

# News Release



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## World Book and Copyright Day 2007

*Book loans from branch public libraries in Malta and Gozo in the past six years have been constantly on the increase.*

April 23 is World Book and Copyright Day. To mark this observance, a variety of statistics on books and other print material in Malta is being presented in this news release.

Over the past three years, Malta has imported an annual average of Lm7 million worth of books, journals, newspapers, magazines and other print material. In the same period, Maltese exports in this category have averaged Lm3 million per year, the bulk comprising books, leaflets and brochures but showing an increase in periodicals albeit, with regard to the latter, Malta exports the equivalent of minimal values (Tables 1 and 2).

The number of books borrowed by library users from public libraries dipped by 3.4 per cent in 2005 when compared to 2004 but rose by 2.6 per cent in 2006. In the three-year period under review, book loans from branch public libraries (i.e. units situated in localities) have been constantly on the increase, reflecting perhaps an impetus provided by the ongoing arrangement whereby local councils are assuming administrative responsibility for branch libraries (Table 3).

In 2006, the largest number of persons who became members of public libraries hailed from the Northern Harbour district, which includes populous localities such as Birkirkara and Qormi (Table 4). Since 2000, the gap between junior and adult new public-library membership has shown signs of narrowing, with less under-18s and more adults becoming members than previously, generally speaking. One contributory factor could be a shift in overall age composition towards a more adult and ageing population (Chart 3).

In the three years under review, private consumers buying in the domestic market spent an annual average of Lm21.5 million on printed material (Table 8). Chart 4 shows an interesting "scissors" divide, over the past six years or so, characterising the purchase of books and that of newspapers, magazines and other periodicals ■

**Theme:**  
**Population & Social  
Conditions**

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The monthly calendar of NSO News Releases may be consulted on the Office's website at [www.nso.gov.mt](http://www.nso.gov.mt)

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**Table 1a. Value of imports of printed-book material**

Year	Lm 000s
2004	2,874
2005	2,120
2006	2,137

**Table 1b. Value of imports of print periodicals**

Year	Lm 000s
2004	5,137
2005	4,298
2006	4,380

Note: Book material includes books, brochures and leaflets; print periodicals include newspapers, journals and magazines.

Provisional data

Source: NSO, international trade data

**Table 2a. Value of exports of printed book material**

Year	Lm 000s
2004	2,680
2005	3,057
2006	3,448

**Table 2b. Value of exports of print periodicals**

Year	Lm 000s
2004	9
2005	31
2006	77

Note: Book material includes books, brochures and leaflets; print periodicals include newspapers, journals and magazines.

Provisional data

Source: NSO, international trade data

**Table 3. Public libraries at a glance**

	2004	2005	2006
<b>Book acquisitions</b>	<b>19,669</b>	<b>19,498</b>	<b>19,995</b>
<b>Total new library members</b>	<b>6,671</b>	<b>6,447</b>	<b>5,917</b>
of which:			
Malta	5,840	5,783	5,157
Gozo	831	664	760
<b>Book loans</b>	<b>883,316</b>	<b>853,210</b>	<b>875,270</b>
of which:			
Central Public Library	295,686	277,910	245,678
Regional libraries	202,563	181,552	229,800
Branch libraries - Malta	267,276	277,791	281,911
Gozo Lending Library	67,086	67,831	63,885
Branch libraries - Gozo	50,705	48,126	53,996

Source: National Library of Malta; Gozo Lending Library

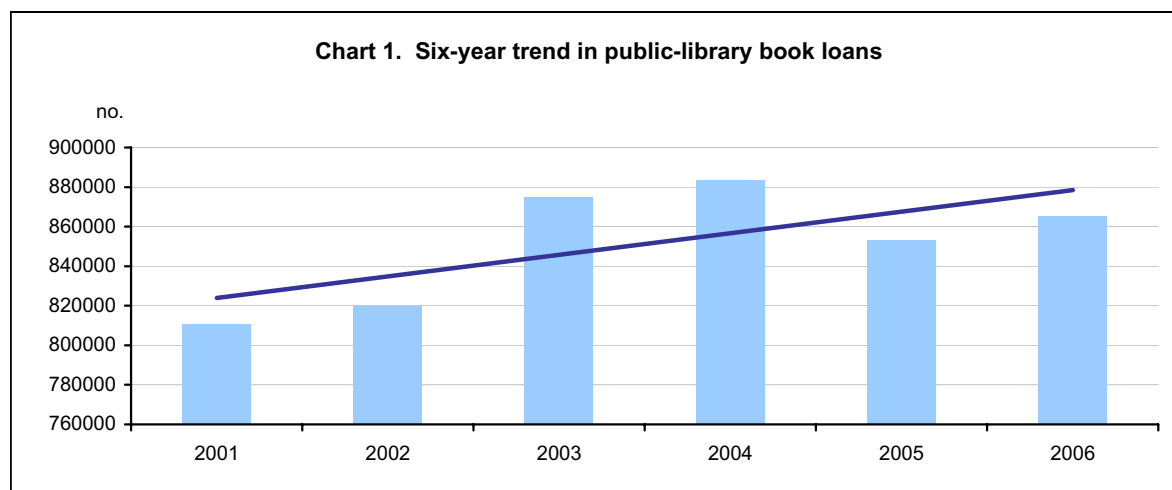
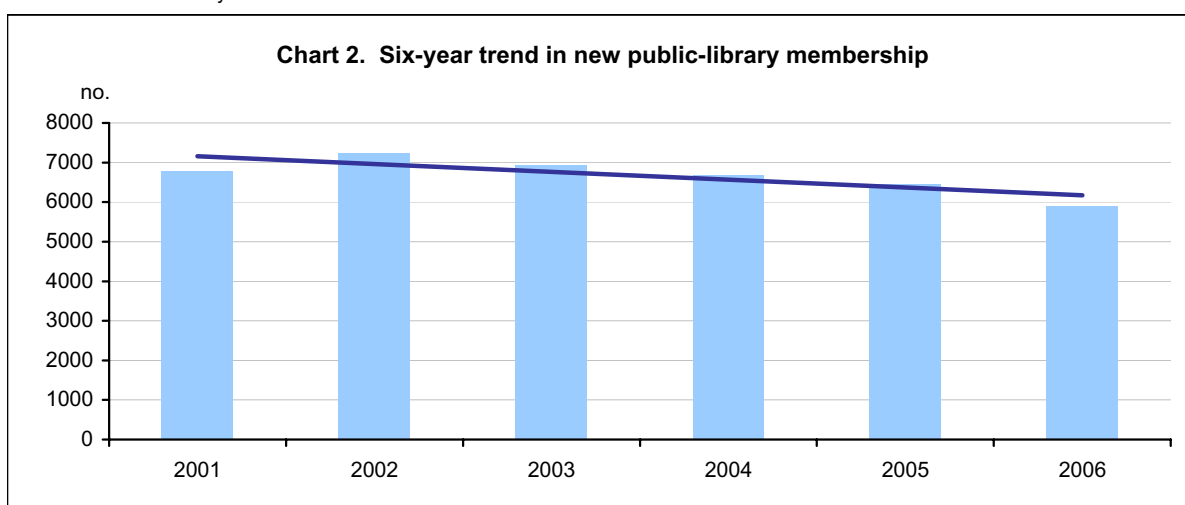


Table 4. New public-library members by district and locality of residence: 2006

District and locality	New members	District and locality	New members
<b>Southern Harbour</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>Northern Harbour</b>	<b>1,451</b>
Cospicua	30	Birkirkara	320
Fgura	158	Gzira	73
Floriana	17	Hamrun	107
Kalkara	31	Msida, Ta' Xbiex and Pietà	113
Luqa	125	Qormi	225
Marsa	38	St. Julians, Pembroke and Swieqi	203
Paola	107	St. Venera	75
Senglea	16	San Gwann	181
Tarxien and Santa Lucija	115	Sliema	154
Valletta	34		
Vittoriosa	41	<b>Western</b>	<b>761</b>
Zabbar	246	Rabat , Mtarfa and Mdina	174
		Dingli	90
<b>South Eastern</b>	<b>1,067</b>	Attard	174
Birzebbugia	129	Balzan, Iklin and Lija	93
Ghaxaq	127	Siggiewi	110
Gudja	117	Zebbug	120
Kirkop	35		
Marsascala	134	<b>Northern</b>	<b>920</b>
Marsaxlokk	86	Gharghur	43
Mqabba	73	Mellieha	117
Qrendi	43	Mgarr	53
Safi	38	Mosta	364
Zejtun	142	Naxxar	160
Zurrieq	143	St. Paul's Bay	183
		<b>Gozo and Comino</b>	<b>760</b>

Note: For the purposes of this table, Fleur de Lys membership is included with St. Venera and not with Birkirkara.

Source: National Library of Malta



**Table 5. New junior members<sup>1</sup> joining the public library system by district of residence**

District	2004	2005	2006
Southern Harbour	622	608	565
Northern Harbour	836	889	766
South Eastern	600	860	636
Western	593	503	424
Northern	684	619	552
Gozo and Comino	:	:	468
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,335</b>	<b>3,479</b>	<b>3,411</b>

<sup>1</sup> Up to 18 years of age

: Not available

Note: For Gozo the junior/adult breakdown is available from 2006.

Source: National Library of Malta; Gozo Lending Library

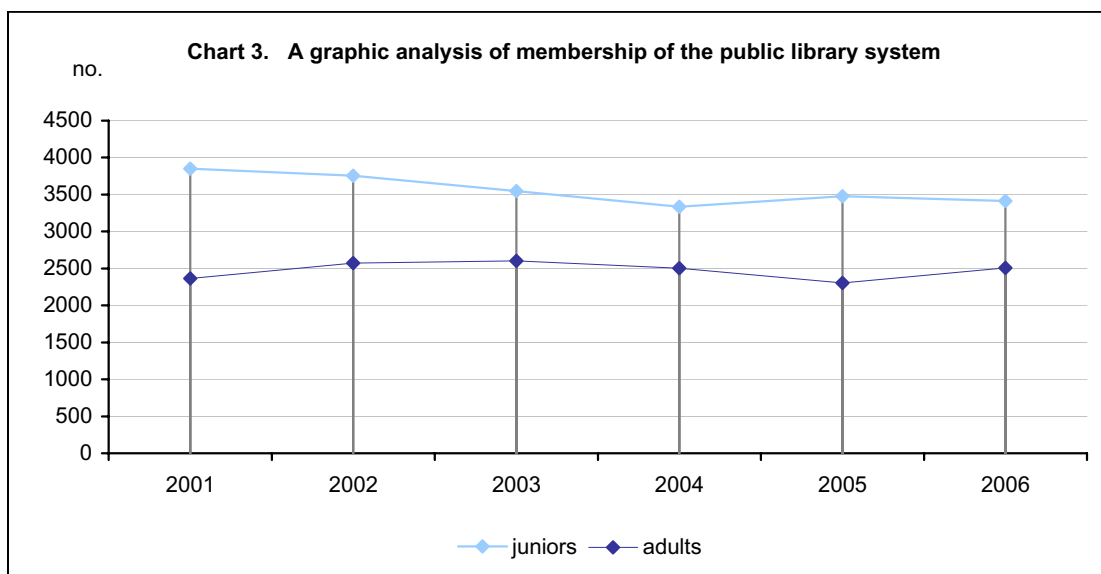
**Table 6. New adult members joining the public library system by district of residence**

District	2004	2005	2006
Southern Harbour	487	432	393
Northern Harbour	698	645	685
South Eastern	420	455	431
Western	435	345	337
Northern	465	427	368
Gozo and Comino	:	:	292
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,505</b>	<b>2,304</b>	<b>2,506</b>

: Not available

Note: For Gozo the adult/junior breakdown is available from 2006.

