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Preliminary figures show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €242.6 million in May 2018, compared to a trade deficit of €441.2 million in the corresponding month of 2017.

International Trade: May 2018

Cut-off date:
3 July 2018

Provisional data for international trade show that a trade deficit of €242.6 million was registered in May, compared to a deficit of €441.2 million in the corresponding month of 2017. Both imports and exports decreased by €271.9 million and €73.3 million respectively (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€304.0 million), while mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€45.7 million) accounted for the main decrease in exports (Table 2).

January-May 2018

During the first five months of this year, the trade deficit narrowed by €556.0 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2017, reaching €715.3 million. Imports show a decrease of €368.1 million, while exports increased by €187.9 million (Table 1a). Lower imports were mainly due to a decrease of €424.5 million in machinery and transport equipment. With regard to exports, the main increase was also registered in machinery and transport equipment (€349.1 million), which was partly outweighed by a decrease of €211.0 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €1,556.2 million, or 67.7 per cent of total imports. There was an increase of €154.4 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period of 2017. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from the United Kingdom (€59.9 million) and Canada (€146.2 million) respectively. The main increase in exports was directed to Japan (€27.4 million), whereas Italy (€57.3 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade

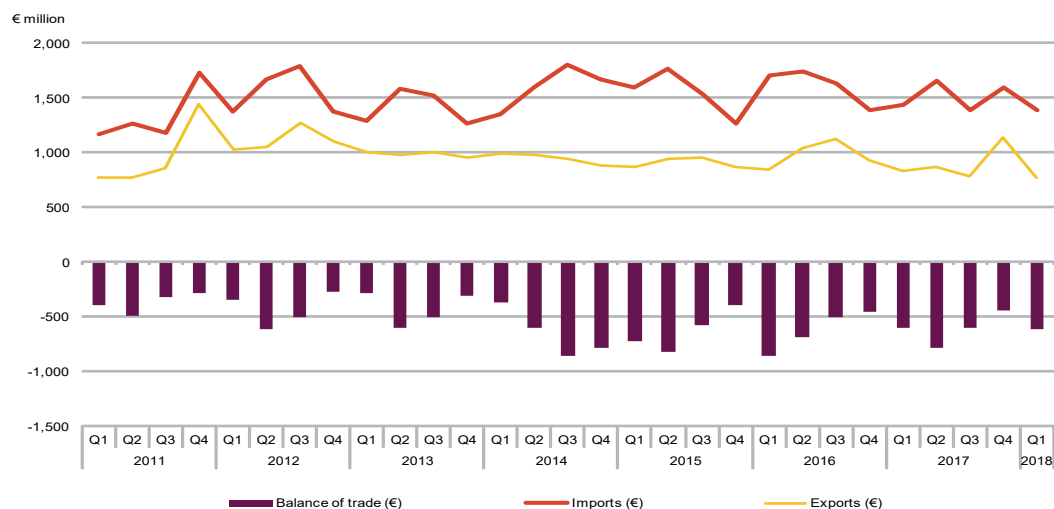


Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2016 ^P	2017 ^P	May		January-May	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Imports	6,448.5	6,062.1	726.0	454.1	2,666.4	2,298.3
Industrial Supplies	1,334.7	1,317.5	131.5	120.2	537.0	556.4
Primary	112.7	123.2	13.7	14.4	32.7	25.3
Semi-Finished	1,028.4	1,009.1	103.1	83.3	422.5	423.0
Finished	193.5	185.2	14.6	22.5	81.9	108.1
Capital Goods and Others	2,283.4	1,683.4	381.3	77.4	877.7	448.2
Consumer Goods	1,240.6	1,339.4	121.4	115.7	539.4	559.0
Food and Beverages	499.1	528.4	44.0	43.8	205.2	206.2
Durable Goods	432.4	465.2	46.6	38.3	198.6	188.8
Others	309.1	345.8	30.8	33.6	135.6	164.1
Fuels and Lubricants	1,589.8	1,721.9	91.8	140.8	712.3	734.7
Exports	3,927.2	3,602.1	284.8	211.5	1,395.1	1,583.0
Balance of Trade	-2,521.3	-2,460.0	-441.2	-242.6	-1,271.3	-715.3

^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	2017				2018
	Q4 ^P	Q1 ^P	Q2 ^P	Q3 ^P	Q4 ^P	Q1 ^P
Imports	1,380.3	1,436.2	1,651.8	1,388.4	1,585.8	1,385.7
Industrial Supplies	337.1	296.2	348.1	337.4	335.9	316.7
Primary	32.1	15.5	36.6	20.3	50.8	5.6
Semi-Finished	246.6	231.2	263.3	277.2	237.3	241.5
Finished	58.4	49.5	48.1	39.9	47.8	69.6
Capital Goods and Others	331.8	342.2	604.8	240.2	496.2	279.9
Consumer Goods	335.2	311.7	337.3	341.3	349.0	333.3
Food and Beverages	138.9	121.3	125.7	143.2	138.2	119.9
Durable Goods	116.8	110.2	125.6	111.7	117.7	111.5
Others	79.5	80.2	86.0	86.4	93.1	102.0
Fuels and Lubricants	376.2	486.1	361.6	469.5	404.7	455.8
Exports	923.9	828.2	859.7	781.2	1,133.0	765.2
Balance of Trade	-456.4	-608.0	-792.1	-607.1	-452.8	-620.6

