

Wholesale and retail trade businesses accounted for 17.0 per cent of the total registered units in 2018.

## Business Demographics: 2013-2018

Cut-off date:  
**25 February 2019**

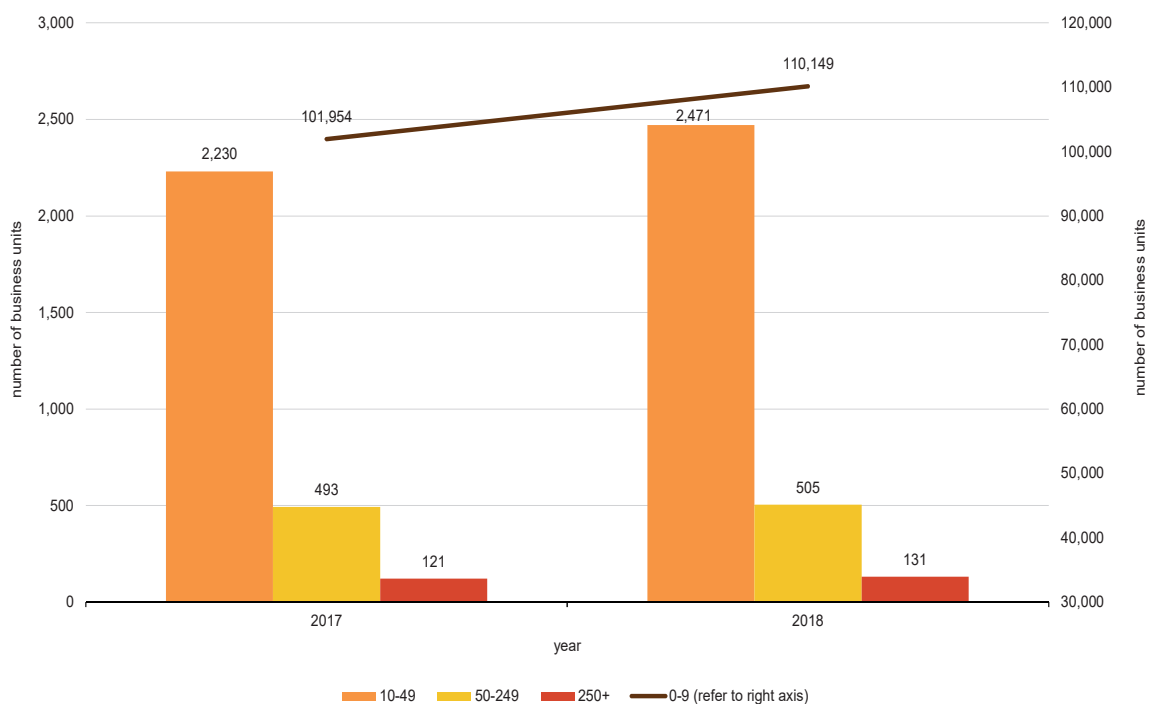
The Business Register (BR) provides one of the most detailed local business profiles in Malta. It is classified by economic activity according to the NACE (Nomenclature Statistique des Activités Économiques dans la Communauté Européenne) classification of economic activities in the European Union (Table 1). Samples of business surveys are based on the national BR, which is also a tool that can be used as a source of statistics in its own right. This release shows the demographic patterns of business units in Malta and their evolution over time.

In 2018, registered business units amounted to 113,256, an increase of 8.1 per cent, or 8,458 registered units, over 2017 (Table 2).

Furthermore, registered units in Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (Section G), Financial and insurance activities (Section K), Professional, scientific and technical activities (Section M) and Administrative and support service activities (Section N) amounted to 17.0, 15.6, 12.4 and 8.2 per cent respectively of the total registered units in 2018 (Table 2).

In terms of employment, the largest increase in the number of registered units was recorded amongst small entities (those registered units which employ between 10 and 49 persons). The number of registered business units in this size class (those registered units which employ between 50 and 249 persons) increased by 10.8 per cent. The lowest increase was registered in the medium size class with only 2.4 per cent (Table 5) ■

**Chart 1. Number of business units by employment size: 2017-2018**



**Table 1. NACE Rev. 2 Classification**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>
A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing
B	Mining and quarrying
C	Manufacturing
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
F	Construction
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
H	Transportation and storage
I	Accommodation and food service activities
J	Information and communication
K	Financial and insurance activities
L	Real estate activities
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities
N	Administrative and support service activities
O	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
P	Education
Q	Human health and social work activities
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation
S	Other service activities
T	Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use
U	Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies

Table 2. Structure of business units by type of legal organisation: 2013-2018 ...

NACE Section <sup>1</sup>	2013				2014				2015			
	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Government/ Non-Profit/ Other	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Government/ Non-Profit/ Other	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Government/ Non-Profit/ Other	Total
A	3,233	114	14	3,361	3,154	117	13	3,284	3,150	119	13	3,282
B	42	69	3	114	45	76	6	127	45	77	6	128
C	1,976	1,363	55	3,394	1,943	1,430	58	3,431	2,113	1,488	59	3,660
D	-	c	c	16	-	c	c	21	c	30	c	33
E	146	84	7	237	141	89	7	237	139	101	8	248
F	4,310	2,274	104	6,688	4,372	2,308	105	6,785	4,636	2,367	117	7,120
G	9,376	6,754	235	16,365	9,397	7,303	235	16,935	9,735	8,038	266	18,039
H	1,513	2,128	74	3,715	1,515	2,083	71	3,669	1,650	2,061	66	3,777
I	2,415	1,309	42	3,766	2,546	1,416	32	3,994	2,737	1,528	38	4,303
J	977	1,620	65	2,662	1,022	1,846	66	2,934	1,311	2,085	74	3,470
K	64	10,492	280	10,836	74	11,911	353	12,338	103	13,248	408	13,759
L	1,013	1,946	36	2,995	1,122	2,030	35	3,187	1,496	2,167	37	3,700
M	3,648	4,081	126	7,855	3,850	4,652	139	8,641	4,766	5,315	159	10,240
N	1,632	3,474	216	5,322	1,631	3,977	263	5,871	2,113	4,625	272	7,010
O	-	-	239	239	-	-	174	174	-	-	173	173
P	1,357	254	150	1,761	1,391	299	144	1,834	1,635	337	155	2,127
Q	1,221	129	161	1,511	1,224	148	160	1,532	1,265	170	163	1,598
R	1,281	928	370	2,579	1,316	978	379	2,673	1,769	1,025	408	3,202
S	2,734	195	649	3,578	2,826	201	1,178	4,205	3,316	234	1,260	4,810
T	c	-	-	c	c	-	-	c	c	-	-	c
U	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	6	c	c
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,941</b>	<b>37,235</b>	<b>2,830</b>	<b>77,006</b>	<b>37,573</b>	<b>40,889</b>	<b>3,421</b>	<b>81,883</b>	<b>42,009</b>	<b>45,021</b>	<b>3,685</b>	<b>90,715</b>

