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Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €171.6 million in August 2015, compared to €293.1 million in the corresponding month of 2014.

## International Trade: August 2015

Cut-off date:  
**29 September 2015**

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in August stood at €171.6 million, down by €121.5 million when compared to the corresponding month in 2014. Imports declined by €118.9 million while exports registered an increase of €2.7 million (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€82.2 million). Other decreases were recorded for mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, chemicals, crude materials, beverages and tobacco, and miscellaneous manufactured articles. Regarding exports, miscellaneous manufactured articles accounted for the main increase (€9.4 million), followed by mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials and food (Table 2).

### January-August 2015

During the first eight months, the trade deficit widened by €303.7 million, to €1,886.8 million when compared to the corresponding period last year. Imports increased by €156.5 million, while exports registered a decline of €147.2 million (Table 1a). Higher imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment (€626.0 million), while the decrease in the value of exports was triggered by lower mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€167.0 million), and machinery and transport equipment (€24.4 million) (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €2,438.5 million, or 57.1 per cent of total imports. There was an increase of €264.7 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 (€191.3 million) and the United States of America (€187.8 million) respectively. On the export side, the main increase was directed to France (€21.2 million), whereas Egypt (€57.9 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

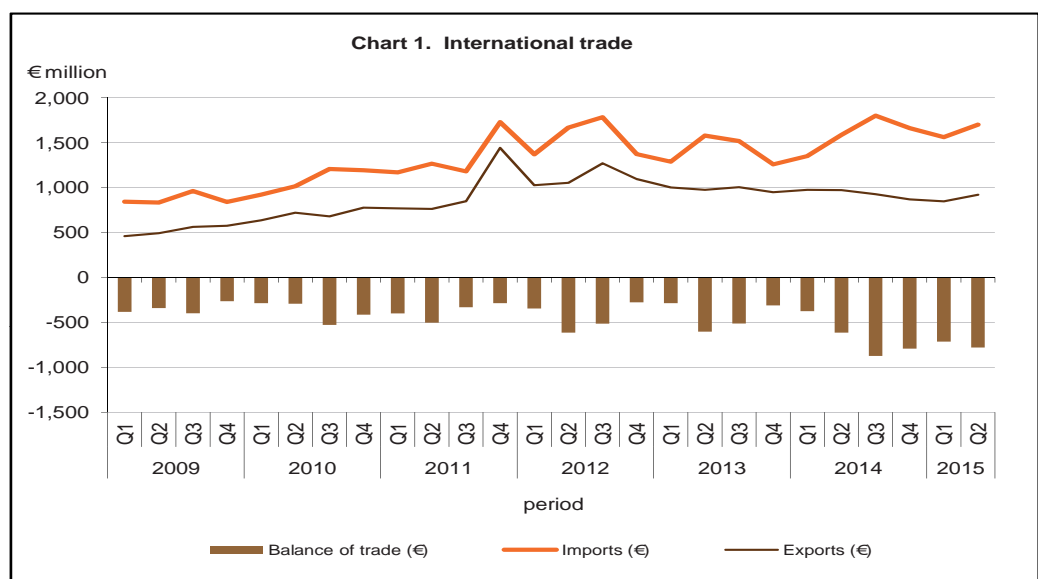
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Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	August		January-August	
			2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>5,639.1</b>	<b>6,392.7</b>	<b>557.9</b>	<b>439.0</b>	<b>4,115.4</b>	<b>4,271.9</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>1,549.8</b>	<b>1,409.9</b>	<b>103.4</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>929.3</b>	<b>953.8</b>
Primary	95.1	81.2	3.6	9.7	52.2	61.9
Semi-Finished	1,294.8	1,177.7	88.5	74.3	777.3	763.5
Finished	160.0	151.0	11.3	8.2	99.8	128.5
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>868.9</b>	<b>1,307.2</b>	<b>171.4</b>	<b>103.6</b>	<b>728.3</b>	<b>1,362.6</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>1,040.7</b>	<b>1,114.5</b>	<b>88.1</b>	<b>89.8</b>	<b>721.6</b>	<b>755.7</b>
Food and Beverages	451.0	472.2	37.8	40.0	302.2	304.6
Durable Goods	335.5	373.2	28.1	29.7	239.8	267.5
Others	254.2	269.2	22.2	20.2	179.5	183.7
<b>Fuels and Lubricants</b>	<b>2,179.7</b>	<b>2,561.1</b>	<b>195.0</b>	<b>153.2</b>	<b>1,736.2</b>	<b>1,199.7</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>3,925.5</b>	<b>3,737.0</b>	<b>264.7</b>	<b>267.4</b>	<b>2,532.3</b>	<b>2,385.1</b>
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-1,713.6</b>	<b>-2,655.7</b>	<b>-293.1</b>	<b>-171.6</b>	<b>-1,583.1</b>	<b>-1,886.8</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	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>	2015 Q2 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>363.4</b>	<b>326.2</b>	<b>354.9</b>	<b>365.4</b>	<b>346.7</b>	<b>359.5</b>
Primary	11.1	18.5	30.4	21.2	16.7	29.4
Semi-Finished	309.2	272.2	294.1	302.3	279.0	280.6
Finished	43.1	35.5	30.4	42.0	51.0	49.5
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>143.1</b>	<b>290.0</b>	<b>401.7</b>	<b>472.4</b>	<b>472.2</b>	<b>639.3</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>242.2</b>	<b>290.5</b>	<b>285.1</b>	<b>296.7</b>	<b>266.3</b>	<b>298.7</b>
Food and Beverages	100.0	120.9	126.2	125.2	102.1	122.1
Durable Goods	80.5	97.4	91.5	103.8	96.4	103.8
Others	61.7	72.3	67.4	67.8	67.8	72.8
<b>Fuels and Lubricants</b>	<b>600.8</b>	<b>678.1</b>	<b>756.8</b>	<b>525.4</b>	<b>474.5</b>	<b>400.6</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>974.1</b>	<b>970.1</b>	<b>925.3</b>	<b>867.5</b>	<b>846.2</b>	<b>918.8</b>
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-375.4</b>	<b>-614.8</b>	<b>-873.2</b>	<b>-792.4</b>	<b>-713.5</b>	<b>-779.4</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>	August		January-August	
			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>3,737.0</b>	<b>264.7</b>	<b>267.4</b>	<b>2,532.3</b>	<b>2,385.1</b>
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,665.7	1,608.2	125.3	122.9	1,155.0	976.0
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,259.8	2,128.8	139.4	144.5	1,377.3	1,409.1

