

News Release



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International trade

International trade: November 2006

The visible trade gap narrowed by Lm26.6 million in November 2006, but widened by Lm15.7 million during the first eleven months of the year.

Provisional data for international trade show that the visible trade gap in November 2006 stood at Lm27.3 million, down by Lm26.6 million from the same month of 2005. Imports in November 2006 decreased when compared to November 2005, as Table 1 shows. There was an increase in exports in November 2006 compared to the same month of 2005. The decrease in imports was mainly due to fuels and lubricants, capital and consumer goods. Food, miscellaneous manufactured articles and chemicals accounted for most of the increase in exports during the month under review.

From the perspective of the first eleven months of the year, the visible trade gap widened by Lm15.7 million to stand at Lm465.4 million. This came about as the increase in imports during this period, which amounted to Lm118.2 million, outstripped the Lm102.5 million rise in exports. Higher import values were registered especially for industrial supplies, but there were also increases in capital goods, consumer goods and fuels. The increase in exports during the period was generated primarily by machinery and transport equipment, food and chemicals, as shown in Table 2.

An analysis of the Total Trade Balance by commodity group, shown in Table 2, indicates that the deterioration in the balance for the first eleven months of 2006 was mainly due to miscellaneous manufactured articles, machinery and transport equipment, and semi-manufactured goods. Food and chemicals brought about an improvement in the trade balance.

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

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Table 1. Trade by final use

Lm million

	2004 ^P	2005 ^P	November		January-November	
			2005 ^P	2006 ^P	2005 ^P	2006 ^P
Imports	1,300.8	1,316.8	138.4	120.6	1,208.3	1,326.5
Industrial Supplies	623.6	593.5	65.0	67.4	547.8	644.5
Primary	15.9	19.7	1.7	1.5	17.7	16.5
Semi-Finished	584.2	538.1	50.3	63.5	496.7	589.0
Finished	23.5	35.7	13.0	2.4	33.4	39.0
Capital Goods and Others	235.9	227.8	21.5	15.0	211.8	224.5
Consumer Goods	339.5	355.0	35.8	33.5	328.5	336.8
Food & Beverages	116.6	121.5	13.1	12.6	112.0	112.9
Durable Goods	135.9	150.7	15.1	13.6	139.9	143.8
Others	87.0	82.8	7.6	7.3	76.6	80.1
Fuel and Lubricants	101.8	140.5	16.1	4.7	120.2	120.7
Exports	896.5	822.9	84.5	93.3	758.6	861.1
Visible Trade Gap	-404.3	-493.9	-53.9	-27.3	-449.7	-465.4

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

^P Provisional

Table 2. Balance of trade by major commodity group

Lm million

	2004 ^P	2005 ^P	November		January-November	
			2005 ^P	2006 ^P	2005 ^P	2006 ^P
Imports	1,300.8	1,316.8	138.4	120.6	1,208.3	1,326.5
Food	122.7	129.2	13.3	13.2	118.6	118.0
Beverages and Tobacco	22.5	17.4	1.3	1.4	16.0	15.4
Crude Materials	11.6	14.0	1.4	1.0	12.7	13.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	102.2	140.8	16.2	4.7	120.4	120.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	3.0	2.8	0.4	0.2	2.6	2.8
Chemicals	111.3	114.7	10.2	10.1	106.5	115.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	146.9	145.6	13.1	13.8	133.7	133.2
Machinery and Transport Equipment	623.7	578.6	63.9	61.5	536.6	628.7
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	149.8	166.0	17.9	13.9	154.0	169.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	7.1	7.7	0.7	0.8	7.2	10.2
Exports	896.5	822.9	84.5	93.3	758.6	861.1
Food	31.0	30.5	3.4	9.4	28.2	44.0
Beverages and Tobacco	14.2	9.0	0.6	0.9	8.6	7.9
Crude Materials	3.2	2.7	0.3	0.3	2.5	3.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	29.2	9.2	1.0	0.6	8.7	9.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-
Chemicals	23.9	40.9	4.4	6.8	37.9	52.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	50.6	54.1	4.2	4.3	51.1	45.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	576.2	512.9	54.3	51.8	469.7	551.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	167.8	163.4	16.3	19.1	151.8	145.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.7
Total Balance	-404.3	-493.9	-53.9	-27.3	-449.7	-465.4
Food	-91.7	-98.7	-9.9	-3.8	-90.4	-74.0
Beverages and Tobacco	-8.3	-8.4	-0.7	-0.5	-7.4	-7.5
Crude Materials	-8.4	-11.3	-1.1	-0.7	-10.2	-9.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-73.0	-131.6	-15.2	-4.1	-111.7	-111.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-3.0	-2.8	-0.4	-0.2	-2.6	-2.8
Chemicals	-87.4	-73.8	-5.8	-3.3	-68.6	-62.5
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-96.3	-91.5	-8.9	-9.5	-82.6	-87.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-47.5	-65.7	-9.6	-9.7	-66.9	-77.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	18.0	-2.6	-1.6	5.2	-2.2	-23.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-6.7	-7.5	-0.7	-0.7	-7.1	-9.5

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. Direction of trade

Lm million

Region and Country	November						January-November					
	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	98.2	44.6	-53.6	78.6	42.9	-35.7	875.4	396.4	-479.0	903.2	439.8	-463.4
of which:												
France	11.1	10.9	-0.2	14.1	14.1	0.0	114.2	111.2	-3.0	121.0	130.1	9.1
Germany	11.1	9.9	-1.2	9.1	9.7	0.6	99.8	94.3	-5.5	100.5	110.7	10.2
Italy	46.7	10.0	-36.7	26.3	2.8	-23.5	369.8	40.0	-329.8	373.8	31.9	-341.9
United Kingdom	13.7	7.6	-6.1	15.0	8.6	-6.4	133.0	86.2	-46.8	135.8	83.5	-52.3
Euro Zone Area	82.2	34.4	-47.8	61.3	30.8	-30.5	716.2	281.0	-435.2	737.1	322.1	-415.0
Non-European Union	40.2	39.9	-0.3	42.0	50.4	8.4	332.9	362.2	29.3	423.3	421.3	-2.0
Other European Countries	4.1	1.1	-3.0	4.3	1.2	-3.1	41.3	9.1	-32.2	47.0	10.0	-37.0
of which:												
Switzerland	1.8	0.4	-1.4	2.4	0.3	-2.1	18.0	3.3	-14.7	20.9	3.1	-17.8
Turkey	1.6	0.3	-1.3	1.5	0.1	-1.4	14.1	1.4	-12.7	15.5	1.7	-13.8
Africa	1.7	7.9	6.2	0.7	5.5	4.8	46.9	57.2	10.3	19.5	44.9	25.4
of which:												
Egypt	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	-0.1	37.1	2.3	-34.8	8.5	2.6	-5.9
Libya	0.1	4.1	4.0	0.1	1.8	1.7	1.0	34.8	33.8	1.0	24.8	23.8
Tunisia	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	2.5	5.3	2.8	1.2	2.9	1.7
North and Central America	18.6	11.8	-6.8	7.0	11.1	4.1	68.8	112.6	43.8	79.5	114.2	34.7
of which:												
United States	17.8	11.3	-6.5	6.7	10.4	3.7	64.9	105.4	40.5	74.1	108.5	34.4
West Indies	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.3	1.1	0.5	1.0	0.5
South America	0.6	0.3	-0.3	1.8	0.3	-1.5	7.1	4.4	-2.7	7.7	2.7	-5.0
Asia	14.8	17.6	2.8	27.9	31.2	3.3	165.2	167.0	1.8	253.6	238.2	-15.4
of which:												
China	2.3	1.0	-1.3	3.1	1.9	-1.2	22.6	6.6	-16.0	42.1	21.0	-21.1
Hong Kong	0.6	2.5	1.9	0.5	4.8	4.3	5.8	22.8	17.0	7.0	34.1	27.1
Japan	1.9	1.8	-0.1	3.7	9.2	5.5	23.0	16.7	-6.3	29.1	40.9	11.8
Korea Republic of	1.0	0.6	-0.4	1.1	0.3	-0.8	10.8	3.7	-7.1	12.5	5.1	-7.4
Malaysia	1.2	0.9	-0.3	2.9	0.5	-2.4	16.6	5.1	-11.5	26.4	6.5	-19.9
Singapore	4.0	8.6	4.6	12.1	13.1	1.0	47.9	88.8	40.9	84.0	109.8	25.8
Australia and Oceania	0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.2	-0.1	3.4	1.5	-1.9	15.5	1.7	-13.8
Ships & Aircraft Stores	-	1.0	1.0	-	0.8	0.8	-	9.1	9.1	-	8.6	8.6
Grand Total	138.4	84.5	-53.9	120.6	93.3	-27.3	1208.3	758.6	-449.7	1,326.5	861.1	-465.4

^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	November		January-November	
		2005 ^P	2006 ^P	2005 ^P	2006 ^P
		Main Imports			
02	Meat	1,419	1,628	13,587	15,539
04	Dairy produce	1,184	1,125	11,898	11,697
08	Edible fruit and nuts	1,735	750	10,874	8,393
16	Preparations of meat, fish, etc	859	882	9,706	9,902
19	Cereal preparations, biscuits, etc	1,883	2,013	15,307	15,752
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,178	990	10,584	10,439
22	Beverages and spirits	990	1,240	11,841	12,005
27	Mineral petroleum products	16,496	4,620	121,158	121,540
29	Organic chemicals	797	1,092	11,626	14,691
30	Pharmaceutical products	2,580	2,625	24,542	31,146
33	Toilet preparations	1,507	1,471	15,694	15,121
39	Plastics and articles thereof	5,160	4,408	49,014	49,966
44	Wood and articles of wood	681	700	9,025	8,662
48	Paper and articles thereof	2,755	3,253	25,841	29,246
49	Printed matter	990	901	10,543	9,237
52	Cotton	611	436	8,469	4,508
61	Knitted clothing	1,524	1,529	14,956	15,858
62	Woven clothing	1,980	1,530	19,989	17,898
64	Footwear	705	675	8,607	8,153
69	Ceramic products	1,078	981	9,485	9,644
71	Gold, silver and articles thereof	1,690	1,944	13,216	17,111
72	Iron and steel	1,322	2,038	13,307	13,602
73	Articles of iron and steel	1,588	1,916	16,710	18,191
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	21,513	7,967	122,580	120,428
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	34,435	46,428	326,769	410,263
87	Motor vehicles	6,430	6,218	60,927	63,868
88	Aircraft and parts	1,662	799	14,507	16,956
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	37	7	9,982	18,918
90	Scientific instruments	4,392	2,008	32,126	43,547
94	Furniture	2,425	1,998	22,069	21,391
		Main Exports			
03	Fish	275	7,628	5,846	21,790
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,483	1,241	18,308	17,289
27	Mineral petroleum products	1,006	572	8,415	9,207
29	Organic chemicals	337	602	6,563	6,727
30	Pharmaceutical products	3,319	5,478	21,830	38,382
33	Toilet preparations	291	234	6,028	2,793
39	Plastics and articles thereof	1,206	1,469	12,633	15,013
40	Rubber and articles thereof	1,748	1,502	19,542	18,675
49	Printed matter	4,148	4,498	30,902	29,974
60	Knitted fabrics	1,080	1,162	14,267	14,406
62	Woven clothing	3,562	1,968	32,869	20,566
71	Gold, silver and articles thereof	354	770	3,790	4,972
73	Articles of iron and steel	703	1,105	7,994	6,177
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	10,070	4,003	50,006	37,317
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	41,964	45,503	391,710	484,002
87	Motor vehicles	1,982	1,824	20,072	22,597
90	Scientific instruments	3,215	7,832	29,691	35,684
95	Toys and games	2,480	1,107	27,505	26,568
99	Special classifications	435	642	6,471	6,106

^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.