

9 November 2017 | 1100 hrs | 181/2017

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €298.1 million in September 2017, compared to €204.6 million in the corresponding month of 2016.

International Trade: September 2017

Cut-off date:
2 November 2017

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in September stood at €298.1 million, up by €93.5 million when compared to the corresponding month of 2016. Imports increased by €14.8 million, while exports show a decrease of €78.7 million (Table 1a). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€49.1 million), which was partly outweighed by a decrease of €41.8 million in machinery and transport equipment. Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€58.5 million) accounted to the main decline in the value of exports (Table 2).

January-September 2017

During the first nine months this year, the trade deficit widened by €356.3 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2016, reaching €2,588.5 million. Both imports and exports show decreases of €547.1 million and €903.3 million respectively (Table 1a). Lower imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, which decreased by €766.2 million. This was partly outweighed by an increase of €179.0 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. On the exports side, the main decreases were registered in chemicals (€594.6 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€329.0 million) (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €2,421.1 million, or 53.2 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €53.5 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 (€120.6 million) and Canada (€304.1 million) respectively. On the export side, the main increase was directed to Spain (€9.2 million), whereas the United States of America (€595.7 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

International Trade

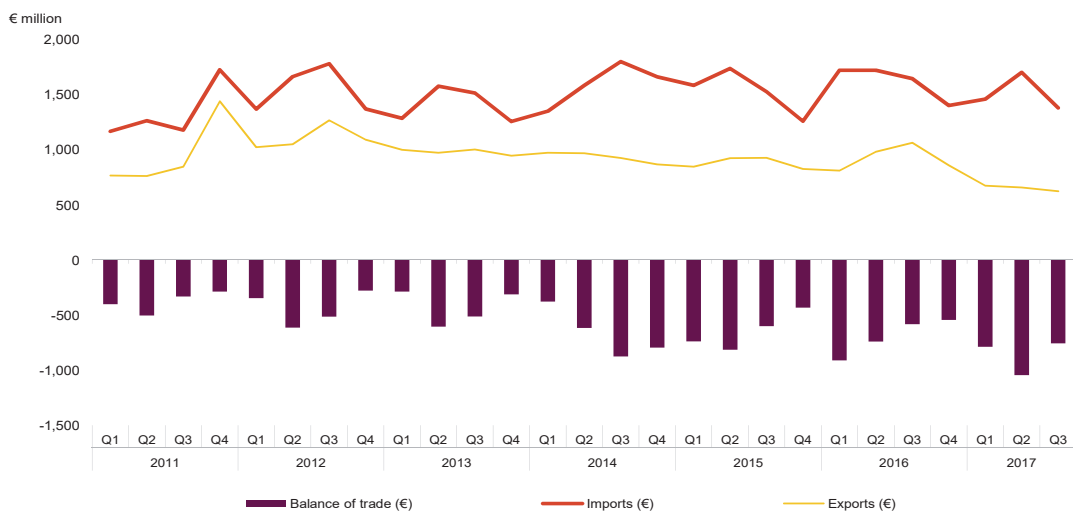


Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	September		January-September	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Imports	6,114.3	6,497.1	469.6	484.4	5,093.9	4,546.8
Industrial Supplies	1,484.4	1,333.5	95.5	93.0	996.6	967.3
Primary	80.6	112.6	6.0	2.3	80.6	72.7
Semi-Finished	1,193.1	1,027.6	74.2	79.1	781.2	758.1
Finished	210.8	193.3	15.3	11.6	134.9	136.6
Capital Goods and Others	1,718.2	2,251.9	92.6	54.1	1,927.7	1,167.3
Consumer Goods	1,224.1	1,239.4	100.1	106.9	904.7	962.5
Food and Beverages	485.9	498.9	39.9	47.4	360.1	382.4
Durable Goods	453.8	431.6	28.9	31.4	315.1	333.2
Others	284.3	308.9	31.3	28.0	229.5	246.9
Fuels and Lubricants	1,687.7	1,672.3	181.4	230.4	1,264.9	1,449.7
Exports	3,528.0	3,720.8	265.0	186.3	2,861.6	1,958.3
Balance of Trade	-2,586.3	-2,776.3	-204.6	-298.1	-2,232.2	-2,588.5

