

CENSUS_INS21ES_A_MT_2021_0000

National Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS)

Compiling agency: National Statistics Office, Malta



Eurostat metadata

Reference metadata

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For any question on data and metadata, please contact: [Eurostat user support](#)

1. Contact Top	
1.1. Contact organisation	National Statistics Office, Malta
1.1.1. Responsible party	National Statistics Office, Malta

1.1.2. Responsible party role	Resource Provider
1.2. Contact organisation unit	Methodology and Quality Unit
1.5. Contact mail address	National Statistics Office, Xatt Lascaris, Valletta, Malta

2. Metadata update Top	
2.1. Metadata last certified	28/12/2022
2.2. Metadata last posted	28/12/2022
2.3. Metadata last update	28/12/2022

3. Statistical presentation Top	
3.1. Data description	
<p>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.</p> <p>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 major socio-economic characteristics.</p> <p>Census results influence a number of aspects of Maltese life: public policymaking; 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>For the first time, the enumeration process during the 2021 Census of Population and Housing, included geocoding of all dwellings at a single point reference to study Census results mapped to a 1 square kilometre grid. This allowed the compilation of grid data, being the first-ever geospatial census results issued by the National Statistics Office (NSO).</p>	

3.1.1. Resource title
Population and Housing Census
3.1.2. Resource abstract
These metadata cover the initial transmission of population grid data from the 2021 Census of Population and Housing.
3.1.3. Resource type
Spatial data set series
3.1.3.1. Additional information if 'spatial data set' is marked
https://data.europa.eu/en
3.1.4. Resource locator
https://data.europa.eu/en
3.1.5. Unique resource identifier
https://data.europa.eu/en
3.1.6. Coupled resource
https://data.europa.eu/en
3.1.7. Resource language
English
3.1.8. Keyword value
Population Distribution
3.1.9. Originating controlled vocabulary
https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/theme/pd
3.1.10. Metadata language
English
3.2. Classification system
Not applicable

3.3. Coverage - sector
Not applicable
3.3.1. Topic category
Society
3.3.2. Spatial data service type
Download Service
3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions
All relevant statistical concepts are in accordance with requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/543 .
3.4.1. Statistical concepts and definitions - Total population
<p>For census purposes, the total population of the country consists of all the persons falling within the scope of the census in EU on usual residents.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Persons usually resident in the place of enumeration but absent, or expected to be absent, at the time of the census for less than one year shall be considered as temporarily absent persons and thus included in the total usually resident population. In contrast, persons living or expected to live outside the place of enumeration for one year or more shall not be considered temporarily absent and shall therefore be excluded from the total population. This is regardless of the length of visits that they may pay to their families from time to time.</p> <p>Persons who are enumerated but do not meet the criteria for usual residence in the place of enumeration, i.e. do not live or do not expect to live in the place of enumeration for a continuous period of at least 12 months, are considered temporarily present and are therefore not counted in the total usually resident population.</p>
3.4.2. Statistical concepts and definitions - Sex
The sex (male or female) of every individual at the reference date.
3.4.3. Statistical concepts and definitions - Age

The age reached at the reference date (in completed years).

3.4.4. Statistical concepts and definitions - Employed person

"Employed persons" comprise all persons aged 15 years or over who during the reference week:

- (1) performed at least one hour of work for pay or profit, in cash or in kind, or;
- (2) were temporarily absent from a job in which they had already worked and to which they maintained a formal attachment, or from a self-employment activity.

Information about employed persons is not available in the initial transmission of population grid data.

3.4.5. Statistical concepts and definitions - Place of birth

The 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.

3.4.6. Statistical concepts and definitions - Place of usual residence one year prior to the census

The relationship between the current place of usual residence and the place of usual residence one year prior to the census.

For all persons that have changed their usual residence more than once within the year prior to the reference date, the previous place of usual residence is the last usual residence from which they moved to their current place of usual residence.

3.5. Statistical unit

Individuals

3.6. Statistical population

Usual residents in Malta as at the reference date.

3.7. Reference area

Malta

3.7.1. Geographic bounding box

x_etr89_min	x_etr89_max	y_etr89_min	y_etr89_max
4701884.36	4737761.09	1428834.82	1457001.50
3.7.2. Spatial resolution			
1000			
Unit:m			
3.7.3. Coordinate Reference System			
EPSG:3035 - ETRS89 / LAEA Europe			
3.8. Coverage - Time			
Data refer to the situation in Malta at the census reference date.			
3.9. Base period			
Not applicable			

4. Unit of measure	Top
Counts of individuals	

5. Reference Period	Top
Reference date: 21st November 2021	
5.1. Temporal extent	
Reference date: 21st November 2021	

6. Institutional Mandate	Top
6.1. Institutional Mandate - legal acts and other agreements	
The Malta Statistics Authority (MSA) Act empowers the NSO to collect, compile, extract and release official statistics related to demographic, social, environment, economic and general activities and conditions of Malta.	

Census specific regulations:

- [Census Act of 1948](#)
- [Regulation \(EC\) 763/2008](#) (Main Census regulation)
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/543](#) (Census questionnaire topics)
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1799](#) (Dissemination of selected geocoded topics)

6.2. Institutional Mandate - data sharing

The National Statistics Office (NSO) is legally empowered to release official statistics which cannot lead to the direct or indirect identification of data subjects.

A dedicated News Release, titled "[Census of Population and Housing 2021: Status report](#)" was issued in March 2022.

In August 2022, a [preliminary report](#) with first Census results was published. An additional three thematic publications are planned to be released during 2023 presenting all final Census results.

Initial population grid data as required by [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1799](#) was submitted to Eurostat (for upload on the Census Hub) in December 2022.

7. Confidentiality

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7.1. Confidentiality - policy

The NSO requests information for the compilation of official statistics according to the articles of the [MSA Act – Cap. 422](#) and the [Data Protection Act – Cap. 586](#) of the Laws of Malta implementing the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Article 40 of the [MSA Act](#) stipulates the restrictions on the use of information while Article 41 stipulates the prohibition of disclosure of information. Furthermore, Section IX of the [MSA Act](#) (Offences and Penalties) lays down the measures to be taken in case of unlawful exercise of any officer of statistics regarding confidentiality of data.

Since its inception, the NSO has always assured that all data collected remains confidential and that it is used for statistical purposes only according to the articles and derogations stipulated in the laws quoted above. The Office is obliged to protect the identify of data providers and refrain from divulging any data to third parties that might lead to the identification of persons or entities.

An internal policy on anonymisation and pseudo-anonymisation is in place to ascertain that adequate methods are used for the protection of data which the office collects and shares with the public in its capacity as the National Statistics Office. The policy is meant to safeguard confidentiality of both personal and business data entrusted to the NSO. The document provides guidance for all NSO employees who process data on a daily basis as to how anonymisation and pseudo-anonymisation methods should be applied. The policy applies to all confidential, restricted and internal information, regardless of form (paper or electronic documents, applications and databases) that is received, processed, stored and disseminated by the NSO.

7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

Grid cells with too few counts at total level (less than 3) had underlying sub-totals flagged for confidentiality.

In line with requirements of Article 6 in [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1799](#), data items on total population were not reported as confidential.

8. Release policy

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8.1. Release calendar

An advance release calendar is maintained by the NSO and published on the NSO website. The calendar projects three months of news releases (including the current and two subsequent months).

No News Release on population grid data from the 2021 Census was published.

8.2. Release calendar access

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx

8.3. Release policy - user access

An [policy on dissemination](#) is in place to govern the dissemination of official statistics in an impartial, independent and timely manner, making them available simultaneously to all users. The

NSO's primary channel for the dissemination of official statistics is the [NSO website](#). Tailored requests for statistical information may also be submitted through the [NSO website](#).

8.3.1. Conditions applying to access and use

<https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/metadata-codelist/ConditionsApplyingToAccessAndUse/noConditionsApply>

8.3.2. Limitations on public access

<https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/metadata-codelist/ConditionsApplyingToAccessAndUse/noConditionsApply>

9. Frequency of dissemination

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Decennial

10. Accessibility and clarity

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10.1. Dissemination format - News release

No News Release on population grid data from the 2021 Census was published.

