

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €334.8 million in August 2018, compared to a trade deficit of €158.5 million in the corresponding month of 2017.

International Trade: August 2018

Cut-off date:
2 October 2018

Provisional data for international trade show that a trade deficit of €334.8 million was registered in August, compared to a deficit of €158.5 million in the corresponding month of 2017. Imports show an increase of €143.4 million, while exports decreased by €32.9 million (Table 1a). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€85.1 million) and machinery and transport equipment (€41.6 million). On the exports side the main decrease was registered in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€38.9 million) (Table 2).

January-August 2018

During the first eight months this year, the trade deficit increased by €294.1 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2017, reaching €2,069.5 million. Imports increased by €126.7 million while exports decreased by €167.4 million (Table 1a). Higher imports were mainly due to an increase of €145.3 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. With regard to exports, the main decrease was registered in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€239.5 million), partly outweighed by increases of €40.7 million in miscellaneous manufactured articles and €29.7 million in semi-manufactured goods (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €2,809.1 million, or 67.9 per cent of total imports. There was an increase of €622.1 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period of 2017. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from Italy (€176.5 million) and Canada (€145.7 million) respectively. The main increase in exports was directed to Japan (€28.6 million), whereas Egypt (€75.7 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade

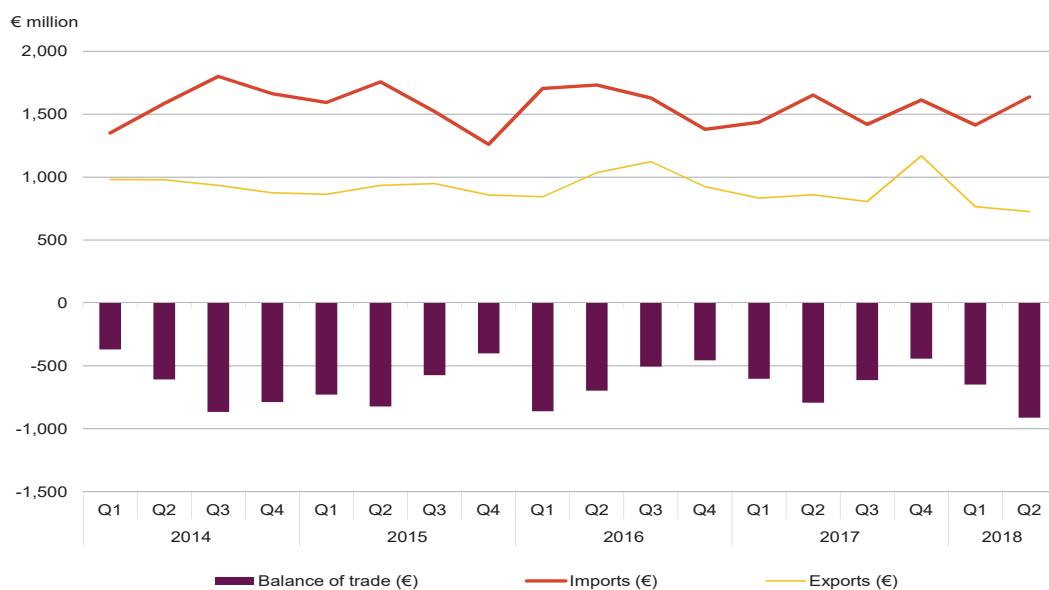


Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2016 ^P	2017 ^P	August		January-August	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Imports	6,449.1	6,122.2	413.7	557.1	4,013.0	4,139.7
Industrial Supplies	1,335.1	1,322.2	105.3	108.9	885.4	920.5
Primary	112.7	126.3	3.0	11.0	69.7	60.2
Semi-Finished	1,028.7	1,010.7	88.0	89.9	690.0	715.3
Finished	193.6	185.3	14.2	8.1	125.6	145.0
Capital Goods and Others	2,283.5	1,684.0	100.0	147.2	1,131.4	1,028.9
Consumer Goods	1,240.7	1,344.2	112.8	121.2	876.6	929.2
Food and Beverages	499.2	529.9	45.6	49.5	340.3	351.8
Durable Goods	432.4	468.0	36.7	36.3	313.2	308.7
Others	309.2	346.3	30.5	35.4	223.1	268.7
Fuels and Lubricants	1,589.8	1,771.7	95.6	179.7	1,119.6	1,261.1
Exports	3,927.2	3,668.9	255.2	222.3	2,237.6	2,070.2
Balance of Trade	-2,521.9	-2,453.3	-158.5	-334.8	-1,775.4	-2,069.5

^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	2017				2018	
	Q1 ^P	Q2 ^P	Q3 ^P	Q4 ^P	Q1 ^P	Q2 ^P
Imports	1,436.4	1,653.2	1,419.5	1,613.1	1,414.6	1,638.1
Industrial Supplies	296.3	348.4	337.8	339.9	319.4	371.3
Primary	15.5	36.6	20.3	53.9	5.8	38.5
Semi-Finished	231.3	263.6	277.5	238.2	243.6	284.0
Finished	49.5	48.1	39.9	47.8	70.0	48.8
Capital Goods and Others	342.2	604.9	240.4	496.4	282.2	484.7
Consumer Goods	311.8	338.3	342.4	351.6	337.7	347.3
Food and Beverages	121.4	125.8	143.8	139.0	121.2	134.9
Durable Goods	110.2	126.5	112.1	119.1	113.3	118.7
Others	80.2	86.0	86.5	93.5	103.2	93.7
Fuels and Lubricants	486.1	361.6	498.9	425.2	475.4	434.8
Exports	833.6	859.8	805.9	1,169.6	765.7	725.7
Balance of Trade	-602.8	-793.5	-613.5	-443.5	-649.0	-912.3

^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	August		January-August	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Total Exports	3,927.2	3,668.9	255.2	222.3	2,237.6	2,070.2
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,130.1	1,379.1	95.5	58.1	851.6	614.8
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,797.0	2,289.8	159.7	164.2	1,385.9	1,455.4

^P Provisional

Notes:

1 Table 1c is based on the United Nations Statistical Division BEC codes (Broad Economic Categories). Figures for 'Fuels and Lubricants' refer to BEC 0031 and BEC 0032: respectively 'Fuels and lubricants, primary' and 'Fuels and lubricants, processed'.

2 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	August		January-August	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Imports	6,449.1	6,122.2	413.7	557.1	4,013.0	4,139.7
Food	571.5	624.0	51.6	59.6	385.5	378.4
Beverages and Tobacco	98.0	95.8	10.2	11.4	67.1	72.9
Crude Materials	26.4	26.2	2.2	1.7	18.6	15.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,597.0	1,775.0	96.7	181.8	1,120.9	1,266.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.4	9.3	0.9	0.7	6.3	6.3
Chemicals	465.8	517.9	39.6	48.0	347.5	391.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	375.9	361.4	26.0	25.9	245.6	269.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,854.0	2,239.6	149.0	190.6	1,508.0	1,415.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	439.5	467.7	37.1	37.0	310.0	321.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	11.7	5.3	0.4	0.3	3.6	3.0
Exports	3,927.2	3,668.9	255.2	222.3	2,237.6	2,070.2
Food	254.9	281.0	5.6	5.4	99.0	95.9
Beverages and Tobacco	41.1	38.6	3.2	3.3	23.9	24.6
Crude Materials	12.6	13.4	0.9	0.6	8.7	9.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,162.6	1,428.3	99.7	60.8	884.8	645.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	965.0	383.3	23.4	19.7	237.7	241.2
Semi-Manufactured Goods	121.2	151.7	8.4	8.4	82.2	111.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	962.4	990.8	84.7	80.0	635.9	635.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	406.6	381.2	29.5	44.0	264.8	305.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.7
Balance of Trade	-2,521.9	-2,453.3	-158.5	-334.8	-1,775.4	-2,069.5
Food	-316.6	-343.1	-46.0	-54.2	-286.5	-282.6
Beverages and Tobacco	-56.9	-57.3	-7.1	-8.1	-43.2	-48.3
Crude Materials	-13.8	-12.9	-1.3	-1.1	-9.9	-6.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-434.4	-346.7	2.9	-121.0	-236.1	-620.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.4	-9.3	-0.9	-0.7	-6.2	-6.3
Chemicals	499.3	-134.6	-16.2	-28.4	-109.8	-150.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-254.7	-209.7	-17.6	-17.5	-163.4	-157.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,891.6	-1,248.8	-64.3	-110.6	-872.1	-779.7
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-32.9	-86.5	-7.6	7.0	-45.2	-15.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-10.9	-4.5	-0.4	-0.3	-3.1	-2.3

^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

Groupings	August						January-August					
	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	270.3	110.2	-160.1	433.1	145.8	-287.3	2,493.2	1,002.8	-1,490.4	3,057.5	1,073.6	-1,983.9
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	236.3	105.1	-131.2	411.7	126.2	-285.5	2,134.8	945.3	-1,189.5	2,809.1	1,002.7	-1,806.4
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	29.6	6.2	-23.4	26.1	5.6	-20.5	284.3	50.8	-233.5	336.5	41.3	-295.2
euro area	185.8	82.8	-103.0	353.2	101.0	-252.2	1,712.2	784.6	-927.6	2,334.3	825.7	-1,508.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	90.0	20.5	-69.4	160.7	40.8	-119.9	810.5	266.1	-544.4	987.0	228.4	-758.6
Portugal	0.3	0.7	0.4	95.3	0.7	-94.6	10.0	5.5	-4.4	98.8	5.4	-93.4
Spain	13.0	4.2	-8.8	23.2	2.0	-21.2	137.6	37.9	-99.6	210.1	38.0	-172.1
Germany	25.8	28.2	2.4	23.2	31.7	8.5	259.8	270.3	10.5	284.2	294.7	10.5
France	15.6	24.8	9.3	15.2	19.6	4.4	161.0	157.9	-3.1	199.1	184.5	-14.6
Netherlands	26.2	1.5	-24.8	14.6	3.0	-11.6	131.0	15.8	-115.2	203.5	40.6	-162.8
EFTA Countries	3.4	1.9	-1.5	2.7	1.6	-1.0	28.6	25.0	-3.6	37.0	14.7	-22.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	2.1	1.7	-0.4	2.0	1.4	-0.7	25.0	21.8	-3.2	25.5	11.6	-13.8
Other European Countries	30.5	3.1	-27.4	18.7	17.9	-0.7	329.8	32.5	-297.3	211.3	56.1	-155.2
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	16.4	1.2	-15.2	9.6	17.6	8.0	139.2	16.0	-123.2	103.3	25.5	-77.8
Asia	69.0	37.7	-31.3	86.9	39.1	-47.8	653.1	332.8	-320.3	617.2	320.5	-296.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Israel	8.7	0.1	-8.6	22.0	0.2	-21.8	73.3	1.7	-71.6	91.4	1.4	-90.0
China	19.1	4.0	-15.1	19.2	1.5	-17.8	142.6	26.0	-116.6	142.0	24.5	-117.6
India	11.9	0.6	-11.2	13.5	1.5	-12.0	90.6	6.0	-84.5	92.2	8.1	-84.1
United Arab Emirates	1.2	2.2	1.0	5.0	0.6	-4.4	6.5	19.0	12.5	45.3	10.9	-34.4
Japan	3.5	1.4	-2.1	4.3	1.8	-2.5	33.8	19.8	-14.0	51.1	48.4	-2.7
North and Central America	52.4	13.0	-39.4	8.7	14.1	5.4	383.2	115.8	-267.4	129.2	116.3	-12.9
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	8.5	10.9	2.4	5.7	12.1	6.4	182.6	89.0	-93.6	78.5	95.9	17.4
Canada	43.7	1.5	-42.2	2.9	1.1	-1.8	195.0	16.4	-178.6	49.3	11.9	-37.4
Africa	18.6	44.9	26.3	20.9	15.0	-5.9	175.9	336.9	161.0	147.5	337.9	190.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	15.2	17.5	2.3	16.5	1.1	-15.4	90.3	130.9	40.7	47.9	55.2	7.4
Australia and Oceania	0.9	0.5	-0.4	1.0	0.2	-0.8	20.4	5.1	-15.3	9.6	2.8	-6.9
South America	1.2	0.1	-1.1	1.5	6.6	5.0	30.9	3.2	-27.7	47.8	31.0	-16.8
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	0.0	0.3	0.3	5.0	0.2	-4.8	252.0	2.2	-249.8	130.8	2.5	-128.3
Ships and Aircraft Stores	1.2	48.5	47.3	0.1	1.5	1.4	4.2	438.7	434.4	0.1	185.7	185.5
Grand Total	413.7	255.2	-158.5	557.1	222.3	-334.8	4,013.0	2,237.6	-1,775.4	4,139.7	2,070.2	-2,069.5

^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	
		2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	4,914	5,848	37,760	41,383
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	12,190	20,887	70,330	71,683
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,426	4,208	33,076	36,026
10	Cereals	1,518	2,272	17,293	11,421
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,312	5,646	34,331	36,307
19	Preparations of cereals	5,163	5,902	41,039	41,798
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,743	2,856	19,112	19,894
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,912	3,650	27,449	28,955
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	7,007	7,647	46,326	51,297
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	3,287	3,871	21,078	22,164
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	2,088	2,264	17,402	19,321
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	96,677	181,781	1,121,617	1,266,217
29	Organic chemicals	6,318	8,007	69,455	56,952
30	Pharmaceutical products	15,910	21,840	116,197	163,073
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,797	4,241	24,197	30,867
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,537	2,721	23,790	25,271
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	11,499	10,987	109,696	112,628
48	Paper and paperboard articles	5,366	6,044	44,977	58,847
61	Knitted clothing	4,603	5,273	35,866	37,806
62	Woven clothing	4,634	3,043	34,223	33,779
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	4,500	4,218	40,749	33,109
72	Iron and steel	2,201	3,283	16,755	23,620
73	Articles of iron or steel	3,457	3,351	53,812	51,236
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	29,805	28,246	227,236	289,957
85	Electrical machinery etc.	44,740	40,822	327,908	315,132
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	21,658	13,898	126,385	111,155
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	49,982	96,602	311,526	355,024
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	3,234	11,736	517,747	343,124
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,642	5,042	43,875	61,009
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	4,141	4,135	43,531	44,166
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	1,578	1,790	20,946	48,727
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,126	2,363	45,016	32,531
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	99,568	60,584	883,855	644,193
29	Organic chemicals	905	1,358	16,542	19,028
30	Pharmaceutical products	18,197	14,178	183,906	188,313
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	5,234	6,190	47,315	43,863
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,146	4,247	38,931	43,654
48	Paper and paperboard articles	441	1,118	1,600	5,291
49	Printed books, newspapers	4,418	15,173	39,386	79,693
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,441	1,338	16,561	16,400
61	Knitted clothing	1,029	1,361	9,309	7,686
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,116	1,898	20,898	11,243
70	Glass and glassware	548	1,291	5,228	6,637
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	12,282	9,670	89,234	108,328
85	Electrical machinery etc.	67,237	60,469	466,055	440,544
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	3,918	9,754	70,974	76,868
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,598	5,449	52,781	57,655
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	12,278	11,959	91,092	100,509
99	Special classifications	3,350	3,413	20,626	20,592

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. Table 4 is based on the World Customs Organisations Harmonised System (HS) codes. Figures for chapter 27 include 'Industrial supplies, primary' and 'Industrial supplies, processed'.

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 the "Statistical Concepts" link below.
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. 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?>
10. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
11. A detailed news release calendar is available on https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx