

# News Release



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**External Trade**

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## International Trade

### International Trade: October 2007

*The visible trade gap widened by Lm6.6 million (€15.4 million) in October 2007 when compared to October 2006.*

Provisional data for international trade show that the visible trade gap in October stood at Lm50.0 million, up by Lm6.6 million from the same month last year. There was a decrease in exports of Lm6.6 million while imports remained practically unchanged, as shown in Table 1a. Food, beverages and tobacco, machinery and transport equipment and miscellaneous manufactured articles, accounted for the main decreases in exports during October when compared to the same month last year.

During the first ten months of the year, the visible trade gap narrowed by Lm58.3 million to Lm402.9 million. This came about because of a decrease of Lm37.4 million in imports during this period, while exports advanced by Lm20.9 million. Lower import values were registered for capital goods and industrial supplies, while fuel and lubricants and consumer goods registered an increase. During this period the increase in exports was generated primarily by chemicals, mineral fuels and lubricants, miscellaneous manufactured articles and crude materials, 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 ten months of 2007 was mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, miscellaneous manufactured articles and crude materials and chemicals.

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

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Table 1a. Trade by final use

Lm million

	2005 <sup>P</sup>	2006 <sup>P</sup>	October		January-October	
			2006 <sup>P</sup>	2007 <sup>P</sup>	2006 <sup>P</sup>	2007 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>1,325.3</b>	<b>1,459.6</b>	<b>131.0</b>	<b>131.0</b>	<b>1,226.4</b>	<b>1,189.0</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>599.7</b>	<b>713.3</b>	<b>62.9</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>590.3</b>	<b>559.0</b>
Primary	23.6	27.8	0.9	7.2	24.0	22.0
Semi-Finished	540.4	642.1	58.1	49.8	528.8	505.0
Finished	35.7	43.4	3.9	3.1	37.5	32.0
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>229.0</b>	<b>244.9</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>213.7</b>	<b>170.7</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>356.1</b>	<b>370.5</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>306.4</b>	<b>320.3</b>
Food and Beverages	121.6	125.3	11.8	14.7	100.6	109.5
Durable Goods	151.5	157.6	16.4	17.5	132.1	134.7
Others	83.0	87.6	8.5	7.7	73.7	76.1
<b>Fuel and Lubricants</b>	<b>140.5</b>	<b>130.9</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>116.0</b>	<b>139.0</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>841.0</b>	<b>957.7</b>	<b>87.6</b>	<b>81.0</b>	<b>765.2</b>	<b>786.1</b>
<b>Visible Trade Gap</b>	<b>-484.3</b>	<b>-501.9</b>	<b>-43.4</b>	<b>-50.0</b>	<b>-461.2</b>	<b>-402.9</b>

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Table 1b. Trade by final use

€ million

	2005 <sup>P</sup>	2006 <sup>P</sup>	October		January-October	
			2006 <sup>P</sup>	2007 <sup>P</sup>	2006 <sup>P</sup>	2007 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>3,087.1</b>	<b>3,400.0</b>	<b>305.2</b>	<b>305.2</b>	<b>2,856.8</b>	<b>2,769.6</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>1,396.9</b>	<b>1,661.5</b>	<b>146.4</b>	<b>140.1</b>	<b>1,375.1</b>	<b>1,302.2</b>
Primary	54.9	64.7	2.1	16.8	56.0	51.2
Semi-Finished	1,258.8	1,495.7	135.3	116.0	1,231.8	1,176.1
Finished	83.3	101.1	9.1	7.3	87.3	74.8
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>533.5</b>	<b>570.4</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>497.8</b>	<b>397.6</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>829.3</b>	<b>863.1</b>	<b>85.6</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>713.7</b>	<b>746.0</b>
Food and Beverages	283.3	292.0	27.6	34.2	234.3	255.0
Durable Goods	352.8	367.0	38.1	40.8	307.7	313.8
Others	193.1	204.1	19.9	17.9	171.7	17.7
<b>Fuel and Lubricants</b>	<b>327.4</b>	<b>305.0</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>270.2</b>	<b>323.8</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>1,959.1</b>	<b>305.0</b>	<b>204.1</b>	<b>188.7</b>	<b>1,782.5</b>	<b>1,831.2</b>
<b>Visible Trade Gap</b>	<b>-1,128.0</b>	<b>-3,095.0</b>	<b>-101.1</b>	<b>-116.5</b>	<b>-1,074.3</b>	<b>-938.4</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>	October		January-October	
			2006 <sup>P</sup>	2007 <sup>P</sup>	2006 <sup>P</sup>	2007 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>1,325.3</b>	<b>1,459.6</b>	<b>131.0</b>	<b>131.0</b>	<b>1,226.4</b>	<b>1,189.0</b>
Food	134.7	141.3	11.9	20.7	114.7	127.4
Beverages and Tobacco	17.4	16.5	1.5	2.1	14.1	18.7
Crude Materials	14.0	14.3	1.2	1.5	12.3	9.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	140.8	131.1	15.2	14.8	116.2	140.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	2.8	3.1	0.3	0.3	2.6	3.1
Chemicals	114.8	126.1	11.8	12.6	106.5	121.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	146.2	147.2	13.2	12.2	120.5	125.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	580.0	683.3	58.2	48.1	572.9	485.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	166.8	185.4	16.8	16.9	157.2	146.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	7.8	11.3	0.9	1.8	9.4	11.1
<b>Exports</b>	<b>841.0</b>	<b>957.7</b>	<b>87.6</b>	<b>81.0</b>	<b>765.2</b>	<b>786.1</b>
Food	46.8	54.6	6.2	1.5	27.8	23.2
Beverages and Tobacco	9.0	8.3	1.0	0.2	7.0	5.3
Crude Materials	2.7	4.0	0.5	0.6	3.3	4.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	9.3	13.3	1.0	1.5	9.0	13.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	41.0	65.0	4.9	9.5	46.2	65.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	54.1	49.5	4.4	4.2	41.7	41.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	514.0	601.5	53.6	50.2	501.5	499.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	163.9	160.8	15.9	13.2	128.1	131.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.6
<b>Total Balance</b>	<b>-484.3</b>	<b>-501.9</b>	<b>-43.4</b>	<b>-50.0</b>	<b>-461.2</b>	<b>-402.9</b>
Food	-87.9	-86.7	-5.7	-19.2	-86.9	-104.2
Beverages and Tobacco	-8.4	-8.2	-0.5	-1.9	-7.1	-13.4
Crude Materials	-11.3	-10.3	-0.7	-0.9	-9.0	-4.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-131.5	-117.8	-14.2	-13.3	-107.2	-126.6
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-2.8	-3.1	-0.3	-0.3	-2.6	-3.1
Chemicals	-73.8	-61.1	-6.9	-3.1	-60.3	-56.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-92.1	-97.7	-8.8	-8.0	-78.8	-83.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-66.0	-81.8	-4.6	2.1	-71.4	14.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-2.9	-24.6	-0.9	-3.7	-29.1	-15.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-7.6	-10.6	-0.8	-1.7	-8.8	-10.5

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	October						January-October					
	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>89.4</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>-48.3</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>-56.3</b>	<b>842.6</b>	<b>398.7</b>	<b>-443.9</b>	<b>844.4</b>	<b>396.9</b>	<b>-447.5</b>
of which:												
France	11.5	12.0	0.5	9.2	11.5	2.3	111.5	114.6	3.1	111.1	97.1	-14.0
Germany	9.4	11.5	2.1	11.5	11.4	-0.1	93.2	101.3	8.1	99.9	111.7	11.8
Italy	36.3	3.4	-32.9	28.3	3.6	-24.7	354.5	29.8	-324.7	297.4	32.9	-264.5
United Kingdom	15.5	7.7	-7.8	23.5	8.1	-15.4	122.1	77.9	-44.2	170.6	80.9	-89.7
Euro Zone	70.7	30.3	-40.4	69.1	29.9	-39.2	694.1	291.6	-402.5	642.0	284.6	-357.4
<b>Non-European Union</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>383.8</b>	<b>366.5</b>	<b>-17.3</b>	<b>344.6</b>	<b>389.2</b>	<b>44.6</b>
<b>Other European Countries</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>-34.3</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>-39.5</b>
of which:												
Switzerland	1.8	0.4	-1.4	2.2	0.2	-2.0	18.5	2.8	-15.7	25.0	2.4	-22.6
Turkey	1.5	0.2	-1.3	0.9	0.6	-0.3	14.0	1.6	-12.4	16.7	2.9	-13.8
<b>Africa</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>35.3</b>
of which:												
Egypt	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	8.4	2.6	-5.8	1.5	1.4	-0.1
Libya	0.1	2.3	2.2	0.7	1.7	1.0	1.3	22.9	21.6	1.9	22.1	20.2
Tunisia	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	1.1	2.5	1.4	1.7	2.6	0.9
<b>North and Central America</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>103.1</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>34.5</b>
of which:												
United States	5.7	11.9	6.2	4.2	9.2	5.0	67.3	98.1	30.8	56.0	88.0	32.0
<b>West Indies</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>South America</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-8.0</b>
<b>Asia</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>225.7</b>	<b>201.0</b>	<b>-24.7</b>	<b>213.7</b>	<b>226.9</b>	<b>13.2</b>
of which:												
China	3.4	2.9	-0.5	4.2	0.8	-3.4	39.0	19.1	-19.9	34.5	10.2	-24.3
Hong Kong	0.5	3.4	2.9	0.3	4.5	4.2	6.5	29.3	22.8	4.7	48.8	44.1
Japan	1.9	5.5	3.6	1.8	2.1	0.3	25.4	24.7	-0.7	20.7	27.1	6.4
Republic of Korea	0.7	0.6	-0.1	2.1	1.3	-0.8	11.4	4.8	-6.6	18.6	4.4	-14.2
Malaysia	1.5	0.8	-0.7	0.9	0.7	-0.2	23.5	5.9	-17.6	14.4	5.2	-9.2
Singapore	16.3	10.9	-5.4	7.4	12.3	4.9	71.9	96.8	24.9	61.6	107.1	45.5
<b>Australia and Oceania</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-13.7</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
<b>Ships and Aircraft Stores</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.4</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>131.0</b>	<b>87.6</b>	<b>-43.4</b>	<b>131.0</b>	<b>81.0</b>	<b>-50.0</b>	<b>1,226.4</b>	<b>765.2</b>	<b>-461.2</b>	<b>1,189.0</b>	<b>786.1</b>	<b>-402.9</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

Lm'000

CHP NO	Commodity description	October		January-October	
		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	1,613	1,703	13,923	15,182
04	Dairy produce; birds' egg	1,196	1,441	10,614	11,563
10	Cereals	298	5,977	6,225	15,374
16	Preparations of meat/fish	971	986	9,043	9,309
17	Sugars and sugar confectionary	528	1,885	4,249	7,414
19	Preparations of cereals	1,867	2,367	13,827	15,151
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	705	928	6,456	7,167
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	958	1,126	9,471	10,107
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	1,049	1,347	10,784	11,498
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials	903	1,053	7,702	9,386
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	15,222	14,787	116,904	140,091
29	Organic chemicals	1,685	2,562	14,134	26,586
30	Pharmaceutical products	3,224	2,418	28,808	25,428
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	736	994	7,652	8,383
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,567	1,448	13,766	14,099
39	Plastics and articles	4,813	6,027	45,766	53,288
48	Paper and paperboard articles	2,823	2,993	26,048	25,769
61	Knitted clothing	1,912	1,916	14,439	14,079
62	Woven clothing	2,192	2,295	16,578	15,238
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,156	1,199	7,526	7,556
69	Ceramic products	998	1,049	8,738	9,026
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	2,002	2,940	15,426	17,172
72	Iron and steel	1,262	1,113	11,588	15,358
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,480	1,356	16,514	16,485
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	8,787	9,196	115,189	96,742
85	Electrical machinery etc.	40,233	30,112	365,135	308,214
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	7,527	7,396	58,936	63,428
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	1,811	1,460	16,601	16,584
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	2,149	1,707	41,792	27,480
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	2,359	2,203	19,934	22,023
<b>Main Exports</b>					
10	Cereals	0	427	4	1,940
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,261	931	16,086	13,629
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	926	1,395	8,771	13,288
29	Organic chemicals	316	742	6,153	6,834
30	Pharmaceutical products	3,635	7,685	33,046	49,154
39	Plastics and articles	1,539	1,881	13,579	15,543
40	Rubber and articles thereof	1,899	1,606	17,241	17,322
49	Printed books, newspapers	3,651	4,280	26,531	32,918
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,265	1,303	13,244	13,258
61	Knitted clothing	471	427	4,377	4,329
62	Woven clothing	1,512	641	18,604	13,447
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	958	613	4,279	4,371
73	Articles of iron or steel	605	634	5,243	5,017
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	3,651	2,974	33,985	33,041
85	Electrical machinery etc.	47,558	44,999	439,986	433,587
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	2,154	1,778	23,138	27,290
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	244	507	4,536	6,044
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,550	2,244	27,751	25,367
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	2,807	2,467	25,462	26,817

<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.
5. Data denominated in Euros is arrived at using the fixed exchange rate (Lm0.4293=€1). The Euro equivalent data is for information purposes only.