

**Census of Population and Housing 2011**  
**National Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS)**  
**Compiling agency: National Statistics Office (NSO)**  
**Time Dimension: 2011**  
**Data Flow: MALTA\_CENSUSES\_A**

Concept name	
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2 Metadata update	
2.1 Metadata last certified	30/06/2014
2.2 Metadata last posted	30/06/2014
2.3 Metadata last update	30/06/2014
3 Statistical presentation	
3.1 Data description	The Census of Population and Housing is a form of national stocktaking which provides a complete count of the population and living quarters. It is one of the oldest and most reliable sources of information about the count, characteristics, composition and condition of the population in a country. The Census covers a wide spectrum of variables including the size of the population, age structure, citizenships and nationalities, educational attainment, economic activity, disability, housing, and household amenities as well as other

	<p>major socio-economic characteristics. Census results influence a number of aspects of Maltese life: public policy-making; options and decisions of families and households; choices made by the elderly; initiatives and investments by the business sector and streams of research and development.</p>
<p>3.2 Classification system</p>	<p>Classification used in the census include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geographical classifications: NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) and Malta Geographical Codes (MGC);</li> <li>• ISCED (International Standard Classification of Education);</li> <li>• ISCO-08 (International Standard Classification of Occupations);</li> <li>• NACE Rev. 2 (Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community).</li> </ul>
<p>3.3 Coverage - sector</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions</p>	<p>The following is a list of some of the main topics as required by Regulation (EC) No 763/2008:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Usual residence means the place where a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences. Temporarily absent persons usually reside in the place of enumeration but are absent, or expected to be absent, at the time of the census for less than one year. Temporarily absent persons are included in the total population.</li> <li>2) Marital status is the most recently acquired legal conjugal status. Civil unions entered into Maltese law in April 2014, therefore up to census night, it was not possible to identify registered partnership as the legal status for persons living in consensual unions. Similarly, same-sex marriage was not yet recognised in Malta either. For this reason, same-sex married couples residing in Malta who were enumerated in the 2011 Census had to acquire their legal marital status from a foreign state. The minimum age permitted by the Laws of Malta for a person to get married is 16 years. A law allowing divorce under certain conditions was enacted in Malta in 2011, and Maltese legislation includes the provision for the legal separation of married partners.</li> <li>3) Family nucleus is defined as two or more persons who belong to the same household and who are related as husband and wife, as partners in a registered partnership, as partners in a consensual union, or as parent and child. Thus, a family comprises a couple without children, a couple with one or more children, or a lone parent with one or more children. This family concept limits relationships between children and adults to relationships parents and children.</li> <li>4) Household status is defined for Maltese private households according to the housekeeping concept, identifying both private households and occupied dwellings. Relationships between household members could be defined using the relation to the reference person as well as a simplified relationship matrix outlining each members spouse, cohabiting partner, mother and father.</li> <li>5) Current activity status is the current relationship of a person to economic activity, based on a reference period of one week, which may be either a specified, recent, fixed, calendar week, or the last complete calendar week, or the last seven days prior to enumeration.</li> <li>6) Occupation refers to the type of work done in a job (that is the main tasks and duties of the work). Persons doing more than one job are allocated an occupation based on their main job, which is identified according to the time spent on the job or, if not available, to the income received.</li> <li>7) Industry (branch of economic activity) is the kind of production or activity of the establishment (or similar unit) in which the job of a currently economically active person is located. Persons doing more than one job shall be allocated an industry (branch of economic activity) based on their main job, which is to be identified according to the time spent on the job or (if not available) the income received.</li> </ol>

