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Students in formal education during academic year 2011/2012 amounted to 69,968, down by 0.8 per cent when compared to 2010/2011.

Student Enrolments: 2011-2012

Student Enrolments

Students attending state schools numbered 49,021, or 70.1 per cent of all enrolments. On the other hand, the share of students attending church and independent schools stood at 22.1 and 7.8 per cent respectively (Table 1).

Overall, male students outnumbered females and totalled 35,052. However, females in tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6) were in the majority, surpassing their male counterparts by 1,497 (Table 2).

The student population in primary schools stood at 23,567, down by 2.1 per cent over the previous academic year. Similarly, the number of students in secondary schools went down by 2.5 per cent (Table 3).

The average age of students in primary education ranged between 5 and 10, while those in lower secondary education (ISCED 2) were between 11 and 13 years old. On average, students reached the end of mandatory education (Form 5) at 15.

Female students in tertiary education were primarily enrolled in "Health", followed by those attending courses in "Business and administration" and "Teacher training and education science". Male students were mainly enrolled in the fields of "Business and administration", "Health" and "Computing" (Table 4).

During academic year 2011/2012, foreign students in tertiary education numbered to 591, representing 4.8 per cent of the total student population (Table 6). A total of 188 institutions provided formal education at all levels and for all needs. State-owned schools comprised 58.0 per cent of all educational institutions. In terms of geographical distribution of schools, 35.6 per cent were located in the Northern Harbour district, while a further 20.7 per cent were situated in the Southern Harbour area.

Class Composition

The average number of students per class at ISCED level 1 (primary education) stood at 17.6 in state schools, 25.4 in church schools and 20.2 in the independent schools. For students in ISCED level 2, these averages were 19.6, 25.1 and 18.4 students respectively ■

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Table 1. Students by ISCED Level and Economic Activity

ISCED - 1997	State	Church	Independent	Total
2011/2012				
Total	49,021	15,479	5,468	69,968
Level 1	13,548	7,074	2,945	23,567
Level 2*	7,970	4,601	1,340	13,911
Level 3	12,870	3,804	1,183	17,857
Level 4	2,327	-	-	2,327
Level 5	12,126	-	-	12,126
Level 6	77	-	-	77
Unclassified**	103	-	-	103
2010/2011				
Total	50,013	15,219	5,330	70,562
Level 1	14,174	6,882	3,019	24,075
Level 2*	8,356	4,565	1,216	14,137
Level 3	13,585	3,772	1,095	18,452
Level 4	2,357	-	-	2,357
Level 5	11,418	-	-	11,418
Level 6	73	-	-	73
Unclassified**	50	-	-	50
Percentage Change - 2012/2011				
Total	-2.0	1.7	2.6	-0.8
Level 1	-4.4	2.8	-2.5	-2.1
Level 2*	-4.6	0.8	10.2	-1.6
Level 3	-5.3	0.8	8.0	-3.2
Level 4	-1.3	-	-	-1.3
Level 5	6.2	-	-	6.2
Level 6	5.5	-	-	5.5

* includes also post secondary vocational

** Unclassified: ISCED level is unknown

Table 2. Students by ISCED Level

ISCED - 1997	Males	Females	Total
2011/2012			
Total	35,052	34,916	69,968
Level 1	12,089	11,478	23,567
Level 2*	7,050	6,861	13,911
Level 3	9,062	8,795	17,857
Level 4	1,446	881	2,327
Level 5	5,309	6,817	12,126
Level 6	44	33	77
Unclassified**	52	51	103
2010/2011			
Total	35,423	35,139	70,562
Level 1	12,270	11,805	24,075
Level 2*	7,354	6,783	14,137
Level 3	9,313	9,139	18,452
Level 4	1,463	894	2,357
Level 5	4,947	6,471	11,418
Level 6	51	22	73
Unclassified**	25	25	50
Percentage Change - 2012/2011			
Total	-1.0	-0.6	-0.8
Level 1	-1.5	-2.8	-2.1
Level 2*	-4.1	1.1	-1.6
Level 3	-2.7	-3.8	-3.2
Level 4	-1.2	-1.5	-1.3
Level 5	7.3	5.3	6.2
Level 6	-13.7	50.0	5.5

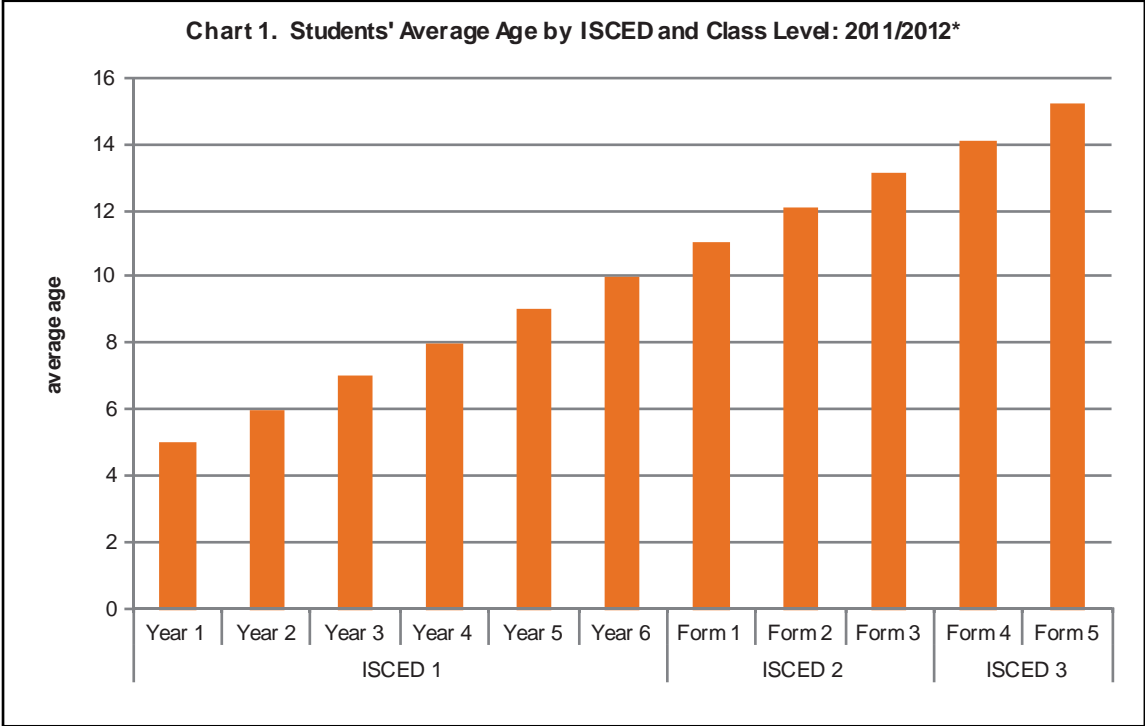
* includes also post secondary vocational

** Unclassified: ISCED level is unknown

Table 3. Students in Mandatory Education by Class Level and Economic Activity*

Class Level	2011/2012				2010/2011				
	State	Church	Independent	Total	State	Church	Independent	Total	
Primary									
Total	13,548	7,074	2,945	23,567	14,174	6,882	3,019	24,075	
ISCED 1	Year 1	2,154	1,228	508	3,890	2,286	1,088	552	3,926
	Year 2	2,283	1,114	514	3,911	2,264	1,091	533	3,888
	Year 3	2,245	1,087	551	3,883	2,398	1,121	500	4,019
	Year 4	2,276	1,294	436	4,006	2,296	1,163	485	3,944
	Year 5	2,293	1,151	482	3,926	2,300	1,184	481	3,965
	Year 6	2,297	1,200	454	3,951	2,630	1,235	468	4,333
	Secondary								
Total	13,620	7,654	2,276	23,550	14,387	7,621	2,139	24,147	
ISCED 2	Form 1	2,412	1,547	428	4,387	2,521	1,502	343	4,366
	Form 2	2,500	1,512	415	4,427	2,798	1,523	403	4,724
	Form 3	2,937	1,542	497	4,976	2,935	1,540	470	4,945
ISCED 3	Form 4	2,913	1,532	461	4,906	2,944	1,548	458	4,950
	Form 5	2,858	1,521	475	4,854	3,189	1,508	465	5,162

* Includes children attending special schools



*Age computed as beginning of calendar year

Table 4. Tertiary Students by Field of Study and ISCED Level: 2011/2012

Field of Study	Males			Females			Total		
	ISCED - 1997								
	Level 5	Level 6	Total	Level 5	Level 6	Total	Level 5	Level 6	Total
Total	5,309	44	5,353	6,817	33	6,850	12,126	77	12,203
Teacher training and education science	260	2	262	971	1	972	1,231	3	1,234
Art	247	2	249	301	4	305	548	6	554
Humanities	385	8	393	657	10	667	1,042	18	1,060
Social and behavioural sciences	347	3	350	558	7	565	905	10	915
Journalism and information	28	-	28	88	-	88	116	-	116
Business and administration	913	1	914	1,180	-	1,180	2,093	1	2,094
Law	378	4	382	539	1	540	917	5	922
Life science	161	3	164	141	2	143	302	5	307
Physical science	167	2	169	128	1	129	295	3	298
Mathematics and statistics	53	2	55	42	-	42	95	2	97
Computing	666	5	671	173	-	173	839	5	844
Engineering and engineering trade	570	8	578	120	3	123	690	11	701
Manufacturing and processing	8	-	8	4	-	4	12	-	12
Architecture and building	183	-	183	103	1	104	286	1	287
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	18	-	18	15	-	15	33	-	33
Health	748	2	750	1,362	2	1,364	2,110	4	2,114
Social services	82	-	82	290	1	291	372	1	373
Personal services	67	2	69	137	-	137	204	2	206
Transport services	5	-	5	1	-	1	6	-	6
Security services	23	-	23	7	-	7	30	-	30

Table 5. Percentage distribution of Tertiary Students by Field of Study and ISCED Level: 2011/2012

Field of Study	Males		Females			Total			
	ISCED - 1997								
	Level 5	Level 6	Total	Level 5	Level 6	Total	Level 5	Level 6	Total
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Teacher training and education science	4.9	4.5	4.9	14.2	3.0	14.2	10.2	3.9	10.1
Art	4.7	4.5	4.7	4.4	12.1	4.5	4.5	7.8	4.5
Humanities	7.3	18.3	7.3	9.6	30.4	9.7	8.6	23.3	8.7
Social and behavioural sciences	6.5	6.8	6.5	8.2	21.2	8.2	7.5	13.0	7.5
Journalism and information	0.5	-	0.5	1.3	-	1.3	1.0	-	1.0
Business and administration	17.3	2.3	17.2	17.3	-	17.2	17.2	1.3	17.2
Law	7.1	9.1	7.1	7.9	3.0	7.9	7.6	6.5	7.6
Life science	3.0	6.8	3.1	2.1	6.1	2.1	2.5	6.5	2.5
Physical science	3.1	4.5	3.2	1.9	3.0	1.9	2.4	3.9	2.4
Mathematics and statistics	1.0	4.5	1.0	0.6	-	0.6	0.8	2.6	0.8
Computing	12.5	11.4	12.5	2.5	-	2.5	6.9	6.5	6.9
Engineering and engineering trade	10.7	18.3	10.8	1.8	9.1	1.8	5.7	14.3	5.7
Manufacturing and processing	0.2	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1
Architecture and building	3.4	-	3.4	1.5	3.0	1.5	2.4	1.3	2.4
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	0.3	-	0.3	0.2	-	0.2	0.3	-	0.3
Health	14.2	4.5	14.1	20.0	6.1	20.0	17.3	5.2	17.3
Social services	1.5	-	1.5	4.3	3.0	4.2	3.1	1.3	3.1
Personal services	1.3	4.5	1.3	2.0	-	2.0	1.7	2.6	1.7
Transport services	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Security services	0.4	-	0.4	0.1	-	0.1	0.2	-	0.2

