

Culture Statistics 2015

National Reference Metadata in ESS Standard for Quality Reports Structure (ESQRS)

National Statistics Office (NSO)

Time Dimension: 2014

Data Flow: MALTA_CULTUREQ_A

Concept name	
1 Contact	
1.1 Contact organisation	National Statistics Office (NSO)
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2 Introduction	<p>The NSO culture statistics programme started in 2001 with the publication of findings from surveys on theatre productions and patronage; band clubs; museums and historical sites; dance schools; and parish feasts. These early surveys covered activities for the period 1997-1999 and continued to be conducted along the years with the last surveys being held for the following reference years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Theatres: 2013-14</u> - This survey is held annually and was last held in 2014. It collects data about theatres ownership, management, staff membership, number of productions, performances, and attendance. Data produced from this survey is classified by genre and category of the local theatres. This survey also collects information on the financial performance of the surveyed theatres. • <u>Museums and Historical sites: 2013 and 2014</u> - This survey is held annually and was last held in 2014. It collects data on the various types of museums and historical sites in the Maltese Islands; the number of persons admitted to these museums; and new items or exhibits purchased by the surveyed museums. Also, statistics on paid staff and voluntary workers within this sector are collected, as well as the financial performance of these cultural establishments. • <u>Band clubs: 2013-2014</u> - This survey is carried out every two to three years, and was last held in 2014. It collects data on the number of bandsmen, trainees, members, and committee members in the surveyed band clubs. Other interesting information collected from this survey includes the number of programmes performed by these band clubs, publications, production of audio-visual media, as well as the financial performance of these clubs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Dance schools: 2010</u> - This survey was last held in 2010. It gathers data on the number of dance schools on the island and their students population. This information is classified by type of dance. Data on the number of hours spent in dance schools per week is also collected. This survey also collects information on staff members, as well as the financial performance of these schools. • <u>Local councils activities: 2014</u> - This survey collects statistics on cultural activities and exhibitions organised by local councils, as well as the number of persons participating in the organised activities. Also collected, is data on the number of persons employed and the number of persons volunteering in this sector. • <u>Teaching of performing Arts: 2012-2013</u> - This survey is held every three years. It collects data on the various types of dance, music, drama and musical theatre taught in the Maltese Islands. It also collects information on students and exams taken during the survey reference period. Also collected is the amount of time spent by students in these classes, employment within these schools, as well as the financial performance of these schools. • <u>Cinema statistics: 2014</u> - This survey was launched in 2011, and is now being carried out on an annual basis. The target population for this survey consists of all operating cinema establishments. This survey collects data on number of screenings, admissions and gross box office for each film showed by these cinema establishments during the survey reference period. Information collected also includes statistics on voluntary and paid staff, as well as on the financial performance on the surveyed organisations. • <u>Libraries: 2014</u> - Since 2010, the NSO has also started publishing Statistics on Libraries on an annual basis. These statistics are compiled basing on data supplied by the Central Public Library. Latest available statistics relate to 2014, and focus on public libraries as well as membership. This survey also collects information on the number of book loans within different localities and the number of books and periodicals received under legal deposit. • <u>Parish feasts: 2011</u> - This survey is not held annually and was held last in 2011 and focuses on the organisation of feasts in Malta and Gozo, namely the bands participating, the presence of an orchestra and/or choir in the church during the celebration of the feast, and the number of persons involved, both as organisers and participants. The expenditure and income related to the organisation of the feast are also collected. • <u>Good Friday Processions: 2011</u> - This survey is not held annually and was held last in 2011. It collects data on the number of persons participating in Good Friday celebrations, whether they were organisers, procession participants or if they participated in some other way. Also of interest are the expenditure and income pertaining to Good Friday celebrations.
3 Quality management - assessment	<p>During the past years, the NSO has invested considerably in order to ensure the production of high quality statistics on the cultural sector. This work has been done in collaboration with the Creative Economy Working Group, within the Ministry for Finance, who have helped making these statistics more relevant and comprehensive for national needs. Through the ongoing support from this Working Group as well as feedback provided by other national users of cultural statistics, the NSO has managed to make considerable improvements in the quality of cultural statistics.</p>
4 Relevance	
4.1 Relevance - User Needs	<p>The Creative Economy Working Group within the Ministry of Finance is the main user of these statistics. Cultural Statistics are also sent to Eurostat, UNESCO and other related institutions. Statistics on employment, income and expenditure generated by cultural entities are also sent to the Economics Directorate within NSO that uses this information for the compilation of National Accounts.</p>
4.2 Relevance - User Satisfaction	<p>In 2014, the NSO carried out a user satisfaction survey among all those who made use of the NSOs online request form or subscribed to the NSO news releases. The survey is in line with similar surveys carried out at a European level, and provides results concerning the total statistical output of each production unit within NSO.</p>

