

9 January 2019 | 1100 hrs | 002/2019

Preliminary statistics show that Malta registered a trade deficit of €191.7 million in November 2018, compared to a trade deficit of €150.9 million in the corresponding month of 2017.

International Trade: November 2018

Cut-off date:
4 January 2019

Provisional data for international trade show that a trade deficit of €191.7 million was registered in November 2018, compared to a deficit of €150.9 million in the corresponding month of 2017. Both imports and exports decreased by €109.0 million and €149.8 million respectively (Table 1a). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€112.4 million), while mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€77.4 million) and food (€60.3 million) accounted for the main decrease in the value of exports (Table 2).

January-November 2018

During the first eleven months of 2018, the trade deficit increased by €452.5 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2017, reaching €2,787.4 million. Imports increased by €4.7 million while exports decreased by €447.7 million (Table 1a). Higher imports were mainly due to increases in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€169.6 million), chemicals (€54.8 million), and semi-manufactured goods (€42.4 million). These were partly outweighed by a decrease of €290.9 million in machinery and transport equipment. With regards to exports, the main decreases were registered in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€443.7 million) and food (€84.0 million). These were partly outweighed by an increase of €75.4 million in miscellaneous manufactured articles (Table 2).

Malta's imports from the European Union reached €3,750.4 million, or 66.8 per cent of total imports. There was an increase of €694.7 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 (€180.4 million) and Canada (€189.8 million) respectively. The main increase in exports was directed to Netherlands (€45.1 million), whereas Italy (€50.2 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade

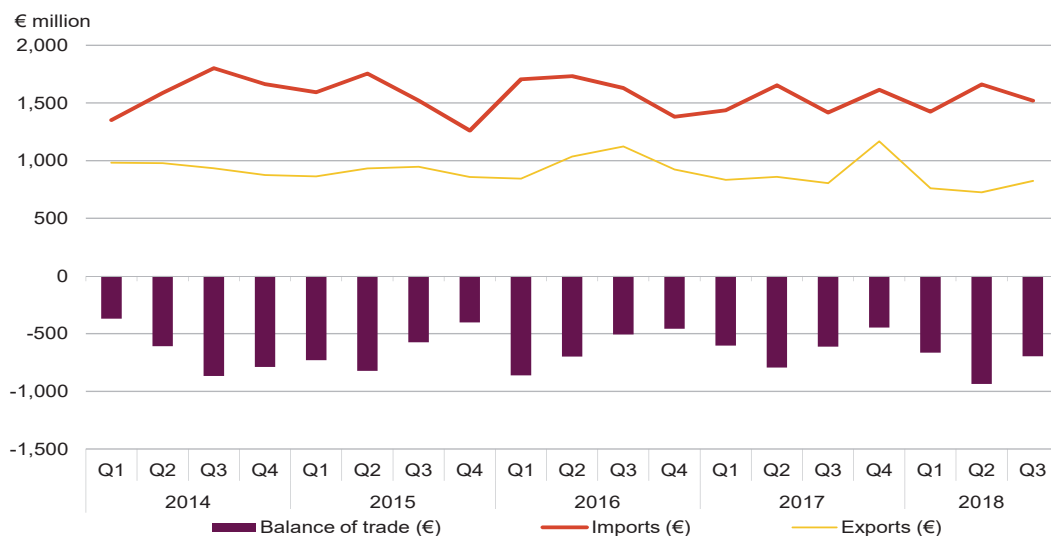


Table 1a. Trade by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2016 ^P	2017 ^P	November		January-November	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Imports	6,447.4	6,119.6	547.5	438.5	5,608.5	5,613.2
Industrial Supplies	1,334.8	1,322.2	125.6	126.2	1,222.5	1,332.3
Primary	112.7	126.3	28.1	26.7	116.4	118.9
Semi-Finished	1,028.7	1,010.5	79.4	92.4	933.8	1,029.1
Finished	193.5	185.4	18.1	7.1	172.3	184.2
Capital Goods and Others	2,282.1	1,680.2	164.8	50.9	1,558.9	1,233.9
Consumer Goods	1,240.6	1,345.5	114.6	107.9	1,241.9	1,300.7
Food and Beverages	499.2	530.2	47.9	41.6	490.7	494.9
Durable Goods	432.3	468.8	39.0	35.7	429.8	432.2
Others	309.2	346.5	27.6	30.6	321.3	373.5
Fuels and Lubricants	1,589.8	1,771.7	142.5	153.4	1,585.1	1,746.3
Exports	3,925.7	3,664.8	396.6	246.8	3,273.6	2,825.9
Balance of Trade	-2,521.7	-2,454.8	-150.9	-191.7	-2,334.9	-2,787.4

