

# News Release



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## International Trade

### International Trade: August 2007

*The visible trade gap narrowed by Lm14.1 million (€32.8 million) in August 2007 when compared to August 2006.*

Provisional data for international trade show that the visible trade gap in August 2007 stood at Lm38.4 million, down by Lm14.1 million from the same month of last year. There was a decrease in both imports and exports of Lm15.0 million and Lm0.9 million respectively, as shown in Table 1. The decrease in both flows during August 2007, when compared to the same month last year, was mainly visible in the machinery and transport equipment sector.

From the perspective of the first eight months of the year, the visible trade gap narrowed by Lm71.5 million to stand at Lm315.9 million. This came about because of a decrease of Lm41.2 million in imports during this period, while exports increased by Lm30.3 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 food, chemicals, 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 eight months of 2007 was mainly due to machinery and transport equipment.

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

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**Table 1. Trade by final use**

Lm million

	2005 <sup>p</sup>	2006 <sup>p</sup>	August		January-August	
			2006 <sup>p</sup>	2007 <sup>p</sup>	2006 <sup>p</sup>	2007 <sup>p</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>1,324.5</b>	<b>1,457.4</b>	<b>124.2</b>	<b>109.2</b>	<b>982.6</b>	<b>941.4</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>599.3</b>	<b>712.6</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>467.9</b>	<b>448.1</b>
Primary	23.6	27.7	2.3	1.4	21.4	13.7
Semi-Finished	540.0	641.5	55.6	47.9	415.2	409.6
Finished	35.7	43.4	2.7	3.8	31.3	24.8
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>228.9</b>	<b>243.7</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>182.7</b>	<b>137.6</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>355.8</b>	<b>370.2</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>240.0</b>	<b>248.6</b>
Food and Beverages	121.6	125.3	9.5	10.9	78.2	83.3
Durable Goods	151.3	157.3	10.4	11.3	103.8	104.1
Others	82.9	87.6	7.4	7.9	58.0	61.2
<b>Fuel and Lubricants</b>	<b>140.5</b>	<b>130.9</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>107.1</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>840.5</b>	<b>957.2</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>595.2</b>	<b>625.5</b>
<b>Visible Trade Gap</b>	<b>-484.0</b>	<b>-500.2</b>	<b>-52.5</b>	<b>-38.4</b>	<b>-387.4</b>	<b>-315.9</b>

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

<sup>p</sup> Provisional

**Table 2. Balance of trade by major commodity groups**

Lm million

	2005 <sup>P</sup>	2006 <sup>P</sup>	August		January-August	
			2006 <sup>P</sup>	2007 <sup>P</sup>	2006 <sup>P</sup>	2007 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>1,324.5</b>	<b>1,457.4</b>	<b>124.2</b>	<b>109.2</b>	<b>982.6</b>	<b>941.4</b>
Food	134.6	141.3	9.7	12.5	91.6	93.9
Beverages and Tobacco	17.4	16.5	1.4	2.2	11.2	14.5
Crude Materials	14.0	14.1	2.1	0.9	9.7	7.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	140.8	131.1	9.6	14.3	92.1	108.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	2.8	3.0	0.3	0.2	2.1	2.4
Chemicals	114.8	126.1	10.4	11.8	84.5	99.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	145.8	146.9	9.9	10.3	96.7	102.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	580.1	681.9	66.5	43.4	461.2	392.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	166.5	185.2	13.6	12.7	126.2	114.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	7.7	11.3	0.7	0.9	7.3	7.3
<b>Exports</b>	<b>840.5</b>	<b>957.2</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>595.2</b>	<b>625.5</b>
Food	46.8	52.6	2.3	2.2	19.0	20.4
Beverages and Tobacco	9.0	8.3	0.6	0.8	5.0	4.3
Crude Materials	2.7	4.1	0.1	0.2	2.4	4.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	9.2	13.1	1.1	1.3	6.8	11.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
Chemicals	41.0	65.0	4.1	5.2	35.4	48.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	54.1	49.3	2.9	3.4	31.8	33.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	513.8	603.4	47.9	44.8	396.8	396.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	163.7	160.6	12.6	12.8	97.6	106.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5
<b>Total Balance</b>	<b>-484.0</b>	<b>-500.2</b>	<b>-52.5</b>	<b>-38.4</b>	<b>-387.4</b>	<b>-315.9</b>
Food	-87.8	-88.7	-7.4	-10.3	-72.6	-73.5
Beverages and Tobacco	-8.4	-8.2	-0.8	-1.4	-6.2	-10.2
Crude Materials	-11.3	-10.0	-2.0	-0.7	-7.3	-3.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-131.6	-118.0	-8.5	-13.0	-85.3	-97.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-2.8	-3.0	-0.3	-0.2	-2.1	-2.4
Chemicals	-73.8	-61.1	-6.3	-6.6	-49.1	-50.4
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-91.7	-97.6	-7.0	-6.9	-64.9	-68.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-66.3	-78.5	-18.6	1.4	-64.4	4.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-2.8	-24.6	-1.0	0.1	-28.6	-7.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-7.5	-10.5	-0.6	-0.8	-6.9	-6.8

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

Totals may not add up due to rounding.

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Table 3. Direction of trade

Lm million

Region and Country	August						January-August					
	2006 <sup>P</sup>			2007 <sup>P</sup>			2006 <sup>P</sup>			2007 <sup>P</sup>		
	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance
<b>European Union</b>	<b>77.5</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>-39.7</b>	<b>78.4</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>-45.0</b>	<b>674.8</b>	<b>316.4</b>	<b>-358.4</b>	<b>660.1</b>	<b>316.8</b>	<b>-343.3</b>
of which:												
France	9.9	12.1	2.2	12.9	8.1	-4.8	87.3	92.1	4.8	85.0	76.4	-8.6
Germany	7.9	9.8	1.9	8.1	10.6	2.5	74.9	77.4	2.5	77.6	88.9	11.3
Italy	32.1	2.4	-29.7	23.8	2.1	-21.7	286.3	23.2	-263.1	243.1	25.5	-217.6
United Kingdom	13.9	6.8	-7.1	18.7	6.5	-12.2	95.4	62.8	-32.6	128.3	65.2	-63.1
Euro Zone	61.6	28.3	-33.3	56.4	24.2	-32.2	558.6	231.2	-327.4	660.1	226.3	-433.8
<b>Non-European Union</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>-12.8</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>307.8</b>	<b>278.8</b>	<b>-29.0</b>	<b>281.3</b>	<b>308.7</b>	<b>27.4</b>
<b>Other European Countries</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-5.2</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>-30.2</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>-34.4</b>
of which:												
Switzerland	2.3	0.2	-2.1	2.8	0.1	-2.7	15.2	1.9	-13.3	21.6	2.0	-19.6
Turkey	1.0	0.1	-0.9	2.3	0.0	-2.3	11.4	1.1	-10.3	14.0	2.0	-12.0
<b>Africa</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>31.8</b>
of which:												
Egypt	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	7.9	1.9	-6.0	1.2	1.3	0.1
Libya	0.2	1.9	1.7	0.1	1.4	1.3	1.0	18.3	17.3	1.0	19.2	18.2
Tunisia	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	1.0	1.9	0.9	1.5	1.9	0.4
<b>North and Central America</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>74.7</b>	<b>23.0</b>
of which:												
United States	5.7	8.1	2.4	4.0	7.7	3.7	56.3	75.8	19.5	48.9	70.0	21.1
<b>West Indies</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>South America</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>-4.6</b>
<b>Asia</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>-15.3</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>172.2</b>	<b>150.1</b>	<b>-22.1</b>	<b>172.5</b>	<b>177.2</b>	<b>4.7</b>
of which:												
China	11.3	1.9	-9.4	3.4	0.9	-2.5	33.3	13.8	-19.5	26.8	8.8	-18.0
Hong Kong	0.7	3.1	2.4	0.6	3.5	2.9	5.5	22.2	16.7	4.1	38.9	34.8
Japan	3.2	1.9	-1.3	2.2	2.6	0.4	20.5	16.1	-4.4	16.9	22.4	5.5
Republic of Korea	0.9	0.4	-0.5	2.4	0.9	-1.5	9.4	3.6	-5.8	14.5	2.4	-12.1
Malaysia	4.6	0.3	-4.3	1.5	1.1	-0.4	18.5	3.9	-14.6	11.6	4.0	-7.6
Singapore	8.1	9.5	1.4	3.6	12.8	9.2	45.9	74.9	29.0	47.8	80.0	32.2
<b>Australia and Oceania</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>-13.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
<b>Ships and Aircraft Stores</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.1</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>124.2</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>-52.5</b>	<b>109.2</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>-38.4</b>	<b>982.6</b>	<b>595.2</b>	<b>-387.4</b>	<b>941.4</b>	<b>625.5</b>	<b>-315.9</b>

