

# News Release

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## ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

### World Water Day

To mark World Water Day, the National Statistics Office is publishing a news release on water supply in the Maltese Islands. The water supply in the Maltese Islands is provided by pumping stations, boreholes, springs, and desalination plants.

Tables 1 and 2 show an increasing trend in the water production for the years 2001 to 2003. Statistics show a decreasing trend in groundwater exploitation on both Islands. Pumping stations are the highest contributors to water abstraction from the mean sea level aquifer with an average for the Maltese Islands of 8,565,088 cubic metres annually. Springs are the lowest contributors to fresh water production with an annual average of 41,331 cubic metres for the Island of Malta. There is no spring water production on the Island of Gozo.

Charts 3 and 4 show the percentage shares of water produced from these sources for the 3-year period under review. The data indicate that water production from desalination plants amounts to 56.9 per cent, followed by pumping stations (26.4 per cent), boreholes (16.6 per cent) and springs (0.1 per cent) for the Island of Malta. Water production for the Island of Gozo is mainly derived from groundwater sources by means of borehole abstraction which is the source for 91.0 per cent of the total water abstraction for the region. Only 9.0 per cent is produced by pumping stations. It is interesting to note that an average of 251,449 cubic metres of water is being pumped from Malta to Gozo to meet the increase in demand for water in Gozo during the summer months.

Between 2001 and 2003, the average water production from desalination plants amounted to 18 million cubic metres. Table 1 shows that water production by desalination process is on the increase.

The water consumption patterns in the Maltese Islands are also highlighted in this news release. Table 5 shows that the domestic sector absorbs the highest consumption share, followed by the touristic, industrial, government and commercial sectors. Water demand increased gradually up to 1997, when a total of 21.0 million cubic metres was consumed. A drop in consumption was registered in 1998 and in 2001, when consumption amounted to 17.2 million cubic metres and 18.0 million cubic metres respectively. Chart 5 depicts the sectoral water consumption trend for the past eight years.

The monthly calendar of NSO News Releases may be consulted on the Office's website at [www.nso.gov.mt](http://www.nso.gov.mt)

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*Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release*

Table 1. Water production and consumption by source for the Island of Malta (cubic metres)

Year	Pumping Stations Production	Boreholes Production	Springs Production	R.O. Plants Production	Transfer from Gozo to Malta	Transfer from Malta to Gozo & Comino	End of month reserves
2001	8,319,484	5,491,482	86,122	17,385,390	0	133,030	266,193
2002	8,929,684	5,066,847	37,870	17,734,790	0	240,264	266,943
2003	7,837,457	5,177,921	0	18,969,489	0	380,879	242,843
<b>Average</b>	<b>8,362,208</b>	<b>5,245,417</b>	<b>41,331</b>	<b>18,029,890</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>251,391</b>	<b>258,660</b>

Source: Water Services Corporation

Table 2. Water production and consumption by source for the Island of Gozo (cubic metres)

Year	Pumping Stations Production	Boreholes Production	Production from source	Transfer from Malta to Gozo & Comino	Transfer from Gozo to Malta	End of month reserves
2001	215,130	2,106,092	2,321,222	133,030	0	43,422
2002	230,090	2,048,676	2,278,766	240,439	0	42,895
2003	163,420	2,017,405	2,180,825	380,879	0	41,813
<b>Average</b>	<b>202,880</b>	<b>2,057,391</b>	<b>2,260,271</b>	<b>251,449</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42,710</b>

Source: Water Services Corporation

Table 3. Water production for the Maltese Islands (cubic metres)

Year	Production for Malta	Production for Gozo	Total Production for Maltese Islands
2001	31,282,478	2,454,252	33,736,730
2002	31,769,191	2,519,205	34,288,396
2003	31,984,867	2,561,704	34,546,571

Source: Water Services Corporation

Table 4. Water consumption for the Maltese Islands (cubic metres)

Year	Consumption for Malta	Consumption for Gozo	Total consumption for the Maltese Islands
2001	31,185,585	2,461,723	33,647,308
2002	31,528,927	2,518,124	34,047,051
2003	31,603,988	2,549,240	34,153,228

Source: Water Services Corporation

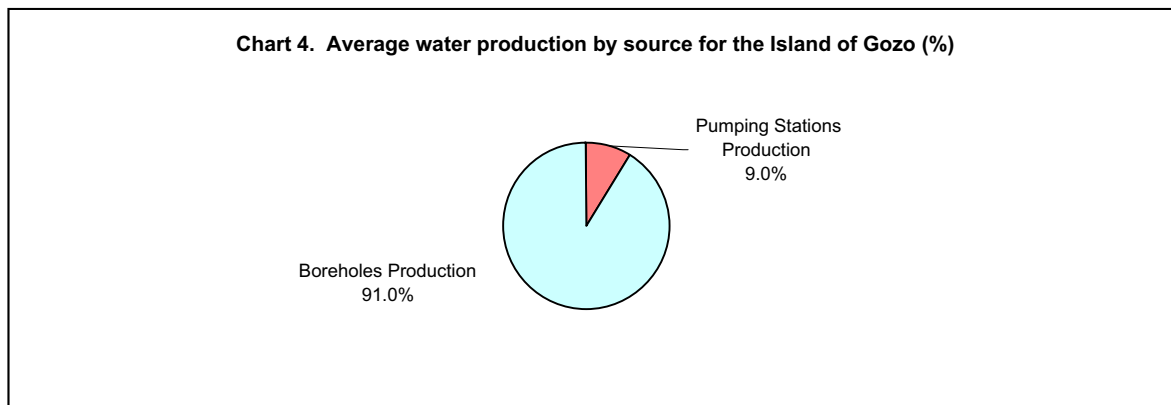
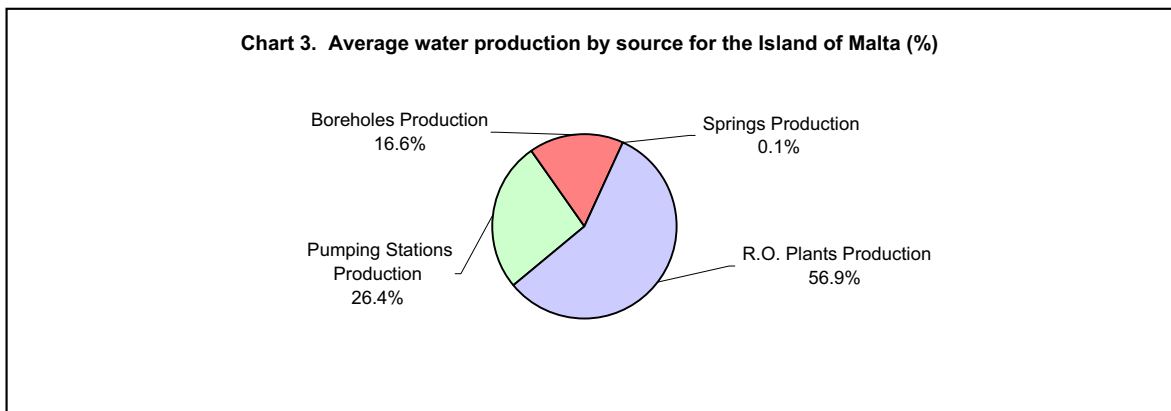
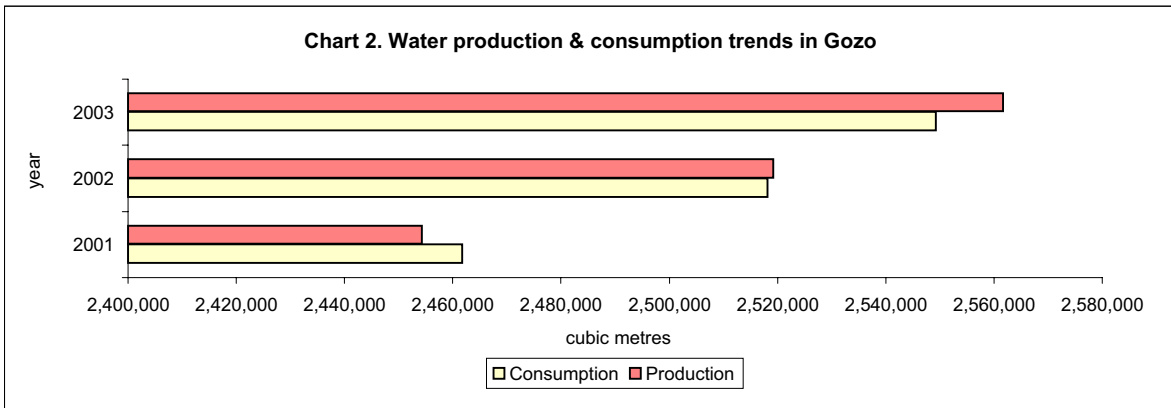
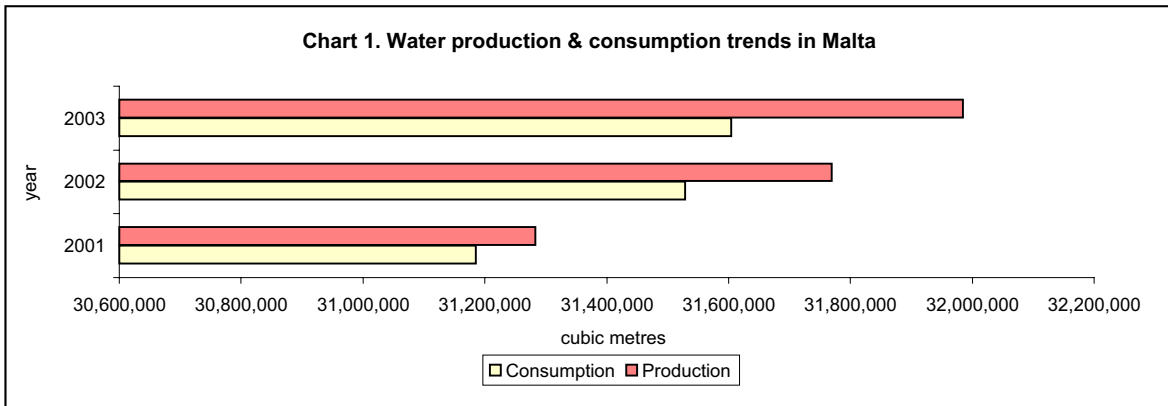


