

6 November 2015 | 1100 hrs | 204/2015

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €149.5 million in September 2015, compared to €280.4 million in the corresponding month of 2014.

International Trade: September 2015

Cut-off date:
30 October 2015

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in September stood at €149.5 million, down by €130.9 million when compared to the corresponding month of 2014. Decreases were recorded for imports and exports, by €172.8 million and €41.9 million respectively (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€140.3 million). Imports for all other commodity groups went down except semi-manufactured goods, beverages and tobacco, and animal and vegetable oils and fats. Regarding exports, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials accounted for the main decrease (€25.7 million), with machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, food, crude materials, and semi-manufactured goods also registering decreases (Table 2).

January-September 2015

During the first nine months, the trade deficit widened by €184.7 million, to €2,049.2 million when compared to the corresponding period last year. Imports and exports decreased by €2.5 million and €187.1 million respectively (Table 1a). Lower imports were mainly due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, which decreased by €679.4 million. This was partly outweighed by an increase in machinery and transport equipment of €604.0 million. The decrease in the value of exports was triggered by lower mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€192.7 million), and machinery and transport equipment (€33.1 million) (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €2,722.7 million, or 57.5 per cent of total imports. There was an increase of €308.2 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 (€192.0 million) and the United States of America (€288.1 million) respectively. On the export side the main increase was directed to France (€30.7 million), whereas Libya (€79.2 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

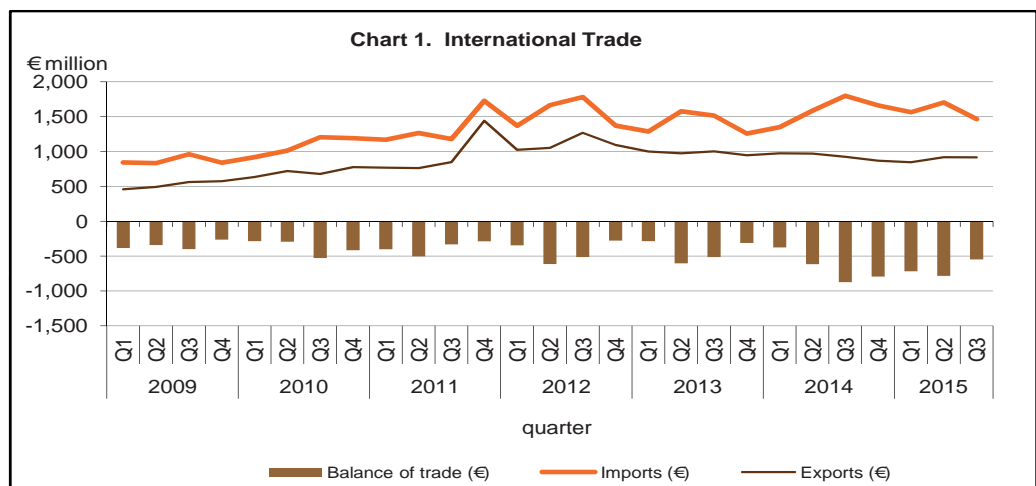
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Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2013 ^P	2014 ^P	September		January-September	
			2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P
Imports	5,639.1	6,394.6	617.5	444.7	4,734.0	4,731.5
Industrial Supplies	1,549.9	1,410.0	115.2	115.3	1,044.5	1,074.0
Primary	95.1	81.2	7.8	5.3	60.0	66.9
Semi-Finished	1,294.8	1,177.9	98.1	100.0	875.5	868.4
Finished	160.0	151.0	9.2	10.0	109.0	138.7
Capital Goods and Others	868.9	1,308.3	106.5	73.8	835.5	1,441.1
Consumer Goods	1,040.7	1,115.2	96.3	96.3	818.2	860.8
Food and Beverages	451.0	472.6	44.8	40.4	347.3	347.9
Durable Goods	335.5	373.4	29.6	34.1	269.5	305.6
Others	254.2	269.2	21.9	21.9	201.4	207.3
Fuels and Lubricants	2,179.7	2,561.1	299.5	159.2	2,035.7	1,355.6
Exports	3,925.5	3,737.0	337.1	295.2	2,869.4	2,682.3
Balance of Trade	-1,713.6	-2,657.6	-280.4	-149.5	-1,864.5	-2,049.2

^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	2014 Q2 ^P	2014 Q3 ^P	2014 Q4 ^P	2015 Q1 ^P	2015 Q2 ^P	2015 Q3 ^P
Imports	1,585.1	1,798.8	1,660.6	1,563.1	1,702.9	1,465.5
Industrial Supplies	326.2	354.9	365.5	346.8	360.4	366.7
Primary	18.5	30.4	21.2	16.7	29.5	20.8
Semi-Finished	272.2	294.1	302.3	279.2	281.5	307.8
Finished	35.5	30.4	42.0	51.0	49.5	38.2
Capital Goods and Others	290.2	401.8	472.7	473.5	641.1	326.5
Consumer Goods	290.6	285.3	297.0	268.2	300.8	291.8
Food and Beverages	120.9	126.5	125.3	102.2	122.7	123.0
Durable Goods	97.4	91.5	103.9	97.8	104.4	103.3
Others	72.3	67.4	67.8	68.2	73.6	65.5
Fuels and Lubricants	678.1	756.8	525.4	474.5	400.7	480.5
Exports	970.1	925.3	867.6	846.2	918.9	917.3
Balance of Trade	-615.0	-873.6	-793.1	-716.9	-784.1	-548.2

^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	September		January-September	
			2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P
Total Exports	3,925.5	3,737.0	337.1	295.2	2,869.4	2,682.3
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,665.7	1,608.2	157.3	129.5	1,312.3	1,105.5
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,259.8	2,128.8	179.8	165.7	1,557.1	1,576.8

^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	September		January-September	
			2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P
Imports	5,639.1	6,394.6	617.5	444.7	4,734.0	4,731.5
Food	503.9	505.5	48.9	43.4	370.9	381.1
Beverages and Tobacco	74.8	89.8	6.2	7.9	67.1	65.2
Crude Materials	26.4	24.4	2.1	1.8	18.6	18.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,185.8	2,563.5	299.5	159.2	2,036.6	1,357.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	8.5	8.7	0.7	0.8	6.8	6.9
Chemicals	440.7	506.4	42.5	38.5	364.0	352.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	311.0	342.3	30.6	37.1	249.3	304.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,668.2	1,920.4	148.7	121.0	1,307.2	1,911.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	398.9	421.7	37.1	33.9	304.6	323.4
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	20.9	11.9	1.2	1.0	8.9	11.7
Exports	3,925.5	3,737.0	337.1	295.2	2,869.4	2,682.3
Food	212.5	197.8	6.7	5.7	98.0	117.5
Beverages and Tobacco	35.5	45.3	5.0	5.0	36.0	31.7
Crude Materials	15.3	16.1	1.5	1.1	12.3	12.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,665.7	1,608.2	157.3	131.6	1,312.3	1,119.6
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	358.2	376.4	37.1	31.2	276.3	274.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	117.8	116.0	9.6	9.3	91.3	90.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,112.4	1,000.2	92.2	83.1	760.2	727.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	404.5	375.6	27.6	28.0	281.8	309.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	3.7	1.3	0.0	0.2	1.3	0.5
Balance of Trade	-1,713.6	-2,657.6	-280.4	-149.5	-1,864.5	-2,049.2
Food	-291.4	-307.7	-42.2	-37.7	-272.9	-263.6
Beverages and Tobacco	-39.3	-44.5	-1.1	-2.9	-31.1	-33.4
Crude Materials	-11.1	-8.3	-0.6	-0.7	-6.3	-5.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-520.1	-955.2	-142.2	-27.6	-724.3	-237.6
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-8.5	-8.7	-0.7	-0.8	-6.7	-6.8
Chemicals	-82.5	-130.0	-5.4	-7.3	-87.8	-78.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-193.3	-226.3	-21.1	-27.8	-158.0	-214.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-555.8	-920.2	-56.5	-37.9	-547.0	-1,184.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	5.5	-46.1	-9.4	-5.9	-22.8	-14.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-17.1	-10.6	-1.1	-0.9	-7.6	-11.2

