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Provisional figures for registered trade in goods in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €331.3 million during September 2019.

International Trade in Goods: September 2019

Cut-off date:
1 November 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 €331.3 million during September 2019, compared to a deficit of €172.3 million in the corresponding month of 2018. Both imports and exports experienced increases of €172.4 million and €13.3 million respectively (Table 1). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€93.2 million), mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€51.8 million) and chemicals (€33.1 million). On the exports side, chemicals (€11.6 million) accounted for the main increase (Table 2).

January-September 2019

During the first nine months of the year, the trade deficit widened by €848.4 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2018, reaching €3,140.5 million. Both imports and exports increased by €959.4 million and €110.9 million respectively (Table 1). Higher imports were recorded mainly in machinery and transport equipment (€947.9 million). The main increases in exports were registered in miscellaneous manufactured articles (€56.7 million), chemicals (€52.9 million) and machinery and transport equipment (€41.3 million), partly outweighed by a decrease of €28.4 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (Table 2).

For the same reference period, imports from the European Union reached €3,856.7 million, or 67.6 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €378.3 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 (€855.4 million) and Italy (€257.5 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to Spain (€30.6 million), whereas Libya (€90.6 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

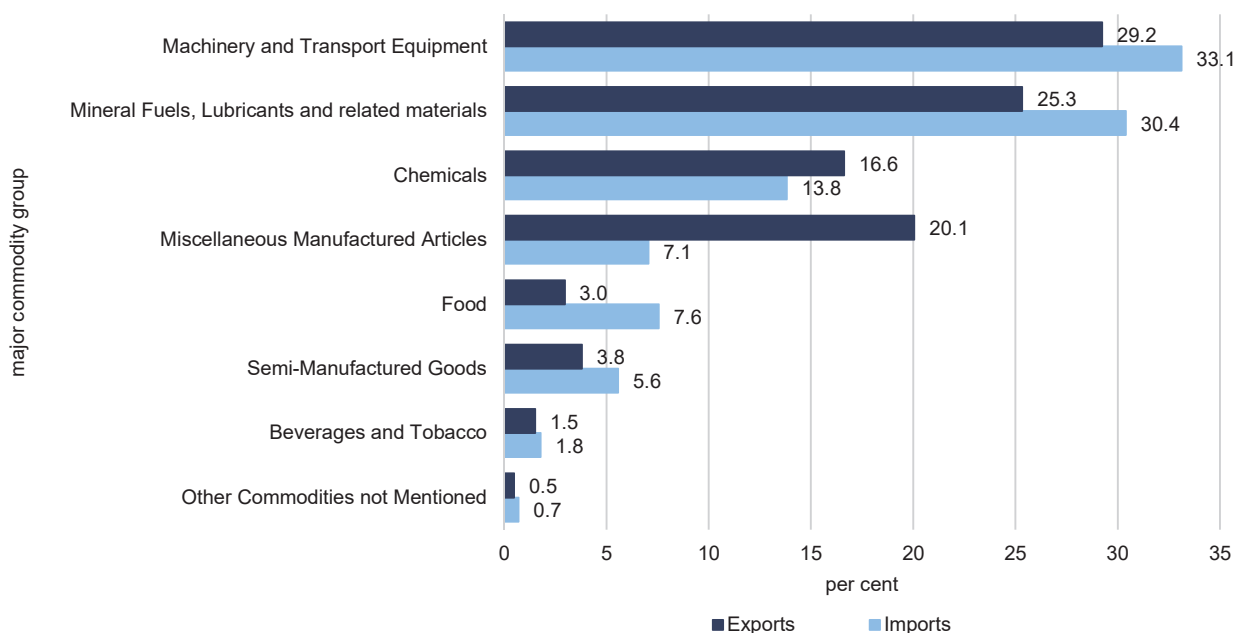
Broad economic category	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	September		January-September	
			2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Imports	6,126.3	6,277.9	409.7	582.1	4,747.1	5,706.5
Industrial Supplies	1,323.6	1,470.1	120.0	145.9	1,079.0	1,220.0
Primary	126.3	125.7	6.5	3.3	77.3	60.0
Semi-Finished	1,011.8	1,139.0	100.6	135.4	837.8	996.3
Finished	185.5	205.4	12.9	7.3	163.9	163.6
Capital Goods and Others	1,679.5	1,399.5	59.5	149.9	1,167.6	2,031.6
Consumer Goods	1,350.6	1,471.9	109.7	111.8	1,084.5	1,105.6
Food and Beverages	531.0	548.5	45.0	43.2	409.5	401.1
Durable Goods	469.4	495.6	35.5	38.2	361.4	390.3
Others	350.1	427.7	29.2	30.4	313.5	314.2
Fuels and Lubricants	1,772.6	1,936.4	120.5	174.4	1,416.1	1,349.3
Exports	3,707.7	3,340.7	237.5	250.8	2,455.1	2,566.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,420.1	986.7	53.8	63.5	785.4	772.1
Balance of Trade	-2,418.6	-2,937.3	-172.3	-331.3	-2,292.1	-3,140.5

