

9 August 2017 | 1100 hrs | 130/2017

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €194.5 million in June 2017, compared to €262.4 million in the corresponding month of 2016.

International Trade: June 2017

Cut-off date:
3 August 2017

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in June stood at €194.5 million, down by €67.9 million when compared to the corresponding month of 2016. Both imports and exports decreased by €166.2 million and €98.3 million (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€207.4 million). This was partly outweighed by an increase of €41.9 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. On the exports side, chemicals (€91.4 million) accounted for the main decrease (Table 2).

January-June 2017

During the first six months this year, the trade deficit widened by €114.2 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2016, reaching €1,784.8 million. Both imports and exports show decreases of €329.4 million and €443.6 million respectively (Table 1a). Lower imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, which decreased by €599.7 million. This was partly outweighed by an increase of €272.2 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. On the exports side, the main decreases were registered in chemicals (€331.0 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€153.6 million) (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €1,642.8 million, or 52.7 per cent of total imports. There was an increase of €80.2 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period of 2016. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from Italy (€75.8 million) and Canada (€234.3 million) respectively. On the export side, the main increase was directed to Switzerland (€8.7 million), whereas the United States of America (€321.5 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

International Trade

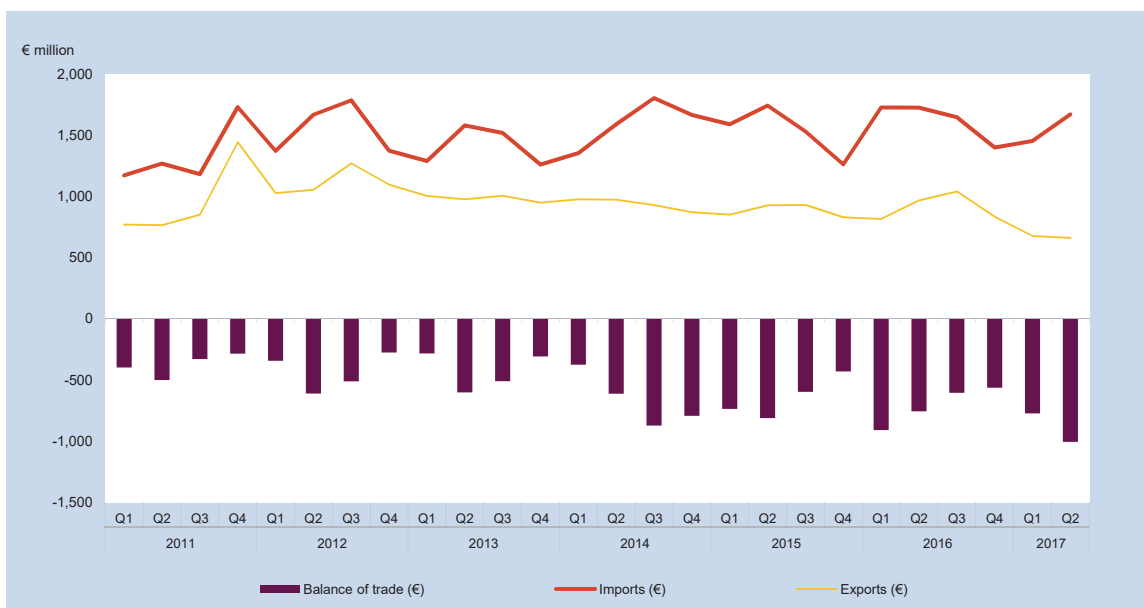


Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	June		January-June	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Imports	6,114.8	6,490.1	586.6	420.4	3,447.1	3,117.7
Industrial Supplies	1,483.1	1,325.4	97.1	99.5	667.6	618.9
Primary	80.0	106.3	9.9	17.9	52.8	47.8
Semi-Finished	1,192.3	1,025.9	75.9	66.4	520.1	476.0
Finished	210.8	193.2	11.3	15.2	94.7	95.0
Capital Goods and Others	1,718.2	2,251.6	269.8	65.0	1,505.4	922.7
Consumer Goods	1,224.0	1,240.7	106.2	100.5	598.1	621.1
Food and Beverages	485.9	498.8	43.4	38.4	232.9	239.4
Durable Goods	453.8	433.2	37.3	33.4	216.4	220.4
Others	284.3	308.7	25.5	28.7	148.8	161.3
Fuels and Lubricants	1,689.4	1,672.3	113.5	155.4	676.0	955.0
Exports	3,528.0	3,645.9	324.2	225.9	1,776.5	1,332.9
Balance of Trade	-2,586.8	-2,844.2	-262.4	-194.5	-1,670.6	-1,784.8

^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	2016 Q1 ^P	2016 Q2 ^P	2016 Q3 ^P	2016 Q4 ^P	2017 Q1 ^P	2017 Q2 ^P
Industrial Supplies	344.6	323.0	326.4	331.4	291.1	327.8
Primary	22.6	30.2	26.3	27.2	15.1	32.8
Semi-Finished	262.7	257.5	260.0	245.8	227.4	248.7
Finished	59.3	35.4	40.1	58.4	48.6	46.4
Capital Goods and Others	786.9	718.5	422.2	324.1	330.6	592.1
Consumer Goods	289.0	309.1	308.1	334.5	307.8	313.3
Food and Beverages	109.5	123.4	127.2	138.8	120.2	119.2
Durable Goods	108.0	108.4	100.4	116.4	107.6	112.8
Others	71.5	77.3	80.6	79.3	80.1	81.2
Fuels and Lubricants	304.1	371.9	588.9	407.5	520.9	434.1
Exports	812.6	963.9	1,038.2	831.2	674.6	658.4
Balance of Trade	-912.0	-758.7	-607.4	-566.2	-775.9	-1,008.9

^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	June		January-June	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Total Exports	3,528.0	3,645.9	324.2	225.9	1,776.5	1,332.9
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,332.3	894.2	60.8	46.7	451.5	297.2
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,195.7	2,751.7	263.4	179.1	1,325.0	1,035.7

^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	June		January-June	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Imports	6,114.8	6,490.1	586.6	420.4	3,447.1	3,117.7
Food	521.4	563.7	47.2	51.3	260.2	260.8
Beverages and Tobacco	89.7	97.9	11.4	9.1	48.0	46.8
Crude Materials	27.5	26.3	1.9	1.3	13.6	14.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,691.1	1,679.6	113.6	155.5	683.0	955.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.2	9.4	0.9	1.0	4.8	4.5
Chemicals	507.6	465.4	35.1	38.4	230.4	243.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	414.8	374.9	27.6	25.4	195.8	175.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,374.0	2,821.1	311.8	104.4	1,793.6	1,193.9
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	465.3	440.3	36.5	33.6	212.3	220.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	14.1	11.7	0.8	0.4	5.6	2.9
Exports	3,528.0	3,645.9	324.2	225.9	1,776.5	1,332.9
Food	245.6	254.8	6.4	5.7	80.5	88.4
Beverages and Tobacco	42.3	41.1	4.0	3.3	20.3	16.7
Crude Materials	15.9	12.6	0.9	0.7	6.4	6.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,357.5	926.6	68.4	48.9	467.4	313.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	363.6	921.9	127.1	35.7	488.7	157.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	122.9	121.2	9.4	12.0	65.9	65.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	968.0	960.3	75.3	85.8	459.1	480.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	411.5	406.6	32.5	33.8	187.7	204.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4
Balance of Trade	-2,586.8	-2,844.2	-262.4	-194.5	-1,670.6	-1,784.8
Food	-275.8	-308.9	-40.7	-45.6	-179.6	-172.3
Beverages and Tobacco	-47.4	-56.8	-7.3	-5.8	-27.7	-30.1
Crude Materials	-11.5	-13.7	-1.0	-0.6	-7.1	-8.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-333.6	-753.0	-45.1	-106.6	-215.6	-641.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.2	-9.4	-0.9	-1.0	-4.8	-4.5
Chemicals	-144.0	456.6	92.0	-2.7	258.3	-86.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-291.9	-253.6	-18.2	-13.5	-129.9	-110.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,406.0	-1,860.8	-236.5	-18.6	-1,334.5	-713.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-53.8	-33.7	-3.9	0.2	-24.6	-16.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-13.5	-10.9	-0.6	-0.2	-5.1	-2.5

^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

	June						January-June					
	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	349.7	100.4	-249.3	309.6	106.3	-203.3	1,731.1	625.5	-1,105.7	1,915.0	593.7	-1,321.3
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	316.3	96.9	-219.5	269.6	99.9	-169.7	1,496.1	587.6	-908.5	1,642.8	551.1	-1,091.7
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	31.7	7.2	-24.6	36.9	6.9	-30.0	163.2	56.8	-106.4	233.4	37.3	-196.1
Euro Area	260.0	78.1	-181.9	213.3	77.0	-136.3	1,228.8	471.6	-757.3	1,309.0	442.3	-866.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	112.3	13.8	-98.5	123.3	13.6	-109.7	542.7	120.8	-421.9	618.5	84.0	-534.5
Germany	22.9	30.5	7.6	28.3	33.8	5.5	192.1	194.0	2.0	198.0	199.1	1.1
Spain	11.2	4.6	-6.6	14.6	4.0	-10.7	74.0	18.2	-55.8	128.2	24.1	-104.1
France	26.5	24.2	-2.3	13.3	19.5	6.2	159.8	103.0	-56.9	110.5	99.2	-11.3
Netherlands	56.5	1.2	-55.2	10.8	2.0	-8.9	116.7	9.4	-107.3	85.4	11.8	-73.6
Portugal	0.3	0.7	0.4	6.5	0.4	-6.0	4.3	2.1	-2.1	8.7	2.5	-6.2
EFTA Countries	3.9	2.0	-1.9	3.7	3.7	0.1	35.5	13.2	-22.3	22.3	22.3	0.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	3.8	1.7	-2.1	3.6	3.2	-0.5	33.4	10.7	-22.7	20.1	19.4	-0.7
Other European Countries	29.5	1.6	-27.9	36.3	2.7	-33.6	199.5	24.6	-174.8	249.9	20.3	-229.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	28.7	0.7	-28.0	21.3	0.4	-20.8	108.8	7.3	-101.5	89.3	13.2	-76.1
Asia	51.2	36.9	-14.4	53.2	41.1	-12.1	399.2	244.3	-155.0	500.1	264.0	-236.1
<i>of which:</i>												
China	14.1	1.1	-13.0	16.5	4.6	-11.9	102.6	12.0	-90.6	106.0	18.6	-87.4
India	8.0	0.9	-7.1	10.5	0.8	-9.7	59.2	5.9	-53.3	66.6	4.8	-61.8
Taiwan	3.0	0.4	-2.5	3.3	0.8	-2.5	19.8	2.9	-16.9	29.9	3.5	-26.3
Israel	5.8	0.2	-5.6	3.2	0.1	-3.1	34.6	1.5	-33.1	64.2	1.2	-62.9
Korea Republic	2.5	0.8	-1.7	3.2	0.9	-2.3	41.8	5.1	-36.7	21.7	9.6	-12.0
North and Central America	69.1	113.4	44.2	27.4	13.2	-14.2	557.4	413.9	-143.5	310.8	89.6	-221.2
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	24.6	110.2	85.6	26.7	10.2	-16.5	176.9	390.6	213.7	162.7	69.1	-93.6
Canada	44.4	2.0	-42.3	0.5	2.2	1.7	377.2	15.4	-361.8	142.9	11.7	-131.1
Africa	13.1	53.9	40.8	25.8	43.1	17.3	80.0	286.6	206.6	132.2	251.5	119.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	2.9	31.0	28.1	23.4	18.8	-4.6	51.7	156.9	105.2	59.7	84.4	24.7
Australia and Oceania	0.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.9	-0.1	3.5	6.1	2.6	13.8	3.7	-10.1
South America	1.9	0.2	-1.8	2.8	0.3	-2.5	24.9	1.2	-23.7	22.1	3.0	-19.1
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.1	17.3	17.2	0.5	20.6	20.1	5.0	196.1	191.1	2.8	125.6	122.9
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	100.8	0.2	-100.7	0.0	0.3	0.3	646.0	2.8	-643.2	221.0	1.9	-219.1
Grand Total	586.6	324.2	-262.4	420.4	225.9	-194.5	3,447.1	1,776.5	-1,670.6	3,117.7	1,332.9	-1,784.8

^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	June		January-June	
		2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	4,400	4,076	24,972	26,770
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	9,678	17,253	38,267	36,317
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,808	3,916	22,699	23,344
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,693	4,397	22,519	24,972
17	Sugars and sugar confectionary	980	2,242	12,042	11,195
19	Preparations of cereals	5,700	4,342	30,274	30,109
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,572	2,426	12,328	13,112
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,799	3,506	19,363	19,028
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	7,670	5,915	30,179	31,556
23	Food residues and waste	3,026	2,377	14,480	15,867
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	3,752	3,242	18,300	15,509
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	113,559	155,427	683,975	956,044
29	Organic chemicals	5,853	4,808	53,284	42,953
30	Pharmaceutical products	11,153	16,357	68,369	86,340
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,298	3,071	15,334	15,751
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,984	2,750	19,097	16,790
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	1,986	2,891	10,767	13,825
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	13,220	11,690	75,375	79,598
48	Paper and paperboard articles	5,985	5,544	36,187	33,512
61	Knitted clothing	3,160	3,786	22,811	24,460
62	Woven clothing	2,923	2,437	21,426	22,120
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,241	3,006	12,558	31,403
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,028	3,576	46,082	37,531
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	24,341	26,614	153,118	151,081
85	Electrical machinery etc.	38,873	30,571	236,095	236,787
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	16,817	11,075	90,197	78,789
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	50,068	10,770	519,588	248,619
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	182,501	25,887	780,507	480,071
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,884	5,566	33,470	31,208
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	7,506	4,735	34,611	30,854
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	1,091	1,177	10,983	17,869
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,680	3,147	43,212	39,572
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	68,324	48,810	466,642	313,030
29	Organic chemicals	4,327	2,368	17,984	14,856
30	Pharmaceutical products	120,573	28,211	450,879	113,079
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	957	1,172	8,734	7,094
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	4,390	6,811	27,784	37,449
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	3,981	5,236	29,652	29,936
49	Printed books, newspapers	6,922	4,792	39,630	29,037
54	Man-made filaments	383	1,661	1,904	3,699
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,838	2,388	11,460	13,764
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	162	1,750	909	19,041
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	7,464	9,927	51,366	66,617
85	Electrical machinery etc.	57,715	66,089	315,061	347,281
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	1,501	1,012	20,573	5,697
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	8,291	8,807	72,669	59,953
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	8,307	8,085	41,386	41,661
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	10,664	10,697	59,671	67,097
99	Special classifications	2,759	2,743	12,365	13,820

^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?>
11. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
12. The advanced news release calendar may be accessed at www.nso.gov.mt