

News Release



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International trade

International trade: July 2007

The visible trade gap widened by Lm7.2 million in July 2007 when compared to July 2006.

Provisional data for international trade show that the visible trade gap in July 2007 stood at Lm56.3 million, up by Lm7.2 million from the same month of last year. There was an increase in both imports and exports of Lm18.6 million and Lm11.4 million respectively, as Table 1 shows. The increase in imports was mainly due to food, mineral fuels and lubricant materials, chemicals, and semi-manufactured goods. Food, chemicals, semi-manufactured goods and machinery and transport equipment accounted for the increase in exports during July 2007 when compared to the same month of last year.

From the perspective of the first seven months of the year, the visible trade gap narrowed by Lm62.2 million to stand at Lm272.6 million. This came about because of a decrease of Lm32.0 million in imports during this period, while exports increased by Lm30.2 million. Higher import values were registered for fuel and lubricants and consumer goods, while industrial supplies and capital goods imports registered decreases. During this period the increase in exports was generated primarily by chemicals, machinery and transport equipment, miscellaneous manufactured articles and mineral fuels and lubricants, as shown in Table 2.

An analysis of the total trade balance by commodity group, shown in Table 2, indicates that the improvement in the balance for the first seven months of 2007 was mainly due to food, crude materials, machinery and transport equipment, and miscellaneous manufactured articles.

The bulk of Malta's trade flows and consequent trade deficit continued to be directed to the European Union during the first seven months of 2007, as Table 3 shows ■

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Table 1. Trade by final use

Lm million

	2005 ^P	2006 ^P	July		January-July	
			2006 ^P	2007 ^P	2006 ^P	2007 ^P
Imports	1,323.6	1,455.5	122.5	141.1	857.4	825.4
Industrial Supplies	599.1	711.8	62.4	65.5	406.9	392.0
Primary	23.5	27.7	1.2	1.6	19.1	10.9
Semi-Finished	539.9	640.9	57.7	60.7	359.2	360.2
Finished	35.7	43.2	3.5	3.2	28.6	20.9
Capital Goods and Others	228.5	243.1	17.6	23.2	155.6	123.8
Consumer Goods	355.4	369.7	30.3	33.5	212.5	216.3
Food & Beverages	121.6	125.2	10.5	12.7	68.7	72.1
Durable Goods	150.9	157.0	12.0	13.1	93.2	91.7
Others	82.9	87.5	7.8	7.7	50.6	52.5
Fuel and Lubricants	140.6	130.9	12.2	18.9	82.4	93.3
Exports	839.3	950.1	73.4	84.8	522.6	552.8
Visible Trade Gap	-484.3	-505.4	-49.1	-56.3	-334.8	-272.6

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

^P Provisional

Table 2. Balance of trade by major commodity groups

Lm million

	2005 ^P	2006 ^P	July		January-July	
			2006 ^P	2007 ^P	2006 ^P	2007 ^P
Imports	1,323.6	1,455.5	122.5	141.1	857.4	825.4
Food	134.9	141.4	11.0	13.8	82.0	79.6
Beverages and Tobacco	17.4	16.4	1.8	2.0	9.8	12.4
Crude Materials	14.0	14.1	1.3	1.0	7.7	6.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	140.8	131.1	12.2	18.9	82.5	94.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	2.8	3.1	0.2	0.3	1.8	2.2
Chemicals	114.8	125.8	11.0	17.5	73.8	87.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	145.7	146.6	12.0	14.6	86.7	91.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	579.1	680.9	56.5	58.3	394.2	346.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	166.4	184.8	15.1	13.9	112.3	99.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	7.7	11.3	1.4	0.8	6.6	6.4
Exports	839.3	950.1	73.4	84.8	522.6	552.8
Food	47.7	53.0	2.0	3.3	16.8	18.5
Beverages and Tobacco	9.0	8.3	0.4	0.7	4.3	3.5
Crude Materials	2.7	4.0	0.5	1.3	2.4	3.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	9.2	13.1	1.4	1.2	5.7	9.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	40.9	59.4	5.5	11.5	31.3	43.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	54.1	49.2	3.8	4.9	28.9	30.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	512.1	601.7	46.7	49.5	347.9	349.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	163.4	160.6	13.0	12.4	84.9	93.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.4
Total Balance	-484.3	-505.4	-49.1	-56.3	-334.8	-272.6
Food	-87.2	-88.4	-9.0	-10.5	-65.2	-61.1
Beverages and Tobacco	-8.4	-8.1	-1.4	-1.3	-5.5	-8.9
Crude Materials	-11.3	-10.1	-0.8	0.3	-5.3	-2.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-131.6	-118.0	-10.8	-17.7	-76.8	-84.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-2.8	-3.1	-0.2	-0.3	-1.8	-2.2
Chemicals	-73.9	-66.4	-5.5	-6.0	-42.5	-43.5
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-91.6	-97.4	-8.2	-9.7	-57.8	-61.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-67.0	-79.2	-9.8	-8.8	-46.3	3.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-3.0	-24.2	-2.1	-1.5	-27.4	-6.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-7.5	-10.5	-1.3	-0.8	-6.2	-6.0

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	July						January-July					
	2006 ^P			2007 ^P			2006 ^P			2007 ^P		
	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance
European Union	90.9	40.9	-50.0	96.0	44.3	-51.7	596.3	277.7	-318.6	574.9	281.4	-293.5
of which:												
France	13.4	11.6	-1.8	8.7	9.9	1.2	77.4	80.0	2.6	70.3	68.3	-2.0
Germany	9.5	9.9	0.4	13.0	12.7	-0.3	66.9	67.4	0.5	68.1	77.9	9.8
Italy	37.0	2.9	-34.1	35.6	3.6	-32.0	253.9	20.7	-233.2	217.6	23.0	-194.6
United Kingdom	14.8	8.0	-6.8	18.0	8.7	-9.3	81.4	55.5	-25.9	108.9	57.8	-51.1
Euro Zone Area	73.9	29.7	-44.2	74.2	31.1	-43.1	497.0	202.6	-294.4	444.6	200.9	-243.7
Non-European Union	31.6	32.5	0.9	45.1	40.5	-4.6	261.1	244.9	-16.2	250.5	271.4	20.9
Other European Countries	3.5	0.4	-3.1	4.1	0.6	-3.5	33.9	7.4	-26.5	35.4	6.2	-29.2
of which:												
Switzerland	1.7	0.1	-1.6	3.1	0.2	-2.9	12.8	1.8	-11.0	18.8	1.9	-16.9
Turkey	0.8	0.0	-0.8	0.8	0.3	-0.5	10.5	1.0	-9.5	11.4	2.1	-9.3
Africa	0.6	3.2	2.6	0.7	4.3	3.6	16.9	27.6	10.7	5.5	35.0	29.5
of which:												
Egypt	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	7.9	1.6	-6.3	1.1	1.1	0.0
Libya	0.1	1.9	1.8	0.2	2.5	2.3	0.8	16.4	15.6	0.9	17.8	16.9
Tunisia	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.9	1.7	0.8	1.3	1.7	0.4
North and Central America	5.1	8.0	2.9	11.5	9.6	-1.9	54.9	71.6	16.7	47.5	66.5	19.0
of which:												
United States	4.9	7.7	2.8	11.2	9.1	-2.1	50.6	67.7	17.1	44.9	62.3	17.4
West Indies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
South America	0.3	0.1	-0.2	0.7	0.5	-0.2	3.8	1.8	-2.0	6.0	2.0	-4.0
Asia	21.6	19.3	-2.3	27.7	23.7	-4.0	137.0	130.1	-6.9	153.5	153.1	-0.4
of which:												
China	3.1	1.0	-2.1	3.4	0.6	-2.8	22.1	11.9	-10.2	23.3	7.9	-15.4
Hong Kong	1.0	2.6	1.6	0.6	4.3	3.7	4.8	19.1	14.3	3.5	35.3	31.8
Japan	2.0	2.3	0.3	2.0	2.6	0.6	17.3	14.2	-3.1	14.8	19.9	5.1
Korea Republic of	1.0	0.6	-0.4	3.1	0.4	-2.7	8.6	3.2	-5.4	12.1	1.5	-10.6
Malaysia	1.7	0.0	-1.7	2.1	1.2	-0.9	13.9	3.6	-10.3	10.0	2.9	-7.1
Singapore	7.4	10.5	3.1	5.6	11.4	5.8	37.8	65.3	27.5	44.2	67.2	23.0
Australia and Oceania	0.5	0.2	-0.3	0.4	0.4	0.0	14.2	1.0	-13.2	2.4	2.1	-0.3
Ships & Aircraft Stores	-	1.3	1.3	0.0	1.4	1.4	-	5.0	5.0	0.2	6.1	5.9
Grand Total	122.5	73.4	-49.1	141.1	84.8	-56.3	857.4	522.6	-334.8	825.4	552.8	-272.6

^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	July		January-July	
		2006 ^P	2007 ^P	2006 ^P	2007 ^P
		Main Imports			
02	Meat	1,655	1,922	9,261	10,256
04	Dairy produce	1,066	1,113	7,588	7,594
10	Cereals	170	1,002	4,879	7,978
16	Preparations of meat, fish, etc	1,145	1,568	6,210	6,682
17	Sugars and sugar confectionary	416	1,033	2,766	4,180
19	Cereal preparations, biscuits, etc	1,201	1,374	9,224	9,804
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	997	1,392	6,778	6,928
22	Beverages and spirits	1,517	1,419	7,535	7,647
23	Residues and waste	657	1,186	4,412	5,466
27	Mineral petroleum products	12,203	18,887	82,757	93,786
29	Organic chemicals	1,318	7,488	9,430	19,777
30	Pharmaceutical products	2,769	2,497	20,339	18,269
33	Toilet preparations	1,658	1,775	9,368	9,647
34	Soap, organic surface-active agents, etc	694	839	4,064	4,425
39	Plastics and articles thereof	4,201	5,274	32,631	36,724
44	Wood and articles of wood	786	798	6,045	5,498
48	Paper and articles thereof	2,804	2,988	18,324	18,623
49	Printed matter	916	1,032	5,404	7,047
61	Knitted clothing	1,180	900	9,189	8,415
62	Woven clothing	1,268	852	11,031	9,519
71	Gold, silver and articles thereof	2,165	1,549	10,712	10,400
73	Articles of iron and steel	1,802	1,353	12,134	11,583
76	Aluminium and articles thereof	780	825	4,875	5,480
83	Miscellaneous articles of base metals	528	3,431	3,302	6,086
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	10,146	15,165	81,383	70,519
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	39,292	34,456	243,957	220,707
87	Motor vehicles	5,425	7,367	40,784	44,443
88	Aircraft and parts	1,536	1,492	12,686	10,171
90	Scientific instruments	4,166	2,823	33,012	20,678
94	Furniture	2,602	2,550	14,652	16,461
		Main Exports			
03	Fish	223	681	2,062	2,107
19	Cereal preparations, biscuits, etc	212	509	1,546	3,319
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,423	2,007	11,701	10,544
27	Mineral petroleum products	1,418	1,187	5,554	9,393
30	Pharmaceutical products	4,408	9,627	22,196	31,992
33	Toilet preparations	238	701	1,938	2,287
39	Plastics and articles thereof	1,094	1,365	8,918	10,726
40	Rubber and articles thereof	1,633	1,909	12,176	12,656
49	Printed matter	3,086	2,718	16,759	23,654
60	Knitted fabrics	1,008	1,774	9,169	9,769
61	Knitted clothing	768	977	2,862	3,180
62	Woven clothing	2,104	989	14,096	11,028
71	Gold, silver and articles thereof	530	419	2,464	2,966
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	3,276	3,153	23,264	24,410
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	41,319	42,004	302,081	302,249
87	Motor vehicles	1,770	4,095	17,057	19,588
90	Scientific instruments	2,543	2,967	16,953	17,204
95	Toys and games	2,420	2,148	17,206	19,604
99	Special classifications	687	806	3,358	3,325

^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.