



CRIMEMALTA OBSERVATORY  
ANNUAL CRIME REVIEW

2022

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## TRENDS

- ▶ Long-term analysis exhibits a continued **generic trend line** decrease in reported crime
- ▶ **14,933** reported offences
- ▶ Decreasing by **5.4%** from 2021
- ▶ Malta's crime rate declined from **45 crimes per 1000 persons in 2004** to 37 crimes per 1000 persons in 2012 to **28 crimes per 1000 persons in 2022**
- ▶ The **expected crime figures** based on the 2004 and 2012 data were those of 23,988 and 19,718 respectively

## TRENDS & WHAT OCCURRED

- ▶ **Violent** crimes in 2022 were less than those registered in 2012 where 391 cases were registered comprising 25 cases per 1000 persons to one where 361 cases were registered in 2022 down to **24 cases per 1000 persons**.
- ▶ **Homicide**, as the most serious of violent crimes, were solved in rapid turnarounds, such that all homicides that occurred from 2018 to 2022 were **all solved within a few days**.
- ▶ The Homicide crime rate for this category has remained constant at **1.7 per 100,000 persons** (rate at which this offence is calculated) for 2004, 2012 and 2022.
- ▶ The **Theft** category, which phenomenon had registered 62.4% of all crimes in 2004 down to 55.6% in 2012 down to **30.9% in 2022**, shedding 6,853 crimes since 2004 or 4,078 since 2012.

## 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**
- ▶ 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**

## FIGURES

Figures to Ponder: 2021-2022 with Notes on the main 2004-2022  
and 2012-2022 offences (decadal comparison)

### ► Crimes that Increased

(in descending percentage change order): homicide, crimes against public peace, prostitution, computer misuse, unauthorized access in restricted area, pretended rights, bodily harm, domestic violence, theft and damages.

- 2004-2022: computer misuse, fraud, perjury and false swearing, threats and private violence, abuse of public authority
- 2012-2022: abuse of public authority, pornography, fraud, threats and private violence, immigration

## FIGURES

### ► Crimes that Decreased

(in descending percentage change order): violation of places of confinement, immigration, drugs, crimes against the administration of justice, abuse of public authority, pornography, forgery, fraud, money laundering, arson perjury and false swearing violence against public officer and attempted offences.

- 2004-2022: arson, attempted offences, prostitution, immigration, theft
- 2012-2022: prostitution, violation of places of confinement, arson, theft, attempted offences

## FIGURES Main Shift

- ▶ **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, 2022 registered 33 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 further decrease of 8% (from 36 in 2021 to 33 in 2022).
- 2004-2022: Decrease of 73% from 120 cases in 2004 to 33 in 2022
- 2012-2022: Decrease of 64% from 91 cases in 2012 to 33 in 2022

## FIGURES Main Shift

- ▶ **Thefts** which have seen a slight increase of **134 (3%) crimes in 2022** to total **4,612 cases**, have overall seen a drastic decrease overall, reaching 30.9% of all crimes, **the second lowest ever figure since 1998** after 2021. As pickpocketing hovers around the 250 cases, down from 2447 in 2016, other categories take precedence, 22 categories of theft experienced a decline whilst 26 categories increased, mainly thefts from bars and restaurants, retail outlets, theft from seacraft and theft of vehicle.

- 2004-2022: Decrease of 60% from 11,465 cases in 2004 to 4,612 in 2022
- 2012-2022: Decrease of 47% from 8,690 cases in 2012 to 4,612 in 2022

## FIGURES Main Shift Newest on the block

- ▶ **Bodily Harm**, at **847 cases** in 2022, **increased by 14%**, reversing a downward trend initiated in 2020, having reached the lowest number of cases in 2021 since at least 2004. The main increase was related to Grievous and Slight Bodily Harm with arms proper and improper.
- 2004-2022: Decrease of 20% from 1,065 cases in 2004 to 847 in 2022
- 2012-2022: Decrease of 18% from 1,032 cases in 2012 to 847 in 2022

## FIGURES Main Shift Newest on the block

- ▶ **Fraud** has experienced a **decrease of 34%** (1562 cases reported in 2022), still the second highest figure following steep increase of 1555 cases or 189% between 2020 and 2021, accelerated 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.
- 2004-2022: Increase of 876% from 160 cases in 2004 to 1,562 in 2022
- 2012-2022: Increase of 335% from 359 cases in 2012 to 1,562 in 2022

## FIGURES Main Shift Newest on the block

- **Damages** at **3,558 cases** in 2022, increased by 1% decrease between 2021 and 2022 to 23.8% of all offences in 2022, down from 25% in 2019 and 24% in 2020.

