

09 September 2019 | 1100 hrs | 146/2019

Errata Corrige: An error was detected in the statistic “Imports/Arrivals from Euro Area”. This affected: Table 3, Table 3a (in excel version) and paragraph 3, line 2 of the commentary, where the decrease has been amended to €346.8 million from the erroneous €319.7 million. Online documents were amended on 12 September at 15:00hrs.

Provisional figures for registered trade in goods for Malta recorded a trade deficit of €348.2 million during July 2019.

International Trade in Goods: July 2019

Cut-off date:
2 September 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 €348.2 million during July, compared to a deficit of €211.7 million in the corresponding month of 2018. Imports experienced an increase of €70.1 million while exports decreased by €66.4 million when compared to the same month of previous year (Table 1). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€45.9 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€27.9 million). On the exports side, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€78.4 million) accounted for the main decrease, partly outweighed by an increase of €9.9 million in chemicals (Table 2).

January-July 2019

During the first seven months of the year, the trade deficit widened by €675.0 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2018, reaching €2,451.1 million. Imports increased by €648.6 million while exports decreased by €26.4 million (Table 1). Higher imports were mainly in machinery and transport equipment (€706.4 million), partly outweighed by a decrease of €70.4 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. The main decrease in exports was registered in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€86.9 million), partly outweighed by increases of €38.8 million and €30.4 million in miscellaneous manufactured articles and chemicals respectively (Table 2).

For the same reference period, imports from the European Union reached €2,918.2 million, or 66.8 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €346.8 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 (€812.2 million) and Italy (€211.0 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to Spain (€30.3 million), whereas Egypt (€22.2 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International trade in goods - monthly

