

News Release

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NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE - MALTA

International trade

May 2006

In May this year, total imports reached Lm112.5 million. This figure is Lm8.3 million less when compared to May 2005.

The importation of Industrial Supplies increased by Lm5.0 million to Lm56.1 million. At the same time imports of Capital Goods, Consumer Goods and Fuel and Lubricants all registered decreases of Lm4.7 million, Lm1.2 million and Lm7.4 million respectively when compared to the figures of last year.

In the month under review, total exports show an increase of Lm10.9 million to Lm82.9 million from Lm72.0 million in respect of May of the previous year.

Merchandise Trade: January-May

Total imports for the period January-May 2006 increased by Lm52.4 million or 10.1 per cent to Lm571.3 million from Lm518.9 million for the same period of last year.

Imports of Industrial Supplies increased by Lm26.2 million or 11.0 per cent to Lm264.0 million, with the importation of Capital Goods also going up to Lm111.0 million, representing an increase of Lm19.3 million or 21.0 per cent. Meanwhile, Consumer Goods imports increased by Lm7.0 million or 5.0 per cent from Lm140.6 million to Lm147.6 million. Imports of Fuel and Lubricants registered a marginal decrease of Lm0.1 million or 0.2 per cent.

In the period January-May 2006, total exports increased by Lm49.9 million or 15.3 per cent to Lm375.8 million from Lm325.9 million of the same period of 2005.

Visible Trade Gap

During May 2006 the visible trade gap narrowed by Lm19.2 million to Lm29.6 million from Lm48.8 million of the same month of 2005, with the overall visible trade gap for the first five months of 2006 widening by Lm2.5 million to Lm195.5 million from Lm193.0 million reported in the period January-May 2005.

Direction of Trade

During the first five months of 2006, arrivals from European Union countries reached Lm379.8 million or 66.5 per cent of total imports. The main trading partners within the EU were Italy, the United Kingdom, Germany and France with Lm158.9 million, Lm54.8 million, Lm48.6 million and Lm45.1 million respectively. Imports from Asia totalled Lm94.6 million, or 16.6 per cent of total imports, with Singapore registering Lm23.7 million followed by China with Lm14.0 million and Japan with Lm13.8 million. Figures indicate that imports from North and Central American countries totalled Lm43.4 million or 7.6 per cent, of which Lm39.3 million coming from the United States, while those from other European countries reaching Lm24.4 million or 4.3 per cent.

Total dispatches to the European Union for the period January-May 2006 amounted to Lm190.7 million, representing 50.7 per cent of the total figure for exports. France, with Lm55.9 million, followed by Germany with Lm49.9 million, the United Kingdom with Lm37.6 million and Italy with Lm13.6 million were the four main trading partners within the EU. Exports to Asia stood at Lm99.3 million, or 26.4 per cent, while those to North and Central American countries reached Lm54.9 million, accounting to 14.6 per cent ■

Theme:
External Trade

Compiled by:

International Trade Statistics Unit
e-mail: intrastat@gov.mt
Tel: 25997169

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National Statistics Office
Library & Information Unit
Lascaris, Valletta CMR 02, Malta
Tel: (+356) 25997219
Fax: (+356) 25997205
e-mail: nso@gov.mt
<http://www.nso.gov.mt>

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Table 1. Trade by final use

Lm (million)

	2004 ^P	2005 ^P	May		Jan-May	
			2005 ^P	2006 ^P	2005 ^P	2006 ^P
Imports	1,309.5	1,318.2	120.8	112.5	518.9	571.3
Industrial Supplies	625.3	593.0	51.1	56.1	237.8	264.0
Primary	16.3	19.8	1.0	1.3	6.5	6.0
Semi-Finished	582.9	537.5	47.6	50.0	221.6	236.5
Finished	26.1	35.7	2.5	4.8	9.7	21.5
Capital Goods and Others	235.6	226.6	24.2	19.5	91.7	111.0
Consumer Goods	341.5	355.7	34.8	33.6	140.6	147.6
Food & Beverages	118.5	122.4	12.4	11.1	46.2	46.7
Durable Goods	136.0	150.6	14.8	15.6	60.8	66.6
Others	87.0	82.7	7.6	6.9	33.6	34.3
Fuel and Lubricants	107.1	142.9	10.7	3.3	48.8	48.7
Exports	906.1	822.0	72.0	82.9	325.9	375.8
Visible Trade Gap	-403.4	-496.2	-48.8	-29.6	-193.0	-195.5

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

^P Provisional

Table 2. Balance of trade

Lm (million)

	May		Jan-May	
	2005 ^P	2006 ^P	2005 ^P	2006 ^P
Imports	120.8	112.5	518.9	571.3
Total Exports	72.0	82.9	325.9	375.8
Sectoral Balance				
Food	-9.0	-7.3	-39.0	-30.1
Beverages and Tobacco	-1.7	-0.5	-3.7	-2.6
Crude Materials	-0.8	-0.6	-3.7	-3.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-9.9	-2.4	-46.5	-45.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-0.4	-0.4	-1.1	-1.2
Chemicals	-8.9	-7.1	-35.1	-31.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-10.1	-9.3	-36.1	-39.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-6.0	5.3	-30.0	-16.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-1.4	-6.4	5.5	-21.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-0.6	-0.9	-3.3	-4.3
Total Balance	-48.8	-29.6	-193.0	-195.5

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: May 2005-2006

	Lm (million)		
	2005 ^p	2006 ^p	2006-2005 ^p
Imports	120.8	112.5	-8.3
Total Exports	72.0	82.9	10.9
Imports by Section			
Food	12.0	10.9	-1.1
Beverages and Tobacco	2.3	1.8	-0.5
Crude Materials	1.1	1.2	0.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	10.7	3.3	-7.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.4	0.4	-
Chemicals	10.5	12.8	2.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	15.0	13.3	-1.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	52.7	47.9	-4.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	15.5	20.0	4.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.6	0.9	0.3
Total	120.8	112.5	-8.3
Total Exports by Section			
Food	3.0	3.6	0.6
Beverages and Tobacco	0.6	1.3	0.7
Crude Materials	0.3	0.6	0.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	0.8	0.9	0.1
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	-	-0.0
Chemicals	1.6	5.7	4.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	4.9	4.0	-0.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	46.7	53.2	6.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	14.1	13.6	-0.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-	0.0	0.0
Total	72.0	82.9	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-May

	Lm (million)		
	2005 ^P	2006 ^P	2006-2005 ^P
Imports	518.9	571.3	52.4
Total Exports	325.9	375.8	49.9
Imports by Section			
Food	47.9	47.9	-
Beverages and Tobacco	6.6	5.9	-0.7
Crude Materials	5.1	5.3	0.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	48.9	48.7	-0.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	1.1	1.2	0.1
Chemicals	47.0	53.0	6.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	59.8	59.4	-0.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	235.4	266.6	31.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	63.8	78.8	15.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	3.3	4.5	1.2
Total	518.9	571.3	52.4
Total Exports by Section			
Food	8.9	17.8	8.9
Beverages and Tobacco	2.9	3.3	0.4
Crude Materials	1.4	1.7	0.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2.4	3.3	0.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	-	-0.0
Chemicals	11.9	22.0	10.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	23.7	20.0	-3.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	205.4	249.8	44.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	69.3	57.7	-11.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.0	0.2	0.2
Total	325.9	375.8	49.9

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 5. Direction of trade

Lm million

Region and Country	2005 ^P								2006 ^P							
	May				Jan-May				May				Jan-May			
	Arr	Dis	Imp	Exp	Arr	Dis	Imp	Exp	Arr	Dis	Imp	Exp	Arr	Dis	Imp	Exp
European Union	90.9	39.0			377.7	172.1			75.9	45.0			379.8	190.7		
of which:																
France	12.0	10.7			49.8	50.0			7.2	12.2			45.1	55.9		
Germany	10.2	8.8			45.9	39.0			12.0	12.2			48.6	49.9		
Italy	38.0	3.1			155.8	3.1			29.5	3.1			158.9	13.6		
United Kingdom	13.3	9.7			57.0	41.0			11.5	8.9			54.8	37.6		
Other European Countries			3.7	1.1			19.1	3.9			4.3	1.7			24.4	6.1
of which:																
Switzerland			1.6	0.7			6.7	1.5			1.8	0.3			10.2	1.4
Turkey			1.9	0.1			7.2	0.5			1.0	0.4			6.6	0.9
Africa			4.6	6.0			22.5	25.1			0.6	4.6			12.7	19.4
of which:																
Egypt			4.1	0.2			19.6	1.0			0.2	0.3			5.2	1.1
Libya			0.1	4.5			0.9	16.9			0.0	3.1			0.1	12.2
Tunisia			0.2	0.7			1.0	2.5			0.1	0.3			0.7	1.3
North and Central America			5.3	11.4			23.7	54.7			7.5	10.5			43.4	54.9
of which:																
United States			5.1	11.0			22.5	50.6			7.3	10.0			39.3	51.6
West Indies			0.0	0.0			0.0	1.2			0.1	0.1			0.5	0.3
South America			1.2	0.2			3.5	2.0			1.0	0.4			3.0	1.6
Asia			14.8	13.3			71.0	63.8			22.5	19.7			94.6	99.3
of which:																
China			2.3	2.2			8.2	9.6			4.3	1.8			14.0	9.2
Hong Kong			0.6	2.2			2.5	9.6			0.5	3.0			3.3	14.1
Japan			1.6	1.0			10.9	5.6			2.8	2.3			13.8	17.4
Korea Republic of			1.0	0.4			4.9	1.4			1.5	0.4			6.5	2.1
Malaysia			1.1	0.1			7.8	1.0			2.4	0.5			10.3	2.5
Singapore			4.2	7.9			22.7	35.8			5.6	9.3			23.7	46.5
Australia and Oceania			0.3	0.1			1.4	0.5			0.6	0.2			12.9	0.7
Ships & Aircraft Stores			-	0.9			-	2.6			-	0.7			-	2.8
TOTAL TRADE	90.9	39.0	29.9	33.0	377.7	172.1	141.2	153.8	75.9	45.0	36.6	37.9	379.8	190.7	191.5	185.1

^P Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 6. Trade by commodity

Lm'000

CHP NO	Commodity description	2005 ^P		2006 ^P	
		May	Jan-May	May	Jan-May
		Main Imports			
02	Meat	1,149	5,793	1,650	6,267
04	Dairy produce	1,067	4,961	977	5,035
08	Edible fruit and nuts	1,514	4,656	817	3,805
19	Cereal preparations, biscuits, etc	1,702	6,552	1,441	6,518
22	Beverages and spirits	1,689	4,974	1,486	4,474
27	Mineral petroleum	10,639	48,973	3,240	49,044
30	Pharmaceutical products	2,186	11,078	2,284	14,612
33	Toilet preparations	1,545	6,814	1,508	5,999
39	Plastics and articles thereof	5,377	21,767	6,894	25,605
44	Wood and articles of wood	911	4,152	865	4,303
48	Paper and articles thereof	2,887	11,624	2,970	12,359
52	Cotton	842	4,367	545	2,321
61	Knitted clothing	1,384	6,798	1,545	6,834
62	Woven clothing	1,928	8,613	1,829	8,272
64	Footwear	705	4,124	778	4,013
71	Gold, silver and articles thereof	1,094	5,298	1,552	6,650
72	Iron and steel	1,680	6,172	1,306	5,400
73	Articles or iron and steel	2,013	7,168	1,447	8,241
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	12,967	51,241	9,420	56,982
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	32,000	148,728	29,382	158,321
87	Motor vehicles	6,286	26,600	5,622	28,765
88	Aircraft and parts	1,322	6,087	3,243	9,677
90	Scientific instruments	3,106	13,969	6,928	23,773
94	Furniture	2,427	9,615	2,119	9,352
		Main Exports			
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,702	6,455	2,229	7,053
29	Organic chemicals	164	3,316	651	3,206
30	Pharmaceutical products	553	4,688	4,078	15,564
33	Toilet preparations	674	2,842	372	1,181
39	Plastics and articles thereof	1,124	5,793	1,600	6,230
40	Rubber and articles thereof	1,900	9,654	1,642	8,557
49	Printed matter	3,296	15,604	3,057	10,154
60	Knitted fabrics	1,130	6,330	1,649	6,732
62	Woven clothing	2,517	14,286	1,872	10,085
73	Articles or iron and steel	884	3,353	109	1,687
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	4,847	20,536	5,977	18,194
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	38,571	172,920	43,622	214,252
87	Motor vehicles	2,228	8,990	2,609	12,335
90	Scientific instruments	2,507	13,439	2,871	12,023
95	Toys and games	3,113	12,043	2,609	12,274

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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.