

10 July 2020 | 1100 hrs | 113/2020

Provisional figures for registered trade in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €291.5 million during May 2020, compared to a deficit of €237.0 million in the corresponding month of 2019.

International Trade in Goods: May 2020

Cut-off date:
2 July 2020

Data in this news release presents all international trade in goods registered up to the indicated cut-off date (refer to methodological notes). Provisional data for registered international trade recorded a trade deficit of €291.5 million during May, compared to a deficit of €237.0 million in the corresponding month of 2019. Both imports and exports registered decreases of €68.2 million and €122.7 million respectively (Table 1). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€89.0 million), partly offset by an increase of €36.4 million in machinery and transport equipment. The main decrease in exports was registered in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€60.1 million) and machinery and transport equipment (€40.6 million) (Table 2).

January-May 2020

During the first five months of this year, the trade deficit narrowed by €746.8 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2019, reaching €1,010.4 million. Imports and exports decreased by €857.0 million and €110.2 million respectively (Table 1). Lower imports were mainly in machinery and transport equipment (€665.2 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€109.7 million). On the other hand, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€98.0 million) accounted for the main decrease in exports (Table 2).

Imports from the European Union reached €1,126.3 million, or 48.8 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €97.6 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period in 2019. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from Luxembourg (€138.4 million) and the United Kingdom (€698.4 million). The main increase in exports was directed to Germany (€21.2 million), whereas Italy (€75.0 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade in Goods - monthly

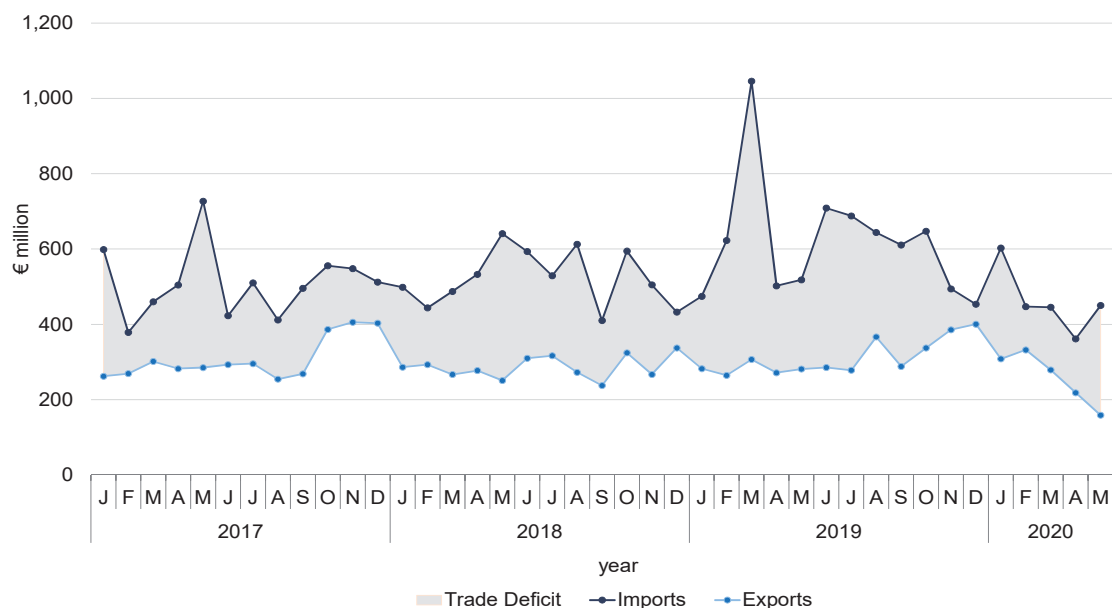


Table 1. Trade in goods by period and broad economic category

€ million

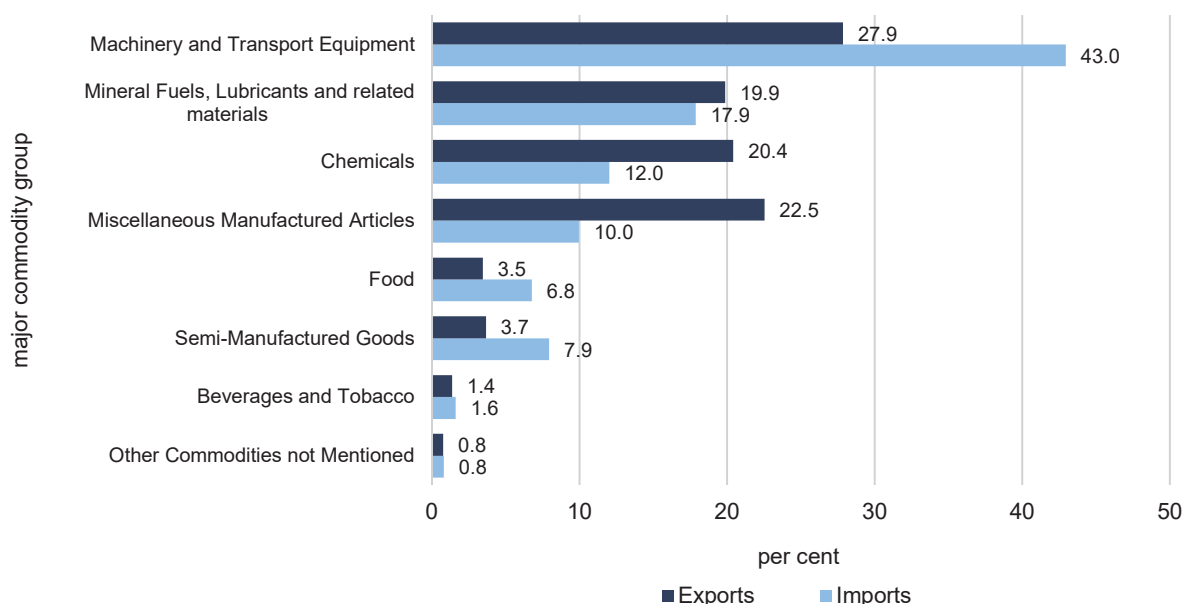
Broad economic category	2018 ^P	2019 ^P	May		January-May	
			2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
			Imports	6,280.9	7,410.8	518.4
Industrial Supplies	1,471.1	1,656.7	132.0	116.9	655.0	543.2
Primary	125.7	116.2	3.6	4.2	19.7	21.2
Semi-Finished	1,140.0	1,336.2	106.1	108.0	530.0	470.3
Finished	205.4	204.3	22.3	4.7	105.3	51.7
Capital Goods and Others	1,401.5	2,373.2	90.0	150.7	1,225.7	643.3
Consumer Goods	1,473.7	1,549.7	127.0	105.2	626.9	565.9
Food and Beverages	548.7	559.5	49.7	30.1	223.4	190.0
Durable Goods	497.1	548.4	45.2	43.0	221.0	191.6
Others	428.0	441.9	32.1	32.1	182.5	184.3
Fuels and Lubricants	1,934.5	1,831.2	169.4	77.5	656.3	554.7
Exports	3,440.9	3,749.2	281.4	158.7	1,406.8	1,296.6
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	986.6	1,079.3	88.9	31.6	399.2	320.3
Balance of Trade	-2,840.0	-3,661.5	-237.0	-291.5	-1,757.2	-1,010.4

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. Table 1 is based on the United Nations Statistical Division BEC codes (Broad Economic Categories). Figures for 'Fuels and Lubricants' refer to BEC 0031 and BEC 0032; respectively 'Fuels and lubricants, primary' and 'Fuels and lubricants, processed'.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
3. A disaggregation by quarter is available on the excel version of this news release:
http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade.aspx

Chart 2. Percentage distribution of registered trade in May 2020 by major commodity group



Notes:

1. The commodity breakdown is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 3.
2. "Other Commodities not Mentioned" includes the commodity groups "Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities", "Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats" and "Crude Materials".
3. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Balance of trade in goods by period and major commodity groups

€ million

Major commodity group	2018 ^P	2019 ^P	May		January-May	
			2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Imports	6,280.9	7,410.8	518.4	450.2	3,164.0	2,307.0
Food	628.7	608.4	44.1	30.6	209.0	187.9
Beverages and Tobacco	112.3	130.3	11.7	7.3	47.4	42.4
Crude Materials	27.4	36.4	3.5	2.6	15.6	12.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,947.0	1,865.1	169.5	80.5	669.5	559.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.6	9.6	0.7	0.7	4.0	3.9
Chemicals	603.1	686.0	47.4	54.1	280.7	257.2
Semi-Manufactured Goods	413.8	440.9	41.4	35.8	184.6	180.3
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,005.0	3,052.9	157.0	193.4	1,525.6	860.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	528.8	576.6	42.9	44.9	226.1	200.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	5.2	4.5	0.3	0.4	1.6	1.6
Exports	3,440.9	3,749.2	281.4	158.7	1,406.8	1,296.6
Food	345.3	287.4	4.6	5.5	83.3	57.4
Beverages and Tobacco	44.6	46.9	3.1	2.2	15.4	22.2
Crude Materials	13.3	10.0	1.5	1.1	4.0	4.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,048.6	1,109.0	91.7	31.6	418.3	320.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	387.0	524.0	40.1	32.4	183.0	169.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	153.8	137.9	14.2	5.8	68.4	42.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	957.0	1,025.6	84.8	44.2	404.2	428.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	488.8	605.8	41.1	35.8	228.4	251.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	2.5	2.6	0.2	0.1	1.9	0.4
Balance of Trade	-2,840.0	-3,661.5	-237.0	-291.5	-1,757.2	-1,010.4
Food	-283.4	-321.0	-39.5	-25.1	-125.7	-130.5
Beverages and Tobacco	-67.7	-83.3	-8.6	-5.1	-32.0	-20.2
Crude Materials	-14.1	-26.4	-2.0	-1.5	-11.6	-8.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-898.4	-756.1	-77.7	-49.0	-251.2	-239.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.6	-9.6	-0.7	-0.7	-4.0	-3.9
Chemicals	-216.1	-162.0	-7.2	-21.7	-97.7	-87.4
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-260.0	-303.0	-27.2	-29.9	-116.2	-137.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,048.0	-2,027.4	-72.1	-149.2	-1,121.4	-431.9
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-40.0	29.1	-1.8	-9.1	2.3	50.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-2.7	-1.9	-0.1	-0.3	0.3	-1.2

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. The commodity breakdown is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 3.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Direction of trade in goods by period

€ million

Country/Region	May						January-May					
	2019 ^P			2020 ^P			2019 ^P			2020 ^P		
	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade
Europe	385.0	160.6	-224.4	244.8	68.2	-176.6	2,385.8	715.0	-1,670.8	1,460.7	550.5	-910.2
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	273.8	152.7	-121.1	173.0	62.8	-110.2	1,249.9	668.8	-581.1	1,126.3	511.0	-615.3
<i>of which:</i>												
euro area	264.4	128.9	-135.5	165.3	48.7	-116.6	1,160.6	574.6	-586.0	1,063.0	439.0	-624.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	76.8	24.7	-52.1	51.1	7.3	-43.9	445.7	131.6	-314.1	357.6	56.6	-301.1
Luxembourg	0.2	0.0	-0.1	34.0	0.1	-34.0	0.4	0.2	-0.2	138.8	0.2	-138.6
France	47.6	39.4	-8.2	27.1	7.0	-20.1	155.4	133.3	-22.1	141.0	86.8	-54.1
Germany	39.8	41.8	1.9	19.9	23.9	4.0	194.1	204.0	9.9	151.8	225.2	73.4
Spain	20.0	3.8	-16.3	9.5	2.3	-7.2	64.9	32.7	-32.2	85.8	16.0	-69.8
Greece	16.9	0.5	-16.4	6.5	0.2	-6.2	98.0	2.9	-95.0	35.5	2.9	-32.6
EFTA Countries	4.6	1.8	-2.9	2.5	0.9	-1.6	25.5	12.5	-13.1	21.2	8.4	-12.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	4.5	1.5	-3.0	2.4	0.7	-1.7	17.4	10.5	-6.8	13.3	6.4	-6.9
Other European Countries	106.6	6.2	-100.4	69.3	4.5	-64.8	1,110.4	33.7	-1,076.7	313.3	31.1	-282.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	29.9	1.4	-28.4	33.3	1.5	-31.8	129.3	6.3	-122.9	80.9	9.5	-71.4
United Kingdom*	44.9	4.1	-40.8	22.1	2.5	-19.6	864.4	24.7	-839.8	166.0	14.9	-151.1
Asia	81.2	39.0	-42.2	81.8	42.0	-39.7	406.2	237.1	-169.1	443.7	259.0	-184.7
<i>of which:</i>												
China	22.2	4.4	-17.8	42.7	3.0	-39.8	99.7	13.1	-86.7	213.9	14.5	-199.4
India	13.9	0.9	-12.9	10.9	2.4	-8.5	70.8	7.5	-63.3	69.0	7.0	-62.0
Israel	19.4	0.3	-19.1	6.5	0.3	-6.2	77.0	1.5	-75.5	33.3	1.2	-32.1
South Korea	4.1	0.6	-3.5	5.3	0.5	-4.8	18.6	10.7	-7.9	22.3	9.9	-12.4
Thailand	1.6	0.3	-1.3	3.2	0.1	-3.1	11.5	1.1	-10.4	10.3	0.8	-9.5
North and Central America	12.5	22.9	10.4	5.7	5.5	-0.3	57.0	92.5	35.5	151.3	72.0	-79.2
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	8.4	20.2	11.8	5.4	4.7	-0.7	38.6	80.5	41.9	53.5	63.7	10.2
Canada	0.8	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.3	14.3	7.6	-6.8	97.0	5.2	-91.8
Africa	15.3	18.1	2.7	10.4	16.6	6.2	57.3	126.5	69.2	117.7	185.4	67.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Algeria	0.0	1.8	1.7	3.6	0.8	-2.8	0.0	7.8	7.8	67.0	6.3	-60.7
Australia and Oceania	1.2	0.8	-0.3	0.8	0.3	-0.5	108.7	2.4	-106.3	9.5	1.6	-7.9
South America	2.0	0.3	-1.6	1.8	0.3	-1.5	10.4	15.4	5.0	9.0	5.1	-3.9
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	21.2	1.5	-19.7	105.0	0.6	-104.4	138.5	2.3	-136.1	115.1	3.4	-111.7
Ships and Aircraft Stores	-	38.1	38.1	-	25.3	25.3	0.2	215.6	215.4	-	219.5	219.5
Grand Total	518.4	281.4	-237.0	450.2	158.7	-291.5	3,164.0	1,406.8	-1,757.2	2,307.0	1,296.6	-1,010.4

^P Provisional

* For the exclusion/inclusion of the United Kingdom in the European Union computation, refer to methodological note 7 (ii).

Notes:

1. Ranking is based according to top countries of import for the period under review.
2. Arrivals/Dispatches relate to registered transactions with EU Member States.
3. Imports/Exports relate to registered transactions with Non-EU Member States (see methodological notes for country groupings).
4. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
5. A full list of countries is available on the excel version of this news release:

http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade.aspx

Table 4. Trade in goods by period and principal traded commodities

€ 000

Chapter number	Commodity description	May		January-May	
		2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	5,172	2,512	25,011	20,522
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,963	3,792	22,646	20,791
08	Edible fruit and nuts	3,758	2,408	15,822	14,980
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,054	3,726	20,010	19,563
19	Preparations of cereals	6,464	4,127	29,035	25,773
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,427	2,419	17,770	14,909
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	9,113	3,090	33,288	23,641
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,662	4,205	14,485	19,003
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	3,810	3,744	16,117	17,851
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	169,479	80,507	671,958	559,800
29	Organic chemicals	6,725	11,345	57,878	37,782
30	Pharmaceutical products	19,017	20,815	110,287	115,282
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,843	5,526	19,263	17,926
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,347	2,319	17,434	15,607
34	Soap, etc, lubricants, waxes, dental preparations	1,893	2,438	11,601	10,989
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	3,126	2,899	11,667	11,996
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	14,515	16,206	74,381	74,109
48	Paper and paperboard articles	7,990	6,839	42,084	45,198
61	Knitted clothing	4,499	3,175	27,713	26,063
62	Woven clothing	4,498	11,822	23,608	25,001
63	Made up textile articles	1,183	5,073	5,314	12,387
72	Iron and steel	3,223	3,875	12,706	15,988
73	Articles of iron or steel	5,718	5,154	30,342	26,318
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	35,637	19,134	170,258	125,379
85	Electrical machinery etc.	50,306	47,773	239,859	208,669
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	16,303	5,638	81,350	61,278
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	49,097	35,351	190,135	362,083
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	6,254	85,946	847,131	102,671
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,437	7,561	32,866	35,456
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	7,502	4,363	32,339	23,545
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	905	906	51,516	35,258
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,384	3,835	23,559	16,046
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	942	982	3,006	1,812
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	111	1,224	5,307	17,382
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	91,567	31,494	417,827	319,913
29	Organic chemicals	3,284	11,220	24,177	19,408
30	Pharmaceutical products	29,060	14,275	126,197	119,346
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,552	1,452	7,161	4,712
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	7,322	6,854	36,030	37,986
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,773	2,769	27,023	21,835
49	Printed books, newspapers	6,515	14,625	67,353	104,004
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,126	1,392	11,021	9,897
61	Knitted clothing	1,368	718	5,566	9,884
72	Iron and steel	889	932	2,247	3,052
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	11,919	6,586	56,412	50,417
85	Electrical machinery etc.	60,416	35,241	274,317	261,926
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	10,670	2,254	69,861	112,283
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	8,685	5,114	40,718	33,142
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	13,637	10,605	60,117	64,496

^P Provisional

Notes:

- Table 4 is based on the World Customs Organisations Harmonised System (HS) codes. Figures for chapter 27 include 'Industrial supplies, primary' and 'Industrial supplies, processed'.
- A full list of chapters is available on the excel version of this news release:
http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade.aspx
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Methodological Notes

1. Figures presented in this news release are based on register data available as at the cut-off date printed on the front page of this release. These are provisional figures based on information provided by traders and customs declarations on a monthly basis. Regular revisions to monthly and annual trade data may be carried out for up to two (2) years after the reference period. No estimations are included in these figures to compensate for late or non-response by traders or late documentation of customs declarations.
2. Data in this release are based on:
 - a. The Intrastat Supplementary Declaration that traders in merchandise goods must submit in respect of arrivals (imports) and dispatches (exports) of goods from and to the Member States of the European Union (EU) in compliance with Legal Notice 131 of 2004, and
 - b. The Customs Declarations for imports from and exports to countries that are not Member States of the EU.
3. The Intrastat Supplementary Declaration for the collection of data on trade in goods between the Member States of the EU replaced the Customs Declaration as from 1 May 2004. The requirements of the Supplementary Declaration, which at EU level were introduced as from 1 January 1993, are similar in all the Member States of the EU.
4. As from May 2004, with the introduction of the Intrastat Supplementary Declaration as the source document for trade statistics, it was no longer possible to disaggregate total exports into domestic exports and re-exports.
5. The 'Balance of Trade' is the difference between a country's exports and imports. A country has a trade deficit if it imports more than it exports; the opposite scenario signifies a trade surplus.
6. National concepts differ from the harmonised methodology used by Eurostat, leading to differences between figures in this release and those published by Eurostat. Malta uses the "General Trade" system for dissemination purposes in line with UN recommendations. On the other hand, monthly data sent to Eurostat for both Intra-EU and Extra-EU are compiled according to the "Special Trade" methodology. A more detailed explanation of these two concepts can be found in the "Statistical Concepts" link below.
7.
 - i. Up to 31 December 2014, the euro area included Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia (from 2014), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. From 1 January 2015, the euro area also includes Lithuania. Trade data for Lithuania is included with the euro area data as from reference month January 2015.
 - ii. The European Union includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia (from July 2013), Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. As of February 1, 2020, the United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union.

For reference periods February 2020 onwards, monthly news releases having a country breakdown will carry EU data excluding the United Kingdom. Users are advised to use data with caution when making comparisons since this will result in discrepancies, unless United Kingdom information is removed from previous figures.
 - iii. EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries comprise Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
8. More detailed and disaggregated data not appearing in this release is available in the excel version of this release or upon request from the NSO.
9. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Sources and Methods: https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/External-Trade-Statistics.aspx
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=7>
Classification: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/index.cfm?>
10. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
11. A detailed news release calendar is available on: https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx