

Introduction

Malta is a southern European island country that also has an archipelago. It is situated centrally in the Mediterranean Sea, south of Sicily, Italy. Malta's geographic position between the European Union region and Africa makes it a target for immigration. The government system is a republic; the chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister.

Malta has a mixed economic system, which includes a variety of private freedoms combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Malta is a member of the European Union (EU).



Location: Southern Europe

Capital City: Valletta (+1 GMT)

Chief of State: President Myriam Spiteri Debono

Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Robert Abela

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Major Languages: <p>Maltese (official) 90.1%, English (official) 6%, multilingual 3%, other 0.9%</p>

Primary Religions: <p>Roman Catholic (official) more than 90%</p>

Calling Code: 356

Voltage: 240

Key Websites

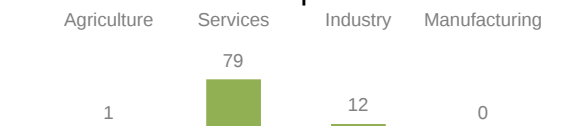
Main Government Page: gov.mt

Investment Promotion Agency: maltaenterprise.com

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	High Income
Level of Development:	Developed
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$29.27 billion (2022)
GDP growth (annual %):	6.85% (2022)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$55,927.86 (2022)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	7.01% (2021)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$1.02 billion (2022)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	6.15% (2022)
Labor force, total:	288,767 (2022)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	2.81% (2022)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$27.82 billion (2022)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$29.85 billion (2022)

GDP Composition %



*Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.

Rankings

Index	Rank
Corruption Perceptions Index	48 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	38 / 141
Global Enabling Trade Index	33 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	41 / 176
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	69 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	55 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	36 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	34 / 139

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: A3 - Changes in generally good but somewhat volatile political and economic environment can affect corporate payment behavior. A basically secure business environment can nonetheless give rise to occasional difficulties for companies. Corporate default probability is quite acceptable on average.

Business Climate rating: D - The business environment is very difficult. Corporate financial information is rarely available and when available usually unreliable. The legal system makes debt collection very unpredictable. The institutional framework has very serious weaknesses. Intercompany transactions can thus be very difficult to manage in the highly risky environments rated D.

Strengths

- At the crossroads of the Suez Canal and Gibraltar, major Mediterranean transshipment hub
- Public debt overwhelmingly held by residents
- Emerging tech hub (online gambling, Blockchain, AI)
- Productive, English-speaking, growing and high-income workforce, low taxation
- Resurging tourism industry

Weaknesses

- Sizeable incoming/outgoing financial flows (offshore finance, online gambling industry, citizenship by investment programme)
- Poor road infrastructure
- Inadequate higher education; shortage of skilled domestic labour
- Slow legal process; cronyism and corruption; in the crosshairs of global anti-money-laundering efforts

U.S. Embassy

U.S. Embassy Valletta

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