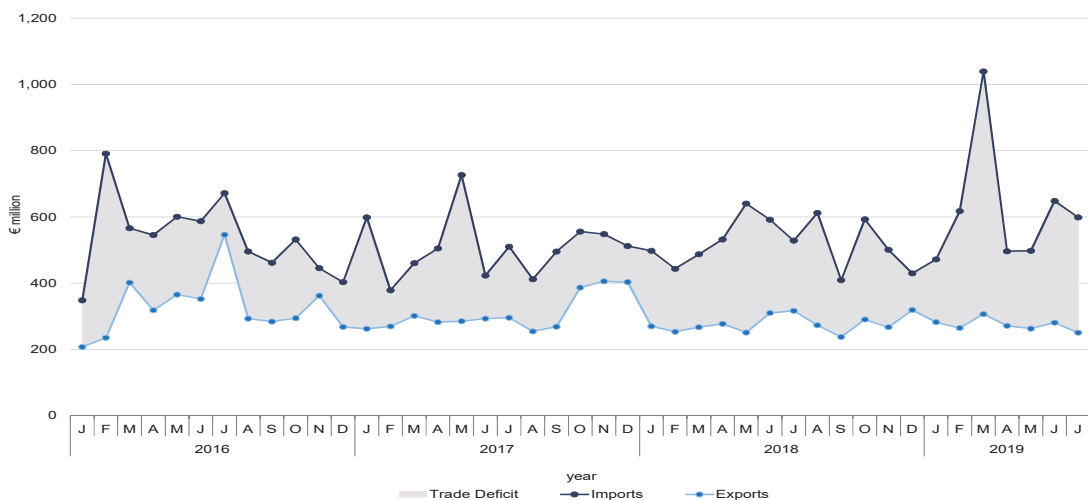


Table 1. Trade in goods by period and broad economic category

€ million

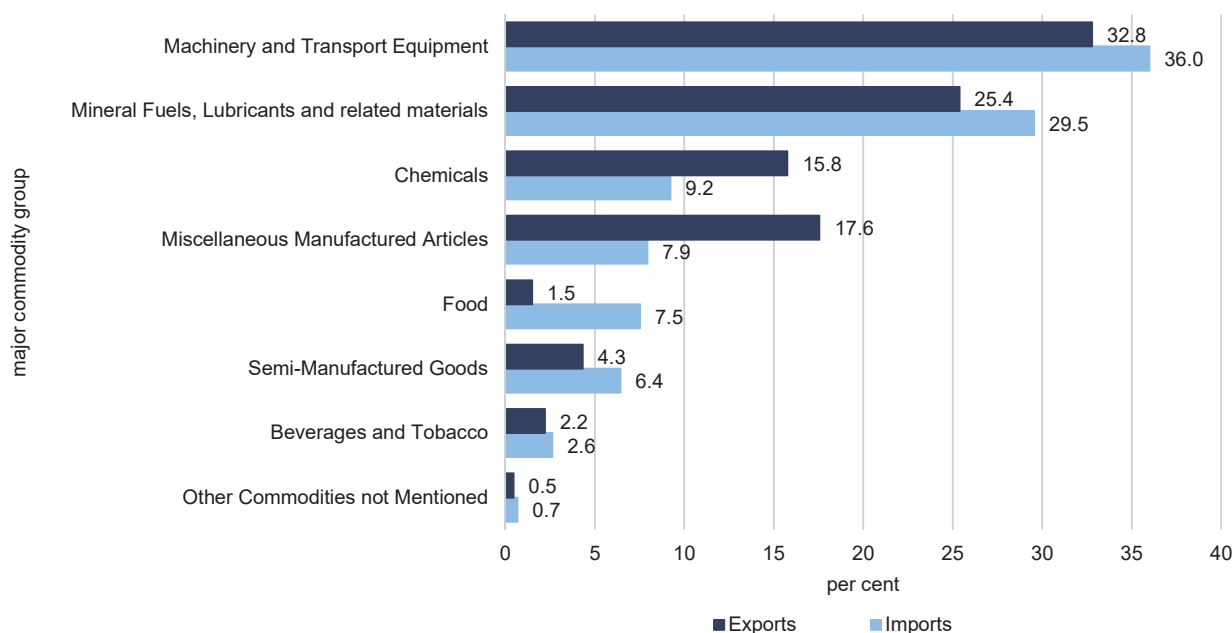
Broad economic category	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	July		January-July	
			2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Imports	6,125.5	6,265.2	528.4	598.5	3,721.0	4,369.6
Industrial Supplies	1,323.4	1,464.3	129.2	137.3	835.8	933.0
Primary	126.3	125.6	8.2	2.6	57.1	49.9
Semi-Finished	1,011.6	1,133.5	102.3	111.2	639.4	744.2
Finished	185.5	205.2	18.7	23.5	139.4	139.0
Capital Goods and Others	1,679.5	1,398.7	117.0	151.8	955.2	1,595.7
Consumer Goods	1,350.0	1,465.9	132.9	132.6	839.6	848.6
Food and Beverages	531.0	548.3	48.6	47.5	310.0	306.8
Durable Goods	468.8	491.1	44.8	46.9	284.7	299.7
Others	350.1	426.6	39.5	38.1	244.9	242.1
Fuels and Lubricants	1,772.6	1,936.4	149.2	176.8	1,090.4	992.3
Exports	3,707.7	3,331.2	316.7	250.3	1,944.9	1,918.5
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,420.1	977.2	133.7	63.6	637.8	559.7
Balance of Trade	-2,417.8	-2,934.1	-211.7	-348.2	-1,776.1	-2,451.1

^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; 'Fuels and lubricants, primary' and 'Fuels and lubricants, processed' respectively.
- 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 July 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	July		January-July	
			2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Imports	6,125.5	6,265.2	528.4	598.5	3,721.0	4,369.6
Food	625.1	628.3	55.4	45.1	332.2	311.8
Beverages and Tobacco	96.1	112.2	12.5	15.7	61.9	74.8
Crude Materials	26.2	27.4	2.2	2.9	16.5	19.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,775.0	1,947.0	148.9	176.8	1,092.7	1,022.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.3	9.6	1.1	0.9	5.8	5.6
Chemicals	522.2	602.8	50.0	55.3	355.3	370.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	361.3	411.0	40.4	38.6	249.6	248.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,236.2	2,003.6	169.5	215.4	1,305.3	2,011.7
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	468.9	518.1	48.1	47.5	299.0	303.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	5.3	5.2	0.5	0.3	2.8	2.1
Exports	3,707.7	3,331.2	316.7	250.3	1,944.9	1,918.5
Food	283.4	245.6	4.8	3.8	92.7	91.4
Beverages and Tobacco	38.6	44.6	4.2	5.6	22.1	25.1
Crude Materials	13.4	13.3	1.1	1.1	9.0	6.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,469.1	1,039.1	141.9	63.5	665.5	578.6
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	383.1	387.0	29.6	39.5	223.5	253.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	150.7	153.7	9.4	10.8	103.0	88.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	987.8	956.8	83.9	82.0	560.3	565.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	380.7	488.8	41.4	43.9	268.2	307.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.8	2.5	0.3	0.1	0.7	2.0
Balance of Trade	-2,417.8	-2,934.1	-211.7	-348.2	-1,776.1	-2,451.1
Food	-341.6	-382.8	-50.6	-41.3	-239.5	-220.4
Beverages and Tobacco	-57.5	-67.7	-8.3	-10.1	-39.8	-49.7
Crude Materials	-12.9	-14.1	-1.1	-1.9	-7.5	-13.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-305.9	-907.9	-7.0	-113.3	-427.2	-443.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.3	-9.6	-1.1	-0.9	-5.8	-5.6
Chemicals	-139.1	-215.8	-20.4	-15.8	-131.8	-116.2
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-210.6	-257.3	-31.0	-27.7	-146.6	-159.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,248.3	-1,046.8	-85.6	-133.4	-745.0	-1,446.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-88.2	-29.3	-6.6	-3.6	-30.8	3.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-4.5	-2.7	-0.2	-0.2	-2.2	-0.1

^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	July						January-July					
	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	383.9	146.1	-237.8	461.4	119.1	-342.3	2,690.8	935.7	-1,755.1	3,329.9	994.7	-2,335.2
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	339.6	137.7	-201.9	388.4	113.0	-275.4	2,448.6	880.6	-1,568.0	2,918.2	962.1	-1,956.1
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	40.1	3.9	-36.3	76.2	3.5	-72.7	317.5	35.8	-281.7	1,129.7	34.3	-1,095.4
euro area	287.3	110.7	-176.6	297.3	82.7	-214.6	2,024.1	728.5	-1,295.6	1,677.3	783.7	-893.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	114.2	44.6	-69.5	97.2	14.8	-82.4	860.7	190.3	-670.5	649.7	178.5	-471.2
Germany	41.6	32.0	-9.5	75.8	39.5	-36.3	265.1	263.7	-1.4	292.3	277.0	-15.2
France	16.6	25.2	8.6	55.6	17.5	-38.0	189.1	164.9	-24.2	248.7	154.0	-94.7
Spain	26.3	3.6	-22.8	21.4	1.9	-19.5	186.2	36.1	-150.1	108.9	66.4	-42.5
Greece	30.5	0.5	-30.0	17.3	0.4	-16.8	159.9	5.1	-154.8	125.1	16.8	-108.4
Netherlands	29.7	1.8	-27.9	15.5	4.0	-11.5	194.1	37.9	-156.3	120.0	47.0	-73.0
EFTA Countries	2.9	1.9	-1.0	3.7	2.2	-1.4	34.9	13.5	-21.4	33.5	15.9	-17.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	2.5	1.4	-1.2	3.4	1.9	-1.4	23.9	10.6	-13.3	24.9	13.4	-11.5
Other European Countries	41.4	6.5	-34.9	69.4	3.8	-65.5	207.3	41.6	-165.7	378.2	16.8	-361.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Russian Federation	8.2	0.0	-8.2	43.4	0.1	-43.3	85.9	0.3	-85.6	187.2	1.3	-185.9
Asia	73.7	35.7	-38.0	85.7	38.1	-47.6	551.5	287.5	-264.1	570.0	309.0	-261.0
<i>of which:</i>												
China	23.4	2.4	-21.0	29.5	1.9	-27.6	127.1	23.6	-103.5	148.4	17.5	-131.0
India	13.9	0.7	-13.2	14.0	0.9	-13.1	80.9	7.0	-73.9	95.0	9.6	-85.4
Saudi Arabia	0.0	0.1	0.1	11.2	0.3	-10.9	14.9	1.6	-13.3	39.1	3.2	-36.0
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	5.1	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	5.1	-	-5.1
Japan	8.3	1.8	-6.6	4.2	2.0	-2.2	47.7	46.8	-0.9	31.0	55.9	24.9
North and Central America	14.7	13.7	-1.0	26.4	13.4	-13.0	168.6	104.9	-63.7	102.1	119.3	17.2
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	5.5	10.9	5.4	20.5	10.9	-9.6	72.6	86.0	13.4	76.7	102.3	25.6
Africa	31.0	52.9	21.9	15.3	39.1	23.8	126.4	321.3	194.9	85.5	181.8	96.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	2.3	5.0	2.7	12.2	15.9	3.7	31.8	53.3	21.5	57.2	31.1	-26.0
Australia and Oceania	0.8	0.5	-0.3	0.6	1.1	0.5	11.3	2.9	-8.5	110.7	3.8	-106.8
South America	22.2	6.0	-16.2	2.5	2.4	-0.1	46.5	27.9	-18.6	14.1	18.5	4.4
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	2.0	0.4	-1.6	6.5	0.0	-6.5	125.8	2.3	-123.5	157.1	2.5	-154.6
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.0	61.4	61.4	-	37.0	37.0	0.0	262.4	262.4	0.2	288.9	288.7
Grand Total	528.4	316.7	-211.7	598.5	250.3	-348.2	3,721.0	1,944.9	-1,776.1	4,369.6	1,918.5	-2,451.1

^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	July		January-July	
		2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
		Main imports			
02	Meat and edible offal	5,081	6,273	35,587	35,095
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	14,066	7,070	56,606	41,137
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	5,479	4,091	32,562	30,328
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,878	4,824	31,108	29,111
19	Preparations of cereals	5,308	4,770	36,631	38,131
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,959	2,743	17,450	18,068
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,807	4,090	26,304	24,902
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	8,332	9,153	44,033	49,532
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	4,232	6,612	18,394	25,728
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	2,710	3,190	17,964	22,085
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	148,895	176,809	1,094,188	1,023,596
29	Organic chemicals	6,427	16,142	50,259	79,742
30	Pharmaceutical products	21,210	17,247	147,650	138,945
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	4,352	4,238	27,067	27,276
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,470	3,889	23,412	22,715
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	15,902	14,205	103,811	100,478
42	Articles of leather; saddlery	1,301	3,082	7,650	12,998
48	Paper and paperboard articles	9,485	9,701	53,489	57,546
61	Knitted clothing	7,377	8,197	35,320	39,590
62	Woven clothing	3,855	4,475	33,155	30,640
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	5,700	4,792	30,821	34,304
72	Iron and steel	3,780	4,248	20,409	18,530
73	Articles of iron or steel	5,965	5,599	48,849	40,410
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	39,576	43,894	267,632	235,541
85	Electrical machinery etc.	43,795	46,524	279,891	333,740
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	12,562	16,377	99,325	110,322
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	18,009	80,654	299,149	267,714
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	55,329	28,275	357,750	1,068,653
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,157	5,700	57,125	44,089
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	7,645	6,584	41,535	43,633
				Main exports	
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,262	2,215	31,263	28,524
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,532	2,987	6,475	9,693
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	141,783	63,466	664,566	578,067
29	Organic chemicals	2,057	8,802	18,109	34,546
30	Pharmaceutical products	23,128	23,387	174,871	174,339
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,566	2,850	9,550	11,230
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	5,288	6,742	38,074	48,388
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,811	3,383	39,502	34,280
49	Printed books, newspapers	11,382	15,098	68,170	91,780
61	Knitted clothing	1,579	1,797	6,900	8,119
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,461	1,873	9,887	15,952
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	1,048	1,399	4,240	8,171
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,272	4,899	29,076	22,024
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	16,975	12,089	95,559	81,955
85	Electrical machinery etc.	53,780	51,517	386,629	381,000
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	11,444	18,149	67,980	98,725
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	8,097	4,423	52,054	50,504
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	12,387	12,901	88,566	85,394
99	Special classifications	3,640	3,444	17,187	18,286

^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'.
- Data for the 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 in 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 is 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/metadadata/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/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