by a contractor. Based on the results of these audits, an action plan was developed to mitigate security risks and further enhance the Office's overall security posture, including securing the perimeter of the new premises for the Regional, Geospatial, Energy, and Transport Statistics office in Gozo.

#### *Information Security Training*

Following the launch of the information security awareness training platform last year, training sessions in 2024 were scheduled quarterly for all staff. Tailored training materials, covering internal policies and procedures along with diverse content such as infographics, videos, and Q&A formats, were provided to address specific weaknesses in information security and compliance. This approach enabled the tracking of organisational risk scores, identification of email addresses involved in security breaches, and the provision of innovative training resources.

Moreover, a series of spot checks were conducted throughout the year to assess the security and awareness levels among staff. Notable activities included a successful remote wipe functionality exercise, a clear desk session, and eight software vulnerability spot checks.



*Additional work carried out*

Apart from the projects highlighted in the Work Programme, the Unit worked on compliance with the Network and Information Systems 2 Directive (NIS2). Additional controls aligned with the NIS2 directive were introduced, focusing on supply chain security, Open-Source Intelligence related to specialised recruitment, and follow-up procedures for contractor and subcontractor contracts and agreements.

**5.3 METHODOLOGY AND QUALITY****Objectives for 2024**

- Finalise data and publish results of the Census of Population and Housing. 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.
- Reviewing of survey questionnaires in-line with internal and international standards.

**Work Carried Out and Achievements***Census of Population and Housing 2021*

In January 2024, the Unit released the fourth volume in its series on Census of Population and Housing statistics, covering health, education, employment, household composition, marital status, fertility, sexual orientation, and languages spoken.

In October 2024, the Unit participated in the final Working Group assessing the 2021 Census, which highlighted the importance of effective data dissemination and planning for future censuses. Eurostat recognised challenges related to data quality and consistency across countries, stressing the need for better documentation and communication. These lessons will inform improvements in the next census round. Despite some areas needing improvement among Member States, Malta's National Statistics Office submitted its census data to Eurostat through the Census Hub portal three months ahead of schedule.

*Quality Management Framework*

The Unit continued refining and updating guidelines for various topics to be included in the NSO's QMF which is expected to be officially launched in the first quarter of 2025. This framework prioritises quality in statistical processes by establishing standard methods and practices, benefiting both internal personnel and external stakeholders. The publication serves as a resource for statisticians and a training manual, providing precise definitions, quality standards, and best practices to ensure the production of trustworthy statistics.

*Review of internal work processes and methodological aspects*

As part of the Transformation project, the Unit assessed post-data collection methods for Short-Term Business Statistics and the Collective Accommodation Establishments Statistics, concentrating on weighting mechanisms, outlier detection, data validation and imputation techniques. A preliminary evaluation of Job Vacancy Statistics methods was also conducted.

The Unit also led the Employment Statistics Steering Group and conducted an in-depth literature review on employment statistics within the NSO, examining key administrative data sources and surveys. This effort aimed to identify limitations affecting the coherence of various employment data sources. By integrating data from the Euro-base and other available employment statistics, inconsistencies were uncovered, prompting the steering group to develop an action plan for improvement.

#### *Data mining, methodological issues and metadata*

Fifteen social survey questionnaires were reviewed to ensure alignment with European standards, national regulations, and internal metadata protocols. Additionally, the Unit collected and analysed nearly 50 standardised metadata and quality reports, which are set to be published on the designated metadata website. A standardised metadata repository for statistical classifications and code lists was also developed, covering four statistical domains.

#### *Reviewing of survey questionnaires*

The Unit employed standardised techniques to extract samples for social and business surveys, ensuring accurate population representation and compliance with European precision standards. A new sampling framework for individual and household surveys was introduced, featuring response burden tags for rotational sampling and updated contact information. Additionally, a register of response statuses for selected business survey units was established.

#### *Additional work carried out*

During 2024, the Unit also performed data anonymisation and questionnaire design across various domains. All data shared with third parties, such as microdata sent to Eurostat, scientific-use files for accredited researchers, and aggregate data for publication, underwent thorough confidentiality treatment. Features previously handled through a third-party application were re-developed in Python to automate confidentiality flagging in business tabular data, significantly improving project efficiency and the re-usability of the tools.

## 5.4 DATA COLLECTION

### Objectives for 2024

- Oversee the collection, verification, and coding of social surveys.
- Recruit field officers and deliver training in personal interviewing techniques.
- Support external organisations with specific research projects.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *Collection and verification of NSO surveys*

In 2024, the Unit carried out six NSO surveys, entailing more than 28,000 interviews. The primary project of the year was the 2024 Household Budget Survey (HBS), which was officially launched in October 2024, with data collection scheduled to cover a 52-week period commencing in November 2024. Preparations for this survey, which began in 2023, intensified throughout the year under review, with responsibility for testing all IT applications needed for data collection and managing the project.

The specific nature of the HBS required the use of multiple data collection methods to account for both regular and irregular purchases, both in Malta and abroad. The corresponding survey logic criteria were thoroughly reviewed and discussed with several internal domains to ensure that the collected data was validated at the source. Additionally, nearly one hundred staff members were specifically recruited and trained for this project, including field officers and internal NSO staff to handle data validation and coding tasks.

Other main NSO surveys included the Labour Force Survey, the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, the ICT in Households Survey, National Tourism Survey, Consumer Purchases Survey. All data was collected electronically through Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). Data was coded in line with pre-established classifications. Additionally, in-person training sessions for external field officers involved in CAPI data collection were held at the NSO. For those working on CATI data collection, training sessions were conducted remotely.

#### *Collection and verification of third-party surveys*

- The Household Finance and Consumption Survey 2023, Payment Habits Survey and the Digital Euro Survey – three distinct surveys done on behalf of the Central Bank of Malta;
- A survey on cultural participation for the Malta Arts Council;
- A Public Perception Survey for the Malta Police Force;
- A survey conducted with participants in European Social Fund projects for the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division; and
- The Household Energy Consumption Survey for the Environment and Water Agency.

The Unit primarily managed the data collection for all of these research projects. Support was given through coordination and liaison with these parties on various aspects, including timelines, service contracts, questionnaire design (handled by the Methodology and Quality Unit), provision of deliverables (such as statistical tables, anonymised microdata for research purposes, or reports processed by domain units or the Methodology and Quality Unit), and invoicing. For these ad hoc projects, data was collected using different methodologies to meet the third parties' specified requirements.

## 5.5 DATA PROCESSING

### Objectives for 2024

- Conduct data verification and validation tasks.
- Assist on fieldwork-related processes.
- Standardise the testing procedures for data collection tools and create supporting testing documentation.
- Prepare methodological reports as a form of quality documentation.
- Redesign the data pseudonymisation process to ensure the secure storage of administrative and survey data.
- Develop a plan to centralise the collection of administrative data from third-party sources.
- Upkeeping of the data inventory.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *Data Validation/Verification and Technical Assistance Related to Fieldwork*

The data validation and verification process was led for ten centralised data collection projects, including the:

- Consumer Purchases Survey;
- Digital Euro Survey;
- Household Budget Survey;
- Household Energy Consumption Survey;
- Household Finance and Consumption Survey;
- Labour Force Survey;
- National Tourism Survey;
- Payment Habits Survey;
- Public Perception Survey;
- Survey on Information and Communication Technology usage in households and by individuals.

For each project, comprehensive IT requirements and validation protocols were developed to support the creation of data collection applications, improving quality and efficiency through in-process validation checks. Post data collection, validation tasks were performed, including logical checks, identifying high item non-response rates, and sampling at least 10% of completed cases per interviewer to ensure data accuracy.

Technical support was also provided during fieldwork, assisting in decisions on when to conclude data collection and verifying that survey quotas by stratum were achieved while accounting for demographic response shifts.

#### *Standardisation of the Testing Process and Development of Testing Documentation*

A testing document template was developed and introduced to streamline the testing process across the majority of leading centralised data collection projects, with the aim of enhancing data quality and consistency. This initiative introduced the systematic documentation of test results.

Since April, a standardised approach has been adopted in creating a testing document for each centralised data collection project. These tailored documents provide structured guidance for the testing process, ensure consistent and thorough documentation of test outcomes, and establish a reliable audit trail.

*Methodological Reports*

Methodological reports provide detailed information on key quality aspects, including the characteristics of the target population, sample design and methodology, the data collection process, response rate, error estimation, and guidelines for the interpretation of results. In 2024, methodological reports were produced for six commissioned surveys, namely:

- Household Finance and Consumption Survey;
- Consumer Purchases Survey;
- Payment Habits Survey;
- Public Perception Survey;
- Household Energy Consumption Survey;
- Digital Euro Survey.

*Pseudonymisation and Administrative Data Centralisation*

Efforts were concentrated on improving the pseudonymisation process to safeguard personal data, working collaboratively with various units across multiple directorates to ensure compliance with legal requirements. By the third quarter, a new pseudonymisation method was developed, tested, and pilot tested internally. This initiative also sparked discussions on centralising administrative data with personal identifiers linked to private households and individuals, which will be addressed in 2025.

Similarly, throughout the year, discussions were held with various units to review and update the internal Data Inventory, which lists all information/data assets available at the NSO. The updates included specifying the applicability of pseudonymisation for each data source and defining electronic data retention periods where relevant.

**6**

**CORPORATE SERVICES**

## 6.1 HUMAN RESOURCES AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

### Objectives for 2024

- Conduct a comprehensive skills gap analysis to evaluate current and future skill requirements and maintain an up-to-date skills database reflecting the capabilities of current NSO staff.
- Oversee the maintenance and enhancement of the NSO Performance Management Program (PMP) system through a digital tool integrated into the internal Human Resources Information System. Encourage the creation of individual improvement plans and implement Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- Support staff well-being initiatives by collaborating with the Staff Social Committee (SSC) on organised activities.
- Ensure compliance with GDPR requirements by maintaining accurate and secure personal files, including records of vacation leave, sick leave, and other staff-related data.
- Provide strategic support during negotiations for the new Collective Agreement, contributing to a fair and mutually beneficial outcome.
- Review and update HR policies and procedures, including the introduction of a new recruitment policy, as well as job shadowing and rotation programs to support succession planning, and to align with the requirements of the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) Mark certification.
- Launch the NSO Staff Satisfaction Survey, with results expected to be analysed and published by Q1 2025.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *Review of HR policies and procedures*

The Unit worked on the reviewing and updating of HR policies and procedures. Work on a job shadowing policy and rotation programs to support succession planning was postponed during 2024 but shall resume during 2025. Moreover, the HR unit is committed on delivering a performance appraisal system policy to ensure fairness and objectivity, incorporating a structured evaluation criterion. Other policies include workplace behaviour, and guidelines for flexible working arrangements and other family-friendly measures.

#### *Skills Gap Analysis and Database Maintenance*

During the year under review, the HR Unit conducted a detailed skills gap analysis to identify current capabilities and knowledge areas within the NSO workforce. This involved consultation with the NSO middle management which exercise anticipated organisational needs, shedding light on future skill requirements. Subsequently, a skills database was developed and maintained, cataloguing the qualifications, certifications, and expertise of all the NSO staff. This database serves as a key resource for workforce planning, collective agreement and staff progression mobility planning, and will be utilised for training needs assessments and internal mobility strategies.



*Ratification of the NCPE Equality Mark*

The HR Unit successfully worked toward the ratification of the NCPE Equality Mark, demonstrating the NSO's commitment to gender equality and inclusion in the workplace, by reviewing policies and procedures to align with the requirements of the certification.

*Internal Human Resources Information System (DAKAR)*

The HR team coordinated the upkeep and improvement of the NSO Dakar system, including the newly launched PMP system, integrated as a digital tool within DAKAR. Appraisers were encouraged to create individual improvement plans aligned with organisational goals for their staff members and introduce and delegate KPIs to assess performance objectively.

*Local Training*

The HR Unit collaborated with different institutions to organise a number of technical training sessions for NSO staff. Indeed, the HR Unit facilitated and assisted other units with the organisation of mandatory and optional training sessions for employees such as the Continuous Development Award in Public Procurement Regulations, Basic Accounting and Accrual Principles in the Public Service, Procurement training for Contracting Authorities, Basic and Advanced ICDL training courses offered by the Institute for Public Services, an Empathy and Communication Skills Workshop, Mental Health First Aiders, Remote Working Management Training for middle and senior management, GDPR Info Sessions offered in-house by the NSO Legal Advisor, and a Disability Equality Training Workshop.

*The Staff Social Committee*

The HR Unit actively supported staff well-being by organising and participating in activities led by the SSC. Initiatives included the yearly team-building sports day activity, simple internal food catering sales, a summer night gathering and the end-of year NSO Awards Night event. Moreover, the SSC conducted a post-event feedback study to collect staff members' thoughts and suggestions, which helped the SSC to improve on future events. On average, 150 employees attended and participated in the SSC events throughout the year. Furthermore, ample staff members provided suggestions and ideas for future events, which the SSC will strive to organise and keep up accordingly.

*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.

*Collective Agreement Negotiations*

The HR Unit supported the Director for Corporate Services during negotiations for the new Collective Agreement by providing data and strategic recommendations, insights, and with information regarding the NSO's staff members and current procedures.

*NSO Staff Satisfaction Survey*

The NSO Staff Satisfaction Survey was launched to assess employee engagement and satisfaction levels with the aim of providing valuable insights into workplace strengths and areas needing improvement. A total of 120 responses were received, results of which will be analysed and prepared for release by Q1 2025, offering actionable recommendations to enhance workplace culture and employee well-being.

