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### Sustainable development in Malta : statistical information on the 2030 Agenda in Malta : 2021

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# Sustainable Development in Malta

Statistical Information on the  
2030 Agenda in Malta

**2021**

# **Sustainable Development in Malta**

Statistical Information on the  
2030 Agenda in Malta

**2021**

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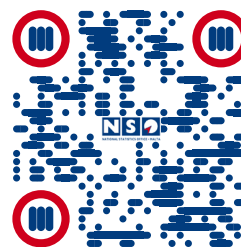
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## Forewords



**Prof Albert Leone Ganado**  
CHAIRMAN

OCTOBER 2021

I myself and the Malta Statistics Authority are very proud of this initiative by the NSO to publish a statistical report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Malta. The comprehensive introduction to the publication walks us through the history of the Sustainable Development Goals, and how the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—with its 17 goals and numerous targets—changed the development agenda of the international community. By default, international, regional, and national statistical organisations adopted a set of Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) to measure progress towards these targets. Consequently, this effected the statistical output of National Statistical Systems since statistical products had to be also realigned with the methodology of the SDIs.

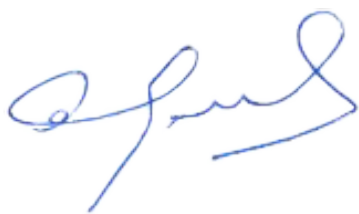
In line with the UN Statistical Commission's recommendation that at National level the statistical institutes are to coordinate the national statistical output for the purposes of the 2030 Agenda, the NSO took up the role of national contact point with the responsibility to coordinate the requests coming from the

custodian agencies of the SDGs, and where possible to check the quality of statistics. Early in 2021, I had invited the NSO to give a formal presentation to the Board on the work being done to compile SDG related data and on their future work to strengthen the framework within which NSO and its partners can coordinate their work related to the SDIs.

The NSO had no easy task to map all data transmissions related to the SDGs and to assess existing statistical products in line with the methodology of the SDIs. In the absence of a National Statistical System, the coordination of data transmissions from various sources, which may not have registers that cater for statistical needs, was indeed onerous. The assessment done on the progress towards the SDGs, using all available data, is commendable and it shows the flexibility of the NSO to adapt to new user demands. In this respect, the MSA remains committed to support the NSO in its role of coordinating the compilation of official SDG-related data for Malta and to assist other competent authorities to strengthen their statistical output in this regard.

This publication addresses the need for official statistics on the ever-increasing relevance of the interlinkages of social, economic, and environment statistics, and will also form an excellent basis to address Malta's progress towards the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. I take this opportunity to thank the Director General and his team, especially

the International Affairs and Sustainable Development Unit for their initiative. I look forward to future editions containing even more comprehensive statistical data, as this will not only address Malta's international reporting obligations, but will also greatly support our policymakers and researchers in their work.



★ ★ ★



**Etienne Caruana**  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

OCTOBER 2021

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been described as a call to all countries for concrete action to improve the lives and prospects of all people and to protect the earth's resources for the continued benefit of future generations. At the international level, the process by which the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has concentrated global efforts is ably described in the Introduction to this publication. At the EU level, sustainable development has been

placed at the core of European policymaking for a considerable time, consolidated by a firm presence in the European Treaties. To take forward this direction, the role of the National Statistics Office (NSO) is to address the monitoring of the SDGs by identifying the methodological constraints of producing the Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs), identify Malta-specific indicators, seek the experts' advice, conduct the required desk research, and most importantly, build peer networks. The end goal, of course, is to participate actively in global reporting with the contribution of high-level and reliable statistics related to Malta.

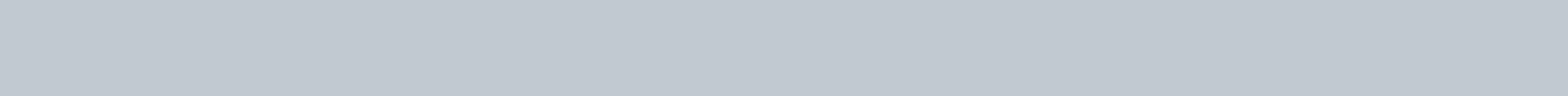
This publication is the first of its kind for our Office. It documents the headway made in the country's implementation of the SDGs.

For the NSO, this means substantial work and effort in forming networks to produce the SDIs and other indicators relevant for the EU and Maltese contexts. Effectively, SDIs are the instruments used to measure progress towards implementation, and therefore must be regarded as the measuring arm of the process. The publication clearly evidences, however, that significantly more needs to be done. The assessment sections show progress or alternatively regress for each of the targets in respect of which there is availability of longitudinal data. They additionally manifest those areas for which not enough data is available to compose trends.

A combined drive is necessary to nationally monitor the SDG targets. This report highlights the importance of the role of the relevant statistical partners, with their domain-specific expertise, alongside that of the NSO. Events, among them the COVID-19 crisis, have shown national statistical institutes that they have to start thinking outside the box of traditional statistics and come up with new statistical products to aptly monitor situations. Within Europe, the European Green Deal has evolved as the continent's strategy towards sustainable economic growth, hemmed in by labour market, social protection, climate change and environmental challenges. But this strategy needs to be fed by a wide array of data and therefore coordination should not be seen as a burden, but as an opportunity for better linkages among the entities in their various competencies and to foster a data environment based on the once-only



principle. Only in this way will the impetus to a truly functional national statistical system be achieved. Additionally, by adopting this route, new data needs can be addressed in a timely way and with minimal replication. My thanks go to the International Affairs and Sustainable Development Unit for researching, writing up and producing the publication. The data contributed by the domain units within the NSO was crucial and I extend my thanks also to them, while the part played by ministries, government agencies and competent entities is highly appreciated and recognised in the hope that such cooperation will be upheld and indeed, improved on.






A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line.



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## Abbreviations

<b>2030 Agenda</b>	Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development
<b>AES</b>	Adult Education Survey
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>AROPE</b>	At Risk Of Poverty Or Social Exclusion
<b>BOD</b>	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
<b>BMI</b>	Body Mass Index
<b>bn</b>	Billion
<b>BWD</b>	Bathing Water Directive
<b>CBD</b>	Convention On Biological Diversity
<b>CBM</b>	Central Bank Of Malta
<b>CH<sub>4</sub></b>	Methane
<b>CO<sub>2</sub></b>	Carbon Dioxide
<b>COD</b>	Chemical Oxygen Demand
<b>COFOG</b>	Classification Of The Functions Of Government
<b>COP</b>	Conference Of The Parties
<b>CPI</b>	Corruption Perceptions Index
<b>DG COMM</b>	Directorate-General For Communication
<b>DG ENV</b>	Directorate-General For Environment
<b>DG MOVE</b>	Directorate-General For Mobility And Transport
<b>DHIR</b>	Directorate For Health Information And Research

<b>DMC</b>	Domestic Material Consumption
<b>ECDC</b>	European Centre For Disease Prevention And Control
<b>EEA</b>	European Environment Agency
<b>EHIS</b>	European Health Interview Survey
<b>EIGE</b>	European Institute For Gender Equality
<b>EIONET</b>	European Environment Information And Observation Network
<b>EPO</b>	European Patent Office
<b>ERA</b>	Environment And Resources Authority
<b>ESP</b>	European Standard Population
<b>ESPAD</b>	European School Survey Project On Alcohol And Other Drugs
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EWA</b>	Energy And Water Agency
<b>FAO</b>	Food And Agriculture Organization
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas
<b>GHO</b>	Global Health Observatory
<b>GNI</b>	Gross National Income
<b>GVA</b>	Gross Value Added
<b>HBS</b>	Household Budget Survey
<b>HBSC</b>	Health Behaviour In School-Aged Children
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus

<b>HLPF</b>	High-Level Political Forum
<b>HRI1</b>	Harmonised Risk Indicator For Pesticides
<b>IAEG-SDGs</b>	Inter-Agency And Expert Group On Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
<b>ICT</b>	Information And Communication Technology
<b>IDPCU</b>	Infectious Disease Prevention And Control Unit
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization For Migration
<b>IPPU</b>	Industrial Processes and Product Use
<b>ISCED</b>	International Standard Classification For Education
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union For Conservation Of Nature
<b>JRC</b>	Joint Research Centre
<b>LDCs</b>	Least-Developed Countries
<b>LFS</b>	Labour Force Survey
<b>LTAA</b>	Long-Term Annual Average
<b>LULUCF</b>	Land Use, Land-Use Change And Forestry
<b>MCA</b>	Malta Communications Authority
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MFED</b>	Ministry for Education
<b>MHSE</b>	Ministry for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement
<b>MIA</b>	Malta International Airport

<b>MRA</b>	Malta Resources Authority
<b>MSFD</b>	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
<b>N<sub>2</sub>O</b>	Nitrous Oxide
<b>NACE</b>	Statistical Classification Of Economic Activities In The European Community
<b>NCD</b>	Non-Communicable Disease
<b>NCPE</b>	National Commission For The Promotion Of Equality
<b>NCSD</b>	National Commission for Sustainable Development
<b>NEET</b>	Not In Education, Employment Or Training
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>NH<sub>3</sub></b>	Ammonia
<b>NO<sub>3</sub></b>	Nitrate
<b>NO<sub>x</sub></b>	Nitrogen Oxide
<b>NSO</b>	National Statistics Office
<b>NSS</b>	National Statistical System
<b>O<sub>2</sub></b>	Oxygen
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation For Economic Co-Operation And Development
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office Of The High Commissioner For Human Rights
<b>OHSA</b>	Occupational Health & Safety Authority
<b>OPM</b>	Office of the Prime Minister
<b>PA</b>	Planning Authority
<b>PARIS21</b>	Partnership In Statistics For Development In The 21 <sup>st</sup> Century

<b>PISA</b>	Programme For International Student Assessment
<b>PM</b>	Particulate Matter
<b>R&amp;D</b>	Research And Development
<b>R&amp;I</b>	Research And Innovation
<b>REWS</b>	Regulator For Energy & Water Services
<b>SAI</b>	Sexually Acquired Infections
<b>SD</b>	Sustainable Development
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>SILC</b>	Statistics On Income And Living Conditions
<b>TM</b>	Transport Malta
<b>UAA</b>	Utilised Agricultural Area
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference On Trade And Development
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNECE</b>	United Nations Economic Commission For Europe
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNEP-WCMC</b>	United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific And Cultural Organization
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNGA</b>	United Nations General Assembly



<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime
<b>UNSD</b>	United Nations Statistical Division
<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention To Combat Desertification
<b>UN-CTS</b>	United Nations Survey Of Crime Trends And Operations Of Criminal Justice Systems
<b>UN-DESA</b>	United Nations Department Of Economic And Social Affairs
<b>UN SDIs</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Indicators
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity For Gender Equality And The Empowerment Of Women
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>WCED</b>	World Commission On Environment And Development
<b>WEI+</b>	Water Exploitation Index Plus
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WHO-FCTC</b>	World Health Organization Framework Convention On Tobacco Control
<b>WISE</b>	Water Information System For Europe
<b>WPB-ICPR</b>	World Prison Brief Institute For Criminal Policy Research
<b>WSC</b>	Water Services Corporation
<b>WSSD</b>	World Summit On Sustainable Development
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization

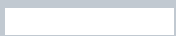
## Units of Measurement

<b>%</b>	per cent
<b>°C</b>	degree Celsius
<b>µg</b>	microgram
<b>bn</b>	Billion
<b>dB</b>	decibel
<b>EUR</b>	euro
<b>g</b>	gram
<b>ha</b>	hectare
<b>Kg</b>	kilogram
<b>Kg O<sub>2</sub>/day</b>	kilogrammes of oxygen per day
<b>Kgoe</b>	kilograms of oil equivalent
<b>km</b>	kilometre
<b>km<sup>2</sup></b>	square kilometre
<b>L</b>	litre
<b>m<sup>2</sup></b>	square metre
<b>m<sup>3</sup></b>	cubic metre
<b>mg</b>	milligram
<b>PPS</b>	purchasing power standard
<b>USD</b>	US dollar





# Introduction



## Introduction

On 25 September 2015, Heads of States at the General Assembly of the United Nations (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/70/1 on 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.<sup>1</sup> Heads of States recognised that "...eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development", and resolved to "...free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet".<sup>2</sup>

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets build on the Millennium Development Goals, which put emphasis on the social pillar of poverty. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) recognised that ending poverty and other deprivations are linked with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.<sup>3</sup> The scale and ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) are reflected by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, all of which are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.<sup>4</sup>

This publication collates all existing data related to Malta, and presents them as statistics related to the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Targets.

## History of the SDGs: the post-2015 development agenda

In 1983, the General Assembly of the United Nations (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/38/161 'Process of preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond', wherein it welcomed the establishment of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), later known as the Brundtland Commission since it was chaired by the then Prime Minister of Norway Gro Harlem Brundtland. The resolution suggested that the Commission: (i) focuses on achieving sustainable development to the year 2000 and beyond; (ii) recommends

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. *Preamble*.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Sustainable Development—History*, online: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>4</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 17<sup>th</sup> Session, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

ways in which concern for the environment may be translated into greater co-operation among developing countries and between countries at different stages of economic and social development and lead to the achievement of common and mutually supportive objectives which take account of the interrelationships between people, resources, environment, and development; (iii) considers ways and means by which the international community can deal more effectively with environmental concerns, in the light of the other recommendations in its report, and; (iv) help to define shared perceptions of long-term environmental issues and of the appropriate efforts needed to deal successfully with the problems of protecting and enhancing the environment, a long-term agenda for action during the coming decades, and aspirational goals for the world community.<sup>5</sup>

The report of the Commission, published in 1987—‘Our Common Future’ (known as the Brundtland Report)—defined ‘sustainable development’ and delved into the key areas that need to be addressed to ensure sustainable development.<sup>6</sup> The report provided substantial input at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the ‘Earth Summit’) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where more than 178 states adopted a comprehensive plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable development to improve human lives and protect the environment—the Agenda 21. The Commission on Sustainable Development was created thereafter to ensure implementation and follow up of the agreements reached during the Earth Summit.<sup>7</sup>

The principles of Agenda 21 were reaffirmed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002. By then, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were adopted following the UNGA’s ‘Millennium Declaration’ in 2000, already provided development targets to be reached by 2015.<sup>8</sup> The ‘Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation’, adopted at the WSSD reaffirmed the global commitments to poverty eradication, to reach the MDGs, to an environmental approach to development, and on Agenda 21.

All these were brought together twenty years after the Earth Summit, when world leaders came

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations General Assembly (1983), 38/161. *Process of preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond*, 19.12.1983, New York. Accessible online at <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/38/161> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>6</sup> World Commission on Environment and Development (1987), *Our common future*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Sustainable Development—Agenda 21*, online: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/outcomedocuments/agenda21> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>8</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2000), 55/2. *United Nations Millennium Declaration*, 18.9.2000, New York. Accessible online at <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/55/2> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

together at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012 and decided to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals built upon the MDGs but incorporating sustainable development for post-2015. To this end, Governments adopted the 'Future We Want' which contains clear and practical measures for implementing sustainable development.<sup>9</sup> At the Rio+20 Conference, Governments also agreed to: (i) strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); (ii) establish a High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) for sustainable development; (iii) request the United Nations Statistical Commission to launch a programme of work to elaborate measures of progress to complement Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in order to better inform policy decisions; (iv) adopt the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, and; (v) convene a Third International Conference on Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) in 2014.<sup>10</sup>

In 2013, the General Assembly established an Open Working Group to develop a proposal on the SDGs.<sup>11</sup> The Open Working Group was tasked with developing modalities to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience.<sup>12</sup> The Open Working Group met thirteen times, with the last session being held from 14–18 July 2014. On 22 July 2014, the Open Working Group forwarded to the UNGA its proposal for a set of goals that consider economic, social and environmental dimensions to improve people's lives and protect the planet for future generations.<sup>13</sup> Later in January 2015, the General Assembly began the negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda. The process culminated in the subsequent adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, which included 17 SDGs and 169 targets.<sup>14</sup> Other international frameworks that were adopted in 2015 as part of the post-2015

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Future We Want – Outcome document*, online: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1298> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>10</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20*, online: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/rio20> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>11</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2013), *Draft decision submitted by the President of the General Assembly: Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals*, A/67/L.48/Rev.1, New York. Accessible online at [https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/L.48/Rev.1&Lang=E](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/L.48/Rev.1&Lang=E) [accessed on 30 July 2021], and United Nations General Assembly (2013), *Official Records of the 63rd plenary meeting Tuesday, 22 January 2013*, A/67/PV.63, pp.1–4.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*, online: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/owg> [accessed on 30 July 2021].

<sup>13</sup> UN Department of Public Information, *UN General Assembly's Open Working Group proposes sustainable development goals*, Press Release 22 July 2014, New York, online: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4538pressowg13.pdf> [accessed on 30 July 2021].

<sup>14</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), *70/1. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].



development agenda include the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction<sup>15</sup>, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development,<sup>16</sup> and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.<sup>17</sup>

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The HLPF, mandated in 2012 by the Rio+20's outcome document 'The Future We Want', has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The HLPF meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly for two days.<sup>18, 19</sup> As part of the HLPF review process, states are encouraged to "conduct regular and

<sup>15</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 69/283. *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, 3.6.2015, New York. Accessible online at [https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/283&Lang=E](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/283&Lang=E) [accessed on 30 July 2021].

<sup>16</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 69/313. *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)*, 27.7.2015, New York. Accessible online at [https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/313&Lang=E](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/313&Lang=E) [accessed on 30 July 2021].

<sup>17</sup> United Nations—Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015), Adoption of the Paris Agreement, FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1, 12 December 2015. Accessible online at [https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1&Lang=E](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1&Lang=E) [accessed on 30 July 2021].

<sup>18</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/299. *Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level*, 29.7.2016, New York. Accessible online at [https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/299](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/299) [accessed on 30 July 2021].

<sup>19</sup> For more information on the work of the HLPF see: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*, online: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf> [accessed on 30 July 2021].

inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven.”<sup>20</sup> These Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF, and aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>21</sup>

## Monitoring implementation: the Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs)

In March 2015, the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Statistical Commission created the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), composed of states members of the UN and including regional and international agencies as observers.<sup>22</sup> The mandate of the IAEG-SDGs was to develop and implement the global indicator framework for the targets of the SDGs. In 2017, during the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Statistical Commission states agreed on a global indicator framework that was developed by the IAEG-SDGs,<sup>23</sup> and later, on 6 July 2017, adopted by the UNGA.<sup>24</sup> The UN resolution requested the Statistical Commission “... to coordinate the substantive and technical work to develop international statistical standards, methods, and guidelines [...] to fully implement the global indicator framework to follow up and review the SDGs and targets”.<sup>25</sup> The Statistical Commission and the IAEG-SDGs were also asked to further refine and improve the global indicator framework in annual assessments.<sup>26</sup>

As mandated by the UN General Assembly in resolution 71/313, for the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the IAEG-SDGs proposed 36 major changes to the

<sup>20</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, paragraph. 79, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>21</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Voluntary National Reviews*, online: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/> [accessed on 4 August 2021].

<sup>22</sup> Economic and Social Council (2015), 46/101: *Data in support of the post-2015 development agenda*, ‘Statistical Commission—Report on the forty-sixth session (3-6 March 2015)’, Official Records 2015 Supplement No. 4, E/2015/24-E/CN.3/2015/40, New York, pp. 11–12. Available online: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/46th-session/documents/statcom-2015-46th-report-E.pdf> [accessed on 30 July 2021].

<sup>23</sup> Economic and Social Council (2017), 48/101: *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, ‘Statistical Commission—Report on the forty-eighth session (7-10 March 2017)’, Official Records 2017 Supplement No. 4, E/2017/24-E/CN.3/2017/35, New York, pp. 38–40. Available online: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/Report-on-the-48th-session-of-the-statistical-commission-E.pdf> [accessed on 30 July 2021].

<sup>24</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

global indicator framework in the form of replacements, revisions, additions and deletions as part of the 2020 Comprehensive Review.<sup>27</sup> As of July 2021, the global indicator list includes 231 unique indicators.<sup>28</sup> The list includes the global indicator framework as contained in A/RES/71/313, the refinements agreed by the Statistical Commission at its 49<sup>th</sup> session in March 2018<sup>29</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> session in March 2019<sup>30</sup>, changes from the 2020 Comprehensive Review and further refinements (E/CN.3/2020/2, Annex III) from the 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> sessions in March 2020<sup>31</sup> and March 2021.<sup>32</sup>

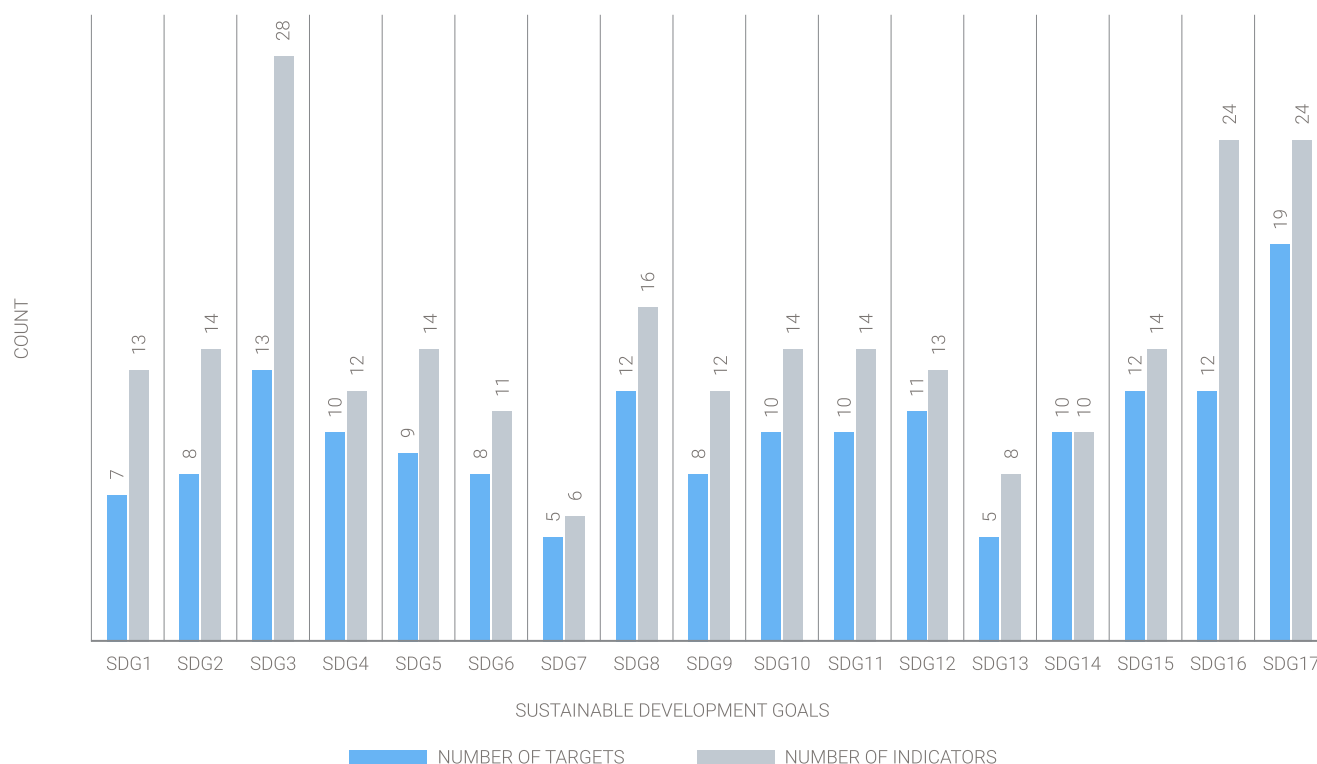


Chart A: Number of UN SDG targets and UN SDG indicators per goal

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> The total number of indicators is 247, however twelve indicators are repeated under two or three different targets.

<sup>29</sup> Economic and Social Council (2017), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2018/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2018), 49/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York.

<sup>30</sup> Economic and Social Council (2018), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2019/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2019), 50/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York.

<sup>31</sup> Economic and Social Council (2019), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2020/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2020), 51/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York.

<sup>32</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York.

The production of statistics for the Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) requires compilation of national data and statistics, harmonisation of the data, and the production of global aggregates. The complexity in the production of the statistics and their harmonisation required thematic expertise covering all areas of the SDGs. Indeed, the IAEG-SDG Expert Group identified ‘custodian agencies’ for each indicator for global reporting and indicator development. The main responsibilities of these international agencies are to collect data from countries under existing mandates and through reporting mechanisms, to compile internationally comparable data in the different statistical domains, to support increased adoption and compliance with internationally agreed standards and to strengthen national statistical capacity.<sup>33</sup> Custodian agencies are also to ensure communicating and coordinating with national statistical systems and national focal points in a transparent manner, including on the validation of estimates and data adjustments when these are necessary, compiling the international data series, calculating global and regional aggregates and providing them to the UN Statistics Division (UNSD), which coordinates the international statistical system.<sup>34</sup> Statistics are eventually presented on the dissemination platform of the Global SDG Indicators Database.<sup>35</sup> Custodian agencies were identified for each indicator to ensure that robust, global statistics were provided to measure progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda.<sup>36</sup>

Currently, there are approximately 50 custodian agencies, many of which are from within the United Nations System: the UN Secretariat (such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Environment Programme), specialised UN Agencies (such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Labour Organization), Funds (such as the United Nations Children’s Fund and the UN Women), Programmes (such as the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme), and UN-related organisations (such as the International Organization of Migration and the World Trade Organization). There are also custodian agencies from outside the UN system, which include coalitions of countries (such as the Small Island Developing States and the Alliance of Small Island States), conventions secretariats (such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification), and other intergovernmental and international agencies (such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development).<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Economic and Social Council (2016), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2017/2, New York.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> United Nations Statistics Division, *SDG indicators—United Nations Global Database*, ‘Sustainable Development Goals’, online: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> [accessed on 30 July 2021]

<sup>36</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (2018), *Understanding the system of custodian agencies for Sustainable Development Indicators*, ECE/CES/2018/39, Geneva.

## The 2030 Agenda in the European Union (EU)

Article 3(5) of the Treaty on European Union lists sustainable development as a core principle of the European Union.<sup>38</sup> The EU's commitment towards the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs has been strengthened by the European Commission's ambitious policy programmes to deliver on sustainability in the EU and beyond, which are an intrinsic part of the European Commission President's programme and lie at the heart of the policymaking on internal and external action across all sectors.<sup>39</sup> The six Commission's priorities for 2019–2024: a European Green Deal; a Europe fit for the digital age; an economy that works for people; a stronger Europe in the world; promoting our European way of life, and; a new push for European democracy, represent all aspects of the SDGs, directly with one of the six priorities and indirectly across all priorities.<sup>40</sup> On 22 June 2021, the Council of the EU also reaffirmed the EU's strong commitment towards the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, which "continue to guide the EU internally and externally to build back better and greener".<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Ibid. For a comprehensive and updated list of custodian agencies see United Nations Statistics Division, *SDG indicators—Data collection Information & Focal points*, 'Sustainable Development Goals', online: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataContacts/> [accessed on 3 August 2021].

<sup>38</sup> Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union (2012), OJ C326/13.

<sup>39</sup> European Commission, *EU holistic approach to sustainable development*, 'Sustainable Development Goals', online: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/international-strategies/sustainable-development-goals/eu-holistic-approach-sustainable-development\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/international-strategies/sustainable-development-goals/eu-holistic-approach-sustainable-development_en) [accessed on 4 August 2021].

<sup>40</sup> For more information on the European Commission's priorities see European Commission, *6 Commission priorities for 2019–24*, 'The European Commission's priorities', online: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024_en) [accessed on 4 August 2021].

<sup>41</sup> Council of the European Union (2021), *Council Conclusions: A comprehensive approach to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development – Building back better from the COVID-19 crises*, 9850/21, Luxembourg. See also EU press release of 22 June 2021 <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/22/2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-council-approves-conclusions-reaffirming-strong-eu-commitment/> [accessed on 4 August 2021].



(source: European Commission)<sup>42</sup>

The EU's first reaction to the 2030 Agenda is reflected in the European Commission's Communication 'Next steps for a sustainable European future - European action for sustainability'.<sup>43</sup> This Communication includes the monitoring dimension of the SDGs in the EU: "The Commission will contribute by monitoring, reporting and reviewing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in an EU context".<sup>44</sup> A first overview of the SDGs in the EU

<sup>42</sup> European Commission, *EU holistic approach to sustainable development*, 'Sustainable Development Goals', online: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/international-strategies/sustainable-development-goals/eu-holistic-approach-sustainable-development\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/international-strategies/sustainable-development-goals/eu-holistic-approach-sustainable-development_en) [accessed on 4 August 2021].

<sup>43</sup> European Commission (2016), *Communication From the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Next steps for a sustainable European future—European action for sustainability*, COM/2016/0739 final, Strasbourg.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

and its Member States was published in 'Sustainable Development in the European Union - A statistical glance from the viewpoint of the UN Sustainable Development Goals'.<sup>45</sup> The publication addressed the SDGs through 51 indicators, which were mainly produced and disseminated by Eurostat, who were tasked to coordinate the development of the EU SDG indicator set and keep it up to date. The EU SDG indicator set is open to annual reviews to incorporate indicators from new data sources as well as to take into account new targets in line with the longer-term vision of the EU after 2020 and the priorities of the European Commission, such as the European Green Deal and other initiatives. The latest indicator set was reviewed between October 2020 and January 2021. As of August 2021, the EU SDG indicator set consists of 102 indicators.<sup>46</sup> Eurostat's most recent publication, reflecting the latest EU SDG indicator set, is the 'Sustainable Development in the European Union – Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context - 2021 edition'.<sup>47</sup>

## Sustainable Development in Malta

In Malta, the notion of Sustainable Development was first represented in the implementation of the Planning Act of 1992. The Act is an attempt at codifying laws in relation to development planning and makes provisions for the planning and management of development, and the setting up of the Planning Authority. In the 1995 annual report of the Planning Authority (PA), the Chairman of the PA concluded that "It is essential that resources continue to be managed in a sustainable manner with responsibility towards future generations, negotiating trade-offs between economic growth, social programmes and environmental conservation. This continues to be the central task of the Planning Authority..."<sup>48</sup>

As the notion of sustainable development started to take shape in international fora, in 2001 the Environment Protection Act established the National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCSD).<sup>49</sup> The NCSD was entrusted with the role of advocating on national sustainable

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<sup>45</sup> Eurostat (2016), *Sustainable development in the European Union: A Statistical Glance from the Viewpoint of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, 2016 edition*, Publication Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. Available online: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-statistical-books/-/ks-02-16-996> [accessed on 5 August 2021].

<sup>46</sup> Eurostat, *Sustainable Development Goals – Overview*, Sustainable development indicators, online: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/sdi> [accessed on 5 August 2021].

<sup>47</sup> Eurostat (2021), *Sustainable development in the European Union: Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context, 2021 edition*, Publication Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. Available online: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-statistical-books/-/ks-03-21-096> [accessed on 5 August 2021].

<sup>48</sup> Planning Authority (1995), *Annual Report*, Malta. Cited in Bianco L. (1999), Development Briefs and Development Planning in Malta, *Bank of Valletta Review*, 19, pp. 68–86.

<sup>49</sup> Environment Protection Act (Cap. 435) – 2001. Available online: <https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/435/eng/pdf> [accessed on 5 August 2021].



development across all sectors; reviewing progress in the achievement of sustainable development; and achieving further progress.<sup>50</sup> Following public consultations, in 2006 the NCSD proposed a Sustainable Development Strategy for the Maltese Islands 2007-2016, which was endorsed by Cabinet in December 2007.<sup>51</sup> The Strategy was built upon the Sustainable Development Strategy of the EU and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. It identified twenty priority areas, grouped under five main themes: the environment, the economy, society, cross-cutting issues, and implementation.<sup>52</sup>

The Government's responsibility to mainstream sustainable development in its policies came with the Sustainable Development Act, which was adopted in 2012.<sup>53</sup> The Act provides for a system of Sustainable Development Coordinators in every Ministry, and also requested the setting up of a Sustainable Development Network; a Sustainable Development Focal Point in every Government department, agency or entity; as well as the setting up of a Guardian of Future Generations. Moreover, the Act requires Parliament to annually hold a discussion without a vote on a Sustainable Development Report which is tabled annually by the Minister concerned. The latest report presented to Parliament was the 2018 Sustainable Development Annual Report, which was tabled in Parliament on 17 March 2020.<sup>54</sup>

The first Sustainable Development Strategy had a timeline that extended till the year 2016. By that year, national, EU and international developments had taken place in various policy sectors. Taking these into account, and building on the 2007 Strategy, in 2018 the Maltese Government embarked on a process to develop a new Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan with a horizon of up to 2050. In October 2018, a 'Vision Document' characterising the foundations upon which the new Sustainable Development Strategy would be underpinned was published for consultation. The 'Vision' aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the

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<sup>50</sup> Sustainabledevelopment.gov.mt, *About Sustainable Development*, online: <https://sustainabledevelopmentcms.gov.mt/en/Pages/Sustainable-Development/About-Sustainable-Development.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1> [accessed on 5 August 2021].

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> National Commission for Sustainable Development (2006), *A Sustainable Development Strategy for the Maltese Islands 2007-2016*, Malta. Available online: <https://sustainabledevelopment.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Sustainable-Development-Strategy-Maltese-Islands-2007-2016-December-2006.pdf> [accessed on 5 August 2021].

<sup>53</sup> Sustainable Development Act (Cap. 521) – 2012. Available online: <https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/521/eng/pdf> [accessed on 5 August 2021].

<sup>54</sup> Ministry within the Office of the Prime Minister (2019), *Sustainable Development Annual Report 2018*, Malta. Available online: <https://sustainabledevelopment.gov.mt/annual-reports/> [accessed on 5 August 2021].



SDGs whilst also takes into account other developments at an international and EU level.<sup>55</sup>

## Monitoring of the SDGs in Malta

In 2018, Malta submitted its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the HLPF. It covered all 17 SDGs, with a focus on those goals considered to be of more relevance for Malta. The VNR provided an overview of Malta's policies in the field of sustainable development and information on ways through which Malta is increasing SDG ownership through a whole-of-government approach.<sup>56</sup> The data for the VNR was provided by the National Statistics Office of Malta (NSO).

In its Resolution 71/313, the UNGA stressed that official statistics and data from national statistical systems constitute the basis needed for the SDG global indicator framework, and also stressed the role of National Statistical Offices as the coordinator of their respective National Statistical Systems.<sup>57</sup> The NSO is not featured in the Sustainable Development Act as the entity responsible to coordinate requests related to the SDIs. However, as the competent authority in Malta responsible for the production and coordination of official statistics, the NSO recognises the need to address the gaps in the production of statistics for the SDIs, by inter alia strengthening coordination between the NSO and other national authorities that produces statistics, mapping SDI-related transmissions between national competent authorities and custodian agencies, and providing technical assistance to non-official producers of statistics.

The quality of the indicators depends on the underlying statistical process. Many non-official producers of statistics will not be as experienced in sound methodological procedures as the NSO and may even be entirely new to quality frameworks.<sup>58</sup> Thus, the strengthening of methodological procedures and the coordination between statistical producers are a necessary precondition to ensure high-quality statistical output. The element of coordination is already

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<sup>55</sup> Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change (2018), *Malta's Sustainable Development Vision for 2050*, Malta. Available online: <https://sustainabledevelopmentcms.gov.mt/en/Documents/Sustainable-Development/Malta-Sustainable-Development-Vision-2050.pdf> [accessed on 5 August 2021]. For more information on the Vision 2050, see Sustainabledevelopment.gov.mt, *Vision 2050*, online: <https://sustainabledevelopmentcms.gov.mt/en/Pages/National-Strategy/Vision-2050.aspx> [accessed on 5 August 2021].

<sup>56</sup> Government of the Republic of Malta (2018), *Malta Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda*, online: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20203Malta\\_VNR\\_Final.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20203Malta_VNR_Final.pdf) [accessed 5 August 2021].

<sup>57</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>58</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (2021), *Conference of European Statisticians Road Map on statistics for Sustainable Development Goals – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, ECE/CES/2021/6, Geneva.

covered by the Malta Statistics Authority Act which mandates the NSO to “monitor and coordinate the carrying out of tasks with statistical implications imposed on other public bodies” and “coordinate the production of official statistics’ systems, including the necessary methodologies, with a view to ensuring timeliness and standardisation of information, efficiency and to meeting users’ requirements...”.<sup>59</sup> The Act also requires that “if any public authority intends to carry out activities with statistical implications, it shall consult, for coordination, with the Office and accept any recommendations the Office may make”.<sup>60</sup> These processes are an opportunity to start shaping a strong National Statistical System, which is a must if we have to cater for users’ demand for high-quality statistics that are relevant, timely, and accurate.

## 2021 SDG statistical report for Malta

For the past year the NSO has been working to: (i) identify existing data sources and statistical products (national and international) that address the UN SDIs framework; (ii) identify other data and statistical products that are relevant for the monitoring of implementation towards the SDG targets and can therefore be used as a proxy to the UN SDIs, and; (iii) identify national statistics that can supplement the UN indicators and proxies with additional information relevant for a Maltese context. The results of these processes are reflected in this statistical report.

All 17 SDGs are applicable to Malta. However, from the 169 UN SDG targets, 10 are not considered as being relevant for Malta’s context (Chart B). For the purpose of this statistical report, the assessment on the non-relevance of the 10 UN SDG targets listed in Table A is based on the actual wording of the UN SDG targets, which specify ‘developing countries’, ‘least developed countries’, ‘small island developing states’, and ‘landlocked developing countries’ as the principle focus of these particular targets. Non-applicability/non-relevance of the 10 UN SDG targets listed in Table A does not mean that Malta-data for the targets’ indicators are not available. The Annex provides more information on data availability for each target and indicator.

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<sup>59</sup> Malta Statistics Authority Act (Cap. 422) – 2001. Available online: <https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/422/eng/pdf> [accessed on 6 August 2021]. Paragraphs 10(2)(f) and 10(2)(g).

<sup>60</sup> Ibid. Paragraph 39(2).

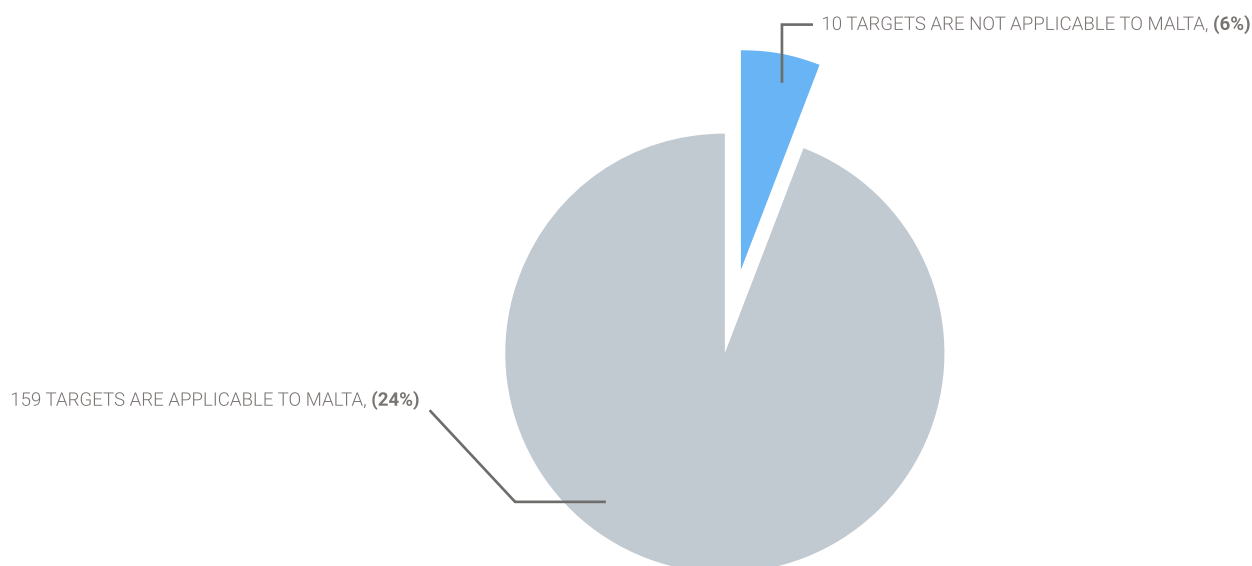


Chart B: Percentage of UN SDG targets applicable to Malta, NSO

Table A: List of SDG targets considered not to be applicable to Malta, NSO

GOAL	TARGET CODE	TARGET
3. Good Health and Well-being	3.c	Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States
7. Affordable and Clean Energy	7.b	By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	9.b	Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities
	9.c	Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020
10. Reduced Inequalities	10.6	Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

13. Climate Action	13.b	Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities
15. Life on Land	15.4	By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	16.8	Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
17. Partnerships for the Goals	17.8	Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology
	17.18	By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

From the 247 UN SDIs, Malta-related statistics produced in line, or similar, to the methodology prepared by the respective custodian agencies and/or the UNSD and approved by the IAEG-SDGs, have been identified for 112 UN SDIs. To address the SDG targets that are monitored through the remaining 135 UN SDIs, other data and indicators were identified that could be used as proxies to 45 UN SDIs. Thus, in total, existing data on Malta covers approximately 64% of all UN SDIs. The remaining 90 UN SDIs (approximately 36% of total) are currently not addressed by the existing data (Chart C). The type of available indicators and no-data availability per SDG is reflected in Chart D.

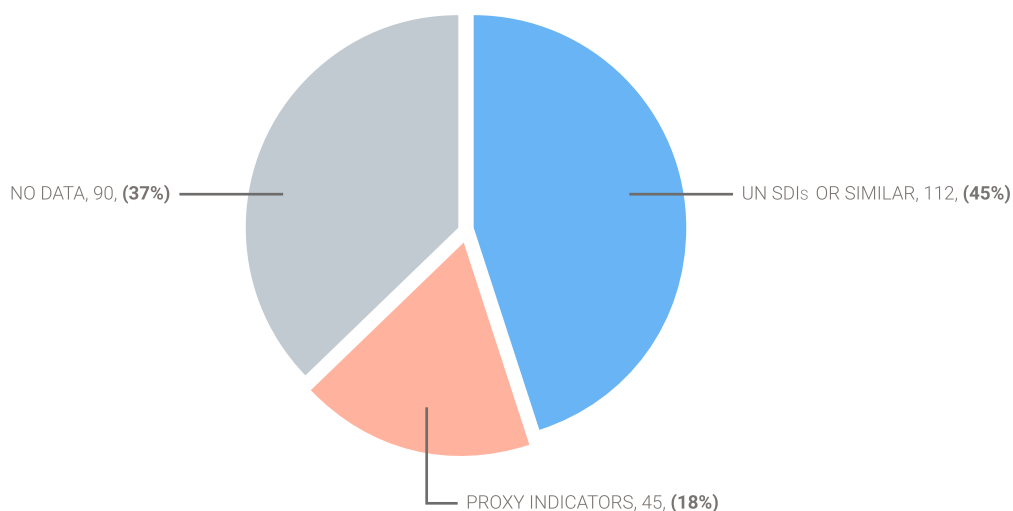


Chart C: Data coverage for Malta; NSO

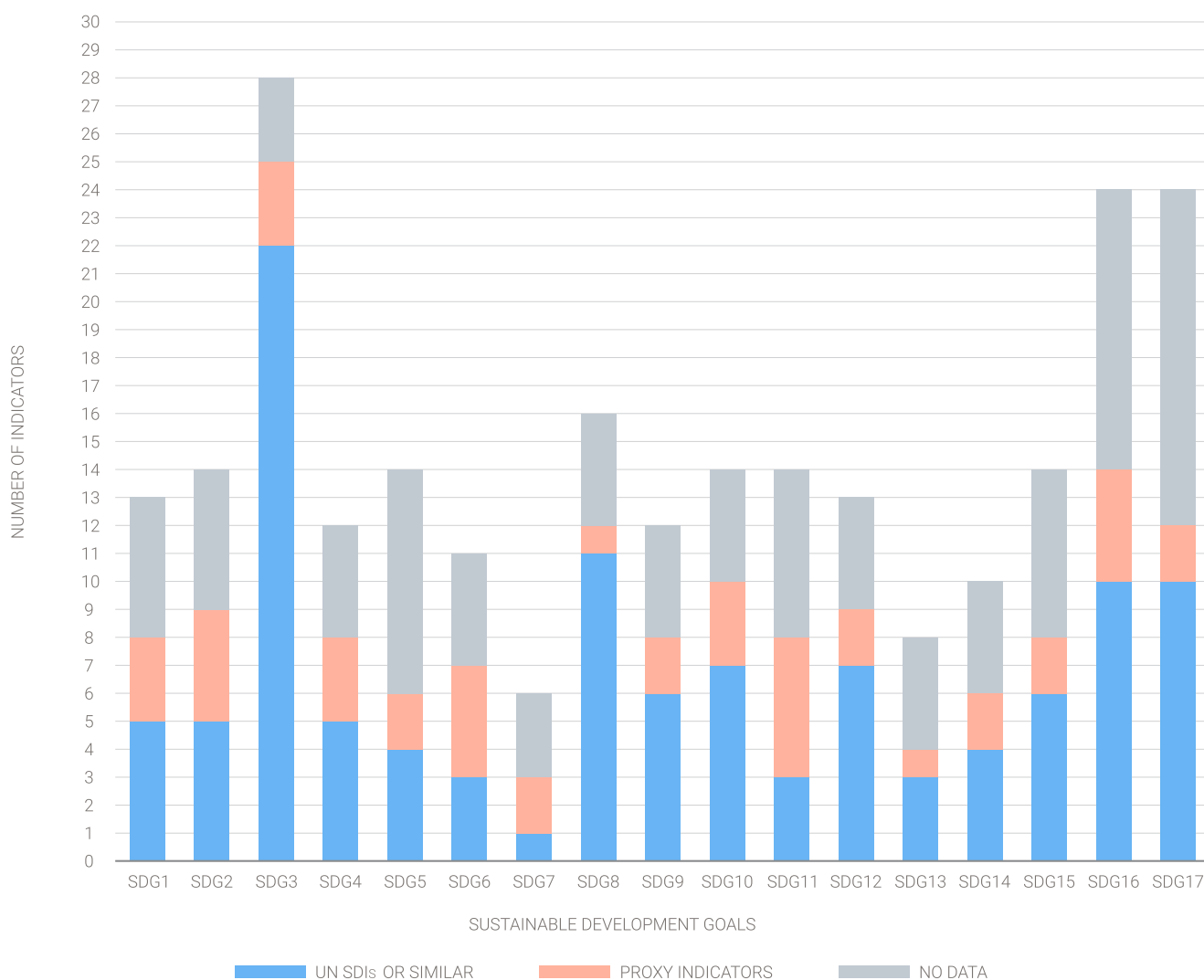


Chart D: Number of UN SDIs presented in line with the UN SDI methodologies, number of UN SDIs presented replaced by proxy indicators, and number of UN SDIs for which data is not available per SDG; NSO

This statistical report presents most of the indicators for which data are available. However, some of the indicators, especially indices developed by custodian agencies, do not yet offer the possibility for a trend to be established. Also, for some UN SDIs estimates were used, which do not always reflect correctly the Maltese context. Therefore, statistics for these UN SDIs are not being presented in this publication (Charts E and F). More information on the alignment with the UN SDIs, on the use of proxy indicators, on the UN SDIs not presented in this publication, and on the sources for the data used in this publication can be found in the Annex.

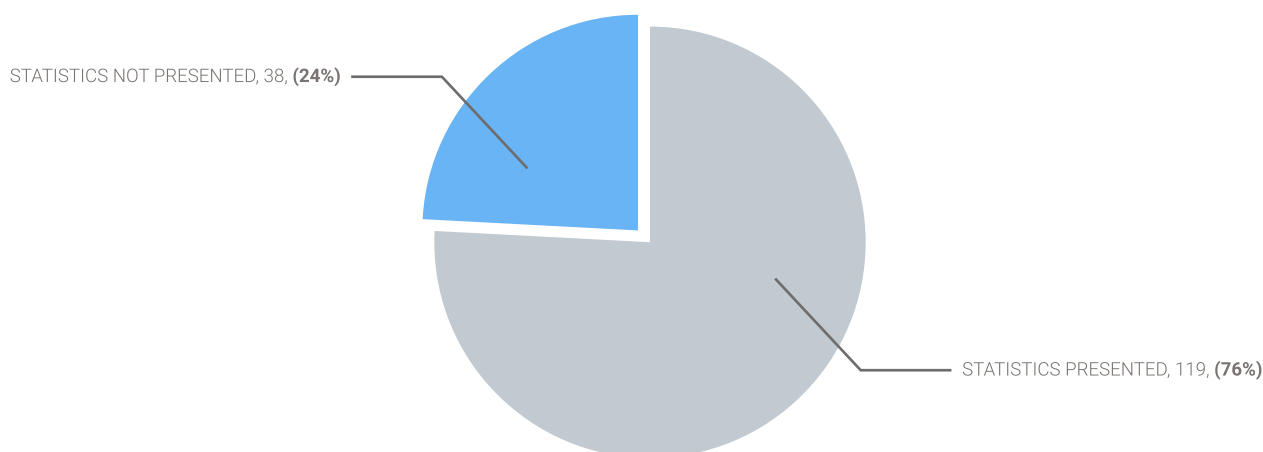


Chart E: Indicators for which statistics are presented in this publication; NSO

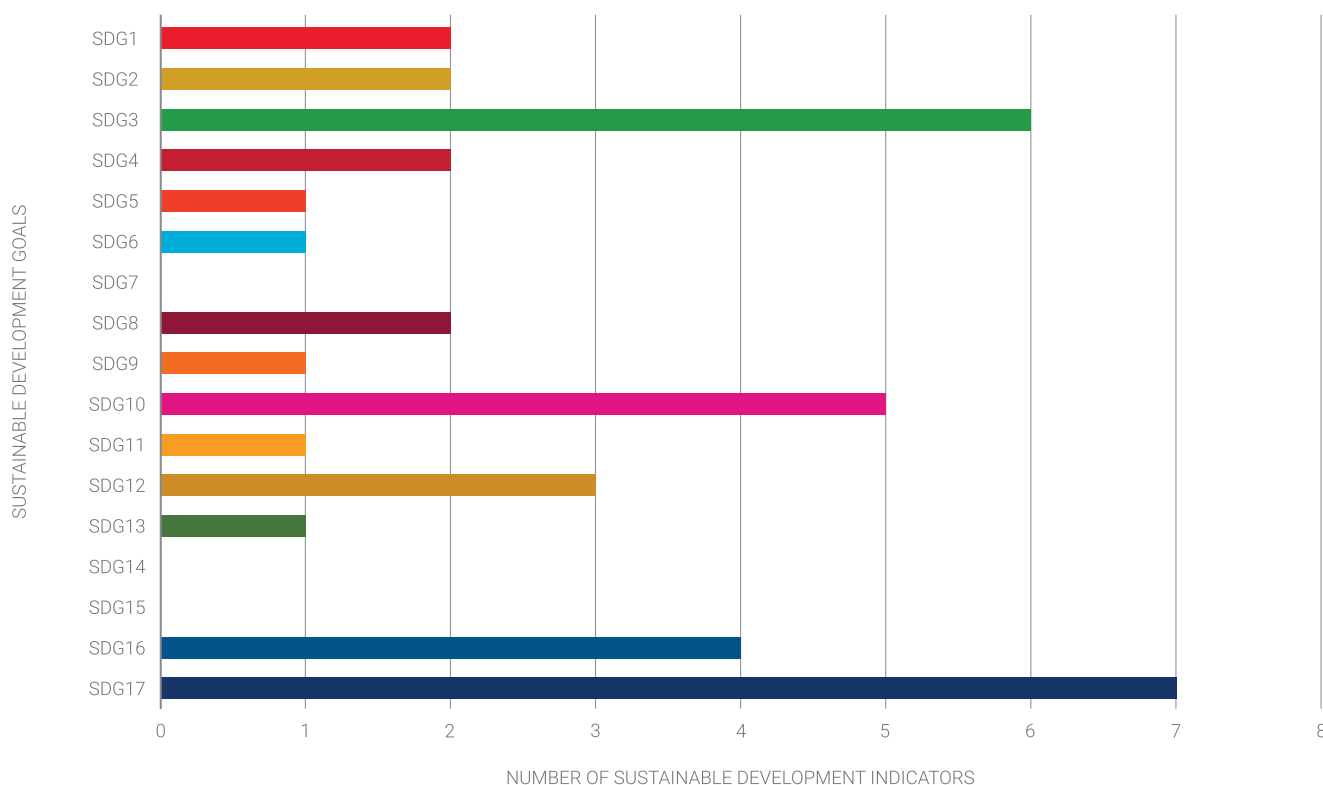


Chart F: Number of UN SDIs for which data is available but not shown in this publication; NSO

Apart from the UN SDIs and their proxies (numbers reflected in Chart D), this statistical report also includes a number of additional ‘national’ indicators that in general support the official UN SDIs in monitoring progress towards the UN SDG targets, and also add a local context in the monitoring of the SDGs. Chart G shows the total number of indicators (UN SDIs, proxies, and national indicators) used for every SDG. All these indicators are presented in a number of charts/tables as indicated in Chart H.

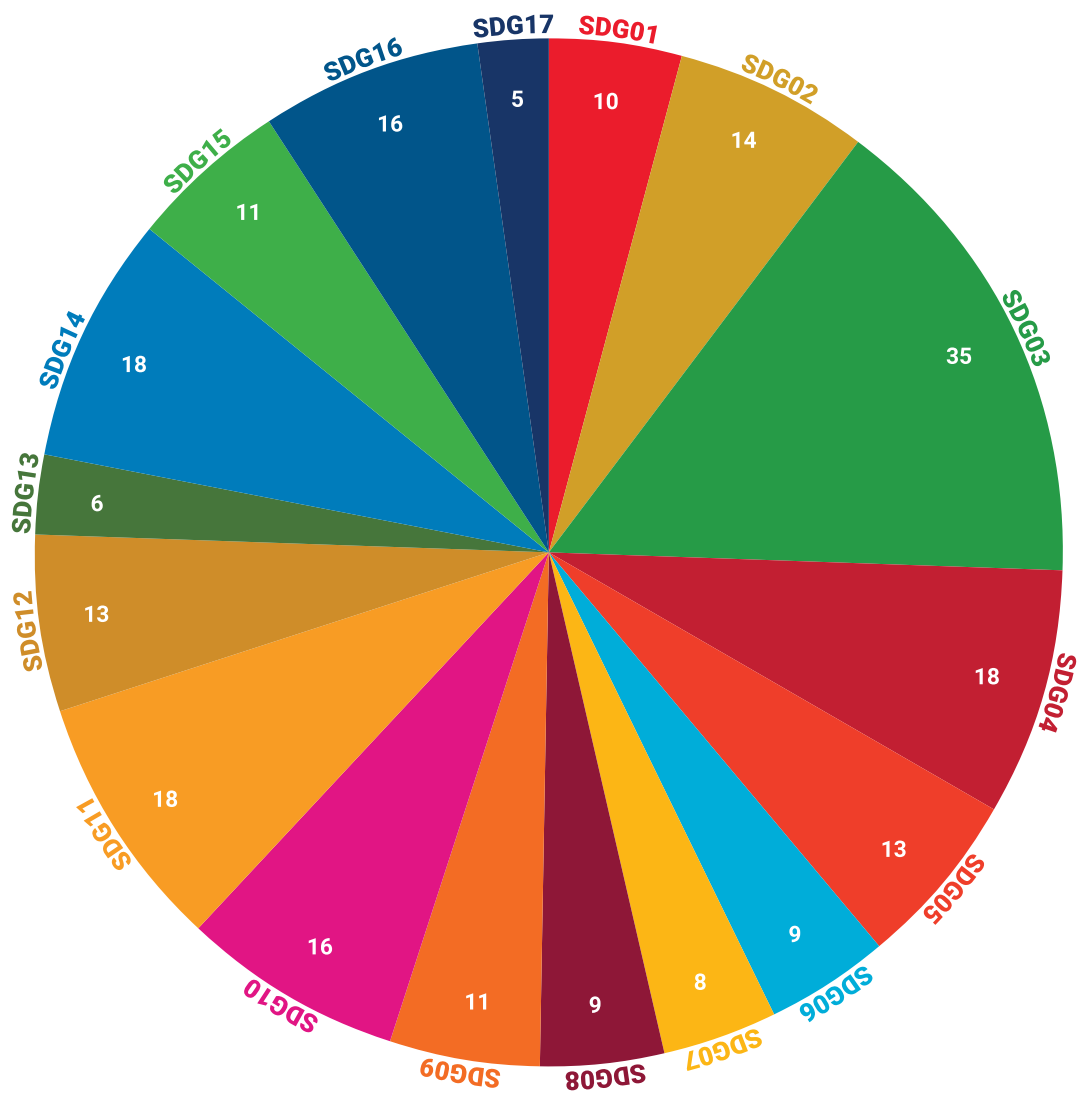
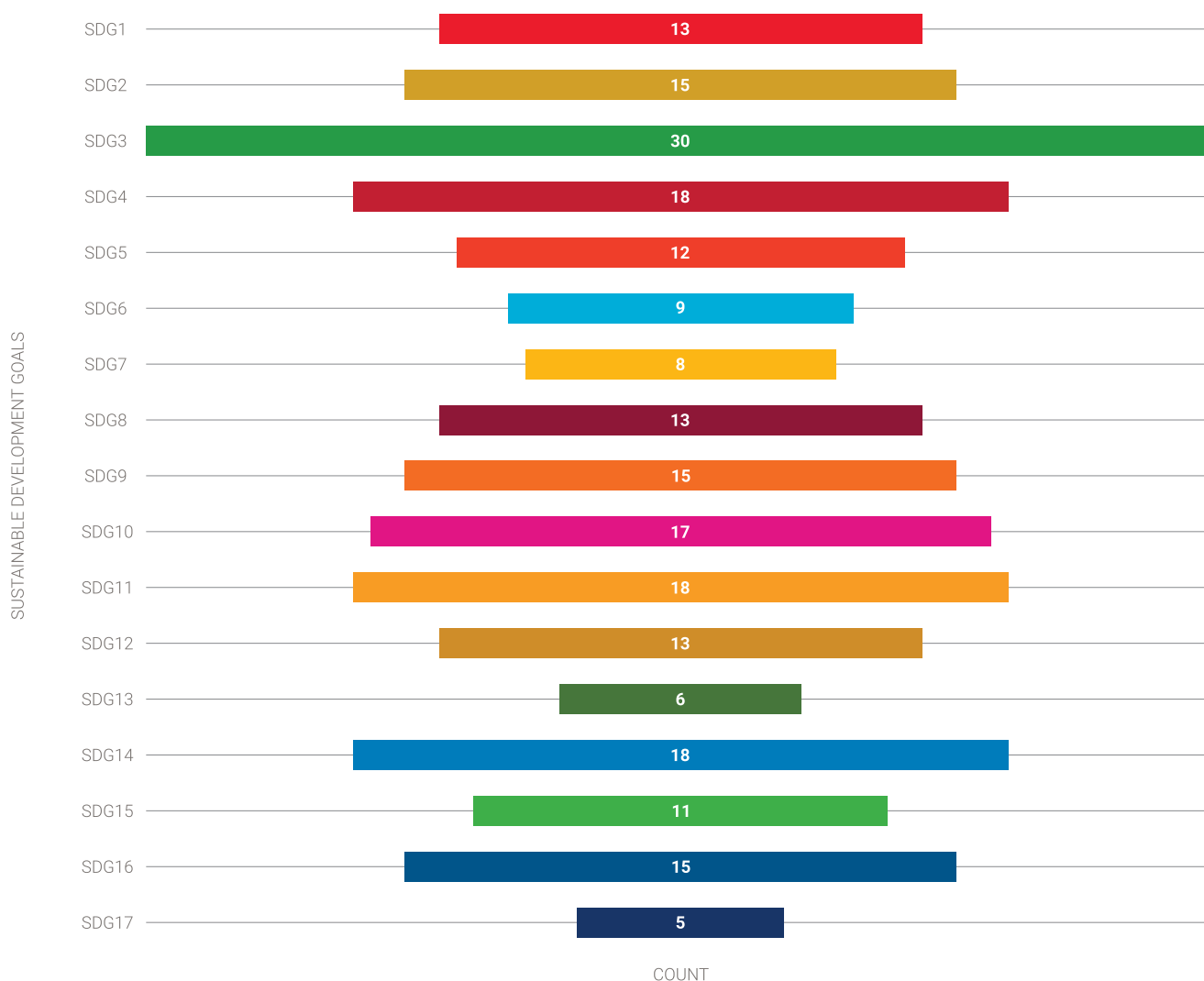


Chart G: Total number of indicators presented in this publication, per SDG; NSO



*Chart H: Number of charts/tables used in this publication, per SDG; NSO*

Despite using several sources, the indicators used in this publication are not sufficient to address all the SDG targets. The most complete SDG, in terms of data availability that is being presented in this publication, is SDG 3 with a coverage of 84.6% of its targets. The least coverage is for SDG 17, with only 21.1% from the total SDG 17 targets covered (Chart I). Therefore, since none of the SDGs can be fully assessed based on the monitoring of each of their respective targets, this statistical report only assesses those SDG targets for which data is presented.



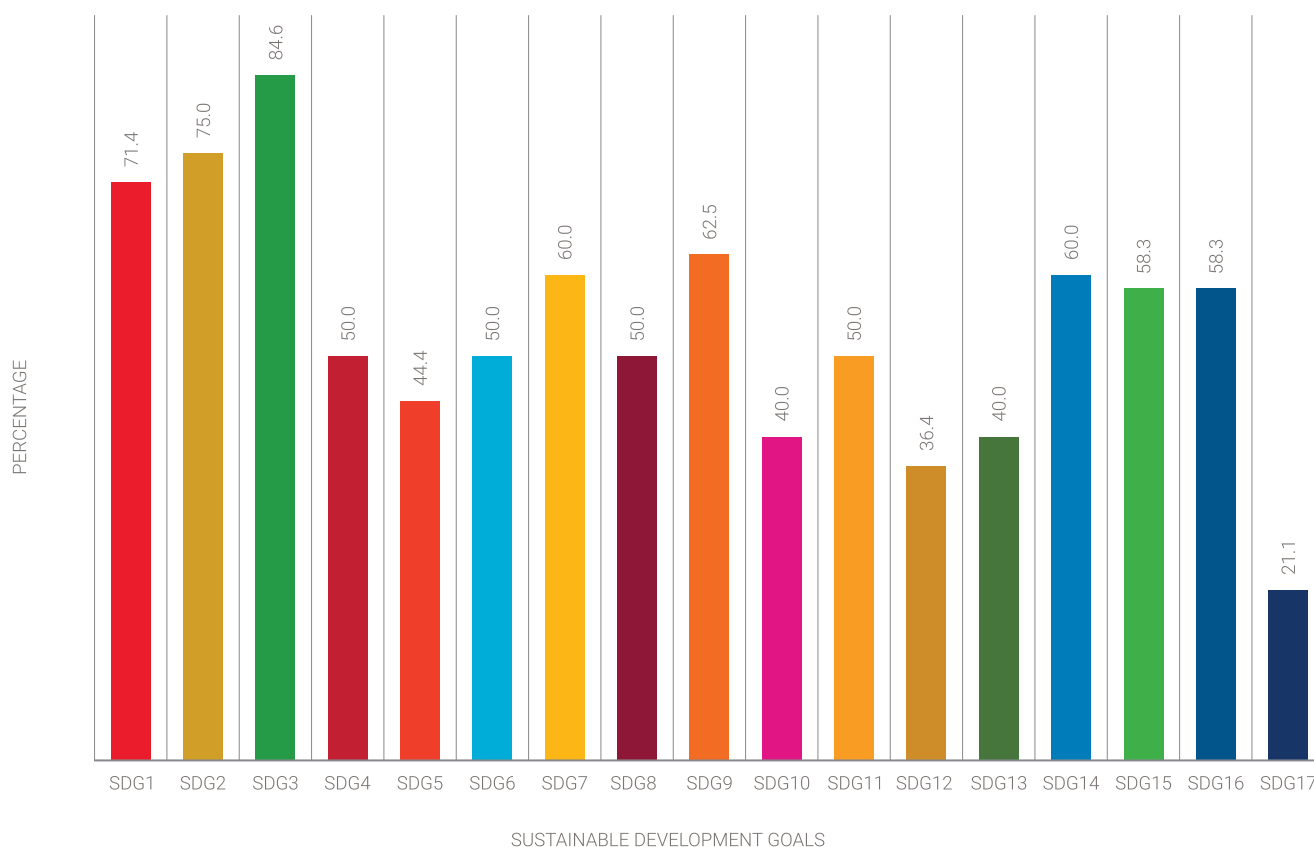


Chart I: Percentage of UN SDG targets, from total UN SDG targets, addressed in this publication; NSO

The Annex of this statistical report lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals and Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>61</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by the General Assembly<sup>62</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>63</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.

<sup>61</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>62</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>63</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].



# SDG 01



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

## | End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The 2030 Agenda acknowledges that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Indeed, the first Sustainable Development Goal aims to “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”. Its associated targets aim, among others, to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty, and implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

The goal has seven targets that aim for the eradication of extreme poverty; reduction of all poverty by half; implementation of social protection systems; ensuring equal rights to ownership, basic services, technology, and economic resources; and the building of resilience to environmental, economic, and social disasters. These targets can be achieved by mobilising resources to end poverty and with the establishment of poverty eradication policy frameworks at all levels.

### Poverty

Malta, as other EU Member States, does not monitor poverty based on ‘absolute poverty’ or solely in financial terms. ‘Monetary’ poverty in the EU is measured in relative terms, known as the ‘at-risk-of-poverty’ rate. Furthermore, poverty is understood as being multidimensional, beyond the notions of poverty as just a lack of basic physical needs, and that it includes elements such as social participation and human functioning. Persons are considered to be at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion if they are in at least one of the following states: at-risk-of-poverty, severely materially deprived, or living in households with very low-work-intensity.

The at-risk-of-poverty threshold is set at 60% of the national equivalised income; in 2019 this was calculated at €9,212. In 2019, 17.1 per cent of the population living in private households was estimated to be at-risk-of-poverty, 1.6 percentage points more than the at-risk-of-poverty in 2010 (Chart 1.1). The increase reflects the increase of the at-risk-of-poverty in the females’ cohort.

The largest share of the population at-risk-of-poverty in 2019 was registered among the elderly persons aged 65 and over—nearly 28% of those were at-risk-of-poverty; showing an increase of 9.5 percentage points from the at-risk-of-poverty of those aged 65 and over in 2010 (Chart 1.2).

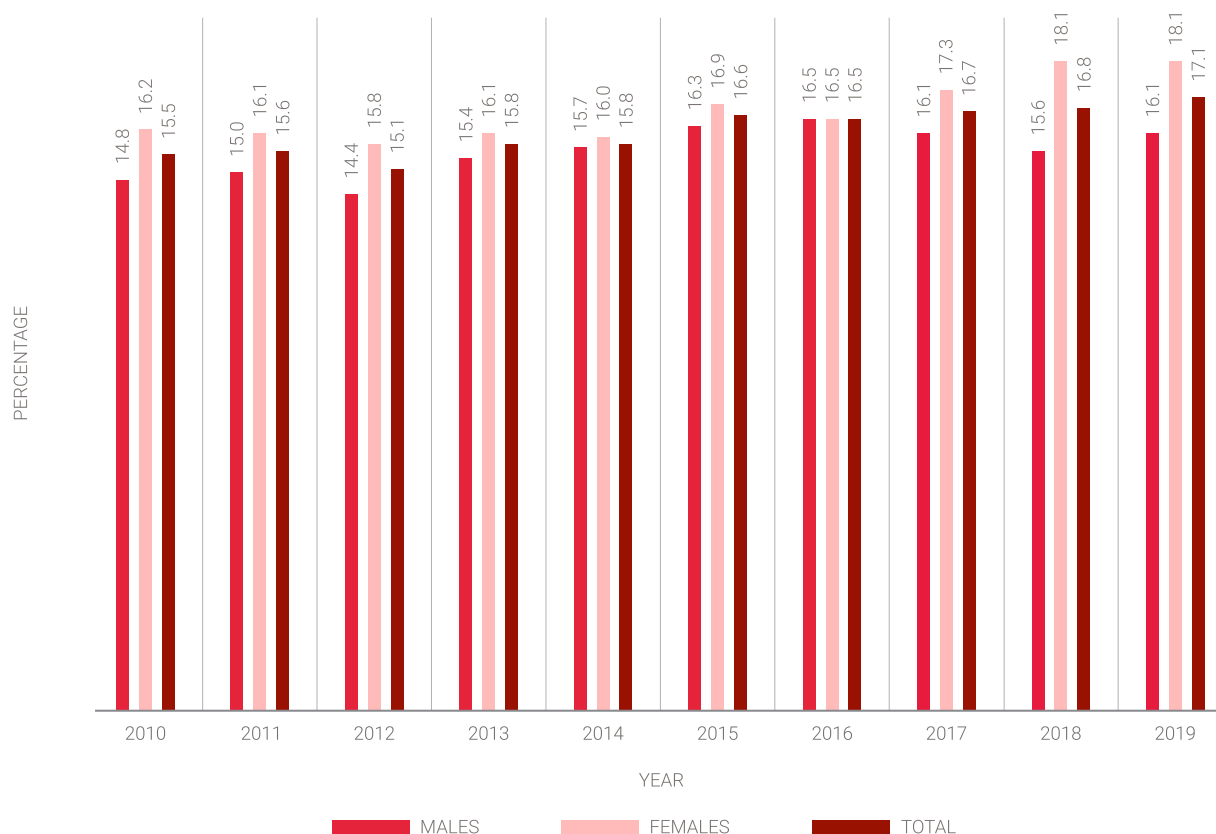


Chart 1.1: Percentage of population at-risk-of-poverty; EU-SILC, NSO

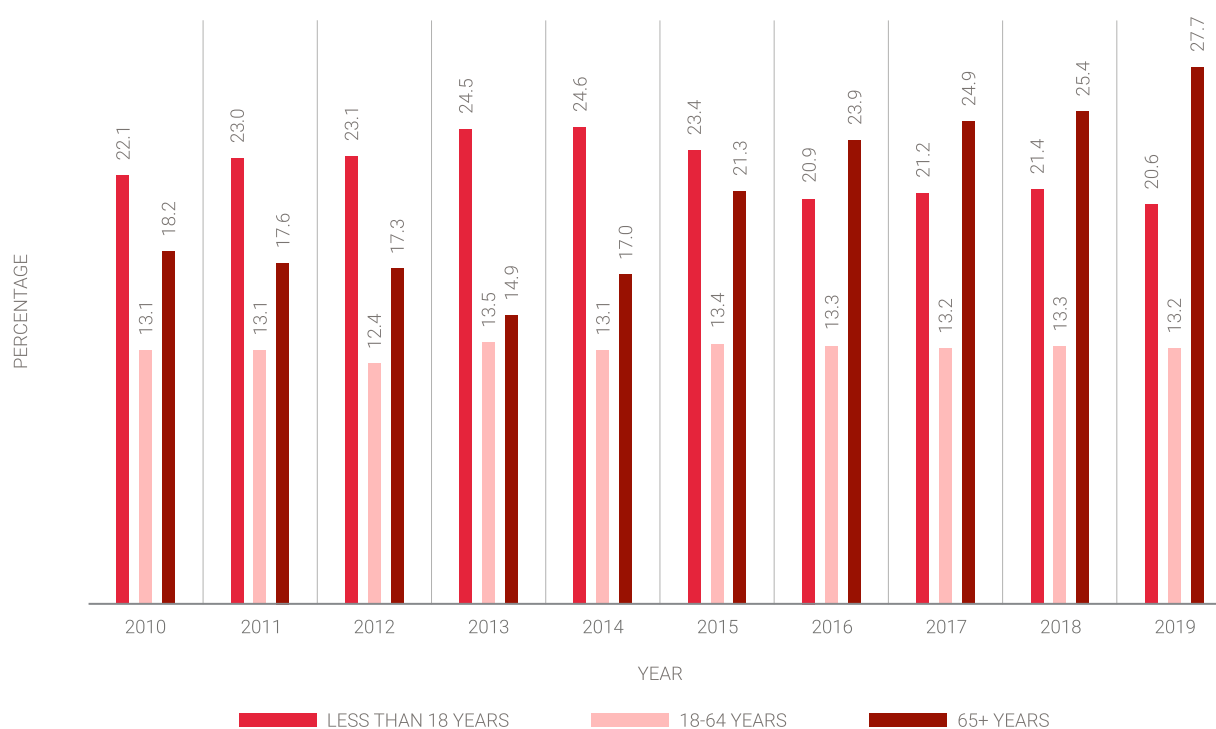


Chart 1.2: Percentage of population at-risk-of-poverty by age group; EU-SILC, NSO

Persons whose household cannot afford four or more items from a set of indicators adopted by all EU Member States are considered to be severely materially deprived. These are known as deprivation items and range from a household's ability to have a meal with protein (meat, chicken or fish) or vegetarian equivalent every alternate day, to affording a week's annual holiday away from home.<sup>64</sup> In 2010, 6.5% of the population living in private households were estimated to fall in this category—6.3% males and 6.6% females. In 2019, the percentage of population considered as severely materially deprived decreased to 3.6%—3.3% males and 4.0% females (see Chart 1.3). Moreover, a decrease in those who were severely materially deprived has been registered in all the age groups, in 2019, when compared with 2010 (Chart 1.4).



Chart 1.3: Percentage of the severely materially deprived; EU-SILC, NSO

<sup>64</sup> The following nine questions are asked to all households in order to determine whether they suffer from material deprivation: (i) ability to face unexpected financial expenses; (ii) ability to pay for one week's annual holiday away from home; (iii) whether they have been in arrears on mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments; (iv) ability to have a meal with meat, chicken, fish, or vegetarian equivalent every second day; (v) ability to keep home adequately warm in winter; (vi) own a washing machine; (vii) own a colour TV; (viii) own a telephone (including mobile phone); and, (ix) own a car.

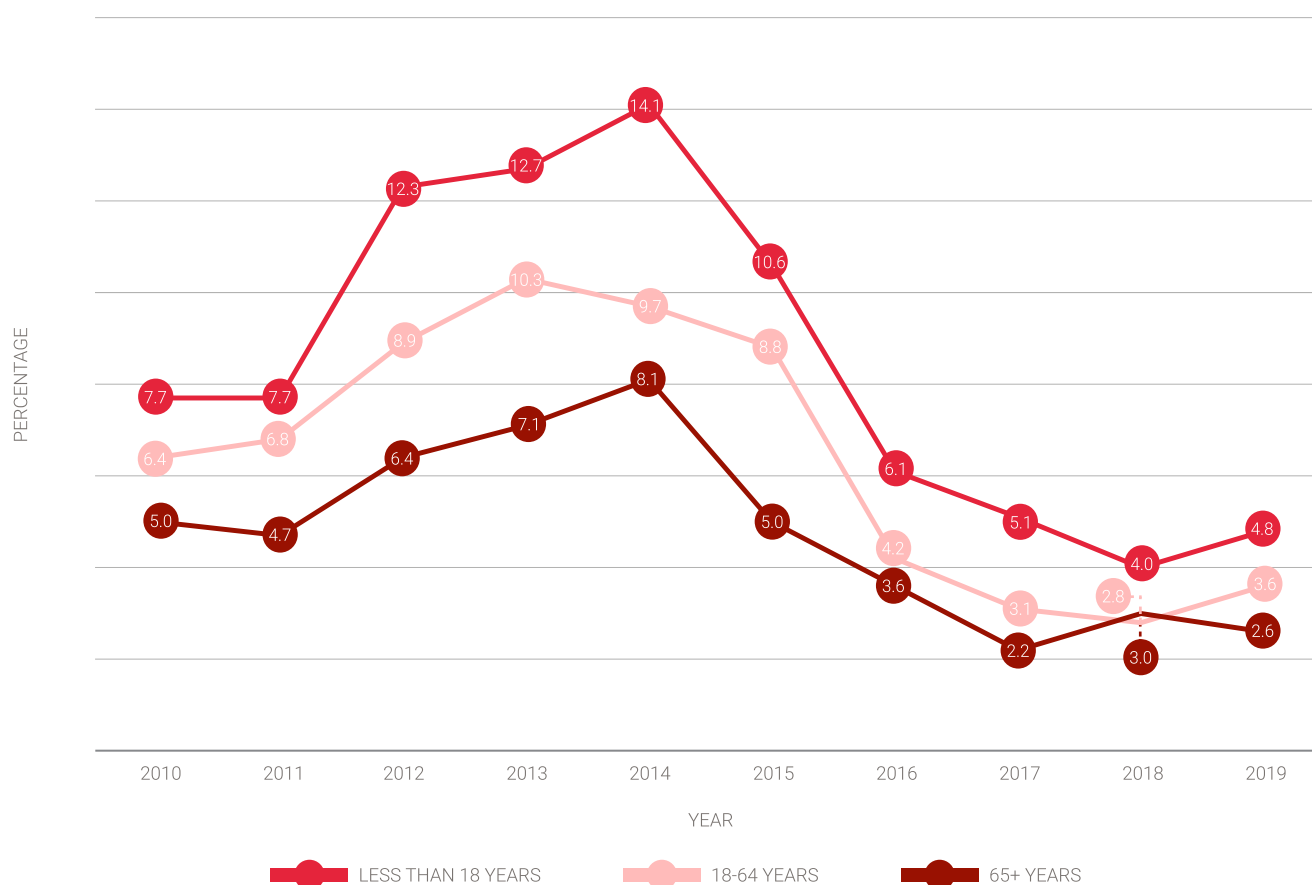


Chart 1.4: Percentage of the severely materially deprived by age group; EU-SILC, NSO

The third aspect of the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion indicator concerns very low-work-intensity households, defined as the share of people aged 0-59 years living in households where on average the adults (aged 18 to 59 years)<sup>65</sup> worked under one-fifth (20% or less) of their work potential. In 2019, the very low-work-intensity rate was calculated at 4.9% of the private household population, approximately 4.3 percentage points less than the share of people living in households with very low-work-intensity in 2010 (Chart 1.5).

<sup>65</sup> Excluding students.

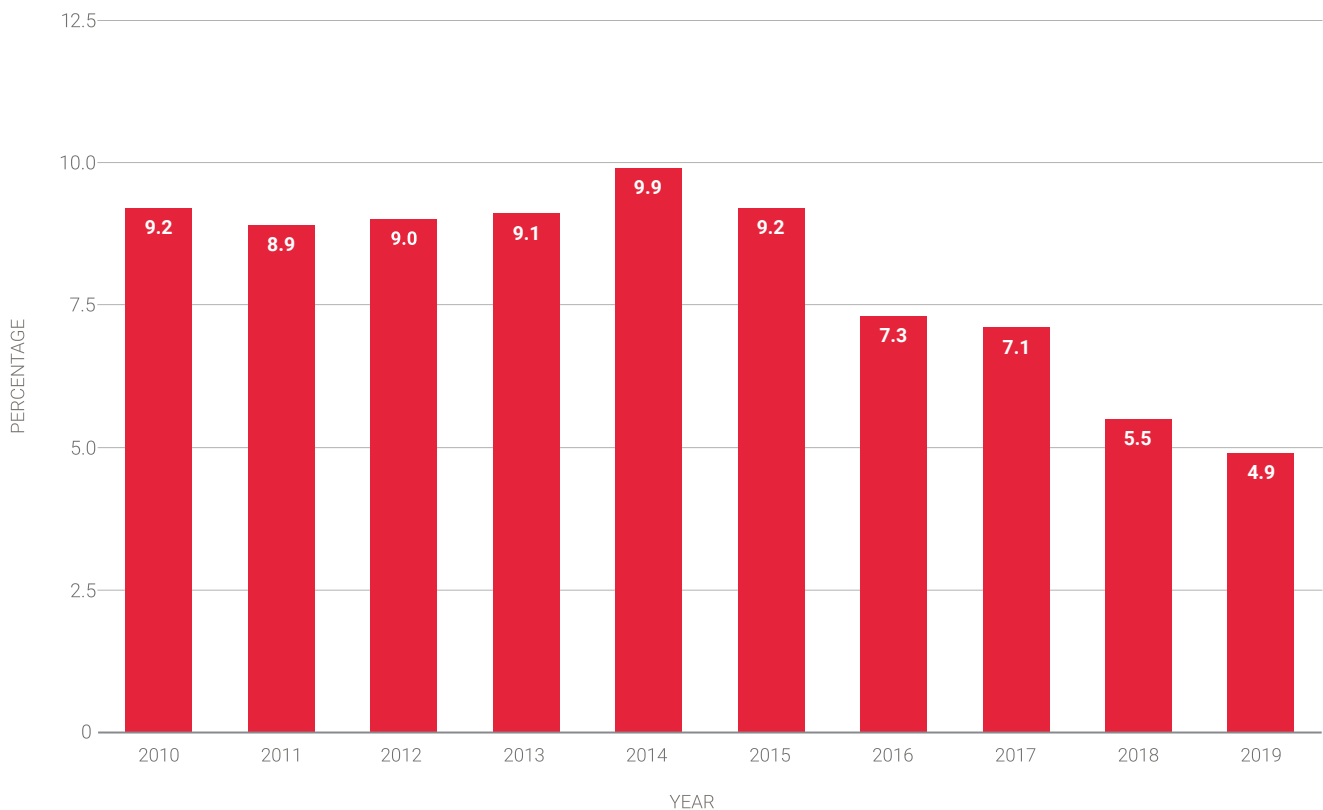


Chart 1.5: Percentage of persons living in households with very low-work-intensity; EU-SILC, Eurostat

Persons who are either at-risk-of-poverty, severely materially deprived, or living in households with very low-work-intensity are considered to be at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion. In 2019, the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion was estimated to be 20.1% of the population living in private households in Malta; 1.1 percentage points less than the 21.2% registered in 2010. In the period 2010–2019 the highest percentage of people at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion was in 2013 with 25.5% (Chart 1.6).

In 2019, the cohort of the 65 years and over was the only age group that registered an increase from 2010, which is the highest figure recorded for that age group (29.1%). The highest percentage recorded during the 2010 to 2019 period, was that for people aged less than 18 years in 2013, which amounted to 33.0% of that age group (Chart 1.7).



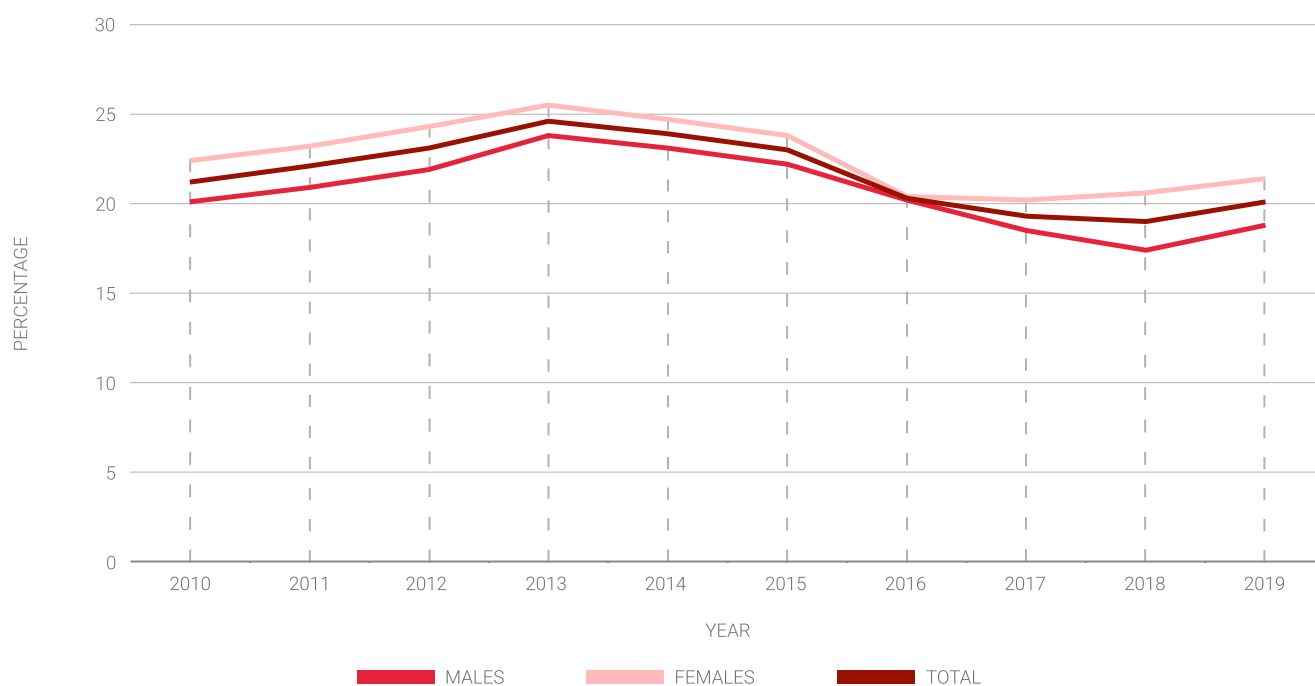


Chart 1.6: Percentage of persons at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion; EU-SILC, NSO

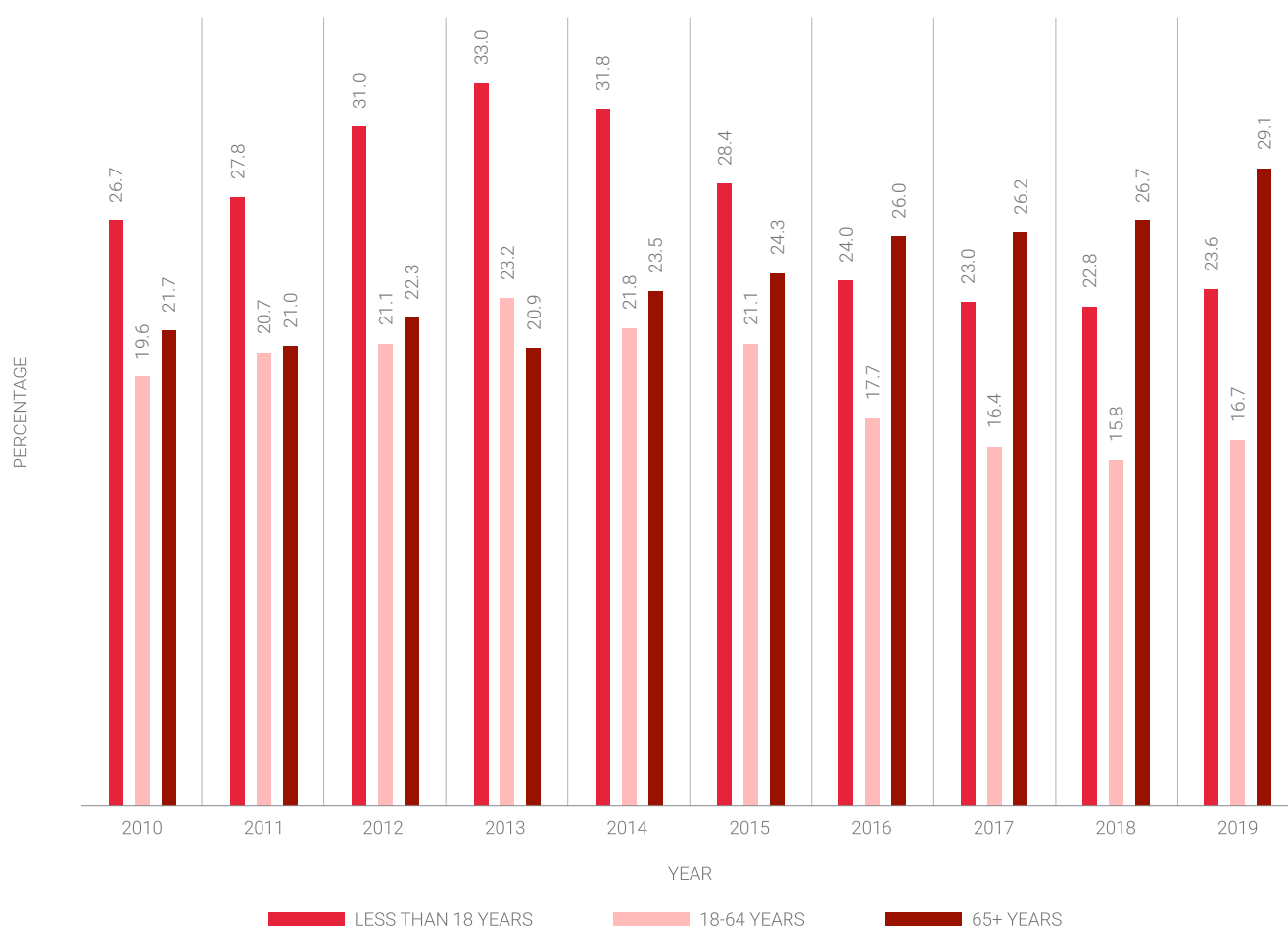


Chart 1.7: Percentage of persons at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion by age group; EU-SILC, NSO

## Overcrowding and basic services

One of the targets to fulfil SDG 1 is to ensure that all men and women live in households that have access to basic services such as safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, sustainable energy and mobility, housing, education, healthcare etc. The dimensions of poverty are not only interlinked, but also related to other domains affecting the well-being of persons. Adequate basic service delivery systems and adequate living spaces promote socio-economic improvements and help to achieve economic growth, social inclusion, poverty reduction and equality.

During 2019, 3.7% of all those living in private households lived in overcrowded households. This was a slight decrease from the 4.0% that lived in overcrowded households in 2010. During the period 2010–2019, the highest percentage was recorded in 2013 with 4.5% of the population living in overcrowded households, while the lowest was 3.0% in both 2016 and 2017 (Chart 1.8).<sup>66</sup>

From the population living in overcrowded households in 2019, 31% were at-risk-of-poverty, 24.2% severely materially deprived, and 48.5% at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion (Chart 1.9).

Moreover, the EU-SILC 2019 showed that 10% of households had dwellings without sufficient natural lighting; an increase of 2.6 percentage points from 2010. The highest percentage of households considering their dwelling as too dark was in 2018 with 11.2% (Chart 1.10). Furthermore, in the period 2011–2014, 0.3% of the Maltese population had no bath or shower in their dwelling. Since 2016 the percentage decreased to 0.1% (Chart 1.11). The highest percentage of population having no bath or shower in their dwelling was in the age group '65 years and older', with 1.3% in 2011 and 0.3% in 2019 (Chart 1.12).

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<sup>66</sup> A person is considered as living in an overcrowded household if the household does not have at its disposal a minimum number of rooms equal to: (i) one room for the household; (ii) one room per couple in the household; (iii) one room for each single person aged 18 years or more; (iv) one room per pair of single people of the same gender between 12 and 17 years of age; (v) one room for each single person between 12 and 17 years of age and not included in category (iv), and ; (vi) one room per pair of children under 12 years of age.

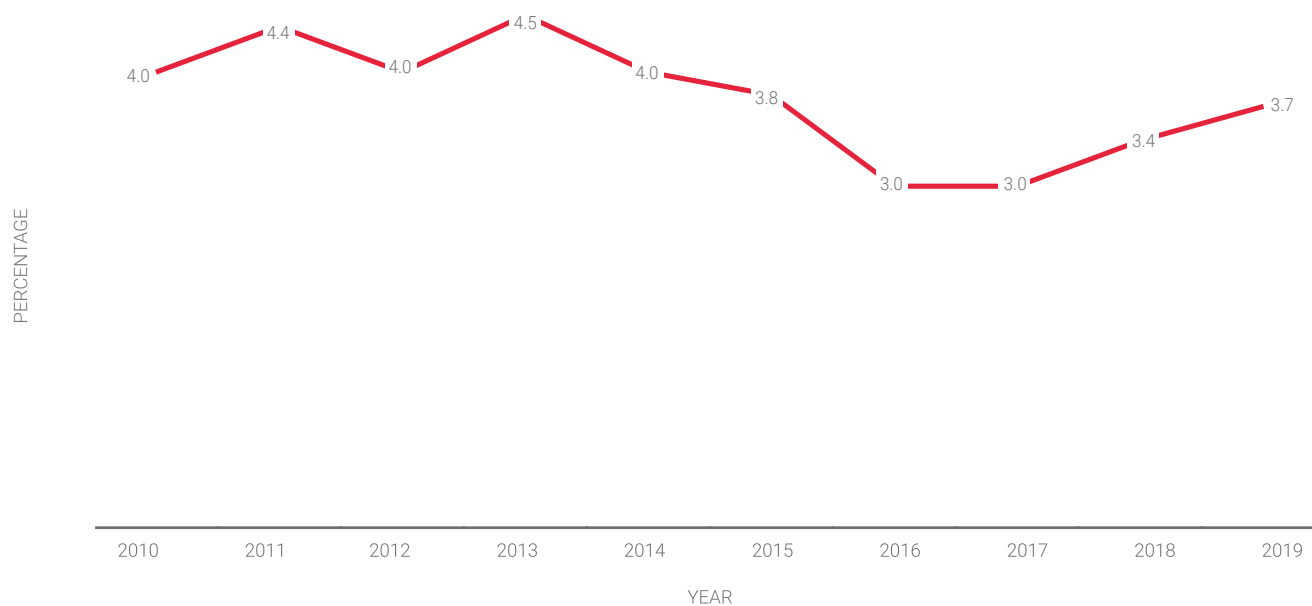


Chart 1.8: Share of persons living in overcrowded households; EU-SILC, Eurostat

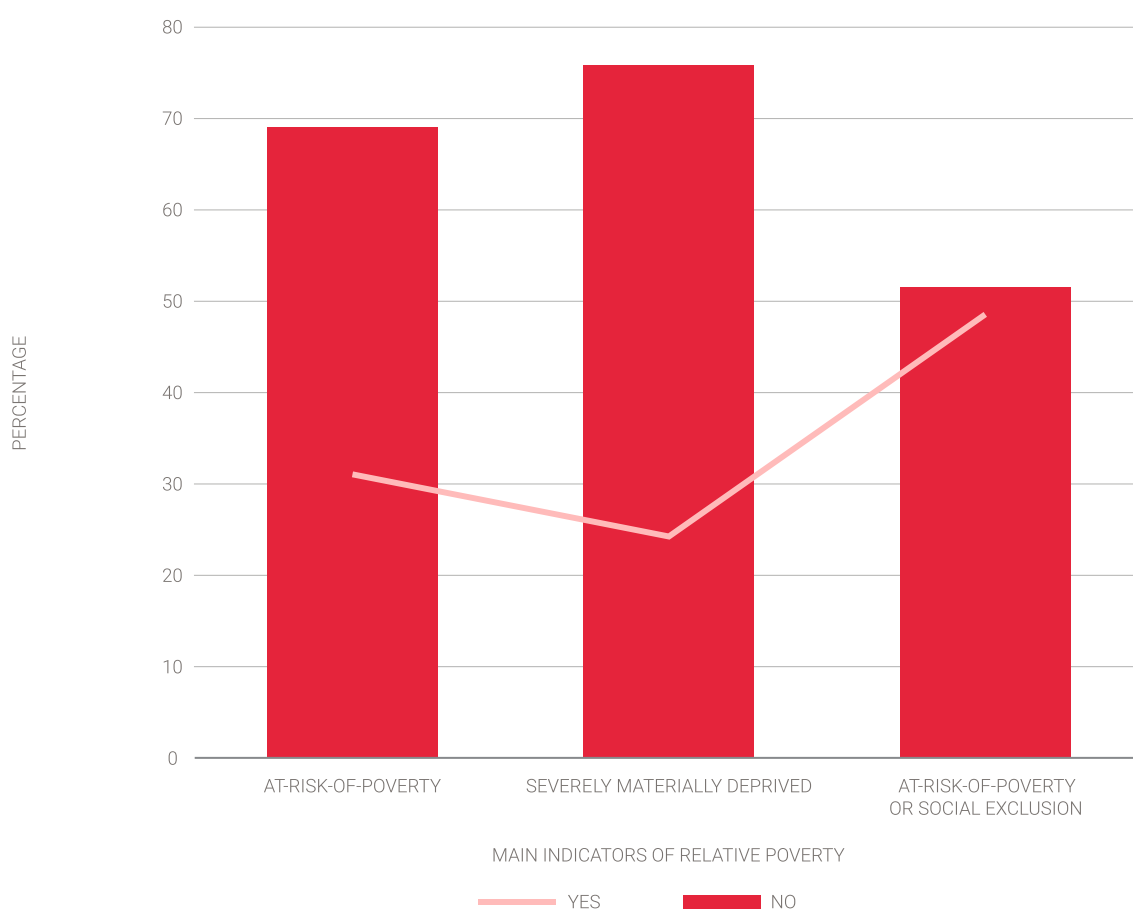


Chart 1.9: 2019 Overcrowding rate by main indicators of relative poverty; EU-SILC, NSO



Chart 1.10: Share of total population considering their dwelling as too dark; EU-SILC, Eurostat

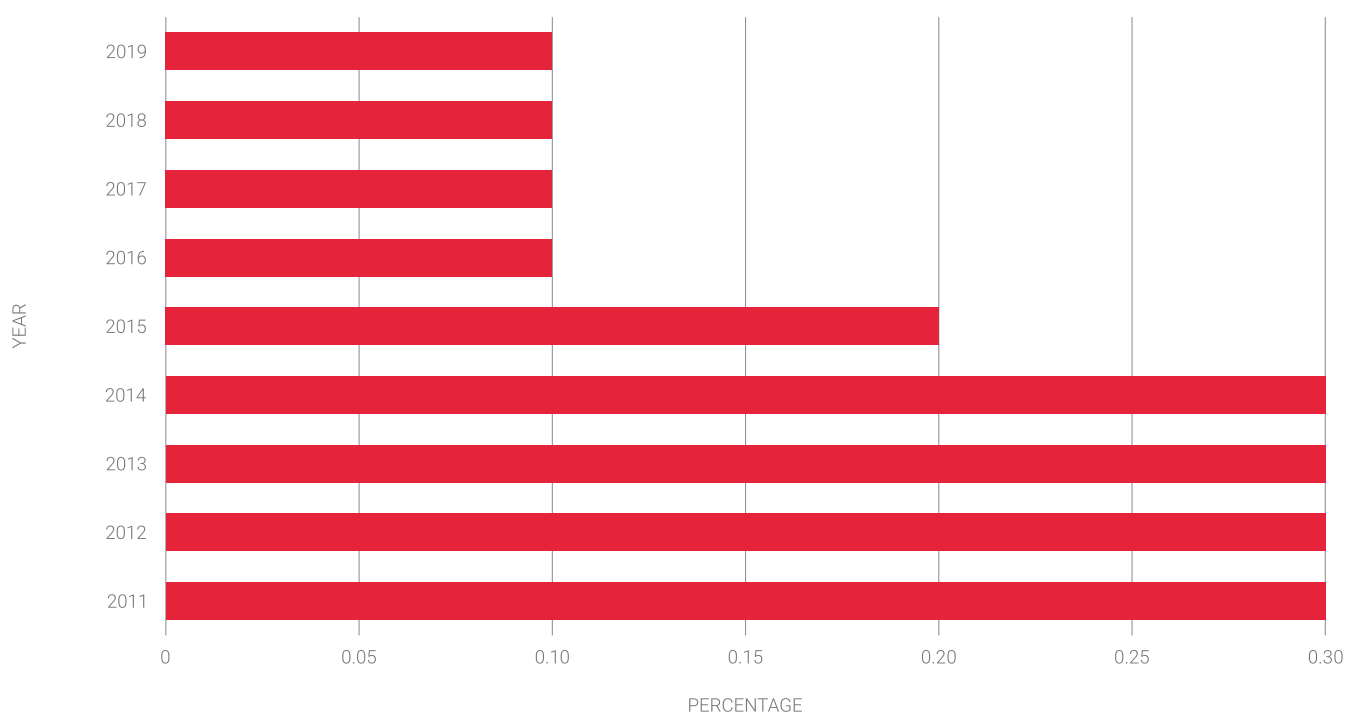


Chart 1.11: Share of population having neither a bath, nor a shower in their dwelling; EU-SILC, Eurostat

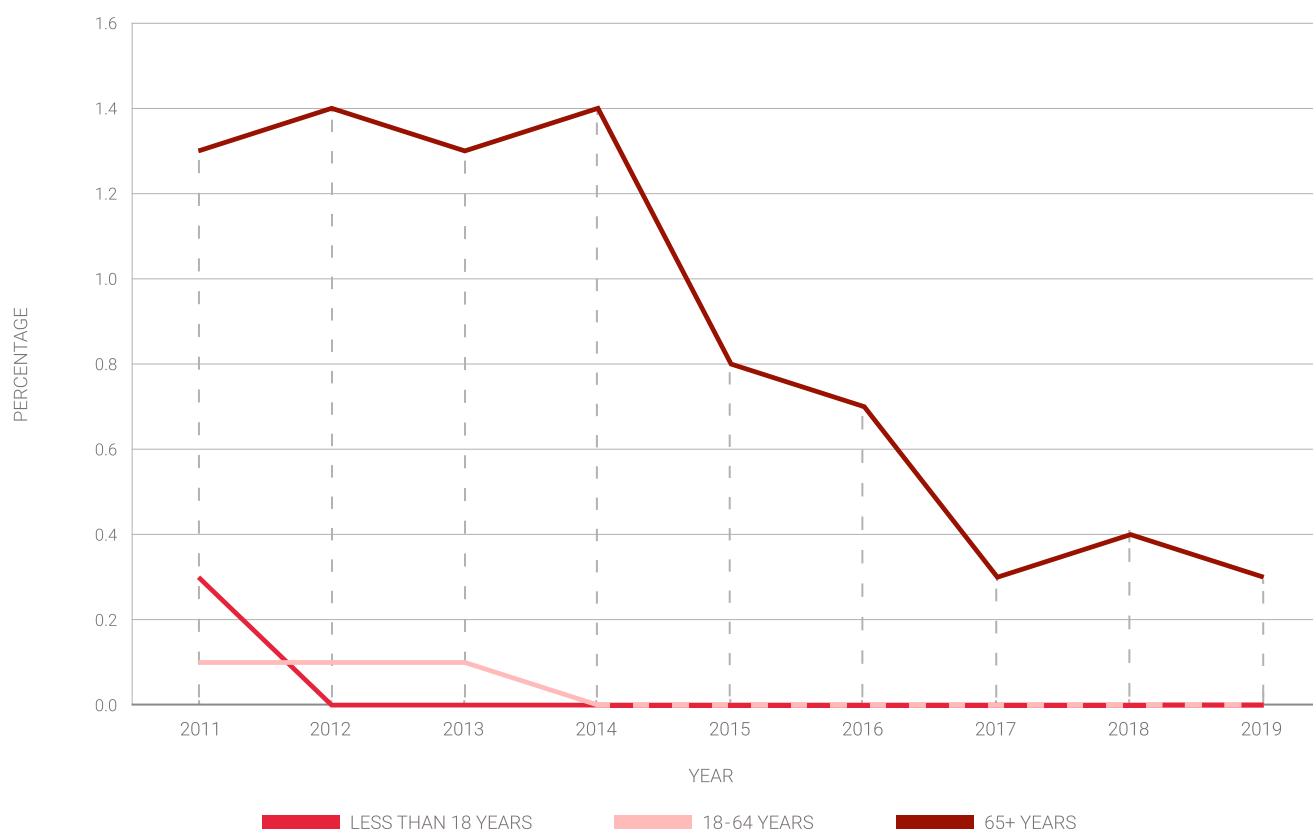


Chart 1.12: Percentage of households having neither a bath, nor a shower in their dwelling, by age group; EU-SILC, Eurostat

## Government spending on essential services

The proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems is an important measure to weigh the extent of which the existing social protection systems provide a safety net to the poor and the vulnerable. In Malta, social benefits are grouped into schemes that are chosen, where possible, in such a way that they provide protection against a single risk or need. Hence, each scheme is aimed at a single specific group of beneficiaries. For each scheme, the social benefits are further classified under eight separate functions that, together, account for all the social risks that impact our society. These functions are as follows: (i) Sickness/Health care; (ii) Disability; (iii) Old Age; (iv) Survivors; (v) Family/Children; (vi) Unemployment; (vii) Housing, and; (viii) Social exclusion<sup>67</sup>. From a statistical point of view it is estimated that the national social protection system covers approximately 100% of the eligible population.

<sup>67</sup> National Statistics Office (2020), *Social Protection 2020*, online: [https://nso.gov.mt/en/publicatons/Publications\\_by\\_Unit/Documents/A2\\_Public\\_Finance/2020/Social%20Protection%202020.pdf](https://nso.gov.mt/en/publicatons/Publications_by_Unit/Documents/A2_Public_Finance/2020/Social%20Protection%202020.pdf) [accessed on 15 February 2021].

Moreover, information on the Government's spending on essential services such as education, health, and social protection relative to its investments in other sectors can indicate the priority levels and importance of these services for the Government over time. In 2019, the highest share of general Government expenditure as a percentage of the GDP was allocated to social protection, which accounted for 10.7% of the total GDP.<sup>68</sup> Health and Education were apportioned with 5.4% and 5.2% share of the GDP respectively. In 2019, the total expenditure on these three essential services amounted to 21.3% of the GDP, 2.5 percentage points less than the total expenditure as a percentage of GDP in 2010. This decrease in total expenditure on essential services is reflected in all services, except on Health which increased by 0.3 percentage points (Chart 1.13).

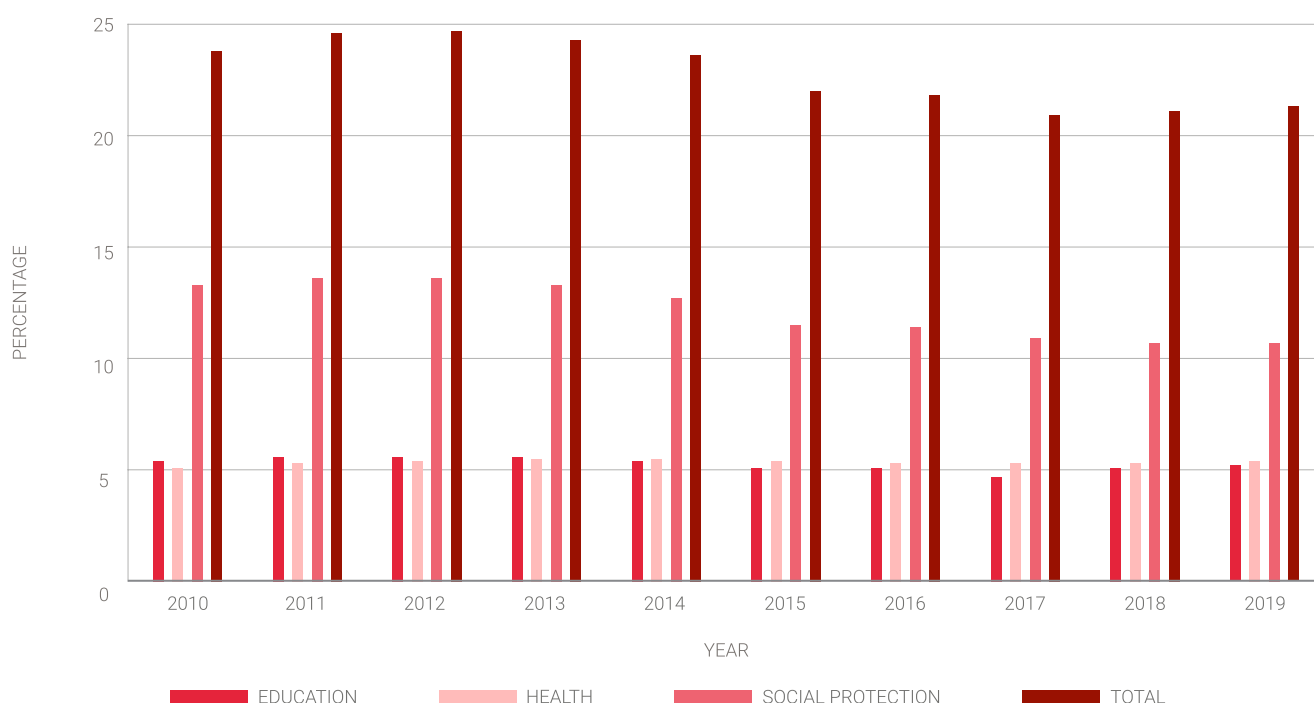


Chart 1.13: Government spending on essential services as a percentage of GDP; COFOG, NSO<sup>69</sup>

<sup>68</sup> GDP as per NSO News Release (NR) 097/2021 of 28 May 2021.

<sup>69</sup> The data is obtained from the compilation of the General Government expenditure by COFOG function, specifically COFOG group 7 for Education, 9 for Health and 10 for Social Protection.

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 1 is reflected in Table 1.1 below. The targets related to SDG 1, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 1 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 1 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 1 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>70</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>71</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>72</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.


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<sup>70</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].





<sup>71</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>72</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].


**Legend:**

	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

*Table 1.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 1*

TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
1.1	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day	Percentage of population at-risk-of-poverty	
		Percentage of the severely materially deprived	
1.2	By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	Percentage of persons living in households with very low-work-intensity	
		Percentage of persons at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion	
1.3	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems	
1.4	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	Share of persons living in overcrowded households	
		Share of total population considering their dwelling as too dark	
		Percentage of households having neither a bath, nor a shower in their dwelling	



1.a	Ensure significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions	Government spending on essential services as a percentage of GDP	
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# SDG 02



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

## End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 2 seeks sustainable solutions to end hunger in all its forms by 2030 and to achieve food security. The aim is to ensure that everyone everywhere has enough good-quality food to lead a healthy life. The elements found in Goal 2—malnutrition, pesticides, productivity and sustainability of small farming, climate change, and research—reflect the interlinkages among supporting sustainable agriculture, empowering small farmers, promoting gender equality, ending rural poverty, ensuring healthy lifestyles, tackling climate change, and other issues addressed within the set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

### Food security and malnutrition

Moderate food insecurity is associated with the inability to regularly eat healthy and the maintenance of balanced diets. As such, the level of food insecurity is considered a predictor of various forms of diet-related health conditions in the population. On the other hand, severe levels of food insecurity imply a high probability of reduced food intake and therefore can lead to more severe forms of undernutrition, including hunger. Chart 2.1 shows calculations by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO) on the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the adult population of Malta, which has been declining.

Beyond adequate calories intake, proper nutrition has other dimensions that deserve attention, including healthy diets. Although the problem of hunger in Malta, and in the European Union, is minimal, other new nutritional challenges are emerging that also have an effect on health and well-being. Such a challenge is the rising prevalence of obesity. In the European Union the 'obesity rate by Body Mass Index (BMI)' is used to monitor implementation towards SDG 2. This indicator measures the share of obese people based on their body mass index (BMI), defined as the weight in kilos divided by the square of the height in metres. People aged 18 years or over are considered obese with a BMI equal or greater than 30. Other categories are: underweight (BMI less than 18.5), normal weight (BMI between 18.5 and less than 25), and pre-obese (BMI between 25 and less than 30). The category overweight (BMI equal or greater than 25) combines the two categories pre-obese and obese.

Data for Malta shows a trend of slight increase in the percentage of the population (aged 15 years and over) who are 'overweight' and 'obese', with 63.8% and 28.1% of the population (15 years +) being 'overweight' and 'obese' respectively in 2019. The percentage of population considered as 'pre-obese' has slightly declined between the period 2008–2019 (Chart 2.2).

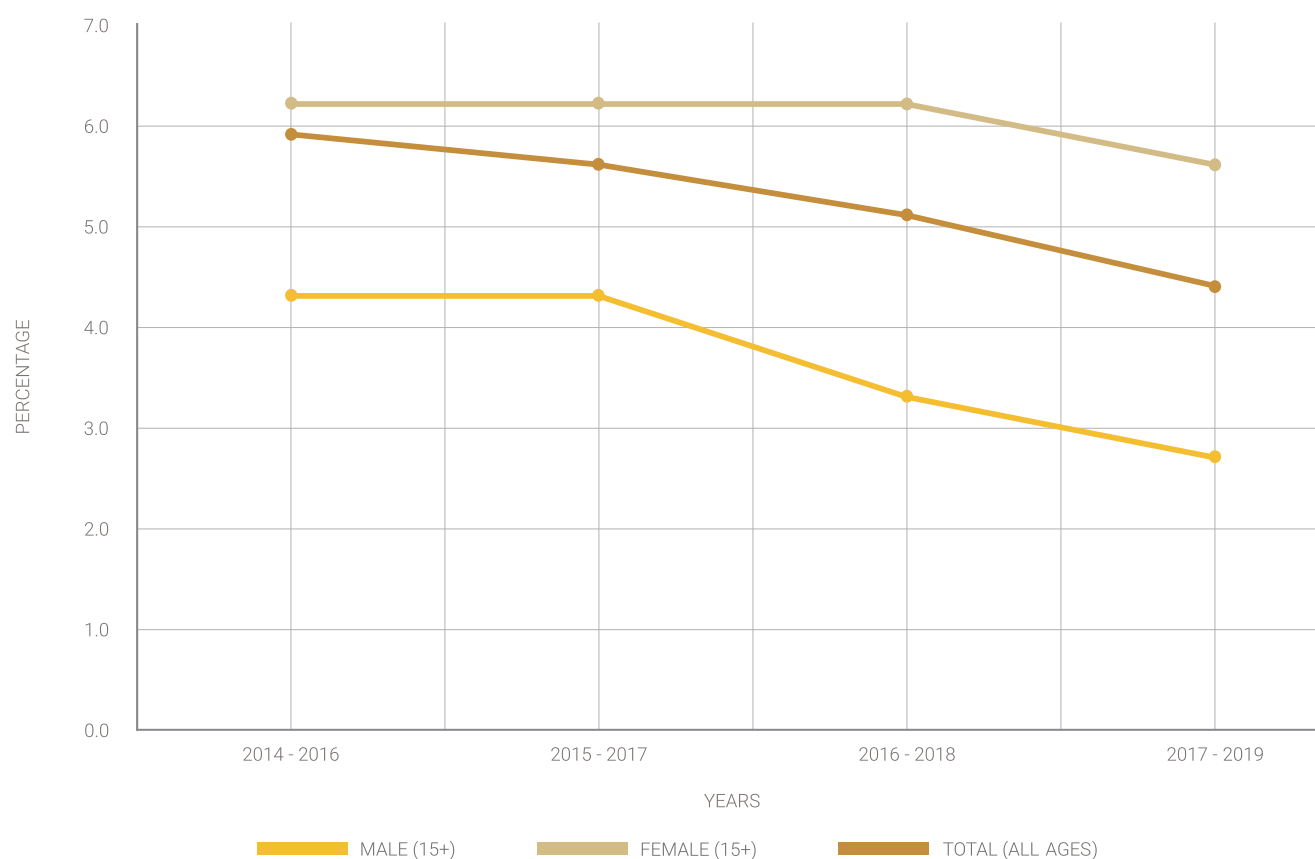


Chart 2.1: Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the adult population in Malta; Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) with data collected through the Gallup World Poll

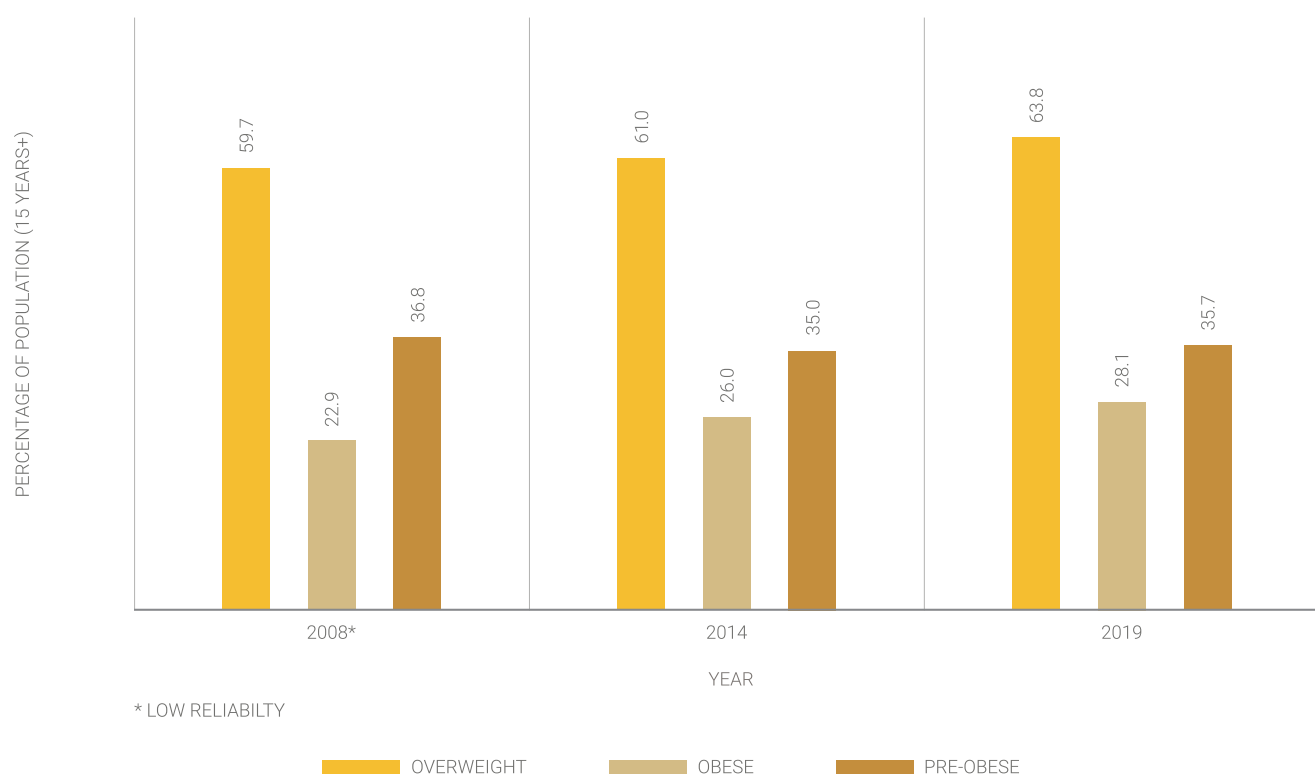


Chart 2.2: Pre-obese, obese, and overweight rates of 15-year-olds and older in Malta by body mass index; EHIS, DHIR

The percentage of adult population in Malta being obese is the highest in the European Union. Furthermore, the Childhood Obesity Surveillance initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO) also shows that from a study carried out in 25 countries between 2015 and 2017, with 150,651 participating children aged 6–9 years, Malta had the lowest percentage of children (61.7%) actively playing for at least 1 hour per day.<sup>73</sup> Moreover, findings from the 2017/2018 Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey in Europe and Canada show that Malta also has the highest percentages of children aged 11, 13, and 15 years who are overweight or obese.<sup>74</sup> The two surveys carried out in 2013/2014 and 2017/2018 show that the percentage of obese or overweight males and females aged 11, 13, and 15 years have increased (Chart 2.3).

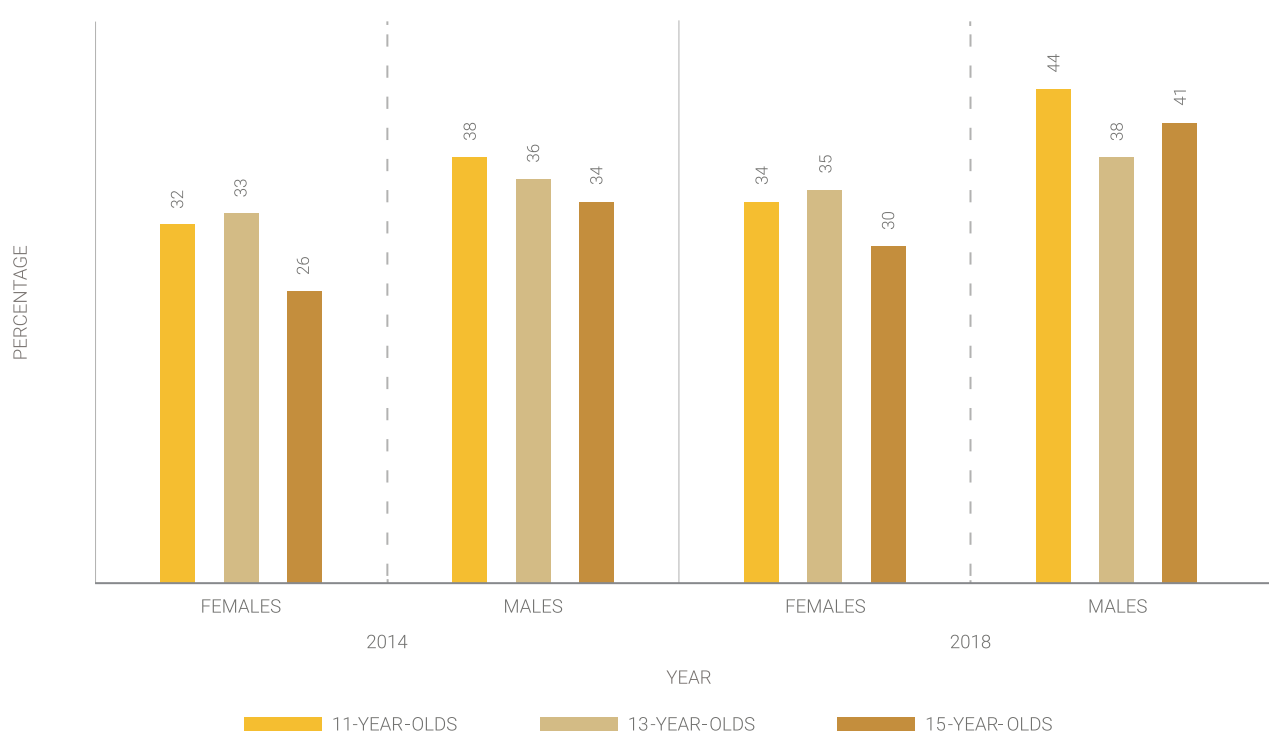


Chart 2.3: Percentage of children aged 11, 13, and 15 years who are obese or overweight; Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey in Europe and Canada (vol. 2), WHO<sup>75</sup>

<sup>73</sup> Whiting S., Buoncristiano M., Gelius P. et al. (2021), *Physical Activity, Screen Time, and Sleep Duration of Children Aged 6-9 Years in 25 countries: An Analysis within the WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) 2015-2017*, 14(1), pp. 32-44.

<sup>74</sup> Inchley et al. (eds.) (2020), *Spotlight on adolescent health and well-being. Findings from the 2017/2018 Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey in Europe and Canada. International report. Vol 2. Key data*, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe.

<sup>75</sup> In the surveys, information on BMI was missing for more than 30% of sample surveyed.

## Agriculture income and productivity

One of the targets of SDG 2 is to double the agricultural productivity and income of small-scale food producers. The key elements enabling progress towards this target include the increase of knowledge and investment, access to financial services and market opportunities, and agriculture research and development, and to provide opportunities for value addition. During the period 2010–2019, the total output of the agricultural industry in Malta increased by 0.21% to a total of €126.4 million. The highest output was registered in 2013 with €131.9 million and the lowest in 2018 at €121.2 million (Chart 2.4).

