

11 December 2017 | 1100 hrs | 194/2017

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €239.7 million in October 2017, compared to €274.1 million in the corresponding month of 2016.

International Trade: October 2017

Cut-off date:
5 December 2017

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in October stood at €239.7 million, down by €34.4 million when compared to the corresponding month of 2016. Imports decreased by €4.7 million, while exports show an increase of €29.7 million (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€60.6 million), which was partly outweighed by an increase of €39.1 million in machinery and transport equipment. Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€31.1 million) accounted to the main increase in the value of exports (Table 2).

January-October 2017

During the first ten months this year, the trade deficit widened by €333.7 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2016, reaching €2,839.1 million. Both imports and exports show decreases of €530.1 million and €863.8 million respectively (Table 1a). Lower imports were mainly due to machinery and transport equipment, which decreased by €719.7 million. This was partly outweighed by an increase of €117.9 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. On the exports side, the main decreases were registered in chemicals (€591.4 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€298.1 million) (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €2,713.3 million, or 53.1 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €32.2 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 (€97.2 million) and Canada (€391.2 million) respectively. On the export side, the main increase was directed to Libya (€17.2 million), whereas the United States of America (€599.9 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

International Trade

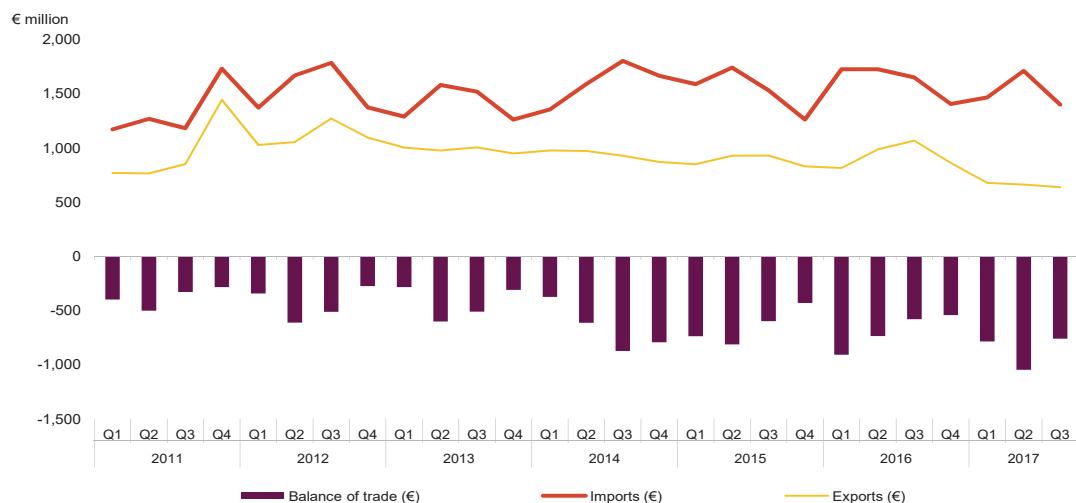


Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2015 ^P	2016 ^P	October		January-October	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Imports	6,114.7	6,498.2	546.1	541.4	5,640.7	5,110.6
Industrial Supplies	1,484.4	1,333.9	109.0	108.6	1,105.9	1,082.5
Primary	80.6	112.7	2.5	15.8	83.1	88.6
Semi-Finished	1,193.1	1,027.7	85.4	76.5	866.5	840.7
Finished	210.8	193.5	21.1	16.3	156.2	153.2
Capital Goods and Others	1,718.5	2,252.2	155.8	206.5	2,083.7	1,378.3
Consumer Goods	1,224.1	1,239.8	119.4	124.9	1,024.3	1,099.3
Food and Beverages	485.9	499.0	50.2	48.4	410.4	435.6
Durable Goods	453.9	431.9	42.7	37.3	357.9	374.8
Others	284.3	308.9	26.5	39.3	256.0	289.0
Fuels and Lubricants	1,687.7	1,672.3	161.9	101.4	1,426.8	1,550.5
Exports	3,529.3	3,722.9	272.0	301.7	3,135.3	2,271.5
Balance of Trade	-2,585.4	-2,775.3	-274.1	-239.7	-2,505.4	-2,839.1

^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	1,723.0	1,647.9	1,403.6	1,463.5	1,708.7	1,397.1
Industrial Supplies	323.5	328.3	337.0	296.5	345.5	332.0
Primary	30.2	27.8	32.1	16.3	36.6	19.9
Semi-Finished	257.9	260.4	246.5	230.9	261.1	272.3
Finished	35.5	40.1	58.4	49.4	47.8	39.7
Capital Goods and Others	718.6	422.3	324.2	333.7	598.9	239.2
Consumer Goods	309.0	308.4	334.9	312.3	330.2	331.8
Food and Beverages	123.4	127.2	138.9	121.0	125.1	141.1
Durable Goods	108.3	100.5	116.7	110.6	120.2	106.7
Others	77.3	80.7	79.4	80.7	84.9	84.1
Fuels and Lubricants	371.9	588.9	407.5	520.9	434.1	494.1
Exports	984.4	1,065.6	859.7	675.3	659.3	635.2
Balance of Trade	-738.6	-582.3	-544.0	-788.1	-1,049.4	-761.9

