

News Release

e-stats service



No. 60/2004
13 April 2004
Time of Release: 11.00 hrs

AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

Cattle Survey - December 2003

On the 1st December, 2003, there were 275 holdings with a total cattle population of 17,940 heads. When compared to the December 2002 survey, where 18,770 heads were registered, there was a drop of 830 heads (- 4.4 %). The cattle population was broken down into three main categories. These categories were classified as 'cattle less than one year old', 'cattle aged between one and two of age' and 'cattle over two years old'. There was a total of 4,909 cattle in the first category, of which 2,383 were male bovine animals while 2,526 were female bovine animals. In the second category, a total of 4,938 cattle were found, broken down into 1,586 males, 1,568 females that were not yet mated, 200 heifers for slaughter and 1,584 other heifers'. In the third category, 'cattle over two years old', a total of 8,093 cattle, of which 7,607 were dairy cows, were registered.

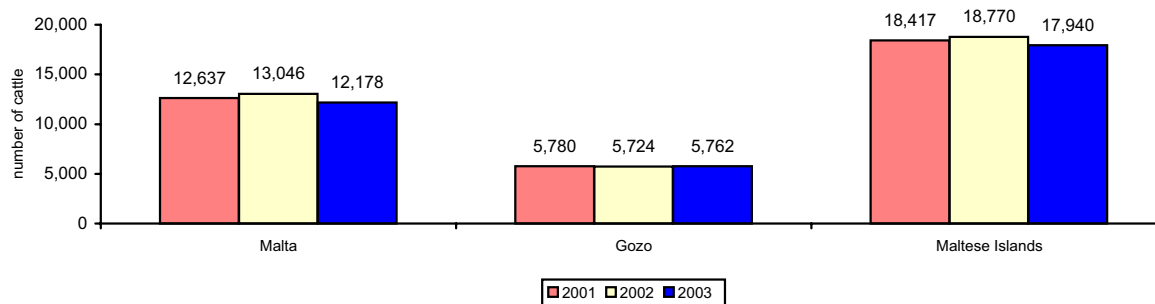
When comparing the December 2003 survey to December 2002 survey, 'cattle less than one year old' and 'cattle aged between one and two years of age' registered marginal declines in population of 1.8 per cent and 1.0 per cent respectively, the cattle over two years old dropped by 630 heads or 7.9 per cent from 8,783 heads a year earlier. This drop was mainly due to the decline in the number of dairy cows registered, which dropped by 426 heads or 5.3 per cent. Dairy cows dropped from 8,033 in December 2002 to 7,607 in December 2003.

The December survey established that 153 farms (55.6%) are engaged in the 'dairy activity' and the total population in these farms amounted to 16,769 heads or 93.5 per cent of the total cattle stock. The other 122 farms, which are not engaged in dairy activity, registered a total of 1,171 heads. The farms that are engaged in the dairy activity had a total of 7,607 dairy cows or 45.5 per cent of the total cattle population on the dairy farms. The majority of the dairy cows are found in the South Eastern District and Gozo and Comino with 26.2 per cent and 32.0 per cent of all dairy cows respectively.

Out of a total cattle population of 17,940 heads, 12,178 cattle (67.9 %) are found on the Island of Malta and the remaining 5,762 heads (32.1%) are found on the sister Island of Gozo. On the Island of Malta, the cattle are concentrated in the south eastern District with 4,768 heads (39.2 %) recorded in this district. Out of 275 farms found in the Maltese Islands, 122 farms, having 1,171 heads, are engaged in the rearing of cattle for beef production. The majority of these farms, 113 of them, are found on the Island of Malta.

The majority of cattle in both regions have a population of 100 or more cattle on the farm. While in Malta 20.0 per cent of the farms have more than 100 heads on the farm, 34.5 per cent of Gozitan farms have more than 100 cattle on their farms. In Malta these farms have 8,240 cattle or 67.7 per cent of the total cattle population and in Gozo these have 4,211 heads or 73.1 per cent of the cattle found in Gozo. In Malta, 40.9 per cent of all holdings have 910 cattle in the '3 - 29 category' and this is due to a large number of non-dairy holdings present in Malta.

