

News Release



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International trade

International trade: September 2006

The visible trade gap narrowed by Lm3.7 million in September 2006, implying a widening of Lm57.4 million for the first nine months of the year.

Provisional data for international trade show that the visible trade gap in September 2006 stood at Lm28.8 million, down by Lm3.7 million from the same month of last year. Both imports and exports increased in September 2006 when compared to September 2005, as Table 1 shows. The growth in imports was due to industrial supplies, primarily machinery and transport equipment. The latter commodity group also underpinned the increase in exports during the month.

From the perspective of the first nine months of the year, the visible trade gap widened by Lm57.4 million to stand at Lm396.4 million. This happened as the increase in imports during this period, which amounted to Lm135.8 million, outstripped the increase of Lm78.4 million in exports. Higher import values were registered especially for industrial supplies, but there were also increases in capital goods, fuels and consumer goods. The increase in exports during the period was generated primarily by machinery and transport equipment, chemicals and food, as shown in Table 2.

The bulk of Malta's trade flows continued to be directed to the European Union during the first nine months of 2006, as Table 3 shows ■

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Table 1. Trade by final use

Lm million

	2004 ^P	2005 ^P	September		January-September	
			2005 ^P	2006 ^P	2005 ^P	2006 ^P
Imports	1,307.1	1,318.4	106.7	111.4	941.5	1,077.3
Industrial Supplies	624.1	593.4	50.8	59.4	432.6	514.6
Primary	15.9	19.8	1.5	1.5	14.5	14.0
Semi-Finished	584.7	537.8	47.6	55.7	400.3	467.5
Finished	23.5	35.8	1.7	2.2	17.8	33.1
Capital Goods and Others	235.9	227.3	14.4	13.4	163.6	195.2
Consumer Goods	339.9	355.2	30.0	28.7	257.0	265.6
Food & Beverages	117.0	121.7	9.5	10.4	87.0	88.4
Durable Goods	135.9	150.7	13.3	11.3	109.3	113.5
Others	87.0	82.8	7.2	7.0	60.7	63.7
Fuel and Lubricants	107.2	142.5	11.5	9.9	88.3	101.9
Exports	902.2	823.9	74.2	82.6	602.5	680.9
Visible Trade Gap	-404.9	-494.5	-32.5	-28.8	-339.0	-396.4

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

^P Provisional

Table 2. Balance of trade by major commodity groups

Lm million

	2004 ^P	2005 ^P	September		January-September	
			2005 ^P	2006 ^P	2005 ^P	2006 ^P
Imports	1,307.1	1,318.4	106.7	111.4	941.5	1,077.3
Food	123.0	129.2	10.1	11.0	92.5	92.8
Beverages and Tobacco	22.5	17.6	1.5	1.4	13.3	12.5
Crude Materials	11.7	14.0	1.1	1.1	10.0	10.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	107.6	142.8	11.5	9.9	88.5	102.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	3.0	2.8	0.1	0.2	2.0	2.3
Chemicals	111.4	114.6	9.4	10.0	86.8	93.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	147.3	145.6	11.9	10.2	107.3	105.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	623.7	578.1	44.9	53.1	417.2	512.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	149.8	166.0	15.4	13.3	118.1	137.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	7.1	7.7	0.8	1.2	5.8	8.5
Exports	902.2	823.9	74.2	82.6	602.5	680.9
Food	31.0	30.7	2.2	2.6	22.6	29.4
Beverages and Tobacco	14.2	9.0	1.1	1.0	6.7	5.9
Crude Materials	3.2	2.7	0.2	0.3	2.1	2.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	35.1	9.6	1.3	1.2	6.6	8.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0	-
Chemicals	23.9	40.9	4.6	5.9	29.2	41.2
Semi-Manufactured Goods	50.6	54.2	5.3	5.1	42.3	36.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	576.0	513.2	46.8	52.4	372.7	445.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	167.8	163.4	12.7	14.1	120.2	111.4
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5
Total Balance	-404.9	-494.5	-32.5	-28.8	-339.0	-396.4
Food	-92.0	-98.5	-7.9	-8.4	-69.9	-63.4
Beverages and Tobacco	-8.3	-8.6	-0.4	-0.4	-6.6	-6.6
Crude Materials	-8.5	-11.3	-0.9	-0.8	-7.9	-8.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-72.5	-133.2	-10.2	-8.7	-81.9	-94.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-3.0	-2.8	-0.1	-0.2	-2.0	-2.3
Chemicals	-87.5	-73.7	-4.8	-4.1	-57.6	-51.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-96.7	-91.4	-6.6	-5.1	-65.0	-68.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-47.7	-64.9	1.9	-0.7	-44.5	-67.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	18.0	-2.6	-2.7	0.8	2.1	-25.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-6.7	-7.5	-0.8	-1.2	-5.7	-8.0

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. Direction of trade

Lm million

Region and Country	September						January-September					
	2005 ^p			2006 ^p			2005 ^p			2006 ^p		
	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance
European Union	74.6	38.2	-36.4	76.4	41.4	-35.0	674.0	313.7	-360.3	733.5	352.7	-380.8
of which:												
France	11.0	11.2	0.2	12.5	12.8	0.3	91.3	89.5	-1.8	95.9	103.9	8.0
Germany	8.9	9.3	0.4	8.1	11.6	3.5	80.1	75.2	-4.9	81.1	88.0	6.9
Italy	29.9	4.6	-25.3	32.3	2.9	-29.4	271.5	25.5	-246.0	313.0	25.6	-287.4
United Kingdom	11.7	6.5	-5.2	10.7	6.6	-4.1	104.9	71.4	-33.5	104.8	67.3	-37.5
Euro Zone Area	60.8	28.2	-32.6	63.4	31.0	-32.4	548.3	219.3	-329.0	606.0	352.7	-253.3
Non-European Union	32.1	36.0	3.9	35.0	41.2	6.2	267.5	288.8	21.3	343.8	328.2	-15.6
Other European Countries	3.4	0.9	-2.5	3.0	1.3	-1.7	33.9	6.5	-27.4	41.0	9.3	-31.7
of which:												
Switzerland	1.6	0.2	-1.4	1.5	0.4	-1.1	14.5	2.5	-12.0	16.6	2.4	-14.2
Turkey	1.1	0.3	-0.8	1.1	0.2	-0.9	11.2	1.0	-10.2	12.5	1.3	-11.2
Africa	7.8	5.0	-2.8	0.6	4.2	3.6	45.0	43.5	-1.5	17.9	35.0	17.1
of which:												
Egypt	5.0	0.3	-4.7	0.1	0.3	0.2	37.1	1.8	-35.3	8.0	2.2	-5.8
Libya	0.0	3.1	3.1	0.2	2.3	2.1	1.4	28.2	26.8	0.8	20.6	19.8
Tunisia	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	1.8	4.4	2.6	1.0	2.2	1.2
North and Central America	4.8	10.0	5.2	6.2	10.8	4.6	44.8	91.2	46.4	67.1	90.8	23.7
of which:												
United States	4.5	9.6	5.1	5.8	10.4	4.6	42.1	85.1	43.0	62.2	86.3	24.1
West Indies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.3	1.2	0.4	0.8	0.4
South America	0.5	0.5	-	0.4	0.2	-0.2	5.7	3.6	-2.1	4.4	2.2	-2.2
Asia	15.3	18.0	2.7	24.4	23.4	-1.0	135.4	134.5	-0.9	198.1	181.6	-16.5
of which:												
China	2.1	0.9	-1.2	2.2	2.5	0.3	17.5	4.9	-12.6	37.2	16.3	-20.9
Hong Kong	0.4	2.8	2.4	0.5	3.6	3.1	4.6	17.5	12.9	6.0	25.9	19.9
Japan	1.6	1.3	-0.3	2.9	3.1	0.2	19.0	13.3	-5.7	23.5	27.3	3.8
Korea Republic of	1.1	0.4	-0.7	1.3	0.6	-0.7	8.7	2.8	-5.9	10.7	4.2	-6.5
Malaysia	1.6	0.4	-1.2	3.5	1.2	-2.3	14.1	3.3	-10.8	22.0	5.1	-16.9
Singapore	4.5	10.5	6.0	9.7	11.4	1.7	40.6	73.3	32.7	55.6	85.9	30.3
Australia and Oceania	0.3	0.1	-0.2	0.4	0.2	-0.2	2.6	1.1	-1.5	14.9	1.4	-13.5
Ships & Aircraft Stores	-	1.5	1.5	-	1.0	1.0	-	7.1	7.1	-	7.1	7.1
Grand Total	106.7	74.2	-32.5	111.4	82.6	-28.8	941.5	602.5	-339.0	1,077.3	680.9	-396.4

^p Provisional

Arrivals/Dispatches relate to transactions with EU Member States

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Imports/Exports relate to transactions with non-EU countries

Table 4. Trade by principal traded commodities

		Lm'000			
CHP NO	Commodity description	September		January-September	
		2005 ^P	2006 ^P	2005 ^P	2006 ^P
Main Imports					
02	Meat	1,184	1,526	10,742	12,299
04	Dairy produce	1,132	993	9,740	9,386
08	Edible fruit and nuts	603	749	7,990	6,761
19	Cereal preparations, biscuits, etc	1,335	1,461	11,600	11,914
22	Beverages and spirits	991	1,008	9,918	9,718
27	Mineral petroleum	11,512	9,841	88,962	102,774
30	Pharmaceutical products	2,047	2,505	19,527	25,278
33	Toilet preparations	1,152	1,413	12,686	12,096
39	Plastics and articles thereof	3,930	3,795	39,885	40,355
44	Wood and articles of wood	639	491	7,079	7,098
48	Paper and articles thereof	2,591	2,480	20,402	22,756
52	Cotton	687	266	7,118	3,615
61	Knitted clothing	1,614	1,841	11,483	12,364
62	Woven clothing	2,681	1,918	15,385	14,033
64	Footwear	937	786	6,719	6,310
71	Gold, silver and articles thereof	1,744	1,593	10,226	13,098
72	Iron and steel	1,778	1,439	11,338	10,309
73	Articles or iron and steel	1,182	1,286	13,161	14,764
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	6,784	6,903	90,877	105,611
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	31,165	39,809	261,373	324,619
87	Motor vehicles	5,096	5,450	48,954	50,603
88	Aircraft and parts	1,939	941	11,562	14,768
90	Scientific instruments	2,170	2,741	24,635	39,340
94	Furniture	2,190	1,331	17,473	17,010
Main Exports					
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,471	1,328	15,274	14,740
29	Organic chemicals	470	890	5,740	5,785
30	Pharmaceutical products	3,468	4,687	15,457	29,357
33	Toilet preparations	260	285	5,357	2,421
39	Plastics and articles thereof	1,235	1,572	10,205	11,978
40	Rubber and articles thereof	1,747	1,811	16,103	15,282
49	Printed matter	1,725	2,372	23,237	22,878
60	Knitted fabrics	1,275	1,809	11,746	11,979
62	Woven clothing	2,580	1,840	26,248	17,086
73	Articles or iron and steel	1,610	878	6,745	4,372
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	4,111	3,821	34,592	29,597
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	40,739	47,018	314,861	390,081
87	Motor vehicles	1,229	1,235	16,311	18,799
90	Scientific instruments	2,619	3,999	23,056	23,312
95	Toys and games	2,570	2,334	22,554	22,162

^P Provisional

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, 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.
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.