

Intermediate Quality Report

EU-SILC Malta 2008



**National Statistics Office
Malta**

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1. Common cross-sectional European Union indicators

1.1. Common cross-sectional EU indicators based on the cross-sectional component of EU-SILC

In accordance with the Commission Regulation No. 28/2004, this section presents an overview of the main cross-sectional indicators derived from EU-SILC 2008 in Malta.

Primary Laeken indicators of social cohesion EU-SILC 2008

At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers by age and gender

%		Age			
		Total (0+)	0-17	18-64	65+
Sex	Total	15	20	12	22
	Male	14	-	10	24
	Female	15	-	13	20

At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers by frequent activity status and gender

%		Most frequent activity status				
		Employed	Not employed			
		Total employed	Total not employed	Unemployed	Retired	Other inactive
Sex	Total	5	21	31	22	20
	Male	6	23	36	25	12
	Female	2	20	18	14	21

At-risk-of-poverty rates after social transfers by household type

Household Type			%
Total households			15
All households with no dependent children	Total		13
	1 person households	Male	19
		Female	23
		age < 65 yrs	23
		age 65+	20
	2 adults no dependent children	both age < 65 yrs	17
		at least one age 65+	27
	Other households with no dependent children		3
All households with dependent children	Total		16
	Single parent	at least 1 dependent child	57
	2 adults	1 dependent child	8
		2 dependent children	20
		3+ dependent children	26
	Other households with dependent children		8

At-risk-of poverty rates (after social transfers) by accommodation tenure status

Tenure status	%
Owner or rent-free	13
Tenant	21

At-risk-of-poverty threshold (illustrative values)

Household type	Currency	At-risk-of-poverty threshold (illustrative values)
1 person household	NAC	5743
2 adults 2 dependent children	NAC	12061

Inequality of income distribution S80/S20 income quintile share ratio

S80/S20 income quintile ratio	4
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Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap

%		Age			
		Total (0+)	0-17	18-64	65+
Sex	Total	18	17	18	20
	Male	19	-	20	19
	Female	18	-	17	20

Dispersion around the risk-of-poverty threshold

%		Dispersion around the at-risk-of-poverty threshold		
		40% of median	50% of median	70% of median
Sex	Total	4	8	24
	Male	4	7	23
	Female	4	8	26

At-risk-of-poverty rate before transfers

At-risk-of-poverty rate where income is the 'equivalised disposable income before social transfers except old-age and survivors' benefits'

%		Age			
		Total (0+)	0-17	18-64	65+
Sex	Total	23	32	20	26
	Male	22	-	18	26
	Female	24	-	21	25

At-risk-of-poverty rate where income is the 'equivalised disposable income before social transfers including old-age and survivors' benefits'.

% Total		Age			
		Total (0+)	0-17	18-64	65+
Sex	Total	36	35	27	83
	Male	34	-	25	83
	Female	39	-	30	83

Inequality of income distribution: Gini coefficient

Gini coefficient	27
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1.2. Other indicators

1.2.1. Equivalised disposable income

The mean equivalised disposable income for the year 2007 was €9163.

1.2.2. The gender pay gap

The gender pay gap was not calculated from EU-SILC for Malta.

2. Accuracy

2.1. Sample design

2.1.1 Type of sampling design

EU-SILC Malta, uses a rotational design based on four panels as recommended by Eurostat. Each year a new panel is added to the sample, thus replacing one of the previous panels.

Like in previous years, the sampling design for the new panel was that of a simple random sampling of dwellings. This new panel made up of 1,504 households and the sample was taken from the *Census of Population & Housing 2005* database, which is regularly updated.

2.1.2 Sampling units

The sampling units for EU-SILC Malta, were occupied private households composed of a number of persons who share their income and expenses. As mentioned above, the sampling units for EU-SILC Malta were obtained from the updated database of the *Census of Population & Housing 2005*. After the sample was obtained, contacted all the households, were contacted and afterwards personal interviews were conducted.

2.1.3 Stratification and substratification criteria

This section is not applicable, as stratified sampling was not used for the data collection of EU-SILC Malta.

2.1.4 Sample size and allocation criteria.

By regulation Member states have to achieve a minimum effective sample size of households and eligible persons (persons aged 16+) for the cross-sectional component. For Malta this is of 3,000 households corresponding to at least 7,000 persons aged 16 and over.

For 2008, the gross sample size (as selected by simple random sampling) for Malta was 4,361 households. Of which, 30 households were ineligible which means that addresses did not exist, the addresses were non-residential, permanently vacant or institutional households (e.g. elderly homes). Accordingly, 4,331 households were approached for the interview.

2.1.5 Sample selection schemes

EU-SILC for Malta involves a one stage scheme as it is a simple random sampling design, by which a simple random of households is selected for the new panel every year: All households belonging to 'old' panels were re-contacted for this survey. All household members belonging to the selected households were selected for this survey.

2.1.6 Sample distribution over time

The survey was carried out over a period of four months (from July till October 2007).