^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	2016 ^P	2017 ^P	May		January-May	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Total Exports	3,927.2	3,602.1	284.8	211.5	1,395.1	1,583.0
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,130.1	1,313.1	93.2	52.1	517.0	306.4
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,797.0	2,289.1	191.6	159.4	878.1	1,276.7

^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	2016 ^P	2017 ^P	May		January-May	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Imports	6,448.5	6,062.1	726.0	454.1	2,666.4	2,298.3
Food	571.5	619.5	51.9	51.9	216.7	208.1
Beverages and Tobacco	98.0	95.6	10.6	8.7	38.1	39.5
Crude Materials	26.4	26.2	1.8	1.6	12.4	9.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,597.0	1,725.1	91.9	140.9	712.5	737.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.4	9.3	0.8	0.8	3.6	3.6
Chemicals	465.6	517.6	49.7	48.0	210.9	241.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	375.8	360.5	39.0	32.7	155.1	166.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,853.7	2,238.7	434.5	130.5	1,118.7	694.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	439.4	464.5	45.3	38.7	195.8	196.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	11.7	5.3	0.5	0.4	2.5	1.9
Exports	3,927.2	3,602.1	284.8	211.5	1,395.1	1,583.0
Food	254.9	281.0	15.1	8.0	82.9	83.1
Beverages and Tobacco	41.1	38.6	4.3	3.7	13.4	14.6
Crude Materials	12.6	13.4	1.5	0.8	5.4	5.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,162.6	1,362.2	97.8	52.1	531.5	320.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	965.0	383.3	30.2	23.4	142.0	155.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	121.2	151.6	11.5	11.4	53.1	76.2
Machinery and Transport Equipment	962.4	990.2	85.1	75.2	395.9	745.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	406.6	381.1	39.2	36.8	170.6	182.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2
Balance of Trade	-2,521.3	-2,460.0	-441.2	-242.6	-1,271.3	-715.3
Food	-316.6	-338.5	-36.7	-43.9	-133.8	-125.1
Beverages and Tobacco	-56.9	-57.0	-6.4	-5.0	-24.7	-24.8
Crude Materials	-13.8	-12.9	-0.4	-0.8	-7.0	-3.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-434.4	-362.9	5.9	-88.8	-181.0	-417.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.4	-9.2	-0.8	-0.8	-3.6	-3.6
Chemicals	499.4	-134.3	-19.6	-24.6	-69.0	-86.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-254.5	-208.9	-27.5	-21.3	-102.0	-89.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,891.3	-1,248.5	-349.4	-55.3	-722.7	50.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-32.8	-83.3	-6.0	-1.8	-25.2	-13.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-10.9	-4.5	-0.3	-0.3	-2.2	-1.7

