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Teaching English as a Foreign Language: 2022

NR087/2023

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Errata: 08 June 2023

Errata Corrige: A mistake was detected in Table 5, in the data illustrated for General English Standard, Intensive English and English specific purposes. As a result, the third salient point, fourth paragraph in the commentary and Chart 3 were also updated. Online documents were amended on 8 June 2023 at 09:00 hrs.

In 2022, foreign students attending English language courses at local licensed English Language Teaching (ELT) schools amounted to 56,675, marking an increase of 28,822 over 2021.



The majority of students attending English language courses in Malta came from Italy (16.3 per cent), followed by France (13.1 per cent) and Germany (12.6 per cent). Overall, 70.5 per cent of total students originated from an EU country (Table 1).

The largest share of language students fell within the 15 and under age bracket, accounting for 24.1 per cent of the total students following ELT courses. Students aged 50 and over were in the minority and numbered 4,639. Female students outnumbered males, and accounted for 62.3 per cent of the entire ELT student population (Table 2 and 3).

July was the busiest month for local licensed ELT schools for courses attendance, accounting for 21.6 per cent of the annual total. August and October followed at 17.5 and 9.7 per cent respectively (Table 4).

The most popular course uptake in local licensed ELT schools was 'General English: Standard', whereby a total of 39,351 students, or 69.4 per cent opted for this course. This was followed by the 'Intensive English' courses, with 20.7 per cent of total students (Table 5).

Foreign students enrolled in local licensed ELT schools accounted for 246,314 student weeks. The absolute majority of courses (99.3 per cent of total student weeks) were held physically while online courses accounted for only 0.7 per cent. The average number of student weeks during the year under review stood at 4.3, a decrease of 0.6 compared to previous year (Table 7). With an average of 14.5 weeks, students from Colombia recorded the highest number of student weeks, followed by South Korean and Chilean students with average student weeks at 13.3 and 13.1 weeks respectively (Table 8 and 9).

In 2022, teaching and academic staff in local licensed ELT schools numbered 618, with the largest proportion (26.2 per cent) being in 55 and over age group. Female teachers accounted for 69.7 per cent of the total (Table 10). Non-teaching staff amounted to 511, of whom 65.8 per cent were employed on a full-time basis (Table 10 and 11).

Table 1. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by year, sex and country of citizenship

Country of citizenship	2021			2022		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Italy	2,200	2,713	4,913	3,829	5,416	9,245
France	1,826	2,338	4,164	2,782	4,645	7,427
Poland	914	2,482	3,396	1,237	3,041	4,278
Germany	1,474	1,622	3,096	2,770	4,399	7,169
Spain	807	1,118	1,925	1,291	1,820	3,111
Czech Republic	336	664	1,000	626	1,464	2,090
Belgium	289	317	606	169	364	533
Austria	134	163	297	936	1,389	2,325
Slovakia	104	180	284	261	473	734
Hungary	107	172	279	310	511	821
Other EU countries	421	870	1,291	555	1,662	2,217
Total EU	8,612	12,639	21,251	14,766	25,184	39,950
Japan	653	868	1,521	916	2,113	3,029
Switzerland	549	632	1,181	588	797	1,385
Colombia	507	605	1,112	1,583	2,040	3,623
Turkey	549	274	823	893	567	1,460
South Korea	173	356	529	240	904	1,144
Russia	61	116	177	235	430	665
Brazil	45	110	155	669	1,419	2,088
China	69	78	147	132	162	294
Chile	69	65	134	106	184	290
Ukraine	33	66	99	139	293	432
Other Non-EU countries	319	350	669	1,084	1,231	2,315
Total Non-EU	3,027	3,520	6,547	6,585	10,140	16,725
Unspecified	24	31	55	-	-	-
Total	11,663	16,190	27,853	21,351	35,324	56,675

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

Table 2. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by age group and country of citizenship for the top 10 countries and other countries: 2022

Country of citizenship	Age group						Total
	15 and under	16-17	18-25	26-35	36-49	50 and over	
Italy	3,434	2,733	1,292	482	626	678	9,245
France	2,338	1,465	1,954	498	640	532	7,427
Germany	2,213	1,325	1,131	630	838	1,032	7,169
Poland	1,422	645	265	321	1,075	550	4,278
Colombia	25	171	1,122	1,646	593	66	3,623
Spain	615	506	926	355	431	278	3,111
Japan	235	197	1,776	503	211	107	3,029
Austria	814	972	322	27	90	100	2,325
Czech Republic	495	470	274	145	473	233	2,090
Brazil	36	51	588	846	385	182	2,088
Other countries ²	2,041	1,513	3,783	2,318	1,754	881	12,290
Total	13,668	10,048	13,433	7,771	7,116	4,639	56,675

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

² Includes unspecified country of citizenship.

