



European
Commission

European Innovation Scoreboard **2023** Country profile **Malta**



Innovation

European Innovation Scoreboard 2023 – Country profile Malta

European Commission

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Manuscript completed in June 2023.

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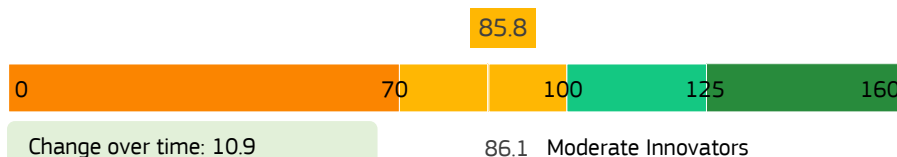
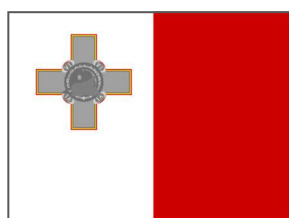
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as part of the European Innovation Scoreboard project
for the European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation under
Framework Contract N° 2018/RTD/A2/OP/PP-07001-2018 Lot 2 (EDAR)

The European Innovation Scoreboard report and annexes, and the indicators database are available at:

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/statistics/performance-indicators/european-innovation-scoreboard_en



Malta

	Performance relative to EU in 2023	Performance change 2016-2023	Performance change 2022-2023
SUMMARY INNOVATION INDEX	85.8	10.9	-2.6
Human resources	77.4	1.7	-3.2
Doctorate graduates	25.8	11.4	0.0
Population with tertiary education	102.3	-0.6	-0.6
Lifelong learning	108.8	-12.1	-12.1
Attractive research systems	126.9	74.9	41.5
International scientific co-publications	124.7	91.5	18.4
Most cited publications	88.2	20.1	36.7
Foreign doctorate students	206.0	184.9	73.9
Digitalisation	130.6	16.9	9.1
Broadband penetration	123.6	33.3	18.0
People with above basic overall digital skills	140.2	0.0	0.0
Finance and support	12.8	-20.8	-3.5
R&D expenditures in the public sector	18.8	-11.3	0.0
Venture capital expenditures	15.6	-8.1	4.7
Government support for business R&D	2.2	-47.3	-16.9
Firm investments	40.9	7.2	-12.2
R&D expenditure in the business sector	24.3	1.5	-1.5
Non-R&D Innovation expenditures	66.4	4.0	-34.0
Innovation expenditures per employee	36.0	15.7	-2.8
Use of information technologies	120.8	12.4	3.9
Enterprises providing ICT training	134.5	21.7	4.5
Employed ICT specialists	106.7	3.4	3.4
Innovators	66.0	7.9	-52.1
Product innovators (SMEs)	57.6	-5.9	-72.9
Business process innovators (SMEs)	73.3	22.7	-30.0
Linkages	100.7	56.7	-14.1
Innovative SMEs collaborating with others	65.0	48.6	-1.6
Public-private co-publications	131.9	106.0	19.3
Job-to-job mobility of HRST	116.7	41.2	-41.2
Intellectual assets	125.7	-14.9	1.0
PCT patent applications	60.1	13.7	4.9
Trademark applications	201.0	0.0	0.0
Design applications	139.0	-62.8	-3.3
Employment impacts	108.7	-8.9	-16.2
Employment in knowledge-intensive activities	165.1	0.0	0.0
Employment in innovative enterprises	62.4	-17.4	-31.5
Sales impacts	70.1	12.4	-10.2
Medium and high-tech goods exports	88.9	-3.5	-1.0
Knowledge-intensive services exports	70.5	28.4	-6.0
Sales of innovative products	43.1	17.1	-29.6
Environmental sustainability	112.5	19.2	11.3
Resource productivity	130.8	55.7	36.1
Air emissions by fine particulate matter	130.7	10.6	0.6
Environment-related technologies	68.2	4.8	7.2

The second column shows performance relative to that of the EU in 2023. Colours next to the column show matching colour codes: dark green: above 125% of the performance of the EU in 2023; light green: between 100% and 125%; light orange: between 70% and 100%; dark orange: below 70%. The next columns show performance change over time between 2016 and 2023 and between 2022 and 2023, with scores relative to those of the EU in 2016. Positive (negative) performance changes are shown in green (red).

MALTA is a **Moderate Innovator** with performance at 85.8% of the EU average. Performance is below the average of the Moderate Innovators. Performance is increasing at a rate higher than that of the EU (8.5%-points). The country's performance gap to the EU is becoming smaller.

Relative strengths

Foreign doctorate students
Trademark applications
Employment in knowledge-intensive activities
People with above basic overall digital skills
Design applications

Relative weaknesses

Government support for business R&D
Venture capital expenditures
R&D expenditures in the public sector
R&D expenditure in the business sector
Doctorate graduates

Strong increases since 2016

Foreign doctorate students
Public-private co-publications
International scientific co-publications

Strong decreases since 2016

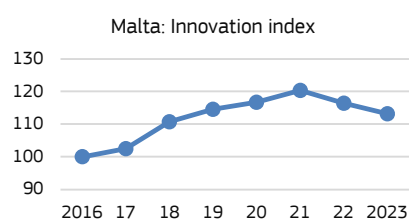
Design applications
Government support for business R&D
Employment in innovative enterprises

Strong increases since 2022

Foreign doctorate students
Most cited publications
Resource productivity

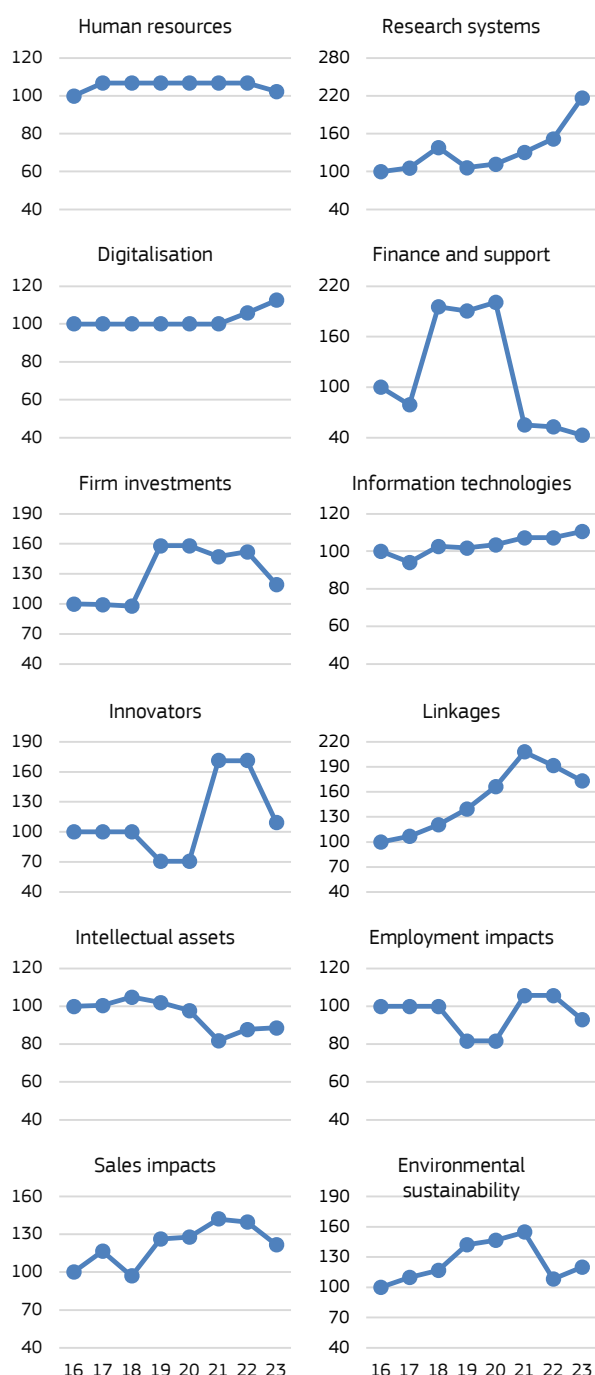
Strong decreases since 2022

Product innovators
Job-to-job mobility of HRST
Non-R&D Innovation expenditures



The graph on the left shows the evolution of **innovation performance over time** against the performance of the country in 2016. Innovation performance increased between 2016 and 2021 and then declined in both 2022 and 2023, leading to a 13% performance increase in 2023.

The graphs below show the evolution of innovation performance in the different **innovation dimensions** against the performance of the country in 2016. Performance increased most strongly for Research systems and Linkages. Performance declined for Finance and support, Intellectual assets and Employment impacts.





Performance is measured relative to that of the country in 2016 (=100).

Structural differences with the EU are shown below:

- Malta has higher per capita income and a faster growing economy. Business services takes up a larger share of the economy, with SMEs accounting for a larger share of turnover.
- Enterprise births, and FDI net inflows add positively to the innovation climate, Top R&D spenders, and Buyer sophistication add negatively.
- Malta has higher shares of In-house business process innovators, Non-innovators with potential to innovate, Non-innovators without disposition to innovate and Non-innovators without disposition to innovate.
- Government procurement as driver of research and innovation is above the EU average.
- Malta's performance on climate change indicators is inconsistent, with below-average achievements in recycling.

	MT	EU
Performance and structure of the economy		
GDP per capita (PPS)	32,800	32,600
Average annual GDP growth (%)	7.8	4.4
Employment share Manufacturing (NACE C) (%)	11.0	16.4
of which High and Medium high-tech (%)	29.7	38.0
Employment share Services (NACE G-N) (%)	47.3	41.1
of which Knowledge-intensive services (%)	40.4	35.8
Turnover share SMEs (%)	50.6	34.1
Turnover share large enterprises (%)	16.0	49.6
Foreign-controlled enterprises – share of value added (%)	17.0	11.8
Business and entrepreneurship		
Enterprise births (10+ employees) (%)	2.2	1.0
Total Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) (%)	n/a	6.8
FDI net inflows (% GDP)	26.8	2.1
Top R&D spending enterprises per 10 mln. population	19.7	20.3
Buyer sophistication (1 to 7 best)	3.7	3.7
Innovation profiles		
In-house product innovators with market novelties	8.1	12.2
In-house product innovators without market novelties	8.1	12.8
In-house business process innovators	17.9	16.5
Innovators that do not develop innovations themselves	5.1	6.5
Innovation active non-innovators	2.0	4.1
Non-innovators with potential to innovate	20.9	17.2
Non-innovators without disposition to innovate	38.0	30.7
Governance and policy framework		
Corruption Perceptions Index (0 to 100 best)	52.7	64.0
Basic school entrepreneurial education and training	n/a	3.3
Govt. procurement of advanced tech. products	3.7	3.5
Rule of law (-2.5 to 2.5 best)	0.9	1.0
Climate change indicators		
Circular material use rate	10.8	11.8
Greenhouse gas emissions intensity of energy consumption	61.7	82.8
Eco-Innovation Index	65.7	100.0
Demography		
Population size	0.5	447.1
Average annual population growth (%)	0.6	-0.1
Population density	1,620	108.8



This report provides the Country profile from the 2023 European Innovation Scoreboard for Malta.

Studies and reports