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Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €176.7 million in August 2017, compared to €226.8 million in the corresponding month of 2016.

International Trade: August 2017

Cut-off date:
3 October 2017

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in August stood at €176.7 million, down by €50.1 million when compared to the corresponding month of 2016. Both imports and exports decreased by €110.9 million and €60.8 million (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€92.8 million), while a decline of €59.9 million in the same commodity group, accounted for the main decrease in exports (Table 2).

January-August 2017

During the first eight months this year, the trade deficit widened by €215.7 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2016, reaching €2,281.0 million. Both imports and exports show decreases of €581.1 million and €796.8 million respectively (Table 1a). Lower imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, which decreased by €731.4 million. This was partly outweighed by an increase of €129.9 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. On the exports side, the main decreases were registered in chemicals (€594.9 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€231.5 million) (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €2,156.9 million, or 53.4 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €34.1 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period of 2016. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from the United Kingdom (€59.5 million) and Canada (€304.3 million) respectively. On the export side, the main increase was directed to Switzerland (€9.2 million), whereas the United States of America (€591.7 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

International Trade

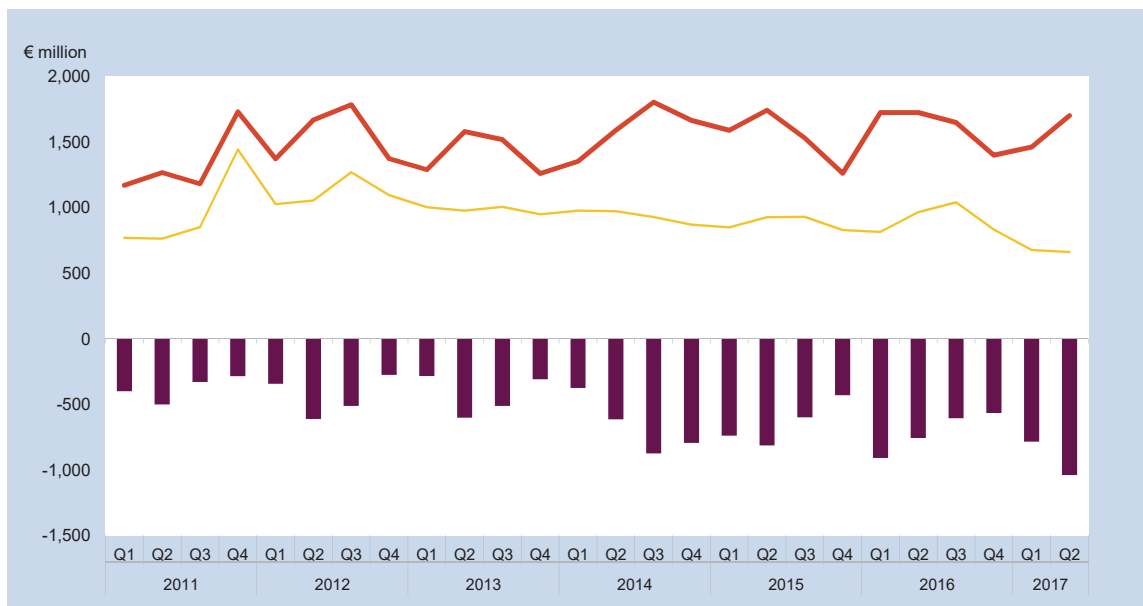


Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	August		January-August	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
			Imports	6,116.1	6,490.7	491.5
Industrial Supplies	1,484.4	1,327.3	123.5	100.1	899.6	868.3
Primary	80.6	106.6	10.6	2.9	73.3	69.5
Semi-Finished	1,193.1	1,027.4	98.5	83.4	706.8	674.6
Finished	210.8	193.2	14.4	13.8	119.6	124.2
Capital Goods and Others	1,718.2	2,251.9	90.6	97.2	1,835.1	1,108.7
Consumer Goods	1,224.0	1,239.3	102.4	102.3	804.6	845.5
Food and Beverages	485.9	498.8	43.8	41.5	320.2	330.6
Durable Goods	453.8	431.6	34.1	32.0	286.2	297.3
Others	284.3	308.8	24.5	28.8	198.1	217.6
Fuels and Lubricants	1,689.4	1,672.3	175.0	81.0	1,083.5	1,219.2
Exports	3,528.0	3,645.9	264.7	203.9	2,557.5	1,760.7
Balance of Trade	-2,588.1	-2,844.8	-226.8	-176.7	-2,065.3	-2,281.0

^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	Q2 ^P
Imports	1,723.2	1,722.8	1,646.4	1,398.3	1,460.4	1,699.1
Industrial Supplies	344.9	323.4	326.9	332.1	295.0	343.1
Primary	22.6	30.2	26.5	27.3	15.6	36.5
Semi-Finished	263.0	257.8	260.3	246.3	230.1	259.0
Finished	59.3	35.4	40.1	58.4	49.3	47.6
Capital Goods and Others	786.9	718.5	422.3	324.2	332.7	596.6
Consumer Goods	287.4	309.0	308.3	334.6	311.8	325.3
Food and Beverages	109.5	123.4	127.2	138.8	121.0	123.3
Durable Goods	106.4	108.3	100.5	116.5	110.2	118.6
Others	71.5	77.3	80.7	79.4	80.6	83.5
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	674.8	658.9
Balance of Trade	-910.6	-758.9	-608.3	-567.1	-785.5	-1,040.1

^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	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	August		January-August	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
			Total Exports	3,528.0	3,645.9	264.7
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,332.3	894.2	116.7	56.5	660.6	415.7
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,195.7	2,751.7	148.0	147.4	1,896.9	1,345.0

^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	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	August		January-August	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
			Imports	6,116.1	6,490.7	491.5
Food	522.7	565.3	54.0	46.1	364.9	371.2
Beverages and Tobacco	89.7	97.9	9.3	10.0	64.7	66.3
Crude Materials	27.5	26.3	1.5	2.0	16.7	18.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,691.1	1,679.6	175.0	82.2	1,090.6	1,220.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.2	9.4	0.8	0.8	6.4	6.0
Chemicals	507.6	465.4	45.9	38.3	317.5	341.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	414.9	375.1	31.1	24.7	257.6	240.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,374.0	2,821.7	132.1	144.1	2,208.8	1,477.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	465.3	438.5	40.5	31.9	287.8	295.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	14.1	11.7	1.2	0.4	7.8	3.6
Exports	3,528.0	3,645.9	264.7	203.9	2,557.5	1,760.7
Food	245.6	254.8	3.2	5.3	87.4	98.4
Beverages and Tobacco	42.3	41.1	3.6	3.2	27.9	23.9
Crude Materials	15.9	12.6	1.1	0.9	8.3	8.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,357.5	926.6	120.6	60.7	680.4	448.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	363.6	921.9	27.9	23.0	806.0	211.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	122.9	121.2	7.7	8.2	83.0	82.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	968.0	960.3	67.9	74.8	604.7	624.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	411.5	406.6	32.7	27.9	259.2	263.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
Balance of Trade	-2,588.1	-2,844.8	-226.8	-176.7	-2,065.3	-2,281.0
Food	-277.1	-310.5	-50.8	-40.8	-277.5	-272.7
Beverages and Tobacco	-47.4	-56.8	-5.7	-6.9	-36.9	-42.4
Crude Materials	-11.5	-13.7	-0.4	-1.1	-8.4	-10.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-333.6	-753.0	-54.4	-21.5	-410.1	-771.6
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.2	-9.4	-0.8	-0.8	-6.3	-6.0
Chemicals	-144.0	456.5	-18.0	-15.3	488.5	-130.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-292.0	-253.8	-23.4	-16.5	-174.6	-158.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,406.0	-1,861.4	-64.2	-69.4	-1,604.0	-853.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-53.8	-31.9	-7.8	-4.0	-28.5	-32.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-13.5	-10.9	-1.2	-0.4	-7.4	-3.2

^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 by period

€ million

	August						January-August					
	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	334.6	100.0	-234.7	253.1	101.7	-151.5	2,431.8	840.7	-1,591.1	2,530.2	812.5	-1,717.7
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	301.0	97.1	-203.9	219.2	96.6	-122.6	2,153.7	797.7	-1,356.0	2,156.9	755.0	-1,401.9
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	23.3	6.2	-17.1	26.6	4.4	-22.2	236.5	72.1	-164.4	296.0	48.8	-247.2
Euro Area	251.0	79.0	-172.0	173.0	76.9	-96.1	1,759.4	640.5	-1,118.9	1,725.3	603.6	-1,121.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	118.5	19.2	-99.3	83.3	22.0	-61.3	824.7	163.7	-661.0	819.9	119.7	-700.2
Netherlands	35.1	1.6	-33.5	27.4	1.4	-26.0	178.2	18.8	-159.4	127.7	15.3	-112.4
Germany	29.1	27.2	-1.9	23.9	24.4	0.5	248.1	252.5	4.4	254.5	256.7	2.3
France	13.6	26.2	12.6	14.7	23.3	8.6	196.4	150.0	-46.5	153.7	148.1	-5.6
Spain	28.2	1.6	-26.7	9.4	2.9	-6.6	112.8	21.6	-91.2	152.7	30.2	-122.5
Belgium	7.3	1.0	-6.3	6.0	0.9	-5.0	66.2	6.9	-59.3	60.3	7.5	-52.9
EFTA Countries	3.8	1.2	-2.6	3.4	1.9	-1.5	43.2	15.7	-27.5	28.5	25.0	-3.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	3.5	1.0	-2.4	2.1	1.7	-0.4	40.6	12.6	-28.0	24.9	21.8	-3.1
Other European Countries	29.8	1.7	-28.2	30.5	3.1	-27.4	234.9	27.3	-207.6	344.9	32.5	-312.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	12.4	1.1	-11.4	16.4	1.2	-15.2	126.1	9.1	-117.0	122.0	16.0	-106.0
Asia	84.4	65.2	-19.2	60.7	37.7	-22.9	547.3	342.2	-205.0	644.7	332.8	-311.9
<i>of which:</i>												
China	19.7	4.7	-15.0	19.1	4.0	-15.1	139.8	18.6	-121.2	142.6	26.0	-116.6
India	10.3	2.8	-7.5	11.9	0.6	-11.2	78.7	9.9	-68.8	90.6	6.0	-84.5
Taiwan	3.1	0.4	-2.7	4.5	0.2	-4.2	26.0	3.7	-22.3	42.5	4.3	-38.2
Korea Republic	5.3	0.8	-4.5	4.3	0.5	-3.7	50.7	6.7	-44.0	29.1	10.8	-18.3
Malaysia	1.4	0.2	-1.2	3.9	0.0	-3.9	14.1	4.7	-9.4	21.3	0.8	-20.4
North and Central America	21.0	16.5	-4.4	52.4	13.0	-39.4	718.8	710.9	-7.9	381.7	115.8	-265.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Canada	0.3	1.9	1.6	43.7	1.5	-42.2	491.3	19.5	-471.8	187.0	16.4	-170.6
United States of America	20.5	13.5	-7.0	8.5	10.9	2.4	223.7	680.7	457.0	189.0	89.0	-100.0
Africa	32.3	41.5	9.2	11.0	44.5	33.5	173.2	393.1	219.9	177.4	336.3	158.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	9.9	25.0	15.1	7.6	17.2	9.6	66.3	216.1	149.8	92.4	130.4	37.9
Australia and Oceania	6.8	1.7	-5.1	0.9	0.5	-0.4	27.1	9.4	-17.7	20.4	5.1	-15.3
South America	1.3	0.1	-1.3	1.2	0.1	-1.1	28.9	1.5	-27.3	30.9	3.2	-27.7
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.1	39.4	39.3	1.2	6.1	4.9	6.7	256.4	249.7	4.3	152.7	148.3
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	10.9	0.3	-10.6	0.0	0.3	0.3	689.1	3.3	-685.8	252.0	2.2	-249.8
Grand Total	491.5	264.7	-226.8	380.6	203.9	-176.7	4,622.8	2,557.5	-2,065.3	4,041.7	1,760.7	-2,281.0

^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	August		January-August	
		2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	5,530	4,723	35,226	37,349
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	16,008	10,321	67,276	64,582
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,917	4,046	30,466	32,212
08	Edible fruit and nuts	3,551	2,285	24,776	24,659
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,183	4,074	30,405	33,774
19	Preparations of cereals	5,180	4,673	40,122	39,920
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,404	2,445	17,086	18,592
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,196	3,644	25,917	26,712
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	6,470	6,776	42,192	45,555
23	Food residues and waste	2,686	2,854	20,530	22,293
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,906	3,287	23,185	21,078
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	175,046	82,102	1,091,530	1,221,210
29	Organic chemicals	18,450	6,286	80,848	69,355
30	Pharmaceutical products	10,677	15,835	91,680	115,977
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,857	2,740	20,610	23,871
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,926	2,954	24,987	22,367
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	12,469	10,747	103,078	106,980
48	Paper and paperboard articles	4,280	5,272	47,709	44,498
61	Knitted clothing	4,667	4,045	31,023	34,345
62	Woven clothing	3,923	2,831	27,694	31,031
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	3,058	4,161	18,165	39,467
72	Iron and steel	1,493	2,170	13,201	16,542
73	Articles of iron or steel	9,043	3,205	60,764	52,428
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	25,088	27,315	204,741	218,954
85	Electrical machinery etc.	40,935	42,898	320,040	323,439
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	11,318	21,132	114,735	116,783
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	15,370	49,981	653,525	303,228
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	39,713	3,233	903,696	517,742
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	8,955	6,315	47,187	42,498
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	4,352	3,591	44,483	40,819
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	970	1,405	13,093	20,571
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,426	3,126	46,383	45,016
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	120,440	60,575	679,359	447,937
30	Pharmaceutical products	20,294	18,061	756,172	157,598
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	594	1,171	9,920	9,143
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	4,155	4,763	37,068	46,843
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	3,476	4,036	37,763	38,821
49	Printed books, newspapers	9,495	4,418	59,494	39,384
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,194	1,441	13,663	16,561
61	Knitted clothing	351	992	3,048	9,257
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,418	1,102	2,692	20,876
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,753	1,106	18,350	10,060
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	8,152	11,541	68,664	86,726
85	Electrical machinery etc.	50,535	58,056	425,909	456,666
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	1,523	1,451	23,306	8,688
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	7,256	3,915	89,512	70,968
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,778	3,595	53,532	51,454
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	10,549	12,276	80,860	91,085
99	Special classifications	2,791	3,349	18,098	20,623

^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