



Malta



Background With a civilization that dates back thousands of years, Malta boasts some of the oldest megalithic sites in the world.

Situated in the center of the Mediterranean, Malta's islands have long served as a strategic military asset, with the islands at various times falling under the control of the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Moors, Normans, Sicilians, Spanish, Knights of St. John, and French. Most recently a British colony (since 1814), Malta gained its independence in 1964 and declared itself a republic 10 years later. While under British rule, the island staunchly supported the UK through both world wars. Since the mid-1980s, the island has transformed itself into a freight transshipment point, a financial center, and a tourist destination, as its key industries moved toward more service-oriented activities. Malta became an EU member in 2004 and joined the eurozone in 2008.

Capital name: Valletta

Government type parliamentary republic

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

Population total: 469,730 (2024 est.)

Population growth rate 0.51% (2024 est.)

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

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

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

Executive branch chief of state: President Myriam Spiteri DEBONO (since 4 April 2024)
head of government: Prime Minister Robert ABELA (since 13 January 2020)

Legislative branch legislature name: House of Representatives (Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati)

Diplomatic representation in the US chief of mission: Ambassador Godfrey C. XUEREB (since 19 April 2023)

Diplomatic representation from the US chief of mission: Ambassador Somers FARKAS (since 26 November 2025)

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

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$34.731 billion (2024 est.) \$32.774 billion (2023 est.) \$30.689 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$60,500 (2024 est.) \$59,300 (2023 est.) \$57,800 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$29.245 billion (2024 est.) \$26.647 billion (2023 est.) \$23.566 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	Nigeria 28%, Germany 10%, China 6%, Singapore 5%, Hong Kong 4% (2023)
Exports - commodities	refined petroleum, integrated circuits, packaged medicine, ships, postage stamps/documents (2023)
Imports	\$24.505 billion (2024 est.) \$22.637 billion (2023 est.) \$21.406 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	Italy 18%, China 10%, Germany 8%, France 7%, Turkey 7% (2023)
Imports - commodities	ships, refined petroleum, integrated circuits, aircraft, packaged medicine (2023)

Population Pyramid

