

Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

Malta

Country Profile

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This country profile on Malta is taken from the report *Prisons in Europe 2005-2015* ([link](#)), which contains 51 profiles on the prison populations in the Prison Administrations of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe.

Prisons in Europe 2005- 2015 presents data on prison populations across Europe from 2005 to 2015. It is divided in two volumes: Volume 1 presents country profiles based on several indicators concerning prison populations, and Volume 2 includes all the data used for the report. The report has been prepared by the University of Lausanne and co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Each country profile includes a Table with Key Facts about the country, which are presented in the form of several indicators referring to the latest available year and to the evolution during the latest ten years, as well as the relative position of the country (low, medium or high) for each indicator compared to the 28 member States of the European Union (“EU 28”) and the 47 member States of the Council of Europe (“CoE 47”). The classification in “low”, “medium” and “high” is based on the comparative indicators presented in Part 2 of the study. The country profile is divided in four sections and includes 8 Figures. The four sections are the following:

- Key facts
- The country in brief: This section summarizes the trends shown in the key facts from 2005 to 2014/15. It illustrates which indicators have increased, which have decreased and which have remained stable. The indicator is considered as showing a stable trend if the variation is lower than 5%.
- The country in comparative perspective: This section compares each country to the rest of the countries included in the study.

General comments:

This section includes eight Figures, comments to these Figures and some possible explanations of the observed trends. The eight Figures are numbered from 1 to 8 within each country profile and also include, between brackets, their absolute number from 1 to 408.

The Key facts include indicators of stock and flow. The stock indicators refer to the situation on 1st September 2015. The flow indicators refer to the situation during the year 2014. On the basis of the data included in this study, we have calculated for each indicator the average for the 10 to 11 years under study. This average is presented in the fifth column of the country profiles.

Finally, the last column of the country profiles provides a graphic indicator of the trend observed when one compares the last year of the series (2014 and 2015 respectively) to the first one (2005). The arrows included in this column reflect the evolution of the indicator according to the following table:

↔	+/- 4.9%	stable
↑	+5 to +9%	slight increase
↑↑	+10 to +19%	moderate increase
↑↑↑	+20 to +49%	substantial increase
↑↑↑↑	+50% and more	huge increase
↓	-5 to -9%	slight decrease
↓↓	-10 to -19%	moderate decrease
↓↓↓	-20 to -49%	substantial decrease
↓↓↓↓	-50% and more	huge decrease

COUNTRY PROFILE

MALTA

TRENDS 2005-2015

Key Facts

	2014/15	Comparative		Evolution 2005-2014/15	
		CoE 47	EU 28	Average	% Change
Prison population rate (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 01.09.2015	134.0	Medium	Medium	125.0	↑↑↑↑↑
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	148.3	Medium	Medium	153.9	↓
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) – Available since 2009	152.3	Medium	Medium	158.5*	↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	11.7	High	Medium	10.3	↑↑↑↑↑
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	10.9	Medium	Medium	9.7	↑↑↑↑↑
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	86.2	Medium	Medium	95.3	↑↑↑↑
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	37**	High	High	35.0***	↑
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	6.7	High	High	6.0	↑↑
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	40.4	High	High	34.5	↑
of which: in pre-trial detention	41.7	Medium	Medium	56.3	↑
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	28.7	High	High	40.2	↓↓
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	17.5	Low	Low	14.2	↑↑↑↑↑
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=0)	0.0	Low	Low	3.7	↔
of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=0) – Available since 2013	0.0	Low	Low	NAP	NAP
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	2.1	High	High	2.4	↑↑↑↑↑
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	92.6	High	High	82.7	↑↑↑↑
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	9 000 000**	NAP	NAP	9 000 000****	↔
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2010	50.0**	Medium	Medium	50.0*****	↔

* Average calculated from 2009 to 2014

** Data refers to 2013

*** Average calculated from 2005 to 2013

**** Average calculated from 2011 to 2013

***** Average calculated from 2010 to 2013

Malta in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: rate of entries into penal institutions (-5%), rate of releases from penal institutions (-6%), and percentage of non-sentenced inmates (-11%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: prison population rate (+81%), average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institution (+74%), average length of detention based on stock and flow (+90%), prison density (+39%), percentage of female inmates (+18%), percentage of foreign inmates (+32%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (+8%), ratio of inmates per staff (+65%), and percentage of custodial staff (+40%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: none of indicators remain stable.

Malta in comparative perspective

- Compared to other European countries, in 2014/15 Malta presents:
 - **Low**: Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates, rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates, percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention.
 - **Medium**: Prison population rate, rate of entries into penal institutions, rate of releases from penal institutions, average length of detention based on stock and flow, prison density, percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates, average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate.
 - **High**: Median age of the prison population, percentage of female inmates, percentage of foreign inmates, percentage of non-sentenced inmates, ratio of inmates per staff, percentage of custodial staff in the total staff.
- When the average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institution is calculated, the length observed in Malta is high compared to the member States of the Council of Europe, but medium compared to the member States of the European Union.

General comments

Figure 1 (209)

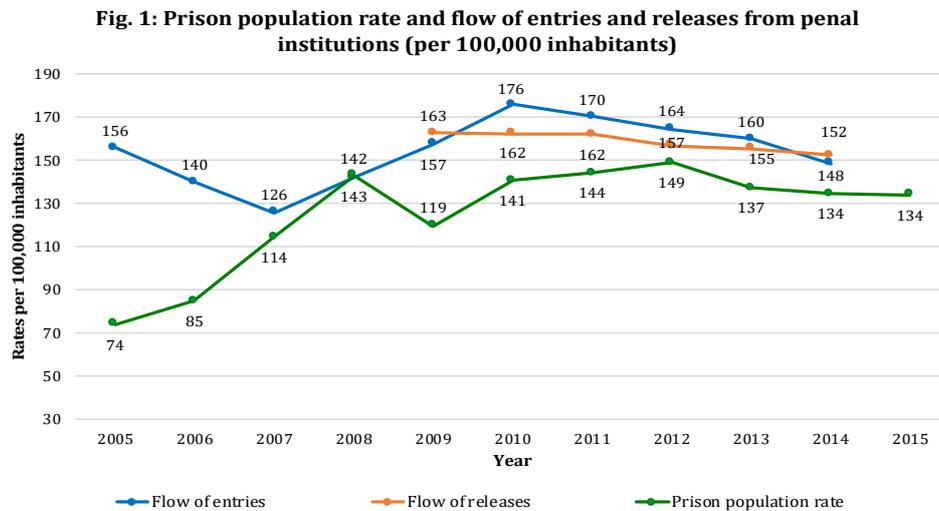


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Malta (stock) increased by 81%. In 2005, the country had 74 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 134. The increase took place mainly at the beginning of the series (from 2005 to 2008) and, according to the information collected during this research, was partially related to the influx of illegal immigrants which saturated the capacities of the criminal justice system, leading to a huge increase of inmates without a final sentence (see Figure 6). This problem was solved through a reform of the criminal justice administration that resulted in an increase of the number of magistrates of the country.

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) decreased by 5%. In 2005, there were 156 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 148.

From 2009 to 2014, the rate of releases (flow of releases) decreased by 6%. In 2009, there were 163 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 152.

The flow of entries and the flow of releases show relatively similar rates and trends.