	<p>A dedicated news release outlines main results from this survey, and can be accessed through: http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_01/Methodology_and_Research/Pages/User-Satisfaction-Survey.aspx</p>
4.3 Completeness	<p>It is practically impossible for the NSO to collect information on all the Cultural sectors. Still, a large share of information pertaining to cultural activities carried out in Malta is being collected, as explained in concept 2. Data collected on a particular cultural sector is then analysed and published in a news release relevant to the subject. Furthermore, requests based on the data collected are mostly used for policy purposes regarding the sector as well as for grant applications.</p>
4.3.1 Data completeness - rate	<p>Not applicable. Culture surveys are not regulated and only the NSO is responsible for decisions on the questionnaires and data collected. However, one is to note that most of the culture statistics are collected in collaboration with the Creative Economy Working Group.</p>
5 Accuracy and reliability	
5.1 Accuracy - overall	<p>All cultural surveys deal with very small target populations. In view of this, it is very important that a full census is taken among these organisations. Because of this, for each culture survey issued, a very small proportion of unit non-response is allowed.</p> <p>On the other hand, a significant amount of data that is collected suffers from a high degree of item non-response which has to be imputed. Although imputation helps in improving the quality of the results, it still does not manage to fully eradicate biases which are generally associated with missing values.</p>
5.2 Sampling error	<p>Not applicable.</p>
5.2.1 Sampling error - indicators	<p>Not applicable.</p>
5.3 Non-sampling error	<p>Non-sampling errors could be various, however main errors are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage errors, • Measurement and processing errors, and • Non-response errors. <p>Even if every effort is made to reduce the latter mentioned non-sampling errors, a small element of these errors is inevitable due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviewer Bias • Recall Bias • Data Entry Errors <p>Response Errors (definitional differences, misunderstanding, etc.)</p>
5.3.1 Coverage error	<p>Full coverage is generally achieved in all cultural surveys. Issues relating to over-coverage are dealt with prior to commencement of the survey and even during the data collection if the case arises.</p>
5.3.1.1 Over-coverage - rate	<p>Minimal (less than 5%). This mainly concerns cultural organisations that are either no longer operating or else are inoperative (e.g. closed to the public) during the survey period.</p>
5.3.2 Measurement error	<p>Common sources of measurement errors occur due to imperfections in the questionnaire, recall errors, under-reporting, as well as errors made by statisticians during data analysis and quality checks.</p> <p>Most of these surveys are carried out by postal surveys. This mode of data collection is generally associated with higher degrees of measurement errors than other modes of data collection, like face-to-face interviewing. Still, considerable checking and follow-up calls are made by Unit C1 both during the data</p>

	collection and data analysis stage in order to mitigate these biases as much as possible.
5.3.3 Non response error	The most common occurrences whereby data is left missing are for variables related to income and expenditure, which highly depend on the particular cultural data that is collected. Imputations help in improving the completeness of the results; however this does not manage to fully eradicate biases which are generally associated with missing values.
5.3.3.1 Unit non-response - rate	Response rates are generally very high, as explained in previous sections. For example, the last survey on Museums and Historical sites, which was carried out in 2014, had a response rate of 93.1 per cent, whilst that for the survey among Theatres, which was carried out during the same year, reached over 93 per cent.
5.3.3.2 Item non-response - rate	Item non-response rates vary between 5 per cent and 30 per cent. Statistics on income and expenditure data is generally more subject to item non-response than other variables.
5.3.4 Processing error	These include errors of transcription, errors of data entry and errors carried out during imputation stages (treatment of missing data). Unit C1 carries out many checks during the data analysis process so as to ensure that possibilities of these errors are reduced as much as possible.
5.3.4.1 Imputation - rate	All information which remains missing further to the quality checks (mainly due to item non-response) is imputed using appropriate statistical methods. Imputation rates vary between 5 per cent and 30 per cent (for financial data).
5.3.4.2 Common units - proportion	Not applicable.
5.3.5 Model assumption error	Not applicable.
5.3.6 Data revision	Published statistics are not normally subject to major revisions.
5.3.6.1 Data revision - policy	The NSOs data revision policy is available online and can be downloaded from: http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/About_NSO/Documents/NSO_Policies/Revisions_of_Official_Statistics.pdf .
5.3.6.2 Data revision - practice	Published statistics are not normally subject to major revisions. Minor revisions may sometimes occur in view of data collected during subsequent years.
5.3.6.3 Data revision - average size	Published EU-SILC data is generally considered as final, although it is subject to minor revisions using data collected during subsequent years. Minor revisions at micro-level are generally carried out yearly, although revisions in published data are made less often.
5.3.7 Seasonal adjustment	Not applicable.
6 Timeliness and punctuality	
6.1 Timeliness	For every cultural survey, the data collected generally refers to N-1 and N-2 years from the year of the data collection; depending on the frequency of the collection. Moreover, results on the data collected are published in the same year.
6.1.1 Time lag - first result	The number of days varies depending on the cultural survey and depending on the date when the news release is published. However, this time lag does not normally exceed 9 months for each cultural survey.
6.1.2 Time lag - final result	No provisional results are published.

6.2 Punctuality	<p>As indicated in the NSOs dissemination policy, which may be accessed through: http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/About NSO/Documents/NSO Policies/Dissemination 07 2014.pdf, news releases should normally be released at 11.00am. News releases on Culture statistics are normally timely.</p> <p>In fact, considering News Releases related to Culture, disseminated between June 2012 and June 2015, 2 out of 12 were late i.e. released after 11.10am.</p> <p>These News Releases include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cinema Statistics • Cultural Events by Local Councils • Museums and Historical Sites • Parish Feasts • Statistics on Libraries • Teaching of Performing Arts • Theatres
6.2.1 Punctuality - delivery and publication	0 days.
7 Accessibility and clarity	
7.1 Dissemination format - News release	<p>Scheduled news releases on culture statistics are published regularly on the NSO website.</p> <p>Examples of such news releases include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics on Band Clubs: http://nso.gov.mt/en/News Releases/Archived News Releases/Documents/2011/News2011_225.pdf • Statistics on Theatres: http://nso.gov.mt/en/News Releases/View by Unit/Unit_C1/Living Conditions and Culture Statistics/Pages/Theatres.aspx • Statistics on Museums and Historical Sites: http://nso.gov.mt/en/News Releases/View by Unit/Unit_C1/Living Conditions and Culture Statistics/Pages/Museums.aspx • Cinema Statistics: http://nso.gov.mt/en/News Releases/View by Unit/Unit_C1/Living Conditions and Culture Statistics/Pages/Cinemas.aspx
7.2 Dissemination format - Publications	<p>The two publications Kultura 2000 and the Culture Participation Survey 2011 were published at a time lag of ten years from each other. These were both based on population surveys. One can find more detail on such publications using the following link: http://nso.gov.mt/en/publicatons/Publications by Unit/Pages/C1-Living-Conditions-and-Culture-Statistics.aspx</p>
7.3 Dissemination format - online database	Cultural Statistics are currently not available on NSO's online database (StatDb).
7.3.1 Data tables - consultations	Not applicable.
7.4	Not applicable (micro-data is not disseminated). However, the National Statistics Office may grant general

Dissemination format - microdata access	microdata access under strict conditions to a selected number of institutions or persons accredited as Research entities or Researchers. Further information about this access can be retrieved through: https://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Microdata/Pages/Access-to-Microdata.aspx .
7.5 Documentation on methodology	Relevant methodological notes are provided to users in news release publications. In addition, documentation of work processes relating to the different steps carried out in the compilation and analysis of Culture Statistics are available only for internal purposes.
7.5.1 Metadata completeness - rate	Not applicable.
7.5.2 Metadata - consultations	Not applicable.
7.6 Quality management - documentation	Documentation of work processes involved in the compilation of cultural statistics is currently available only to NSO personnel.
7.7 Dissemination format - other	Information is also disseminated in parts to fulfil user requests. Requests for information can be made through: http://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Pages/Request-for-Information.aspx .
8 Comparability	
8.1 Comparability - geographical	Data is fully comparable across districts in Malta and Gozo.
8.1.1 Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics - coefficient	Not applicable.
8.2 Comparability - over time	In general, data is fully consistent and therefore comparable and reconcilable over time. However breaks in series are possible whenever changes are made in data collection. Whenever this occurs, users are warned of possible inconsistencies in time series data. Details of the methodological changes are also provided in the methodological notes in the respective news release. For example, in 2012, the NSO carried out a methodological change in the way statistics on cultural events carried out by local councils are computed. These changes have been highlighted in the methodological notes pertaining to the last news release: http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C1/Living_Conditions_and_Culture_Statistics/Pages/Cultural-Events-by-Local-Councils.aspx .
8.2.1 Length of comparable time series	Since different cultural data is collected, the length of comparability varies according to the particular cultural event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theatre statistics go back to 1997 and are available until 2012, with the exception of reference year 2010. Data for 2013 and 2014 is being processed. • Statistics on band clubs have a time series from 1998 to 2010, and the Office is currently working on data for 2014. • Statistics on museums and historical sites cover the period between 1997 and 2013. The Office is currently working on 2014 data. • The last surveys on parish feasts and Good Friday processions were carried out in 2011 and data is available from 2001.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cinema statistics started to be collected in 2012. Data collected in 2012 pertained to the reference years 2010 and 2011. Another survey was carried out and published in 2013. The Office is currently analysing data which pertains to the reference year 2014. • The survey on the Teaching of Performing Arts is also a relatively new survey that began in 2012 - 2013. This survey has continued to collect data from dance schools (which were already collected in previous years up till 2010) and included also data on the teaching of drama and music. • Statistics on libraries started to be collected in 2010. Annual data is available up to 2014. • Statistics on Local councils are available from 1997 and annual data is provided periodically for example data from 1997 to 2000 was given on 2001 etc. The most recent available data is that for 2014.
8.3 Comparability - domain	Such cultural data collected is not comparable with any other statistical domain since no such other data is collected. Cultural statistics are not even comparable with each other since they tackle different themes.
9 Coherence	
9.1 Coherence - cross domain	These surveys are the unique sources of culture statistics at a national level. In view of this, cross domain coherence tests are not possible.
9.1.1 Coherence - sub annual and annual statistics	Not applicable.
9.1.2 Coherence - National Accounts	National Accounts Unit use income/expenditure data obtained from this survey for the compilation of their statistics. Full coherence is therefore expected.
9.2 Coherence - internal	Not applicable.
10 Cost and Burden	<p>The compilation of Cultural Statistics requires the employment of one statistician for a whole year. On the other hand, surveys are mostly carried out by post so as to minimise the costs associated with the data collection, even if data chasing and queries are almost all conducted by telephone.</p> <p>Despite all efforts to use administrative registers for the compilation of statistics, a large share of information still needs to be collected from the Cultural Organisations themselves. The NSO tries to simplify the questionnaires and to collect only the information which is absolutely necessary for policy making purposes; however full avoidance of response burden on these organisations, remains impossible.</p>
11 Confidentiality	
11.1 Confidentiality - policy	<p><u>At National level</u>: Confidentiality is one of the major principles guiding the activities of the NSO.</p> <p>Article 40 of the MSA Act stipulates the restrictions on the use of information and in Article 41, the prohibition of disclosure of information. Furthermore, Section IX of the Act (Offences and Penalties) lays down the measures to be taken in case of unlawful exercise of any officer of statistics regarding confidentiality of data. No cases of breaches in the law have been recorded to date.</p> <p>Since its inception, the NSO has always operated within a culture of strict confidentiality to which it is also bound by the provisions of the Data Protection Act. This Act, which came fully into effect on July 15, 2003, seeks to protect individuals against the violation of their privacy by the processing of personal data.</p> <p>Refer also to the NSO policy "Confidentiality of Personal and Commercial Data" – https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/About_NSO/Documents/NSO_Policies/Confidentiality_of_personal_and_comm</p>

