

News Release



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International trade

International trade: April 2007

In April 2007 the visible trade gap narrowed to Lm38.2 million, implying an overall improvement of Lm42.7 million in the trade gap for the first four months of the year.

Provisional data for international trade show that the visible trade gap in April 2007 stood at Lm38.2 million, down by Lm6.2 million from the same month of last year. There was a decrease in imports of Lm10.7 million, while exports decreased by Lm4.5 million, as Table 1 shows. The shortfall in imports was mainly due to less imports of mineral fuel and lubricants, machinery and transport equipment, and miscellaneous manufactured articles. Machinery and transport equipment accounted for the decrease in exports during April 2007 when compared to the same month of last year.

From the perspective of the first four months of the year, the visible trade gap narrowed by Lm42.7 million to stand at Lm140.4 million. This came about because of a decrease of Lm30.7 million in imports during this period, with exports increasing by Lm12.0 million. Higher import values were registered for industrial supplies and consumer goods, while 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 first four months of 2007 was mainly due to mineral fuels and lubricants, 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 four months of 2007, as Table 3 shows ■

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Table 1. Trade by final use

Lm million

	2005 ^P	2006 ^P	April		January-April	
			2006 ^P	2007 ^P	2006 ^P	2007 ^P
			Imports	1,322.7	1,451.3	120.1
Industrial Supplies	599.0	710.7	55.5	54.2	210.4	212.3
Primary	23.5	27.5	0.5	1.7	4.2	5.8
Semi-Finished	539.7	640.0	51.6	50.0	189.4	194.4
Finished	35.8	43.2	3.4	2.5	16.8	12.1
Capital Goods and Others	228.0	241.3	17.6	15.5	97.6	68.8
Consumer Goods	355.2	368.3	30.8	30.2	116.2	117.5
Food & Beverages	121.6	125.1	9.7	9.7	35.7	37.5
Durable Goods	150.8	156.0	14.0	13.3	52.4	49.6
Others	82.8	87.2	7.1	7.2	28.1	30.4
Fuel and Lubricants	140.5	131.0	16.2	9.5	45.0	39.9
Exports	839.3	947.4	75.7	71.2	286.1	298.1
Visible Trade Gap	-483.4	-503.9	-44.4	-38.2	-183.1	-140.4

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	April		January-April	
			2006 ^P	2007 ^P	2006 ^P	2007 ^P
Imports	1,322.7	1,451.3	120.1	109.4	469.2	438.5
Food	134.6	141.1	9.3	10.9	37.1	41.3
Beverages and Tobacco	17.4	16.4	1.1	1.8	4.1	6.8
Crude Materials	14.0	14.1	1.1	0.8	4.2	3.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	140.8	131.2	16.2	9.5	45.1	40.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	2.8	3.0	0.2	0.3	0.8	1.1
Chemicals	114.7	125.2	10.6	13.0	40.7	45.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	145.6	146.1	11.0	12.6	46.1	50.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	578.9	679.2	54.2	44.8	227.1	191.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	166.2	183.7	15.5	14.7	60.4	55.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	7.7	11.3	0.9	1.0	3.6	3.6
Exports	839.3	947.4	75.7	71.2	286.1	298.1
Food	46.8	52.6	2.7	2.7	6.4	7.5
Beverages and Tobacco	9.0	8.3	0.4	0.9	2.1	2.1
Crude Materials	2.7	4.1	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	9.2	13.1	0.8	0.8	2.4	3.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	-	-	-	-	-
Chemicals	40.9	59.4	5.1	5.3	16.4	20.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	54.1	49.2	3.7	4.0	16.1	16.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	513.0	599.4	52.4	44.7	197.1	192.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	163.4	160.6	10.2	12.4	44.3	53.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total Balance	-483.4	-503.9	-44.4	-38.2	-183.1	-140.4
Food	-87.8	-88.5	-6.6	-8.2	-30.7	-33.8
Beverages and Tobacco	-8.4	-8.1	-0.7	-0.9	-2.0	-4.7
Crude Materials	-11.3	-10.0	-0.8	-0.5	-3.1	-2.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-131.6	-118.1	-15.4	-8.7	-42.7	-36.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-2.8	-3.0	-0.2	-0.3	-0.8	-1.1
Chemicals	-73.8	-65.8	-5.5	-7.7	-24.3	-28.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-91.5	-96.9	-7.3	-8.6	-30.0	-33.3
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-65.9	-79.8	-1.8	-0.1	-30.0	0.7
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-2.8	-23.1	-5.3	-2.3	-16.1	-1.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-7.5	-10.6	-0.8	-0.9	-3.4	-3.4

