

News Release



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External Trade

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International trade

January 2005

In January this year, total imports reached Lm102.3 million. This figure is Lm10.9 million more when compared to January 2004.

The importation of Industrial Supplies increased by Lm4.2 million to Lm47.8 million while imports of Capital Goods was also up by Lm7.3 million from Lm13.4 million to Lm20.7 million. There was also an increase in imports of Consumer Goods by Lm2.5 million. On the other hand Fuel and Lubricants imports for January 2005 dropped by Lm3.1 million compared to the same month of 2004.

In the month under review, total exports show a decrease of Lm1.7 million to Lm69.1 million from Lm70.8 million of the previous year.

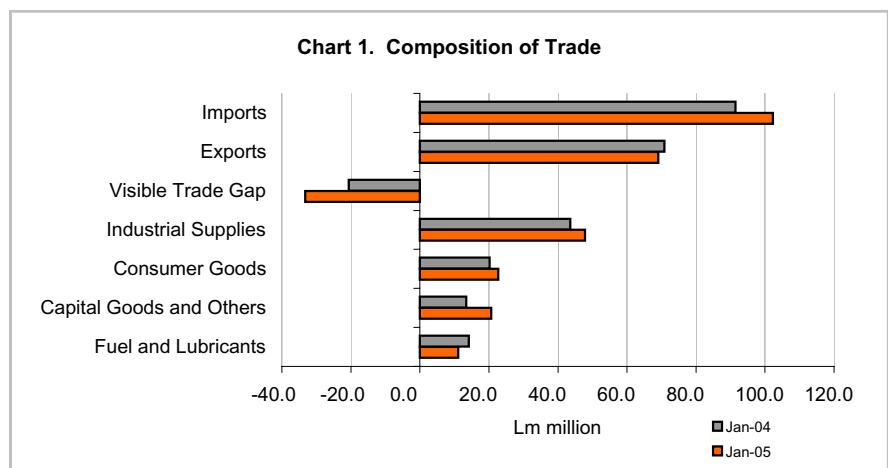
Visible Trade Gap

During January 2005 the visible trade gap widened by Lm12.6 million to Lm33.2 million from Lm20.6 million of the same period of 2004.

Direction of Trade

In the month under review, the European Union remained the main trading partner of Malta, with arrivals reaching Lm75.0 million or 73.3 per cent of total imports. The main trading partners within the EU were Italy, the United Kingdom, France and Germany with Lm29.8 million, Lm14.3 million, Lm10.4 million and Lm7.6 million respectively. Imports from Asia totalled Lm15.0 million, or 14.7 per cent, with Singapore registering Lm5.7 million.

Total dispatches to the European Union amounted to Lm31.1 million, representing 45.0 per cent of the total figure for exports. France, with Lm10.9 million, was the main partner within the EU. Exports to Asia stood at Lm13.3 million, or 19.3 per cent, while those to North and Central America reached Lm9.3 million, or 13.5 per cent. Ships and Aircraft Stores totalled Lm10.3 million ■



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Table 1. Trade by final use

Lm (million)

	2003	2004 ^P	2004	2005 ^P
			January	January
Imports	1,281.3	1,316.8	91.4	102.3
Industrial Supplies	657.6	620.6	43.6	47.8
Primary	17.6	15.5	1.3	1.4
Semi-Finished	621.0	581.7	40.7	44.9
Finished	19.0	23.4	1.6	1.5
Capital Goods and Others	210.7	247.1	13.4	20.7
Consumer Goods	311.1	344.7	20.2	22.7
Food & Beverages	104.1	119.3	7.0	7.8
Durable Goods	127.3	135.6	7.0	8.7
Others	79.7	89.8	6.2	6.2
Fuel and Lubricants	101.9	104.4	14.2	11.1
Exports	928.3	914.9	70.8	69.1
Visible Trade Gap	-353.0	-401.9	-20.6	-33.2

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

^P Provisional

Table 2. Balance of trade

Lm (million)

	January	
	2004	2005 ^P
Imports	91.4	102.3
Total Exports	70.8	69.1
Sectoral Balance		
Food	-6.6	-7.3
Beverages and Tobacco	-0.3	-0.4
Crude Materials	-0.4	-0.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-11.6	-0.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-0.2	-0.2
Chemicals	6.0	-7.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-5.2	-4.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2.6	-12.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	7.7	0.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-0.6	-1.3
Total Balance	-20.6	-33.2

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: January 2004 - 2005

	Lm (million)		
	2004	2005 ^P	2005-2004 ^P
Imports	91.4	102.3	10.9
Total Exports	70.8	69.1	-1.7
Imports by Section			
Food	7.8	8.7	0.9
Beverages and Tobacco	1.4	1.0	-0.4
Crude Materials	0.8	0.7	-0.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	14.2	11.2	-3.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.2	0.2	-
Chemicals	7.8	8.7	0.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	9.1	8.7	-0.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	41.8	50.3	8.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	7.7	11.5	3.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.6	1.3	0.7
Total	91.4	102.3	10.9
Total Exports by Section			
Food	1.2	1.4	0.2
Beverages and Tobacco	1.1	0.6	-0.5
Crude Materials	0.4	0.2	-0.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2.6	10.5	7.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-	-	-
Chemicals	1.8	1.4	-0.4
Semi-Manufactured Goods	3.9	4.7	0.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	44.4	37.9	-6.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	15.4	12.4	-3.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.0	-	-0.0
Total	70.8	69.1	-1.7

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

Totals may not add up due to rounding.

^P Provisional

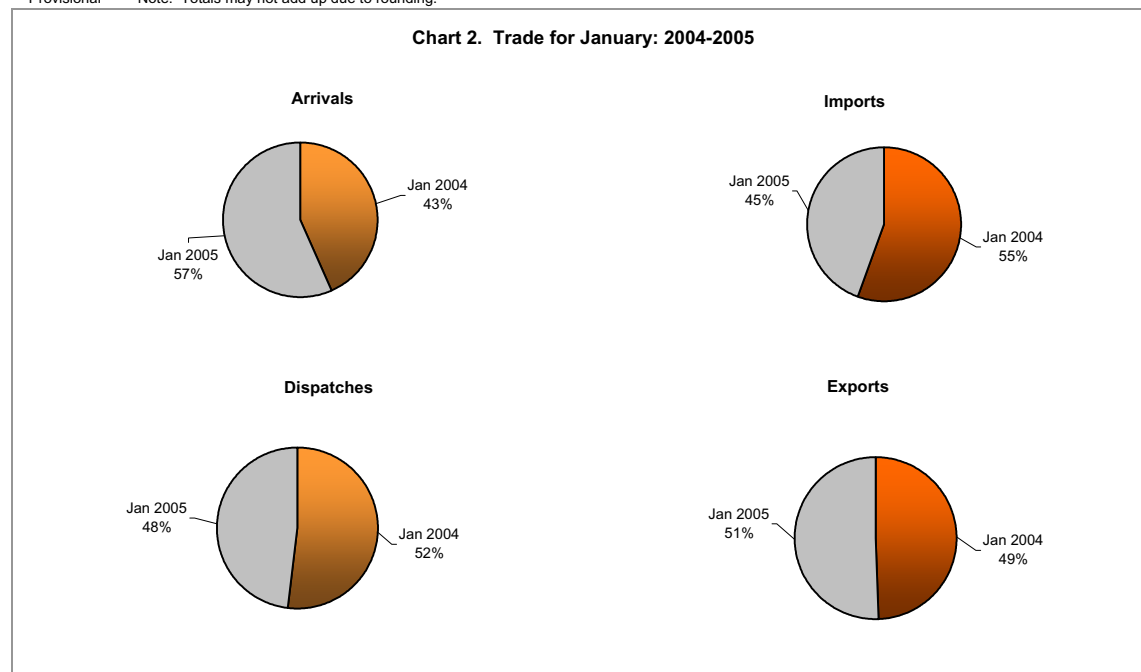
Table 4. Direction of trade: January 2004-2005

Lm'000

Region and Country	2004				2005*			
	January				January			
	Arrivals	Dispatches	Imports	Exports	Arrivals	Dispatches	Imports	Exports
European Union	57,464	33,736			75,043	31,065		
of which:								
France	16,412	9,556			10,442	10,914		
Germany	6,332	7,325			7,556	6,459		
Italy	16,172	2,534			29,827	2,170		
United Kingdom	8,756	9,226			14,258	6,492		
Other European Countries			7,371	261			3,099	872
of which:			1,320	73			1,866	195
Switzerland			2,471	98			785	244
Turkey								
Africa			1,766	2,598			3,762	2,950
of which:								
Egypt			166	271			3,283	386
Libya			1,382	1,694			80	1,697
North and Central America			6,891	13,460			4,330	9,308
of which:								
United States			6,624	12,906			4,201	8,182
West Indies			15	38			4	23
South America			403	540			875	982
Asia			17,068	17,087			15,005	13,318
of which:								
Japan			1,941	1,145			2,790	1,620
Korea Republic of			932	1,068			1,208	150
Malaysia			1,515	592			1,358	182
Singapore			3,427	10,240			5,733	7,205
Australia and Oceania			446	47			227	307
Ships & Aircraft Stores				2,996				10,309
TOTAL TRADE	57,464	33,736	33,963	37,027	75,043	31,065	27,302	38,069

* Provisional Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 2. Trade for January: 2004-2005



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.