

12 March 2018 | 1100 hrs | 040/2018

Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €204.5 million in January 2018, compared to €339.2 million in the corresponding month of 2017.

International Trade: January 2018

Cut-off date:
6 March 2018

Provisional data for international trade show that the trade deficit in January 2018 stood at €204.5 million, down by €134.7 million when compared to the corresponding month of 2017. Imports show a decrease of €121.8 million while exports increased by €13.0 million (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€105.7 million), while machinery and transport equipment (€9.2 million) and food (€8.7 million) accounted to the main increase in the value of exports (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €332.4 million, or 69.7 per cent of total imports. There was an increase of €87.6 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same month in 2017. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from Belgium (€61.1 million) and Canada (€50.1 million) respectively. On the export side the main increase was directed to Italy (€27.2 million), whereas the United States of America (€3.8 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

International Trade

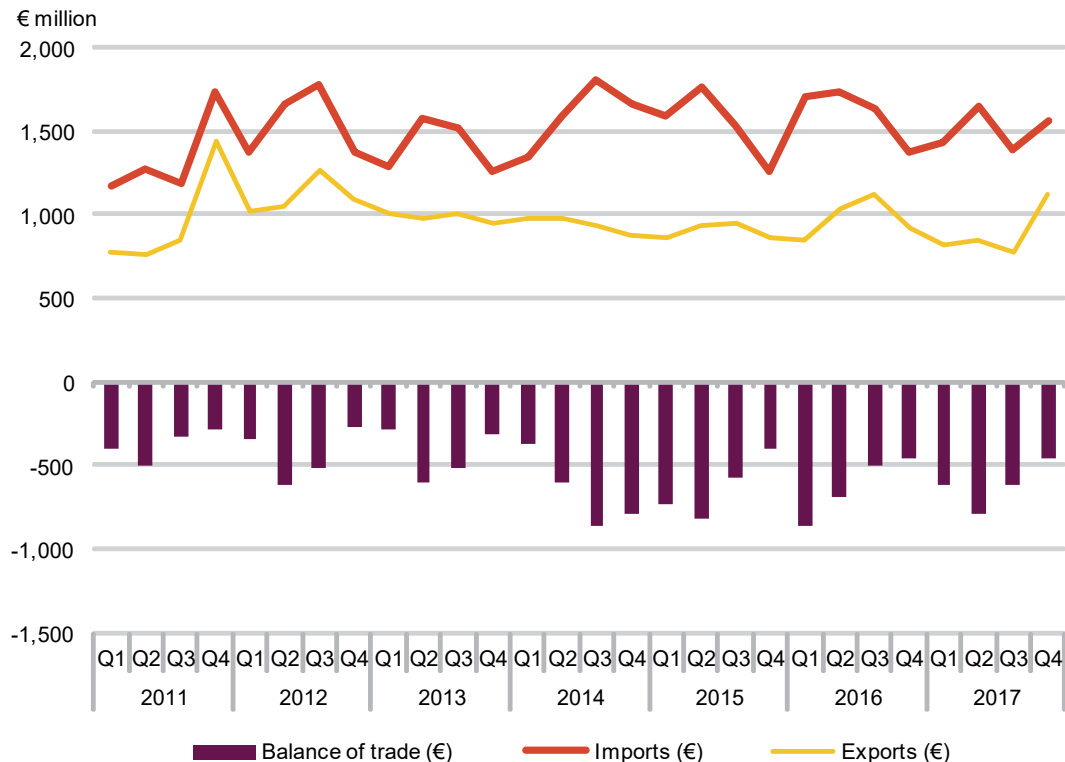


Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

| Broad economic category | 2014 ^P | 2015 ^P | 2016 ^P | 2017 ^P | January | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | 2017 ^P | 2018 ^P |
| Imports | 6,402.9 | 6,140.4 | 6,446.4 | 6,037.0 | 598.8 | 477.0 |
| Industrial Supplies | 1,414.2 | 1,484.5 | 1,334.1 | 1,313.7 | 102.6 | 107.3 |
| Primary | 81.5 | 80.6 | 112.7 | 123.1 | 8.8 | 1.9 |
| Semi-Finished | 1,181.8 | 1,193.1 | 1,027.9 | 1,005.9 | 78.9 | 79.8 |
| Finished | 151.0 | 210.8 | 193.5 | 184.7 | 14.9 | 25.6 |
| Capital Goods and Others | 1,311.5 | 1,743.7 | 2,282.0 | 1,681.3 | 174.6 | 71.1 |
| Consumer Goods | 1,116.4 | 1,224.6 | 1,240.5 | 1,330.0 | 98.2 | 102.7 |
| Food and Beverages | 472.7 | 485.9 | 499.1 | 526.4 | 40.6 | 36.6 |
| Durable Goods | 374.4 | 454.3 | 432.3 | 459.7 | 31.1 | 30.3 |
| Others | 269.3 | 284.3 | 309.1 | 344.0 | 26.5 | 35.9 |
| Fuels and Lubricants | 2,560.7 | 1,687.7 | 1,589.8 | 1,711.9 | 223.4 | 195.9 |
| Exports | 3,771.2 | 3,605.6 | 3,927.2 | 3,561.9 | 259.5 | 272.5 |
| Balance of Trade | -2,631.6 | -2,534.7 | -2,519.3 | -2,475.1 | -339.2 | -204.5 |

