

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €93.9 million in April, compared to €128.7 million in the corresponding month in 2014.

International Trade: April 2015

Cut-off date:
27 May 2015

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in April stood at €93.9 million, down by €34.8 million when compared to the corresponding month in 2014. Imports registered a decline of €17.9 million while exports increased by €16.9 million (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to lower mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€114.2 million). Other decreases were recorded for all commodity groups except for machinery and transport equipment. As for exports, food accounted for the main increase (€13.3 million), while machinery and transport equipment, miscellaneous manufactured articles, crude materials, and semi-manufactured goods also registered increases (Table 2).

January-April 2015

During the first four months this year, the trade deficit widened by €265.2 million, to €769.0 million when compared to the corresponding period last year. Imports increased by €164.7 million, while exports registered a decline of €100.5 million (Table 1a). Higher imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment (€423.4 million), while the decrease in the value of exports was triggered by lower mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€128.1 million) and machinery and transport equipment (€18.7 million) (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €978.9 million, or 49.7 per cent of total imports. There was an increase of €14.9 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period last year. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from Italy (€26.3 million) and the United States of America (€71.2 million) respectively. On the export side the main increase was directed to the United Kingdom (€35.7 million), with Libya (€81.3 million) registering the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

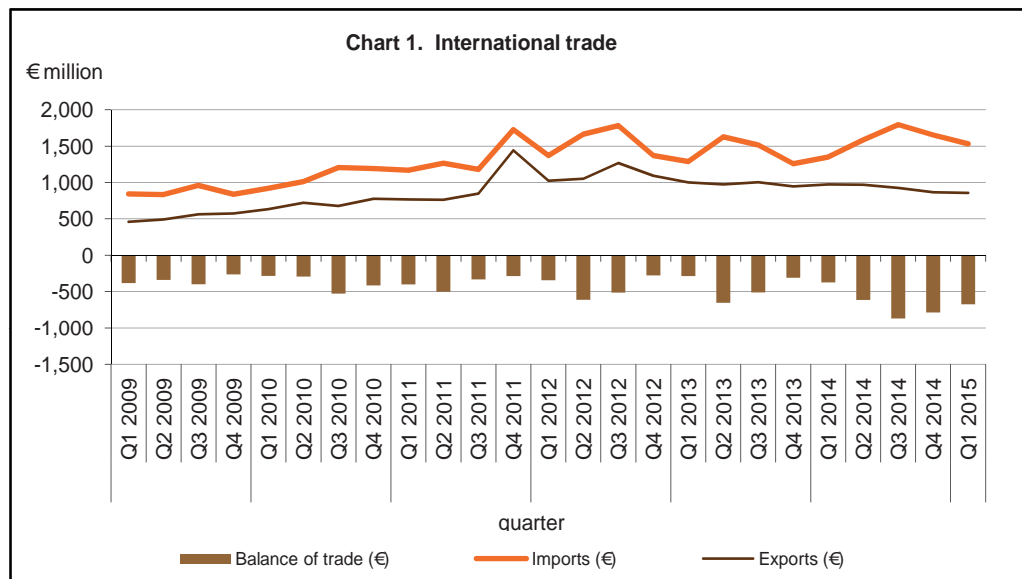
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Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2013 ^P	2014 ^P	April		January-April	
			2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P
Imports	5,688.7	6,381.6	456.6	438.7	1,805.8	1,970.5
Industrial Supplies	1,549.8	1,407.2	104.4	119.2	467.6	457.7
Primary	95.1	81.2	3.7	3.2	14.9	19.7
Semi-Finished	1,294.7	1,175.2	90.0	97.3	399.1	368.7
Finished	160.0	150.8	10.6	18.7	53.7	69.3
Capital Goods and Others	868.8	1,304.8	47.4	148.6	190.5	618.7
Consumer Goods	1,040.4	1,108.5	103.4	83.7	345.3	332.9
Food and Beverages	451.0	470.8	42.9	33.5	142.8	128.6
Durable Goods	335.5	370.9	33.6	29.3	114.1	118.8
Others	254.0	266.8	26.8	20.9	88.5	85.5
Fuels and Lubricants	2,229.7	2,561.1	201.5	87.3	802.3	561.2
Exports	3,925.5	3,735.1	327.9	344.8	1,302.0	1,201.5
Balance of Trade	-1,763.2	-2,646.5	-128.7	-93.9	-503.8	-769.0

^P Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 1b. Trade by broad economic category - last six quarters

€ million

Broad economic category	2013 Q4 ^P	2014 Q1 ^P	2014 Q2 ^P	2014 Q3 ^P	2014 Q4 ^P	2015 Q1 ^P
Imports	1,257.7	1,349.2	1,584.8	1,794.9	1,652.8	1,531.8
Industrial Supplies	373.8	363.3	326.7	353.8	363.4	338.5
Primary	22.3	11.1	19.0	30.0	21.1	16.5
Semi-Finished	310.5	309.1	272.2	293.5	300.5	271.3
Finished	41.1	43.1	35.5	30.3	41.8	50.6
Capital Goods and Others	198.2	143.1	290.0	401.2	470.6	470.2
Consumer Goods	275.3	242.0	290.0	283.1	293.4	249.2
Food and Beverages	120.4	99.9	120.8	126.2	123.9	95.1
Durable Goods	90.4	80.5	97.2	90.4	102.9	89.5
Others	64.6	61.6	72.0	66.5	66.6	64.6
Fuels and Lubricants	410.4	600.8	678.1	756.8	525.4	474.0
Exports	947.0	974.1	970.0	924.9	866.1	856.7
Balance of Trade	-310.7	-375.1	-614.8	-870.0	-786.6	-675.1

^P Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 1c. Exports net of fuels and lubricants by period

€ million

Broad economic category	2013 ^P	2014 ^P	April		January-April	
			2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P
Total Exports	3,925.5	3,735.1	327.9	344.8	1,302.0	1,201.5
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,665.7	1,608.2	152.9	149.9	588.0	459.6
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,259.8	2,126.8	175.0	194.9	714.0	742.0

^P Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Balance of trade by period and major commodity groups

€ million

Major commodity group	2013 ^P	2014 ^P	April		January-April	
			2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P
Imports	5,688.7	6,381.6	456.6	438.7	1,805.8	1,970.5
Food	503.9	504.0	40.8	33.2	145.8	136.9
Beverages and Tobacco	74.8	89.3	9.4	6.1	25.9	23.1
Crude Materials	26.4	24.4	2.2	1.6	7.1	6.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,235.8	2,563.5	201.5	87.3	802.5	562.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	8.5	8.7	0.9	0.8	3.0	2.7
Chemicals	440.4	503.8	39.9	37.3	157.7	162.4
Semi-Manufactured Goods	311.0	340.5	27.8	26.9	113.0	104.2
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,668.2	1,916.2	93.9	212.4	415.7	839.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	398.9	419.3	38.4	31.4	130.8	127.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	20.9	11.9	1.9	1.7	4.4	5.5
Exports	3,925.5	3,735.1	327.9	344.8	1,302.0	1,201.5
Food	212.5	197.7	15.2	28.5	61.1	74.9
Beverages and Tobacco	35.5	45.3	4.5	3.3	14.2	10.5
Crude Materials	15.3	16.1	1.4	2.1	5.3	6.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,665.7	1,608.2	152.9	149.9	588.0	459.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	358.2	376.4	37.8	33.5	114.8	114.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	117.8	114.9	9.6	10.1	43.6	42.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,112.4	999.5	69.9	78.3	336.0	317.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	404.4	375.6	36.3	39.1	138.2	175.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	3.7	1.3	0.2	0.0	0.9	0.2
Balance of Trade	-1,763.2	-2,646.5	-128.7	-93.9	-503.8	-769.0
Food	-291.4	-306.3	-25.6	-4.6	-84.7	-62.0
Beverages and Tobacco	-39.3	-44.0	-4.9	-2.8	-11.7	-12.6
Crude Materials	-11.1	-8.3	-0.8	0.4	-1.8	-0.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-570.1	-955.2	-48.6	62.6	-214.5	-102.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-8.5	-8.7	-0.9	-0.8	-3.0	-2.7
Chemicals	-82.2	-127.4	-2.1	-3.8	-42.9	-48.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-193.2	-225.6	-18.2	-16.8	-69.4	-62.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-555.7	-916.7	-24.0	-134.2	-79.7	-521.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	5.5	-43.7	-2.0	7.8	7.3	48.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-17.1	-10.6	-1.7	-1.7	-3.5	-5.3

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. The commodity breakdown is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 3.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Direction of trade by period

€ million

Region and Country	April						January-April					
	2014 ^P			2015 ^P			2014 ^P			2015 ^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	304.1	118.7	-185.4	333.3	90.0	-243.4	1,329.1	492.2	-836.9	1,242.5	378.4	-864.1
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	202.1	97.6	-104.4	270.4	81.9	-188.5	958.3	414.6	-543.7	978.9	348.1	-630.9
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	28.7	8.8	-19.9	46.3	16.9	-29.4	111.9	30.9	-81.0	121.9	66.6	-55.3
Euro Area	160.3	72.7	-87.6	202.2	55.5	-146.7	730.2	329.8	-400.4	745.1	249.6	-495.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	79.5	17.9	-61.6	132.1	9.8	-122.3	359.4	84.0	-275.4	385.7	41.3	-344.5
Germany	27.3	25.4	-1.9	25.6	28.1	2.4	125.2	114.0	-11.2	105.6	110.0	4.3
France	15.7	13.0	-2.7	12.0	8.8	-3.2	62.7	62.0	-0.7	52.8	62.4	9.5
Netherlands	12.3	4.3	-7.9	9.7	2.6	-7.1	44.9	15.6	-29.3	55.2	10.7	-44.5
Spain	9.2	2.1	-7.2	8.5	2.6	-5.9	65.1	14.0	-51.1	40.9	13.3	-27.6
Belgium	6.4	1.3	-5.1	5.2	0.5	-4.7	36.4	3.2	-33.2	55.8	2.1	-53.7
EFTA Countries	4.1	2.3	-1.8	4.5	2.6	-1.9	50.3	9.7	-40.6	15.2	11.2	-4.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	4.0	2.0	-2.1	3.9	2.5	-1.4	13.1	7.2	-5.9	13.0	9.6	-3.4
Other European Countries	98.0	18.9	-79.1	58.4	5.5	-52.9	320.5	67.9	-252.6	248.4	19.1	-229.3
Asia	63.0	46.5	-16.5	58.4	50.8	-7.6	202.6	254.4	51.8	225.2	254.1	28.9
<i>of which:</i>												
China	11.1	2.1	-9.0	16.4	2.5	-13.9	38.2	10.7	-27.5	60.4	27.2	-33.1
India	9.8	3.6	-6.2	8.1	4.7	-3.4	30.9	13.7	-17.2	32.4	10.5	-21.9
Singapore	5.6	14.2	8.6	7.8	13.5	5.7	15.6	66.0	50.3	28.6	51.7	23.0
Japan	3.7	1.8	-1.9	7.4	1.1	-6.3	13.2	15.7	2.6	24.0	7.1	-16.9
Korea Republic	4.7	0.3	-4.4	5.8	0.7	-5.2	17.2	2.9	-14.3	14.9	3.4	-11.4
North and Central America	66.1	13.8	-52.3	28.2	16.4	-11.8	205.3	92.0	-113.3	428.6	59.5	-369.1
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	65.6	11.5	-54.1	26.4	10.5	-15.9	186.2	79.5	-106.7	115.0	40.0	-75.0
Africa	12.3	122.1	109.9	7.7	86.4	78.8	45.2	341.3	296.1	21.5	337.4	315.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Libya	5.0	11.3	6.4	5.0	10.7	5.6	8.4	128.9	120.6	5.1	47.6	42.4
Australia and Oceania	0.8	0.6	-0.2	0.6	2.8	2.2	2.0	2.3	0.3	2.8	6.4	3.6
South America	4.7	2.3	-2.4	1.3	0.3	-0.9	10.8	3.4	-7.4	6.3	6.1	-0.2
Ships and Aircraft Stores	5.6	23.6	18.0	0.4	97.7	97.3	10.8	115.8	105.0	23.3	158.5	135.2
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	0.0	0.2	0.2	8.8	0.4	-8.4	0.0	0.7	0.7	20.3	1.2	-19.1
Grand Total	456.6	327.9	-128.7	438.7	344.8	-93.9	1,805.8	1,302.0	-503.8	1,970.5	1,201.5	-769.0

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. Arrivals/Dispatches relate to transactions with EU Member States.
2. Imports/Exports relate to transactions with Non-EU Member States (see methodological note 8 for country groupings).
3. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 4. Trade by period and principal traded commodities

Chapter number	Commodity description	€000			
		April		January-April	
		2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P
Main imports					
2	Meat and edible offal	3,511	4,414	14,520	15,472
4	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,565	3,989	14,047	13,404
10	Cereals	1,914	2,045	10,046	15,885
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,763	3,496	16,059	12,729
19	Preparations of cereals	4,891	4,553	17,623	18,269
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,154	2,120	8,240	7,646
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,976	2,780	11,912	10,403
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	6,323	5,076	16,814	16,314
23	Food residues and waste	2,830	2,568	10,970	9,899
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	1,963	2,165	6,659	7,224
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	201,545	87,289	802,481	562,700
29	Organic chemicals	8,240	9,416	43,579	45,915
30	Pharmaceutical products	12,087	11,765	40,088	44,620
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	1,700	2,612	10,213	9,601
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,377	2,960	13,384	11,331
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	14,496	11,639	47,581	48,421
48	Paper and paperboard articles	6,913	5,723	28,687	26,207
61	Knitted clothing	3,630	2,262	12,907	13,034
62	Woven clothing	3,802	2,991	13,040	12,489
69	Ceramic products	1,993	2,049	8,016	7,696
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	5,307	4,261	17,007	12,621
72	Iron and steel	1,614	2,574	6,997	6,371
73	Articles of iron or steel	3,517	4,797	19,544	18,352
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	21,754	23,600	89,993	79,948
85	Electrical machinery etc.	46,102	55,614	206,236	187,375
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	11,633	12,641	39,795	44,380
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	6,550	21,589	47,154	376,473
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	8,330	99,290	34,597	153,747
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,196	4,652	17,276	20,140
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	5,889	4,796	18,461	17,621
Main exports					
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	1,099	1,963	12,468	8,695
10	Cereals	562	12,359	2,237	13,784
19	Preparations of cereals	3,481	3,142	13,521	14,877
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	9,296	10,365	30,657	34,123
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	152,878	149,814	587,882	459,596
29	Organic chemicals	14,915	7,327	25,231	27,972
30	Pharmaceutical products	19,021	22,853	77,553	71,473
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	3,827	4,646	15,434	17,218
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,642	4,820	19,105	19,738
49	Printed books, newspapers	10,617	13,949	38,637	75,172
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,325	2,562	10,348	8,499
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	3,067	1,896	12,826	5,220
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	8,439	7,991	33,962	39,931
85	Electrical machinery etc.	55,117	57,093	266,389	239,815
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	908	4,653	4,320	11,927
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	5,517	8,435	31,427	24,046
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,806	6,826	20,981	25,783
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	8,670	8,077	37,862	34,733
99	Special classifications	2,226	2,228	6,358	6,404

^P Provisional

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

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. This news release is based on data available as on the cut-off date printed on the front page of this release. These are provisional figures based on information provided by traders on a monthly basis. 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. National concepts differ from the harmonised methodology used by Eurostat, leading to differences between figures in this release and those published by Eurostat. Malta uses the General Trade system for dissemination purposes, in line with UN recommendations. On the other hand, monthly data sent to Eurostat for both Intra-EU and Extra-EU are compiled according to the Special Trade methodology. A more detailed explanation of these two concepts can be found at <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=7>.
7. Individual countries' data not appearing in this release are available from the NSO upon request.
8.
 - i. Up to 31 December 2014, the euro area included Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia (from 2014), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. From 1 January 2015, the euro area also includes Lithuania. Trade data for Lithuania is included with the euro area data as from reference month January 2015.
 - 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.
9. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=7>
Classifications: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/index.cfm?>