

News Release



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International trade

April 2005

In April this year, total imports reached Lm104.5 million. This figure is Lm21.5 million less when compared to April 2004.

The importation of Industrial Supplies decreased by Lm9.7 million to Lm46.5 million from Lm56.2 million. There was also a decrease of Lm10.0 million in imports of Capital Goods, mainly due to last years' registration of luxury yachts under the VAT on Yachts Scheme. Consumer Goods imports show a decrease of Lm1.5 million from Lm30.9 million last year to Lm29.4 million this year, while the importation of Fuel and Lubricants also decreased marginally by Lm0.3 million.

In the month under review, total exports show a decrease of Lm10.9 million to Lm65.6 million from Lm76.5 million of April 2004.

Merchandise Trade: January-April

Total imports for the period January-April 2005 decreased by Lm39.3 million or 9.0 per cent to Lm399.6 million from Lm438.9 million for the same period of last year.

Imports of Industrial Supplies decreased by Lm11.7 million or 5.9 per cent to Lm185.6 million. The importation of Capital Goods went down to Lm69.4 million, representing a decrease of Lm27.0 million or 28.0 per cent. On the other hand Consumer Goods imports increased by Lm4.3 million or 4.2 per cent from Lm102.1 million to Lm106.4 million. Imports of Fuel and Lubricants registered a decrease of Lm4.9 million or 11.4 per cent.

In the period January-April 2005, total exports went down by Lm61.3 million or 19.6 per cent from Lm312.2 million of the same period of 2004.

Visible Trade Gap

During April 2005 the visible trade gap narrowed by Lm10.6 million to Lm38.9 million from Lm49.5 million of the same month of 2004, with the overall visible trade gap for the first four months of 2005 widening by Lm22.0 million to Lm148.7 million from Lm126.7 million reported in the period January-April 2004.

Direction of Trade

In the first four months of 2005, the European Union remained the main trading partner of Malta, with arrivals reaching Lm288.1 million or 72.1 per cent of total imports. The main trading partners within the EU were Italy, the United Kingdom, France and Germany with Lm117.1 million, Lm48.9 million, Lm37.6 million and Lm33.2 million respectively. Imports from Asia totalled Lm56.2 million, or 14.1 per cent of total imports, with Singapore registering Lm18.4 million followed by Japan with Lm9.3 million

Total dispatches to the European Union for the period January-April 2005 amounted to Lm129.8 million, representing 51.7 per cent of the total figure for exports. France, with Lm39.3 million, followed by the United Kingdom with Lm30.4 million and Germany with Lm29.0 million were the three main partners within the EU. Exports to Asia stood at Lm50.6 million, or 20.2 per cent, while those to North and Central America reached Lm43.2 million, or 17.2 per cent ■

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Table 1. Trade by final use

Lm (million)

	2003	2004 ^P	April		January-April	
			2004 ^P	2005 ^P	2004 ^P	2005 ^P
Imports	1,281.3	1,316.8	126.0*	104.5	438.9*	399.6
Industrial Supplies	657.6	620.6	56.2	46.5	197.3	185.6
Primary	17.6	15.5	0.7	1.4	3.3	5.4
Semi-Finished	621.0	581.7	54.2	43.3	188.7	173.9
Finished	19.0	23.4	1.3	1.8	5.3	6.3
Capital Goods and Others	210.7	247.1	26.2*	16.2	96.4*	69.4
Consumer Goods	311.1	344.7	30.9	29.4	102.1	106.4
Food & Beverages	104.1	119.3	11.7	8.8	33.8	33.4
Durable Goods	127.3	135.6	11.2	14.0	38.6	45.5
Others	79.7	89.8	8.0	6.6	29.7	27.5
Fuel and Lubricants	101.9	104.4	12.7	12.4	43.1	38.2
Exports	928.3	914.9	76.5	65.6	312.2	250.9
Visible Trade Gap	-353.0	-401.9	-49.5	-38.9	-126.7	-148.7

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

^P Provisional

* Includes value of luxury yachts imported under the VAT on Yachts scheme

Table 2. Balance of trade

Lm (million)

	April		January-April	
	2004 ^P	2005 ^P	2004 ^P	2005 ^P
Imports	126.0	104.5	438.9	399.6
Total Exports	76.5	65.6	312.2	250.9
Sectoral Balance				
Food	-9.6	-7.8	-27.9	-30.0
Beverages and Tobacco	-1.0	-0.7	-2.3	-1.8
Crude Materials	-0.6	-0.9	-2.8	-2.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-8.6	-11.8	-25.2	-36.6
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-0.6	-0.1	-1.1	-0.7
Chemicals	-9.3	-6.7	-28.3	-28.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-11.3	-6.7	-30.4	-25.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-10.3	-3.6	-20.8	-26.7
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	2.7	-0.2	15.6	6.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-0.9	-0.4	-3.5	-2.7
Total Balance	-49.5	-38.9	-126.7	-148.7

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

Totals may not add up due to rounding.

^P Provisional

Table 3. Sectoral imports and exports: April 2004 - 2005

Lm (million)

	2004 ^P	2005 ^P	2005-2004 ^P
Imports	126.0	104.5	-21.5
Total Exports	76.5	65.6	-10.9
Imports by Section			
Food	11.5	9.1	-2.4
Beverages and Tobacco	1.7	1.2	-0.5
Crude Materials	0.8	1.1	0.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	12.7	12.4	-0.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.6	0.1	-0.5
Chemicals	11.8	9.1	-2.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	15.0	12.1	-2.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	58.8	45.0	-13.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	12.2	14.0	1.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.9	0.4	-0.5
Total	126.0	104.5	-21.5
Total Exports by Section			
Food	1.9	1.3	-0.6
Beverages and Tobacco	0.7	0.5	-0.2
Crude Materials	0.2	0.2	-
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	4.1	0.6	-3.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-	-	-
Chemicals	2.5	2.4	-0.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	3.7	5.4	1.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	48.5	41.4	-7.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	14.9	13.8	-1.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-	0.0	0.0
Total	76.5	65.6	-10.9

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

Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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Table 4. Sectoral imports and exports: January-April 2004 - 2005

	Lm (million)		
	2004 ^P	2005 ^P	2005-2004 ^P
Imports	438.9	399.6	-39.3
Total Exports	312.2	250.9	-61.3
Imports by Section			
Food	34.7	35.6	0.9
Beverages and Tobacco	6.6	4.2	-2.4
Crude Materials	3.7	4.0	0.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	43.2	38.2	-5.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	1.1	0.7	-0.4
Chemicals	38.8	36.3	-2.5
Semi-Manufactured Goods	46.8	44.6	-2.2
Machinery and Transport Equipment	216.1	184.4	-31.7
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	44.2	48.9	4.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	3.7	2.7	-1.0
Total	438.9	399.6	-39.3
Total Exports by Section			
Food	6.8	5.6	-1.2
Beverages and Tobacco	4.3	2.4	-1.9
Crude Materials	0.9	1.1	0.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	18.0	1.6	-16.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-	-	-
Chemicals	10.5	8.2	-2.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	16.4	18.8	2.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	195.3	157.7	-37.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	59.8	55.5	-4.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.2	-	-0.2
Total	312.2	250.9	-61.3

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

Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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Table 5. Direction of trade

(Lm million)

Region and Country	2004 ^P								2005 ^P							
	April				January-April				April				January-April			
	Arr	Disp	Imp	Exp	Arr	Disp	Imp	Exp	Arr	Disp	Imp	Exp	Arr	Disp	Imp	Exp
European Union	91.7	39.1			313.2	148.6			73.0	34.3			288.1	129.8		
of which																
France	16.5	11.1			65.4	44.9			9.3	9.9			37.6	39.3		
Germany	13.5	10.1			38.2	34.4			7.9	8.2			33.2	29.0		
Italy	27.9	3.1			98.8	10.6			29.4	2.8			117.1	8.5		
United Kingdom	16.9	9.9			54.2	36.9			10.1	7.6			48.9	30.4		
Other European Countries			2.9	1.1			16.4	3.2			4.8	0.7			15.4	2.8
of which																
Switzerland			1.6	0.1			6.2	0.6			0.9	0.2			5.2	0.8
Turkey			0.7	0.2			4.7	0.9			1.9	0.1			5.3	0.4
Africa			2.4	2.5			5.6	12.1			7.1	6.0			18.0	19.4
of which																
Egypt			1.6	0.1			1.8	0.6			5.8	0.2			15.4	0.9
Libya			0.5	1.8			2.3	8.4			0.6	3.9			0.8	12.7
North and Central America			8.1	11.1			29.4	49.9			4.7	11.5			18.4	43.2
of which																
United States			7.5	10.8			28.1	48.2			4.4	10.6			17.4	39.7
West Indies			0.0	0.1			0.1	0.3			0.0	0.1			0.0	1.1
South America			2.1	0.2			3.8	1.2			0.6	0.3			2.4	1.8
Asia			18.5	18.3			69.3	77.8			14.2	12.0			56.2	50.6
of which																
China			2.3	1.2			8.8	3.1			1.7	0.6			5.9	1.9
Japan			2.3	1.5			8.2	6.4			1.9	1.2			9.3	4.6
Korea Republic of			0.6	1.1			3.0	4.0			0.7	0.2			4.0	1.0
Malaysia			2.0	0.1			8.9	1.7			2.0	0.4			6.7	0.8
Singapore			6.0	11.4			19.9	46.0			4.5	6.6			18.4	27.9
Australia and Oceania			0.3	0.1			1.1	0.3			0.1	0.0			1.1	0.4
Ships & Aircraft Stores			-	4.0			-	18.8			-	0.6			-	1.8
TOTAL TRADE	91.7	39.1	34.3	37.4	313.2	148.6	125.7	163.6	73.0	34.3	31.5	31.3	288.1	129.8	111.5	121.1

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

^P Provisional

Table 6. Trade by commodity

Lm'000

CHP NO	Commodity description	2004 ^P		2005 ^P	
		April	January - April	April	January - April
		Main Imports			
02	Meat	2,659	5,025	1,097	4,614
04	Dairy produce	1,492	4,241	924	3,887
19	Cereal preparations, biscuits, etc	1,170	3,878	1,258	4,841
27	Mineral petroleum	12,735	43,192	12,376	38,335
29	Organic chemicals	1,547	4,023	558	2,693
30	Pharmaceutical products	2,883	9,802	2,125	8,867
33	Toilet preparations	1,658	5,078	1,686	5,205
39	Plastics and articles thereof	4,943	16,984	4,225	16,346
48	Paper and articles thereof	3,728	11,698	2,392	8,716
61	Knitted clothing	1,254	4,595	1,641	5,392
62	Woven clothing	1,284	5,303	2,252	6,648
64	Footwear	1,020	2,380	1,411	3,400
71	Gold,silver and articles thereof	1,305	5,157	849	4,135
72	Iron and steel	1,241	4,229	852	4,469
73	Articles or iron and steel	1,642	4,701	1,606	5,143
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	10,411	34,888	9,840	38,123
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	37,810	129,934	29,299	116,651
87	Motor vehicles	5,512	18,688	5,211	20,091
90	Scientific instruments	2,183	8,650	2,179	10,794
94	Furniture	1,990	5,383	2,242	7,150
		Main Exports			
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	933	4,215	1,023	4,753
27	Mineral petroleum	4,082	18,004	535	1,540
30	Pharmaceutical products	1,387	4,047	381	2,058
39	Plastics and articles thereof	818	3,738	1,173	4,641
40	Rubber and articles thereof	1,684	7,708	2,225	7,754
49	Printed matter	2,030	11,566	2,706	12,308
60	Knitted fabrics	830	3,530	1,495	5,200
62	Woven clothing	5,282	19,043	2,740	11,740
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	6,264	19,020	4,411	15,579
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	39,254	167,062	34,400	134,275
87	Motor vehicles	1,882	6,633	1,676	5,930
90	Scientific instruments	3,500	10,663	3,258	11,015
95	Toys and games	2,464	10,026	2,527	8,929

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Methodological notes

1. The data in this release are based on
 - a. the Customs Declarations for imports from and exports to countries that are not Members States of the European Union (EU) and, on
 - b. the Intrastat Supplementary Declaration that traders in merchandise goods must submit in respect of Arrivals (Imports) and the Dispatches (Exports) of goods from and to the Member States of the EU.
2. 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 the 1 May 2004. The requirements of the Supplementary Declaration, which at EU level was introduced as from the 1 January 1993, are similar in all the Member States of the EU.
3. As from May 2004, it was no longer possible to disaggregate total exports into domestic exports and re-exports. With the introduction of the Intrastat Supplementary Declaration as the source document for trade statistics, such a breakdown was no longer possible
4. The data in this release are provisional and therefore subject to revision. Regular revisions to monthly and annual trade data may be carried out for up to two (2) years after the reference period.
5. Imports and exports from and to the EU (24 member states), for the months of January to April 2004 are shown under Arrivals/Dispatches respectively for comparison purposes. However, although close, these breakdowns are not exactly comparable.