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Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €558.0 million in February 2016, compared to €382.4 million in the corresponding month of 2015.

International Trade: February 2016

Cut-off date:
4 April 2016

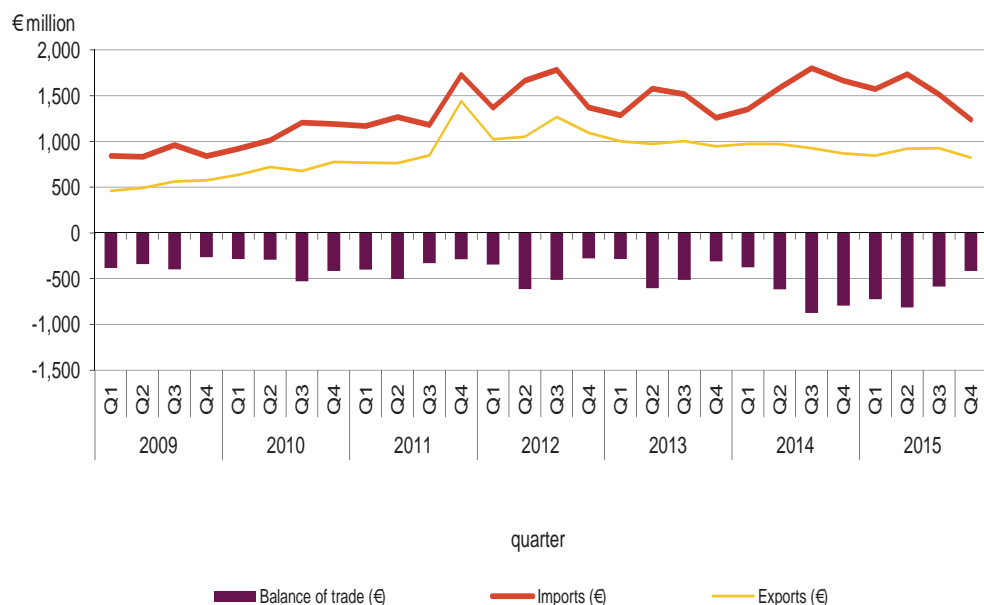
Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in February stood at €558.0 million, up by €175.6 million when compared to the corresponding month in 2015. Imports increased by €122.3 million, while exports decreased by €53.3 million (Table 1a). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€163.4 million). On the exports side, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials accounted for the main decrease (€39.8 million) (Table 2).

January-February 2016

During the first two months this year, the trade deficit widened by €168.9 million when compared to the corresponding period last year. Imports show an increase of €6.2 million, with exports decreasing by €162.7 million (Table 1a). Higher imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, which increased by €151.8 million. This was partly outweighed by a decrease of €160.7 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. The decrease in the value of exports was triggered by lower mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€139.5 million) (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €406.2 million, or 38.8 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €43.5 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period last year. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from Germany (€21.0 million) and the United States of America (€54.7 million) respectively. On the export side the main increase was directed to Italy (€12.0 million), whereas China (€17.4 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade



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Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	February		January-February	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
			Imports	6,399.7	6,059.2	625.2
Industrial Supplies	1,412.9	1,474.7	111.6	133.2	223.8	228.7
Primary	81.2	79.8	2.8	16.1	4.9	18.7
Semi-Finished	1,180.7	1,185.2	91.1	98.4	183.8	168.6
Finished	151.0	209.7	17.7	18.7	35.2	41.4
Capital Goods and Others	1,310.3	1,703.3	279.9	433.2	318.3	473.5
Consumer Goods	1,115.4	1,205.3	85.1	99.3	168.0	174.9
Food and Beverages	472.7	479.8	33.3	36.8	65.5	67.3
Durable Goods	373.5	442.9	31.3	37.8	60.8	61.8
Others	269.2	282.7	20.5	24.7	41.7	45.8
Fuels and Lubricants	2,561.1	1,675.9	148.6	81.8	331.4	170.7
Exports	3,737.6	3,518.6	242.8	189.5	546.7	384.0
Balance of Trade	-2,662.1	-2,540.6	-382.4	-558.0	-494.8	-663.7

^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
Imports	1,800.6	1,662.2	1,572.2	1,734.0	1,513.8	1,239.1
Industrial Supplies	355.9	366.1	348.1	370.6	391.3	364.7
Primary	30.4	21.2	16.7	29.6	21.1	12.4
Semi-Finished	295.1	302.9	280.3	291.3	331.2	282.3
Finished	30.4	42.0	51.1	49.7	38.9	70.0
Capital Goods and Others	402.5	473.6	477.6	657.7	334.0	233.9
Consumer Goods	285.4	297.1	272.0	305.0	308.7	319.7
Food and Beverages	126.5	125.4	102.4	123.6	126.8	127.0
Durable Goods	91.5	103.9	100.8	106.7	113.6	121.8
Others	67.4	67.8	68.8	74.7	68.3	70.9
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	824.2
Balance of Trade	-875.2	-794.4	-725.4	-813.5	-586.7	-414.9

^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	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	February		January-February	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
			Total Exports	3,737.6	3,518.6	242.8
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,608.2	1,332.3	71.5	31.7	208.8	64.2
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,129.4	2,186.3	171.3	157.8	337.9	319.8

^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	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	February		January-February	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
			Imports	6,399.7	6,059.2	625.2
Food	505.6	514.7	32.1	50.0	65.4	80.7
Beverages and Tobacco	89.8	89.5	6.2	8.0	9.9	14.2
Crude Materials	24.4	27.3	2.4	1.7	3.8	3.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,563.5	1,677.6	148.7	81.8	331.4	170.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	8.7	9.2	0.6	0.8	1.4	1.5
Chemicals	509.0	504.7	42.5	45.8	86.0	80.5
Semi-Manufactured Goods	342.4	411.9	29.1	33.7	51.2	58.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,922.4	2,353.0	329.3	492.7	424.2	576.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	421.9	457.2	33.3	32.0	65.7	60.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	11.9	14.1	1.1	1.0	2.5	1.8
Exports	3,737.6	3,518.6	242.8	189.5	546.7	384.0
Food	197.8	245.6	16.8	18.7	30.1	34.2
Beverages and Tobacco	45.3	42.3	2.2	4.5	4.7	7.5
Crude Materials	16.1	15.9	1.1	1.7	2.6	2.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,608.2	1,357.5	71.5	31.7	208.8	69.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	376.9	363.0	28.1	26.3	55.1	50.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	116.0	122.9	9.6	9.7	23.0	20.3
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,000.2	962.3	75.1	69.2	150.2	142.7
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	375.7	408.5	38.4	27.6	72.0	56.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	1.3	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Balance of Trade	-2,662.1	-2,540.6	-382.4	-558.0	-494.8	-663.7
Food	-307.8	-269.1	-15.4	-31.4	-35.3	-46.4
Beverages and Tobacco	-44.5	-47.2	-4.0	-3.5	-5.1	-6.7
Crude Materials	-8.3	-11.4	-1.3	0.1	-1.3	-0.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-955.2	-320.1	-77.2	-50.1	-122.6	-101.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-8.7	-9.1	-0.6	-0.8	-1.4	-1.5
Chemicals	-132.1	-141.7	-14.4	-19.5	-30.9	-29.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-226.4	-289.0	-19.5	-24.0	-28.2	-38.2
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-922.2	-1,390.7	-254.2	-423.5	-274.0	-433.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-46.3	-48.8	5.2	-4.4	6.3	-3.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-10.6	-13.5	-1.0	-0.9	-2.3	-1.7

^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	February						January-February					
	2015 ^P			2016 ^P			2015 ^P			2016 ^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	320.2	100.2	-220.0	241.7	88.8	-153.0	615.8	187.6	-428.2	485.6	185.9	-299.7
European Union	265.0	93.5	-171.5	214.7	80.9	-133.8	479.0	174.6	-304.5	406.2	174.8	-231.4
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	29.2	8.4	-20.8	25.5	7.5	-18.0	52.7	15.3	-37.5	49.3	17.5	-31.9
Euro Area	213.6	76.8	-136.8	180.4	65.2	-115.2	374.8	143.8	-231.0	331.3	139.5	-191.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	72.0	8.4	-63.6	72.0	12.6	-59.4	153.8	23.9	-129.9	144.7	20.4	-124.3
Germany	27.1	30.9	3.8	43.3	33.1	-10.2	54.5	57.7	3.3	75.5	68.6	-6.9
France	14.5	29.2	14.8	22.6	12.2	-10.4	31.6	42.8	11.2	35.5	34.9	-0.6
Netherlands	28.6	2.2	-26.4	20.2	1.7	-18.5	37.4	5.2	-32.2	28.3	3.0	-25.2
Spain	10.2	3.2	-7.0	9.0	1.9	-7.1	23.2	7.7	-15.5	16.0	4.4	-11.6
Belgium	39.7	0.7	-39.0	6.2	0.4	-5.8	39.7	1.1	-38.6	10.9	0.9	-10.0
EFTA Countries	4.5	2.1	-2.4	4.0	2.5	-1.5	7.5	5.4	-2.2	8.5	4.7	-3.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	4.3	1.7	-2.6	3.7	2.1	-1.6	6.7	4.6	-2.1	8.0	3.7	-4.2
Other European Countries	50.7	4.6	-46.0	23.0	5.3	-17.6	129.2	7.7	-121.5	70.9	6.5	-64.4
Asia	52.1	58.3	6.2	81.5	43.4	-38.1	111.1	128.1	17.1	122.7	85.6	-37.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Saudi Arabia	5.1	6.1	1.0	23.1	3.7	-19.4	12.5	13.8	1.2	23.2	8.8	-14.4
China	14.1	2.1	-11.9	14.3	2.6	-11.7	28.4	22.8	-5.6	27.9	5.4	-22.5
Japan	4.9	3.8	-1.1	11.6	1.1	-10.5	4.9	5.0	0.1	14.5	5.6	-8.9
India	8.3	0.4	-7.9	8.5	0.4	-8.1	16.9	1.0	-15.9	16.4	1.4	-15.1
Israel	0.2	0.3	0.1	6.0	0.2	-5.8	0.5	0.4	-0.1	7.4	0.5	-7.0
North and Central America	234.0	13.0	-221.0	16.0	11.7	-4.2	289.2	24.9	-264.4	23.6	23.6	0.0
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	20.7	9.5	-11.1	13.2	8.7	-4.5	75.1	17.4	-57.7	20.4	16.6	-3.9
Africa	3.5	54.9	51.4	10.3	30.6	20.3	5.8	158.8	153.0	15.5	55.8	40.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Tunisia	0.3	0.6	0.4	4.1	0.9	-3.2	0.9	12.8	11.9	4.9	4.5	-0.4
Australia and Oceania	0.3	1.9	1.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	1.8	2.5	0.7	1.0	1.5	0.4
South America	0.9	3.2	2.4	15.0	0.2	-14.8	3.6	3.7	0.1	16.5	0.2	-16.3
Ships and Aircraft Stores	12.2	10.5	-1.6	4.0	14.1	10.1	12.3	40.4	28.2	4.4	30.2	25.8
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	2.0	0.6	-1.4	378.3	0.1	-378.2	2.0	0.7	-1.4	378.3	1.1	-377.2
Grand Total	625.2	242.8	-382.4	747.5	189.5	-558.0	1,041.5	546.7	-494.8	1,047.7	384.0	-663.7

^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).

Table 4. Trade by period and principal traded commodities

€ 000

Chapter number	Commodity description	February		January-February	
		2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Main imports					
2	Meat and edible offal	4,030	4,124	7,682	7,383
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc	978	6,397	1,845	8,581
4	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	2,894	3,988	6,242	7,026
8	Edible fruit and nuts	2,419	2,936	5,379	4,967
10	Cereals	1,893	9,553	3,325	10,898
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,161	3,851	6,471	7,483
17	Sugars and sugar confectionary	1,106	2,362	2,685	4,180
19	Preparations of cereals	4,655	5,534	9,055	9,485
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,488	2,655	4,879	5,027
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	4,762	3,190	7,521	6,312
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,476	4,892	2,445	7,993
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	148,666	81,836	331,415	170,742
29	Organic chemicals	13,521	16,272	28,709	24,201
30	Pharmaceutical products	10,661	10,724	21,185	20,851
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,229	2,258	4,268	6,024
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,235	3,286	5,853	5,535
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	12,813	12,315	25,440	23,173
48	Paper and paperboard articles	9,160	5,975	15,604	13,397
61	Knitted clothing	3,876	2,348	8,586	5,907
62	Woven clothing	3,418	3,705	6,047	7,046
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	2,680	2,260	5,464	4,294
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,427	10,936	7,450	14,113
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	18,914	27,515	37,507	45,093
85	Electrical machinery etc.	39,565	41,761	86,449	72,095
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	10,618	17,628	27,695	28,266
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	226,728	18,550	239,621	36,559
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	34,132	378,510	34,174	379,745
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,044	5,981	11,349	10,808
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	4,433	4,959	7,965	8,620
98	Complete industrial plant	0	10,589	0	18,021
Main exports					
10	Cereals	71	3,508	142	3,540
19	Preparations of cereals	4,567	4,565	8,601	9,230
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	6,855	9,130	14,385	14,545
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	691	3,320	1,699	5,012
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	71,412	31,567	208,661	68,993
29	Organic chemicals	5,897	4,273	11,140	5,159
30	Pharmaceutical products	19,712	17,268	39,149	37,711
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,100	2,164	1,980	3,205
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	5,664	5,066	8,452	9,486
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,831	4,676	10,205	10,291
49	Printed books, newspapers	13,337	3,618	22,546	9,808
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,739	1,871	3,898	3,687
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	12,107	7,823	23,724	16,609
85	Electrical machinery etc.	54,518	43,499	112,956	87,803
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	1,875	4,036	3,436	9,988
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	6,376	14,579	9,966	29,416
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,921	4,093	13,287	9,687
91	Clocks and watches/parts	1,022	2,874	2,376	3,416
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	8,337	9,807	17,706	19,685

^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?>