

9 April 2014 | 1100 hrs | 066/2014

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €121.9 million in February, compared to €95.3 million in the corresponding month last year.

International Trade: February 2014

Cut-off date:
2 April 2014

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in February stood at €121.9 million, up by €26.6 million when compared to the corresponding month in 2013. There were decreases in both imports and exports of €35.1 million and €61.6 million respectively (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment, with other declines registered in all other sectors, except for animal and vegetable oils and fats. Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials accounted for the main decrease in the value of exports when compared to the corresponding month last year. Other drops were registered for machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, miscellaneous manufactured articles, semi-manufactured goods, and miscellaneous transactions and commodities (Table 2).

January-February 2014

In the first two months this year, the trade deficit widened by €12.2 million, to €220.3 million. Both imports and exports registered decreases. The decrease in imports of €6.7 million was mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, with other decreases being registered for miscellaneous manufactured articles, food, chemicals, beverages and tobacco, miscellaneous transactions and commodities, and crude materials. The decrease in the value of exports of €18.9 million was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment. Other decreases were noted for food, miscellaneous manufactured articles, and miscellaneous transactions and commodities (Table 2).

Imports from the European Union reached €434.4 million, or 52.7 per cent of the total for the period under review (Table 3). Increases were registered in imports from the United States of America, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom, Italy, Greece and India. On the other hand, imports from Libya, Turkey, Germany, Singapore, France, the Republic of Korea, China, Japan and the Netherlands showed a decrease. Exports to the euro area decreased by €6.1 million, mainly to France, the Netherlands, Greece, and Spain, while increases were recorded for the United States of America, Libya, Italy, Germany, Turkey, India, the Republic of Korea and Norway ■

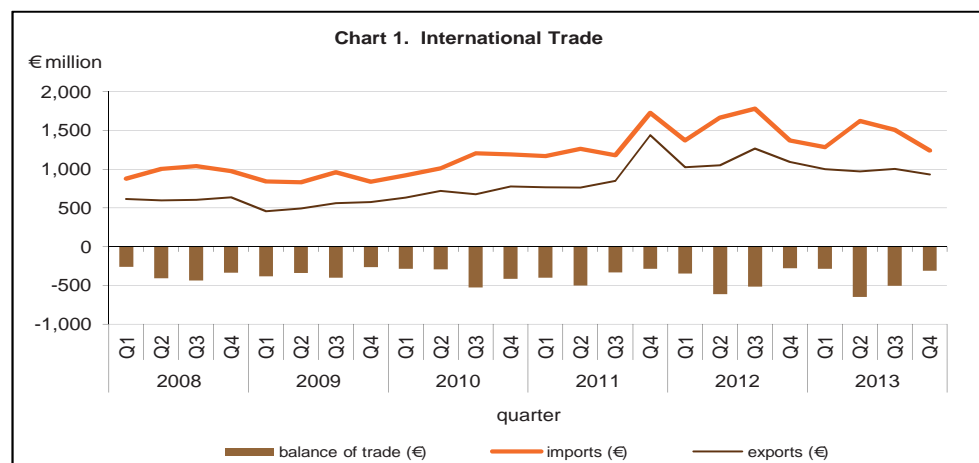
Compiled by:

**Unit A4: International
Trade and Transport
Statistics**

**Directorate A: Economic
Statistics**

Further information on data:

Mr Anthony PORTELLI
T. +356 2599 7160
E. anthony.portelli@gov.mt



Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
The advance release calendar may be consulted at www.nso.gov.mt

Issued by: **External Cooperation and Communication Unit, National Statistics Office, Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta.**
T. +356 2599 7219 F. +356 2599 7205 E. nso@gov.mt

