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Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €151.8 million in December 2016, compared to €173.1 million in the corresponding month of 2015.

International Trade: December 2016

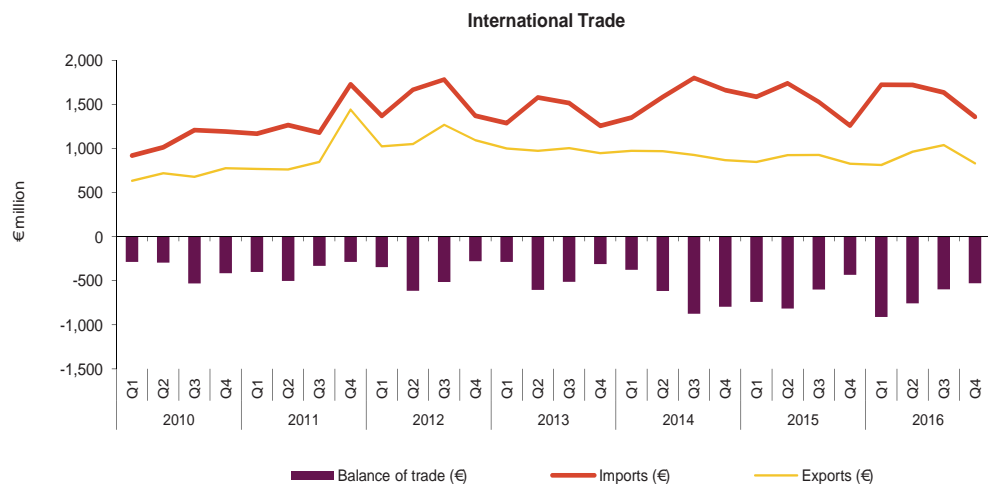
Cut-off date:
1 February 2017

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in December stood at €151.8 million, down by €21.3 million when compared to the corresponding month of 2015. Imports decreased by €15.8 million, while exports increased by €5.5 million (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€48.7 million). This was partly outweighed by an increase in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€43.7 million). On the exports side, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€3.5 million) and food (€1.4 million) were the main items accounting for the increase (Table 2).

January-December 2016

During 2016, the trade deficit widened by €207.4 million when compared to 2015, reaching €2,794.3 million. Both imports and exports show increases of €324.8 million and €117.4 million respectively (Table 1a). Higher imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, which increased by €431.5 million. This was partly outweighed by decreases in chemicals (€48.1 million) and semi-manufactured goods (€46.0 million). The increase in the value of exports was mainly triggered by chemicals (€558.3 million), while mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials decreased by €430.9 million (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €3,183.8 million, or 49.4 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €276.4 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period of 2015. The main changes in imports were registered from Canada (+€259.9 million) and the Netherlands (-€11.2 million). On the export side, the main increase was directed to the United States of America (€605.3 million), whereas Hong Kong (€53.1 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■



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Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.

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Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	December	
					2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Imports	5,639.6	6,401.3	6,114.4	6,439.2	403.9	388.1
Industrial Supplies	1,550.1	1,413.0	1,483.1	1,306.5	142.6	107.8
Primary	95.1	81.2	80.0	105.1	2.5	21.1
Semi-Finished	1,295.0	1,180.8	1,192.3	1,011.2	100.0	70.8
Finished	160.0	151.0	210.8	190.3	40.1	15.9
Capital Goods and Others	869.0	1,311.4	1,717.9	2,242.3	72.2	54.5
Consumer Goods	1,040.8	1,115.8	1,224.0	1,218.1	99.8	92.9
Food and Beverages	451.0	472.7	485.9	491.6	39.9	38.3
Durable Goods	335.5	373.8	453.8	422.4	36.6	32.6
Others	254.2	269.3	284.3	304.2	23.3	21.9
Fuels and Lubricants	2,179.7	2,561.1	1,689.4	1,672.2	89.3	133.0
Exports	3,925.5	3,738.7	3,527.5	3,644.9	230.8	236.3
Balance of Trade	-1,714.1	-2,662.6	-2,586.9	-2,794.3	-173.1	-151.8

^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 Q3 ^P	2015 Q4 ^P	2016 Q1 ^P	2016 Q2 ^P	2016 Q3 ^P	2016 Q4 ^P
Industrial Supplies	393.1	369.3	344.1	322.2	322.9	317.3
Primary	21.2	12.4	22.6	30.2	26.2	26.0
Semi-Finished	332.6	286.4	262.4	256.6	256.6	235.6
Finished	39.2	70.5	59.1	35.4	40.1	55.7
Capital Goods and Others	338.5	241.5	786.2	718.3	420.3	317.6
Consumer Goods	316.8	327.7	288.7	308.6	303.7	317.2
Food and Beverages	130.8	128.4	109.5	123.3	126.2	132.7
Durable Goods	117.4	127.4	107.9	108.1	97.8	108.6
Others	68.6	71.8	71.4	77.1	79.7	76.0
Fuels and Lubricants	479.9	320.9	304.1	371.9	588.9	407.4
Exports	927.8	827.1	812.6	963.9	1,038.0	830.3
Balance of Trade	-600.5	-432.4	-910.5	-757.0	-597.7	-529.1

^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	2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	December	
					2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Total Exports	3,925.5	3,738.7	3,527.5	3,644.9	230.8	236.3
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,665.7	1,608.2	1,332.3	894.2	30.0	30.8
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,259.9	2,130.4	2,195.1	2,750.7	200.8	205.5

^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	2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	December	
					2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Imports	5,639.6	6,401.3	6,114.4	6,439.2	403.9	388.1
Food	504.0	505.6	521.4	555.4	39.9	55.7
Beverages and Tobacco	74.8	89.8	89.7	97.7	8.7	6.6
Crude Materials	26.4	24.4	27.5	26.3	1.9	2.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,185.8	2,563.5	1,691.1	1,679.5	89.3	133.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	8.5	8.7	9.2	9.2	0.6	0.6
Chemicals	440.7	509.1	507.6	459.5	43.4	32.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	311.0	342.4	414.8	368.8	34.2	27.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,668.5	1,922.8	2,373.6	2,805.1	147.3	98.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	399.0	423.0	465.3	426.0	37.7	31.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	20.9	11.9	14.1	11.7	1.0	1.3
Exports	3,925.5	3,738.7	3,527.5	3,644.9	230.8	236.3
Food	212.5	197.8	245.6	254.8	42.7	44.1
Beverages and Tobacco	35.5	45.3	42.3	41.1	2.1	2.3
Crude Materials	15.3	16.1	15.9	12.6	1.5	0.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,665.7	1,608.2	1,357.5	926.6	31.8	35.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	358.2	377.3	363.6	921.9	25.5	25.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	117.8	116.0	122.9	121.1	8.7	8.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,112.4	1,000.7	968.0	959.7	87.1	87.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	404.5	375.9	411.0	406.3	31.5	31.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	3.7	1.3	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.0
Balance of Trade	-1,714.1	-2,662.6	-2,586.9	-2,794.3	-173.1	-151.8
Food	-291.5	-307.8	-275.8	-300.6	2.9	-11.6
Beverages and Tobacco	-39.3	-44.5	-47.4	-56.6	-6.7	-4.3
Crude Materials	-11.1	-8.3	-11.5	-13.7	-0.4	-1.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-520.1	-955.2	-333.6	-752.9	-57.5	-97.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-8.5	-8.7	-9.2	-9.2	-0.6	-0.6
Chemicals	-82.5	-131.8	-144.0	462.4	-17.9	-6.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-193.3	-226.4	-291.9	-247.7	-25.5	-18.2
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-556.1	-922.1	-1,405.7	-1,845.4	-60.2	-10.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	5.5	-47.1	-54.3	-19.7	-6.2	0.4
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-17.1	-10.6	-13.5	-10.9	-1.0	-1.3

^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													
	December						January-December							
	2015 ^P		2016 ^P		Balance of Trade		2015 ^P		2016 ^P		Balance of Trade			
Arrivals/Imports	Dispatches/Exports	Arrivals/Imports	Dispatches/Exports	Arrivals/Imports	Dispatches/Exports	Arrivals/Imports	Dispatches/Exports	Arrivals/Imports	Dispatches/Exports	Arrivals/Imports	Dispatches/Exports	Arrivals/Imports	Dispatches/Exports	Balance of Trade
Europe	295.8	82.7	293.1	83.7	-209.4	4,284.4	1,156.1	3,632.1	1,254.2	3,632.1	1,254.2	3,632.1	1,254.2	-2,377.8
European Union	264.4	78.3	258.8	79.9	-179.0	3,633.1	1,078.6	3,183.8	1,182.5	3,183.8	1,182.5	3,183.8	1,182.5	-2,001.3
<i>of which:</i>														
United Kingdom	26.2	9.3	28.9	6.3	-22.6	418.7	126.4	343.3	106.0	343.3	106.0	343.3	106.0	-237.3
Euro Area	204.4	59.0	208.9	64.1	-144.8	2,888.6	825.4	2,612.2	946.8	2,612.2	946.8	2,612.2	946.8	-1,665.4
<i>of which:</i>														
Italy	85.0	9.2	121.3	7.9	-113.4	1,299.8	137.2	1,229.9	208.5	1,229.9	208.5	1,229.9	208.5	-1,021.4
Germany	39.9	27.8	25.7	31.9	6.2	380.0	334.1	365.9	388.6	365.9	388.6	365.9	388.6	22.7
France	15.2	12.8	14.0	16.1	2.1	234.2	239.6	257.6	229.6	257.6	229.6	257.6	229.6	-28.0
Greece	6.1	1.6	12.3	0.9	-11.4	79.8	6.2	119.3	7.7	119.3	7.7	119.3	7.7	-111.6
Spain	29.1	2.6	10.8	3.1	-7.7	230.0	36.2	195.1	33.2	195.1	33.2	195.1	33.2	-161.9
Netherlands	13.7	1.2	10.0	1.3	-8.7	438.6	31.5	227.4	34.4	227.4	34.4	227.4	34.4	-193.0
EFTA Countries	4.0	2.0	4.5	2.1	-2.4	57.9	34.7	84.5	32.4	84.5	32.4	84.5	32.4	-52.1
<i>of which:</i>														
Switzerland	3.7	1.0	3.8	1.5	-2.3	49.5	26.2	76.7	27.5	76.7	27.5	76.7	27.5	-49.1
Other European Countries	27.4	2.3	29.8	1.8	-28.0	593.4	42.8	363.8	39.3	363.8	39.3	363.8	39.3	-324.4
<i>of which:</i>														
Russian Federation	7.7	0.2	21.7	0.1	-21.7	215.8	3.2	175.3	3.2	175.3	3.2	175.3	3.2	-172.2
Asia	61.6	79.8	48.1	83.1	35.0	783.0	715.8	803.7	671.6	803.7	671.6	803.7	671.6	-132.1
<i>of which:</i>														
China	17.1	2.5	14.4	3.7	-10.7	217.0	43.5	202.4	43.7	202.4	43.7	202.4	43.7	-158.7
India	6.6	1.5	8.7	2.6	-6.2	108.0	21.0	112.6	15.4	112.6	15.4	112.6	15.4	-97.2
Japan	4.6	29.5	4.3	33.0	28.7	70.1	109.4	53.1	144.7	53.1	144.7	53.1	144.7	91.6
Taiwan	2.7	0.5	3.5	5.4	1.9	43.3	5.1	39.1	5.4	39.1	5.4	39.1	5.4	-33.8
Hong Kong	3.1	15.1	3.2	13.7	10.5	26.5	171.5	40.0	118.4	40.0	118.4	40.0	118.4	78.4
North and Central America	16.2	16.2	6.9	19.8	12.9	633.3	189.7	878.1	783.9	878.1	783.9	878.1	783.9	-94.2
<i>of which:</i>														
United States of America	15.9	12.3	6.3	17.2	10.9	294.3	135.6	292.3	740.9	292.3	740.9	292.3	740.9	448.7
Canada	0.2	2.9	0.5	1.7	1.2	320.5	37.0	580.4	27.8	580.4	27.8	580.4	27.8	-552.6
Africa	22.9	29.0	28.5	39.7	11.2	163.2	934.9	269.6	563.5	269.6	563.5	269.6	563.5	293.9
<i>of which:</i>														
Tunisia	0.4	5.3	10.3	2.4	-7.9	23.4	95.8	63.5	48.0	63.5	48.0	63.5	48.0	-15.5
Australia and Oceania	0.5	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.0	36.0	17.3	31.8	14.1	31.8	14.1	31.8	14.1	-17.7
South America	1.0	9.5	3.7	4.7	1.0	24.6	30.0	46.3	13.0	46.3	13.0	46.3	13.0	-33.3
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.0	12.5	0.2	4.4	4.2	24.2	480.6	9.2	338.6	9.2	338.6	9.2	338.6	329.5
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	5.9	0.2	7.0	0.3	-6.7	165.8	2.9	768.5	5.9	768.5	5.9	768.5	5.9	-762.6
Grand Total	403.9	230.8	388.1	236.3	-151.8	6,114.4	3,527.5	6,439.2	3,644.9	6,439.2	3,644.9	6,439.2	3,644.9	-2,794.3

