

DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

Demography in Retrospect

At the end of 2003, the Maltese population stood at 388,867 and consisted of 192,934 males and 195,933 females.

Whereas the total population, including the foreign element resident in Maltese Islands, stood at 399,867, with 198,099 males and 201,768 females.

Since the last census taken in 1995, the population went up by 4.8 per cent for the Maltese and 5.8 per cent for the Total population. During the past ten years, the Maltese and Total populations experienced positive yearly increases averaging 0.6 per cent and 0.7 per cent respectively.

Population changes are the result of two main factors: the difference between births and deaths and the migration balance. The two movements may not necessarily be in the same direction but both the natural and the migration balances have been positive during the past years.

Natural Increase

In 1993, there was a natural increase of 2,455 in the Maltese population. This represented 71 per cent of the total population growth during the year. Ten years later this went down to 830 or 43 per cent. The drop was mainly the result of low fertility rates. Mortality rates did not register any notable fluctuations and migration flows were relatively low throughout the period.

Resident foreign population

During the last ten years, the incidence of foreigners within the Maltese population, although of minor importance, has increased gradually from 6730 to 11,000 persons. At the last census held in 1995, the number of foreign residents was 7,213, of whom 3,555 or 49 per cent were British.

Fertility

Most European countries have experienced a decrease in fertility. The case of Malta is a notable example. Ten years ago, the crude birth rate was 14.11; by 2003 it had come down to 10.03, although during the last year, there was an increase of about 100 babies over the previous year.

Marriages

There has not been any change in the yearly number of marriages, however, the number of civil marriages has been continually on the increase. In 1993 there were 275 civil marriages out of a total of 2,476. During 2003 there were 2,341 marriages of which 803 were civil; more than ninety per cent of the latter were non-maltese marrying non-maltese.

Mortality

Life expectancy showed quite an improvement during the past years, with a noticeable drop in infant mortality rates. In 1993 the infant mortality rate was 8.2, whilst in 2003 it stood at 6.0. The number of deaths per year averaged at 2,900 over the past decade.

Other Indicators

The age structure of the Maltese population as at end 2003 shows that the Dependency Ratio stands at 45.8. The working age population added up to 266,701 persons.

The Very-Elderly ratio stood at 40.8, whilst the Ageing Ratio stands at 59.

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. End of Year Population Estimates

| Year | Males | Females | Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| TOTAL POPULATION (a) | | | |
| 1985* | 169,973 | 175,732 | 345,705 |
| 1986 | 171,284 | 177,088 | 348,372 |
| 1987 | 172,534 | 178,380 | 350,914 |
| 1988 | 174,313 | 180,219 | 354,532 |
| 1989 | 176,110 | 182,078 | 358,188 |
| 1990 | 177,939 | 183,969 | 361,908 |
| 1991 | 179,843 | 185,938 | 365,781 |
| 1992 | 181,649 | 187,806 | 369,455 |
| 1993 | 183,471 | 189,690 | 373,161 |
| 1994 | 185,079 | 191,354 | 376,433 |
| 1995* | 186,970 | 191,434 | 378,404 |
| 1996 | 188,452 | 192,953 | 381,405 |
| 1997 | 189,968 | 194,208 | 384,176 |
| 1998 | 191,120 | 195,277 | 386,397 |
| 1999 | 192,428 | 196,331 | 388,759 |
| 2000 | 193,689 | 197,726 | 391,415 |
| 2001 | 195,363 | 199,278 | 394,641 |
| 2002 | 196,836 | 200,460 | 397,296 |
| 2003 | 198,099 | 201,768 | 399,867 |
| MALTESE POPULATION | | | |
| 1985* | 167,875 | 173,032 | 340,907 |
| 1986 | 169,196 | 174,318 | 343,514 |
| 1987 | 170,369 | 175,267 | 345,636 |
| 1988 | 172,142 | 176,872 | 349,014 |
| 1989 | 173,895 | 178,535 | 352,430 |
| 1990 | 175,782 | 180,128 | 355,910 |
| 1991 | 177,685 | 181,858 | 359,543 |
| 1992 | 179,427 | 183,550 | 362,977 |
| 1993 | 181,232 | 185,199 | 366,431 |
| 1994 | 182,838 | 186,613 | 369,451 |
| 1995* | 183,875 | 187,298 | 371,173 |
| 1996 | 185,319 | 188,639 | 373,958 |
| 1997 | 186,664 | 189,849 | 376,513 |
| 1998 | 187,689 | 190,829 | 378,518 |
| 1999 | 188,589 | 191,612 | 380,201 |
| 2000 | 189,720 | 192,805 | 382,525 |
| 2001 | 191,025 | 194,052 | 385,077 |
| 2002 | 191,975 | 194,963 | 386,938 |
| 2003 | 192,934 | 195,933 | 388,867 |

