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Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €386.9 million in May, compared to €128.5 million in the corresponding month of 2014.

## International Trade: May 2015

Cut-off date:  
**06 July 2015**

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in May stood at €386.9 million, up by €258.4 million when compared to the corresponding month in 2014. Imports registered an increase of €144.7 million while exports declined by €113.7 million (Table 1a). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€257.1 million). Other increases were recorded for semi-manufactured goods, food, miscellaneous transactions and commodities, and crude materials. Regarding exports, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials accounted for the main decrease (€111.5 million), while miscellaneous manufactured articles, semi-manufactured goods, beverages and tobacco, miscellaneous transactions and commodities, and machinery and transport equipment also registered decreases (Table 2).

### January-May 2015

During the first five months this year, the trade deficit widened by €549.0 million, to €1,181.4 million when compared to the corresponding period last year. Imports increased by €325.2 million, while exports registered a decline of €223.7 million (Table 1a). Higher imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment (€680.0 million), while the decrease in the value of exports was triggered by lower mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€239.5 million), machinery and transport equipment (€10.0 million), and beverages and tobacco (€4.2 million) (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €1,441.9 million, or 55.1 per cent of total imports. There was an increase of €226.4 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period last year. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from the Netherlands (€235.6 million) and the United States of America (€126.6 million) respectively. On the export side the main increase was directed to China (€17.6 million), whereas Italy (€44.7 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

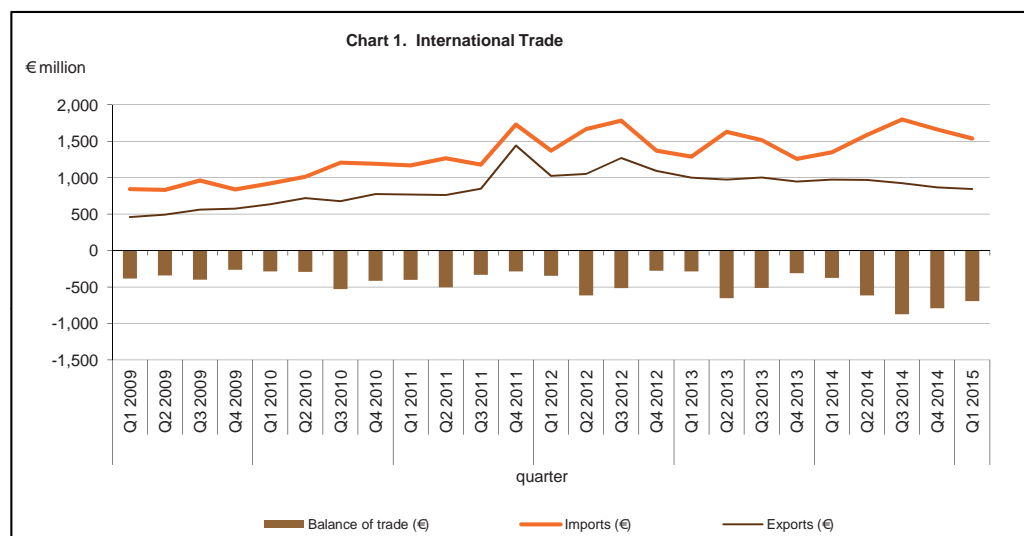
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Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	May		January-May	
			2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>5,688.9</b>	<b>6,391.0</b>	<b>484.0</b>	<b>628.7</b>	<b>2,290.0</b>	<b>2,615.2</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>1,549.8</b>	<b>1,409.3</b>	<b>113.3</b>	<b>95.3</b>	<b>581.0</b>	<b>559.4</b>
Primary	95.1	81.2	3.3	3.3	18.1	23.1
Semi-Finished	1,294.7	1,177.2	96.6	81.2	495.6	455.0
Finished	160.0	151.0	13.5	10.8	67.2	81.3
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>868.8</b>	<b>1,307.1</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>326.9</b>	<b>250.4</b>	<b>942.0</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>1,040.6</b>	<b>1,113.5</b>	<b>94.2</b>	<b>92.4</b>	<b>439.7</b>	<b>438.2</b>
Food and Beverages	451.0	471.9	37.1	40.1	179.9	172.6
Durable Goods	335.5	372.6	33.6	31.2	147.8	156.3
Others	254.1	269.0	23.4	21.1	112.0	109.3
<b>Fuels and Lubricants</b>	<b>2,229.7</b>	<b>2,561.1</b>	<b>216.7</b>	<b>114.1</b>	<b>1,019.0</b>	<b>675.6</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>3,925.5</b>	<b>3,736.9</b>	<b>355.5</b>	<b>241.8</b>	<b>1,657.5</b>	<b>1,433.8</b>
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-1,763.4</b>	<b>-2,654.1</b>	<b>-128.5</b>	<b>-386.9</b>	<b>-632.4</b>	<b>-1,181.4</b>

<sup>P</sup> 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 <sup>P</sup>	2014 Q1 <sup>P</sup>	2014 Q2 <sup>P</sup>	2014 Q3 <sup>P</sup>	2014 Q4 <sup>P</sup>	2015 Q1 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>1,257.8</b>	<b>1,349.3</b>	<b>1,585.2</b>	<b>1,797.6</b>	<b>1,658.9</b>	<b>1,537.3</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>373.8</b>	<b>363.3</b>	<b>326.7</b>	<b>354.2</b>	<b>365.1</b>	<b>342.0</b>
Primary	22.3	11.1	19.0	30.0	21.1	16.6
Semi-Finished	310.5	309.1	272.2	293.8	302.1	274.7
Finished	41.1	43.1	35.5	30.4	42.0	50.8
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>198.2</b>	<b>143.1</b>	<b>290.0</b>	<b>401.6</b>	<b>472.4</b>	<b>465.3</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>275.4</b>	<b>242.1</b>	<b>290.4</b>	<b>284.9</b>	<b>296.1</b>	<b>255.8</b>
Food and Beverages	120.4	100.0	120.9	126.3	124.8	97.4
Durable Goods	90.4	80.5	97.3	91.3	103.5	92.4
Others	64.6	61.7	72.3	67.3	67.7	66.0
<b>Fuels and Lubricants</b>	<b>410.4</b>	<b>600.8</b>	<b>678.1</b>	<b>756.8</b>	<b>525.4</b>	<b>474.2</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>947.0</b>	<b>974.1</b>	<b>970.0</b>	<b>925.3</b>	<b>867.5</b>	<b>844.6</b>
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-310.8</b>	<b>-375.2</b>	<b>-615.2</b>	<b>-872.3</b>	<b>-791.4</b>	<b>-692.8</b>

<sup>P</sup> 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 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	May		January-May	
			2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>3,925.5</b>	<b>3,736.9</b>	<b>355.5</b>	<b>241.8</b>	<b>1,657.5</b>	<b>1,433.8</b>
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,665.7	1,608.2	192.4	80.9	780.4	540.5
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,259.8	2,128.7	163.2	160.9	877.2	893.3

<sup>P</sup> 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 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	May		January-May	
			2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>5,688.9</b>	<b>6,391.0</b>	<b>484.0</b>	<b>628.7</b>	<b>2,290.0</b>	<b>2,615.2</b>
Food	503.9	505.1	36.5	37.8	182.4	178.6
Beverages and Tobacco	74.8	89.6	8.6	7.5	34.5	31.0
Crude Materials	26.4	24.4	1.6	1.7	8.7	9.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,235.8	2,563.5	216.7	114.1	1,019.1	677.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	8.5	8.7	0.8	0.8	3.8	3.6
Chemicals	440.6	506.2	46.1	33.3	203.9	197.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	311.0	341.7	25.3	29.0	138.3	136.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,668.2	1,919.0	111.2	368.3	526.8	1,206.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	398.9	421.0	36.4	34.6	167.3	168.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	20.9	11.9	0.9	1.6	5.2	7.1
<b>Exports</b>	<b>3,925.5</b>	<b>3,736.9</b>	<b>355.5</b>	<b>241.8</b>	<b>1,657.5</b>	<b>1,433.8</b>
Food	212.5	197.6	12.7	14.0	73.8	89.2
Beverages and Tobacco	35.5	45.3	4.8	4.3	19.0	14.8
Crude Materials	15.3	16.1	0.6	1.6	5.9	8.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,665.7	1,608.2	192.4	80.9	780.4	540.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	358.2	376.4	28.8	28.9	143.6	148.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	117.8	116.0	10.5	8.9	54.1	52.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,112.4	1,000.2	74.2	74.1	410.1	400.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	404.4	375.6	31.3	29.0	169.4	179.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	3.7	1.3	0.3	0.0	1.2	0.2
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-1,763.4</b>	<b>-2,654.1</b>	<b>-128.5</b>	<b>-386.9</b>	<b>-632.4</b>	<b>-1,181.4</b>
Food	-291.4	-307.4	-23.9	-23.8	-108.5	-89.4
Beverages and Tobacco	-39.3	-44.2	-3.8	-3.2	-15.4	-16.2
Crude Materials	-11.1	-8.3	-1.0	-0.1	-2.8	-0.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-570.1	-955.2	-24.3	-33.2	-238.8	-136.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-8.5	-8.7	-0.8	-0.8	-3.8	-3.6
Chemicals	-82.4	-129.9	-17.3	-4.4	-60.3	-49.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-193.2	-225.7	-14.8	-20.1	-84.3	-83.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-555.7	-918.8	-37.0	-294.2	-116.7	-806.7
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	5.5	-45.4	-5.2	-5.6	2.1	11.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-17.1	-10.6	-0.5	-1.5	-4.0	-6.9

<sup>P</sup> 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	May						January-May					
	2014 <sup>P</sup>			2015 <sup>P</sup>			2014 <sup>P</sup>			2015 <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>294.0</b>	<b>100.2</b>	<b>-193.8</b>	<b>508.8</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>-433.2</b>	<b>1,623.2</b>	<b>592.4</b>	<b>-1,030.9</b>	<b>1,773.1</b>	<b>444.4</b>	<b>-1,328.7</b>
<b>European Union</b>	<b>233.6</b>	<b>83.2</b>	<b>-150.4</b>	<b>441.1</b>	<b>69.3</b>	<b>-371.9</b>	<b>1,192.0</b>	<b>497.8</b>	<b>-694.2</b>	<b>1,441.9</b>	<b>407.8</b>	<b>-1,034.0</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	25.3	8.6	-16.8	39.1	8.1	-30.9	137.3	39.5	-97.8	165.1	49.1	-116.0
Euro Area	178.9	62.4	-116.5	374.2	49.2	761.5	909.3	392.2	-517.1	1,135.7	312.6	-823.2
<i>of which:</i>												
Netherlands	10.2	4.1	-6.1	233.8	2.9	-230.9	55.1	19.7	-35.4	290.7	13.6	-277.1
Italy	92.2	9.8	-82.4	74.1	6.9	-67.2	451.7	93.9	-357.9	466.4	49.2	-417.2
France	27.3	11.9	-15.3	23.2	12.2	-11.0	90.0	73.9	-16.0	77.4	77.1	-0.2
Germany	28.1	29.0	0.8	21.2	21.8	0.6	153.3	143.0	-10.4	129.9	140.4	10.5
Spain	8.5	3.2	-5.3	8.8	2.6	-6.2	73.6	17.1	-56.5	51.4	16.6	-34.8
Belgium	6.3	0.4	-5.9	5.5	0.4	-5.1	42.7	3.6	-39.1	62.3	2.6	-59.7
<b>EFTA Countries</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>-40.9</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>-5.4</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	2.6	1.7	-0.9	3.2	2.7	-0.5	15.7	8.9	-6.8	16.2	12.3	-3.9
<b>Other European Countries</b>	<b>57.6</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>-43.2</b>	<b>63.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>-59.9</b>	<b>378.1</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>-295.7</b>	<b>311.5</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>-289.2</b>
<b>Asia</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>69.3</b>	<b>-4.7</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>276.6</b>	<b>323.7</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>280.3</b>	<b>305.3</b>	<b>25.0</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
China	13.4	0.8	-12.6	17.3	1.8	-15.5	51.6	11.5	-40.1	77.7	29.1	-48.7
India	8.4	4.9	-3.5	7.2	1.7	-5.6	39.3	18.6	-20.7	39.7	12.2	-27.5
Singapore	4.6	13.2	8.5	6.2	14.3	8.2	20.3	79.1	58.9	34.8	66.0	31.2
Japan	5.7	2.3	-3.4	6.1	1.4	-4.7	18.9	18.0	-0.9	30.1	8.5	-21.6
Korea Republic	4.2	26.8	22.6	4.6	1.2	-3.4	21.4	29.7	8.3	19.5	4.7	-14.8
<b>North and Central America</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>-55.3</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>272.1</b>	<b>103.5</b>	<b>-168.6</b>	<b>440.0</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>-363.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	66.4	8.9	-57.4	16.8	12.1	-4.7	252.6	88.4	-164.2	126.0	52.1	-73.9
<b>Africa</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>106.5</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>447.8</b>	<b>371.3</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>415.9</b>	<b>373.2</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Tunisia	0.4	44.7	44.3	7.4	9.7	2.4	5.9	80.5	74.6	8.9	51.3	42.3
<b>Australia and Oceania</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>3.9</b>
<b>South America</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>-8.0</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>-3.0</b>
<b>Ships and Aircraft Stores</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>182.1</b>	<b>155.7</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>176.5</b>	<b>153.1</b>
<b>Caribbean and Bahamas Islands</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-22.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>-41.1</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>484.0</b>	<b>355.5</b>	<b>-128.5</b>	<b>628.7</b>	<b>241.8</b>	<b>-386.9</b>	<b>2,290.0</b>	<b>1,657.5</b>	<b>-632.4</b>	<b>2,615.2</b>	<b>1,433.8</b>	<b>-1,181.4</b>

