

10 October 2016 | 1100 hrs | 164/2016

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €203.8 million in August 2016, compared to €187.0 million in the corresponding month of 2015.

International Trade: August 2016

Cut-off date:
4 October 2016

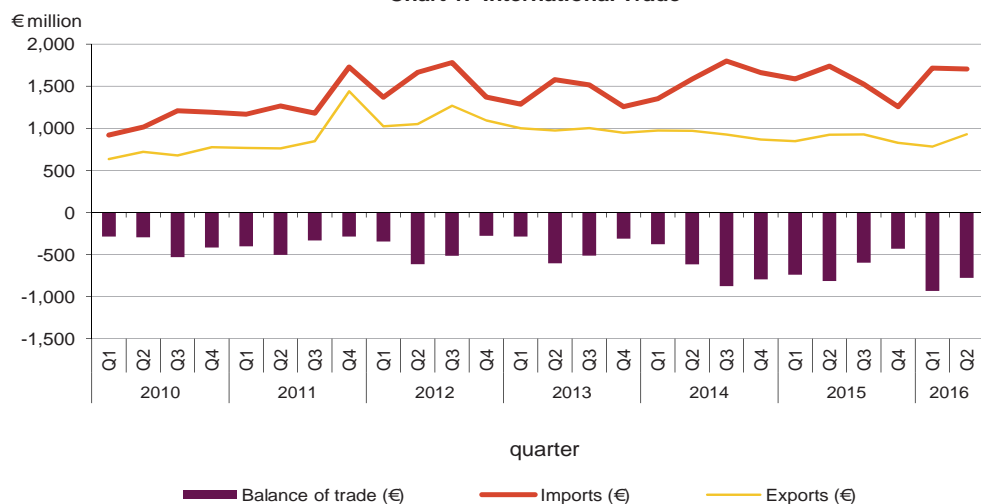
Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in August stood at €203.8 million, up by €16.8 million when compared to the corresponding month of 2015. Both imports and exports decreased by €1.9 million and €18.8 million respectively (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€35.2 million). This was partly outweighed by an increase of €23.7 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. On the exports side mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€18.3 million) accounted for the main decrease (Table 2).

January-August 2016

During the first eight months this year, the trade deficit widened by €93.8 million when compared to the corresponding period last year. Both imports and exports show an increase of €160.3 million and €66.5 million respectively (Table 1a). Higher imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, which increased by €347.0 million. This was partly outweighed by a decrease of €122.6 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. The increase in the value of exports was mainly triggered by chemicals (€559.4 million). This was partly outweighed by a decrease of €380.3 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €2,069.6 million, or 45.4 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €337.1 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 (€542.6 million) and the Netherlands (€204.0 million) respectively. On the export side the main increase was directed to the United States of America (€591.4 million), whereas Africa (€271.6 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade



Compiled by:

Unit A4: International Trade Statistics

Directorate A: Economic Statistics

Further information on data:

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

Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
The advance release calendar may be consulted at www.nso.gov.mt

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

<https://twitter.com/NSOMALTA/> | <https://www.facebook.com/nsomalta/>

Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	August		January-August	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
			Imports	6,400.3	6,108.4	456.0
Industrial Supplies	1,412.9	1,482.2	101.4	116.2	985.7	873.3
Primary	81.2	80.0	9.4	10.4	62.0	69.9
Semi-Finished	1,180.7	1,191.5	83.2	92.1	793.9	685.5
Finished	151.0	210.7	8.7	13.7	129.8	117.9
Capital Goods and Others	1,310.9	1,717.3	106.1	70.5	1,397.1	1,804.7
Consumer Goods	1,115.4	1,219.5	98.6	93.7	785.5	778.8
Food and Beverages	472.7	482.0	42.8	40.4	311.0	308.3
Durable Goods	373.5	453.4	34.3	30.1	285.2	275.6
Others	269.2	284.1	21.6	23.2	189.2	194.9
Fuels and Lubricants	2,561.1	1,689.4	149.9	173.6	1,210.0	1,081.9
Exports	3,737.9	3,527.5	269.0	250.2	2,397.6	2,464.1
Balance of Trade	-2,662.4	-2,581.0	-187.0	-203.8	-1,980.8	-2,074.6

^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	1,739.2	1,524.4	1,257.6	1,716.3	1,705.6
Industrial Supplies	348.6	372.1	392.6	369.0	341.2	318.5
Primary	16.7	29.6	21.2	12.4	22.6	30.1
Semi-Finished	280.7	292.5	332.2	286.1	259.7	253.3
Finished	51.1	49.9	39.2	70.5	58.9	35.1
Capital Goods and Others	478.2	659.7	338.5	241.0	784.7	714.4
Consumer Goods	272.4	306.8	313.5	326.8	286.4	300.9
Food and Beverages	102.6	124.1	127.6	127.8	108.8	120.6
Durable Goods	101.0	107.8	117.3	127.3	106.5	103.7
Others	68.9	74.9	68.6	71.7	71.1	76.6
Fuels and Lubricants	488.0	400.7	479.9	320.9	304.0	371.8
Exports	847.7	925.0	927.8	827.1	783.5	929.0
Balance of Trade	-739.5	-814.3	-596.6	-430.6	-932.8	-776.7

^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	August		January-August	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
			Total Exports	3,737.9	3,527.5	269.0
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,608.2	1,332.3	122.9	104.7	976.0	587.9
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,129.7	2,195.1	146.0	145.5	1,421.6	1,876.2

^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	August		January-August	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
			Imports	6,400.3	6,108.4	456.0
Food	505.6	517.1	48.8	49.5	341.4	347.9
Beverages and Tobacco	89.8	89.6	7.9	8.9	57.5	63.5
Crude Materials	24.4	27.4	1.6	1.4	16.9	16.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,563.5	1,691.1	149.9	173.6	1,211.5	1,088.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	8.7	9.2	0.7	0.7	6.1	6.1
Chemicals	509.0	507.5	40.3	44.3	330.3	310.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	342.4	414.6	25.7	28.6	276.1	249.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,922.5	2,372.7	145.6	110.4	1,825.6	2,172.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	422.5	465.1	34.3	35.4	302.4	275.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	11.9	14.1	1.2	1.2	10.7	7.8
Exports	3,737.9	3,527.5	269.0	250.2	2,397.6	2,464.1
Food	197.8	245.6	4.8	3.1	113.3	87.1
Beverages and Tobacco	45.3	42.3	3.8	3.6	26.8	27.9
Crude Materials	16.1	15.9	1.3	1.1	11.5	8.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,608.2	1,357.5	126.9	108.6	988.0	607.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	377.3	363.6	25.0	27.8	245.2	804.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	116.0	122.9	7.5	7.7	80.8	82.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,000.2	968.0	67.3	67.2	649.1	601.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	375.7	411.0	32.2	31.1	282.5	243.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	1.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4
Balance of Trade	-2,662.4	-2,581.0	-187.0	-203.8	-1,980.8	-2,074.6
Food	-307.8	-271.5	-44.0	-46.5	-228.1	-260.8
Beverages and Tobacco	-44.5	-47.3	-4.1	-5.3	-30.7	-35.7
Crude Materials	-8.3	-11.5	-0.2	-0.3	-5.3	-8.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-955.2	-333.6	-23.0	-65.0	-223.6	-481.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-8.7	-9.1	-0.7	-0.7	-6.1	-6.1
Chemicals	-131.7	-143.8	-15.3	-16.5	-85.0	494.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-226.4	-291.7	-18.2	-20.9	-195.3	-166.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-922.3	-1,404.7	-78.3	-43.1	-1,176.5	-1,571.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-46.9	-54.1	-2.0	-4.3	-19.8	-31.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-10.6	-13.5	-1.2	-1.2	-10.3	-7.4

^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

	August						January-August					
	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	348.0	83.2	-264.8	297.2	85.5	-211.7	3,038.8	765.7	-2,273.0	2,347.7	747.3	-1,600.4
European Union	281.2	77.6	-203.5	263.6	82.6	-181.0	2,532.7	709.6	-1,823.1	2,069.6	704.3	-1,365.3
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	26.1	11.5	-14.6	20.4	6.2	-14.2	300.2	85.2	-215.0	229.3	69.5	-159.8
Euro Area	234.1	54.4	-179.7	219.1	64.5	-154.5	2,023.9	539.9	-1,483.9	1,686.8	549.8	-1,137.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	138.3	6.6	-131.7	96.3	5.9	-90.3	910.5	83.9	-826.5	780.2	77.1	-703.1
Netherlands	12.0	1.5	-10.6	33.0	1.5	-31.6	374.6	25.3	-349.3	170.6	18.6	-152.0
Germany	22.6	20.4	-2.2	26.2	26.6	0.4	228.1	221.8	-6.3	241.8	251.3	9.5
Spain	14.3	2.6	-11.7	25.5	1.6	-24.0	141.4	26.0	-115.4	107.9	21.6	-86.3
France	11.8	19.8	8.0	12.8	26.0	13.2	144.4	154.5	10.1	194.2	149.1	-45.0
Belgium	6.8	0.7	-6.0	6.7	0.9	-5.8	105.8	4.8	-101.0	62.7	5.4	-57.3
EFTA Countries	5.4	2.4	-3.0	3.8	1.2	-2.6	37.2	24.9	-12.3	43.2	15.7	-27.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	3.4	2.2	-1.2	3.5	1.0	-2.4	30.9	19.0	-11.9	40.6	12.6	-28.0
Other European Countries	61.4	3.1	-58.2	29.8	1.7	-28.2	468.9	31.3	-437.7	234.9	27.3	-207.6
Asia	68.4	42.1	-26.4	84.3	65.2	-19.1	480.9	447.1	-33.8	547.2	342.2	-204.9
<i>of which:</i>												
China	13.4	1.8	-11.7	19.7	4.7	-15.0	123.9	34.6	-89.3	139.8	18.6	-121.2
Israel	2.3	0.2	-2.1	13.5	0.4	-13.2	6.0	6.1	0.1	61.9	2.2	-59.7
Saudi Arabia	10.9	0.1	-10.8	13.0	0.2	-12.8	31.8	23.9	-7.9	50.7	10.4	-40.3
India	8.2	0.6	-7.6	10.3	2.8	-7.5	65.4	18.1	-47.2	78.7	9.9	-68.8
Singapore	5.0	16.4	11.4	5.9	12.6	6.6	57.4	110.9	53.4	22.4	102.4	80.1
North and Central America	14.7	15.4	0.7	21.0	16.5	-4.4	554.2	126.9	-427.3	718.8	710.9	-7.9
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	13.9	11.2	-2.7	20.5	13.5	-7.0	231.2	89.3	-141.9	223.7	680.7	457.0
Canada	0.3	2.9	2.6	0.3	1.9	1.6	312.5	24.6	-287.9	491.3	19.5	-471.8
Africa	4.5	49.9	45.4	32.3	41.5	9.2	81.4	664.7	583.3	173.2	393.1	219.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	1.6	28.9	27.3	9.9	25.0	15.1	16.5	281.2	264.8	66.3	216.1	149.8
Australia and Oceania	0.6	0.4	-0.1	6.8	1.7	-5.1	34.1	10.8	-23.3	27.1	9.4	-17.7
South America	2.3	0.1	-2.2	1.3	0.1	-1.3	18.6	7.7	-10.9	28.9	1.5	-27.3
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.0	77.6	77.6	0.1	39.4	39.3	23.7	373.0	349.3	6.7	256.4	249.7
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	17.4	0.2	-17.3	10.9	0.3	-10.7	146.7	1.6	-145.0	689.3	3.3	-686.0
Grand Total	456.0	269.0	-187.0	454.1	250.2	-203.8	4,378.4	2,397.6	-1,980.8	4,538.7	2,464.1	-2,074.6

^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	August		January-August	
		2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	4,254	5,449	34,358	34,873
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	11,343	14,765	41,073	59,049
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,230	3,448	30,673	29,584
08	Edible fruit and nuts	2,908	2,985	22,854	23,853
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,113	4,000	29,798	30,012
19	Preparations of cereals	4,918	4,766	39,674	39,206
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,550	2,247	18,104	16,683
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,163	2,907	26,512	24,624
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,985	5,988	42,190	40,949
23	Food residues and waste	2,049	2,230	21,214	18,300
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,966	2,906	15,841	23,185
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	149,881	173,607	1,211,549	1,089,838
29	Organic chemicals	13,565	18,362	88,181	79,334
30	Pharmaceutical products	9,895	10,508	88,899	91,228
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	1,969	2,741	20,650	20,307
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,766	2,801	28,685	24,434
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	12,263	10,990	107,698	96,933
48	Paper and paperboard articles	5,778	4,068	53,232	46,725
61	Knitted clothing	4,835	3,185	32,305	29,463
62	Woven clothing	3,386	3,656	28,623	26,943
64	Footwear, gaiters etc. and parts	2,299	2,487	18,239	18,118
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	2,595	2,646	28,448	18,643
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,591	8,508	80,100	58,690
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	18,998	23,155	185,497	196,564
85	Electrical machinery etc.	39,184	38,371	372,938	310,790
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	20,817	10,684	133,690	112,613
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	4,495	15,370	413,103	653,525
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	63,085	23,074	727,827	887,055
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,170	8,444	46,634	45,846
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	4,860	3,983	45,623	42,958
Main exports					
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,038	1,426	55,477	46,382
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	445	1,169	7,372	11,390
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	126,758	108,441	987,368	606,606
29	Organic chemicals	5,152	5,076	55,551	24,556
30	Pharmaceutical products	17,571	20,291	162,920	755,930
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	622	1,112	5,478	5,582
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	5,047	4,155	36,494	37,062
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	3,777	3,476	38,134	37,763
49	Printed books, newspapers	10,739	9,495	83,448	59,494
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	943	1,194	16,673	13,663
64	Footwear, gaiters etc. and parts	50	1,417	6,420	2,689
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,732	1,753	14,187	18,307
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	6,982	7,524	72,493	66,007
85	Electrical machinery etc.	51,595	50,496	488,939	425,765
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	5,084	1,523	30,321	23,306
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	3,653	7,256	52,630	89,107
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,052	3,361	53,052	38,405
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	8,759	10,549	65,738	80,860
99	Special classifications	3,277	2,791	18,447	18,100

^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?>