^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 Q3 ^P | 2016 Q4 ^P | 2017 Q1 ^P | 2017 Q2 ^P | 2017 Q3 ^P | 2017 Q4 ^P |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Imports | 1,629.3 | 1,380.2 | 1,437.0 | 1,648.9 | 1,384.6 | 1,566.4 |
| Industrial Supplies | 328.3 | 337.1 | 296.0 | 347.4 | 336.9 | 333.5 |
| Primary | 27.8 | 32.1 | 15.5 | 36.6 | 20.3 | 50.7 |
| Semi-Finished | 260.4 | 246.6 | 231.2 | 262.9 | 276.8 | 235.1 |
| Finished | 40.2 | 58.4 | 49.4 | 47.9 | 39.9 | 47.7 |
| Capital Goods and Others | 435.3 | 331.8 | 342.2 | 604.2 | 240.0 | 495.0 |
| Consumer Goods | 308.6 | 335.2 | 312.7 | 335.8 | 338.3 | 343.2 |
| Food and Beverages | 127.2 | 138.9 | 121.2 | 125.3 | 142.8 | 137.1 |
| Durable Goods | 100.7 | 116.8 | 110.6 | 124.8 | 109.8 | 114.5 |
| Others | 80.7 | 79.5 | 81.0 | 85.7 | 85.7 | 91.6 |
| Fuels and Lubricants | 557.1 | 376.2 | 486.1 | 361.5 | 469.5 | 394.8 |
| Exports | 1,123.0 | 923.9 | 822.9 | 853.5 | 771.1 | 1,114.4 |
| Balance of Trade | -506.3 | -456.4 | -614.1 | -795.4 | -613.5 | -452.0 |

^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 | 2016 ^P | 2017 ^P | January | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | 2017 ^P | 2018 ^P |
| Total Exports | 3,771.2 | 3,605.6 | 3,927.2 | 3,561.9 | 259.5 | 272.5 |
| Exports of Fuels and Lubricants | 1,608.2 | 1,366.3 | 1,130.1 | 1,278.6 | 100.9 | 93.8 |
| Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants | 2,163.0 | 2,239.3 | 2,797.0 | 2,283.3 | 158.7 | 178.6 |

^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 | 2016 ^P | 2017 ^P | January | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | 2017 ^P | 2018 ^P |
| Imports | 6,402.9 | 6,140.4 | 6,446.4 | 6,037.0 | 598.8 | 477.0 |
| Food | 506.9 | 522.7 | 571.5 | 617.7 | 47.6 | 35.5 |
| Beverages and Tobacco | 89.8 | 89.7 | 98.0 | 95.2 | 4.8 | 5.4 |
| Crude Materials | 24.4 | 27.5 | 26.4 | 26.1 | 2.9 | 1.5 |
| Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials | 2,563.0 | 1,689.3 | 1,597.0 | 1,715.1 | 223.5 | 197.4 |
| Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats | 8.7 | 9.2 | 9.4 | 9.2 | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| Chemicals | 509.1 | 507.6 | 465.6 | 516.6 | 41.0 | 53.7 |
| Semi-Manufactured Goods | 342.4 | 414.9 | 375.3 | 359.0 | 26.1 | 32.5 |
| Machinery and Transport Equipment | 1,923.2 | 2,399.4 | 2,852.2 | 2,234.9 | 221.3 | 115.6 |
| Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles | 423.4 | 465.9 | 439.3 | 458.0 | 30.5 | 34.7 |
| Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities | 11.9 | 14.1 | 11.7 | 5.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| Exports | 3,771.2 | 3,605.6 | 3,927.2 | 3,561.9 | 259.5 | 272.5 |
| Food | 197.8 | 245.6 | 254.9 | 280.9 | 18.8 | 27.5 |
| Beverages and Tobacco | 45.3 | 42.3 | 41.1 | 38.6 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| Crude Materials | 16.1 | 15.9 | 12.6 | 13.3 | 1.2 | 1.3 |
| Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials | 1,608.2 | 1,391.5 | 1,162.6 | 1,325.4 | 105.9 | 96.2 |
| Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Chemicals | 409.8 | 406.0 | 965.0 | 383.2 | 26.6 | 22.6 |
| Semi-Manufactured Goods | 116.0 | 122.9 | 121.2 | 151.6 | 9.9 | 15.3 |
| Machinery and Transport Equipment | 1,000.7 | 969.2 | 962.4 | 987.2 | 68.5 | 77.7 |
| Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles | 375.9 | 411.5 | 406.6 | 380.9 | 27.2 | 30.3 |
| Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities | 1.3 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Balance of Trade | -2,631.6 | -2,534.7 | -2,519.3 | -2,475.1 | -339.2 | -204.5 |
| Food | -309.1 | -277.1 | -316.6 | -336.8 | -28.8 | -8.0 |
| Beverages and Tobacco | -44.5 | -47.4 | -56.9 | -56.6 | -3.4 | -3.9 |
| Crude Materials | -8.3 | -11.5 | -13.8 | -12.8 | -1.8 | -0.2 |
| Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials | -954.8 | -297.9 | -434.4 | -389.7 | -117.6 | -101.2 |
| Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats | -8.7 | -9.2 | -9.4 | -9.2 | -0.6 | -0.5 |
| Chemicals | -99.3 | -101.6 | 499.4 | -133.3 | -14.4 | -31.1 |
| Semi-Manufactured Goods | -226.4 | -292.0 | -254.0 | -207.4 | -16.2 | -17.2 |
| Machinery and Transport Equipment | -922.4 | -1,430.2 | -1,889.9 | -1,247.7 | -152.9 | -37.8 |
| Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles | -47.5 | -54.3 | -32.7 | -77.1 | -3.3 | -4.4 |
| Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities | -10.6 | -13.5 | -10.9 | -4.5 | -0.4 | -0.1 |

^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

| | January | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | 2017 ^P | | | 2018 ^P | | |
| | Arrivals/ Imports | Dispatches/ Exports | Balance of Trade | Arrivals/ Imports | Dispatches/ Exports | Balance of Trade |
| Europe | 319.0 | 105.2 | -213.9 | 365.3 | 135.1 | -230.2 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | | | |
| European Union | 257.5 | 95.2 | -162.3 | 332.4 | 131.9 | -200.4 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | | | |
| United Kingdom | 30.7 | 5.6 | -25.1 | 22.7 | 7.2 | -15.5 |
| Euro Area | 211.4 | 79.2 | -132.2 | 299.0 | 114.9 | -184.1 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | | | |
| Italy | 85.4 | 20.4 | -65.0 | 116.0 | 47.6 | -68.3 |
| Belgium | 6.0 | 0.8 | -5.3 | 67.1 | 0.9 | -66.2 |
| Germany | 31.3 | 31.4 | 0.1 | 38.7 | 30.7 | -8.0 |
| Netherlands | 26.2 | 2.1 | -24.1 | 31.9 | 7.5 | -24.4 |
| Spain | 23.8 | 2.7 | -21.1 | 25.3 | 4.5 | -20.8 |
| France | 13.1 | 18.5 | 5.5 | 10.8 | 20.5 | 9.7 |
| EFTA Countries | 3.6 | 1.4 | -2.2 | 7.6 | 2.0 | -5.6 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | | | |
| Norway | 0.8 | 0.3 | -0.6 | 5.1 | 0.2 | -4.9 |
| Other European Countries | 57.9 | 8.6 | -49.3 | 25.4 | 1.2 | -24.2 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | | | |
| Russian Federation | 42.5 | 0.1 | -42.4 | 17.9 | 0.0 | -17.9 |
| Asia | 187.8 | 50.4 | -137.3 | 69.0 | 51.2 | -17.9 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | | | |
| China | 20.0 | 3.1 | -16.9 | 20.0 | 8.9 | -11.1 |
| India | 19.1 | 0.9 | -18.3 | 14.4 | 0.7 | -13.7 |
| Israel | 40.1 | 0.3 | -39.8 | 7.8 | 0.1 | -7.8 |
| Qatar | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 6.5 | 0.2 | -6.2 |
| Japan | 4.4 | 6.3 | 2.0 | 3.9 | 19.3 | 15.4 |
| North and Central America | 61.1 | 15.9 | -45.2 | 15.2 | 12.3 | -2.9 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | | | |
| United States of America | 6.8 | 13.2 | 6.4 | 14.6 | 9.4 | -5.2 |
| Canada | 50.5 | 1.4 | -49.1 | 0.4 | 1.7 | 1.3 |
| Africa | 24.6 | 43.8 | 19.3 | 15.3 | 57.9 | 42.7 |
| <i>of which:</i> | | | | | | |
| Cameroon | 0.4 | 0.0 | -0.4 | 6.3 | 0.1 | -6.1 |
| Australia and Oceania | 1.9 | 0.4 | -1.4 | 4.4 | 0.3 | -4.0 |
| South America | 4.1 | 0.3 | -3.8 | 2.5 | 0.1 | -2.4 |
| Ships and Aircraft Stores | 0.3 | 43.3 | 43.0 | 0.3 | 15.0 | 14.7 |
| Caribbean and Bahamas Islands | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 5.0 | 0.4 | -4.6 |
| Grand Total | 598.8 | 259.5 | -339.2 | 477.0 | 272.5 | -204.5 |

^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 | January | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | 2017 ^P | 2018 ^P |
| Main imports | | | |
| 02 | Meat and edible offal | 4,539 | 4,419 |
| 03 | Fish and crustaceans, etc. | 2,437 | 3,161 |
| 04 | Dairy produce; birds' eggs | 4,130 | 4,068 |
| 08 | Edible fruit and nuts | 4,525 | 2,940 |
| 16 | Preparations of meat/fish | 4,909 | 3,704 |
| 19 | Preparations of cereals | 5,214 | 4,251 |
| 20 | Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts | 1,976 | 1,841 |
| 21 | Miscellaneous edible preparations | 2,633 | 2,403 |
| 22 | Beverages, spirits and vinegar | 3,344 | 4,102 |
| 23 | Food residues and waste | 2,911 | 2,410 |
| 25 | Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement | 2,141 | 2,070 |
| 27 | Mineral fuels, oils and products | 223,478 | 197,358 |
| 29 | Organic chemicals | 6,966 | 5,138 |
| 30 | Pharmaceutical products | 15,693 | 27,070 |
| 32 | Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints | 2,352 | 3,270 |
| 33 | Essential oils and toilet preparations | 1,824 | 2,537 |
| 38 | Miscellaneous chemical products | 2,080 | 1,821 |
| 39 | Plastics and articles of plastics | 11,919 | 14,124 |
| 48 | Paper and paperboard articles | 5,558 | 7,033 |
| 61 | Knitted clothing | 4,622 | 3,513 |
| 62 | Woven clothing | 3,430 | 4,911 |
| 72 | Iron and steel | 1,803 | 2,214 |
| 73 | Articles of iron or steel | 4,159 | 9,209 |
| 84 | Machinery and mechanical appliances | 23,062 | 26,576 |
| 85 | Electrical machinery etc. | 40,748 | 31,380 |
| 87 | Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof | 14,014 | 12,158 |
| 88 | Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof | 61,060 | 35,785 |
| 89 | Ships, boats and floating structures | 82,978 | 9,594 |
| 90 | Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments | 3,612 | 9,857 |
| 94 | Furniture; bedding, etc. | 4,263 | 3,536 |
| Main exports | | | |
| 03 | Fish and crustaceans, etc. | 7,660 | 20,368 |
| 19 | Preparations of cereals | 3,505 | 1,211 |
| 21 | Miscellaneous edible preparations | 4,298 | 5,696 |
| 27 | Mineral fuels, oils and products | 105,709 | 96,020 |
| 30 | Pharmaceutical products | 18,985 | 18,084 |
| 33 | Essential oils and toilet preparations | 1,026 | 1,134 |
| 39 | Plastics and articles of plastics | 6,954 | 5,281 |
| 40 | Rubber and articles of rubber | 5,275 | 6,654 |
| 48 | Paper and paperboard articles | 66 | 1,123 |
| 49 | Printed books, newspapers | 4,084 | 5,804 |
| 60 | Knitted/crocheted fabrics | 2,083 | 1,882 |
| 61 | Knitted clothing | 937 | 1,043 |
| 73 | Articles of iron or steel | 1,082 | 2,951 |
| 84 | Machinery and mechanical appliances | 9,055 | 12,265 |
| 85 | Electrical machinery etc. | 48,724 | 51,482 |
| 88 | Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof | 10,058 | 10,999 |
| 90 | Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments | 6,062 | 6,595 |
| 95 | Toys, games and sports requisites | 9,601 | 11,022 |
| 99 | Special classifications | 1,497 | 1,560 |

^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 compiled 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 compiled on data available as on the cut-off date printed on the front page of this release. These are provisional figures compiled 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. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
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