	<p>8) Educational attainment refers to the highest level successfully completed in the educational system of the country where the education was received. All education which is relevant to the completion of a level is taken into account even if this was provided outside schools and universities.</p> <p>9) Place of birth is defined as the place of usual residence of the mother at the time of the birth, or, if not available, as the place in which the birth took place.</p> <p>10) Citizenship is defined as the particular legal bond between an individual and his/her State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, whether by declaration, option, marriage or other means according to the national legislation.</p> <p>11) Housing arrangements refers to the type of housing in which a person usually resides at the time of the census. This covers all persons who are usual residents in different types of living quarters, or who do not have a usual residence and stay temporarily in some type of living quarters, or who are roofless, sleeping rough or in emergency shelters, when the census is taken.</p> <p>12) Tenure status of households refers to the arrangements under which a private household occupies all or part of a housing unit.</p>
3.5 Statistical unit	The EU programme for the 2011 population and housing censuses include data on persons, private households, family nuclei, conventional dwellings and living quarters.
3.6 Statistical population	Persons enumerated in the 2011 census are those who were usually resident in the territory of the reporting country at the census reference date. Usual residence means the place where a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences for purposes of recreation, holidays, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage.
3.7 Reference area	Data are available at different levels of geographical detail: national, NUTS2, NUTS3 and local administrative units (LAU2).
3.8 Coverage - Time	Data refer to the situation in Malta at the census reference date (namely 20 November 2011).
3.9 Base period	The base year is 2011.
4 Unit of measure	Persons, Families, Households, Occupied Dwellings, Unoccupied dwellings (completely vacant and dwellings for seasonal or secondary use) are all recorded in absolute amounts.
5 Reference Period	20/11/2011.
6 Institutional Mandate	
6.1 Institutional Mandate - legal acts and other agreements	Common reminder of EU legislation.
6.2 Institutional Mandate - data sharing	Standard text on data ownership by Eurostat.
7 Confidentiality	

7.1 Confidentiality - policy	<p>Article 3(3) together with Article 2(8) of Regulation (EU) No 519/2010 stipulate that Member States can replace a numerical cell value by the special value not available if the numerical cell value must not be disclosed to protect the statistical confidentiality of the data in accordance with the Member States statistical disclosure control. The statistical disclosure policy employed at the NSO may be viewed here: <a href="http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/About_NS0/Documents/NSO_Policies/Confidentiality_of_personal_and_commercial_data.pdf">http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/About_NS0/Documents/NSO_Policies/Confidentiality_of_personal_and_commercial_data.pdf</a>.</p> <p>No statistical disclosure control was applied on census for the treating of statistical confidentiality of data transmitted to Eurostat.</p>
7.2 Confidentiality - data treatment	<p>All information that was collected during the Census is strictly confidential. Any breach of confidentiality by any third party renders him/her liable to a fine and/or imprisonment in terms of the Census Act of 1948. The statistical disclosure policy employed at the NSO may be viewed here: <a href="http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/About_NS0/Documents/NSO_Policies/Confidentiality_of_personal_and_commercial_data.pdf">http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/About_NS0/Documents/NSO_Policies/Confidentiality_of_personal_and_commercial_data.pdf</a>.</p> <p>No statistical disclosure control was applied on census for the treating of statistical confidentiality of data transmitted to Eurostat.</p>
8 Release policy	
8.1 Release calendar	<p>Data are made available 27 months after the end of the reference period (March 2014).</p> <p>All news releases published by the NSO are disseminated at 1100 hrs as scheduled in the Advance Release Calendar. The calendar is published on the NSO website and includes a three-month advance notice.</p>
8.2 Release calendar access	<p>The NSO News Release Calendar may be viewed here: <a href="http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Releases-Calendar.aspx">http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Releases-Calendar.aspx</a>.</p>
8.3 Release policy - user access	<p>The general public is informed about any news releases of data through press information notices. A number of publications and press releases outlining the Census results are also made available to the public in due course in various forms, including two publications and a series of press releases.</p>
9 Frequency of dissemination	<p>Data on population and housing censuses are disseminated every decade.</p>
10 Dissemination format	
10.1 Dissemination format - News release	<p>News releases on census data are issued sporadically. These news releases are available on the NSO website and can be accessed through: <a href="http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_01/Methodology_and_Research/Pages/Census-in-Malta.aspx">http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_01/Methodology_and_Research/Pages/Census-in-Malta.aspx</a>.</p>
10.2 Dissemination format - Publications	<p>A preliminary report outlining the main population characteristics is normally issued within a couple of months after the launch of the census. A series of publications based on the final set of data for persons and dwellings are normally published one year later in a final report.</p> <p>Both the preliminary and the final report in relation to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing are available on the NSO website and can be accessed through: <a href="http://nso.gov.mt/en/publicatons/Publications_by_Unit/Pages/01-Methodology-and-Research.aspx">http://nso.gov.mt/en/publicatons/Publications_by_Unit/Pages/01-Methodology-and-Research.aspx</a>.</p>
10.3 Dissemination	<p>Census microdata is not available through the NSO on-line database (known as StatDb).</p>