^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

Groupings	May						January-May					
	2017 ^P			2018 ^P			2017 ^P			2018 ^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	372.2	137.8	-234.4	327.9	92.7	-235.3	1,572.3	607.6	-964.7	1,702.1	602.6	-1,099.4
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	354.7	127.7	-227.1	305.6	89.2	-216.5	1,362.8	571.5	-791.3	1,556.2	586.3	-969.9
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	43.2	6.1	-37.1	33.0	4.0	-29.0	182.6	30.6	-151.9	242.5	28.4	-214.1
euro area	290.4	112.0	-178.5	257.7	70.7	-187.1	1,096.4	480.6	-615.8	1,250.8	485.4	-765.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	155.8	48.9	-106.9	139.4	11.4	-128.0	503.2	168.2	-335.0	539.0	110.9	-428.1
Germany	31.9	35.6	3.7	32.3	32.5	0.2	175.2	172.2	-3.0	185.2	187.9	2.7
France	43.1	17.9	-25.2	23.5	17.5	-6.0	104.5	87.4	-17.1	84.1	99.0	14.9
Spain	16.0	3.0	-13.0	18.4	2.5	-15.9	95.4	20.9	-74.5	100.5	27.8	-72.7
Netherlands	14.1	2.9	-11.2	14.5	2.9	-11.6	76.9	10.2	-66.7	101.3	33.3	-68.0
Greece	5.8	0.6	-5.2	13.9	0.5	-13.3	58.1	2.5	-55.5	109.3	3.4	-105.9
EFTA Countries	6.4	5.1	-1.3	3.9	2.3	-1.6	18.6	18.6	0.0	28.5	9.6	-18.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	6.3	4.8	-1.5	3.8	2.1	-1.6	16.5	16.2	-0.3	18.9	7.8	-11.1
Other European Countries	11.1	5.1	-6.0	18.4	1.2	-17.2	190.9	17.6	-173.4	117.3	6.7	-110.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	10.3	1.9	-8.3	8.4	0.8	-7.5	68.0	12.7	-55.3	48.7	4.9	-43.8
Asia	71.5	43.4	-28.1	72.7	33.2	-39.5	446.9	222.8	-224.0	370.7	564.5	193.8
<i>of which:</i>												
China	18.1	3.3	-14.8	19.4	2.0	-17.4	89.6	14.1	-75.5	83.0	18.7	-64.3
Japan	4.3	1.8	-2.4	14.1	1.9	-12.2	21.4	15.9	-5.6	29.3	43.3	14.0
India	8.8	0.8	-7.9	10.8	0.8	-10.0	56.0	4.0	-52.0	56.8	3.8	-53.0
Israel	4.2	0.0	-4.2	5.3	0.1	-5.2	60.9	1.1	-59.8	49.3	0.5	-48.8
Korea Republic	4.4	1.6	-2.9	4.1	1.1	-3.1	18.5	8.7	-9.8	17.1	7.2	-9.9
North and Central America	56.5	13.2	-43.2	15.8	12.8	-3.0	285.0	76.4	-208.6	63.9	76.0	12.1
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	55.4	9.0	-46.3	14.6	10.7	-3.9	129.6	58.9	-70.7	59.0	63.1	4.1
Canada	0.7	2.9	2.2	0.8	1.3	0.4	150.4	9.5	-140.8	4.2	7.3	3.1
Africa	10.3	32.7	22.4	6.6	23.0	16.4	107.0	208.4	101.4	88.0	213.1	125.2
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	8.0	1.6	-6.4	2.4	1.4	-1.0	36.3	65.6	29.3	26.2	33.7	7.4
Australia and Oceania	0.8	0.3	-0.6	1.1	0.2	-0.9	12.7	2.7	-10.0	7.4	1.5	-6.0
South America	7.0	0.3	-6.7	1.5	5.2	3.7	19.3	2.7	-16.6	22.7	13.9	-8.8
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	207.0	0.2	-206.8	28.4	0.1	-28.2	221.0	1.6	-219.4	43.5	1.7	-41.8
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.7	57.0	56.3	0.0	44.2	44.2	2.2	272.9	270.7	0.0	109.6	109.6
Grand Total	726.0	284.8	-441.2	454.1	211.5	-242.6	2,666.4	1,395.1	-1,271.3	2,298.3	1,583.0	-715.3

^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	May		January-May	
		2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	5,131	5,655	22,909	25,388
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	12,161	14,770	20,705	22,999
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,496	5,095	19,409	22,161
08	Edible fruit and nuts	3,330	2,864	17,137	14,156
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,273	5,098	20,622	20,251
19	Preparations of cereals	5,357	4,520	26,108	24,041
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,492	2,864	10,784	11,644
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,586	4,054	15,732	16,962
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	7,751	6,581	26,024	27,773
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	91,839	140,870	713,358	737,759
29	Organic chemicals	12,382	6,744	38,636	30,940
30	Pharmaceutical products	15,411	21,536	70,122	103,553
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,614	3,018	13,243	17,809
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,739	2,986	14,661	15,089
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	2,090	2,561	11,645	11,869
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	16,987	13,844	71,130	71,465
48	Paper and paperboard articles	5,686	7,014	28,158	35,470
61	Knitted clothing	4,973	3,461	22,914	20,954
62	Woven clothing	4,157	3,841	21,018	22,962
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	6,746	6,073	29,449	22,019
72	Iron and steel	2,760	3,745	10,291	14,000
73	Articles of iron or steel	11,631	4,129	35,128	32,894
76	Aluminium and articles thereof	2,125	2,512	8,139	8,998
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	29,880	47,914	131,619	172,199
85	Electrical machinery etc.	49,080	37,720	209,972	184,401
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	17,926	12,845	77,743	69,858
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	31,146	10,899	246,143	142,734
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	306,364	21,218	454,186	123,231
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,292	6,205	26,365	40,204
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	7,024	5,435	27,436	25,636
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	1,581	1,316	16,747	45,094
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	8,689	4,499	36,425	26,810
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	865	1,143	3,369	3,732
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	97,631	51,951	530,751	319,811
29	Organic chemicals	7,042	1,296	12,487	12,429
30	Pharmaceutical products	18,586	18,118	104,771	122,083
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,147	1,187	5,922	5,848
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	6,063	5,464	30,642	27,058
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,720	5,118	24,700	29,069
49	Printed books, newspapers	6,709	9,991	24,246	43,274
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,462	2,402	11,376	11,165
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	3,873	1,251	17,293	6,800
73	Articles of iron or steel	2,211	1,850	7,457	22,496
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	13,795	14,256	57,592	67,435
85	Electrical machinery etc.	56,287	54,497	281,250	266,905
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	13,486	5,340	51,232	43,443
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	8,408	6,284	33,983	35,011
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	9,943	12,572	56,406	64,587
99	Special classifications	4,115	2,830	11,077	10,484

^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 the "Statistical Concepts" link below.
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. 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?>
10. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
11. A detailed news release calendar is available on https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx