

News Release

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES

This year the United Nations (UN) celebrates the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family. To commemorate this occasion the National Statistics Office (NSO) is releasing this set of statistics which focus on trends that impact on families.

The main objectives of the tenth anniversary are to:

- increase awareness of family issues among Governments as well as in the private sector;
- strengthen the capacity of national institutions to formulate, implement and monitor policies in respect of families;
- stimulate efforts to respond to problems affecting, and affected by, the situation of families;
- undertake at all levels reviews and assessments of the situation and needs of families, identifying specific issues and problems;
- enhance the effectiveness of local, national and regional efforts to carry out specific programmes concerning families, generate new activities and strengthen existing ones;
- improve collaboration among national and international non-governmental organisations in support of families.

The United Nations places great emphasis on eradicating poverty, which it perceives as a problem that continues to cause many social ills and hinders the ability of families to support each other.

AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The UN identifies four trends that affect families across the world:

- Changes in family structures
- Demographic ageing
- Rise of migration
- HIV/AIDS pandemic

CHANGES IN FAMILY STRUCTURES

- Shift from extended to nuclear families as well as rise of one-person households and of cohabitation became evident during the last 50 years.
- Falling fertility rates, migration, increases in divorce rates and increase in the number of older persons are responsible for smaller-size households.
- Household size has fallen to an average of 3.7 persons in East Asia, 4.9 in Southeast Asia, to 4.1 in the Caribbean, 5.7 in North Africa and to 2.8 in developed regions.
- Age at first marriage has risen to between the mid to late twenties in all regions of the world, often due to better educational and employment opportunities for women.
- Women have fewer children later in life.
- Current fertility rates are 1.57 children per woman in developed regions, 3.1 in less developed countries and 5.47 in least developed countries.

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

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DEMOGRAPHIC AGEING

- Lower fertility rates and higher life expectancy contribute to a larger share of older persons within the overall population.
- Globally, the number of older persons (60 years and over) will more than triple from 606 million to 2 billion by 2050.
- In developed regions, 20 per cent of population is older than 60 - by 2050 it will have reached 33 per cent. In developing regions the share will increase from 8 per cent to 20 per cent.
- Support ratios (number of working people in relation to retired persons) have been declining.
- Ageing impacts on inter-generational solidarity, housing, social security systems, care giving and health costs.

RISE OF MIGRATION

- 175 million people (3 per cent of world population) reside outside their country of birth; 20 million refugees in 2001
- Violence, discrimination, natural disasters and the hope for better economic opportunities have been the main factors for migration.
- Migration can cause major stress on family life due to cultural, ethnic, racial and religious differences and lack of integration.
- Seasonal and internal migration of men contributes to higher number of female-headed households around the world.
- Trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children have increased and have become a major part of organised crime.

HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC

- 42 million people live with HIV/AIDS.
- HIV/AIDS affects the most productive members of society who often just started their own families.
- Care for infected relatives, coping with the loss of numerous family members and the increase of the number of orphans cause major stress on families and societies.
- Family structure has changed to increasing adolescent and grandparent headed households in some regions of Africa.

THE LOCAL SITUATION

MARRIAGES

- The number of marriages stood at 2,350 in 2003, compared with 1,747 in 1950.
- Civil marriages stood at 509, from 48 in 1975, the majority of which include foreign nationals marrying foreign partners.
- 705 pending cases in front of Family Court up till April 2004, with 142 new cases being received between January to April 2004.
- Number of annulments up to 174 in 2003, compared with 3 in 1980.
- Estimated increase of 0.4 per cent in separated individuals between 1995 and 2003.
- Estimated duration of a separation or annulment is 2 years.

Table 1 - Number of annulments

Year	No.	Year	No.
1980	3	1992	30
1981	7	1993	35
1982	6	1994	42
1983	6	1995	39
1984	19	1996	57
1985	35	1997	28
1986	32	1998	15
1987	27	1999	34
1988	25	2000	57
1989	7	2001	42
1990	33	2002	70
1991	25	2003	174

Table 2 - Marital status of Maltese Population aged 16+ years

Marital status	Census 1995		LFS Dec 2003	
	No.	%	No.	%
Single (never married)	84,769	29.3	99,370	31.6
Married	182,690	63.1	190,464	60.5
Widowed	16,989	5.9	18,109	5.8
Annulled/Divorced/Separated	5,101	1.8	6,966	2.2
Total	289,549	100.0	314,909	100.0

Table 3 – Pending cases in front of the Family Court – April 2004*

Family Court	Less than 1 year		1-2 years		2+ years		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Malta	417	61.8	233	34.5	25	3.7	675	100.0
Gozo	30	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	30	100.0
Total	447	63.4	233	33.0	25	3.6	705	100.0

* Includes separations, annulments, child custody, maintenance agreements, paternity cases, corrections in acts of birth or marriage, etc.

