

AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

Pig Survey - December 2003

A postal census to determine the pig population by category was carried out late in 2003, with a census date being '1st December, 2003'. Data was collected to establish the stocks in the different categories of the pig population. Response rate was 94 per cent, with non respondents being imputed after thorough checks with administrative data were carried out.

The downward trend in the pig population continued for the second successive year. A total population of 73,067 pigs was recorded in 160 holdings. There was a drop of 5,236 pigs (-6.7%) from 78,303 pigs which were recorded a year earlier. The pig population may be grouped in three main categories namely: 'Young Pigs' which totalled 39,885 heads of which 18,351 were piglets with a liveweight of less than 20 kilograms. The second category 'Fattening Pigs' had a total of 24,996 heads which were divided into 18,297 pigs with a liveweight between 50 - 80 kilograms and 6,699 pigs weighing more than 80 kilograms liveweight. The 'Breeding Pigs' category was made up of 7,749 sows and 437 boars.

When compared to December 2002, a drop of 5,256 heads (-17.4%) in the 'Fattening Pigs' category was mainly responsible for the overall drop. While the number of piglets declined by 2.9 per cent, the number of young pigs and pigs used for breeding purposes increased by 0.8 per cent and 5.0 per cent respectively.

On a regional level, 68,022 of all pigs (93.1 %) are found on the Island of Malta. The dominant district with 24,474 heads (36.0 %) is the Western district. The remaining 5,045 pigs (6.9 %) are found on the sister islands of Gozo and Comino. The pig stocks in Malta declined by 5,525 heads (-7.5 %) from 73,547 pigs recorded in December 2002 to 68,022 pigs registered in December 2003. This was mainly due to a drop in fattening pigs by 5,768 pigs (- 20.0 %) from 28,780 to 23,012 during the same period. While piglet stocks decreased marginally by 1.9 per cent, the stock of young pigs and breeding stock increased by 1.5 per cent and 3.7 per cent, respectively.

While pig stocks in Malta declined when compared to 2002, pig stocks in Gozo and Comino increased by 289 heads (6.1%) from 4,756 pigs a year earlier. The increase in stock was a result of substantial increases in the number of fattening pigs and breeding stock which increased by 34.8 per cent and 21.5 per cent respectively. On the other hand, piglets and young pigs decreased by 16.2 per cent and 9.4 per cent respectively. Although the Island of Malta has 93.1 per cent of the total pig stocks, the distribution of pigs by their respective categories are quite similar. While on the Island of Malta, 33.8 per cent are fattening pigs Gozo and Comino have 39.3 per cent in this category.

On a regional level, the size structure of pig holdings is quite similar. A total of 50,395 pigs (74.1%) in Malta were found on 58 holdings. These holdings represent 39.7 per cent of the total holdings in Malta and, on average, these holdings have 400 or more pigs. In Gozo, 28.6 per cent of the pig holdings account for 62.5 per cent of all pigs. Again, these holdings have, on average, 400 or more pigs.

Chart 1. Percentage distribution of pigs by district: 2002 - 2003

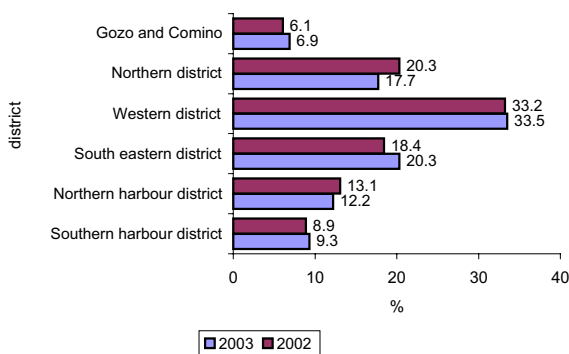
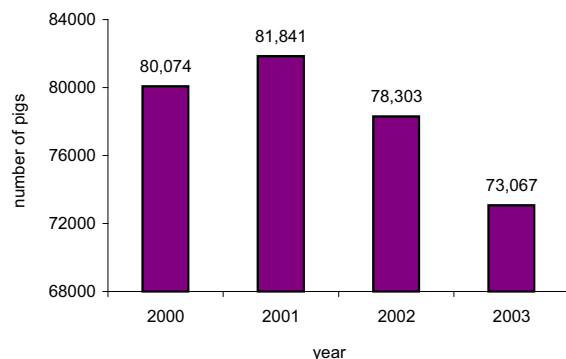


Chart 2. Pig population: 2000 - 2003



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. Swine stock by type of pig and district

Region	Grand total	Young pigs			Fattening pigs			Breeding pigs					
		Total young pigs	of which:		Total fattening pigs	of which:		Total Breeding stock	Breeding boars	of which:		Other sows (gilts)	
			Piglets < 20 kgs	Young Pigs between 20 and 50 kgs		between 50 and 80 kgs	between 80 and 110 kgs			> 110 kgs	Covered sows mated more than once		Covered sows mated for the first time
Republic of Malta	73,067	39,885	18,351	21,534	24,996	18,297	6,236	463	8,186	437	6,220	815	714
Island of Malta	68,022	37,535	17,190	20,345	23,012	17,224	5,385	403	7,475	381	5,718	740	636
Southern Harbour District	6,795	3,245	1,143	2,102	2,935	2,078	769	88	615	39	477	52	47
Northern Harbour District	8,933	4,576	2,030	2,546	3,313	2,631	658	24	1,044	54	795	91	104
South Eastern District	14,854	8,846	3,887	4,959	4,427	3,171	1,194	62	1,581	86	1,195	182	118
Western District	24,474	14,139	6,782	7,357	7,558	5,758	1,648	152	2,777	138	2,141	233	265
Northern District	12,966	6,729	3,348	3,381	4,779	3,586	1,116	77	1,458	64	1,110	182	102
Gozo and Comino	5,045	2,350	1,161	1,189	1,984	1,073	851	60	711	56	502	75	78
Gozo and Comino	5,045	2,350	1,161	1,189	1,984	1,073	851	60	711	56	502	75	78

Chart 3. Number of swine by type and district

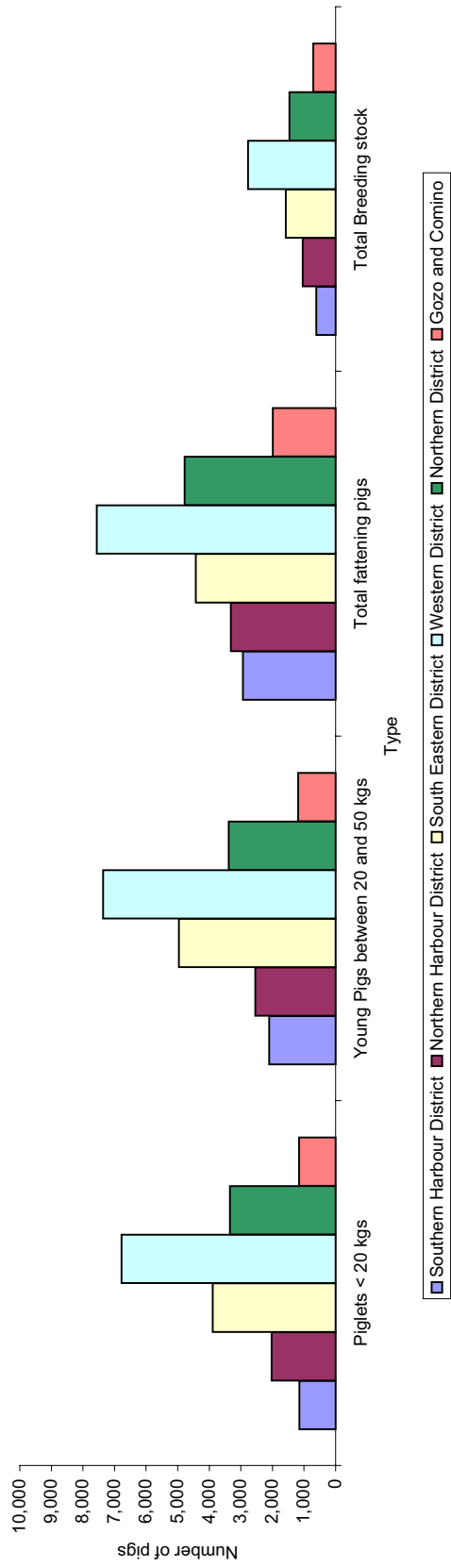


Table 2. Number of pigs and holders by size class

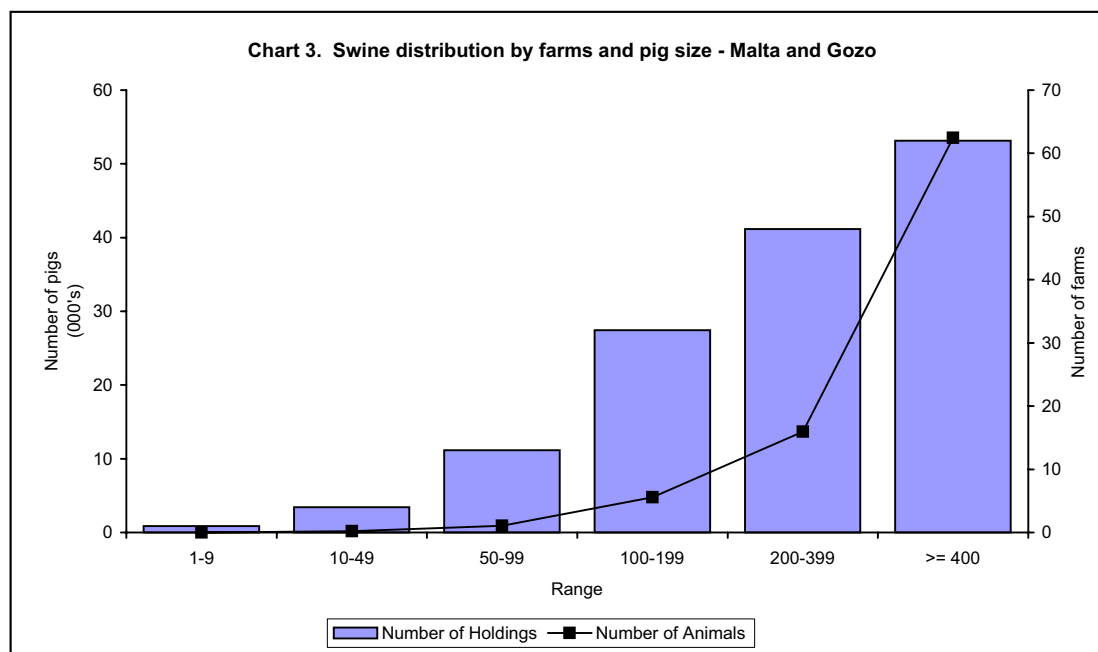
Region	Total	Number of pigs					
		1-9	10-49	50-99	100-199	200-399	>= 400
Republic of Malta							
<i>Number of Holdings</i>	160	1	4	13	32	48	62
<i>Number of Animals</i>	73,067	7	157	899	4,792	13,664	53,548
Island of Malta							
<i>Number of Holdings</i>	146	1	4	13	26	44	58
<i>Number of Animals</i>	68,022	7	157	899	3,971	12,593	50,395
Gozo and Comino							
<i>Number of Holdings</i>	14	:	:	:	6	4	4
<i>Number of Animals</i>	5,045	:	:	:	821	1,071	3,153

Ranges 400-999 and >=1000 pigs have been grouped to respect confidentiality

Table 3. Number of sows and holders by size class

Region	Total	Number of sows					
		0	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	>= 100
Republic of Malta							
<i>Number of Holdings</i>	160	14	6	30	62	32	16
<i>Number of Sows</i>	7,749	:	44	438	2,123	2,232	2,912
Island of Malta							
<i>Number of Holdings</i>	146	14	6	25	56	31	14
<i>Number of Sows</i>	7,094	:	44	359	1,931	2,177	2,583
Gozo and Comino							
<i>Number of Holdings</i>	14	:	:	5	6	1	2
<i>Number of Sows</i>	655	:	:	79	192	55	329

Ranges over 100 sows have been grouped to respect confidentiality



Tale 4. Pig population by region: 2000 - 2003

Year	Piglets (<20 Kgs)			Young pigs (20-<50 Kgs)			Fattening Pigs (>=50 Kgs)			Breeding Stock			Total Pig Population		
	Malta	Gozo	Total	Malta	Gozo	Total	Malta	Gozo	Total	Malta	Gozo	Total	Malta	Gozo	Total
2000	20,441	1,434	21,875	23,003	1,729	24,732	23,441	1,843	25,284	7,335	848	8,183	74,220	5,854	80,074
2001	21,997	964	22,961	12,246	789	13,035	35,313	2,273	37,586	7,761	498	8,259	77,317	4,524	81,841
2002	17,515	1,386	18,901	20,043	1,313	21,356	28,780	1,472	30,252	7,209	585	7,794	73,547	4,756	78,303
2003	17,190	1,161	18,351	20,345	1,189	21,534	23,012	1,984	24,996	7,475	711	8,186	68,022	5,045	73,067
year on year % change															
2001/2000	7.6	-32.8	5.0	-46.8	-54.4	-47.3	50.6	23.3	48.7	5.8	-41.3	0.9	4.2	-22.7	2.2
2002/2001	-20.4	43.8	-17.7	63.7	66.4	63.8	-18.5	-35.2	-19.5	-7.1	17.5	-5.6	-4.9	5.1	-4.3
2003/2002	-1.9	-16.2	-2.9	1.5	-9.4	0.8	-20.0	34.8	-17.4	3.7	21.5	5.0	-7.5	6.1	-6.7

Chart 5. Percentage distribution of pigs by category

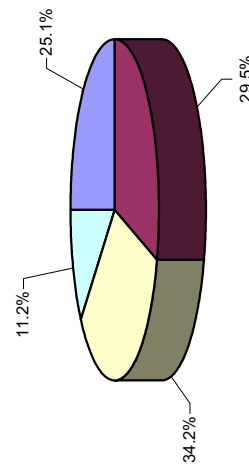


Chart 6. Distribution of pigs by region

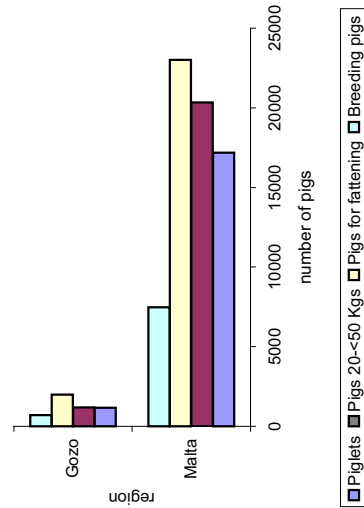


Chart 7. Regional annual percentage change of pig stock