Table 3. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by year, sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
15 and under	2,279	5,344	3,744	8,324	6,023	13,668
16-17	2,076	3,838	2,667	6,210	4,743	10,048
18-25	3,798	5,382	3,754	8,051	7,552	13,433
26-35	1,491	3,036	2,080	4,735	3,571	7,771
36-49	1,219	2,315	2,450	4,801	3,669	7,116
50 and over	800	1,436	1,495	3,203	2,295	4,639
Total	11,663	21,351	16,190	35,324	27,853	56,675

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

Table 4. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by year, sex and month²

Month	Males		Females		Total	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
January	606	247	590	308	1,196	555
February	391	467	459	785	850	1,252
March	396	779	389	1,113	785	1,892
April	378	1,574	448	2,377	826	3,951
May	566	1,417	606	2,008	1,172	3,425
June	2,132	1,436	3,291	2,501	5,423	3,937
July	2,856	4,374	4,427	7,887	7,283	12,261
August	933	3,554	1,559	6,346	2,492	9,900
September	923	1,916	1,233	3,211	2,156	5,127
October	1,241	1,980	1,734	3,523	2,975	5,503
November	633	1,163	829	1,961	1,462	3,124
December	257	2,316	280	3,125	537	5,441
Remote learning	351	128	345	179	696	307
Total	11,663	21,351	16,190	35,324	27,853	56,675

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

² Refer to methodological note 4.

Table 5. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by type of course and country of citizenship: 2022

Country of citizenship	Type of course					Total
	General English: Standard	General English: Small	Intensive English	English specific purposes ²	Other ³	
Italy	546	17	7,337	998	347	9,245
France	178	17	4,931	1,948	353	7,427
Poland	101	66	2,888	809	414	4,278
Germany	345	81	3,716	2,501	526	7,169
Spain	39	5	2,337	539	191	3,111
Japan	37	3	2,272	604	113	3,029
Switzerland	27	12	721	478	147	1,385
Colombia	99	1	2,541	774	208	3,623
Czech Republic	48	26	1,380	492	144	2,090
Turkey	18	-	1,193	182	67	1,460
Belgium	1	-	305	218	9	533
South Korea	22	-	838	197	87	1,144
Austria	101	10	2,072	98	44	2,325
Slovakia	23	2	448	158	103	734
Hungary	15	2	514	235	55	821
Sweden	3	1	388	56	16	464
Netherlands	51	4	303	94	43	495
Denmark	1	-	168	25	2	196
Russia	13	9	394	155	94	665
Portugal	2	-	176	92	15	285
Other countries ⁴	202	24	4,429	1,081	460	6,196
Total	1,872	280	39,351	11,734	3,438	56,675

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

² Includes business English.

³ Includes exam preparation courses, one-to-one lessons, combination of courses, and other courses.

⁴ Includes unspecified country of citizenship.

Table 6. Foreign students following courses¹ in local licensed ELT schools by sex and type of accommodation: 2022

Type of accommodation	Males	Females	Total²
Hotel	4,019	6,029	10,048
5 Star	99	99	198
4 Star	2,200	3,136	5,336
3 Star	1,357	1,999	3,356
Hostel / Residence / Guesthouse	5,676	9,897	15,573
Host family	3,705	6,692	10,397
Holiday Furnished Premises (HFP)	1,088	1,743	2,831
Accommodation not provided by the school	6,087	9,732	15,819
Other	-	-	-
Unknown	776	1,231	2,007
Total	21,351	35,324	56,675

¹ Some courses were held remotely.

² Refers to bookings made.

Table 7. Number of student weeks by sex, year and month¹

Month	Number of student weeks			Average number of student weeks per student ²		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	2022					
January	3,409	4,312	7,721	13.8	14.0	13.9
February	4,415	6,075	10,490	9.5	7.7	8.4
March	6,118	8,267	14,386	7.9	7.4	7.6
April	7,479	10,552	18,031	4.8	4.4	4.6
May	7,930	11,842	19,772	5.6	5.9	5.8
June	8,676	13,467	22,143	6.0	5.4	5.6
July	14,519	24,242	38,760	3.3	3.1	3.2
August	12,185	19,451	31,636	3.4	3.1	3.2
September	8,478	13,176	21,653	4.4	4.1	4.2
October	9,340	14,684	24,024	4.7	4.2	4.4
November	8,149	12,022	20,172	7.0	6.1	6.5
December	6,679	9,042	15,721	2.9	2.9	2.9
Remote learning	737	1,068	1,805	5.8	6.0	5.9
Total	98,115	148,199	246,314	4.6	4.2	4.3
	2021					
January	6,442	7,031	13,473	10.6	11.9	11.3
February	4,267	6,837	11,104	10.9	14.9	13.1
March	4,135	4,388	8,523	10.4	11.3	10.9
April	4,407	4,927	9,334	11.7	11.0	11.3
May	4,432	4,951	9,383	7.8	8.2	8.0
June	8,086	11,810	19,896	3.8	3.6	3.7
July	8,804	15,032	23,837	3.1	3.4	3.3
August	3,645	5,652	9,297	3.9	3.6	3.7
September	4,762	6,442	11,205	5.2	5.2	5.2
October	5,860	6,835	12,695	4.7	3.9	4.3
November	2,239	2,629	4,868	3.5	3.2	3.3
December	478	569	1,048	1.9	2.0	2.0
Remote learning	1,280	1,164	2,444	3.6	3.4	3.5
Total	58,839	78,268	137,108	5.0	4.8	4.9

¹ Refer to methodological note 4.

² Based on student figures as presented in Table 4.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 8. Number of student weeks by age group and country of citizenship: 2022

Country of citizenship	Age group						Total
	15 and under	16-17	18-25	26-35	36-49	50 and over	
Italy	5,188	4,812	4,379	1,920	1,505	1,009	18,814
France	4,239	3,672	10,059	1,505	1,089	888	21,453
Poland	2,289	1,214	613	667	1,880	992	7,655
Germany	4,195	2,775	3,523	1,320	1,340	1,804	14,957
Spain	1,301	1,394	4,370	1,605	1,318	653	10,642
Japan	678	848	16,644	4,874	1,717	678	25,441
Switzerland	517	658	2,328	476	550	605	5,134
Colombia	242	2,442	17,110	24,815	7,512	558	52,678
Czech Republic	1,046	1,105	707	295	832	454	4,437
Turkey	298	224	7,426	4,656	1,340	197	14,142
Belgium	128	572	1,120	79	110	25	2,034
South Korea	112	60	8,168	4,583	1,639	652	15,214
Austria	1,209	1,166	433	61	178	193	3,239
Slovakia	405	364	294	281	382	151	1,879
Hungary	354	299	244	182	374	263	1,715
Sweden	567	284	226	38	57	50	1,221
Netherlands	98	498	884	30	29	47	1,586
Denmark	309	57	53	-	2	27	449
Russia	369	203	465	896	635	149	2,717
Portugal	27	117	568	222	121	25	1,079
Other countries	2,032	2,202	11,965	14,154	7,128	2,348	39,828
Total	25,603	24,967	91,579	62,661	29,737	11,767	246,314

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 9. Number of student weeks by sex and country of citizenship: 2022

Country of citizenship	Number of student weeks			Average number of student weeks per student ¹		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Italy	8,332	10,481	18,814	2.2	1.9	2.0
France	8,566	12,887	21,453	3.1	2.8	2.9
Poland	2,328	5,327	7,655	1.9	1.8	1.8
Germany	5,927	9,030	14,957	2.1	2.1	2.1
Spain	4,406	6,235	10,642	3.4	3.4	3.4
Czech Republic	1,386	3,051	4,437	2.2	2.1	2.1
Belgium	710	1,324	2,034	4.2	3.6	3.8
Austria	1,341	1,899	3,239	1.4	1.4	1.4
Slovakia	700	1,179	1,879	2.7	2.5	2.6
Hungary	669	1,046	1,715	2.2	2.0	2.1
Other EU countries	1,768	4,335	6,102	3.2	2.6	2.8
Total EU	36,132	56,794	92,927	2.4	2.3	2.3
Japan	7,623	17,818	25,441	8.3	8.4	8.4
Switzerland	2,145	2,989	5,134	3.6	3.7	3.7
Colombia	23,359	29,319	52,678	14.8	14.4	14.5
Turkey	8,869	5,273	14,142	9.9	9.3	9.7
South Korea	3,386	11,828	15,214	14.1	13.1	13.3
Russia	878	1,839	2,717	3.7	4.3	4.1
Brazil	3,655	7,228	10,883	5.5	5.1	5.2
China	1,159	1,744	2,903	8.8	10.8	9.9
Chile	1,390	2,401	3,791	13.1	13.0	13.1
Ukraine	629	1,244	1,873	4.5	4.2	4.3
Other Non-EU countries	8,889	9,721	18,611	8.2	7.9	8.0
Total Non-EU	61,982	91,405	153,387	9.4	9.0	9.2
Unspecified	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	98,115	148,199	246,314	4.6	4.2	4.3

¹ Based on student figures as presented in Table 1.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 10. Staff¹ employed in local licensed ELT schools by sex, type of employment and age group: 2022

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	Teaching/Academic staff		
16-17	-	-	-
18-24	26	101	127
25-34	49	97	146
35-44	33	67	100
45-54	31	52	83
55 and over	48	114	162
Total	187	431	618
Non-teaching staff			
16-17	4	4	8
18-24	82	106	188
25-34	54	87	141
35-44	30	47	77
45-54	23	31	54
55 and over	25	18	43
Total	218	293	511
Total			
16-17	4	4	8
18-24	108	207	315
25-34	103	184	287
35-44	63	114	177
45-54	54	83	137
55 and over	73	132	205
Total	405	724	1,129

¹ Refer to methodological note 5.

Note: For type of employment, teaching and non-teaching staff definitions see methodological note 8.

Table 11. Staff¹ in local licensed ELT schools by sex and type of employment: 2022

Type of employment	Teaching/Academic staff			Non-teaching staff			Total		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Full-time	42	95	137	131	205	336	173	300	473
Part-time	54	92	146	17	20	37	71	112	183
Casual	91	244	335	70	68	138	161	312	473
Total	187	431	618	218	293	511	405	724	1,129
Full-time	22.5	22.0	22.2	60.1	70.0	65.8	42.7	41.4	41.9
Part-time	28.9	21.3	23.6	7.8	6.8	7.2	17.5	15.5	16.2
Casual	48.7	56.6	54.2	32.1	23.2	27.0	39.8	43.1	41.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Refer to methodological note 5.

Note: For type of employment, teaching and non-teaching staff definitions see methodological note 8.

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Methodological Notes

1. Data used in this News Release is based on information collected by the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation which was subsequently analysed by NSO.
2. Data was collected by the ELT Council during the period December 2021-February 2022. All local licensed English Language Teaching (ELT) schools operating in 2020 responded to this questionnaire. A full list of ELT schools can be accessed [here](#).
3. Breakdowns by country are based on the students' citizenship as provided by the student. Thus, figures for foreign citizens are not directly comparable to other tourism figures published by the NSO.
4. In 2021, following disruptions and unprecedented scenarios due to COVID-19, foreign students attended both physical courses in Malta, as well as online courses.
5. For the scope of this release 'teaching/academic staff' includes all ELT permit holders. Staff employed with different schools carrying out the same role are counted once.
6. Figures on type of course followed and type of accommodation cannot be compared with data of previous years due to methodological enhancements held in 2020.
7. **Definitions:**
 - ELT schools** refer to institutions which provide English-related courses for foreign students. More information can be accessed [here](#).
 - Teaching/Academic staff** refer to professional personnel directly involved in teaching students, including teachers, assistant teachers, ELT instructors and other ELT permit holders.
 - Non-Teaching staff** refer to persons employed by educational institutions who have no instructional responsibilities, and do not hold an ELT permit. Examples are school management staff, front office staff, group leaders, administration staff, sales, marketing and reservations staff.
 - Full-time employment:** includes employed persons on a full-time basis.
 - Part-time employment:** includes employed persons whose normal hours are less than those of comparable full-time workers.
 - Casual employment:** includes temporary workers, working irregular hours, who are employed on a part-time basis.
8. Number of student weeks by foreign students is calculated as follows: total number of days divided by seven.
9. Average number of student weeks per student is calculated as follows: total number of weeks divided by total number of students.
10. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
11. For further assistance send your request through our [online request form](#).
12. A detailed news release calendar is available [online](#).