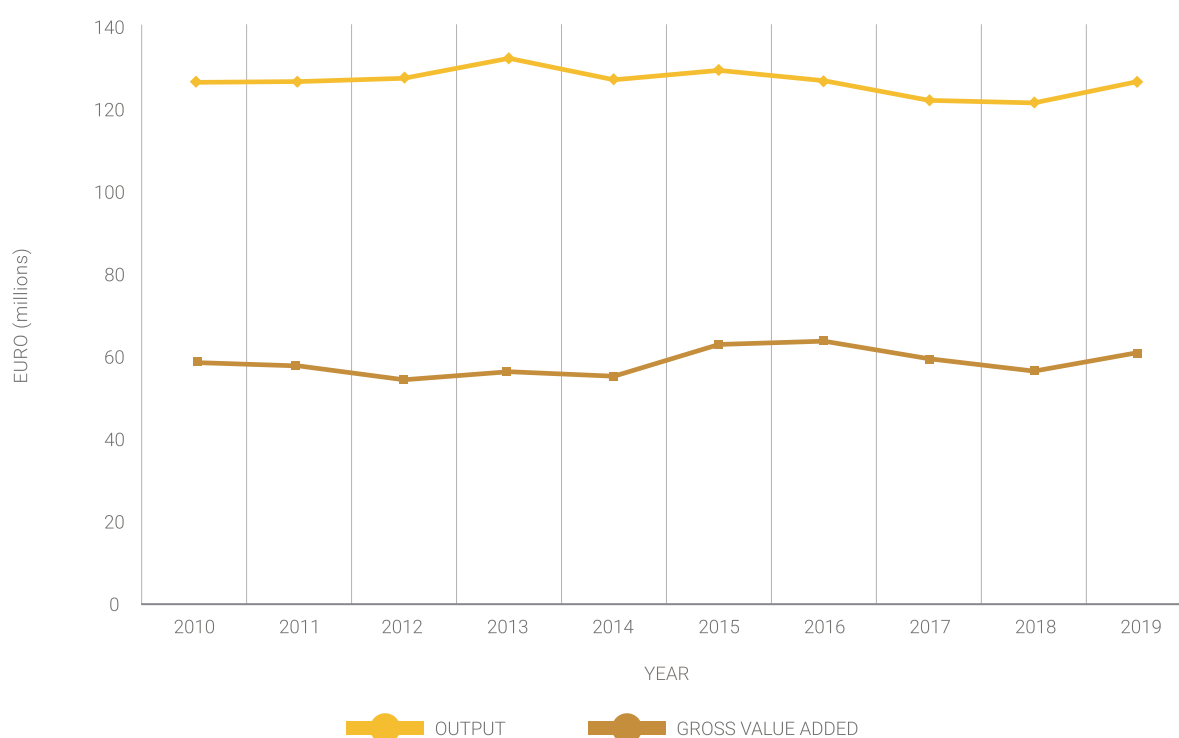


Chart 2.4: Production account of the agriculture sector; NSO

During the same period, the net entrepreneurial income (which measures the net operating surplus with the addition of any net property income) in the agriculture industry increased by 6.0% from €70.4 million to €74.6 million in 2019. The highest income recorded was €78.6 million in 2015 and the lowest was in 2017 at €53.3 million (Chart 2.5). The compensation of employees decreased by 2.8%; from €4.6 million in 2010 to €4.5 million in 2019 (Chart 2.6).

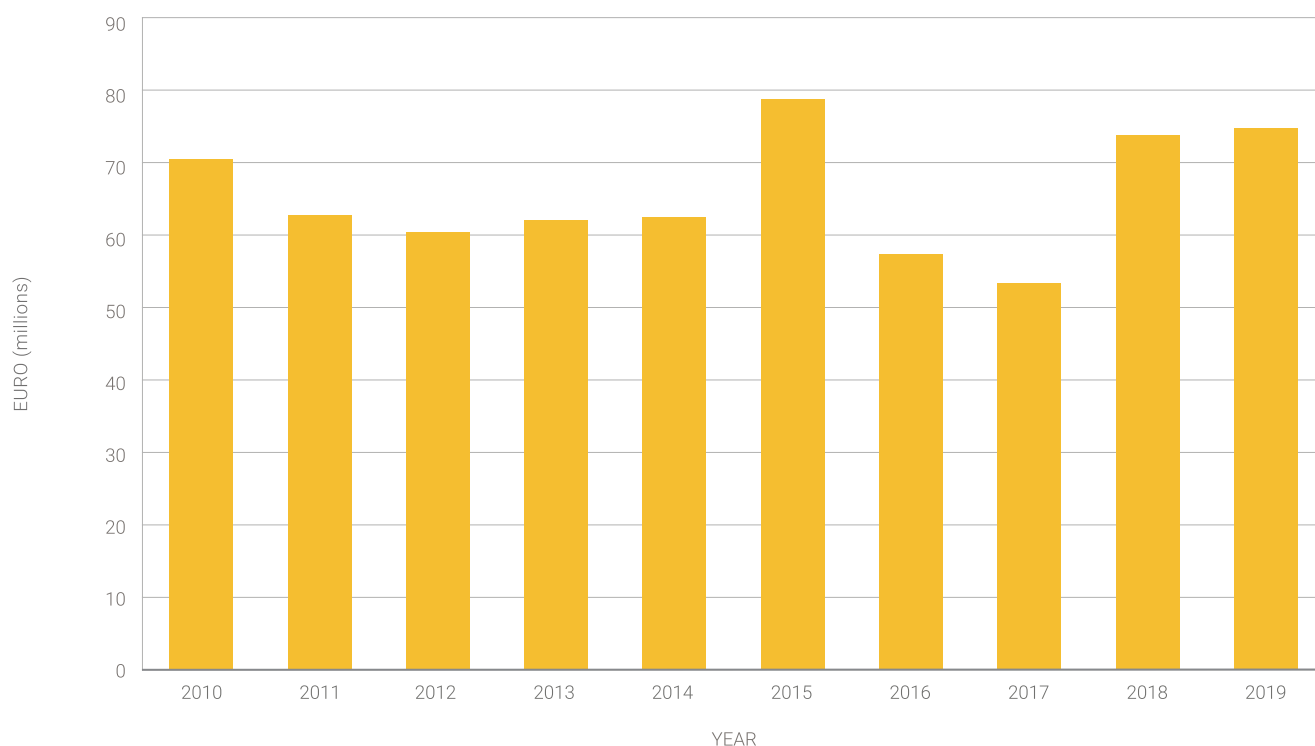


Chart 2.5: Net entrepreneurial income in the agriculture sector; NSO

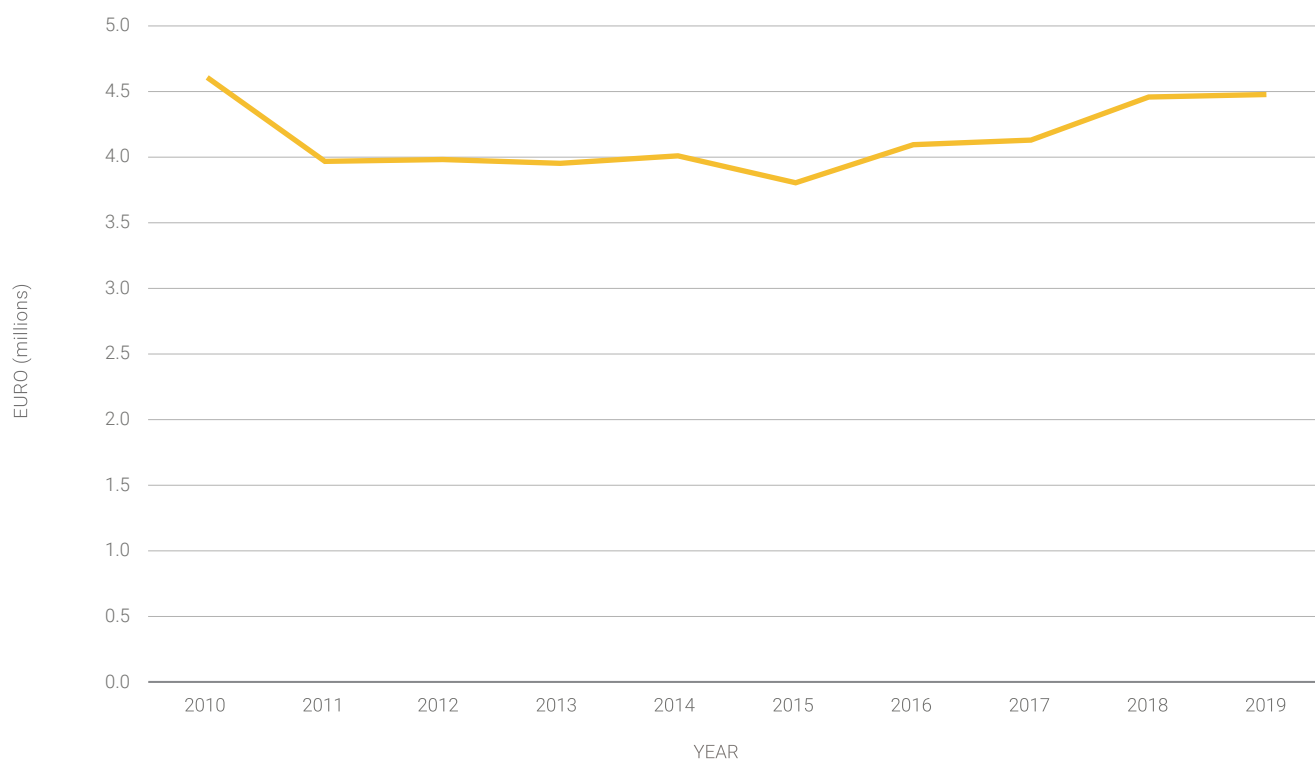


Chart 2.6: Compensation to employees; NSO



## Sustainability

The SDG 2 targets also call for the implementation of resilient agricultural practices that on the one hand increase productivity and production, while on the other help maintain sustainable production ecosystems. There are many elements of traditional farmer knowledge that, enriched by the latest scientific knowledge, can support productive food systems through sound and sustainable soil, land, water, nutrient and pest management, and the more extensive use of organic fertilizers. The relevant UN indicator for this particular target measures the proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture. This dimension has been transposed for an EU context by measuring the following three indicators: area under organic farming; harmonised risk indicator for pesticides, and; ammonia emissions from agriculture.

Areas under organic farming are taken to be the existing organically-farmed areas and areas in process of conversion. Farming is recognised to be organic if it complies with Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007<sup>76</sup>, which has set up a comprehensive framework for the organic production of crops and livestock and for the labelling, processing, and marketing of organic products, as well as for governing imports of organic products into the EU. In 2019, organic farming in Malta utilised an area of 0.47% from the total agricultural area, an increase of 0.27 percentage points from the area occupied by organic farming in 2010 (Chart 2.7).

The second indicator used at EU level is that of ‘harmonised risk indicator for pesticides (HRI1)’. This indicator estimates the trends in risk from pesticide use in the EU and its Member States. Unsustainable use of pesticides entails risks and impacts on human health and the environment. The weighting factors reflect pesticide policy to support the sustainable use of pesticides and promote alternative approaches to protecting crops. The indicator is presented as an index relative to the average results for the period 2011–2013 (average=100, 2010). The data for Malta shows a decrease in risk from pesticide use from an index of 90 in 2011 to 72 in 2019. During the period 2011–2019 the highest index mark was 119 in 2015 and the lowest was 72 in 2019 (Chart 2.8).

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<sup>76</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91.

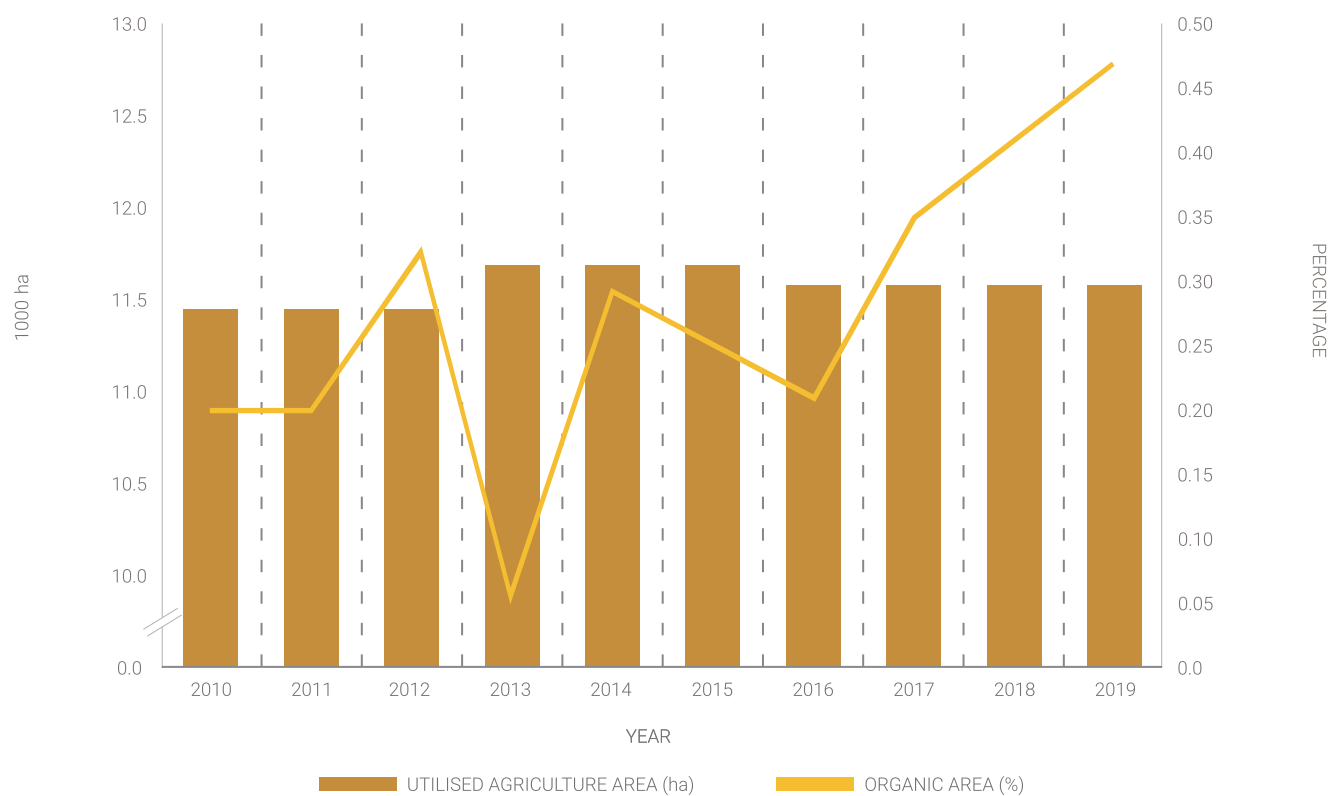


Chart 2.7: Utilised agriculture area in Malta (left axis) and share of total utilised agriculture area occupied by organic farming in Malta (right axis); Eurostat

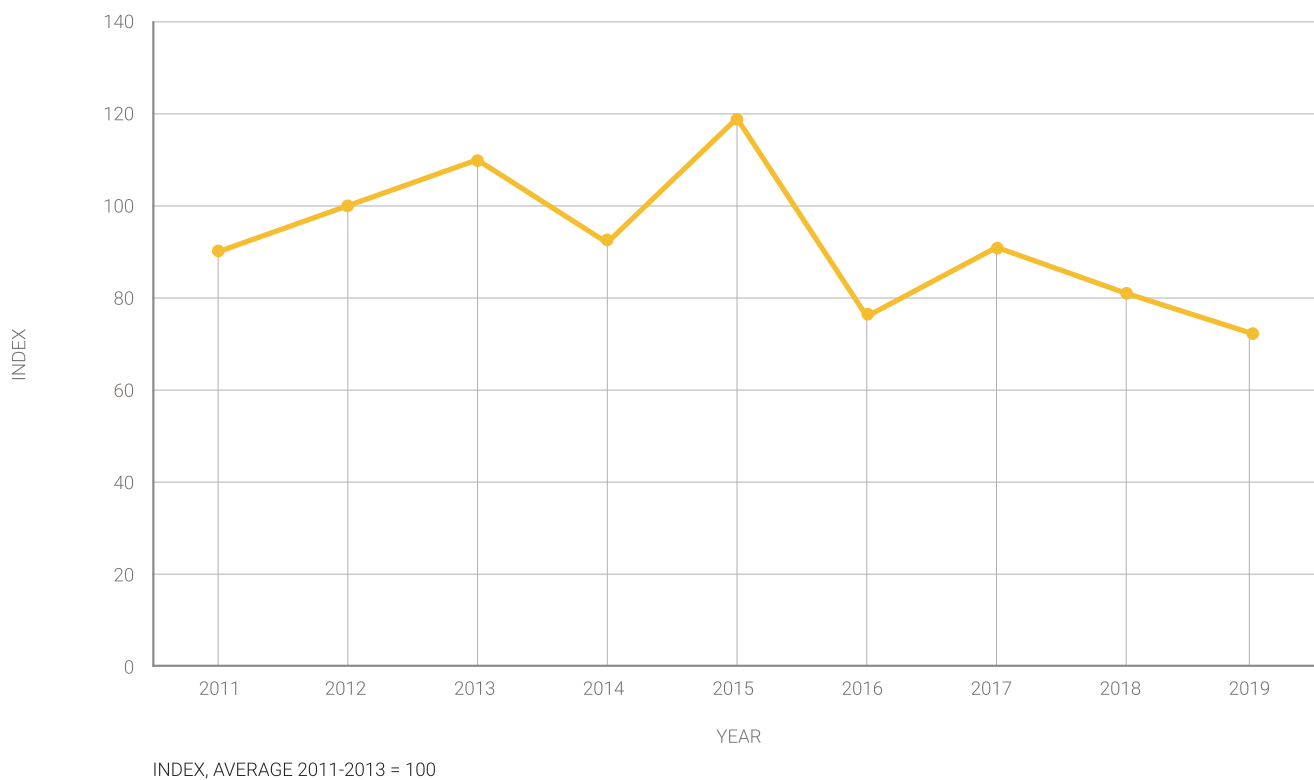


Chart 2.8: Harmonised Risk Indicator for pesticides (HRI1); Eurostat, NSO

The third indicator used is the measurement of the amount of ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) emissions as a result of the agricultural production. Ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) is produced by the decay of organic vegetable matter and from the excrement of humans and animals and contributes to the level of air pollution. Manure management, inorganic N-fertilizers, and animal manure applied to soil as well as urine and dung deposited by grazing animals are all contributing factors to ammonia emissions.

More than 90% of total ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) emissions in Malta originates from agricultural activities (Chart 2.9). Data shows that total  $\text{NH}_3$  emissions have declined by 20.2%, from 1.68 gigagrams (Gg) in 2010 to 1.34 Gg in 2019. The decline in total  $\text{NH}_3$  emissions largely reflects the 18.6% decrease of  $\text{NH}_3$  emissions from agricultural activities; from 1.56 Gg  $\text{NH}_3$  emissions in 2010 to 1.27 Gg in 2019 (Chart 2.9).

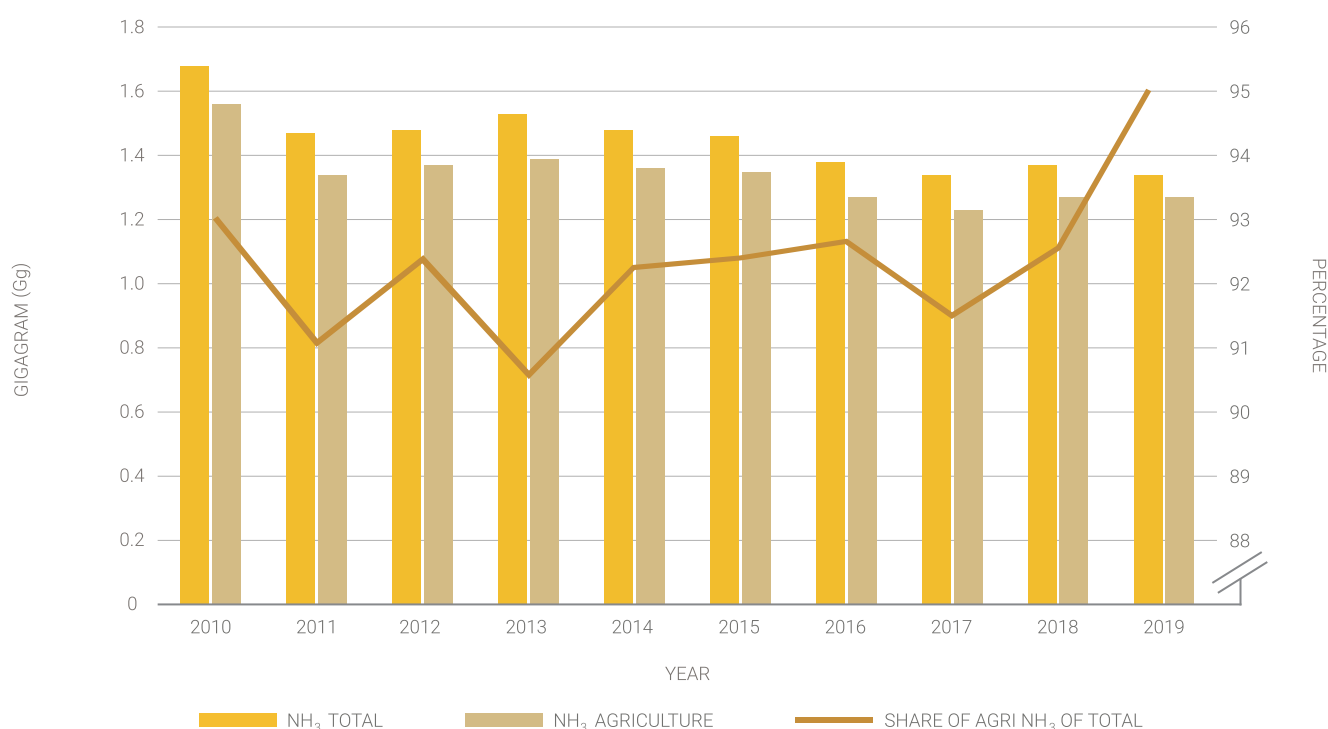
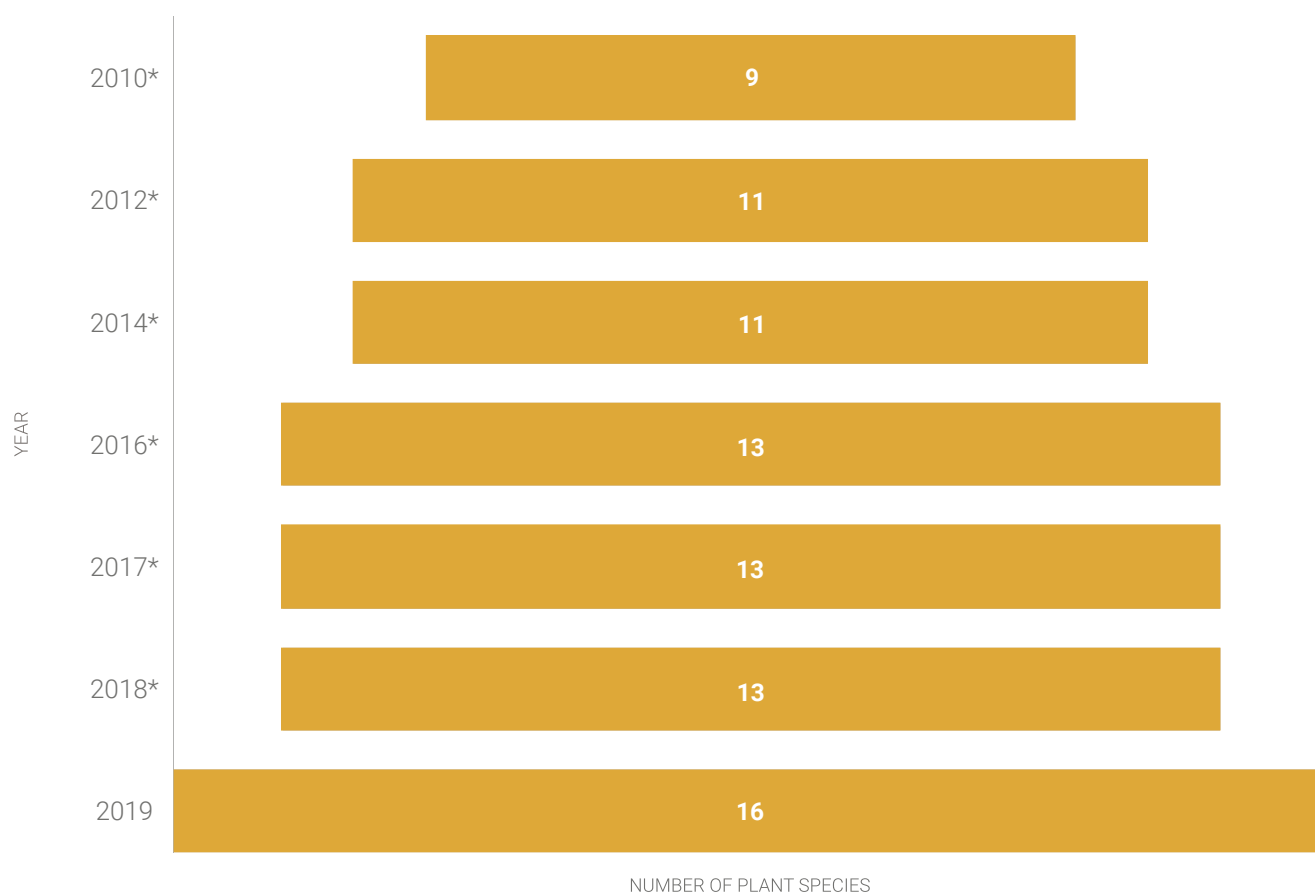


Chart 2.9: Total ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) emissions and ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) emissions from agricultural activities (left axis), and share of ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) emissions from agriculture from total ammonia emissions (right axis); Environment and Resources Authority (ERA)

Moreover, Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) are essential to sustainable agriculture towards food security. The genetic resources of plants are the raw materials to meet the current and future needs of crop improvement and adaptation programmes. It is therefore important to conserve them and use them in a sustainable way.

The World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WIEWS) provides access to official data on the number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities.<sup>77</sup> Data for Malta shows that in 2019 the genetic resources of 16 plant species were secured in gene banks (Chart 2.10).



\* ESTIMATE BASED ON THE ACQUISITION DATE OF EACH CONSERVED ACCESSION AS REPORTED IN 2019

Chart 2.10: Plant breeds for which sufficient genetic resources are stored; FAO

<sup>77</sup>Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, WIEWS – World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Online: <http://www.fao.org/wiews/data/ex-situ-sdg-251/overview/en/> [accessed on 15 February 2021].

## Agriculture's contribution to Climate Change

The agriculture sector accounts for less than 3% of the total greenhouse gas emissions in Malta (Chart 2.11), mainly methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) (Chart 2.12). Total emissions decreased by 26.8% during the period 2010–2019, and emissions from the agriculture sector decreased by 6.4% during the same period (Chart 2.11).

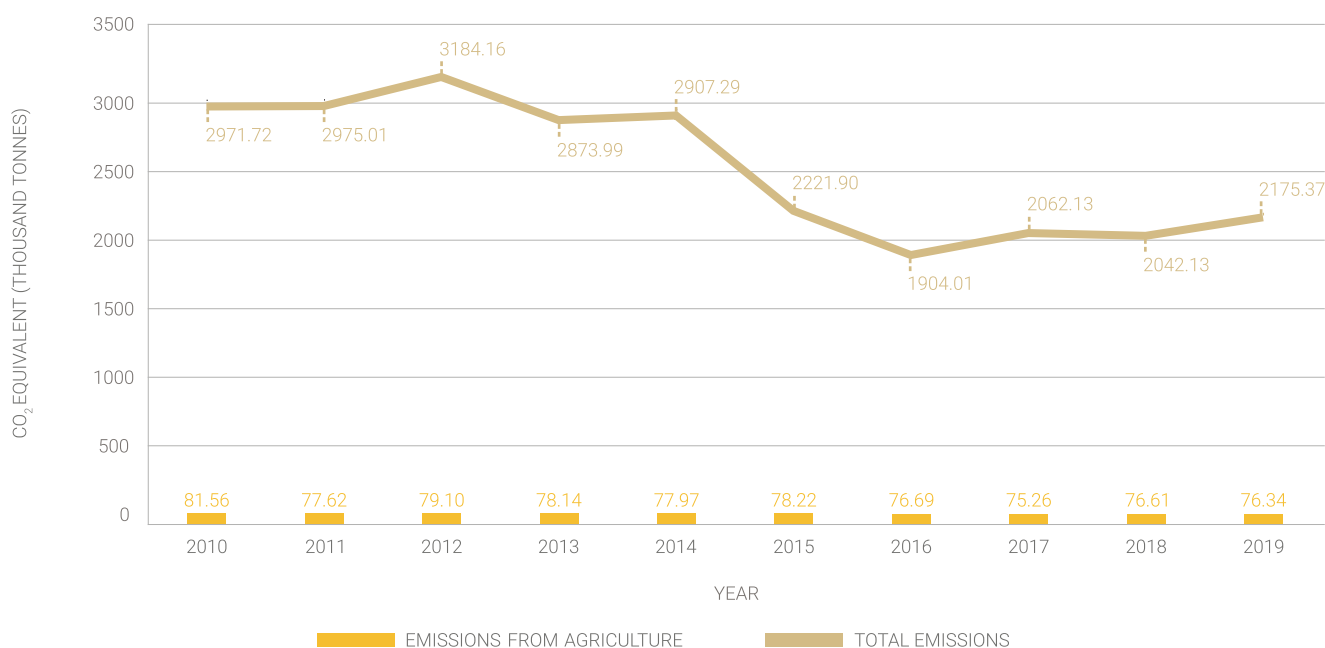


Chart 2.11: Total national greenhouse gas emissions; Malta's National Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals, 2021, Malta Resources Authority (MRA)

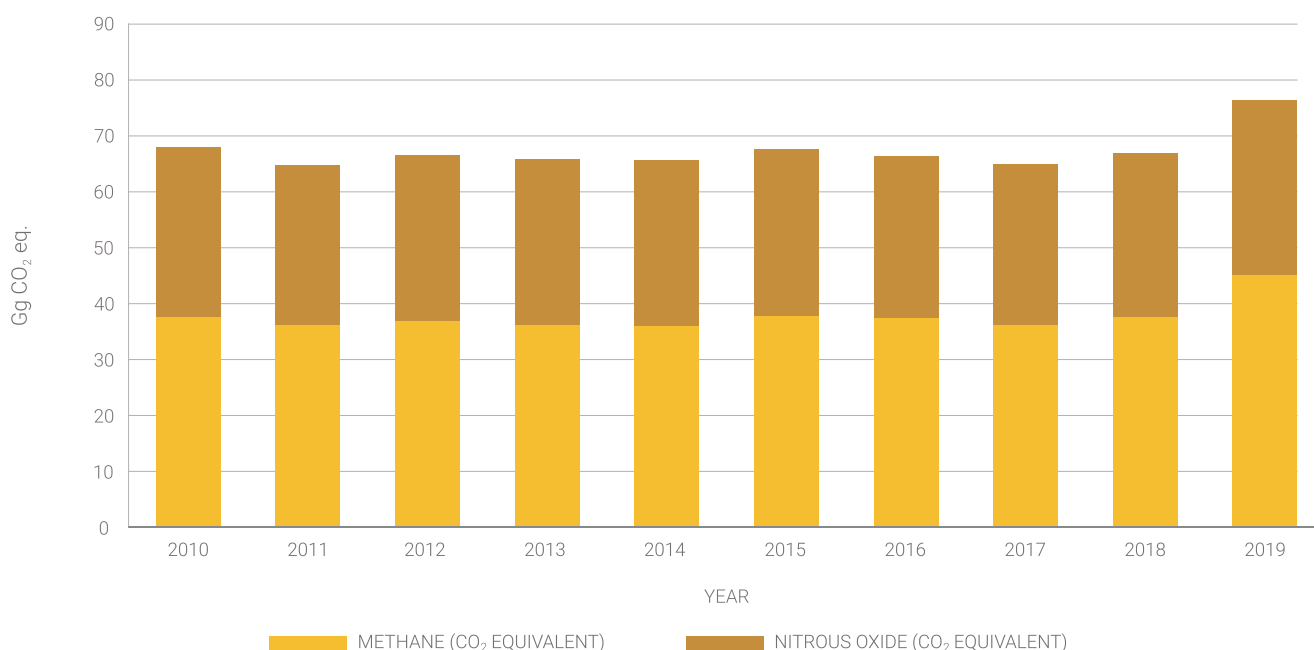


Chart 2.12: Share of methane and nitrous oxide (Gg CO<sub>2</sub> eq.) in total agriculture sector; Eurostat, EEA

## Government expenditure and R&D

The general Government expenditure on agriculture in 2019 was approximately €52 million, an increase of around 10.3% from the Government's expenditure in 2010<sup>78</sup>. However, the share of agriculture from the total Government expenditure decreased from 1.7% in 2010 to 1% in 2019 (Chart 2.13).

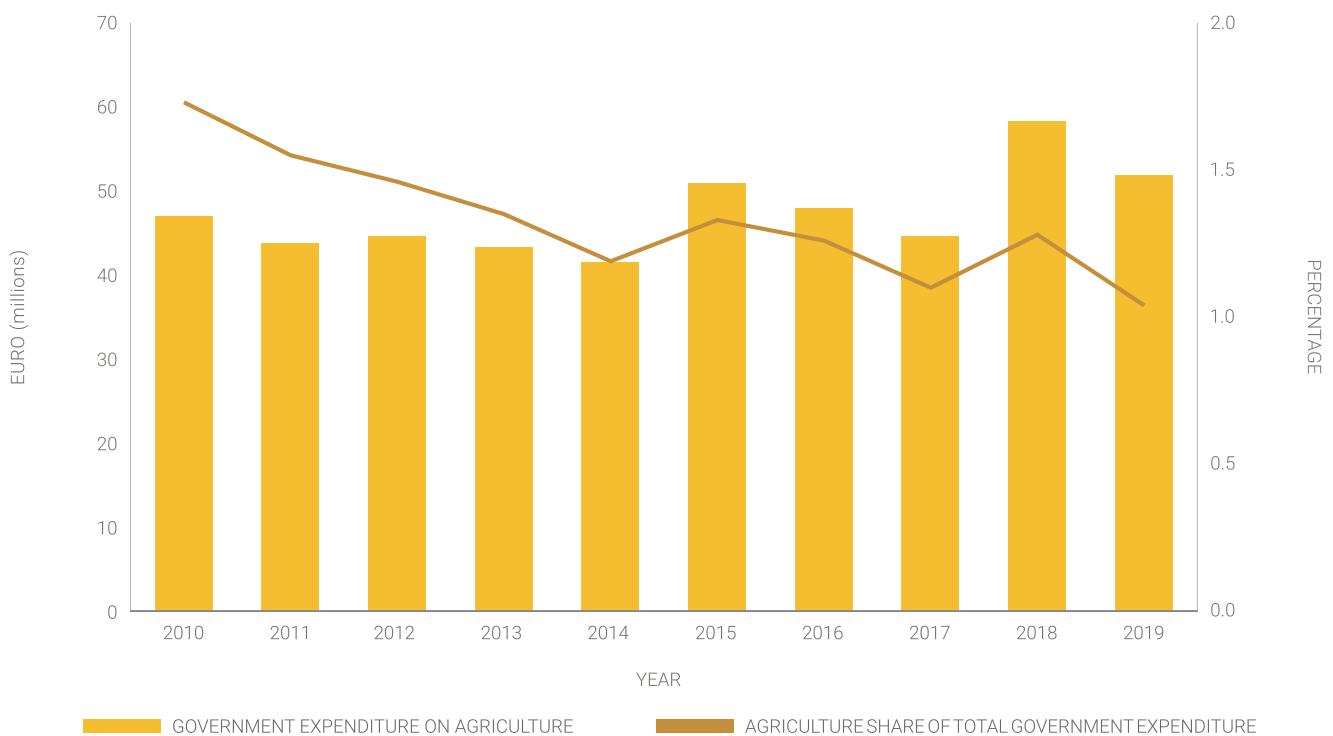


Chart 2.13: Total Government expenditure on agriculture (left axis), and the agriculture share of total Government expenditure (right axis); NSO

The Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) for Government expenditures, defined as the agriculture share of Government Expenditure, divided by the agriculture value added share of GDP, reflects the general Government's orientation towards the agriculture sector. An AOI greater than 1 reflects a higher orientation towards the agriculture sector, which receives a higher share of Government spending relative to its contribution to economic value added. On the other hand, an AOI less than 1 reflects a lower orientation to agriculture, while an AOI equal to 1 reflects neutrality in a Government's orientation to the agriculture sector. During the period 2010–2019, the AOI for Malta's Government expenditure was always greater than 1. In the period 2016–2019 the AOI increased to reaching the highest in 2019 with an AOI of 2.16 (Chart 2.14).

<sup>78</sup> 'Agriculture' refers to the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting sector in accordance with COFOG 04.2.

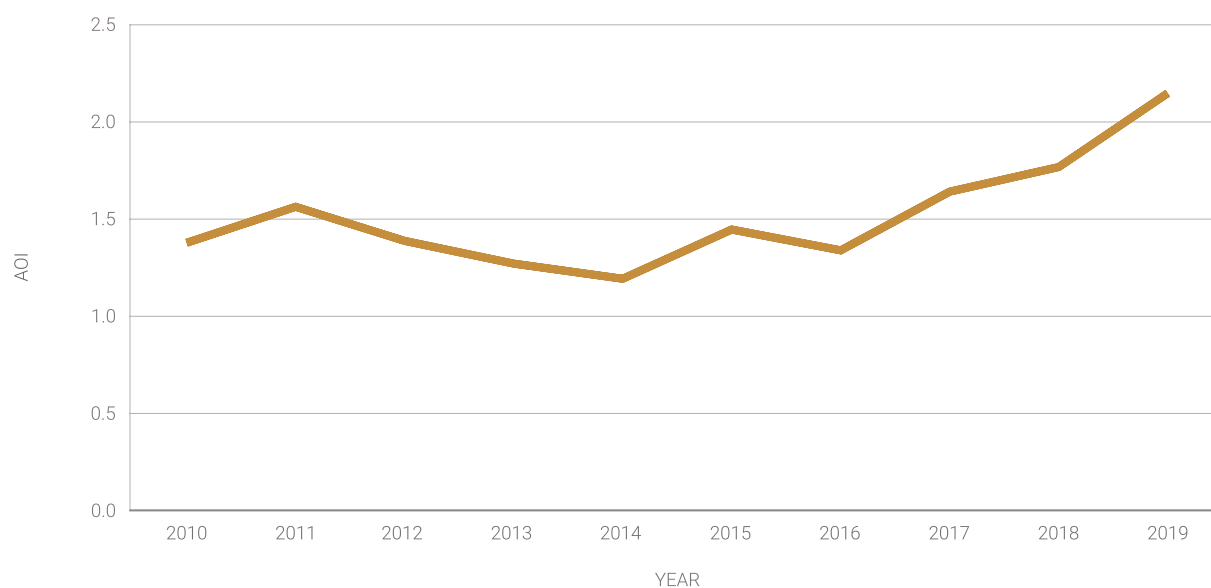


Chart 2.14: Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) for Government expenditures; NSO

In 2019, the total Government budget allocations for R&D amounted to €29.9 million, approximately 5% of which were allocated for the agriculture sector. In 2019, the total Government budget allocation for R&D on agriculture amounted to €1.6 million, increasing by around €1.1 million over 2010. The percentage share of total Government R&D budget allocated to agriculture from the total budget also increased from 3.6% in 2010 to 5.3% in 2019 (Chart 2.15).

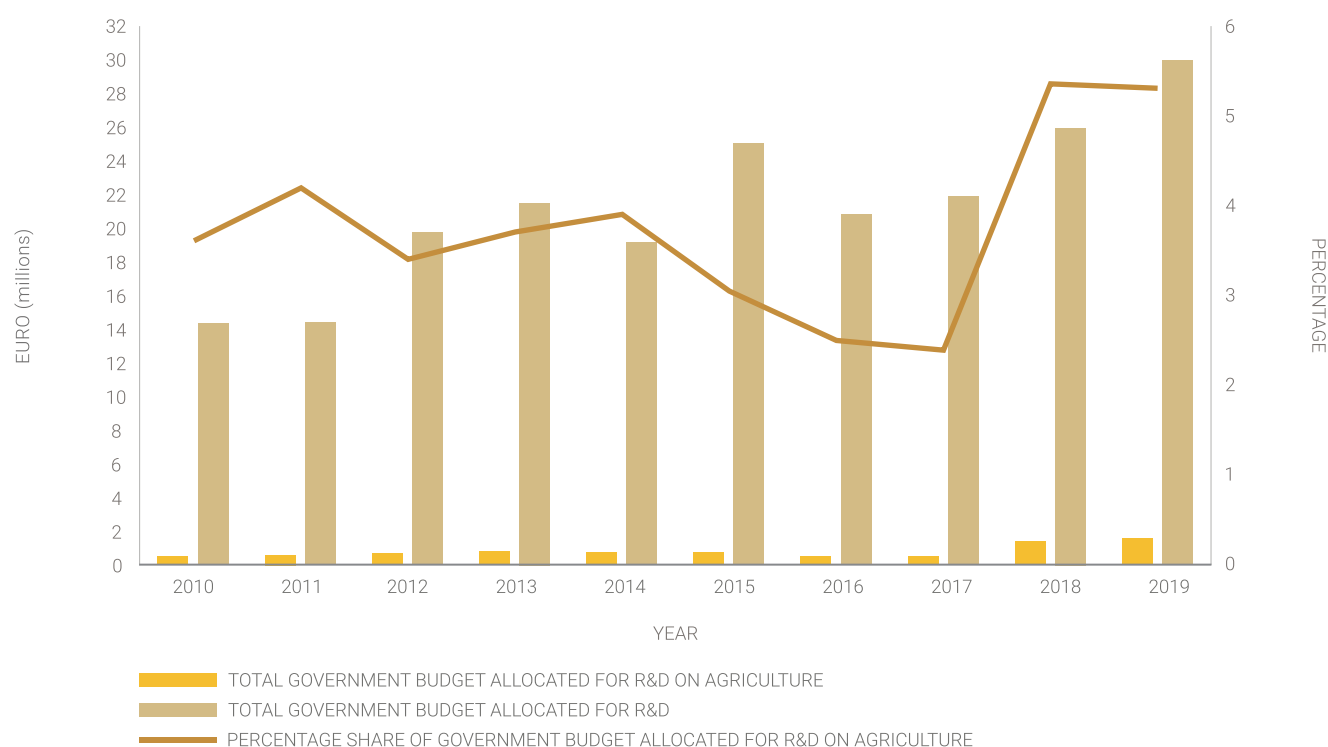


Chart 2.15: Government budget allocations for R&D on agriculture; NSO

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 2 is reflected in Table 2.1 below. The targets related to SDG 2, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 2 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 2 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 2 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>79</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>80</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>81</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.





<sup>79</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>80</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>81</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].



**Legend:**

	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

*Table 2.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 2*

TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
2.1	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	
2.2	By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons	Pre-obese, obese and overweight rates	
2.3	By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment	Production account of the agriculture sector	
		Net Entrepreneurial income in the agriculture sector	
		Compensation to employees	

2.4	By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality	Share of total utilised agriculture area occupied by organic farming	
		Harmonised Risk Indicator for pesticides (HRI1)	
		Ammonia emissions from agricultural activities	
		Share of ammonia emissions from agriculture from total ammonia emissions	
		Total greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture sector	
2.5	By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed	Plant breeds for which sufficient genetic resources are stored	
2.a	Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries	Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) for Government expenditures	
		Total Government expenditure on agriculture	
		Agriculture share (%) of total Government expenditure	
		Government budget allocations for R&D in agriculture	





# SDG 03



Ensure healthy lives and promoting well-being for  
all at all ages

## **| Ensure healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages**

The 2030 Agenda reflects the complexity and interconnectedness of good health and sustainable development by taking into account widening economic and social inequalities, rapid urbanisation, threats to the climate and the environment, the continuing burden of HIV and other infectious diseases, and the challenges of non-communicable diseases.<sup>82</sup>

Sustainable Development Goal 3 focuses on the importance of healthy lives and the promotion of well-being for all as a necessary precondition for building prosperous societies. It promotes health and well-being for all at all ages by improving reproductive, maternal and child health; limiting the epidemics of major communicable diseases; reducing non-communicable and mental diseases; and also promoting healthy lifestyles and affordable and accessible health-care services. The targets for SDG 3 address the themes of mortality, access to health-care services, healthy lifestyles, and well-being.

### **Mortality**

One of the main elements addressed by the targets of SDG 3 is mortality, in particular neonatal mortality, under-five mortality, maternal mortality, non-communicable disease-related mortality, mortality due to traffic injuries, and avoidable mortality. These indicators are important since the measurement of mortality, and identification of the main causes, allow for an interpretation of trends related to important health conditions in a population. Thus, they also allow for the identification of the risk factors that should be addressed to improve the health status of the population.

Having a skilled attendant at the time of delivery is an important lifesaving intervention for both mother and baby. Not having access to this key assistance is detrimental to women's health and gender empowerment, because it could cause the death of the mother or child or long-lasting disability, especially in marginalised settings. The indicator on the percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel is the percentage of deliveries attended by health personnel trained in providing lifesaving obstetric care (generally doctors, nurses or midwives), including giving

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<sup>82</sup> Goal 3, Good Health and Well-Being, online <https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals#good-health> [accessed on 4 June 2021].

the necessary supervision, care and advice to women during pregnancy, labour and the post-partum period, and caring for newborns. For Malta, more than 99% of births are attended by skilled health personnel.

Moreover, the maternal mortality ratio (MMR)—defined as the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 1,000 live births during the same time period—depicts the risk of maternal death relative to the number of live births and is an important measure of quality of health care within a country. Data on death registration for Malta shows that maternal mortality per 1,000 resident live births was 0 in the period 2011–2019.

SDG 3 also includes the target of ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age with the aim to reduce neonatal mortality to at least 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least 25 per 1,000 live births. Mortality rates among young children are a key output indicator for child health and well-being, and, more broadly, for social and economic development. Access of children and communities to basic health interventions such as vaccinations, medical treatment of infectious diseases and adequate nutrition have an impact on the mortality rate of newborns and children, especially in countries where universal access to these services is not available or not free of charge.

In Malta, the three-year average rate of neonatal deaths (less than 1 month old) per 1,000 births has declined over the period 2008–2019, reaching a rate of 4.50 deaths per 1,000 live births in the period 2017–2019 from the three-year average rate of 5.02 neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births in the period 2008–2010 (Chart 3.1). Moreover, between 2008 and 2019, the three-year average under-5 mortality rate has ranged from a high of 7.61 deaths in 2008–2010 to a low of 6.67 deaths in the period 2014–2016. Data from the most recent period, 2017–2019, shows an increase from 6.67 deaths per live births in the previous three-year period, to 7.56 deaths per live births (Chart 3.1).<sup>83,84</sup>

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<sup>83</sup> Data reflects only resident births.

<sup>84</sup> In Malta termination of pregnancy is illegal and therefore infants born with terminal congenital anomalies may die soon after birth rather than being aborted during pregnancy and thereby also being responsible for relatively high infant and child mortality rates.

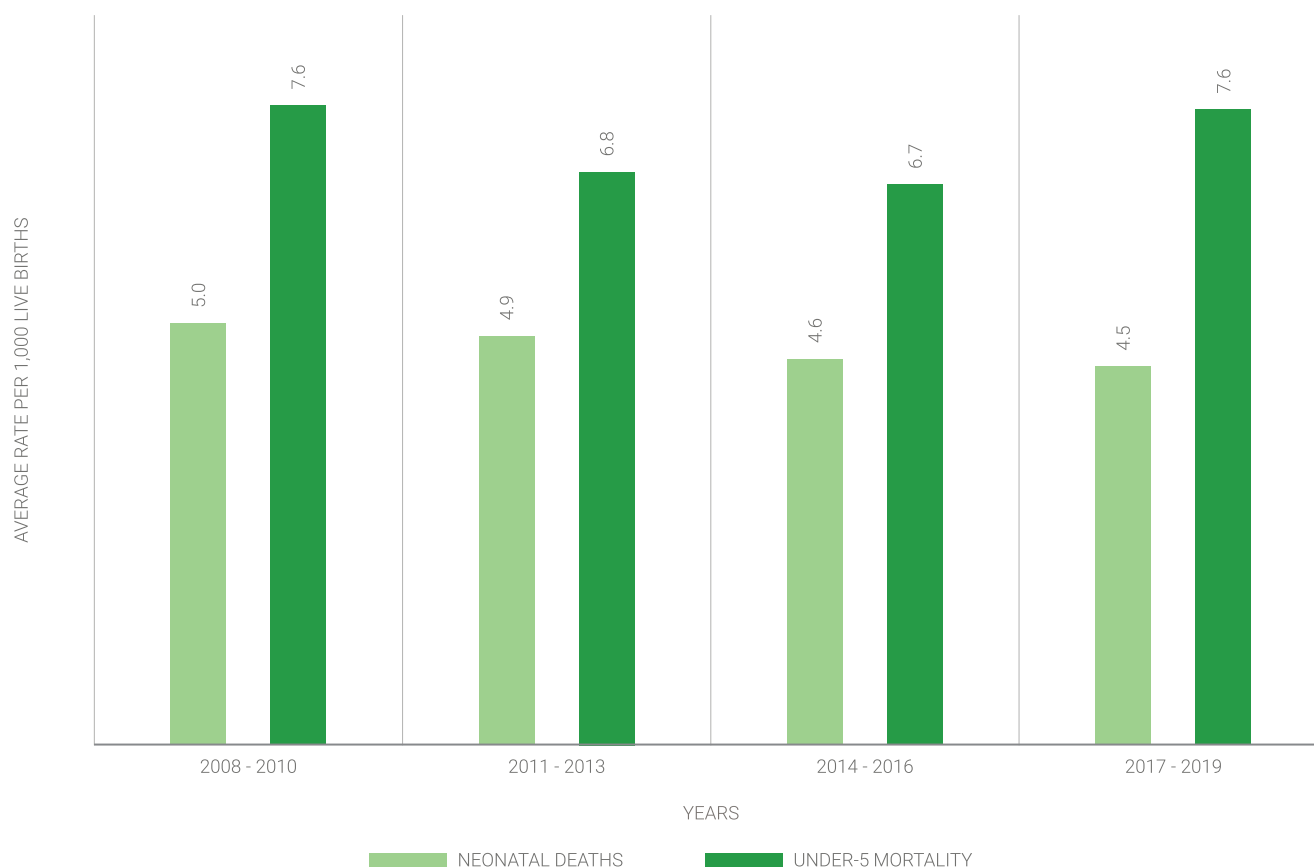


Chart 3.1: Three-year average neonatal (<1M) and under-5 mortality rates (per 1,000 live births); NSO, Directorate of Health, Information and Research (DHIR)

Deaths from non-communicable diseases are addressed in the targets of SDG 3. Whereas communicable diseases are on the decline, non-communicable diseases have become more prominent, with cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and dementia entering the top causes of death. SDG targets call for the reduction by one third of premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment by 2030. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates, in 2019 mortality from non-communicable diseases in Malta was 89.7% of all deaths, a slight decrease from the 91.2% estimated for 2010 (Chart 3.2). In 2018, the age-standardised premature mortality rate (from 30 to under 70 years) for four major non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes mellitus and chronic respiratory diseases) in Malta was 222.3 deaths per 100,000 population, 8.2% less than in 2010 (Chart 3.3).





Chart 3.2: Cause of death by non-communicable diseases (% of total deaths); WHO, Global Health Estimates 2020: Deaths by Cause, Age, Sex, by Country and by Region, 2000-2019. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2020

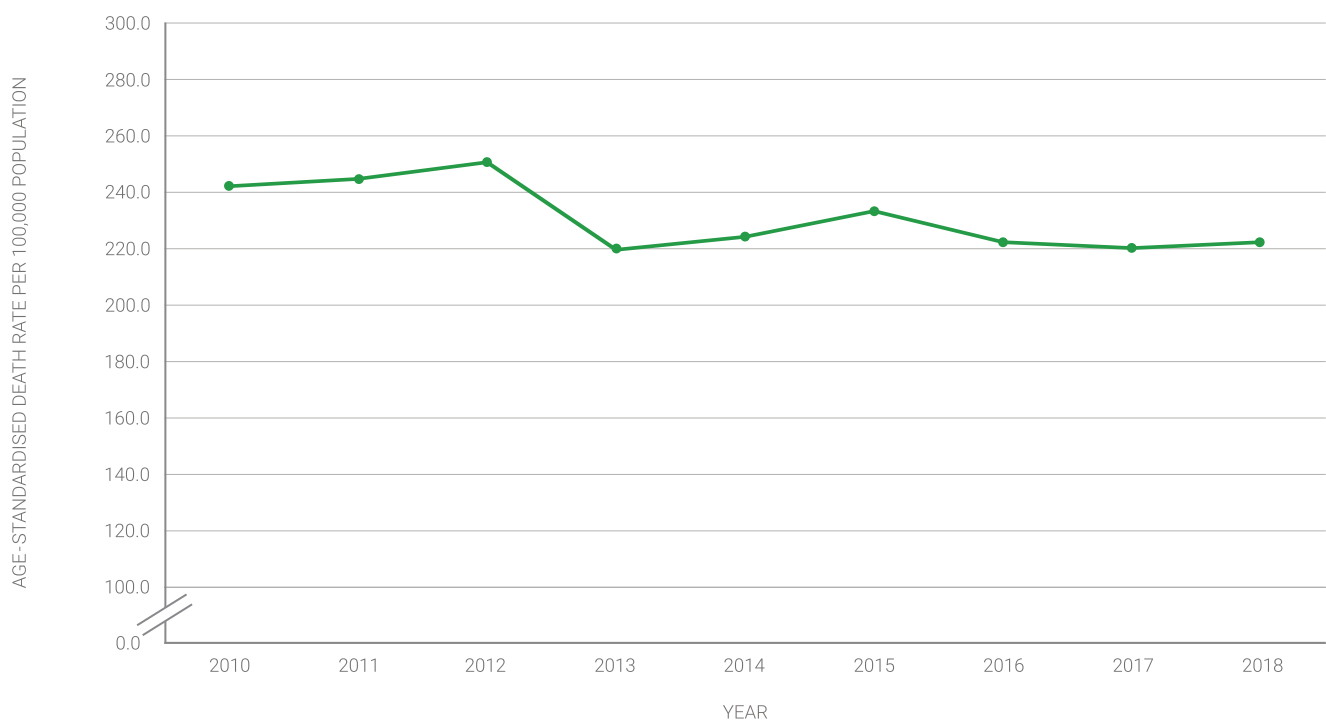


Chart 3.3: Age-standardised (ESP) premature mortality rate (from 30 to under 70 years) for four major non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes mellitus and chronic respiratory diseases); DHIR

The number of deaths and injuries from transport accidents is addressed by target 3.6, which seeks to halve the number of deaths from transport accidents by 2020. In Malta, fatalities due to transport accidents have decreased from an age-standardised 3-year average rate of 5.02 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants in the period 2007–2009 to a rate of 4.68 in the period 2016–2018. (Chart 3.4).

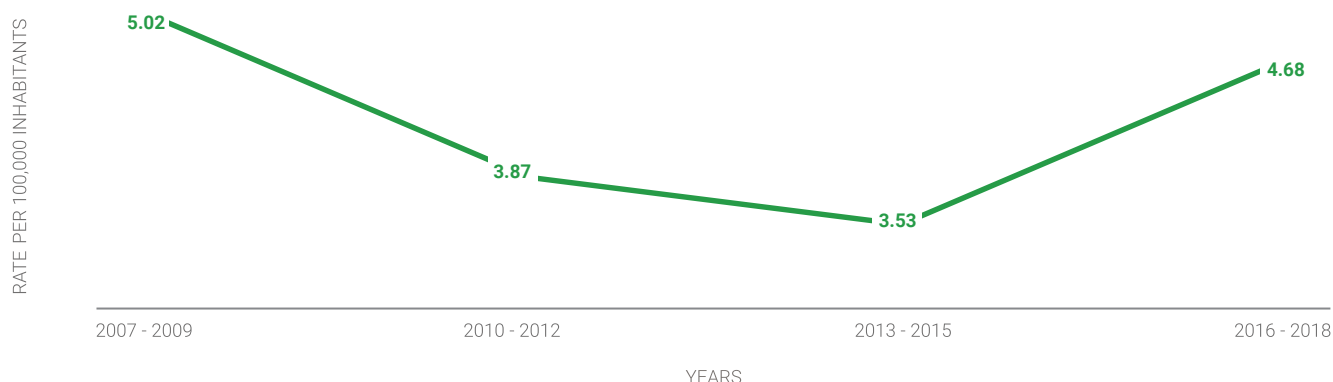


Chart 3.4: Age-standardised (ESP) death rate due to transport accidents—3-year average; DHIR

Furthermore, Eurostat's statistics on 'avoidable mortality', which covers both preventable and treatable mortality, such as from: a number of infectious diseases, several types of cancers, endocrine and metabolic diseases, some diseases of the nervous, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, genitourinary systems, some diseases related to pregnancy, childbirth and the perinatal period, a number of congenital malformations, adverse effects of medical and surgical care, a list of injuries and alcohol and drug-related diseases, gives an indication on the mortality for those aged less than 75 years that can mainly be avoided through effective public health and primary prevention interventions. Treatable mortality can mainly be avoided through timely and effective health care interventions, including secondary prevention and treatment, while preventable mortality refers to mortality that can mainly be avoided through effective public health and primary prevention interventions.<sup>85</sup>

The avoidable mortality rate in Malta in 2018 was 202.51, an 18.8% decrease from the rate registered in 2011. Since 2011, both rates for preventable mortality and treatable mortality have decreased. In the period 2011–2018 the lowest avoidable mortality rate was in 2015, however since then the rate started to increase again (Chart 3.5).

<sup>85</sup> Eurostat, *Standardised preventable and treatable mortality*, online: [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/SDG\\_03\\_42/default/table](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/SDG_03_42/default/table) [accessed on 9 July 2021].

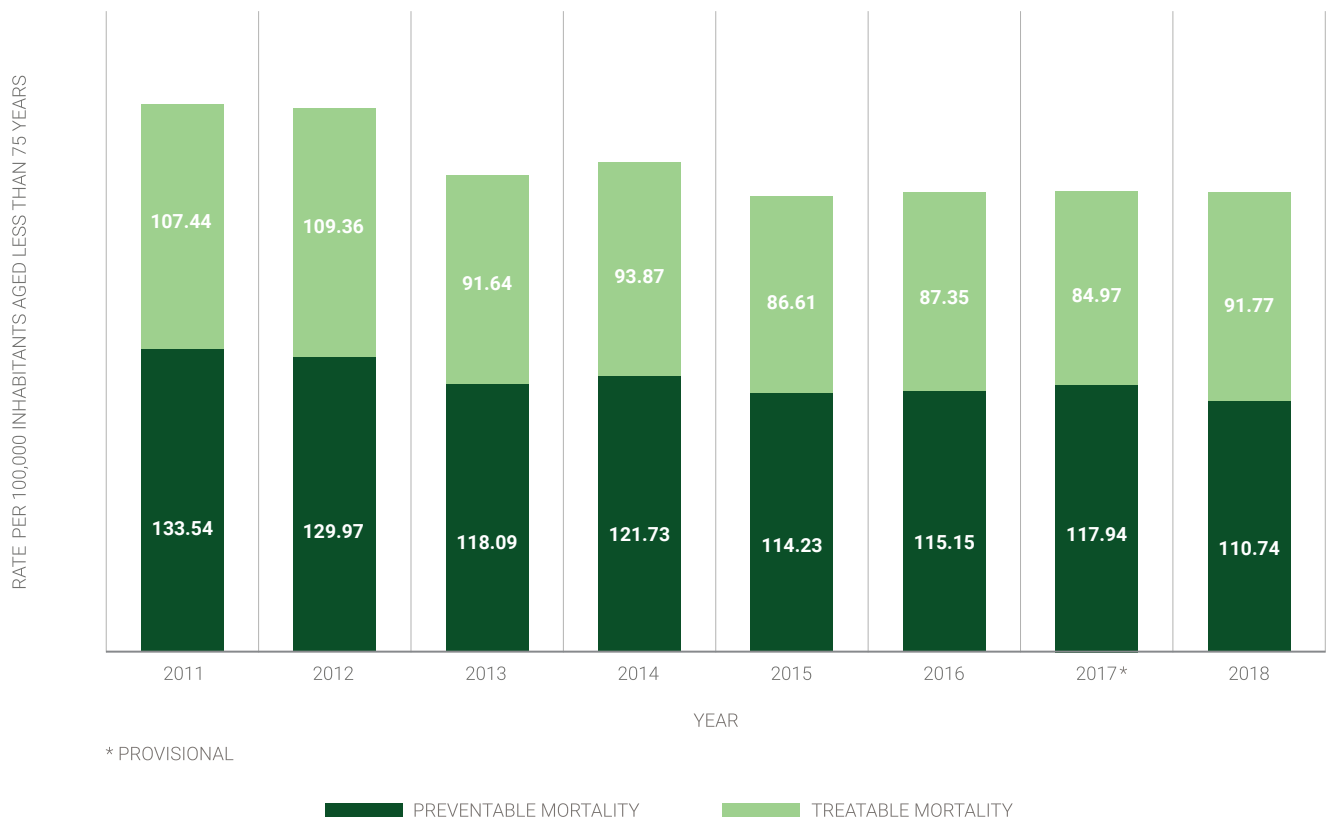


Chart 3.5: Avoidable mortality rate (per 100,000 inhabitants aged less than 75 years), including preventable mortality and treatable mortality; Eurostat

Life expectancy captures the mortality along the entire life course (age-specific probabilities of dying). It tells us the average age of death in a population for a given year and age. Life expectancy at birth is defined as the mean number of years that a newborn child can expect to live if subjected throughout his life to the current mortality conditions. For Malta, the life expectancy at birth in 2019 was that of nearly 83 years, 1.5 years more than the life expectancy at birth in 2010 (Chart 3.6).

Moreover, Healthy Life Years (HLY) at age 65, combine information on mortality (life expectancy) and morbidity, to estimate the number of years a person can expect to live in good health. Estimates for 2019 show that the healthy life years of females aged 65 living in Malta was that of 15.1 years, while the healthy life years of males aged 65 living in Malta was that of 14.4 years—an increase of 3.4 years for females and 2.4 years for males aged 65 in 2010 (Chart 3.7).

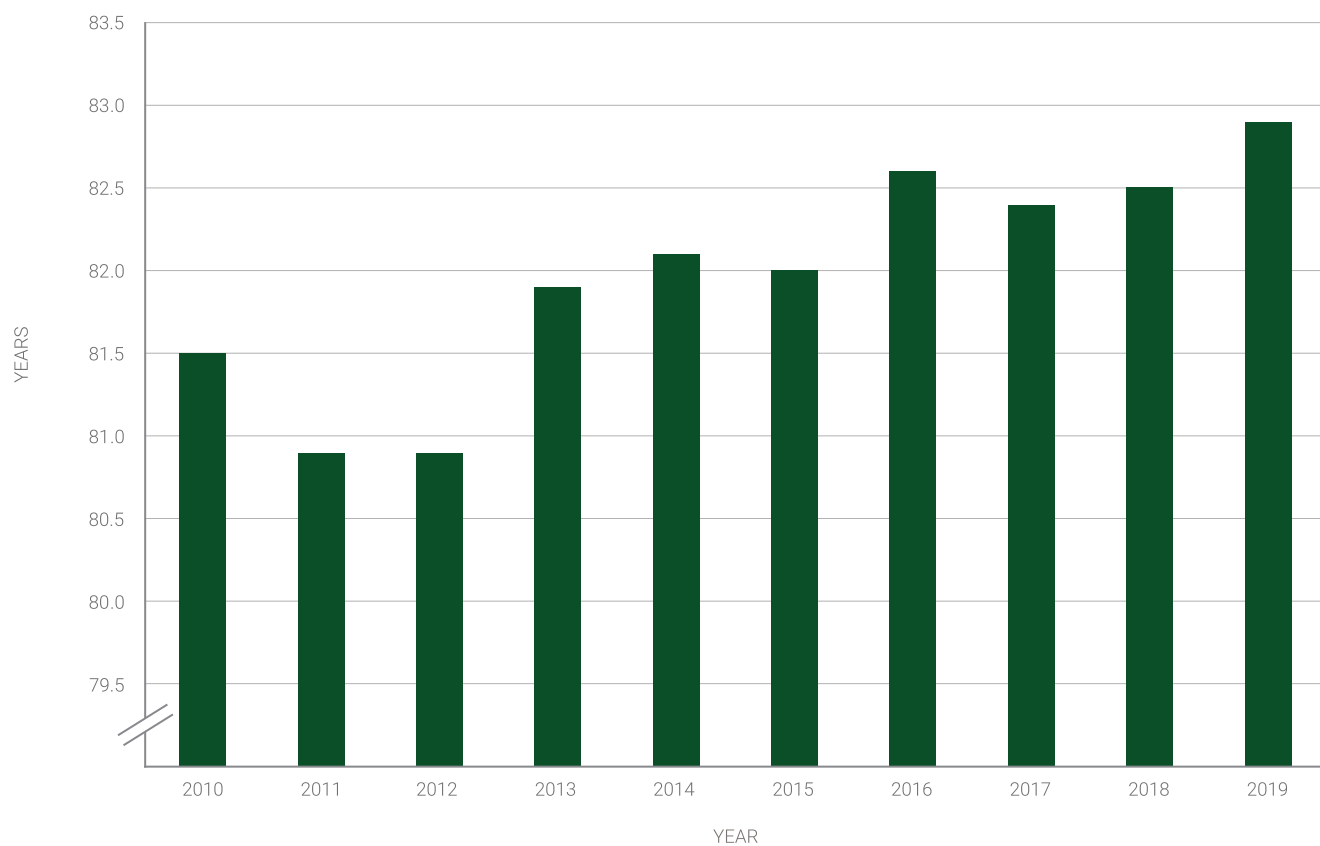


Chart 3.6: Life expectancy at birth; Eurostat



Chart 3.7: Healthy life years at age 65; Eurostat

## Access to health-care services

SDG 3 aims to ensure health and well-being for all at all ages by improving reproductive, maternal and child health, and ending/combating the epidemics of major communicable diseases, such as AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis and neglected tropical water-borne diseases. The main prerequisites for meeting these objectives are universal health coverage, including access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and to safe, affordable and effective medicines and vaccines for all.

One of the SDG 3 targets calls for the end of a number of communicable diseases, such as AIDS and tuberculosis. The number of tuberculosis cases in Malta in 2019 was 98, 180% more than in 2010 (Chart 3.8). The rate of tuberculosis cases (per 100,000 people) also increased from 8.4 in 2010 to 19 in 2019—a mean annual percentage change in rate of approximately 126% (Chart 3.9). According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) the shaded areas of Chart 3.8 and Chart 3.9, covering 51 and 69 cases and the rates of 12 and 16 respectively, would constitute a low and high burden on the health care system.<sup>86</sup> The burden is estimated using DALYs (Disability Adjusted Life Year), a health gap measure representing years of life lost (YLL) due to premature death and number of life years lost due to disability (YLD).<sup>87</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and WHO Regional Office for Europe (2020), *Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring in Europe 2020 – 2018 data*, Stockholm: ECDC.

<sup>87</sup> European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and WHO Regional Office for Europe (2010), *Methodology protocol for estimating burden of communicable disease*, Stockholm: ECDC.

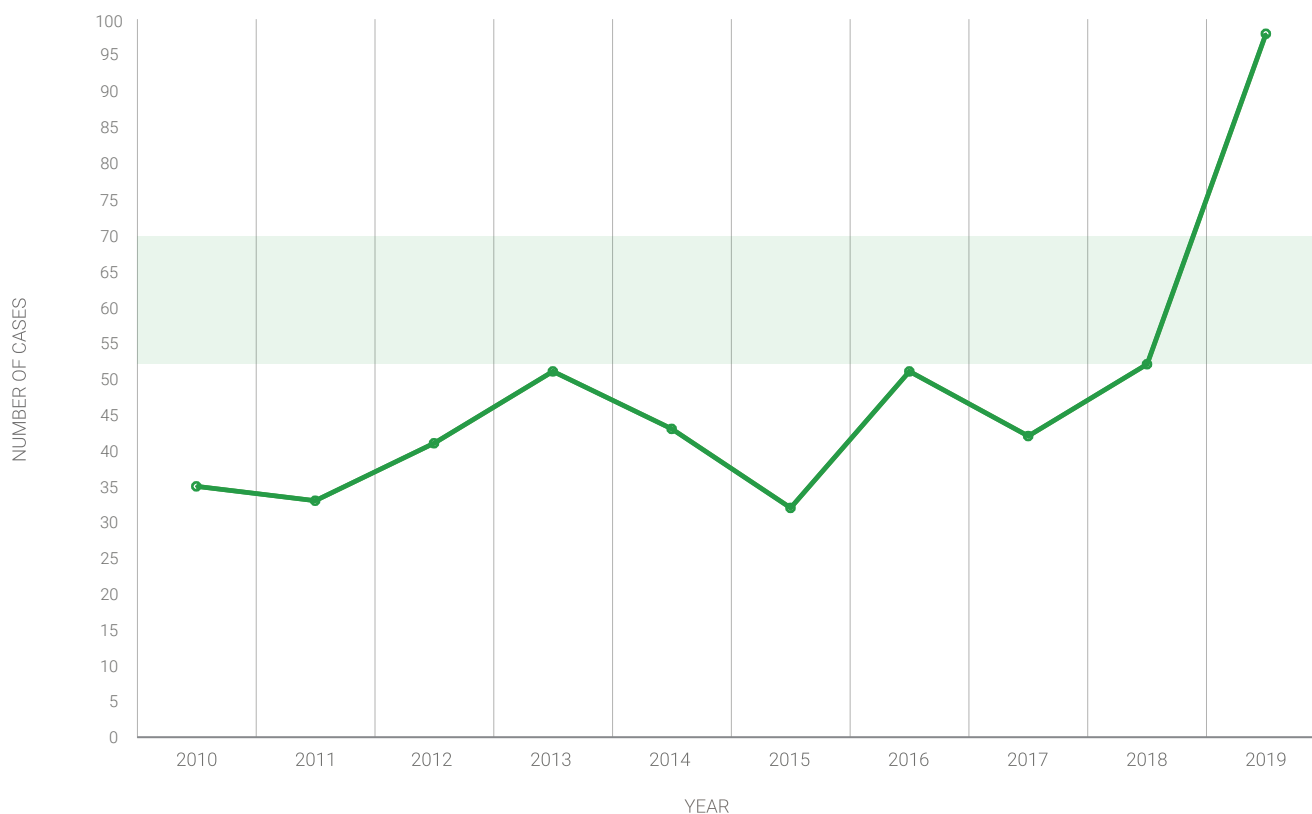


Chart 3.8: Tuberculosis cases in Malta; Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit, Malta

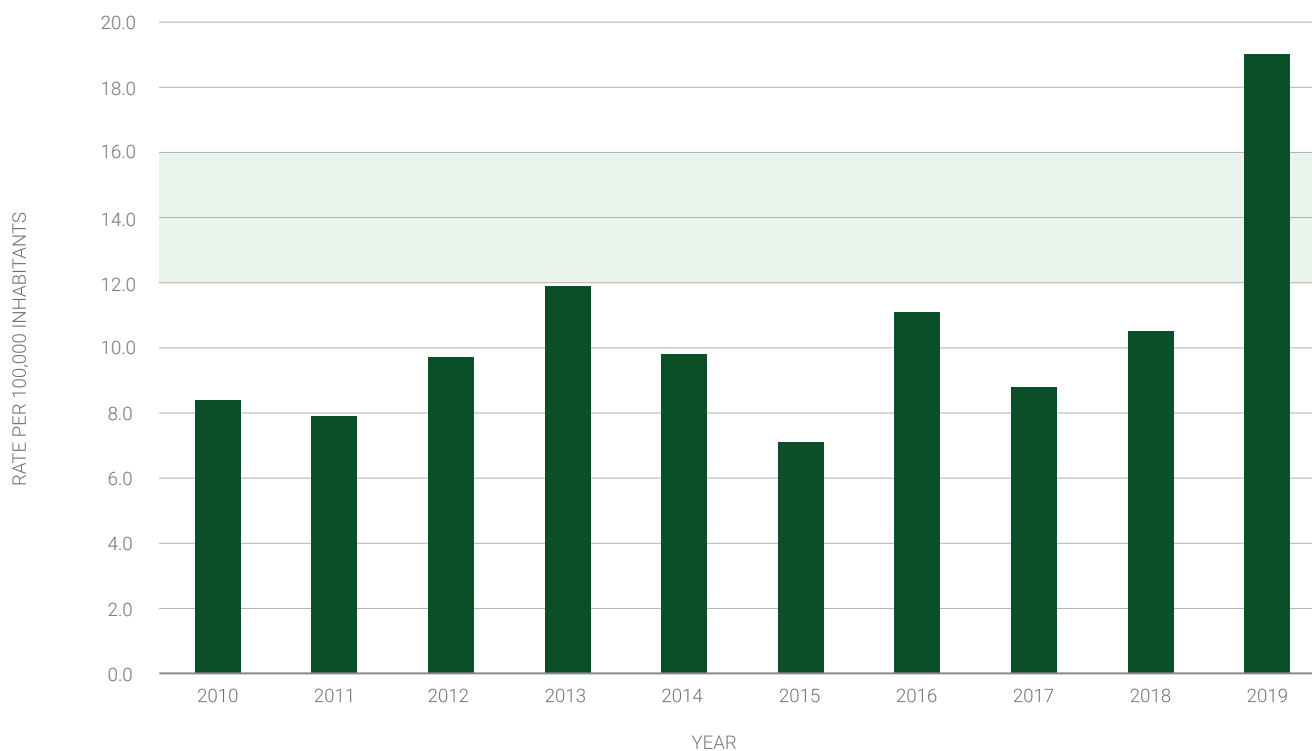


Chart 3.9: Rate (per 100,000 inhabitants) of tuberculosis cases in Malta; Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit, Malta, NSO

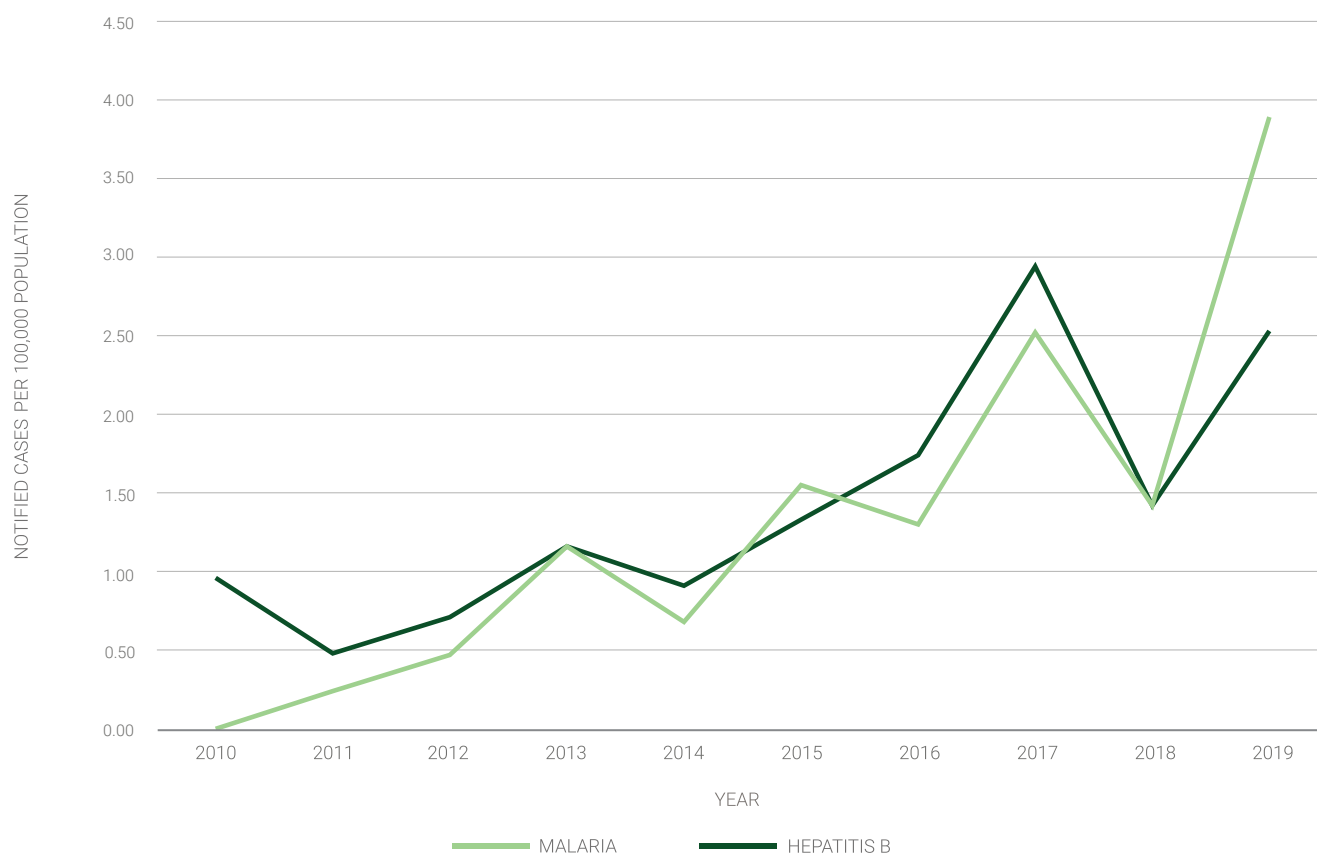
Moreover, for Malta the number of reported HIV diagnoses for the period 2010–2019 increased from 18 in 2010 to 59 in 2019. The rate of new HIV diagnoses (per 100,000 inhabitants) also increased by 228%, from 4.3 in 2010 to 11.5 in 2019 (Chart 3.10).



Chart 3.10: New HIV diagnoses (left axis) and rate (per 100,000 inhabitants) of new HIV diagnoses (right axis); Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit, Malta, NSO

The notified cases of malaria and hepatitis B incidences per 100,000 population have also been increasing. Data shows that in 2010 no malaria infections were reported, while only a rate of 0.96 per 100,000 population of acute hepatitis B were registered. By 2019, the rates of 3.89 malaria cases and 2.53 acute hepatitis B cases per 100,000 population were notified (Chart 3.11).<sup>88</sup>

<sup>88</sup> The malaria cases were all imported, and the hepatitis B incidences were all acute cases and not chronic.



*Chart 3.11: Notified cases of malaria and hepatitis B per 100,000 population; Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit, Malta, NSO*

In Malta, the number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases has in general decreased. The 'significant' number of cases notified were related to leishmaniasis, transmitted by the sandfly (Chart 3.12). No cases of other neglected tropical diseases (Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, mycetoma, rabies, yaws) were registered in the period 2010–2019.



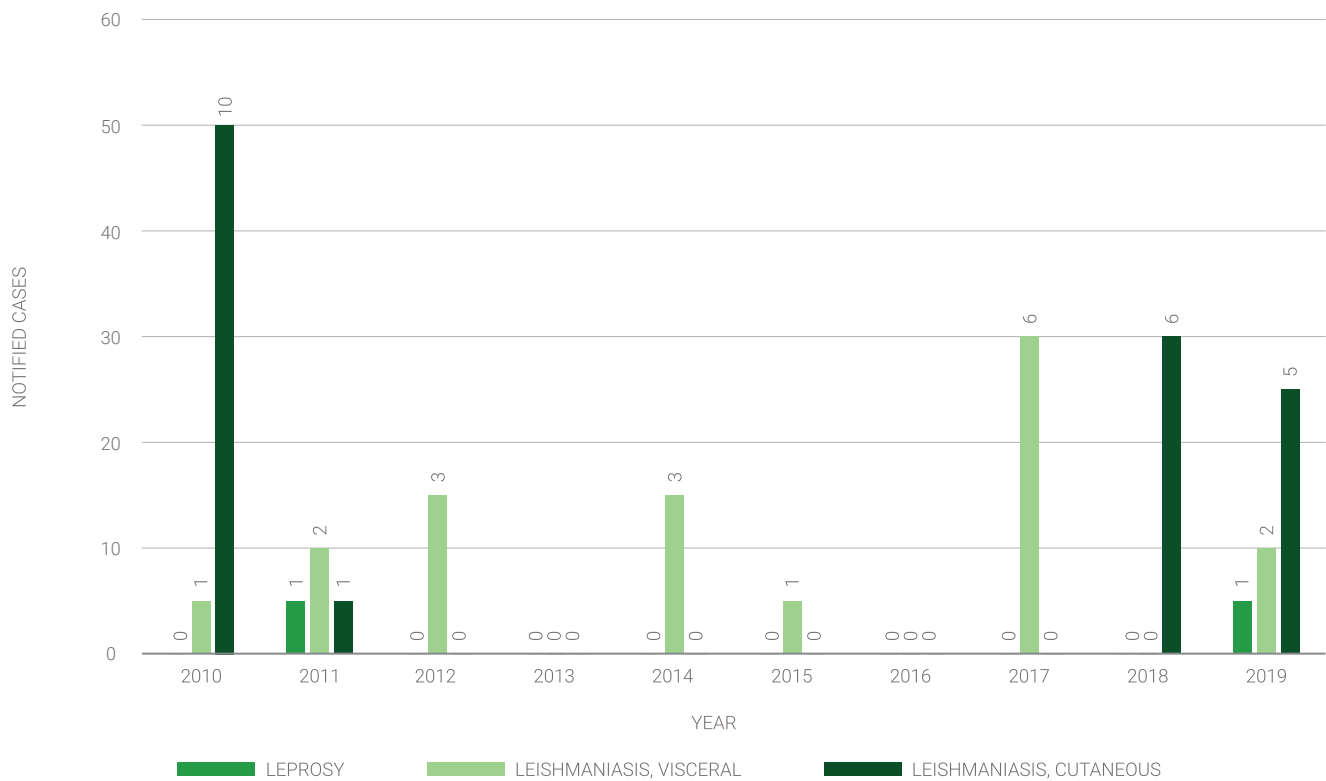


Chart 3.12: Notified cases of leprosy, leishmaniasis (visceral and cutaneous); Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit, Malta

Another SDG 3 target is to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

The National Sexual Health Policy for the Maltese Islands (2010) defines sexual health as “...a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity. It requires a positive, respectful approach to sexuality and relationships and the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination, and violence. For sexual health to be attained, the sexual rights of all persons must be respected, protected, and fulfilled”.<sup>89</sup> Sexual health services in Malta are free and available to everyone regardless of sex, age, ethnic origin or sexual orientation.

<sup>89</sup> The Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care (2010), *The National Sexual Health Policy for the Maltese Islands*, Valletta. Available online at [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dhir/Documents/sexualhealthpolicy\\_english.pdf](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dhir/Documents/sexualhealthpolicy_english.pdf) [accessed on 12 March 2021].

In 2012, the Directorate for Health Information and Research (DHIR) carried out a national survey to determine the sexual knowledge, attitudes and practices of the resident Maltese population aged 16 to 40 years.<sup>90</sup> The majority of respondents reported that they learnt about puberty, the reproductive system, and other aspects of sexual behaviour from school (Chart 3.13). Moreover, the survey shows the respondents' preference of what sexual health services should include and how they should be accessible (Chart 3.14).

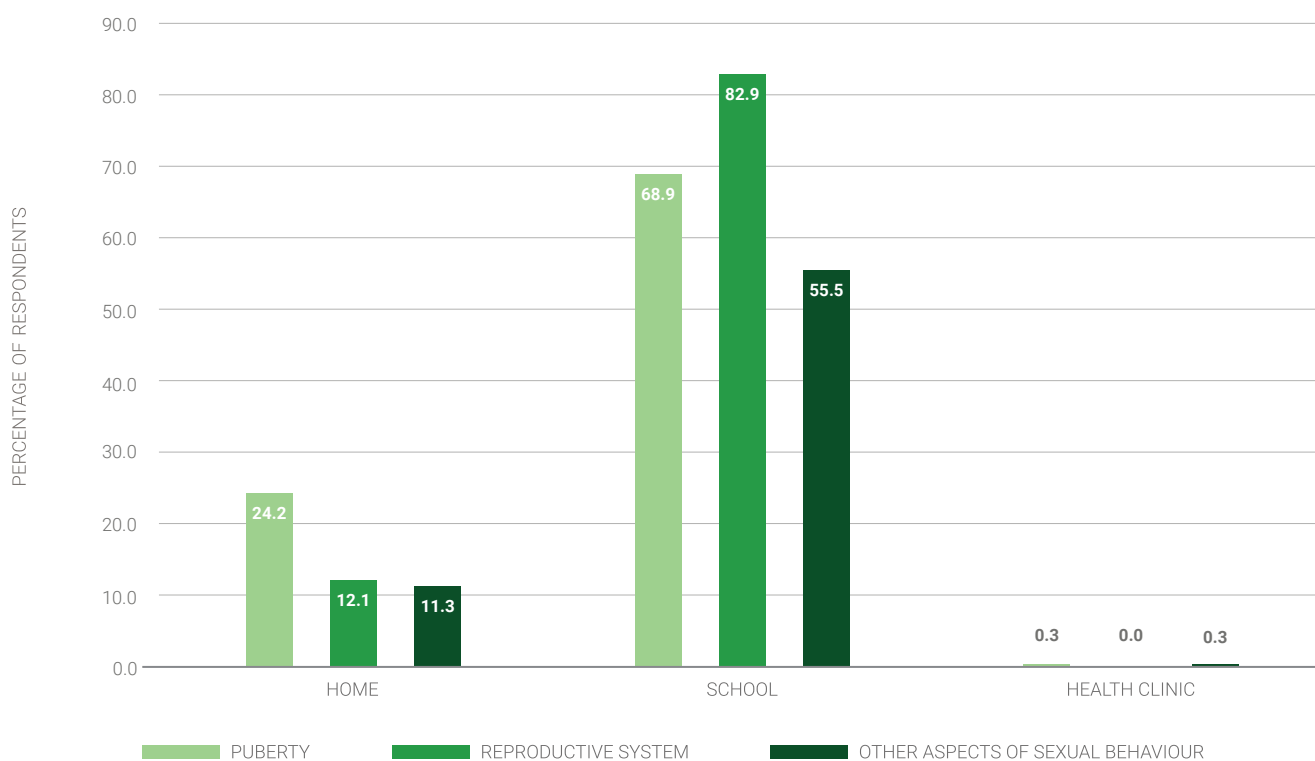
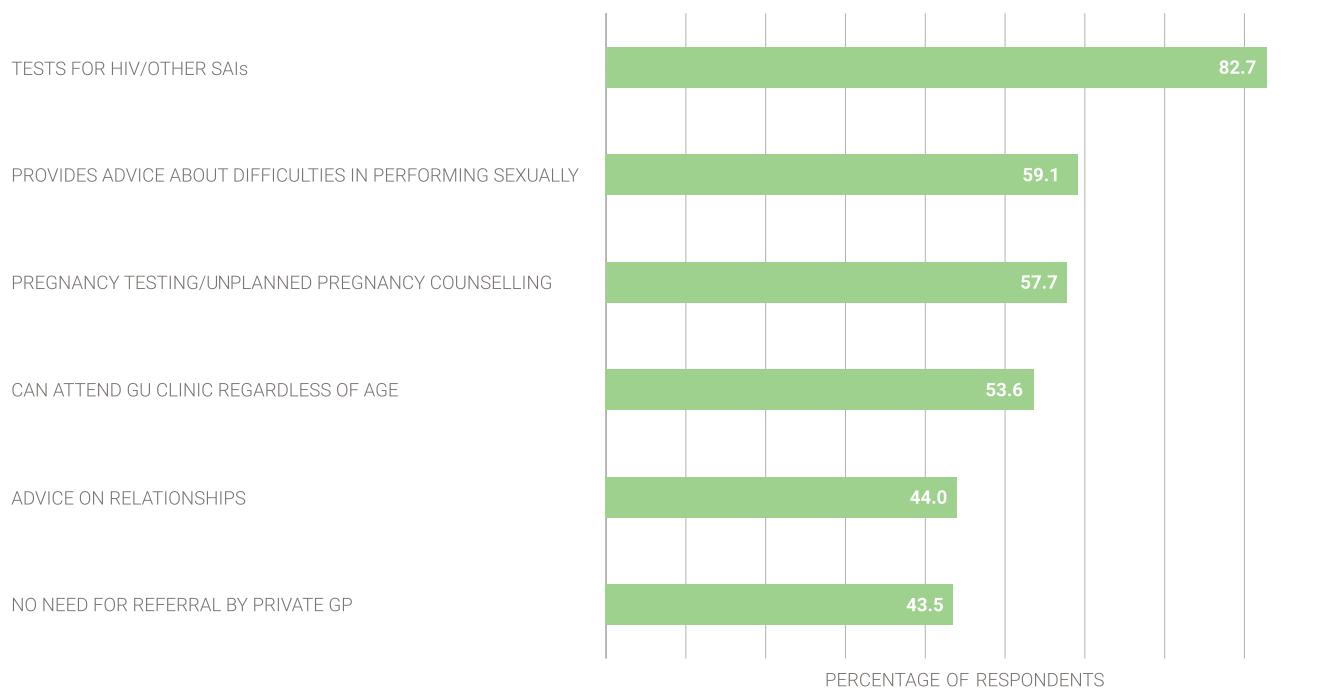


Chart 3.13: Places where teenagers reported they learnt about aspects of sexuality and sexual behaviour; Survey on Sexual Knowledge, Attributes, and Behaviour (2012), DHIR

<sup>90</sup> The Directorate for Health Information and Research, Ministry for Health (2012), *Sexual Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviour: National sexual health survey amongst the Maltese population aged 16 to 40 years*, Valletta. Available online at [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dhir/Documents/sexual\\_health\\_survey\\_report\\_2012.pdf](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dhir/Documents/sexual_health_survey_report_2012.pdf) [accessed 12 March 2021].



*Chart 3.14: Desired features of sexual health services; Survey on Sexual Knowledge, Attributes, and Behaviour (2012), DHIR*

The European Health Interview Surveys of 2002, 2008, 2014, and 2019 show that the use of contraception amongst the sexually active population aged 15 years and over in Malta has generally increased; from 13.4% reporting they always used contraception in 2002, to 20.8% in 2019.<sup>91</sup> For the latter year, a further 20% reported they used contraception frequently or sometimes. The share of persons who never used contraception in the previous 12 months however remains relatively high, with 53.1% of the sexually active population in 2019 reporting they never used contraception in the past 12 months (Chart 3.15).

<sup>91</sup> Department of Health Information and Research (2008), *Health Interview Survey 2008 – Lifestyle*, Ministry for Health, Elderly and Community Care, Valletta. Available online at [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dhir/Documents/life\\_style\\_report.pdf](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dhir/Documents/life_style_report.pdf) [accessed on 5 June 2021].

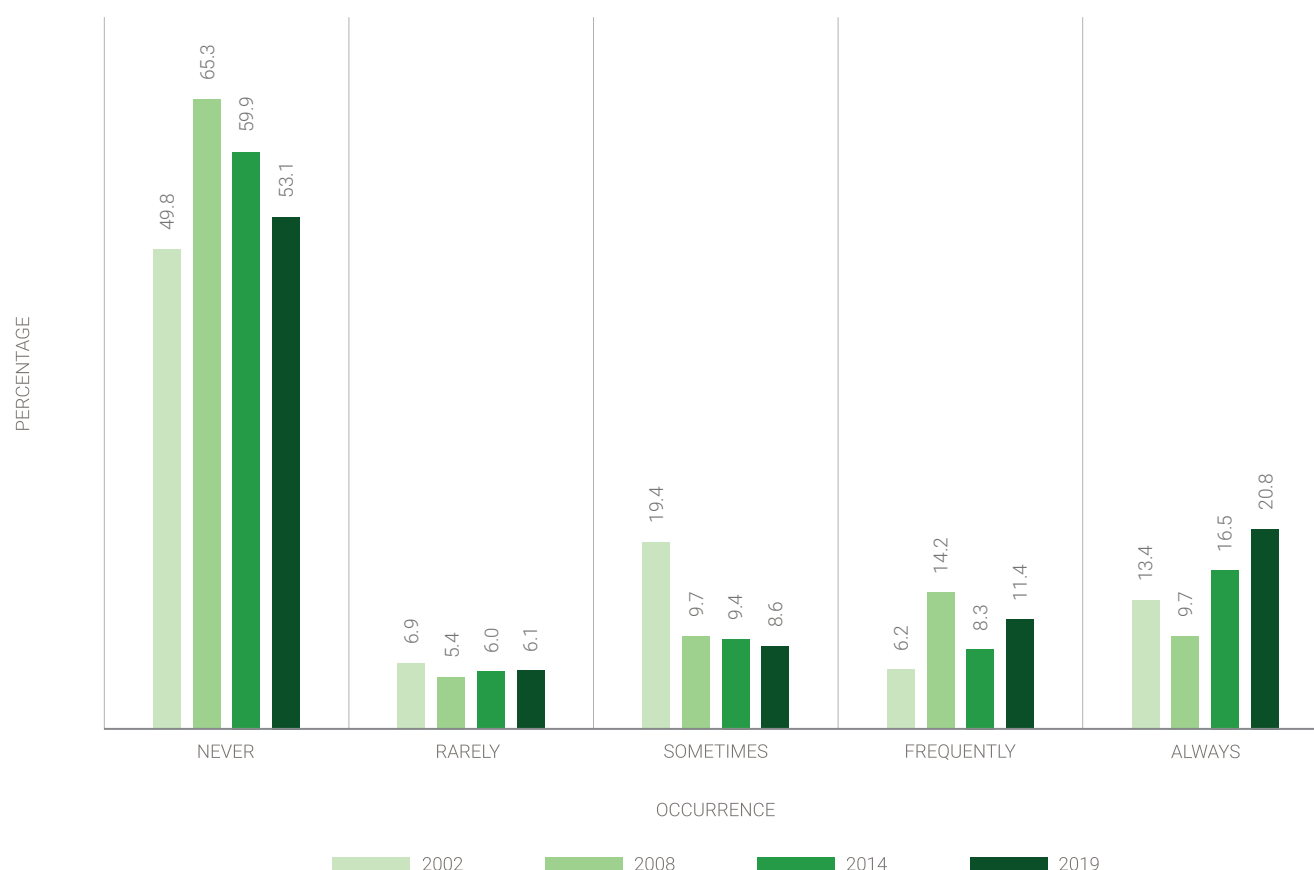


Chart 3.15: Frequency of contraception used amongst the sexually active population; European Health Interview Surveys 2002, 2008, 2014, and 2019, DHIR

Findings from the 2017/2018 Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey in Europe and Canada<sup>92</sup> show that in 2018, 20% of Maltese aged 15 years had sexual intercourse, two percentage points less than results from the survey conducted in 2014 (Chart 3.16).

Moreover, in 2018, 39.5% and 12.5% of 15-year-olds in Malta reported that they or their partners had used a condom and the contraceptive pill respectively during their last sexual intercourse. In 2014, slightly more 15-year-olds (41%) had reported that they or their partners had used a condom during their last sexual intercourse, while fewer (10.5%) 15-year-olds had reported that they or their partners had used the contraceptive pill during their last sexual intercourse. In 2018, 52% of 15-year-olds reported that they or their partners had used neither a condom nor the contraceptive pill during their last sexual intercourse (Chart 3.17).

<sup>92</sup> Inchley et al. (eds.) (2020), *Spotlight on adolescent health and well-being. Findings from the 2017/2018 Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey in Europe and Canada. International report. Vol 2. Key data*, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe.

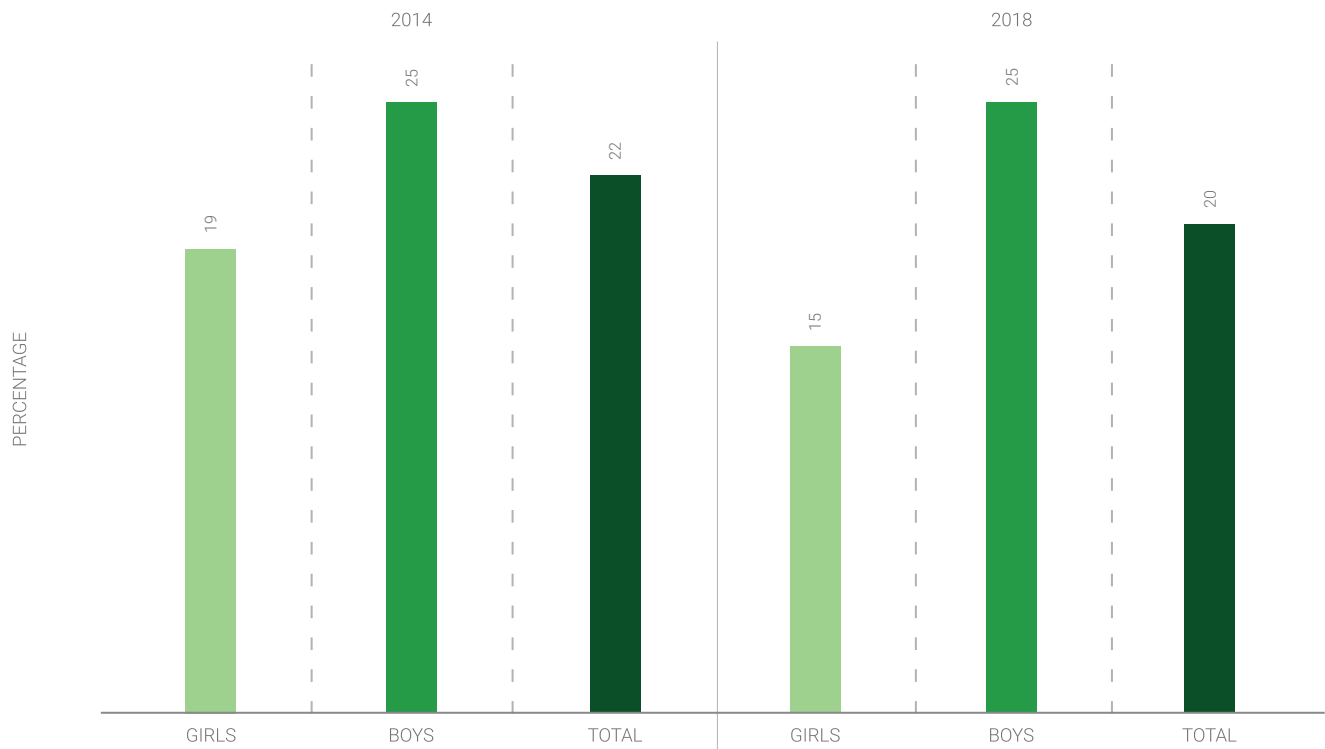


Chart 3.16: Sexual activity of young people aged 15 years; WHO: Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey in Europe and Canada (vol. 2)

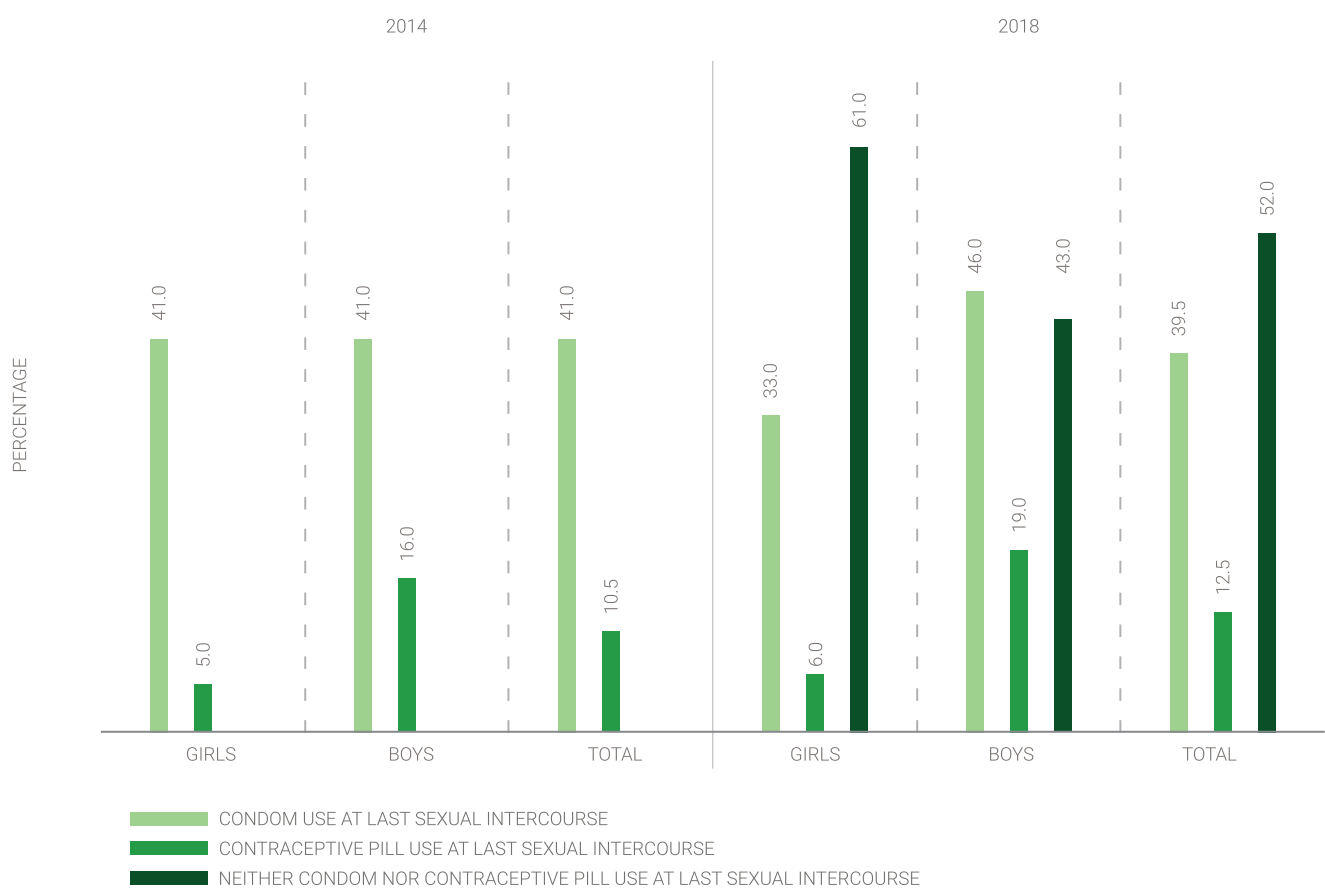


Chart 3.17: Use of contraception by young people aged 15 years; WHO: Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey in Europe and Canada (vol. 2)

Reducing births to adolescents and addressing the multiple factors underlying it are essential for improving their sexual and reproductive health and the social and economic well-being. Women who become pregnant and give birth very early in their reproductive lives are subject to higher risks of complications or death during pregnancy and birth than their peers, and their children are also at greater risk of morbidity and death than children born to older women. Therefore, preventing births very early in a woman's life is an important measure to improve maternal health and reduce infant mortality. The adolescent birth rate also provides indirect evidence of young people's access to health services since the youth often experience difficulties in accessing sexual and reproductive health-care services. The number of births to mothers aged from 10 to 19 years in Malta has been decreasing. In the period 2010–2019 the birth rate decreased by 66.3%. The lowest rate was registered in 2015 at 6.14 births per 1,000 females aged 10–19 (Chart 3.18).

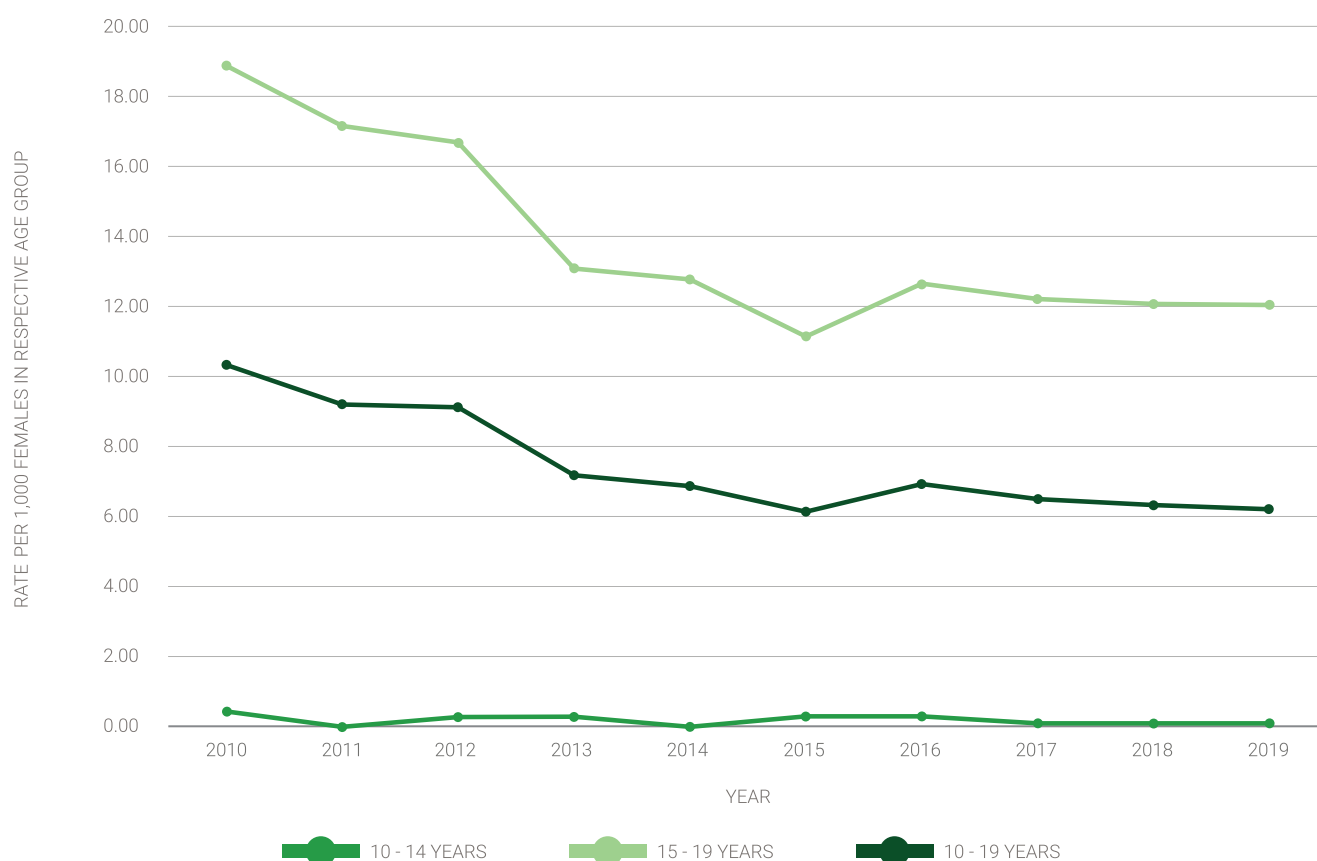
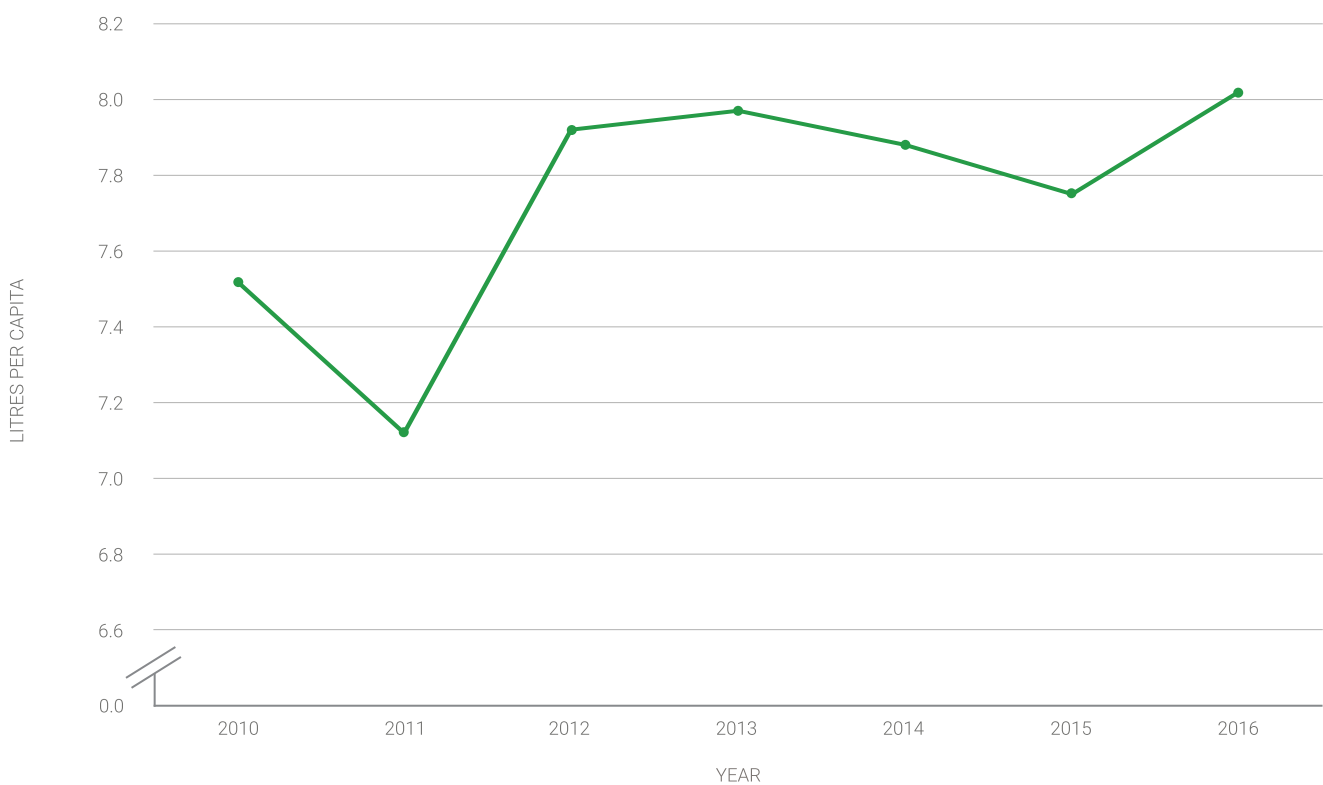


Chart 3.18: Rate (per 1,000 females in respective age group) of births to females aged 10 to 14 years, 15 to 19 years, and 10 to 19 years; NSO

## Healthy lifestyles

Good health and well-being are dependent on healthy lifestyles. The targets of SDG 3 also address the prevention and treatment of substance abuse and tobacco use.

Alcohol consumption can have an impact not only on the incidence of diseases, injuries and other health conditions, but also on the course of disorders and their outcomes in individuals. Alcohol consumption has been identified as a component cause for more than 200 diseases, injuries and other health conditions. Per capita alcohol consumption is widely accepted as the best possible indicator of alcohol exposure in populations and the key indicator for estimation of alcohol-attributable disease burden and alcohol-attributable deaths. According to the WHO, the alcohol consumption by those aged 15 years and more in Malta has been increasing, from 7.52 litres per capita in 2010 to 8.02 litres per capita in 2016 (Chart 3.19).<sup>93</sup>



*Chart 3.19: Per capita alcohol consumption among people aged 15+ within a calendar year; European data warehouse, WHO*

<sup>93</sup> Recorded alcohol consumption refers to official statistics (production, import, export and sales or taxation data), while unrecorded alcohol consumption refers to alcohol that is not taxed and is outside the usual system of governmental control. In circumstances in which the number of tourists per year is at least the number of inhabitants, the tourist consumption is also taken into account and is deducted from the country's recorded adult per capita consumption.

Risky alcohol consumption or 'binge drinking' (drinking 6 or more drinks on one occasion) is a serious public health problem due to the increased risks associated with heavy episodic drinking. Results from the European Health Interview Surveys (EHIS) show that the share of those aged 15 and older who report that they never engaged in binge drinking in the preceding 12 months has declined from 43.5% in 2008 to 31.2% in 2019. Weekly binge drinking has gone down by half since 2008, however the share of persons reporting they binge drink less than monthly increased from 28.3% in 2008 to 45.8% in 2019. Daily binge drinking has remained constant over the observed period (Chart 3.20).

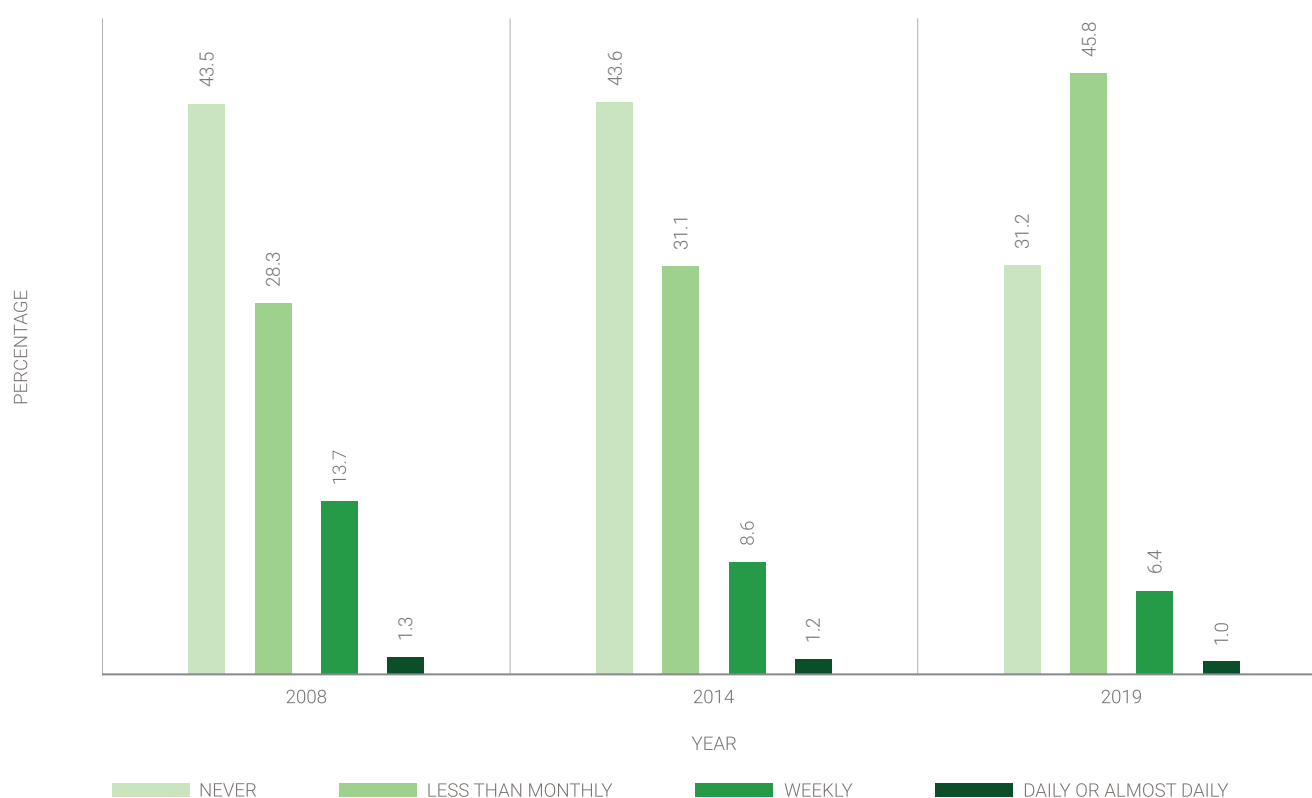


Chart 3.20: Prevalence of risky alcohol consumption amongst people aged 15+ in the past 12 months; EHIS, DHIR

Tobacco use is a major contributor to illness and death from non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Although there is no proven safe level of tobacco use or of second-hand smoke exposure, all daily and non-daily users of tobacco are at risk of a variety of poor health outcomes across the life-course. Reducing the prevalence of current tobacco use will make a large contribution to reducing premature mortality from NCDs. Routine and regular monitoring of this indicator is necessary to enable accurate monitoring and evaluation of the impact of implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), which Malta ratified on 24 September 2003. From the results of the EHIS, daily tobacco smoking prevalence amongst those aged 15 years and older has declined from 23.4% in 2002 to 20.6% in 2019 (Chart 3.21).



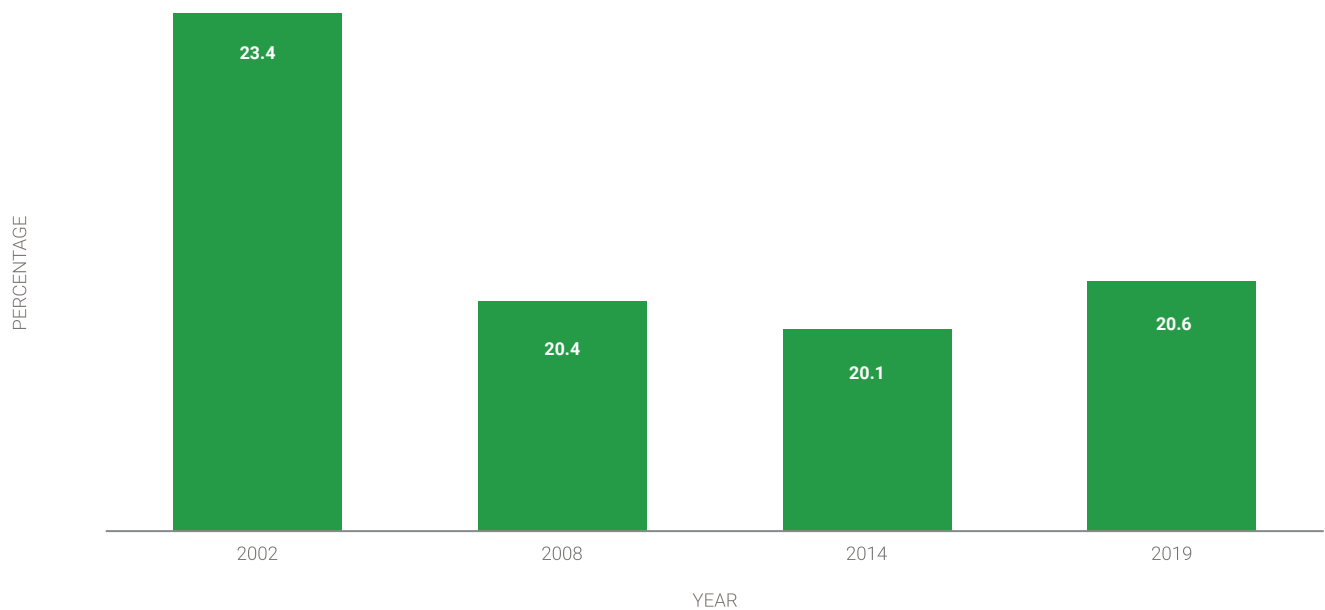


Chart 3.21: Daily tobacco smoking prevalence amongst 15-year-olds and older; EHIS, DHIR

Moreover, in 2019 the rate (per 1,000 population) of high-risk opioid users was estimated to be 3.18, 91% less than the rate of 6.10 estimated in 2010 (Chart 3.22). Comparing the number of individuals receiving treatment in 2010 with 2019, the number has been somehow stable, with the number decreasing to 1,770 in 2014 but increasing to 1,943 in 2019—7 patients more than in 2010 (Chart 3.23). Service users entering the drug treatment services for the very first time in 2010 numbered 313; constituting 16% of the entire population using treatment services. In 2019, the amount of persons entering the drug treatment services increased to 347, comprising 18% of the total number of service users (Chart 3.24).

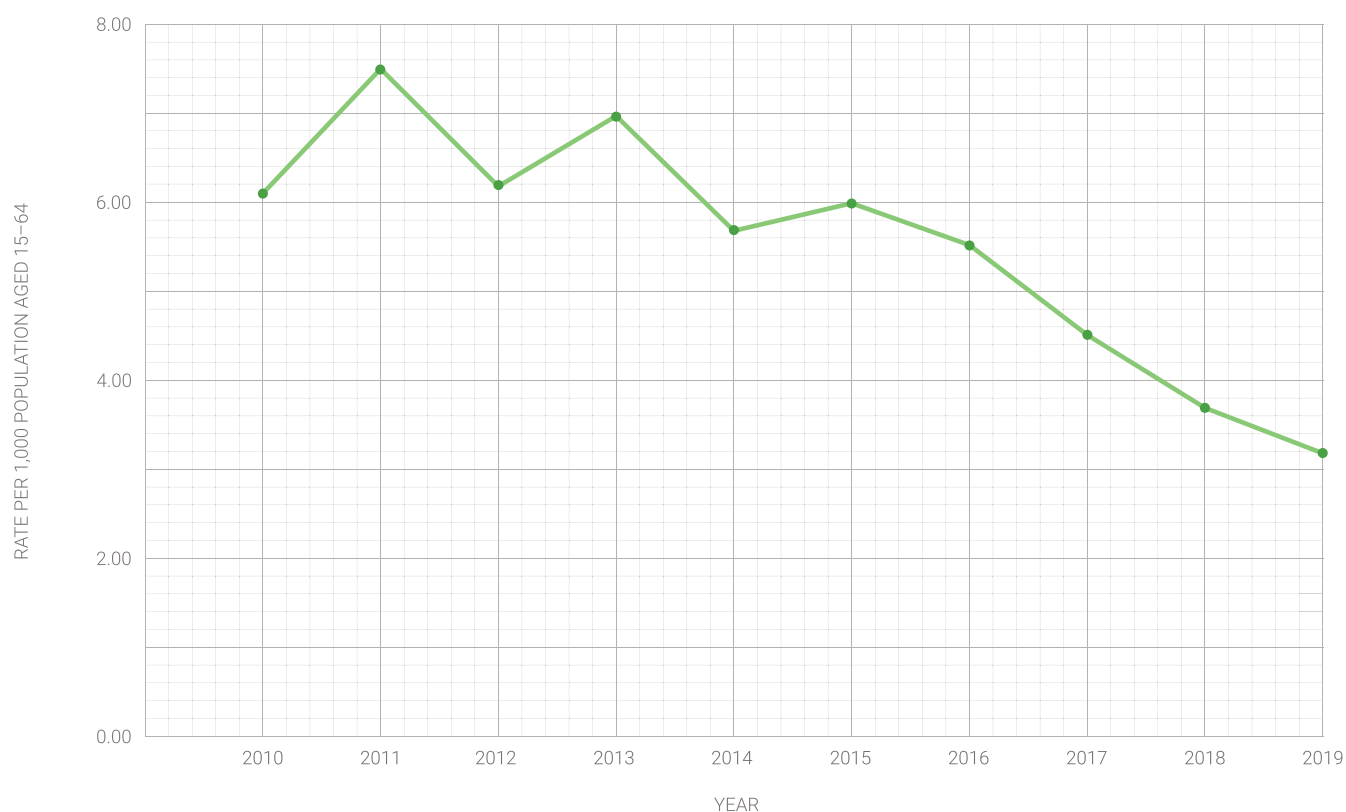


Chart 3.22: Rate of daily opiate users; Malta National Focal Point for Drugs and Drug Addiction (2020), National Report on the Drug situation in Malta 2020, Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity, Valletta.<sup>94</sup>

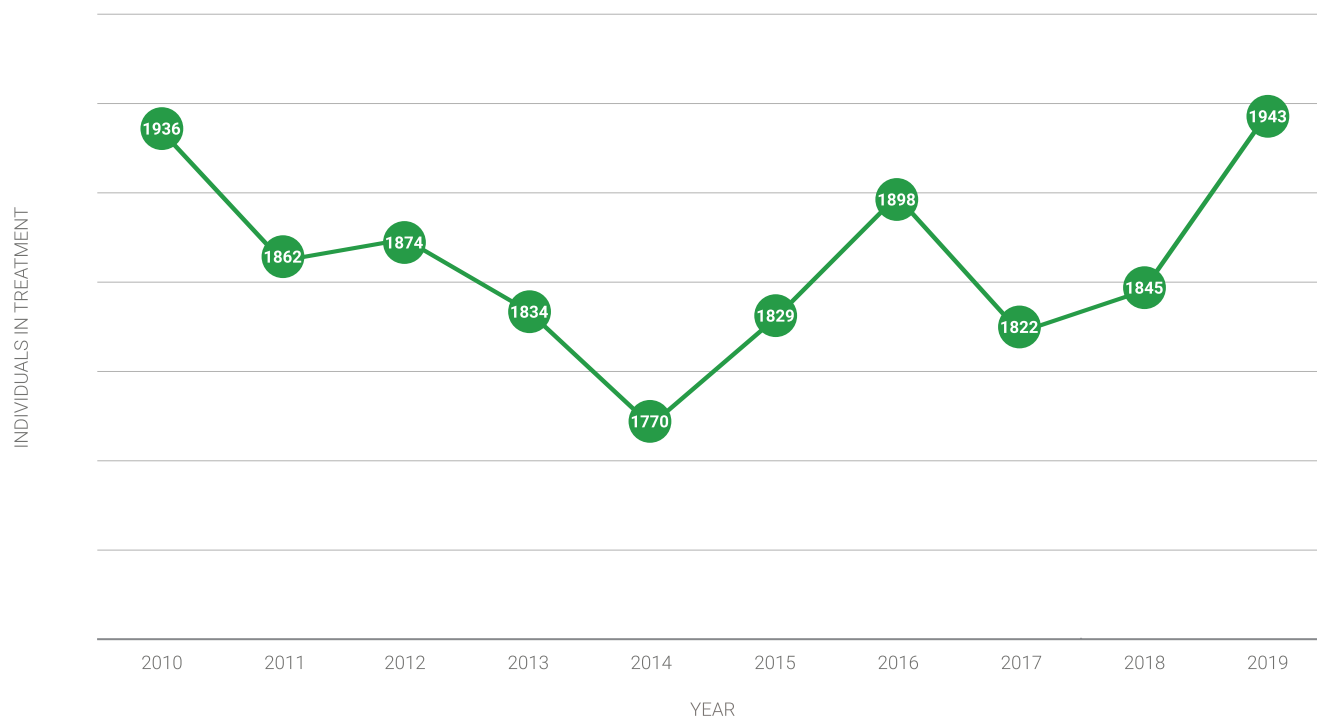


Chart 3.23: Number of individuals in treatment; National Reports on the Drugs situation in Malta, 2011, 2015 and 2020

<sup>94</sup> Co-funded by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

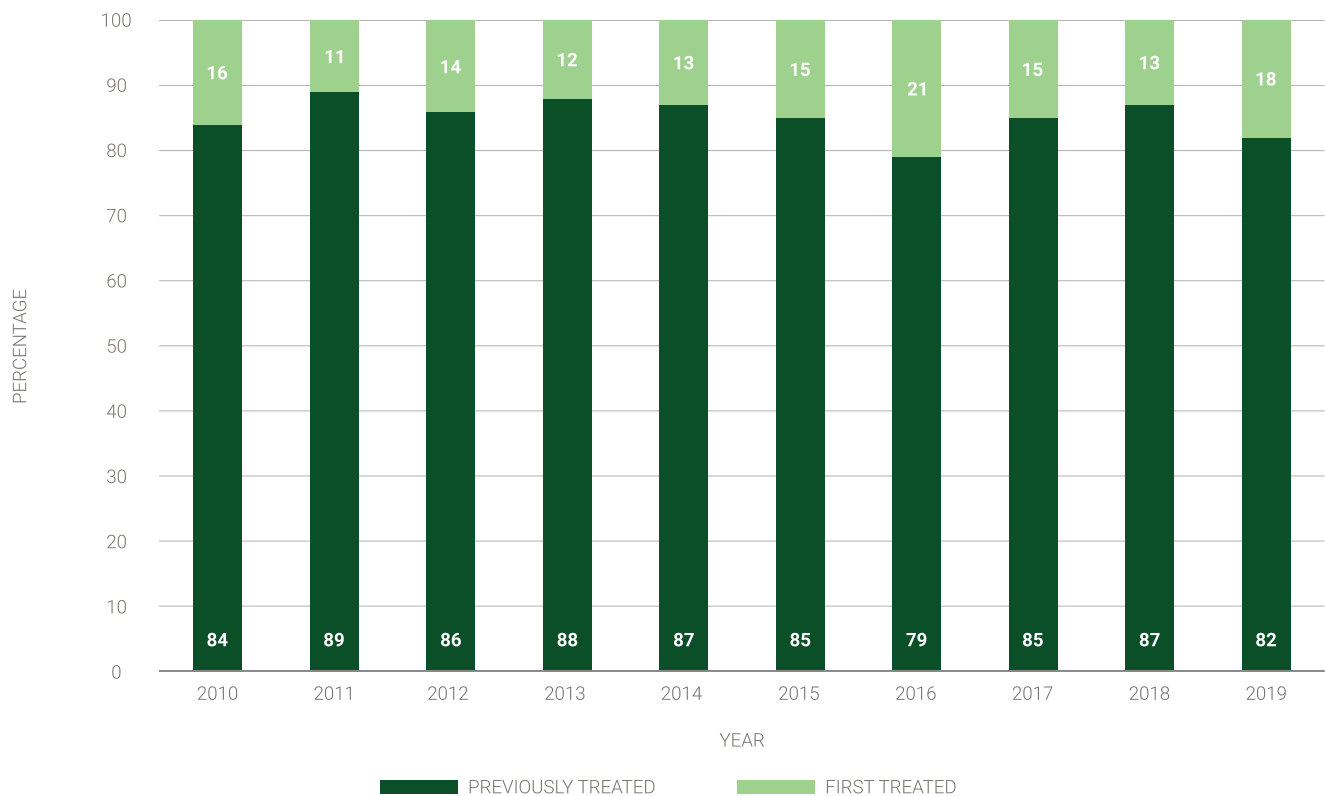


Chart 3.24: Percentage of patients treated for the first time and those who have been previously treated; National Reports on the Drugs situation in Malta, 2011, 2015 and 2020

Although the litres of alcohol consumption per capita has been increasing, the 2019 European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs (ESPAD) shows that lifetime alcohol consumption by students aged 15 and 16 years has decreased from 92% of students in 2007 to 80% in 2019.<sup>95</sup> Moreover, lifetime cannabis and cigarette use among 15-year-old and 16-year-old students have decreased from 13% and 46% respectively in 2007 to 12% and 22% respectively in 2019 (Chart 3.25).

<sup>95</sup> Arpa, S., & Borg, P. (2020). *European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs: 2019 Malta National Report*. Malta: Foundation for Social Welfare Services..

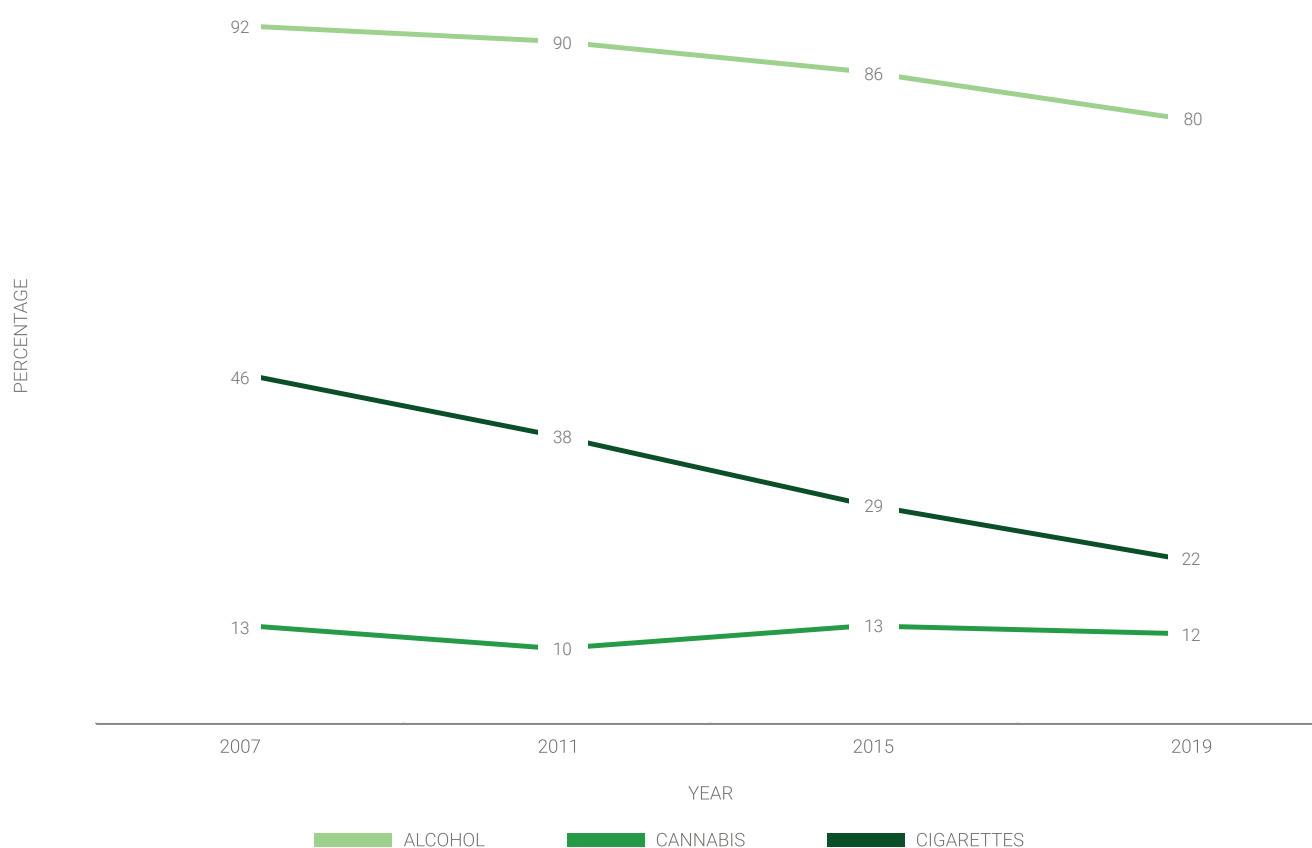


Chart 3.25: Prevalence of alcohol, cannabis, and cigarette use amongst students aged 15 and 16 years; ESPAD 2019 Malta National Report

## Well-being

The promotion of mental health and well-being, and also the drive to ensure universal health coverage, including financial risk protection and access to safe, effective, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all, are vital for the achievement of SDG 3.

In 2015, the proportion of population with the highest share of household expenditure on health ( $\geq 25\%$ ) was that of 2.7%. Also, 15.5% of the population had health expenses greater or equal to 10% of total household expenditure. Both percentages were similar to the proportions of population with the highest share of household expenditure registered in 2008 (Chart 3.26).

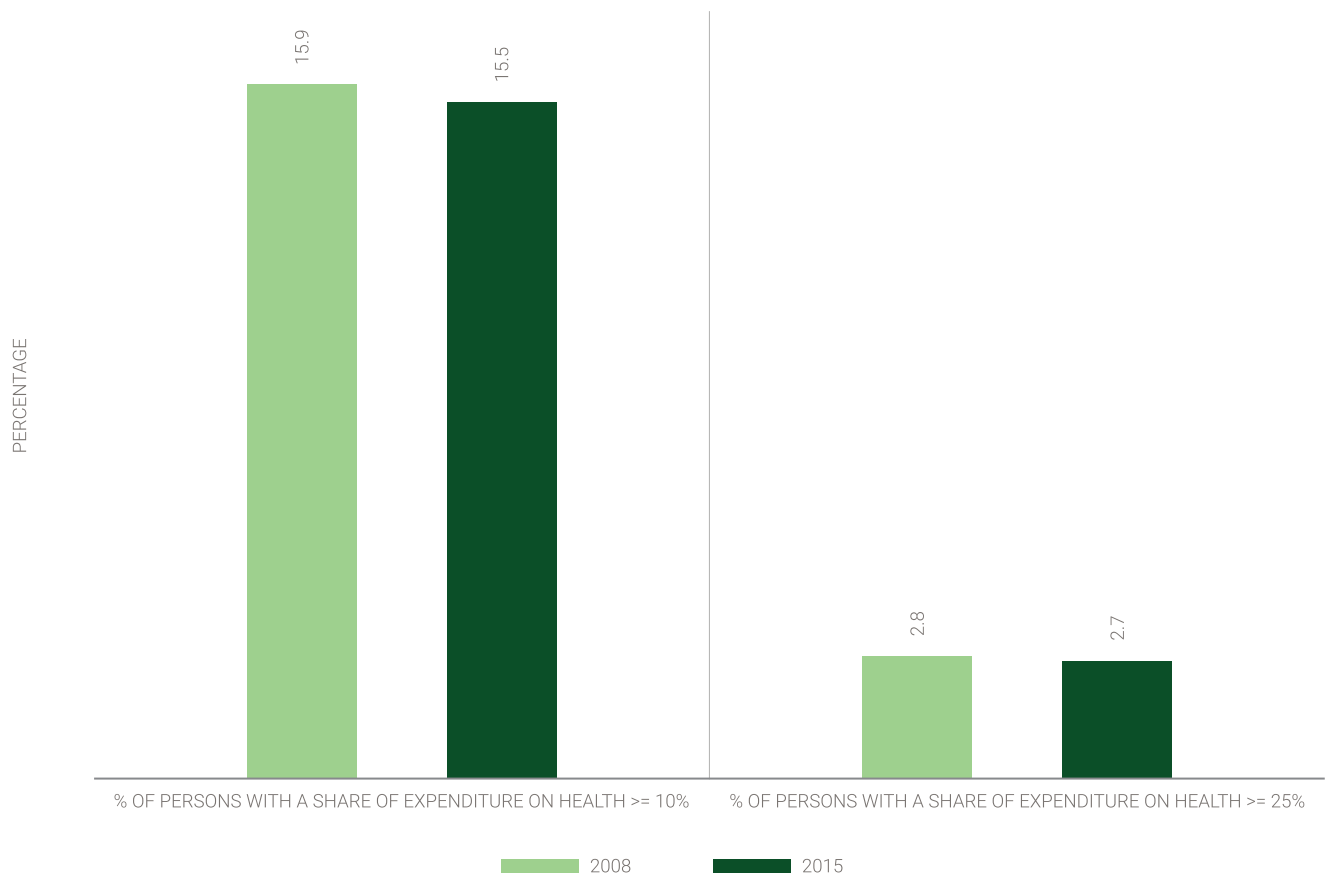


Chart 3.26: Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure; NSO: HBS 2008, HBS 2015

Moreover, in 2015 the national average annual expenditure on health stood at €1,252, nearly the same as the amount registered in 2008 (€1,249)—this included doctor's fees and medicines. On average, households whose reference person was aged over 45 spent above this national average. Persons within the age groups 18–34 and 65+ have on average spent more in 2015 than they did in 2008. On the other hand, a decline in average expenditure from 2008 to 2015 is shown for the age groups 45–54 and 55–64 (Chart 3.27).

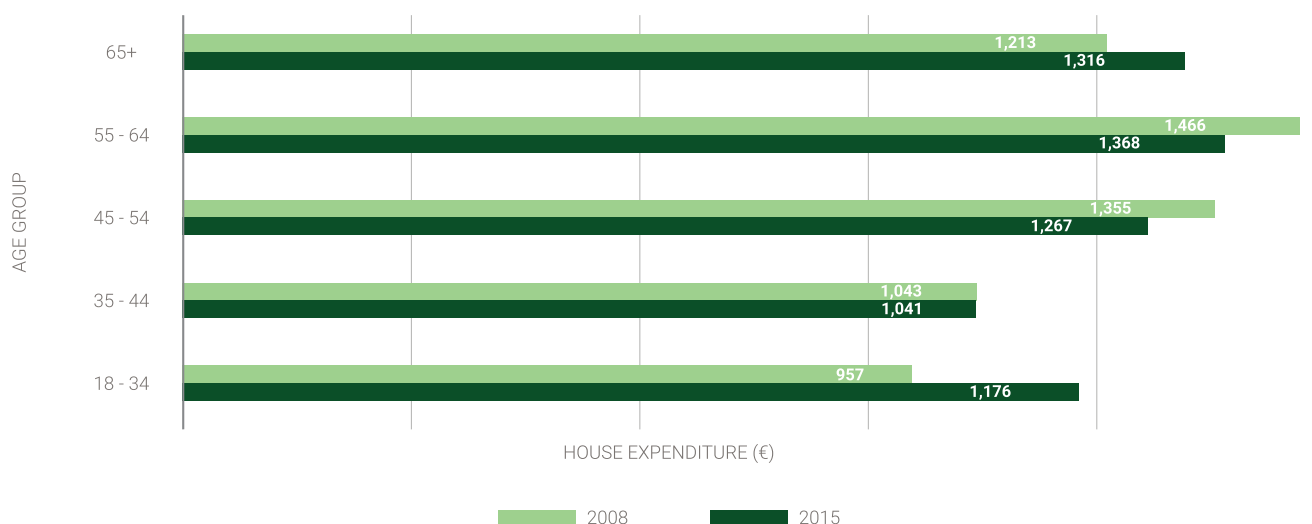


Chart 3.27: Average annual expenditure on health by age group of reference person; NSO – HBS2008, HBS2015

The indicator on 'unmet needs for medical care', derived from the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) Survey, measures the share of the population aged 16 and over reporting unmet needs for medical care due to one of the following reasons: 'Financial reasons', 'Waiting list' and 'Too far to travel' (all three categories are cumulated). Self-reported unmet needs concern a person's own assessment of whether he or she needed medical examination or treatment (dental care excluded), but did not have it or did not seek it, hence the data is affected by respondents' subjective perceptions. In 2010, 1.6% of total population self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care (2.1% females and 1.2% males). By 2019, this percentage of the population decreased (Chart 3.28).

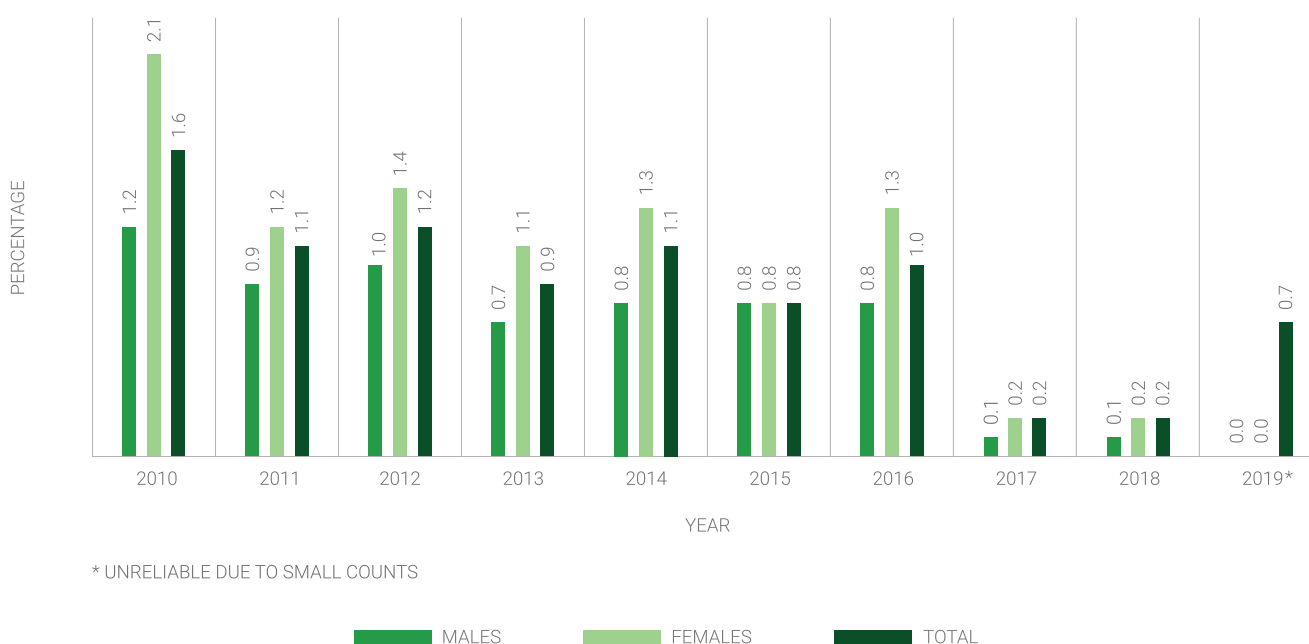


Chart 3.28: Self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care; Eurostat

The EU-SILC also shows that 74.2% of Malta's population, aged 16 or over, in 2019 considered their health to be 'good' or 'very good', an increase of 6.6 percentage points from the 67.6% registered in 2010 (Chart 3.29). Indicators of perceived general health have been found to be good predictors of people's future health-care use and mortality.



Chart 3.29: Share of people with 'good' or 'very good' perceived health; Eurostat

## Health emergency preparedness

The International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 have been adopted by the international community "to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade."<sup>96</sup> Under the IHR (2005), States Parties are obliged to develop and maintain minimum core capacities for surveillance and response, including at points of entry, in order to early detect, assess, notify, and respond to any potential public health event of international concern. States Parties are required to report to the World Health Assembly annually on the implementation of

<sup>96</sup> World Health Regulation (2005), *International Health Regulations*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

these Regulations.<sup>97</sup> The essential public health capacity that States Parties are required to have in place pursuant to the IHR (2005) is used to monitor one of the targets of SDG 3, which reads “Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks”, classified as a percentage of performance.

Since 2010, the monitoring process of the IHR implementation status was assessed through a self-assessment questionnaire completed by States Parties. In 2018, WHO provided a new States Parties Self-Assessment Annual Reporting Tool (SPAR), with a revised interpretation of national IHR 13 capacities on a scale scoring system,<sup>98</sup> hence the information provided from 2018–2020 cannot be compared with the 2010–2017 data. Malta’s self-assessment for 2018, 2019 and 2020 is reflected in Chart 3.30. Based on the analysis of the latest annual reporting data, the top challenges for Malta’s health system are: (i) National Health Emergency Framework (20%); (ii) Risk Communication (20%); (iii) Chemical Events (20%); (iv) Radionuclear Emergencies (40%), and; (v) Health Service Provision (53%). The overall capacity average for Malta in 2020 was of 61%, while the European Area had an average capacity of 75% and the Global average stood at 65%.<sup>99</sup>

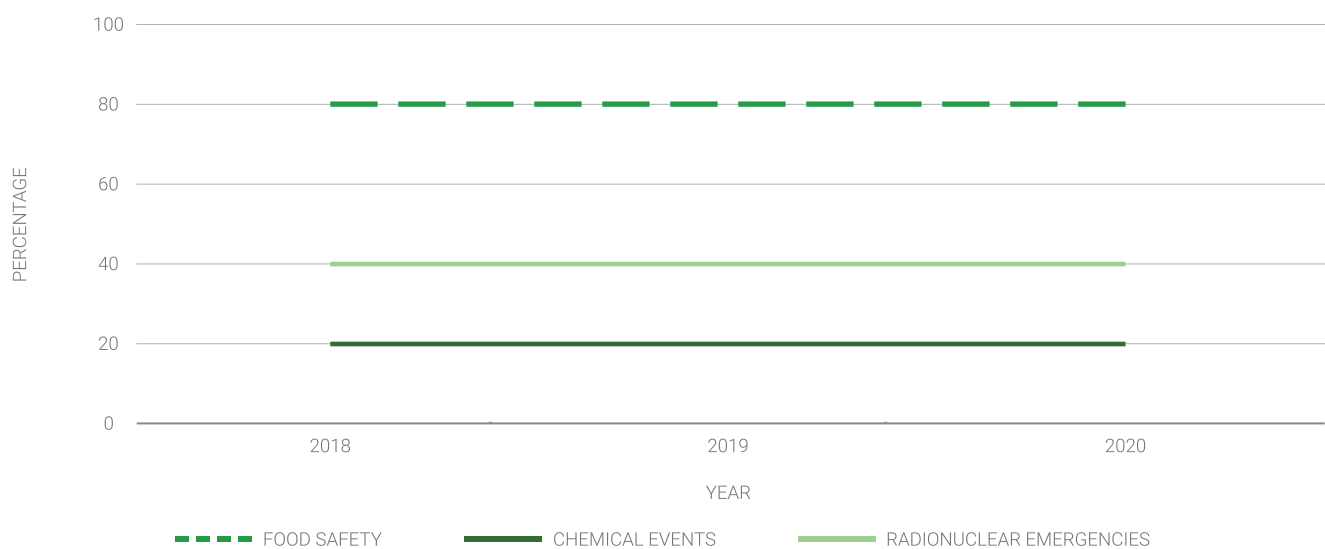
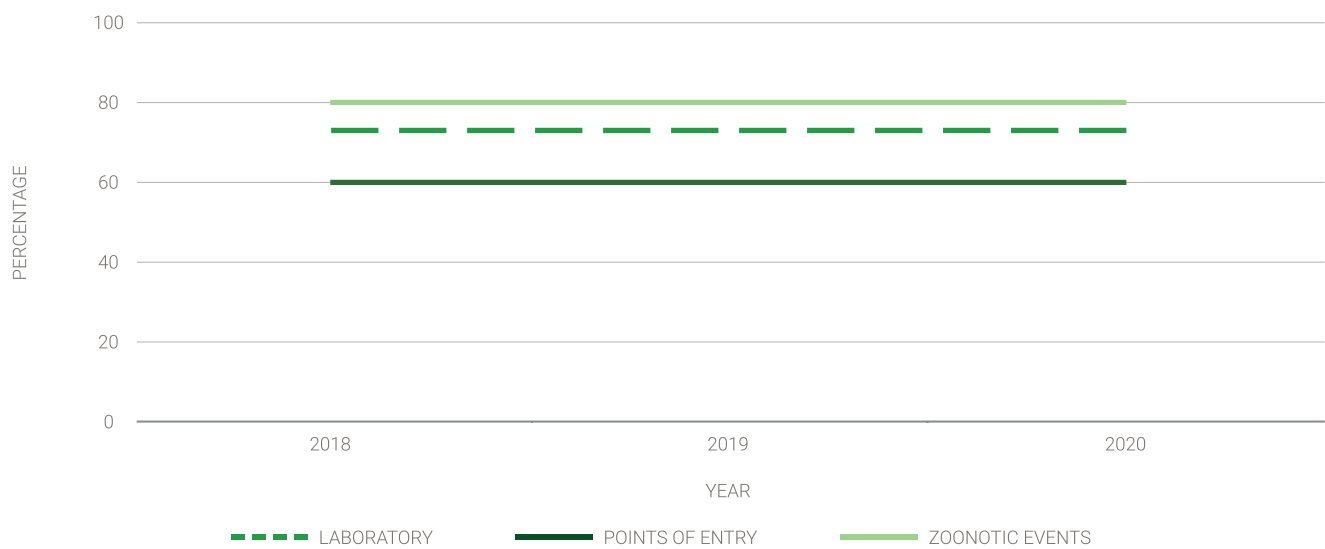
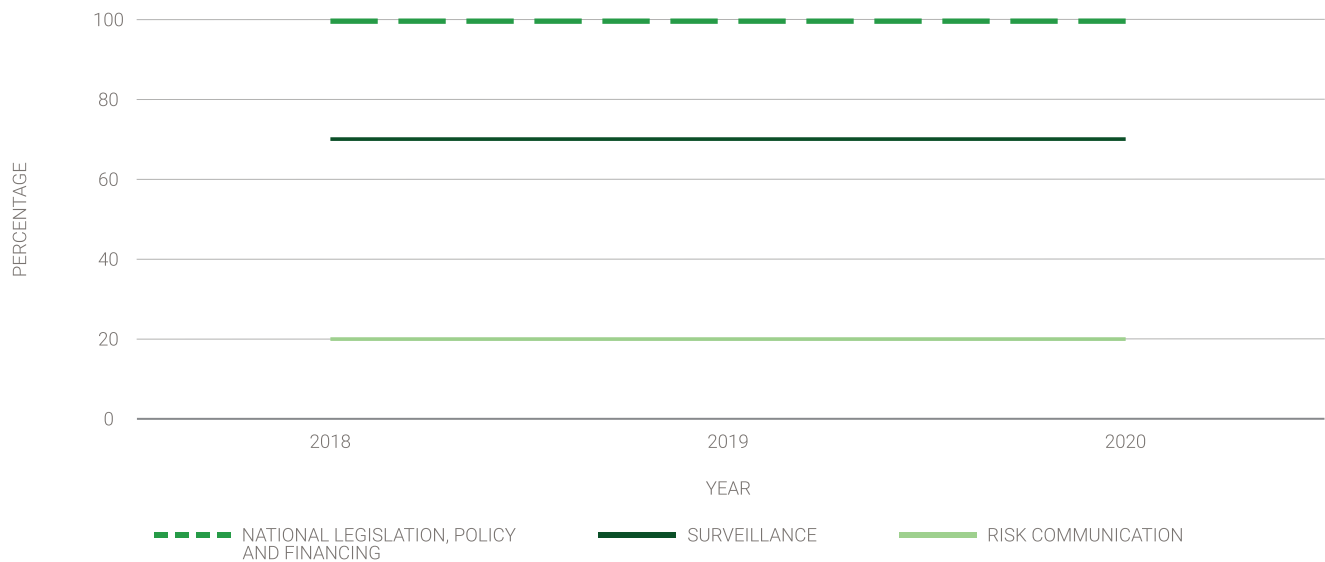
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<sup>97</sup> For more information visit health.gov.mt: <https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/environmental/Health-Inspectorate/PHS/Pages/International-Health-Regulations.aspx> [accessed on 7 June 2021].

<sup>98</sup> World Health Organization, *The Global Health Observatory. Explore a world of health data-International Health Regulations (2005) monitoring framework*, online: [https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-monitoring-framework](https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/international-health-regulations-(2005)-monitoring-framework) [accessed on 1 July 2021].

<sup>99</sup> World Health Organization, *e-SPAR: State Party Annual Report*, <https://extranet.who.int/e-spar/#submission-details> [accessed on 1 July 2021].





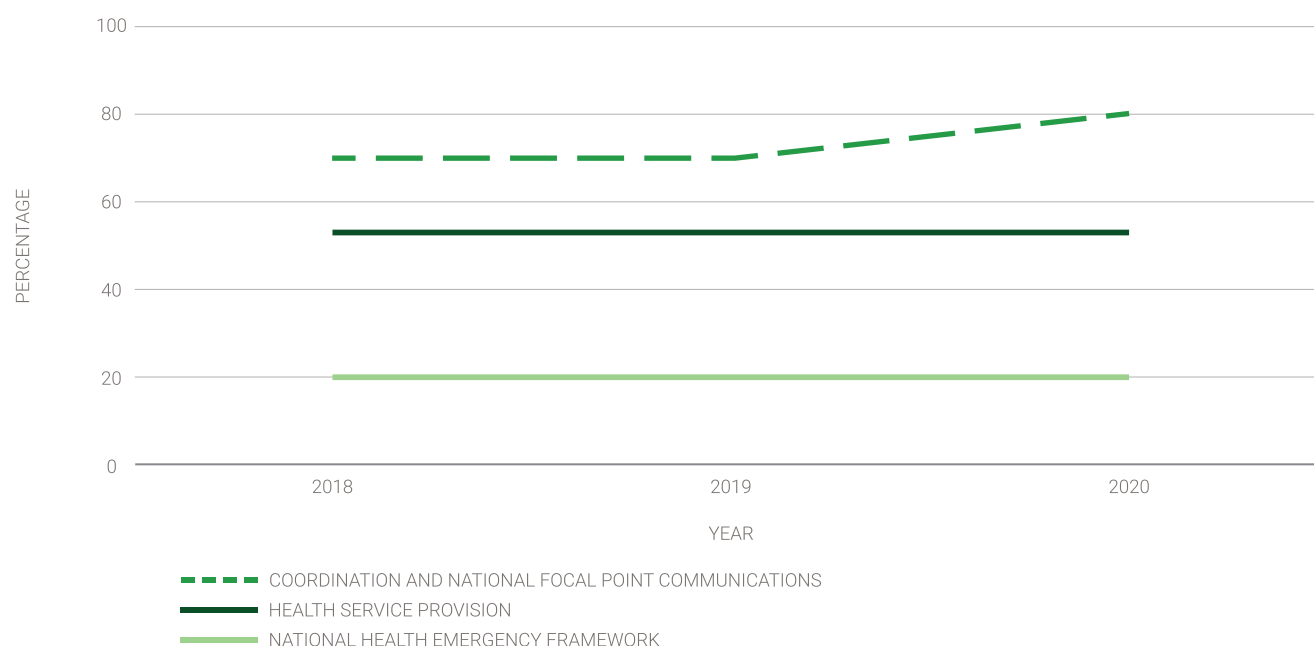


Chart 3.30: *International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity, by type of IHR capacity (%)*; WHO: *Global Health Observatory (GHO)*

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 3 is reflected in Table 3.1 below. The targets related to SDG 3, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 3 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 3 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 3 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>100</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>101</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>102</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.

### Legend:






	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible


Table 3.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 3




TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
3.1	By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births	Maternal mortality ratio	






<sup>100</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>101</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>102</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].

3.2	By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births	Neonatal mortality rate	
		Under-five mortality rate	
3.3	By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases	New HIV diagnoses	
		Rate (per 100,000 inhabitants) of new HIV diagnoses	
		Tuberculosis cases	
		Rate (per 100,000 inhabitants) of tuberculosis cases	
		Notified cases of malaria and hepatitis B per 100,000 inhabitants	
		Notified cases of other neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)	
3.4	By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being	Cause of death by non-communicable diseases	
		Age-standardised (ESP) overall premature mortality rate (from 30 to under 70 years) for four major non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes mellitus and chronic respiratory diseases)	
3.5	Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol	Alcohol consumption, litres per capita, age 15+	
		Prevalence of risky alcohol consumption amongst people aged 15 years +	

		Prevalence of cannabis use amongst 15- and 16-year-olds	
		Prevalence of alcohol use amongst 15- and 16-year-olds.	
		Rate of daily opiate users	
		Number of individuals in treatment	
		Percentage of patients treated for the first time and those who have been previously treated	
3.6	By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents	Age-standardised (ESP) death rate due to transport accidents	
	By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	Places where teenagers reported they learnt about aspects of sexuality and sexual behaviour	
		Desired features of sexual health services	
		Frequency of contraception used amongst the sexually active population	
		Sexual activity of young people aged 15 years	
		Rate (per 1,000 females in respective age group) of births to females aged 10 to 14 years, 15 to 19 years, and 10 to 19 years	

3.8	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure	
		Average annual expenditure on health by age group of reference person	
		Self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care	
		Share of people with 'good' or 'very good' perceived health	
		Life expectancy at birth	
		Healthy life years at age 65	
3.9	By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	Avoidable mortality rate	
3.a	Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate	Prevalence of daily tobacco smoking among people aged 15 years and over	
		Prevalence of cigarette use amongst 15- and 16-year-olds	
3.d	Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks	International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity	







# SDG 04



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education  
and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

## **| Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

Education is a human right and a force for sustainable development and peace. Every goal in the 2030 Agenda requires education to empower people with knowledge, a fundamental principle that allows empowerment and the improvement of livelihoods.<sup>103</sup> The linkages of education with the reduction of inequality, health and wellbeing, poverty, social mobility, employment, consumption, effective institutions, and climate change are clearly evident from how education and knowledge are reflected across a number of Sustainable Development Goals.

However, the ambitions for education are essentially captured in Sustainable Development Goal 4 which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” by 2030. SDG 4 includes 10 targets, all aiming to ensure gender equality, early childhood development, free quality education, access to technical and vocational training, and decent jobs and employment. The roadmap to achieve the education goal, adopted in November 2015, provides guidance to governments and partners on how to turn commitments into action.<sup>104</sup>

### **Education: early childhood development**

Early childhood education is increasingly recognised as an integral part of the education and training system. Early childhood education is typically designed with a holistic approach to support children’s early cognitive, physical, social and emotional development and to introduce young children to organised instruction outside the family context. It is therefore important for all children younger than five years of age, i.e. the age of compulsory primary education, to be able to access and benefit from high quality education. In Malta, the number of children under five years of age in pre-primary education has increased by 7.4% since 2012–2013, to a population of 9,618 in the scholastic year 2018-2019. Both males and females have increased at approximately the same rate (Chart 4.1).

<sup>103</sup> UNESCO, online: <https://en.unesco.org/themes/education2030-sdg4> [accessed on 8 June 2021].

<sup>104</sup> Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life long learning opportunities for all (Education 2030 Framework for Action).

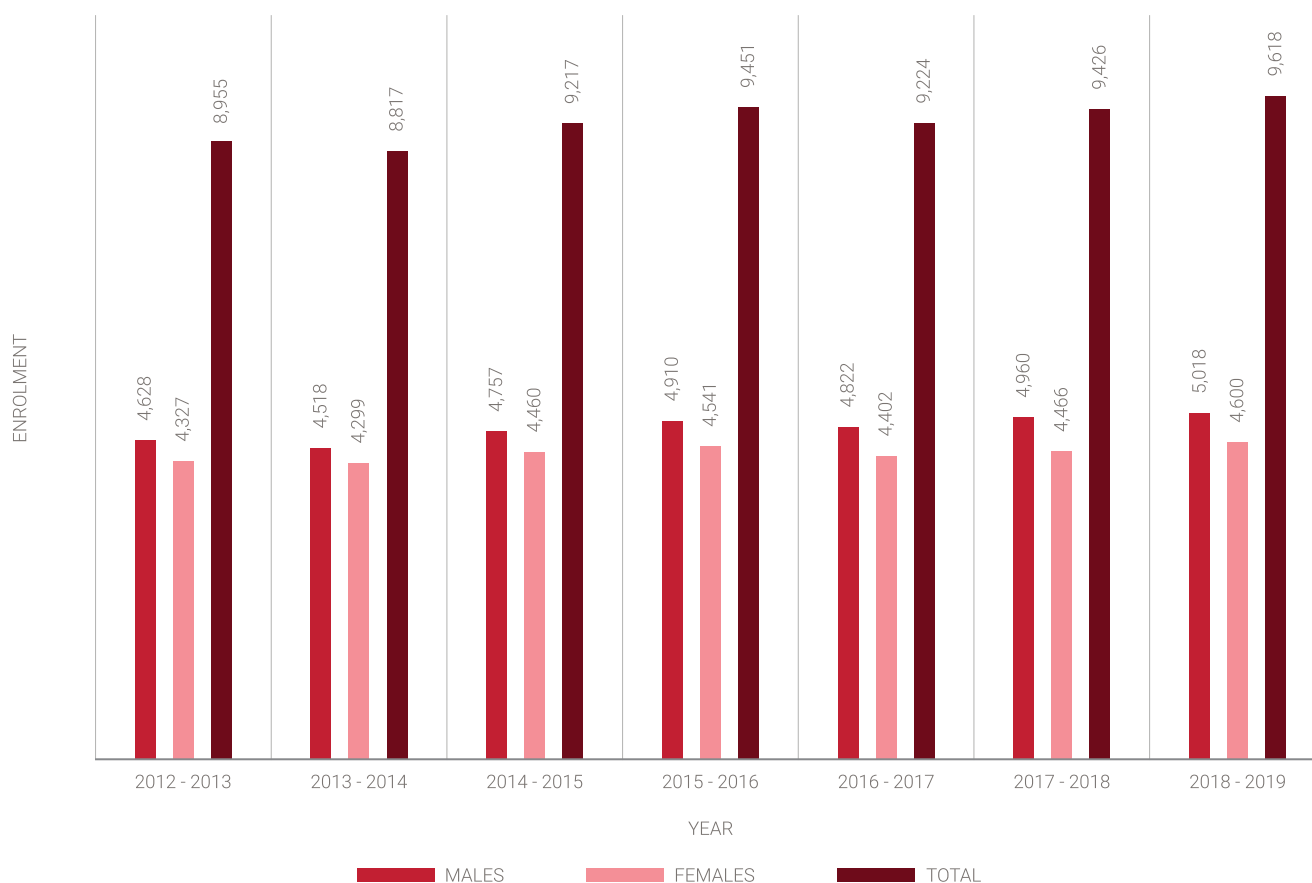
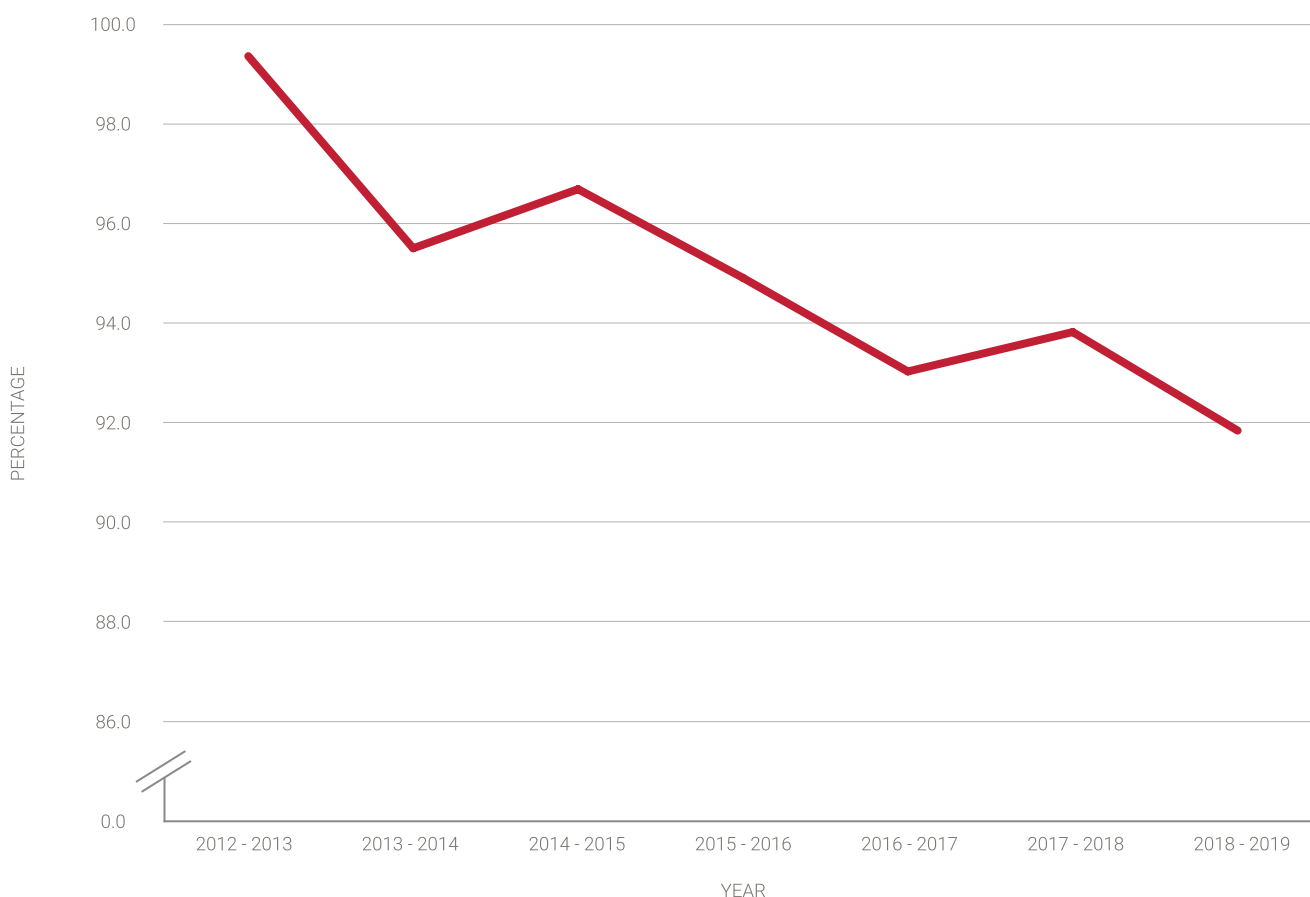


Chart 4.1: Pre-primary education, Education Statistics, NSO

During year 2013, the participation rate of children in early childhood education prior to the commencement of compulsory education; i.e. children aged between 3 and 4 years, stood at 99.4%. Since then the participation rate declined in most of the subsequent years and stood at 91.8% in 2019 (Chart 4.2).



*Chart 4.2: Participation rate in early childhood education and care (3–4 years old); Education Statistics, NSO*

## Education: primary, secondary, and tertiary

One of the SDG 4 targets requires that by 2030 all girls and boys receive completely free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes. During academic year 2018–2019, students enrolled in primary and secondary education totalled 47,852, an increase of 3.2% over the academic year 2012–2013 (Chart 4.3). The majority of students enrolled in primary and secondary education comprised of male students, at 51.7% during academic year 2018–2019.

The percentage of male students enrolled in primary and secondary has increased by 0.4% since scholastic year 2012–2013, while the percentage of female students has decreased by 0.4% (Chart 4.4).

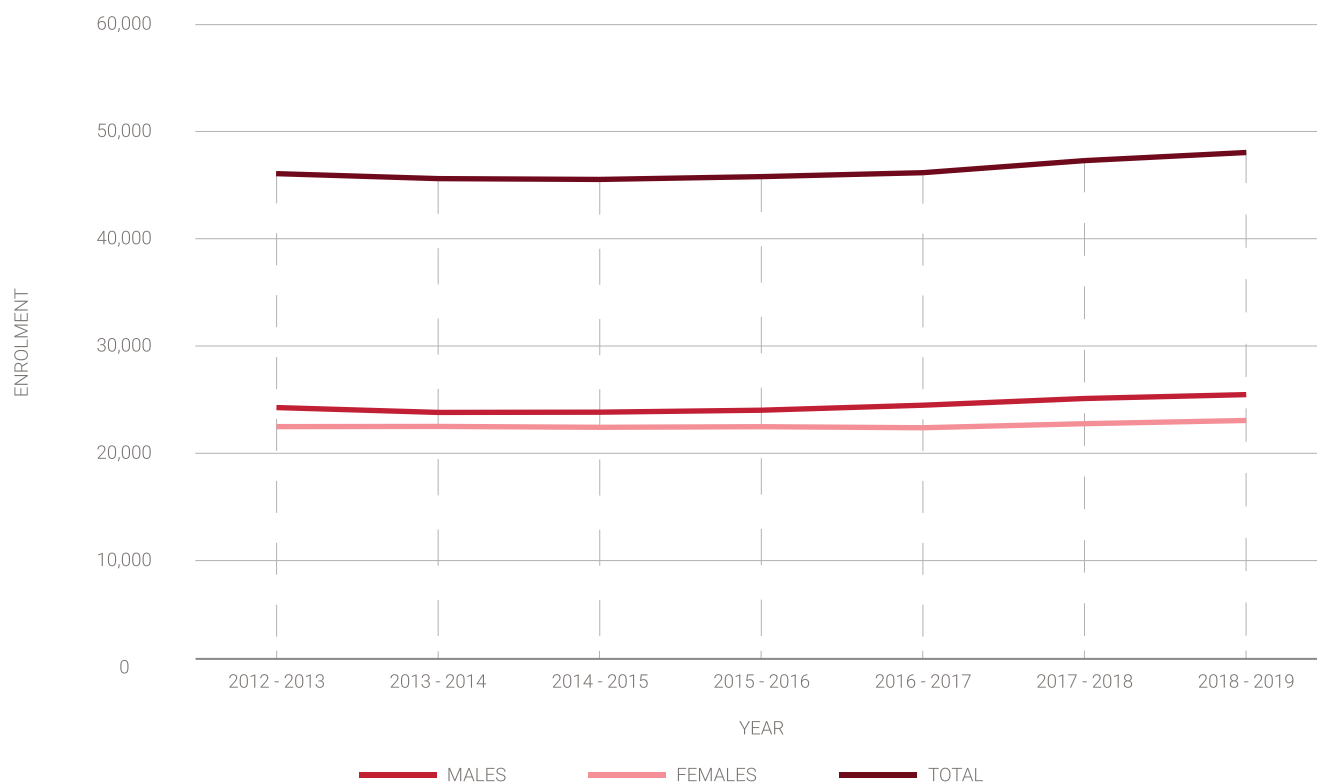


Chart 4.3: Students enrolled in primary and secondary; Education Statistics, NSO

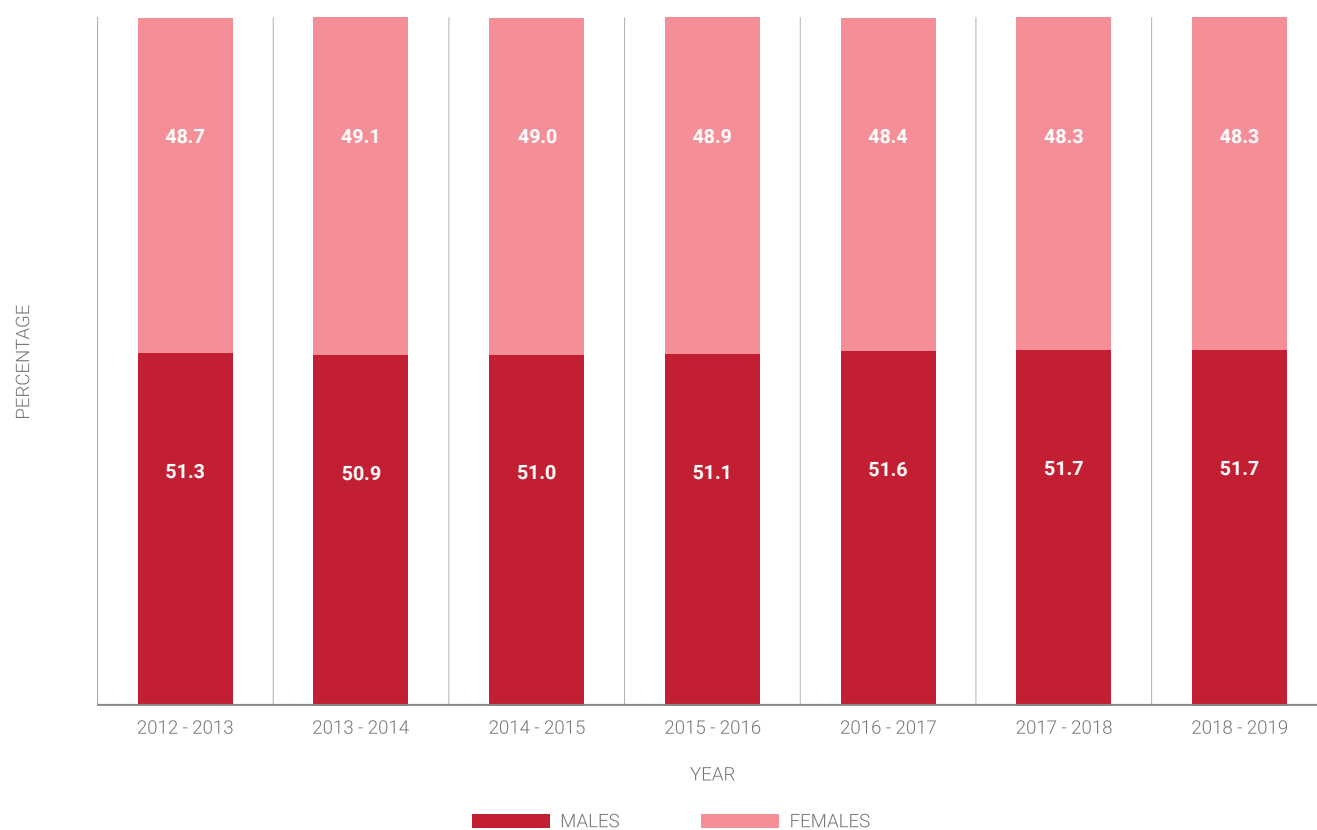
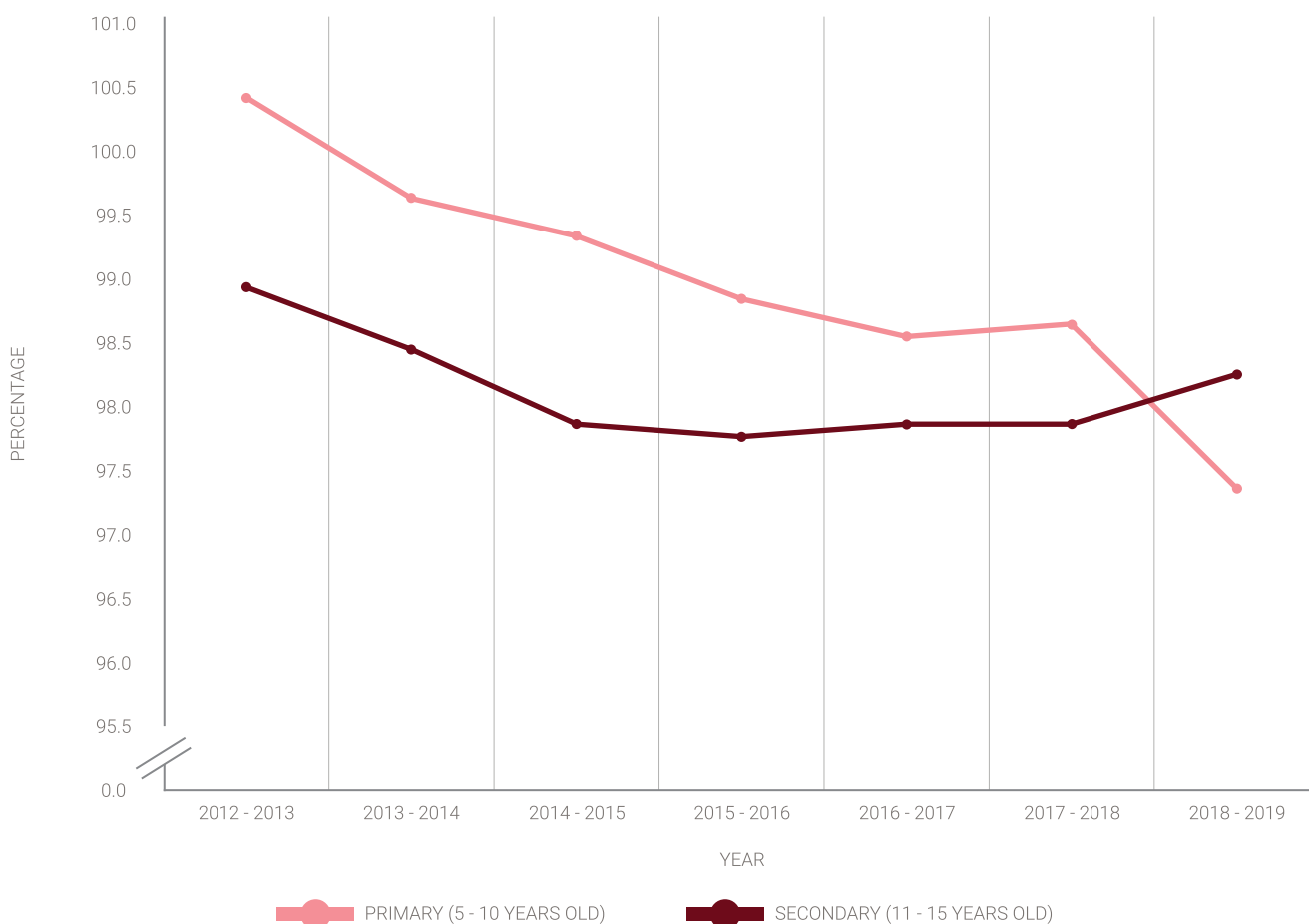


Chart 4.4: Percentage distribution of students enrolled in primary and secondary, by sex; Education Statistics, NSO

In Malta, primary and secondary education (students aged 5–15 years) is compulsory, and the participation rate in both levels of education is approximately 100%. The variances may be due to the inclusion of a small portion of students who are not in the official age group for the given level of education such as repeaters and foreigners (Chart 4.5).



*Chart 4.5: Participation rate in primary (5–10 years old) and secondary (11–15 years old) by population of same age groups; Education Statistics, NSO*

The number of absent days in primary was 274,029 in the academic year 2018–2019, 5.0% more than the number of absent days during the academic year 2012–2013. From academic years 2012–2013 to 2018–2019 the authorised absences increased by 2.6%, and the unauthorised absences increased by 9.2% (Chart 4.6). On the other hand, the number of absent days in secondary decreased from 449,109 during academic year 2012–2013 to 350,954 in the academic year 2018–2019, a decrease of 21.9%. In the period of scholastic years 2012–2013 and 2018–2019, the authorised and unauthorised absences at secondary level decreased by 28.0% and 12.8% respectively (Chart 4.7).

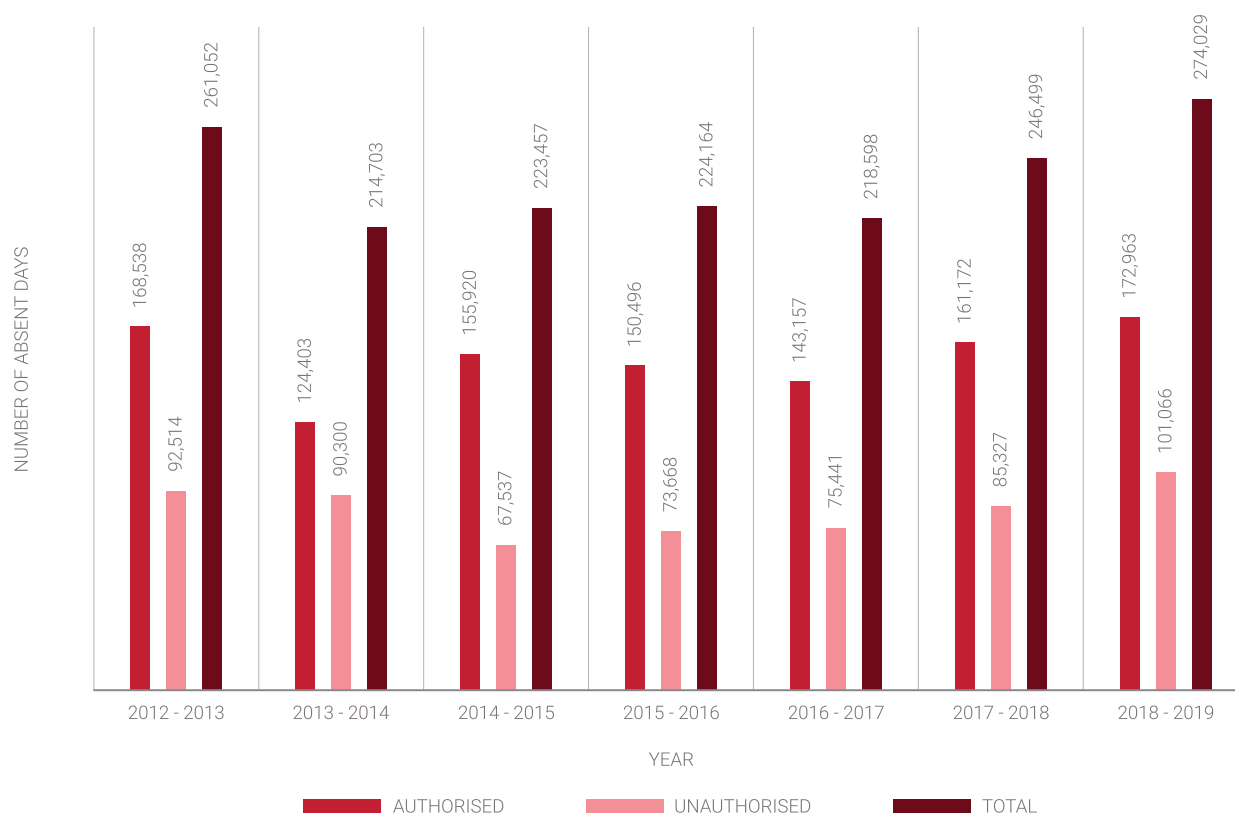


Chart 4.6: Number of absent days in primary; Education Statistics, NSO

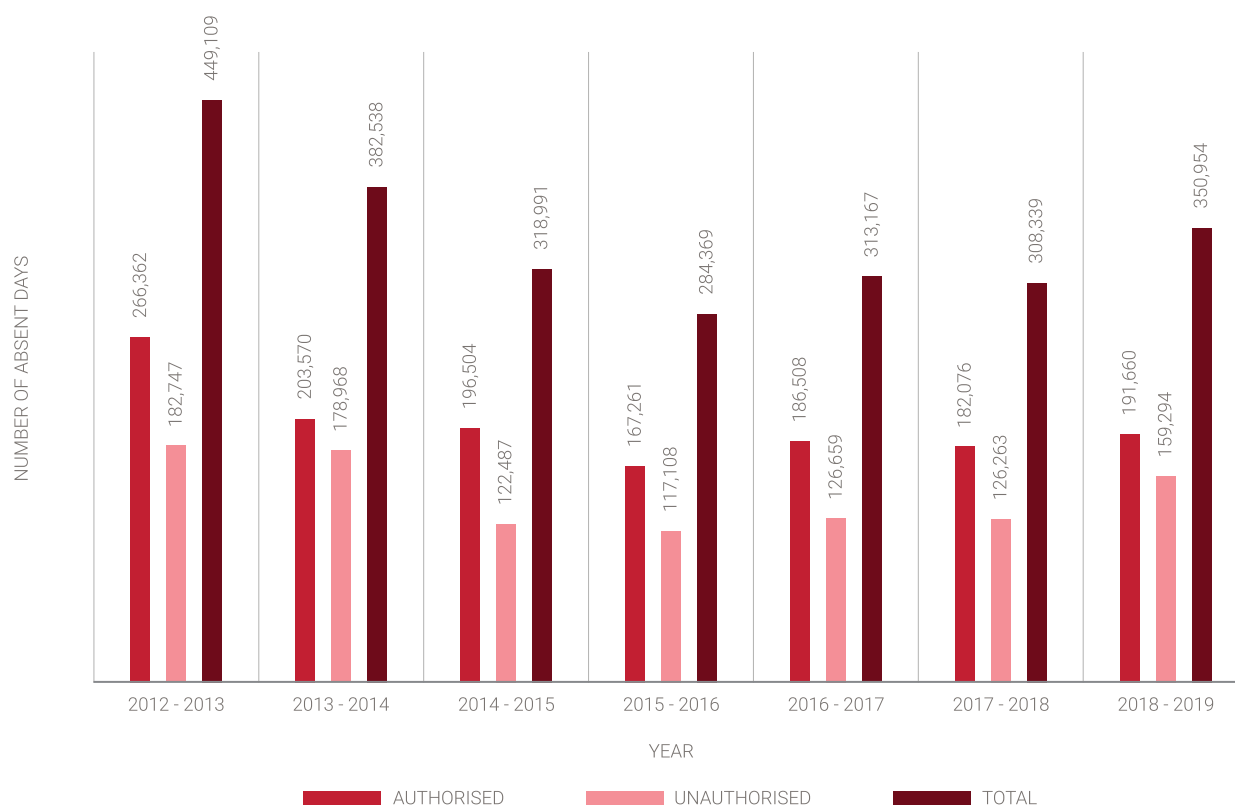


Chart 4.7: Number of absent days in secondary; Education Statistics, NSO

The average number of authorised absent days per student decreased from 9.4 days during scholastic year 2012–2013 to 7.7 during year 2018-2019. Also, during the same period the average number of unauthorised absent days decreased from 6 days to 5.5 days. The total average number of absent days per student decreased from 15.4 days to 13.1 days (Chart 4.8)



Chart 4.8: Average number of absent days per student; Education Statistics, NSO

One of the SDG 4 targets requires that by 2030 equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university, is ensured. Tertiary education includes ISCED level 5 to ISCED level 8.<sup>105</sup>

Formal education is an institutionalised, intentional and planned type of education which is provided by public organisations and private bodies, and it consists mostly of initial education. Vocational education, special needs education and some parts of adult education are often recognised as being part of the formal education system. The number of persons enrolled in formal education at tertiary level in 2019 was 16,069; 27.8% more than the enrolment registered in 2013. An increase in enrolments was registered in all tertiary ISCED levels, except for enrolment in short-cycle education at ISCED level 5, which decreased by 16.7% when compared to 2013 (Chart 4.9).

<sup>105</sup> The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) is a framework for assembling, compiling, and analysing cross-nationally comparable statistics on education. For more information refer to the ISCED 2011 manual at <http://uis.unesco.org/en/topic/international-standard-classification-education-isced>



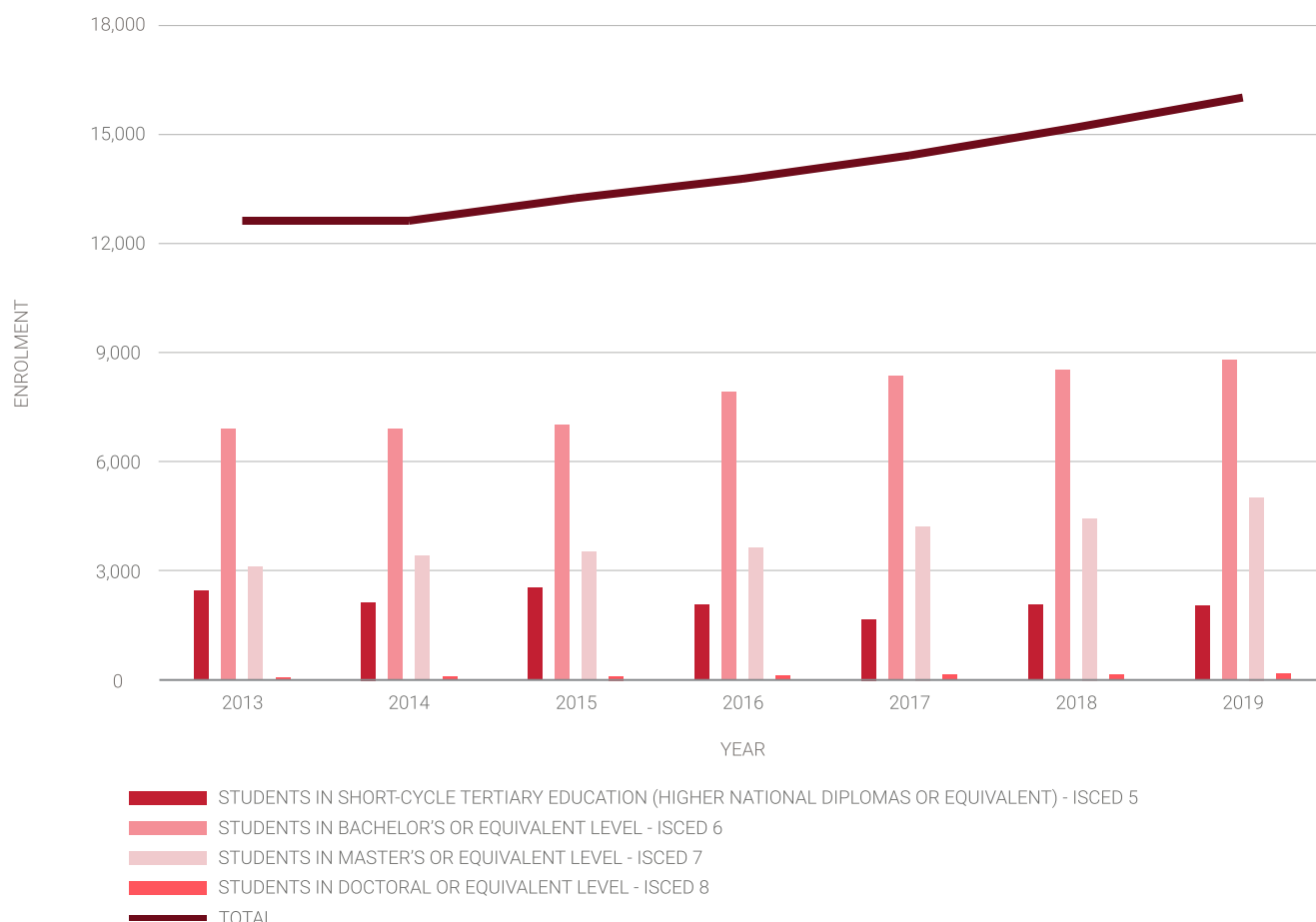
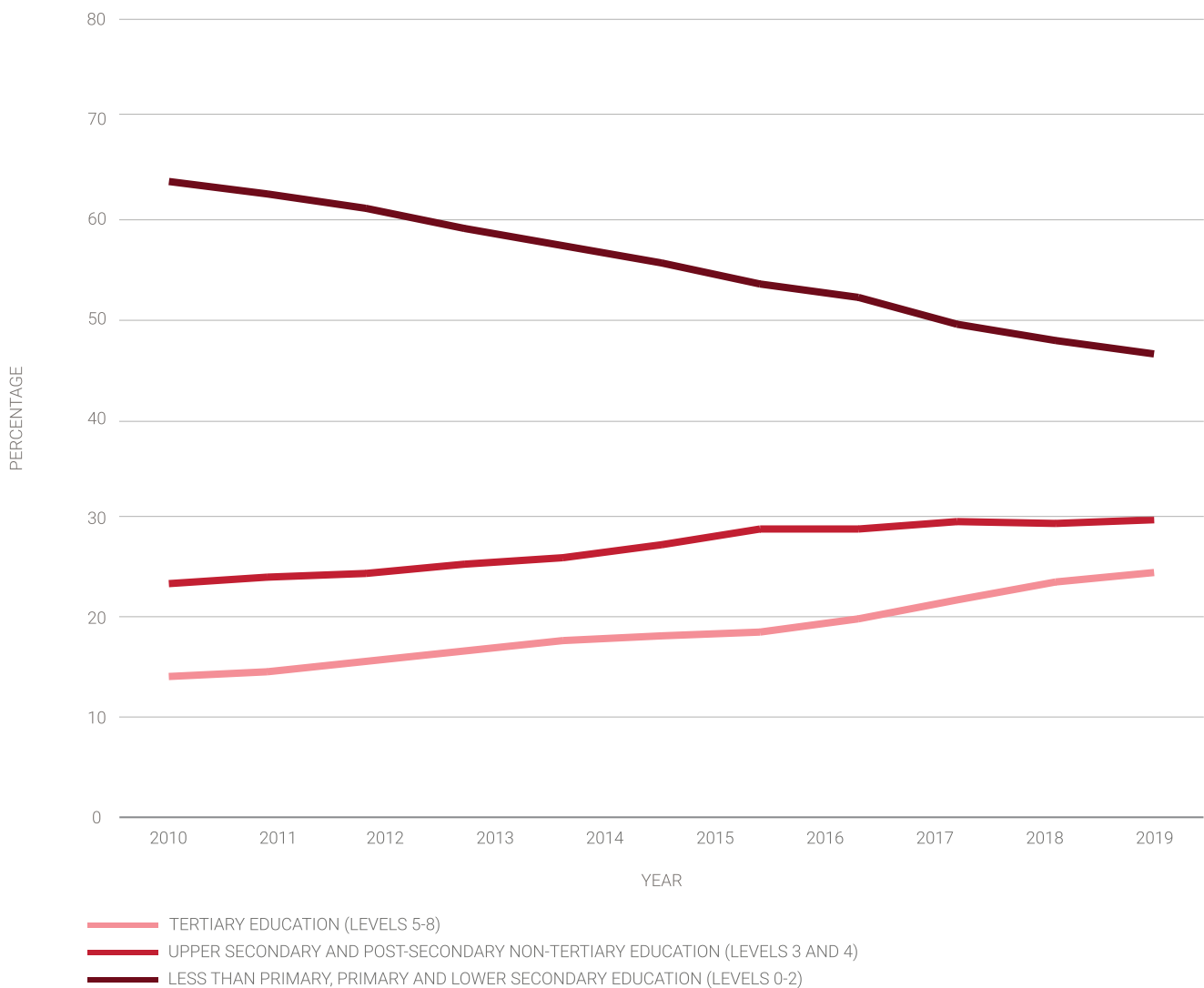


Chart 4.9: Persons enrolled in tertiary education; Education Statistics, NSO

The percentages of population aged 15–64 with education levels ISCED 3–4 and 5–8 have increased since 2010. The population with tertiary education (ISCED levels 5–8) increased by 10.0 percentage points, from 13.2% in 2010 to 23.2% in 2019. Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED levels 3–4) increased by 6.5 percentage points from 22.7% in 2010 to 29.2% in 2019. On the other hand, the percentage of the population aged 15–64 with less than primary, primary and lower secondary education (ISCED levels 0–2) decreased by 16.6 percentage points from 64.2% in 2010 to 47.6% in 2019 (Chart 4.10).



*Chart 4.10: Percentage of population aged 15–64 with education attainment levels at ISCED levels (0–2), (3–4), and (5–8); Labour Force Survey (LFS), NSO*

## Underachievement and early leavers from education

An important aspect for SDG 4 is also the quality of education which should lead to relevant and effective learning outcomes. Achieving universal literacy and numeracy and acquiring knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development are also considered an important component of quality education.

The OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) measures 15-year-olds' ability to use their reading, mathematics and science knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges. Data for Malta shows that underachievement in reading and mathematics has marginally decreased to 35.9% and 30.2% respectively, while underachievement in science has slightly increased to 33.5% (Chart 4.11).

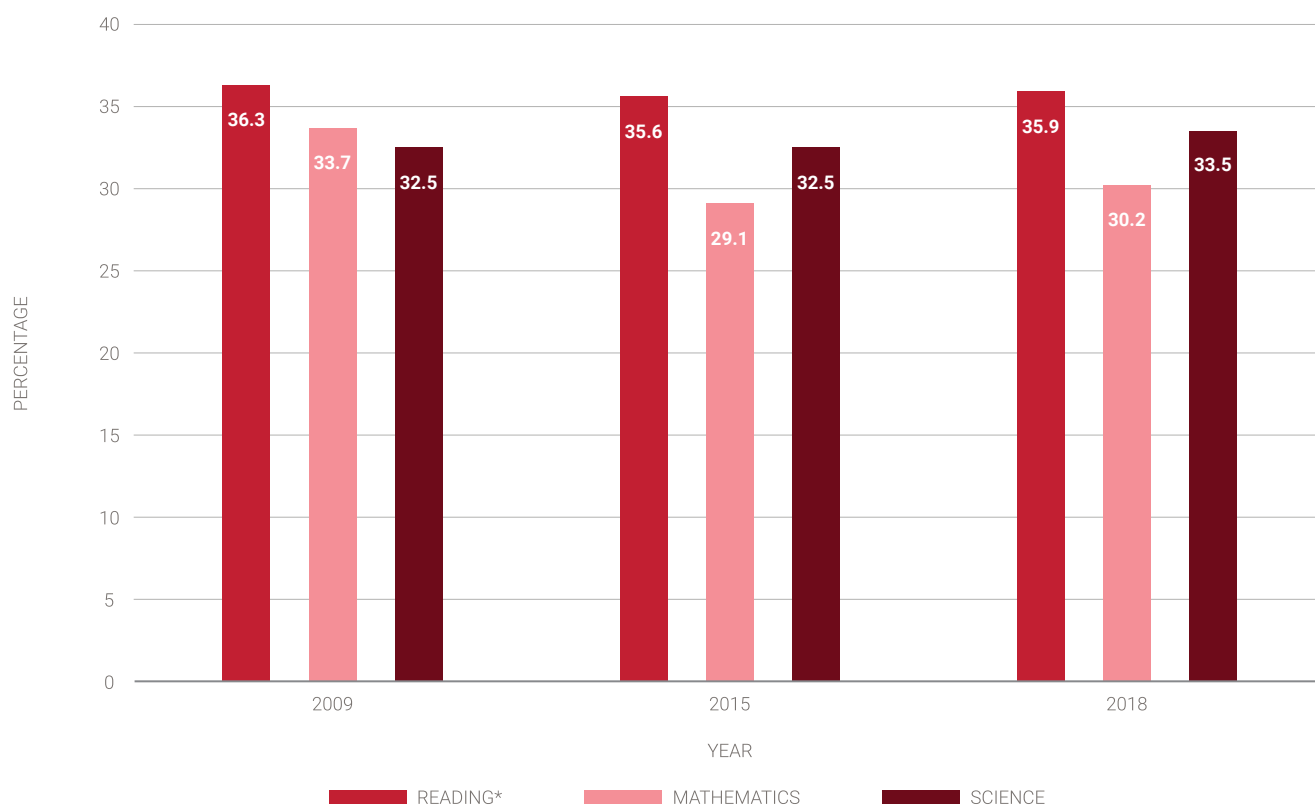


Chart 4.11: Underachievement in reading, maths, and science; EU – PISA, OECD

The percentage of population aged 18 to 24 in 2019, with at most a lower secondary education who were not involved in any education or training, was that of 13.9%—a decrease from the 21.4% registered in 2010. The rate for both males and females decreased, with the lowest percentage of early leavers from education and training being recorded among females (Chart 4.12).

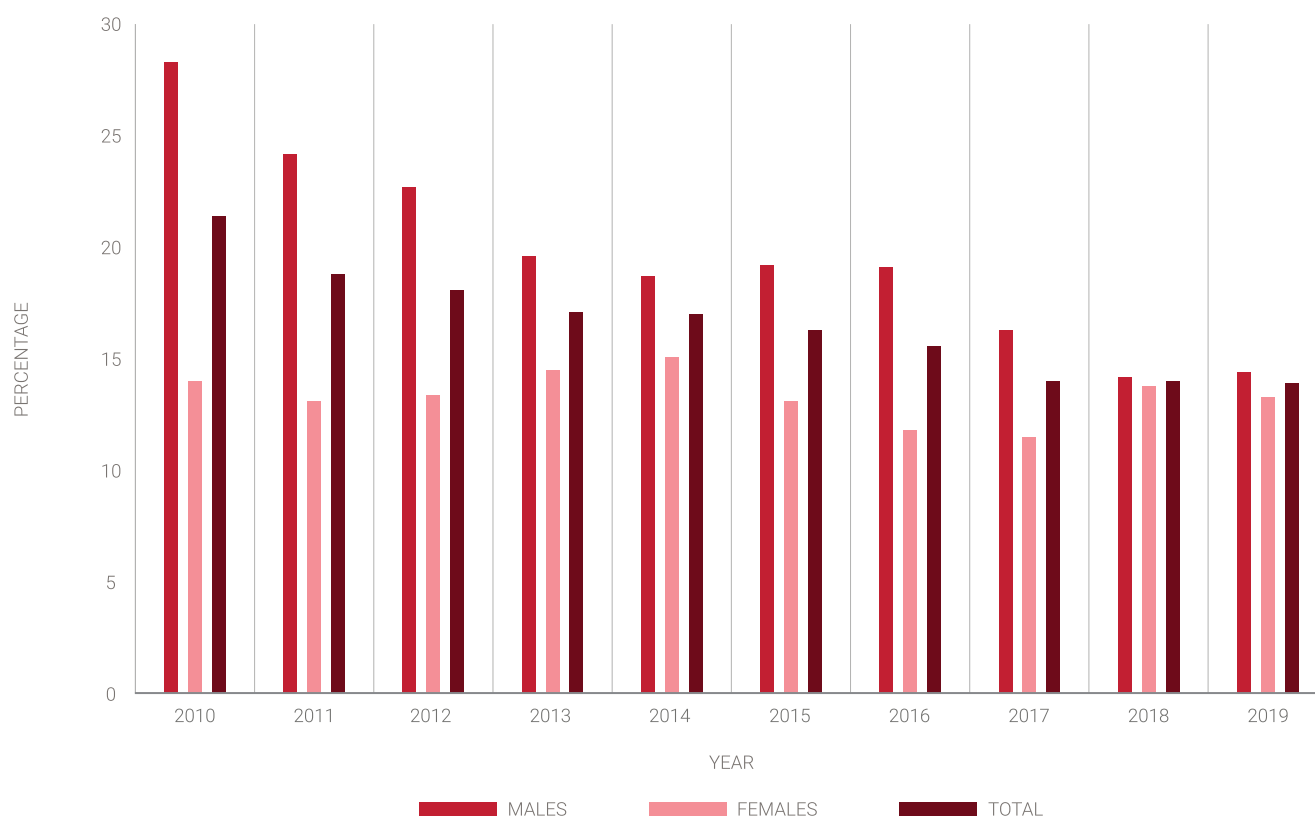


Chart 4.12: Early leavers from education and training; LFS, NSO

## Non-formal education

Non-formal education and training is institutionalised, intentional and planned by education providers, and either complements or adds to formal education within the process of the lifelong learning of individuals. It may be short in duration and/or low-intensity, and it is typically provided in the form of short courses, workshops or seminars. Non-formal education mostly leads to qualifications that are not recognised as equivalent to formal qualifications or to no qualifications at all. Non-formal education can cover programmes contributing to adult and youth literacy and education for out-of-school children, as well as programmes on life skills, work skills, and social or cultural development.

The adult education survey (AES) covers adults' participation in education and training (formal, non-formal and informal learning) and is one of the main data sources for EU lifelong learning statistics. The latest AES survey was carried out in 2016 and covers the resident population aged 25-64. The reference period for the participation in education and training is the twelve months prior to the interview. In 2016, the total participation rate for non-formal education in Malta stood at 33.8%. Participation rate in education and training by males had a share of 34.7%, while the female share was of 32.9% (Chart 4.13).

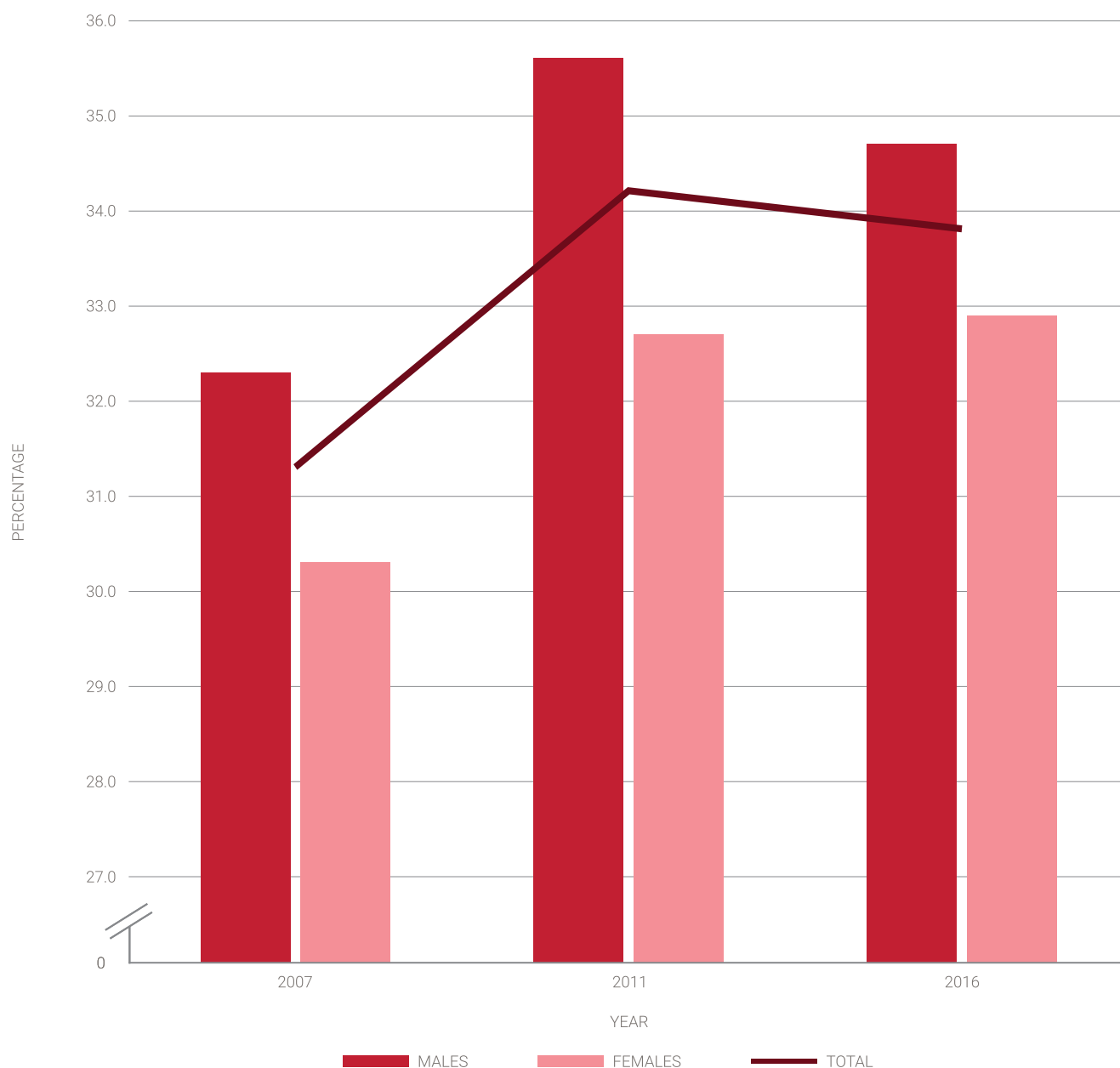


Chart 4.13: Participation rate in non-formal education, by sex; AES, Eurostat.

## Skills and employment

The share of the population aged 25-34 in Malta who has successfully completed tertiary studies in 2019 was that of 40.4%. The total share of those who successfully completed tertiary studies increased from the 24.3% registered in 2010. Both females and males registered a similar increase rate however the percentage of females remained higher across all years under review (Chart 4.14).



Chart 4.14: Tertiary educational attainment, by sex; LFS, Eurostat

In 2019, the largest share of tertiary graduates (55.4%) attained a qualification at ISCED level 6 (Bachelor's or equivalent). This was followed by 35.0% of total graduates who attained their qualification at ISCED Level 7 (Master's or equivalent). Since 2013, the number of graduates has increased for all ISCED levels, except for ISCED level 5 (short cycle tertiary education) which decreased by 33.0% (Chart 4.15).

One of the SDG 4 targets focuses specifically on information and communications technology (ICT) skills, since it enables access to decent jobs and entrepreneurship. The lack of such skills continues to be one of the key impediments keeping people from fully benefitting from the potential of information and communication technologies.

In Malta, almost nine out of ten persons aged between 16 and 74 years used the internet in 2019. The annual survey on information and communication technology usage shows that since 2011 the percentage of the population using the internet increased from 68% to 86%. The largest increase in internet usage was by females—from 66% in 2011 to 86% in 2019. In 2018 and 2019 the percentages of males and females who used the internet were the same (Chart 4.16).

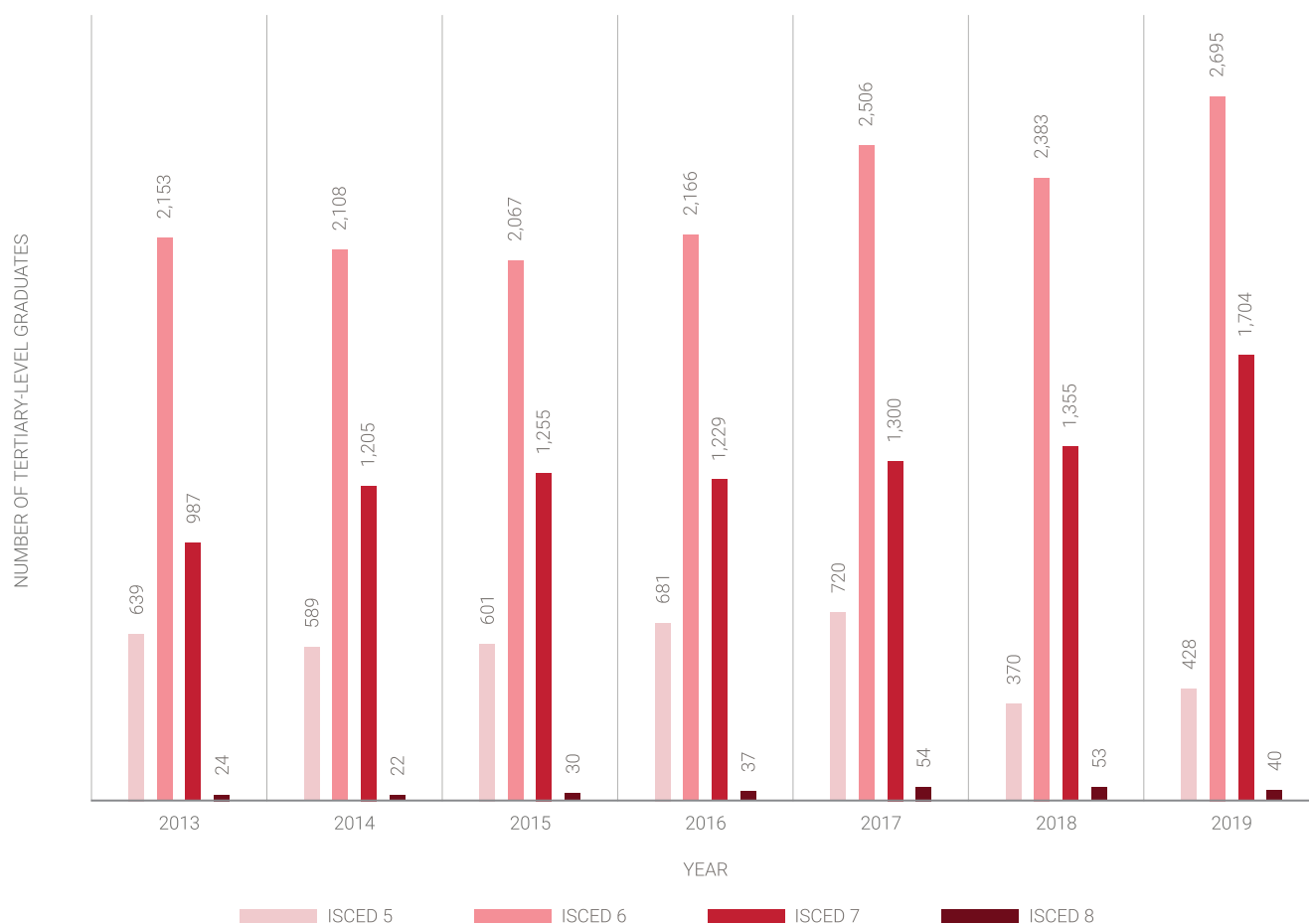


Chart 4.15: Tertiary-level graduates, by level of qualification; Education Statistics, NSO

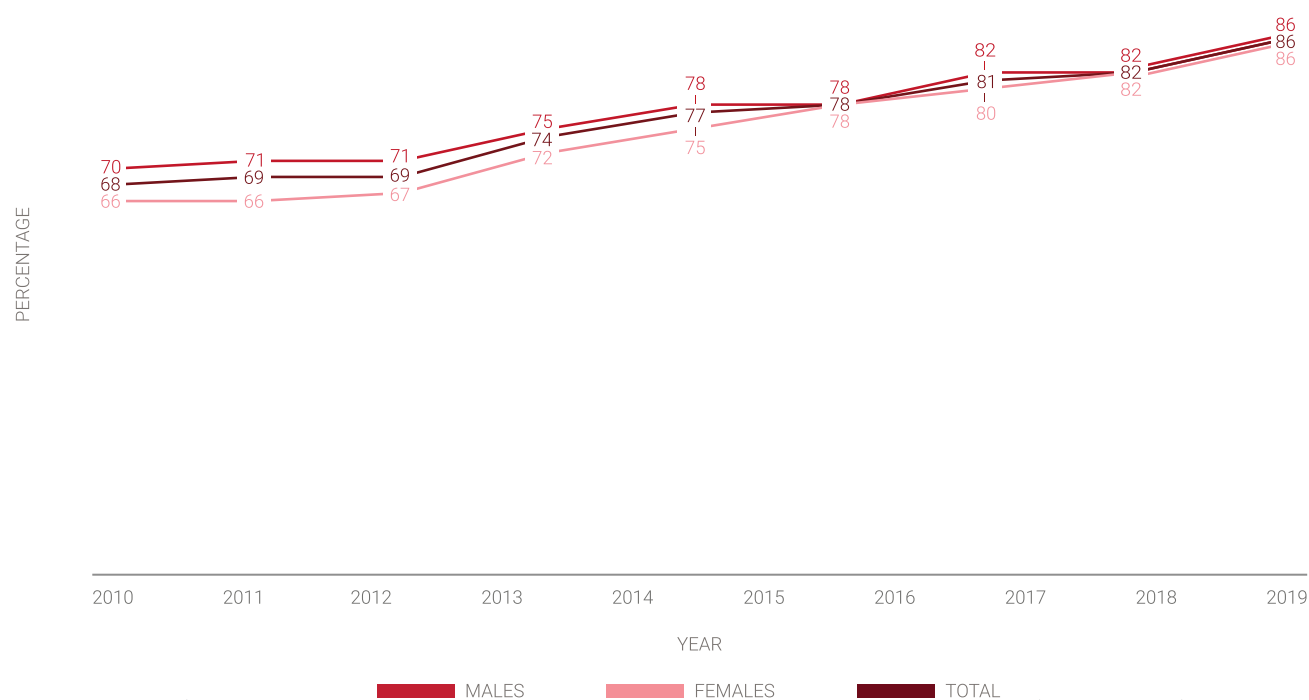


Chart 4.16: Use of internet within 3 months prior to the survey period; ICT Households, NSO

Furthermore, from the total population, 38% had 'above basic' digital skills, 29% low 'overall digital skills', and 18% 'basic overall digital skills'. The percentage of persons with 'above basic' and 'low overall' digital skills have increased since 2015 (Chart 4.17). Also, as indicated in Chart 4.16 (above) the percentage of the population who 'never used the internet' decreased from 23% in 2015 to 14% in 2019.

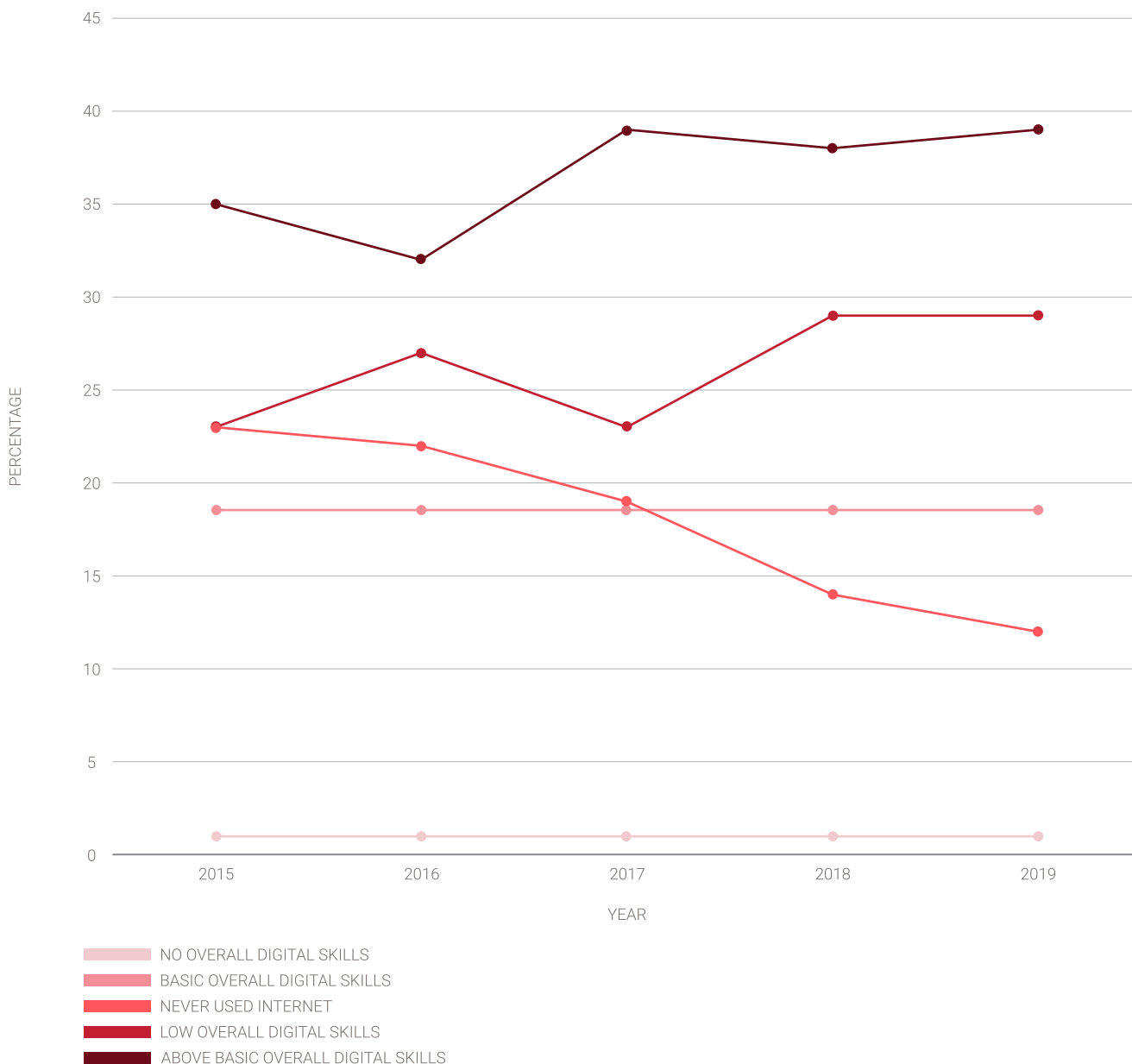


Chart 4.17: Proportion of population with ICT skills; ICT Households, NSO



The percentage of population living in Malta aged 20–34 with at least an upper-secondary education who were in employment in 2019 was that of 93.4%. The highest share was for females with a percentage of 93.7%. Data shows that the rate of the employment of recent graduates in 2019 increased slightly from the rate in 2010, which was 91.4%. The highest rate registered was in 2016 with 96.2% of recent graduates employed (Chart 4.18).

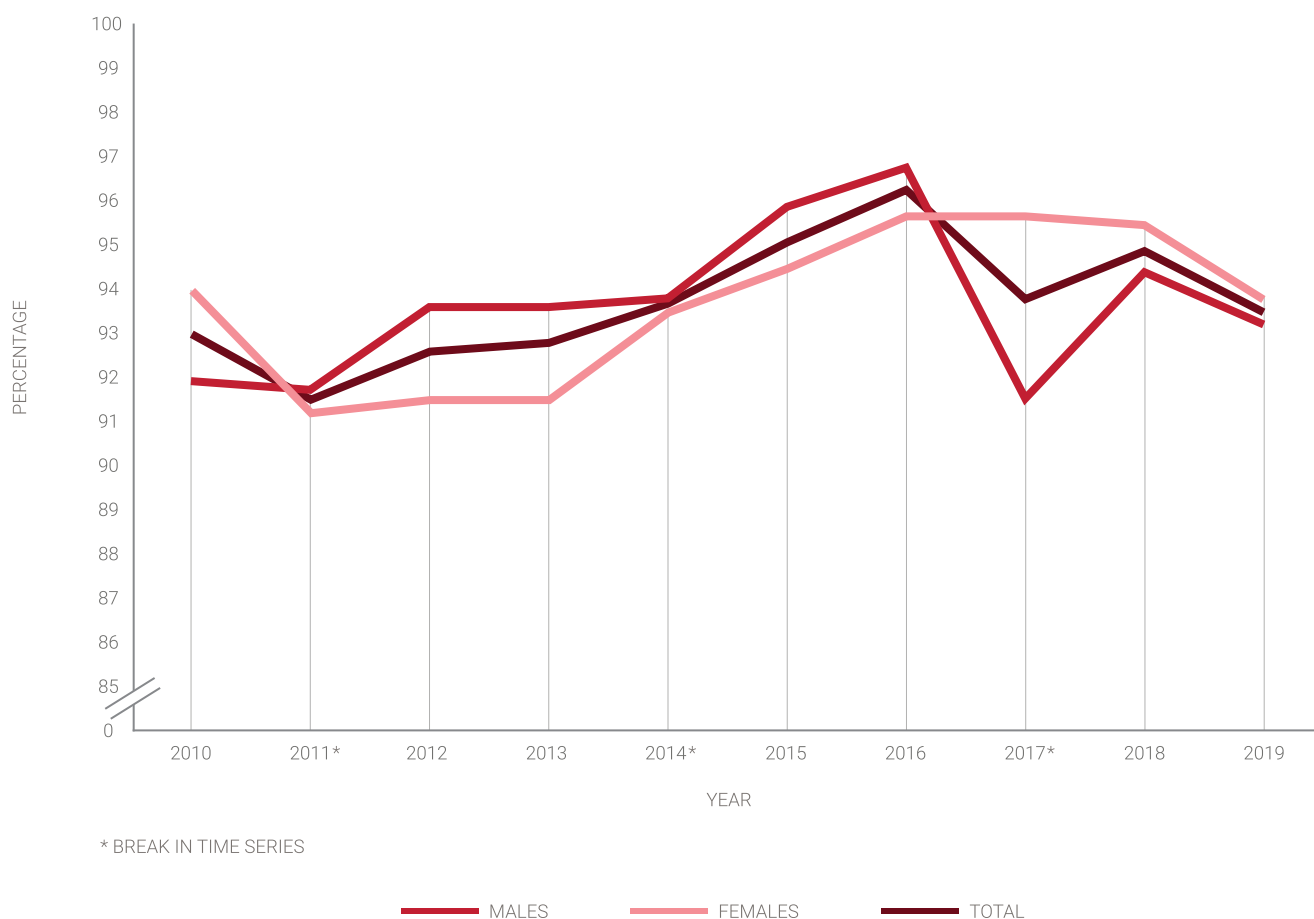


Chart 4.18: Employment rates of recent graduates; LFS, Eurostat

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 4 is reflected in Table 4.1 below. The targets related to SDG 4, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 4 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 4 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 4 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>106</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>107</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>108</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.

<sup>106</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].










<sup>107</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>108</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].

## Legend:

	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

Table 4.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 4

TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
4.1	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	Students enrolled in primary and secondary	
		Percentage distribution of students enrolled in primary and secondary, by sex	
		Participation rate in primary (5–10 years old) and secondary (11–15 years old) by population of same age groups	
		Number of absent days in primary	
		Number of absent days in secondary	
		Average number of absent days per student	
		Percentage of population aged 15–64 with education attainment levels at ISCED levels (0–2), (3–4), and (5–8)	
4.2	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education	Pre-primary education	
		Participation rate in early childhood education and care	

4.3	By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university	Persons enrolled in tertiary education	
		Participation rate in non-formal education, by sex	
		Tertiary educational attainment, by sex	
		Tertiary-level graduates by level of qualification	
4.4	By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	Proportion of population with ICT Skills	
		Use of internet within 3 months prior to the survey period	
		Employment rates of recent graduates	
4.6	By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy	Underachievement in reading, maths, and science	
		Early leavers from education and training	





# SDG 05



Achieve gender equality and empower  
all women and girls

## **Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

“Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.”<sup>109</sup>

Today, gender equality persists everywhere and affects social, political, and economic progress. Gender equality by 2030 requires urgent action to eliminate many root causes of discrimination that curtail women’s rights in private and public spheres. It is a cross-cutting through nearly all Sustainable Development Goals and is addressed by a number of targets related to poverty (SDG 1), health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), sanitation (SDG 6), employment (SDG 8), inequalities (SDG 10), and strong institutions (SDG 16). Thus, gender equality can truly be achieved by addressing it holistically across all domains touched by the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Eliminate discrimination against women**

Article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) defines the term ‘discrimination against women’ as “... any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field”.<sup>110</sup>

Ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere is the first target of SDG 5. Prerequisites for reaching the SDG target are the placing of legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex. Statistics in this regard is produced through information on the extent of relevant legal frameworks in states, collected through a UN Women-World Bank Group-OECD Development Centre joint biennial questionnaire (starting in 2018) comprising 42 yes/no questions under four areas of law: (i) overarching legal frameworks and public life; (ii) violence against women; (iii) employment and

<sup>109</sup> United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals, *Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*, online: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/> [accessed on 10 June 2021].

<sup>110</sup> United Nations Human Rights: Office of the High Commissioner, *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, 18 December 1979, online: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cedaw.aspx> [accessed on 14 July 2021].



economic benefits, and; (iv) marriage and family.<sup>111</sup>

Based on the information provided by the responsible agencies in Malta for the year 2020, statistics on the extent of legal frameworks that promote, enforce, and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex in Malta is presented in table 5.1 as percentage scores for each of the four areas, which represents the percentage of achievement of that country in that area, with 100% being best practice met on all questions in the area.

Area	Percentage Score
01 Overarching legal frameworks and public life	<b>80.0%</b>
02 Violence against women	<b>91.7%</b>
03 Employment and economic benefits	<b>90.0%</b>
04 Marriage and family	<b>81.8%</b>

*Table 5.1: Legal frameworks that promote, enforce, and monitor gender equality (2020), UN Women*

## Employment and pay gap

Increasing female labour market participation and the equal economic independence of women and men, reducing the gender pay and earnings gaps are important preconditions for the promotion of equality between women and men. Indeed, in order to promote gender equality SDG 5 calls for, among other things, recognition and value of unpaid care and domestic work and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family.

In 2019, the total number of females in employment stood at 102,484. When compared to 2010, the number of employed females in 2019 increased by almost 84% (Chart 5.1).

<sup>111</sup> The areas were agreed at the expert workshop, held on 14 and 15 June 2016, to discuss the methodological development of SDG indicator 5.1.1. SDG indicator metadata for indicator 5.1.1: online <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/> [accessed on 14 July 2021].

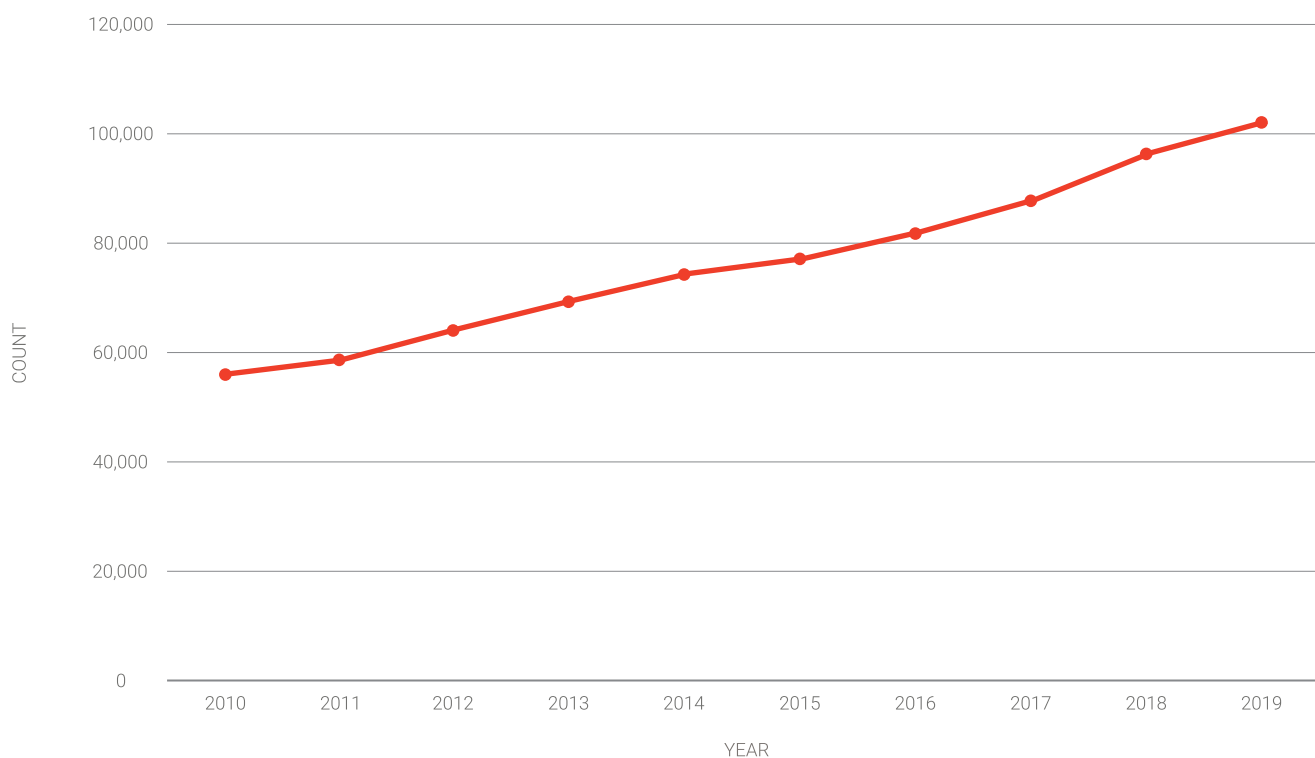


Chart 5.1: Females in employment; LFS, NSO

The difference between the employment rates of men and women provides information on the gender employment gap. This is calculated by subtracting the female employment rate from the male employment rate. Data for Malta shows that in 2019 the gender employment gap was 20.7%, 15.9 percentage points less than the 36.6% gap in 2010 (Chart 5.2).

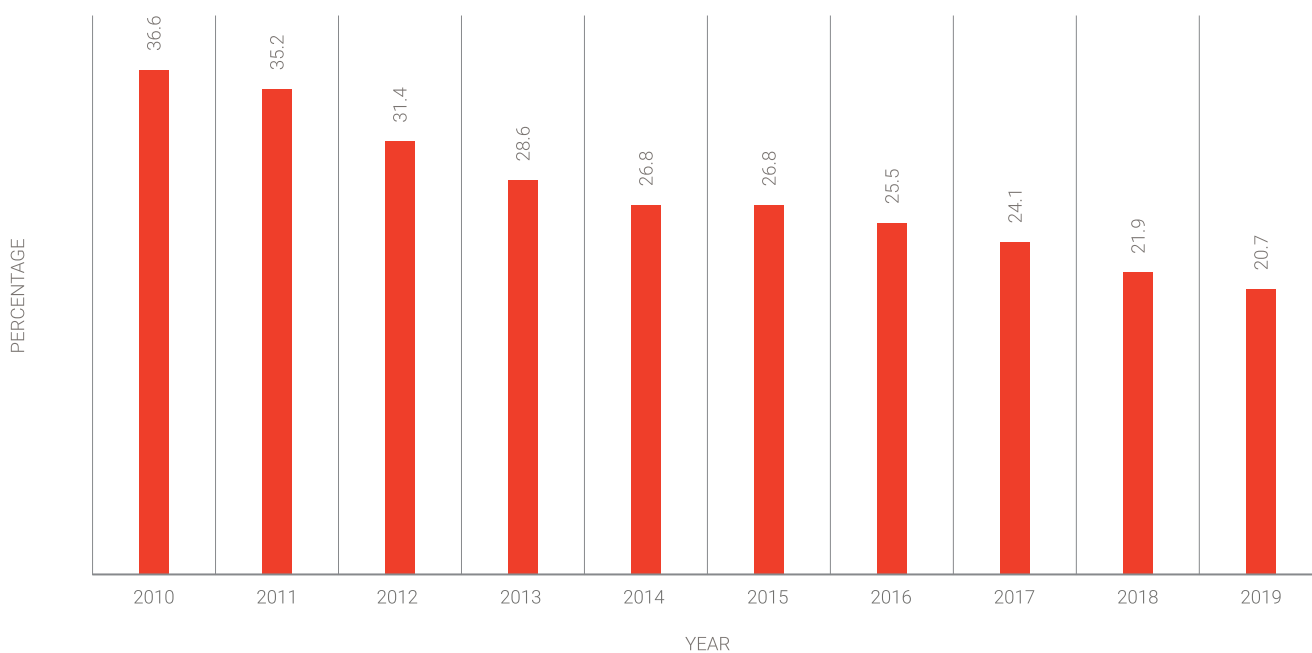


Chart 5.2: Gender employment gap; LFS, Eurostat

The gender pay gap in an unadjusted form measures the difference between average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees and of female paid employees as a percentage of average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees. The indicator has been defined as unadjusted because it gives an overall picture of gender inequalities in terms of pay and measures a concept which is broader than the concept of equal pay for equal work. In 2019 the gender pay gap in Malta was 11.6% (provisional), meaning that females were paid 11.6% less than the average gross hourly earnings of males (Chart 5.3).

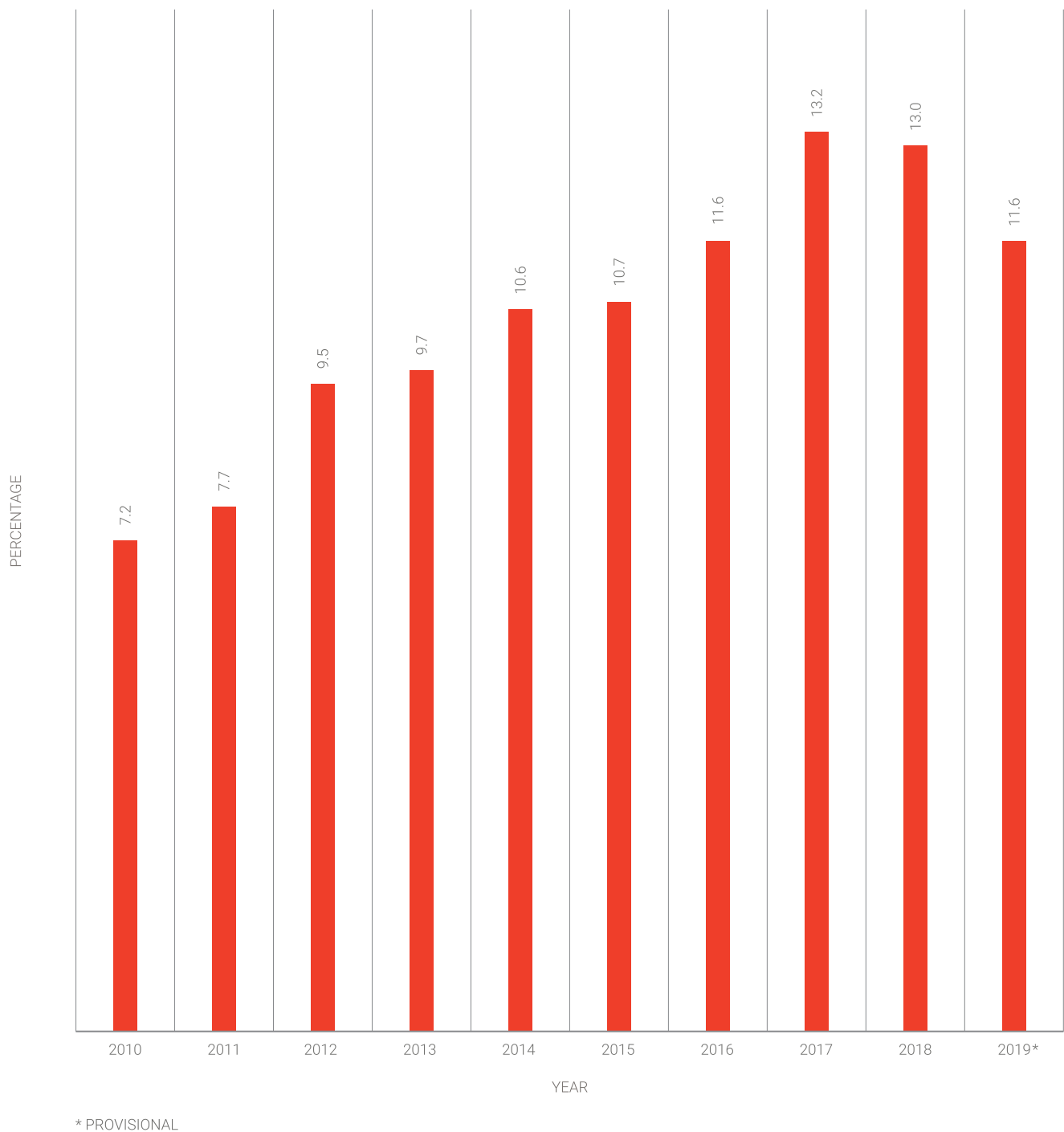


Chart 5.3: Gender pay gap in an unadjusted form; derived based model, Eurostat

Moreover, the percentage of the inactive population aged 20 to 64 due to caring responsibilities measures the reasons why individuals are not actively seeking work in view of 'looking after children or incapacitated adults' and 'other family or personal responsibilities'. Due to this unpaid work such population is neither employed nor unemployed and considered to be outside the labour force. Data for Malta shows that from those 'inactive' due to caring responsibilities in 2019, 50.6% were females while 3.9% were males. The inactive population due to caring responsibilities has decreased from the 58.6% recorded in 2010. However, since 2017 it started to increase again. Also, the largest share of inactive population due to caring responsibilities was always the female group (Chart 5.4).

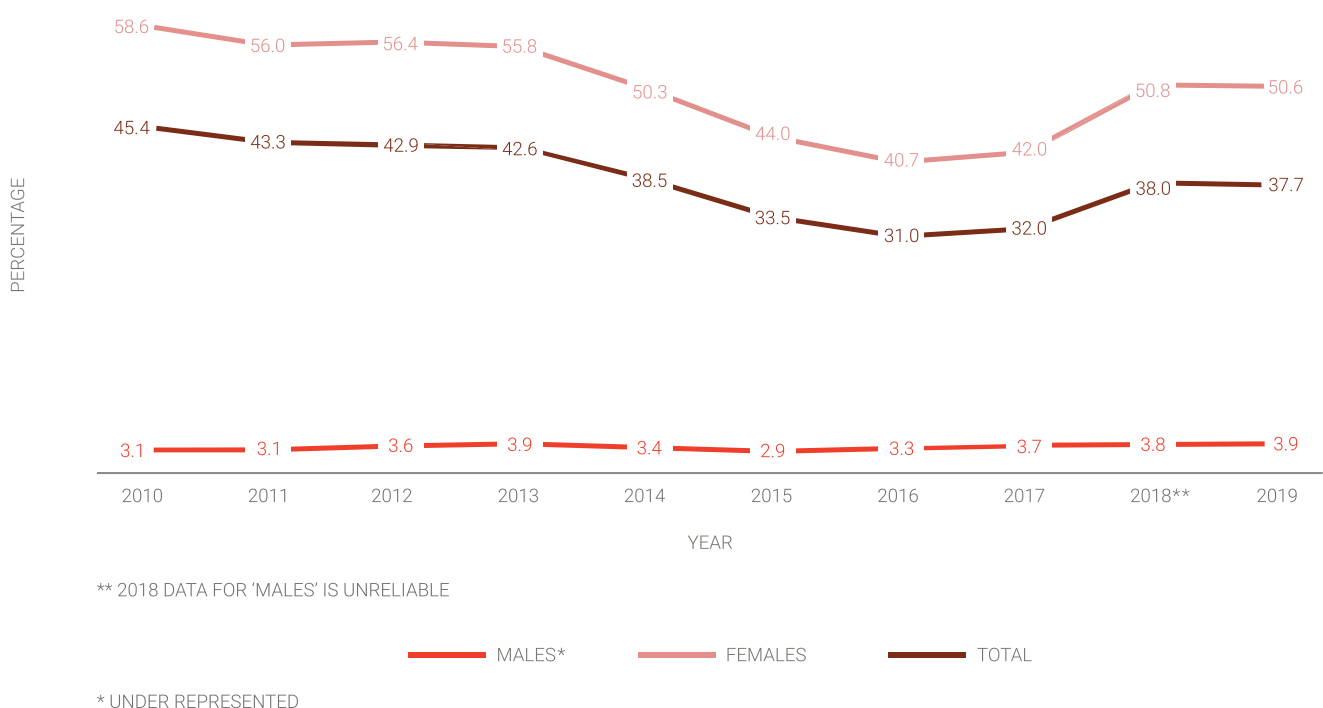


Chart 5.4: Inactive population due to caring responsibilities; LFS, Eurostat <sup>112</sup>

## Gender-based violence

Violence against women and girls is one of the most pervasive forms of human rights violations in the world. According to the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993), Violence against Women is "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. Violence

<sup>112</sup> Statistics are unreliable when there are less than 20 sample observations, and they are under represented when sample observations are between 20 and 49.

against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following: [...], Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution [...].<sup>113</sup>

The elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres is also addressed by SDG 5. Data in this regard helps to understand the extent of gender-based violence and guides policy makers to adopt policies and measures aiming to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls. Data for Malta shows that rape and sexual assault victims were predominantly females.<sup>114</sup> Since the 3-year period 2008–2010, the rate of female victims of rape has increased from an average rate of 6.1 per 100,000 inhabitants to an average rate of 9.1 in 2017–2019 (Chart 5.5). Conversely, the 3-year average rate of female sexual assault victims generally decreased since 2008–2010. In 2008–2010 the average rate of female sexual assault victims was 31.8, which decreased to a rate of 27.2 in the 2017–2019 period (Chart 5.6).

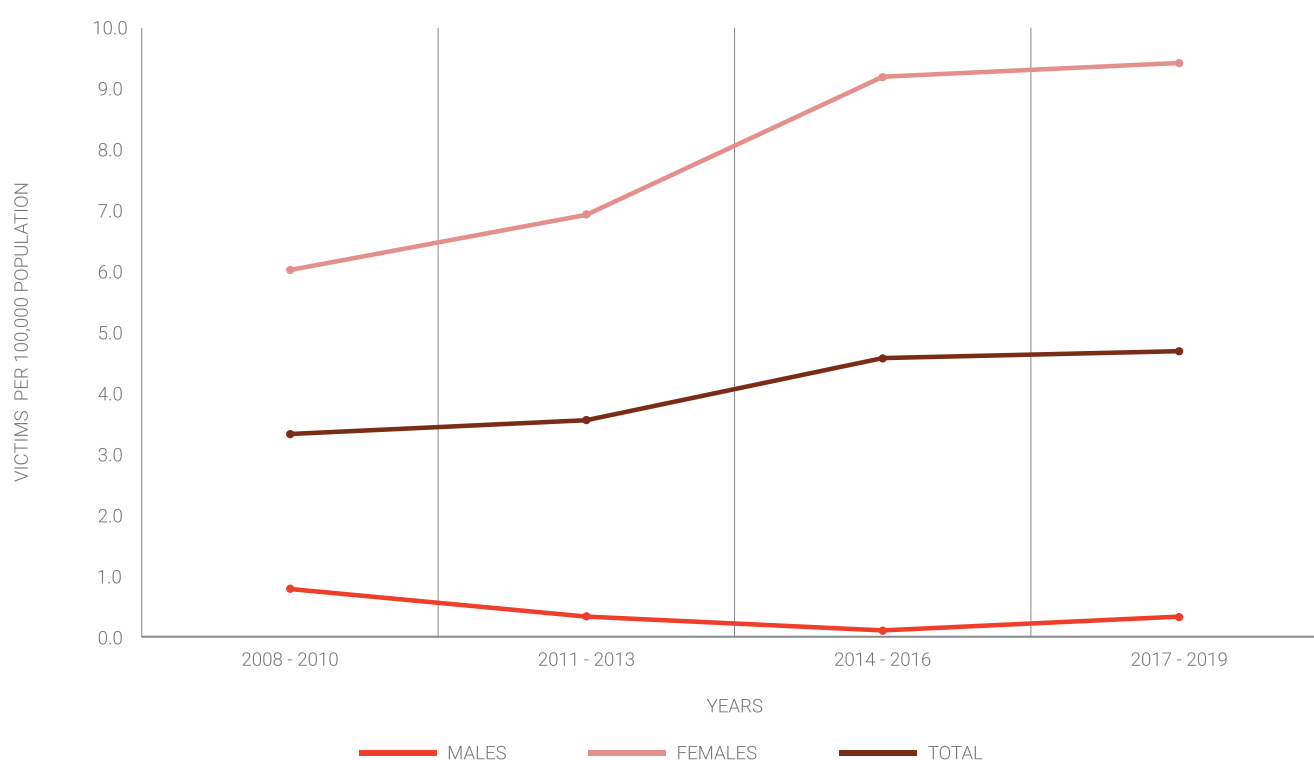


Chart 5.5: Rape victims per 100,000 inhabitants (3-year average); Police Department; NSO

<sup>113</sup> UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/48/104: Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. See online: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N94/095/05/PDF/N9409505.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 17 February 2021].

<sup>114</sup> Data refers to reported offences with law enforcement (Police reports).

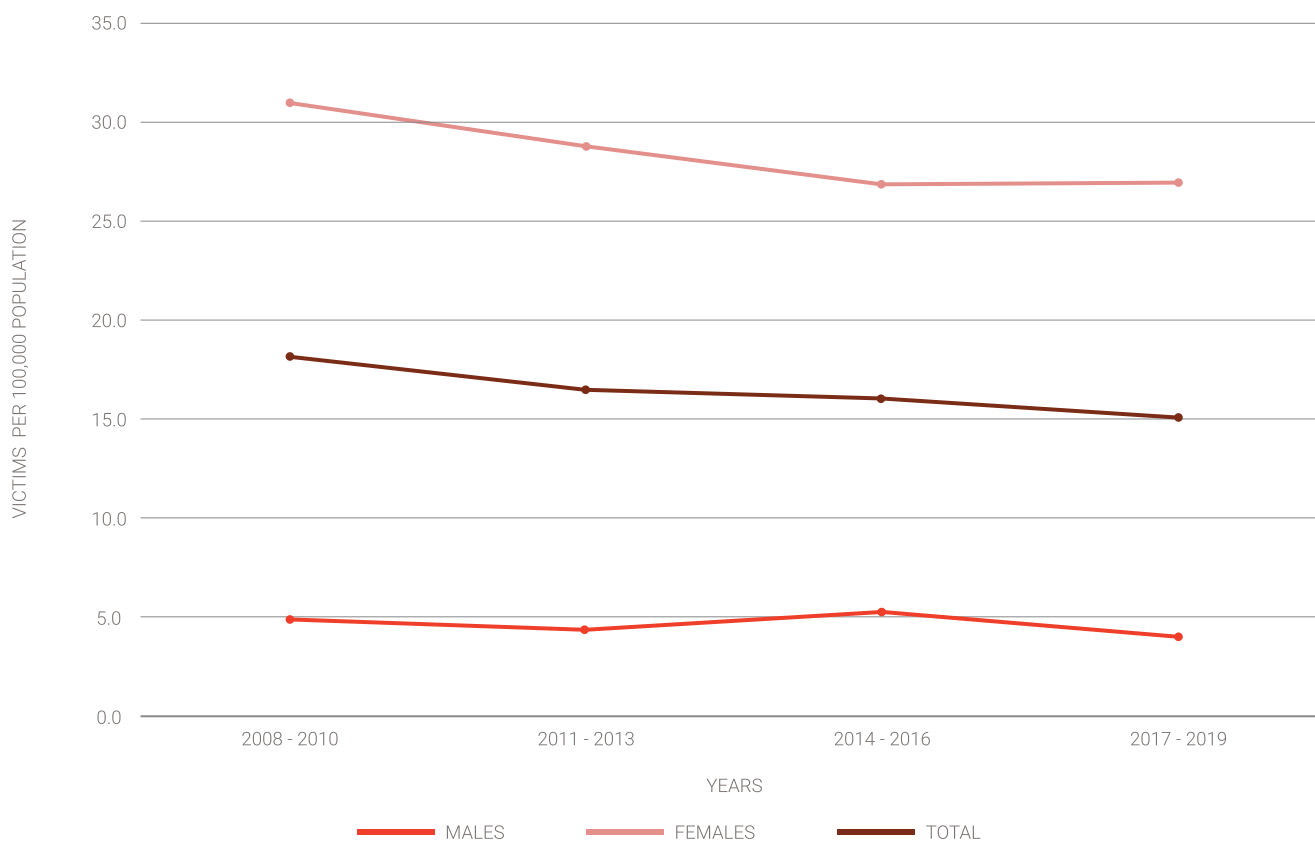


Chart 5.6: Sexual assault victims per 100,000 inhabitants (3-year average); Police Department; NSO

## Equal participation and opportunities for leadership

One of the targets for SDG 5 is to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life. The degree to which women exercise their political rights on an equal basis, at all levels of decision-making, and have equal access to parliamentary decision-making are key aspects of women's opportunities in political and public life and are therefore linked to women's empowerment. Equal representation would allow the different experiences of men and women to affect the social, political, and economic future of societies. Active participation by women in political decision-making is measured by the proportion of seats held by women in national parliament and in local councils. Equal numbers of women and men in parliament and local councils would give an indicator value of 50%. The figures below illustrate equality in national parliament, central government, and local councils in Malta in 2019 (Chart 5.7).

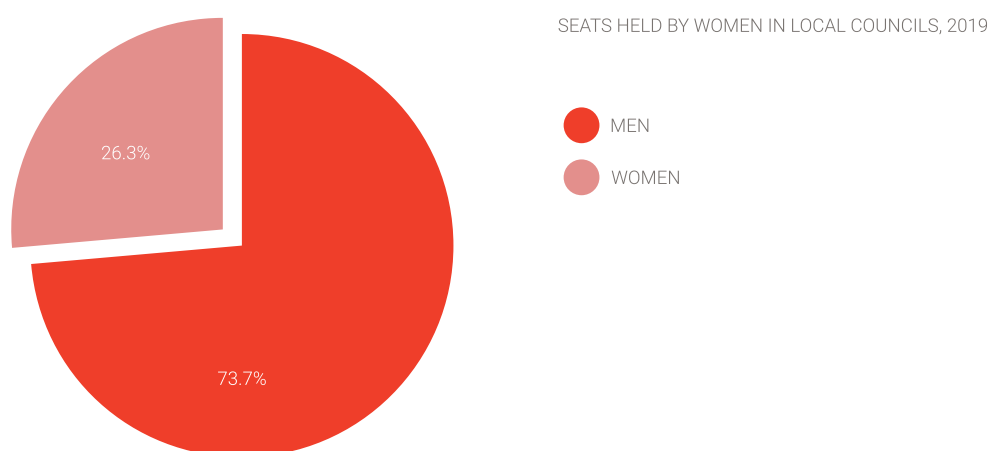
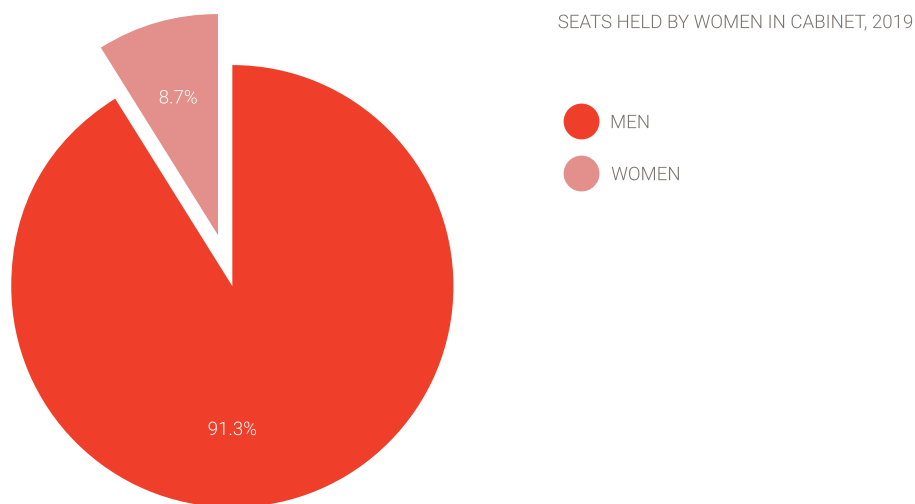
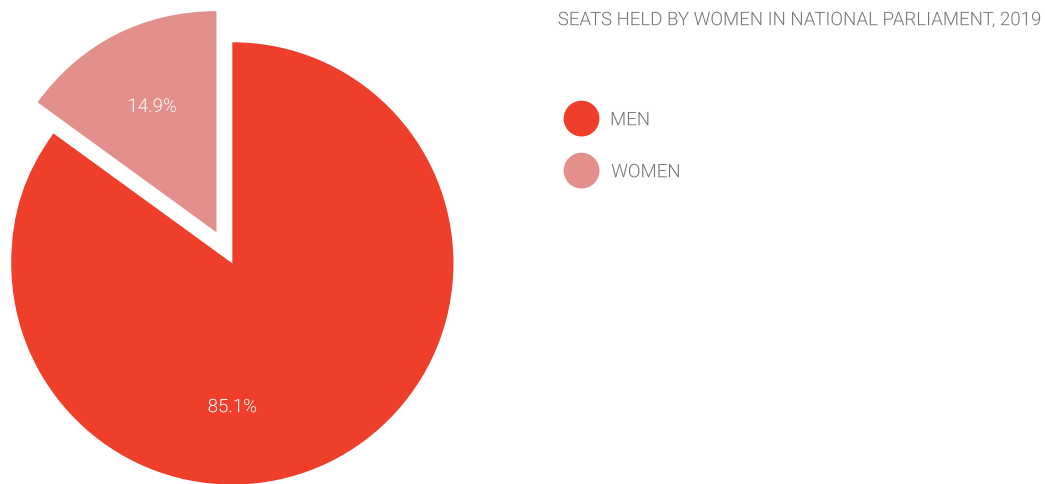


Chart 5.7: Seats held by women in national parliament, in cabinet, and in local councils, 2019; European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE); National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE)

In addition to equal political participation by women and men, SDG 5 also aims to provide equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of economic decision-making for women. The share of female board members (including chairpersons, non-executive directors, senior executives and employee representatives) in the largest publicly listed companies in Malta in 2019 stood at 10.0%.<sup>115</sup> Moreover, the share of females in executive positions in 2019 stood at 20.9%. The 2010–2019 time series presented in Chart 5.8 shows that the percentages of women in senior management positions (board members and executives) have increased.

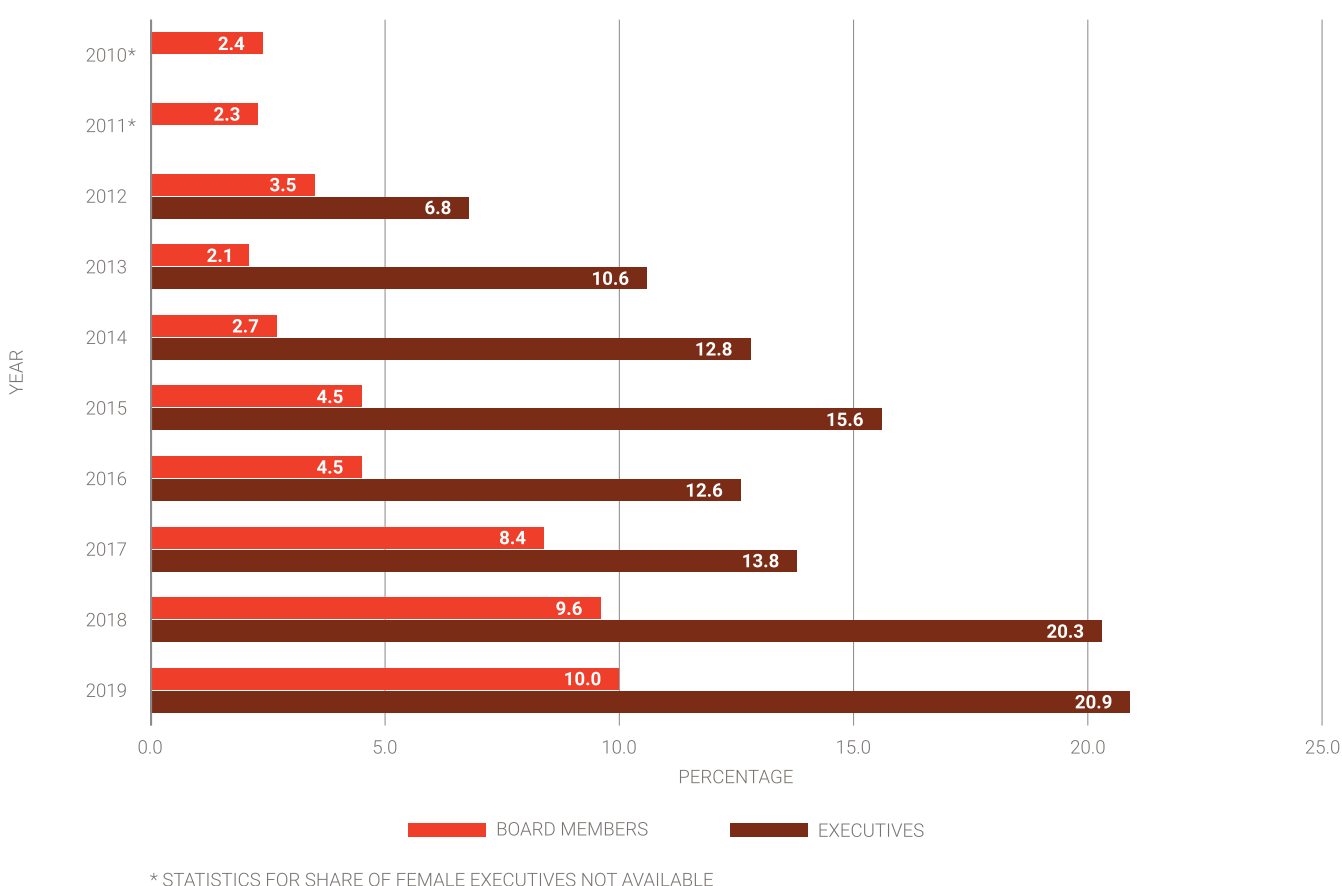


Chart 5.8: Positions held by women in senior management positions; EIGE

The share of females employed in managerial positions has increased since 2010. In 2019, the share of females employed in managerial positions was 30%, an increase of 7.3 percentage points from 2010 (Chart 5.9). With regards to professional employment, the share of females (51.1%) was slightly more than the share of males (48.9%) in 2019. This also reflects the male/female share in professional employment of 2010 (Chart 5.10).

<sup>115</sup> The 'largest' companies are taken to be the members (max. 50) of the primary blue-chip index, which is an index maintained by the stock exchange and covers the largest companies by market capitalisation and/or market trades.



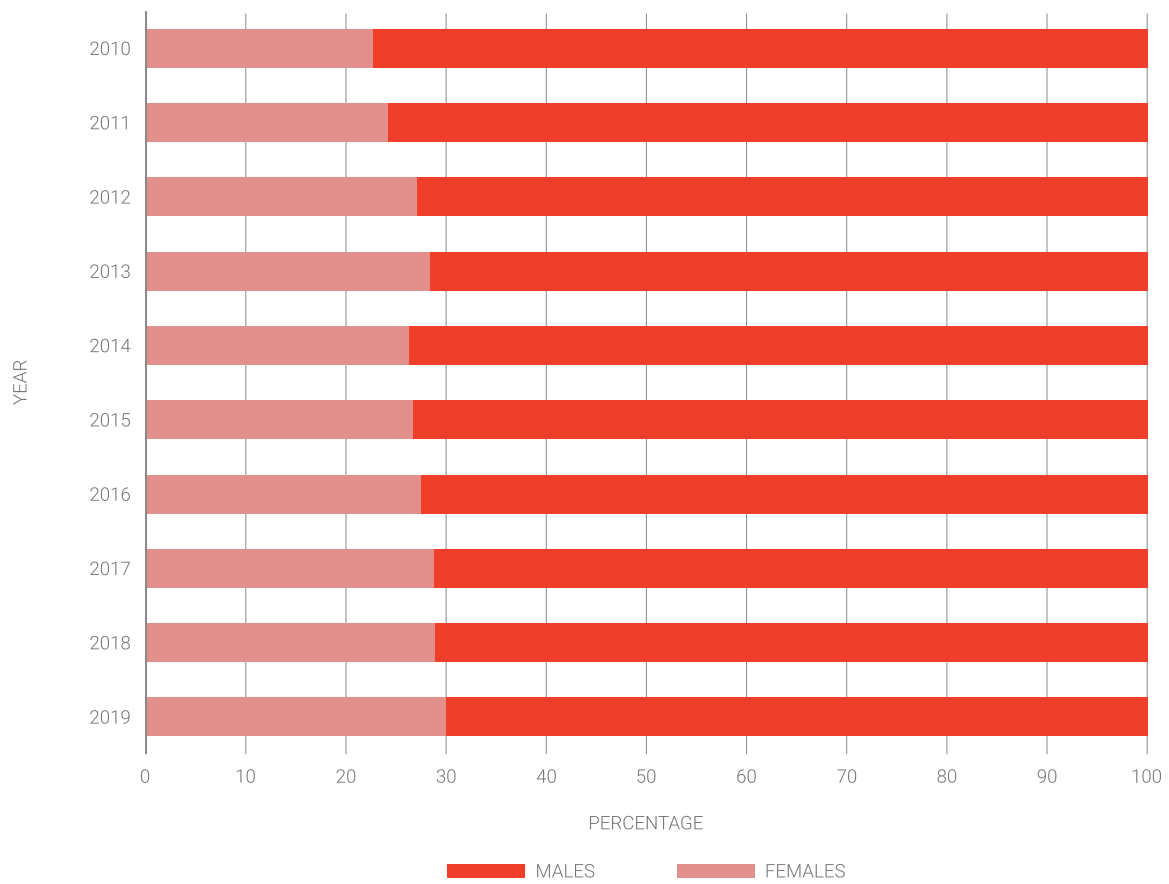


Chart 5.9: Share of males and females employed in managerial positions; LFS, NSO

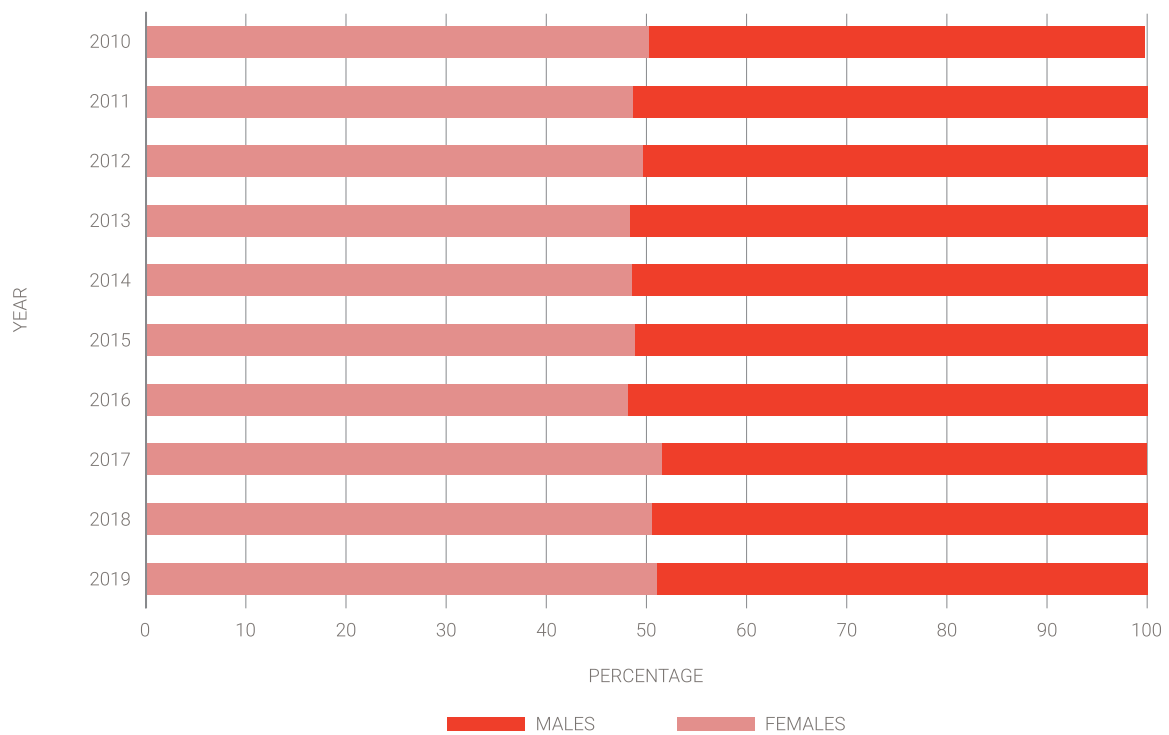


Chart 5.10: Share of males and females employed in professional positions; LFS, NSO

The share of females in employment with assigned supervisory responsibilities was 24% in 2010. By 2019, the share of females had increased by 6.8 percentage points to 30.8%, similar to the share of males in employment with assigned supervisory responsibilities (Chart 5.11).

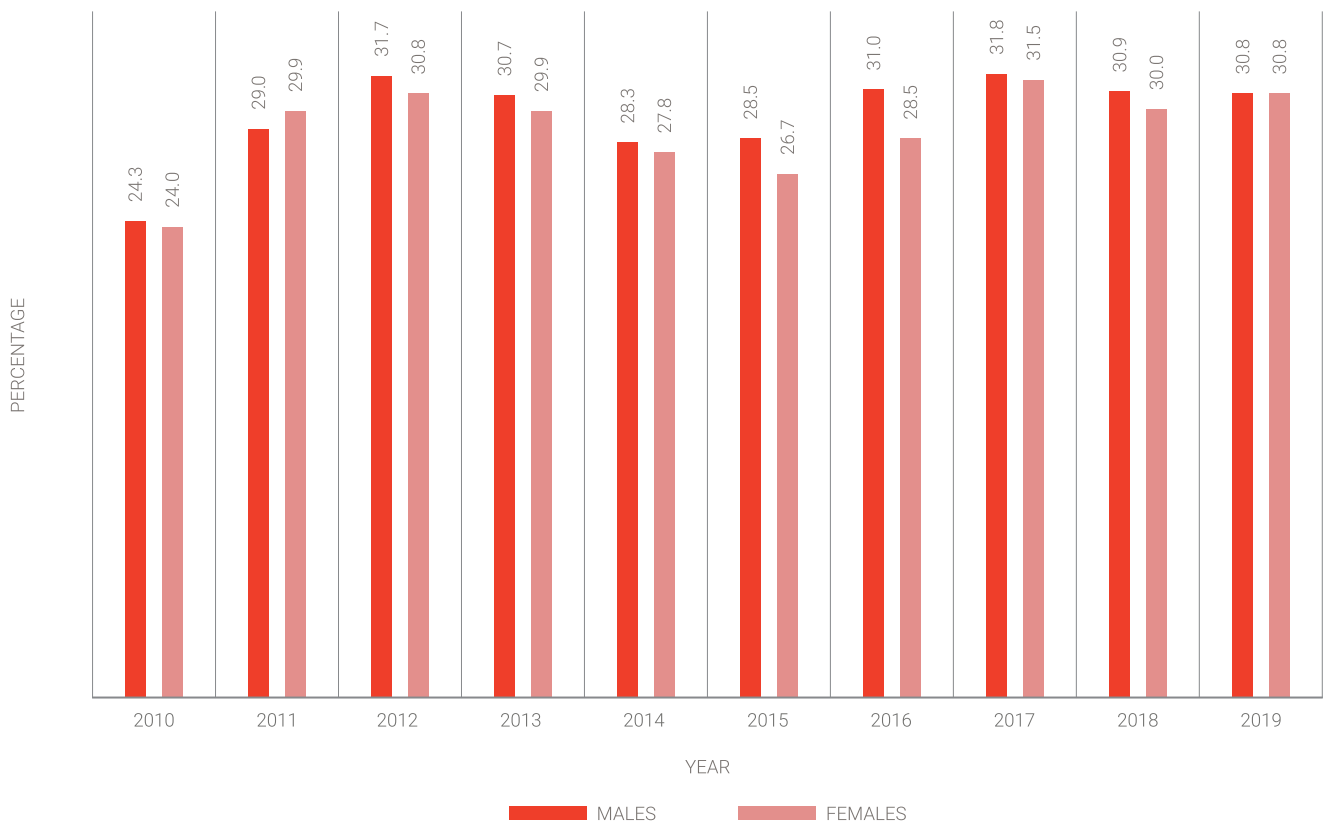


Chart 5.11: Share of employees with supervisory responsibilities; LFS, NSO

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 5 is reflected in Table 5.2 below. The targets related to SDG 5, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 5 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 5 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 5 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'<sup>116</sup>, and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>117</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission<sup>118</sup>. The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.

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<sup>116</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].








<sup>117</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].


<sup>118</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].

**Legend:**

	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

*Table 5.2: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 5*

TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
5.1	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	Legal frameworks that promote, enforce, and monitor gender equality	
		Females in employment	
		Gender employment gap	
		Gender pay gap in an unadjusted form	
5.2	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	Rape victims per 100,000 inhabitants	
		Sexual assault victims per 100,000 inhabitants	
5.4	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	Inactive population due to caring responsibilities	

5.5	Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	Seats held by women in national parliament, in cabinet and in local councils	
		Share of males and females employed in professional positions	
		Positions held by women in senior management positions	
		Proportion of women in managerial positions	
		Share of employees with supervisory responsibilities	



# SDG 06



Ensure availability and sustainable management  
of water and sanitation for all

## **Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

Water scarcity affects more than 40% of people worldwide, an alarming figure that is projected to rise with the increase of global temperatures.<sup>119</sup> The ever-growing demand for water has increased the risks of pollution and severe water stress in many parts of the world. Water scarcity has serious implications for public health, environmental sustainability, food and energy security, and economic development. Sustainable management of water resources would have a positive impact on the health of individuals, poverty reduction measures, food security, the management of ecosystems, and education. Indeed, this shows that similar to other Goals, SDG 6 has several links with other Sustainable Development thematic areas.

The Millennium Development Declaration, in 2000, called for the world to halve by 2015 the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water as well as the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation. Renewed commitment in this regard was made by means of the SDGs, in particular SDG 6, which seeks to achieve by 2030 universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene for all. Another important issue addressed by SDG 6 is to reduce pollution and improve the quality of water by eliminating dumping and halving the proportion of untreated wastewater by increasing recycling and safe reuse of treated water. SDG 6 is also addressing water scarcity by its focus on increasing water-use efficiency and promoting sustainable withdrawals of freshwater.

### **Drinking water and sanitation**

SDG 6 seeks to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all. The proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services is currently being measured by the proportion of population using an improved basic drinking water source which is located on premises, available when needed and free of faecal (and priority chemical) contamination. 'Improved' drinking water sources include: piped water into dwelling, yard or plot; public taps or standpipes; boreholes or tube-wells; protected dug wells; protected springs; packaged water; delivered water and rainwater.

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<sup>119</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Goal 6 Clean Water and Sanitation*. Online: <https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals#clean-water-and-sanitation> [accessed on 9 April 2021].



The Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimate that the proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services in Malta is 100%.<sup>120</sup> Indeed, the 2011 Census of Population and Housing showed that from 152,770 occupied dwellings, 152,732 had a potable water supply system, which translates into a national rate of 100% for the provision of safely managed drinking water services.<sup>121</sup>

SDG 6 seeks to achieve by 2030 access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all. The proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services is measured from the proportion of the population using a basic sanitation facility which is not shared with other households and where excreta is safely disposed in situ or treated off-site. The EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) (2019) shows that in Malta the percentage of population having at least a bath, a shower or a toilet in their household is 99.8%. This percentage was stable throughout the 2010–2019 period being reviewed (Chart 6.1).

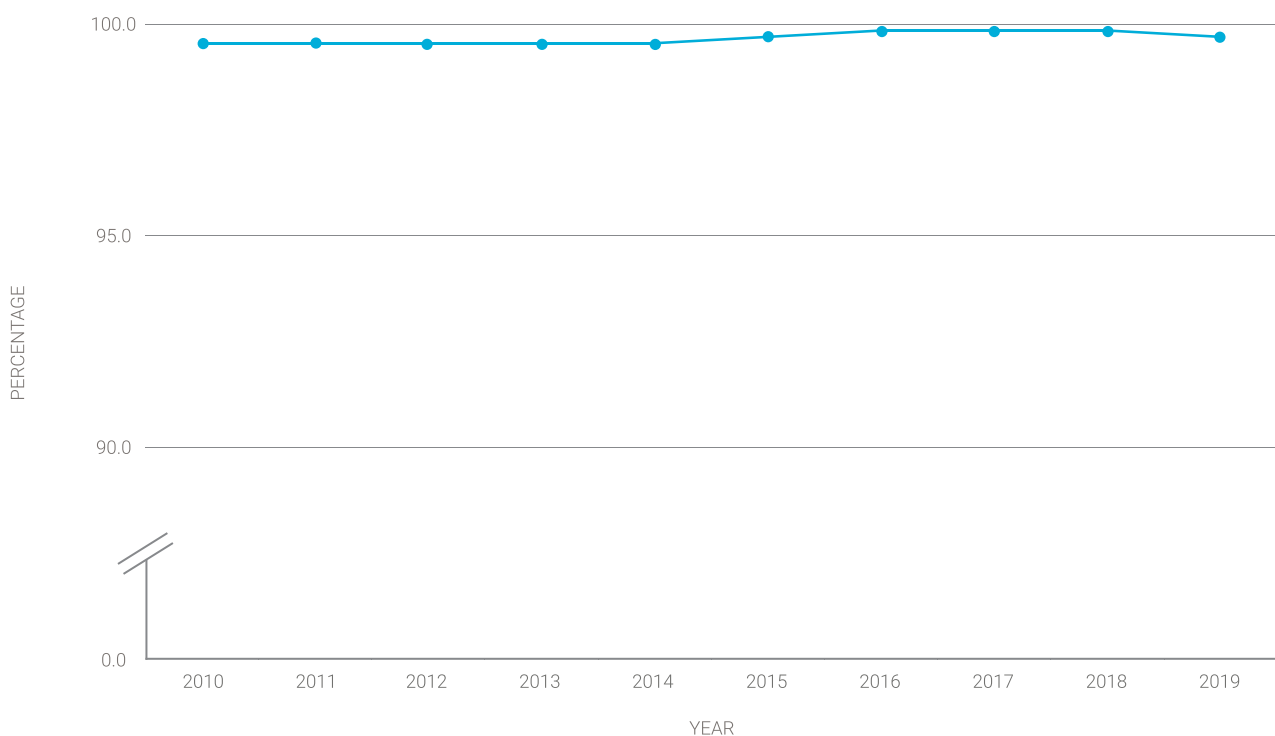


Chart 6.1: Population having at least a bath, a shower or a toilet in their household; EU-SILC, NSO

<sup>120</sup> UN-Water (2020), *Summary Progress Update 2021 – SDG 6 – water and sanitation for all*, Version 1, Geneva: Switzerland. Online: <https://www.unwater.org/publications/summary-progress-update-2021-sdg-6-water-and-sanitation-for-all/> [accessed on 10 June 2021].

<sup>121</sup> National Statistics Office (2014), *Census of Population and Housing 2011, Final Report*, Valletta.

## Water pollution

Improving water quality and the reduction of pollution by minimising the release of hazardous chemicals and materials is one of the targets of SDG 6.

Means to achieve this target include the collection, treatment and eventual reuse of wastewater. Wastewater treatment refers to the process of rendering wastewater fit to meet applicable environmental standards or other quality norms for recycling or reuse. The level of treated water depends on the reduction of the (i) percentage of dissolved oxygen required for the aerobic decomposition of organic matter present in water—measured by the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and (ii) also on the percentage of dissolved oxygen that is used in biological and non-biological oxidation of materials in water—measured by the Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD). Both BOD and COD are measures of water quality with BOD being focused on the degree of organic pollution in water. Low levels of both parameters are indicative of good water quality.

In Malta, the BOD and COD measured in wastewater generation from households and businesses have increased in the period 2010–2019. Comparing 2019 with 2010, the proportion of pollution (BOD and COD) removed by treatment has increased, and by default the pollution discharged to sea has decreased (Charts 6.2 and 6.3).

By 2012 the newly built wastewater treatment plants in Gozo, North Malta and South Malta became fully operational, and together with the existing treatment plant (Sant Antnin) had a cumulative effect on the reduction of pollution discharged to sea. However, in the period 2014–2019 an increase in the amount of pollution (both BOD and COD) discharged to sea can be noted. This has happened since the level of wastewater treatment is dependent on the ability of the four sewage treatment plants in Malta to cope with the pollution load of the incoming wastewater. Intensification of the load due to illegal discharges into the sewer system results in a reduction of the pollution removal capability of the plants and may even cause the temporary closure of individual plants resulting in the direct discharge of wastewater into the sea.<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>122</sup> Water Services Corporation (2021), *Annual Report 2020*. Available online at: <https://www.wsc.com.mt/category/annual-reports/> [accessed on 14 October 2021].

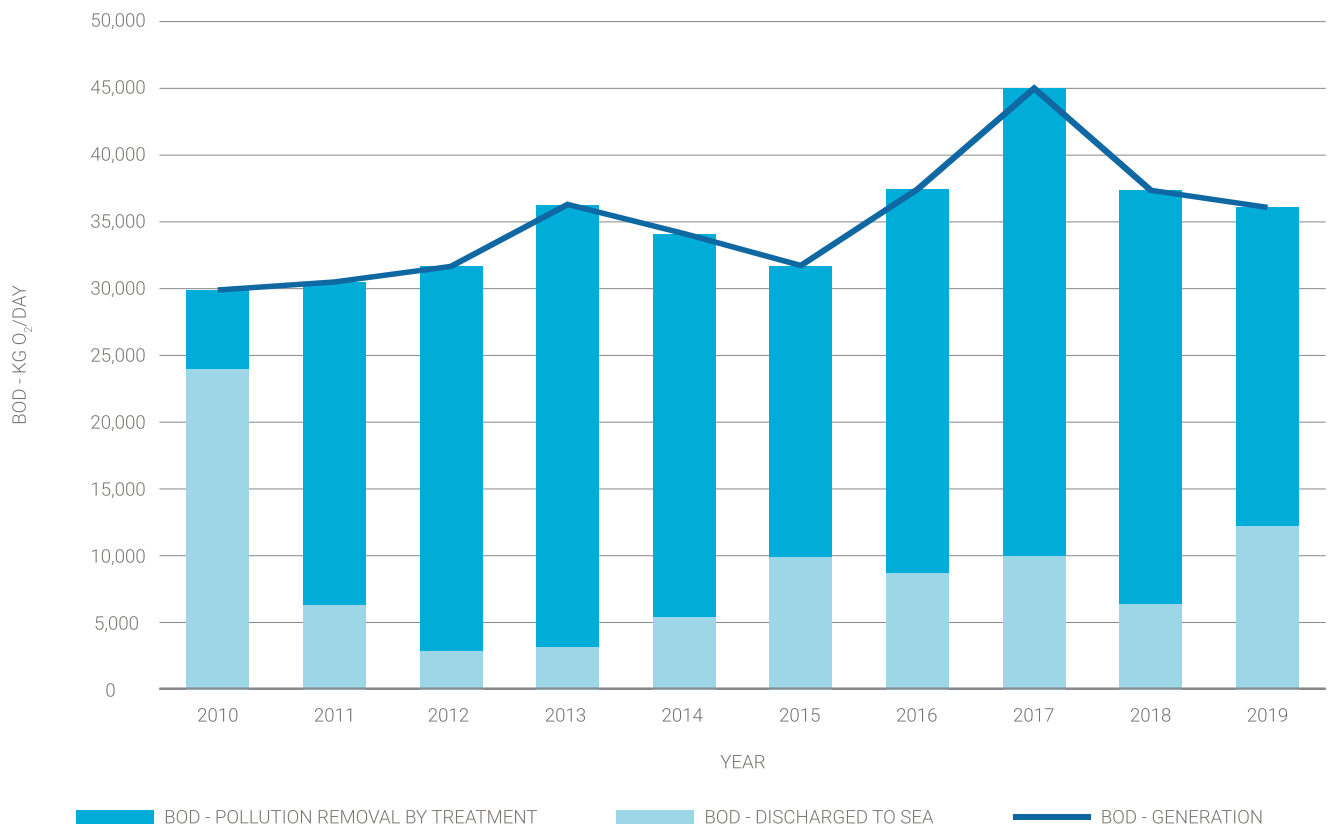


Chart 6.2: Generation, discharge, and treatment of wastewater – Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD); Water Services Corporation (WSC), NSO

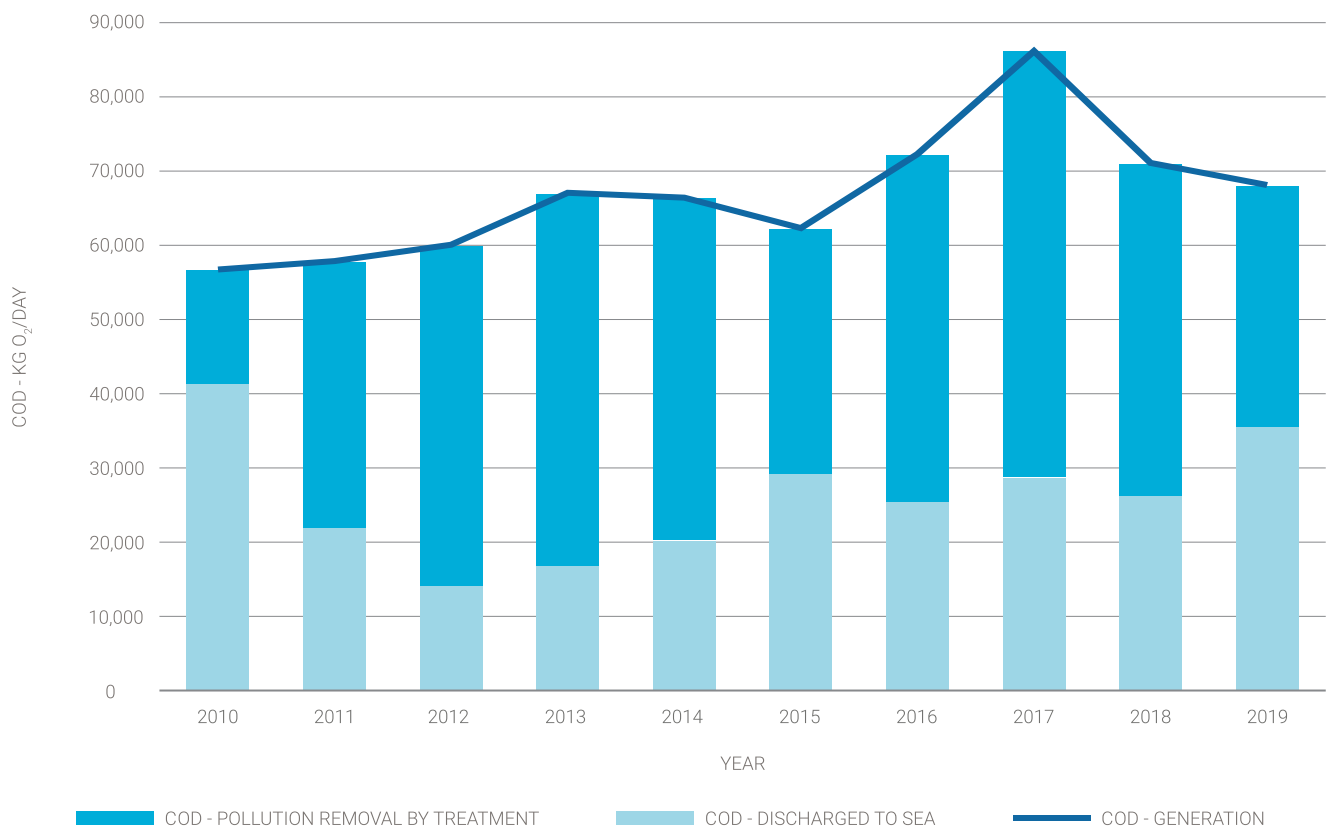


Chart 6.3: Generation, discharge, and treatment of wastewater – Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD); WSC, NSO

## Water resources and use

SDG 6 includes the target to increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals by 2030.

Water resources may be defined as sources of water which are useful for human activities. The major water resource is freshwater that in the case of Malta is totally reliant on local precipitation. This water resource can be broken down into fresh surface water and fresh groundwater.<sup>123</sup>

It is estimated that in 2010, 44.9 million m<sup>3</sup> of freshwater were withdrawn—2.6 million m<sup>3</sup> from rainwater harvesting and 42.3 million m<sup>3</sup> from groundwater.<sup>124</sup> Other water resources included 16.8 million m<sup>3</sup> from desalinated water production and 1.27 million m<sup>3</sup> from treated wastewater. By 2019, total water abstraction and production remained similar to 2010—63 million m<sup>3</sup>. However, freshwater withdrawal decreased slightly to 40.9 million m<sup>3</sup>—3.0 million m<sup>3</sup> from rainwater harvesting and 37.9 million m<sup>3</sup> from groundwater.<sup>125</sup> On the other hand, desalinated water production increased to 21.2 million m<sup>3</sup> whilst reused treated wastewater decreased slightly to 1.0 million m<sup>3</sup> (Chart 6.4).

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<sup>123</sup> Other water sources includes; desalinated water amounting to around 29% of national water demand, and treated wastewater amounting to around 3% of national water demand (Environment and Resources Authority – Sustainable Energy And Water Conservation Unit (2015), *The 2<sup>nd</sup> Water Catchment Management Plan for the Malta Water Catchment District 2015-2021*. Available online at [https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2nd\\_Water\\_Catchment\\_Management\\_Plan-Malta\\_Water\\_in\\_Maltese\\_Islands.pdf](https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2nd_Water_Catchment_Management_Plan-Malta_Water_in_Maltese_Islands.pdf) [accessed on 9 April 2021].

<sup>124</sup> Freshwater withdrawal data is made up of the groundwater production data of the Water Services Corporation together with estimates for other sectors.

<sup>125</sup> The agricultural sector is responsible for the bulk of groundwater withdrawals. The amounts of water used by this sector are estimated by means of a model for irrigation water use. Inputs into the model include the mean air temperature, total rainfall, area of irrigated land and the volume of agricultural production. The distribution of the annual rainfall is not taken into account and so the amounts actually used may vary from the estimated amount.

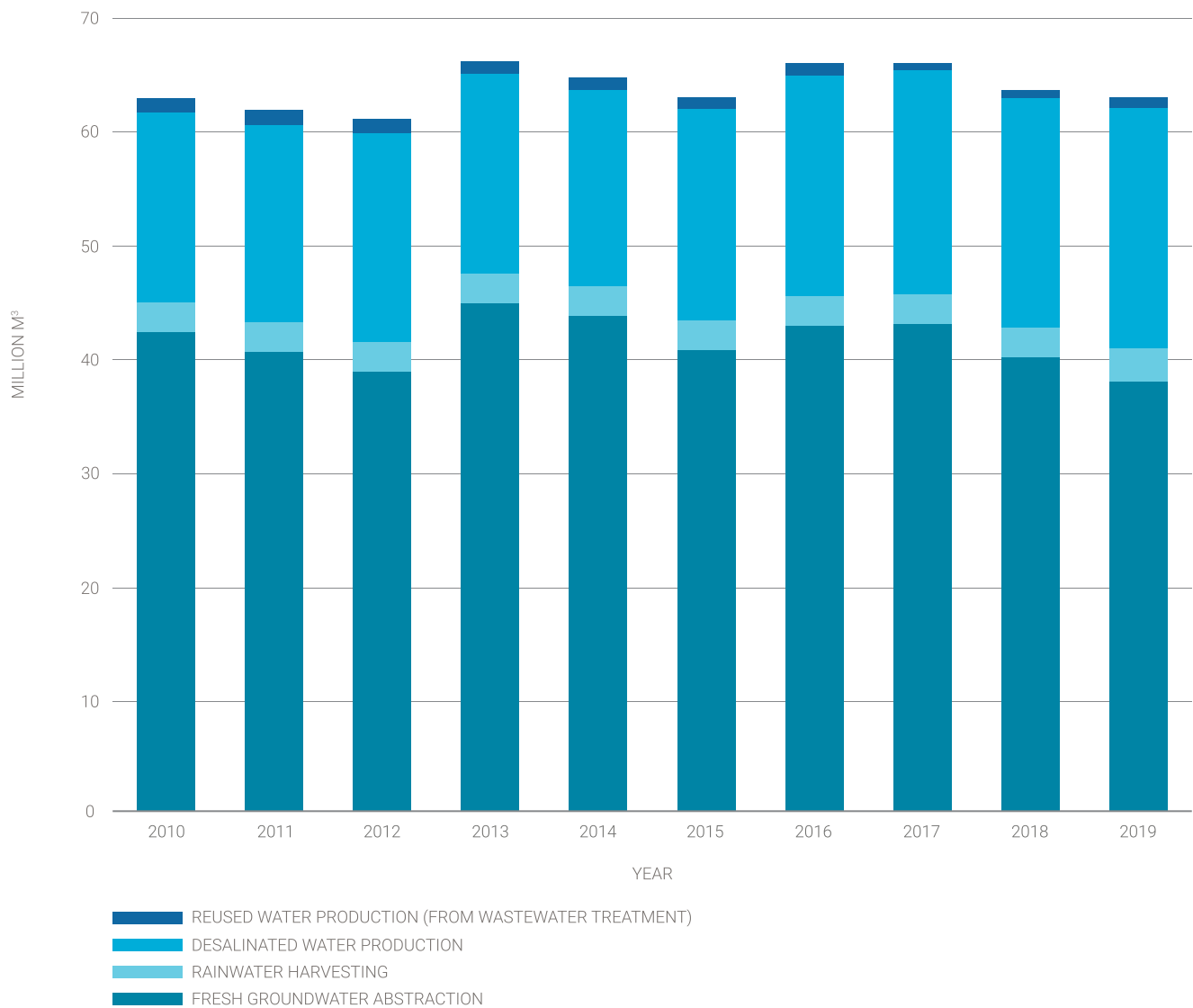


Chart 6.4: Water resources by source of abstraction and production; Joint Questionnaire on Inland Waters 2020 data submission, NSO

Since 2010, total water-use in Malta increased by only 0.3% from 58.86 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2010 to 59.03 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2019. In 2010, 29.9 million m<sup>3</sup> of total water used was by the 'agriculture, forestry, and fishing' sector <sup>126</sup>, while 19.5 million m<sup>3</sup> was used by private households, 6.2 million m<sup>3</sup> by the 'services' sector <sup>127</sup>, and 3.2 million m<sup>3</sup> by the 'industrial' sector.<sup>128</sup> In 2019, water usage by private households, the 'services' sector, and the 'industrial' sector increased by 18.7%, 40.9%, and 19.6% respectively when compared to 2010. Conversely, water usage by the 'agriculture, forestry, and fishing' sector decreased by 22.1%, mainly driven by lower agricultural production levels (Chart 6.5).

<sup>126</sup> NACE 01-03.

<sup>127</sup> NACE 45-99.

<sup>128</sup> NACE 05-43.

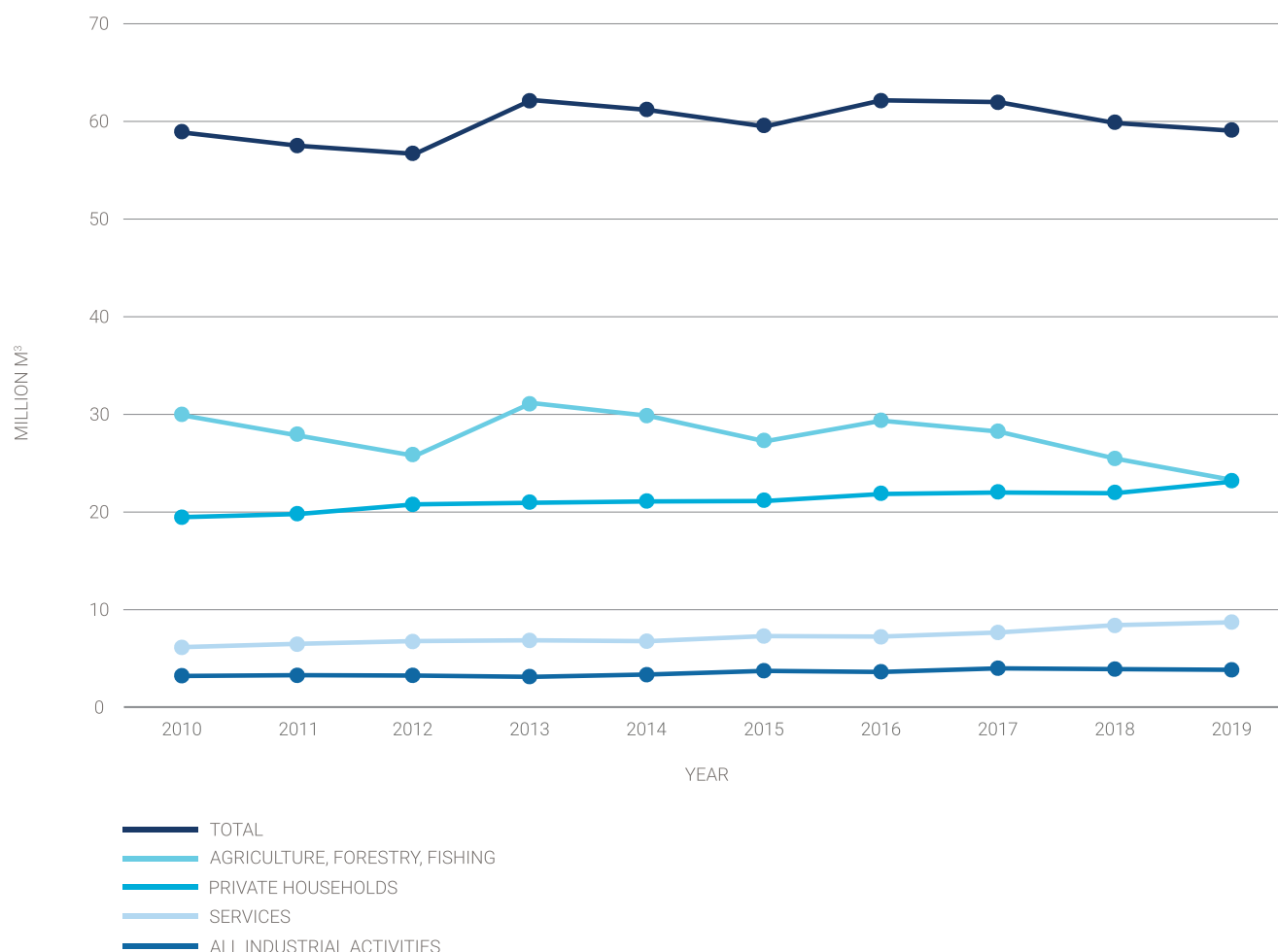


Chart 6.5: Water use by sector; Joint Questionnaire on Inland Waters 2020 data submission, NSO

## Sustainability and efficiency

The ratio between total freshwater withdrawn by all major sectors and total renewable freshwater resources shows the degree to which water resources are being exploited to meet the country's water demand. It measures a country's pressure on its water resources and therefore the challenge on the sustainability of its water use. Increased water stress, shown by an increase in the value of the indicator, has potentially negative effects on the sustainability of the natural resources and on economic development. On the other hand, low values of the indicator indicate that water does not represent a particular challenge for economic development and sustainability.

Data for Malta shows that available renewable freshwater resources (annual) during the period under review amounted to 84.6 million m<sup>3</sup>.<sup>129</sup> These freshwater resources are totally dependent

<sup>129</sup> The available freshwater resources is a Long-Term Annual Average (LTAA) calculated over the 30-year period 1985-2014. During these years precipitation varied from 338.2mm in 2001 to 900.6mm in 2003.

on local precipitation since Malta, being an archipelago of islands, does not have any external inflow (such as through rivers) from other countries. In 2010, the percentage of freshwater withdrawal from available freshwater resources was 53.1%. In 2019, the proportion of freshwater withdrawal decreased to 48.4%. However, the decreasing trend was not constant and in the intervening years fluctuations can be noted (Chart 6.6).

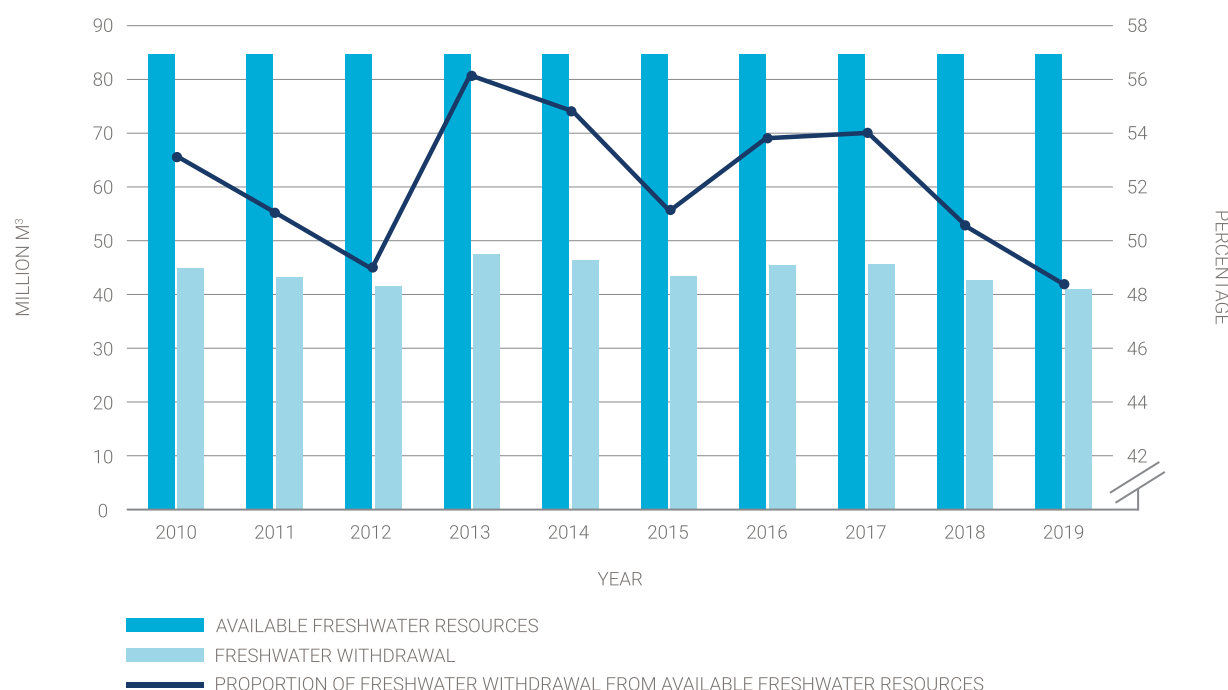


Chart 6.6: Available freshwater resources, freshwater withdrawal (left axis), and level of water stress (right axis); NSO

In addition to the above, the Water Exploitation Index (WEI+) is a commonly used indicator at EU level to gauge water stress. It quantifies how much water is abstracted and how much water is returned after use to the environment. In the absence of Europe-wide agreed formal targets, values above 20% are generally considered as an indication of water scarcity, while values equal or bigger than 40% indicate situations of severe water scarcity, i.e. the use of freshwater resources is clearly unsustainable.<sup>130</sup>

When computed over the period 2007 to 2014, the WEI+ index for Malta ranges between 46% and 103%. WEI+ calculations on a 'long term annual average' basis for the Malta Water Catchment District yield levels of 78%, thereby confirming the water stressed nature of the country.<sup>131</sup>

<sup>130</sup> European Environment Agency, *Use of freshwater resources in Europe*. Online: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/use-of-freshwater-resources-3/assessment-4> [accessed on 10 June 2021].

<sup>131</sup> Environment and Resources Authority, *The 2<sup>nd</sup> Water Catchment Management Plan for the Malta Water Catchment District 2015 – 2021*, available online at [https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2nd\\_Water\\_Catchment\\_Management\\_Plan-Malta\\_Water\\_in\\_Maltese\\_Islands-3.pdf](https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2nd_Water_Catchment_Management_Plan-Malta_Water_in_Maltese_Islands-3.pdf) [accessed on 22 July 2021].

Moreover, the percentage loss of water from the water distribution network is another measure that can be used to quantify the efficiency of the public water distribution system. In 2010, 14.0% of water inputted in the distribution network system was lost due to leakages. By 2019 water loss decreased by 2.8 percentage points to 11.2%. Since 2015, the average percentage loss of water from the distribution network has remained approximately the same (Chart 6.7).

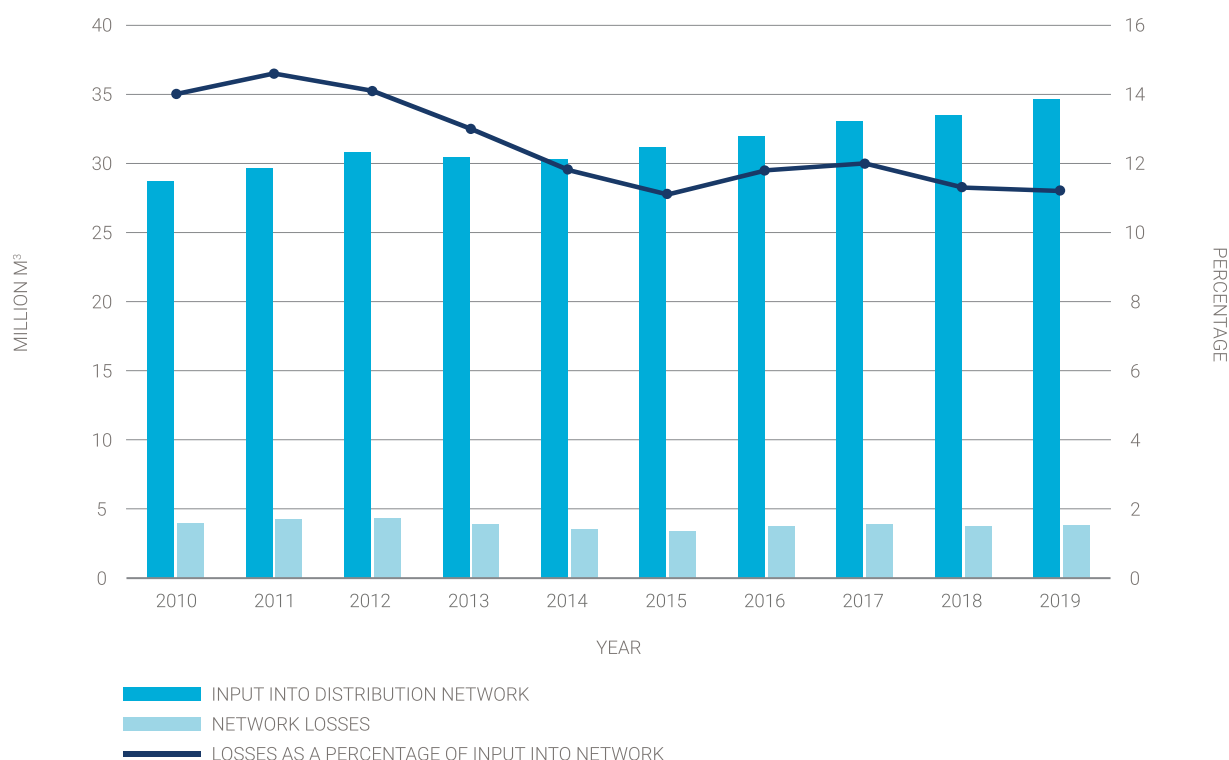


Chart 6.7: Leakages from the public water distribution network; WSC

The Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI) is a measure of how well the water system is being managed for the control of real losses at the current operating water pressure. It is the ratio of Current Annual Real Losses to Unavoidable Annual Real Losses. The benchmark set by the European Commission is for an ILI lower than 1.5.<sup>132</sup> In 2010, Malta's ILI stood at 2.10 and by 2015 it decreased to 1.91. By 2019, the ILI for Malta increased again to 2.14 (Chart 6.8).

<sup>132</sup> Commission Decision (EU) 2019/61 of 19 December 2018 on the sectoral reference document on best environmental management practices, sector environmental performance indicators and benchmarks of excellence for the public administration sector under Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS). See also, European Commission, *Minimising water leakages from the water distributing system*, 'Green Best Practice Community', online: <https://greenbestpractice.jrc.ec.europa.eu/node/587> [accessed on 2 August 2021].



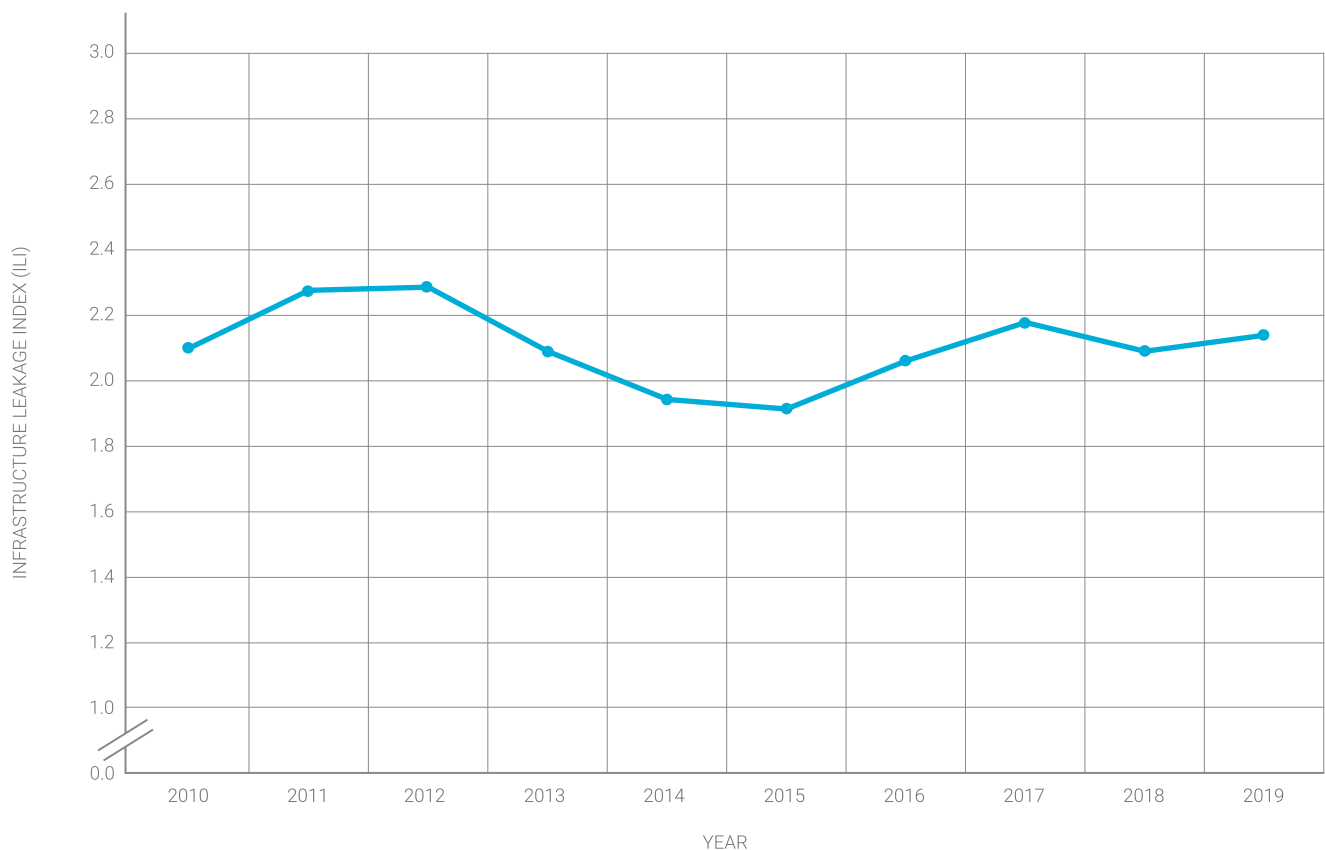


Chart 6.8: Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI), annual average; WSC

## Water quality

One of the SDG 6 targets aims at improving water quality. Good ambient water quality is important for the protection of human health. The EU drinking water standard is limited to 50 milligrams (mg) of nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3$ ) per litre (mg/l) to avoid threats to human health. Nitrate can persist in groundwater for a long time and accumulate at a high level through inputs from human activities, mainly from agricultural practices.<sup>133</sup>

In 2019, the percentage of groundwater bodies in Malta that exceeded the nitrate amount of 50mg/l stood at 70.5%, 2.2 percentage points less than the percentage of groundwater bodies exceeding 50mg/l of nitrates in 2010. The reduction is further pronounced (8.1 percentage points less) when the figure for 2019 is compared to the percentage of groundwater bodies exceeding 50mg/l of nitrates in 2012 (Chart 6.9).

<sup>133</sup> Official Journal of the European Communities (1991), *Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agriculture sources*, OJ L 375, 31.12.1991, p. 01–08.

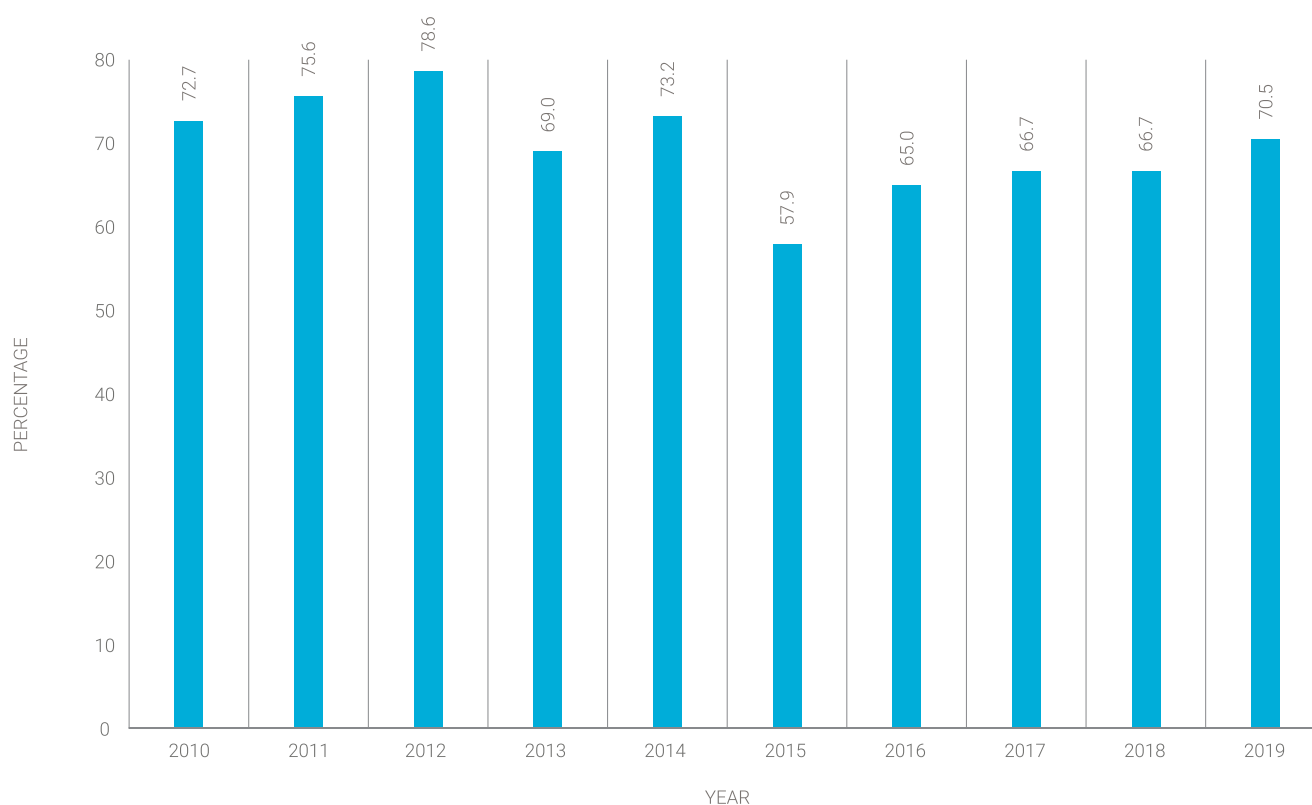


Chart 6.9: Percentage of groundwater bodies exceeding the nitrate quality standard of 50mg/l; Energy and Water Agency (EWA)

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 6 is reflected in Table 6.1 below. The targets related to SDG 6, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 6 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 6 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 6 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>134</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>135</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>136</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.



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<sup>134</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].










<sup>135</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>136</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].

**Legend:**

	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

*Table 6.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 6*

TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	
6.2	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	Proportion of population having at least a bath, a shower or a toilet in their household	
6.3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	Pollution removal of wastewater discharged to sea	
		Percentage of groundwater bodies exceeding the nitrate quality standard of 50mg/l	
6.4	By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity	Water use by sector	
		Freshwater withdrawal	
		Level of water stress	
		Leakages from the public water distribution network	
		Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI)	





# SDG 07



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable  
and modern energy for all

## **Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

Sustainable Development Goal 7 consists of a number of targets that aim at universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services and to increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix and energy efficiency. Achieving the targets of SDG 7 would offer new prospects through new economic opportunities and jobs, empowered women, children and youth, better education and health, more sustainable, equitable and inclusive communities, and greater protections from, and resilience to climate change.

Fossil fuels such as coal, oil or gas have been major sources of electricity production. However, burning carbon fuels produces large amounts of greenhouse gases which cause climate change and have harmful impacts on people's well-being and the environment. Yet, without a stable electricity supply, countries would not be able to power their economies. Presently, energy efficiency continues to improve, and renewable energy is making impressive gains. Nevertheless, more focused attention is needed to improve access to clean and safe fuels and technologies.

### **Access to energy**

In Malta, the percentage of population with access to electricity is approximately 100%.<sup>137</sup> The European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) Survey, which is used to monitor the development of poverty and social inclusion in the EU, shows that the share of population in Malta who were unable to keep their home adequately warm in 2019 was that of 7.8%, 6.5 percentage points less than the percentage registered in 2010 (Chart 7.1).

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<sup>137</sup> World Bank, *World Development Indicators; Sustainable Development Goals*, online: <https://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdgs/index.html> [accessed 13 April 2021].



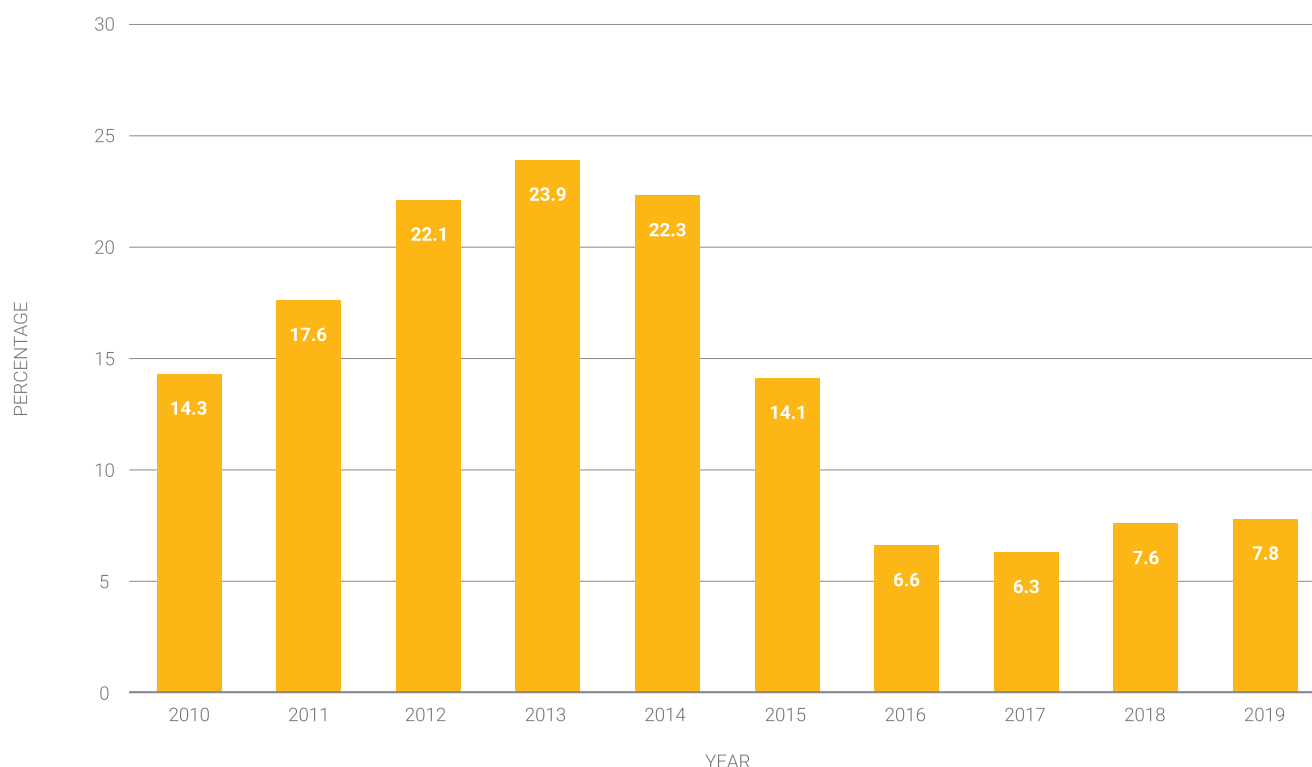


Chart 7.1: Percentage of population in Malta unable to keep home adequately warm; EU-SILC, Eurostat

In 2010, the electricity supplied from power plants to the network comprised the local generation from the two power stations in Malta, and from March 2015, it was also partly imported via the Sicily-Malta interconnector. From 2017, the electricity supplied was generated from Enemalta plants at Delimara and Marsa, D3 Power Generation Ltd and Electrogas Malta Ltd plants at Delimara and partly imported via the Sicily-Malta interconnector.

During 2019, the electricity supply in Malta comprised 67.8% generation from power plants, 24.0% from net imports, and 8.2% from renewable resources. In 2019, the electricity supply from gross national production, including from renewable sources, exports, and imports amounted to 2,653.73 GWh, a 33.2% increase over the total electricity supplied in 2010 (Chart 7.2).

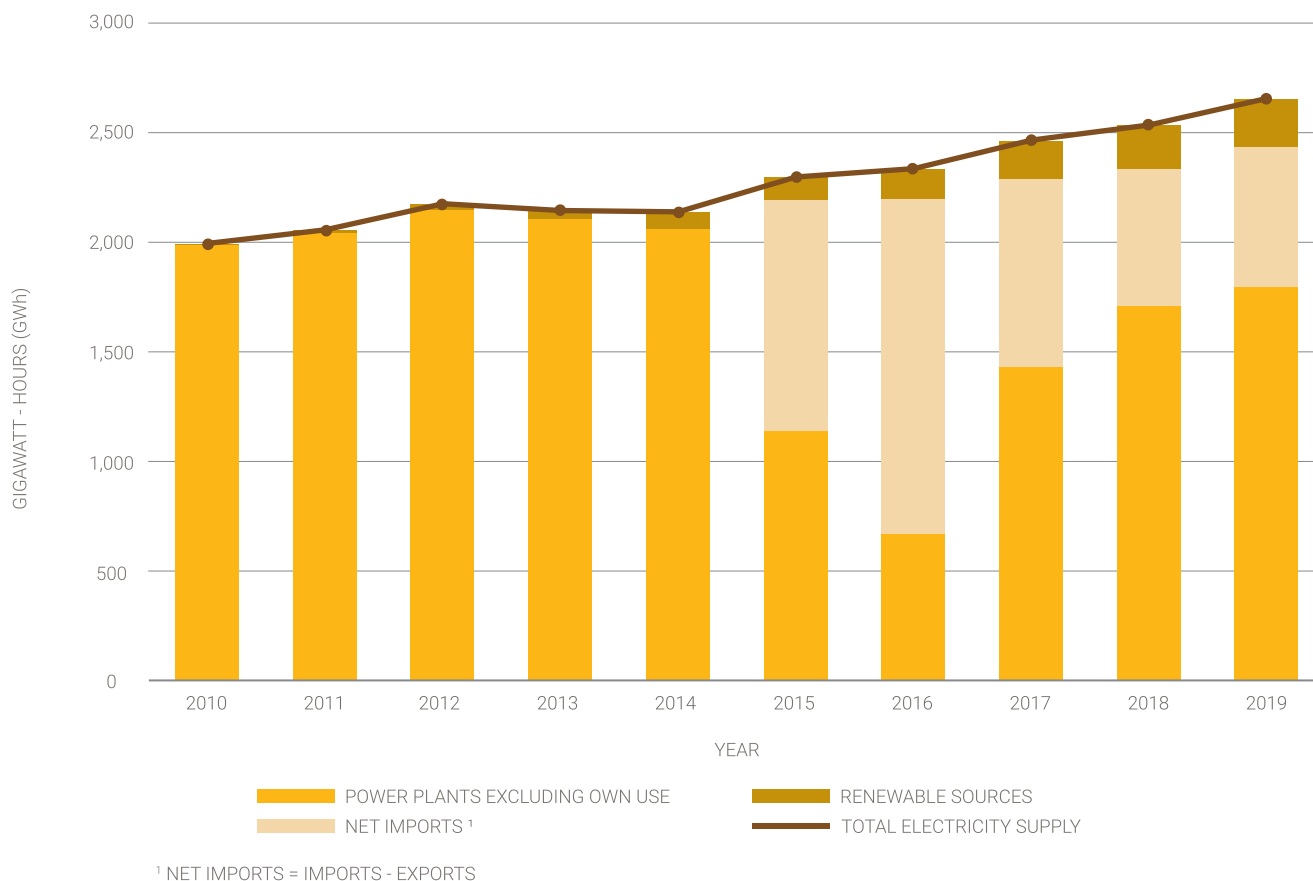


Chart 7.2: Annual Electricity supply; Enemalta plc, Energy and Water Agency (EWA) and the Regulator for Energy and Water Services (REWS), NSO

The increase in the supply of electricity complements the increase in the demand for energy. In 2019, the average demand for electricity stood at 414 MW, an increase of 26.2% from the average demand in 2010 (Chart 7.3).

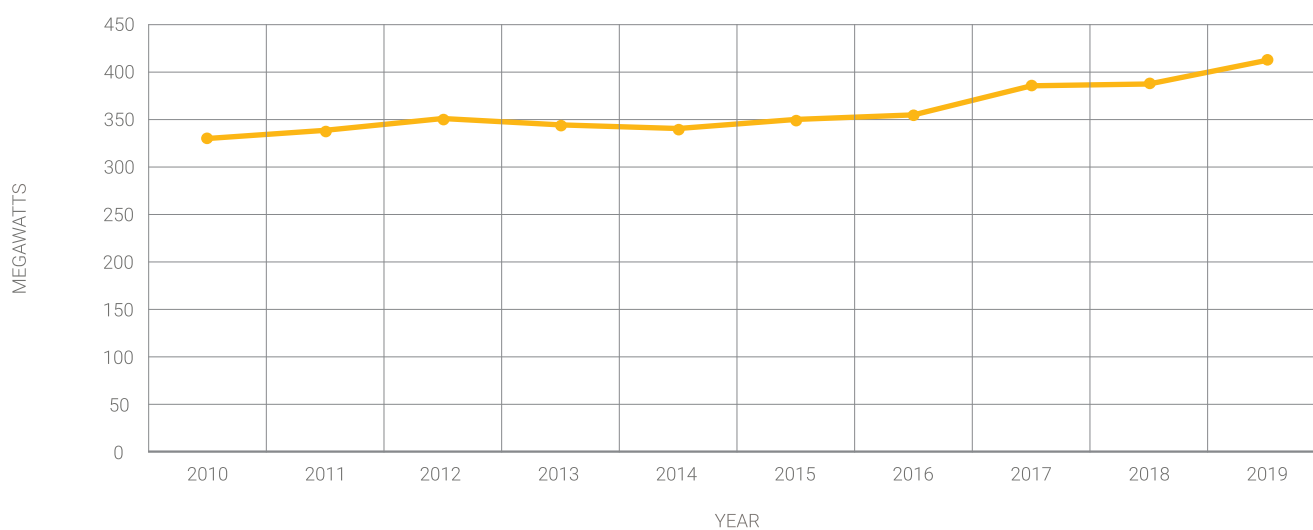


Chart 7.3: Yearly average electricity demand; Enemalta plc, NSO

## Renewable energy

Renewable energy technologies represent a major element in strategies for greening economies everywhere in the world and for tackling the critical global problem of climate change. Renewable energy refers to all forms of energy whose consumption does not deplete their availability in the future. Renewable energy in Malta is produced from photovoltaic panels, micro wind turbines and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plants. In 2019, energy harvesting from renewable sources amounted to 218.1 GWh, a substantial increase from 2013 (Chart 7.4).

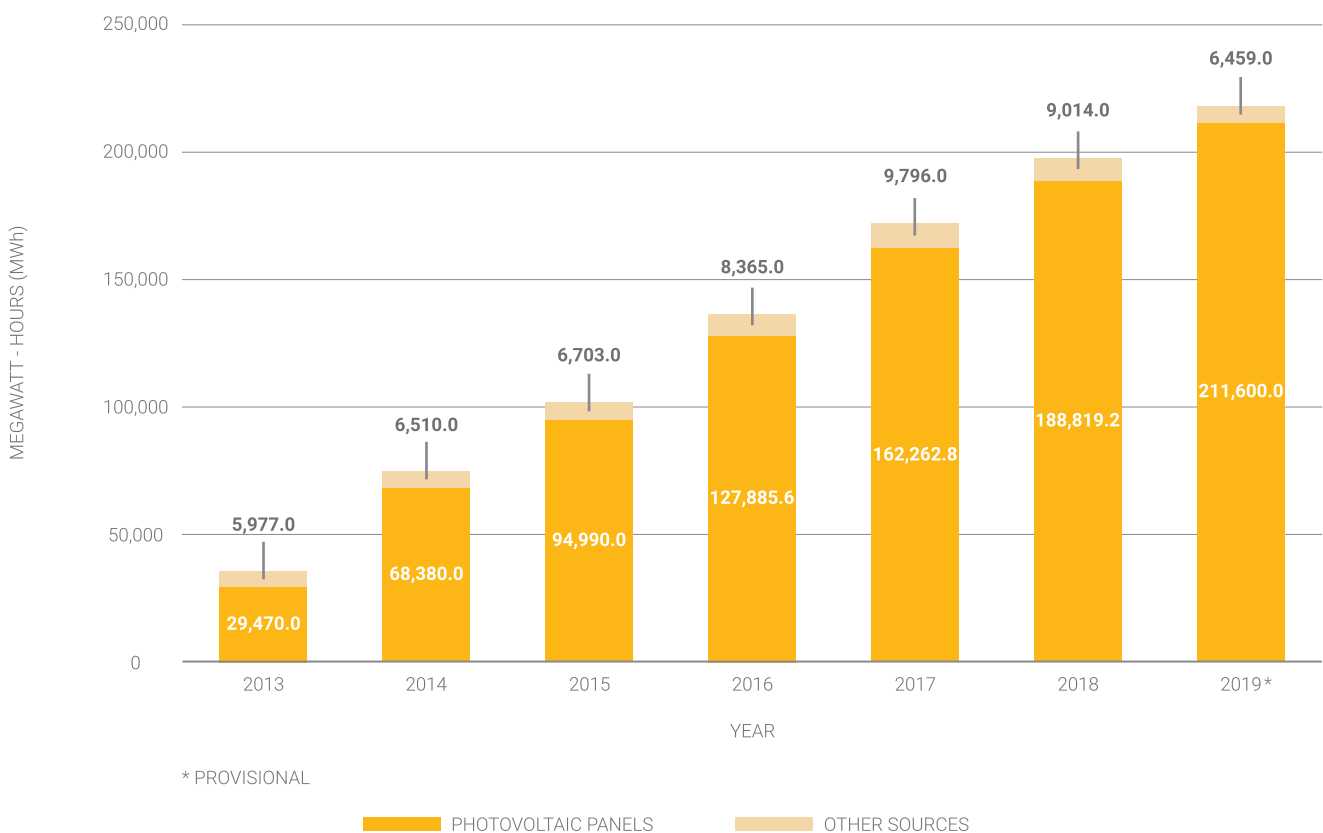


Chart 7.4: Estimated electricity production from renewable sources; EWA, NSO

In 2013, the share of electricity generated from renewable energy from the total supply of energy was that of 1.6%. By 2019, the share of electricity generated from renewable energy increased to 10.5% (Chart 7.5).

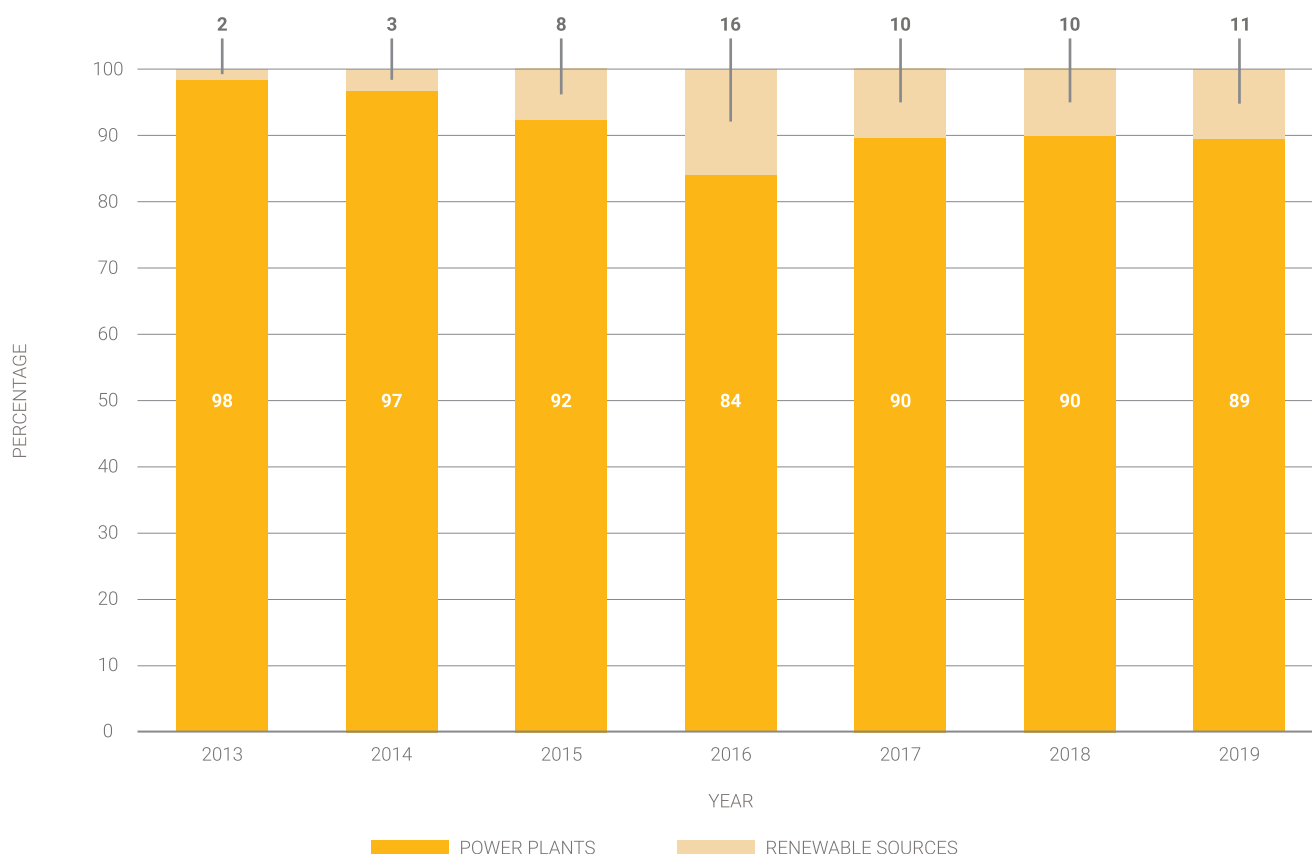


Chart 7.5: Electricity supply by source; Enemalta plc, EWA, REWS, NSO

An important element is the amount of renewable energy actually consumed rather than the capacity for renewable energy production, which cannot always be fully utilised. Focusing on consumption by the end user avoids distortions caused by the fact that conventional energy sources are subject to significant energy losses along the production chain. In Malta, the renewable share of gross final energy consumption, i.e. the energy used by end-consumers plus grid losses and self-consumption of power plants, was 8.49% in 2019, an increase of 4.73 percentage points from the 3.76% in 2013 (Chart 7.6).

In 2019, the largest share of renewable energy was consumed for heating and cooling—25.7%, followed by the transport sector which used a share of 8.69%, and by the electricity production sector with a share of 8.04%. Since 2013, all sectors increased their share in the consumption of renewable energy, with the largest increase registered in heating and cooling (Chart 7.7).

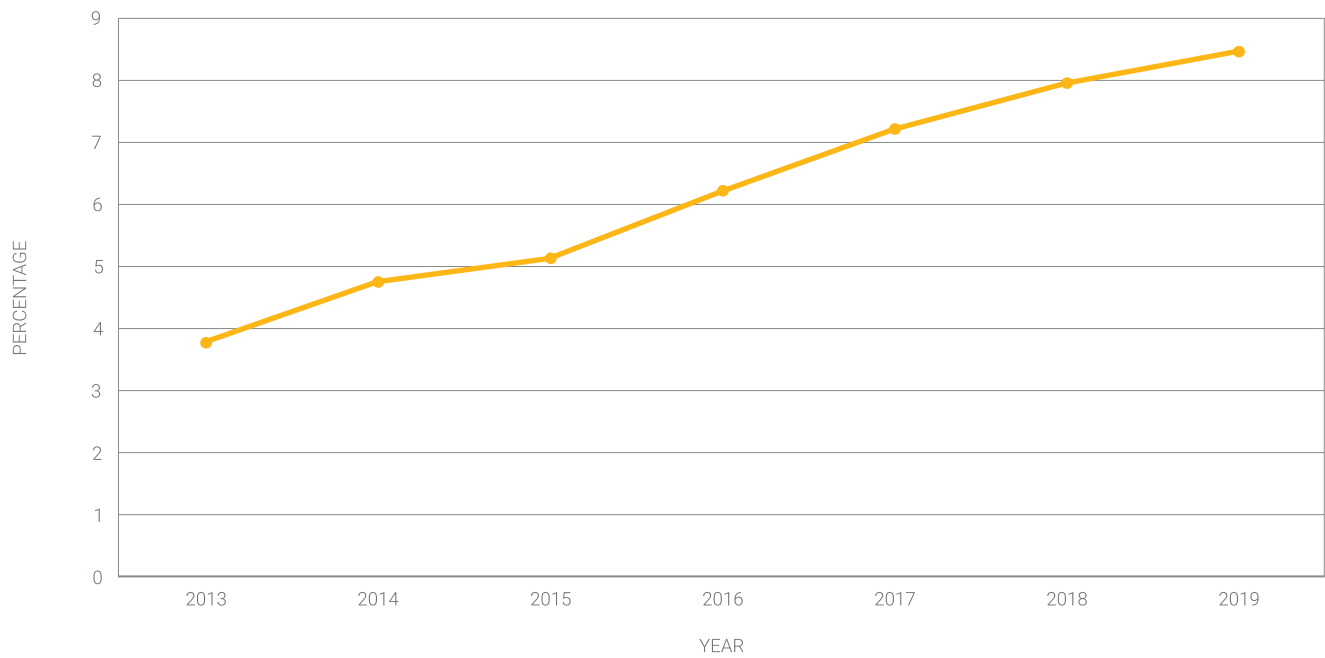


Chart 7.6: Total consumption of electricity generated from renewable sources; Eurostat

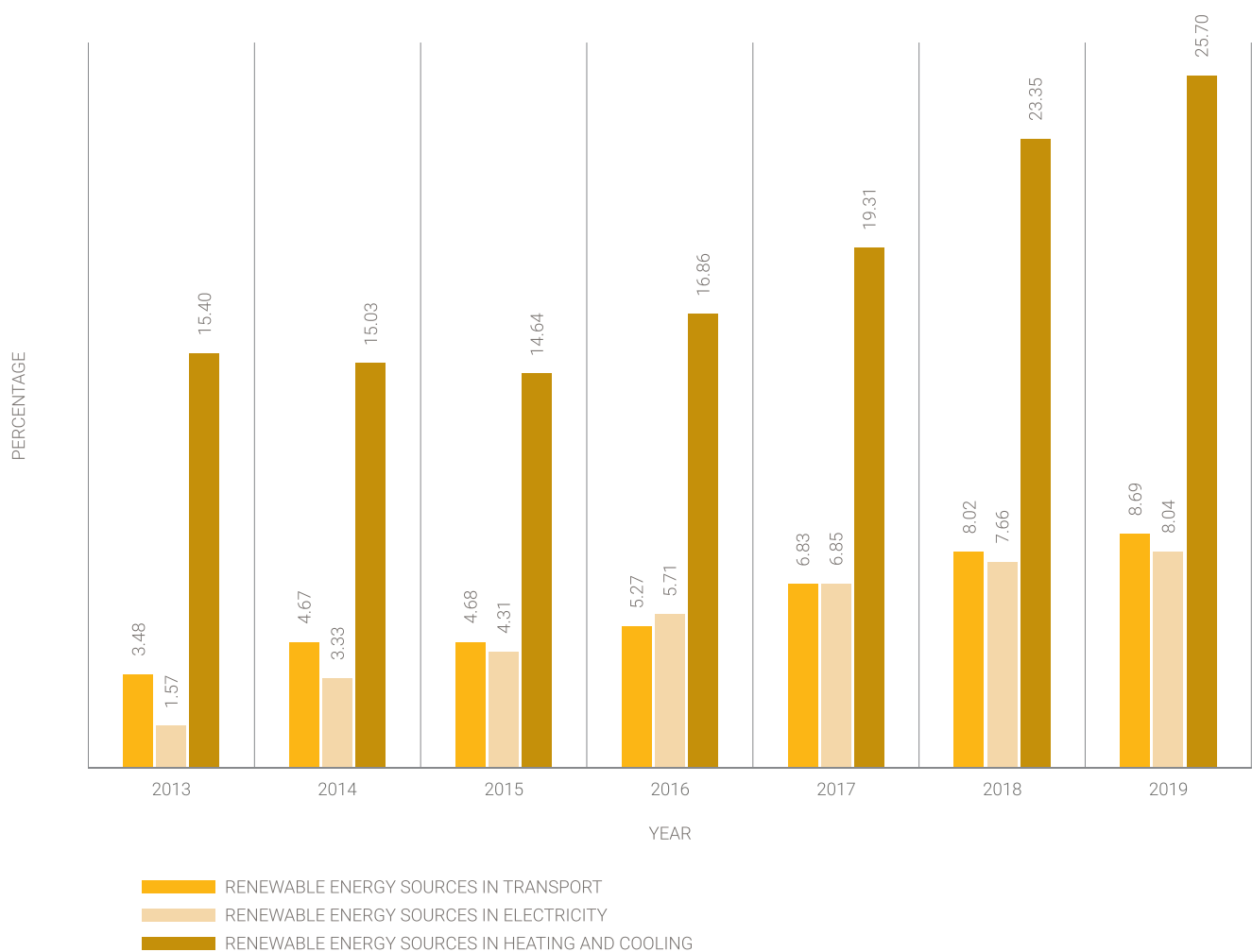


Chart 7.7: Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption by sector; Eurostat

## Energy efficiency

SDG 7 calls for the improvement in energy efficiency. The ‘energy productivity’ indicator worked out by Eurostat is considered as similar to global SDG indicator 7.3.1 “Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP”. The EU’s indicator measures the amount of economic output, in the unit of Purchasing Power Standard (PPS), that is produced per unit of gross available energy, which represents the quantity of energy products necessary to satisfy all demand of entities. A high economic output per gross available energy, measured in euro per Kg of oil equivalent, shows higher energy efficiency.

In 2019, the economic output of Malta was 3.51 euro per Kg of oil equivalent, 23.2% more than the ‘energy productivity’ measured in 2010—2.85 euro per Kg of oil equivalent (Chart 7.8).

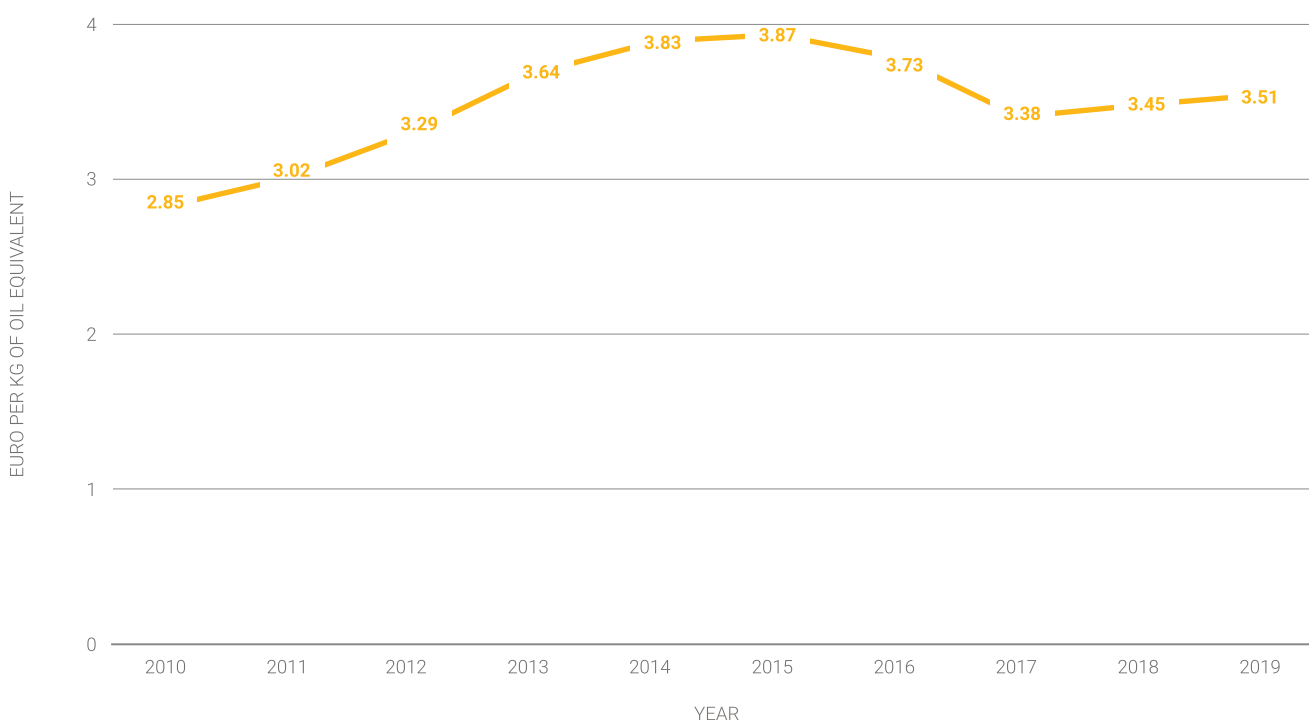


Chart 7.8: Energy Productivity in euro per Kg of oil equivalent; Eurostat

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 7 is reflected in Table 7.1 below. The targets related to SDG 7, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 7 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 7 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 7 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>138</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>139</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>140</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.




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<sup>138</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].









<sup>139</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>140</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].

**Legend:**

	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

*Table 7.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 7*

TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
7.1	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	Annual electricity supply	
		Yearly average electricity demand	
		Percentage of population in Malta unable to keep home adequately warm	
7.2	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	Estimated electricity production from renewable sources	
		Electricity supply by source	
		Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption by sector	
		Total consumption of electricity generated from renewable sources	
7.3	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency	Energy productivity	







# SDG 08



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

## **| Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

Crucial aspects of decent work are broadly integrated in the targets of many of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also addresses directly decent work and economic growth in SDG Goal 8. Decent work means opportunities for everyone to get work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration. All crucial elements underlying robust democratic societies.

The targets of Sustainable Development Goal 8 link education and training needs to the demand for decent jobs by providing youths with skills that match labour market demands. This would ensure that youths are given access to social protection and basic services. SDG 8 also links access to financial services with the potential for economic growth since services such as savings, insurance, payments, credit and remittances allow people to manage their lives, plan and pay expenses, grow their businesses and improve their overall welfare.

### **GDP Growth**

SDG 8 includes targets to sustain a per capita economic growth and to achieve higher levels of economic productivity. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measures the monetary value of final goods and services produced in an economic territory country in a given period of time. The GDP per capita is a proxy for the average standard of living of residents in a country, and the annual growth rate of GDP per capita is calculated as the percentage change in the real GDP per capita between two consecutive years. A positive percentage change in annual real GDP per capita can be interpreted as an increase in the average standard of living of the residents in a country. In Malta, the growth rate of real GDP per capita stood at 1.4% in 2019. The highest growth rate was 7.0% in 2015 and the lowest in 2011 with 0.0% (Chart 8.1).<sup>141</sup>

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<sup>141</sup> GDP as per NSO News Release (NR) 097/2021 of 28 May 2021.

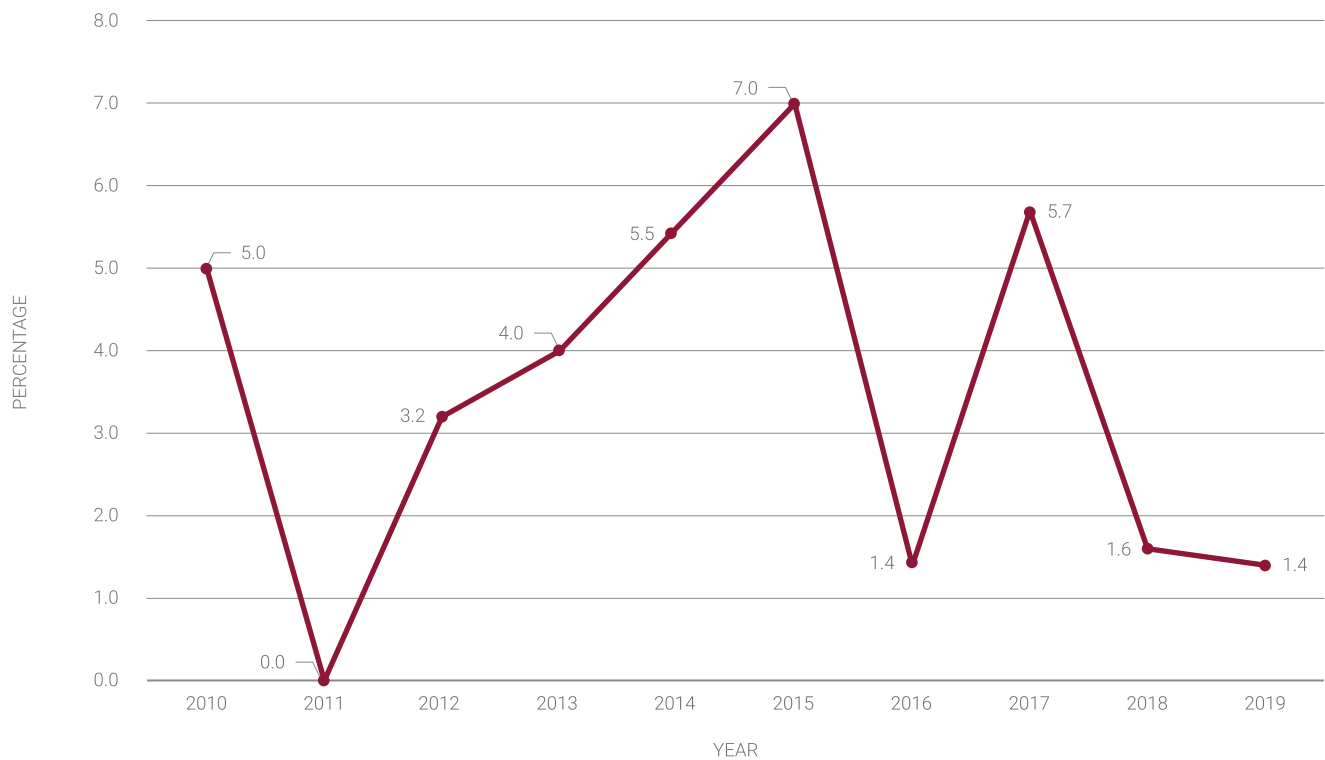


Chart 8.1: Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita; NSO

Furthermore, the real GDP per employed person represents a measure of labour productivity growth, thus providing information on the evolution, efficiency and quality of human capital in the production process. This indicator casts light on the work effectiveness by those who are employed. Data shows that the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person in Malta decreased by 1.1% in 2019. In the period 2010–2019 the average growth rate of real GDP per employed person was 1.0 (Chart 8.2).

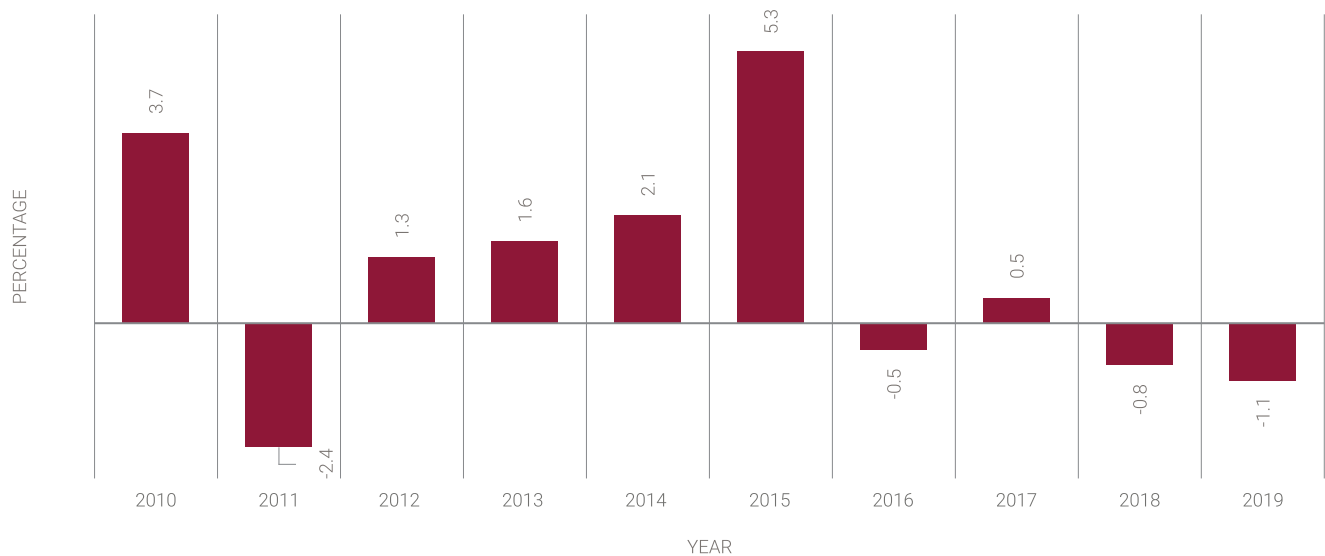


Chart 8.2: Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person; NSO

## Employment

Economic growth in a country can be ascribed either to increased employment or to more effective work by those who are employed. With regards to the former, in Malta the share of the population aged 20 to 64 which was employed in 2019 stood at 76.8% of the population, an increase of 16.7 percentage points from the employment rate of 2010. The percentages of both males and females in employment increased, and the gap between the employment rates of males and females decreased from 36.6% in 2010 to 20.7% in 2019 (Chart 8.3).

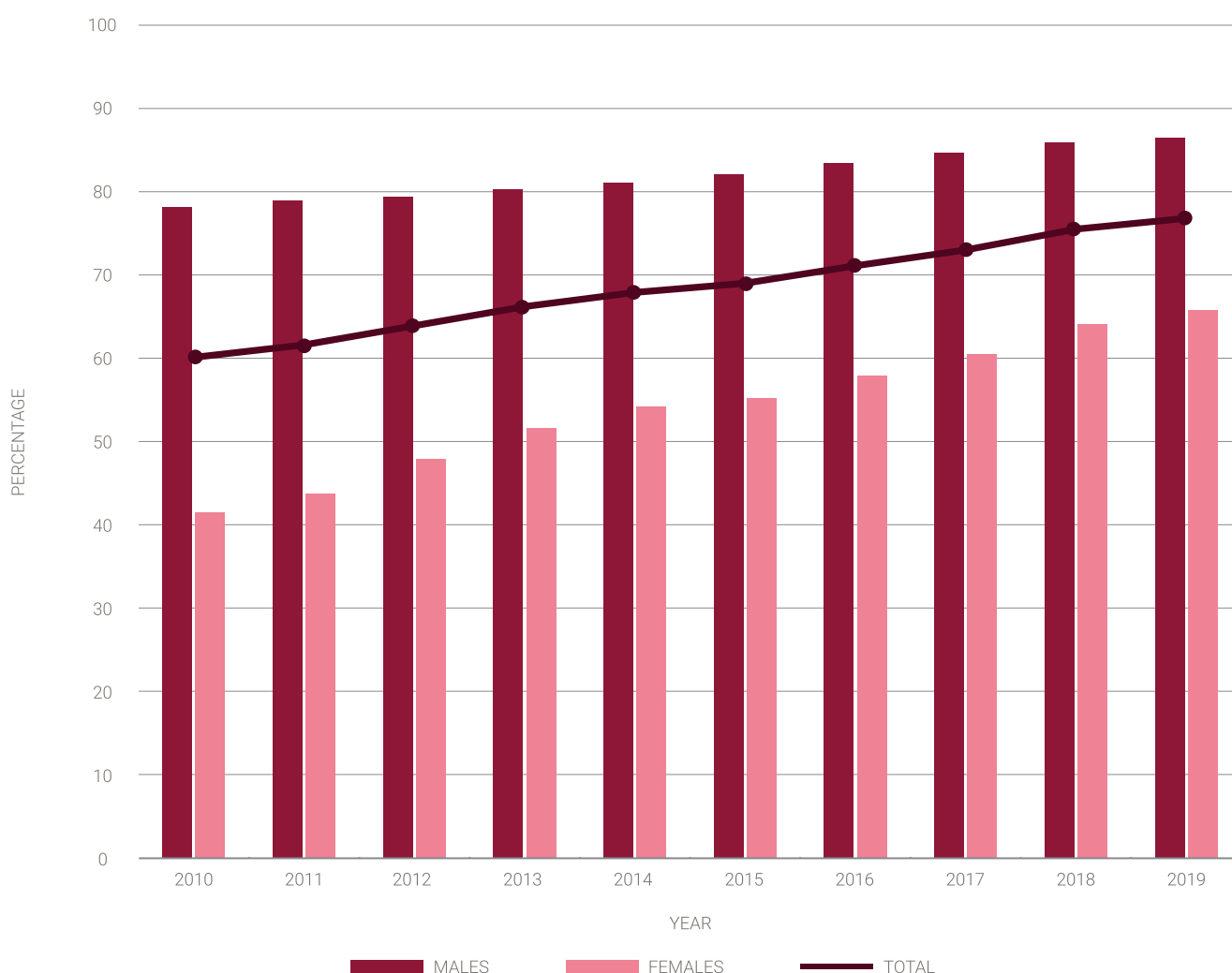


Chart 8.3: Employment rate; LFS, Eurostat

The unemployment rate is also a useful measure of the underutilisation of the labour supply. It reflects the inability of an economy to generate employment for those persons who want to work but are not doing so, even though they are available for employment and actively seeking work. In 2019, the unemployment rate in Malta (those aged 15–74-years) stood at 3.6%; 3.4% of the unemployed where males while 3.0% were females. Since 2010, the unemployment rate

decreased from 6.9% to 3.6% (Chart 8.4).

The highest share of unemployed was among those aged 15 to 24. In 2019, 9.3% of the unemployed were aged from 15 to 24, while the rate of the unemployed of those aged from 25 to 74 stood at 2.9%. Also, for those aged from 15 to 24 the highest rate of unemployed were males, while for those aged from 25 to 74 the highest rate of unemployed were females (Charts 8.5 and 8.6).



Chart 8.4: Unemployment rate (15–74 years old); LFS, NSO

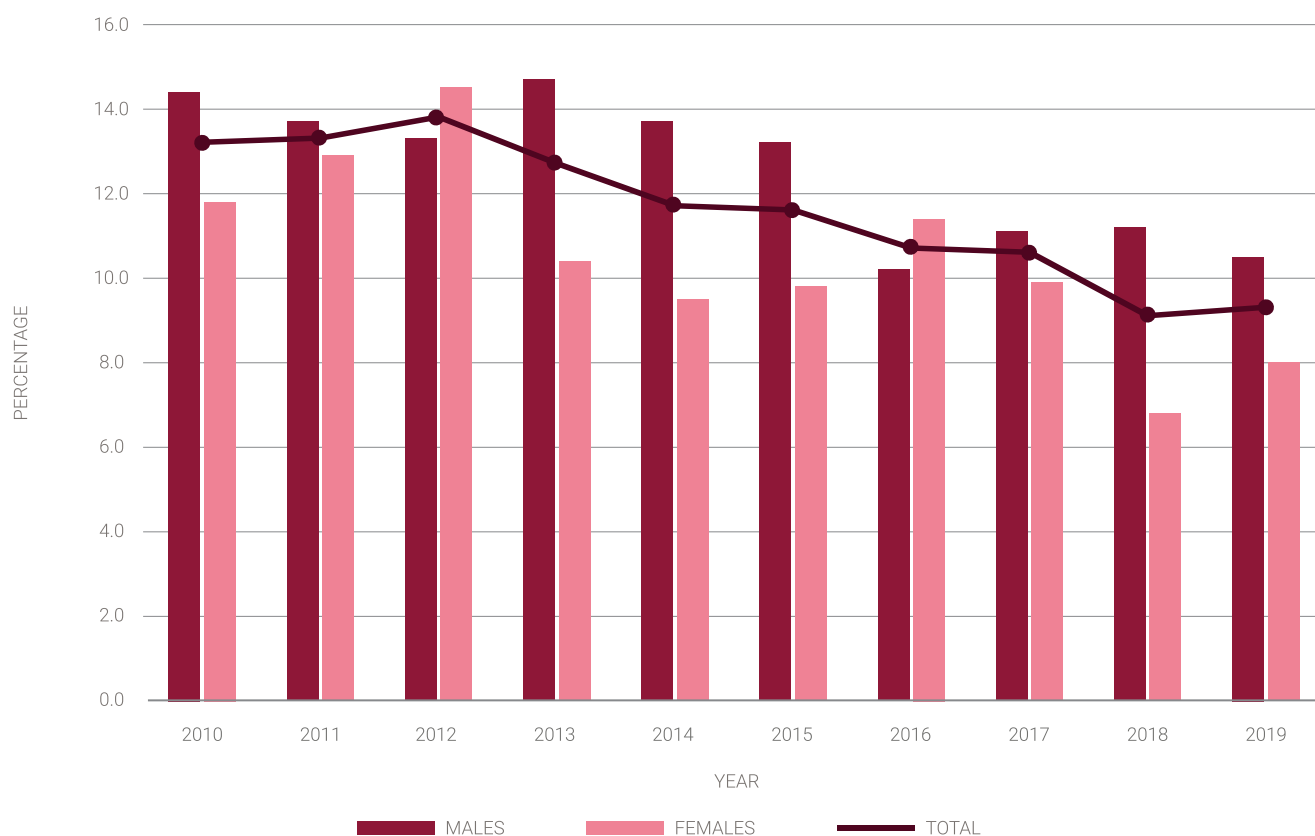


Chart 8.5: Unemployment rate (15-24 years old); LFS, NSO

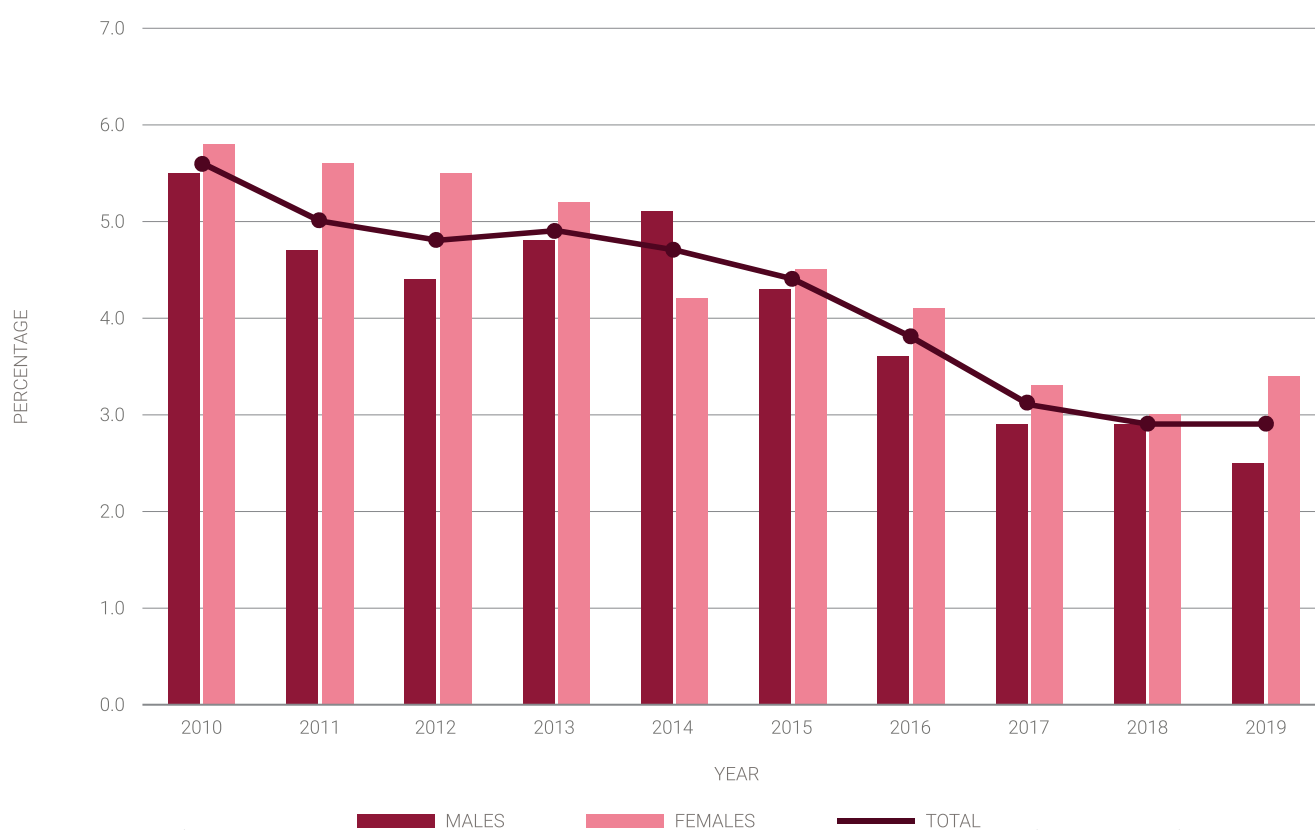


Chart 8.6: Unemployment rate (25-74 years old); LFS, NSO



Furthermore, a broader measure of potential youth labour market entrants is taken from the share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) since this indicator includes discouraged youth workers as well as those who are outside the labour force due to disability and engagement in household chores, among other reasons. For the purpose of this indicator, persons will be considered in education, if they are in formal or non-formal education. Indeed, one of the SDG 8 targets aims to reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

In the last 10 years the rate of youth NEET decreased from 9.5% to 8.6%. In 2019, the rate of female youth NEET was that of 9.0% while the rate of males was 8.2% (Chart 8.7).

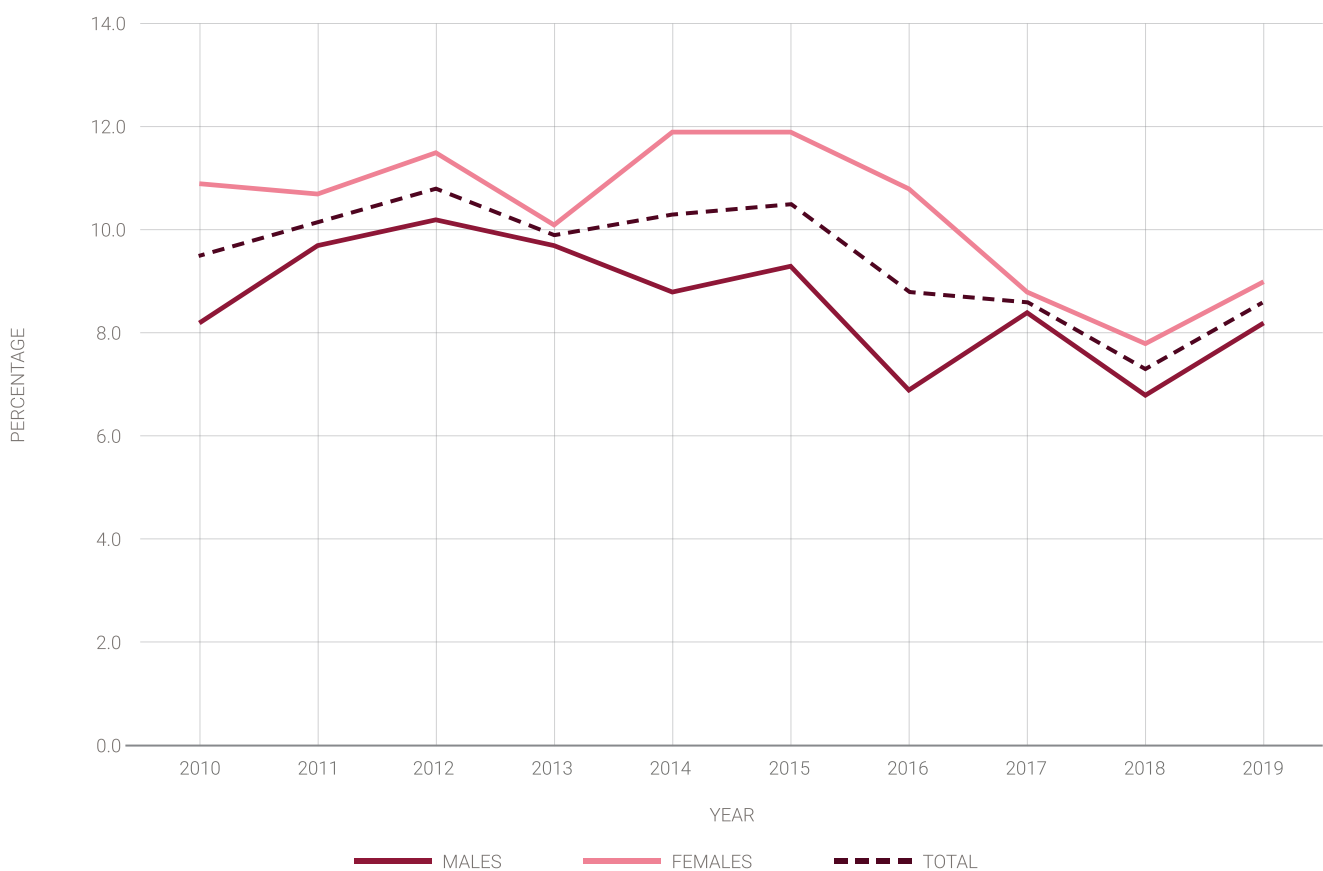


Chart 8.7: Proportion of youth (aged 15–24) not in education, employment or training; LFS, NSO

## Earnings

SDG 8 seeks to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all and equal pay for work of equal value. Earnings are a key aspect of quality of employment and living conditions. Information on hourly earnings provides some indication of the extent to which pay equality is respected or achieved. In 2019, the mean hourly earnings of males was that of 9.93 Euros, while for females 9.30 Euros. Since 2010, the mean hourly earnings of males and females both increased, however the percentage increase in the period 2010–2019 for males was 36.6% while the increase for females was 25.7% (Chart 8.8).

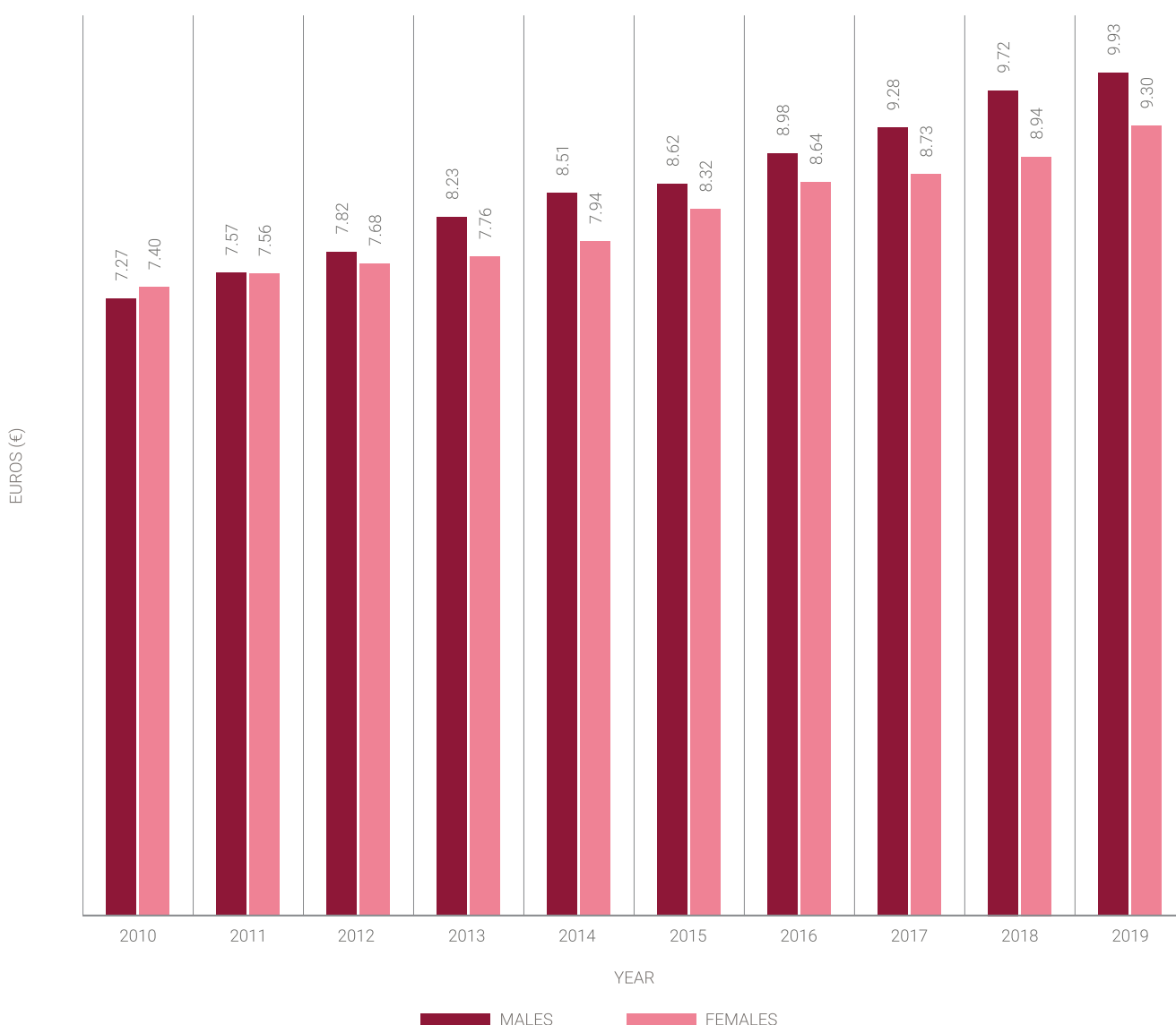


Chart 8.8: Mean hourly earnings; LFS, NSO

## Accidents

The goal for decent work also includes the element of safety. SDG 8 includes a target requiring the protection of labour rights and the promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers. Statistics on fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries provide information on the level of safety for workers in Malta.

In 2019, the rate of non-fatal accidents (per 100,000 workers) at work in Malta stood at 1278.9, a decrease from the 2010 rate of 2037.7. In 2019, similar to other years, the highest rate of victims of non-fatal accidents was recorded for males at 1662.8 (Chart 8.9). Moreover, the average rate (per 100,000 workers) of fatal accidents at work during the years 2018–2020 was 1.84. Since the period 2009–2011 the highest average rate of fatal accidents was in the period 2009–2011 with 2.90 fatal accidents per 100,000 workers. The highest average rate of fatal accidents for males was in the period 2012–2014 with 4.47 fatal accidents per 100,000 workers (Chart 8.10).

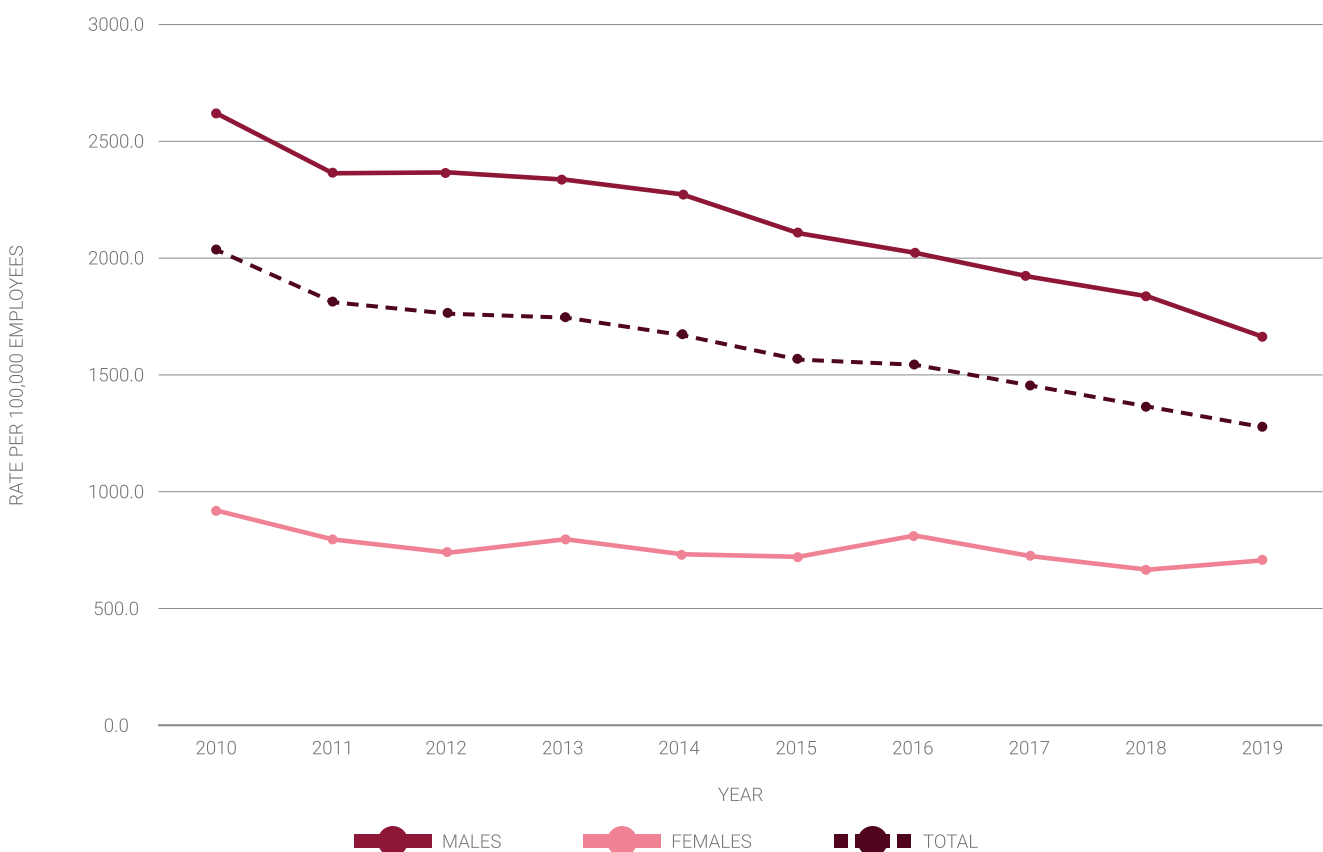


Chart 8.9: Non-fatal accidents at work, per 100,000 employees; Social Security Department, NSO

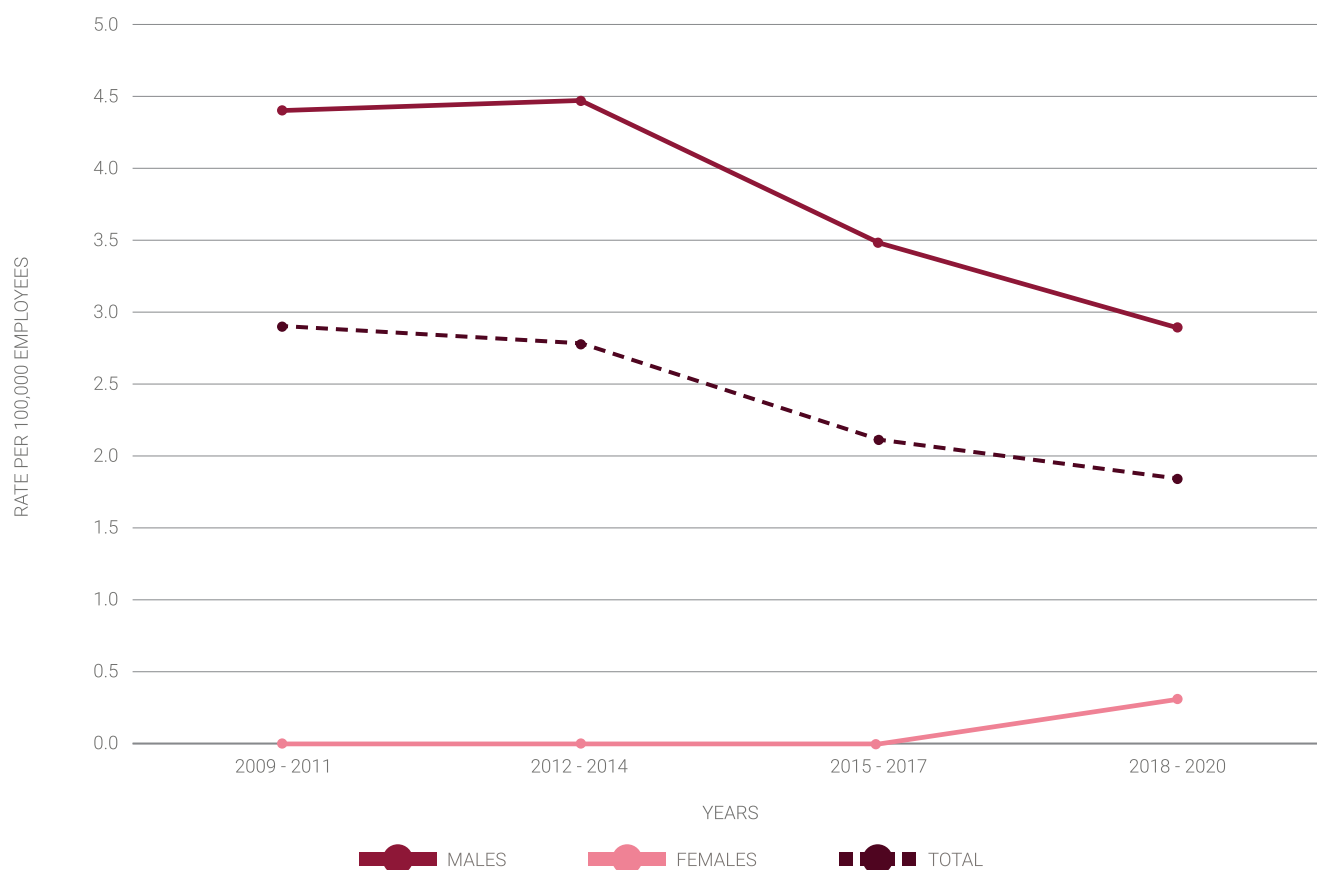


Chart 8.10: Fatal accidents at work, per 100,000 employees (3-year averages); Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA), NSO

## Access to banking services

Strengthening the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all is also a target of SDG 8. Access to and use of formal financial services is essential. As banks remain one of the key institutions for access to formal financial services, having an accessible bank branch is an important initial point of access to financial services. In 2019, commercial banks had 27.63 branches per 100,000 adults (15 years +) in Malta. The rate of branches per 100,000 adults declined by 30% since 2010 (Chart 8.11).

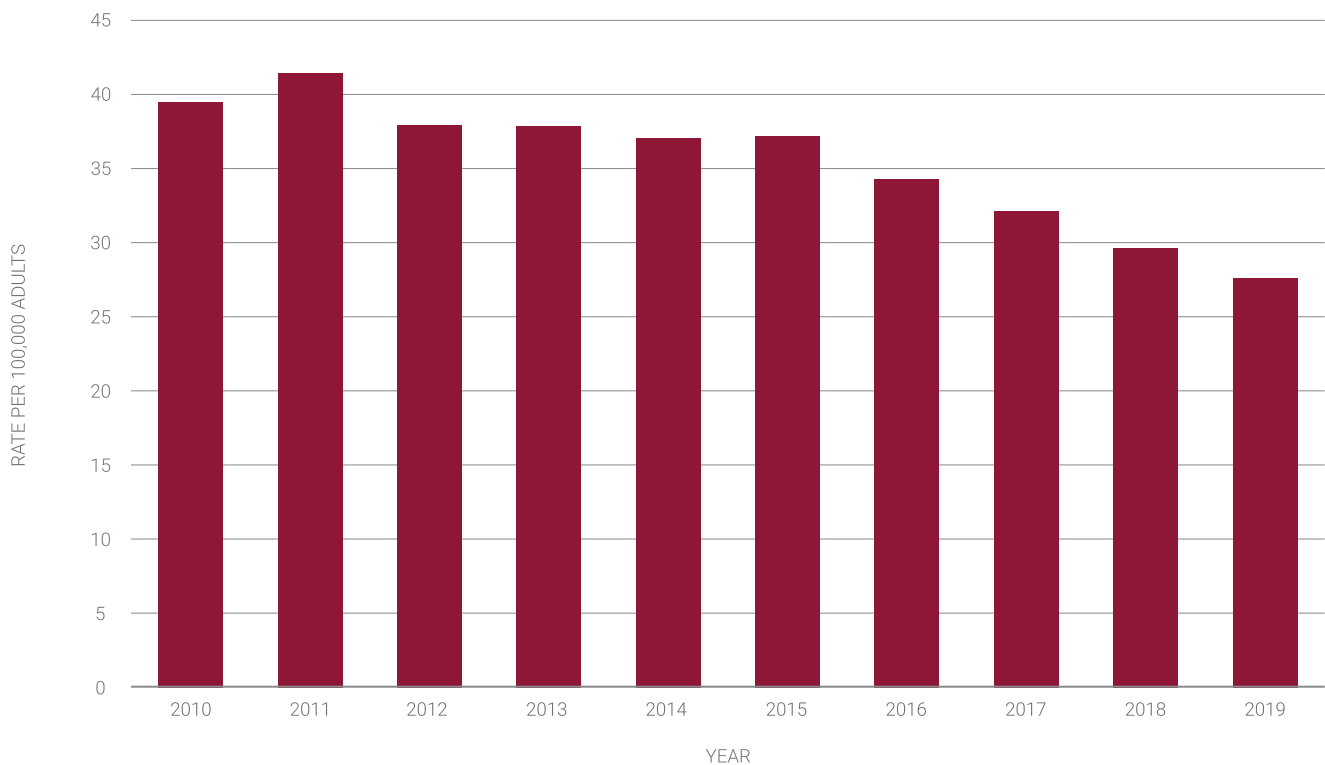
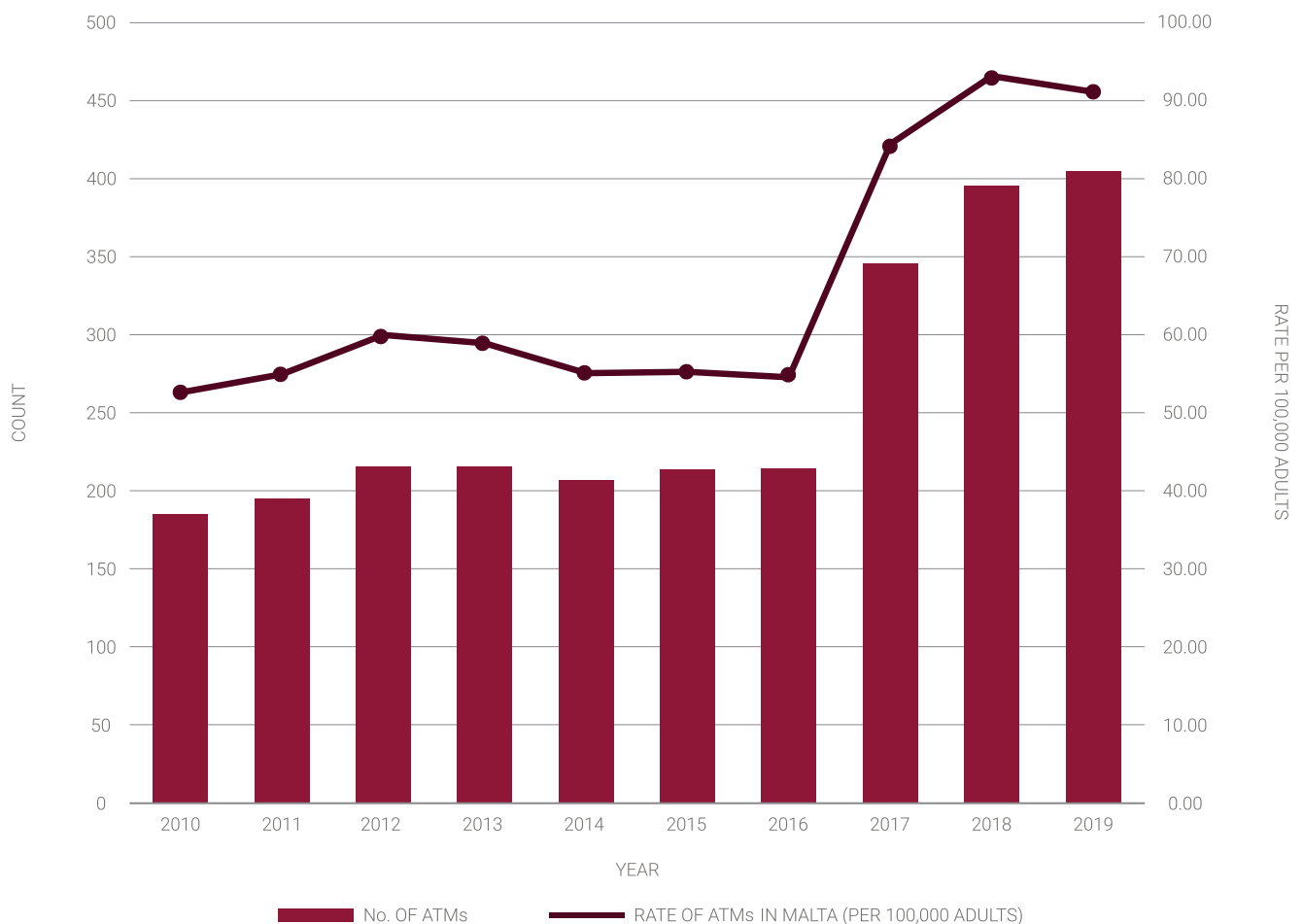


Chart 8.11: Commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults; Financial Access Survey, International Monetary Fund (IMF)<sup>142</sup>

Bank branches are complemented by other important points of access, such as automated teller machines (ATMs) of all formal financial institutions, which can extend financial services to locations without branches and also augment services even where branches are present. In 2019, the number of ATMs in Malta was that of 405, an increase of 119% from the number of ATMs in 2010. The rate of ATMs per 100,000 adult population (15 years and older) also increased from 52.45 in 2010 to 90.93 in 2019 (Chart 8.12).

<sup>142</sup> The Financial Access Survey (FAS) is based on administrative data collected by central banks and other financial regulators. For more information see online: <https://data.imf.org/?sk=E5DCAB7E-A5CA-4892-A6EA-598B5463A34C&slid=1412015057755> [accessed on 22 June 2021].



*Chart 8.12: Number of ATMs (left axis), and rate of ATMs per 100,000 adults–15 years and older (right axis); Central Bank of Malta (ATM Cash Withdrawals in Malta – 2019), NSO*

Having access to an account is an important starting point for people to access a range of financial services. In 2017, the percentage of adults (15 years +) who reported having an account (by themselves or together with someone else) at a bank or another type of financial institution or mobile-money-service in Malta during the preceding 12 months was 97.4% in 2017 (Chart 8.13).

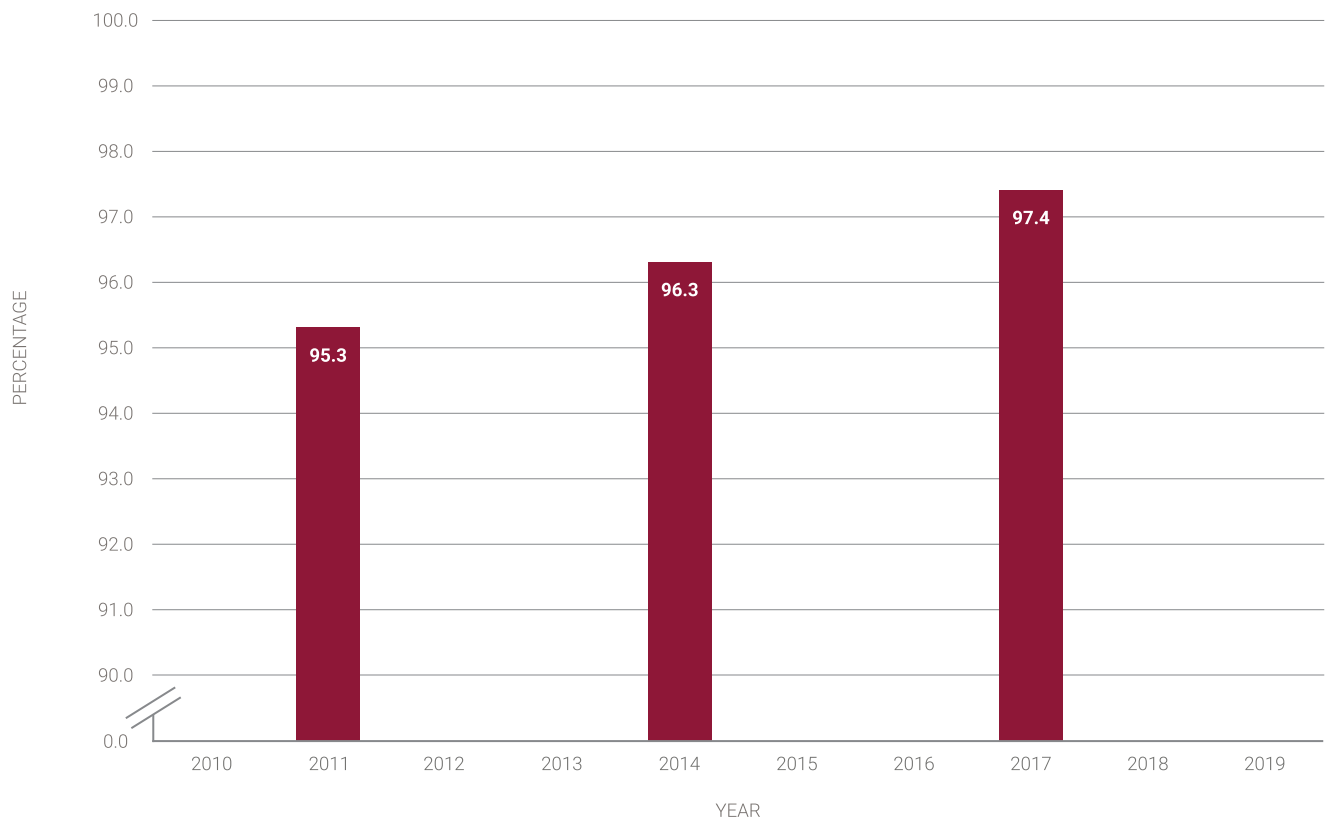


Chart 8.13: Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with account ownership at a financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider; Demirguc-Kunt et al., 2018, Global Financial Inclusion Database, World Bank

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 8 is reflected in Table 8.1 below. The targets related to SDG 8, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 8 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 8 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 8 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>143</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>144</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>145</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.

<sup>143</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>144</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].







<sup>145</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].



**Legend:**

	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

*Table 8.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 8*

TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
8.1	Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries	Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	
8.2	Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors	Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	
8.5	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	Mean hourly earnings	
		Employment rate	
		Unemployment rate, by age groups	
8.6	By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training	Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training	

8.8	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment	Non-fatal accidents at work, per 100,000 employees	
		Fatal accidents at work, per 100,000 employees (3-year averages)	
8.10	Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all	Commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults	
		Number of ATMs	
		Number of ATMs per 100,000 adults	
		Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	





# SDG 09



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

## **Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation**

The Lima Declaration (2013) reads: “industrialisation is a driver of development. Industry increases productivity, job creation and generates income, thereby contributing to poverty eradication and addressing other development goals, as well as providing opportunities for social inclusion, including gender equality, empowering women and girls and creating decent employment for the youth. As industry develops, it drives an increase of value addition and enhances the application of science, technology and innovation, therefore encouraging greater investment in skills and education, and thus providing the resources to meet broader, inclusive and sustainable development objectives”.<sup>146</sup>

The linkages of sustainable industrialisation with the aspects of equality, education, and technology and innovation could not have been laid clearer since economic growth, social development and climate action are heavily dependent on investments in infrastructure, sustainable industrial development and technological progress. Moreover, opportunities accessible for all, innovation, and resilient infrastructure are all necessary conditions that link industrialisation and sustainable growth.

The mutually reinforcing relationship between social and industrial development and the potential of industrialisation to promote, directly and indirectly, a variety of social objectives such as employment creation, poverty eradication, gender equality, labour standards, and greater access to education and health-care are all reflected by the interconnectedness of the Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 9 looks particularly at the element of growth and sustainable industrialisation.

### **Infrastructure for economic development**

The first target of SDG 9 is to develop quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all. Transborder infrastructure development is best captured by passenger and freight volumes moved by states. A growth in passenger and freight volumes shows a robust infrastructure development happening in states along with the resultant socio-economic benefit.

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<sup>146</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> UNIDO General Conference (December 2013), *Lima Declaration*, Peru, online at [https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2018-12/UNIDO\\_GC15\\_Lima\\_Declaration.pdf](https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2018-12/UNIDO_GC15_Lima_Declaration.pdf) [accessed on 4 April 2021].

In 2019 the total cruise passenger traffic was 900,387, an increase of 83.3% from the total cruise passenger traffic in 2010 (Chart 9.1). Sea traffic between Malta and Gozo has also increased by 46.8%, from 4,031,480 passengers in 2010 to 5,917,780 in 2019 (Chart 9.2). Moreover, since 2010, passenger movement by air increased by 121.5% with 7,317,878 passengers travelling by air in 2019 (Chart 9.3).

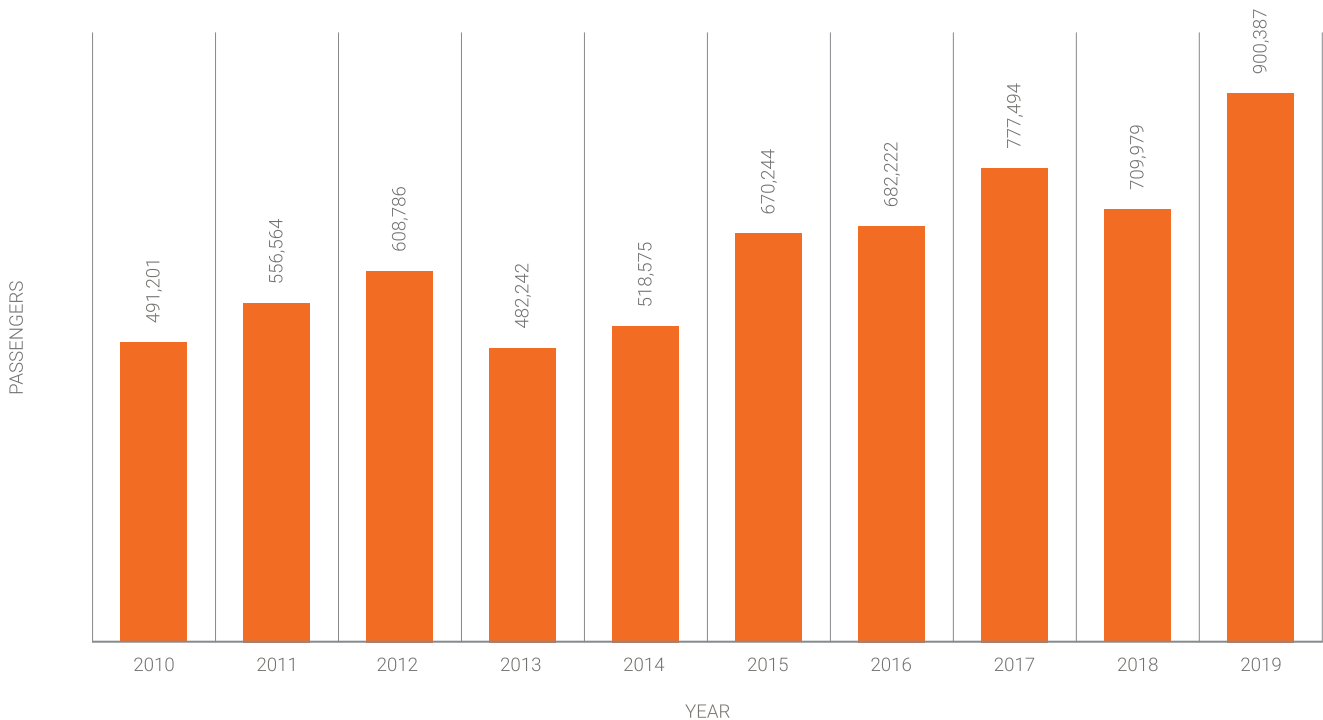


Chart 9.1: Total cruise passenger traffic; Transport Malta, NSO

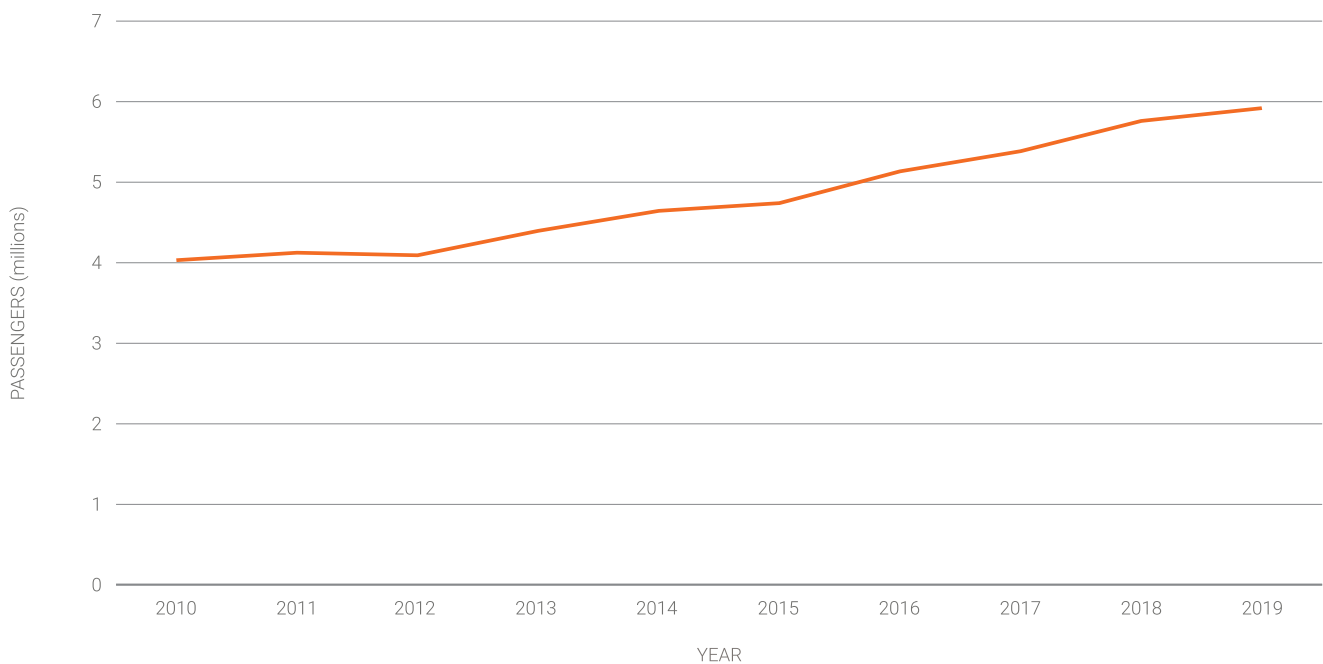


Chart 9.2: Number of passengers travelling between Malta and Gozo; Gozo Channel Co. Ltd, NSO

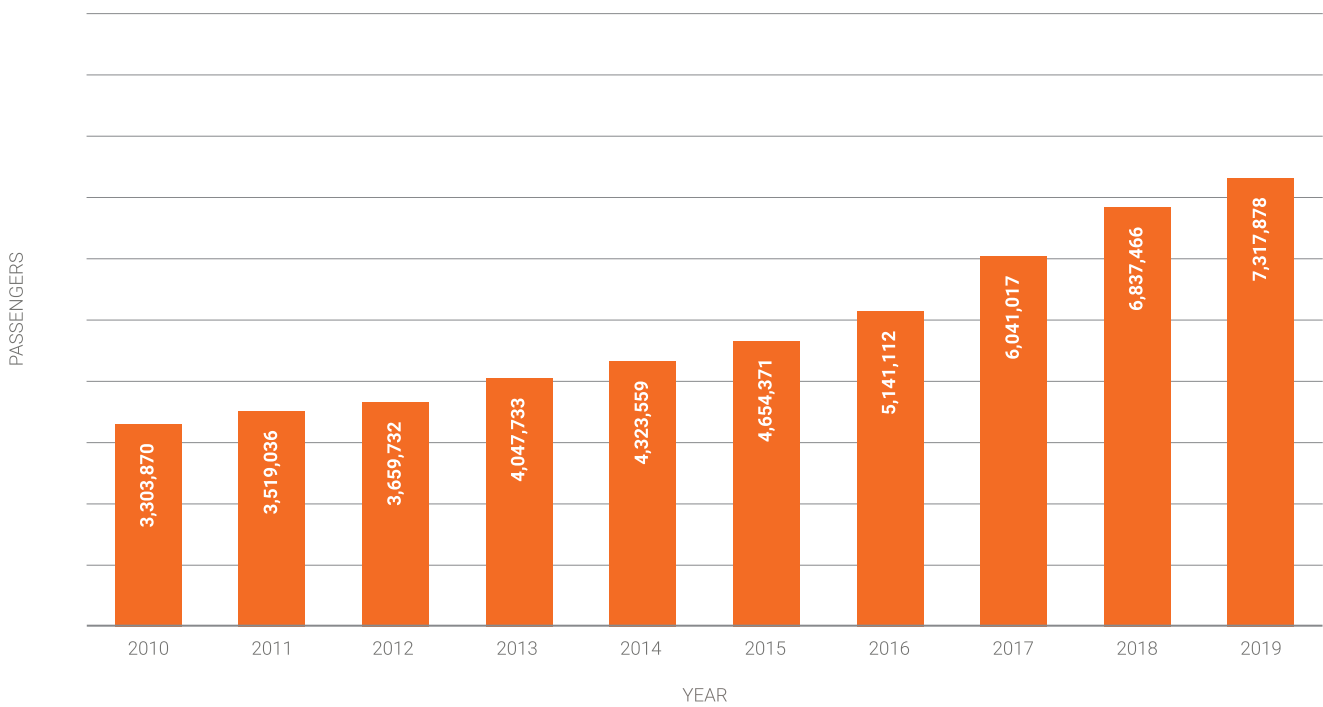


Chart 9.3: Passenger movements by air; Malta International Airport plc, NSO

With regards to freight, the tonnage of cargo unloaded in Malta in 2019 amounted to 8,342,377 tons, 2.6% less than the cargo unloaded in 2010 (8,561,742 tons). Likewise, since 2010 the cargo loaded in Malta decreased by 45.2%, from 4,348,351 tons in 2010 to 2,382,207 tons in 2019 (Chart 9.4).

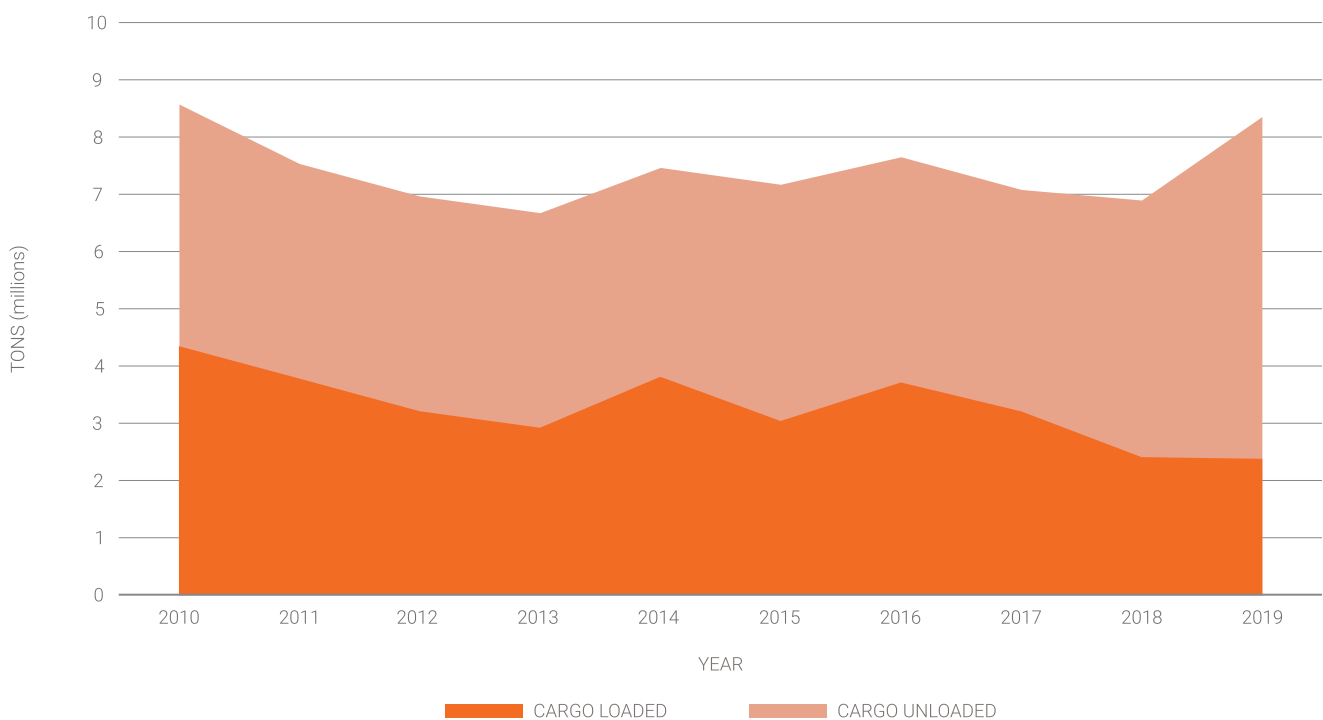


Chart 9.4: Tonnage of cargo unloaded and loaded in Malta; Transport Malta, NSO



On the other hand, the mail and cargo movement by air increased since 2010. Mail increased by 44.3% from 1,436,410 Kg in 2010 to a total of 2,072,741 Kg in 2019. Cargo increased by 6.6%, from 15,407,490 Kg in 2010 to 16,424,998 Kg in 2019 (Chart 9.5).

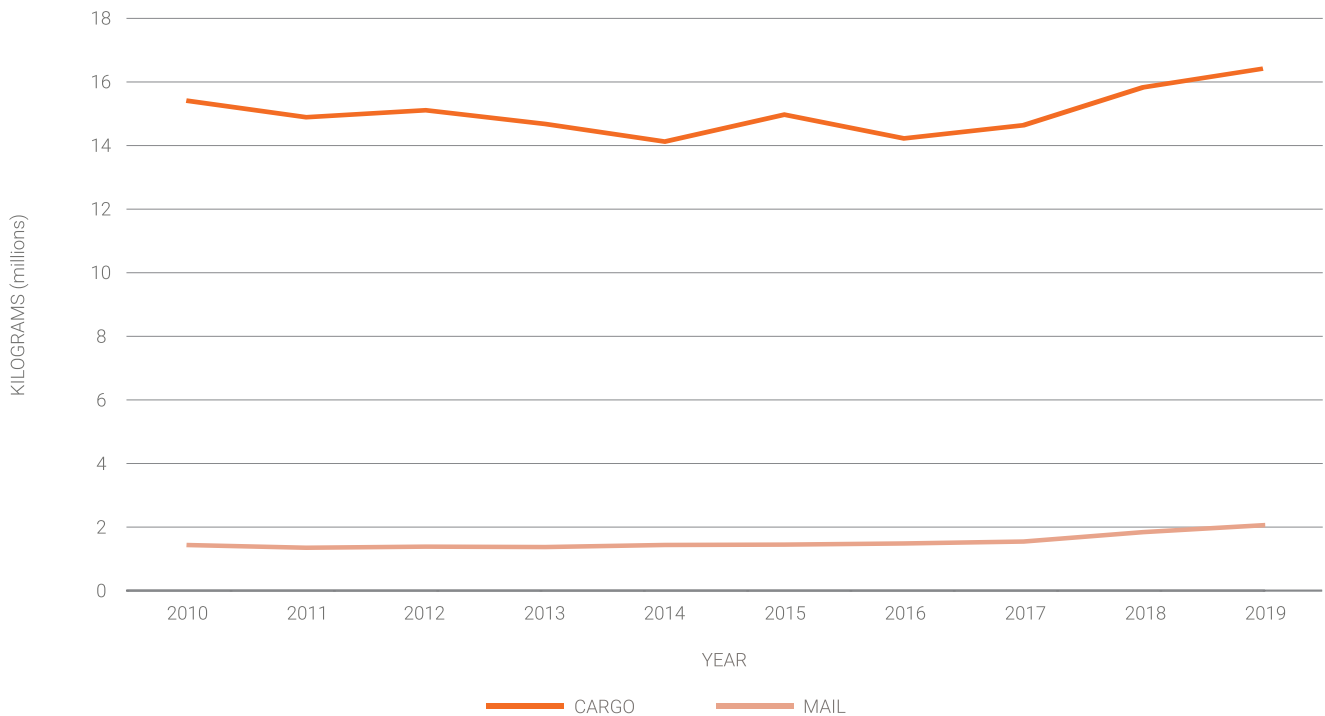


Chart 9.5: Mail and cargo movement by air; Malta International Airport plc, NSO

Upgrading and maintaining a good and safe road network is important for the economic development of a country. Since 2010, Government expenditure on road infrastructure has increased substantially. In 2010, Government expenditure amounted to approximately 25 million euro. By 2019, the amount increased to nearly 121.5 million euro (Chart 9.6).

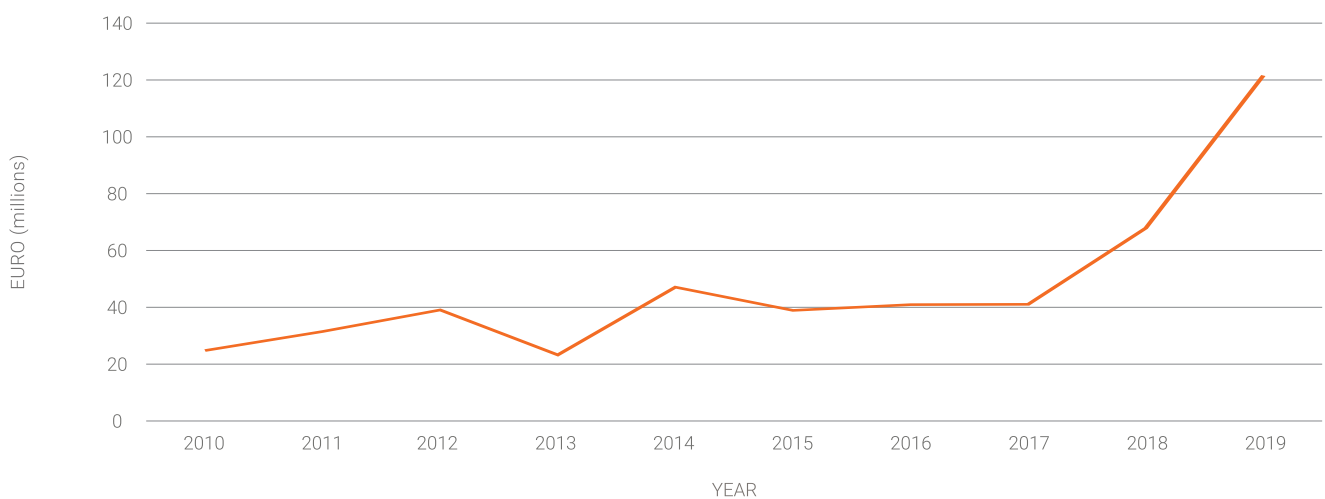


Chart 9.6: Government expenditure on road infrastructure; NSO

## Sustainable industrialisation

The aim of all Sustainable Development Goals is to bridge industrialisation and economic development with sustainability. The targets of SDG 9 seek to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation by significantly raising the industry's share of employment and gross domestic product.

The Gross Value Added (GVA) measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector in a country. Also, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) represents the sum of gross value added from all institutional units resident in the economy. Thus, the GVA of manufacturing, or Manufacturing Value Added (MVA), as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP), brings out the share of manufacturing in the GDP. MVA is a well-recognised and widely used indicator by researchers and policy makers to assess the level of industrialisation of a country. In 2019, the proportion of MVA of the GDP of Malta was that of 7.3%, a decline of 2.7 percentage points from the share of MVA of the 2010 GDP of Malta (Chart 9.7).<sup>147</sup>

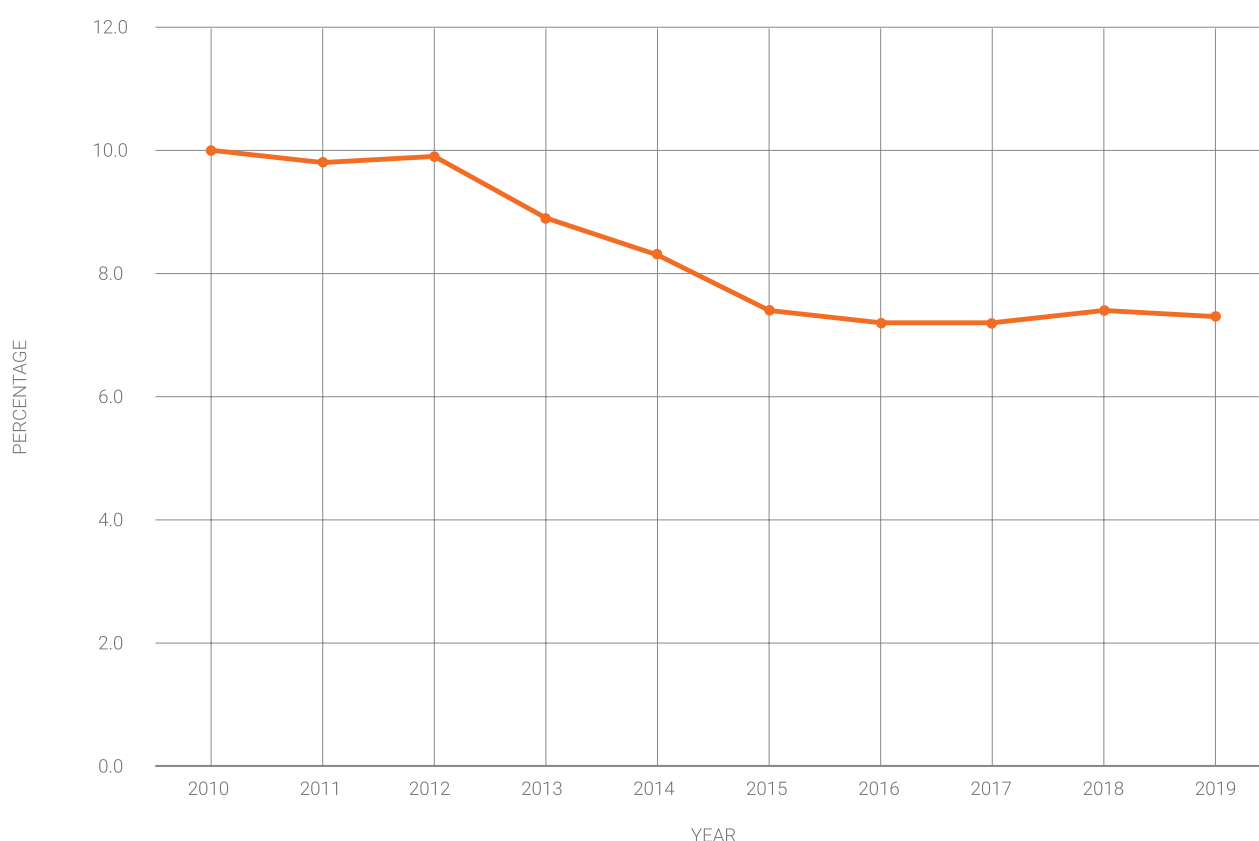


Chart 9.7: Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP; NSO

<sup>147</sup> GDP figures for Charts 9.7, 9.11, and 9.13 are as per NSO News Release (NR) 097/2021 of 28 May 2021.

Also, the contribution of manufacturing in total employment, and the ability of the manufacturing sector to absorb surplus labour forces from agricultural and other traditional sectors towards production labour with higher wages, is another indicator measuring the weight of manufacturing in an economy. However, in developed countries an opposite trend is expected, where emphasis has shifted to reduction in labour in manufacturing as part of cost-cutting measures, to promote more capital-intensive industries, or a shift to services industries.<sup>148</sup> In fact, the contribution of manufacturing in total employment in Malta has declined by 4.1 percentage points, from 15.2% in 2010 to 11.1% in 2019 (Chart 9.8).

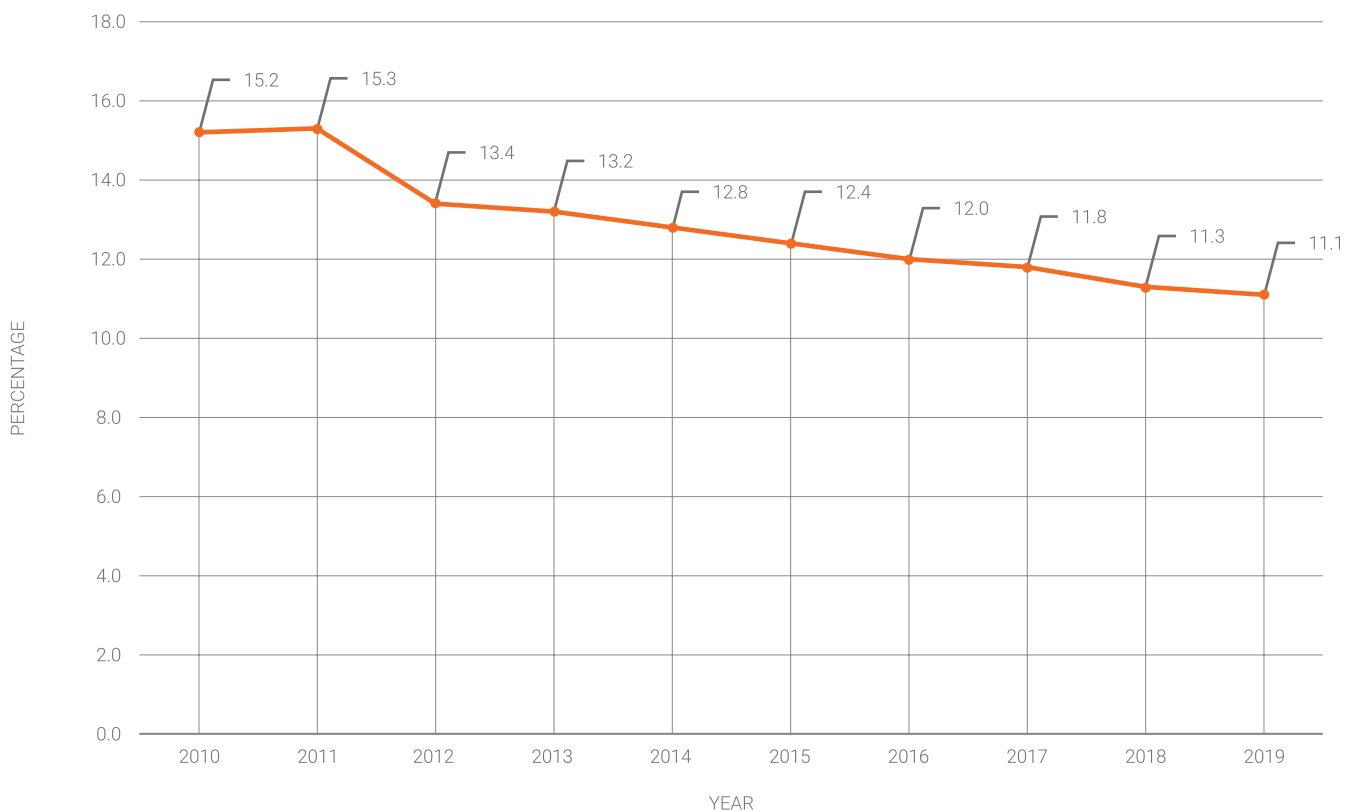


Chart 9.8: Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment; NSO

<sup>148</sup> United Nations Statistics Division, 'SDG indicators – Metadata repository', Indicator 9.2.2: *Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment*, version of January 2021, online: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/?Text=&Goal=9&Target=> [accessed on 2 August 2021].

## Research and Development

One of the aims of SDG 9 is to enhance scientific research by encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people, public and private research, and development spending. Research and experimental development (R&D) comprise creative and systematic work undertaken in order to increase the stock of knowledge – including knowledge of humankind, culture and society – and to devise new applications of available knowledge.

Researchers are professionals engaged in the conception or creation of new knowledge. They conduct research and improve or develop concepts, theories, models, techniques, instrumentation, software or operational methods. Since 2010, the number of researchers in Malta increased by 60.0% to a total of 939 in 2019 (Chart 9.9).

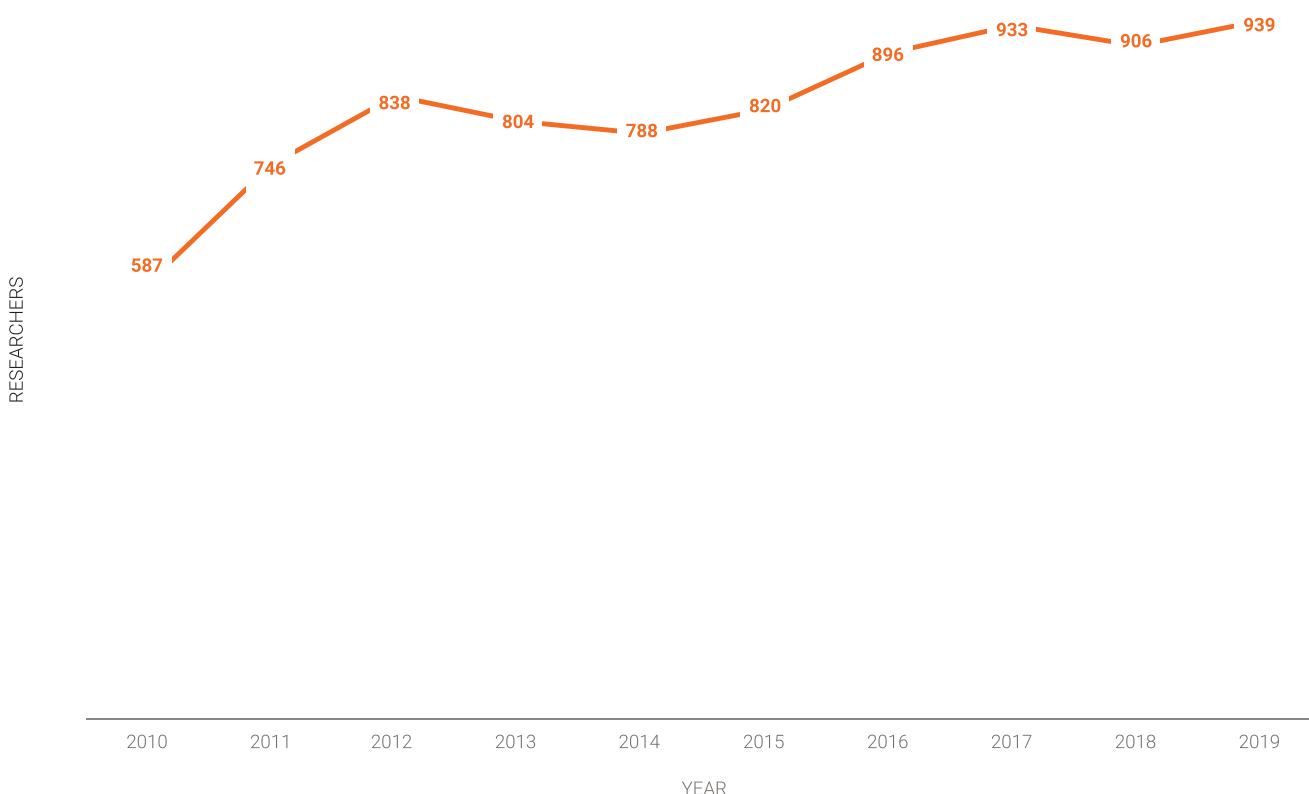


Chart 9.9: Number of researchers; NSO

The rate of full-time researchers per 1 million inhabitants in 2019 translates to a rate of 1825 researchers, an increase of 29.0% from the rate of full-time researchers in 2010 (1415 per 1 million inhabitants) (Chart 9.10).

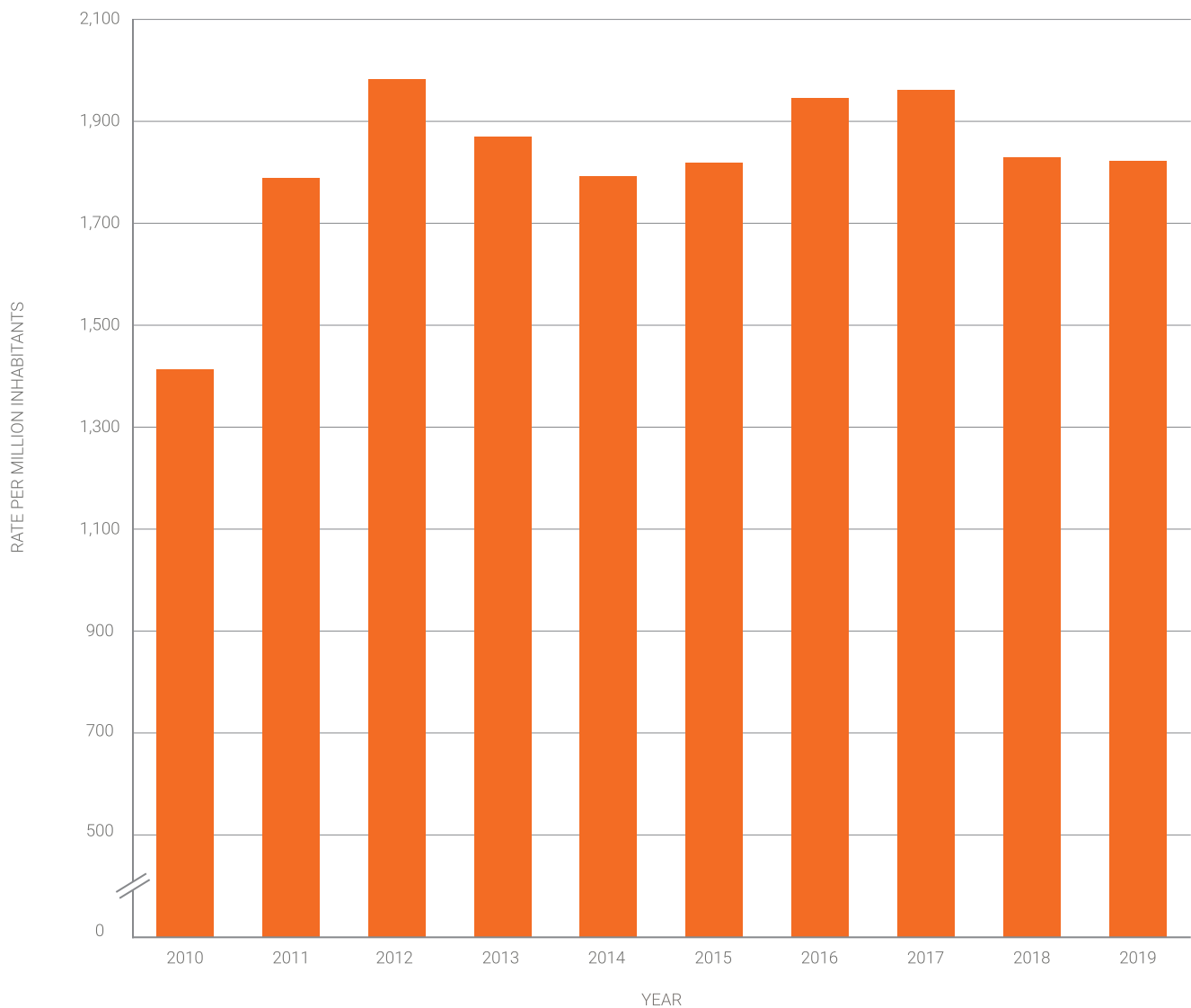


Chart 9.10: Researchers per million inhabitants; NSO

The percentage of GDP towards expenditure on research and development in 2019 amounted to 0.59%, similar to 0.59% registered in 2010. However, in the period 2010–2019 the highest percentage of the GDP allocated to research and development was in 2012 with 0.80% which then slowly decreased back to 0.59% by 2019 (Chart 9.11). On budgetary terms however, during the same period total expenditure on research and development doubled, from 40.04 million euro in 2010 to 80.05 million euro in 2019 (Chart 9.12).

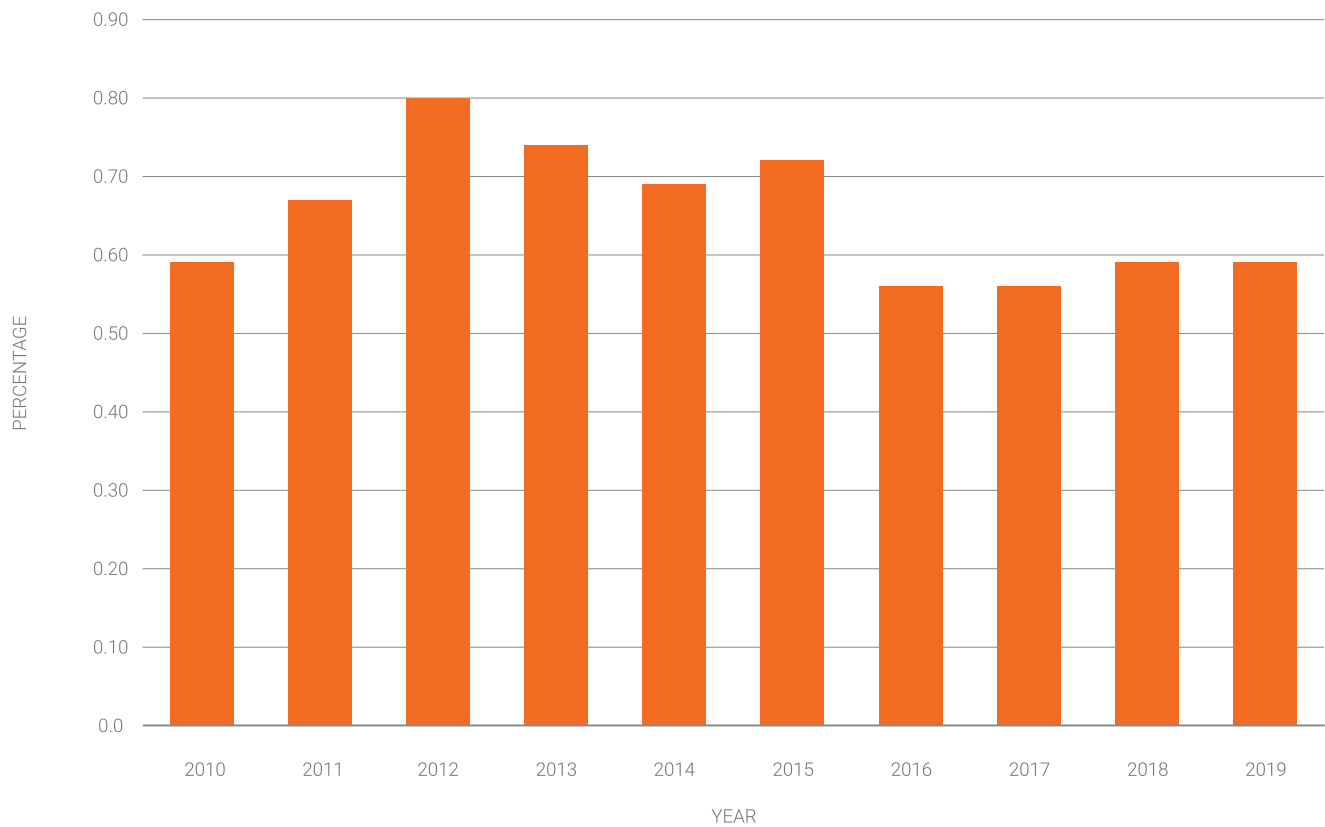


Chart 9.11: Percentage of GDP in research and development expenditure; NSO

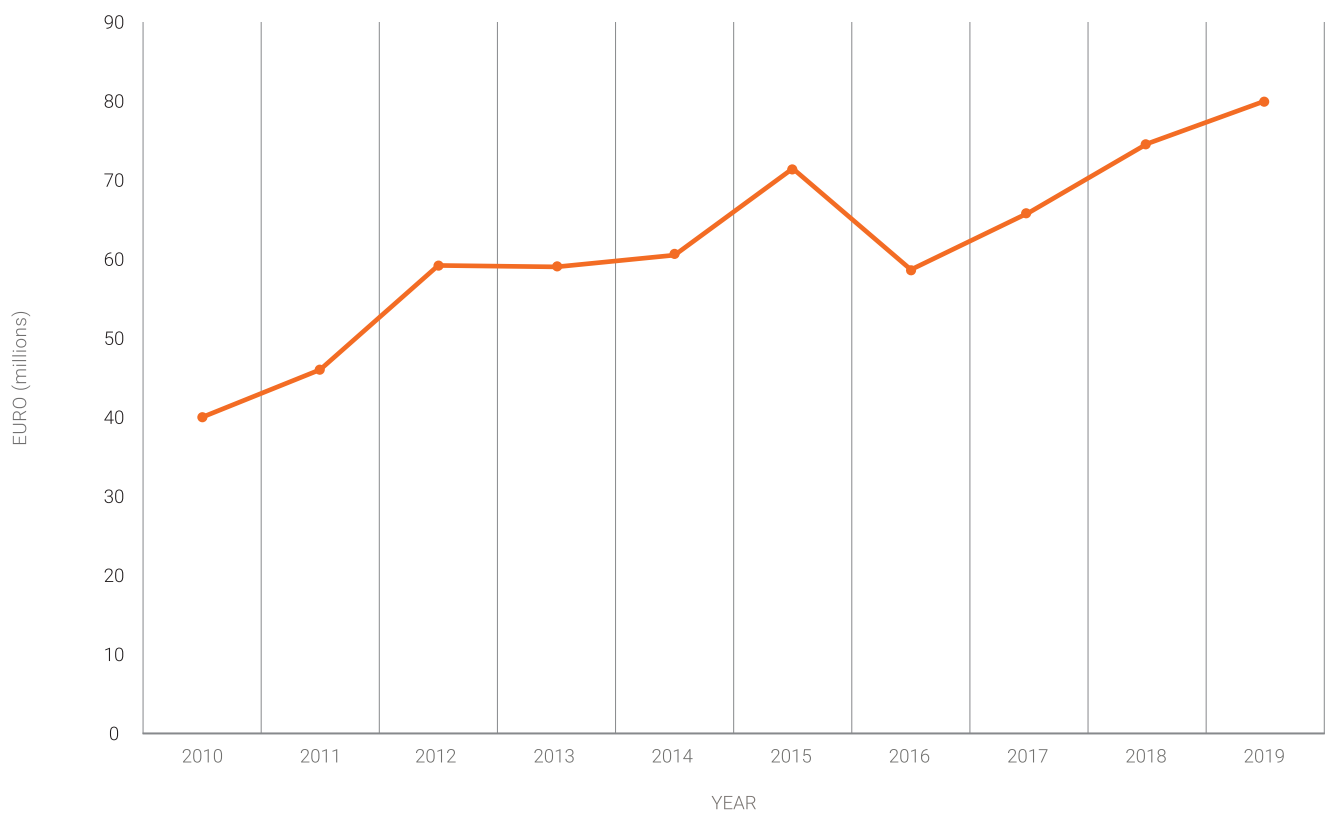


Chart 9.12: Total expenditure on research and development; NSO

Industrial development generally entails a structural transition from resource-based and low-technology activities to Medium and High-Tech (MHT) activities. A modern, highly complex production structure offers better opportunities for skills development and technological innovation. MHT activities are also the high value addition industries of manufacturing with higher technological intensity and labour productivity. Increasing the share of MHT sectors also reflects the impact of innovation. This can be measured by the proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added. For Malta, in 2019 the proportion was that of 2.1%, a decrease of 3.9 percentage points from the proportion of 6% registered in 2010 (Chart 9.13).<sup>149</sup>

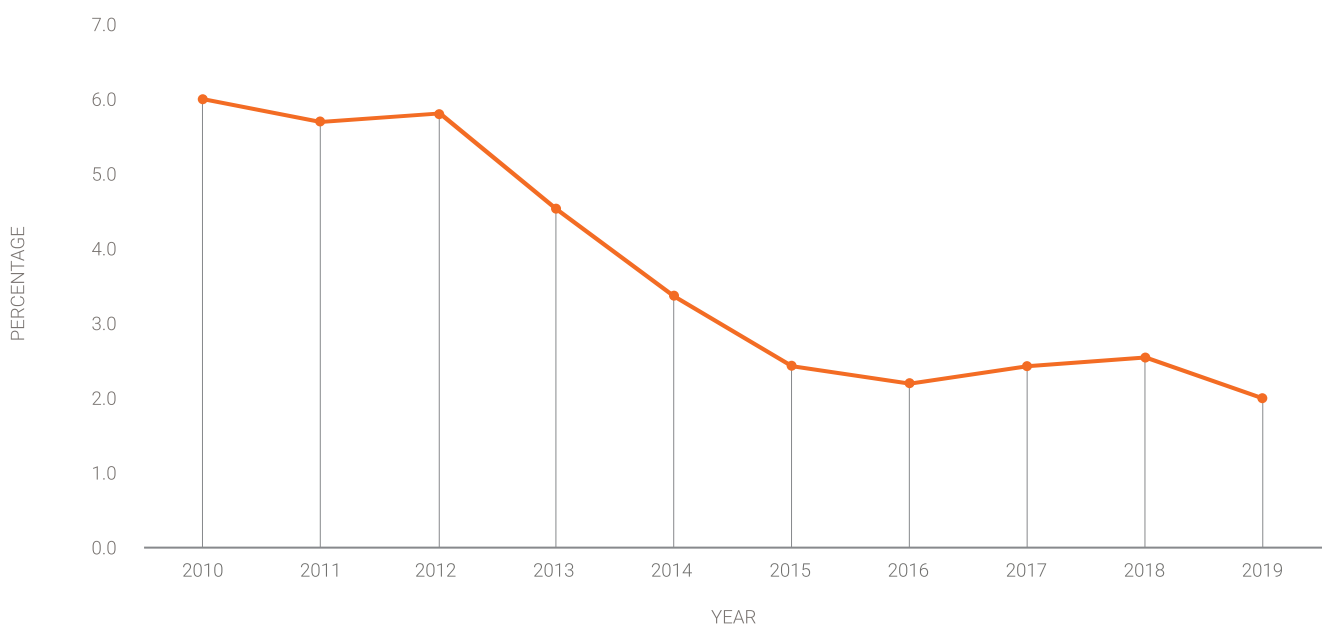


Chart 9.13: Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added; NSO

Moreover, the total yearly number of applications by Maltese inhabitants to protect their inventions in Europe, filed with the European Patent Office, has increased from 31 applications in 2010 to 65 applications in 2020. The highest number of applications filed with the European Patent Office was in 2015 with 94 applications. The lowest was in 2012 with 24 applications filed (Chart 9.14).

<sup>149</sup> Medium and high technology industries include NACE codes 20, 21, 26–30: Manufacturing; (i) of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations; (ii) computer, electronic and optical products; (iii) chemicals and chemical products; (iv) electrical equipment; machinery and equipment n.e.c.; (v) motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers, and; (vi) other transport equipment.

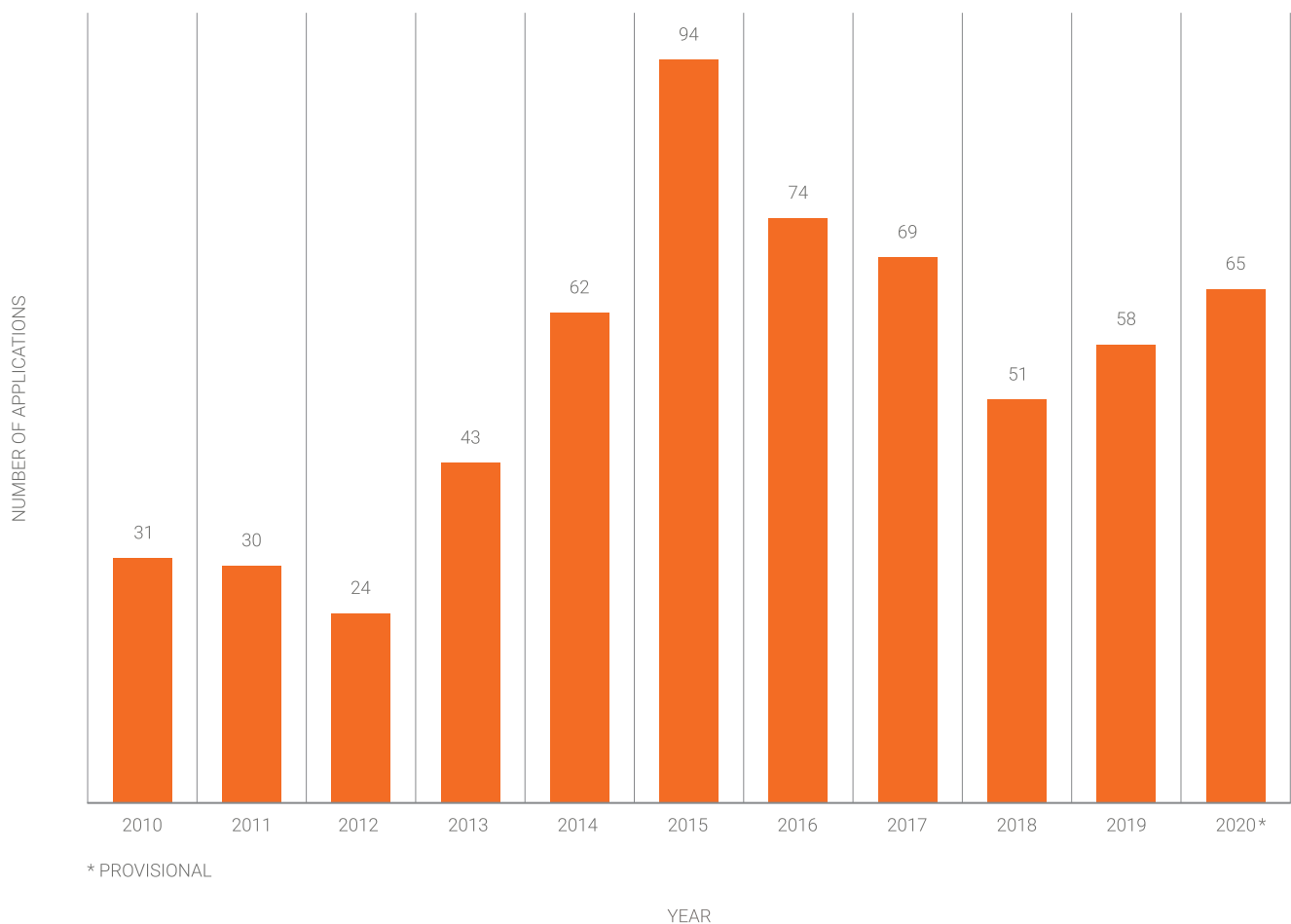


Chart 9.14: Patent applications to the European Patent Office; European Patent Office, Eurostat

## Sustainable infrastructure

An important aspect of SDG 9 is that economic growth is achieved by means of sustainable infrastructure, in particular with the increase of resource-use efficiency and greater use of environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes. Manufacturing industries are generally improving their emission intensity as countries move to higher levels of industrialisation, however emission intensities can also be reduced through structural changes, greener technologies, and product diversification in manufacturing.

The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per unit of Gross Value Added (GVA) represents the amount of emissions from fuel combustion produced, per unit of economic output (Euro). Through this indicator, the energy efficiency of the Maltese economy can be measured. In 2010, the ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (in Kg of CO<sub>2</sub>) per 1 Euro of output was 0.34. By 2019, the ratio decreased by 61.8% for a ratio of 0.13 (Chart 9.15), meaning that less CO<sub>2</sub> is being emitted for 1 Euro of output.



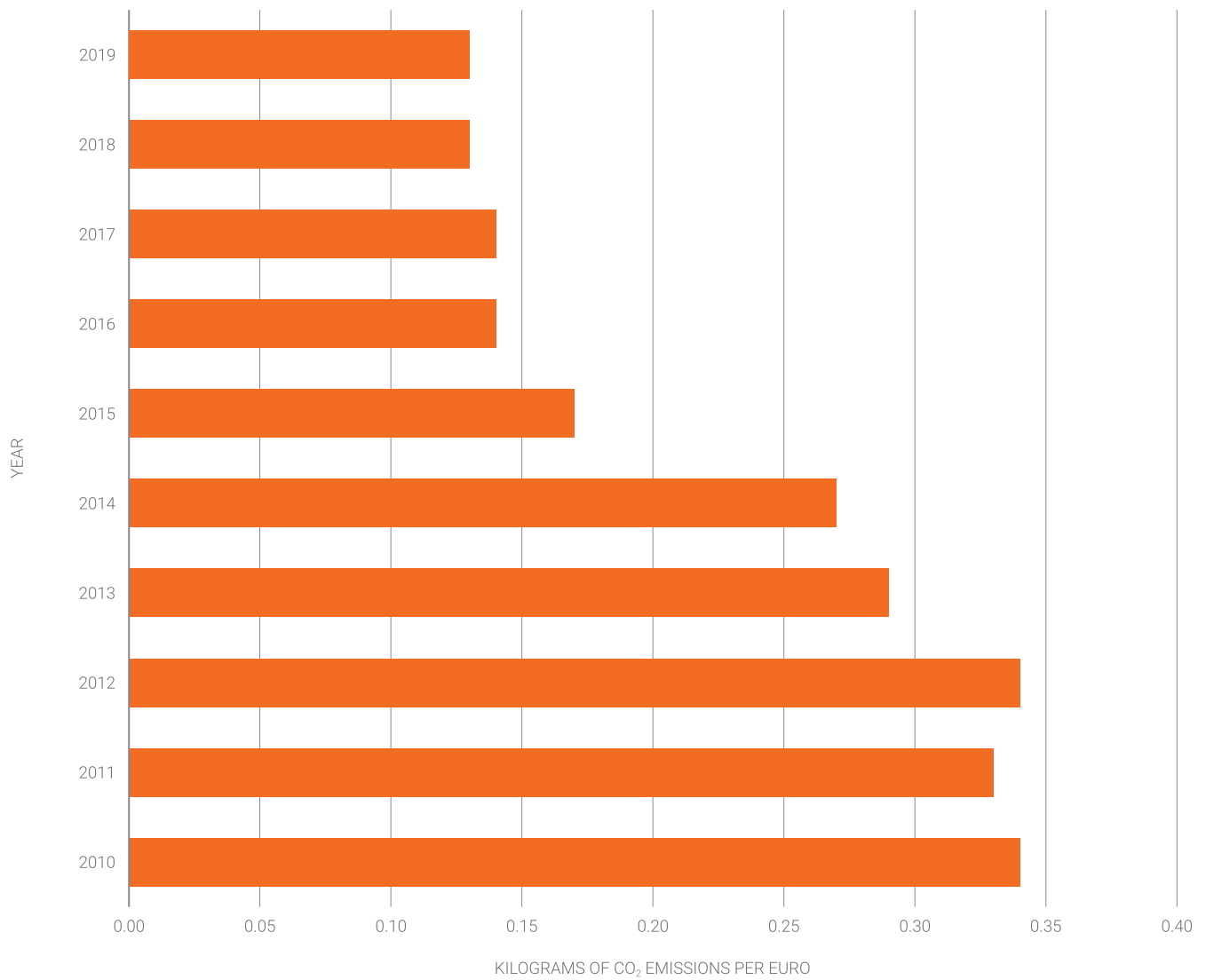


Chart 9.15: Kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per Euro; NSO

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 9 is reflected in Table 9.1 below. The targets related to SDG 9, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 9 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 9 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 9 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.





The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>150</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>151</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>152</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.

<sup>150</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].


<sup>151</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>152</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].

**Legend:**

	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

*Table 9.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 9*

TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
9.1	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	Tonnage of cargo unloaded and loaded in Malta	
		Mail and cargo movement by air	
		Passenger movements by air	
		Total cruise passenger traffic	
		Number of passengers travelling between Malta and Gozo	
		Government expenditure on road infrastructure	

9.2	Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries	Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP	
		Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment <sup>153</sup>	
9.4	By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities	Kg of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per Euro	
9.5	Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending	Total expenditure on research and development	
		Percentage of GDP in research and development expenditure	
		Number of researchers	
		Researchers per million inhabitants	
		Applications filed with the European Patent Office	
9.b.1	Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities	Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added	

<sup>153</sup> In developed countries this trend is expected where emphasis has shifted to reduction in labour in manufacturing as part of cost-cutting measures, to promote more capital-intensive industries, or a shift to services industries.





# SDG 10



Reduce inequality within and among countries

## **| Reduce inequality within and among countries**

Inequalities continue to persist across the world. It threatens long-term social and economic development, harms poverty reduction and destroys people's sense of fulfilment and self-worth. Inequality is a theme streamlined across all Sustainable Development Goals, as any progress in the reduction of poverty and social exclusion, progress in education, employment, financial capabilities, health, and social empowerment are all dependent on the implementation of policies aiming for the reduction of inequalities. Sustainable Development Goal 10 addresses the issue of inequality in general terms with a particular focus on migrants and refugees.

Migrants and refugees tend to face lack of opportunities and may also face discrimination – an issue that affects every country in the world. In order to achieve equality for everyone, political, economic and social policies need to be universal and pay particular attention to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalised communities.

The 2030 Agenda calls for a “just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met.” This call comes at a time when, despite important gains made since the Millennium Development Goals in lifting people out of poverty, inequalities and large disparities remain, in particular in income and wealth. The 10 targets of SDG 10 cast a wide net to capture multiple drivers of inequality and to ensure that no group or individual is left behind by, inter alia, empowering and promoting inclusive social and economic growth.

### **Income: growth and distribution**

SDG 10 seeks to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all and to progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population by 2030.

Addressing social inclusion and inequality is important on the global development agenda as well as on the national development agenda of many countries. Improvements in shared prosperity require both a growing economy and a consideration of equity. Shared prosperity comprises many dimensions of well-being of the less well-off, and when analysing shared prosperity in the context of a country, it is important to consider a wide range of indicators of welfare and inclusion. However, data on the income of the less well-off is easier to understand, communicate, and measure.

The share of the population living below 50% of median national income is a measure that is useful for monitoring the level and trends in social inclusion, relative poverty and inequality



within a country. In Malta, the proportion of people living below 50% of median income was 8.7% in 2019—8.9% females and 8.6% males. Since 2010, the proportion increased by 0.7 percentage points (Chart 10.1).

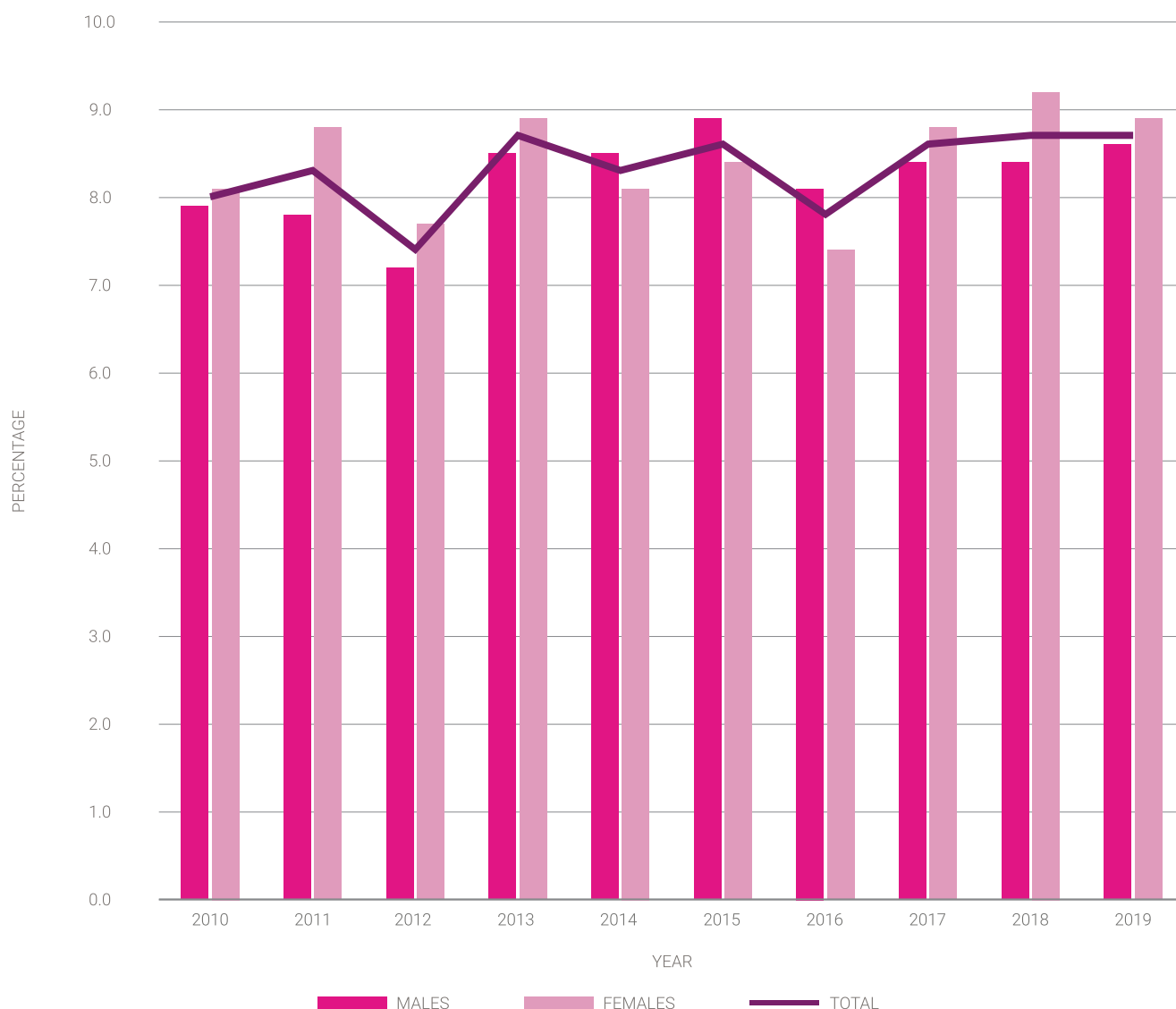


Chart 10.1: Proportion of people living below 50% of median income, by sex; EU-SILC, NSO

In 2019, the highest proportion of people living below 50% of median income was in the 'less than 18 years' age group—12.5%. The persons who along the years had the lowest at-risk-of-poverty rate were those falling under the '18 to 64 years' age group. Since 2010, the proportion of all three age groups varied; by approximately +2 percentage points for the age groups 'from 18 to 64 years' and '65 years and over', and by approximately +6 percentage points for the age group 'less than 18 years'. However, comparing 2010 with 2019, the proportion of all age groups living below 50% of median income increased, with the highest increase for those 'less than 18 years'— 2.2 percentage points (Chart 10.2).

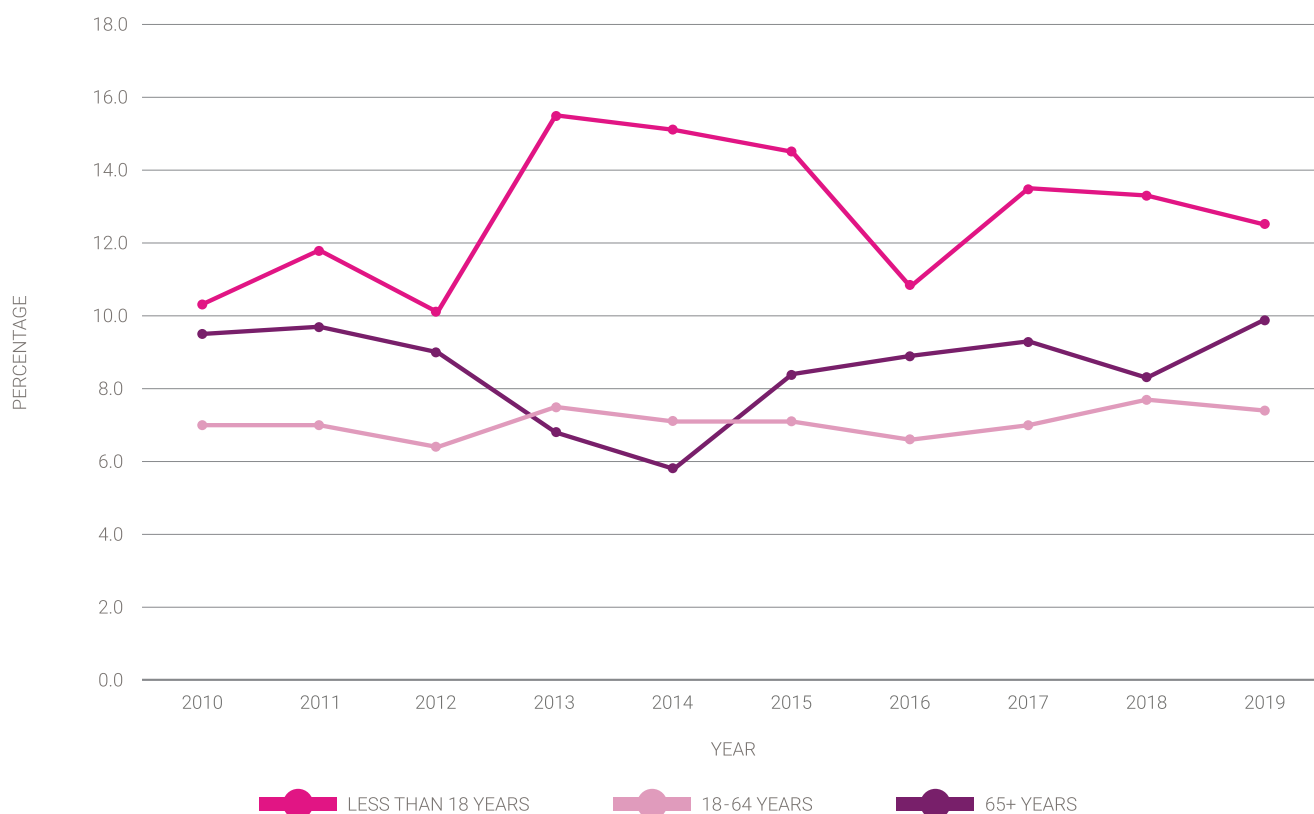


Chart 10.2: Proportion of people living below 50% of median income, by age group; EU-SILC, NSO

The growth rate of the net equivalised income among the bottom 40% of the population in Malta was 3.8% in 2019. Since 2011, the income growth rate was always positive, fluctuating between 7.2% and 1.2% (Chart 10.3).

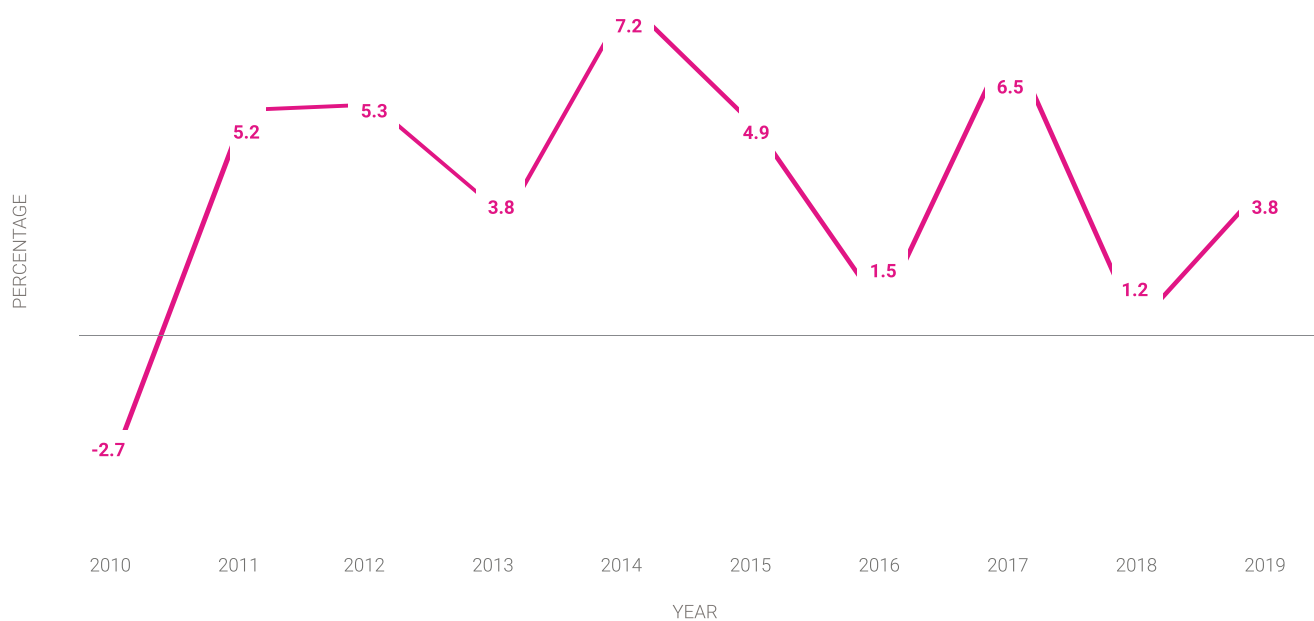


Chart 10.3: Growth rate of the net equivalised income among the bottom 40% of the population; EU-SILC, NSO

While growth in general is necessary for improving economic welfare in a society, progress has to be measured also on how the gains from economic growth are shared with its poorest members and how it increases prosperity among the poor over time. Analysing the inequality of income distribution is therefore one of the ways to measure inequality within countries. Such an indicator is presented as the ratio of total income received by the 20% of the population with the highest income to that received by the 20% of the population with the lowest income. In 2019, this ratio in Malta was 4.18, meaning that the total income received by the 20% of the Maltese population with the highest income was more than four times more than the 20% of the Maltese population with the lowest income. Since 2010, the ratio varied between the highest 4.33 recorded in 2010 and the lowest ratio of 3.94 registered in 2012 (Chart 10.4).

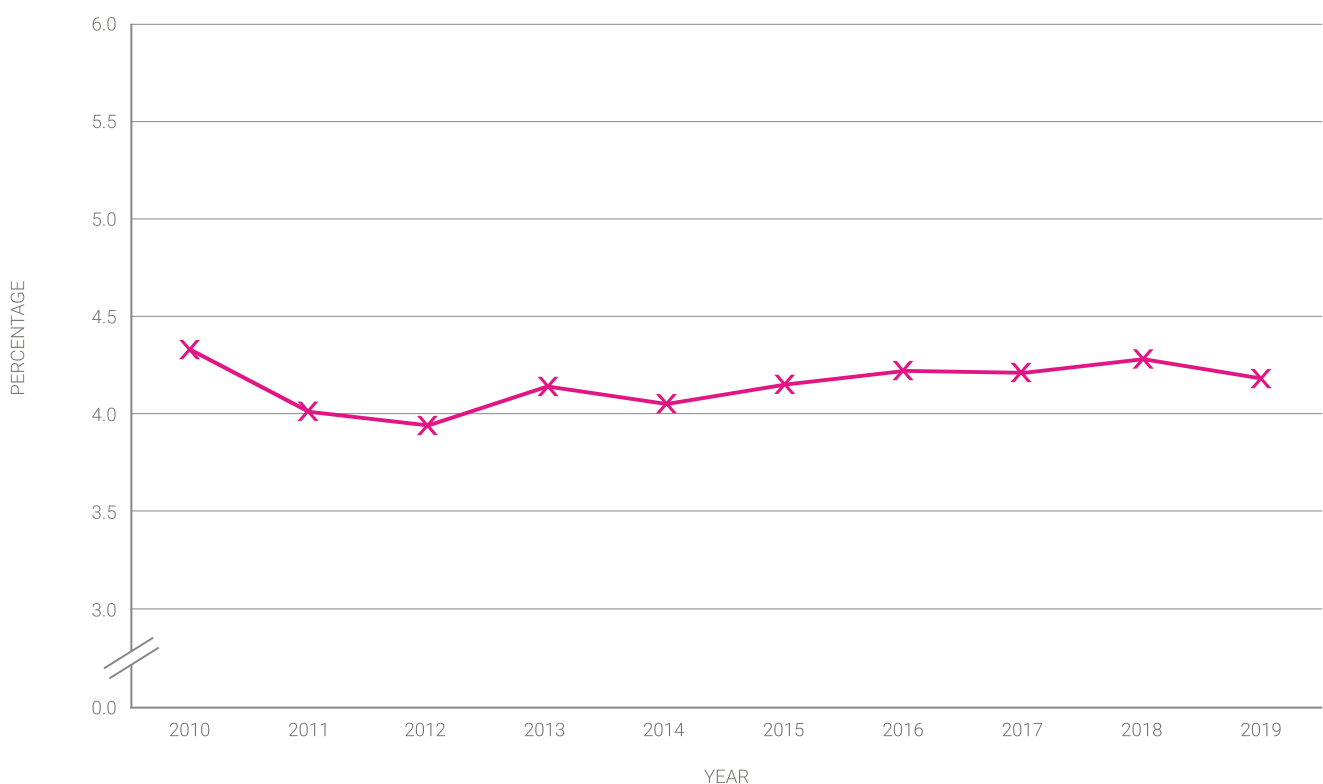


Chart 10.4: Income distribution; EU-SILC, Eurostat

## Labour share of GDP

Increased production and GDP often lead to improved living standards of individuals in the economy, but this will depend on the distribution of real income and public policy among other factors. Labour share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) seeks to inform about the relative share of GDP which accrues to workers as compared to the share which accrues to capital in a given reference period, and is an indicator to measure the achievement of greater equality through fiscal, wage and social protection policies.

The share of labour compensation in national output can highlight the extent to which economic growth translates into higher incomes for employees over time (and/or higher earnings for the self-employed). If labour income falls at a greater rate than profits, the labour income share will be expected to fall. By contrast, if there is a sharper decline in profits than in labour income, the share will rise. For any given level of GDP and profits, the labour income share can fall as a result of falling wages, falling earnings of the self-employed, changes in the composition of employment by income or a combination of these. In 2019, the labour share of Malta's GDP was 48.8%, similar to the share registered in 2010, however the 2010–2019 trend indicates a general decrease of the labour share of GDP. The highest labour share of GDP was in 2011 at 50.6%, while the lowest decrease of the labour share was in 2015 with a share of 47.2% (Chart 10.5).<sup>154</sup>

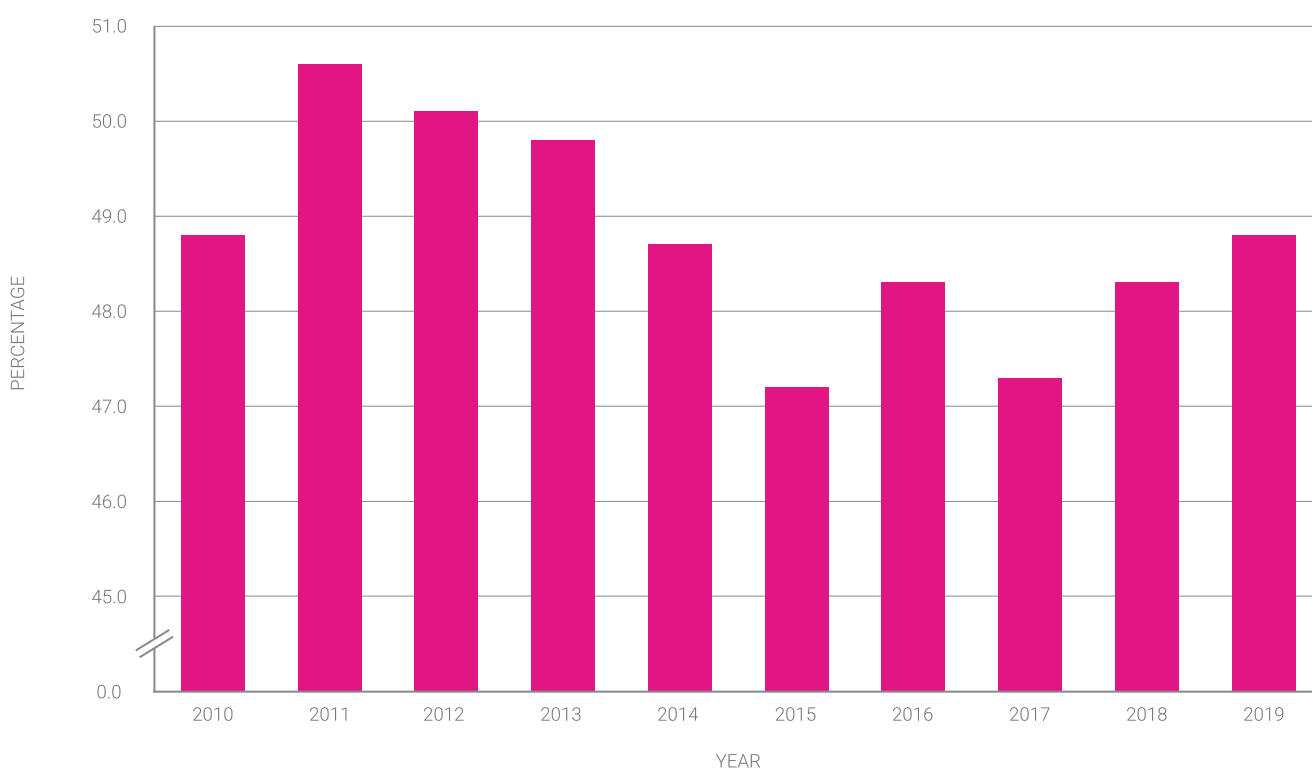


Chart 10.5: Labour share of GDP (comprising wages and social protection transfers); NSO

## Migration

The principle aim of SDG 10 is to reduce inequality within and among countries. To this end, target 10.7 seeks, amongst other things, to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

<sup>154</sup> Based on the GDP as per NSO News Release (NR) 097/2021 of 28 May 2021.

In Malta, net migration has significantly increased since 2010. By 2019, net migration in Malta amounted to 20,343, while in 2010 it amounted to just 74 (Chart 10.6). The foreign population in Malta in 2019 equated to 20.5% of the total resident population, an increase of 15.44 percentage points from the share registered in 2010 (Chart 10.7).

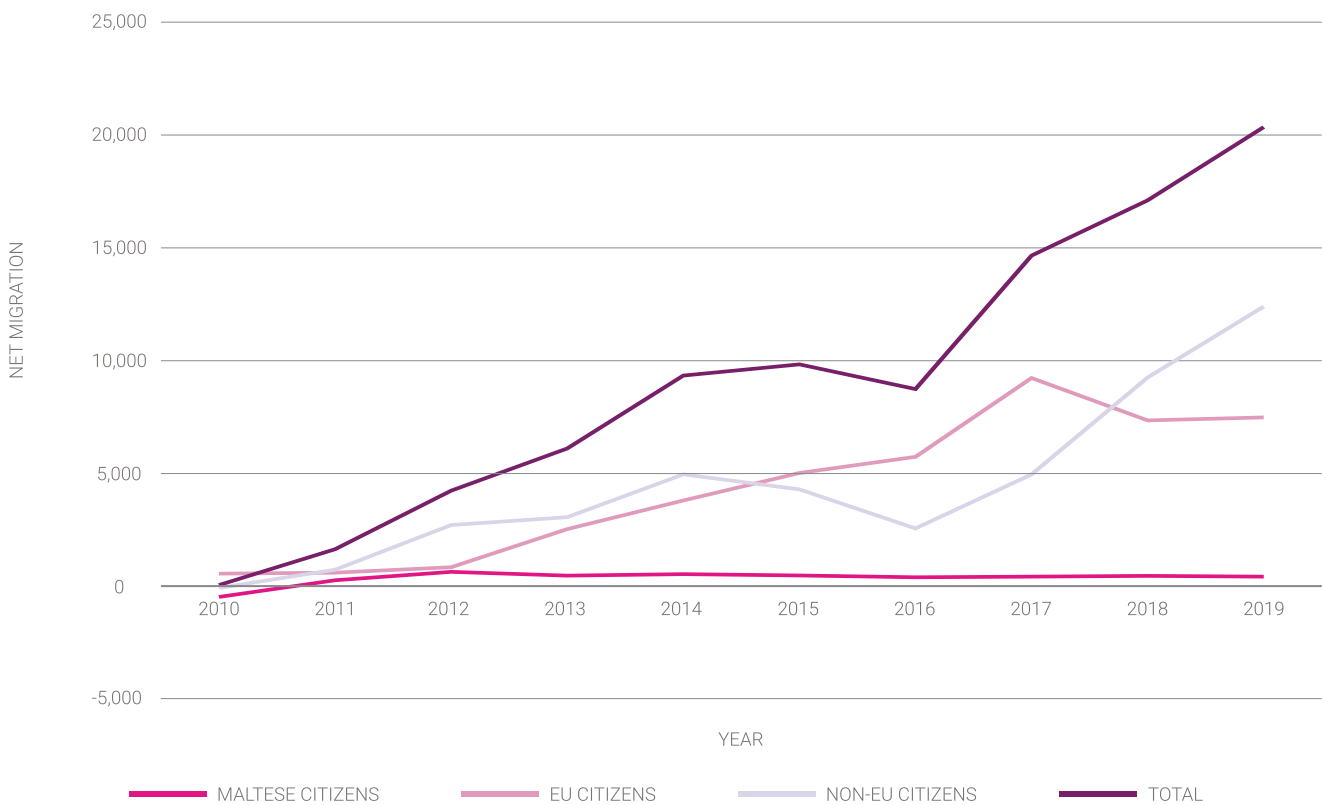


Chart 10.6: Net migration; NSO

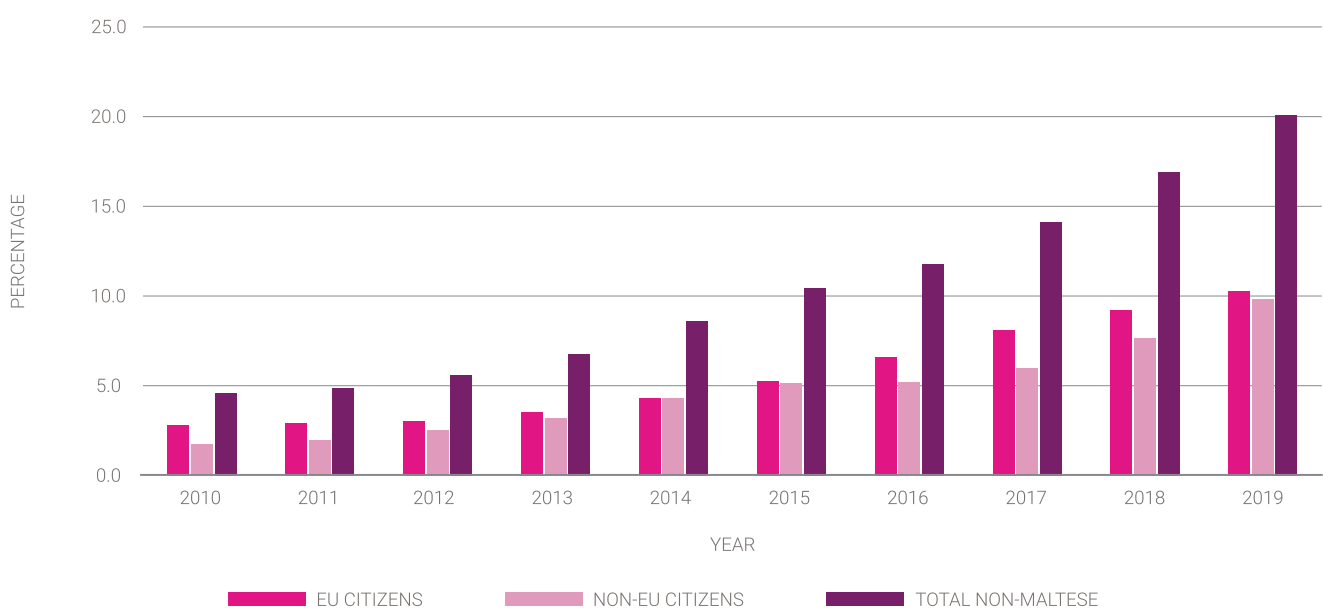


Chart 10.7: Share of population in Malta by citizenship; NSO

The state of the national migration policies and how such policies change over time contributes to the evidence base for actionable recommendations for the implementation of SDG target 10.7. Information can be extracted from the ‘UN Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development’, which has been used to survey global population policies since 1963, including policies on international migration.<sup>155</sup> The Inquiry consists mostly of multiple-choice questions, and the latest was divided into three thematic modules: Module I on population ageing and urbanisation; Module II on fertility, family planning and reproductive health; and Module III on international migration. Module III of the Twelfth Inquiry has been updated to include core questions on sex policy domains relevant to SDG 10, in particular to target 10.7: (i) migrant rights; (ii) whole-of-government/evidence-based policies; (iii) cooperation and partnerships; (iv) socio-economic well-being; (v) mobility dimensions of crises; and (vi) safe, orderly, and regular migration.<sup>156</sup>

From the information provided in the ‘self-assessed’ Inquiry questionnaire, calculations are made and presented as an index from 1–4, with the following rating system: 1 – ‘Require further progress’; 2 – ‘Partially meet’, 3 – ‘Meets’, and; 4 – ‘Fully meets’. Based on the information provided by the Government of Malta in the Inquiry questionnaire, Malta was given the overall mark of 2 – ‘Partially meet’. Three domains – cooperation and partnerships, mobility dimensions of crises, and safe, orderly and regular migration – were all given a mark of 4 – ‘Fully meets’ (Chart 10.8).

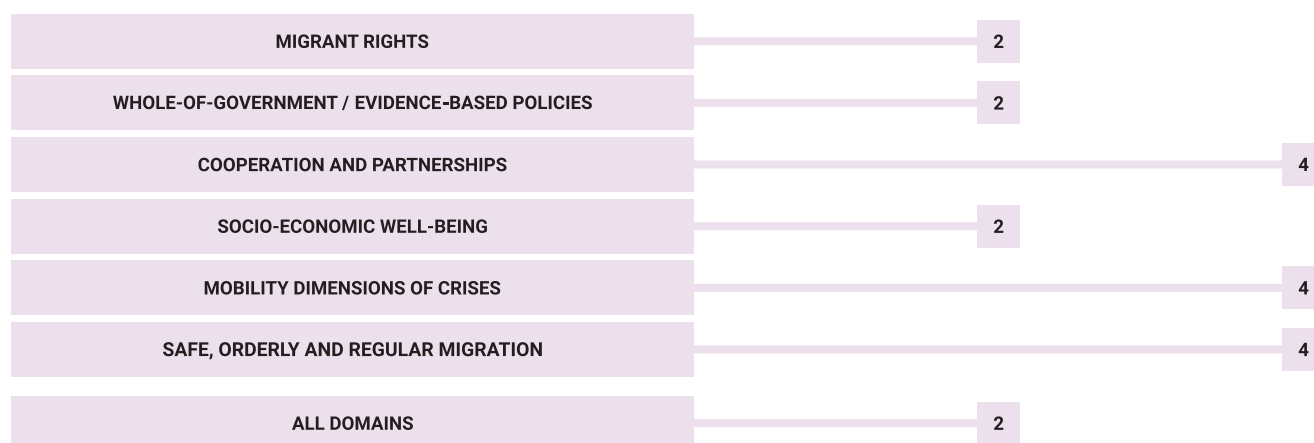


Chart 10.8: Migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, by policy domain (2018–2019), UN DESA, UN

<sup>155</sup> The Inquiry is mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 1838 (XVII) of 18 December 1962. The Inquiry is conducted on behalf of the Secretary-General and is sent to all Permanent Missions in New York: 193 Member States, 2 observer States, and 2 non-member States.

<sup>156</sup> Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, *The United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development*, online: <https://esa.un.org/PopPolicy/inquiry/en/About%20the%2012th%20Inquiry.pdf> [accessed on 15 June 2021].

Moreover, data on refugee status in a country, and the poverty and employment status of migrants, and how these change over time, projects information on the state of national migration policies and how such policies change over time. Taken together, these statistics provide a picture of the extent to which migration is governed in an integrated and holistic way.

In 2019, the number of irregular immigrants arriving in Malta by boat was 661.73 per 100,000 resident population. The rate is a substantial increase from 11.33 arrivals per 100,000 resident population registered in 2010 (Chart 10.9).



Chart 10.9: Number of irregular immigrants arriving in Malta by boat per 100,000 resident population; NSO

The number of irregular immigrants arriving in Malta is reflected in the increase in requests for asylum received by the International Protection Agency. In 2010, the number of asylum applications was 42.41 per 100,000 resident population and by 2019, the number of asylum applications increased to 794.85 per 100,000 resident population (Chart 10.10).



Chart 10.10: Asylum applications per 100,000 resident population; NSO

While the number of asylum applications has increased since 2010, the first instance decisions on asylum applications have decreased. The highest rate of first instance decisions was in 2013, with 443.62 (per 100,000 population) first instance decisions. This reflects the high rate of irregular immigrants arriving in Malta and asylum applications in 2013 (Charts 10.9 and 10.10). However, while by 2019 the rate of arrivals and asylum applications continued to increase, the rate of first instance decisions on asylum applications decreased to 202.11 per 100,000 population (Chart 10.11).<sup>157</sup> Furthermore, in 2018 and 2019 the number of 'rejections', from the applications processed in these years, was the highest, while for years 2010–2017 the share of positive decisions was greater than the share of rejections. Throughout 2010–2019 only a small number of applicants were granted 'refugee status' (Chart 10.11).

<sup>157</sup> Caution is required when comparing the number of asylum applications with the number of first instance decisions, since applications received in a given year might not be processed until a later year.



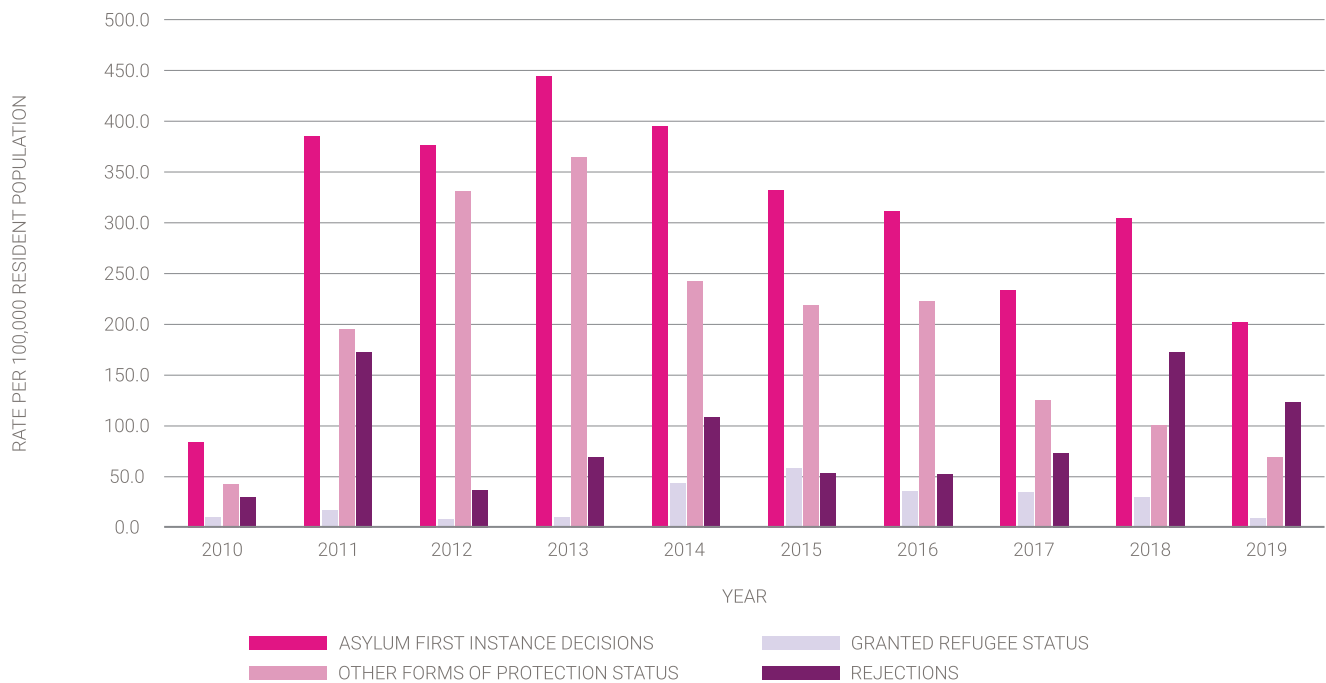


Chart 10.11: Processing of irregular immigrants per 100,000 population; NSO

The declining number of asylum decisions taken per year, has led to an increase in the number of pending applications at the end of the year. By the end of 2019, there were a total of 4,259 applications pending a decision – of these 3,574 were pending a first instance decision from the International Protection Agency (Chart 10.12).

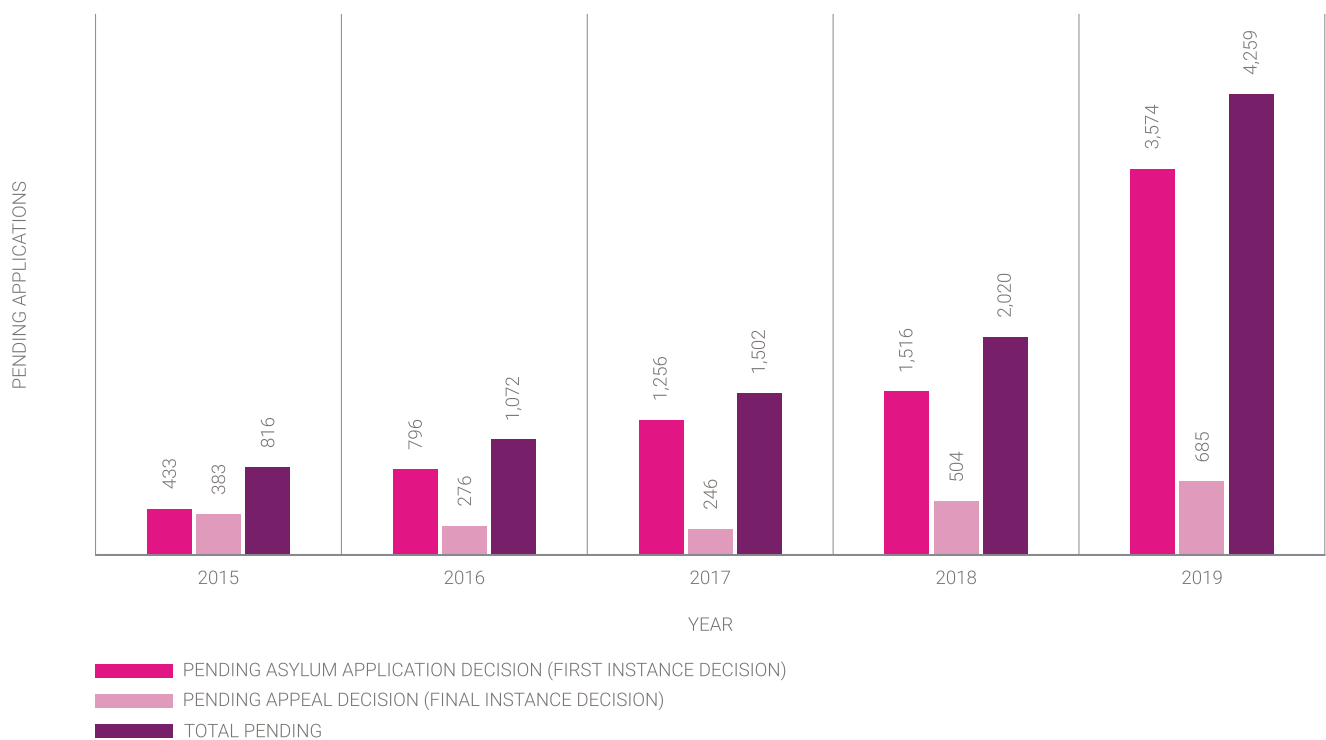


Chart 10.12: Pending asylum application decisions; NSO

## Employment

With regards to the employment status of non-Maltese nationals, since 2010 the number of EU citizens employed in Malta rose considerably from 2,658 to 30,080 in 2019, while the number of EU citizens residing in Malta who were not employed (unemployed or inactive) increased three-fold (Chart 10.13).



Chart 10.13: Employment status of EU citizens (15+years) residing in Malta; LFS, NSO

The percentage of non-EU citizens employed in Malta also increased significantly since 2010 where the number of employed non-EU citizens was 2,736, increasing to 31,129 in 2019 (Chart 10.14).

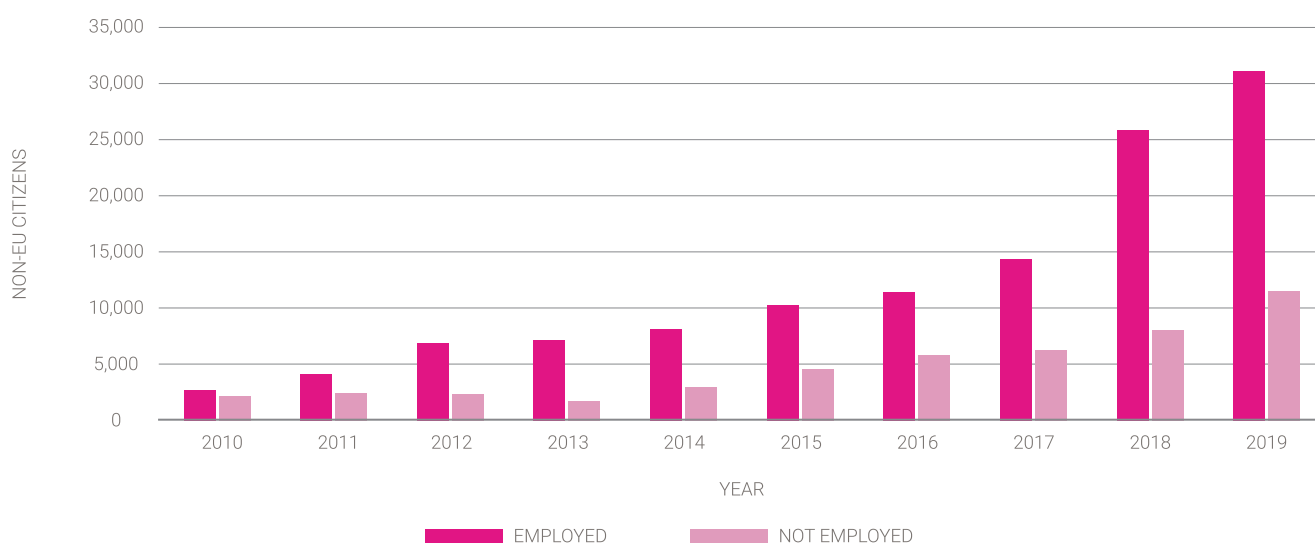


Chart 10.14: Employment status of non-EU citizens (15+years) residing in Malta; LFS, NSO

In 2019, the highest rate of employed in Malta from the population aged 15–64 years was that for EU citizens at 81.7%, while the lowest rate was for Maltese which was 71.8%. The employment rate for non-EU citizens was 74.1% in 2019 (Chart 10.15).

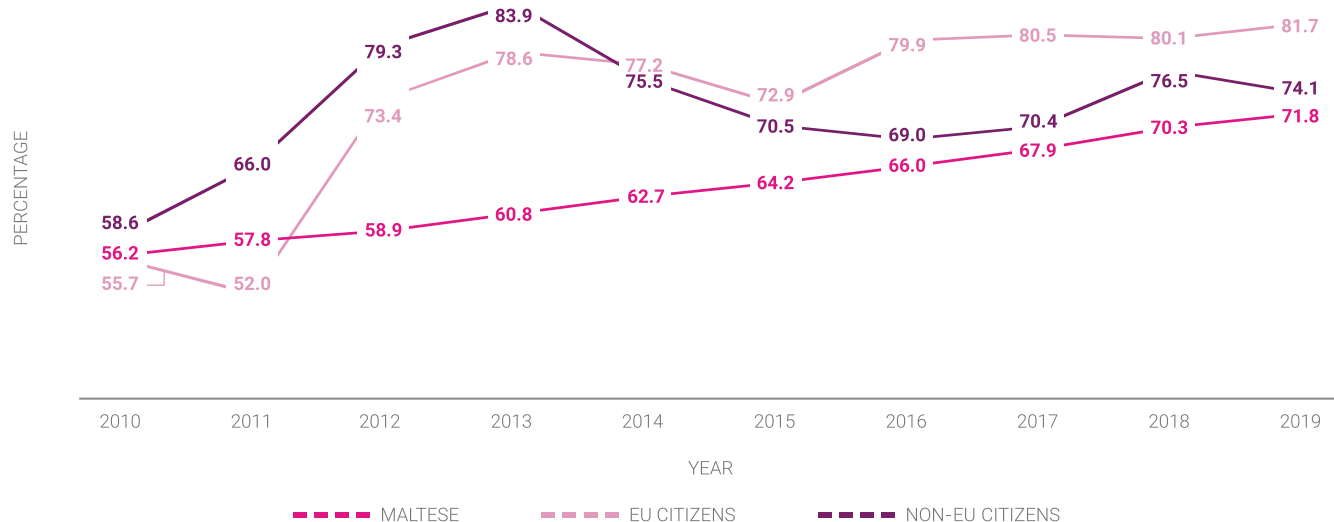


Chart 10.15: Percentage employed of Maltese, EU, and non-EU citizens (15–64 years); LFS, NSO

Moreover, in 2019, the percentage of those aged 18 years and over who were at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion was nearly the same for both Maltese and non-Maltese. In 2019, the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate for Maltese was 19.2%, while for non-Maltese was 20.5%. For both groups, the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rates decreased since 2010; the rate for non-Maltese decreased by 5 percentage points while the rate of Maltese at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion decreased by 0.5 percentage points (Chart 10.16).

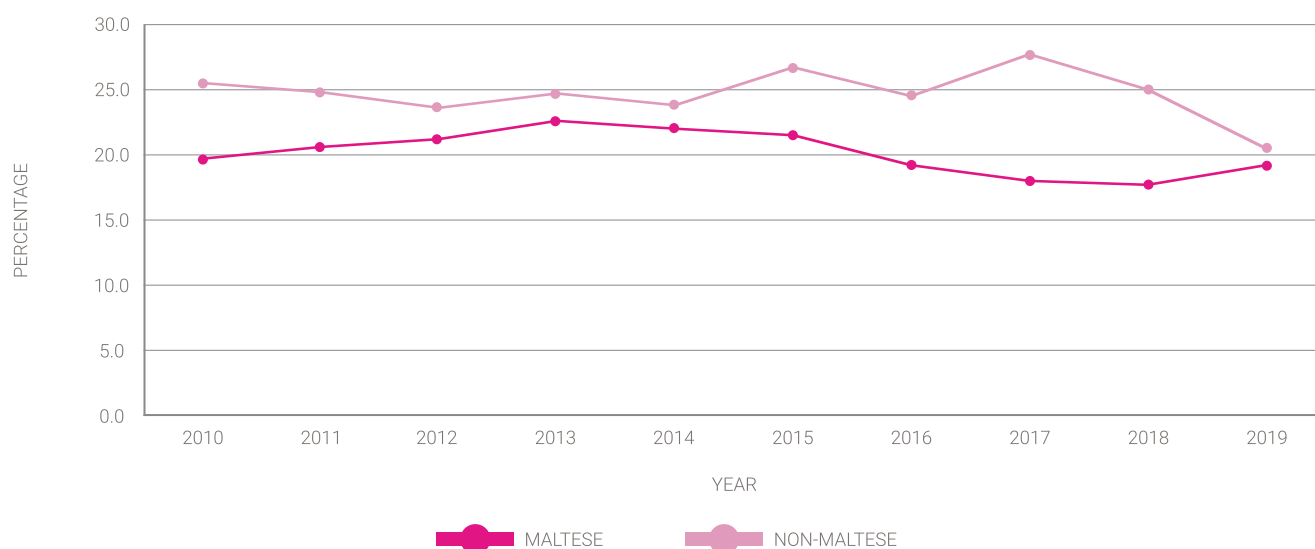


Chart 10.16: At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate of Maltese and non-Maltese aged 18 and over; EU-SILC, NSO

For non-Maltese, the at-risk-of-poverty rate also decreased, from 20.9% in 2010 to 19.2% in 2019. On the other hand, the at-risk-of-poverty rate for Maltese increased by 2.4 percentage points, from 13.7% in 2010 to 16.1% in 2019 (Chart 10.17).

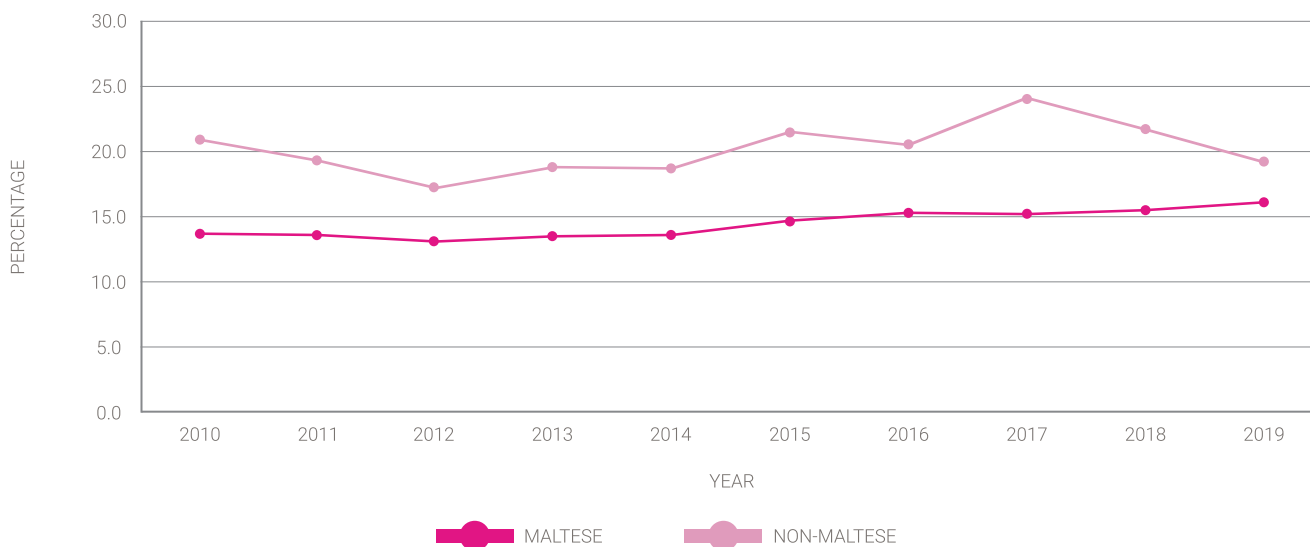


Chart 10.17: At-risk-of-poverty rate of Maltese and non-Maltese aged 18 and over; EU-SILC, NSO

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 10 is reflected in Table 10.1 below. The targets related to SDG 10, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 10 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 10 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 10 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>158</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>159</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>160</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.

## Legend:




	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible












Table 10.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 10


TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
10.1	By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	Growth rate of the net equivalised income among the bottom 40% of the population	
		Income distribution	

<sup>158</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>159</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>160</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].

10.2	By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	Proportion of people living below 50% of median income, by sex and age group	
10.4	Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality	Labour share of GDP (comprising wages and social protection transfers)	
10.7	Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies	Migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people	
		Net migration	
		Share of non-Maltese from total resident population	
		Number of irregular immigrants per 100,000 population	
		Asylum applications per 100,000 population	
		Processing of irregular immigrants per 100,000 population	
		Pending asylum application decisions	
		Percentage of EU citizens employed in Malta	
		Percentage of non-EU citizens employed in Malta	

		At-risk-of-poverty, and at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rates of Maltese and non-Maltese	
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# SDG 11



Make cities and human settlements inclusive,  
safe, resilient and sustainable

## **| Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

Urban areas in general, and cities in particular, are hubs for ideas, commerce, culture, science, productivity, and social, human and economic development. Sustainable urban development requires urban planning, transport systems, sanitation and waste management, investment in societal networking, and capacity-building.

By 2050, it is expected that two-thirds of the world population will be living in urban areas.<sup>161</sup> Therefore, measures for sustainable development need also to take into consideration the urban perspective. Already before Agenda 2030, target 11 of Millennium Development Goal 7 made a call for efforts to achieve “a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers” by 2020. The cross-cutting nature of human settlement is evident since SDGs 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 15, and 17 all include elements that are affected by urbanisation. Nonetheless, the need to address urbanisation more directly resulted in the 2030 Agenda dedicating SDG 11 specifically to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.

Social inequality and the levels of energy consumption and pollution are some of the most pressing challenges that urban areas face today. Social inequality can lead to unrest and insecurity, while pollution deteriorates human and environmental health thus affecting workers’ productivity and therefore the economy. The cost of poor planning is evidenced in congested traffic, greenhouse gas emissions and increased pressure on infrastructure and services. Thus, by taking a sustainable approach, urban areas should be designed as spaces where all citizens live a decent quality of life and form part of the city’s productive dynamic, creating shared prosperity and social stability without harming the environment.

### **Urbanisation and development**

SDG 11 aims to renew and plan cities and other human settlements so that they offer opportunities for all, while improving resource use and reducing environmental impacts. Land cover today is altered principally by direct human use: by agriculture and livestock raising, forest harvesting and management and urban and suburban construction and development. Cities and urban areas require an orderly urban expansion that makes land use more efficient. They need to plan for future internal population growth and city development resulting from migration.

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<sup>161</sup> Department of Economic and Social Affairs—United Nations, *68% of the world population projected to live in urban areas by 2050, says UN*, 16.05.2018, online: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/2018-revision-of-world-urbanization-prospects.html> [accessed on 18 April 2021].

Provisions for new and expanding urban functions such as in the case of transportation and green open spaces need to be made. However, frequently the physical growth of urban areas is disproportionate in relation to population growth, and this results in urban sprawl. This type of growth turns out to violate every premise of sustainability.<sup>162</sup>

The urban population for Malta is taken to be the inhabitants of cities, towns and suburbs. In 2019, the urban population was 501,872—97.5% of the entire population residing in Malta. Since 2010, the urban population increased by 24.2%, while the percentage of urban population from total population remained approximately 97% (Chart 11.1).



Chart 11.1: Urban population (left axis) and percentage of urban population from total population (right axis); NSO

Land is altered principally by direct human use, in particular by construction and development. A defining feature of urban areas is either outward expansion of development zone boundaries and/or the redevelopment of sites to accommodate additional residential units which could lead to overdevelopment and overcrowding, especially if urban planning and land speculation do not take into consideration sustainable development and healthy environments. A large proportion of cities, and urban areas in general, have high consuming expansion patterns.<sup>163</sup> In order to

<sup>162</sup> UN-Habitat, *Metadata on SDGs Indicator 11.3.1, Indicator Category: Tier II*, online: [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/07/metadata\\_on\\_sdg\\_indicator\\_11.3.1.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/07/metadata_on_sdg_indicator_11.3.1.pdf) [accessed on 24 July 2021].

<sup>163</sup> Shlomo Angel et al. (2011) *Making Room for a Planet of Cities*, Lincoln Institute, online at: <https://www.lincolnst.edu/publications/policy-focus-reports/making-room-planet-cities> [accessed on 24 July 2021] and Robert Burchell et al. (1998), *Costs of Sprawl Revisited: The Evidence of Sprawl's Negative and Positive Impacts*, Transit Cooperative Research Program, Transportation Research Board, Washington, D.C.

effectively monitor land consumption growth, it is not only necessary to have the information on existing land use cover but also the capability to monitor the dynamics of land use.<sup>164</sup>

The percentage of developed land and the developed land per capita can be used as indicators to monitor land consumption in relation to population growth. In 2019, the percentage of developed land in Malta was that of 33.6%; an increase from 24.7% in 2000 (Chart 11.2).<sup>165</sup> The developed land in 2019 stood at 206 m<sup>2</sup> per capita; approximately 7 m<sup>2</sup> per capita more than the developed land per capita estimated in 2000, and 27 m<sup>2</sup> less than the developed land per capita estimated in 2010 (Chart 11.3). The percentage of artificial land in Malta was the highest in the European Union, whilst the settlement area per capita was the lowest.<sup>166</sup>

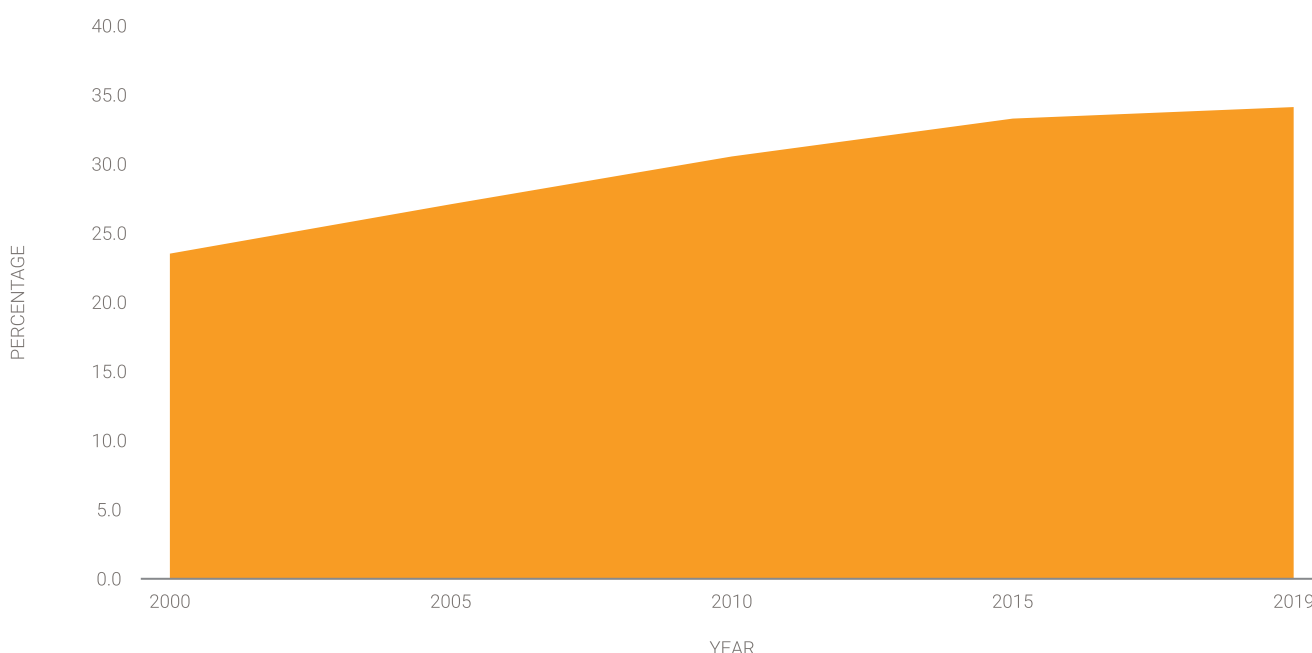


Chart 11.2: Developed land as a percentage of total land area, Planning Authority (PA)

<sup>164</sup> UN-Habitat, *Metadata on SDGs Indicator 11.3.1, Indicator Category: Tier II*, online:

[https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/07/metadata\\_on\\_sdg\\_indicator\\_11.3.1.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/07/metadata_on_sdg_indicator_11.3.1.pdf) [accessed on 24 July 2021].

<sup>165</sup> The figures are inclusive of landfills and quarries. Some over-estimation of developed land may occur since an area is considered as developed upon issuing of a permit and also since the whole parcel that is covered by a development permit is considered as developed.

<sup>166</sup> Eurostat, *Settlement Area per capita*, online:

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg\\_11\\_31/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_11_31/default/table?lang=en) [accessed on 18 April 2021].

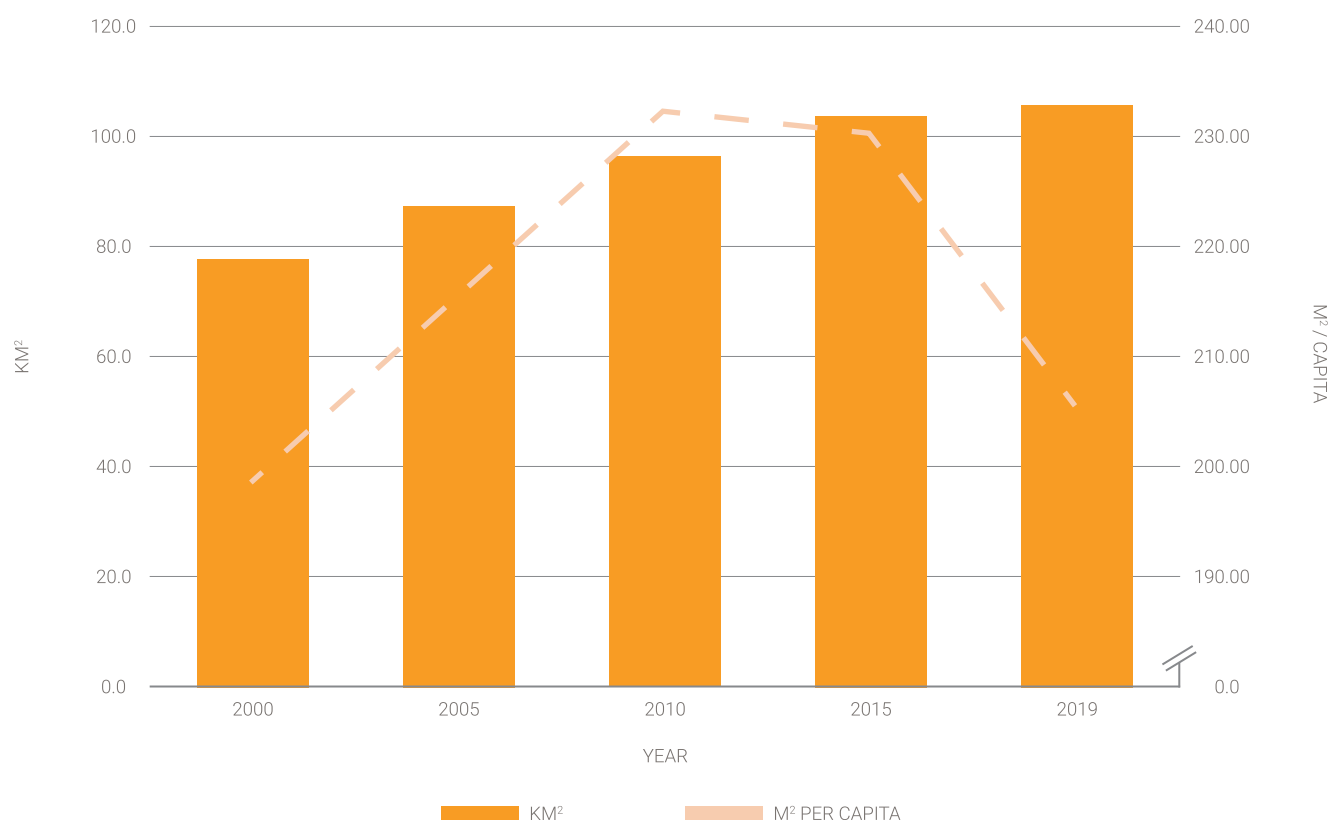


Chart 11.3: Developed land (km<sup>2</sup>) (left axis), and developed land per capita (m<sup>2</sup>/capita) (right axis); PA, NSO

Studies carried out by the Planning Authority (PA) in 2010 and 2016 estimate that in the period 2010–2016, the amount of vacant land available for residential development decreased by 19.1%; from 3,091,276 m<sup>2</sup> in 2010 to 2,500,279 m<sup>2</sup> in 2016.<sup>167</sup> Taking into consideration the total population of Malta in 2010 and 2016, the vacant land earmarked for residential development decreased from 7.45 m<sup>2</sup> per capita in 2010 to 5.43 m<sup>2</sup> per capita in 2016 (Chart 11.4). In 2016, approximately 63% of the uncommitted footprint was reserved for residential development while the remaining percentage was allocated for various other uses, some of which however also included a residential component (Chart 11.5).<sup>168</sup>

<sup>167</sup> Rationalisation sites not included.

<sup>168</sup> Only 'industrial' and 'mixed use without residential' zonings do not include a residential component.

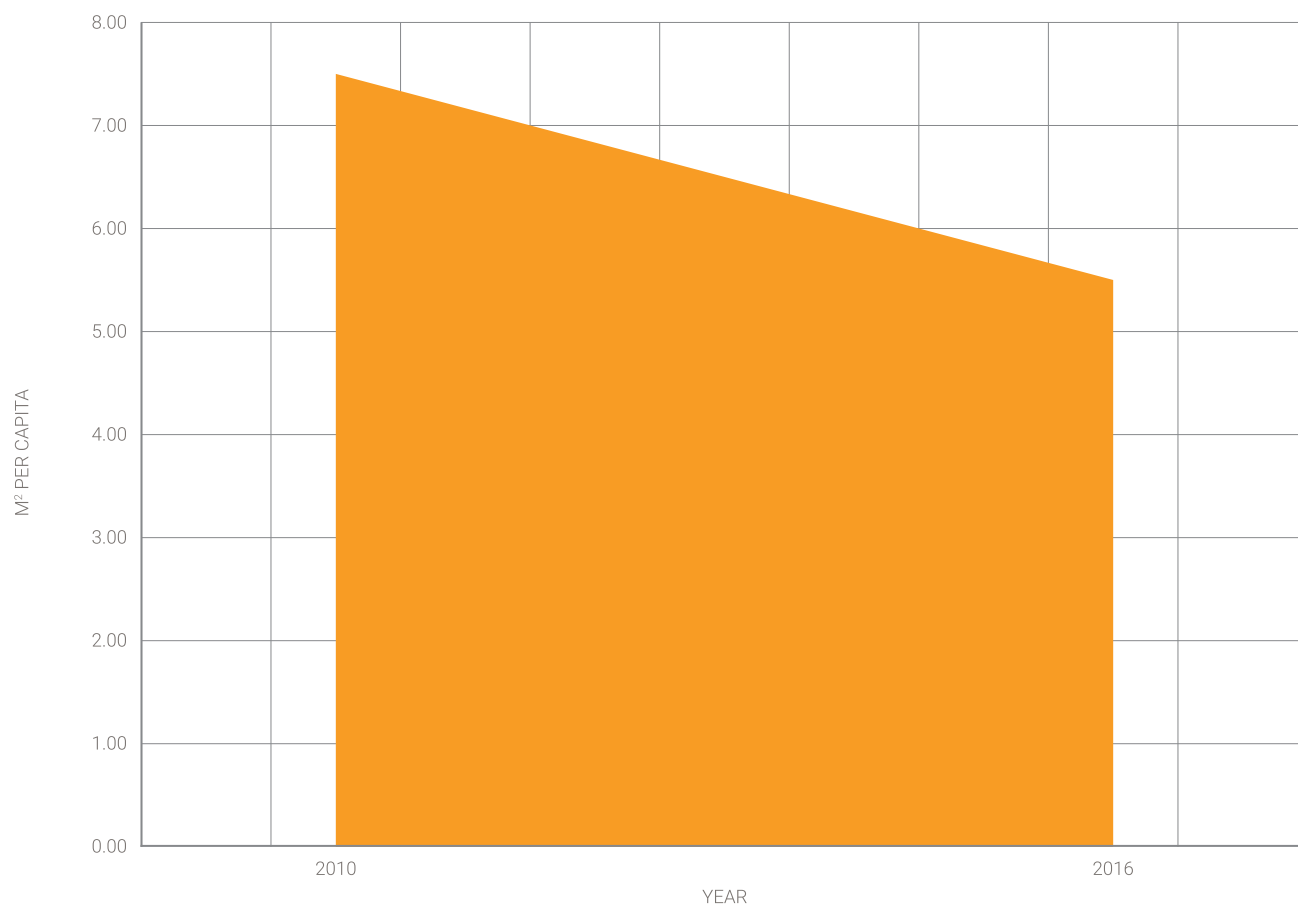


Chart 11.4: Vacant land per capita ( $m^2/capita$ ) for residential development; PA, NSO

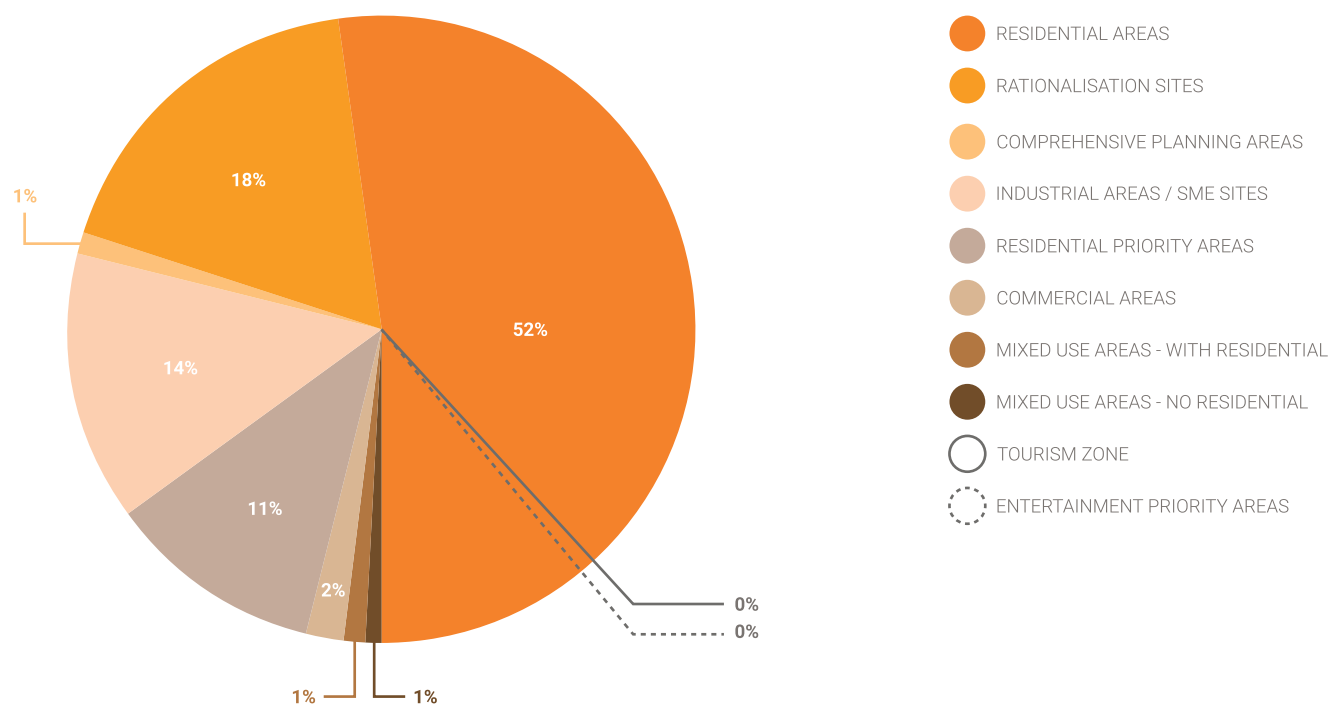


Chart 11.5: Uncommitted footprint by zoning in 2016; PA

The statistics in Charts 11.2, 11.3, and 11.4 show that the percentage of developed land in Malta is increasing while the developed land per capita is decreasing. This could mean either that land use for new development is not in sync with real development needs to cater for population growth, or the height of buildings in Malta is increasing and therefore land take-up is reduced. Increasing the development zone boundaries to allow for more development in Malta is not sustainable given the geographical limitations of being an island. Also, increasing height of buildings for less land take-up may cause overdevelopment and add strain on existing infrastructure. Sustainable urbanisation needs to take into account all these elements.

## Housing

One of the challenges of urbanisation globally has been the provision of adequate housing that people can afford. People living in adequate homes have better health, higher chances to improve their human capital and to seize the opportunities available in urban contexts. At the same time, a housing sector that performs well acts as a ‘development multiplier’ benefiting complementary industries, contributing to economic development, employment generation, service provision and overall poverty reduction. The UN-Habitat City Prosperity Initiative<sup>169</sup> reveals that inadequate housing has negative effects on several other dimensions of urban prosperity. Urban contexts with below average housing conditions experience poorer equity and inclusion, reduced urban safety and livelihood opportunities, and have neglected connectivity and provision of public space. Inadequate housing thus remains a global urban sustainability challenge but also a development opportunity.

Overcrowding in Malta is measured by means of the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) Survey. A person is considered to be living in an overcrowded household if the house does not have at least one room for the entire household as well as a room for a couple, for each single person above 18, for a pair of teenagers (12 to 17 years of age) of the same sex, for each teenager of different sex and for a pair of children (under 12 years of age). In 2019, the overcrowding rate in Malta stood at 3.7%, 0.3 percentage points less than the overcrowding rate in 2010 (Chart 11.6).

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<sup>169</sup> UN-Habitat, *City Prosperity Initiative*, online: <https://unhabitat.org/programme/city-prosperity-initiative> [accessed on 18 April 2021].

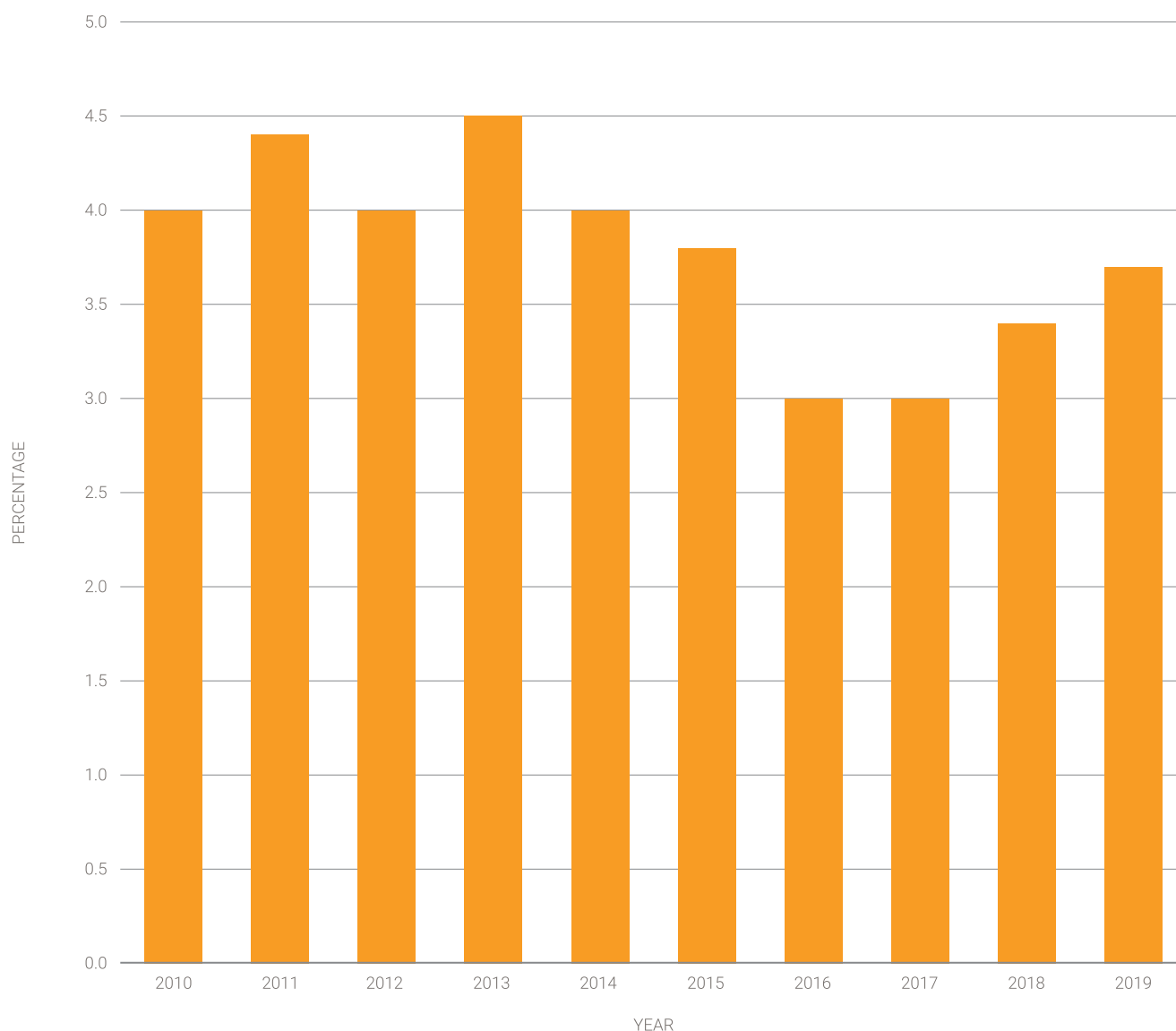


Chart 11.6: Overcrowding rate in Malta; EU-SILC, NSO

The EU-SILC also measures the percentage of persons in the total population who are materially deprived for the 'housing' dimension, based on the dwelling problems: (a) leaking roof / damp walls / floors / foundation or rot in window frames; (b) accommodation too dark; (c) no bath/shower; (d) no indoor flushing toilet for sole use of the household. In 2019, 15.2% of Maltese households were considered to be materially deprived from a housing dimension on one or more of the four criteria mentioned above. Also, 10% of persons indicated that their dwelling was too dark, and 7.6% indicated that they lived in houses with moisture damages. Since 2010, the rate of the population living in dwellings without sufficient natural light increased by 2.6 percentage points, however the rate of the population considered to be materially deprived (housing) and the rate of the population living in dwellings with moisture damages decreased by 1.7 percentage points and 4.5 percentage points respectively (Chart 11.7).



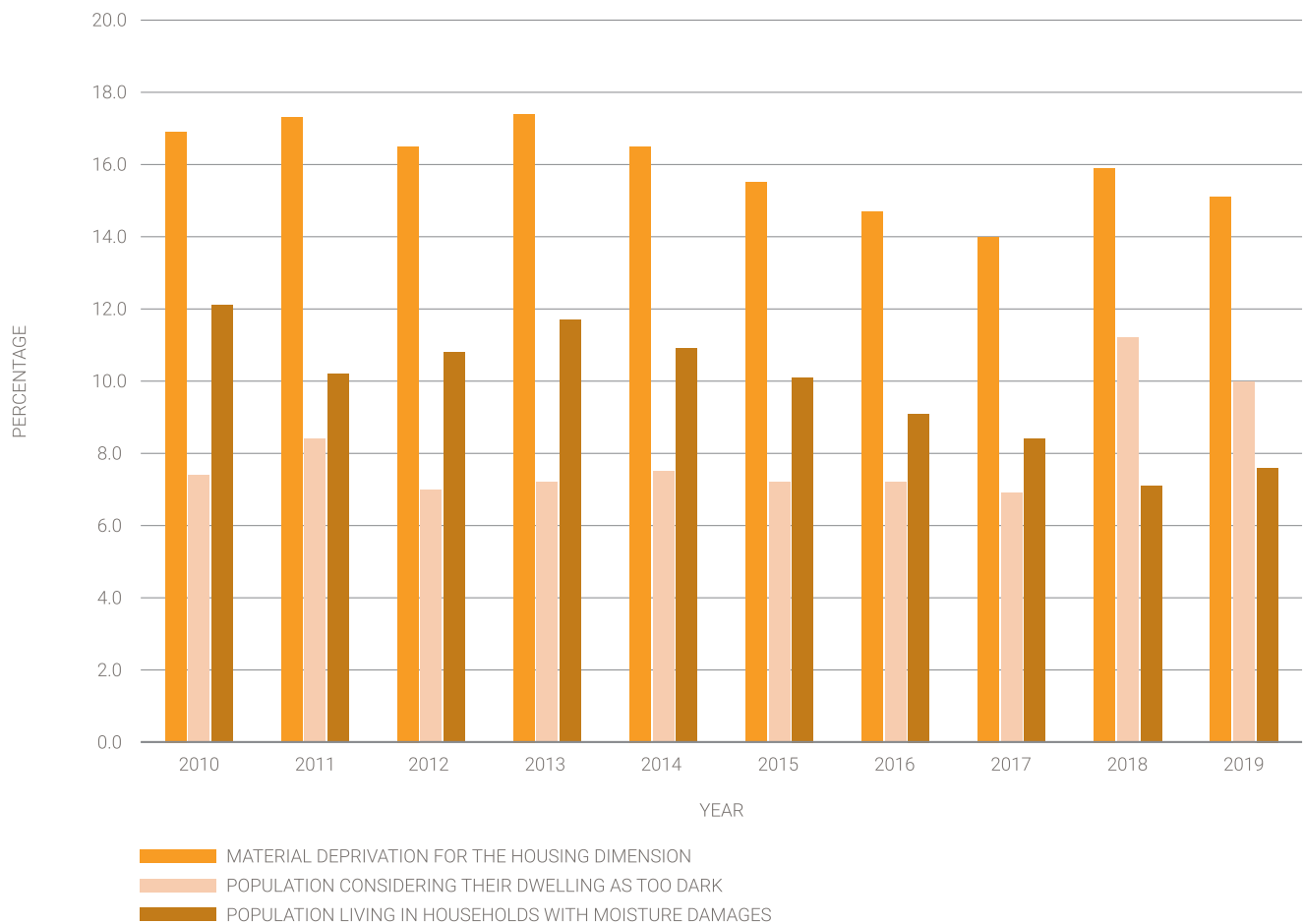


Chart 11.7: Material deprivation - 'housing'; EU-SILC, NSO

## Transport and road safety

An important aspect in urban areas is transportation, since the transportation system is a critical enabler of economic activities and social inclusion. Indeed, one of the targets of SDG 11 seeks to provide by 2030, access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all, with particular focus on improving road safety and expanding public transport. The overarching aim of this target is to move towards easing the reliance on the private means of transportation, improving access to areas having a high proportion of transport disadvantaged groups (such as elderly citizens, physically challenged individuals, and low-income earners) and reducing the need for mobility, both in terms of the number of trips and the distances travelled. The ability of residents, including persons with disabilities and businesses, to access markets, employment opportunities, and service centres, such as schools and hospitals, is critical to urban economic development. The target also aims to address the 'externalities' associated with transport in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, air quality, traffic congestion and road traffic accidents.

In Malta, all buses used by the public transport system are of the low floor type, making these vehicles fully accessible to persons with mobility impairments. Moreover, all buses have specifically designated seating for persons with mobility impairments, pregnant women, the elderly and persons carrying young children.<sup>170</sup> Moreover, the 'Government Free Travel Scheme' is an initiative allowing various categories of people to travel for free on the public transport service that is operated by the Malta Public Transport.<sup>171</sup> These categories include children under the age of 14, adolescents aged between 14 and 20, students aged 21 years and above, commuters aged 70 and above, and disabled persons.

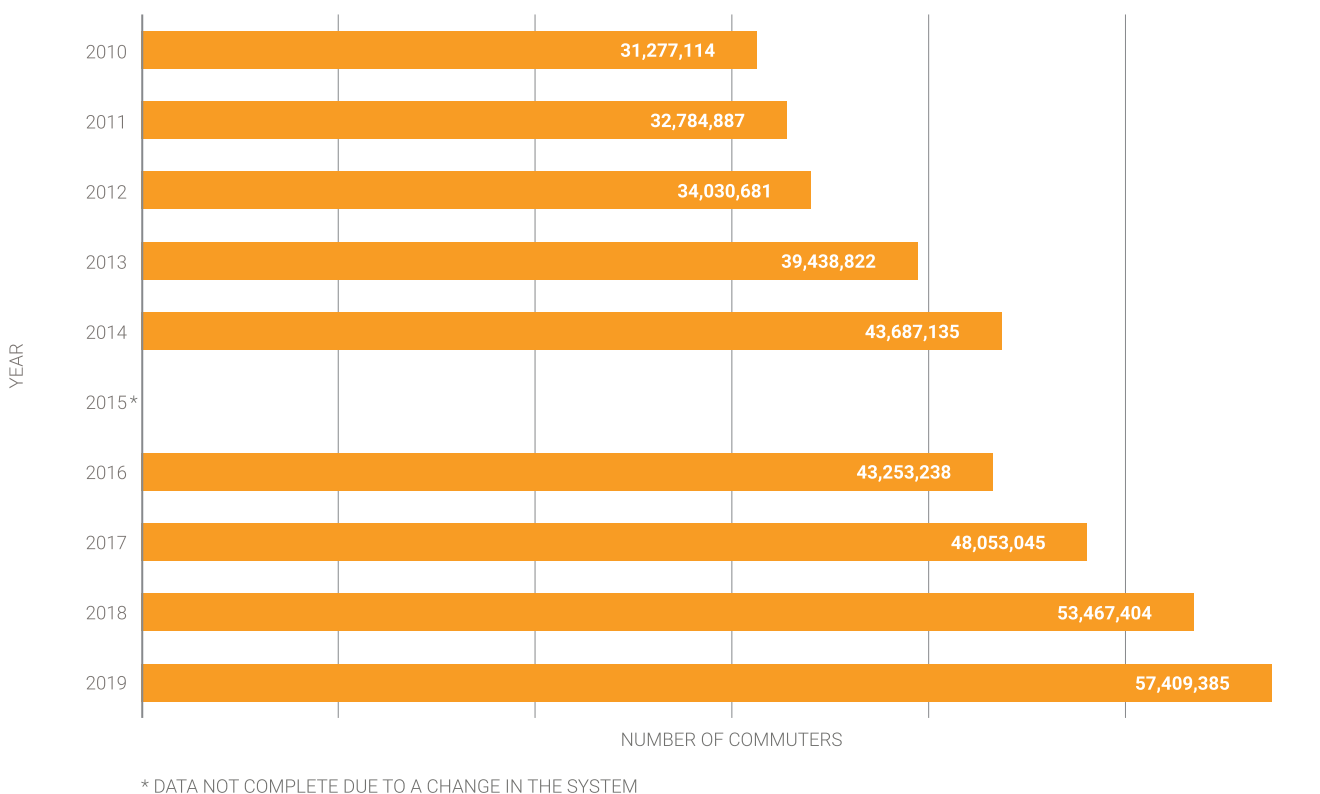


Chart 11.8: Use of public transport; Transport Malta, NSO

In the period 2010–2019, the use of public transport in Malta increased by 83.6%; from 31,277,114 commuters in 2010 to 57,409,385 in 2019 (Chart 11.8). However, the number of newly licensed passenger cars (new and used) also increased; from 13,605 in 2010 to 18,889 in 2019—an increase of 38.8%. In between these years, the number of newly licensed passenger cars varied between the lowest of 13,079 in 2012 and the highest of 19,479 in 2018 (Chart 11.9). Considering the two years 2010 and 2019, the number of passenger cars scrapped or exported

<sup>170</sup> Malta Public Transport, *Accessibility*, online: <https://www.publictransport.com.mt/accessibility> [accessed on 7 July 2021].

<sup>171</sup> Malta Public Transport, *Terms and Conditions*, online: <https://www.publictransport.com.mt/terms-and-conditions#FREETRAVEL> [accessed on 7 July 2021].

increased from 4,008 to 8,425 - an increase of 110.2%. Taking into consideration the years in between, the lowest number of passenger cars scrapped or exported was 2,792 in 2014 and the highest was 16,837 in 2016 (Chart 11.9).<sup>172</sup> During the period 2010–2019, the ratio between newly licensed cars and passenger cars scrapped or exported was generally always in favour of newly licensed cars. In 2010, the ratio was 3.39 newly licensed cars for every car scrapped or exported. In 2019, the ratio decreased to 2.24 newly licensed cars for every car scrapped or exported. The ratio was the highest in 2014 with a figure of 5.55, while the lowest ratio was 0.99, registered in 2016 (Chart 11.10).

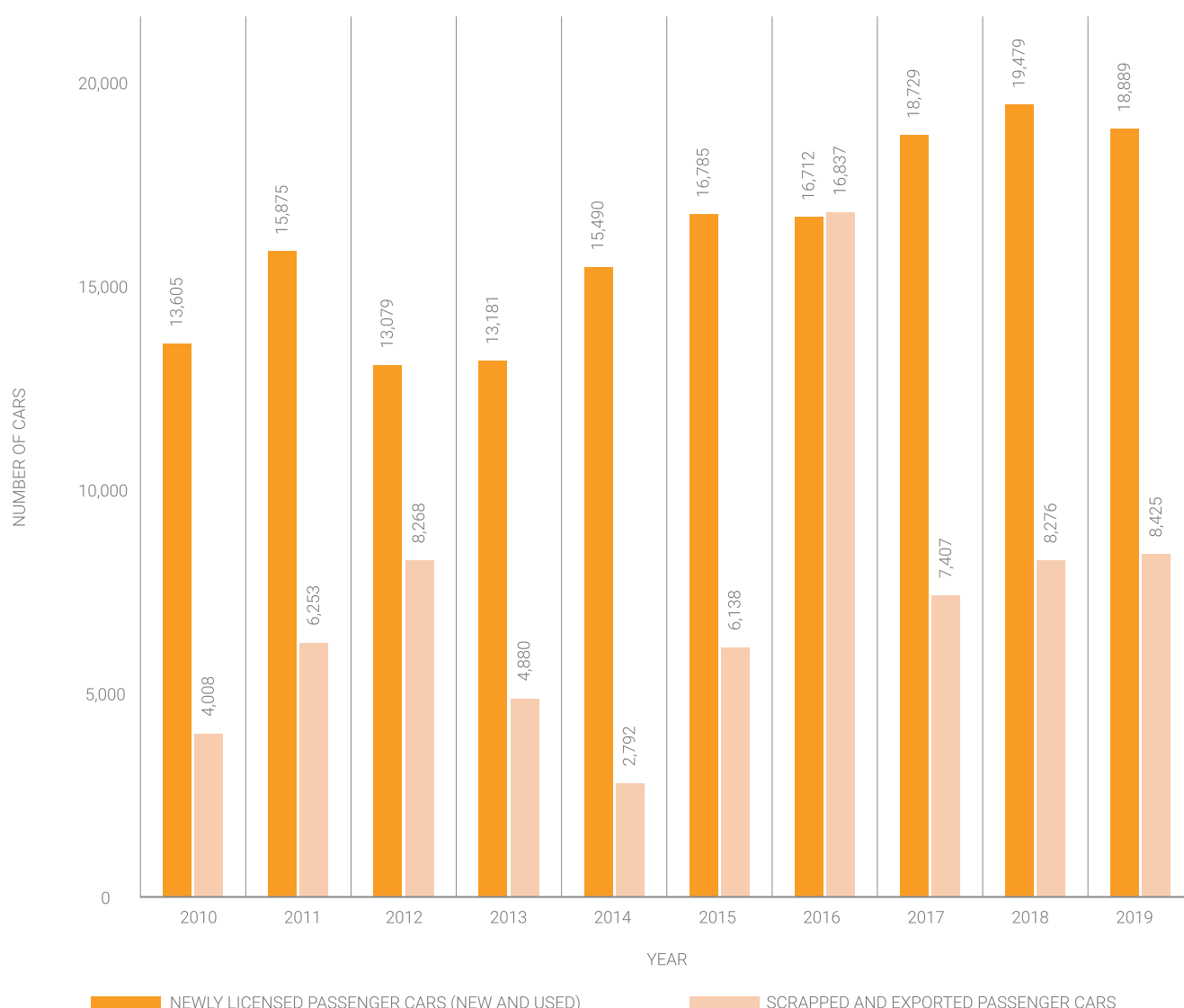


Chart 11.9: Number of newly licensed passenger cars (new and used) and number of scrapped and exported passenger cars per year; Transport Malta, NSO

<sup>172</sup> Transport Malta had launched a regularisation scheme for those vehicles declared as garaged, but which in fact had been scrapped. This scheme was going to end in 2016, and therefore resulted in an increase in demand to settle those vehicles.



Chart 11.10: Ratio of newly licensed passenger cars (new and used) for every passenger car exported or scrapped; Transport Malta, NSO

The fatalities caused by road traffic accidents, including drivers and passengers of motorised vehicles and pedal cycles as well as pedestrians increased from a rate of 3.0 per 100,000 population in the period 2008–2010 to 3.7 per 100,000 population in the period 2017–2019 (Chart 11.11).<sup>173</sup>

<sup>173</sup> Persons involved in road accidents who die up to 30 days after the occurrence of the accident are counted as road accident fatalities. After these 30 days, the reason for dying might be declared differently.

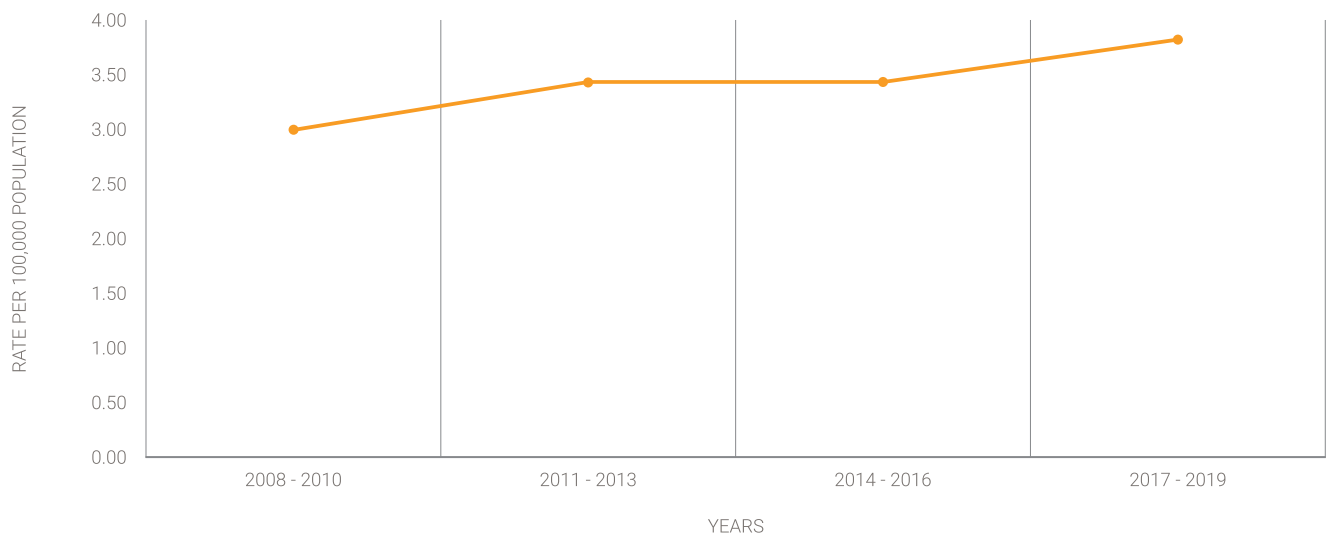


Chart 11.11: People killed in road accidents (three-year averages); DG Move, Eurostat

## Neighbourhoods: safety and noise

Urban areas are linked with noise pollution; considered to be any unwanted or disturbing sound that affects the health and well-being of humans and other organisms. Indeed, noise pollution is also linked to SDG 3 on health and well-being for all at all ages.

The results of the strategic noise mapping and the population exposure assessment carried out by the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) indicate that the predominant source of noise exposure across Malta is from road traffic sources and this can also be linked to the steady increase in the number of daily registered vehicles on the roads.<sup>174</sup> There are currently no national criteria in relation to noise limit values from roads. However, in 2013, the Malta Environment and Planning Authority<sup>175</sup> proposed an assessment for threshold levels of 65 dB  $L_{den}$  and 55 dB  $L_{night}$  from road traffic noise as a first step in identifying priority locations which may benefit from noise mitigation measures.<sup>176</sup> Moreover, the World Health Organisation's 'Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region' show that the onset of significant adverse health effects occur above 53 dB  $L_{den}$  and 45 dB  $L_{night}$  due to road traffic noise. The research underpinning the WHO guidelines also indicates that the impact on health increases as long-term exposure to environmental noise increases. For instance, significant

<sup>174</sup>Environment and Resources Authority (2018), *State of the Environment Report 2018*, Chapter 7: Environmental Health, Malta.

<sup>175</sup> MEPA was dissolved on 4 April 2016 and replaced by two authorities: the Planning Authority (PA) and the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA).

<sup>176</sup>  $L_{den}$  is the noise indicator for overall annoyance which is defined as an equivalent continuous noise level over a whole 24-hour period, and  $L_{night}$  is the noise indicator for sleep disturbance which is defined as an equivalent continuous noise level over the night-time period. Day is defined by 07:00 to 19:00, evening from 19:00 to 23:00 and night from 23:00 to 07:00.

adverse effects, such as heart disease, sleep disturbance and annoyance, increase steadily with exposure to higher noise levels from road traffic noise exceeding 53dB  $L_{den}$  and 45dB  $L_{night}$ .<sup>177</sup>

The results of the population exposure analysis for the third round (R3) of major roads noise mapping for Malta (2016) show that the exposure to noise from major roads has increased since the R2 assessment in 2011. For the 2016 assessment, the total population within the major roads noise mapping and action planning area was approximately 408,500. The assessment showed that 9.8% of the affected population were exposed to noise levels from major road traffic sources above the Environmental Noise Directive (END) reporting threshold of 55 dB  $L_{den}$ ,<sup>178</sup> and a bit less than 4.0% were exposed to major roads traffic noise above the onset for assessment level of 65 dB  $L_{den}$ . Between R2 in 2011 and R3 in 2016, the number of people exposed to noise from major roads above 55 dB  $L_{den}$  has increased by 19.5%, from 33,400 to 39,900. The biggest change was for the new entrants in the exposure range of 55-59 dB  $L_{den}$  (Chart 11.12).<sup>179</sup>

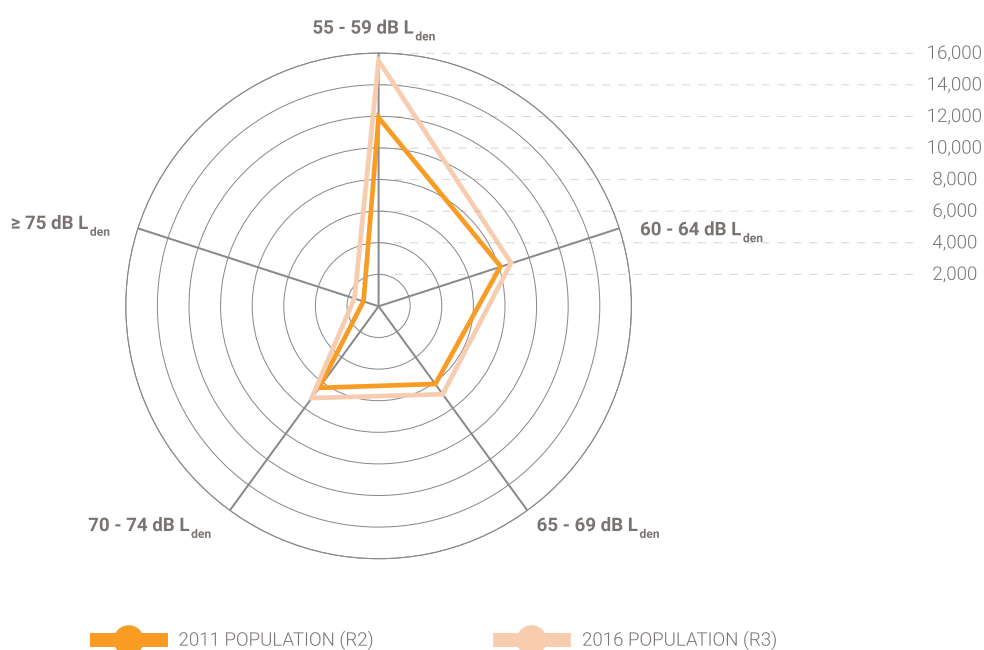


Chart 11.12: Number of people living within dwellings in Malta and Gozo exposed to noise from major roads, by dB  $L_{den}$  brackets; Environment and Resources Authority (ERA)

<sup>177</sup> World Health Organization (Regional Office for Europe) (2018), Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region, Copenhagen. Available online at: <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/noise/publications/2018/environmental-noise-guidelines-for-the-european-region-2018> [accessed on 23 July 2021].

<sup>178</sup> Official Journal of the European Communities (2002), Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise, OJ L 189, 18.7.2002, p. 12-25.

<sup>179</sup> Due to differences in the noise calculation models between Round 2 and Round 3; particularly the terrain contour information, and the number of inhabitants per dwelling datasets; it is uncertain how much of the change in the reported exposure is due to real world changes in noise levels experienced by people living in Malta.

Moreover, through the EU-SILC in 2019, 28.3% of the population declared that they live in areas with noise pollution, either by noise from neighbours or from the street. This was a slight increase of 0.8 percentage points from the percentage of population affected by noise pollution in 2010 (Chart 11.13). Perception of noise is subjective, thus it should be taken into consideration that the indicator accounts for both the levels of noise pollution as well as people's standards of what noise level they consider to be acceptable. Therefore, an increase in the value of the indicator may not necessarily indicate a similar increase in noise pollution levels but may show a decrease in the levels that people are willing to tolerate.<sup>180</sup>

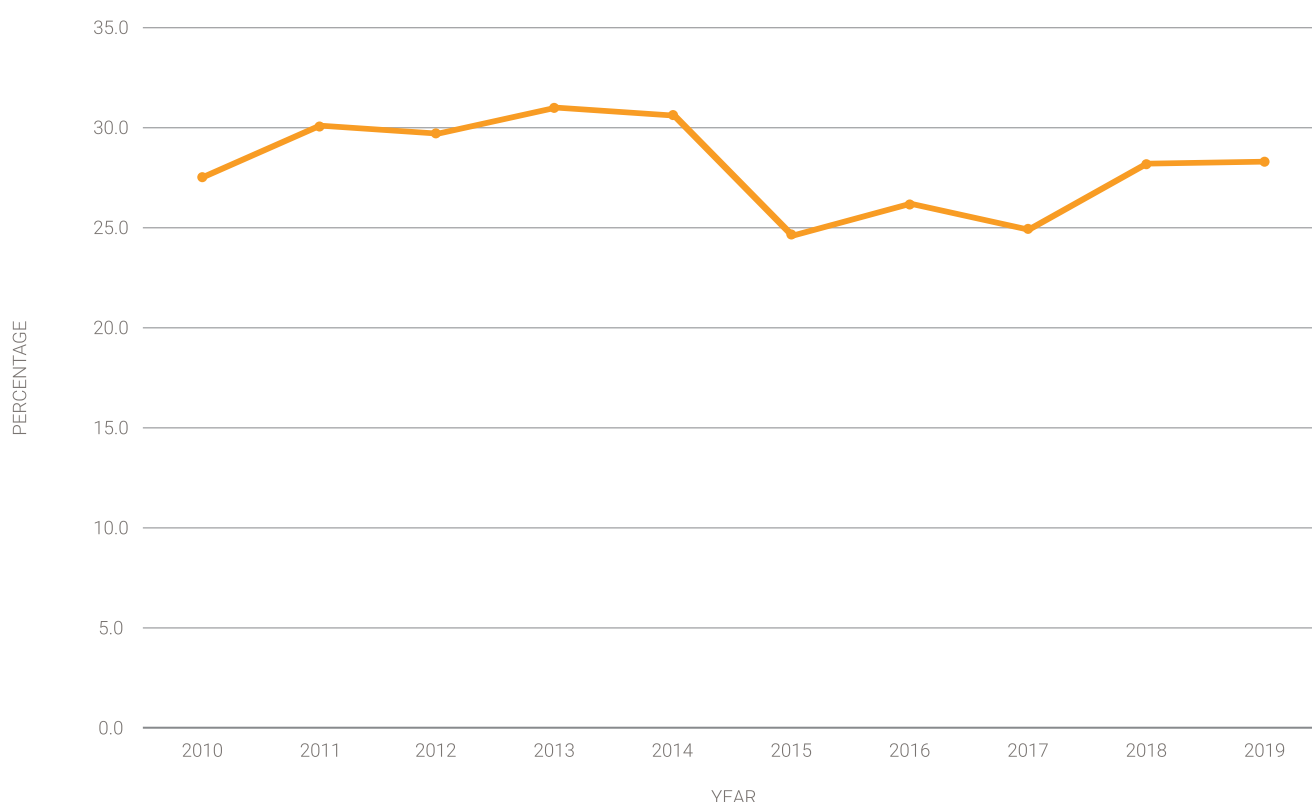


Chart 11.13: Population living in an area with noise pollution; EU-SILC, NSO

The EU-SILC also shows that in 2019, 13.6% of Malta's population had the perception of living in an area with crime, violence or vandalism; an increase from the percentage registered in 2010 (Chart 11.14). The concept of 'fear of crime' is different from the prevalence of crime and it may even be largely independent from actual experience. The perception of crime and the resulting fear of it is driven by a number of factors; such as the awareness of crime, public discussion, media exposure and personal circumstances. Yet, albeit the 'fear of crime' is based on perception, it is an important indicator about the health of neighbourhoods. A high level of

<sup>180</sup> Eurostat, *Population living in households considering that they suffer from noise, by poverty status (sdg\_11\_20)*, online at [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/sdg\\_11\\_20\\_esmsip2.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/sdg_11_20_esmsip2.htm) [accessed on 18 April 2021].

fear can negatively influence well-being, heighten sensitivity on the ability to protect oneself, and thus lead to diminished trust and reduced contacts with the public and participation in public activities. This indicator is also linked to SDG 16 which deals with peace, justice and strong institutions.

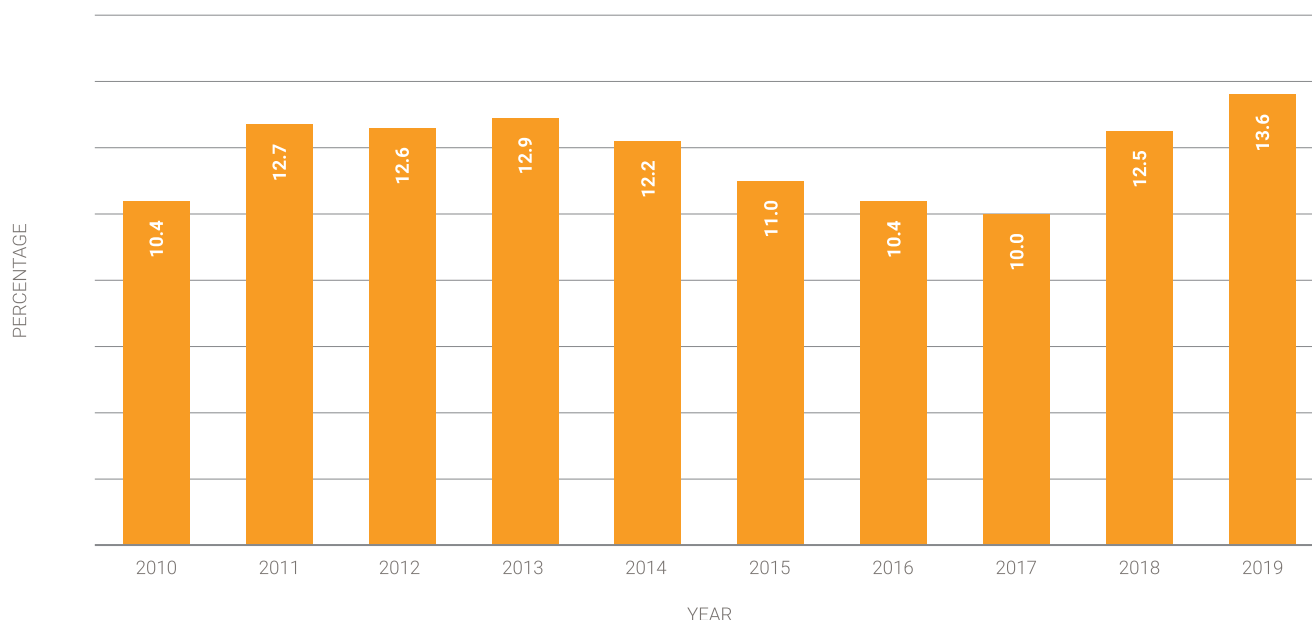


Chart 11.14: Population living in an area with crime, violence or vandalism (perception); EU-SILC, NSO

## Air Quality

Air pollution consists of many pollutants, together with particulate matter. These tiny particles are able to penetrate deeply into the respiratory tract and therefore constitute a risk for health by increasing mortality from respiratory infections and diseases, lung cancer, and selected cardiovascular diseases. Air quality in urban areas tends to be negatively affected by externalities or urbanisation. The mean annual concentrations of suspended particulate matter of less than 10 microns in diameters ( $PM_{10}$ ) and fine suspended particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameters ( $PM_{2.5}$ ) are common measures of air pollution and are expressed in micrograms per cubic meter [ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ]. Emissions from the combustion of gasoline, oil, diesel fuel or wood produce much of the  $PM_{2.5}$  as well as a significant proportion of  $PM_{10}$  pollution found in the atmosphere.  $PM_{10}$  is also emitted from non-exhaust traffic-related sources such as road abrasion, tyre and break wear, construction sites, landfills, and industrial sources. Furthermore, due to Malta's geographical location,  $PM_{10}$  concentrations also include natural contributions such as Saharan dust and sea salt.<sup>181</sup>

<sup>181</sup> Environment and Resources Authority (2018), 'Chapter 2: Ambient Air', *State of the Environment Report 2018*, Malta.



The European Union has developed an extensive body of legislation which establishes health-based standards and objectives for a number of pollutants present in the air, including for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and  $\text{PM}_{10}$ . The standards and objectives set for these two pollutants are: a yearly average of  $25 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and a yearly average of  $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for  $\text{PM}_{10}$ .<sup>182</sup> Moreover, the World Health Organisation (WHO) guideline values, which are set for the protection of human health, are generally stricter than the comparable politically agreed EU standards. The limits set by WHO are a yearly average of  $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and a yearly average of  $20 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for  $\text{PM}_{10}$ .<sup>183</sup>

The population weighted particulate matter annual average refers to the annual mean levels of PM in cities—that is the annual mean concentrations compared to the population within a city exposed to it. Annual mean concentrations considered for the calculation of the population weighted particulate matter annual average were obtained from the ERA urban background monitoring stations in Attard and Żejtun.<sup>184</sup> In 2019, the population weighted  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and  $\text{PM}_{10}$  annual averages in Malta were  $12.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and  $29.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  respectively. Both levels were slightly lower than the population weighted annual average calculated in 2010. During the period 2010–2019, the highest population weighted annual average level for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  was that of  $14.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  measured in 2015, while the lowest was  $10.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2012. During the same period, the highest population weighted annual average for  $\text{PM}_{10}$  registered was  $32.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2010 and the lowest level was  $26.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2017 (Chart 11.15).

<sup>182</sup> European Commission, *Air Quality Standards*, online:

<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/quality/standards.htm> [accessed on 19 April 2021].

<sup>183</sup> World Health Organisation, *Ambient (outdoor) air pollution*, online:

[https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ambient-\(outdoor\)-air-quality-and-health](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ambient-(outdoor)-air-quality-and-health) [accessed on 19 April 2021].

<sup>184</sup> The Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) monitors  $\text{PM}_{10}$  from only one urban background station (Żejtun) and it is assumed that the annual average concentrations are representative of the total population. This is also the case for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , where for the years 2007 to 2014 ERA had only one urban background station in operation (Żejtun). In 2015, ERA launched the second urban background station in Attard and from that year onwards ERA generates two  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  annual average concentrations (one for each station).

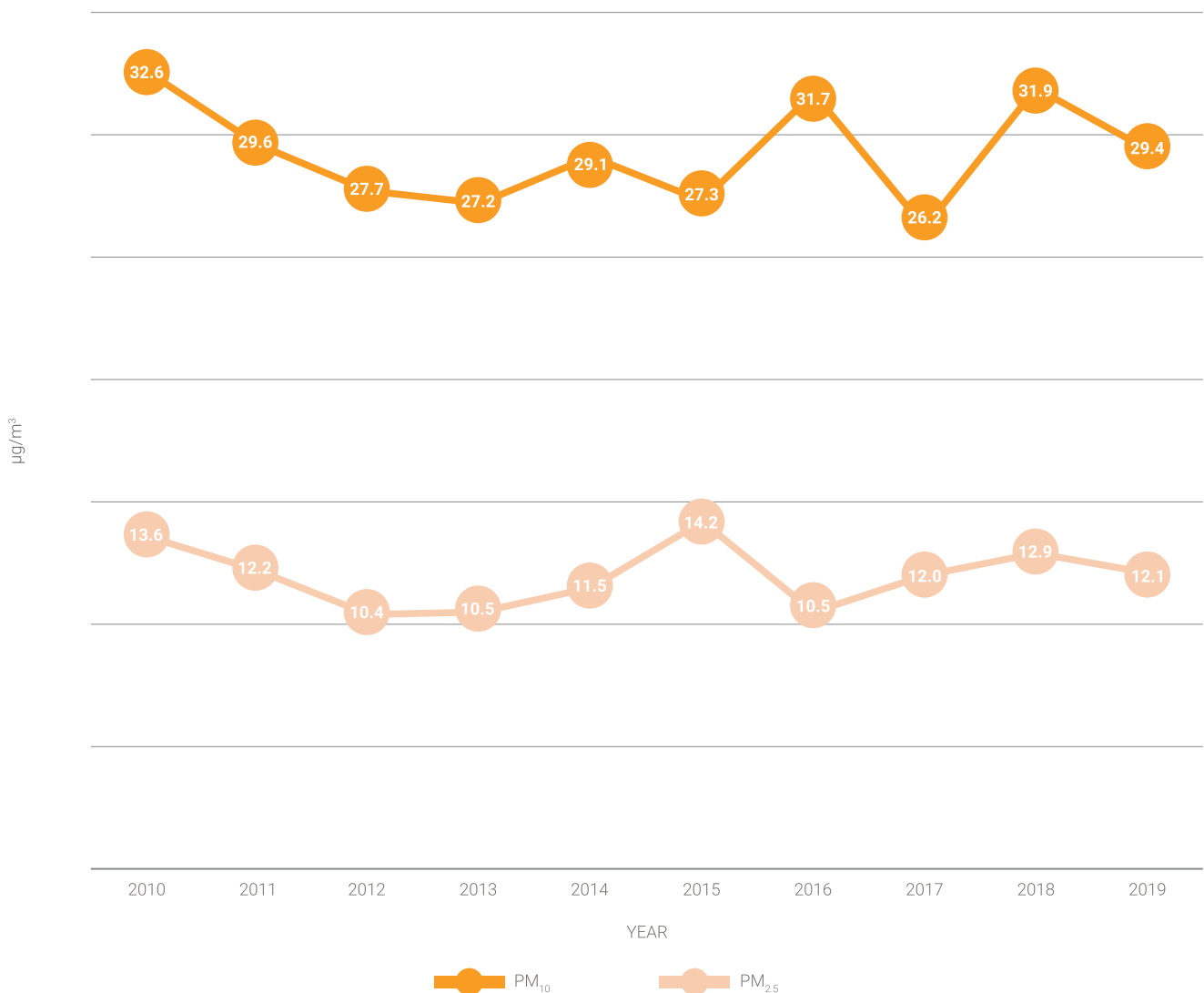


Chart 11.15: Population weighted annual average for particulate matter PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> in Malta; ERA

## Waste Management

Urban households and businesses produce substantial amounts of solid waste that must be regularly collected and treated properly in order to maintain sanitary living conditions, uphold environmental protection and minimise resource losses. As urbanisation and population growth will continue, it is expected that municipal solid waste generation will increase. Moreover, the higher the income level, the greater the amount of solid waste produced. In Malta, the municipal waste generated per capita in 2019 amounted to 679 Kg, an increase of 78 Kg per capita from the 601 Kg per capita measured in 2010 (Chart 11.16).

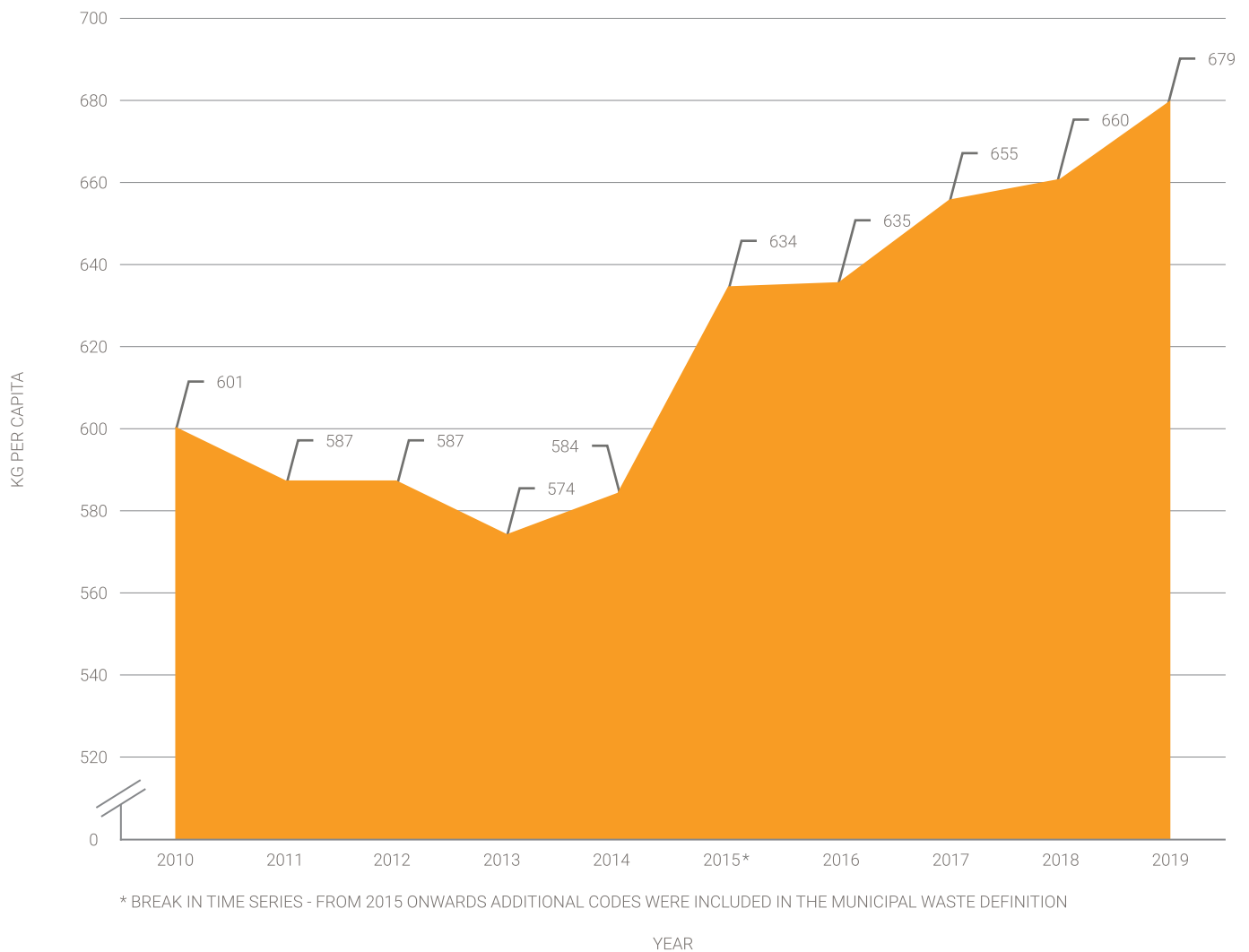


Chart 11.16: Municipal waste generated per capita (kg); NSO

Municipal solid waste management generally consists of four stages: waste generation; waste collection and transportation; recycling and treatment; and disposal. Throughout these four stages, environmentally sound management and operations are essential to reduce the adverse environmental impact of urban areas, while also addressing urban environmental health and resource management.

In Malta, 100% of the municipal waste generated is collected by means of various services catering for recyclable waste, organic waste, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), batteries, bulky waste and residual waste—all this waste is eventually treated. In 2019, 352,018 tonnes of municipal waste were treated; 47.2% more than the waste treated in 2010. From all the waste treated, only a small proportion was recovered through material recycling, composting and digestion and energy recovery. In 2010, recovery amounted to 5.6% of the municipal waste treated while in 2019 the share of recovery stood at 8.9% (Chart 11.17).

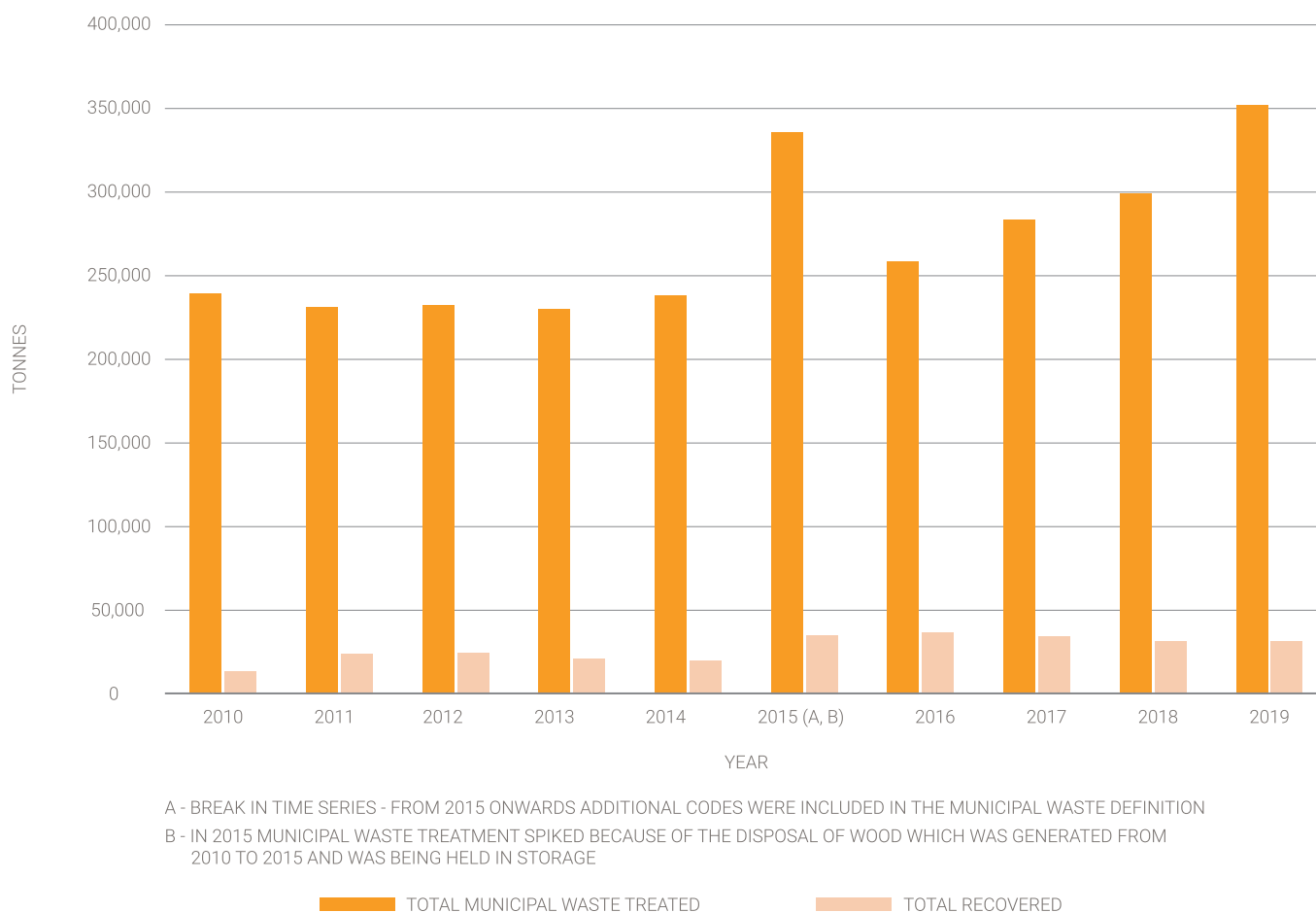


Chart 11.17: Total municipal waste treated, and total municipal waste recovered; NSO

## Natural heritage and culture

One of the targets of SDG 11 seeks the strengthening of efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage. The financial efforts and actions made by public authorities alone or in partnership with civil society organisations and the private sector, to protect and safeguard Malta's cultural and natural heritage, have a direct impact in making human settlements more sustainable. This is even more so when these heritage assets generate employment and income as tourist attractions. An indicator about the extent of the efforts that are undertaken to protect Malta's cultural and natural heritage is the percentage of government spending on the protection of biodiversity and landscape and on cultural services.

In 2010, Government expenditure on the protection of biodiversity and landscape and on cultural services amounted to around €43 and €87 per capita, respectively. By 2019, expenditure per capita on the protection of biodiversity and landscape increased by 89.8% to around €81 per capita, and expenditure on cultural services increased by 110.2% to €183 per capita (Chart 11.18).

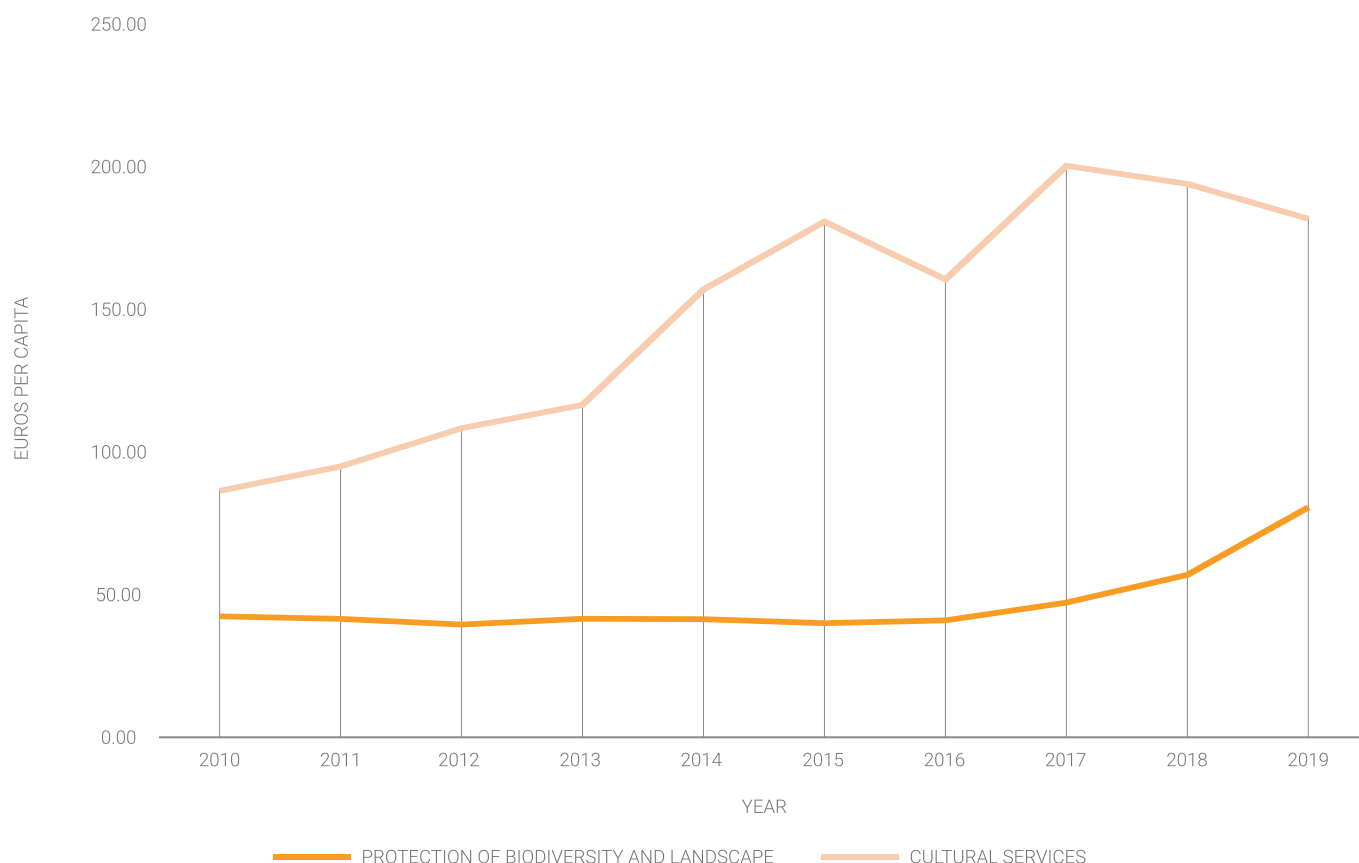


Chart 11.18: Government spending per capita on the protection of biodiversity and landscape and on cultural services; NSO

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 11 is reflected in Table 11.1 below. The targets related to SDG 11, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 11 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 11 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 11 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>185</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>186</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>187</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.

### Legend:




	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

Table 11.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 11





TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
11.1	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	Overcrowding rate in Malta	
		Material deprivation – 'housing'	

<sup>185</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>186</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>187</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].

		Population living in an area with crime, violence or vandalism	
		Number of people living within dwellings in Malta and Gozo exposed to noise from major roads	
		Population living in an area with noise pollution	
11.2	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons	Use of public transport	
		Number of newly licensed passenger cars (new and used)	
		Number of scrapped and exported passenger cars per year	
		People killed in road accidents	
11.3	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries	Percentage of developed land	
		Developed land per capita	
		Vacant land per capita for residential development	
		Uncommitted footprint by zoning in 2016	

11.4	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	Government spending per capita on the protection of biodiversity and landscape, and on cultural services	
11.6	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	Municipal waste generated per capita	
		Total municipal waste treated, and total municipal waste recovered	
		Population weighted annual average of particulate matter PM <sub>2.5</sub> and PM <sub>10</sub> in Malta	







# SDG 12



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

## Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Global economies are driven largely by consumption and production without much attention to the environment. The global material footprint is increasing faster than population growth and economic output, and improvements in resource efficiency in some countries are offset by increases in material intensity in others. SDG 12 seeks to address this situation by means of a number of targets to ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) patterns.

In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development identified sustainable consumption and production as one of the three overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation called for “Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production”. This was reaffirmed by the Heads of States at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), in June 2012, inter alia with the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.<sup>188</sup>

The targets of SDG 12 take into account the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and seek that by 2020 states achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals, and all wastes throughout their life cycle and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimise their adverse impacts on human health and the environment. Moreover, the targets seek that by 2030 states achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources and reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse. An important means to achieve these targets is through the promotion of public procurement practices that are sustainable.

### Domestic Material Consumption

Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) reports the amount of materials that are used in a national economy,<sup>189</sup> and is a standard Material Flow (MF) accounting indicator. DMC describes the physical dimension of economic processes and interactions. It is defined as the annual quantity of raw materials extracted from a country’s national territory, plus all physical imports minus all physical exports. In 2019, the DMC of Malta was 5,860.83 thousand tonnes, an increase of 97.7% from the DMC calculated in 2010 (Chart 12.1). The DMC per capita also increased from 7.1 tonnes per capita in 2010 to 11.4 tonnes per capita in 2019—an increase of 60.6% (Chart 12.2).

<sup>188</sup> Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, 2002.

<sup>189</sup> In the definition of DMC, the term ‘consumption’ implies apparent consumption and not final consumption.

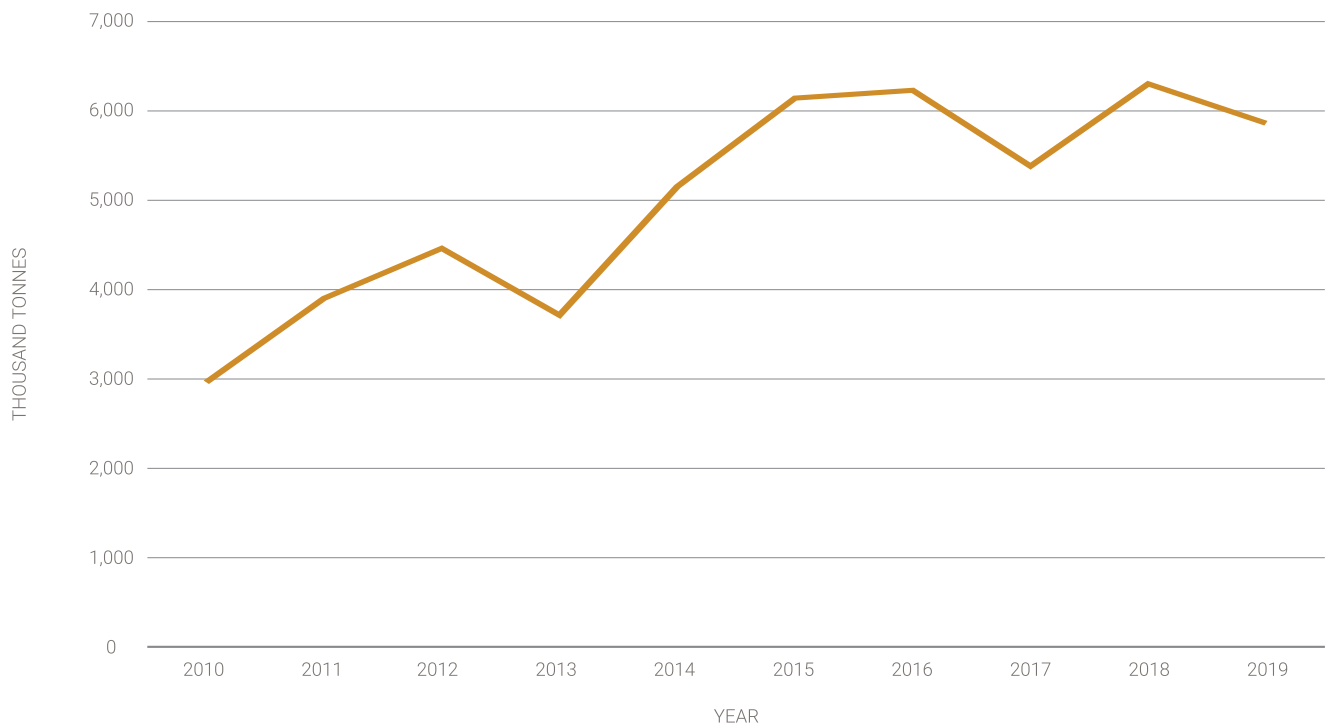


Chart 12.1: Domestic Material Consumption; Eurostat

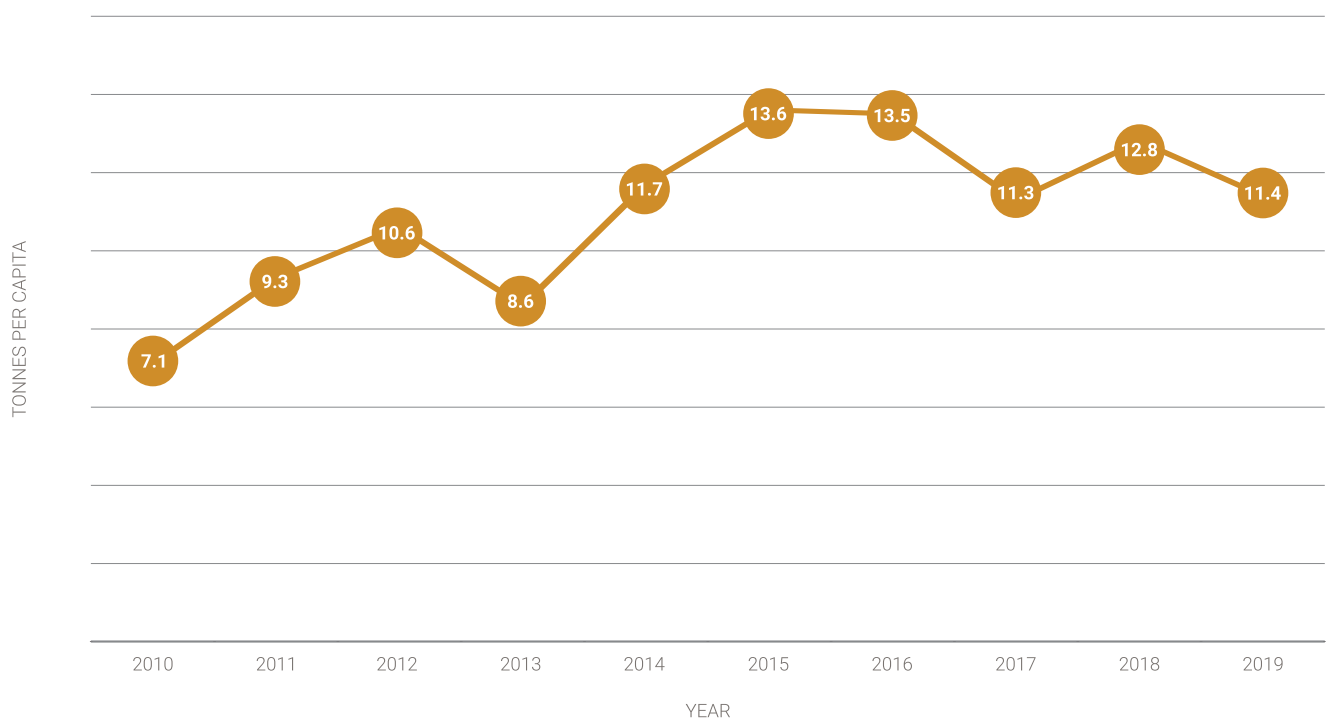


Chart 12.2: Domestic Material Consumption per capita; Eurostat, NSO

The Resource Productivity indicator can be measured by dividing the gross domestic product (GDP) by the DMC. An increase in GDP on the one hand, and a lowering of the DMC on the other shows a positive trend reflecting a decoupling of material consumption from economic growth and thus an increase in sustainable productivity. On the other hand, a negative trend reflects more material consumption per unit of GDP, pointing towards diminishing sustainability. In 2010, the resource productivity of Malta was calculated at a ratio of 2.59 Euro per Kg. In 2019, the resource productivity ratio of Malta went down to 2.13 Euro per Kg (Chart 12.3). This shows that the increase of GDP (see Chart 8.1) was coupled with a stronger overall increase in DMC, leading to less efficiency and productivity.

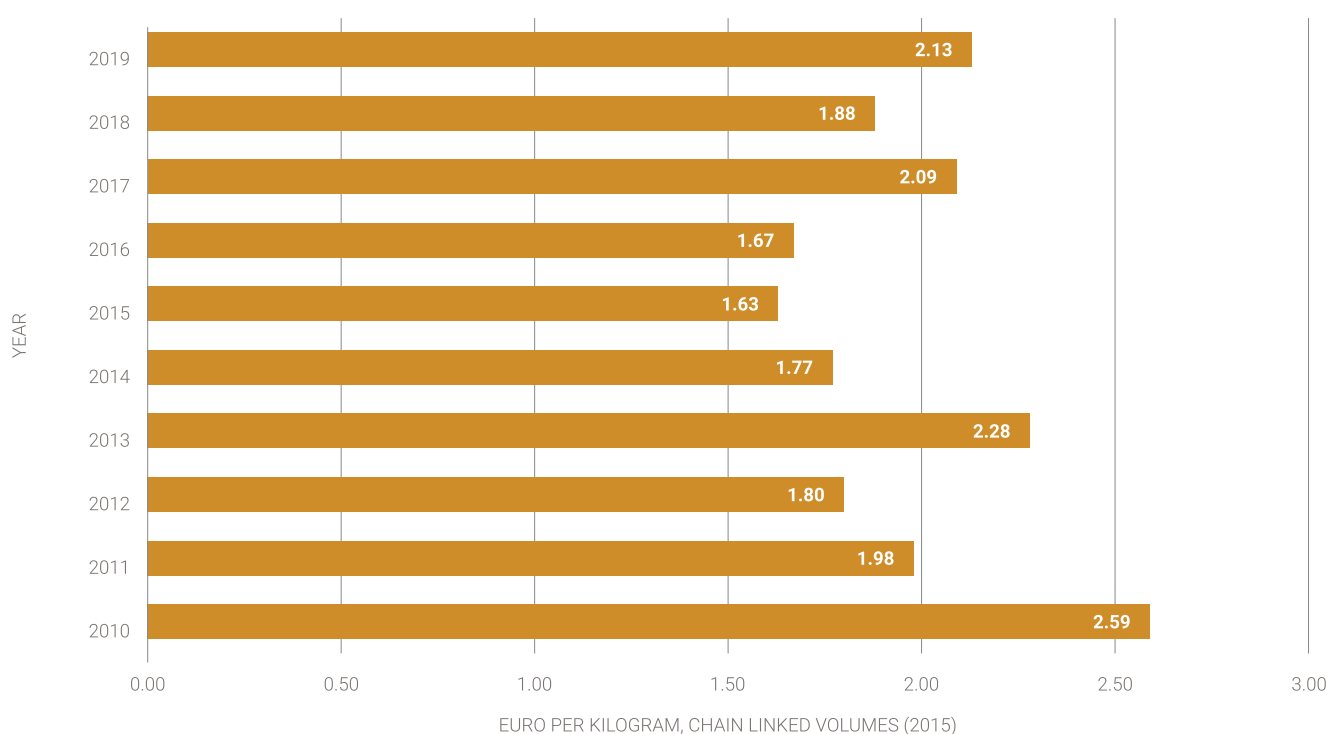


Chart 12.3: Resource productivity; Eurostat

## Hazardous waste

One of the SDG 12 targets is to achieve by 2020 the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimise their adverse impacts on human health and the environment. This target has two components; one is focusing on compliance with the obligations that contribute to the overall target of achieving the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, and the second is focusing on the reduction of hazardous wastes generated and their release into air, water and soil.

Hazardous waste is waste with properties that make it dangerous or capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment. Hazardous waste is generated from many sources, ranging from industrial manufacturing process waste to domestic items such as batteries and it may come in many forms, including liquids, solids, gases and sludge. They can be discarded as commercial products, like cleaning fluids or pesticides or the by-products of manufacturing processes.<sup>190</sup>

A number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) were developed and adopted to address the most urgent challenges posed by hazardous waste for human health and the environment, in particular, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; the Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade; the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; and the Minamata Convention on Mercury—Malta is a Party to all these Conventions. Compliance with the reporting obligations of these MEAs may help the Parties to these Conventions to progress with respect to reductions in the release to air, water and soil of hazardous chemicals in products. Based on the information provided by the Secretariats of the MEAs, the UN Environment reported that in 2020, Malta's compliance rate with the reporting obligations of these MEAs was 53.6%.

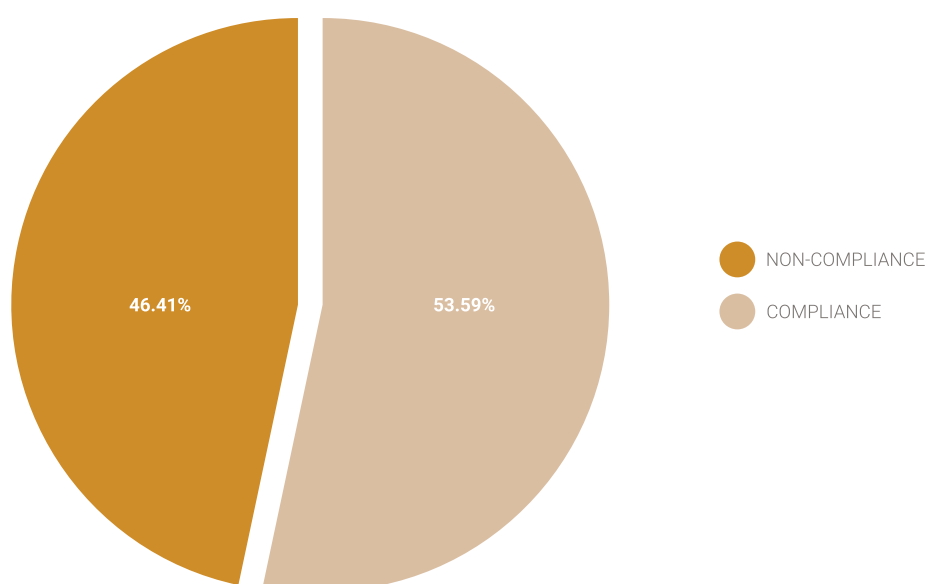


Chart 12.4: Average compliance rate with reporting obligations related to hazardous waste (2020); Environment Live, UNEP

<sup>190</sup> Article 1 of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

In 2010, the hazardous waste generated in Malta amounted to 24,856 tonnes. In 2019, the amount of hazardous waste increased to 42,021 tonnes (Chart 12.5). In the period 2010–2019, the average annual hazardous waste generation was 45,092 tonnes.<sup>191</sup> The average increase is also reflected in the amount of hazardous waste generated per capita; for 2010 it was 0.06 tonnes per capita, while in 2019 the hazardous waste generated increased by 0.02 tonnes to 0.08 tonnes per capita. The annual average for the period 2010–2019 was 0.10 tonnes per capita (Chart 12.6).

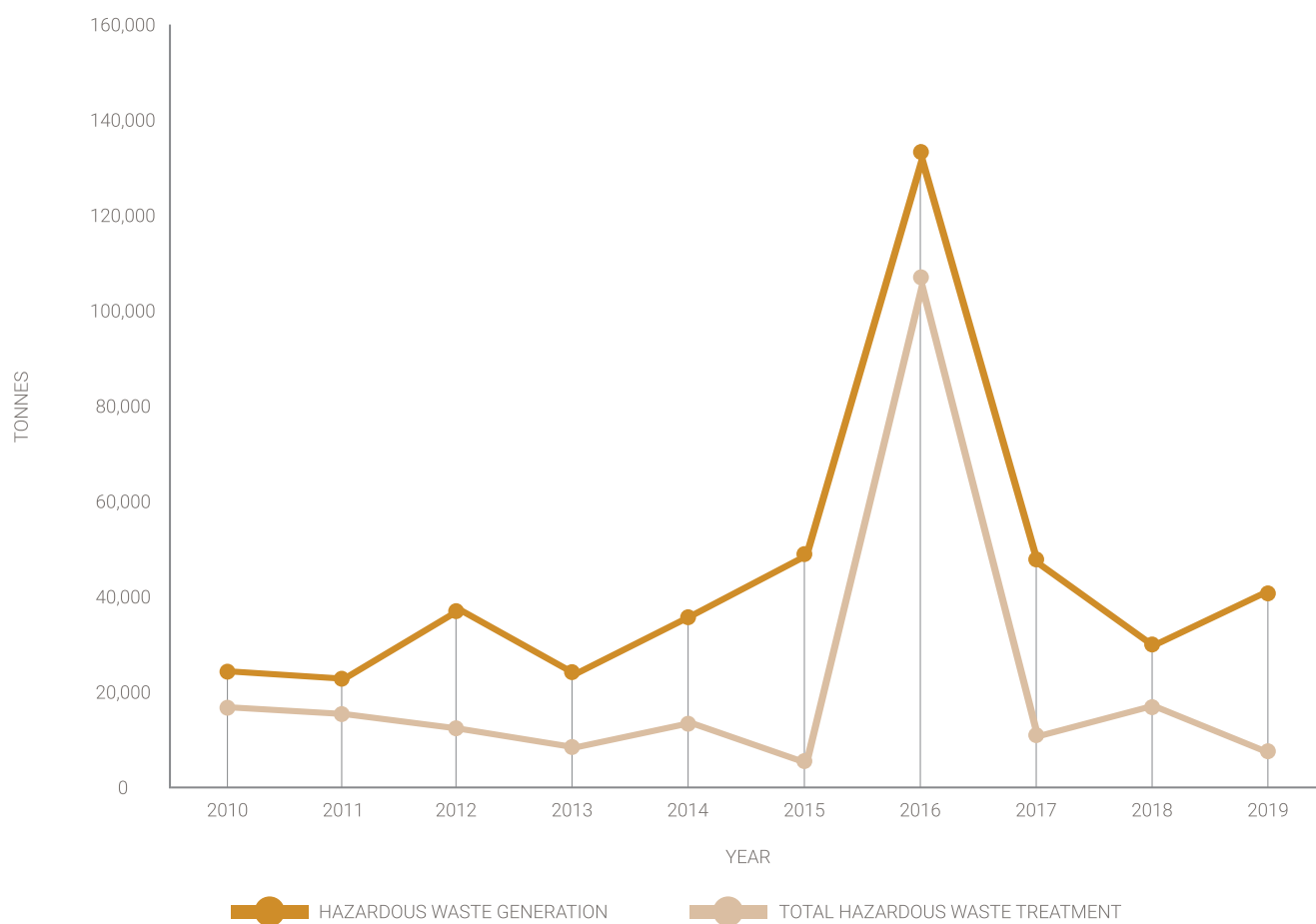


Chart 12.5: Hazardous waste generation and hazardous waste treated; NSO

<sup>191</sup> The surge in hazardous waste generated in 2016 resulted from the disposal of waste oil drilling vessels in Malta.



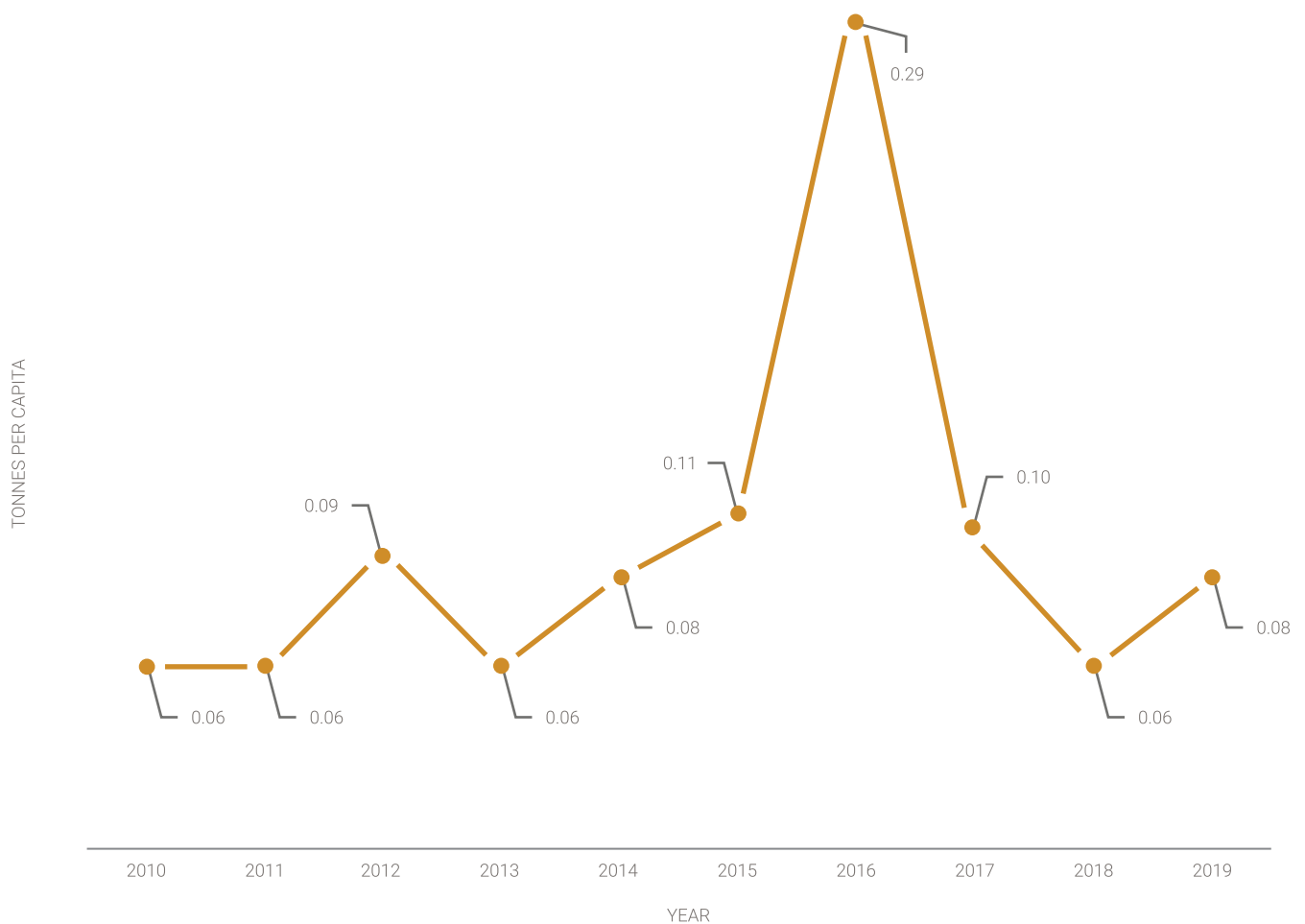


Chart 12.6: Hazardous waste generation per capita; NSO

Hazardous waste generated in Malta was treated in local and overseas facilities. Treatment of hazardous waste includes (i) recovery through recycling and its use as a source of energy, and (ii) disposal through incineration and landfilling. The differences between the total hazardous waste generation and the total hazardous waste treatment occur due to storage of waste, time lags in waste treatment and pre-treatment operations that filter out the hazardous fractions from the remaining non-hazardous components.

In 2019, the amount of hazardous waste recycled was 4,474 tonnes, making up 59.8% of the total hazardous waste treated (Charts 12.7 and 12.9). The remaining hazardous waste was recovered as an energy source (3.7%), disposed of by incineration (32.3%) or in landfills (4.2%). In comparison to 2010, the amount of hazardous waste recycled decreased by 70.3%. Hazardous waste landfilled also decreased by 12.4%, whilst that, disposed of by incineration or recovered as an energy source increased (Chart 12.8). The spike in hazardous waste recycled in 2016 is due to a number of oil drilling vessels that were decommissioned in Malta and then exported for waste treatment.

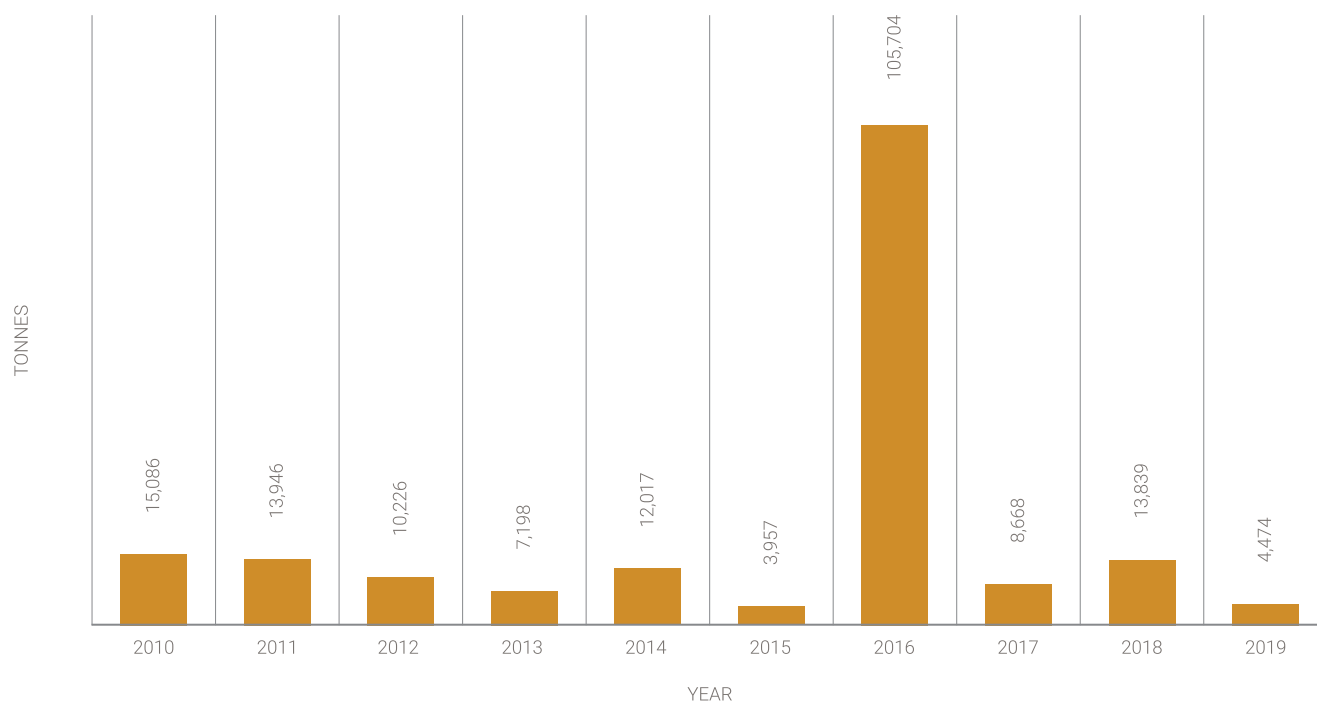


Chart 12.7: Hazardous waste recycled; NSO

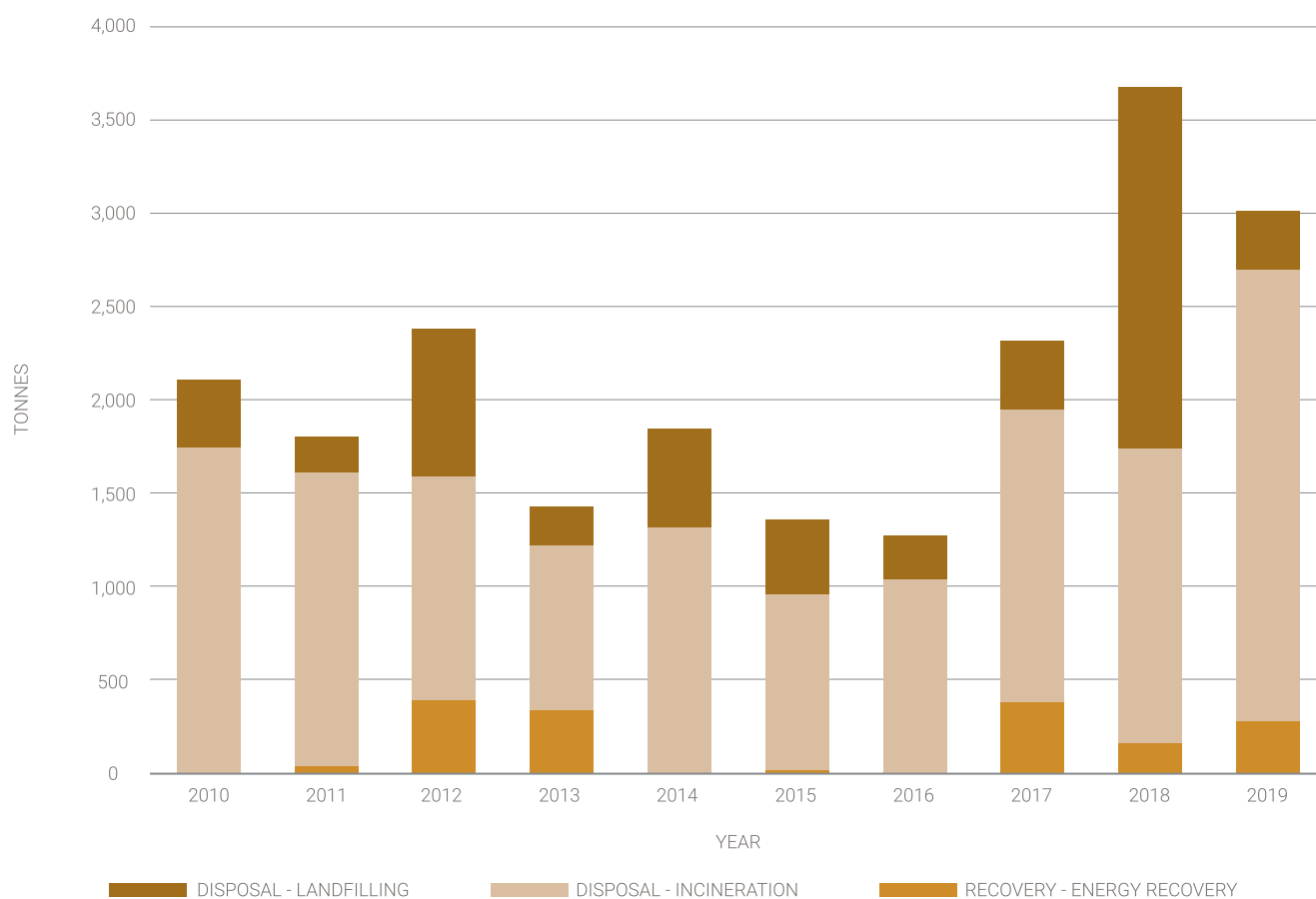


Chart 12.8: Hazardous waste treated, by type excluding recycling; NSO

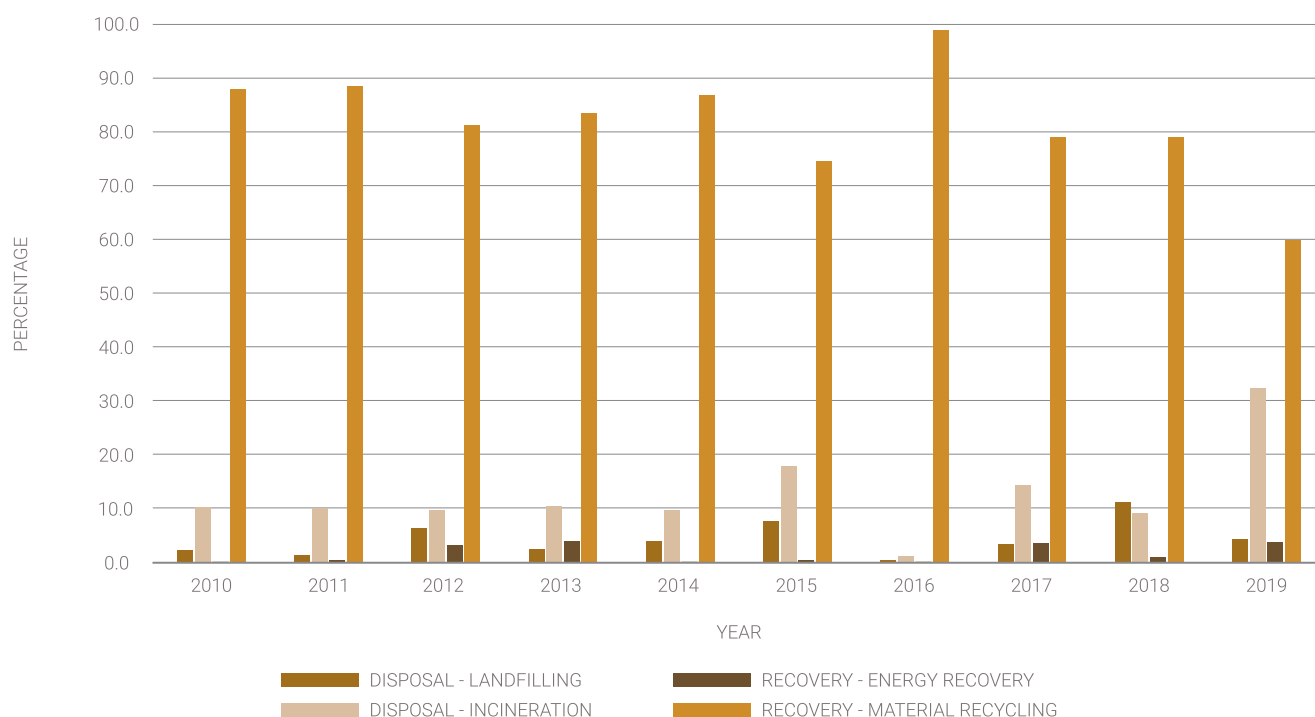


Chart 12.9: Percentage of hazardous waste treated, by treatment; NSO

## Total waste generation and recycling

SDG 12 requires that by 2030, the amount of waste generation is reduced through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse. In Malta, the generation of total waste per capita has increased by 63.2%, from 3.14 tonnes per capita in 2010 to 5.12 tonnes per capita in 2019 (Chart 12.10).<sup>192</sup>

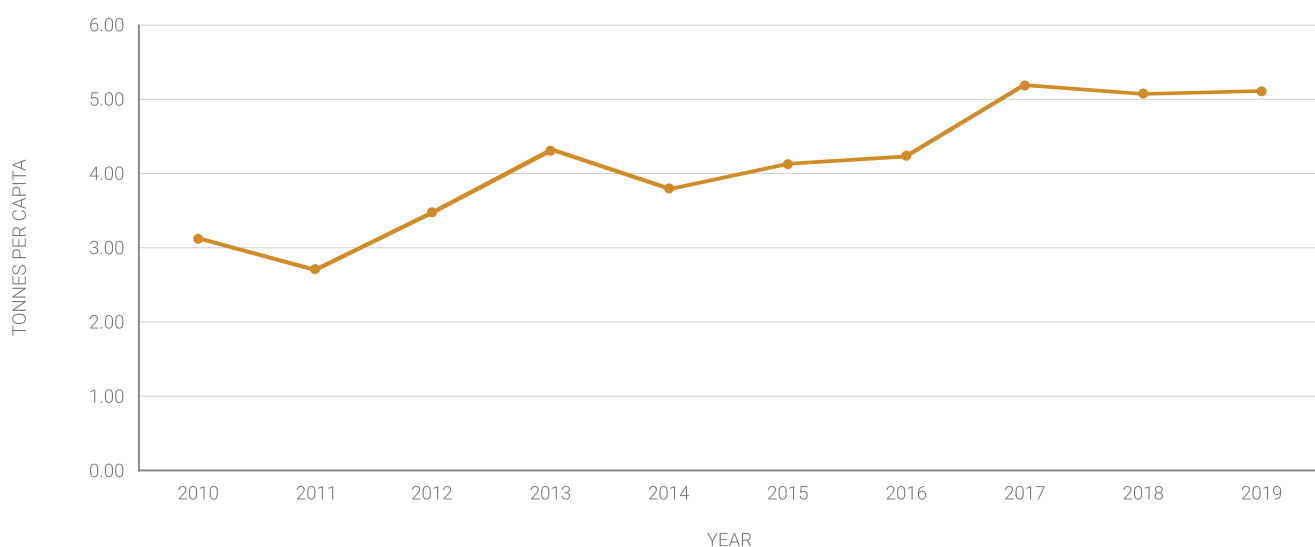


Chart 12.10: Total generation of waste per capita; NSO

<sup>192</sup> Construction waste included.

Moreover, the quantity of total waste treated by Malta in 2019, i.e. including final waste treatment taking place both in local and overseas facilities, has increased by 126.8% since 2010. However, the percentage of waste recycled from total waste treated increased only by 15.8 percentage points, given that in 2010, 15.2% of total waste treated was recycled, while in 2019 the recycling rate was 31.0% (Chart 12.11).

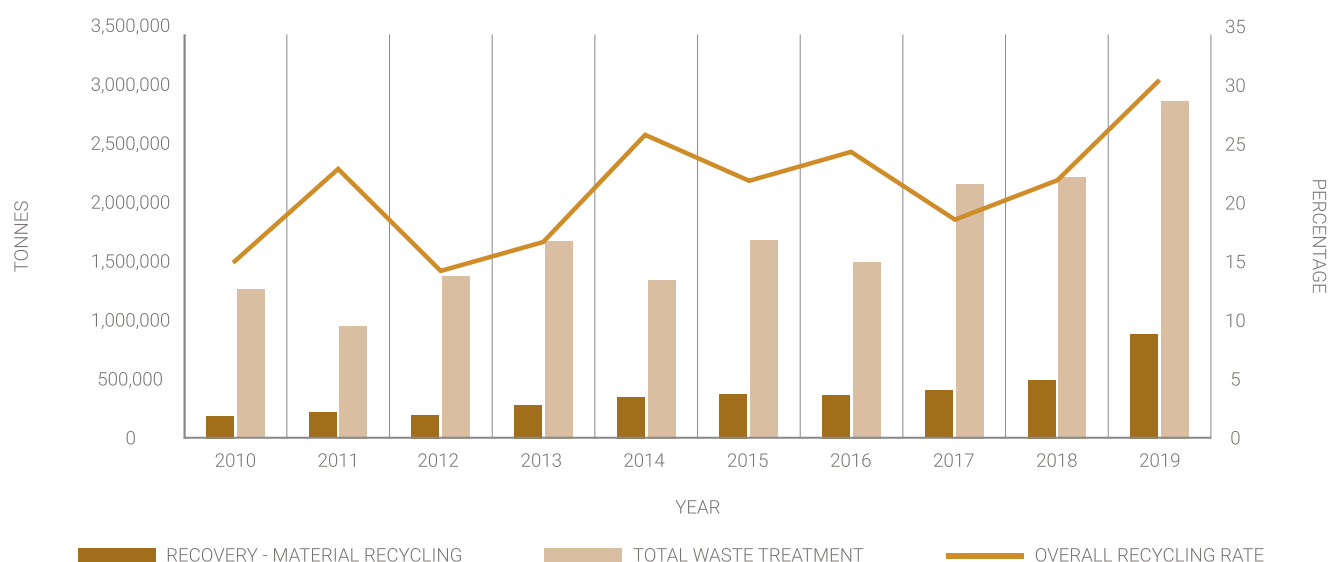


Chart 12.11: Malta's waste recycling in tonnes (left axis) and rate (right axis); NSO

## Ecological footprint

The Ecological Footprint measures the extent to which humanity lives within the means of nature. It is a measure of how much area (measured in global hectares) of biologically productive land and water an individual, population or activity requires to produce all the resources it consumes and to absorb the waste it generates, using prevailing technology and resource management practices. Ecological Footprint generally refers to the Ecological Footprint of consumption.<sup>193</sup>

An Ecological Footprint of less than 1.6 global hectares per person makes the resource demand globally replicable. However, given the growing human population and recognising wild species' needs for biocapacity, the average Ecological Footprint per person worldwide needs to fall significantly below this threshold.<sup>194</sup> In 2017, the Ecological Footprint per capita of Malta stood

<sup>193</sup> Global Footprint Network – Advancing the Science of Sustainability, *Glossary*, online:

<https://www.footprintnetwork.org/resources/glossary/#Ecologicalfootprint> [accessed on 22 June 2021].

<sup>194</sup> Global Footprint Network – Advancing the Science of Sustainability, *Ecological Footprint Per Person*, online: <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/noise/publications/2018/environmental-noise-guidelines-for-the-european-region-2018> [accessed on 22 June 2021].

at 5.68 hectares. The average Ecological Footprint in the period 2010–2017 was 5.32 hectares (Chart 12.12).

To live within the means of our planet's resources, the world's Ecological Footprint would have to equal the available biocapacity per person on our planet, which is currently 1.7 global hectares per capita.<sup>195</sup> The biocapacity of a particular surface represents its ability to regenerate what people demand. Biocapacity is therefore the ecosystems' capacity to produce biological materials used by people and to absorb waste material generated by humans, under current management schemes and extraction technologies.<sup>196</sup> The biocapacity for Malta was 0.58 hectares per capita in 2017 (Chart 12.12). Malta's Ecological Footprint in 2017 translates into 9.2 times the resources and wastes that the Biocapacity per capita of Malta can regenerate and absorb in the atmosphere. The ecological deficit (the difference between Ecological Footprint of a population and the biocapacity of the area available to that population) of Malta was 5.1 hectares per capita in 2017, approximately the same as the average Ecological Footprint of 2010–2017 (Chart 12.12).

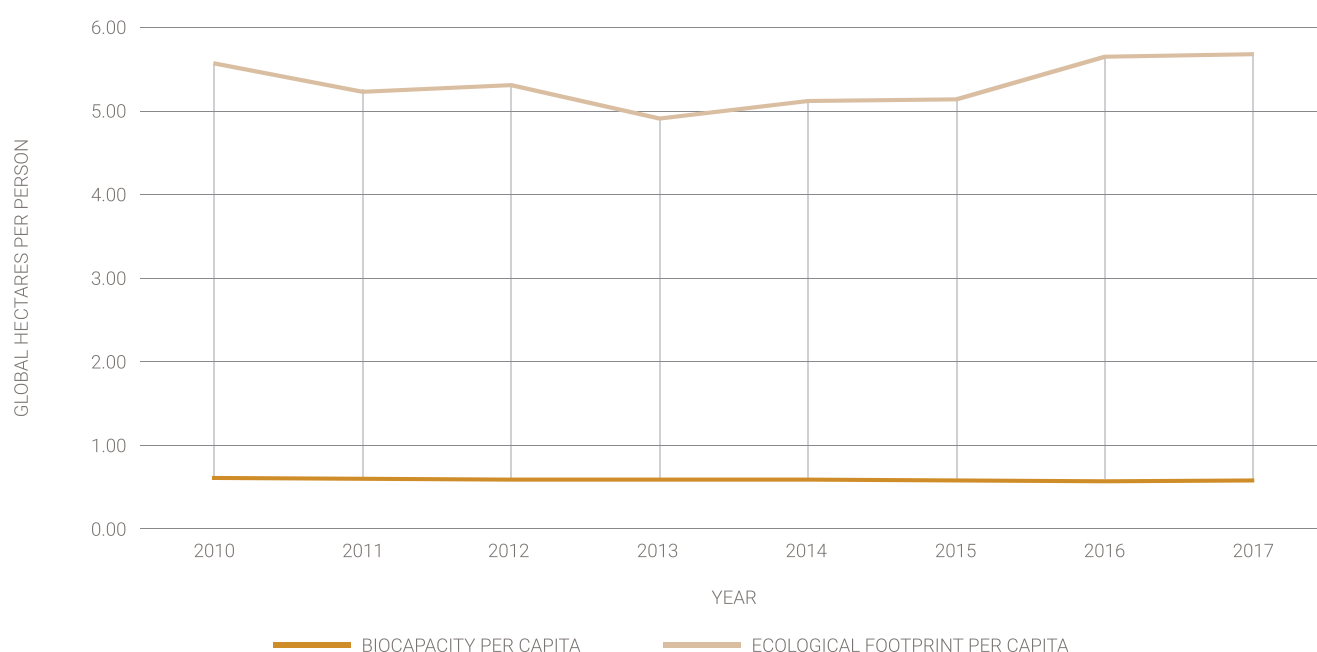


Chart 12.12: Biocapacity per capita, Ecological Footprint per capita, and Ecological Deficit for Malta; Global Footprint Network - National Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts 2021 edition (Data Year 2017); GDP, World Development Indicators, The World Bank 2020; Population, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization

<sup>195</sup> Global Footprint Network – Advancing the Science of Sustainability, *Biocapacity Per Person*, online: <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/noise/publications/2018/environmental-noise-guidelines-for-the-european-region-2018> [accessed on 22 June 2021].

<sup>196</sup> Global Footprint Network – Advancing the Science of Sustainability, *Glossary*, online: <https://www.footprintnetwork.org/resources/glossary/#Ecologicalfootprint> [accessed on 22 June 2021].

## Green Public Procurement

Public procurement wields huge purchasing power, and leveraging this purchasing power by buying more sustainable goods and services can help to drive markets in the direction of sustainability, reduce the negative impacts of public services, and also produce positive benefits for the environment and society. The advancement of Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) or Green Public Procurement (GPP) practices is recognised as being a key strategic component of the global efforts towards achieving more sustainable consumption and production patterns. Indeed, one of the targets of SDG 12 seeks to promote public procurement practices that are sustainable in accordance with national policies and priorities.

In Malta, GPP started to be implemented in an organised manner from 2 January 2012.<sup>197</sup> The first National Action Plan (NAP) set out GPP targets, expressed in terms of the percentage of the total public expenditure and the number of published contracts, for eighteen product and service groups in a range of sectors. The second NAP (2019–2025) changed the criteria to keep the ambitious targets but also to make the process more applicable to the local context.<sup>198</sup> In 2019, the percentage of tenders compliant with GPP from the total number of tenders under the scope of GPP was 64.2%, with a total value of approximately €227.5 million – 1.67% of GDP (Chart 12.13).<sup>199</sup>

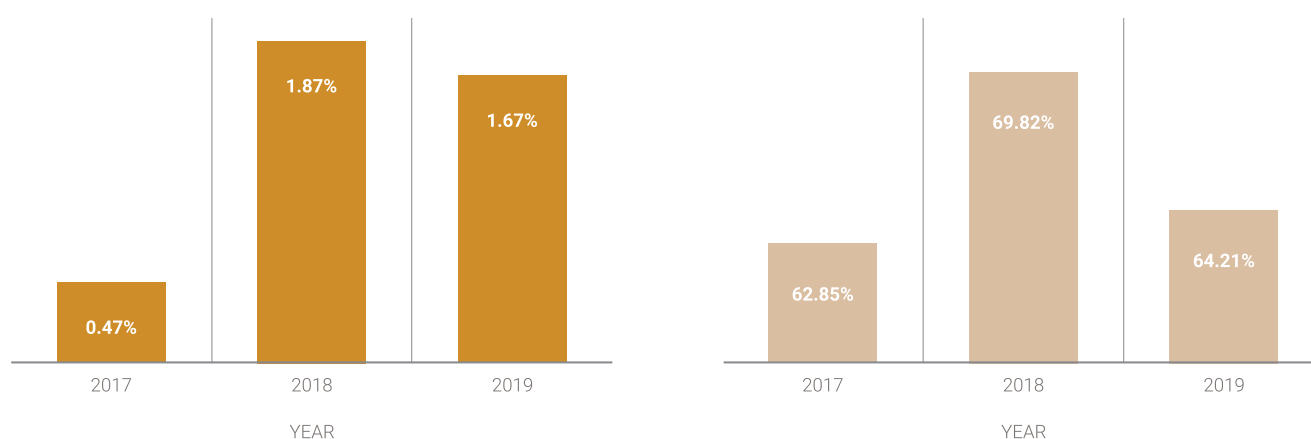


Chart 12.13: Percentage of GDP in terms of 'greened' procurement (left), and Percentage of tenders compliant with GPP (right); Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning, NSO

<sup>197</sup> Department of Contracts, *Contracts Circular Number 21/2011*, 14 December 2011.

<sup>198</sup> Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change (2018), *Green Public Procurement National Action Plan 2019-2025*, Valletta. Available online: [https://meae.gov.mt/mt/Public\\_Consultations/MSDEC/Documents/Green%20Public%20Procurement%20National%20Action%20Plan.pdf](https://meae.gov.mt/mt/Public_Consultations/MSDEC/Documents/Green%20Public%20Procurement%20National%20Action%20Plan.pdf) [accessed on 21 April 2021].

<sup>199</sup> GDP as per NSO News Release (NR) 097/2021 of 28 May 2021.

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 12 is reflected in Table 12.1 below. The targets related to SDG 12, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 12 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 12 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 12 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>200</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>201</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>202</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.



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<sup>200</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].









<sup>201</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>202</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].







**Legend:**

	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

*Table 12.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 12*

TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
12.2	By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	Domestic Material Consumption	
		Domestic Material Consumption per capita	
		Resource Productivity	
		Ecological Footprint per capita	
		Ecological deficit	
12.4	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	Ratification of international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste	
		Average compliance rate with reporting obligations	
		Hazardous waste generated and hazardous waste treated	



		Hazardous waste generated per capita	
		Hazardous waste recycled	
12.5	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	Total generation of waste per capita	
		National recycling rate	
12.7	Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities	Percentage of GDP in terms of 'greened' procurement	
		Percentage of tenders compliant with GPP	



# SDG 13



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

## **| Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

The links between climate change and sustainable development are strong. Climate change affects every country in the world by disrupting national economies and affecting lives and livelihoods, especially for the most vulnerable. Weather patterns are changing, sea levels are rising, and weather events are becoming more extreme. Climate change is a threat multiplier, with the potential to push millions into poverty in the coming years and undo hard-won development gains.

The Sustainable Development Goals provide an opportunity to take actions that will lead to more jobs, greater prosperity, and better lives for all while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and building climate resilience. Countries now have a once-in-a-generation chance to set themselves on a sustainable, inclusive and resilient development path. Making the right investments now can unlock short-term gains – jobs and economic growth – as well as deliver longer-term benefits for people, including decarbonisation and resilience. Low-carbon stimulus programs can drive new jobs that are sustainable, inclusive and equitable. In addition, countries can unlock new economic opportunities and jobs through climate action.

In 1988, Malta had introduced an item on the agenda of the General Assembly of the United Nations entitled 'Conservation of Climate as part of the Common Heritage of Mankind', eventually leading to the adoption of Resolution 43/53 on the 'Protection of Global Climate for Present and Future Generations of Mankind'. The resolution requested for action to be taken that would eventually lead to recommendations on elements for inclusion in a future international convention on climate; the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was eventually adopted in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit.<sup>203</sup> This convention, which entered into force on 21 March 1994 and now has a near-universal membership of 197 parties, set out a framework for action aimed at stabilising atmospheric concentrations of GHGs to avoid "dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system". In December 2015, the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties in Paris, France, adopted the Paris Agreement, a universal agreement which aims to keep a global temperature rise for this century well below 2 degrees Celsius, with the goal of driving efforts to limit the temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States expressed their commitment to protect the planet from degradation and take urgent action on climate change. Sustainable

<sup>203</sup> Malta Resources Authority (2019), *Fourth Biennial Report of Malta, 2020*, Malta, pp. 62–63.

Development Goal 13 aims to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact, while acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. More specifically, the associated targets of SDG 13 focus on the integration of climate change measures into national policies, the improvement of education, awareness-raising and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warnings. The targets of SDG 13 include the overarching call for the implementation of the commitment undertaken at the UNFCCC and for the promotion of mechanisms able to increase capacity for effective climate change, related planning and management.

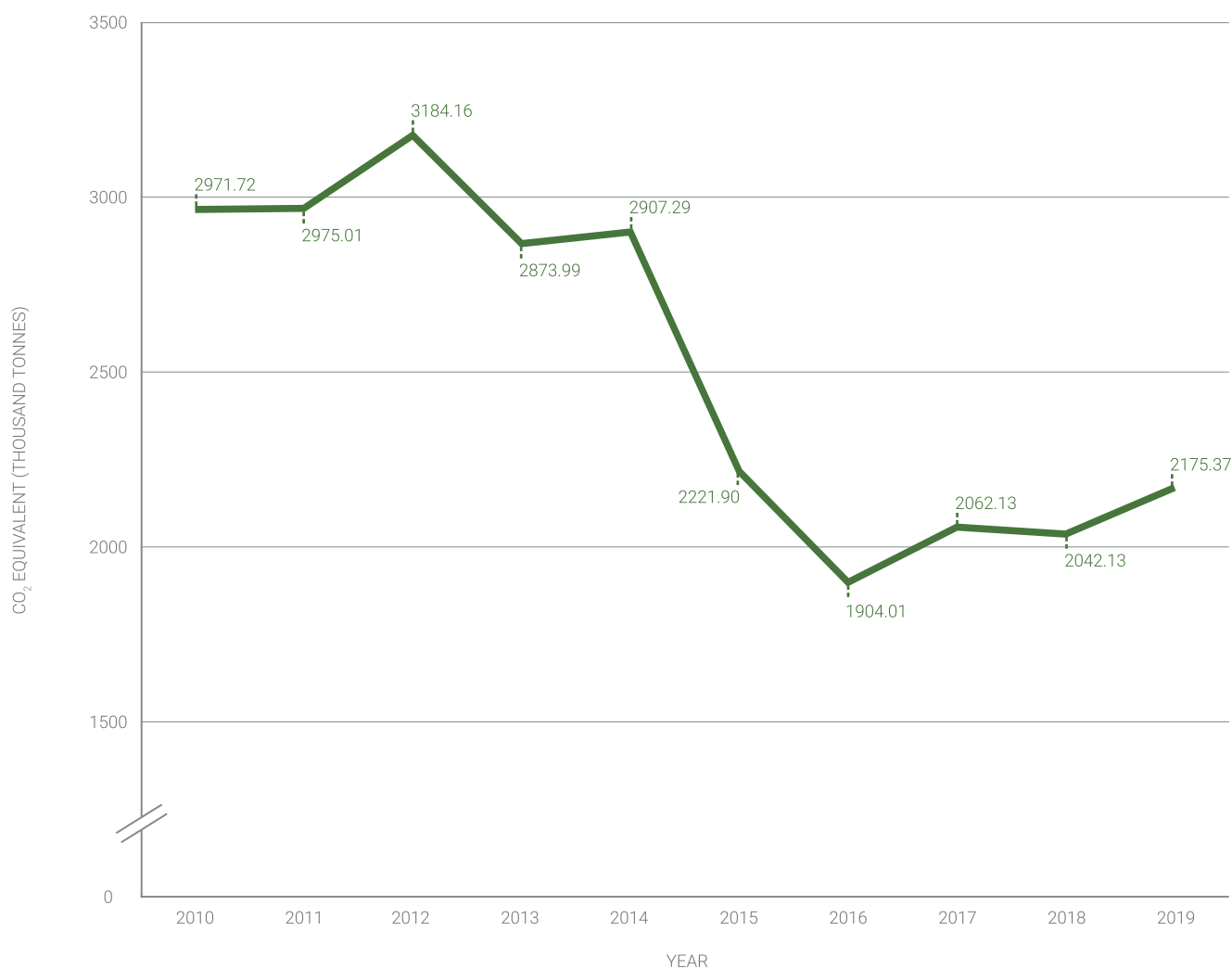
## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The ultimate objective of the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) is to achieve the stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Estimating the levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals is an important element of the efforts to achieve this objective. The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015 to replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, marks the latest step in the evolution of the UN climate change regime and builds on the work undertaken under the Convention.

Malta is an Annex I party to the UNFCCC and thus has taken on emission limitation obligations under the Kyoto Protocol as part of the joint fulfilment of the European Union's overall commitments.<sup>204</sup> Over the period 2010–2019, total national net greenhouse gas emissions declined by 26.8%, from 2,971,715 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (eq.) in 2010 to 2,175,372 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> eq. in 2019 (Chart 13.1). The overall profile of Malta's emissions shows a general decrease until 2016 and then a slight increase between 2016 and 2019.

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<sup>204</sup> Annex 1 countries are called upon to adopt national policies and take corresponding measures on the mitigation of climate change by limiting their emissions of greenhouse gases.



*Chart 13.1: Total national greenhouse gas emissions; Malta's National Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals, 2021, Malta Resources Authority (MRA)*

Year-to-year changes for total national emissions across 2010–2019 show that up until 2012 there was a predominance of yearly increases, coinciding with the overall increasing emissions trend for that period. The decrease in emissions from 2012 to 2016 is reflected in year-to-year reductions, at relatively high rates (for instance 23.57% reduction between 2014 and 2015). However, a percentage increase was registered between 2016–2017 and 2018–2019 (Chart 13.2).

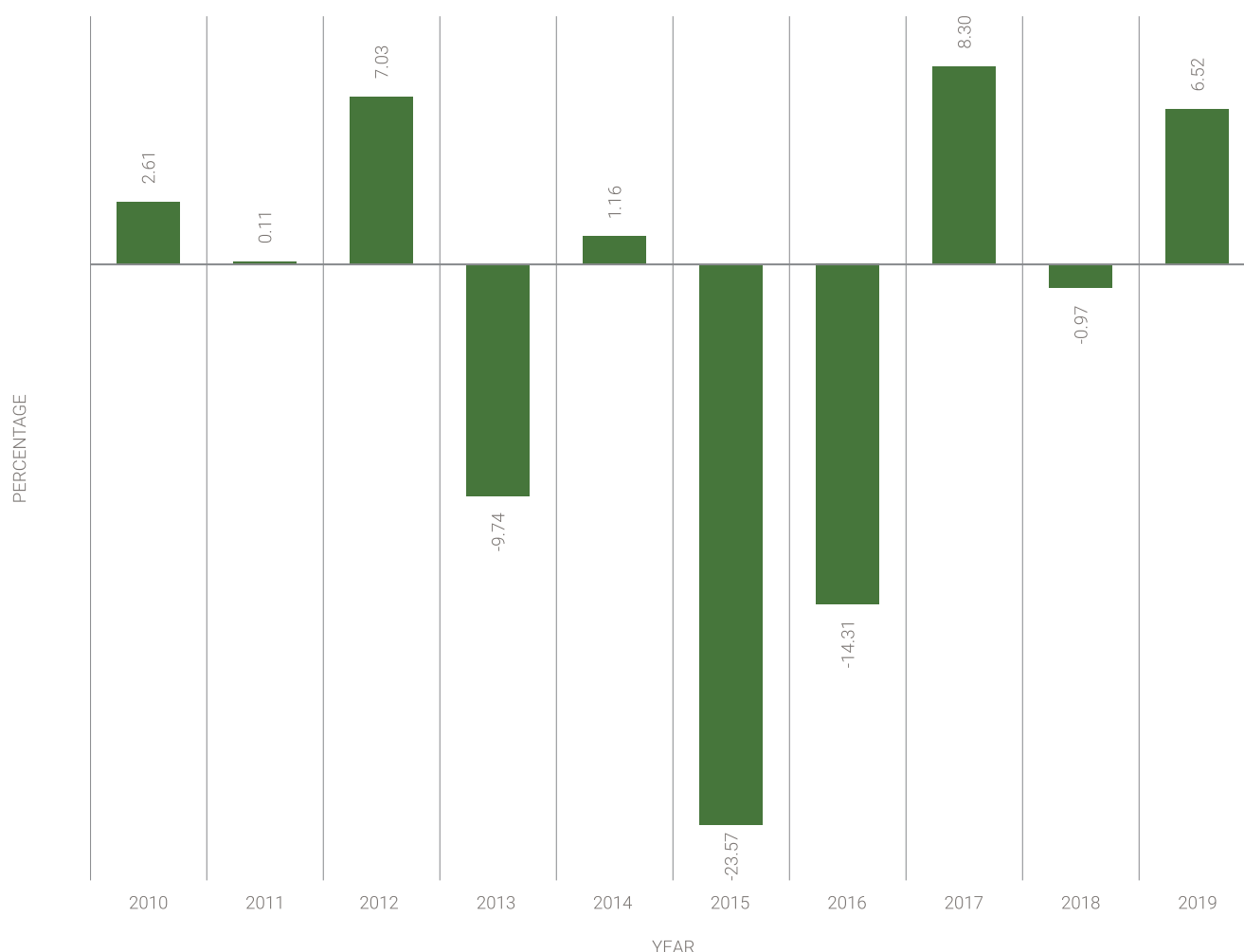


Chart 13.2: Percentage yearly change of greenhouse gas emissions; Malta's National Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals, 2021, MRA

Population has grown steadily over the years. Nonetheless, during the period 2010–2019 GHG emissions per capita decreased. Emissions in 2010 stood at 7.16 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> eq. per capita, reaching their highest level in 2012 at 7.54 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> eq. per capita and a low of 4.14 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> eq. per capita in 2016, with 4.23 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> eq. per capita in 2019 (Chart 13.3).

The decoupling between GHG emission trends and population trends for Malta in the latter years implies that population statistics alone cannot directly explain the changes in GHG emissions over the whole period under consideration. After 2012, substantial emission reductions due to major technical developments (for example, in electricity generation and sourcing) have counteracted any increase that one may have expected would occur due to continued increase in demand and consumption as a result of population growth.<sup>205</sup>

<sup>205</sup> Malta Resources Authority (2019), *Fourth Biennial Report of Malta, 2020*, Malta, p.21.

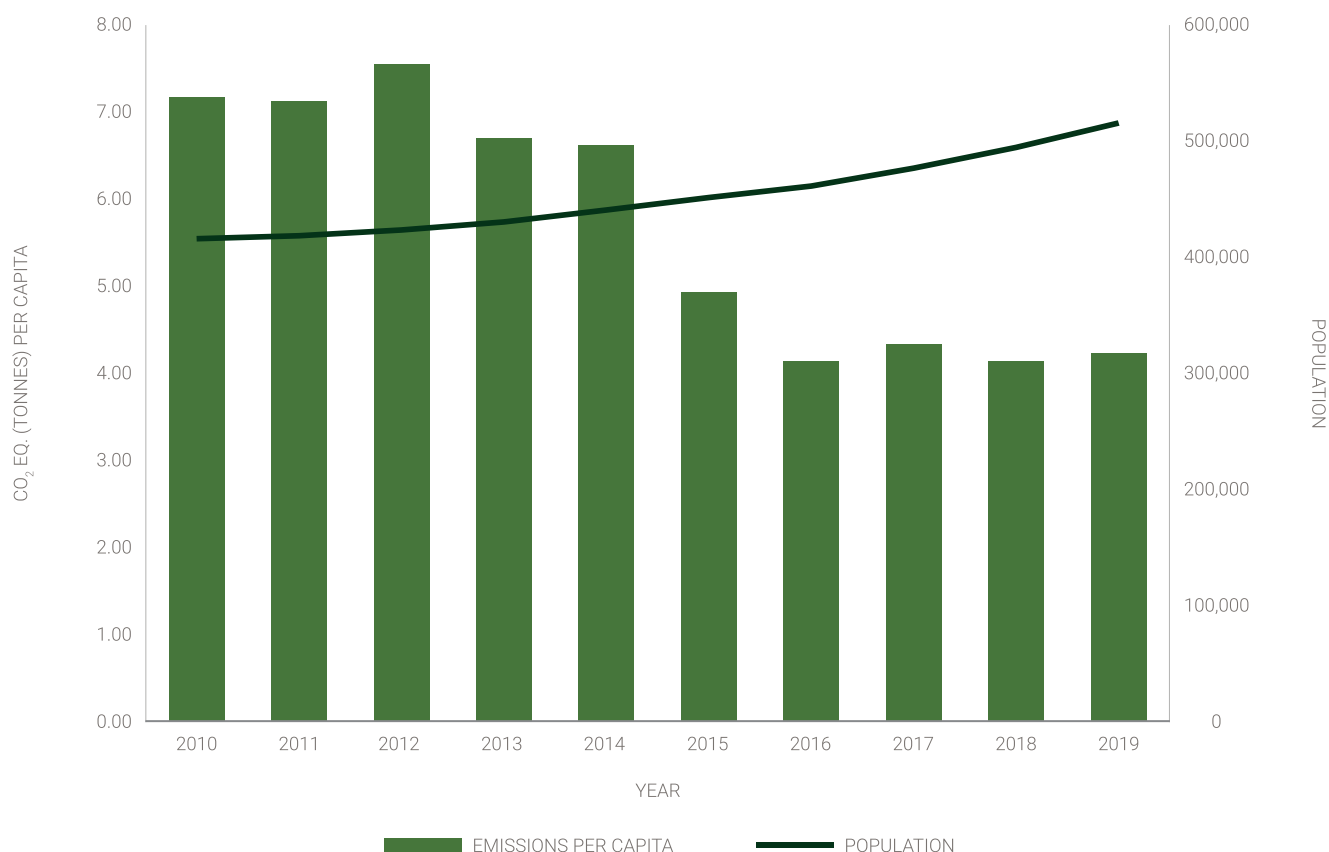


Chart 13.3: Total national emissions per capita (left axis) and population (right axis); Malta's National Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals, 2021, MRA, NSO

The trend profile of total national greenhouse gas emissions follows closely the emissions from the energy sector.<sup>206</sup> The energy sector is the highest overall contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, by a significant margin over other sectors for most of the period 2010–2019. Investment in new generation capacity, fuel switching, and alternative sourcing of electricity contribute towards the rapid decrease in emissions observed for the years after 2012. This trend is reversed between 2016 and 2017, as there was a shift back towards local electricity generation as opposed to previous use of the interconnector with mainland Europe's electricity grid (Chart 13.4).

<sup>206</sup> Ibid, p. 19



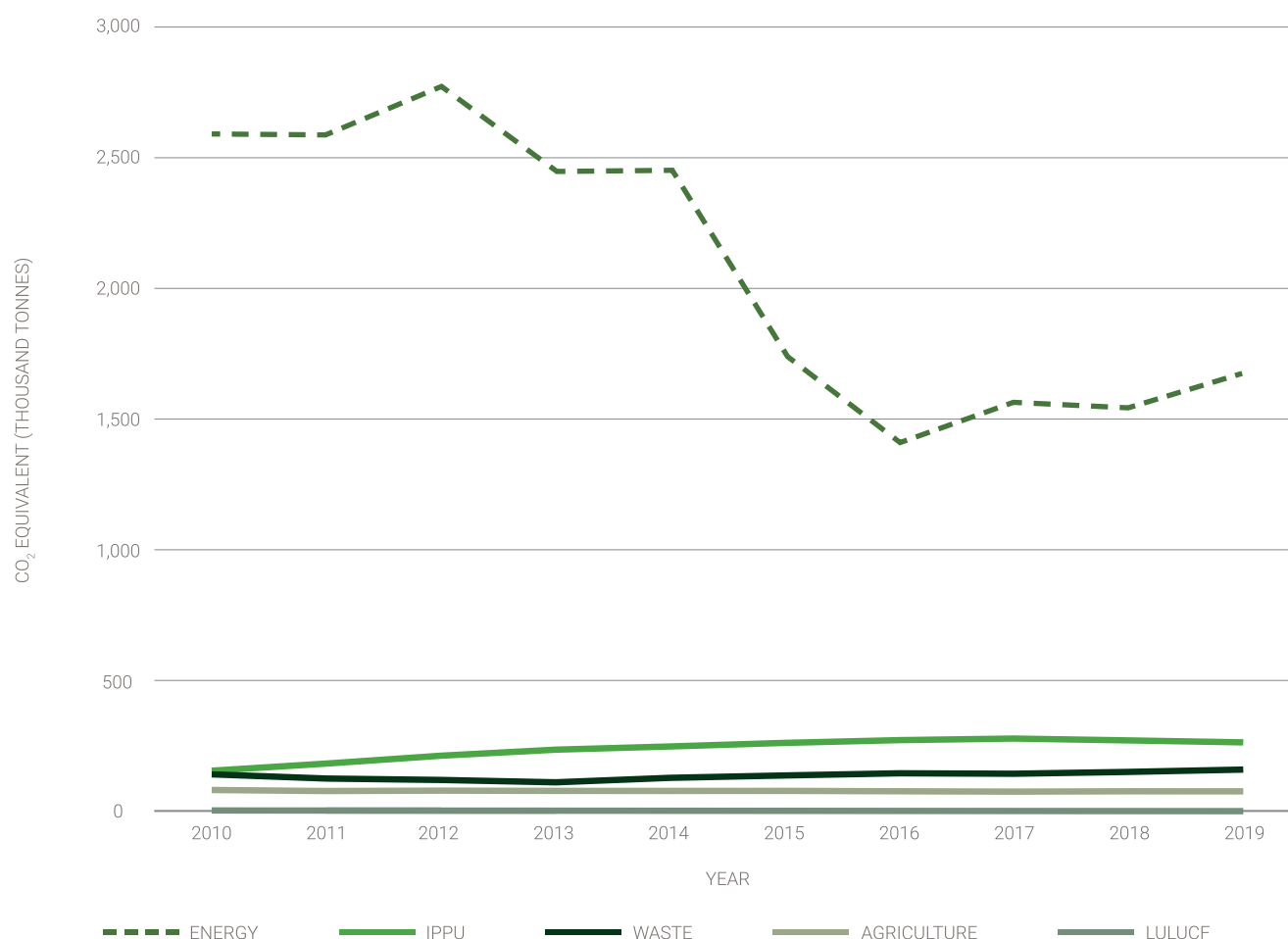


Chart 13.4: Greenhouse gas emissions by sector; Malta's National Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals, 2021, Malta Resources Authority

## Climate Finance

One of the SDG 13 targets requires the implementation of the commitment undertaken by developed countries parties to the UNFCCC, to a goal of mobilising jointly US\$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions.

The UNFCCC, in Article 4, requests that developed country parties listed in Annex II to the Convention, provide financial resources to meet the costs incurred by developing country parties in complying with their commitments under the UNFCCC and to assist developing country parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in meeting costs of adaptation. The financial resources are also required to promote, facilitate and finance the transfer of and access to environmentally sound technologies and expertise to other parties, especially supporting the development of endogenous capacity and technologies of developing country parties. Though not a party inscribed into Annex II of the Convention, Malta provides

financial support to developing countries through both bilateral and multilateral channels. Since 2013, Malta has provided financial support for climate action totalling €826,694, through both bilateral and multilateral funding channels. The highest total contribution was in 2016 with €196,704. In 2018 and 2019 the contributions were of €100,000 for each year towards the Green Development Fund, which was established within the framework of the UNFCCC as a financial mechanism to assist developing countries to counter climate change (Chart 13.5).

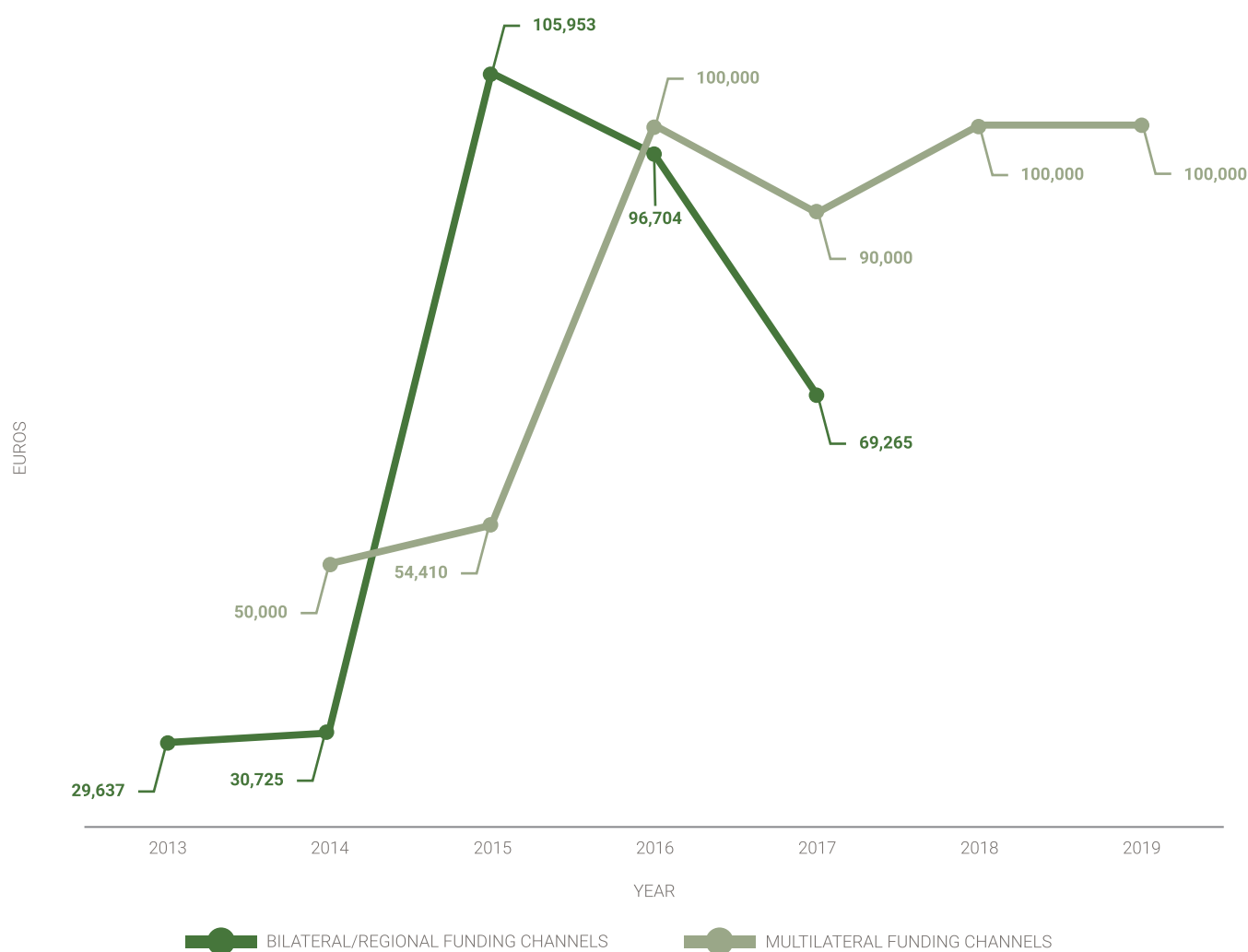


Chart 13.5: Financial support provided by Malta; Malta's National Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals, 2021, MRA

## National policies and measures on climate change

In 1992, under the UNFCCC, developed countries committed to adopting national policies and taking corresponding measures on the mitigation of climate change. Under the Paris Agreement, the vast majority of countries committed to pursue domestic mitigation measures in order to achieve the objectives of their nationally determined contributions.

Information reported by states on their climate policies is used to monitor climate action at a national level. It can also serve to assess and evaluate existing policies and to enable informed decisions about new policies. In addition to the requirements of the UNFCCC and of the Paris Agreement, EU Member States are also required to report on their policies and measures that mitigate GHG emissions under the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation.<sup>207</sup>

In 2019, Malta reported 64 policies and measures addressing GHG emissions, of which 55 are related to European Union Policy, while 9 are not (European Environment Agency). Many of the policies and measures address the energy and transport sectors (62) and only 2 address the Agriculture sector (Chart 13.6).

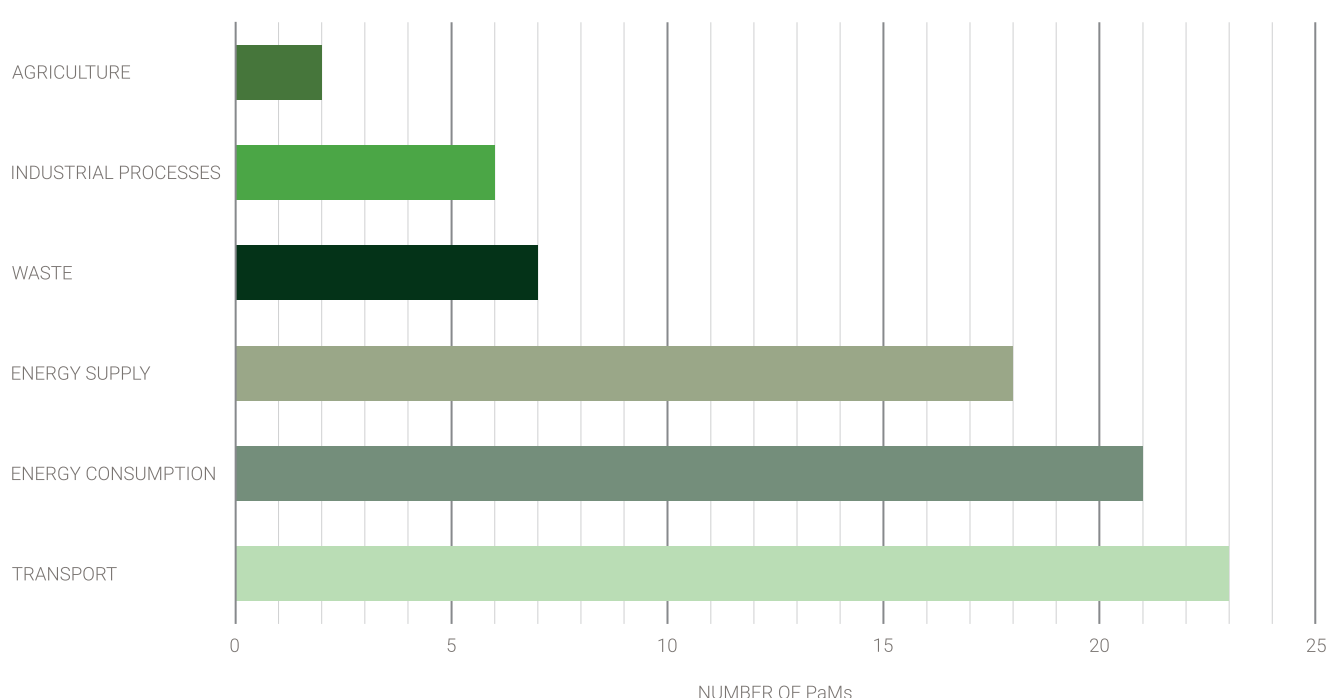


Chart 13.6: Sectors affected by national policies and measures; European Environment Agency (EEA)<sup>208</sup>

The quantity of climate change related policies and measures per sector is not the best indicator to measure the overall impact on GHG emissions from each sector. A better indicator would also necessitate the quantification of their effectiveness to reduce GHG emissions.

<sup>207</sup> Under Article 13 “Reporting on policies and measures” of Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and for reporting other information at national and Union level relevant to climate change and repealing Decision No 280/2004/EC—Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (MMR)—EU Member States are required to submit information on national climate policies and measures to the European Commission (EC) every two years.

<sup>208</sup> Each policy and measure can address more than one sector, hence why the total number of policies and measures in Chart 13.6 is greater than the number of policies and measures reported by Malta (64).

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 13 is reflected in Table 13.1 below. The targets related to SDG 13, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 13 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 13 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 13 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>209</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>210</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>211</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.


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<sup>209</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].


<sup>210</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>211</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].

**Legend:**

	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

*Table 13.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 13*

TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
13.2	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	Sectors affected by national policies and measures	
		Total national greenhouse gas emissions	
		Percentage yearly change of greenhouse gas emissions	
		Total national emissions per capita	
13.a	Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible	Financial support provided by Malta	



# SDG 14



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans,  
seas and marine resources for sustainable  
development

## **Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

Oceans, seas, and coastal areas cover more than two-thirds of the earth's surface and contain 97% of the planet's water. They form an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are also the primary regulator of the global climate, and an important sink for greenhouse gases. Oceans host huge reservoirs of biodiversity as they are home to nearly a million known species. However, their ability to continue supporting the global population's economic, social, and environmental needs is being compromised by human activities, reducing their ability to provide crucial ecosystem services.<sup>212</sup> Important classes of threats are, among others, climate change, marine pollution, unsustainable extraction of marine resources, physical alterations and destruction of marine and coastal habitats and landscapes.

SDG 14 aims to achieve conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources. This includes the safeguarding of marine and coastal ecosystems, conserving at least 10 % of coastal and marine areas, and preventing and reducing marine pollution and the impacts of ocean acidification. Issues related to oceans and seas are addressed in the 10 targets under SDG 14, as well as under other related SDGs. They also feature under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

The interlinkages of SDG 14 with other SDGs are clear. By means of adequately managed resource use, changes in production and consumption patterns, and good governance, sustainable development can potentially reduce the environmental externalities of production and consumption. The opposite would contribute to further poverty due to the decline of fishery resources, polluted coastlines, and climate change.

### **Marine Pollution**

Coastal areas are areas of high productivity where inputs from land, sea, air and anthropogenic sources converge. One of the largest pressures on marine environments is eutrophication, resulting primarily from land-based nutrient input from agricultural runoff and urban wastewater discharge. Eutrophication can lead to serious damage to marine ecosystems by bringing about enhanced primary production or biomass production, algal blooms, and changes to the

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<sup>212</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Oceans and Seas*, online: <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/oceans-and-seas> [accessed on 6 May 2021].



taxonomic composition of algae and plants. To address this, SDG 14 aims to reduce the impacts of pollution through prevention and reduction of marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities which contribute to nutrient pollution as well as to marine littering.

The Environment and Resources Authority of Malta (ERA) implemented a eutrophication monitoring programme starting from July 2017 and ending in March 2019 as part of an EU funded project—EMFF 8.3.1; covering coastal, territorial and offshore waters.<sup>213</sup> The results of the monitoring programme were reflected in the second assessment report on Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive<sup>214</sup> (MSFD) for Malta's marine waters.<sup>215</sup> Monitoring of nutrient enrichment was undertaken in coastal waters, territorial waters and in offshore stations and was presented in average aggregates covering: July to September 2017; October to December 2017; January to March 2018; April to June 2018; July to September 2018; October to December 2018; and January to March 2019.

Monitoring results show that the average nitrate concentrations did not exceed the interim threshold of 0.30  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$  established by the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP)<sup>216</sup> (Chart 14.1).<sup>217</sup> Only 7.59% of the monitoring stations placed in coastal waters measured nitrate levels higher than the interim threshold (Chart 14.2). These were primarily reported in the monitoring stations for transects located in enclosed areas that are potentially vulnerable to eutrophication.<sup>218</sup>

<sup>213</sup> Eufunds.gov.mt, *EMFF 2014-2020 The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (2014 – 2020)*, online: <https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/Agricultural%20Fisheries%20Fund/Pages/EMFF-2014-2020.aspx> [accessed on 3 May 2021].

<sup>214</sup> Official Journal of the European Union (2008), *Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)*, L 164/19, pp. 19–40.

<sup>215</sup> Environment & Resources Authority, *MSFD – Second Cycle*, online: <https://era.org.mt/topic/msfd-second-cycle/> [accessed on 3 May 2021].

<sup>216</sup> UNEP/MAP (2015), *Report of the Online Groups on Eutrophication, Contaminants and Marine Litter. UNEP-MAP 5th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group*, Rome, Italy, 14–15 September 2015.

<sup>217</sup> Thresholds have not yet been established for Malta's coastal waters.

<sup>218</sup> Two out of the four transect locations also represent the two major ports in Malta.

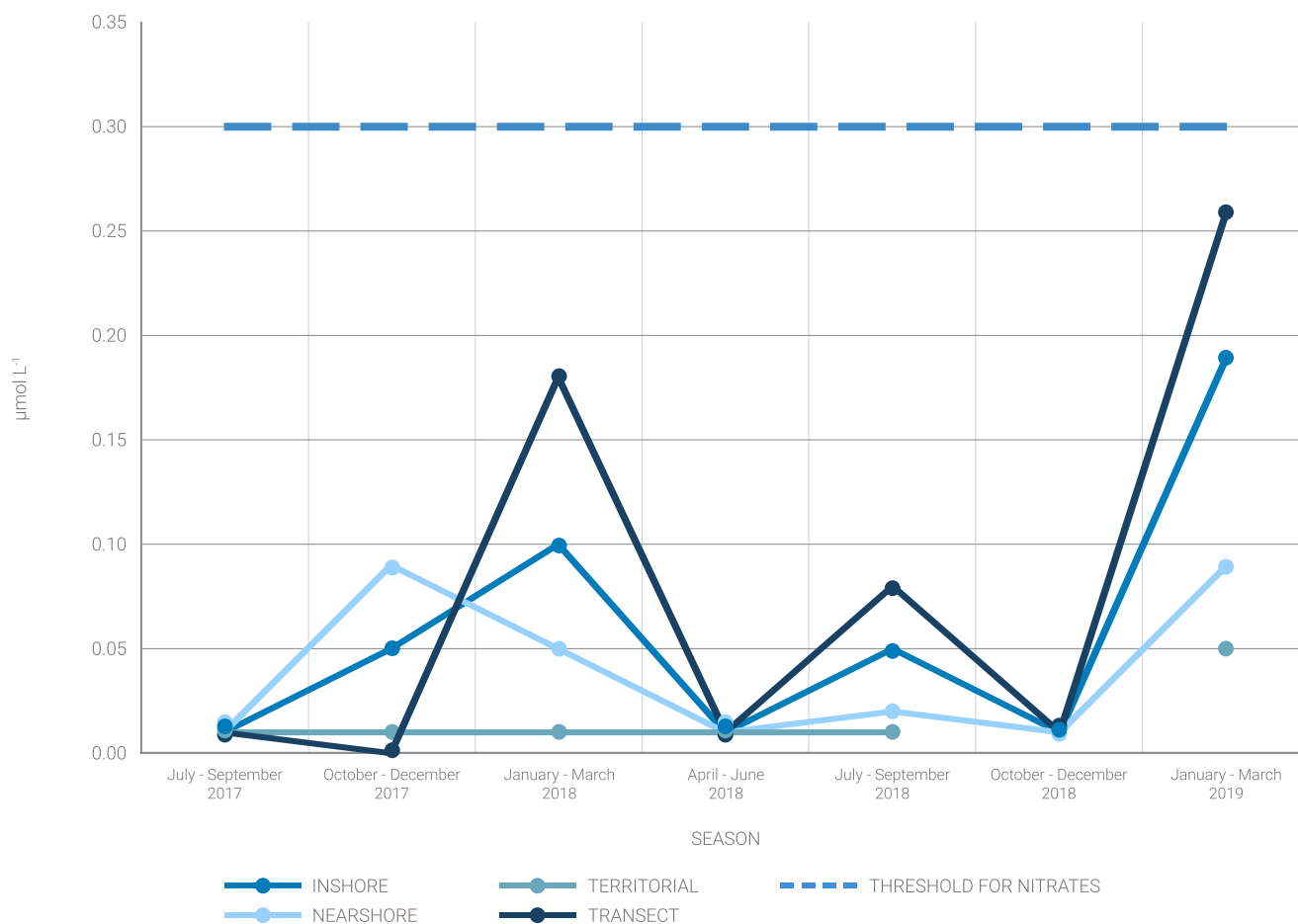


Chart 14.1: Average seasonal nitrate concentrations in seawater; ERA

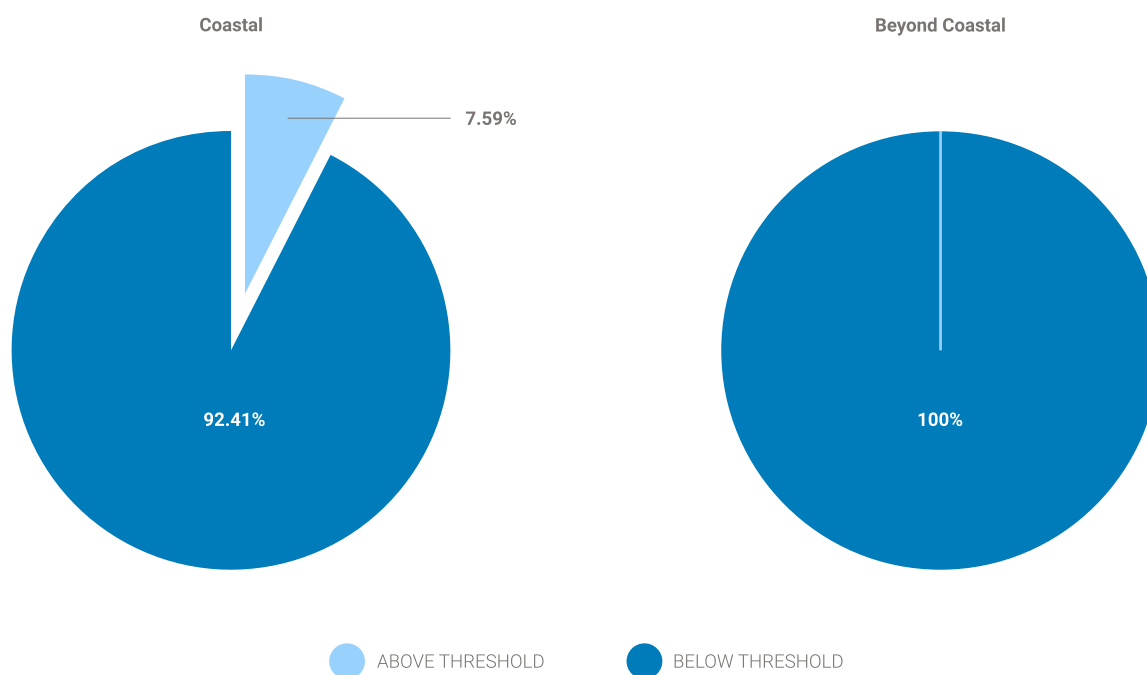


Chart 14.2: Percentage of coastal monitoring stations (left) and beyond coastal monitoring stations (right) measuring below/above thresholds of nitrates ( $0.30 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ); ERA

While no thresholds are available for nitrites and silicates, these were also generally found in low concentrations (Charts 14.3 and 14.4).<sup>219</sup>

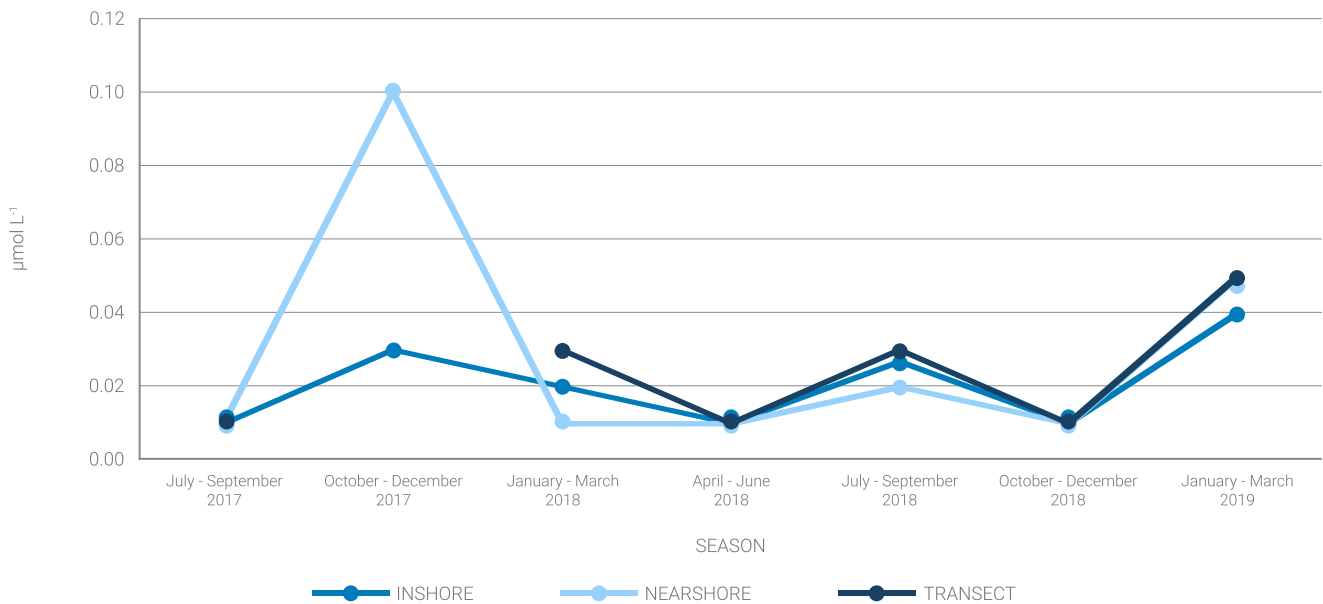


Chart 14.3: Nitrite concentrations per season; ERA

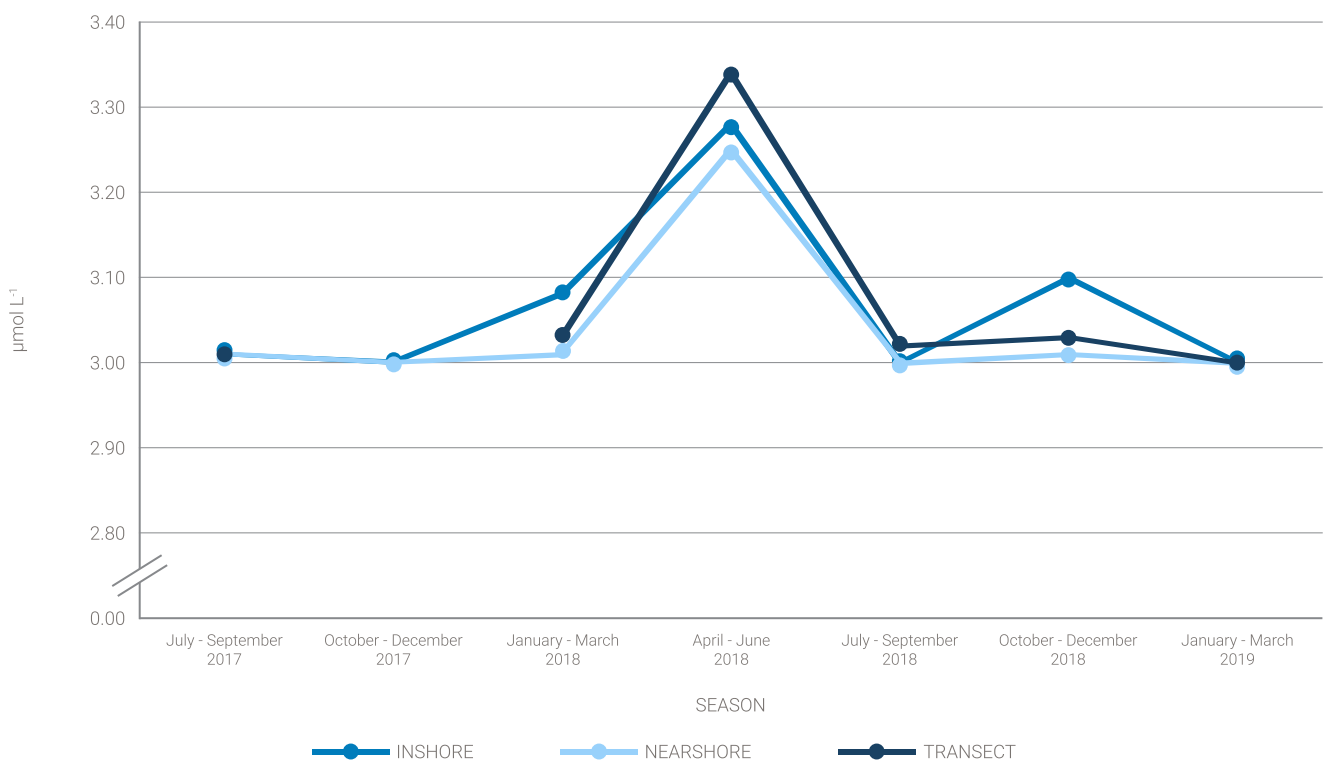


Chart 14.4: Silicate concentrations per season; ERA

<sup>219</sup> Environment and Resources Authority (2020), *Update on Articles 8, 9, and 10 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) in Malta's Marine Waters, Malta*.

Moreover, chlorophyll-a concentrations were very low in coastal and beyond coastal monitoring stations, and almost always below the Water Framework Directive (WFD)<sup>220</sup> intercalibrated thresholds for Cyprus and Greece ( $0.53 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ).<sup>221, 222</sup> None of the monitoring stations located beyond the coastal waters have measured above-threshold concentrations of chlorophyll-a, while only 3.15% of the monitoring stations located in coastal waters did measure concentrations of chlorophyll-a above the threshold of ( $0.53 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) (Chart 14.5).

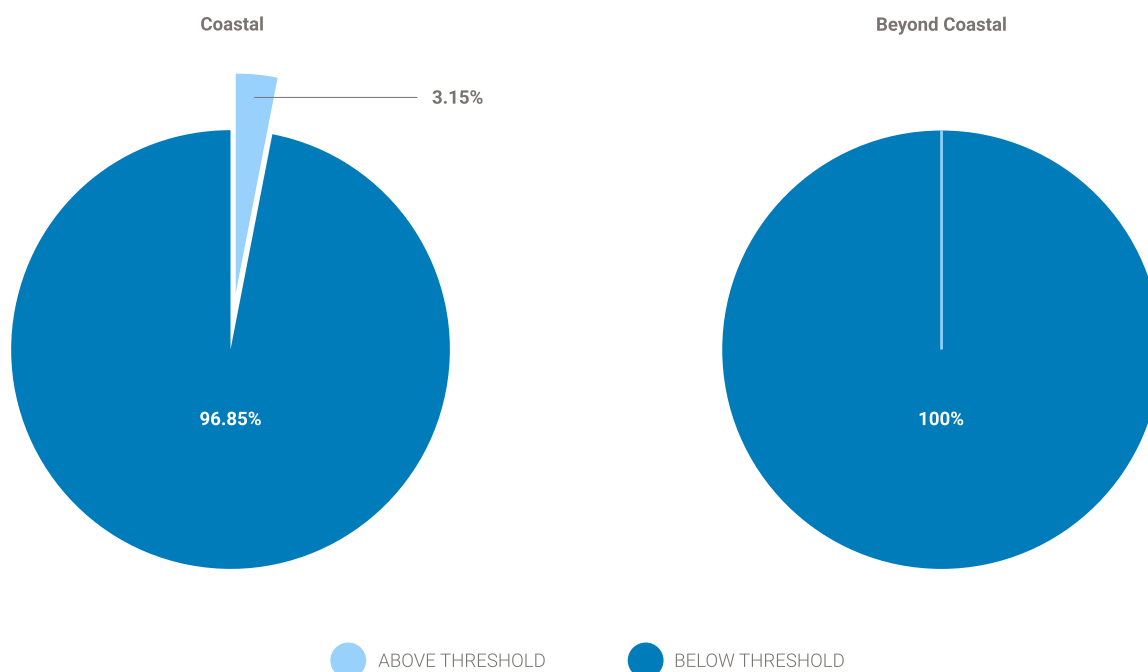


Chart 14.5: Percentage of coastal monitoring stations (left) and beyond coastal monitoring stations (right) measuring below/above thresholds of chlorophyll-a; ERA

The assessment report by ERA concluded that the Maltese waters are relatively poor in nutrients and containing abundant oxygen in the deeper parts, i.e. not below the 80% threshold established by UNEP/MAP (Chart 14.6).<sup>223</sup> The oxygen levels are indicative of good status and corroborate the results on nutrient and chlorophyll-a concentrations.

<sup>220</sup> Official Journal of the European Union (2000), *Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy*, L327/43, 22.12.2000, pp. 1–73.

<sup>221</sup> Environment and Resources Authority (2020), *Update on Articles 8, 9, and 10 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) in Malta's Marine Waters*, Malta.

<sup>222</sup> The 'Good'/'Not Good' boundary for chlorophyll-a represents the WFD Good-Moderate boundary set for Type IIIE waters (Cyprus and Greece) through the WFD intercalibration process. Malta is working on the adoption of such boundaries for Maltese waters through the WFD intercalibration exercise. Therefore, the threshold of  $0.53 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  is considered applicable to Maltese waters.

<sup>223</sup> UNEP/MAP (2015), *Report of the Online Groups on Eutrophication, Contaminants and Marine Litter. UNEP-MAP 5th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group*, Rome, Italy, 14–15 September 2015.

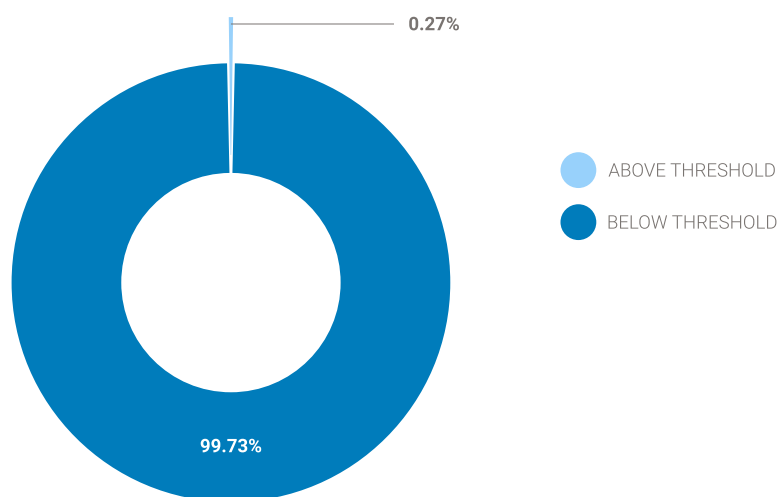


Chart 14.6: Overall oxygen level in Maltese waters (coastal and beyond coastal); ERA

## Marine litter

Marine pollution includes litter, defined as “any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment”.<sup>224</sup> Marine litter harms the environment and can generate adverse economic, health, and aesthetic impacts. Malta’s second assessment report of the MSFD includes a quantitative assessment of litter: (i) on the coastline; (ii) in the surface layer of the water column, and; (iii) on the seabed,<sup>225</sup> in line with Commission Decision 2017/848/EU.<sup>226</sup>

Litter on the coastline was monitored via seven surveys carried out upon four beaches between 2017 and 2019.<sup>227</sup> In line with Commission Decision 2017/848/EU, this data has been presented as the amount of litter per category in number of items per 100 metres on the coastline. ‘Artificial polymer materials’ (comprising plastics) constituted the predominant litter item across all 7 surveys, representing 86% of all litter items observed. The highest number of items observed were during the summer months while the lowest number observed were during the winter

<sup>224</sup> Joint Research Centre (2017). *Top Marine Beach Litter Items in Europe*. Publications Office of the European Union. Referenced in Environment and Resources Authority (2020).

<sup>225</sup> Environment and Resources Authority (2020), *Update on Articles 8, 9, and 10 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) in Malta’s Marine Waters*, Malta.

<sup>226</sup> Official Journal of the European Union (2017), *Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 of 17 May 2017 laying down criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters and specifications and standardised methods for monitoring and assessment, and repealing Decision 2010/477/EU*, L125/43, 18.5.2017, pp. 43–74.

<sup>227</sup> The selected locations to monitor as per Malta’s monitoring programme are Għar Qawqla and Fomm ir-Riġ as remote beaches; and Mellieħa Bay and Għajn Tuffieħa as recreational beaches. The 7 surveys were conducted during Summer 2017, Autumn 2017, Winter 2017–2018, Spring 2018, Summer 2018, Autumn 2018, and Winter 2018–2019.

months. The category with the lowest number of items was rubber with a total of 8.5 items per 100m. All the other categories observed, with the exception of 'artificial polymer materials' were generally below 100 items per 100m along the coastline respectively (Charts 14.7 and 14.8).

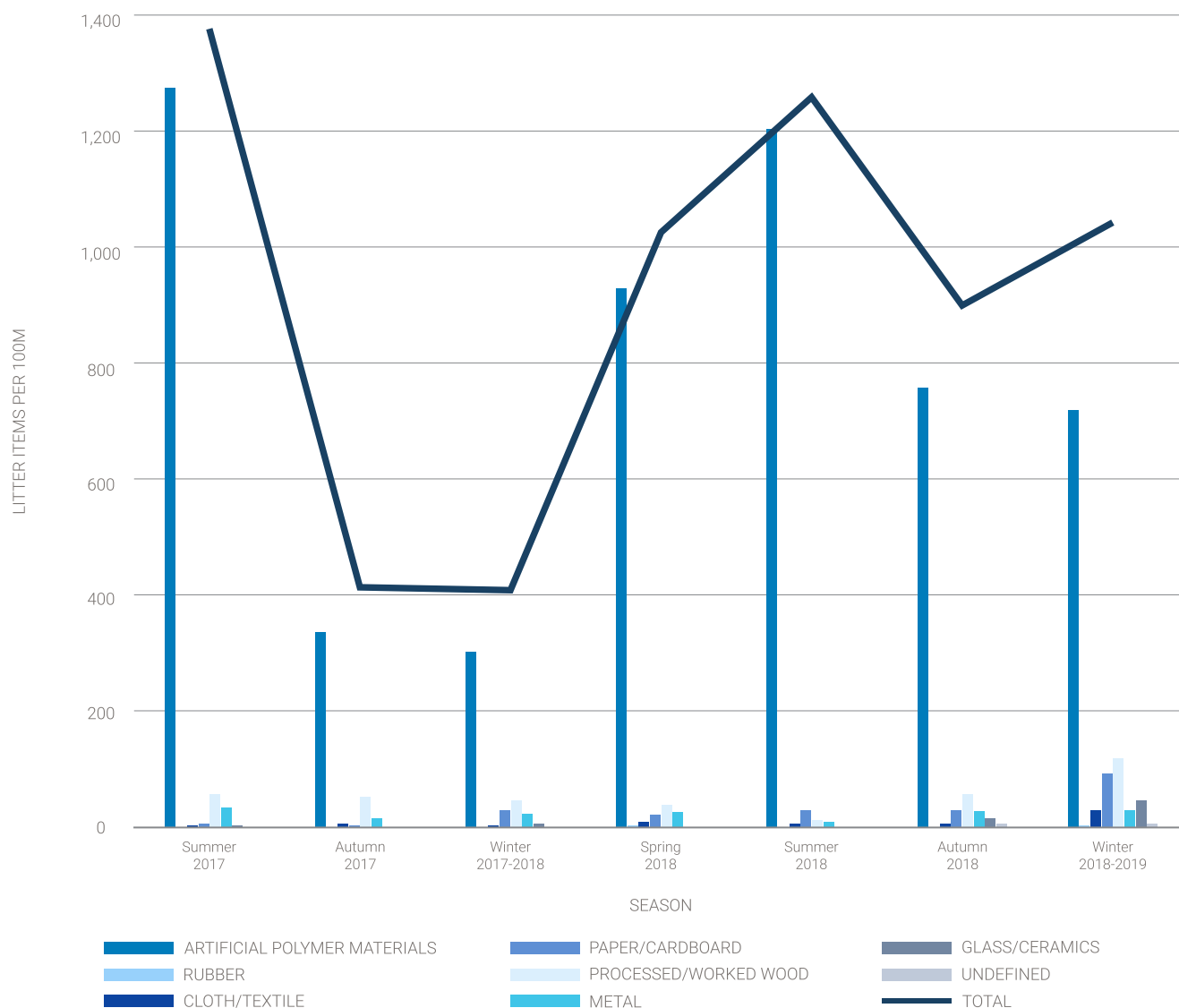


Chart 14.7: Litter items per 100m along the coastline; ERA

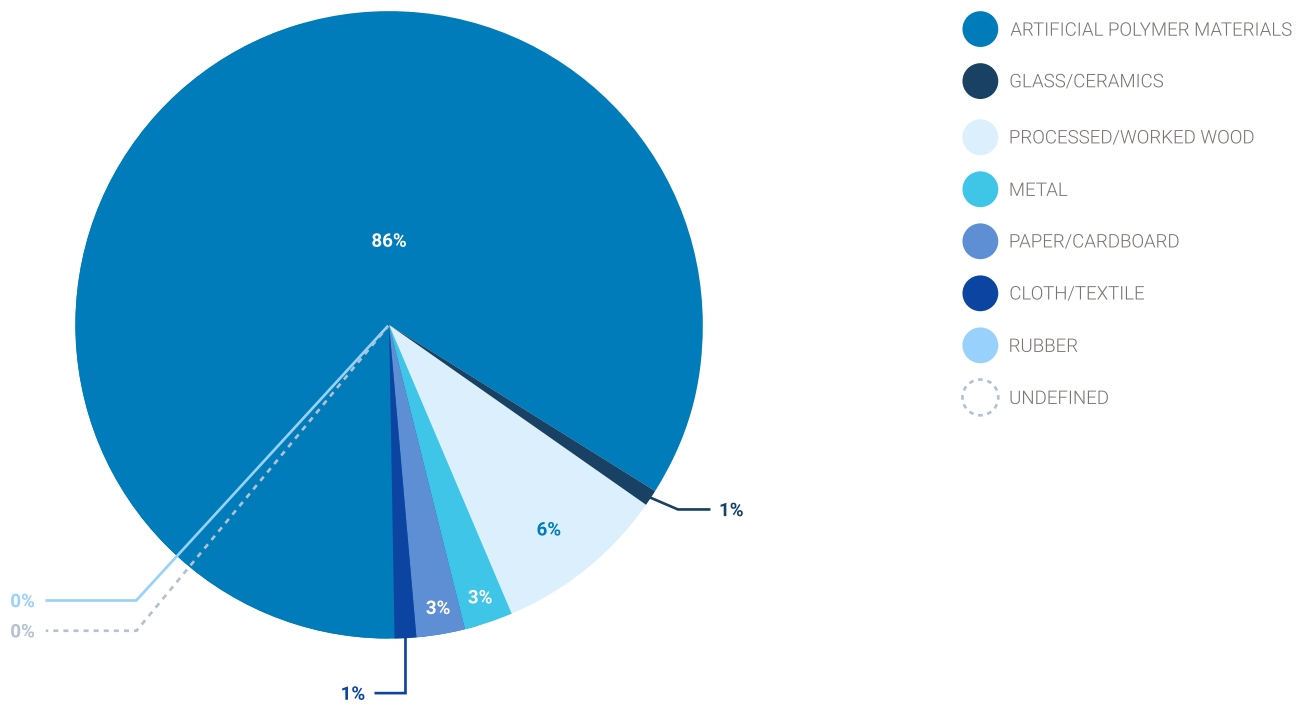


Chart 14.8: Total litter on the coastline per category; ERA

Most of the litter on the Maltese coastline originates from the intense use of beaches for recreational purposes. The highest percentage of litter found on beaches comes from public litter (69%) followed by shipping (15%), fishing (11%) and unspecified sources (5%) (Chart 14.9).

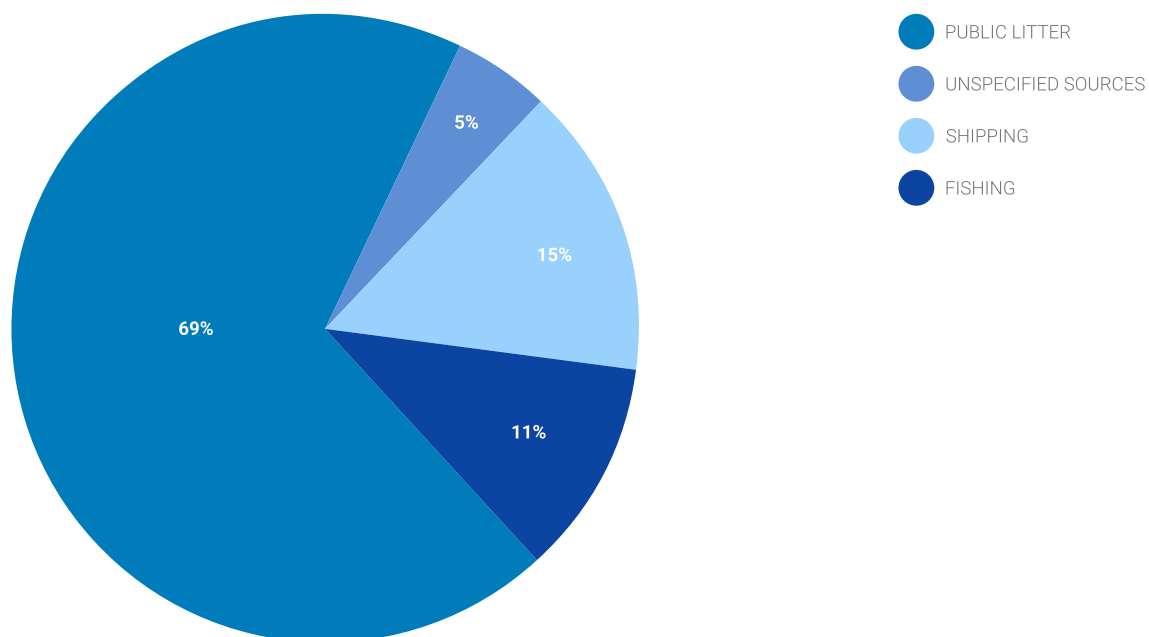


Chart 14.9: Source of litter along the coastline; ERA

Moreover, data on the amount of litter per category in the surface layer of the water column within coastal waters, is also available from the same stations for monitoring litter on the coastline. Litter in the surface layer of the water column of coastal waters was predominantly plastic (82%), followed by wood (14%), cloth/textiles (2%) and rubber (2%) (Charts 14.10 and 14.11).

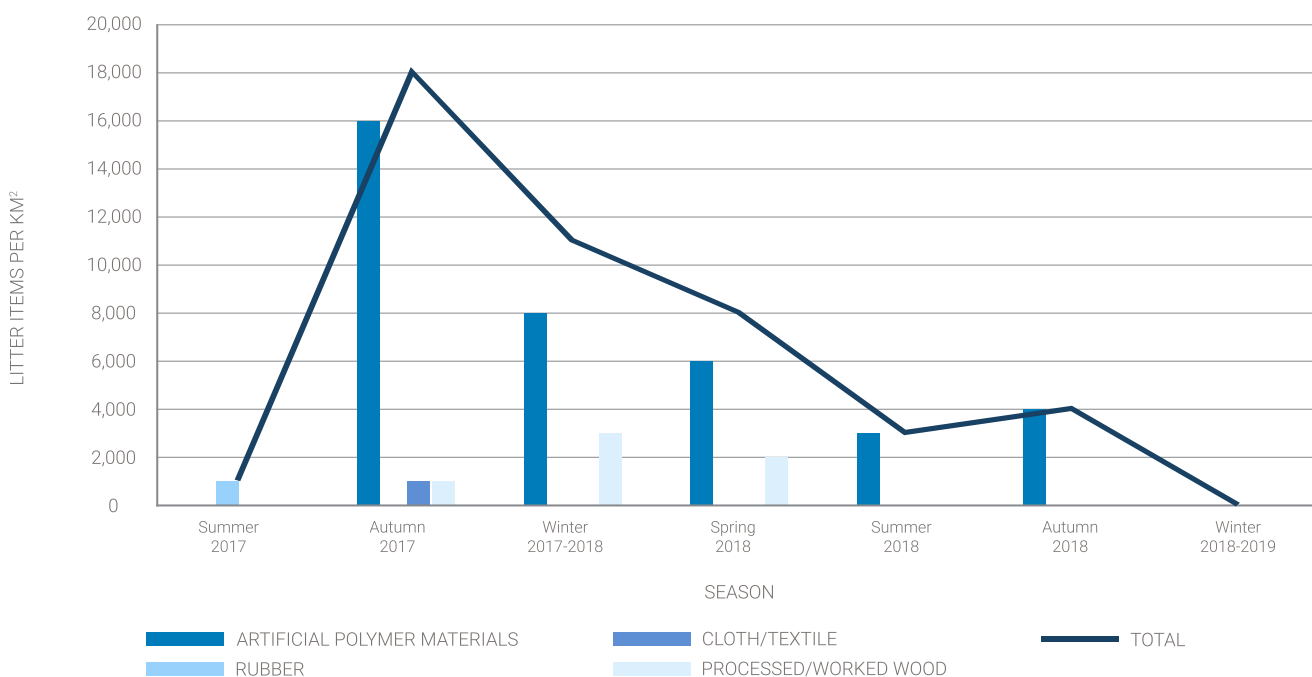


Chart 14.10: Litter items per km² in the surface layer of coastal waters; ERA

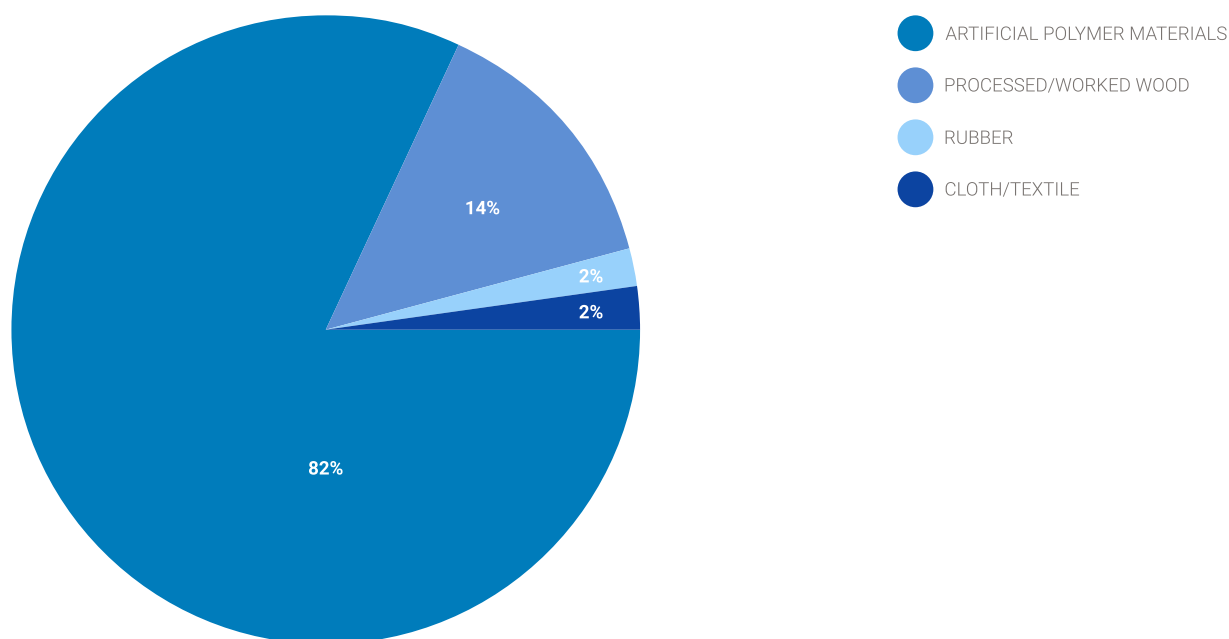


Chart 14.11: Total litter in the surface layer of coastal waters per category; ERA



The sources of marine litter in the surface layer of the water column in coastal waters consist mainly of public litter (72%), shipping (16%) and fishing (12%) (Chart 14.12).

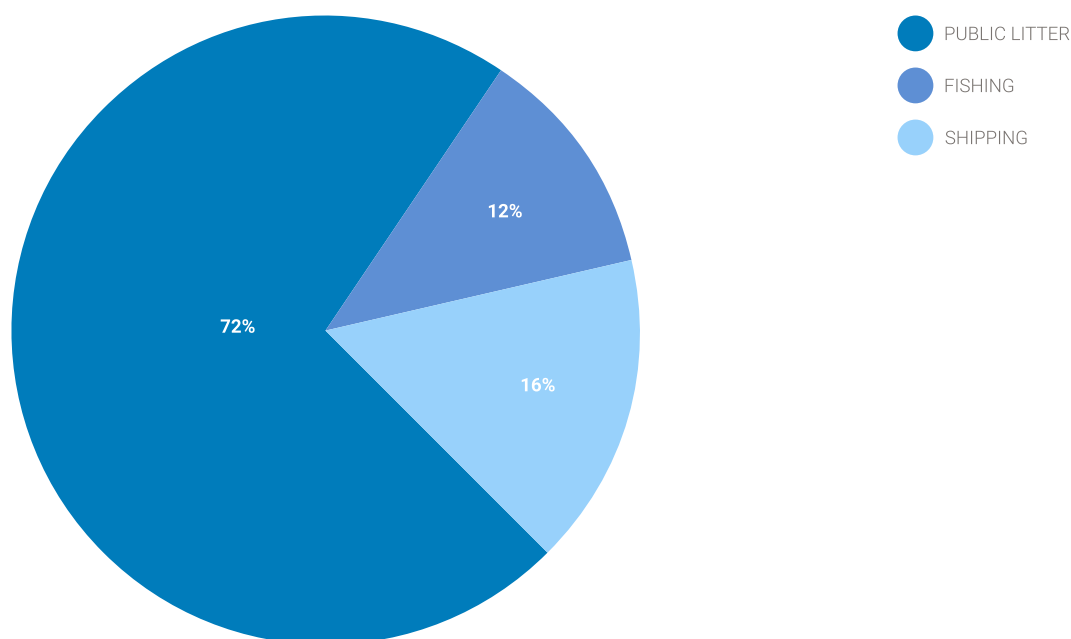


Chart 14.12: Sources of litter found in the surface layer of coastal waters; ERA

## Bathing waters

To tackle marine pollution, the EU uses a wide set of instruments to regulate wastewater management and to protect human health and the environment from the risks that can be posed by chemicals and biological agents. The EU Bathing Water Directive<sup>228</sup> is one of these instruments and it contributes to ensure good environmental status under the MSFD<sup>229</sup> and good ecological and chemical status under the WFD<sup>230</sup>. The percentage of bathing sites with good and excellent water quality is therefore a measure of good environmental status.<sup>231</sup>

<sup>228</sup> Official Journal of the European Union (2006), *Directive 2006/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 February 2006 concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC*, L 64/37, 4.3.2006, pp. 37–51.

<sup>229</sup> Official Journal of the European Union (2008), *Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)*, L 164/19, pp. 19–40.

<sup>230</sup> Official Journal of the European Union (2000), *Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy*, L 327/43, 22.12.2000, pp. 1–73.

<sup>231</sup> The indicator is assessed according to standards for microbiological parameters (intestinal enterococci and *Escherichia coli*).

The Bathing Water Directive requires EU Member States to identify and assess the quality of all marine bathing waters and to classify these waters as ‘poor’, ‘sufficient’, ‘good’ or ‘excellent’. Most of the bathing sites in Malta are considered to be of excellent water quality. In 2011, the percentage of bathing sites with excellent water quality was 97.7% of all bathing sites. The percentage remained the same in 2019, however, in between 2011 and 2019 the highest percentage was registered in 2014 with 100% of bathing sites classified as ‘excellent’. The lowest was in 2012, when the percentage of bathing sites classified as ‘excellent’ went down to 96.6% (Chart 14.13).

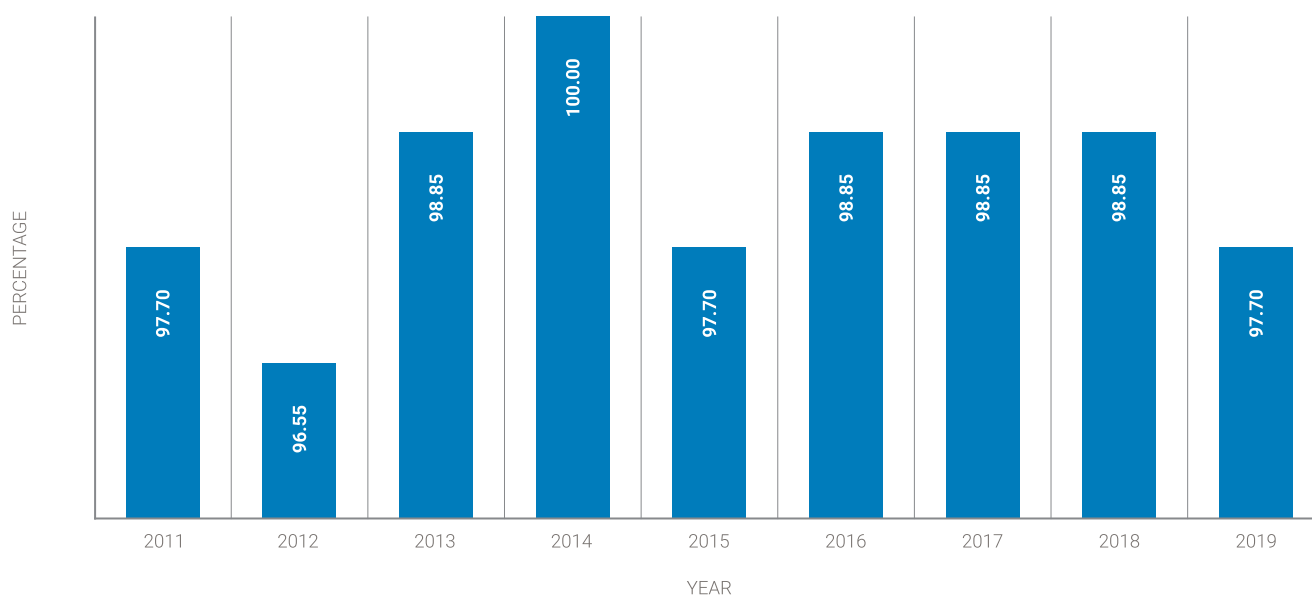


Chart 14.13: Bathing sites with excellent water quality; EEA, Eurostat

## Protected marine areas

One of the SDG 14 targets requires the conservation of at least 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020. The establishment of protected areas is an important mechanism for stopping the decline in biodiversity and ensuring long-term and sustainable use of marine natural resources.

Malta’s marine Natura 2000 network was established over a period of 10 years for the conservation of important habitats and species. It encompasses 18 sites and covers over 4,100 km<sup>2</sup> of marine waters. Between 2008 and 2012, five areas — covering about 190 km<sup>2</sup> in total — were identified. Then, in 2016, the number of protected zones was increased to cover more than 3,400 km<sup>2</sup>, eventually reaching 4,142 km<sup>2</sup> in 2018 (Chart 14.14).<sup>232</sup> Moreover, by 2019 the mean

<sup>232</sup> Environment and Resources Authority, *Marine Protected Areas*, online: <https://era.org.mt/topic/marine-protected-areas-2/> [accessed on 4 May 2021].

percentage of Key Biodiversity Areas that are covered by marine protected areas in Malta was 93.4% (Chart 14.15).

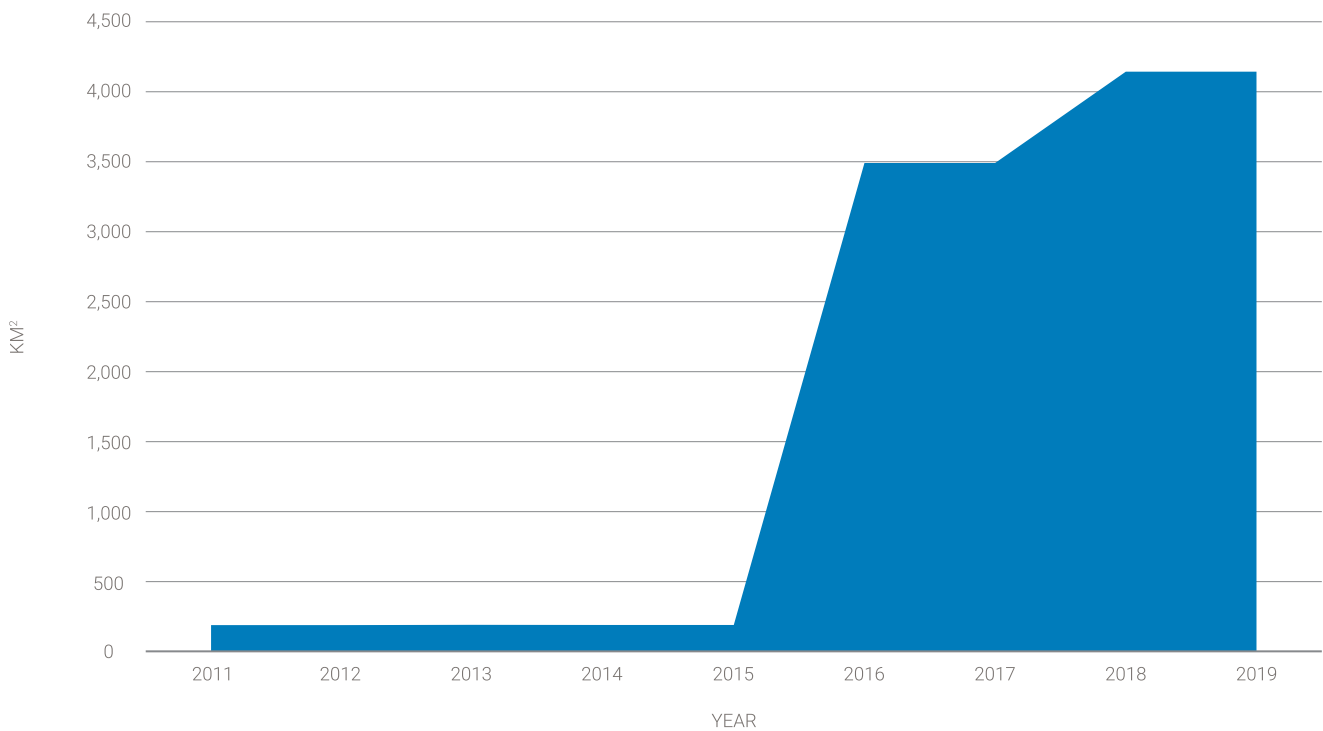


Chart 14.14: Extent of Malta's marine protected areas, EEA, DG ENV

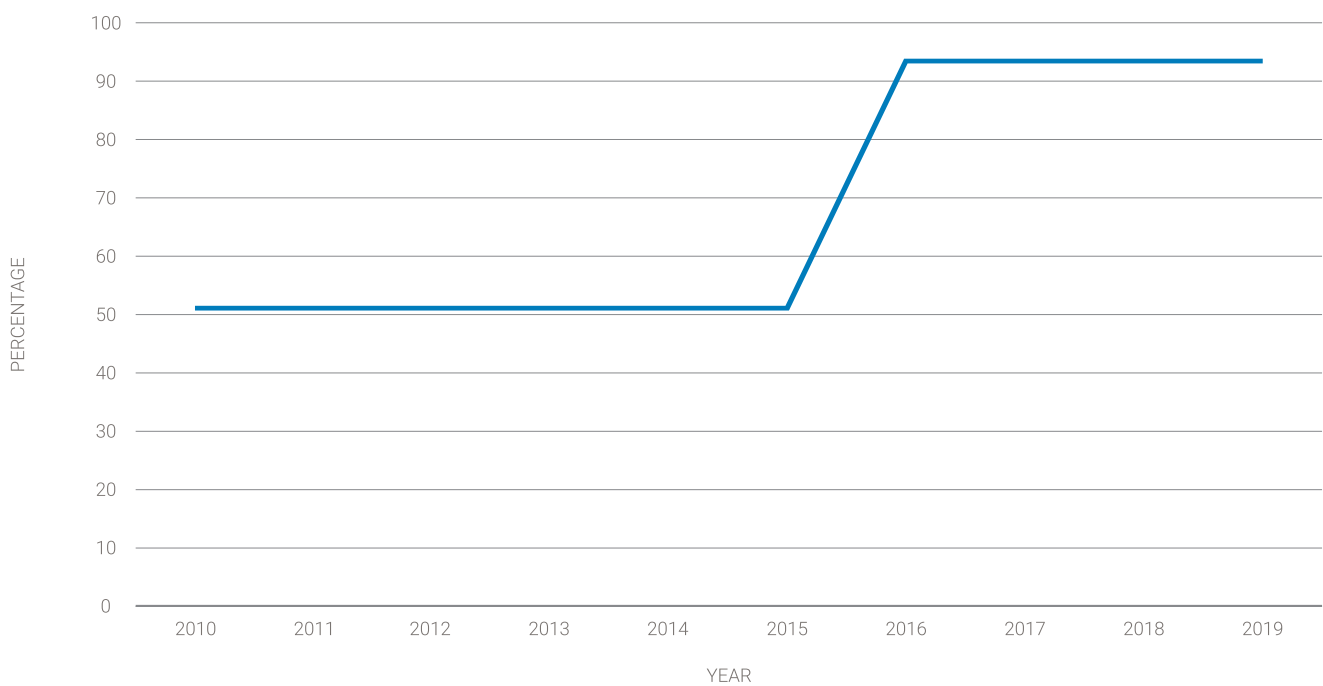


Chart 14.15: Average proportion of marine key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas; UN, BirdLife International, IUCN and UNEP-WCMC (2019)

## Sustainable fishing

SDG 14 also requires that by 2020, states prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies. IUU fishing undermines national and regional efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks and, consequently, inhibits progress towards achieving the goals of long-term sustainability and responsibility.

One way to measure the implementation of this target is via the extent of progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat IUU fishing. Towards this end, through the completion and submission of a questionnaire by countries, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) ranks the countries according to a 0–1.0 index ranging from “Very low implementation of applicable instruments to combat IUU fishing” to “Very high implementation of applicable instruments to combat IUU fishing”. The instruments covered by this indicator and their role in combatting IUU fishing are: (i) the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); (ii) the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UN Fish Stocks Agreement); (iii) the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU); (iv) the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA); (v) The FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance (VG-FSP); (vi) the FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (Compliance Agreement).

Between 2018 and 2020, the average degree of implementation of international instruments to combat IUU fishing has improved across the world. A composite measure of the degree of implementation of the five principal instruments listed above shows that the world score for this indicator rose from 3/5 to 4/5 over this period. For both 2018 and 2020, the FAO classified Malta as having a “Very high implementation of applicable instruments to combat IUU fishing”—equivalent to level 5.<sup>233</sup>

<sup>233</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Sustainable Development Goals*, online at <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/1461/en/> [accessed on 6 May 2021].

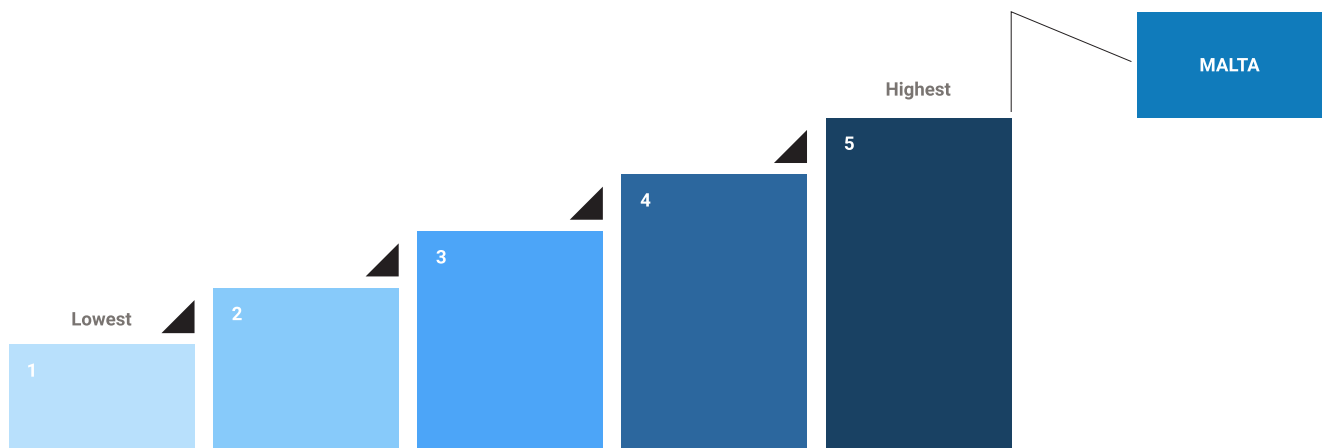


Chart 14.16: Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; FAO – Indicator developed upon responses provided by the EU

Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of the GDP is a measure quantifying the economic benefits of sustainable fisheries. The share of value added from an industry in a country's overall GDP is commonly used as an indication of its economic importance. Accordingly, the value added of marine capture fisheries indicates the prominence of marine fish-related activities in the country's economy and its importance for livelihoods. Stocks that are fished at sustainable levels are able to support the communities and industries which rely on them, without compromising reproduction and long-term sustainability. By contrast, a stock that is exploited to a point where it cannot replenish itself will ultimately provide sub-optimal long-term economic returns for stakeholders.

In 2019, FAO developed a methodology that monitors the economic contribution of fisheries (including aquaculture) to national economies by calculating sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP. The methodology is built on three main inputs, which are all internationally recognised standards: GDP, value added of fisheries, and biological sustainability of fish stocks.<sup>234</sup> The most recent data available for this indicator shows that, for many regions of the world, the share of sustainable fisheries has been increasing. However, FAO statistics show that Malta's percentage of sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP has declined from 0.059% in 2011 to 0.0087% in 2017 (Chart 14.17).

<sup>234</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization (2020), *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020. Sustainability in Action*, Rome, <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9229en> [accessed on 6 May 2021].

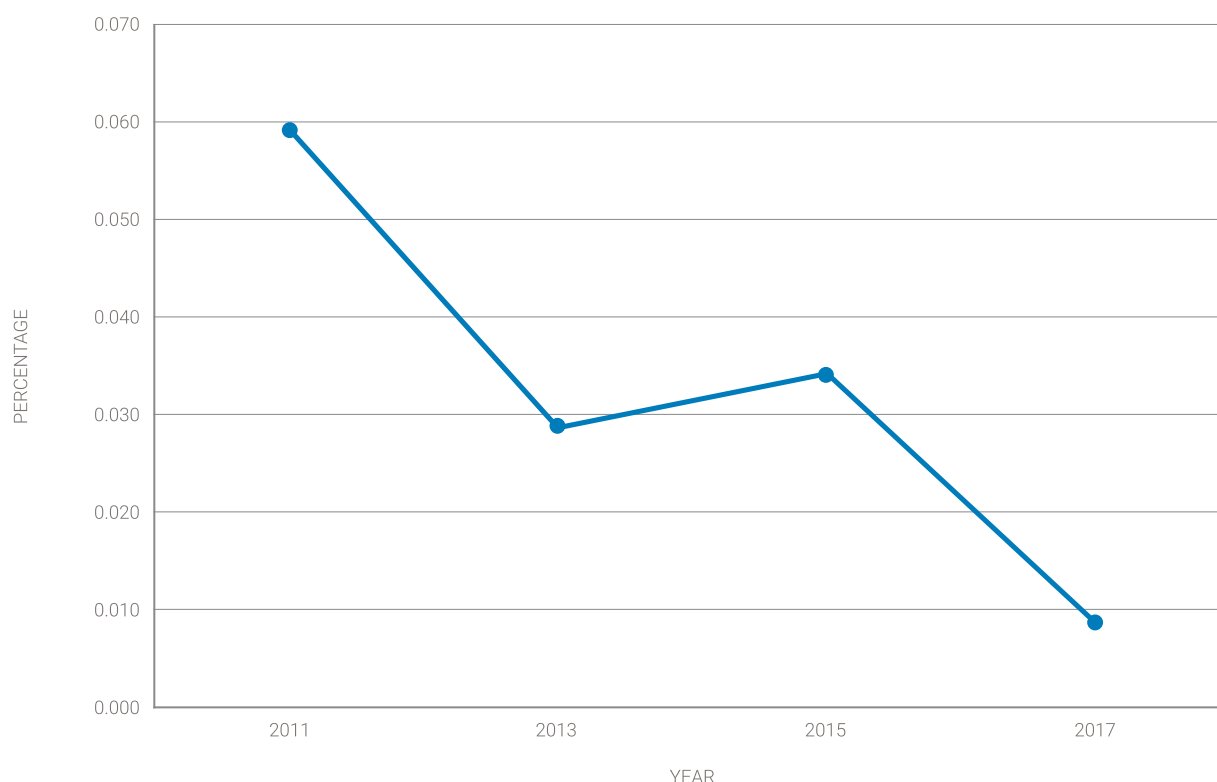


Chart 14.17: Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP; Official country reported data (UNSD and OECD national accounts). FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics (2018), and Review of the State of World Marine Fishery Resources (2005).<sup>235</sup>

Another target of SDG 14 is to provide access for small-scale fishers to marine resources and markets. In order to guarantee secure access, an enabling environment is necessary which recognises and protects small-scale fishers' rights. Appropriate legal, regulatory and policy frameworks, specific initiatives to support small-scale fisheries, and enabling institutional mechanisms which allow for the participation of small-scale fisheries' organisations in relevant processes are all conducive towards facilitating small-scale fishers' access to marine resources and markets.

The FAO Committee on Fisheries agreed that the data submitted through the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) questionnaire could be used by members for reporting on this particular SDG indicator.<sup>236</sup> The national indicator is then calculated by the FAO by taking into account the replies to questions that are specifically focused on the actual

<sup>235</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2005), *Review of the State of World Marine Fishery Resources*. Online: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb1213t/cb1213t.pdf> [accessed on 6 May 2021], and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2020), *Yearbook of Fishery Statistics (2018)*. Online: <http://www.fao.org/3/i2389e/i2389e.pdf> [accessed on 6 May 2021].

<sup>236</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2016), *Report of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries (Rome, 11-15 July 2016)*, paragraph 14. Online: <http://www.fao.org/3/mr484e/mr484e.pdf> [accessed on 6 May 2021].

efforts of promoting and facilitating access rights to small-scale fisheries. Similar to the index on the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat IUU fishing, the index on the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognises and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries, ranges from 0 “Very low implementation of instruments for access to resources and markets for small-scale fisheries” to 1.0 “Very high implementation of instruments for access to resources and markets for small-scale fisheries”.

According to the FAO, since 2015, most world regions have expanded the adoption of regulatory frameworks supporting small-scale fisheries and promoting participatory decision-making processes. The average global score for this indicator on access for small-scale fishers to marine resources and markets has moved from 3/5 in 2018 to 4/5 in 2020. For both 2018 and 2020, the FAO classified Malta as having “High implementation of instruments for access to resources and markets for small-scale fisheries”— equivalent to level 4.<sup>237</sup>

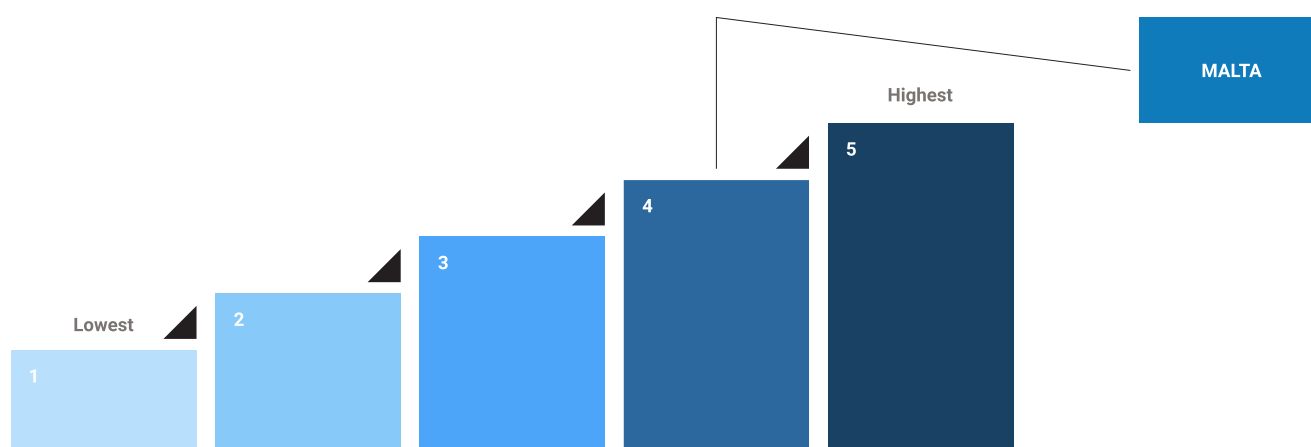


Chart 14.18: Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognises and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries; FAO – Indicator developed upon responses provided by the EU.

<sup>237</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Sustainable Development Goals*, online at <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/14b1/en/> [accessed on 6 May 2021].

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 14 is reflected in Table 14.1 below. The targets related to SDG 14, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 14 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 14 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 14 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>238</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>239</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>240</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.





<sup>238</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>239</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>240</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].













**Legend:**

	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

*Table 14.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 14*

TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
14.1	By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution	Average seasonal nitrate concentrations	
		Percentage of monitoring stations measuring below/above thresholds of nitrates	
		Nitrite concentrations per season	
		Silicate concentrations per season	
		Percentage of monitoring stations measuring below/above thresholds of chlorophyll-a	
		Overall oxygen level in Maltese waters	
		Litter items per 100m along the coastline	
		Total percentage of litter on the coastline per category	

		Source of litter along the coastline	
		Litter items per Km <sup>2</sup> in the surface layer of coastal waters	
		Total percentage litter in the surface layer of coastal waters per category	
		Source of litter found in the surface layer of coastal waters	
14.2	By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	Percentage of bathing sites with excellent water quality	
14.5	By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information	Extent of marine protected areas	
		Average proportion of marine key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas	
14.6	By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation	Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal unreported and unregulated fishing	
14.7	By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism	Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP	

14.b	Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets	Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognises and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries	
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# SDG 15



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

## **| Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

SDG 15 specifies that biodiversity and ecosystems are important elements to ensure sustainable development, and therefore they need to form an integral part of national plans. After all, wetlands serve as water treatment plants, forests as air purifiers, and insects and birds serve as food pollinators. Thus, safeguarding nature is the basis for the achievement of all SDGs.

The international community has acknowledged the severity of global biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems and has stressed the negative impact that this situation has on food security, nutrition, access to water, health of the rural poor and people worldwide. Through the SDGs, the international community reaffirmed the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity, which serve as the foundations for sustainable development and human well-being.

SDG 15 looks towards the protection, restoration and promotion of the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. It seeks to sustainably manage forests, reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss. Malta does not have mountains, forests, and rivers, however, it is rich in biodiversity and natural habitats. Therefore, as in all SDGs, contextualising the targets and indicators of the UN SDGs to reflect Malta's situation is necessary to monitor the country's progress towards achieving the targets of SDG 15.

### **Forest areas and wooded land**

SDG 15 requires that by 2020, states ensure that the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services are in line with obligations under international agreements. Forests fulfil several functions that are vital for humanity and for the sustainability of development, and serve as habitat for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, coastal protection and soil and water conservation. Forest area as a percentage of total land area may be used as a rough proxy for the extent to which the forests/woodlands in a country are being conserved or restored, but it is only a crude measure of the extent to which they are sustainably managed. The definition of 'forest' in Malta is "an area covering a

minimum of 1 hectare (ha) with trees having a potential to reach a minimum height of 2–5m at maturity in situ”.<sup>241</sup> The share of forests and other wooded land in Malta was 1.09% in 2010. This slightly increased to 1.44% in 2019 (Chart 15.1).

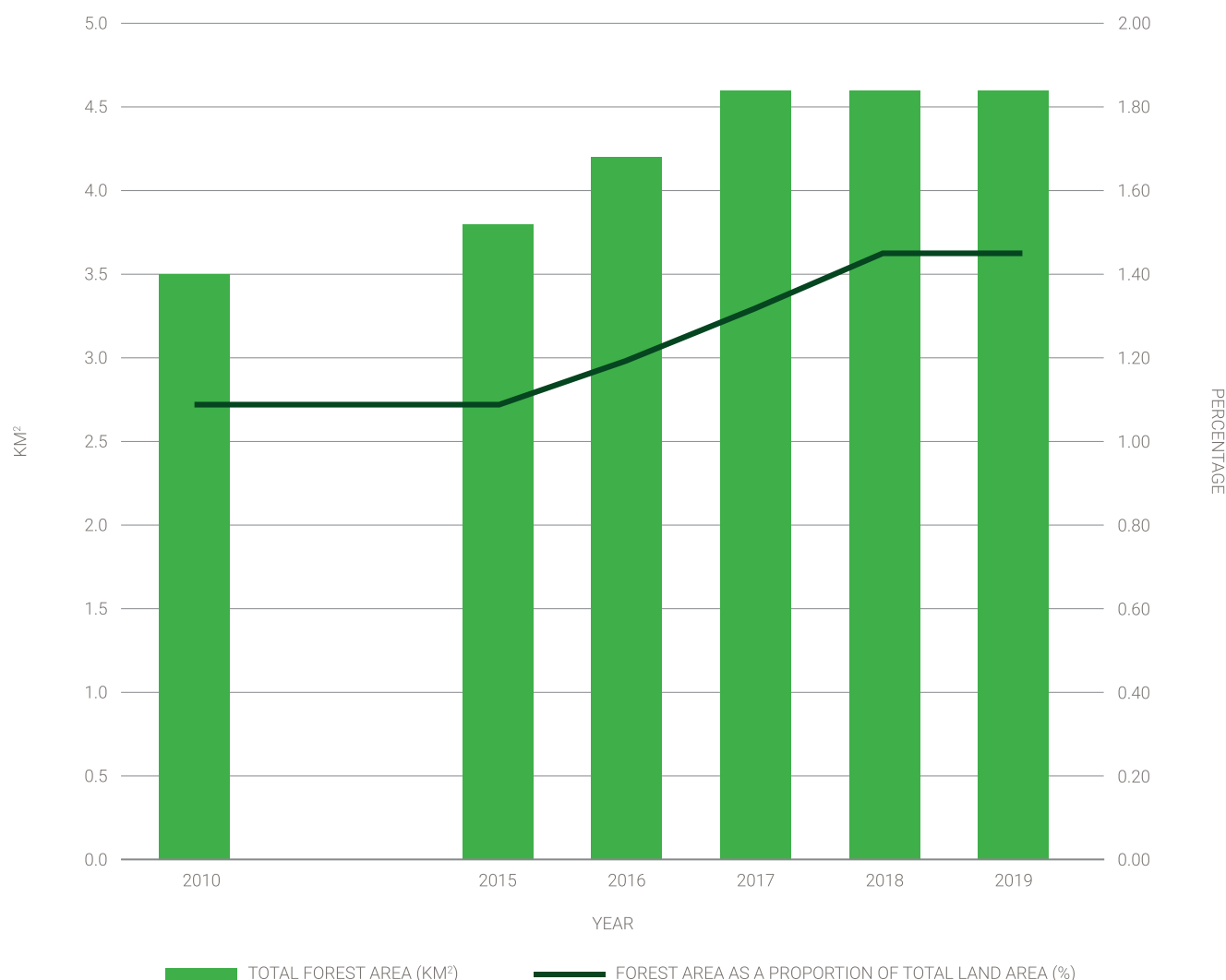


Chart 15.1: Total forest area in Malta (left axis), and forest area as a proportion of total land area (right axis); Malta Report: Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 and FAOSTAT, FAO

Several tree-planting projects were carried out by the Maltese Government. In the period 2010–2019, a total of 68,508 new trees were planted in government-led projects. In 2019 alone, 29,268 trees were planted (Chart 15.2). Furthermore, the 2018 State of the Environment Report<sup>242</sup> shows that a number of NGOs had been carrying out several initiatives which

<sup>241</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2020), *Malta Report: Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020*, online at <http://www.fao.org/3/cb0028en/cb0028en.pdf> [accessed on 17 May 2021].

<sup>242</sup> Environment and Resources Authority (2018), *State of the Environment Report 2018*, Chapter 4, online: [https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Chapter4\\_LandCoast\\_26Nov2018.pdf](https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Chapter4_LandCoast_26Nov2018.pdf) [accessed on 12 May 2021].

sought to cultivate trees in public areas. In the period 2010–2015, a total of 5,409 trees were planted by NGOs in afforestation initiatives (Chart 15.3).<sup>243</sup>

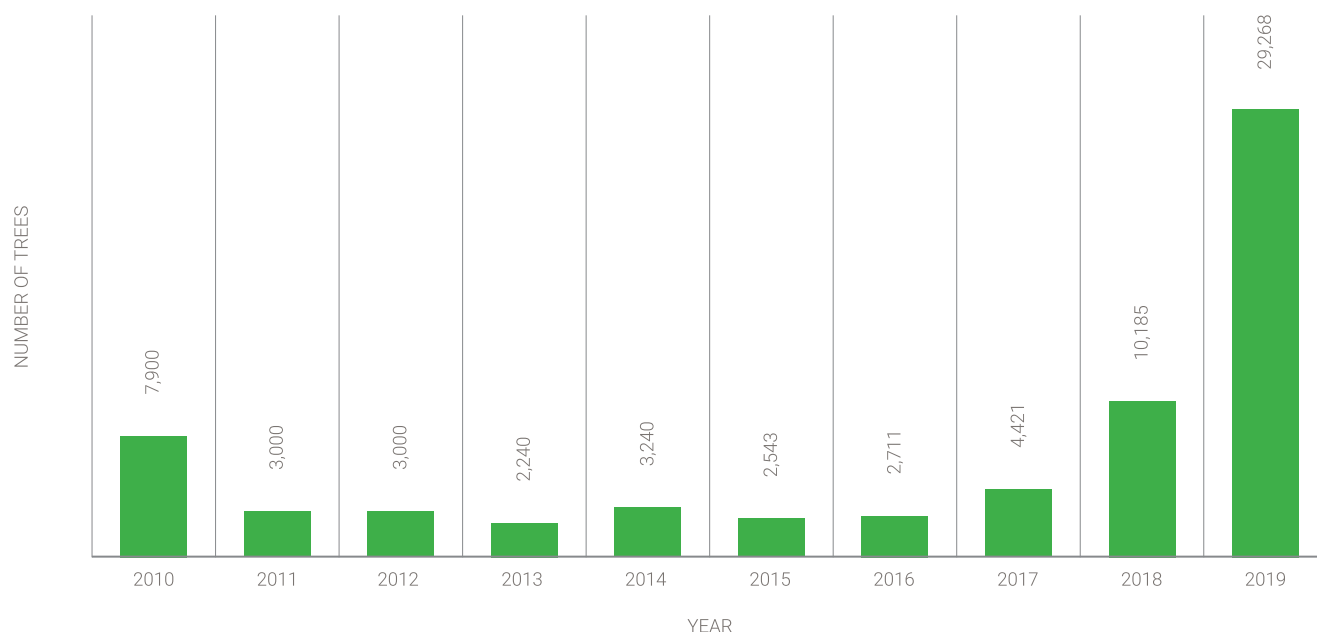


Chart 15.2: Number of trees planted in afforestation initiatives led by the Government; Infrastructure Malta, Ambjent Malta, Parks Malta

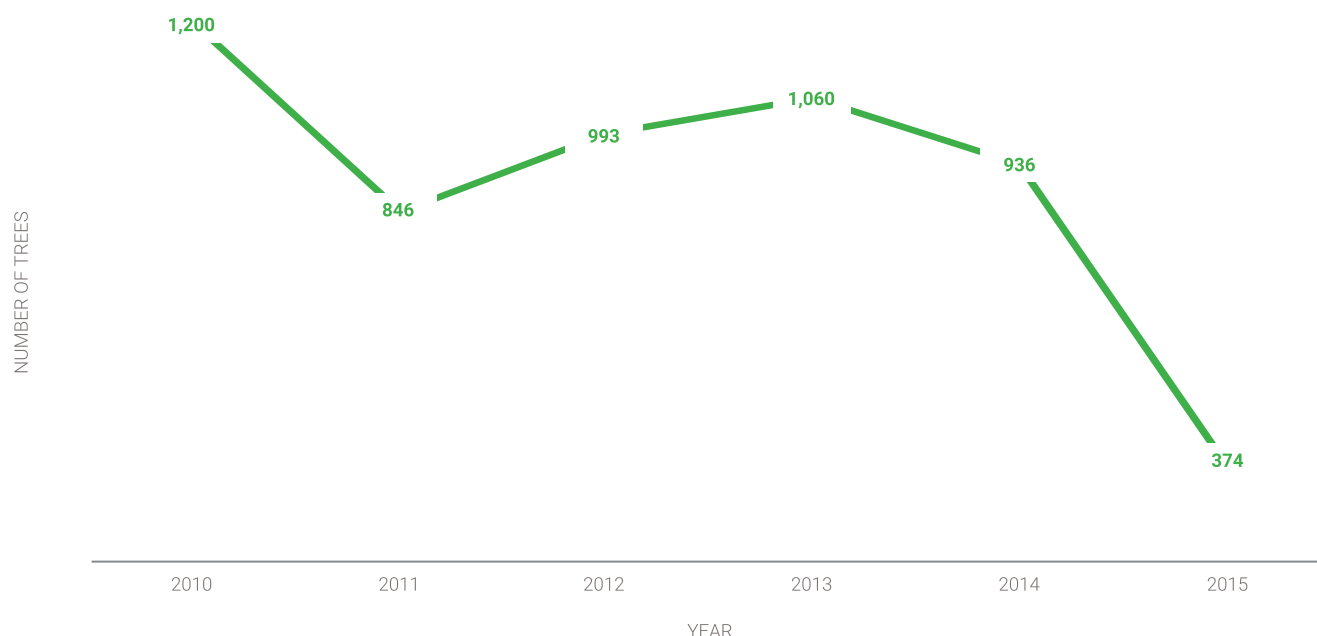


Chart 15.3: Number of trees planted in afforestation initiatives led by NGOs; State of the Environment Report 2018, Environment and Resources Authority (ERA)

<sup>243</sup> Chart 15.3 excludes other afforestation activities by the Environmental Landscapes Consortium Limited (ELC) and Din I-Art Helwa.



## Protected terrestrial areas

The establishment of protected areas is an important mechanism to safeguard sites of significant natural value. Area protection, when effectively implemented, stems the decline in biodiversity and ensures long-term and sustainable use of terrestrial and freshwater natural resources.

Across the Maltese Islands, 28.9% of the land area is covered by one designation or another, and in certain cases even more than one.<sup>244</sup> The average proportion of terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%) in 2019 was 84.5% (Chart 15.4).

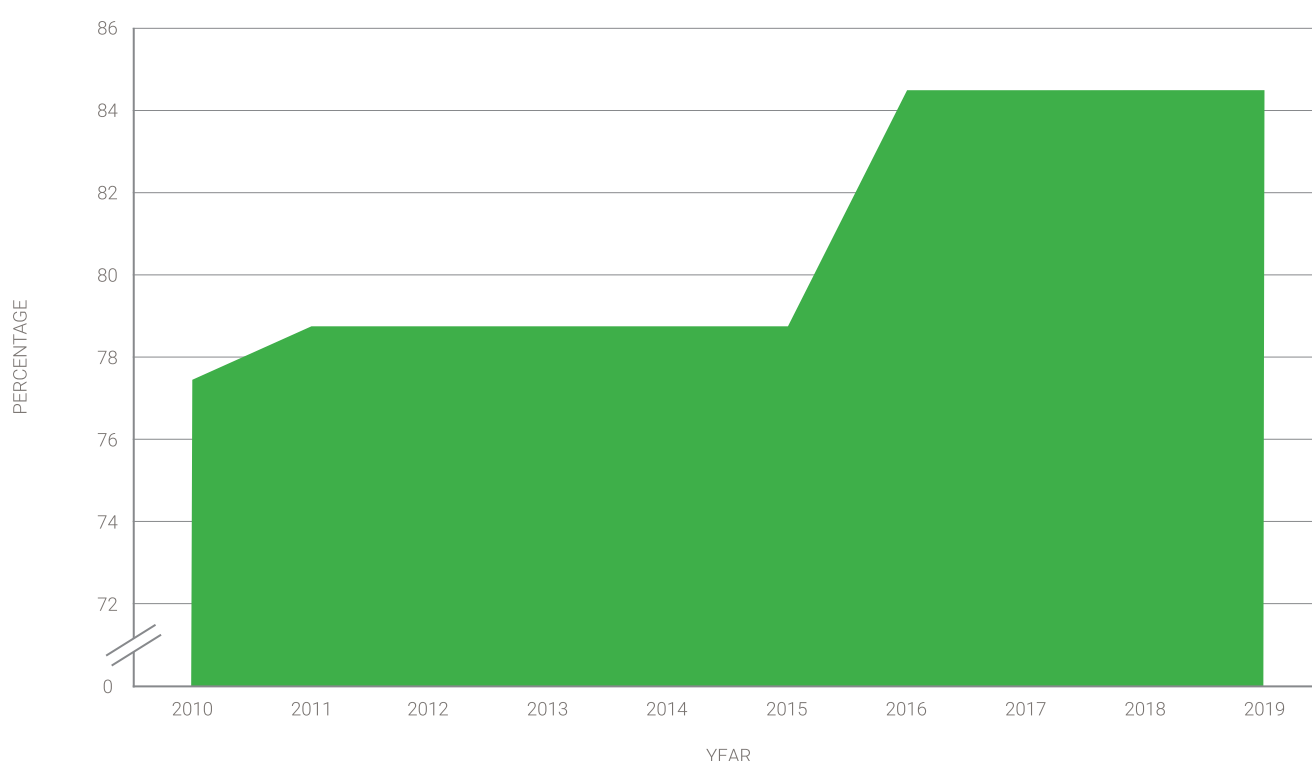


Chart 15.4: Average proportion of terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas; UN, BirdLife International, IUCN and UNEP-WCMC (2019)

Moreover, from the 28.9% of land area covered by a designation, 13.8% forms part of the EU Natura 2000 network of protected areas and the remaining 15.1% is designated under national legislation. The percentage of land area included in the Natura 2000 network has remained constant since 2011 (Chart 15.5).<sup>245</sup>

<sup>244</sup> Environment and Resources Authority, *Protected Areas – National*, online: <https://era.org.mt/topic/protected-areas-national/> [accessed on 13 May 2021].

<sup>245</sup> Ibid.

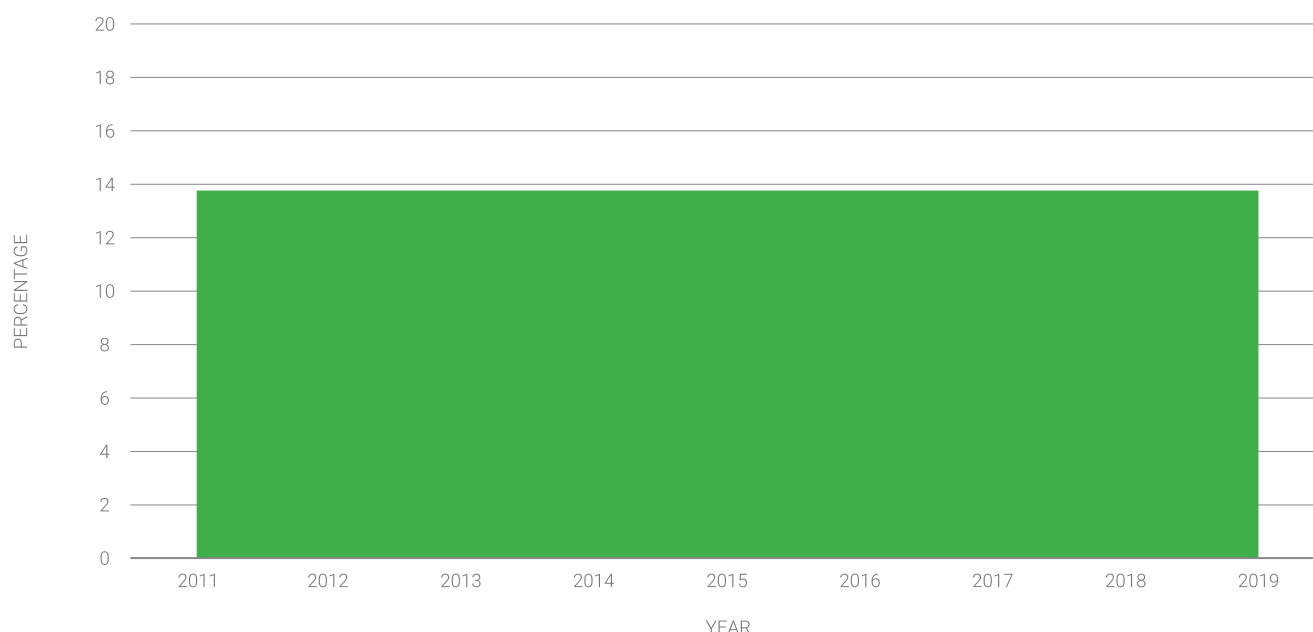


Chart 15.5: Surface extent of terrestrial area designated under Natura 2000; ERA

## Land degradation

Land degradation is defined as the reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity and the complexity of rain fed cropland, irrigated cropland, pasture, forest and woodlands resulting from a combination of pressures, including land use and management practices.<sup>246</sup> SDG 15 seeks to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strives to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by 2030. The assessment and quantification of land degradation is generally regarded as context-specific, making it difficult for a single indicator to fully capture the state or condition of the land.

Calculated national annual soil loss in 2015 indicates that 61.01 km<sup>2</sup> —19.3% of the total land area of Malta—were at risk of moderate to severe soil erosion.<sup>247</sup> Moreover, the total soil volume eroded annually in Malta amounts to 766,278 m<sup>3</sup>, and over a span of 50 years, 1.53 km<sup>2</sup> of agricultural land may be depleted of soil.<sup>248</sup> The European Commission Joint Research Centre estimates that the percentage of soil lost by water erosion in Malta decreased from 30% in 2000 to 10.6% in 2016 (Chart 15.6).

<sup>246</sup> This definition was adopted and is used by the 196 countries that are Party to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

<sup>247</sup> Sultana, D. (2015), *Numerical Modelling of Soil Erosion Susceptibility in the Maltese Islands using Geographic Information Systems and the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE)*, Xjenza Online, 3, pp. 41–50.

<sup>248</sup> Sultana, D. (2016), *Numerical Modelling and Economics of Agricultural Land Degradation in the Maltese Islands*, Xjenza Online, 4, pp. 22–34.

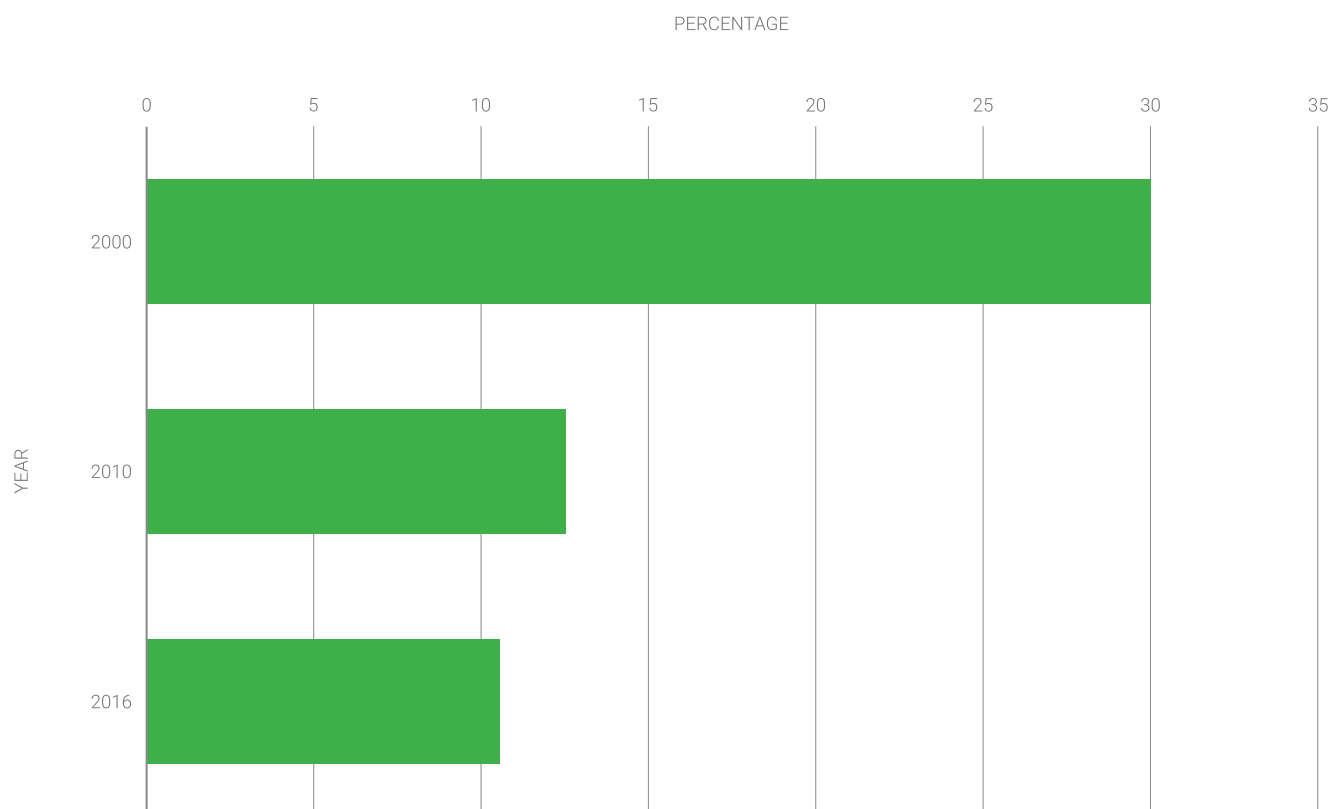


Chart 15.6: Percentage of soil lost by water erosion; European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC)

Construction activities are among the principal drivers of soil erosion in the European Union.<sup>249</sup> The European Environment Agency (EEA) shows the change in sealed soil surfaces with impervious materials due to urban development and construction (comprising the laying of completely or partially impermeable artificial material, such as asphalt, metal, glass, plastic or concrete used in buildings and infrastructure) by means of an index where the value for 2006 is set to 100—the soil sealing index.<sup>250</sup> By 2018, the soil sealing index had increased to 106.1, covering approximately 17.1% of Malta's surface area (Chart 15.7).

<sup>249</sup> Oldeman, L. R., Hakkeling, R. T. A. & Sombroek, W. G. (1991). *GLASOD World Map of the Status of Human-induced Soil Degradation*, S. International Soil Reference and Information Centre, United Nations Environmental Programme. Nairobi, in Sultana, D. (2015), *Numerical Modelling of Soil Erosion Susceptibility in the Maltese Islands using Geographic Information Systems and the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE)*, Xjenza Online, 3, pp. 41–50.

<sup>250</sup> 'Soil sealing area' is a sub-set of the developed land.

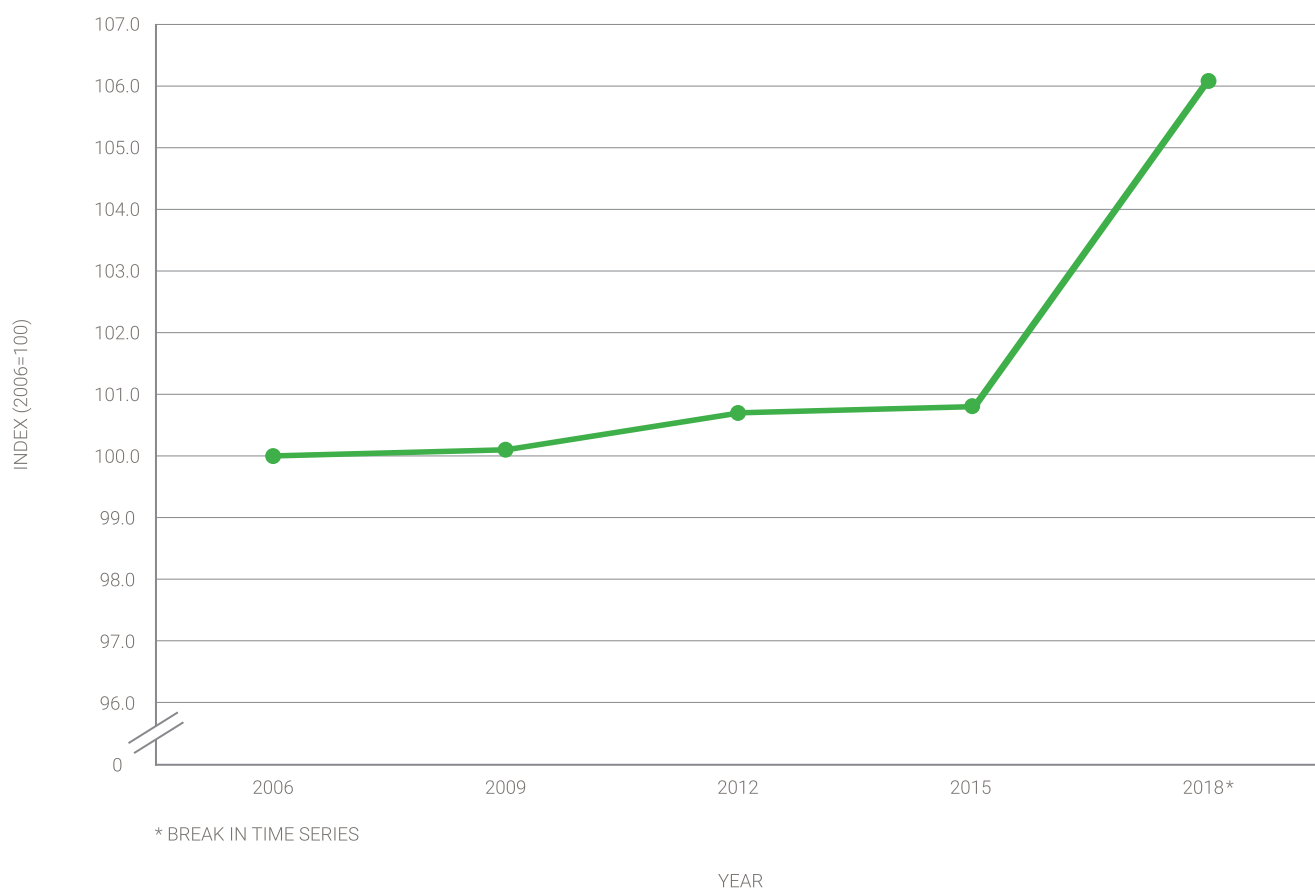


Chart 15.7: Soil sealing index; EEA, Eurostat

## Biodiversity

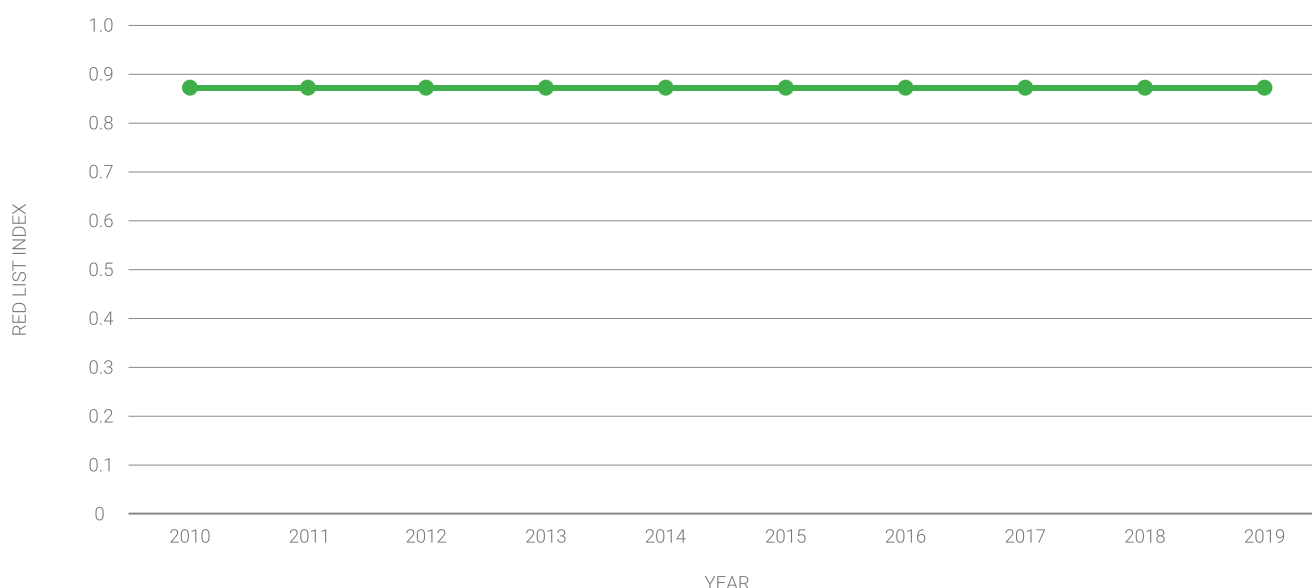
SDG 15 also requires that states protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.<sup>251</sup> The world's species are impacted by a number of threatening processes, including habitat destruction and degradation, overexploitation, invasive alien species, human disturbance, pollution and climate change.<sup>252</sup> The Red List Index measures the change in aggregate extinction risk across groups of species. It is based on valid changes in the number of species in each category of extinction risk on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. The index ranges from 0 to 1, where a 0 means that all species are categorised as 'Extinct' and a 1 means that all species are categorised as 'Least Concern', and so indicates how far the set of species has moved overall towards extinction.<sup>253</sup>

<sup>251</sup> Threatened species are those listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in the categories Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered (i.e., species that are facing a high, very high, or extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future).

<sup>252</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity, *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3*, online: <https://www.cbd.int/gbo3/?pub=6667&section=6711> [accessed on 25 June 2021].

<sup>253</sup> IUCN Red List, *Red List Index*, online: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/assessment/red-list-index> [accessed on 25 June 2021].

A downward trend in the Red List Index over time means that the expected rate of future species extinctions is worsening (i.e., the rate of biodiversity loss is increasing), whilst an upward trend means that the expected rate of species extinctions is abating (i.e., the rate of biodiversity loss is decreasing). A horizontal line means that the expected rate of species extinctions is remaining the same, although it does not mean that biodiversity loss has stopped. An upward Red List Index trend would indicate that the SDG Target 15.5 of reducing the degradation of natural habitats and protecting threatened species is on track.<sup>254</sup> A Red List Index value of 1 would indicate that biodiversity loss has been halted. Throughout the period 2010–2019 the Red List Index for Malta remained stationary at 0.87 (Chart 15.8).






*Chart 15.8: Red List Index; BirdLife International and IUCN (2021), based on global estimates of the extinction risk (IUCN Red List categories) of all mammals, birds, amphibians, corals and cycads, derived from local and national data, disaggregated to the national scale and weighted by the proportion of each species distribution in the country or region.*

Moreover, the promotion of fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources, including the appropriate access to such resources as internationally agreed, is another target of SDG 15. This target is being monitored by taking stock of the number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits, serving as a proxy to quantify the efforts by countries to implement the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2010), and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2001).

<sup>254</sup> Global SDG Indicator Platform, 15.5.1 Red List Index, online: <https://sdg.tracking-progress.org/indicator/15-5-1-red-list-index/> [accessed on 25 June 2021].

To be operational, the Nagoya Protocol requires that certain enabling conditions are met at the national level for its effective implementation. Countries may need to revise legislative, administrative or policy measures already in place or develop new measures in order to meet the obligations set out under the Protocol. Furthermore, the International Treaty stipulates that Contracting Parties should ensure the conformity of their laws, regulations and procedures with their obligations under the International Treaty. Articles 10 to 13 of the International Treaty provide for facilitated access to plant genetic resources among countries, while users of plant genetic material from the Multilateral System are encouraged to share their benefits with the rest of the System. Therefore, by developing their Access and Benefit-Sharing frameworks, countries are contributing to the achievement of SDG Target 15.6 and to the conservation and sustainable use of biological and genetic diversity. In relation to this, information on Malta is presented in Table 15.1.

*Table 15.1: Legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits; UN, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*



	Malta	
Indicator	No	Yes
Countries that are parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2010)		
Countries that have legislative, administrative and policy framework or measures reported through the Online Reporting System on Compliance of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture		
Countries that have legislative, administrative and policy framework or measures reported to the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing House of the Nagoya Protocol		

Moreover, the proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species is another indirect measure to quantify progress in addressing and halting the impact of invasive species that lead to biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, and loss of ecosystem services.

An 'alien' species is described as one which has been introduced outside its natural distribution range because of intentional or accidental dispersion by human activity. An alien species, which has become established in a natural or semi-natural ecosystem or habitat, is an agent of change. It threatens native biological diversity and so it is classified as an 'invasive alien species'.<sup>255</sup> Examples of unintentional or accidental introductions include: alien species that have escaped from gardens, aquaculture containment facilities, pets and aquarium species that are released into the wild; transport contaminants and stowaways, which include organisms attached to sea vessel hulls or in ballast water, and seeds or insects carried in imported soil, equipment, vehicles etc.

The UN monitors the introduction of measures to prevent the establishment and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species. This is done by taking stock of the commitment by countries to relevant multinational agreements, specifically, the national adoption of invasive alien species-relevant international policy and determining the percentage of countries with: (i) national strategies for preventing and controlling invasive alien species; and (ii) national legislation and policy relevant to invasive alien species. Relevant information on Malta is presented in Table 15.2.

*Table 15.2: Legislation, Regulation, Act related to the prevention of introduction and management of Invasive Alien Species; UN, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*



	Malta	
Indicator	No	Yes
Legislation, Regulation, Act related to the prevention of introduction and management of Invasive Alien Species		
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) targets alignment to Aichi Biodiversity target 9 set out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 <sup>256</sup>		

<sup>255</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity, *Glossary of Terms*, online: <https://www.cbd.int/invasive/terms.shtml> [accessed on 18 May 2021].

<sup>256</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity, *Aichi Biodiversity Targets*, online: <https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/> [accessed on 18 May 2021].

Another target of SDG 15 is to integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts. The objective of this target is to ensure that the diverse values of biodiversity and opportunities derived from its conservation and sustainable use are recognised and reflected in all relevant public and private decision-making. A way to monitor this target is via the progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.<sup>257</sup> Table 15.3 provides information on Malta with regards to this SDG15 target.

*Table 15.3: National targets in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2; UN, Environment Live (UNEP)*

	Malta	
Indicator	No	Yes
Countries that established targets in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 in their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans		
Countries with integrated biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting		

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 15 is reflected in Table 15.4 below. The targets related to SDG 15, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 15 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 15 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 15 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

<sup>257</sup> Ibid.



The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>258</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>259</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>260</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.

## Legend:






	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

Table 15.4: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 15

TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
15.1	By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	Forest area as a proportion of total land area	

<sup>258</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>259</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>260</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].

		Average proportion of terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas	
		Surface extent of terrestrial area designated under Natura 2000	
15.2	By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	Number of trees planted in afforestation initiatives led by the Government	
15.3	By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world	Percentage of soil lost by water erosion	
		Soil sealing index	
15.5	Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species	Red List Index	
15.6	Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed	Adoption of legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits	
15.8	By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species	Adoption of relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species	
15.9	By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts	Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020	





# SDG 16



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

## **Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

Crimes that threaten the foundation of peaceful societies, as well as discriminatory laws or practices, affect all countries. Weak institutions, corruption, insecurity, and inefficient and unreliable justice systems remain threats to sustainable development. Fear of violence, lack of safety and weak institutions hinder the personal development of individuals, while also affecting entrepreneurship and societal well-being. Institutions that do not function according to legitimate laws are prone to arbitrariness and abuse of power, and are therefore less capable of delivering public services to everyone.

Freedom to express views, both in private and in public, must be guaranteed, while legislation and policy must be applied without any form of discrimination. Moreover, national institutions must be accountable and need to deliver their services without the need for bribes. SDG 16 takes into consideration these aspects to ensure sustainable development for all. The Rio+20 Conference outcome document, 'The Future We Want', recognises that "opportunities for people to influence their lives and future, participate in decision-making and voice their concerns are fundamental for sustainable development" (paragraph 14).

SDG 16 seeks the reduction of all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere. The aim is to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence. It is necessary to promote the rule of law at all levels—national, European, and international. In this regard, it is essential to ensure equal access to justice, equal participation in decision making, and equal opportunities without the interference of corruption and bribery.

### **Crime**

One of the targets of SDG 16 is to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere. The number of victims of intentional homicide is widely used at national and international levels to measure the most extreme form of violent crime. The prevention of violence is a pre-requisite for individuals to enjoy a safe and active life and for societies and economies to develop freely. For this reason, intentional homicide rates provide a direct indication of the level of security. When analysing the average of the number of intentional homicides in Malta since 2008, one can observe a general increase. The average of the 2008–2010 period stood at 1.1 homicides per 100,000 population, while the 2017–2019 period recorded an average of 1.4 homicides per 100,000 population. The highest average rate was

recorded in the period 2011–2013, with 1.7 homicides per 100,000 population – this increase can be attributed to 2012 which recorded a total of 12 victims of homicide (Chart 16.1).

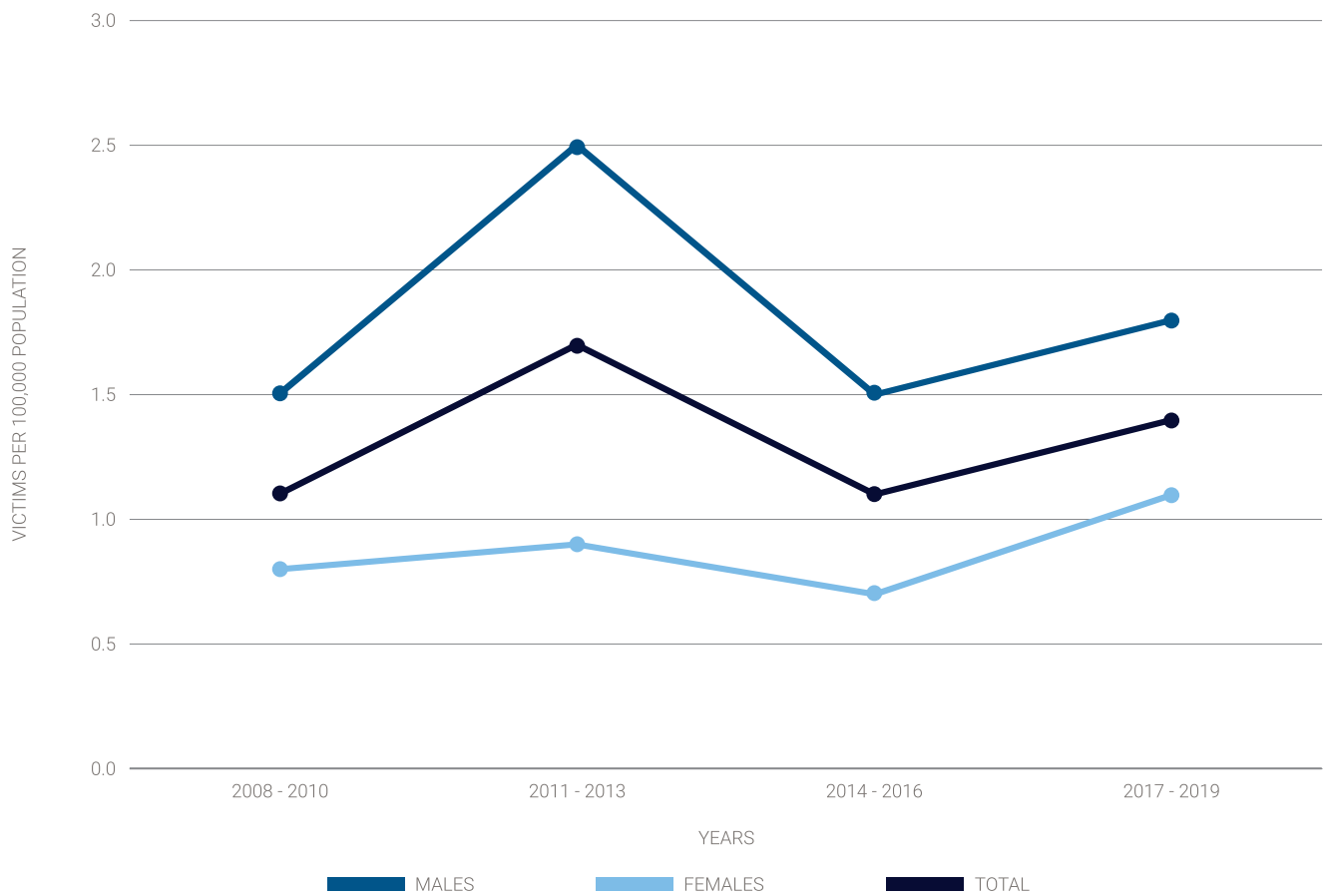
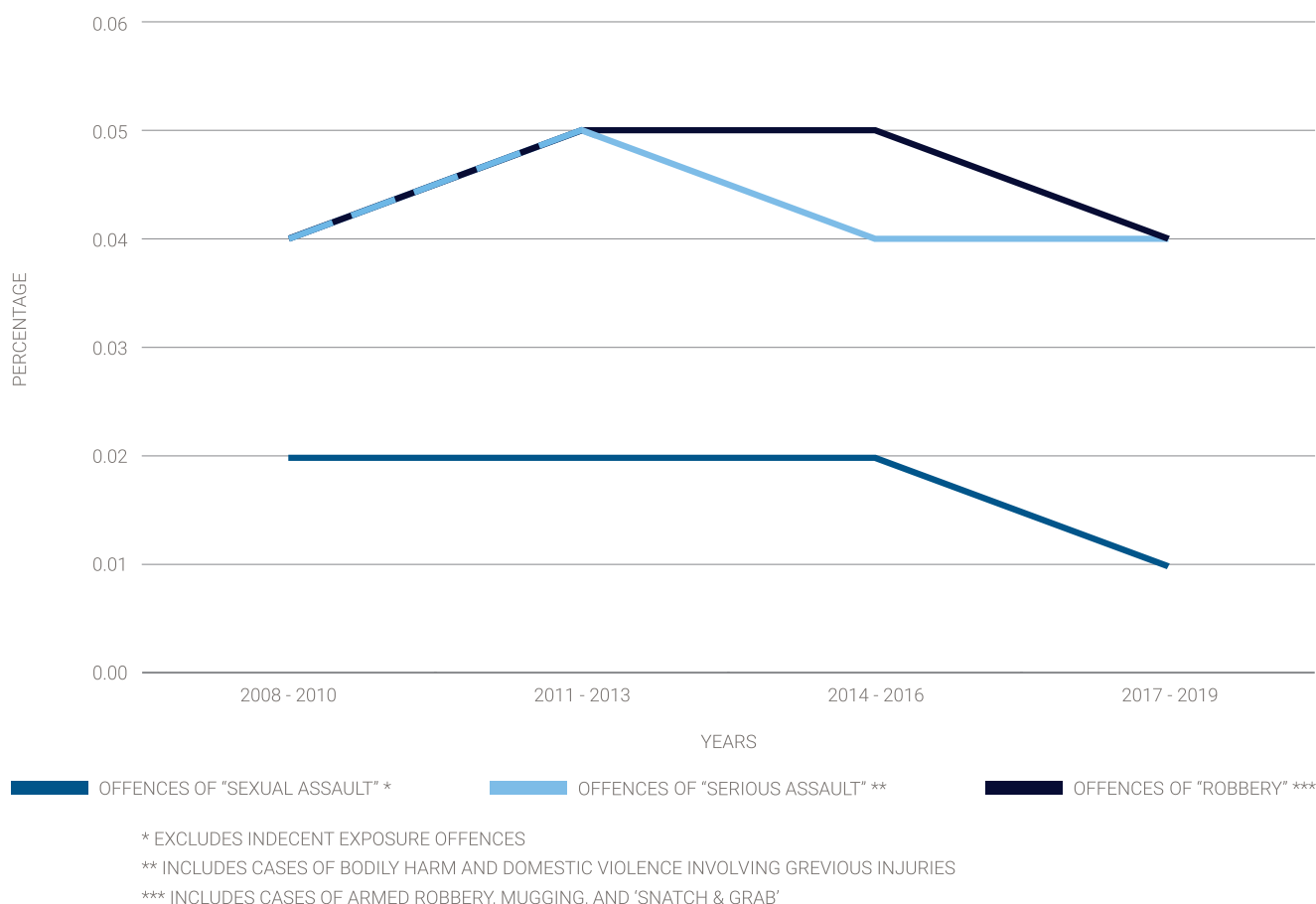


Chart 16.1: Three-year average rate of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population; UN-CTS; NSO

Another important indicator which sheds light onto the level of personal safety is the number of violent offences of a physical or sexual nature. This is a globally relevant indicator as violence in various forms occurs in all regions and countries of the world. Since 2010, Police reports relating to offences of 'sexual assault', 'serious assault' and 'robbery' have somewhat declined. As a proportion of the total resident population in Malta, reports on 'sexual assault' have declined from 0.02% during the 2008–2010 period to 0.01% during the 2017–2019 period, while average reports on 'serious assault' and 'robbery' in the periods 2008–2010 and 2017–2019 remained the same at 0.04% (Chart 16.2).



**Chart 16.2: Three-year averages of: victims of sexual assault, serious assault, and robbery during the previous 12 months, as a share of total population; UN-CTS; Police Department; NSO**

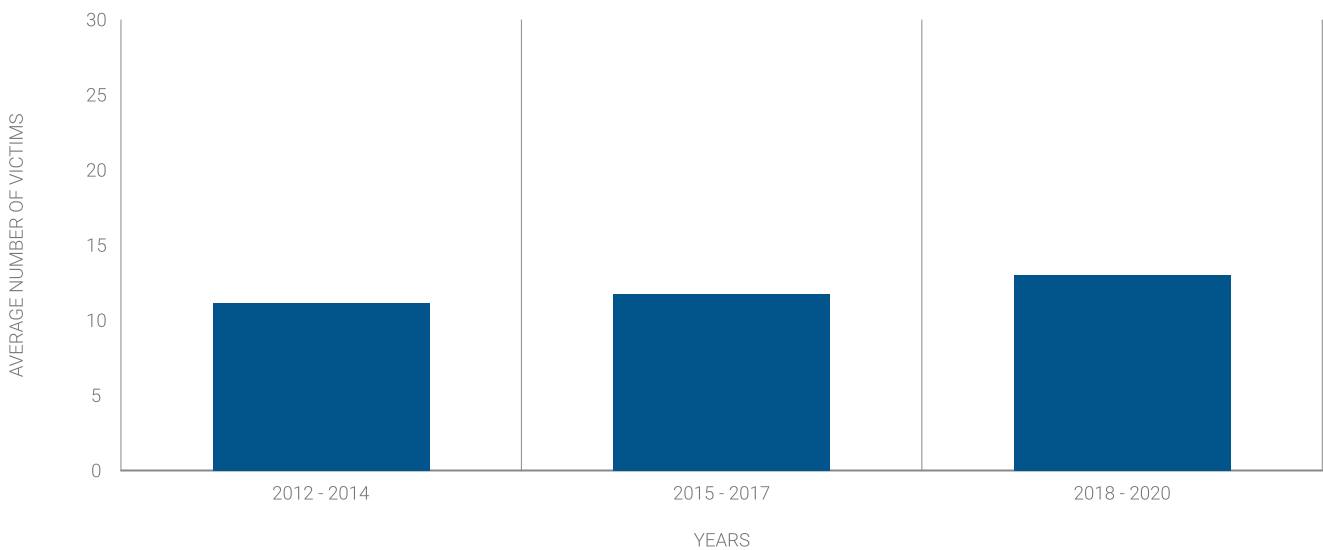
One of the targets of SDG 16 seeks the end of abuse, exploitation, and trafficking of human beings. The 'UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children' defines the trafficking in persons as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs".<sup>261</sup>

In Malta the average number of detected human trafficking victims has increased since 2011.

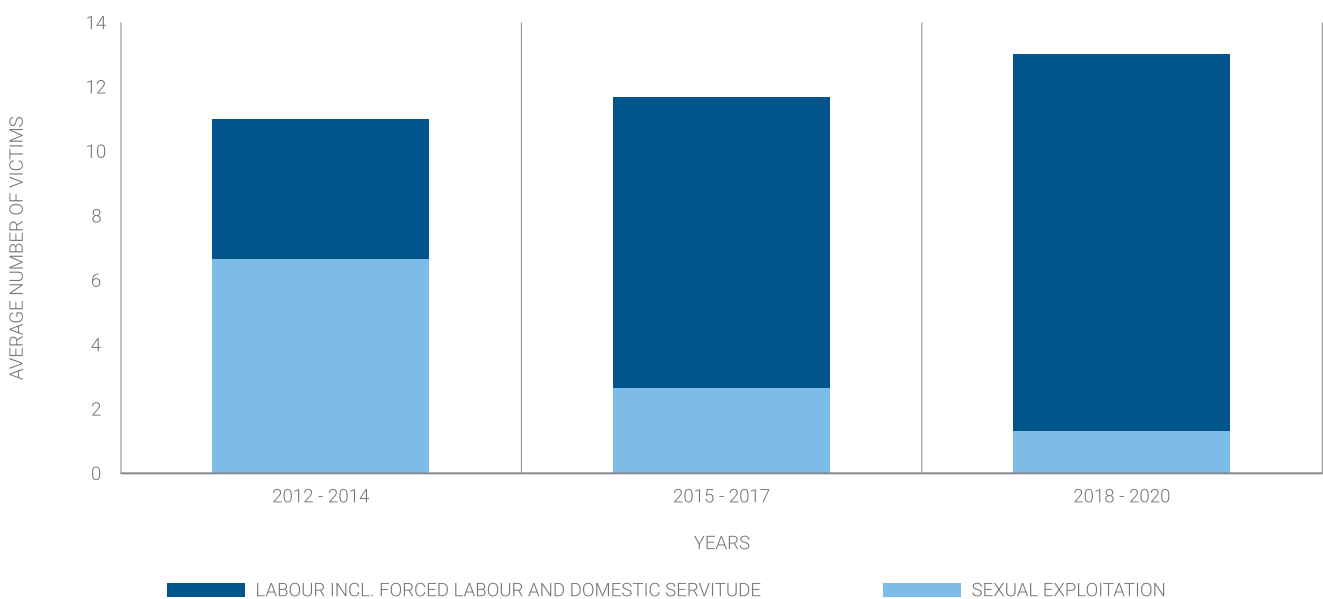
<sup>261</sup> United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, Article 3(a). See online: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/protocoltraffickinginpersons.aspx> [accessed on 21 May 2021]. Malta ratified the Protocol on 24 September 2003.



On average, 11 victims of human trafficking were detected annually during the period 2012–2014. This increased to an annual average of 13 victims during the period 2018–2020 (Chart 16.3). Over the 9-year period (2012–2020), slightly more than two-thirds of the detected victims of human trafficking were persons exploited for forced labour, domestic servitude, and slavery. A third of the detected victims of human trafficking reported being trafficked for sexual exploitation (Chart 16.4). No cases of trafficking victims for the purpose of organ removal or for any other purpose were detected in Malta.

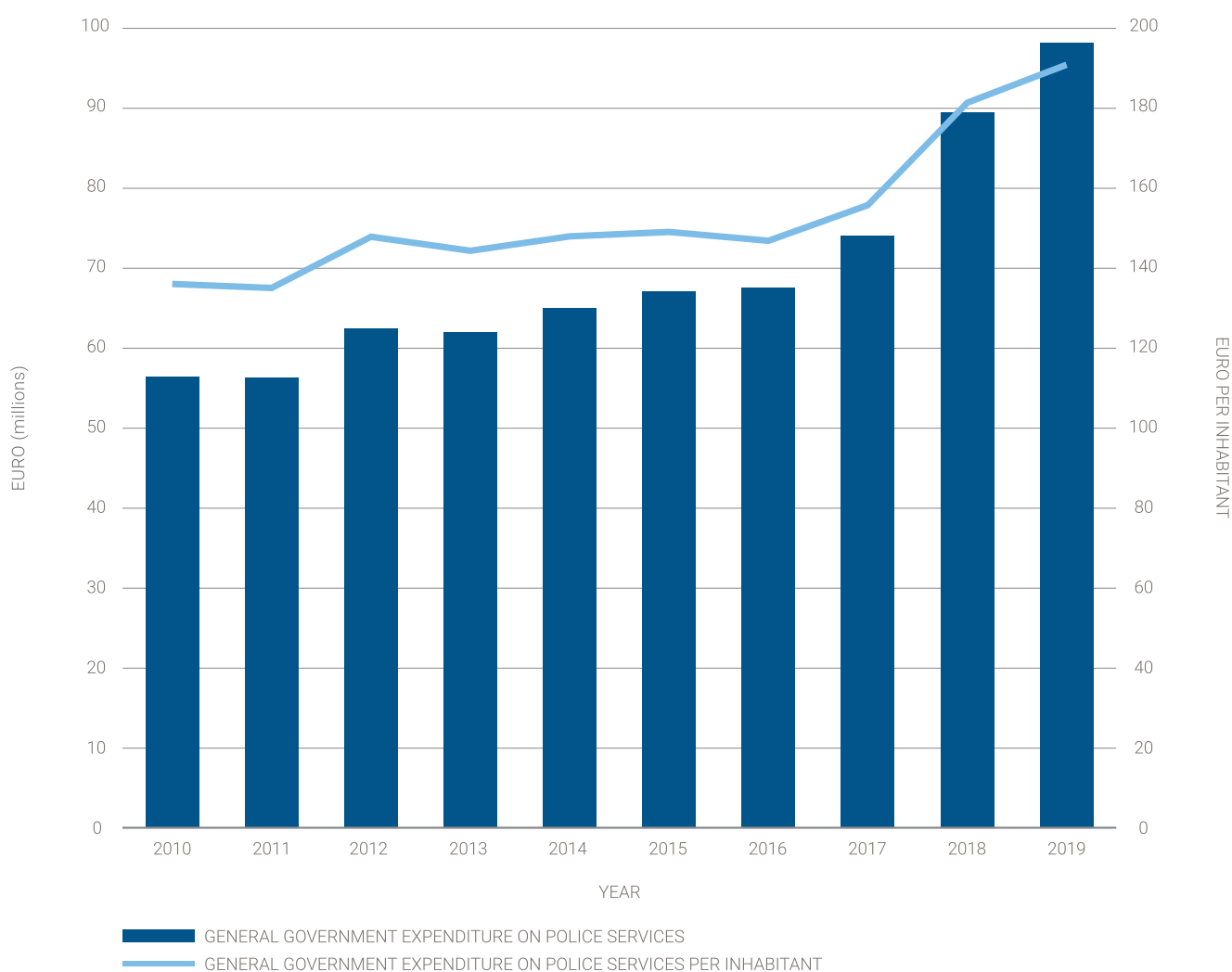


*Chart 16.3: Three-year average detected victims of human trafficking; Ministry for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement (MHSE)*



*Chart 16.4: Detected victims of trafficking by type of exploitation; MHSE*

The financing and development of accountable and transparent institutions is a necessary precondition to address crime and corruption. Since 2010, the general Government expenditure on police services has increased by 74.0%, from 56.4 million euro in 2010 to 98.1 million euro in 2019. Taking into consideration the Maltese population, the Government expenditure on police services per inhabitant also increased by 40.3%, from 135.9 euro per inhabitant in 2010 to 190.7 euro per inhabitant in 2019 (Chart 16.5).



*Chart 16.5: General Government expenditure on police services (left axis), and general Government expenditure on police services per inhabitant (right axis); NSO*

## Perception on crime and corruption

The concept of 'fear of crime' is different from the prevalence of crime as it may be independent from actual experience. However, it is an important indicator in itself as a high level of fear can negatively influence well-being, heighten sensitivities on vulnerabilities to protect oneself, and thus lead to reduced contacts with the public, reduced trust and activities and thus an

obstacle to personal development. In 2019, 86.4% of Malta's population had the perception of not living in an area with crime, violence or vandalism; a slight decrease from the percentage registered in 2010, and the lowest registered during the observed period (Chart 16.6). The perception of crime and the resulting fear of it is driven by a number of factors; such as, the awareness of crime, public discussion, the media and personal circumstances and experiences. This indicator is also linked to SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

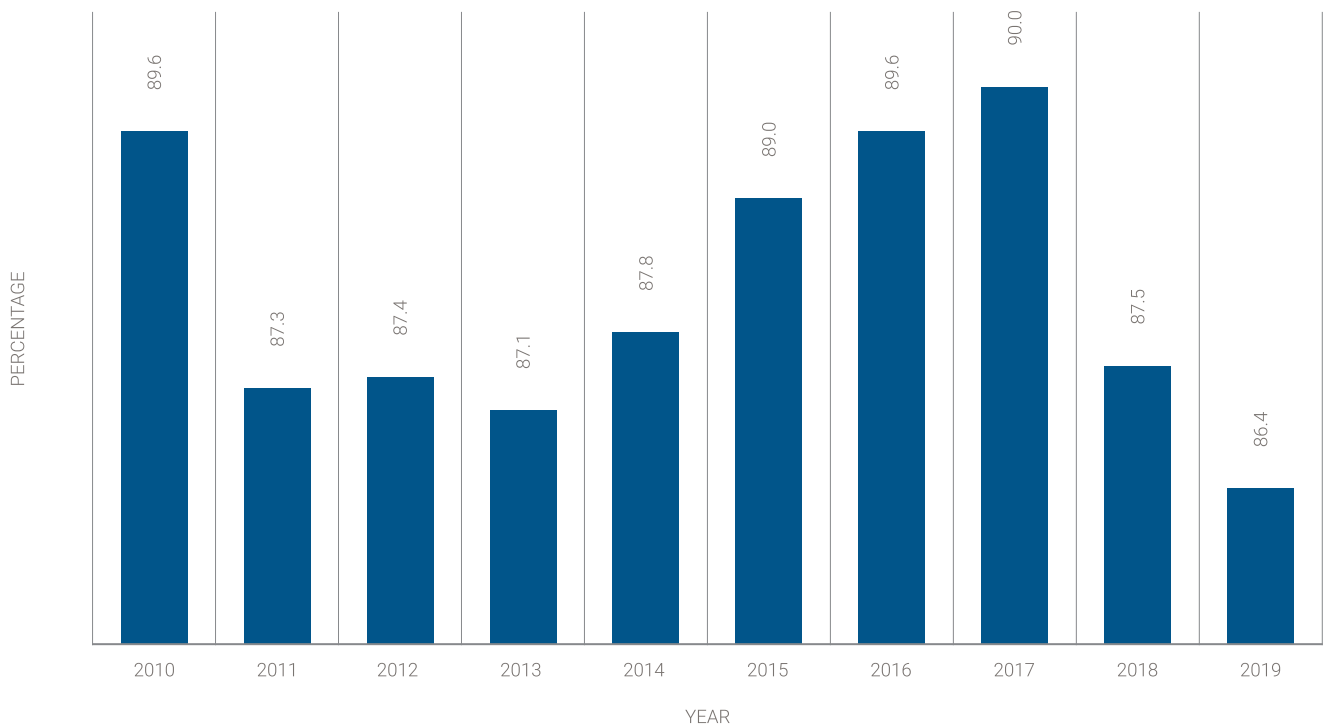


Chart 16.6: Population not living in an area with crime, violence or vandalism; EU-SILC, NSO

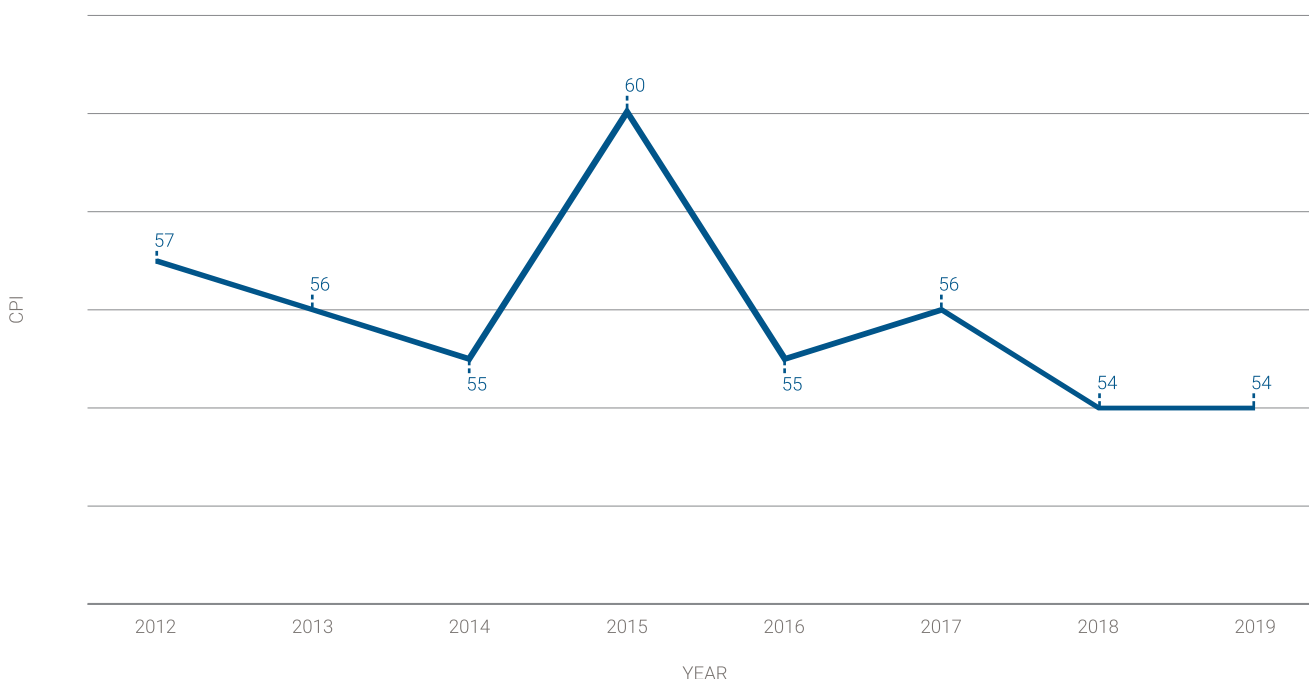
Another target of SDG 16 is that to reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms. Corruption is an antonym of equal accessibility to public services and of correct functioning of the economy; as such, it has a negative impact on fair distribution of resources and development opportunities. Furthermore, corruption erodes public trust in authorities and the rule of law. When administrative bribery becomes a recurrent experience of large sectors of the population and businesses, its negative effects have an enduring negative impact on the rule of law, democratic processes, justice and public trust.

Although there are no national surveys that measure instances of bribery, the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), published by Transparency International, may be used as proxy.<sup>262</sup> This index is a composite index based on a combination of surveys and assessments of corruption

<sup>262</sup> Transparency International, *About*, online: <https://www.transparency.org/en/about> [accessed on 21 May 2021].

from 13 different sources. It scores and ranks countries based on how corrupt a country's public sector is perceived to be by experts and business executives.<sup>263</sup> CPI source data captures the following aspects of corruption: (i) bribery; (ii) diversion of public funds; (iii) prevalence of officials using public office for private gain without facing consequences; (iv) ability of governments to contain corruption and enforce effective integrity mechanisms in the public sector; (v) red tape and excessive bureaucratic burden which may increase opportunities for corruption; (vi) meritocratic versus nepotistic appointments in the civil service; (vii) effective criminal prosecution for corrupt officials; (viii) adequate laws on financial disclosure and conflict of interest prevention for public officials; (ix) legal protection for whistleblowers, journalists and investigators when they are reporting cases of bribery and corruption; (x) State capture by narrow vested interests, and; (xi) access of civil society to information on public affairs.<sup>264</sup>

In the CPI, a score of 0 represents a very high level of corruption and a score of 100 represents a very clean country. The CPI for Malta was 57 in 2012, it however decreased to 54 in 2019; the lowest in between 2012 and 2019. The highest score (i.e. less corruption) in the period 2012–2019 was in 2015, with a CPI of 60 (Chart 16.7).



*Chart 16.7: Corruption Perception Index (CPI); Transparency International*

<sup>263</sup> Transparency International, *Corruption Perceptions Index 2020: Full Source Description*, online: [https://images.transparencycdn.org/images/CPI\\_20\\_SourceDescription\\_EN.pdf](https://images.transparencycdn.org/images/CPI_20_SourceDescription_EN.pdf) [accessed on 26 May 2021].

<sup>264</sup> CPI source data does not capture the following aspects of corruption: (i) citizens' perceptions or experience of corruption; (ii) tax fraud; (iii) illicit financial flows; (iv) enablers of corruption (lawyers, accountants, financial advisors etc); (v) money-laundering; (vi) private sector corruption, and; (vii) informal economies and markets.

## Justice

Other targets of SDG16 include the development of effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels and to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.

The general Government total expenditure on law courts, which includes expenditure on administration, operation or support of civil and criminal law courts and the judicial system, enforcement of fines and legal settlements imposed by the courts, operation of parole and probation systems, legal representation, and advice on behalf of government or on behalf of others provided by government in cash or in services, increased by 85% in the period 2010–2019; from 21 million euro in 2010 to 39 million euro in 2019. The expenditure on law courts per capita also increased; from 50.4 euro per inhabitant in 2010 to 76.7 euro per inhabitant in 2019 (Chart 16.8).

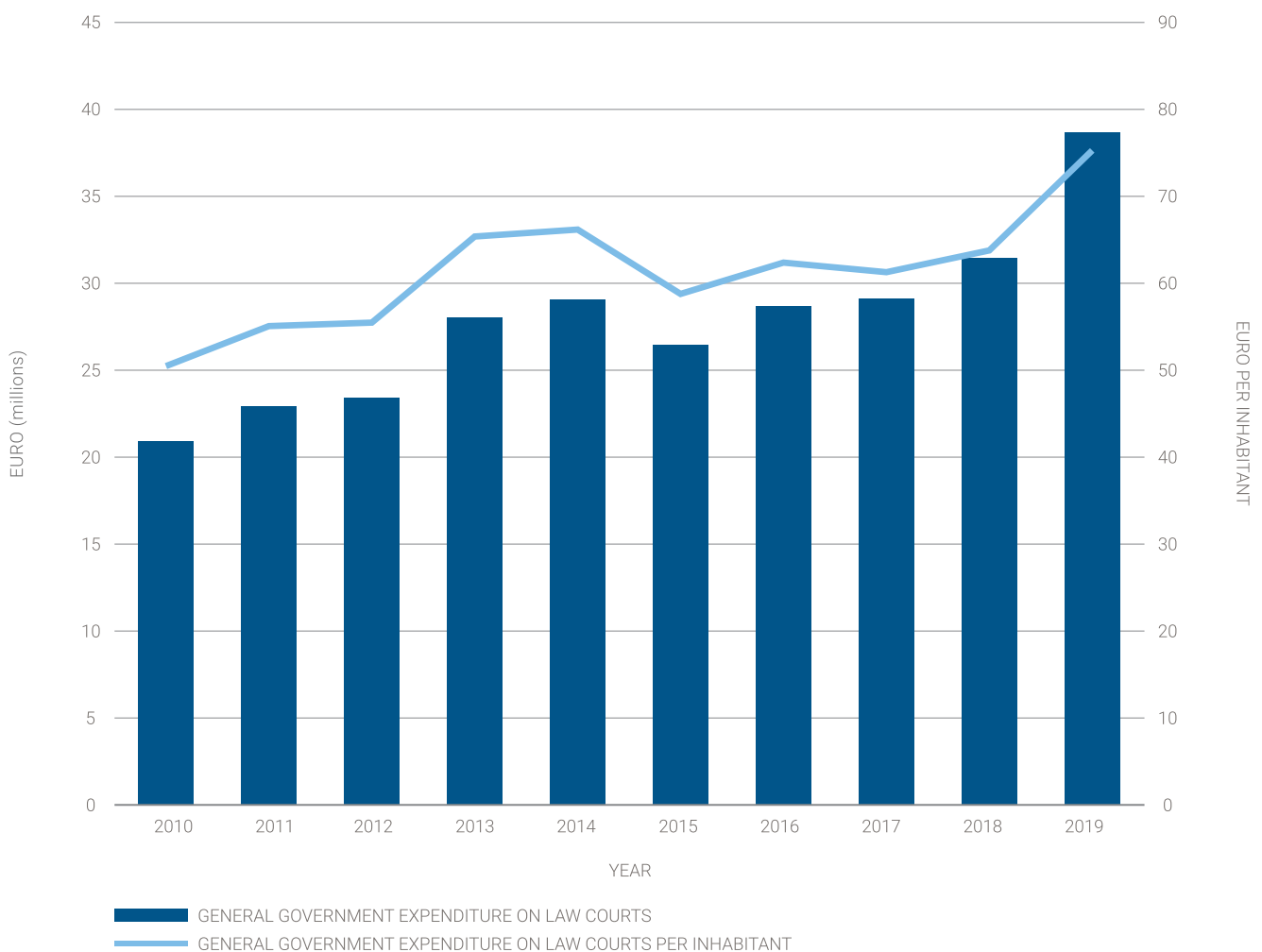
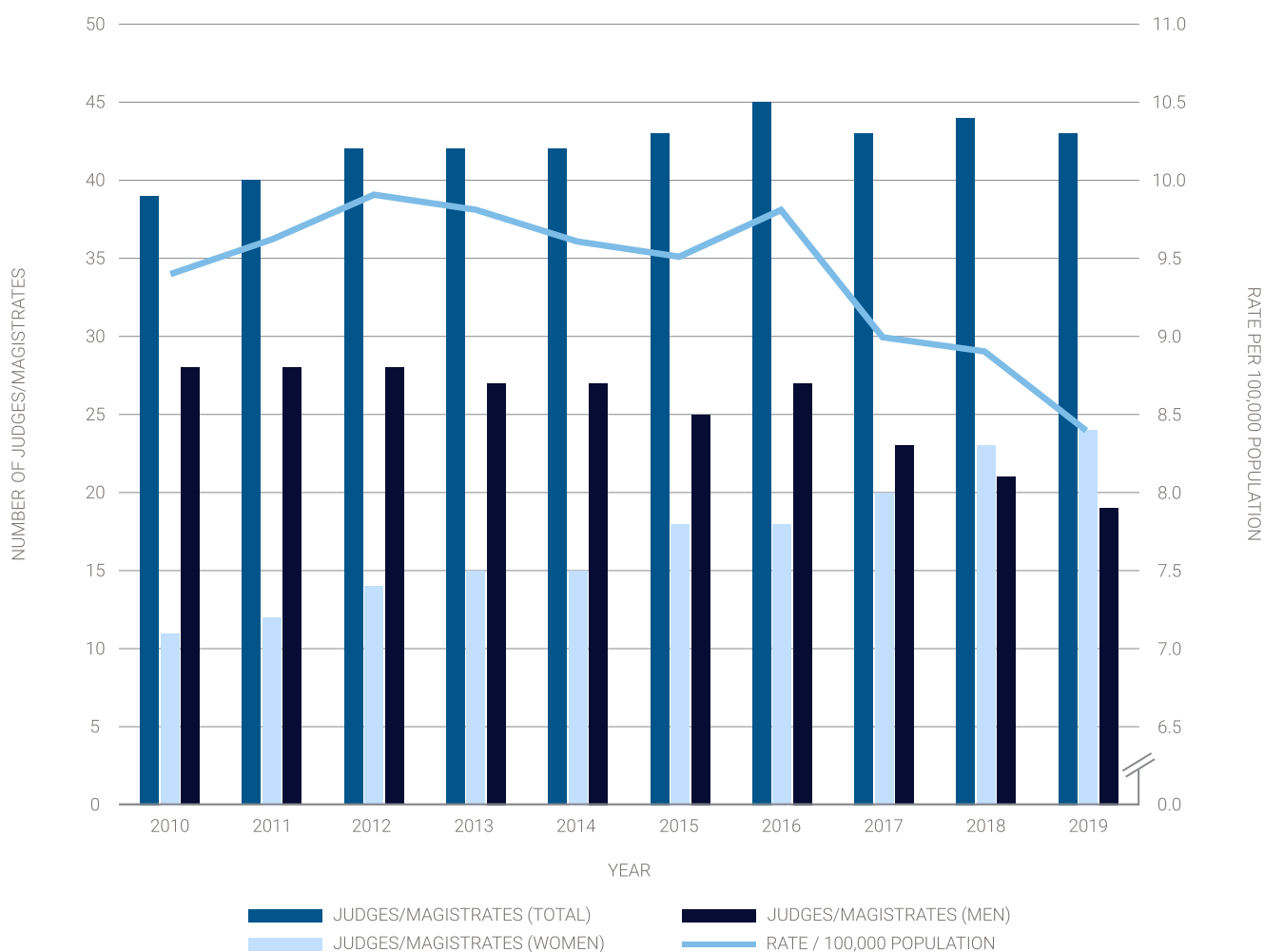


Chart 16.8: General Government expenditure on law courts (left axis), and general Government expenditure on law courts per inhabitant (right axis); NSO

Since 2010, the number of judges/magistrates has increased from 39 to 43 in 2019. During the same period, the number of female judges/magistrates increased by 118% and the number of male judges/magistrates decreased by 32%. While the total number of judges/magistrates remained approximately the same, the resident population of Malta increased. This is reflected in the general decline of the rate of judges/magistrates per 100,000 population, which in 2019 stood at 8.4 (Chart 16.9).



*Chart 16.9: Number of judges/magistrates, by sex (left axis), and rate of judges/magistrates per 100,000 population (right axis); UN-CTS; NSO*

In addition to sufficient financial and human resources, judges in law courts need to be able to make decisions without interference or pressure from policy or other economic actors, to ensure that individuals and businesses can fully enjoy their rights. Respect for the rule of law is a prerequisite for the protection of all fundamental values listed in the EU Treaties, including democracy and fundamental rights. In this regard, the EU Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator set includes an indicator on the perceived independence of the justice system. The indicator is designed to explore respondents' perceptions about the independence of the

judiciary across EU Member States, looking specifically at the perceived independence of the courts and judges in a country. Data on the perceived independence of the justice system stem from annual Flash Eurobarometer surveys that started in 2016 on behalf of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers.

The survey shows that since 2016 the percentage of population perceiving the independence of the justice system in Malta as 'very good' increased by 7 percentage points; from 5% in 2016 to 12% in 2020, while the percentage of the population perceiving it as 'fairly bad' decreased by 2 percentage points; from 22% in 2016 to 20% in 2020. On the other hand, the percentage of the population perceiving the independence of the justice system as 'very bad' increased from 9% in 2016 to 11% in 2020 (Chart 16.10).

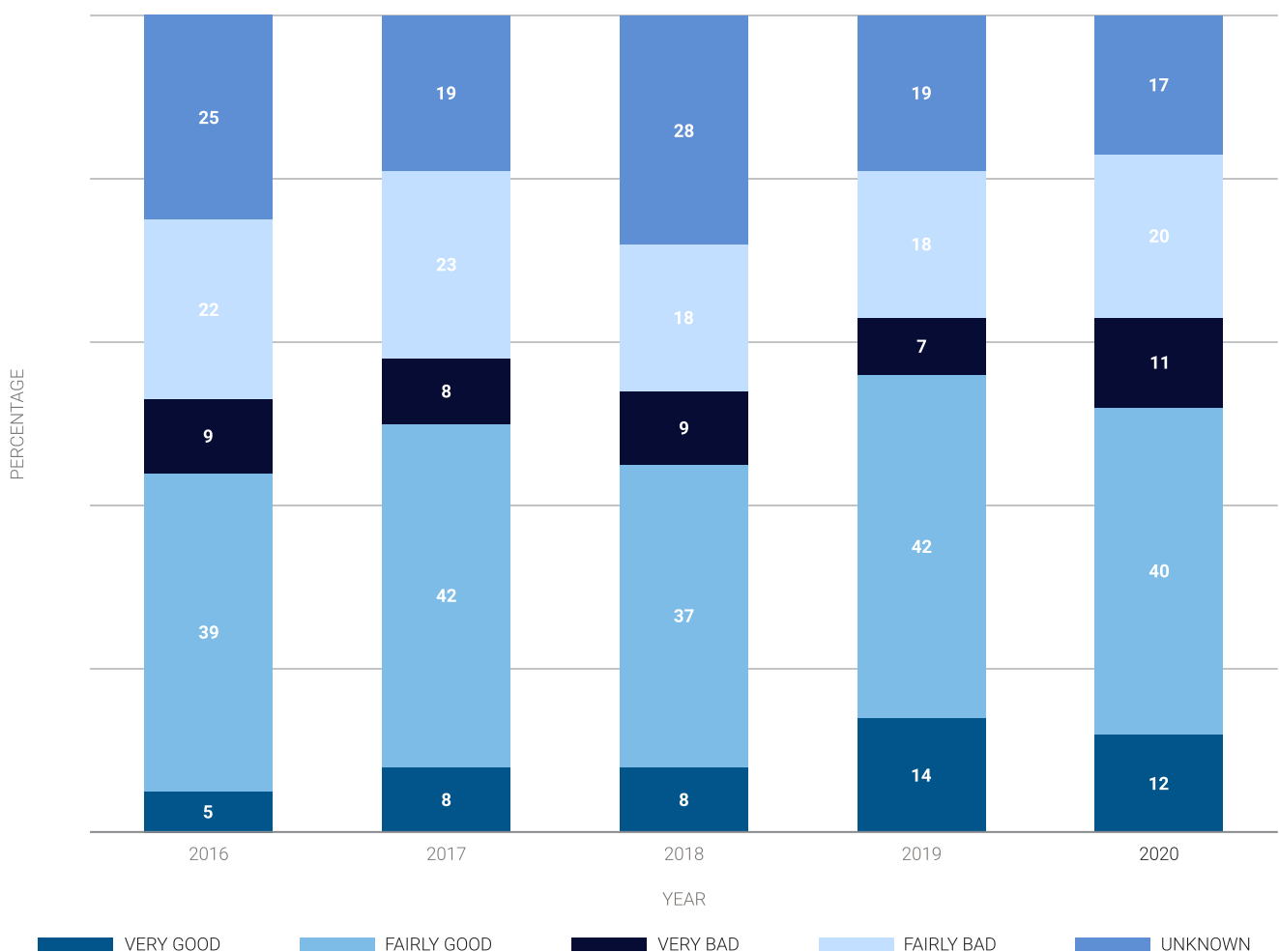


Chart 16.10: Perceived independence of the justice system; Eurostat, DG COMM

In quantitative terms, the principle of presumption of innocence until proven guilty means that persons awaiting trial shall not be detained in custody unnecessarily. From a development perspective, extensive use of pre-sentence detention, when not necessary for reasons such as

the prevention of absconding, the protection of victims or witnesses, or the prevention of the commission of further offences, can divert criminal justice system resources, and exert financial and unemployment burdens on the accused and his or her family. In 2010, the unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population in Malta was 39.9%. By 2019, it decreased to 32.5%, while the total prison population increased by 29.1% when comparing the 2010 prison population to the prison population as at end 2019. The lowest proportion of unsentenced detainees from the overall prison population was 22% in 2015 (Chart 16.11).

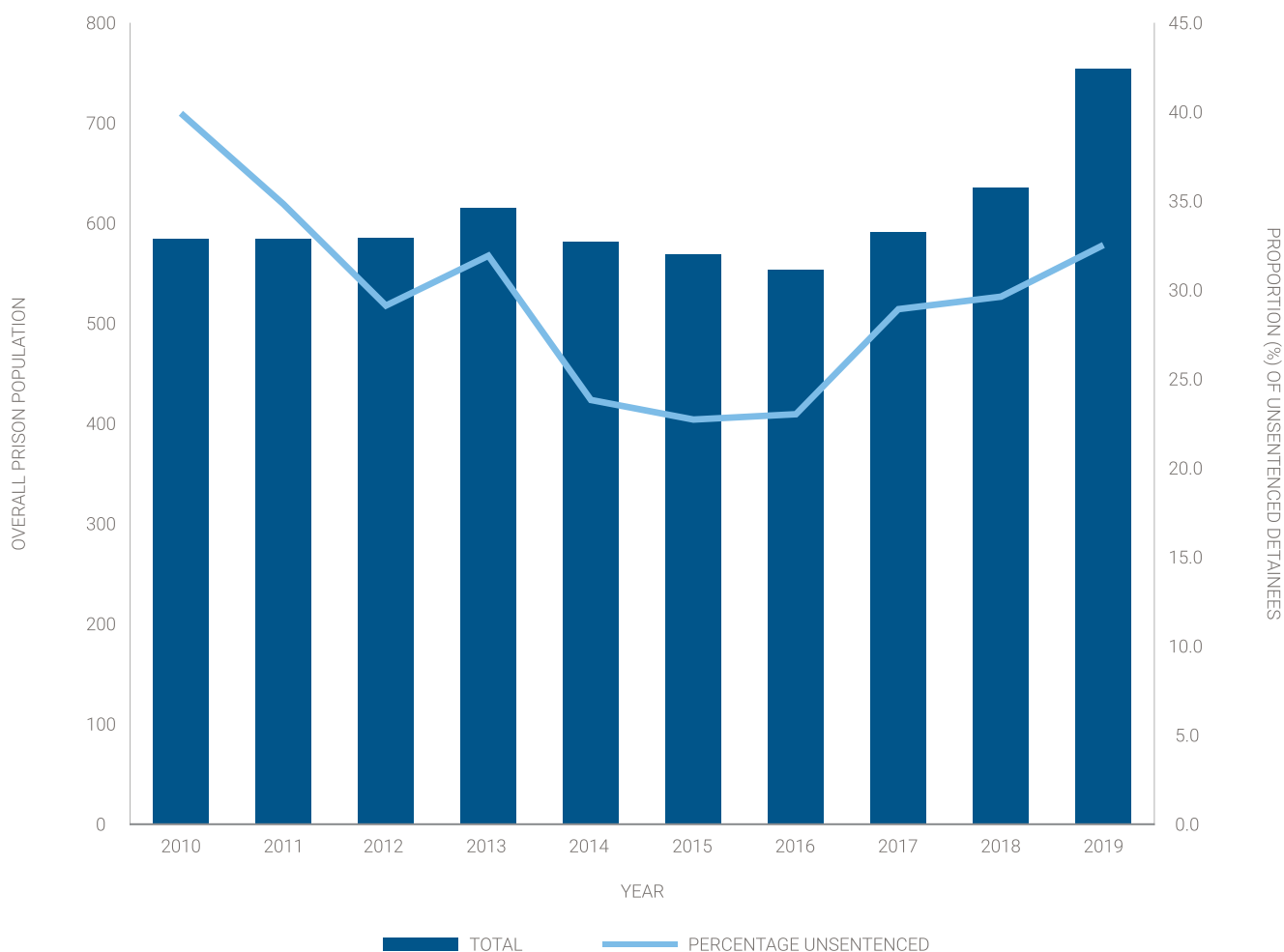


Chart 16.11: Overall prison population (left axis), and unsentenced detainees as a proportion (%) of overall prison population (right axis); WPB-ICPR/UN-CTS, NSO

## Human Rights Institutions

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) play a crucial role in promoting and monitoring the effective implementation of international human rights standards at the national level. These institutions can take the form of Human Rights commissions, Human Rights ombudsman institutions, hybrid institutions, consultative and advisory bodies, institutes and centres and



multiple institutions. These institutions perform core protection functions such as prevention of torture and degrading treatment; play a role in advancing all aspects of the rule of law; contribute to effective Parliaments, dynamic civil society organisations, and alert and responsive media; and ensure a school system with human rights education programmes at all levels, and; foster a society based on respect for universal human rights.<sup>265</sup> In order to be effective and recognised by the international community, NHRIs must adhere to the standards set out in the Paris Principles, endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 1993.<sup>266</sup> The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), in collaboration with the UN Human Rights, grants membership and two levels of status based on the criteria set out in the Paris Principles.<sup>267</sup>

An independent NHRI is an institution with ‘A level’ accreditation status as benchmarked against the Paris Principles. One of the SDG 16 targets is to strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime. Its implementation is assessed by the number of independent national human rights institutions in states that are in compliance with the Paris Principles, since this reflects on the efforts of states in setting up independent national institutions, through international cooperation, to promote inclusive, peaceful and accountable societies.

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in collaboration with GANHRI, Malta does not have any applications for any of its institutions for accreditation with the Paris Principles.

## Trust in Institutions

The ‘percentage of the population with confidence in EU institutions’ measures confidence among EU citizens in a selection of EU institutions. The indicator is based on the Eurobarometer, a survey which has been conducted twice a year since 1973 to monitor the evolution of public opinion in the Member States. It is expressed as the share of positive opinions (people who declare that they tend to trust) about the institutions. Citizens are asked to express their confidence levels by choosing the following alternatives: ‘tend to trust’, ‘tend not to trust’ and

<sup>265</sup> United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, *National Human Rights Institutions*, online: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/nhri/pages/nhrimain.aspx> [accessed on 24 June 2021].

<sup>266</sup> United Nations General Assembly (1994), *A/RES/48/134: National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights*, New York. See online: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N94/116/24/PDF/N9411624.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 24 June 2021].

<sup>267</sup> Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, *Accreditation*, online: <https://ganhri.org/accreditation/> [accessed on 24 June 2021].

‘don’t know’ or ‘no answer’.

In 2010, 53% and 49% of the Maltese population trusted the European Parliament and the European Commission respectively. The trust rate of the Maltese population for both institutions increased in 2019 with 59% trusting the European Parliament and 55% trusting the European Commission (Chart 16.12).<sup>268</sup>

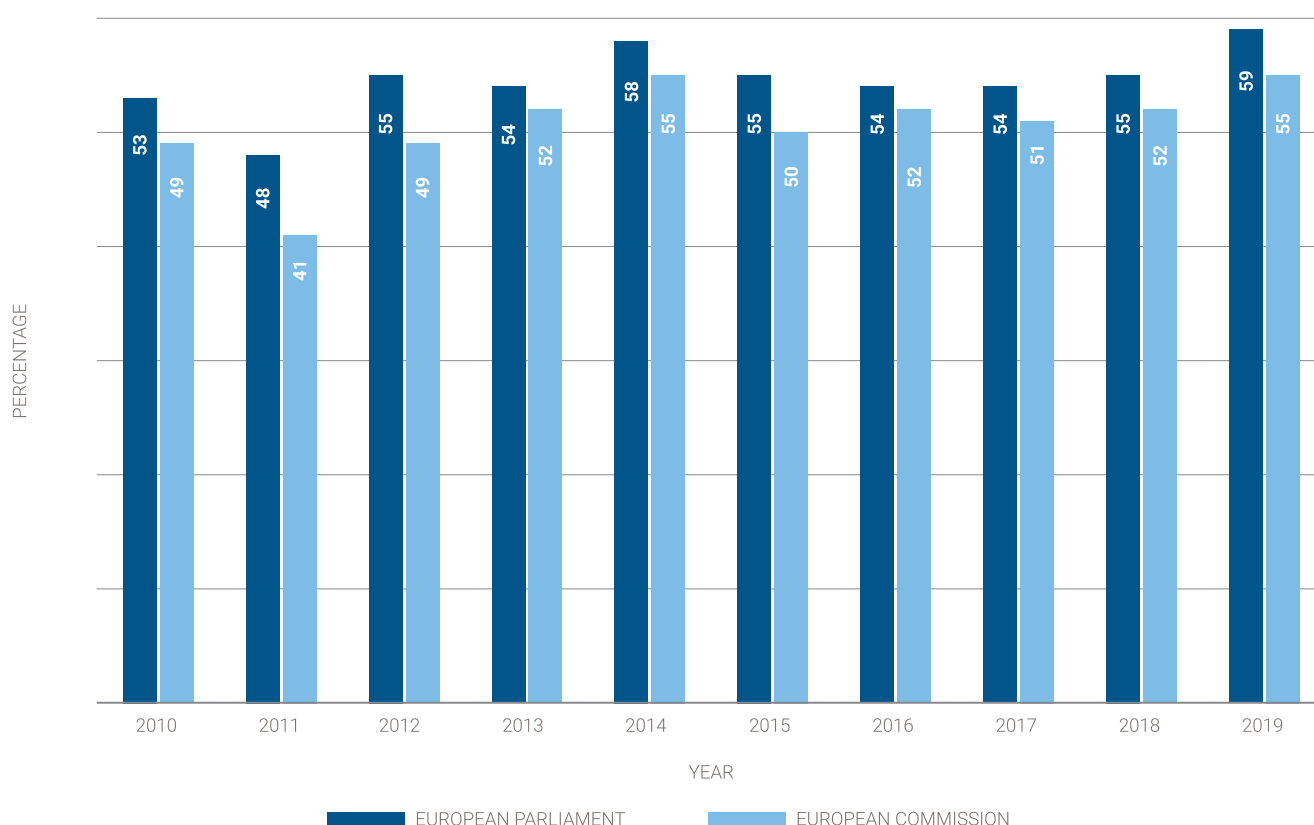


Chart 16.12: Population with confidence in EU institutions; Eurostat, DG COMM

## Government services

The agency in Malta responsible for making the government services more accessible to the general public is servizz.gov. It brings all government services together by providing government services through the use of different media to ensure reachability by all. It is also entrusted to ensure consistency in the provision of government services.

The agency provides assistance through various platforms: regional and technical hubs—as of 2020 servizz.gov managed 23 hubs across Malta, the servizz.gov website, emails, social

<sup>268</sup> This survey is conducted twice a year. The data in Chart 16.12 reflects the results of the autumn surveys.

media platforms, the freephone 153 service, and mobile devices through maltapps.<sup>269</sup> The maltapps provides more than 70 mobile services, which in 2020 alone have been downloaded more than 117,000 times.<sup>270</sup> Moreover, since 2016 the use of the Freephone 153 has increased nearly twelvefold from 79,338 calls in 2016 to 949,990 calls in 2020 (Chart 16.13). Visits to the agency's website (servizz.gov.mt) has also increased by nearly threefold from 334,117 visits in 2018 to 988,509 visits in 2020 with more than 2.5 million pages viewed (Chart 16.14).

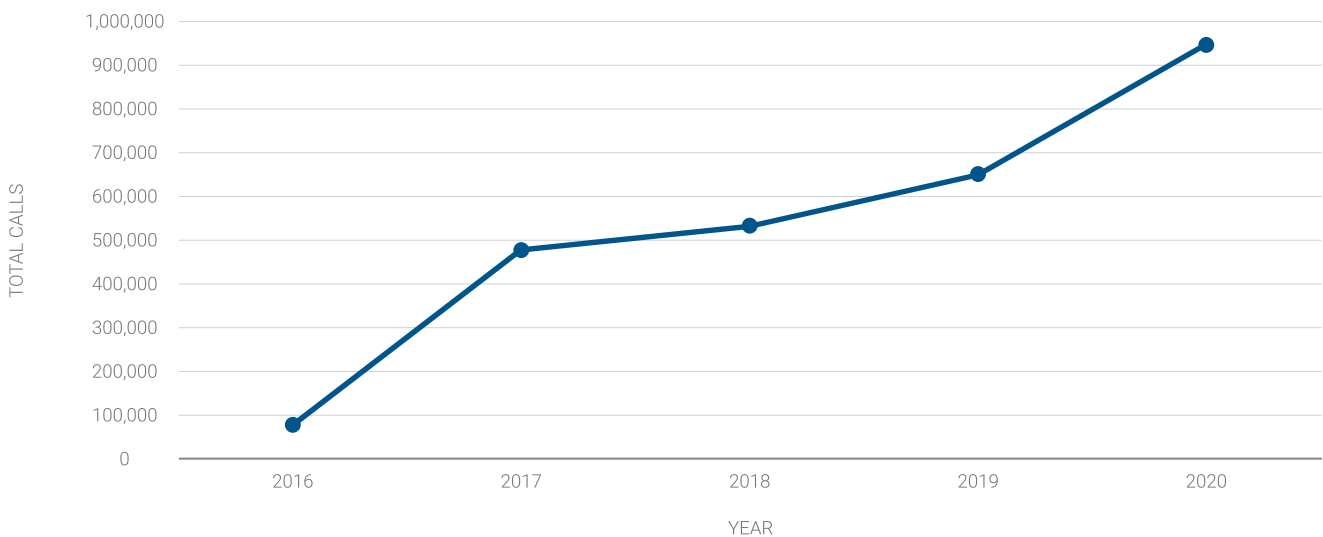


Chart 16.13: Total yearly calls to Freephone 153; servizz.gov

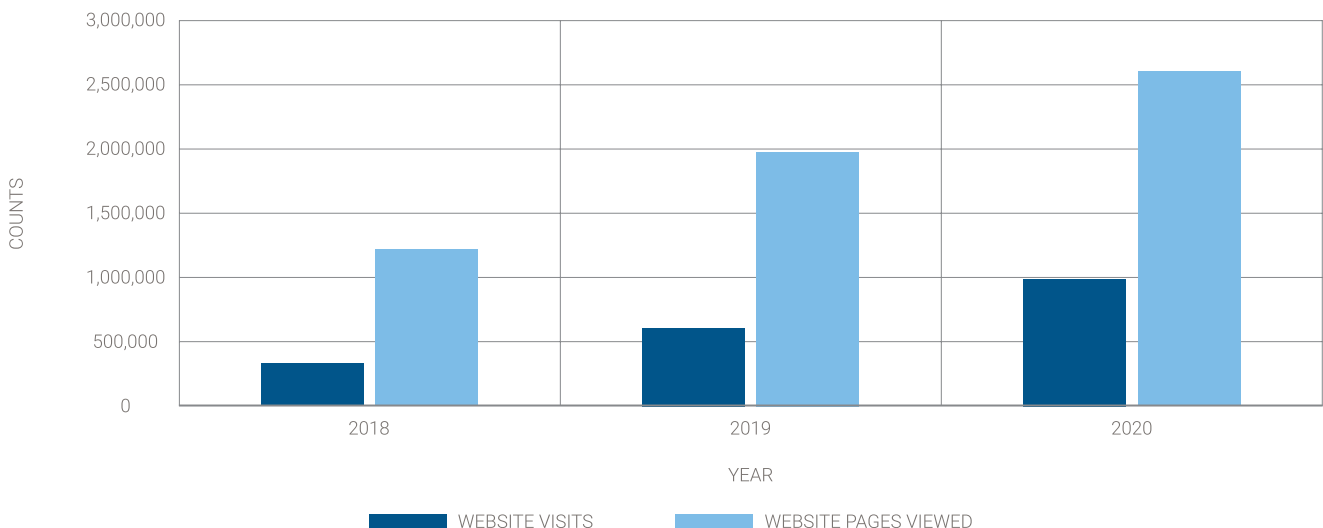
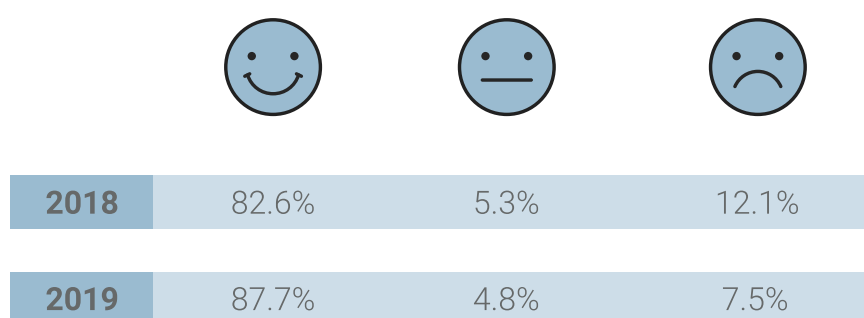


Chart 16.14: Total website visits (servizz.gov.mt) and total website pages views per year; servizz.gov

<sup>269</sup> servizz.gov, About us, online: <https://www.servizz.gov.mt/en/Pages/Servizz/About%20Us/default.aspx> [accessed on 16 August 2021].

<sup>270</sup> servizz.gov (2021), *Pubblikazzjoni Annwali 2020*, Malta. Online: <https://www.servizz.gov.mt/en/Pages/Servizz/About%20Us/default.aspx> [accessed on 16 August 2021].

Through survey kiosks, located in 17 client-facing departments or offices, the public is invited to indicate whether or not they feel served, after having accessed a service. This is done by giving a rating on a smiling, a frowning, or a neutral emoji on the kiosk, depending on the level of the service received by the customer. The average rating scores given by the public in 2018 (36,221 customer ratings) and 2019 (47,221 ratings) towards the departments in which the survey kiosks are located, are presented in Chart 16.15.



*Chart 16.15: Average rating scores given by the public on the government service provided; People & Standards Division, OPM*

Furthermore, the Quality of Service Directorate within the People & Standards Division is currently implementing an ongoing mystery shopping exercise through the ESF-funded project 'Mystery Shopper – Enhanced performance in the Public Administration'.<sup>271</sup> The Mystery Shopper project aims at improving the customer experience at the various public service stations throughout the public administration with the aim of achieving a service of excellence.

Mystery shopping is performed by private contractors who conduct mystery interactions in the form of physical visits, telephone calls, and email/social media communication on the front-facing departments and entities and provide a rating of the customer service being provided by that department or entity. The 2019 mystery shopping exercise consisted of 1,800 interactions across the public administration and produced an overall rating of 72.7%.<sup>272</sup>

<sup>271</sup> Publicservice.gov.mt, *ESF.04.0078 – Mystery Shopper – Enhanced performance in the Public Administration*, 'peopleandstandards.gov.mt', online: <https://publicservice.gov.mt/en/people/Pages/ESF-04.0078.aspx> [accessed on 16 August 2021].

<sup>272</sup> People & Standards Division, OPM.

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 16 is reflected in Table 16.1 below. The targets related to SDG 16, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 16 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 16 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 16 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>273</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>274</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>275</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.

<sup>273</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>274</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>275</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].

## Legend:











	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

Table 16.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 16

TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
16.1	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population	
		Victims of sexual assault, serious assault and robbery as a share of total population	
		Population not living in an area with crime, violence or vandalism	
16.2	End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	Detected victims of human trafficking	
16.3	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	
16.5	Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	Corruption Perception Index (CPI)	
16.6	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	General Government total expenditure on police services, and expenditure per inhabitant	
		General Government total expenditure on law courts, and expenditure per inhabitant	

		Number of judges/ magistrates, by sex	
		Rate of judges/magistrates per 100,000 population	
		Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public service	
16.7	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	Perceived independence of the justice system	
		Population with confidence in EU institutions	
16.a	Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime	Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles	





# SDG 17



Strengthen the means of implementation and  
revitalise the global partnership for sustainable  
development

## Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

A successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. These inclusive partnerships built upon principles and values, a shared vision, and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre, are needed at the global, regional, national and local level. Partnerships for sustainable development are multi-stakeholder initiatives voluntarily undertaken by Governments, intergovernmental organisations, major groups and others stakeholders, whose efforts are contributing to the implementation of inter-governmentally agreed development goals and commitments.<sup>276</sup>

SDG 17 recognises multi-stakeholder partnerships as being crucial for mobilising and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies, and financial resources to support the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 17 is interlinked with all other SDGs as it seeks to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships as necessary means for the realisation of all SDGs. It provides a shared framework to strengthen and streamline cooperation between countries by aligning policies, improving trade relationships, and coordinating investment initiatives to promote sustainable development across borders.

Indeed, the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals requires different sectors and actors working together in an integrated manner by pooling financial resources, knowledge, and expertise. Cross sectorial and innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships will play a crucial role for sustainable development everywhere. Additional resources—technology development, financial resources and capacity building—will need to be mobilised and developed countries will need to fulfil their official development assistance commitments. Multi-stakeholder partnerships will be crucial to leverage the interlinkages between the Sustainable Development Goals to enhance their effectiveness and impact and accelerate progress in achieving the Goals.

### Government revenue

One of the SDG 17 targets aims to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection. Revenue is the increase in net worth resulting from a transaction. The General Government revenue comprises of the following

<sup>276</sup> United Nations – Department of Economic and Social Affairs – Sustainable Development, *Partnership Accelerator 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, See online: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/PartnershipAccelerator> [accessed on 1 June 2021].

categories: (i) market output; (ii) taxes on production and imports; (iii) property income receivable; (iv) current taxes on income and wealth; (v) net social contributions receivable; (vi) current transfers receivable, and; (vii) capital transfers receivable. The General Government sector includes the Budgetary Central Government made up of all Government ministries and departments, the Extra Budgetary Units (EBUs) which are classified as forming part of this sector, as well as all the Local Councils. Transactions between entities of the General Government are consolidated.

Data on the 'government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source' supports the understanding of countries' domestic revenue mobilisation in the form of tax and nontax sources, and it helps analysts in mapping the relationship between the four main types of revenue, as well as the relative 'tax burden' (revenue in the form of taxes) and 'fiscal burden' (revenue in the form of taxes plus social contributions). Chart 17.1 shows the main sources of the Maltese Government's revenue. Throughout the period 2010–2019, the different revenue sources contributed approximately the same amount as a percentage of the GDP.<sup>277</sup> In total, the Government's revenue as a percentage of the GDP has remained the same (approximately 37%) throughout the period 2010–2019.

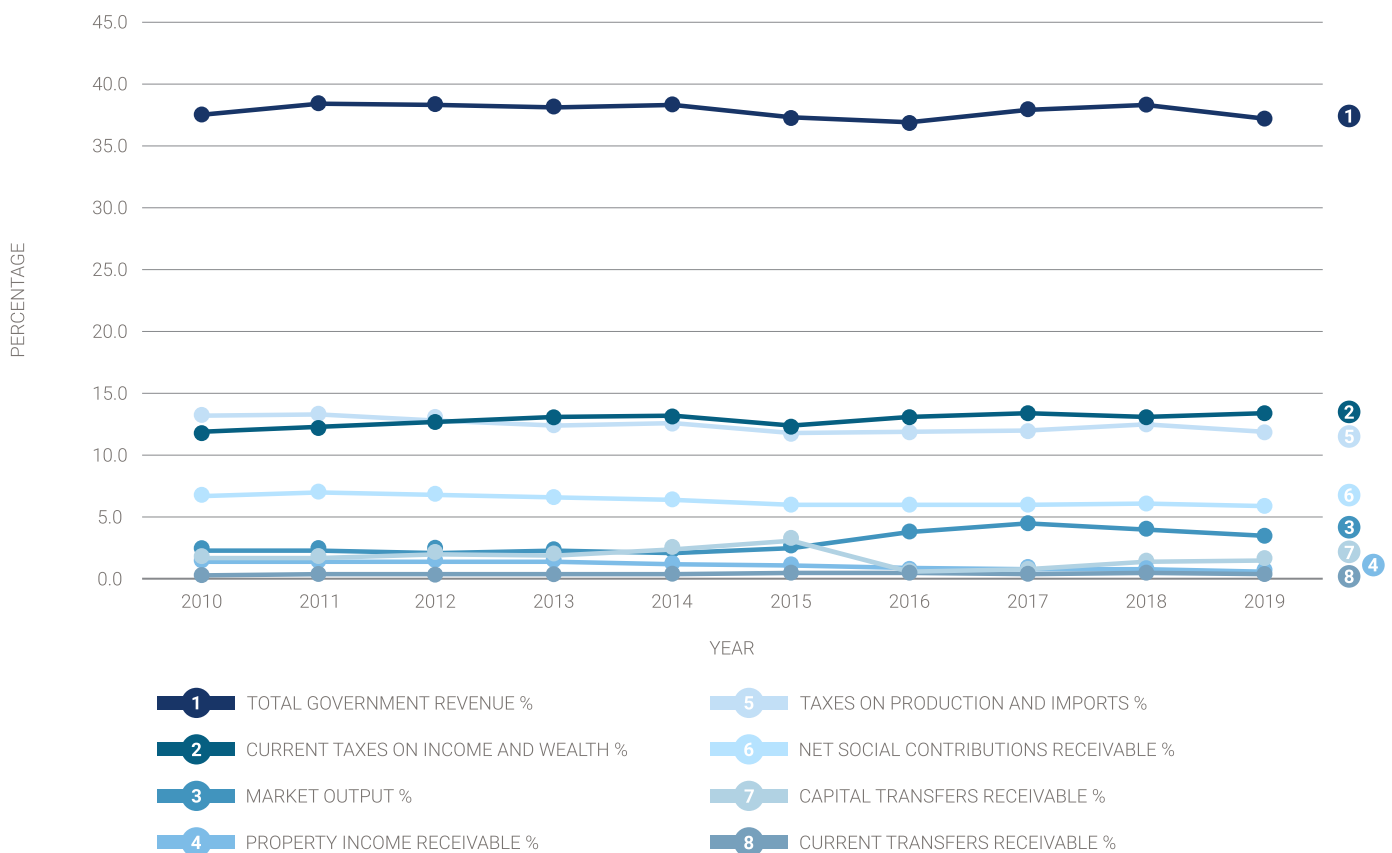


Chart 17.1: Government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source; NSO

<sup>277</sup> GDP as per NSO News Release (NR) 097/2021 of 28 May 2021.

Among other things, SDG 17 highlights the importance of global macroeconomic stability and of having national economies on a sustainable development path. In line with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, EUMS' Government debt should be limited to a manageable level and not exceed 60% of GDP. In 2010, the general gross debt of Malta was 65.3% of the GDP, increasing to 69.3% in 2011. Since then, it decreased every year to 42.0% in 2019 (Chart 17.2).<sup>278</sup>

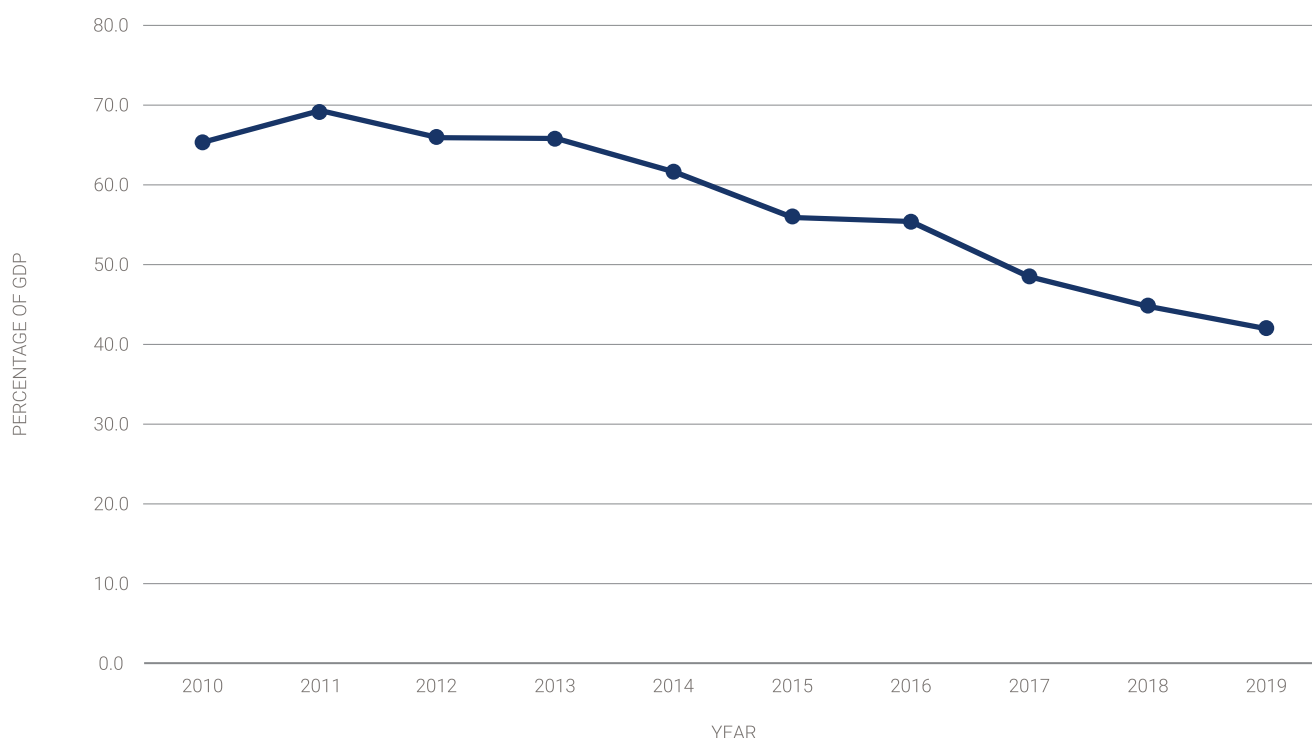


Chart 17.2: General Government gross debt; NSO

## Assistance to developing/least developed countries

Among other things, SDG 17 calls for a revitalised and enhanced global partnership that mobilises all available resources from governments, civil society, the private sector and other actors. Partners need to combine their policy efforts to promote conducive policy frameworks and ensure policy coherence for sustainable development. For this purpose, Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other financial resources, whether public or private, domestic or international, will be needed. Official development assistance is defined as government aid designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Aid may be provided bilaterally, from donor to recipient, or channelled through a multilateral development agency such as the United Nations or the World Bank and it includes grants, 'soft'

<sup>278</sup> GDP as per NSO News Release (NR) 097/2021 of 28 May 2021.

loans and the provision of technical assistance.<sup>279</sup> To this end, SDG 17 asks developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) for ODA to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI as ODA to least developed countries, and also to mobilise additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.

ODA consists of grants or loans that are undertaken by the official sector with the objective of promoting economic development and welfare in recipient countries. Disbursements record the actual international transfer of financial resources, or of goods or services valued at the cost of the donor. During the period 2010–2019, Malta's ODA to developing/least developed states has increased from US\$13.52 million to US\$41.01 million, an increase of 203% (Chart 17.3).<sup>280</sup> The ODA contributed by Malta in 2010 amounted to 0.18% of Malta's GNI. By 2019 the amount increased to 0.30% of GNI (Chart 17.4).

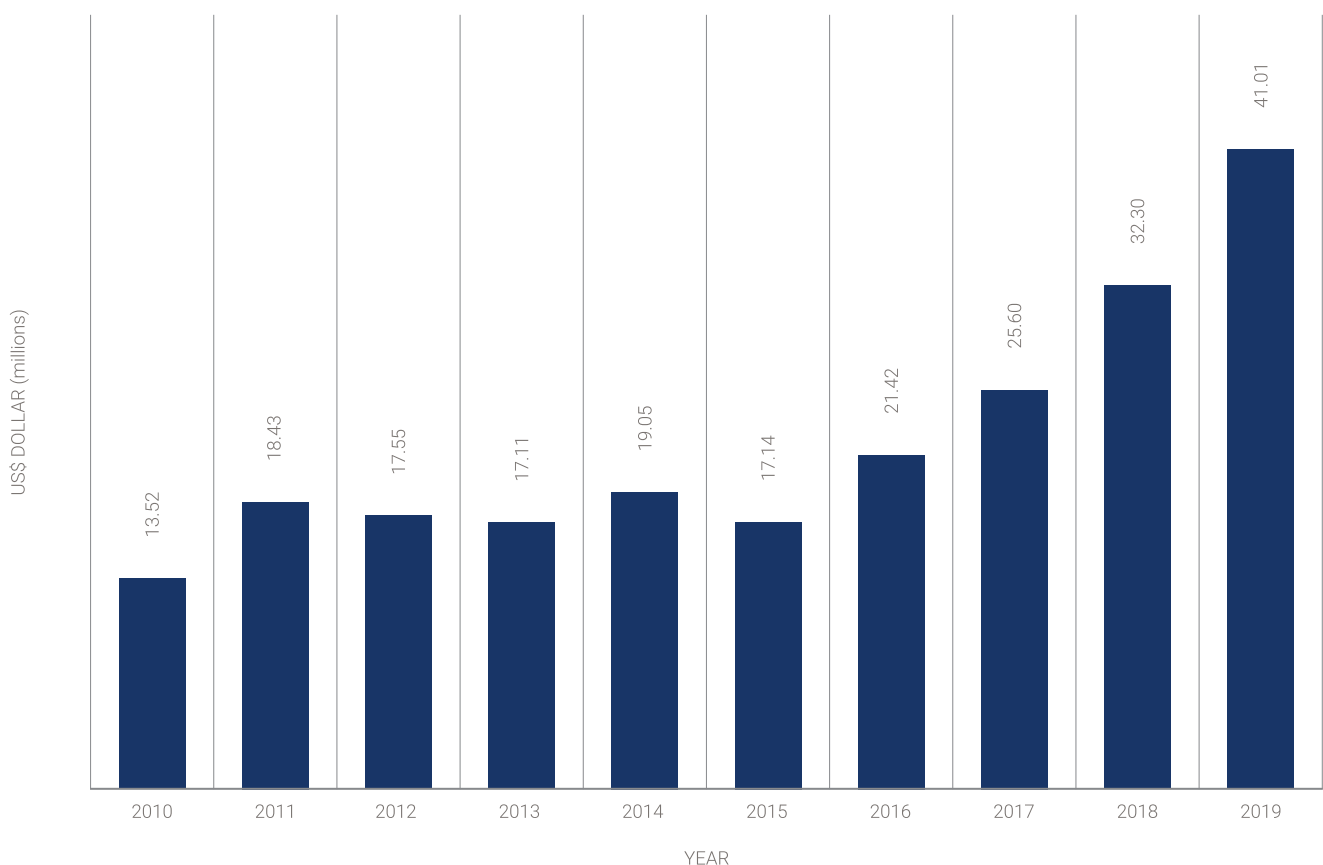
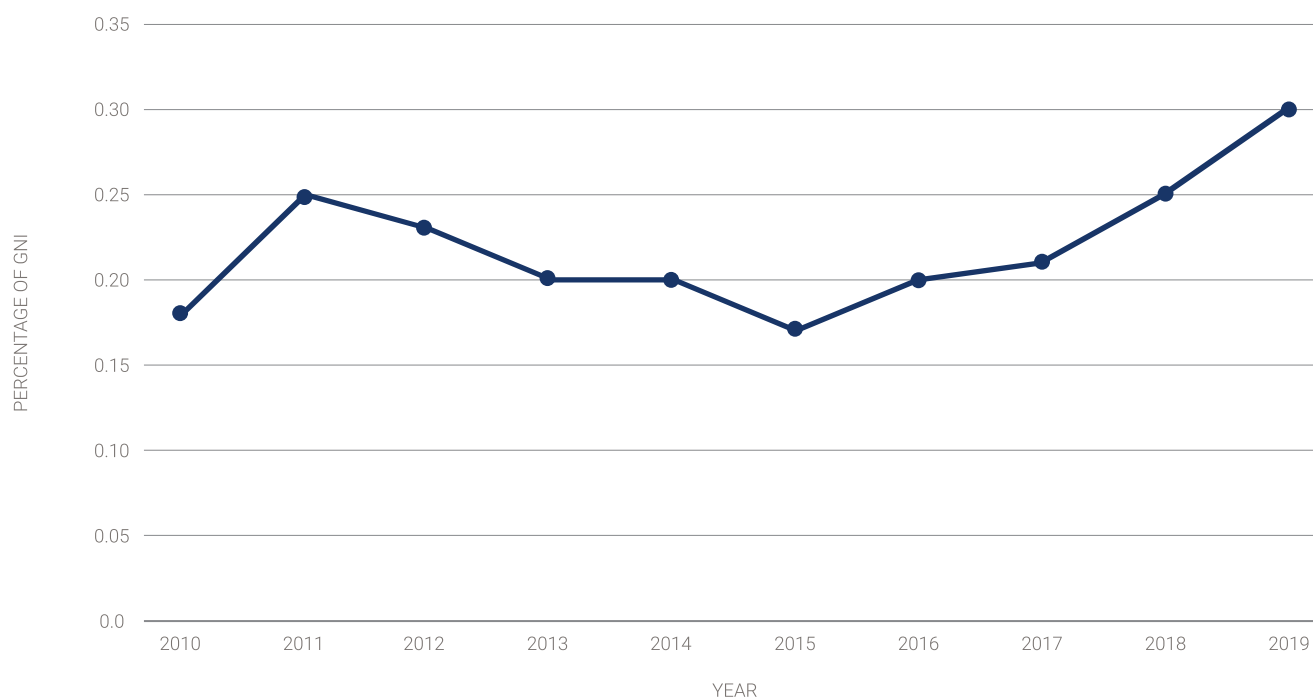


Chart 17.3: Net ODA (in US\$ millions); Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)-detailed aid statistics: official and private flows

<sup>279</sup> OECD, *Data - Net ODA*, online: <https://data.oecd.org/oda/net-oda.htm> [accessed on 2 July 2021].

<sup>280</sup> The list of countries and territories eligible to receive ODA is determined by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee.



*Chart 17.4: Official Development Assistance (ODA) as a share of Gross National Income (GNI); Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*

Moreover, SDG 17 calls for the promotion of a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO). It also calls for the realisation of timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access. This should significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020.

The potential contribution of trade to sustainable development has long been acknowledged and its importance is reflected in the targets of SDG 17. The EU has taken a responsible approach to trade and investment policy, in particular aiming to help developing countries participate more fully in the global market. Furthermore, the EU facilitates imports from developing countries by granting tariff reductions under its Generalised Scheme of Preferences and by providing 'Aid for Trade' targeted at supporting trade-related infrastructure, trade-related assistance and private sector development.<sup>281</sup> The 'Aid for Trade' Strategy was updated in 2017 to reflect the 2030 Agenda and with a focus on Least Developed Countries.

<sup>281</sup> Additional information on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences may be accessed here: <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/development/generalised-scheme-of-preferences/> [accessed on 1 June 2021].

The value of imports in Malta originating from developing countries has increased two-fold in the period 2010–2019. In 2010, total imports from developing/least developed states amounted to €399 million, 63% of which coming from ‘upper middle income countries including China’. Only 4.8% of the total value of imports were from ‘least developed countries’. By 2019, the total value of imports amounted to €865 million, an increase of 116.8% since 2010. However, while the imports from ‘China except Hong Kong’, ‘Upper middle income countries except China’, and ‘Lower middle income countries’ increased by 118%, 160%, and 110% respectively, imports from ‘Least developed countries’ and ‘Other low income countries’ decreased from €19 million to €3 million and from €5 million to 0 respectively (Chart 17.5).

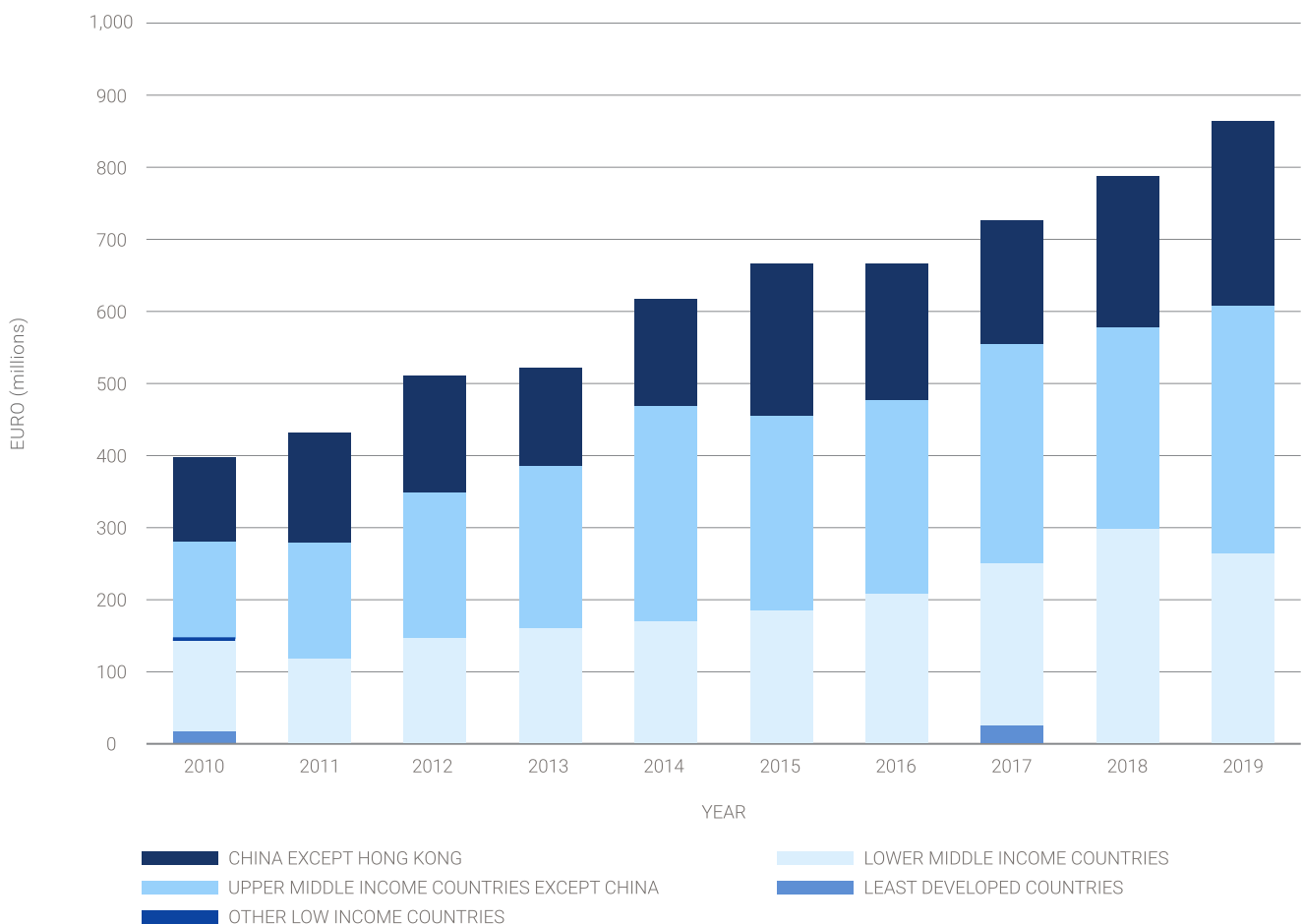


Chart 17.5: Imports from developing countries; Eurostat

## Assessment

The assessment of SDG 17 is reflected in Table 17.1 below. The targets related to SDG 17, for which statistics are not available, are not listed in the table and therefore a complete picture of Malta's implementation towards the achievement of SDG 17 is not possible. In view of this, rather than assessing the implementations towards SDG 17 as a whole, the statistics in this chapter are being used to assess Malta's progress towards each individual target of SDG 17 for which statistics are available. The assessments are based on the trends identified in the period between the baseline, set in 2010 where possible, and 2019 or to the latest data available before 2019.

The Annex lists all the official UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets as adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in A/RES/70/1 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development',<sup>282</sup> and the official list of indicators as adopted by General Assembly<sup>283</sup> and as refined by the UN Statistical Commission.<sup>284</sup> The Annex also indicates which of the official targets and indicators are not applicable for Malta, and also where proxy indicators have been used to monitor the SDG targets whenever statistics in line with the methodology accompanying the UN SDG indicators were not available. In addition, it also identifies where the UN SDG indicators and proxy indicators have been supplemented with additional national statistics relevant for the Maltese context.

<sup>282</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2015), 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25.9.2015, New York. Accessible online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1> [accessed on 29 July 2021].

<sup>283</sup> United Nations General Assembly (2017), 71/313. *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 6.7.2017, New York. Accessible online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/207/63/PDF/N1720763.pdf?OpenElement> [accessed on 29 July 2021].







<sup>284</sup> Economic and Social Council (2020), *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators*, E/CN.3/2021/2, New York, and Statistical Commission (2021), 52/101. *Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York. Accessible online at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf) [accessed on 29 July 2021].



**Legend:**

	Improvement in relation to SDG target		No change or small change in relation to SDG target
	Worsening in relation to SDG target		Assessment of trend not possible

*Table 17.1: Assessment of relevant targets of SDG 17*

TARGET NO.	TARGET	DATA USED	ASSESSMENT
17.1	Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection	Government revenue as a proportion of GDP	
17.2	Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries	Net ODA (in US\$ millions)	
		Official Development Assistance (ODA) as a share of Gross National Income (GNI)	
17.11	Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020	Imports from developing countries	
		Imports from 'least developed' and 'other low income' countries	
17.13	Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence	General Government gross debt	



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# Annex

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**Legend:**

YES

































NO

GOAL	TARGET NO.	TARGET	APPLICABLE TO MALTA	INDICATOR NO.	UN INDICATOR	DATA AVAILABLE	UN INDICATOR	PROXY INDICATOR	ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INDICATORS	SOURCES	DATA PRESENTED
1	1.1	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day		1.1.1	Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)					NSO	
1	1.2	By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions		1.2.1	Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age					NSO	
				1.2.2	Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions					Eurostat	
1	1.3	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable		1.3.1	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable					NSO	
1	1.4	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance		1.4.1	Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services					NSO	
				1.4.2	Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure					NSO	
1	1.5	By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters		1.5.1	Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population						
				1.5.2	Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)						



GOAL	TARGET NO.	TARGET	APPLICABLE TO MALTA	INDICATOR NO.	UN INDICATOR	DATA AVAILABLE	UN INDICATOR	PROXY INDICATOR	ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INDICATORS	SOURCES	DATA PRESENTED
				1.5.3	Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	●	●	●			
				1.5.4	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	●	●	●			
1	1.a	Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions	●	1.a.1	Total official development assistance grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income	●	●	●		OECD	●
				1.a.2	Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)	●	●	●		NSO	●
1	1.b	Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions	●	1.b.1	Pro-poor public social spending	●	●	●			
2	2.1	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round	●	2.1.1	Prevalence of undernourishment	●	●	●		FAO	●
				2.1.2	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	●	●	●		FAO	●
2	2.2	By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the	●	2.2.1	Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age	●	●	●			

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		nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons		2.2.2	Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)					DHIR, WHO	
				2.2.3	Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage)					WHO	
2	2.3	By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment		2.3.1	Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size					NSO	
				2.3.2	Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status					NSO	
2	2.4	By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality		2.4.1	Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture					NSO, ERA, MRA, Eurostat	
2	2.5	By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing		2.5.1	Number of (a) plant and (b) animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities					FAO	
				2.5.2	Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction						

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		of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed									
2	2.a	Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries	●	2.a.1	The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures	●	●	●	●	NSO, FAO	●
				2.a.2	Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector	●	●	●			
2	2.b	Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round	●	2.b.1	Agricultural export subsidies	●	●	●			
2	2.c	Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility	●	2.c.1	Indicator of food price anomalies	●	●	●			
3	3.1	By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births	●	3.1.1	Maternal mortality ratio	●	●	●		DHIR	●
				3.1.2	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	●	●	●		DHIR	●
3	3.2	By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5	●	3.2.1	Under-five mortality rate	●	●	●		NSO, DHIR	●
				3.2.2	Neonatal mortality rate	●	●	●		DHIR	●

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		mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births									
3	3.3	By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases	●	3.3.1	Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations	●	●	●		IDPCU	●
				3.3.2	Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	●	●	●		IDPCU	●
				3.3.3	Malaria incidence per 1,000 population	●	●	●		IDPCU	●
				3.3.4	Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population	●	●	●		IDPCU	●
				3.3.5	Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases	●	●	●		IDPCU	●
3	3.4	By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being	●	3.4.1	Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	●	●	●		DHIR, WHO	●
				3.4.2	Suicide mortality rate	●	●	●		DHIR	●
3	3.5	Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol	●	3.5.1	Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders	●	●	●		MSFC	●
				3.5.2	Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol	●	●	●		DHIR, WHO	●
3	3.6	By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents	●	3.6.1	Death rate due to road traffic injuries	●	●	●		DHIR	●
3	3.7	By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education,	●	3.7.1	Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	●	●	●		DHIR, WHO	●

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		and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes		3.7.2	Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	●	●	●		NSO	●
3	3.8	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	●	3.8.1	Coverage of essential health services	●	●	●		WHO	●
				3.8.2	Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income	●	●	●		NSO, Eurostat	●
3	3.9	By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	●	3.9.1	Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution	●	●	●		Eurostat	●
				3.9.2	Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)	●	●	●			
				3.9.3	Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning	●	●	●		WHO	●
3	3.a	Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate	●	3.a.1	Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older	●	●	●		DHIR, ESPAD 2019 Malta National Report	●
3	3.b	Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of	●	3.b.1	Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme	●	●	●		IDPCU	●
				3.b.2	Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors	●	●	●			
				3.b.3	Proportion of health facilities that have a core set of relevant essential medicines available and affordable on a sustainable basis	●	●	●			

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		Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all									
3	3.c	Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States	●	3.c.1	Health worker density and distribution	●	●	●		WHO	●
3	3.d	Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks	●	3.d.1	International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness	●	●	●		WHO	●
				3.d.2	Percentage of bloodstream infections due to selected antimicrobial-resistant organisms	●	●	●		WHO	●
4	4.1	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	●	4.1.1	Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex	●	●	●		NSO	●
				4.1.2	Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)	●	●	●		NSO	●
4	4.2	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education	●	4.2.1	Proportion of children aged 24-59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex	●	●	●			
				4.2.2	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	●	●	●		NSO	●
4	4.3	By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational	●	4.3.1	Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the	●	●	●		NSO, Eurostat	●



























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		and tertiary education, including university			previous 12 months, by sex						
4	4.4	By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	●	4.4.1	Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill	●	●	●		NSO, Eurostat	●
4	4.5	By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations	●	4.5.1	Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated	●	●	●			
4	4.6	By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy	●	4.6.1	Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex	●	●	●		OECD, Eurostat	●
4	4.7	By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development	●	4.7.1	Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	●	●	●		UNESCO	●
4	4.a	Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all	●	4.a.1	Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service	●	●	●			

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4	4.b	By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries	●	4.b.1	Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study	●	●	●			
4	4.c	By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States	●	4.c.1	Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level	●	●	●		MFED	●
5	5.1	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	●	5.1.1	Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex	●	●	●		NSO, UN-Women, Eurostat	●
5	5.2	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	●	5.2.1	Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	●	●	●			
				5.2.2	Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	●	●	●		NSO, Police Dpt.	●
5	5.3	Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced	●	5.3.1	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or	●	●	●			



































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		marriage and female genital mutilation			in a union before age 15 and before age 18						
				5.3.2	Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/ cutting, by age	●	●	●			
5	5.4	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	●	5.4.1	Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	●	●	●		Eurostat	●
5	5.5	Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	●	5.5.1	Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	●	●	●		NCPE, EIGE	●
				5.5.2	Proportion of women in managerial positions	●	●	●		NSO, EIGE	●
5	5.6	Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences	●	5.6.1	Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	●	●	●			
				5.6.2	Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education	●	●	●		WHO, UNFPA	●
5	5.a	Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	●	5.a.1	(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure	●	●	●			
				5.a.2	Proportion of countries where the	●	●	●			




































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					legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control						
5	5.b	Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	●	5.b.1	Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	●	●	●			
5	5.c	Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels	●	5.c.1	Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment	●	●	●			
6	6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	●	6.1.1	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	●	●	●		NSO	●
6	6.2	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	●	6.2.1	Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water	●	●	●		NSO	●
6	6.3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	●	6.3.1	Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated	●	●	●		WSC, NSO	●
				6.3.2	Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	●	●	●		EWA	●
6	6.4	By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people	●	6.4.1	Change in water-use efficiency over time	●	●	●	●	WSC, NSO	●
				6.4.2	Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	●	●	●		NSO	●

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		suffering from water scarcity									
6	6.5	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate		6.5.1	Degree of integrated water resources management					UNEP - IWRM Data Portal	
				6.5.2	Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation						
6	6.6	By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes		6.6.1	Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time						
6	6.a	By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies		6.a.1	Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan						
6	6.b	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management		6.b.1	Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management						
7	7.1	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services		7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity					EWA, REWS, NSO	
				7.1.2	Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology						
7	7.2	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix		7.2.1	Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption					EWA, REWS, NSO	
7	7.3	By 2030, double the global rate of		7.3.1	Energy intensity measured in terms					Eurostat	

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		improvement in energy efficiency			of primary energy and GDP						
7	7.a	By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology	●	7.a.1	International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems	●	●	●			
7	7.b	By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support	●	7.b.1	Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)	●	●	●			
8	8.1	Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries	●	8.1.1	Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	●	●	●		NSO	●
8	8.2	Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors	●	8.2.1	Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	●	●	●		NSO	●
8	8.3	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and	●	8.3.1	Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex	●	●	●			

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		growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services									
8	8.4	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead		8.4.1	Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP					Global Footprint Network	
				8.4.2	Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP					NSO, Eurostat	
8	8.5	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value		8.5.1	Average hourly earnings of employees, by sex, age, occupation and persons with disabilities					NSO	
				8.5.2	Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities					NSO	
8	8.6	By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training		8.6.1	Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training					Eurostat	
8	8.7	Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms		8.7.1	Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age						
8	8.8	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women		8.8.1	Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status					OHSA, NSO	
* Presented in SDG 12.											

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		migrants, and those in precarious employment		8.8.2	Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status	●	●	●		ILO	●
8	8.9	By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	●	8.9.1	Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate	●	●	●			
8	8.10	Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all	●	8.10.1	(a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults	●	●	●		CBM, NSO, IMF	●
				8.10.2	Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	●	●	●		World Bank	●
8	8.a	Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries	●	8.a.1	Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements	●	●	●			
8	8.b	By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization	●	8.b.1	Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy	●	●	●		ILO	●
9	9.1	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	●	9.1.1	Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road	●	●	●			
				9.1.2	Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport	●	●	●		NSO, TM, MIA, Gozo Channel Co. Ltd.	●





























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9	9.2	Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries		9.2.1	Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita					NSO	
				9.2.2	Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment					NSO	
9	9.3	Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets		9.3.1	Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added						
				9.3.2	Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit						
9	9.4	By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities		9.4.1	CO <sub>2</sub> emission per unit of value added					NSO	
9	9.5	Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending		9.5.1	Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP					NSO	
				9.5.2	Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants					NSO, Eurostat, EPO	
9	9.a	Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed		9.a.1	Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure						

GOAL	TARGET NO.	TARGET	APPLICABLE TO MALTA	INDICATOR NO.	UN INDICATOR	DATA AVAILABLE	UN INDICATOR	PROXY INDICATOR	ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INDICATORS	SOURCES	DATA PRESENTED
		countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States									
9	9.b	Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities	●	9.b.1	Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added	●	●	●		NSO	●
9	9.c	Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020	●	9.c.1	Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology	●	●	●		MCA	●
10	10.1	By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	●	10.1.1	Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population	●	●	●		NSO, Eurostat	●
10	10.2	By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	●	10.2.1	Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities	●	●	●		NSO	●
10	10.3	Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard	●	10.3.1	Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law	●	●	●			
10	10.4	Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality	●	10.4.1	Labour share of GDP	●	●	●		NSO	●
				10.4.2	Redistributive impact of fiscal policy	●	●	●			
10	10.5	Improve the regulation and	●	10.5.1	Financial Soundness Indicators	●	●	●		IMF	●



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		monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations									
10	10.6	Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions	●	10.6.1	Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	●	●	●		UN SDG Database	●
10	10.7	Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies	●	10.7.1	Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination	●	●	●			
				10.7.2	Number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people	●	●	●		UN DESA	●
				10.7.3	Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination	●	●	●		IOM	●
				10.7.4	Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin	●	●	●	●	NSO	●
10	10.a	Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements	●	10.a.1	Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff	●	●	●		ITC, UNCTAD, WTO	●
10	10.b	Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the	●	10.b.1	Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and	●	●	●		OECD	●

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		need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes			other flows)						
10	10.c	By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent	●	10.c.1	Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted	●	●	●			
11	11.1	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	●	11.1.1	Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	●	●	●		NSO, ERA	●
11	11.2	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons	●	11.2.1	Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	●	●	●	●	NSO, TM, Eurostat	●
11	11.3	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries	●	11.3.1	Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate	●	●	●	●	PA, NSO	●
				11.3.2	Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically	●	●	●			
11	11.4	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	●	11.4.1	Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural) and level of government (national, regional, and local/ municipal)	●	●	●		NSO	●

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11	11.5	By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations		11.5.1	Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population						
				11.5.2	Direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters						
11	11.6	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management		11.6.1	Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities					NSO	
				11.6.2	Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)					ERA	
11	11.7	By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities		11.7.1	Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities						
				11.7.2	Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months					UN-CTS, Police Dpt., NSO	 **
11	11.a	Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning		11.a.1	Number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics; (b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space					UN-Habitat	
11	11.b	By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource		11.b.1	Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster						
** Presented in SDG 16.											

GOAL	TARGET NO.	TARGET	APPLICABLE TO MALTA	INDICATOR NO.	UN INDICATOR	DATA AVAILABLE	UN INDICATOR	PROXY INDICATOR	ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INDICATORS	SOURCES	DATA PRESENTED
		efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels			Risk Reduction 2015–2030						
				11.b.2	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	●	●	●			
11	11.c	Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials	●	11.c.1	<i>No suitable replacement indicator was proposed</i>	●	●	●			
12	12.1	Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries	●	12.1.1	Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production	●	●	●			
12	12.2	By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	●	12.2.1	Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP	●	●	●	●	Global Footprint Network	●
				12.2.2	Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP	●	●	●		NSO, Eurostat	●
12	12.3	By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses	●	12.3.1	(a) Food loss index and (b) food waste index	●	●	●		UNEP	●
12	12.4	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in	●	12.4.1	Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste,	●	●	●		UNEP	●

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		accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment			and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement						
				12.4.2	(a) Hazardous waste generated per capita; and (b) proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment	●	●	●	●	NSO	●
12	12.5	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	●	12.5.1	National recycling rate, tons of material recycled	●	●	●	●	NSO	●
12	12.6	Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle	●	12.6.1	Number of companies publishing sustainability reports	●	●	●			
12	12.7	Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities	●	12.7.1	Degree of sustainable public procurement policies and action plan implementation	●	●	●		MECP, NSO	●
12	12.8	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	●	12.8.1	Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	●	●	●		UNESCO	●
12	12.a	Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production	●	12.a.1	Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)	●	●	●			
12	12.b	Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates	●	12.b.1	Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability	●	●	●		NSO, Eurostat	●

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		jobs and promotes local culture and products									
12	12.c	Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities	●	12.c.1	Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies (production and consumption) per unit of GDP	●	●	●			
13	13.1	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	●	13.1.1	Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	●	●	●			
				13.1.2	Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	●	●	●			
				13.1.3	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	●	●	●			
13	13.2	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	●	13.2.1	Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework	●	●	●		EEA	●

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					Convention on Climate Change						
				13.2.2	Total greenhouse gas emissions per year	●	●	●	●	MRA	●
13	13.3	Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	●	13.3.1	Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	●	●	●		UNESCO	●
13	13.a	Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible	●	13.a.1	Amounts provided and mobilized in United States dollars per year in relation to the continued existing collective mobilization goal of the \$100 billion commitment through to 2025	●	●	●		MRA	●
13	13.b	Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities	●	13.b.1	Number of least developed countries and small island developing States with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	●	●	●			
14	14.1	By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution	●	14.1.1	(a) Index of coastal eutrophication; and (b) plastic debris density	●	●	●		ERA	●
14	14.2	By 2020, sustainably manage and protect	●	14.2.1	Number of countries using ecosystem-	●	●	●		EEA, Eurostat	●

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		marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans			based approaches to managing marine areas						
14	14.3	Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels	●	14.3.1	Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations	●	●	●			
14	14.4	By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics	●	14.4.1	Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	●	●	●			
14	14.5	By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information	●	14.5.1	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	●	●	●		UN, Birdlife Intl., IUCN, UNEP, EEA	●
14	14.6	By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation	●	14.6.1	Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	●	●	●		FAO	●
































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14	14.7	By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism	●	14.7.1	Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries	●	●	●		FAO	●
14	14.a	Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries	●	14.a.1	Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology	●	●	●			
14	14.b	Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets	●	14.b.1	Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries	●	●	●		FAO	●
14	14.c	Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of "The future we want"	●	14.c.1	Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources	●	●	●			
15	15.1	By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands,	●	15.1.1	Forest area as a proportion of total land area	●	●	●	●	FAO	●
				15.1.2	Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater	●	●	●		UN, Birdlife Intl., IUCN, UNEP, EEA	●
































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		mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements			biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type						
15	15.2	By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	●	15.2.1	Progress towards sustainable forest management	●	●	●	●	Infra. Malta, Ambjent Malta, Parks Malta	●
15	15.3	By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world	●	15.3.1	Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area	●	●	●		EEA, JRC	●
15	15.4	By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development	●	15.4.1	Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity	●	●	●			
				15.4.2	Mountain Green Cover Index	●	●	●			
15	15.5	Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species	●	15.5.1	Red List Index	●	●	●		IUCN	●
15	15.6	Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed	●	15.6.1	Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits	●	●	●		CBD Secretariat	●
15	15.7	Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products	●	15.7.1	Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked	●	●	●			

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15	15.8	By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species	●	15.8.1	Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species	●	●	●		CBD Secretariat	●
15	15.9	By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts	●	15.9.1	(a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress reported towards these targets; and (b) integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting	●	●	●		UN, UNEP	●
15	15.a	Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems	●	15.a.1	(a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments	●	●	●			
15	15.b	Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation	●	15.b.1	(a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments	●	●	●			
15	15.c	Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities	●	15.c.1	Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked	●	●	●			

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16	16.1	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere		16.1.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age					UN-CTS, NSO	
				16.1.2	Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause						
				16.1.3	Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months					UN-CTS, NSO	
				16.1.4	Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live					NSO	
16	16.2	End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children		16.2.1	Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month						
				16.2.2	Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation					UNODC, MHSE, NSO	
				16.2.3	Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18						
16	16.3	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all		16.3.1	Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms						
				16.3.2	Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population					UN-CTS, WPB-ICPR, NSO	
				16.3.3	Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal						

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					dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism						
16	16.4	By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime		16.4.1	Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)						
				16.4.2	Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments						
16	16.5	Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms		16.5.1	Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months					Transparency Intl.	
				16.5.2	Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months					World Bank	
16	16.6	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels		16.6.1	Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)					UN-CTS, NSO	
				16.6.2	Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services					People & Standards Division (OPM) servizz@gov	
16	16.7	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels		16.7.1	Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups					UN-CTS, NSO, NCPE, Eurostat, EIGE	



























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				16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group					DG COMM	
16	16.8	Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance		16.8.1	Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations						
16	16.9	By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration		16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age					Identity Malta Agency, NSO	
16	16.10	Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements		16.10.1	Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months						
				16.10.2	Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information					UNESCO	
16	16.a	Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime		16.a.1	Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles					OHCHR	
16	16.b	Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development		16.b.1	Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law						

GOAL	TARGET NO.	TARGET	APPLICABLE TO MALTA	INDICATOR NO.	UN INDICATOR	DATA AVAILABLE	UN INDICATOR	PROXY INDICATOR	ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INDICATORS	SOURCES	DATA PRESENTED
17	17.1	Strengthen domestic resource mobilisation, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection		17.1.1	Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source					NSO	
				17.1.2	Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes					IMF	
17	17.2	Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries		17.2.1	Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)					OECD	
17	17.3	Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources		17.3.1	Foreign direct investment, official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income					UNCTAD	
				17.3.2	Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP					IMF, OECD	
17	17.4	Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress		17.4.1	Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services						
17	17.5	Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed		17.5.1	Number of countries that adopt and implement investment						

GOAL	TARGET NO.	TARGET	APPLICABLE TO MALTA	INDICATOR NO.	UN INDICATOR	DATA AVAILABLE	UN INDICATOR	PROXY INDICATOR	ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INDICATORS	SOURCES	DATA PRESENTED
		countries			promotion regimes for developing countries, including the least developed countries						
17	17.6	Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism	●	17.6.1	Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed	●	●	●		NSO, MCA	●
17	17.7	Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed	●	17.7.1	Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies	●	●	●			
17	17.8	Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology	●	17.8.1	Proportion of individuals using the Internet	●	●	●		NSO, Eurostat	●***
17	17.9	Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through	●	17.9.1	Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries	●	●	●			
*** Presented in SDG 4.											



GOAL	TARGET NO.	TARGET	APPLICABLE TO MALTA	INDICATOR NO.	UN INDICATOR	DATA AVAILABLE	UN INDICATOR	PROXY INDICATOR	ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INDICATORS	SOURCES	DATA PRESENTED
		North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation									
17	17.10	Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda	●	17.10.1	Worldwide weighted tariff-average	●	●	●			
17	17.11	Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020	●	17.11.1	Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports	●	●	●		Eurostat	●
17	17.12	Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access	●	17.12.1	Weighted average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States	●	●	●		ITC, UNCTAD, WTO	●
17	17.13	Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence	●	17.13.1	Macroeconomic Dashboard	●	●	●		NSO	●
17	17.14	Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	●	17.14.1	Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development	●	●	●			
17	17.15	Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development	●	17.15.1	Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation	●	●	●			

GOAL	TARGET NO.	TARGET	APPLICABLE TO MALTA	INDICATOR NO.	UN INDICATOR	DATA AVAILABLE	UN INDICATOR	PROXY INDICATOR	ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INDICATORS	SOURCES	DATA PRESENTED
17	17.16	Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries		17.16.1	Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals						
17	17.17	Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships		17.17.1	Amount in United States dollars committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure						
17	17.18	By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts		17.18.1	Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring						
				17.18.2	Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics					PARIS21 SDG Survey, NSO	
				17.18.3	Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding						
17	17.19	By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries		17.19.1	Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries						
				17.19.2	Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration					NSO, UNSD	