<sup>c</sup> confidential

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Table 1

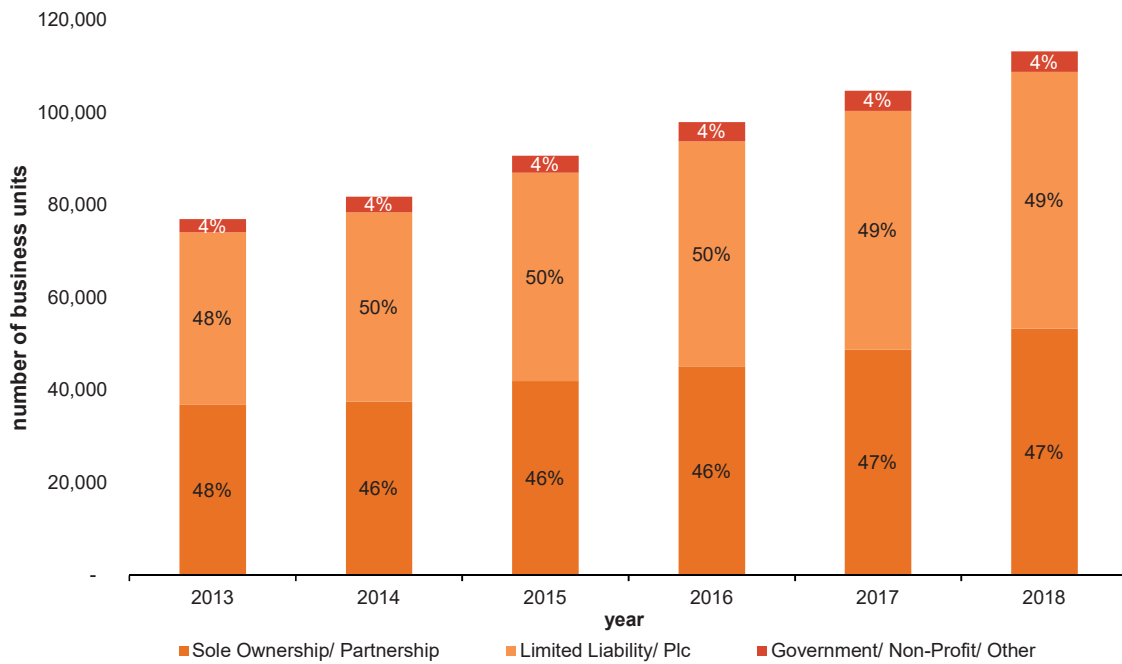
... Table 2. Structure of business units by type of legal organisation: 2013-2018

NACE Section <sup>1</sup>	2016				2017				2018			
	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Government/ Non-profit/ Other	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Government/ Non-profit/ Other	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Government/ Non-profit/ Other	Total
A	3,137	124	13	3,274	3,136	128	15	3,279	3,112	131	15	3,258
B	45	78	6	129	53	76	6	135	61	77	5	143
C	2,201	1,531	60	3,792	2,343	1,567	59	3,969	2,514	1,601	61	4,176
D	c	c	c	46	9	50	3	62	c	60	c	77
E	134	102	8	244	137	101	8	246	138	103	11	252
F	4,791	2,423	127	7,341	5,019	2,483	129	7,631	5,356	2,578	122	8,056
G	9,979	8,320	298	18,597	10,001	8,503	323	18,827	10,172	8,734	336	19,242
H	1,725	2,051	63	3,839	1,865	2,056	56	3,977	2,423	2,164	59	4,646
I	2,850	1,616	44	4,510	3,111	1,717	52	4,880	3,464	1,833	57	5,354
J	1,487	2,347	78	3,912	1,698	2,589	77	4,364	1,946	3,018	79	5,043
K	123	14,681	443	15,247	143	15,894	405	16,442	139	17,074	416	17,629
L	1,918	2,286	45	4,249	2,381	2,403	43	4,827	2,888	2,599	40	5,527
M	5,399	5,826	175	11,400	6,234	6,275	168	12,677	7,127	6,784	172	14,083
N	2,483	5,104	299	7,886	2,840	5,430	332	8,602	3,181	5,734	357	9,272
O	-	-	171	171	-	c	c	175	-	3	175	178
P	1,810	369	173	2,352	1,977	405	173	2,555	2,193	433	177	2,803
Q	1,336	187	162	1,685	1,408	208	162	1,778	1,439	225	164	1,828
R	2,159	1,126	549	3,834	2,463	1,264	580	4,307	2,907	1,424	585	4,916
S	3,601	416	1,451	5,468	3,917	504	1,583	6,004	4,262	857	1,588	6,707
T	42	-	-	42	c	c	-	52	c	c	-	c
U	c	c	c	9	c	c	c	9	c	c	c	c
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,226</b>	<b>48,633</b>	<b>4,168</b>	<b>98,027</b>	<b>48,787</b>	<b>51,662</b>	<b>4,349</b>	<b>104,798</b>	<b>53,395</b>	<b>55,439</b>	<b>4,422</b>	<b>113,256</b>

<sup>c</sup> confidential

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Table 1

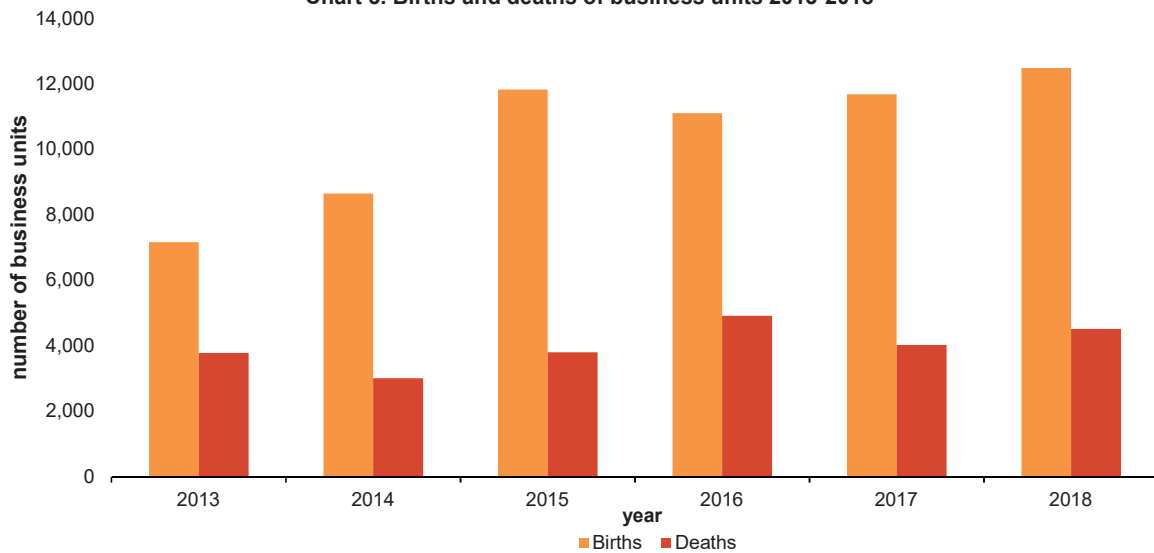
**Chart 2. Number of business units by type of legal organisation: 2013-2018**



In 2018, 47.1 per cent of registered business units were sole owners or partnerships, 49.0 per cent were limited liability or public limited companies, while 3.9 per cent were governmental, non-profit or other types of legal organisation. The number of limited liability or public limited companies has increased uninterruptedly over the years. In 2018, the total increase in registered business units, was of 8.1 per cent over 2017.

It is to be noted that on 1 January 2011, the Value Added Tax (Exemption from Registration) Regulations, which states that the VAT Commissioner shall not register any taxable person established in Malta whose turnover does not exceed €7,000 in a calendar year, came into force, as notified in Legal Notice 524 of 2010. On 1 January 2015, this regulation was reversed as notified in Legal Notice 67 of 2015. Therefore business demographics deaths for 2011 and business demographics births from 2015 onwards may not be strictly comparable to previous years and should be treated with caution.

**Chart 3. Births and deaths of business units 2013-2018**



**Table 3. Births of business units: 2013-2018**

NACE Section <sup>1</sup>	Births					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
A	49	65	112	112	123	111
B	12	18	6	9	7	11
C	155	182	349	271	335	348
D	4	c	12	11	16	15
E	12	13	17	8	13	15
F	404	404	570	573	658	746
G	1,278	1,436	1,821	1,319	1,315	1,182
H	205	152	277	253	347	825
I	374	439	497	527	678	697
J	334	393	644	608	676	827
K	1,794	1,955	1,902	2,040	2,036	1,942
L	175	281	566	616	721	840
M	970	1,162	1,863	1,568	1,816	1,837
N	855	888	1,413	1,247	1,219	1,080
O	30	25	c	c	c	3
P	74	114	328	234	237	272
Q	22	51	81	109	101	77
R	191	264	617	740	635	751
S	224	800	723	845	729	892
T	-	c	24	14	12	11
U	-	-	c	c	c	-
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>7,162</b>	<b>8,648</b>	<b>11,827</b>	<b>11,107</b>	<b>11,679</b>	<b>12,482</b>

