

News Release



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Agriculture

Pig Survey - December 2004

A pig census with a census date 1st December was carried out in 2004. The total pig stock stood at 76,853 heads, an increase of 3,786 heads (+5.2 per cent) from last year's 73,067 heads. A total of 159 pig breeding farms were engaged in this activity.

All categories registered increases. While piglets increased by 1,530 heads (+8.3 per cent), the fattening pigs registered an increase of 1,664 heads (+6.7 per cent). Slight increases in the number of young pigs (+1.3 per cent) and in the number of breeding stock (+3.9 per cent) were also registered.

The pig population is made up of three main categories, namely:- young pigs, fattening pigs and the breeding stock. The young pigs totalled 41,688 of which 19,881 were piglets with a liveweight of less than 20 kilograms. This category increased by 4.5 per cent over last year's figure.

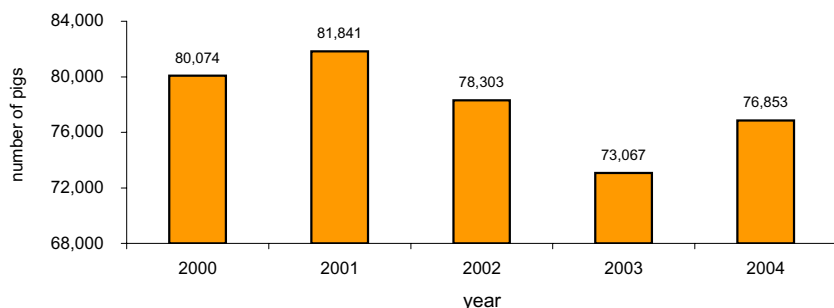
The second category, fattening pigs, had a total of 26,660 heads and this registered an increase of 6.7 per cent over the corresponding figure last year. These were divided into 17,081 pigs, liveweight between 50 - 80 kilograms (a drop of 6.6 per cent); 7,896 pigs, liveweight between 80 - 110 kilograms (an increase of 26.6 per cent) and 1,683 pigs with a liveweight more than 110 kilograms (increased by 263.5 per cent).

The breeding stock was made up of 7,979 breeding sows (+2.6 per cent) and 526 breeding boars (+20.4 per cent).

On a regional level, 71,939 pigs (93.6 per cent) were found in Maltese farms, with the remaining 4,914 pigs were found on farms in Gozo and Comino. The relative share of pigs on Maltese farms increased by 0.5 percentage points. This was due to an increase in the number of pigs in Malta from 68,022 pigs in 2003 to 71,939 pigs in 2004 (+5.8 per cent) and also due to a decline in pig stock on Gozitan farms which fell from 5,045 pigs in 2003 to 4,914 pigs in 2004 (-2.6 per cent).

When compared to 2003, the size structure of holdings has remained relatively similar. Whereas, in 2003, 38.8 per cent of all holdings had 73.3 per cent of the total pig stock, 37.7 per cent of all holdings in 2004 had 72.9 per cent of the total pig population. These holdings have a population of 400 or more pigs on the holding.

Chart 1. Pig population: 2000 - 2004



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Table 1. Swine stock by type of pig and district

Administrative area	Grand Total	Young pigs			Fattening pigs				Breeding pigs				
		Total Young pigs	of which:		Total fattening pigs	of which:			Total Breeding stock	of which:			
			Piglets < 20 kgs	Young Pigs between 20 and 50 kgs		between 50 and 80 kgs	between 80 and 110 kgs	> 110 kgs		Breeding boars	Covered sows mated more than once	Covered sows mated for the first time	Other sows (gilts)
MALTA	76,853	41,688	19,881	21,807	26,660	17,081	7,896	1,683	8,505	526	6,300	1,076	603
Malta	71,939	39,166	18,607	20,559	25,058	16,295	7,378	1,385	7,715	464	5,795	954	502
Gozo and Comino	4,914	2,522	1,274	1,248	1,602	786	518	298	790	62	505	122	101
Southern Harbour	6,486	3,627	1,581	2,046	2,236	1,557	636	43	623	50	476	72	25
Northern Harbour	9,404	5,202	2,266	2,936	3,045	2,054	948	43	1,157	67	810	160	120
South Eastern	16,131	9,168	3,782	5,386	5,281	3,546	1,376	359	1,682	110	1,218	252	102
Western	23,840	12,577	6,322	6,255	8,626	5,158	2,814	654	2,637	158	1,974	325	180
Northern	16,078	8,592	4,656	3,936	5,870	3,980	1,604	286	1,616	79	1,317	145	75
Gozo and Comino	4,914	2,522	1,274	1,248	1,602	786	518	298	790	62	505	122	101

Chart 2. Number of swine by type and district

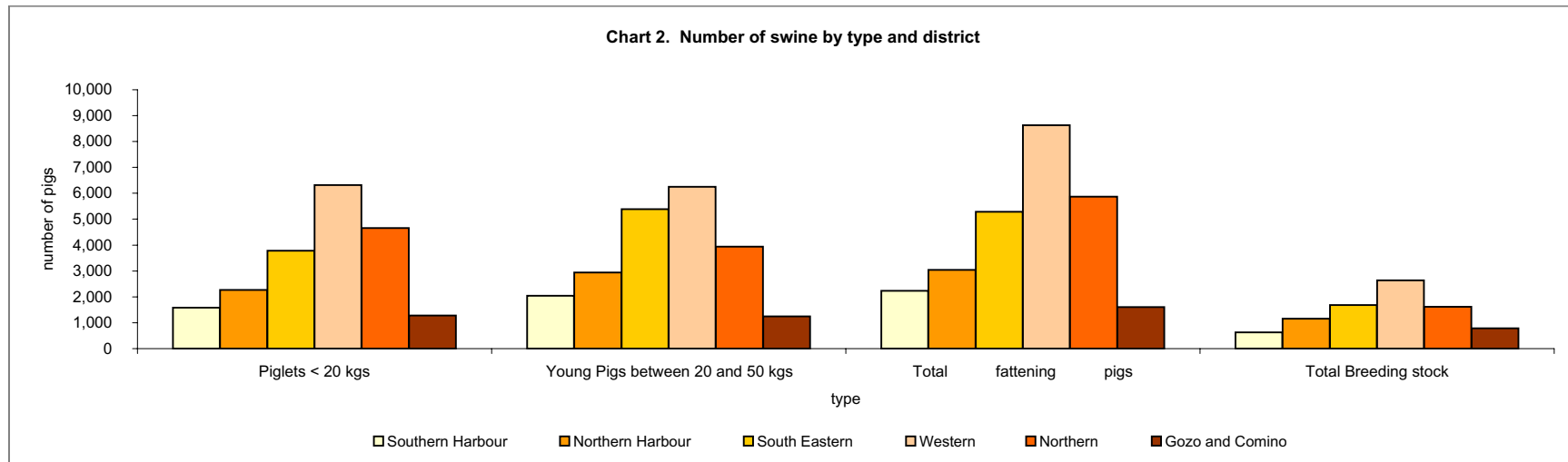


Table 2. Number of pigs and holders by size class

Administrative area	Total	Number of pigs					
		1-9	10-49	50-99	100-199	200-399	>= 400
MALTA							
<i>No. of holdings</i>	159	:	6	12	29	52	60
<i>No. of animals</i>	76,853	:	200	962	4,519	15,176	55,996
Malta							
<i>No. of holdings</i>	145	:	6	12	24	48	55
<i>No. of animals</i>	71,939	:	200	962	3,853	14,137	52,787
Gozo and Comino							
<i>No. of holdings</i>	14	:	:	:	5	4	5
<i>No. of animals</i>	4,914	:	:	:	666	1,039	3,209

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

Table 3. Number of sows and holders by size class

Administrative area	Total	Number of sows					
		0	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	>= 100
MALTA							
<i>No. of holdings</i>	158	14	4	31	54	37	18
<i>No. of sows</i>	7,979	:	26	460	1,783	2,495	3,215
Malta							
<i>No. of holdings</i>	144	14	4	25	50	35	16
<i>No. of sows</i>	7,251	:	26	363	1,665	2,390	2,807
Gozo and Comino							
<i>No. of holdings</i>	14	:	:	6	4	2	2
<i>No. of sows</i>	728	:	:	97	118	105	408

Ranges over 100 sows have been grouped to respect confidentiality

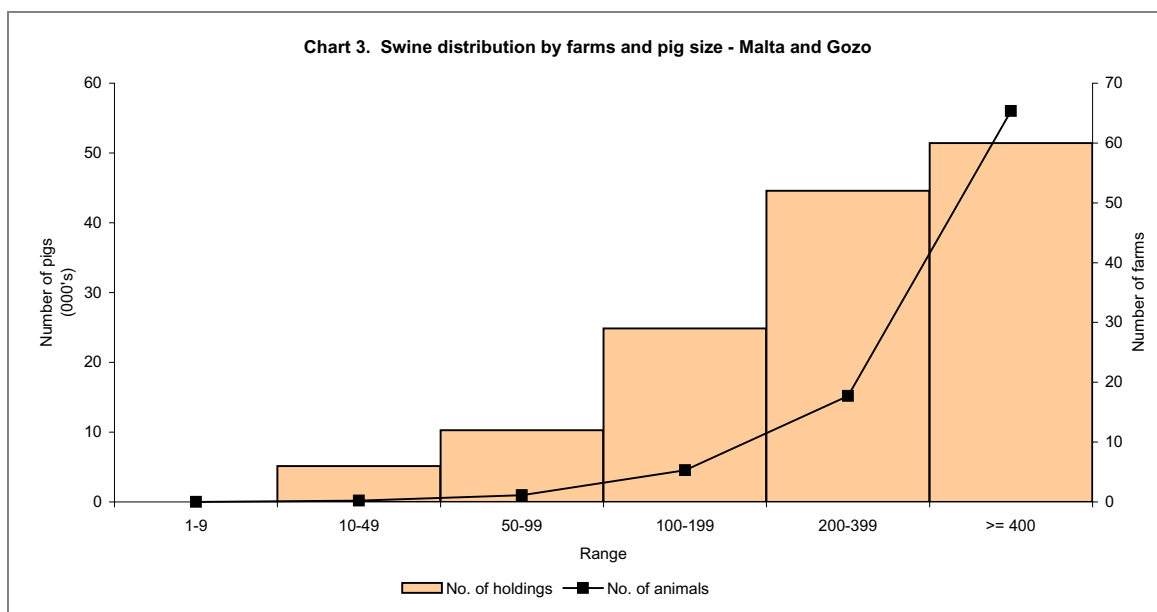
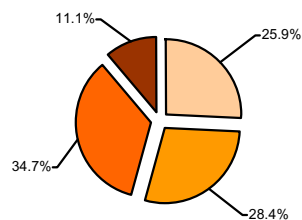


Table 4. Distribution of pig population: 2000 - 2004

Year	Piglets (<20 Kgs)			Young pigs (20-<50 Kgs)			Fattening Pigs (>=50 Kgs)			Breeding Stock			Total Pig Population		
	Malta	Gozo & Comino	Total	Malta	Gozo & Comino	Total	Malta	Gozo & Comino	Total	Malta	Gozo & Comino	Total	Malta	Gozo & Comino	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
2004	18,607	1,274	19,881	20,559	1,248	21,807	25,058	1,602	26,660	7,715	790	8,505	71,939	4,914	76,853
%01/00	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%
%02/01	-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%
%03/02	-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%
%04/03	8.2%	9.7%	8.3%	1.1%	5.0%	1.3%	8.9%	-19.3%	6.7%	3.2%	11.1%	3.9%	5.8%	-2.6%	5.2%

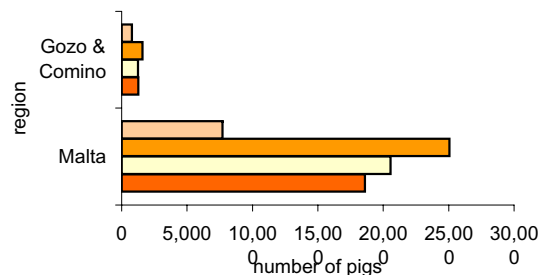
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Chart 4. Percentage distribution of pigs by category



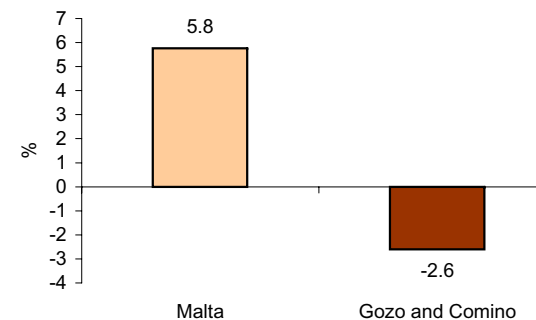
Legend: Piglets (dark orange), Pigs 20-<50 Kgs (light orange), Pigs for fattening (medium orange), Breeding pigs (dark brown)

Chart 5. Percentage distribution of pigs by category



Legend: Piglets (dark orange), Pigs 20-<50 Kgs (light orange), Pigs for fattening (medium orange), Breeding pigs (dark brown)

Chart 6. Regional annual percentage annual change of pig stock



Methodological Notes

1. The pig survey is carried out every year and is in accordance to **Council Directive 93/23/EEC** of 1 June 1993 on the statistical surveys to be carried out on pig production.
2. The survey is carried out once a year and census date is 1st December.
3. The small amount of pig breeders does not allow a sample survey to be carried out, hence, a head count of all farms is carried out.
4. The census is a postal survey and a response rate of 99 per cent is achieved. Non respondents are contacted by telephone and every effort is done to contact every farm on the register.
5. The data in this release are final and are not, normally, subject to revision.
6. The data are published by the NSO and can be obtained directly from the NSO website <http://www.nso.gov.mt>

NUTS classification

The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) is a common classification that is used to provide a single uniform breakdown of territorial units for the production of regional statistics with regard to the European Union. It was adopted on 26 May 2003 by means of a Regulation¹ of the European Parliament and of the Council.

¹ (EC) No. 1059/2003

NUTS levels					
Administrative area	I (National)	II (National)	III (Regional)	IV (District)	V (Locality)
MALTA	x	x	x	x	x
Malta			x		
Gozo & Comino			x		
Southern Harbour				x	
Northern Harbour				x	
South Eastern				x	
Western				x	
Northern				x	
Gozo & Comino				x	

COMPOSITION OF DISTRICTS - NUTS level V

Southern Harbour: Valletta, Birgu, Isla, Bormla, Żabbar, Fgura, Floriana, Kalkara, Luqa, Marsa Paola, Santa Luċija, Tarxien, Xgħajra.

Northern Harbour: Qormi, B'Kara, Gżira, Hamrun, Msida, Pembroke, Pieta, San Ġiljan, San Ġwann, Santa Venera, Sliema, Swieqi, Ta' Xbiex.

South Eastern: Żejtun, B'Bugia, Gudja, Għaxaq, Kirkop, M'Scala, M'Xlokk, Mqabba, Qrendi, Safi, Żurrieq.

Western: Mdina, Żebbuġ, Siġġiewi, Attard, Balzan, Dingli, Iklin, Lija, Rabat, Mtarfa.

Northern: Gharghur, Mellieħa, Mgarr, Mosta, Naxxar, San Pawl il-Baħar.

Gozo and Comino: Rabat, Fontana, G'Sielem & Comino, Għarb, Għasri, Kerċem, Munxar, Nadur, Qala, San Lawrenz, Sannat, Xagħra, Xewkija, Żebbuġ.