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International Trade

International Trade: November 2007

Preliminary figures show that the visible trade gap widened by Lm22.1 million (€51.5 million) in November 2007 when compared to November 2006.

Provisional data for international trade show that the visible trade gap in November 2007 stood at Lm40.2 million (€93.6 million), up by Lm22.1 million (€51.5 million) from the same month last year. There was a decrease in both imports and exports of Lm2.8 million (€6.6 million) and Lm25.0 million (€58.1 million) respectively, as shown in Tables 1a and 1b. The decrease in imports was mainly due to machinery and transport equipment. Food, beverages and tobacco, machinery and transport equipment and miscellaneous manufactured articles accounted for the decrease in exports during November 2007 when compared to the same month last year. However, some entries relating to 'food' have not yet been captured.

During the first eleven months of the year, the visible trade gap narrowed by Lm32.3 million (€75.1 million) to stand at Lm446.9 million (€1,041.0 million). This came about because of a decrease of Lm35.1 million (€81.8 million) in imports during this period, and a decrease of Lm2.8 million (€6.7 million) in exports. Higher import values were registered for fuel and lubricants and consumer goods, while industrial supplies and capital goods registered a drop. During this period the decrease in exports was generated primarily by food, machinery and transport equipment, 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 improvement in the balance for the first eleven months of 2007 was mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, chemicals and crude materials.

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 2007, as shown in Table 3 ■

Note: Euro conversion is based on figures in Lm'000s.

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Table 1a. Trade by final use

Lm million

	2005 ^P	2006 ^P	November		January-November	
			2006 ^P	2007 ^P	2006 ^P	2007 ^P
Imports	1,325.3	1,459.7	124.7	121.9	1,351.2	1,316.1
Industrial Supplies	599.7	713.3	68.9	57.2	659.2	617.7
Primary	23.6	27.8	1.6	3.2	25.6	25.5
Semi-Finished	540.4	642.2	64.3	51.2	593.2	557.2
Finished	35.7	43.4	3.0	2.8	40.5	35.1
Capital Goods and Others	229.0	244.9	16.3	21.9	230.0	193.6
Consumer Goods	356.0	370.5	34.9	32.9	341.3	356.0
Food and Beverages	121.6	125.3	13.0	11.8	113.6	123.3
Durable Goods	151.5	157.6	14.3	14.8	146.4	150.1
Others	82.9	87.6	7.5	6.3	81.3	82.6
Fuel and Lubricants	140.5	130.9	4.7	9.8	120.7	148.8
Exports	841.0	957.9	106.7	81.7	872.0	869.2
Visible Trade Gap	-484.3	-501.8	-18.1	-40.2	-479.2	-446.9

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

^P Provisional

Table 1b. Trade by final use

€ million

	2005 ^P	2006 ^P	November		January-November	
			2006 ^P	2007 ^P	2006 ^P	2007 ^P
Imports	3,087.1	3,400.2	290.5	283.9	3,147.5	3,065.7
Industrial Supplies	1,396.9	1,661.6	160.5	133.3	1,535.6	1,438.8
Primary	54.9	64.7	3.7	7.5	59.7	59.3
Semi-Finished	1,258.8	1,495.8	149.8	119.2	1,381.7	1,297.9
Finished	83.3	101.1	7.0	6.6	94.3	81.7
Capital Goods and Others	533.5	570.5	37.9	51.1	535.8	451.0
Consumer Goods	829.3	863.1	81.2	76.6	795.0	829.2
Food and Beverages	283.3	292.0	30.4	27.6	264.7	287.1
Durable Goods	352.9	367.1	33.2	34.4	341.0	349.6
Others	193.1	204.1	17.6	14.7	189.3	192.4
Fuel and Lubricants	327.4	305.0	10.9	22.8	281.1	346.7
Exports	1,959.1	2,231.3	248.4	190.3	2,031.3	2,024.6
Visible Trade Gap	-1,128.0	-1,168.8	-42.1	-93.6	-1,116.1	-1,041.0

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	November		January-November	
			2006 ^P	2007 ^P	2006 ^P	2007 ^P
Imports	1,325.3	1,459.7	124.7	121.9	1,351.2	1,316.1
Food	134.7	141.4	13.6	14.5	128.3	144.7
Beverages and Tobacco	17.4	16.5	1.4	1.8	15.5	20.5
Crude Materials	14.0	14.2	1.1	1.0	13.4	10.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	140.8	131.1	4.7	9.8	120.9	150.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	2.8	3.1	0.2	0.3	2.8	3.3
Chemicals	114.8	126.1	10.3	10.9	116.9	132.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	146.2	147.2	14.3	14.6	134.9	140.3
Machinery and Transport Equipment	580.0	683.3	63.5	50.4	636.4	537.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	166.8	185.5	14.8	17.4	172.0	164.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	7.7	11.3	0.8	1.2	10.2	12.3
Exports	841.0	957.9	106.7	81.7	872.0	869.2
Food	46.8	54.6	20.7	5.2	48.5	28.5
Beverages and Tobacco	9.0	8.3	0.9	0.6	8.0	6.5
Crude Materials	2.7	4.0	0.3	0.6	3.6	5.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	9.3	13.3	0.6	1.0	9.7	14.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	41.0	65.1	6.9	9.1	53.3	75.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	54.1	49.5	4.4	4.7	46.1	46.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	513.9	601.5	52.1	47.9	553.6	547.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	163.9	160.8	20.5	12.5	148.7	143.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.7
Total Balance	-484.3	-501.8	-18.1	-40.2	-479.2	-446.9
Food	-87.8	-86.7	7.1	-9.2	-79.8	-116.2
Beverages and Tobacco	-8.4	-8.2	-0.5	-1.2	-7.5	-14.0
Crude Materials	-11.3	-10.2	-0.8	-0.4	-9.8	-5.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-131.5	-117.9	-4.1	-8.8	-111.2	-135.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-2.8	-3.1	-0.2	-0.3	-2.8	-3.3
Chemicals	-73.8	-61.0	-3.4	-1.7	-63.6	-57.4
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-92.1	-97.7	-9.9	-9.9	-88.8	-93.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-66.1	-81.8	-11.4	-2.5	-82.8	10.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-2.9	-24.6	5.8	-4.9	-23.3	-20.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-7.6	-10.6	-0.7	-1.2	-9.5	-11.6

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					
	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
Europe	87.0	46.1	-40.9	93.8	38.5	-55.3	974.4	455.5	-518.9	991.7	445.4	-546.3
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	82.6	44.8	-37.8	86.4	37.1	-49.3	925.2	443.6	-481.6	936.0	435.3	-500.7
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	15.7	8.6	-7.1	17.4	9.3	-8.1	137.8	86.6	-51.2	188.6	90.3	-98.3
Euro Area	64.6	32.9	-31.7	65.7	25.4	-40.3	759.8	324.7	-435.1	711.9	310.3	-401.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	27.3	2.8	-24.5	28.8	2.8	-26.0	381.9	32.6	-349.3	327.6	35.7	-291.9
Germany	10.5	11.6	1.1	13.5	9.4	-4.1	103.7	113.0	9.3	114.0	121.4	7.4
France	14.2	14.1	-0.1	11.4	9.1	-2.3	125.7	128.7	3.0	122.6	106.3	-16.3
Netherlands	4.0	0.4	-3.6	3.8	0.8	-3.0	47.6	8.3	-39.3	41.5	4.9	-36.6
Spain	3.4	0.5	-2.9	3.1	0.4	-2.7	43.9	5.9	-38.0	41.4	5.9	-35.5
Belgium	1.9	0.7	-1.2	2.5	0.4	-2.1	22.4	9.6	-12.8	25.9	6.1	-19.8
EFTA Countries	2.5	0.9	-1.6	2.5	0.6	-1.9	30.0	6.3	-23.7	30.4	4.7	-25.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	2.4	0.3	-2.1	2.5	0.4	-2.1	20.9	3.1	-17.8	27.5	2.8	-24.7
Other European Countries	1.9	0.4	-1.5	4.9	0.8	-4.1	19.2	5.6	-13.6	25.3	5.4	-19.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Russia	0.0	0.1	0.1	2.4	0.1	-2.3	0.4	0.8	0.4	2.7	0.8	-1.9
Asia	27.9	42.5	14.6	22.2	26.9	4.7	253.6	243.5	-10.1	235.9	253.8	17.9
<i>of which:</i>												
China	3.1	1.9	-1.2	3.1	1.2	-1.9	42.1	21.0	-21.1	37.6	11.4	-26.2
Hong Kong	0.5	4.8	4.3	0.4	4.4	4.0	7.0	34.1	27.1	5.1	53.2	48.1
Japan	3.7	20.5	16.8	3.5	5.6	2.1	29.1	45.2	16.1	24.2	32.7	8.5
Republic of Korea	1.1	0.3	-0.8	1.5	1.6	0.1	12.5	5.1	-7.4	20.0	6.0	-14.0
Malaysia	2.9	0.5	-2.4	1.7	0.2	-1.5	26.4	6.5	-19.9	16.1	5.3	-10.8
Singapore	12.1	13.1	1.0	7.0	12.7	5.7	84.0	109.8	25.8	68.5	119.8	51.3
North and Central America	7.0	11.1	4.1	4.4	9.2	4.8	79.5	114.3	34.8	63.9	103.2	39.3
<i>of which:</i>												
United States	6.7	10.4	3.7	4.1	8.3	4.2	74.1	108.6	34.5	60.1	96.2	36.1
Africa	0.7	5.5	4.8	1.1	4.5	3.4	19.9	44.9	25.0	9.9	48.6	38.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Libya	0.1	1.8	1.7	0.5	2.0	1.5	1.4	24.8	23.4	2.5	24.1	21.6
Australia and Oceania	0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	15.5	1.7	-13.8	3.7	2.9	-0.8
South America	1.8	0.3	-1.5	0.3	1.6	1.3	7.7	2.7	-5.0	10.8	4.1	-6.7
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.0	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.8	0.0	8.6	8.6	0.2	10.4	10.2
Other region (West Indies)	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.6
Grand Total	124.7	106.7	-18.1	121.9	81.7	-40.2	1,351.2	872.0	-479.2	1,316.1	869.2	-446.9

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

^P Provisional

Table 4. Trade by principal traded commodities

		Lm'000			
CHP NO	Commodity description	November		January-November	
		2006 ^P	2007 ^P	2006 ^P	2007 ^P
Main Imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	1,644	1,143	15,567	16,330
04	Dairy produce; birds' egg	1,208	954	11,823	12,986
08	Edible fruit and nuts	807	1,081	8,479	8,813
10	Cereals	606	2,320	6,831	18,102
16	Preparations of meat/fish	896	1,012	9,939	10,326
19	Preparations of cereals	2,060	1,841	15,887	17,092
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,050	945	10,521	11,204
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	1,251	1,256	12,035	12,802
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	810	949	8,513	10,335
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	4,637	9,760	121,541	149,852
29	Organic chemicals	1,219	2,307	15,353	28,893
30	Pharmaceutical products	2,645	1,809	31,453	27,308
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	727	1,059	8,379	9,444
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,526	1,292	15,291	15,440
39	Plastics and articles of plastic	4,543	5,065	50,311	58,418
44	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	779	1,017	8,881	8,698
48	Paper and paperboard articles	3,287	3,522	29,338	29,306
61	Knitted clothing	1,590	1,392	16,032	15,586
62	Woven clothing	1,652	1,351	18,230	16,733
69	Ceramic products	997	1,135	9,752	10,164
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	1,990	2,058	17,416	19,237
72	Iron and steel	2,092	2,456	13,680	17,814
73	Articles of iron or steel	2,006	1,569	18,521	18,134
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	8,797	11,187	123,994	108,512
85	Electrical machinery etc.	46,937	31,733	412,073	340,278
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	6,406	6,242	65,342	70,262
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	1,311	1,356	17,912	17,939
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	2,094	5,398	43,886	32,952
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	2,030	2,086	21,964	24,143
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	897	988	8,562	7,421
Main Exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc	18,945	3,806	26,236	6,892
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,241	1,265	17,326	14,894
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	572	948	9,343	14,238
29	Organic chemicals	602	741	6,755	7,575
30	Pharmaceutical products	5,631	7,389	38,786	57,035
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	235	480	2,794	3,829
39	Plastics and articles of plastic	1,469	2,062	15,049	17,605
40	Rubber and articles thereof	1,485	1,697	18,731	19,018
49	Printed books, newspapers	4,507	4,210	31,038	37,119
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,162	1,321	14,406	14,579
61	Knitted clothing	436	475	4,814	4,804
62	Woven clothing	1,980	699	20,585	14,186
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,105	618	6,351	5,637
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	4,061	3,133	38,046	36,180
85	Electrical machinery etc.	45,632	42,477	485,618	476,032
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	1,963	2,031	25,101	29,321
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,800	2,156	35,551	27,571
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	2,915	1,666	28,380	28,483
99	Special classifications	688	484	6,210	6,532

^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, 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.