

In 2020, there were 53,348 active business units in Malta, an increase of 4.6 per cent over the previous year.

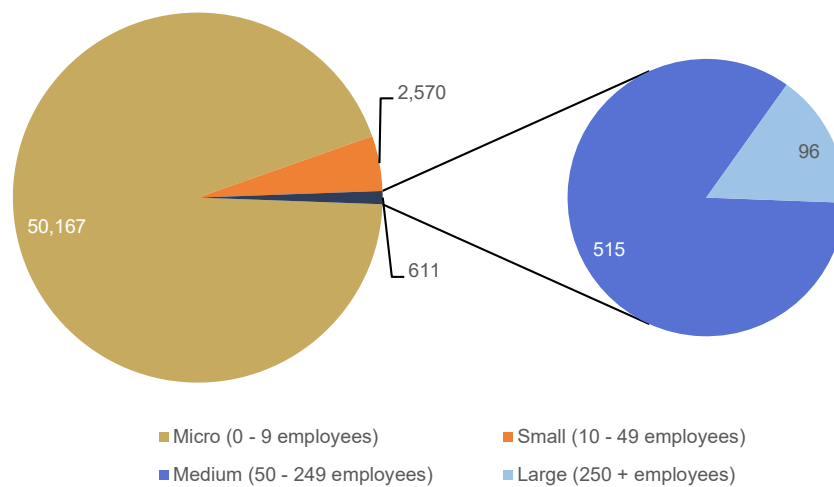
Business Demography: 2020

Cut-off date:
08 June 2021

Provisional figures for 2020 show that there were 53,348 active business units in Malta, an increase of 4.6 per cent, or 2,345 active business units, over 2019. The Wholesale, retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles sector (section G) accounted for 18.7 per cent of the active business units; Professional, scientific and technical activities (section M) accounted for 13.0 per cent, whilst construction (section F) accounted for 9.7 per cent (Table 2).

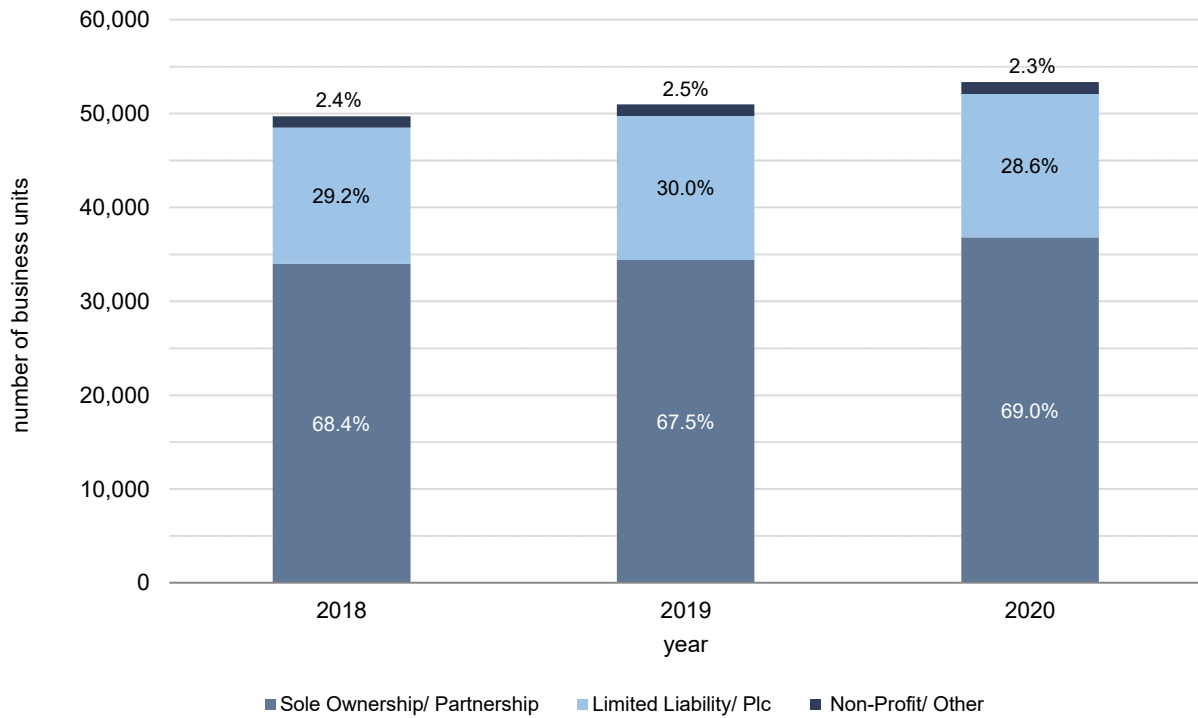
In 2020, 69.0 per cent of the active business units were sole proprietors and partnerships, 28.6 per cent were limited liability companies or public limited liability companies, while 2.3 per cent were non-profit organisations, cooperatives, corporations, branches or joint ventures (Chart 2, Table 2).

Chart 1. Active business units in 2020



Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

Chart 2. Active business units by type of legal organisation



The number of new registrations within the active business population decreased by 27.0 per cent while the deregistrations increased by 27.0 per cent over 2019 (Chart 3, Table 3).

Compared to the situation a year earlier, micro business units employing between 0 and 9 persons increased by 4.9 per cent. Large business units employing more than 250 persons increased by 4.3 per cent while small business units employing between 10 and 49 persons, increased by 0.3 per cent. Medium-sized business units employing between 50 and 249 persons decreased by 1.0 per cent (Table 4).

There were 16,167 employers in Malta in 2020, a decrease of 0.2 per cent over the previous year (Tables 5 and 6).

Chart 3. Newly registered and deregistered business units within the active business population

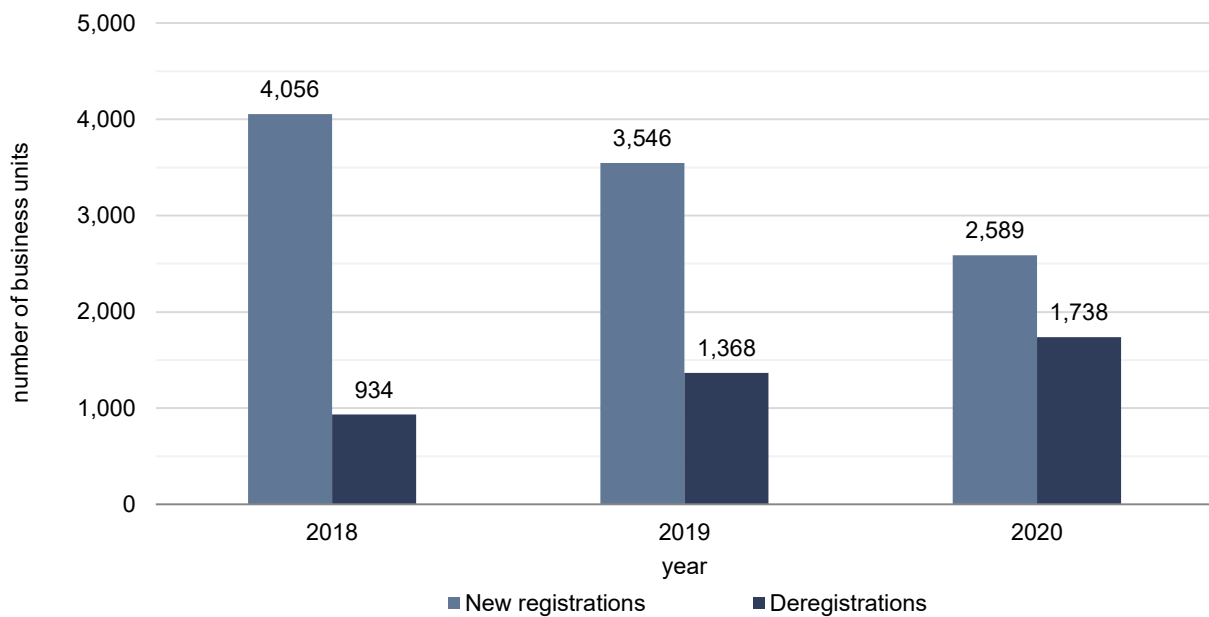


Table 1. NACE Rev. 2 Classification

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 year, type of legal organisation and NACE

NACE Section ¹	2018				2019				2020 ^P			
	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	c	c	c	2,381	c	c	c	2,298	c	c	c	2,353
B	46	23	-	69	43	24	-	67	47	23	-	70
C	1,776	814	14	2,604	1,744	828	14	2,586	1,834	822	14	2,670
D	-	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	-	c	c	c
E	119	44	4	167	117	44	4	165	119	44	4	167
F	3,798	1,035	12	4,845	3,834	1,123	12	4,969	4,038	1,126	11	5,175
G	7,204	2,888	45	10,137	6,971	2,923	52	9,946	7,027	2,875	51	9,953
H	1,726	436	29	2,191	1,992	451	31	2,474	2,420	454	30	2,904
I	2,156	841	14	3,011	2,201	912	15	3,128	2,359	927	14	3,300
J	901	979	32	1,912	905	1,071	34	2,010	1,019	1,062	34	2,115
K	65	2,014	60	2,139	73	2,240	64	2,377	77	2,258	58	2,393
L	1,577	1,448	7	3,032	1,598	1,484	6	3,088	1,761	1,482	6	3,249
M	4,157	2,071	49	6,277	4,325	2,211	51	6,587	4,721	2,182	50	6,953
N	1,684	947	48	2,679	1,689	1,004	53	2,746	1,859	1,014	50	2,923
P	1,202	200	86	1,488	1,300	212	91	1,603	1,405	217	90	1,712
Q	1,132	119	90	1,341	1,202	123	93	1,418	1,252	126	94	1,472
R	1,238	450	331	2,019	1,237	470	334	2,041	1,444	460	335	2,239
S	2,890	127	370	3,387	2,928	129	405	3,462	3,125	128	405	3,658
T	c	-	-	c	c	-	-	c	c	-	-	c
U	-	c	-	c	-	c	-	c	-	c	-	c
Total	34,013	14,509	1,196	49,718	34,416	15,324	1,263	51,003	36,824	15,274	1,250	53,348

^c confidential

^P Data for 2020 is to be considered as provisional

¹ Refer to Table 1

² Refer to Methodological Note 5

The time series data from year 2016 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 by year and NACE

NACE Section ¹	New registrations			Deregistrations		
	2018	2019	2020 ^P	2018	2019	2020 ^P
A	49	45	80	41	47	54
B	8	4	c	-	c	c
C	135	157	106	46	74	73
D	-	-	-	-	-	-
E	4	4	6	-	3	5
F	376	383	203	82	114	161
G	424	408	270	193	273	330
H	379	351	357	49	65	103
I	333	278	193	79	123	142
J	205	183	130	39	74	78
K	108	70	34	22	42	41
L	272	214	142	68	79	76
M	674	639	405	92	177	300
N	307	301	226	77	111	170
P	122	56	55	12	9	4
Q	140	39	29	c	3	-
R	262	168	148	42	57	78
S	254	242	197	80	114	118
T	4	4	c	c	c	c
U	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4,056	3,546	2,589	934	1,368	1,738

^c confidential

^P Data for 2020 is to be considered as provisional

¹ Refer to Table 1

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

NACE Section ¹	2018					2019					2020 ^P				
	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	2,371	c	c	-	2,381	2,288	c	c	-	2,298	2,341	c	c	-	2,353
B	62	7	-	-	69	61	6	-	-	67	62	8	-	-	70
C	2,292	239	59	14	2,604	2,262	255	56	13	2,586	2,347	252	57	14	2,670
D	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	c	-	c
E	156	c	-	c	167	151	c	-	c	165	153	c	c	c	167
F	4,690	129	c	c	4,845	4,792	148	25	4	4,969	4,985	159	27	4	5,175
G	9,502	537	95	3	10,137	9,255	586	102	3	9,946	9,300	549	101	3	9,953
H	2,047	115	21	8	2,191	2,318	127	20	9	2,474	2,751	126	17	10	2,904
I	2,651	300	51	9	3,011	2,736	328	55	9	3,128	2,914	325	54	7	3,300
J	1,757	125	24	6	1,912	1,841	136	27	6	2,010	1,934	150	25	6	2,115
K	2,003	106	23	7	2,139	2,224	120	26	7	2,377	2,231	126	29	7	2,393
L	2,999	29	4	-	3,032	3,051	33	4	-	3,088	3,212	33	4	-	3,249
M	5,968	266	39	4	6,277	6,226	311	45	5	6,587	6,609	295	44	5	6,953
N	2,457	151	49	22	2,679	2,498	167	60	21	2,746	2,654	183	63	23	2,923
P	1,381	70	32	5	1,488	1,495	71	33	4	1,603	1,609	67	31	5	1,712
Q	1,232	82	24	3	1,341	1,303	86	26	3	1,418	1,349	94	25	4	1,472
R	1,877	108	27	7	2,019	1,883	120	32	6	2,041	2,079	125	29	6	2,239
S	3,343	38	c	c	3,387	3,411	44	c	c	3,462	3,599	54	c	c	3,658
T	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
U	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
Total	46,823	2,323	480	92	49,718	47,829	2,562	520	92	51,003	50,167	2,570	515	96	53,348

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^P Data for 2020 is to be considered as provisional¹ Refer to Table 1

The time series data from year 2016 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.

Table 5. Structure of employers by year, type of legal organisation and NACE

NACE Section ¹	2018				2019				2020 ^P			
	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	300	44	-	344	225	45	-	270	195	44	-	239
B	11	16	-	27	8	18	-	26	8	17	-	25
C	413	718	9	1,140	376	728	9	1,113	354	732	9	1,095
D	-	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	-	c	c	c
E	c	c	c	78	c	c	c	77	c	c	c	71
F	634	595	8	1,237	566	672	7	1,245	523	707	8	1,238
G	2,300	2,231	21	4,552	2,128	2,276	31	4,435	1,987	2,280	31	4,298
H	250	317	20	587	207	337	25	569	216	347	26	589
I	804	693	4	1,501	774	764	6	1,544	794	790	6	1,590
J	59	639	15	713	48	728	19	795	44	741	19	804
K	10	581	17	608	14	679	19	712	11	705	24	740
L	98	598	5	701	72	622	5	699	68	634	5	707
M	573	1,324	21	1,918	523	1,454	26	2,003	480	1,474	27	1,981
N	148	632	23	803	127	684	25	836	129	727	25	881
P	99	137	49	285	88	145	54	287	97	151	53	301
Q	131	94	59	284	144	101	65	310	151	104	64	319
R	86	293	94	473	76	321	106	503	83	318	106	507
S	543	91	92	726	529	93	138	760	534	96	141	771
T	c	-	-	c	c	-	-	c	c	-	-	c
U	-	c	-	c	-	c	-	c	-	c	-	c
Total	6,500	9,046	441	15,987	5,944	9,710	539	16,193	5,709	9,910	548	16,167

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¹ Refer to Table 1

² Refer to Methodological Note 5

The time series data from year 2016 onwards is available in the MS Excel sheet published with this news release.

Table 6. Structure of employers by year, employment size and NACE

NACE Section ¹	2018					2019					2020 ^P				
	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	334	c	c	-	344	260	c	c	-	270	227	c	c	-	239
B	20	7	-	-	27	20	6	-	-	26	17	8	-	-	25
C	828	239	59	14	1,140	789	255	56	13	1,113	772	252	57	14	1,095
D	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	c	-	c	c	c	c	-	c
E	67	c	-	c	78	63	c	-	c	77	57	c	c	c	71
F	1,082	129	c	c	1,237	1,068	148	25	4	1,245	1,048	159	27	4	1,238
G	3,917	537	95	3	4,552	3,744	586	102	3	4,435	3,645	549	101	3	4,298
H	443	115	21	8	587	413	127	20	9	569	436	126	17	10	589
I	1,141	300	51	9	1,501	1,152	328	55	9	1,544	1,205	324	54	7	1,590
J	558	125	24	6	713	626	136	27	6	795	623	150	25	6	804
K	472	106	23	7	608	559	120	26	7	712	578	126	29	7	740
L	668	29	4	-	701	662	33	4	-	699	670	33	4	-	707
M	1,609	266	39	4	1,918	1,642	311	45	5	2,003	1,637	295	44	5	1,981
N	581	151	49	22	803	588	167	60	21	836	612	183	63	23	881
P	178	70	32	5	285	179	71	33	4	287	198	67	31	5	301
Q	175	82	24	3	284	195	86	26	3	310	196	94	25	4	319
R	331	108	27	7	473	345	120	32	6	503	347	125	29	6	507
S	684	37	c	c	726	711	43	c	c	760	713	54	c	c	771
T	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
U	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
Total	13,094	2,322	479	92	15,987	13,021	2,561	519	92	16,193	12,988	2,569	514	96	16,167

c confidential

^P Data for 2020 is to be considered as provisional¹ Refer to Table 1

The time series data from year 2016 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 2016 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. Data for 2020 is to be considered as provisional.
9. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical concepts: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_B4/Business_Registers/Pages/Business-Demography.aspx
Classifications: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE%20Rev.%202>
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.

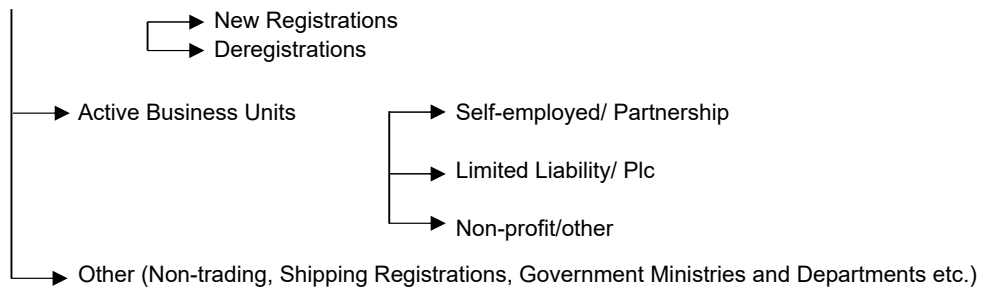
Part-time workers, seasonal workers, persons on strike or on short-term leave are all considered employees, while volunteers or workers on long-term leave are excluded.

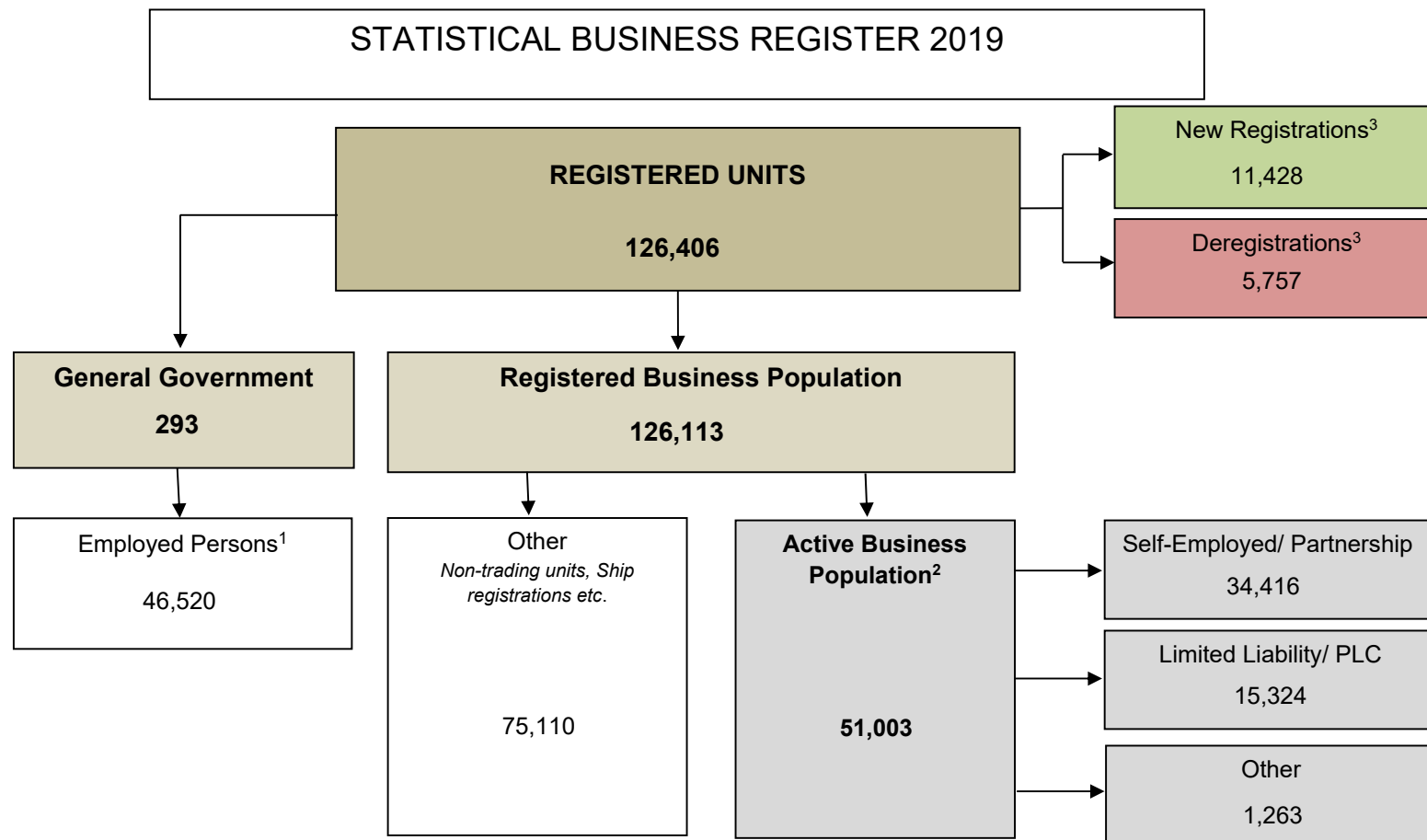
Employers refer to businesses with more than one employee.

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	47,829	71,893
10 - 49	2,562	50,582
50 - 249	520	52,464
250+	92	50,556