

CRIME MALTA OBSERVATORY

ANNUAL CRIME REVIEW

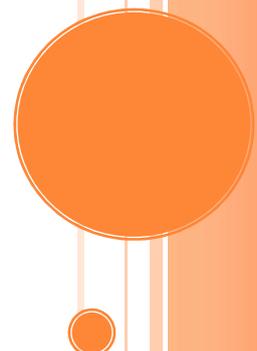
Year 2021

2021 crime figures depict a return to the pre-Covid-19 figures, following an anomalous reduction in 2020 based on significant societal disruption. The year 2020 experienced minimal 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. The year 2021 brought reality back but with a morphed crime structure that reflects changes in crime reporting and policing. Comparing 2021 with the last non-Covid-19 year 2019, the trend shows a plateauing of the crime structure, where reports pivot around the 16,000 mark, an increase of 1.3% over 2019, even if compared to 2020 the increase is that of 20.6%. The year-on-year decrease experienced since 2016 has settled to reflect gradual decreases where previously dominant offences (such as theft) are being operationally and tactically tackled whilst new transformative offences are proactively investigated such as money laundering and fraud. Again, 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. For the first since 1998, the RISC model depicts a situation where there are no localities that exhibited more than 5 times the national rate, whilst only four localities Marsa, Floriana, Gudja and Valletta fall within the 2x to 5x category. This means that most localities now fall within the national rate and 17 localities fall within a slightly higher (1x to 2x) category, inclusive of the previously notorious San Giljan. This points towards a homogenisation of strategic, operational and tactical implementation to tackle crime. Community policing also served its purpose to morph this change. In terms of societal reaction, moral panic still played a part in rendering a perception that crime is increasing, often pushed by erroneous political rhetoric, when the facts depict a stabilised scenario.

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CRIMEMALTA ANNUAL CRIME REVIEW

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Note: The 2021 report has to be read in context: as the 2020 report was based on an unprecedented and anomalous year governed by a Covid-19 induced surrealistic scenario. The 2021 depicts the reported crimes as related to the 2019 report that had a full-year crime and societal comparable structure.

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 2021.

This report covers the 2021 annual statistics as elicited from an analysis of reported crime, incarceration statistics and spatial analysis. The outputs below pertain to the closed 'accounts' for 2021 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. 2021 experienced a 61% decrease from 11,465 in 2004 (62% of all reported offences) to 4,478 in 2021 (28% of all reported offences).

This report covers the 2019 and 2021 scenarios due to the baseline comparability between the socio-economic situation.

In summary, at **15,785 reported offences**, bar the year 2020, crime analysis shows a significant reduction over the recent years' crime offences, evidenced through a stabilisation in crime reports over the 2019 period comprising a slight **increase of 196 crimes or 1%**. *If one considers the 2020 Covid-19 induced anomaly, there would be an increase of 21%*. The 2019-2021 reporting depicts that this is a stabilisation from the previous five years' decrease that comprised an absolute **decrease of 1,513 crimes to a combined drop of 8.8% 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 **49% drop** as from 2016 and a significant drop of 2153 or 32% drop from 2019. Interestingly, theft even dropped further by another 2% between 2020 and 2021. **Pickpocketing** has decreased by 577 offences in 2020 dropping from 819 cases in 2019 to **242 reports** in 2020 and **244 cases** in 2021, a **tenfold** year-on-year drop from 2016. The findings show that even as society started returning to normal the measures taken and in-situ awareness has kept this previously problematic phenomenon in check **Most other categories of theft have decreased** apart from

theft from government buildings, residence exterior, theft from religious temples, theft from sea craft and theft of vehicles.

Theft from occupied residences dropped for the lowest time since 2008, having experienced a drop of **40%** or **257** incidences, again reflecting a further 2020-2021 drop even superseding the COVID-19 scenario where people were residence-focused.

The opportunities for external societal crime in 2021 were reduced drastically, such that arson, attempted offences, bodily harm, damages, homicide, theft and violence against public officer all experienced decreases ranging up to **33%**.

Ass in the previous report and irrespective of the COVID-19 scenario, 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, forgery, fraud, immigration, money laundering, perjury and false swearing, pornography, prostitution and trafficking of persons. The former categories of reported crimes which increased include abandonment of child, abuse of public authority, computer misuse, crimes against public peace and against the administration of justice, domestic violence, pretended rights, sexual offences, threats and private violence and unauthorised access in restricted areas.

