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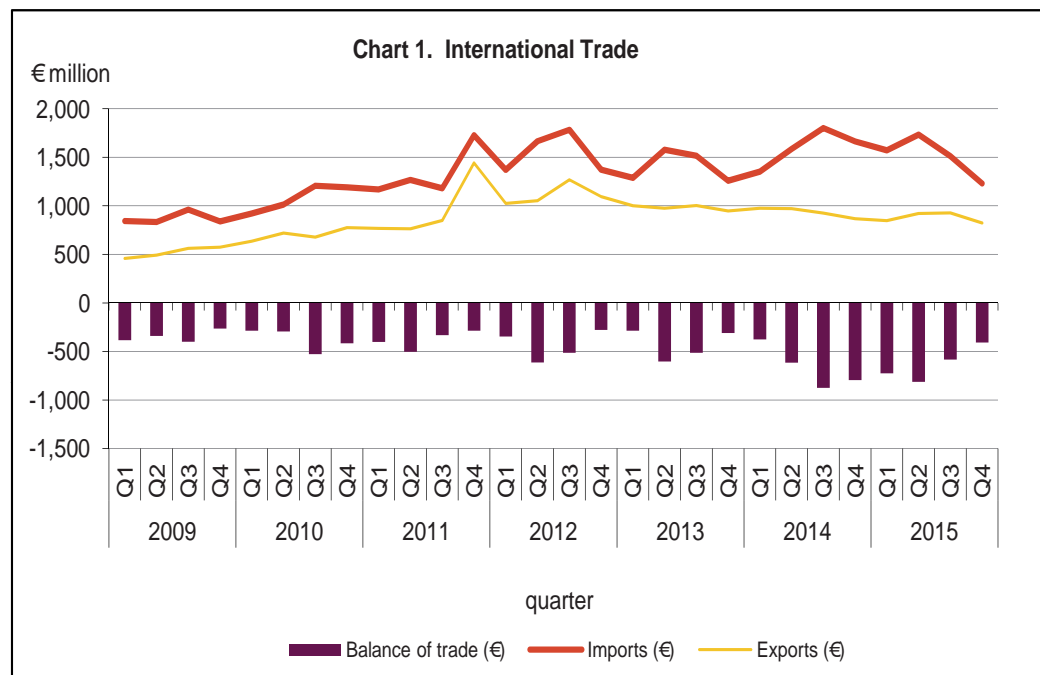
Preliminary figures show that in January 2016, Malta's trade deficit narrowed by €7.9 million compared to the corresponding month of 2015.

International Trade: January 2016

Cut-off date:
7 March 2016

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in January 2016 stood at €104.5 million, down by €7.9 million when compared to the corresponding month in 2015. Both imports and exports decreased by €120.5 million and €112.6 million respectively (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€93.8 million). Likewise, the same commodity group accounted for the main decrease in exports (€99.8 million) (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €187.0 million, or 63.2 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €13.9 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period in 2015. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from Germany (€4.4 million) and the United States of America (€47.2 million) respectively. On the export side the main increase was directed to France (€9.1 million), whereas Egypt (€54.1 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■



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Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2012 ^P	2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	January	
					2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Imports	6,189.4	5,639.4	6,399.7	6,047.2	416.3	295.8
Industrial Supplies	1,565.1	1,549.9	1,412.9	1,472.7	112.3	94.5
Primary	111.7	95.1	81.2	79.7	2.0	2.5
Semi-Finished	1,302.6	1,294.8	1,180.7	1,183.3	92.7	69.4
Finished	150.9	160.0	151.0	209.6	17.5	22.6
Capital Goods and Others	811.0	869.0	1,310.3	1,700.7	38.4	39.5
Consumer Goods	1,025.1	1,040.8	1,115.4	1,197.9	82.9	72.8
Food and Beverages	428.9	451.0	472.7	479.1	32.2	29.5
Durable Goods	339.7	335.5	373.5	437.7	29.5	22.5
Others	256.5	254.2	269.2	281.1	21.2	20.8
Fuels and Lubricants	2,788.3	2,179.7	2,561.1	1,675.9	182.7	88.9
Exports	4,438.8	3,925.5	3,737.6	3,517.3	303.9	191.3
Balance of Trade	-1,750.6	-1,713.9	-2,662.1	-2,529.9	-112.4	-104.5

^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 Q3 ^P	2014 Q4 ^P	2015 Q1 ^P	2015 Q2 ^P	2015 Q3 ^P	2015 Q4 ^P
Industrial Supplies	355.8	366.1	348.2	370.5	390.8	363.2
Primary	30.4	21.2	16.7	29.6	21.1	12.3
Semi-Finished	295.1	302.9	280.3	291.3	330.8	280.9
Finished	30.4	42.0	51.1	49.7	38.9	70.0
Capital Goods and Others	402.5	473.6	477.6	657.4	333.8	231.9
Consumer Goods	285.4	297.1	271.9	304.2	306.8	315.0
Food and Beverages	126.5	125.4	102.4	123.5	126.8	126.5
Durable Goods	91.5	103.9	100.7	106.3	112.2	118.5
Others	67.4	67.8	68.8	74.5	67.8	70.0
Fuels and Lubricants	756.8	525.4	474.5	400.7	479.8	320.9
Exports	925.4	867.8	846.8	920.5	927.1	822.8
Balance of Trade	-875.2	-794.4	-725.4	-812.3	-584.1	-408.1

^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	2012 ^P	2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	January	
					2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Total Exports	4,438.8	3,925.5	3,737.6	3,517.3	303.9	191.3
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	2,010.7	1,665.7	1,608.2	1,332.3	137.3	32.4
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,428.2	2,259.9	2,129.4	2,184.9	166.5	158.9

^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	2012 ^P	2013 ^P	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	January	
					2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Imports	6,189.4	5,639.4	6,399.7	6,047.2	416.3	295.8
Food	501.8	504.0	505.6	514.0	33.3	29.7
Beverages and Tobacco	85.4	74.8	89.8	89.5	3.7	6.0
Crude Materials	29.0	26.4	24.4	27.3	1.4	1.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,791.3	2,185.8	2,563.5	1,677.6	182.7	88.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.1	8.5	8.7	9.1	0.8	0.7
Chemicals	447.7	440.7	509.0	503.9	43.5	34.5
Semi-Manufactured Goods	318.5	311.0	342.4	411.0	22.2	24.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,567.9	1,668.3	1,922.4	2,349.7	94.9	82.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	409.1	399.0	421.9	450.9	32.4	27.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	29.7	20.9	11.9	14.1	1.4	0.9
Exports	4,438.8	3,925.5	3,737.6	3,517.3	303.9	191.3
Food	187.5	212.5	197.8	244.2	13.4	15.6
Beverages and Tobacco	39.7	35.5	45.3	42.3	2.5	2.9
Crude Materials	20.0	15.3	16.1	15.9	1.5	0.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,010.8	1,665.7	1,608.2	1,357.5	137.3	37.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	321.4	358.2	376.9	363.0	27.0	23.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	126.5	117.8	116.0	122.9	13.4	10.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,322.2	1,112.4	1,000.2	962.3	75.2	72.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	400.9	404.5	375.7	408.5	33.5	28.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	9.7	3.7	1.3	0.6	0.1	0.0
Balance of Trade	-1,750.6	-1,713.9	-2,662.1	-2,529.9	-112.4	-104.5
Food	-314.3	-291.5	-307.8	-269.8	-19.9	-14.1
Beverages and Tobacco	-45.7	-39.3	-44.5	-47.2	-1.2	-3.0
Crude Materials	-8.9	-11.1	-8.3	-11.4	0.0	-0.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-780.6	-520.1	-955.2	-320.1	-45.4	-51.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.0	-8.5	-8.7	-9.0	-0.8	-0.7
Chemicals	-126.2	-82.5	-132.1	-141.0	-16.5	-11.4
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-192.0	-193.3	-226.4	-288.1	-8.7	-13.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-245.6	-555.9	-922.2	-1,387.4	-19.8	-9.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-8.2	5.5	-46.3	-42.4	1.2	0.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-20.0	-17.1	-10.6	-13.5	-1.3	-0.8

^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	January					
	2015 ^P			2016 ^P		
	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade
Europe	295.6	87.4	-208.2	239.5	94.0	-145.5
European Union	214.0	81.0	-133.0	187.0	90.7	-96.4
<i>of which:</i>						
United Kingdom	23.5	6.9	-16.6	23.2	10.0	-13.2
Euro Area	161.2	67.0	-94.3	147.3	71.4	-75.8
<i>of which:</i>						
Italy	81.8	15.5	-66.3	71.2	6.8	-64.4
Germany	27.4	26.9	-0.5	31.8	33.8	2.1
France	17.1	13.5	-3.6	12.5	22.6	10.0
Netherlands	8.8	3.0	-5.8	8.0	1.4	-6.6
Spain	13.0	4.5	-8.5	6.3	2.5	-3.8
Greece	1.6	0.1	-1.4	5.4	1.1	-4.3
EFTA Countries	3.0	3.3	0.3	4.5	2.2	-2.3
<i>of which:</i>						
Switzerland	2.4	2.9	0.5	4.3	1.6	-2.7
Other European Countries	78.6	3.1	-75.5	48.0	1.2	-46.8
Asia	58.9	69.8	10.9	41.2	42.2	1.1
<i>of which:</i>						
China	14.3	20.7	6.4	13.6	2.8	-10.8
India	8.6	0.7	-8.0	7.9	1.0	-6.9
Korea Republic	3.0	0.5	-2.6	3.5	1.5	-2.1
Japan	5.5	1.2	-4.2	2.9	4.5	1.6
Taiwan	2.8	0.2	-2.5	2.6	0.4	-2.2
North and Central America	55.2	11.8	-43.4	7.6	11.9	4.2
<i>of which:</i>						
United States of America	54.4	7.9	-46.6	7.2	7.9	0.7
Africa	2.3	103.9	101.6	5.2	25.2	20.1
<i>of which:</i>						
Egypt	1.1	62.6	61.5	2.1	8.5	6.4
Australia and Oceania	1.4	0.6	-0.8	0.4	0.8	0.4
South America	2.7	0.4	-2.3	1.5	0.1	-1.4
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.1	29.9	29.8	0.4	16.1	15.7
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0
Grand Total	416.3	303.9	-112.4	295.8	191.3	-104.5

^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	January	
		2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Main imports			
2	Meat and edible offal	3,651	3,254
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc	867	2,183
4	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,348	2,924
8	Edible fruit and nuts	2,959	2,004
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,310	3,545
17	Sugars and sugar confectionary	1,579	1,795
19	Preparations of cereals	4,400	3,709
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	1,665	1,606
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,391	2,360
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	2,758	2,949
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	970	3,101
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	1,162	1,932
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	182,748	88,897
29	Organic chemicals	15,188	7,920
30	Pharmaceutical products	10,525	10,039
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,039	3,738
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,610	2,219
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	12,636	10,734
48	Paper and paperboard articles	6,444	7,285
61	Knitted clothing	4,710	3,016
62	Woven clothing	2,628	3,283
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	2,784	1,967
73	Articles of iron or steel	3,022	2,931
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	18,593	16,876
85	Electrical machinery etc.	46,884	29,984
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	17,074	10,576
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	12,893	18,009
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,305	4,723
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	3,532	3,610
98	Complete industrial plant	0	7,432
Main exports			
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc	1,017	4,958
19	Preparations of cereals	4,034	4,665
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	7,531	5,415
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,008	1,692
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	137,249	37,426
30	Pharmaceutical products	19,437	19,038
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	2,789	4,300
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,375	5,611
49	Printed books, newspapers	9,209	6,190
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,159	1,816
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	1,487	1,478
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,312	1,773
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	11,617	8,121
85	Electrical machinery etc.	58,438	44,269
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	1,561	5,952
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	3,590	14,837
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,365	4,756
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	9,370	9,878
99	Special classifications	1,247	1,335

^P Provisional

Notes:

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

2. A full list of chapters is available on the excel version of this news release:

http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade.aspx

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?>