



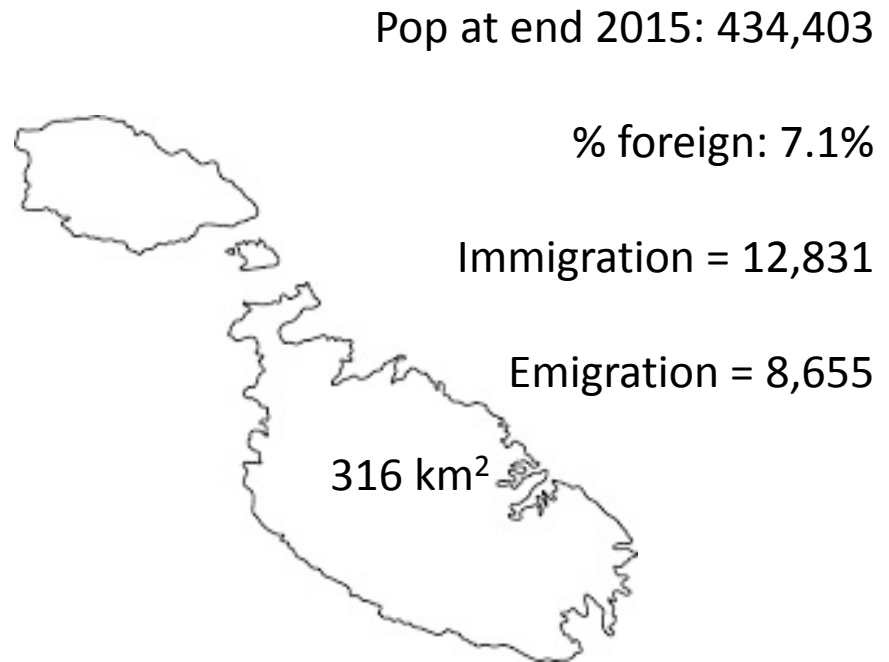
CENSUS DATA COLLECTION IN MALTA

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Overview

- Background
- Methodology
- Focus on migration
- Conclusion



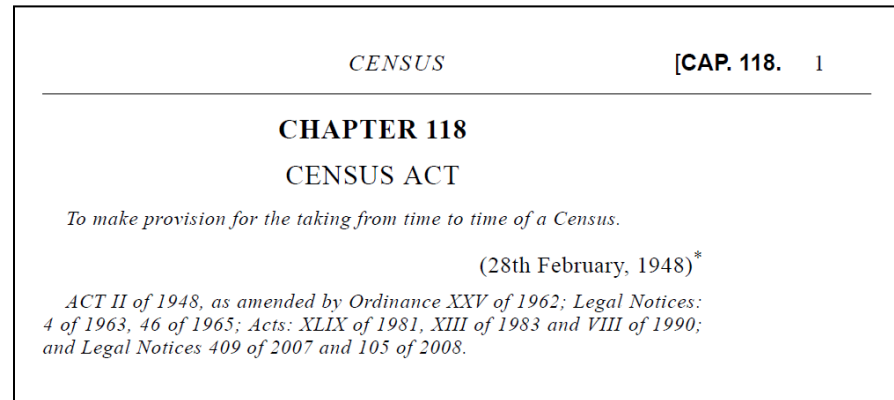
BACKGROUND

Malta has a Census Act separate to the Statistics Act which governs the census process.

The Government nominates a Census Officer who oversees the census process.

Historically census followed a decennial cycle with last two census periods being in 1995 and 2005.

To harmonise with new EU regulation on the census process last census conducted in 2011. Decennial cycle to continue from 2021 onwards.



METHODOLOGY

Questionnaire

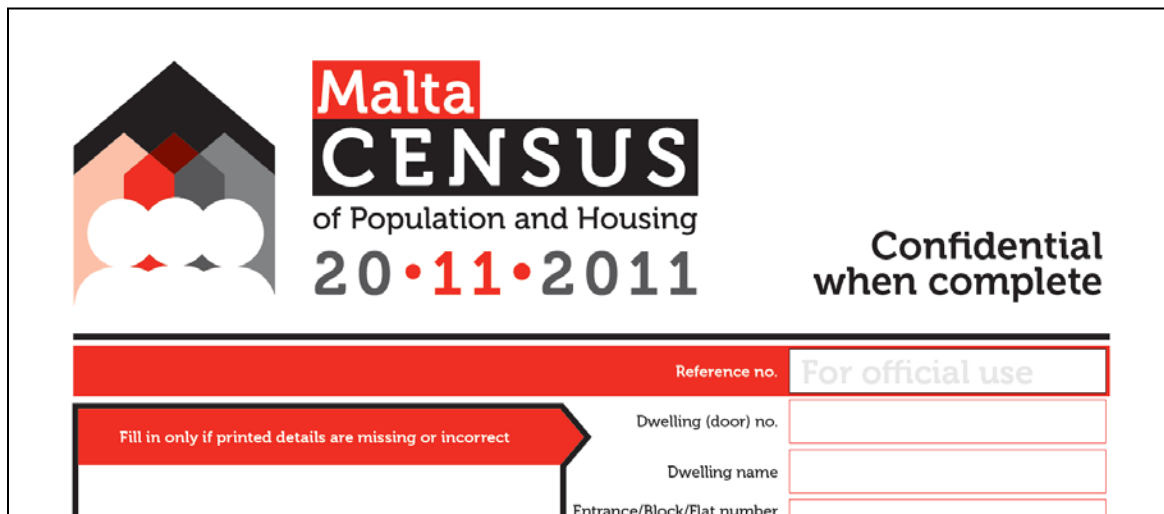
Regulation framework laid out variables to be included across all countries with respect to the census.

Apart from this, survey questionnaire developed after:

- Assessment of user needs
- Appreciation of the political scenario to pre-empt policy and strategy needs

Prioritisation key to ensure respondent burden kept to the minimum.

Available in MT and EN.



Malta CENSUS
of Population and Housing
20•11•2011

Confidential when complete

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METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

Traditional approach used applied to enumeration areas. PAPI data collection.

The traditional approach was favoured since at present administrative sources have some limitations with respect to:

- coverage (under and over coverage depending on group) e.g. lack of deregistration from ID system may lead to over coverage
- completeness (administrative sources may lack detail)
- sampling method approach does not work because of small population size

For individuals in households

- Enumeration areas defined and assigned to interviewers.
- Questionnaires distributed through postal method to all households.
- Interviewers collect questionnaires/assist with compilation on census day (11.11.2011)

For institutions

Co-ordination with institution administrators. List of residents provided and collection conducted on census day.

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

Post-Census

Overall response was >90% however an extensive post-census exercise was conducted to capture that remaining 10%.

- Continuous follow up, up to 9 months post census to receive a reply (all options exhausted, even legal).
- Minority of persons assigned residence status through auxiliary sources (administrative registries etc).

FOCUS ON MIGRATION

Questionnaire

Questions specific to migration were those recommended in the regulation

1. Country of birth
2. Maltese citizenship
3. Method to gain Maltese citizenship
4. Non-national citizenship
5. Resident outside Malta last 12 months
6. Year of arrival in Malta

Data Collection

Data collection procedures applied did not vary.

For migrants there was greater need to have:

- Translators
- In rare cases proxies to fill part of questionnaire
- In rare cases sourcing data from institution databases.

FOCUS ON MIGRATION

Lessons Learnt

The demographic profile of Malta has become more complex especially when compared to the last census period. Some lessons learnt:

1. Cultural barriers
2. Language barriers
3. Fear and resistance to participate
4. Post-census high cost for low returns on migrant population

Data needs and data processing also impacted by increased migration:

1. Need to explain distinction between naturalisation and registration
2. Changing world geography impacts coding of countries
3. Revisit need to include other questions e.g. ethnic groups

CONCLUSION

Census approach provided an accurate stock take at one instant in time ensuring good coverage of the population when considering previously highlighted limitations of administrative sources.

The present drawback is that detailed analysis for migration statistics is only available for the census year.

Improving coverage and data collection from administrative sources is the target; as the trend moves towards register based methods beyond the next census cycle (2021).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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