



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 private households are interviewed annually, totalling just over 10,000 residents. Responses are gathered for individuals aged 16 and over.

How is the sample created?

The EU-SILC is a panel survey. 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.

The sample used for the EU-SILC survey is extracted from a database based on the Census of Population and Housing. Following the 2021 Population and Housing Census, NSO introduced a new sampling frame of households and individuals which was used for the first time in 2023.

A rotational design 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.

How is the population weighted?

Where charts show the total number of individuals in the population, this involves weighting the sample to gross up and calibrate EU-SILC data to the whole population. The computation of weights is based on the distribution of the household population estimated by annual population updates of the 2021 Census data. The population figure used to gross up and to calibrate EU-SILC data refers to one calendar year prior to the survey year.

For how many years is data available?

The EU-SILC survey has been carried out in Malta since 2005, under European Regulation (EU) No. 1177/2003, and, as from 2020, Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019. Wellbeing data is available from 2018 onwards.

What about missing data?

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.

It is worth noting that the total population figure includes “don’t know” answers while the valid population figure excludes these responses.

: means that the data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of:

1. less than 20 reporting households; or
2. the non-response for the item concerned exceeds 50%.

[] Figures to be used with caution: figures between 20 and 49 reporting households or with non-response for the item concerned that exceeds 20% and is lower or equal to 50%.

N/A means Not applicable

How is subjective wellbeing measured?

The subjective wellbeing indicators are based on the EU SILC wellbeing module of 2018. A distinction is to be made between (i) Satisfactions and (ii) Emotions.

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. Respondents participating in the survey are asked, "Overall,

how satisfied are you with: (1) Your life these days; (2) The financial situation of your household; (3) Your present job (if the respondent is currently employed) (4) Your personal relationship with family, friends, neighbours and other people you know; and (5) The amount of time you have to do things you like" These variables are measured on an 11-point Likert scale, where 0 means 'not at all satisfied' and 10 means 'completely satisfied'.

The EU-SILC also collects information pertaining to the respondent's feelings, taking into consideration the past four weeks as the time period. The questions ask "How much of the time over the past four weeks: All of the time = 1; Most of the time = 2; Some of the time = 3; A little of the time = 4; None of the time = 5 Have you been very nervous and agitated? Have you felt calm and peaceful? Have you felt downhearted and depressed? Have you been happy? Have you been feeling lonely? Have you felt so down in the dumps?

In the Wellbeing INDEX charts, the answers are re-coded from low to high where 1 is 'None of the time'; 2 'A little of the time'; 3 'Some of the time'; 4 'Most of the time'; 5 'All of the time'.

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).

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.

The income variable represents the equivalised income of the household, 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. The data that is presented in the chart includes persons 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 under €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. The income reference year is one calendar year prior to the survey year.

In self-defined economic status, respondents are asked their current activity status. The category "Employed" comprises "Employee full-time", "Employee part-time",

“Self-employed full-time”, and “Self-employed part-time”. The category “Other” comprises “Unfit to work”, “Compulsory military service”, “Domestic tasks”, and “Other inactive person”. The distinction between full-time and part-time work is made on the basis of a spontaneous answer given by the respondent.

On education, respondents are asked What is the highest educational level that you successfully completed? (Mark the educational level that you had successfully completed by January). Education Level is regrouped into 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 and Social Deprivation measured on 2 categories: namely Materially & Socially Deprived and Not Materially and Socially Deprived. These indicators are based on 13 items: 7 household items and 6 personal items. Household items are face unexpected expenses; afford one week annual holiday away from home; avoid arrears (in mortgage, rent, utility bills and/or hire purchase instalments); afford a meal with meat, chicken or fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day; afford keeping their home appropriately warm; have access to a car/van for personal use; replace worn-out furniture. Personal items include replace worn-out clothes with some new ones; have two pairs of properly fitting shoes; spend a small amount of money each week on him/herself (“pocket money”); have regular leisure activities; get together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month; have an internet connection. Persons lacking at least five items out of the 13 material and social deprivation items are considered to be materially and socially deprived (MSD).

