

# News Release



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## Special Observances

### International Day of Older Persons 2006

*The ratio of persons in the 60+ category to the rest of the population in Malta is estimated at 1:5.3.*

To mark the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons which is celebrated every year on 1 October, this release presents a range of statistical data relating to this population segment. As a general definition, the term "older persons" refers to individuals aged 60 years and over.

As at end 2005, the total number of persons in this age category in Malta came up to nearly 76,000, comprising 19 per cent of the total population. Worldwide, one in every ten persons is aged 60 years and over, a ratio that is projected to increase to one in five by 2050. From the data presented in Table 1, the ratio of persons in the 60+ category to the rest of the population in Malta emerges as 1:5.3.

The University of the Third Age was set up specifically for the educational enrichment of older persons. In the scholastic year 2004/05, nearly 700 older persons were attending classes at this institution, as shown in Table 3. Of these, the majority – 74 per cent – were women.

Another sphere in which older persons appear to be active is involvement in Non-Governmental Organisations. In 2004, well over 17,000 older persons were members of such organisations, with both sexes being represented more or less equally in these activities, as shown in Table 5.

Table 6 presents data for the elderly population (65+) of private and Church homes for the elderly in 2004. These numbered 1,730, of whom women made up 73 per cent.

In 2005, a total of Lm101.7 million was expended by Government on retirement and old age pensions, a percentage increase of 9.7 per cent when compared to 2004. Government expenditure on these items made up 46 per cent of total social security benefits. This is shown in Table 7■

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**Table 1. Total population aged 60+ by sex and single years of age: 31st December 2005**  
*based on the November 1995 Census*

<b>Ages</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>60 - 64</b>	<b>10,421</b>	<b>11,191</b>	<b>21,612</b>
60	2,772	2,953	5,725
61	2,853	2,946	5,799
62	2,021	2,215	4,236
63	1,363	1,476	2,839
64	1,412	1,601	3,013
<b>65 - 69</b>	<b>8,052</b>	<b>9,376</b>	<b>17,428</b>
65	1,536	1,772	3,308
66	1,736	1,934	3,670
67	1,617	1,864	3,481
68	1,544	1,911	3,455
69	1,619	1,895	3,514
<b>70 - 74</b>	<b>6,151</b>	<b>8,275</b>	<b>14,426</b>
70	1,442	1,794	3,236
71	1,272	1,587	2,859
72	1,204	1,672	2,876
73	1,174	1,629	2,803
74	1,059	1,593	2,652
<b>75 - 79</b>	<b>4,301</b>	<b>6,282</b>	<b>10,583</b>
75	1,034	1,505	2,539
76	874	1,287	2,161
77	821	1,155	1,976
78	769	1,229	1,998
79	803	1,106	1,909
<b>80 - 84</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>4,341</b>	<b>7,041</b>
80	680	1,028	1,708
81	681	1,040	1,721
82	485	789	1,274
83	426	752	1,178
84	428	732	1,160
<b>85 - 89</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>2,093</b>	<b>3,408</b>
85	434	645	1,079
86	306	535	841
87	282	377	659
88	144	267	411
89	149	269	418
<b>90+</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>1,493</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,387</b>	<b>42,604</b>	<b>75,991</b>

**Table 2. Causes of death of persons aged 55+ by sex: 2005**

Main cause of death	Age group					
	Sex	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	Total
Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	<b>M</b>	1	3	-	-	<b>4</b>
	<b>F</b>	37	5	2	-	<b>44</b>
Neoplasms	<b>M</b>	74	144	127	30	<b>375</b>
	<b>F</b>	72	81	78	38	<b>269</b>
Diseases of the blood & blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	<b>M</b>	-	-	2	1	<b>3</b>
	<b>F</b>	-	1	-	1	<b>2</b>
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	<b>M</b>	8	13	21	8	<b>50</b>
	<b>F</b>	2	11	32	18	<b>63</b>
Mental and behavioural disorders	<b>M</b>	2	2	13	7	<b>24</b>
	<b>F</b>	2	2	25	17	<b>46</b>
Diseases of the nervous system	<b>M</b>	5	12	16	8	<b>41</b>
	<b>F</b>	2	9	16	14	<b>41</b>
Diseases of the circulatory system	<b>M</b>	73	159	241	139	<b>612</b>
	<b>F</b>	30	95	304	286	<b>715</b>
Diseases of the respiratory system	<b>M</b>	12	37	80	57	<b>186</b>
	<b>F</b>	10	17	37	49	<b>113</b>
Diseases of the digestive system	<b>M</b>	11	9	22	8	<b>50</b>
	<b>F</b>	3	9	32	17	<b>61</b>
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	<b>M</b>	-	1	7	9	<b>17</b>
	<b>F</b>	-	3	19	11	<b>33</b>
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	<b>M</b>	-	1	-	-	<b>1</b>
	<b>F</b>	4	-	4	3	<b>11</b>
Disease of the genitourinary system	<b>M</b>	1	5	6	5	<b>17</b>
	<b>F</b>	2	7	14	3	<b>26</b>
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	<b>M</b>	1	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
	<b>F</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	<b>M</b>	<b>1</b>	-	4	4	<b>9</b>
	<b>F</b>	-	-	4	18	<b>22</b>
External causes of morbidity and mortality	<b>M</b>	<b>11</b>	3	9	5	<b>28</b>
	<b>F</b>	<b>2</b>	6	16	12	<b>36</b>

Table 3. Persons attending the University of the Third Age by region, previous occupational status and sex: academic year 2004/05

Region	Armed Forces		Civil Service		Clerks		Craft and Related Trades Workers		Elementary Occupations		Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers		Not Gainfully Occupied		Professionals		Service Workers and Shop and Market Sales Workers		Technicians and Associate Professionals		Others		Total		
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	T
<b>All regions</b>	-	6	10	31	69	11	3	4	1	-	8	11	157	17	222	73	14	5	17	14	6	8	507	180	687
Southern Harbour	-	-	2	10	11	3	1	3	-	-	1	2	19	1	34	8	2	1	2	3	-	1	72	32	104
Northern Harbour	-	5	6	18	43	4	2	1	-	-	4	5	95	10	121	43	7	4	10	9	4	5	292	104	396
South Eastern	-	-	-	-	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	10	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	25	6	31
Western	-	1	2	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	3	4	11	2	34	11	1	-	3	1	-	-	58	22	80
Northern	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	12	6	1	-	1	1	1	-	28	8	36
Gozo & Comino	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	18	3	11	2	1	-	-	-	1	2	32	8	40

**Table 4. Persons attending the University of the Third Age by age group and sex: academic year 2004/05**

Age group	Females	Males	Total
60 - 64	88	23	111
65 - 69	132	34	166
70 - 74	111	51	162
75 - 79	107	37	144
80 & over	69	35	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>687</b>

**Table 5. Members of NGOs aged 65+\* by sex and main activity of NGO: 2004**

Main activity	Males	Females	Total
Human health activities	2,882	2,883	<b>5,765</b>
Social work activities with accommodation	48	44	<b>92</b>
Social work activities without accommodation	1,374	1,729	<b>3,103</b>
Other organisations	4,254	4,197	<b>8,451</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,558</b>	<b>8,853</b>	<b>17,411</b>

\* Data for these organisations are only available for persons aged 65+

**Table 6. Residents aged 65+ \* in private and Church homes for the elderly by sex: 2004**

Sex		Males	Females	Total
<b>Type of residency</b>	Permanent	370	1,151	<b>1,521</b>
	Temporary	94	113	<b>207</b>
	Day care	-	2	<b>2</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>1,730</b>

\* Data for these organisations are only available for persons aged 65+

**Table 7. Retirement and old age pensions: a five-year perspective**

Lm000s

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Contributory Benefits</b>					
Pensions in respect of Retirement	78,467	80,887	84,132	86,447	94,870
Retirement Pension	12,966	13,443	13,774	14,330	15,838
National Minimum Pension	11,696	11,709	11,377	11,393	11,619
Increased Retirement Pension	8,626	7,619	7,360	5,887	5,631
Two-thirds Pension	42,494	45,436	48,766	51,684	58,373
Increased National Minimum Pension	2,495	2,445	2,661	2,949	3,160
Decreased National Minimum Pension	190	235	193	204	250
<b>Non-Contributory Benefits</b>					
Old Age Pension	6,181	5,830	5,887	6,268	6,816
<b>Total Social Security Benefits</b>	<b>184,448</b>	<b>190,749</b>	<b>200,922</b>	<b>207,458</b>	<b>220,830</b>
<b>Retirement and old age pensions as a percentage of total social security benefits</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>46.0</b>

## Methodological Notes

1. The following are the sources used for this news release:

- Employment and Training Corporation
- Department of Social Security
- Adult Education Unit, Education Office
- Department of Education
- University of Malta

## 2. NUTS classification

The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) is a common classification that is

<sup>1</sup> (EC) No. 1059/2003

Administrative area	NUTS levels				
	I (National)	II (National)	III (Regional)	IV (District)	V (Locality)
<b>MALTA</b>	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, Ħamrun, 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:** Għargħur, Mellieħa, Mġarr, Mosta, Naxxar, San Pawl il-Baħar.

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

3. The data in this release is to be considered as final and is not normally subject to revision.