Table 1a. Trade by final use*

€ million

	2012 ^P	2013 ^P	February		January - February	
			2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2013 ^P	2014 ^P
Imports	6,187.2	5,657.0	417.1	382.0	830.6	823.9
Industrial Supplies	1,565.0	1,540.9	127.1	134.0	268.4	243.8
Primary	111.7	92.1	7.9	2.1	12.0	8.1
Semi-Finished	1,302.5	1,289.3	107.3	116.1	228.1	205.8
Finished	150.8	159.4	11.9	15.7	28.3	29.8
Capital Goods and Others	810.9	860.0	64.2	32.6	111.0	67.4
Consumer Goods	1,023.0	1,026.4	77.1	67.9	149.4	135.9
Food and Beverages	427.4	444.9	33.4	28.9	62.8	58.6
Durable Goods	339.3	330.4	23.6	20.8	47.8	41.8
Others	256.4	251.1	20.1	18.1	38.9	35.5
Fuels and Lubricants	2,788.3	2,229.6	148.6	147.5	301.7	376.8
Exports	4,438.6	3,906.9	321.7	260.1	622.5	603.6
Balance of Trade	-1,748.6	-1,750.1	-95.3	-121.9	-208.1	-220.3

Table 1b. Trade by final use - last six quarters*

€ million

	2012Q3 ^P	2012Q4 ^P	2013Q1 ^P	2013Q2 ^P	2013Q3 ^P	2013Q4 ^P
Imports	1,781.9	1,370.7	1,284.7	1,621.6	1,508.1	1,242.7
Industrial Supplies	409.0	405.8	397.6	391.1	382.1	370.1
Primary	28.6	31.9	18.7	21.7	29.8	21.9
Semi-Finished	338.8	336.0	338.5	324.9	318.5	307.5
Finished	41.6	37.8	40.4	44.5	33.9	40.7
Capital Goods and Others	195.7	108.3	146.0	247.9	271.1	195.0
Consumer Goods	257.0	271.9	232.2	259.3	267.7	267.3
Food and Beverages	108.3	114.0	95.9	110.5	121.7	116.8
Durable Goods	85.7	94.4	76.6	84.8	81.8	87.2
Others	63.0	63.6	59.7	64.0	64.2	63.3
Fuels and Lubricants	920.1	584.7	508.9	723.2	587.1	410.4
Exports	1,268.3	1,093.5	1,000.4	971.9	1,002.5	932.1
Balance of Trade	-513.6	-277.2	-284.3	-649.7	-505.5	-310.6

Table 1c. Total exports net of Fuels and Lubricants*

€ million

	2012 ^P	2013 ^P	February		January - February	
			2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2013 ^P	2014 ^P
Total Exports	4,438.6	3,906.9	321.7	260.1	622.5	603.6
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	2,010.8	1,651.4	147.6	105.4	269.7	283.4
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,427.8	2,255.5	174.2	154.7	352.8	320.2

* Classification by Broad Economic Categories

^P Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Balance of trade by major commodity groups

€ million

	2012 ^P	2013 ^P	February		January - February	
			2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2013 ^P	2014 ^P
			Imports	6,187.2	5,657.0	417.1
Food	500.4	498.0	38.0	29.4	69.8	64.8
Beverages and Tobacco	85.4	74.6	5.6	4.5	10.6	7.9
Crude Materials	29.0	23.4	1.9	1.4	3.6	2.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,791.3	2,235.7	148.7	147.5	301.8	376.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.0	8.5	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.4
Chemicals	447.5	436.8	35.9	30.8	74.4	71.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	318.4	307.7	25.8	23.0	49.0	52.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,567.7	1,656.5	127.4	118.2	253.1	195.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	408.8	394.8	31.1	25.3	63.0	50.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	29.7	20.9	1.9	1.0	4.1	1.6
Exports	4,438.6	3,906.9	321.7	260.1	622.5	603.6
Food	187.5	213.5	10.6	12.7	34.7	29.6
Beverages and Tobacco	39.7	35.5	2.1	2.8	4.7	6.2
Crude Materials	20.0	15.3	1.0	1.2	2.9	3.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,010.8	1,651.4	147.6	105.4	269.7	283.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	321.2	354.0	26.5	22.8	44.3	49.5
Semi-Manufactured Goods	126.5	117.0	9.2	8.6	18.7	21.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,322.2	1,112.2	91.9	74.8	186.6	150.7
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	400.9	404.2	32.4	31.6	60.0	59.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	9.7	3.7	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.3
Balance of Trade	-1,748.6	-1,750.1	-95.3	-121.9	-208.1	-220.3
Food	-312.8	-284.5	-27.5	-16.7	-35.2	-35.2
Beverages and Tobacco	-45.7	-39.2	-3.5	-1.8	-5.9	-1.7
Crude Materials	-8.9	-8.1	-0.9	-0.1	-0.7	0.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-780.6	-584.3	-1.1	-42.1	-32.1	-93.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.0	-8.5	-0.6	-0.8	-1.2	-1.4
Chemicals	-126.3	-82.9	-9.4	-8.0	-30.1	-21.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-191.9	-190.7	-16.6	-14.3	-30.3	-30.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-245.4	-544.3	-35.5	-43.5	-66.5	-45.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-7.9	9.4	1.2	6.3	-3.0	9.4
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-20.0	-17.1	-1.4	-0.9	-3.2	-1.3

^P ProvisionalNotes: The commodity breakdown is in accordance with S.I.T.C. Rev. 3.
Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Direction of trade

€ million

Region and Country	February						January-February					
	2013 ^P			2014 ^P			2013 ^P			2014 ^P		
	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade
Europe	262.2	112.7	-149.4	302.0	108.0	-194.0	580.0	232.5	-347.4	597.8	221.5	-376.3
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	193.2	96.1	-97.1	243.3	90.5	-152.8	402.6	189.4	-213.3	434.4	178.9	-255.5
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	23.6	10.9	-12.7	21.9	5.3	-16.5	45.6	19.5	-26.0	52.9	12.7	-40.2
Euro Area	156.4	70.3	-86.1	178.8	76.7	-102.2	331.4	149.1	-182.3	315.4	143.0	-172.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	79.6	9.3	-70.3	92.4	19.9	-72.5	164.7	18.5	-146.2	170.6	28.7	-141.9
Germany	25.4	26.3	1.0	24.2	28.4	4.1	62.6	51.2	-11.4	43.7	59.2	15.6
France	20.1	20.0	-0.1	18.9	12.4	-6.4	44.7	42.2	-2.5	32.2	30.7	-1.5
Spain	6.9	7.9	1.1	15.9	7.4	-8.5	13.6	9.9	-3.7	22.3	9.8	-12.5
Netherlands	11.5	2.7	-8.7	13.0	4.4	-8.5	20.9	10.5	-10.4	20.6	6.5	-14.1
Greece	2.6	0.4	-2.3	6.2	0.1	-6.1	3.5	0.7	-2.8	7.9	0.4	-7.5
EFTA Countries	5.6	2.7	-2.9	39.0	1.9	-37.1	9.2	5.4	-3.8	42.8	4.4	-38.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Norway	0.1	0.3	0.2	36.5	0.2	-36.2	0.3	0.8	0.5	36.6	1.0	-35.6
Other European Countries	63.3	13.9	-49.4	19.7	15.6	-4.1	168.2	37.8	-130.4	120.7	38.3	-82.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	5.3	0.3	-4.9	11.3	1.1	-10.2	77.1	1.3	-75.8	37.1	3.2	-33.9
Asia	68.1	124.4	56.3	33.4	59.8	26.4	128.8	200.5	71.7	95.4	126.8	31.4
<i>of which:</i>												
China	10.5	3.8	-6.7	8.3	2.0	-6.3	24.3	7.7	-16.6	19.6	4.3	-15.3
India	7.2	0.5	-6.8	5.7	3.2	-2.5	14.6	4.6	-10.1	15.5	6.5	-9.1
Singapore	9.8	22.7	12.9	4.1	13.6	9.5	21.4	52.1	30.7	7.6	36.3	28.7
Republic of Korea	9.0	0.3	-8.7	4.0	1.3	-2.8	15.9	0.6	-15.3	7.8	1.5	-6.3
Japan	4.0	71.9	67.9	3.1	2.5	-0.6	10.3	87.2	77.0	6.7	11.8	5.2
North and Central America	12.0	16.0	4.0	34.8	17.3	-17.6	19.2	35.5	16.3	93.7	64.4	-29.3
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	11.6	13.6	2.0	34.3	14.3	-20.0	17.9	28.5	10.6	92.4	58.0	-34.4
Africa	52.7	24.0	-28.7	5.4	61.1	55.7	79.0	66.5	-12.4	25.8	116.4	90.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Libya	51.2	18.6	-32.5	1.9	21.0	19.1	63.0	24.8	-38.2	2.3	51.7	49.4
Australia and Oceania	0.5	0.4	-0.1	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.9	1.4	0.4	0.8	1.1	0.3
South America	2.1	0.5	-1.6	0.9	0.4	-0.4	3.0	0.8	-2.2	5.3	0.9	-4.4
Ships and Aircraft Stores	15.9	43.6	27.8	5.1	12.9	7.9	16.0	84.9	68.9	5.1	72.1	67.0
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	3.7	0.1	-3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.2	-3.5	0.0	0.4	0.4
Grand Total	417.1	321.7	-95.3	382.0	260.1	-121.9	830.6	622.5	-208.1	823.9	603.6	-220.3

^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 Member States

Table 4. Trade by principal traded commodities

€000

CHP NO	Commodity description	February		January-February	
		2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2013 ^P	2014 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	3,948	3,247	7,383	7,147
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	2,867	3,302	5,883	6,486
16	Preparations of meat/fish	2,960	3,793	6,038	7,524
18	Cocoa and cocoa preparations	1,580	1,686	2,816	3,657
19	Preparations of cereals	4,055	3,454	8,470	7,552
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	1,771	1,802	3,317	3,603
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,596	2,207	4,970	4,272
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	3,983	3,144	6,745	6,019
23	Food residues and waste	2,145	2,350	5,223	5,678
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	148,674	147,523	301,802	376,872
29	Organic chemicals	6,859	5,574	18,150	20,457
30	Pharmaceutical products	11,020	8,384	18,828	18,586
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	1,743	3,039	4,970	5,424
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,810	3,120	5,455	5,293
34	Soap, etc, lubricants, waxes, dental preparations	1,991	1,712	3,634	2,974
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	1,460	1,545	2,399	3,285
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	11,748	9,458	26,306	19,306
48	Paper and paperboard articles	7,899	7,371	13,903	15,224
61	Knitted clothing	2,927	2,149	6,312	4,686
62	Woven clothing	2,576	2,568	4,793	4,483
69	Ceramic products	1,806	1,957	3,407	3,383
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	5,580	4,460	10,193	8,017
73	Articles of iron or steel	2,323	2,556	5,022	11,174
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	20,216	23,009	40,938	45,987
85	Electrical machinery etc.	67,512	76,805	144,466	112,987
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	5,964	6,645	18,383	13,976
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	14,934	6,905	22,662	15,343
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	20,279	5,132	28,552	8,082
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,236	3,364	11,385	7,408
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	3,795	3,356	7,042	6,239
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc	1,170	1,229	14,672	9,469
10	Cereals	0	1,676	3,608	1,676
19	Preparations of cereals	2,991	2,584	4,594	5,876
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	5,869	6,834	10,650	11,667
24	Tobacco and manufactures tobacco substitutes	790	1,168	1,933	3,032
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	147,536	105,372	269,639	283,327
30	Pharmaceutical products	22,626	19,348	37,247	38,447
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,279	1,679	2,096	3,243
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	4,204	3,710	9,594	7,846
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	3,878	4,410	7,443	7,706
49	Printed books, newspapers	6,317	9,572	10,639	13,447
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	3,194	2,448	6,833	5,498
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	4,267	3,257	6,433	6,839
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	6,225	8,018	11,831	19,598
85	Electrical machinery etc.	81,144	58,146	162,831	108,260
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	3,000	7,956	7,224	21,137
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,939	3,699	9,544	7,314
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	10,222	9,469	19,552	18,552
99	Special classifications	1,072	1,225	2,218	2,533

^P Provisional

Methodological Notes

1. Data in this release are based on:
 - a. the Intrastat Supplementary Declaration that traders in merchandise goods must submit in respect of Arrivals (Imports) and Dispatches (Exports) of goods from and to the Member States of the European Union (EU), in compliance with Legal Notice 131 of 2004, and
 - b. the Customs Declarations for imports from and exports to countries that are not 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 1 May 2004. The requirements of the Supplementary Declaration, which at EU level were introduced as from 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 'Balance of Trade' is the difference between a country's exports and imports. A country has a trade deficit if it imports more than it exports; the opposite scenario is a trade surplus.
5. 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.
6. Individual countries' data not appearing in this release are available from the NSO upon request.
7.
 - i. The euro area includes Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia (from 2014), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.
 - ii. The European Union includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia (from July 2013), Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.
 - iii. EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries comprise Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.