<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>	August		January-August	
			2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>P</sup>	2015 <sup>P</sup>
			<b>Imports</b>	<b>5,639.1</b>	<b>6,392.7</b>	<b>557.9</b>
Food	503.9	505.3	35.0	45.5	322.0	334.4
Beverages and Tobacco	74.8	89.6	8.8	7.9	60.7	57.2
Crude Materials	26.4	24.4	3.6	1.4	16.5	16.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,185.8	2,563.5	195.0	153.2	1,737.1	1,201.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	8.5	8.7	0.5	0.7	6.0	6.1
Chemicals	440.7	506.4	37.9	34.6	321.6	312.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	311.0	342.1	22.6	23.5	218.6	264.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,668.2	1,919.3	224.1	141.9	1,157.8	1,783.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	398.9	421.5	29.4	29.0	267.5	285.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	20.9	11.9	1.0	1.2	7.7	10.7
<b>Exports</b>	<b>3,925.5</b>	<b>3,737.0</b>	<b>264.7</b>	<b>267.4</b>	<b>2,532.3</b>	<b>2,385.1</b>
Food	212.5	197.8	3.6	4.8	91.3	111.7
Beverages and Tobacco	35.5	45.3	4.4	3.8	31.0	26.7
Crude Materials	15.3	16.1	1.7	1.3	10.8	11.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,665.7	1,608.2	125.3	126.9	1,155.0	988.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	358.2	376.4	26.3	24.6	239.1	242.2
Semi-Manufactured Goods	117.8	116.0	9.9	7.2	81.7	80.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,112.4	1,000.2	70.9	66.8	668.0	643.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	404.5	375.6	22.6	32.0	254.2	281.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	3.7	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.3
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-1,713.6</b>	<b>-2,655.7</b>	<b>-293.1</b>	<b>-171.6</b>	<b>-1,583.1</b>	<b>-1,886.8</b>
Food	-291.4	-307.6	-31.5	-40.7	-230.7	-222.6
Beverages and Tobacco	-39.3	-44.2	-4.4	-4.1	-29.7	-30.5
Crude Materials	-11.1	-8.3	-1.9	-0.1	-5.7	-4.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-520.1	-955.2	-69.7	-26.4	-582.1	-213.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-8.5	-8.7	-0.5	-0.7	-6.0	-6.0
Chemicals	-82.5	-130.0	-11.5	-10.0	-82.4	-70.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-193.2	-226.1	-12.8	-16.3	-136.9	-184.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-555.8	-919.1	-153.2	-75.1	-489.8	-1,140.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	5.5	-45.9	-6.7	3.0	-13.3	-4.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-17.1	-10.6	-1.0	-1.2	-6.5	-10.4

<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	August						January-August					
	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>406.0</b>	<b>105.9</b>	<b>-300.1</b>	<b>335.3</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>-253.6</b>	<b>2,861.1</b>	<b>917.9</b>	<b>-1,943.2</b>	<b>2,944.5</b>	<b>753.0</b>	<b>-2,191.6</b>
<b>European Union</b>	<b>319.6</b>	<b>86.6</b>	<b>-233.0</b>	<b>268.4</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>-192.4</b>	<b>2,123.7</b>	<b>755.6</b>	<b>-1,368.1</b>	<b>2,438.5</b>	<b>696.8</b>	<b>-1,741.6</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	22.8	8.1	-14.6	24.2	11.3	-12.9	212.6	63.8	-148.8	294.7	84.7	-210.0
Euro Area	251.6	62.0	-189.6	223.8	53.1	-170.8	1,672.1	579.9	-1,092.2	1,936.8	527.8	-1,409.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	135.3	6.1	-129.2	136.3	6.4	-129.9	787.3	117.8	-669.4	862.8	79.6	-783.1
Greece	32.2	0.4	-31.8	21.5	0.5	-21.0	76.1	25.6	-50.5	63.8	2.4	-61.4
Germany	22.0	23.4	1.4	20.6	19.3	-1.3	225.4	221.3	-4.1	220.0	216.1	-3.9
Spain	22.2	1.4	-20.8	11.9	2.6	-9.4	145.3	24.2	-121.1	133.6	25.1	-108.5
France	16.9	25.1	8.2	11.5	19.8	8.2	151.0	132.9	-18.1	135.6	154.1	18.5
Netherlands	12.3	1.9	-10.4	10.4	1.4	-8.9	177.7	27.5	-150.1	369.0	25.2	-343.8
<b>EFTA Countries</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>-54.3</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>-12.3</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	2.0	1.3	-0.8	3.4	2.2	-1.2	31.9	13.0	-18.9	30.9	18.9	-12.0
<b>Other European Countries</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>-66.2</b>	<b>61.4</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>-58.2</b>	<b>666.1</b>	<b>145.3</b>	<b>-520.9</b>	<b>468.9</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>-437.6</b>
<b>Asia</b>	<b>61.6</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>-23.5</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>-22.1</b>	<b>463.6</b>	<b>471.1</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>468.7</b>	<b>447.1</b>	<b>-21.6</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
China	15.7	0.7	-15.0	13.4	1.8	-11.7	93.9	14.6	-79.3	123.9	34.6	-89.3
United Arab Emirates	0.8	0.5	-0.3	8.9	0.6	-8.3	7.5	21.4	13.9	15.7	25.8	10.0
India	9.1	1.1	-8.0	8.2	0.6	-7.6	64.5	22.1	-42.4	65.4	18.1	-47.2
Saudi Arabia	7.4	0.0	-7.4	6.6	0.1	-6.5	56.7	10.7	-45.9	19.6	23.9	4.3
Taiwan	3.2	0.5	-2.7	5.0	0.4	-4.6	22.0	2.1	-19.9	29.4	3.7	-25.7
<b>North and Central America</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>-26.5</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>440.1</b>	<b>142.6</b>	<b>-297.5</b>	<b>554.2</b>	<b>126.9</b>	<b>-427.3</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	37.3	8.5	-28.7	13.9	11.2	-2.7	419.0	116.9	-302.1	231.2	89.3	-141.9
<b>Africa</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>45.4</b>	<b>188.2</b>	<b>697.0</b>	<b>508.8</b>	<b>81.4</b>	<b>665.0</b>	<b>583.6</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	1.4	41.2	39.8	1.6	28.9	27.3	16.3	339.1	322.8	16.5	281.2	264.8
<b>Australia and Oceania</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-14.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>-59.0</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>-23.3</b>
<b>South America</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>-10.9</b>
<b>Ships and Aircraft Stores</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>281.1</b>	<b>202.3</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>372.9</b>	<b>349.3</b>
<b>Caribbean and Bahamas Islands</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-17.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>146.7</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-145.0</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>557.9</b>	<b>264.7</b>	<b>-293.1</b>	<b>439.0</b>	<b>267.4</b>	<b>-171.6</b>	<b>4,115.4</b>	<b>2,532.3</b>	<b>-1,583.1</b>	<b>4,271.9</b>	<b>2,385.1</b>	<b>-1,886.8</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

€ 000

Chapter number	Commodity description	August		January-August	
		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	4,688	4,164	33,153	34,225
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc	4,141	10,768	37,439	40,462
4	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,666	4,002	29,696	30,044
8	Edible fruit and nuts	2,744	2,397	22,025	21,770
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,296	4,045	31,812	29,638
17	Sugars and sugar confectionary	823	2,332	13,005	14,081
19	Preparations of cereals	4,348	4,569	35,990	38,946
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,092	2,461	17,802	17,763
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,545	3,074	26,258	25,684
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,457	5,937	40,360	41,899
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	3,391	1,966	20,741	15,841
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	1,833	1,957	13,138	17,404
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	195,025	153,216	1,737,148	1,201,282
29	Organic chemicals	13,544	8,982	94,529	74,873
30	Pharmaceutical products	10,308	9,721	81,264	88,259
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,574	3,570	27,454	27,695
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	9,773	11,886	96,078	106,006
48	Paper and paperboard articles	3,294	5,579	50,315	52,739
61	Knitted clothing	4,438	2,813	27,311	27,426
62	Woven clothing	3,019	2,935	24,529	26,923
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	2,515	2,496	30,798	28,112
72	Iron and steel	1,869	1,972	15,495	16,478
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,850	4,001	37,241	75,066
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	15,888	17,212	168,348	175,975
85	Electrical machinery etc.	48,705	37,612	398,535	367,718
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	11,043	20,417	86,805	120,872
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	8,007	4,487	96,640	413,034
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	140,806	63,064	411,431	713,640
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	3,446	3,848	35,174	44,013
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	3,435	4,275	38,228	43,016
<b>Main exports</b>					
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc	1,209	2,045	18,327	16,787
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,690	2,038	48,832	55,476
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	508	1,406	7,039	8,209
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	125,182	126,756	1,154,432	987,366
29	Organic chemicals	6,595	5,152	62,193	53,517
30	Pharmaceutical products	18,450	17,160	157,354	162,005
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	2,748	5,047	27,884	36,554
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,047	3,693	37,184	38,050
49	Printed books, newspapers	4,413	10,739	61,064	82,872
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,027	943	18,471	16,673
72	Iron and steel	904	987	4,709	5,512
73	Articles of iron or steel	2,942	1,725	12,445	14,179
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	8,118	6,925	66,697	72,173
85	Electrical machinery etc.	55,604	51,273	516,785	483,724
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	1,677	4,983	11,290	30,469
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	5,530	3,634	73,332	52,611
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,231	4,990	41,667	52,230
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	7,818	8,699	75,273	65,577
99	Special classifications	2,989	3,277	17,792	18,447

<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.
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. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
10. 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?>