

Provisional figures for registered trade in goods in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €199.0 million during May 2019.

International Trade in Goods: May 2019

Cut-off date:
1 July 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 €199.0 million during May, compared to a deficit of €329.5 million in the corresponding month of 2018. Both imports and exports experienced decreases of €130.7 million and €0.2 million respectively (Table 1). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€65.2 million), mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€32.1 million), and food (€19.5 million). On the exports side mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€11.2 million) and food (€3.9 million) accounted to the main decrease, partly outweighed by an increase of €11.2 million in chemicals (Table 2).

January-May 2019

During the first five months of this year, the trade deficit widened by €505.4 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2018, reaching €1,743.6 million. Imports and exports increased by €522.8 million and €17.4 million respectively (Table 1). Higher imports were mainly in machinery and transport equipment (€697.3 million), partly outweighed by a decrease of €177.5 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. The main increase in exports was registered in miscellaneous manufactured articles (€44.0 million), partly outweighed by a decrease of €22.3 million in machinery and transport equipment (Table 2).

For the same reference period, imports from the European Union reached €2,000.1 million, or 65.8 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €345.0 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period in 2018. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from the United Kingdom (€586.2 million) and Italy (€202.2 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to the United States of America (€17.5 million), whereas Germany (€23.0 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade in Goods - monthly

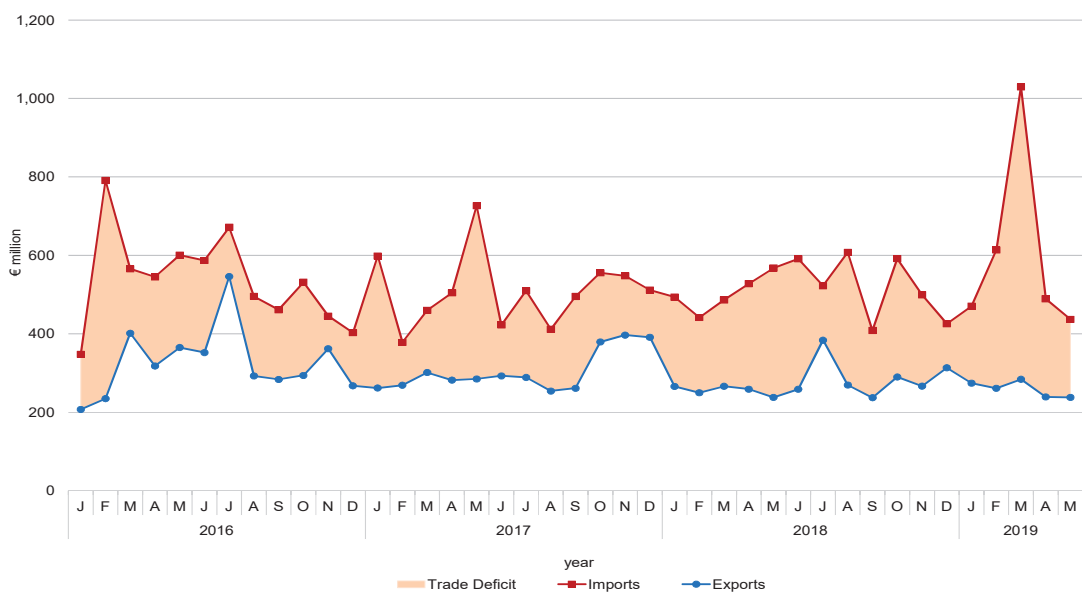


Table 1. Trade in goods by period and broad economic category

€ million

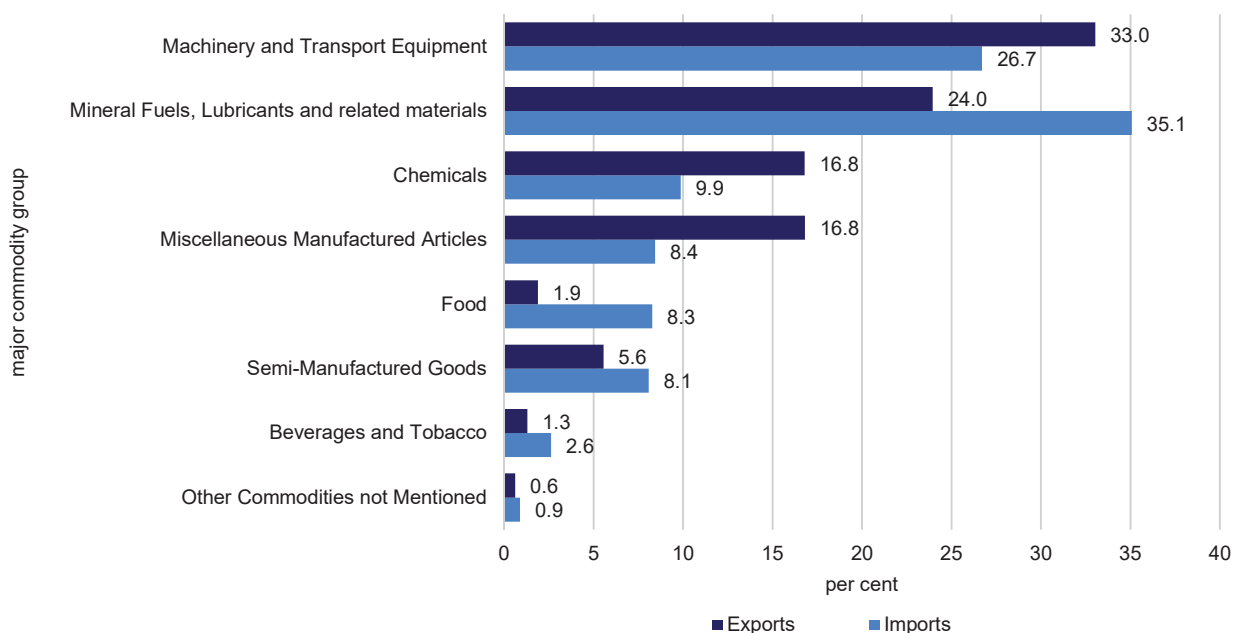
Broad economic category	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	May		January-May	
			2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
			Imports	6,125.4	6,167.0	567.7
Industrial Supplies	1,323.3	1,453.5	132.1	108.9	577.8	621.4
Primary	126.3	125.4	15.5	3.3	27.9	18.0
Semi-Finished	1,011.5	1,124.2	92.9	95.5	439.7	513.1
Finished	185.5	203.9	23.7	10.0	110.2	90.3
Capital Goods and Others	1,679.5	1,323.9	123.6	63.7	525.5	1,191.4
Consumer Goods	1,350.0	1,453.2	126.5	110.9	587.0	587.6
Food and Beverages	531.0	544.3	47.6	41.8	214.4	209.1
Durable Goods	468.8	485.8	42.6	39.6	200.6	206.3
Others	350.1	423.2	36.3	29.4	171.9	172.2
Fuels and Lubricants	1,772.6	1,936.3	185.5	153.6	828.0	640.7
Exports	3,666.8	3,301.1	238.2	238.0	1,280.1	1,297.5
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,379.2	971.4	62.9	57.1	350.6	335.9
Balance of Trade	-2,458.5	-2,865.9	-329.5	-199.0	-1,238.2	-1,743.6

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. 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'.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
3. 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 May 2019 by major commodity group



Notes:

1. The commodity breakdown is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 3.
2. "Other Commodities not Mentioned" includes the commodity groups "Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities", "Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats" and "Crude Materials".
3. 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	May		January-May	
			2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
			Imports	6,125.4	6,167.0	567.7
Food	625.1	627.0	55.7	36.2	216.4	196.8
Beverages and Tobacco	96.1	109.3	8.9	11.5	39.9	45.0
Crude Materials	26.2	27.2	2.9	3.0	12.1	13.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,775.0	1,947.0	185.4	153.3	830.7	653.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.3	9.5	0.8	0.6	3.7	3.8
Chemicals	522.0	597.8	51.1	43.1	249.1	270.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	361.3	408.2	37.8	35.3	175.6	174.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,236.2	1,924.3	181.9	116.7	778.9	1,476.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	468.9	511.7	42.9	36.9	209.8	206.4
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	5.3	5.1	0.4	0.3	1.9	1.6
Exports	3,666.8	3,301.1	238.2	238.0	1,280.1	1,297.5
Food	283.4	244.1	8.4	4.5	83.8	83.2
Beverages and Tobacco	38.6	43.5	3.7	3.1	14.6	15.4
Crude Materials	13.4	13.2	0.8	1.3	5.7	3.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,428.3	1,033.3	68.2	57.0	370.0	352.1
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	383.1	384.6	28.8	40.0	160.9	182.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	150.7	153.1	11.5	13.2	75.4	67.2
Machinery and Transport Equipment	987.8	944.2	79.2	78.6	386.3	364.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	380.7	482.6	37.4	40.0	183.0	227.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.8	2.5	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.9
Balance of Trade	-2,458.5	-2,865.9	-329.5	-199.0	-1,238.2	-1,743.6
Food	-341.6	-382.9	-47.3	-31.7	-132.6	-113.6
Beverages and Tobacco	-57.5	-65.7	-5.2	-8.4	-25.3	-29.6
Crude Materials	-12.9	-14.1	-2.1	-1.7	-6.4	-9.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-346.7	-913.7	-117.2	-96.3	-460.7	-301.1
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.3	-9.5	-0.8	-0.6	-3.7	-3.8
Chemicals	-138.9	-213.2	-22.2	-3.2	-88.2	-88.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-210.6	-255.0	-26.3	-22.1	-100.2	-106.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,248.3	-980.1	-102.7	-38.1	-392.7	-1,112.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-88.2	-29.1	-5.6	3.1	-26.8	20.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-4.5	-2.6	-0.3	-0.1	-1.6	0.3

^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 in goods by period

€ million

Country/Region	May						January-May					
	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	441.7	109.1	-332.6	313.0	117.4	-195.6	1,899.8	624.8	-1,275.0	2,271.7	605.9	-1,665.8
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	410.7	105.6	-305.1	246.7	113.6	-133.1	1,741.2	608.6	-1,132.6	2,000.1	584.4	-1,415.7
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	36.8	4.1	-32.7	24.8	3.4	-21.4	250.3	28.5	-221.8	836.5	21.4	-815.0
euro area	356.5	86.4	-270.1	213.9	94.4	-119.4	1,424.0	506.9	-917.1	1,079.0	476.9	-602.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	194.3	12.5	-181.8	64.6	15.1	-49.5	625.0	117.0	-508.0	422.8	94.4	-328.3
France	24.1	24.0	-0.1	46.1	19.8	-26.4	90.3	105.6	15.3	152.0	111.7	-40.3
Greece	14.1	0.7	-13.4	25.1	0.5	-24.6	120.6	4.0	-116.6	103.6	2.9	-100.6
Germany	37.1	39.0	1.9	19.4	36.8	17.5	193.9	194.6	0.7	164.8	171.6	6.8
Ireland	2.6	0.1	-2.5	19.2	0.6	-18.5	12.5	1.0	-11.5	30.0	2.0	-28.0
Spain	53.7	3.1	-50.6	17.6	3.5	-14.0	133.2	28.5	-104.8	59.6	32.4	-27.2
EFTA Countries	3.9	2.3	-1.6	4.6	1.8	-2.9	28.3	9.5	-18.8	25.5	12.5	-13.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	3.8	2.1	-1.6	4.5	1.5	-3.0	18.7	7.7	-11.0	17.4	10.5	-6.8
Other European Countries	27.1	1.2	-25.9	61.7	2.1	-59.7	130.3	6.7	-123.6	246.0	9.1	-236.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Russian Federation	16.4	0.1	-16.3	30.1	0.2	-29.9	64.9	0.2	-64.7	108.3	1.0	-107.4
Asia	72.7	33.2	-39.5	81.2	39.0	-42.2	402.2	204.8	-197.4	406.9	237.1	-169.8
<i>of which:</i>												
China	19.4	2.0	-17.4	22.2	4.4	-17.8	82.9	18.7	-64.2	99.7	13.1	-86.7
Israel	5.3	0.1	-5.2	19.4	0.3	-19.1	69.6	0.5	-69.1	77.0	1.5	-75.5
India	10.8	0.8	-10.0	13.9	0.9	-12.9	56.8	3.8	-53.0	70.8	7.5	-63.3
South Korea	4.1	1.1	-3.1	4.1	0.6	-3.5	17.1	7.2	-9.9	18.6	10.7	-7.9
Singapore	3.1	12.1	9.0	3.6	10.0	6.5	19.2	50.3	31.1	18.9	57.6	38.7
North and Central America	15.7	12.8	-2.9	12.5	22.9	10.4	55.4	76.0	20.5	57.0	92.5	35.5
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	14.6	10.7	-3.9	8.4	20.2	11.8	50.5	63.0	12.5	38.6	80.5	41.9
Africa	6.6	22.6	16.0	5.9	18.1	12.1	87.3	208.2	120.9	47.8	126.5	78.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	2.4	1.4	-1.0	3.1	1.0	-2.1	26.2	32.8	6.5	24.4	14.8	-9.6
Australia and Oceania	1.1	0.2	-0.9	1.2	0.8	-0.3	7.4	1.5	-6.0	108.7	2.4	-106.3
South America	1.5	5.2	3.7	2.0	0.3	-1.6	22.7	13.9	-8.8	10.4	15.4	5.0
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	28.4	0.1	-28.2	21.2	1.5	-19.7	43.5	1.7	-41.8	138.5	2.3	-136.2
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.0	55.0	55.0	-	37.9	37.9	0.0	149.3	149.3	0.2	215.4	215.3
Grand Total	567.7	238.2	-329.5	437.0	238.0	-199.0	2,518.3	1,280.1	-1,238.2	3,041.1	1,297.5	-1,743.6

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. Ranking is based according to top countries of import for the current month 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	May		January-May	
		2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
		Main imports			
02	Meat and edible offal	5,685	4,745	25,749	24,162
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	5,349	3,967	22,879	21,355
08	Edible fruit and nuts	4,061	3,430	16,437	15,217
16	Preparations of meat/fish	5,225	3,171	20,460	18,796
19	Preparations of cereals	5,183	4,364	25,128	26,150
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,998	2,604	12,043	12,258
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,465	3,831	17,896	17,507
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	6,816	8,886	28,310	30,828
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,149	2,662	11,994	14,485
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	2,623	3,507	12,180	15,389
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	186,033	153,319	832,263	654,507
29	Organic chemicals	6,830	6,654	31,071	57,795
30	Pharmaceutical products	22,502	17,823	106,585	106,132
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	3,187	2,683	18,450	18,762
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,595	3,049	16,070	15,849
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	15,040	12,721	73,448	71,560
48	Paper and paperboard articles	8,575	7,827	38,251	41,685
61	Knitted clothing	4,149	4,022	23,168	25,653
62	Woven clothing	4,083	3,850	25,393	20,626
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	6,290	4,149	22,832	26,967
69	Ceramic products	2,886	2,526	12,452	11,805
72	Iron and Steel	3,763	3,185	14,044	12,593
73	Articles of iron or steel	5,214	4,726	34,607	28,366
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	60,718	29,302	187,875	160,229
85	Electrical machinery etc.	42,279	47,089	191,570	234,508
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	14,435	15,691	72,739	79,658
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	11,110	20,861	134,511	159,723
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	53,445	4,365	190,495	845,242
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,640	5,332	41,231	29,200
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	6,452	6,052	27,999	28,851
		Main exports			
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,499	2,361	26,810	23,535
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	68,116	56,862	369,329	351,670
29	Organic chemicals	1,316	3,284	12,876	24,177
30	Pharmaceutical products	23,521	29,038	127,494	126,176
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,187	2,552	5,848	7,161
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	5,481	7,279	27,053	35,943
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,118	4,864	29,041	26,105
49	Printed books, newspapers	9,991	6,501	43,274	67,333
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,402	2,126	11,165	11,021
61	Knitted clothing	650	1,270	4,496	5,439
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,414	2,556	6,988	12,537
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,850	4,489	22,338	14,943
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	14,568	10,898	64,724	52,056
85	Electrical machinery etc.	54,692	60,173	266,926	272,901
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	8,825	5,730	47,066	35,463
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	2	1,287	2,452	1,767
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,137	8,669	34,545	40,695
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	12,572	13,637	64,587	60,117
99	Special classifications	2,830	3,249	10,484	11,909

^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://ns0.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