^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	September						January-September					
	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	366.6	121.0	-245.6	324.1	99.8	-224.3	3,228.8	1,038.9	-2,189.9	3,283.6	854.8	-2,428.8
European Union	275.3	107.0	-168.3	269.3	95.7	-173.6	2,400.1	862.6	-1,537.5	2,722.7	794.6	-1,928.1
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	80.4	7.2	-73.2	27.0	9.5	-17.6	293.0	71.0	-222.1	323.5	94.3	-229.1
Euro Area	174.8	84.0	-90.8	206.9	75.5	-131.4	1,847.9	664.0	-1,184.0	2,156.1	605.2	-1,550.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	100.5	15.1	-85.4	105.0	12.0	-92.9	887.9	132.9	-755.0	970.8	91.7	-879.1
Germany	22.6	23.1	0.5	33.3	24.5	-8.8	248.1	244.5	-3.7	255.1	242.2	-12.8
France	18.8	21.6	2.8	25.8	31.0	5.3	169.9	154.5	-15.4	163.0	185.2	22.2
Spain	7.4	2.1	-5.3	13.9	2.7	-11.2	152.8	26.3	-126.4	149.4	27.8	-121.5
Netherlands	11.9	3.0	-8.9	11.4	1.7	-9.7	190.2	30.5	-159.7	382.2	27.0	-355.2
Belgium	7.1	0.9	-6.2	8.2	0.5	-7.7	68.1	6.1	-62.1	111.9	5.2	-106.7
EFTA Countries	3.4	2.2	-1.2	5.0	2.5	-2.5	74.7	19.2	-55.4	42.2	27.4	-14.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	3.2	1.2	-2.0	4.0	2.2	-1.8	35.2	14.2	-20.9	35.0	21.1	-13.8
Other European Countries	87.9	11.8	-76.1	49.7	1.5	-48.2	754.1	157.1	-597.0	518.7	32.8	-485.9
Asia	57.6	54.5	-3.1	76.5	44.2	-32.3	521.2	525.6	4.4	545.2	491.3	-53.9
<i>of which:</i>												
India	8.1	0.8	-7.3	19.7	0.4	-19.3	72.6	22.9	-49.7	85.1	18.5	-66.5
China	11.8	1.4	-10.3	17.5	1.6	-16.0	105.7	16.0	-89.6	141.5	36.2	-105.3
Saudi Arabia	9.7	0.4	-9.3	11.1	1.4	-9.6	66.3	11.2	-55.2	30.6	25.3	-5.3
Japan	3.1	2.7	-0.3	6.7	1.4	-5.3	32.2	27.3	-4.9	52.4	15.5	-36.9
Singapore	5.8	17.8	12.0	5.6	14.6	9.0	41.6	137.1	95.5	63.0	125.5	62.5
North and Central America	147.1	14.4	-132.7	33.5	18.5	-15.0	587.2	156.9	-430.2	587.7	145.4	-442.3
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	119.2	11.3	-107.9	18.9	12.8	-6.2	538.2	128.2	-410.0	250.1	102.0	-148.1
Africa	30.4	42.1	11.8	7.3	68.5	61.3	218.6	739.2	520.6	88.7	733.5	644.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Libya	2.6	9.3	6.7	2.8	8.5	5.7	20.9	174.1	153.1	36.4	94.9	58.5
Australia and Oceania	13.1	1.4	-11.7	0.6	0.6	0.0	79.3	8.5	-70.7	34.7	11.4	-23.3
South America	2.7	2.2	-0.5	1.6	2.2	0.5	19.9	13.8	-6.1	20.3	9.9	-10.4
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.0	101.1	101.1	0.1	60.6	60.5	78.8	382.2	303.3	23.7	433.6	409.8
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.8	-0.2	0.2	4.3	4.0	147.7	2.5	-145.2
Grand Total	617.5	337.1	-280.4	444.7	295.2	-149.5	4,734.0	2,869.4	-1,864.5	4,731.5	2,682.3	-2,049.2

^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

€ 000

Chapter number	Commodity description	September		January-September	
		2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P
Main imports					
2	Meat and edible offal	4,315	4,708	37,468	38,950
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc	9,020	7,438	46,458	48,328
4	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,243	3,153	33,938	33,398
8	Edible fruit and nuts	2,861	2,598	24,886	24,823
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,131	4,473	35,943	34,185
18	Cocoa and cocoa preparations	2,294	2,532	13,191	14,858
19	Preparations of cereals	5,880	4,879	41,869	44,165
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,304	3,088	29,562	28,965
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	4,681	5,352	45,286	47,355
23	Food residues and waste	2,992	2,786	24,670	23,782
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,560	2,577	22,300	18,417
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	299,510	159,223	2,036,658	1,357,206
29	Organic chemicals	16,108	11,088	110,637	85,976
30	Pharmaceutical products	7,788	9,533	89,052	98,007
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,771	2,867	22,067	23,262
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	4,414	2,900	31,868	30,837
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	10,324	13,170	106,416	119,886
48	Paper and paperboard articles	8,181	5,560	58,505	58,574
61	Knitted clothing	5,010	3,918	32,320	32,486
62	Woven clothing	3,833	4,305	28,362	31,666
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	2,560	2,327	33,358	30,520
73	Articles of iron or steel	6,246	16,593	43,509	91,965
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	19,937	32,153	188,286	209,308
85	Electrical machinery etc.	43,939	44,229	443,159	413,971
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	8,625	25,691	95,430	148,779
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	4,705	7,075	101,345	420,128
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	71,907	2,628	483,338	717,249
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,438	3,519	41,612	47,766
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	3,944	4,437	42,188	48,141
98	Complete industrial plant	0	9,349	0	9,406
Main exports					
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc	1,426	1,594	19,753	18,383
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,944	2,836	52,776	58,313
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,726	2,235	14,973	9,607
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	157,200	131,484	1,311,632	1,118,852
29	Organic chemicals	12,132	9,795	74,325	63,311
30	Pharmaceutical products	22,233	19,195	179,587	182,065
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,012	1,266	12,159	12,646
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	2,857	3,304	30,741	39,746
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	3,851	4,152	41,034	42,286
49	Printed books, newspapers	5,393	9,952	66,457	92,825
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,026	1,870	20,497	18,542
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,852	1,629	14,296	15,812
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	8,752	8,108	75,449	80,284
85	Electrical machinery etc.	77,295	61,332	594,081	545,371
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	1,059	6,179	12,349	36,649
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	4,614	7,609	77,946	60,235
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,815	4,976	48,482	57,257
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	7,139	6,071	82,412	71,651
99	Special classifications	3,112	3,239	20,904	21,685

^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.
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?>