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In 2014, the sheep stock fell by 3.7 per cent while the goat stock increased marginally by 0.6 per cent when compared to 2013.

## Sheep and Goats Census: December 2014

### Sheep

In December 2014, the sheep stock amounted to 10,526 heads, down by 3.7 per cent over 2013. Male sheep registered a 5.4 per cent drop, while lambs and ewe lambs decreased by 0.3 and 2.0 per cent respectively. Ewes, which accounted for 79.1 per cent of all sheep, decreased by 4.2 per cent over the corresponding period in 2013.

On a regional level, 7,639 sheep (72.6 per cent) were located in holdings in Malta, with the South Eastern District registering 2,473 heads. A total of 2,887 heads (27.4 per cent) were located in Gozo and Comino. Over the comparative period, the sheep stock decreased by 0.5 per cent in Malta and by 11.3 per cent in Gozo and Comino.

In 2014, 1,341 holdings were engaged in the rearing of sheep. Of these, 81.0 per cent had less than ten sheep and accounted for 3,539 heads, or one-third of the total stock. Only 255 holdings (19.0 per cent) had more than ten sheep. Such holdings accounted for 6,987 heads.

### Goats

In December 2014, the goat stock comprised 4,627 heads, representing a marginal rise of 0.6 per cent over 2013. The number of kids went up by 191, with smaller increases in male and breeding goats.

On a regional level, the goat stock increased by 2.1 per cent in Malta and decreased by 3.7 per cent in Gozo and Comino. Overall, 3,491 goats (75.4 per cent) were located in Maltese holdings, 1,045 of these in the South Eastern District. The goat stock in Gozo and Comino amounted to 1,136 heads.

Last year 803 holdings were engaged in the rearing of goats. Of these, the majority reared less than ten. These holdings accounted for 42.6 per cent of the total stock, while just 12.5 per cent of all holdings had more than ten goats. The latter holdings accounted for more than half the total goat stock ■

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**Table 1. Distribution of sheep by category**

Administrative area	Total	Lambs		Ewe lambs	Ewes	Male sheep
		Females	Males			
<b>MALTA</b>	<b>10,526</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>8,322</b>	<b>264</b>
<b>Malta</b>	<b>7,639</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>232</b>
Southern Harbour	729	37	22	75	560	35
Northern Harbour	760	36	20	81	607	16
South Eastern	2,473	103	60	281	1,942	87
Western	2,367	103	60	247	1,900	57
Northern	1,310	47	28	107	1,091	37
<b>Gozo and Comino</b>	<b>2,887</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>2,222</b>	<b>32</b>

**Table 2. Distribution of goats by category**

Administrative area	Total	Kids		Goats mated for the first time	Goats that have already kidded	Male goats
		Females	Males			
<b>MALTA</b>	<b>4,627</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>3,454</b>	<b>324</b>
<b>Malta</b>	<b>3,491</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>2,606</b>	<b>280</b>
Southern Harbour	800	91	28	51	580	50
Northern Harbour	399	5	2	17	319	56
South Eastern	1,045	64	23	89	791	78
Western	879	71	25	77	642	64
Northern	368	34	13	15	274	32
<b>Gozo and Comino</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>44</b>

**Chart 1. Distribution of sheep and goats by district**

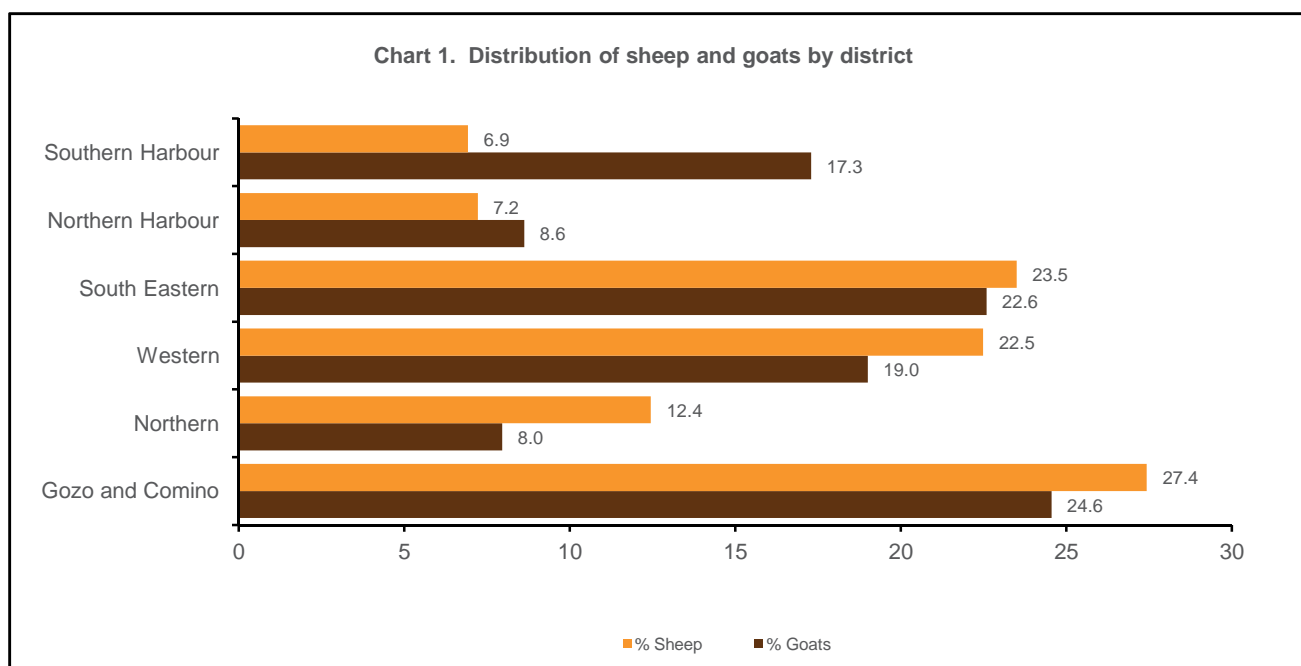


Table 3. Distribution of sheep among holdings by herd size

Administrative area	Total	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	≥100
<b>MALTA</b>						
Number of holdings	1,341	1,086	133	95	21	6
Number of sheep	10,526	3,539	1,795	2,919	1,445	828
of which: breeding females	9,474	3,282	1,601	2,606	1,225	760
<b>Malta</b>						
Number of holdings	948	760	104	67	12	5
Number of sheep	7,639	2,603	1,410	2,077	827	722
of which: breeding females	6,891	2,414	1,258	1,853	701	665
<b>Southern Harbour</b>						
Number of holdings	73	51	15	5	1	1
Number of sheep	729	180	219	135	75	120
of which: breeding females	635	167	185	119	58	106
<b>Northern Harbour</b>						
Number of holdings	71	55	8	6	0	2
Number of sheep	760	191	109	196	0	264
of which: breeding females	688	176	97	181	0	234
<b>South Eastern</b>						
Number of holdings	349	274	47	25	3	0
Number of sheep	2,473	888	617	770	198	0
of which: breeding females	2,223	825	548	693	157	0
<b>Western</b>						
Number of holdings	279	232	23	17	5	2
Number of sheep	2,367	823	317	520	369	338
of which: breeding females	2,147	760	290	459	313	325
<b>Northern</b>						
Number of holdings	176	148	11	14	3	0
Number of sheep	1,310	521	148	456	185	0
of which: breeding females	1,198	486	138	401	173	0
<b>Gozo and Comino</b>						
Number of holdings	393	326	29	28	9	1
Number of sheep	2,887	936	385	842	618	106
of which: breeding females	2,583	868	343	753	524	95

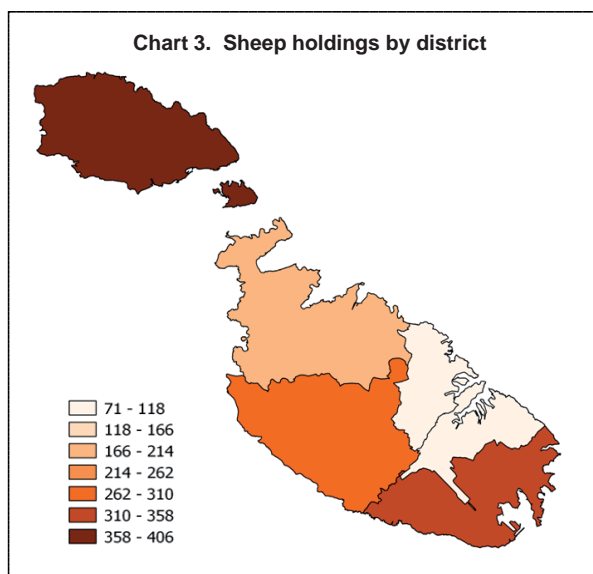
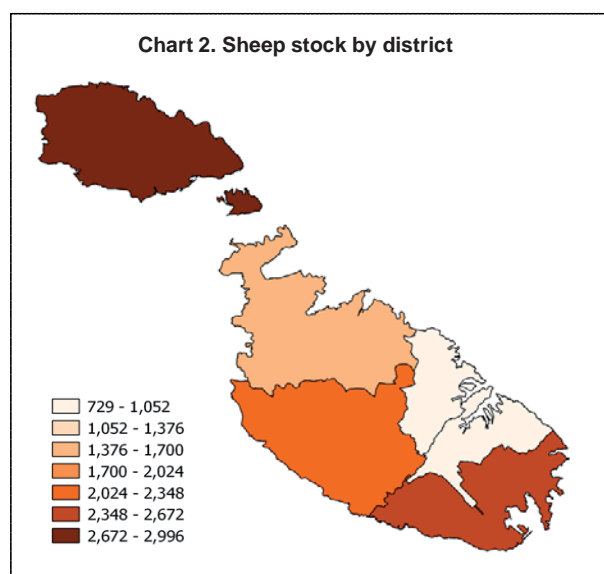


Table 4. Distribution of goats among holdings by herd size

Administrative area	Total	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	≥100
<b>MALTA</b>						
Number of holdings	803	703	65	23	9	3
Number of goats	4,627	1,970	881	708	594	474
of which: breeding females	3,802	1,730	665	584	465	358
<b>Malta</b>						
Number of holdings	585	508	50	19	5	3
Number of goats	3,491	1,434	681	560	342	474
of which: breeding females	2,855	1,228	509	479	281	358
<b>Southern Harbour</b>						
Number of holdings	64	51	3	7	2	1
Number of goats	800	177	37	205	131	250
of which: breeding females	631	157	28	164	116	166
<b>Northern Harbour</b>						
Number of holdings	79	74	3	1	0	1
Number of goats	399	220	48	25	0	106
of which: breeding females	336	188	31	19	0	98
<b>South Eastern</b>						
Number of holdings	213	186	18	8	1	0
Number of goats	1,045	494	242	242	67	0
of which: breeding females	880	427	181	215	57	0
<b>Western</b>						
Number of holdings	143	123	15	2	2	1
Number of goats	879	359	211	47	144	118
of which: breeding females	719	304	172	41	108	94
<b>Northern</b>						
Number of holdings	86	74	11	1	0	0
Number of goats	368	184	143	41	0	0
of which: breeding females	289	152	97	40	0	0
<b>Gozo and Comino</b>						
Number of holdings	218	195	15	4	4	0
Number of goats	1,136	536	200	148	252	0
of which: breeding females	947	502	156	105	184	0

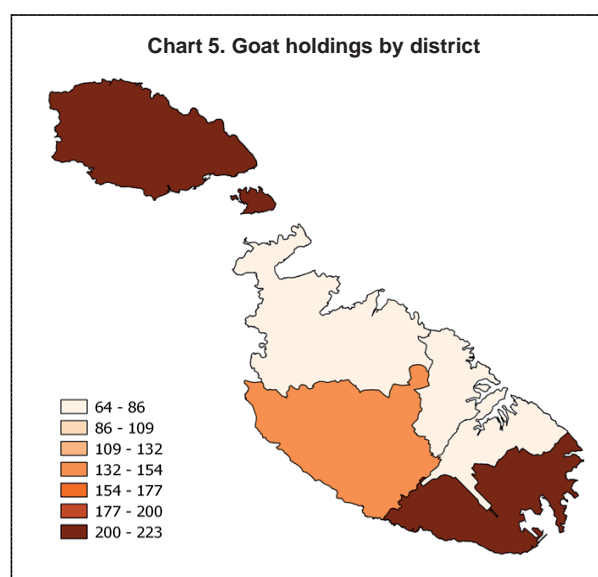
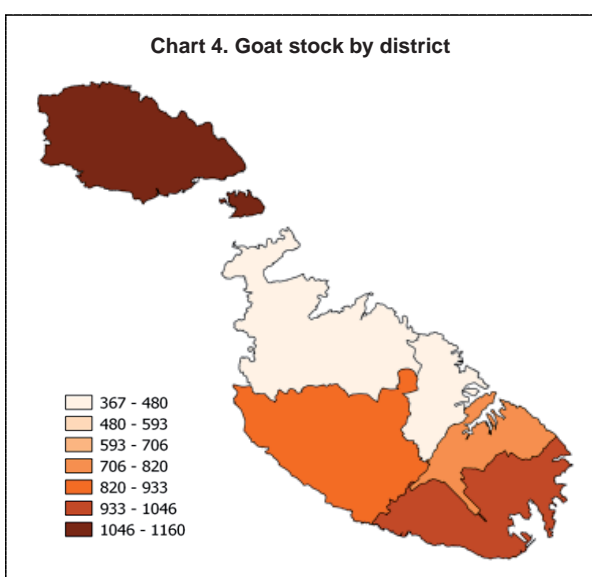


Table 5. Sheep stock: Distribution of breeding females by size class of holding

Administrative area	Total	No breeding females	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	≥100
<b>MALTA</b>							
<b>Number of holdings</b>	1,341	2	1,110	126	81	17	5
<b>Number of breeding females</b>	9,474	-	3,497	1,720	2,496	1,096	665
<b>Malta</b>							
<b>Number of holdings</b>	948	1	781	94	58	9	5
<b>Number of breeding females</b>	6,891	-	2,594	1,289	1,771	572	665
Southern Harbour							
Number of holdings	73	-	52	15	4	1	1
Number of breeding females	635	-	175	193	103	58	106
Northern Harbour							
Number of holdings	71	1	57	5	6	0	2
Number of breeding females	688	-	201	72	181	0	234
South Eastern							
Number of holdings	349	-	284	41	22	2	-
Number of breeding females	2,223	-	907	536	663	117	-
Western							
Number of holdings	279	-	237	22	15	3	2
Number of breeding females	2,147	-	801	320	477	224	325
Northern							
Number of holdings	176	-	151	11	11	3	-
Number of breeding females	1,198	-	510	168	347	173	-
<b>Gozo and Comino</b>							
<b>Number of holdings</b>	393	1	329	32	23	8	-
<b>Number of breeding females</b>	2,583	-	903	431	725	524	-

Note: For the purposes of this table 'size class' refers to the number of breeding female sheep within the holding.

Table 6. Goat stock: Distribution of breeding females by size class of holding

Administrative area	Total	No breeding females	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	≥100
<b>MALTA</b>							
<b>Number of holdings</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Number of breeding females</b>	<b>3,802</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,938</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Malta</b>							
<b>Number of holdings</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Number of breeding females</b>	<b>2,855</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>166</b>
Southern Harbour							
Number of holdings	64	-	53	4	5	1	1
Number of breeding females	631	-	174	62	160	69	166
Northern Harbour							
Number of holdings	79	-	76	2	0	1	-
Number of breeding females	336	-	201	37	0	98	-
South Eastern							
Number of holdings	213	4	191	12	5	1	-
Number of breeding females	880	-	501	160	162	57	-
Western							
Number of holdings	143	5	121	13	1	3	-
Number of breeding females	719	-	331	161	25	202	-
Northern							
Number of holdings	86	-	81	4	1	-	-
Number of breeding females	289	-	199	50	40	-	-
<b>Gozo and Comino</b>							
<b>Number of holdings</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Number of breeding females</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>-</b>

Note: For the purposes of this table 'size class' refers to the number of breeding female goats within the holding.

Table 7. Sheep stock by category and administrative area: 2012-2014

Year	Lambs			Ewe Lambs			Ewes			Male Sheep			Total		
	MALTA	Malta	Gozo and Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo and Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo and Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo and Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo and Comino
2012	830	521	309	1,220	778	442	9,236	6,548	2,688	411	342	69	11,697	8,189	3,508
2013	790	482	308	1,176	765	411	8,685	6,184	2,501	279	244	35	10,930	7,675	3,255
2014	788	516	272	1,152	791	361	8,322	6,100	2,222	264	232	32	10,526	7,639	2,887
<b>% change 2014/2013</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>-11.7%</b>	<b>-2.0%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>-12.2%</b>	<b>-4.2%</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>	<b>-11.2%</b>	<b>-5.4%</b>	<b>-4.9%</b>	<b>-8.6%</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>-11.3%</b>

Table 8. Goat stock by category and administrative area: 2012-2014

Year	Kids			Goats mated for the first time			Goats that have already kidded			Male Goats			Total		
	MALTA	Malta	Gozo and Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo and Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo and Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo and Comino	MALTA	Malta	Gozo and Comino
2012	507	368	139	365	258	107	3,638	2,740	898	337	291	46	4,847	3,657	1,190
2013	310	200	110	300	211	89	3,666	2,726	940	322	281	41	4,598	3,418	1,180
2014	501	356	145	348	249	99	3,454	2,606	848	324	280	44	4,627	3,491	1,136
<b>% change 2014/2013</b>	<b>61.6%</b>	<b>78.0%</b>	<b>31.8%</b>	<b>16.0%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	<b>-5.8%</b>	<b>-4.4%</b>	<b>-9.8%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>

Chart 6. Annual change in sheep stock by region

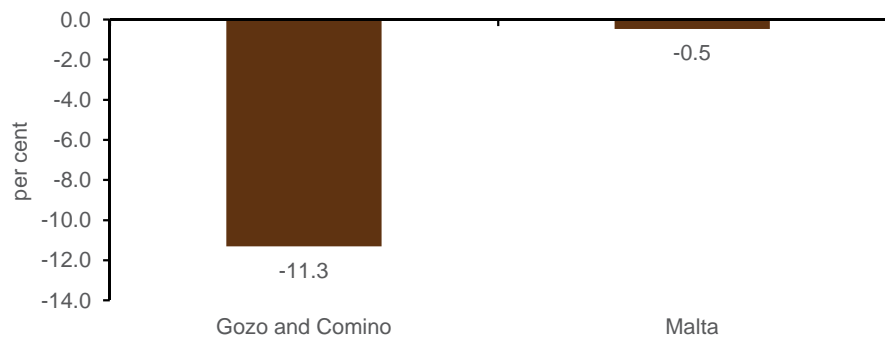
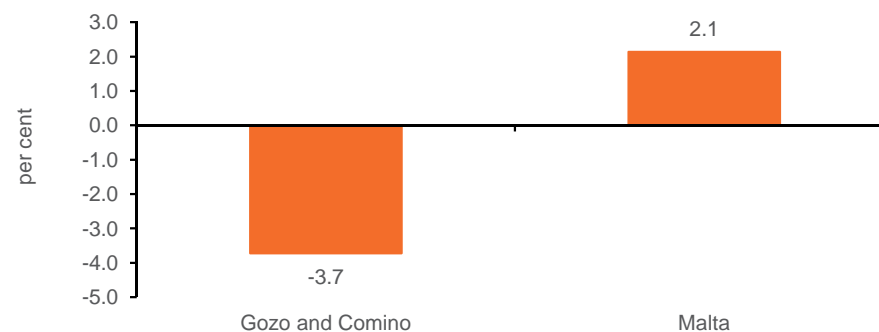
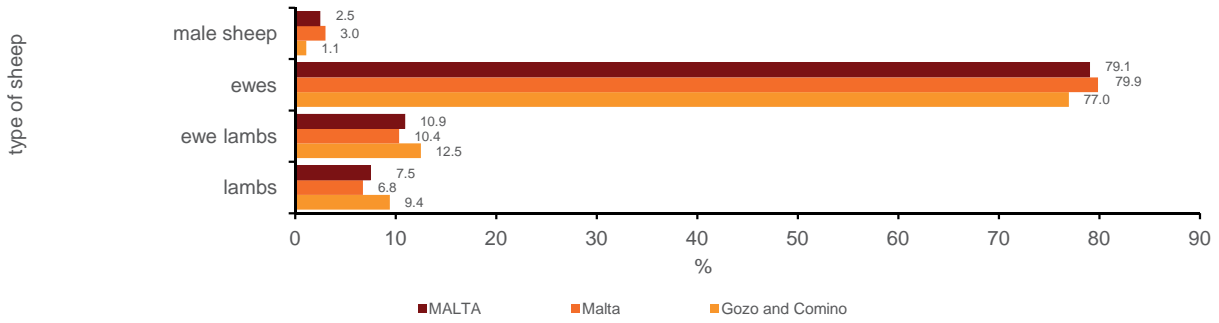


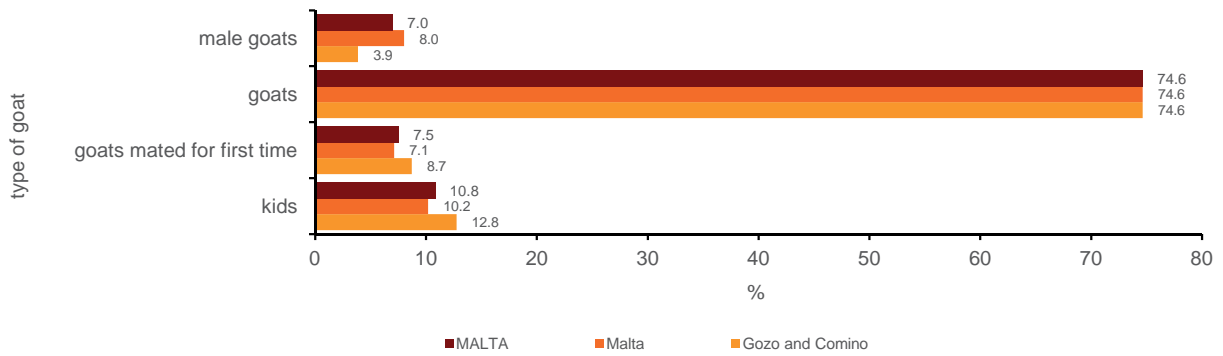
Chart 7. Annual change in goat stock by region



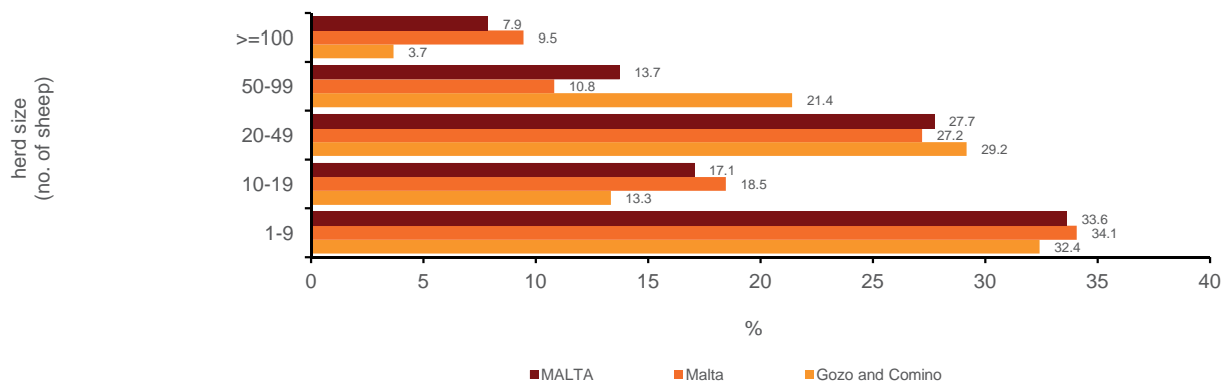
**Chart 8. Percentage distribution of sheep by type and region**



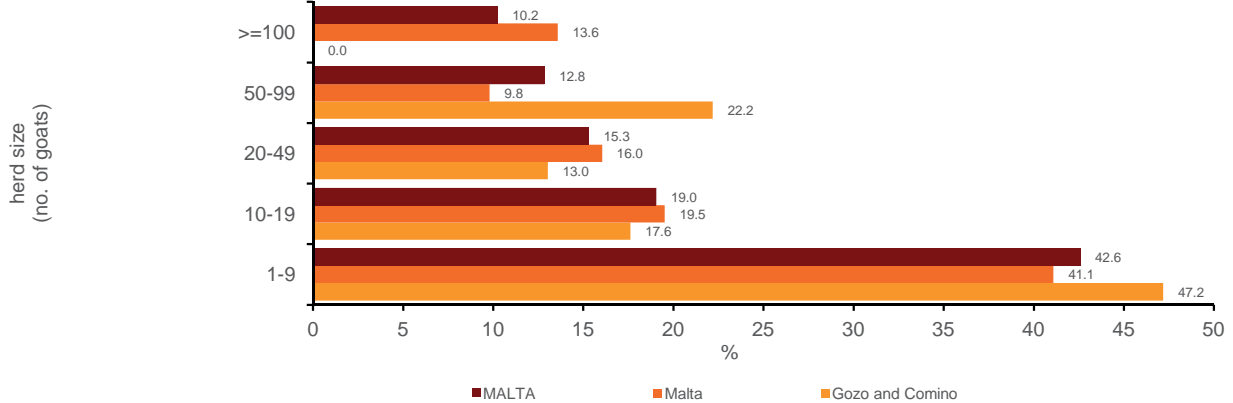
**Chart 9. Percentage distribution of goats by type and region**



**Chart 10. Percentage distribution of sheep by herd size and region**



**Chart 11. Percentage distribution of goats by herd size and region**





## Methodological Notes

1. The sheep and goats census is carried out every year and is in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1165/2008. The reference date is 1 December 2014.
2. The information for this exercise has been compiled on the basis of records from the Bovine Register, which is under the control of the Veterinary Regulatory Directorate at the Civil Abattoir.
3. Certain categories cannot be directly compiled from the Bovine Register and therefore specific co-efficients based on the Census of Agriculture of 2010 are used.
4. The data in this release are final and are not normally subject to revision.
5. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=15>

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