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	April						January-April					
	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	90.3	39.0	-51.3	76.5	37.3	-39.2	313.3	147.1	-166.2	301.1	155.1	-146.0
of which:												
France	12.1	12.0	-0.1	12.2	9.1	-3.1	39.2	43.8	4.6	37.1	37.7	0.6
Germany	8.1	9.4	1.3	8.7	10.2	1.5	38.0	38.1	0.1	36.5	43.5	7.0
Italy	41.5	2.8	-38.7	27.8	3.1	-24.7	131.5	11.0	-120.5	117.2	12.2	-105.0
United Kingdom	11.5	7.1	-4.4	11.1	8.1	-3.0	44.1	28.8	-15.3	52.4	32.9	-19.5
Euro Zone Area	76.6	29.1	-47.5	61.0	26.5	-34.5	259.0	108.9	-150.1	236.7	110.8	-125.9
Non-European Union	29.8	36.7	6.9	32.9	33.9	1.0	155.9	139.0	-16.9	137.4	143.0	5.6
Other European Countries	3.0	2.0	-1.0	2.9	0.6	-2.3	21.3	4.4	-16.9	21.2	3.3	-17.9
of which:												
Switzerland	1.6	0.2	-1.4	1.7	0.1	-1.6	7.9	1.1	-6.8	11.7	1.2	-10.5
Turkey	0.9	0.1	-0.8	0.9	0.2	-0.7	7.3	0.5	-6.8	7.2	0.9	-6.3
Africa	0.4	5.3	4.9	0.8	3.5	2.7	11.9	14.8	2.9	3.2	19.0	15.8
of which:												
Egypt	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	-0.1	4.8	0.8	-4.0	0.8	0.4	-0.4
Libya	0.0	3.3	3.3	0.2	2.6	2.4	0.1	9.1	9.0	0.5	10.9	10.4
Tunisia	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.6	1.0	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.3
North and Central America	6.1	11.4	5.3	4.3	8.0	3.7	35.9	44.4	8.5	20.0	36.6	16.6
of which:												
United States	5.9	10.2	4.3	3.9	7.3	3.4	32.0	41.6	9.6	18.2	34.4	16.2
West Indies	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2
South America	0.5	0.2	-0.3	0.7	0.4	-0.3	2.0	1.1	-0.9	4.4	1.2	-3.2
Asia	19.4	17.0	-2.4	23.8	20.4	-3.4	72.1	71.5	-0.6	87.0	78.4	-8.6
of which:												
China	3.1	1.8	-1.3	3.3	1.1	-2.2	9.7	7.4	-2.3	12.5	5.0	-7.5
Hong Kong	1.0	2.9	1.9	0.4	4.9	4.5	2.8	11.1	8.3	1.8	18.3	16.5
Japan	2.0	1.9	-0.1	4.2	2.7	-1.5	10.9	6.9	-4.0	9.7	11.2	1.5
Korea Republic of	1.5	0.5	-1.0	1.7	0.1	-1.6	5.0	1.7	-3.3	5.7	0.7	-5.0
Malaysia	2.5	0.5	-2.0	2.4	0.6	-1.8	7.8	2.0	-5.8	5.6	1.1	-4.5
Singapore	4.9	8.0	3.1	5.4	8.4	3.0	18.2	37.2	19.0	28.1	34.8	6.7
Australia and Oceania	0.4	0.1	-0.3	0.4	0.3	-0.1	12.3	0.5	-11.8	1.5	1.6	0.1
Ships & Aircraft Stores		0.6	0.6		0.7	0.7		2.1	2.1	0.1	2.7	2.6
Grand Total	120.1	75.7	-44.4	109.4	71.2	-38.2	469.2	286.1	-183.1	438.5	298.1	-140.4

^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	April		January-April	
		2006 ^P	2007 ^P	2006 ^P	2007 ^P
Main Imports					
02	Meat	1,084	1,582	4,618	5,177
04	Dairy produce	1,339	953	4,070	3,842
08	Edible fruit and nuts	958	578	3,048	3,028
16	Preparations of meat, fish, etc	786	961	2,975	3,150
19	Cereal preparations, biscuits, etc	1,298	1,486	5,106	5,554
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,062	847	3,538	3,316
22	Beverages and spirits	947	1,044	2,991	3,584
27	Mineral petroleum products	16,142	9,467	45,423	40,101
29	Organic chemicals	1,234	1,634	4,562	6,527
30	Pharmaceutical products	2,876	2,228	12,451	10,694
33	Toilet preparations	1,297	1,438	4,531	4,951
39	Plastics and articles thereof	4,766	8,057	18,853	21,871
44	Wood and articles of wood	812	763	3,451	2,858
48	Paper and articles thereof	2,144	2,341	9,420	9,671
49	Printed matter	746	1,113	2,800	4,324
52	Cotton	455	422	1,777	1,591
61	Knitted clothing	1,585	1,173	5,478	5,057
62	Woven clothing	1,862	1,455	6,637	5,414
64	Footwear	1,322	925	3,252	3,121
69	Ceramic products	803	838	3,257	3,407
71	Gold, silver and articles thereof	1,373	1,536	5,179	5,487
72	Iron and steel	680	1,423	4,133	7,679
73	Articles or iron and steel	1,765	1,476	6,913	5,878
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	9,585	8,261	50,978	38,534
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	36,205	29,499	130,983	121,843
87	Motor vehicles	6,476	5,728	23,597	24,081
88	Aircraft and parts	1,825	1,167	6,446	6,379
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	209	380	16,094	616
90	Scientific instruments	3,331	2,402	16,910	11,921
94	Furniture	1,849	2,136	7,325	8,041
Main Exports					
03	Fish	321	304	740	632
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,007	1,468	4,824	4,600
27	Mineral petroleum products	772	730	2,286	3,519
29	Organic chemicals	1,100	454	2,611	2,271
30	Pharmaceutical products	3,133	3,580	11,535	14,642
33	Toilet preparations	407	407	808	1,070
39	Plastics and articles thereof	1,437	1,566	4,633	5,775
40	Rubber and articles thereof	1,623	1,808	6,915	7,210
49	Printed matter	1,476	3,079	7,097	13,989
60	Knitted fabrics	1,272	1,237	5,083	4,918
62	Woven clothing	1,347	1,653	8,251	7,128
71	Gold, silver and articles thereof	423	349	1,258	1,612
73	Articles or iron and steel	165	450	1,645	1,962
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	3,610	2,679	12,439	13,005
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	42,278	39,327	170,904	168,246
87	Motor vehicles	3,336	2,364	9,726	9,097
90	Scientific instruments	2,271	2,252	9,197	9,591
95	Toys and games	2,584	2,869	9,665	11,833
99	Special classifications	402	446	1,523	1,691

^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.