

3 December 2012 | 1100 hrs | 235/2012

In 2011, there were 29,840 persons aged 12 and over, living in private households, who were doing some form of voluntary work.

## International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development: 2012

Figures derived from the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions survey showed that during 2011, around 8 per cent of persons aged 12 and over were doing some form of voluntary work (Table 1). The largest share of these persons, 37 per cent, were aged between 25 and 49, followed by those in the 50-64 age bracket, at 30 per cent (Table 2).

Just over 80 per cent of voluntary workers were engaged equally between organisations providing institutional care, organisations involved in religious activities and organisations engaged in other social activities (Table 3). 36 per cent of those doing voluntary work within organisations said they had a supporting role, while 30 per cent held an administrative role (Table 4).

Around 41 per cent of those volunteering had been doing this unpaid work for more than 10 years, as opposed to a third that had been offering their help freely for less than 5 years (Table 5). Nearly half these volunteers said they felt it was their moral duty to carry out voluntary work. Another 20 per cent said they considered their voluntary work as recreation and that it helped them to meet new people (Table 6).

In a typical month, a quarter of the persons engaged in voluntary work spent around 10-19 hours doing this type of work, whereas a third spent less than 10 hours (Table 7). Results also reveal that, at 28 hours per month, men spend an average of 8 more hours per month doing voluntary work than women (Chart 1). When compared to the previous year, retired and unemployed persons increased their participation in voluntary work to 33 and 29 hours per month respectively. On the other hand, the number of hours spent by persons who were also engaged in paid work decreased to 23 hours per month (Chart 4).

Out of the total population of persons aged 12 and over, around 6 per cent, or 19,880, were members in a voluntary organisation. Of these, 58 per cent were paying members (Table 8) ■

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**Table 1. Persons aged 12 and over by main type of voluntary work done**

Type of voluntary work	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within a voluntary organisation	7,110	3.9	6,130	3.4	<b>13,240</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Within another entity	6,380	3.5	8,280	4.5	<b>14,650</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Informal (e.g. helping a neighbour)	[820]	[0.5]	[1,130]	[0.6]	<b>1,950</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Do not do any voluntary work	166,160	92.1	166,480	91.5	<b>332,640</b>	<b>91.8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>180,470</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>182,010</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>362,480</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 2. Persons doing voluntary work by type of work done and age**

Type of voluntary work	12-24	25-49	50-64	65+	Total
<b>No.</b>					
Within a voluntary organisation	1,850	5,060	4,220	2,100	<b>13,240</b>
Within another entity	2,340	5,280	4,160	2,880	<b>14,650</b>
Informal (e.g. helping a neighbour)	:	:	[610]	:	<b>1,950</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,420</b>	<b>11,020</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>29,840</b>
<b>%</b>					
Within a voluntary organisation	14.0	38.2	31.9	15.9	<b>100.0</b>
Within another entity	15.9	36.0	28.4	19.7	<b>100.0</b>
Informal (e.g. helping a neighbour)	:	:	[31.6]	:	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 3. Persons doing voluntary work with a voluntary organisation by organisation's type of activity**

Organisation's type of activity	No.	%
Work related to institutional care	3,630	27.4
Religious activities (excl. institutional care)	3,720	28.1
Other social activities	3,560	26.9
Other	2,330	17.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,240</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 4. Persons doing voluntary work with a voluntary organisation by main role**

Role	No.	%
Administrative role	3,990	30.1
Active role in organisation's activities	4,540	34.3
Supporting role in organisation's activities	4,710	35.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,240</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 5. Persons doing voluntary work by number of years of engagement**

Number of years	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 5 years	4,410	30.8	5,410	34.8	<b>9,820</b>	<b>32.9</b>
5-10 years	3,530	24.7	4,170	26.8	<b>7,690</b>	<b>25.8</b>
More than 10 years	6,370	44.5	5,960	38.4	<b>12,330</b>	<b>41.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15,530</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>29,840</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 6. Persons doing voluntary work by main reason**

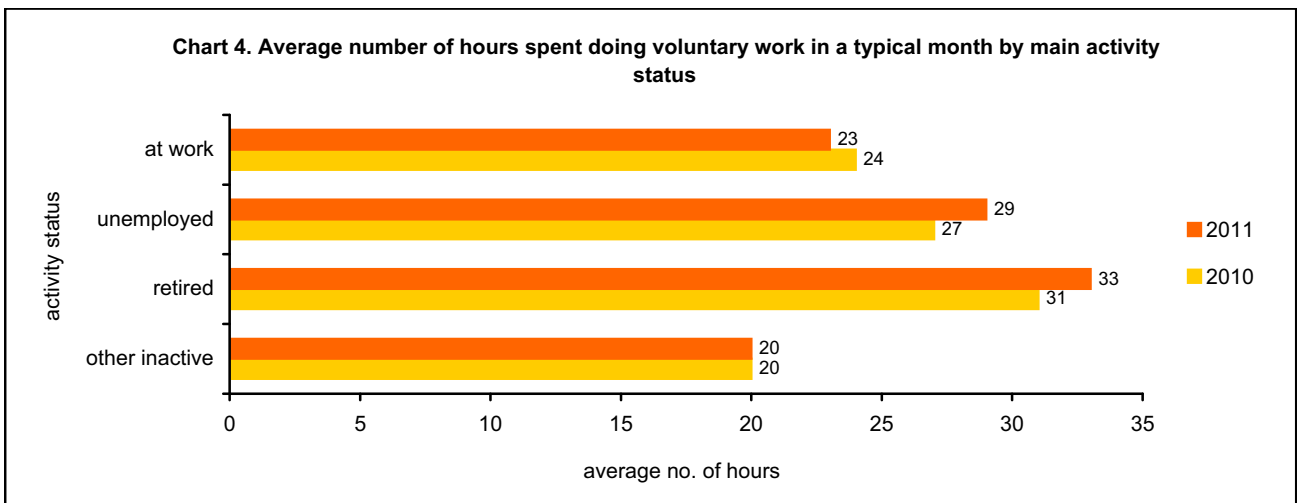
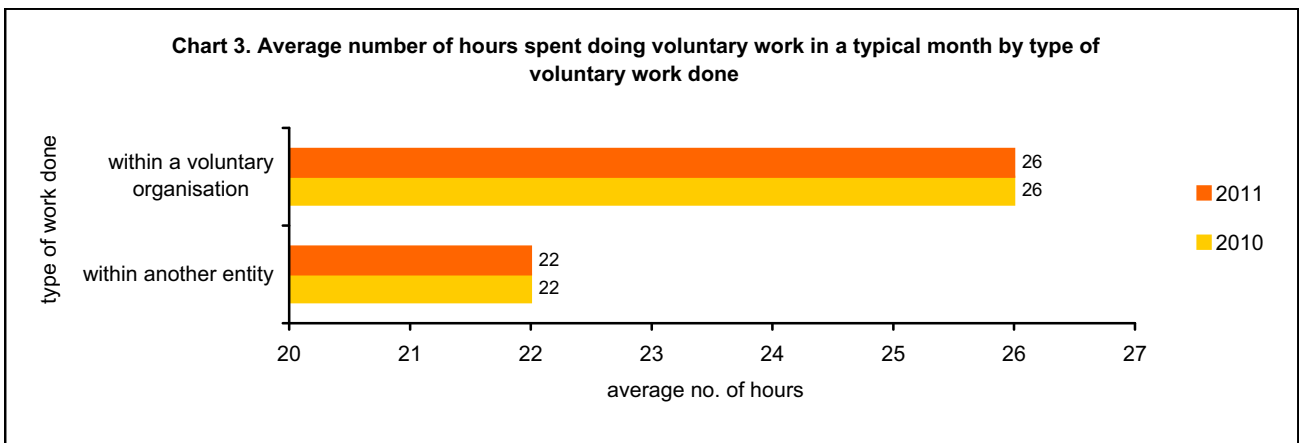
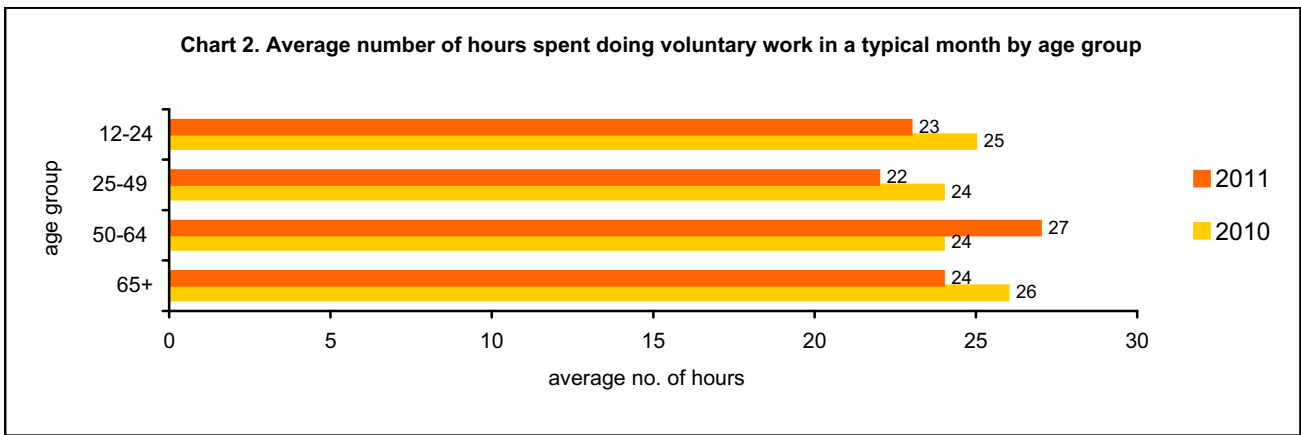
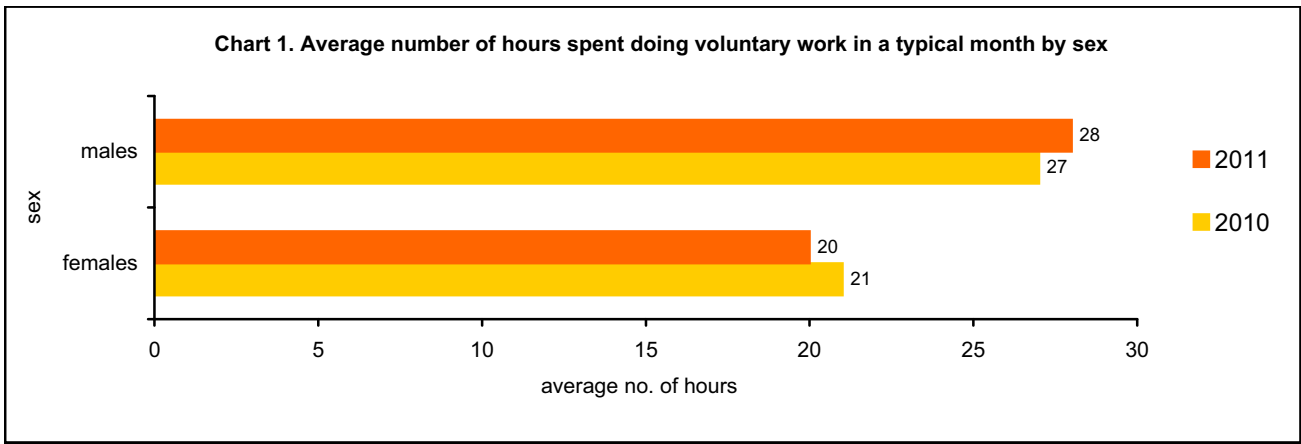
Reason	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Meeting new people/recreation	3,470	24.2	2,440	15.7	<b>5,900</b>	<b>19.8</b>
Moral duty	6,410	44.8	8,460	54.5	<b>14,870</b>	<b>49.8</b>
Sympathy for the needy	[1,740]	[12.2]	2,620	16.9	<b>4,370</b>	<b>14.6</b>
Other reason	2,680	18.8	2,010	12.9	<b>4,700</b>	<b>15.8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15,530</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>29,840</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 7. Persons doing voluntary work by number of hours spent in a typical month**

