

10 October 2019 | 1100 hrs | 165/2019

Provisional figures for registered trade in goods in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €270.9 million during August 2019.

International Trade in Goods: August 2019

Cut-off date:
2 October 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 €270.9 million during August 2019, compared to a deficit of €339.2 million in the corresponding month of 2018. Both imports and exports experienced increases of €12.1 million and €80.3 million respectively (Table 1). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€82.7 million), partly outweighed by decreases of €39.4 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, and €23.5 million in food. On the exports side, machinery and transport equipment (€33.9 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€33.1 million) accounted for the main increase (Table 2).

January-August 2019

During the first eight months of the year, the trade deficit widened by €627.1 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2018, reaching €2,726.5 million. Both imports and exports increased by €696.0 million and €69.0 million respectively (Table 1). Higher imports were recorded mainly in machinery and transport equipment (€807.5 million), partly outweighed by a decrease of €118.4 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. The main increases in exports were registered in machinery and transport equipment (€43.5 million), miscellaneous manufactured articles (€41.6 million) and chemicals (€41.3 million), partly outweighed by a decrease of €47.6 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (Table 2).

For the same reference period, imports from the European Union reached €3,375.4 million, or 67.1 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €543.3 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 (€831.1 million) and Italy (€295.7 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to Spain (€30.6 million), whereas Italy registered the highest decrease with €25.7 million (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade in Goods - monthly

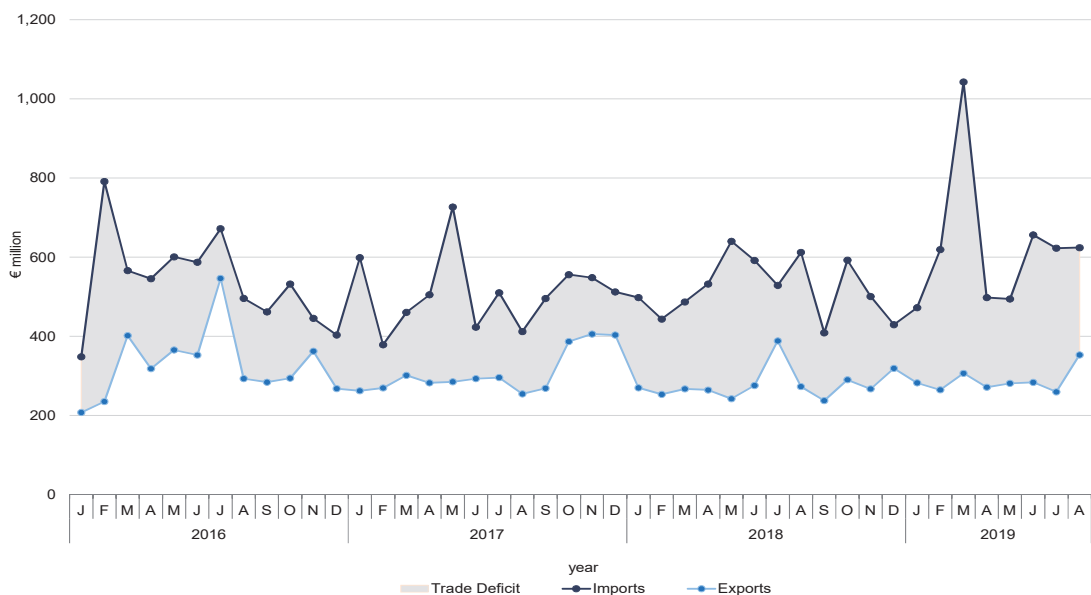


Table 1. Trade in goods by period and broad economic category

€ million

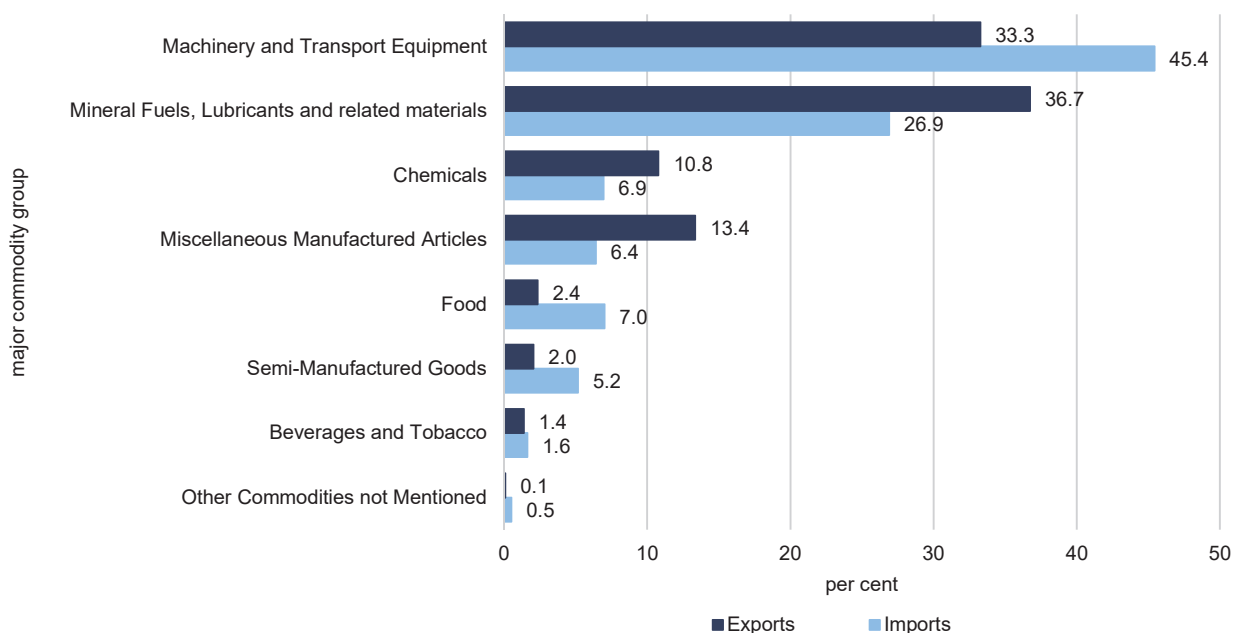
Broad economic category	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	August		January-August	
			2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Imports	6,125.4	6,263.6	611.9	624.0	4,332.6	5,028.6
Industrial Supplies	1,323.3	1,464.2	121.4	113.9	957.2	1,066.0
Primary	126.3	125.6	13.7	3.6	70.8	53.6
Semi-Finished	1,011.5	1,133.4	96.1	104.3	735.5	857.6
Finished	185.5	205.2	11.6	6.1	151.0	154.8
Capital Goods and Others	1,679.5	1,398.5	152.9	233.0	1,108.1	1,835.9
Consumer Goods	1,350.0	1,464.6	132.4	109.3	971.8	975.4
Food and Beverages	531.0	548.0	54.4	40.4	364.2	354.2
Durable Goods	468.8	490.3	39.2	37.2	324.0	342.4
Others	350.1	426.3	38.7	31.7	283.6	278.8
Fuels and Lubricants	1,772.6	1,936.4	205.2	167.7	1,295.6	1,151.4
Exports	3,699.2	3,346.7	272.7	353.0	2,233.2	2,302.2
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,411.6	992.8	93.8	129.7	747.3	705.7
Balance of Trade	-2,426.2	-2,917.0	-339.2	-270.9	-2,099.4	-2,726.5

^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; 'Fuels and lubricants, primary' and 'Fuels and lubricants, processed' respectively.
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 August 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	August		January-August	
			2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
			Imports	6,125.4	6,263.6	611.9
Food	625.1	628.0	67.3	43.8	399.3	362.3
Beverages and Tobacco	96.1	112.2	11.8	10.1	73.8	85.3
Crude Materials	26.2	27.4	2.1	2.2	18.5	22.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,775.0	1,947.0	207.1	167.7	1,299.8	1,181.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.3	9.6	0.8	0.7	6.6	6.4
Chemicals	522.0	602.8	52.6	43.4	407.9	419.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	361.3	410.9	28.7	32.2	278.3	284.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,236.2	2,003.4	200.7	283.4	1,505.9	2,313.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	468.9	517.1	40.5	40.0	339.5	350.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	5.3	5.2	0.3	0.3	3.1	2.4
Exports	3,699.2	3,346.7	272.7	353.0	2,233.2	2,302.2
Food	283.4	245.6	5.7	8.3	98.4	99.7
Beverages and Tobacco	38.6	44.6	3.5	4.9	25.6	30.1
Crude Materials	13.4	13.3	0.6	0.3	9.6	6.7
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,460.6	1,054.7	96.6	129.7	777.7	730.1
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	383.1	386.8	27.4	38.1	250.9	292.2
Semi-Manufactured Goods	150.7	153.7	8.8	7.2	111.8	97.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	987.8	956.8	83.5	117.4	643.8	687.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	380.7	488.8	46.5	47.2	314.7	356.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.8	2.5	-	-	0.7	2.1
Balance of Trade	-2,426.2	-2,917.0	-339.2	-270.9	-2,099.4	-2,726.5
Food	-341.6	-382.5	-61.6	-35.5	-300.9	-262.6
Beverages and Tobacco	-57.5	-67.7	-8.3	-5.2	-48.1	-55.2
Crude Materials	-12.9	-14.1	-1.4	-1.9	-8.9	-15.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-314.4	-892.3	-110.5	-38.1	-522.0	-451.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.3	-9.6	-0.8	-0.7	-6.6	-6.4
Chemicals	-138.9	-216.0	-25.2	-5.3	-156.9	-127.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-210.6	-257.2	-19.9	-25.0	-166.5	-186.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,248.3	-1,046.7	-117.2	-166.0	-862.1	-1,626.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-88.2	-28.3	6.0	7.2	-24.8	5.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-4.5	-2.7	-0.3	-0.3	-2.5	-0.4

^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 and country/region

€ million

Country/Region	August						January-August					
	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	485.9	157.8	-328.1	464.9	136.9	-328.1	3,176.7	1,095.6	-2,081.1	3,829.9	1,162.2	-2,667.7
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	463.8	138.1	-325.7	422.2	131.6	-290.6	2,912.4	1,018.7	-1,893.6	3,375.4	1,124.2	-2,251.2
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	28.3	5.7	-22.6	42.1	6.1	-36.1	345.7	41.4	-304.3	1,176.8	40.8	-1,135.9
euro area	402.6	112.2	-290.4	177.5	100.1	-77.4	2,426.7	840.7	-1,586.0	1,883.4	913.1	-970.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	176.4	43.8	-132.6	80.5	27.0	-53.5	1,037.2	234.1	-803.0	741.5	208.4	-533.1
France	16.3	21.0	4.7	34.8	16.5	-18.3	205.4	185.9	-19.5	291.4	194.8	-96.7
Germany	30.2	37.2	7.1	24.6	44.7	20.1	295.3	301.0	5.7	328.0	323.1	-4.8
Netherlands	35.8	3.1	-32.7	14.1	4.1	-10.0	229.9	40.9	-189.0	136.6	51.0	-85.5
Spain	24.7	2.7	-22.1	8.9	2.4	-6.6	210.9	38.8	-172.1	118.9	69.4	-49.6
Belgium	7.2	0.8	-6.4	4.4	0.4	-4.0	110.8	6.6	-104.2	65.6	3.2	-62.4
EFTA Countries	2.8	1.7	-1.1	11.1	2.2	-8.9	37.7	15.2	-22.5	44.6	18.1	-26.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Norway	0.6	0.3	-0.3	8.1	0.2	-8.0	10.7	3.2	-7.5	15.9	2.6	-13.3
Switzerland	2.2	1.4	-0.8	3.0	2.0	-0.9	26.1	12.0	-14.1	27.9	15.5	-12.4
Other European Countries	19.3	17.9	-1.3	31.7	3.1	-28.6	226.6	61.7	-164.9	409.9	19.9	-390.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Russian Federation	6.8	0.1	-6.7	20.0	0.2	-19.8	92.7	0.4	-92.3	207.2	1.5	-205.7
Asia	88.9	40.4	-48.5	103.4	71.0	-32.4	640.4	327.8	-312.6	673.4	380.0	-293.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Israel	22.0	0.2	-21.8	26.0	0.2	-25.8	100.3	1.4	-98.9	128.2	1.9	-126.3
China	20.4	1.7	-18.8	24.6	5.6	-19.0	147.5	25.3	-122.2	173.0	23.0	-149.9
United Arab Emirates	5.0	0.6	-4.4	11.5	1.2	-10.3	45.4	11.0	-34.4	20.7	13.3	-7.4
India	13.7	1.5	-12.2	11.2	1.2	-10.0	94.6	8.5	-86.1	106.2	10.7	-95.5
Singapore	2.1	9.7	7.6	7.9	14.5	6.6	29.1	93.6	64.5	33.1	95.7	62.6
North and Central America	8.4	15.0	6.5	26.8	12.3	-14.5	177.0	119.9	-57.1	128.9	131.6	2.7
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	5.6	12.9	7.3	26.1	10.7	-15.5	78.2	98.9	20.7	102.8	113.0	10.2
Africa	21.0	15.5	-5.6	5.2	83.7	78.5	147.2	343.1	195.9	90.6	265.4	174.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	16.5	1.2	-15.3	2.9	16.0	13.0	48.3	54.5	6.2	60.1	47.1	-13.0
Australia and Oceania	1.0	0.2	-0.8	0.6	0.6	-0.1	12.3	3.0	-9.2	111.3	4.4	-106.9
South America	1.5	6.6	5.0	1.5	0.3	-1.2	48.1	34.5	-13.6	15.6	18.8	3.2
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	5.0	0.2	-4.8	21.6	0.3	-21.2	130.8	2.5	-128.3	178.7	2.9	-175.8
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.1	37.2	37.2	-	48.0	48.0	0.1	306.8	306.7	0.2	336.9	336.8
Grand Total	611.9	272.7	-339.2	624.0	353.0	-270.9	4,332.6	2,233.2	-2,099.4	5,028.6	2,302.2	-2,726.5

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. Ranking is based according to top countries of import for the current month 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. Data for the 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	August		January-August	
		2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
		Main imports			
2	Meat and edible offal	5,879	4,306	41,466	39,663
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	24,251	9,098	80,857	50,417
4	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,453	4,007	37,015	35,304
16	Preparations of meat/fish	5,872	4,807	36,980	34,777
19	Preparations of cereals	5,913	4,110	42,493	43,135
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	3,202	2,563	20,652	21,132
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,809	3,538	29,934	28,892
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	7,888	7,218	51,921	57,099
23	Food residues and waste	2,092	2,603	20,810	20,510
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	4,066	2,986	22,460	28,714
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	2,493	3,201	20,457	26,042
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	207,067	167,761	1,301,255	1,182,711
29	Organic chemicals	9,024	6,009	59,283	85,879
30	Pharmaceutical products	23,736	16,597	171,386	159,262
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	4,691	5,266	31,758	32,644
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,061	3,713	26,473	27,121
34	Soap, etc, lubricants, waxes, dental preparations	2,174	2,164	17,355	17,790
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	12,107	12,162	115,917	114,838
42	Articles of leather; saddlery	1,286	2,894	8,935	16,479
48	Paper and paperboard articles	6,266	10,452	59,755	68,227
61	Knitted clothing	5,529	6,711	40,849	46,425
62	Woven clothing	3,229	3,873	36,385	34,967
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	4,816	4,146	35,638	38,491
73	Articles of iron or steel	3,891	4,587	52,739	45,467
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	32,212	27,450	299,844	268,364
85	Electrical machinery etc.	42,952	50,370	322,840	386,501
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	14,359	15,088	113,684	126,732
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	12,518	188,785	370,268	1,257,468
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,744	4,701	62,869	50,534
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	5,000	4,023	46,527	48,632
				Main exports	
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	1,812	4,673	49,557	57,856
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,606	2,782	33,868	31,306
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	734	1,637	7,210	11,330
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	96,352	129,591	776,568	729,519
29	Organic chemicals	1,390	7,200	19,499	41,747
30	Pharmaceutical products	21,752	23,886	196,623	198,243
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	825	1,628	10,375	12,858
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	6,373	6,769	44,447	55,502
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,263	4,152	43,765	39,915
49	Printed books, newspapers	15,179	15,761	83,349	107,619
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,338	1,768	16,518	15,948
61	Knitted clothing	2,556	2,373	9,455	10,861
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	2,277	2,456	12,163	19,054
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	10,416	45,157	105,975	129,513
85	Electrical machinery etc.	62,051	54,240	448,680	435,628
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	10,884	17,383	78,864	117,578
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,423	4,670	57,476	55,210
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	12,021	15,191	100,587	100,584
99	Special classifications	3,413	3,887	20,600	22,204

^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'.
- Data for the 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 in 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 is 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/metadate/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadate/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