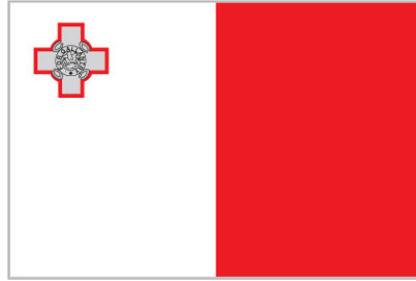




MALTA



INTRODUCTION

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 ten years later. Since the mid-1980s, the island has transformed itself into a freight transshipment point, a financial center, and a tourist destination.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President George VELLA

Head of Government

Prime Minister Robert ABELA

Government Type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Valletta

Legislature

unicameral House of Representatives or Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati, a component of the Parliament of Malta (normally 65 seats but can include at-large members)

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

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

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$20.6 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$39,200 (2020 est.)

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

Agricultural products - milk, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, cauliflowers, broccoli, eggplants, pork, cabbages, poultry

Exports \$19.04 billion (2020 est.)

integrated circuits, refined petroleum, packaged medicines, children's toys/stuffed animals, postage stamps (2019)

partners: Germany 12%, France 9%, Italy 9% (2019)

Imports \$18.01 billion (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, recreational boats, ships, aircraft, coal tar oil (2019)

partners: Russia 22%, Italy 12%, UK 11%, Germany 6%, Turkey 5%, France 5%, China 5%, South Korea 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

460,890 (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.75% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

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

Language

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

Religion

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