For perceived general health, respondents are asked: “How is your health in general?” Responses are initially 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 “Very Good” and “Good”, “Fair”, and “Bad” comprising “Bad” and “Very Bad”.

For dwelling characteristics, respondents are asked “State whether you have any of the following problems with your accommodation: Too dark/not enough light, Leaking roof, damp floors/walls/foundation, or rot in window frames or floor.” and is measured on 2 categories: 1. Yes; 2. No.

For environmental characteristics, respondents are asked “ State whether you have any of the following problems with your accommodation: Noise from neighbours or noise from outside (traffic, business, factories, etc.); Pollution, grime, or other environmental problems in the area (Yes/No). Responses are measured on 2 categories: 1. Yes; 2. No.

For Crime, respondents are asked “State whether you have any of the following problems with your accommodation: Crime, violence or vandalism in the area”. Responses are measured on 2 categories: 1. Yes; 2. No.

On Getting together with friends/family, respondents are asked “Indicate whether you personally can afford the following situations: Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month? Responses are measured on three categories: 1. Yes; 2. No – cannot afford it; 3. No – other reason.

On leisure, respondents are asked “Indicate whether you personally can afford the following situations” Responses are measured on 3 categories: 1. Yes; 2. No – cannot afford it; 3. No – other reason.

On voluntary work, during 2018 - 2022, the question was "During the last twelve months, did you volunteer for or through an organisation of a club?" The categories offered where 1 = charitable organisation; 2 = cultural organisation; 3; sport organisation; 4 = religious organisation; 5 = other organisation; 6 = no lack of interest; 7 = no lack of time; 8 = no other reasons, where the answer options are 1 = yes (charitable, cultural, sport, religious, other organisation) or 2 = no (lack of interest, lack of time, other reasons).

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 age is calculated based on the respondent’s year of birth. The calculation is based on the end of the income reference period to obtain the age of the respondent in completed years.

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

The District categories are: 1. Southern Harbour (Bormla; Il-Fgura; Floriana; Ғal Luqa; Ғaḷ-Ḷabbar; Il-Kalkara; Il-Marsa; Raḡal Ġdid; Santa Luċija; L-Isla; Ғal Tarxien; Valletta; Il-Birgu; Ix-Xgħajra); 2. Northern Harbour (Birkirkara; Il-Gżira; Ғal Qormi; Il-Ғamrun; L-Imsida; Pembroke; San Ġwann; Santa Venera; San Ġiljan; Is-Swieqi; Ta’ Xbiex; Tal-Pietà; Tas-Sliema); 3. South Eastern (Birżebbuġa; Il-Gudja; Ғal Għaxaq; Ғal Kirkop; Ғal Safi; Marsaskala; Marsaxlokk; L-Imqabba; Il-Qrendi; Iz-Ḷejtun; iz-Ḷurrieq); 4. Western (Ғad-Dingli; Ғal Balzan; Ғal Lija; Ғ’Attard; Ғaḷ-Ḷebbuġ; L-Iklin; L-Imdina; L-Imtarfa; Ir-Rabat; Is-Siġġiewi); 5. Northern (Ғal Għargħur; Il-Mellieḡa; L-Imgarr; Il-Mosta; In-Naxxar; San Pawl Il-Baḡar); 6. Gozo and Comino (Il-Fontana; Għajnsielem

and Comino; L-Għarb; L-Għasri; Il-Munxar; In-Nadur; Il-Qala; San Lawrenz; Ta' Kerċem; Ta' Sannat; Ir-Rabat; Ix-Xagħra; Ix-Xewkija; Iż-Żebbuġ).

Marital Status is measured by asking "For each person choose the appropriate alternative from the following list: Never married / Single = 1; Married (includes persons in a registered partnership) = 2; Separated = 3; Widowed not remarried (includes persons whose registered partnership ended with the death of the partner) = 4; Divorced not remarried (includes persons whose registered partnership was legally dissolved) = 5; Annulled = 6; Children under 16 years = 7". Responses are aggregated 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. The country of birth: is defined as the country of residence of the mother at the time of birth and shall refer to the current national boundaries and not to the boundaries in place at the time of birth.

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.