^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	2016 Q2 ^P	2016 Q3 ^P	2016 Q4 ^P	2017 Q1 ^P	2017 Q2 ^P	2017 Q3 ^P
Imports	1,722.9	1,647.8	1,403.2	1,462.0	1,704.0	1,380.8
Industrial Supplies	323.5	328.3	336.9	296.1	344.3	326.9
Primary	30.2	27.8	32.1	16.2	36.6	19.8
Semi-Finished	257.9	260.3	246.4	230.5	259.9	267.7
Finished	35.4	40.1	58.4	49.3	47.8	39.5
Capital Goods and Others	718.5	422.3	324.2	333.3	597.6	236.4
Consumer Goods	309.0	308.3	334.7	311.7	328.1	322.7
Food and Beverages	123.4	127.2	138.8	120.7	124.8	136.9
Durable Goods	108.3	100.5	116.5	110.4	119.4	103.4
Others	77.3	80.7	79.4	80.6	83.9	82.4
Fuels and Lubricants	371.9	588.9	407.5	520.9	434.1	494.7
Exports	983.6	1,065.4	859.2	674.8	659.2	624.3
Balance of Trade	-739.3	-582.4	-544.1	-787.1	-1,044.8	-756.5

^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	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	September		January-September	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Total Exports	3,528.0	3,720.8	265.0	186.3	2,861.6	1,958.3
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,332.3	969.0	75.3	20.7	775.0	436.5
Exports net of Fuels and	2,195.7	2,751.7	189.7	165.6	2,086.6	1,521.8

^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	September		January-September	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
			Imports	6,114.3	6,497.1	469.6
Food	522.7	571.4	45.1	50.0	411.3	426.3
Beverages and Tobacco	89.7	97.9	10.2	6.1	74.9	72.8
Crude Materials	27.5	26.3	2.6	1.6	19.3	20.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,689.3	1,679.6	181.4	230.5	1,272.0	1,451.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.2	9.4	0.6	0.9	7.0	7.1
Chemicals	507.6	465.4	39.4	42.5	357.0	386.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	414.9	375.1	20.8	22.2	278.4	264.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,374.0	2,821.8	134.1	92.3	2,343.0	1,576.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	465.3	438.5	34.5	37.9	322.3	337.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	14.1	11.7	1.0	0.5	8.8	4.1
Exports	3,528.0	3,720.8	265.0	186.3	2,861.6	1,958.3
Food	245.6	254.8	3.8	4.8	91.3	103.6
Beverages and Tobacco	42.3	41.1	4.6	2.7	32.5	26.6
Crude Materials	15.9	12.6	0.6	1.6	9.0	10.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,357.5	1,001.5	79.2	20.7	798.7	469.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	363.6	921.9	33.8	33.9	839.8	245.2
Semi-Manufactured Goods	122.9	121.2	9.6	13.6	92.6	95.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	968.0	960.3	92.9	76.5	697.6	709.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	411.5	406.6	40.4	32.6	299.6	296.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.5
Balance of Trade	-2,586.3	-2,776.3	-204.6	-298.1	-2,232.2	-2,588.5
Food	-277.1	-316.5	-41.3	-45.3	-320.0	-322.7
Beverages and Tobacco	-47.4	-56.8	-5.6	-3.4	-42.4	-46.2
Crude Materials	-11.5	-13.7	-1.9	0.0	-10.3	-10.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-331.9	-678.1	-102.2	-209.8	-473.2	-981.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.2	-9.4	-0.6	-0.9	-7.0	-7.1
Chemicals	-144.0	456.5	-5.6	-8.6	482.8	-140.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-292.0	-253.9	-11.2	-8.7	-185.8	-168.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,406.0	-1,861.5	-41.3	-15.8	-1,645.4	-867.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-53.8	-32.0	5.9	-5.3	-22.6	-40.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-13.5	-10.9	-0.9	-0.4	-8.3	-3.5

^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

	September						January-September					
	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	327.6	115.2	-212.4	291.8	95.8	-196.0	2,760.8	955.9	-1,804.9	2,842.0	919.6	-1,922.4
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	278.3	108.1	-170.2	244.3	92.8	-151.5	2,433.4	905.9	-1,527.5	2,421.1	859.1	-1,562.0
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	24.0	10.2	-13.8	23.2	8.4	-14.8	260.5	82.3	-178.2	321.6	58.9	-262.8
Euro Area	234.3	85.0	-149.3	200.0	67.4	-132.6	1,995.1	725.5	-1,269.6	1,941.6	679.9	-1,261.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	115.7	10.1	-105.7	87.6	14.4	-73.2	940.4	173.7	-766.7	916.7	136.5	-780.1
Spain	23.9	3.2	-20.7	43.3	2.6	-40.7	136.7	24.8	-111.9	197.3	34.0	-163.3
Germany	29.7	39.2	9.6	24.2	28.8	4.6	277.7	291.7	14.0	280.4	288.6	8.2
Netherlands	14.3	5.2	-9.1	15.9	1.5	-14.4	192.6	23.9	-168.6	145.6	16.9	-128.7
France	17.5	22.0	4.5	13.4	15.7	2.3	215.2	171.9	-43.3	167.9	165.3	-2.6
Belgium	6.7	1.4	-5.3	6.3	0.8	-5.4	72.9	8.3	-64.6	67.5	8.6	-58.9
EFTA Countries	5.5	6.2	0.7	3.4	1.4	-2.0	48.7	21.9	-26.8	31.9	26.4	-5.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	3.8	5.9	2.1	2.7	1.1	-1.6	44.4	18.5	-25.9	27.6	22.9	-4.7
Other European Countries	43.8	0.8	-42.9	44.1	1.6	-42.5	278.7	28.1	-250.5	388.9	34.0	-354.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Russian Federation	31.4	0.1	-31.3	28.4	0.0	-28.3	123.2	2.9	-120.3	243.8	0.6	-243.3
Asia	54.2	50.3	-4.0	110.9	36.9	-74.0	601.5	392.5	-209.0	755.7	369.7	-385.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Israel	7.9	0.3	-7.6	29.3	0.4	-28.9	69.8	2.5	-67.3	94.3	2.1	-92.1
Jordan	0.0	0.1	0.1	21.1	0.1	-21.0	0.1	1.8	1.7	27.3	2.0	-25.3
China	10.9	7.5	-3.4	17.8	3.0	-14.8	150.7	26.1	-124.6	160.4	29.0	-131.4
India	9.1	1.0	-8.0	9.6	2.0	-7.5	87.8	10.9	-76.8	100.1	8.1	-92.1
Saudi Arabia	10.4	0.0	-10.3	9.3	0.0	-9.2	61.1	10.5	-50.6	36.2	11.5	-24.7
North and Central America	16.7	17.3	0.7	23.1	13.3	-9.9	735.5	728.2	-7.2	404.8	129.1	-275.7
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	16.1	14.0	-2.1	22.6	10.0	-12.6	239.8	694.7	454.8	211.6	99.0	-88.4
Canada	0.2	2.2	2.0	0.4	2.3	1.9	491.5	21.7	-469.7	187.4	18.7	18.7
Africa	25.7	55.2	29.6	47.2	31.6	-15.6	198.9	448.3	249.5	225.3	368.0	142.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	19.3	32.5	13.2	40.7	1.6	-39.1	85.6	248.5	162.9	133.1	132.0	-1.2
Australia and Oceania	0.2	1.4	1.1	0.6	0.8	0.2	27.3	10.7	-16.6	20.9	5.9	-15.0
South America	2.0	0.4	-1.6	2.0	0.5	-1.5	30.9	2.0	-28.9	32.9	3.8	-29.2
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.1	24.2	24.1	0.3	7.2	7.0	6.8	319.7	312.9	4.6	159.9	155.3
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	43.1	0.9	-42.2	8.5	0.2	-8.3	732.2	4.2	-728.0	260.5	2.4	-258.1
Grand Total	469.6	265.0	-204.6	484.4	186.3	-298.1	5,093.9	2,861.6	-2,232.2	4,546.8	1,958.3	-2,588.5

^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.
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	September	January-September
		2017 ^P	2017 ^P
Main imports			
02	Meat and edible offal	4,576	42,256
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	13,455	79,009
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,430	37,096
08	Edible fruit and nuts	2,635	27,557
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,435	38,669
18	Cocoa and cocoa preparations	2,192	12,765
19	Preparations of cereals	5,465	46,161
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,549	21,489
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,864	29,995
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	4,772	50,678
23	Food residues and waste	2,421	24,881
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	230,344	1,451,619
29	Organic chemicals	8,717	78,113
30	Pharmaceutical products	16,115	132,117
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	3,054	26,987
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,776	25,685
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	11,514	119,318
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	3,192	16,112
48	Paper and paperboard articles	5,116	49,778
61	Knitted clothing	3,863	38,487
62	Woven clothing	4,279	37,142
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	4,287	43,903
73	Articles of iron or steel	3,411	56,420
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	20,120	243,020
85	Electrical machinery etc.	38,815	364,659
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	10,855	128,375
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	7,737	310,968
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	14,912	532,655
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	8,533	51,419
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	3,408	44,823
Main exports			
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	1,167	22,048
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,730	47,746
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	697	6,507
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	20,500	468,503
29	Organic chemicals	9,258	25,539
30	Pharmaceutical products	20,842	178,659
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,002	10,145
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	5,435	52,749
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,522	44,360
49	Printed books, newspapers	8,289	47,673
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,311	18,873
72	Iron and steel	886	5,229
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,615	14,676
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	10,753	97,629
85	Electrical machinery etc.	58,880	524,670
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	4,676	75,644
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	8,671	60,924
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	10,105	101,192
99	Special classifications	3,356	23,981

^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/metadadata/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/metadadata/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/reports.aspx?id=7>
Classification: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/index.cfm?>
11. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced.
12. A detailed news release calendar is available on https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx