

In 2020, registered business units amounted to 130,745, an increase of 3.7 per cent over 2019.

Registered Business Units: 2020

Cut-off date:
30 March 2021

This news release shows the demographic patterns of registered business units in Malta and their evolution over time.

In 2020, registered units within the statistical business register amounted to 130,745, an increase of 3.7 per cent, or 4,713 registered units, over 2019 (Table 2).

Most of the business units (97.4 per cent) employed between 0 to 9 persons (micro). The population of small (10 - 49) and medium (50 - 249) businesses accounted for 2,682 (2.1 per cent) and 555 (0.4 per cent) units respectively. The large businesses employing 250 persons or more amounted to 135 (0.1 per cent). The number of registered units which employ between 0 and 9 persons, increased by 4,619 units, an increase of 3.8 per cent. The number of registered units which employ between 10 and 49 persons, increased by 83 units, an increase of 3.2 per cent. (Chart 1, Table 4).

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 15.5, 14.2, 12.8, 8.2 per cent respectively of the total registered units in 2020 (Table 2).

Chart 1. Registered business units: 2020

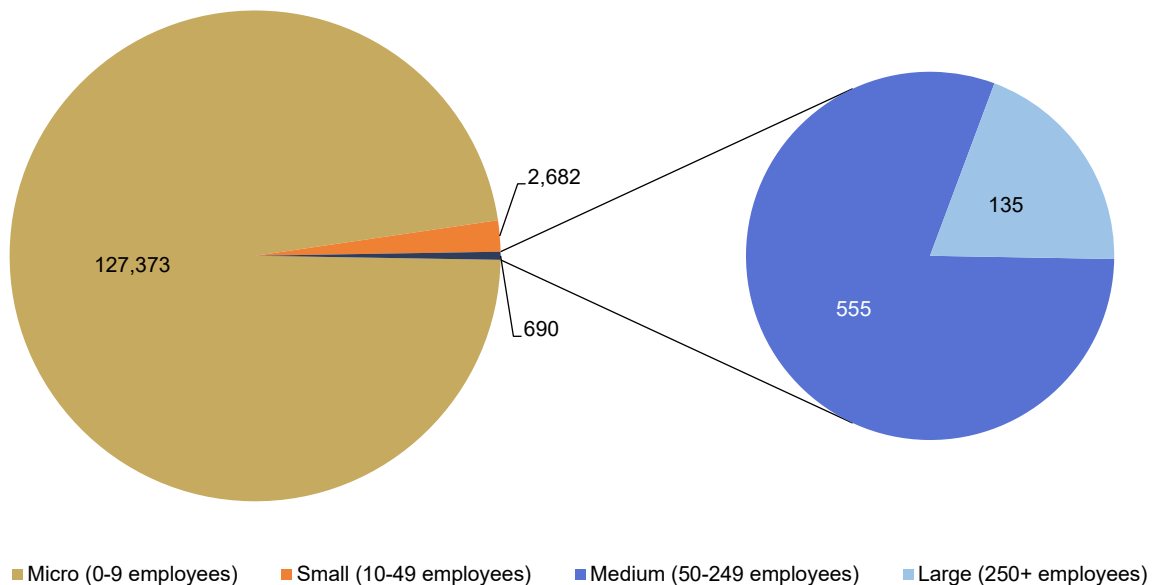
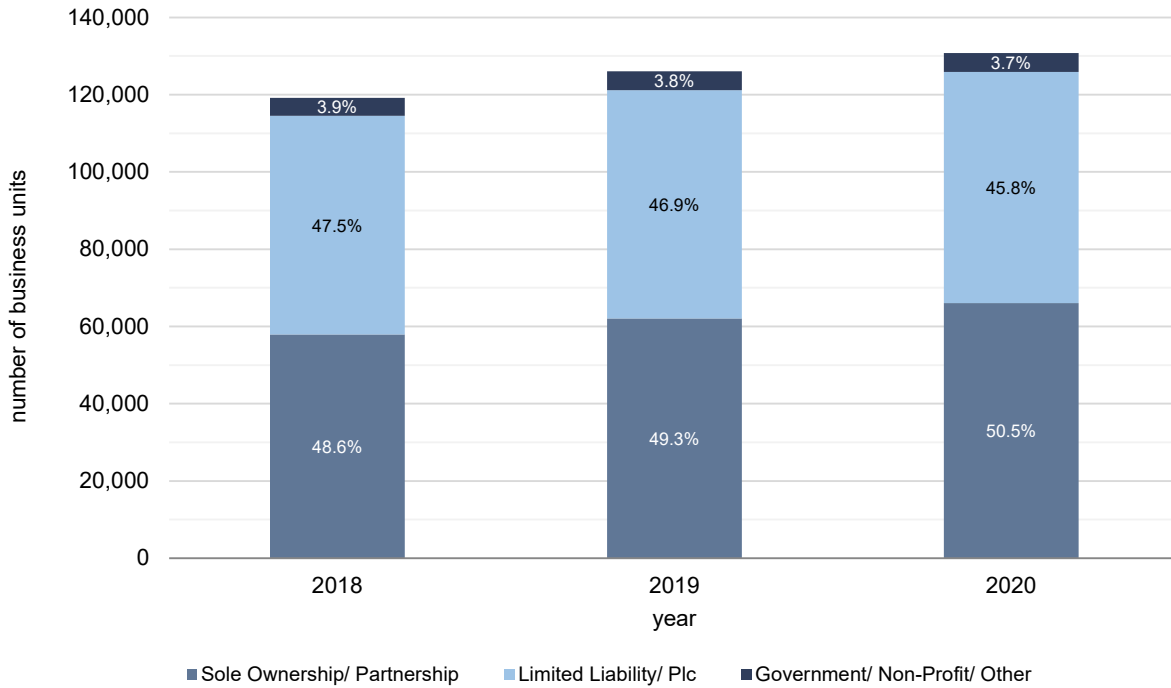


Chart 2. Registered business units by type of legal organisation



In 2020, 50.5 per cent of the registered units were sole owners or partnerships, 45.8 per cent were limited liability or public limited companies, while 3.7 per cent were governmental, non-profit or other types of legal organisations (Chart 2, Table 2).

New registrations in 2020 amounted to 10,530 units whilst deregistrations amounted to 10,187 units (Chart 3, Table 3, Methodological Note 9).

Chart 3. Newly registered and deregistered business units

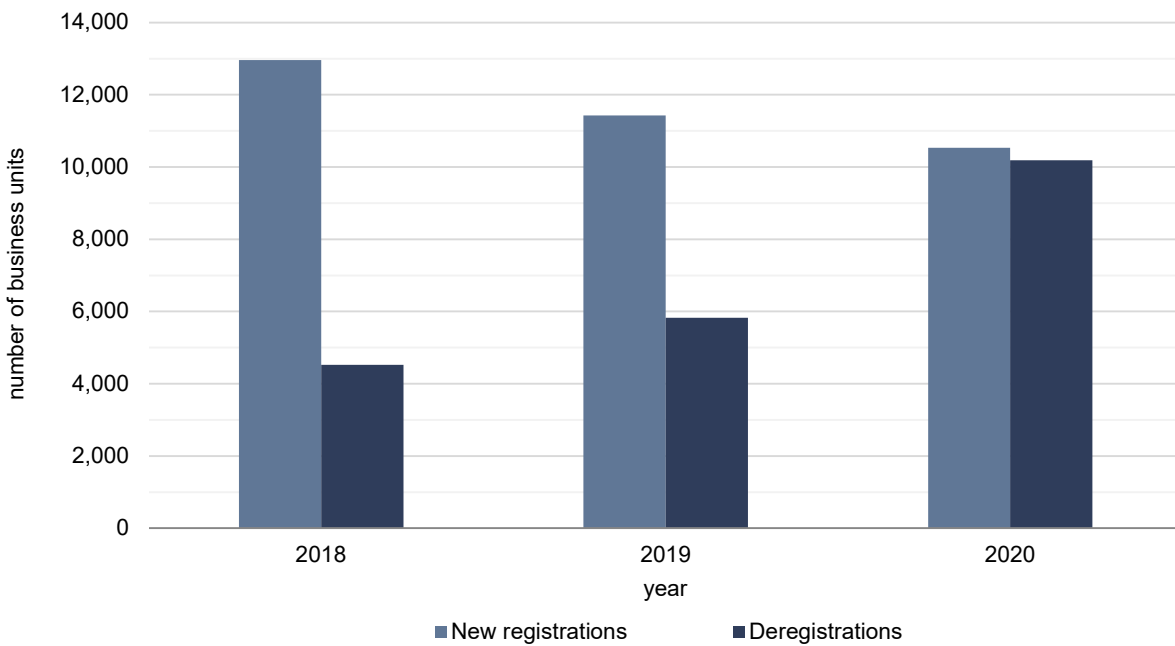


Table 1. NACE Rev. 2 Classification

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 registered units by year, type of legal organisation and NACE

NACE Section ¹	2018				2019				2020			
	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	3,265	133	15	3,413	3,254	140	15	3,409	3,287	145	15	3,447
B	62	77	5	144	60	81	5	146	66	84	4	154
C	2,713	1,599	63	4,375	2,856	1,650	57	4,563	2,974	1,668	59	4,701
D	-	c	c	28	c	28	c	32	c	32	c	36
E	147	104	12	263	147	110	12	269	154	112	12	278
F	5,868	2,607	121	8,596	6,294	2,788	124	9,206	6,538	2,897	119	9,554
G	10,908	8,781	363	20,052	10,972	8,915	374	20,261	10,996	8,909	389	20,294
H	2,679	2,664	63	5,406	3,308	2,746	72	6,126	4,498	2,750	74	7,322
I	3,797	1,837	50	5,684	4,146	1,934	51	6,131	4,304	2,008	52	6,364
J	2,093	3,075	80	5,248	2,311	3,362	78	5,751	2,531	3,493	77	6,101
K	158	17,305	443	17,906	176	18,017	428	18,621	192	17,977	400	18,569
L	3,041	2,865	43	5,949	3,320	3,081	42	6,443	3,491	3,173	42	6,706
M	7,683	6,852	164	14,699	8,575	7,208	171	15,954	9,272	7,358	167	16,797
N	3,504	6,143	360	10,007	3,748	6,336	378	10,462	4,056	6,278	369	10,703
O	-	-	201	201	-	-	204	204	-	-	211	211
P	2,397	441	169	3,007	2,522	473	178	3,173	2,707	510	177	3,394
Q	1,630	226	163	2,019	1,732	243	167	2,142	1,786	255	168	2,209
R	3,227	1,444	599	5,270	3,557	1,551	651	5,759	3,826	1,621	673	6,120
S	4,667	465	1,706	6,838	5,018	459	1,837	7,314	5,286	569	1,861	7,716
T	c	-	-	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	-	c
U	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Total	57,895	56,650	4,623	119,168	62,055	59,129	4,848	126,032	66,026	59,846	4,873	130,745

^c confidential

¹ Refer to Table 1

Note: The time series data from year 2015 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.

Table 3. Newly registered and deregistered business units, by year and NACE

NACE Section ¹	New Registrations			Deregistrations		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020 ²
A	113	149	182	157	167	134
B	10	10	16	6	7	14
C	352	358	342	165	203	390
D	c	6	5	c	c	c
E	16	9	15	c	7	16
F	771	895	687	287	311	532
G	1,240	1,104	1,024	821	929	2,402
H	835	868	1,476	181	310	525
I	723	712	589	282	378	586
J	883	703	630	192	264	519
K	2,196	1,417	918	695	964	1,705
L	877	758	597	280	334	374
M	1,914	1,698	1,547	481	743	1,274
N	1,119	1,003	898	538	655	997
O	c	c	4	-	-	-
P	309	228	273	40	32	42
Q	202	153	89	25	18	21
R	817	631	526	147	199	380
S	569	711	706	216	302	265
T	9	10	6	7	c	6
U	-	c	-	-	-	c
Total	12,961	11,427	10,530	4,526	5,827	10,187

^c confidential

¹ Refer to Table 1

² Refer to Methodological note 9

Note: The time series data from year 2015 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.

Table 4. Structure of registered units by year, employment size and NACE

NACE Section ¹	2018					2019					2020 ²				
	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	3,401	7	c	c	3,413	3,396	8	5	-	3,409	3,432	9	6	-	3,447
B	137	7	-	-	144	139	7	-	-	146	146	8	-	-	154
C	4,068	235	58	14	4,375	4,238	252	58	15	4,563	4,372	257	58	14	4,701
D	24	c	c	-	28	28	c	c	-	32	32	c	c	-	36
E	252	c	c	c	263	256	c	c	c	269	263	c	c	c	278
F	8,442	127	24	3	8,596	9,031	146	24	5	9,206	9,363	156	30	5	9,554
G	19,426	527	96	3	20,052	19,579	584	95	3	20,261	19,626	567	98	3	20,294
H	5,264	113	21	8	5,406	5,969	129	18	10	6,126	7,167	128	17	10	7,322
I	5,322	302	51	9	5,684	5,741	330	49	11	6,131	5,966	338	53	7	6,364
J	5,093	124	24	7	5,248	5,582	136	27	6	5,751	5,919	150	25	7	6,101
K	17,760	116	23	7	17,906	18,455	134	25	7	18,621	18,388	145	29	7	18,569
L	5,912	32	5	-	5,949	6,405	33	5	-	6,443	6,667	34	5	-	6,706
M	14,396	261	38	4	14,699	15,603	303	44	4	15,954	16,438	311	43	5	16,797
N	9,777	154	50	26	10,007	10,210	168	60	24	10,462	10,423	190	63	27	10,703
O	120	33	30	18	201	125	31	29	19	204	132	31	29	19	211
P	2,897	70	32	8	3,007	3,064	69	33	7	3,173	3,289	66	31	8	3,394
Q	1,896	83	28	12	2,019	2,013	87	30	12	2,142	2,074	94	28	13	2,209
R	5,119	113	29	9	5,270	5,589	126	36	8	5,759	5,949	130	33	8	6,120
S	6,795	37	c	c	6,838	7,265	42	c	c	7,314	7,658	53	c	c	7,716
T	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
U	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
Total	116,164	2,353	520	131	119,168	122,754	2,599	546	133	126,032	127,373	2,682	555	135	130,745

^c confidential

¹ Refer to Table 1

² Employment size class data for 2020 is provisional.

Note. The time series data from year 2015 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.

Methodological Notes

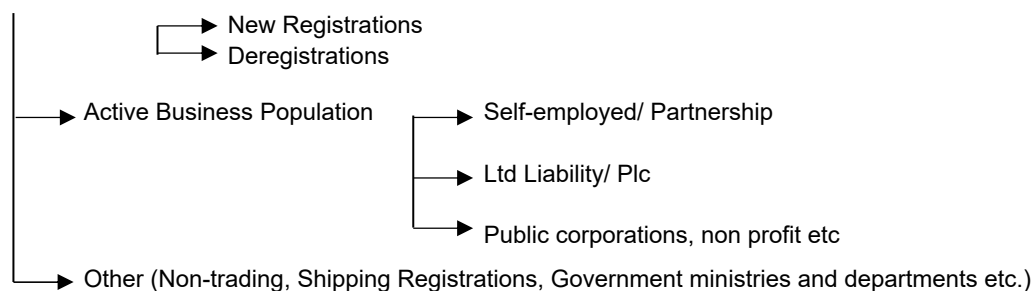
1. The statistical business register is the source of the data in this news release. The statistical business register provides one of the most detailed local business profiles in Malta.
2. Business registrations are based on administrative data. Registrations and/or deregistrations do not precisely 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. 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 deregistrations for 2011 and new registrations from 2015 onwards may not be strictly comparable to previous years and should be treated with caution.
3. The data 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.
4. The time series data from year 2015 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. Micro enterprises include non-trading units.
7. Updates in the Business Register are ongoing and all figures reported are subject to revision.
8. Business units that have ceased operating as indicated in Table 3, are included in the registered business units in Tables 2 and 4 if they have operated for at least one day in the year that they ceased operation.
9. The significant increase in the number of deregistrations in 2020 when compared to 2019 may be partly attributed to the defunct companies that had been struck off the Malta Business Registry during the reporting period.
10. Data is deemed as confidential when there is a count of less than 3 business units. Secondary confidentiality is applied.
11. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
 Statistical Concepts: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>
 Classifications: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE%20Rev.%20202>
12. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
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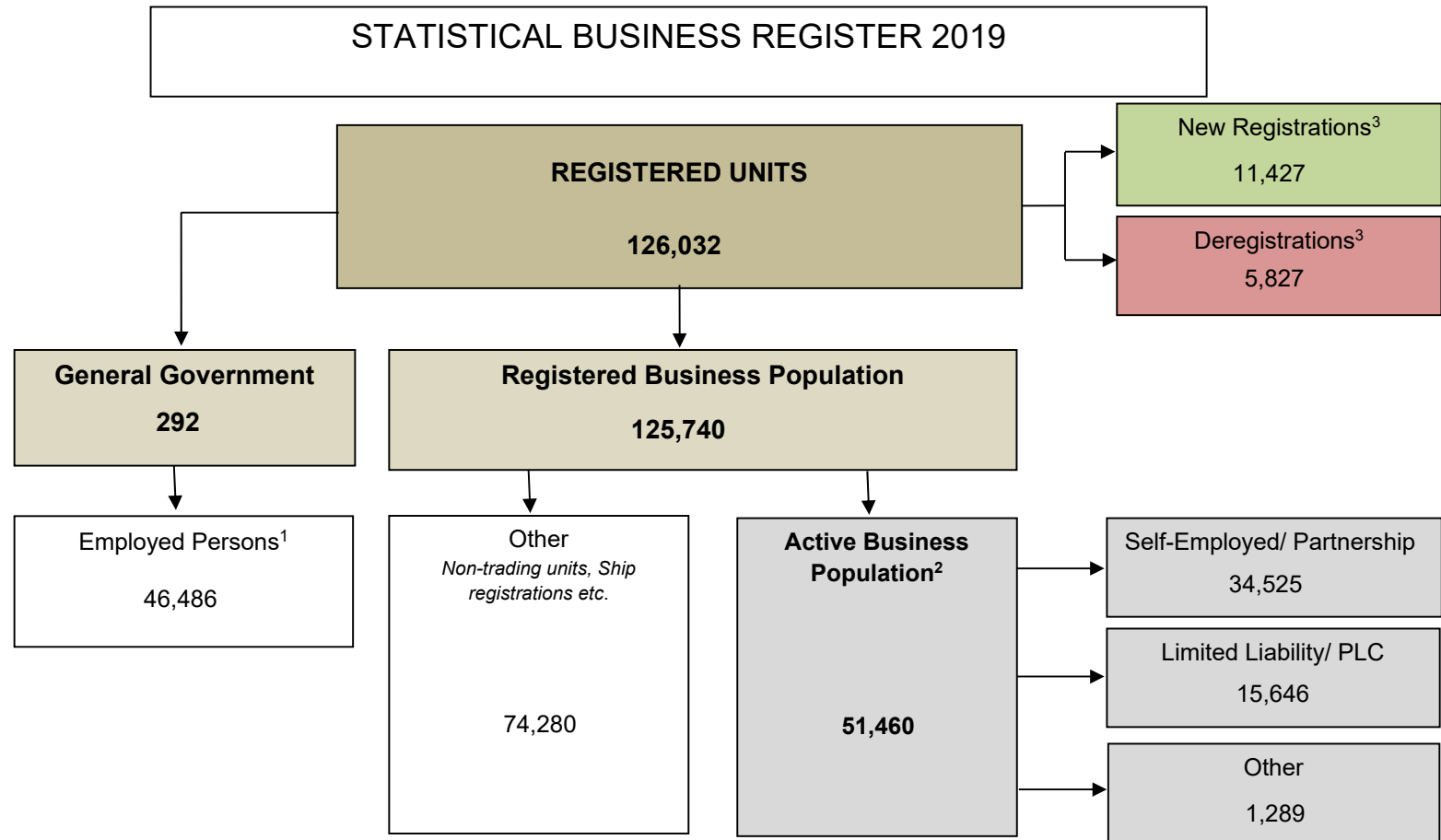
Definitions

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 or more

Total Registered Business Units





¹ **Employed Persons** (head count) is defined as the total number of 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. (provisional)

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	48,328	71,542
10 - 49	2,538	49,520
50 - 249	500	50,386
250+	94	51,234