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Preliminary statistics show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €303.2 million in October 2018, compared to a trade deficit of €175.5 million in the corresponding month of 2017.

International Trade: October 2018

Cut-off date:
4 December 2018

Provisional data for international trade show that a trade deficit of €303.2 million was registered in October, compared to a deficit of €175.5 million in the corresponding month of 2017. Imports increased by €7.3 million, while exports show a decrease of €120.5 million (Table 1a). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€105.3 million), partly outweighed by a decrease of €109.6 million in machinery and transport equipment. On the exports side, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€106.1 million) accounted for the main decrease in the value of exports, partly outweighed by an increase of €15.2 million in miscellaneous manufactured articles (Table 2).

January-October 2018

During the first ten months of this year, the trade deficit increased by €422.8 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2017, reaching €2,606.7 million. Imports increased by €95.5 million while exports decreased by €327.4 million (Table 1a). Higher imports were mainly due to increases in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€158.0 million), chemicals (€52.5 million), and semi-manufactured goods (€40.2 million). These were partly outweighed by a decrease of €183.0 million in machinery and transport equipment. With regard to exports, the main decrease was registered in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€391.2 million), partly outweighed by increases of €65.6 million in miscellaneous manufactured articles and €22.0 million in semi-manufactured goods (Table 2).

Malta's trade imports from the European Union reached €3,485.6 million, or 67.6 per cent of total imports. There was an increase of €735.3 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period of 2017. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from Italy (€198.3 million) and Canada (€145.8 million) respectively. The main increase in exports was directed to Netherlands (€39.3 million), whereas Italy (€34.5 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade

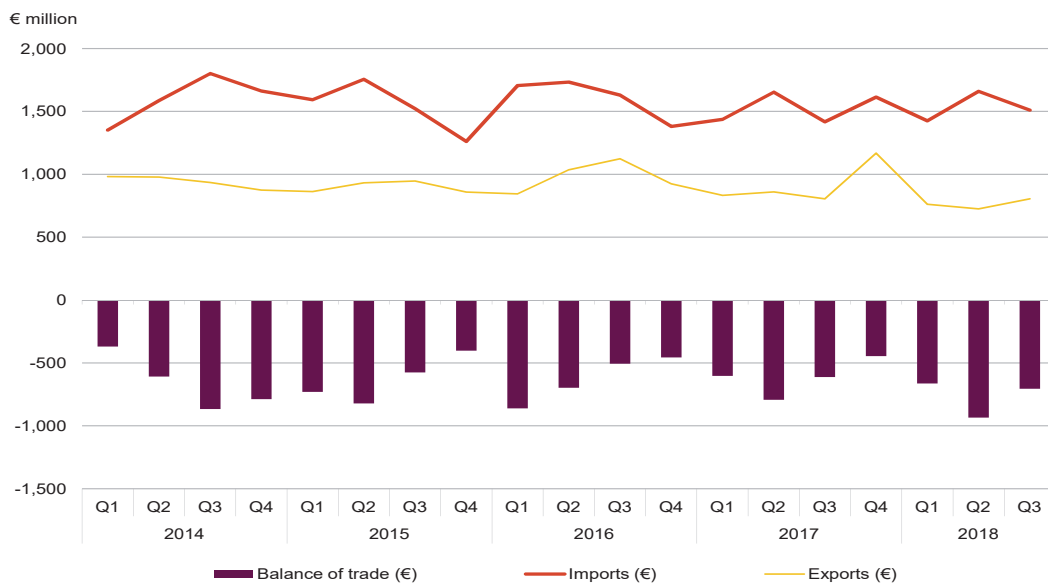


Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2016 ^P	2017 ^P	October		January-October	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Imports	6,447.3	6,119.6	555.1	562.4	5,060.9	5,156.4
Industrial Supplies	1,334.8	1,322.2	114.6	141.6	1,096.9	1,198.2
Primary	112.7	126.3	15.9	15.0	88.3	91.6
Semi-Finished	1,028.7	1,010.5	82.1	111.8	854.4	930.4
Finished	193.5	185.4	16.6	14.8	154.2	176.3
Capital Goods and Others	2,282.1	1,680.2	209.6	83.1	1,394.1	1,180.3
Consumer Goods	1,240.6	1,345.5	134.7	136.2	1,127.3	1,185.0
Food and Beverages	499.2	530.2	51.8	47.3	442.8	449.3
Durable Goods	432.3	468.8	42.0	47.0	390.8	393.8
Others	309.2	346.5	40.9	41.9	293.7	341.9
Fuels and Lubricants	1,589.8	1,771.7	96.1	201.5	1,442.7	1,592.9
Exports	3,925.7	3,664.8	379.6	259.1	2,877.0	2,549.6
Balance of Trade	-2,521.7	-2,454.8	-175.5	-303.2	-2,183.9	-2,606.7

^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	2017			2018		
	Q2 ^P	Q3 ^P	Q4 ^P	Q1 ^P	Q2 ^P	Q3 ^P
Imports	1,653.3	1,416.5	1,613.8	1,424.6	1,659.1	1,510.4
Industrial Supplies	348.4	337.8	339.9	320.9	376.5	359.2
Primary	36.6	20.3	53.9	6.8	41.9	27.9
Semi-Finished	263.6	277.5	238.2	244.1	285.5	288.9
Finished	48.2	40.0	47.8	70.0	49.1	42.4
Capital Goods and Others	605.0	237.4	495.7	281.9	489.4	325.8
Consumer Goods	338.3	342.4	352.9	339.6	351.8	357.4
Food and Beverages	125.8	143.8	139.2	122.1	137.0	142.9
Durable Goods	126.5	112.1	120.0	113.6	119.8	113.4
Others	86.0	86.5	93.7	103.9	95.0	101.1
Fuels and Lubricants	361.6	498.9	425.2	482.1	441.4	468.0
Exports	860.0	804.5	1,167.4	761.0	724.9	804.5
Balance of Trade	-793.3	-612.0	-446.3	-663.5	-934.1	-705.8

^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	October		January-October	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Total Exports	3,925.7	3,664.8	379.6	259.1	2,877.0	2,549.6
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,130.1	1,379.1	163.5	61.1	1,108.4	712.0
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,795.5	2,285.7	216.1	198.0	1,768.6	1,837.7

^P Provisional

Notes:

1 Table 1c is based on the United Nations Statistical Division BEC codes (Broad Economic Categories). Figures for 'Fuels and Lubricants' refer to BEC 0031 and BEC 0032: respectively 'Fuels and lubricants, primary' and 'Fuels and lubricants, processed'.

2 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	October		January-October	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Imports	6,447.3	6,119.6	555.1	562.4	5,060.9	5,156.4
Food	571.5	624.3	65.5	61.8	504.8	507.0
Beverages and Tobacco	98.0	95.9	9.0	10.2	82.3	91.2
Crude Materials	26.4	26.2	2.2	2.0	22.5	22.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,597.0	1,775.0	96.2	201.5	1,444.0	1,602.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.4	9.3	0.7	1.0	7.9	8.1
Chemicals	465.7	517.7	53.0	54.4	443.8	496.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	375.9	361.2	31.8	38.5	300.7	340.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,852.7	2,235.9	255.9	146.3	1,856.8	1,673.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	439.0	468.7	40.7	46.4	393.8	411.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	11.7	5.3	0.2	0.4	4.3	3.8
Exports	3,925.7	3,664.8	379.6	259.1	2,877.0	2,549.6
Food	255.2	281.4	40.9	18.3	145.1	121.4
Beverages and Tobacco	41.1	38.6	6.1	5.9	32.7	35.7
Crude Materials	12.6	13.4	1.0	0.9	11.4	11.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,162.6	1,428.3	170.0	63.9	1,148.1	756.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	965.0	383.1	30.2	31.7	302.5	310.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	120.9	150.7	16.5	12.8	112.5	134.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	961.7	987.8	85.2	80.7	797.0	785.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	405.8	380.7	29.7	44.9	327.2	392.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.8
Balance of Trade	-2,521.7	-2,454.8	-175.5	-303.2	-2,183.9	-2,606.7
Food	-316.3	-342.9	-24.6	-43.5	-359.7	-385.6
Beverages and Tobacco	-56.9	-57.3	-3.0	-4.3	-49.6	-55.4
Crude Materials	-13.8	-12.9	-1.1	-1.1	-11.1	-10.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-434.4	-346.7	73.9	-137.6	-295.9	-845.1
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.4	-9.3	-0.7	-1.0	-7.9	-8.1
Chemicals	499.3	-134.6	-22.8	-22.7	-141.3	-185.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-255.0	-210.5	-15.3	-25.7	-188.2	-206.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,891.0	-1,248.1	-170.7	-65.6	-1,059.8	-888.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-33.2	-88.0	-11.0	-1.5	-66.7	-18.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-10.9	-4.5	-0.2	-0.3	-3.7	-3.0

^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

Groupings	October						January-October					
	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	317.9	123.1	-194.8	382.4	127.3	-255.1	3,113.4	1,233.6	-1,879.8	3,808.9	1,338.9	-2,470.0
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	280.8	120.3	-160.5	345.9	123.4	-222.5	2,660.0	1,170.4	-1,489.7	3,485.6	1,260.8	-2,224.9
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	30.0	7.6	-22.4	51.3	6.1	-45.2	338.2	66.9	-271.3	436.1	51.4	-384.7
euro area	226.1	97.0	-129.1	268.5	96.8	-171.7	2,137.3	960.5	-1,176.8	2,872.6	1,029.2	-1,843.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	92.0	29.0	-63.0	93.7	24.4	-69.3	991.6	318.3	-673.3	1,189.9	283.8	-906.1
Germany	54.2	33.7	-20.5	50.0	34.5	-15.5	340.3	334.5	-5.8	371.6	364.7	-6.9
France	19.7	21.7	1.9	31.0	23.1	-8.0	195.4	195.4	0.0	250.4	230.7	-19.6
Spain	11.2	4.9	-6.4	30.7	1.7	-29.0	183.5	45.7	-137.8	267.4	43.2	-224.2
Belgium	20.4	1.2	-19.2	25.1	0.5	-24.6	84.8	10.2	-74.6	140.1	7.4	-132.8
Netherlands	13.6	2.0	-11.6	13.6	9.5	-4.1	162.7	19.5	-143.3	260.4	58.8	-201.6
EFTA Countries	4.3	1.3	-2.9	4.2	2.1	-2.1	36.3	27.7	-8.6	43.8	19.5	-24.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	2.2	1.0	-1.2	3.0	1.1	-1.9	29.9	23.8	-6.0	30.6	14.8	-15.7
Other European Countries	32.9	1.5	-31.4	32.3	1.8	-30.5	417.1	35.5	-381.6	279.5	58.7	-220.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	19.8	1.0	-18.8	31.0	1.3	-29.7	173.4	18.4	-155.0	153.1	27.4	-125.8
Asia	66.7	65.9	-0.8	85.4	50.3	-35.1	830.7	446.9	-383.8	766.2	415.7	-350.5
<i>of which:</i>												
China	15.5	3.1	-12.4	23.7	2.2	-21.5	175.9	32.1	-143.8	183.8	28.1	-155.7
Israel	11.9	0.1	-11.8	15.3	0.1	-15.2	114.5	2.2	-112.3	110.5	1.7	-108.9
India	10.7	0.3	-10.5	13.6	0.7	-13.0	110.8	8.2	-102.6	116.4	9.5	-107.0
Korea Republic	3.0	15.3	12.3	5.6	2.4	-3.2	35.6	26.6	-9.0	35.8	12.9	-22.9
Japan	9.1	21.7	12.6	5.5	11.1	5.6	45.8	43.1	-2.7	60.1	61.6	1.5
North and Central America	8.5	12.0	3.5	40.1	14.7	-25.4	414.1	140.3	-273.8	179.7	146.2	-33.4
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	7.1	9.2	2.0	39.2	12.6	-26.5	211.5	108.1	-103.4	127.4	119.7	-7.7
Canada	0.8	1.8	1.0	0.7	1.3	0.6	196.2	20.5	-175.6	50.4	16.5	-33.9
Africa	21.9	45.6	23.8	34.1	23.5	-10.6	244.6	424.9	180.3	189.9	367.2	177.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	3.5	2.7	-0.8	15.0	1.4	-13.6	134.4	135.2	0.7	67.9	56.6	-11.3
Australia and Oceania	13.5	0.4	-13.0	0.6	0.5	-0.1	33.9	6.3	-27.5	10.6	3.9	-6.7
South America	2.4	1.5	-0.9	2.0	8.0	6.1	35.3	5.3	-30.0	50.9	39.2	-11.7
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	124.1	0.2	-123.8	17.7	0.2	-17.5	384.6	2.6	-382.0	150.0	2.9	-147.1
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.2	130.8	130.7	0.1	34.7	34.6	4.4	617.1	612.7	0.3	235.5	235.2
Grand Total	555.1	379.6	-175.5	562.4	259.1	-303.2	5,060.9	2,877.0	-2,183.9	5,156.4	2,549.6	-2,606.7

