

News Release



Date: 14 September 2005
No. : 195/2005
Time of release: 11.00 hrs

Theme:
**Population and Social
Conditions**

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27 November 2005

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Culture

Theatres 2003/2004

This news release covers data on the theatrical season 2003/2004.

The total number of theatrical productions – ranging from operas and musicals to comedies and dramas – stood at 224 in the year 2003/2004. The most popular type of production was concerts, these made up 37 per cent of the total productions held. A total of 524 performances were held in all, the largest amount of these being concerts with 26 per cent, followed by comedies with 18.3 per cent, dramas with 16.9 per cent and musicals with 11.8 per cent. A substantial number of 'other' performances were also organised; these included school activities (such as prize days), beauty contests and poetry readings.

Theatre attendance in this year stood at 145,373. The most highly attended performances were musicals, comedies and concerts. Musical also boast the highest theatre-seat utilisation with 81.1 per cent of seats being filled for these performances. They are followed by operas with 76.3 per cent, comedies with 66.3 per cent and dramas with 48.7 per cent. Concerts are the least attended performances, with a theatre-seat utilisation rate of just 39.8 per cent. The weighted average for theatre-seat utilisation was 56.9 per cent in the year under review.

The number of persons employed in this sector in 2003/2004 stood at 45. Of the workers employed in this year, 68.9 per cent were working on a part-time basis. This sector also comprises a substantial amount of voluntary workers; these totalled 81 in this year.

Total theatre income emanates from box office receipts, grants / subsidies and 'other' income, with box office receipts contributing the lion's share of all income. In 2003/2004, the latter figure stood at just over Lm0.3 million and made up 54.3 per cent of the total income. The total income in this year stood at a little under Lm0.6 million.

Theatre running costs stood at nearly Lm0.4 million in the year under review. The largest portion of expenditure emanated from staff costs – these made up 56.8 per cent of all expenditure. Maintenance costs also made up 21.7 per cent of the total expenditure ■

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Table 1. Number of productions by type

| Type | Number | Percentage |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Opera | 4 | 1.8 |
| Drama | 31 | 13.8 |
| Comedy | 23 | 10.3 |
| Musical | 18 | 8.0 |
| Dance | 14 | 6.3 |
| Concert | 83 | 37.0 |
| Other | 51 | 22.8 |
| Total | 224 | 100.0 |

Table 2. Number of performances by type

| Type | Number | Percentage |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Opera | 6 | 1.1 |
| Drama | 88 | 16.9 |
| Comedy | 96 | 18.3 |
| Musical | 62 | 11.8 |
| Dance | 29 | 5.5 |
| Concert | 136 | 26.0 |
| Other | 107 | 20.4 |
| Total | 524 | 100.0 |

Table 3. Attendance by type

| Type | Number | Percentage |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Opera | 3,127 | 2.2 |
| Drama | 18,192 | 12.5 |
| Comedy | 28,720 | 19.8 |
| Musical | 30,120 | 20.6 |
| Dance | 13,348 | 9.2 |
| Concert | 23,249 | 16.0 |
| Other | 28,617 | 19.7 |
| Total | 145,373 | 100.0 |

Table 4. Theatre-seat utilisation by type

| Type | % |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Opera | 76.3 |
| Drama | 48.7 |
| Comedy | 66.3 |
| Musical | 81.1 |
| Dance | 48.1 |
| Concert | 39.8 |
| Other | 62.4 |
| Weighted average | 56.9 |

Table 5. Staff employed by theatres

| | | Males | Females | Total |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Paid staff | Full-time | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| | Part-time | 17 | 14 | 31 |
| | Total | 26 | 19 | 45 |
| Voluntary staff (unpaid) | Total | 61 | 20 | 81 |

Table 6. Theatre expenditure and income by type

| Expenditure | Lm | % |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Staff | 226,071 | 56.8 |
| Maintenance | 86,523 | 21.7 |
| Other operational costs | 4,311 | 1.1 |
| Other expenditure | 687 | 0.1 |
| Capital costs (excl. building value) | 80,705 | 20.3 |
| Total | 398,297 | 100.0 |
| Income | | |
| Box Office (excl. VAT) | 325,629 | 54.3 |
| Grants & subsidies | 177,750 | 29.7 |
| Other | 95,872 | 16.0 |
| Total | 599,251 | 100.0 |

Methodological notes

1. This survey on theatres was conducted exhaustively, i.e. aimed at 100 per cent coverage. All theatres in Malta and Gozo were surveyed - 11 in total.
2. The global response rate for this survey stood at 7 theatres, or 64 per cent of the total.
3. Missing data was imputed by re-contacting the respondents. In the cases where the respondent was no longer reachable, the data were imputed by the application of valid mathematical algorithms using auxilliary variables.
4. The data in this release should not be considered as final and may be subject to further revision.