Table 5. Water consumption (cubic metres)

Year	Consumer Type										Total
	Domestic	Industrial	Touristic	Government	Commercial	Farms	Other	Manual Industrial			
1995	11,984,035	1,785,284	1,451,428	1,516,240	1,693,076	614,569	-	211,630			19,256,262
1996	13,079,326	1,702,071	1,487,885	659,185	1,691,104	968,911	41,403	207,410			19,837,295
1997	14,002,315	1,149,710	1,460,432	1,206,609	1,369,664	1,327,278	307,517	182,467			21,005,992
1998	10,730,902	1,129,146	1,502,635	1,313,044	1,130,555	1,066,801	274,800	96,319			17,244,202
1999	11,320,803	1,141,368	1,509,106	1,037,334	938,900	1,245,921	220,960	623			17,415,015
2000	11,594,197	1,736,303	1,543,738	1,646,960	1,048,799	938,421	222,441	766			18,731,625
2001	11,435,000	1,333,000	1,448,000	1,391,000	1,028,000	1,139,000	228,000	-			18,002,000
2002	12,305,600	980,767	1,275,238	1,517,800	864,629	889,334	780,046	-			18,613,414
2003	12,620,448	1,134,737	1,336,678	1,247,702	941,371	818,184	869,674	-			18,968,794
<b>Average</b>	<b>12,119,181</b>	<b>1,343,598</b>	<b>1,446,127</b>	<b>1,281,764</b>	<b>1,189,566</b>	<b>1,000,935</b>	<b>327,205</b>	<b>77,691</b>			<b>18,786,067</b>

Source: Water Services Corporation

