

# News Release

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## INTERNATIONAL TRADE: APRIL 2004

Table 1. Trade by Final Use

	Lm (million)					
	2002	2003	Apr 2003	Jan-Apr 2003	Apr <sup>p</sup> 2004	Jan-Apr <sup>p</sup> 2004
<b>Imports</b>	<b>1,227.5</b>	<b>1,279.2</b>	<b>117.0</b>	<b>422.5</b>	<b>105.4</b>	<b>416.1</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>630.7</b>	<b>657.6</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>218.6</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>197.5</b>
Primary	23.6	17.6	3.2	7.7	0.7	3.2
Semi-Finished	589.1	621.0	55.5	206.1	51.1	189.1
Finished	18.0	19.0	1.3	4.8	1.1	5.2
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>200.0</b>	<b>208.6</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>86.9</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>294.0</b>	<b>311.1</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>97.3</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>93.8</b>
Food & Beverages	99.6	104.1	8.8	31.6	8.7	30.5
Durable Goods	120.1	127.3	12.1	39.4	9.6	36.9
Others	74.3	79.7	6.9	26.3	6.6	26.4
<b>Fuel and Lubricants</b>	<b>102.8</b>	<b>101.9</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>37.9</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>960.7</b>	<b>928.3</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>298.3</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>308.9</b>
Domestic	797.3	816.7	65.7	258.5	62.2	269.1
Re-Exports	163.4	111.6	11.6	39.8	11.9	39.8
<b>Visible Trade Gap</b>	<b>-266.8</b>	<b>-350.9</b>	<b>-39.7</b>	<b>-124.2</b>	<b>-31.3</b>	<b>-107.2</b>

<sup>p</sup> Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

### Commentary

In April 2004, imports totalled Lm105.4 million, as against Lm117.0 million in April last year. The importation of Industrial Supplies dropped by Lm7.1 million, while Capital Goods and Consumer Goods show a decrease of Lm1.9 million and Lm2.9 million respectively. On the other hand, imports of Fuel and Lubricants increased marginally by Lm0.3 million, compared to April 2003. In the month under review, total exports were down by Lm3.2 million, from Lm77.3 million to Lm74.1 million. Domestic exports decreased by Lm3.5 million, while re-exports were up by Lm0.3 million.

### Merchandise Trade: January - April

Imports for the period January-April 2004 went down by Lm6.4 million or 1.5 per cent, to Lm416.1 million from Lm422.5 million for the same period of 2003.

Imports of Industrial Supplies decreased by Lm21.1 million or 9.7 per cent, while Capital Goods imports went up to Lm86.9 million from Lm72.1 million, representing a substantial increase of Lm14.8 million or 20.5 per cent. This increase is attributed to the registration of luxury sea-craft. Consumer Goods dropped by Lm3.5 million or 3.6 per cent, from Lm97.3 million to Lm93.8 million. Fuel imports show a rise of Lm3.4 million from Lm34.5 to Lm37.9 million.

In the period under review, total exports increased by Lm10.6 million or 3.6 per cent, to Lm308.9 million from Lm298.3 million. There was an increase of Lm10.6 million or 4.1 per cent in domestic exports from Lm258.5 million to Lm269.1 million. Figures for re-exports remained unchanged at Lm39.8 million.

### Visible Trade Gap

In the first four months of this year, the visible trade gap narrowed by Lm17.0 million to Lm107.2 million from Lm124.2 million of the same period of the previous year.

### Direction of Trade

The European Union remained the main trading partner during the first four months of 2004. Malta bought Lm287.9 million worth of goods, representing 69.2 per cent of total imports. Imports from Asia and America totalled Lm69.5 million and Lm33.3 million respectively.

Total exports to the European Union for the period January-April 2004 reached Lm139.7 million or 45.2 per cent. Exports to Asia stood at Lm77.9 million, or 25.2 per cent, while those to America reached Lm51.5 million, or 16.7 per cent.

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**Table 2. Sectoral Imports and Exports: April 2003 - 2004**

	2003	2004 <sup>P</sup>	2004-2003 <sup>P</sup>
	Lm million		
Imports	<b>117.0</b>	<b>105.4</b>	<b>-11.6</b>
Exports	<b>65.7</b>	<b>62.2</b>	<b>-3.5</b>
Re-Exports	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Imports by Section</b>			
Food	11.3	8.9	-2.4
Beverages and Tobacco	1.9	1.1	-0.8
Crude Materials	1.1	0.7	-0.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	7.6	7.9	0.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.3	0.3	-
Chemicals	8.9	10.5	1.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	13.3	12.5	-0.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	58.8	51.7	-7.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	13.0	10.8	-2.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.8	1.0	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>117.0</b>	<b>105.4</b>	<b>-11.6</b>
<b>Domestic Exports by Section</b>			
Food	1.4	1.7	0.3
Beverages and Tobacco	0.1	0.1	-
Crude Materials	0.2	0.1	-0.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	0.0	-	-0.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-	-	-
Chemicals	0.6	2.3	1.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	3.6	3.1	-0.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	46.1	43.0	-3.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	13.7	11.9	-1.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.0	0.0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>62.2</b>	<b>-3.5</b>
<b>Re-Exports by Section</b>			
Food	0.1	0.0	-0.1
Beverages and Tobacco	1.8	0.6	-1.2
Crude Materials	0.0	0.0	-
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	5.3	4.1	-1.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	-	-0.0
Chemicals	0.4	0.2	-0.2
Semi-Manufactured Goods	0.3	0.2	-0.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2.5	4.4	1.9
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	1.2	2.3	1.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.0	0.1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>

Notes: The commodity breakdown is in accordance with S.I.T.C. Rev. 3.

Totals may not add up due to rounding.

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

**Table 3. Sectoral Imports and Exports: January - April 2003 - 2004**

	2003	2004 <sup>P</sup>	2004-2003 <sup>P</sup>
	Lm million		
Imports	<b>422.5</b>	<b>416.1</b>	<b>-6.4</b>
Exports	<b>258.5</b>	<b>269.1</b>	<b>10.6</b>
Re-Exports	<b>39.8</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Imports by Section</b>			
Food	36.9	32.1	-4.8
Beverages and Tobacco	7.8	5.1	-2.7
Crude Materials	4.1	3.6	-0.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	34.6	38.0	3.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.9	0.9	-
Chemicals	31.8	37.3	5.5
Semi-Manufactured Goods	48.6	44.2	-4.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	210.6	208.7	-1.9
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	43.0	42.3	-0.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	4.2	3.9	-0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>422.5</b>	<b>416.1</b>	<b>-6.4</b>
<b>Domestic Exports by Section</b>			
Food	4.7	6.3	1.6
Beverages and Tobacco	0.5	1.0	0.5
Crude Materials	0.9	0.9	-
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	0.0	0.0	-
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	-	-0.0
Chemicals	2.8	9.5	6.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	14.9	14.8	-0.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	176.9	181.8	4.9
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	57.7	54.7	-3.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.1	0.1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>258.5</b>	<b>269.1</b>	<b>10.6</b>
<b>Re-Exports by Section</b>			
Food	0.6	0.2	-0.4
Beverages and Tobacco	4.9	3.3	-1.6
Crude Materials	0.0	0.0	-
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	18.8	17.4	-1.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	-	-0.0
Chemicals	1.2	0.9	-0.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	1.0	1.2	0.2
Machinery and Transport Equipment	10.1	12.2	2.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	2.4	4.4	2.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.8	0.2	-0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>-</b>

Notes: The commodity breakdown is in accordance with S.I.T.C. Rev. 3.

Totals may not add up due to rounding.

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

**Table 4. Direction of Trade**

Lm (million)

	2003	2004 <sup>P</sup>	Jan - Apr 2003	Jan - Apr 2004 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>				
European Union	78.2	70.4	285.0	287.9
EFTA	2.4	1.8	9.6	7.2
Africa	0.7	2.5	3.8	5.7
America	11.3	10.3	40.5	33.3
Asia	19.4	18.5	65.5	69.5
Oceania & Australia	0.8	0.2	2.4	1.1
Other	4.2	1.7	15.7	11.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>117.0</b>	<b>105.4</b>	<b>422.5</b>	<b>416.1</b>
<b>Exports</b>				
European Union	34.3	35.6	141.0	139.7
EFTA	0.2	0.8	1.0	2.3
Africa	4.5	2.4	12.2	12.2
America	12.1	11.6	41.3	51.5
Asia	19.3	18.3	76.0	77.9
Oceania & Australia	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Other	6.8	5.3	26.7	25.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>298.3</b>	<b>308.9</b>

<sup>P</sup> = Provisional

Note: Figures may not add up due to rounding

