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Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €178.0 million in March 2016, compared to €244.0 million in the corresponding month of 2015.

International Trade: March 2016

Cut-off date:
2 May 2016

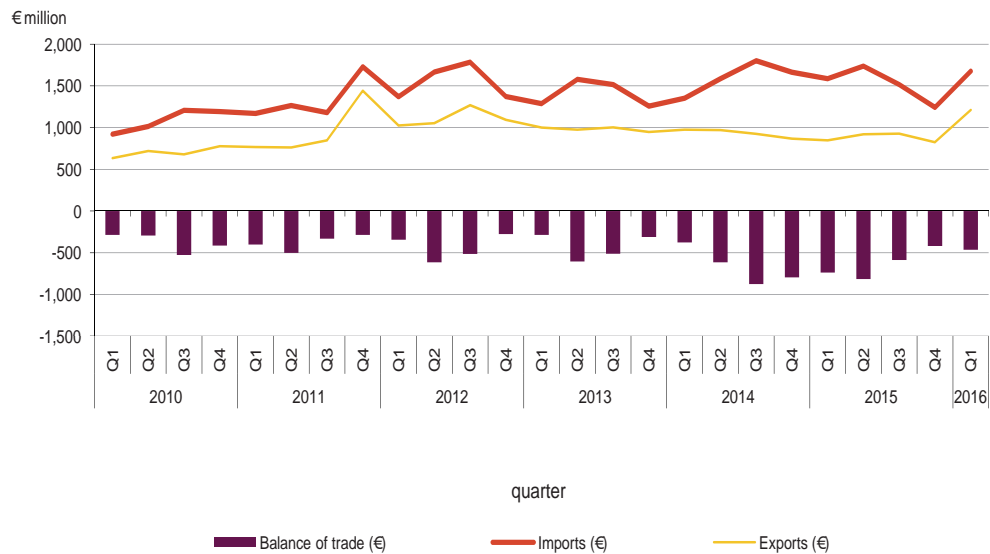
Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in March stood at €178.0 million, down by €66.0 million when compared to the corresponding month in 2015. Both imports and exports increased by €6.9 million and €73.1 million respectively (Table 1a). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€62.6 million). On the exports side, chemicals accounted for the main increase (€146.6 million) (Table 2).

January-March 2016

During the first three months this year, the trade deficit widened by €171.6 million when compared to the corresponding period last year. Imports show an increase of €89.5 million, with exports decreasing by €82.0 million (Table 1a). Higher imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, which increased by €284.0 million. This was partly outweighed by a decrease of €185.3 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 (€197.5 million). This was partly outweighed by an increase of €142.3 million in chemicals (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €645.7million, or 38.5 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €55.9 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period last year. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from France (€36.0 million) and Canada (€103.2 million) respectively. On the export side the main increase was directed to the United States of America (€157.0 million), whereas Egypt (€78.8 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	March		January-March	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Imports	6,399.7	6,079.8	544.2	551.1	1,585.7	1,675.2
Industrial Supplies	1,412.9	1,476.0	124.3	96.4	348.1	328.5
Primary	81.2	79.8	11.9	3.5	16.7	22.3
Semi-Finished	1,180.7	1,186.3	96.5	76.5	280.3	248.2
Finished	151.0	209.8	16.0	16.4	51.1	58.0
Capital Goods and Others	1,310.3	1,704.9	159.3	232.5	477.6	774.6
Consumer Goods	1,115.4	1,209.5	104.0	88.9	272.0	268.1
Food and Beverages	472.7	480.9	36.9	36.3	102.5	105.3
Durable Goods	373.5	445.5	39.9	31.0	100.8	94.8
Others	269.2	283.0	27.1	21.7	68.8	68.0
Fuels and Lubricants	2,561.1	1,689.4	156.6	133.3	488.0	304.0
Exports	3,737.6	3,518.8	300.1	373.2	846.8	764.8
Balance of Trade	-2,662.1	-2,561.0	-244.0	-178.0	-738.9	-910.5

^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 Q4 ^P	2015 Q1 ^P	2015 Q2 ^P	2015 Q3 ^P	2015 Q4 ^P	2016 Q1 ^P
Imports	1,662.2	1,585.7	1,736.0	1,515.1	1,242.9	1,675.2
Industrial Supplies	366.1	348.1	370.9	391.4	365.6	328.5
Primary	21.2	16.7	29.6	21.1	12.4	22.3
Semi-Finished	303.0	280.3	291.6	331.3	283.2	248.2
Finished	42.0	51.1	49.7	38.9	70.0	58.0
Capital Goods and Others	473.6	477.6	658.8	334.2	234.3	774.6
Consumer Goods	297.1	272.0	305.7	309.6	322.2	268.1
Food and Beverages	125.4	102.5	123.8	127.3	127.4	105.3
Durable Goods	103.9	100.8	107.1	114.1	123.6	94.8
Others	67.8	68.8	74.7	68.3	71.2	68.0
Fuels and Lubricants	525.4	488.0	400.7	479.8	320.9	304.0
Exports	867.8	846.8	920.5	927.2	824.3	764.8
Balance of Trade	-794.4	-738.9	-815.5	-587.9	-418.7	-910.5

^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	March		January-March	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Total Exports	3,737.6	3,518.8	300.1	373.2	846.8	764.8
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,608.2	1,332.3	100.9	43.3	309.7	75.7
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,129.4	2,186.4	199.2	329.9	537.1	689.1

^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	March		January-March	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Imports	6,399.7	6,079.8	544.2	551.1	1,585.7	1,675.2
Food	505.6	515.8	45.4	35.5	110.9	117.9
Beverages and Tobacco	89.8	89.5	7.7	5.9	17.5	20.2
Crude Materials	24.4	27.3	1.6	3.0	5.4	6.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,563.5	1,691.0	158.0	133.4	489.4	304.1
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	8.7	9.2	0.5	0.5	1.9	2.0
Chemicals	509.0	505.0	42.9	36.8	128.9	118.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	342.4	412.6	30.5	26.8	81.7	86.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,922.4	2,355.0	217.0	279.6	641.2	925.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	421.9	460.2	39.2	28.7	104.9	91.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	11.9	14.1	1.4	0.9	3.9	2.7
Exports	3,737.6	3,518.8	300.1	373.2	846.8	764.8
Food	197.8	245.6	16.3	16.2	46.4	50.7
Beverages and Tobacco	45.3	42.3	2.5	2.2	7.2	9.7
Crude Materials	16.1	15.9	1.9	0.6	4.5	3.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,608.2	1,357.5	101.3	43.3	310.0	112.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	376.9	363.0	30.9	177.5	86.0	228.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	116.0	122.9	10.2	12.3	33.2	32.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,000.2	962.5	98.7	88.1	249.0	237.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	375.7	408.5	38.4	32.9	110.3	89.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	1.3	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Balance of Trade	-2,662.1	-2,561.0	-244.0	-178.0	-738.9	-910.5
Food	-307.8	-270.2	-29.1	-19.2	-64.5	-67.2
Beverages and Tobacco	-44.5	-47.2	-5.2	-3.7	-10.3	-10.5
Crude Materials	-8.3	-11.4	0.3	-2.4	-1.0	-3.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-955.2	-333.6	-56.7	-90.1	-179.4	-191.6
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-8.7	-9.1	-0.5	-0.5	-1.9	-2.0
Chemicals	-132.1	-142.0	-12.0	140.7	-42.9	110.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-226.4	-289.7	-20.3	-14.6	-48.5	-54.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-922.2	-1,392.5	-118.3	-191.5	-392.3	-687.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-46.3	-51.7	-0.8	4.2	5.5	-1.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-10.6	-13.5	-1.4	-0.8	-3.7	-2.5

^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	March						January-March					
	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	352.8	90.9	-261.9	258.5	81.7	-176.8	968.7	278.5	-690.2	753.5	275.3	-478.3
European Union	288.9	81.8	-207.1	230.1	72.5	-157.6	767.9	256.3	-511.6	645.7	254.9	-390.8
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	30.7	8.5	-22.2	21.5	7.2	-14.2	83.4	23.8	-59.6	71.9	25.9	-46.0
Euro Area	218.0	64.2	-153.8	198.1	58.0	-140.0	592.9	208.0	-384.8	537.0	203.5	-333.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	122.4	8.8	-113.6	84.2	7.3	-76.9	276.2	32.7	-243.5	231.8	28.3	-203.5
France	16.6	13.5	-3.1	48.4	12.7	-35.6	48.2	56.3	8.1	84.2	48.4	-35.7
Germany	32.2	32.8	0.6	32.8	31.2	-1.6	86.7	90.6	3.9	110.2	103.4	-6.9
Spain	14.0	3.6	-10.4	9.7	2.9	-6.8	37.2	11.3	-26.0	26.7	7.9	-18.8
Netherlands	10.6	2.9	-7.7	9.2	1.8	-7.4	48.1	8.1	-40.0	38.4	4.9	-33.5
Belgium	7.0	0.6	-6.4	5.0	0.4	-4.6	51.9	1.7	-50.2	16.1	1.4	-14.7
EFTA Countries	3.1	3.2	0.1	2.6	1.7	-1.0	10.6	8.6	-2.1	11.1	6.3	-4.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	2.5	2.5	0.0	2.3	1.2	-1.1	9.2	7.2	-2.0	10.2	5.0	-5.3
Other European Countries	60.8	5.9	-54.9	25.8	7.6	-18.2	190.1	13.6	-176.5	96.7	14.1	-82.6
Asia	55.9	75.2	19.3	73.1	54.2	-19.0	166.9	203.3	36.4	195.8	139.8	-56.0
<i>of which:</i>												
India	7.4	4.8	-2.7	17.5	0.7	-16.8	24.4	5.8	-18.5	33.9	2.1	-31.8
China	15.6	1.9	-13.7	15.8	2.6	-13.3	44.0	24.7	-19.3	43.8	8.0	-35.7
Saudi Arabia	0.2	3.3	3.1	14.2	0.6	-13.5	12.8	17.0	4.3	37.4	9.4	-28.0
Hong Kong	2.9	21.9	19.0	9.1	11.9	2.8	6.1	51.6	45.5	14.4	27.3	12.9
Japan	6.3	1.0	-5.2	4.6	1.1	-3.5	16.7	6.1	-10.6	19.1	6.7	-12.4
North and Central America	105.4	18.2	-87.2	159.3	174.9	15.6	394.6	43.0	-351.6	249.9	198.5	-51.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Canada	97.6	3.1	-94.5	140.4	3.9	-136.5	311.1	8.8	-302.2	207.9	8.4	-199.5
United States of America	7.7	12.1	4.4	18.7	169.9	151.2	82.8	29.5	-53.3	39.2	186.5	147.3
Africa	8.1	92.2	84.1	14.3	38.8	24.5	13.8	250.9	237.1	29.7	94.6	64.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	1.4	44.8	43.4	12.1	20.2	8.1	4.1	116.9	112.8	16.4	38.1	21.7
Australia and Oceania	0.5	1.1	0.7	0.5	1.2	0.7	2.2	3.6	1.4	1.5	2.7	1.1
South America	1.5	2.1	0.6	2.2	0.3	-1.9	5.0	5.8	0.7	18.7	0.6	-18.1
Ships and Aircraft Stores	10.6	20.4	9.8	0.2	21.9	21.8	22.9	60.8	37.9	4.6	52.2	47.6
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	9.5	0.1	-9.4	43.0	0.1	-42.9	11.5	0.8	-10.8	421.4	1.3	-420.1
Grand Total	544.2	300.1	-244.0	551.1	373.2	-178.0	1,585.7	846.8	-738.9	1,675.2	764.8	-910.5

^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	March		January-March	
		2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	3,503	4,174	11,185	11,588
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	1,126	1,870	2,971	10,475
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,659	3,282	9,900	10,398
08	Edible fruit and nuts	2,588	2,672	7,982	7,919
16	Preparations of meat/fish	2,953	3,723	9,424	11,256
17	Sugars and sugar confectionary	1,905	1,967	4,590	6,204
19	Preparations of cereals	5,266	5,317	14,322	15,013
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,333	3,366	8,211	8,459
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	4,215	4,334	11,736	10,734
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	2,025	2,174	5,113	6,305
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	157,981	134,299	489,396	305,054
29	Organic chemicals	7,967	7,955	36,676	32,238
30	Pharmaceutical products	12,038	10,687	33,223	31,569
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	3,042	2,655	7,311	8,768
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,780	3,409	9,633	8,994
34	Soap, etc., lubricants, waxes, dental preparations	2,385	2,182	6,050	5,193
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	12,984	11,254	38,424	35,093
48	Paper and paperboard articles	5,168	5,930	20,772	19,425
61	Knitted clothing	3,999	2,414	12,585	8,973
62	Woven clothing	4,525	3,427	10,571	10,706
64	Footwear, gaiters etc. and parts	4,029	2,059	8,353	5,041
69	Ceramic products	2,670	2,390	6,494	6,141
73	Articles of iron or steel	6,561	3,185	14,011	17,551
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	21,958	21,858	59,466	67,776
85	Electrical machinery etc.	49,794	37,080	136,247	110,893
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	13,793	12,911	41,488	41,384
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	109,218	152,725	348,839	256,285
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	23,844	55,195	58,018	434,940
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,626	4,339	15,975	15,538
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.;	6,240	5,175	14,206	14,043
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	1,430	1,132	6,735	7,271
19	Preparations of cereals	3,135	2,739	11,736	12,216
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	9,373	11,469	23,759	25,996
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	101,153	43,130	309,814	112,151
29	Organic chemicals	9,875	914	21,015	6,073
30	Pharmaceutical products	14,239	173,117	53,388	210,828
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,489	1,449	4,469	4,653
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	4,244	4,550	12,696	14,043
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,715	2,850	14,920	13,202
49	Printed books, newspapers	11,724	11,666	34,269	21,643
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,040	2,135	5,938	5,823
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,889	5,736	7,575	8,688
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	9,420	7,731	33,144	24,377
85	Electrical machinery etc.	74,287	64,033	187,243	158,381
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	3,838	2,485	7,274	12,473
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	9,890	13,570	19,856	43,234
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,098	4,431	19,385	14,364
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	8,950	9,953	26,656	29,642
99	Special classifications	1,712	1,761	4,175	4,494

^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?>