

# Doing Business in Malta

*Expert knowledge means success*

## Contents

1. Introduction
1. UK-Malta trade and trade with other countries
2. Reasons to do business in Malta
3. Economy
3. Population
4. Geography
4. Climate
4. Government Structure
4. Establishing a Business in Malta
5. Taxation
6. Exporting
7. Importing
7. Customs Duties
7. Terms of Payment
8. Advertising and Marketing
8. Business Hours
8. Business Etiquette
8. Transport and Travel
9. Travel Advice
9. Passports/Visas
9. Useful Contacts
10. Country Data
11. Further Information



Note: This publication has not been updated since it was last published. Some of the hyperlinks may have changed and may need updating. In addition, some of the information in this publication may be out of date.

## Introduction

The Republic of Malta is a small group of Southern European islands situated in the Mediterranean Sea just south of Sicily (Italy) – just under 100 km from Sicily and 290 km from North Africa. The inhabited islands consist of Malta, Gozo and Comino. It is currently the smallest European Union (EU) country both in population and in area. It has 121 sq miles of landmass.

Geographically, Malta lies in an advantageous strategic position and the Maltese Government looks favourably upon export-oriented foreign investment. With a stable Government and legislation, which provides attractive incentive packages, Malta should be considered as a valuable market for investment. Profits and capital may be repatriated without difficulty and there are special concessions for foreigners who choose to settle in the country. Once established, foreign companies have the same rights as Maltese companies.

Malta is one of the oldest civilisations in the Mediterranean dating back to circa 5,000 years B.C. The population is now just over 400,000 and is homogeneous with its own identity and language. The official languages are Maltese and English with most of the people also fluent in Italian.

Britain shares a long colonial history with Malta going back to 1800, when the British Royal Navy blockaded the entrance of Grand Harbour and helped see off Napoleon. Malta remains a popular port of call for Royal Navy ships.

Before the last British garrison left in 1979, Malta had already obtained independence (1964) and was developing export-oriented industries and 'off-shore' business facilities that would replace the income provided by military and naval connections. With few natural resources Malta is further developing its economy through tourism and export-dedicated manufacturing. The development of Malta as a financial centre is seen as key to its future economy.

The British Council maintains a small but highly active operation in Valletta, focussing on cultural and educational links with the younger generations of Maltese. Postgraduate educational ties are strong – particularly in the professions. Family and business links are also strong. Over 500,000 British tourists visit the Maltese islands each year and the resident British population is over 6,000.

Malta has traditionally enjoyed high employment, low inflation and consistent (if moderate) GDP growth. Malta joined the Exchange Rate Mechanism in April 2005 and joined the Euro in January 2008. It has been a member state of the (EU) since 2004.

## UK-Malta trade and trade with other countries

### 1999 Data

GDP: €7.58 billion (2009)  
GDP per capita: €18,687 (2009)  
GDP Growth: -1.9% (2009)  
Inflation: 4.3% (2009)

### Major Industries

- Tourism
- Electronics
- The Malta Freeport (duty free container trans-shipment port)
- Financial services
- ICT
- Manufacturing industries, particularly pharmaceutical companies and semi-conductors.

### Major trading Partners

- UK
- Italy
- France
- USA
- Germany
- The Benelux countries
- Libya.

### The Recession

Malta has suffered from the effects of global recession, though it was slow to go into recession and is likely to be slow to come out. It has suffered less than some European countries due to strong economic growth in the years preceding the global economic



### The Maltese Flag

The Maltese Flag was adopted in 1964 after Malta gained its independence from British Rule

crisis, and also a low risk lending strategy in the financial services sector.

The banks are funded from resident deposits and their lending is almost exclusively local.

The tourism industry has been badly hit, exacerbated by the strength of the Euro. In 2008, 450,000 British tourists visited Malta, contributing roughly 9% to Malta's GDP, but the numbers were lower for 2009 and 2010.

The Maltese economy is dependent on foreign trade. Export opportunities exist in the following areas:

- Electronics and hi-tech industries and pharmaceuticals are the fastest growing sectors and many international companies have set up production plants in Malta;
- Utilities are state run although there are plans to revitalise a move towards private participation;
- Tourism has been a major area of the economy and products relating to this area are well received;
- Export-oriented (re-export) business opportunities lie in electronics, telecommunications and service industries;
- Financial services opportunities exist as many foreign financial practitioners use Malta for their back-office operations;
- Because of its position Malta is ideal for further exports to North Africa and the Middle East.

## Reasons to do business in Malta

Malta has a well developed business infrastructure with good telecommunications; this coupled with the widespread use of the English language and a reasonably open and efficient public administration makes the island a very convenient and effective business base. Valletta is both the capital and the main business centre.

Economic stability, healthy industrial relations, a flexible labour force, strategic location and of course the incentives offered, all enhance Malta's competitiveness.

As part of Maltese inward investment promotion incentives, capital and earnings may be freely repatriated and there are no restrictions on foreign investment.

## Malta Enterprise

Malta Enterprise is a government agency focused on attracting inward investment and supporting enterprise in Malta. Its role is to act as a single point of contact for all enterprise support in Malta and to provide cohesion to government policies and efforts relating to enterprise in this country.

Malta Enterprise provides a comprehensive package of assistance and advisory services to international companies and investors considering operations in Malta. These include professional pre-investment advice and support, start-up assistance as well as a suite of post investment services and aftercare facilities.

Malta Enterprise provides incentives for foreign direct investors and local enterprises demonstrating commitment towards growth and increase in value added and employment. Enterprises engaged in manufacturing, ICT development activities, Call Centres, Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology, among others, may benefit from these incentives.

The incentives are subdivided into six separate themes, namely:

- Investment Aid: Companies engaged in specific activities can benefit from tax credits on capital investment and job creation.
- SME Development: Grants targeting the creation and development of innovative start-ups, and the development of forward looking small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Enterprise Support: Assistance to businesses to support them in developing their international competitiveness, improving their processes and networking with other businesses.
- Access to Finance: Companies may be assisted through loan guarantees, soft loans, loan interest subsidies or royalty financing in the case of highly innovative projects.
- Employment and Training: These incentives are administered by the Employment & Training Corporation. Enterprises are supported in recruiting new employees and training their staff.
- R&D and Innovation: Various incentives will be offered to stimulate innovative enterprises to engage in research & development.

For further details on the Incentives Package please go to:

<http://support.maltaenterprise.net/> or  
[www.maltaenterprise.com/](http://www.maltaenterprise.com/)



## 7 Reasons to do business in Malta

1. English is the official language.
2. Malta has a cost-competitive and skilled workforce.
3. Malta is a member of the EU and has the euro as its currency.
4. **Malta's quality of life** is consistently highly ranked.
5. Malta has a meticulous but accessible single regulator.
6. Malta has a robust yet flexible legal and regulatory framework.
7. Malta provides a stable business environment and a world-class IT infrastructure.

Source:  
[www.financemalta.org](http://www.financemalta.org)

## Strategic Location and Communications

One of the cornerstones of Malta's marketing strategy revolves around its strategic location advantage. Offering easy access to all markets due to its advanced infrastructure and air/shipping connections, Malta is an ideal base to penetrate both the Southern European as well as the North African markets and beyond.

The island's physical location in the centre of the Mediterranean is also ideal. Air and sea passenger and freight connections are excellent. London is just 3 hours by air, Rome a mere 11/2 hours. The Central European time zone is also ideal for businesses dealing with European and North American clients.

The state-of-the-art telecommunications system is constantly upgraded and includes fully compatible GSM digital cellular services.

## Economy

Malta is less affluent than some neighbouring European countries, although this is improving. Its per capita GDP was \$20,202 according to the IMF World Economic Outlook Database:

[www.imf.org/external/ns/cs.aspx?id=28](http://www.imf.org/external/ns/cs.aspx?id=28) putting it around mid-place in terms of affluence among EU countries.

The previously substantial budget deficit has declined to the point where the deficit-to-GDP ration is comfortably below 3% as required for eurozone membership.

Malta is eligible for regional investment aid from the European Commission to a maximum of 30% of eligible cost. For the period 2007-2013, Malta expects to receive €840 million in regional aid to deliver growth and jobs.

Most of Malta's industrial supplies and consumer goods are imported. It produces only about 20% of its food needs, has limited fresh water supplies and has few domestic energy sources. Therefore, the economy is dependent on foreign trade, manufacturing (especially electronics, general pharmaceuticals and textiles) and tourism. Although tourism contributes significantly to the economy (over 1 million tourists visit the island each year), the Maltese Government has long been committed to the financial

sector, in line with establishing the island as a major financial services centre. Although manufacturing, tourism and shipping go some way towards paying for imports, it is generally recognised that the gap cannot be closed without the development of a financial services sector. Banking, mutual funds, insurance and trust services sectors are growing but are not on the scale of some other OIFCs. The establishment of Malta as a World Trade Centre (which was approved in 2001) is expected to facilitate the promotion and development of Malta as a principal hub for trade in the Mediterranean region.

## Europe Integration

Malta was invited to join the European Union in December, 2002, along with Cyprus and 8 Eastern European ex-Soviet states. A referendum in March, 2003, approved EU entry, and after the government was returned to power shortly afterwards, it signed the EU accession treaty in Athens. Finally, the Maltese Parliament ratified the accession treaty in July 2003. Malta joined the European Union on 1 May 2004.

In May 2005, Malta was accepted into the EU's Exchange Rate Mechanism. Malta adopted the Euro as its sole currency in January 2008.

## Population

The population of Malta is 413,000 (Source: World Bank, 2010). It is less affluent than other European countries: its GDP per capita is around 75% of that of Germany, France and the UK.

Malta has a multi-lingual and highly skilled workforce. The official languages are Maltese and English; Italian is also widely spoken. The civilisation is one of the oldest in the Mediterranean dating back to circa 5,000 years BC.

## Labour Laws

Many of the employment laws that apply to the UK working population— such as minimum wage, equal opportunities, working hours etc are present in Malta and are regulated by the relevant laws including the Conditions of Employment Regulation Act, and the Industrial Relations Act.



## Malta Enterprise

Malta is a well connected investment location in the heart of the Mediterranean.

It has an advanced communications setup and a business environment which gives every incentive for companies to invest, grow, innovate and compete in a global marketplace.

Malta offers a solid business and industrial background going back 50 years. In fact, today it is home to hundreds of foreign companies all operating within a well-developed economic and industrial structure.

Boasting a highly productive English speaking workforce, a European time zone, a Mediterranean lifestyle, competitive incentives package, as well as frequent air and sea connections, all make Malta a good choice for foreign direct investment and international trade.

Source: Malta Enterprise

## Geography



Malta is a small archipelago which lies roughly in the centre of the Mediterranean, some 100km south of Sicily and 290km from North Africa. The total inhabited area of the country is approximately 320 square kilometres and consists of one main island (Malta) and two smaller islands (Gozo and Comino) with a total coastline of 140km. The landscape of all three islands is characterised by low hills with terraced fields. Malta has no mountains or rivers and its coastline is indented with harbours, bays, streams, sandy beaches and rocky coves. Gozo is less industrialised and considerably greener than Malta. Comino, the smallest island, is very sparsely populated.

Malta's capital and government administrative centre is Valletta. Sliema, Hamrun, Birkirkara, Paola, and Mosta are important commercial centres.

## Climate

Malta enjoys a moderate Mediterranean climate of warm, dry summers and mild wet winters. The proximity of all parts of the island to the sea ensures that cooling breezes are often in evidence. Earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and other violent natural occurrences are unknown on the islands.

Average annual rainfall is 590 mm and average temperatures range from 12°C in the winter months to over 36°C in August, the hottest month of the year. The islands can be quite windy and depending on the direction, the winds can bring cool, dry or hot and humid weather.

## Government Structure

Malta is a Republic with a democratic system of Government. It has been a member of the European Union since May 2004. The titular head of state is the President who is appointed by the House of Representatives. Legislative power lies in the hands of the House of Representatives which currently has sixty five members drawn from the two major political parties. Elections are held every five years. The President represents the unity of the nation.

At the time of publication the President was George Abela (since 2009) and the head of government was Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi (since 2004) Following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or leader of a majority coalition is usually appointed prime minister by the president for a five-year term; the deputy prime minister is appointed by the president on the advice of the prime minister. The Cabinet is also appointed by the president on the advice of the prime minister.

Valletta is the capital city and houses the seat of Government. Malta has a parliamentary democracy with executive power resting with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

### Legal Background

The legal structure is based on the civil law common in continental Europe. Most administrative and fiscal legislation is based on British laws.

## Establishing a business in Malta

The European Commission's *Your Europe* website has useful information on business structure options in Malta:

[http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/business/starting-business/setting-up/malta/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/business/starting-business/setting-up/malta/index_en.htm)

Foreign companies may settle in Malta under a variety of forms, depending on the investors' development strategies. A foreign company or investor proposing to establish a business in Malta may choose from a number of different business organisations:

- Limited Liability Company;
- International Trading Company;
- International Holding Company;

- General Partnership;
- Limited Partnership;
- Branch Of Overseas Company;
- Trusts.

## Taxation

The European Commission's *Your Europe* website has useful information on taxation in Malta:

[http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/business/managing-business/paying-taxes/malta/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/business/managing-business/paying-taxes/malta/index_en.htm)

### Personal Tax

The Income Tax Act and the Income Tax Management Act regulate income tax in Malta.

### Corporation Tax

Under Malta's tax system a company is considered resident if it is incorporated in Malta or, in the case of a foreign body of persons, if its control and management are exercised in Malta.

Malta operates a full imputation system of taxation and any tax paid by the company is imputed to the shareholder in the event of a dividend distribution.

For resident companies listed on Malta Stock Exchange, reduced tax rates are available, see below.

Company tax is payable by all companies registered or resident in Malta at 35% with no threshold for reduced rates of taxation (subject to the reduced rates depending on shareholder residency and company operations specified below).

### International Trading Companies

There are special provisions in the Act that apply to International Trading Companies,

### International Holding Companies

A Maltese company having income arising outside Malta may benefit from various forms of relief of double taxation. In addition, non-resident shareholders of such companies are entitled to certain refunds of tax upon distribution of dividends.

### Collective Investment Schemes

The tax provisions relating to the taxation of funds and investment services companies are designed to complement the Investment Services Act (ISA) and to create a fiscal

regime which allows for the rapid development of a funds industry in Malta, both at a domestic and international level.

### Investment Services Companies

A package of fiscal incentives has been introduced to attract to Malta the management and administrative support that is required for the development of a funds industry in Malta. Maltese investment services companies which are licensed under the Investment Services Act enjoy a generous package of additional deductions.

### Back Office Operations

Companies offering back office management services to companies which are not resident in Malta may benefit from a tax holiday under the Industrial Development Act which is Malta's industrial incentive legislation. Back office services are defined as services consisting of routine administrative services, book-keeping and accounting services, information and data processing services, computer bureau, database and computer outsourcing services. Professional and consultancy services which require a warrant, license or other official authorization are excluded from benefiting under this incentive legislation.

### Value Added Tax (VAT)

Information about VAT, the obligation to register and rates of VAT are provided on the Maltese VAT website at:

[www.vat.gov.mt/vat.aspx](http://www.vat.gov.mt/vat.aspx)

### Tax Treaties

Malta has concluded tax treaties with a number of countries which enhance the incentives provided by Maltese domestic legislation. Most of these treaties ensure that profits generated in Malta are either exempt from tax in the country of residence of the investor, or that such a country will provide a tax credit for the Malta tax spared as a consequence of the incentives Malta provides.

In addition, a Maltese company having income arising outside Malta may benefit from the various forms of relief of double taxation available under Malta's tax legislation. A double taxation agreement is in force between Malta and the UK.



## Exporting

There are no official services delivered on behalf of UK Trade and Invest to help British companies who wish to export to or invest in Malta. This means that no substantive commercial assistance is provided, although lobbying on behalf of UK companies may be carried out by the Head of Mission on a case-by-case basis. For further information visit [www.ukti.gov.uk](http://www.ukti.gov.uk)

The Integrated Tariff of the United Kingdom contains helpful information on Importing or Exporting. It includes references to the relevant laws and regulations. For further information, visit [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk).

### Export licences (from UK)

---

You should check with HM Revenue & Customs to see if a licence is required for any goods you wish to export to Malta. There are a number of licensing requirements, relevant to exports. These include:

- Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Licences;
- The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS<sup>1</sup>) Licences;
- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Licences;
- Department of Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) Licences.

An export licence is mandatory if you are exporting certain products. If a licence is required and is not presented at the time of export, the consignment will not be able to leave. For further information, visit: [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

The BIS's Export Control Organisation is the first point of contact for information on export controls. They provide advice on many issues, including how to establish whether or not specific goods need an export licence, the different types of export licences, how to complete export licence application forms and how long they take to process. They are also the point of contact for Export Control Organisation publications and licence application forms. For further information visit: [www.bis.gov.uk/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/index.html](http://www.bis.gov.uk/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/index.html)

The Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) can provide information concerning the export of defence related equipment. For further information visit [www.deso.mod.uk](http://www.deso.mod.uk)

For information concerning export controls on antiques and works of art, please visit the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website at [www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)

### Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD)

---

ECGD can provide insurance or arrange medium/long-term finance packages in a wide range of markets worldwide for UK exporters of capital goods and projects. They can also provide contacts for private sector insurance for UK exporters of consumables. For more information visit the ECGD website at: [www.ecgd.gov.uk](http://www.ecgd.gov.uk) or contact their helpline: Tel: 020 7512 7887.

### Export Documentation

---

SITPRO is the UK's trade facilitation body dedicated to simplifying the international trade process by cutting red tape. It manages the UK Aligned Series of Export documents, and licenses a network of approved suppliers to provide them. The series now contains nearly 70 standard commercial, transport, banking, insurance and official forms. Further information can be found at: [www.sitpro.org.uk](http://www.sitpro.org.uk)

### Technical Help for Exporters

---

Technical Help for Exporters (THE) is a service provided by the British Standards Institution (BSI) to provide information and advice on compliance with overseas statutory and other technical requirements.

THE produces a wide range of publications and provides a special updating service of information in some product fields. THE can supply detailed information on foreign regulations; identify, supply and assist in the interpretation of foreign standards and approval procedures; research and consult on technical requirements for a specific product; and provide translations of foreign standards, items of legislation and codes of practice. Fees vary according to the amount of work involved.

For further information visit the British Standards Institution (BSI) website at: [www.bsi-global.com/Technical+Information](http://www.bsi-global.com/Technical+Information) or e-mail: [THE@bsi-global.com](mailto:THE@bsi-global.com)



## Importing

The Integrated Tariff of the United Kingdom contains helpful information on Importing or Exporting. It includes references to the relevant laws and regulations. For further information, visit [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

### Import licenses

You should check with HM Revenue & Customs to see if a licence is required for any goods you wish to import from Malta. There are a number of licensing requirements, relevant to imports. These include;

- Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Licences,
- The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) Licences;
- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Licences,
- European Commission Licences,
- Forestry Commission Licences and
- Radio Communications Agency (RDA) Licences.

If a licence is needed and is not presented at the time of importation, the goods will not be allowed to enter the country.

## Customs Duties

If goods are produced in the UK (or in another EU member state) they are not liable to import duty on entry into Malta. However, they should be accompanied by a T2L Certificate, which basically proves that those goods are in free circulation within the EU member states. This Certificate is issued by HM Revenue & Customs after carrying out an inspection of the products to be exported. It is still advisable to send normal commercial documentation with the export (e.g. invoices, packaging lists) for despatches to Malta. If goods have entered the EU from a non-member country and have had the necessary import duty paid on them, they can enter Malta without any further import duties being levied.

The UK has guidance levels for the import of tobacco, alcohol and other products bought by visitors for their own use. These levels can be checked at: [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

## Terms of Payment

Generally speaking, any of the customary methods of payment used in international commercial transactions can be used when doing business with Maltese businesses.

In order to minimise the risk of bad debts, exporters should take up credit references on Maltese importers with whom they do business. Legal action can be both costly and lengthy and may not be worthwhile for relatively small debts.

The most common form of payment is cash against documents. The invoice should state how the value (expressed in £ Sterling, US\$ or Euro) is to be transferred to the UK and give the exporter's bank name, town, sort code, account name and number. Exporters should contact their own bank for advice on credit management, short term credit insurance and factoring.

## Advertising and Marketing

### Sales Promotion

---

In promoting a product in Malta remember that the second official language after Maltese is English - thus, advertising to support the marketing of new products is a viable proposition.

Correspondence and trade literature should be provided in English and samples are appreciated where practical. Quotations should be in pounds sterling or euro.

As with all foreign markets, it is advisable to seek the advice of a local advertising agency if selling direct. By far the best route is to enlist the help of a local importer or import agent who will provide assistance on choosing an advertising agency.

A list of advertising agencies and other services provided can be viewed at:  
<http://malta.co.uk/malta/srv2.htm>

### Local representation

---

Your choice of representative will depend a great deal on the nature of your business. An executive who has good interpersonal skills and who is able to provide some answers to technical questions is advisable. Lingual capability is not initially required as English is the official business language. However, as Malta places much emphasis on export trade (re-exports) languages such as Italian, French and German would prove useful.

## Business Hours

The best months for business visits are October to May. Office hours are Monday to Friday 8.00am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5.00pm. Most offices close on Saturdays.

Shops are usually open 9.00am to 1.30pm and 4.30pm to 7.00pm Monday to Saturday. However, in commercial areas frequented by tourists, most shops remain open until approximately 10.00pm. Shops are not open on Sundays and Public Holidays. Major Credit Cards and Travellers Cheques are accepted at most leading shops and restaurants.

## Business Etiquette

Apart from common courtesy, there are no special local business characteristics. Although first names are used in day to day business, it is usual to use more formal addressing (Mr--, Mrs--) for those in senior positions and on formal occasions. A good rule of thumb is to ask how your contact would prefer to be addressed!

Punctuality is expected and appreciated and business dress should be smart. Use of business cards is important and exchanges are always made on first meeting. There are no special issues regarding women in business.

## Transport and Travel

### Air Travel

---

The vast majority of British business visitors to Malta arrive by air. Malta is only a few hours away from major European cities by air. The national airline, Air Malta, operates flights to and from all the major airports in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Gulf States.

Information on Air Malta flight schedules is available online at [www.airmalta.com](http://www.airmalta.com). Other international carriers operate regular scheduled flights to and from Malta. Charter flights from various cities in Europe are also available.

Direct flights exist between London and Luqa. Malta International Airport (MIA) is 3 miles from Valletta and buses depart regularly to and from Valletta City Gate. Malta International Airport web site is:  
[www.maltairport.com](http://www.maltairport.com)

### Road travel

---

Driving is on the left and the speed limit is 60kph on main roads and 35kph in built up areas. Metered taxis are readily available and charge government set rates. There are good local bus services operating from Luqa (Airport) and between all major towns.

There is a full (metered) taxi service throughout the islands and many car hire companies - both Hertz and Avis have desks at the airport. Car hire rates on Malta are amongst the cheapest in Europe. A full UK driving licence is required and if driving a hire car, you must have your licence endorsed by the Department of Transport Licensing Office in Floriana.

## Other travel

There are regular ferry services to Gozo (30 minutes). A helicopter service exists between the two islands eight times a day and takes about 15 minutes.

## Hotels

International standard hotels can be found in most parts of Malta.

## Travel Advice

If you are planning to visit Malta you are advised to consult the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who issue regularly updated travel advice on problems that may arise owing to political unrest, violence, natural disasters and epidemics. Tel: +44 (0) 207 238 4503 / 4504. Fax: +44 (0) 207 238 4545. Their website is at: [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)

Although health insurance is always advisable, there is a reciprocal health agreement between UK and Malta. This means that UK passport-holders staying less than 30 days may receive free emergency hospital treatment at a state-run hospital. Malta offers a high standard of medical care. Medical facilities, run along modern lines, are available through the regional health centres and two general hospitals.

The presentation of the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) facilitates matters. This is available for a small charge from most United Kingdom post offices, or free online from: [www.ehic.org.uk](http://www.ehic.org.uk). It will cover part of the cost of emergency health care at State hospitals in Malta during your stay.

However, an EHIC does not cover all medical fees, or medical repatriation, or on-going medical treatment of a non-urgent nature. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office therefore recommends that you obtain comprehensive travel and medical insurance. For further information on health, check the Department of Health's website.

Tap water is perfectly safe to drink but may taste strong by European standards. Milk is pasteurised and available daily in cartons and bottles. All dairy products are safe for consumption.

## Passports/Visas

As a member state of the European Union from May, 2004, Malta no longer applies restrictions to the movements of nationals of other EU member states.

A full British Passport is required along with a return ticket. No Visa is required for UK visitors.

For full information on visa requirements, visit: <http://malta.visahq.co.uk/>

## Useful Contacts

**British High Commission in Malta**  
British High Commission  
Commercial Department  
Whitehall Mansions  
Ta' Xbiex Seafront  
TA' XBIEX MSD 11  
MALTA  
E-mail: [bhccomm@fco.gov.uk](mailto:bhccomm@fco.gov.uk)  
Tel: 00356 23230000  
Fax: 00356 23232226

**Central Bank of Malta**  
Pjazza Kastilja,  
Valletta,  
VLT 1060  
Malta  
Tel: 00356 2550 0000  
Fax: 00356 2550 2500  
E-mail: [info@centralbankmalta.org](mailto:info@centralbankmalta.org)

**Chamber of Commerce for the market**  
The Malta Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise  
Exchange Buildings  
Republic Str  
Valletta VLT 05  
Malta  
Tel: 00356 21233873/21247233  
Fax: 0035621245223  
E-mail: [admin@chamber.org.mt](mailto:admin@chamber.org.mt)  
Website: [www.chamber.org.mt](http://www.chamber.org.mt)

**The CIA World Factbook**  
[www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook](http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook)

**Country Embassy in UK**  
Maltese High Commission  
Malta House  
36-38 Piccadilly  
London W1J 0LE  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7292 4800  
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7734 1832

## Country tourist office in UK

Malta Tourist Authority  
London Office  
Malta House  
36-38 Piccadilly  
London W1V 0PP  
E-mail: [office.uk@tourism.org.mt](mailto:office.uk@tourism.org.mt)  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7292 4900  
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7734 1880

## Malta Development Corp.

PO Box 571  
Valletta,  
Malta  
Tel: 00356 448944  
Fax: 00356 448966.

The MDC is a Government one-stop agency, whose aim is to promote and support direct manufacturing investment in Malta. Its expertise is available free of charge and tailored to the needs of industry.

## Malta Government

Useful information regarding foreign and economic policies, statistics and other similar information.

Website: [www.gov.mt](http://www.gov.mt)

## Malta Stock Exchange

Garrison Chapel,  
Castile Place,  
Valletta,  
VLT 1063,  
Malta  
Tel: 00356 21 244051  
Fax: 00356 25 696316

The M.S.E. was established by an Act of Parliament in 1990 with the sole and exclusive authority to provide facilities for the purchase and sale of listed securities of quoted companies, corporate bodies and Government stocks in Malta.

## Maltese Inward Investment Organisation

Malta Enterprise  
Enterprise Centre  
Industrial Estate  
San Gwann SGN 3000  
MALTA  
Tel: 00356 25420000  
Fax: 00356 25423401  
E-mail: [info@maltaenterprise.com](mailto:info@maltaenterprise.com)  
Website: [www.maltaenterprise.com](http://www.maltaenterprise.com)

Malta Enterprise carries out functions similar to those carried out by UK Trade & Investment.

## Trade Association

GRTU - Malta Chamber of Small & Medium Enterprises  
Exchange Bldg,  
Republic Str,  
Valletta VLT 05,  
Malta  
Tel: 00356 21 232881  
Fax: 00356 21 246925  
E-mail: [info@grtu.org.mt](mailto:info@grtu.org.mt)

## UK Trade & Investment

Country Manager, Malta  
UK Trade & Investment  
Kingsgate House  
66-74 Victoria Street  
London SW1E 6SW  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7215 8000  
E-mail: [peter.blawat@uktradeinvest.gov.uk](mailto:peter.blawat@uktradeinvest.gov.uk)

## Country Data

Feature	Country Data
Local time	Malta is one hour ahead from GMT (GMT + 2 from last Sunday in March to last Sunday in October).
Population	413,000 (Source: World Bank, 2010).
Capital City	Valletta – population around 7,100
Language/Religion	The language is Maltese (a Semitic Language) and English. Italian is also widely spoken. The principal religion is Roman Catholic
Area	The land area is 316sq km.
Public and Statutory holidays	Holiday dates can be found at: <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_holidays_in_Malta">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_holidays_in_Malta</a>
International dialling code from UK	00 356
Local currency	Euro
Weights and measures	The metric system is used in Malta: distances and speed are measured in kilometres, liquids are sold by the litre, and temperature is measured in Celsius.
Electricity supply	The electrical supply is 240 volts, single phase, 50 hz. Plug fittings used are 13 amp, three-pin rectangular sockets.

## Further Information<sup>2</sup>

This guide is for general interest - it is always essential to take advice on specific issues.

We believe that the facts are correct as at the date of publication, but there may be certain errors and omissions for which we cannot be responsible.

---

### Acknowledgement & References:

<sup>1</sup> The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) was formerly known as the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and before that was called the Department for Trade & Industry (DTI).

<sup>2</sup> We acknowledge the source of some of the information in this publication as kindly provided by Joe Vassallo Gatt, an accountant based in Malta and established for over 25 years. His firm offers a full range of accounting, tax, and small business consulting services at affordable fees. His firm can be contacted at:  
72 The Strand, Sliema SLM07, MALTA. Tel: 00356 21332557  
Fax: 00356 21334570 E-mail: [tald@maltanet.net](mailto:tald@maltanet.net)

<sup>3</sup> Some of the information in this publication has been based on information provided by UK Trade and Investment and Crown Copyright therein is duly acknowledged.

## Important Notice

© Copyright 2019, Martin Pollins,  
All Rights Reserved

This publication is published by **Bizezia Limited**. It is protected by copyright law and reproduction in whole or in part without the publisher's written permission is strictly prohibited. The publisher may be contacted at [info@bizezia.com](mailto:info@bizezia.com)

Some images in this publication are taken from Creative Commons – such images may be subject to copyright. **Creative Commons** is a non-profit organisation that enables the sharing and use of creativity and knowledge through free legal tools.

Articles and information contained herein are published without responsibility by us, the publisher or any contributing author for any loss howsoever occurring as a consequence of any action which you take, or action which you choose not to take, as a result of this publication or any view expressed herein. Whilst it is believed that the information contained in this publication is correct at the time of publication, it is not a substitute for obtaining specific professional advice and no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to its accuracy or completeness.

The information is relevant within the United Kingdom. These disclaimers and exclusions are governed by and construed in accordance with English Law.

Publication issued or updated on:  
27 January 2012

Ref: 570

