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Reference metadata

For any question on data and metadata, please contact: EUROPEAN STATISTICAL DATA SUPPORT

1. Contact

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1.1. Contact organisation	National Statistics Office
1.2. Contact organisation unit	Unit C1: Living Conditions and Culture Statistics
1.5. Contact mail address	National Statistics Office, Lascaris, Valletta, VLT 2000 Malta

2. Statistical presentation

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This item is not requested.

2.1. Data description

This item is not requested.

2.2. Classification system

This item is not requested.

2.3. Coverage - sector

This item is not requested.

2.4. Statistical concepts and definitions

Total hh gross income (HY010)	Total disposable hh income (HY020)	Total disposable hh income before social transfers other than old-age and survivors' benefits (HY022)	Total disposable hh income before all social transfers (HY023)
F	F	F	F

Imputed rent (HY030)	Income from rental of property or land (HY040)	Family/ Children related allowances (HY050)	Social exclusion payments not elsewhere classified (HY060)	Housing allowances (HY070)	Regular inter-hh cash transfers received (HY080)	Interest, dividends, profit from capital investments in incorporated businesses (HY090)	Interest paid on mortgage (HY100)	Income received by people aged under 16 (HY110)	Regular taxes on wealth (HY120)	Regular inter-hh transfers paid (HY130)
NC	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	NC	F

Cash or near-cash employee income (PY010)	Other non-cash employee income (PY020)	Income from private use of company car (PY021)	Employers social insurance contributions (PY030)	Cash profits or losses from self-employment (PY050)	Value of goods produced for own consumption (PY070)	Unemployment benefits (PY090)	Old-age benefits (PY100)	Survivors benefits (PY110)	Sickness benefits (PY120)	Disability benefits (PY130)	Education-related allowances (PY140)	Gross monthly earnings for employees (PY200)
F	F	F	NC	F	NC	F	F	F	F	F	F	NC

The source or procedure used for the collection of income variables	The form in which income variables at component level have been obtained	The method used for obtaining target variables in the required form
Data for the Maltese EU-SILC was primarily collected using the CAPI method. The CATI method was used in come cases (see section 5.3.2). This was complemented by the use of register data from various government departments, as described below. Data on social benefits were extracted from a register called System of Social Assistance and Benefits (SABS) database, owned by the Ministry for Family and Social Solidarity (MFSS). This register includes the details of all individuals who are eligible to receive some form of social benefit and the value of the benefit received by each individual. The list of benefits as defined by the MFSS was merged to fit in with Eurostat definitions and income values from the same reference period as that covered by EU-SILC 2015 were used. Social benefits obtained from the SABS database are: PY090G – unemployment benefits PY100G – old-age benefits PY110G – survivor's benefits PY120G – sickness benefits PY130G – disability benefits HY050G – family / children related allowances HY060G – social exclusion not elsewhere classified HY070G – housing allowances (only energy benefits were obtained from SABS) PY140G (education related-allowances) and part of HY070G (housing allowances) are the only variables not available in the SABS database. The education related variables are collected from the households as part of the SILC interview. Part of the HY070G is obtained through data collected from the Housing Authority. As from EU-SILC 2010, it became possible to use register data on income from work through the Department of Inland Revenue. Thus the variables PY010G (employee cash or near cash income) and PY050G (cash benefits or losses from self-employment) were compiled through a combination of register data and survey responses. By combining both sources, a better coverage for these two variables was ensured while consistency with data from previous years was also maintained. As from EU-SILC 2013 it was also possible to use a combination of register data from the Department of Inland Revenue and survey data for the computation of taxes in the variable HY140G (tax on income and social contributions). Moreover, the SABS and Inland Revenue databases were also used in combination with SILC survey data for the variable HY090G (interest, dividends, profit from capital investments in unincorporated business). In this respect the SABS database only covers persons who receive social benefits as a result of means testing while the IRD database does not include interests & dividends for persons taxed at source on such income.	Information on income variables was obtained from a number of sub-questions for each income component. Respondents are asked: • The frequency of payments to be reported (weekly, every fortnight, every 4 weeks, monthly, yearly) • Whether gross or net amount will be given • The amount of income at each payment • Tax paid according to the payment given • National insurance paid according to the payment given • Number of payments received during the 12 months of income reference year For each income component, definitions and notes on what exactly should be included are incorporated in the questionnaire alongside the relevant questions. A further note reminding interviewers that the income reference period is 2014 also precedes each income related question.	Although the questionnaire gives the option to collect either the gross or net income at each payment, interviewers are instructed to preferably report the gross value whenever this is possible. Thus, only a few net values are collected in cases where the respondent could not provide the gross income. In such cases, in order to translate these net values into gross values, a table was constructed (using information on tax and national insurance contributions from the Department of Inland Revenue) which enabled the conversion from gross income values to the corresponding net income values, and vice versa. The questionnaire is structured in such a way as to differentiate between income from the main and secondary job of the respondent. This distinction is important, since different tax and national insurance rates apply. Thus the validation of the collected tax data has to be carried out with this in mind.