^P Provisional

Notes:

- 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.
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.
- 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 September 2019 by major commodity group



Notes:

- The commodity breakdown is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 3.
- "Other Commodities not Mentioned" includes the commodity groups "Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities", "Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats" and "Crude Materials".
- 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	September		January-September	
			2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Imports	6,126.3	6,277.9	409.7	582.1	4,747.1	5,706.5
Food	625.1	628.6	55.1	44.0	454.7	413.0
Beverages and Tobacco	96.1	112.3	7.9	10.4	81.6	95.8
Crude Materials	26.2	27.4	2.1	2.8	20.7	25.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,775.0	1,947.0	125.1	176.9	1,424.8	1,381.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.3	9.6	0.8	0.8	7.4	7.3
Chemicals	522.2	603.0	47.3	80.4	455.4	502.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	361.3	412.9	31.3	32.4	309.8	324.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,236.2	2,004.9	99.6	192.8	1,605.6	2,553.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	469.7	527.0	40.1	41.1	383.7	399.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	5.3	5.2	0.4	0.5	3.5	2.9
Exports	3,707.7	3,340.7	237.5	250.8	2,455.1	2,566.0
Food	283.4	245.6	7.2	7.4	105.6	107.2
Beverages and Tobacco	38.6	44.6	5.2	3.8	30.9	33.9
Crude Materials	13.4	13.3	1.1	1.2	10.7	7.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,469.1	1,048.6	65.4	63.5	827.4	799.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	383.1	387.0	30.1	41.7	281.1	334.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	150.7	153.7	10.8	9.5	122.6	107.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	987.8	956.8	77.0	73.3	720.8	762.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	380.7	488.8	40.6	50.3	355.3	412.0
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.8	2.5	0.1	0.0	0.7	2.1
Balance of Trade	-2,418.6	-2,937.3	-172.3	-331.3	-2,292.1	-3,140.5
Food	-341.6	-383.0	-47.8	-36.5	-349.0	-305.7
Beverages and Tobacco	-57.5	-67.7	-2.6	-6.6	-50.8	-61.9
Crude Materials	-12.9	-14.1	-1.1	-1.6	-10.0	-17.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-305.9	-898.4	-59.7	-113.3	-597.4	-582.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.3	-9.6	-0.8	-0.8	-7.4	-7.3
Chemicals	-139.1	-216.1	-17.2	-38.7	-174.3	-168.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-210.6	-259.2	-20.5	-22.9	-187.2	-216.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,248.3	-1,048.1	-22.6	-119.5	-884.8	-1,791.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-89.0	-38.3	0.5	9.2	-28.3	12.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-4.5	-2.7	-0.3	-0.5	-2.8	-0.9