* Based on Census taken in year.

(a) Includes Work and Resident permit holders and foreigners residing in Malta

Table 2. Monthly Maltese population estimates by gender: 2003
Analysis by source of change

| Month | Gender | Population at end of previous month | Births | Deaths | Natural net increase | Migration movement | | Naturalisation & registration & adoptions | Population at end of current month | Total |
|-----------|----------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | Emigrants | Returned emigrants | | | |
| January | M | 191,975 | 159 | 146 | 13 | 1 | 21 | 23 | 192,031 | 387,031 |
| | F | 194,963 | 146 | 147 | -1 | 1 | 13 | 26 | 195,000 | |
| February | M | 192,031 | 154 | 155 | -1 | 1 | 18 | 17 | 192,064 | 387,126 |
| | F | 195,000 | 166 | 139 | 27 | 1 | 16 | 20 | 195,062 | |
| March | M | 192,064 | 137 | 146 | -9 | 1 | 17 | 50 | 192,121 | 387,217 |
| | F | 195,062 | 147 | 174 | -27 | 3 | 12 | 52 | 195,096 | |
| April | M | 192,121 | 141 | 130 | 11 | 2 | 23 | 20 | 192,173 | 387,336 |
| | F | 195,096 | 145 | 125 | 20 | 2 | 24 | 25 | 195,163 | |
| May | M | 192,173 | 162 | 113 | 49 | 2 | 17 | 24 | 192,261 | 387,522 |
| | F | 195,163 | 163 | 103 | 60 | 5 | 21 | 22 | 195,261 | |
| June | M | 192,261 | 148 | 125 | 23 | 0 | 34 | 29 | 192,347 | 387,695 |
| | F | 195,261 | 155 | 120 | 35 | 4 | 33 | 23 | 195,348 | |
| July | M | 192,347 | 179 | 133 | 46 | 3 | 32 | 17 | 192,439 | 387,889 |
| | F | 195,348 | 185 | 143 | 42 | 1 | 39 | 22 | 195,450 | |
| August | M | 192,439 | 184 | 106 | 78 | 1 | 23 | 18 | 192,557 | 388,093 |
| | F | 195,450 | 169 | 119 | 50 | 1 | 24 | 13 | 195,536 | |
| September | M | 192,557 | 152 | 121 | 31 | 2 | 32 | 51 | 192,669 | 388,351 |
| | F | 195,536 | 164 | 103 | 61 | 4 | 37 | 52 | 195,682 | |
| October | M | 192,669 | 197 | 93 | 104 | 1 | 9 | 17 | 192,798 | 388,598 |
| | F | 195,682 | 181 | 88 | 93 | 1 | 13 | 13 | 195,800 | |
| November | M | 192,798 | 161 | 112 | 49 | 0 | 17 | 13 | 192,877 | 388,739 |
| | F | 195,800 | 151 | 118 | 33 | 1 | 8 | 22 | 195,862 | |
| December | M | 192,877 | 182 | 161 | 21 | 1 | 17 | 20* | 192,934 | 388,867 |
| | F | 195,862 | 174 | 152 | 22 | 1 | 18 | 32* | 195,933 | |
| Year | M | 191,975 | 1,956 | 1,541 | 415 | 15 | 260 | 299 | 192,934 | 388,867 |
| | F | 194,963 | 1,946 | 1,531 | 415 | 25 | 258 | 322 | 195,933 | |
| | T | 386,938 | 3,902 | 3,072 | 830 | 40 | 518 | 621 | 388,867 | |

* Figures for December include 7 male and 25 female adoptions recorded during the year.

Table 3. Monthly total population (Maltese and foreign) estimates by gender: 2003
Analysis by source of change

| Month | Gender | Population at end of previous month | Births | Deaths | Natural net increase | Migration movement | | New work permit holders | Naturalisation & registration & adoptions | Population at end of current month | Total |
|-----------|--------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---------|
| | | | | | | Emigrants | Returned emigrants | | | | |
| January | M | 196,836 | 169 | 151 | 18 | 1 | 42 | -7 | 23 | 196,911 | 397,434 |
| | F | 200,460 | 152 | 150 | 2 | 1 | 37 | -1 | 26 | 200,523 | |
| February | M | 196,911 | 156 | 159 | -3 | 1 | 42 | -7 | 17 | 196,959 | 397,558 |
| | F | 200,523 | 170 | 144 | 26 | 1 | 32 | -1 | 20 | 200,599 | |
| March | M | 196,959 | 141 | 149 | -8 | 1 | 44 | -7 | 50 | 197,037 | 397,696 |
| | F | 200,599 | 153 | 175 | -22 | 3 | 35 | -2 | 52 | 200,659 | |
| April | M | 197,037 | 145 | 135 | 10 | 2 | 59 | -13 | 20 | 197,111 | 397,866 |
| | F | 200,659 | 149 | 126 | 23 | 2 | 51 | -1 | 25 | 200,755 | |
| May | M | 197,111 | 165 | 118 | 47 | 2 | 50 | -13 | 24 | 197,217 | 398,094 |
| | F | 200,755 | 169 | 106 | 63 | 5 | 46 | -4 | 22 | 200,877 | |
| June | M | 197,217 | 153 | 128 | 25 | 0 | 87 | 0 | 29 | 197,358 | 398,359 |
| | F | 200,877 | 160 | 126 | 34 | 4 | 74 | -3 | 23 | 201,001 | |
| July | M | 197,358 | 188 | 139 | 49 | 3 | 76 | -19 | 17 | 197,478 | 398,619 |
| | F | 201,001 | 189 | 148 | 41 | 1 | 79 | -1 | 22 | 201,141 | |
| August | M | 197,478 | 191 | 111 | 80 | 1 | 65 | -7 | 18 | 197,633 | 398,904 |
| | F | 201,141 | 174 | 122 | 52 | 1 | 67 | -1 | 13 | 201,271 | |
| September | M | 197,633 | 156 | 125 | 31 | 2 | 69 | -13 | 51 | 197,769 | 399,212 |
| | F | 201,271 | 171 | 109 | 62 | 4 | 66 | -4 | 52 | 201,443 | |
| October | M | 197,769 | 204 | 97 | 107 | 1 | 35 | -7 | 17 | 197,920 | 399,504 |
| | F | 201,443 | 188 | 90 | 98 | 1 | 32 | -1 | 13 | 201,584 | |
| November | M | 197,920 | 167 | 118 | 49 | 0 | 36 | 0 | 13 | 198,018 | 399,684 |
| | F | 201,584 | 158 | 120 | 38 | 1 | 24 | -1 | 22 | 201,666 | |
| December | M | 198,018 | 188 | 165 | 23 | 1 | 46 | -7 | 20* | 198,099 | 399,867 |
| | F | 201,666 | 180 | 153 | 27 | 1 | 45 | -1 | 32* | 201,768 | |
| Year | M | 196,836 | 2,023 | 1,595 | 428 | 15 | 651 | -100 | 299 | 198,099 | |
| | F | 200,460 | 2,013 | 1,569 | 444 | 25 | 588 | -21 | 322 | 201,768 | |
| | T | 397,296 | 4,036 | 3,164 | 872 | 40 | 1,239 | -121 | 621 | 399,867 | |

* Figures for December include 7 male and 25 female adoptions recorded during the year.