^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	
		2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	6,678	5,531	49,042	51,793
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	19,852	22,053	104,200	117,451
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,255	4,184	42,058	45,047
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,808	4,147	43,625	44,904
18	Cocoa and cocoa preparations	2,708	2,640	15,783	14,539
19	Preparations of cereals	6,571	6,900	53,266	54,189
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,500	2,935	33,904	34,888
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,699	6,710	56,905	64,523
23	Food residues and waste	2,936	3,315	28,630	26,476
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	3,392	3,535	25,868	27,362
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	96,061	201,461	1,444,530	1,603,473
29	Organic chemicals	5,044	5,759	83,169	74,349
30	Pharmaceutical products	26,027	25,799	158,396	205,357
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	3,451	3,212	30,840	39,310
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,265	3,751	30,092	32,903
34	Soap, etc, lubricants, waxes, dental preparations	2,276	2,674	19,117	21,429
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	13,919	15,703	135,512	141,059
48	Paper and paperboard articles	7,035	13,734	57,247	82,391
61	Knitted clothing	5,470	6,652	46,653	49,656
62	Woven clothing	4,906	4,148	44,241	42,684
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	3,333	5,055	49,262	41,914
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,160	4,015	61,401	59,548
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	55,017	34,691	303,416	359,427
85	Electrical machinery etc.	39,873	59,522	408,520	413,547
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	15,926	22,090	153,506	146,345
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	11,866	12,544	331,121	378,844
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	133,816	18,043	663,824	375,906
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,749	7,245	58,352	76,122
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	5,986	5,715	53,417	54,599
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	2,360	3,440	20,407	22,078
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	36,269	11,535	58,388	60,945
19	Preparations of cereals	1,278	1,681	15,083	13,159
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,923	4,740	50,670	41,721
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	3,471	2,911	10,613	11,246
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	169,857	63,702	1,146,744	755,479
29	Organic chemicals	1,894	2,528	27,891	22,113
30	Pharmaceutical products	24,260	23,359	229,603	243,886
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	6,162	6,759	58,901	56,335
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,950	4,917	49,708	54,575
49	Printed books, newspapers	5,951	16,379	53,625	105,098
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,461	2,691	21,334	21,475
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	319	1,534	21,652	15,299
73	Articles of iron or steel	6,243	2,560	20,741	32,414
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	9,543	8,358	108,840	122,220
85	Electrical machinery etc.	60,584	62,549	585,549	561,845
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	14,135	9,486	89,902	91,205
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,613	8,629	68,044	73,604
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	8,819	9,976	110,018	121,538
99	Special classifications	3,577	2,447	27,559	26,513

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. Table 4 is based on the World Customs Organisations Harmonised System (HS) codes. Figures for chapter 27 include 'Industrial supplies, primary' and 'Industrial supplies, processed'.

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, Czechia, 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