

10 May 2019 | 1100 hrs | 072/2019

Provisional figures for registered trade in goods in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €749.7 million during March 2019.

International Trade in Goods: March 2019

Cut-off date:
2 May 2019

Data in this news release presents all international trade in goods registered up to the indicated cut-off date (refer to methodological notes). Provisional data for registered international trade recorded a trade deficit of €749.7 million during March, compared to a deficit of €219.9 million in the corresponding month of 2018. Imports experienced an increase of €524.2 million, while exports decreased by €5.5 million (Table 1). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€483.1 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€39.8 million). On the exports side machinery and transport equipment (€11.6 million), chemicals (€8.2 million) and semi-manufactures goods (€7.4 million) accounted to the main decrease. This was partly outweighed by increases in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€14.6 million) and miscellaneous manufactured articles (€8.0 million) (Table 2).

January-March 2019

During the first quarter of this year, the trade deficit widened by €640.2 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2018, reaching €1,278.5 million. Imports and exports increased by €649.3 million and €9.0 million respectively (Table 1). Higher imports were mainly recorded in machinery and transport equipment (€726.1 million), partly outweighed by a decrease of €105.9 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. The main increase in exports was registered in miscellaneous manufactured articles (€37.4 million), partly outweighed by decreases in machinery and transport equipment (€22.3 million) and semi-manufactured goods (€7.9 million) (Table 2).

Imports from the European Union reached €1,451.7 million, or 70.1 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €120.2 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period in 2018. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from the United Kingdom (€579.8 million) and Spain (€36.1 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to the United States of America (€16.5 million), whereas Italy (€30.1 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade in Goods - quarterly

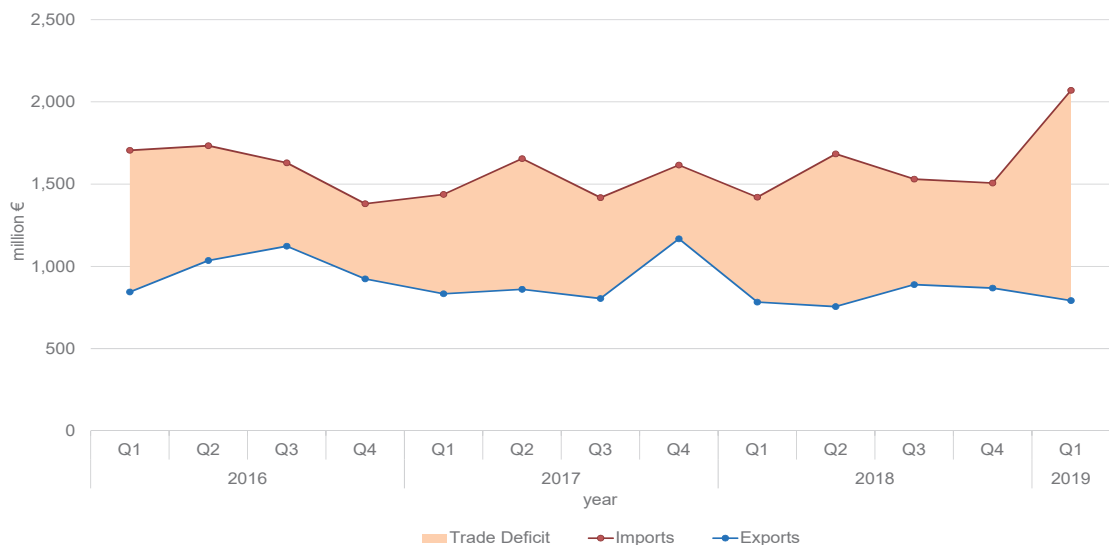


Table 1. Trade in goods by period and broad economic category

€ million

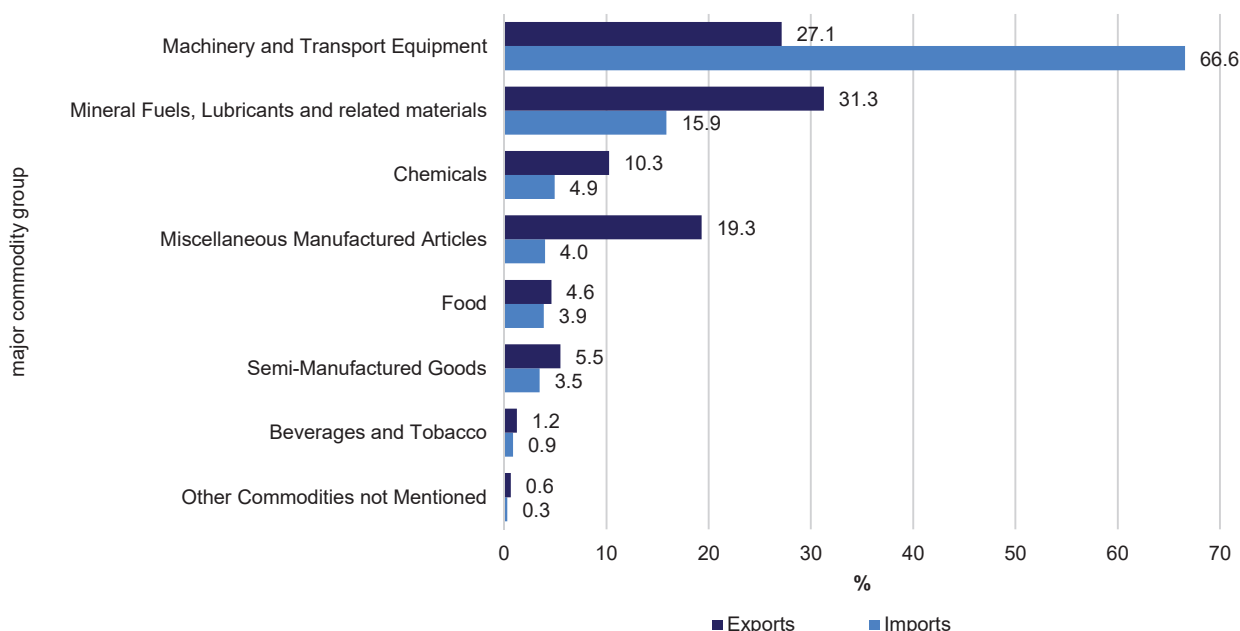
Broad economic category	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	March		January-March	
			2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Imports	6,125.2	6,141.5	486.4	1,010.6	1,420.8	2,070.1
Industrial Supplies	1,261.6	1,393.3	101.3	109.7	322.7	366.8
Primary	93.5	91.4	3.6	4.8	10.8	12.1
Semi-Finished	967.6	1,082.8	72.2	87.2	237.5	300.7
Finished	200.6	219.0	25.5	17.7	74.4	54.0
Capital Goods and Others	1,709.3	1,351.0	143.2	619.2	278.0	994.1
Consumer Goods	1,381.7	1,471.8	121.2	125.2	337.9	342.7
Food and Beverages	567.8	581.7	42.0	39.5	119.0	116.7
Durable Goods	462.3	475.3	40.1	42.3	113.6	117.1
Others	351.7	414.8	39.0	43.5	105.3	108.9
Fuels and Lubricants	1,772.6	1,925.5	120.7	156.4	482.3	366.5
Exports	3,664.8	3,294.7	266.4	260.9	782.5	791.5
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,379.2	971.6	64.7	81.6	214.7	219.3
Balance of Trade	-2,460.4	-2,846.8	-219.9	-749.7	-638.3	-1,278.5

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. Table 1 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.
3. A disaggregation by quarter is available on the excel version of this news release:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade-in-Goods.aspx

Chart 2. Percentage distribution of trade in goods in March 2019 by major commodity group



Notes:

1. The commodity breakdown is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 3.
2. "Other Commodities not Mentioned" includes the commodity groups "Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities", "Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats" and "Crude Materials".
3. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Balance of trade in goods by period and major commodity groups

