

News Release



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Agriculture

Sheep and Goats Survey - December 2005

The sheep and goats survey carried out in December 2005 established a total population of 14,642 sheep and 6,272 goats during the period. Comparing the results with the situation a year earlier, while the sheep population increased by 512 heads (+ 3.6 per cent), the goat stock increased by 637 heads (+11.3 per cent).

Sheep

The number of ewes were mainly responsible for the increase in sheep stock as these increased by 629 (+8.1 per cent), from 7,809 ewes in December 2004 to 8,438 heads in December 2005. The number of lambs declined by 5.0 per cent over the comparative period whilst ewe lambs and male sheep registered minor increases of 2.4 per cent and 1.1 per cent respectively.

On a regional level, when compared to December 2004, the total sheep stock in Malta increased by 5.2 per cent and that for Gozo and Comino increased marginally by 0.9 per cent. While Gozo and Comino is the dominant district where 35.9 per cent of all sheep, the south eastern and western districts in the region of Malta are the second and third most important districts with 20.2 per cent and 19.9 per cent respectively.

Goats

The goat population also registered an increase when compared to the same period in 2004. All categories, with the exception of male goats, where a marginal decline was registered, registered increases, ranging from 8.9 per cent for goats '*mated for the first time*' to 23.8 per cent for kids. The category, '*goats that have already kidded*', which make up a total of 57.7 per cent of the goat population, registered an increase of 337 goats (+10.3 per cent), from 3,282 goats in December 2004 to 3,619 in December 2005.

Whilst the goats registered in Malta increased by 436 (+10.9 per cent), from 4,016 in December 2004 to 4,452 in December 2005, the goat population in Gozo and Comino increased by 201 (+12.4 per cent) from 1,619 in December 2004 to 1,820 in December 2005.

On a district level, Gozo and Comino and the south eastern district are the most important districts with 29.0 per cent and 28.6 per cent of the total goat stocks.

Structure of holdings

It was established that 1,315 holdings are engaged in sheep breeding. A total of 1,012 holdings (69.2 per cent) had 3,673 sheep and each of them had less than 10 sheep on the holding. On the other hand, 46 holdings (3.5 per cent) had a total of 3,483 sheep (23.8 per cent). These holdings are considered large holdings with 50 sheep or more on the holding.

There were 685 holdings engaged in goat breeding. While a total of 510 of these holdings (74.5 per cent) have less than 10 goats on the holding, the majority of goats are found on holdings with a herdsiz that ranges from 10 to 49 goats. Infact, within this range 158 holdings (23.1 per cent) have a total of 2,802 goats (44.7 per cent) ■

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Table 1. Distribution of sheep by category of sheep

Administrative Area	Total	Lambs		Ewe lambs	Ewes	Male sheep
		Females	Males			
MALTA	14,642	2,453	893	2,284	8,438	573
Malta	9,388	1,589	573	1,477	5,355	394
Gozo and Comino	5,254	864	320	807	3,083	180
Southern harbour	603	92	33	123	323	32
Northern harbour	997	202	105	115	544	31
South eastern	2,965	459	175	407	1,767	156
Western	2,910	508	146	456	1,694	106
Northern	1,913	328	114	376	1,027	68
Gozo and Comino	5,254	864	320	807	3,083	180

Table 2. Distribution of goats by category of goats

Administrative Area	Total	Kids		Goats mated for the first time	Goats that have already kidded	Male goats
		Females	Males			
MALTA	6,272	957	183	1,112	3,619	402
Malta	4,453	756	142	814	2,456	284
Gozo and Comino	1,820	201	41	297	1,163	118
Southern harbour	651	100	31	208	279	33
Northern harbour	589	57	10	90	392	41
South eastern	1,794	316	65	353	975	85
Western	997	170	30	129	568	100
Northern	422	114	6	35	243	25
Gozo and Comino	1,820	201	41	297	1,163	118

Chart 1. Distribution of sheep and goats by district

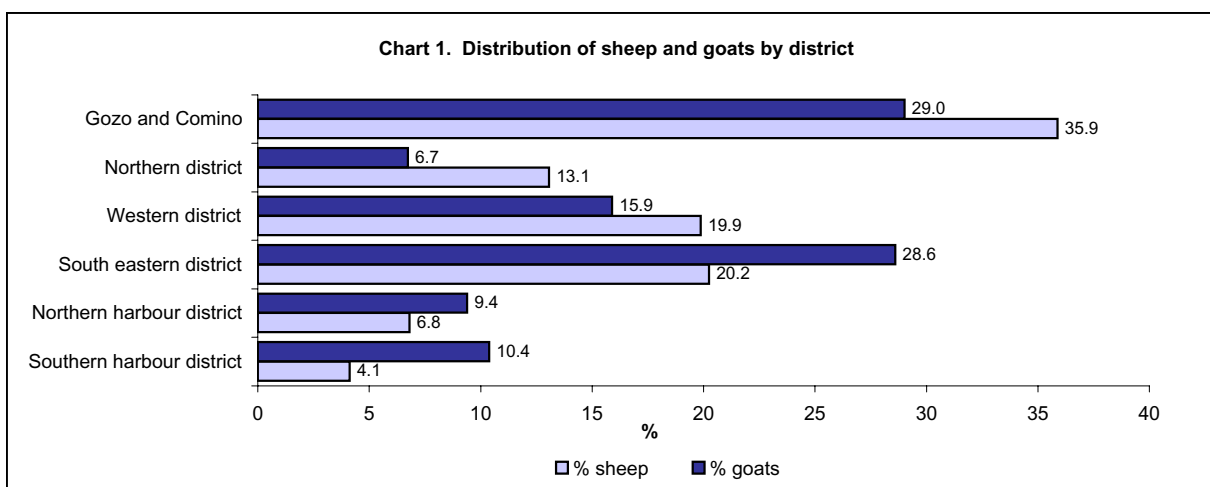


Table 3. Distribution of sheep by herd size

number of sheep

Administrative Area	Total	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	>=100
MALTA								
Number of sheep	14,642	461	1,468	1,743	2,798	4,689	2,613	870
of which: breeding females	10,723	401	1,101	1,155	1,853	3,466	2,030	717
Number of holdings	1,315	278	391	241	207	152	39	7
Malta								
Number of sheep	9,388	230	950	1,212	2,141	3,141	1,580	134
of which: breeding females	6,833	204	734	777	1,445	2,317	1,240	115
Number of holdings	839	135	257	163	158	102	23	1
Gozo and Comino								
Number of sheep	5,254	231	519	531	657	1,547	1,032	736
of which: breeding females	3,890	197	367	378	408	1,148	790	602
Number of holdings	476	143	134	78	49	50	16	6
Southern harbour								
Number of sheep	603	4	17	93	136	353	-	-
of which: breeding females	446	4	10	56	91	285	-	-
Number of holdings	41	3	4	13	8	12	-	-
Northern harbour								
Number of sheep	997	12	128	141	18	399	299	-
of which: breeding females	659	10	79	76	11	260	221	-
Number of holdings	76	7	31	18	1	14	5	-
South eastern								
Number of sheep	2,965	74	357	272	909	996	355	-
of which: breeding females	2,175	67	275	208	597	754	273	-
Number of holdings	288	48	100	38	67	32	5	-
Western								
Number of sheep	2,910	56	326	427	656	824	487	134
of which: breeding females	2,150	46	280	248	459	619	382	115
Number of holdings	266	31	90	56	53	27	7	1
Northern								
Number of sheep	1,913	83	121	279	421	569	440	-
of which: breeding females	1,403	77	90	188	285	399	364	-
Number of holdings	168	46	31	38	29	17	7	-
Gozo and Comino								
Number of sheep	5,254	231	519	531	657	1,547	1,032	736
of which: breeding females	3,890	197	367	378	408	1,148	790	602
Number of holdings	476	143	134	78	49	50	16	6

