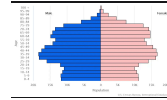


Malta Country Summary



Introduction

Background

With a civilization that dates back thousands of years, Malta boasts some of the oldest megalithic sites in the world. A British colony since 1814, Malta gained its independence in 1964 and declared itself a republic 10 years later. Since the mid-1980s, the island has transformed itself into a freight transshipment point, a financial center, and a tourist destination.

Geography

Area

total : 316 sq km

land: 316 sq km

water: 0 sq km

Climate

Mediterranean; mild, rainy winters; hot, dry summers

Natural resources

limestone, salt, arable land

People and Society

Population

total: 469,730

Ethnic groups

Maltese (descendants of ancient Carthaginians and Phoenicians with strong elements of Italian and other Mediterranean stock)

Languages

Maltese (official) 90.1%, English (official) 6%, multilingual 3%, other 0.9% (2005 est.)

Religions

Roman Catholic (official) more than 90% (2006 est.)

Population growth rate

0.51% (2024 est.)

Government

Government type

parliamentary republic

Capital

name: Valletta

Executive branch

chief of state: President Myriam Spiteri DEBONO (since 4 April 2024)

head of government: Prime Minister Robert ABELA (13 January 2020)

Legislative branch

description: unicameral House of Representatives or Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati, a component of the Parliament of Malta (65 seats statutory, 79 for 2022-2027 term; members directly elected in 5 multi-seat constituencies by proportional representation vote; members serve 5-year terms)

Economy

Economic overview

high-income, EU-member European economy; diversified portfolio; euro user; dependent on food and energy imports; strong tourism, trade, and manufacturing sectors; high North African immigration; large welfare system; educated workforce

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$31.661 billion (2023 est.)

\$29.978 billion (2022 est.)

\$27.738 billion (2021 est.)

Real GDP per capita

\$57,200 (2023 est.)

\$56,400 (2022 est.)

\$53,500 (2021 est.)

Agricultural products

milk, tomatoes, onions, potatoes, cauliflower/broccoli, pork, chicken, cabbages, pumpkins/squash, grapes (2022)

Industries

tourism, electronics, ship building and repair, construction, food and beverages, pharmaceuticals, footwear, clothing, tobacco, aviation services, financial services, information technology services

Exports

\$25.417 billion (2022 est.)

\$25.533 billion (2021 est.)

\$22.735 billion (2020 est.)

Exports - partners

Germany 12%, Italy 6%, France 6%, Japan 5%, Singapore 5% (2022)

Exports - commodities

integrated circuits, packaged medicine, refined petroleum, fish, postage stamps/documents (2022)

Imports

\$23.883 billion (2022 est.)

\$22.958 billion (2021 est.)

\$20.164 billion (2020 est.)

Imports - partners

Italy 14%, China 11%, South Korea 11%, Germany 10%, Canada 5% (2022)

Imports - commodities

ships, refined petroleum, aircraft, integrated circuits, packaged medicine (2022)

Exchange rates

euros (EUR) per US dollar -

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