Note that in 2020, **Gender-based violence** was introduced as a new category (no reports made in 2021), 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 **28%** of all offences reported to the Police, down from 42.5% in 2019 and 62% in 2004, the lowest since 2004, driven by the relative victim-absence during the COVID-19 period and by the positive 70% decline in pickpocketing. 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 2021 reporting years shows decreases across the board with some such as theft from occupied dwellings falling by 40%, snatch and grab by 55% and theft from factories by 40%.

The second highest reported offence, **Damages**, has again seen a significant **11%** decrease between 2019 and 2021 to **22%** of all offences in 2021, down from 25% in 2019 and 24% in 2020. These figures depict the lowest incidence since 2013.

Pushing its position to third ranking, **Fraud** experienced an increase 1555 cases or 189%, specifically pushed by fraudulent gains through mobile, messaging and online payment scams impersonating service, delivery and ancillary services. The cases reaching **2376** cases in 2021 (15% of all crimes reported in 2021), up from **821** cases in 2019 and **811 cases** in 2020.

Irrespective of socio-economic and pandemic scenarios, in fourth place, as displaced by Fraud, but consonant with the previous years, **Domestic Violence** has again increased from 1,326 in 2019 to 1,645 and **1741 cases in 2021 (11% in 2021** down from 12.6% of all 2020 cases). This massive **31% (415 cases) increase** over the previous year

reflects the vulnerability of victims' situations exacerbated by a pandemic that served to doubly victims vulnerable persons but also points towards the opening up of victims to the morphed Malta Police approach to reception of victims in the relative stations, the setting up of a Victim Support Agency and a no tolerance Malta Police Force attitude towards such cases. It is to be noted that from the increase, **486** related to **Psychological Harm**. Increases occurred in psychological harm, grievous bodily harm with arms improper and with physical force, whilst slight bodily harm with physical force experienced a decline.

Bodily Harm, which had registered a year on year decrease initiated in 2009 dropping to **4.7%** of all offences in 2021, has reached the lowest number since at least 2004 down by 183 offences (**20%**) to a figure of **742** cases in 2021. Overall, this points to a steadily more tolerant and less violent society in the social realm, restricted by the relative opportunities and commonalities that are related to such cases, such as recreational activities.

These 5 categories of crimes comprise 81.4% of all crime reports.

A postCOVID-19, a return from the Systemic Shock and a Retargeted Malta Police

2021 is again highly interesting in criminological terms. It sought to kick start a society laid bare the realities of Maltese community 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 was not a pleasant one. However, the return of normality targets, saw a prepared and transforming Police Force, a more aware society and a new mode of committing and tackling crime realities. Many fell victim to digital and online crime, buffered by aid services to prevent, prepare and where necessary report and initiate processes to recoup lost goods. Conversely, others continued to fall victim to abuse, mainly domestic violence, which also saw better prepared entities, however this phenomenon posits a very dark aspect of Maltese society, requiring further study and intervention.

This said, those offences that do not rely of the victims' reporting procedure (reactive action) but are instigated by the enforcement agencies and primarily the Malta Police Force, saw an veritable increase in cases, reflecting an imperative to be proactive and initiate investigation. Drugs, and its drastic increase of **444** additional cases over 2020 or **279% increase**, reflects such a drive. Drugs in 2021 amounted to **3.8% of all offences**, up from 1% in 2019 and 1.3% in 2020.

The Societal Construct

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 2021 was 516,100. The drop in crimes created a reality that pushed down Malta's crime rate to **30.6 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, even as the population increases. 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 and after the difficult period of closure**.

Again, the impact was impacted by implementation of a **Transformation Strategy**, 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, MONEYVAL and FATF**. The changes affected rendered returns in crime reporting and activities in such offences as **Money Laundering and Fraud**.

The changes in crime construct, the reduction in serious and long-standing high-ranking offences is resultant also of a three-pronged approach: increased police proactivity, enhanced enforcement and better recording of reports.

Policing and Community intervention was efficiently rendered safer by the Malta Police through its **Community Policing** initiative, expanding the localities' intervention and a **Crime Prevention Strategy**. The setting up of specialised services such as the MPF establishment of a **Gender-Based & Domestic Violence Unit** in 2020. The **Victim Support Agency** is rendering a service on the realities of spiraling domestic violence.

It is imperative that **as tourism and normality 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** and **5.7 in 2021**, the lowest in the last decades. As in 2020, such an 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 2021 the previous years' main crime component was further mitigated, as pick-pocketing was **sheared by 70%** down to 244 cases from 819 in 2019 in 2021. Highest was **2,447 in 2016**.

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:

Whilst homicides and fraud took media precedence, these offered major contributions to the perceived fear of crime is the impression that crime increased over the previous three years, which is negated by the facts established through this report. The perception was fuelled through the homicide of a Ghanaian and another homicide related to a Filipino male. Homicide is perceived as high in conjunction with corruption and bribery. All other perceptions report moderate or 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 and 2021 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 and 2021 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) and the Victim Support Agency 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.