format - online database	
10.4 Dissemination format - microdata access	Anonymised Census microdata may be available for research purposes upon request. This may be requested through the NSO website: <a href="http://nso.gov.mt/en/Pages/NSO-Home.aspx">http://nso.gov.mt/en/Pages/NSO-Home.aspx</a> .
10.5 Dissemination format - other	No other dissemination means are utilised.
11 Accessibility of documentation	
11.1 Documentation on methodology	Meta-information about the census is included in all census publications, which are available on the NSO website. These publications can be viewed here: <a href="http://nso.gov.mt/en/publicatons/Publications_by_Unit/Pages/01-Methodology-and-Research.aspx">http://nso.gov.mt/en/publicatons/Publications_by_Unit/Pages/01-Methodology-and-Research.aspx</a> .
11.2 Quality management - documentation	Quality-related issues pertaining to the census are included in all census publications, which are available on the NSO website. These publications can be viewed here: <a href="http://nso.gov.mt/en/publicatons/Publications_by_Unit/Pages/01-Methodology-and-Research.aspx">http://nso.gov.mt/en/publicatons/Publications_by_Unit/Pages/01-Methodology-and-Research.aspx</a> .
12 Quality management	
12.1 Quality assurance	Quality-related issues pertaining to the census are included in all census publications, which are available on the NSO website. These publications can be viewed here: <a href="http://nso.gov.mt/en/publicatons/Publications_by_Unit/Pages/01-Methodology-and-Research.aspx">http://nso.gov.mt/en/publicatons/Publications_by_Unit/Pages/01-Methodology-and-Research.aspx</a> .
12.2 Quality management - assessment	<p>A final coverage rate of 96.2 per cent was observed while item non-response varied according by topic.</p> <p>In order to ensure a high-coverage rate the Census Office made extensive use of a number of in-house and external administrative registers throughout the enumeration process to monitor those individuals and households who did not provide the required information.</p> <p>These registers also played an important role in the post-enumeration process, where the Census Office tried to make contact with those households which did not reply during the census period to assess the overall coverage of the census. Approximately 3.8 per cent of data was retrieved through administrative records. These were identified through the follow-up exercise which was carried out between August and October 2012, where all households where it appeared that some identity number had not been tagged were contacted.</p>
13 Relevance	
13.1 Relevance - User Needs	Census data are intended to provide statistics users with information on the evolution of the main characteristics of population and dwellings. Census data provide the main family, social economic and housing characteristics of persons. These data are necessary for the study and definition of policies and activities such as the promotion of social inclusion.
13.2 Relevance - User Satisfaction	Specific results about user satisfaction of statistics about the 2011 Census of Population and Housing are not available. A general user satisfaction survey was carried out in 2014 for all statistics produced by the NSO. Results about this survey are included in a dedicated news release which can be accessed through:

	<a href="http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_01/Methodology_and_Research/Pages/Census-in-Malta.aspx">http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_01/Methodology_and_Research/Pages/Census-in-Malta.aspx</a> .
13.3 Completeness	All data and metadata to be transmitted to Eurostat to fulfil the requirements of regulation (EC) No 763/2008 have been compiled.
14 Accuracy	
14.1 Accuracy - overall	<p>There are no particular reasons for data unreliability for most of the main topics.</p> <p>For a significant proportion of unoccupied dwellings the 'occupancy status' was unknown and had to be imputed.</p> <p>'Type of building' and 'Period of construction', could not be recorded for unoccupied dwellings. In Malta, data on occupied dwellings is normally collected at source from its members and thus a vast number of variables could be collected. On the other hand, in absence of auxiliary information about the owners of vacant dwellings at micro level, it was not possible to trace the owner(s) of vacant dwellings during the census and therefore certain information such as the number of dwellings inside the building (which is not always evident from outside the building), and period of construction, could not be collected. In fact, information about vacant dwellings was limited to the type of dwelling, state of repair and occupancy status since such information had to be retrieved by the field officers either from third parties (neighbours, etc) or self judgement.</p>
14.2 Sampling error	Not applicable.
14.3 Non-sampling error	Although every effort was made to develop quality assurance throughout the overall census program certain non-sampling errors were still introduced. Potential non-sampling errors could have occurred during the coding, data capture, and editing stages.
15 Timeliness and punctuality	
15.1 Timeliness	Preliminary data (in aggregated form) was published in July 2012, while final data (in aggregated form) was published in January 2014. Final data in hypercube form was provided to Eurostat 27 months after the end of the reference year (2011) as specified in Reg. 1151/2010.
15.2 Punctuality	Date of dissemination coincides with the target date.
16 Comparability	
16.1 Comparability - geographical	<p>Data reported to Eurostat conforms to the eligibility criteria established for all countries. In accordance with regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the definition of 'usual residence' is based on a 12 month reference period, in other words, those included should have lived in their place of usual residence for a continuous period of at least 12 months before the reference date, or arrived in their place of usual residence during the 12 months before the reference date with the intention of staying there for at least one year.</p> <p>There are no particular reasons for lack of comparability between countries.</p>
16.2 Comparability - over time	Not applicable.

17 Coherence	
17.1 Coherence - cross domain	Census data that were transmitted through the different hypercubes that report on persons are fully coherent i.e. Information on the same fact is identical in every hypercube where it appears.
17.2 Coherence - internal	<p>Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of results and to ascertain that Census data are coherent relative to other social statistics. Although the public co-operated throughout the Census period, a number of households where it appeared that some identity card had not been tagged, needed to be followed up. This was possible through the benchmarking of results with administrative registers used by the NSO.</p> <p>Comparison of data between different censuses should be done with caution due to definitions underlying the total enumerated population in a particular census. The same holds when comparing data by region between different censuses, since the boundaries of some of the local councils which identify the localities may have changed over time.</p>
18 Cost and Burden	The total cost associated with the data collection for the census is estimated at 1.48 million.
19 Data revision	
19.1 Data revision - policy	The data revision policy employed at the NSO may be found here: <a href="http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/About_NS0/Documents/NSO_Policies/Revisions_of_Official_Statistics.pdf">http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/About_NS0/Documents/NSO_Policies/Revisions_of_Official_Statistics.pdf</a> .
19.2 Data revision - practice	The terms and conditions under the data revision policy employed at the NSO may be found here: <a href="http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/About_NS0/Documents/NSO_Policies/Revisions_of_Official_Statistics.pdf">http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/About_NS0/Documents/NSO_Policies/Revisions_of_Official_Statistics.pdf</a> .
20 Statistical processing	
20.1 Source data	<p>In Malta, the census was carried out the traditional way (through secondary data sources). For this reason, primary data sources available were only used for verification purposes and to cater for unit non-response. The following databases were particularly used along with other national registers in the post-enumeration exercise to trace any persons who were not enumerated during the initial stages of the Census:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Common Database (CdB)</li> <li>- Electoral Register (ER)</li> <li>- Telephone Registers (local service providers)</li> <li>- Automated Revenue Management Services (ARMS) Databases</li> </ul>
20.2 Frequency of data collection	Data on population and housing censuses are collected every decade, in a reference year that falls during the beginning of every decade.
20.3 Data collection	<p>The Census questionnaire ensured continuation with previous censuses that were carried out in Malta, and conformed to the recommendations, concepts and definitions on population censuses of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and Eurostat. It was prepared in Maltese and English languages after a series of consultation meetings were held with a number of organisations in June and July 2011, and it was also pilot tested among a random sample of households in August 2011.</p> <p>The Census Officer was responsible for the entire Census process and all staff were answerable to him. In this task, he was assisted by Chief Coordinators who ran the Census Office and who, together with a group of District Managers, were responsible for field operations. Each District Manager was responsible for a number of localities to ensure the smooth running of the process, while each Supervisor was responsible for a group of Enumerators. The main task of the Supervisor was to co-ordinate and control the work of Enumerators, who were ultimately responsible for the collection of Census questionnaires from households. Enumerators were also required to check the data provided by households to ensure that</p>

