

12 March 2019 | 1100 hrs | 040/2019

Provisional figures for registered trade in goods in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €182.9 million during January 2019.

International Trade in Goods: January 2019

Cut-off date:
5 March 2019

Data in this news release presents all international trade in goods registered up to the indicated cut-off date (refer to methodological notes). Provisional data for registered international trade recorded a trade deficit of €182.9 million during January, compared to a deficit of €227.4 million in the corresponding month of 2018. Both imports and exports experienced decreases of €46.4 million and €1.9 million respectively (Table 1). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€100.2 million), partly outweighed by an increase of €40.1 million in machinery and transport equipment. On the exports side mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€29.2 million) accounted to the main decrease, partly offset by increases of €16.7 million in miscellaneous manufactured articles and €13.3 million in food (Table 2).

Imports from the European Union reached €221.8 million, or 49.6 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €134.9 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same month in 2018. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from Saudi Arabia (€14.1 million) and Spain (€36.5 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to the United States of America (€21.0 million), whereas Italy (€21.5 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade in Goods - monthly

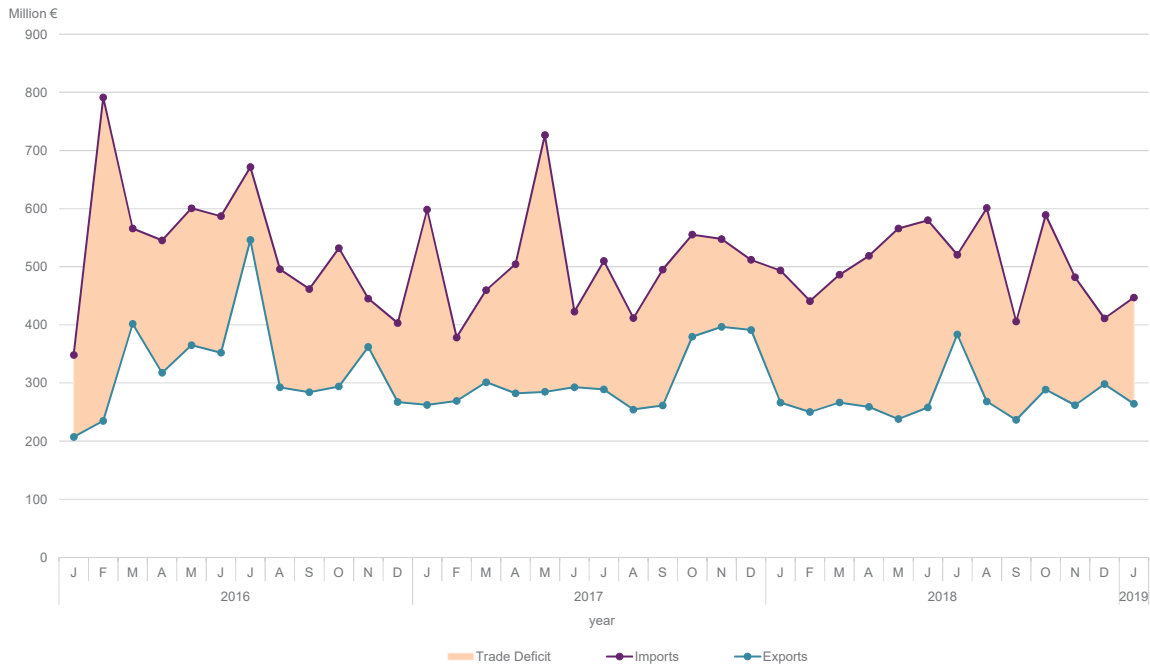


Table 1. Trade in goods by period and broad economic category

€ million

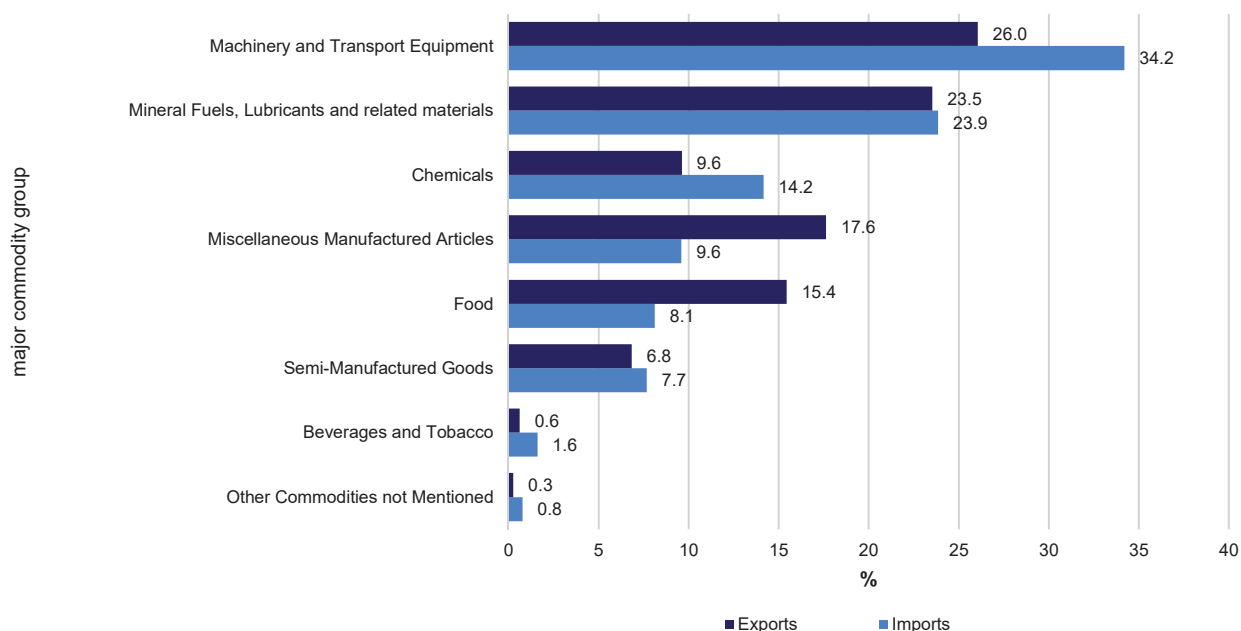
Broad economic category	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	January	
					2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Imports	6,136.4	6,448.2	6,122.1	6,095.0	493.5	447.1
Industrial Supplies	1,471.3	1,294.9	1,261.6	1,391.3	112.3	131.6
Primary	90.8	96.3	93.5	91.4	2.7	2.5
Semi-Finished	1,154.0	992.0	967.6	1,081.3	82.3	113.6
Finished	226.6	206.6	200.6	218.6	27.3	15.5
Capital Goods and Others	1,771.7	2,318.5	1,709.3	1,348.3	67.3	107.5
Consumer Goods	1,210.3	1,244.1	1,378.6	1,464.5	108.6	108.2
Food and Beverages	482.0	516.9	567.8	579.8	37.9	38.3
Durable Goods	438.7	416.2	462.3	473.4	32.7	36.2
Others	289.6	311.0	348.6	411.4	37.9	33.7
Fuels and Lubricants	1,683.1	1,590.7	1,772.6	1,890.9	205.3	99.7
Exports	3,599.8	3,925.7	3,664.8	3,274.7	266.1	264.2
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,366.6	1,130.3	1,379.2	956.0	84.3	62.2
Balance of Trade	-2,536.6	-2,522.6	-2,457.3	-2,820.2	-227.4	-182.9

^P Provisional

Notes:

- Table 1 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'.
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.
- A disaggregation by quarter 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

Chart 2. Percentage distribution of trade in goods in January 2019 by major commodity group



Notes:

- The commodity breakdown is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 3.
- "Other Commodities not Mentioned" includes the commodity groups "Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities", "Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats" and "Crude Materials".
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Balance of trade in goods by period and major commodity groups

€ million

Major commodity group	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	January	
					2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Imports	6,136.4	6,448.2	6,122.1	6,095.0	493.5	447.1
Food	523.2	572.0	625.1	624.8	37.6	36.3
Beverages and Tobacco	94.1	98.0	96.1	109.2	5.4	7.2
Crude Materials	27.3	26.1	26.1	26.0	1.7	2.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,682.9	1,597.0	1,775.0	1,901.7	206.8	106.6
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.2	9.4	9.3	9.5	0.5	0.9
Chemicals	508.2	466.2	516.8	584.3	54.8	63.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	413.7	374.6	360.2	405.8	35.0	34.3
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,396.8	2,853.8	2,237.1	1,919.5	112.8	152.9
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	466.9	439.6	471.2	509.0	38.6	42.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	14.1	11.7	5.3	5.1	0.2	0.3
Exports	3,599.8	3,925.7	3,664.8	3,274.7	266.1	264.2
Food	245.6	255.2	281.4	242.5	27.5	40.8
Beverages and Tobacco	44.4	43.0	43.1	45.5	1.6	1.6
Crude Materials	15.9	11.9	13.4	13.2	1.3	0.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,391.5	1,162.6	1,428.2	1,017.8	91.4	62.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	405.9	965.0	380.6	383.4	22.7	25.4
Semi-Manufactured Goods	121.2	121.4	150.6	152.8	14.9	18.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	966.0	961.5	986.5	936.8	76.6	68.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	408.6	404.3	380.2	480.2	29.9	46.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.6	0.7	0.8	2.5	0.1	0.1
Balance of Trade	-2,536.6	-2,522.6	-2,457.3	-2,820.2	-227.4	-182.9
Food	-277.6	-316.8	-343.7	-382.3	-10.1	4.5
Beverages and Tobacco	-49.7	-55.0	-53.0	-63.7	-3.8	-5.6
Crude Materials	-11.4	-14.2	-12.7	-12.9	-0.4	-1.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-291.5	-434.4	-346.8	-883.9	-115.4	-44.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.2	-9.4	-9.3	-9.5	-0.5	-0.9
Chemicals	-102.2	498.9	-136.2	-200.9	-32.1	-37.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-292.5	-253.1	-209.5	-253.0	-20.0	-16.2
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,430.7	-1,892.2	-1,250.6	-982.7	-36.2	-84.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-58.4	-35.3	-91.1	-28.9	-8.7	3.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-13.5	-10.9	-4.5	-2.6	-0.1	-0.2

^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 in goods by period

€ million

Country/Region	January					
	2018 ^P			2019 ^P		
	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade
Europe	379.2	125.4	-253.8	253.6	89.3	-164.3
<i>of which:</i>						
European Union	346.2	122.2	-224.0	221.8	85.2	-136.6
<i>of which:</i>						
United Kingdom	25.8	7.5	-18.2	29.0	5.1	-23.8
euro area	308.9	104.5	-204.5	174.0	64.0	-110.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Italy	109.4	31.2	-78.1	73.9	9.7	-64.2
Germany	42.7	32.1	-10.6	22.9	28.4	5.5
France	11.3	25.1	13.8	21.3	17.5	-3.8
Netherlands	32.7	7.5	-25.2	20.4	2.9	-17.5
Greece	3.5	0.4	-3.1	17.2	0.2	-17.0
Spain	43.1	4.3	-38.8	6.6	2.0	-4.5
EFTA Countries	7.6	2.0	-5.6	10.2	3.4	-6.8
<i>of which:</i>						
Norway	5.1	0.2	-4.9	6.9	0.7	-6.2
Other European Countries	25.4	1.2	-24.2	21.6	0.8	-20.9
<i>of which:</i>						
Turkey	5.5	0.9	-4.6	18.5	0.6	-17.9
Asia	80.5	51.2	-29.3	96.9	79.3	-17.5
<i>of which:</i>						
China	20.0	8.9	-11.1	23.2	1.7	-21.5
India	14.4	0.7	-13.7	15.8	0.8	-15.0
Saudi Arabia	0.4	0.6	0.2	14.5	1.0	-13.5
Israel	19.3	0.1	-19.2	10.3	0.2	-10.1
Singapore	2.3	9.0	6.7	7.9	12.5	4.7
North and Central America	6.8	12.3	5.6	19.5	32.4	12.9
<i>of which:</i>						
Canada	0.4	1.7	1.3	11.9	1.0	-10.9
United States of America	6.2	9.4	3.2	7.5	30.4	22.9
Africa	15.2	54.7	39.5	17.5	27.5	10.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Egypt	3.0	16.7	13.7	12.7	9.7	-2.9
Australia and Oceania	4.4	0.3	-4.0	13.6	0.4	-13.3
South America	2.5	0.1	-2.4	2.0	10.1	8.2
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	5.0	0.4	-4.6	43.9	0.1	-43.9
Ships and Aircraft Stores	-	21.6	21.6	0.0	25.1	25.0
Grand Total	493.5	266.1	-227.4	447.1	264.2	-182.9

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. Ranking is based according to top countries of import for the current period under review.
2. Arrivals/Dispatches relate to registered transactions with EU Member States.
3. Imports/Exports relate to registered transactions with Non-EU Member States (see methodological notes for country groupings).
4. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
5. 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 in goods by period and principal traded commodities

€ 000

Chapter number	Commodity description	January	
		2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Main imports			
02	Meat and edible offal	4,604	5,038
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,296	3,823
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,762	4,149
19	Preparations of cereals	4,439	4,977
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	1,992	2,468
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,707	3,316
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	4,152	4,431
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,392	2,793
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	2,199	2,982
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	206,775	106,633
29	Organic chemicals	5,166	20,130
30	Pharmaceutical products	27,296	21,293
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	3,371	3,663
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,659	2,323
34	Soap, etc, lubricants, waxes, dental preparations	1,549	2,313
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	2,322	2,243
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	15,004	15,159
42	Articles of leather; saddlery	1,036	2,350
48	Paper and paperboard articles	7,279	11,297
61	Knitted clothing	4,213	5,716
62	Woven clothing	5,555	3,536
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,742	6,461
73	Articles of iron or steel	9,673	5,762
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	28,799	29,174
85	Electrical machinery etc.	34,470	48,192
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	12,499	12,882
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	27,347	50,377
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	9,594	13,622
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	10,099	7,228
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	4,028	4,220
Main exports			
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	20,400	35,757
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	5,696	3,861
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	91,215	62,097
30	Pharmaceutical products	18,133	18,762
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,185	1,204
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	5,282	6,903
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	6,637	5,941
48	Paper and paperboard articles	1,048	1,308
49	Printed books, newspapers	5,806	16,008
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,882	2,177
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,015	1,941
73	Articles of iron or steel	2,795	2,755
82	Tools, implements/cutlery etc.,parts	70	5,121
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	10,906	9,089
85	Electrical machinery etc.	51,633	54,849
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	11,042	4,587
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,294	8,843
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	11,022	11,184
99	Special classifications	1,560	1,835

^P Provisional

Notes:

- 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'.
- 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
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Methodological Notes

1. Figures presented in this news release are based on register data available as at the cut-off date printed on the front page of this release. These are provisional figures based on information provided by traders and customs declarations 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. No estimations are included in these figures to compensate for late or non-response by traders or late documentation of customs declarations.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 signifies a trade surplus.
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.
 - 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, Czechia, 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.
8. More detailed and disaggregated data not appearing in this release are available in the excel version of this release or upon request from the NSO.
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