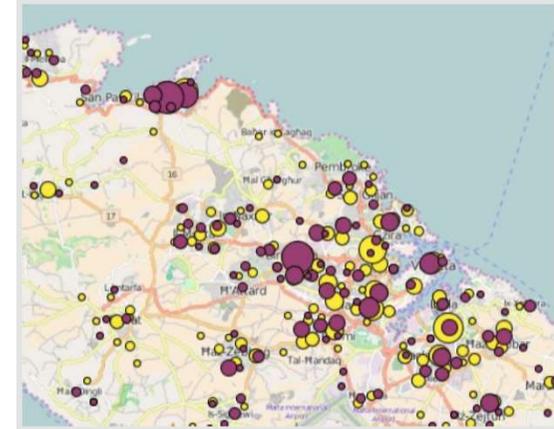


Reported Crime Annual Report Year 2020

Professor Saviour Formosa
CrimeMalta Observatory



Understanding the Situation

Malta in the EU UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

EU country	Crime Rate per 1000 persons
Sweden	138
United Kingdom	110
Finland	100
Belgium	94
Denmark	91
The Netherlands	88
Germany	80
Austria	68
France	63
Luxembourg	59
EU	59
Estonia	42
Hungary	41
Slovenia	41
Italy	39
Czech Republic	36
Poland	36
Malta	34
Lithuania	27
Croatia	23
Spain	22
Latvia	21
Portugal	21
Ireland	20
Slovakia	20
Bulgaria	19
Romania	14
Cyprus	13
Greece	9

Averages over the past years

Malta till 5 years ago averaged 44 crimes per 1000 persons



25.4 in 2020

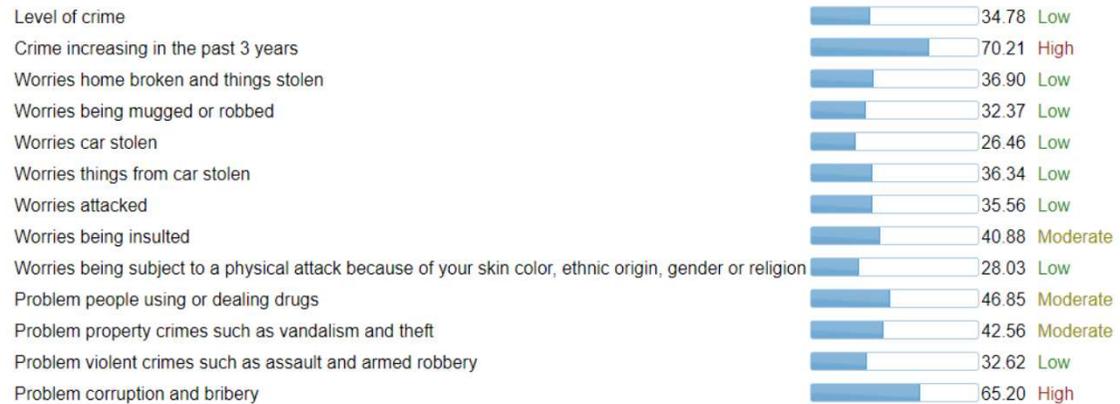
Online Surveys... Perceptions

Numbeo.com

Index ⓘ
Crime Index: 38.93
Safety Index: 61.07



Crime rates in Malta



Safety in Malta



Contributors: 232

Last update: December 2020

These data are based on perceptions of visitors of this website in the past 3 years.

If the value is 0, it means it is perceived as very low, and if the value is 100, it means it is perceived as very high.

Our data for each country are based on all entries from all cities in that country.

Trends What did & What should have occurred

- All figures for 2020 must be read within the **CONTEXT** of a pandemic
- Long-term analysis exhibits a continued generic **trend line decrease** in reported crime with a sharp covid-19 related decrease
- 2020 experienced a **further decrease** where crime reports show a reversal of the 2010-2016 phenomenon – a 16 point decrease
- **13,087** reported offences
- The Maltese **covid19 scenario** rendered an internal reality, such that crime has **reflected** personal-based offences
- The sudden drop in **tourist** arrivals led to a major offence drop in 2020
- Malta's crime rate from **42 crimes per 1000 persons in 2015** to one where the rate has reached **25.4 crimes per 1000 persons in 2020**

Trends

- The Maltese offence profile has changed from a **public-oriented** to a **personal-target** dimension with an increasing focus on **financial-related** offences and **domestic violence**
- Police enhancement resulted in a mitigation shift in **awareness**, **personal safety** and **preparedness** in technological advances.
- Crime is evolving from a **Social-Space** structure to the invasion of **Personal-Space** and into **Virtual-Space**
- The implementation of the 2017 **Crime Prevention Strategy** is a veritable vehicle for such a process
- The implementation of the 2019 **Community Policing** established another first
- The implementation of the 2020 **Malta Police Transformation Strategy 2020-2025** The implementation of the 2019 **Community Policing** set the scene for a radical overhaul of the service

Trends Significant Firsts

- A further major **shedding** of crime by 16% or 2502 cases to a total of 24.3% over 4 years.
- **Displacement** is also very evident as the migration of crimes from one zone to another becomes more pronounced such as the increase in Gozo such as in iz-Zebbug (Marsalforn) and Munxar (Xlendi)
- **San Giljan**'s rate of crime dropped from a height of 19.5 in 2012 to 9.1% in 2018 and a further drop of 5.6% in 2020, the **lowest in the last decades**.
- 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.
- 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.
- Crimes related to **bars, restaurants and hotels, beaches** and related recreational areas experienced drops up to 80% of their previous crime component.
- **Mondays** and the **08:00-10:00** period comprise the main functional temporal aspects of Maltese crime reporting.

Figures

Main Shifts

- 2020: **13,087** reported offences.
- A further decrease in crime reports over the 2019 period comprising an absolute decrease of **2502** crimes (16%)
- Pickpocketing has decreased by 577 offences in 2020 dropping from 819 cases in 2019 to 242 reports in 2020, a **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 during the months 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%.

Figures

Main Shifts

- **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.
- **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..
- **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.
- **Fraud** has experienced a slight 1% decrease following a drastic 20% decrease between 2018 and 2019.
- These 5 categories of crimes **comprise 84.2% of all crime reports**

Figures

Main Shifts

- **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.
- **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.

Figures

Main Shifts Newest on the block

- **Violence against Public Officers** decreased by 14% to 159 cases down from a high of 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.

Morphing of the Maltese Crime Scenario

- From a **Social-Space** scenario to a **Private-Space** scenario to a **Technological-Space**.
- Crime prevention Strategy – a success story in the making.
- The CPS and the Community Policing Initiative pushed the envelope to move away from the perception that the mitigation is **simply a role that the Police force** should fulfil.
- Need for more **Local Councils** and Regions to take up mitigation measures, whilst the **business community** is also encouraged to put in its fair share to reduce offences within their businesses and also to directly **cooperate in structural-financial-operational** activities with the Malta Police Force to help increase safety and security in their areas.
- Move towards **collective Social Responsibility** where **Social Capital** and **Social Cohesion** become norms for change.

Malta Police Force Impact

- 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.

Prisons in Malta

New Numbers New Challenges

- Prison numbers registered the **highest ever figures in recorded history**, reaching 908 residents on the 27th November 2020.
- - The CCF Population as at **25th December 2020** (last Friday): 868 (811 males and 57 females);
- - The CCF Population as at the highest ever recorded Friday – 27th November 2020: 908 which is **11.4% higher** compared to the previous highest registered on the in 2018.
- - 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

calculated as the observed
offences as against those
expected

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,

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.

RISC Model: League Tables for 2020

calculated as the observed
offences as against those
expected

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.

Domestic Violence

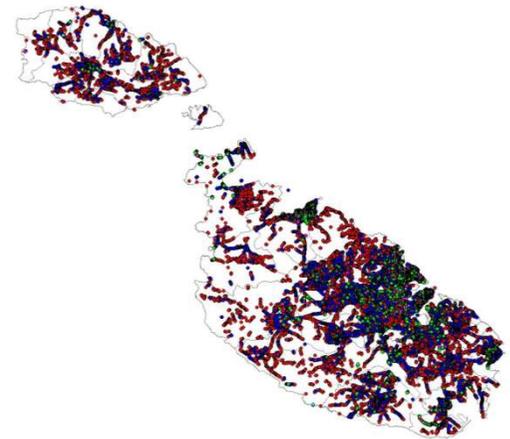
- Domestic violence reports pertain to stalking, slight bodily harm, grievous bodily harm and psychological harm.
- **Munxar, Bormla, Floriana and Isla** host between 2 and 5 the national rate.

RISC Model: League Tables for 2020

calculated as the observed
offences as against those
expected

Commercial Activity-related

- 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.



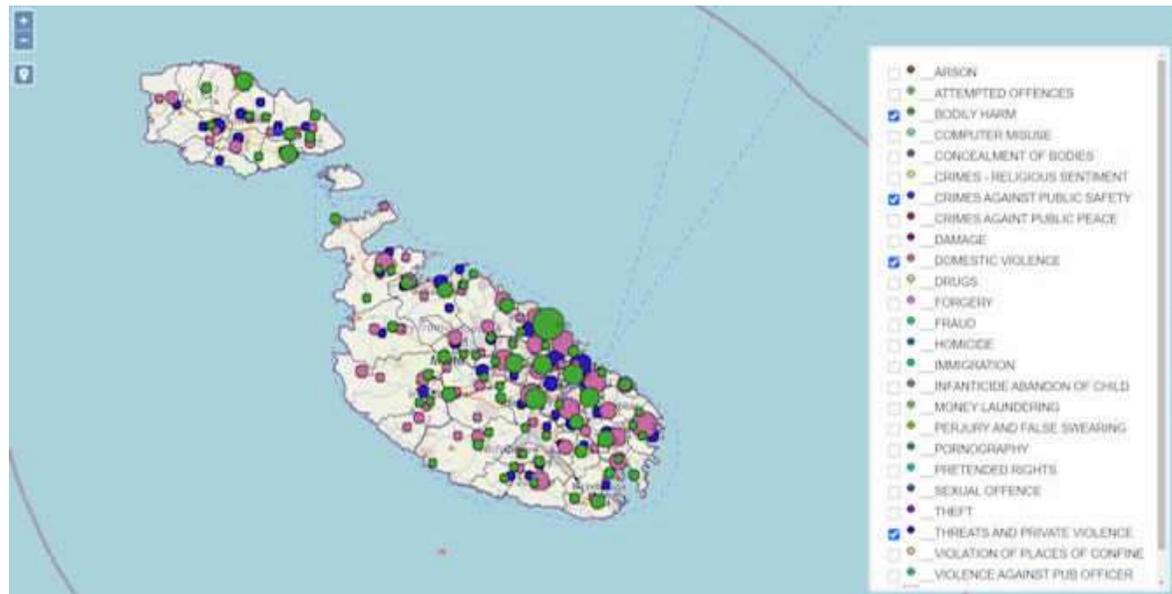
RISC Model: League Tables for 2020

calculated as the observed
offences as against those
expected

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	KERCEM	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	LIJA	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	KERCEM	BALZAN	GHAXAQ	RABAT (Victoria)
BIRKIRKARA	FGURA	KIRKOP	GUDJA	ZABBAR
KIRKOP	QALA	RABAT (Malta)	PEMBROKE	GHAXAQ
MOSTA	RABAT (Victoria)	XEWKJJA	MOSTA	FLORIANA
XEWKJJA	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)

Interactive Map

Main Crime Categories

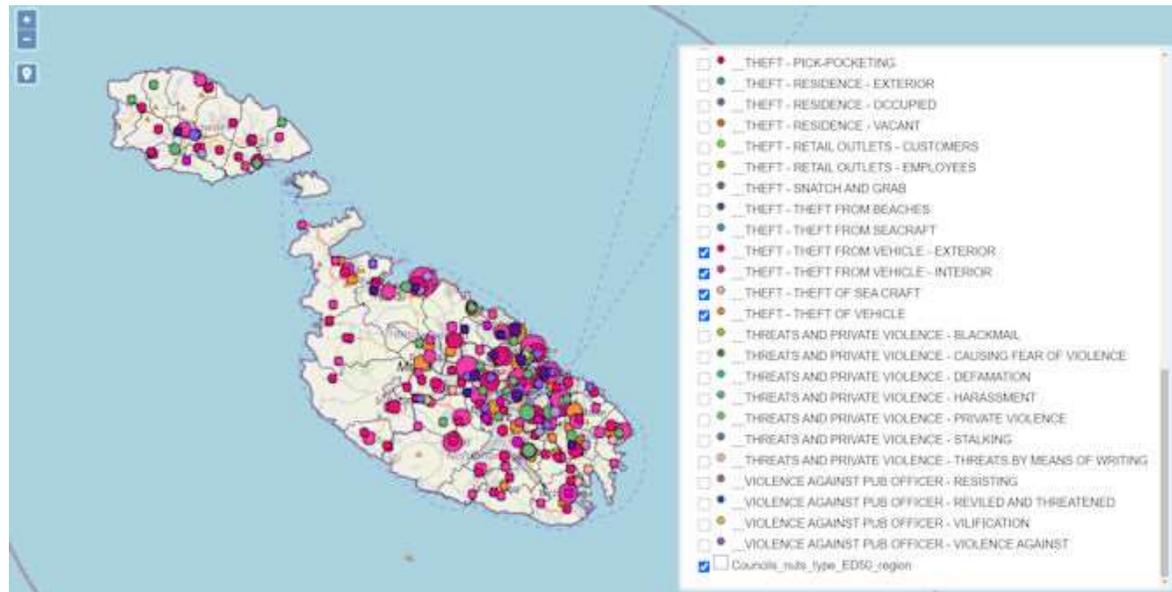


Refer to the CrimeMalta website for interactive data:

www.crimemalta.com

Interactive Map

Sub Crime Categories

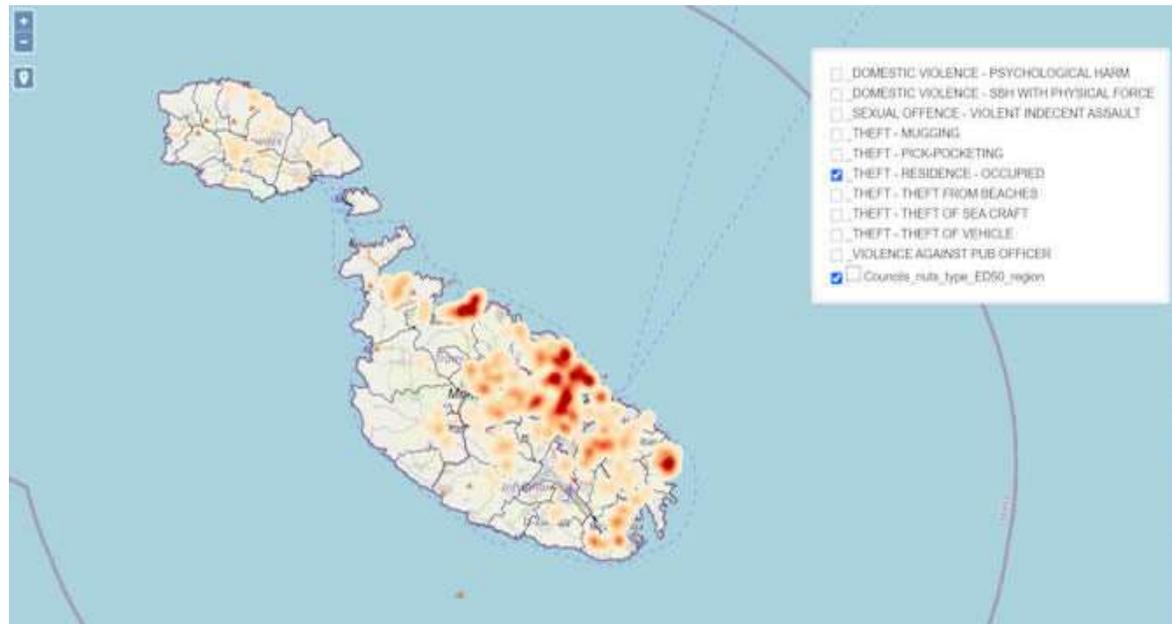


Refer to the CrimeMalta website for interactive data:

www.crimemalta.com

Thematic Map

Heat maps



Refer to the CrimeMalta website for interactive data:

www.crimemalta.com

Website

12 Years
2008-2020

www.crimemalta.com



Refer to the CrimeMalta :

www.crimemalta.com

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Thank You