Number of hours	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 10	3,820	26.7	6,150	39.6	<b>9,970</b>	<b>33.4</b>
10-19	3,480	24.3	4,020	25.9	<b>7,500</b>	<b>25.1</b>
20-29	3,040	21.2	2,450	15.8	<b>5,490</b>	<b>18.4</b>
30 or more	3,970	27.8	2,910	18.7	<b>6,880</b>	<b>23.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15,530</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>29,840</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 8. Persons aged 12 and over by type of membership in voluntary organisations**

Membership	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Paying member	7,130	3.9	4,320	2.4	<b>11,440</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Non-paying member	4,310	2.4	4,130	2.3	<b>8,440</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Not a member	169,040	93.7	173,560	95.3	<b>342,600</b>	<b>94.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>180,470</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>182,010</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>362,480</b>	<b>100.0</b>



## Methodological notes

1. All figures presented in this news release have been derived from the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) for 2011. SILC is an annual survey carried out by the NSO to enable the computation of indicators on poverty, social exclusion, income distribution and material deprivation. Questionnaire design, data collection and analysis are all carried out in line with Eurostat methodologies.

Further details on SILC methodology can be found at: <http://www.nso.gov.mt/site/page.aspx?pageid=346>

2. All data refers to the respondents' current situation at the time of the survey.

3. Data in this release refers to persons aged 12 and over who live in private households.

4. The term 'volunteers' is taken to mean persons working for no remuneration. Type of voluntary work done refers to the main type of voluntary work undertaken by each individual surveyed.

5. In Table 1, Table 2 and Chart 3, the following classifications applies:

- **Voluntary organisation:** Voluntary work within a voluntary organisation, for e.g. an NGO, union, pressure group, etc.
- **Another entity:** Voluntary work done outside an organisation, for e.g. the Church, schools, etc.
- **Informal:** Informal voluntary work, for e.g. helping a neighbour.

6. For Table 3, the categories used to define the main activities of organisations include the following activities:

- **Work related to institutional care:** Includes children and elderly homes, hospital and medical practice activities and other human health activities.
- **Religious activities (excl. institutional care):** Includes those organisations whose role is of a religious nature.
- **Other social activities:** Includes school associations, band clubs, scouts and philanthropic organisations.

7. In Table 4, the categories used to define the role of persons within the organisation include the following roles:

- **Administrative role:** Includes local councillors, committee members, members and managers.
- **Active role in organisation's activities:** Includes doctors, public relations officers, singers, actors, first aiders, teachers of catechism, scout leaders, sportspersons and leaders of marriage preparation courses.
- **Supporting role in organisation's activities:** Includes clerical workers, distributors of booklets (for e.g. for the Church) and telephone operators.

8. The following key has been applied throughout this release:

[ ] Under-represented: estimate based on 20-50 counts.

: Under-represented: estimate based on less than 20 counts; figure not provided.

9. Totals in tables may not tally due to rounding.

10. Figures presented in this news release may be subject to future revision.