

News Release



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International Trade

International Trade: April 2008

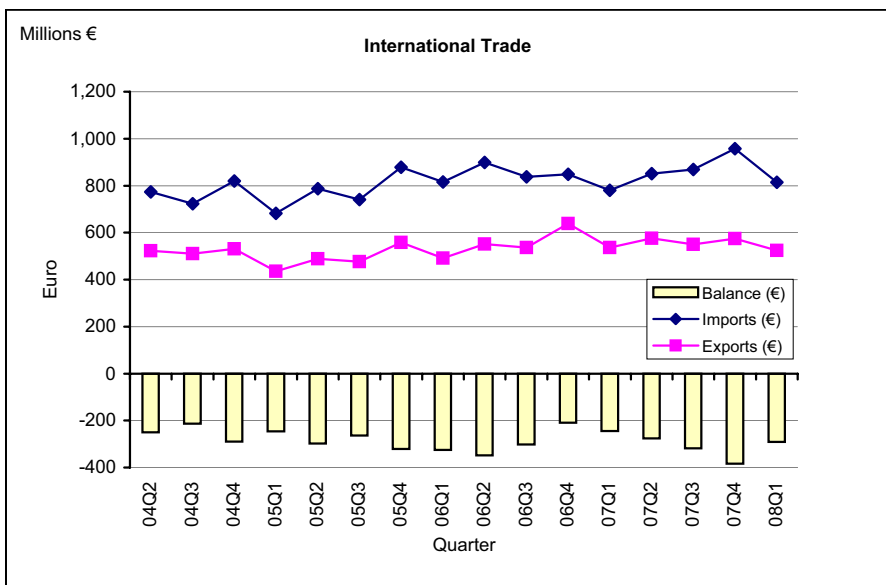
Preliminary figures show that the visible trade gap widened by €62.3 million in April 2008 when compared to April 2007.

Provisional data for international trade show that the visible trade gap in April 2008 stood at €156.9 million, up by €62.3 million from the same month last year. There was an increase in imports of €50.4 million and a decrease in exports of €11.9 million, as shown in Table 1a. The increase in imports was mainly due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. Other increases were recorded in capital goods and consumer goods. Machinery and transport equipment, chemicals and beverages and tobacco accounted for the decrease in exports during April 2008 when compared to the same month last year.

During the first four months this year, the visible trade gap widened by €108.4 million to stand at €447.3 million. This came about because of an increase of €84.5 million in imports during this period, and a decrease of €23.9 million in exports. Higher import values were mainly registered for mineral fuels and lubricants, food, chemicals and beverages and tobacco. During this period the decrease in exports was generated primarily by machinery and transport equipment. Other decreases were registered in miscellaneous manufactured articles and beverages and tobacco 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 four months of 2008 was mainly due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, and machinery and transport equipment.

The bulk of Malta's trade flows and consequent trade deficit continued to be directed towards the European Union during the first four months of 2008, as shown in Table 3 ■



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Table 1a. Trade by final use

€ million

	2006 ^P	2007 ^P	April		January-April	
			2007 ^P	2008 ^P	2007 ^P	2008 ^P
Imports	3,401.3	3,457.0	263.3	313.7	1,043.3	1,127.8
Industrial Supplies	1,662.1	1,575.2	128.9	113.2	501.3	479.3
Primary	64.7	70.9	4.1	3.7	13.9	21.0
Semi-Finished	1,496.3	1,413.0	118.8	103.1	458.8	431.0
Finished	101.1	91.3	6.1	6.4	28.6	27.2
Capital Goods and Others	570.6	553.1	38.1	48.6	166.2	177.1
Consumer Goods	863.6	910.9	74.2	81.1	283.0	294.9
Food and Beverages	292.3	317.7	24.1	30.0	91.0	101.2
Durable Goods	367.2	384.5	32.9	31.3	119.8	119.1
Others	204.1	208.6	17.2	19.8	72.2	74.5
Fuel and Lubricants	305.0	417.8	22.0	70.9	92.8	176.6
Exports	2,217.7	2,235.4	168.7	156.8	704.4	680.5
Visible Trade Gap	-1,183.6	-1,221.6	-94.6	-156.9	-338.9	-447.3