**Additional Tasks carried out in 2024**

Further to the tasks highlighted in the Work Programme for 2024, the HR Unit also worked on the following:

*Job Shadowing in the HR Unit*

A job shadowing initiative was introduced within the HR Unit, allowing employees to observe and participate in each members' HR function. This initiative supported skill development, improved understanding of HR processes, and provided opportunities for professional growth.

*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.

*Selection process, recruitment, and resignations*

During 2024, 30 interviewing sessions were held, through which 36 new recruits joined the NSO in the following grades:

- Manager: one;
- Statistician/Statistical Officer: 11;
- Administration Officer 5: six;
- Administration Officer 4: one;
- Survey Interviewer: two;
- Intern: 15.

All recruits attended an induction and onboarding session on their first day of employment. Additionally, the Oath of Secrecy was administered to them. Moreover, one employee terminated her secondment agreement and resigned from the NSO in 2024, while three employees retired from their service with the Office. These were presented with a memento to commemorate the occasion during the NSO end-of-year conference.

During 2024, 26 staff members resigned from their positions in the following grades:

- Principal Statistician: one;
- Senior Statistician: four;
- Statistician/Statistical Officer: eight;
- Administration Officer 5: four;
- Administration Officer 4: two;
- Intern: four;
- Survey Interviewer: three.

#### *Probationary Review Processes*

A standardised probationary review process was established to support new employees during their initial months at the NSO. Two 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 or fourth 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 altogether to address employee concerns on the spot, enhance a retention strategy, and produce a more engaged workforce.

#### *A People Management Dashboard*

The HR Unit designed and introduced a People Management Dashboard to provide insights into workforce demographics. The dashboard highlighted employees benefiting from family-friendly measures, such as flexible work arrangements, reduced hours, and remote working agreements. The dashboard became a strategic tool for management, facilitating data-driven decisions and enhancing the transparency of HR initiatives.

## 6.2 PROCUREMENT, SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

### Objectives for 2024

- Undertake procurement processes that are within the Unit's remit.
- Provide logistical support to NSO units.
- Handle travelling logistics, and related expenditures, in connection with overseas meetings.
- Maintain and upgrade the Office's premises.
- Coordinate and monitor embellishment projects.
- Maintain and continue to develop the VOIP telecommunication system.
- Complete the new Gozo premises.
- Undertake research and advance work towards any proposal for new premises for NSO's Head Office.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *Procurement and Support Processes*

During 2024, the Unit provided support to the Office in terms of all procurement below €10,000, including: issuance of Calls for Quotations, petty cash purchases, as well as logistical support to all statistical units in carrying out their work. This mainly includes the supply of stationery and any other consumable items, uniforms (where applicable), transport and deliveries, travel abroad, and telecommunication. In order to facilitate processes, a purchasing request system was introduced complemented by a relative suppliers' list.

The Unit was also responsible for the administration and general maintenance and refurbishments of all NSO premises, as well as physical security and asset maintenance. During 2024, as part of general maintenance, the Unit oversaw the removal of dangerous parts of the Valletta office façade structure and was responsible for the refurbishment of the new Gozo premises.

#### *Training Abroad*

During the year under review, minimal training abroad was undertaken as it was considered better to bring over trainers in specific requested subjects and make the training available to a larger number of participants. The Unit still handled the arrangements to enable participation abroad by notifying staff members about invitations and completing the required documentation in case of training abroad but was also responsible for travel and accommodation in case of foreign trainers coming to Malta. In 2024 only one participant physically attended a European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) course.

Table 1. Foreign Training – Physical and Virtual: 2024

ESTP courses and other training	Physical participants	Virtual participants	% of total
CREI Training Course	1	-	100.00
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*EU and International meetings*

The Unit procured flights and booked accommodation and travel insurance for staff who attended conferences, seminars, EU Council meetings, working groups, workshops, and other events. Physical participants amounted to 111, with a corresponding 226 meeting days and 391 business days. Comparatively, there were only 20 virtual meetings, with a corresponding 24 business days. Based on the 111 physical attendances, the average duration of a meeting in terms of meeting days was 2.04 days, whereas in terms of business days it was 3.52 days.

Table 2a. International Physical Meetings

Participation by function	2023			2024		
	Physical participants	Physical meeting days	Physical business days	Physical participants	Physical meeting days	Physical business days
Management Team	69	146	234	73	149	256
Statisticians & Programmer III	45	95	164	38	77	135
Executive Staff	4	8	11	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>391</b>
Description by type						
Conferences, seminars, summits and discussions	3	7	13	15	36	58
Council Meetings, GNI and other meetings	53	108	182	50	103	175
Study visits and training	8	22	42	1	3	5
Working groups/parties and workshops	54	112	172	45	84	153
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>391</b>
Distribution by month						
January	2	2	3	4	6	8
February	6	18	28	8	20	36
March	13	28	54	6	14	25
April	11	26	40	13	27	48
May	16	33	53	18	33	57
June	22	48	79	20	45	71
July	1	3	4	3	4	8
August	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	4	8	12	3	6	11
October	19	34	59	18	37	65
November	17	35	55	10	20	36
December	7	14	22	8	14	26

Table 2b. International Virtual Meetings

Table 2b. International Virtual Meetings

Participation by function	2023			2024		
	Virtual participants	Virtual meeting days	Virtual business days	Virtual participants	Virtual meeting days	Virtual business days
Management Team	20	39	39	8	14	14
Statisticians & Programmer III	6	10	10	12	10	10
Executive Staff	3	6	6	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>
Description by type						
Conferences, seminars, summits and discussions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Council Meetings, GNI and other meetings	21	37	37	10	12	12
Study visits and training	1	4	4	-	-	-
Working groups/parties and workshops	7	14	14	10	12	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>
Distribution by month						
January	1	2	2	1	1	1
February	3	6	6	2	1	1
March	3	6	6	3	5	5
April	3	6	6	1	2	2
May	5	6	6	-	-	-
June	1	2	2	6	8	8
July	1	2	2	-	-	-
August	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	2	6	6	2	2	2
October	2	5	5	2	2	2
November	5	9	9	3	3	3
December	3	5	5	-	-	-

## Travel Expenditure:

The Unit managed and recorded travel-related expenditures comprising airfares, *per diem*, travel insurance and any other expenses linked to travelling. 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 2024, total travel expenditure comprising airfares, accommodation, subsistence allowance, insurance, and other related expenses amounted to approximately €111,481. The Office contributed €65,176 in terms of *per diem* expenses, relative to 284 travel nights, while insurance expenditure amounted to €4,449 for the 111 persons travelling.

Table 3a. Travel Expenditure: Comparative Analysis

Month	Per diem		Travel		Insurance		Total Cost	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
January	756	1,136	513	970	61	170	1,330	2,276
February	7,046	6,048	2,452	3,528	183	412	9,681	9,988
March	8,283	4,790	4,206	2,993	408	255	12,897	8,038
April	5,345	8,521	4,101	4,569	403	553	9,850	13,643
May	8,652	9,773	6,350	6,206	657	680	15,658	16,659
June	14,185	12,740	8,136	5,981	877	723	23,198	19,443
July	711	1,204	340	1,183	42	128	1,093	2,514
August	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	1,524	1,772	1,435	1,210	167	128	3,126	3,109
October	9,325	9,906	6,315	6,558	626	638	16,267	17,101
November	9,005	5,613	5,494	3,877	668	425	15,167	9,915
December	3,587	3,673	2,512	4,781	292	340	6,391	8,794
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,420</b>	<b>65,176</b>	<b>41,854</b>	<b>41,856</b>	<b>4,384</b>	<b>4,449</b>	<b>114,657</b>	<b>111,481</b>

Note: Figures may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3b. Other Travel Details: Comparative Analysis

Month	Per diem nights		Travel trips		No. of persons insured	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
January	2	4	2	5	2	4
February	22	28	6	9	6	8
March	41	19	13	9	13	6
April	21	35	11	14	11	13
May	37	41	16	18	16	18
June	57	53	22	25	22	20
July	3	5	1	3	1	3
August	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	8	8	4	4	4	3
October	40	47	19	20	19	18
November	38	26	17	12	17	10
December	15	18	7	8	7	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>111</b>

Note: Includes weekends and public holidays.

#### Logistical support

The Unit was responsible for the provision of holistic general logistical support to all horizontal and production units in the execution of their duties. This included the provision of consumables such as stationery, support in mailing and telecommunication, and services such as transport. In the course of 2024, the NSO also took the opportunity to replace its internal combustion engine car with an Electric Vehicle.

The Unit also administered the Office's premises, including physical security in both the Malta and Gozo offices, asset management and maintenance, and the undertaking of general premises maintenance, enhancement, and refurbishment, including improvements in telephony and other communication services.

#### NSO Premises

In 2024, the Unit administered the continued refurbishment of the new Regional Office in Għajnsielem, Gozo. The varied scope of works included: paint works, general maintenance, procurement of meeting room furniture and lighting system, general office embellishments and installation of UV window filters among other works. Moreover, during the year under review, the Unit was involved in discussions in relation to the NSO's new premises (HQ) in Malta.

## 6.3 HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT MANAGEMENT

### Objectives for 2024

- Preside over the Health, Safety and Environment Employee Committee, and meeting on a regular basis.
- Organise professional information talks for employees. These included a Disability Equality Workshop; an Environment talk on Linear vs Circular Economy and an Empathy session.
- Update the Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) report related to the Valletta office, the Gozo office, and the Malta International Airport office, including the incorporation of environmental elements and related risk assessments.
- Conduct fire drills and provision of safety training.
- Continuation of the digitisation project, including the scanning of former registry files and clearance of the machine room.
- Manage daily cleaning services provided by third-party contractors.
- Manage security services provided by third party contractors.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### Health, Safety and Environment

The HSE Employee Committee met every four months to discuss the well-being of staff. Talks were conducted as follows: Disability Equality Workshop (CRPD), Environment talk regarding Linear versus Circular Economy (Wasteserv) and Empathy session (Richmond Foundation). 'Regular self-checks for cancer' and 'Ergonomics and proper handling' circulars were distributed to all staff.

#### Wellbeing of staff

Working with the Human Resources and Staff Development unit, all matters related to the wellbeing of the NSO's staff were managed effectively and handled with absolute confidentiality. The NSO has completed the second year of the three-year contract with the Richmond Foundation and the general feedback is encouraging with substantial staff members using this strictly anonymous, and confidential service. Other NGOs were utilised and suggested in accordance with specific needs. Furthermore, another Wellbeing survey was conducted in December.

#### Evacuation Plan

During 2024 this Unit conducted two evacuation drills at the Valletta office. Following a risk assessment for the Regional Office at new Għajnsielem premises, evacuation plans have been set up and drills will commence in 2025.

#### Digitisation Project

Throughout the year, the Unit continued testing the Electronic Data Management System and started the process of verifying, scanning and sending 1986 registry files to the Archives Department according to the National Archives Act (Cap. 477). This process will also be used to do the remaining registry files during 2025, thus clearing the machine room



from this type of documentation.

#### *Management of the NSO's premises and security*

The Unit continuously liaised with the service provider with regard to the security of all the NSO's premises and in relation to the management of the reception area. The Unit also oversaw the cleaning and maintenance of all the NSO premises. During the year an Energy Performance Certificate for the Valletta premises was carried out.

## 6.4 COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

### Objectives for 2024

- Ensure that the re-branding goals are retained and identify opportunities for continued enhancements.
- Continuously monitor the NSO website for improvements to ensure it remains effective, engaging, and aligned with the NSO's goals.
- Enhance the new intranet portal and induce improvement in internal communication.
- Undertake processes to improve disseminated products: news releases, publications, and data visualisations.
- Improve the NSO's public relations and social media presence.
- Ensure adherence to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) Plus and enhance the existing datasets with the inclusion of the indicators proposed under the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 10<sup>th</sup> review.
- Reorganise and administer library collection and related services.
- Integrate new statistics into the online database.
- Continue translating statistical products into Maltese, expand translation to encompass additional content and collaborate in the development of a Maltese glossary.
- Participate in the European Statistics Competition as part of promoting data literacy.
- Implement a marketing campaign for the Household Budget Survey, encompassing graphic design, video production and questionnaire development.
- Implement distinct promotional campaigns tailored for both international audiences and the general public to build trust in the NSO, aiming to raise awareness and boost survey response rates.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *Rebranding Project*

Although the new branding of the NSO was officially unveiled in April 2023, the Unit still worked toward ensuring that the new image is retained throughout the NSO. Templates for online and printed materials like questionnaires, infographics and policies, among others, were standardised.

The new NSO website and the initiative to promote data literacy were also part of the rebranding project. Among the various improvements implemented on the new website, one may find the introduction of a PDF copy accompanying all online news releases, implementation of all necessary adjustments for the website to be certified as fully accessible, the introduction of a chatting robot developed in-house with the aim of providing a faster service to our users, online recruitment forms to facilitate the recruitment process, and new templates ensuring that all website content is correctly displayed on mobile devices. Additionally, in collaboration with the Regional, Geospatial, Energy and Transport Unit, a new section was developed on the NSO website for interactive maps.

During 2024, the Unit worked in collaboration with the IT Systems unit to populate the new online statistical database. New data pertaining to high-value datasets were incorporated. Furthermore, to promote data literacy, the Unit hosted two visits from secondary schools at the Office, focusing on population statistics as part of their Social Studies curriculum.

Additionally, an in-house educational video on population statistics was 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 additional indicators proposed under the IMF's tenth review.

#### *European Statistics Competition 2023/2024*

The NSO joined for the first time the European Statistics Competition for the academic year 2023/2024 with the main aim of promoting data literacy among the younger generation. The competition consisted of two phases: the National phase and the European phase. For the national phase, the Unit established a 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 designs and videos. Preparatory work took place in 2023, but the competition commenced with the first assignment in January 2024. An awards ceremony was organised for those who placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Data Smackdown competition. Trophies and certificates were all designed in-house. A survey was also conducted among non-participating schools to gain insight into the reason for non-participation and to understand what could be done to improve participation in future editions.

#### *Dissemination and Communication*

The Unit plays a major role in the dissemination of news releases and statistical publications. In 2024, a total of 246 news releases, eight publications, and two internal reports were produced in collaboration with the respective domain units. 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. Standards and procedures were drawn for news releases to ensure standardisation, making the NSO's products easily identifiable by external users. Moreover, the Unit continued producing infographics. In 2024, 46 visuals were produced 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. The first Statistical Insights article on 'Digital Platform Employment 2022' and the first Statistical paper, titled 'Impact of 2021 Census on the Labour Force Survey headline indicators', were published. Dedicated webpages for these new dissemination products were created on the NSO website.

In addition, the Unit managed internal communication and the Intranet. In 2024, the Unit focused on enhancing the attractiveness of the Intranet, changing altogether its appearance, making it more user-friendly. To complement, a Teams channel linked to the NSO Intranet on Sharepoint was established, and internal communications started being shared through this channel. Also, the shelving of books has commenced. Once completed, the catalogue will be reviewed and verified.

#### *Public Relations*

During 2024, the Unit handled 679 requests which were either submitted through the NSO's online request form or received through the Unit's generic email address. The biggest shares of requests were on international trade, prices, labour market, population, and business registers. Moreover, two official launches were organised in 2024, one for the

Safety and Wellbeing publication and the other one for the Household Budget Survey.

#### *Maltese Translations*

All news releases, press information notices, social media posts, and the NSO website were translated into Maltese. In order to mark one year of disseminating news releases in Maltese, a poem using the native language was written by the Unit and shared on social media. Meanwhile, the Unit also initiated work on a Statistical Glossary in Maltese, with the compilation of statistical terms for inclusion starting in 2024.

#### *Promotional campaigns*

Also in 2024, the Unit planned the marketing campaign for the Household Budget Survey. This included the in-house creation of all promotional materials including animated videos, the booking of various advertising media, the printing of the questionnaire, diaries and manuals, arranging interviews on TV and radio, and development of a dedicated webpage. Coordination with both internal and external stakeholders was an ongoing part of the process.

Moreover, during the year, a promotional campaign designed to target foreigners residing in Malta started being planned with the aim to create awareness about the importance of their contribution to NSO statistics. Furthermore, internal discussions were held for the setting-up of a media committee. The aim of this committee will be to discuss what stakeholders might find lacking and/or complex in the News Releases the Office publishes. The terms of reference for this media committee have been drawn up, an online application form has been drafted, and the invitation has been finalised. This committee will be set up in 2025.



# 7

**FINANCE**

## 7 BUDGET, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

The Finance Directorate is responsible for the effective cost management, financial planning and control of the Office. The Directorate also handles the drafting and coordination of all tenders under its remit.

### Objectives for 2024

- Keep accounting records and bank statements up-to-date and analyse salaries, travel and overtime expenditure on a quarterly basis.
- Prepare monthly Management Accounts and financial statements for external audits.
- Prepare financial budgets and maintain control on expenditure.
- Submit financial reports, VAT returns, requests for funds and financial questionnaires to the Ministry for Finance.
- Coordinate European Commission grant applications and submit the final grant financial statements and liaise with the domain units on EU grants to ensure that records are updated and requested information is transmitted to Eurostat by the respective deadlines.
- Manage the annual external financial audit after finalising the financial statements for the year.
- Draft and coordinate tenders with the respective units and Sectoral Procurement Division.
- Request Direct Order approvals from the Malta Statistics Authority (MSA) Board and/or Permanent Secretary for Finance.
- Send reports related to quotations, tenders, and direct orders to the Ministry for Finance and the Department of Contracts.
- Manage the Finance and Compliance Audit being carried out by the National Audit Office.
- Finalise the NSO project under the European Social Fund (ESF) programme.
- Maintain and keep track of contracts with third parties.
- Audit casual-survey-interviewing payments.
- Negotiate with the Union and Industrial Relations Unit the new Collective Agreement.
- Interview candidates for the post of casual part-time survey interviewers and possibly casual coders.

### Work Carried Out and Achievements

#### *Budget Plan and Monthly Management Accounts*

The Ministry for Finance requests a detailed Business and Financial Plan on an annual basis to cover the subsequent three years. This should be submitted to the Budget Office by April of each year. During 2024, the plan covering years 2025-2027 was presented to the MSA Board for its approval, for onward forwarding to the Ministry for Finance. Table 1 below illustrates all the funds received from the Central Government for 2024.

Moreover, management accounts are prepared monthly, and the Income and Expenditure Account is submitted to the Financial Data Reporting System on a monthly basis. The latter report, together with a detailed Statement of Financial Position and quarterly employment report, is submitted on the same system on a quarterly basis.

Table 1. Management of Funds

	€
	Actual 2024
Subvention	6,500,000
Statistical programmes	1,100,000
Household Budgetary Survey	402,136
Malta Statistics Authority secretariat	170,000
Malta Statistics Authority (Gozo office)	250,000
<b>Income from Government</b>	<b>8,422,136</b>
<b>Capital Votes:</b>	
Upgrading of IT and re-engineering plan	200,000
IT related expenses	200,000
Property, plant and equipment (NSO)	100,000
Property, plant and equipment (MSA)	50,000
<b>Income from Capital Votes</b>	<b>550,000</b>

*External Financial Audit and Financial Audit by the National Audit Office*

The Final Financial Statements for 2023 were prepared in January 2024 and presented 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. This was then tabled in Parliament.

The NSO underwent a full Financial and Compliance Audit on both Income and Expenditure for the year 2023 by the National Audit Office (NAO). The Management Letter submitted to the Ministry for Finance by the NAO highlighted the robust internal controls of the Office and the strong accountability, transparency and good governance within the management and administration of revenue and expenditure. It also emphasised the thorough record-keeping and strict adherence to government policies.

*Financial Reports*

The Unit prepared several financial reports both for internal and external use. At the beginning of the year, a final actual Cashflow for 2023 and a budgeted Cashflow for 2024 was sent to the Ministry for Finance. Then, every quarter, an updated Cashflow, together with other actual expenditure incurred from the government votes was sent to the Ministry for Finance to request the subvention for the subsequent quarter and the reimbursement of funds from the other votes. Moreover, every three months, a VAT Return was submitted and paid any VAT due. Internal reports to monitor travel and overtime expenditure were updated on a quarterly basis and such reports sent to each respective Director, highlighting any variances from budgeted expenditure.

*European Commission Grants*

During 2024, the NSO was awarded six new grants, totalling a credit of €435,305 from the European Commission to be finalised during the coming years. Table 2 gives a detailed breakdown of these grants.

Furthermore, during the year six grant-based projects were finalised (Table 3). The NSO received the amount of €251,533 in EU funding from these projects.

A procedure for grant applications was prepared by the Unit and uploaded on the Intranet for all staff members of the Office to adhere to these guidelines to improve the efficiency of the Office in coordinating and managing European Union funding.

Table 2. Grants awarded in 2024

	€		
Description of grant	Total cost of project	NSO contribution	EU contribution
Labour Domain - LFS 2025 Module	80,772	8,078	72,694
PPPs data collection 2025	117,967	35,390	82,577
Statistics on the usage of information and Communication Technologies 2025	53,874	0	53,874
New/Experimental Statistics in the area of Micro Data Linking (MDL) in collaboration with other Member States	47,933	4,793	43,140
Real Estate Statistics	62,289	0	62,289
Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices	120,731	0	120,731
<b>Total</b>			<b>435,305</b>

Table 3. EU Funds from Grants completed in 2024

	€
Description of grant	EU contribution
Population and Housing Census: geo-referenced data	12,370
Statistics for the European Green Deal	12,688
PPP's data collection 2023	52,775
Data Collection for City and Sub-National Statistics	52,047
LFS Statistical Infrastructure under IESS 2023 module - Improvements of Labour Market Statistics collected from Businesses (LMB)	88,959
European Statistics Competition 2023-2024 Participation	32,694
<b>Total</b>	<b>251,533</b>



*Tenders awarded during 2024*

During 2024, the Unit prepared and issued two tenders, however, the Tender for the Supply and Delivery of one Zero Emissions Electric Vehicle for the MSA had to be cancelled as the Office was granted an electric vehicle by the Ministry for Finance.

SPD7/2024/011	Tender for the Provision of Statistical Services relevant to the Construction Survey on behalf of the Malta Statistics Authority (MSA)
SPD7/2024/020	Tender for the Supply and Delivery of one (1) Zero Emissions Electric Vehicle for the Malta Statistics Authority (MSA)

A list of quotations, tenders and direct orders was published on the Government Gazette bi-annually as stipulated in the relevant Circular. This advert together with the requested report was also sent to the Department of Contracts and to the Ministry for Finance and Employment.

*European Structural Funds*

This year the Unit had to conclude the Final Closure Report for ESF.04.077 – A Development Training Programme for the NSO and so several meetings and correspondence were required with the Planning and Priorities Co-Ordination Division (PPCD) and the Ministry for Finance. After reviewing and verifying the procedures adopted, PPCD, the Ministry for Finance, and NSO signed the Closure Report which was then submitted to PPCD.

*Upkeep of Contracts and Audits of Payments*

The Unit is the main reference point for all agreements signed with third parties, both by contractors for services rendered to the NSO and also for contracts with third parties requesting surveys. After the agreements are reviewed by the Legal unit, the Unit coordinates with the MSA Secretariat for signature of the contract by the Chairperson. The signed contracts are then forwarded to the respective third party and a hard copy filed. A database was also set-up to keep track of expiration dates of all contracts, so that such agreements are reviewed at least a month prior the deadline, to confirm whether an extension is requested. This helped the Unit to keep control of both envisaged income and expenditure for the year.

During 2024, the Unit audited all survey payments prior to the Human Resources unit issuing the payments to interviewers. Furthermore, the Unit helped in the interviewing process for the post of casual part-time survey interviewers. However, during the year, this process was handed over to the Human Resources unit, as the Unit is taking more responsibilities regarding internal auditing of any financial matters of the Office.

## 8

## ANNEX

Table A1. News Releases published in 2024

Number	Release name	Date of publication
1	Unemployment Rate: November 2023	08/01/2024
2	International Trade in Goods: November 2023	09/01/2024
3	International Investment Position: 2021-2022	10/01/2024
4	Index of Industrial Production: November 2023	11/01/2024
5	Foreign Direct Investment: 2021-2022	11/01/2024
6	Quarterly Accounts for General Government: Q3/2023	12/01/2024
7	Residential Property Transactions: December 2023	15/01/2024
8	Inbound Tourism: November 2023	16/01/2024
9	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: December 2023	17/01/2024
10	Cruise Passengers: Q4/2023	18/01/2024
11	Registered Employment: August 2023	19/01/2024
12	Retail Price Index: December 2023	22/01/2024
13	Sea Transport between Malta and Gozo: Q4/2023	23/01/2024
14	ICT usage and e-Commerce in Enterprises: 2023	24/01/2024
15	Population and Migration: 2012-2022 (including intercensal revisions)	26/01/2024
16	Unemployment Rate: December 2023	29/01/2024
17	Expenditure of General Government Sector by Function: 2022	29/01/2024
18	Industrial Producer Price Indices: December 2023	30/01/2024
19	Publishing Entities Survey: 2022	30/01/2024
20	Registered Unemployment: November and December 2023	31/01/2024
21	Motor Vehicles: Q4/2023	02/02/2024
22	Index of Industrial Production: December 2023	07/02/2024
23	International Trade in Goods: December 2023	09/02/2024
24	Residential Property Transactions: January 2024	09/02/2024

← continued from previous page

Table A1. News Releases published in 2024

Number	Release name	Date of publication
25	Inbound Tourism: December 2023	12/02/2024
26	Solid Waste Management: 2022	13/02/2024
27	Road Traffic Accidents: Q4/2023	14/02/2024
28	Direct Investment in Malta and Abroad: January-June 2023	15/02/2024
29	Accidents at Work: July-December 2023	15/02/2024
30	Registered Employment: September 2023	16/02/2024
31	Pension Entitlements: 2021	16/02/2024
32	Outbound Tourism: Q4/2023	19/02/2024
33	Residential Building Permits: Q4/2023	20/02/2024
34	Short-term Industrial Indicators: Q4/2023	21/02/2024
35	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: January 2024	22/02/2024
36	Government Finance Data: January 2024	23/02/2024
37	Short-term Services Indicators: Q4/2023	26/02/2024
38	Retail Price Index: January 2024	27/02/2024
39	Gross Domestic Product: Q4/2023	28/02/2024
40	Registered Unemployment: January 2024	29/02/2024
41	Industrial Producer Price Indices: January 2024	29/02/2024
42	ICT Usage by Households: 2023	04/03/2024
43	Collective Accommodation Establishments: Q4/2023	06/03/2024
44	Labour Force Survey reweighting based on 2021 Census: 2018Q1-2023Q3	08/03/2024
45	Residential Property Transactions: February 2024	11/03/2024
46	International Trade in Goods: January 2024	11/03/2024
47	Index of Industrial Production: January 2024	12/03/2024
48	Labour Force Survey: Q4/2023	14/03/2024
49	Registered Employment: October 2023	15/03/2024

continued on next page →

← continued from previous page

Table A1. News Releases published in 2024

Number	Release name	Date of publication
50	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: February 2024	18/03/2024
51	Inbound Tourism: January 2024	20/03/2024
52	Retail Price Index: February 2024	21/03/2024
53	Job Vacancy Survey: 2017-2023	21/03/2024
54	Government Finance Data: January-February 2024	22/03/2024
55	EU-SILC 2022: Well-being, Social and Health Indicators	25/03/2024
56	International Economic and Financial Transactions: Q4/2023	26/03/2024
57	Unemployment Rate: January-February 2024	27/03/2024
58	Industrial Producer Price Indices: February 2024	28/03/2024
59	Government Finance Data: January-December 2023	28/03/2024
60	Registered Unemployment: February 2024	05/04/2024
61	Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: Jan-Dec 2023	08/04/2024
62	International Trade in Goods: February 2024	09/04/2024
63	Residential Property Transactions: March 2024	10/04/2024
64	Index of Industrial Production: February 2024	11/04/2024
65	Inbound Tourism: February 2024	12/04/2024
66	Sea Transport between Malta and Gozo: Q1/2024	15/04/2024
67	Registered Employment: November 2023	16/04/2024
68	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: March 2024	17/04/2024
69	Fatalities at Work: 2022-2023	19/04/2024
70	Government Debt and Deficit under the Maastricht Treaty, first reporting of 2024	22/04/2024
71	Quarterly Accounts for General Government: Q4/2023	22/04/2024
72	Retail Price Index: March 2024	23/04/2024
73	EU-SILC 2023: Estimates of Material Deprivation and Housing Problems	24/04/2024
74	Registered Unemployment: March 2024	25/04/2024

continued on next page →

← continued from previous page

Table A1. News Releases published in 2024

Number	Release name	Date of publication
75	Government Finance Data: January-March 2024	26/04/2024
76	Unemployment Rate: March 2024	29/04/2024
77	Industrial Producer Price Indices: March 2024	30/04/2024
78	Motor Vehicles: Q1/2024	03/05/2024
79	Malta Skills Survey 2022: Preview of results	03/05/2024
80	Registered Business Units: 2023	06/05/2024
81	Road Traffic Accidents: Q1/2024	06/05/2024
82	Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-March 2024	07/05/2024
83	Cruise Passengers: Q1/2024	07/05/2024
84	Inbound Tourism: March 2024	09/05/2024
85	Index of Industrial Production: March 2024	10/05/2024
86	International Trade in Goods: March 2024	10/05/2024
87	Residential Property Transactions: April 2024	13/05/2024
88	Registered Employment: December 2023	14/05/2024
89	Residential Building Permits: Q1/2024	15/05/2024
90	Outbound Tourism: Q1/2024	16/05/2024
91	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: April 2024	17/05/2024
92	Teaching English as a Foreign Language: 2023	20/05/2024
93	Short-term Industrial Indicators: Q1/2024	21/05/2024
94	Short-term Services Indicators: Q1/2024	22/05/2024
95	Retail Price Index: April 2024	23/05/2024
96	Registered Unemployment: April 2024	24/05/2024
97	Unemployment Rate: April 2024	27/05/2024
98	Collective Accommodation Establishments: Q1/2024	28/05/2024
99	Gross Domestic Product: Q1/2024	29/05/2024

continued on next page →

← continued from previous page

Table A1. News Releases published in 2024

Number	Release name	Date of publication
100	Industrial Producer Price Indices: April 2024	30/05/2024
101	Government Finance Data: January-April 2024	31/05/2024
102	Structure of General Government Debt: 2023	03/06/2024
103	Inbound Tourism: April 2024	04/06/2024
104	International Trade in Goods: April 2024	10/06/2024
105	Index of Industrial Production: April 2024	11/06/2024
106	EU-SILC 2023: Salient Indicators	12/06/2024
107	Residential Property Transactions: May 2024	13/06/2024
108	Labour Force Survey: Q1/2024	13/06/2024
109	Job Vacancy Survey: Q1/2024	14/06/2024
110	Cinema Statistics: 2023	17/06/2024
111	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: May 2024	18/06/2024
112	Renewable Energy from Photovoltaic Panels (PVs): 2023	19/06/2024
113	World Refugee Day: 20 June 2024	19/06/2024
114	Retail Price Index: May 2024	20/06/2024
115	Registered Unemployment: May 2024	24/06/2024
116	Unemployment Rate: May 2024	25/06/2024
117	International Economic and Financial Transactions: Q1/2024	26/06/2024
118	Industrial Producer Price Indices: May 2024	27/06/2024
119	Government Finance Data: January-May 2024	28/06/2024
120	Registered Employment: January 2024	01/07/2024
121	Property Price Index (PPI): Q1/2024	04/07/2024
122	Quarterly Accounts for General Government: Q1/2024	05/07/2024
123	Residential Property Transactions: June 2024	09/07/2024
124	World Population Day: 11 July 2024	10/07/2024

continued on next page →

← continued from previous page

Table A1. News Releases published in 2024

Number	Release name	Date of publication
125	International Trade in Goods: May 2024	10/07/2024
126	Index of Industrial Production: May 2024	11/07/2024
127	Inbound Tourism: May 2024	12/07/2024
128	Statistics on Libraries: 2023	15/07/2024
129	Sea Transport between Malta and Gozo: Q2/2024	16/07/2024
130	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: June 2024	17/07/2024
131	Research and Development in Malta: 2022	18/07/2024
132	Structural Business Statistics: 2022	18/07/2024
133	Registered Employment: February 2024	19/07/2024
134	Retail Price Index: June 2024	22/07/2024
135	Cruise Passengers: Q2/2024	23/07/2024
136	Regional Tourism: 2023	24/07/2024
137	Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: January-June 2024	25/07/2024
138	Government Finance Data: January-June 2024	26/07/2024
139	Unemployment Rate: June 2024	29/07/2024
140	Motor Vehicles: Q2/2024	30/07/2024
141	Industrial Producer Price Indices: June 2024	31/07/2024
142	Registered Unemployment: June 2024	01/08/2024
143	Homicides: 2014-2023	02/08/2024
144	Inbound Tourism: June 2024	06/08/2024
145	Road Traffic Accidents: Q2/2024	07/08/2024
146	Index of Industrial Production: June 2024	08/08/2024
147	International Trade in Goods: June 2024	09/08/2024
148	Residential Property Transactions: July 2024	09/08/2024
149	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: July 2024	20/08/2024

continued on next page →

← continued from previous page

Table A1. News Releases published in 2024

Number	Release name	Date of publication
150	Residential Building Permits: Q2/2024	21/08/2024
151	Short-term Industrial Indicators: Q2/2024	22/08/2024
152	Registered Employment: March 2024	22/08/2024
153	Retail Price Index: July 2024	23/08/2024
154	Short-term Services Indicators: Q2/2024	23/08/2024
155	Collective Accommodation Establishments: Q2/2024	26/08/2024
156	Accidents at Work: January-June 2024	26/08/2024
157	Registered Unemployment: July 2024	27/08/2024
158	Outbound Tourism: Q2/2024	27/08/2024
159	Gross Domestic Product: Q2/2024	28/08/2024
160	Unemployment Rate: July 2024	29/08/2024
161	Government Finance Data: January-July 2024	30/08/2024
162	Industrial Producer Price Indices: July 2024	30/08/2024
163	International Trade in Goods: July 2024	09/09/2024
164	Index of Industrial Production: July 2024	10/09/2024
165	Residential Property Transactions: August 2024	11/09/2024
166	Inbound Tourism: July 2024	12/09/2024
167	Labour Force Survey: Q2/2024	13/09/2024
168	Job Vacancy Survey: Q2/2024	13/09/2024
169	Business Innovation: 2020-2022	17/09/2024
170	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: August 2024	18/09/2024
171	Registered Employment: April 2024	19/09/2024
172	Pensions and Labour Market Participation: 2023	20/09/2024
173	Retail Price Index: August 2024	23/09/2024
174	Economic Accounts for Agriculture: 2023	25/09/2024

continued on next page →



← continued from previous page

Table A1. News Releases published in 2024

Number	Release name	Date of publication
175	Unemployment Rate: August 2024	26/09/2024
176	Government Finance Data: January-August 2024	27/09/2024
177	Industrial Producer Price Indices: August 2024	30/09/2024
178	International Economic and Financial Transactions: Q2/2024	01/10/2024
179	Direct Investment in Malta and Abroad: January-December 2023	01/10/2024
180	Regional Labour Supply by Place of Residence and Work: 2023	02/10/2024
181	Residential Property Price Index (RPPI): Q2/2024	03/10/2024
182	Inbound Tourism: August 2024	03/10/2024
183	Registered Unemployment: August 2024	04/10/2024
184	Electricity Supply: 2023	08/10/2024
185	Index of Industrial Production: August 2024	09/10/2024
186	International Trade in Goods: August 2024	10/10/2024
187	Residential Property Transactions: September 2024	10/10/2024
188	EU-SILC 2023: Main Dwellings	14/10/2024
189	Key Indicators on the Labour Market: 2023	15/10/2024
190	Registered Employment: May 2024	16/10/2024
191	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: September 2024	17/10/2024
192	Adult Education Survey: 2022	17/10/2024
193	Sea Transport between Malta and Gozo: Q3/2024	18/10/2024
194	Retail Price Index: September 2024	21/10/2024
195	Quarterly Accounts for General Government: Q2/2024	22/10/2024
196	Government Debt and Deficit under the Maastricht Treaty, Second Reporting of 2024	22/10/2024
197	Motor Vehicles: Q3/2024	23/10/2024
198	Annual non-financial Accounts by Institutional Sectors 1995-2023	23/10/2024
199	Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Formal Education: 2022-2023	24/10/2024

continued on next page →

← continued from previous page

Table A1. News Releases published in 2024

Number	Release name	Date of publication
200	Government Finance Data: January-September 2024	25/10/2024
201	Registered Unemployment: September 2024	28/10/2024
202	Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits: Jan-Sep 2024	29/10/2024
203	Industrial Producer Price Indices: September 2024	30/10/2024
204	Unemployment Rate: September 2024	31/10/2024
205	Tax Revenues: 2023	31/10/2024
206	Road Traffic Accidents: Q3/2024	01/11/2024
207	Students in Post-secondary and Tertiary Education: 2022-2023	06/11/2024
208	Foreign Affiliates Statistics: 2022	07/11/2024
209	Index of Industrial Production: September 2024	08/11/2024
210	International Trade in Goods: September 2024	11/11/2024
211	Inbound Tourism: September 2024	12/11/2024
212	Residential Property Transactions: October 2024	12/11/2024
213	Cruise Passengers: Q3/2024	13/11/2024
214	Outbound Tourism: Q3/2024	14/11/2024
215	Personnel in Education: 2022-2023	15/11/2024
216	Registered Employment: June 2024	18/11/2024
217	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: October 2024	19/11/2024
218	Short-term Services Indicators: Q3/2024	20/11/2024
219	Registered Unemployment: October 2024	21/11/2024
220	Residential Building Permits: Q3/2024	21/11/2024
221	Retail Price Index: October 2024	22/11/2024
222	Collective Accommodation Establishments: Q3/2024	25/11/2024
223	Short-term Industrial Indicators: Q3/2024	26/11/2024
224	Aquaculture: 2023	26/11/2024

continued on next page →

← continued from previous page

Table A2. Full Publications in 2024

Table A1. News Releases published in 2024

Number	Release name	Date of publication
225	Gross Domestic Product: Q3/2024	27/11/2024
226	Unemployment Rate: October 2024	28/11/2024
227	Business Demography: 2023	28/11/2024
228	Government Finance Data: January-October 2024	29/11/2024
229	Industrial Producer Price Indices: October 2024	29/11/2024
230	Inbound Tourism: October 2024	02/12/2024
231	Municipal Waste: 2023	03/12/2024
232	Domestic Violence: 2023	04/12/2024
233	Supply and Use Tables: 2019	06/12/2024
234	Index of Industrial Production: October 2024	09/12/2024
235	International Trade in Goods: October 2024	10/12/2024
236	Residential Property Transactions: November 2024	11/12/2024
237	Labour Force Survey: Q3/2024	11/12/2024
238	Graduates: 2023	12/12/2024
239	Job Vacancy Survey: Q3/2024	12/12/2024
240	Registered Employment: July 2024	16/12/2024
241	Expenditure of General Government Sector by Function: 2023	17/12/2024
242	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices: November 2024	18/12/2024
243	Regional Gross Domestic Product: 2023	19/12/2024
244	Retail Price Index: November 2024	19/12/2024
245	Industrial Producer Price Indices: November 2024	20/12/2024
246	Government Finance Data: January-November 2024	20/12/2024

Publication name	Date of publication
Census of Population and Housing 2021: Final Report: Health, education, employment and other characteristics (Volume 3)	19/01/2024
Transport Statistics 2023 (Reference year 2022)	12/03/2024
Survey on Safety and Well-Being	14/03/2024
Social Protection 2024 (Reference years 2018-2022)	27/06/2024
Malta Skills Survey 2022: Final Report	19/07/2024
Regional Statistics MALTA 2024 Edition	23/07/2024
International Trade in Goods Statistics MALTA 2024 (Reference years 2018-2023)	11/10/2024
Cultural and Creative Practice Survey 2024	25/10/2024