A dedicated News Release, titled "[Census of Population and Housing 2021: Status report](#)" was issued in March 2022.

10.2. Dissemination format - Publications

In August 2022, a [preliminary report](#) with first Census results was published. An additional three thematic publications are planned to be released during 2023 presenting all final Census results.

10.3. Dissemination format - online database

Population grid data as required by [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1799](#) was submitted to Eurostat (for upload on the Census Hub) in December 2022.

10.4. Dissemination format - microdata access

Anonymised microdata may be provided under strict conditions to a selected number of institutions or persons accredited as research entities or researchers respectively. Further information on access

to anonymised microdata is available on the NSO website through: <http://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Microdata/Pages/Access-to-Microdata.aspx>.

Researchers who require such access need to submit an application form clearly explaining the purpose of their statistical research and justifying their need for access to microdata. The application form will be evaluated internally and if considered favourably a formal contractual agreement will be drafted to explain the responsibilities of the researcher for the security of the information. Once the agreement is agreed upon and signed by both parties, access to anonymised microdata will be granted subject to the terms of reference included in the contractual agreement.

Access is normally granted for a definite time period.

10.5. Dissemination format - other

Not applicable

10.6. Documentation on methodology

Work processes and procedures for the compilation of the Population and Housing Census are documented in a standardised reporting template and aligned to the Generic Statistical Business Process (GSBPM) model. The model covers all phases of the statistical production process, from the initial stages of identifying what statistics are needed and the scope of the particular survey, to the final stages of dissemination and evaluation. This documentation is only available internally and may be accessed by all NSO employees.

All processes for the compilation of the Population and Housing Census are aligned to requirements as stipulated by the legal Acts mentioned above (in concept 6).

10.7. Quality management - documentation

The NSO has developed an internal Quality Management Framework (QMF) which is built on common requirements of the ESS Code of Practice (ESS CoP). A document was prepared to include a set of general quality guidelines spanning over all statistical domains. Assuring methodological soundness is an integral part of the QMF, nonetheless, the document spans also on other areas related to institutional aspects.

11. Quality management

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11.1. Quality assurance

The process for the compilation, and the final spatial data are considered to be of good quality. The data has been validated internally and rigorous checks were carried out.

11.1.1. Lineage

The process for the compilation, and the final spatial data are considered to be of good quality. The data has been validated internally and rigorous checks were carried out.

11.1.2. Conformity, specification

There is full conformity with the implementing rules adopted under Article 7(1) of [Directive 2007/2/EC](#).

11.1.3. Conformity, degree

There is full conformity with the implementing rules adopted under Article 7(1) of [Directive 2007/2/EC](#).

11.2. Quality management - assessment

The process for the compilation, and the final spatial data are considered to be of good quality. The data has been validated internally and rigorous checks were carried out.

12. Relevance

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12.1. Relevance - User Needs

Main users of census data are policy makers, researchers, media and the general public.

12.2. Relevance - User Satisfaction

The last User Satisfaction Survey was held in 2022 with the aim to collect information about key users' satisfaction with the statistical output of the NSO for all domains. News Releases and tailor-made statistical outputs were assessed on account of their quality, timeliness, and their ability to meet users' needs.

12.3. Completeness

The initial transmission of population grid data from the 2021 Census of Population and Housing contained all mandatory information in line with requirements of Regulation (EU) 2018/1799.

Information about the number of employed persons is currently not available. Provision of this information was optional.

13. Accuracy	Top
13.1. Accuracy - overall	
There are no particular reasons for data unreliability for the topics contained in the transmitted population grid data.	
13.2. Sampling error	
Not applicable. A traditional census was carried out and further aided by the use of several administrative registers to ensure a high-coverage rate.	
13.3. Non-sampling error	
Not applicable.	

14. Timeliness and punctuality	Top
14.1. Timeliness	
Initial population grid data as required by Regulation (EU) 2018/1799 was submitted to Eurostat (for upload on the Census Hub) in December 2022.	
14.1.1. Date of publication	
Initial population grid data as required by Regulation (EU) 2018/1799 was submitted to Eurostat (for upload on the Census Hub) in December 2022. No revisions were carried out following transmission.	
Other Census related outputs are listed below:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dedicated News Release, titled "Census of Population and Housing 2021: Status report" was issued in March 2022. • In August 2022, a preliminary report with first Census results was published. An additional three thematic publications are planned to be released during 2023 presenting all final Census results. 	
14.1.2. Date of last revision	

14/12/2022
14.1.3. Date of creation
14/12/2022
14.2. Punctuality
Initial grid data was submitted in December 2022 in line with requirements of Regulation (EU) 2018/1799 .

15. Coherence and comparability	Top
15.1. Comparability - geographical	
Grid data reported to Eurostat conforms to the eligibility criteria established for all countries. In accordance with Regulation (EC) 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.	
15.1.1. Geographic information - data quality	
Grid data reported to Eurostat conforms to the eligibility criteria established for all countries. In accordance with Regulation (EC) 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.	
15.2. Comparability - over time	
Not applicable	
15.3. Coherence - cross domain	
Figures provided by the NSO in the framework of the 2021 Population and Housing Census may differ from those transmitted in other statistical domains due to the cross domain differences in definitions and methodologies used.	
15.4. Coherence - internal	
Internal coherence is assured by regulations defining breakdowns and definitions of topics.	

16. Cost and Burden

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The total cost associated with the data collection for the census is estimated at €3.1 million

17. Data revision

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17.1. Data revision - policy

The NSO employs a [Policy on Revisions of Official Statistics](#) establishing clear principles and guidelines on how the Office manages revisions.

Internally, an inventory of the revisions occurring in all domains of official statistics was developed, categorising these revisions either as (i) regular, (ii) major, (iii) benchmark revisions and (iv) errors. For each statistical domain, the inventory also includes the need and causes for revisions, time and frequency of revisions; data and other statistical products affected by such revisions; and length of periods revised.

17.2. Data revision - practice

The terms and conditions for revisions are stipulated under the [Policy on Revisions of Official Statistics](#).

No revisions were carried out on Population grid data following transmission.

18. Statistical processing

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18.1. Source data

A traditional census was carried out and further aided by the use of several administrative registers to ensure a high-coverage rate.

Administrative data, particularly national registers, were used for verification purposes and to cater for unit non-response and the tracing of persons who were not enumerated during the initial stages of the Census.

18.2. Frequency of data collection

Decennial

18.3. Data collection

For the first time, people had the option to fill-in the census questionnaire through an online form which was accessible to the public from October 2021. Nearly 230,000 dwellings received an official letter with the login credentials via post in September 2021. In a step towards a fully digitalised census, enumerators visiting dwellings recorded the information on tablet computers, rather than traditional paper questionnaires. Data collection by means of telephone was also possible.

An application available on the tablet devices allowed the enumerators to identify any dwellings which did not submit the questionnaire online so that they could assist them in the process or fill out the form on their behalf. The synchronisation of multiple systems occurred overnight to ensure a smooth running of the process. Data collection from the field or by telephone was carried out between 8 and 28 November 2021. The enumeration process in certain areas was also extended till 15 December 2021.

18.4. Data validation

A number of in-built validations were included in the data-entry program, on the tablet devices, for enumerators to ensure that the data on behalf of respondents was collected as required. Among others, validation rules allowed skip patterns to be executed as intended.

Available administrative sources and survey registers were used in order to improve the consistency of recorded data as well as for benchmarking purposes.

18.5. Data compilation

The initial population grid data contains grid cells covering the Maltese land territory. The required population figures were then provided for these cells.

In accordance with Article 3 of [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1799](#), the Equal Area Grid 'Grid_ETRS89-LAEA1000' was used for compiling the 1 square kilometre reference grid data. Limits for easting and northing values were aligned to requirements of the said regulation.

18.6. Adjustment

Not applicable

19. Comment

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Not applicable

Related metadata

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Annexes