SINGLE MOTHER HOUSEHOLDS

- There are an estimated 3,310 single parent households, out of which 2,500 are single mother households (Household Budgetary Survey 2000/1).
- The number of single mother households amounted to 2.0 per cent of the total private household population and 10.2 per cent of households with a female head of household.
- The average gross household income for household whose head is a single mother was estimated at Lm5,669, compared with Lm8,252 for other households. This lower income is a result of lower activity rate within single mother households where only 25.2 per cent were gainfully occupied, compared with 61.9 per cent for other households.
- Additionally, 43.8 per cent of persons living within such households were below the at-risk-of-poverty rate, compared with 14.3 per cent for other households.

POVERTY

- Nearly 15.0 per cent of persons residing in private households are below the at-risk-of-poverty line (Household Budgetary Survey 2000/1).
- 53.2 per cent of persons who fell under the at-risk-of-poverty line had completed up to a secondary level of education.
- The at-risk-of-poverty rate varies between 20.7 per cent in the Southern Harbour district and 8.7 per cent in the Western District.
- Average disposable income for households below the at-risk-of-poverty line stood at Lm2,876, compared with Lm8,677 for all households.

LIVING SPACE

- Family members have an average living space of 41.4m² each (Living Space Survey 2002).
- Individuals residing in the Southern Harbour district have an average living space area of 38.1m², compared with 46.3m² for those living in the Western district.
- 19.3 per cent of dwellings owned by families were constructed between 1961 and 1976.
- The majority of families live in terraced houses, maisonettes or flats. In 2002, family-owned terraced houses numbered 53,839 or 37.6 per cent of dwellings; 39,259 dwellings, or 27.4 per cent, were flats (including apartments and penthouses) and 34,991 dwellings or 24.4 per cent were maisonettes (including ground floor tenements).
- 70.1 per cent of dwellings are owner occupied, 23.6 per cent are rented unfurnished and 2.6 per cent are rented furnished.
- Private dwellings owned by families contain an estimated 1,265,328 rooms, or 8.8 rooms per dwelling.

NAMES

- Matthew and Nicole were the most popular names given to babies born in 2002.

Table 4 – Names given to babies born in 2002

Females	%	Males	%
Nicole	4.8	Matthew/Matthias/Matteo	5.5
Maria/Mariah	4.7	Luke/Luca	3.7
Christina/Krista	2.9	Jacob/Jake	3.1
Emma/Emily	2.5	Michael/Miguel	2.6
Michela/Michelle	2.5	Isaac	2.5
Other	82.6	Other	82.6
Total	100.0	Total	100.0

- Joseph and Mary are the most common names in the Maltese population.

Table 5 – Male names

Age	1	2	3
0-9 years	Matthew/Matthias/Matteo	Daniel	Luke/Luca
10-19 years	Matthew/Matthias/Matteo	Christian	Daniel
20-29 years	Joseph	Kevin	Christopher
30-39 years	Joseph	Mario	Anthony/Antonio
40-49 years	Joseph	Raymond	Mario
50-59 years	Joseph	Anthony/Antonio	Carmel/Carmelo
60-69 years	Joseph	Alfred	Anthony/Antonio
70+ years	Joseph	Carmel/Carmelo	Anthony/Antonio

Table 6 – Female names

Age	1	2	3
0-9 years	Mary/Maria/Mariah	Nicole	Rebecca
10-19 years	Mary/Maria/Mariah	Stephanie	Charlene
20-29 years	Mary/Maria/Mariah	Charmaine	Romina
30-39 years	Mary/Maria/Mariah	Rita	Josephine
40-49 years	Mary/Maria/Mariah	Rita	Josephine
50-59 years	Mary/Maria/Mariah	Carmen	Josephine
60-69 years	Mary/Maria/Mariah	Josephine	Carmen
70+ years	Mary/Maria/Mariah	Carmela	Josephine

FAMILY STRUCTURE

Table 7 – Type of families (HBS 2000/1)

Type	No.	%
One person household, under 30 years	510	0.4
One person household, 30-64 years	9,710	7.6
One person household, 65+ years	10,200	8.0
2 adults, no dependent children – both adults under 65 years	17,310	13.5
2 adult, no dependent children – at least 1 adult 65+ years	12,770	10.0
Other households without dependent children	19,270	15.1
Single parent households, 1 or more dependent children	1,720	1.3
2 adults and 1 dependent children	14,720	11.5
2 adults and 2 dependent children	19,550	15.3
2 adults, 3 or more dependent children	8,740	6.8
Other households with dependent children	13,470	10.5
Total	127,970	100.0

- Average family size is 3.15 (Labour Force Survey, December 2003).
- Average number of children per family is 1.9 (Lifestyle Survey 2003).
- Average age of mother at time of first-born is 25.3 years (Lifestyle Survey 2003).

A decreasing birth rate is linked to an increase in income and loans, an increasing standard of education and a higher activity rate amongst females:

- 6.6 babies were born for every Lm1 million earned in the form of disposable income in 1994, going down to 3.6 in 2002.
- 32.4 babies were born for every million borrowed in the form of loans in 1994, going down to 7.7 in 2002.
- 11.0 babies were born for every female graduate in 1994, going down to 4.0 in 2002.
- 0.15 babies were born for every 1,000 full-time female workers in 1994, going down to 0.10 in 2002.

POSSESSIONS

- Families make use of an average 1.27 cars, ranging from 1.13 in families residing in the Southern Harbour district to 1.53 in families residing in the Northern district.
- 98.9 per cent of families own at least 1 television, 99.0 per cent own at least 1 gas or electric cooker, 95.1 per cent own at least 1 washing machine, 92.9 per cent own at least 1 gas or electric water heater.

INCOME

- Families earned an estimated Lm1.1 billion, or an average of Lm8,563, in the form of disposable income in 2002, some Lm364 million more than in 1994.
- In 2000 net salaries account to 59.8 per cent of the total disposable income earned by families (HBS 2000/1).
- In 2000 families in the Southern Harbour district earn least with an average disposable income of Lm7,030, whilst those in the Northern district earn most with an average disposable income.

LOANS

- Families borrowed Lm508 million in 2002, or an average of Lm3,971, in the form of personal loans in 2002, some Lm360 million more than in 1994.

CONSUMPTION

- In 2000 families spent Lm983 million on private consumption, or an average of Lm7,678 (HBS 2000/1).
- Families spent most on food, beverages, and tobacco (23.9 per cent), followed by transport and communication (19.3 per cent), household equipment and maintenance (10.7 per cent), recreation and culture (10.1 per cent), housing and energy (9.0 per cent), education, catering and accommodation services (8.3 per cent), clothing and footwear (8.1 per cent), other services (7.6 per cent) and health (3.0 per cent).

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

- In 2002 it was estimated that 40,330 families, or 31.3 per cent had access to the Internet from home. This ranged from 23.8 per cent of families located in the Southern Harbour district to 36.9 per cent of families residing in the Northern district (Survey on Information Communication Technology usage in private households, 2002).
- 74.5 per cent of families had access to at least 1 mobile phone, 38.0 per cent have access to at least 1 desktop computer, and 62.2 per cent had access to cable TV.

HEALTH

- Nearly two-thirds of the Maltese population aged 18 years and over are either overweight or obese.

Table 8 – Distribution of Maltese by weight and sex (Lifestyle Survey, 2003)

	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Underweight	1,010	0.7	5,700	3.7	6,710	2.3
Normal	42,690	29.9	67,550	45.1	110,240	37.7
Overweight	66,430	46.5	51,400	34.3	117,830	40.3
Obese	32,680	22.9	25,260	16.9	57,940	19.8
Total	142,810	100.0	149,900	100.0	292,710	100.0

- 78,800, or 26.9 per cent, of individuals within families suffer from a long-term health problem and/or disability.
- 30.3 per cent of males and 21.3 per cent of females smoke tobacco.
- 36.0 per cent of the adult population drinks alcohol at least once a week.

TIME-USE

Table 9 – Use of time by Maltese aged 10+ years during weekdays

	Males		Females		Total	
	Average hours per day	%	Average hours per day	%	Average hours per day	%
Personal care	10.8	44.9	11.2	46.7	11.0	45.8
Gainful work and study	4.5	18.6	1.7	7.0	3.0	12.7
Household work and family care	1.7	6.9	4.8	20.0	3.3	13.6
Volunteer work and meetings	0.3	1.4	0.4	1.9	0.4	1.6
Free-time activities	5.0	20.7	4.5	18.6	4.7	19.6
Travel and unspecified time use	1.8	7.5	1.4	5.9	1.6	6.7
Total	24.0	100.0	24.0	100.0	24.0	100.0

Table 10 – Use of time by Maltese aged 10+ years during weekends

	Males		Females		Total	
	Average hours per day	%	Average hours per day	%	Average hours per day	%
Personal care	11.6	48.3	11.8	49.2	11.7	48.8
Gainful work and study	1.5	6.2	0.5	2.1	1.0	4.1
Household work and family care	1.7	7.2	3.8	15.8	2.8	11.6
Volunteer work and meetings	0.7	3.1	0.7	3.1	0.7	3.1
Free-time activities	6.3	26.3	5.2	21.7	5.7	24.0
Travel and unspecified time use	2.1	8.8	1.9	8.0	2.0	8.4
Total	24.0	100.0	24.0	100.0	24.0	100.0