<sup>P</sup> 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			
		May		January-May	
		2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Main imports</b>					
2	Meat and edible offal	3,981	4,342	18,501	20,025
4	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,103	3,513	18,150	17,046
8	Edible fruit and nuts	3,302	2,721	14,157	10,414
10	Cereals	2,707	2,298	12,753	18,203
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,742	4,176	19,801	16,930
17	Sugars and sugar confectionary	945	3,334	8,317	8,835
19	Preparations of cereals	4,333	4,595	21,963	23,204
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,099	2,360	10,342	10,134
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,311	3,401	15,255	14,290
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,514	5,914	22,328	22,592
23	Food residues and waste	2,939	2,267	13,910	13,039
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	216,677	114,091	1,019,157	677,032
29	Organic chemicals	15,309	6,122	58,888	52,042
30	Pharmaceutical products	10,416	10,672	50,504	55,714
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,891	3,906	17,343	16,536
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	13,732	10,786	61,321	59,904
48	Paper and paperboard articles	5,080	6,363	33,768	32,752
61	Knitted clothing	3,471	2,561	16,378	16,769
62	Woven clothing	3,582	2,750	16,623	16,283
69	Ceramic products	2,304	2,109	10,321	10,279
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	3,894	4,673	20,901	17,396
72	Iron and steel	2,014	2,605	9,011	9,071
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,370	5,314	23,913	24,072
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	21,713	18,988	111,710	101,052
85	Electrical machinery etc.	47,136	41,258	253,373	231,014
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	13,951	14,961	53,746	59,853
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	7,217	7,600	54,370	378,743
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	21,473	286,160	56,070	439,921
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,698	6,665	21,974	27,082
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	4,956	5,845	23,442	24,540
<b>Main exports</b>					
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc	1,891	2,088	14,359	10,897
19	Preparations of cereals	1,143	1,669	14,663	16,600
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	7,841	9,247	38,499	43,493
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,546	1,566	8,792	4,602
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	192,303	80,885	780,184	540,501
29	Organic chemicals	8,277	4,817	33,509	32,789
30	Pharmaceutical products	18,282	21,330	95,835	97,845
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	3,621	4,373	19,056	21,698
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,129	4,889	24,234	24,790
49	Printed books, newspapers	5,195	6,951	43,832	55,174
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,836	2,315	13,184	10,842
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	2,548	2,576	15,374	7,796
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	8,001	7,824	41,964	48,996
85	Electrical machinery etc.	58,412	55,254	324,802	299,678
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	1,652	3,942	5,972	15,869
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	6,900	7,094	38,327	34,107
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,439	5,014	26,420	31,321
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	9,634	6,338	47,496	41,073
99	Special classifications	2,736	2,768	9,094	9,172

<sup>P</sup> 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>  
Classification: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/index.cfm?>