Source: National Library of Malta; Gozo Lending Library



**Table 7. Books and periodicals received at the National Library of Malta under Legal Deposit**

	2004	2005	2006
Books	426	692	673
Periodicals	723	731	496

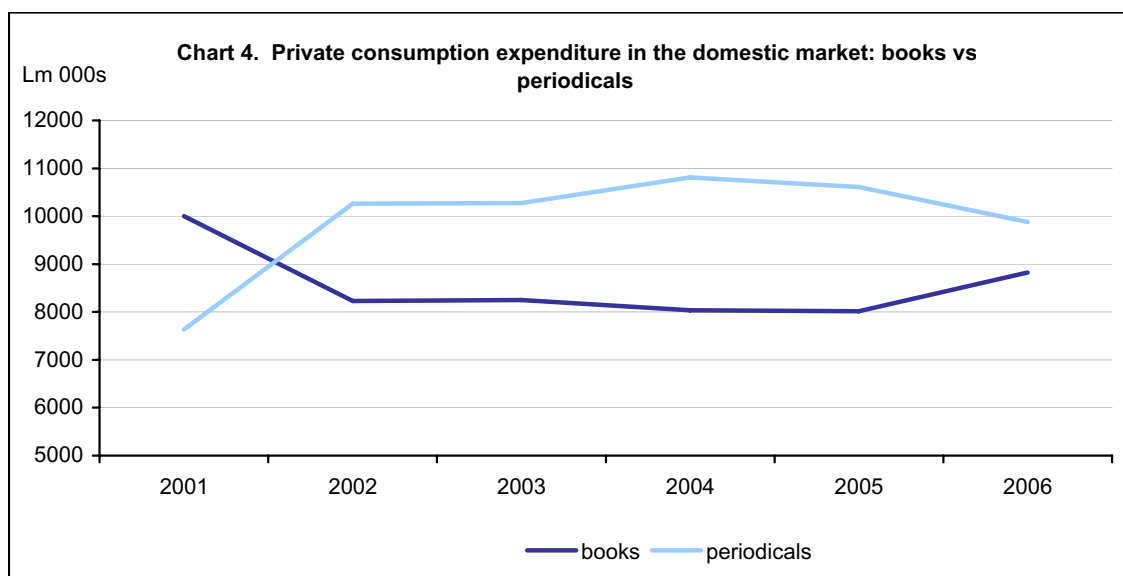
Note: From 2006 onwards, the periodical list shows only active titles. An inactive periodical is one that has ceased publication and as such, is no longer submitted under Legal Deposit to the National Library.

**Table 8. Private final consumption expenditure in the domestic market**

	2004	2005	2006
	Lm 000s		
<b>Total private final consumption expenditure</b>	<b>1,422,774</b>	<b>1,473,087</b>	<b>1,521,040</b>
of which:			
Books	8,034	8,014	8,827
Newspapers and periodicals	10,809	10,609	9,880
Miscellaneous printed matter	2,499	2,823	2,875
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,342</b>	<b>21,446</b>	<b>21,582</b>
% spent on printed materials	1.50	1.46	1.42

Provisional data

Source: NSO, national accounts data



## NUTS classification

The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) is a common classification that is used to provide a single uniform breakdown of territorial units for the production of regional statistics with regard to the European Union. It was adopted on 26 May 2003 by means of a Regulation<sup>1</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council.

<sup>1</sup> (EC) No. 1059/2003

NUTS levels					
Administrative area	I (National)	II (National)	III (Regional)	IV (District)	V (Locality)
<b>MALTA</b>	x	x	x	x	x
Malta			x		
Gozo & Comino			x		
Southern Harbour				x	
Northern Harbour				x	
South Eastern				x	
Western				x	
Northern				x	
Gozo & Comino				x	

### COMPOSITION OF DISTRICTS - NUTS level V

- Southern Harbour:** Valletta, Birgu, Isla, Bormla, Zabbar, Fgura, Floriana, Kalkara, Luqa, Marsa Paola, Santa Lucija, Tarxien, Xghajra.
- Northern Harbour:** Qormi, B'Kara, Gzira, Hamrun, Msida, Pembroke, Pietà, St. Julians, San Gwann, St. Venera, Sliema, Swieqi, Ta' Xbiex.
- South Eastern:** Zejtun, B'Bugia, Gudja, Ghaxaq, Kirkop, M'Scala, M'Xlokk, Mqabba, Qrendi, Safi, Zurrieq.
- Western:** Mdina, Zebbug, Siggiewi, Attard, Balzan, Dingli, Iklin, Lija, Rabat, Mtarfa.
- Northern:** Gharghur, Mellieha, Mgarr, Mosta, Naxxar, St. Paul's Bay.
- Gozo and Comino:** Rabat, Fontana, Gghajnsielem & Comino, Gharb, Ghasri, Kercem, Munxar, Nadur, Qala, San Lawrenz, Sannat, Xaghra, Xewkija, Zebbug.