

Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Formal Education: 2024-2025



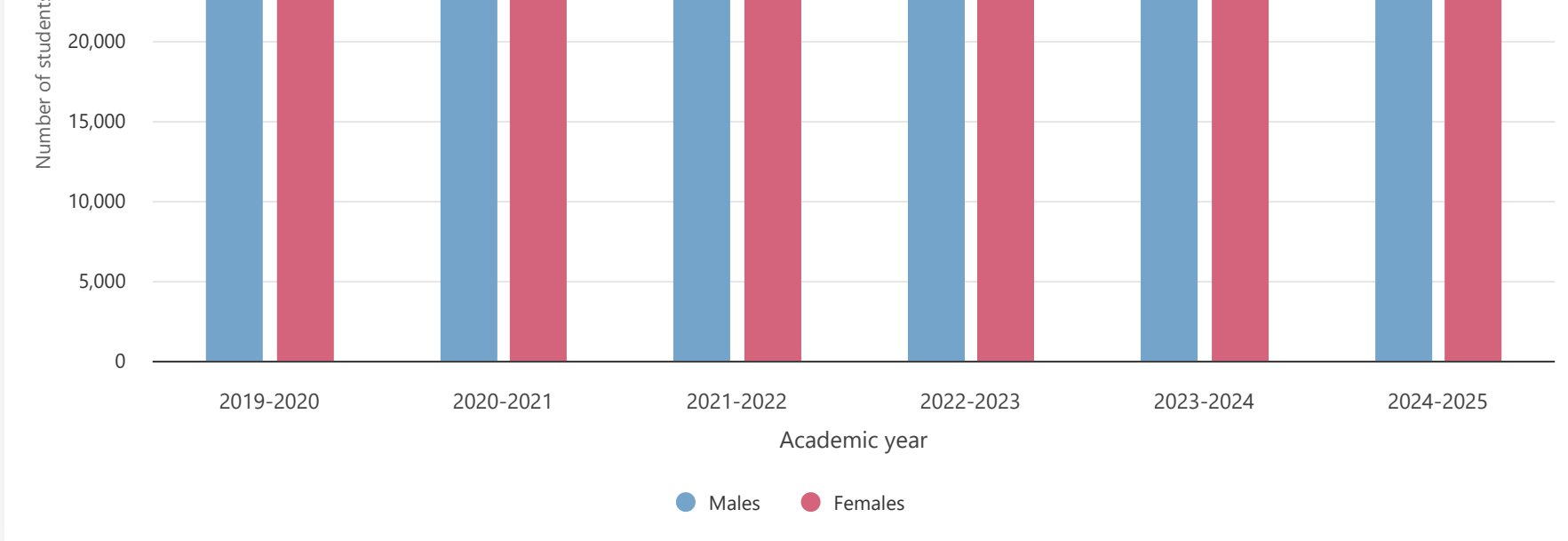
Salient Points

- A total of 60,339 students were enrolled in pre-primary, primary and secondary education.
- The majority of students enrolled in pre-primary, primary and secondary education comprised of male students (31,201 students or 51.7 per cent).
- State-run institutions accounted for 59.4 per cent of total enrolments.
- The Northern Harbour District topped the list of districts in which pre-primary to secondary students resided (26.4 per cent).
- Total foreigners accounted for 19.4 per cent of the total students enrolled from pre-primary to secondary education.

