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Provisional figures for registered trade in goods in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €341.7 million during February 2019.

International Trade in Goods: February 2019

Cut-off date:
2 April 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 €341.7 million during February, compared to a deficit of €190.9 million in the corresponding month of 2018. Both imports and exports experienced increases of €156.8 million and €6.0 million respectively (Table 1). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€194.4 million), partly outweighed by a decrease of €45.6 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. On the exports side miscellaneous manufactured articles accounted to the main increase by €9.8 million (Table 2).

January-February 2019

During the first two months of this year, the trade deficit widened by €106.3 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2018, reaching €524.6 million. Imports and exports increased by €110.3 million and €4.0 million respectively (Table 1). Higher imports were mainly in machinery and transport equipment (€234.5 million), partly outweighed by a decrease of €145.7 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. The largest increase in exports was registered in miscellaneous manufactured articles (€26.5 million), partly outweighed by a decrease of €24.1 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (Table 2).

Imports from the European Union for the first two months of the year reached €682.9 million, or 65.4 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €133.8 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period in 2018. Main increases and decreases over the same period in imports were registered from the United Kingdom (€196.2 million) and Spain (€35.9 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was attributed to the United States of America (€20.3 million), whereas Italy (€30.0 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade in Goods - monthly

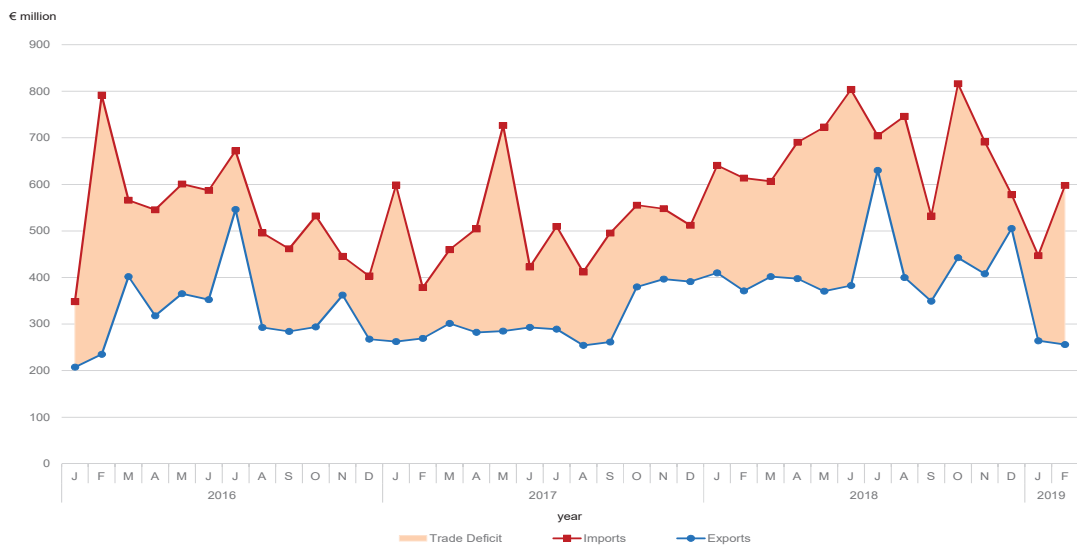


Table 1. Trade in goods by period and broad economic category

€ million

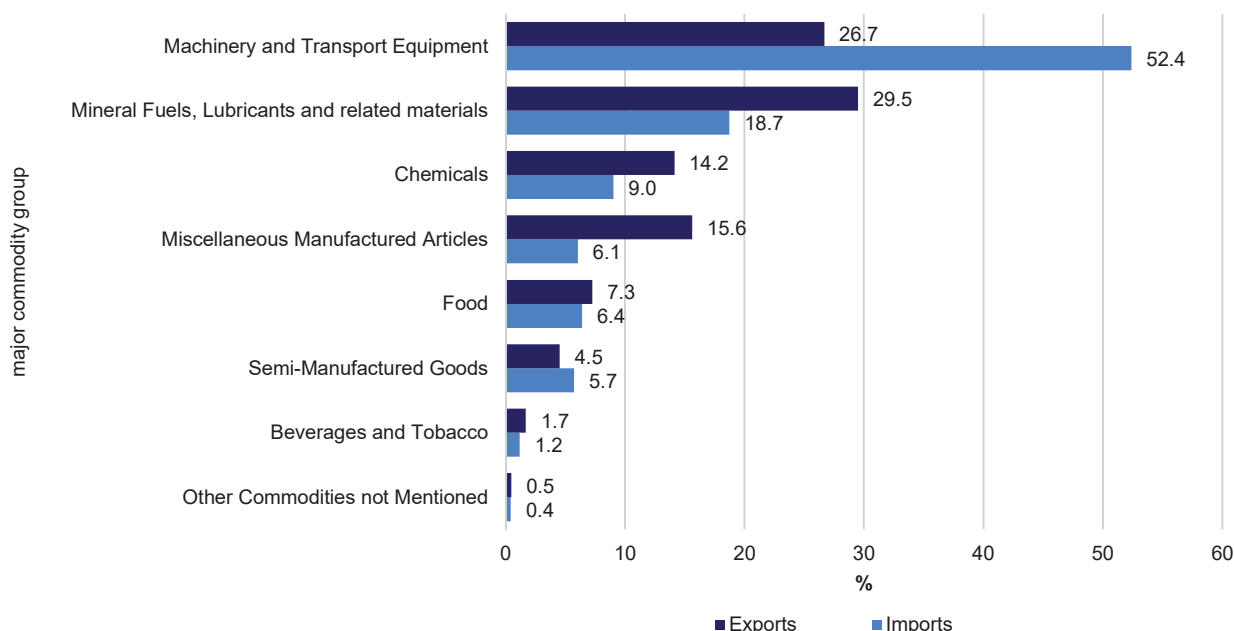
Broad economic category	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	February		January-February	
			2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Imports	6,122.1	6,101.6	440.9	597.7	934.4	1,044.7
Industrial Supplies	1,261.6	1,392.5	109.1	118.5	221.3	250.1
Primary	93.5	91.4	4.4	4.8	7.1	7.2
Semi-Finished	967.6	1,082.3	83.0	96.9	165.3	210.5
Finished	200.6	218.8	21.6	16.8	48.9	32.3
Capital Goods and Others	1,709.3	1,349.7	67.5	263.9	134.8	371.4
Consumer Goods	1,378.6	1,468.5	108.2	105.0	216.7	213.2
Food and Beverages	567.8	581.4	39.1	37.2	77.0	75.5
Durable Goods	462.3	475.0	40.7	36.8	73.5	73.0
Others	348.6	412.2	28.3	31.0	66.3	64.7
Fuels and Lubricants	1,772.6	1,891.0	156.2	110.3	361.6	210.0
Exports	3,664.8	3,277.7	250.0	256.0	516.1	520.1
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,379.2	956.1	65.7	75.6	150.0	137.7
Balance of Trade	-2,457.3	-2,823.9	-190.9	-341.7	-418.3	-524.6

^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:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade-in-Goods.aspx

Chart 2. Percentage distribution of trade in goods in February 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	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	February		January-February	
			2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
			Imports	6,122.1	6,101.6	440.9
Food	625.1	626.5	38.2	38.3	75.8	74.6
Beverages and Tobacco	96.1	109.2	8.2	7.1	13.6	14.3
Crude Materials	26.1	26.1	2.9	1.6	4.5	3.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,775.0	1,901.8	157.6	112.0	364.4	218.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.3	9.5	0.9	0.8	1.5	1.7
Chemicals	516.8	584.9	40.0	54.0	94.8	117.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	360.2	406.5	33.1	34.3	68.1	68.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,237.1	1,921.4	118.7	313.1	231.5	466.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	471.2	510.6	41.1	36.2	79.7	79.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	5.3	5.1	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.6
Exports	3,664.8	3,277.7	250.0	256.0	516.1	520.1
Food	281.4	242.5	24.7	18.6	52.2	59.4
Beverages and Tobacco	43.1	45.5	3.5	4.4	5.1	6.0
Crude Materials	13.4	13.2	0.9	0.3	2.2	0.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,428.2	1,017.9	70.4	75.5	161.8	137.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	380.6	383.5	32.1	36.2	54.8	61.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	150.6	153.1	15.7	11.6	30.6	29.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	986.5	937.2	72.5	68.3	149.1	137.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	380.2	482.4	30.2	40.0	60.1	86.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.8	2.5	0.1	1.0	0.1	1.1
Balance of Trade	-2,457.3	-2,823.9	-190.9	-341.7	-418.3	-524.6
Food	-343.7	-384.0	-13.5	-19.7	-23.6	-15.2
Beverages and Tobacco	-53.0	-63.7	-4.7	-2.7	-8.5	-8.3
Crude Materials	-12.7	-12.9	-2.0	-1.4	-2.3	-3.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-346.8	-883.8	-87.2	-36.5	-202.6	-81.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.3	-9.5	-0.9	-0.8	-1.5	-1.7
Chemicals	-136.2	-201.4	-7.9	-17.7	-40.0	-55.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-209.5	-253.5	-17.4	-22.7	-37.5	-38.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,250.6	-984.3	-46.1	-244.8	-82.4	-328.9
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-91.1	-28.2	-10.9	3.8	-19.6	7.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-4.5	-2.6	-0.3	0.7	-0.4	0.5

^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 in goods by period

€ million

Country/Region	February						January-February					
	2018 ^P			2019 ^P			2018 ^P			2019 ^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	306.8	132.1	-174.8	497.3	101.0	-396.3	686.0	257.5	-428.5	750.8	190.3	-560.5
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	268.6	128.8	-139.9	461.1	96.4	-364.7	614.8	251.0	-363.9	682.9	181.6	-501.3
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	47.0	6.2	-40.8	240.0	4.3	-235.7	72.8	13.8	-59.0	269.0	9.5	-259.6
euro area	203.7	110.4	-93.3	204.8	77.8	-127.0	512.6	214.9	-297.8	378.8	141.8	-237.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	89.9	23.8	-66.1	90.7	15.3	-75.4	199.2	55.0	-144.2	164.6	25.0	-139.6
Germany	34.9	39.2	4.3	32.3	32.5	0.2	77.6	71.3	-6.3	55.2	60.9	5.6
France	15.1	20.3	5.1	28.0	17.1	-10.8	26.5	45.4	18.9	49.2	34.6	-14.6
Greece	28.4	0.6	-27.8	20.3	0.3	-20.0	31.9	1.0	-30.9	37.5	0.5	-37.0
Spain	9.9	6.6	-3.3	10.5	4.3	-6.2	52.9	10.9	-42.1	17.0	6.3	-10.7
Netherlands	11.1	15.6	4.5	9.7	5.0	-4.6	43.7	23.1	-20.6	30.1	7.9	-22.2
EFTA Countries	7.4	2.2	-5.2	3.0	2.7	-0.3	15.0	4.3	-10.8	13.2	6.1	-7.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	7.3	1.7	-5.7	2.7	2.2	-0.5	9.8	3.5	-6.3	5.3	4.9	-0.4
Other European Countries	30.8	1.1	-29.7	33.1	1.9	-31.2	56.2	2.2	-53.9	54.7	2.6	-52.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Russian Federation	23.5	0.1	-23.5	22.9	0.0	-22.9	41.4	0.1	-41.3	24.5	0.0	-24.5
Asia	76.9	45.8	-31.1	65.6	48.3	-17.2	157.4	97.0	-60.4	162.4	127.7	-34.8
<i>of which:</i>												
China	15.1	2.9	-12.2	18.8	1.9	-16.9	35.1	11.8	-23.3	42.0	3.6	-38.4
India	9.2	0.7	-8.5	14.2	3.6	-10.7	23.6	1.4	-22.1	30.1	4.4	-25.7
Japan	3.2	16.5	13.2	6.6	10.9	4.4	7.1	35.8	28.6	11.0	44.7	33.7
South Korea	3.2	1.8	-1.4	4.0	4.3	0.3	6.2	4.0	-2.2	7.3	8.6	1.3
Saudi Arabia	0.2	0.0	-0.2	3.9	0.6	-3.4	0.6	0.6	0.0	18.4	1.6	-16.8
North and Central America	10.0	12.4	2.4	6.8	10.9	4.0	16.8	24.7	8.0	26.3	43.2	16.9
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	9.2	9.4	0.2	6.1	8.7	2.6	15.4	18.8	3.4	13.6	39.1	25.5
Canada	0.7	1.8	1.1	0.7	1.4	0.8	1.1	3.5	2.4	12.5	2.4	-10.1
Africa	34.2	47.1	12.9	4.4	22.9	18.4	49.4	101.8	52.4	22.0	50.4	28.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	2.4	12.2	9.8	2.5	0.9	-1.6	5.3	28.9	23.5	15.2	10.7	-4.5
Australia and Oceania	0.6	0.2	-0.4	0.7	0.1	-0.6	5.0	0.6	-4.4	14.3	0.5	-13.8
South America	2.3	0.3	-2.0	1.6	2.8	1.2	4.8	0.4	-4.4	3.6	13.0	9.4
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	10.1	0.7	-9.3	21.0	0.1	-20.9	15.1	1.2	-13.9	64.9	0.2	-64.8
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.0	11.3	11.3	0.3	69.9	69.6	0.0	32.9	32.9	0.4	95.0	94.6
Grand Total	440.9	250.0	-190.9	597.7	256.0	-341.7	934.4	516.1	-418.3	1,044.7	520.1	-524.6

^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:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade-in-Goods.aspx

Table 4. Trade in goods by period and principal traded commodities

€ 000

Chapter number	Commodity description	February		January-February	
		2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	4,856	4,425	9,459	9,463
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,021	3,960	8,317	7,783
08	Edible fruit and nuts	2,795	2,859	5,873	4,723
10	Cereals	912	2,987	1,738	3,783
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,787	3,383	7,549	7,533
19	Preparations of cereals	5,019	4,461	9,458	9,438
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,927	3,255	5,634	6,571
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,411	4,942	9,563	9,373
23	Food residues and waste	2,714	3,593	5,329	5,483
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	1,819	2,285	4,018	5,267
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	158,521	112,053	365,296	218,687
29	Organic chemicals	4,313	10,556	9,480	30,686
30	Pharmaceutical products	14,523	19,966	41,820	41,259
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,921	6,361	6,292	10,024
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,929	3,596	5,588	5,919
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	14,067	12,806	29,071	27,966
48	Paper and paperboard articles	8,986	7,061	16,265	18,359
61	Knitted clothing	5,331	4,808	9,544	10,524
62	Woven clothing	4,969	3,150	10,525	6,685
64	Footwear, gaiters etc. and parts	5,749	4,520	7,491	10,981
69	Ceramic products	2,752	2,356	4,551	4,148
72	Iron and steel	2,586	3,834	4,836	4,861
73	Articles of iron or steel	5,471	6,678	15,144	12,440
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	28,758	28,678	57,557	57,851
85	Electrical machinery, etc.	37,652	42,390	72,122	90,582
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	15,160	14,912	27,659	27,794
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	20,309	12,156	47,657	62,533
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	15,726	214,857	25,320	228,478
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,093	5,296	17,193	12,524
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	5,266	5,878	9,294	10,098
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	17,013	12,791	37,413	48,548
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	5,470	4,761	11,165	8,621
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,337	2,814	1,506	2,814
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	70,381	75,470	161,595	137,567
29	Organic chemicals	630	3,056	1,624	3,903
30	Pharmaceutical products	28,453	28,431	46,586	47,193
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	3,927	6,352	9,210	13,255
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,768	5,082	12,405	11,024
49	Printed books, newspapers	5,762	12,453	11,568	28,461
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,383	2,309	4,265	4,486
64	Footwear, gaiters etc. and parts	960	1,849	1,975	3,789
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	755	2,056	859	2,789
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,468	1,819	7,263	4,574
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	13,329	9,283	24,235	18,372
85	Electrical machinery, etc.	51,222	51,610	102,854	106,459
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	8,005	6,370	19,047	10,957
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,839	6,851	11,133	15,693
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	11,838	11,096	22,859	22,280
99	Special classifications	384	1,654	3,122	3,489

^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:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade-in-Goods.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