

SME BAROMETER Q2 2025 - MALTESE SMES VOICE GROWING CONCERNS OVER TALENT SHORTAGES, INFLATION, AND ECONOMIC DIRECTION

The Malta Chamber of SMEs in collaboration with Misco Malta published the results of the later SME Barometer (Q2 2025) Survey conducted amongst a total of 406 businesses between 8th and 21st July 2025.

When asked what the topmost important issues are concerning their businesses, respondents stated that the most pressing issues are: Employee Shortage (45%), Unfair Competition (24%) and excessive competition (17%). Other key challenges include skills mismatch, late payments and inflation.

For the first time, overpopulation (37%) has overtaken corruption and governance as the top national concern for SMEs. Ongoing worries include the lack of good governance (31%) and the level of corruption (26%), with inflation (24%) continuing to impact operational costs.

Sentiment regarding the country's direction remains negative. Consistent with Q1 2025 results, only 30% of respondents believe that Malta is moving in the right direction, while 70% feel the country is headed in the wrong direction.

An additional question related to government various schemes, grants and incentives show that government support schemes receive mixed reviews, with 52% satisfied

ABOUT MALTA CHAMBER OF SMES

Malta Chamber of SMEs (Formerly known as GRTU) is the largest social partner in Malta representing over 7,000 SMEs from over 90 different sectors. The SME Chamber has been established for over 70 years and its aim is of safeguarding the interest of businesses at large.

SPOKESPERSONS

Paul Abela | President

HEAD OF COMMUNICATION

Mr. Fabian Demicoli

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and 48% dissatisfied. However a pattern depending on the size of business shows that small businesses are the most dissatisfied.

The SME Chamber recommends support for micro and small businesses, including:

- Revamping Micro Invest with a raised credit cap to €70,000
- Improving customs enforcement, transparency, and regulatory efficiency
- Creating a centralised advisory platform for green and digital funding access

SME Chamber President Mr. Paul Abela said that “unfair competition is having a significant impact on businesses, directly affecting their growth, alongside ongoing operational issues such as staff shortages”.

MISCO Director Mr. Lawrence Zammit noted that concerns about overpopulation may be linked to the peak tourism season. He also emphasised that the findings highlight the importance of continued investment in upskilling.

SME Chamber COO Mr Andrew Aquilina stressed the need to “strengthen support for micro and small businesses and enhance schemes and incentives that have historically provided critical assistance to these enterprises.

The SME Barometer survey is a collaborative effort between the SME Chamber and MISCO.

About Malta Chamber of SMEs:

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The Malta Chamber of SMEs is a leading advocate for small and medium-sized enterprises, dedicated to championing their interests, fostering innovation, and driving economic prosperity in Malta.

About MISCO:

MISCO, a renowned research and consultancy company, specializes in providing actionable insights and strategic solutions to empower organizations, human resources and upskilling across various industries

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