2.5. Statistical unit
This item is not requested.
2.6. Statistical population
This item is not requested.
2.7. Reference area
This item is not requested.
2.8. Coverage - Time
This item is not requested.
2.9. Base period
This item is not requested.

3. Statistical processing

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Detailed information concerning sampling frame, sampling design, sampling units, sampling size, weightings and mode of data collection can be found in this section. Such information is mainly used for the computation of the accuracy measures.

3.1. Source data

The database based on the 2011 Census of Population & Housing, that is held and maintained by NSO through annual updates, provides a comprehensive count of all persons living in Malta and Gozo. As a result, this database is considered to be the most adequate source to be used for the Maltese EU-SILC sample selection and served as sampling frame for the new waves as from SILC 2013. Previously, the 2005 Census of Population & Housing including annual updates was used.

Nonetheless in cross-sectional SILC 2015, 89 households from the sample resulted to be ineligible addresses, corresponding to 1.8 per cent of the total selected sample.

3.1.1. Sampling design and procedure

Type of sampling design

The integrated, or rotational, design has been adopted for Malta's EU-SILC. This design with 4 sub-samples complies with Eurostat recommendations with respect to both cross-sectional and longitudinal operations. The system of rotational panels implies that each year the oldest panel is dropped and replaced by a new panel of households. In this way, each group of households is included in the sample for four waves of the survey and information is collected over a period of four consecutive years.

A single-stage sampling design is used for EU-SILC in Malta. The new panel (amounting to 1,500 households in SILC 2015) is selected randomly from a register of persons and households which is based on the Census of Population and Housing that was held in 2011. This database is maintained and updated on a regular basis by NSO. The remaining total sample of households for SILC 2015 numbered 3,416 households, of which 1,212 were interviewed for the first time in 2014, 1,1163 households in 2013 and 1,041 households in 2012.

Stratification and sub stratification criteria

This section is not applicable, as stratified sampling is not used for SILC in Malta.

Sample selection schemes

A one-stage sampling design is implemented in Malta. Simple random sampling is used each year to select the new panel of dwellings to be added to the sample to be interviewed. Thus in cross-sectional SILC 2015 the complete sample was made up of the 3 panels chosen in each of the three years from 2012 to 2014 together with the new panel chosen to be interviewed for the first time in 2015. For households in the three old panels, SILC 2015 was the second, third or fourth (and last) time they were being contacted to complete the survey.

Sample distribution over time

Data collection was carried out between April and September 2015. The data collection was in full swing between mid-April and August. The addition time period was alloted so as to increase the response rate which in turn would yield in better statistical results.

3.1.2. Sampling unit

The sampling population for EU-SILC in Malta is composed of all private households consisting of persons who share their income and expenses. The simple random sample of households is selected from a register of persons and households, based on the Census of Population and Housing 2011, which is regularly maintained. Sample selection is followed by a data collection period during which the selected households are contacted and personal interviews are carried out with persons living within these households.

3.1.3. Sampling rate and sampling size

Concerning the SILC instrument, three different sample size definitions can be applied:

- the actual sample size which is the number of sampling units selected in the sample
- the achieved sample size which is the number of observed sampling units (household or individual) with an accepted interview
- the effective sample size which is defined as the achieved sample size divided by the design effect with regards to the at-risk-of poverty rate indicator

Given that the effective sample size has been already treated in the section dealing with sampling errors, in this section the attention focuses mainly on the achieved sample size.

