

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €149.4 million in July 2016, compared to €239.9 million in the corresponding month of 2015.

International Trade: July 2016

Cut-off date:
1 September 2016

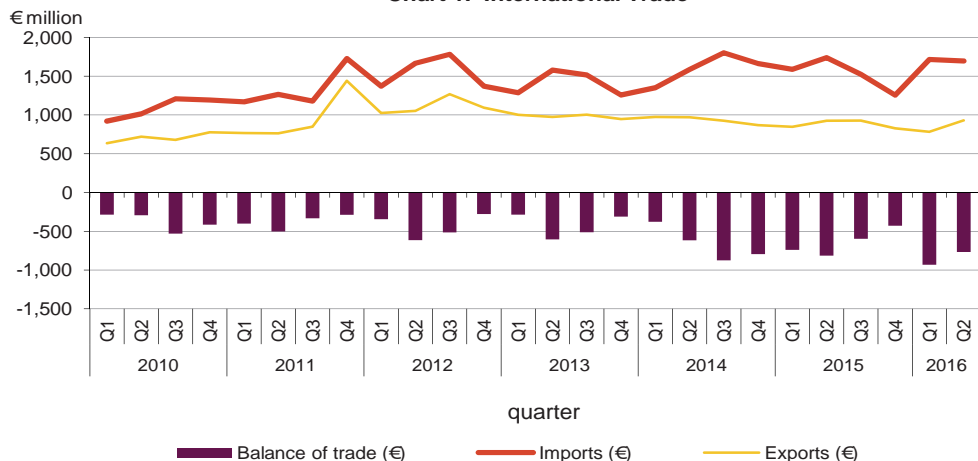
Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in July stood at €149.4 million, down by €90.5 million when compared to the corresponding month of 2015. Both imports and exports increased by €54.5 million and €144.9 million respectively (Table 1a). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€60.8) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€56.8 million). This was partly outweighed by a decrease of €46.3 million in semi-manufactured goods. Chemicals (€249.6 million) accounted for the main increase in exports. This was partly outweighed by a decrease of €99.6 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (Table 2).

January-July 2016

During the first seven months this year, the trade deficit widened by €55.2 million when compared to the corresponding period last year. Both imports and exports show an increase of €138.1 million and €83.0 million respectively (Table 1a). Higher imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, which increased by €375.2 million. This was partly outweighed by a decrease of €150.5 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. The increase in the value of exports was mainly triggered by chemicals (€556.5 million). This was partly outweighed by a decrease of €363.3 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €1,781.3 million, or 43.9 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €343.8 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 Caribbean and Bahamas Islands (€549.1 million) and the Netherlands (€226.7 million) respectively. On the export side the main increase was directed to the United States of America (€589.1 million), whereas Africa (€263.2 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	July		January-July	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Imports	6,400.3	6,106.1	595.9	650.4	3,921.9	4,060.0
Industrial Supplies	1,412.9	1,482.0	163.7	94.3	884.3	748.7
Primary	81.2	80.0	6.2	6.0	52.5	57.9
Semi-Finished	1,180.7	1,191.4	137.5	78.5	710.7	587.1
Finished	151.0	210.6	20.1	9.8	121.1	103.7
Capital Goods and Others	1,310.9	1,715.5	153.1	233.6	1,290.7	1,730.7
Consumer Goods	1,115.4	1,219.3	107.7	94.2	686.8	676.4
Food and Beverages	472.7	482.0	41.6	36.8	268.3	265.1
Durable Goods	373.5	453.2	42.2	33.9	250.9	241.4
Others	269.2	284.0	23.9	23.5	167.6	170.0
Fuels and Lubricants	2,561.1	1,689.4	171.4	228.3	1,060.1	904.2
Exports	3,737.9	3,527.5	356.0	500.9	2,128.6	2,211.6
Balance of Trade	-2,662.4	-2,578.7	-239.9	-149.4	-1,793.3	-1,848.5

^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	2015 Q1 ^P	2015 Q2 ^P	2015 Q3 ^P	2015 Q4 ^P	2016 Q1 ^P	2016 Q2 ^P
Imports	1,587.2	1,738.9	1,524.0	1,256.0	1,714.5	1,695.2
Industrial Supplies	348.6	372.0	392.5	368.8	340.7	313.7
Primary	16.7	29.6	21.2	12.4	22.6	29.3
Semi-Finished	280.7	292.5	332.2	286.0	259.3	249.3
Finished	51.1	49.9	39.2	70.4	58.9	35.1
Capital Goods and Others	478.2	659.5	338.2	239.6	784.2	713.0
Consumer Goods	272.4	306.7	313.4	326.7	285.5	296.7
Food and Beverages	102.6	124.1	127.6	127.8	108.4	119.9
Durable Goods	101.0	107.8	117.2	127.3	106.2	101.3
Others	68.9	74.9	68.6	71.7	71.0	75.5
Fuels and Lubricants	488.0	400.7	479.8	320.9	304.0	371.8
Exports	847.7	925.0	927.8	827.1	782.3	928.4
Balance of Trade	-739.5	-813.9	-596.3	-429.0	-932.2	-766.8

^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	July		January-July	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Total Exports	3,737.9	3,527.5	356.0	500.9	2,128.6	2,211.6
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,608.2	1,332.3	173.4	80.4	853.1	481.9
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,129.7	2,195.1	182.6	420.5	1,275.6	1,729.6

^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	July		January-July	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
			Imports	6,400.3	6,106.1	595.9
Food	505.6	517.1	43.4	39.1	292.6	294.3
Beverages and Tobacco	89.8	89.6	8.6	7.1	49.6	54.5
Crude Materials	24.4	27.4	3.6	1.8	15.3	15.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,563.5	1,691.1	171.5	228.3	1,061.6	911.1
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	8.7	9.2	0.7	0.7	5.4	5.4
Chemicals	509.0	507.3	37.3	38.2	289.9	263.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	342.4	414.5	73.5	27.2	250.3	217.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,922.5	2,371.1	212.6	273.4	1,679.9	2,055.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	422.5	464.6	43.2	33.6	267.8	236.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	11.9	14.1	1.6	1.0	9.5	6.6
Exports	3,737.9	3,527.5	356.0	500.9	2,128.6	2,211.6
Food	197.8	245.6	10.3	3.5	108.5	84.0
Beverages and Tobacco	45.3	42.3	4.4	3.9	23.0	24.3
Crude Materials	16.1	15.9	0.7	0.8	10.2	7.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,608.2	1,357.5	180.0	80.4	861.1	497.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	377.3	363.6	39.7	289.3	220.2	776.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	116.0	122.9	10.2	9.0	73.3	74.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,000.2	968.0	77.0	77.1	581.7	533.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	375.7	411.0	33.5	36.8	250.3	212.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	1.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4
Balance of Trade	-2,662.4	-2,578.7	-239.9	-149.4	-1,793.3	-1,848.5
Food	-307.8	-271.5	-33.1	-35.6	-184.1	-210.3
Beverages and Tobacco	-44.5	-47.3	-4.1	-3.2	-26.6	-30.3
Crude Materials	-8.3	-11.5	-2.8	-0.9	-5.1	-7.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-955.2	-333.6	8.5	-147.9	-200.5	-413.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-8.7	-9.1	-0.7	-0.7	-5.4	-5.3
Chemicals	-131.7	-143.7	2.5	251.2	-69.7	512.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-226.4	-291.6	-63.3	-18.1	-177.1	-142.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-922.3	-1,403.1	-135.6	-196.4	-1,098.1	-1,521.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-46.9	-53.6	-9.6	3.2	-17.5	-24.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-10.6	-13.5	-1.6	-1.0	-9.1	-6.2

^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	July						January-July					
	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	384.4	113.8	-270.6	332.2	99.9	-232.3	2,690.3	682.5	-2,007.8	2,025.8	660.7	-1,365.1
European Union	331.0	103.4	-227.6	322.7	97.6	-225.1	2,251.0	631.9	-1,619.1	1,781.3	620.6	-1,160.7
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	46.9	11.8	-35.1	48.1	8.7	-39.3	274.0	73.7	-200.3	208.0	63.3	-144.6
Euro Area	265.3	78.8	-186.5	248.9	75.0	-173.9	1,789.3	485.5	-1,303.8	1,445.5	484.2	-961.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	125.3	12.4	-112.9	145.4	9.5	-135.9	772.1	77.3	-694.8	672.6	70.7	-601.9
Germany	37.7	29.2	-8.5	24.8	30.8	6.0	205.3	201.5	-3.8	213.4	224.4	10.9
France	19.0	22.3	3.3	22.2	20.7	-1.4	132.6	134.7	2.1	180.1	123.2	-56.9
Netherlands	22.3	7.9	-14.4	21.4	7.8	-13.6	362.6	23.9	-338.7	135.9	17.2	-118.8
Belgium	6.4	0.5	-5.9	16.5	0.4	-16.1	99.0	4.1	-95.0	55.5	4.5	-51.0
Spain	37.8	2.6	-35.2	8.9	1.9	-7.0	127.1	23.4	-103.7	80.2	20.0	-60.2
EFTA Countries	7.9	6.0	-1.9	3.9	1.3	-2.6	31.7	22.5	-9.3	39.4	14.5	-24.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	7.4	2.6	-4.8	3.8	0.9	-2.9	27.5	16.8	-10.8	37.2	11.6	-25.6
Other European Countries	45.5	4.4	-41.1	5.6	1.0	-4.6	407.6	28.1	-379.4	205.1	25.6	-179.4
Asia	68.6	44.6	-24.0	63.7	32.8	-30.9	412.5	405.1	-7.5	462.8	277.0	-185.8
<i>of which:</i>												
China	17.2	1.9	-15.3	17.5	1.9	-15.6	110.5	32.8	-77.7	120.1	13.9	-106.2
Israel	0.4	4.4	4.0	13.8	0.3	-13.4	3.7	5.9	2.2	48.4	1.8	-46.5
India	8.3	4.5	-3.8	9.2	1.2	-8.0	57.1	17.5	-39.6	68.4	7.0	-61.3
Japan	7.0	2.0	-5.0	3.9	1.6	-2.3	40.9	12.7	-28.2	32.7	12.0	-20.7
Korea Republic	3.7	0.8	-2.9	3.6	0.8	-2.8	25.7	5.9	-19.8	45.4	5.9	-39.5
North and Central America	73.0	19.6	-53.4	140.4	280.4	140.0	539.5	111.5	-428.0	697.8	694.3	-3.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Canada	0.4	3.1	2.7	113.8	2.2	-111.6	312.2	21.7	-290.5	491.0	17.7	-473.3
United States of America	65.1	14.9	-50.2	26.4	276.6	250.2	217.3	78.1	-139.2	203.3	667.2	463.9
Africa	26.0	129.3	103.2	60.9	64.9	4.0	76.9	614.8	537.8	140.9	351.6	210.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Tunisia	2.4	9.3	6.9	30.4	6.9	-23.5	12.3	62.3	49.9	42.2	26.6	-15.6
Australia and Oceania	0.7	1.3	0.6	16.7	1.6	-15.2	33.5	10.4	-23.1	20.3	7.7	-12.6
South America	4.3	0.6	-3.7	2.6	0.3	-2.4	16.3	7.6	-8.7	27.5	1.5	-26.1
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.2	46.8	46.6	1.5	20.8	19.3	23.6	295.4	271.7	6.6	215.8	209.2
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	38.8	0.1	-38.7	32.3	0.2	-32.1	129.2	1.4	-127.8	678.3	3.0	-675.3
Grand Total	595.9	356.0	-239.9	650.4	500.9	-149.4	3,921.9	2,128.6	-1,793.3	4,060.0	2,211.6	-1,848.5

^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	July		January-July	
		2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	4,714	4,552	30,104	29,335
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	2,830	6,054	29,729	44,164
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,976	3,484	26,443	25,902
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,286	3,507	25,685	25,903
19	Preparations of cereals	4,769	4,327	34,755	34,150
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,453	2,210	15,555	14,343
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,360	2,982	23,349	21,555
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	6,351	5,232	36,204	34,851
23	Food residues and waste	3,663	2,328	19,165	16,057
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	171,499	228,340	1,061,648	912,099
29	Organic chemicals	7,474	8,402	74,616	60,970
30	Pharmaceutical products	9,688	12,376	78,965	80,301
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	3,317	2,168	18,679	17,304
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,788	2,628	24,894	21,201
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	16,438	13,558	95,411	85,012
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	1,953	2,182	10,394	10,791
48	Paper and paperboard articles	6,111	6,864	47,451	42,487
61	Knitted clothing	3,707	3,601	27,470	25,520
62	Woven clothing	3,631	2,197	25,236	23,262
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,419	3,597	15,940	15,488
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	4,761	2,196	25,853	15,967
73	Articles of iron or steel	45,001	5,098	75,509	49,468
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	34,874	22,811	166,490	171,271
85	Electrical machinery etc.	47,390	38,417	333,741	268,048
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	28,830	11,930	112,871	101,266
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	15,459	118,566	408,608	638,154
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	86,931	83,475	664,741	863,897
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,229	4,340	42,174	37,168
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	6,924	4,728	40,759	37,651
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	1,769	2,421	11,474	14,295
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	1,881	952	14,700	11,872
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,910	1,745	53,439	44,957
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	1,113	894	6,804	5,019
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,462	1,303	6,927	10,221
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	179,912	80,262	860,610	496,952
29	Organic chemicals	13,735	2,583	50,399	19,481
30	Pharmaceutical products	23,384	284,978	145,348	735,639
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	5,211	5,123	31,447	32,906
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,022	4,635	34,357	34,287
49	Printed books, newspapers	7,114	10,369	72,709	49,999
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,532	1,009	15,730	12,469
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,030	2,186	12,456	16,542
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	9,906	9,105	65,511	58,410
85	Electrical machinery etc.	52,722	60,168	437,345	374,913
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	5,332	1,211	25,237	21,783
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	5,719	9,182	48,977	81,851
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,541	5,327	47,999	34,965
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	8,396	10,640	56,979	70,311
99	Special classifications	3,029	2,941	15,169	15,309

^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?>