

9 May 2017 | 1100 hrs | 080/2017

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €232.7 million in March 2017, compared to €185.0 million in the corresponding month of 2016.

International Trade: March 2017

Cut-off date:
3 May 2017

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in March stood at €232.7 million, up by €47.7 million when compared to the corresponding month of 2016. Both imports and exports decreased by €114.3 million and €162.0 million respectively (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€182.0 million). This was partly outweighed by an increase of €64.3 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. On the exports side, chemicals (€148.7 million) accounted for the main decrease (Table 2).

January-March 2017

During the first three months this year, the trade deficit narrowed by €160.9 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2016, reaching €750.8 million. Both imports and exports show decreases of €309.5 million and €148.5 million respectively (Table 1a). Lower imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, which decreased by €489.5 million. This was partly outweighed by an increase of €214.5 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. On the exports side, the main decrease was registered in chemicals (€155.3 million), partly outweighed by an increase of €26.8 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €685.6 million, or 48.5 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €27.7 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period of 2016. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from Singapore (€86.4 million) and Canada (€111.9 million) respectively. On the export side, the main increase was directed to Spain (€5.7 million), whereas the United States of America (€149.0 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

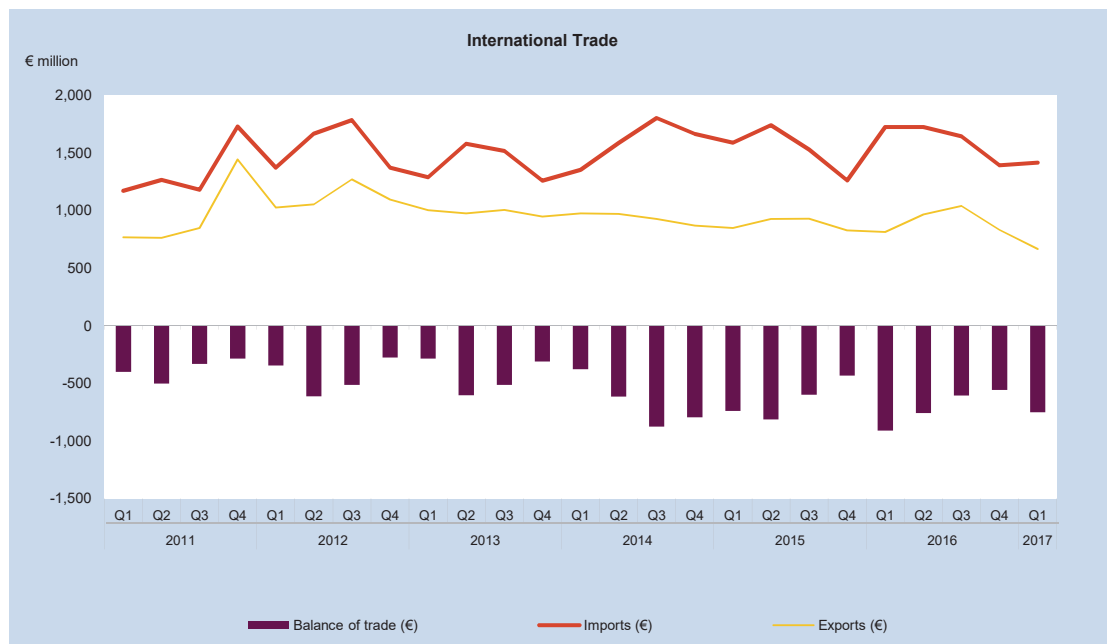


Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	March		January-March	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
			Imports	6,114.8	6,480.2	575.0
Industrial Supplies	1,483.1	1,322.9	103.3	93.7	344.5	281.0
Primary	80.0	106.2	3.6	2.5	22.6	14.0
Semi-Finished	1,192.3	1,024.7	82.7	79.4	262.6	219.0
Finished	210.8	192.0	17.0	11.8	59.3	48.0
Capital Goods and Others	1,718.2	2,251.0	237.2	63.7	786.9	324.0
Consumer Goods	1,224.0	1,234.1	101.1	105.6	288.8	291.2
Food and Beverages	485.9	497.4	38.6	41.1	109.5	116.0
Durable Goods	453.8	429.6	38.6	37.9	107.9	98.5
Others	284.3	307.1	23.9	26.7	71.4	76.8
Fuels and Lubricants	1,689.4	1,672.3	133.4	197.7	304.1	518.7
Exports	3,528.0	3,645.9	390.0	228.0	812.6	664.1
Balance of Trade	-2,586.8	-2,834.4	-185.0	-232.7	-911.7	-750.8