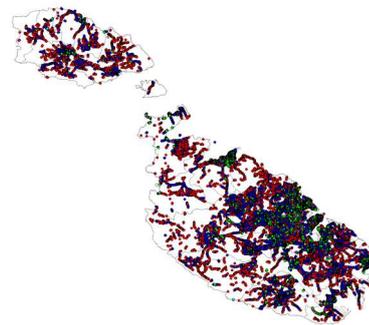
The stabilization of the pre and post Covid-19 reported offences points towards both awareness and on-the-ground mitigation by the forces. Whilst the larger part is due to the pandemic effect, the expected crime reduction is inherent of social change and are reviewed as tourism returns and comparable situations are now available, thus the 2019 and 2021 comparison.

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) 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 (**383,359 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



FIGURES TO PONDER: 2019-2021

- **Crimes that Increased** (in descending percentage change order): immigration, perjury and false swearing, money laundering, abuse of public authority, drugs, prostitution, fraud, pornography, forgery, computer misuse, pretended rights, threats and private violence, domestic violence, and sexual offences.
- **Crimes that Decreased** (in descending percentage change order): arson, homicide, theft, attempted offences, bodily harm, and damage.
- **Arson** represented a particular crime that spreads the fear of crime to high levels. Hovering around a 100 cases annually as recorded over the decades, 2021 registered 36 cases, the lowest ever reported figure since the introduction of PIRS in 1998. Arson is an offence where the successful investigations and specialist training provided by the CPD resulted in a decrease of 62% (from 94 in 2020 to 109 in 2019).
- **Thefts** have seen a drastic decrease overall, with a drop of 32% or 2153 incidents reported between 2019 and 2021. 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 575 offences. 24 categories of theft experienced a decline whilst 24 categories increased, mainly theft of vehicle, government buildings, residence-exterior, theft of sea craft, and religious temples-premises. Theft comprises 28% of all offences, a decrease of 32% (2,153 cases) from 2019 to 2020. Note that mugging and pick-pocketing were contained as a result of expedient investigations, 27 reports of armed robberies in 2021 as compared to 40 in 2020. Down from 2005 and 2006 when the Maltese Islands experienced 61 armed robberies.
- **Damages** decreased by 11% decrease between 2019 and 2021 to 22% of all offences in 2021, down from 25% in 2019 and 24% in 2020. These figures depict the lowest incidence since 2013, decreasing through all sub-categories except for involuntary damage by other, involuntary damage by paint, and wilful damage motivated by racial hate that increased.
- **Bodily Harm** dropped to 4.7% of all offences in 2021, has reached the lowest number since at least 2004 down by 183 offences (20%) to a figure of 742 cases in 2021. The main decrease was related to all sub-categories except for Slight Bodily Harm with arms proper.
- **Fraud** has experienced a steep increase of 1555 cases or 189%, through fraudulent gains based upon mobile, messaging and online payment scams impersonating service, delivery and ancillary services. The cases reached 2376 cases in 2021 (15% of all crimes reported in 2021), up from 821 cases in 2019 and 811 cases in 2020. Fraud still maintains a hold as one of the top 5 crimes in the Maltese Islands League of Tables, taking the 3rd place above Domestic Violence

and Bodily Harm.

- **Computer** related crime experienced an 80% increase over 2019, mainly through Unauthorised Access, registering increases across the sub-categories except for unauthorised deletion of data and unauthorised deletion of info. This offence has reached 337 reported offences, also up from 270 in 2020.
- **Drugs** reporting increased by 279% (an increase of 444 cases up from 168 in 2019), increasing through all of the sub-categories. This reflects Malta Police intervention, as well as customs and other agencies' effectiveness. The 603 cases registered in 2021 is the highest figure by far ever recorded in the past 24 years since the start of PIRS. The next highest figure was 348 in 2018. This is principally the result of increased road checks and more targeted policing coupled with better capturing of reports by the Drugs Squad which traditionally might have not been entering the serious cases in the PIRS. In addition, cases of drugs possession had last year increased from 136 in 2019, 140 in 2020 to 441 in 2021 reflects increased seizures as a result of increased police presence on Maltese roads.
- **Domestic Violence** increased from 1,326 in 2019 to 1,645 and 1741 cases in 2021 (11% in 2021 down from 12.6% of all 2020 cases), An increase of 486 cases was related to Psychological Harm. Increases occurred in psychological harm, grievous bodily harm with arms improper and with physical force, whilst slight bodily harm with physical force experienced a decline.
- **Immigration** experienced an increase of 444% in reporting (up from 6 in 2019 to 27 in 2020 to 147 in 2021). This is another offence that experienced a dual operational change: enhanced enforcement of immigration laws as well as steering away from the traditional practice that the Immigration Section does not record its operations in the PIRS. Thus, the increase reflects the result of better report capturing exposing the full picture of actions taken by the police.
- **Threats and Public Violence** increased by 32% in 2021, (94 cases) mainly through blackmail, harassment and threats by means of writing.
- **Sexual Offences** decreased by 14% (20 cases) in 2019-2021, reversing a year-on-year increase initiated since 2015, reflective of the pandemic situation and sustained in 2021.
- **Violence against Public Officers** decreased by 11% to 164 cases down from 185 in 2019, a steady year-on-year decrease since 2017. Whilst several factors could be at play, the introduction of body-worn cameras in the first half of 2021 playing a critical role.
- **Theft from Occupied Residences** decreased by 257 cases or 40% reflective of a sustaining of the results seen during the pandemic situation. Theft from exterior increased by 24% whilst theft from vacant residences decreased by 9%.

- **Pretended Rights** which had been recorded as a separate category in 2017 registered a 53% increase in reports amounting to 280 cases up from 183 cases in 2019.
- **Money Laundering** as recorded for the first time as a distinct category in 2017, registered a 400% increase in 2021, reaching 180 cases in 2021, up from 105 cases in 2020, steeply increasing 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. No cases were registered during 2021.

Temporal Statistics

In terms of Temporal statistics, May to August and November experienced increases.

Monday remained the main attractor for most incidences though it declined from 2019 to 2021. Sunday and Saturday also registered decreases, whilst all other days experienced increases in their component.

In terms of time of time, decreases occurred mainly from 02:00 to 08:00. As the recreational areas declines in attraction value, main offences occurred between 08:00 and 01:00. Nights were safer as crimes migrated to other domains, reflective of the categories where crime increased as the societal dynamics changed.

PRISONS IN MALTA

Prison numbers registered the highest ever figures in recorded history, reaching 908 residents on the 27th November 2020. On the last Friday 31 December 2021, 614 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 **31st December 2021** (last Friday): 614 (560 males and 54 females);
- The CCF Population as at the **highest 2021 recorded Friday** – 1st January 2021.
- The CrimeMalta website depicts an interactive graduated map showing the countries that most residents hail from ranging from the **1950s to the 2010s**.
- The 2010s experienced residents from **100 foreign countries**.

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, Marsa took pole position above Floriana, Gudja and Valletta,

At a rate between the national up to twice that rate one can find San Giljan, Ta' Xbiex, Hamrun, Bormla, Paola, Zebbug (Ghawdex), San Pawl il-Bahar, Mdina, Luqa, Ghajnsielem, Santa Venera, Qormi, Pieta, Msida, Birgu, Munxar and Marsaxlokk.

All the other Councils host a lower than 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 2021, the relative RISC still appears for Marsa, Valletta, Bormla and Isla, the latter registered within the 2x-5x RISC. The rate between the national up to twice that rate category includes Floriana, Pembroke, Munxar, San Pawl il-Bahar, Marsascala, Pieta, Birzebbugia, Birgu, San Gwann, Swiqi, Qormi, Naxxar, Hamrun, San Giljan, Gzira and Zebbug (Ghawdex). In contrast, most other zones have lower than average rates and that Mtarfa, San Lawrenz and Fontana registered zero residential offences in 2021.

Theft of and from Vehicles

During 2021, Marsa took top spot, followed by Marsa, Ta' Xbiex, Floriana, Hamrun, Bormla, Qormi, Pieta and Paola 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, Qala, and Ghasri hosted zero offences.

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

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence reports pertain to stalking, slight bodily harm, grievous bodily harm and psychological harm. Bormla, Munxar and Valletta 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, Mdina, Ghasri and Fontana 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 Giljan, Gudja and Sliema. The least RISC registering towns at zero RISC include San Lawrenz, Pembroke, Mtarfa, Munxar, Mdina, Xaghra, Siggiewi, Dingli, Nadur, Santa Lucija, Fontana, Kercem, Qala, Ghasri and Gharb.

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

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REFERENCE MAPS:

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

- Main Crime Categories Interactive Map:
http://www.crimemalta.com/QGIS/geopol2021_maincateg_cluster/index.html
- Main Crime Sub Categories Interactive Map:
http://www.crimemalta.com/QGIS/geopol2021_subcateg_cluster/index.html
- Heat Maps:
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