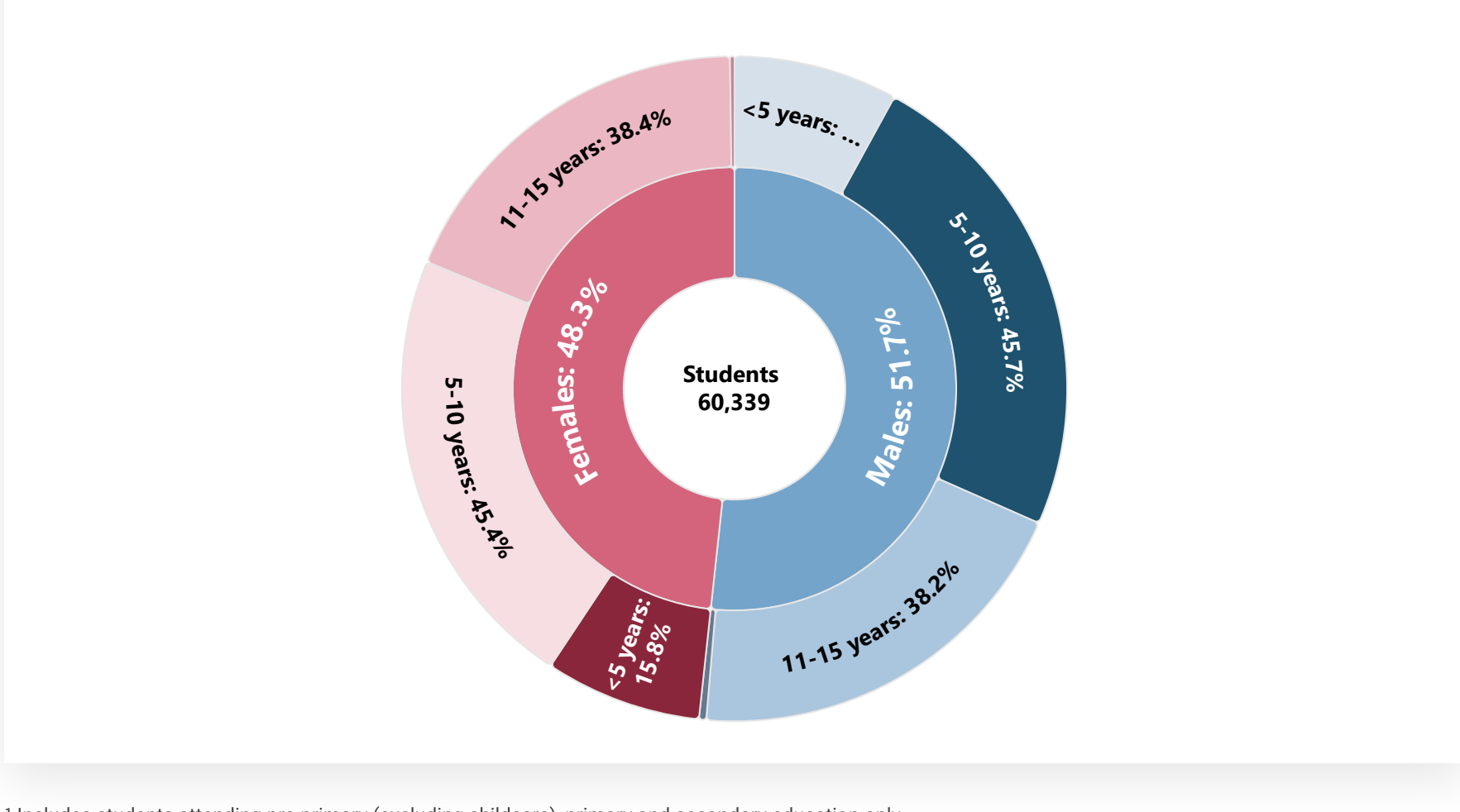
Commentary

During academic year 2024-2025, the number of students enrolled in pre-primary, primary, and secondary education totalled 60,339 – a 0.2 per cent increase compared to the previous academic year.

The majority of the 60,339 students enrolled in pre-primary, primary, and secondary education were male (51.7 per cent) (Chart 2). During academic year 2024-2025, 45.6 per cent of the students enrolled were aged between 5 and 10 years, while 38.3 per cent of students were aged between 11-15 years (Table 1, Charts 1 and 2).



¹ Includes students attending pre-primary (excluding childcare), primary and secondary education only.

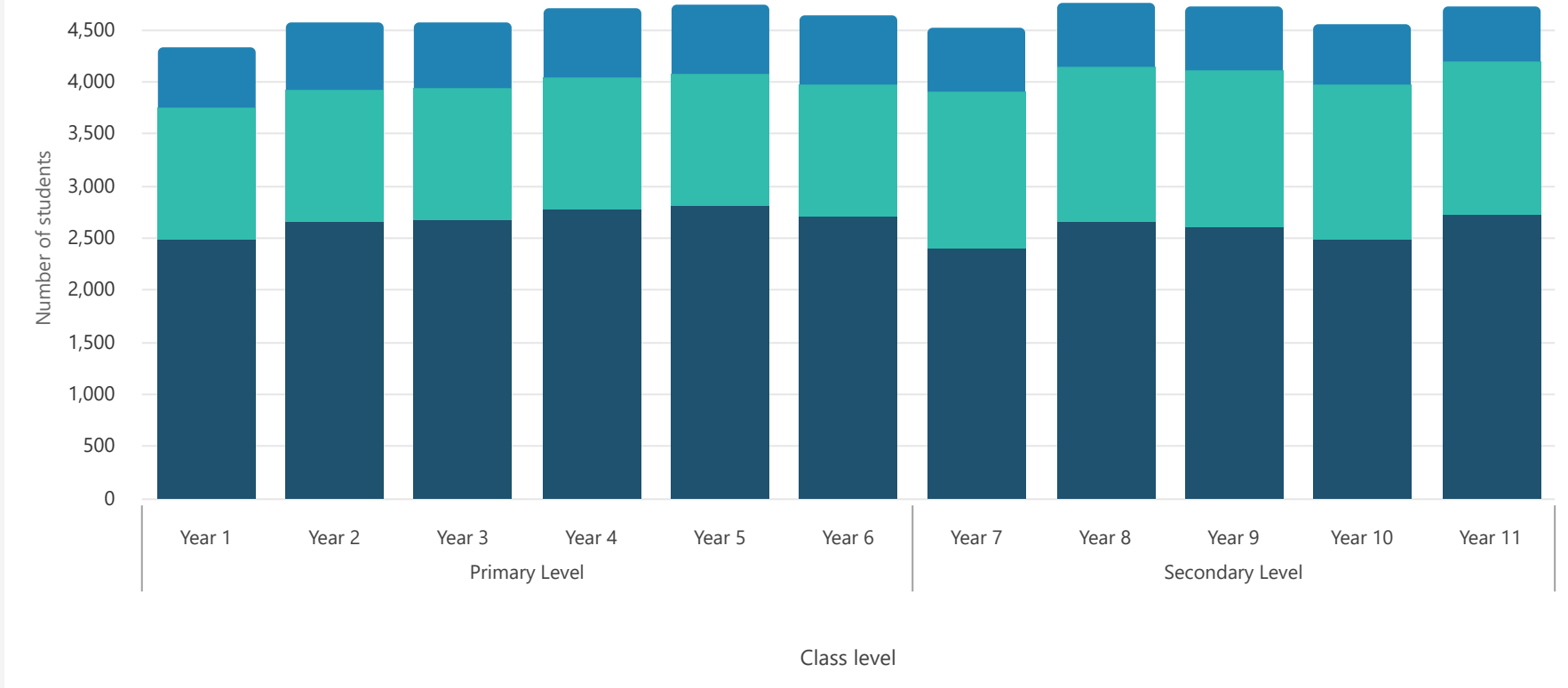


¹ Includes students attending pre-primary (excluding childcare), primary and secondary education only.

Note. Percentages may not add up due to rounding.

State-run institutions accounted for 59.4 per cent of total enrolments, while 26.6 per cent attended church-run institutions. Students enrolled in private schools accounted for 14.0 per cent of total enrolments at these levels. Total students enrolled in mandatory education during 2024-2025 stood at 50,890. Of these, 54.2 per cent attended primary school, while the remaining 45.8 per cent attended secondary school. When compared to academic year 2023-2024, students increased by 0.2 per cent and 0.8 per cent in primary and secondary schools respectively (Table 3 and Chart 3).

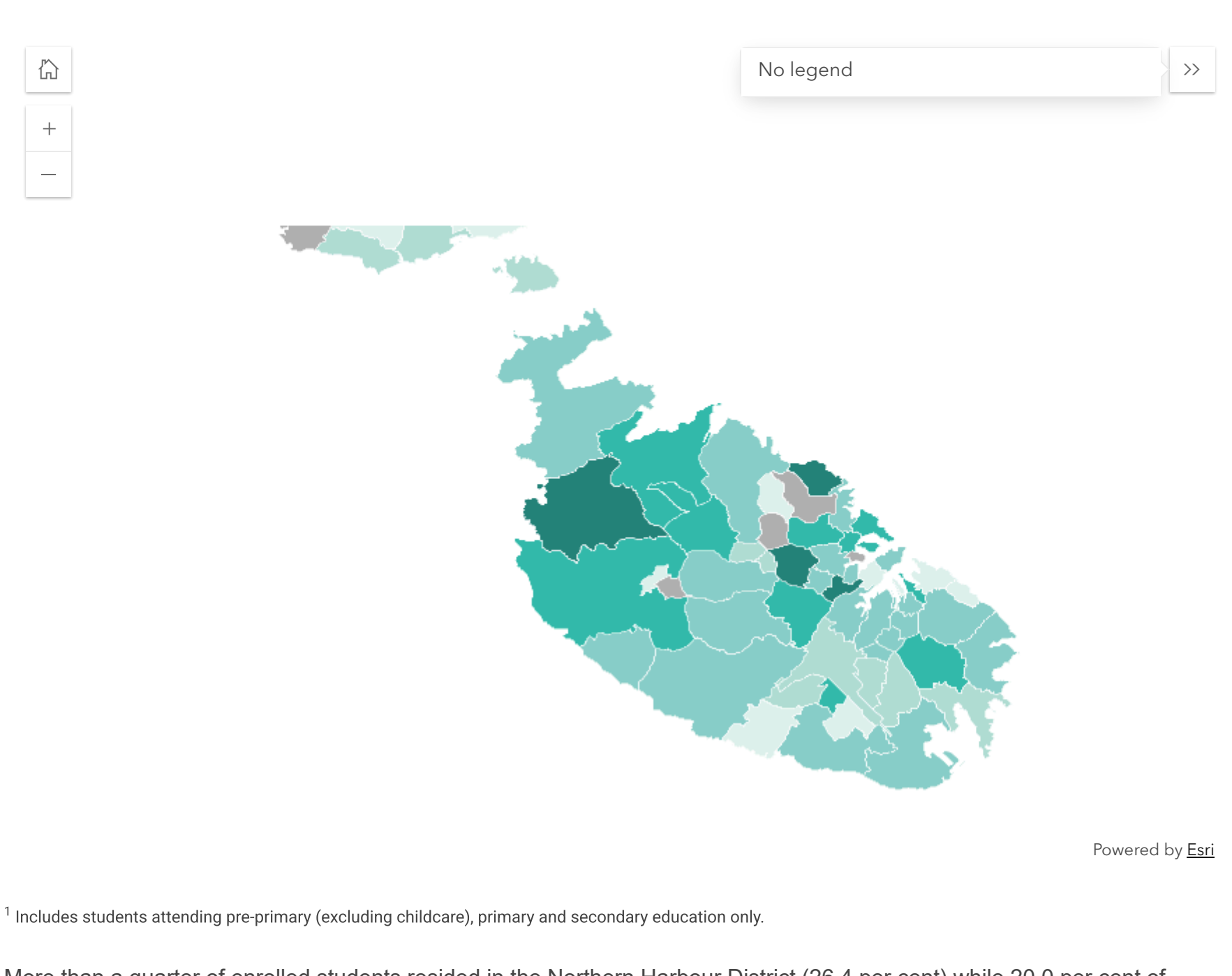
The average class size for all schools at the primary level was 18.4 students per class, and 19.1 students per class at secondary level. When analysing class size by type of school, the lowest average class sizes at both primary and secondary levels were seen in state schools, while church schools held the highest average class sizes at both levels. The highest average class size of primary education was recorded in Year 4 with an average of 19.3 students per class. Furthermore, in secondary education, Year 9 recorded the highest average of 19.9 students per class (Table 4).



The district hosting the largest number of school levels in 2024-2025 was the Northern Harbour District (34.4 per cent), followed by the Southern Harbour District (19.6 per cent) (Table 5).

In parallel, the majority of students attended schools located in the Northern Harbour District (37.7 per cent), followed by the Southern Harbour District (16.4 per cent). The district hosting the smallest share of enrolled students was the district of Gozo and Comino with 7.2 per cent (Table 6 and Map 1).