2.1.7 Renewal of sample: rotational groups

As recommended by Eurostat, in Malta we utilize the 4-year rotational design. This design means that a panel of the households remains in the sample for four consecutive years and, one of the panels is replaced by a new sample each year. For example, in Malta, the first panel (2005), was used for the last time this year (as this was the 4th year of EU-SILC in Malta). So each year there is an overlap of three panels from the previous years.

2.1.8 Weightings

The basic requirement for the calculation of weights is the total count of persons living in private households. As in previous years, the household population counts for 2008 were obtained through annual population updates basing on the Census 2005 figures.

2.1.8.1 Design factor

Household design weights are calculated as the inverse of the selection probability of households.

Variable 'DB080: Household Design Weight' is only required for new households i.e. households participating in SILC for the first time in 2008. For these households the design weight was calculated by dividing the total number of eligible households in 2008 (as derived from the 2008 population updates mentioned above) by the number of eligible new households in SILC 2008. Eligible households exclude households that are non-residential addresses, permanently vacant dwellings, institutional households (e.g. elderly homes) or do not actually exist.

A design weight for old households (i.e. households participating in the survey for the second, third or fourth time), though not required for submission to Eurostat, was also calculated to enable further computations of weights. For each of these households, the design weight in SILC 2008 is equivalent to the cross-sectional weight computed in SILC 2007. Split households were given the same weight as the corresponding 'parent' households.

2.1.8.2 Non-response adjustments

Non-response adjustments were carried out separately for each panel. For new households, the non-response adjustment was catered for during the calculation of design weights. The remaining three panels (consisting of old households) were adjusted for attrition through post-stratification. The values of the variables used in the post-stratification were as at 2007 (i.e. this is not necessarily the same as the current situation). Specifically, the variables used for this were age-group (0-17, 18-24, 25-49, 50-64, 65+), sex and district (NUTS 4 level) as at 2007. Non-sample persons in SILC 2008 were excluded from non-response adjustments.

2.1.8.3 Adjustments to external data (level, variables used and sources)

A temporary cross-sectional weight was created as the product of the design weight and non-response adjustment. This temporary weight was normalised and trimmed. The trimming was used to reduce the range of the weights by constraining them to lie within the 1st and 9th decile. The resulting weight was used as initial weight for the calibration step. SAS-based CALMAR software was used for the calibration. The logit method (lower limit = 0.6, upper limit = 1.5) was applied and the calibrating variables used were:

- Household size (1,...,5+)
- Tenure status (owned, rented, used free)
- District (NUTS 4 level)
- Household type
- Household without dependent children
- Single parent household
- Households with 2 adults, 1 - 2 children
- Other households with dependent child
- Number of persons in households by
- Sex, and

- 10 year age-groups

The CALMAR output weight was trimmed and once again (to within lowest and highest deciles), normalised and re-calibrated. Trimming was conducted on the lowest and highest 2% of the weights. The logit method was used again and this time convergence was obtained within narrower limits (lower limit = 0.8, upper limit = 1.2).

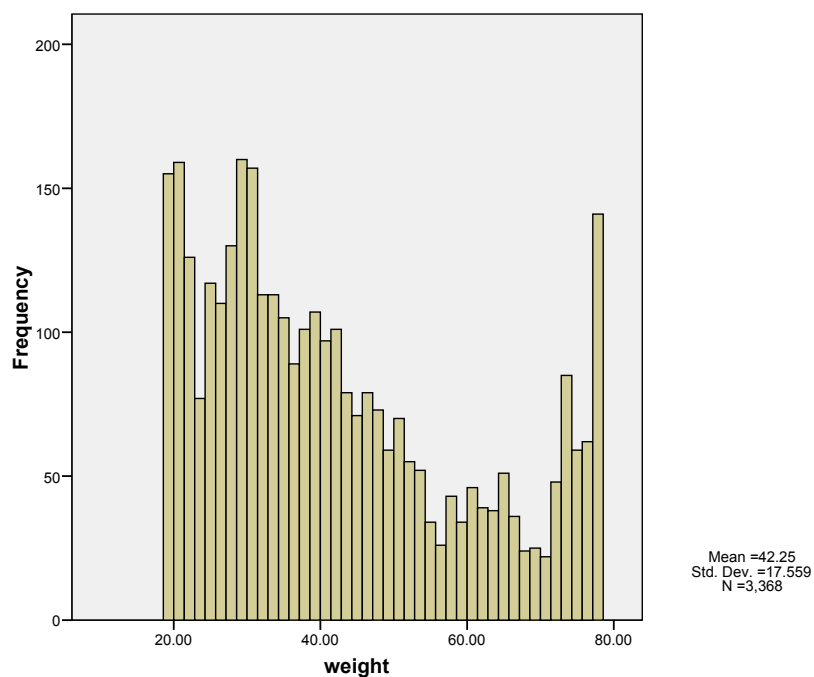
2.1.8.4 Final cross-sectional weight

A final normalisation produced the final cross-sectional weight. The following are some summary statistics for the final household cross-sectional weights:

Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median	Standard deviation	Coefficient of variation
19.67	77.29	42.25	38.23	17.56	0.42

Throughout the weighting process, it was ensured that all final weights lie in the interval $[0.3 \times \text{mean weight}, 3 \times \text{mean weight}]$.

The following histogram illustrates the distribution of the final household cross-sectional weights:



2.1.9 Substitutions

No substitutions were made.

2.2 Sampling errors

2.2.1 Standard error and effective sample size

- 'At-risk-of poverty rates' (after social transfers) broken down by age and gender

Age	Sex	Value	Sampling error	Margin of error (95% CI)	Sample size (persons)
Total (0+)	Total	15	0.8	1.5	9591
	Male	14	0.7	1.4	4733
	Female	15	1.0	2.0	4858
0-17	Total	20	1.5	3.0	1999
	Male	20	1.8	3.6	1059
	Female	20	1.8	3.5	940
18-24	Total	8	1.0	2.0	968
	Male	7	1.1	2.3	524
	Female	8	1.3	2.5	444
25-49	Total	11	0.8	1.6	2932
	Male	10	0.8	1.6	1433
	Female	13	0.9	1.8	1499
50-64	Total	14	1.1	2.2	2214
	Male	12	1.1	2.1	1070
	Female	15	1.5	3.0	1144
65+	Total	22	1.8	3.5	1478
	Male	24	1.9	3.8	647
	Female	20	2.1	4.1	831
18+	Male	12	0.6	1.2	3674
	Female	14	0.9	1.8	3918
18-64	Male	10	0.6	1.2	3027
	Female	13	0.8	1.7	3087
0-64	Male	12	0.7	1.5	4086
	Female	15	0.9	1.9	4027

- 'At-risk-of poverty rates' (after social transfers) broken down by most frequent activity status and gender

Most frequent activity status	Sex	Value	Sampling error	Margin of error (95% CI)	Sample size (persons)
Employed	Total	5	0.4	0.8	3447
	Male	7	0.5	1.1	2313
	Female	2	0.5	0.9	1134
Unemployed	Total	30	3.6	7.1	198
	Male	34	4.4	8.5	138
	Female	21	4.7	9.3	60
Retired	Total	22	1.5	2.9	1322
	Male	25	1.6	3.1	994
	Female	14	2.5	4.9	328
Other inactive	Total	20	1.3	2.5	2878
	Male	14	2.1	4.0	353
	Female	21	1.4	2.7	2525

- 'At-risk-of poverty rates' (after social transfers) broken down by tenure status

Tenure status	Value	Sampling error	Margin of error (95% CI)	Sample size (persons)
Owner or rent-free	13	0.7	1.3	8016
Tenant	21	2.6	5.1	1575

- 'At-risk-of poverty rates' (after social transfers) broken down by household type

Household Type			Value	Sampling error	Margin of error (95% CI)	Sample size (persons)
Total			15	0.8	1.6	9591
All households with no dependent children	Total		13	0.8	1.6	4309
	1 person households	Total	22	2.8	5.5	601
		M	19	2.7	5.3	207
		F	23	4.6	9.0	394
		age < 65 yrs	23	3.3	6.5	250
		age 65+	20	3.3	6.5	351
	2 adults no dependent children	both age < 65 yrs	17	2.0	4.0	792
		at least one age 65+	27	2.3	4.5	998
	Other households with no dependent children		3	0.7	1.3	1918
All households with dependent children	Total		16	1.2	2.3	5282
	Single parent	at least 1 dep. child	59	5.3	10.3	256
	2 adults	1 dep. child	8	2.4	4.7	888
		2 dep. children	20	2.0	3.9	1792
		3+ dep. children	27	4.8	9.3	651
	Other households with dependent children		8	1.4	2.7	1695

- 'At-risk-of poverty rates' (after social transfers) broken down by household type and work intensity

Household type	Work intensity	Value	Sampling error	Margin of error (95% CI)	Sample size (persons)
All households with no dependent children	WI = 0	38	2.8	5.5	864
	0 < WI < 1	4	0.7	1.3	1732
	WI = 1	1	0.4	0.8	755
All households with dependent children	WI = 0	73	8.8	17.3	406
	0 < WI < 0.5	30	5.2	10.3	372
	0.5 <= WI < 1	15	1.4	2.8	3024
	WI = 1	2	0.6	1.1	1478

- Median equivalised disposable income

Median value (€)	Standard error	Sample size (persons)
9572	160	9591

2.3 Non-sampling errors

2.3.1 Sampling frame and coverage errors

As stated before, for EU-SILC Malta the sample is extracted from the *Census of Population & Housing 2005* which is updated regularly on annual basis. Therefore, this database gives quite a good picture of all the private households and their current members. Despite this, 30 households from the sample were ineligible addresses which correspond to 0.7 per cent of the total sample selected.

2.3.2 Measurement and processing errors

2.3.2.1 Measurement errors

Measurement errors are those errors which result in discrepancies between. The value given by the respondent (which might not be the actual value) and the true value of a variable. Measurement errors can originate from different sources, however the main sources identified in EU-SILC 2008 are the following:

- Questionnaire

Each year one of the main targets before the data collection is to revise the EU-SILC questionnaire. This means checking the wordings or errors from the previous year, while trying to improve the quality of the questions to diminish the amount of errors and misinterpretations of the interviewers. Very often this involves reformulation of specific questions. Despite this, and the numerous numbers of checks made to the questionnaire and to the CAPI program, some errors still crop up. When it comes to the program, we try to avoid human errors during data entry by creating new automatic validations that guide interviewers. Obviously, there is always room for improvement but we are certain that the outcome is very good as we are confident that the problems in the questionnaire are reduced each year.

- Interviewers

As in previous years, EU-SILC data collection was conducted using the CAPI technique (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing). The recruitment of most interviewers is mostly based on the previous experience of the interviewers in this field. Sufficient training sessions were organized for the interviewers to give them instructions on how the data collection should be conducted. We tried to be as clear and informative as much as possible. Moreover, the interviewers were also given annotations summarizing some of the main issues in the questionnaire. Apart from this interviewers were encouraged to call our office when any problem or difficulties came up. As a quality

check, we audited the households so as to make sure that the work was being done correctly by interviewers and when problems were identified, immediate action was taken.

- Respondents

For EU-SILC 2008 the response rate was reasonably good. However, like in previous years a number of difficulties were encountered. One of the main problems related to the respondents that Malta does have is the burden on the respondents, which increases every year. This problem is due to Malta's small sample size and the considerable number of surveys that requires the respondents' cooperation. Another problem found in Malta is that due to the sensitivity of EU-SILC questions some persons may be reluctant to co-operate. Despite our emphasis on the fact that the Malta Statistics Act ensures full confidentiality, some respondents still fear that they may be identified through their responses, especially given that Malta is so small. Apart from this, the burden on the respondents and their unwillingness to cooperate, is also due to the fact that households are interviewed for a maximum of four times.

Proxy and telephone interviews are allowed only as an alternative to non-response. Notwithstanding, we still request interviewers to collect income information directly from interviewees.

In order to reduce attrition NSO organized a lottery for all households that were participating for the second/third/fourth time. The corresponding prize was a holiday for 2 including flights and accommodation. This was done in an attempt to diminish the affect of non-response due to panel attrition.

2.3.2.2 Processing errors

As mentioned previously EU-SILC was carried out by face-to-face interviews using CAPI on laptop computers. As in previous years, Blaise software was used to write the SILC data entry program. This program had a series of in-built checks to ensure that sensible information is collected. For example, it checked that the mother in a particular household is not younger than the child, etc. These automatic validations were very useful to prevent processing errors and human errors. These validations ensured that certain responses were reasonable and were logical. However, in most cases the program had permitted error suppression as to cater for exceptional responses. The automated routing in the program helped the interviewers in completing the survey and helped them from avoiding or omitting certain questions by mistake. Therefore, the program was very accurate and leaves little room for errors whilst speeding up the whole process of data collection. Apart from this, some data was also uploaded in the program for those households that have already participated in the EU-SILC of the previous years (i.e. 2005, 2006, and 2007). The data that was uploaded consists of values that usually remain the same from year to year such as date of birth, sex, citizenship, etc. This was done to release some of the burden on the respondents. However, interviewers were asked to confirm the data with the respondents every year.

Each year separate training sessions on program use were provided to avoid as much as possible interviewers' effects on the use of laptop computers and the program. Apart

from saving the data on the laptop computers we also instruct interviewers to save all the data on external devices such as pen drives so as to prevent any loss of data.

Moreover, fictitious 'test' households were created in each laptop computer and interviewers were encouraged to experiment inputting data so to be familiar with the process before interviewing the actual households.

Furthermore, to avoid certain mistakes from both interviewers and from the respondents (untruthfulness) this year we tried to make use of more registered data such as data on social benefits and part of the housing costs (i.e. electricity and water).

2.3.3 Non-response errors

2.3.3.1 Achieved sample size

Total households

	Total
Number of accepted household interviews	3368
Number of persons 16 years and older	7874

Rotational Group 1

	Total
Number of accepted household interviews	798
Number of persons 16 years and older	1897

Rotational Group 2

	Total
Number of accepted household interviews	597
Number of persons 16 years and older	1414

Rotational Group 3

	Total
Number of accepted household interviews	945
Number of persons 16 years and older	2151

Rotational Group 4

	Total
Number of accepted household interviews	1028
Number of persons 16 years and older	2412

2.3.3.2 Unit non-response

- Household non-response rates (NR_h)

The address contact rate (R_a) is given by:

$$R_a = \frac{\sum[DB120 = 11]}{\sum[DB120 = all] - \sum[DB120 = 23]} = \frac{4126}{4361 - 30} = 0.953$$

The proportion (R_h) of complete household interviews and accepted for the database is:

$$R_h = \frac{\sum[DB135 = 1]}{\sum[DB130 = all]} = \frac{3368}{4126} = 0.816$$

The household non-response rate (NR_h) is given by:

$$NR_h = (1 - (R_a * R_h)) * 100 = (1 - (0.953 * 0.816)) * 100 = 22.2\%$$

- Individual non-response rate (NR_p)

The proportion (R_p) of complete interviews within the households accepted for the database:

$$R_p = \frac{\sum[RB250 = 11 + 12 + 13]}{\sum[RB245 = 1 + 2 + 3]} = \frac{7874}{7874} = 1$$

The individual non-response rate (NR_p) is given by:

$$NR_p = (1 - (R_p)) * 100 = (1 - (1)) * 100 = 0\%$$

The reason behind a zero individual non-response rate is that whenever a household was interviewed and one (or more) of the household members did not respond, proxy answers for these individuals were requested from responding members.

- Overall individual non-response rate (NR_p)

The overall individual non-response rate (NR_p) is given by:

$$NR_p = (1 - (R_a * R_h * R_p)) * 100 = (1 - (0.953 * 0.816 * 1)) * 100 = 22.2\%$$

The rates are now computed for the new replications only.

Non-response rates for new replications

- Household non-response rate (NR_h)

The address contact rate (R_a) for households is given by:

$$R_a = \frac{\sum[DB120 = 11]}{\sum[DB120 = all] - \sum[DB120 = 23]} = \frac{1385}{1504 - 27} = 0.938$$

The proportion (R_h) of complete household interviews and accepted for the database is:

$$R_h = \frac{\sum[DB135 = 1]}{\sum[DB130 = all]} = \frac{1028}{1385} = 0.742$$

The household non-response rate (NR_h) is given by:

$$NR_h = (1 - (R_a * R_h)) * 100 = (1 - (0.938 * 0.742)) * 100 = 30.4\%$$

- Individual non-response rate (NR_p)

The proportion (R_p) of complete interviews within the households accepted for the database:

$$R_p = \frac{\sum[RB250 = 11 + 12 + 13]}{\sum[RB245 = 1 + 2 + 3]} = \frac{2412}{2412} = 1$$

The individual non-response rate (NR_p) is given by:

$$NR_p = (1 - (R_p)) * 100 = (1 - (1)) * 100 = 0\%$$

The reason behind a zero individual non-response rate is that whenever a household was interviewed and one (or more) of the household members did not respond, proxy answers for these individuals were requested from responding members.

- Overall individual non-response rate (NR_p)

The overall individual non-response rate (NR_p) is given by:

$$NR_p = (1 - (R_a * R_h * R_p)) * 100 = (1 - (0.938 * 0.742 * 1)) * 100 = 30.4\%$$

2.3.3.3 Distribution of households (original units) by 'record of contact at address' (DB120), by 'household questionnaire result' (DB130) and by 'household interview acceptance' (DB135), for each rotational group and for the total

- Distribution of original units by 'record of contact at address' (DB120)

Total households

	Number	Percentage
Total (DB120 = 11 to 23)	4361	100.0
Address contacted (DB120 = 11)	4126	94.6
Address non-contacted (DB120 = 21 to 23)	235	5.4
Total address non-contacted (DB120 = 21 to 23)	235	100.0
Address cannot be located (DB120 = 21)	106	45.1
Address unable to access (DB120 = 22)	99	42.1
Address does not exist or is non-residential address or is unoccupied or not principal residence (DB120 = 23)	30	12.8

Rotational Group 1

	Number	Percentage
Total (DB120 = 11 to 23)	941	100.0
Address contacted (DB120 = 11)	915	97.2
Address non-contacted (DB120 = 21 to 23)	26	2.8
Total address non-contacted (DB120 = 21 to 23)	26	100.0
Address cannot be located (DB120 = 21)	14	54.8
Address unable to access (DB120 = 22)	11	42.3
Address does not exist or is non-residential address or is unoccupied or not principal residence (DB120 = 23)	1	3.8

Rotational Group 2

	Number	Percentage
Total (DB120 = 11 to 23)	721	100.0
Address contacted (DB120 = 11)	699	96.9
Address non-contacted (DB120 = 21 to 23)	22	3.1
Total address non-contacted (DB120 = 21 to 23)	22	100.0
Address cannot be located (DB120 = 21)	6	27.3
Address unable to access (DB120 = 22)	16	72.7
Address does not exist or is non-residential address or is unoccupied or not principal residence (DB120 = 23)	0	0.0

Rotational Group 3

	Number	Percentage
Total (DB120 = 11 to 23)	1195	100.0
Address contacted (DB120 = 11)	1127	94.3
Address non-contacted (DB120 = 21 to 23)	68	5.7
Total address non-contacted (DB120 = 21 to 23)	68	100.0
Address cannot be located (DB120 = 21)	42	61.8
Address unable to access (DB120 = 22)	24	35.3
Address does not exist or is non-residential address or is unoccupied or not principal residence (DB120 = 23)	2	2.9

Rotational Group 4

	Number	Percentage
Total (DB120 = 11 to 23)	1504	100.0
Address contacted (DB120 = 11)	1385	92.1
Address non-contacted (DB120 = 21 to 23)	119	7.9
Total address non-contacted (DB120 = 21 to 23)	119	100.0
Address cannot be located (DB120 = 21)	44	37.0
Address unable to access (DB120 = 22)	48	40.3
Address does not exist or is non-residential address or is unoccupied or not principal residence (DB120 = 23)	27	22.7

- Distribution of address contacted by 'household questionnaire result' (DB130) and by 'household interview acceptance' (DB135)

	Number	Percentage
Total	4126	100.0
Household questionnaire completed (DB130 = 11)	3368	77.2
Interview not completed (DB130 = 21 to 24)	758	22.8
Total interview not completed (DB130 = 21 to 24)	758	100.0
Refusal to co-operate (DB130 = 21)	413	54.5
Entire household temporarily away for duration of fieldwork (DB130 = 22)	43	5.7
Household unable to respond (illness, incapacity, etc) (DB130 = 23)	52	6.9
Other reasons (DB130 = 24)	250	33.0
Household questionnaire completed (DB135 = 1 + 2)	3368	100.0
Interview accepted for database (DB135 = 1)	3368	100.0
Interview rejected (DB135 = 2)	0	0.0

2.3.3.4 Distribution of substituted units by 'record of contact at address' (DB120), by 'household questionnaire result' (DB130) and by 'household interview acceptance' (DB135), for each rotational group and for the total

No substitutions were made for EU-SILC 2008.

2.3.3.5 Item non-response

Item non-response at household level

		Households having a positive amount		Households having a negative amount		Of which (before imputation)...					
						Full Information		Partial Information		Missing values	
		No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%**	No.	%**	No.	%**
Total household income											
Total household gross income	HY010	3365	100.0	3	0.0	2328	69.1	1009	30.0	31	0.9
Total disposable household income	HY020	3363	99.9	5	0.1	2298	68.2	1054	31.3	16	0.5
Total disposable household income before social transfers except old age and survivors' benefits	HY022	3362	99.8	6	0.2	2337	69.4	954	28.3	77	2.3
Total disposable household income before social transfers including old age and survivors' benefits	HY023	3311	98.3	57	1.7	2357	70.0	793	23.5	218	6.5
Gross income components at household level											
Income from rental of property or land	HY040G	155	4.6	0	0.0	122	78.7	0	0.0	33	21.2
Interest, dividends, profit from capital investments in unincorporated business	HY090G	3368	100.0	0	0.0	2619	77.8	0	0.0	749	22.2
Family/Children related allowances	HY050G	843	25.0	0	0.0	842	100.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Social exclusion not elsewhere classified	HY060G	728	21.6	0	0.0	728	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Housing allowances	HY070G	613	18.2	0	0.0	596	97.2	0	0.0	17	2.8
Regular inter-household cash transfer received	HY080G	52	1.5	0	0.0	37	71.2	0	0.0	15	28.8
Interest repayments on mortgage	HY100G	353	10.5	0	0.0	346	98.0	0	0.0	7	2.0
Income received by people aged under 16	HY110G	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Regular inter-household cash transfer paid	HY130G	35	1.0	0	0.0	18	51.4	0	0.0	17	48.6

Note:

- * percentages are out of the total number of households for which the interview was accepted for the database i.e. 3,368
- ** percentages are out of the total number of households having received an amount (positive or negative) for that household income variable

		Persons 16+ having a positive amount		Persons 16+ having a negative amount		Of which (before imputation)...					
						Full Information		Partial Information		Missing values	
		No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%**	No.	%**	No.	%**
Gross income components at personal level											
Gross employee cash or near cash income	PY010G	3130	39.8	0	0.0	2849	91.0	0	0.0	281	9.0
Gross non-cash employee income	PY020G	596	7.6	0	0.0	223	37.4	37	6.2	336	56.4
Company car	PY021G	110	1.4	0	0.0	110	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Contributions to individual private pension plans	PY035G	448	5.7	0	0.0	423	94.4	0	0.0	25	5.6
Cash benefits or losses from self-employment	PY050G	487	6.1	0	0.0	379	77.8	0	0.0	108	22.2
Value of goods produced for own consumption	PY070G	297	3.8	0	0.0	297	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Pension from individual private plans	PY080G	35	0.4	0	0.0	22	62.9	0	0.0	13	37.1
Unemployment benefits	PY090G	148	1.9	0	0.0	143	96.6	0	0.0	5	3.4
Old-age benefits	PY100G	1586	20.1	0	0.0	1560	98.4	0	0.0	26	1.6
Survivors' benefits	PY110G	73	0.9	0	0.0	73	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Sickness benefits	PY120G	608	7.7	0	0.0	608	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Disability benefits	PY130G	254	3.2	0	0.0	253	99.6	0	0.0	1	0.4
Education-related allowances	PY140G	425	5.4	0	0.0	364	85.6	40	9.4	21	4.9

Note:

- * percentages are out of the total number of respondents (aged 16+) for which the interview was accepted for the database i.e. 7,874
- ** percentages are out of the total number of respondents (aged 16+) having received an amount (positive or negative) for that household income variable

2.3.3.6 Total item non-response and number of observations in the sample at unit level of the common cross-sectional European Union indicators based on the cross-sectional component of EU-SILC, for equivalised disposable income and for the unadjusted gender pay gap

Not applicable to Malta

2.4 Mode of data collection

- Distribution of household members aged 16 or over by 'data status (RB250)

All persons in the R-file aged 16 and over have data status 11 (information completed only from interview) as when a household was contacted all persons residing in that household were interviewed.

- Distribution of household members aged 16 and over by 'type of interview' (RB260)

Total households

	Total	PAPI (RB260 = 1)	CAPI (RB260 = 2)	CATI (RB260 = 3)	Self- administered by respondent (RB260 = 4)	Proxy interview (RB260 = 5)	Missing
Total	7874	0	6199	0	0	1601	74
%	100.0	0.0	79.7	0.0	0.0	20.3	0.9

Rotational Group 1

	Total	PAPI (RB260 = 1)	CAPI (RB260 = 2)	CATI (RB260 = 3)	Self- administered by respondent (RB260 = 4)	Proxy interview (RB260 = 5)	Missing
Total	1897	0	1505	0	0	386	6
%	100.0	0.0	79.3	0.0	0.0	20.3	0.3

Rotational Group 2

	Total	PAPI (RB260 = 1)	CAPI (RB260 = 2)	CATI (RB260 = 3)	Self- administered by respondent (RB260 = 4)	Proxy interview (RB260 = 5)	Missing
Total	1414	0	1093	0	0	319	2
%	100.0	0.0	77.3	0.0	0.0	22.6	0.1

Rotational Group 3

	Total	PAPI (RB260 = 1)	CAPI (RB260 = 2)	CATI (RB260 = 3)	Self- administered by respondent (RB260 = 4)	Proxy interview (RB260 = 5)	Missing
Total	2151	0	1699	0	0	446	6
%	100.0	0.0	79.0	0.0	0.0	20.7	0.3

Rotational Group 4

	Total	PAPI (RB260 = 1)	CAPI (RB260 = 2)	CATI (RB260 = 3)	Self- administered by respondent (RB260 = 4)	Proxy interview (RB260 = 5)	Missing
Total	2412	0	1902	0	0	450	60
%	100.0	0.0	78.9	0.0	0.0	18.7	2.5

2.5 Interview duration

The mean interview duration for EU-SILC 2008 was that of 43.8 minutes. This was calculated according to the Commission Regulation No. 28/2004, that is, the sum of the duration of all household interviews (HB100) plus the sum of the duration of all personal interviews (PB120), divided by the number of household questionnaires completed and accepted for the database (DB135).

3 Comparability

In the following section, any minor departures differences in the definitions of national concepts from EU-SILC are highlighted. However, for comparability Malta ensured that most national concepts coincide with EU-SILC.

3.1 Basic concepts and definitions

Reference population

No departure from the common definition i.e. the reference population is composed of all private households and their current members residing in Malta at the time of data collection. Persons living in institutions are excluded from the target population.

Private household definition

No departure from the common definition i.e. a private household is defined as a person living alone or a group of people who live together in the same private dwelling and share expenditures, including the joint provision of the essentials of living.

Household membership

A person is a household member if s/he is usually resident in that particular dwelling and shares in household expenses. Persons who are temporarily absent for reasons of holiday, travel, work, health, education or similar are included as long as the persons do not intend to stay away for more than 6 months.

Income reference period used

The income reference period used for EU-SILC 2008 was calendar year 2007.

Period for taxes on income and social insurance contributions

The tax on income and social insurance contributions reference period was the same as the income reference period i.e. calendar year 2007.

Period for taxes on income and social insurance contributions

The variable on regular taxes on wealth is not applicable for Malta

Lag between income reference period and current variables

The data collection was carried out between 1st July and 31st October 2008. Thus the lag between income reference period and current variables spans between 6 and 10 months, depending on the date of interview for each household. We did not succeed in limiting the interval to 8 months due to practical problems in data collection.

Total duration of data collection of the sample

As stated above, data collection was carried out between 1st July and 31st October 2008.

Basic information on activity status during the income reference period

The information was gathered through a question in the questionnaire where the respondents were asked to give us their activity status for every month of the income reference period (i.e. calendar year 2007)

3.2 Components of income

3.2.1 Differences between the national definitions and standard EU-SILC definitions

For the following components, the same definitions as standard EU-SILC were used:

- Total household gross income
- Total disposable household income
- Total disposable household income, before social transfers other than old-age and survivors' benefits
- Total disposable household income, before social transfers including old-age and survivors' benefits
- Income from rental of property or land

- Family/children-related allowances
 - Social exclusion payments not elsewhere classified
 - Housing allowances
 - Regular inter-household cash transfer received
 - Interest, dividends, profit from capital investments in unincorporated business
 - Interest paid on mortgages
 - Income received by people aged under 16
 - Regular inter-household cash transfer paid
 - Tax on income and social insurance contributions
 - Cash or near-cash employee income
 - Non-cash employee income
 - Cash profits or losses from self-employment (including royalties)
 - Unemployment benefits
 - Old-age benefits
 - Survivors' benefits
 - Sickness benefits
 - Disability benefits
 - Education-related allowances
-
- Value of goods for own consumption

From this year, we have revised our methodology for this variable. Our new methodology is as follows:

- We used the DAFNE data in order to estimate the average consumption of food in quantities per household by household;
 - Then these average quantities are multiplied by the average RPI prices for the year under review to calculate the average values;
 - These monetary values are then attached to the households and are then multiplied by the fraction that is being produced in the households.
-
- Imputed rent

Data on imputed rent also became mandatory as from 2007. However, estimation of imputed rent values directly from EU-SILC data was not possible. This is due to the fact that the proportion of rented dwellings in Malta is rather low to enable the estimation of rent figures at reliable quality levels. On the basis of 2005 Census data, the National Accounts Unit at the NSO compiled a table of average imputed rent values for dwellings classified by size and type. These values were then attached to the EU-SILC datasets and used as estimates for the imputed rent.

- Employers' social insurance contributions

For Malta the employers' social insurance contributions is exactly equal to the social contribution paid by the employee plus subsidies paid by the employer on private health insurance, house insurance and life insurance. However, the private retirement plans and other employer insurance schemes were not collected for EU-SILC 2008. This will be amended for EU-SILC 2010.

- Optional employer's social insurance contributions

For this variable, Malta included subsidies paid by the employer on private health insurance, house insurance and life insurance. However, the private retirement plans and other employer insurance schemes were not collected for EU-SILC 2008. This will be amended for EU-SILC 2010.

The following income components have not been collected for reasons specified below:

- Regular taxes on wealth

The variable on regular taxes on wealth is not applicable for Malta.

- Repayments/receipts for tax adjustments

Since Malta has collected a combination of gross and net values for income components, the tax adjustments are included under the variable on tax on income and social contributions.

- Gross monthly earnings for employees

This variable is not applicable to Malta as we calculate the gender pay gap from other sources.

3.2.2 The source or procedure used for the collection of income variables

In the following table, there is the distribution of the sample (persons aged 16 and over) by the various data collection method:

Type of interview	Number	%
Face to face interview - PAPI	0	0.0
Face to face interview - CAPI	6199	64.6
Proxy interview	1601	16.7
Missing	1791	18.7
Total	9591	100.0

As mentioned previously, all data for EU-SILC 2008 was collected from interviews with the assistance of laptop computers (CAPI). However, data such as that on social benefits and water and electricity was obtained from registered databases. Like in previous years, the National Statistics Office obtained the SABS database (System of Social Assistance and Benefits) from the Ministry for Family and Social Solidarity (MFSS), covering the same reference period of EU-SILC 2008. This database contains all the individuals that are receiving some sort of social benefit. Details of these benefits were provided broken down by individual benefit as defined by the MFSS and these were then merged by the NSO according to Eurostat definitions. Moreover, for those persons who receive social benefits by means testing also interests and dividends were provided from another database.

Social benefits are obtained from the SABS database are:

- PY090G – unemployment benefits
- PY100G – old-age benefits
- PY110G – survivor's benefits
- PY120G – sickness benefits
- PY130G – disability benefits
- HY050G – family / children related allowances
- HY060G – social exclusion not elsewhere classified
- HY070G – housing allowances (only energy benefits were obtained from SABS)

PY140G, education related-allowances and part of HY070G, housing allowances are the only variables not available in the SABS database, so this will continue to be collected from interviews.

Apart from this, as from this year (EU-SILC 2008) we also calculated the water and electricity (as part of the Total Housing Costs (HH070)) consumption units using registered data obtained from the Water Services Corporation.

3.2.3 The form in which income variables at component level have been obtained

Information on income variables was obtained from a number of sub-questions for each income component. These sub-questions are given below:

1. Number of payments during the 12 months
2. Gross income at each payment
3. Net income at each payment
4. Tax paid per payment received
5. National insurance paid per payment received

Preceding these sub-divisions it was emphasized that the income reference period was 2007 and a description of the specific income component being treated in each question. A response was expected only for one of sub-divisions gross income at each payment (2) and net income at each payment (3). Preference for the collection of information on gross income (rather than net) was expressed during briefing sessions for interviewers and was also implied through the choice of ordering of the sub-questions mentioned above.

3.2.4 The method used for obtaining income target variables in the required form

As mentioned above, during the briefing sessions we put emphasis on the collection of gross rather than net income. Even though, sometimes only the net income was available. In order to change these net values into gross values a table was obtained from the Department of Inland Revenue showing gross income values corresponding to net income values.

From this year, we also introduced a new methodology of gathering information on income, mainly on income from employment. Questions in this section were revised so as to differentiate between the main job and the secondary job. This was of vital importance to verify the tax paid as different tax bands apply depending on the type of job.

4 Coherence

4.1 Comparison of income target variables and number of persons who receive income from each 'income component', with external sources.

The variables collected from EU-SILC were compared to a number of other data for benchmarking purposes. This data was mainly collected by the NSO itself, and included sources such as National Accounts, Labour Force Survey and Government Finance data. Other sources included aggregate figures from the Inland Revenue Department as well.