

12 May 2014 | 1100 hrs | 088/2014

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €122.2 million in March, compared to €76.3 million in the corresponding month last year.

## International Trade: March 2014

Cut-off date:  
5 May 2014

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in March stood at €122.2 million, up by €45.9 million when compared to the corresponding month in 2013. There were decreases in both imports and exports of €14.1 million and €60.0 million respectively (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment, with other declines registered in food, miscellaneous manufactured articles, miscellaneous transactions and commodities, chemicals, and animal and vegetable oils and fats. Machinery and transport equipment accounted also for the main decrease in the value of exports when compared to the corresponding month last year. Other notable drops were registered for mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, chemicals, miscellaneous manufactured articles, semi-manufactured goods (Table 2).

### January-March 2014

In the first quarter this year, the trade deficit widened by €63.1 million, to €347.6 million. Both imports and exports registered decreases when compared to the period January-March 2013. The decrease in imports of €12.4 million was mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, with other decreases registered for miscellaneous manufactured articles, food, miscellaneous transactions and commodities, chemicals, beverages and tobacco, and crude materials. The decline in the value of exports of €75.6 million was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment. Other decreases were noted for all sectors except beverages and tobacco, and crude materials (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €680.1 million, or 53.5 per cent of the total (Table 3). There was a drop of €58.0 million in imports from euro area countries. Increases were registered from the United States of America, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Belgium and the United Kingdom. However, imports from Libya, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Germany, the Republic of Korea, China, Turkey, Japan, Switzerland and India showed a decrease. Exports to the euro area decreased by €26.4 million, mainly to France, the Netherlands, Spain and Belgium, while increases in exports were recorded for Libya, the United States of America and Italy ■

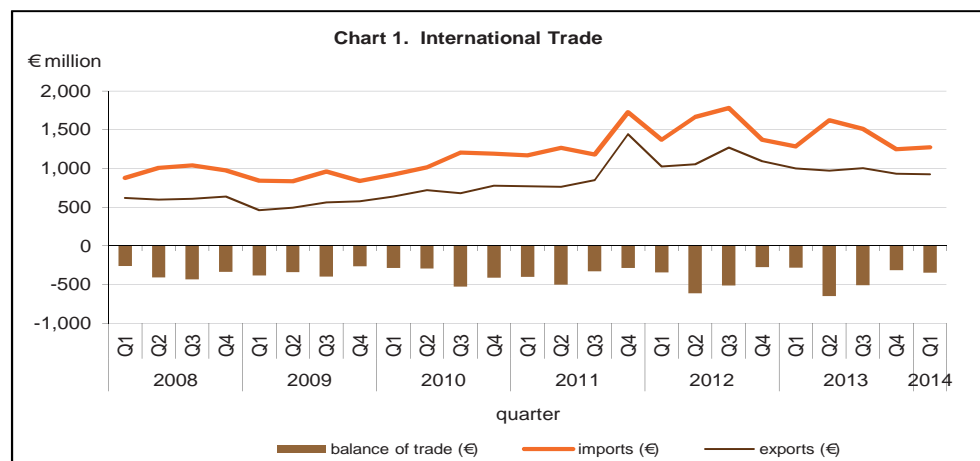
Compiled by:

**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](http://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](mailto:nso@gov.mt)

Table 1a. Trade by final use\*

€million

	2012 <sup>P</sup>	2013 <sup>P</sup>	March		January - March	
			2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>
			<b>Imports</b>	<b>6,187.3</b>	<b>5,665.8</b>	<b>454.1</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>1,565.0</b>	<b>1,545.9</b>	<b>129.2</b>	<b>101.0</b>	<b>397.6</b>	<b>347.6</b>
Primary	111.7	95.0	6.7	2.3	18.7	10.8
Semi-Finished	1,302.5	1,291.1	110.4	86.8	338.5	295.0
Finished	150.8	159.8	12.1	11.9	40.4	41.8
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>810.9</b>	<b>861.6</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>146.0</b>	<b>116.8</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>1,023.0</b>	<b>1,028.7</b>	<b>82.8</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>232.3</b>	<b>215.0</b>
Food and Beverages	427.4	446.4	33.2	30.7	96.0	90.5
Durable Goods	339.3	331.0	28.8	25.5	76.6	69.3
Others	256.4	251.3	20.8	19.1	59.7	55.2
<b>Fuels and Lubricants</b>	<b>2,788.3</b>	<b>2,229.7</b>	<b>207.2</b>	<b>216.2</b>	<b>508.9</b>	<b>593.0</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>4,438.6</b>	<b>3,907.2</b>	<b>377.8</b>	<b>317.8</b>	<b>1,000.4</b>	<b>924.8</b>
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-1,748.7</b>	<b>-1,758.5</b>	<b>-76.3</b>	<b>-122.2</b>	<b>-284.5</b>	<b>-347.6</b>

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

€million

	2012 Q4 <sup>P</sup>	2013 Q1 <sup>P</sup>	2013 Q2 <sup>P</sup>	2013 Q3 <sup>P</sup>	2013 Q4 <sup>P</sup>	2014 Q1 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>1,370.8</b>	<b>1,284.8</b>	<b>1,622.3</b>	<b>1,511.3</b>	<b>1,247.3</b>	<b>1,272.4</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>405.8</b>	<b>397.6</b>	<b>391.4</b>	<b>384.8</b>	<b>372.1</b>	<b>347.6</b>
Primary	31.9	18.7	21.8	32.3	22.2	10.8
Semi-Finished	336.0	338.5	325.0	318.6	308.9	295.0
Finished	37.8	40.4	44.6	33.9	41.0	41.8
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>108.4</b>	<b>146.0</b>	<b>248.2</b>	<b>271.5</b>	<b>195.9</b>	<b>116.8</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>271.9</b>	<b>232.3</b>	<b>259.5</b>	<b>267.9</b>	<b>268.9</b>	<b>215.0</b>
Food and Beverages	114.0	96.0	110.5	121.8	118.0	90.5
Durable Goods	94.4	76.6	84.9	81.9	87.6	69.3
Others	63.6	59.7	64.0	64.2	63.4	55.2
<b>Fuels and Lubricants</b>	<b>584.7</b>	<b>508.9</b>	<b>723.2</b>	<b>587.1</b>	<b>410.4</b>	<b>593.0</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>1,093.5</b>	<b>1,000.4</b>	<b>972.0</b>	<b>1,002.6</b>	<b>932.3</b>	<b>924.8</b>
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-277.2</b>	<b>-284.5</b>	<b>-650.3</b>	<b>-508.8</b>	<b>-315.0</b>	<b>-347.6</b>

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

€million

	2012 <sup>P</sup>	2013 <sup>P</sup>	March		January - March	
			2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>
			<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>4,438.6</b>	<b>3,907.2</b>	<b>377.8</b>
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	2,010.7	1,651.4	157.5	137.2	427.2	420.6
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,427.9	2,255.8	220.4	180.6	573.2	504.2

\* Classification by Broad Economic Categories

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Balance of trade by major commodity groups

€ million

	2012 <sup>P</sup>	2013 <sup>P</sup>	March		January - March	
			2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>6,187.3</b>	<b>5,665.8</b>	<b>454.1</b>	<b>440.0</b>	<b>1,284.8</b>	<b>1,272.4</b>
Food	500.4	499.3	37.0	29.7	106.8	95.7
Beverages and Tobacco	85.4	74.7	4.9	6.2	15.5	14.3
Crude Materials	29.0	26.3	1.4	1.8	5.1	4.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,791.3	2,235.8	207.2	216.2	509.0	593.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.0	8.5	0.7	0.6	1.9	2.0
Chemicals	447.5	437.5	40.1	39.9	114.5	111.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	318.4	308.4	24.4	26.3	73.4	79.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,567.7	1,658.7	101.8	90.0	354.9	288.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	408.8	395.7	34.8	28.5	97.8	80.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	29.7	20.9	1.8	0.9	5.9	2.4
<b>Exports</b>	<b>4,438.6</b>	<b>3,907.2</b>	<b>377.8</b>	<b>317.8</b>	<b>1,000.4</b>	<b>924.8</b>
Food	187.5	213.5	15.2	15.9	49.8	45.9
Beverages and Tobacco	39.7	35.5	3.0	3.5	7.7	9.7
Crude Materials	20.0	15.3	0.6	0.9	3.5	3.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,010.8	1,651.4	157.5	137.2	427.2	420.6
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	321.2	354.2	38.6	27.3	82.9	76.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	126.5	117.0	9.3	6.1	28.0	27.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,322.2	1,112.3	113.1	91.4	299.7	242.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	400.9	404.2	40.2	35.4	100.2	97.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	9.7	3.7	0.4	0.2	1.3	0.5
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-1,748.7</b>	<b>-1,758.5</b>	<b>-76.3</b>	<b>-122.2</b>	<b>-284.5</b>	<b>-347.6</b>
Food	-312.8	-285.8	-21.8	-13.8	-57.0	-49.8
Beverages and Tobacco	-45.7	-39.2	-1.9	-2.7	-7.8	-4.6
Crude Materials	-8.9	-11.0	-0.8	-0.9	-1.6	-0.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-780.6	-584.4	-49.7	-78.9	-81.8	-172.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.0	-8.5	-0.7	-0.6	-1.9	-2.0
Chemicals	-126.3	-83.3	-1.5	-12.6	-31.6	-35.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-191.9	-191.3	-15.1	-20.3	-45.4	-51.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-245.5	-546.4	11.3	1.4	-55.2	-46.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-8.0	8.5	5.4	7.0	2.4	17.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-20.0	-17.1	-1.4	-0.7	-4.6	-2.0

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Notes: The commodity breakdown is in accordance with S.I.T.C. Rev. 3 (see methodological note 8).

Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Direction of trade

€ million

Region and Country	March						January-March					
	2013 <sup>P</sup>			2014 <sup>P</sup>			2013 <sup>P</sup>			2014 <sup>P</sup>		
	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
<b>Europe</b>	<b>364.5</b>	<b>170.7</b>	<b>-193.8</b>	<b>342.6</b>	<b>101.1</b>	<b>-241.5</b>	<b>944.6</b>	<b>403.2</b>	<b>-541.3</b>	<b>948.9</b>	<b>326.0</b>	<b>-622.8</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
<b>European Union</b>	<b>287.2</b>	<b>111.3</b>	<b>-175.9</b>	<b>237.3</b>	<b>87.3</b>	<b>-150.0</b>	<b>689.9</b>	<b>300.6</b>	<b>-389.3</b>	<b>680.1</b>	<b>269.5</b>	<b>-410.6</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	26.4	9.6	-16.8	20.6	8.3	-12.3	71.9	29.1	-42.8	75.1	21.1	-54.0
Euro Area	239.2	89.5	-149.7	190.5	65.8	-124.7	570.6	238.5	-332.1	512.6	212.1	-300.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	132.1	13.0	-119.1	89.0	14.9	-74.1	296.8	31.5	-265.3	262.3	46.3	-215.9
Spain	18.9	3.0	-16.0	30.1	2.1	-27.9	32.6	12.9	-19.7	53.0	11.9	-41.1
Germany	25.9	29.3	3.4	28.3	21.5	-6.7	88.5	80.5	-8.0	73.2	81.0	7.8
Belgium	6.3	0.6	-5.7	17.7	0.4	-17.4	17.7	2.5	-15.2	27.8	1.7	-26.0
France	23.4	21.7	-1.7	10.1	13.0	2.9	68.1	63.9	-4.2	43.0	44.0	1.1
Netherlands	23.9	2.5	-21.4	8.3	2.1	-6.2	44.8	13.1	-31.8	29.3	8.6	-20.7
<b>EFTA Countries</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>-28.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>-32.6</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>-38.8</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	5.0	2.7	-2.4	3.3	2.2	-1.0	13.4	6.7	-6.7	9.0	5.2	-3.8
<b>Other European Countries</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>101.9</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>-91.1</b>	<b>213.0</b>	<b>93.5</b>	<b>-119.4</b>	<b>222.5</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>-173.5</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	9.6	0.6	-9.0	43.7	0.6	-43.1	86.7	1.9	-84.8	80.8	3.8	-77.0
<b>Asia</b>	<b>59.7</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>79.5</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>188.5</b>	<b>292.0</b>	<b>103.6</b>	<b>139.5</b>	<b>206.2</b>	<b>66.8</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Saudi Arabia	0.1	2.5	2.4	12.3	3.3	-9.1	0.6	10.0	9.4	20.0	9.4	-10.6
China	10.4	4.6	-5.8	7.4	4.2	-3.2	34.7	12.3	-22.4	27.0	8.5	-18.5
India	7.7	5.8	-1.9	5.5	3.6	-1.9	22.3	10.4	-12.0	21.0	10.0	-11.0
Republic of Korea	6.1	0.3	-5.8	4.7	1.1	-3.6	22.0	0.9	-21.1	12.5	2.6	-9.9
Japan	4.3	3.8	-0.5	2.8	2.1	-0.8	14.6	91.0	76.5	9.5	13.9	4.4
<b>North and Central America</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>-31.6</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>138.7</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>-60.8</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	4.3	14.1	9.9	27.8	9.6	-18.1	22.1	42.6	20.5	120.2	67.7	-52.5
<b>Africa</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>102.7</b>	<b>95.6</b>	<b>101.9</b>	<b>121.0</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>219.1</b>	<b>186.2</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Libya	10.7	47.6	36.9	1.1	65.9	64.8	73.7	72.4	-1.3	3.4	117.6	114.2
<b>Australia and Oceania</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>South America</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>-5.0</b>
<b>Ships and Aircraft Stores</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>126.3</b>	<b>110.1</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>92.2</b>	<b>87.1</b>
<b>Caribbean and Bahamas Islands</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-3.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>454.1</b>	<b>377.8</b>	<b>-76.3</b>	<b>440.0</b>	<b>317.8</b>	<b>-122.2</b>	<b>1,284.8</b>	<b>1,000.4</b>	<b>-284.5</b>	<b>1,272.4</b>	<b>924.8</b>	<b>-347.6</b>

<sup>P</sup> 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	March		January-March	
		2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>
		Main imports			
02	Meat and edible offal	3,445	3,694	10,833	10,924
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,389	3,378	9,272	10,074
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,179	3,379	9,217	11,016
19	Preparations of cereals	4,927	4,252	13,397	12,078
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,186	2,053	5,503	5,685
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,663	2,901	7,633	7,270
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	3,501	3,763	10,246	10,021
24	Tobacco and manufactures tobacco substitutes	1,467	2,488	5,427	4,454
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	1,533	1,884	4,608	4,587
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	207,216	216,192	509,018	593,072
29	Organic chemicals	8,382	14,826	26,532	35,295
30	Pharmaceutical products	11,654	8,360	30,482	26,967
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	4,145	2,360	9,115	7,937
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,679	3,595	9,134	8,959
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	2,171	1,951	4,570	5,287
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	11,786	9,643	38,097	29,994
48	Paper and paperboard articles	6,111	5,841	20,014	21,175
61	Knitted clothing	3,228	2,407	9,541	7,593
62	Woven clothing	3,391	2,804	8,193	7,536
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	2,555	1,787	5,301	4,285
69	Ceramic products	1,638	2,193	5,045	5,870
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	3,961	3,437	14,154	11,577
72	Iron and steel	1,777	3,224	5,991	5,297
73	Articles of iron or steel	3,923	3,655	8,945	14,904
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	18,868	18,668	59,808	65,604
85	Electrical machinery etc.	65,622	38,311	210,088	152,797
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	10,390	8,422	28,773	22,498
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	8,113	25,255	30,775	40,598
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,882	4,356	17,267	11,866
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	4,378	4,243	11,432	10,611
		<b>Main exports</b>			
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc	1,292	1,603	15,964	11,369
19	Preparations of cereals	4,317	4,164	8,911	10,040
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	8,149	9,631	18,799	21,330
24	Tobacco and manufactures tobacco substitutes	1,528	1,244	3,461	4,276
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	157,360	137,188	426,999	420,515
29	Organic chemicals	9,126	4,983	10,901	10,317
30	Pharmaceutical products	26,286	19,822	63,533	58,341
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,467	1,479	3,563	4,722
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	4,312	2,462	13,907	10,308
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,100	1,322	11,543	9,105
49	Printed books, newspapers	14,168	13,908	24,807	27,355
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	3,280	2,525	10,113	8,023
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	2,127	2,520	8,561	9,534
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	7,656	5,354	19,487	24,956
85	Electrical machinery etc.	99,212	80,293	262,043	188,553
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	4,857	4,573	12,081	25,710
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,177	3,945	16,721	13,947
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	9,342	10,299	28,894	28,852
99	Special classifications	1,553	1,599	3,771	4,132

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Note: The commodity breakdown is the Harmonised System (HS) Code at chapter level (see methodological note 8).

## 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. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
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.
8. SITC Rev 3: Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3.  
HS/CN Codes: Harmonised System (HS) and Combined Nomenclature (CN).  
For further information on Classifications used please refer to: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/index.cfm?>