

9 June 2017 | 1100 hrs | 094/2017

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €286.5 million in April 2017, compared to €246.5 million in the corresponding month of 2016.

International Trade: April 2017

Cut-off date:
1 June 2017

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in April stood at €286.5 million, up by €40.0 million when compared to the corresponding month of 2016. Both imports and exports decreased by €38.0 million and €78.1 million respectively (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€54.1 million). On the exports side, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€78.0 million) accounted for the main decrease (Table 2).

January-April 2017

During the first four months this year, the trade deficit narrowed by €111.8 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2016, reaching €1,046.6 million. Both imports and exports show decreases of €331.2 million and €219.4 million respectively (Table 1a). Lower imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, which decreased by €539.6 million. This was partly outweighed by an increase of €236.4 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. On the exports side, the main decreases were registered in chemicals (€162.7 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€51.2 million) (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €985.5 million, or 50.8 per cent of total imports. There was an increase of €42.4 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period of 2016. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from the Russian Federation (€80.3 million) and Canada (€113.2 million) respectively. On the export side, the main increase was directed to Spain (€6.2 million), whereas the United States of America (€145.2 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

International Trade

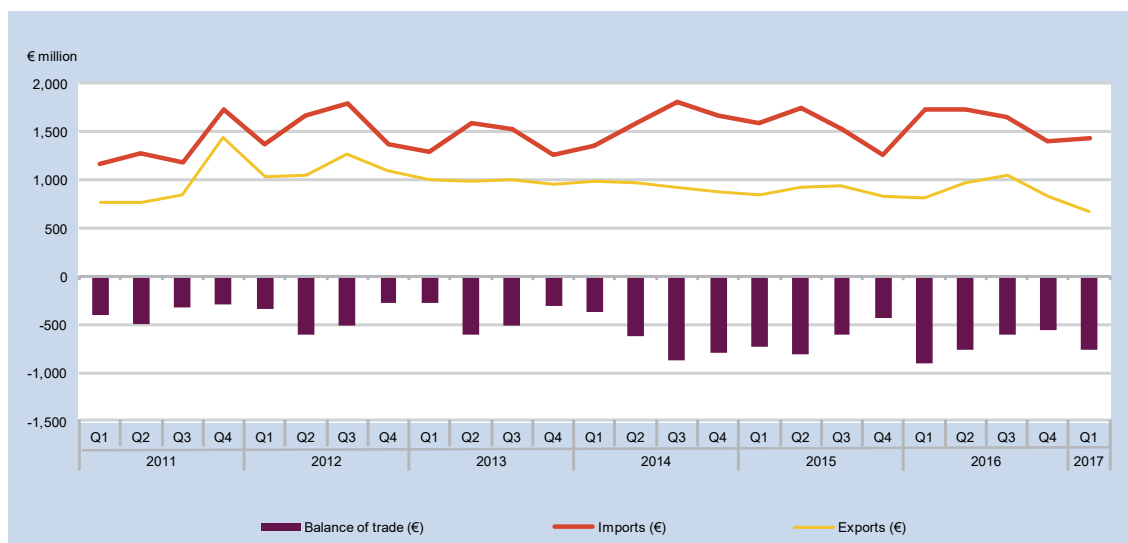


Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	April		January-April	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Imports	6,114.8	6,485.3	544.9	506.9	2,269.4	1,938.2
Industrial Supplies	1,483.1	1,325.0	100.3	100.1	444.8	386.2
Primary	80.0	106.2	2.5	2.0	25.1	16.1
Semi-Finished	1,192.3	1,025.6	87.6	81.4	350.3	305.1
Finished	210.8	193.2	10.1	16.7	69.4	65.0
Capital Goods and Others	1,718.2	2,251.4	204.7	147.0	991.6	474.2
Consumer Goods	1,224.0	1,236.6	99.4	90.6	388.4	389.9
Food and Beverages	485.9	498.1	39.3	36.5	148.8	155.1
Durable Goods	453.8	430.9	35.7	31.6	143.7	134.3
Others	284.3	307.6	24.4	22.6	95.8	100.5
Fuels and Lubricants	1,689.4	1,672.3	140.5	169.1	444.6	687.9
Exports	3,528.0	3,645.9	298.4	220.3	1,111.0	891.6
Balance of Trade	-2,586.8	-2,839.4	-246.5	-286.5	-1,158.4	-1,046.6

^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 Q4 ^P	2016 Q1 ^P	2016 Q2 ^P	2016 Q3 ^P	2016 Q4 ^P	2017 Q1 ^P
Imports	1,259.6	1,724.5	1,722.4	1,645.4	1,392.9	1,431.4
Industrial Supplies	369.3	344.6	323.0	326.3	331.1	286.1
Primary	12.4	22.6	30.2	26.3	27.2	14.2
Semi-Finished	286.4	262.7	257.5	259.9	245.5	223.6
Finished	70.5	59.3	35.4	40.1	58.4	48.3
Capital Goods and Others	241.6	786.9	718.5	422.2	323.9	327.2
Consumer Goods	327.8	289.0	309.0	308.1	330.5	299.3
Food and Beverages	128.4	109.5	123.4	127.2	138.0	118.7
Durable Goods	127.4	108.0	108.4	100.4	114.1	102.8
Others	71.9	71.5	77.2	80.5	78.4	77.9
Fuels and Lubricants	320.9	304.1	371.9	588.9	407.4	518.7
Exports	827.3	812.6	963.9	1,038.2	831.2	671.3
Balance of Trade	-432.3	-911.9	-758.5	-607.3	-561.7	-760.1

^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	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	April		January-April	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Total Exports	3,528.0	3,645.9	298.4	220.3	1,111.0	891.6
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,332.3	894.2	138.5	62.0	279.3	226.4
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,195.7	2,751.7	159.9	158.3	831.8	665.2

^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	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	April		January-April	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Imports	6,114.8	6,485.3	544.9	506.9	2,269.4	1,938.2
Food	521.4	563.0	37.0	34.3	158.9	157.4
Beverages and Tobacco	89.7	97.9	7.5	8.1	28.0	27.1
Crude Materials	27.5	26.2	2.1	1.7	9.3	8.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,691.1	1,679.6	147.3	169.2	451.6	688.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.2	9.3	0.9	0.6	3.2	2.7
Chemicals	507.6	464.9	36.4	37.6	158.1	155.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	414.8	374.7	31.3	32.9	125.1	109.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,374.0	2,820.8	246.5	192.4	1,192.4	652.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	465.3	437.3	34.7	29.5	139.1	134.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	14.1	11.7	1.1	0.5	3.8	2.1
Exports	3,528.0	3,645.9	298.4	220.3	1,111.0	891.6
Food	245.6	254.8	11.1	10.9	63.6	65.0
Beverages and Tobacco	42.3	41.1	2.7	3.5	12.3	9.1
Crude Materials	15.9	12.6	1.4	0.9	4.6	4.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,357.5	926.6	140.0	62.0	287.5	236.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	363.6	921.9	27.8	20.0	257.8	95.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	122.9	121.2	11.4	9.2	46.2	41.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	968.0	960.3	72.7	81.2	313.1	309.9
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	411.5	406.6	31.3	32.5	125.6	130.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
Balance of Trade	-2,586.8	-2,839.4	-246.5	-286.5	-1,158.4	-1,046.6
Food	-275.8	-308.2	-26.0	-23.4	-95.3	-92.4
Beverages and Tobacco	-47.4	-56.8	-4.8	-4.6	-15.7	-18.0
Crude Materials	-11.5	-13.6	-0.8	-0.8	-4.7	-4.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-333.6	-752.9	-7.3	-107.2	-164.0	-451.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.2	-9.3	-0.9	-0.6	-3.1	-2.6
Chemicals	-144.0	457.0	-8.6	-17.6	99.8	-60.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-291.9	-253.4	-19.9	-23.8	-78.9	-68.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,406.0	-1,860.5	-173.8	-111.1	-879.3	-343.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-53.8	-30.7	-3.3	3.0	-13.5	-3.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-13.5	-10.9	-1.1	-0.5	-3.6	-2.0

^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

	April						January-April					
	2016 ^P			2017 ^P			2016 ^P			2017 ^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	272.2	106.5	-165.7	327.8	87.6	-240.2	1,075.0	422.9	-652.1	1,200.2	386.1	-814.1
European Union	208.3	96.2	-112.1	283.4	81.8	-201.6	903.3	392.2	-511.1	985.5	360.1	-625.4
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	24.8	8.2	-16.6	51.0	4.2	-46.8	102.5	34.4	-68.1	140.8	24.2	-116.6
Euro Area	163.8	76.1	-87.7	219.0	63.0	-156.0	742.0	320.0	-422.0	784.4	288.8	-495.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	76.9	20.9	-55.9	91.4	12.3	-79.1	325.9	80.0	-245.8	326.3	55.2	-271.2
Germany	24.6	29.5	4.9	42.1	30.7	-11.4	140.1	138.4	-1.7	133.0	130.9	-2.1
Greece	8.2	0.5	-7.7	31.7	0.1	-31.6	20.3	2.0	-18.3	57.1	1.5	-55.6
Spain	10.4	2.2	-8.2	17.6	2.8	-14.8	42.5	11.0	-31.5	95.3	17.2	-78.1
France	16.2	16.6	0.4	12.1	12.4	0.3	107.0	66.9	-40.2	55.6	62.6	6.9
Netherlands	10.0	1.3	-8.6	9.3	1.8	-7.6	50.0	6.4	-43.6	57.7	6.9	-50.8
EFTA Countries	16.2	3.2	-13.1	3.1	4.6	1.5	27.4	9.5	-17.9	12.2	13.5	1.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	15.6	2.6	-13.0	3.0	4.3	1.2	25.8	7.6	-18.3	10.2	11.4	1.2
Other European Countries	47.6	7.2	-40.4	41.3	1.2	-40.1	144.4	21.3	-123.1	202.5	12.5	-190.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Russian Federation	9.4	1.4	-8.0	23.0	0.1	-22.9	61.6	2.0	-59.5	141.9	0.2	-141.7
Asia	96.3	33.9	-62.4	70.3	36.6	-33.8	292.1	173.6	-118.4	375.3	179.4	-195.9
<i>of which:</i>												
China	29.7	1.3	-28.4	20.0	2.7	-17.3	73.5	9.4	-64.1	71.4	10.7	-60.7
Taiwan	3.3	0.5	-2.9	11.3	0.2	-11.1	10.0	2.1	-7.9	22.2	2.1	-20.0
India	9.2	1.7	-7.5	10.9	0.6	-10.2	43.1	3.8	-39.3	47.2	3.1	-44.1
Israel	14.6	0.2	-14.4	7.5	0.1	-7.4	22.1	1.1	-21.0	56.7	1.1	-55.6
Japan	3.4	1.2	-2.2	4.9	1.7	-3.2	22.5	7.9	-14.6	17.1	14.0	-3.1
North and Central America	128.8	12.8	-116.0	70.8	15.3	-55.5	378.7	211.3	-167.4	227.0	63.2	-163.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Canada	47.0	2.6	-44.4	45.7	1.6	-44.1	254.9	11.1	-243.9	141.7	6.6	-135.1
United States of America	81.6	8.6	-73.0	25.0	12.3	-12.7	120.8	195.1	74.4	80.7	49.9	-30.8
Africa	27.7	49.9	22.2	24.2	38.0	13.8	57.4	144.5	87.0	96.0	175.6	79.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	25.6	23.0	-2.6	15.8	14.0	-1.8	42.0	61.1	19.1	28.3	64.0	35.7
Australia and Oceania	0.8	0.7	-0.1	0.5	0.8	0.3	2.4	3.4	1.0	11.9	2.5	-9.4
South America	2.6	0.3	-2.3	2.2	0.4	-1.8	21.3	0.9	-20.4	12.3	2.4	-9.8
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.3	93.5	93.3	0.3	41.5	41.2	4.9	152.5	147.6	1.5	81.0	79.4
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	16.3	0.7	-15.5	10.7	0.1	-10.6	437.6	2.0	-435.6	14.1	1.4	-12.7
Grand Total	544.9	298.4	-246.5	506.9	220.3	-286.5	2,269.4	1,111.0	-1,158.4	1,938.2	891.6	-1,046.6

^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.
4. A full list of countries 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

Table 4. Trade by period and principal traded commodities

€ 000

Chapter number	Commodity description	April		January-April	
		2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	4,148	4,319	15,822	17,564
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,028	3,383	14,738	14,488
08	Edible fruit and nuts	2,722	2,546	11,256	12,883
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,663	3,226	15,089	15,978
19	Preparations of cereals	4,108	5,178	19,873	19,907
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,037	2,098	7,456	8,130
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,967	3,053	11,898	11,666
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,847	5,249	16,947	17,892
23	Food residues and waste	2,908	2,387	8,790	10,131
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,716	2,894	11,396	9,296
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	147,336	169,199	452,523	687,819
29	Organic chemicals	7,249	7,998	40,554	26,223
30	Pharmaceutical products	12,540	11,057	44,192	54,367
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,235	2,959	11,217	10,184
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,202	2,368	12,751	10,259
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	2,044	2,581	7,028	8,764
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	11,678	12,310	49,047	49,451
48	Paper and paperboard articles	4,254	5,422	24,307	22,098
61	Knitted clothing	3,978	3,116	15,482	14,929
62	Woven clothing	3,853	3,199	15,326	15,414
63	Made up textile articles	1,025	2,102	3,658	4,565
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	2,527	3,033	9,743	19,210
73	Articles of iron or steel	5,223	10,198	24,966	21,927
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	27,898	19,996	104,824	91,975
85	Electrical machinery etc.	40,871	40,202	156,988	155,685
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	13,190	12,561	60,759	51,576
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	125,255	73,509	381,909	206,887
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	37,570	46,276	472,528	147,678
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,225	5,665	22,610	20,357
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	5,472	4,116	20,754	18,260
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	1,055	1,293	8,325	15,131
19	Preparations of cereals	2,118	2,768	14,335	11,261
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	6,737	6,704	32,733	27,737
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	655	1,412	6,241	2,652
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	139,998	61,893	287,092	235,731
30	Pharmaceutical products	21,187	15,452	233,597	69,494
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,379	921	6,032	4,776
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	4,390	5,208	18,588	24,575
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,649	4,279	20,971	19,979
49	Printed books, newspapers	3,250	1,849	25,348	17,535
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,898	2,221	7,721	8,914
61	Knitted clothing	338	1,949	1,397	5,623
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	211	5,868	554	13,418
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	9,810	13,271	34,381	43,148
85	Electrical machinery etc.	50,365	59,486	209,836	224,859
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	9,535	7,620	54,262	37,688
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	8,568	5,529	25,594	24,994
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	11,576	11,631	41,527	46,447
99	Special classifications	2,287	2,278	6,779	6,962

^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 and in the excel version.
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?>