<sup>c</sup> confidential

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Table 1

**Table 4. Deaths of business units: 2013-2018**

NACE Section <sup>1</sup>	Deaths					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
A	143	109	116	125	132	156
B	6	4	9	3	c	7
C	137	111	135	154	141	164
D	c	c	c	-	c	c
E	12	5	10	9	10	c
F	303	243	350	355	311	284
G	837	689	785	1,025	766	820
H	193	169	176	225	157	181
I	234	191	322	321	243	280
J	124	117	149	218	149	190
K	447	469	560	847	748	700
L	93	93	99	162	159	286
M	393	288	404	575	428	489
N	329	240	361	512	406	524
O	89	5	c	c	-	-
P	51	43	10	18	22	40
Q	31	13	20	8	31	29
R	175	110	113	160	136	144
S	184	108	172	197	177	207
T	-	-	-	c	5	7
U	c	c	-	c	c	-
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>3,783</b>	<b>3,009</b>	<b>3,796</b>	<b>4,917</b>	<b>4,025</b>	<b>4,514</b>

<sup>c</sup> confidential

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Table 1

Table 5. Structure of business units by employment size: 2013-2018...

NACE Section <sup>1</sup>	2013					2014				
	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total
A	3,344	12	c	c	3,361	3,271	9	c	c	3,284
B	108	6	-	-	114	c	c	c	-	127
C	3,113	215	53	13	3,394	3,134	228	56	13	3,431
D	c	-	-	c	16	c	-	-	c	21
E	223	c	c	c	237	227	8	c	c	237
F	6,545	122	18	3	6,688	6,649	114	c	c	6,785
G	15,815	483	c	c	16,365	16,383	478	c	c	16,935
H	3,591	101	17	6	3,715	3,543	102	18	6	3,669
I	3,494	202	63	7	3,766	3,711	217	58	8	3,994
J	2,554	81	24	3	2,662	2,824	79	27	4	2,934
K	10,743	69	20	4	10,836	12,234	79	21	4	12,338
L	2,979	c	c	-	2,995	3,168	c	c	-	3,187
M	7,670	162	c	c	7,855	8,433	184	20	4	8,641
N	5,167	107	35	13	5,322	5,704	117	34	16	5,871
O	116	71	44	8	239	102	27	32	13	174
P	1,661	61	33	6	1,761	1,721	66	41	6	1,834
Q	1,428	51	20	12	1,511	1,443	59	18	12	1,532
R	2,494	63	c	c	2,579	2,578	70	22	3	2,673
S	3,548	27	c	c	3,578	4,177	25	c	c	4,205
T	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
U	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,620</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>77,006</b>	<b>79,456</b>	<b>1,883</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>81,883</b>

