



L-Università
ta' Malta



The Malta Foundation
for the Wellbeing of Society

Wellbeing Data for Malta

What is the source of this data?

The data is sourced from the [EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions \(EU-SILC\)](#), gathered by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

How many people are interviewed?

Around 4,500-5,000 households are sampled annually, totalling just over 10,000 residents. For instance, in 2023, 4,981 households were approached for the interview. Of these, 4,515 households completed the survey, resulting in a household response rate of 91 per cent. These households comprised 10,993 residents, of whom 9,565 were aged 16 and over.

For how many years is data available?

This survey has been carried out in Malta since 2005, under European Regulation (EU) No. 1177/2003. This Regulation establishes criteria which ensure the production of high quality and harmonised results at European level. As from 2020, EU-SILC started to be carried out under a new regulation: Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019 establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples.

Wellbeing data is available from 2018 onwards.

How is the sample created?

The EU-SILC is a panel survey for which a rotational design with four sub-samples is adopted. In this way, each group of households is included in the sample for four waves of the survey and information is collected over a period of four consecutive years. The NSO employs systematic random sampling annually to select the new panel (1,500 households) to be added to the sample to be interviewed. The reference population of EU-SILC is all private households and their current members residing in Malta at the time of data collection.

Where charts show the total number of individuals in the population, this is done by weighting the sample to draw statistical inference on the population.

How is subjective wellbeing measured?

The subjective wellbeing indicators are based on the EU SILC wellbeing module of 2018, which was collected annually after 2018. A distinction is to be made between (i) Satisfactions, (ii) Emotions and (iii) Help, Trust and Exclusion.

The EU-SILC collects overall life satisfaction, as well as satisfactions in different domains of one's life. Domain satisfactions measure an individual's satisfaction with some aspect of their life. The satisfaction variables are the following: Overall life satisfaction, Financial situation satisfaction, Present job satisfaction, Time use satisfaction and Personal relationship satisfaction. These variables are measured on an 11-point Likert scale, where 0 is 'not at all' and 10 is 'completely'. In some of the charts, the answers are clustered by level on the Likert scale as follows: Level 1: 0-1 where 0 is not at all satisfied; Level 2: 2 – 3; Level 3: 4 - 5 – 6; Level 4: 7 – 8; Level 5: 9 – 10 where 10 is completely satisfied; Level 99: Do not know (Excluded).

Emotions measure what is referred to as 'affect', including both positive and negative emotions. The Emotions variables are the following: Feeling nervous, Feeling down in the dumps, Feeling calm and peaceful, Feeling downhearted and depressed, Feeling happy and Feeling lonely. Such variables are measured on a 5-point Likert scale, where 1 is 'None of the time', 2 is 'A little of the time', 3 is 'Some of the time', 4 is 'Most of the time', and 5 is 'All of the time'. In the charts, the answers are re-coded from low to high where 1 is 'All of the time'; 2 'Most of the time'; 3 'Some of the time'; 4 'A little of the time'; 5 'None of the time'; 6 'Do not know' (Excluded).

Other variables in the wellbeing module include Trust in Others, Perceived Social Exclusion, and Receiving Material or Non-Material Help. The Variables Trust in Others and Perceived Social Exclusion are measured on a Likert scale from 0-10. The variable on receiving material or non-material help was collected as two separate variables in 2018. In 2019, 2020 and 2021 this variable was collected as a single variable. Receiving material or Non-material help is measured on 2 categories, where 1 is 'Yes' and 2 is 'No'.

In 2019 and 2020, overall life satisfaction, time use satisfaction, and feeling down in the dumps were not collected. In 2021, time use satisfaction and feeling down in the dumps were not collected.

How are the conditions of life measured?

The data captures various aspects of living conditions which are important for wellbeing, including Income, Employment, Education, Material Deprivation, Health, Dwelling, Environment, Crime, Social, Voluntary and Leisure.

Equivalised disposable income (referred to also as national equivalised income) is defined as the household's total disposable income divided by its "equivalent household size", to take account of the size and composition of the household and is attributed to each household member. For example, a household with two adults and two children aged less than 14, would have an equivalised household size of $(1+0.5+0.3+0.3) = 2.1$. If the total disposable income earned by the household is €20,000, then the household equivalised income would result in $(€20,000/2.1) = €9,523$. This dataset includes persons who are 18 years and older, and who were in employment throughout the entire year, working a 40-hour week or more, and earning only an employment income (no self-employment income). The Category "€10,000 and under" includes amounts less than (and excluding) €10,000; Category "€10,000 - €20,000" includes €10,000 and excludes €20,000; Category "€20,000 - €30,000" includes €20,000 and excludes €30,000; Category "€30,000+" includes amounts greater than (and including) €30,000.

In self-defined economic status, the category “Employed” comprises of “Employee full-time”, “Employee part-time”, “Self-employed full-time”, and “Self-employed part-time”. The category “Other” comprises of “Unfit to work”, “Compulsory military service”, “Domestic tasks”, and “Other inactive person”.

Education Level is measured on 4 categories. Primary education (or no education) includes “No formal education or below” and “Primary education”; The category Secondary education includes “Lower secondary education” and “Upper secondary education”; The category Post-Secondary education includes “Post-secondary education” and “Short-cycle tertiary education”; The category Tertiary education includes “Bachelor education”, “Masters education”, and “Doctoral education”.

Material Deprivation is measured on 2 categories: namely Materially Deprived and Not Materially Deprived.

Perceived general health is originally measured as 1. Very Good; 2. Good; 3. Fair; 4. Bad; 5. Very bad, but it is re-grouped into three categories in the charts, namely “Good” comprising of “Very Good” and “Good”, “Fair”, and “Bad” comprising of “Bad” and “Very Bad”.

Dwelling characteristics include “Dwelling too dark, not enough light”, and “Leaking roof, damp walls/floors/foundation, or rot in window frames or floor” and is measured on 2 categories: 1. Yes; 2. No.

Two variables, namely i. Noise from Neighbours/Street and ii. Pollution, Grime and other are measured on 2 categories: 1. Yes; 2. No.

Crime, Violence or Vandalism is measured on 2 categories: 1. Yes; 2. No.

Getting together with friends/family is measured on three categories are: 1. Yes; 2. No – cannot afford it; 3. No – other reason.

Information on Voluntary Work includes Yes (subcategorised by “Within an organization”, “Informal voluntary work” and “Other”) the category No (which includes “No, lack of interest”, “No, lack of time”, and “No, other reasons”).

Regular Participation in a leisure activity is measured on 3 categories: 1. Yes; 2. No – cannot afford it; 3. No – other reason.

What kind of demographic data is available?

Demographic variables include Age, Gender, District, Marital Status, Children, and Country of Birth

The Age categories under consideration are: 1. Under 18; 2. 18 – 29; 3. 30 – 64; 4. 65+.

The Gender categories are: 1. Male; 2. Female.

The District categories are: 1. Southern Harbour; 2. Northern Harbour; 3. South Eastern; 4. Western; 5. Northern; 6. Gozo and Comino. The localities included in these districts can be found [here](#).

Marital Status is measured on 4 categories: 1. Never married; 2. Married; 3. Separated/Divorced; 4. Widowed. Note that originally, options Separated and Divorced are collected separately, but are combined together in a single category (3).

Households with and without Children is measured on 2 categories: 1. Household without dependent children; 2. Household with dependent children.

Country of Birth is a binary variable taking a value of 'Malta' or 'Other'. The category 'Other' includes all those other countries excluding Malta.

Where can I find more information?

The metadata generated by the NSO for each year can be found [here](#).

Statistical Concepts that are unclear may be searched for [here](#).

The questionnaires for each year for Malta can be found [here](#).

One may contact the NSO [here](#) to request access to the microdata. Microdata refers to anonymised data for each individual, rather than aggregated data which shows the averages.

Changes to variables or breaks in the series may be found [here](#). This list can be filtered for Malta to determine the impact of changes to variables.