Figure 2 (210)

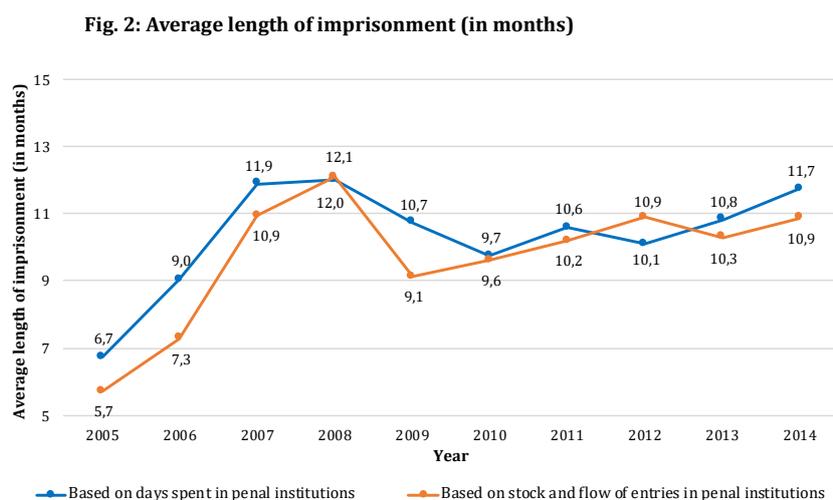


Figure 2 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions increased by 74%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 6.7 months, while in 2014 it was 11.7 months. The increase took place mainly at the beginning of the series and is related to the situation described in the comments to Figure 1.

During the same period, the average length of imprisonment computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow increased by 90%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 5.7 months, while in 2014 it was 10.9 months.

Figure 3 (211)

Fig. 3: Prison density per 100 places (Overcrowding)

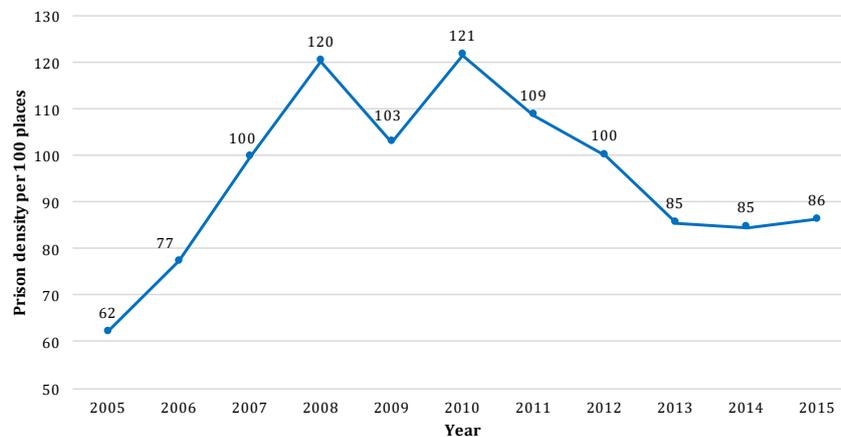


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Malta increased by 39%. In 2005, the country had 62 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 86. The increase observed at the beginning of the series is related to the situation described in the comments to Figure 1.

Figure 4 (212)

Fig. 4: Total capacity of penal institutions and number of inmates

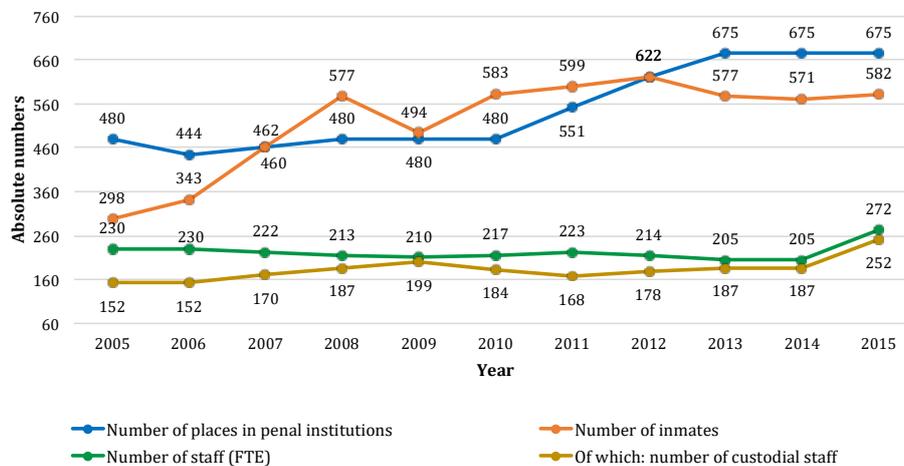


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Malta increased by 41%. In 2005, the country had 480 places, while in 2015 it had 675.

During the same period, the total number of inmates increased by 95%. In 2005, the country had 298 inmates, while in 2015 it had 582.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff increased by 18%. In 2005, Malta had in total a staff of 230 persons, while in 2015 it had 272.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff increased by 66%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 152 persons, while in 2015 it was 252.

Figure 5 (213)

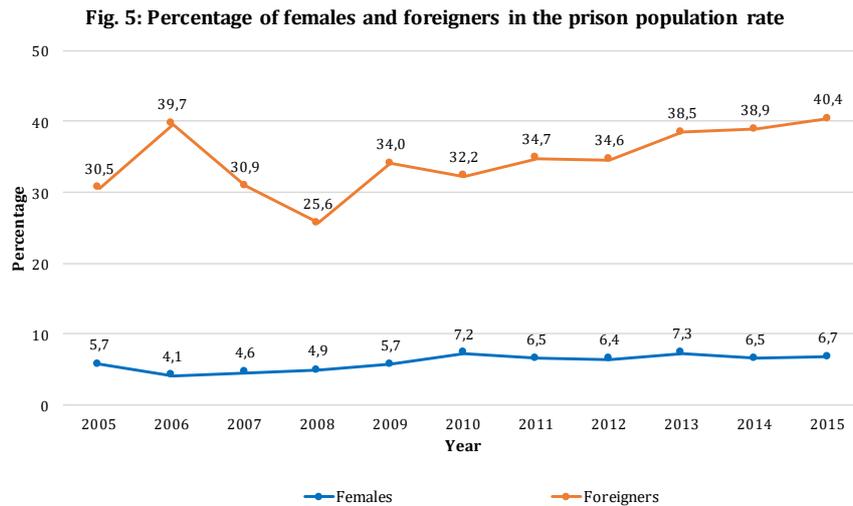


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates increased by 18%. In 2005, 5.7% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 6.7% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates increased by 32%. In 2005, 31% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 40% of the total prison population.

Figure 6 (214)

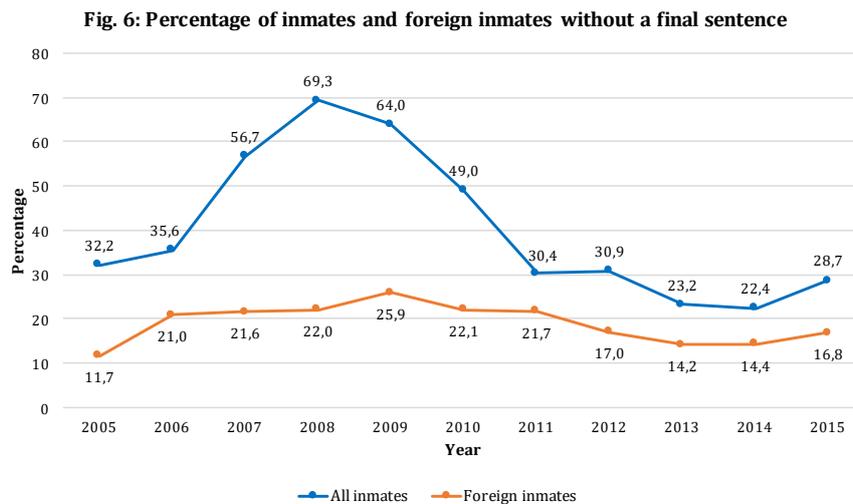


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence decreased by 11%. In 2005, 32% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 29% of all inmates. The increase observed at the beginning of the series is related to the situation described in the comments to Figure 1.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention increased by 43%. In 2005, they represented 12% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 17% of them.

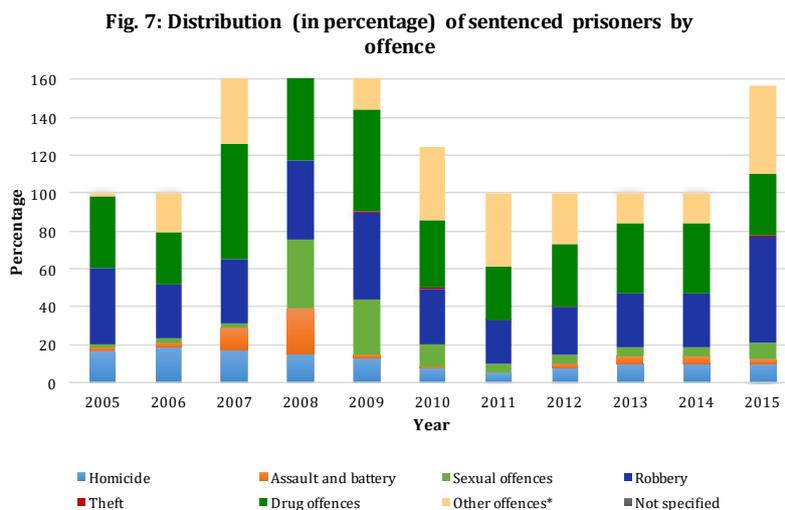
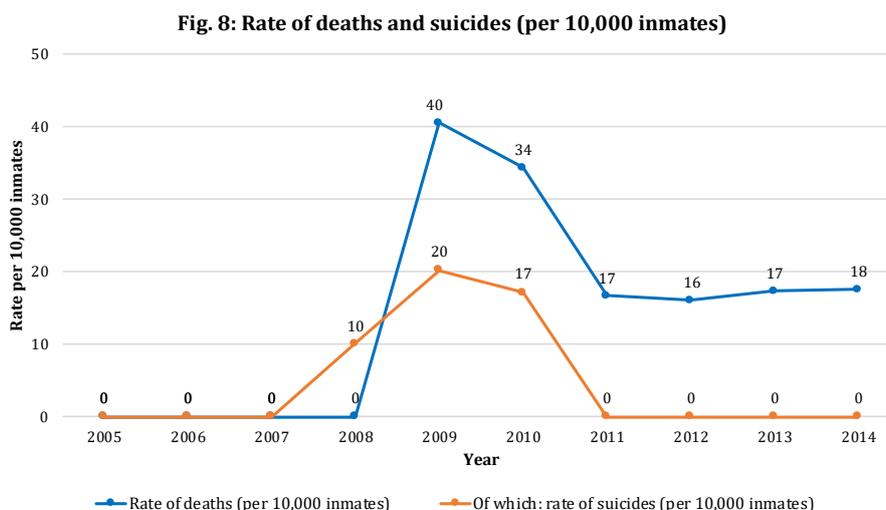
Figure 7¹²³ (215)

Figure 7 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentages of prisoners serving sentences for assault and battery, sexual offences, robbery, and other types of offences have increased; while the percentages of those serving sentences for homicide, and drug offences have decreased. These trends must be interpreted cautiously because the country did not apply the principal offence rule systematically when providing the data for Figure 7.

Figure 8 (216)



The instability of the trends for deaths and suicides per 10,000 inmates shown in Figure 8 illustrates the impossibility of reaching statistically reliable conclusions when the absolute number of cases that generated the rates is low. From 2005 to 2014, the annual number of inmates who died in prison oscillated between 2 and none and, among them, the number of those who committed suicide fluctuated between 1 and none.

¹ The figures provided by the country do not always add to 100%.

² Sexual offences include (1) rape (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005), and (2) other sexual offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008).

³ Other offences include (1) economic and financial offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008); (2) terrorism (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (3) organised crime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (4) cybercrime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2014); and (5) other cases (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005).