<sup>c</sup> confidential

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Table 1

... Table 5. Structure of business units by employment size: 2013-2018

NACE Section <sup>1</sup>	2015					2016				
	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total
A	3,269	10	3	-	3,282	3,262	9	3	-	3,274
B	122	6	-	-	128	123	6	-	-	129
C	3,361	228	59	12	3,660	3,503	220	56	13	3,792
D	c	c	-	-	33	43	3	-	-	46
E	234	12	c	c	248	233	9	c	c	244
F	6,961	127	29	3	7,120	7,198	116	21	6	7,341
G	17,444	513	78	4	18,039	17,982	526	85	4	18,597
H	3,652	100	19	6	3,777	3,706	109	16	8	3,839
I	4,006	234	56	7	4,303	4,185	261	56	8	4,510
J	3,345	98	23	4	3,470	3,772	109	26	5	3,912
K	13,644	87	24	4	13,759	15,115	102	24	6	15,247
L	3,676	21	3	-	3,700	4,215	30	4	-	4,249
M	10,007	206	23	4	10,240	11,150	214	32	4	11,400
N	6,827	128	38	17	7,010	7,694	131	42	19	7,886
O	100	26	29	18	173	97	28	32	14	171
P	2,009	72	39	7	2,127	2,230	75	40	7	2,352
Q	1,504	64	17	13	1,598	1,589	66	18	12	1,685
R	3,098	78	23	3	3,202	3,719	87	23	5	3,834
S	4,773	c	c	c	4,810	5,428	36	c	c	5,468
T	c	-	-	-	c	42	-	-	-	42
U	c	-	-	-	c	9	-	-	-	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,100</b>	<b>2,044</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>90,715</b>	<b>95,295</b>	<b>2,137</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>98,027</b>

c confidential

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Table 1



... Table 5. Structure of business units by employment size: 2013-2018

NACE Section <sup>1</sup>	2017					2018				
	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total
A	3,268	7	c	c	3,279	3,247	c	c	c	3,258
B	129	6	-	-	135	136	7	-	-	143
C	3,670	232	54	13	3,969	3,869	238	54	15	4,176
D	59	3	-	-	62	73	4	-	-	77
E	234	10	c	c	246	241	9	c	c	252
F	7,489	115	22	5	7,631	7,902	128	20	6	8,056
G	18,197	542	85	3	18,827	18,588	559	92	3	19,242
H	3,840	114	15	8	3,977	4,503	118	16	9	4,646
I	4,521	296	56	7	4,880	4,955	335	56	8	5,354
J	4,223	114	21	6	4,364	4,885	128	23	7	5,043
K	16,305	109	23	5	16,442	17,476	125	22	6	17,629
L	4,793	30	4	-	4,827	5,487	36	4	-	5,527
M	12,409	228	36	4	12,677	13,765	277	37	4	14,083
N	8,388	148	45	21	8,602	9,031	174	44	23	9,272
O	99	25	33	18	175	100	27	33	18	178
P	2,439	71	36	9	2,555	2,679	77	38	9	2,803
Q	1,678	63	25	12	1,778	1,710	80	26	12	1,828
R	4,186	85	29	7	4,307	4,774	104	30	8	4,916
S	5,966	32	c	c	6,004	6,663	38	c	c	6,707
T	52	-	-	-	52	c	c	-	-	c
U	9	-	-	-	9	c	-	-	-	c
<b>Total</b>	<b>101,954</b>	<b>2,230</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>104,798</b>	<b>110,149</b>	<b>2,471</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>113,256</b>

<sup>c</sup> confidential

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Table 1

## Methodological Notes

1. Business births and deaths record the demographic change in the number of units, namely registrations and/or deregistrations, and do not precisely record commencement or cessation of an activity by a unit. Demographic events such as takeovers, mergers, split-offs are not catered for and may affect the data presented. The recorded births and deaths from 2011 are being affected by Legal Notice 524 of 2010 and Legal Notice 67 of 2015.
2. Business registrations are based on administrative data. Data refers strictly to business registrations only.
3. For the purpose of this news release all legal units, irrespective of any threshold, are deemed to be equal to an enterprise and are recorded. Other types of enterprise legal structures may include corporations, cooperatives and joint ventures.
4. Updates in the Business Register are ongoing and all figures reported are subject to revision.
5. Business units that have ceased operating as indicated in Table 4, are included in the registered business units in Tables 2 and 5 respectively, if they have operated for at least one day in the year that they ceased operation.
6. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:  
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>  
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=24>  
Classifications: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE Rev. 2>
7. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
8. The advanced news release calendar may be accessed at:  
[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)

## Definitions

The following are the definitions of the employment size class breakdowns which are shown in Table 4:

Size class	Persons employed
Micro	0-9
Small	10-49
Medium	50-249
Large	250 or more

### Total Registered Business Units