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

^P Provisional

Table 1b. Trade by final use - Previous Six Quarters

€ million

	2006Q4 ^P	2007Q1 ^P	2007Q2 ^P	2007Q3 ^P	2007Q4 ^P	2008Q1 ^P
Imports	848.8	780.0	851.1	868.3	957.7	814.4
Industrial Supplies	433.2	372.4	399.2	399.7	404.0	366.2
Primary	10.8	9.9	18.4	19.2	23.4	17.3
Semi-Finished	399.5	340.0	361.8	354.3	357.0	328.0
Finished	22.9	22.5	19.0	26.1	23.6	20.9
Capital Goods and Others	110.5	128.1	110.0	123.2	191.8	128.5
Consumer Goods	235.1	208.7	225.4	228.8	248.1	213.9
Food and Beverages	85.3	66.9	75.0	85.3	90.5	71.2
Durable Goods	97.5	86.9	99.5	89.0	109.2	87.9
Others	52.3	55.0	50.9	54.4	48.4	54.7
Fuels and Lubricants	70.1	70.8	116.5	116.7	113.8	105.8
Exports	639.2	535.7	575.6	549.7	574.5	523.6
Visible Trade Gap	-209.6	-244.3	-275.5	-318.7	-383.1	-290.8

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

^P Provisional

Table 2. Balance of trade by major commodity groups

€ million

	2006 ^P	2007 ^P	April		January-April	
			2007 ^P	2008 ^P	2007 ^P	2008 ^P
Imports	3,401.3	3,457.0	263.3	313.7	1,043.3	1,127.8
Food	329.6	376.7	26.7	30.9	99.7	116.7
Beverages and Tobacco	38.4	52.6	4.6	6.3	16.8	19.8
Crude Materials	33.2	26.7	2.0	2.9	8.4	8.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	305.5	421.2	22.0	70.9	93.7	177.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	7.1	8.5	0.7	1.1	2.6	2.9
Chemicals	293.8	334.9	31.0	29.9	107.5	113.2
Semi-Manufactured Goods	343.1	349.0	30.2	27.0	119.5	108.3
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,592.2	1,437.0	107.7	106.5	454.0	440.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	432.1	419.3	36.2	35.7	132.7	131.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	26.3	31.0	2.3	2.5	8.3	9.0
Exports	2,217.7	2,235.4	168.7	156.8	704.4	680.5
Food	127.2	106.8	6.5	6.7	17.8	29.7
Beverages and Tobacco	19.3	16.1	2.0	0.4	4.9	3.5
Crude Materials	9.4	14.2	0.7	1.2	3.4	4.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	30.9	53.6	1.9	3.1	8.7	11.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	138.7	197.8	12.6	10.4	49.0	75.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	115.4	115.3	9.5	10.4	39.2	42.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,401.1	1,373.0	106.4	90.2	455.1	389.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	374.0	356.9	29.0	33.3	125.7	119.4
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	1.7	1.8	0.2	1.1	0.6	5.0
Total Balance	-1,183.6	-1,221.6	-94.6	-156.9	-338.9	-447.3
Food	-202.4	-269.9	-20.2	-24.2	-81.9	-87.0
Beverages and Tobacco	-19.1	-36.5	-2.5	-5.9	-11.9	-16.2
Crude Materials	-23.8	-12.6	-1.3	-1.6	-5.0	-4.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-274.6	-367.7	-20.1	-67.9	-84.9	-165.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-7.1	-8.5	-0.7	-1.1	-2.6	-2.9
Chemicals	-155.1	-137.1	-18.4	-19.5	-58.5	-38.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-227.7	-233.7	-20.7	-16.6	-80.3	-65.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-191.1	-64.0	-1.3	-16.3	1.1	-51.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-58.1	-62.4	-7.3	-2.4	-7.1	-12.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-24.6	-29.3	-2.1	-1.4	-7.7	-4.0

