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Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €200.8 million in March 2018, compared to €162.6 million in the corresponding month of 2017.

International Trade: March 2018

Cut-off date:
4 May 2018

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in March stood at €200.8 million, up by €38.2 million when compared to the corresponding month of 2017. Both imports and exports decreased by €22.1 million and €60.3 million respectively (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€78.3 million), and was partly outweighed by an increase of €70.9 million in machinery and transport equipment. The main decreases in the value of exports were registered in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€45.6 million) and machinery and transport equipment (€16.9 million) (Table 2).

January-March 2018

During the first three months this year, the trade deficit narrowed by €11.4 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2017, reaching €596.8 million. Both imports and exports show decreases of €90.3 million and €78.9 million respectively (Table 1a). Lower imports were mainly in machinery and transport equipment (€59.9 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€45.9 million). With regard to exports, the main decrease was registered in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€106.7 million), which was partly outweighed by an increase of €21.0 million in semi-manufactured goods (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €905.3 million, or 67.3 per cent of total imports. There was an increase of €114.3 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period of 2017. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from the United Kingdom (€81.4 million) and Canada (€101.2 million) respectively. The main increase in exports was directed to Japan (€27.9 million), whereas Egypt (€19.1 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

International Trade

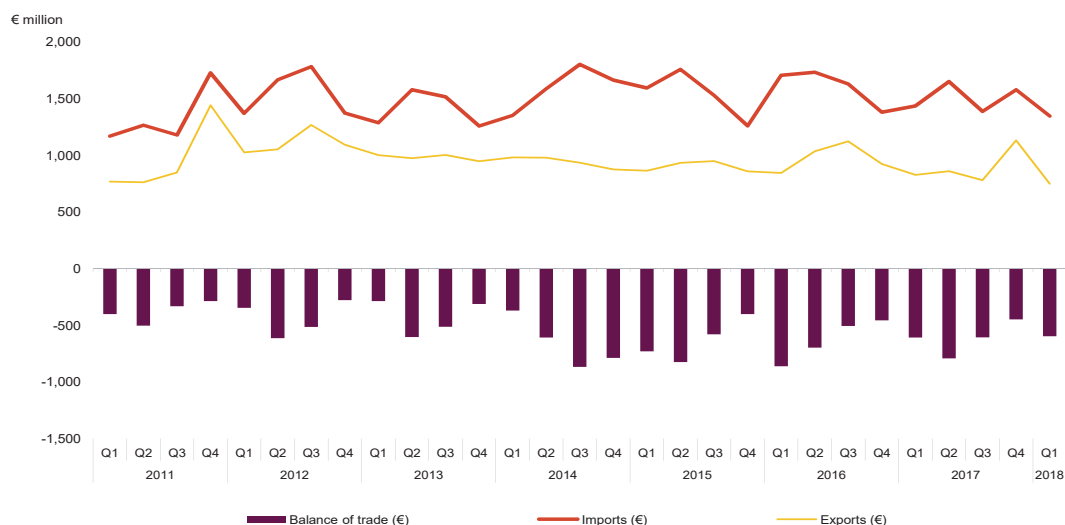


Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2016 ^P	2017 ^P	March		January-March	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Imports	6,447.7	6,053.3	459.3	437.2	1,436.0	1,345.7
Industrial Supplies	1,334.4	1,316.1	101.7	90.8	296.1	308.5
Primary	112.7	123.2	2.8	1.5	15.5	5.4
Semi-Finished	1,028.1	1,007.7	86.2	67.7	231.2	234.8
Finished	193.5	185.2	12.6	21.6	49.5	68.4
Capital Goods and Others	2,283.0	1,682.8	68.4	140.0	342.1	276.3
Consumer Goods	1,240.5	1,338.2	118.5	113.9	311.6	323.7
Food and Beverages	499.1	528.0	44.8	41.1	121.2	116.7
Durable Goods	432.3	464.5	44.8	35.9	110.2	106.7
Others	309.1	345.7	28.9	36.9	80.2	100.3
Fuels and Lubricants	1,589.8	1,716.2	170.8	92.5	486.1	437.2
Exports	3,927.2	3,599.7	296.7	236.4	827.8	748.9
Balance of Trade	-2,520.6	-2,453.6	-162.6	-200.8	-608.2	-596.8

^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 Q4 ^P	2017 Q1 ^P	2017 Q2 ^P	2017 Q3 ^P	2017 Q4 ^P	2018 Q1 ^P
Imports	1,380.2	1,436.0	1,651.3	1,387.7	1,578.4	1,345.7
Industrial Supplies	337.1	296.1	348.0	337.2	334.7	308.5
Primary	32.1	15.5	36.6	20.3	50.8	5.4
Semi-Finished	246.6	231.2	263.3	277.1	236.2	234.8
Finished	58.4	49.5	48.1	39.9	47.7	68.4
Capital Goods and Others	331.8	342.1	604.6	240.1	495.9	276.3
Consumer Goods	335.2	311.6	337.1	340.8	348.7	323.7
Food and Beverages	138.9	121.2	125.7	142.9	138.2	116.7
Durable Goods	116.8	110.2	125.5	111.5	117.3	106.7
Others	79.5	80.2	86.0	86.4	93.1	100.3
Fuels and Lubricants	376.2	486.1	361.6	469.5	399.1	437.2
Exports	923.9	827.8	859.6	781.2	1,131.2	748.9
Balance of Trade	-456.4	-608.2	-791.7	-606.5	-447.2	-596.8

^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	2016 ^P	2017 ^P	March		January-March	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Total Exports	3,927.2	3,599.7	296.7	236.4	827.8	748.9
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,130.1	1,312.6	95.7	50.2	207.6	192.4
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,797.0	2,287.1	201.0	186.2	620.1	556.5

^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	2016 ^P	2017 ^P	March		January-March	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
			Imports	6,447.7	6,053.3	459.3
Food	571.5	619.0	43.6	37.9	127.0	110.1
Beverages and Tobacco	98.0	95.5	7.7	8.3	19.1	21.8
Crude Materials	26.4	26.2	2.4	1.6	7.2	5.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,597.0	1,719.4	170.8	92.5	486.1	440.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.4	9.2	0.8	0.6	2.0	2.0
Chemicals	465.6	517.4	43.5	49.3	120.7	142.4
Semi-Manufactured Goods	375.5	360.1	31.4	27.0	80.1	93.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,853.3	2,236.9	112.5	183.4	479.7	419.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	439.4	464.1	46.2	36.2	112.4	110.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	11.7	5.3	0.6	0.3	1.6	0.9
Exports	3,927.2	3,599.7	296.7	236.4	827.8	748.9
Food	254.9	280.9	17.5	13.0	56.7	65.2
Beverages and Tobacco	41.1	38.6	2.2	3.6	5.6	8.4
Crude Materials	12.6	13.3	0.9	1.0	3.1	3.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,162.6	1,361.8	98.1	52.5	313.2	206.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	965.0	383.2	36.0	27.9	88.7	82.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	121.2	151.6	11.8	21.8	32.4	53.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	962.4	988.5	91.2	74.3	229.2	226.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	406.6	381.0	39.0	42.3	98.8	103.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Balance of Trade	-2,520.6	-2,453.6	-162.6	-200.8	-608.2	-596.8
Food	-316.6	-338.2	-26.1	-24.9	-70.2	-44.9
Beverages and Tobacco	-56.9	-57.0	-5.5	-4.7	-13.5	-13.4
Crude Materials	-13.8	-12.8	-1.5	-0.6	-4.1	-1.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-434.4	-357.6	-72.6	-40.0	-172.9	-233.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.4	-9.2	-0.8	-0.6	-2.0	-2.0
Chemicals	499.4	-134.2	-7.5	-21.4	-32.1	-59.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-254.2	-208.5	-19.6	-5.2	-47.7	-39.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,890.9	-1,248.4	-21.3	-109.2	-250.6	-193.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-32.8	-83.1	-7.1	6.1	-13.6	-7.4
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-10.9	-4.5	-0.6	-0.3	-1.5	-0.7

