

In 2018, there were 54,739 active business units in Malta, an increase of 9.1 per cent over the previous year.

Business Demography: 2018

Cut-off date:
20 May 2020

This news release provides data on the business demography for reference year 2018 and earlier years. The tables present a breakdown of the number of active business units, classified by economic activity, legal form and employment size class. Data on newly registered and deregistered business units within the active business population is outlined. An overview of employer business demography data is provided.

In 2018, there were 54,739 active business units in Malta, an increase of 9.1 per cent over the previous year. Compared to the situation a year earlier, large active business units (250+ employees) increased by 13.6 per cent; followed by increases in micro (0-9 employees); medium-sized (50-249 employees) and small business units (10-49 employees) at 9.4, 5.3 and 4.2 per cent respectively (Table 4).

The Wholesale, retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles sector (section G) accounted for 20.1 per cent of the active business units; Professional, scientific and technical activities (section M) accounted for 12.9 per cent, while construction (section F) accounted for 9.9 per cent ■

Chart 1. Active business units in 2018

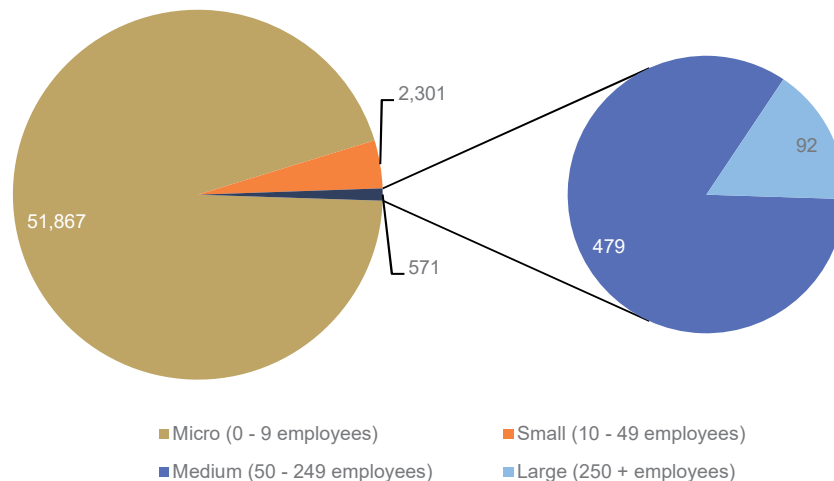
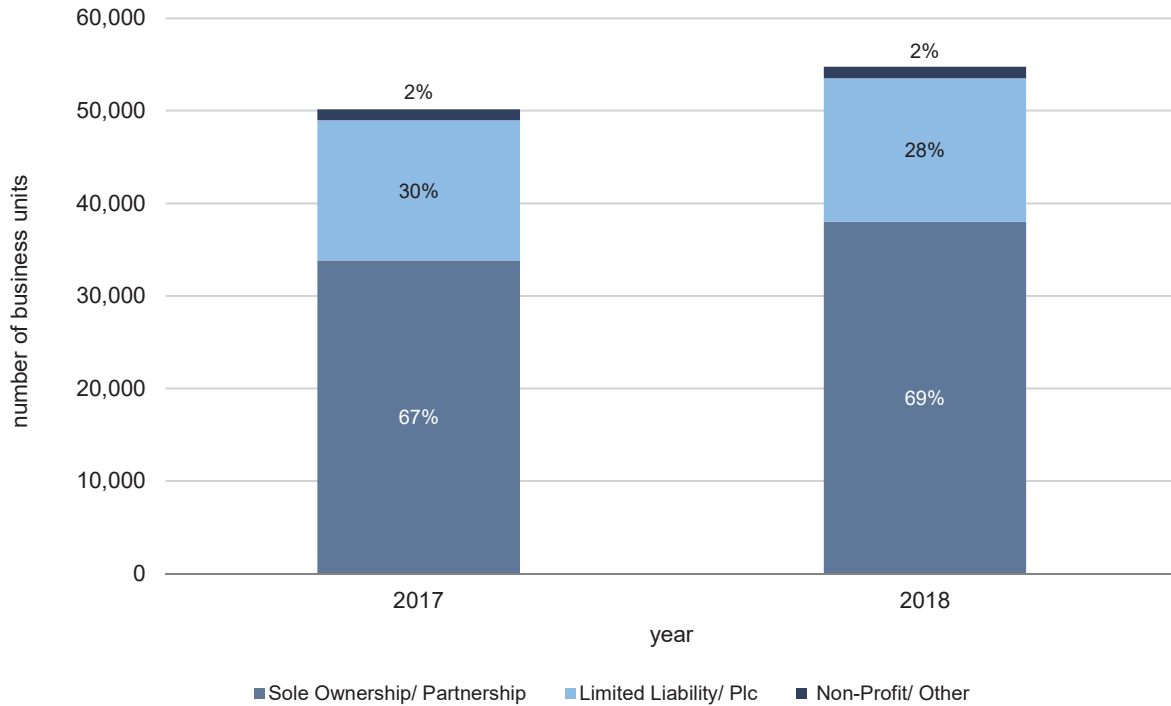


Chart 2. Active business units by type of legal organisation: 2017-2018



In 2018, 69.5 per cent of the active business units were sole proprietors and partnerships, 28.3 per cent were privately or publicly quoted companies with limited liability for those owning shares, while 2.3 per cent were non-profit organisations, cooperatives, corporations, branches and joint ventures (Chart 2, Table 2).

The number of new registrations within the active business population increased by 35.3 per cent while the deregistrations increased by 3.7 per cent over 2017 (Chart 3, Table 3).

Employer business demography is an alternative measure of business demography based on businesses with at least one employee. There were 17,132 employers in Malta in 2018. This represents an increase of 9.8 per cent in the number of employers over the previous year (Tables 5 and 6).

Chart 3. Newly registered and deregistered business units within the active business population: 2017-2018

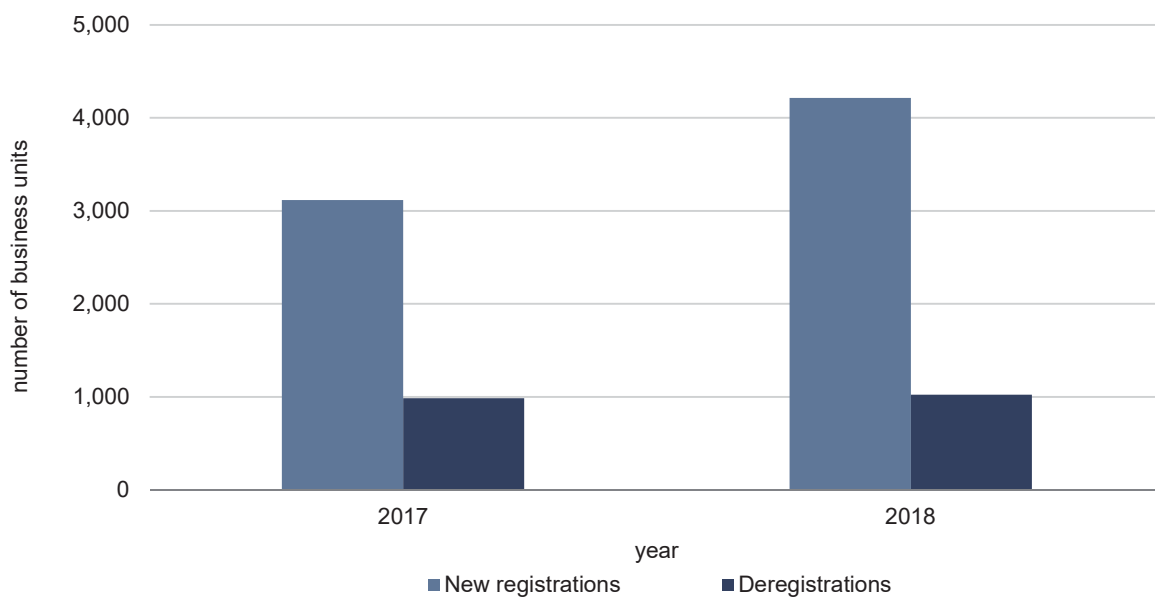


Table 1. NACE Rev. 2 Classification

Section	Description
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 active business units by type of legal organisation: 2016-2018

NACE Section ¹	2016				2017				2018			
	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Pic	Non-profit/ Other ²	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Pic	Non-profit/ Other ²	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Pic	Non-profit/ Other ²	Total
A	2,408	c	c	2,478	2,491	67	3	2,561	2,443	62	4	2,509
B	34	c	c	64	38	26	-	64	50	25	-	75
C	1,692	853	17	2,562	1,850	865	16	2,731	1,970	849	14	2,833
D	-	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	-	c	c	c
E	111	56	4	171	120	c	c	180	127	c	c	182
F	3,547	1,090	53	4,690	3,884	1,117	43	5,044	4,268	1,132	27	5,427
G	7,538	3,097	50	10,685	7,734	3,160	54	10,948	7,864	3,114	51	11,029
H	1,289	424	24	1,737	1,489	441	24	1,954	1,885	445	29	2,359
I	1,938	892	12	2,842	2,120	926	14	3,060	2,442	981	21	3,444
J	762	906	34	1,702	953	980	32	1,965	1,078	1,026	31	2,135
K	46	1,877	67	1,990	56	2,073	65	2,194	72	2,195	70	2,337
L	1,204	1,307	7	2,518	1,451	1,344	8	2,803	1,785	1,408	8	3,201
M	3,533	1,941	54	5,528	4,029	2,109	60	6,198	4,835	2,184	61	7,080
N	1,351	989	57	2,397	1,613	999	54	2,666	1,983	999	62	3,044
P	869	202	77	1,148	1,054	207	86	1,347	1,256	221	90	1,567
Q	862	113	72	1,047	933	125	84	1,142	1,131	128	90	1,349
R	962	424	260	1,646	1,169	448	311	1,928	1,563	481	319	2,363
S	2,454	153	227	2,834	2,834	165	347	3,346	3,245	158	359	3,762
T	18	-	-	18	21	-	-	21	30	-	-	30
U	-	c	-	c	-	c	-	c	-	c	-	c
Total	30,618	14,429	1,019	46,066	33,839	15,119	1,206	50,164	38,027	15,471	1,241	54,739

c confidential

¹ Refer to Table 1² Refer to Methodological Note 5

The time series data from year 2014 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.

Table 3. Newly registered and deregistered business units within the active business population: 2017-2018

NACE Section ¹	New registrations		Deregistrations	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
A	61	50	44	36
B	4	8	c	-
C	151	142	33	51
D	-	-	-	-
E	c	5	5	-
F	307	385	96	85
G	466	447	218	202
H	129	379	23	53
I	281	343	84	86
J	224	219	27	35
K	107	143	71	30
L	192	278	57	101
M	523	693	123	98
N	233	320	93	86
P	79	124	11	c
Q	33	139	5	13
R	129	278	24	42
S	192	257	67	90
T	c	6	c	c
U	-	-	-	-
Total	3,116	4,216	985	1,021

c confidential

¹ Refer to Table 1

Table 4. Structure of active business units by employment size: 2016-2018

NACE Section ¹	2016					2017					2018				
	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total
A	2,469	c	c	-	2,478	2,552	c	c	-	2,561	2,500	c	c	-	2,509
B	59	5	-	-	64	58	6	-	-	64	68	7	-	-	75
C	2,271	222	57	12	2,562	2,434	227	58	12	2,731	2,532	231	56	14	2,833
D	c	c	-	-	c	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	c	-	c
E	161	c	-	c	171	168	c	-	c	180	172	c	-	c	182
F	4,553	115	18	4	4,690	4,907	113	21	3	5,044	5,276	125	c	c	5,427
G	10,068	530	83	4	10,685	10,317	541	87	3	10,948	10,404	527	95	3	11,029
H	1,606	107	16	8	1,737	1,808	122	16	8	1,954	2,216	114	21	8	2,359
I	2,514	261	59	8	2,842	2,702	295	55	8	3,060	3,075	308	52	9	3,444
J	1,565	107	26	4	1,702	1,823	116	21	5	1,965	1,979	125	25	6	2,135
K	1,875	88	21	6	1,990	2,073	93	22	6	2,194	2,203	105	22	7	2,337
L	2,486	c	c	-	2,518	2,771	29	3	-	2,803	3,165	32	4	-	3,201
M	5,277	218	29	4	5,528	5,926	236	32	4	6,198	6,782	256	38	4	7,080
N	2,207	131	43	16	2,397	2,452	146	51	17	2,666	2,820	153	49	22	3,044
P	1,037	71	c	c	1,148	1,241	70	31	5	1,347	1,456	72	34	5	1,567
Q	966	63	c	c	1,047	1,052	65	22	3	1,142	1,242	80	24	3	1,349
R	1,538	82	23	3	1,646	1,801	93	29	5	1,928	2,220	109	27	7	2,363
S	2,793	37	c	c	2,834	3,305	35	c	c	3,346	3,718	38	c	c	3,762
T	18	-	-	-	18	21	-	-	-	21	30	-	-	-	30
U	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
Total	43,470	2,085	436	75	46,066	47,420	2,208	455	81	50,164	51,867	2,301	479	92	54,739

c confidential

¹ Refer to Table 1

The time series data from year 2014 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.

Table 5. Structure of employers by type of legal organisation: 2016-2018

NACE Section ¹	2016				2017				2018			
	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Non-profit/ Other ²	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Non-profit/ Other ²	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Non-profit/ Other ²	Total
A	288	52	-	340	293	48	-	341	310	46	-	356
B	8	21	-	29	7	19	-	26	10	17	-	27
C	440	735	11	1,186	453	728	10	1,191	453	734	9	1,196
D	-	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	-	c	c	7
E	39	c	c	86	39	c	c	85	41	41	3	85
F	485	629	12	1,126	558	612	12	1,182	689	638	10	1,337
G	2,226	2,342	21	4,589	2,204	2,297	23	4,524	2,485	2,370	22	4,877
H	190	322	17	529	215	318	17	550	269	323	20	612
I	689	708	7	1,404	701	732	6	1,439	858	788	8	1,654
J	46	556	19	621	58	571	18	647	68	641	15	724
K	10	588	22	620	15	600	22	637	c	653	c	690
L	62	564	3	629	110	546	4	660	129	611	5	745
M	400	1,165	25	1,590	488	1,190	23	1,701	650	1,344	20	2,014
N	101	604	23	728	154	622	26	802	172	643	31	846
P	79	143	53	275	122	144	55	321	125	150	51	326
Q	161	88	55	304	175	99	59	333	148	104	60	312
R	69	255	70	394	86	279	88	453	105	315	86	506
S	455	96	73	624	502	98	100	700	625	103	87	815
T	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	c	-	-	c
U	-	c	-	c	-	c	-	c	-	c	-	c
Total	5,748	8,918	414	15,080	6,180	8,951	467	15,598	7,151	9,528	453	17,132

c confidential

¹ Refer to Table 1

² Refer to Methodological Note 5

The time series data from year 2014 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.

Table 6. Structure of employers by employment size: 2016-2018

NACE Section ¹	2016					2017					2018				
	1-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	1-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	1-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total
A	331	c	c	-	340	332	c	c	-	341	347	c	c	-	356
B	24	5	-	-	29	20	6	-	-	26	20	7	-	-	27
C	895	222	57	12	1,186	894	227	58	12	1,191	895	231	56	14	1,196
D	c	c	-	-	c	c	c	c	-	c	3	c	c	-	7
E	76	c	-	c	86	73	c	-	c	85	75	c	-	c	85
F	991	113	18	4	1,126	1,046	112	21	3	1,182	1,186	125	c	c	1,337
G	3,973	530	82	4	4,589	3,894	541	86	3	4,524	4,252	527	95	3	4,877
H	398	107	16	8	529	404	122	16	8	550	469	114	21	8	612
I	1,076	261	59	8	1,404	1,081	295	55	8	1,439	1,285	308	52	9	1,654
J	484	107	26	4	621	505	116	21	5	647	568	125	25	6	724
K	505	88	21	6	620	516	93	22	6	637	556	105	22	7	690
L	597	29	3	-	629	628	29	3	-	660	709	32	4	-	745
M	1,339	218	29	4	1,590	1,429	236	32	4	1,701	1,716	256	38	4	2,014
N	538	131	43	16	728	588	146	51	17	802	622	153	49	22	846
P	165	70	c	c	275	216	69	31	5	321	216	71	34	5	326
Q	224	62	c	c	304	243	65	22	3	333	205	80	24	3	312
R	286	82	23	3	394	326	93	29	5	453	363	109	27	7	506
S	585	36	c	c	624	661	34	c	c	700	773	37	c	c	815
T	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	c	-	-	-	c
U	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
Total	12,491	2,080	434	75	15,080	12,859	2,205	453	81	15,598	14,263	2,299	478	92	17,132

c confidential

¹ Refer to Table 1

The time series data from year 2014 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.

Methodological Notes

1. The business demography data is based on the concept of active business units in a reference year. These are defined as businesses that had either turnover or employment at any time during the reference period. The statistical business register is the source of the data provided in this news release. New business registrations are identified through VAT registrations as well as through MBR new companies registrations.
2. Business registrations are based on administrative data. Registrations and/or deregistrations 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.
3. The data is classified by economic activity according to the NACE (Nomenclature Statistique des Activités Économiques dans la Communauté Européenne) Rev.2 classification of economic activities in the European Union.
4. The time series data from year 2014 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.
5. Other types of legal structures may include public corporations, cooperatives and joint ventures. Public corporations are all the government-controlled units that are often established by government as market producers principally engaged in the production of goods, non-financial and financial services, and as such they are classified in non-financial and financial sectors.
6. For the purpose of this release, the term "active business unit" is used to represent an active sole legal unit. A business unit carries out one or more activities at one or more locations.
7. Data is deemed as confidential when there is a count of less than 3 business units. Secondary confidentiality is applied.
8. Updates in the Business Register are ongoing and all figures reported are subject to revision.
9. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical Concepts: <https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=24>
Classifications: <https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE%20Rev.%20202>
10. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
11. The advanced news release calendar may be accessed at:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx

Definitions

The **number of persons employed** is defined, within the context of structural business statistics, as the total number of persons who work in the observation unit (inclusive of working proprietors, partners working regularly in the unit and unpaid family workers), as well as persons who work outside the unit who belong to it and are paid by it (e.g. sales representatives, delivery personnel, repair and maintenance teams). It excludes manpower supplied to the unit by other enterprises and persons carrying out repair and maintenance work in the enquiry unit on behalf of other enterprises.

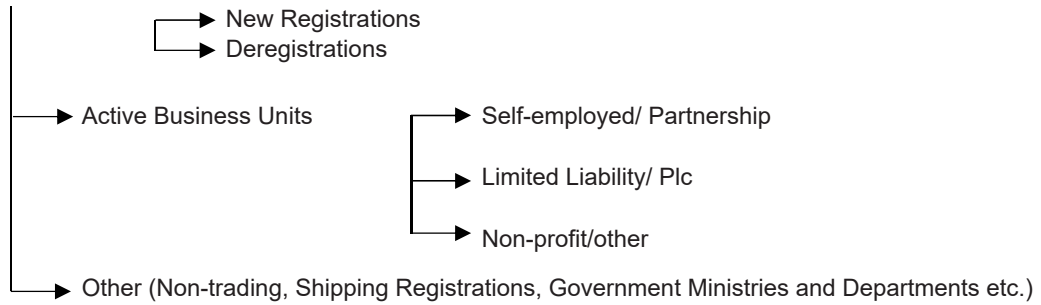
A worker is considered to be an employee of a particular unit if he or she receives a wage or salary from the unit regardless of where the work is performed (even from remote locations). A worker from a temporary employment agency is considered to be the agency's employee and not that of the business unit to which he or she is assigned.