^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	2016 Q1 ^P	2016 Q2 ^P	2016 Q3 ^P	2016 Q4 ^P	2017 Q1 ^P
Imports	1,259.6	1,724.4	1,722.2	1,643.5	1,390.2	1,414.9
Industrial Supplies	369.3	344.5	323.0	326.2	329.1	281.0
Primary	12.4	22.6	30.2	26.3	27.2	14.0
Semi-Finished	286.4	262.6	257.4	259.8	244.8	219.0
Finished	70.5	59.3	35.4	40.1	57.1	48.0
Capital Goods and Others	241.6	786.9	718.5	422.1	323.6	324.0
Consumer Goods	327.8	288.8	308.8	306.3	330.1	291.2
Food and Beverages	128.4	109.5	123.3	126.7	137.9	116.0
Durable Goods	127.4	107.9	108.3	99.5	113.8	98.5
Others	71.9	71.4	77.2	80.2	78.3	76.8
Fuels and Lubricants	320.9	304.1	371.9	588.9	407.4	518.7
Exports	827.3	812.6	963.9	1,038.1	831.2	664.1
Balance of Trade	-432.3	-911.7	-758.3	-605.3	-559.0	-750.8

^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	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	March		January-March	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
			Total Exports	3,528.0	3,645.9	390.0
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,332.3	894.2	51.8	39.7	140.8	164.4
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,195.7	2,751.7	338.2	188.2	671.8	499.7

^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	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	March		January-March	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Imports	6,114.8	6,480.2	575.0	460.7	1,724.4	1,414.9
Food	521.4	562.4	37.7	39.4	121.8	120.1
Beverages and Tobacco	89.7	97.8	6.0	7.5	20.5	18.9
Crude Materials	27.5	26.2	3.2	2.2	7.2	6.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,691.1	1,679.6	133.4	197.7	304.2	518.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.2	9.3	0.6	0.7	2.2	2.0
Chemicals	507.6	464.8	38.2	41.1	121.7	116.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	414.8	374.3	30.3	27.8	93.8	74.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,374.0	2,818.7	287.2	105.2	945.9	456.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	465.3	435.5	37.4	38.5	104.3	99.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	14.1	11.7	0.9	0.6	2.7	1.6
Exports	3,528.0	3,645.9	390.0	228.0	812.6	664.1
Food	245.6	254.8	16.2	17.4	52.5	53.9
Beverages and Tobacco	42.3	41.1	2.2	2.2	9.7	5.6
Crude Materials	15.9	12.6	0.6	0.9	3.2	3.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,357.5	926.6	53.4	42.1	147.5	174.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	363.6	921.9	178.6	29.9	230.0	74.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	122.9	121.2	14.4	11.1	34.8	31.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	968.0	960.3	88.9	86.3	240.4	223.9
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	411.5	406.6	35.6	38.1	94.3	97.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1
Balance of Trade	-2,586.8	-2,834.4	-185.0	-232.7	-911.7	-750.8
Food	-275.8	-307.6	-21.5	-22.1	-69.3	-66.2
Beverages and Tobacco	-47.4	-56.7	-3.9	-5.4	-10.8	-13.3
Crude Materials	-11.5	-13.6	-2.5	-1.3	-4.0	-3.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-333.6	-752.9	-80.0	-155.5	-156.8	-344.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.2	-9.3	-0.6	-0.7	-2.2	-2.0
Chemicals	-144.0	457.1	140.4	-11.2	108.3	-42.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-291.9	-253.0	-15.9	-16.7	-59.0	-43.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,406.0	-1,858.4	-198.3	-18.9	-705.5	-232.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-53.8	-29.0	-1.8	-0.4	-10.1	-2.4
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-13.5	-10.9	-0.8	-0.6	-2.5	-1.5

^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

	March						January-March					
	2016 ^P			2017 ^P			2016 ^P			2017 ^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	282.4	96.0	-186.4	295.5	106.4	-189.1	802.7	316.4	-486.3	855.9	291.2	-564.7
European Union	254.0	86.7	-167.2	231.2	102.2	-129.0	694.8	296.0	-398.8	685.6	271.1	-414.5
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	24.9	7.4	-17.5	37.9	7.4	-30.5	77.6	26.2	-51.4	89.1	18.6	-70.5
Euro Area	217.1	71.8	-145.3	178.2	81.0	-97.2	578.1	244.0	-334.2	550.4	220.4	-329.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	92.3	15.0	-77.2	65.9	14.3	-51.7	248.9	59.1	-189.8	227.6	42.0	-185.6
Spain	12.2	3.2	-8.9	35.6	7.7	-28.0	32.1	8.8	-23.3	76.1	14.5	-61.6
Germany	35.5	34.4	-1.1	27.0	35.7	8.7	115.5	108.9	-6.6	88.2	96.5	8.3
Belgium	6.3	0.8	-5.5	15.7	0.8	-14.9	18.3	2.0	-16.3	26.1	2.9	-23.2
France	51.0	14.4	-36.6	14.7	17.2	2.5	90.8	50.3	-40.6	42.6	49.8	7.2
Netherlands	10.2	1.9	-8.4	10.1	1.5	-8.5	40.0	5.1	-34.9	47.7	4.9	-42.8
EFTA Countries	2.6	1.7	-1.0	3.3	2.6	-0.6	11.1	6.3	-4.8	9.1	8.9	-0.2
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	2.3	1.2	-1.1	2.6	1.6	-1.0	10.2	5.0	-5.3	7.2	7.1	0.0
Other European Countries	25.8	7.6	-18.2	61.0	1.5	-59.5	96.7	14.1	-82.6	161.3	11.3	-150.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Russian Federation	15.8	0.5	-15.2	40.3	0.1	-40.2	52.2	0.7	-51.5	119.0	0.2	-118.8
Asia	73.1	54.2	-19.0	77.6	48.3	-29.4	195.8	139.8	-56.0	305.0	142.9	-162.1
<i>of which:</i>												
China	15.8	2.6	-13.3	17.5	2.5	-15.0	43.8	8.0	-35.7	51.5	8.0	-43.4
India	17.5	0.7	-16.8	10.3	0.7	-9.6	33.9	2.1	-31.8	36.4	2.5	-33.9
Israel	0.1	0.5	0.3	8.9	0.2	-8.7	7.6	0.9	-6.6	49.2	1.0	-48.3
Singapore	2.0	18.6	16.5	6.8	12.9	6.1	6.3	41.7	35.5	92.7	33.4	-59.4
Jordan	0.0	0.3	0.3	6.2	0.2	-6.0	0.0	0.9	0.9	6.2	1.3	-4.9
North and Central America	159.3	174.9	15.6	38.2	17.4	-20.9	249.9	198.5	-51.4	156.1	47.9	-108.3
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	18.7	169.9	151.2	37.5	12.9	-24.5	39.2	186.5	147.3	55.7	37.5	-18.1
Canada	140.4	3.9	-136.5	0.4	2.1	1.7	207.9	8.4	-199.5	96.0	5.0	-91.0
Africa	14.3	38.8	24.5	35.6	47.6	12.0	29.7	94.6	64.8	71.8	137.6	65.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Equatorial Guinea	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.3	0.0	-22.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.3	0.0	-22.3
Australia and Oceania	0.5	1.2	0.7	8.9	0.5	-8.4	1.5	2.7	1.1	11.4	1.6	-9.7
South America	2.2	0.3	-1.9	4.2	0.2	-4.0	18.7	0.6	-18.1	10.1	2.1	-8.0
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.2	24.5	24.4	0.6	6.6	6.0	4.6	58.9	54.3	1.3	39.5	38.2
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	43.0	0.1	-42.9	0.0	1.0	1.0	421.4	1.3	-420.1	3.4	1.3	-2.1
Grand Total	575.0	390.0	-185.0	460.7	228.0	-232.7	1,724.4	812.6	-911.7	1,414.9	664.1	-750.8

^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.
4. 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 by period and principal traded commodities

€ 000

Chapter number	Commodity description	March		January-March	
		2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	4,229	4,057	11,670	13,159
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	1,930	2,410	10,555	6,078
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,423	3,451	10,711	10,839
08	Edible fruit and nuts	2,971	3,044	8,534	10,302
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,800	4,001	11,426	12,653
17	Sugars and sugar confectionary	2,012	2,766	6,268	5,699
19	Preparations of cereals	5,720	4,636	15,765	14,236
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,639	3,369	8,931	8,278
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	4,460	5,188	11,070	12,554
23	Food residues and waste	2,179	3,005	5,882	7,041
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	2,204	2,668	6,521	6,590
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	134,370	197,595	305,187	518,544
29	Organic chemicals	8,240	6,197	33,304	18,132
30	Pharmaceutical products	10,745	14,409	31,651	43,001
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,710	2,870	8,983	7,098
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,659	3,174	9,549	7,773
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	12,329	13,873	37,368	36,547
48	Paper and paperboard articles	6,206	5,950	20,053	16,433
61	Knitted clothing	4,060	3,717	11,495	11,526
62	Woven clothing	3,937	3,410	11,444	10,057
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	3,993	8,592	7,211	16,017
72	Iron and steel	1,593	2,544	4,934	5,462
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,056	4,238	19,743	11,415
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	25,032	27,846	76,904	70,326
85	Electrical machinery etc.	39,269	39,492	116,095	113,428
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	15,123	14,174	47,568	38,642
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	152,811	12,267	256,654	133,379
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	55,213	11,846	434,958	101,402
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,822	5,004	16,376	14,275
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	5,772	5,158	15,282	13,447
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	1,132	3,612	7,271	13,838
10	Cereals	3	2,654	5,415	7,897
19	Preparations of cereals	2,739	2,465	12,216	8,368
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	11,469	8,355	25,996	21,033
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	53,286	42,018	147,094	173,838
30	Pharmaceutical products	174,149	22,948	212,410	54,013
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,449	1,412	4,653	3,725
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	4,569	6,408	14,198	19,199
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,958	5,656	15,322	15,664
49	Printed books, newspapers	11,876	6,043	22,098	14,972
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,135	2,563	5,823	6,693
61	Knitted clothing	392	1,743	1,059	3,674
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	105	4,595	342	7,550
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	7,917	10,946	24,571	29,172
85	Electrical machinery etc.	64,620	62,682	159,471	162,112
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	13,570	10,775	44,727	29,297
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,516	7,547	17,026	19,368
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	10,055	12,452	29,951	34,816
99	Special classifications	1,759	1,791	4,492	4,685

^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 and in the excel version.
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?>