	<p>Census questionnaires were correctly filled in. A number of intensive briefing sessions on all aspects related to the Census were held both in Malta and Gozo in October and November 2011. All Census staff were requested to attend the sessions.</p> <p>In a follow-up exercise which was carried out between August and October 2012, the Census Office mailed out a form to all those households where it appeared that someone had been left out. The list included also any non-Maltese nationals in possession of a local identity card. Results were benchmarked with administrative registers in order to reduce as much as reasonably possible the extent of under enumeration. From this exercise the corresponding under- and over-enumeration were calculated and duly accounted for.</p>
20.4 Data validation	<p>Wrong or inconsistent data was double-checked at source by the Enumerators, Supervisors and District Managers as well as at a later stage with the corresponding household members (if necessary). A number of in-built validations were included in the data-entry program to check the validity of keyed data by establishing acceptable values. These validation rules allowed skip patterns to be executed as intended and allowed the data entry persons to observe the problem whilst entering the data for the questionnaire. In case the errors were not noticed during the data-entry phase these were corrected or edited by the census office at the data editing stage, even though editing preserved the original data as much as possible. Nevertheless, original collected data was maintained and archived for reference. Available administrative sources and survey registers were used in order to improve the consistency of recorded data as well as for benchmarking purposes. In addition, the data-entry phase was split into two stages:</p> <p>1) during the Census period a set of key variables from all questionnaires that were received were entered on a daily basis. These included the residential address information and contact telephone number(s), name, surname, identification number, date of birth, sex, acquisition of Maltese nationality and place of usual residence. This enabled the Census Office to identify potential problem areas and take early corrective action.</p> <p>2) in the second phase all remaining variables were entered as a preparation for data editing.</p>
20.5 Data compilation	<p>During the second stage of the data-entry, a specialized team of coders was recruited to code census data accordingly, including the occupation and economic activity of individuals. Coding was split in shifts to ensure a smooth running of the process and all coders were duly supervised throughout the whole process. After this, the census office focused on data editing, including the verification, benchmarking and imputation (of both item and unit non response) of census data. Throughout this process, a number of reliable administrative registers were used. Unit non response was also accounted for through the post-enumeration survey which was carried out among a large number of households between August and October 2012. This exercise entailed the mailing out of a form to all households where it appeared that some identity card had not been tagged, including both Maltese and non-Maltese nationals in possession of a local identity card.</p> <p>The final results contain a correction factor (replicated records and weights) accounting for under-enumeration based on the results of the follow-up survey that was carried out. Over-coverage resulted from persons being enumerated more than once and persons who did not meet the eligibility criteria for inclusion in the Maltese population (established through appropriate filtering questions in the Census form). These records were not considered for analysis.</p>
20.6 Adjustment	Not applicable.
21 Comment	Not applicable.