Table 4. Distribution of goats by herd size

number of goats

Administrative Area	Total	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	>=100
MALTA								
Number of goats	6,272	286	703	968	1,430	1,371	974	539
<i>of which: breeding females</i>	4,731	215	511	660	1,094	1,066	699	486
Number of holdings	685	202	176	133	109	49	13	4
Malta								
Number of goats	4,453	179	480	700	1,038	1,126	630	298
<i>of which: breeding females</i>	3,271	121	347	451	770	856	451	274
Number of holdings	469	128	117	97	78	39	8	2
Gozo and Comino								
Number of goats	1,820	106	223	268	392	245	344	241
<i>of which: breeding females</i>	1,460	95	164	208	324	210	248	212
Number of holdings	216	74	59	36	30	10	5	2
Southern harbour								
Number of goats	651	5	16	103	11	197	319	-
<i>of which: breeding females</i>	487	3	7	65	6	149	257	-
Number of holdings	34	3	4	15	1	7	4	-
Northern harbour								
Number of goats	589	23	61	21	211	159	-	114
<i>of which: breeding females</i>	482	11	48	11	177	121	-	114
Number of holdings	55	15	15	3	14	7	-	1
South eastern								
Number of goats	1,794	67	160	297	337	438	311	184
<i>of which: breeding females</i>	1,327	45	118	222	237	350	194	160
Number of holdings	170	45	38	40	28	15	4	1
Western								
Number of goats	997	37	111	203	424	222	-	-
<i>of which: breeding females</i>	696	20	78	118	304	177	-	-
Number of holdings	120	28	28	28	31	7	-	-
Northern								
Number of goats	422	47	132	77	56	111	-	-
<i>of which: breeding females</i>	278	42	95	35	47	59	-	-
Number of holdings	89	37	32	11	5	4	-	-
Gozo and Comino								
Number of goats	1,820	106	223	268	392	245	344	241
<i>of which: breeding females</i>	1,460	95	164	208	324	210	248	212
Number of holdings	216	74	59	36	30	10	5	2

Table 5. Distribution of ewes and ewe lambs by size class of breeding females

number of breeding females

Administrative Area	Total	No breeding females	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	>=100
MALTA							
Number of breeding females	10,723	-	3,556	1,761	3,276	1,854	276
Number of holdings	1,315	27	1,012	129	116	28	2
Malta							
Number of breeding females	6,833	-	2,337	1,364	2,153	862	115
Number of holdings	839	11	635	101	77	14	1
Gozo and Comino							
Number of breeding females	3,890	-	1,219	396	1,123	992	161
Number of holdings	476	16	377	28	39	15	1
Southern harbour							
Number of breeding females	446	-	80	176	190	-	-
Number of holdings	41	-	22	11	7	-	-
Northern harbour							
Number of breeding females	659	-	168	128	227	136	-
Number of holdings	76	6	51	8	8	2	-
South eastern							
Number of breeding females	2,175	-	788	452	718	217	-
Number of holdings	288	2	220	37	26	3	-
Western							
Number of breeding females	2,150	-	840	384	522	289	115
Number of holdings	266	2	213	28	18	5	1
Northern							
Number of breeding females	1,403	-	461	225	496	221	-
Number of holdings	168	1	129	17	18	3	-
Gozo and Comino							
Number of breeding females	3,890	-	1,219	396	1,123	992	161
Number of holdings	476	16	377	28	39	15	1

Table 6. Distribution of goats mated and goats that have already kidded by size class of breeding females

number of breeding females

Administrative Area	Total	No breeding females	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	>=100
MALTA							
Number of breeding females	4,731	-	1,696	1,035	1,010	504	486
Number of holdings	685	41	512	83	37	8	4
Malta							
Number of breeding females	3,271	-	1,195	695	741	366	274
Number of holdings	469	35	345	54	26	6	2
Gozo and Comino							
Number of breeding females	1,460	-	502	340	269	138	212
Number of holdings	216	6	167	29	10	2	2
Southern harbour							
Number of breeding females	487	-	81	-	196	210	-
Number of holdings	34	4	20	-	7	3	-
Northern harbour							
Number of breeding females	482	-	79	206	83	-	114
Number of holdings	55	7	28	16	4	-	1
South eastern							
Number of breeding females	1,327	-	497	229	285	156	160
Number of holdings	170	12	127	18	10	3	1
Western							
Number of breeding females	696	-	351	168	177	-	-
Number of holdings	120	9	91	14	7	-	-
Northern							
Number of breeding females	278	-	186	92	-	-	-
Number of holdings	89	3	80	7	-	-	-
Gozo and Comino							
Number of breeding females	1,460	-	502	340	269	138	212
Number of holdings	216	6	167	29	10	2	2

Table 7. Sheep population by category and administrative area: 2003-2005

Year	Lambs			Ewe Lambs			Ewes			Male Sheep			Total		
	MALTA	Malta	Gozo & Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo & Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo & Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo & Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo & Comino
2003	3,783	2,383	1,400	2,457	1,689	768	8,026	5,128	2,898	595	414	181	14,861	9,614	5,247
2004	3,523	2,190	1,333	2,231	1,470	761	7,809	4,875	2,934	568	387	181	14,130	8,922	5,208
2005	3,346	2,162	1,184	2,284	1,477	807	8,438	5,355	3,083	574	394	180	14,642	9,388	5,254
%05/04	-5.0%	-1.3%	-11.2%	2.4%	0.5%	6.1%	8.1%	9.8%	5.1%	1.1%	1.8%	-0.4%	3.6%	5.2%	0.9%

Table 8. Goat population by category and administrative area: 2003-2005

Year	Kids			Goats mated for the first time			Goats that have already kidded			Male Goats			Total		
	MALTA	Malta	Gozo & Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo & Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo & Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo & Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo & Comino
2003	896	679	217	979	718	261	3,129	2,069	1,060	370	291	79	5,374	3,757	1,617
2004	921	737	184	1,020	697	323	3,282	2,251	1,031	412	331	81	5,635	4,016	1,619
2005	1,140	898	242	1,111	814	297	3,619	2,456	1,163	402	284	118	6,272	4,452	1,820
%05/04	23.8%	21.8%	31.6%	8.9%	16.8%	-8.0%	10.3%	9.1%	12.8%	-2.5%	-14.2%	45.2%	11.3%	10.9%	12.4%

Chart 2. Regional annual percentage change of sheep

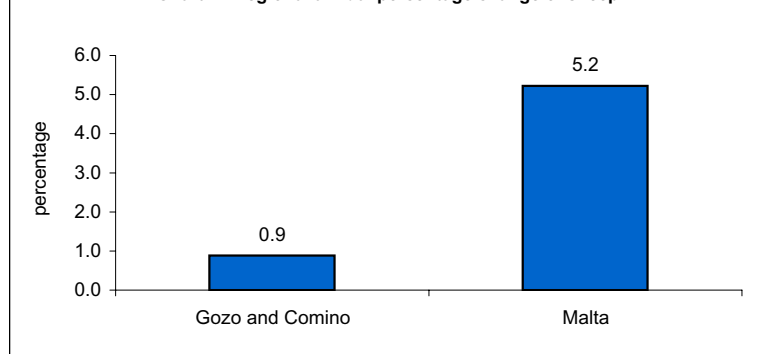
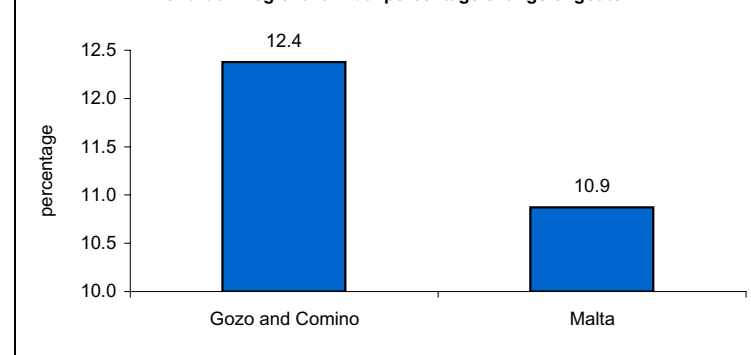
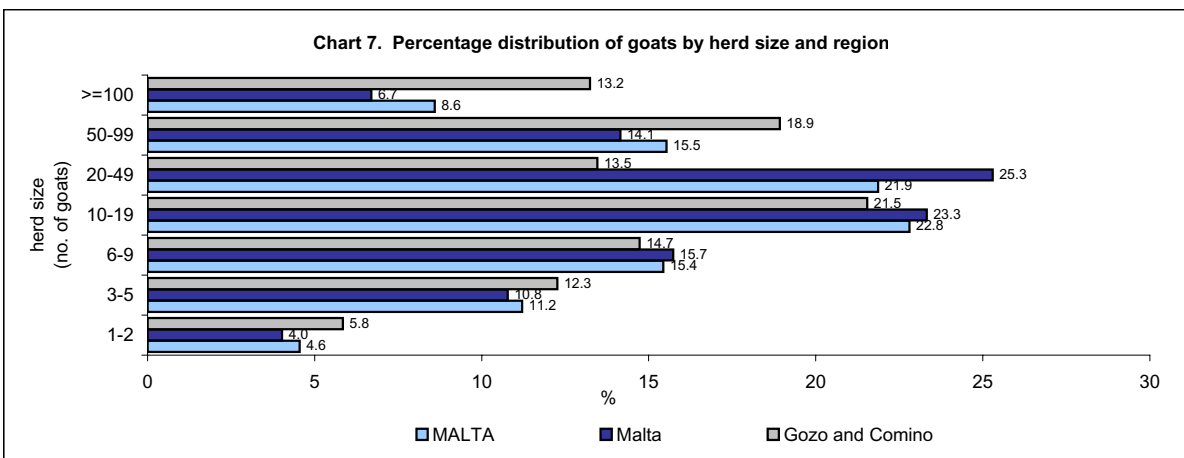
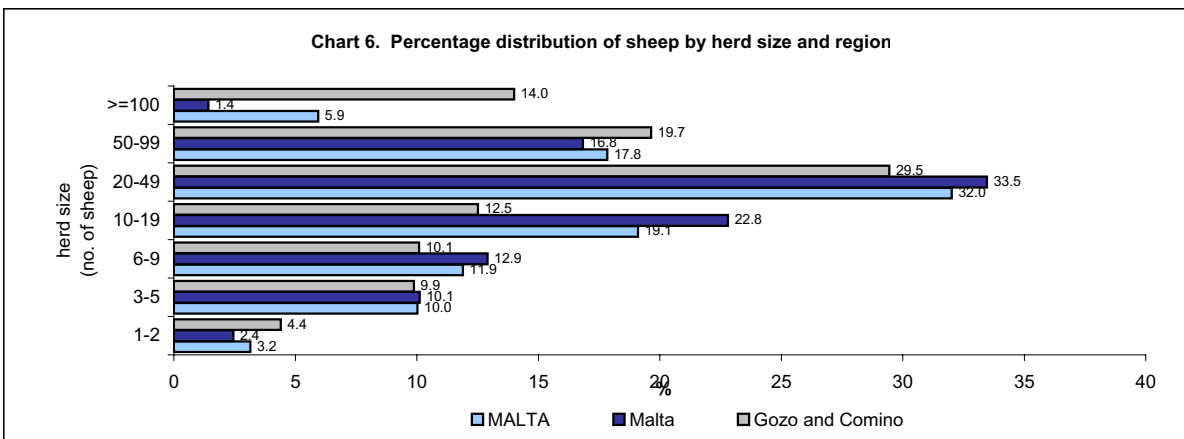
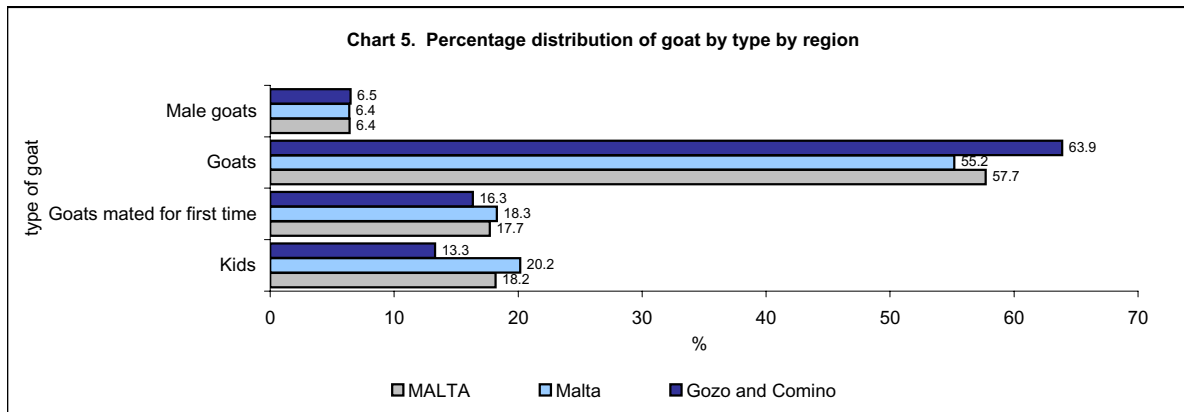
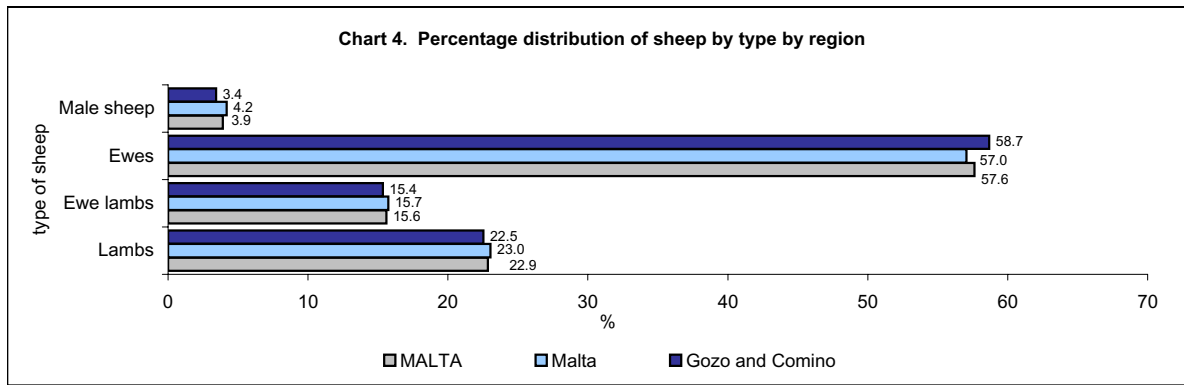


Chart 3. Regional annual percentage change of goats





Methodological Notes

1. The sheep & goats survey is carried out every year and is in accordance to Council Directive 93/25/EEC of 1 June 1993 on the statistical surveys to be carried out on bovine animal production.
2. Figures may not add up due to rounding
3. The survey is carried out once a year with a census date being 1st December.
4. The census is a postal survey and a response rate of 89 per cent is achieved.
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 Luċġija, 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, Ghaxaq, Kirkop, M'Scala, M'Xlokk, Mqabba, Qrendi, Safi, Żurrieq.

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

Northern: Ghargħur, 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, Xagħra, Xewkija, Żebbuġ.