

News Release



Date: 11 March 2008
No. : 40/2008
Time of release: 11.00 hrs

Cut-off date for data presented:
3 March 2008

Theme:
External Trade

Compiled by:
International Trade Statistics Unit
Economic Statistics Division
e-mail: trade.nso@gov.mt
Tel: 25997169

The monthly calendar of NSO
News Releases may be
consulted on the Office's
website at www.nso.gov.mt

International Trade

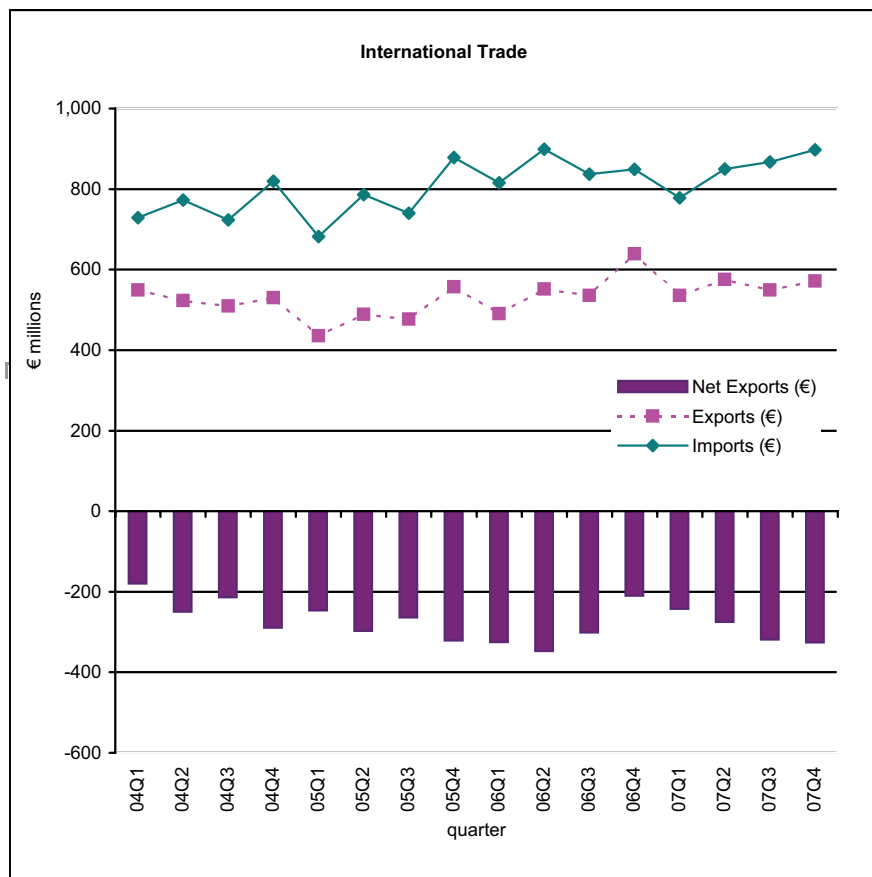
International Trade: January 2008

Preliminary figures show that the visible trade gap widened by €15.9 million in January 2008 when compared to January 2007.

Provisional data for international trade show that the visible trade gap in January 2008 stood at €95.1 million, up by €15.9 million when compared to the same month last year. There was an increase in both imports and exports of €27.1 million and €11.2 million respectively, as shown in Table 1a. The increase in imports was mainly due to mineral fuels and lubricants, food, chemicals and miscellaneous transactions and commodities. Food, chemicals, miscellaneous transactions and commodities and mineral fuels and lubricants accounted for the major increase in exports during January 2008 when compared to the same month in 2007.

An analysis of the total trade balance by commodity group, shown in Table 2, indicates that the deterioration in the balance for January 2008 when compared to the same month of the previous year was mainly due to mineral fuels and lubricants, food and miscellaneous manufactured articles.

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



National Statistics Office
Library & Information Unit
Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta
Tel: (+356) 25997219
Fax: (+356) 25997205
e-mail: nso@gov.mt
<http://www.nso.gov.mt>

Table 1a. Trade by final use

€ million

	2004 ^P	2005 ^P	2006 ^P	2007 ^P	January	
					2007 ^P	2008 ^P
Imports	3,044.1	3,087.1	3,400.9	3,392.7	242.5	269.6
Industrial Supplies	1,464.3	1,396.9	1,662.0	1,575.1	123.5	127.4
Primary	46.8	54.9	64.7	73.5	2.7	13.0
Semi-Finished	1,362.5	1,258.8	1,496.2	1,410.5	113.0	109.9
Finished	54.9	83.2	101.1	91.0	7.8	4.5
Capital Goods and Others	550.7	533.5	570.6	494.8	43.6	34.7
Consumer Goods	792.1	829.4	863.3	905.1	64.5	63.0
Food and Beverages	271.9	283.4	292.1	315.1	20.1	20.3
Durable Goods	317.2	352.9	367.2	381.9	24.9	26.0
Others	202.9	193.1	204.1	208.1	19.4	16.7
Fuels and Lubricants	237.0	327.4	305.0	417.8	11.0	44.4
Exports	2,112.2	1,959.1	2,217.7	2,231.5	163.3	174.5
Visible Trade Gap	-931.8	-1,128.0	-1,183.1	-1,161.2	-79.2	-95.1

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

€ million

	2006Q3 ^P	2006Q4 ^P	2007Q1 ^P	2007Q2 ^P	2007Q3 ^P	2007Q4 ^P
Imports	837.1	848.6	778.2	850.0	867.3	897.2
Industrial Supplies	425.1	433.1	372.0	399.2	399.4	404.4
Primary	12.1	10.8	9.9	18.4	19.2	26.0
Semi-Finished	393.3	399.4	339.7	361.7	354.1	355.1
Finished	19.7	22.9	22.5	19.0	26.1	23.4
Capital Goods and Others	137.3	110.4	127.9	109.8	123.2	133.8
Consumer Goods	203.4	234.9	207.4	224.5	228.0	245.2
Food and Beverages	71.1	85.2	65.7	74.4	84.8	90.3
Durable Goods	80.2	97.4	86.7	99.4	88.8	106.9
Others	52.1	52.3	55.0	50.7	54.4	48.0
Fuels and Lubricants	71.3	70.1	70.8	116.5	116.7	113.7
Exports	535.9	639.2	535.5	575.3	548.9	571.8
Visible Trade Gap	-301.2	-209.4	-242.7	-274.7	-318.4	-325.4

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

^P Provisional

Table 2. Balance of trade by major commodity groups

€ million

	2004 ^P	2005 ^P	2006 ^P	2007 ^P	January	
					2007 ^P	2008 ^P
Imports	3,044.1	3,087.1	3,400.9	3,392.7	242.5	269.6
Food	295.8	313.7	329.4	376.8	22.2	33.4
Beverages and Tobacco	52.5	40.5	38.4	52.5	4.0	3.4
Crude Materials	27.1	32.6	33.2	26.7	2.2	2.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	238.1	328.0	305.5	421.2	11.7	45.1
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	7.0	6.6	7.1	8.5	0.5	0.5
Chemicals	259.8	267.5	293.8	333.8	22.1	26.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	342.5	340.6	343.0	347.7	29.2	23.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,454.9	1,351.1	1,592.2	1,377.7	120.5	102.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	349.9	388.5	432.1	416.9	29.6	30.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	16.6	18.0	26.3	31.0	0.4	1.6
Exports	2,112.2	1,959.1	2,217.7	2,231.5	163.3	174.5
Food	91.7	109.1	127.2	105.8	2.6	10.5
Beverages and Tobacco	33.0	21.0	19.3	16.1	0.8	0.9
Crude Materials	7.5	6.3	9.4	14.1	0.8	1.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	68.0	21.8	30.9	53.6	1.6	3.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	56.0	95.5	138.7	197.8	12.2	19.2
Semi-Manufactured Goods	117.9	126.1	115.4	115.3	9.3	10.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,343.6	1,197.1	1,401.1	1,371.7	105.5	96.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	393.5	381.8	374.0	355.3	30.5	29.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.9	0.4	1.7	1.8	0.1	3.4
Total Balance	-931.8	-1,128.0	-1,183.1	-1,161.2	-79.2	-95.1
Food	-204.1	-204.6	-202.1	-271.0	-19.6	-22.9
Beverages and Tobacco	-19.5	-19.6	-19.1	-36.3	-3.2	-2.5
Crude Materials	-19.6	-26.3	-23.8	-12.5	-1.4	-0.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-170.0	-306.2	-274.6	-367.7	-10.1	-41.6
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-7.0	-6.5	-7.1	-8.5	-0.5	-0.5
Chemicals	-203.8	-171.9	-155.1	-136.0	-9.9	-7.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-224.6	-214.5	-227.6	-232.4	-20.0	-13.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-111.3	-154.0	-191.1	-5.9	-15.0	-6.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	43.7	-6.8	-58.1	-61.6	0.9	-1.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-15.7	-17.6	-24.6	-29.3	-0.3	1.9

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	January					
	2007 ^P			2008 ^P		
	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance
Europe	175.5	89.9	-85.6	191.1	90.1	-101.0
<i>of which:</i>						
European Union	157.2	88.0	-69.2	179.3	86.6	-92.8
<i>of which:</i>						
United Kingdom	32.2	19.6	-12.6	37.7	14.5	-23.1
Euro Area	120.4	62.6	-57.8	137.6	67.1	-70.5
<i>of which:</i>						
Italy	59.4	6.7	-52.7	66.0	10.9	-55.1
Germany	23.0	26.0	3.0	18.3	27.6	9.3
France	14.9	22.2	7.3	25.3	21.3	-4.1
Netherlands	7.2	0.8	-6.4	7.2	1.5	-5.8
Spain	7.2	1.2	-6.0	8.4	0.7	-7.7
Belgium	3.8	1.2	-2.7	4.2	0.8	-3.4
EFTA Countries	10.9	1.2	-9.7	4.4	1.6	-2.7
<i>of which:</i>						
Switzerland	10.6	0.9	-9.6	4.0	1.2	-2.9
Other European Countries	7.5	0.7	-6.7	7.4	1.9	-5.5
<i>of which:</i>						
Turkey	5.4	0.3	-5.1	7.0	1.2	-5.8
Asia	48.2	40.0	-8.2	58.7	47.7	-11.0
<i>of which:</i>						
China	7.6	2.5	-5.1	8.6	1.0	-7.6
Hong Kong	1.4	9.8	8.4	0.7	8.1	7.4
Japan	3.2	6.1	2.9	9.9	7.0	-2.9
Republic of Korea	2.9	0.3	-2.6	4.8	2.4	-2.5
Malaysia	1.7	0.4	-1.3	2.0	0.8	-1.2
Singapore	15.9	16.9	1.0	16.5	22.9	6.3
North and Central America	11.2	20.4	9.2	7.9	18.1	10.3
<i>of which:</i>						
United States	9.7	19.7	10.0	7.5	16.6	9.2
Africa	3.1	10.8	7.7	1.0	13.4	12.4
<i>of which:</i>						
Libya	0.3	6.2	5.9	0.2	3.5	3.3
Australia and Oceania	1.1	0.6	-0.6	1.1	0.3	-0.8
South America	3.3	0.4	-2.9	9.8	1.7	-8.1
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.0	1.2	1.2	0.0	3.0	3.0
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Grand Total	242.5	163.3	-79.2	269.6	174.5	-95.1

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

^P ProvisionalArrivals/Dispatches relate to transactions with EU Member States
Imports/Exports relate to transactions with non-EU Member States

Table 4. Trade by principal traded commodities

		€'000	
CHP NO	Commodity description	January	
		2007 ^P	2008 ^P
		Main Imports	
02	Meat and edible offal	2,762	3,369
04	Dairy produce; birds' egg	2,222	3,880
10	Cereals	1,513	12,008
19	Preparations of cereals	3,130	2,709
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,564	1,623
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	1,568	1,850
23	Food residues and waste	1,825	2,539
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	1,753	2,008
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	11,597	45,058
29	Organic chemicals	2,807	5,782
30	Pharmaceutical products	6,776	8,451
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	1,724	2,136
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,403	1,941
39	Plastics and articles	8,902	10,132
44	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	1,629	2,025
48	Paper and paperboard articles	5,662	7,170
49	Printed books, newspapers	4,645	1,877
61	Knitted clothing	2,753	2,644
62	Woven clothing	2,547	2,325
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	1,386	2,115
72	Iron and steel	6,125	1,902
73	Articles of iron or steel	3,753	3,201
76	Aluminium and articles thereof	1,337	1,630
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	25,676	14,573
85	Electrical machinery etc.	76,397	69,539
87	Vehicles (excl. trains) and parts thereof	13,240	15,828
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	4,252	1,812
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,434	10,548
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	3,883	3,617
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	1,462	1,646
		Main Exports	
10	Cereals	0	8,157
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,089	1,866
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	1,518	3,323
29	Organic chemicals	1,467	1,695
30	Pharmaceutical products	8,937	15,517
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	657	956
39	Plastics and articles	3,413	4,057
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,154	4,310
49	Printed books, newspapers	8,750	9,678
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,626	2,896
62	Woven clothing	3,586	2,103
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	734	4,102
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,310	1,115
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	7,302	9,730
85	Electrical machinery etc.	93,097	82,791
87	Vehicles (excl. trains) and parts thereof	3,573	3,338
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,143	4,437
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	5,934	6,321
99	Special classifications	943	936

^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.