Table 6. Tertiary Students by Nationality and ISCED Level

Nationality	ISCED 5			ISCED 6		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
2011/2012						
Total	5,309	6,817	12,126	44	33	77
Europe	5,160	6,710	11,870	44	31	75
of which:						
Maltese	5,044	6,497	11,541	42	29	71
Other EU	99	170	269	2	2	4
Non-EU	17	43	60	-	-	-
America	25	32	57	-	1	1
Africa	32	26	58	-	1	1
Asia	90	48	138	-	-	-
Australia	1	1	2	-	-	-
Unknown	1	-	1	-	-	-
2010/2011						
Total	4,947	6,471	11,418	51	22	73
Europe	4,821	6,377	11,198	50	22	72
of which:						
Maltese	4,728	6,197	10,925	49	22	71
Other EU	74	142	216	1	-	1
Non-EU	19	38	57	-	-	-
America	18	27	45	-	-	-
Africa	32	18	50	1	-	1
Asia	74	49	123	-	-	-
Australia	2	-	2	-	-	-

Table 7. Post Secondary and Tertiary Students Average Age by ISCED Level*

ISCED - 1997	Males	Females	Total
2011/2012			
Level 3	17.1	16.9	17.0
Level 4	18.9	19.2	19.0
Level 5	24.7	24.2	24.4
Level 6	38.0	38.5	38.2
2010/2011			
Level 3	17.5	17.2	17.3
Level 4	19.2	19.3	19.2
Level 5	24.6	24.2	24.4
Level 6	39.2	38.0	38.9

*Age computed as beginning of calendar year

Table 8. Number of Schools by District and Economic Activity: 2011/2012*

	State	Church	Independent	Total
Total	109	50	29	188
Primary				
Total	68	26	13	107
Southern Harbour	15	5	2	22
South Eastern	12	1	1	14
Northern Harbour	13	12	5	30
Western	8	3	2	13
Northern	7	1	3	11
Gozo and Comino	13	4	-	17
Secondary				
Total	30	22	11	63
Southern Harbour	7	4	2	13
South Eastern	2	-	1	3
Northern Harbour	12	12	5	29
Western	3	4	-	7
Northern	4	-	3	7
Gozo and Comino	2	2	-	4
Post Secondary General				
Total	3	2	5	10
Southern Harbour	-	1	1	2
South Eastern	-	-	1	1
Northern Harbour	1	1	2	4
Western	-	-	-	-
Northern	1	-	1	2
Gozo and Comino	1	-	-	1
Post Secondary Vocational				
Total	2	-	-	2
Southern Harbour	1	-	-	1
South Eastern	-	-	-	-
Northern Harbour	1	-	-	1
Western	-	-	-	-
Northern	-	-	-	-
Gozo and Comino	-	-	-	-
Special Schools				
Total	6	-	-	6
Southern Harbour	-	-	-	1
South Eastern	1	-	-	-
Northern Harbour	3	-	-	3
Western	-	-	-	-
Northern	1	-	-	1
Gozo and Comino	1	-	-	1

* excludes University of Malta (UOM)

Table 9. Average Class Size in Mandatory Education by ISCED Level and Economic Activity*

	ISCED 1			ISCED 2			ISCED 3**		
	State	Church	Independent	State	Church	Independent	State	Church	Independent
	2011/2012								
Students	13,513	7,074	2,945	7,657	4,601	1,340	5,771	3,053	936
Classes	767	278	146	390	183	73	291	130	52
Average Class Size	17.6	25.4	20.2	19.6	25.1	18.4	19.8	23.5	18.0
	2010/2011								
Students	14,153	6,882	3,019	8,183	4,565	1,216	6,019	3,056	923
Classes	772	265	153	385	179	67	284	130	51
Average Class Size	18.3	26.0	19.7	21.3	25.5	18.1	21.2	23.5	18.1

* Excludes children attending special schools

** Includes only Form 4 and Form 5 students

Table 10. Average Class Size by Class Level, ISCED and Economic Activity: 2011/2012*

Class Level	Students			Classes			Average class size			
	State	Church	Independent	State	Church	Independent	State	Church	Independent	
ISCED 1 Primary	Year 1	2,145	1,228	508	125	50	24	17.2	24.6	21.2
	Year 2	2,273	1,114	514	128	44	25	17.8	25.3	20.6
	Year 3	2,236	1,087	551	127	43	26	17.6	25.3	21.2
	Year 4	2,269	1,294	436	129	50	24	17.6	25.9	18.2
	Year 5	2,293	1,151	482	129	44	24	17.8	26.2	20.1
	Year 6	2,297	1,200	454	129	47	23	17.8	25.5	19.7
ISCED 2 Secondary	Form 1	2,401	1,547	428	116	60	22	20.7	25.8	19.5
	Form 2	2,482	1,512	415	130	58	24	19.1	26.1	17.3
	Form 3	2,774	1,542	497	144	65	27	19.3	23.7	18.4
ISCED 3	Form 4	2,913	1,532	461	149	65	26	19.6	23.6	17.7
	Form 5	2,858	1,521	475	142	65	26	20.1	23.4	18.3

* Excludes children attending special schools

Table 11. Average Class Size by Class Level, ISCED and Economic Activity: 2010/2011*

Class Level	Students			Classes			Average class size			
	State	Church	Independent	State	Church	Independent	State	Church	Independent	
ISCED 1 Primary	Year 1	2,279	1,088	552	122	44	27	18.7	24.7	20.4
	Year 2	2,257	1,091	533	125	43	26	18.1	25.4	20.5
	Year 3	2,395	1,121	500	132	43	27	18.1	26.1	18.5
	Year 4	2,292	1,163	485	124	44	25	18.5	26.4	19.4
	Year 5	2,300	1,184	481	133	44	25	17.3	26.9	19.2
	Year 6	2,630	1,235	468	136	47	23	19.3	26.3	20.3
ISCED 2 Secondary	Form 1	2,503	1,502	343	117	57	18	21.4	26.4	19.1
	Form 2	2,769	1,523	403	132	57	23	21.0	26.7	17.5
	Form 3	2,911	1,540	470	136	65	26	21.4	23.7	18.1
ISCED 3	Form 4	2,921	1,548	458	139	65	25	21.0	23.8	18.3
	Form 5	3,098	1,508	465	145	65	26	21.4	23.2	17.9

* Excludes children attending special schools

Methodological notes

1. This news release contains information on student enrolments in mandatory education (i.e. Primary and Secondary schools); Post Secondary General; Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST); Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS) and the University of Malta (UOM).
2. Short-courses with duration of less than 750 hours of learning do not fall within the scope of this release.
3. Data collection was carried out during the second quarter of the academic year, with 31 March as reference day for this survey.

Concepts and definitions

4. International Standard Classification of Education - ISCED

The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED '97) is a harmonised framework adopted by the European Union, for assembling, compiling, and analysing cross-nationally comparable statistics on education. In this release ISCED levels are based on ISCED '97 classification:

ISCED 1 - Primary education or First stage of basic education

ISCED 2 - Lower Secondary or Second stage of basic education

ISCED 3 - Upper Secondary education and Post Secondary general education

ISCED 4 - Post Secondary non-Tertiary education, e.g. National/Extended Diploma

ISCED 5 - First Stage of Tertiary education, e.g. Higher National Diploma, Degree

ISCED 6 - Second Stage of Tertiary education, e.g. Ph.D.

5. **Fields of Study:** Fields of Education and Training classifies education programmes and related qualifications by fields of study. A field is the 'broad domain, branch or area of content covered by an education programme or qualification'. For the purpose of this release students are being counted only once irrespective of whether the course undertaken falls within more than one field of study.
6. Economic Activity refers to the Legal Status of the Institution providing the course of studies: State, Church and Independent.
7. Age of students was computed as at 1 January of the respective year.
8. Nationality refers to the country of citizenship of the particular student. Students with dual citizenship are classified as Maltese nationals if one of the owned citizenships is Maltese.
9. **General education:** Programmes designed to develop learners' general knowledge, skills and competencies, as well as literacy and numeracy skills, often to prepare students for more advanced education programmes at the same or higher ISCED levels and to lay the foundation for lifelong learning.
10. **Vocational education:** Programmes designed for learners to acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies specific to a particular occupation, trade or class of occupations or trades. Vocational education may have work-based components. Successful completion of such programmes leads to labour market-relevant vocational qualifications acknowledged as occupationally-oriented by the relevant national authorities and/or the labour market.
11. Tertiary students are students enrolled in ISCED levels 5 and 6.