^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	September						January-September					
	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	322.5	128.3	-194.2	439.2	118.7	-320.4	3,503.7	1,221.8	-2,281.9	4,364.9	1,294.0	-3,070.9
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	283.0	124.8	-158.2	385.5	106.0	-279.6	3,199.9	1,143.5	-2,056.4	3,856.7	1,243.2	-2,613.5
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	46.6	4.0	-42.5	39.3	3.8	-35.5	392.6	45.5	-347.1	1,248.0	44.7	-1,203.3
euro area	224.0	97.5	-126.5	334.6	79.7	-254.9	2,654.4	938.2	-1,716.2	2,276.1	1,001.8	-1,274.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	91.9	28.0	-63.9	122.3	10.9	-111.5	1,131.7	262.1	-869.6	874.2	224.6	-649.6
Germany	30.4	31.5	1.1	69.5	37.3	-32.2	325.9	332.5	6.6	400.0	360.4	-39.6
Spain	28.0	3.2	-24.8	66.6	3.1	-63.5	239.0	42.0	-197.0	186.8	72.6	-114.2
France	15.5	21.8	6.3	29.7	18.0	-11.7	221.3	207.7	-13.6	331.7	216.1	-115.6
Netherlands	20.2	8.3	-11.8	18.1	4.6	-13.5	250.3	49.3	-201.0	156.6	55.8	-100.8
Greece	17.9	0.6	-17.2	15.3	0.8	-14.5	188.3	6.2	-182.0	137.4	18.2	-119.2
EFTA Countries	2.7	2.7	0.0	2.1	2.0	-0.1	40.4	17.9	-22.5	46.7	20.1	-26.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	2.3	2.2	-0.1	1.9	1.7	-0.2	28.3	14.2	-14.2	29.8	17.2	-12.6
Other European Countries	36.8	0.8	-36.0	51.6	10.8	-40.8	263.4	60.4	-203.0	461.4	30.7	-430.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Russian Federation	10.6	0.0	-10.6	34.3	0.7	-33.7	103.3	0.4	-102.9	241.5	2.2	-239.4
Asia	63.7	45.0	-18.7	107.7	40.0	-67.7	704.1	372.8	-331.3	781.1	420.0	-361.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Saudi Arabia	7.3	3.3	-4.0	37.4	3.0	-34.4	25.9	4.9	-21.0	76.5	6.9	-69.6
China	18.1	1.4	-16.7	20.0	3.1	-16.9	165.6	26.7	-139.0	193.0	26.1	-166.8
India	10.6	0.8	-9.9	12.8	0.6	-12.2	105.3	9.3	-96.0	119.0	11.3	-107.6
Israel	3.9	0.2	-3.7	10.0	0.1	-9.9	104.2	1.6	-102.6	138.2	2.1	-136.2
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	5.3	-	-5.3	-	0.0	0.0	12.6	-	-12.6
North and Central America	11.1	15.3	4.3	17.0	10.7	-6.3	188.1	135.2	-52.9	145.9	142.3	-3.7
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	10.3	11.3	1.0	16.4	9.3	-7.1	88.5	110.2	21.7	119.2	122.3	3.1
Africa	9.4	16.4	7.0	9.0	34.5	25.5	156.9	353.2	196.3	99.6	299.9	200.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Libya	0.2	5.8	5.6	5.0	8.8	3.8	17.2	183.4	166.1	6.9	92.8	85.9
Australia and Oceania	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.3	-0.2	12.6	3.7	-8.9	111.8	4.7	-107.1
South America	1.1	0.2	-0.9	2.2	2.5	0.3	49.2	34.7	-14.5	17.9	21.3	3.4
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	1.5	0.2	-1.3	6.5	2.5	-4.0	132.3	2.7	-129.6	185.2	5.3	-179.9
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.1	31.3	31.3	0.0	41.7	41.6	0.2	330.9	330.8	0.2	378.6	378.4
Grand Total	409.7	237.5	-172.3	582.1	250.8	-331.3	4,747.1	2,455.1	-2,292.1	5,706.5	2,566.0	-3,140.5

^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	September		January-September	
		2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
		Main imports			
2	Meat and edible offal	4,814	5,882	46,291	45,724
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	17,612	7,916	98,482	61,490
4	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,120	3,594	41,135	39,277
8	Edible fruit and nuts	3,148	2,805	29,482	25,997
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,109	4,319	41,089	39,399
19	Preparations of cereals	5,083	4,274	47,636	47,959
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,257	2,287	22,926	23,785
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,721	3,026	32,859	32,256
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	6,266	7,572	58,190	64,766
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,663	2,886	24,123	31,600
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	2,454	3,445	22,911	29,680
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	125,086	176,867	1,426,342	1,383,116
29	Organic chemicals	11,296	43,636	70,579	129,536
30	Pharmaceutical products	15,991	15,290	187,377	176,226
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	4,835	5,054	36,593	37,785
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,563	4,252	30,193	31,515
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	11,983	12,542	128,097	128,399
48	Paper and paperboard articles	9,509	7,459	69,264	75,974
61	Knitted clothing	4,865	6,810	45,985	54,077
62	Woven clothing	4,196	4,540	40,678	39,846
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	3,340	4,574	39,073	43,669
72	Iron and steel	2,879	3,203	26,589	24,115
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,075	5,283	56,816	51,314
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	31,392	26,853	331,259	298,009
85	Electrical machinery etc.	37,602	43,988	360,446	431,773
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	12,754	11,307	126,441	138,485
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	8,423	50,477	406,910	372,130
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	10,027	60,441	380,295	1,317,954
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,435	6,268	70,605	57,366
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	4,266	3,619	50,801	53,580
		Main exports			
19	Preparations of cereals	1,873	2,474	11,562	9,952
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,450	3,717	38,318	35,063
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	65,290	63,496	826,209	798,374
29	Organic chemicals	558	8,832	20,057	50,579
30	Pharmaceutical products	24,930	26,445	221,554	224,688
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	632	1,749	11,007	14,607
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	5,685	6,194	50,133	62,258
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	6,060	3,702	49,826	43,628
49	Printed books, newspapers	9,026	19,328	92,376	127,132
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,385	2,054	18,904	17,989
61	Knitted clothing	1,592	1,723	11,047	13,250
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	2,058	1,698	14,221	21,456
73	Articles of iron or steel	390	1,908	30,043	24,637
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	12,358	12,551	118,333	142,670
85	Electrical machinery etc.	59,002	52,247	507,682	488,877
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	5,383	8,126	84,248	125,711
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	8,055	4,870	65,532	60,455
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	11,053	15,471	111,640	116,075
99	Special classifications	3,475	3,789	24,075	25,993

^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/metadadata/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/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