

More than 31,000 persons aged 12 and over living in private households were involved in voluntary work last year.

International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development: 2014

The 2013 Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey revealed that 31,250 persons aged 12 and over and living in private households did some form of voluntary work on a regular basis. The largest share of these volunteers dedicated their time to a voluntary organisation, while just 6.5 per cent of the active volunteers did informal voluntary work, such as helping out a neighbour or a relative (Table 1).

The majority of persons doing formal voluntary work were aged between 25 and 49, while informal voluntary work was more popular among persons aged 50-64 (Table 2). Persons who did voluntary work within a voluntary organisation mostly performed work related to institutional care, with 34.7 per cent (Table 3). At 45.7 per cent, the largest share of the volunteers participated in the organisation's activities (Table 4).

The share of males and females who have been carrying out voluntary work for more than a decade amounted to 40.9 per cent and 35.6 per cent respectively of the total number of active volunteers (Table 5).

A third of the volunteers were engaged in such activities for less than 10 hours per week, while a quarter of persons dedicated 30 or more hours per week for such endeavours (Table 7). On average, males spent 11 hours more per month in voluntary activities than their female counterparts (Chart 1). The average number of hours spent doing voluntary work for persons aged between 25 and 49 increased by 7 hours over the previous year, while for the remaining age categories, the average remained stable (Chart 2). Furthermore, the average number of hours spent in voluntary work was seen to differ according to the main activity status, from an average of 25 hours per month for working persons to 42 hours per month for unemployed persons (Chart 4).

More than half of the volunteers said they were doing this work because they felt it was their moral duty, while a further 16.5 per cent said that their main reason was to meet new people and for recreational purposes (Table 6).

Persons aged 12 and over and living in a private household that were either paying or non-paying members within a voluntary organisation amounted to 4.5 per cent (Table 8) ■

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Table 1. Persons aged 12 and over by sex and main type of voluntary work done

Type of voluntary work	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within a voluntary organisation	8,944	4.9	7,952	4.3	16,896	4.6
Within another entity	5,559	3.1	6,771	3.7	12,330	3.4
Informal (e.g. helping a neighbour)	:	:	[1,337]	[0.7]	2,023	0.6
Do not do any voluntary work	166,570	91.6	167,456	91.2	334,026	91.4
Total	181,759	100.0	183,517	100.0	365,276	100.0

Table 2. Persons doing voluntary work by age group and type of work done

Type of voluntary work	12-24	25-49	50-64	65+	Total
No.					
Within a voluntary organisation	2,547	6,631	4,387	3,331	16,896
Within another entity	[1,182]	4,468	3,528	3,153	12,330
Informal (e.g. helping a neighbour)	:	:	[800]	:	2,023
Total	3,776	11,726	8,715	7,032	31,250
%					
Within a voluntary organisation	15.1	39.2	26.0	19.7	100.0
Within another entity	[9.6]	36.2	28.6	25.6	100.0
Informal (e.g. helping a neighbour)	:	:	[39.5]	:	100.0
Total	12.1	37.5	27.9	22.5	100.0

Table 3. Persons doing voluntary work with a voluntary organisation by organisation's type of activity

Organisation's type of activity	No.	%
Work related to institutional care	5,862	34.7
Religious activities (excl. institutional care)	3,929	23.3
Other social activities	3,875	22.9
Other	3,229	19.1
Total	16,896	100.0

Table 4. Persons doing voluntary work with a voluntary organisation by main role

Role	No.	%
Administrative role	3,507	20.8
Active role in organisation's activities	7,728	45.7
Supporting role in organisation's activities	5,661	33.5
Total	16,896	100.0

Table 5. Persons doing voluntary work by sex and number of years of engagement

Number of years	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 5 years	4,793	31.6	5,536	34.5	10,329	33.1
5-10 years	4,190	27.6	4,814	30.0	9,004	28.8
More than 10 years	6,206	40.9	5,711	35.6	11,917	38.1
Total	15,189	100.0	16,061	100.0	31,250	100.0

Table 6. Persons doing voluntary work by sex and main reason

Reason	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Meeting new people/recreation	3,129	20.6	2,014	12.5	5,143	16.5
Moral duty	7,314	48.2	8,802	54.8	16,116	51.6
Sympathy for the needy	[1,731]	[11.4]	2,937	18.3	4,668	14.9
Other reason	3,015	19.9	2,308	14.3	5,323	17.0
Total	15,189	100.0	16,061	100.0	31,250	100.0

Table 7. Persons doing voluntary work by sex and number of hours spent in a typical month

Number of hours	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 10	4,274	28.1	6,172	38.4	10,446	33.4
10-19	3,846	25.3	4,832	30.1	8,678	27.8
20-29	2,375	15.6	1,994	12.4	4,370	14.0
30 or more	4,693	30.9	3,063	19.1	7,756	24.8
Total	15,189	100.0	16,061	100.0	31,250	100.0

Table 8. Persons aged 12 and over by sex and type of membership

Membership	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Paying member	6,211	3.4	3,436	1.9	9,647	2.6
Non-paying member	3,690	2.0	3,334	1.8	7,024	1.9
Not a member	171,857	94.6	176,748	96.3	348,605	95.4
Total	181,759	100.0	183,517	100.0	365,276	100.0

Chart 1. Average number of hours spent doing voluntary work in a typical month by sex

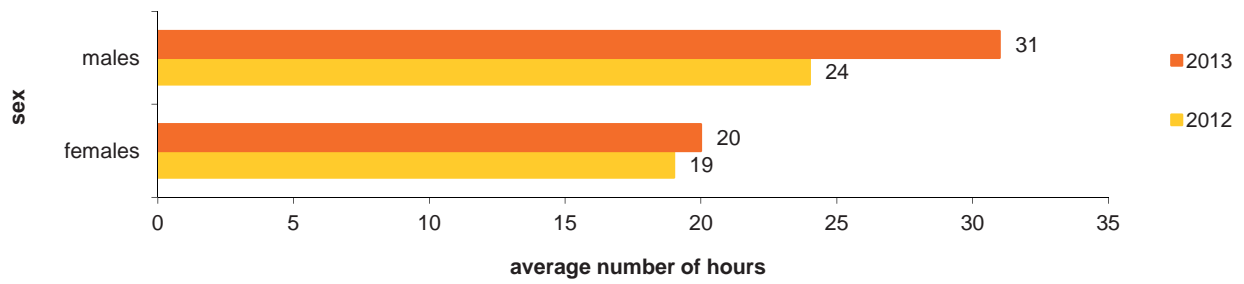


Chart 2. Average number of hours spent doing voluntary work in a typical month by age group

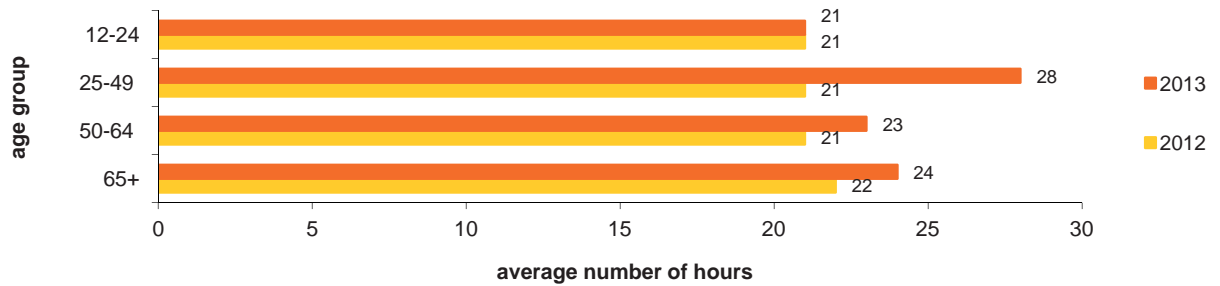


Chart 3. Average number of hours spent doing voluntary work in a typical month by voluntary work done

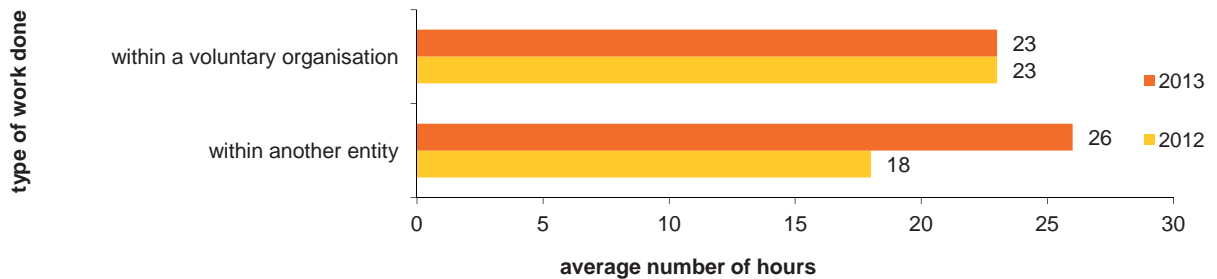
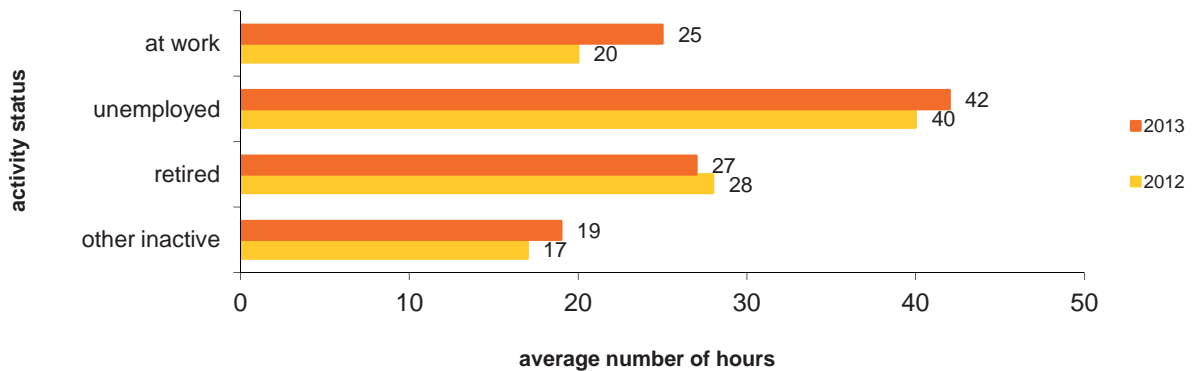


Chart 4. Average number of hours spent doing voluntary work in a typical month by main activity status



Methodological notes

1. All figures presented in this news release have been derived from the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) Survey for 2013. SILC is an annual survey carried out by the NSO which enables the computation of indicators on poverty, social exclusion, income distribution and material deprivation. Questionnaire design, data collection and analysis are all carried out in line with Eurostat methodologies.

Further details on SILC methodology can be found at: <http://www.nso.gov.mt/site/page.aspx?pageid=346>

2. All data refers to the respondents' current situation at the time of the survey.
3. Data in this release refers to persons aged 12 and over who live in private households.
4. The term 'volunteers' is taken to mean persons working for no remuneration. Type of voluntary work done refers to the main type of voluntary work undertaken by each individual surveyed. For the purposes of this release, voluntary work not undertaken on a regular basis has been excluded.
5. In Table 1, Table 2 and Chart 3, the following classification applies:
 - **Voluntary organisation:** Voluntary work within a voluntary organisation;
 - **Another entity:** Voluntary work done outside an organisation;
 - **Informal:** Informal voluntary work, for e.g. helping a neighbour.

Due to a change in classification, data in this release pertaining to voluntary organisations and other entities may not be comparable to that in releases prior to the year 2013.
6. For Table 3, the categories used to define the main activities of organisations include the following activities:
 - **Work related to institutional care:** Includes children and elderly homes, hospital and medical practice activities and other human health activities;
 - **Religious activities (excl. institutional care):** Includes those organisations whose role is of a religious nature;
 - **Other social activities:** Includes school associations, band clubs, scouts and philanthropic organisations.
7. In Table 4, the categories used to define the role of persons within the organisation include the following roles:
 - **Administrative role:** Includes local councillors, committee members, members and managers;
 - **Active role in organisation's activities:** Includes doctors, public relations officers, singers, actors, first aiders, teachers of catechism, scout leaders, sportspersons and leaders of marriage preparation courses;
 - **Supporting role in organisation's activities:** Includes clerical workers, distributors of booklets (for e.g. for the Church) and telephone operators.
8. The following key has been applied throughout this release:
 - [] Under-represented: estimate based on 20-49 counts.
 - : Under-represented: estimate based on less than 20 counts; figure not provided.
9. Totals in tables may not tally due to rounding.
10. Sample used for the SILC survey was extracted from a database based on the Census of Population and Housing 2011, upon which household and personal weights were compiled.