

Food Insecurity Experience Scale 2025

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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visit_data_catalog_at: <https://microdata.worldbank.org/>

Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

TITLE

Food Insecurity Experience Scale 2025

ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM

FIES 2025

COUNTRY/ECONOMY

Name	Country code
Malta	MLT

STUDY TYPE

Socio-Economic/Monitoring Survey [hh/sems]

ABSTRACT

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 2.1 commits countries to end hunger, ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year around. Indicator 2.1.2, "Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)", provides internationally-comparable estimates of the proportion of the population facing difficulties in accessing food. More detailed background information is available at <https://www.fao.org/measuring-hunger/en>.

The FIES-based indicators are compiled using the FIES survey module, containing eight questions. Two indicators can be computed:

1. The proportion of the population experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity (SDG indicator 2.1.2),
2. The proportion of the population experiencing severe food insecurity.

These data were collected by FAO through the Gallup World Poll. General information on the methodology can be found here: <https://www.gallup.com/178667/gallup-world-poll-work.aspx>. National institutions can also collect FIES data by including the FIES survey module in nationally representative surveys.

Microdata can be used to calculate the indicator 2.1.2 at national level. Instructions for computing this indicator are described in the methodological document available in the downloads tab. Disaggregating results at sub-national level is not encouraged because estimates will suffer from substantial sampling and measurement error.

KIND OF DATA

Sample survey data [ssd]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Individuals

Scope

NOTES

The FIES survey module includes the following questions to compute the FIES-based indicators:

During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources:

1. You were worried you would not have enough food to eat? (labelled as WORRIED)
2. You were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food? (labelled as HEALTHY)
3. You ate only a few kinds of foods? (labelled as FEWFOOD)
4. You had to skip a meal? (labelled as SKIPPED)
5. You ate less than you thought you should? (labelled as ATELESS)
6. Your household ran out of food? (labelled as RUNOUT)
7. You were hungry but did not eat? (labelled as HUNGRY)
8. You went without eating for a whole day? (labelled as WHLDAY)

Each of these questions has the following response options:

- Yes (coded as 1)
- No (coded as 0)
- Don't know / Refuse to answer (coded as NA)

The dataset includes derived FIES variables computed by FAO described in the documentation. It also contains demographic variables related to the number of adults and children in the household, age, education, area (urban/rural), gender, income and degree of urbanization.

TOPICS

Topic
SDGs
Food Access

KEYWORDS

Keyword
Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FIES
Sustainable Development Goals
SDG
Zero Hunger
End Hunger
SDG Indicator 2.1.2

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National

UNIVERSE

Non-institutionalized adult population (15 years of age or older) living in households with access to landline and/or mobile phones.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	United Nations

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

With some exceptions, all samples are probability based and nationally representative of the resident adult population. The coverage area is the entire country including rural areas, and the sampling frame represents the entire civilian, non-institutionalized, aged 15 and older population.

For more details on the overall sampling and data collection methodology, see the World poll methodology attached as a resource in the downloads tab. Specific sampling details for each country are also attached as technical documents in the downloads tab.

Exclusions: NA

Design effect: NA

WEIGHTING

The sample data was weighted to minimize bias in survey-based estimates. The weighting procedure was formulated based on the sample design and was carried out in multiple stages. A probability weight factor (base weight) was constructed to account for selection of telephone numbers from the respective frames and correct for unequal selection probabilities as a result of selecting one adult in landline households and for dual-users coming from both the landline and mobile frame. At the next step, the base weights were post-stratified to adjust for non-response and to match the weighted sample totals to known target population totals obtained from country level census data.

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2025-04-07	2025-06-04

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing [CATI]

data_processing

DATA EDITING

Statistical validation assesses the quality of the FIES data collected by testing their consistency with the assumptions of the Rasch model. This analysis involves the interpretation of several statistics that reveal 1) items that do not perform well in a given context, 2) cases with highly erratic response patterns, 3) pairs of items that may be redundant, and 4) the proportion of total variance in the population that is accounted for by the measurement model.

METHODOLOGY NOTES

As part of the statistical disclosure control process, values for number of children and number of adults that were 10 or above, were recoded as "10+" and categories for area were combined into "urban/suburbs" and "towns/rural".

data_appraisal

ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERROR

The margin of error is estimated as 3.3 percentage points. By adding and subtracting this value to the result, the confidence interval at 95% level is obtained. The margin of error was calculated assuming a reported outcome of 50% (giving the maximum sampling variability for that sample size) and takes into account the design effect.

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Statistics Division	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Carlo.Cafiero@fao.org, FIES-help@fao.org	Link

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The users shall not take any action with the purpose of identifying any individual entity (i.e. person, household, enterprise, etc.) in the micro dataset(s). If such a disclosure is made inadvertently, no use will be made of the information, and it will be reported immediately to FAO.

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- The micro dataset will only be used for statistical and/or research purposes;
- Any results derived from the micro dataset will be used solely for reporting aggregated information, and not for any specific individual entities or data subjects;
- The users shall not take any action with the purpose of identifying any individual entity (i.e. person, household, enterprise, etc.) in the micro dataset(s). If such a disclosure is made inadvertently, no use will be made of the information, and it will be reported immediately to FAO;
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DISCLAIMER

The user of the data acknowledges that the original collector of the data, the authorized distributor of the data, and the relevant funding agency bear no responsibility for use of the data or for interpretations or inferences based upon such uses.

Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS_FAO

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Statistics Division	ESS	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Metadata producer and Metadata adapted for FAM
Development Data Group	DECDG	World Bank Group	Metadata adapted for World Bank Microdata Library

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Identical to a metadata (MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS) published on FAO microdata repository (<https://microdata.fao.org/index.php/catalog>). Some of the metadata fields have been edited.

data_dictionary

Data file	Cases	variables
MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS This dataset contains the variables used to calculate the FIES-based indicator, demographic variables and some derived variables calculated by FAO from the survey.	1002	24

Data file: MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

This dataset contains the variables used to calculate the FIES-based indicator, demographic variables and some derived variables calculated by FAO from the survey.

Cases: 1002

variables: 24

variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
53	Random_ID	Unique respondent identifier	
54	WORRIED	Worried you would not have enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other resources	
55	HEALTHY	Unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money or other resources	
56	FEWFOOD	Ate only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other resources	
57	SKIPPED	Skipped a meal because there was not enough money or other resources to get food	
58	ATELESS	Ate less than you thought you should because of a lack of money or other resources	
59	RUNOUT	Household ran out of food because of a lack of money or other resources	
60	HUNGRY	Hungry but did not eat because there was not enough money or other resources for food?	
61	WHLDAY	Went without eating for a whole day because of a lack of money or other resources?	
62	wt	Post-stratification sampling weights	
63	year	Year when the GWP was administered in the country	
64	N_adults	Number of adults 15 years of age and above in household	
65	N_child	Number of children under 15 years of age in household	
66	Raw_score	Sum of Affirmative responses to FIES questions	
67	Raw_score_par	Estimated person parameters using the Rasch model	
68	Raw_score_par_error	Estimated person parameter errors using the Rasch model	
69	Prob_Mod_Sev	Probability of being moderately or severely food insecure	
70	Prob_sev	Probability of being severely food insecure	
71	Age	Age of the respondent	
72	Education	Education of the respondent	
73	Area	Area	
74	Gender	Gender of the respondent	
75	Income	Income quintile	
76	DEGURBA	Degree of Urbanisation	

total: 24

RANDOM_ID: Unique respondent identifier**Data file:** MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS**Overview**

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 111208341 Maximum: 211027038 Mean: 161787713.192 Standard deviation: 29411689.917
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Format: Numeric Weighted variable: 0

WORRIED: Worried you would not have enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other resources**Data file:** MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS**Overview**

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Width: 12 Format: character Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	No	917	91.5%
1	Yes	85	8.5%

HEALTHY: Unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money or other resources**Data file:** MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS**Overview**

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Width: 12 Format: character Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	No	892	89%
1	Yes	110	11%

FEWFOOD: Ate only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other resources**Data file:** MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

Overview

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Width: 12 Format: character Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	No	885	88.3%
1	Yes	117	11.7%

SKIPPED: Skipped a meal because there was not enough money or other resources to get food

Data file: MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

Overview

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Width: 12 Format: character Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	No	938	93.6%
1	Yes	64	6.4%

ATELESS: Ate less than you thought you should because of a lack of money or other resources

Data file: MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

Overview

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Width: 12 Format: character Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	No	922	92%
1	Yes	80	8%

RUNOUT: Household ran out of food because of a lack of money or other resources

Data file: MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

Overview

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Width: 12 Format: character Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	No	956	95.4%
1	Yes	46	4.6%

HUNGRY: Hungry but did not eat because there was not enough money or other resources for food?

Data file: MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

Overview

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Width: 12 Format: character Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	No	962	96%
1	Yes	40	4%

WHLDAY: Went without eating for a whole day because of a lack of money or other resources?

Data file: MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

Overview

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Width: 12 Format: character Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	No	982	98%

1	Yes	20	2%
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WT: Post-stratification sampling weights

Data file: MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

Overview

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0.373 Maximum: 2.479 Mean: 1 Standard deviation: 0.413
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Format: Numeric Weighted: yes Weighted variable: 1

YEAR: Year when the GWP was administered in the country

Data file: MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

Overview

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 2025 Maximum: 2025 Mean: 2025 Standard deviation: 0
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Format: Numeric Weighted variable: 0

N_ADULTS: Number of adults 15 years of age and above in household

Data file: MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

Overview

Valid: 1001 Invalid: 1
 Type: Discrete Width: 12 Format: character Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
01	01	169	16.9%
02	02	431	43.1%
03	03	218	21.8%
04	04	137	13.7%
05	05	30	3%
06	06	12	1.2%
07	07	2	0.2%
08	08	1	0.1%
09	09	1	0.1%
Sysmiss		1	

N_CHILD: Number of children under 15 years of age in household**Data file:** MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS**Overview**

Valid: 1001 Invalid: 1
 Type: Discrete Width: 12 Format: character Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
00	00	726	72.5%
01	01	156	15.6%
02	02	101	10.1%
03	03	13	1.3%
04	04	4	0.4%
05	05	1	0.1%
Sysmiss		1	

RAW_SCORE: Sum of Affirmative responses to FIES questions**Data file:** MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS**Overview**

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 8 Mean: 0.561 Standard deviation: 1.521
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Format: Numeric Weighted variable: 0

RAW_SCORE_PAR: Estimated person parameters using the Rasch model**Data file:** MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS**Overview**

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0 Minimum: -2.628 Maximum: 2.861 Mean: -2.255 Standard deviation: 1.005
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Format: Numeric Weighted variable: 0

RAW_SCORE_PAR_ERROR: Estimated person parameter errors using the Rasch model**Data file:** MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS**Overview**

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0.662 Maximum: 1.219 Mean: 1.147 Standard deviation: 0.166
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Format: Numeric Weighted variable: 0

PROB_MOD_SEV: Probability of being moderately or severely food insecure**Data file:** MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS**Overview**

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 0.995 Mean: 0.07 Standard deviation: 0.222
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Format: Numeric Weighted variable: 0

PROB_SEV: Probability of being severely food insecure**Data file:** MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS**Overview**

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 0.791 Mean: 0.017 Standard deviation: 0.098
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Format: Numeric Weighted variable: 0

AGE: Age of the respondent**Data file:** MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS**Overview**

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 15 Maximum: 100 Mean: 49.402 Standard deviation: 18.148
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Format: Numeric Weighted variable: 0

EDUCATION: Education of the respondent**Data file:** MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS**Overview**

Valid: 995 Invalid: 7
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Format: Numeric Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Elementary_or_less	77	7.7%
2	Secondary	487	48.9%
3	College	431	43.3%
Sysmiss		7	

AREA: Area**Data file:** MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

Overview

Valid: 997 Invalid: 5

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Format: Numeric Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Urban/Suburbs	372	37.3%
2	Towns/Rural	625	62.7%
Sysmiss		5	

GENDER: Gender of the respondent**Data file: MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS****Overview**

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Format: Numeric Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Male	466	46.5%
2	Female	536	53.5%

INCOME: Income quintile**Data file: MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS****Overview**

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Format: Numeric Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Poorest_20%	179	17.9%
2	Second_20%	196	19.6%
3	Middle_20%	200	20%
4	Fourth_20%	211	21.1%

5	Richest_20%	216	21.6%
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■ DEGURBA: Degree of Urbanisation

Data file: MLT_2025_FIES_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

Overview

Valid: 1002 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 12 Format: Numeric Weighted variable: 0

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Rural areas	28	2.8%
2	Towns and semi-dense areas	399	39.8%
3	Cities	575	57.4%

study_resources

technical_documents

World Poll Methodology

title World Poll Methodology
filename World_Poll_Methodology_022026.pdf

Degree of Urbanisation Variable

title Degree of Urbanisation Variable
filename World_Poll_Degree_of_Urbanisation_2025.pdf

Technical Methodology

title Technical Methodology
filename Malta_2025_Methodology.pdf

Derived variables and methodology to compute indicator 2.1.2

title Derived variables and methodology to compute indicator 2.1.2
filename Derived_variables_and_Computation_indicator.pdf
