

# CRIME MALTA OBSERVATORY

## ANNUAL CRIME REVIEW

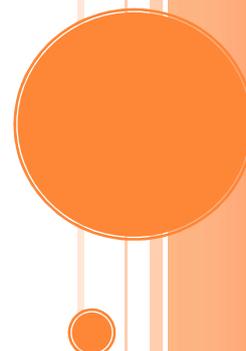
*Year 2020*

2020 crime figures depict a year-on-year reduction in crime reports which changed the opportunity crime structure of the Maltese Islands; a year steeped in societal crime inversion and the minimization of crime opportunities brought about by a unique pandemic. The year 2020 experienced a reduction of tourists visiting the Islands, the closure of recreational areas, diminishing crowds and the self-closure of citizens. Such resulted in a lesser number of crimes but also a reflection of how the national crime structure is depicted without the advent of tourism and in turn less chances for offenders to partake to. In contrast, crimes committed in virtual and domestic domains took on a new realism. 2020 depicted a decrease in the number of crimes over the previous year dropping by 16% or 2,502 incidences, this being the largest decrease since 1998 when the new incident reporting system was upgraded. This takes the Maltese crime scenario to the 2009 level, which serves as the baseline prior to the increase in crimes exhibited from that year. The Maltese offence profile has maintained and refocused the past years' shift from a public-oriented to a personal-target structure with an increasing focus on financial-related offences. Displacement is also very evident as the migration of crimes from one zone to another becomes more pronounced, particularly in the Gozitan Island, the latter due to an increasingly dynamic and diverse societal change. With a prolonged entity closure, San Giljan's rate of crime dropped by 48% between 2019 and 2020, falling from a height of 19.5% of all crimes in 2012 to 9.1% in 2019 and to 5.6% in 2020. This even when considering that January had seen a generic crime increase. In terms of societal reaction, moral panic still plays a part in rendering a perception that crime is increasing, when the facts depict a stabilised scenario.

**Professor Saviour Formosa**

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# CRIMEMALTA ANNUAL CRIME REVIEW

## Year 2020

*Note: The 2020 report has to be read in context: there is no comparable year with which to analyse the year's reported crime data unless one travels back in time before tourism, migration and the digital domain too precedence. This Crime Report resides in its own surreal context: a context steeped in a global pandemic that reconvened societal norms and severed links and relationships paramount in the understanding of crime.*

In 2008, CrimeMalta was launched as a conveyor for crime research and reporting in the Maltese Islands. As from 2017, the annual report is being published through the enhanced CrimeMalta Observatory initiative, which is targeted to expand its reporting to other areas inclusive of environmental, locational and other societal domains. The annual report covers a factual crime review of Malta's interactive spatial technologies and spatial statistics such as published in this year's annual report for 2020.

This report covers the 2020 annual statistics as elicited from an analysis of reported crime, incarceration statistics and spatial analysis. The outputs below pertain to the closed 'accounts' for 2020 crime.

In terms of the European comparison, Malta fares as a very safe place, well below the EU28's average in all serious crimes covering Assaults, Burglary, Drugs, Homicide, Rape, Robberies, Sexual Assault and Sexual offences as published by the UNODC. The only remaining main category that was higher than the EU average over the years pertained to Theft which high rate was accentuated by one sub-category that had dominated crime reporting in Malta over the past years: that pertaining to pickpocketing. 2020 experienced a 70% decrease (following the near-halving of the phenomenon in the previous years) in pick-pocketing and the least since at least 2004.

In summary, at **13,087 reported offences**, crime analysis shows a significant reduction over the recent years' crime offences, evidenced through a decrease in crime reports over the 2020 period comprising an absolute **decrease of 2,502 crimes or 16%**. This is another decline from the previous four years' decrease that comprised an absolute **decrease of 4,211 crimes to a combined drop of 24.3%** of crimes **since 2016**. This combined rapid decrease is due to the fact that the previous entire crime scenario had been absorbed by a single phenomenon falling within the Theft category, which phenomenon had grown by 5 times between 2009 and 2016 but Malta had experienced a **90.1% drop** as from 2016: **Pickpocketing** has decreased by 577 offences in 2020 dropping from 819 cases in 2019 to **242 reports** in 2020, a year-on-year drop of 70%. **Most other categories of theft have decreased** apart from armed robbery, theft from building sites (a reflection where such activity was one of the few still in operation during the *covid-19* pandemic), theft from factories by employees, theft from vacant factories, theft from farms and fields, theft from government buildings, residence exterior and vacant residences, and theft from sea craft.

Theft from occupied residences dropped for the lowest time since 2007, having experienced a drop of 38% or 243 incidences, again reflecting the 2020 scenario where most persons remained at home following the initiation of the pandemic counter-measures.

The opportunities for external societal crime in 2020 were reduced drastically, such that arson, attempted offences, bodily harm, damages, forgery, fraud (slightly), sexual offences, theft and violence against public officer all experienced decreases ranging up to 31%.

However, the new societal dynamic resulted in an increase across the other main categories of crime, which can be distinctly separated into two phenomena: those reflecting actual public-reports and those where the Malta Police were highly effective in their output. The latter includes drugs, immigration, money laundering, perjury and false swearing, prostitution and terrorist financing. The former categories of reported crimes which increased include abuse of public authority, computer misuse, crimes against public peace and against the administration of justice, domestic, gender based violence, homicide, abandonment of child, pretended rights, threats and private violence as well as violation of places of confinement.

Note that in 2020, **Gender-based violence** was introduced as a new category, whilst infanticide/abandonment of child has finally been separated as distinct categories, which figures had distorted the reality depicted by such a scenario. Unauthorised access in restricted areas was listed for the first time in 2020.

**Theft** comprises **35%** of all offences reported to the Police, down from 42.5% in 2019, the lowest since at least 2004 driven by the relative victim-absence and by the positive 70% decline in pickpocketing, though retaining the second lowest in 15 years when the rate was that of 62.4% (2004) of all reported offences. The fact that tourists were not serving as potential victims/offenders accelerated this decrease, however the main conveyor, bus-routes, was still an active component of societal movement, thus the decrease should also be seen in light of mitigation and awareness.

The second highest reported offence, **Damages**, has again seen a slight decrease to 24.5% of all offences in 2020, down from 25.3% in 2019.

In third place, consonant with the previous years, **Domestic Violence has again increased from 1,326 in 2019 to 1,645 (12.6% of all 2020 cases). This massive 24% (319 cases) increase** over the previous year reflects the vulnerability of victims' situations exacerbated by a pandemic that served to doubly victims vulnerable persons. It is to be noted that of 319 cases, **316** related to **Psychological Harm**. With nowhere to go, services curtailed, work pushed towards the same place of confinement and limited escape from such residences, victims experienced incidents as never reported to date. Increases occurred in psychological harm and slight bodily harm with physical force.

Once again positioned at a 4<sup>th</sup> ranking, **Fraud** experienced a decrease of 1% (10 cases) over the previous year reaching **811 cases** in 2020.

**Bodily Harm, which had registered a year on year decrease** initiated in 2009 dropping to 5% in the previous years, has reached the lowest number since at least 2004 down by 148 offences (**16%**) to a figure of 777 cases in 2020. Whilst, overall, this points to a steadily more tolerant and less violent society in the social realm, the pandemic scenario has negated the existence of the relative opportunities and commonalities that are related to such cases, such as recreational activities.

These 5 categories of crimes comprise 84.2% of all crime reports.

## A COVID-19, a Systemic Shock and a Retargeted Malta Police

2020 is highly interesting in criminological terms. It laid bare the realities of Maltese society that had been obscured by growing numbers of incoming tourists, which situation was causing a focus on crime that clashed a two different worlds: the residential component (half a million) and the tourism component (circa 3 million). When the latter component evaporated in 2020, the stark realities of Maltese offence effervesced to the top. And the picture is not a pleasant one.

As described in previous reports, the foundations that comprise social structures known as **PREFE** (Politics, Religion, Economy, Family and Education) have experienced rapid change such that the impact of values and norms becomes less tangible. Whilst the Political or legal measures have evolved and security implementation has increased in the social arenas resulting in the reduction of such offences as theft from residences, damages, bodily harm and prostitution, the strongest pillar pertaining to the family or household has become increasingly fragile such that the incidence of the personal-security incidents has grown dramatically. This is reflected through domestic violence, irrespective of form or method, whether psychological or physical. The inclusion of Technology as a new foundational element is essential as it posits scenarios where crime has migrated to the digital domains, both in commissioning and investigation: **PREFET**.

**Domestic Violence**, threats and private violence, pornography increased not only in ratio terms but in actual cases, indicating a drastic increase in personal violence.

As Economic measures increasingly offer most offenders an opportunity to partake to crime when the rewards far exceed the sanctions, offences such as theft emanating from the invasion of person-spaces increase as they offer a quick intake of funds. The fact that the recreation and leisure activities offer ripe ground for offending particularly where the recreational zones are crowded and person space is not possible, the opportunity for dexterous hands offers a high rate of return. This time round, the loss of economic activity, unheard of in recent decades, has in turn **rendered the main crime attractor null: as tourism receded, crimes took an ominous turn and personal crime took precedence.**

Incidentally, the Maltese population has again experienced a major shifting in terms of structure, where the population for early 2020 was 514,000. The drop in crimes created a reality that pushed down Malta's crime rate to **25.4 crimes per 1000** persons, down from **42 crimes per 1000 in 2015 and 34 crimes per 1000 in 2018**, rendering the islands an even safer place to reside in. Thus in terms of total reported crime, Malta is a safer place. As total crimes decrease, those reported show an actual more dangerous place for victims: offences related to the private zones, as against the social areas, have relatively and realistically increased.

The Social Areas, previously dominated by crime committed in the public zone, have in turn become safer. This is where the entity responsible for safety and security: the **Malta Police Force**, emerged resurgent and came through for society, both in its strategic preparedness and its implementation of its covid-19 measures that **rendered the country safe during the difficult period of closure.**

This impact was not incidental: intervention by the CEO and eventually **Commissioner of Police Angelo Gafa**, the launching of a **Transformation Strategy** six years in the making, legislative changes, a radical shakeup in senior management and the effort to bring on board all officers, whilst affecting a move towards ownership by all officers within a citizen-officer dynamic. On an international scale, the Police affected changes that rendered deliverables to such initiatives as **GRECO, Venice Commission and MONEYVAL**. The changes affected rendered returns in crime reporting and activities in such offences as **Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing**.

Policing and Community intervention was efficiently rendered safer by the Malta Police through its **Community Policing** initiative, localities' intervention and a **Crime Prevention Strategy**. The setting up of specialised services such as **Victim Support Unit** which is morphing to a higher service was cognizant of the realities of spiraling domestic violence.

It is imperative that **as tourism returns**, the entities are prepared for the eventual surge and its mitigation. As detailed in previous reports, such a dynamic society needs to focus further on this phenomenon and change accordingly, even in terms of educational campaigns that target both citizens and visitors. This is achieved through an understanding and affective action towards building awareness scales on the measurement of such offences, the relative offender-victim dynamics, the flow of goods and the offence displacement when action is taken by the state and its operational arms.

In terms of the loss of relative offence volume that **San Giljan** experienced over the past years, going down from **19.5% in 2012** to 9.1% in 2019 **to 5.6% in 2020**, the lowest in the last decades. This unrealistic scenario will see an upsurge as tourism and recreation return to the tourism zone, however, the trend decline is expected to continue as supervision and smart measures are implemented. In 2020 the previous years' main crime component was further mitigated, as pick-pocketing was **sheared again by 577 cases or 70%** down to 242 cases from 819 in 2019. Highest was **2,447 in 2016**.

Crimes related to bars, restaurants and hotels, beaches and related recreational areas experienced drops up to 80% of their previous crime component.

## CRIME MALTA BACKGROUND TEXT: MORPHING OF THE MALTESE CRIME SCENARIO

Offences in the Maltese Islands have morphed from a multi-thematic to a spatial structure:

*From a Social-Space scenario to a Private-Space scenario now in full frontal mode as the external offence element dissipated and laid bare the realities of Maltese society.*

Whilst homicides once again took media precedence, such was not based on volume but on harsh methodology and location. The method, particularly high profile double murder in Sliema raised concern and increased calls for mitigation. In fact, such was the major contribution to the perceived fear of crime as published in conjunction with the perception of corruption and bribery. All other perceptions report low or very low concern on both violent and non-violent crime.

The drastic realities that murder brings to the fore were **mitigated by the effective closure of all the 2020 homicide cases**: a reality that exposes the drive to solve crime that should render society's perception of safety and security to higher levels. The latter escaped the Malta Police's efforts for the recent years due to turmoil and perceived lack of trust. 2020 depicted a different scenario, one that if maintained will uptick the national perception of risk towards a safer society. This would in turn be reflected in the national and international surveys.

The past year has again seen an increased awareness process on Domestic Violence as well as the uptake of initiatives projects that study the phenomenon. The Crime Prevention Strategy (Formosa Pace, 2017) sought for a focus on raising awareness towards the mitigation of crime that integrates further community policing aimed at decreasing the social-space offences further, have been taken up by the relevant entities. The need to focus on the movement away from the perception that the mitigation is simply a role that the Police Force must be solely responsible for is erroneous, but one needs to view such as rather a call for collective Social Responsibility.

The reduction in crime of **16% points** towards both awareness and on-the-ground mitigation by the forces. Whilst the larger part is due to the pandemic effect, the expected crime reduction is inherent of social change and will be reviewed once tourism returns and comparable situations are available.

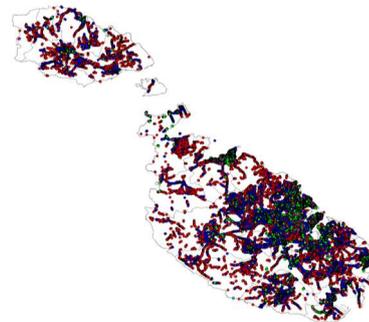
Previous CrimeMalta reports pointed towards a depiction where Social Capital is provided through the PREFET structures, of which the Police Force form a part. However, the essential aspects that will pivot towards offence mitigation lies in the enhancement of Social Cohesion through awareness raising, values redefinition, self-respect and the will to report and stop offences. Such a process requires a sea change in both the Police Force and relative enforcement agencies remit as well as civil society through NGOs and self-help groups. The instances where such institutions were attacked on a constant basis have eroded the perception and perceived trust, which the entities need to work on in order to achieve both reduction in offences as well as the an increase of knowledge on the actual

crime situation based on facts as against social-media depictions or rash statements that go counter to the crime statistics.

One cannot continue to observe crime as the arena for uniformed officers but one where such are enhanced through social and publicity activity run by social entities to ensure knowledge on crime, rescue and support functions as well as personal safety and security increase. It is imperative that offences are viewed as a personal domain issue as against that pertaining to the police. The latter are tasked with securing social spaces but the individual is tasked with securing their private spaces. This is to be enhanced through the implementation of measures emanating from the **Crime Prevention Strategy**.

On a regional/locality level, crime reports need to be taken seriously as they posit a comparative approach to research methodology that would allow one to make information-based policy and in effect take realistic measures to mitigate crime fluctuations.

Criminologist Professor Saviour Formosa ([www.crimemalta.com](http://www.crimemalta.com)) has been publishing crime statistics and reviews since 2008 through the analysis of crime trends in Malta as of 1949 and through spatio-temporal analysis as from 1998 (**367,574 offences**). Crime studies in Malta comprise 39 main categories of crime and 229 sub categories.



The studies take the form of a rate analysis, as against a count analysis, through the study of a RISC assessment (**Relative Index of Spatial Crime**), trend analysis and spatio-statistical analysis.

The RISC categories that show which towns suffer most from crime, or inversely are safest in Malta and Gozo, can be found below.

Over the years a spatial depiction was developed to aid users to visualise crime through maps, where due to the increasingly available mobile technologies, users can interact with their location and identify safety zones as well as offence areas. The 2020 report comprises the publication of interactive maps highlighting graduated maps, heat maps as well as variable high-level cluster maps that users can review and understand safety and security in the Maltese Islands. The categories comprise Main Category Offences, Sub-Category Offences and Heat.

Refer to the CrimeMalta website for interactive data: [www.crimemalta.com](http://www.crimemalta.com)



## FIGURES TO PONDER

- **Crimes that Increased** (in descending percentage change order): perjury and false swearing, immigration, abuse of public authority, prostitution, money laundering, homicide, violation of places of confinement, pornography, computer misuse, abandonment of child, crimes against public peace, pretended rights, domestic violence, threats and private violence and drugs.
- **Crimes that Decreased** (in descending percentage change order): theft, attempted offences, forgery, damage, bodily harm, sexual offences, violence against public officers, arson and fraud.
- **Thefts** have seen a drastic increase overall, with a drop of 31% or 2053 incidents reported. Interestingly, this decrease comes at a time when pick-pocketing, which was the heavyweight category for all reported crimes has again experienced a 70% decrease in crime when compared to 2019, a drop of 577 offences. 36 categories of theft experienced a decline whilst 9 increased, mainly armed robbery, theft from building sites and from factories by employees, vacant factories, farms and fields, government buildings, residence exterior and vacant residences, as well as theft from seacraft. Theft comprises 35% of all offences, a decrease of 7.6% (2,053 cases) over the previous year's increase of 2% from 2018 to 2019.
- **Damages** decreased by 19% or 736 cases in 2020, comprising 24.5% of all offences down from 25.3% in 2018, decreasing through Involuntary Damage by Hit and Run incidents (21%) and Wilful Damage by Other (18%).
- **Bodily Harm** stood at 777 cases in 2020, down from 925 cases in 2019 which results in a significant 16% decrease, reflective of the closure of recreational zones, paramount to serving as opportunity zones for such activities. The main decrease was related to *Slight Bodily Harm by Physical Force* (20% increase). Bodily harm has dropped to 5<sup>th</sup> place, following Theft (31% of all reported offences), Damages (24.5%), Domestic violence (12.6%), Fraud (6.2%) and Bodily Harm (5.9%).
- **Fraud** has experienced a slight 1% decrease following a drastic 20% decrease between 2018 and 2019. The decrease reflects the loss of retail and commercial

activity during the 2020 pandemic. Fraud still maintains a hold as one of the top 5 crimes in the Maltese Islands League of Tables, taking the 4<sup>th</sup> place above Bodily Harm.

- **Computer** related crime experienced a 44% increase over the previous year, mainly through Unauthorised Access. This offence has reached 270 reported offences.
- **Drugs** reporting increased by 6% (an increase of 11 cases), increasing through most of the sub-categories. This reflects Malta Police intervention, as well as customs and other agencies' effectiveness.
- **Domestic Violence** increased drastically by 24% (319 cases) from 2019, reaching the highest ever 12.6% weight of all reported crimes, since the 2007 changes in the law. The main increase occurred in *Psychological Harm* (316 cases – a 46% increase over 2019 to 2020) and slight increases in Slight Bodily Harm with Physical Force and Stalking.
- **Threats and Public Violence** increased by 20% in 2020, (60 cases) mainly through *blackmail, extortion and private violence*.
- **Sexual Offences** decreased by 14% (21 cases) in 2020, reversing a year-on-year increase initiated since 2015, reflective of the pandemic situation. In 2020 all sub-categories except for *indecent exposure* decreased.
- **Violence against Public Officers** decreased by 14% to 159 cases down from 185 in 2019, a steady year-on-year decrease since 2017.
- **Theft from Occupied Residences** decreased by 243 cases or 38% reflective of the pandemic situation. Theft from exterior and vacant residences increased by 17% and 44% respectively.
- **Pretended Rights** which had been recorded as a separate category in 2017 registered a 25% increase in reports amounting to 228 cases up from 183 cases in 2019.
- **Money Laundering** as recorded for the first time as a distinct category in 2017, registered a 192% increase in 2020, reaching 105 cases, up from 36 cases in 2019 and 33 cases in 2018. It is to be noted that this increase relates to the better capturing of reports by the Malta Police in the reporting system.
- A new category, **Gender-Based Violence** was introduced in 2020, when 2 cases were registered.

## Temporal Statistics

In terms of Temporal statistics, covid-19 played a major part in that whilst January experienced an increase of 11% as against 2019, followed by a drastic decline across all months of the year. March, April and May declined by 27% whilst the rest of the year ranged from 12% to 20% as compared to the previous year, except for February which registered a 3% decline reflective of the covid19 closure.

**Monday** remained the main attractor for most incidences. Weekdays and weekends experienced declines with the weekend declining by 19% as against the weekday 14%

In terms of time of time, decreases occurred throughout. As the recreational areas declines in attraction value, main offences occurred between **08:00 and 10:00**. Nights were safer as crimes migrated to other domains, reflective of the categories where crime increased as the societal dynamics changed.

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## PRISONS IN MALTA

Prison numbers registered the highest ever figures in recorded history, reaching 908 residents on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020. On the last Friday 25 December 2020, 868 residents were registered.

CCF remains inundated with a high number of inmates, held in the Island's only prison that comprises services for both sexes, all categories of offences, all ages, national and international provenance, sentenced and remanded offenders, amongst other categories. Youths have been transferred to Mtahleb.

As from 2012, CrimeMalta's research process was also enhanced to include the prison population statistics, with data going back to 2001.

Some statistics recorded on a Friday base-date:

- The CCF Psychological **Capacity Threshold** of 600 inmates was exceeded for the first time at the end of September 2012.
- The CCF Population as at **25<sup>th</sup> December 2020** (last Friday): 868 (811 males and 57 females);
- The CCF Population as at the **highest ever recorded Friday** – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020: 908 which is 11.4% higher compared to the previous highest registered on the in 2018.
- The CrimeMalta website depicts an interactive graduated map showing the countries that most residents hail from ranging from the **1950s to the 2010s**.
- In 2020, residents hailed from 62 countries excluding Malta, whilst the 2010s experienced residents from **100 foreign countries**.
- In 2020, the **Maltese component was that of 38%** of all residents in CCF, whilst the **foreign component equaled 62%**.

Link to CCF page: <http://www.crimemalta.com/ccf.html>

## RISC MODEL: LEAGUE TABLES FOR 2020

As part of a review of RISC Modelling for the Maltese Islands, a number of analytical studies have been carried out for the period between 1998 and 2020. Domestic Violence and Commercial Activity-related RISC has been included as from 2015.

Note: The national rate of offences, which is calculated as the observed offences as against those which should potentially occur in those areas under study.

### Grand Total Offences

In terms of Grand Total Offences, the highest category, that ranking at 5 times or higher than the national rate, experienced no localities membership. At a rate between 2 and 5 times the national rate, Floriana took pole position above Valletta, Mdina, Marsa, San Giljan and iz-Zebbug Gozo,

At a rate between the national up to twice that rate one can find San Pawl il-Bahar, Bormla, Pieta, Hamrun, Ta' Xbiex, Msida, Munxar, Paola, Luqa, Gzira, Gudja, Birgu, Ghajnsielem, Sliema, Isla, Marsaxlokk, Santa Venera, Qormi, Marsascala, Mellieha and Birzebugia.

All the other Councils host a lower that national rate, albeit none have a Zero RISC.

### Theft from Residences

Whilst this category of offences registered no councils having over 5 times the national rate of offences, in 2020, the relative RISC still appears for Msida, Tarxien, San Pawl il-Bahar, Ta' Xbiex, Pieta and Bormla, the latter registered within the 2x-5x RISC. The rate between the national up to twice that rate category includes Marsaxlokk, Hamrun, Valletta, Sannat, Paola, Birzebugia, Munxar, Sweiqi, Gudja, Isla, Ghasri, Luqa, Marsascala, Gzira, Balzan, Marsa, Santa Lucija, Lija and Mellieha. In contrast, most other zones have lower than average rates and that Fontana registered zero residential offences in 2020.

### Theft of and from Vehicles

During 2020, Marsa took top spot, followed by Hamrun, Gudja and Bormla as the highest RISC areas where one's car could be vandalised, broken into and/or stolen, which towns host between 2 and 5 times the national rate. Note that these towns host parking and transport-related activities that attract offenders to high-volume and relatively less monitored opportunities. Mdina, Mtarfa, Qala, Ghasri and Fontana hosted zero offences.

Council
FLORIANA
VALLETTA
MDINA
MARSA
SAN GILJAN
ZEBBUG (Ghawdex)
SAN PAWL IL-BAHAR
BORMLA
PIETA
HAMRUN
TA' XBIEX
MSIDA
MUNXAR
PAOLA
LUQA
GZIRA
GUDJA
BIRGU
GHAJNSIELEM
SLIEMA
ISLA
MARSAXLOKK
SANTA VENERA
QORMI
MARSASCALA
MELLIEHA
BIRZEBBUGIA
GHASRI
RABAT (Victoria)
XGHAJRA
SAN LAWRENZ
KALKARA
ZABBAR
MGARR
TARXIEN
SAFI
FGURA
ZEJTUN
BIRKIRKARA
KIRKOP
MOSTA
XEWKJIA
PEMBROKE
BALZAN
NAXXAR
SAN GWANN
ZEBBUG (Malta)
GHAXAQ
SANNAT
ZURRIEQ
RABAT (Malta)
XAGHRA
GHARB
NADUR
ATTARD
SWIEQI
KERCEM
SANTA LUCIJA
LJIA
GHARGHUR
SIGGIEWI
QRENDI
IKLIN
MQABBA
MTARFA
QALA
FONTANA
DINGLI

## Domestic Violence

Domestic violence reports pertain to stalking, slight bodily harm, grievous bodily harm and psychological harm. Munxar, Bormla, Floriana and Isla host between 2 and 5 the national rate. With diminishing rates of RISC, it is imperative to note that a significant number of councils exhibit some form of domestic violence that is above the national rate (yellow in the RISC maps depicted in the CrimeMalta website) at 1-2 times the rate. In effect all towns have incident reporting but may register lower than national rates.

At the other end of the scale, San Lawrenz registered zero offences, a phenomenon also found in rural and small areas where the changes in legislation may yet have an effect in terms of encouraging victims to report.

## Commercial Activity-related

There were no localities hosting more than 5 times the national rate. Towns that host between 2 and 5 times the national rate of offences comprise San Lawrenz, Gudja, San Giljan, Kirkop, Ta' Xbiex and Pembroke, indicative of their proximity to the main economic centres such as the San Giljan recreational zone. The least RISC registering towns at zero RISC include Xewkija, Qrendi, Dingli, Nadur, Santa Lucija, Fontana, Xghajra, Birgu, Gharghur, Isla, Lija, Sannat, Kercem, Qala, Ghasri and Gharb. This reflects the pandemic closure in action as retail and economic structures slowed or closed.

Grand Total	Residential	Vehicle	Domestic	Commercial
Council	Council	Council	Council	Council
FLORIANA	MSIDA	MARSA	MUNXAR	SAN LAWRENZ
VALLETTA	TARXIEN	HAMRUN	BORMLA	GUDJA
MDINA	SAN PAWL IL-BAHAR	GUDJA	FLORIANA	SAN GILJAN
MARSA	TA' XBIEX	BORMLA	ISLA	KIRKOP
SAN GILJAN	PIETA	QORMI	ZEBBUG (Ghawdex)	TA' XBIEX
ZEBBUG (Ghawdex)	BORMLA	PAOLA	PIETA	PEMBROKE
SAN PAWL IL-BAHAR	MARSAXLOKK	SAN PAWL IL-BAHAR	BIRZEBBUGIA	SAN PAWL IL-BAHAR
BORMLA	HAMRUN	FLORIANA	MARSA	GZIRA
PIETA	VALLETTA	PIETA	MARSAXLOKK	SLIEMA
HAMRUN	SANNAT	VALLETTA	LUQA	BIRKIRKARA
TA' XBIEX	PAOLA	MSIDA	ZABBAR	MSIDA
MSIDA	BIRZEBBUGIA	ZABBAR	MARSASCALA	HAMRUN
MUNXAR	MUNXAR	KALKARA	KIRKOP	QORMI
PAOLA	SWIEQI	FGURA	SANTA LUCIJA	SWIEQI
LUQA	GUDJA	SANTA VENERA	VALLETTA	PAOLA
GZIRA	ISLA	MARSAXLOKK	BIRGU	MELLIEHA
GUDJA	GHASRI	GZIRA	MTARFA	SAN GWANN
BIRGU	LUQA	BIRGU	KERCCEM	SANTA VENERA
GHAJNSIELEM	MARSASCALA	XGHAJRA	FGURA	PIETA
SLIEMA	GZIRA	LUQA	MGARR	MTARFA
ISLA	BALZAN	IKLIN	HAMRUN	BIRZEBBUGIA
MARSAXLOKK	MARSA	ZEBBUG (Malta)	XGHAJRA	FGURA
SANTA VENERA	SANTA LUCIJA	SAN GILJAN	QORMI	VALLETTA
QORMI	LJJA	SAN LAWRENZ	ZURRIEQ	ZEJTUN
MARSASCALA	MELLIEHA	ISLA	ZEJTUN	BALZAN
MELLIEHA	SAN GILJAN	TARXIEN	QRENDI	MUNXAR
BIRZEBBUGIA	MGARR	MARSASCALA	MDINA	MOSTA
GHASRI	SAFI	ZEJTUN	SANTA VENERA	GHAJNSIELEM
RABAT (Victoria)	QORMI	BIRKIRKARA	PAOLA	MARSA
XGHAJRA	KIRKOP	MOSTA	TARXIEN	NAXXAR
SAN LAWRENZ	SANTA VENERA	BIRZEBBUGIA	GHAJNSIELEM	TARXIEN
KALKARA	GHAXAQ	ZEBBUG (Ghawdex)	MQABBA	MDINA
ZABBAR	PEMBROKE	ZURRIEQ	TA' XBIEX	MARSASCALA
MGARR	ZEBBUG (Ghawdex)	SAN GWANN	ZEBBUG (Malta)	BORMLA
TARXIEN	NAXXAR	SIGGIEWI	SANNAT	ZURRIEQ
SAFI	SAN GWANN	SLIEMA	SIGGIEWI	SAFI
FGURA	ZEBBUG (Malta)	MELLIEHA	SAN PAWL IL-BAHAR	ATTARD
ZEJTUN	KERCCEM	BALZAN	GHAXAQ	RABAT (Victoria)
BIRKIRKARA	FGURA	KIRKOP	GUDJA	ZABBAR
KIRKOP	QALA	RABAT (Malta)	PEMBROKE	GHAXAQ
MOSTA	RABAT (Victoria)	XEWKJA	MOSTA	FLORIANA
XEWKJA	SLIEMA	MGARR	NADUR	KALKARA
PEMBROKE	BIRKIRKARA	TA' XBIEX	SAFI	MGARR
BALZAN	MOSTA	PEMBROKE	MELLIEHA	MQABBA
NAXXAR	FLORIANA	NAXXAR	KALKARA	IKLIN
SAN GWANN	GHARB	GHAXAQ	ATTARD	ZEBBUG (Ghawdex)
ZEBBUG (Malta)	QRENDI	ATTARD	BIRKIRKARA	MARSAXLOKK
GHAXAQ	BIRGU	XAGHRA	MSIDA	ZEBBUG (Malta)
SANNAT	GHAJNSIELEM	NADUR	QALA	XAGHRA
ZURRIEQ	IKLIN	SAFI	GHASRI	RABAT (Malta)
RABAT (Malta)	ZABBAR	GHARGHUR	XEWKJA	SIGGIEWI
XAGHRA	XEWKJA	GHAJNSIELEM	FONTANA	LUQA
GHARB	XGHAJRA	RABAT (Victoria)	SAN GWANN	XEWKJA
NADUR	SIGGIEWI	KERCCEM	RABAT (Victoria)	QRENDI
ATTARD	XAGHRA	SANNAT	BALZAN	DINGLI
SWIEQI	NADUR	SWIEQI	GZIRA	NADUR
KERCCEM	ZEJTUN	SANTA LUCIJA	NAXXAR	SANTA LUCIJA
SANTA LUCIJA	RABAT (Malta)	MQABBA	GHARGHUR	FONTANA
LJJA	ATTARD	GHARB	SAN GILJAN	XGHAJRA
GHARGHUR	ZURRIEQ	MUNXAR	LJJA	BIRGU
SIGGIEWI	KALKARA	QRENDI	SWIEQI	GHARGHUR
QRENDI	MQABBA	LJJA	GHARB	ISLA
IKLIN	DINGLI	DINGLI	XAGHRA	LJJA
MQABBA	MDINA	MDINA	SLIEMA	SANNAT
MTARFA	MTARFA	MTARFA	IKLIN	KERCCEM
QALA	SAN LAWRENZ	QALA	RABAT (Malta)	QALA
FONTANA	GHARGHUR	GHASRI	DINGLI	GHASRI
DINGLI	FONTANA	FONTANA	SAN LAWRENZ	GHARB

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## REFERENCE MAPS:

Main site: <http://www.crimemalta.com>

- Main Crime Categories Interactive Map:

[http://www.crimemalta.com/QGIS/geopol2019\\_maincateg\\_cluster/geopol2020\\_maincateg.html](http://www.crimemalta.com/QGIS/geopol2019_maincateg_cluster/geopol2020_maincateg.html)

- Main Crime Sub Categories Interactive Map:

[http://www.crimemalta.com/QGIS/geopol2019\\_subcateg\\_cluster/geopol2020\\_subcateg.html](http://www.crimemalta.com/QGIS/geopol2019_subcateg_cluster/geopol2020_subcateg.html)

- Heat Maps:

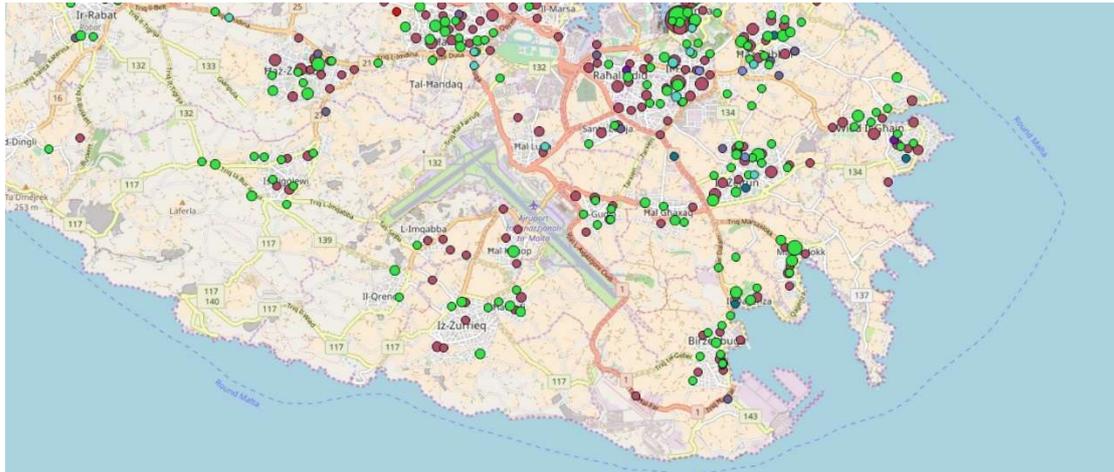
[http://www.crimemalta.com/QGIS/geopol2019\\_subcateg\\_heatmaps/geopol2020\\_heatmaps\\_subcateg.html](http://www.crimemalta.com/QGIS/geopol2019_subcateg_heatmaps/geopol2020_heatmaps_subcateg.html)

- Pickpocketing Maps:

[http://www.crimemalta.com/QGIS/geopol2016\\_20\\_pickpocketing\\_heatmaps/index.html](http://www.crimemalta.com/QGIS/geopol2016_20_pickpocketing_heatmaps/index.html)

Sample Imagery – [www.crimemalta.com](http://www.crimemalta.com)

Interactive Cluster Map



Interactive Heat Map