Chart 1. Distribution of cattle population by region: 2000 - 2003



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Table 1. Cattle distribution by type and district

Region/District	Grand total	Cattle less than 1 year			Total cattle between 1 and 2 years	Cattle between 1 and 2 years			Total cattle greater than 2 years	Cattle greater than 2 years				
		of which:		Males		of which:		Males		of which:				
		Males	Females			Heifers for slaughter	Heifers for slaughter			Other heifers	Heifers for slaughter	Males	Other heifers	Dairy cows
Republic of Malta	17,940	4,909	2,383	2,526	4,938	1,586	1,568	200	1,584	8,093	95	66	325	7,607
Island of Malta	12,178	3,329	1,634	1,695	3,369	1,039	1,141	124	1,065	5,480	64	44	199	5,173
Southern Harbour	1,595	480	199	281	389	65	153	7	164	726	13	5	20	688
Northern Harbour	1,879	458	198	260	478	85	233	22	138	943	2	6	50	885
South Eastern	4,768	1,275	670	605	1,349	476	384	51	438	2,144	38	32	81	1,993
Western	2,265	708	402	306	646	246	224	20	156	911	5	1	18	887
Northern	1,671	408	165	243	507	167	147	24	169	756	6	:	30	720
Gozo and Comino	5,762	1,580	749	831	1,569	547	427	76	519	2,613	31	22	126	2,434
Gozo and Comino	5,762	1,580	749	831	1,569	547	427	76	519	2,613	31	22	126	2,434

Chart 2. Cattle Category by district

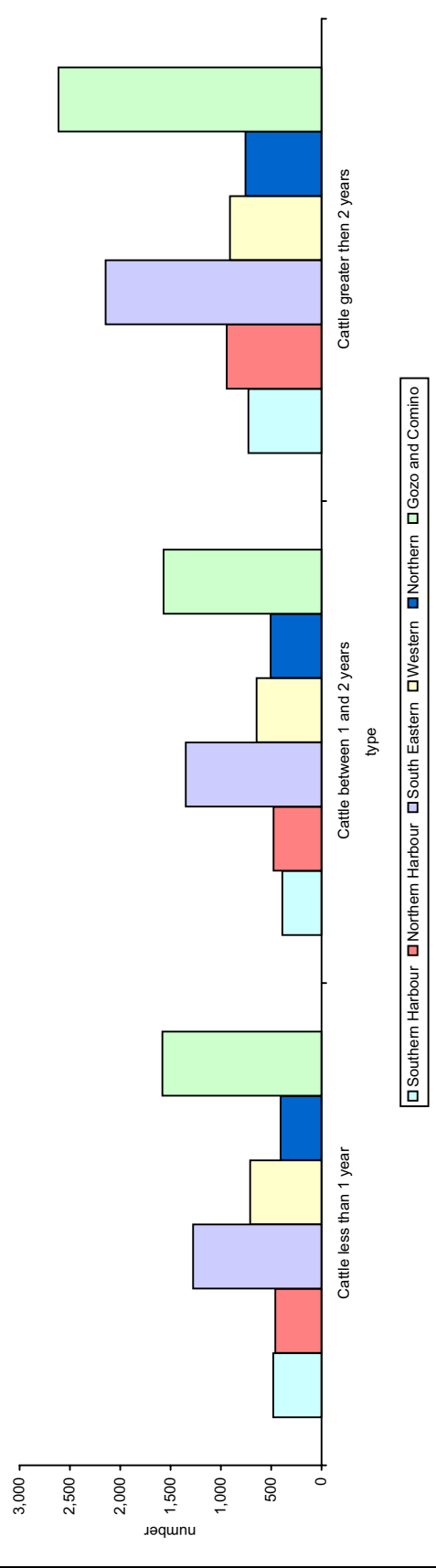


Table 2. Number of cattle farms and heads by size class and region

Region	Number of heads					
	Total	1-2	3-29	30-49	50-99	>=100
Republic of Malta						
<i>Farms</i>	275	46	98	15	53	63
<i>Number of Heads</i>	17,940	72	990	574	3,853	12,451
Island of Malta						
<i>Farms</i>	220	38	90	12	36	44
<i>Number of Heads</i>	12,178	59	910	447	2,522	8,240
Gozo and Comino						
<i>Farms</i>	55	8	8	3	17	19
<i>Number of Heads</i>	5,762	13	80	127	1,331	4,211

Table 3. Number of dairy farms and cows by size class and region

Region	Number of cows					
	Total	1-2	3-29	30-49	50-99	>=100
Republic of Malta						
<i>Farms</i>	153	12	43	36	44	18
<i>Number of cows</i>	7,607	16	707	1,409	3,136	2,339
Island of Malta						
<i>Farms</i>	107	8	34	21	32	12
<i>Number of cows</i>	5,173	9	539	834	2,262	1,529
Gozo and Comino						
<i>Farms</i>	46	4	9	15	12	6
<i>Number of cows</i>	2,434	7	168	575	874	810