	<p>ercial_data.pdf</p> <p>Further information on access to microdata is available on the NSO's website through: https://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Microdata/Pages/Access-to-Microdata.aspx</p> <p>During 2009, the NSO has set up a Statistical Disclosure Committee to ensure that statistical confidentiality is observed, especially when requests for microdata are received by the NSO.</p> <p>Upon employment, NSO employees are informed of the rules and duties pertaining to confidential information and its treatment. According to the MSA Act, before commencing work, every employee is required to take an oath of secrecy whose text is included in the Act.</p> <p><u>At European level</u>: Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics (recital 24 and Article 20(4) of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87, p. 164), stipulates the need to establish common principles and guidelines ensuring the confidentiality of data used for the production of European statistics and the access to those confidential data with due account for technical developments and the requirements of users in a democratic society.</p>
11.2 Confidentiality - data treatment	Data is only disseminated at aggregate level. Moreover, appropriate measures are taken in order to ensure that no information pertaining to a single cultural entity participating in cultural surveys is divulged to external parties.
12 Statistical processing	
12.1 Source data	<p>Raw statistical data is provided to the NSO mostly by the Creative Economy Working Group. This data is updated on a regular basis by both the NSO and this Working Group. Whenever possible, other reliable external sources are used to obtain this information.</p> <p>For example, the survey on Teaching of Performing Arts 2012 - 2013, was based on the population provided by the National Commission for Further and Higher Education.</p>
12.2 Frequency of data collection	<p>Various timeframes are adopted when planning Culture data collections. In order to minimise response burden, most of the surveys based on questionnaires are collected every two years, each time covering the previous two years. On the other hand, data which is collected annually by other entities, or obtained from computerised systems or registers are collected and published on an annual basis.</p> <p><u>For example</u>:</p> <p>The survey on Teaching of Performing Arts 2012 - 2013 was the first survey of its kind and covered drama, dance and music. In the past, only dance schools were surveyed. The frequency of data collection depends on the available human and financial resources.</p> <p>On the other hand, data on Public Libraries is based mostly on results obtained through a computerised system and is collected annually.</p>
12.3 Data collection	<p>Culture surveys mostly rely on questionnaires sent out by email or post, although administrative information is used for the compilation of statistics on libraries. On the other hand, register data (such as Libraries data) is obtained through collaboration with the provider.</p> <p><u>Paper questionnaires</u> are sent by post for the following cultural areas, followed by telephone calls and emails to enhance data chasing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theatres • Museums and Historical sites • Dance schools • Parish feasts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching of performing Arts • Good Friday Processions • Band Clubs <p><u>Administrative sources:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local councils activities: data is obtained from the administrative records of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. • Libraries: data provided by the Central Public Library. <p>Cinema statistics are collected through <u>soft copy questionnaires</u> sent by email and followed by telephone calls and emails for data chasing.</p>
12.4 Data validation	To minimize processing errors, each questionnaire is thoroughly checked prior to data entry. Comparisons are also made with past data in order to ensure consistency. Other checks are carried out during the analysis stage, and any misleading information is identified and queried with respondents. If this not be possible, misleading information is deleted and then imputed using appropriate mathematical methods.
12.5 Data compilation	Not applicable.
12.6 Adjustment	Not applicable.
13 Comment	Not applicable.