

9 January 2017 | 1100 hrs | 005/2017

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €102.8 million in November 2016, compared to €194.5 million in the corresponding month of 2015.

International Trade: November 2016

Cut-off date:
3 January 2017

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in November stood at €102.8 million, down by €91.7 million when compared to the corresponding month of 2015. Imports decreased by €13.6 million, while exports increased by €78.2 million (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to miscellaneous manufactured articles (€7.0 million) and machinery and transport equipment (€4.2 million). On the exports side, food (€41.8 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€31.4 million) accounted for the main increase (Table 2).

January-November 2016

During the first eleven months last year, the trade deficit widened by €298.5 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2015, reaching €2,708.4 million. Both imports and exports show increases of €308.5 million and €9.9 million respectively (Table 1a). Higher imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, which increased by €471.3 million. This was partly outweighed by decreases in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€55.4 million), semi-manufactured goods (€42.3 million), miscellaneous manufactured articles (€42.0 million), and chemicals (€39.0 million). The increase in the value of exports was mainly triggered by chemicals (€557.4 million). This was partly outweighed by decreases of €514.3 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, and €23.7 million in machinery and transport equipment (Table 2).

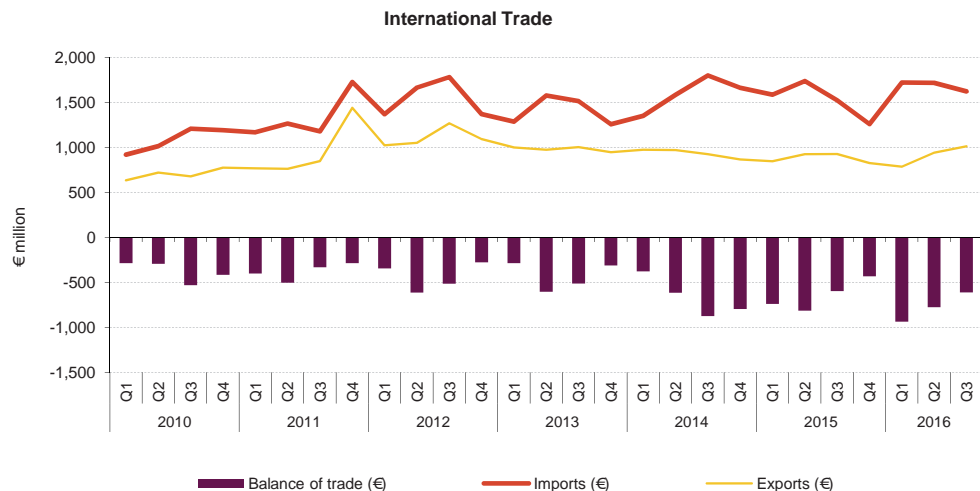
Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €2,888.9 million, or 48.0 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €308.4 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period of 2015. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from the Caribbean and Bahamas Islands (€601.6 million) and Turkey (€146.7 million) respectively. On the export side, the main increase was directed to the United States of America (€600.4 million), whereas Africa (€382.2 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Compiled by:

**Unit A4: International
Trade Statistics**

Further information on data:

Mr Anthony PORTELLI
T. +356 2599 7160
E. anthony.portelli@gov.mt



Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
The advance release calendar may be consulted at www.nso.gov.mt

Issued by: **Dissemination Unit, National Statistics Office, Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta.**
T. +356 2599 7219 F. +356 2599 7205 E. nso@gov.mt

<https://twitter.com/NSOMALTA/> | <https://www.facebook.com/nsomalta/>

Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	November		January-November	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Imports	6,400.7	6,110.4	436.5	422.9	5,706.5	6,015.0
Industrial Supplies	1,413.0	1,482.6	109.1	100.9	1,340.0	1,187.4
Primary	81.2	80.0	3.8	2.6	77.6	84.0
Semi-Finished	1,180.8	1,191.8	88.8	80.0	1,091.8	931.0
Finished	151.0	210.8	16.6	18.2	170.7	172.4
Capital Goods and Others	1,311.1	1,717.9	106.4	106.1	1,645.6	2,182.6
Consumer Goods	1,115.6	1,220.5	113.2	103.5	1,120.7	1,105.8
Food and Beverages	472.7	482.5	43.1	43.1	442.6	444.1
Durable Goods	373.6	453.8	47.4	32.7	417.2	381.1
Others	269.3	284.3	22.7	27.6	261.0	280.6
Fuels and Lubricants	2,561.1	1,689.4	107.8	112.4	1,600.1	1,539.2
Exports	3,737.9	3,527.5	242.0	320.2	3,296.6	3,306.5
Balance of Trade	-2,662.8	-2,583.0	-194.5	-102.8	-2,409.9	-2,708.4

^P Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 1b. Trade by broad economic category - last six quarters

€ million

Broad economic category	2015 Q2 ^P	2015 Q3 ^P	2015 Q4 ^P	2016 Q1 ^P	2016 Q2 ^P	2016 Q3 ^P
Imports	1,739.4	1,524.5	1,259.3	1,722.7	1,717.7	1,623.4
Industrial Supplies	372.1	392.6	369.3	344.0	321.8	318.6
Primary	29.6	21.2	12.4	22.6	30.2	26.2
Semi-Finished	292.5	332.2	286.3	262.3	256.2	252.3
Finished	49.9	39.2	70.5	59.1	35.4	40.1
Capital Goods and Others	659.7	338.5	241.5	786.2	717.7	419.2
Consumer Goods	307.0	313.6	327.6	288.5	306.3	296.7
Food and Beverages	124.1	127.6	128.3	109.4	123.0	121.6
Durable Goods	108.0	117.4	127.4	107.6	106.4	95.7
Others	74.9	68.6	71.8	71.4	77.0	79.3
Fuels and Lubricants	400.7	479.9	320.9	304.1	371.9	588.9
Exports	925.0	927.8	827.1	786.0	941.4	1,012.3
Balance of Trade	-814.4	-596.8	-432.2	-936.7	-776.3	-611.0

^P Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 1c. Exports net of fuels and lubricants by period

€ million

Broad economic category	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	November		January-November	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Total Exports	3,737.9	3,527.5	242.0	320.2	3,296.6	3,306.5
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,608.2	1,332.3	41.2	74.2	1,302.3	785.5
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,129.7	2,195.1	200.8	246.0	1,994.3	2,521.0

^P Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

€ million

Major commodity group	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	November		January-November	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Imports	6,400.7	6,110.4	436.5	422.9	5,706.5	6,015.0
Food	505.6	517.5	43.0	41.2	477.7	488.5
Beverages and Tobacco	89.8	89.7	8.2	7.9	81.0	90.2
Crude Materials	24.4	27.4	2.5	2.4	25.5	24.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,563.5	1,691.1	107.8	112.6	1,601.8	1,546.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	8.7	9.2	0.8	0.8	8.6	8.4
Chemicals	509.1	507.6	37.7	35.5	464.2	425.2
Semi-Manufactured Goods	342.4	414.7	34.4	31.7	380.6	338.3
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,922.5	2,373.6	159.0	154.8	2,226.4	2,697.7
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	422.8	465.3	42.4	35.4	427.6	385.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	11.9	14.1	0.6	0.6	13.1	10.3
Exports	3,737.9	3,527.5	242.0	320.2	3,296.6	3,306.5
Food	197.8	245.6	46.3	88.1	202.9	210.5
Beverages and Tobacco	45.3	42.3	3.8	4.1	40.2	38.8
Crude Materials	16.1	15.9	1.0	1.7	14.4	11.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,608.2	1,357.5	44.9	76.3	1,325.7	811.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Chemicals	377.3	363.6	28.6	28.1	338.2	895.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	116.0	122.9	11.2	9.3	114.2	110.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,000.2	968.0	73.1	81.3	880.9	857.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	375.7	411.0	33.0	31.0	379.5	369.4
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	1.3	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.7
Balance of Trade	-2,662.8	-2,583.0	-194.5	-102.8	-2,409.9	-2,708.4
Food	-307.8	-271.9	3.3	47.0	-274.8	-277.9
Beverages and Tobacco	-44.5	-47.4	-4.4	-3.9	-40.8	-51.4
Crude Materials	-8.3	-11.5	-1.5	-0.8	-11.1	-12.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-955.2	-333.6	-62.9	-36.2	-276.1	-735.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-8.7	-9.2	-0.8	-0.8	-8.6	-8.4
Chemicals	-131.8	-144.0	-9.1	-7.4	-126.1	470.4
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-226.4	-291.9	-23.1	-22.3	-266.4	-227.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-922.3	-1,405.7	-86.0	-73.5	-1,345.4	-1,840.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-47.1	-54.3	-9.4	-4.4	-48.1	-16.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-10.6	-13.5	-0.6	-0.6	-12.5	-9.6

^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 by period

€ million

	November						January-November					
	2015 ^P			2016 ^P			2015 ^P			2016 ^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	311.6	101.5	-210.1	272.7	94.2	-178.5	3,984.6	1,073.4	-2,911.2	3,302.9	1,068.6	-2,234.3
European Union	284.3	98.2	-186.2	240.1	80.7	-159.4	3,364.7	1,000.3	-2,364.4	2,888.9	1,000.7	-1,888.2
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	29.1	10.5	-18.5	24.7	7.7	-17.0	391.6	117.1	-274.5	311.0	96.6	-214.4
Euro Area	234.4	77.6	-156.8	204.9	63.1	-141.8	2,681.2	766.4	-1,914.8	2,372.8	784.5	-1,588.2
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	101.3	20.8	-80.4	89.9	9.5	-80.4	1,214.7	128.0	-1,086.7	1,097.7	118.5	-979.2
Cyprus	0.7	0.1	-0.5	25.5	0.0	-25.5	7.4	2.0	-5.4	32.7	0.5	-32.1
Germany	47.1	28.0	-19.1	24.8	26.7	1.9	340.0	306.3	-33.8	335.8	348.6	12.8
Spain	21.1	3.0	-18.1	20.4	1.9	-18.5	200.9	33.6	-167.2	181.5	29.3	-152.3
France	20.6	19.7	-0.8	12.9	13.0	0.1	219.0	226.7	7.7	242.5	207.7	-34.8
Greece	2.6	0.4	-2.2	9.4	1.1	-8.3	73.7	4.6	-69.1	106.8	6.8	-100.0
EFTA Countries	5.9	1.9	-4.0	24.2	6.1	-18.1	53.9	32.7	-21.3	80.0	30.3	-49.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	5.6	1.5	-4.1	23.6	5.8	-17.7	45.8	25.2	-20.6	72.9	26.1	-46.8
Other European Countries	21.4	1.4	-20.0	8.4	7.4	-1.0	566.0	40.5	-525.5	334.0	37.6	-296.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	19.3	1.1	-18.2	7.2	1.5	-5.7	307.8	20.8	-287.1	161.1	12.3	-148.7
Asia	89.0	77.3	-11.7	62.7	129.7	66.9	721.5	636.1	-85.4	755.6	588.4	-167.2
<i>of which:</i>												
China	40.2	2.0	-38.1	20.4	8.5	-11.9	199.9	41.0	-158.9	188.0	40.0	-148.0
India	7.3	0.5	-6.8	9.2	0.8	-8.4	101.4	19.5	-81.9	103.9	12.9	-91.0
Saudi Arabia	2.1	5.5	3.4	5.8	8.5	2.6	52.9	33.7	-19.3	113.1	19.1	-94.0
Taiwan	3.4	0.4	-3.0	5.6	0.5	-5.0	40.6	4.6	-36.0	35.7	5.1	-30.6
Korea Republic	4.1	2.5	-1.5	4.0	8.9	4.9	39.2	12.7	-26.5	59.1	24.0	-35.2
North and Central America	9.8	13.2	3.4	36.6	19.8	-16.7	617.0	173.5	-443.5	871.2	764.1	-107.0
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	9.5	10.2	0.6	35.4	15.6	-19.7	278.4	123.3	-155.1	286.0	723.7	437.8
Canada	0.1	2.0	1.9	0.4	3.0	2.6	320.3	34.1	-286.2	579.9	26.0	-553.8
Africa	23.9	35.7	11.7	27.6	32.0	4.4	140.3	906.0	765.7	241.1	523.8	282.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Algeria	2.7	0.0	-2.6	13.7	0.0	-13.7	22.2	23.3	1.1	48.1	4.5	-43.6
Australia and Oceania	0.4	1.9	1.5	2.8	0.6	-2.2	35.5	16.2	-19.2	31.3	13.5	-17.8
South America	1.5	6.5	5.0	9.6	3.1	-6.5	23.6	20.6	-3.0	42.6	8.3	-34.4
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.2	5.8	5.6	1.9	39.8	37.9	24.2	468.1	443.9	8.9	334.2	325.3
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	0.0	0.1	0.1	9.0	1.0	-8.0	159.9	2.7	-157.2	761.5	5.5	-755.9
Grand Total	436.5	242.0	-194.5	422.9	320.2	-102.8	5,706.5	3,296.6	-2,409.9	6,015.0	3,306.5	-2,708.4

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. Arrivals/Dispatches relate to transactions with EU Member States.
2. Imports/Exports relate to transactions with Non-EU Member States (see methodological note 8 for country groupings).
3. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 4. Trade by period and principal traded commodities

€ 000

Chapter number	Commodity description	November		January-November	
		2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	4,481	4,708	48,169	49,239
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	2,556	4,673	54,839	79,785
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,296	3,797	42,182	41,625
08	Edible fruit and nuts	3,234	3,383	32,983	33,915
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,459	4,409	41,927	42,474
18	Cocoa and cocoa preparations	2,687	2,434	20,660	17,437
19	Preparations of cereals	6,391	5,371	57,389	56,921
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,003	2,619	36,158	33,857
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,501	5,325	58,246	57,133
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,812	2,675	23,493	33,913
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	107,822	112,576	1,603,330	1,548,008
29	Organic chemicals	8,153	5,685	132,845	98,463
30	Pharmaceutical products	10,243	14,266	120,486	130,645
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	4,149	3,400	39,072	35,445
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	12,655	9,983	148,194	134,048
48	Paper and paperboard articles	6,064	5,466	72,814	64,439
61	Knitted clothing	6,038	4,086	50,374	43,159
62	Woven clothing	3,921	3,196	41,863	37,207
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,490	2,544	24,987	28,075
69	Ceramic products	2,496	2,182	24,304	24,056
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	5,131	2,657	38,117	26,252
73	Articles of iron or steel	6,851	11,028	109,209	77,536
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	59,465	25,253	304,505	264,902
85	Electrical machinery etc.	42,047	45,773	504,954	441,667
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	19,260	11,909	202,033	151,487
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	12,734	31,466	442,217	813,989
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	17,776	39,817	762,936	1,015,299
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,475	4,962	59,788	59,918
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	6,586	4,701	63,064	56,455
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	2,481	2,680	20,244	23,370
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	36,693	80,532	85,578	123,410
19	Preparations of cereals	3,362	1,993	25,231	21,218
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	5,687	4,756	68,091	54,418
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,779	2,313	13,640	15,720
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	44,822	76,106	1,324,746	809,863
29	Organic chemicals	5,699	4,898	77,663	40,127
30	Pharmaceutical products	19,958	20,343	224,923	822,796
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,588	1,373	15,785	12,652
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	4,424	4,392	48,733	50,019
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,294	4,358	52,214	51,409
49	Printed books, newspapers	12,611	10,999	117,684	83,372
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,358	2,398	23,397	20,619
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	6,253	11,014	95,609	110,224
85	Electrical machinery etc.	52,845	54,393	655,924	596,692
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	8,832	12,596	77,395	121,923
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	295	2,157	7,386	3,866
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,198	4,401	70,427	74,863
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	7,688	8,179	87,432	120,961
99	Special classifications	2,044	2,115	26,814	26,199

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. The commodity breakdown is the Harmonised System (HS) Code at chapter level.

2. 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

Methodological Notes

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 is a trade surplus.
5. This news release is based on data available as on the cut-off date printed on the front page of this release. These are provisional figures based on information provided by traders 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.
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 at <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=7>.
7. Individual countries' data not appearing in this release are available from the NSO upon request.
8.
 - 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, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.
 - iii. EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries comprise Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
9. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
10. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
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?>