

News Release

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Culture Statistics

Theatres 2003

This news release is the follow-up of last year's survey on theatres and theatre patronage in the Maltese Islands, released by the Culture Statistics programme of the National Statistics Office.

Theatrical productions – ranging from operas and musicals to comedies and dramas – increased by 25.9 per cent from 2002 to 2003. However, the number of performances decreased from 397 to 371, a drop of 6.5 per cent. The largest amount of performances held were concerts, followed by serious dramas, comedies and musicals. A substantial number of 'other' performances were also organised; these included school activities (such as prize days), beauty contests and poetry readings.

Theatre attendance saw a slight drop between 2002 and 2003; from 169,015 to 144,456, a decrease of 14.5 per cent. However, this is still an increase over the 142,437 persons who attended the theatre in 2001. The most highly attended performances were musicals, comedies and concerts. Musical also boast the highest theatre-seat utilisation with 81.3 per cent of seats being filled for these performances. They are followed by comedies with 67.4 per cent, dramas with 61.1 per cent and operas with 60.8 per cent. Concerts are the least attended performances, with a theatre-seat utilisation rate of 45.2 per cent. The weighted average for theatre-seat utilisation decreased from 63.1 per cent in 2002 to 59.9 in the year under review.

The number of persons employed in this sector in 2003 stood at 53 – a percentage increase of 3.9 over 2002. Of the workers employed in this year, 71.7 per cent were working on a part-time basis. This sector also comprises a substantial amount of part-time voluntary workers; these totalled 74 in 2003.

Total theatre income emanates from box office receipts, grants / subsidies and 'other' income, with box office receipts contributing the lion's share of all income. In 2003, the latter figure stood at nearly Lm0.3 million and made up 51.6 per cent of the total income. The total income in 2003 registered a slight decrease over 2002, from Lm0.62 million to Lm0.57 million.

Theatre running costs have decreased from Lm0.34 million in 2002 to Lm0.32 million in the year under review. The largest portion of expenditure emanated from staff (wages and social security benefits) – these made up 51.8 per cent of all expenditure. Other operational costs made up 28.1 per cent of the total expenditure.

The monthly calendar of NSO News Releases may be consulted on the Office's website at www.nso.gov.mt

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Table 1. Number of productions

Type	2001	2002	2003*
Opera	4	4	6
Serious drama	11	15	35
Comedy	42	41	24
Musicals	11	14	14
Dance	25	27	16
Concerts	37	42	78
Other	41	42	60
Total	171	185	233

*Figures for 2003 include data for St. James Centre for creativity, which were not included in the previous years.

Table 2. Number of performances

Type	2001	2002	2003*
Opera	6	10	12
Serious drama	28	42	64
Comedy	96	88	63
Musicals	58	57	53
Dance	45	42	31
Concerts	55	83	87
Other	73	75	61
Total	361	397	371

*Figures for 2003 include data for St. James Centre for creativity, which were not included in the previous years.

Table 3. Attendance by type of play

Type	2001	2002	2003*
Opera	2,417	4,003	4,143
Serious drama	6,820	10,866	19,090
Comedy	46,336	44,851	25,255
Musicals	26,794	31,118	30,646
Dance	15,329	17,946	14,889
Concerts	16,848	32,046	25,045
Other	27,893	28,185	25,388
Total	142,437	169,015	144,456

*Figures for 2003 include data for St. James Centre for creativity, which were not included in the previous years.

Table 4. Theatre-seat utilisation

Type	2001	2002	2003*
	%		
Opera	56.37	53.37	60.75
Serious drama	40.16	41.35	61.12
Comedy	63.53	66.89	67.35
Musicals	67.72	76.56	81.30
Dance	55.65	66.24	53.95
Concerts	46.56	58.71	45.18
Other	61.64	63.07	58.11
Weighted average	58.71	63.10	59.91

*Figures for 2003 include data for St. James Centre for creativity, which were not included in the previous years.

Table 5. Full-time and part-time staff employed in theatres

		Males	Females	Total
2001	Full-time	18	6	24
	Part-time	14	12	26
2002	Full-time	19	6	25
	Part-time	16	10	26
2003*	Full-time	10	5	15
	Part-time	16	22	38

*Figures for 2003 include data for St. James Centre for creativity, which were not included in the previous years.

Table 6. Full-time and part-time voluntary staff engaged in theatres

		Males	Females	Total
2001	Full-time	4	2	6
	Part-time	51	14	65
2002	Full-time	5	3	8
	Part-time	56	16	72
2003*	Full-time	-	-	-
	Part-time	55	19	74

*Figures for 2003 include data for St. James Centre for creativity, which were not included in the previous years.

Table 7. Theatre expenditure and income by type

Expenditure	2001		2002		2003*	
	Lm	%	Lm	%	Lm	%
Staff	138,519	47.62	146,697	42.76	167,969	51.83
Maintenance	19,600	6.74	18,143	5.29	18,850	5.82
Other operational costs	93,153	32.02	99,862	29.11	91,131	28.12
Capital costs (excl. building value)	39,627	13.62	78,385	22.84	46,100	14.23
Total	290,899	100.00	343,087	100.00	324,050	100.00
Income						
Box Office (excl. VAT)	345,238	62.75	405,996	65.99	296,465	51.60
Grants & subsidies	168,700	30.66	169,900	27.62	179,250	31.20
Other	36,241	6.59	39,328	6.39	98,827	17.20
Total	550,179	100.00	615,224	100.00	574,542	100.00

*Figures for 2003 include data for St. James Centre for creativity, which were not included in the previous years.