As stipulated in the Council Regulation, each Member State is required to achieve a minimum effective sample size of households and eligible persons (persons aged 16+) for the cross-sectional component of EU-SILC. For Malta, the minimum effective sample size amounts to 3,000 households, which corresponds to a minimum of 7,000 persons aged 16 and over.

The database based on the 2011 Census of Population & Housing, that is held and maintained by NSO through annual updates, provides a comprehensive count of all persons living in Malta and Gozo. As a result, this database is considered to be the most adequate source to be used for the Maltese SILC sample selection and served as sampling frame for the new waves selected in 2014 and 2015 for cross-sectional SILC 2015.

In 2015, the gross sample size for the Maltese cross-sectional SILC was 4,916 households, yielding a sample of 4,827 eligible households. The 89 ineligible households were either cases in which addresses did not exist, or were found to be non-residential addresses, permanently vacant or institutional households (e.g. elderly homes). Interviews were completed for 4,233 households.

The table below shows the number of households in the 2015 EU-SILC reconciled component and the number of persons aged 16 and over:

Wave	Number of households for which an interview is accepted for database	Sample persons (aged 16+)	Co-residents (aged 16+)
2012	1198	2775	0
2013	2315	5312	39
2014	3322	7435	133
2015	4233	9238	240
Total	**11412**	**24760**	**412**

3.2. Frequency of data collection

Data collection was carried out between April and September 2015. The data collection was in full swing between mid-April and August. The addition time period was alloted so as to increase the response rate which in turn would yield in better statistical results.

3.3. Data collection

Mode of data collection

Mode of data collection

The method of data collection in Malta is through face-to-face interviews, mainly by means of CAPI, with an element of CATI and proxy interviews when this was unavoidable. The following is the distribution for types of interview in cross-sectional SILC 2015:

Face to face interview-CAPI	CATI, telephone interview		

(% of total)	(% of total)	Face to face interview-CAPI with proxy (% of total)	CATI, telephone interview with proxy (% of total)
62.7	7.5	27.5	2.3

This implies that 29.8% were conducted through proxy interviews. Consequently despite our best efforts to reduce proxy interviews, a relatively high percentage was recorded. In view of difficulties related to response burden and the sensitivity of SILC questions, in some cases interviewers are allowed to use proxy and telephone interviews to reduce non-response. In such cases interviewers are to request household members who could not be present during the interview to leave documentation such as pay slips and tax returns with the person who will be responding on their behalf, so that as much as possible the proxy effect does not result in a loss in quality.

Furthermore the availability and use of register data helps offset the proxy effect to some extent. Register data is available for income components like employment & self-employment income, income tax and social benefits. Other registers supply demographic characteristics and partial information on levels of education attained. Register data is incorporated into SILC variables as much as possible, particulary in the case of persons who are interviewed by proxy. This is done through ID card linking. Consequently the rate of proxy interviews must be evaluated in this context.

The mean interview duration

The mean interview duration per household is calculated as the sum of the duration of all household interviews plus the sum of the duration of all personal interviews, divided by the number of household questionnaires completed. Only households accepted for the database have to be considered.

Average interview duration = 45 minutes

Please refer to section 10: Cost and Burden

See Annex - Data Collection

Annexes:

Data Collection Annex

3.4. Data validation

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

3.5. Data compilation

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

3.5.1. Weighting procedure

Design factor Non-response adjustments Adjustment to external data Final cross sectional weights

See annex - Weighting Procedure.

Annexes:

Annex - Weighting procedure

3.5.2. Estimation and imputation

Imputation procedure used Imputed rent Company car

See annex - Estimation and Imputation

Annexes:

Estimation and Imputation Annex

3.6. Adjustment

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

4. Quality management

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4.1. Quality assurance

Item not requested by Reg. 28/2004.

4.2. Quality management - assessment

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004.

5. Relevance

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Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

5.1. Relevance - User Needs

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

5.2. Relevance - User Satisfaction

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

5.3. Completeness

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

5.3.1. Data completeness - rate

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

6. Accuracy and reliability

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The concept of accuracy refers to the precision of estimates computed from a sample rather than from the entire population. Accuracy depends on sample size, sampling design effects and structure of the population under study. In addition to that, sampling errors and non sampling errors need to be taken into account. Sampling error refers to the variability that occurs at random because of the use of a sample rather than a census and non-sampling errors are errors that occur in all phases of the data collection and production process.

6.1. Accuracy - overall

In terms of precision requirements, the EU-SILC framework regulation as well the Commission Regulation on sampling and tracing rules refers respectively, to the effective sample size to be achieved and to representativeness of the sample. The effective sample size combines sample size and sampling design effect which depends on sampling design, population structure and non-response rate.

6.2. Sampling error

EU-SILC is a complex survey involving different sampling design in different countries. In order to harmonize and make sampling errors comparable among countries, Eurostat (with the substantial methodological support of Net-SILC2) has chosen to apply the "linearization" technique coupled with the “ultimate cluster” approach for variance estimation.

Linearization is a technique based on the use of linear approximation to reduce non-linear statistics to a linear form, justified by asymptotic properties of the estimator. This technique can encompass a wide variety of indicators, including EU-SILC indicators. The "ultimate cluster" approach is a simplification consisting in calculating the variance taking into account only variation among Primary Sampling Unit (PSU) totals. This method requires first stage sampling fractions to be small which is nearly always the case. This method allows a great flexibility and simplifies the calculations of variances. It can also be generalized to calculate variance of the differences of one year to another .

The main hypothesis on which the calculations are based is that the "at risk of poverty" threshold is fixed. According to the characteristics and availability of data for different countries we have used different variables to specify strata and cluster information. In particular, countries have been split into three groups:

1)BE, BG, CZ, IE, EL, ES, FR, IT, LV, HU, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, UK and HR whose sampling design could be assimilated to a two stage stratified type we used DB050 (primary strata) for strata specification and DB060 (Primary Sampling Unit) for cluster specification;

2) DE, EE, CY, LT, LU, AT, SK, FI, CH whose sampling design could be assimilated to a one stage stratified type we used DB050 for strata specification and DB030 (household ID) for cluster specification;

3) DK, MT, SE, IS, NO, whose sampling design could be assimilated to a simple random sampling, we used DB030 for cluster specification and no strata;

6.2.1. Sampling error - indicators

	AROPE			At risk of poverty (60%)			Severe Material Deprivation			Very low work intensity		
	Ind. value	Stand. errors	Half CI (95%)	Ind. value	Stand. errors	Half CI (95%)	Ind. value	Stand. errors	Half CI (95%)	Ind. value	Stand. errors	Half CI (95%)
Total	22.4	0.820	1.608	16.3	0.728	1.428	8.1	0.596	1.169	10.2	0.642	1.258
Male	21.9	0.914	1.792	16.1	0.800	1.569	8.2	0.672	1.318	8.8	0.734	1.438
Female	23.0	0.870	1.706	16.6	0.7719	1.513	8.0	0.625	1.224	9.7	0.715	1.401
Age0-17	28.2	1.6613	3.257	23.4	1.612	3.160	10.4	1.226	2.404	10.8	1.273	2.496
Age18-64	20.5	0.853	1.671	13.1	0.681	1.335	8.4	0.646	1.267	8.7	0.550	1.078
Age 65+	23.7	1.192	2.338	21.0	1.154	2.263	4.7	0.563	1.103	N/A	N/A	N/A

The above table refers to indicators derived from cross-sectional SILC 2015.

See Annex - Sampling errors data

Annexes:

Annex - Sampling errors

6.3. Non-sampling error

Non-sampling errors are basically of 4 types:

- Coverage errors: errors due to divergences existing between the target population and the sampling frame.
- Measurement errors: errors that occur at the time of data collection. There are a number of sources for these errors such as the survey instrument, the information system, the interviewer and the mode of collection
- Processing errors: errors in post-data-collection processes such as data entry, keying, editing and weighting
- Non-response errors: errors due to an unsuccessful attempt to obtain the desired information from an eligible unit. Two main types of non-response errors are considered:

1. – Unit non-response: refers to absence of information of the whole units (households and/or persons) selected into the sample
1. – Item non-response: refers to the situation where a sample unit has been successfully enumerated, but not all required information has been obtained

6.3.1. Coverage error

Coverage errors include over-coverage, under-coverage and misclassification:

- Over-coverage: relates either to wrongly classified units that are in fact out of scope, or to units that do not exist in practice
- Under-coverage: refers to units not included in the sampling frame
- Misclassification: refers to incorrect classification of units that belong to the target population

6.3.1.1. Over-coverage - rate

	Main problems	Size of error
Cross sectional data	·Over-coverage ·Under-coverage ·Misclassification	The database based on the 2011 Census of Population & Housing, that is held and maintained by NSO through annual updates, provides a comprehensive frame of all persons and households living in Malta and Gozo. As a result, this database is considered to be the most adequate source to be used for the Maltese EU-SILC sample selection. Within EU-SILC 2015 it served as sampling frame for households selected for the first time in 2013, 2014 and 2015. Previously the 2005 Census of Population & Housing, including annual updates, was used. Nonetheless, in cross-sectional EU-SILC 2015, 89 households from the sample resulted to be ineligible addresses, corresponding to 1.8 per cent of the total selected sample.

6.3.1.2. Common units - proportion

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

6.3.2. Measurement error

Cross sectional data

Source of measurement errors	Building process of questionnaire	Interview training	Quality control
Measurement errors can occur in different phases and for different reasons. They can be defined as the bias between the recorded value provided by the respondent (which might not be the actual value) and the true but unknown value of the given variable. The main sources of such errors are typically the questionnaire and the data collection process in general.	Every year, in preparation for a new SILC wave, revisions are made to the questionnaire. The revisions are made to include the new module and correct for any possible misunderstandings in the way the questions are worded and departures from standard Eurostat definitions. This is done by taking on board any feedback obtained from interviewers and respondents during the previous year's data collection round and also from Eurostat communications. Since SILC 2011, the structure of the questionnaire has been revised in an attempt to reduce response burden and interview duration, without compromising on quality. This was done through the introduction of a series of filter questions aimed at respondents who were participating in SILC for the second, third or fourth time. Through these filter questions, respondents were asked whether their situation in terms of things like marital status, citizenship, type of dwelling, number of rooms in the main dwelling etc. has changed from the previous year. When answers to the filter questions are in the negative, the routing of the questionnaire allows respondents to by-pass certain questions since responses can be retrieved from the previous year's dataset. If on the other hand respondents report that there has been a change, the relevant questions are asked as usual. In this way any redundant questions are filtered out, and the data collection process becomes more efficient. SILC data collection is conducted primarily using a Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method. Thus the questionnaire has been translated into CAPI format and incorporates automatic routing of questions and a series of validations that alert interviewers to inconsistencies during data collection. This method has many advantages as it results in a shorter interview duration and a reduction in the amount of human errors. It also enables certain basic demographics (like age and gender) to be uploaded in advance, thus lessening the response burden as much as possible. Further advantages of this method are better management of surveys (for e.g. split households), and the preservation of order of persons. In a further attempt to reduce response burden and simultaneously increase efficiency and lower costs, CATI was also introduced in SILC 2013. This method was only utilised for households from	The approach, integrity, knowledgeability of SILC definitions and professionalism of interviewers are fundamental in determining the success of the SILC project. Therefore considerable effort is directed towards the recruitment, training and monitoring of interviewers. This entire process is co-ordinated by NSO (i.e. no sub-contractors). Training is carried out through a series of briefing sessions. Interviewers working on SILC for the first time must attend two training sessions. The first session consists of an intensive question-by-question explanation of the questionnaire and corresponding definitions. The second session is held to provide assistance related to the CAPI aspect of the data collection. Interviewers are provided with fictitious 'test' households created in each laptop in order to encourage interviewers to experiment the process of inputting data before interviewing the actual households. For old interviewers, a presentation is held outlining changes made to the questionnaire and data entry program, as well as interviewers' errors identified from the previous year. Furthermore, all interviewers are encouraged to contact our office whenever encountering difficulties.	Since Malta is a small country, the response burden is large. This is increased by the fact that SILC is based on a rotational design where households are asked to participate for four consecutive years. In addition to this, despite an emphasis on the fact that the Malta Statistics Authority Act ensures full confidentiality, there still exists the fear amongst respondents that identification of individuals through their responses may be possible, and the sensitive nature of the questions in SILC tends to makes respondents even more wary. Despite these difficulties, a reasonably good level of co-operation and response rate are achieved in EU-SILC. In cross-sectional SILC 2015, despite our best efforts to reduce proxy interviews, a relatively high percentage was recorded. In view of the difficulties mentioned above, in some cases interviewers are allowed to use proxy and telephone interviews to reduce non-response. In such cases interviewers are to request household members who could not be present during the interview to leave documentation such as pay slips and tax returns with the person who will be responding on their behalf, so that as much as possible the proxy effect does not result in a loss in quality. Furthermore the availability and use of register data helps offset the proxy effect to some extent. Register data is available for income components like employment & self-employment income, income tax and social benefits. Other registers supply demographic characteristics and partial information on levels of education attained. Register data is incorporated into SILC variables as much as possible, particulary in

Cross sectional data

Source of measurement errors	Building process of questionnaire	Interview training	Quality control
	previous waves made up of 3 or less persons all of whom were either aged 65+ or under 12. The rationale behind this approach was that these household types typically received most of their income from social benefits. Since this kind of data is available from registers, these households would normally have a shorter interview time making it feasible for the survey to be conducted over the phone. If on the other hand households expressed a preference for a personal interview, or in cases where it turned out that there are other sources of income that had to be collected (possibly because of a change in household composition), arrangements were made for an interviewer to be sent to the household. However most of these households welcomed the opportunity to reply to the survey over the phone since they found this to be less of a burden. For the CATI surveys, a data collection program, similar to the one used for CAPI was developed. Essentially the CATI program is the same as the CAPI one, but has different routing of questions. Also more information from the previous year's survey are uploaded into the CATI program since the likelihood that certain variables would have changed is low for these household types. Thus the survey duration is shortened since the interviewer will have to confirm with the household that the informatin we have is still correct rather than asking certain questions from scratch.		the case of persons who are interviewed by proxy. This is done through ID card linking. Consequently the rate of proxy interviews must be evaluated in this context. Monitoring of the interviewing process is carried out through regular audits on a sub-sample of households throughout the data collection period. Response rates for different interviewers are also moitored throughout the process. In rare instances where audits revealed negligence or inappropriate behaviour from interviewers, immediate disciplinary action was taken. New interviewers are followed more closely, and are asked to visit the office upon completing the first 3 surveys. The quality of the data collected is checked to ensure that the interviewers are performing as required. Any difficulties encountered are also discussed.

6.3.3. Non response error

Non-response errors are errors due to an unsuccessful attempt to obtain the desired information from an eligible unit. Two main types of non-response errors are considered:

1) Unit non-response which refers to the absence of information of the whole units (households and/or persons) selected into the sample. According the Commission Regulation 28/2004:

- **Household non-response rates** (*NRh*) is computed as follows:

NRh=(1-(Ra * Rh)) * 100

Where Ra is the address contact rate defined as:

Ra= Number of address successfully contacted/Number of valid addresses selected

and *Rh* is the proportion of complete household interviews accepted for the database

Rh=Number of household interviews completed and accepted for database/Number of eligible households at contacted addresses

- **Individual non-response rates** (*NRp*) will be computed as follows:

NRp=(1-(Rp)) * 100

Where *Rp* is the proportion of complete personal interviews within the households accepted for the database

Rp= Number of personal interview completed/Number of eligible individuals in the households whose interviews were completed and accepted for the database

- **Overall individual non-response rates** (*NRp) will be computed as follows:

***NRp=(1-(Ra * Rh * Rp)) * 100**

For those Members States where a sample of persons rather than a sample of households (addresses) was selected, the individual non-response rates will be calculated for 'the selected respondent', for all individuals aged 16 years or older and for the non-selected respondent.

2) Item non-response which refers to the situation where a sample unit has been successfully enumerated, but not all the required information has been obtained.

6.3.3.1. Unit non-response - rate

Cross sectional data

Address contact rate (Ra)*		Complete household interviews (Rh)*		Complete personal interviews (Rp)*		Household Non-response rate (NRh)*		Individual non-response rate (NRp)*		Overall individual non-response rate (NRp)*	
A*	B*	A*	B*	A*	B*	A*	B*	A*	B*	A*	B*
0.983	0.986	0.889	0.809	1.000	1.000	12.540	20.198	0.000	0.000	12.540	20.198

* All the formulas are defined in the Commission Regulation 28/2004, Annex II

A* = Total sample; B = * New sub-sample

See Annex Unit non response

Annexes:
Annex - unit non-response

6.3.3.2. Item non-response - rate

The computation of item non-response is essential to fulfil the precision requirements concerning publication as stated in the Commission Regulation No 1982/2003. Item non-response rate is provided for the main income variables both at household and personal level.

6.3.3.2.1. Item non-response rate by indicator

	Total hh gross income (HY010)	Total disposable hh income (HY020)	Total disposable hh income before social transfers other than old-age and survivors benefits (HY022)	Total disposable hh income before all social transfers (HY023)
% of household having received an amount				
% of household with missing values (before imputation)				
% of household with partial information (before imputation)				

	Imputed rent (HY030)	Income from rental of property or land (HY040)	Family/ Children related allowances (HY050)	Social exclusion payments not elsewhere classified (HY060)	Housing allowances (HY070)	Regular inter-hh cash transfers received (HY080)	Interest, dividends, profit from capital investments in incorporated businesses (HY090)
% of household having received an amount							
% of household with missing values (before imputation)							
% of household with partial information (before imputation)							

	Cash or near-cash employee income (PY010)	Other non-cash employee income (PY020)	Income from private use of company car (PY021)	Employers social insurance contributions (PY030)	Cash profits or losses from self-employment (PY050)	Value of goods produced for own consumption (PY070)	Unemployment benefits (PY090)	Old-age benefits (PY100)	Survivors benefits (PY110)	Sickness benefits (PY120)	Disability benefits (PY130)	Education-related allowances (PY140
% of household having received an amount												
% of household with missing values (before imputation)												
% of household with partial information (before imputation)												

See Annex - Item non-response rate where 'Wave 4 - Year 2015' reflects the cross-sectional component of SILC 2015

Annexes:
Annex - Item non-response rate

6.3.4. Processing error

Data entry and coding	Editing controls

Data entry and coding

Face-to-face CAPI and CATI are the methods of data collection used for Malta's EU-SILC. The programs for both methods have been designed through the use of Blaise software. Through this program, the user is routed automatically from one question to the next. This automatic routing eliminates the risk of omitting certain questions unintentionally, and allows the interviewer to concentrate more on other aspects of the survey.

The programs also consists of in-built validations which help to reduce processing errors related to data entry as well as human errors. These validations involve logic and consistency checks with previous related responses and between questions themselves. Checks are also carried out for any data entry of extreme values. Pop-up dialog boxes are displayed with error messages whenever an error is encountered. In some cases error suppression is allowed in order to cater for exceptional responses.

Thus, the computer-assisted method leaves little room for error and at the same time speeds up the whole process of data collection. Nevertheless, an element of human error still remains and consequently the possibility of data entry errors cannot be excluded entirely.

Editing controls

As a further security measure, interviewers are equipped with a pen drive and are instructed to take regular backups of encrypted data collected from the respondents. This was done in order to prevent any loss of data that may result in the event of the laptop sustaining damage.

6.3.4.1. Imputation - rate

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

6.3.5. Model assumption error

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

6.4. Seasonal adjustment

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

6.5. Data revision - policy

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

6.6. Data revision - practice

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

6.6.1. Data revision - average size

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

7. Timeliness and punctuality

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Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

7.1. Timeliness

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

7.1.1. Time lag - first result

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

7.1.2. Time lag - final result

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

7.2. Punctuality

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

7.2.1. Punctuality - delivery and publication

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

8. Coherence and comparability

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The coherence of two or more statistical outputs refers to the degree to which the statistical processes, by which they were generated, used the same concepts and harmonised methods. A comparison with external sources for all income target variables and the number of persons who receive income from each 'income component' will be provided, where the Member States concerned consider such external data to be sufficiently reliable.

According to the Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning EU-SILC: "Comparability of data between Member States shall be a fundamental objective and shall be pursued through the development of methodological studies from the outset of EU-SILC data collection, carried out in close collaboration between the Member States and Eurostat".

Although the best way for keeping the comparability of data is to apply the same methods and definitions of variables, small departures of the definitions given by Eurostat are allowed in EU-SILC. In this way, the mentioned Regulation in its article 16th says: "Small departures from common definitions, such as those relating to private household definition and income reference period, shall be allowed, provided they affect comparability only marginally. The impact of comparability shall be reported in the quality reports."

8.1. Comparability - geographical

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

8.1.1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics - coefficient

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

8.1.2. Reference population

Reference population	Private household definition	Household membership
No departure from the common definition i.e. the reference population is composed of all private households and their current members	No departure from the common definition i.e. a private household is defined as a person living alone or a group of people who live	A person is a household member if s/he is usually resident in that particular dwelling and shares in household expenses. Persons who are temporarily

Reference population	Private household definition	Household membership
residing in Malta at the time of data collection. Persons living in institutions are excluded from the target population.	together in the same private dwelling and share expenditures, including the joint provision of the essentials of living.	absent for reasons of holiday, travel, work, health, education or similar are included as long as the persons do not intend to stay away for more than 6 months.

8.1.3. Reference Period

Period for taxes on income and social insurance contributions	Income reference periods used	Reference period for taxes on wealth	Lag between the income ref period and current variables
The tax on income and social insurance contributions reference period was the same as the income reference period i.e. calendar year 2014.	The income reference period used for EU-SILC 2015 was calendar year 2014.	The variable on regular taxes on wealth is not applicable for Malta.	The bulk of the data collection was carried out between end of April and September. Thus the lag between income reference period and current variables spans between 5 and 8 months, depending on the date of interview for each household.

8.2. Comparability - over time

Not available

8.2.1. Length of comparable time series

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

8.3. Coherence - cross domain

Each year, a number of variables collected from EU-SILC are compared with other data collected by the National Statistics Office having the same reference period for benchmarking purposes. Sources included National Accounts, Labour Force Survey and Government Finance. Annual aggregates provided by the Inland Revenue Department were also used to verify income from employment, interests and dividends.

See Annex-Coherence.

Annexes:

Annex - Coherence

8.4. Coherence - sub annual and annual statistics

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

8.5. Coherence - National Accounts

Not available

8.6. Coherence - internal

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

9. Accessibility and clarity

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Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

9.1. Dissemination format - News release

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

9.2. Dissemination format - Publications

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

9.3. Dissemination format - online database

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

9.3.1. Data tables - consultations

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

9.4. Dissemination format - microdata access

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

9.5. Dissemination format - other

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

9.6. Documentation on methodology

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

9.7. Quality management - documentation

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

9.7.1. Metadata completeness - rate

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

9.7.2. Metadata - consultations

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

10. Cost and Burden

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The average interview duration was of 45 minutes.

This figure was based upon Annex II item 2.5 as established in commission regulation EC number 28/2004.

11. Confidentiality

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Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

11.1. Confidentiality - policy

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

11.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

Not requested by Reg. 28/2004

12. Comment

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The following are attached:
Annex - National Questionnaire
Annex - Unit non response
Annex - Item non-response rate
Annex - Sampling Errors data
Annex - Data Collection
Annex - Weighting Procedure
Annex - Estimation and Imputation
Annex – Coherence

Annexes:
National Questionnaire

Related metadata

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Annexes

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Annex - Coherence
Annex - Data collection
Annex - Estimation and Imputation
Annex - Sampling errors
Annex - Weighting procedure
Annex - Item non-response rate
Unit non response Annex