^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					
	2017 ^P			2018 ^P			2017 ^P			2018 ^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	294.1	136.9	-157.2	339.4	111.8	-227.7	868.4	354.5	-513.8	1,002.2	374.7	-627.5
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	241.1	132.7	-108.4	313.7	108.9	-204.8	720.6	334.4	-386.3	905.3	365.3	-539.9
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	41.0	8.8	-32.2	107.5	3.7	-103.8	95.0	20.1	-74.9	176.4	17.4	-159.0
Euro Area	183.6	108.8	-74.8	198.0	90.2	-107.8	577.1	278.9	-298.2	691.4	310.6	-380.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	75.4	33.8	-41.6	84.9	28.8	-56.1	252.3	82.3	-170.0	291.0	89.6	-201.5
Germany	31.9	41.1	9.2	36.6	33.3	-3.3	96.2	104.9	8.6	112.0	104.5	-7.5
Greece	3.2	0.4	-2.9	31.9	0.5	-31.4	31.1	1.8	-29.4	53.1	1.5	-51.6
France	15.9	18.8	3.0	13.6	15.9	2.4	45.2	56.9	11.7	39.0	61.3	22.3
Netherlands	11.4	1.8	-9.6	9.7	5.0	-4.7	52.0	5.5	-46.5	52.2	28.1	-24.1
Spain	26.9	7.8	-19.1	9.7	2.1	-7.6	58.9	14.9	-44.0	44.6	13.0	-31.6
EFTA Countries	3.3	2.6	-0.6	6.6	1.8	-4.8	9.1	8.9	-0.2	21.6	6.0	-15.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Norway	0.1	1.0	0.8	4.1	0.4	-3.7	1.1	1.6	0.5	9.3	1.1	-8.1
Other European Countries	49.7	1.5	-48.2	19.2	1.1	-18.1	138.6	11.3	-127.3	75.4	3.4	-72.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	19.7	1.0	-18.7	9.1	0.8	-8.3	40.2	9.9	-30.3	20.7	2.2	-18.5
Asia	77.6	48.3	-29.4	61.0	43.4	-17.6	305.0	142.9	-162.1	206.9	140.4	-66.5
<i>of which:</i>												
China	17.5	2.5	-15.0	14.0	3.0	-11.0	51.5	8.0	-43.4	49.1	14.8	-34.3
India	10.3	0.7	-9.6	11.9	0.5	-11.5	36.4	2.5	-33.9	35.5	1.9	-33.6
Israel	8.9	0.2	-8.7	11.7	0.2	-11.6	49.2	1.0	-48.3	42.8	0.3	-42.5
Japan	4.7	3.5	-1.1	3.9	4.4	0.5	12.2	12.3	0.1	11.0	40.2	29.2
Singapore	6.8	12.9	6.1	3.5	12.9	9.4	92.7	33.4	-59.4	11.2	30.4	19.2
North and Central America	38.2	17.4	-20.9	7.7	15.9	8.2	164.1	47.9	-116.3	32.9	40.6	7.7
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	37.5	12.9	-24.5	6.0	13.5	7.5	55.7	37.5	-18.1	29.9	32.3	2.4
Canada	0.4	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.2	-0.5	104.0	5.0	-99.0	2.8	4.7	1.9
Africa	35.6	47.6	12.0	13.8	39.6	25.8	72.4	137.6	65.2	63.3	145.9	82.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	6.7	17.2	10.5	9.7	1.1	-8.6	12.6	50.0	37.4	15.0	30.9	15.8
Australia and Oceania	8.9	0.5	-8.4	0.6	0.3	-0.3	11.4	1.6	-9.7	5.6	0.9	-4.7
South America	4.2	0.2	-4.0	14.4	3.6	-10.8	10.1	2.1	-8.0	19.2	4.0	-15.1
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.6	44.9	44.3	0.2	21.6	21.4	1.2	139.9	138.6	0.5	41.0	40.5
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	3.4	1.3	-2.1	15.1	1.4	-13.8
Grand Total	459.3	296.7	-162.6	437.2	236.4	-200.8	1,436.0	827.8	-608.2	1,345.7	748.9	-596.8

^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	
		2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	4,230	4,844	13,372	14,153
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,636	4,589	11,034	12,561
08	Edible fruit and nuts	3,231	2,573	10,671	7,684
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,214	4,276	12,886	11,705
17	Sugars and sugar confectionary	2,827	2,450	5,847	5,691
19	Preparations of cereals	5,333	5,224	15,112	14,479
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,366	2,064	6,085	6,286
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,594	3,217	8,733	8,429
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,331	5,147	12,767	14,616
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,352	3,195	6,402	7,383
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	2,723	2,340	6,743	6,265
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	170,675	92,493	485,941	440,173
29	Organic chemicals	6,289	4,583	18,247	14,046
30	Pharmaceutical products	14,792	24,744	43,447	66,328
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	3,052	3,230	7,471	9,356
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,390	2,954	8,217	8,359
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	15,912	12,797	39,893	40,661
48	Paper and paperboard articles	6,249	5,802	16,866	21,810
61	Knitted clothing	4,689	3,355	13,601	11,894
62	Woven clothing	5,276	4,715	12,714	13,971
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	9,077	4,874	16,841	12,080
69	Ceramic products	2,128	2,360	5,036	6,760
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,920	3,762	12,810	18,366
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	31,340	34,168	77,780	89,976
85	Electrical machinery etc.	42,519	30,118	118,524	101,179
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	14,727	12,632	41,371	39,565
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	12,379	32,150	141,480	88,245
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	11,846	73,260	101,402	98,579
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,410	6,343	15,113	22,948
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	6,273	5,693	15,147	14,305
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	3,612	4,859	13,838	42,272
19	Preparations of cereals	2,591	1,732	8,494	5,051
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	8,355	5,784	21,033	16,950
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	561	1,642	1,240	3,149
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	98,012	52,241	312,781	206,069
29	Organic chemicals	1,241	1,578	4,863	3,151
30	Pharmaceutical products	28,712	21,387	67,658	67,973
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	6,576	6,161	19,370	15,371
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,656	6,126	15,701	18,561
49	Printed books, newspapers	6,757	11,144	15,686	22,712
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,563	2,431	6,693	6,696
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	4,597	1,766	7,552	3,741
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,272	11,231	4,478	18,651
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	11,801	15,560	30,383	42,637
85	Electrical machinery etc.	65,941	50,114	165,400	153,086
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	11,556	7,895	30,080	26,940
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,721	8,171	19,831	19,607
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	12,453	13,675	34,817	36,535
99	Special classifications	1,791	2,096	4,685	5,217

^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:

Sources and Methods: https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/External-Trade-Statistics.aspx

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. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
12. A detailed news release calendar is available on https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx