

Analysis of Collective Investment Schemes licensed by the Malta Financial Services Authority (2020)

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Main Findings

The number of licenced funds¹ as at 31 December 2020 stood at 525, a decline of 13.2 percent (or 80 net licences) compared to end 2019. Professional Investor Funds (PIFs) continue to account for the largest share of the Malta funds market, accounting for almost 56 percent (or 296 funds) of the total funds domiciled in Malta in 2020. Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and UCITS funds followed at 21 percent (or 110 funds) and 20.8 percent (or 109 funds) respectively. In addition, there were five retail Non-UCITS funds and five recognised Private CIS. Funds registered in the list of Notified AIFs (NAIFs) continued to increase in 2020, reaching 65 at the end of the year.

The Authority licensed a total of 1,566 funds over the period 2004 to 2020. Moreover, 86 AIFs were added in the list of NAIFs over the period 2016 to 2020. During 2020, the Authority licensed a total of 32 new funds, of which 19 were licensed as PIFs, seven as UCITS funds, five as AIFs and one recognised Private CIS. In addition, the Authority included 17 new AIFs in the list of notified AIFs.

In total, 1,080 funds have surrendered their licence over the period 2004 to 2020, while 20 AIFs were removed from the list of NAIFs over the period 2017 to 2020. During 2020, a total of 113 funds surrendered their licence, of which 95 had their licence surrendered voluntarily while 18 funds had their licence cancelled for regulatory purposes. Out of these, 79 were licensed as PIFs, 26 as AIFs, five as UCITS funds and three as recognised Private CIS. Additionally, six AIFs were removed from the list of NAIFs.

The aggregate net asset value of Malta domiciled funds² declined by 13.8 percent in December 2020 when compared to December 2019, from €15.9 billion to €13.7 billion. AIFs had the largest share of NAV at 56.2 percent followed by PIFs and UCITS funds at 24.8 percent and 19 percent respectively. With respect to asset allocation, diversified funds accounted for the largest segment of the December 2020 NAV at 36.6 percent, followed by equity funds and bond funds at 33.2 percent and 13.2 percent respectively.

Throughout 2020, subscriptions totalled \leq 1.5 billion while redemptions amounted to almost two billion euro, resulting into net outflows of almost \leq 0.5 billion. Apart from net outflows, total funds NAV dropped by a further \leq 613.2 million primarily as a result of lower NAV valuations.

As at end 2020, 79.5 percent of the funds were managed in Malta, of which 40.5 percent were managed by a Maltese third party fund manager and 39 percent were self-managed. The remaining 20.5 percent of the funds were managed by fund managers established outside Malta.

The majority of the funds (89.5 percent) domiciled in Malta were administered by a domestic fund administrator. There was an addition of 199 non-Malta domiciled funds administered in Malta with an aggregate NAV of four billion euro. Accordingly, the aggregate NAV of Malta domiciled funds and non-Malta domiciled funds administered in Malta amounted to €17.7 billion as at December 2020.

Focusing on the international fund industry, the number of worldwide regulated open-ended funds increased by four percent in 2020 compared to end 2019, reaching 142,250 as at end 2020. Net assets increased by 4.7 percent, from \le 52.7 trillion in December 2019 to \le 55.2 trillion in December 2020. Worldwide net inflows amounted to \le 2.3 trillion in 2020, compared to \le 2.1 trillion in 2019.

¹Unless stated otherwise, the term 'funds' refers to funds including sub-funds.

² PIFs, AIFs, NAIFs and UCITS.

America and Europe held the largest shares in the world market with 53.7 percent (or €29.6 trillion) and 33 percent (or €18.2 trillion) respectively, while the remaining 13.3 percent (or €7.4 trillion) of the net assets were held by the Asian, Pacific and African regions. The top 10 fund domiciles as at end 2020 rank as follows: the United States (47.6 percent), Luxembourg (nine percent), Ireland (six percent), Germany (4.5 percent), China (3.9 percent), France (3.7 percent), Australia (3.6 percent), Japan (3.5 percent), the United Kingdom (3.2 percent), and Canada (3.1 percent).

The total number of registered funds at a European level totalled 63,999 as at December 2020, up by 1.5 percent from end 2019. Net assets in the European fund industry increased by 6.2 percent during 2020, from €17.7 trillion as at December 2019 to €18.8 trillion as at December 2020.

PART 1 – Analysis of Collective Investment Scheme Licences

1.1 Fund Registrations in the European Fund Industry

The European Fund industry registered a growth of 1.5 percent in the number of registered funds during 2020, from 63,080 in December 2019 to 63,999 in December 2020. Funds registered in Germany, Ireland, the UK and France increased by five percent, 3.9 percent, 2.2 percent and 0.8 percent respectively. In contrast, funds registered in Luxembourg fell by 1.5 percent.

1.2 Fund Registrations in Malta

Funds³ domiciled in Malta declined by 13.2 percent (or 80 net licences) in 2020, from 605 funds at end 2019 to 525 funds at end 2020. PIFs experienced the largest drop in percentage terms, at 17.3 percent, from 358 licensed PIFs as at end 2019 to 296 licences as at end 2020. AIFs decreased by 14.7 percent, from 129 licences in 2019 to 110 licences in 2020.

Table 1: Funds Domiciled in Malta (2018 – 2020)

	2018	2019	2020
AIFs	134	129	110
PIFs	401	358	296
UCITS	118	106	109
Retail Non-UCITS	5	5	5
Recognised Private CIS	7	7	5
Total locally based CISs	665	605	525

Source: Malta Financial Services Authority.

Additionally, there was a net increase of 10 notifications in the list of notified AIFs from end 2019, resulting in a total of 65 NAIFs as at end 2020.

³ This amount excludes Notified AIFs.

Table 2: Notified Alternative Investment Funds (2018 – 2020)

	2018	2019	2020
NAIFs	29	55	65

1.3 Authorisation of New Collective Investment Schemes

Throughout 2020 the Authority licensed a total of 32 new funds, of which 19 were PIFs, seven UCITS funds, five AIFs and one recognised Private CIS.

Table 3: Authorisation of New Collective Investment Schemes (2018 – 2020)

		2018	2019	2020
	Schemes	9	6	1
	Sub-funds	19	13	5
	of which Qualifying Investor	11	3	1
AIFs	of which Extraordinary Investor	0	0	0
	of which Experienced Investor	0	0	0
	of which Professional Investor	8	10	4
	of which Retail Investor	0	0	0
	Schemes	15	13	7
	Sub-funds	33	27	19
PIFs	of which Qualifying Investor	32	27	19
	of which Extraordinary Investor	0	0	0
	of which Experienced Investor	1	0	0
	Schemes	0	1	1
UCITS	Sub-funds	11	5	7
Data I No. 11CITC	Schemes	0	0	0
Retail Non-UCITS	Sub-funds	0	0	0
Described District	Schemes	0	0	1
Recognised Private CIS	Sub-funds	0	0	1

Source: Malta Financial Services Authority.

In addition, the Authority included 17 new AIFs in the list of notified AIFs during 2020.

Table 4: Registration of Notified Alternative Investment Funds (2018 – 2020)

		2018	2019	2020
	Schemes	7	16	6
NAIFs	Sub-funds	18	32	17

1.4 Surrender of Collective Investment Schemes

During 2020 a total of 113 funds surrendered their licence, of which 95 had their licence surrendered voluntarily while 18 funds had their licence cancelled for regulatory purposes. Out of these, 79 were licensed as PIFs, 26 as AIFs, five as UCITS funds and three as recognised Private CIS.

Table 5: Surrender of Licences of Collective Investment Schemes (2018 – 2020)

		2018	2019	2020
	Schemes	3	12	14
	Sub-funds	6	23	26
	of which Qualifying Investor	1	10	13
AIFs	of which Extraordinary Investor	0	1	1
	of which Experienced Investor	0	1	3
	of which Professional Investor	5	11	8
	of which Retail Investor	0	0	1
	Schemes	17	21	30
	Sub-funds	62	65	79
PIFs	of which Qualifying Investor	58	59	64
	of which Extraordinary Investor	2	4	4
	of which Experienced Investor	2	2	11
LICITE	Schemes	2	5	3
UCITS	Sub-funds	7	17	5
Retail Non-UCITS	Schemes	0	0	0
Ketali Non-UCI15	Sub-funds	0	0	0
Faraina Basad	Schemes	3	0	0
Foreign Based	Sub-funds	9	0	0
Recognised Private	Schemes	0	0	3
CIS	Sub-funds	0	0	3

Source: Malta Financial Services Authority.

Additionally, six AIFs were removed from the list of notified AIFs.

Table 6: Surrender of Notified Alternative Investment Funds (2018 – 2020)

		2018	2019	2020
NAME	Schemes	2	1	1
NAIFs	Sub-funds	7	6	6

1.5 Summary of Collective Investment Scheme licences

A summary of Sections 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 is provided in Tables 7 and 8 with the number of licences/notifications issued, surrendered and active for the years 2019 and 2020 split by the target investors.

Table 7: Collective Investment Scheme Licences (2019 – 2020)

			2019			2020	
		New licences	Surrendered Licences	Total licences as at end 2019	New licences	Surrendered Licences	Total licences as at end 2020 ⁴
	Schemes	6	12	67	1	14	56 ⁵
	Sub-funds	13	23	129	5	26	110 ⁶
	of which Qualifying Investor	3	10	58	1	13	48 ⁶
AIFs	of which Extraordinary Investor	0	1	6	0	1	5
	of which Experienced Investor	0	1	5	0	3	2
	of which Professional Investor	10	11	54	4	8	50
	of which Retail Investor	0	0	6	0	1	5
	Schemes	13	21	163	7	30	138⁵
	Sub-funds	27	65	358	19	79	296⁵
PIFs	of which Qualifying Investor	27	59	308	19	64	261 ⁶
	of which Extraordinary Investor	0	4	27	0	4	23
	of which Experienced Investor	0	2	23	0	11	12
UCITS	Schemes	1	5	33	1	3	32 ⁷
UCITS	Sub-funds	5	17	106	7	5	109 ⁷
Retail Non-	Schemes	0	0	3	0	0	3
UCITS	Sub-funds	0	0	5	0	0	5
Recognised	Schemes	0	0	7	1	3	5
Private CIS	Sub-funds	0	0	7	1	3	5

⁴ Figures may not sum up due to conversion of licences.

⁵ Two schemes had their licence revised from PIF to AIF.

⁶ Two sub-funds had their licence revised from PIFs targeting qualifying investors to AIFs targeting qualifying investors.

⁷One fund/sub-fund had its licence revised from a NAIF to a UCITS.

Table 8: Notified Alternative Investment Funds (2019 – 2020)

			2019			2020	
		New	Surrendered	Total as at end 2019	New	Surrendered	Total as at end 2020
	Schemes	16	1	29	6	1	33 ⁷
NAIFs	Sub- funds	32	6	55	17	6	65 ⁷

1.6 Non-Malta Domiciled Funds Administered in Malta

The number of non-Malta domiciled funds administered in Malta totalled 199 as at end 2020, an increase of 12.4 percent compared to end 2019.

Table 9: Non-Malta Domiciled Funds (including sub-funds) Administered in Malta (2018 – 2020)

	Non-Malta domiciled funds administered in Malta		
2018	191		
2019	177		
2020	199		

PART 2 – Trend Analysis of Investment Fund Assets

2.1 General Overview in the International Fund Industry

2.1.1 Worldwide Regulated Fund Assets and Flows

As at end 2020, the total number of worldwide regulated open-ended funds stood at 142,250, an increase of four percent compared to end 2019. Equity funds remained the largest component of this total, at 31.8 percent, followed by balanced/mixed funds, other funds and bond funds at 29.1 percent, 17 percent and 16.6 percent respectively.

Net assets of worldwide investment funds increased by 4.7 percent in 2020, from €52.7 trillion in December 2019 to €55.2 trillion in December 2020. Worldwide net cash flow to all funds amounted to €2.3 trillion in 2020, compared to €2.1 trillion in 2019.

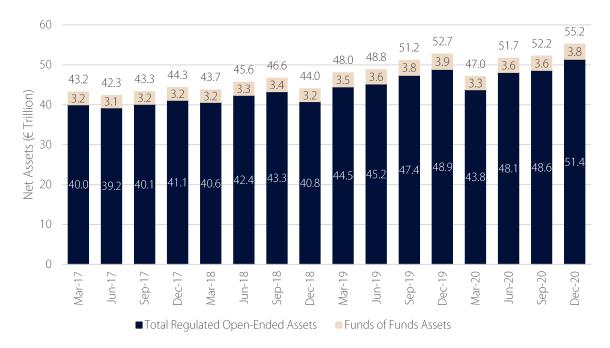


Figure 1: Worldwide Net Assets of Regulated Open-ended Funds (2017 – 2020)

Source: EFAMA.

At the end of 2020, the largest segment of worldwide regulated open-ended fund net assets were held in equity funds, with a share of 42.6 percent (or \leq 23.5 trillion). Bond funds assets represented 19.9 percent (or \leq 11 trillion) while balanced/mixed funds had a share of 17 percent (or \leq 9.4 trillion). The share of money market funds was 12.3 percent (or \leq 6.8 trillion).

1.9%
6.3%

Bond
Balanced/Mixed
Guaranteed
Real Estate
Other
Money Market

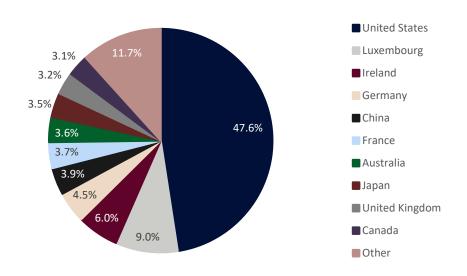
Figure 2: Worldwide Net Assets by Type of Fund (December 2020)

Source: EFAMA.

On a euro-denominated basis, during 2020 worldwide money market fund assets increased by 9.7 percent (or \in 600.7 billion) to stand at \in 6.8 trillion at the end of 2020. Funds classified as *Other* experienced an increase of 6.2 percent (or \in 204.1 billion) and equity fund assets increased by 6.1 percent (or \in 1.3 trillion). Guaranteed funds decreased by 14.5 percent (or \in 6.4 billion) to \in 37.8 billion.

Looking at the geographical distribution of investment fund net assets at the end of 2020, America and Europe held the largest shares in the world market, with 53.7 percent (or €29.6 trillion) and 33 percent (or €18.2 trillion), respectively. The remaining 13.3 percent (or €7.4 trillion) is represented by the Asian, Pacific and African regions. The United States remained the largest fund domicile in terms of net assets at 47.6 percent (or €26.3 trillion). Five European countries ranked among the top ten largest fund domiciles in the world, namely Luxembourg with a share of nine percent, Ireland (six percent), Germany (4.5 percent), France (3.7 percent), and the United Kingdom (3.2 percent). China (3.9 percent), Australia (3.6 percent), Japan (3.5 percent) and Canada (3.1 percent) also ranked among the top ten largest fund domiciles in the world.

Figure 3: Market Share of the Top 10 Domiciles of Worldwide Investment Fund Net Assets (December 2020)



Source: EFAMA.

Worldwide net sales of regulated open-ended funds amounted to €2.3 trillion in 2020, compared to €2.1 trillion in 2019. Globally, money market funds recorded net inflows of €1.2 trillion in 2020, compared to net inflows of €637 billion in 2019. Equity funds had their assets increase by €132 billion in 2020, compared to net inflows of €76 billion in 2019. Bond funds recorded a decline in net inflows over the period 2019 to 2020, from €926 billion in 2019 to €626 billion in 2020.

2.1.2 Trends in the European Investment Fund Industry⁸

Net assets in the European fund industry stood at €18.8 trillion as at end 2020. This represents an increase of 6.2 percent (or €1.1 trillion) from the end of 2019. Net assets of UCITS funds stood at €11.6 trillion, an increase of 5.5 percent (or €654 billion) from €11 trillion registered at the end of 2019. Furthermore, Non-UCITS funds reported net assets of €7.1 trillion as at December 2020. This implies an increase of six percent (or €377 billion) from end of 2019.

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⁸ The figures for the international fund industry and the European fund industry were obtained from two separate releases issued by EFAMA.

20 18.8 17.6 18 17.2 17.1 16.5 16.3 16.0 15.8 15.6 15.5 15.7 15.2 14.9 7.1 6.7 6.8 14 6.6 6.6 6.4 6.2 6.1 6.0 5.9 5.9 6.2 5.8 5.9 5.7 Vet Assets (€ Trillion) 12 5.7 10 8 6 10.8 10.5 10.5 10.1 10.0 10.0 4 2 0 5%/8 Mar. 18 Dec. 18 O_C.19 Mar 20 JUN-18 Mar. 19 14/1-19 Sep. 19 ■UCITS ■Non UCITS

Figure 4: Net Asset Value of European funds (2017 – 2020)

Source: EFAMA.

Despite funds in major European investment fund jurisdictions having experienced a downturn in net assets in the first quarter of 2020, these net losses in Net Asset Value were recouped during the rest of the year so that most of these jurisdictions experienced an increase in net assets over the period 2019 to 2020. The highest increase in net assets was reported by Sweden, at 13.9 percent (or €58.7 million), followed by Ireland with an increase of nine percent (or €275.8 million) and Switzerland with an increase of 6.7 percent (or €47.7 million).

Table 10: Net Assets of Investment Funds in Major European countries (2018 - 2020)

Country	Dec 2018 NAV	Dec 2019 NAV	Dec 2020 NAV	Percentage change Dec
Country	Million EUR	Million EUR	Million EUR	2019 – Dec-20 (%)
Luxembourg	4,064,644	4,718,914	4,973,780	5.4
Ireland	2,421,457	3,048,404	3,324,194	9.0
Germany	2,037,195	2,357,740	2,511,385	6.5
France	1,812,731	1,956,090	2,066,996	5.7
UK	1,492,836	1,751,302	1,784,304	1.9
Switzerland	539,710	714,294	762,035	6.7
Sweden	333,037	421,209	479,913	13.9
Italy	302,489	320,654	329,442	2.7
Spain	286,242	306,311	304,406	-0.6
Malta	14,242	15,914	13,719	-13.8

Source: EFAMA.

2.2 Trends in the Maltese Investment Fund Industry⁹

2.2.1 Aggregate Net Asset Value of Locally Based CISs

Malta domiciled funds¹⁰ registered a total net asset value of €13.7 billion as at December 2020, a decline of 13.8 percent when compared to the previous year. AIFs accounted for the largest share of NAV as at end 2020, at 56.2 percent (or €7.7 billion¹¹), followed by PIFs with a share of 24.8 percent (or €3.4 billion) and UCITS funds at 19 percent (or €2.6 billion).

During 2020, subscriptions totalled \in 1.5 billion while redemptions amounted to almost two billion euro, resulting in net outflows equal to almost half a billion euro. Moreover, net revaluation adjustments reduced the NAV by \in 613.2 million, which were mostly attributed to PIFs (\in 505.7 million or 82.5 percent).

18 700 15.9 15.1 15.0 680 16 14.2 13.7 14 660 11.6 11.1 640 12 NAV (€ billions) 10.2 9.9 9.5 9.3 10 620 of 8 600 6 580 4 560 2 540 0 520 Jun-17 Jun-19 Jun-20 Jun-18 20 Dec-15 Jun-16 Dec-17 Dec-19 Month-Year ■ Aggregate NAV (incl. NAIFs) Total number of funds (incl. NAIFs)

Figure 5: Net Asset Value of Locally Based CISs against Number of Registered Funds (2015 – 2020)

Source: Malta Financial Services Authority.

2.2.2 Net Asset Value of Professional Investor funds

Net assets of Professional Investor Funds declined by 35.8 percent (or €1.9 billion) during the year 2020, to stand at €3.4 billion as at December 2020. Figure 6 shows the net asset value and the number of licensed Professional Investor Funds over the six-year period 2015 to 2020.

⁹ Cut-off date for net asset values is 18th February 2021.

¹⁰ PIFs, AIFs, NAIFs and UCITS.

¹¹ This includes the NAV of AIFs and NAIFs.

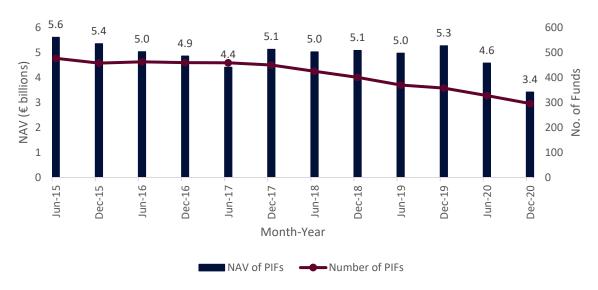


Figure 6: Net Asset Value of PIFs and Number of Licensed PIFs (2015 - 2020)

2.2.3 Net Asset Value of Alternative Investment funds

Alternative Investment Funds registered an increase of 2.2 percent (or \le 166.3 million) in net assets during 2020, to stand at \le 7.7 billion¹² as at December 2020. Figure 7 shows the net asset value and the number of licensed/notified Alternative Investment Funds over the period 2015 to 2020.

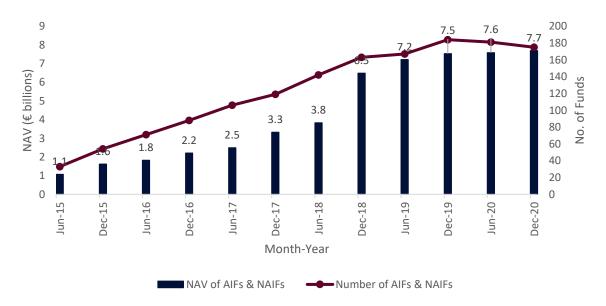


Figure 7: Net Asset Value of AIFs and Number of Licensed AIFs (2015 - 2020)

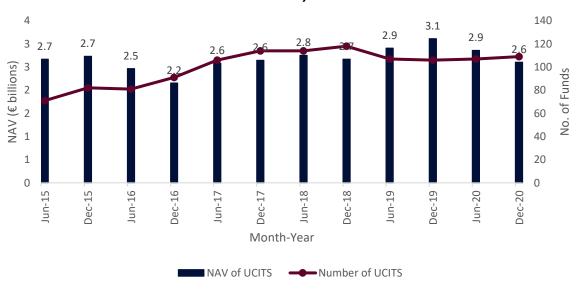
Source: Malta Financial Services Authority.

¹² This includes the NAV of NAIFs and AIFs.

2.2.4 Net Asset Value of UCITS funds

UCITS funds suffered the second largest loss in NAV after PIFs, of 16.1 percent (or €507.8 million), over the period December 2019 to December 2020, to stand at €2.6 billion as at end 2020. Figure 8 depicts how the net asset value and the number of licensed UCITS funds have fluctuated over the period 2015 to 2020.

Figure 8: Net Asset Value of UCITS Funds and Number of Licensed UCITS Funds (2015 – 2020)



Source: Malta Financial Services Authority.

2.3 Asset Class Allocation of Investment Funds¹³

Diversified funds and equity funds are the most common type of funds with investors, representing 36.6 percent and 33.2 percent of the total net asset value as of December 2020 respectively. Bond funds followed with a share of 13.2 percent with the remaining fund categories sharing the rest of the net assets as illustrated in Figure 9.

¹³ The asset allocation of funds was extracted from the offering supplements of the funds. Consequently, it does not necessarily mean that the allocated assets of the funds were invested accordingly.

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Figure 9: Net Asset Value by Asset Allocation (December 2020)

All fund categories except commodity funds experienced a decline in net assets during 2020. The largest drop was recorded by hedge funds at 42.7 percent (or \leq 42.6 million), followed by mixed funds and diversified funds at 42.1 percent (or \leq 455.2 million) and 19.4 percent (or \leq 1.2 billion) respectively.

During 2020, the Authority licensed 48 new funds¹⁴, of which 35.4 percent (or 17 licences/notifications) were licensed as diversified funds. Equity funds followed with a share of 25 percent (or 12 licences/notifications). During the same period, the Authority accepted the surrender of 116 funds licences/notifications¹⁵, of which 39.7 percent (or 46 licences/notifications) were diversified funds. Another 19 percent (or 22 licences/notifications) were equity funds while 10.3 percent (or 12 licences/notifications) were mixed funds. Figure 10 splits the total new and surrendered funds during 2020 by asset allocation.

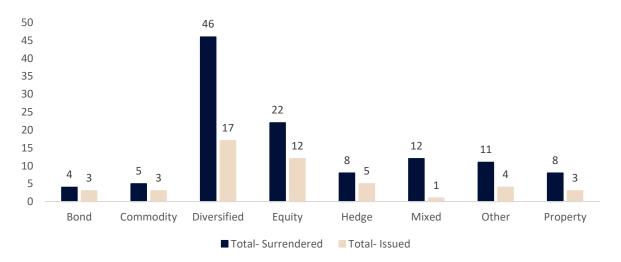


Figure 10: Authorised and Surrendered Funds by Asset Allocation (2020)¹⁶

¹⁴ Excluding one recognised Private CIS but including NAIFs.

¹⁵ Excluding three recognised Private CIS but including NAIFs.

¹⁶ These include PIFs, AIFs, NAIFs, and UCITS.

2.4 Investment Management

As at December 2020, 40.5 percent of the funds were managed by locally established fund managers while 39 percent were self-managed. The remaining funds (20.5 percent) were managed by foreign fund managers, as shown in Figure 11.

20.5%

Managed in Malta

Self-managed

Managed from Outside
Malta

Figure 11: Management of Locally Based Investment Funds (2020)

Source: Malta Financial Services Authority.

2.5 Fund Administration

The majority of the funds (89.5 percent) domiciled in Malta were administered by a local fund administrator. The remaining 10.5 percent of the funds were administered from outside Malta.

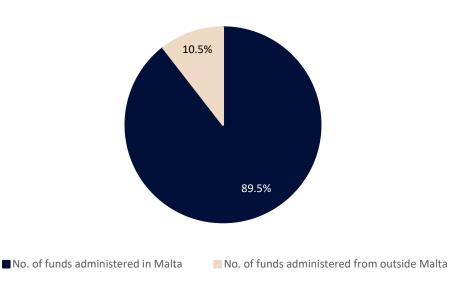


Figure 12: Administration of Locally Based Investment Funds (2020)

2.6 Operating Structure of Funds

As at end 2020, 79.8 percent of the Collective Investment Schemes were set up as a multi-fund structure. Stand-alone funds and master/feeder structures made up 16.4 percent and 3.8 percent of the total number of schemes respectively. Table 11 shows the operating structures of Collective Investment Schemes domiciled in Malta as at December 2020.

Table 11: Schemes by Operating Structure as at 2020

	Number of schemes as at December 2020	% number of schemes against total schemes
Master/Feeder (Master)	5	1.9
Master/Feeder (Feeder)	5	1.9
Stand Alone	43	16.4
Multi fund	209	79.8
Total	262	100

Source: Malta Financial Services Authority.

2.7 Funds Listed on the Malta Stock Exchange

The number of Malta domiciled funds listed on the Malta Stock Exchange as at December 2020 amounted to 25, of which nine were licenced as Alternative Investment Funds, eight as Professional Investor Funds and eight as UCITS funds.

Table 12: Funds Listed on the Malta Stock Exchange as at 2020

Type of CIS	Funds listed on MSE
PIF	8
AIF	9
UCITS	8
Total	25

Source: Malta Financial Services Authority.

2.8 Net Asset Value of Non-Malta Domiciled Funds Administered in Malta

As at December 2020, net assets of non-Malta domiciled funds administered in Malta amounted to four billion euro. This represents an increase of 8.1 percent (or €0.3 billion) compared to the previous year.

Table 13: NAV of Non-Malta Domiciled Funds Administered in Malta (2018 – 2020)

	NAV of non-Malta domiciled funds administered in Malta (Billion Euro)
December 2018	3.0
December 2019	3.7
December 2020	4.0

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