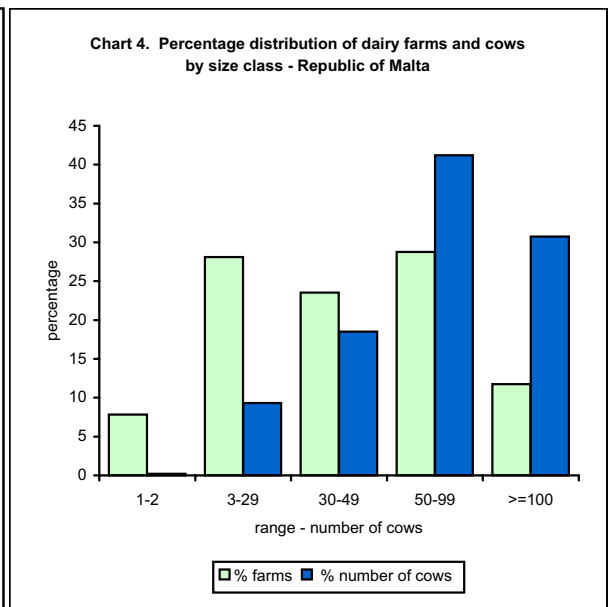
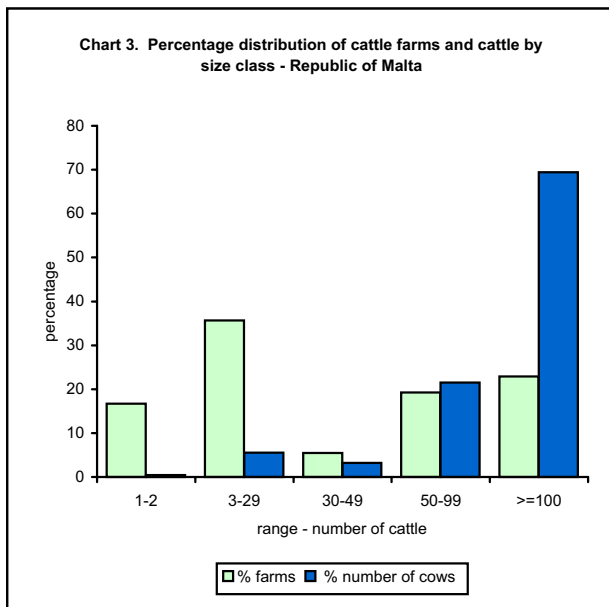


Table 4. Type of farms and cattle by district

Region/District	Total number of cattle farms	of which:		Total number of heads	of which:		
		farms with cows	farms with no cows		dairy cows	other cattle on dairy farms	cattle on non-dairy farms
Republic of Malta	275	153	122	17,940	7,607	9,162	1,171
Island of Malta	220	107	113	12,178	5,173	5,855	1,150
Southern Harbour	26	16	10	1,595	688	821	86
Northern Harbour	37	20	17	1,879	885	837	157
South Eastern	93	42	51	4,768	1,993	2,258	517
Western	38	16	22	2,265	887	1,083	295
Northern	26	13	13	1,671	720	856	95
Gozo and Comino	55	46	9	5,762	2,434	3,307	21
Gozo and Comino	55	46	9	5,762	2,434	3,307	21

Chart 5. Distribution of cattle farms by type and district

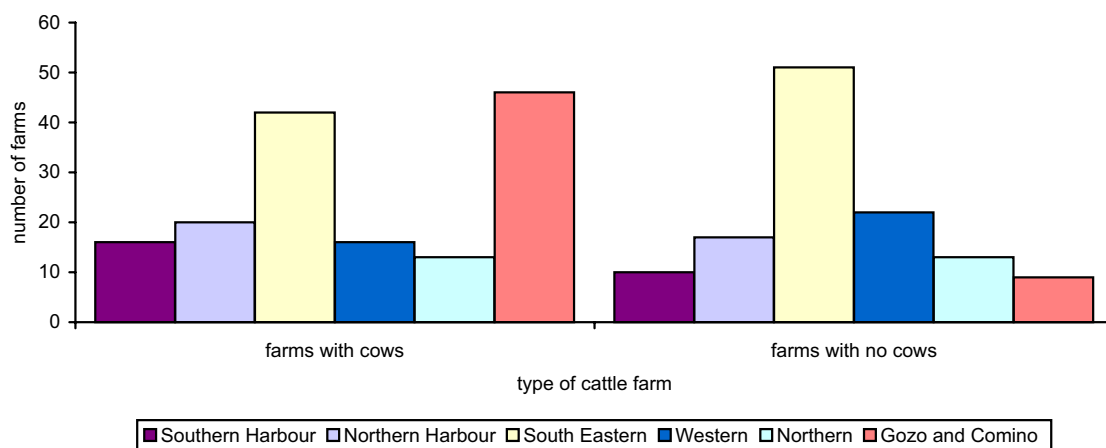


Chart 6. Distribution of heads by type and district

