

Introduction

Malta is a southern European country and consists of 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 freedom, 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 Marie Louise Coleiro Preca

Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Joseph Muscat

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

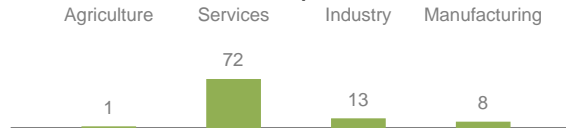
Main Government Page: gov.mt

Investment Promotion Agency: maltaenterprise.com

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	High Income
Level of Development:	Developed
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$18.40 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	6.42% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$39,534.92 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	7.51% (2016)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	\$1.72 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	1.36% (2017)
Labor force, total:	216,819 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	4.01% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$14.15 billion (2016)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$15.35 billion (2016)

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	46 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	36 / 139
Global Enabling Trade Index	33 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	39 / 179
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: A2 - The political and economic situation is good. A basically stable and efficient business environment nonetheless leaves room for improvement. Corporate default probability is low on average.

Business Climate rating: A2 - The business environment is good. When available, corporate financial information is reliable. Debt collection is reasonably efficient. Institutions generally perform efficiently. Intercompany transactions usually run smoothly in the relatively stable environment rated A2.

Strengths

- Crossroads between the eastern and western Mediterranean
- Eurozone member
- Public and external accounts in surplus; public debt held by residents
- Tourism (two million annual visitors for 430,000 inhabitants) and port activities
- Productive, English-speaking, growing and high-income workforce; low taxation

Weaknesses

- Small island nation, leading to close ties between public authorities and business
- Sizeable incoming/outgoing financial flows (offshore finance, online gambling industry, nationality acquisition programme against investment)
- Inadequate road infrastructure
- Inadequate higher education; shortage of highly skilled labor, R&D and innovation
- Slow legal process; favoritism and corruption

U.S. Embassy

U.S. Embassy Valletta

Ta' Qali National Park

Attard, ATD 4000

Phone: (356) 2561 4000

<https://mt.usembassy.gov>