

6 June 2014 | 1100 hrs | 107/2014

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €109.3 million in April, compared to €289.8 million in the corresponding month last year.

## International Trade: April 2014

Cut-off date:  
**2 June 2014**

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in April stood at €109.3 million, down by €180.5 million when compared to the corresponding month in 2013. There were decreases in both imports and exports of €225.1 million and €44.5 million respectively (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, with other declines registered in all other sectors except for beverages and tobacco, and animal and vegetable oils and fats. Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials also 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, miscellaneous manufactured articles, semi-manufactured goods, food, crude materials, and miscellaneous transactions and commodities (Table 2).

### January-April 2014

In the first four months this year, the trade deficit narrowed by €113.3 million, to €461.0 million. Both imports and exports registered decreases when compared to the period January-April 2013. The decrease in imports of €226.6 million was mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, with other significant decreases being registered for mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, food, and miscellaneous manufactured articles. The decrease in the value of exports of €113.4 million was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment. Other major decreases were noted for mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, miscellaneous manufactured articles, and food (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €866.5 million, or 50.6 per cent of the total imports for the period under review (Table 3). There was a drop of €216.0 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period last year. Increases were registered in imports from the United States of America, Belarus, Spain, Belgium and India. On the other hand, imports from Israel, Italy, Libya, the Netherlands, France, Singapore, Germany, the Republic of Korea, China, Switzerland and the United Kingdom showed a decrease. Exports to the euro area decreased by €33.0 million, mainly to France, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Belgium, while increases were recorded to Italy, the United States of America, Belarus and the Republic of Korea ■

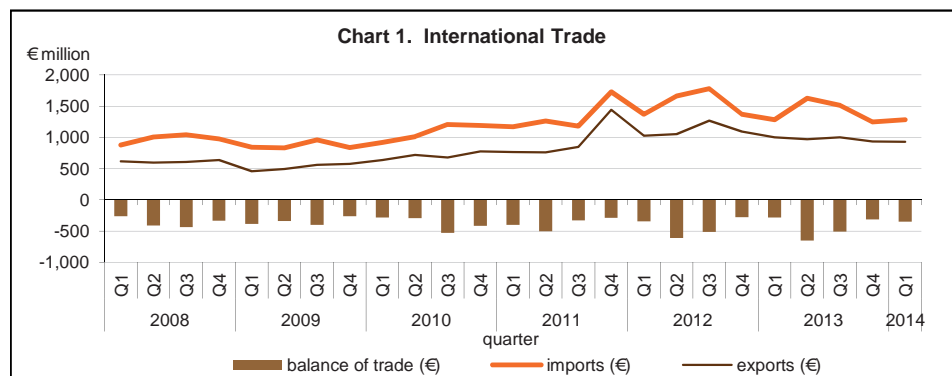
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Table 1a. Trade by final use\*

€ million

	2012 <sup>P</sup>	2013 <sup>P</sup>	April		January-April	
			2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>6,187.2</b>	<b>5,672.1</b>	<b>655.0</b>	<b>429.9</b>	<b>1,939.8</b>	<b>1,713.2</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>1,564.9</b>	<b>1,546.6</b>	<b>141.8</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>539.5</b>	<b>446.3</b>
Primary	111.6	95.0	7.8	2.4	26.5	13.3
Semi-Finished	1,302.5	1,291.8	113.2	83.4	451.7	380.5
Finished	150.8	159.9	20.9	10.2	61.3	52.4
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>810.9</b>	<b>864.3</b>	<b>83.4</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>229.4</b>	<b>164.4</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>1,023.1</b>	<b>1,031.4</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>323.9</b>	<b>309.4</b>
Food and Beverages	427.4	448.0	38.7	37.4	134.7	129.5
Durable Goods	339.3	331.7	30.7	28.6	107.3	100.2
Others	256.4	251.8	22.2	23.0	81.9	79.7
<b>Fuels and Lubricants</b>	<b>2,788.3</b>	<b>2,229.7</b>	<b>338.1</b>	<b>200.1</b>	<b>847.1</b>	<b>793.1</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>4,438.6</b>	<b>3,908.2</b>	<b>365.2</b>	<b>320.7</b>	<b>1,365.6</b>	<b>1,252.2</b>
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-1,748.6</b>	<b>-1,763.9</b>	<b>-289.8</b>	<b>-109.3</b>	<b>-574.3</b>	<b>-461.0</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>1,370.7</b>	<b>1,284.9</b>	<b>1,625.4</b>	<b>1,512.1</b>	<b>1,249.7</b>	<b>1,283.2</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>405.7</b>	<b>397.6</b>	<b>391.4</b>	<b>384.9</b>	<b>372.7</b>	<b>350.3</b>
Primary	31.9	18.7	21.8	32.3	22.2	11.0
Semi-Finished	336.0	338.5	325.1	318.7	309.5	297.1
Finished	37.8	40.4	44.6	33.9	41.0	42.2
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>108.4</b>	<b>146.0</b>	<b>250.7</b>	<b>271.6</b>	<b>196.0</b>	<b>119.5</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>271.9</b>	<b>232.3</b>	<b>260.1</b>	<b>268.5</b>	<b>270.6</b>	<b>220.4</b>
Food and Beverages	114.0	96.0	110.9	122.0	119.1	92.2
Durable Goods	94.4	76.6	85.1	82.1	87.8	71.6
Others	63.6	59.7	64.1	64.3	63.6	56.7
<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>933.3</b>	<b>931.5</b>
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-277.2</b>	<b>-284.5</b>	<b>-653.4</b>	<b>-509.5</b>	<b>-316.4</b>	<b>-351.7</b>

Table 1c. Total exports net of fuels and lubricants\*

€ million

	2012 <sup>P</sup>	2013 <sup>P</sup>	April		January-April	
			2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>
Total Exports	4,438.6	3,908.2	365.2	320.7	1,365.6	1,252.2
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	2,010.7	1,651.4	178.7	152.9	605.9	573.5
<b>Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants</b>	<b>2,427.9</b>	<b>2,256.8</b>	<b>186.5</b>	<b>167.8</b>	<b>759.6</b>	<b>678.6</b>

\* 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>	April		January-April	
			2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>6,187.2</b>	<b>5,672.1</b>	<b>655.0</b>	<b>429.9</b>	<b>1,939.8</b>	<b>1,713.2</b>
Food	500.4	501.0	44.0	34.8	150.9	132.3
Beverages and Tobacco	85.4	74.7	6.8	7.1	22.3	21.5
Crude Materials	28.9	26.3	2.4	2.0	7.4	6.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,791.3	2,235.8	338.2	200.1	847.2	793.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.0	8.5	0.7	0.8	2.5	2.8
Chemicals	447.5	437.9	36.6	36.5	151.1	150.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	318.4	308.9	30.8	24.6	104.2	105.2
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,567.7	1,661.5	156.7	88.7	511.6	380.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	408.8	396.5	35.5	33.3	133.3	116.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	29.7	20.9	3.4	1.9	9.3	4.3
<b>Exports</b>	<b>4,438.6</b>	<b>3,908.2</b>	<b>365.2</b>	<b>320.7</b>	<b>1,365.6</b>	<b>1,252.2</b>
Food	187.5	213.5	14.7	14.0	64.5	59.9
Beverages and Tobacco	39.7	35.5	2.4	4.5	10.1	14.2
Crude Materials	20.0	15.3	2.0	1.4	5.4	5.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,010.8	1,651.4	178.7	152.9	605.9	573.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	321.2	354.2	28.5	37.6	111.4	114.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	126.5	117.8	10.0	9.1	38.0	41.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,322.2	1,112.3	92.3	68.1	392.0	310.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	400.9	404.4	36.4	33.1	136.7	132.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	9.7	3.7	0.2	0.0	1.5	0.5
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-1,748.6</b>	<b>-1,763.9</b>	<b>-289.8</b>	<b>-109.3</b>	<b>-574.3</b>	<b>-461.0</b>
Food	-312.8	-287.5	-29.4	-20.8	-86.4	-72.4
Beverages and Tobacco	-45.7	-39.2	-4.4	-2.6	-12.2	-7.3
Crude Materials	-8.9	-11.0	-0.4	-0.5	-2.0	-1.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-780.6	-584.4	-159.4	-47.2	-241.3	-219.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.0	-8.5	-0.7	-0.8	-2.5	-2.8
Chemicals	-126.3	-83.8	-8.0	1.1	-39.6	-35.4
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-191.9	-191.2	-20.8	-15.5	-66.2	-63.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-245.5	-549.2	-64.4	-20.6	-119.6	-69.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-8.0	7.9	1.0	-0.3	3.3	15.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-20.0	-17.1	-3.2	-1.9	-7.8	-3.9

