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Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €178.1 million in November 2015, compared to €240.6 million in the corresponding month of 2014.

International Trade: November 2015

Cut-off date:
6 January 2016

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in November stood at €178.1 million, down by €62.5 million when compared to the corresponding month in 2014. Both imports and exports decreased by €122.2 million and €59.7 million respectively (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€64.3 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€46.3 million). Other decreases were recorded for chemicals, miscellaneous manufactured articles, food, and miscellaneous transactions and commodities. Regarding exports, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials accounted for the main decrease (€38.8 million), with food, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, and crude materials also registering decreases (Table 2).

January-November 2015

During the first eleven months, the trade deficit narrowed by €134.1 million, to €2,292.1 million when compared to the corresponding period in 2014. Both imports and exports decreased by €360.2 million and €226.2 million respectively (Table 1a). Lower imports were mainly due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, which decreased by €809.7 million. This was partly outweighed by an increase of €399.0 million in machinery and transport equipment. The decrease in the value of exports was triggered by lower mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€220.9 million), and machinery and transport equipment (€47.9 million) (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €3,253.9 million, or 58.4 per cent of total imports. There was an increase of €296.6 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 (€201.8 million) and the United States of America (€317.6 million) respectively. On the export side the main increase was directed to France (€34.0 million), whereas Tunisia (€35.6 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

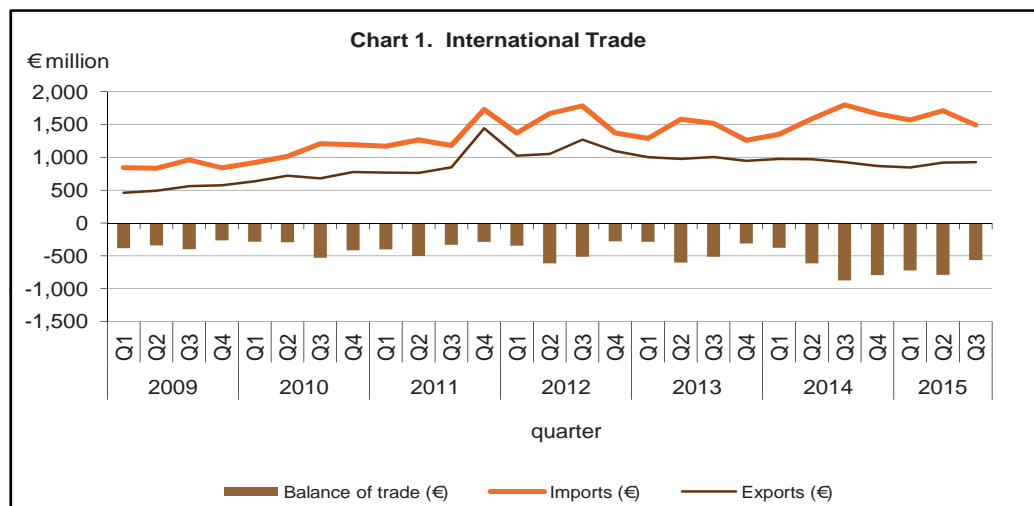
Compiled by:

**Unit A4: International
Trade and Transport
Statistics**

**Directorate A: Economic
Statistics**

Further information on data:

Mr Anthony PORTELLI
T. +356 2599 7160
E. anthony.portelli@gov.mt



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Issued by: **External Cooperation and Communication Unit, National Statistics Office, Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta.**
T. +356 2599 7219 F. +356 2599 7205 E. nso@gov.mt

Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2013 ^P	2014 ^P	November		January-November	
			2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P
Imports	5,639.1	6,394.9	530.6	408.4	5,927.4	5,567.2
Industrial Supplies	1,549.9	1,410.1	108.5	100.9	1,292.5	1,287.4
Primary	95.1	81.2	3.9	2.4	78.8	75.6
Semi-Finished	1,294.8	1,178.0	92.2	82.6	1,078.3	1,043.1
Finished	160.0	151.0	12.4	15.9	135.5	168.7
Capital Goods and Others	868.9	1,308.5	174.3	100.3	1,214.1	1,607.0
Consumer Goods	1,040.7	1,115.3	94.5	100.2	1,024.7	1,087.0
Food and Beverages	451.0	472.6	39.3	38.4	433.6	433.4
Durable Goods	335.5	373.4	33.0	40.6	340.6	398.0
Others	254.2	269.2	22.2	21.2	250.4	255.5
Fuels and Lubricants	2,179.7	2,561.1	153.3	107.0	2,396.1	1,585.8
Exports	3,925.5	3,737.0	290.0	230.3	3,501.2	3,275.0
Balance of Trade	-1,713.6	-2,657.9	-240.6	-178.1	-2,426.2	-2,292.1

^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	1,798.9	1,660.9	1,567.3	1,708.0	1,490.7
Industrial Supplies	326.2	354.9	365.6	347.6	361.9	372.7
Primary	18.5	30.4	21.2	16.7	29.5	21.1
Semi-Finished	272.2	294.1	302.4	279.8	282.8	313.0
Finished	35.5	30.4	42.0	51.1	49.6	38.7
Capital Goods and Others	290.2	401.8	472.9	475.1	642.4	330.8
Consumer Goods	290.6	285.3	297.1	270.1	303.1	307.4
Food and Beverages	120.9	126.5	125.4	102.3	123.3	126.0
Durable Goods	97.4	91.5	103.9	99.2	105.6	114.3
Others	72.3	67.4	67.8	68.6	74.2	67.1
Fuels and Lubricants	678.1	756.8	525.4	474.5	400.7	479.8
Exports	970.1	925.3	867.5	846.2	919.4	925.4
Balance of Trade	-615.0	-873.6	-793.4	-721.1	-788.6	-565.3

^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	November		January-November	
			2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P
Total Exports	3,925.5	3,737.0	290.0	230.3	3,501.2	3,275.0
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,665.7	1,608.2	76.2	35.5	1,539.0	1,296.6
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,259.8	2,128.8	213.8	194.8	1,962.3	1,978.4

^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	November		January-November	
			2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P
Imports	5,639.1	6,394.9	530.6	408.4	5,927.4	5,567.2
Food	503.9	505.5	38.0	36.9	468.4	466.4
Beverages and Tobacco	74.8	89.8	7.6	7.8	83.7	80.3
Crude Materials	26.4	24.4	1.4	2.4	22.8	25.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,185.8	2,563.5	153.3	107.0	2,397.1	1,587.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	8.5	8.7	0.5	0.8	8.2	8.5
Chemicals	440.7	506.4	45.0	34.9	461.2	428.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	311.0	342.3	29.9	31.3	309.9	369.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,668.2	1,920.7	215.6	151.3	1,779.6	2,178.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	398.9	421.7	38.5	35.4	385.5	408.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	20.9	11.9	0.8	0.6	11.0	13.1
Exports	3,925.5	3,737.0	290.0	230.3	3,501.2	3,275.0
Food	212.5	197.8	63.9	46.5	181.0	203.1
Beverages and Tobacco	35.5	45.3	3.4	3.8	43.4	40.2
Crude Materials	15.3	16.1	1.1	1.0	15.3	14.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,665.7	1,608.2	76.2	37.4	1,539.0	1,318.1
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Chemicals	358.2	376.3	30.7	26.3	347.3	332.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	117.8	116.0	8.9	10.9	110.1	113.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,112.4	1,000.2	80.4	72.1	922.4	874.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	404.5	375.6	25.3	32.2	341.3	377.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	3.7	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.5
Balance of Trade	-1,713.6	-2,657.9	-240.6	-178.1	-2,426.2	-2,292.1
Food	-291.4	-307.8	25.9	9.7	-287.3	-263.3
Beverages and Tobacco	-39.3	-44.5	-4.2	-4.0	-40.3	-40.1
Crude Materials	-11.1	-8.3	-0.3	-1.4	-7.5	-10.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-520.1	-955.2	-77.1	-69.6	-858.1	-269.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-8.5	-8.7	-0.5	-0.7	-8.2	-8.5
Chemicals	-82.5	-130.1	-14.3	-8.6	-113.8	-96.2
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-193.3	-226.3	-21.0	-20.4	-199.8	-256.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-555.8	-920.5	-135.1	-79.2	-857.2	-1,304.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	5.5	-46.1	-13.3	-3.2	-44.2	-31.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-17.1	-10.6	-0.8	-0.6	-9.7	-12.6

^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	November						January-November					
	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	306.9	85.9	-220.9	283.8	89.8	-193.9	3,925.2	1,225.9	-2,699.4	3,873.8	1,051.5	-2,822.3
European Union	219.8	81.4	-138.4	256.4	86.4	-170.0	2,939.8	1,031.5	-1,908.3	3,253.9	978.4	-2,275.4
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	27.1	8.9	-18.1	25.6	9.7	-16.0	355.8	90.1	-265.7	382.5	116.0	-266.5
Euro Area	175.3	57.1	-118.2	212.0	67.0	-145.0	2,287.0	780.5	-1,506.5	2,583.6	746.0	-1,837.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	92.4	7.5	-84.9	92.0	19.8	-72.3	1,073.3	151.3	-921.9	1,167.2	123.1	-1,044.2
Germany	25.0	21.1	-3.9	41.6	26.2	-15.4	298.3	292.4	-6.0	327.5	300.6	-26.9
Netherlands	11.1	2.0	-9.1	22.7	1.5	-21.2	215.7	36.4	-179.2	417.5	30.2	-387.3
France	11.9	18.7	6.8	19.6	12.1	-7.5	207.2	184.6	-22.6	209.1	218.6	9.6
Spain	21.7	4.6	-17.1	17.5	3.1	-14.4	205.2	33.2	-171.9	187.8	32.9	-154.9
Belgium	5.7	0.5	-5.2	6.8	0.5	-6.4	81.2	7.2	-74.0	127.3	6.1	-121.2
EFTA Countries	4.7	2.6	-2.1	5.9	1.9	-4.0	86.6	24.8	-61.8	53.9	32.6	-21.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	4.4	2.1	-2.3	5.6	1.5	-4.1	46.2	18.9	-27.3	45.8	25.1	-20.7
Other European Countries	82.3	1.9	-80.4	21.4	1.4	-20.0	898.8	169.6	-729.2	566.0	40.5	-525.5
Asia	64.6	105.2	40.7	89.0	77.3	-11.7	675.6	693.8	18.2	693.2	636.1	-57.1
<i>of which:</i>												
China	12.4	2.9	-9.5	40.2	2.0	-38.1	133.9	21.4	-112.5	199.9	41.0	-158.9
Israel	9.0	3.8	-5.2	12.4	0.1	-12.3	65.0	8.0	-57.0	25.9	6.5	-19.4
Japan	5.8	54.3	48.5	7.8	35.5	27.7	44.0	93.2	49.2	65.5	80.0	14.5
India	8.2	1.5	-6.7	7.3	0.5	-6.8	92.3	25.6	-66.7	101.4	19.5	-81.9
Malaysia	2.5	1.5	-1.0	4.3	1.8	-2.5	21.9	11.7	-10.2	23.1	13.4	-9.7
North and Central America	111.3	15.1	-96.2	9.7	13.2	3.5	866.7	187.5	-679.2	616.8	173.5	-443.3
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	49.1	9.8	-39.3	9.4	10.2	0.8	595.8	148.9	-446.9	278.2	123.3	-154.9
Africa	3.2	62.0	58.7	23.9	35.7	11.7	232.5	937.6	705.0	140.3	906.3	766.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Tunisia	0.7	0.8	0.0	9.7	4.0	-5.7	17.7	126.0	108.3	23.0	90.4	67.4
Australia and Oceania	0.4	3.2	2.9	0.4	1.9	1.5	80.4	12.8	-67.6	35.5	16.2	-19.2
South America	0.7	0.2	-0.4	1.5	6.5	5.0	22.4	14.5	-7.8	23.6	20.6	-3.0
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.0	17.7	17.6	0.2	5.8	5.6	78.9	423.9	345.0	24.2	468.1	443.9
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	43.5	0.6	-42.9	0.0	0.1	0.1	45.7	5.3	-40.4	159.9	2.7	-157.2
Grand Total	530.6	290.0	-240.6	408.4	230.3	-178.1	5,927.4	3,501.2	-2,426.2	5,567.2	3,275.0	-2,292.1

^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	November		January-November	
		2014 ^P	2015 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P
Main imports					
2	Meat and edible offal	3,851	4,396	47,101	47,941
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc	1,045	2,396	50,628	54,606
4	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,156	3,685	41,062	41,040
8	Edible fruit and nuts	2,989	2,590	31,730	31,558
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,022	3,178	43,465	41,416
18	Cocoa and cocoa preparations	3,033	2,471	19,572	20,394
19	Preparations of cereals	5,966	5,724	54,792	56,238
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,094	2,500	35,519	34,806
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,792	5,084	56,259	57,573
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,822	2,812	28,045	23,492
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	1,873	2,289	18,553	24,920
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	153,311	107,030	2,397,183	1,588,957
29	Organic chemicals	16,200	7,536	145,778	102,668
30	Pharmaceutical products	10,576	9,868	111,729	119,576
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,120	2,859	27,444	29,294
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,139	3,847	38,846	38,368
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	11,612	11,565	131,427	145,743
48	Paper and paperboard articles	5,861	5,637	72,909	72,041
61	Knitted clothing	4,192	3,321	41,837	40,225
62	Woven clothing	3,090	3,605	34,891	40,445
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	6,166	4,906	43,842	37,409
73	Articles of iron or steel	6,473	6,344	53,824	104,333
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	23,820	54,491	240,734	290,048
85	Electrical machinery etc.	39,570	40,224	532,687	498,500
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	12,134	18,496	121,460	188,475
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	110,142	12,488	366,498	441,715
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	30,027	17,775	518,072	749,730
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,882	3,867	59,155	55,985
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	5,784	5,682	53,615	60,210
98	Complete industrial plant	0	11,048	0	22,003
Main exports					
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc	56,582	37,035	86,698	85,920
19	Preparations of cereals	1,949	3,252	21,990	25,121
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,174	5,686	62,022	68,090
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,698	1,779	17,770	13,640
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	76,100	37,268	1,538,014	1,317,192
29	Organic chemicals	2,196	4,734	88,389	73,603
30	Pharmaceutical products	24,331	18,672	229,038	223,565
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	2,477	4,424	36,410	48,680
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,368	4,049	50,487	51,969
49	Printed books, newspapers	5,524	12,610	82,573	117,683
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,262	2,358	24,093	23,397
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,809	3,167	16,941	21,923
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	9,304	5,969	95,187	94,909
85	Electrical machinery etc.	63,863	52,630	721,038	650,429
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	1,892	4,894	17,846	46,358
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	3,031	8,303	85,379	76,864
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,875	4,730	60,842	69,133
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	6,183	7,613	95,497	87,292
99	Special classifications	1,917	2,044	25,600	26,814

^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?>