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

€ million

Region and Country	April						January-April					
	2007 ^P			2008 ^P			2007 ^P			2008 ^P		
	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance
Europe	193.4	91.1	-102.2	240.0	77.3	-162.7	772.6	379.0	-393.6	857.5	341.0	-516.4
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	186.6	89.7	-96.9	216.2	75.2	-141.1	723.3	371.3	-352.0	805.6	327.8	-477.8
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	26.5	19.3	-7.2	36.6	17.7	-18.9	124.1	78.6	-45.5	147.2	65.2	-81.9
Euro Area	149.9	64.0	-85.9	165.6	55.1	-110.5	570.4	266.0	-304.3	628.6	244.8	-383.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	67.8	8.1	-59.7	84.1	8.9	-75.2	280.6	29.7	-250.9	300.2	38.1	-262.2
Germany	22.8	24.6	1.8	17.9	18.4	0.4	90.9	106.0	15.1	93.7	93.9	0.2
France	28.6	21.4	-7.2	20.1	21.2	1.1	86.5	88.3	1.8	88.2	81.6	-6.7
Netherlands	8.6	1.2	-7.3	10.5	1.5	-9.0	32.1	3.4	-28.6	38.8	5.4	-33.4
Austria	1.6	0.6	-1.0	1.9	0.9	-1.0	6.7	2.3	-4.4	17.9	2.8	-15.2
Spain	9.2	1.5	-7.7	18.3	0.5	-17.9	30.9	5.9	-25.0	42.7	3.1	-39.6
EFTA Countries	4.3	0.7	-3.6	3.5	1.2	-2.3	28.5	4.0	-24.5	18.0	8.0	-10.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	4.0	0.3	-3.7	3.3	0.6	-2.8	27.2	2.8	-24.4	17.2	3.0	-14.2
Other European Countries	2.5	0.7	-1.8	20.3	1.0	-19.3	20.8	3.7	-17.0	33.9	5.3	-28.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	2.1	0.4	-1.6	18.8	0.8	-17.9	16.9	2.2	-14.6	31.3	3.3	-28.0
Asia	55.5	47.4	-8.1	52.1	44.3	-7.9	202.6	182.6	-20.0	209.7	194.0	-15.7
<i>of which:</i>												
China	7.6	2.6	-5.0	8.5	2.5	-6.0	29.2	11.6	-17.6	29.4	5.4	-23.9
Hong Kong	1.0	11.4	10.4	2.2	9.6	7.4	4.3	42.6	38.3	3.8	37.5	33.7
Japan	9.9	6.4	-3.5	6.2	6.9	0.7	22.5	26.2	3.6	27.2	25.9	-1.2
Republic of Korea	3.9	0.3	-3.6	4.3	2.3	-2.1	13.4	1.5	-11.8	19.2	8.1	-11.1
Malaysia	5.5	1.4	-4.1	4.3	0.3	-3.9	13.0	2.5	-10.5	12.4	6.1	-6.3
Singapore	12.7	19.5	6.8	16.1	16.2	0.1	65.6	81.0	15.4	64.9	88.5	23.6
North and Central America	10.0	18.7	8.7	8.3	16.9	8.7	46.5	85.6	39.1	29.4	79.4	50.1
<i>of which:</i>												
United States	9.2	17.1	7.9	7.3	15.0	7.8	42.5	80.5	38.0	26.6	74.1	47.5
Africa	1.8	8.1	6.4	10.3	14.6	4.3	7.6	44.3	36.8	14.4	49.6	35.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Tunisia	0.2	0.3	0.2	9.2	0.5	-8.7	1.5	2.2	0.7	10.1	8.3	-1.8
Australia and Oceania	0.9	0.8	-0.1	1.4	0.4	-1.0	3.5	3.3	-0.2	3.8	1.4	-2.4
South America	1.7	0.9	-0.8	1.6	0.4	-1.2	10.3	2.7	-7.6	13.0	2.7	-10.3
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.0	1.6	1.6	0.1	2.7	2.6	0.2	6.4	6.2	0.1	11.6	11.6
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.7	0.6
Grand Total	263.3	168.7	-94.6	313.7	156.8	-157.0	1,043.3	704.4	-338.9	1,127.8	680.5	-447.3

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Arrivals/Dispatches relate to transactions with EU Member States

^P Provisional

Imports/Exports relate to transactions with non-EU Member States

Table 4. Trade by principal traded commodities

€'000

CHP NO	Commodity description	April		January-April	
		2007 ^P	2008 ^P	2007 ^P	2008 ^P
		Main Imports			
02	Meat and edible offal	3,689	4,310	12,067	13,599
04	Dairy produce; birds' egg	2,306	4,053	9,101	13,513
10	Cereals	3,338	2,134	10,409	15,935
16	Preparations of meat/fish	2,263	2,704	7,369	8,698
19	Preparations of cereals	3,541	3,906	13,168	14,046
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,985	2,464	7,824	8,841
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	2,790	3,892	9,021	11,119
23	Food residues and waste	1,885	2,568	6,990	9,510
24	Tobacco and manufactures, tobacco substitutes	1,828	2,479	7,903	8,767
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	2,516	3,028	8,589	9,678
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	21,939	70,906	93,329	177,502
29	Organic chemicals	3,946	5,841	15,347	21,554
30	Pharmaceutical products	5,332	7,343	25,290	29,750
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,363	3,574	11,582	12,637
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	19,160	12,600	51,318	45,596
48	Paper and paperboard articles	5,551	7,904	22,680	27,836
49	Printed books, newspapers	2,628	2,127	10,164	6,859
61	Knitted clothing	2,999	2,979	12,580	12,573
62	Woven clothing	3,682	4,014	13,437	13,947
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	2,327	2,334	7,669	7,459
69	Ceramic products	2,055	2,202	8,251	7,107
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	3,924	3,365	13,465	12,745
73	Articles of iron or steel	3,673	3,428	14,788	13,824
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	20,236	25,095	93,441	100,790
85	Electrical machinery etc.	70,078	57,628	287,375	263,130
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	14,342	12,988	57,424	54,874
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	2,720	2,793	14,861	11,984
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	891	8,498	1,474	10,872
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,775	7,901	28,262	29,449
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	5,177	4,442	19,190	16,842
		Main Exports			
19	Preparations of cereals	1,590	2,015	2,745	3,406
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,420	3,847	10,711	10,979
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	1,751	2,758	8,326	11,184
29	Organic chemicals	1,239	1,722	5,792	5,762
30	Pharmaceutical products	8,352	6,405	34,269	61,300
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	969	786	2,514	3,081
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	3,651	4,589	13,456	16,854
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,223	4,387	16,854	17,392
49	Printed books, newspapers	7,006	14,140	32,249	42,398
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,882	3,052	11,456	12,471
61	Knitted clothing	738	832	3,667	2,662
62	Woven clothing	3,858	1,326	16,621	6,189
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	857	1,801	3,970	8,204
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,071	1,428	4,707	5,128
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	7,840	8,320	32,453	36,082
85	Electrical machinery etc.	91,953	77,573	392,492	334,124
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	5,778	3,920	22,573	17,177
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,226	4,428	22,304	21,389
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	6,682	5,962	27,752	21,773

^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 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. Individual countries' data not appearing in the release are available from the NSO upon request.
6. The euro area includes Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus (from 2008), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia (from 2007) and Finland.

The European Union includes Belgium, Bulgaria (from 2007), the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania (from 2007), Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

EFTA (European Free Trade Area) countries include Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.