Increase was due to cases of involuntary damage by hit and run and wilful damage by other categories.

- 2004-2022: Decrease of 3% from 3,657 cases in 2004 to 3,558 in 2022
- 2012-2022: Increase of 36% from 2,613 cases in 2012 to 3,558 in 2022

## FIGURES Main Shift Newest on the block

- ▶ **Computer** related crime experienced a **39% increase over 2022**, totalling 469 cases, mainly through Unauthorised Access. This offence had reached 337 reported offences in 2021, also up from 270 in 2020.

- 2004-2022: Increase of 4,164% from 11 cases in 2004 to 469 in 2022
- 2012-2022: Increase of 93% from 243 cases in 2012 to 469 in 2022

## FIGURES Main Shift Newest on the block

- ▶ **Drugs** reporting returned to the pre-2020 average **decreasing by 393 cases (65%)** in 2022, following an increase of 435 cases between 2020 and 2021). The changes over the recent years 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.

- 2004-2022: Increase of 169% from 78 cases in 2004 to 210 in 2022
- 2012-2022: Increase of 3% from 203 cases in 2012 to 210 in 2022

## FIGURES Main Shift

- ▶ **Domestic Violence increased by 5%, from 1,741 in 2021 to 1,830 cases in 2022** (12.3% of all 2023 cases). An increase of 130 cases was related to Psychological Harm. Increases occurred in psychological harm, grievous bodily harm with arms improper and with physical force, slight bodily harm with arms proper and improper, whilst slight bodily harm with physical force experienced a decline. Note that the first full reporting year was in 2008 following the change in legislation in 2007.
- 2008-2022: Increase of 307% from 450 cases in 2008 to 1,830 in 2022
- 2012-2022: Increase of 78% from 1,028 cases in 2012 to 1,830 in 2022

## FIGURES Main Shift Newest on the block

- **Immigration** experienced a **decrease of 68%** in reporting (reporting 48 cases down from 149 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 did 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.

- 2004-2022: Decrease of 61% from 123 cases in 2004 to 48 in 2022
- 2012-2022: Increase of 140% from 20 cases in 2012 to 48 in 2022

## FIGURES Main Shift Newest on the block

- ▶ **Threats and Private Violence** increased by 6% in 2022 to 411 cases, increasing mainly through blackmail, causing fear of violence, private violence and stalking.

- 2004-2022: Increase of 295% from 104 cases in 2004 to 411 in 2022
- 2012-2022: Increase of 191% from 141 cases in 2012 to 411 in 2022

- ▶ **Sexual Offences** remained **stet** as in 2021 at 165 cases.

- 2004-2022: Increase of 170% from 61 cases in 2004 to 165 in 2022
- 2012-2022: Increase of 49% from 111 cases in 2012 to 165 in 2022

## FIGURES Main Shift Newest on the block

- ▶ **Violence against Public Officers decreased by 5% to 155 cases** down from 164 in 2021, 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.
  - 2004-2022: Increase of 40% from 111 cases in 2004 to 155 in 2022
  - 2012-2022: Decrease of 33% from 230 cases in 2012 to 155 in 2022
  
- ▶ **Theft from Occupied Residences decreased by 81 cases or 21%** reflective of a sustaining of the results seen during the pandemic situation. Theft from exterior decreased by 6% whilst theft from vacant residences increased by 11%. Theft from Occupied Residences sub-categories shown below were registered from 2008.
  - 2008-2022: Decrease of 45% from 565 cases in 2008 to 309 in 2022
  - 2012-2022: Decrease of 56% from 696 cases in 2012 to 309 in 2022

## FIGURES Main Shift Newest on the block

- ▶ **Pretended Rights** which had been recorded as a separate category in 2017 registered a **14% increase** in reports amounting to 320 cases in 2022 up from 280 cases in 2021. This offence has registered steady increases year on year.
  - 2017-2022: Increase of 125% from 142 cases in 2017 to 320 in 2022
- ▶ **Money Laundering** as recorded for the first time as a distinct category in 2017, registered 130 cases resulting in a **28% decrease** in 2022, down from 180 cases in 2021. It is to be noted that the overall increase since the introduction in 2017 relates to the better capturing of reports by the Malta Police in the reporting system.
  - 2017-2022: Increase of 665% from 17 cases in 2017 to 130 in 2022

# 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.
- ▶ Move towards **collective Social Responsibility** where **Social Capital** and **Social Cohesion** become norms for change.

## MALTA POLICE FORCE IMPACT

- ▶ The **Malta Police Force**, emerged resurgent and came through for society: the launching of a **Transformation Strategy is bearing fruit** through a radical shakeup in senior management and the effort to bring on board all officers as well as implementing change.
- ▶ **Policing and Community** intervention was efficiently rendered safer by the Malta Police through its **Community Policing initiative**, localities' intervention and a **Crime Prevention Strategy**.
- ▶ 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.

# RISC MODEL: LEAGUE TABLES FOR 2021

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, Mdina took pole position above San Giljan, Floriana, Valletta and Marsa.

**RISC** covers Theft from Residences, Vehicle-related Theft, Domestic Violence and Commercial-related crime

# RISC MODEL: LEAGUE TABLES FOR 2022

calculated as the observed offences  
as against those expected

## Grand Total

MDINA	ZEBBUG (Għawdex)	KOMARJA
KUMFOL TERN	SAN ISMAEL (L. MARSA)	MA'ADD
FLORIANA	ITAMRUN	ZITUN
WISSETTA	GULUW	WISSETTA
MARSA	TA'XBIEK	ISLA
	PAOLA	KUDKOP
	DORHILA	GHARD
	MSIDA	ZEBBUG (Matta)
	GHAINSIEM	MARSA SCALA
	SARAT (Għawdex)	KUMFOL
	MUNDAR	ZABBAR
	LIQA	WIRRAMUNJA
	MELLUEN	GHARHUR
	QODMI	KAXXAD
	PICTA	FOURA
	SANTA VENERA	BARAT (Matta)
	CZIRA	SAT
	BRZEDENIJA	GHAYG
	MARSA LOKK	NADUR
	SLEMA	MUSJA
		SAN LAWRENZ
		KALJARA
		TARJEN
		SAN GWANN
		ATTARO
		VENIJA
		PEMBROKE
		GHENJA
		SIDDIJEWI
		SANNAI
		ILIN
		SANTA LUCIA
		CRASRI
		ZURRIQ
		PONTANA
		RENCEM
		BALZAN
		QALA
		LJA
		SMED
		DINOLI
		MOGGA
		MTARFA

# RISC MODEL: LEAGUE TABLES FOR 2022

calculated as the observed offences  
as against those expected

## Residential

FLORIANA	MARSAXLOKK	GZIRA	GHASBI
VALLETTA	ZEDDUG (Għewdex)	DIRKIRGARA	KERCEH
BORMLA	SANTA VENERA	GHAWAQ	GHARB
ZEJTUN	SAN PAWL IL-BAHAR	MELLIEMA	KALKARA
	SAH	QHENDI	MUJASSA
	SAN GILJAN	SLIEMA	DINGLI
	MARSAXLOKK	NAJOKAR	MDINA
	SANNAT	ZEBBUĠ (Mata)	SAN LEANDRO
	MADRISUN	SHOJEM	SONTALU
	MSIDA	LOA	
	BIRZEBBUĠIA	SLA	
	QALA	MARGASCALA	
	RADLA	NADUN	
	ATTARD	MOSTA	
	TAXXBEX	MUNDOU	
	GHARCHUR	TARXEN	
	KIRKOP	SAN GWANN	
	SANTA LUCIA	ZABBAR	
	SWIEQI	BIDCU	
	PIETA	GHANSHLEEM	
		KLIN	
		QORMI	
		GUÐQA	
		NAL PAN	
		RABAT (Madrax)	
		MEWDA	
		IL-MORRINI	
		LUQA	
		RABAT (Mata)	
		MUJARR	
		AT-MARSA	
		FGURA	
		XAGHRA	
		WIDARRA	
		ZURRIEQ	