<sup>P</sup> 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 Member States

Table 4. Trade by principal traded commodities

CHP NO	Commodity description	Lm'000			
		August		January-August	
		2006 <sup>P</sup>	2007 <sup>P</sup>	2006 <sup>P</sup>	2007 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Main Imports</b>					
02	Meat and edible offal	1,522	1,613	10,783	11,881
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc	698	1,893	14,189	6,474
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs, etc.	823	974	8,411	8,633
10	Cereals	459	1,050	5,338	9,028
17	Sugars and sugar confectionary	393	1,016	3,160	5,201
19	Preparations of cereals	1,244	1,347	10,468	11,184
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	650	875	5,043	5,632
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	981	941	7,759	7,934
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	1,186	1,292	8,722	8,973
24	Tobacco and manufactures; tobacco substitutes	191	861	2,582	5,666
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	811	919	6,083	7,352
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	10,161	14,239	92,918	107,910
29	Organic chemicals	1,468	2,629	11,087	22,409
30	Pharmaceutical products	2,712	2,750	23,059	21,099
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,385	1,337	10,764	11,045
39	Plastics and articles	4,313	5,205	36,984	42,086
48	Paper and paperboard articles	2,286	1,788	20,613	20,425
49	Printed books, newspapers, etc	1,311	1,075	6,716	8,489
61	Knitted clothing	1,410	1,434	10,579	10,278
62	Woven clothing	1,304	1,461	12,366	11,180
69	Ceramic products	894	847	6,940	7,126
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	993	1,355	11,705	11,822
72	Iron and steel	582	1,987	8,903	13,396
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,421	1,424	13,679	13,152
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	17,173	7,127	98,624	78,734
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	41,514	28,578	285,705	250,084
87	Vehicles (excl. trains) and parts thereof	4,990	5,397	45,868	50,299
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	1,160	2,468	13,847	12,642
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	3,608	2,243	36,689	23,049
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	1,413	1,529	16,117	18,160
<b>Main Exports</b>					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc	349	594	2,437	2,807
19	Preparations of cereals	135	348	1,680	3,667
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,796	1,256	13,497	11,800
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	1,071	1,195	6,625	10,587
29	Organic chemicals	621	451	4,922	4,989
30	Pharmaceutical products	2,824	4,193	25,025	36,185
39	Plastics and articles thereof	1,501	1,337	10,420	12,064
40	Rubber and articles thereof	1,335	1,455	13,511	14,125
49	Printed matter, newspapers, etc.	3,748	3,018	20,507	26,672
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,001	1,065	10,169	10,834
61	Knitted clothing	507	374	3,369	3,554
62	Woven clothing	1,156	867	15,251	11,896
73	Articles or iron and steel	203	400	3,532	3,871
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	2,809	1,760	26,196	26,411
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	42,838	40,230	345,101	342,893
87	Vehicles (excl. trains) and parts thereof	1,797	2,631	19,346	23,025
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	2,398	3,124	19,242	20,329
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	2,623	2,613	19,829	22,217
99	Special classifications	779	906	4,137	4,231

<sup>P</sup> 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 Member 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.