

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €273.0 million in October 2016, compared to €64.6 million in the corresponding month of 2015.

International Trade: October 2016

Cut-off date:
30 November 2016

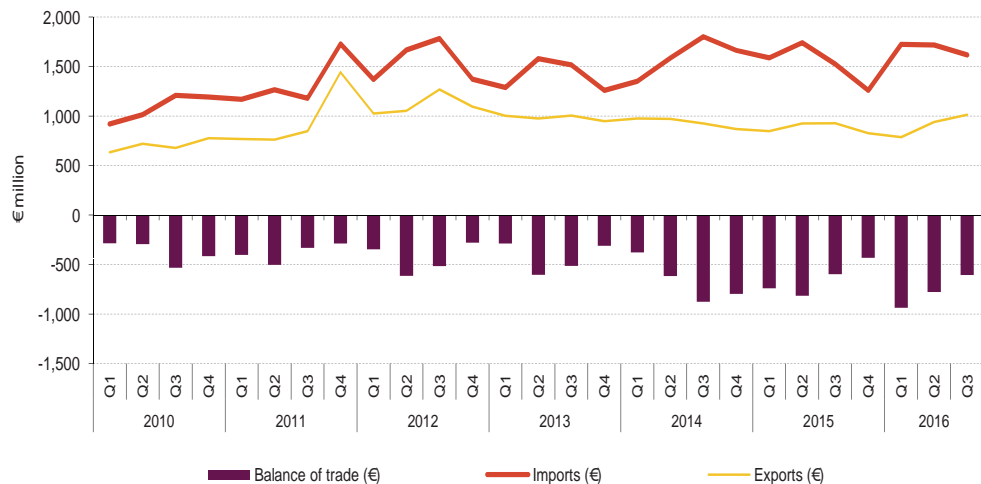
Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in October stood at €273.0 million, up by €208.4 million when compared to the corresponding month of 2015. Imports increased by €98.6 million, while exports decreased by €109.8 million (Table 1a). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€89.3 million), while on the exports side mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€101.6 million) accounted for the main decrease (Table 2).

January-October 2016

During the first ten months this year, the trade deficit widened by €375.5 million when compared to the corresponding period last year, reaching €2,590.7 million. Imports show an increase of €303.1 million, while exports decreased by €72.3 million (Table 1a). Higher imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, which increased by €469.2 million. This was partly outweighed by decreases in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€63.8 million), semi-manufactured goods (€41.7 million), miscellaneous manufactured articles (€38.0 million), and chemicals (€36.6 million). The decrease in the value of exports was mainly triggered by mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€545.6 million), food (€34.6 million), and machinery and transport equipment (€32.1 million). This was partly outweighed by an increase of €555.3 million in chemicals (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €2,629.7 million, or 47.2 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €292.0 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 (€592.5 million) and the Netherlands (€199.2 million) respectively. On the export side, the main increase was directed to the United States of America (€595.0 million), whereas Africa (€378.4 million) registered the largest drop (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade



Compiled by:

Unit A4: International Trade Statistics

Further information on data:

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

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

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Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	October		January-October	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
			Imports	6,400.7	6,110.1	418.8
Industrial Supplies	1,413.0	1,482.6	117.6	99.6	1,230.9	1,082.7
Primary	81.2	80.0	6.2	2.1	73.8	81.1
Semi-Finished	1,180.8	1,191.8	97.6	78.1	1,003.0	847.9
Finished	151.0	210.8	13.8	19.4	154.1	153.7
Capital Goods and Others	1,311.1	1,717.8	62.9	151.5	1,539.2	2,072.8
Consumer Goods	1,115.5	1,220.3	114.5	106.7	1,007.4	994.4
Food and Beverages	472.7	482.5	45.3	45.0	399.5	397.2
Durable Goods	373.6	453.6	43.4	36.8	369.6	345.1
Others	269.3	284.2	25.8	24.9	238.3	252.1
Fuels and Lubricants	2,561.1	1,689.4	123.8	159.6	1,492.4	1,423.1
Exports	3,737.9	3,527.5	354.2	244.4	3,054.6	2,982.3
Balance of Trade	-2,662.8	-2,582.7	-64.6	-273.0	-2,215.2	-2,590.7

^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	2015 Q2 ^P	2015 Q3 ^P	2015 Q4 ^P	2016 Q1 ^P	2016 Q2 ^P	2016 Q3 ^P
Imports	1,739.3	1,524.5	1,259.1	1,722.1	1,716.7	1,616.8
Industrial Supplies	372.1	392.6	369.3	343.8	322.6	316.8
Primary	29.6	21.2	12.4	22.6	30.2	26.2
Semi-Finished	292.5	332.2	286.3	262.1	257.0	250.8
Finished	49.9	39.2	70.5	59.1	35.4	39.8
Capital Goods and Others	659.7	338.5	241.5	785.9	716.8	418.6
Consumer Goods	306.9	313.5	327.4	288.3	305.4	294.0
Food and Beverages	124.1	127.6	128.3	109.4	122.7	120.1
Durable Goods	107.9	117.3	127.4	107.5	105.9	94.9
Others	74.9	68.6	71.8	71.4	76.9	79.0
Fuels and Lubricants	400.7	479.9	320.9	304.1	371.9	587.5
Exports	925.0	927.8	827.1	786.0	940.3	1,011.6
Balance of Trade	-814.4	-596.7	-432.1	-936.1	-776.4	-605.2

^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	October		January-October	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
			Total Exports	3,737.9	3,527.5	354.2
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,608.2	1,332.3	155.7	56.0	1,261.2	711.4
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,129.7	2,195.1	198.5	188.4	1,793.4	2,270.9

^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	2014 ^P	2015 ^P	October		January-October	
			2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
			Imports	6,400.7	6,110.1	418.8
Food	505.6	517.5	47.3	45.2	434.7	443.7
Beverages and Tobacco	89.8	89.7	7.2	7.5	72.8	82.1
Crude Materials	24.4	27.4	4.1	2.1	23.0	21.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	2,563.5	1,691.1	123.9	159.7	1,494.0	1,430.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	8.7	9.2	0.8	0.8	7.8	7.6
Chemicals	509.1	507.6	48.1	36.4	426.5	389.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	342.4	414.7	31.6	29.7	346.2	304.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,922.5	2,373.5	112.9	202.2	2,067.2	2,536.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	422.7	465.2	42.1	32.8	385.2	347.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	11.9	14.1	0.8	0.9	12.5	9.7
Exports	3,737.9	3,527.5	354.2	244.4	3,054.6	2,982.3
Food	197.8	245.6	37.2	31.1	156.6	122.0
Beverages and Tobacco	45.3	42.3	4.7	2.3	36.4	34.8
Crude Materials	16.1	15.9	0.8	1.3	13.4	10.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,608.2	1,357.5	157.6	56.0	1,280.7	735.1
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	377.3	363.6	30.6	26.8	309.6	864.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	116.0	122.9	12.7	9.3	103.0	101.3
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,000.2	968.0	75.2	78.3	807.8	775.7
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	375.7	411.0	35.2	39.2	346.5	337.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	1.3	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.7
Balance of Trade	-2,662.8	-2,582.7	-64.6	-273.0	-2,215.2	-2,590.7
Food	-307.8	-271.9	-10.0	-14.1	-278.1	-321.7
Beverages and Tobacco	-44.5	-47.4	-2.5	-5.3	-36.3	-47.4
Crude Materials	-8.3	-11.5	-3.3	-0.8	-9.6	-11.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-955.2	-333.6	33.7	-103.7	-213.2	-695.1
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-8.7	-9.2	-0.8	-0.8	-7.8	-7.6
Chemicals	-131.8	-143.9	-17.5	-9.6	-117.0	475.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-226.4	-291.8	-18.9	-20.4	-243.2	-203.2
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-922.3	-1,405.5	-37.7	-124.0	-1,259.3	-1,760.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-47.1	-54.2	-6.9	6.4	-38.7	-9.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-10.6	-13.5	-0.7	-0.8	-12.0	-9.0

^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

	October						January-October					
	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	290.1	98.7	-191.4	288.6	91.2	-197.5	3,672.8	971.9	-2,700.9	3,011.2	970.3	-2,040.8
European Union	258.4	89.2	-169.2	234.6	86.8	-147.8	3,080.2	902.1	-2,178.1	2,629.7	915.9	-1,713.8
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	33.6	11.4	-22.3	27.4	6.8	-20.6	362.5	106.6	-255.9	284.5	88.9	-195.6
Euro Area	198.6	66.7	-131.9	191.8	68.5	-123.3	2,446.6	688.8	-1,757.8	2,154.6	717.6	-1,436.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	91.5	9.9	-81.6	72.6	7.8	-64.8	1,113.3	107.2	-1,006.1	1,001.6	107.2	-894.4
Germany	29.5	30.5	1.0	34.4	30.1	-4.3	293.0	278.2	-14.7	308.9	320.2	11.4
Spain	20.4	1.9	-18.5	27.6	2.5	-25.0	179.8	30.6	-149.1	159.9	27.3	-132.5
France	26.2	17.8	-8.4	15.1	22.9	7.9	198.4	207.0	8.5	228.6	194.6	-34.0
Netherlands	11.5	1.7	-9.8	14.1	1.2	-12.9	398.4	28.7	-369.7	199.2	25.0	-174.2
Greece	3.0	1.1	-1.9	13.2	0.3	-12.9	71.1	4.2	-66.8	97.2	5.6	-91.6
EFTA Countries	5.8	3.3	-2.6	7.1	2.3	-4.8	48.0	30.7	-17.3	55.8	24.2	-31.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	5.3	2.5	-2.7	4.9	1.7	-3.2	40.2	23.7	-16.5	49.3	20.2	-29.1
Other European Countries	25.9	6.3	-19.6	46.9	2.0	-44.9	544.6	39.1	-505.5	325.6	30.2	-295.4
Asia	66.9	67.5	0.6	91.4	66.2	-25.2	632.4	558.8	-73.7	692.8	458.8	-234.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Saudi Arabia	7.9	2.9	-5.1	46.1	0.2	-46.0	50.8	28.2	-22.6	107.3	10.7	-96.6
China	18.3	2.8	-15.5	16.9	5.4	-11.5	159.7	38.9	-120.8	167.6	31.5	-136.1
India	9.0	0.5	-8.5	6.9	1.1	-5.7	94.1	19.0	-75.1	94.6	12.1	-82.6
Japan	5.3	28.9	23.6	4.3	22.3	18.0	57.7	44.4	-13.2	45.0	37.9	-7.1
Thailand	1.5	0.0	-1.4	3.5	0.3	-3.1	14.1	1.8	-12.4	17.3	2.9	-14.3
North and Central America	19.4	14.9	-4.5	99.1	16.1	-83.0	607.2	160.3	-446.9	834.6	744.3	-90.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Canada	0.5	2.7	2.1	88.0	1.3	-86.7	320.2	32.1	-288.1	579.4	23.0	-556.4
United States of America	18.6	11.1	-7.5	10.7	13.4	2.7	268.9	113.1	-155.8	250.6	708.1	457.5
Africa	27.7	137.1	109.4	14.6	43.5	28.9	116.4	870.3	753.9	213.5	491.9	278.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Cameroon	3.9	0.0	-3.9	5.0	0.0	-5.0	10.0	1.6	-8.4	5.3	4.1	-1.2
Australia and Oceania	0.4	2.9	2.5	1.1	2.2	1.1	35.1	14.3	-20.8	28.5	13.0	-15.5
South America	1.9	4.2	2.4	2.1	3.2	1.1	22.1	14.1	-8.0	33.0	5.2	-27.8
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.3	28.7	28.5	0.2	21.6	21.4	24.0	462.3	438.3	7.0	294.4	287.4
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	12.2	0.1	-12.0	20.1	0.3	-19.8	159.9	2.6	-157.3	752.4	4.5	-747.9
Grand Total	418.8	354.2	-64.6	517.4	244.4	-273.0	5,269.9	3,054.6	-2,215.2	5,573.0	2,982.3	-2,590.7

^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).
3. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 4. Trade by period and principal traded commodities

€ 000

Chapter number	Commodity description	October		January-October	
		2015 ^P	2016 ^P	2015 ^P	2016 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	4,593	5,735	43,688	44,275
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	3,743	5,598	52,282	75,096
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,800	3,596	37,886	37,365
08	Edible fruit and nuts	3,763	2,714	29,749	29,435
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,133	4,322	38,468	37,948
18	Cocoa and cocoa preparations	3,016	2,678	17,973	14,891
19	Preparations of cereals	6,117	6,182	50,998	51,157
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,393	3,024	33,155	30,870
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	4,940	4,754	52,746	51,630
23	Food residues and waste	3,359	2,787	27,865	25,107
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,263	2,873	20,681	31,238
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	125,374	159,660	1,495,508	1,431,766
29	Organic chemicals	17,166	5,314	124,692	93,913
30	Pharmaceutical products	11,645	11,110	110,243	116,260
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	3,170	2,565	26,854	25,226
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,045	4,037	34,923	31,984
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	13,984	12,515	135,539	123,697
48	Paper and paperboard articles	7,771	6,225	66,750	58,782
61	Knitted clothing	4,743	4,097	44,335	38,712
62	Woven clothing	4,507	3,046	37,942	33,684
64	Footwear, gaiters etc. and parts	2,562	2,590	23,497	24,900
72	Iron and steel	632	3,477	17,838	17,335
73	Articles of iron or steel	5,425	3,811	102,358	66,233
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	23,706	19,465	244,887	237,627
85	Electrical machinery etc.	43,582	39,851	462,901	391,817
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	21,283	15,837	182,773	139,251
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	9,270	103,641	429,483	782,519
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	14,705	25,144	745,160	975,482
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,706	3,917	55,313	54,784
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	5,926	4,587	56,468	51,215
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	30,546	28,746	48,885	42,472
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,090	1,387	62,404	49,662
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	157,458	55,884	1,279,924	733,757
29	Organic chemicals	5,558	2,043	71,964	34,013
30	Pharmaceutical products	21,420	21,675	204,965	801,101
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	1,344	1,101	7,358	7,781
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	4,509	4,289	44,309	45,606
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,480	4,634	47,920	47,051
49	Printed books, newspapers	11,189	8,642	105,073	72,373
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,497	2,350	21,039	18,221
61	Knitted clothing	286	1,331	7,288	4,930
73	Articles of iron or steel	2,940	1,342	18,758	20,396
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	8,594	15,148	89,356	99,208
85	Electrical machinery etc.	52,556	51,263	603,077	542,171
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	4,714	1,656	41,214	27,637
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	8,307	10,180	68,563	109,310
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,176	10,070	65,229	70,090
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	7,872	11,046	79,744	112,782
99	Special classifications	3,085	2,922	24,770	24,084

^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?>