<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	April						January-April					
	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>438.4</b>	<b>117.4</b>	<b>-321.0</b>	<b>277.6</b>	<b>111.9</b>	<b>-165.6</b>	<b>1,383.0</b>	<b>520.6</b>	<b>-862.4</b>	<b>1,237.3</b>	<b>444.6</b>	<b>-792.6</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
<b>European Union</b>	<b>375.6</b>	<b>100.9</b>	<b>-274.7</b>	<b>175.5</b>	<b>90.8</b>	<b>-84.7</b>	<b>1,065.5</b>	<b>401.6</b>	<b>-664.0</b>	<b>866.5</b>	<b>367.0</b>	<b>-499.5</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	31.9	7.7	-24.1	24.3	8.5	-15.9	103.8	36.8	-67.0	101.5	29.7	-71.7
Euro Area	308.9	80.0	-228.9	142.5	67.5	-75.0	879.6	318.5	-561.1	663.6	285.5	-378.2
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	122.3	9.0	-113.3	73.3	16.5	-56.8	419.1	40.5	-378.6	339.3	63.2	-276.1
Germany	32.1	32.2	0.1	23.9	23.8	-0.1	120.7	112.7	-7.9	98.7	109.8	11.2
France	22.3	17.0	-5.2	14.4	12.7	-1.7	90.4	80.9	-9.5	57.9	57.0	-0.8
Netherlands	31.9	14.1	-17.8	10.2	4.0	-6.2	76.7	27.1	-49.6	40.0	12.6	-27.4
Spain	12.5	2.9	-9.6	7.9	2.0	-5.9	45.1	15.8	-29.3	61.3	13.9	-47.3
Belgium	7.1	0.7	-6.4	4.4	0.3	-4.1	24.8	3.2	-21.6	32.9	2.0	-30.9
<b>EFTA Countries</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>-37.1</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>-40.6</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	6.1	1.6	-4.5	4.0	2.0	-2.0	19.5	8.3	-11.2	13.0	7.2	-5.8
<b>Other European Countries</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>-41.9</b>	<b>98.0</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>-79.1</b>	<b>269.3</b>	<b>108.0</b>	<b>-161.3</b>	<b>320.5</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>-252.6</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Belarus	16.1	0.0	-16.1	33.3	0.0	-33.3	16.7	0.0	-16.7	63.3	0.5	-62.8
<b>Asia</b>	<b>158.8</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>-91.4</b>	<b>62.9</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>-16.8</b>	<b>347.2</b>	<b>359.4</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>202.4</b>	<b>252.4</b>	<b>50.0</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Israel	83.2	1.7	-81.5	15.2	0.3	-14.9	111.4	2.6	-108.8	28.4	1.4	-27.1
China	11.2	2.6	-8.7	11.1	2.1	-9.0	45.9	14.9	-31.1	38.1	10.6	-27.5
India	7.3	4.6	-2.7	9.8	3.6	-6.2	29.6	14.9	-14.7	30.9	13.7	-17.2
Singapore	11.8	22.4	10.6	5.6	14.0	8.3	40.9	107.7	66.8	15.6	65.0	49.4
Republic of Korea	11.0	1.6	-9.4	4.7	0.3	-4.4	32.9	2.5	-30.5	17.2	2.8	-14.3
<b>North and Central America</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>-52.5</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>204.7</b>	<b>91.3</b>	<b>-113.4</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	10.6	30.0	19.5	65.5	11.2	-54.3	32.7	72.7	40.0	185.6	78.8	-106.8
<b>Africa</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>134.0</b>	<b>131.0</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>122.1</b>	<b>109.9</b>	<b>104.8</b>	<b>254.9</b>	<b>150.1</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>341.3</b>	<b>296.1</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Libya	0.4	57.0	56.6	5.0	11.3	6.4	74.0	129.4	55.3	8.4	128.9	120.6
<b>Australia and Oceania</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>South America</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>-4.7</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>-7.4</b>
<b>Ships and Aircraft Stores</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>-28.4</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>138.2</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>115.8</b>	<b>105.0</b>
<b>Caribbean and Bahamas Islands</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>655.0</b>	<b>365.2</b>	<b>-289.8</b>	<b>429.9</b>	<b>320.7</b>	<b>-109.3</b>	<b>1,939.8</b>	<b>1,365.6</b>	<b>-574.3</b>	<b>1,713.2</b>	<b>1,252.2</b>	<b>-461.0</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	April		January-April	
		2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>
		Main imports			
02	Meat and edible offal	3,530	3,442	14,363	14,419
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,590	3,411	12,862	13,585
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,287	4,523	13,504	15,578
17	Sugars and sugar confectionary	3,329	4,351	9,058	7,203
19	Preparations of cereals	5,093	4,412	18,490	16,568
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,407	1,985	7,910	7,791
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,325	3,550	10,958	10,888
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	4,829	5,370	15,074	15,436
23	Food residues and waste	3,872	1,821	10,925	9,669
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,977	1,788	7,404	6,243
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	2,125	1,912	6,733	6,549
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	338,188	200,110	847,205	793,239
29	Organic chemicals	8,850	8,110	35,382	43,412
30	Pharmaceutical products	8,673	11,223	39,155	38,636
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	4,408	2,929	13,542	12,121
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	13,338	12,501	51,435	42,732
48	Paper and paperboard articles	6,623	6,653	26,636	28,119
49	Printed books, newspapers	1,474	2,960	5,008	6,847
61	Knitted clothing	3,249	2,779	12,801	10,588
62	Woven clothing	4,214	2,937	12,411	10,671
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	2,526	2,139	7,829	6,753
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	5,784	5,204	19,938	16,822
73	Articles of iron or steel	5,672	2,845	14,617	17,920
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	23,483	19,858	83,292	86,574
85	Electrical machinery etc.	62,905	44,128	273,001	198,208
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	9,112	10,909	37,885	34,631
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	16,313	6,501	47,088	47,099
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	45,585	8,328	74,239	16,535
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,156	3,692	22,423	15,669
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	5,026	5,271	16,458	16,840
		Main exports			
19	Preparations of cereals	3,129	3,481	12,040	13,521
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	7,524	8,826	26,323	30,156
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	570	1,219	2,565	4,119
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	661	1,970	4,122	6,246
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	178,717	152,878	605,716	573,404
29	Organic chemicals	1,248	14,915	12,149	25,231
30	Pharmaceutical products	23,532	18,862	87,065	77,386
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,558	2,226	6,121	6,949
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	3,785	3,544	17,692	13,854
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	3,998	4,548	15,541	18,142
49	Printed books, newspapers	10,691	10,612	35,497	38,488
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	3,663	2,325	13,776	10,348
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	3,755	2,811	12,316	12,407
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	6,098	8,174	25,585	33,653
85	Electrical machinery etc.	76,731	54,195	338,774	242,977
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	7,978	4,795	20,059	30,505
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,594	4,509	22,315	18,540
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	9,495	8,269	38,389	37,455
99	Special classifications	1,807	2,091	5,578	6,223

<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?>