^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	October		January-October	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Total Exports	3,529.3	3,722.9	272.0	301.7	3,135.3	2,271.5
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,332.3	969.0	71.7	98.5	846.7	534.9
Exports net of Fuels and	2,196.9	2,753.9	200.3	203.2	2,288.5	1,736.5

^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	October		January-October	
			2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
			Imports	6,114.7	6,498.2	546.1
Food	522.7	571.4	50.5	61.5	461.8	492.6
Beverages and Tobacco	89.7	98.0	8.0	8.9	82.9	81.8
Crude Materials	27.5	26.3	2.4	2.1	21.8	22.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,689.3	1,679.6	162.0	101.4	1,433.9	1,551.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.2	9.4	0.8	0.6	7.7	7.8
Chemicals	507.6	465.5	38.4	51.3	395.4	439.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	414.9	375.2	32.8	29.4	311.2	296.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,374.2	2,822.5	211.5	250.6	2,555.1	1,835.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	465.4	438.7	38.9	35.2	361.2	378.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	14.1	11.7	0.9	0.2	9.7	4.3
Exports	3,529.3	3,722.9	272.0	301.7	3,135.3	2,271.5
Food	245.6	254.9	31.1	40.8	122.4	144.4
Beverages and Tobacco	42.3	41.1	2.3	6.1	34.8	32.7
Crude Materials	15.9	12.6	1.3	1.0	10.3	11.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,357.5	1,001.5	71.7	102.8	870.5	572.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	363.6	921.9	28.2	28.1	867.9	276.5
Semi-Manufactured Goods	122.9	121.2	9.8	16.5	102.4	114.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	969.2	962.4	85.7	77.1	784.9	789.9
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	411.5	406.6	41.8	29.4	341.4	328.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.6
Balance of Trade	-2,585.4	-2,775.3	-274.1	-239.7	-2,505.4	-2,839.1
Food	-277.1	-316.5	-19.4	-20.8	-339.4	-348.2
Beverages and Tobacco	-47.4	-56.9	-5.7	-2.9	-48.2	-49.1
Crude Materials	-11.5	-13.8	-1.1	-1.0	-11.5	-11.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-331.9	-678.1	-90.2	1.4	-563.5	-979.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.2	-9.4	-0.8	-0.6	-7.7	-7.8
Chemicals	-144.0	456.5	-10.2	-23.3	472.5	-162.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-292.0	-254.0	-23.0	-13.0	-208.8	-181.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,405.0	-1,860.1	-125.9	-173.6	-1,770.1	-1,045.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-53.9	-32.1	2.9	-5.8	-19.8	-50.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-13.5	-10.9	-0.8	-0.2	-9.0	-3.7

^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					
	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	317.3	108.1	-209.2	300.5	96.3	-204.2	3,078.9	1,065.7	-2,013.2	3,165.0	1,027.4	-2,137.6
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	263.3	103.8	-159.5	269.6	93.5	-176.2	2,697.5	1,011.3	-1,686.1	2,713.3	964.1	-1,749.2
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	29.6	8.2	-21.4	26.7	6.5	-20.2	290.2	90.6	-199.6	351.6	65.5	-286.2
Euro Area	214.4	83.7	-130.8	220.1	72.8	-147.3	2,210.2	810.7	-1,399.5	2,178.0	754.6	-1,423.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	82.0	15.1	-66.9	85.1	13.9	-71.2	1,022.6	189.3	-833.3	1,007.1	150.8	-856.3
Germany	38.8	34.7	-4.0	51.5	29.9	-21.5	316.5	326.5	10.0	334.5	319.7	-14.8
Belgium	8.2	0.7	-7.6	28.0	1.1	-27.0	81.1	9.2	-71.9	96.3	9.7	-86.7
France	16.3	24.6	8.3	19.1	18.1	-0.9	231.5	196.5	-34.9	188.4	183.5	-4.9
Netherlands	16.5	1.2	-15.3	11.9	1.9	-10.0	209.1	25.2	-183.9	160.5	18.8	-141.6
Spain	30.8	3.3	-27.6	10.1	3.8	-6.2	167.9	28.7	-139.2	210.0	38.2	-171.8
EFTA Countries	7.1	2.3	-4.8	4.3	1.3	-2.9	55.8	24.2	-31.6	36.2	27.8	-8.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	4.9	1.7	-3.2	2.2	1.0	-1.2	49.3	20.2	-29.1	29.8	23.8	-6.0
Other European Countries	46.9	2.0	-44.9	26.6	1.5	-25.1	325.6	30.2	-295.4	415.5	35.5	-380.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Russian Federation	29.8	0.1	-29.6	6.2	0.1	-6.1	152.9	3.0	-149.9	250.1	0.7	-249.4
Asia	91.5	66.2	-25.3	65.8	66.0	0.2	693.0	458.8	-234.3	821.4	435.7	-385.8
<i>of which:</i>												
China	16.9	5.4	-11.5	15.5	3.1	-12.4	167.6	31.5	-136.1	175.9	32.1	-143.8
Israel	0.1	0.1	0.0	11.9	0.2	-11.7	69.9	2.6	-67.2	106.1	2.3	-103.8
India	6.9	1.1	-5.7	10.7	0.3	-10.5	94.6	12.1	-82.6	110.9	8.3	-102.6
Japan	4.3	22.3	18.0	9.1	21.7	12.6	45.0	37.9	-7.1	45.8	43.1	-2.7
Taiwan	2.5	0.3	-2.3	3.5	0.6	-2.9	30.2	4.6	-25.7	48.9	5.6	-43.3
North and Central America	99.1	16.1	-83.0	12.3	12.0	-0.3	834.6	744.3	-90.3	417.1	141.0	-276.1
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	10.7	13.4	2.7	10.9	9.2	-1.8	250.6	708.1	457.5	222.5	108.2	-80.0
Canada	88.0	1.3	-86.7	0.8	1.8	1.0	579.4	23.0	-556.4	188.2	20.5	20.5
Africa	14.6	43.5	28.9	22.4	45.7	23.3	213.5	491.9	278.4	247.7	413.6	166.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Libya	0.4	15.9	15.5	10.9	32.4	21.5	5.1	103.7	98.6	13.9	120.9	107.0
Australia and Oceania	1.1	2.2	1.1	13.5	0.4	-13.0	28.5	13.0	-15.5	34.4	6.3	-28.1
South America	2.1	3.2	1.1	2.4	1.5	-0.9	33.0	5.2	-27.8	35.3	5.3	-30.0
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.2	32.3	32.0	0.4	79.6	79.1	7.0	351.9	344.9	5.0	239.5	234.4
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	20.0	0.3	-19.7	124.1	0.2	-123.8	752.3	4.5	-747.7	384.6	2.6	-382.0
Grand Total	546.1	272.0	-274.1	541.4	301.7	-239.7	5,640.7	3,135.3	-2,505.4	5,110.6	2,271.5	-2,839.1

^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	October		January-October	
		2016 ^P	2017 ^P	2016 ^P	2017 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	5,786	6,647	44,586	49,008
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	5,717	19,466	82,466	98,627
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,976	4,153	38,476	41,399
08	Edible fruit and nuts	4,591	3,285	32,475	33,086
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,427	4,742	38,220	43,509
19	Preparations of cereals	6,600	5,899	52,008	52,156
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,555	2,377	21,639	23,917
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,229	3,223	31,450	33,306
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,170	5,589	52,423	56,404
23	Food residues and waste	3,269	2,808	26,915	28,434
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,873	3,392	31,238	25,868
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	161,976	101,298	1,435,518	1,552,326
29	Organic chemicals	5,363	4,839	93,467	82,905
30	Pharmaceutical products	11,181	25,867	116,560	158,100
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,854	3,325	25,805	30,599
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	4,224	3,079	32,432	29,194
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	14,067	13,312	128,170	133,673
48	Paper and paperboard articles	6,468	6,802	59,439	56,753
61	Knitted clothing	5,845	4,622	42,330	44,245
62	Woven clothing	3,341	3,878	34,751	41,774
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	2,934	2,815	24,824	47,265
72	Iron and steel	3,588	2,375	17,462	20,637
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,418	3,858	67,980	60,591
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	23,447	52,870	246,129	299,690
85	Electrical machinery etc.	44,664	37,075	400,204	405,435
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	16,380	15,539	141,066	144,568
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	103,645	11,863	782,537	322,833
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	25,144	133,815	975,482	666,473
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,278	5,405	55,700	57,234
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	5,358	5,382	53,274	50,625
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	28,756	36,190	42,878	58,238
19	Preparations of cereals	621	1,278	19,263	15,018
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,387	2,923	49,662	50,670
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	0	3,471	13,406	10,613
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	71,608	102,579	869,154	571,082
29	Organic chemicals	2,070	1,800	35,229	27,338
30	Pharmaceutical products	22,898	22,323	802,808	200,982
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	4,378	6,161	45,707	63,959
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,646	4,950	47,064	49,713
49	Printed books, newspapers	8,644	5,951	72,853	53,624
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,350	2,461	18,221	21,334
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,350	6,235	20,440	20,911
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	15,639	8,468	101,339	108,973
85	Electrical machinery etc.	58,241	53,517	549,239	578,582
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	10,181	14,135	109,327	89,902
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	12,149	6,545	72,692	67,716
91	Clocks and watches/parts	702	941	8,501	7,685
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	11,050	8,899	112,786	110,091
99	Special classifications	2,922	3,577	24,084	27,558

^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:

Sources and Methods: https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/External-Trade-Statistics.aspx

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?>
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