

In 2015, book loans from public libraries have increased to 777,804, a 22.5 per cent rise from the preceding year.

Statistics on Libraries: 2015

Data provided by the Central Public Library show that in 2015, book acquisitions increased by 31.5 per cent over the preceding year reaching 39,337. Almost two in three of these book acquisitions were given as a donation (Table 1).

Year-on-year, the number of new members increased by 1,682 persons or 36.8 per cent. This rise was mainly due to a 33.8 per cent increase in adult membership and a 38.0 per cent increase in junior membership aged 0 to 13 years. An increase was also registered in both adult and junior foreign visitors (Table 2).

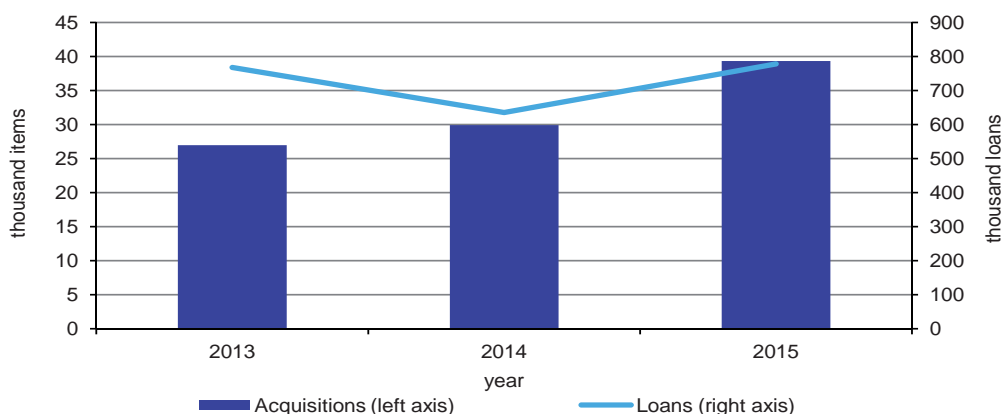
In 2015, book loans have increased to 777,804, a 22.5 per cent rise from the preceding year. A share of 82.7 per cent of the loans were recorded in Malta. While the Central Public Library in Floriana recorded a decrease of 5.5 per cent in book loans, regional and branch libraries across the country registered substantial increases in book loans. In Gozo, the Nadur branch library maintained the highest amount of loans registered in this region, exceeding Victoria by 25,873 loans (Table 3).

Periodicals received at the National Library of Malta under legal deposit decreased by 10.3 per cent over the previous year from 561 to 503. On the other hand, the amount of printed books received increased by 8.2 per cent, from 402 to 435 (Table 4).

Trade figures show that €17.2 million worth of printed books and periodicals were imported in 2015. The total value of printed books imported declined by 1.4 per cent. Meanwhile, the value of printed periodicals imported went up by 45.8 per cent when compared to the previous year. The total value of exports increased to €7.9 million (Table 5).

During 2015, private final consumption of printed materials went down when compared to the previous year. A decrease was registered on expenditure on books (4.4 per cent), newspapers and periodicals (2.6 per cent) and on other miscellaneous printed matter (24.5 per cent) (Table 6) ■

Chart 1. Book acquisitions and loans: 2013-2015



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Table 1. Public libraries at a glance: 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015
Book acquisitions	26,968	29,916	39,337
<i>of which:</i>			
Book purchases	9,591	11,254	12,064
Book donations	17,377	18,662	27,273
New library members	5,534	4,569	6,251
Book loans	767,548	635,008	777,804
<i>of which:</i>			
Central Public Library	203,843	121,328	114,659
Regional libraries	185,036	158,915	218,528
Branch libraries - Malta	276,547	254,582	310,072
Gozo Lending Library	28,764	29,280	31,760
Branch libraries - Gozo	73,358	70,903	102,785

Source: Central Public Library.

Table 2. New public library membership: 2013-2015

Type of member	2013	2014	2015
	Number of members		
	18 and over		
Adults	1,479	1,780	2,391
Adults with additional junior lending rights ¹	489	N/A	N/A
Adults without Maltese citizenship ²	71	51	55
Adult foreign visitors ²	19	17	27
Total	2,058	1,848	2,473
	Junior - Under 18		
0-13 years	3,240	2,562	3,535
14-17 years	196	118	127
17 years and under with additional adult lending rights ³	6	3	16
0-13 years without Maltese citizenship ²	18	29	67
14-17 years without Maltese citizenship ²	2	3	10
Foreign visitors ²	-	5	20
Total	3,463	2,720	3,775
	Other		
Staff members	14	1	3
Total	14	1	3
Total	5,534	4,569	6,251

¹ From 2014 all adults have additional Junior lending rights

² Require a Maltese citizen guarantor

³ Require a written permit from a parent or guardian

N/A - not applicable

Source: Central Public Library.

Table 3. Total book loans by locality of library: 2013-2015 ...

District and locality	2013	2014	2015
MALTA	767,548	635,008	777,804
Malta	665,426	534,825	643,259
Gozo and Comino	102,122	100,183	134,545
Southern Harbour	299,806	197,688	201,960
Cospicua	3,384	2,914	2,416
Fgura	12,844	10,946	16,138
Floriana	203,843	121,328	114,659
Kalkara	5,056	3,977	3,601
Ħal Luqa	19,104	19,274	19,120
Paola	28,641	16,814	18,710
Santa Luċija	2,928	4,100	7,072
Senglea	1,220	860	1,189
Ħal Tarxien	2,540	1,579	2,068
Valletta	1,165	1,068	1,636
Vittoriosa	4,522	3,116	2,473
Ħaż-Żabbar	14,559	11,712	12,878
Northern Harbour	136,818	123,999	194,141
Birkirkara	49,543	58,517	110,605
Gżira	7,308	6,124	8,054
Ħamrun	6,850	5,892	6,699
Msida	7,061	9,724	16,066
Pembroke	4,297	4,069	6,075
Ħal Qormi	45,978	25,127	30,100
San Ġwann	7,664	7,418	8,659
Tas-Sliema	8,117	7,128	7,883
South Eastern	109,696	105,001	122,428
Birżebbuġa	5,688	5,993	5,665
Ħal Għaxaq	6,094	5,930	8,623
Gudja	12,138	12,376	11,834
Ħal Kirkop	9,105	7,302	6,191
Marsaskala	17,693	14,639	19,737
Marsaxlokk	18,927	18,089	21,088
Mqabba	3,075	4,063	6,914
Qrendi	7,420	7,606	8,641
Ħal Safi	6,719	4,611	6,425
Żejtun	14,157	14,548	14,949
Żurrieq	8,680	9,844	12,361

... Table 3. Total book loans by locality of library: 2013-2015

District and Locality	2013	2014	2015
Western	51,038	46,445	53,943
Rabat	13,408	11,258	11,285
Ħad-Dingli	4,800	4,708	6,056
Mtarfa*	-	-	2,372
Ħ'Attard	16,052	15,180	14,138
Sigġiewi	6,993	5,489	8,004
Ħaż-Żebbuġ	9,785	9,810	12,088
Northern	68,068	61,692	70,787
Ħal Għargħur	5,508	5,383	2,800
Mellieħa	9,092	8,923	11,607
Mġarr	4,060	3,945	6,875
Mosta	28,244	24,809	28,259
Naxxar	11,902	10,987	11,470
St Paul's Bay	9,262	7,645	9,776
Gozo and Comino	102,122	100,183	134,545
Għajnsielem	3,573	2,926	5,325
Għarb	4,346	3,370	3,444
Għasri	1,046	1,360	2,690
Ta' Kerċem	1,444	1,140	1,270
Nadur	26,903	31,042	57,633
Qala	6,384	4,931	5,734
Victoria	28,764	29,280	31,760
San Lawrenz	4,323	3,106	2,943
Ta' Sannat	1,606	1,557	1,353
Xagħra	11,925	10,449	10,805
Xewkija	7,279	5,676	6,187
Żebbuġ	4,529	5,346	5,401

* Mtarfa new Library opened in 2015

Source: Central Public Library.

Table 4. Books and periodicals received at the National Library of Malta under legal deposit: 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015
Total	1,023	963	938
Books	463	402	435
Periodicals	560	561	503

Source: National Library of Malta.

Table 5. Imports and exports of printed book material and periodicals in terms of value: 2013-2015

	2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P
			€ 000
Imports	15,357	14,974	17,159
Printed book material	10,613	9,904	9,768
Printed periodicals	4,744	5,070	7,391
Exports	5,930	6,601	7,891
Printed book material	5,555	6,586	7,869
Printed periodicals	375	15	22

^P Provisional

Source: International Trade Statistics, NSO.

Table 6. Private final consumption expenditure in the domestic market: 2013-2015

	2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P
			€ 000
Total private final consumption expenditure	4,965,723	5,147,556	5,497,228
<i>of which:</i>			
Sub-total	50,615	47,982	45,179
Books	29,849	27,966	26,722
Newspapers and periodicals	16,390	15,265	14,869
Miscellaneous printed matter	4,376	4,751	3,588
% spent on printed material	1.02	0.93	0.82

^P Provisional

Source: National Accounts, NSO.

Methodological notes

1. In Table 5 goods are classified according to the Harmonised System division codes:
 - 4901 - Printed books, brochures, leaflets and similar printed matter, whether or not in single sheets.
 - 4902 - Newspapers, journals and periodicals, whether or not illustrated or containing advertising material.
2. In Table 6 'Miscellaneous printed matter' includes:
 - catalogues and advertising material;
 - posters, plain or picture postcards, calendars;
 - greeting cards and visiting cards, announcement and message cards;
 - maps and globes.

and excludes:

- pre-franked postcards and aerogrammes;
- stamp albums.