

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €245.3 million in August, compared to €152.9 million in the corresponding month last year.

International Trade: August 2014

Cut-off date:
3 October 2014

Provisional data show that the trade deficit in August stood at €245.3 million, up by €92.4 million when compared to the corresponding month in 2013. Imports increased by €50.2 million, while exports decreased by €42.1 million (Table 1a). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (+€59.4 million), while other increases were recorded for mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, chemicals, semi-manufactured goods, and beverages and tobacco. Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials accounted for the main decline in the value of exports (-€15.6 million), with other decreases registered for machinery and transport equipment, miscellaneous manufactured articles, chemicals, semi-manufactured goods, and miscellaneous transactions and commodities (Table 2).

January-August 2014

In the first eight months this year, the trade deficit widened by €128.9 million, to €1,518.8 million. When compared to the corresponding last year, imports registered an increase of €42.2 million, while exports decreased by €86.7 million (Table 1a). The increase in imports was mainly due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, with other increases registered for chemicals, beverages and tobacco, semi-manufactured goods, and animal and vegetable oils and fats. The decrease in the value of exports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment, with other decreases noted for miscellaneous manufactured articles, food, semi-manufactured goods, and miscellaneous transactions and commodities (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €2,019.0 million, or 50.4 per cent of the total for the period under review (Table 3). There was a drop of €326.5 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period last year. Increases in imports were registered from the United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the Netherlands, Gabon and India. On the other hand, imports from Italy, France, Cameroon, Singapore, Greece, Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Germany, South Africa and China showed a decrease. Exports to the euro area decreased by €92.9 million, mainly to France, Greece, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain, while increases in exports were recorded for Republic of Korea, Italy and India ■

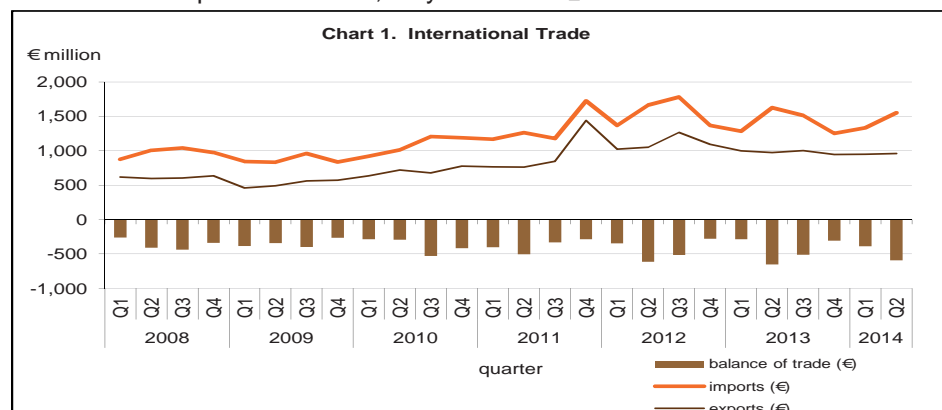
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Table 1a. Trade by final use*

€ million

	2012 ^P	2013 ^P	August		January-August	
			2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2013 ^P	2014 ^P
Imports	6,187.5	5,683.1	456.3	506.5	3,963.4	4,005.6
Industrial Supplies	1,564.9	1,549.0	112.9	99.0	1,051.4	906.9
Primary	111.6	95.1	4.1	3.0	69.2	51.2
Semi-Finished	1,302.5	1,294.0	98.1	85.1	874.4	757.2
Finished	150.8	159.9	10.6	11.0	107.9	98.4
Capital Goods and Others	811.0	868.3	68.6	134.9	605.6	678.5
Consumer Goods	1,023.3	1,036.1	82.6	76.8	671.2	690.6
Food and Beverages	427.5	448.8	40.0	34.0	289.6	293.0
Durable Goods	339.4	334.9	24.2	24.8	215.2	228.3
Others	256.4	252.5	18.4	18.0	166.4	169.2
Fuels and Lubricants	2,788.3	2,229.7	192.1	195.7	1,635.2	1,729.7
Exports	4,438.6	3,925.2	303.4	261.3	2,573.5	2,486.8
Balance of Trade	-1,748.9	-1,757.8	-152.9	-245.3	-1,389.9	-1,518.8

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

€ million

	2013 Q1 ^P	2013 Q2 ^P	2013 Q3 ^P	2013 Q4 ^P	2014 Q1 ^P	2014 Q2 ^P
Imports	1,286.3	1,626.6	1,514.5	1,255.8	1,337.0	1,559.5
Industrial Supplies	398.3	391.8	385.4	373.4	358.5	317.4
Primary	18.7	21.8	32.3	22.3	11.1	18.9
Semi-Finished	339.2	325.5	319.2	310.2	304.6	263.4
Finished	40.4	44.6	33.9	41.0	42.8	35.1
Capital Goods and Others	146.5	251.1	272.7	197.9	140.3	282.3
Consumer Goods	232.5	260.4	269.3	274.0	237.4	281.8
Food and Beverages	96.0	110.9	122.1	119.9	98.8	118.3
Durable Goods	76.8	85.3	82.8	90.0	78.0	94.6
Others	59.7	64.2	64.4	64.1	60.5	68.9
Fuels and Lubricants	508.9	723.2	587.1	410.4	600.8	678.0
Exports	1,001.1	974.1	1,003.0	947.0	948.9	961.5
Balance of Trade	-285.2	-652.4	-511.4	-308.8	-388.1	-598.0

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

€ million

	2012 ^P	2013 ^P	August		January-August	
			2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2013 ^P	2014 ^P
Total Exports	4,438.6	3,925.2	303.4	261.3	2,573.5	2,486.8
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	2,010.7	1,665.7	140.9	125.3	1,100.4	1,144.7
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,427.9	2,259.5	162.5	136.0	1,473.1	1,342.1

* 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	August		January-August	
			2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2013 ^P	2014 ^P
			Imports	6,187.5	5,683.1	456.3
Food	500.4	501.8	40.0	30.9	329.6	313.2
Beverages and Tobacco	85.4	74.8	6.4	6.5	51.7	56.2
Crude Materials	28.9	26.4	3.5	3.4	17.5	16.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,791.3	2,235.8	194.1	195.8	1,641.1	1,730.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.0	8.5	0.6	0.4	5.5	5.9
Chemicals	447.5	438.6	33.8	35.2	295.8	307.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	318.5	310.6	21.1	21.3	208.1	211.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,567.7	1,667.5	127.3	186.7	1,138.6	1,103.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	408.9	398.3	28.3	25.4	259.1	253.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	29.7	20.9	1.1	1.0	16.4	7.7
Exports	4,438.6	3,925.2	303.4	261.3	2,573.5	2,486.8
Food	187.5	212.5	3.5	3.6	99.8	91.2
Beverages and Tobacco	39.7	35.5	3.4	4.4	22.3	31.0
Crude Materials	20.0	15.3	0.8	1.7	10.0	10.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,010.8	1,665.7	140.9	125.3	1,100.4	1,144.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	321.2	357.9	29.2	26.1	238.0	238.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	126.5	117.8	12.7	9.6	81.2	79.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,322.2	1,112.4	80.9	69.3	745.7	640.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	400.9	404.5	31.7	21.3	273.3	249.4
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	9.7	3.7	0.3	0.0	2.7	1.2
Balance of Trade	-1,748.9	-1,757.8	-152.9	-245.3	-1,389.9	-1,518.8
Food	-312.9	-289.3	-36.4	-27.3	-229.8	-222.0
Beverages and Tobacco	-45.7	-39.3	-3.1	-2.0	-29.4	-25.2
Crude Materials	-8.9	-11.1	-2.7	-1.8	-7.5	-5.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-780.6	-570.1	-53.2	-70.5	-540.7	-585.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.0	-8.5	-0.6	-0.4	-5.5	-5.9
Chemicals	-126.3	-80.7	-4.6	-9.0	-57.8	-68.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-191.9	-192.8	-8.3	-11.7	-126.8	-132.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-245.5	-555.1	-46.4	-117.4	-392.9	-463.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-8.0	6.2	3.3	-4.1	14.2	-4.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-20.0	-17.1	-0.9	-1.0	-13.7	-6.5

^P 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	August						January-August					
	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	360.7	135.5	-225.2	354.9	103.1	-251.8	2,890.5	1,038.4	-1,852.1	2,756.4	877.3	-1,879.2
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	297.5	88.4	-209.1	268.5	83.8	-184.7	2,311.7	824.6	-1,487.0	2,019.0	714.9	-1,304.1
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	21.2	9.8	-11.4	20.4	8.1	-12.3	208.2	72.0	-136.2	204.0	62.6	-141.4
Euro Area	228.0	53.2	-174.9	205.3	59.8	-145.5	1,914.3	634.9	-1,279.4	1,587.8	542.0	-1,045.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	132.6	5.6	-127.0	97.2	6.1	-91.1	1,041.0	80.1	-960.9	731.1	97.1	-634.0
Greece	5.7	0.2	-5.5	32.0	0.4	-31.6	98.9	56.3	-42.6	74.7	25.6	-49.1
Spain	23.4	1.8	-21.7	21.5	1.4	-20.1	92.3	25.4	-66.8	142.8	24.0	-118.8
Germany	20.9	23.2	2.3	20.0	21.3	1.3	219.6	229.7	10.1	217.2	216.0	-1.2
France	20.9	17.9	-3.0	15.1	25.1	9.9	200.7	166.3	-34.4	145.1	122.2	-22.9
Netherlands	11.9	2.0	-9.9	10.2	1.9	-8.3	153.9	38.6	-115.3	172.7	27.2	-145.5
EFTA Countries	5.7	1.6	-4.1	2.3	1.5	-0.9	100.1	19.4	-80.7	71.3	17.1	-54.2
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	5.6	1.3	-4.3	2.0	1.3	-0.8	35.9	14.6	-21.2	31.9	13.0	-18.9
Other European Countries	57.5	45.5	-12.0	84.1	17.8	-66.2	478.7	194.4	-284.4	666.1	145.3	-520.9
Asia	58.2	86.9	28.7	61.5	37.6	-23.9	582.7	692.3	109.6	458.8	466.9	8.1
<i>of which:</i>												
China	10.9	4.9	-6.0	15.7	0.7	-15.0	94.8	32.5	-62.3	93.8	14.5	-79.4
India	7.0	1.6	-5.4	9.1	1.1	-8.0	58.1	19.7	-38.4	64.5	22.1	-42.4
Republic of Korea	7.7	0.1	-7.6	7.9	0.9	-7.0	58.4	4.4	-54.0	41.9	31.2	-10.7
Saudi Arabia	0.2	0.2	0.1	7.4	0.0	-7.4	1.2	16.4	15.1	52.0	10.7	-41.3
Singapore	5.2	20.7	15.6	6.1	11.5	5.4	63.5	191.6	128.1	35.7	117.4	81.7
North and Central America	13.1	15.9	2.8	37.8	11.2	-26.6	133.5	148.4	14.9	439.8	141.1	-298.7
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	12.7	13.0	0.2	37.2	8.3	-28.9	80.9	122.7	41.8	418.7	115.4	-303.2
Africa	17.0	22.2	5.3	35.9	67.1	31.1	216.9	390.0	173.0	188.2	697.0	508.8
<i>of which:</i>												
South Africa	0.2	0.3	0.1	9.4	0.2	-9.2	12.3	3.3	-9.1	10.2	3.0	-7.2
Cameroon	7.9	0.0	-7.9	8.5	0.4	-8.1	44.7	2.4	-42.4	8.9	1.9	-7.0
Gabon	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0	0.0	-7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0	0.0	-7.0
Australia and Oceania	0.6	0.8	0.2	15.6	1.1	-14.6	13.7	5.4	-8.3	66.2	8.0	-58.2
South America	3.3	0.9	-2.4	0.6	6.3	5.7	12.5	4.6	-7.9	17.2	11.6	-5.6
Ships and Aircraft Stores	3.3	41.0	37.6	0.1	34.4	34.4	75.7	293.5	217.8	78.8	281.1	202.3
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.5	38.0	1.0	-37.0	0.2	3.9	3.7
Grand Total	456.3	303.4	-152.9	506.5	261.3	-245.3	3,963.4	2,573.5	-1,389.9	4,005.6	2,486.8	-1,518.8

^P Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Arrivals/Dispatches relate to transactions with EU Member States

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

See note 7 for country groupings.

Table 4. Trade by principal traded commodities

€000

CHP NO	Commodity description	August		January-August	
		2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2013 ^P	2014 ^P
		Main imports			
2	Meat and edible offal	3,773	4,302	31,986	32,403
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc	5,222	3,459	39,203	36,210
4	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,489	3,288	28,371	29,216
5	Products of animal origin	2,078	1,910	2,844	2,622
8	Edible fruit and nuts	2,559	2,050	21,418	20,729
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,562	4,107	29,298	31,534
19	Preparations of cereals	4,491	4,025	36,479	35,251
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,438	1,979	18,077	17,527
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,740	2,281	23,471	25,415
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,515	5,278	37,562	39,099
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	1,536	1,783	13,108	13,061
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	194,079	195,776	1,642,057	1,730,583
29	Organic chemicals	7,456	13,504	68,368	89,707
30	Pharmaceutical products	7,784	9,509	75,762	78,902
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,702	2,251	28,181	25,735
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	12,088	8,741	102,615	93,068
48	Paper and paperboard articles	4,813	3,139	52,880	49,539
61	Knitted clothing	3,351	3,615	24,380	25,457
62	Woven clothing	2,353	2,607	21,761	23,017
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,851	2,102	13,675	15,319
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	2,727	2,496	38,708	30,651
72	Iron and steel	1,310	1,852	15,696	15,362
73	Articles of iron or steel	2,783	4,501	27,305	35,844
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	15,336	14,707	163,602	163,770
85	Electrical machinery etc.	60,133	47,344	520,221	392,650
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	8,342	9,951	75,468	80,419
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	7,191	8,007	125,110	96,635
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	36,470	106,933	261,161	373,551
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	3,688	2,904	39,018	32,434
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	3,645	2,957	35,070	35,945
		Main exports			
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc	902	1,209	21,836	18,327
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,568	1,690	47,996	48,816
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	918	2,076	6,423	13,247
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	140,778	125,182	1,099,816	1,144,168
29	Organic chemicals	7,235	6,595	32,798	62,193
30	Pharmaceutical products	20,506	18,253	183,743	156,967
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	3,987	2,745	33,041	26,011
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,480	4,047	32,751	37,184
49	Printed books, newspapers	8,648	4,413	72,394	61,001
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	3,212	1,027	26,773	18,471
72	Iron and steel	643	904	3,911	4,709
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,036	2,942	10,425	12,445
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	5,908	8,065	51,924	66,132
85	Electrical machinery etc.	71,108	54,887	641,624	491,295
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	1,246	1,677	12,965	10,683
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	2,776	4,733	39,665	72,439
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	3,968	3,623	41,815	40,457
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	9,751	7,543	78,670	74,981
99	Special classifications	2,961	2,989	16,240	17,792

^P 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?>