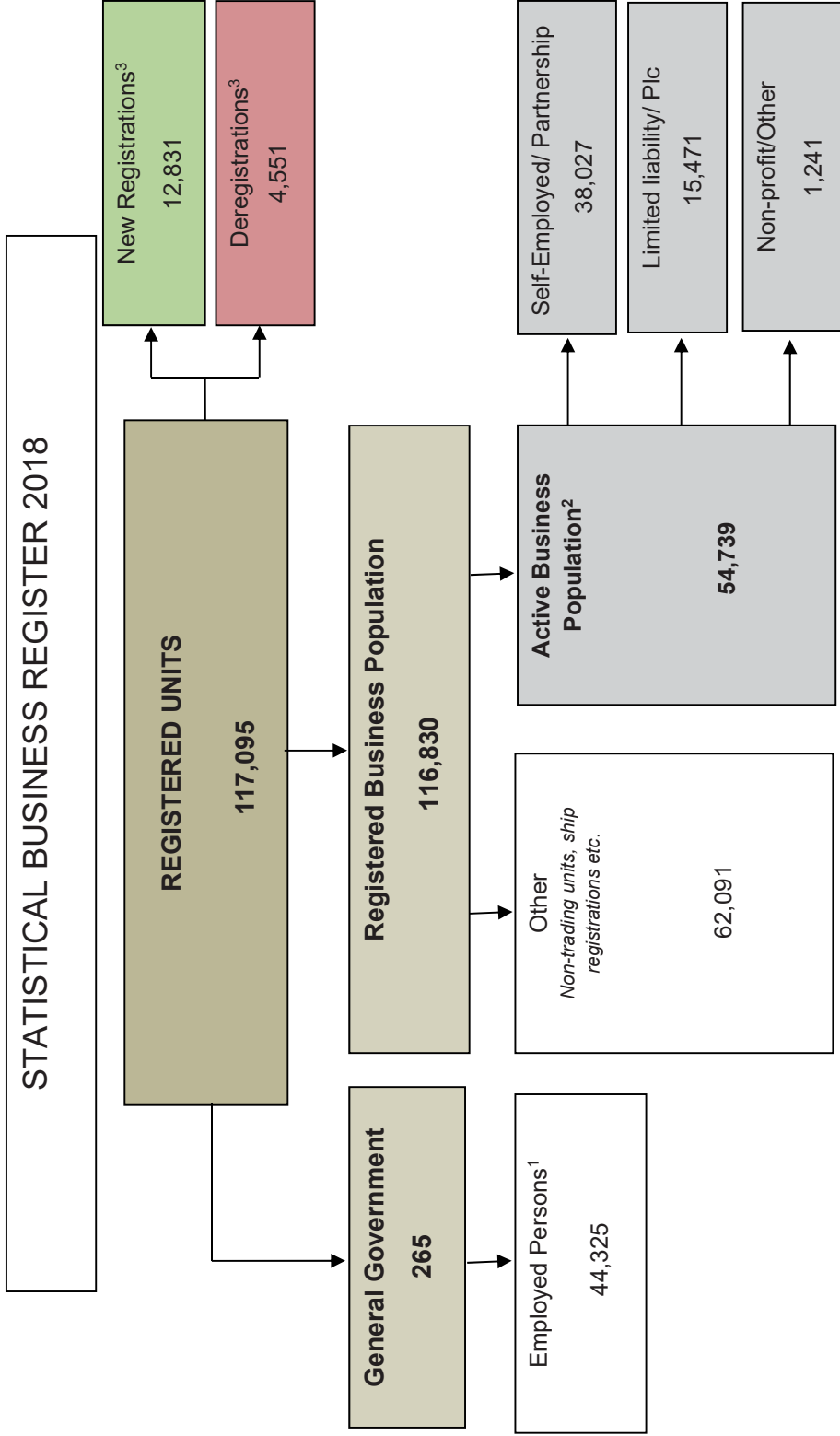
Part-time workers, seasonal workers, persons on strike or on short-term leave are all considered employees, while volunteers or workers on long-term leave are excluded.

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

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

Total Registered Business Units





¹**Employed persons (Head Count)** is defined as the total number of persons both self-employed and employees. Employment is in terms of jobs, i.e. comprising full-time and part-time (primary and secondary) workers. Thus, if a person is engaged with 2 different business units s/he is counted twice.

²**Active Business Population** includes public corporations and non-profit enterprises.

³ **New registrations and deregistrations** include active and dormant business units.

Employment Size Class	Business Units	Employed persons ¹
0-9	51,867	69,956
10-49	2,301	45,640
50-249	479	47,847
250+	92	48,810