^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	December		January-December	
		2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	5,634	4,685	53,803	53,981
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	1,420	18,443	60,161	104,409
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,729	3,257	45,911	45,299
08	Edible fruit and nuts	2,233	2,659	35,216	37,800
10	Cereals	1,269	3,251	30,097	27,956
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,269	3,657	45,196	46,411
19	Preparations of cereals	5,272	5,242	62,662	63,064
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,804	3,455	38,962	37,525
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,191	4,923	63,438	62,950
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	89,344	132,979	1,692,674	1,681,059
29	Organic chemicals	15,768	3,830	148,614	102,311
30	Pharmaceutical products	9,033	11,056	129,519	141,822
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,746	3,431	41,818	39,177
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	1,858	2,738	23,311	22,583
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	13,039	9,926	161,233	147,525
48	Paper and paperboard articles	6,513	5,480	79,327	70,179
61	Knitted clothing	4,507	3,025	54,881	46,636
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,148	3,128	26,134	31,743
69	Ceramic products	2,039	2,351	26,343	26,955
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	3,295	3,258	41,412	30,033
72	Iron and steel	3,730	3,503	23,609	21,761
73	Articles of iron or steel	5,519	4,235	114,727	82,312
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	55,410	18,941	359,915	288,159
85	Electrical machinery etc.	46,782	37,124	551,735	482,061
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	18,096	13,721	220,129	166,186
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	13,689	11,554	455,906	825,562
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	5,864	17,509	768,801	1,033,043
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,016	3,993	64,805	64,448
91	Clocks and watches/parts	2,302	2,320	18,916	15,657
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	5,970	4,794	69,034	62,691
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	33,018	35,016	118,597	158,616
19	Preparations of cereals	2,604	3,230	27,835	24,448
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,634	5,682	72,725	60,100
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	31,745	35,078	1,356,492	924,887
29	Organic chemicals	4,774	6,440	82,438	46,566
30	Pharmaceutical products	18,241	16,024	243,164	839,284
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	125	1,114	7,928	9,547
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	4,215	4,121	52,948	54,361
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	2,680	2,585	54,894	54,072
49	Printed books, newspapers	13,447	10,587	131,130	94,440
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,419	2,244	24,816	22,863
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	148	1,291	7,039	6,290
73	Articles of iron or steel	3,186	2,741	25,113	24,517
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	5,959	9,272	101,568	120,206
85	Electrical machinery etc.	61,512	65,017	717,436	675,687
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	13,866	13,070	91,261	134,993
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,540	4,422	75,967	83,204
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	4,616	9,170	92,049	130,181
99	Special classifications	1,659	1,825	28,473	28,024

^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?>