

Topical Factsheet: Malta Migration Figures



October 2024

Population Malta	From 2012 to 2022, Malta’s population grew by 28.6 % from 421,464 to 542,051, ¹ and to 563,000 in July 2024. ² The share of foreign nationals increased from 5.5 % in 2012 to 25.3 % in 2022. ³ As of 1 January 2023, about 94,800 third-country nationals (TCNs), 17.5% of the population, and another 42,600 EU citizens (7.9%) were living in Malta. ⁴																														
Immigration trend	In 2022, Malta received 35,100 immigrants. Of these, 1,600 were Maltese, the others were non-nationals: 7,100 EU (20.4 % of all immigrants), and 26,000 non-EU (74.4 % of all immigrants). About 65 % were male, and 35 % were female. ⁵ Relative to the size of the population, in 2022 Malta recorded the highest rate of immigration in the EU (almost 66 immigrants per 1,000 residents). ⁶ The largest absolute number of immigrants went to Germany (2.1 million). In 2022 the total migrant population in Malta was 137,400 or 25.3 % of the total population. Of these, 42,600 (7.9 %) were EU/EEA citizens and 94,800 (17.5 %) non-EU (Third Country Nationals, TCN). ⁷																														
Emigration trend	In 2022, Malta recorded the second highest rate of emigration in the EU: 25 emigrants per 1,000 residents (i.e. about 13,300 persons). ⁸ These are predominantly non-Maltese persons (in 2022: 4,521 EU, 7,865 non-EU, 780 Maltese). ⁹																														
Asylum migration	In 2022, Malta received 913 asylum applications, and 134 received protection (Syria 52 %, Eritrea 33 %, Libya and Somalia 4 %, and few others). ¹⁰ In 2023, Malta received 600 asylum applications, with 833 cases pending at the end of the year. The top five countries of origin for applicants were Syria, Bangladesh, Sudan, Libya and Ukraine. The protection rate (positive decisions at first instance): Syria 84.6 %, Somalia 34.1 %, Pakistan 12.5 %, Sudan 3.4 %, Nigeria 2.7 %, Libya 1.3 %, Bangladesh 0,9 %. The overall protection rate at first instance was 27.9 %. ¹¹ In Jan-June 2024, Malta granted 65 applications protection (out of 245 decisions). ¹² Nr of Ukrainian temporary protection (2022 to July 2024): 2,520 ¹³ The number of sea arrivals (following rescue in the Mediterranean) to Malta has decreased: ¹⁴ Jan-Jul 2024: 96 2023: 380 2022: 444 2021: 832 2020: 2,281 2019: 3,406 2018: 1,445 Nationalities of sea arrivals (> 90 % males): ¹⁵ 2024 (Jan-Jun): Pakistan 32 %, Syria 22 %, Bangladesh 21 %, Eritrea 12 %, others 12 % 2023 (Jan-Dec): Bangladesh 62 %, Syria 14 %, Guinea 7 %, others 17 %																														
Labour migration	The number of labour migrants, particularly of TCN, has increased over the years: ¹⁶ <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2019</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> <th>Mid-2023</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total employed</td> <td>262,630</td> <td>264,897</td> <td>274,780</td> <td>296,110</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total TCN+EU/EEA</td> <td>68,036</td> <td>70,375</td> <td>76,395</td> <td>96,970</td> <td>104,439</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total TCN</td> <td>30,973</td> <td>38,610</td> <td>42,559</td> <td>61,515</td> <td>67,531</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total EU/EEA</td> <td>37,063</td> <td>31,765</td> <td>33,836</td> <td>35,455</td> <td>36,908</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2019	2020	2021	2022	Mid-2023	Total employed	262,630	264,897	274,780	296,110		Total TCN+EU/EEA	68,036	70,375	76,395	96,970	104,439	Total TCN	30,973	38,610	42,559	61,515	67,531	Total EU/EEA	37,063	31,765	33,836	35,455	36,908
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	<p>Most EEA workers are employed in the arts & entertainment sector (incl. Gaming), also professional/scientific, accommodation and trade. Most TCN workers (13,000 India, 9,000 Philippines, others: Nepal, Serbia, Albania, Colombia a.o.) are employed in low-skill, low-paid jobs in transport, hospitality and construction.¹⁷</p>
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- ¹ <https://nso.gov.mt/intercensal-population-revisions-2012-2021/>
- ² <https://timesofmalta.com/article/malta-population-now-tops-563000.1095140>. For a general overview of migrant statistics, see https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/country-governance/governance-migrant-integration-malta_en
- ³ <https://nso.gov.mt/intercensal-population-revisions-2012-2021/>
- ⁴ <https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu> ; <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics>
- ⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics#Migrant_population:_23.8_million_non-EU_citizens_living_in_the_EU_on_1_January_2022
- ⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics#Migrant_population:_23.8_million_non-EU_citizens_living_in_the_EU_on_1_January_2022
- ⁷ [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=File:Tab 4 Non-national population by group of citizenship, 1 January 2023 rev2.png](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=File:Tab_4_Non-national_population_by_group_of_citizenship,_1_January_2023_rev2.png)
- ⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics#Migrant_population:_23.8_million_non-EU_citizens_living_in_the_EU_on_1_January_2022
- ⁹ <https://nso.gov.mt/intercensal-population-revisions-2012-2021/>, see also https://nso.gov.mt/themes_publications/census-of-population-and-housing-2021-final-report-population-migration-and-other-social-characteristics-volume-1/
- ¹⁰ https://www.unhcr.org/mt/wp-content/uploads/sites/54/2023/02/Malta-Factsheet_2022_update-2.pdf
- ¹¹ <https://ecre.org/aida-country-report-on-malta-2023-update/> ; https://asylumineurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/AIDA-MT_2023-Update.pdf
- ¹² <https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/18990205/>
- ¹³ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>
- ¹⁴ <https://www.unhcr.org/mt/figures-at-a-glance>
- ¹⁵ https://www.unhcr.org/mt/wp-content/uploads/sites/54/2024/08/Malta-Factsheet_2024-Q2.pdf
- ¹⁶ <https://theshiftnews.com/2023/11/29/migrant-workers-account-for-a-third-of-maltas-labour-force-up-23-in-ten-years/> ; [https://pq.gov.mt/PQWeb.nsf/7561f7daddf0609ac1257d1800311f18/c1257d2e0046dfa1c1258a7000427f94/\\$FILE/13600%20papers%20laid.pdf](https://pq.gov.mt/PQWeb.nsf/7561f7daddf0609ac1257d1800311f18/c1257d2e0046dfa1c1258a7000427f94/$FILE/13600%20papers%20laid.pdf)
- ¹⁷ <https://theshiftnews.com/2023/11/29/migrant-workers-account-for-a-third-of-maltas-labour-force-up-23-in-ten-years/> ; [https://pq.gov.mt/PQWeb.nsf/7561f7daddf0609ac1257d1800311f18/c1257d2e0046dfa1c1258a7000427f94/\\$FILE/13600%20papers%20laid.pdf](https://pq.gov.mt/PQWeb.nsf/7561f7daddf0609ac1257d1800311f18/c1257d2e0046dfa1c1258a7000427f94/$FILE/13600%20papers%20laid.pdf)

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This factsheet was compiled by Adri van den Berg for BDE. Adri worked for many years as a Country of Origin Information (COI) researcher, her final post before retiring being with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO, now EUAA) in Malta.