^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	1,425.0	1,660.4	1,519.6
Industrial Supplies	348.4	337.8	339.9	321.0	377.3	364.1
Primary	36.6	20.3	53.9	6.8	41.9	28.3
Semi-Finished	263.6	277.5	238.2	244.2	286.2	293.0
Finished	48.2	40.0	47.8	70.0	49.1	42.8
Capital Goods and Others	605.0	237.4	495.7	282.1	489.5	326.8
Consumer Goods	338.3	342.4	352.9	339.9	352.2	360.7
Food and Beverages	125.8	143.8	139.2	122.1	137.1	144.9
Durable Goods	126.5	112.1	120.0	113.8	120.0	114.3
Others	86.0	86.5	93.7	103.9	95.0	101.6
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	824.3
Balance of Trade	-793.3	-612.0	-446.4	-664.0	-935.5	-695.3

^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	November		January-November	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Total Exports	3,925.7	3,664.8	396.6	246.8	3,273.6	2,825.9
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,130.1	1,379.1	117.3	47.0	1,225.7	779.3
Exports net of Fuels and Lubricants	2,795.5	2,285.7	279.3	199.8	2,047.9	2,046.5

^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	November		January-November	
			2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
			Imports	6,447.4	6,119.6	547.5
Food	571.5	624.3	73.0	62.7	577.8	576.0
Beverages and Tobacco	98.0	95.9	6.8	8.7	89.1	99.9
Crude Materials	26.4	26.2	1.8	2.3	24.3	24.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,597.0	1,775.0	142.5	153.5	1,586.6	1,756.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.4	9.3	0.8	0.6	8.7	8.7
Chemicals	465.7	517.7	40.4	41.2	484.1	538.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	375.9	361.2	30.0	29.9	330.7	373.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,852.7	2,235.9	212.1	99.7	2,068.9	1,778.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	439.0	468.7	39.8	39.0	433.6	452.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	11.7	5.3	0.3	1.0	4.6	4.8
Exports	3,925.7	3,664.8	396.6	246.8	3,273.6	2,825.9
Food	255.2	281.4	88.2	27.9	233.3	149.3
Beverages and Tobacco	41.1	38.6	3.7	3.2	36.4	38.9
Crude Materials	12.6	13.4	1.1	0.6	12.5	12.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,162.6	1,428.3	124.4	47.0	1,272.5	828.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	965.0	383.1	45.9	40.8	348.4	351.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	120.9	150.7	22.8	10.9	135.2	146.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	961.7	987.8	79.7	78.1	876.7	864.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	405.8	380.7	30.8	37.7	357.9	433.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.7	0.7	1.6
Balance of Trade	-2,521.7	-2,454.8	-150.9	-191.7	-2,334.9	-2,787.4
Food	-316.3	-342.9	15.2	-34.8	-344.5	-426.7
Beverages and Tobacco	-56.9	-57.3	-3.1	-5.5	-52.7	-61.0
Crude Materials	-13.8	-12.9	-0.7	-1.7	-11.8	-12.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-434.4	-346.7	-18.1	-106.5	-314.1	-927.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.4	-9.3	-0.8	-0.6	-8.7	-8.7
Chemicals	499.3	-134.6	5.6	-0.4	-135.7	-187.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-255.0	-210.6	-7.2	-19.1	-195.4	-227.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,891.0	-1,248.1	-132.4	-21.5	-1,192.3	-913.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-33.2	-88.0	-9.0	-1.4	-75.6	-19.4
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-10.9	-4.5	-0.2	-0.3	-3.9	-3.2

^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	November						January-November					
	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	360.3	139.5	-220.8	286.5	104.1	-182.4	3,473.8	1,373.1	-2,100.7	4,113.8	1,454.4	-2,659.4
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	323.7	134.3	-189.4	246.4	100.8	-145.5	2,983.8	1,304.7	-1,679.1	3,750.4	1,372.9	-2,377.5
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	34.0	7.3	-26.8	23.9	4.0	-19.9	372.2	74.1	-298.1	461.7	55.4	-406.3
euro area	271.0	114.4	-156.6	214.0	72.9	-141.1	2,408.3	1,074.8	-1,333.5	3,103.0	1,113.4	-1,989.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	130.0	36.2	-93.8	103.1	13.9	-89.2	1,121.6	354.4	-767.1	1,302.0	304.2	-997.8
Germany	54.7	39.3	-15.5	26.8	28.6	1.7	395.1	373.8	-21.3	401.3	393.3	-8.1
Greece	16.8	0.8	-15.9	23.3	0.5	-22.8	100.7	6.2	-94.5	225.1	7.7	-217.3
France	15.5	23.9	8.3	22.4	16.9	-5.5	210.9	219.2	8.3	273.1	247.6	-25.5
Netherlands	22.1	2.8	-19.3	12.3	3.9	-8.4	184.8	22.2	-162.6	273.9	67.3	-206.6
Belgium	6.6	3.8	-2.8	4.8	0.3	-4.5	91.5	14.0	-77.4	145.2	7.7	-137.5
EFTA Countries	2.5	3.7	1.1	3.5	1.4	-2.1	38.8	31.4	-7.4	47.3	20.9	-26.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	2.3	1.5	-0.8	3.4	1.1	-2.3	32.2	25.4	-6.8	33.9	15.9	-18.0
Other European Countries	34.1	1.5	-32.6	36.6	1.9	-34.8	451.2	37.1	-414.1	316.1	60.6	-255.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Russian Federation	26.5	0.1	-26.4	15.0	0.0	-14.9	261.0	0.8	-260.2	118.3	0.6	-117.8
Asia	78.3	117.8	39.5	85.7	58.8	-26.9	909.0	564.6	-344.3	851.8	474.5	-377.4
<i>of which:</i>												
China	13.4	3.1	-10.3	17.6	2.4	-15.2	189.3	35.2	-154.1	201.4	30.5	-170.9
Saudi Arabia	13.5	4.1	-9.4	15.7	6.6	-9.0	50.8	28.9	-21.8	41.6	15.6	-26.0
India	10.1	1.5	-8.7	14.2	0.8	-13.3	121.0	9.7	-111.3	130.6	10.3	-120.3
Kazakhstan	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	-	-7.1	1.0	0.1	-0.9	7.1	0.0	-7.1
Singapore	4.6	13.0	8.4	4.7	13.7	9.0	112.7	121.6	8.9	39.1	135.8	96.8
North and Central America	55.4	14.1	-41.3	5.5	14.9	9.4	469.5	154.4	-315.1	185.2	161.1	-24.0
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	10.8	10.8	0.1	4.8	12.4	7.6	222.3	118.9	-103.4	132.2	132.1	-0.1
Canada	44.5	2.3	-42.3	0.6	1.4	0.8	240.7	22.8	-217.9	50.9	17.9	-33.0
Africa	28.8	66.1	37.3	56.4	31.7	-24.7	273.4	491.0	217.6	246.3	398.9	152.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Tunisia	15.4	12.7	-2.7	23.0	2.7	-20.3	26.2	73.5	47.2	33.0	44.1	11.1
Australia and Oceania	0.4	1.2	0.8	3.0	1.3	-1.7	34.3	7.5	-26.8	13.5	5.2	-8.4
South America	1.4	2.0	0.6	1.4	3.5	2.1	36.6	7.3	-29.4	52.3	42.8	-9.6
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	22.6	0.4	-22.2	0.0	0.7	0.7	407.2	3.0	-404.1	150.0	3.6	-146.4
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.3	55.5	55.2	0.0	31.8	31.8	4.7	672.6	667.9	0.3	285.5	285.2
Grand Total	547.5	396.6	-150.9	438.5	246.8	-191.7	5,608.5	3,273.6	-2,334.9	5,613.2	2,825.9	-2,787.4

^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	November		January-November	
		2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2017 ^P	2018 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	5,448	5,506	54,490	57,285
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	28,640	25,488	132,840	146,061
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,813	4,102	46,871	49,192
10	Cereals	2,409	2,548	22,024	16,556
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,548	3,530	48,173	48,445
18	Cocoa and cocoa preparations	2,950	2,503	18,732	17,058
19	Preparations of cereals	6,500	5,335	59,766	59,676
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,898	2,459	37,802	37,489
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,049	6,881	61,954	71,487
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	1,774	3,223	23,518	28,517
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	142,426	153,323	1,586,956	1,757,554
29	Organic chemicals	4,110	4,369	87,279	78,790
30	Pharmaceutical products	13,840	18,900	172,235	224,410
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,845	2,632	33,685	42,203
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,225	2,932	33,317	36,280
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	16,230	12,013	151,742	153,325
48	Paper and paperboard articles	5,691	5,503	62,938	88,032
61	Knitted clothing	5,847	5,950	52,501	55,985
62	Woven clothing	5,162	4,085	49,403	46,879
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,564	2,979	50,826	45,311
69	Ceramic products	2,398	2,478	21,700	26,545
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	2,627	3,542	18,041	20,106
73	Articles of iron or steel	5,141	5,077	66,542	64,853
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	65,903	23,332	369,319	386,163
85	Electrical machinery etc.	38,660	56,887	447,180	471,434
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	14,106	12,645	167,612	159,181
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	57,534	3,779	388,655	382,624
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	35,395	2,705	699,219	378,611
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,631	6,666	62,982	83,153
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	5,116	5,445	58,532	60,814
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	77,787	12,063	136,175	73,008
19	Preparations of cereals	2,245	4,255	17,328	17,414
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	5,809	11,039	56,479	52,759
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	124,202	46,789	1,270,946	827,260
29	Organic chemicals	6,131	10,846	34,022	32,960
30	Pharmaceutical products	34,985	23,795	264,588	267,872
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,328	1,356	12,392	13,348
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	5,248	6,786	64,149	63,494
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,227	4,148	54,935	58,724
49	Printed books, newspapers	8,254	9,851	61,879	115,008
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,650	2,470	23,984	23,946
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	516	1,944	22,168	17,501
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	631	1,500	5,780	6,882
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	10,948	16,426	119,788	139,090
85	Electrical machinery etc.	55,922	57,369	641,471	619,494
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	11,006	3,430	100,907	94,634
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,677	6,285	73,721	80,064
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	9,259	11,029	119,277	132,567
99	Special classifications	2,254	2,401	29,812	28,914

^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 reported as at the cut-off date printed on the front page of this release. These are provisional figures based on information provided by traders and customs 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 EU includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia (from July 2013), Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, 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