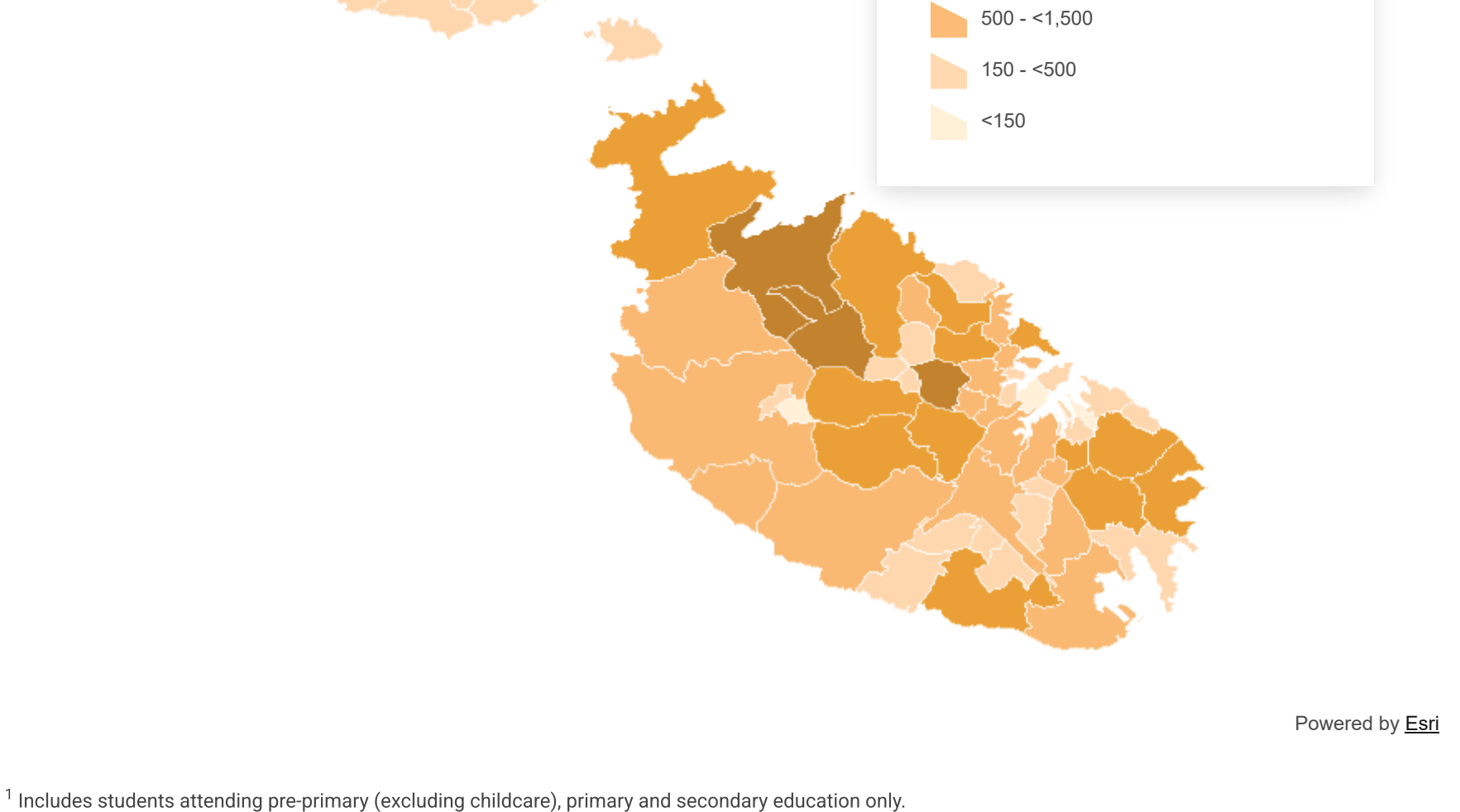
Map 1. Number of students' enrolled by locality of school: academic year 2024-2025



¹ Includes students attending pre-primary (excluding childcare), primary and secondary education only.

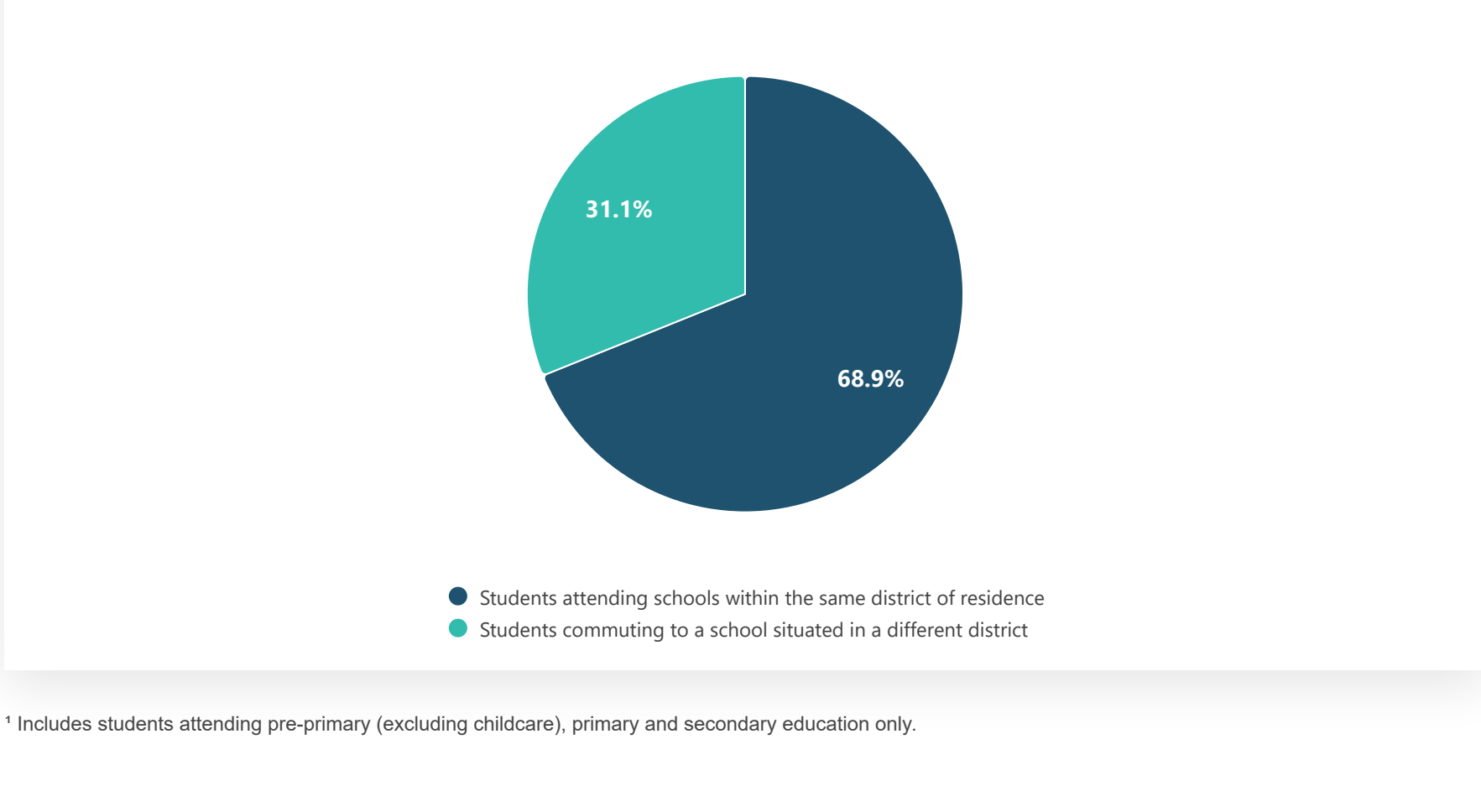
More than a quarter of enrolled students resided in the Northern Harbour District (26.4 per cent) while 20.0 per cent of students resided in the Northern District (Table 7 and Map 2).

Map 2. Number of students' enrolled by locality of students' residence: academic year 2024-2025



¹ Includes students attending pre-primary (excluding childcare), primary and secondary education only.

When looking at dynamics of commuting from residence to school, more than two-thirds of all enrolled students attended schools within the same district of residence (68.9 per cent). Conversely, 31.1 per cent of students attended schools outside their district of residence (Chart 4).



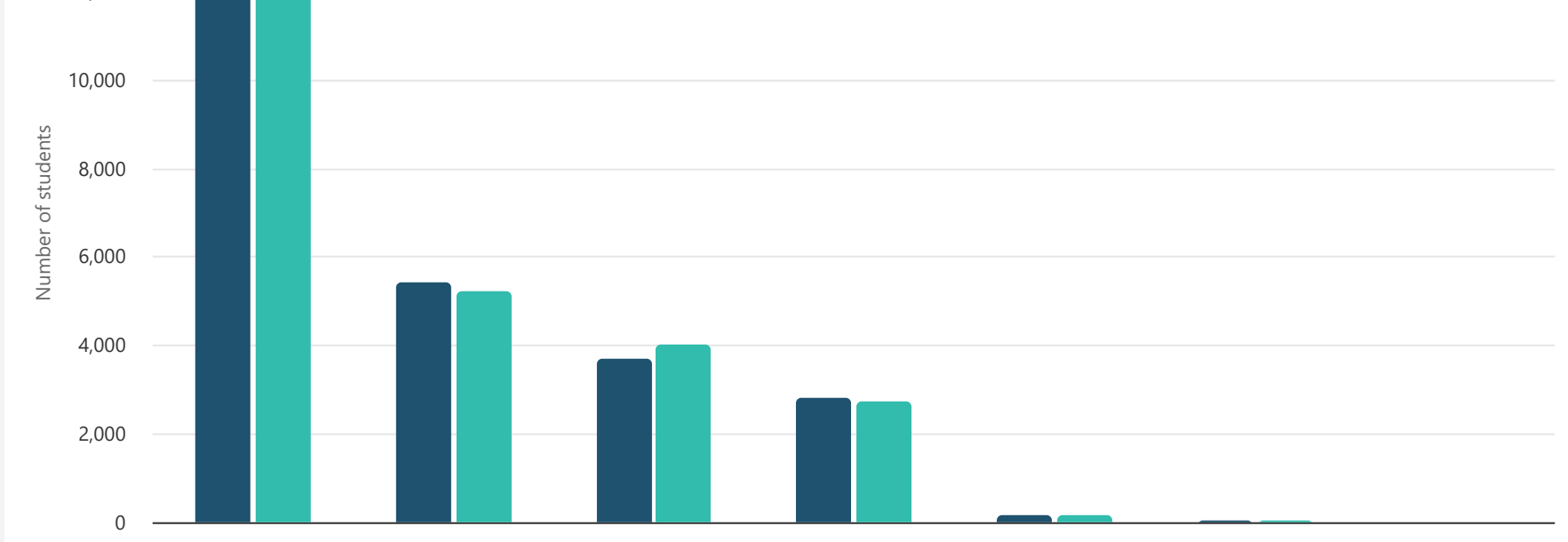
¹ Includes students attending pre-primary (excluding childcare), primary and secondary education only.

The number of non-Maltese students enrolled in pre-primary to secondary education during 2024-2025, increased by 12.0 per cent when compared to the previous academic year. The majority of non-Maltese students attended either State-run or private institutions. Slightly more than one in every four students enrolled with private institutions were non-Maltese (26.7 per cent), while in State-run institutions 25.8 per cent of students enrolled were non-Maltese.

The absolute majority of students enrolled in Church-run institutions were Maltese (98.8 per cent). 67.2 per cent of non-Maltese students enrolled in pre-primary to secondary education during 2024-2025 were third-country nationals (Tables 8 and 9).

When examining the foreign languages studied at secondary level, Italian was the most popular language, with more than half of the students learning it (52.9 per cent). Fewer than a quarter of students studied French (22.5 per cent), while 17.3 per cent studied Spanish and 11.7 per cent studied German. Additionally, there was an increase of 8.3 per cent of students learning Spanish when compared to the previous academic year.

When comparing language uptake by sex, the largest disparity between the sexes can be seen in the French language, where during this academic year, 28.8 per cent of female secondary school students took up the French language, whilst 16.7 per cent of male secondary students studied French, a difference of 12.1 percentage points (Table 10 and Chart 5).



¹ Includes only students enrolled in Year 7 to Year 11.

² Excludes Maltese and English (official languages).

Note: Totals do not add up to the total number of secondary level students since students may be studying more than one language or none at all.

Table 1. Profile of students¹ enrolled by academic year

	Academic year		Change	Percentage change
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025 / 2023-2024	
Sex				
Males	31,195	31,201	6	0.0
Females	29,002	29,138	136	0.5
Age group				
<5	9,503	9,409	-94	-1.0
5-10	27,414	27,486	72	0.3
11-15	22,939	23,100	161	0.7
16 and over	341	344	3	0.9
Citizenship				
Maltese	49,742	48,630	-1,112	-2.2
Other EU	3,593	3,842	249	6.9
Non-EU	6,862	7,867	1,005	14.6
District of residence				
Southern Harbour	9,507	9,392	-115	-1.2
Northern Harbour	15,977	15,933	-44	-0.3
South Eastern	10,347	10,387	40	0.4
Western	8,074	8,156	82	1.0
Northern	11,889	12,080	191	1.6
Gozo and Comino	4,403	4,391	-12	-0.3
Education level				
Pre-primary (K1-K2)	9,552	9,449	-103	-1.1
Primary (Y1-Y6)	27,537	27,592	55	0.2
Lower Secondary (Y7-Y9)	13,841	14,011	170	1.2
Upper Secondary (Y10-Y11)	9,267	9,287	20	0.2
Type of school				
State	35,890	35,860	-30	-0.1
Church	16,090	16,057	-33	-0.2
Private	8,217	8,422	205	2.5
Total students	60,197	60,339	142	0.2

¹ Includes students attending pre-primary (excluding childcare), primary and secondary education only.

Table 2. Number of students¹ enrolled by academic year, education level and sex

Education level	Academic year 2023-2024			Academic year 2024-2025		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	No.			No.		
Pre-primary (K1-K2)	4,947	4,605	9,552	4,836	4,613	9,449
Primary (Y1-Y6)	14,315	13,222	27,537	14,330	13,262	27,592
Lower Secondary (Y7-Y9)	7,097	6,744	13,841	7,270	6,741	14,011
Upper Secondary (Y10-Y11)	4,836	4,431	9,267	4,765	4,522	9,287
Total	31,195	29,002	60,197	31,201	29,138	60,339
	% (row)			% (row)		
Pre-primary (K1-K2)	51.8	48.2	100.0	51.2	48.8	100.0
Primary (Y1-Y6)	52.0	48.0	100.0	51.9	48.1	100.0
Lower Secondary (Y7-Y9)	51.3	48.7	100.0	51.9	48.1	100.0
Upper Secondary (Y10-Y11)	52.2	47.8	100.0	51.3	48.7	100.0
Total	51.8	48.2	100.0	51.7	48.3	100.0

¹ Includes students attending pre-primary (excluding childcare), primary and secondary education only.

Table 3. Number of students¹ enrolled by academic year, type of school and class level

Class Level	Academic year 2023-2024				Academic year 2024-2025			
	State	Church	Private	Total	State	Church	Private	Total
Kinder 1	4,098	282	846	5,226	3,920	307	843	5,070
Kinder 2	2,883	735	708	4,326	2,915	729	735	4,379
Total Pre-primary Level	6,981	1,017	1,554	9,552	6,835	1,036	1,578	9,449
Year 1	2,733	1,255	648	4,636	2,487	1,259	595	4,341
Year 2	2,677	1,261	633	4,571	2,656	1,265	650	4,571
Year 3	2,728	1,268	646	4,642	2,673	1,261	642	4,576
Year 4	2,758	1,262	645	4,665	2,781	1,270	666	4,717
Year 5	2,629	1,264	649	4,542	2,814	1,261	666	4,741
Year 6	2,559	1,282	640	4,481	2,712	1,267	667	4,646
Total Primary Level	16,084	7,592	3,861	27,537	16,123	7,583	3,886	27,592
Year 7	2,560	1,495	583	4,638	2,403	1,506	612	4,521
Year 8	2,576	1,501	601	4,678	2,655	1,485	618	4,758
Year 9	2,462	1,498	565	4,525	2,618	1,490	624	4,732
Year 10	2,566	1,481	550	4,597	2,492	1,490	573	4,555
Year 11	2,661	1,506	503	4,670	2,734	1,467	531	4,732
Total Secondary Level	12,825	7,481	2,802	23,108	12,902	7,438	2,958	23,298
Total	35,890	16,090	8,217	60,197	35,860	16,057	8,422	60,339

¹ Includes students attending pre-primary (excluding childcare), primary and secondary education only.

Table 4. Average class size in mandatory¹ education by academic year, type of school and class level

Class Level	Academic year 2023-2024				Academic year 2024-2025			
	State	Church	Private	Total	State	Church	Private	Total
Year 1	16.1	23.7	20.3	18.2	15.4	23.8	17.5	17.5
Year 2	16.5	23.8	19.8	18.5	15.4	23.9	19.1	17.6
Year 3	16.8	23.9	20.2	18.8	16.7	23.8	19.5	18.6
Year 4	16.8	23.8	19.0	18.6	17.6	24.0	20.2	19.3
Year 5	16.4	23.8	20.9	18.6	17.3	23.8	19.0	18.9
Year 6	16.9	24.2	20.6	19.1	16.5	23.5	20.2	18.5
Total Primary Level	16.6	23.9	20.1	18.6	16.5	23.8	19.2	18.4
Year 7	18.0	23.0	19.4	19.6	17.2	23.2	18.5	19.0
Year 8	18.3	23.1	20.0	19.8	18.7	22.8	18.7	19.8
Year 9	18.0	22.0	19.5	19.3	18.8	21.9	20.1	19.9
Year 10	18.3	21.8	19.0	19.4	18.2	21.9	17.9	19.2
Year 11	16.1	22.1	18.0	17.9	16.4	21.6	18.3	17.9
Total Secondary Level	17.7	22.4	19.2	19.2	17.8	22.3	18.7	19.1

¹ Mandatory education refers to primary and secondary levels (Year 1 to Year 11).

Note: For average class size calculation method refer to methodological note 7.

Table 5. Number of educational levels (within schools) by academic year and district of school

District of school	Academic year 2023-2024				Academic year 2024-2025			
	Pre-Primary	Primary	Secondary	Total	Pre-Primary	Primary	Secondary	Total
Southern Harbour	20	24	13	57	20	24	13	57
Northern Harbour	34	32	31	97	34	33	33	100
South Eastern	14	14	4	32	14	14	4	32
Western	14	14	6	34	14	14	6	34
Northern	11	13	9	33	11	13	9	33
Gozo and Comino	16	15	4	35	16	15	4	35
Total	109	112	67	288	109	113	69	291

Table 6. Number of students¹ enrolled by district of school and class level: academic year 2024-2025

Class Level	District of school						
	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo and Comino	Total
Kinder 1	771	1,440	764	724	1,014	357	5,070
Kinder 2	671	1,423	574	571	828	312	4,379
Total Pre-primary Level	1,442	2,863	1,338	1,295	1,842	669	9,449
Year 1	851	1,434	520	506	711	319	4,341
Year 2	838	1,477	611	579	735	331	4,571
Year 3	861	1,533	585	562	728	307	4,576
Year 4	900	1,579	579	564	727	368	4,717
Year 5	945	1,577	601	517	757	344	4,741
Year 6	903	1,552	545	549	738	359	4,646
Total Primary Level	5,298	9,152	3,441	3,277	4,396	2,028	27,592
Year 7	633	2,106	452	425	568	337	4,521
Year 8	625	2,156	491	443	670	373	4,758
Year 9	626	2,203	513	428	645	317	4,732
Year 10	588	2,126	509	414	567	351	4,555
Year 11	705	2,114	462	421	732	298	4,732
Total Secondary Level	3,177	10,705	2,427	2,131	3,182	1,676	23,298
Total	9,917	22,720	7,206	6,703	9,420	4,373	60,339

¹ Includes students attending pre-primary (excluding childcare), primary and secondary education only.

Table 7. Number of students¹ enrolled by district of students' residence and class level: academic year 2024-2025

Class Level	District of students' residence						
	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo and Comino	Total
Kinder 1	752	1,225	912	721	1,101	359	5,070
Kinder 2	639	1,168	742	593	925	312	4,379
Total Pre-primary Level	1,391	2,393	1,654	1,314	2,026	671	9,449
Year 1	696	1,100	740	593	892	320	4,341
Year 2	665	1,127	829	681	936	333	4,571
Year 3	708	1,214	808	604	935	307	4,576
Year 4	735	1,225	776	635	975	371	4,717
Year 5	731	1,249	833	612	972	344	4,741
Year 6	742	1,245	752	604	944	359	4,646
Total Primary Level	4,277	7,160	4,738	3,729	5,654	2,034	27,592
Year 7	700	1,241	747	620	873	340	4,521
Year 8	708	1,294	813	635	935	373	4,758
Year 9	789	1,280	812	636	895	320	4,732
Year 10	705	1,235	817	597	847	354	4,555
Year 11	822	1,330	806	625	850	299	4,732
Total Secondary Level	3,724	6,380	3,995	3,113	4,400	1,686	23,298
Total	9,392	15,933	10,387	8,156	12,080	4,391	60,339

¹ Includes students attending pre-primary (excluding childcare), primary and secondary education only.

Table 8. Number of students¹ enrolled by academic year, citizenship and type of school

Citizenship	Academic year 2023-2024				Academic year 2024-2025			
	State	Church	Private	Total	State	Church	Private	Total
Maltese	27,610	15,955	6,177	49,742	26,591	15,865	6,174	48,630
Non-Maltese	8,280	135	2,040	10,455	9,269	192	2,248	11,709
Total	35,890	16,090	8,217	60,197	35,860	16,057	8,422	60,339
	%				%			
Maltese	76.9	99.2	75.2	82.6	74.2	98.8	73.3	80.6
Non-Maltese	23.1	0.8	24.8	17.4	25.8	1.2	26.7	19.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Includes students attending pre-primary (excluding childcare), primary and secondary education only.

Table 9. Number of students¹ enrolled by academic year and citizenship

Citizenship	Academic year				Change	Percentage change
	2023-2024		2024-2025		2024-2025 / 2023-2024	
	No.	%	No.	%		
Maltese	49,742	82.6	48,630	80.6	-1,112	-2.2
Other EU	3,593	6.0	3,842	6.4	249	6.9
<i>of which:</i>						
Italian	1,128	1.9	1,244	2.1	116	10.3
Bulgarian	331	0.5	332	0.6	1	0.3
Romanian	286	0.5	293	0.5	7	2.4
Hungarian	208	0.3	238	0.4	30	14.4
Polish	222	0.4	218	0.4	-4	-1.8
Non-EU	6,862	11.4	7,867	13.0	1,005	14.6
<i>of which:</i>						
Syrian	742	1.2	865	1.4	123	16.6
Indian	553	0.9	747	1.2	194	35.1
Chinese	527	0.9	680	1.1	153	29.0
British	606	1.0	602	1.0	-4	-0.7
Serbian	557	0.9	601	1.0	44	7.9
Total	60,197	100.0	60,339	100.0	142	0.2

¹ Includes students attending pre-primary (excluding childcare), primary and secondary education only.

Table 10. Secondary students¹ by foreign language² studied, academic year and sex

Language studied	Academic year 2023-2024			Academic year 2024-2025		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	No.			No.		
Total secondary students	11,933	11,175	23,108	12,035	11,263	23,298
<i>Of which studying...</i>						
Italian	6,300	6,018	12,318	6,250	6,066	12,316
French	2,102	3,331	5,433	2,007	3,241	5,248
Spanish	1,750	1,964	3,714	1,933	2,089	4,022
German	1,452	1,356	2,808	1,404	1,325	2,729
Arabic	81	71	152	99	77	176
Chinese	31	14	45	35	15	50
Russian	8	6	14	4	6	10
	% (column)			% (column)		
Italian	52.8	53.9	53.3	51.9	53.9	52.9
French	17.6	29.8	23.5	16.7	28.8	22.5
Spanish	14.7	17.6	16.1	16.1	18.5	17.3
German	12.2	12.1	12.2	11.7	11.8	11.7
Arabic	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8
Chinese	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2
Russian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0

¹ Includes students enrolled in Year 7 to Year 11.

² Excludes Maltese and English (official languages).

Notes.

1. Totals of languages do not add up to the total number of secondary level students since students may be studying more than one language, or none at all.

2. Percentages do not add up to 100 per cent, since students studying more than one foreign language are counted more than once.

Methodological Notes

1. Education statistics presented in this news release are processed by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on an annual basis in accordance with [European Regulations \(EC\) 452/2008](#) and [\(EU\) 912/2013](#). These regulations establish the basis of information to be collected from educational institutions at all levels of education and all types of institutions. By adhering to these regulations, all education statistics collected and processed by the NSO are comparable to other European countries following the same regulatory standards.

2. Data collection is carried out during April of each year. The reference period for the information provided is the end of March (31st March) of the reference academic year.

3. All information required for State administered educational institutions is obtained from register data provided directly from the Ministry for Education and Sport (MES). Questionnaires to pre-primary, primary and secondary non-State educational institutions are sent via email. All incoming questionnaires are processed through a custom-made computer software.

4. Students enrolled in pre-primary (excluding childcare), primary and secondary education are included in this news release. Figures include students enrolled in State, church and private institutions, unless otherwise specified.

5. Figures include students who attend special schools. Special schools are resource centres to support the inclusion of students with individual needs in all mainstream schools in Malta and Gozo.

6. Education Statistics data is provided by NSO to Eurostat on an annual basis in a dedicated questionnaire.

7. Average class size is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Number of students}}{\text{Number of classes}}$$

8. **Definitions:**

- **Age** is calculated as at 1st January of the reference academic year. For example, for academic year 2024-2025, age is calculated as at 1st January 2025.
- **Class** refers to a group of students who are physically following a common course of study in the same space.
- **Educational levels** refer to an ordered set grouping education programmes in relation to gradations of learning experiences, as well as the knowledge, skills and competencies which each programme is designed to impart. The ISCED level reflects the degree of complexity and specialisation of the content of an education programme, from foundational to complex.
- **Formal education** is an institutionalised, intentional and planned type of education which is provided by public organisations and recognised private bodies. It consists primarily of initial education designed for children and young people before their first entry to the labour market. It also includes other types of education such as vocational, special needs and adult education provided they are recognised as part of the formal education system by the relevant national education authorities.
- **General education** refers to programmes that are designed to develop learners’ general knowledge, skills and competencies, as well as literacy and numeracy skills, often to prepare students for more advanced education programmes at the same or higher ISCED levels and to lay the foundation for lifelong learning.
- **Locality of school** refers to the locality where the physical campus is registered.
- **Locality of residence** refers to the locality where the student is recorded to reside.
- **Languages studied** include foreign languages studied, excluding Maltese and English. Students may study more than one foreign language, or no foreign language at all.
- **Mandatory education** in Malta is compulsory for all children and youths aged from five (5) to fifteen (15) years, both year inclusive, as defined in [Chapter 605 of the Laws of Malta \(The Education Act\)](#). Compulsory education covers six years of primary education followed by five years of secondary education.
- **School levels** refer to the stages of learning within the education system from pre-primary to secondary education. The number of school levels refer to the number of educational institutions for each level of education.

9. Totals/percentages may not add up due to rounding.

10. The data contained in this release may be revised.

11. More information relating to this release may be accessed at:
[Metadata](#)
[ISCED Classification](#)
[LAU Classification](#)

12. European statistics related to students are available [here](#).

13. A detailed news release calendar is available [online](#).

14. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately. For guidance on access and re-use of data please visit our [dedicated webpage](#).

15. For further assistance send your request through our [online request form](#).