# RISC MODEL: LEAGUE TABLES FOR 2022

calculated as the observed offences  
as against those expected

## Vehicle

FLORIANA	BORMLA	TARSEN	SANNO
GORMI	PIELA	SADDAR	LIENNO
MARSA	TA'VRIE	SARI	LIBENFI
PAOLA	ZEBBUC (Marta)	SAN GILIAN	DALA
RAMBUN	GUDIA	NOINA	CHAGGI
	KORADRA	SANTA VENERA	MASSARA
	ZEBBUC (Chawder)	KALKARA	
	MSIDA	SAN GIOVANNI	
	GRANISELEM	PEMBUR	
	QZIRA	MIL LIDRA	
	VALLETTA	SANTA LUCIA	
	BQZEBBUCIA	NAGGAS	
	SAN PAUL IL-BARTAR	DREBUNARA	
	IKLIN	BIRGU	
	ZETTUN	SLA	
	MCARRI	SLIEMA	
	LUGA	MARSA CALA	
	EGURA	BERCEM	
		MCARBA	
		NIGGTH	
		SAN LAWRENZ	
		MARSA LOKK	
		MTARFA	
		KEWINDA	
		KIRKOP	
		SKOJEWI	
		CHAKAQ	
		RABAT (Marta)	
		DINDU	
		BALZAM	
		ATTARD	
		RABAT (Chawder)	
		MUNDAR	
		WACHRA	
		CHAGGON III	
		SWIEQI	
		ZURRIEQ	
		NADUP	
		LIDA	

# RISC MODEL: LEAGUE TABLES FOR 2022

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## Domestic

KIRKOP	BORMLA	TA' XBIEX	CHASQI
XUMAJRA	ZEJTUN	KALKARA	
FLORIANA	VALLETTA	MELLIERA	
GHARGHUR	LUQA	QRENDI	
	ZEBBUQ (Malta)	TARXEN	
	ZEBBUQ (Għawdex)	BIRKIRKARA	
	ISLA	XACHRA	
	SANTA VENERA	GZIRA	
	BRZEBBUGIA	SAN GILJAN	
	QNAQAQ	POHORSKE	
	PAOLA	MISDA	
	NAMPUN	SABAT (Malta)	
	FOURA	NADUR	
	ZIGGI	MARSAI OKK	
	PRETA	SAN GWANN	
	QMARB	MOSTA	
	ATTARD	ZUTMEQ	
	MARSASCALA	SANTA LUCJA	
	QMALINSIELEM	SABAT (Għawdex)	
	SIOGIEWI	MQADDA	
	QAFI	EL IN	
	ZABBAR	QALA	
	MARSA	QEWOTA	
	QUDJA	DINGLI	
	MQADR	MUNXAS	
	MDINA	SANNAT	
	QHGU	LJA	
	SAN DAMI, IL-BAHAD	SAN LAURENZ	
	NAXXAR	BALZAN	
		QLEMA	
		QWIEQI	
		QERCEM	
		FONTANA	
		MIJAKKA	

# RISC MODEL: LEAGUE TABLES FOR 2022

calculated as the observed offences  
as against those expected

Commercial

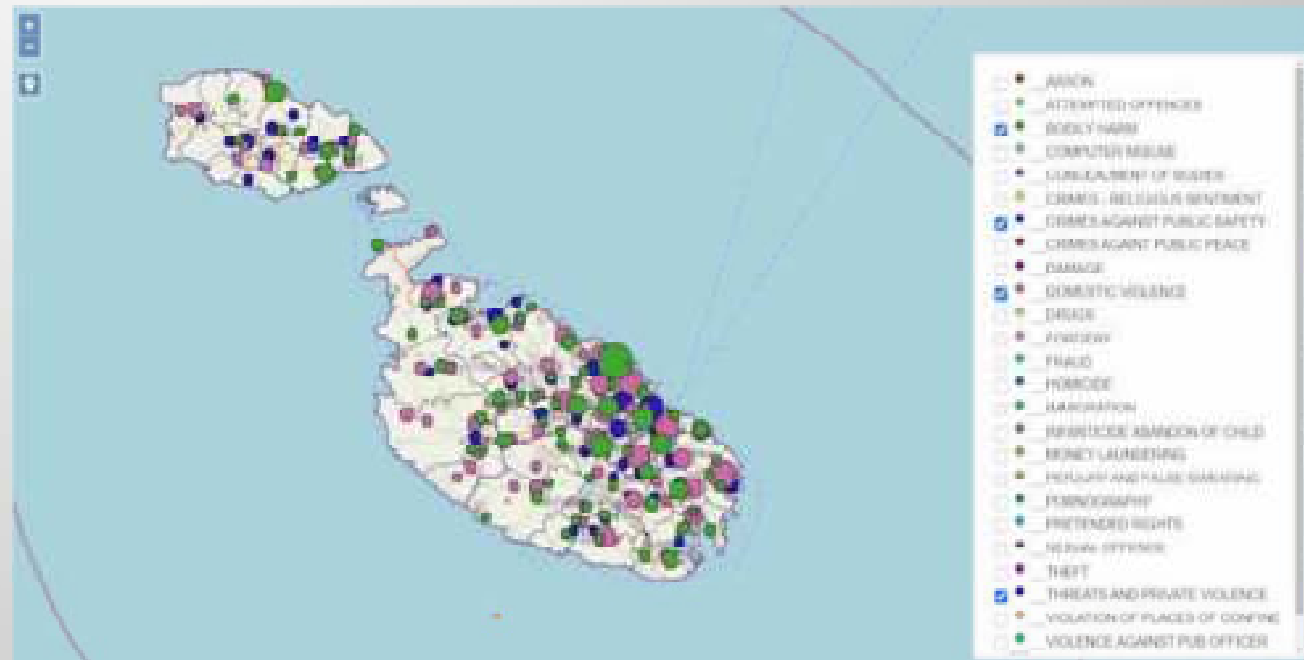
GUDJA	SAN PAWL ID-BAHAR	BORMLA	MESEPA
SAN GILJAN	PEMBROKE	MARSA	MARSA
	SAN LAWRENZ	UDJA	VALLETTA
	TA' XBIEX	FGUERA	KORMSA
	SUEVA	SACI	QORNICI
	DWIEQI	KUM	MARSA
	BIRKIDARA	MELLIERA	SANTA LUCIA
	MAMRIN	QNAWQ	STANTON
	MARSASCALA	LIA	SENGIER
	SANTA VENERA	ZURRIEQ	QWANDALIN
	ZETTON	FLORIANA	SEA
	KIRKOP	TARREN	QAND
	VALLETTA	WISDA	KENDRA
	DALJA	DARAT (Dhwarika)	QWA
	GRZEBUQA	MOSTA	QWAS
	QORMI	DINGLI	ZARSA
	QZRA	SAN QWAWAL	
		ZABBAR	
		ZEBBQ (Marsa)	
		ZEBBQ (QWAWAL)	
		MARSA (Marsa)	
		KARSA	
		BALZAN	
		MURRAY	
		ATTARD	
		RETA	
		MURRAY	
		QWABRA	
		BIRCU	
		QWANSIELIN	
		QWOTTA	
		QWADIA	
		DARAT (Marsa)	

# INTERACTIVE MAP

Main Crime Categories  
Sub Crime Categories  
Heatmaps

14 Years activity  
2008-2022

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



The background of the page is a dark navy blue. On the left side, there is a large, abstract geometric shape composed of several overlapping triangles and polygons in various shades of teal and blue, ranging from dark teal to light blue. This shape extends from the top left towards the bottom right. In the upper right quadrant, the text "CRIME MALTA OBSERVATORY" and "ANNUAL CRIME REVIEW" is written in a white, sans-serif font. Below this, the year "2022" is displayed in a larger, white, sans-serif font.

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