€ million

Major commodity group	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	March		January-March	
			2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Imports	6,125.2	6,141.5	486.4	1,010.6	1,420.8	2,070.1
Food	625.1	626.8	40.6	39.2	116.4	115.5
Beverages and Tobacco	96.1	109.2	8.4	9.0	22.0	23.4
Crude Materials	26.1	26.1	2.0	2.0	6.5	6.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,775.0	1,936.3	120.7	160.5	485.1	379.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.3	9.5	0.7	0.7	2.1	2.5
Chemicals	519.9	585.7	50.9	50.0	145.7	168.4
Semi-Manufactured Goods	360.2	406.9	30.5	35.2	98.6	105.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,237.1	1,923.1	189.8	672.9	421.3	1,147.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	471.2	512.8	42.5	40.6	122.2	121.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	5.3	5.1	0.3	0.4	0.9	1.0
Exports	3,664.8	3,294.7	266.4	260.9	782.5	791.5
Food	281.4	242.5	13.0	12.1	65.2	71.5
Beverages and Tobacco	43.1	45.5	3.7	3.2	8.8	9.2
Crude Materials	13.4	13.2	1.0	1.3	3.2	2.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,428.2	1,033.4	67.0	81.6	228.8	224.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	380.6	383.5	35.0	26.8	89.8	88.5
Semi-Manufactured Goods	150.6	153.1	21.8	14.4	52.4	44.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	986.5	938.6	82.4	70.8	231.6	209.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	380.2	482.4	42.4	50.4	102.6	140.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.8	2.5	0.0	0.4	0.2	1.6
Balance of Trade	-2,460.4	-2,846.8	-219.9	-749.7	-638.3	-1,278.5
Food	-343.7	-384.2	-27.6	-27.1	-51.2	-44.1
Beverages and Tobacco	-53.1	-63.8	-4.7	-5.7	-13.2	-14.1
Crude Materials	-12.7	-12.9	-1.0	-0.8	-3.3	-3.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-346.8	-902.9	-53.7	-79.0	-256.3	-154.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.3	-9.5	-0.7	-0.7	-2.1	-2.4
Chemicals	-139.3	-202.2	-15.9	-23.2	-55.9	-79.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-209.5	-253.8	-8.7	-20.9	-46.1	-60.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,250.6	-984.4	-107.3	-602.1	-189.7	-938.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-91.1	-30.4	-0.1	9.8	-19.7	18.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-4.5	-2.6	-0.3	0.1	-0.7	0.6

^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 in goods by period

€ million

Country/Region	March						January-March					
	2018 ^P			2019 ^P			2018 ^P			2019 ^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	389.0	134.0	-255.1	840.2	123.8	-716.3	1,075.1	391.5	-683.6	1,605.8	324.6	-1,281.2
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	366.1	131.2	-234.9	754.1	119.2	-634.9	981.0	382.2	-598.8	1,451.7	311.3	-1,140.4
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	110.8	4.6	-106.2	493.2	3.7	-489.5	183.6	18.4	-165.2	763.4	13.3	-750.1
euro area	246.3	110.2	-136.1	247.0	98.0	-149.0	758.9	325.1	-433.8	638.7	250.0	-388.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	98.4	30.3	-68.2	98.0	27.1	-70.8	297.7	85.3	-212.4	265.6	55.2	-210.4
Greece	44.1	0.7	-43.4	36.4	0.5	-35.9	76.0	1.7	-74.3	74.1	1.3	-72.9
Germany	40.0	39.7	-0.3	33.6	33.6	0.0	117.6	111.0	-6.6	95.8	94.5	-1.3
Netherlands	24.2	5.4	-18.8	32.4	13.2	-19.2	67.9	28.5	-39.4	63.2	21.1	-42.0
France	14.4	18.7	4.3	22.5	17.4	-5.2	40.8	64.1	23.2	72.1	58.1	-14.0
Spain	12.3	10.1	-2.1	11.3	3.8	-7.5	65.2	21.0	-44.2	29.1	10.8	-18.3
EFTA Countries	6.4	1.7	-4.7	4.5	2.9	-1.6	21.4	5.9	-15.5	17.8	9.0	-8.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	2.3	1.3	-1.0	4.4	2.5	-1.9	12.1	4.8	-7.3	9.8	7.5	-2.4
Other European Countries	16.6	1.1	-15.4	81.6	1.7	-79.9	72.7	3.4	-69.4	136.3	4.3	-132.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	9.1	0.8	-8.3	63.5	1.4	-62.1	20.7	2.2	-18.5	91.2	3.4	-87.8
Asia	60.9	43.4	-17.5	66.8	41.7	-25.1	218.3	140.4	-77.9	229.3	169.4	-60.0
<i>of which:</i>												
China	13.9	3.0	-10.9	16.4	2.7	-13.7	49.0	14.8	-34.2	58.5	6.3	-52.1
Israel	11.7	0.2	-11.6	15.8	0.2	-15.6	54.2	0.3	-54.0	26.3	0.8	-25.5
India	11.9	0.5	-11.5	14.6	1.1	-13.5	35.5	1.9	-33.6	44.7	5.5	-39.2
Japan	3.9	4.4	0.5	3.8	2.3	-1.6	11.0	40.2	29.2	14.8	47.0	32.2
South Korea	3.4	1.3	-2.1	2.6	0.7	-2.0	9.6	5.2	-4.4	10.0	9.3	-0.7
North and Central America	7.7	15.9	8.2	10.9	12.7	1.9	24.5	40.6	16.1	37.2	55.9	18.8
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	6.0	13.4	7.4	10.2	9.7	-0.5	21.4	32.3	10.9	23.8	48.8	25.0
Canada	1.7	1.2	-0.5	0.4	2.3	1.9	2.8	4.7	1.9	12.9	4.7	-8.2
Africa	13.7	39.6	25.8	15.0	36.2	21.1	63.1	141.4	78.2	37.0	86.5	49.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Cameroon	-	0.0	0.0	11.6	0.3	-11.3	6.4	1.5	-4.9	11.6	0.4	-11.2
Australia and Oceania	0.6	0.3	-0.3	75.8	0.6	-75.2	5.6	0.9	-4.7	90.1	1.1	-89.0
South America	14.4	3.6	-10.8	1.8	0.2	-1.6	19.2	4.0	-15.1	5.4	13.2	7.7
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.3	15.1	1.4	-13.8	65.1	0.6	-64.5
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.0	29.5	29.5	0.0	45.2	45.2	0.0	62.5	62.5	0.1	140.2	140.1
Grand Total	486.4	266.4	-219.9	1,010.6	260.9	-749.7	1,420.8	782.5	-638.3	2,070.1	791.5	-1,278.5

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. Ranking is based according to top countries of import for the current period under review.
2. Arrivals/Dispatches relate to registered transactions with EU Member States.
3. Imports/Exports relate to registered transactions with Non-EU Member States (see methodological notes for country groupings).
4. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
5. A full list of countries is available on the excel version of this news release:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade-in-Goods.aspx

Table 4. Trade in goods by period and principal traded commodities

€ 000

Chapter number	Commodity description	March		January-March	
		2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	4,938	4,551	14,397	14,036
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,697	4,656	13,014	12,738
08	Edible fruit and nuts	3,175	2,366	9,048	7,347
10	Cereals	460	2,617	2,198	6,413
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,267	3,986	11,816	11,615
19	Preparations of cereals	5,454	5,935	14,912	15,606
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,526	3,207	9,160	9,865
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,313	4,960	14,875	14,425
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	3,195	4,074	7,383	9,125
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	2,713	3,177	6,731	8,446
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	120,674	160,524	485,970	379,213
29	Organic chemicals	4,599	6,607	14,078	37,297
30	Pharmaceutical products	24,939	25,956	66,759	67,373
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	3,433	2,636	9,725	12,715
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,175	3,116	8,763	9,135
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	13,579	12,726	42,650	41,137
48	Paper and paperboard articles	6,040	10,349	22,305	29,039
61	Knitted clothing	5,048	5,106	14,592	15,731
62	Woven clothing	5,589	4,651	16,114	11,500
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	5,508	5,783	13,000	16,941
69	Ceramic products	2,595	2,345	7,146	6,677
72	Iron and steel	1,289	2,710	6,125	7,586
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,851	5,013	19,995	17,785
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	37,272	25,035	94,829	86,262
85	Electrical machinery etc.	32,789	43,303	104,910	135,160
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	13,417	22,263	41,076	50,451
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	32,153	46,899	79,810	112,823
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	73,063	535,787	98,383	764,276
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,811	5,071	24,004	17,724
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	6,405	5,642	15,700	16,199
Main exports					
19	Preparations of cereals	1,732	3,142	5,051	4,922
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	5,784	7,729	16,950	16,350
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,642	1,372	3,149	4,187
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	66,777	81,467	228,373	224,503
29	Organic chemicals	1,780	2,005	3,404	5,909
30	Pharmaceutical products	28,210	18,873	74,795	66,065
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	6,163	7,171	15,373	20,754
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	6,127	5,561	18,532	16,585
49	Printed books, newspapers	11,144	20,825	22,712	49,318
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,431	2,288	6,696	6,774
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,787	2,370	3,762	6,985
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	697	1,354	1,556	4,143
73	Articles of iron or steel	11,231	5,171	18,493	9,765
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	15,739	9,727	39,974	29,199
85	Electrical machinery etc.	58,106	52,184	160,960	158,936
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	7,908	8,598	26,955	19,583
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	8,237	5,356	19,369	21,052
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	13,675	12,069	36,535	34,349
99	Special classifications	2,098	2,431	5,219	5,921

^P Provisional

Notes:

- 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'.
- A full list of chapters is available on the excel version of this news release:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade-in-Goods.aspx
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Methodological Notes

1. Figures presented in this news release are based on register data available 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 declarations 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. No estimations are included in these figures to compensate for late or non-response by traders or late documentation of customs declarations.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 signifies a trade surplus.
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.
 - 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.
8. More detailed and disaggregated data not appearing in this release are available in the excel version of this release or upon request from the NSO.
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